



TEXAS NORTH STAR SAMS

AREA 17 – 2009

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



February 28th found many of us at the Vineyards Campground in Grapevine to honor the life and memory of our friend Greg Duerr



It was a beautiful sunny Saturday... on a nice lake with RVs and good campsites..., friends and family ... and plenty of food on the grill... we think Greg would have approved.

The President's Corner:



Greg Duerr is the reason I own an RV. His DAILY encouragement, coaching, information and coaxing finally convinced us to take the plunge. He invited Tami and I to come to Pilot Knoll in the spring of 2006 to see their fifth wheel set up at Pilot Knoll. His and Del's friendliness (not to mention the powerful selling point of seeing their beautiful fifth wheel set up) was all it took. It was the start of great camping experiences and meeting all of the wonderful people at TNSS. The last week of February we saw another side of the wonderful TNSS family. While we will all miss

Greg (campouts won't seem quite the same), let us always remember him by following his example of showing enthusiasm for camping, RV's, and being with friends. That's what he would want us to do. We'll miss our dear friend.

Darrell

2009 Officers:

Elected

President:	Darrell Patterson
Vice-President:	Tim Moran
Secretary:	Mary Sue Wells
Treasurer:	Becky Moller
Wagon Master:	Jerry Jones

Appointed

Newsletter Editor:	Jim Moller
Special Projects:	Del Duerr
Sunshine:	Sally Ford
Chaplain:	Tami Patterson
Web Master:	Tim Moran

From the Secretary:



Texas North Star Sam's

Minutes – February 21, 2009

Lazy L RV Park, Sherman, TX

President Darrell Patterson called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Tami Patterson gave the invocation, followed by the group recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Fords, Helwicks, Jones/Wells, LaTurners, Lutricks, Mollers, Morans, Pattersons, Reids, Youngs. **Visitors:** Jones/Wells Grandson Darren Nix.

Secretary's Report:

The January Secretary's Report was given by Mary Sue Wells. There was one correction to the distributed minutes, this had been made. Sherry Moran moved these be accepted as presented, Sherry Young seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's Report was given by Becky Moller. Becky noted the donation will be made for the April 1 contribution to the American Cancer Society. The report was approved as distributed.

Old Business:

- Darrell noted that there are no hosts signed up for the March campout at Hickory Creek. No one volunteered. He suggested that we have a potluck Saturday night, Pattersons will provide a ham. All agreed. The Fords will keep and bring the supplies to Hickory Creek.
- Darrell asked that we keep sending items for the newsletter to Jim Moller.
- Darrell presented three **changes to the SOP's:**
 1. **Change \$25 annual dues to \$30.** Jerry Jones moved for approval, Jim Reid seconded. Motion was approved.
 2. **Change \$2.50 / member for campout contribution to the hosts to \$5.00/member.** Tami Patterson moved for approval, Jim Moller seconded. Motion was approved.
 3. **The secretary will keep the attendance record for campouts,** rather than the Wagon Master. Sherry Moran moved for approval, Jim Reid seconded. Motion was approved.

Please Notice: A vote on these three motions is scheduled for the March meeting at Hickory Creek!!!

New Business:

- Jerry Jones suggested that the group consider drawing for host week-ends in December 2009 for 2010. Some members noted they were not sure when they would be able to host the next year by December. The group discussed and agreed that members could change with other couples as needed, and drawing would be a fair way to do it. Mary Sue volunteered to call the members who have not signed up to host to get the open times covered for the rest of 2009.
- Tami read an e-mail that Del had sent to share with the group about sharing remembrances about Greg, and continuing to keep them in our prayers and thoughts. Darrell noted that the Donnells and Duerrs are signed up to host but suggested they may need help at Whispering Pines. Several members noted they are available to do so.
- Someone noted that it would be good to bring tarps to Hickory Creek to use as a windbreak since we will be using the pavilion for our gatherings.
- Darrell reported that we have received a request for information on our members from the Area Delegates. It is to be sent to our Assistant State Delegates for Area 17. The group approved to send name, address, telephone numbers, Good Sam Number and Expiration Date. Mary Sue will send this to the ASD.

Wagonmaster's Report: Reported by Jerry Jones

- Next camp-out is at Hickory Creek.
- Red River Ranch will require a deposit for the group and for the meeting room. This is the June location.
- Stone Creek RV Park in San Antonio will require a deposit for the meeting room for October. Sherry Young moved that both of the deposits be approved, Sally Ford seconded. Motion passed.

