

GOOD LIFE NEWS

Willard Our New Unit Pres.

Installation Ceremony at Fort Christmas Historical Park



On Thursday night after a catered dinner, we had our annual installation of officers conducted by International Past President Don Schafer and his wife Ann. As befitting an IPP, he did a great job, even though he didn't have many to install: Willard Pickrel and Lady Jeanne, Unit President; Phil

Drugge and Lady Doris 1st VP; Ron Allen and Lady Chris, 2nd VP; and Marilyn Blasdell Trustee. Don also recognized Past President Randy Godfrey and Lady Pat for all of their hard work in the past year.

-Phil Drugge

From Our President

Another successful Cracker Christmas is now in the history books. We missed some of our old friends, but we also made new ones.

Although our unit numbers were down all members present did a wonderful job of covering the houses and other work stations, and we appreciate everyone's efforts.

At this time Jeanne and I are preparing to attend the Life is Good Rally this month, hosted by Phil and Doris Drugge. Also, I would like everyone to make note of my email address and phone number on the next page. I will welcome all positive and negative comments for the good of our Unit.

We hope to see you at one of our Unit events this year.

-Willard Pickrel

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS SLOW COMING IN

It's too late to get your name in the 2011 WBCCI Directory, that's already been published. It's not too late to send in your membership renewal for 2011.

As of the end of 2010 we were still waiting on responses from nine full members and two affiliates who were members in good standing in 2010.



If everyone gets their renewal in we will be at 71 full members, which is one more than we had at the June, 2010 Delegates Meeting in Gillette, WY.

Please send your renewal ASAP to:
Frank Carson
29129 Johnston Rd 546
Dade City, FL 33523

CRACKER CHRISTMAS, 2010

Well, another Cracker Christmas Rally has come and gone and once again, it was a good time! We didn't have our usual leader Frank Carson as he and wife Joan were up north where Joan has been under treatment for a variety of problems. But, as of this writing, it looks like she's getting better and we may see them in sunny Florida before long.



We had about 27 Florida Unit members on hand to work the festival at Fort Christmas. The

weather was fine, the evenings a little cool, but we could handle it. The usual decorating, setting up tables and chairs, cleaning, etc. took place and then came the big moment, we pulled pork! And, pull pork we did! Over 1,400 pounds. That's a lot of PP sandwiches!!



On Thursday night after dinner, our then Unit President, Randy Godfrey, conducted a very quick business meeting so we could get to the installation of officers for 2011 without freezing.

Friday night after finishing up the setup we enjoyed a potluck dinner with the main dish, a pan of pulled pork, provided by the park staff. A BIG thanks to them!

Saturday morning came and it was a beautiful day! There were literally thousands of folks streaming in to the park. Doris and I worked in the School House and there was a steady stream of



cars coming in. They said there was over a hour-long backup to get in. (Continued on page 3)

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CRACKER CHRISTMAS, 2010 (CONTINUED)

It was a great time for all the folks coming in, and it's nice to see all the folks when you've been helping to get it set up. Sunday was a little cooler and started off with a BIG rain shower, but thankfully it cleared out fast. It was cool all day, but still they came and it was certainly a successful day for the over 170 crafters in attendance.



Saturday night we had our annual pot luck with the vendors. This is always a treat and I par-

ticularly enjoyed the ham that had been cooked in a Dutch Oven all day. Yum! Yum!

Sunday night saw some of us hitch up and head home while others stayed another night, or two, at the park. It was as usual, a great rally and if you have never been there or at least not recently, put the first weekend in December on your calendar now. It's a good time with good friends and Dave Wenger will keep the fire going for you!

Thanks to Randy Godfrey who took over as our Rally Director in Frank's absence, and to Dave Wenger who did a great job



getting coffee and doughnuts every morning even without Betty there to help. Whit Blasdell raised several hundred dollars for the walking stick he raffled off which coincidentally was won by Charles Whittington (I don't know about that). Thanks also to Pat Finn for her efforts in getting us fed on Thursday Night. And by the way, thanks Pat, for all your years as Recording Secretary. It's very much appreciated and we hope you'll stay in touch with us!

That's it from here and I hope to see you at the Life Is Good Rally in Fruitland Park in January!

-Phil Drugge

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

As of December 8, 2010 the Scime's were still in Ontario. They sent the following picture of their restored Bambi.



Frank and Joan Carson as most of you know had to return to New Jersey for Joan's medical tests. The report is very good and Joan is on the recovery now.

They didn't get out of New Jersey before the great Christmas blizzard of 2010 and sent this picture of their driveway. Their trailer was snug in Florida.



Hopefully, by the time you read this, everyone will be in Florida.

