



Illinois Sam-O-Gram

Published for members of the Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Association of Illinois

SPRING ISSUE, 2011

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring 2011

It seems as if winter just doesn't want to let go. We have been home for three weeks now and I still feel like it's going to snow...and it really did. Anyway, we have a great new year to start with. It always seems with good news comes bad news, we are very sorry at the passing of our pre-teen Director Barb Pennington. Barb passed away March 14th of congestive heart failure. As we all know, Barb had a stroke a few years back but was to feisty to throw in the towel. What we didn't know was she was fighting a battle with her heart as well. Judie and I attended Barb's memorial service which was very well attended as Barb was not one to sit around and collect dust. Please remember Barb's family in your prayers.

We drove our motor home to Las Vegas in January to attend the National Directors Conference. We stayed with other Directors and Sambassadors who drove in at the Oasis RV resort of Las Vegas, a very nice place indeed. The down side was we had to drive 6 miles each way to the Rio Hotel where the conference was held so we spent very little time in the resort. The changes in Good Sam are UNBELIEVABLE. We now have a new CEO, Marcus Lemones, and guess what, he's an RV'er too. Marcus was the CEO of Camping World until he took over as CEO of Affinity Corporation, and the first thing he did was to change the name.....to what you ask...to "Good Sam Enterprises" of course. He realizes the people who make up the Good Sam Club are the back bone of the whole corporation and we need to work together for one goal, make the club stronger and make it more fun.

As time goes on I will continue to highlight changes in Good Sam but here are a few. Highways magazine and RV View (from Camping World) will be combined. To published 8 times a year with a reported 156 pages per issue, with the first issue arriving around the first of June. More space will be given to chapters and their endeavors, so start getting your stories together so they can be sent to Highways and see them in PRINT. A much greater effort will be made to highlight chapters and grow chapters so let's hope the "next" generation reads and absorbs the value of chapters to the RV experience. We already have some new hand outs which I handed out at the state meeting. I will be writing a more in depth letter explaining all the changes that are taking place in Good Sam and our association with Camping World.

It looks like a new beginning for Good Sam. Judie and I hope to see you all at the campout for charity at Crescent City the first weekend in June for a really great time and a great kick off to the new season. Safe travels.

Jim and Judie Frcka

GOOD SAM MEMBERS

Fellow Campers

I believe one of the reasons we enjoy camping is to enjoy the great outdoors. Therefore, we need to do our part to save the great outdoors for future generations. I have heard more than once, well we recycle at home but not when we are camping. I ask WHY?? Yea, it takes a little more effort, but so what? Think of the following,

We've all seen litter scattered alongside a roadway or in fields near campgrounds or streets in our neighborhoods. Do you know how long it will take to decompose to a non-recognizable form?

Styrofoam	Never
Aluminum	80 – 100 years
Plastic bags	10 – 20 years
Plastic coated cartons	5 years
Plastic containers	50 – 80 years
Cigarette Butts	10 – 12 years
Leather Shoes	25 – 40 years
Viral Soles	50 – 80 years
Wool Socks	6 – 24 months
Orange peels	up to 6 months
Paper containers	2 – 5 months

PLEASE DON'T LITTER – RECYCLE

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY, RECYCLE

Get a container of some sort and take all your recycle stuff home with you. It can be done, if you just decide to do it.

Judie Frcka

OPEN STAFF POSITIONS

Illinois Good Sam is in need of several staff positions to be filled. If you are interested in any of these please contact Jim or Judie Frcka, Illinois State Director. 847-644-2709 or 847-840-2003 or ijnrvnuts@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN

Responsibility: Give a short Worship Service at the 3 state meetings. Plan the Worship Service and memorial Service for the Samboree. To work along side the rest of State Staff, in what ever area, your help may be needed.

Qualification: Must be a Christian with a true love for the Lord and Savior.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Responsibility: Take pictures at all state functions, especially the Samboree. These pictures will be for placement in the State History Books and the Web Site. To work along side the rest of State Staff, in what ever area, your help may be needed.

Qualification: Must have your own equipment for taking pictures and the knowledge for taking pictures. You will be reimbursed for expenditures, with proper documentation.

