

July-August 2017



The Tennessee State Club of Winnebago International Travelers

VOL State Winnies News

Are you ready to Rock 'n Roll?

We're going to have a GOOD time at our Rock 'n Roll Reunion, Oct. 26-29, 2017 at the Ward Ag Center in Lebanon, TN! Send your registration in yet? Joe is receiving forms/payments from folks from outside Tennessee. We NEED your registration, VSW members. I believe, the first VSW folks to get theirs in are the Kings, Aggie and Dan! Congrats!

We have reserved the buildings and our camping spots beginning Sunday, October 22 through October 29, the last day of our rally. This is not just the officers' rally. Or, the rally of those who always show up to help. THIS IS THE VSW RALLY. This means ALL OF US!! So, step up, help out and get those registrations in! All you need to do to register is go to:

<http://tnvolstatewinnies.weebly.com>

to print out a registration form to mail with your check to our treasurer, Joe Moore, 59 White Oak Circle, Crossville, TN 38555



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Corner.2
Making Friends. 3
Music City Winnies. . . .4
Rocky Top Travelers. . . 4
West TN Travelers. . . .4
Sunshine Corner.5
Contact Info. 6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

New Members.3
Will Beat Go On.3
Winnebago News.4
Maritime Caravan . . .5
Alaska Adventure. . . .6



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, the 2016 GNR is history. Even with the bad weather and low Tennessee attendance, VSW continued its' tradition of volunteering, visibility and excellence. Temperatures during pre-rally were sunny and dry with temperatures in the mid-80's; but during rally week, the hot, muggy weather was augmented with a severe thunderstorm on Wednesday night. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt but the extreme rain and high winds combined to destroy tents, including the entertainment venue , with a few coaches losing an awning and damage to end of row tents. Because of the weather, the parade of flags and most of the outdoor events/entertainment were cancelled.

On a high note, I want to congratulate the members of our three chapters and VSW. Because of you, we continued to be recognized as Club and Chapters of Excellence for 2017. I believe this is an unbroken string with all three chapters and the state club winning each year since the award was created.

VSW continued another tradition by winning 1st place in row decorations again this year. It was a near thing because our display suffered damage during the Wednesday night storm, but we were able to scramble and recover before the judging on Thursday afternoon.

One remaining hurdle for us this year—the October State Rally. A number of you have volunteered to help, but with two months to go, we still have much to do. We are expecting a good turnout. Five out-of-state registrations are already in and many, many more expected. Our new website is working with more than 500 visits in the last two months. We hope that all VSW and chapter members will attend as well. Please get your registrations in asap! Visit <http://tnvolstatewinnies.weebly.com> for information and a registration form.

We met our new WIT representative during GNR and while we will really miss Janet and Patrick Wright, our new representatives, Butch & Val Peters are high-energy and will fit right in with VSW. On that note, our new representatives, as well as Janet and Patrick Wright, Stewart & Tammy Smith (Eastern Reps) will be joining us at our October Rally. This will give us a chance to bid a proper good bye to Janet and Patrick as well as welcome Butch and Val. You need to be there for this excitement!

One final note, time is running out on selection of a new leadership team for the 2018-19 term. Joe Moore has agreed to continue as Treasurer but no one has expressed interest in filling the remaining three positions. WIT by-laws require that we have at least a president, vice president and treasurer. We must fill these positions or lose our charter ending a 41 year tenure as the Tennessee State WIT Club and that would be a shame.

Keith Mobley,

VSW President



NEW MEMBERS!

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to Vol State Winnies:

Debbie and Steve Fritts from Tallasee, TN

Wendy and Boyd Mitchell from Delaware

Cindy and David Plummer from Sweetwater, TN

We had an opportunity to meet Boyd Mitchell at GNR. However, due to Boyd being laid low by a kidney stone, we need to become better acquainted later on. As Keith can tell you being away from your home and doctor will birthing a stone is NOT enjoyable.

His wife, Wendy, has not yet retired. At present, Boyd and she are looking for property near the Smokey Mountains.

We sincerely hope these three families can make it to our rally in late October. We look forward to giving them a great VSW welcome.

WILL THE BEAT GO ON?

As Keith has mentioned in the President's Corner, we continue to lack 3 officers for the 2018-19 term. I have to admit that I am disheartened by this situation. I do feel our predecessors were confronted with the exact predicament two years ago. Otherwise, why ask someone who was totally new to VSW and had attended just one state meeting to be your president?

