



Happenings

In

Region 3

Volume 1.1

July 2012

President's Corner

This newsletter will be the first of many you will receive from the officers and other members of Region 3. At least every two months information about Region 3 Units, Region 3, and the International club (WBCCI) will be shared with you. If you know a member friend who does not have e-mail, please make a copy of the newsletter and give it to them.

The 55th International Rally in Sedalia, Missouri was fun and interesting for Elna and me. We saw many friends and made new ones while socializing, and attending meetings and seminars. The Region 3 luncheon included 95 of you folks plus the WBCCI First Vice-President, John Boutwell and his fiancé, Sandy Feldman. John installed the new Region 3 First and Second Vice-Presidents, Dick Martiny and Matt Hackney then recognized their spouses, Judy Martiny and Beth Hackney. We are pleased to have Dick and Matt as region officers. During the luncheon folks had the opportunity to write a thank you notes to Carol and Rick Bell for their efforts during the past six years. The Bells appreciated the notes, cards and gifts.

The Delegates meeting was somewhat anti-climatic as immediately after the motion was made regarding the revised constitution, a delegate called for the "question". More than 2/3 of the delegate agreed to the call. At that point, no discussion could take place and no amendments could be presented and the delegates proceeded to vote. As a result, if the motion regarding the revised constitution were to pass, there would no longer be a delegates meeting and the meeting would have ended. As a result of the voting, the revised constitution motion failed by a large majority. The motion regarding the motorhomes also did not reach a vote as there was much discussion regarding the constitutionality and wording of the motion, so the motor home motion was referred to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for clarification and to be brought up again next year.

I filled in for Rick on the June IBT meeting and the July meeting was my first as a member of the Board of Trustees. Some of the other "new" trustees and I discussed items we felt were critical to our club. As a result, I made a motion that the President appoint a committee to study and propose a possible re-alignment of the 12 regions. The committee is to report back at the Mid-winter IBT. A second motion to shorten the term for region officers by eliminating the region second vice-presidents didn't gain enough support from the other members of the IBT, so the motion was withdrawn. Two motions did receive approval, a flag and patch design for the Florida Suncoast Unit and a new flag for the Northern Virginia Unit.

Jay Thompson

Unit Caravans Build Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure

By Matt Hackney

Beth and I love to travel so it was natural we would join the Wally Byam CARAVAN Club. Don't mis-understand; we quickly found that we enjoy the rallies (Unit, State, Region, National, and International). We found ourselves dedicating much of our vacation time (yes, some of us still work) to attending rallies. When we started scanning the Blue Beret for caravans we might enjoy, we discovered that we didn't have enough vacation to participate in many. In fact, we determined we would have to choose between a single, short caravan or an International and Region Rally each year. So we chose to attend rallies and dream of retirement and caravanning.

When Lynne and Julian Clements led a Region 3 Caravan through Southwest Georgia, they invited us to join the group on at one of their weekend stops. We had so much fun, we determined there must be some way we could get into the act, before retiring. The solution: Unit Caravans.

When we started planning to attend the International Rally in Gillette, several friends mentioned that they would love to go out west and see the sites along the way. After a little research in the Blue Book, I determined that I COULD DO THIS. The result was an informal, 12 unit caravan from Georgia to Wyoming. As I said, we are still working, so the trips are shorter than required for obtaining a number through WBCCI. It is not about status, it is about Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure. We had plenty of each.

Last year, we took a group of 9 into Du Quoin. You may think there are few things to do in that part of the country. We found some very interesting stops and had a great time travelling together. When we arrived at the International Rally, we were parked together, so we continued the fellowship for another week! We had several repeat participants. Apparently they had a good time.

In 2012, we are a little more ambitious. In addition to a caravan to Sedalia we started the year with a 9 rig caravan to the Florida State Rally. We are also planning a Blue Ridge Parkway trip. This trip filled within a month of approval. In fact, I was able to persuade the campgrounds to allow me to expand by a couple of units. As I write this article, we have not yet held the last two 2012 Caravans. I will provide some feedback on our successes and our lessons learned.

Jay Thompson and Joan Anderson have agreed to allow me to write several articles on Unit Caravanning. My next article will focus on our experience enroute to Sedalia. After that, I will provide a "Unit Caravan Planning for Dummies (like me)" article. Hope to see you down the road!



