



Good Sam Messenger



Spring 2006

Newsletter of Tennessee Good Sams

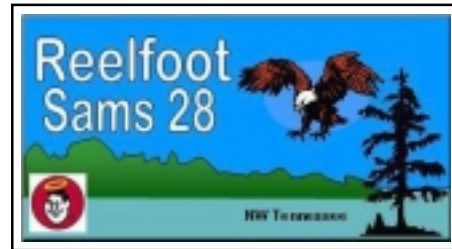
Vol. X1 No. 1

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

Reelfoot Sams

by Chris Shoemake, President

Tennessee's 28th Good Sam Chapter Chartered

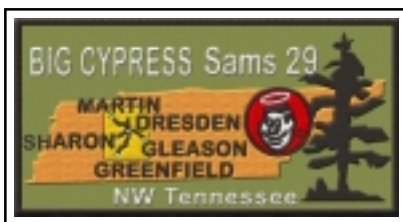


The Reelfoot Sams held their first campout of the season in Calvert City, Kentucky, on April 7, 8, and 9, 2006, at Cypress Lakes Campground. Member rigs present were John and Sally Shannon, Bob and Patty Nichols, Raymond and Lou Morris, and Chris, Carla and Jessica Shoemake. Also present were Doug and Jane Overton the Assistant State Directors for West Tennessee.

A hotdog roast kicked off the evening with both Reelfoot Sams and Big Cypress Sams members present. This was followed by some good fellowship around the campfire until the tornado sirens were ac-

tivated. A line of strong storms moved through to the south of us with nothing more than a little wind in our area. Later that night, a line of storms past thru before midnight cooling things off dramatically.

Saturday morning, April 8, 2006, the Reelfoot Sams conducted their monthly meeting in the Overtons' camper. New officers were appointed. Chris Shoemake as president, John Shannon as the vice president, Bob Nichols as the wagonmaster, Patty Nichols as the secretary/treasurer. The Reelfoot Chapter patch design, as seen above, was presented and approved.



Big Cypress Sams

by Pat Potter, Secretary

Tennessee's 29th Good Sam Chapter Chartered

An organizational meeting to establish a northwestern Tennessee Good Sam RV camping chapter was held Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at Sharon, Tennessee. Jane and Doug Overton, Assistant State Directors for West Tennessee conducted the meeting. Six families in six rigs attended this organizational meeting, they were the Gatewoods, the Gibsons, the Hortons, the Newsoms, the Potters and the Roses.

The new chapter will be know as the Big Cypress Sams Chapter, and will become the 29th Good Sam Chapter in the state of Tennessee. We decided to break off from the Reel Foot Sams because all of our members live in Weakly county. The name Big Cypress was selected because it reminds us of Weakly

See Big Cypress Sams page 2

From Our State Director



Terry and Betty Minger

Welcome to the 2006 Tennessee “Rockin’ 50s” Spring Samboree. What a wonderful time to meet our Good Sam friends and get to know some new ones. The Good Sam Club and all its many Chapters provide us with an opportunity to be associated with some of the best people in the world. In our Chapters, we find a group of RV enthusiasts that love the great outdoors of this fantastic country in which we live. In Tennessee, we have perhaps some of the most beautiful areas in which to enjoy our RVs. What better way to enjoy our RVs than to get together every month with a Good Sam Club Chapter.

There are 16,311 Good Sam Club members in Tennessee. Of those, a very small percentage are members of a Tennessee Good Sam Chapter. As we talk to people around our state, many of them are not aware that we have an active Chapter in their area. We need the help of all Tennessee Good Sam Chapter members to get the word out about our Tennessee

Chapters. Even though the discount on goods and services are great benefits of the Good Sam Club, perhaps the best benefit is joining and belonging to a local Chapter. What can you do? You can talk to your neighbors and friends that own an RV and invite them to your Chapter campout. In most cases, once they come and visit you, they will want to come back. That is why we do not have to convince them to join our Chapter. What better way to make them want to become a part of your Chapter, than to have them enjoy a campout making new friends while enjoying the RV lifestyle.

The front page article in this newsletter highlights another exciting way to get involved in making your Good Sam Club Chapter experience even more fulfilling. We have opportunities in many areas of Tennessee to begin additional new Good Sam Club Chapters. Doug and Jane Overton, Assistant State Directors for West Tennessee requested a list of Good Sam Club members in the area of interest. They began calling these members to tell them about an informational meeting to talk about the Good Sam Club. They found that most were anxious to attend. The results were three new Good Sam Club Chapters in West Tennessee.

Join the excitement, join the fun....talk to your friends, co-workers and neighbors. Ask your Chapter President for a list of RVers in your area. Invite them to join you at the next Chapter campout. Show them a GREAT time, enjoying fun and fellowship with your Chapter. They will want to be a part of the fun!

Terry Minger
Tennessee State Director
The International Good Sam Club

Big Cypress Sams

Continued from page 1

County. (The Big Cypress Tree State Natural Area is located in Weakly County.)

The officers for the Big Cypress Sams are as follows: Jim Potter, president, Ed Rose, vice-president, Pat Potter, secretary, Regenia Horton, treasurer, Murry Gibson, parliamentarian, Ronnie Gatewood and William Newsom, wagonmasters.

We now have seven rigs in our chapter with James Newson joining us at our first campout.

Our first campout of the 2006 season was held at Cypress Lake RV Park at

Calvert City, Kentucky, on April 7, 8, and 9. The host couple were Ronnie and Nancy Gatewood. We had a great weekend with a weenie roast on Friday evening, and our potluck on Saturday evening. Even with the threat of thunderstorms in the area (and having to go to restroom to wait out the passage of the storms) we had great fun and fellowship.

We are all looking forward to the May Samboree and getting to know all the Good Sam members in Tennessee.

