



ILLINOIS SAM-O-GRAM

October Issue - 2014

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

www.illinoisgoodsam.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S RIG:

The Illinois Samboree has come and gone. We worked hard planning and at the Samboree; however, it was due to all the great volunteers that everything fell into place to make it successful. Thank you to all who stepped up to help in any way, whether as a chapter or as an individual.

We want to extend our thanks to Jim and Judie Frcka for their time and work as our Ohio Valley Regional Directors and we welcome Dave and Patty Morgen, our new Ohio Valley Regional Directors. The Morgens attended our Samboree where we were able to meet and visit a couple of times. Dave and Patty reside in Louisville, Ky.

As summer camping leads into fall camping, we hope you take advantage of this beautiful season of the year. Safe travels to all as you leave for warmer winter climates or attend chapter meetings and gatherings in Illinois.

Harold & Peggy Copas
Illinois State Director

Please put these 2015 dates on your calendar:

State Meetings:

April 24 - 26, 2015, M-P Fairground,
Henry, IL

June 26 - 28, 2015, J&J Campground,
Springfield, IL

Oct. 2 - 4, 2015, Winnebago Co.
Fairground, Pecatonica, IL

2015 Illinois Samboree will be held September 4-7, 2015 at Marshall-Putnam Fairground, Henry, IL. The theme is Honoring the Red, White and Blue.

Below is a picture of the 2014 Man and Woman of the Year, Harold & Peggy Copas (Prairie State Sams) with the 2013 Man and Woman of the Year, Carol & Everett Johnson (Chamco Sams).



Cruisin' Down the River

Our 2014 Illinois State Samboree theme makes you think slow, entertaining, lazy, relaxing fun with friends. And that is what a lot of attendees found.

It was a very good Samboree. Tons of Good Sam members volunteered – and got involved – and that really makes a difference in how you view an event. Many, many chapters and individuals took part in helping with parking, hospitality, registration, door prizes, meals, games, Samgo, decorating, set up and take down, shuttle service, garbage pickup, etc., etc. The weekend went smoothly and, though we were all tired at the end, we will look in our rearview mirror and be glad we were there.



Here's a shout out to Patty Jayne of Chamco Sams for the wonderful job she did on the table centerpieces for the hospitality area. No two of the 18 were exactly alike. (I really liked the clothespin people.) GREAT JOB, Patty. Thank you and your crew for all the hard work!

Attendance was down this year but there is a cure for that. ASK SOMEONE TO GO WITH YOU! Encourage your chapter members to attend, invite non-Good Sam campers to come, talk it up, and tell them what all goes on and how fun and entertaining the weekend is. It's up to Illinois GS *members* to promote the Samboree, so get busy!

RECIPES, ANYONE?

Received the following from Vickie Lockhart of Bureau Valley Sams:

“We fell into nice folks at Bureau Valley Sams. We recently tried the cauliflower steaks - it was just grilling slabs of sliced cauliflower dressed in butter! I never would have tried this had we not seen it! Our problem is that we are so new to the RV lifestyle! I know how to cook, but I would like to hear about a higher level of grilling the unusual and different and learn how to do good food on the campfire, something besides s'mores.”

THERE IT IS – a challenge to all you good cooks to share your “unusual and different” recipes. You send them to me and I'll print them in the next issue of the Sam-O-Gram. My contact info is at the end of this edition.

RV- RELATED APPS FOR YOUR PHONE OR IPAD

Gas Buddy.....Identify gas prices near your location or any place along your travels to allow you to pick the lower gas places.

IExit.....This app will tell you what is located at every interstate exit, food, Wal-Mart, gas, campgrounds, and the list goes on.

RA Camping.....the Reserve America app that allows you to make reservations at all state parks and other camping areas in the US.

RV Parky....(yes with the Y)...lists RV parks and information.

Passport America.... lists all the 50% discount campgrounds. Very handy.

Campout for Charity dates for 2015: May 29, 30, 31. Info at prairiestatesams.weebly.com

CHAPTER NEWS

Bureau Valley Sams - Peg Rickey

We started our 2014 season at Geneseo Campground April 25-27. It was a quiet weekend with several members of our chapter gone to the state meeting. We had our usual Saturday night potluck and meeting and potluck breakfast and devotions on Sunday morning.

