



ILLINOIS SAM-O-GRAM

October 2015

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www.illinoisgoodsam.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S RIG:

Greetings fellow Good Sam Club members. Here we are already in the fall season for camping. We are looking forward to the beautiful fall colors, warm days and cooler nights around a campfire.

A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped in any way with the 2015 Illinois Rally. It is your participation, whether a little or a lot, that makes the Rally successful.

The **2016** Illinois Rally will again be held at Henry, IL, September 1 to 5, and the theme is "Happy Trails".

Congratulations and welcome to Carolyn (John) Schaefer, your next State Director beginning January 1, 2016.

Thanks to all, especially our State Staff for the help and support given to us over the past three years as your State Directors. We've enjoyed seeing old friends, making new friends and representing your state organization.

Harold & Peggy Copas

A Note from Wayne & Jackie Wolf:

Thanks to all for cookies, food and help at Hospitality at the Rally this year.

Thanks to Carolyn Schaefer, Rosemary Egan and everyone who helped and prayed for me (Jackie) on my trip to the hospital.

We have enjoyed our time in Hospitality and want to thank everyone for all the help you have given us over these many years. We hope to see you all next year.

Wayne & Jackie Wolf

Congratulations

To Carol (John) Schaefer on being elected our new Illinois State Director effective January, 2016. We are looking forward to working with Carol and John and wish them every success in the next two years.

2015 RALLY REVIEW

Here are some statistics from our 2015 Rally. I hope you were one of the Good Sam members who attended and enjoyed all the activities. If you missed this year, why not plan on coming next year, Sept. 1 – 5, 2016 ?

Rigs at Rally: 94 53 Illinois (representing 11 chapters)
 41 out of state (10 states represented)

We had six vendors. We had nine First Timers.

Winners of Games:

Ladder Ball: 1st Fred Stern & Joe Wadell, 2nd Richard Grissom & Lawrence Merino

Bean Bag Baseball: 1st Place “The Queens” (I think this is who won – does anyone know for sure?)
 2nd Place “The Kings”

Pet Show: Best Trick – Husky, Best Dressed – Sassy, Best of Show – Honey Bear

50/50 amounts raised: Friday \$118, Saturday \$130, Sunday \$90.

Anniversary awards given to Spartan Sams and Illinois Youth, each for 25 years

Aluminum turned in: Bureau Valley Sams 55 pounds, Forest City Sams 51.2 pounds, Prairie States 43 pounds for a total of \$69.02 for Ronald McDonald House

Chapter of the Year Award went to Prairie State Sams

Man & Woman of the Year went to Budd & Rose Meents of Prairie State Sams

Bud Guymon Award went to Jean Skelly of Prairie State Sams

Town receipts totaled \$3407.00 (Dollar General was the big winner at \$548.00)

The above statistics are pretty dry reading but it's the easiest way to present the “hard facts.” On the softer, more fun side, if you weren't at the Rally you missed a lot of good stuff going on. Thursday evening we had root beer floats followed by a jam session with Steve McKillip and John Boss. They did this in 2014 and it was such a hit that they came back this year better than ever. Thanks, guys, it was great.

The table decorations made by Patty Jayne of Chamco were again way beyond what anyone expected.

Miniature RVs of every style (all painted red, white and blue) and some patriotic pieces (flag raising at Iwo Jima, etc.) were on every table. Chamco also decorated the stage to reflect our theme of Honoring the Red, White and Blue. Patty's creations were auctioned off on Sunday evening. (I am the proud owner of the large wooden flag that was on stage! It is hanging on my patio wall.)

The meals that are served at a Rally are more than body nourishment. They are a great way to sit and visit with old friends or to share a table with someone you hadn't met till a few minutes before. In my humble opinion the breakfasts shared with everyone are the best part of the day. And the food is pretty good, too.

And let's not forget the Hospitality area that Wayne & Jackie Wolf have been tending to for so many years. It's great to walk in and get a cold lemonade, tea or water and a cookie or piece of fruit and go sit for a few minutes – maybe visiting, maybe resting, maybe working on the jigsaw puzzle. Thanks go out to Wayne & Jackie for all they have done over the years to make the Hospitality area such a nice place at the Rally!

We had entertainment each evening and seminars that were informative and interesting. We had a lot of door prizes to give out each evening and the annual Blue Light Special was held on Sunday to benefit the teens. Flea Market on Saturday always draws a crowd and ice cream social is an annual favorite.

