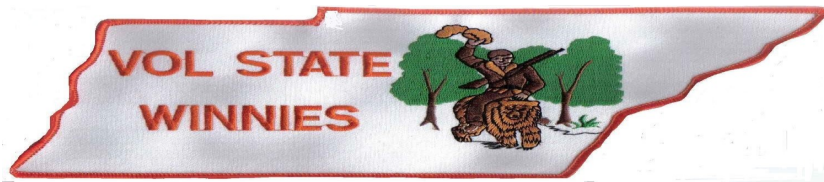


January/February 2017



The Tennessee State Club of Winnebago International Travelers

VOL State Winnies News

ROCK AND ROLL REUNION

Thank you, newcomer, Irwin Gordon!! Irwin suggested the theme of our Fall, 2017 Rally, Rock 'N Roll Reunion. It sounded like a great idea that could be well-executed with a whole lot of shaking going on in late October. We'll have Lebanon rocking for our rally.

Envision poodle skirts, crew cuts, saddle oxfords, classic cars, and rock 'n roll with good friends, new friends, food, games and lots of fun!!

Mark your calendars for October 26-29, 2017. Come earlier and enjoy outings and area points of interest. See ya later, alligator!

NOMINATIONS OPEN

In October, we must elect a new slate of officers who will lead VSW in 2018-2019. Our by-laws mandate that we appoint a nominating committee to select a slate of officers that will be presented to membership during our state rally for approval.

We need a volunteer to chair the nominating committee as well as volunteers to participate as members of the committee. This is an essential task and not something that can be ignored. Without a new slate of officers, VSW will lose its' charter and Tennessee will be without a state WIT Club.

If you are assist or lead this important committee, please contact Keith Mobley (rkmobley@comcast.net) as soon as possible. This is crucial!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Corner.2
- Making Friends. 3
- Rally Volunteers 3
- Music City Winnies. . . . 4
- Rocky Top Travelers. . . 4
- West TN Travelers. . . . 4
- Sunshine Corner. 4
- Contact Info. 5

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Winnebago News. . . . 4
- VSW/Chapter Schedules. 5



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we begin 2017, we are facing a pivotal year. As we must do every two years, it is time to elect new officers. If we are successful, the club will continue—if not VSW will lose its charter closing our 40 year history as the Tennessee WIT club.

For the past two months, I have asked for volunteers to chair a nominating committee for a new slate of officers—no one I have asked is willing to take this on. I have asked for expressions of interest in becoming a VSW officer—no one has responded. I have asked the presidents of our chapters for advice and help—one has offered his best advice. Perhaps it is just me, but I do not understand the reluctance.

Because I was a newcomer to the club when I agreed to serve as president, perhaps I have not stepped up to get to know those who may carry it forward. Perhaps my inability to get volunteers to help with planning and execution or to become our leadership team is also caused by my inexperience; maybe I do not know how to ask for help or motivate others. I have been advised not to worry about it, that it does not matter that VSW will lose its charter—no big deal we still have the chapters. My wife turns scarlet over this statement.

Granted, whether or not VSW continues makes little difference in the grand scheme of things but we have a 40 year history of contribution to WIT and to our members. I was not able to attend our October 2016 outing and sadly missed meeting the legacy members of VSW who were able to share their experiences. Jan shared her experience with me and I think we have an obligation to make sure future members can share this history. It is a solid history of participation.

I will do my best to make the April outing, GNR and October rally be worthy of our history. We have been drawing campout attendance in the high 30s/low 40s. When you consider that folks purchase motorhomes in order to travel, I feel that attendance is pretty good. I believe there were 80 coaches at the 2015 rally; not sure how many of those were VSW but I imagine guests had to have outnumbered members. We need as many of you as possible to be able to commit to attending/working this October, 2017 Rally. It will be fun and you won't regret it.

Keith Mobley, President

GNR 2017

At last count, 8 VSW coaches plan to attend GNR—with 2 parking on the Tennessee Row. After much consideration, due to cost, a tent has been reserved and we will participate in Row Night Decorations. Because of the low attendance, we are going to create a display of the “Welcome To Fabulous Winnebago” logo with flashing lights around the perimeter as the centerpiece of our interpretation of the theme. To further carry out the theme, we want to display photos of your favorite RVing destinations. After all, that is what Winnebago is all about.



