



# Good Sam Messenger



Fall 2007

Newsletter of Tennessee Good Sams

Vol. XII No. 2

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

## State Director

## Assistant State Directors



Betty and Terry Minger



Lila and Jerry Cowell

### **To The Mingers, Terry, Betty and Ellie and to Jerry and Lila Cowell**

We, the Good Samers of Tennessee offer our heartfelt sympathy and understanding to the Mingers and the Cowells on the recent death of Terry's Minger's mother and Lila Cowell's mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

God mends the wounded spirit  
And heals the broken heart.  
And though these ones we love so much  
Have left our present sight  
They have passed into a world  
Of majesty and light.  
God said he would never leave us  
To face our trails alone.  
And sometimes we fail Him,  
He never fails His own  
May God ease your hour of sorrow  
And surround you with His love.  
(Author unknown)

## Assistant State Directors East Tennessee



### **George and Rebecca Martin**

It seems all the East Tennessee Chapters are a buzz with anticipation of THE 2008 RALLY to be held in Perry, Georgia in March 2008. I understand more than one Chapter intends to hold their March campout/meeting at THE RALLY. I hope everyone gets their reservations in early.

The East Tennessee Chapters opted not to try to have a Regional campout in 2008 because of THE RALLY being held so close and so many wanting to take advantage of the opportunity to attend. But, I have been told that this is something that they really want to bring back in 2009. So we'll look forward to doing what we can to make 2009 our next East Tennessee Regional Campout.

Also, I'm proud to announce that the Overmountain Sams' Web site is up and running. I know if any other chapter's members are interested Ron Hughes, Chapter President, will be more than willing to talk to them about it. I understand that they have already had over 1,100 hits in the first month and that it is directly responsible for some new members. Congratulations, Overmountain!

George and I had the opportunity to camp and visit with both Scenic City Sams and Cherokee Trails Sams this summer at Spring Lake RV Resort; formerly Roam 'N Roost, in Crossville, Tennessee. We had a great time playing dominos and Rummikube with Cherokee Trails. And with Scenic City they do a lot of the one thing I'm most talented at, talk. It's always fun to see what other chapters do at their campouts, gives us new ideas to pass along.

## WAGONMASTER



### **Ron and Loretta Masterson**

My parking crew and I are looking forward to having you at the Tennessee 2007 Fall Samboree at Camp Jordan, East Ridge, Chattanooga, Tennessee. As you know, the Tennessee Fall Samboree will be October 5-7. However we welcome people who can come early, and our early bird days will be October 2-4. My crew and I will be available to park you starting at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday the 2nd. No one will be allowed to park themselves, and parking will be on a first come first serve basis. If you wish to park with your chapter or with someone outside your chapter, YOU MUST arrive together. The parking crew will not save spaces. It is our intentions to give you the best possible space and park you as close to the action as possible.

My crew and I will utilize Sunday and Monday to prepare for your arrival. If you do arrive before 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 2nd, you will be parked in a staging area. At this time, that area has not been determined. Parking hours will be between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. daily. If you arrive any time outside those hours, you will be directed to the staging area.

Water and electric will be available for each rig. There is a dumpsite on the grounds where you will be able to dump your tanks before departing. Again, my crew and I will be standing by to assist you if you need help. We are looking forward to your visit to the Chattanooga area and will do whatever we can to make you stay pleasant and enjoyable. The following directions should help you to find Camp Jordan.

If you are coming from the Nashville area, take I-24 to Chattanooga. Stay on I-24 until it merges with

# Wagonmaster

continued from page 2

I-75. Take I-75 toward Atlanta. Take Exit 1 toward US-41/ East Ridge. At top of exit ramp, turn left onto US-41 Go approximately 0.3 mile and turn left onto St. Thomas Street, then immediately left onto Fred Pruett Parkway. (The name of the road will change to Camp Jordan Parkway.) Once you turn onto Fred Pruett Parkway/Camp Jordan Parkway, you will go approximately 0.9 mile. The parking area is on your left and the arena will be on your right.

