



Illinois Sam-O-Gram

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

SUMMER ISSUE 2011

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings fellow travelers

It looks like we are finally getting some good camping weather. Have endured rain and flood, wind and cold with the goal in mind of a nice peaceful trip in the RV. As I am writing this, we are sitting in Iowa, after the Wisconsin and Iowa Samborees. We are in a beautiful spot just off interstate 35 at one of the family's farm's, cheap camping and oh so relaxing. We hope many of you are getting out and making use of what this country has to offer. We walked around the Amana Colonies...exercise.. take the dogs on long walks...exercise...visit museums..exercise..visit a livestock auction, a new addition to the sense of smell. All this and more because we have the RV and Good Sam friends all over.

We have made so many new friends and renewed old friendships, which the young people seem to be missing. I talked to a young couple in Wisconsin and asked them why they had come to the Samboree. They told me "mom and dad had been campers and they loved it too and enjoyed everything about the Samboree." In Iowa I talked to a young family tent camping at the Colonies, they wanted to know what was going on. I had time to let them know who we were and what we did and who to contact. I wish they lived in Illinois. Moral of the story, never pass up the opportunity to let young people know about the benefits of Good Sam.

All chapters desire to have new members. This is a difficult thing to achieve, we understand your frustration. We constantly receive names of people seeking to be a member of a chapter. This information is passed on to what ever chapter has been mentioned. We know you follow through and then rarely hear back from the people.

We don't understand this any more than you do, nor do we have an answer. Our advice is just keep trying, give each name at least two attempts. It is worth it for the ones who do answer.

We also want to encourage all Chapters to remember you are a group of people from different backgrounds, ideas and thoughts on how something should be done. So, plans should be made by the entire group, not just the officers. The President is the guiding source, and should not make a decision by themselves, or with just a few members of the Chapter. Work together, it is the Good Sam Way. Doing something that has not been done in the past is good, however try not to make big changes all at once. For example, if the Chapter has always camped closer to home, make the change to traveling further slow. Get the approval of the majority before making a change. Don't drop a tradition altogether, expand on it. It is impossible to please everyone all the time, but the majority can be pleased most of the time.

We are working hard on the plans for our Samboree, we hope to see each of you there. Following is a preliminary outline for the each evening.

We had a great time at the three out of state Samboree's we attended. More on them later.

Jim and Judie, Your Illinois State Directors

Samboree Schedule

(subject to change)

Wednesday: Meet and Greet – state will have chips and salsa. If you desire bring your favorite snack or finger food. There is no agenda, just a time to walk around and visit.

Thursday: More Campfire Stories. This year our theme will be your favorite or most memorable vacation. Followed by Root Beer floats and pop corn.

Friday: Sara Getto, her first appearance in Illinois. Sara, who was born blind, will entertain with her variety of songs and music, and special effects.

Saturday: Pot luck – a new adventure for us. The state is ordering the meat, a basket will be set by it for a free will offering, to help off set the cost. Then bring a side dish or dessert to share: one large dish serving 16 to 20, or two smaller serving 8 to 10 each. Plus your own table service. Lemonade and Ice Tea will be available.

Saturday: Robin Dickson, CEO of Dogs for the Deaf. Robin will have a trained dog with her, giving a complete demonstration. You will find this very entertaining.

Sunday: Steve Jeffries, from Indiana, will keep you moving with his songs and jokes.

OPEN STAFF POSITIONS

Illinois Good Sam is in need of several staff positions to be filled. If you are interested in one of the positions please contact Jim Or Judie Frcka, Illinois State Director at 847-644-2709 or 847-840-2003. By email at jnjrvnuts@gmail.com.

CHAPLAIN

HISTORIAN

PATCH PACKER

TEEN DIRECTOR

A message from the Teen Director:

It's hard to believe a whole year has almost past since the Samboree in 2010 had found us together. For those of you who have never brought your Teen to a Samboree before, there will be plenty of activities to keep them entertained. Between a bags tournament with a new friend, tye dying, pizza parties, ice cream socials, and rootbeer float nights, and meeting new friends, there will always be something to do. This year we are starting something new, a

community service project to help give back to our community. Through the pop top drive, the Illinois Good Sams Club has greatly impacted the Ronald McDonald House, a place where families can stay while their children are going through treatments or surgeries at hospitals. I wish to continue to this effort and put together a few gift baskets for these families.

