

March-April, 2017



The Tennessee State Club of Winnebago International Travelers

VOL State Winnies News

APRIL VSW MEETING

Although we have a much smaller group attending our April, 2017 meeting, the show must go on! We have too much coming up to allow this time together to be for fun alone. There is GNR in July AND our VSW Rally October 26-29 this fall.

By now you may have received a phone call asking you to take an area of responsibility for our Rock 'N Roll Reunion Rally. We hope you agreed to step up and commit. This is a large undertaking each time; it takes all of the members to have a great rally where everyone can enjoy the event. If you have not gotten a call, contact Jan Mobley (granjj@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

NOMINATIONS OPEN

As you all know, election of a new slate of VSW officers for 2018-19 will be a part of our October business meeting. Nominations are open to anyone who is interested in assuring the continuance of our club and willing to commit to a leadership role. Our club is required to have the following officers:

President: The primary duties are to organize and lead the activities of VSW.

Vice President: Primary duties are to plan Spring outing and assist president. It would be ideal to have this person succeed each president.

Secretary: Primary duties are communications with WIT, VSW Newsletters and maintain club records

Treasurer: Current treasurer, Joe Moore, has graciously suggested that he remain in this office for another term. He knows the ropes and is quite organized. THANK YOU, JOE!

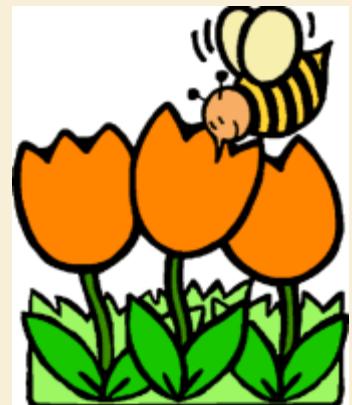


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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 2017 VSW season officially kicks-off April 6-9 with our Spring Outing in Lebanon. It is shaping up to be an unusual year, with many of our group already traveling and with plans that will change the pattern of club activities. As a result, attendance for our Spring outing and GNR will be significantly impacted. At this writing, only nine coaches will participate in the Spring outing and GNR. But, even with the lower than normal participation, we are going forward with plans for GNR and for our October "Rock 'n Roll Reunion".

The Spring Outing has a special event that I want to share with all of you. As you know, Lynn and Jimmy Fitts are no longer RVing and have given up their membership in WIT, RTT, and VSW. But, we are not going to let them completely leave us. WIT has unanimously and eagerly approved them for honorary membership. Brynn, Heidi and Denise, as well as Patrick and Janet Wright expressed just how much the Fitts have contributed to WIT over the years. It will be my honor to present them with their honorary membership at our lunch on April 8th. Please join Jan and I in congratulating and welcoming them back to VSW.

Plans for GNR are still evolving. The theme, "*Welcome to Fabulous Winnebago*" can be interpreted in several ways. Steve Pacheco has suggested a Las Vegas interpretation and identified a source where we could purchase inexpensive display items. WIT has adopted a similar theme—see the GNR issue of WIT magazine. Even though we will not have a quorum in April, those attending will formalize GNR activities and row decorations. Some VSW traditions will go by the wayside at this year's GNR. We will not have the resources or bodies present to be a major presence on Row Night. However, we will give the contest our best shot.

Jan and I have been working on the October Rally. We have sent out more than 100 letters requesting goody bag items, seminars, door prizes and sponsorship. Positive responses are slowly coming in. Michael Logan and I have contacted Winnebago-Itasca dealers requesting their continued support. We are trying to get Camping World to repeat their driving lessons and secure more active participation from other dealers. We are now at the point where we need you to be actively involved in rally planning. Since she is much more tactful than me, Jan will be reaching out to you asking for help. Hosting as many as 100 coaches for a three-day rally is no trivial task. It will take the combined efforts of **each of us** to make it a success. Thank you in advance for your help on both GNR and the "Rock 'n Roll Reunion".

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. Locations of your photos must be noted in the email with the photos.

With no Lynchburg Lemonade, we may need to provide crying towels for some attending. We will still have a grand time, that is certain. We are going to give our competitors a run for their money!

MAKING FRIENDS

OCTOBER RALLY UPDATE!

No, you have not been phoned by Jan. I find my days more and more full. We do have the talented Aggie King onboard for Decorations!! I am thrilled to have her involved in the planning/execution. Whether or not you accept a specific area, it will be ALL HANDS involved come rally week. I am certain Keith and I will be onsite from Sunday, October 22 on that week.