If you are coming from Knoxville area, take I-75 south toward Chattanooga. When you arrive in the Chattanooga area, follow signs toward Atlanta. Exit I-75 at Exit 1 toward US-41/ East Ridge. At top of exit ramp, turn left onto US-41 Go approximately 0.3 mile and turn left onto St. Thomas Street, then immediately left onto Fred Pruett Parkway. (The name of the road will change to Camp Jordan Parkway.) Once you turn onto Fred Pruett Parkway/Camp Jordan Parkway, you will go approximately 0.9 mile. The parking area is on your left and the arena will be on your right.

If you are coming from the Atlanta area, take I-75 north toward Chattanooga. Once you enter Tennessee, exit on Exit 1A. At top of exit ramp, turn right onto US-41. You will go approximately 200 yards on US-41. Turn left onto Fred Pruett Parkway. (The name of the road will change to Camp Jordan Parkway.) Once you turn onto Fred Pruett Parkway/Camp Jordan Parkway, you will go approximately 0.9 mile. The parking area is on your left and the arena will be on your right.



tending were the Bonds, the Bullifins, the R. Ellingtons, the D. Ellingtons, the McWherters, and the Stokleys and special guests Doug and Jane Overton. The group visited several local attractions, such as *Spring Park's Water, Music and Light* show and Helen Keller's birthplace. On Sunday the group had a special lunch at Claunch's Café at Spring Park.

In August the chapter traveled to Reelfoot State Park. There were four member rigs present and one guest rig. Those attending were the Bonds, the Harrisons, the Howertons, the Stokelys, and special guest Don and Emma Vailes. The group had a wonderful trip with several traveling to visit the visitors center, Flippin's Peach Farm, and other area attractions. The group had lunch on Saturday at the Lakeview restaurant in Tiptonville.

September had the campout scheduled for Natchez Trace, but due to chapter illnesses, and other commitments, the official campout was cancelled. However, one dedicated rig still decided to go. The Bullifins traveled to Natchez Trace to represent the chapter. We appreciate their dedication and apologize for the others being unable to accompany them.

Our chapter charity efforts include several members helping the American Cancer Society with their annual Burger Day Fund-raiser. Those attending and lending a helping hand either putting together meals or delivering meals were the Bacomes, the Bonds, the Howertons, and the Stokleys, and tag-a-long Mary Stafford. The group helped the American Cancer Society raise \$2,000 that day.

Our chapter would like to continue to ask the other Good Sams member to continue to pray for our chapter's charter members, Frank and Verta Lee Oller. While they are "on the mend," they continue to struggle with health problems, and Mr. Oller faces a long re-

## Chapter News



### Golden Circle Sams

The Golden Circle Sams have been busy since the Spring Samboree. In July the chapter traveled to McFarland Park in Florence, Alabama. There were six member rigs present and one guest rig. Those at-

See Chapter News Page ..... 4

# Chapter News

## Continued from page 3

covery from his fall this past April. Your cards and/or prayer would be greatly appreciated. Cards may be mailed to:

Frank and Verta Lee Oller, 47 Pammara Lane, Jackson, TN 38305.

Our chapter has had many with illnesses this year; we wish them all renewed health for the upcoming camping year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Bond  
President, Golden Circle Sams

## Ole Smoky Sams

by Pat Elliott, Secretary



Even though it has been exceptionally hot this past summer, we found that Ole Smoky Sam's has some diehard campers who'll venture out in almost any kind of weather. It's good to know that the spirit is alive and well! All in all, we've stayed busy with our monthly campouts since the Samboree in Lebanon.

At the Spring Samboree, Ole Smoky Sam's was recognized for their thirty years in existence with the presentation of a certificate and preferential seating for the Samboree events and entertainment. It was nice being in front for a change....

Once again, we have signed up to decorate the stage for the Fall Samboree. We have several very creative members who have been quite busy designing and painting. Once we put the finishing touches on the canvas we'll have to face the challenge of putting it all together in Chattanooga. We hope that you all enjoy the finished product!

Our July campout was held at Cumberland Mountain State Park. It was the first campout that Richard and I missed in two years but I heard that everyone

there had a great time. Of course, the restaurant at the park is reason enough to go there and I understand this trip was no exception.

