

Sam O'Gram

July 2012 Issue

Illinoisgoodsam.org



www.goodsamclub.com

Director's.....

We started the 2012 season camping with Rock Valley, Prairie Ramblers and visiting Forest City, all in one week. It was so great to have 3 chapters in the same area. Then a week later we went back, and camped with Stage Coach, and enjoyed a catered lunch. This is where we had our first breakdown of the season. It seems 11 years of sitting in a storage yard, the mice managed to chew a few wires, so our emergency brake would not release. First a call to ERS and then a trip Camping World. Alls well!!

We began the journey in May by attending the Region 3 Directors meeting in Hutchinson, MN. Jim being the senior most director in Region 3, was in charge of the meeting. For the first time we did not have a Sambassador from National. It was still a fruitful meeting, sharing ideas and Samboree stories with the other directors. Quite a bit of time was spent discussing the idea of Region 3 Rally, with no definite results. On the way to dinner in the evening, Jim's finger and the mechanism of a mini-van seat tangled. The seat won, so we spent the evening at the local ER. It is healing and we have another campfire story.

Several of us stayed the entire week and enjoyed MN. Spring Samboree. It was a great week, we had fun and learned so much from the rest of the Directors. Region 3 has a great group of Directors. It is just to bad our Region covers so many miles, we would love to be able to attend each of the Samboree's. But North Dakota's is just one week before Illinois.

We also attended Prairie State's Charity Weekend, Kentucky's Samboree and the Rally, in Louisville. Once again we were impressed with Prairie State's weekend, it is pleasant to see a chapter working together to make things happen. We have not heard yet if they plan to do one in 2013, if they do, give thought to attending.

Speaking of the Samboree, we are on the count down. A lot of the details have been worked out. Entertainment is booked, golf carts reserved, date tabs on order, special ribbons ordered, etc. There is still more to do and we pray we don't over look anything. If you know of something don't hesitate to check with us to be sure it has been covered. There are still several open spots for volunteering, check on last page.

We are planning on having self-entertainment for Thursday evening. Some games, a skit or two? Have a talent you want to share, let us know.

Secret Sam and Secret Samantha, have not decided if they will attend this year. Stay tune! They may make a brief visit.

We are hoping members of Salty Sams will attend, so we can help them celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Time to stop writing.

HOPE to see ALL of you at the Samboree, *Jim and Judie*, Your State Directors

Chapter News:

Tri-County Travelers

Phyllis Aten, Secretary

Bureau Valley Sams

By Rosemary Egan

Our chapter was saddened by the passing of one of our members, Margie Cordrey, in January while wintering in Texas.

Our April campout was at Geneseo. All members were present and the weather was excellent. We attended the Expo and luncheon in Geneseo on Friday. Followed by a potluck and meeting on Saturday evening. Our May campout was at Starved Rock, Utica. Again the weather was great. Several went on the boat ride and visited the Lodge and Museum.

Our plans and reservations were changed for June campout, plans were to go to Johnson Sauk Trail State Park, Kewanee and they closed. Our alternate was Fisherman's Corner at Hampton. We all enjoyed it there also.

Hope the weather stays good and everyone has good camping this summer.

Rock Valley

Rock valley concludes their camping season by grilling a turkey and enjoying an early thanksgiving dinner. While not camping, it is held at Russell Forest Preserve, Genoa. The turkey is always extra yummy.

This season we are trying early in the week camping. We will gladly switch back to weekends, if we get new members still working. After gathering on a Tuesday, we find a local restaurant and enjoy dinner out. On Wednesday, we enjoy a pot luck, always plenty of delicious food. But then Good Sam folks know how to cook.

Consider joining us we are a fun group and always welcome new members.

We were saddened by the passing of two our members, Sandi Hauri and John Wilson. We miss both of them.

Another camping season has arrived. The winter flew by and all of our members were back from Texas in time for our April meeting. There was lots of news to catch up on with the ones that spent their winter here, and they bragged that they hardly had any bad weather.

In May, several members had conflicts with graduations and sickness, resulting in a very small turnout at Johnson Sauk State Park in Kewanee. The State's cutbacks for parks was in evidence there. The water was not turned on, or the shower house opened. The camping sites were not mowed, but we still had to pay for a class A site. Needless to say, we were not happy campers. There was much talk about the situation but no clear solution as they won't let volunteers help to maintain the grounds, which we inquired about.

