

January 2016



The Tennessee State Club of Winnebago International Travelers

VOL State Winnies News

Our 40th Anniversary Year

The VOL State Winnies Club was first chartered on October 16, 1976 making this a special year—our 40th anniversary. Unfortunately, it is not a rally year, but that should not prevent us from celebrating this milestone in our club’s exceptional history.

Looking back, our state club and its local chapters have represented Tennessee well. Without exception, all have received the Club or Chapter of Excellence certification since the awards’ inception. State rallies have drawn WIT members from most of the 48 contiguous states with many coming back year after year. 11% of our sustaining membership are not Tennessee residents.

We are looking for volunteers who will plan our 40th anniversary celebration. This will become the theme of our October 20–23, 2016 fall outing. Since this is a statewide celebration, we really want volunteers from all three chapters.

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 phoning 1-800-643-4892.

Historically, VOL State Winnies has had a high profile at GNR. Not only do we have good attendance, average 15-25 RVs, but our members provide parking assistance, man the front gate and generally live up to the “volunteer” state reputation.

We hope to see you in Forest City!!!

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APRIL-OCTOBER OUTINGS

While 2016 is not a rally year, it is special because it is the club's 40th anniversary and that certainly warrants extra effort to assure our two campouts, April and October, and GNR are even better than normal....and THAT is saying something.

We need volunteers, from all of our chapters to help plan 2016. As in the past, the campout format will rely on each of the chapters to provide breakfast, but we need

ideas for activities that will make our time together especially enjoyable as part of our 40th year. What do you enjoy? What is less important to you?

All that have ideas for themes, activities or formats for our April and October campouts, or are willing to take the lead in the planning of these events, please contact Keith Mobley (rkmobley@comcast.net or call 865.207.5640)

"The best thing about our campouts is seeing friends and catching up on their adventures and lives. This group is all about friendship".

WHO IS GOING TO GNR?

VOL State Winnies historically has high visibility at GNR. In the true spirit of the volunteer state, our members provide parking and other critical services to support the event.

Last year, Tennessee had a total of 22 motorhomes at GNR but only 14 were VSW members and only 11 of those were in the Tennessee Row. Let's do better in 2016 and surpass these numbers!

Registration for GNR is now open. Make your reservation early for a spot in the Tennessee row.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

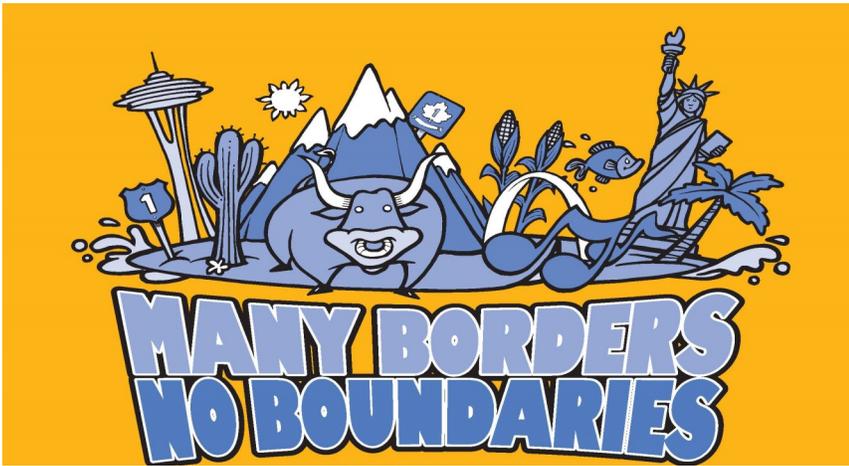
We have just completed the two best months of the year. Two months that center on giving thanks. In November we give thanks for the many blessings that our country, culture and society affords us. While it is far from perfect, we are truly blessed to be Americans—something we should surely appreciate and give thanks for.

Like us, I am sure that each of you appreciate just how lucky we are to have to own a motorhome or towable, as well as the means to travel as the mood dictates. While the number of RVers is growing we are still the fortunate minority.

In December we acknowledge and give thanks for our one true blessing—our salvation and everlasting life. Christmas is a time to reflect on what is really important in our lives; to be with our families and to reflect on the truly important things—faith, family and friends.