The Illinois Good Sams are not known for games at our rallies, but that could be changing. We had a great turnout for ladder ball and two very rambunctious teams for bean bag baseball. And the dog show was again a big hit with pet lovers. And I must mention that there was Penny Bingo every night and popcorn, too. And Carolyn Schaefer again led the Team Trivia after inter-faith worship on Sunday.

CHAPTER NEWS

BUREAU VALLEY SAMS – Louise Frank

Bureau Valley Sams have had a good camping season. Our June campout was held at Fisherman's Corner in Hampton with 13 couples camping. We enjoyed a "milkshake run" to Sonic at 9 p.m. one evening. We were so lucky to have a wonderful tour guide at Blackhawk State Park in Rock Island. The Blackhawk museum has a diorama of a year in the life of the Blackhawk Indians. Our guide, who is retiring this year, had so much knowledge and information that you would never know if not for the guided tour. She also led us through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) display. President Franklin Roosevelt began the CCC as a way for people to earn money following the depression. Those enrolled earned \$30 a month, \$25 of which was sent home to families. Provided by the CCC were meals, rooms, 2 sets of uniforms/clothes for each season. The CCC built the beautiful large lodge at Blackhawk State Park as well as the lodge at Starved Rock State Park.

Another fun tour in June was to the Boetje Mustard Factory in Rock Island. Samples were offered as well as purchase of the tasty, spicy mustard.

We had a stormy time at Galesburg East in July. A group was dining at Applebee's in Galesburg when sirens and phone warnings started going off. We were moved to the middle of the restaurant and remained there for over an hour. We were informed that a tornado had touched down 7 miles away in Cameron, IL. We later learned this was a devastating, destructive tornado in this small town. Luckily, no deaths occurred.

We had homemade ice cream on Saturday. Always a welcome treat on a hot July day.

August found us at Shady Creek Corp of Engineers Park in Muscatine, Iowa. Due to flooding, this was the first time in several years we were able to camp there. This was a fun themed campout. "Weenie Roast" which included (naturally!) a weenie and brat roast with all the fixings, s'mores and a "Know Your Neighbors" paper game, popcorn, snacks and campfires each evening and ice cream treats

served by the committee on Saturday afternoon. Several couples enjoyed a tour of the Amana Colonies and later, Kalona, Iowa. We enjoyed dinner at Pizza Ranch in Muscatine one evening.

Two couples attended the 2015 Illinois Good Sam RV Rally at Henry over Labor Day weekend with several others driving in to visit. As usual, many fun activities, games, food, hospitality, flea market, entertainment, blue light specials, vendors and door prizes added to the enjoyment of the weekend. A very HOT weekend!!! We send a big THANK YOU to outgoing State Directors Harold and Peggy Copas, Samboree Coordinators Neil and Phyllis Aten, and Hospitality Directors Wayne and Jackie Wolf. Congratulations to Prairie State Sams for sweeping the awards – Chapter of the Year, Man and Woman of the Year (Budd & Rose Meents) and Bud Guymon Award (Jean Skelly).

Bureau Valley Sams turned in the most aluminum pop tab receipts for 2015, 55 pounds. In the past six years BVS has donated 640 pounds of tabs with proceeds going to Ronald McDonald House. The total collected by Illinois Good Sams is 1,633 pound for a total of \$1,303.69. Money amounts from tabs collected in 2010 and 2011 are not available as the tabs were turned in at McDonalds directly. While this is a very worthwhile charity, participation has dropped each year by chapters with just three participating this year.

BVS is getting ready to wind down the 2015 camping season but we hope to see you around the campfire next year. Happy Camping.

CHAMCO SAMS – Carol Froeschl

Mother Nature was not cooperative for the Chamco Sams Chapter's June Campout at the Rantoul Prairie Pines Campgrounds. Only two Rigs made it to the campground on Friday before the downpour of rain started that caused the Campground to close. On Saturday, we moved the campout to the Champaign Sportsman's Club who had campsites and a room available for our monthly potluck and meeting. This will be a memorable campout. Members brought donations for the Champaign County Humane Society. Charity

for July, August and September is for the Eastern Illinois Food Bank.

Our July campout at Bo Woods went well except it was very hot and muggy. Friday evening we all enjoyed dinner at the Red Apple in Sullivan and enjoyed visiting in a cool place. Members returned to their campsite and gather around a campfire (yes—even in 80 degree temps). Saturday morning, members gathered for breakfast, which was served by John and Carolyn Schaefer at their campsite. Saturday at 11:00 a.m., Carole Kirby had a surprise birthday party for Jim, serving a delicious cake and ice cream. Saturday night was our potluck and business meeting. Carol Froeschl reported that she had taken the club members donations of Dog/Cat food to the Champaign County Humane Society.