In June we camped at Jubilee State Park, as we had plans to attend the Strawberry fest in nearby Elmwood. The first day it was rainy and cold so we had to stay inside all day and evening. Being cooped up like that can be rather trying at times, but we survived unscathed. The weekend turned out nice and we enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast with a side of strawberries put on by the Elmwood volunteer firemen. In all it was a very pleasant weekend.

We have accepted two new members so far this season for which we are thankful.

SAMS PRAIRIELANDERS

By Ronnell Stovall

Friday, June 15, through Sunday, June 17, 2012, found the SAMS PRAIRIELANDERS chapter of the Illinois Good Sam Club meeting together with an easy sense of community while enjoying the scenic wooded landscape of Ramsey Lake State Park near the rural village of Ramsey, in south central Illinois. The weather was warm yet cooled by soft breezes and the gentle canopied shade of overhanging trees.

The early morning hours of Sunday brought brief rushing winds, falling branches, crashing thunder, and a short downpour of much needed rain, just enough to wake the tired traveler and set the course for the sunrise to follow. Yet the day dawned bright, quiet, and full of expectation for the week ahead.

Along with the traditional fellowship meals, good humored one-upmanship, and afternoon naps, came several rousing, highly competitive games of beanbag toss. These are not for the faint-of-heart but for the truly energetic and sophisticated tosser. These beanbags were designed by semi-professional seamstresses, sewn expertly for uniformity of size, weighed loosely according to criteria gleaned from the American National Standards Institute, and geometrically designed in a pseudo wind tunnel to elicit an accurate, winning trajectory.

Special emphasis was added by authorizing our game official and part time coach, Totsy, as trusted and final scorer. Totsy remained impartial, alert, and displayed his usual good humored, enthusiastic smile throughout the competition though we have to admit an occasional treat sometimes swayed his decision affecting the final outcome of this rigorous competition.

All in all, the events of the weekend were a stately success, the food was felicitous to the eye, savory to the pallet, the camaraderie par excellence, and the games exceeded even the most cardinal expectation, with every part and portion of the weekend a delight in an RV paradise.



SAVORY MORSELS



PROFESSIONALS AT WORK



TOTSY – Coach & Game Official Extraordinaire

CHAMCO SAMS CHAPTER

Champaign IL by Carol Froeschl

The Chamco Sams Chapter of Champaign, IL started their 2012 year with a Luncheon at Ryan's Family Steak House in Champaign. Several of our members had not returned from the South. Several members are Snowbirds and Winter Texans. Our first campout in April was at the Champaign Sportsman's Club in Mahomet, IL. Guest at our meeting was Chris Fay, our new Co-host at the Sportsmen Club. She was observing what our Chapter does and represents. We *Welcome* her and her husband to the Champaign Sportsman Club. Saturday morning we gathered for a delicious breakfast casserole prepared by our member hosts for the weekend. Saturday evening we had a delicious meal catered in for our members and evening of fellowship and fun followed. Sunday morning members gathered for church service given by our Chapter Chaplains.

Our May campout was at Kickapoo State Park. Many of the members attended the Park's concert on Friday night. Saturday morning our members gathered for a delicious breakfast prepared by our host members. Saturday evening we gathered for an evening potluck meal with many delicious dishes. The Chapter members voted to change the date that the club dues are due to September 1st, 2012. Also discussed and was voted to increase our annual dues to include monies going to charity. Our chapter continues to collect pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Sunday morning members gathered for church service by our Chapter Chaplains.

The June campout was at Bo-Woods at Lake Shelbyville in Sullivan, IL. On Saturday morning we gathered for a wonderful waffle breakfast prepared by our member hosts for the weekend. Saturday afternoon, members went into Arthur to do some annual shopping at some of the Amish shops in the area. Saturday, we had our evening potluck meal.

We were saddened by the passing of our long time treasurer, Charlotte Piggott on June 2nd. She will be greatly missed.

The Chapter will be hosting the State Meeting at the Champaign Sportsman's Club in Mahomet on July 13-15, 2012. The Chapter made final plans on food and activities for hosting this meeting in July. The evening of fellowship was highlighted with ice

cream and several toppings. Sunday morning members gathered for church service ending a beautiful weekend of fellowship and beautiful weather for the camping weekend.

Several members are planning to attend the State Samboree in Henry on Aug. 31-Sept. 5th.

Prairie Ramblers

Robin McNamara

The Prairie Ramblers is now a group of 10 units with the prospect of adding another unit to our fold. Unfortunately, in the last year, we have lost 2 of our members, Ken "Tiny" Dennison and Joyce Kadow. We miss them both.

