



Good Sam Messenger



Spring 2003

Newsletter of Tennessee Good Sams

Vol. XIII No. 2

From Our State Director

We hope everyone had a great winter and are enjoying all the beautiful spring weather. It's camping time again. Most of the Chapters have already been on one or two camp outs. Some have had to brave the cold or rain. But, as always we have a really good time when we come together.

We are busy working on the Tennessee "Mardi Gras" Samboree to be held May 16-18, 2003. There is good entertainment planned for Friday and Saturday nights again this year. We will have Chapter Skits on Thursday night. Friday night we will have "The Ascots" from Chattanooga. Saturday night we will have back by popular demand "The Little David Wilkins Band". He brought down the house at the 2002 Fall Samboree. The decorating group is busy making plans. The Parade Chairperson, Sherry Kenny, has put together special plans. She has asked for the help of the Chapters to make this year really great.

Lets all remember that each Chapter is responsible for at least two door prizes valued at a minimum of \$12.50. We will gladly accept more. Favors for "goody bags" are needed by Monday May 12th. The Charity Auction for the Ronald McDonald Houses in Tennessee is always a highlight of Friday afternoon. Don't forget to bring more of those good usable items for this auction. Last year we were able to send more than \$800 to the Ronald McDonald Houses in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. These Houses do a wonderful job of providing a home away from home for patients receiving treatment and for their families.

Carol Day will be conducting the Craft and Handiwork Fair this year. Bring along your best efforts and display them for all to see. Our judges always have a difficult job of determining the winners. Carol will have a place set up to receive and display them. See her by Friday evening.

The yearly Special Good Sam Membership Drive is now over. We are hearing good reports about some of our Chapter efforts to sign up NEW Good Sam members. We will announce the results at the Samboree.

During our Sunday morning worship time, there will be a memorial service for those Tennessee Good Sam members that have passed on since May 2001. We hope you will plan to be a part of this very special time.

The Good Sam National Clean up Day is schedule for May 17-18, 2003. We will not have a Clean up Day at the Samboree. Several Chapters plan clean up days every year. You might want to have a Chapter get together for breakfast or lunch to encourage participation. Good Sam Headquarters will issue a letter of appreciation to each Chapter that participates and returns the completed clean up day survey.

Reminder of future events:

State Committee Meeting - June 28th. Come and Camp with us!
Tennessee Fall Samboree, Lebanon, TN - October 10-12th.
Indiana State Samboree, Lebanon, IN - May 23-26th.
Kentucky State Samboree, Brandenburg, KY - May 30-June 1st.
Great North American RV Rally, Louisville, KY - June 16-19th.
Early bird parking - June 14-15th.

We encourage you to support the surrounding state Samborees. We need as many as possible to attend the Kentucky State Samboree. We would like to bring the rifle and coonskin hat back home to Tennessee. This will be my last chance to bring it back.

See you in Lebanon!
Billy and Juanita Jones

Things to Consider

Life is like an ice cream sundae

Happiness is the fudge.

Kindness is the whipped cream.

Laughter is the sprinkles

But, you are the cherry on top!

Davy Crockett Sams March Newsletter

This generation has produced some of the best risk takers, problem solvers and inventors ever. The past fifty years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all. And you are one of them. Congratulations!

K-Town Sams January Newsletter

Chaplain's Corner

WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

The next time you feel like God can't use you, just remember . . .

NOAH was a drunk....
ABRAHAM was too old...
ISAAC was a daydreamer....
JACOB was a liar...
LEAH was ugly...
JOSEPH was abused...
MOSES had a stuttering problem...
GIDEON was afraid...
SAMPSON had long hair, and was womanizer!
RAHAB was a prostitute!
JEREMIAH and **TIMOTHY** were too young...
DAVID had an affair and was a murderer...
ELIJAH was suicidal...
ISAIAH preached naked...
JONAH ran from God...
NAOMI was a widow...
JOB went bankrupt...
JOHN the Baptist ate bugs...
PETER denied Christ...
The Disciples fell asleep while praying...
MARTHA worried about everything...
MARY MAGDALENE was, well, you know ...
The SAMARITAN WOMAN was divorced
 ...more than once!!
ZACCHEUS was too small...
PAUL was too religious...
TIMOTHY had an ulcer.... AND
LAZARUS WAS DEAD!!!!

