



# Newsletter

April 2022

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## April Birthdays:

Steve Griffin 4/14  
Carol Raabe 4/19  
Julie Ritter 4/6



## April Anniversaries:

None this month



## Cares & Concerns

Please keep these members and families in your thoughts and prayers.

- Steve Hall is dealing with several health issues. Fortunately, he has a good group of doctors who are coordinating treatment of these issues.

Our Sunshine Chairman, Shirley Fiorentino, sends cards out to those in our group in need. Please let her know if you know of anyone in our group with health or other issues who could use a card to cheer them up or let them know we care about them.

## Campout News

### March-April Caravan

March was one of the busiest camping months our group has had in a long time. The trip started with a rendezvous of eight rigs at Twin Oaks campground in Elko, GA, on Monday, March 21st. That is eight miles from the Georgia National Fairgrounds where the **Georgia State Good Sams Spring Rally** started on Tuesday morning. We all caravanned in on Tuesday morning and were the first big group to

arrive, which insured that those who needed 50 amp service would have it. The group of eight RVs included our GTS officers, Horn, Hime, Griffin and Marks. In addition, we had Heise, King, Miller and Ritter. We were also joined by the Wards who camped in another area, and by the Halls who drove in and stayed in a local hotel



**Our rigs were all lined up ready to be parked.**



**After some challenges, we were parked.**

As soon as we were set up we went to M&T Meat Market and stocked up on great meats. Of course no outing is complete without a stop at the DQ.



**Time for ice cream at the DQ.**

That evening we all grilled steaks and chops on Tim's grill. We really appreciated him loaning us his grill, and doing the entire cleanup himself.

On Wednesday we went to Yoder's Deitsch Haus Amish Restaurant. We all enjoyed great food, and of course ate way more than we should have.



**The Amish food was great and we ate too much**



**Weather was nice for the most part, and Chloe, Chesty and Bella enjoyed happy hour with us.**



**In the afternoon several members passed the time playing Dirty UNO.**

On Thursday the rally events started and we had several GTS teams competing in washer toss.



Roger and Jan kept playing and playing completing four rounds of eliminations to win first place.



**Jan and Roger won 1st place in the washer toss**

For dinner Thursday we went to The Swanson where we enjoyed a nice dinner.



**Thursday we had dinner at The Swanson**

On Friday the games continued. We competed in "Baggo" which most of us know as corn hole.



**Mickey and Steve won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Baggo**

It was not all “fun and games” at the rally. The guys took time to work on Steve’s problematic slide. Steve was unsure about continuing the caravan after the rally, but it appears that the work paid off and it started working fine.



**Roger, Tim and Steve working on Steve’s slide**

Saturday was the final day of the rally. We had two teams competing in beanbag baseball. We had a lot of fun and one of our teams did very well. It seemed we were either very hot, or at least did well enough to keep winning our way to 2<sup>nd</sup> place.



**This GTS team took second place**

Saturday night at the closing ceremony, our group was recognized for winning first or second place in all three game events. In addition, Tim and Julie Ritter and Jan and Joyce Heise were awarded their Century Patches for attending ten Good Sam Rallies. Steve and Carol Griffin and Mickey and Janet Marks also received state flower awards for additional rallies.

Sunday morning nine of us headed out for a 200 mile trip from the rally to **Gunter Hill Corps of Engineer (COE) Park** located near Montgomery, AL. We were joined there by Jim and Michele Humphrey and Dale and Debby Lundmark.



**Happy hour at Gunter Hill**

Gunter Hill was a rustic park. In order to camp together, we had to camp in the older area without full hookups.



**Nice campfires had lots of marshmallows**



**The Millers had a campsite in the renovated camping area near the deck overlooking the Alabama River (FULL HOOKUPS)**



**One evening we went to the Catfish House where we were greeted with an endless supply of coleslaw, beans and hush puppies. Oh yes, there were catfish too.**



**The wind did not deter our group from playing dirty UNO. Just put a rock on your cards and play on.**

At Gunter Hill we had nice campfires every night, and the weather was nice, for the most part. However, the last night we had severe thunderstorms along with a tornado watch and a warning when a small tornado touched down a few miles away. Most of us spent until about 1:00 AM awake either in our RV or in the restrooms.

On Wednesday the Marks left us and headed back to Florida to attend Janet's high school reunion. The Millers also left us to go home and prepare for our April campout they were hosting. On Thursday morning, after four nights at Gunter Hill, the rest of us packed up and headed for **Foscue Creek COE Campground** near Demopolis, AL. This campground had full hookups with very nice sites. We all appreciated this excellent campground after our experience at Gunter Hill.



**At Foscue Creek the Wards had a great site with a deck that became our social meeting place**



**Foscue Creek campground is located on the Tombigbee River which had a lot of barge traffic.**



**One day we all met at Spillway Falls Park below the locks for lunch. We had hoped to see a barge come through, but no such luck.**



**One evening, Tim and Julie raced to Spillway Falls Park to see a barge come through, and then waited an hour before it got through the locks.**

On our trip we had some innovative dinners. One night at Gunter Hill we had loaded baked potatoes cooked on the coals. At Foscue creek we had a big spaghetti dinner with dutch oven dessert one day and hot dogs cooked over the fire another.



