

April - May 2016



The Tennessee State Club of Winnebago International Travelers

VOL State Winnies News

A Big Old Birthday Party

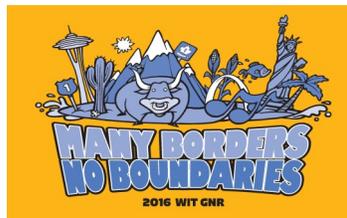
For those of you who missed our April campout, it was decided that we will do something special for our October outing. On October 18, 1976 the VOL State Winnies became the official WIT Club for Tennessee. It will be a few days late, but on Saturday October 22nd, there will be a Big, Old Birthday party to celebrate our 40th birthday (anniversary) as a WIT club.

This coincides with our October campout (October 20–23) and we truly want everyone to join in our celebration. We plan to send invitations to former active members and past presidents to attend Saturday’s daytime celebration. This should be a lot of fun.

Please make a special effort to attend. Jan needs three people to help her with planning and execution of this celebration. So, if you can possibly join her in the planning and execution of this milestone event, speak up!

Time to Register for GNR!!

Let’s have a great showing of Vol State Winnies at the Grand National Rally this July 18-23. You may register online at www.witclub.com or by telephone at 1-800-643-4892.



Historically, VOL State Winnies has a high profile at GNR. Not only do we have good attendance, averaging 15-25 RVs, but our members provide parking assistance, staff the front gate and generally live up to the “volunteer” state reputation. We would appreciate an email letting us know if you are planning to go to GNR and where you will be camped.

We hope to see you in Forest City!!!

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THEY'RE OUT THERE!!!



Since October 2015, Winnebago has sold 88 new coaches in Tennessee. Only 32 of the new owners have joined WIT and of those who have joined WIT, 7 have joined VSW and/or one of our chapters.

As you travel throughout the year, be on the lookout for Winnebago and Country Coach motorhomes with Tennessee tags. Talk to them and let them know how great it is to be in WIT and VSW and the great friends they will have in your local chapters.

FYI, the beginning of 2016, VSW has lost 8 coaches or one less that we have gained.

We have prepared a trifold brochure that includes an application, as well as business-sized cards with contact information. Let us know how many you need to promote VSW and our 3 chapters!

WHERE ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS ?

We need volunteers, from all of our chapters to help plan and execute our 2016 activities.

We have exceptionally talented members in our club and chapters and that talent would make our time together at campouts, GNR and rallies much more enjoyable for all. We need volunteers for GNR:

With the planning sessions held during our April campout, our GNR decorations are well in hand, but volunteers are needed for:

- Baking cornbread for the States' Night celebration.
- Arranging Pre-Rally evening activities.
- Help setting up displays for States' Night.

If you would like the lead in planning or help with these events, please contact Keith Mobley (kmobley@comcast.net) or call 865-207-5640

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, my first campout as president is history. I am sitting in Spring Lake RV Park relaxing after our April VOL State campout. Thanks to all of the volunteers and my loving wife who enable us to enjoy three rain-free days of games, good food, fellowship and renewed friendships. Much to my relief, everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves in spite of construction, rodeo and a myriad of celebrations that seemed at times to surround us.

Our new—to us—area representatives, Janet and Patrick Wright joined us for the campout. It was a pleasure to have time to get to know them and, yes, to pick their brains for advice. Not only did they bring the WIT store with them but joined in all our activities—especially Janet who won the corn hole competition—again.

The highlight of the campout for me was meeting our newest members. As some of you know, I am deeply concerned about any decrease in membership. Two new couples camped with us and a third dropped by to visit and join. I am pleased to tell you that they may have come as strangers but definitely left as friends and members of VSW.

Speaking of new members, Bob Entner has create a VSW Winnies group on Facebook. It is a closed group meaning that only members can view content. All of you have been invited to join the group and use it as an effective means of communication. I know it would have been great over the winter when so many of us were in the same area without knowing it. Thank you, Bob!

