



ILLINOIS SAM-O-GRAM

April Issue - 2014

Published for members of Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Assn. of Illinois

www.illinoisgoodsam.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S RIG:

Hurrah!! Camping season again. After the long winter of ice and snow and more ice and snow, we can begin to enjoy camping in the great outdoors.

We spent three months in our motor home in Harlington, TX this past winter. We left Illinois January 3 when it was minus 13 and blowing snow. Our winter home was Tropic Winds, a great park with very friendly people and lots of activities. Yes, some of the cool fronts came down but did not last long. Best part was we didn't have to shovel any snow!

The second Thursday of every month there is a Good Sam Rendezvous at Peter Piper Pizza in Alamo, TX. We visited there with many Good Sams that we have had the pleasure of meeting over the years. There were door prizes, entertainment and great pizza. In February there were over 380 people in attendance. Very fun.

The Ohio Valley Regional Conference was held in Mission, TX in January and we attended and were updated on 2014 goals. There is a big push for new members and new chapters.

I am happy to announce that Illinois Good Sam won one of the Sammy Awards for 2013. This is compiled on a percentage basis which includes members in chapters, new chapters and attendance at the state Samboree. The award comes with \$250 for the state treasury.

Our 2014 Samboree is at Marshall-Putnam Fairgrounds, Henry, IL August 29 to September 1. CRUISIN' DOWN THE RIVER is our theme this year. We need many volunteers for various jobs at the Samboree and hope each of you will consider attending and helping out at the Samboree this year. We are always open to new ideas and constructive suggestions. Let us hear from you.

At the April state meeting we will entertain ideas for a theme for the 2015 Samboree. We will be voting on a theme at the June state meeting.

Harold & Peggy Copas
Illinois State Directors

State business meetings for 2014 are:

April 25 – 27 at Henry, IL hosted by Rock Valley Sams

June 27 – 29 at Prairie Pines in Rantoul hosted by Chamco Sams

October 3 – 5 at Pecatonica (Winnebago Fairgrounds) hosted by Forest City Sams

Everyone is invited to attend state meetings – we welcome your input!

News from our State Webmaster

Hope you are all visiting the Illinois Good Sam website (www.illinoisgoodsam.org). There is a lot of information for you there. All registration materials are there for you to print and then fill out. Pictures of past events are available for your viewing or downloading. There is a page for selling camping items. There are also pages for the Kids/Teens, chapter information, state officers, important dates for upcoming events, etc. If you or your chapter would like to put information on the web page, please submit to the State Director and he will forward the information to me. When you order items online from camping world, please do so from the webpage – you will help earn some money for the state treasury.

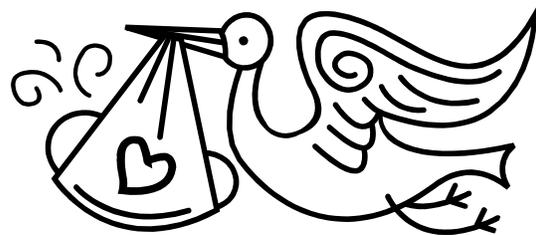
We have started a Face Book page for you to keep in contact with other Illinois Good Sam members. This is a closed group so only Illinois Good Sam members can view posts. If you would like to become a member, send your name, e-mail and Good Sam number to ajeg@charter.net and I will invite you to become a member.

NEWS FLASH – Newest Illinois Good Sam Member.

Amanda Gawronski (State Youth Director) and Jason Gascoigne are the proud parents of Carter Michael Gascoigne. Carter was born on Thursday, April 3 at 12:26 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19 ¾ inches long.

Grandpa Ed (State Webmaster) and Grandma Jeanette (State Secretary) Gawronski are very proud of all.

Grandma says, “We sometimes forget how amazing the world is and Carter is showing us. He told us he is ready to go camping!”



CHAPTER NEWS:

Bureau Valley Sams – Peg Rickey

The Bureau Valley Sams Chapter had a nice festive Christmas Party in November 2013 before several of our members headed south for the winter. Due to a busy Christmas season, we do not have a meeting in December.

We had a social gathering in January and February at the Princeton Truck Stop. We had a very low turnout due to the brutal winter weather we had this past winter.

In March we actually had a meeting and several of our snowbirds were back home. We are all looking forward to a nice warm 2014 camping season.

Chamco Sams - Carol Froeschl

At our December Christmas gathering the non-snowbirds decided we wanted to meet monthly through the winter months. What a winter – freezing temperatures and LOTS of snow. We had very good attendance at all our luncheon gatherings and enjoyed the fellowship.

At our March meeting, we had our luncheon at Ryan's Steak House in Champaign. Several members have not returned from the south but looking forward to seeing them on their return. At our meeting we discussed having a CHAMCO SAMS CHAPTER banner made to display at our campouts and to hopefully generate some interest of new members. One of our members presented a design for the banner. At our April meeting, members will make a final decision on the banner. At this time we have six rigs planning to attend the 8th annual Campout for Charity the end of May at Crescent City.

