



GOOD LIFE NEWS



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

FLORIDA UNIT 027

JANUARY 2009

The Inauguration is over — Here is a word from our New President!

Banding together will facilitate good things happening. The Jacksonville Hanna Park Rally was a good thing, including good fellowship and good food. I'd like to learn why some members elected to stay home?

Now we set our sights on the **Florida State Rally in Sarasota**. This promises to be a super experience. Make sure your registration has been mailed. There will be several Florida Unit confabs. Don't miss dining at the Mediterraneo Restaurant on Main St. downtown Sarasota for the best pizza in the U.S. (that's my opinion and I'm sticking to it). Reservations suggested for dinner 941-365-4122. Also, don't forget the food barrels. Our unit will once again donate a check and we have Pat Godfrey and her committee (Marilyn, Betty & Dave) all ready to decorate the barrel. If you wish to donate a personal check, please make it out to the "All Faiths Food Bank" and give them to our Treas., Frank. If you have a "strong back," the Bldg. Cmty. needs volunteers to move tables & chairs. Let me know if you can help. Whit has volunteered to run the bingo along with Phil, Willard and Randy...this should be a hoot! Marilyn is heading up nursing! Nancy Scime in the WBCCI Store. I'm sure I've missed someone as just about everyone attending has volunteered for something. Thanks team! AND, good luck to our own Frank Carson in his first ever Chairmanship of the Florida State Rally!

March 18th to 23rd is the **Bluegrass Rally** in Christmas, FL. Then, April 7th to 13th is the Easter Rally in St. Augustine, FL. Speaking of teamwork, we desperately need our unit members to step up to the plate on this one. Contact Frank even if you can only come for a few days. Come along to both of these events where good things will happen. Frank needs members to help at **St. Augustine** (see below). Let's get behind him.

In an effort to stimulate communication in our group, I will contact a few members who will then spread our discussions along to everyone else. This should enhance feedback and personal involvement. Our membership is now up to 69 with 12 affiliates.

Also, please contact me for caravan information to the International Rally in Madison, WI, 6/28 – 7/4. Once again, Jeanne Pickrel has offered to do the Bulletin Board. Thanks, Jeanne...quite a task!

Happy Camping!

Tom Moore

Ships Ahoy Rally Review

By Frank Carson

Ron and Chris Allen hosted our January 15 – 19 rally in beautiful Hanna Park in Jacksonville. It was a pleasure to attend a new rally in Northern Florida. The members gathering at Hanna Park were the Wengers, Carsons, Moores, Pickrels, Blasdells, Allens, Godfreys, Leighs, Ryners, Hickmans and Alma Craft. The Hickmans are WBCCI members from Ohio who made this rally their first stop in Florida.

Ron and Chris are fairly new members to the club. They put a lot of time and effort into planning an excellent rally. It is not often that we find someone who will be responsible for planning a brand new rally. Congrats to Ron & Chris.

The rally started with a happy hour at the Allen's trailer on Thursday evening. The temperature was cool, but Chris showed her expertise in building fires. Chris built a huge campfire to keep everyone warm. She certainly knows how to stack the wood. Chris gave each family a hand decorated goody bag which contained the rally schedule, a gift and maps of the area.

Friday morning began with a pancake breakfast. I (Frank) did the pancakes, and Dave cooked the sausage. There was no need to worry about leftovers, as I knew exactly what to do with them. Enough said. After breakfast, we went sightseeing on Amelia Island. Supper was served at Lee Hall. It was barbecue ribs, chicken, cole slaw, beans and Texas toast. Gerie Leigh supplied huge boiled shrimp. Chris had her mother and grandchildren make the desserts.

Robin and Gerie Leigh were inducted into the club and received their badges and Florida Unit T-shirts.

After dinner, John and Lisa taught us new round and line dance steps. Most members were eager to learn and the evening was full of laughter as we tried to follow the teachers' fancy moves.