A year ago I walked into my first Samboree, and I did it as a director. I was amazed at the energy, generosity, and enthusiasm of these teens, as well as the other participants. I am quite the youthful director at the tender age of 25, however I found it hard to keep up with them. I cannot wait for another weekend of chasing the teens around, and fun activities!

If you have any questions or ideas of things you would like to do at the Samboree, feel free to send me an email to msagawronski@gmail.com

Can't wait for Samboree 2011

Amanda Gawronski- Teen Director.

DATES TO REMEMBER

RUBY MEMORIES

2011 ILLINOIS STATE SAMBOREE

SEPT. 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH

Henry, IL

STATE MEETING

MARSHALL-PUTNAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

HENRY, IL

OCTOBER 7TH, 8TH, AND 9TH

HOSTED BY BUREAU VALLEY SAMS

CHAPTER NEWS

Bureau Valley Sams by Rosemary Egan

Our Chapter has been lucky with our camp-outs and the weather so far. We did have rain at Geneseo in April, but in May at Johnson Sauk Trail – great – no rain at all!

We celebrated our Chapter's 25th anniversary in June with an open house at the senior center in Princeton and invited all old and present members. It was very nice with a special cake, punch, etc. We finished the cake, punch and mints at our regular June campout and added homemade ice cream. Also, at our campout which was at Shady Creek, Muscatine, Iowa, we had a special ceremony for our old flag which had been replaced earlier in the year. Each couple told how they had joined and then put a piece of the flag in the fire. Very impressive and pictures were taken during the ceremony. On Saturday evening the "Iron Skillet Man" served our meal.

Our July campout will be at Lake Aqua Na, Lena, IL.

Forest City Sams by Jeanette Gawronski

We have had a good time camping this Spring and Summer. Some of us started the camping season on the first weekend in April camping in East Peoria. Never too early in the season to start camping is our motto! Most of our camping takes place at Seward Bluffs, a part of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve system. **If you are looking for someplace to camp try this campground. This preserve is one of the most serene and pleasant areas in the County.** There are 60 sites (11-50 amp & 49-30 amp), a dump station, horseshoe pits, & a playground. There are also hiking trails, horse trails and much more. The camp hosts are fantastic. Website: <http://www.wcfpd.org/> There are other campgrounds under the WCFPD.

Since the Good Sam Club is about helping others we collect our aluminum cans, while camping, and give them to the camp hosts for an area food bank. Of course, we save the tabs for the Ronald McDonald house! We cleaned and added plants to an area that another group had planted a few years ago. We always try to make sure our area is cleaner when we leave than when we arrived. The camp hosts know that if a camper is having mechanical problems our club will help. We have many knowledgeable people in our club.

We have added three units to our club this Spring. We have a wide variety of ages involved in our group from babies to people in their 80s. All have something to offer and we grow in our friendship, family environment, and knowledge at each campout.

2nd annual Dutch Oven Cook-Off

There will be a Dutch oven cook-off competition at this year's Samboree. The date and time for sampling/judging has not yet been determined but will be posted in the main building at the Samboree.

We will not have many rules. Complete Rules and Regulations will be posted in the main building at the Samboree. Dessert, soup (including chili), or stew may be cooked. Please provide copies of your recipe for samplers who would like to make your dish. Food must be cooked in a Dutch oven and the participants must practice safe food handling practices. Food will be cooked at your campsite.

Judging will be done by the other campers from samples provided by the cook. The cook must be present to hand out their samples and answer questions. Tickets will be sold for .50 per sample with the money collected going towards the Teen College Scholarship Fund. Dishes will be judged on taste, aroma, and overall appeal.

For more information contact:

Jeanette Gawronski

Forest City Sams

Lake8@charter.net

815-623-8559

Cook-Off Rules

(More complete rules & registration forms will be provided at the Samboree)

1. Dessert, soup (including chili), or stew may be cooked.
2. Food must be cooked in a Dutch Oven.
3. The participants must practice safe food handling practices.
4. Food should be cooked at your Campsite.

5. Judging will be done by the other campers from samples provided by the cook. Campers may purchase dishes for the samples from the Committee for .50/dish. A new dish must be used for each sample. The money collected will go to the Teen College Scholarship Fund.

6. Dishes will be judged on taste, aroma, and overall appeal. One evaluation sheet will be provided with each dish/sample purchase.

