



# TEXAS NORTH STAR SAMS AREA 17 - 2011 MARCH NEWSLETTER

**This March**, we all trekked off to help celebrate **General Hiram Granbury's** birthday. We congregated at "**Bennett's RV Ranch**", not far from **Lake Granbury**, on the **Brazos River**. The General's namesake town was buzzin' with activity, and full, absolutely full, of cars trying to get through the traffic light. Our campground was just at the edge of Granbury, so dealing with the traffic was really optional.

Several of our group ventured downtown where **Kathy & Dave** took some pictures of a parade held in the General's honor.

Someday... when you have way too much time on your hands, look up "General Granbury" on the internet.

The **Pattersons** and **Morans** hosted our event this month and made sure we were well fed and entertained. After dinner Saturday we played basketball. Tami & Sherry thoughtfully set the goal up in a corner so the windows would be safe when Becky



**Bennett's RV Ranch...** These rocks were just a hint of the boulders marking each campsite. Though threatening looking... in reality, they were not much of a problem. Could it be that Laura actually parked most of the rigs?

was shooting. As expected... the men dominated the game, however, they elected, as usual, to draw the "Curtain of Charity" on the final score.



## 2011 - Elected Officers

### President:

Sally Ford

### Vice President:

Tim Moran

### Secretary:

Mary Sue Wells

### Treasurer:

Becky Moller

### Wagon Master:

Allen & Laura

LaTurner

## Appointed Positions

### Newsletter Editor:

Jim Moller

### Special Projects:

Del Duerr

### Sunshine Chair:

Patty Lutrick

### Chaplain:

Tami Patterson

### Web Master:

Tim Moran

**As most of us know...** Darrell comes prepared when it's time to do a little smokin'.

Most likely, "Reddy Kilowatt" would have had "The Big One" over the wiring rigged in here to fuel this deal. There were at least a hundred feet of extension cord running around. Chef Darrell and Master Electrician Tim, pulled it all together, but you know an operation of this magnitude had to have some influence from Herb too.



**On Saturday afternoon** we had our **"March Madness" "Rig Decorating"** event. We think a number of tourists, visiting Granbury for the General's birthday, actually drove to the RV park when the word got out about our contest. There was judging, and a winner, and, we hear, "Butterfinger" bars available in a vain attempt to influence the judges.



With brilliant, creative, and very tasteful, decorations like these rigs demonstrated, it is a surprise the campground wasn't overrun with tourists wanting to see what we were up to. Our group should be proud of the positive impression we must have left with the citizens of Granbury





**Every contest has a winner...** This time it was our Wagonmaster Team, **Laura & Allen** with their stunningly decorated Winnebago. Clearly, winners in our eyes! Wow... look at that cap.



Sherry Young has taken on the daunting, and sometimes thankless job

of keeping up with our suppliers of shirts, caps, and club jackets. She presented all of the information we needed and set up this display of all of the products available for our Saturday morning meeting. A big "Thank You, Sherry" for all of your effort.



### **The "Women's Basketball Team" came prepared...**

They had a (probably paid) cheerleading team, no doubt professional coaching, and obviously, hours upon hours of practice. Their dedication should serve as inspiration for all of us... they are just such troopers.

Right... Jim, takes a long shot, probably scoring three more points in what would eventually become a victory... how can we word this charitably... "By The Narrowest Possible Margin" for the **"Never Defeated TNSS Men's Basketball Team"**.





Hoping to raise the intellectual image of basketball... Tami asked a series of difficult questions of each player before they were allowed to shoot. Much to her dismay, Allen did so well with the tough questions he was awarded two "Free Throws"... six more points for the guys... There's that cap again.

**Steve... Caught here in an intense, last second confrence** with Darrell. hasn't looked this serious in weeks. He is about to put six more points on the board.

**We had a business meeting** on Saturday morning. Sally is off to a great start as President this year... the meeting took 35 minutes... we had a lot of issues to cover this month.

Here are some highlights from Mary Sue's notes.

The Fall Rally will be September 15-18 in Canton, at the Civic Center.

The Laturners attended a planning meeting March 7th.

Our group has been asked to host the First Timers Reception for the second year. Three chapters in the two regions have disbanded, and we have been asked if we can do more.

Allen volunteered to help park RV's. He noted that we can help there and with the taxi service.

Laura asked if the group would be willing to host the Pet Parade.

Members planning to attend said yes to hosting the parade. Janie volunteered to chair this "provided she is a member by then." Mike said he would also MC if we wanted him to.

