

HOG WHISPERS...

Volume 11

Issue 2

June 2011

Arkansas SMART Hogs Newsletter

2011 Chapter Officers

President:

Ann Lowry

Vice President:

Jim Hough

Secretary:

Eileen Wheeler

Treasurer:

Kathie Corroum

Muster Master:

Ralph Jungels

2010 Appointed Positions

Web Master:

Sandy Pearcy

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Corroum

Upcoming Events

20 - 26 Sep 2011

SMART National
Shawnee, OK

11 - 15 Oct 2011

Lake Charles State Park
Black Rock, AR

Hosts: Ralph & Edye Jungels

8 - 11 Nov 2011

Veterans Day Muster

Riverside RV Park

N. Little Rock AR

Hosts: Bill & Kathie Corroum
& Fred & Valerie Smith

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What a nice idea!

**Charolette &
Susan give Pat a
big surprise!**



A Very Special Presentation

Shortly after her husband, Andy's passing, **Pat Maglievaz** realized that she missed her Hogs friends. So, she bought a travel trailer and hit the road - to our SC Regional in Lebanon!. Here, **Charolette Hards** and **Susan Franks** really surprise Pat with a gift bag of travel goodies for her new ride! Memorable for all!

See pictures of other Hogs' activities in a full-page montage on Page 5. How many can **you** identify?

Don't forget to Check the Website: <http://www.arsmarthogs.com/1.html>

President's Corner

Hello AR SMART Hogs

I want to share with you my trip to the joint muster with the AR SMART Diamonds that was held in Carthage, MO. Hollis and I attended and there were two couples who had joint memberships in both chapters who attended. They were Dick and Ida Duffy and Tom & Sandy Percy. It was really fun joining with the other AR chapter and meeting new people. We did some touring on our own. Hollis and I toured Precious Moments and President Harry Truman's birthplace, at Lamar, MO. We also toured George Washington Carver's birthplace and went shopping and lunch at Joplin, MO. Wow! Can't believe how it looks now. Our hearts go out to the people from there. On Sat. of the muster, The AR SMART HOGS fixed the breakfast for the group. We served the Breakfast Casserole and fruit to the group of 28. Thanks to Dick Duffy; he helped us bake the casseroles and thank goodness he knew how to operate their oven. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the National Muster in Shawnee, OK. in Sept.

Ann Lowry, President

Muster Master Comments

With the March muster at Cloud Nine and the SC muster at Lebanon and the May muster at Carthage, MO over, we look to September National muster 21-26 at Shawnee, Ok. The October muster will be at Lake Charles State Park, Black Rock, Ar. The Veterans Day muster will be held at the Riverside RV Park in NLR, 8-11 November.

Thats it for now

Ralph Jungels

God Bless This Airline Captain

Contributed by Bob Bogard, Former Hog Member

He writes: My lead flight attendant came to me and said, "We have an H.R. on this flight." (H.R. stands for human remains.) "Are they military?" I asked.

'Yes', she said.

'Is there an escort?' I asked.

'Yes, I already assigned him a seat'.

'Would you please tell him to come to the flight deck? You can board him early,' I said.

(See Airline Captain, Page 3.)

Airline Captain (Continued from Page 2.)

A short while later, a young army sergeant entered the flight deck. He was the image of the perfectly dressed soldier. He introduced himself and I asked him about his soldier. The escorts of these fallen soldiers talk about them as if they are still alive and still with us.

'My soldier is on his way back to Virginia,' he said. He proceeded to answer my questions, but offered no words.

I asked him if there was anything I could do for him and he said no. I told him that he had the toughest job in the military and that I appreciated the work that he does for the families of our fallen soldiers. The first officer and I got up out of our seats to shake his hand. He left the flight deck to find his seat.

We completed our preflight checks, pushed back and performed an uneventful departure. About 30 minutes into our flight I received a call from the lead flight attendant in the cabin. 'I just found out the family of the soldier we are carrying, is on board', she said. She then proceeded to tell me that the father, mother, wife and 2-year old daughter were escorting their son, husband, and father home. The family was upset because they were unable to see the container that the soldier was in before we left. We were on our way to a major hub at which the family was going to wait four hours for the connecting flight home to Virginia .

