



REGION 8 NEWSLETTER

September 1, 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I'll begin by saying how great it is to belong to WBCCI. It seems that you are never far away from someone who knows someone with an Airstream, or has connection with someone who has one.

Recently Pat Shaw sent me an Email saying she and Dave saw an Airstream parked in their little town of Humboldt, Iowa. So, as is the custom with Airstreamers, they went to welcome them and introduce themselves. As it turns out they are WBCCI members from Virginia, and why Pat was telling me this the visitors were our next door neighbors from Paradise Park in Florida. WBCCI is better than an online dating site for meeting people of like minds!

Our region rally in Hastings Nebraska (April 27-May 1, 2016) is taking shape; put it on your calendar.

Shortly after you receive this newsletter, each unit will have elected new officers. Linda and I will be traveling to as many units as possible to help with unit Installations of officers, and visit with everyone. This is the most enjoyable part of being region officer, and every unit is unique while being connected by the WBCCI creed FUN, FELLOWSHIP, and ADVENTURE. From the old ESSO gasoline ad – "Happy Motoring and Safe Travels"

Gary

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Wow, what a summer it has been! I guess we missed most of the humidity and high heat index in the Region 8 boundaries while we were in New Mexico at International, but we experienced our own brand of heat right there in Farmington. However, we were very fortunate that we did not experience the massive rain storm and flooding that happened there just last week. A member who is on the Southwest Caravan reports that the 30+ trailers that were parked in the lot closest to the buildings (where handicapped were parked) were contacted by the fire department and asked to move to higher ground. You may remember the "dry" creek bed to the east of lots A & B. Last week it proceeded to go out of its banks and flooded the fairgrounds. The caravan members had to hitch up at night, while it was pouring down, in 10" water, and move to the casino parking lot. Not only was there water to contend with, but trash cans, brush and other stuff were already stuck around tires, jacks and water & electric lines. Can you imagine??? The aftermath pictures were amazing and the fairgrounds had to bring in heavy equipment to remove the sand and debris before the caravaners could return to the paved lot.

I am sure that many of you have had some exciting experiences like this during the summer and possibly this fall. Please let me know of your "special experiences" so that we may publish them.

This is the first year that I have ever heard David say "I can't wait for winter!" He explained that he can always put more clothes on but he is limited in the clothes that he can remove.

Have a great fall,

Beth

2ND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings from Placentia Bay, Newfoundland-

Lana and I are nearing the end of our Newfoundland Caravan which started July 23 at North Sydney, Nova Scotia and ends when the ferry returns there September 4th. Newfoundland and Labrador is one province. The name officially became "Newfoundland and Labrador" in 2001, but they have been affiliated for a very long time.

Newfoundland-Labrador is a very beautiful province and the people are very friendly. They always have time to talk to a stranger, and answer our questions about the area or share a joke or two.

As with all caravans, a good attitude of flexibility and problem solving is important. The tourist season is vibrant but not long. Electrical power may be good or not so good. Some campgrounds are in the trees or on the ocean. Sometimes we dry camp and a generator or solar panel may be convenient.

Newfoundland contains some of the oldest exposed rocks in the world and it is visited by geologists from around the world. Botanists and ornithologists also visit because some local areas where the climate is affected by sea breezes harbor plants and birds that are not found this far south (snow shoe hare, gannets, arctic terns and many other examples). Lobster and snow crab are harvested in the surrounding seas but the cod fishery is in a recovery phase after being over harvested when fishing technologies advanced quickly.

We have walked the paths that Leif Ericson walked when he established the first known European settlement in North America in about 985, spotted icebergs traveling the Labrador Current, learned that whale oil (lamp oil) sold in Europe for the equivalent of \$10,000 per barrel, eaten lots of cod (not so much the cod tongues and cheeks that are a local delicacy), and enjoyed the beautiful landscape and colorful villages.

This is a great caravan. Have you taken one of the many caravans that WBCCI provides? They range in length from a couple weeks to two months and are educational and enjoyable. The tough part will be saying “see you down the road”. But we hope to see our new friends again on another caravan or rally.

We look forward to our fall rallies and seeing you again soon. D & L

Editor’s note: Check out Dwight & Lana’s pictures at the end of the newsletter.

REGION 8 HAPPENINGS

Your Region 8 officers will be on the road in September and October, attending installation rallies and of course, installing the new officers. The schedule is as follows:

Kansas City - September 17 – 20 – Gary Rush & Beth McCall
Iowa & North Iowa – October 8 – 11 – Beth McCall
Missouri Greater Ozark – October 8 – 11 – Gary Rush
Nebraska – October 8 – 11 – Dwight Olson & a special guest
St Louis – October 15 – 18 – Gary Rush

It will be great getting you know each of you better. We all look forward to these rallies.

VINTAGE RALLY AT COUNCIL GROVE LAKE, KANSAS

It's great to report that this rally filled up within a couple weeks of the announcement. Twenty trailers will be camping in and around Richey Cove at Council Grove Lake on September 24 -27. A tour of historic Council Grove is on the agenda, along with many other activities and of course, lot of good food and fellowship. Thanks Lee & Joyce Cantrell for arranging this rally.

