Sometime during 1980 - 1981 a group of RVing families thought of starting a new Good Sams Chapter for folks living in the Manatee County area of Florida. A few of these original families were already members of the Gulfcoast Good Sams Chapter (which had a central membership of people generally located in Sarasota County).

In order for this to be done a chapter name had to be chosen – this was an easy one – Manateean Sams. A logo was designed a round embroidered emblem with a manatee. Then, it took some time to develop and write the Chapter’s “By Laws and Stranding Rules” which would govern the new organization into the future. Over the years some minor revisions, adjustments and changes annually were made to those original “Standing Rules”.

The officer’s duties were identified and the president was given the authority to appoint various committees and chairmen to assist with the chapter’s operation. Some of those appointed positions were: Entertainment, Sunshine, Sheriff, Membership, Nominations, Audit, Games, Crafts, Historian, Recreation, Publicity, Photographer, Vests & Supplies, Name Signs, Song Leader, Chaplin, Editor for the State Newsletter (Samaritan), Rules Committee, By Laws Revision Committee, and Past Presidents Committee. The most active of these Chairmen and Committees were – Sheriff, Sunshine, Chaplain, Nominations, Membership, Crafts, and Audit.

A uniform was established – Gray vests with black trim and plain white shirts or blouses were to be worn with black pants, slacks or skirts.

The “By Laws and Standing Rules” also defined the duties and assignment of the Wagon Masters... which has remained the same over the years. The list of current members was assigned in alphabetical order. That list was maintained until it was exhausted. Then a new list composed of all current members was assembled in alphabetical order again.

Reasonable per member $6 dues were established. Eventually a checking account was opened and a petty cash fund established. Methods to raise money for the chapter were established through the annual dues and 50/50 raffles. In 1994 a motion was approved to establish the Social Account, using the 50/50 raffle to build the fund. The officers were appointed to oversee the fund and delegate those funds to cover special chapter expenses to be paid from this account. The chapter voted to support the nationwide Dogs for the Deaf with headquarters located in Oregon. Funds for the Dog Account came from the sheriff’s fines for not wearing vests and name tags at 25-cents. By 1999 the fines were increased to $1 for each violation of the rules (i.e. lack of name tags, vests, window signs, manatee name tag on the sign board, along with any other
creative ideas produced by the current sheriff). Throughout the years various other events were made available to also support the “Dog Fund” (i.e. auctions, flea market sales, raffles and individual donations). Funds from the sale of used chapter vests and shirts went to the Club Fund. The chapter sent in tributes in memory of members who had passed away to this special dog charity group.

In the early years of the chapter’s operation, someone chose the camping locations for the monthly events... then it was changed and over the years wagon masters selected the monthly camping spots and planned various enjoyable events – i.e. tours, special dinners out, golf, games, creative crafts, etc. Some years many members would attend special New Year’s Eve weekends.

“THROUGH THE YEARS”

1982

Thus, January 13, 1982, the Manateean Sams Chapter was officially organized. Their ideas, plans and dreams finally were realized when on January 28, 1982; International Good Sams Club issued a signed charter to the Manatean Sams #67. (Note the spelling found on the original charter was different than the Chapter is now using – it was spelled Manatean. Actually, 11 months later (December 1982) when the chapter officers forwarded their membership roster and dues to International Good Sams Club, it was now spelled Manateean Sams. The number 67 indicated that this was the 67th chapter to be formed in the State of Florida. The original charter was signed by Good Sams International Club Executive Director Susan Bray.

So often the sheriff would mention how difficult it was to catch folks so he could cite them and collect a fine. Note - over the years it seemed that gentlemen generally were appointed by the president to serve in the capacity of sheriff.

“The purpose of the Manateean Sams Chapter is to operate a social organization to promote the use and enjoyment of recreational vehicles and out door fellowship amongst its members through trips and group activities. This chapter shall maintain an attitude which is non sectarian, non partisan, non sectional and non racial; and shall be dedicated to bringing together people interested in the ideas and principals of the Good Sam Club.” Membership was to be limited to 30 rigs.

1982 CHARTER OFFICERS

President – James Johnson

Vice President – Ralph Muller

Secretary – Robert Redman

Treasurer – Jack Johnson
1982 CHARTER MEMBERS
A. Franzello, David & Ellen Marie Guerin, Jack & Maxine Jackson, Jim & Marilou Johnson, W. “Bob” & Jenny Kennedy, E. Manley, Ralph & Phil Muller, Robert “Bob” & Betty Redman, and George & Bev Williams (9 member rigs)

Business:
There were nine charter member rigs. The original application for chapter registration (dated January 13, 1982) indicated that the chapter’s “By Laws & Standing Rules” would be submitted at a later date. (The list of charter officers and the membership roster were available, but no minutes could be found for this year.)

1983 OFFICERS

President — James Johnson

(Villing the remaining President term — Earl Parks)

Vice President — Jim Johnson

Secretary — Hazel Fagerman

Treasurer — Jack Jackson

MEMBERS

Hank & Ann Beach, Dave & Marge Boyer, Caudrie, Does, Hank & Hazel Fagerman, Hawkins, Hines/White, Jack Jackson, Jardine, James & Marilou Johnson, Tom & Marge Larsen, Marlin & Betty McGaughey, Ralph & Phil Muller, Earl & Marge Parks, Robert “Bob” & Jean Perkins, Jack & Betty Schooley, Tessmer, Thompson, Turner, Sarge & Bunny Walton, George & Bev Williams, Tom & Ruth Woodward, and Young (23 member rigs) (The membership roster was available but no minutes.)

The chapter grew during the first year and now had 21 rigs and they met from October through June. Just 11 months after the official charter was granted to our chapter – the group now spelled their name MANATEEAN Sams – a spelling that has existed and been accepted all these years by International Good Sams Club, Florida State Good Sams, our chapter officers and members.

