



THE WAGON TONGUE

Iowa Good Sams

“CHRISTMAS IN JUNE”

RALLY A SUCCESS

We had a good attendance for our 2017 Rally. The Rally boasted 135 rigs. The days were filled with many activities and games. We were short on vendors and hope to get more to attend next year.

We want to thank everyone who attended and all the individuals and chapters that helped. Without all the help and participation by everyone our Rally could not be a success!

“HAWAIIAN LUAU” IS THE NEW THEME FOR THE 2018 RALLY

This is a great theme for the 2018 Rally. So all of us should be thinking of great Stage Decorations, Costumes, Rig Decorations and ways to promote the Rally so we can really show our pride and have a record attendance.

So, put on your “thinking caps” and set your mode to “Hawaiian Luau”. See you in Amana June 21-24, 2018



MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE DIRECTORS

It's hard to believe this is the end of our four year term as State Directors. We have enjoyed every minute. The last four years have given us the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful people.

During this time, we feel that there were four very successful Rallies, but we need to add, it would not have been possible without the help of all our great chapter members.

We also want to thank all our state staff, without all their work during the years we wouldn't have been able to accomplish the things we did.

In the time we were directors, we found our state in 2 different regions and amid many administrative changes. We are happy to say we are now in a region that includes state directors that are willing to work together and to keep Good Sam's active and productive.

We will miss working directly with members but, we will be the Northeast Asst. Directors, so we hope to help our new director in any way we can.

Hope everyone has a good winter and we look forward to seeing everyone next camping season.

Dave and Charissa



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GAME WINNERS 2017 IOWA STATE RALLY

Turtle Races:

1st Craig Hobler

2nd Sharon Feltenberger

Bean Bag Baseball:

1st White Dots 6

2nd Blues 3

2nd Red Birds 3

Lorene Hynes	Carla Griese	Leroy Brindle
Ronald Hensom	Norma Forrest	Betty Vande Brake
Judy Finke	Linda Helt	Lavonne Bries
Larry Hansen	Jan R	Margaret Van Ottenloo
Charles Euly	Ray Finke	George Abbas
Gaylene Brindle	Donald Feltenberger	Jan Scheetz
Norm Richardson	Chuck Robinson	Mick Vande Brake
Harlen Ten Haken	John Kraese	Clarence Serbansek
Roy Scholl	Norma Jongetjer	Dorothy Jongetjer
Joyce Kraese	Wanda Anderson	Tom Dean

Euchre:

Cribbage:

500:

Skipbo:

1st Jim Lindquist 38

1st George Spicknall 391

1st Harold Annis 2570

1st Steve Kidder 195

2nd Susan Scholl 35

2nd Paul Schnell 371

2nd Mick Vande Brake 2370

2nd Jamison Richmond 185

2nd Harry Arnold 371

Men

Women

Men

Women

Bean Bag Toss:

Ladders:

1st Chuck Robinson 50

1st Thelma Ten Haken 37

1st George Abbas 46

1st Mary Lowry 37

2nd Richard Reed 50

2nd Joyce Kraese 37

2nd Craig Dawson 46

2nd Jolene Glock 37

Washer Toss:

Bull Toss:

1st Richard Reed 43

1st Thelma Ten Haken 20

1st Richard Reed 12

1st Paulette Williams 10

2nd Norm Richardson 30

2nd Margaret Van Ottenloo 19

2nd Ronald Hersom 11

2nd Linda Helt 8

2017 Iowa State Rally – State Raffle Winners

\$100.00 Bill - Danny Study, Council Bluffs, IA

George Foreman Grill - Jeremy Archibald, Council Bluffs IA

Lithium Battery Hand Trimmer - Chris Reed, Council Bluffs IA

Pizza Pizzaz - Judy Hansen, Cedar Rapids IA

Beach Tote - Pat Lannen, Sioux Fall, SD

2017 CHAPTER UPDATES

Washer City Sams

Washer City Sams is based out of Newton, Iowa. Our chapter enjoys camping. Most of our ladies quilt and we have made several quilts for Veterans.