Assistant State Directors



ASD West Tennessee

by Doug and Jane Overton

We have been hard at work organizing three, yes three, new Good Sam Chapters in West Tennessee. The first two, the Reelfoot Sams and the Big Cypress Sams will be presented with their Good Sam Club charters during the 2006 Tennessee Spring Samboree to be held at Lebanon, Tennessee, May 11 to 14. The third chapter will be awarded their charter at the 2006 Tennessee Fall Samboree.

We held the first organizational meeting on January 7, 2006, for the purpose of establishing a Good Sam chapter in northwest Tennessee. There were seventeen prospective members at this meeting. (See photograph below.



Sometime after the organizational meeting, it was decided to form two chapters from this group, the Reelfoot Sams and the Big Cypress Sams. Information on these two chapters appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Information on the third chapter will be published in the Fall Good Sam Messenger.

ASD for East Tennessee

by Rebecca Martin

Hi, as the new Assistant State Director (ASD) for East Tennessee, George and I (Rebecca) would like to take this opportunity to tell you just a little bit about ourselves. We bought our first RV, a tag-along; in January of 1994 after a 10,000-mile cross-country trip that George had to lug suitcases in and out of motel rooms almost daily. George's Aunt and Uncle were RVers, and each January they went to San Diego and that year they asked us to go. We traveled with Aunt Estelle and Uncle Jimmy several times for the next six years. We've been lucky enough to travel to Alaska on a Good Sam Carventure, we've been to forty-nine of fifty states and made three trips to Nova Scotia. We love to travel with friends and love to make friends when we travel.

As ASD for East Tennessee we will be working with the three Chapters in the Chattanooga Area: Scenic City Sams, Cherokee Trails Sams, and Sams Dixie Travelers; The Overmountain Sams from the Johnson City Area; and the two Knoxville Chapters: Ole Smoky Sams and K-Town Sams. We're planning to visit and camp with each of the East Tennessee Chapters this year. We want the opportunity to meet and talk to all the members. We are looking forward to a Regional Campout; at this time we are working with a couple of the Chapter Wagonmasters to help get this set up.

Having been a Chapter President myself, George and I are aware of the complexities of the position and hope that we can be a support system, if needed, to these Chapter Presidents. We are hoping that we can, with the help of the Chapter Presidents, get more members involved at the State level in the Samborees. We have learned, and truly believe, that the more involved you become, the more people you meet. The more people you meet, the more friends you have to do things with. The more friends you have to do things with, the more fun and enjoyment you're going to have. It's the old adage, 'you get out of something only what you're willing to put into it.'

'We're looking forward to an exciting and busy first Samboree as ASDs. Hopefully we'll manage to add a little bit to your having a great time at our Spring Samboree.

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Assistant State Directors

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ASD for East Tennessee

Before closing I would like to quote from the 2006 Spring issue of *Ronald House* the newsletter of the Knoxville Ronald McDonald. I am very proud of this.

“Good Sams / Good Friends!

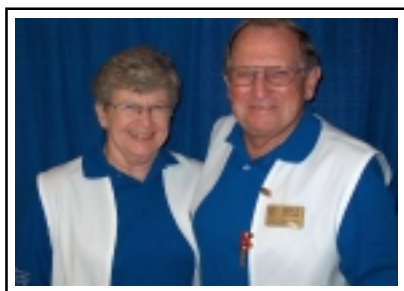
Members of area “Good Sam’s Clubs are certainly “good friends” to our House as evidenced by their recent \$1,455 donation.

Over the years, these groups that enjoy camping and the fellowship of their outdoor enthusiasts, have made the most of their adventures. They not only enjoy Mother Nature but they have combined their love of travel with service to others. . . most notably our RMH.

From potluck suppers to yard sales at the campground, these people continue to come up with creative ways to support us.”



Keeping Up With The Joneses



Billy and Juanita Jones, Past State Directors for Tennessee, started their camping career from the back of a stationwagon. This was ‘way back in 1959-60. They migrated to a tent not too long afterwards. Billy and Juanita, who have lived in Paris, Henry County, Tennessee, most of their lives, camped mostly with friends in the early days. They combined their enjoyment of camping with a couple of their other favorite pastimes, boating and water skiing, in their infant days of camping.

In 1981 the Jones became charter members of the Fish Fry Sams. Billy was elected as their vice-president

See **T he Joneses page 15**

ASD for Middle Tennessee



Ronald McDonald House Calls for Kids

by Jerry and Lila Cowell

On March 25, 2006, we, Jerry and Lila Cowell, had the honor of appearing on the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) telecast in Nashville to raise money for use by the RMH.

We were interviewed by WKRN-TV Channel 2 personnel concerning the Good Sam involvement and our contribution to the RMH. Unfortunately our interview was very short and we were basically cut off in stride explaining our process.

We did manage to explain what Good Sam was and how we have made the RMH our primary charity in the state of Tennessee. I was able to pass on that we have an auction each year at our spring Samboree to raise money to donate to the RMH, and last year we raised over \$2,500.

We enjoyed the time we spent at the Ronald McDonald House, and as you can see, we had our picture made with Ronald himself. We thank Terry Minger, Good Sam State Director, for giving us the opportunity. We met some very nice and dedicated people, as well as some wonderful families using the House. If you have never had the opportunity to visit any one of the RMHs in the state, you should so, it will make you appreciate the contribution we make even more.

Don’t forget to save your pull tabs, which is their primary source of operational funds.

We thank you again for this opportunity to provide you with information about the Ronald McDonald House.

Chaplain's Corner

From the Chaplain

Camping if not for everyone. I have a sister, who I love dearly, that would place “camping” in the same category as getting “bad service” at a Best Western hotel. Yet, there are those of us who do this thing over-and-over, and have done it for years. We probably graduated from one phase of camping (tenting) to more serious means of being out in nature, traveling, seeing new places and being with fellow campers.