May took us to Starved Rock State Park. We had lots of activities there. One of our chapter members brought in a Storyteller to entertain us. He was outstanding and told about the history of the Starved Rock Area. We also visited the Lily Pad Resale Shop where one of our couples volunteers. They also took us on a tour of the YMCA. A lot of money was left to the Y and it has been put to good use for the community to enjoy.

June we were at Fisherman's Corner in Hampton, Illinois. Members utilized the attractions in the Quad Cities while we were there. We went to LeClaire, Iowa to the American Pickers place and then stopped at Happy Joes for ice cream. Another favorite was the Channel Cat ride on the Mississippi. You could get off at different places along the river. It was very enjoyable.

July campout was at Lena at Lake Le Aqua Na. This was an alternate due to the fact that the Mississippi was flooded at Shady Creek at Muscatine, Iowa. Members toured the various cheese shops in the area and also the shops in Monroe, Wisconsin. One of the members brought fresh sweet corn for all members. Corn boil was enjoyed by all.

August camping was at Johnson Sauk, Kewanee, Ill. We went to buffet dinner Friday night in Kewanee and had dinner Saturday night at the Station Restaurant. Our hosts also set up a visit to the Kewanee Museum.

We have several members of our club who have August birthdays. When we got back to camp from the Station, we had our meeting and then had birthday cake and ice cream. It was a delightful evening. Happy Camping, Everyone!



Chamco Sams by Carol Froeschl

Chamco Sams April campout was at the Champaign Sportsman Club, Mahomet, IL. Patty Jayne and her two daughters catered a wonderful meal Saturday night which was enjoyed by all. During the business meeting, we voted to combine 2013 and 2014 money for Charity and send it to Dogs for the Deaf. The chapter also decided to have a chapter banner made. Sunday worship service was led by Carol Johnson

Our May Campout was at D&W Lake Camping & RV Park. Friday evening the Chapter went to Denny's for Dinner and for Saturday breakfast all went to Home Town Buffet. Our Chapter Banner was displayed for the first time. Thank you to Bob Meyers for designing and having the banner made. Sunday morning devotional was led by Carol Johnson.



June Campout was at the Prairie Pines Camp Grounds in Rantoul. Chamco Sams was host for the Illinois Good Sam State meeting. Friday evening, the State Board and Chamco members enjoyed dinner at the Red Wheel in Rantoul. Chamco members prepared and served lunch on Saturday. The State Board and Chamco members had a potluck dinner on Saturday evening.

Seven Units were present at our July campout at Moraine View State Park, Leroy, IL. Friday evening we enjoyed dinner at Woody's in Leroy and Saturday morning breakfast was at the Lake House in Moraine View. Potluck Saturday evening was held a little early due to the weather report of a storm headed our way. Luckily, it missed us and all were safe. Carolyn Schaefer led Sunday morning devotionals.

Our August Campout was held at Comlara County Park near Lake Bloomington. Six units were present. It was a bit muddy from all the rains the days prior. Dinner on Friday evening was at Woody's in El Paso. Saturday and Sunday breakfast was served by the Johnson's, Kirby's and Guymon. The women went to

Bloomington to Sam's Club and Meijers mainly to purchase cookies for hospitality at Henry. Saturday evening was our potluck. Sunday morning worship service was by Carol Johnson entitled "Excuses, Excuses, Excuses".

Chamco Sams at Samboree – Carol Johnson

Monday morning, 6 units caravanned to the 2014 Illinois Good Sam Samboree in Henry IL. Monday night, we all drove up to Mark, IL for our usual taco night. Good tacos and hard to beat the price. There were over 40 Good Sam members that enjoyed the tacos. Tuesday, the Johnson's and Joyce G. drove to Peoria to celebrate Everett and Carol's 53rd wedding anniversary with Chuck and Mary Lou Howard who share the same anniversary and had their usual dinner on the river at Steak and Shake! Wednesday was the potluck for all those on the rally grounds. Thursday Chamco's met for ice cream and a hot dog roast. (You know, dessert is always best when eaten before a meal!). Friday night we went to the American Legion for their annual fish fry. They always serve a great meal and welcome us with open arms. Saturday evening six of us went to the little Mexican Restaurant in Henry. Sunday morning worship service was lead by our very own Carolyn Schaefer, State Chaplain.