. . . *no more excuses now*. God's waiting to use your full potential. Besides, *you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.*

A friend shared this with me several years ago. I thought you might find it interesting.

God Bless.....Ben Neal, State Chaplain

Editor's Chat

WOW! The news from the Chapters indicates that everyone is very busy getting ready for the Tennessee "Mardi Gras" Samboree. We are expecting a GREAT time in Lebanon. We are looking forward to perhaps the best Tennessee Spring Samboree ever. There are so many outstanding activities planned that we are afraid to mention them. We might leave one out. We hope you have come with the greatest of expectations. We know you are going to have a fantastic time meeting friends,

as well as meeting new ones. All those smiling faces really warm our hearts. So give us your biggest and best smile and get a hundred fold returns on your investment.

We have been busy working on more ways for our Tennessee Good Sam members to keep in touch. In addition to the web pages (tngoodsam.com), we have established a group on Yahoo. Unlike the web pages, which are public, the group pages are open to members ONLY. There are a number of features on the group pages that should be helpful to the state staff, Chapter presidents and secretaries, as well as our membership.

The following areas are available to members: messages, chat, files, photos, links, database, polls and members. In the message area, we can put messages that are for the total membership. An example would be a general announcement. The chat is available to those members that are on line. They can chat real-time with other on-line members. The files area will contain files that may be downloaded and used. Some of the files there now are: state staff listing, Chapter presidents list, Samboree registration form and century patch form. The photo area will be used to share photos of the Samborees, as well as Chapter activities. The links area contains Internet links to other web sites of interest. The database area contains three databases at present. It has listings of the state staff, Chapter presidents and the Chapter members. A nice feature of this area is that it will allow members to update their listing as changes occur. This will be a great tool for our Chapter secretaries. The poll area will be used to conduct polls to learn your feelings about questions of relevance to the membership. And lastly, the membership area contains a listing of those members subscribed to the group. An interesting part of this listing is a profile of each member. The profiles will help us learn more about our members.

If you are an Internet user, type the following in your browser: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tngoodsam/> to go directly to the group pages. You must be a group member to log in. If you are not a group member and have a Yahoo logon you can sign in and subscribe to this group. If you do not have a Yahoo logon, click on "Sign Up Now" and complete the form. Then come back to the group page and login. If this is too much trouble, send an email to: baldcamper@att.net. We will then send you a message that will guide you through the process. We look forward to helping you get started. It will be worth the effort!

Your Chapter president will receive updated Tennessee Good Sam membership rosters. We want to thank all the Chapter presidents and secretaries that have furnished information to keep these as current as possible. You can send corrections to baldcamper@att.net or by mail (see the roster for the address). Several of the Chapters have new members. Again, we want to remind the Chapter presidents and secretaries to add your new members to a white Chapter member form and send it to Juanita Jones along with \$1 for state dues. Additionally, send a copy to us to get them added to the database.

We are looking forward to adding many new members this coming year. Several Chapters are working really hard to get new Chapter members signed up. Keep up the great work!

Chapter News

Bluff City Sams

Bluff City Sams began the New Year with 29 members and guest with a January dinner meeting at the Pig N Whistle on Winchester. New President, Jack Sams, announced the 2003 committee roster. He encouraged them to meet at each campout or more often to make plans for their area of responsibility. The Chapter voted to contribute \$300 to the Ronald McDonald house during the Rock 103 radiothon. Jack congratulated the Chapter for contributing \$800, plus pop-tops and monthly staple goods to the Ronald McDonald house during 2002. The Charity Committee is doing an outstanding job of encouraging the Chapter to participate in this effort to help others.

