



Good Sam Messenger



Summer 2003

Newsletter of Tennessee Good Sams

Vol. XIII No. 3

From Our State Director

As we come to the conclusion of our eight years as State Director, we wish to thank our faithful supporters, our hard working staff, volunteers and chapter members. Your support and participation has contributed to the 16 successful Samborees we have hosted.

Our travels representing Good Sam, have allowed us to meet many new people and to continue enjoying these friendships.

We wish our successors the best and look forward to seeing each of you in the future. Our love to you all

Billy & Juanita

On the Lighter Side

A couple from Minneapolis decided to go to Florida for a long weekend to thaw out during one particular icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years before. Because they both had jobs, they found it difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So it was decided that the husband would fly to Florida on Thursday and his wife would follow him the next day.

Upon arriving as planned, the husband checked into the hotel. In his room there was a computer, so he decided to send his wife an email back in Minneapolis. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her address and sent the email without realizing his error.

In Houston, a widow had just returned from her husband's funeral. The dearly departed was a minister who had been called home to glory following a heart attack. The widow checked her e-mail expecting messages from relatives and friends. Upon reading the first message she fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor and saw the computer screen which read:

To My Loving Wife

Subject: I've arrived

You're probably surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and checked in. I see that everything has been arranged for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is hot down here!

About Aging...

(From K-Town Sams Newsletters)

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me. I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't even paved.

Senior Thoughts...

I was thinking about one of the status symbols of today—those pagers that everyone has clipped on. I can't afford one, so I'm wearing my garage door opener on my belt.

More things my mom taught me...

- 1) My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
- 2) My mother taught me to APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
- 3) My mother taught me about RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
- 4) My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week."
- 5) My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Recipe for "A Happy Marriage"(Scenic City Sams Newsletter)

Take two happy people and separate them from their parents. Add the following ingredients in generous proportions.

- Love
- Acceptance
- Respect
- Communication
- Patience
- Kindness
- Gentleness
- Self-control
- Commitment
- Faith
- Hope
- Truth

Mix together, then thoroughly sift in daily life. Strain out jealousy, arrogance, selfishness, provocation and accounting of wrongs. Bake in the trials and tribulations of life for 50 years, then celebrate when "golden".

Chaplain's Corner

The teacher asked her students what they thought were the Seven Wonders of the World. Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes: 1. Egypt's Great Pyramids 2. Taj Mahal 3. Grand Canyon 4. Panama Canal 5. Empire State Building 6. St. Peter's Basilica 7. China's Great Wall. While gathering the lists, the teacher noted that one student, who had not joined in the discussions, had not turned in her paper. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read her list. I think the Seven Wonders of the World are: 1. to see 2. to hear 3. to touch 4. to taste 5. to feel 6. to laugh 7. and to love. The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple, ordinary and take for granted are truly wondrous! A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be bought. Think about it and enjoy these seven wonders. God bless

Ben Neal, Chaplain

Editor's Chat

As we sit here working on this newsletter we are reminded that our lives are full of endless opportunities to enjoy life. Good Sam Chapter members have a wonderfully unique surrounding. We have an extended family of friends that enjoy spending time in the great outdoors. Our camping friends that become our extended family are always there when we are in need. Sure, we enjoy the fun, fellowship, food, games and good times at our campouts and meetings. However, isn't it so reassuring to know that our Chapter members are there for us ALL the time? Give a Chapter member a call today and let them know that you are there for them!

As Betty and I begin to look at the opportunities for Tennessee Good Sam in 2004, we feel that the most important task we have is to be in communication with the Chapters and the membership. Perhaps you have heard the saying: *communicate, communicate, and communicate*. We will endeavor to do just that. However, to be effective, there must be two-way communications. So, let us hear from you! We want to hear your ideas, thoughts and critiques. And make it often.