**There is nothing like a hotdog cooked over the fire**



**Except maybe a deluxe s'more made with thin dark chocolate peanut butter cups.**

On Monday, after four nights at Foscue Creek it was time to move on. Wards and Kings headed off to another COE park. Lundmarks and Humphreys headed for Florida, and the remaining five RVs left for **Hidden Hollow RV Park** in Cottonwood, AL. It was a 215 mile drive, which included getting through, or around, Montgomery and Dothan.



**Our RVs were all lined up on nice pull through sites by the very clean laundry and restrooms.**



**Monday evening, April 4<sup>th</sup>, after a day on the road we treated ourselves to dinner at Texas Roadhouse.**



**On Monday one of Dale's trailer brakes broke during a panic stop. That was no problem for Roger and Tim who replaced it with new parts obtained from a local dealer.**

On Tuesday, Jan and Joyce were visited by a ham radio friend who lived nearby. While they were checking out Jan's portable radio station, the others repaired the brakes on Dale's trailer. Late that afternoon we received some heavy rain.

Wednesday we drove about 185 miles to **Suwannee River Rendezvous RV Resort** near Mayo, FL. It was just an overnight stay, so some of us did not even unhook. Our highlight of the stay was happy hour in the Hime's RV where Sharon surprised Julie with a birthday cake and we sang happy birthday.



**We left Suwannee under threatening skies**

On Thursday, April 6, we left Suwannee campground early and hoped to avoid the rain. However, as we travelled down I-75 we got into some bad thunderstorms. As if that was not bad enough, Roger got a "Water in Fuel" warning. He had to pull off at an exit and drain his filter. By the time Tim and Julie arrived to help him, the job was almost done.



**Roger used a picnic table cloth under the truck to stay out of the mud while Sharon watched out for traffic.**



**We all met up at an I-75 rest area.**

As we arrived at the rest area near Ocala the weather cleared. We all rolled out toward Winter Haven trying to beat the bad weather that was headed there. Tim and Jan had to stop for gas, so they got behind the rest of the group. This delay caused them to set up in a downpour. Pete and Carolyn, the park managers were very helpful and Pete did a great job helping us get into our sites.

## **April GTS Campout**

Our campout was held at Cypress Gardens Campground. It was hosted by Lynn & Carolyn Miller and Bill & Michele Mann. It rained Thursday afternoon, but once the rain cleared we had beautiful weather. In addition to our group of five, the Humphreys, Millers and Marks also arrived on Thursday. We had happy hour in the clubhouse

and had dinner on our own. Some of the group played games Thursday evening.

On Friday the Manns and Fiorentinos arrived at the campout. That afternoon the Millers hosted us for happy hour in their beautiful home just a few miles from the campground.



**We enjoyed happy hour on the Miller's patio overlooking a scenic lake.**

After our happy hour we all went to Harry's Old Place for seafood dinners.



**We had seafood dinners at Harry's Old Place which was very busy, even at 4:00PM**

Friday evening the campground had Bingo in the clubhouse. Several of us participated and even though they gave away hundreds of dollars in prizes, none of us won anything. Several of those not playing bingo played games in one of the RVs.

Saturday morning we were treated to a pancake and bacon breakfast in the clubhouse. Lynn and Bill did a great job cooking us orange flavored pancakes which were topped with orange flavored maple syrup.



**Lynn and Bill did a great job cooking pancakes.**

There was a scheduled event in the clubhouse at lunchtime, so we held our monthly Golden Triangle Sams monthly meeting directly after breakfast. At our monthly meeting Dale Horn gave Roger and Tim gift cards for Lowes for their “above and beyond” efforts to repair his broken trailer brake. Phyllis also presented a gift card to Sharon for Bed Bath and Beyond for all her work in planning our very successful spring caravan.

Jan added up the statistics from the trip. He and Joyce spent 22 days on the road, travelled 1785 miles, and camped in eight campgrounds in GA, AL and FL. Unfortunately, they also spent over \$650.00 in gas.



**We held the monthly GTS meeting after breakfast**

After our monthly meeting we drew random tickets for teams in our monthly beanbag baseball game. The teams were pretty evenly matched, but the blue ticket team prevailed and won the game.



**The randomly drawn blue ticket team won the monthly beanbag baseball game.**

Friday afternoon the campground had an ice cream social, and we all enjoyed ice cream sundaes Saturday evening we had a potluck dinner. The hosts provided ham and the rest of us brought sides and desserts.



**After dinner Michele Mann led us in an “Under the Sheets” game**

On Sunday morning we all brought sweets and breakfast items to share. Phyllis thanked our hosts and we gave them a round of applause. Then we all packed up and headed home.

**Florida Spring SAMBOREE: It looks like we will have six member RVs attending the rally in Okeechobee April 26-30, 2022. There is still time to register.**