



Texas North Star Sams Area 17 – 2007

April Newsletter

The President's Corner



Del Duerr

Spring started March 21st, I always look forward to arrival of March, time to start planting flowers, put away the winter clothes, or just being outdoors. As the old wives tale goes "March comes in like a lamb and goes out like a lion or it can go the other way with it coming in like a lion and out like a lamb! This year March arrived like a lion and left like a lion!

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day at Destiny RV Park and our host & hostess Lew & Pat Foitek had a fantastic 'green" weekend planned! The tea party Pat held for all the ladies, is still the talk around town! Our auction and auctioneer was a great success, we have to do it again.

Summer trips scheduled have some members traveling to the East & West coasts. Greg & I will be going to Michigan and hopefully see Greg's old "stomping grounds." As you mark your calendars for a short or long trip, here, there and everywhere, remember to do the Good Sam thing, stop & help other RVers you may see on the side of the road only when it's safe for you to stop.

Have a fun filled summer, send home pictures & stay safe!

Del Duerr - homemessages@grandecom.net

Cell: 469-767-5201

Home: 214-618-0043

2007 Officers:

Elected

President: Del Duerr
Vice-President: Steve Young
Treasurer: Laura LaTurner
Secretary: Jackie Reid
Wagon Master: Lew Foitek

Appointed

Newsletter Editor: Sherry Moran
Special Projects: Pat Foitek
Sunshine/Chaplain: Tami Patterson
Web Master: Tim Moran

March Meeting:

Texas North Star Sams

Minutes for March 17, 2007

Destiny RV Park, Corinth, Texas

After a delicious St. Patrick's Day dinner, President Del Duerr called the meeting to order at 7:20p.m. Guests were recognized. We did the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Tami Patterson gave our Invocation.

Attendance: Duerrs, Foitek, Helwicks, LaTurners, Morans, Reids, Pattersons, and Youngs.

Visitors: Annette & Joe Carpenter, Debbie and Don Safholm., and Jerry Jones & Mary Sue Wells

Old Business: None

New Business:

1) Del Duerr reminded us that Lew & Pat Foitek will represent us at the Spring Samboree (4/5 to 4/8) to be held in Wichita Falls.

2) Tim Moran and Greg & Del Duerr attended the planning meeting for the Mini Rally for Good Sams today in Sanger. The Mini Rally will be in Canton the 2nd weekend in September. The theme will be patriotic. Our chapter will be handling the hospitality booth. Del suggested that we move our monthly campout to the same weekend as the Mini Rally. Tim Moran moved that we let our September campout be the Mini Rally. Jim Reid seconded. Motion carried. We must arrive together to park close to each other. Our fundraiser for the Mini Rally will be to sell 50/50 tickets and a gift basket. Del asked that one of us volunteer to co-ordinate what to put in the basket. Everyone is encouraged to attend this campout. We must have a minimum of three couples so that we can hold our fundraisers and handle the hospitality booth.

3) The group discussed having a garage sale as a fundraiser in the fall. The Board recommended that if member couples could not donate items for the garage sale and would not be available to work it, they should donate \$20.00 per couple.

4) Del announced that we may be hosting the Little Rock club at our November campout. She is waiting for a reply from them. They were featured in the March issue of Highways for making items to give to our soldiers in Iraq.

5) Steve Young suggested that we invite speakers to some of our meetings. He asked us to think about people who we might invite.

6) Del asked how everyone felt about spreading our charitable donations out throughout the year. In the past, we have contributed \$100.00 to each of four charities. The club agreed that we should spread out our charitable donations. Cathy Helwick moved that we continue to give to the four charities that we have supported in the past. Tami Patterson seconded. Motion carried. We will donate to Patients Comprehensive Cancer Center in the spring, to the Diabetis Association in the summer, to Dogs for the Deaf in the fall, and to Children's Advocacy in the winter. We also donate lap robes to Patients Comprehensive Cancer Center and stuffed toys to Children's Advocacy.

7) Del passed out ordering information for polo-shirts to be worn to chapter functions in the future. Discussion followed. Anyone who has a vest and wants to wear it can continue to do so. Darrell Patterson made a motion that we purchase short-sleeved royal blue shirts with a pocket for men and no pocket for women and with our logo embroidered on the right. Lew Foitek seconded. Motion carried. Del will send each of us an email with a picture of the recommended style.

Secretary's Report: Reported by Jackie Reid

Everyone should have received minutes of our last meeting. They were e-mailed to everyone and appeared in our last newsletter. The Roster will be updated next week. Please let Jackie know if you have changes or additions for the Roster.

Treasurer's Report: Reported by Laura La Turner

The Treasurer's Report was distributed to the group.