PATCH PACKER

Responsibility: This is the position which handles all of our Good Sam Merchandise, such as patches, pins, decals, belt buckles, cups, mugs, hats, jackets, sweatshirts, t-shirts, etc.. You would be in complete charge of ordering, maintaining the inventory, and deciding which merchandise to sell. You would maintain your own bank account, and give a financial report at the State Meetings, at both the Executive Meeting and the Committee Meeting. The merchandise is stored in a utility trailer, which you would need to be able to tow and have at the State Meetings and the Samboree.

Qualification: Previous financial, retail, or sales experience, would

CHAPTER NEWS

*Bureau Valley Sams
By Rosemary Egan*

We had our Christmas party in November to include our snowbirds. Our winter meetings were held at Road Rangers in Princeton – quite a few members had gone south.

We were saddened by the passing of our matriarch and honorary member Marcia VanCauwenberge in February. Marcie and Gene were the ones responsible for starting our chapter in June 1986. Gene passed away 2 years ago.

At our winter meeting it was decided to have a 25th anniversary party for the present and previous members in June.

We have our camp outs planned and reserved for the coming campout year. We are looking forward to spring, warmer weather, and camping together.

*Prairie Ramblers
By Maggi Hoover*

A long winter for of us in Illinois, some of our members go south for warmer weather, but more of us spent our time in the snowy, cold north. Last October we had six rigs at our last campout at Mississippi Palisades, originally, we were to be at Thomson Causeway, but the flooding was our enemy. The park was very crowded as Thomson shuffled everyone to M.P. This is our turkey

dinner, with all the trimmings week-end. What great cooks we have in our Chapter, the dinner was wonderful. And this year (2010) we didn't have any snow! November meeting was a luncheon with thirteen members and one guest attending. Final plans were confirmed for our volunteer outing in February and plans for hosting the State meeting in April at Henry and making that our April campout also. Our wagon master has had no luck in getting Reserve America to let the clubs reserve in blocks, and DNR won't talk, only refer to Reserve America. I'm sure all of Chapters have had the same problems. December and the Christmas Party. Our members and guest had a great time, good company, good food and, of course, our gift exchange. January, 2011, with so many members away, we didn't have a meeting. February the meeting was held in an Aurora restaurant after the Prairie Ramblers volunteered at Feed the Starving Children filling food bags. March meeting, sixteen members and 4 guests attended. P.R. finalized out year's campouts, starting with the State Meeting in Henry. It's time to get on our way for the season. We are looking forward to our outings and welcoming back our snow birds.

Prairie State Sams
By Wanda Curby

After receiving the honor of the 2010 IL Good Sam Chapter of the year award, the Prairie State Sams scrapbook was submitted to National for the 2010 Good Sam Club Chapter of the Year contest. We were informed that South Georgia Rivers Sams from Valdosta won, we hope everyone got to read their story; they are an outstanding chapter with only 17 family members.

Our Sept. Campout Meeting was held with a Mexican theme at Prophetstown State Park, Lafayette, IN with 8 families present. While there members visited Wolf's Park for the "Howl". During the weekend Pres. Gerald Hebert was taken to the hospital with a ruptured appendix where he stayed and had surgery. Member Rob Wendell had rotator cuff surgery. We were saddened later in the month with the sudden death of member Bette Lanoue.

With 15 families camping at our Oct. Meeting the Prairie State Sams held a joint campout with the Sunnybrook Sunny Days RV Club at the Iroquois Co. Fairgrounds, Crescent City, where we held a biscuit & sausage gravy breakfast for both chapters. During the weekend PSS's manned a lunch stand for member Ann Burton's household auction. Ann donated the proceeds from the lunch stand to the PSS Campout for Charity. Member Bob Knickrehm fell from his tree stand while hunting and broke his back. After months in a brace, he is now doing well. We were once again saddened over the loss of another member Pat Habing to his battle with cancer.

19 families attended the Nov. PSS Meeting at Coyote Canyon, Bourbonnais. Member Ginger Moore had back surgery and member Larry Laux had carpal tunnel surgery. 19 families attended the Dec. PSS Christmas Potluck Meeting at the Crescent City Comm. Bld. \$1000 from our Campout for Charity proceeds was sent to both Kankakee & Iroquois Counties for Christmas for Seniors.