Our chapter has donated money to “Beds for Kids”, “Retrieving Freedom”, “Fund for lighting Newton’s Courthouse at Christmas time”, “Hopices” and “Ronald McDonald House”. We ring bells for Salvation Army at Christmas time. We volunteer at the Special Olympics, “Dance in the Kitchen”. We make Christmas Stockings for the Veteran’s Home in Marshalltown.

We enjoy camping all over Iowa, and love our pot-lucks, too! We camp the 4th weekend of the month during camping season, and in the winter we meet for supper the 4th Saturday of the month.



HAPPY TRAILS

The Happy Trails Good Sam Camping Club has accomplished quite a bit this past year. One of our members once again donated five or more baby quilts to a local hospital to be used for new born babies. She spends her winter months when not camping thinking of others and we appreciate her efforts a lot.

Two couples from our group hold state offices in the Good Sam Organization. We thank them for all their efforts in putting on the rally in June.

Our group is not as large as it once was but we still have been able to provide a sausage gravy and biscuit breakfast at the Amana rally in June as a fund raiser. The proceeds from this breakfast provide a donation to veterans.

Each month each couple in our club contributes a donation of money to a fund and at the end of June each year, we donate to a worthy cause. This year, we sent our donation to Retrieving Freedom.

In October of last year, we sent donations to Retrieving Freedom and a Pleasant Hill Nursing facility that houses veterans.

We continue to meet once a month and truly enjoy each other's company.

Cedar Sams

The Cedar Sams had lunches at various places last fall and early spring. In April, we welcomed back the members who were gone south for the winter. Then camping season began in May, the third weekend of the month. We went to Lakeshore in Oelwein. We had a great camp-out with a potluck and meeting Saturday night. In June, we went to the State of Iowa Sams Rally. Friday, we had our Hotdog Lunch Sale, it was a very good turn-out, proceeds of \$400.00 was split between Defiantly Dogs and Ronald McDonald Family House at St Luke's in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We all enjoyed the good times at the rally. In July, we went to Riverview Ridge in Cascade, Iowa. We had 11 units, some members went tubing on Saturday, followed by a potluck and our meeting.

In August, we went to Tama, Iowa to the Pow Wow, it was enjoyed by all. We had a meeting and elected officers this weekend as well. When September comes, we will go to Hickory Hill in La Porte City, Iowa.

BIG RIVER SAMs

As our 2017 campouts come to a close, here are a few highlights of our year. First off, Happy 45th Birthday to our chapter!

Something new was tried for our first campout in April- a soup dump! Due to some of our snowbirds just returning home, we wanted a simple meal to start off the year. Everyone brought something to put in the pot along with a side dish. Must have turned out okay, as the pot was emptied! We had a few cool campouts in April & May- lucky we had enclosed shelters to meet in. Most of our group attended the June Rally which had a Christmas theme. With great teamwork & creative minds, we were able to win both the day & nighttime display awards! Our charitable donations were given to Quilts of Valor, Camp Courageous & Dogs for the Deaf. The heat returned in July with a vengeance, but a bonus for camping in Galesburg was we each received a pass to a water park. Really helped to cool us down along with the 4 fans in each corner of a shelter house. Our August campout caught our group star-gazing as the nights were clear & in September we plan on viewing the stars again at the John Witte Observatory. We are looking forward to a great 2018 camping season!



BACKBONE SAMS

The Backbone Country Sams started the Happy New Year back in our favorite off-camping season meeting place in Strawberry Point at Back Home Country Cooking. The newly rebuilt restaurant from the fire has a good space for us to gather and enjoy the good company and wonderful food. Can you believe 18 were there including one honorary member, John Derr and his guest! (And that is with 6 snow birds gone.)

Honorary and long time member Evelyn Cook passed in December.

May found us at Littleport City Park for chili dump, omelets in a bag, and pancakes.

June we met at Gilbertson Conservation Area in Elgin. We toured and had samples at the Country View Yogurt Farm and facility.

Five units ventured to Amana for Iowa State Rally and Christmas in June. Our own State Wagonmaster Duane and Delores Brandt won the prize for the individual best unit decoration. They will be stepping down this year after a job well done.

Our club was responsible for taxi duty on Saturday morning. That was a new experience for some of us.