1984 OFFICERS

President — Earl Parks

Vice President —

Secretary — Hazel Fagerman
Treasurer — Betty Redman

MEMBERS

Boyer, Does, Fagerman, Jackson, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Larson, Mueller, Parks, Perkins, Redman, Schooley, Thompson, Walton, Himes-White, Williams, Young, and Wilson (19 member rigs). *(The membership roster was available but no minutes.)*

1985 OFFICERS

President — Earl Parks

Vice President — Sarge Walton

Secretary — Hazel Fagerman

Treasurer — Betty Redman

ASD — Al Fraumeri

MEMBERS

Beach, Boyer, Does, Fagerman, Hawkins, Himes/White, Jackson, Jardine, Kennedy,

Larsen, McGaughey, Mueller, Parks, Pekins, Kennedy, Redman, Schooley, Stark,

Thompson, Turner, Walton, Williams, Wilson, Woodward, and Young (25 member rigs)
The chapter met 9 months from October through June. There was no rule within the “Standing Rules” that limited the distance the chapter could travel – but, generally in those early years, the assigned wagon masters chose locations within a 50 mile radius of Bradenton, Florida. The wagon masters, per the “Standing Rules” were assigned in alphabetical order and given a three month notice of their assignments. Initially, the chapter met... nine months - from October thru June... then later the month of June was dropped. Members were notified by post card of where the next three month’s outings would be held. Friday and Saturday evening meals were pot luck events, held outside – if it did not rain. Picnic tables were lined up in a long row and the ladies brought out their table covers & yummy food. Many times Friday supper was a soup pot (everyone brought a can of soup to dump into the pot) or sandwiches. Saturday morning a light breakfast (sweet rolls and coffee) was followed by the chapter meeting at 10 a.m. Then Sunday breakfast was similar. Evenings found the folks getting together for cards and games – with the most popular evening games being Skip-Bo and Pinochle. Afternoon outdoor games were Holey Board, Shuffle Board, Horseshoes and Bocci Ball.

A 50/50 pot raffle was held during the meetings as a source for funding the Chapter’s Social Account. Members were reminded that all vests were to be made alike. The ham was provided for the December event (cost $14.83).

1986 OFFICERS

President - Ralph Muller
Vice President – Earl Parks
Secretary – Jean Perkins
Treasurer – George Williams
ASD – Carroll & Shirley Hepperle

MEMBERS


Business activity: Motion made to reduce membership – motion defeated. Motion approved to delete June as an official meeting month.

Clarification requested regarding Article 1X, section 2 – “Wagon Master List”? New members will not be added to the Wagon Master List until the roster currently in use has been completed. When the new roster is made up, their names will be inserted in
alphabetical order – motion approved. It was also decided that individual wagon masters would be responsible for finding the location for their assigned event.

Motion approved for the chapter’s official shirts to be blue with a gray manatee on front – cost $10 each. Motion approved to purchase a 100 cup coffee pot and to only serve decaf coffee at chapter events.

Motion approved to “bank all funds not needed” each month. Ham for the December dinner this year was purchased by a member from the monies he has collected from recycled cans. There was a $2 Christmas gift exchange. Suggestion was made that wagon masters arrive early on Friday or arrange for someone to help out until they arrive. On the roster listing the members names – their CB Handles were also listed.

Mr. Coudriet issued a special invitation to all those interested in seeing his microwave to come to his RV. Chapter name badges were now made available (red with white lettering, etc.) Badges were to be made by Jean Perkins who had a letter with authorization from International Good Sams Club to use their logo. A motion approved to obtain a Chapter Banner to be carried at State events and other special occasions.

Revisions were made to the “Standing Rules” which then had to be approved by the Florida State Good Sams Director…and would remain in effect for only three years. Membership dues to Florida State Good Sams were $1.00. Chapter members volunteered to help and used their RV’s as wayside rest stops for the Special Olympics Torch Run along the route from Venice to Manatee Hospital. Our members also provided cold drinks and ice. The Manateean Sams sponsored a runner with a donation of $100 plus any personal donations from chapter members.

Ballots for election of officers were mailed out this year – members not attending the December meeting were asked to mail in their ballots.

**1987 OFFICERS**

President - Ralph Muller

Vice President – Earl Parks

Secretary – Jean Perkins

Treasurer – George Williams

ASD – Carroll & Shirley Hepperly

**MEMBERS**

Beach, Boyer, Coudriet, Does, Fagerman, Hawkins, Himes/White, Jackson, Larsen, McGaughey, Muller, Parks, Perkins, Schooley, Tessmer, Thomas(Baynes), Thomas
(Roland), Thompson, Turner, Walton, Williams, Wilson, Woodward, and Young. (24 member rigs)

Business: Six years after being granted their charter - the chapter is still trying to find a matching fabric to make more vests.

President Ralph Muller is getting the chapter a new flag. A motion was tabled to determine when and where to wear vests. The chapter had someone from the Florida Ears for the Deaf come to a chapter meeting and demonstrates what the guide dogs actually were able to do. A request was made for volunteers to assist with Special Olympics.

Motion approved to eat inside promptly at 5:30 p.m. Motion approved to hold business meetings at 9:30 a.m. (prior years the meeting was held at 10 a.m.). Discussion held on finding a campground large enough for the chapter – a motion made to limit membership to 25 rigs ... motion tabled until October, then tabled once again to the November meeting. For the third time a vote to change the “Standing Rules” and limit number of rigs was defeated. May 1987 – after investigating the Oregon Dogs for the Deaf and the Florida Ears for the Deaf – it was decided to support the Florida organization.