Saturday morning there was another delicious pancake and sausage breakfast in Lee Hall. After the breakfast, Ron and Chris graciously took care of everyone's needs, from getting medications to camera chips. For lunch we went to Singletons Seafood Shack. Dinner was a potluck. Ann Moore our First Lady gave an informative and interesting presentation on the St. John's River. Marvelous job - thanks, Ann!

Sunday we could attend church services or sleep in. After lunch at Singletons, the afternoon was spent sightseeing. Some went to the beach, others to tour Fort Caroline and a few went to the zoo. Sunday night we were again treated to the art of fire starting as Chris made another huge fire. Some of us thought Chris was attempting to burn a cord of wood in one night. It sure felt good, though.

I personally want to thank Ron and Chris Allen for hosting a great rally. You did an excellent job!

[Editor's Note: I heard from **Gerie** (see above) and she related that the Jacksonville rally was "fabulous, planned perfectly, everyone was sooo friendly and even made the grandkids feel so welcome...enjoyed the dance lessons too!" Phone call from (see above) "Jacksonville Rally was wonderful. I am new to the Unit but everyone made me feel so welcome. Thank you."]

Hello From

Marie Chapman who is now living in Lancaster, PA, and says, "...it's time to pass on some stuff too good to throw away...clearing out the B-van – a traumatic experience after 45 years of travel with trailer or motor home...I won't say 'See ya down the road' – instead, I'll remember years of fun."

Anita Norwood from Stevensville, MD. "Hi to all and thank you for the card with all the signatures. I'll be 90 on April 1st and have so many happy memories. Still doing word puzzles." Daughter Barbara says: "She's still smiling!"

Get Well Corner!

All kinds of good news – Art Kramer doing well under expert care of wife, Louise. Josie Smith has had some good reports from the doctors and is now home from the hospital, but will be on chemo, Vic says. Bev Trask is having quite some time trying out the new "equipment" which enables her to remain at home and under Earl's gentle care. Ellen & Joe are still in Ohio caring for Ellen's sister. Phil Azaredo - nose surgery for cancer but look for him and Phyllis on registration at Sarasota. Frank Carson will have knee surgery right after Sarasota – we'll be rooting for ya, Frank! Due to health issues we'll be missing long-time director of Indoor Games, Dot Sampson, at Sarasota! Get well soon all!

[Editor's Note: If anyone has any more info, please let me know for the next newsletter. patfinn@bellsouth.net; 321-638-2484]

National St. Augustine Easter Rally

The dates are Tuesday April 7 to 13, 2009. The rally is full except for our own

members. We have only six members signed up, and there is no way I can run a rally without help. The members signed up are the Whittingtons, Pickrels, Blasdells, Clarkes, Wengers and Perrys. I need about 5 to 7 more members. Remember, I will have just had my knee replaced and I will not be able to do what I normally do.

Our entertainment will again feature the sights and sounds of Joni and Buddy Canova along with our history segment and tours with the Red Train, Sightseeing cruise and tour of the Flagler College. This is the best rally in the country for the money, but we can only run it with your help. Please sign up now. Make checks payable to St. Augustine Easter Rally and mail to Frank Carson, 29129 Johnston Rd. 546, Dade City, FL 33523.

Bluegrass Festival March 18 – 23

Early parking is on March 17. Rally fee \$10.00 per person and this includes *at least 5 meals!* Make checks payable to WBCCI Florida Unit, and mail to Frank Carson, 29129 Johnston Rd 546, Dade City, FL 33523.

This rally is **by reservation only** since the Unit must purchase supplies for meals ahead of the rally.

Attention Weekenders! If you can only come for the weekend – there is no rally fee, and parking is free with rally electric and water.

Attention Firsttimers! For those of you that have never been to this rally, it is completely laid back with professional Bluegrass bands playing continually both Saturday and Sunday. Unlike Cracker Christmas, there will only be around

14,000 people in attendance. This is a volunteer rally, with not too much work. Make us proud. Show your support for the rally and the Unit; all for a good cause. We support the Orange County Park systems and especially Fort Christmas.

