



Good Sam Messenger



Spring 2004

Newsletter of Tennessee Good Sams

Vol. IX No. 1

Tennessee Good Sam Web Site: <http://www.tngoodsam.com>

From Our State Director

Wow! Here we are at the Tennessee **“Going To The Circus”** Samboree. Time is really zooming by. We have been busy working to make the Samboree a huge success, as well as visiting with Tennessee Chapters and other State Samborees. The State Staff has been just as busy visiting with Chapters, doing mail-outs to Good Sam Club members in areas where we need a Chapter presence, as well as contacting members in the major Tennessee metro areas inviting them to join a Chapter at a campout. We are really excited about the prospects for new Chapters and Chapter members. The East Tennessee Chapters are working hard on the **“Fall Hoedown”** Samboree at Camp Jordan.

Betty and I have visited with several Chapters and your response has been wonderful. We are looking forward to camping with as many Chapters as we can this year. Every Chapter visited has given us a very warm welcome. It is great to see you enjoying the great outdoors. It is interesting to hear about your charity efforts, plans for the Samborees and the interaction of you Chapter members. We are a diverse group with a common interest in enjoying the RV lifestyle to its fullest.

The regional Assistant State Directors have made mail-outs to the Northeast, Northwest and Clarksville areas of Tennessee. The responses have been mixed. However, we are not going to become discouraged. Jane and Doug Overton met with the Memphis Area Chapter presidents and they are busy working with their Chapters to contact every Good Sam Club member in the Memphis area by the Fall Samboree. Sherry Kenney met with a group in Northeast Tennessee about starting a new Chapter. We are expecting more exciting reports of activity around the state to start new Chapters and build the membership of the existing Chapters. Check with your Chapter president to find out how you can get involved! We have 13,888 Good Sam Club members in Tennessee that need to hear

about our Chapters.

We are in the final hours of the Tennessee **“Going To The Circus”** Spring Samboree. We do hope you have enjoyed the fun and fellowship. We have endeavored to make it a great time for all in attendance. With many activities planned. We know that it is sometimes hard to become involved in all of them. We have tried to plan something for everyone.

If you have had a good time, let those back home know how much fun you had. If you have a suggestion, be sure to tell Betty and I, and we will certainly listen to your suggestions for improvement. Send us a note or e-mail us. Change is GOOD!

The East Tennessee Chapters are busy making plans for the 2004 Tennessee **“Fall Hoedown”** Samboree in East Ridge (Chattanooga Area), Tennessee, October 1st through the 3rd. They have already contacted RV dealers and vendors, and both are beginning to get registered. We will have some really good entertainment (Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening). So, dust off the old boots and felt brim hat or bonnet. Get those jeans or the fancy dress pressed. We are looking forward to an exciting time with all our Tennessee Chapter members, together with Good Samers from other states. Camp Jordan is a great facility for a Samboree. Ask your Chapter President for a registration form. Get it in early. We are limited to 300 campsites. We are expecting this Samboree to sell out. See YOU there!

Terry Minger
State Director

Good Sam Club Creates Nationwide Safety Program

There will be a supply of the RV Safety handbooks available at the Spring Samboree.

State Directors and Loving it in Tennessee

(Reprinted from March/April Issue *Golden Circle Journal*)

Fortunately for the Good Sam Club, Terry and Betty Minger had friends that introduced them to the RV lifestyle more than 30 years ago. It's been a match that has served the couple and the Club very well.

"We began RVing around 1973 with friends from Richmond," says Terry. "We would join them in their fifth-wheel. In 1976, we bought a 25-foot travel trailer and a van to pull it with."

That's about the same time they joined the Good Sam Club. The young couple---now married nearly 40 years---and their two children made a lot of memories and put a lot of miles on that combination. The memories were so good that the Minger's adult daughter still goes camping with them.

In 1991, their sense of adventure led them to their first state Samboree in Jones, Arkansas.