Motion approved to send $100 to the Special Olympics. Clarification was requested for the times when the chapter’s name badges should be worn – reply – “beginning 5 p.m. Friday to Sunday.” Discussion was held regarding the chapter’s bank account to avoid charges. A motion was approved, “If bank is going to charge for account the Treasurer should withdraw the funds and the treasurer not be held responsible for loss or damage (?) If the money is withdrawn. Money was to be taken from chapter’s treasury for the meat for Christmas Dinner. Motion approved to give $250 to the Florida Ears for the Deaf (a deaf service center located in Manatee County).

1988 OFFICERS

President – George Williams

Vice President – Jean Parks

Secretary – Betty Schooley

Treasurer – Marie Himes

ASD – Carroll & Shirley Hepperle

1988 MEMBERS

Beach, Boyer, Coudriet, Does, Fagerman, Hawkins, Himes-White, Jackson, Larsen, McGaughey, Mueller, Parks, Perkins, Schooley, Tessmer, Thomas (Baynes), Thomas
(Roland), Thompson, Turner, Walton, Williams, and Woodward 

**New Members:** Ray & Roberta Omlor, and Chuck & Marsha Rassnagle (24 member rigs)

**Business:**

Motion approved to forgo written ballots and have a show of hands vote for the new officers. Check was sent to the Florida Ears for the Deaf – amount $380 – the agency wrote that a lady from Bradenton received a special dog. The cost for blue shirts is now $11.75 plus tax. The chapter was still looking for suitable vest material. A discussion was held regarding poor attendance at the weekend events – members were encouraged to try to find new members.

Motion approved to purchase a new timer for the coffee pot. Discussion was held this year regarding the months the chapter held their monthly events – it was suggested to omit January and February...and add June and September... No action taken. Fabric for vests discussed many times again. Ham was provided by the chapter for the December Christmas dinner.

This year the ballots for those nominated to serve as officers will be mailed to all members. Motion approved to purchase a big cook pot (22 quarts) for the chapter. Another motion was approved to donate $150 to the Florida Ears for the Deaf. Discussion held regarding the recruitment of new members.

Finally, the gray material for the chapter vests was found – cost for fabric per person will be $10 and each member will need to sew their own vest. Chapter blue shirts now cost $13.27. Motion approved to obtain a set of chapter flags.

ASD’s (Assistant State Directors) introduced a new event held at the Fall Florida State Samboree – a special celebration for those couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary’s.

**1989 OFFICERS**

- President — George Williams
- Vice President — Jean Parks
- Secretary — Betty Schooley
- Treasurer — Marie Himes

**ASD** — Carroll & Shirley Hepperle

**MEMBERS**

Beach, Boyer, Coudriet, Does, Fagerman, Himes-White, Jackson, Jonas, Kennedy, Larsen, McGaughey, Mueller, Omlor, Parks, Perkins, Rossnagel, Schooley, Tessmer, Thomas(Baynes), Thomas (Roland), Williams, and Woodward 

**New Members:** Bill & Betty Hodgin, and Lee & Fran Nelson (24 member rigs)
Motion approved to obtain a ladle for our soup pot. Chapter won a second place trophy for participation in the Florida State Samboree parade – Members were part of a huge birthday cake with individual members serving as candles on the cake. Chapter will furnish the ham for the December Christmas Dinner and the gift exchange will be limited to $3 each. Annual membership dues were still a reasonable $6 per rig.

1990 OFFICERS

President — Marlin McGaughey

Vice President — Jack Schooley

Secretary — Betty Hodgin

Treasurer — Regis Coudriet

ASD — Carroll & Shirley Hepperle

MEMBERS

Beach, Boyer, Coudriet, Fagerman, Hodgin, Jonas, McGaughey, Mueller, Nelson, Omlor, Parks, Perkins, Rossnagle, Schooley, Tessmer. Thomas, Thompson, Turner, Weixelbaum, Williams, and Woodward New Members: Ken & Marge Munson, Tom & Marge Larsen, Marion & Jane Jackson’s, Dick & Pat Walls, and Harvey & Alice Linderman (26 member rigs)

Business: ASD (Assistant State Director) Shirley Hepperle suggested we consider a felt craft to serve as a handout for the International Good Sams Club Samboree to be held in Tampa in March 1991 – motion approved to spend $40 for materials to make 1,000 Florida State felt handouts. Our chapter volunteered to work in the Doctor Sambones booth at this event.

Bill Hodgin was recognized for making the attractive chapter sign – a large square sign board with a large three dimensional hand carved manatee along with individual small manatee name tags, with their names, for members to place on the board to indicate their attendance at a chapter event.

Our chapter will help to serve the ice cream and assist with Doctor Sambones table at the Tallahassee and Orlando Florida State Good Sam Samborees. The chapter also decorated their site area at the Fall Samboree for the theme “Space Center of the World”.
Chapter vests – it was decided to charge $9 for the fabric and black braid to make the vests. Vests donated back to chapter from former members are to be sold for $10 and the money put into the Dog Account.

This year there was discussion on bills being paid that exceed $10. A motion was defeated that they should be paid by check signed by two chapter officers - a Treasurer and President. A motion approved to have small bills up to $20 discernments paid from petty cash.

Florida Good Sams requested that all their chapters have a 2x3 or 4x5 chapter flag – by unanimous vote of chapter members to make a flag. Ladies met and created a lovely 4x5 red nylon flag – complete with the Manateean Sams Logo and the words “Bradenton, Florida”. Following this event the men and women enjoyed a pot luck supper.

Motion was made and defeated that all Manateean Sams members have their own copy of the chapters “By Laws and “Standing Rules” But officers indicated that some copies might be obtained from a local bank ... meanwhile the last five copies were distributed.