In August, we went to Peace Valley Campground in Murphy, North Carolina. What a beautiful place! The staff is wonderful and the experience is memorable. We spent a little time in Murphy checking out the sights and exercising our palettes. The museum is very interesting and, if the curator is in, you can learn all about the area. We even found that Abraham Lincoln's biological father is buried behind one of the local churches. Of course, we went to the church to see it for ourselves and, yes we found it! If you get a chance to go to Peace Valley, I would recommend going to Cleveland, Tennessee, and taking US-64 over, the drive is a shutterbug's dream.

The Ole Smoky Sams journeyed to Talladega, Alabama, for their September campout and the Alabama Fall Samboree. We enjoyed visiting another state's



Samboree since each one seems to offer something a little different. No matter what, it will be an enjoyable experience.

Most of the Chapter members enjoyed two side trips, one to the Talladega Race Track itself and the other trip to the International Motorsports Hall of Fame. Both these trips were pretty exciting, especially at the Hall of Fame because many of the winning cars for past races were on display.

Members of the Ole Smoky Sams wish to express their condolences to the families of the Mingers and the Cowells on the recent death of their mothers.

See Chapter News Page ..... 5

# Chapter News

Continued from page 4

## Cumberland Mountain Sams



The Chapter was well represented at the Spring Samboree with 13 members and 4 guests attending.

We were honored at the Samboree for celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Good Sam Chapter. Several members played games and won door prizes. Delbert and Donna Butson received the Region 6 Century Badge. Congratulations to all the winners and recipients of awards. Our ice cream sales turned out real good.

Our June campout was at Dale Hollow Lake. Several members attended and a good time was had by all. In July we camped at Defeated Creek Campground. Several of the members went swimming while the rest sat in front of a fan trying to stay cool. Our past time in the evenings was watching the skunks traverse the area hoping they wouldn't let loose with their perfume.

Our campout in August was at the Bean Pot Campground in Crossville. Several of the members went to the tree house in Crossville and others went shopping. Most of us went out to eat Tuesday and Wednesday night. We had our Thanksgiving in August on Thursday. Leonard Flatt roasted our turkey over the coals. A good meal was had by all. During the campout we organized and prepared 40 boxes for the troops in Iraq. Jim and Jean Taylor coordinated the effort with Fort Campbell personnel. Thanks to their special efforts and those of the chapter members, operation "Labor of Love" was a total success.

Our September campout was at the Long Branch Campground on Center Hill Lake. We had 9 rigs and 2 drive-ins attending. Thursday was our annual fish fry. We had our election for the nominated officers who will serve in 2008. Those elected to serve are as follows:

- President: ..... Howard Sutton
- Vice President: ..... Ken Smith
- Secretary: ..... Maxine Austin
- Treasurer: ..... Billy Austin
- Wagon Master: ..... Delbert Butson
- Chaplain: ..... Leonard Flatt
- Publicist: ..... Priscilla Sutton
- Activity Director: ... Maxine Austin
- Legislative: ..... Billy Austin

By: Connie Winterton, Publicity, Cumberland Mountain Sams

## River M Sams

by Buster Miller



During the Spring Samboree the River M Sams helped with the Thursday night Hot Dog Supper wherein 825 hot dogs were cooked and served. Enjoyed good entertainment and fellowship the entire time.

In July, we camped at Trace Lake State Park, Beldon, Mississippi. Which is near Tupelo. They have upgraded with full hookups and that was good; however, they left all of the ants with instructions to make it rough on us.

August camping was scheduled for Hernando Point but because of sickness and the many days of over 100 degree temperatures, only three rigs and six members felt strong enough to endure.

At our September outing, we tried out the Tom Sawyer RV Park in West Memphis, Arkansas.

The weather was great and we enjoyed the friendly reception and their efforts to make us happy. Some decided to go to the stock car race track on Saturday and yes, one of the ladies decided to go because she wanted to see the wrecks and the ambulance responses.

Looking forward to the Fall Samboree in Chattanooga. See You There.

See Chapter News Page ..... 6

# Chapter News

Continued from page 5

## Fish Fry Sams

by Billy Jones



After the June Tennessee Samboree we heard a rumor was going around at the Samboree that the Fish Fry Sams was no longer active. This was a false rumor we are very much an active chapter. As of October ninth we will be starting 27 years as a chapter.