One final comment. There are approximately 17 coaches—that I know of—going to GNR but less than half will park on the Tennessee Row. While I understand it is much more convenient for the GNR volunteers to park elsewhere, it is disappointing when others elect to park elsewhere.

Keith Mobley, VSW President

FIRST TIME TO GNR?

Some of us will be making our first pilgrimage to Forest City and Winnebago Industries' *Grand National Rally* in July. The anticipation is both exciting and intimidating—1500 motorhomes in one place! So, we thought we would share a few tips that have been given to us by the cadre of VSW members who are fixtures at GNR.

You will be dry camping while at GNR. You will have power and shared water but no sewer connections. Be prepared:

- Empty your holding tanks before entering the campground.
- Make sure your fresh water tank is full before entering the campground.
- Disconnect your toad before entering the campground. There will be a line waiting to be parked. Use this time to disconnect and park your toad
- Purchase *Honey Wagon* tickets at the front gate (as you enter the campgrounds). They are \$25 each. A ticket must be displayed on the road side of your RV no later than 7:00 a.m. the day service is needed.
- Tell the Greeters that you are a *first timer*. Your badge will signify you are a first timer and everyone—especially WIT personnel and members will make sure that you enjoy GNR.
- Bring extra power cables and potable water hoses. Potable water is shared and hoses will be needed to daisy-chain between coaches
- Cars are not allowed in the RV parking areas. Designated parking areas are available on the perimeter of the grounds. Do not attempt to drive within the grounds.
- People movers are free and continuously circle through the grounds. Bicycles, golf carts—but not ATVs—are also allowed.
- Bus service to points outside the campground is available. Schedules will be in your Rally Program.
- Register early for any events or activities to make sure you can get in or participate. This also applies to any service work you may want done.
- The pace will be frenetic—too much to see, too much to do—so plan your time before you get there.
- Read your March/April and May/June WIT Club News thoroughly. They are an excellent source of information and schedules. Also, the website, www.witclub.com allows you to register for classes and events.

If you have questions or concerns, ask one of the seasoned veterans or let us know and we will attempt to answer your questions.

DEALER ISSUES?

During our General Meeting at the April VSW Campout, a member brought to our attention that he seems to encounter quite a number of Winnebago owners who are having less than satisfactory service from a prominent, Tennessee Winnie dealer. We discussed whether or not approaching this dealer as a group would prove beneficial.

One member astutely observed that when we lose members to other RV manufacturers, it very well could be due to poor dealer service rather than the quality of the Winnebago products. It was suggested that we develop a survey to be completed by anyone leaving VSW to determine their reason/s for leaving our state group.

It was fortunate the Wrights were with us. They feel this should come to the attention of Winnebago Customer Service. Any dealer issue that cannot be resolved in a timely manner should be passed on to CS at (800) 537-1885 or via email at winnebago-ind.com. Some mentioned they have not been pleased with the response time of WCS to their issues.

PUCKERBUSH DAYS

Puckerbrush Days, Forest City's annual community celebration is July 14-17th 2016, and as always there will be a number of fun and exciting events and activities going on around town.

The history behind the unique name of the celebration is an unusual one. Early on, the town was surrounded by a dense bush called Puckerbrush. The bush had a berry on it and when eaten, it would make you pucker. Although the bush has long been gone from Forest City, the name stands as a symbol of city's history.

Throughout the four day celebration, there are numerous events and entertainment opportunities available for families and community members to do, ranging from the Rotary Club's chicken barbeque feed, to new events such as the Dog agility demonstration, as well as, the Battle of the Businesses and the annual Parade. Other activities include, an Author and Blogger's meet up, a variety show, fire truck rides and a craft show on the Winnebago County Courthouse lawn.