However, NOW it is in our laps. I, for one, am not willing to see this group with a 41 year history dissolve. AND, Keith does not want to be the officer in charge of such a dissolution. We do have travel plans we would like to make.

As secretary, to be perfectly honest, I have not done this job as it deserved to be done; I already had a life. Keith was having some discomfort approaching retirement so it suited him to a tee. And, I have to say, he has represented VSW admirably.

It does not take advanced degrees or prior high-level employment to lead VSW in continuing our fine tradition. It takes a willing heart, a love for the people in this group and a desire to share the community we enjoy with others. Seriously, any of you can easily execute a successful role of leadership in this club.

With Winnebago acquiring other corporations in the towable market, I feel we are on the cusp of a new surge in Winnebago ownership and, therefore, an increase in state and local chapter memberships IF WE WILL ONLY STEP UP TO THE PLATE! If you remember our wonderful 40th anniversary celebration in October, 2016, you will recall how many of those attending had camped with their children and grandchildren. Now that the product lines include towable, those age groups are open to us once more. This is no time to step back and wimp out.

You do not have to be ASKED to serve! Speak up and take us on to an amazing future and many more anniversaries to celebrate.

Jan Mobley, Secretary

Making Friends

Goodness! Did I ever meet a ton of people at GNR! I believe I met more folks this year than last. Do I recall their names? Of course, not. However, I do remember the names of their dogs. Does that count?

I feel for those for whom this was their first GNR. Things were just a bit off. There was a glitch with nametags. Of course, we used our VSW/RTT tags until we got ours on Tuesday of the rally. That was a small thing. The weather? No controlling that and we were BLESSED! As soon as the storm cleared, area reps, Winnebago staff and Wit staff were everywhere at once making certain everyone was alright and not injured. I felt very cared for.

I cannot say enough about how Forest City rolls out their red carpet for we owners each July. From the Puckerbush Parade to the street party with live music to the Lutheran church's salad luncheon to the Methodist church's pie with ice cream (ALL homemade) we are treated like royalty!

Although I missed the Parade of States (I so enjoyed that in 2016) and some entertainment, safety was the high priority. I hope to return to a GNR some summer in the future.

WINNEBAGO NEWS

President and Chief Executive Officer Michael Happe commented 3rd Quarter 2017, "Our third quarter results continued to reflect the journey we are on here at Winnebago Industries to build a larger, more profitable, full-line RV portfolio. The performance of our new Grand Design division and the associated integration activities continue to meet and even exceed our expectations, and are certainly accelerating our diversification within the still-growing North American RV industry. We delivered strong improvement in gross margin, driven primarily by the overall shift of revenues to our more profitable Towables Segment. We are gaining market share in both of our Towables businesses, including the Winnebago-branded side, and are aggressively investing in new products and further capacity expansion.

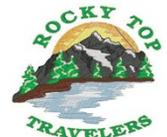
I would like to thank our Winnebago Industries employees for their hard work during the quarter and for their ongoing commitment to provide high-quality products and service to our end customers."



MUSIC CITY WINNIES

Music City Winnies met at Cedar Creek Campground July 28—30 with three coaches represented. We welcomed new MCW member Tiffany Kerr and Scott Mitchell. Our next outing is Salt Lick Creek August 18—20. We welcome any other VSW/WIT members to come join us. Contact the campground directly for reservations.

Brent Nickles



ROCKY TOP TRAVELERS

Our June gathering was in the Amish Colonies in Iowa. It is a gorgeous area with interesting shops and scenery. Following that, five couples...the Butlers, Frankes, McKittricks, Potts and Ralstons left to join the WIT Adventures Alaska Caravan. At this time, we are still in Alaska and having a great time in spite of some essential RV repairs for one couple

In July, the RTTs who remained at home will enjoy lunch at Forte in Crossville followed by seeing Sister Act at the Cumberland Playhouse.

Jan Mobley for Ed Potts



WEST TENNESSEE TRAVELERS

We will camp at Cages Bend in August and will be there for the total eclipse on August 21st. I think everyone is excited about that event. In September, we are camping at Canal Campground at the north end of Land Between the Lakes. The campground is on the canal that connects Kentucky Lake with Lake Barkley. The men will be in charge of the meals for this campout. That includes planning the menus, shopping, preparing and cleaning up. The women are all looking forward to that.