Not all camping is good or enjoyable, as each of us could probably tell our own story of so called “bad experiences.” Nevertheless, we continue to do this thing called camping. But “WHY?” There are probably as many answers to that as there are campers. So, what’s your reason (or excuse?) for “being out there?”

I did a year-long survey of a similar nature when I worked with Tennessee State Parks several years ago. One question to be asked of visitors to the Park was, “Why did you come to the park?” (Sounded like a dumb question, doesn’t it? Maybe not. The results revealed that about 82% of those surveyed answered, “Just to get away from it all.” Their reply had to do with a kind of “escape” from the routine of work, school, household duties and the usual mundane activities common to all of us.

To “get away from it all” is, I suspect, not the major reason we are campers. My best guess is that there are other reasons, not so much to “escape” but to

experience new places, meet new people and even think about something else for awhile. Of course, as with any group of people there will be a variety of “reasons” we do this “camping thing.” Hopefully, each of us find a sense of accomplishment even in our travels—not just a “brag session” around the camp fire or coffee table.

Well, for Gwen and I, it seems to be the new places, exploring the “unknown” and meeting so many wonderful people. It’s a simple satisfaction of freedom from some old responsibilities that did, in fact, give us life-long goals. The children are out on their own doing well, (but let us tell you about the grandchildren!); and thank the Lord, we got the mortgage paid off! Life is such a variety of events that I hope to experience as many as I can, and afford!

What a wonderful world we live in; and, yes, there is the ugly and the sad. But I believe in a God who gave us this world to explore, to manage its beauty and enjoy the majesty of it all. If I sound like some kind of philosopher, well—so be it. I’m also a realist that wants to “take it all in!” There is no effort to “escape” from this world, as tempting at times as that may be. But, there is a faith that God gave us this world and all that is in it to manage its resources, to enjoy its creativity; and, equally important, to see and feel His majesty all around. As the psalmist told us, “. . . majestic is (His) name in all the earth.” (Read Psalm 8). And, oh yes! . . .there is a wonder in it all—even in folks like you and me.

Happy camping and God’s peace be with you.

Robert H. “Bob” Lowrance
State Chaplain

In Memoriam

Bud Steffey, May 2005 of the River M Sams

Doris Ketner, September 2005 of the K-Town Sams

Susan Ries of the West Tennessee Traveling Sams

Bob Blankenship, April 2006 of the Music City Sams

Edith Cox, April 2006 of the Scenic City Sams

Editor's Chat



by Boots and John Hoover

I was gratified by the response from the ASDs, all of whom submitted articles for this newsletter, and the chapters' response to my request for articles for this newsletter. I also want to thank Chaplain Bob Lowrance for his timely article. And, of course, Directors Terry and Betty always submit their article on appropriate subjects. I am so please by the replies because it makes my job so much easier. Thank you.

I would like to welcome the newest Tennessee Good Sam chapters into the fold and thank Chris Shoemake of the Reelfoot Sams and Pat and Jim Potter of the Big Cypress Sams for providing information on their chapters on such short notice. Welcome aboard.

Congratulations are in order for Doug and Jane Overton, Assistant State Directors for West Tennessee for their efforts in organizing and assisting the Reelfoot Sams and the Big Cypress Sams in obtaining their Good Sam charters, which will be presented during the 2006 Tennessee Spring Samboree. I understand this is not the end of Doug and Jane's efforts because they are helping another chapter in receiving its Good Sam charter. The third chapter will receive its charter during the 2006 Tennessee Fall Samboree.

Three new chapter in less that one year! Doug and Jane are certainly setting a precedence that other assistant directors and chapters may want to attempt to emulate. Way to go! Doug and Jane.

Tennessee Good Samers made an excellent showing at the Georgia Spring Samboree. I don't know the exact number, but K-Town as always, had the largest number. Even my chapter, Ole Smoky Sams, had five rigs, four of which caravanned from the East Tennes-

see area. Tennessee was also represented by the ASDs for East Tennessee, Rebecca and George Martin, as well as State Directors Terry and Betty Minger. We all had a great time out in the "back forty" at the Fairgrounds/Agriculture Center in Perry, Georgia, more so because it did not rain! Much like Tennessee's Samboree, the theme for the Georgia Samboree was also the "Fifties." Not to put them down because theirs was a great Samboree, but I do hope we can "up-stage" them with our "Rockin' 50s."

We are experimenting with placing more photographs in this newsletter. . .everyone likes to see their picture in print. Let us know how you like it. In fact let me know how you feel about the newsletter in general..... Its content..... Its layout. Anything to make it better and more apropos for the Tennessee Good Sams.

See you all in Lebanon.

Chapter News

Golden Circle Sams

by Dianne Bond

The first Good Sam chapter formed in Tennessee is making a come-back! Two new couples joined in November 2005. They are Tom and Peggy Bacome, and Wilmot and Dianne Bond.

Our spring camping season kicked off April 21st at the Joy-O Campground in Denmark, Tennessee, with 9 rigs in attendance. Members attending were Frank and Verta Lee Oller, Rupert and Sudie Harrison, Woodrow and Clarice Pruitt, Joe and Sue Stokley, Tom and Peggy Bacome, and Wilmot and Dianne Bond. Special guest were Assistant State Directors for West Tennessee Doug and Jane Overton. Prospective members camping with us were E. J. and Gloria Robinson and Ray and Hilda Ellington. Other prospective members who dropped by for a visit were Doyle Ellington, and Bob and Wanda McWherter. A great time was had by all and we are greatly encouraged by our recent recruiting efforts.

Our chapter members enjoyed great fellowship, food, and of course card games. Tom and Peggy

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Bacome hosted dinner Friday night with Tom making his fabulous chili for all present. Saturday we shared a bring a dish breakfast, for lunch the group gathered for a meal featuring chili dogs and BBQ, and for dinner we traveled to Wilhite's TA Travel Center for a wonderful meal. The group also worked preparing the chair they plan to raffle at the Samboree to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Sunday found most of the group attending church services as guest of Zion Baptist Church and/or Woodland Baptist Church nearby.

