



# ILLINOIS SAM-O-GRAM

April 2016

Published for members of Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Association of Illinois

[www.illinoisgoodsam.org](http://www.illinoisgoodsam.org)

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR'S RIG:**

Well, I wish we were in our rig, but as I write this winter is still around on some days. One day recently I had to get something from our RV and I saw all the items that have to be put in order to start camping again. Those days are coming fast.

The first state meeting will be at the Champaign Sportsman's Club, 501 North Lake of the Woods Road, Mahomet, IL 61853. Please have a representative from each chapter present as we have items that need your input and voting.

New Directories will be available at the meeting.

Remember our theme for the 2016 Illinois RV Rally is "Happy Trails" – what can your chapter do to make it special? We are looking forward to seeing everyone.

*Carolyn & John Schaefer*

## **AGENDA FOR APRIL STATE BUSINESS MEETING**

Friday – Arrive anytime. If camping, say you are with Good Sam as some sites are reserved for us.

Saturday – 8:00 to 9:00 am – Biscuits & gravy by Chamco Sams - \$2.00 per person

9:00 to 11:00 am – Open discussion

12:00 pm – Lunch provided by Chamco Sams - \$6.00 per person

(BBQ Pork sandwich, beans, chips, bottled water and dessert)

1:00 pm – State Business Meeting

5:30 pm – Potluck supper with Chamco Sams

Sunday - 9:00 am – Church Service

## **ILLINOIS STATE GOOD SAM RV RALLY**

September 1 through 5, 2016 will be held at Henry, Illinois at the Marshall-Putnam Fairgrounds. Registration forms available online at [www.illinoisgoodsam.org](http://www.illinoisgoodsam.org)

Encourage your chapter members to attend and participate in the activities that are planned for you.

The theme this year is **HAPPY TRAILS**. Round up your Western wear and come have a good time!

## UPDATE ON DOGS FOR THE DEAF INTERVIEW

by Henry Kisor

About a year ago Good Sam Club members Jim and Judie Frcka came to my house in Evanston, Illinois, to interview me as a candidate for a hearing service dog from Dogs for the Deaf.

Last December Trooper came into my life. He is a miniature schnauzer mixed with a lot of poodle and a little Pekinese and he is lively and loving. After four months with us, he does three tasks very well: he jumps up on me whenever the phone rings, or there is a knock at the door, or when my wife Debby calls my name from somewhere in our condo. Then when I say, "What? What?" he leads me to the source of the sound.

When we are out on our walks, he alerts to sounds behind us simply by spinning around and looking in their direction. He already has saved me from a close encounter with a small boy on a bicycle late for school.

I am getting on in years, and older folds sometimes become quiet and withdrawn. Trooper keeps me in the social swim because he is such a cute little chick magnet. Wherever I go, people stop to ask what sorts of things he does for me, and that's a great conversation starter.



He goes *everywhere* with me. We've been to restaurants, supermarkets, the senior center, the post office, even the hospital. He has flown on an airliner, and we've taken long-distance Amtrak trains (in sleeper rooms) to the East and to the West. We've visited big cities and national parks together. He is my shaggy little wingman.



I'm grateful to the Good Sam Club for its generous support for Dogs for the Deaf.

If you would like to read more about our adventures, I write about them at [www.henrykisor.blogspot.com](http://www.henrykisor.blogspot.com)

## CHAPTER NEWS

### **Bureau Valley Sams** by Louise Frank

Hooray, Hooray, it's time to Camp! Bureau Valley Sams is looking forward to celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> year of camping!

Our 2016 Chapter Officers are:  
President, Jim Swanson  
Vice President, Marvin Getty  
Secretary, Pat Swanson  
Treasurer, Lois Getty  
Wagon master, Jeff DeGroot

Chaplain, Terry Robison  
Publicity, Louise Frank

We have another busy schedule planned for 2016:  
April 15 - Geneseo Campground, Geneseo, IL.  
May 20 – Galesburg East, Knoxville, IL  
June 17 – Fisherman’s Corner Corps of Engineers  
Park, Hampton, IL  
July 15 – Johnson Sauk Trail, Kewanee, IL  
August 19 – Shady Creek Corps of Engineers Park,  
Muscatine, IA  
October 21 – Geneseo Campground for final outing  
of the year.

Several members are planning to attend the state meeting in Mahomet at the end of April led by our new State Director, Carolyn (John) Schaefer, and we look forward to planning the 2016 Rally and renewing friendships with our state friends.

Our condolences go to the families of Darrell Scott (wife Kaye) and Patrick Stillwell (wife Joan) and Don Jones (wife Ellen). All were valued members of BVS and will be missed by their many camping friends.

As always, BVS invites all our Good Sam friends to come and camp with us at any of our monthly campouts. See you around the campfire!