It was suggested that the sheriff collect a 25-cent fine from anyone who does not hang their name on the chapter’s sign-board within an hour after arriving – no vote taken. Chapter dues of $6 to be paid in November – discussion followed regarding raising the chapter dues – no motion – discussion closed. The Ears for the Deaf name has been changed to Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf Inc. Motion approved to donate $150 to the group.

President announced that as of this date there will be no smoking at chapter meetings or any other chapter gatherings. Skyway Good Sams have invited us to join them for a joint campout in April. Motion approved to pay the camping fees for our State Assistant State Directors for one weekend each year.

1991 OFFICERS

President – Marlin McGaughey

Vice President – Jack Schooley

Secretary – Betty Hodgin

Treasurer – Regis Coudriet

ASD – Carroll & Shirley Hepperle

MEMBERS
Beach, Boyer, Courdriet, Fagerman, Hodgin, Jackson, Jonas, Larsen, Linderman, McGaughey, Mueller, Munson, Nelson, Omlor, Parks, Perkins, Rossnagle, Schooley, Thomas, Thompson, Turner, Walls, Weixelbaum, and Woodward New Members: Milt & Betty Schmidt, and George Forestner (26 member rigs)

**Business:**

Pre-owned vests were still being sold for $10 each with money going to our Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf account. Fabric for new vests will cost $12.50 each. Our ASD’s (Assistant State Directors) Carroll & Shirley Hepperle attended the meeting along with some members from the Sunseekers Good Sam chapter who wanted to sit in on our meeting for ideas for their new chapter.

Motion approved to purchase a new small coffee pot. Wagon masters are now are given their assignment seven months in advance – but it was decided to keep sending the three month notice to members (even though some felt the postage fees were too costly). Again, the ham was provided by the chapter for the December event. A wagon master list was announced for the next two years (1992 & 1993)

It was brought to the member’s attention that after many repairs, the large coffee pot still was not working properly – no action taken. Motion approved to donate $50 to the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf. There was discussion regarding raising the Chapter dues – tabled until after January 1992

**1992 OFFICERS**

President – Early Parks

(Roberta Omlor appointed to fill President’s vacant term)

Vice President – Roberta Omlor

(Ken Munson appointed to fill the Vice President Term)

Secretary – Pat Walls

Treasurer – Milton Schmidt

**MEMBERS**

Harris, CB & Beulah Scott, and Mort & Blanch Weixelbaum rejoining again. (23 member rigs)

Business:

Treasurer stated chapter needs to close current checking account due to a $12 per month service fee. Treasurer also suggested considering an increase in Chapter dues for next year.

February, due to health reasons, elected President Earl Parks resigned. Florida State Good Sams appointed Roberta Omlor to fill the vacant position. President Omlor appointed Ken Munson to serve as vice president with both appointments unanimously approved by chapter members.

Beginning October 1992 it was voted to double up on wagon master duties with the following month’s wagon master serving as assistants. With a review of the chapter’s financial situation and at the suggestion of the treasurer – dues were increased to $15 per couple and $7.50 for a single membership and chapter to retain the 50/50 money. Several revisions were approved to change the Chapter’s “Standing Rules”

Motion approved to purchase a new 100 cup coffee pot. A three ring binder was set up to hold information on various campgrounds. The vice president was appointed to maintain the book and report each month to members on new information received.

After the illness and deaths of their spouses – Earl Parks announced that Jean Perkins had accepted his proposal of marriage.

1993 OFFICERS

President — Roberta Omlor

Vice President — Ken Munson

Secretary — Pat Walls

Treasurer — Jean Perkins

ASD — Carroll & Shirley Hepperle

MEMBERS

Boyer, Dyer, Forestner, Harris, Odgin, Jackson, Jonas, Larsen, Linderman, McGaughey, Munson, Nelson, Omlor, Parks, Perman, Rutigliano, Schmidt, Schwan, Schooley, Scott, Thomas, Walls, and Weixelbaum, New Members: Robert & Betty Garrett, Marge & Roland Albrecht, Valerie & Bill Irwin, Clara & Gerald Wynn, Bernard & Julia Grapski (28 member rigs)

Business:
For the next several years the chapter maintained a 3-ring notebook with information received on various campgrounds and resorts in Florida. The book was a resource tool for members to review and consider the selection of a campground when they had their turn to serve as wagon masters.

Another bolt of gray knit fabric was purchased for chapter vests. Roberta Omlor introduced a new project - member RV window signs – for unity and member recognition. Upon joining the Chapter new members were presented with a craft kit to make their own signs.

A motion made to limit membership to 28 members – motion was withdrawn. Motion approved to review the chapter’s “Standing Rules”. The assigned committee reported back to members – that membership should remain at 30 rigs. Voting should be done by secret ballot per the “Standing Rules”. Motion defeated to change chapter meetings to first weekend of the month.

A Brown Bag raffle was held to benefit the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf. Also, $200 was donated to the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf fund. Unanimous vote to have members wear name tags from 5 p.m. Friday through to the end of the weekend event – even when going out for dinner.

1994 OFFICERS

President — Dick Walls
Vice President — Earl Parks
Secretary — Beulah Scott
Treasurer — Marge Boyer
ASD — Judy and Al Harris

MEMBERS


Business:

A stained glass window, made by Betty Schmidt, was donated for a raffle held for the benefit of the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf. Revisions were made to the “Standing
Rules”. Motion approved to establish the Social Account using the 50/50 funds with the officers responsible for use of these funds. A new brief case was purchased for the treasurer. Dues remained at $15 per couple or $7.50 for singles. Motion approved to announce wagon masters assignments nine months in advance. Motion made and tabled until a later date to limit membership to 22 RVs. Sheriff fines remained at 25-cents.