Please send us electronic pictures of your favorite travel experiences; they can be places, friends you met along the way or anything you feel expresses, The Fabulous World of Winnebago.

No Lynchburg Lemonade this year. There just are not enough of us attending to purchase, transport, prepare and serve this elixir as we have done in the past. We may need to provide crying towels of some attending, however. We will still have a grand time, that is certain!

OCTOBER RALLY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The October, 2015 VSW Rally was a solid success with many feet and hands helping out greatly. We want to enjoy the same success this fall!

Our theme of Rock 'N Roll Reunion should be enjoyable and fun for all. There are decorations we can make ahead at our April Campout. This way, whether or not an individual steps forward, we can have some things done ahead of rally week. Also, at the April Campout, we can make final plans for GNR in July. This is always a big event. Although our display and refreshments may not be as grand as in prior years, we do not want to be embarrassed by a lack of participation and enthusiasm. After all, we are VOLUNTEERS!!

Looking over Keith's Rally List from our last issue, here are some thoughts I have (this is secretary, Jan):

Arts/Crafts Competition: A matter of publicizing (secretary), displaying, selecting judges, announcing winners and giving prizes. We had 15 to 20 entries in 2015, if I remember correctly. Non-VSW members make great judges. **Dealer Participation:** the Prez's area **Programs:** we have one who has agreed to present; will be contacting others. If you know of anyone who would like to lead us in making a camping/RVing oriented craft item, please let us know asap. **Door Prizes:** We will do the same as last time by asking each VSW household to bring specified items to the rally. These then serve as Silent Auction Basket Items, game prizes and door prizes. **Games inside and out:** Personally, I enjoyed the 'pass the turkey' game in 2015; can do something similar. Weather-permitting, a cornhole tournament is always enjoyable.

Entertainment: executive committee handles this **Food Prep:** we will once again rely on our three chapters to shop and serve breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Thursday evening will be each coach contributing heavy finger foods. We may go with only one catered dinner and see about bringing in food trucks the other evening OR two catered dinners as last time. The BBQ place we used in October had an amazing price per plate and it was very good. **Goody Bags:** Keith mailed out letters this week asking vendors for contributions of door prizes, gift bag items, etc. We also will contact the Wilson County Chamber for some items including bags. We do not need to hand out three bags per coach as in 2015. Bags will be assembled by those we arrive earlier in the week. **Parking:** suffice it to say we have names and they will be phoned. **Pre-Rally Activities:** we have been given a couple suggestions. If you have any interests or places in mind, please pass that info on to me at granjj@comcast.net.

Photography: This one is a 'stumper'. We certainly do not want to hire someone for this responsibility. However, having two or three folks willing to take pics would be very helpful. You do not need to be an expert. Upon arrival these individuals can work out which events they will cover during the Rally.

There are other duties; like I said, phone calls will be made! It takes as many as possible to pull off a successful rally and we intend that 2017 be a success. When you look at it in totality, it is daunting. Spreading it around and delegating tasks, makes this more than doable. Same as eating an elephant; one bite at a time.

The Frankes and the Butlers have settled into their new winter digs at Mt. Olive Shores South just outside of Polk City, FL. We arrived Dec. 16 and found how small this world really is. The second day we were here two other folks from TN stopped by to say hello and invite us to the local activities. A few days later, Ray from Texas, stopped by to say hello as I was getting a small piece of wood out of my car. The conversation led to woodworking which is my passion. Turns out Ray has a complete wood shop behind his house and invited me to drop in. You know I could not pass that up. As of yesterday, I have already gone to Ray's shop multiple times and completed several small projects. Ray truly is a great new friend.

The Butlers found a groomer for their Maltese, Bogart. Upon arriving, they discovered this was the same groomer who once cared for Bogart back in Fairfield Glade, TN. It truly is a small, small world!

