

BELLE POINT SAM CHAPTER JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

The June 2025 Belle Point Sam's Campout was at Queen Wilhelmina State Park. Our club had five rigs initially with one that came on Wednesday. Additionally, three members enjoyed the views and amenities at the lodge.

The business meeting was held at Gayle's site because the wagon master's site was a bit too small. Especially inspiring was Phyllis's devotional "Faith, Hope and Love". The potluck was excellent – thanks to all the members provisions!

Those of us who didn't attend the Texarkana Rally this year got to meet our new members: the Jones and Cullen's. Welcome!! They taught us a new card game they learned at the Rally, called "Kill It". It is a fast fun game and after some conversation, the rules were agreed upon ha-ha. I'm sure we will play this at future campouts.

Our visiting friend, Colleen, accompanied Gayle on the campout and we were glad to see her again as she came from eight hours away! And we were also glad to see her dish of lasagna at the potluck. Thank you, Colleen!

Wednesday night's dinner was at the lodge, and we enjoyed eating, visiting and watching the clouds come blowing in. Thursday we caravanned to downtown Mena and met at The Ouachita's – a cozy coffee bar/pizzeria/brew house. Members enjoyed coffee, craft beer, pizza, salads, wings plus chips/dip and cookies and a big smack-a-roonie! You know who you are. After that several people shopped the quaint downtown stores.

During this campout the weather shifted from rain to hail and then the clouds would creep in and before we knew it, visibility was likely under 300 feet. We waited an hour or even less and the sun shone brightly before giving us a spectacular sunset. Each day saw clouds, rain, wind, and the sun – a little of everything.

Members saw a large Doe spotted at the park in the rearview mirror while driving to Mena, a fawn near a member's campsite, a ground hog just outside the park, many bluebirds on 88 to Mena, butterflies, and a possible two bear sighting on 88 across from the park. Oh yes, and Bigfoot made an appearance at the entrance into Mena!

Several members took the train ride around the park and some bought ice-cream at the train station. Rain put a damper on playing putt-putt golf so we may have to come back and try again.

We said goodbye to Tom H. on Wednesday, and to the Hiatt's after dinner on Wednesday. Gayle, Sally and Tom T. left for home on Friday, and we gathered to say goodbye. The

Prell's, Smith/Vann, Cullen's and Jones stayed an additional night with Smith/Vann and Jones leaving on Sunday.

Friday afternoon the group played "Kill It" and then attended a Park Service talk "Bear Necessities". My notes include there are six types of black bear in the United States. Black bear started out on the East Coast and their fur was black so they would be disguised in the dark dense forests. Their fur changed based on their environment.

Black bear include Blonde, Cinnamon, Chocolate, Glacier Blue and Glacier Kermode. Due to overhunting the population of black bear in Arkansas sunk to 50. Due to efforts of the park service, Eastern black bears were brought into the area and now Arkansas enjoys approximately 6,000 black bear population and allows 10% of the population to be hunted. One note of interest is the town of Oil Trough, Arkansas which was named because the horse troughs were used to process the oil from bear carcasses in the early 1900s.

Bears love berries, nuts, insects, leaves AND people food – store food inside while camping!

We missed all members who were park hosting during our campout. Hope to see you all at Petit Jean next month.

As always,
SAFE TRAVELS

June Wagon Master