Plans were made for the Spring Tennessee Samboree where it looks like we will have a great Golden Circle turn-out!



Golden Circle Sams at Tennessee Fall Samboree.

Ole Smoky Sams

by Pat Elliott

The Ole Smoky Sams finished up the year 2005 with a wonderful dinner at Puleos Grill in Knoxville, complete with a visit from Santa. Three new officers were installed, Richard L. Elliott as President, Patricia E. Elliott as Secretary, and Betty Whillock as Treasurer. Kyle Chandler remained as Wagonmaster and Boots and John Hoover remained as the Editors and Boots remained as the Web Master.

Several members represented the chapter and delivered gift cards and food to the Ronald McDonald House just in time for Christmas. The gift cards and food were from every member in the Chapter. A photograph of this event was published in the Highways Magazine April edition. There was one error in the magazine: The caption on the photograph stated we were from Clinton, Tennessee. . .we are from various places in East Tennessee, not just Clinton.

Our first campout for 2006 was held in Chattanooga on March 24th and 25th. The weather was extremely cold but that didn't dampen our spirits. In spite of the cold, we had seven rigs attend. Two of which were former members who have decided to return to the fold. Sunday morning, four rigs caravanned to Perry, Georgia, for a short three day stay at Twin Oaks Campground then went on to meet a fifth member and attend the Georgia Samboree in Perry.

All in all, 2006 promises to be a fun filled year with our most aggressive camping schedule yet. We have included several "extra" campouts along with our regular monthly campouts and Samborees.

Ole Smokey Sams volunteered to decorate the stage for our Spring Samboree and we have been having a great time working on the items that we'll be using. A lot of pride has gone into what we've done and, we believe it shows. Here are some photos to show a "work-in-progress."

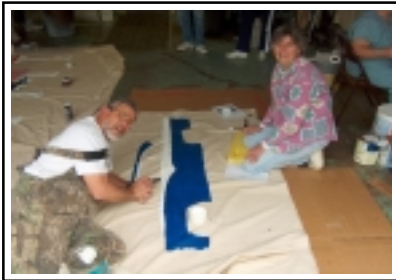
Two of our members, Richard and Laurie Mitchell volunteered to help in the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina. Here is brief summarization in their own words of their experience.



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Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

by Richard and Laurie Mitchell

We parked our RV and worked from the Main Street United Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, which is the Relief Center for victims of hurricane “Katrina” in that area.

The Gulf Coast area took the brunt of Katrina’s wrath. There was a 20 to 30-foot storm surge that completely destroyed two blocks of homes and businesses. We have never seen such devastation in our lives. (Please see the accompanying photographs at the end of this article.) This area is in need of any help anyone can give!

Many of the Bay St. Louis residents had lived through hurricane “Camille” (Aug. 17-18, 1969) and most believed that Katrina could not be worse. They were woefully mistaken. One family had two feet of water during Camille and 12 feet of water with Katrina, plus winds of 120 MPH.

Any home that is deemed structurally sound has to be ‘mucked’ or completely stripped of mud, dry-wall, and insulation down to the bare studs and then pressure-washed, decontaminated and treated for mold. Once this is completed, rebuilding can begin.

During our six-week stay in Bay St. Louis we concentrated on electrical reconstruction, as that is Richard’s

area of expertise and we felt we could be most helpful in that area. We replaced service panel boxes, light switches and receptacles — complete wiring from exterior weather-head to rough-in inspection. Everyone we worked with was so very appreciative.

We really hated to leave because there is so much to be done. We are hoping we can return in the near future. They are estimating at least a five-year recovery plan for the Bay St. Louis area.

Shown below are a couple of photographs as an example of the destruction we witnessed.



Cumberland Mountain Sams

by Marjorie Therien

Our first campout of 2006 was held at the Bean Pot Campground in Crossville April 17-21. Those attending were: Delbert and Donna Butson, Louise Dain, Ken and Frances Smith, Cal and Margie Therrien, and Gene and Connie Winterton. Driving in for the meeting and potluck supper were: Billy and Maxine Austin, Leonard and Loretta Flatt, Howard and BJ Sumner and prospective members Tony and Ruth Grogan. We are concerned about the many who were absent especially those with health problems: Peggy Meador and Jean Taylor.

One Tuesday evening we went to the Cancun Restaurant, on Wednesday to Ruby Tuesday and Thursday evening was our regular Potluck dinner. The

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ladies put together the little bags for the Samboree Goody Bags and Tuesday evening all present tried a new Domino game called Wild Fire.

Billy Austin collected 2006 dues (\$12 per rig) at this campout and requests that if at all possible, all dues should be paid before or at the Samboree.

Our June 13-15 campout will be at the Dale Hollow Lake Campground near Celina. When you call for your reservation you can make one for Defeated Creek, too, where we will camp July 18-20. Have your Golden Eagle and credit cards with you as you make this call or use the internet. Toll free 1-877-444-6777 or www.reserveusa.com.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the spring Samboree in Lebanon May 12-14. We will be there for Early Bird on Tuesday May 9th.

Mid-Ten Sams

The Mid-Ten Sams held their first campout of 2006 at the Roaring Pines Campground, near Huntsville, Alabama, the weekend of April 7-9. They held a potluck on Friday and Saturday nights. There were 32 persons in 15 member rigs and two visitor rigs at the first campout.

The Spring Samboree is May 12-14, 2006, at the James E. Ward Agriculture Center in Lebanon, Tennessee. The theme is the "Rockin' 50s."

It's that time to start collecting your flea market items for the Samboree. Also bring ALL your beverage tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

Our May campout is April 28-30, at Cages Bend.