Billy and Juanita Jones are the only charter members and they they have been active for 18 years. They did take off eight years to serve as Tennessee State Director during this time they remained honorary members.

Fish Fry Sams have had a great camping season. In July we camped at Piney campground in the Land Between the Lakes. The chapter enjoyed a fish dinner cooked by Ken Anderson, Earl Mealer, Chunky Jackson, Warren Richardson, and Billy Jones, with other members assisting.

In August the group met at Columbus Belmont in Kentucky over looking the mighty Mississippi.

The September outing was again held at Land Between the Lakes with the chapter enjoying another fish dinner provided by Billy and Juanita Jones with the chapter doing the cooking.

The chapter held their election of officers for the year 2008. New Officers were elected as follows:

- President ..... Juanita Jones
- Vice-President ..... Chunky Jackson
- Secretary/Treasurer .... Rita Riola
- Wagon Master ..... Dave Riola
- Newsletter ..... Margaret Jackson.

Happy Camping

# West Tennessee Traveling Sams

by Becky Park, Publicity



The West Tennessee Traveling Sam's Chapter of Jackson, Tennessee, held their monthly campout at Piney Grove Campground, Mississippi, May 18-20 with 13 rigs present. Even though the weather was cool at night with warm days we manage to enjoy homemade ice cream on Friday afternoon. Betty Blackwell, Elizabeth Baker and Pauline Belew presented the 2006 scrapbook to the past president, Alan Arnold.

The July campout was held at Montgomery State Park July 20-22- with 13 rigs. Every one enjoyed talking about the Spring Samboree. Sid and Betty Blackwell's beautiful dog, 'Daisy May' got a round of applause from the club for winning "Best Over All" of the Dog Show at the Samboree. Daisy May and Sid both are still smiling!

Our chapter is proud to be a part of an organization, the Tennessee Good Sams, which supports the Ronald McDonald House and which raised \$1,276.00. We are still saving tabs and will continue to do so. The beautiful clock, which was auctioned during the Samboree, was made and donated by our own chapter member, Buddy Rodgers.

The August campout was held at Blue Bluff in Aberdeen, Mississippi, August 17-19. The chapter surprised members Harold and Becky Park with a 50th Wedding Anniversary Party on Saturday night August 18th. It was a beautiful setting for the event as everyone gathered around the table on the waterfront for cake and punch. The ducks on the water were unexpected guest but added to the beauty of the evening.

Sunday morning some of the members of the chapter attended the Presbyterian church service where the church began in the 1800s. Surrounded by the beauty and nature of the park the birds had their own songs and tunes they had selected which made a very impressive setting.

See Chapter News Page ..... 7

## Chapter News

### Continued from page 6

On September 14-16 the campout was at Jamie Whitten Park, Fulton, Mississippi, with 12 rigs in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the week-end. As the rains came pouring down the camping and fun never stopped.

The chapter has received recognition by Good Sams for Clean up Day and Clean up America. President Dallas Hallman and Vice President Bert Meece attended the President's meeting in Lebanon. The chapter is having a great year and looking forward to more camping time together. The next campout will be November 2-4 at Natchez Trace.

## Cherokee Trails Sams

by Shirley Gasaway



What a fun time was had at the Spring Samboree. Meeting up with old friends and making new ones. I think the new Youth Program went real well. Our grandson had so much fun that before he got the door closed for us to head home; he was saying that he was coming back next year.

The Memorial service that was held on Sunday morning was especially touching. Another great Samboree to go down in history. Gary and Daisy Inman won several of the games and our newest member John Owens won the Ronald McDonald jacket that the youth had sold chances on and he also won the Dulcimer. He said that he was going to have to find someone to teach him how to play it now.

In July we went to Roam and Roost, which is now Spring Lake. We had some of our grandkids at this campout, which is really a great place to have them. A small campground where you can know at all times where they are. They love the fishing there. Chester and Judy Huling joined our chapter at this campout. We are happy to have them with us.