The father of the soldier told the flight attendant that knowing his son was below him in the cargo compartment and being unable to see him was too much for him and the family to bear. He had asked the flight attendant if there was anything that could be done to allow them to see him upon our arrival. The family wanted to be outside by the cargo door to watch the soldier being taken off the airplane.. I could hear the desperation in the flight attendants voice when she asked me if there was anything I could do. 'I'm on it, I said. I told her that I would get back to her.

Airborne communication with my company normally occurs in the form of e-mail like messages. I decided to bypass this system and contact my flight dispatcher directly on a secondary radio. There is a radio operator in the operations control center who connects you to the telephone of the dispatcher. I was in direct contact with the dispatcher. I explained the situation I had on board with the family and what it was the family wanted. He said he understood and that he would get back to me.

Two hours went by and I had not heard from the dispatcher. We were going to get busy soon and I needed to know what to tell the family. I sent a text message asking for an update. I saved the return message from the dispatcher and the following is the text:

'Captain, sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. There is policy on this now and I had to check on a few things. Upon your arrival a dedicated escort team will meet the aircraft. The team will escort the family to the ramp and plane side. A van will be used to load the remains with a secondary van for the family. The family will be taken to their departure area and escorted into the terminal where the remains can be seen on the ramp. It is a private area for the family only. When the connecting aircraft arrives, the family will be escorted onto the ramp and plane side to watch the remains being loaded for the final leg home. Captain, most of us here in flight control are veterans. Please pass our condolences on to the family. Thanks.'

I sent a message back telling flight control thanks for a good job. I printed out the message and gave it to the lead flight attendant to pass on to the father. The lead flight attendant was very thankful and told me, 'You have no idea how much this will mean to them.'

Things started getting busy for the descent, approach and landing. After landing, we

Airline Captain (Continued from page 3.)

cleared the runway and taxied to the ramp area. The ramp is huge with 15 gates on either side of the alleyway. It is always a busy area with aircraft maneuvering every which way to enter and exit. When we entered the ramp and checked in with the ramp controller, we were told that all traffic was being held for us.

'There is a team in place to meet the aircraft, we were told. It looked like it was all coming together, then I realized that once we turned the seat belt sign off, everyone would stand up at once and delay the family from getting off the airplane. As we approached our gate, I asked the copilot to tell the ramp controller we were going to stop short of the gate to make an announcement to the passengers. He did that and the ramp controller said, 'Take your time.'

I stopped the aircraft and set the parking brake. I pushed the public address button and said, 'Ladies and gentleman, this is your Captain speaking I have stopped short of our gate to make a special announcement. We have a passenger on board who deserves our honor and respect. His Name is Private XXXXXX, a soldier who recently lost his life. Private XXXXXX is under your feet in the cargo hold.. Escorting him today is Army Sergeant XXXXXXXX. Also, on board are his father, mother, wife, and daughter. Your entire flight crew is asking for all passengers to remain in their seats to allow the family to exit the aircraft first. Thank you.'

We continued the turn to the gate, came to a stop and started our shutdown procedures. A couple of minutes later I opened the cockpit door. I found the two forward flight attendants crying, something you just do not

see. I was told that after we came to a stop, every passenger on the aircraft stayed in their seats, waiting for the family to exit the aircraft. When the family got up and gathered their things, a passenger slowly started to clap his hands. Moments later more passengers joined in and soon the entire aircraft was clapping. Words of 'God Bless You', 'I'm sorry', 'thank you', 'be proud', and other kind words were uttered to the family as they made their way down the aisle and out of the airplane. They were escorted down to the ramp to finally be with their loved one.

Many of the passengers disembarking thanked me for the announcement I had made. They were just words, I told them, I could say them over and over again, but nothing I say will bring back that brave soldier.

I respectfully ask that all of you reflect on this event and the sacrifices that millions of our men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety in these United States of AMERICA .

Foot note:

I know everyone who has served their country who reads this will have tears in their eyes, including me.

Please share this after a short prayer for our service men and women. They die for me and mine and you and yours and deserve our honor and respect. Don't break it!

Prayer: 'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

Amen.'

GOD BLESS YOU!!!

