

News & Views

Published exclusively for State and Provincial Directors



Club Day at the Rally

The Good Sam Club has some great plans to celebrate Good Sam Club Day at the Rally on Monday, April 20th!

The day will start with guests bringing their treasure chest keys (found in registration packets) to see if they can open the Good Sam treasure chest and win a prize!

We are celebrating with an old fashioned fiesta. There will be Salsa dance lessons followed by a Salsa dance contest where one lucky couple will be named the best Salsa dancing couple. We'll complete our theme with a cooking show featuring Highways favorite columnist and popular Food Network star Bob Blumer, with tasting for our guests. Later, guests can prepare their favorite Salsa recipe.

With a small donation to Hole in the Wall guests can decorate their own "Sambros" or Maracas and then participate in the parade at the end of the day. There will be one lucky winner for the most unique Sambro.

We will also offer festive Mariachi music for dancing and listening pleasure.

We will also have the opportunity to meet Good Sam's RVer of the Year, Richard Daniels, and learn about his Old Fella animal rescue projects. We are asking all attending State and Provincial Directors to be available to answer questions and provide information about Good Sam chapters and upcoming Samborees in your area. We will have displays by Region, so even if you're not attending, but would like your fellow Directors to distribute your information, please send it to Tammy Worley and we will be sure to have it available.

Good Sam Club Life Members, can participate in our exclusive Life Member drawing, with a chance to win a Mexican Riviera cruise. To enter, simply go to the Good Sam Member service booth 531 and present your Life Member card. All tickets must be in the bucket by 12:00 p.m. Sunday, April 19th. We will be drawing the winning ticket in the Club Day building following the Salsa Dance contest.

We guarantee Good Sam Club Day will be full of fun and entertainment.

Please note that times are tentative and may be slightly adjusted as the day unfolds.

Monday, April 20, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 1:30p.m.	Good Sam Treasure Chest
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Mariachi Music
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Salsa Dance Lessons**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Bob Blumer Cooking Show
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Salsa Cooking Contest
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Salsa Dance Contest
2:30 p.m.	Meet Richard Daniels & Life Member Drawing
3:00 p.m.	Good Sambro Parade & judging
7:00 p.m.	Good Sam State Directors' Parade of Flags

****Lessons will be offered to the first 50 couples who sign up at the Good Sam Member booth #531.**

Memo to State Directors from Tom Gonser:

As promised during our January meeting in Ventura, I'd like to send along an item or two that we're seeing at the RV Owners' Advisory Council. We have a fairly regular stream of email traffic from members, who offer suggestions or express concerns. While many of these are a bit repetitive, occasionally we see an item that turns out to be "news to us". An example of such a message is one we recently received from "Steve", a disabled vet, who noted an inconsistency among states with reference to policies concerning fees for disabled veterans staying at state campground facilities. He writes:

"Being a disabled vet I am allowed free camping in all the state parks here in Oregon and ONLY Oregon. The state of Oregon also

recognizes Disabled vets from other states and they may also camp free here in Oregon.

My problem is why other states do not recognize us with free camping and how can we change the laws in other states to let all us vets camp free from any state?"

While the Good Sam club does not take a position on what groups should benefit from "free" or discounted camping, it is noteworthy that there is apparently a disparity among states on this issue. While this particular member comment relates to Oregon, it's quite possible the issue might arise in other States as well. And I believe we should be sensitive to it, as the service of our veterans is obviously on behalf of the entire country, not a particular State.

Chapter of the Year

Members of the Utah Deer Sams keep the good times rolling with hotdog roasts, sing-alongs and movies projected on a sheet on the side of one of a rig during camping trips.

"Our main objective is to keep the group together," says chapter president Harold Jacklin.

As Jacklin sees it, the resulting cohesion has helped 44-member group, based in the Provo area, become a force to be reckoned with when it comes to volunteering. Throughout 2008, the Utah Deer Sams racked up more than 12,474 work hours for charities ranging from Adopt-A-Park to Dogs for the Deaf. The Good Sam Club staff took notice and recognized the Deer Sams as Chapter of the Year for 2008.

For Jacklin, service is a key part of the chapter experience. "Things like cleaning up debris along the roadside and cleaning up community parks help keep the group together," he says. "It tends to leave a positive impression on the community and with the campground where we stay."

The Deer Sams are no slouches when it comes to fundraising—the group garnered over \$12,000 in 2008 for charity—

but Jacklin says the members prefer helping people directly. The hands-on philosophy is reflected in the group's efforts to knit quilts and other goods to homeless and battered women's shelters.

Taking second-place honors were the Rolling Sams of Florida's central Atlantic coast. In addition to volunteer and fundraising efforts for the Ronald McDonald House, Toys for Tots and National Cleanup Day, the chapter donated teddy bears to Camp Boggy Creek, which provides a camp environment for children with life-threatening illnesses. Boggy Creek is part of the Hole in the Wall Camps network, the Good Sam Club's charity of choice.