Our August campout started off with Chamco members leaving the Champaign Sportsman's Club and caravanning to Henry, Illinois the weekend before the State Rally. On the way, we all stopped for a delicious breakfast at Woody's Restaurant in El Paso. Then we caravanned the rest of the way to Marshall Putnam Fairgrounds. Evening dinner was enjoyed at the Chestnut Restaurant in Henry and several members attended a brief "work to be done" meeting for the State Rally. Saturday morning the weekend hosts, Everett and Carol



prepared a breakfast of Biscuits and Gravy for eighteen of us. Then off to the cleaning team for the day. Saturday evening, Carol and Everett served pulled pork sandwich with members bringing a side dish. Monday evening our members gathered at the Clover Club in Mark, Il for the best tacos in the area. Wednesday morning the Kirby's

served us a bountiful breakfast of Belgian waffles. Chamco was in charge of decorating the stage and tables in the hospitality Room for the Rally with the theme "Honoring the Red White and Blue". Patty Jayne once again did an outstanding job of making the table decoration with mini campers,

two Jima décor and a variety of others following the theme. Chamco had 11 rigs at the State Rally and Chamco welcomed our newest members Sherry and Rich Wieland. Chamco was in charge of registration and several members volunteered as escorts, and anywhere needed during the Rally. Everyone enjoyed a great

Illinois Good Sam State Rally especially the announcement that Chamco member Carolyn Schaefer will be the next Illinois Good Sam Director – Congratulations Carolyn! Chamco will also have several members as state officers, Robert Myers, State Treasurer and John Schaefer in charge of Hospitality at the next State Rally. A big **thank you** to Wayne and Jackie Wolf for serving as State officers in charge of hospitality for 18 years at the State Rallies. Also, **thank you** to Harold and Peggy Copas for the all their time and planning on the seminars, entertainment and the fellowship enjoyed by all at the Rally. We are looking forward to the 2016 State Rally.

FOREST CITY SAMS – Jeanette Gawronski

July and August found us at Lowden State Park near Oregon, IL. The little store there has really good hot dogs. There are many things to do in the Oregon/Byron area. We found some good resale shops in Byron, a store in Oregon where everything is mostly \$2, a yummy ice cream place (Jay's) in Oregon, Sam's Root Beer stand in Byron, Conover Square in Oregon (lots of antiques and resale shops) and many other things to do. There is a model train layout of various sizes of trains in Conover Square. It is usually open on Saturdays. The Roadhouse in Oregon goes out of its way to serve you great food but don't believe the hours on

their website. We heard it was haunted but missed seeing the ghost. We had our usual potlucks. We find it easy to potluck for Saturday and Sunday breakfast/brunch and for supper on Friday and Saturday evening. It helps build camaraderie and has helped us become a Good Sam family.

In October we will be hosting the State Meeting at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds in Pecatonica. We need your ideas for the future of Illinois Good Sam. There will be a noon lunch of red or white chili and all the fixings (\$5 per person), a potluck that night with brats and hot dogs provided, and a musical group for entertainment after supper. There is plenty of camping space. Remember if the president cannot attend, send someone to represent your chapter or bring your whole chapter. Everyone has a voice! Hope to see all of you there.

Big Rock Campground, a Kane County Forest Preserve, is our destination for October. Some of our members have camped there and say the sites are very level. This campground is only two years old. We are looking forward to exploring a new area.

Some of our members leave for the South during October and more will go later. We wish them warm weather and happy times. Hopefully they will send some warm weather back to us in January and February.

PRAIRIE STATE SAMS – Jean Skelly

Our chapter held our second annual Kids Weekend at Kankakee River State Park in August and had a great turnout of kids, grandkids and great grandkids. Games were played, beaded necklaces were made. We had painted faces (even some adults) and a craft for the very young guests. Pizza was the meal on Friday evening, followed by a pancake breakfast on Saturday morning and a hot dog and mac 'n cheese lunch. Regular potluck on Saturday rounded out the meals. We tried something new this year and it was a big success – made ice cream in a baggie.

Many thanks to Jim, Ev, Ginger, Rose, Budd, Larry, Milly, Shirley, Harold, Peggy, Gerry, Opal and everyone else who helped in any way during the weekend. Many hands make light work!

Our September campout/meeting was held at Big Rock Forest Preserve. We had a great weekend as Larry & Milly had planned a baseball themed time for us. Peanuts, Cracker Jack, hot dogs, apple pie, bean bag baseball were all on the menu.