Scenic City Sams

by Sandra Coulter

In late October the Scenic City Sams went to Plum Nelly Campground in Ellijay, Georgia. This was probably our best campout of the year. We had a very good turnout and with the layout of the campground most of us were in a large circle. Every night we had a huge campfire. Everyone had a great time exploring the many apple houses in the area and all of us man-

aged to eat a few fried apple pies. On Saturday evening we had a huge wiener roast and some of the ladies showed off their culinary skill and produced some great pots of chili. We all agreed that we certainly want to return there.

In November the weather had really cooled down so we went to everybody's favorite local camping spot - Chester Frost Park. We had a great turnout. Mike and Barbara Tinsley visited with us for the first time. We kept warm and toasty by the campfire. Our dinner on Saturday evening was at Ryan's Steak House. Randy Coulter, President, held our meeting there and we voted on campgrounds and hosts for 2006.

December proved to be another fun time at our annual Christmas Party and dinner at the Knights of Pythias. The Staceys, Clouses and DeWitts did a beautiful job decorating and making the place look really festive. Before dinner Dan Stieg read the Christmas story. The Coulter's cooked the ham and everybody else brought side dishes. Talk about good, if there is one thing our chapter is good at it is cooking and eating. We had our Chinese Christmas gift exchange. It seemed that no matter what you got, you didn't get to keep it very long before somebody decided they wanted it more than you. I guess the highlight of the gift exchange was when Bobby Flatt got the blue purse. He really got teased a lot and everybody agreed that it matched his blue shirt. He took the teasing really well, but we'd better all look out for next year because he said he would get even!

January is the month when we have some snow birds seeking warmer weather. The Coulter's and Hughes were way down in Southern Texas soaking up the sun. The rest of the chapter met again at the Knights of Pythias for some of the best soup and accompaniments you could imagine. A good time was had by all.

February was the month for our annual Valentine Party. Everybody donned their dress up clothes and took their sweethearts to the Golden Corral for a steak dinner. Now if that isn't sweet I don't know what is. Everybody looked forward to getting those rigs out and start camping in March.

Finally it was camping time again. The Coulter's returned from Texas, but the Hughes are still there. We again went to Chester Frost Park. We had 12 rigs camping. The weather was cold, but thanks to Jack Cooper we usually had a good hot fire going.

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Jack got caught trying to steal some fire wood. I bet next time he will check and see if there is anybody going to return to that site before he takes their fire-wood. He returned it all and everybody got a really good laugh out of it. Mike and Barbara Tinsley camped with us again. It was really good to have them back. We went to Ryan's Steak House for dinner on Saturday evening. After a short meeting we returned to the campground to sit around the campfire and shoot the bull for the rest of the evening. Arlene Stacey took a little tumble getting into the truck when they were getting ready to leave Ryan's. Thankfully she didn't break anything – she was really bruised, but will be recovered in a few days.

In April we headed for Little Mountain Marina on the beautiful Lake Gunterville. This is always a favorite with our bunch. We had dinner at the Top of the River.

Music City Sams

The Music City Sams camped at Cedars of Lebanon, Lebanon, Tennessee, on November 12, 2005 for the final campout of the year. There were 12 members present. We played games and ate together. Don and Terry Harman and Hugh and Beverly Hurley were voted into the chapter.

On December 9, 2005, we celebrated Christmas with a luncheon at Home Town Buffet. Thirty-three members were present. Evelyn and Floyd Fry were in charge of our Christmas project for the Baptist Childrens Home. The members selected a name from the home and then purchased and wrapped the presents for each child. The presents were delivered after our party.

During our Christmas meeting, the new officers for the year were sworn in: President Floyd "Butch" Long, Vice President Jeff Hahn, Wagonmaster Lawrence Taylor and Secretary-Treasurer Ardenia Larkins.

January, February and March, we net at Home Town Buffet. We had good attendance although we several of our members were out of state. Joel and Ann Tompkins spent three months in Texas. Ed and Karen Jennings visited Florida and Texas. Richard and Patricia Sabaski visited Texas; the Saabaskis also traveled to the Western United States.

We held our first campout in April at Montgomery Bell State Park.

We hope to see everyone in May at the Samboree.

Golden Squares Sams

by Nola Mason

The Golden Squares held its January and February meetings at Memphis restaurants. In March the members met at the home of chapter president Aubrey and Sue Lipford in Myrtle, Mississippi, for a fish fry. The chapter had 100 per cent attendance at the winter meetings. At the February meeting, Aubrey and Sue Lipford were crowned Valentine king and queen.

The Lipfords and Judy and Walter Payne attended the Mississippi Spring Samboree and the Georgia Spring Samboree. They, and Nola Mason, have made plans to attend the Arkansas Samboree as well as, of course, the Tennessee Spring Samboree.

The chapter started its camping season in April at Wall Doxey State Park near Holly Springs, Mississippi. A large part of the time the area was under a tornado watch or tornado warning. Because of the weather, the business meeting was held on Friday instead of Saturday. The chapter played bean-bag baseball, washer toss and bean bag toss. They were joined by several of the campers in neighboring rigs. The Lipfords scored the highest in all the games.

Fish Fry Sams

by Rita Riola

Fish Fry Sams Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary in 2006!

We're off to a great year so far! We have only seven active members in our Chapter; one family has been in the Chapter the entire 25 years, Billy & Juanita Jones. As most of you know, Billy and Juanita are the past Tennessee State Directors and previous to that served as elected officers in our Chapter. Fish Fry Sams is very fortunate to have such loyal and long-standing members in our group. It is with their good grace and guidance that our Chapter has been so productive and prosperous for so many years.

As like so many Chapters, we have a pot-luck and go out to dinner each camp-out. In 2005 President Dave Riola incorporated a host and hostess for

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our outings, and we now have all of our activities at their campsite, including hospitality on Thursdays and evening campfires to enrich the camaraderie.

