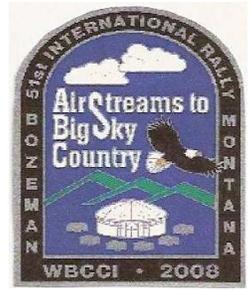




GOOD LIFE NEWS



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FLORIDA UNIT 027

JULY 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The International Rally at Perry is over. Josie and I left on the 3rd primarily because we were both exhausted and wanted to get home. We had been gone since the 7th of June to attend our grand daughter's high school graduation in Richmond, arrived at Salem on June 13th and stayed in the Vintage Parking area. More about the Rally in another article.

This month I would like to talk about membership. It is common knowledge that the WBCCI is getting smaller. What is not common knowledge is that we gained over 900 new members in the last year and lost between 1200 and 1300. That does not include losses due to age and infirmities. We have to ask ourselves then, why do people leave the club? Are there not enough rallies? Are the rallies not interesting enough? Are they at the wrong time of the week for working families? Are the units too cliquish and new members not made to feel welcome? Are the new members being hounded to take a leadership role? These and a lot of other reasons were raised at the Unit Leadership seminars at Perry.

With the resounding defeat of the Four Winds Motor Home amendment we must redouble our efforts to keep the members we have. Gaining new members, while still a big issue, is not the one we have to address to keep the club alive. If we had kept some the folks who left, we would be growing by leaps and bounds. Frank Carson got the Founders Club award for the most new members for the past year by one person with 78. He is also the International Membership Chairman. WELL DONE, FRANK!!! Now it is up to the units to keep all the new members.

Let's face it, if someone ponies up the \$55.00 for WBCCI membership and \$10-\$20.00 for a Unit membership or \$70.00 for WBCCI Member at Large, it would seem that they had more than a passing interest in joining the club. That being the case, why would they leave after one or two years?

One of the programs that can have an impact on retaining new members is the mentoring program. Mentoring can have a very positive effect on a new member. If the member is new to RVing, he/she may have no idea how to tow a trailer. Most dealerships will hitch up the trailer for the customer, pat them on the back and send them out the door without any training. Training would take time and time is money. So part of mentoring would be to help those new to RVing become comfortable with their rigs. Mentoring also means keeping in touch, welcoming them to the unit, bringing the new member to a rally and staying with them during the rally to make sure they get to meet the other members, take part in activities and generally have a good time.

Joan Carson is the chairman of the Florida Unit's mentoring program. She has assigned new members to various folks in the unit. It is important that we follow up with the new folks and help them enjoy the benefits of belonging to the WBCCI.

I learned a lot from the seminars. A rally is insured as long as it shows up in the minutes of a unit meeting and is posted in the newsletter. It doesn't have to be planned a year ahead of time to have WBCCI sanction and insurance. We can invite owners of Airstreams who are not members to rallies without insurance issues so long as they are not given jobs to perform. What a great way to get new members.

Loss of membership is primarily a unit issue. We can't blame it on the International officers or Region officers. It is a grass roots problem. We all need to get involved if we want to save the club.

Vic Smith

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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL

At the International at Perry, GA, **Bill Schrader**, Public Relations Chairman, posted daily reports from 6-25 through 7-4. The information he dispersed was very informative concerning the operation of the rally. The editor used some of his writing to give you a picture of the rally's operation behind the scenes as well as current news, and thanks Bill for the use of his background stories. The articles with underlined titles were gleaned from his reports.

Backdrop

The above picture is of the backdrop used at the Perry, GA International this year. **Ron Amme** of Pettigrove, NJ has designed and executed the backdrop for the last thirteen years of Internationals. The stars denote the 26 states where a rally has been held, sometimes more than once.

The size of the backdrop has been the same, 40' x 16', made up of 20 4' x 8' panels of plywood. Heavy scaffolding supports it and makes it sturdy.

At home, Ron translates his idea into a computerized version ¼" to 1". After being satisfied with his vision, he makes a full size version on 20 strips of tracing paper 2' x 8'. At the site he goes over the line work using a graphite stick and transfers the design to the panels.

It takes two coats of paint to cover the panels before the design transfer. Then the actual design is like painting with numbers. It is estimated there are 39 to 52 coats of paint on the wood. Six committee members helped do the job at Perry.

After the rally is over, the backdrop was disassembled and shipped off to Bozeman in the cargo truck. Ron uses the back of Panel 1 to record the history of designs, locations of the rallies, and the names of the committee members.

RALLY STATISTICS

Attendance at the International was 1017. Florida represented the most with 189. Georgia was second with 82, Ohio third with 66 and Virginia fourth with 46. Of the Vintage Airstream Club's 650 members, 80 attended the rally. A vintage trailer is one that is 25 years or older which means there is a new group of eligible owners each year.