Note: Some of the Kansas City unit members are leaving their own installation rally on September 20, and are camping at Melvern Lake for a few days before going on to Council Grove. If you wish to join this informal, lazy, do nothing but eat, sleep & fish campout, we are camping in the Corps of Engineers Outlet Park on the south side of the pond. Contact Beth McCall for information.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL RALLY June 29 – July 4, 2016 Lewisburg, West Virginia

Hopefully, by now you have received your Blue Beret magazine and have read the letter from our International President, Jim Schwerdfeger. How great it is to be faced with the possibility of not having enough parking sites at International !

That being said, we encourage the Region 8 members to make their reservations soon since many of our region's members have traditionally been early workers. We encourage the new unit presidents to start planning unit caravans to Lewisburg, West Virginia.

There is much to see along US 64 highway and it's not too early to begin making reservations in state & federal parks. One park that may be interesting to many of you, is the Lincoln State Park in Indiana. The park not only has wonderful camping facilities, but houses a Lincoln Museum and is the burial place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Just down the road a short distance is Santa Claus, Indiana, where is it Christmas all year long. It is a place that everyone needs to experience at least once. Be sure you have your Christmas list with you and allow space in your rigs for extra gifts! Mail your grandkids postcards from the Santa Claus post office! And if you are not in a hurry and don't want to get back on the interstate, take State 62 highway all the way into Louisville, Ky. It's a gorgeous, scenic, backroads kind of drive.

In January, we will tell you of many things to see and do on interstate 64 in Kentucky. Many, many wonderful miles of southern hospitality!

CHANGES TO PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES

During the 2015 International Rally, the Board of Directors adopted a new payment plan for membership dues. In the past, the new members received a “six month” free period if they paid after July 1st. However, over the past several years it has been noted that many units are holding up membership applications that are received in May and June until after July 1st so that the new member will receive a “free” membership for 6 months. This policy has caused much confusion and it was even apparent at the international rally when new members showed up at the rally, but technically weren’t even members yet and had not been issued a membership number. They assumed that once the application was submitted to an officer of the club that they could attend activities. What most of the membership does not understand is that these unregistered members are not covered by the club’s liability insurance if they are attending a club sponsored activity.

If anyone wants to join WBCCI, they should be encouraged to do so immediately to be able to participate fully in all the club’s activities, whether those activities are local, regional or international. Consequently, after much discussion in board meetings, a proposal was submitted to make joining the club and paying dues (based on the month of joining) much easier for all involved. Lori Plummer, office manager for WBCCI, attended many of the board meetings, and assured the group that this new policy would be easy to adapt. Consequently, a new membership form has been developed and has been distributed to the treasurers and/or membership chairmen. A page of this triplicate form will also be used as proof of membership in place of the membership card of the past.

The new policy reads as follows:

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International Dues – International due are established by the Board of Trustees upon an annual budget review, are payable in US currency only and members will be notified of the amount prior to July 1 each year through a notice published in the Blue Beret. (1/29/93)

- A. International dues of Regular Members shall be \$65.00 per calendar year (US funds). (1/23/10)*
- B. International dues for new members, joining during the first quarter of the calendar year will be \$65.00. During the second Quarter, \$48, the third quarter \$32 + \$65 and the fourth quarter \$16 + \$65. The third and fourth quarter payment includes the balance of the current year’s dues and next year’s dues. All payments will be US funds. (7/5/15)*
NOTE: Effective January 1, 2016.

This change includes members at large also. However, if you had been a member the previous year and want to reinstate your membership, there is a different policy for that reinstate. The above policy is for new members only. If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to ask your treasurer or a regional officer for clarification.

INTERNATIONAL PICTURES



Our president was railroaded into being an assistant for the magician one night. Not only that, it was his birthday! Happy birthday, assistant!



Ben & Marcia Wooley came home from Farmington with more than just a tan. After fighting with an electrical problem for several days, they decided it was time for an upgrade. Another couple bought a new trailer while there, and Wooleys came home with their "old" one.



Our outgoing President, Glenn Waters, receives his “parting gifts” along with the other presidents that have done such a great job!



Incoming Region 8 President, Gary Rush, receives his “badge of distinction” from Ewart Phillips, Past International President, 2001-02, who swore in all the new officers.



A funny thing happened after the installation of the new officers.....

It had been raining for about an hour prior to the gathering in the main hall for the installation. It let up long enough that most of us could arrive without getting drenched.

After everyone was installed, a reception was held in a building across the parking lot. There was music and refreshments, and of course, the reception line. Everything was going fine for about 20 minutes, and then..... We found ourselves in the dark! A power outage had hit the Fairgrounds.

You never saw so many cell phones come out of pockets and purses in all your life! The flashlight app really came in handy. Several cell phones were positioned over the food, so you could see what you were eating, the band was using lights to set up their music stands, and of course the restrooms had an eerie glow to them.

The above pictures were taken by cell phone on auto flash and HD, so they are not the best, but it gives you an idea of the dark.

The funniest thing was that the reception line continued and those who came up to congratulate the new officers had to light up their face so that the officer would know who he or she was hugging!

What an exciting way to end a great rally!

DWIGHT & LANA'S PICTURES



This is St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland



A line of Airstreams at the Lions Club Campground at Port Au Choux



Does the snow really get that high?

Many of us kept up with Dwight and Lana on Facebook, where they published many wonderful pictures; almost all of them had water in them..... lots of water ! What a great trip !