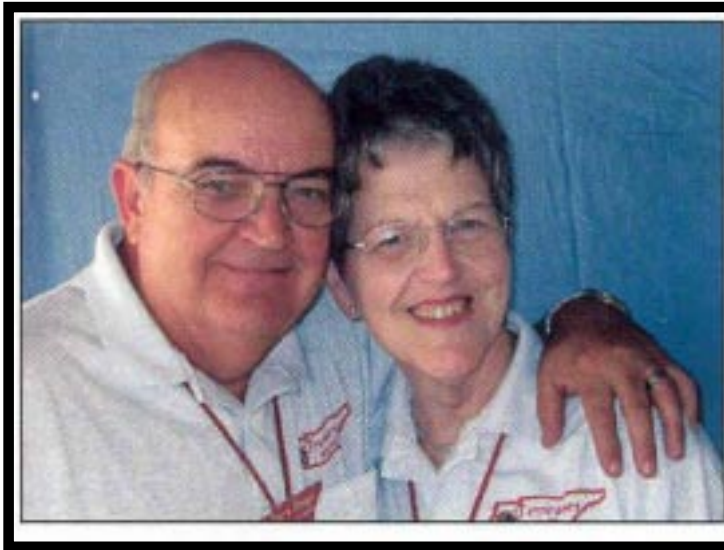
"We immediately enjoyed it," says Terry. "We liked the same things that everyone likes about Samborees: the fun and the games. Campers are easy to meet and greet."

Once introduced to Samborees and the fun of belonging to a Good Sam chapter, Terry and Betty decided to find one to join.

"The president of the Bluff City Sams of Memphis contacted me and we visited him in November of 1991," says Terry. "After meeting their membership requirements, we joined them."

The Tennessee Good Sam organization knew a

good thing when they saw it and invited the couple to get more involved.



"In 1999, we were asked to join the state staff working with the newsletter and publicity," says Terry, a retired project manager who was more than organized enough to handle the job. When the then-State Director Billy Jones decided to step down, Terry was elected to replace him and took over as Tennessee State Director in January — and doesn't regret his title change.

"I enjoy meeting the people and communicating with the people," he says. "I enjoy meeting the members and their diversity of backgrounds."

He'll soon get to meet a lot of people as he and Betty plan their first state Samboree in Lebanon from May 14-16. They're having fun with it and have planned a circus theme.

On a national level, the Mingers attended their first Great North American RV Rally last June in Louisville, Kentucky, and made an important purchase.

"We travel in a 38-foot Holiday Rambler Scepter that we bought at the Kentucky Rally," he says.

Terry's only regret is one of time.

"We camp a couple times a month from March to November — not nearly enough," he says.

If you'd like to attend the Tennessee State Samboree, e-mail the Mingers at director@tngoodsam.com.

Assistant State Directors

East Tennessee

Sherry Kenny

Hope everyone has got off to a great camping season. I certainly have. With the help of several chapter and state staff members I have been working hard to start a new chapter in the Tri-city area. I mailed some 300 letters, and based on the responses, I held a meeting at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Johnson City. As a result of that meeting we are now planning a camp out with these individuals.

We feel confident a new chapter will be formed in the near future. I want to send a special thanks to everyone who has helped me make this happen. We have also been working on the fall Samboree. If I can be of any assistance to any chapter in East Tennessee please e-mail me at asd-east@tngoodsam.com

Thanks and Happy Camping

Middle Tennessee

Jerry and Lila Cowell

The Cumberland Mountain Sams held their February meeting at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Cookville with ten couples in attendance. The March meeting was held at the Cumberland Mountain State Park restaurant in Crossville, Tennessee, and there were 22 members present. Twenty-five members attended the first campout of the season at the Bean Pot Campground on April 13-15. This Chapter is off to a great start with their attendance for the camping year 2004 and we are looking forward to a big turnout at the Tennessee Spring Samboree in Lebanon.

The Mid-Ten Sams held their March 13th meeting at the Sunset Restaurant with 24 members and visitors present. Mid-Ten Sams first campout of the season was held at the Cumberland Mountain State Park on April 2nd through the 4th. They too, are planning a large turnout at the Spring Samboree.

The Davy Crockett Sams held their campout of the 2004 season at Point Mallard, Alabama. There were 20 members and guests at the campout. The April campout was held at Pickwick on April 13-18. I am happy to announce that the Davy Crockett Sams donated \$200.00 to the Ronald McDonald House,

and, in addition, one member donated 10 pounds of pop tops to the Ronald McDonald House. I am sure that the residents will certainly appreciate those pop tops.

I have not meant to neglect other Middle Tennessee Chapters in this report, however there was a death in the family and I simply did not have the time to contact those missing Chapters. Please accept my apologies.

West Tennessee

Doug and Jane Overton

We are excited in West Tennessee. Every Chapter is working very hard. They have many contacts for new members and are working diligently. The Chapter campouts are better than ever. Jane and I are camping with each of the eight Chapters in West Tennessee. Each of these Chapters have made us feel so welcome! The friendship that these people have shared with us is absolutely overwhelming. Every person who loves camping and owns an RV deserves to be made aware of these fine Good Sam people in Tennessee, and be offered the opportunity to become a part of this life!