Forest City, Iowa

*"Where nature's close
and friends are closer"*

TENNESSEE STATE ROW

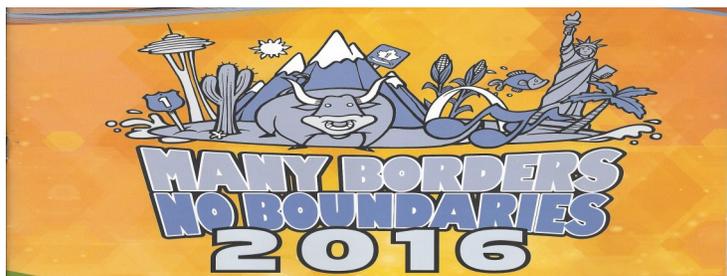
Well, the good news is that there will be a Tennessee State Row at GNR this year. Twenty-six (26) Tennessee coaches had registered by the end of April--eighteen (18) are from VSW.

The bad news is that only six (6) coaches have registered to park in the Tennessee State Row and only five (5) of those are current members of VSW. While we fully understand why our volunteers need to park closer to there greeting and parking stations, it is disappointing that the row will be so small. At this point, VSW will be represented on the Tennessee Row by:

Keith & Jan Mobley
Michael & Diana Logan
Glenn & Irene Craig

Robert & Veronica Ralston
Clifford & Kay Klein

If your volunteer duties do not require you to park elsewhere, as you register for GNR, PLEASE join us on the BEST ROW AROUND - **TENNESSEE!!**



CLUB AND CHAPTER MEET & GREET

When: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 12:00 p.m.

Where: Seminar Tent F, GNR Rally Grounds

Returning to GNR this year is a Meet & Greet open to all state clubs, local chapters and special interest groups. We are invited to set up an information table to recruit new members attending GNR. First timers will receive special notification of this event to encourage attendance. WIT will send them our way, we need to show them why they should join our club or local chapters.

Jan and I plan to come up with a display to entice non-VSW members our way. Join in; we can always use some assistance.

CORNBREAD ALLEY RETURNS TO GNR

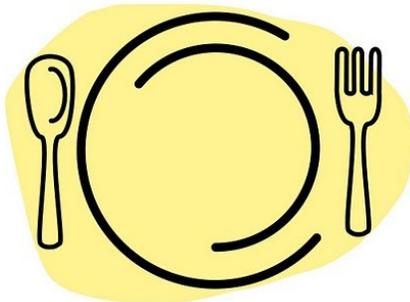


WE NEED BAKERS!!!

Much is decided at our VSW campouts – a great reason to NEVER miss. When discussing our participation for the Row Party, those attending recalled the popularity of a southern staple, cornbread, at previous GNRs. Three recipes have been selected: Sour Cream, Jalapeno and Pineapple Cream Cheese. Eleven ladies attending the April campout have signed up. WE NEED MORE BAKERS! Presently, we have four doing Pineapple, five doing sour cream and only three opting for jalapeno. You choose which variety you want to prepare. In 2011, there were 26 bakers and every morsel was eaten during the Row Party. Even if you are not attending, if you live near someone who is going and they have freezer space while traveling, please contribute some cornbread. The more bakers we have the less each will need to prepare. Currently, we are asking that each baker prepare one batch. We hope that does not need to be increased due to a lack of participants.

Each batch should be prepared using a 30 unit mini-muffin pan. Cool completely, then freeze. If your container is to be returned, the name of the GNR attendee should be on the bottom of the container. The mini-muffins should remain frozen until the afternoon of Thursday, July 21 which is the day of our evening Row Party. They are to be brought to the ‘head of TN Row area’. A serving time has not been set, as yet. But, you’ll be coming in that direction anyway because WE WILL NEED SERVERS!

Contact Jan Mobley at 865-691-3057/granjj@comcast.net if you are able to provide muffins or if you can join the serving crew. Recipe copies are attached to the e-mail sending this newsletter so you may look over the recipes before making your selection. Let’s feed them some good Tennessee cornbread!