Pictured, Gerry Hebert with Rally table decoration after his enhancements.

We celebrated Harold Copas' birthday several times during the weekend. By the time we sang "Happy Birthday" the fourth time, we were sounding pretty good! And every time we sang we had cake (and sometimes ice cream, too).

The last campout for 2015 will be at Iroquois County Fairgrounds in mid October and we will be saying goodbye to some of our snowbirds who head south and west for the winter. The rest of us will put our rigs in mothballs till spring.

ROAMIN' SAMS – Lynn Worden

The September Rally at Paul Wolff was a great time. We had 10 rigs in attendance. Thanks Kay and Bob for hosting it.

Most of us got there on Sunday and just sat outside and visited. No one was really interested in the Swedish Fest so we decided

to go to lunch then to Woodman's. Got back and sat outside till 7:30 when we finally called it a night. I said it before, old people are easily amused.

Monday more of our members came in. Including Jerry and Wilma who everyone thought had left for New York. Glad they decided to come to the camp out. We took a picture of Jackie and Chico's motor home since they had their kitchen slide out and that was unusual. Just poking fun at you Jackie:}

Campground host told us we could use the enclosed pavilion at no cost. It was very windy and we thought

we would be able to play games inside. As it turned out we didn't need it after all. We walked to the pavilion and some of the tables were out of the wind. We



got to play games til snack time at 3:00. After dinner we sat out and visited till 8:00.

Tuesday was the potluck breakfast with lots of good food including monkey bread. We all took a short trip to the Fisher Nut Outlet. When we got back to the campground we played some cards till it was time for the craft that Kay taught. All of the ladies participated, it was a cloth covered clay flower pot that had a solar light in it. It was a very clever idea. Even though most of us were sticky from the modge podge, they were a lot of fun to make. That night we got to see how pretty they looked in the dark. Thanks Kay it was a very good craft



project. Some went to Golden Corral for dinner some had pizza. We all sat and gabbed till dark. Let it be known that Jackie is the official dog snack person. She carries around treats and all the dogs know it and crowd around her whenever she appears.

Wednesday morning as we all sat in a huge circle between the motor homes, Kay brought Rescue out and he walked over to Ed and attempted to pee on his leg. Ed moved just in time. Kay was flabbergasted, Until Pat brought out Ben...he tried to pee on Ed too. Ed moved just in time again. Gypsy, Kenzie and Patches



didn't try to pee on him. They are girls...just saying. We went to lunch at Steak and Shake then came back and played more cards. Kay had

decorated all the tables in the pavilion with pine cones and greens for the potluck dinner that night. It looked very pretty. She is so crafty. After dinner they got a fire going near Ed and Peg's motor home and Ed turned on his outdoor TV so most of us could watch the Republican debate.

Thursday was must go's and goodbyes till next month. *The October rally date has been changed. It is now going to be October 12-15 at Leisure Lake. We will also have the elections for both clubs.* I will send out info about what everyone is bringing to the big dinner and if you haven't signed up yet you can let Peggy know. Ed and Peggy are the hosts.

Once again thank you Kay and Bob for hosting and much thanks Kay for being such a good sport when we started changing around her plans for the rally.

ROCK VALLEY SAMS – Darrell Swanson

Our chapter camped at Big Rock Forest Preserve in June and had five rigs present. The weather was cool but the sun was shining and that felt good. The trees planted two years ago have grown two to

four inches and by 2025 will be giving us shade. But for now it was good to have the sun. We had our usual potluck and circle talk in the evening.

The July campout was at Seward Bluff Forest Preserve and we had seven members camping at this outing. The weather again was cool with spots of sun. The bugs were out but we were okay since we had an arsenal of bug spray and swatters. We celebrated four birthdays and two anniversaries.

Thomson Causeway was the site of our August campout. Six rigs made it to the campout and meeting. Again the weather was cool, overcast, windy and rainy at night. Nobody saw any turtles on the road so we avoided a major calamity. Two birthdays were acknowledged this month.

Five rigs from Rock Valley attended the Illinois Good Sam RV Rally in Henry in September and we all had a good/busy time. The weather was very, very hot.

Our September campout was held at Mississippi Palisades State Park in Savanna, IL. We had eight rigs present. The state park is starting to show signs of fall with leaves on the ground and falling from the trees onto our tables. We went out to eat and enjoyed an evening campfire. Five birthdays were celebrated this month.

SECOND CHANCE SAMS – Carolyn Schaefer

This year only three members attended the annual meeting. Due to taking someone to the hospital, I was not able to be at the Friday luncheon. Next year new officers will have to be elected. I do want to thank all who donated items for the Ronald McDonald House that is in Bloomington, IL. I know they were very much appreciated.

