

What are FFS Gatherings?

by Chaz Cone

Since the inevitable decline in our FFS membership has made annual conventions financially nonviable, we've come up with a plan where FreshFans (whether or not members of the FFS) can still gather to enjoy the music of The Four Freshmen and see their friends.

As The Freshmen perform around the country, we want to help increase ticket sales to make venues even more eager to book the guys. So we're helping to arrange what we call "Gatherings" coincident with Freshmen concerts. How it all works can be reviewed on the Four Freshmen Society website (fourfreshmensociety.com).

Here it is in a nutshell:

- Book tickets to a nearby Freshmen concert.
- Sign up for a Gathering held at a nearby hotel/restaurant/other venue.
- Get together there for a meet-and-greet with other FreshFans and perhaps sometimes with the Freshmen themselves.

That's all there is to it. We get to visit with one another and hear the guys, keeping our community and our support for The Four Freshmen going.

When you sign up for a Gathering on the FFS website (there's no cost), we'll keep you informed of other attendees. You contact each other to set up the Gathering and then just show up.

When you click the "[FFS Gatherings](#)" button on the FFS website, you'll get the chance to choose which concert(s) you plan to attend. As you "talk/text/email" among yourselves in the weeks before the Gathering, you'll work out the plan for when/where it will be, whether there will be refreshments and so forth.

Even if you just think you'll be able to attend one or more, sign up and we'll keep you in the loop.

Would you like to know who has already signed up for a Gathering? The [Gatherings page](#) on the FFS website will tell you!

To see if there is a concert nearby (check often): Go to the "[Tour Schedule](#)" on the FFS website.

Enjoy The Four Freshmen and your FreshFan friends!

Sammy Sightings in the Old Wild West

by Kathy Feese as recounted by Sue Barbour

The Four Freshmen had taken the leap to move to California. It was the wild west in the 1950s. The Four Freshmen had a night off and decided to see the show at a swanky club called "Ciro's" in Hollywood, starring the incomparable Sammy Davis Jr. Someone must have tipped off the star that The Four Freshmen were in the crowd, because he came around to their table after the show to meet the guys. He invited them to come to his home in the Hollywood Hills where he was throwing a little party.

As they arrived at Sammy's house, they found a typical Hollywood party. People had been pouring into the place at an alarming rate. The crowd was growing and beginning to get a bit out of hand. As the crowd grew, Sammy went to a room upstairs with the voices from downstairs wafting up to his loft. Sammy stepped out onto the landing of the loft with a holster with two guns on his hips. He looked down on the sea of noisy people in his living room. He drew the guns, held them in the air and yelled; "All right... Everybody who wasn't invited, GET OUTTA HERE!"



Things quieted down as the crowd thinned out. The invited guests enjoyed the more intimate evening getting to know each other and Sammy showed off his gun twirling skills and 'quick draw' techniques.

Ross was captivated by Sammy's western hardware and gun skills. He had an affinity for all things "old west." He was crazy about western movies and TV shows; the hats, the boots, the guns... Inspired, at least in part, by Sammy Davis Jr., Ross collected his own replica western style gun and holster and even bought himself a suede shirt with fringe along the chest, like the shirts John Wayne used to wear in his movies. Of course, he got cowboy boots and a white hat, too. He even learned to twirl and draw the gun. While there were few occasions for him to wear his garb in his daily 'southern California' life, it all made for swell Halloween wear through the years.

Later, in the summer of 1963, the Freshmen and their wives were in Las Vegas for a wedding. Bob and Mary Flanigan had just gotten married at a popular Vegas wedding chapel. After the ceremony, the whole gang was up in their hotel room at The Sands Hotel, celebrating. Their room was just one floor above Sammy Davis Junior's room. He was booked there in the "big room." Sammy happened to be out on his balcony with his kids as Sue stepped out onto the balcony above. He yelled up; "Hey! Who is celebrating what up there?" Sue looked down, "Hey, guys, look who's out here!" The Freshmen came out to say hello and Sammy invited them all to come to his show that night. Of course, they were delighted and quickly accepted.

When they arrived at the showroom, they saw there was a long table set up for eight just at the foot of the stage. Sammy did not disappoint anyone! He put on an amazing show. He even announced that The Four Freshmen were in the audience and had them all stand for applause. They all stood up at their seats. That is, all except for Bob Flanigan. Somehow, he and his new bride, Mary, never made it to the showroom. Sammy realized there were only three Freshmen standing.

"Hmm," he said, "I guess the newlyweds must have found something better to do tonight!"