Making New Friends

This issue, we will share the experience of meeting new members at our April campout.

Dave and Lynda McKitrick have been known to The Gardens community for a while but now we have had an opportunity to meet them. Personally, I did not get to talk with them very much but I could tell they fit right in and, I hope, they enjoyed themselves. Each are very good at corn hole. They have joined Rocky Top Travelers.

Doug and Alyene Weaver came by Saturday morning to say ‘hello’. Other commitments kept them from camping with us but how nice of them to take time from their busy Saturday to introduce themselves. We look forward to seeing them at Music City and VSW events. The Weavers call Gallatin home.

The couple I did get to chat with the most was Susan and Bob Entner. What a lovely couple! We enjoyed time spent with them. You can tell they will be involved as Bob went right home to Sevierville and set up our FB page! We can see them at RTT events, too.

NEWS FROM WINNEBAGO

Commenting on 1st quarter financial results, Winnebago's President and CEO shared his thoughts with the financial press.

President and CEO Michael Happe commented, "Since arriving in mid-January, I have enjoyed the privilege of actively engaging with many of Winnebago's employees, dealers, and our Board of Directors. All are extremely committed to building a stronger future for this iconic brand, leveraging an already impressive legacy. While we are pleased with the improved profitability delivered this quarter and the strong continued momentum of our Towables business, we are mindful of lower motorized revenues against the industry's strong fundamentals. Our motorized team will continue to focus on delivering the industry's highest level of product quality while working to create sustainable, increased levels of manufacturing output. With success of recent new products, a current robust backlog, and ongoing investments in new systems and facilities, we believe we have a strong foundation to continue to build future value for our dealers, customers and shareholders."



ROCKY TOP TRAVELERS

Ten coaches from the Rocky Top Travelers participated in the VSW statewide campout in Lebanon. Unfortunately Robert and Corrie Butler were unable to attend, but none the less RTT was well represented.

RTT's May campout at Mammoth Caves is fast approaching. If you have not already done so, please make your reservations. The campout will be held May 12-14 at Cave County Campgrounds, 216 Gaunce Drive, Cave City, Kentucky. Camping fees are \$37.10/night (30 Amp) or \$39.10/night (50amp). To make reservations, call 270-773-4678.

Dave and Lynda McKitrick joined both RTT and VSW, as well as attended the April statewide campout. The McKitrick live in Crossville, TN.

Dennis and Trish Graham, long-time members of RTT and VSW have moved to Indiana—to be closer to the grandchildren.



MUSIC CITY WINNIES

While Music City Winnies had only two coaches at the VSW rally they managed to add two new couples to their family while in Lebanon. Way to go, MCW!

Rob & Gloria Smith, Gallatin, TN and Doug and Alyene Weaver, also of Gallatin joined both MCW and VSW.

MCW have their May (May 20-22) at the Salt Lick Campgrounds, in Gainesboro, TN. Contact Brent Nickels or one of the MCW for more information.



WEST TENNESSEE TRAVELERS

Four coaches from the West Tennessee Travelers join us for the April Campout in Lebanon. They held their April outing the week following Lebanon at Cages Bend COE in Hendersonville, TN.

WTT's next campout is scheduled for May 16-19 and will be held at Natchez Trace State Park in Clarksburg, TN. Contact Michael Logan for details.

SUNSHINE CORNER



We were all saddened to learn of the death of Phillip Bates, husband of Pat Bates. The Bates were active members of both Music City Winnies and Rocky Top Travelers with Pat having served as a former president of MCW. We continue to hold this family in our thoughts and prayers.

As requested by the family, a memorial donation from VSW has been made to Shriners' Children's Hospital.

We were delighted to see Brent Nickles and wife, Francine, at the campout. Though Brent has been instructed to use a cane, he is limping only a bit and well on the road to recovery. Good work, Brent!