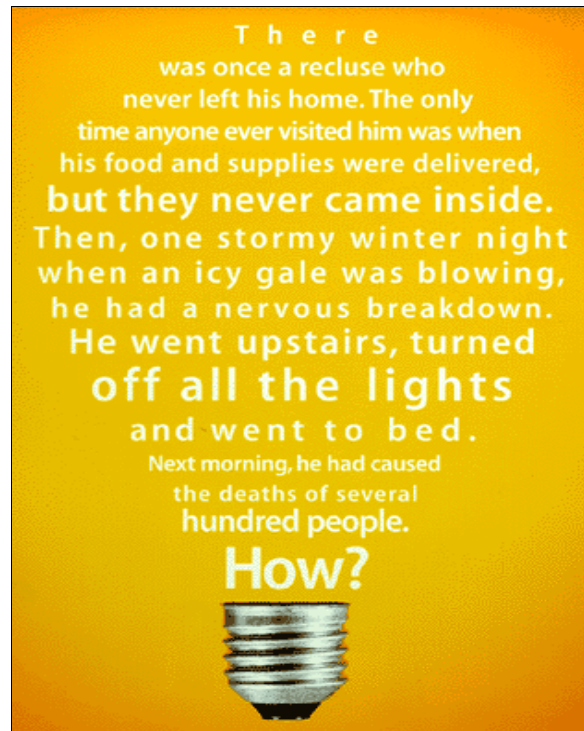
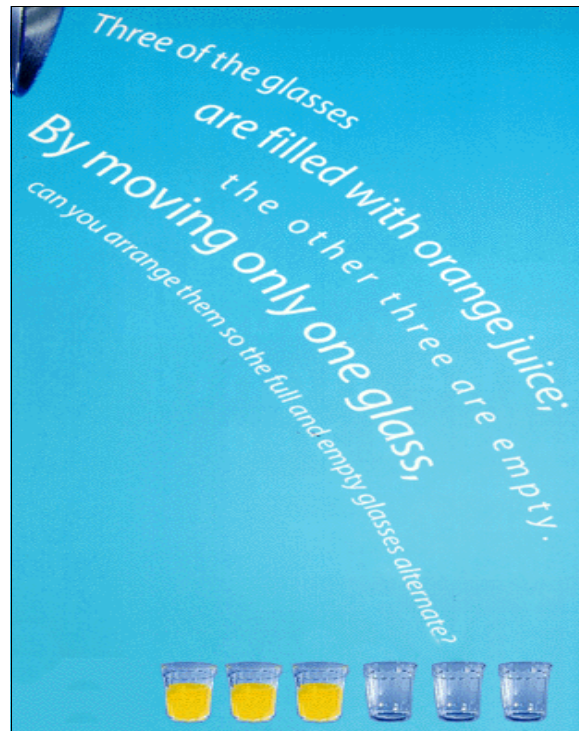
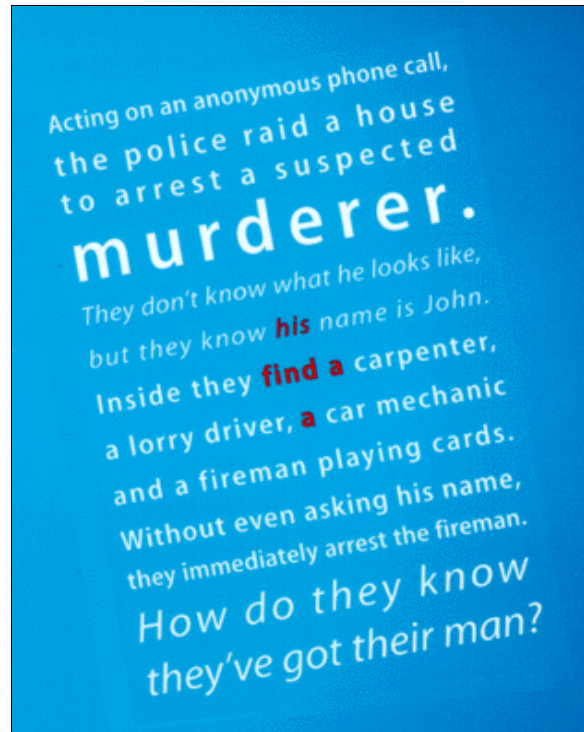
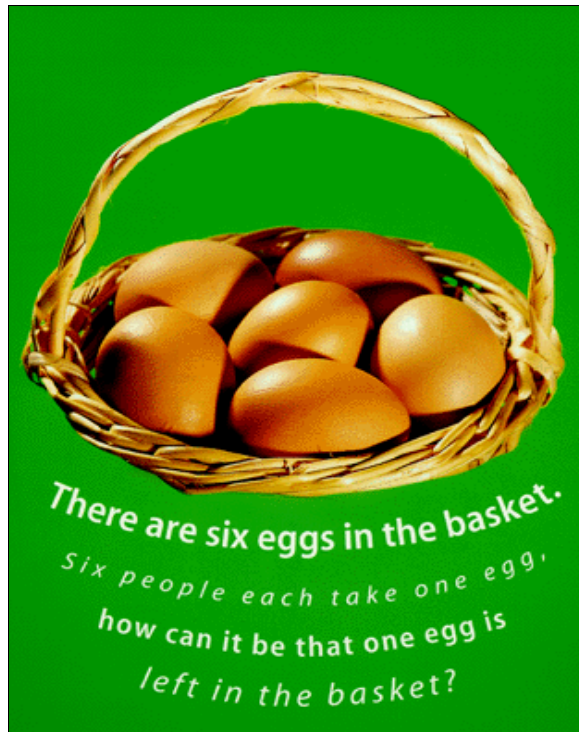
Bobby Bogard