2013 Region 3 Rally at Stone Mountain, Georgia

Plans are being developed for the Region 3 Rally April 23-28 at the Stone Mountain Park near Atlanta. We have 150 sites reserved and can get more if needed. Expect to have breakfast served every day, open grills, a "cook your own steak" dinner (steak provided), outdoor movies, seminars on many subjects, including maintenance and repair of your Airstream, and free time to enjoy the activities at Stone Mountain and in Atlanta. Optional bus tours will be offered as well as the "Atlanta City Pass" to let you explore on your own.

The next issue of "Happenings" will have a sign-up coupon and information on making your reservation at the Stone Mountain Park campground.

Unit Merit Awards

Twelve of our nineteen units in Region 3 earned Merit Awards for their efforts in 2010-2012. Representatives of eleven of these Units were present and recognized at the Region 3 luncheon in Sedalia. They were:

- Big Bend Florida
- Carolinas of North Carolina
- Eastern North Carolina
- Florida
- Florida Springs
- Florida Treasure Coast
- Georgia
- Northern Virginia
- Palmetto State South Carolina
- Shenandoah Valley of Virginia
- Tidewater Virginia
- Western North Carolina

Representatives of South Carolina Coastal were not present and their ribbon will be presented to them later.

Let's work toward getting merit awards. We can work together on planning for the year and then filling out the reports. It would be great to have 19 of 19 merit awards next year.

Three units were recognized at the Unit President's Appreciation dinner for having been chartered 50 years! Those units are:

- Carolina of North Carolina
- Florida
- Georgia

Congratulations to these three for their longevity and continuing efforts in our club.

Membership

Region 3 is the largest region in our club with 19 Units and 924 of the 5690 members in WBCCI.

On 6/30/11 our region had 21 units and a total of 1004 members. A year later, 6/30/12, we had 19 units and a total of 924 members. What happened?

Our International Membership Chairman reported only 41 of the 122 units in WBCCI renewed the new members who joined in 2011. We had eight units have all of their new members renew. They are: Florida Sun Coast, Big Bend Florida, Eastern North Carolina, Georgia, Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Only 375 (65%) of the 577 new members decided to renew their membership. Only 49% of all of our new members-at-large (MALs) chose to renew their membership.

In our region, four units expanded (red), 15 units declined (blue), and two units (black) had no change. What can each of us do to each gain and keep a new member?

#	Unit Name	6/30/12			1/1/12	6/30/11
		New	Renewal	Total	Total	Total
153	Big Bend Florida	2	41	43	41	43
21	Carolinas Unit of NC	10	51	61	57	59
37	Coastal Georgia	0	13	13	11	19
144	Eastern NC	1	36	37	36	39
28	Everglades Florida	0	12	12	13	17
27	Florida	7	55	62	61	65
174	Florida Springs	6	23	29	23	29
129	Florida Suncoast	3	17	20	18	15
162	Florida Treasure Coast	2	75	77	71	47
32	Georgia	30	274	304	270	319
110	Northern Virginia	1	33	34	34	37
22	Palmetto State SC	2	34	36	35	39
161	Piedmont NC	1	29	30	24	32
149	Shenandoah VLY Unit of VA	1	14	15	14	17
150	South Carolina Coastal	3	32	35	35	40
30	South Florida	1	32	33	31	37
33	South Georgia			0	0	7
31	Tampa Bay Florida			0	0	54
111	Tidewater Virginia	2	23	25	23	28
109	Virginia	1	28	29	29	33
169	Western NC	6	23	29	28	28

Miscellaneous

Item 1- Mac McCauslin (age 91), the first president of Big Bend Florida unit and past Region 3 president, just bought a 2012 Airstream Avenue Suite! You are never too old to “Go Streaming”

Item 2- John Thompson, age 87, is on his third national caravan this year! “Keep on Streaming”

A Birthday!

On June 20, in Sedalia, Jay celebrated his birthday with about 40 friends. A great surprise!



Safety

Have you ever checked the weight capacity stamped on the top of your hitch ball? It should exceed your total trailer weight. For instance, if the weight stamped on the label plate located on the left front corner of your trailer is 10,000 pounds, the weight stamped on the top of the ball should be 12,000 pounds. Don't forget the weight of food, clothing and the rest of the "stuff" you have added is in addition to this weight.

At the beginning of each season, check the ball for tightness and torque to 200 foot-pounds. Also, it's not a bad idea to replace the ball after bouncing down the road for 10 years or more.

Have fun and be safe!

Jimmy Lassiter

Officers and Staff

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