Yvonne Potts has kindly stepped up to serve as our ray of sunshine for the coming two years. If you know of anyone in VSW who is in need of cheer or condolences, please contact Yvonne at ixstichtwo@aol.com.

Yvonne is doing a wonderful job of acknowledging our ill and bereaved friends as her report in the Minutes of our April campout indicates.

NEW MEMBERS

One of the greater highlights of our April state campout was our first chance to welcome new members:

Bob and Susan Entner (W169993)

1545 Ellis Road, Sevierville, TN 37876

Dave and Lynda McKittrick (W134497)

51 Hawthorne Circle, Crossville, TN 38555

Doug and Alyene Weaver (W169632)

170 Woodlake Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066

In addition, we added:

Rob and Gloria Smith (W169938)

152 Akers Trail, Gallatin, TN 37066

LOST MEMBERS

We are sad to see them go, but unfortunately we have lost the following members:

Bill and Mattie Goben (W123647)

124 Southern Oaks Drive, Cleveland, TN 37323

Dennis and Trish Graham (W134573)

277 Hawthorne Loop, Crossville, TN 38558

Tony and Brenda Layne (W148847)

P.O. Box 31, Hendersonville, TN 37077

Carl and Bobbie Shoultz (149077)

60 Hawthorne Loop, Crossville, TN 38555

April Campout is History

Our first campout of 2016 is how history. 18 coaches, including two new member coaches, enjoyed good weather, good food and good fellowship in Lebanon April 14-17.

In spite of construction, a rodeo and myriad of other concurrent activities at the Wilson County fairground, a good time was had by all.

Highlights include:

- Dave Franke shared his interpretation of the GNR theme and volunteers stepped up to help with this annual project.
- Decision reached to have a Big Old Birthday Party to celebrate our 40th anniversary as a WIT Club.
- First Annual Corn Hole Tournament won by Janet Wright and Michael Logan.---See pictures on page 8 and 9.
- New members joined. Two couples camped and a third stopped by to introduce themselves and join.
- A yummy potluck Friday evening showed off the cooking talents of our members.





WIT CONTACTS

Central Area Reps.

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GNR Registration

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gnr@winnebagoind.com

VSW 2016 CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT



Yvonne "Deadeye" Potts



Ed Potts shows Mike how it's done



Don Griffin shows that Jean isn't the only one with good form



Jean Griffin exhibits great form as Dan King looks on



Patrick and Janet Wright compare notes during the tournament



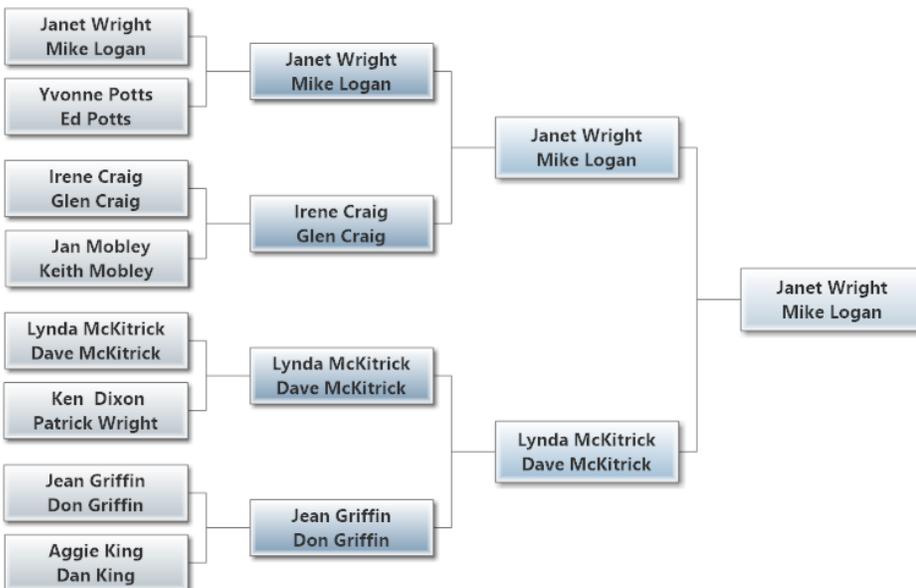
Onlookers admire Irene Craig's form as she shows how it's done

JANET WRIGHT & MICHAEL LOGAN WIN TOURNAMENT

If you were not there, you missed an exciting tournament! You can see who was eliminated in the first round. Due, no doubt, to the weather being so absolutely perfect. We had a nice gallery of spectators and skillful athletes. This definitely needs to become an annual event.