Our Pres. Linda Helt won the award for Bull ring toss, the 2nd place baseball team and finding Samantha.

July we met in Oelwein City Park. The early-birds went to Grandview Care Center to have supper with long time camper Ron Kaiser. Some stayed and played cards with him and Dee.

We toured the REM Center. Our breakfast special was biscuits and gravy.

In August most of us attended the 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Don and Shirley Marmann in Farmersburg. They are long time campers and now have joined the ranks as honorary members.

The campout for August was at the Delaware County Fairground in Manchester. We toured the Quiltmakers Shop and also Sues Flowers and Greenhouse. And how many pancakes can we eat, Francis and Milo?

Due to the schedule at Delaware County Fairgrounds we had to alter our plans. So September we camped at Jakway Conservation Park at Aurora. The early-birds joined Ron Kaiser at Lexington Estates in Independence for supper and some hand and foot card playing. We are so glad to see him and he seems equally happy to see us. Dee, Ron's wife, was the State Chaplain a couple of years ago.

Our interest this time took us to a model train display in the country by Quasqueton. Lunch was at the Common Grounds in Lamont and a tour of the Museum.

Our final campout will be in Elkport with a stew dump and pancakes planned.

As we did last year, the women have been working on quilt tops for the needy in South Texas. The people there finish them with batting and quilting and give them to Comfort House (Hospice) and the Veterans.

We recognize and sing for birthdays and anniversaries each month and many times have "treats"!

The weather has been excellent this camping season which always contributes to our great times.



WAPELLO TRAVELIN' SAMS

The Wapello Travelin' Sams have once again had a great year and managed to grow significantly too. Four new units have joined our chapter, making us 20 units, with a total of 37 members. We averaged 10 units and 24 members at our 6 campouts. We lost one important member this past year, Ben Howk. He leaves a big dent in each of our hearts, because we are a camping family.

Ed Hannan was elected our fearless leader for the next 2 years, so we are in good hands.

Many excursions and events were enjoyed by our chapter this year. We toured a Civil War Battlefield in Athens, Mo., when camping at Farmington in May. We also learned a lot about early Des Moines River trade and travel at the Farmington museum. In June, one of our couples gave speed boat rides on Lake Rathbun when we camped at Island View. We also paid honor to our veterans as we toured The Welcome Home Soldiers site at Albia. We toured a museum in Keosauqua in August, which once hid slaves in the Underground Railroad. In September we visited a Hydroponics vegetable farm near Ottumwa. Throughout the summer we were also entertained by a magician, singers, a home-made pie and ice cream social. We played miniature golf, had a pie auction, a pie throwing contest, and played many games of ladder golf, bean bag toss, Skipbo, Sequence, bouche ball, and many hands of various card games. And of course the camp fires at night with plenty of good conversation. Our hosts at the pot-lucks of each camp-out spoiled us with smoked turkey, hot ham, pulled pork shoulder, Dutch oven cooking, and our favorite soups and sandwiches.

Some women of our chapter once again made children's blankets for a local missionary to take on medical mission trips.

A few women of our chapter learned to make "Knitted Knockers" for breast cancer patients. 32 pair were crocheted last winter for cancer survivors. Several of our "Snow Birds" flew south for the winter, while the rest of us will meet once a month to eat out and keep up on each other.

We survived a close tornado by taking shelter in the basement of the camp hosts in May, almost got blew into Lake Rathbun in a severe thunder storm in June, and endured a scary attack by some Rebels from another chapter at the Iowa Rally in Amana, who tried to chop down our "Winter Wonderland" forest. Then we were almost blown away by high winds just before judging. We didn't win this year, but very much appreciated all the worthy competition who did win. We'll come back!!! 7 Units attended this year's Rally, with our members Bernice and Larry Kenney taking First place in the individual lighted decoration competition. Our chapter officiated the Sunday morning Church/Memorial Service by providing the speaker, pianist, and choir director.

We will be holding our annual garage sale on October 7 in Ottumwa, which we use to fund the 3 charities we support. Also several thousand hours were spent in community service projects, to communities, hospitals, churches, neighbors, and disaster relief projects.

In all, we are a very loving, giving group of seniors who would give the shirt off our backs, or maybe we already have.