How many do you recognize? See Page 7 for some clues.

Lateral Thinking (Unclassified)

Some people call this “Thinking outside the Box”. See how far you can stretch your mind on the four questions below. Try hard before you peek at the answers on Page 7. Good luck!



Answers to “Lateral Thinking”

1. The last person took the basket with the egg.
2. The other three people in the house were women.
3. Pour the contents of glass 2 into glass 5.
4. The man lived in a lighthouse.

How ‘bout dat! These came from a friend in the Alabama SMARTS, Whit Whitfield. The only classified part of this is how many Whit got right, and how many your trusty newsletter editor got right. That’s *Top Secret!*

Clues to ‘Hogs’ Montage of Regional Activities on Page 5

Mr. Jack Cato was our great tour guide on a Trolley ride around Lebanon, TN. He was one of the original investors in Cracker Barrel restaurants and served on the board of directors for many years.

Top row (l to r) Jack Cato (two photos), Dick and Ida Duffy on tour and Philip & Juanita Taylor who live in Little Rock and are members of the Arkansas Diamonds.

Row “1.5”: Sonny & Joella Huddleston, Pat and Glenn Foster and Pat Maglievaz.

Second row: Walter and Dottie Stewart; Christian Eck (standing), Joe & Ilse Esquibel, Eileen & Kic Wheeler and Albert & Joann Hoffman; Kathie Corroum, Alaire Anderson, Ida & Dick Duffy, Dollie Autrey and Carolyn Eck; John & Martha Averett, Joann Hoffman, Walter & Dottie Stewart.

Third row: Joy & Gene Moody, Christian Eck, Joe & Ilse Esquibel and Eileen & Kic Wheeler.

Row “3.5” Jim & Susan Franks; Sandy & Tom Percy, Joann & Albert Hoffman and Carolyn & Christian Eck.

Fourth row: A. C. & Dollie Autrey, Pat Maglievaz, Sonny & Joella Huddleston and Ida & Dick Duffy.

Fifth row: Pat & Glenn Foster (What did he say that was sooo funny?), Kathie Corroum & Alaire Anderson, Pat Maglievaz (How’d she get in here, again?) and Bill & Kathie Corroum.

Binnacle List

- ★ Here's an update from national **President Christian Eck** that he sent the other day:

Greetings all. Just a "heads up" things are well but several reports to make.

a. **Joella Huddleston** underwent left knee replacement surgery yesterday at Baptist Hospital, LR. She is in room 314.....not allowed any visitors. Will be released Monday (6 June) and undergo therapy treatments. She may have visitors at home In conversations with her she is her humorous self.....but "groggy" from the pain meds. Please keep Jo and Sonny in Prayers and communications.

b. **Joe and Marty Ruiz** are doing fine. Joe will have several treatment options coming up soon after their trip to the Army FamCamp at Destin, Fla. They will be down there from 14th - 26th or thereabouts. Keep the Ruiz family in prayers.

c. **Howard Martin**. Checked in on him....he and Marguerite are doing well. He is back home after hospitalization for a blood clot on the right lung; doing well recuperating. He must be careful due to blood thinners. He is on oxygen but will not be eventually as he gains strength and lung capacity.. Marguerite is doing well but requires full time care now. Howard was the "homemaker and housekeeper" until his "bout with illness" as he calls it. Now their daughter Jan Blackmon who lives next door (a wonderful person) is taking on "the chores". She is assisted by another daughter; Sharon Truelove. Howard appreciates his HOG family. We were alerted to Howard's illness by former HOG member Alice McConnell....many Thanks Alice and sure miss you at HOG "gatherings"

I received permission from each family to provide this information to our chapter.