Refreshed by these affirmation of our blessing, we can look forward to 2016—a year that marks a major milestone in the VOL States Winnies long history—our 40th anniversary. Forgotten is our mutual reluctance to volunteer for leadership and extra effort that make the club go and grow. Instead, we look forward to the challenges and know that with your help, the VOL State Winnies will continue its journey of excellence. But please remember, it's our club. It is and will be what we—you—make it.

Keith Mobley



GNR 2016 Theme: *Many Borders, No Boundaries*

Winnebago's 2016 Grand National Rally will take place Monday, July 18 through Saturday, July 23. Most participating will arrive the previous week. The theme for GNR is Many Borders, No Boundaries and can be interpreted in several ways. How do you feel we can best incorporate it into the Tennessee display?

One idea offered during the October Rally was to display the primary attributes of the Volunteer state as a road trip across the state. This could include the Grand Ole Opry, Graceland, Bristol Motor Speedway, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Oak Ridge, etc. or as products such as Moon Pies, Bush Beans, Jack Daniels or a myriad of others that represent the state.

Another interpretation could be the unlimited travel experiences offered across Tennessee. From Mississippi mud to the mountains surrounding Bristol Motor Speedway, our state offers activities to please everyone. We could chose that as our focus. In addition, Tennessee borders eight states, a number shared only with Missouri. There are several possibilities but we have to hone in on one expression of this theme to allow time for this group's usual fine theme execution.

So, Vol State Winnies, step up and let's get going on planning and execution of the GRN theme. Thank you to Dave Surles and Dave Franke. Dave Surles has already volunteered to procure the ingredients and serve as Brew Master of the Lynchburg Lemonade. We can't show up without it! Dave Franke has agreed to lead the effort to design and build our theme for GNR. Their help is greatly appreciated but we need others to become involved.

We still need volunteers to organize and arrange pre-rally activities and hospitality for the Tennessee Row. Please email rkmobley@comcast.net with input and to volunteer in the work area of your choice.

Making New Friends

After slowly making our way through The Villages and their never-ending traffic signals, we arrived at our destination of Buttonwood Bay in Sebring, Florida to find our tow car was dead due to a bad connection.

By the time I phoned AAA and had gotten a ticket started with them, a gentleman three sites down had come out with his charger and started our toad. Don't you love that about camping?

When you check in, you are instantly part of a community of strangers who accept you as their friends. They drag you to exercise classes, lend a hand when you need help and make certain you meet as many people as possible.

Buttonwood Bay is a mix of RV sites scattered among park models. There is something going on each hour of the day. they do not offer Wi-Fi (except for three hotspots) nor cable. We have found it less expensive to add gigs to our Verizon hotspot rather than obtain this service through the local carriers.

Please share your RVing experiences with us so we can share them in future editions.

Jan Mobley



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"

ROCKY TOP TRAVELERS

Twenty members attended our annual Member Appreciation Luncheon on December 5 in Crossville at The Butcher's Block. At the conclusion of our meal, Dennis Graham installed Ed Potts as our new Vice President. Ed Potts replaces Ed Herbert who is unable to continue due to their heavy work/travel schedule.

We hope Ed and Teresa can make time to attend some of our events in 2016.



MUSIC CITY WINNIES

The Music City Winnies had four coaches take part in their December celebration and luncheon. As you can see from their picture, the group enjoyed a good time of fellowship at O'Charleys. They are looking forward to 2016 and a full recovery by their president, Brent Nickles



WEST TENNESSEE TRAVELERS

Seventeen West Tennessee Travelers enjoyed their annual Christmas party at the Ole Spaghetti House in Jackson, TN. Attending but missing from the group are Cliff and Kay Klein, Laura Hart and her father.



SUNSHINE CORNER



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.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Mattie Goben in the death of her sister and to Irene Craig in the death of her brother.

We hear that Brent Nickles has reached a milestone of his recovery by the removal of the pin from his foot. Just six more weeks and he can begin walking upright rather than scooting.

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Richard and Deborah Carboy,, LaFollette, TN joined WIT and VSW in November, 2015.