Two other Florida chapters received honorable mention awards. The Silver Sams II of the Sarasota area cleaned roads and highways, held bake sales to raise money for a variety of charities and participated in Habitat for Humanity. The Trail Blazing Sams of the Tampa Bay area posted 7,410 volunteer hours for Adopt-A-Road, blood drives, volunteering at Samborees, donating to the VA hospital and many other endeavors.

Sambassador Update: Meet the Brooks

Good Sam's newest Sambassadors bring a spirit of fun to club events

During a July camping trip in Maryland about 15 years ago, Bill and Esthermay Brooks received an unusual invitation. A group of RVers in the campground was throwing a potluck—with a Christmas theme.

At first, the couple didn't know what to make of the summer yuletide celebration. "We thought this was a campground-sponsored event," remembers Bill. But after enjoying some Christmas snacks and singing carols, he found out the revelers were members of the Southern Maryland Wanderers, a Good Sam chapter from California, Maryland.

Inspired by the group's spirit of fun and fellowship, Bill and Esthermay, who already were Good Sam members, joined the chapter on the spot. Since then, the Life members have risen through the Good Sam ranks, first as chapter president, then as state directors. Recently, the couple took on the role of Good Sam Club Sambassadors, traveling across the continent to help club members get the most out of the Good Sam experience. "It's the start of a new adventure," says Bill.

Bill and Esthermay join fellow Sambassadors Rosemary Bates, Gerri Howorth, Ed James, Tom and Nancy Killmer, Patty and Dave Morgen and Don and Helen Woodard in supporting Good Sam chapters and state organizations, making sure club events run smoothly and answering fellow members' questions, among other duties.

The couple's devotion to Good Sam is pretty impressive when you consider that they balance their RVing passion

with full-time jobs. Bill's a police officer and Esthermay's a medical receptionist in Cobb Island, Maryland.

"We've spent all of our vacation time directing Samborees, whether it's in our state or another," says Bill. "The good thing about being on the East Coast is that a lot of states are a couple hours apart."

The couple has expanded their territory as they assume their Sambassador responsibilities. They traveled to Good Sam Club headquarters in Ventura, California, in January for the annual state directors meeting and they're also scheduled to attend the 2009 Rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 17 through 20. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Look for Bill and Esthermay, along with other Sambassadors, at Good Sam events from coast to coast.

For Bill, being a Sambassador means helping members explore all of the social possibilities of the Good Sam Club, including joining chapters, attending Samborees and having fun. He's also looking forward to helping build up chapters, which he sees as an integral part of the club experience.

Don't hesitate to say hello to Bill and Esthermay and all of the other Sambassadors at the next Good Sam Club event. Who knows? You might just run across the fun-loving couple at a summertime Christmas celebration. —*John Sullaway*



A Note from **Robin Dickson**

When Dogs for the Deaf Comes to Your State Samboree

Good Sam and Dogs for the Deaf (DFD) are a real team. We love coming to Samborees and sharing the DFD story and thanking your members for their support of our special work. Each year we try to get to 5-10 state Samborees plus The Rally.

When we come to a Samboree, we offer and ask the following:

1. We fly/drive in on Thursday, spend Friday and Saturday at the Samboree, and go home Sunday morning.
2. We will do one or two seminars on Dogs for the Deaf. We need one hour to do this and will bring a dog so we can show how the dogs are trained to help people who are deaf or hard of hearing. An ideal time to do this is at the Friday or Saturday night entertainment. That way we get everyone at one time. If that does not fit into your schedule, then we can do it once or twice during the day on Friday and/or Saturday.
3. We can also do a seminar on general Dog Training. This requires at least one hour. People do NOT bring their dogs to the seminar. We have found this very popular as many Good Sam members travel with a dog and are always looking for training tips.
4. We need a table in your vendor area where we can display DFD information and merchandise. We spend most of the day at the table visiting and answering questions. This is a very valuable way to educate your members about DFD.
5. While at the Samboree, we are willing to help with anything you might need an additional person for—judging the pet show, helping serve dinner, whatever. We want to show our

appreciation in any possible way.

6. We ask that you have a special fundraiser at the Samboree to help defray our expenses for coming to the Samboree. This does not have to cover everything—just something to help with air fare, motel, etc. This way we are not taking money away from training the dog to travel around the country.



We have found that attending state Samborees really provides the members with a chance to learn more and motivates them to get more involved in the work of DFD. Recently at the North Dakota Samboree, a man came up to me the morning after the seminar and told me how impressed he had been with the seminar and what DFD does. He went on to say that he was going home and changing his will to include DFD.