Bluff City Sams had a wonderful article in Highways Magazine last month and we are sure Fish Fry Sams will have June pictures in the magazine of its members involved in the "Mentor A Child" program.

Jane and I have also had many good comments about going to Camp Jordan in Chattanooga for the Fall Samboree. The excitement is building, so get those applications in early, as space is limited.

Thanks to All

A big round of applause and a standing ovation should go to all those who are making the 2004 Tennessee Spring Samboree a huge success. Many persons, from State Director Terry Minger right on through individuals at the Chapter level, have devoted numerous hours unselfishly in preparation for this Samboree.

It is expected that this Samboree will be a tremendous success and the reason for its success is directly attributed to these tireless and dedicated workers. We welcome you to the 2004 Tennessee Spring Samboree, if you see one of the workers performing a task, great or small, say "Thanks, you are appreciated!"

Chaplain's Corner

A SPARE TIRE OR A ROADMAP

Gloria Pitzer quips, "In parts of the world, people still pray in the streets. In this country they're called pedestrians."

The late theologian and educator Henri J. Nouwen said about prayer, "As we are involved in unceasing thinking, so we are called to unceasing prayer."

For some people, prayer is like a spare tire. They keep it in the trunk of their automobile and don't think about it most of the time. But it's there if they need it. When they have a flat tire they open the trunk and rely on the spare to get them through the emergency. Like the soldier in a foxhole: bombs were bursting all around and he prayed, "Lord, I haven't bothered you in twenty years. Get me out of this alive and I promise not to bother you for another twenty!" Prayer is far from unceasing for him; it is more like a spare tire.

For other people, prayer is a road map. Not discreetly tucked away in small compartment and rarely used. Instead, it is spread out on the car seat next to the driver and consulted regularly. They understand that the road map is essential if they are to head the right direction and stay on the correct path. It is there to guide their lives and must be used at all times.

People of many faiths practice prayer or meditation along life's journey. Let it become a frequently used road map rather than a spare tire and you'll find you end up where you need to be.

May you always use your roadmap and never need your spare tire.

Ben C. Neal, Chaplain

It is impossible to defeat an ignorant man in an argument.

William Gibbs McAdoo

Editor's Chat

Editor's Chat

As we go to press we have received copies of newsletters from only ten of the 18 Chapters! This represents slightly over 50 percent of the Tennessee Good Sam Chapters. We beg and urgently beseech ALL Chapter editors to ensure that we receive copies all the Chapter's newsletters. Please send the newsletters to: Boots and John Hoover, 5320 E. Sunset Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 37914-4304. If you prefer, send it via e-mail to publicity@tngoodsam.com, or boohoo@ntown.net. We need your newsletters to make the *Good Sam Messenger* truly representative of all Tennessee Good Sam Chapters. We also would like for the Chapter Editors to send us their e-mail addresses.

In addition to sending us your newsletters, if you have a special article that you would like to have published in the *Good Sam Messenger*, or perhaps a photograph, please send it to us and we will place it in the next issue. We only ask that such articles or photographs relate to your Chapter, the Good Sam Club or RVing in general, and be original—no copyrighted material. We will even publish a "letter to the editor," if you so desire. We want to hear from you, both as a Chapter and as an individual Good Sam member.

We would also like to know what you would like to see in the *Good Sam Messenger* to make it a better newsletter. If you have any ideas, please let us know: via e-mail, letter or in person.

It would be very helpful if the location of the city in which your campouts and/or restaurant meetings is held is noted in your newsletter article. Most of the locations are familiar, but some are not so common. This helps us identify just how widespread the Tennessee Good Samers are camping and meeting.

ASD Johnson City Visit

John and I were lucky enough to be able to accompany Sherry Kenney, ASD for East Tennessee, on a trip to Johnson City for the purpose of hopefully forming a new Good Sam Chapter in East Tennessee. Several members of the Tennessee Staff, members from the Ole Smoky Sams Chapter and the K-Town Sams

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Editor

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Chapter converged on the Golden Corral in Johnson City to meet with promising prospective Good Samers from the East Tennessee/Johnson City area.

Along with the good food there was a good exchange of conversation, with the current Good Samers explaining the many benefits of becoming a member of a Good Sam Chapter. We all departed the meeting with the belief that this would come to fruition and that a new Good Sam Chapter would be formed.