Special Projects Report:

- Darrell noted that Del Duerr had volunteered to chair special projects for 2009, and though she has not asked, she may need some assistance. Tami suggested we take individual projects. Jackie will call Del and offer to help coordinate projects if needed, or take special projects for this year if Del wants her to. She or Del will report back to the group.

Sunshine Report:

- Sally Ford announced upcoming birthdays: Sherry Moran March 23. Also the Duerr's anniversary will be February 27.
- Sherry Moran moved for adjournment, Steve Young seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Sue Wells

Secretary

Past Meetings:

Lazy L RV Park, Sherman, TX

Are you smarter than a 5th grader contest...

Right... The ever debonair Herb carefully explains the contest rules and scoring policy.

Below... One of these happy couples got the Grand Prize for Last Place. Oh, Wait... there was no prize for last place. Oh well...

Below right... Dave and Kathy demonstrate the intense level of concentration necessary to place at the very top in this advanced competition. Congratulations...

Our thanks to our hosts, the Fords, for giving us a month to recoup without a potentially ugly, "Mens vs. Womens" baseball event during this thoroughly relaxing, and enjoyable campout.



Who Goes There?

Kathy & Dave Helwick

Several weeks ago, Dave and I went to Galveston for the weekend. It was our first time there since Hurricane Ike and we had no idea what to expect. In general, Galveston looks good from the outside; most all of the debris has been hauled away. Work is well underway to bring in sand to rebuild the beaches. However, several things amazed us:

- 1) The shops along the Strand experienced SEVEN FEET OF WATER inside them. Only 3 or 4 are now open. No one had anticipated this backlash of water on the side of the island furthest from the ocean front. What's weird is that they look perfectly fine from the outside.
- 2) Dellanera RV Park -- where the club stayed a couple years ago when we went there for Mardi Gras -- is totally gone. Someone had obviously been in with a front-end loader and just scraped up piles of debris. The building is still standing but all the utility connections at the sites were washed away. The dunes are gone and half the land that was in the beach-front sites is gone.



3) The large houses out on west beach fared remarkably well. We saw a few with tarps on their roof. As a rule of thumb, if the house had been built in the last 10 years, then it was built well and withstood the wind. As to water damage inside... we had no way of knowing.

4) Older houses built on the beach did not stand up to the wind nearly as well. We saw foundations sticking out in mid air with all the sand washing out from under them. We saw driveways cut off from the road.



5) The real gut-wrencher was Boliver Point. Mile after mile of total devastation. I've never seen a war zone, but this has to be similar. No vegetation. No houses left. At most, pilings sticking up in the air where a house used to be.

6) We found only one RV park open in Galveston and it was filled with contractors who have come to the island to help with repair work. Thank goodness, we had not taken our RV because we weren't sure what we'd find.



Tim & Sherry Moran

In late January, Tim & Sherry took their semi-annual drive to Southern California to visit Tim's mom and celebrate her birthday. This year was birthday number **NINETY SEVEN** !

Here is the birthday girl !



Here are Tim's sisters Marcia and Alison.

On the way home, they stopped in Phoenix to spend some time with a high school friend of Tim's.

While in Phoenix, they drove northeast into the Superstition Mountains to visit Tortilla Flats. Tortilla Flats was a tiny town built at a low spot and stream crossing on the mountainous route between Phoenix and Roosevelt Lake.



Now, the main attraction is an eatery, popular with the tourists and the motorcyclists. The inside walls are COVERED with dollar bills, autographed and left by happy patrons.



The "stools" at the counter are, to say the least, Unique.



Here are the happy tourists saddled-up and ready to chow-down.

They also visited the country's second tallest water spout in Fountain Hills. 3 - 600 HP pumps push 8,000 pounds of water 560 ft. in the air.

Only the Gateway Fountain in St. Louis is taller (630 ft.)



Tidbits & Stuff:

Some RV's have metal steps with little holes in the step surface to carry away dirt and water. Those holes can be brutal little traps for a pet's toenails.

Mark Your Calendar:

March 20-21 – Hickory Creek Park – Hickory Creek, TX

April 17-18 – Whispering Pines – Tyler, TX

May 15-16 - Thousand Trails - Gordonville

For “The Rest of the Story”... See: [“northstarsams.org”](http://northstarsams.org)