Motion approved to dispose of the many trophies the club had won over the years (as they were too bulky to maintain and carry) and the labels to be placed in our Scrapbook.

1995 OFFICERS

President — Dick Walls

Vice President — Betty Hodgin

Secretary — Beulah Scott

Treasurer — Emerson Woolever

ASD — Jim and Angie Jones

MEMBERS

Albrecht, Boyer, Granger, Grapski, Harris, Hodgin, Jonas, Larsen, Linderman, Omlor, Parks, Schooley, Schwan, Scott, Stein, Thomas, Walls, and Woolever. New Members:

Dick & Beverly Hite (19 member rigs)

Business: Review of the current “Standing Rules”. Chapter opened a new account with First Nationwide Bank in the name of the Treasurer Emerson Woolever. Motion approved to have the chapter wear white shirts (with pocket and collar) with a small manatee emblem on the front and larger manatee emblem on the back – cost of shirts $9.50. Wagon masters will now be assigned 12 meetings in advance.

1996 OFFICERS

President — Bill Schwan

Vice President — Betty Hodgin
Secretary — Roberta Omlor

Treasurer — Emerson Woolever

ASD — Jim and Angie Jones

MEMBERS

Albrecht, Boyer, Gavain, Granger, Grapski, Harris, Hite, Hodgin, Jonas, Larsen, Omlor, Parks, Schooley, Schwan, Scott, Stein, Thomas, and Woolever. New Members: Dick & Ursula Wing, and Janet Gauvain (20 member rigs)

Business: Revised “By-Laws & Standing Rules” accepted by Florida State Good Sam Director. (This would be the last time the chapter would needed approval from the State Good Sams committee of revise “Standing Rules” and those rules could remain in effect indefinitely). Motion approved to reduce the size of the Chapter’s History books by eliminating some of the photos – but maintaining the first book which contained the charter members.

1997 OFFICERS
President — Bill Schwan

Vice President — Jack Stein

Secretary — Roberta Omlor

Treasurer — Dick Hite
ASD — Jim and Angie Jones

MEMBERS

Albrecht, Boyer, Gauvain, Granger, Grapski, Harris, Hite, Hodgin, Jonas, Larsen, Omlor, Parks, Schooley, Schwan, Scott, Seften, Stein, Thomas, Walls, Woolever, and Wing. New Members: Vic & Lynn McCracken, Don & Virginia Sefner (23 member rigs)

Business: Adopt-a-Family received a donation from chapter funds – along with a contribution to the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf. Incoming treasurer located a free checking account at Republic Bank.

1998 OFFICERS
President — Jack Stein

Vice President — Emerson Woolever

Secretary — Pat Walls

Treasurer — Dick Wing

ASD — Gladys & Gene Volick

MEMBERS

Albrecht, Boyer, Gauvain, Granger, Grapski, Hodgin, Jonas, Omlor, Parks, Schwan, Scott, Stein, Walls, and Wing. New Members: Earl & Pat Pahl, Jack & Jackie Kuebler, Nancy & Al Uncapher, Harland & Joanne Shaurette, and Bill & Dorothy Pontious (19 member rigs)

Business: Motion approved to permit wagon masters up to $25 for cost of meat along with miscellaneous expenses for coffee, tea, etc. Members conducted their first national clean up project sponsored by International Good Sams Club. Motion approved that the meat for both Thanksgiving and Christmas chapter dinners would be paid in full by the chapter. This year the chapter supported the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf with a generous donation and also the Adopt-a-Family of Manatee County. Donation of a new small coffee pot for hot water was made by Betty Hodgin.

1999 OFFICERS

President — Jack Stein

Vice President — Emerson Woolever

Secretary — Pat Walls

Treasurer — Dick Wing

ASD — Stan & Claudia Morse

MEMBERS
Albrecht, Boyer, Granger, Gauvain, Hodgin, Kuebler, Omlor, Pahl, Parks, Pontious, Schwan, Scott, Shaurette, Stein, Uncapher, Walls, Woolever, and Wing. New Members: Ralph & Barbara Baker, Ron & Pat Collins, Evelyn Cunningham, Helen Holubec, Bill & Cyndi Humphrey, Fran & Bill Myers, and Tom & Doris Schlotterback (25 member rigs)

Business: Several chapter members won costume awards at the Florida Board event. Chapter donated money to the Adopt-a-Family in Manatee County. Wearing Santa hats members traveled (using the park’s tram) thru the Lazy Days Rally Park singing Christmas carols. The sheriff recommended that “Sheriff Fines” be increased to $1 – and any donation of $1 or more would offer any member the hassle free weekend. President established a new committee composed of Past Presidents who would serve as an advisory group to the president and members. New chapter white shirts are needed and Doris Schlotterback developed, on her computer, a copy of the logo to be used on the next batch of shirts. New chapter white shirts would now cost $23.50 each. New vest material was purchased – members cost will now be $21.93 for vest supplies with members making their own. Used vests and shirts continued to be sold for $10.

Florida State Good Sams raised their membership dues 25-cents and now each chapter now will submit $1.50 per rig. During this year members Bill Schwan and Janet Gauvain were married.

2000 OFFICERS

President — Dick Wing

Vice President — Earl Parks

Secretary — Joanne Shaurette

Treasurer — Bill Myers

ASD — Bill & Betty Hodgin

MEMBERS

Albrecht, Baker, Boyer, Carter, Collins, Cunningham, Granger, Hodgin, Holubec, Kuebler, Medise, Myers, Omlor, Pahl, Parks, Pontious, Schlotterback, Schwan, Scott, Shaurette, Stein, Walls, & Wing. New Members: Roger & Fran Boyd, Edna Bacon, and Dave & Virgina Butta (26 rigs)

Business: Motion approved – as recommended by the Past Presidents Committee – to support one charity the – the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf. Motion approved that no
pets will be present at any social function where food is served except for service animals.