Wagonmaster's Report: Reported by Lew Foitek

Our next campout will be Pilot Knoll next month. All campouts are planned for the year except July. Our Meet and Eat for July will be July 11th, since the first Wednesday of that month falls on July 4th. Alan LaTurner will serve as Wagonmaster while Lew is away. The Foitek's will be traveling through much of the year. Each member is asked to send suggestions to Alan and Lew for possible camping destinations. We need everyone's ideas. Please be very specific about each park and send as much information about them as possible.

Special Projects: Reported by Pat Foitek

The women worked on lap robes this afternoon. There will be an auction after the meeting to be used as a fundraiser. It will be a lot of fun.

Sunshine Report: Reported by Tami Patterson

Friday the 23rd will be Sherry Moran's birthday. Jim Bailey's wedding is May 11. The Patterson's will be hosting in April. Their theme will be "Texas and all things Texan". They will be serving pork tenderloin and Texas barbeque. Tami presented an award to Alan LaTurner for bravery when sitting at the ladies table at our February Meet & Eat.

Meet & Eat: Reported by Darrell Patterson

Our next meet & eat will be Wednesday, April 4, at Chili's in Carrollton near Josey & George Bush Freeway.

Past Events

Moller & Moran Trip to the Texas State Railroad



Becky and Jim Moller and family



Sherry & Tim Moran and family



#300 engine on the way to Palestine from Rusk



Inside our train car

The Mollars and the Morans took their families to ride the Texas State Railroad in March. Jim and Becky Mollar brought their grandson, Spencer, in the RV for the first time and he had a ball! All of the others came on Saturday morning. T

The train ran from Rusk State Park to Palestine State Park – 29 miles and took about an hour and a-half. There was a 90-minute layover and then the train returned to Rusk. The weather was gorgeous and the train was full! We took lots of pictures and had a great time!

This wonderful antique train is to stop running in August, due to lack of state funding. If you can, you should ride it as soon as possible! Children ride free during the summer.

March Campout at Destiny



Saturday morning tea table



Pat Foitek provided a Tea Party for the Ladies



Mary Sue Wells, Jackie Reid, Deb Safholm, Pat Foitek, Sherry Young, Kathy Helwick and Sherry Moran enjoy Tea.



The Texas North Star Sams at dinner!



"What am I bid...?" Lew Foitek is auctioneer for Saturday night auction



Laura LaTurner wins a bucket of assorted coffees!

This was a fun-filled campout! We started on Friday night with a full group at Chili's for dinner. We had two new couples to visit with us – Dan and Deb Safholm and Jerry Jones and Mary Sue Wells. Both couples had recently bought new motorhomes and we were able to tour them and "O-Oh and Ah!"

Saturday morning began with coffee and doughnuts for early risers and at 10 a.m., Pat Foitek put on a super Tea and Scones event for the ladies! Real china teacups and freshly baked goodies by Pat got us off to a great start. She decorated everything with green for St. Patrick's Day.

Next, Pat had arranged for Sandra Keeton, an Arbonne International distributor to give the ladies make-up consultations and show us new ways to care for our skin. We were able to try out the make-up and see how we looked!

The afternoon was open for taking things easy. The Reids, the Helwicks and Sherry Moran went RV-looking. The Reids were wanting something larger than their class B+. (Ed.'s note – they found a 36-ft. Winnabago Journey on a later trip to New Braunsfels!).

The evening was SO full and fun! Pat and Lew provided a great St. Patrick's Day potluck! We had everything from corned beef to salads to green pistachio cake! Pat always makes an event special. After dinner, we held a short business meeting and then more fun! We had an auction as a club fund-raiser, and each couple brought a wrapped item of less than \$10. There was some crazy bidding going on and some unusual items bought!

Sunday morning was slow – I35 was closed just beyond the Lewisville bridge and traffic was really backed up, so we planned alternate routes home. We had plenty to talk about as we decided where and when to go.

April Meet & Greet at Chili's

We had a great time at Chili's – there were about 26 people attending! It was good to look down the long table and see how much our group has grown. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, we have no pictures! I'm so sorry.

All members were present except for Jim Bailey and the Carpenters. This was Lew and Pat Foitek's last group get-together before their summer trip – we'll really miss them!

Among our visitors were the Evans, Dan Safholm, Jerry Jones, Mary Sue Wells, and a new couple, Herb and Sally Ford. The Fords park their 5th wheel at the same storage place as the Duerrs, the Youngs, the Runtzes, the Pattersons, and soon, the Reids. The Fords are looking for a camping group and said they'd like to camp with us – yea!

As usual, Tim took a lot of pictures, but in order to make room for them on his Back-Up hard drive, he had to delete the previous back-up. By mistake, he deleted the pictures folder from the WRONG hard drive ! He lost ALL of the pictures that he had taken in 2007.