We began setting up some of these communication channels earlier this year. First, the Tennessee Good Sam web pages were set up at: (<http://www.tngoodsam.com>). These web pages are openly available to anyone on the Internet as a public look at Tennessee Good Sam. Second, the Tennessee Good Sam group pages were set up to give our membership a more secure place to share information about our organization. To access this information, you must be registered and meet the requirements of group membership. Check it out at the following link: (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tngoodsam>).

The Good Sam Pledge

- **I will stop and give aid to fellow Good Sam members where safety and traffic conditions permit. I will NOT attempt to stop and give aid on turnpikes, freeways or expressways, but instead will give three short blast on my horn to indicate that I am reporting the breakdown to the nearest highway patrol, toll gate or police department.**
- **If I am broken down on the expressway, I will raise the hood of my vehicle to indicate I am in need of assistance and stay with the vehicle until help arrives.**
- **I will keep my recreational vehicle in safe condition at all times and give special attention to brakes, tires and running lights.**
- **I will drive within the law and with consideration for others.**
- **I will watch following traffic on upgrades and pull off the road as soon as possible whenever I am causing a slowdown.**
- **I agree to observe, and cause to be observed, all posted rules and regulations for the betterment of the enjoyment of outdoor recreational facilities.**
- **I will leave my campsite in BETTER condition that I found it.**

I will try to wear a smile (like Good Sam's) and promote the objectives of the Good Sam Club wherever I meet other RV owners.

The Good Sam Pledge provides us with a great set of guidelines to be used as we travel this great country. Clip it out and post it in a visible place in your tow vehicle or motor home. Make it available to others as you tell them about the Good Sam Club or your Chapter. If you would like a larger copy, go to the Tennessee Good Sam web pages. Click on the Chapters page and look for the pledge link at the bottom of the page. When the page is displayed, print as many copies as needed.

We want to thank all the Chapter presidents and secretaries that furnish information to keep the Tennessee Good Sam roster as current as possible. You can send all corrections to baldcamper@att.net or by mail (see the roster for the address). Several of the Chapters have added 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!

Bluff City Sams

Bluff City Sams camped at Natchez Trace Pin Oak Campground the third weekend of April. They had six rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. Grand Casino Resort in Tunica, Mississippi was the site for the June campout. For the July Campout, they traveled to John P. Kyle State Park at Sardis, Mississippi. The August campout was held at Best Holiday Travel Park in Marion, Arkansas.

The Bluff City Chapter sold Pizza Hut discount cards during the spring to raise money for their treasury and the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis. An auction was held at the April campout they raised \$103.50 for the House. They have contributed \$703.50 in cash, so far this year. Their goal is to give \$1000 to the house in 2003. They collect staple goods at their monthly campouts and deliver them to the Ronald McDonald House.

Carroll County Sams

Carroll County Sams camped at the Columbus Belmont State Park in Kentucky the first weekend of April. They had five rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. The Natchez Trace Pin Oak Campground was the site of the June campout. For the July campout, they traveled to the Kentucky Dam Village State Park. The August campout was held at the Montgomery Bell State Park at Dickson, Tennessee.

Thought of the Day from the July newsletter:

An optimist sees opportunity in every calamity. A pessimist sees a calamity in every opportunity.....anonymous

Cherokee Trails Sams

Cherokee Trails Sams camped at the River Country Campground in Gadsden, Alabama the second weekend of April. They had nine rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. The Roam and Roast Campground in Crossville, Tennessee was the site of the June campout. For the July campout, they traveled to David Crocket State Park in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. The August campout was held at the Lookout Valley RV Park in Chattanooga.

At the April campout, Cherokee Trails invited all the member grand kids to join them for the weekend. They provided special activities and games for all the grand kids.

Cumberland Mountain Sams

Cumberland Mountain Sams camped at the Bean Pot Campground in Crossville the third weekend in April. They had five rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. The Chester Frost State Park in Hixion, Tennessee was the site of the June campout. For the July campout, they traveled to the Bean Pot Campground in Crossville, Tennessee. The August campout was held at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Davy Crocket Sams

Davy Crocket Sams camped at Montgomery Bell State Park near Dickson, Tennessee the second weekend in April. They had twelve rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. The Natchez Trace Pin Oak Campground was the site of the June campout. For the July campout, they traveled to the Piney Grove Campground near Boonville, Mississippi. The August campout was held at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Senior Citizen Serenity Prayer

(From the June newsletter)

God grant me the serenity

To forget the people I never liked anyway.