It was a busy and fun week. We are so proud of our Chamco Sam members who seemed to be involved in a little bit of everything, Patty Jayne and Jerry Feldman made all the table centerpieces for the



hospitality room – a paddle wheel boat that they made from scraps of wood and did quite a professional job. They made 18 and they were perfect for this year's theme "Cruising Down the River". Thanks to Patty and Jerry for all their hard work and also members of their family. Chamco members did the registration with State Treasurer Don Husser; Wayne and Jackie were totally in charge of hospitality again this year; Jim Kirby helped with parking; Carol and Everett Johnson and several others enjoyed doing the taxi service. So a big thanks to all the Chamco members for stepping up and volunteering. Our very own Robert Myers will be the next State Treasurer. Congratulations Robert!!

The evening entertainment was great all three nights. Our State Director, Harold Copas, did an outstanding job. It was a lot of fun this year. This was Everett and Carol Johnson's 42nd Illinois State Samboree out of 44 years. A great time again with precious family and friendships made over the years.

Our September campout will be at Mascoutin State Recreation Area just south of DeWitt, IL. We will be making decisions on where the club will be camping for 2015. We will also be having election of officers. Our October campout will be at the Champaign Sportsman Club in Mahomet. The 2015 Chamco Handbooks and fliers will be distributed to members. Many of our members are Snowbirds and Winter Texans and will be leaving soon. Those not going south will meet in November for lunch at Ryan's Family Steak House.

Forest City Sams – Jeanette Gawronski

Bill Abell, a member of our Chapter with his wife Jean, was named 2014 Winnebago County Fair Person of the Year. Bill was on the Fair Association Board of Directors for over 12 years and devoted his talents as track, space and grounds committee member. He has taken an active role in all facets of the fair and continues to contribute his time and effort to the betterment of the fairgrounds. Bill worked as a sheet metal worker for 40 years. In his free time he enjoys playing music, being a part of the American Legion, camping and spending his winters in Florida with Jean. He believes that county fairs are important because it gives people in the community an opportunity to come together and have a good time. Forest City Sams is very proud of Bill.

We have had an eventful summer. We lost one of our charter members, Don Christenson, to cancer in July. Another of our members, Jacki Neil Boss, lost her Mom August 29. We have angels watching over us.

We continue to camp the third weekend of the month. In August we camped at Rock Cut State Park with our theme "Christmas in August". We decorated our sites with Christmas decorations, had a white elephant gift exchange, and went caroling around the campground on Saturday night. The faces of the children who wandered by our campsites were priceless. When people found out we were caroling they told us where their site was. One couple even brought us a present!

We had a great time at the Samboree. Our chapter rig decorations included a wooden raft, a small boat, people fishing, and a shark attack. Did you know that sharks sometimes come up the Mississippi? At least we decided they did. There were many seminars, games, great

entertainment, lots of great food, and getting reacquainted with friends. Come next year and join us.

Fox River Valley Sams

President Virginia Kern says their chapter is quite small and all the members are in their 80's. They don't do much camping but do keep in touch with each other by going out to eat each month.

Illinois Military Veterans - Steve Sessions

Those who did not come to the Samboree missed a very good time with great food, and entertainment - it was very good.

I took it upon myself to volunteer the chapter to host the April 2015 State meeting in Henry. The date is April 24 - 26. I hope that the chapter members will attend to learn what goes on at these meetings.

