

April 17-21, 2024 State Rally

Plenty of sunshine and warm to very warm temps welcomed 75 rigs and 5 walk-ins to Texarkana for the Arkansas Good Sam Rally. It would not be a rally in Texarkana without rain/storms. Cooler temps preceded the showers on Friday followed by heavy rains all day Saturday. A better day dawned Sunday morning for departure. Mallard chapter members attending were Jerry and Jean Hosto. The theme for this get-together was Happy Spring.

Corinne & Sam Andrews had worked very hard on the decorations. Spring was everywhere ~ flowers adorned each table that was covered with different colored table clothes. The backdrop on the stage was draped with a print depicting a beautiful path lined with all types of spring flowers and bushes. Job well done Corinne & Sam.

All the regular games were held with Jerry earning a 2nd place in doubles dominoes. Other activities included two Game Mixers sponsored by Laye and Kathy Bennett, seminars, jam sessions, Samgo, cake walk, flea market and meetings.

The crowd experienced three (3) nights of enjoyment with performances by singer Ken Goodman, performer-musician Helen Russell and Company and the group Night Hawk. They were all great entertainers and the nightly tip jar was full after each show!

There was six (6) commercial vendors on site. We welcomed back Geno and Betty Dunn and their general store/seamstress shop, Marie Specialties (and her sister, Ann), Chef Tina with Kitchen Craft, Kay & Alan reps for Sky Med, and Fred and Betty from RV101. Our newest vendor, Rick Dover, with 19 RV Mobile Repair was one busy man. He went non-stop from the minute he walked into the arena to set up his booth and worked in the rain to get repairs done. Our vendors were very generous by providing door prizes.

There were other door prizes galore, 50/50 raffles and 21 items up for bid at the Chinese Auction.

A Good Sams gathering of any kind is not complete without FOOD! We love to eat. The Good Sam Mallards kicked off Wednesday morning with your choice of a sugary breakfast of glazed donuts, long-johns, apple fritters or blueberry/banana nut muffins or just a banana and Greg Comer made coffee. Thursday morning found everyone enjoying biscuits and gravy. Friday and Saturday Melon City & Derrick City and Bella Vista & Spa City provided finger foods/fruit and Greg's coffee. A meal of beans and cornbread were offered Thursday, an ice cream social was held Saturday noonish followed by hot dogs, chili and chips that evening.

A pizza and salad lunch was served for the park hosts. Somehow, we all managed to cash in on all the food related door prizes that were won with The Hosto's eating it up at Wing Stop on Saturday night.

Saturday evening ceremonies included the retiring of the flags. The parade of Arkansas Chapter Flags was held with Jerry and Jean carrying our Mallard banner. Also, was the presentation of all special awards. Lenora is currently recovering from major surgery. We all were so happy that they (Dave & Lenora) made the trip to attend the park host meeting on Friday. Jack surprised them by giving them their 60-year wedding anniversary patch.

Chaplin James Hairston began our Sunday worship by saying that this was going to be different service, not his usual. He opened with prayer and introduced Rick Dover the new vendor. Rick gave his inspiring testimony of how close to death he came; which led him to relocate to Oppelo, Arkansas to fulfill his calling of starting up a ministry of helping others overcome drug, alcohol and other challenges they may be facing. A love offering was collected and presented to him to aid in his endeavor.

Pat Smith narrated the memorial service paying a special tribute to 14 deceased chapter members. She was assisted by Virginia Reynolds. James concluded the worship service with a brief message.

The time had once again come to say our goodbyes, pack up and head out toward home, camp hosting assignments or on to Mineola for the Texas State Rally. Until next year, stay safe and healthy.

A big thank you to Jack and Joy Godwin, state directors and their staff for putting this event together. We all enjoyed ourselves.

An official Mallard chapter meeting was not held.

Respectively submitted,
Jean Hosto