



ILLINOIS SAM-O-GRAM

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www.illinoisgoodsam.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S RIG:

Greetings to all of our Good Sam friends. The 2014 camping season is in full swing again and it's time for fun in the great outdoors.

We traveled to two of our Ohio Valley Region Samborees this spring. In May we went to Marshall, Michigan for the "It's Spring in Michigan" Samboree. A week later we were in Greentown, Indiana for "Up, Up and Away". There were 12 rigs from Illinois at the Indiana Samboree. The weather was great and it was an excellent Samboree. Thanks to everyone from Illinois who attended.

Our Illinois Samboree, "Cruisin' Down the River" program is coming together nicely. Entertainment for three nights, seminars and vendors are lined up. Samgo will again be offered at least twice as two chapters have volunteered to be in charge. We are hoping to have more games this year, but we need volunteers in that area to make it happen.

Thank you to all who have stepped forward and are getting involved. We still need help in some areas so please contact us and we'll be more than happy to have you on the team. Volunteers are what make a Samboree successful.

We have been receiving quite a few names of RVer's who are interested in joining a chapter. We send them information about several chapters in their area and the name and contact information of the chapter presidents. Hopefully they follow up, contact and visit your chapter. Please make these prospective members feel welcome - they may become your newest chapter member!

Have a fun summer, be safe, and enjoy your camping and traveling adventures. Hope to see you at the "Cruisin' Down the River" Samboree over Labor Day weekend in Henry.

Harold & Peggy Copas
Illinois State Directors

(Note: The following news from **Prairie Ramblers** was inadvertently omitted from the April Sam-O-Gram. Even though a few months old, it is still newsworthy.)

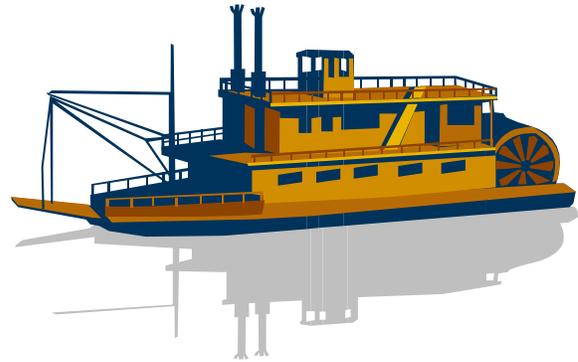
Prairie Ramblers – Paul McNamara

We don't have all that much to report, except that we, too, are ready for spring and warmer weather. We have been holding our winter meetings at the Colonial Restaurant in Elgin and continue to enjoy the fellowship of our members. We increased our member list with three couples last year and greatly appreciate the participation of Tom and Mary Banks, Jim and Joanne Tyree, and E. Marie Wines and Larry Ellis. Jim is already an officer for the chapter! We sent donations to two families in Washington, Illinois after the recent tornado. While we could not send large amounts, we did want to help with their recovery from this tragedy.

We will be camping in many of our normal locations this year and expect, as always, that we will overindulge in food and discuss our lives (such as they are) around a campfire. We are especially on the lookout for an orthopedist to join our group as we have had so many new knees, shoulders and various sprains and broken bones in our group that we could probably keep them busy full time.

We hope that all is well with the rest of the state members and that we will see many of you during the coming year.

CRUISIN' DOWN THE RIVER



Our 2014 Illinois State Samboree theme is depicted above – slow, entertaining, lazy, relaxing fun with friends.

Hope you have all sent in your reservations – form can be found online at www.illinoisgoodsam.org or ask your chapter president for one.

Harold & Peggy are working very hard on providing us with good entertainment, interesting seminars, fun games, Samgo, lots of food, vendors for shopping, and time to visit with other attendees.

There are still opportunities for you to volunteer your time and talent to make this Samboree a great experience. Call Harold (815-683-2633) for more info.

Don't come alone – bring a friend, co-worker, brother, cousin, kid, grandkid!

Illinois Military Veterans – Steve Session

In March I mailed veterans a letter asking them to attend the April State meeting. Only four came. I went to hospitality and sat there for over an hour and no one came.

There will be a meeting on Friday, August 29 at 3:00 p.m. The Veterans Chapter will post the Colors at opening ceremonies at the Samboree as they have in the past. So be ready to help. We have many issues to talk about.

Prairie State Sams – Sue Janssen

The Prairie State Sams chapter has a lot to be grateful for. We had absolutely beautiful weather for our 8th Annual Campout for Charity May 29 to June 1. It seems to get bigger and better every year. We have so many wonderful sponsors and contributors to our event that it is easy to see why we have such success. Our members take this annual event very seriously and we work hard that weekend but we have a lot of fun along the way.

We want to thank everyone who joined us, either for a day, an evening or the entire weekend; we could not have done it without you. We will be able to split about \$7,000 between Dogs for the Deaf, Relay for Life in both Kankakee and Iroquois counties and Christmas Gifts for Seniors in both counties.

We had approximately 12 members who help set out luminaries and prepare for Relay for Life of Iroquois County on June 13. Kankakee County Relay was the same weekend and members volunteered there also.