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YEAS AND NAYS

The final totals for the amendment to allow owners of Four Winds motor homes to become members of WBCCI were:

2435 For 3677 Against 128 Abstentions

At the Florida Unit meeting at St. Augustine the vote was 0 For and 57 Against.

The votes by region are as follows with an asterisk denoting a majority for the amendment.

Region	For	Against	Abstain
1	22	243	0
2	193	634	18
3	341	799	10
*4	331	224	2
5	175	236	4
6	74	400	18
7	53	128	3
*8	115	112	4
*9	360	232	18
*10	353	199	34
11	159	163	0
12	219	307	17

PULL TABS AND GIFTS

Have you ever wondered what happens to all those pull tabs you've religiously saved and have had others involved in collecting them for you to give at the various rallies? Here's Bill's report for the International.

2433 pounds of pull tabs were turned in. \$78 worth of coins were found among the tabs. A clever magnetized box separates the aluminum tabs from the steel.

The tabs were sold to a scrap dealer for \$1600.00. The money was donated to The Ronald McDonald House, a place for parents to stay when their children are hospitalized.

Now that you know what a good cause those tabs go to, don't let any get away from you, and solicit your friends and family to save them as well. It's such a small thing to do for such a good purpose.

The young people collected donations of change during the rally. Along with contributions from Region 6 and the Central Indiana Unit, they were able to give \$7947.69 toward the medical expenses of a local young girl suffering from a rare pediatric cancer. All tolled about \$15,000.00 in charitable gifts were given.

Not able to put a price on them were the donations of blankets, hats, stuffed animals and other items that were contributed.

And 65 pints of blood were donated to help alleviate the blood supply shortage in Georgia.

Along with the huge monetary boost to the economy of the area with the rally in Perry, WBCCI left a record of caring for the people of the area as well.

AND THE BAND PLAYS ON

John Landry has directed the band at the International for the last eight years. His musicians this year ranged in age from 10 to 83. Occasionally local musicians are recruited if the instrumentation is not balanced.

Six boxes of music contain charts for the regular band and two for the stage band. These are stored in the cargo trailer until the rally when the music is selected for the band's concert, sorted and placed in the folders.

The members had 10 days of rehearsals for 2 ½ hours per day. The stage band rehearsed for 2 hours each day.

A highlight of one of the evening's entertainment is the band's concert. A great deal of effort goes into molding a band from people who haven't played together either before or in a year. The results are worth the work.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING

Recognition was given to those of WBCCI who recruited the most members. We are proud to write that our own **FRANK CARSON** was on top with 78.

Others were honored for bringing in 74, 68, 47, 38, 35, and 31.

We congratulate Frank for his perseverance. The above numbers show recruiting can be done.

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NO RALLY/NO CARAVAN/ROBBED

Those of you out there who have never attended a rally or been on a caravan are having stolen from you the best part of belonging to WBCCI and the Florida Unit.

The rallies and caravans are what make the club what it is. It's the chance to make a whole new circle of friends. It's the chance to see places with an educated scrutiny you may get no other way. It's a chance to put your talents and capabilities to use for fun and the satisfaction of contributing to others.

Put the Christmas Rally at Ft. Christmas Nov. 27-Dec. 3, 2007 on your "must do list" either for the whole rally or the weekend if you're still working. It's a great example of what we're writing about.

The Election Rally at Camelot RV Park, Malabar, FL Nov. 14-18, 2007 will allow you to meet the folks who already know what belonging is all about, the ones who are willing to serve the Unit in whatever capacity they're able, plus have a good time doing it.

Come on and get your money's worth. We hope to see you at our next get together.

ATTENDEES AND WINNERS

The Florida Unit was well represented at Perry. The folks attending the International were:

Ron & Alice Archambo, Dave & Rebecca Barto, Whit & Marilyn Blasdell, Frank & Joan Carson, Fran Durbin, Jean Gilbert, Randy & Patsy Godfrey, Jerry & Dianne Hodge, Werner & Lotty Joachimsthal, Ed & Marion Krajewski, Earl & Helen Leggett, Fred & Sue Mount, Larry & Marie Moser, Tom & Ann Moore, Bill & Wendy Reilly, Larry & Linda Scovotto, Vic & Josie Smith, Tom & Jackie Tisdell, Dave & Wenger, Charles & Jackie Whittington, and David & Lora Wong with their two children, Holly & David.

Marilyn Blasdell placed first overall in bridge. **Alice Archambo** received a 2nd place ribbon for her collection of angels. **Joan Carson** received Honorable Mention for her 1984 collection of Airstream memorabilia. **Vic and Josie Smith** won a gold award for their Vintage trailer.

NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome two new members to our Unit and to WBCCI. Both members have vintage trailers

John and Nancy Scime
29129 Johnston Road Lot 0561
Dade City, FL 33523-6128
519-364-2881
jjscime@wightmsn.ca

Summer address
RR 3
Hanover, ONT N4N 3B9

Although John and Nancy live in Canada, they spend half their time at Travelers Rest Resort. Their trailer is a 1963 fully restored Bambi.

J. and Nora Wingard
20770 SE 157th Street
Umatilla, FL 32784
352-821-4708
oldercousin1@netzero.com

The Wingards' trailer is a 1968 Overlander.

We're very happy to have you in our Unit. Be sure to join in and enjoy all that our club offers.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Ron and Ann Carson now have email capability. Their address is: anroncar@aol.com.

Phil and Phyllis Azerado cancelled their trip to the International because Phil was not feeling good. Phyllis fell off a 6" high stool in April. As well as injuring a finger, she found later that she had broken her rotar cuff. The surgeon found it was irreparable after opening her up. We hope both folks are recovering quickly.

Fran Durbin had cataract surgery. That's one operation that is like a miracle. We wish her clear eye sight.

Marilyn Blasdell's aunt passed away during the rally. Marilyn had to return home to Titusville and then back to the International. She has our sincere sympathy.

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A STORY FOR YOU

The following is copied from a letter sent to the editor dated June 22, 2007. It was written by **Beverly Trask** while staying at the home of her and **Earl's** daughter in Thornton, NH.

“Sunday after graduation Family has left to go to Conn. and Rhode Island. It’s about 5:30 p.m. Earl and I are sitting out under the awning reading the paper. Regular bird feeder up and hummingbird feeder too. Earl glances up and says ‘oh-oh!’ I look up and under my breath say ‘Oh my God!’ There pulling the feeder down about 8 feet away is a very big bear. Earl says if he stood up he would be about 7 feet tall.

Under my breath I ask Earl ‘What do we do?’ He shrugs and whispers ‘I don’t know’. So we sit. He cleans out the feeder, starts to take it with him/her, and drops it. Gets the rest of the seed on the ground and meanders off into the woods. Needless to say, we were a little stunned.

“Carol had told us not to leave the feeder out all night or the bear would steal it. She forgot to include the daytime. Haven’t seen it since. Now just have birds and chipmunks. Although this past Monday a.m. our son-in-law saw a moose go across the back yard. This is what they call North Country living. Earl said I forgot that when we got here Carol had a family of raccoons in the attic. Mommie and three babies. They finally left!!”

Be careful, Bev and Earl. It’s a jungle out there.

VIC SMITH REPORTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL

Don Shafer’s site at Perry, GA for the 2007 International was spectacular. Most all attendees were parked before Wednesday, the 27th, when the Vintage Airstream Club (VAC) paraded in with flags flying. We were parked in the Bullpen with three point hookups. I was honored to carry our Unit flag during the opening ceremonies.

Our Unit was kept busy with a variety of social activities. Josie and I hosted a get together on even numbered days under a nearby tree. The shade was welcome in the 90’ heat, but we needed to use the Georgia Wave to stave off the ever present gnats.

On Friday the 29th, we had our Unit luncheon at “The Swanson” in downtown Perry. The menu was a Blue Plate Special. We had about 30 folks there, and we all enjoyed the meal and the southern hospitality.

A wine and cheese party suggested by new member Wendy Reilly was quite popular. Everyone brought their favorite wine and cheese for all to sample. It was a great idea, and we all had a tasty time.

There was plenty for everyone to do at the rally. There were all kinds of seminars to go to. I went to the Unit Leadership seminars which were very enlightening.

A lot more went on, but space is limited. Suffice it to say, it was exciting, fun, and tiring, but worth the trip. Next year’s International is at Bozeman, MT at 6000’ above sea level. It is guaranteed to be cooler at night and drier.

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2008 FLORIDA UNIT DUES FORM

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Summer address: _____

Phone: _____

Winter address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Birthdate: His: _____ Hers: _____

(Do not include year)

Anniversary date: _____

WBCCI dues \$55.00 _____

(Life WBCCI members pays no
International dues)

Unit dues \$10.00 _____

(Past FL Unit presidents pay
no Unit dues)

Affiliate members \$10.00 _____

Through what unit do you pay your
International dues?

Total _____

Please make your check out to: **WBCCI FLORIDA UNIT**

Mail your check and this form to: **Frank Carson, Treas.**

PO Box 135

Crosswicks, NJ 08515

Please get your dues in to Frank by October 1, 2007. Your membership card mailed by Frank will be your receipt. If you paid your 2007 dues after July 1, 2007, your dues are paid for 2008.