While we are a small, laid back group of campers, we continue to meet on a monthly basis year round. Each of us is actively involved in charitable work in our own community stretching from Algonquin to Des Plaines to Elgin, St. Charles, and Dixon. We do manage to cover a lot of territory.

As a collective group, we have donated to Dogs for the Deaf, Feed My Starving Children and the Northern Illinois Food Bank. We are always on the look out for ways of donating either our time or money.

When camping, we try to find something of interest to experience in the area. Most recently while at Illiniwick on the Mississippi, many participated in a tour of the lock and dam system. At our next campout, we will hold our annual Ice Cream Social, an activity enjoyed by one and all.

Again, we are a small, laid back group of campers, but campers who have forged deep friendships and who truly enjoy spending time with one another. If you would like to join us, whether just for a week-end or as a member, please contact Paul or Robin McNamara at 815-440-1861.

Forest City Sams

Over the winter we did what most groups do – met in various homes for a potluck or went to a restaurant. For some of our members the first campout was March 29-April 1. Spring came early and so did the camping bug! We continue to camp at our “home” campground, Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve near Pecatonica. The camp hosts, Bill and Joann, are GREAT! We have adopted a small area of the park to maintain with plantings and weeding.

One unit in our group decided to go full-time. They wandered towards Texas for the winter and had some interesting adventures getting there (visit Betty’s RV Park in Louisiana). Lots of fun along the way and in Texas we were told. They hurried back, in April, arriving at the campground just as our Saturday potluck was starting. Visited with us before seeing their family. They said they really enjoyed living in their RV. When in the Rockford area they live with their son since they put their home up for sale. Some others went to Texas, Florida and various other places.

In May we spruced up the grounds at The Arc. It serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Last October we spent a day cleaning, weeding, trimming, and raking at The Arc. In May we spent a few hours doing the same. We also purchased a bench for people to sit on in the garden. We plan to install a small brick walking path. After we were done cleaning one of the staff said “I did not know we had a flag pole.” They were not able to use it before we cleaned.

One of our members developed a new website for our chapter
<forestcitysams.weebly.com>.

We continue to enjoy the friendships we have developed through our chapter.

Dutch Oven Cook-Off

At this time we have not yet decided whether to have a Dutch Oven Cook-Off at the Samboree. Check the website for further updates.



Forest City Members busy working at The ARC.



Samboree Items:

NEEDED:
Nominations for:
Bud Guymon Award
Man and Women of the Year Honor
Chapter of the Year Award

No Nomination, No Award or Honor Presented

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL NOMINATIONS

Type or print clearly. Include all information. Be very specific with the reasons. Provide a contact person.

Mail all nominations before August 15, 2012 to: Jim and Judie Frcka, State Director, 616 N Porter St, Elgin IL 60120

Mark on the lower left corner of the envelope, the type of nomination enclosed. These will only be opened by out of state guests.

Nominations accepted at the Samboree anytime before **NOON** Friday, August 31. You may give them to either Jim or Judie.

Do not mail books or pictures, they may be given to Jim or Judie at the Samboree, by noon on Friday. Not arriving by noon, just let us know.

Forms were made available to all chapter presidents at state meetings or mailed. However, it is not necessary to use one of the forms. But please do follow above guidelines.

DO NOT EMAIL A NOMINATION!!

THANK YOU!!

Jim and Judie, State Directors

NEEDED:
Publicity Chairmen
Wagon Master
Patch Packer
See either Jim or Judie

Samboree Open Spots are:
Saturday Breakfast
Serving the Catered Meal: Clean up
Commemorative Patch and Pins
Pet Show: Rig Decorating
Games, ladder ball, golf, Frisbee toss, washer toss,
Crafts, Seminar Liaison, Trash Pick-up
Greeters, Parkers, Hospitality, Taxi drivers, will have
sign up sheets at the Samboree.

October 5, 6, 7 2012
Third State Meeting
Winnebago Fairgrounds
Pecatonica, IL.
Information will be mailed to all presidents and officers about 6 weeks prior to the meeting. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Your attendance is important!!

Plan ahead,
potential dates for 2013 State Meetings
April 26-28
July 19-21
October 4-6
Mark these dates and plan your chapter weekends accordingly.

Please remember events, games, meals, and entertainment planned for the Samboree are for Samboree Residents. Thank You!!!