2001 OFFICERS
President — Dick Wing
Vice President — Bill Myers
Secretary — Barbara Baker
Treasurer — Helen Holubec
ASD — Bill & Betty Hodgin

MEMBERS

Albrecht, Bacon, Baker, Boyd, Boyer, Butta, Carter, Collins, Cunningham, Granger, Hodgin, Holubec, Humphrey, Kuebler, Myers, Omlor, Pahl, Parks, Pontious, Schlotterback, Schwan, Scott, Shaurette, Stein, Walls and Wing (26 member rigs)

Business: Supported the training of a Florida Guide Dog for our member Evelyn Cunningham. Discussion on limiting size of membership was reviewed by the Past Presidents Committee as well as the recommendation to create an Associate Membership with limited responsibilities – resulting in the recommendation of no change by the Past President’s committee. Restricting pets from attendance at Social Hour events was added to the “Standing Rules”. Motion made and carried to send $500 to the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf restricted to Evelyn Cunningham’s account (she is one of our members). This year the chapter’s numerous photo albums were taken apart and photo’s given away or disposed of...as it was decided that maintaining and carrying around 19 years of photos was just too cumbersome. During the term of President Bill Myers – numerous beautiful potted plants were donated for raffles, table decorations and door prizes with any earned money going to the Dog Account. A new coffee pot was purchased. Decision made to continue attendance in January to the RV Super Show in Tampa. The original Chapter Charter and letter were found and motion made and carried that the secretary would keep it safe and secure.

2002 OFFICERS
President — Bill Myers
Vice President — Earl Pahl
Secretary — Barbara Baker
Treasurer — Helen Holubec
ASD — Bill & Betty Hodgin

MEMBERS

Albrecht, Baker, Boyd, Butta, Collins, Cunningham, Granger, Hodgin, Holubec, Humphrey, Kuebler, Myers, Omlor, Pahl, Schlotterback, Schwan, Scott, Stein, Walls, and Wing. New Members: Alan & Jill Cooper, Michael & JoAnn Medise, Frank & Mary Ellen Morton, Frank Thompson & Barbara Mainelli, Ernie & Marlene Mullins, and John & Mary Carter (26 member rigs)

Business: Motion approved to make changes to “Standing Rules” (as recommended by the Past Presidents committee): Wagon masters may be reimbursed up to $30 for food
and supplies; memorial gifts limited to of $50 from Chapter funds; and if and as needed a deposit of up to $100 for a chapter reservation. Restated that - pets (except for service animals) are not permitted at any chapter function where food is served. Motion approved to make a donation to Adopt-a-Family in lieu of a gift exchange.

2003 OFFICERS

President — Bill Myers
Vice President — Earl Pahl
Secretary — Ralph Baker
Treasurer — Marline Mullins

MEMBERS

Albrecht, Baker, Boyd, Butta, Carter, Collins, Cooper, Cunningham, Granger, Hodgin, Holubec, Humphrey, Kuebler, Medise, Morton, Mullins, Myers, Omlor, Pahl, Schlotterback, Schwan, Scott, Stein, Walls and Wing. New Members: Frank & Gaylene Royer, Len & Bev Rectenwald (27 member rigs)

Business: Florida State Good Sams introduced its new web site – and will discontinue the mailing of the “Samaritan” state news letter. As the years have passed by members interest in games had changed – so a motion was approved to eliminate all outdoor games – except – Bean Bag Baseball and Holey Board. Bill Hodgin said repairs were made to the chapter's name sign.

2004 OFFICERS

President — Ron Collins
Vice President — Alan Cooper
Secretary — Ralph Baker
Treasurer — Marline Mullins
ASD — Bill & Betty Hodgin

MEMBERS
Albrecht, Baker, Boyd, Collins, Cooper, Cunningham, Granger, Hodgin, Humphrey, Kuebler, Medise, Morton, Mullins, Myers, Omlor, Pahl, Rectenwald, Royer, Schlotterback, Scott, Stein, and Walls (22 member rigs)

**Business:** Chapter submitted a book of accomplishments to the Florida State Good Sams for the “Chapter of the Year” competition and received special recognition for participation. Manatee Chapter creates its own website. Stuffed teddy bears, knitted by some of the members, were donated for children with serious illnesses.

**2005 OFFICERS**

President — Ron Collins

Vice President — Alan Cooper

Secretary — Barbara Baker

Treasurer — Fran Boyd

ASD — Bill & Betty Hodgin

**MEMBERS**

Albrecht, Baker, Boyd, Collins, Cooper, Cunningham, Granger, Hodgin, Humphrey, Kuebler, Medise, Morton, Mullins, Myers, Omlor, Pahl, Rectenwald, Royer, Schlotterback, Scott, Stein, and Walls. **New Members:** Steve & Pat Hepfer (23 member rigs)

**Business:** New Guidelines required that the chapter have a Tax ID number for its Checking Account. A Summer Newsletter was published for the chapter. The chapter members were asked to provide their cell phone numbers for easy contacts between traveling members. Standing rules were reviewed and no changes were made. A “Tax ID Number” was obtained for the chapter.

**2006 OFFICERS**

President — Alan Cooper

Vice President - Cyndi Humphrey
MEMBERS

Baker, Boyd, Collins, Cooper, Granger, Hepfer, Hodgin, Humphrey, Kuebler, Medise, Morton, Myers, Omlor, Pahl, Royer, Schlotterback, Scott, Stein, and Walls. New Members: Reinstated Ernie & Marlene Mullins (20 member rigs)

Business: Wagon Master Expenses were raised to a $50 limit. The Standing Rules were amended. No pets are allowed at any chapter function where food is served.