Our first campout for this year will be at the Champaign Sportsman's Club in Mahomet. Our first campout we have a catered meal for Saturday night. At our June campout, which will be at Prairie Pines Campground in Rantoul, we will be hosting the State Meeting June 27-29. Our members are looking forward to a great summer of camping.

Forest City Sams – Jeanette Gawronski

Today, March 17, it is sunny and about 28 out here in the Rockford area. We still have snow on the ground but not on the camper! Tomorrow is to be in the low 50's. Must be camping weather!

Over the winter months we have been meeting in either a member's home or at a restaurant. We did our usual Thanksgiving dinner at Steve & Becky McKillip's home. We are thankful for the friends and second families we have become while camping. Some of our members escaped to warmer climates in Florida and Texas. At least it was warmer most of the time.

We survived the cold and snow but when it got warm a couple of weeks ago we wondered if we could use our snow blowers to clear the campsites at Stewart Buffs so we could camp. Looks like our first campout will be at the State meeting in Henry.

We are planning our camping trips for the year as well as what we will do for the Samboree. Have you registered for the Samboree? People are what make it fun.

Some of us volunteered at the Chocoholic Frolic, a fundraiser for the ARC, one of the non-profits we help. It is really a sacrifice to sample the various chocolate items so we can tell our guests how good it is. We donated a "Grandparents" doll stroller filled with games,

Forest City Sams - continued

s'more supplies and other things to keep our grandchildren busy. It was part of the Silent Auction.

Safe and Happy Camping to All.



Prairie State Sams - Jean Skelly

While the winds were blowing and snow was falling and the temperatures were dropping on a daily basis, Prairie State Sams members still got together for monthly meetings to enjoy the company of other members. January found us at a popular restaurant which has a menu to please everyone. In February we went to IHOP and in March we pigged out at a local Chinese buffet.

All of us are ready for some warm weather and sunshine so we can get our rigs ready to go.

But we haven't been idle over the less-than-nice winter. Plans are full speed ahead for our 8th annual Campout for Charity to be held May 30, 31 and June 1 at Iroquois Fairgrounds in Crescent City, IL. Jim Landry is chairman and is trying to up the ante a little as far as the whole weekend goes - better entertainment, a good variety of seminars, healthier food, new games, etc. Every member is working in some way on the event.

Jim also got our website up and running. Go to <http://prairiestatesams.weebly.com> and you can see pictures, schedules, Campout for Charity forms and information and even a "for sale" space. Another member, Jim Tompkins created a QR (quick response) Code for accessing our website by simply scanning it into any Smartphone. Smart men, those Jims!

Hope to see a lot of you at the Campout for Charity in Crescent City. All are welcome!

Rock Valley Sams - Darrell Swanson

October, 2013 Rock Valley Sams were at Lowden State Park, Oregon, IL with 11 rigs present and two guests.

This was a cooler camping outing than the last one at Savanna. It was also very relaxing and the heat felt good from the campfire. It was also a little sad since this was the last campout for 2013.

On Wednesday the chapter went to Conover Square Mall in Oregon and visited the many stores. The hit of the mall, however, was the Blackhawk Model Railroad Club which is where most of us gathered. What a wonderful experience.



After our potluck, which was outstanding again, we all gathered around the campfire for more relaxing time. The fire lit our faces with a warm glow and gave warmth to our heart. Then came time for the placement of the Hollow Log and we all settled back to watch. At first the Hollow Log was smiling and enjoying his time, but soon the frown started to appear when he realized that this was the LAST campfire of 2013. Where did the year go?

In November the chapter had our Thanksgiving Dinner and discussed what we wanted to do and where in 2014. We talked about officers for the coming year; some decisions have to be made.

In December we had our Christmas party and gift exchange and, of course, we ate. We do like to eat! There was no chapter meeting.

January through March the chapter met at various restaurants for a social time and, of course, food. We were able to go in spite of the snow and cold weather. We all have cabin fever and can't wait to get out next month.

Second Chance Sams - Carolyn Schaefer

Second Chance Sams only meets once a year at the state Samboree, but this year Second Chance Sams International will meet at

Chisholm, MN from August 14-17th at the Minnesota State Samboree. Oly Oleson, International President, will be presiding and looks forward to any second Chance members being present. Contact me for more information.

Tri-County Sams – Phyllis Aten

Tri-County Travelers finished up their 2013 camping season at New Salem State Park. We enjoyed taking part in their Candlelight Walk of the Village. Musicians played throughout and blacksmiths were hard at work. At the tavern we had gingerbread and cider. It was a lovely experience and highly recommended.

Four of our members spend the winter in Texas and met at Ann's Café in San Juan in March. We visited with Harold & Peggy Copas and Jim & Judie Frcka a few times. The winter in Texas wasn't very good but can't compare with the one in Illinois. So we really can't complain.

We look forward to another camping season with lots of things planned already.

The Good Sam Club 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 and to wear a smile (like Good Sam & Good Samantha's) and promote the pledge of The Good Sam Club to others.

Do you know what this says?

YYURYYUBICURYY4ME

Answer in the June edition of the Sam-O-Gram.