He retrieved most of them from the back-up copy that he had intended to delete, but permanently lost **everything** after our February trip to Galveston.

Tim now has a new MONSTER (750 Gig) back-up hard drive and should never again have to delete files in order to "make room". He also has new software and is scheduling his computer to do a complete back-up on a daily basis.

He passes on this word of warning to ALL of you who have computers. If you are not already doing so, **"Back Up Your Stuff !"**

Just imagine what it would be like if you lost EVERYTHING on your computer. He has had it happen twice. Once to a computer virus and once to a hard drive crash. He says that he *finally* has it covered.

Happenings:

Happy Birthday !



April 23
Tim Moran

Happy Birthday !



April 24
Laura LaTurner

Sherry Moran's Birthday Present by Tim Moran

For those of you who don't already know the story, I want to tell you why Sherry is undoubtedly the LUCKIEST WOMAN ALIVE.

On Wednesday (3/21), Sherry and her mother (from Georgetown) went to Lufkin, TX, to be with Sherry's aunt while the aunt had hip replacement surgery.

On Thursday (3-22), before the scheduled surgery, Sherry and her mother were sitting in the aunt's hospital room talking to the aunt and her friends, Sherry was in a chair behind everyone.

All of a sudden, Sherry announces "I think that I just passed out".

Sherry's mother walked over to her and asked, "what do you mean, you just passed out?". Sherry didn't answer... She had passed out again.

The aunt hit the call button and told the nurse what had happened. Three nurses rushed in with a wheelchair, loaded Sherry into it and headed for the ER.

When they got to the ER, they put Sherry on a gurney and hooked her up to a cardio monitor.

All of a sudden, **Sherry's heart stopped ! ! ! !**

One of the nurses jumped on the gurney and started CPR while another hit her with a shot to get her heart restarted. The shot seemed to settle things down and they rushed Sherry into ICU. They conferred with a Heart Dr. and he decided that she needed a pacemaker.

Sherry called me from ICU and I drove the 200 miles from Dallas that evening.

Friday (3/23) was Sherry's 62nd birthday and she got a peacemaker for her birthday.

As she was being released Saturday (3/24) noon, while talking to the heart Dr., we found that her heart had stopped for **EIGHTEEN** seconds. I asked the Dr. if her heart would have re-started on its own. He wouldn't answer me, but the look in his eyes said "probably not".

Sherry does not have any heart disease, has never had any heart condition, and did not have a heart attack. Her heart just STOPPED ! I guess that, clinically, Sherry died ! ! ! If she had not been in a hospital and in the ER, she would have been another one of those people who "pass away suddenly and unexpectedly".

They released her from the hospital and we left for home. As we got about 10 miles out of town, the heart Dr. called on my cell phone. Another X-ray tech. thought he saw a partially collapsed lung on an X-ray taken just before she was released.

We turned around came back to the hospital and she is now back in ICU. After more X-rays, it was confirmed that she DID have a 30%-40% partially collapsed lung.

Sherry spent the rest of Saturday (3/24), Sunday (3/25) and Monday (3/26) in ICU on 100% pure oxygen in an attempt to re-inflate her lung enough to go home.

Her lung is self re-inflating and she'll be OK. She was released from the hospital on Tuesday (3/27).

Sherry must have had a Guardian Angel on her shoulder !

Just what are the odds that of ALL of the places in the middle of nowhere we have been and as often as we are gone, that she would have been **IN** the best heart specialty hospital within 100 miles and that her heart would stop while she was **IN** the emergency room ? We might have lost her for good if we'd even been outside in the car in the parking lot.

Sherry has just won "LIFE'S LOTTERY" ! All the material things in the world cannot compare with THAT !

Wagonmaster



Lew Foitek

April Campout:

**April 20th & 21st - Pilot Knoll,
Highland Village at Lake Lewisville.**

See www.ntahc.org/northstarsams
“[Upcoming Events](#)” for more details and a map

May Campout:

May 18 & 19 - Mitchell RV Park in Perrin, TX.

See www.ntahc.org/northstarsams
“[Upcoming Events](#)” for more details and a map

June Campout:

There is no campout scheduled for June

See www.ntahc.org/northstarsams
“[Upcoming Events](#)” for more details and a map

From the Editor:



Sherry Moran

Editor's Note: Thank you so much for the flowers you sent, and all the cards and emails I received. It means so much to know that friends care! I'm doing well and plan to camp as much as I can.

Please send any news you'd like included in the newsletter to me before the last week of the month.

Please see www.ntahc.org/northstarsams for the History of the TNSS, a complete calendar of Up Coming Events, pictures from Past Events, Profiles of our Members, a list of our Officers, a display of our governing procedures, Past Newsletters and MUCH more.

Please remember to take LOTS of pictures to share with us.

sjmoran@ticnet.com