Some of our most recent conquests include: our 2005 - 4th quarter donation made to Hoofbeats of Hope in Paris, and our 2006 - 1st quarter donation and also school supplies from our Chapter to the Family Resource Center also in Paris.

We all enjoyed our 25th annual fish fry in April and as usual, it was a great success! Indeed, our Chapter may be small, but we're mighty!

Our Chapter officers are:

Dave Riola, President
Ken Anderson, Vice President
Rita Riola, Secretary/Treasurer
Linda Anderson, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Earl Mealer, Wagon Master
Sandy Mealer, Newsletter
Paul Copeland, Chaplin
JoAnn Thomason, Sunshine Lady

West Tennessee Traveling Sams

The West Tennessee Traveling Sams held their February meeting at the Lakeview Restaurant near Reelfoot Lake. There were 13 members in attendance. The Meece and Rogers were the host and hostesses for the meeting, and did a great job.

The March campout of the West Tennessee Traveling Sams was held at Natchez Trace on March 17-19, 2006. The Arnolds and Lindseys were the hosts and hostesses for the campout.

The West Tennessee Traveling Sams expect to have six families at the 2006 Tennessee Spring Samboree.

Bluff City Sams

by Jack Sams

Our annual election of Chapter Officers for 2006 were elected at our November campout held on 11th, 12th and 13th at Wall Doxie State Park in Holly Springs, Mississippi. They were: Jack Sams, President, Nelson Pilcher, Vice-President, Joann Glover,

Secretary, Susan Keltner, Treasurer, Walter Glover, Wagonmaster and Thomas Nix, Legislative Representative. The Lodge at the park prepared our Thanksgiving dinner Saturday evening which was attended by 30 members and guests.

At our November meeting members brought gifts, one unwrapped boy's gift and one girl's gift, to be donated to the kids at the St. Jude's Children Hospital. The Bluff City Chapter donated \$1,800 in money, gifts, etc. to the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis in 2005. Members of our Charity Committee, Janie Nix, Thomas Nix, and Walter Glover, accompanied by Chapter President Jack Sams delivered the gifts and other items to St. Jude's and the Ronald McDonald House.

Our Christmas Dinner was held at the Pig and Whistle Restaurant in Memphis, Tennessee, on December 10th, where members exchanged gifts, which was followed by a trip to the home of Tom and Mildred Pincheon for special prepared deserts, snacks and a lot of good Bluff City fellowship.

Bluff City Sams was awarded "Honorable Mention" in the 2005 Good Sam Chapter of the Year awards, and will be recognized and receive the award at the 2006 Tennessee Spring Samboree.

Our 2006 dinner meetings were held in January, Logan's Roadhouse, Memphis, Tennessee, and February, at Barnhills in Collierville, Tennessee.

Twelve (12) member rigs and guests made the trip to the Mississippi Samboree in Greenville, Mississippi, on March 24th, 25th and 26th as its regular March Chapter meeting where we proudly welcomed Jim and Gail Evans from Bartlett, Tennessee as new Chapter members.

Bluff City had 19 rigs present at their April campout at Natchez Trace State Park. We proudly welcomed Harry and Linda Warren from Oakland, Tennessee, as new Chapter members. We also welcomed Patrick and Barbara Kitchens from Lakeland, Tennessee, visiting with us for the second time, and Bobby and Joann Stallings from Eads, Tennessee, visiting with us for the first time. We were also glad to have State Director Terry and Betty Minger present. Saturday evening we feasted on smoked turkey, compliments of Nelson and Bobbie Pilcher, with lots of delicious side dishes and desserts provided by the rest of the members and guests.

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MemphiSams

The January meeting of the MemphiSams was held at Mis Sips Catfish Restaurant in Millington, Tennessee. We all enjoyed the great food and had a good time catching up on all the holiday news. Those attending were the Chandlers, the Reaves, the Wards, and the Erwins. Chapter guests were Cathy Gross, and former member Violet Harding with her granddaughter, Beth.

The president related information from Terry Minger concerning requests for the Tennessee Chapters. We discussed plans for the Spring Samboree, May 12-14, and ideas about something different as a raffle item.

As part of our treasurer's report, Marjorie stated that the money we donated to a needy family had been delivered and was well received. The child, though still in the hospital, was improving.

Our Wagon Master, Wiley Reaves, presented our 2006 camping schedule. As usual, we will be camping at some great places.

The February meeting of the MemphiSams was held at Bowl O' Pasta Restaurant in Cordova, Tennessee. Attending were the Chandlers, Reaves, Erwins, and Wards. Chapter guests were Cathy Gross and prospective members, Dick and Lee Dalton.

Our treasurer, Marjorie Ward, stated that all the money had been turned in for the Spring Samboree and that 100 percent of our members will be attending. We made our decision about our raffle item for the Samboree and are excited about implementing it.

Our first camping trip this year was March 9-12, at Trace State Park, Tupelo, Mississippi. Camping were the Reaves, Chandlers, Erwins, and prospective members, Dick and Lee Dalton. The Wards were unable to camp with us, but did drive down on Saturday to spend the day.

The weather was very nice and everyone had a wonderful time. We always enjoy the nice building, which was built by the Mississippi Good Sams. It is a great place for our meetings, our pot luck meals, and especially our chicken foot domino games.

We went oriental for this month's eat-out and went to the Tasty Buffet Chinese Restaurant at Poplar Plaza. Attending were the Chandlers, Reaves, Wards, Erwins, and prospective members Dick and Lee Dalton. We were also happy that former members Louis Wilkerson, and Tommie and Doug Veasey were able to join us.

Our next camping trip will be April, 6-9, at Natchez Trace State Park. The Daltons will be our camp-out hosts, so we are looking forward to what they have planned. See you there!