16 families, 1 guest, and 1 prospective member family attended the Jan. PSS Meeting at the Homestead Restaurant, Kankakee. Members Jim & Ev Landry spent 3 wks, in Hawaii. Several members are wintering in Florida and out west in various states, some traveling.

15 families and 2 prospective member families attended the Valentine theme, Feb. PSS

Meeting at Coyote Canyon, Bourbonnais

18 families attended the St. Patrick's Day theme, March PSS Meeting at the BrickStone Restaurant & Brewery, Bourbonnais where we welcomed new members Ray & Carol Kwaak, Bradley. We also received news from Robin Dickson, Dogs for the Deaf Pres/CEO that PSS's have earned, for our donations, the Top Dog Chapter award in our state. Also, for our donations, we are one of the Top 10 Chapters from the US & Canada. We will receive an award flag for each of these achievements.

5th ANNUAL CAMPOUT FOR CHARITY

Sponsored by the Prairie State Sams Good Sam
Chapter

JUNE 3, 4, 5, 2011

IROQUOIS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, CRESCENT CITY, ILLINOIS

Event benefits:

**DOGS FOR THE DEAF – RELAY FOR LIFE – CHRISTMAS
FOR SENIORS**

Registration includes:

Two nights camping

Entertainment two nights: Sat. evening **THE GENERICS** (back by popular request)

Vendors – Flea Market – Seminars (Fri. & Sat.)

Craft classes: Fri. - coaster (\$1) Sat. - paper quilting (no charge)

Friday night Prairie State Sams cook in the big black pot (bring a dish to share)

Door Prizes – 50/50 raffles – Silent Auction – Chinese Auction

Photo Contest – Pet Parade – Quilting Expo & Competition
Hospitality (cookies & coffee)

Sunday donuts & Non-denominational Church Service

Handicap parking (must display placard or plate)

Pets welcome on

leash, **only** service dogs allowed in buildings

Also available: Saturday: Breakfast (\$) - Lunch, (\$) - Catered dinner,
(\$)

Schwan's ice-cream, (\$) available throughout the weekend

250 campsites with water, 30 amps & gray water dump – 30 campsites with water, 50 amps, NO gray water dump; Showers & dump station on grounds

For more info: Lynn & Wanda Curby 815-435-2401 or 815-383-0248 or wlcubby@gmail.com

Register by 5/15/11 for chance to win refund of registration fee

\$55 pre-registration - \$60 at gate registration

(You do not have to be a Good Sam member to attend)

Tri County Travlrs

By Sue Marlow

April 9th found seven couples meeting for lunch at The Flame in Metamora, IL. Four couples had just returned from Texas and enjoyed seeing the snow photos captured by Steve Sessions camera. Neil AAten, president, thanked Steve for keeping the monthly luncheons going thru the winter months. Phyllis Aten shared the crafts the club will be working on for "goodie bags" for the Samboree during summer campouts. Ernie and Jeanne Timberlake, long time Tri County members and faithful Samboree workers, announced they have sold their trailer and will no longer be camping. This news was received with much sadness by the group. They will be greatly missed.

All are hoping the Mississippi doesn't flood as our first campout is scheduled in Hampton the first weekend in May. Everyone is looking forward to another fun camping season.

Illinois Military Veterans

By Stevie Sesson

Camping season will soon to be here. It will be a relief from all of the snow. The Veterans Chapter will serve breakfast on Saturday at the Samboree this year and will post the colors as in the past. We will also help where ever we are needed. For those who have not heard, we lost another chapter member. Thomas (Tom) Faletti Sr. passed away on October 11th, 2010. I went to the visitation along with two others from Tri County Travlrs. I got our memorial plaque finished and it will be on display at the Samboree. I am looking forward to seeing some of you at the State meeting in April. If anyone would like to join the Veterans Chapter, please let me know. Anyone who has served in any branch of the military is welcome. We meet at the Samboree each year. I would like to have a campout just for our group if it can be arranged.

NEWS FOR NEXT SAM-O-GRAM IS DUE JUNE 30TH