Christian Eck

- ★ Also:

Dollie Aurtey is back in the hospital following dizziness and a fall. They have changed her heart medications and run a lot of tests and images, so she has been released to rehab. She and A.C. hope she will be able to come home by 20 June. Let's hope so!

Bob Bogard. A former member who had to stop traveling and sell the RV, Bob's ALS continues to develop slowly. He has trouble talking and spends a lot of time on the computer. (See article on page 2 that Bob sent.) Let's keep him and Genise in our prayers.

Lew Dellinger has amazed everyone - even his doctors - with his recovery from a stroke. Lew is driving and even bowling now. His doctor says he's never seen a person recover from a stroke so well - particularly one who's nearly 90 years old! Tuff, Lew, really Tuff!!

April Jones is recovering from serious neck surgery. The original pain is gone but recovery is a BEAR! Keep up the good work, April!

Ed Note: Two other former members of our chapter who also had to stop traveling and sell their RVs because they suffered debilitating strokes, **Ralph McClure** and **Butch Smith** were continuing to make progress in their recoveries. I will continue to try to make contact with their wives, Nell and Gerri, and report their progress. I also send them copies of the newsletter to let them know we still care. And care and pray we do! BC

This Spring's Horrible Devastation

In the "President's Corner" Ann mentioned the death, injury and destruction that was visited upon Joplin, MO, by the recent tornado. A little before that Kathie and Bill Corroum were in the famcamp at Maxwell AFB, AL when a series of tornadoes severely damaged large parts of that state. They killed and injured hundreds of people in one late afternoon storm that hit nearby Tuscaloosa. There was a mandatory evacuation of the famcamp to a shelter in Base Supply. Leaving their RV, they found that the shelter was in a very substantial building with concrete block interior walls. The shelter room itself offered about 40 - 50 tables with four upholstered chairs each, a big-screen TV and vending machines providing drinks and snacks. Since pets were allowed, there were about 20 dogs of all sizes - every one on its very best behavior! While there, they saw radar images of the Tuscaloosa storm and another much smaller one that touched down about 25 miles from Montgomery, where Maxwell AFB is located. It was clear to all that the evacuation was well thought out and definitely the right call! **Lesson learned:** learn where shelters are established, and pay attention to instructions when emergencies occur.

This incident occurred only about a week after another tornado went through the heart of Little Rock AFB, causing more than \$100 million in damage. Hog members, Fred and Valerie Smith had their motor home in storage there at the time. It sustained damage, but they were able to drive it - after more seriously-damaged trailers were cleared out of the way! It was fortunate that storm didn't hit the Little Rock famcamp, where the shelter is the bathhouse. At the time the storm struck, a number of people were trapped in base housing until rescued by the authorities. Cars and pickups were carried from the housing area to the Commissary parking lot and one even ended up atop the Commissary! What kind of chance would an Rver stand in the rig at that time? **Lesson here:** When violent weather happens, get to the safest place available, whether it's the campground's bathhouse, a solid shelter or just getting out of the rig and into a low spot nearby - but not in an RV or tow vehicle.

Many other members of the SMART Hogs have had close calls with severe weather this Spring. We call each other and other family, friends and neighbors to make certain of their status. Fortunately, we have heard of no serious damage or injury to those we hold dear.

Recently, a TV commentator remarked about the survivors in Joplin, using words to this effect: **"The folks who live in America's Heartland have many support networks to help them through tough times like this."** Our Hogs members have offered lots of help and comfort, since we are all parts of many support networks including our SMART chapter. It's one of many ways in which we stay in touch with one another. The one universal way in which we can stay in touch and help our comrades is through the power of prayer! Every one of us will choose his or her way to offer help and comfort.

Thank you one and all.

Bill Corroum, Editor