MELBOURNE LUNCHEON; JANUARY 8, MELBOURNE, FL

Those in Brevard County and surrounding areas, don't forget the second annual FL unit Melbourne luncheon will be held Saturday, January 8, noon, at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Melbourne Square Mall. Susan LaRose and Marie Moser have been calling everyone who is near that location, but don't be shy and come on over if you can. For directions or more information, phone Susan (321) 951-4672 or Marie (321) 984-7381.

LIFE IS GOOD RALLY; JANUARY 13 - 17; FRUITLAND PARK, FL

Are you ready to take on another year and hopefully spending some time with your fellow Airstreamers? Why don't you start the New Year off with a nice easy rally at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park, FL? You can enjoy the center's spacious grounds and sit by Lake Griffin and just watch the waves sparkle in the sun. Or, maybe you'd like to go cruise around the area, take a free bus tour of The Villages, and have lunch in one of the literally dozens of Villages restaurants! Ladies, want to do some shopping? Specialty shops galore are waiting for you in the two Villages Town Squares of Spanish Springs and Lake Sumter Landing. There is

FREE entertainment every night at both town squares, weather permitting, from 5 - 9 p.m.

Then there are the meals we have planned: Ham and Bean Supper, Low Country Boil, Cowboy eggs and sausage, Dutch Oven surprises! Looks like a BIG weight-gain weekend!

This is a take-it-easy rally. No big planned event although you can go to the Florida Carriage Museum, the Paquette Historical Tractor Museum, Don Garlits Drag Racing Museum, Silver Springs, and Saturday night there be a SURPRISE feature. I'm not telling what it is, but trust me.

All this, and you can have full hookups if you want. Or, use the old, but clean, facilities and save a few bucks. They are right by our campsites. We have use of the pavilion, so we won't get wet if it rains (it wouldn't dare!). There is free Internet access at the main building for you computer nuts!

You better sign up right now. Sites are going fast! The rally coupon and agenda is on our website, and was in the last newsletter, but since time is short, call me at (352) 751-4597 so I can get you signed up.

-Phil Drugge

FLORIDA STATE RALLY, ROSES AND ROMANCE; FEBRUARY 15 - 20; SARASOTA, FL



You have all heard me say we have the climate, (hopefully), we have the space and we have the price. This year we have the dealer, the repairmen and the Airstream parts. Florida's newest Airstream dealer, Camping World of Fort

Myer's will be on the grounds with parts and repairmen.

Where can you go in Florida, at the height of the season in one of the most prestigious cities for five nights with water, rally electric, (that has all been re-done), professional entertainment, seminars, games, crafts, hobby show, door prizes sightseeing, best shopping around, donuts and coffee each morning and a roast beef dinner for only \$185.00 (for 2 people in a Airstream).

There will be seminars on how to maintain your Airstream, and a First Timers Seminar which is a must for all new Airstreamers and

first time rally goers. Last year the pet show went over big, so we will do it again. The Fashion Show, this year will be hosted by one of the local premier department stores.

The Saturday Morning flea market is a great place to find bargains and sell your treasures. The tables are free so sign up early for one of the many spots. Saturday afternoon is the pet show and the Vintage open house. Saturday evening will be a roast beef catered dinner.

The rally coupon can be found in your *Blue Beret*, or downloaded from our website.

-Frank Carson

FUEL PRICES: WHERE ARE THEY GOING--AND HOW TO COPE

If you've fueled up your tow vehicle, motorhome, or toad car lately, you know that the pain is back. Gasoline is up, and diesel is closed out 2010 at the highest price in over two years. With the RV industry trying to crawl up out of the mire of the recession, it's probably the last thing the manufacturers and retailers want to hear.

Where is it all going? It depends on who you listen to. A former oil company president, John Hoffmiester, recently trotted out his opinion on CNN, \$5 a gallon for gasoline by 2012. Scary stuff, no? On the other hand, in the same article, another petroleum pundit, Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst with Oil Price Information Service says "Americans will see gasoline prices hit the \$5 a gallon mark in the next decade, but not by 2012."

So who's right? Unless you have a flawlessly accurate crystal ball, it's just about anybody's guess. Three years ago when we were stunned at paying \$4.99 a gallon for diesel at a "highway robbery" fuel station in remote central Nevada, we could never have predicted the huge drop in fuel prices that would come in just a few months. Of course, we couldn't have predicted the plunge the

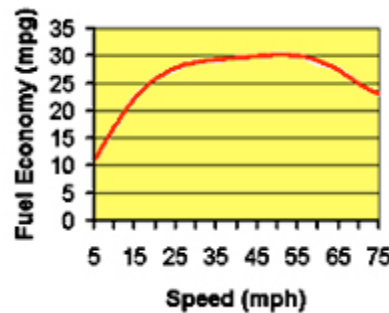
economy took either. There are so many variables, so many different pieces of the economic puzzle, it's a sure bet that nobody really knows what fuel prices are going to do in a year, and hardly in the next few months.