For more information contact:

Jeanette Gawronski

Forest City Sams

Lake8@charter.net

815-262-2876 or 815-262-1429

Prairie State Sams by Wanda Curby

In April the Prairie State Sams held our "It's Time to Celebrate" campout to celebrate the chapter's 35th birthday, earning Illinois 2010 Chapter of the Year and meeting our goal of sponsoring a dog, for Dogs for the Deaf. We gathered for a long weekend starting on Thurs. with games and snacks on Thurs & Fri. night after supper out. Sat. morning we were treated to a biscuit & sausage gravy breakfast. During the "Remember When Birthday Party" we had cake & ice cream and lots of memories. Sat. we had a potluck supper with the chapter furnishing the chicken.

In May members camped at Kentuckiana Kampground, Hopedale where we went out to eat, went antique shopping, did glass etching, crocheted ribbon necklaces and tied trash bags. The road was flooded when we got back from supper Fri. night so campground owners served us drinks & popcorn in the rec. hall. Finally Dick Skelly shuttled members back to their campsites in his big van on an outside road and members had to walk through the mud & trees to get to their sites. Sat. night we were able to hold our potluck & meeting in the rec. hall and enjoy the entertainment at the campground.

Again this June we held our 5th Annual Campout for Charity at the Iroquois Co. Fairgrounds, Crescent City with 68 families attending. Campers started coming on Wed. and we had hospitality and Schwan's ice cream available all weekend. We had morning walks, craft classes, photo & quilting contests, seminars, Chinese & Silent Auctions, beef & noodle potluck and catered chicken supper, breakfast & Sloppy Joe's available, morning donuts, church service, pet parade, door prizes, flea market, and great entertainment. We are well on our way to sponsoring our second dog for Dogs for the Deaf. The following weekend members set out luminaries for the Iroquois Co. Relay for Life.

The Prairie State Sams would like to thank all of you who attended our 5th Annual Campout for Charity. Many of you have been to every campout and we want you to know how much we appreciate that. It is those of you who have supported us by attending, that have made this

campout such a success each year. We hope to see you all again next year and bring your camping friends. Put June 1-3, 2012 on your calendar NOW.



Rock Valley Sams by John Wilson

Pictured are some the Rock Valley Chapter Good Samanths, completing a project for the Illinois State Director team. Our Chapter was given the responsibility to make/complete the Memorial Flowers for the 2011 Illinois State Jamborees. This task was finished at our pre-scheduled campout, at Lowden State Park on the 16, 17, & 18th. Despite it being somewhat chilly and a bit windy, 10 rigs turned out with 18 members. A full report on the State business meeting held at Henry was given by Assistant State Director Marylyn Yenny, President Larry Bonnell and John A Wilson, a chapter member. Much discussion centered around the Sam-o-Gram, State Financing and the State Samboree. This year the State organization is 40 years old, as are a few other Chapters. The Rock Valley Sams was the #6 Chapter to be Certified in the State Organization, and has been a most active Chapter ever since. This due in part to strong participating leadership, family activities, a willingness to volunteer, a genuine fellowship, and a sense of family sharing and enjoying the great outdoors. One of our current Chapter members, Elsie Watson, with her deceased husband Bruce, were Charter members. Elsie has served as Chapter Secretary for most of the 40 years of the Chapter's existence. Thru the years several members have served the Chapter well, and have accepted State responsibilities as well. Our Chapter is planning several things in conjunction with the 2011 Samboree.



Tri-County Travlers by Sue Marlow

2011 Camp-Outs started with the first two months being new campgrounds to try. May found us at Fisherman's Corner in Hampton, right on the Mississippi River and was a delight to all who attended. The park was great and being near the Cities there were many activities to keep us busy such as casino visits, an authentic German restaurant and the "American Pickers Shop" in LeClaire. Back at the campground. members worked on items for the Samboree goody bags
Everyone hopes the park is on the list for next year..

In June we tried Jim Edgar State Park near Virginia, Il. rather than our usual New Salem visit. Sylvester's had an open house for their new unit after the group went out for breakfast on Saturday morning. The rest of Saturday was spent trying to handle the heat, humidity, flies and gnats that were unbearable. Shortly after our potluck supper everyone went inside their units because of the heat and bugs and out of nowhere straight line winds blew thru and collapsed our shelter.. Many poles were bent and will need to be replaced but luckily the cover was saved and no one was hurt. Units were rocking and everyone was feeling uncomfortable. Sunday potluck was cancelled as it was raining and our shelter gone. Verdict is still out about returning to JESP. Hopefully, July will be a sunny, dry week-end over the 4th at Kentuckiana.

NEWS FOR NEXT SAM-O-GRAM DUE SEPT. 24TH