The February meeting was held at Perkins (East Gate). The room was packed. After a great dinner the Chapter got down to business. A special committee presented the design for a 20th Anniversary patch. Fifty patches will be ordered at a cost or \$6.55. Most members present placed orders and paid in advance. Nelson Pilcher, Ways & Means Committee Chairman announced that an auction is to be held at a spring campout to raise money for the Ronald McDonald house. The Chapter voted to sell Pizza Hut fundraiser cards to raise additional money for the Chapter and the Ronald McDonald house.

The first campout of 2003 was at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park in Millington, TN. A special committee was appointed to make plans for the Chapter's participation in the parade at the spring "Mardi Gras" Samboree. Vice President, Jim Mitchell reported on activities by the membership committee to contact Good Sam members in the area who may be interested in joining a Chapter.

Carroll County Sams

The Carroll County Sams held a soup & chili supper in the lovely home of Don & Scarlet Barger. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal of soup, chili and fixings, along with several homemade desserts. We were honored to autograph Scarlet's beautiful tablecloth. Which had numerous names of people who have eaten in their home. Five rigs were represented. Following the meeting, we really enjoyed several games of Bingo and other fun games!

For our February meeting we met at Mallard's Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed the new restaurant. Scarlet decorated our table with a valentine theme. There were cups of candy and in the center of the table was a pint fruit jar filled with heart valentine candy. Everyone enjoyed guessing how many pieces of candy was in the jar. The lucky number was 219 pieces.

The first camp out of the year was held at the Pin Oak RV Park at Natchez Trace State Park. The weather was nice. Sunny and a little windy. We ate at the lodge Friday night. We held our meeting Saturday morning around the campfire. Since St. Patrick's Day is in March, Scarlet passed everyone a green quiz. Don't think anyone got all the answers, but it was fun to try.

Cherokee Trails Sams

Even though it was cold we had 27 turn out for our annual January Soup Supper. WOW, you guys did it again. To start off the evening and to take care of the hunger pains from smelling the great soup and chili. Helen and Conway Huling brought several loaves of bread from the Heartland Grill along with bite size pieces of country ham. The desserts were yummy and even Louella's Mexican corn bread muffins were wonderfully HOT!

The February meeting and Sweetheart dinner was held at Barnhill's Buffet. There was so much food to choose from, we were going around in circles trying to make up our minds as to what to get. Twenty-seven of us were stuffed for the meeting afterwards. During the meeting we discussed plans for the upcoming year.

Our first camp out of the season was at Holiday TRAV-L PARK. The weather turned out to be pretty nice. A little rain, but as you know our by-laws says that it is to rain during our camp outs. We had 6 new families camping with us as a result of our efforts at the RV show. Five joined our Chapter and the other will visit when they are in town. There were twelve member rigs present for a total of 18 rigs.

Cumberland Mountain Sams

Due to so much sickness in the Chapter, we decided we would not meet during January and February. Our March meeting was held at the Cumberland Mountain State Park restaurant. Eleven of us enjoyed a great meal. We discussed activities for the April camp out. Latrica Neal, our President, read a letter from Sherry Kenny about the "Mardi Gras" parade at the Samboree.

Davy Crocket Sams

As always, our January and February breakfast at the Chaparral Restaurant were very good. The little quiches they set out for us before the breakfast were very tasty. Everyone enjoyed the great food and fellowship. Margie Walton reported that she got calls from the Saturn tour guide and the restaurant complimenting her on our "good group"!! We thanked the Waltons for organizing the tour. Those taking the tour will get a Saturn tour patch soon.

Our campout at Point Mallard was an interesting one with the construction going on, the weather and trying to make it back and forth to the lodge, zigging and zagging the mud. Everyone seemed to enjoy the outing in spite of the weather. We had singing and lots of card and game playing.

Fish Fry Sams

The Fish Fry Sams had their January meeting at Outlaw's Restaurant. The winter weather was a challenge for this meeting. We had eleven present. Everyone enjoyed a good meal.

The February meeting was held at Tom's Steak House. We had twenty members and four guests. We had planned on having our

Fish Fry Sams (continued)

meeting at the restaurant, but it was just too noisy. Thank you to Lowell and Joy for inviting us to use their house for our meeting. A thank you note was read from Damascus Road for the 3 boxes of food we collected and donated at Christmas time. We had discussions about the spring Samboree Mardi Gras parade, the Chapter skit for the Samboree and pinwheels for the goody bags.

