

# good news



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SULLAWAY

**F**ew RVers expect to have a life-altering experience during an RV trip. Take Richard Daniels, a Good Sam Club member from Waynesboro, Georgia. The retired minister, along with his wife, Sue, and dog, Levi, pulled into a campground in Modoc, South Carolina, over Labor Day weekend in 2005, anticipating a relaxing, uneventful RV trip.

Then Daniels encountered a shy, bone-thin Labrador retriever mix during a walk through the park. The dog accepted food that Daniels offered but would scurry away when he attempted to pet it. Daniels learned from park management that the dog had been living off scraps there for years.

After returning from his trip, Daniels logged on to the Pet Stop section of the Good Sam Club's online forum and, under the name Dixie Flyer, asked members for advice on what he could do for the stray. The feedback he received inspired him not only to return to the campground and adopt the dog, whom he named Old Fella but also to eventually found a network of foster homes for abandoned and stray animals. Daniels also used the forums to facilitate rescues and adoptions across North America. At every step of the way, forum participants offered encouragement, advice and donations.

Three years later, the state-licensed Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue shelter, in tandem with the forum's highly active Old Fella thread (the collection of related posts), has helped find homes for scores of wayward canines and cats and spayed or neutered many more.

Daniels' accomplishments make him a fitting recipient of the first-ever Good Sam Club RVer of the Year award, given in recognition of outstanding achievement benefiting fellow RVers and the community at large. Daniels will be presented with the award at the 2009 Rally, which takes place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 17 through 20.

"Richard not only has taken this initiative to rescue stray animals, but he also used the power of our websites to help him with the efforts," says Sue Bray, executive director of the Good Sam Club. "We look forward to supporting Richard and his shelter in the coming years."

*Highways* editors and Good Sam Club staff members made the selection for the inaugural RVer of the Year award. Good Sam Club members will be able to participate in the 2009 RVer of the Year selection, to be awarded this December.

For Daniels, the honor is bittersweet. Old Fella passed away in June 2008, but Daniels is determined to keep his memory alive. Thanks to donations from Old Fella supporters, a memorial will be erected and plans are under way for building a permanent Old Fella shelter, both in Waynesboro.



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# Dogs' Best Friend

After spearheading stray-animal rescues online and on the road, Richard Daniels has been named the Good Sam Club's 2008 RVer of the Year

The Dog Rescuer: Richard Daniels with Suzie and Peaches in South Carolina's Hunting Island State Park.



To read Richard Daniels' exceptional posts about his efforts and experiences, click on the Old Fella thread on [www.goodsamclub.com/forums](http://www.goodsamclub.com/forums). Find out more about the Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue center at [www.oldfella.org](http://www.oldfella.org).