Carroll County Sams

The Carroll County Sams held their November campout at Natchez Trace State Park. Those camping were the Holmes, the Haywoods, the Douglasses, and the Lowrances. The Coopers drove up Saturday for the business meeting.

Our Christmas party was December 9, 2005 at the Country and Western Steakhouse in Camden, Tennessee. Each person brought a gift and we played dirty Santa. We all had a good time.

We made our donations to Benton/Carroll County Foster Children's Fund. This is something we do each year around Christmas to help the children.

Our March campout was cancelled due to cold weather. The April campout was cancelled due to stormy weather but we ate at the Country and Western Steakhouse in Camden, Tennessee, on Saturday night. Those present were the Douglasses, the Coopers, the Lowrance and the Holmes. We all had a good time eating and catching up on all the things that had happened since we had been together.

Davy Crockett Sams

The Davy Crockett Sams held their Christmas Party at the Mars Hill Community Club with 27 persons present. The chapter voted to hold their 2006 campouts at Point Mallard, Joe Wheeler, Montgomery Bell, Pick Wick, Trace State Park, Mississippi, Piney Grove and Defeated Creek. These campouts are in addition to the May and October Samborees.

The following officers were installed for the year 2006: President Linda Rochell, Vice-President Norman Marston, Secretary Lorene Chandler, Treas-

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surer Marie Owens, Wagonmaster Ron Owens, Historian Bonnell Gobble, and Sunshine and Telephone Committee Bonnell Gobble and Marie Owens.

The chapter voted to donate \$200 each to Countryside Nursing Home and Ingram Sowell School. Almost \$200 was donated on the night of the meeting.

The chapter's January and February meetings were held at a local restaurant with 29 and 27, respectively, present. The chapter voted to take up a donation at each meeting for underprivileged student at Ingram Sowell School. The donation would be used to purchase food for those students to take home for each weekend.

There were 17 persons at the chapter's March meeting at Trace Park and 20 persons attended the chapter's April meeting at Pickwick. The chapter has been working on items for the goodie bags for the Tennessee Fall Samboree at Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

K-Town Sams Happenin's

by Tommy McIntyre

K-Town Sams started off 2006 running! At our January dinner meeting held at Beaver Ridge Lodge #366 F. & A.M., we had 47 members present and for our February meeting we went to a little restaurant in Kingston, Tennessee, by the name of Misael's Top of The Hill. There were 36 people in attendance for this meeting despite the fact that it started snowing in the early afternoon and it was getting heavy by the time we all arrived. The food was excellent and the fellowship was outstanding!

Shortly after the February meeting, we learned that our President, Rebecca Martin, was needed by the state as the new Assistant State Director for East Tennessee. So, Terry ended up getting a new ASD and K-Town lost a President. Needless to say, our loss was Terry's gain. He is getting a very capable person to take over this job and a very hard worker. We in K-Town would like to wish Rebecca well and will certainly offer our support to her whenever she asks for it.

Our first campout of the season was held at Smoky Bear Campground in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. We had 19 rigs in attendance and with the ones who came up

for the day; we ended up with a total count of 48 members. The campground is under new ownership and the owners are really going out of their way to make everyone feel welcome including preparing a meal for us on Friday evening and breakfast on Sunday after our church service. If you are ever in the Gatlinburg area and are looking for good place to camp, I would highly recommend this campground.

The rest of our camping season looks like this:

May 12-14, Spring Samboree, Lebanon, Tennessee

Jun. 16-18, Holly Haven, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Jul. 21-23, Renfro Valley, Kentucky

Aug. 18-20, Ripplin Waters, Sevierville, Tennessee

Sept. 15-17, KOA, Sweetwater, Tennessee

Oct. 20-22, Fall Samboree, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

Nov. 17-19, Smokey Bear, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Dec. (Date and place to be determined)

"The Polar Bears," who are our winter campers, are still going strong. They are a group of K-Towner's who decided to continue camping (December, January, and February) even after our regular camping season is over; no matter what the temperature is outside! It has been said that these "Nomads" have one rule when they go camping and that rule is: "WE HAVE NO RULES!" They pick one campground at a time and the weekend they are there, they pick their next location to go to. So, if it is cold weather that you like or the more warmer weather and you happen to be in the area of one of these campouts, come join us. We would love to have to come and be with us.

Cherokee Trails Sams

by Shirley Gasaway

November was the time for Cherokee Trails to start off the holidays of Thanksgiving by sharing it with their friends and camping family. We meet at Phil and Amanda Spencer's for our November campout. Phil builded a campground and a log cabin for our club to come to and use any time that we want to get together. November was a great month to be there and use the cabin for our Thanksgiving dinner. We had old members and several new members to attend this campout. On Friday night after our meal we were

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entertained by some good old gospel and blue grass music. The man that was entertaining us was really good.

For our Thanksgiving Dinner, It was a meal fit for a king, but what made it so special was to be able to spend it with past members, old members and new members. To top it all off after the meal and meeting, David and Shirley Gasaway put in a movie of the famous "Miss Samboree Fashion Show of 1997." Oh the memories that the movie brought back, along with a lot more from the past 10 years. We had a lot of laughs and some sad memories on the passing of several of our loved ones.

December was a month that we had looked forward to for a long time. We celebrated our 10th Anniversary. To make this something special, we planned a "Cruise," that's right, "A Cruise." Of course it was only a dinner cruise on the Southern Belle down the Tennessee River, but it was really enjoyable. We had a great meal of rib eye steak, Shrimp Creole, several side dishes and dessert, along with singing and dancing. We had 23 to attend the cruise, they were, Doug and Sandra Ellis, David and Shirley Gasaway, Gary and Daisy Inman, Larry and Sharon Ramsey, Charles and Leah Randall, C.G. and Francis Smith, Phil and Amanda Spencer, Jim and Pat Tucker, Pat Bott, Charmie Copas, Helen Copas, John Owens, and Louella Hood. We wish that the weather could have been a little warmer, but it was December.