We spent our adult working lives in Cincinnati, starting out as teachers and ending up as school administrators. We have a house on Norris Lake where we love to go boating (and of course, our company enjoy the water activities as well).

We have three children; two daughters who are also teachers in Cincinnati and a son who is a minister at a church in Louisville, Ky. We have five grandchildren; three are boys under the age of 5!

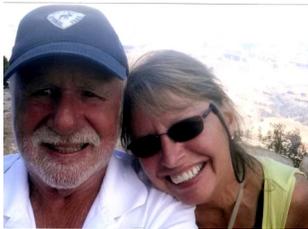
Richard loves to play golf (he is not very good) and I LOVE when he goes to play golf (as he is gone for the day!!!!). I am learning to knit.

We love to hike. After getting the RV in May of this year, we have been to the Smokies several times (a treasure in our back yard).

We enjoy going to UT football games (Butch Jones was at UC for a short period of time). In short, we are having a great time learning about our new surroundings, such as Knoxville and what it has to offer.

Deb Carboy

Deb Carboy



VSW's 40th ANNIVERSARY

The VOL State Winnies will be 40 years old in 2016. Founded on October 18, 1976, the club's anniversary will be the week before our fall campout in Lebanon.

Even though 2016 is a non-rally year, we want to celebrate this VSW milestone.

We would like your suggestions for making our 2016 events special in honor of this milestone.

Let us hear from you!



A NEW WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH

Winnebago has taken advantage of a new website, RVillage, to enable on-the-road communications between its members.

Brynn Daniels, our WIT Coordinator, opened Group sites for the WIT Club, VOL State Winnies, as well as each of our local Chapters. Each of these groups provides a means for members to post current locations, activities, etc.—much like many of you currently do on Facebook—but the communication is limited to members of your chapter or club.

At this point, Jan and I are the only members, but we encourage you to check out the website—rvillage.com—and the Winnebago groups.

Chapter Presidents, you may want to gain control of your chapter's group on RVillage. Contact Brynn at WIT and she will gladly turn it over to you or your designee.

WHERE ARE YOU??

We are spending the winter in Sebring, FL and have discovered that Joe and CJ Moore, and Jim and Lynn Fitts are nearby. Other members are in Arizona—headed for Mexico—and other part of the country.

Let us know where you are. Perhaps we can link up before our first official outing in April.

SAFE TRAVELS WHEREEVER YOU ARE.

WINNEBAGO EXPANDS TO WEST COAST

Winnebago Industries plans to open a manufacturing plant in a former *Country Coach* facility in Junction City, Oregon. The company plans to move production of select diesel products to the 200,000 square-foot facility with the transition complete sometime in the second half of 2017.

As part of the facility purchase, Winnebago also acquired the intellectual property rights associated with *Country Coach* and Winnebago intend to revive that brand as part of the planned use of the new facility.

Initially, by moving the production of diesel products to the Junction City facility, Winnebago expects to increase its production of Class A gas and Class C motorhomes at the company's headquarters in Forest City, Iowa. In addition, as demand for Winnebago's diesel products increases, the Junction City facility will allow for increased production of diesel products.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

There seems to be much confusion about the definition of WIT. Within the various documents, banners and signs of both VSW and WIT there are at least three different definitions: *Winnebago-Itasca Travelers*, *Winnebago Industries Travelers* and *Winnebago International Travelers*. Not that it really matters, but we asked Winnebago for clarification and here is what we were told.

Initially, the Club was called *Winnebago-Itasca Travelers*, but when the company expanded its product line to include towables, the decision was made to change the name to *Winnebago Industries Travelers*.

In 2015, Winnebago made the decision to change the Club name to *Winnebago International Travelers*. We have been assured that the name is and will remain—at least for the foreseeable future—*Winnebago International Travelers*.

TREND TOWARD SMALLER MOTORHOMES

Winnebago reported an 8.4% drop in the average selling price as the company sold more low-priced motorhomes in the fourth quarter.

The company, small but closely watched because of the view it provides on spending on big-ticket discretionary items, said it was increasing investment in cheaper motor homes and expected to take a hit on gross margins. The company's net income rose to \$12.9 million, or 48 cents a share, in the fourth quarter that ended Aug. 30, from \$10.6 million, or 38 cents a share, a year earlier. Revenue rose nearly 15 percent to \$245.9 million.