Dave Franke

WINNEBAGO NEWS

North America sales of recreational vehicles are projected to reach \$26.19 billion by 2024 end, expanding at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of over 7%. In terms of consumption volume, recreational vehicles will possibly exceed 465,000 units within the first half of the assessed period i.e. by 2020.

Key Vendor Insights

Some of the most dominant players active in North America recreational vehicle market, include Thor Industries, Inc., Forest River, Inc., Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc., and Winnebago Industries, Inc. A majority of vendors are strengthening their market positions through new product launches, while others are focusing on strategic acquisitions.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. acquired Grand Design RV, LLC. More recently, the company launched a new class B motorhome model (2016), the ERA.

Thor Industries, Inc. announced production capacity expansion and purchased an additional production facility (2016).

Forest River brought in a new lineup of class A and class B diesel motorhomes (2016).

As you can see, there is a lot of activity among the top motorhome producers.



MUSIC CITY WINNIES

Music City Winnies met at the Catfish House in Springfield, TN on January 21st with three coach members present and two guests.

We meet again on February 18th at the Corner Pub in Mt. Juliet, TN.

Everyone is looking forward to warmer weather and beginning our camping season.



ROCKY TOP TRAVELERS

Many Rocky Toppers are enjoying sunshine and warm temps just as we have been having here in Tennessee lately. President, Ed Potts, is getting everything lined up for a busy year of camping and fun, as their schedule on page 5 shows.

We are enjoying each new day!



WEST TENNESSEE TRAVELERS

Club President, Michael Logan, met with the Mobleys in late January as the Logans were in Knoxville to celebrate a family birthday. Upcoming April Campout, GNR and the October Rally were discussed, as well as, how to encourage members to volunteer for more of our activities. 'Delegate' is the word but that can be difficult when many do not care to serve.

A few WTT are enjoying warmer climates; the remainder are looking forward to stocking their RVs and heading out to enjoy spring.

SUNSHINE CORNER

We hope the lack of activity means our Vol State Winnies are all staying healthy and happy wherever they may be!

Sunshine Lady, Yvonne Potts, sent a card to Corrie Butler following her knee replacement in early November. It was a great success and Corrie is doing well with her new knee.

MEETING, CAMPOUT & RALLY SCHEDULES



2017

Jan 21	Catfish House, Springfield, TN 11 a.m.	MCW
Feb 18	Corner Pub, Mt. Juliet, TN 11 a.m.	MCW
March 18	Cheddars, Hendersonville 11 a.m.	MCW
Apr 6-9	VSW Spring Campout, Lebanon, TN	ALL
Apr 9-13	Seven Points COE, Nashville, TN	WTT
May 14-18	EZ Daze RV Park, Southhaven, MS	RTT
May 19-24	Lock A Campground, Ashland City, TN	MCW
May 21-25	Natchez Trace State Pk, Clarksburg, TN	WTT
June 12-14	Amana Colonies RV Park, Amana, IA	RTT
June 16-18	Lillydale Campground, Allons, TN	MCW
	Friendship Outing	
June 18-22	Columbus/Belmont St Pk, Columbus, KY	WTT
July 17-22	GNR, Forest City, IA	ALL
July 28-30	Cedar Creek Campground, Mt. Juliet, TN	MCW
Aug TBD	Luncheon (show), Crossville, TN	RTT
Aug 18-20	Salt Lick Creek Campground, Gainesboro	MCW
Aug 20-24	Cages Bend COE, Gallatin, TN	WTT
Sept 16-18	Long Branch Cmpgrd, Center Hill Dam	
	Lancaster, TN	MCW
Sept 24-28	Canal COE Campground,	
	Lake Barkley, KY	WTT
Sept TBD	TBD	RTT
Oct 26-Nov 5	TBD	WTT
Oct 26-29	VSW Fall Rally, Lebanon, TN	ALL
Nov 12	Corner Pub, Mt. Juliet, TN 11 a.m.	MCW
Nov TBD	TBD	RTT
Dec 5	Dinner Meeting, TBD	WTT
Dec 9	Christmas Party/The Evetts Home	
	Old Hickory, TN	MCW

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

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