

# High Sierra Thong Snappers dedicated to fighting frump

By **Jody Covington**  
news@carsontimes.com

The year 2006 will be remembered by Washoe Valley resident Karin Tancrell as the year she joined both a telephone company retirement group and the provocatively named Blue Thong Society.

"I couldn't go to the bar every night," joked Tancrell, 57, who retired in 1991 and is thrilled to see a chapter of the BTS form in Carson City.

The society is for women of a generation known to have burned their bras and fought to change the role of females in marriage, motherhood and the workforce.

BTS members aren't afraid to fight aging every step of the way, even via kicking and scratching if needed. They just want to do it with fellow women, who want to have a good time and have the right attitude.

"We can be pretty nasty because we've earned the right to be nasty," said Carson



Lisa J. Tolda/Carson Times

It was standing room only last week for the first official meeting of the High Sierra Thong Snapper chapter of the Blue Thong Society in Carson City. This social group will also do service projects to benefit Advocates to End Domestic Violence.

City chapter cofounder Patty Manning, who earlier this

month was pleased to see more than 30 women show up for the

kickoff meeting of the High Sierra Thong Snappers

## GET INVOLVED

**DETAILS:** Any woman interested in joining the High Sierra Thong Snappers can call Pat Manning at 246-9630 or log on to the Web site [www.highsierrathongsnappers.com](http://www.highsierrathongsnappers.com). The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Pinion Plaza Steakhouse. Meetings will be held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

BTS chapter.

The group's motto, "Fight Frump," and the logo featuring a beachy-looking foot or panty thong, lets everyone in on the "fun-inspired, relaxed attitude the style-conscious and confidant" group touts.

## Spreading a message

It may be far from many agenda-driven groups, but don't let the kicked-back atmosphere fool anyone into believing these women don't know how to spread their message.

# Snappers/Group has organized a 'Fighting Frump' conference

From 12

Created by a group of female friends in California just last year, the BTS membership is fast approaching 75 chapters with 1,000 members across the United States and a chapter just started in Mexico.

There is even interest in Australia, said Jackie Tushinsky, original BTS co-founder.

The group has set up a "Fighting Frump" conference, a Web site, boutique, a logo, a moniker and they've even named a drink — the blue martini.

While quick to admit to being superficial, each chapter must name a charity to support. In Carson City, the BTS chapter will support Advocates to End Domestic Violence. The only other requirements are members must 21 years of age and pay a \$29 annual fee. There is no president, secretary or treasurer, just a director.

"Most of it is just having fun," Manning said.

The Carson City chapter plans to draw on the members' backgrounds for meeting topics, such as gardening, nutrition and accessorizing.

"At this point in our lives we all have a story to tell," said Lynn Loomis, an accountant. "It's a diverse group of women. It makes it appealing. Women friends are real important during this part of our lives."

## Getting together

The core group met a few weeks ago for drinks and to strategize. They went home with three business cards from women who sat nearby and wanted to become part of the fun they were having.

"We're not your typical 50- to 60-year-olds," said Tancrell,

'At this point in our lives we all have a story to tell. It's a diverse group of women. It makes it appealing. Women friends are real important during this part of our lives.'

— Lynn Loomis, member of High Sierra Thong Snappers

who said the group also helps to bridge a generation gap.

The BTS all started when Tushinsky was celebrating a friend's 50th birthday and one of the women said, "We don't see you wearing a red hat, but we do see you wearing a red thong!"

The reference to the 50-plus women's group, The Red Hat Society, isn't an insult. They just didn't feel ready to wear the full regalia of that group or sip tea. The missions of both groups are similar — having fun and railing against the idea of becoming dowdy once the mid-century mark is met.

"No, you don't have to wear a thong — either panty or flip-flop" said Tushinsky. "It means that our attitudes embody all we bring with us to our kitchen counters. We will always carry with us the powerful message that lives in our hearts, which we gained, (and we don't mean pounds) from what we fought for in our youth and how it made us the wonderful and powerful women who we are today."

Hearing that the thong was not a requirement made Tancrell happy.

"I'm a size 16, there is no way I could wear a thong," she said. "I'd have to wear it on my head."

The thong was eventually changed to blue because in color lore it represents emotions such as sympathy, harmony, friendship and loyalty, said Tushinsky.



Lisa J. Tolda