The March camp out was held at Columbus-Belmont State Park in Kentucky. Thursday night we had a bean supper provided by Bea Raines and Sue Perry. On Friday night we had chili and hot dogs. Saturday night we enjoyed a potluck dinner.

Golden Circle Sams

We had three couples go to Florida and one couple headed to Texas for the winter. We decided not to meet on Saturdays this winter. But we did stay in touch with each other. We are looking forward to everyone returning home and the first camp out at Cherokee Landing. LET THE CARD GAMES BEGIN! The men are working on a chair for the Samboree.

Golden Squares Retires Sams

The Golden Squares Retiree Chapter held its winter meetings at local restaurants. At the February meeting, George and Lucille Puckett were crowned Valentine king and queen. The chapter's first campout was in April at Wall Doxy State Park. They played the usual card and domino games and beanbag baseball. They have a new beanbag game to play. Thursday night was the usual potluck and on Friday everyone went to a catfish restaurant. In May the group went to Natchez Trace State Park. They gathered in the park's laundry room during a thunderstorm. This was over in time for the members to have a fish fry at the park pavilion. The early arrivals went out to eat on Wednesday, but they decided to have a potluck meal together on Friday. At the business meeting the group finalized their plans for participation in the Samboree. Five rigs had pre-registered.

K-Town Sams

The January K-Town Chapter meeting was held at the Golden Corral Steak House on Clinton Highway. We had 54 smiling faces in attendance. It was sure good to see everyone. A lot of "how are you doing?" and "where have you been?" was talked about. Everyone made several trips back to the food bar for seconds and sometimes even thirds!

We are working on several projects for the Spring Samboree. In the forefront are Mardi Gras decorations. Sherry Kenny is heading up that committee. Sherry is also working on the skit for Thursday evening. Bill Hines is working on the Chinese Auction, Carol Day is working on the Arts and Crafts show and Johnny Branum is working on the Bean Bag Baseball game.

Our Angel Tree toys for kids drive went really well. The \$400 K-Town members contributed bought toys for 19 kids. Thanks K-Town members!

We had a good turnout of 47 members and 5 guests at Ryan's Steakhouse for our February meeting. Plans are well underway for the Spring Samboree.

K-Town Sams (continued)

The Polar Bears held their last campout of the year at Volunteer Family Park in February. A total of 4 rigs camped out and 17 people came for dinner at the Golden Girls Restaurant. After dinner, we retired to the campground office to play....you guessed it! Dominoes!!! What else??

Middle TN Travelers Sams

Middle Tennessee Travelers met in January at Gail and Bruce Guenther's home. Thank you very much guys! We had a wonderful time and lot of good food....more than we needed. We had ten members present along with two new members and two visitors. Our Chapter vests are made. We voted to set the limit on Charter members at 12 couples and to set a cap on our membership at 25 couples. It was decided that we would have church services at each camp out. If a church service is not offered at the campground Chapter president, Eddie Kerr will arrange for one to be conducted for our chapter.

The Middle Tennessee Travelers met at Davy Crockett State Park for our March Camp out. Our meeting began at 11:00 Saturday morning after a wonderful breakfast cooked for us by the guys. It was a very COOL morning at the shelter. But, we had a wonderful meal and fellowship. We had four rigs present.

Gail Guenther checked into the Adopt-A-Hwy program. They will put up a sign with our name on it and furnish bags. We need to give them three highways to pick up from and pick up trash four times a year. Everyone will give suggested highways to Gail.

Mid-Ten Sams

January's meeting was a dinner at Ryan's Restaurant in Murfreesboro. Attendance was low due to the snowbirds that have gone south and the Titans playoff game. However, those of us resisted the urge to park in front of the tube had a great time. It was very difficult to get updates on the score and time remaining. We even resorted to calling the electronics department at Target for updates. There were nine member rigs represented.