So what's to do? Drive like you want to save your money. It seems the research indicates a couple of critical things that all RVers — all drivers for that matter — can do to conserve that precious propellant is to slow down and keep the wind in your tires. For every pound of pressure under the recommended inflation rate, your tires' rolling resistance increases by almost 1.5%. A 10% increase in rolling resistance (7 pounds under-inflation) means up to a 2% increase in fuel consumed. It all adds up.

Add to the picture: An under-inflated tire dramatically increases stopping distance. Motorhomes and rigs pulling trailers already have increased stopping distances when compared to autos, factor in an under-inflated tire and the potential for a traffic disaster is very real. And under-inflated tires have a tendency to bend at the sidewalls, and are more likely to shear off tread. If you've priced tires recently, you'll know you don't want

to have to replace them any sooner than you have to.

And on the speed issue? Every rig has its "sweet spot" in terms of fuel economy. As a rule of thumb, however, consider that for every 5 miles per hour over 60 miles per hour you drive, you increase your fuel consumption. In terms of "old world dollars," when fuel cost \$2.87 a gallon, that extra 5



miles per hour effectively tacked on 24 more cents to your gallon. Driving aggressively on the highway, punching the accelerator, hitting the brakes, and jack-rabbing back to freeway speeds penalize you as much as 33%.

Finally, lighten up. Check your storage areas and unload excess stuff. If you don't need it, why pay to tote it?

Fuel prices? It's kind of like walking into an amusement park with a blindfold on. You climb on the roller coaster and take the blindfold off. We're all together on the ride, and who knows just what'll happen next.

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HANS WERNER JOACHIMSTHAL

We were informed last month that Werner Joachimsthal passed away on December 5, 2010. He apparently had an aneurism that burst. We last saw Werner and Lotty at our Daytona Beach Rally. Werner was a Holocaust survivor. I'm sure Lotty would appreciate expressions of sympathy from our Unit.

Lotty Joachimsthal; 7075 Geneva Lakes Ct; Lake Worth, FL 33486; (561) 357-8192

ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL EASTER RALLY IS A GO!

In our last newsletter we reported that we may have to cancel the St. Augustine Easter Rally because we couldn't get the fairgrounds personnel to acknowledge that they had added charges we didn't budget for, and to remove them from our use fees. We wrote letters to the editor and used any connections we had with the County Government to remedy the situation.

Our efforts paid off! We have reached an agreement with the fairgrounds to use the rates we based our rally budget and fees on. The event is a go.

We now need the support of some of the members of the unit to help in the conduct of the rally. We can have no more than 120 people attend, that normally works out to 58 - 60 Airstreams. We will never turn a unit member away who wants to attend, however. If you plan to attend, please contact Vic Smith as soon as possible so he can keep a slot open for you.

NOTES FROM REGION 3

In his December letter, Rick Bell, our Region 3 President reported that the Region is growing even though some units are struggling.

The Region 3 Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 16 at 9 a.m. at the Florida State Rally.

NOTES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

In his January WBCCI President's Newsletter, Norm Beu, our International President, reported that they are still lining up vendors

for the 54th International Rally at Du Quoin, IL. He also reported that only 376 members have registered for the event so far. This is less than expected for this time of year.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GOOD LIFE NEWS IS 2/25/2011

First, how do you like the new look? I received some constructive criticism as I finished out last year's newsletters, and I hope I answered all the concerns. I'm always open to comments and suggestions, so keep them coming.

Please send your editor any articles you have for publication in the March 2011 edition of our newsletter by February 25, 2010. It's always fun to hear about our experiences with our Airstreams, so if you have been away with your rig, a short article, with pictures if possible, will be interesting for our members. All news and items of interest to members of our Unit are welcome.

Your editor is supposed to assemble the newsletter and make everyone look as good as possible within the space allotted for each article. ***The editor is not supposed to write the newsletter!*** Authors, reporters, and photographers—Get Busy!

Items can be accepted in any format by email at: rgodfrey@cfl.rr.com, or by mail at the following address:

Randy Godfrey, Newsletter Editor
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Please call (321) 633-7591 if you have any questions.

2011 Calendar

January 8

Unit Luncheon; Melbourne, FL

January 13 - 17

Life is Good Rally; Fruitland Park, FL

February 15 - 20

Florida State Rally; Sarasota, FL

February 17

Unit Luncheon; Sarasota, FL

March 16 - 21

Bluegrass Rally; Ft. Christmas, FL

April 19 - 25

St. Augustine Easter Rally; Elkton, FL

June 28 - July 4

54th International Rally; Du Quoin, IL

October 20 - 24

2nd Annual Tom Moore Memorial Rally; Port Orange, FL

October 22

Unit Luncheon, Annual Meeting & Elections; Port Orange, FL

November 29 - December 5

Cracker Christmas Rally; Ft. Christmas, FL

December 1

Unit Dinner & Installation of Officers for 2012; Ft. Christmas, FL