2007 OFFICERS

President — Alan Cooper
Vice President — Cyndi Humphrey
Secretary — Doris Schlotterback
Treasurer — Pat Hepfer
ASD — Bill & Betty Hodgin

MEMBERS

Baker, Boyd, Collins, Cooper, Granger, Hepfer, Hodgin, Humphrey, Kuebler, Medise, Morton, Omlor, Pahl, Royer, Schlotterback, Scott, Stein, and Walls (18 member rigs)

Business: Review and revision of the “Standing Rules” with copies distributed to all members. Fran Boyd developed for the chapter & produced a special Flyer and Business Card to promote our chapter along with its benefits to be shared with potential new members. New design developed for chapter name tags. New white uniform shirts were ordered – maintaining the same design – but now Chapter Logo design would be embroidered with 3 colors (black, gray, and red).

By Laws, Standing Rules, Wagon Masters work check list, and new members’ orientation were printed and distributed to members.

2008 OFFICERS

President — Cyndi Humphrey
Vice President — JoAnn Medise

Secretary — Ralph Baker

Treasurer — Pat Hepfer

Bill & Betty Hodgin

MEMBERS


Business: A chapter brochure and business cards were printed and distributed among the chapter members – to be use as a recruitment tool to obtain new members. A Webmaster was appointed, Bill Holick, to maintain the chapter’s website. The chapter’s name badge design was changed because the “Sign Man” retired and the original design was no longer available. Standing Rule changed to increase memorial gifts for deceased chapter members to the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf to #25.

2009 OFFICERS

President — Cyndi Humphrey

Vice President — Steve Hepfer

Secretary — Ralph Baker

Treasurer — Mary Ellen Morton

ASD - David & Dee Robb
MEMBERS

Baker, Boyd, Collins, Cooper, Costa, Granger, Hepfer, Hollick, Humphrey, Hutchinson, Medise, Morton, Omlor, Pahl, Royer, Ruff, Rumberger, San Marco, Schlotterback, Scott, Stein, and Walls. New Members: John & Gerd Fagerholm, Tony Heller & Jean Mennenga, Roy & Geri McGary, Fred & Carol Roselli, and Bruce & Sharon Theroux (27 member rigs)

Business: Memorial gifts to the Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf was increased to $25 for current members who pass away. Chapter name badges are now being purchased from the Sign Man at Samborees. Vests are being made for members @ $30 each. At the November Samboree the chapter held a raffle as a fund raiser (a large grocery basket of food, a quilt, plus a basket for a pet filled with variety of goodies). Chapter ordered the large Manatee Patches for the vests @ $6 each with a minimum order of 50. A new position was created and filling the Chapter Quartermaster post are the Roselli’s who will keep track of supplies.

2010 OFFICERS

President – Alan Cooper
Vice President – Jean Mennenga
Secretary – Joe San Marco
Treasurer – Mary Ellen Morton

ASD – David & Dee Robb

MEMBERS


NEW MEMBERS:
Bill & Bonnie Deckemel, Cathy Land, Paul & Sara Thatcher, Brian & Maureen Wininger

CAMPING DESTINATIONS:
RV Super Show – Tampa, Lazy Days Rally Park – Tampa, Bill Fredrick Park @ Turkey Lake – Orlando, Horseshoe Cove – Bradenton, Three Worlds – Davenport, Traveler’s Rest – Dade City, Theme World – Davenport, Kissimmee South RV Resort - Davenport

BUSINESS:
This was another busy year for the members – with good fellowship, new members, tasty food, and a several changes to the methods of operation to improve the Chapter’s operations

**Changes to Chapter’s Operations:**

- It was voted that the chapter would continue to support only one charity – The Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf & Hearing Impaired
- Regarding the Chapter’s membership size – it was voted that the chapter’s total membership would not be limited.
- A slight change made to attendance rules – voted that members shall meet their financial and Wagon Master obligations or be dropped from the chapter roll.

- Wagon Master monthly schedule & annual assignments will now be posted on the Chapter’s web site for review.
- Chapter Vests - Members no longer need to sew their own vests – found someone who will make them and orders are now taken for the white Chapter shirts with the chapter’s Manatee logo. Both are available for a modest fee.
- Advance booking of reservations: Due to the difficulty of find locations for the chapter’s monthly events in the months of December, January, and February – advance reservations have been made to make it easier for the assigned Wagon Masters for those months.
  - December 2011 @ Sun-n-Fun
  - January @ RV Super Show, Tampa
  - February @ Lazy Days
- Chapter’s Club Account: Club experienced a negative cash flow & action taken to temporarily resolve was to borrow $200 from Social account to meet expenses as a short term solution – and replace it at a later date.
- Dues were increased to $30 per couple and $15 for a single membership.
- Wagon Master reimbursement changed – Reimbursed up to $2.50 per attending member rig to be paid to Wagon Master.
- Manateean Sams History: Now available for review at chapter’s web site.

**Chapter’s Name Sign-Board:**
Bill Hodgins made repairs and a complete make-over to the large manatee, which is a part of the chapter's name sign and Doris Schlotterback sewed a new carrying case for the supports.

**Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf & Hearing Impaired:**
Following 29 years of Manateean Sams operation and support – the total donations received are - $ 4,651.73

**Resignations received:** Due to health issues the following members resigned – Beulah & CB Scott and Dick & Pat Walls. Fagerholm’s due to John"s passing away.