Florida State Rally By Frank Carson

The Florida State Rally dates are February 17 - 22, 2009. This will be the first year of my being Director, so if nothing else, I'm asking our unit to show their support. As you have probably heard, the Airstream Company will not be in attendance, but we have Turning Wheel RV with mechanics filling the void. We already have two thirds of the amount of members signed up compared to last year. Our unit will have The FL Unit Function on Thursday at 11:00 AM in the Potter Building. This luncheon is free. Those of you that do not drive or tow your Airstream are invited to join us for this rally perk. Please let us know if you are coming so we can purchase the necessary food. I have early parking passes for anyone who needs them. Call me!

Can Opener Rally Review By Randy Godfrey, 1st V.P.

Three years ago, a young man who owned an Airstream, decided to try to have an Airstream get together at one of Florida's State Parks near his home in the pan handle of Florida. He posted an invitation on the Internet on AIRForums.com for the first Can Opener Rally at Topsail Preserve State Park, near Destin, FL, in January 2007.

Pat and I had used the information and replies from many AIRForums members

to help us make the decision to buy our first Airstream, and we saw that many who advised us were going to be at Can Opener 2007. We had just picked up our Airstream in mid-December 2006, so we made our first trip of any real distance to Destin, FL. The Can Opener has become a successful informal Airstream rally. In 2007 over 40 units attended; in 2008 over 60, and this year there were over 50 units. Pat and I have made this one of our must attend rallies. Its success is based on its simplicity. Everyone makes their own reservations at the State Park. There is no rally fee. There is no real agenda other than open houses on Saturday afternoon, one of the best pot-luck suppers you will ever attend on Saturday night, and a pot-luck breakfast on Sunday morning. There's a raffle on Saturday evening with prizes everyone donates. All these activities are optional.

The location of the rally is also excellent. Topsail provides a full hookup including cable TV, all sites are level and paved, and the park sits on the beautiful beaches of Florida's panhandle. There are many good restaurants nearby along with interesting places to see.

The Can Opener is not a WBCCI event. It's not advertised in the Blue Beret - only on the Internet, and some who attend are not WBCCI members. When Pat and I first attended, we weren't WBCCI members either. Since then we joined WBCCI and I became one of your officers. I find that meeting the non-members and discussing the WBCCI with them at this rally has turned into an excellent recruiting tool. Steve Martin, the organizer of the Can Opener, is now a member of our Unit. I have also

encouraged others to join or renew their memberships to their local units. Rallies like this will never replace what we do in the WBCCI, but again just a group of friends camping together and having a great time.

Steve has already picked the date for next year, January 8 – 10, 2010. Will we see you there next year? Anyone up for a Unit Caravan to NW Florida with stops at this rally and other points of interest in the northern part of our State?

Welcome New Members

Donald and Lucille Clarke
WBCCI #11801
2420 Lafayette Ave
Winter Park, Florida 32789

George and Linda Perry
29129 Johnston Rd 2027
Dade City, Florida 33523

Elma Craft (Affil.)
2225 Hwy A1A
Ocean Walk Condo – Unit 311
Indian Harbor Beach, FL 32937

JOKES TO FILL UP SPACE

A man was driving down the street in a lather because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking space. Looking up to heaven, he said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking space, I promise to go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up swearing." Miraculously, a spot opened right in front of the building. The man looked up and said, "Never mind. I found one."

Fettuccine Alfredo is macaroni and cheese for adults!

GREAT LEADERS:

It's hard to lead a calvary charge if you think you look funny on a horse.

Adlai Stevenson

A leader is one who, out of madness or goodness, volunteers to take upon himself the woe of the people. There are few men so foolish, hence the erratic quality of leadership. John Updike

The person who knows "how" will always have a job. The person who knows "why" will always be his boss.

Diane Ravitch

Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't. Margaret Thatcher

Region 3 Website: www.wbcci3.org

Florida Unit: www.airstream-adventures.com/FU/Florida_Unit.html

Vic is working on a new Florida Unit website on wbcci.net it is: floridaunit027.wbcci.net