PS. BVS enjoyed the first 2016 campout at Geneseo and were happy to have Illinois State Director Carolyn and John Schaefer join them for the weekend.

### **Chamco Sams** by Carol Froeschl

The Chamco Sams Chapter October campout was at the Champaign Sportsman Club, Mahomet, IL. with six rigs and several drive-ins for the meeting. Friday evening many gathered at the Mahomet Restaurant for an enjoyable dinner. Saturday morning nearly everyone met for a delicious breakfast served by Dale and Vernell Myers and Robert and Lynn Meyers. Several members went to John Durbins to see his five antique tractors.

The



women gathered in the club house in the afternoon for a card game. Evening dinner was several soups prepared by the Chapter officers and members filled in with side dishes and desserts. Dinner was followed by our business meeting. The Chapter booklet were handed out with the 2016 camping schedule. The Chapter had voted to give \$150.00 each to Dogs for the Deaf and to Salt and Light. \$50.00 was donated to Developmental Service Center in memory of Glen Myers. After the meeting, Carolyn Schaefer introduced the ladies to a new car game, Quiddler, which was a lot of fun. Those members not headed south met in November for lunch at Ryan’s Steakhouse Buffet.

We had two new members join our camping family, Rich & Sherry Wieland and Mike & Janet Larson. We welcome them and look forward to having them camp with us in 2016.

Our first meeting for 2016 was on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Mahomet Family Restaurant (Ryan’s Steakhouse, our usual meeting place, closed the week before our March meeting). Chamco Sams Chapter will host the first State meeting for 2016 on April 29 – May 1, at the Champaign Sportsman Club in Mahomet, IL. The Chapter will be serving Saturday morning breakfast of Biscuits and Gravy and lunch will also be served. Saturday night will be a potluck with the State Board members. State Director, Carolyn Schaefer, discussed the agenda for the April State meeting. Members discussed ideas for the gift bags the Chapter will have for the Illinois State Rally on Labor Day weekend.

2016 is Chamco Sams Chapter 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a camping family. We are planning to have a special

event on September 23-25, 2016 to celebrate our anniversary. We are having a special anniversary patch made of which a sample was brought to our March meeting.

Several members are planning to attend the "Campout for Charity" on June 3-5, 2016. Please check our website:

<https://chamcosamschapter.wordpress.com>

#### **Prairie Ramblers** by Judie Frcka

Well, Prairie Ramblers almost didn't make it to 2016. A few folks felt it was time to turn in the charger and give it all up. Fortunately a few other folks decided to see if they could save the chapter. It was a successful save. We started with three members and now have five. Small, but we will keep the chapter going for a little while longer.

Our plan is to meet at least once in the summer and celebrate 45 years as a chapter - inviting a few of the former members and enjoy reminiscing. We also hope to have some members attend the Rally in September.

#### **Rock Valley** by Judie Frcka

Rock Valley ends their camping season with a chili dump. Everyone makes their favorite chili and we dump it all together. It is always very good.

Then we begin our winter season with a wonderful, yummy tradition of cooking a turkey on a charcoal grill in November. Russell Forest Preserve west of Genoa provides us a warm snugly enclosed shelter, so weather can be whatever it chooses. Of course also served are all the Thanksgiving trimmings once could possibly eat. After stuffing ourselves, we elect officers and plan the coming year. In December we enjoy our annual Christmas party, with a fun gift exchange.

By the time you read this we will have had our first campout for 2016. Yea, it can be a little cold in

April, but we don't mind. The guys keep the fire going constantly. Since we will be at Lowden State Park, we are hoping the restoration of the Blackhawk Statue is complete.

June at Seward Bluff Forest Preserve, Pecatonica, will find us celebrating our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a chapter. Former members have been invited to join us for a luscious catered meal and ending with an anniversary cake.

Rock Valley is fortunate enough to still have an active charter member, Elsie Watson. She served as secretary for many, many years and is still willing to step up and do whatever needs to be done.

#### **Prairie State Sams** by Sue Janssen

As many campers know the last campout of the season is not one we look forward to. October found us at the Iroquois Fair Grounds for our last campout of the season and the start of a project that would carry through to November. After a month of preparation and gathering supplies, we started tying fleece blankets for the Lady veterans at the Manteno Veterans Home. Fingers of all shapes could be found gathered around tables cutting and tying 20 multi colored throws, along with lots of conversations.



We also had the opportunity to have another camping club (Campfire Club) share the

campgrounds with us. Along with joining us for the Potluck dinner, we were entertained by one of their members who played the dulcimer. With all we had to do, our last campout for the season was one to put in the memory books.

November found us at the Manteno Veterans home with Lady Veterans who served from WWII thru Viet Nam and wars in between. As the fleece throws we had made the month before were handed to each of these Lady Vets, we saw smiles and heard stories that touched each of us in many ways.