Our congratulations to Sherry Kenny for her efforts in arranging and conducting an excellent meeting. As we say in East Tennessee, "You done good, Sherry!"

Chapter News

(Editor's Note: We did not receive newsletters from quite a few of the Chapters. If we did not receive newsletters from your Chapter, only your Chapter logo appears below. Please refer to Editor's Chat for more information.)

Golden Circle Sams



Ole Smoky Sams

The Ole Smoky Sams attended a brunch at the Knoxville Golden Corral for their February meeting. The Chapter enjoyed a delicious brunch and interesting meeting which was attended by Assistant State Director for East Tennessee, Sherry Kenny.

The Chapter held their first campout of the 2004 season at the Best Holiday Trav-L Park in Chattanooga. There were 32 members and guests attending the campout in the "Scenic City." The weather was great and the food was even better. The bylaws committee held its first meeting to discuss possible changes to the Chapter bylaws. The Chapter voted to spend \$20 for supplies for a fund raising event for the Ronald McDonald House at the Tennessee Spring Samboree. In an endeavor to entice the guests to join the Ole

Smoky Sams, President Pete Leitnaker explained the many national and local benefits of joining our Good Sam Chapter.

The Chapter held their April 2004 campout on April 23-24, at the **Big Meadow Family Campground**, Townsend, Tennessee. The April campout was held during the Townsend Spring Heritage and Old Timers Festival.

Cumberland Mountain Sams

The Cumberland Mountain Sams held their February meeting at the Golden Corral in Cookville. Ten couples attended and enjoyed the lunch/dinner meeting.

The Chapter held their March 19th meeting at the Cumberland Mountain State Park Restaurant. Twenty-two members and guests attended the meeting.

On April 13-15 the Chapter journeyed to the very popular Bean Pot Campground in Crossville for their first campout of the season. Twenty-four members attend this somewhat "snowy" campout—they received over two inches of snow! Members made good use of the Club House, some by playing Golf, Mexican Train Dominoes, Sequence, others put together picture puzzles. On Thursday evening the Chapter members relished a "Four-Kinds-of-Soup" supper, all of it homemade.

Mid-Ten Sams

The Mid-Ten Sams held their March 13th meeting at the Sunset Restaurant. Twenty-four members and guests attended the March meeting. Members were asked to consider and suggest projects for raising money to help those in need in the Mid-Ten area. These projects might be a monetary donation, donation of time to work or cleanup or both; or time and money. These suggestions will be presented at the Chapter's next meeting.

The Chapter held their first campout of the year at the Cumberland Mountain State Park on April 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The group enjoyed a buffet supper at the lodge restaurant during the campout.

Scenic City Sams



Music City Sams



River M Sams



Golden Squares Sams

The Golden Squares Sams held their final campout of 2003 at Wall Doxey State Park near Holly Springs, Mississippi, in November. The group enjoyed a catered meal, breakfast in the campground and games. In December, the Chapter celebrated Christmas at the home of Frank and Georgia Austein. In December and January the Chapter held their meetings at local restaurants. State Director Terry Minger was a guest at the February meeting. The March meeting was a fish-fry at the Pooles' home, with fish being furnished by the Pooles and Aubrey Lipford.

The Chapter's first campout of the 2004 season was held at Wall Doxey State Park. There was a potluck meal during the campout, as was an outing at a catfish restaurant and a steak dinner at the lodge in the state park.

Three chapter rigs attended the Mississippi Samboree in Greenville, Mississippi, during the Easter weekend.

Fish Fry Sams

The Fish Fry Sams got off to a great start for the 2004 season with a January meeting at Tom's Steak House, which was arranged by Wagon Master Doug Overton and attended by 14 members. As the report goes: the food was good, the service was good and the camaraderie was great for the meeting. Vice President Earl Mealer put in a plug for both the Tennessee Spring Samboree and the Great North American Rally during the meeting.

In February, the Chapter meeting was held at Paris Landing Resort and there was almost double the January meeting attendance with 27 members and guests

present. The group was reminded of the Tennessee Samboree and a 100 percent attendance was encouraged. The Chapter has announced that the Fish Fry Sams Chapter has agreed to include mentoring a child as a Chapter Project.

For the first campout of the year the Chapter met at Natchez Trace State Park, at Pin Oak, on 19 through the 22 March. This was a new campground for the group and Bea Raines and Sue Perry furnished the chili and hot dogs for one of the meals during the campout.

