

Lifestyles



For Monaco Coach Enthusiasts
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A MONACO HELLO

Owners from four brands and all walks of life came together in record numbers for the first annual Western Family Round-Up.

2007 LAPALMA DIESEL | DIESEL DREAMS | RVING IN COMFORT | SOUTHERN ARIZONA

TOM SAWYER'S MISSISSIPPI RIVER RV PARK WEST MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS

BY NEY ELKINGTON

It's easy to think that it's the beauty of the park, the uniqueness of it, the beauty of it [that draws people here]" Mary Sue Hindman explains. "We have our campsite right on the edge of the Mississippi River and people love to watch the boats and barges." Tom Sawyer's Mississippi River RV Park boasts nature trails through woodlands, and as Mary Sue says, "a lot of wide open space." The park, situated in West Memphis, Arkansas rests on the banks of the Mississippi and Muddy, a couple miles from the Crossroads of America." For three miles, I-40 and I-55 overlap and the two highways speed right through the middle of Memphis. Mary Sue Hindman has been working at Tom Sawyer's for 13 years and she says folks come to get off the fast-paced highways and sit at some peace and quiet at Tom Sawyer's. "We're kind of an easygoing

place where people come to stay and rest for a while," she says.

Being so close to nature, Mary Sue says Tom Sawyer's doesn't mind if you bring along your four-legged friends. "We welcome pets. We have lots of good space for animals." All sites at Tom Sawyer's offer full hookups. There's a modern hookup, a brand new bathhouse and a complimentary laundry. A lake and two ponds often waylay anglers and bird watchers alike.

No hesitation on Mary Sue's part, "The fun part of working at an RV park is meeting all the people," she says. "There's no telling where they're from or where they've been and they want to tell you about their adventures." At Tom Sawyer's there are quite a number of returning guests and for Mary Sue that spells satisfaction. "We have a lot of

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TOM SAWYER'S MISSISSIPPI RIVER RV PARK

1286 South 8th Street

West Memphis, AR 72301

(870) 735-9770

[www.woodalls.com/a/02850_](http://www.woodalls.com/a/02850_TomSawyers.html)

[TomSawyers.html](http://www.woodalls.com/a/02850_TomSawyers.html)

Rates:

- Concrete site on river: \$28
- Gravel site: \$26
- Back-in site: \$24
- Good Sam, Coachman, FMCA, Escapees discounts available.

Amenities

- Full hookups
- City water
- City sewer
- 30 and 50 amp power
- Brand new bathhouse
- Complimentary laundry
- Pets Welcome
- Scenic Walking Trails
- Modern Hookup
- Campfires
- Tenting
- Easy access to I-40 and I-55



Tom Sawyer's RV Park offers easy fishing access with a lake and two ponds.

eat customers and it makes us happy," admitted. "Makes you think you're doing something right when they want to come back."

confusion that I did. The two towns are actually only minutes apart. So if you feel ready for a little action and entertainment in between your hours of R&R you can

clined, you can take an evening dinner cruise on a riverboat. Memphis also boasts parks aplenty, a liberal sprinkling of golf courses in the area and depending

Perhaps you fancy a pilgrimage to Graceland (Elvis actually went to high school with Mary Sue's younger brothers) or a walk through the famous old Peabody Hotel. Backbeat tours offer a memorable action-packed exploration of Beale Street. The Mecca of many guitar musicians, the Gibson Guitar Factory, offers tours on a daily basis.

The biggest challenge at the park to Mary Sue is "making sure everyone's experience with the river is a good one." Most of the sites at Tom Sawyer's are within view of the river but it's hard to accommodate the customers who want the best view possible. "Everyone wants a good view of the river," Mary Sue explains.

Now if you've been saying to yourself, "Wait a minute. I didn't know there was a Memphis in Arkansas! I thought Memphis was in Tennessee," you're experiencing the same momentary twinge of

check out the concerts, tours, riverboat cruises, museums and athletic events that are readily available.

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And for those not musically in-

on the season you can catch a Memphis Redbirds or a Memphis Grizzlies game.

When it comes down to the best times to visit, Mary Sue recommends the months of October or May.

Unlike Mary Sue, most of the park's staff live in RVs. "And I know they respect Monaco brands," she added. Though Mary Sue doesn't own an RV, she knows what she'd do if she did. "I'd probably do what a lot of our guests do: I'd travel around and visit my children and my grandchildren." ☺

The park is located on the banks of the Old Muddy, a prime spot to watch riverboats.