SPARTAN SAMS

July, August, September

Naturally we had lots of delicious meals (always healthy?? sure!!) both at restaurants and planned at our campsites. July hosts had a lasagna dinner, August hosts provided BBQ and beans, and September breakfast treat by hosts was egg in a bag and fruit....all supplemented by dishes from rest of the club.

In July there was a trip to the little known DeMoulin Museum in Greenville, IL. We were fascinated by the most unusual devices found there that were used in the past by fraternal organizations. Would you believe bucking goats, collapsing chairs, paddling machines??

August in Effingham had all sorts of establishments to visit: a mill store, antique stores, wineries, nature center.

Double doses of birthday cake and ice cream along with some penny bingo kept us hoppin'!!—well maybe not quite hoppin' cause it was very hot and sticky weather.

Our good fortune one evening brought a fellow



camper to our midst who offered to play his guitar and sing for us! Boy was he entertaining and for hours “Gary” strummed and sang. He was great. There were also some wanna be cowboys who were practicing their roping skills.

This past weekend at Double J we finally got relief from the heat but along came a nasty storm keeping a lot of us awake all night....but cooler temps and some really great campfires kept our spirits high. We found perhaps the largest Goodwill store in Illinois and strolled around there.

And don't forget all the Lincoln historic places to visit in Springfield.

Elections were held and all are happy, many anxious to start South!

Current President Jim Boyd presented the 25 year ribbon and certificate to the club that he received at the Rally. So that means we are on our way to a happy and healthy 26th year and loving it!

We admit it.....WE ARE A GREAT CLUB to belong to. Happy Travels to all.

Sad note: Please keep Bob Myers (our State Treasurer) and his family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of his brother, who passed away Labor Day weekend.

Editor's Note: I would like to say something about the **Bud Guymon Award** which is awarded annually at the Illinois State RV Rally and about the man it is named after.

Bud Guymon was a member of the Chamco Sams along with his wife Joyce. Bud was deaf. He was not born deaf so he was part of the hearing world for many years. He was a really nice guy who could be part of any conversation (he read lips very well) and loved to tell stories and watch baseball.

Bud was the first recipient (that I know of, anyway) of a hearing ear dog in Illinois. He received his Sheba from Dogs for the Deaf and had her for many years, until she passed away. He even got another hearing ear dog following Sheba's death. Stanly was another great dog.

After his retirement he and Joyce travelled around promoting Dogs for the Deaf and giving demonstrations of how Sheba had changed his life. They would have Sheba respond to a timer, a doorbell, or a phone ringing and how this alerted Bud to take some action (answer the door, turn off the oven, etc.). Prior to getting Sheba, Bud would have to sit near the front window waiting for a repairman to arrive since he could not hear the doorbell.

Besides promoting Dogs for the Deaf and the Good Sam Club's part in DFD, Bud was active in his church and in his community. He delivered Meals on Wheels for many years - he and Sheba were a team. Bud and Joyce travelled all over the country and made friends wherever they went. They worked at the DFD booth at many International Samborees and put on demonstrations at a lot of state Samborees.

Bud was not a complainer. He could have been. Just imagine the world of a deaf person – no music, no phone conversations, no talking while you are driving (eyes on the road!), no pillow talk, no lip reading after dark or in deep shadows, no sounds of laughter of friends or family. But Bud just went about his life – worked on home projects, took care of his car and his yard, delivered Meals on Wheels, watched baseball on TV, promoted DFD, etc.

When Bud died, the world lost one of the Good Guys. If you knew him, you know what I mean. If you never met him, I'm sorry you missed the opportunity to know him.

The Bud Guymon Award is presented to someone who demonstrates Bud's qualities of service to others outside the Good Sam Club. This year at the RV Rally I was the recipient of that award. It was humbling to think that I could come close to Bud's selfless work for others and the award was a total surprise to me.

When Joyce gave me that award on stage, I didn't think fast enough to tell everyone there what a good guy Bud was, so I am giving my little spiel now.

I don't feel that I deserve this award any more than many of you out there do. Many, many Good Sam members do a ton of volunteer work at VA hospitals and homes, churches, schools, libraries, parks, daycares, social service agencies. You work with little kids, students, seniors. You raise funds, you clean and paint, you set up and you clean up and much more than I can list here.

SO – next year for the RV Rally I hope that every chapter will take a serious look at their members and nominate someone who is worthy of this honor. We all know they are out there – you just need to identify them!

Jean Skelly