Since we had went on the cruise for our December meeting, we decided to exchange out Christmas gifts at our soup supper in January. We went back to Phil and Amanda Spencer's cabin for our annual soup supper, and, as always some of the best soup and chili around. After our meal we got down to business of exchanging gifts, which is always a lot of fun doing the Chinese Christmas Gift exchange. You never know what gift you will end up with.

For our Sweetheart Dinner, our men took us to the Epicurean Restaurant in East Ridge. We had 24 to attend and as always had a great meal and a lot of good fellowship.

Our first camp out of the season was held at Little Mountain Resort in Langston, Alabama. We had beautiful weather for our camp out and to go along with this, Phil Spencer and John went fishing and caught several catfish, two of which weighted 30 pounds

apiece. They cooked each of them for our Saturday lunch. Sure was good eating. We had two tables of Mexican Train Dominions going all afternoon. After our evening meal of pot roast and all the trimmings, several of the members went up to the clubhouse for some Karaoke.

Our April campout was held at the Chattanooga West KOA; we had a great time and a whole lot of good fellowship.

Tennessee Singles Sams

by Jerry Cowell

The Tennessee Single Sams have had little or no activity in the past year. We are floundering and would appreciate some help from any singles out there in other chapters.

We have had trouble with location, as well as health problems among the members and have not seemed to be able to overcome these bumps in the road.

I, Jerry Cowell, has been asked to act as President of the chapter, and to try to generate some fun activity. I am married and have not been single for 28 years, but I am going to give it a try. If you have any suggestions or would like to become a member of this chapter, if nothing else on a temporary basis, please let me know.

If you know of any single campers that do not belong to a chapter, I would be happy to contact them and invite them to a meeting or get together.

Thanks for your help.

Sams Dixie Travelers

The SAMS Dixie Travelers are a small group of happy campers with 14 rigs and 2 associate memberships. We get together once a month (or more often if the opportunity arises). We are chartered out of Chattanooga but have members from 4 neighboring counties. We have our favorite places to visit throughout the Southeast but always add a new campground or two to our schedule each year.

Our first campout of the new year always finds us in the Chattanooga area to check out the rigs after

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winter storage. Several of our members spend some 'winter' time in Florida and are referred to as our 'Florida Contingent.' Although they are in different locations, we manage to get together at least once while there.

The remainder of our schedule finds us traveling to the KOA in Sweetwater, Tennessee, in June; Volunteer RV Park in Heiskell, Tennessee, in July; Peace Valley Campground in the Murphy, North Carolina area in August, Chester Frost Park in September; and River County in Gadsen, Alabama, in November. Our Holiday Get Together will be in Hixson, Tennessee, where we will forego a gift exchange for support for Ronald McDonald House in Chattanooga. And we always look forward to our state Samborees.

Our April campout was a washout/wind-threatened event in Manchester, Tennessee.. Unfortunately, the tornadoes that swept Tennessee that weekend forced the cancellation of our get together after several members had already spent a night there! Not to be outdone by Mother Nature, we met for dinner on Saturday, April 8, 2006, at Home Folks in Soddy Daisy.

Our campouts always include a breakfast potluck on Saturday mornings and our traditional potluck supper on Saturday evenings followed by our meeting. As everyone gathers on Thursday and Friday, the time is spent catching up on family news and lots of 'Hand and Foot' and domino games. A new campground finds us car pooling to the area's attractions. We are well-known for our campfires on those occasions where we can find a fire ring.

We always welcome visitors and new members. For more information, please contact President Ron Masterson (423) 365-4392 or Vice President Don Smith (423) 344-6337. Marlene Thomas, Secretary/Newsletter Editor (931)707-8650.



The Joneses

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and Juanita was elected as the secretary-treasurer. Juanita remained as secretary-treasurer for eight years! Billy remained as vice-president for only two years, but was then elected as president of the chapter and remained in that position for the next two years.

Billy moved on to the Tennessee State Staff and was appointed State Treasurer in 1985 and remained in that position for ten years. Billy and Juanita were elected as Tennessee State Directors in 1995 and took office in 1996. They remained as State Directors for eight years and 16 Samborees. They held three state committee meeting each year during the period they served as State Directors and had not missed a single state committee meeting until 2005, their only one in eight years.

When the Jones assumed the position of State Directors, Tennessee Good Sams had 18 chapters. Their first task upon assuming the job as State Directors was to help organize the Cherokee Trails Sams in Chattanooga. Billy says things were a bit tough when he took office because the only item the Tennessee Good Sams owned was coffee urns. During the first two years a friend of his in Paris, Tennessee, who owned a grocery store donated ice cream for the Samboree. Billy says many items have been donated by merchants in Paris.

They have attended 15 Good Sam International rallies. They attended their first rally in Bozeman, Montana, in 1984, in a pop-up and a Ford van. Billy noted that the Good Sam International Rally became the Great North American Rally which became "The Rally." Billy and Juanita say they have had lots of good camping trips attending the Good Sam International rallies with other Good Sam members. While still working they attended one rally that required taking off from work for five weeks. Since retiring they attended one that, including the trip out and back and all the side trips, lasted eight weeks.

Billy and Juanita have 49 Tennessee Samborees and a total of 112 Samborees total to their credit. The Tennessee 2005 Fall was their 49th Samboree. Their attendance at the 2006 Tennessee Spring Samboree will be their 50th without a miss.

The biggest job of the State Director Billy believes is setting up the Samborees. The work begins four months before the Samboree starts and there is a tremendous amount of behind the scenes work that has to be accomplished. He has no complaints about being State Director. His state staff was super and he had absolutely no complaints about the performance of the staff.

Billy says the Good Sams has been a great ride and did not know of a single thing he would change. Juanita indicated that no one was more dedicated to the Good Sams than Billy.

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