If it is not possible for me to attend your Samboree, another option is for you to check with DFD and see if there is a Hearing Dog team in the area of the Samboree who might be able to attend and do a demonstration.

We also have a professionally produced video that we can loan you to show at a Samboree or state meeting. This video tells the DFD story very well and has testimonials from some of our recipients.

For more information on either of these options, contact Robin at 541-826-9220 or robin@dogsforthe deaf.org.

Promote Your Chapters Through CyberSam

Is your state or provincial Samboree coming up? Got an interesting story to share about one of your recent Samborees? Or how about a story about your own unique approach to fundraising? Has one of your state or provincial chapters been instrumental in the success of a newsworthy community service activity?

Don't keep it to yourself—share it with our CyberSam readers! Each month, the Good Sam Club's e-newsletter delivers the latest RV and camping tips, club benefit updates, tech advice, and travel stories to our 400,000 CyberSam subscribers. Now CyberSam delivers even more—the opportunity for you to promote noteworthy chapter news!

Here's how it works... The Good Sam Club is in the process of personalizing each issue of CyberSam by tailoring content to a member's RV type, interests, and state or province of residence. As Good Sam directors, you will now have the opportunity to promote activities, events and stories of interest to members of

your own state or province.

Remember, we're looking for noteworthy news that will appeal to not only chapter members, but all CyberSam subscribers in your state or province.

If you have a story that you'd like to be considered for a future issue of CyberSam, please email your article and digital photo to Tammy Worley at TWorley@affinitygroup.com. Please note that all content is due on the 25th of the month two months before issue date. So for the June issue of CyberSam, your content would be due by no later than April 25th. Earlier is always better! Please keep this in mind when submitting copy for all of your date-specific events.

Along with the article, we'll also include a link to your state/province website and/or the Chapter home page on the website. It's a great way to spread the word to members interested in finding out more about the fun and value of chapter membership.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FROM THE GOOD SAM CLUB STAFF

March

David Spragg	3/1
Buford "Sonny" Crook	3/5
Fran Allain	3/6
Gerri Howorth	3/6
Michael Wood	3/6
Theresa White	3/7
Betty Morrison	3/12
Yolande Beauvais	3/18
Cecil Patrick	3/21
Al Allain	3/22
Luke Johnson	3/23
W.J. Bill Darvill	3/23
Judy Coderre	3/25
Paul Day	3/29

April

Larree Swinnerton	4/1
Rosemary Bates	4/2
Donald Lane	4/3
Bevin Bolger	4/5
Bill White	4/5
Pam Johnson	4/6
Norm Pepper	4/9
Dave Morgan	4/12
Vivian Williams	4/16
Karen Gulley	4/27
Wayne Crise	4/29

New Smile & Save Partners Added

Good Sam members enjoy exclusive discounts on automotive and RV services, car and RV rentals, apparel, tax and financial services, camping equipment, home computers and much more! Log on to the Good Sam website and visit the Smile & Save page to enjoy great savings.

The Good Sam Club has added new partners to the growing list of retailers participating in our Smile & Save program, including:

RVing 101 Videos – Good Sam members save 10% on all of the RV Education 101 DVDs available in the TrailerLifeDirectory.com Travel Store.

Premier Transmission – Save 20 to 30 percent - on all your transmission needs. Premier Transmission repairs axles, differentials, driveshafts, and u-joints at their Phoenix-Mesa location.

Price Self Storage – Looking to store a 45-foot motorhome or wave-runner? Good Sam members pay \$1 for first month's rent.

The Creek Company – The Creek Company makes a full line of compact portable, inflatable pontoon boats and float tubes that are perfect for transporting in your RV! Club members take 20% off all online orders.

Squishy Toes - Shower in comfort with this eco-friendly shower mat. Members receive a 20% discount when ordering online.

Website correction:

The Director's web page can be found at <http://state.goodsamclub.com/>

Free Night of Camping!

I am pleased to announce our Good Sam Club free night of camping promotion for Good Sam State and Provincial Directors.

All new Good Sam Club members who enroll with State and Provincial Directors February 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009 will receive a certificate for a free night of camping at any Good Sam Park, courtesy of the Good Sam Club. This is up to a \$25 value!

Camping Certificates will be sent directly to each new member along with their new member credentials. To redeem a certificate members simply need to send us their Good Sam Park receipt along with their completed camping certificate and we will mail them a reimbursement check, up to \$25.00.

This is an outstanding deal! The Good Sam introductory new member price is only \$12 and the camping certificate is valued at up to \$25. That's like getting \$13 – free – just for joining.

State and Provincial Directors must use their enrollment brochures for this promotion. If anyone needs more brochures simply contact headquarters and we'll send more right away.

Certificates will only be issued to NEW members. Only one certificate per new member. This offer is not valid for renewing or previous Good Sam Members.