Our February meeting was held at the Sunset Restaurant in Lebanon. The nice weather and popularity of Granny Fishes restaurant brought us out of hibernation for our March meeting. There were sixteen rigs represented and three visitors for a total of thirty-six hungry mouths to feed.

Music City Sams

The Music City Sams met at Ryan's Restaurant in Donelson for our January meeting. We had 23 members present, 2 honorary and 3 visitors. Everyone enjoyed the good food and fellowship.

The February meeting was held at Piccadilly Restaurant in Madison. We had 23 members, 2 honorary members and 3 visitors present. Two of the visitors are prospective members for our Chapter. Everyone enjoyed his or her meal and fellowship.

On February 14th, the Gilliams and Jennings joined five other couples for a valentine party and celebration of their 50 and 50+ wedding anniversaries at the Old Country Buffet.

Music City Sams (continued)

For our March meeting, we gathered at the Old Country Buffet in Goodlettsville. We had 22 members and 2 visitors there. Everyone enjoyed their food and especially the fellowship.

Ole Smoky Sams

We enjoyed great meetings in January and February. Our January meeting was held at the Mandarin House West. Our February meeting was a brunch at the Golden Corral.

Our March campout was held at the Best Holiday TRAV-L-PARK in Chattanooga. We made plans for the Tennessee Spring "Mardi Gras" Samboree. Several of us visited some of the many attractions around the Chattanooga area.

River M Sams

Is the glass half full or half empty or just twice as large as needed. We all have memories of the past year. We either remember fondly or would prefer to forget. This entices up to look forward to the New Year realizing that not everything is perfect.

Just as the swallows return to Capistrano, or the buzzards to Ohio, The River M Sams return to the Tom Sawyer Campground for the spring kick off to the 2003 camping season. Anticipated relief from the grip of winter is sufficient incentive, but other attractions beckon. The fascination of the barges and towboats on the river is hard to resist. We always look forward to continuing fellowship with each other – including playing games.

Our winter meeting proceeded quietly with minimum of discussion. The highlight of the occasions was the addition of new members Clyne and Norma Sparks. We recognized Ray and Nancy Davis's 50th anniversary at our February meeting. They were completely surprised. Betty Settles organized and executed this effort.

Scenic City Sams

Scenic City Sams had a good turnout for the Soup Supper for their January meeting. Buster and Sarah Smith again graciously invited us into their "banquet hall" and we want to thank them for having us. We had soup in abundance and some people managed to sample it all. The desserts were also wonderful. Our Chapter is blessed to have so many good cooks.

A Year of Time

Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomforting, it is not a bad idea.....especially at the beginning of a new year.

AS we look into 2003, we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds, and it all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchase it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life. The gift of time is ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak....every man, woman and child has the same 24 hours in every day.

Scenic City Sams (continued)

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no slow down, turn it off or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, Time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves, or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The New Year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

We had a very good turnout for the Valentine Dinner at the Fisherman's Quarters Restaurant. The only thing about it was the small food servings. Just kidding...Everyone was flabbergasted at the amount of food we were served. When Buster Smith gets a plate of shrimp and can't finish it, you know the portions were huge. During our meeting, we discussed the upcoming Tennessee Samboree. We will be recognized for our 25th Anniversary.

We camped at the Chest Frost State Park in March. We had seven rigs there and it turned out to be a beautiful weekend. Everything was blooming and the pollen really got to several of us. Nancy and Charlie Foust celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary on Thursday the week of the camp out. Those of us that were camping early helped them celebrate with dinner at Captain D's. It doesn't sound very fancy, but we did have fun. Congratulations guys and we hope you have at least 38 more.

West Tennessee Traveling Sams

All in attendance had a good time at Joe and Pauline Belew's for our February meeting. It was good to have visitors joining us.

Camping season is finally here! Our first camp out was held at Natchez Trace State Park in March.

If you really want the last word, try apologizing.

*Before we question God because of the ways of the world,
first let's question the ways of the world*

Carroll County Sams Newsletters

Remember.....save aluminum pop-top tabs for the Ronald Houses. Bring them to the Samboree!