Janet Wright and Mike Logan Exhibit Winning Form. While 'Deadeye' Potts made a formidable opponent



Corn Hole Tournament Results

RVing HISTORY

The first motorized campers were built in 1910. Before then, people camped in private rail cars that were pulled to sidings along train routes. The year 1910 brought a new freedom to people who didn't want to be limited by the rail system. RVs allowed them to go where they wanted, when they wanted.

Archivist for the RV/MH Heritage Museum in Elkhart, Indiana, also pinpoints 1910 as the birth of the RV industry. Camping has been around for centuries, but 1910 is when the first auto-related camping vehicles were built for commercial sale. Known as "auto campers" or "camping trailers" a century ago, these vehicles were a forerunner of today's modern RVs.

The 1910 RVs offered minimal comforts compared to today's homes-on-wheels, but they did provide the freedom to travel anywhere, to be able to get a good night's sleep and enjoy home cooking. One notable contrast to today's RV was the bathroom. In 1910, it was usually either yonder tree or yonder bush.



VOL STATE WINNIES

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MEETING, CAMPOUT & RALLY SCHEDULES

2016

May 16-19	Natchez Trace SP, Clarksburg, TN	WTT
May 20-22	Salt Lick Campground Gainesboro, TN	MCW
May 12-14	Mammoth Cave, Cave City, KY	RTT
Jun 13-16	Canal, COE CG, Lake Barkley, KY	WTT
Jun 17-19	Salt Lick Friendship Outing, Gainesboro	MCW
Jun 21-26	Whispering Hills RV Park, Georgetown, KY	RTT
Jul 8-10	Salt Lick Campground, Gainesboro, TN	MCW
Jul 12-17	Grand National Rally, Forest City, IA	ALL
Jul 18-23	Grand National Rally, Forest City, IA	ALL
Aug 15-18	Long Branch COE CG, Long Branch, TN	WTT
Aug 19-21	Salt Lick Campground Gainesboro	MCW
Aug 7-10	Lake View Campground, Bluff City, TN	RTT
Sep 16-18	Long Branch Campground, Lancaster, TN	MCW
Sep 12-15	Columbus/Belmont State Park, Columbus, KY	WTT
Sept. 22-25	Tom Sawyer CG, West Memphis, AR	RTT
Oct 17-20	Lock A, COE CG, Ashland City, TN	WTT
Oct 20-23	VSW Campout, Lebanon, TN	ALL
Nov 12	Corner Pub Mt. Juliet, TN 12 Noon	MCW
Nov 9-15	TBD	RTT
Nov 14-17	TBD	WTT
Dec 3	Member Appreciation Luncheon, TBD	RTT
Dec TBD	Christmas Meal and Meeting	WTT

Music City Winnies
Rocky Top Travelers
West TN Travelers
ALL—Vol State Winnies

Neighboring State Rallies

May 12-15	Georgia State Rally, Brunswick, GA	ALL
Sep 16-18	Virginia State Rally, Roanoke, VA	ALL
Oct 27-30	Louisiana State Rally, Rayne, LA	ALL

Louisiana Rally in October!

Following our October campout (10/20-10/23), several VSW coaches plan to head to Rayne, LA for the Louisiana State Rally. Join us for the fun!

Registration information can be found in the April/May issue of Wit Club News. We hear this is a 'not to be missed' rally.