**Awards:** Chapter took 2\textsuperscript{nd} place in the November Samboree Parade
President – Alan Cooper

Vice President – Jean Mennenga

Treasurer – Frank Morton

Secretary – Joe San Marco

ASD – David and Dee Robb

MEMBERS


NEW MEMBERS:
Joe & Donna King, Ted & Gail Oko

CAMPING DESTINATIONS:
RV Super Show – Tampa, Lazy Days – Seffner, The Oaks – Bushnell, Lakeland RV Resort - Lakeland

OFFICERS FOR 2012

President - Jean Mennenga

Vice President - Judy Ruff

Secretary - Sara Thatcher
Treasurer - Frank Morton
ASD’s - David & Dee Robb

Manateean Sams Celebrate their 30th Anniversary

Current members as of January 2012 – (Total Count 28 Rigs)

New members for 2012 (Total Count 10 Rigs)
Dave & Sue Casey, Mike & Pauline DePrince, Bob & Ann Enloe, Russ & Dot Gay, Tom & Betty Gorski, Warren Green & Marty Wagner, Tom & Pat Johnson, Bruce & Mary Noordsky, Harry & Lorraine Noordsky, Merrit & Rose Yoder

Special happenings during the 2012 year
• Celebration of the Manateean Sams Chapter’s 30th anniversary at Tara Country Club. Members, former members and friends spent the afternoon visiting and reviewing the memorabilia on display along with pictures from previous years.
• Manateean Sams members attend the 3 Good Sams of Florida State Samborees (Fall @ Eustis; Winter @ Plataka; and Spring @ Okeechobee)
• Members rose to the challenge and created a “garbage bag and duct tape life size Manatee”, named Ella - which they carried in the Winter Samboree parade.
• For the Spring Samboree members created and made Manatee Hats for the Mad Hatter competition.
• Rose Yoder made the Chapter a new two sided flag – that could be used as a standard flag on a flag pole or carried as a banner.
• The Chapter made its annual donation to the Florida Dog Guides for the Deaf.
• With the assistance of our Web Master Bill Hollick – the Chapter now has a presence on the FaceBook pages.
• With the guidance of chairman Steve Hepfer and his committee – the Chapter’s Standing Rules (the guidelines for the Chapter’s operation) were reviewed.
• Places camped in 2012 - Tampa RV Super Show, Lazy Days @ Seffner, Red Oaks @ Bushnell, Riverside @ Arcadia, Horseshoe Cove @ Bradenton, Lion Country Safari @ Jupiter, Southern Palms @ Eustis, Alligator Park @ Punta Gorda.

**2013 OFFICERS**

President - Jean Mennenga

Vice President - Judy Ruff

Secretary - Sara Thatcher

Treasurer - Mary Ellen Morton

ASD - Bob & Grace LaBossiere

• **Current members as of Jan 2013** – (Total 30 Rigs)

• **New members for 2013 year** (Total 31 Rigs)
  Jeff & Ethel Weiskopf

**Items of interest for 2013:**

  o First time in 31 year history of Manatee Sams Chapter that we had all ladies serving in the leadership officer roles.
  o New assigned ASD’s (Assistant State Directors) Bob & Grace LaBossiere.
  o New Chapter Flag created by Rose Yoder
  o During the season several couples stepped up to the plate by filling in as Wagon Masters when the appointed couples had resigned for various reasons.
  o Standing Rules were reviewed and updated with much attention to details and clarity for better understanding.
  o Chapter continues to investigate companies for matching shirts and vests.
  o Various Chapter members had a good time at Florida State Samborees in Eustis, LaPlatka, and Okeechobee.
  o During the 4 month summer break members went out for long trips and monthly events to local camping spots - Horseshoe cove (because flooding caused Myakka River State Park, their original destination, to be closed), and Lazy Days Rally’s Seffner, FL,
  o During 2013 year several Manatee Sams members passed away .... Ted Granger, Pauline DePrince and Tom Schlotterback.
Places the Chapter camped during 2013
Super Show @Tampa Fair Grounds, Sarasota Fair Grounds, Red Oaks @ Bushnell, Alligator Lake @ Punta Gorda, Traveler’s Rest @ Dade City, Southern Palms @ Eustis,

2014 OFFICERS
President – Mary Ellen Morton
Vice President – Steve Hepfer
Secretary – Ann Enloe
Treasurer – Paul Thatcher
Assistant State Directors (ASD’s) Bob & Grace LaBossiere

Current Members as of January 2014 (Total 27 Rigs)

New Members for 2014
Chuck & Ruth Treadway ... Mar
Bill & Cyndi Green .... Dec

Total Rigs as of December 2014 29

In Memory of Members who passed away during the year:
Tony Heller ... Mar. 6, 1942 - Feb. 18, 2014
William “Bill” Hollick ... 1948 – Aug 10, 2014

Items of interest for 2014 (Chapter in operation for 32 years)
March members voted to purchase a new electric Coffee Maker and Tea Pot.

Manateeans Sams Camping events were held at - Tampa Super Show - Tampa, Lazy Days – Seffner, The Red Oaks – Bushnell, Traveler’s Rest – Dade City,
Southern Palms – Eustis, and Alligator Park – Punta Gorda. Members also attend the Fall & Spring Florida State Samborees and The FMCA Rally at Perry Georgia

2015 OFFICERS

President – Mary Ellen Morton
Vice President – Steve Hepfer
Secretary – Rose Merriott
Treasurer – Paul Thatcher

Assistant State Directors (ASD's) Bob & Grace LaBossiere

Current Members as of January 2015 (Total 26 Rigs)

New Members for 2015 - Phil Reichard

Total Rigs as of December 2015 - 25

Manateeean Sams Camping events were held at - Tampa Super Show - Seffner, The Red Oaks – Bushnell, Homosassa Riverside RV Resort, Lazy Days - Suffer, Southern Palms - Eustis.

2016 Officers

President - Ron Collins
Vice President - Alan Cooper
Secretary - Rose Yoder
Treasurer - Frank Morton