Our annual Christmas party was filled with joy and smells of good food prepared by the best cooks in our area (I would say Illinois but I am sure I would get some nasty emails). In addition to eating more than we should, we collected food and money for our local food bank that will help many in our area.

January and the normal happy start of a new year found our chapter mourning the loss of Paul Wilson who was always there to help when he was not traveling the world. Paul always brought homemade caramels to share with the chapter and a fresh newspaper no matter how far he had to travel in the morning to find one. Paul will be remembered fondly by our members.

Our charter members Jean and Richard Skelly decorated their home with Prairie State Sams memories of the past as we celebrated in February our 40th anniversary. They provided food and stories from where we came from and what we have done over the years. Ginger made a beautiful and delicious cake decorated for this special occasion. We were honored to have our State Director Carolyn and John Shafer take time out of their busy schedule to join us during this special time.

For the second year, Prairie State Sams set up a table at the Kankakee Valley Park District Sports Show to promote the Good Sam Club, our Chapter and the Campout for Charity event that will be held June 3-5, 2016 (hope to see you there). We handed out a lot of information and filled out 16

Good Sam's membership applications. Thanks to all who helped with this promotion.

Our last winter meeting was held at the Victorian Art Gallery where we enjoyed pizza and all the fixings. We had planned to make Blessing Bags for a local organization that helps transients and homeless in the area. The problem we ran into was our members provided so many supplies we could not fit them all in bags, so Jean and Richard took on the task and delivered the much needed supplies in bulk. Thank you, Jean and Richard.

April is the month we pull the campers out of cold storage. Our first campout is only a few days away. Not sure what the plans are, but just getting together with other Good Sam campers and our returning Winter Texans and Florida Snowbirds will make for lots of smiles and nonstop conversation. We are looking forward to a great summer of camping, meeting old friends and making new ones. For information about our chapter visit: <http://prairiestatesams.weebly.com>

#### **Notes from the Editor:** (Jean Skelly)

I got an e-mail back in March that Jeanette Gawronski had attended the Rockford RV Show and while there became dizzy and fell. At the ER they determined that she had a broken arm near the shoulder. At that time the prediction was that she would be out of commission for 6 to 8 weeks. Hope that you are healing and will be at the State Meeting in April, Jeanette.

Another state officer who reported a medical procedure was Wayne Wolf. He had cataracts removed from both eyes and is amazed at how well he can see now! (I know a lot of us can identify with Wayne- had both of mine done several years ago, too.)

#### **GOOD SAM DISCOUNT ...**

While at Bradley Bourbonnais RV Center in Bourbonnais, IL (right at the 315 exit off I-57) we inquired about **Good Sam discounts** and were told

that they will give a **10% discount** if you purchase something **and ask for the discount**. You may have to show your GS card but every little bit counts! They were previously known as Brown & Brown RV Sales. By the way, they have a **very thick RV accessory book** if you stop in and ask for a free copy.

**YUMMMMMMMMMYYYYYYY.....**

Here is a recipe from PSS member Shirley Voigt that had all of us addicted at our first campout (weather was high 70's and we were sitting outside in a huge circle passing this around – life just doesn't get any better than this!).

Easy Caramel Corn

- 1 bag hullless popcorn (Jay's O-Ke-Doke corn puffs 8 oz)
- 2 sticks butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup Karo syrup (light)
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 foil turkey pan

Melt butter, brown sugar and syrup on med high heat. Boil hard for 2 min, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add soda (this will make it foamy!) Mix well and pour over popcorn and mix thoroughly. Put in turkey pans and bake at 250° for 45 minutes – stirring every 15 minutes so it doesn't stick. Be careful not to burn it. Pour out of pans onto parchment or waxed paper and break apart if it is clumpy. Cool and store in plastic bag.

*Thanks, Shirley, for sharing that yummy snack!*

**THE GOOD SAM PLEDGE**

As a member of the Good Sam Club, I pledge to give aid to others in need, respect nature and the environment, give back to the community and those less fortunate, treat others with dignity and respect, to wear a smile (like Good Sam and Good Samantha's) and promote the pledge of the Good Sam Club.

**Here's something to keep your brain cells active!**

1. Johnny's mother had 3 children. The first child was named April, second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is 5'10" tall and he wears size 13 shoes. What does he weigh?
3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures 2' x 3' x 4' ?
5. What word in the English language is always spelled incorrectly?
6. Billy was born on Dec. 28, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is that possible?
7. In California you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
8. What was the President's name in 1975?
9. Which is correct to say? "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?

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Answers:

1. Johnny
2. Meat
3. Mt. Everest (just hadn't been discovered yet)
4. There is no dirt in a hole
5. Incorrectly
6. He lives in the Southern Hemisphere
7. You don't take pictures with a wooden leg. You use a camera
8. Barack Obama (same as it is now)
9. Neither. Egg yolks are yellow

That's it for this time. Hope to see you at the Rally.