Prairie State Sams – Sue Janssen

The Prairie State Sams Chapter has enjoyed another great summer of camping together. When we camped at the Kankakee River State Park in July, we tried something a little different. On Saturday, all the children and grandchildren were invited to join us for a day of fun, games and good food. We had a wonderful turnout, with approximately 75 people altogether. It was a fun day for the youngest to the oldest. There was something for all ages. Jim and Evaline Landry planned the games and activities. We had crafts for the little ones, face painting, hopscotch plus games for

the older ones as well. There was croquet, ladder ball, water balloon tosses, and tug of war, to name just a few. Vicki Regnier brought paper and instructions, for those wanting to make beads for necklaces and bracelets. There was something for all ages. We had an ice cream break in the afternoon, which we all enjoyed. Needless to say, we had a great time. Jim's idea was to show the younger ones what we did as kids, and how you could have fun without cell phones and other technical items. We all enjoyed the Samboree in Henry. Several in our club went early and decorated the stage. "Crusin' Down the River" turned out to be a fun experience for the whole weekend. The weather cooperated and we enjoyed warm sunshine the whole time we were there. We are proud of our club and the awards we received. We are so fortunate to have enough members to be able to do the things we do. We thank Harold and Peggy and the officers of the State, for all their hard work in getting the whole weekend planned and carried out. It ran very smoothly and it was enjoyed by all.

Roamin' Sams – Lynn Worden

Thanks to Karen and Bill for hosting the July camp out at Cedar Lake. We had 8 rigs attend.

We spent the afternoon visiting with Ed, Peggy and Linda. Sadly Linda didn't bring Missy, her unique and cute little dog. Pat and Corky had to cancel at the last minute. We missed them.

That evening we went to dinner in town then to the DQ. Bill took us for a guided tour around the lake. Later Bill got a fire going and everyone sat around and visited till the mosquitoes chased me and Ralph inside. Others braved it and stayed out.

Friday morning Ralph put up the Roamin' Sams, Illinois and American flags. Ed got the Illini banner and put it up too. Marie and Jerry arrived and we all went to lunch at the DQ for the \$5.00 lunch special. Afterward we played Hand and Foot the rest of the afternoon. Ruthann and Lawrence got there about 5:00.

The potluck dinner was great, there was taco salad, beans and hamburger, corn bread, meatloaf, potatoes, chicken and rice, pasta, fresh fruit. If I missed mentioning your dish, I am sorry. Bill got a fire going and Karen explained the next day's agenda. It was jam packed.

Saturday it started raining very early so Karen's plans to go to the farmers market were cancelled. Instead, we watched Ed get his rain gear on and proceed to wash his motor home. A bunch of us went to lunch. When we got back we went to the 50's house in Park Forest for a tour which was very interesting. We left there and Bill and Karen took us to their farm for a tour. It is a Centennial Family Farm. We started on the outside with the brick barn. I can't remember the exact year it was built but it sure looks good for being over 100 years old. The tour continued inside to see all of their antiques and hear Karen and Bill tell the story of how the farm came to be. We got to see a lot of pictures of the farm through the years. Karen said they have documentation about the farm from its inception.

We went back to the campground and got to rest for an hour before we all headed to Balmoral Race Track. We were upstairs inside and near the buffet which was very good. We all placed bets and watched the horses. It was a lot of fun even though I lost. Ralph, Linda and I left after the 5th race but the rest stayed till the 9th race

which was dedicated to the Roamin' Sams. Karen and Bill got to ride in the pace car and afterwards the club got their picture taken with the winning horse. Bill sent us the pictures and we will hand them out at the next campout.

Sunday morning Karen made breakfast for the club. She had French toast, hash browns, Amish donut holes and fruit. Good stuff. Very enjoyable camp out and everyone had a good time. Once again thanks to Bill and Karen for a wonderful time.

Oswald's and Garvis's camp out will be at Big Rock Forest Preserve August 18-21.

Pat and Corky, our hosts, went all out at their Potato Creek campout. We had seven rigs attend. Corky was well prepared for the weather. He brought a tent the size of a single car garage. Most of us got there on Wednesday and proceeded to help Corky put up the Big White Room in the rain. Soon we all decided to go to Fazoli's for dinner (club favorite). It is near South Bend which is pretty far from the park and we were in the Eastern Time zone (an hour ahead of home) so by the time we got back to the park we all decided to call it a night.