In August, off we went to Volunteer Park in Heiskell, Tennessee. It was so hot that very little activities on the outside went on. We still had a good turn out and on Saturday night for our meal and meeting we went to a Chinese Restaurant. We had a nice surprise when we got there and found Tom and Charmie Copas waiting along with Helen and John to join us. The meal was great, and so was the fellowship that was shared with each other. John and Helen decided to move from being Associate members over to regular members. Glad to have them aboard.

Very happy to see our picture in the September issue of the Highway for our part in the Good Sam Clean Up Day.

In the first part of September, David and I made a trip to Los Angeles, California. While we were there, we went on up to visit the Good Sam Headquarters. Had a very nice visit with the folks there. Gretchen Gaither, Chapter Coordinator, showed us the wall that holds all the chapter patches. So many on that wall that we could not find ours. We also saw the plaque that showed where we had won "Chapter of the Year" in 1997.

For our September campout we journeyed to River Country in Gadsden, Alabama.

Our chapter has been working hard and making plans to help make the up coming Fall Samboree in East Ridge, Tennessee, one of the best yet.

See you there.

## OVER MOUNTAIN SAMS

by Ed Murray



Our web site tells it all with photos, events, schedules and all information regarding our Chapter. In our

See Chapter News Page ..... 8

## Chapter News

### Continued from page 7

first three months we have had over 1,500 hits on our site and we have gained four new members from it. It is very well done by one of our members, Ed Murray, and is our largest asset. Ron Hughes, President.

The Overmountain Sams Chapter of Northeast Tennessee has achieved one of its objectives for 2007: their own, independent website. A website was identified as one way to increase participation by existing members as well as attracting new members. The website features: officer's names (and how to get in touch); current newsletter; camping schedule; pictures of members' rigs; recent camping photos; and an archives/online scrapbook. We are planning to add new pages that include member news, links that are useful to our members and other pages as suggested by our members.

Our website went online in June 2007. Since it went online, we have had over 1,100 visitors to the website. As of this date, we have had numerous inquiries regarding membership in our chapter. Some prospective members have visited our monthly campouts already and others have said that they are planning to visit upcoming campouts. We have also noticed an increase in member attendance at our campouts. Some campgrounds have contacted us regarding promotion of their facility on our website, as well.

It appears that the website is helping us accomplish our objectives. To visit our website, go to: [www.overmountainsams.com](http://www.overmountainsams.com)

Anyone with questions about our website should contact: Ed Murray - Web Master  
emurray811@verizon.net

## Cotton Patch Sams

by Lisa Gillihan



WOW!!!! Can you believe our first year of camping together as a group is almost over? Where has this year gone?

The whole **Cotton Patch** made it to the July campout, which was held at the TVA campground below the dam at Pickwick. We enjoyed a beautiful Sunday morning. Effie Self held the devotional. It was an uplifting and heart warming service God really blessed that day. We took an excursion to Tusculumbia Alabama to see the city park. Well worth the trip, for the water features alone. We found it would be a great place for a picnic. Maybe next time?

We were not alone at the July campout, The Hub City Sams shared the campground with us. It was good to have neighbors. Casey Gowler, President of Hub City gave us the grand tour of his new rig. Hub City and The Cotton Patch were formed around the same time, went to our first Samboree in June '07 together so we have a special bond. In the future we hope to do more things with Hub City.

In August the Cotton Patch Sams camped at Columbus Belmont State Park, Kentucky. The park is perched high on the bluffs of the Mississippi River. The park is not only scenic but steeped in rich civil war history. We were fortunate to have slightly cooled temperatures during our visit there, making enjoying coffee in the morning and fellowship in the evening with this great view from our camp sites possible.

Columbus Belmont is a very scenic park overlooking "The Mighty Mississippi."

It is also a historic place as well. It seems there was a civil war battle fought here that changed the course of the war. General U.S. Grant commanded his first battle at Columbus Belmont. Victory was claimed by both sides. We had a blast looking at what was left behind by our forefathers.

In September the Cotton Patch Sams held their campout at Cape Camping and RV Park, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on September 14th-16th.

Cotton Patch Officers for the year 2008 are:

President ..... Brenda Whittington  
Vice President ..... James Palmer  
Secretary ..... Darqueta Rines  
Treasurer ..... Lisa Gillihan  
Wagon Master ..... Charles Self