Our members are looking forward to some relaxing camping weekends at Kentuckiana, Comlara and Kankakee River State Park (kids weekend) as well as the Shipshewana Fall Craft Festival.

Roamin' Sams – Lynn Worden

The first campout of 2014 at Leisure Lake was well attended and a total success. We had eight rigs show up. Everyone ended up in Pat and Corky's motor home until we finally got the key to go into the hall. We all gathered in the hall and caught up on the past winter. Soon snacks were brought out and the tile rummy game.

We had our potluck dinner and, of course, it was wonderful. Mary's lemon meringue pie was delicious and perfect. Thanks, everybody, for the birthday cake and card and all the singing – in fact, two days of Happy Birthday singing. We all retired early. All that talking and catching up takes its toll on old folks.

Friday morning we had the meeting. In the afternoon the games came out and Tile Rummy and Hand, Knee and Foot



were played. Some of us ordered pizza for dinner and we all ate in the hall. Later some played Help Your Neighbor and some played Hand, Knee and Foot. I wonder if that is replacing Tile Rummy?

I have a tentative camping schedule made up; this is different from the minutes since we discussed it after the meeting.

May 30-June 1 will be at Crescent City and will be hosted by Jerry & Marie. Worden's and Schiera's are going in on Thursday.

July will be hosted by Karen & Bill and they are looking into a campground in Crete. Dates TBA later.

August 19-21 will be Kankakee State Park and will be co-hosted by Peggy & Ed and Jackie & Chico. The Samboree is August 29 – September 1 in Henry.

September will be hosted by Pat & Corky. Dates and place TBA later.

October 14 – 16 will be at Leisure Lake for the turkey campout. Co-hosts are Betty & Marilyn Falcone.

Saturday was our potluck brunch. Betty made her famous monkey break and made Rich a very happy camper. We had guests, Milly & Larry Laux. They are members of Prairie State Sams and also go to the same park in Texas as we do. We even talked them into meeting us for dinner that night. We went to Portillo's and then came back to the hall for more games. Our newest members, Lawrence & RuthAnn Sanders, fit right in. Like the rest of us, they like to play games and eat.



Sunday we had "must go's" and all the leftover food was brought back out. After many hugs we all said goodbye till our May outing.

Before we left we got tours of Rich & Mary and Ed & Peggy's new motor homes. OMG! Beautiful!

Sam's Prairielanders – Gloria Cap

The year 2014 began on a sad note for the Good Sams Prairielanders. One of our longtime members, Norabel Baker, passed away in January and her husband Bill is currently in a nursing home. They will be truly missed. While they no longer camped with us, they never seemed to miss our Saturday potluck lunches no matter where we were.

On a happier note, we began our camping season in April at Eagle Creek State Park in rural Shelby County. The campground host there is always very accommodating to our growing group.

Speaking of growing, we welcomed two new couples this year – Jim & Margie Gaither from Sullivan, and Frank & Cathy Olson from Champaign. Both couples were our weekend hosts at our campout in May at Jim Edgar State Park, which has a very nice lake for fishing.

Last year Jerry & Dorothy Clough from Tuscola joined our happy group.

We are never at a loss for delicious food whenever we meet or good company around the never-ending campfire.

We always try to accommodate the pet charities of our members, so that keeps us involved each month working on different projects.

Can't wait to see what this year brings!

Spartan Sams – Sue Vallee

These were some photos taken by a Spartan Sams member when our chapter took donations to the Safe Haven Shelter outside of Cape Girardeau, MO at our first campout of the year, May 2014.



This is a no-kill shelter that also loans dogs to a prison in the area for care and exercise, benefitting both parties. It was a hassle getting to the shelter which is in the middle of a big wooded area. The animals have both indoor and outdoor living areas.



When we were leaving, the brown dog jumped into one of the cars and got up

into the front seat assuming he was leaving with the chapter!

Tri-County Sams – Phyllis Aten

This spring has not been very kind to us campers this season. The May campout was really cold and windy and the June campout started out nice and ended with a downpour. Not much news in such a short time.

We hope to have a good time at Fisherman’s Corner. We have a lot of things planned, so we hope for the best weather-wise.

Here’s the answer to

2YYURYYUBICURYY4ME

Too wise you are, two wise you be, I see you are too wise for me.
.....

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, and to wear a smile (like Good Sam and Good Samantha’s) and promote the pledge of the Good Sam Club to others.

I know a lot of you have been laying awake at night wondering why baby diapers have brand names such as “Luvs,” “Huggies,” and “Pampers,” while undergarments for old people are called “Depends.”

Well, here is the lowdown on the whole thing. When babies poop in their pants, people are still gonna Luv ‘em, Hug ‘em and Pamper ‘em. When old people poop in their pants, it “Depends” on who’s in the will.

Glad I got that straightened out so you can rest easy at night now.



Ramblings from the Publicity Chair ...

Thanks to all the chapters that sent news for this edition. I know there are more stories out there but I can’t make up the articles so will just have to keep encouraging chapters to submit their information and pictures.

I’m certainly open to ideas for this space – do you like puzzles, recipes, jokes? I am lucky in that Harold has pretty much given me free rein to do as I please as long as I keep it clean. So let me know what you’d like to see.

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