The good fortune to run into the ones that I do like

And the eyesight to tell the difference.

Helpful Hint: Uses for Mr. Coffee filters

(from the August newsletter)

- Separate your good dishes by putting a Mr. Coffee filter between each dish.
- If you break the cork while opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a Mr. Coffee filter.
- Mr. Coffee filters are lint free. So, they'll leave mirrors clean and sparkling.
- Mr. Coffee filters make excellent inexpensive covers for microwave cooking.
- Place a Mr. Coffee filter in your iron skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.
- Ball up a Mr. Coffee filter to apply shoe polish. They are lint free.
- After frying, strain the oil through a sieve lined with a Mr. Coffee filter.
- Mr. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods like tacos.
- Line a plant pot with a Mr. Coffee filter to prevent the soil from leaking through the drainage holes.
- Poke one or two holes as needed in a Mr. Coffee filter. Insert a Popsicle and let the filter catch the drips, instead of clothing.

Fish Fry Sams

Fish Fry Sams camped at the Piney Campgrounds the third weekend of April. This is their annual fish fry campout. The Chapter decided to donate the \$380.00 raised at the Spring Samboree to the Ronald McDonald house. Many favorable comments were received about the skit performed by the Chapter on Thursday evening at the Samboree. Reelfoot Lake was the site for the June campout. For the July campout, they traveled to Montgomery Bell State Park near Dickson, Tennessee. The August campout was held at the Kentucky Dam Village State Park.

Golden Circle Sams

The Golden Circle Sams camped at Cherokee Landing Resort the second week in April. They had three rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. The Chapter raffled a chair made by the men at the April campout. They raised \$230.00 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. The TVA Campground at Picwick was the site for the June campout. For the July campout, they traveled to the Columbus Belmont State Park in Kentucky. The August campout was held at Reelfoot Lake.

Golden Squares Retires Sams

The Chapter's first campout was in April at Wall Doxy State Park near Holly Springs, Mississippi. They played the usual card and domino games along with domino games and beanbag baseball. They had a new beanbag game to play. Thursday night was the usual potluck dinner 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 Spring Samboree. Five Rigs had pre-registered.

K-Town Sams

K-Town Sam camped at the Holly Haven Campground in Pigeon Forge the second weekend in April. At the business meeting, the Chapter received a \$150.00 check from The Good Sam Club for the new members signed up at the RV Show in January. They had twenty-eight rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. They took home the "High Attendance" banner for 2003. The Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky was the site of the June campout. For the July campout, they traveled to the Bean Pot Campground in Crossville, Tennessee. The August campout was held at the Ripplin' Waters Campground in Sevierville, Tennessee.

K-Town Sams presented a \$1,000.00 check to Sue Beverly, Director of the Ronald McDonald House of Knoxville. They also received a \$50 check from The Good Sam Club for the largest Chapter membership increase in Tennessee.

Middle TN Travelers Sams

The Middle Tennessee Travelers Sams held their June campout at the Cedar Creek State Park. The continued their discussions on the Adopt-A-Highway project. They agreed to clean the section of Highways 7 and the 412 by pass between Highway 50 and Industrial Park Road Highway 50E from Tom Hitch Parkway toward Lewisburg.

Mid-Ten Sams

Mid-Ten Sams camped at the Barren River State Park the second weekend of April. They camped at Defeated Creek State Park near Carthage, Tennessee and had Twenty-two rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. The Chapter was awarded the "Highest Percentage" of members attending the Samboree. The Cedar Creek State Park was the site of the June campout. For

Mid-Ten Sams - continued

the July campout, they traveled to Joe Wheeler State Park near Decatur, Alabama. The August campout was held at the Seven Points Campground.