Thursday was drizzly and cold and that is when they put the RV rugs and picnic tables and chairs in the White Room. We

also had two electric heaters going so it was quite cozy in there. Ralph put the flags out and Ed put the Illini banner up. We got a pleasant surprise when Bob and Kay Ballschmeide and their cute and well-dressed dog Rescue arrived. They have been unable to attend anything this past year due to some health issues but hopefully they are now back and ready to resume camping with us. They hope to be with us again next month. They have belonged to the Illini chapter for 30 years, both having held many different offices during that time. Welcome back!!!

Somebody got out the cards and a game of hand, knee and foot was started; at another table a tile rummy game was going on. The games were halted when a light bulb burned out and the hunt was on for another bulb so they could continue. Friday we all met in the White Room where Pat had coffee. Games were played and we all got to visit through the afternoon. Pat had baked potatoes for everyone for dinner that night; we all supplied different toppings. Pat also supplied chili for the potatoes. What a clever idea of Pat's, it worked out perfectly. Betty brought her apple cake, Marie had an orange cake and Peggy had small cheesecakes. Nobody seemed to miss meat entrees.

More visiting then retired about 8:00. Kay was a bit surprised since she had a dip ready to bring out.

Saturday was the unscheduled breakfast which was wonderful especially when Betty made her monkey bread. We had Pat's hash browns, eggs, sausage, bacon, fruit, bagels, juices and Ed made his fried mush. We got everything cleaned up and got the tables ready for the silent auction. Pat had everything organized. She even had a sign she had Jerry hold in the street telling of the auction.



Did I mention the Amish campers? The park was full and a lot were Amish families. I think they arrived on Thursday. Nice folks. They had people bring their camping equipment and tents in a truck and drop it off. Someone said there were two different groups I believe related somehow. One Amish fellow bought quite a bit of stuff and didn't haggle with the prices. The sale started slowly, it was from 11:30 to 1:00. It picked up and we made \$80 for the Dogs for the Deaf charity. Lots of effort went into this sale by Pat and Corky. Good job, you two.

Social hour started at 3:00 and everyone brought out snacks, Kay brought her pizza dip, yummy. That evening four couples decided to go to dinner while the rest of us stayed back. When everyone got back we ended up in the White Room but it had gotten too cold even for the heaters to keep up so we all just went back to our rigs.

Sunday Rich and Mary left early while the rest of us ate must go's, though Kay made a delicious batch of scrambled eggs. After breakfast the guys took the White Room down and everybody said their good-byes till next month at Leisure Lake and the holiday turkey dinner. I want to thank Pat and Corky for all the time and effort they put into this campout. You two are the best!!

Spartan Sams – Sue Vallee

SPARTAN SAMS camped at Dam West, Carlyle, IL in July. On Friday July 11th we all went to breakfast at The Homeplate Restaurant in Carlyle, IL. They were so excited they even welcomed us on their street sign!



That evening we watched a video from a local pork producing company. Unfortunately they could not accommodate us on a tour. Then we attempted to watch a movie but the outside TV sound was low and the heat was pretty intense so we just ate our popcorn and retired to our cool campers.



Saturday night many of us sat outside and anxiously awaited the rise of that gorgeous full Buck moon!

Salty Sams

Salty Sams President Charlene Hickman reports that their chapter is experiencing a lot of health problems recently. Wilbur Hickman has been under the weather. Chuck Snyder had pneumonia and spent time in the hospital, but is better now. Fred Wise was hospitalized for eight weeks but is now home and recovering. Chuckie said these golden years are looking more like rust than gold! But they are not hanging up their camper keys yet and are looking forward to next year.

Sam's Prairielanders – Sharon Lanter

Our July camp out was at Sangchris State Park. The sites are very nice, and most are waterfront. We played bean bag games and there's always our board games, dominoes, cards, etc.

Seems that with all the good cooks in our club, our good times always revolve around food - talking about it, cooking it, eating it. Our Saturday pot luck was grilled pork chops but unfortunately our Sunday morning breakfast was rained out. A few of us went to the Spring Garden restaurant in Taylorville, which is always a good choice.

August found us at beautiful Lake Carlyle. We had full hookups directly on the lake. We spend an entire week there. We always try to make something for one of our pet charities. This time we made snowmen from baby socks for the Macon Co. Senior Christmas dinner.