WINNEBAGO PHASING OUT ITASCA

November 12, 2015 – excerpt from RV Business As part of a two-year initiative designed to leverage the Winnebago brand's cachet with RV consumers, the builder recently informed dealers it has essentially phased out its Itasca name-plate.

"This is all part of a larger strategy to become more aggressive in promoting the Winnebago brand name," Scott Degnan, vice president, sales and product management for Forest City, Iowa-based Winnebago Industries Inc., told RVBUSINESS.com. "We continue to strengthen and build the Winnebago brand through our advertising, social media, mainstream media, and brand licensing efforts.

"If you go back a few years and look at some of our motorhomes, you can't even tell that they're Winnebagos. We saw that as a lost opportunity. Winnebago stands for quality and longevity, and we wanted to promote that in the industry."

Degnan stressed that the move would not impact its dealer body in a significant way. "Dealers will be keeping the same product lines and the Itasca network has not gone away," said Degnan. "For instance if they carried the Itasca Sunstar, it will now be a Sunstar motorhome by Winnebago. A lot of our dealers are actually seeing this as a positive. They understand that the bigger and bolder the Winne-

WINNEBAGO WINS QUALITY AWARD

November 20, 2015 – excerpt from RV Business Winnebago Industries Inc. has earned the prestigious Quality Circle Award from the Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association (RVDA) for the 20th consecutive year – the only RV manufacturer to receive this award since its inception.... Winnebago was recognized as a Quality Circle Award winner based on overall dealer satisfaction for its motorized brands as measured in the Dealer Satisfaction Index (DSI) survey conducted by RVDA. To receive the award, manufacturers must receive at least 15 dealer responses and score 4.0 or above on a five-point scale in overall dealer satisfaction.... RVDA created the DSI as a tool to help improve communication and the overall relationships with their manufacturers. When rating brands and manufacturers, RVDA asks dealers to express their level of satisfaction on the core issues of reliability and quality, parts, warranty and sales.

TOM SAWYER RV PARK FLOODED

At the time we were working on this newsletter, we were making plans for RTT campout and discovered that Tom Sawyer RV Park is closed due to flooding. Please remember all those affected by loss of life and homes due to the widespread flooding.

LOST MEMBERS

Unfortunately we are losing several of our members. The following members have elected to drop their WIT and VSW memberships:

Phil and Pat Bates,
W085213, Mt. Juliet and
members of VSW, MCW and
RTT

Joan and Max Boling,
W164750, Knoxville, TN

Jerry and Becky Taylor,
W163407, Eagleville, TN.

The following members have dropped their VSW membership:

Ray and Novell Cone,
W161143, Mt. Juliet, TN

All will be missed !



VOL STATE WINNIES

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MEETING, CAMPOUT & RALLY SCHEDULES

2016

Jan 16	Catfish House, Springfield , TN 12 Noon	MCW
Feb 20	Corner Pub Mt. Juliet, TN 12 Noon	MCW
Mar 19	Golden Coral Hermitage, TN 12 Noon	MCW
Apr 14-17	Spring Campout , Wilson County Fairground, Lebanon	ALL
Apr 18-20	Caves Bend COE, Hendersonville, TN	WTT
May 16-19	Natchez Trace SP, Clarksburg, TN	WTT
May 20-22	Salt Lick Campground Gainesboro, TN	MCW
May TBD	TBD	RTT
Jun 12—15	Canal, COE CG, Lake Barkley, KY	WTT
Jun 17-19	Salt Lick Friendship Outing Campground 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 (Pre-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 TBD	Lake View Campground, Bluff City, TN	RTT
Sep 16-18	Long Branch Campground Center Hill Dam Lancaster	MCW
Sep 19-22	Tom Sawyer CG, West Memphis, AR	WTT
Sept. TBD	Tom Sawyer CG, West Memphis, AR	RTT
Oct 20-23	Fall Campout, Wilson County Fairground, Lebanon	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

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

Neighboring State Rallies

Feb 18-21	Florida State Rally, Sarasota, FL	ALL
Apr 8-10	N.C. State Rally, Four Oaks, NC	ALL
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