



# REGION 8

## WBCCI



January/February/March

2008

### Region 8 Officers

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### Region 8 Chairman

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Region8.wbcci.net



### President's Message

Time is rapidly approaching for merit award applications to be reaching my doorstep. I look forward to reviewing the successes of our units this past year. Many of you may be unaware that during the past year, WBCCI moved to establish merit award recognition at the Region level. So I sympathize with you as you do the paperwork for the recognition of the accomplishments of your unit. All of us are proud of Region 8 and the accomplishments and I look forward to hearing from you.

Plan ahead and mark your calendars for our upcoming Region 8 Rally!

### "Campaign Antics"

#### Region 8 Rally

#### Abilene, Kansas

April 30—May 4, 2008

Let me highlight several things for you to think about for the Region Rally. The incoming Mayor of Abilene has a collection of **Presidential Election Memorabilia** which he will bring to our Saturday afternoon activities and share. If you have a collection, please bring yours along to share.

Volume 1 Issue 3

Remember our election candidates are Snoopy and Garfield. Part of the fun will be sharing slogans and campaign platforms for each. Come prepared and win a prize for the best slogan.



Our **community service project** for Abilene is adding to the Food Bank. When you register each member is to **bring a non-perishable food item** to contribute.

There will be an **Open House** of members willing to open their units for others to view including Vintage, Classics, and Motorhomes. Please mark this item on the registration form found in the Blue Beret or on the Region 8 web form.

**Children** are invited to join us for this rally. Abilene offers great educational opportunities and Sharon Waters will be preparing for fun times.

**Directions** to the Central KS Fairgrounds are in registration coupon in the February/March Blue Beret. Please come with holding tanks empty and full water tank. Please keep us informed if you are bringing in a caravan so that we will be ready to handle the numbers efficiently. Contact Bob Brown at bobe44@netks.net.

This fall when the region officers attended unit rallies members shared the following thoughts about WBCCI:

**What is best about WBCCI?**

Fellowship - caring and sharing	Rallies
Travel	Food
Organization	Communication
Service	

**What drives WBCCI?**

One product – Airstream	Travel
Friendships	People

**What is WBCCI's passion?**

Travel	Gathering together
Food	Members caring and sharing

**What are we doing to increase membership?**

- Talking to those without numbers
- Leaving pamphlet, sending member packets
- Getting new members involved
- Mentor Program
- Need to identify intraclubs in membership materials (this item sent to Frank Carson, International Membership Chairman)
- Camping between rallies
- Being persistent with more than one invitation

**Additional comments included:**

Identify WiFi in camping sites in Member Directory (sent to Jean Helker, RV Parks Chairman to include in next Directory)

**Hierarchy**

- Less formal attire by Officers at International like at Perry
- No assigned seating/parking except for International Officers
- International Officers should park with membership
- More interaction with International Officers at the unit level

**International Rally**

- Give a night off from planned entertainment
- Choose entertainers that include audience participation
- Flexibility for handicapped seating, allowing personal preferences
- Plan sign language for the hearing impaired
- Special recognition for those that work throughout the rally as opposed to one hour presentations.

**Voting Methods**

Consider electronic voting, mail ballots for those without e-mail

**Vendors**

- Reduce Vendor fees, ask to sponsor events at International
- Post winners names in vendor area to give attention to Vendors

**Branson Musicland Rally**

Thanks to Joe Bubliss and Charlie Kennedy, an excellent Branson Musicland rally was enjoyed by those who came from near and far. The shows were excellent and the America's Best Camp-ground provided well kept sites. This is definitely a rally to attend if you have not been. The opening night provided great fun and frivolity with Re-



gion 8 attendees running away with the awards. The attached picture may give you a hint. The winners were (R-L): Marcella Winger, first from the Iowa Unit, Beth Ziles, second, Glen Waters, third, both from the Greater St. Louis Unit.

Plan ahead, a Branson Musicland Rally is scheduled for October 19-25, 2008. You won't want to miss this rally as it is a highlight for all. You will find more in the Blue Beret.

The Winter IBT Executive Board approved the Branson Musicland Rally as a National Rally. We in Region 8 invite you to join us for a fun-filled week of great shows, shopping and food.

## Winter International Board Meeting

The site of the Winter meeting was south of Baton Rouge near Gonzales, Louisiana. There were 128 units attending. Along with Cajun food and lively Mardi Gras entertainment, several excellent tours were available. The Capital in Baton Rouge and the Houmas Plantation were two that were excellent. New Orleans is recovering yet much work is still to be done. The Mardi Gras rally will be returning in 2009.

The International Board members completed numerous plans for the 2008 International rally in Bozeman, Montana and made decisions on motions brought forward. Significant decisions included: **1.** When more than two candidates are nominated for the Nominating Committee, the two elected will be the two receiving the highest number of votes. **2.** Titles on badges may include First Lady, First Mate or Official Office Title. **3.** Membership numbers for outgoing International Presidents will be retired, numbers for **700** series will be available for Standing Committee Chairman who have served three or more years, and numbers for the **800** series will be available for Caravan Chairman that have led five or more national caravans upon recommendation of the Caravan Chairman. Numbers to be drawn upon completion of the service required. Numbers in the **900** series to be reserved for future use. **4.** All units and regions must file annually with the IRS. The form used depends upon the amount of money in gross receipts for the year. **5.** The Full Timer Intraclub has disbanded and will be deleted from page 50 of the Blue Book. **6.** The Unit Planning Guide and Merit Award Form will be placed in Appendix 15 of the Blue Book. Point changes plus or minus 200 to the Award form may be made by the Committee without another motion. **7.** Flags were approved for the Mississippi Unit, the Hudson-Mohawk New York Unit and the Vintage Intraclub. Other motions were out of order or withdrawn for further work.