Larry Bolding

SUNSHINE CORNER

Thank you Yvonne and Ed Potts who, the day before I had gall bladder surgery, sent us a postcard from Deadwood, SD. It arrived in time to cheer me up during my great recovery as we packed the RV to leave town for GNR. See what a wonderful Sunshine Person Yvonne is? Even when she is not aware you are ill, you get a card!! We need to make this a lifetime appointment!

Larry Bolding is recovering nicely at home following the first of two knee replacements. His surgery was July 9 in Nashville. That may get him off the hook for some duties at their WTT campout in August when the men-folk do all the meal planning and prep....including cleanup. Jane reported today that Larry is doing very well.

At his first PT, his range of motion was that of someone two weeks into rehab. Way to go, Larry!

If you know of anyone in VSW who has suffered a loss or is having health issues, please let Yvonne Potts know. Her email is: ixstitchtwo@aol.com. They do have cell/internet at points during their Alaska Caravan.

MARITIME CARAVAN

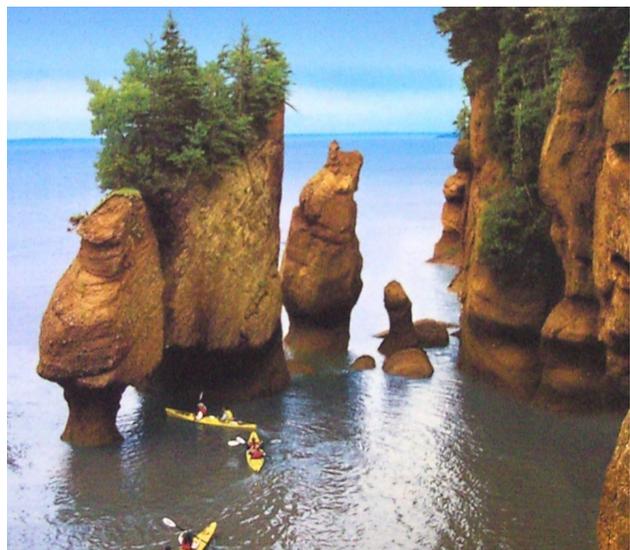
Vol State Winnies Vice President, Michael Logan and wife, Diana, set out on this Winnebago Outdoor Adventure in early June. They needed to be in Houlton, Maine to rendezvous with the other caravaners and their guides. A long trip even before the actual tour began. It led them New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and to Prince Edward Island encompassing 32 days. How about that for travel? Below are some pictures Michael sent for me to share with our group. There were lots of meals included; that's what I always look out for.



WORLD'S LONGEST COVERED BRIDGE

BAY OF FUNDY/LOW TIDE

BAY OF FUNDY/HIGH TIDE



Rocky Top Travelers Alaskan Adventure

Following the June gathering in the Amana Colonies of Iowa, five Rocky Top Travelers couples made their way west to meet up with other WIT members for an Alaska Caravan. And what an adventure they have had! Veronica Ralston has done a great job of posting photos almost daily to her Facebook page. The photos below have been 'borrowed' from her page. Guess I am one of those who prefer to ask forgiveness rather than permission as I copied them without her knowing. I do not believe she will mind.

The Ralstons with Mt. McKinley



The Rocky Toppers Four Wheeling





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MEETING, CAMPOUT & RALLY SCHEDULES

2017

Aug 15	Luncheon (show), Crossville, TN		RTT
Aug 18-20 Aug 20-24	Salt Lick Creek Campground, Gainesboro Cages Bend COE, Gallatin, TN	MCW WTT	
Sept 16-18	Long Branch Campground,, Lancaster, TN	MCW	
Sept 24-28 Sept TBD	Canal COE Campground, Lake Barkley, KY TBD		WTT RTT
Oct 26-29 Oct 26-Nov 5	VSW Fall Rally, Lebanon, TN TBD		ALL WTT
Nov 12 Nov TBD	Corner Pub, Mt. Juliet, TN 11 a.m. TBD		MCW RTT
Dec 5 Dec 9	Dinner Meeting, TBD Christmas Party/The Evetts Home Old Hickory, TN	WTT	
Dec TBD	Christmas Luncheon-TBD		MCW RTT

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

See You at Your Rally !!!