While the men fished, the ladies went to some thrift shops and craft stores. We had a fish fry one evening along with great side dishes. We also planned a luau accompanied by all the

clothing and decorations that go with it. We had Hawaiian music, and took some wonderful pictures. It was a lot of fun.



Our Saturday pot luck was spaghetti. So we didn't lack for good food as usual. Unfortunately Sunday breakfast was again rained out.

Also in August some of us went to the Samboree in Henry. It's always a good time. We met up with some old and some new friends. The highlight of the Samboree was having our chapter being presented with a 20 year ribbon. We are very proud of that. Our season is starting to wind down. We have only two more official campouts before we stop till next April. But that doesn't stop us from getting together. We have a hot dog roast in October and a Christmas party in December. The winter months see us having dinners together, and planning our campouts for 2015.

Tri-County Travelers – Phyllis Aten

In July we camped at Fisherman's Corner, a Corps of Engineer park. Fisherman's Corner had lots of rain the night before we got there. Our site was covered in mud and small tree limbs so we had to do some cleaning. The other sites were not as bad as ours, but still not

clean. Also we had no electric, so we went up to Port Byron to watch the USA soccer game; alas they lost, but it was an exciting game. In the early evening we had a campfire until a shower sent us inside.

Wednesday morning we loaded up and went to Kalona, IA, a small Amish area. It was disappointing not to find a real Amish restaurant serving genuine Amish fare. But we visited several businesses in town and went to a cheese factory for some squeaky cheese curds and other items. A bulk food store was next on our list and more purchases were made. We arrived back at the campground by late afternoon, a tired group of tourists. We saw a lot of flooded homes and land, plus it rained most of the way back.

Thursday was DO YOUR OWN THING day. which we did quite well.

Friday, the Atens fixed pancakes and sausage for breakfast. In the afternoon Parkers had open house for their new trailer which is very nice and pretty. We were served cookies and tea or sparkling grape juice. For the evening meal Sylvesters served hamburgers and baked beans with the rest of us bringing a side dish. Sam did a good job of grilling. All of the above was a treat from those individual couples. We finally found a Dairy Queen today and we filed that information away for future use.

Saturday started out cool. Parkers and Shirley went to see the Pickers new building in LeClaire. They had lots of high priced gift items and t-shirts for sale. About noon it started to sprinkle and the rain continued to get heavier. We had to hold the meeting under our awning. We were going to have a potluck and buy some chicken for the evening meal but had to cancel. So we decided to go to Brothers Restaurant instead.

Sunday morning we drove home in rain most of the way, then it started to rain here after we got parked. At least all the mud on the wheels was washed off.



There was no campout in August. We are looking forward to getting the Samboree set up, and hope we have a good turnout.

WAYNE WOLF would like to pass on his thanks to all the Good Sam members who helped in the Hospitality area at the Samboree. He and Jackie also appreciated all the cookies and fruit that were donated. Wayne says, "See you at the Samboree in 2015."

Editors Note: I think we should all give a big **THANK YOU to WAYNE & JACKIE** for the time and effort they put into making Hospitality at the Samboree such a great place to hang out!

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.

Ramblings from the Publicity Chair ...

Thanks to all the chapters that sent news for this edition. We have 20 chapters in the state and 11 chapters have something in this edition of the Sam-O-Gram. I think that must be a record of some kind...

The number of attendees was down for the Samboree this year. **Does anyone out there have an idea that would help increase the attendance?** We have good entertainment, nice facilities, food, games, excellent seminars (not just RV-related product info anymore), fellowship, reasonable prices – what do you think needs to be done to attract more people? If you have any input on this, call Harold Copas at 815-683-2633, and/or attend the state business meeting October 4 in Pecatonica at the Winnebago Fairgrounds. We need your help!

Next edition of Sam-O-Gram will be in April of 2015 with a deadline of April 15 (tax day – easy to remember) for news to be submitted.

E-mail to jskelly426@yahoo.com (**subject: Sam-O-Gram**) or mail to 850 West River St., Kankakee, IL 60901