A Long Range Planning Committee will be headed up by Bill Schrader and will have seven members. Two are still to be appointed and resumes can be sent to Bill until February 10. Selection will be completed on February 15, 2008. The Committee is to develop an action plan and give a preliminary report to IBT in Bozeman.

## Region 8 Officers Meeting at Gonzalez, LA

The Region Officers met while at the Winter Board Meeting. Agenda items included reviewing region goals and strategic plan, member share comments, Region Merit Award Form and developing the installation schedule for 2008.

### Region 8 Goals for 2007-08 include:

1. Conduct Member Share sessions during the Fall Unit visits to provide data for revising strategic plan at the Winter IBT meeting. (See page 2 for the findings.)
2. Assist each unit in achieving application for the Merit Award. (March 1, 2008 is the deadline to get to the Region President.)
3. Review the Adopt-A-Dealer Program with assigned units and determine need for assistance.
4. Encourage units to appoint a public relations and community service chairman if no position exists.

I enlist all units to help meet our Region goals. Please contact your region officers if your unit needs help in a particular area.

### 2008 Fall Installation Schedule

- Sept. 10-13 Kansas City MO Unit—Betty Sullivan
- Sept. 26-28 MO Delta Unit—June Ryan
- Oct. 2-5 North Iowa Unit—Fred Steurer
- Oct. 9-12 Iowa Unit—June Ryan
- Oct. 9-12 Nebraska Unit—Fred Steurer
- Oct. 16-19 Greater Wichita KS — Fred Steurer
- Oct. 16-19 Greater St. Louis Unit—Betty Sullivan
- Oct. 16-19 MO Greater Ozark Unit—June Ryan

### Region 8 Website

I hope you have been following the changes in our website. Our current Webmaster, Fred Steurer, has done a great job of getting new info in place along with the new format. Check out the new look at [region8.wbcc.net](http://region8.wbcc.net) and help Fred get it right for your unit. Many thanks Fred.



## VINTAGE INTRACLUB TO REGION 8 RALLY

### Rachel and Martin Hughey

We will join other WBCCI Region 8 members at the "Campaign Antics" Rally in the historical city of Abilene, Kansas April 30-May 4, 2008. The city of Abilene is an interesting place to visit with great antique shopping and rides on the trolley.

We will be having a VAC Luncheon at the Kirby House on Thursday, May 1.

Our VAC Open House will be on Saturday between 1:30 – 3:00.

We encourage all Airstream vintage owners to come, park with the VAC members and have fun and fellowship discussing the challenges and solutions to the everlasting upkeep of our "silver friends". Arrive with full fresh water and empty black tank and your "blue boy".

Editor Note: The above logo is the one approved by the IBT for the Vintage Club Flag at the winter IBT meeting. It will be an impressive flag.

### Unit Merit Award

Your Region President is currently reviewing the Merit Award forms. Unit Presidents if you have not sent your forms to me, please be advised the deadline is March 1. I look forward to 100% participation in our Region this year.

### Bean Bag Baseball

One of the highlights of this year's Region 8 Rally will be the Baseball Tournament. Plan to come and support your unit by playing on the team, cheering them on or assisting as coach, referee or scorekeeper. The overall unit winner will be representing us at the International Rally in Bozeman. Come and join in all the fun!

## AIRSTREAM A LIFESAVER!

Have you ever thought about your Airstream as a lifesaver? That is what could have happened to a Kansas member in this winter's ice storm. Here is a bit of the story. For 10 days without electricity, **Lee and Joyce Cantrell of Oldsburg, KS**, found that heat and cooking facilities were readily available in their trailer. Although because Lee had made other preparations they did not have to live for 10 days in their trailer but if needed it could have been a lifesaver for them. Lee has sent the whole story into the Blue Beret with pictures so hopefully you will get to hear "the rest of the story". Thanks Lee and Joyce for sharing your story.

### Red Banners

Last year Region 8 First Lady Linda Beu gave each unit a **red banner** at the Region Rally in Council Bluffs, IA. The banners were to depict your particular unit with whatever your unit deemed representative. To do this one could use felt pieces, items not too weighty to portray a point. Nebraska has theirs all finished. For others be planning ahead to have them ready for next year. We will be displaying them in 2009. The Banners will play an important role in next year's Region 8 Rally theme. I look forward to seeing the finished product of your creativity.

### Heart of America to Sky Country

Wendell Sisk is leading the Caravan, Heart of America to Sky Country, June 16-26, 2008 to the 51st International WBCCI Rally in Bozeman, Montana. Please check with him if you would like to go with a leader who has an exciting route planned and all campground sites reserved. His e-mail address is [wendelljib@aol.com](mailto:wendelljib@aol.com) and his cell number is 913-522-2086.

### Candidate for Region 2nd Vice-President

Please send resume` for Region 2nd VP to Norm Beu by mail, 903 Blackhawk St., Reinbeck, IA or e-mail, [beu@reinbeck.net](mailto:beu@reinbeck.net) by April 15, 2008. Nominating Committee will interview candidates at the 2008 Region Rally with election and installation in 2009.

Safe Travels and see you at Region 8 in 2008