The April campout was held at Piney Campgrounds in Land Between the Lakes with 35 members and guests present. Bob and Margaret Ray became the newest members of the Fish Fry Sams at this meeting. A potluck dinner was held on Friday night and a fish-fry was the bill of fare on Saturday night, courtesy of the Joneses. The Chapter is planning to present a skit during the Tennessee Samboree.

West TN Traveling Sams



Bluff City Sams

The April campout of the Bluff City Sams at Natchez Trace was a big success with 16 rigs representing 28 members and four guests. Richard and Susan Keltner and Mike and Angie Herring became the newest members of the Chapter during the meeting. The Chapter is planning a Ronald McDonald House fund raiser during the Samboree.

The Chapter is planning the first Annual Chapter Picnic on Saturday, May 22 in "Picnic Area #5" at Shelby Farms Park. They have also scheduled a "Lunch" cruise on June 5 during the Tunica campout.

MemphiSams



Carroll County Sams

The Carroll County Sams met at Mallard's Restaurant on February 6, 2004, for the Chapter's February meeting. There were eight members present, together with the Assistant State Director for West Tennessee, Doug and Jane Overton.

The Chapter held their first campout of the 2004 season at Pin Oak RV Park at Natchez Trace State Park on March 12 through 14. There were 16 members and guests present at the campout. Other guests at the campout read like a "Who's Who's" of the Tennessee Good Sams: State Director Terry and Betty Minger, Assistant State Director for West Tennessee, Doug and Jane Overton and Past Director Bill and Juanita Jones.

During the meeting the Chapter was furnished with names of Good Sam Club members who were not members of a Chapter and were asked to contact them and invite them to join the Carroll County Sams for a campout.

In April the Chapter returned to Pin Oak RV Park at Natchez Trace State Park for their April 2-4 campout. There were ten members at this campout.

Davy Crockett Sams

The Davy Crockett Sams held their first campout of 2004 at Point Mallard, Alabama, in March. There were 20 members and guest attending this first campout. Plans were made for the newspaper article, together with an accompanying photograph, concerning the Chapter's \$200 donation to Ronald McDonald House. It was noted that Omie White present the Ronald McDonald House with 10 pounds of pop tops.

K-Town Sams

The K-Town Sams held their first meeting of 2004 at Ryan's Steak House in Alcoa, Tennessee. There were 50 members and two guests present at the meeting.

The Chapter is preparing a Chapter membership photo book and members were encouraged to ensure that their photograph has been taken.

K-Town Sams will again be acting in a skit at the Samboree as well as doing the Chinese auction. Their antics in the skit should prove to be comical to say the least. They are preparing approximately 30 items for the Chinese auction.

The Polar Bears, an adjunct cold weather camping group to the K-Town Sams, camped out at Bean

Pot Campground, Crossville, on January 23-24. Members in four rigs attended, plus one family camped out in a motel. The Bears were scheduled to camp out on February 27-28 at the Rocky Top Campground in Kingsport.

The Chapter's February meeting was dinner meeting on February 21 at the Golden Corral on the outskirts of Knoxville.

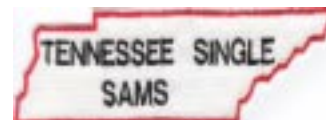
Cherokee Trail Sams

The Cherokee Trail Sams held a "Sweetheart Dinner" on February 12 with 33 members and guests present. Discussions were held relating to an upcoming RV show, the Spring Samboree and the Fall Samboree. It was decided that the "Grandkids Weekend" would be held at the Chapter's July campout. The July campout is to be held at River Plantation in Sevierville, Tennessee. The Chapter signed up 23 new families at the RV Show for the Good Sam Club; of the 23 three signed up with the Cherokee Trail Sams.

The March campout was the first campout of the year for the Chapter and was held at Holiday Trav-L-Park in East Ridge, Tennessee. There were 19 rigs, along with about 25 "walkins" present before the campout ended. There was a total of over 60 persons at the Saturday night supper. A supplementary campout was held by four members at Fall Creek Falls State Park during the weekend of March 20.

The April campout of the Cherokee Trail Sams was held at Pruett's Lakeside Center, Alabama on April 16-17, with members and guests in 21 rigs. The Chapter members enjoyed a hotdog supper on Friday with 28 members and guests. The hotdog supper was followed on Saturday morning with a Chapter breakfast which in turn was followed by a Saturday night Chapter Supper. During the meeting section of the campout, final plans for the Samboree was discussed.

Tennessee Singles Sams



Middle TN Travelers Sams



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