



2013 40th Anniversary Gopher State Roundup Memories

In honor of the 40th Anniversary of Gopher State Roundup we thought it would be nice to hear from some of the fellowship who have been attending over the years. We all know how participating in Gopher State has touched our lives and affected our sobriety and we would like to capture some of those life changing experiences and share them with other attendees.

We are asking you to send in your Gopher State Roundup Memory. Some of these will be read from the podium during the History meeting and all will be on display in the Gopher State Roundup Archives. The spirit of anonymity will be preserved.

There is something truly amazing that happens each year at Gopher State Roundup when over 8,000 sober alcoholics come together to share this weekend long experience and celebrate sobriety. We thank each and everyone of you for your contribution to Gopher State Roundup and we look forward to reading your stories.

CRITERIA:

- 300-400 words
- Appropriate language
- First name and last initial only (optional)
- City/Homegroup/Sobriety Date (optional)
- Email an attached word document to:
alternatechair@gopherstateroundup.org
please put in the subject line "History Committee"
- or mail legible hand written or typed copy to:
Gopher State Roundup
Attn: History Committee
PO Box 390533
Minneapolis, MN 55439-2026
- Your contact info (either email or phone number). This is *only* to contact you if your letter is selected to be read during the history meeting at 4:00pm on Saturday, May 25th. You would have the option of reading it yourself, if attending, or having it read for you.

Yours in Service,
The Gopher State Roundup History Committee
www.gopherstateroundup.org

SAMPLE LETTER

I was about a week sober when I went to my first Gopher State Round-Up, and I was terrified. I had never before seen so many happy smiling people in one place. Everyone kept introducing themselves and shaking my hand, I thought they were all crazy. I just couldn't wrap my head around the idea that this many people could be so happy while SOBER, it was quite the foreign concept.

I only ended up going because in order to graduate from the treatment program I was attending, I had to go to a certain number of AA meetings. When I heard that Gopher State was happening, and that there were AA meetings round the clock, I figured I could get all of my signatures in the one weekend, much to the chagrin of my counselors. Wide-eyed and mind reeling I wandered around the hotel with a confused expression on my face, ever expecting to discover the secret to their apparent glee (they must have been drinking somewhere, this kind of happiness just wasn't possible sober!).

It was on my second day attending that I met my future sponsor, though I couldn't have possibly known it at the time, my entire life was about to change in ways I never could have imagined. He had noticed me walking around the smoking section, bumming what I could to chain smoke my nerves away, and asked me how long I had sober. We had a short conversation, and when I told him where I lived he mentioned how his home group was near there. He suggested I go sometime, and when I finally did some weeks later he recognized me immediately and I took my seat on my rocket ride into the fourth dimension.

I will always remember the feeling that I had, standing amongst the thousands of members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Something I had never felt in all my days, a feeling of belonging. The sense that these grinning people actually wanted me there and a lingering thought in the back of my mind, one that I had never had before, one that would grow and transform my very spirit. The idea that life goes on without alcohol, that it was possible to have joy in my life again. That there was hope, even for me.

— Cory H.