The Chapter voted to send the proceeds from their Samboree flea market to the Ronald McDonald House.

Mid-Ten Sams celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary at the Spring Samboree with a reception during the ice cream social by serving all attendee with cake. Billy and Juanita Jones, State Director, recognized all Chapter members in attendance during the Friday evening session.

Music City Sams

The Music City Sams attended the Mardi Gras Samboree in May at Lebanon, Tennessee. They had sixteen rigs in attendance. It was a most memorable Samboree. We almost felt like we were at a genuine Mardi Gras with all the colorful costumes, masks, beads and candy flying everywhere. We participated in the Parade, rain and all!! We sponsor the Ronald McDonald House in Nashville as our service project. The Gleaves got a country ham donated to us and we sold raffle tickets at the Samboree. We cleared \$178.00 on the ham sale. Rae Smith donated \$50.00 he made selling some Mardi Gras beads. Barbara Gilliam donated \$24.00 she made selling a few decorated mask to those who didn't have one. Giving us a total of \$252.00 to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. We had very good participation with our members working very hard on this project.

In June, we camped at Defeated Creek State Park near Carthage, Tennessee. We had 12 rigs attending. Our hosts were the Anthonys and the Isom Longs. We had card bingo on Thursday and a potluck dinner on Friday. After the Chapter meeting, we went into Carthage to OJ's Restaurant Saturday afternoon. A few strayed in town and did a little shopping. Then we journeyed back to the campground and enjoyed good fellowship and just relaxing.

In July, we camped at Dale Hollow Campground in Celina, Tennessee. We had 12 rigs attending. Our hosts were the Frys and the Larkins. Even though we were chased in a few times because of thunderstorms, we accomplished a few things. Thursday, we had a spur of the moment breakfast cookout. Friday, the Ladies made a day of doing crafts, which consisted of making iris out of ladies knee highs. We had a spur of the moment potluck lunch. That evening our hosts cooked up a delicious hobo stew that was very tasty. We had deserts made by the members. Saturday, we had out meeting and then caravanned into town to eat at the Crow's Nest Restaurant. We returned to the campground, sat around and had karaoke later that evening.

Ole Smoky Sams

The Ole Smoky Sams camped at the Big Meadow Family Campground near Townsend, Tennessee the fourth weekend of April. They had six rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. The Renfro Valley RV Park, Renfro Valley, Kentucky was the site of the June campout. For the July campout, they traveled to the Happy Holiday RV Park in Cherokee, North Carolina. The

Ole Smoky Sams - continued

August campout was held at the Holly Haven Campground in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

River M Sams

The River M Sams camped at the George P. Cossar State Park, Mississippi the second weekend of April. They had six rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. Natchez Trace Pin Oak Campground was the site for the June campout. For the July campout, we traveled to the Best Holiday Travel Park in Marion, Arkansas. The August campout was held at Trace State Park, Mississippi. This is the park that the Mississippi Chapters contributed the labor to build a very nice meeting room. See the article in the September issue of Highways Magazine.

Scenic City Sams

Scenic City Sams camped at the Joe Wheeler State Park near Decatur, Alabama the third weekend of April. They had seven rigs attend the Spring Samboree in May. The Chapter celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary at the Samboree. Billy and Juanita Jones, State Director, recognized all Chapter members in attendance during the Friday evening session. The Little Mountain Marina on Guntersville Lake, Alabama was the site of the June campout. For the July campout, we traveled to the Leisure Acres Campground in Cleveland, Georgia. The August campout was held at the Ripplin' Waters Campground Sevierville, Tennessee.

West Tennessee Traveling Sams

West Tennessee Traveling Sams camped at the Joe Wheeler State Park near the fourth weekend of April. The campout was moved to the fourth weekend because of Easter. They had four rigs attending the Spring Samboree in May. The Blue Bluff Campground in Aberdeen, Mississippi was the site of the June campout. For the July campout, we traveled to Montgomery Bell State Park near Dickson, Tennessee.

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"Its never to late to have a
happy childhood."

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