Laura asked that the members who are planning to go to Canton meet briefly after the meeting to discuss hosting the parade.



**Sounds like an Adventure to me...**

**Steve and I were able to make a quick escape** in the RV after my treatments, and after his "retirement ceremony." We left with our 3 furry kids on November 19, and returned on January 19.....What a treat! We drove through snow, rain, clouds, sun, wind, mist, mud, sunshine, around hairpin turns on cliffs over the ocean, through deserts and over mountains, eating as much fish as possible as we drove south from Seattle, along Hwy 1 to Pismo Beach, and then north the same way, and then south the same way.....(will explain this strange route another time).... to our turn-off for the eastward journey back to Home, Sweet Home. Here's some of the 800 pictures taken :-)



**For the first part of our trip**, we found snow in those Colorado mountains, and plenty of RV hookups available!



**American Fork, Utah.....**2 degrees at night.....horses seemed fine in snow-covered field out of the RV window..... with no barn and no blankets.....I lost sleep over that!.



**Without a hook**, Steve tries raw, brute strength!



Sugar knows just how to get cozy: Rests her head on Shadow's favorite toy.....before her roaring fire!

Shadow's had a really hard day roughing it on the camping trail, but he's better here, after retrieving his favorite toy from Sugar!

**Here is our precious Miss Kitty.** At 17 years young, she went to Kitty Heaven while on her Maiden Voyage in the RV.



What a sweetheart.....so very glad that she was spry on the trip, and that we were there to comfort her as she "prepared for flight." ;-)



Just one of many, many spectacular surprises around the next curve!



Probably a familiar sight to many of you..... waiting to cross the Golden Gate Bridge..... Our RV Park was just 2 exits from here!



*My ship came in.....which one of these is it?*



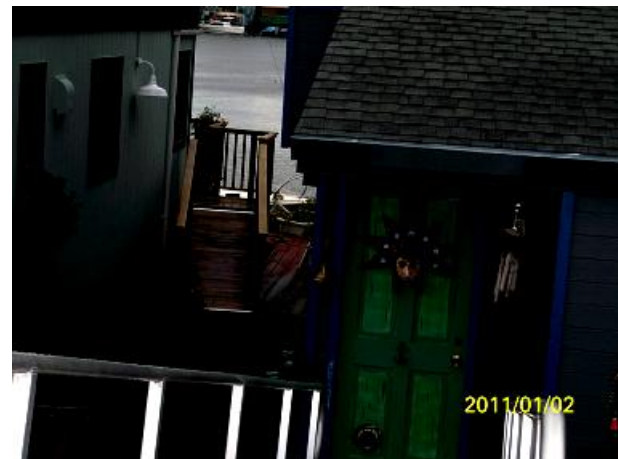
*....."So I guess that's why they call it the Blues".... we could have stayed here all day..... so authentic, so real ;-)*



*Mr. Good-Lookin' and his "Buddies" at Yachats, Oregon!*



*Seafood Gumbo at Fisherman's Wharf*



*Spending New Year's with friends who live in their houseboat on this dock in Sausalito, CA. These pics are at the "artistic end" of the dock!*

***There was a chilly wind*** as we stood before that door in Sausalito. The sign invited us in, and in we went! Steve bought 4 pictures of Tango Dancers, came home and framed them for our dance studio here.....;-)



Below:

***One more Breathtaking Moment on Planet Earth!***





As some of you may know, Steve's mom passed away after we were with her for weeks at Christmas time. These are wonderful pictures of her with Steve's Dad, on her horse performing at the County Fair, and riding with her Dad.





**The Mollers, and Spencer** spent the week before the March campout at the Airport Park at Waco Lake. There is just tons of neat stuff to do in Waco when you're seven.



### **Upcoming Campouts...**

**May 20-21 Watts RV Park** - 2212 Chinaberry Rd, Gilmer, Tx 75645 - Sign up at May Meet & Eat. You will pay the Wagonmaster upon arrival. Contact: Charlotte, 903-734-3380 - There is almost no chance of snow!!!

**June 17-18 Hickory Creek COE Park** - Hickory Creek, Tx - Sign up at the June Meet & Eat - If you have not already made reservations it is probably too late - You can check availability at: [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com)

**July 17 Country Place Club House** - 2727 Country Place Drive, Carrollton, Tx 75006 - Sign up at July Meet & Eat Dress COOL - bring something cold to drink.

**For the latest news... Visit our website at:**

<http://www.northstarsams.org>