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 several weeks ago asking vendors for contributions of door prizes, gift bag items, etc. A few items are trickling in. This area must have follow-up. **Parking:** suffice it to say we have names and they will be phoned. **Pre-Rally Activities:** We have been given a couple suggestions. Keith and I will be meeting with Wilson County Visitors Bureau Representative Jeannie Bennett on Wednesday, April 5, for ideas and contact information. She has some good suggestions.

Photography: We certainly do not want to hire someone for this responsibility. However, having two or three folks willing to take candid 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.

I have been in contact with Brock Brinkerhoff (attendee of our October, 2015 outing/birthday celebration) who took that wonderful group picture of us. He and Janine plan to spend the summer in Alaska....where have I heard this before? Butlers, Frankes? If they can work out their agenda to include our Rally, he does not want to charge for couple/group pictures at the Sock Hop but would like a break on Rally Fees. Surely we can work something out. They were a very personable, enjoyable couple. In fact, Brock may be able to be our event photographer in exchange for fees being forgiven. Those two are talented.

I'll be talking with folks this week about various responsibilities for the Rally. And then I'll get down to making those phone contacts. I need a gardener here at the house since Keith refuses to sell. We will pay well!! Jan

Jan has granted permission for me to write the 'Making Friends' for this newsletter. As you know, we are losing members for a variety of reasons. While this is sad and all will be sorely missed, it is a great opportunity to seek out new members and in the process make new friends.

Over the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to make several new friends who are soon to be members.

The first are Phillip and Ester Lee, who will attend our April outing. The Lees live in College Grove, TN, and there is something unique about our soon to be new friends—they wrote a book about a Reindeer in Dixie (See Reindeerindixie.com) after raising a real-life reindeer on their hilltop farm.

Other new members include Tony & Donna Danhelka of Crossville and Royce & Ruth Hill, both families from Crossville; and Frank & Deana Stock of Memphis.

Another new VSW couple, Boyd and Wendy Mitchell, are in the process of moving from Delaware to East TN. They will be joining us at the summer's GNR.

Turn, turn, turn.....there may be a song in there.

WINNEBAGO NEWS

Winnebago Industries sold more than 430,000 units in 2016, up 15% from the previous year.

Revenues for the motorized segment were \$198.9 million for the quarter, down 3% from the previous year. Although unit deliveries were up 3.6% over the prior year same quarter, the average selling price of product sold decreased 5.2% due to a shift in product mix. Segment Adjusted EBITDA was \$9.1 million, down 22.3% from the prior year. Adjusted EBITDA decreased 110 basis points, primarily driven by product mix, pricing pressures and acceleration of West Coast operations.

Revenues for the towable segment were \$171.6 million for the quarter, up \$151 million over the prior year, driven by the addition of \$143.6 million in revenue from the Grand Design acquisition and continued strong organic growth from Winnebago-branded towable products in excess of 36%. Segment Adjusted EBITDA was \$20 million, up \$18.4 million over the prior year. Adjusted EBITDA increased 400 basis points primarily due to the inclusion of Grand Design's products within this segment.



MUSIC CITY WINNIES

We enjoyed a good lunch at Cheddars on March 18. Our first outing of 2017 is planned for May 19-24 in Ashland City, TN at the Lock A Campground. Come join us!



ROCKY TOP TRAVELERS

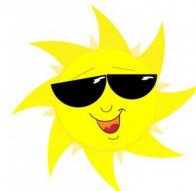
Well, Spring brings back our severe weather conditions. Last year, at our Kentucky outing, we had a close call with heavy rain and a tornado warning. Some of our members did not get the word at the beginning of the weather problem but when the group did a head count the problem was corrected. Fortunately, no one was hurt and no coaches were damaged. The point I want to make is, like flying a plane, you should read the emergency procedure for the campground where you are located. Know the location of the nearest hospital/ER, veterinarian and storm shelter. Remember, a motor home is NOT a safe harbor in a severe storm or tornado. Safety is important for all of us.

We have had a lot of our members mending from surgeries and experiencing medical issues. Please keep them in your prayers.



WEST TENNESSEE TRAVELERS

Due to ailing/recovering members and those traveling, our scheduled campout for April, has been cancelled. Hopefully, we can get together in May, as planned.



SUNSHINE CORNER

Our Sunshine Lady, Yvonne Potts, has sent a sympathy card to Ted and Bernie Steele after the death of Bernie's mother. A get well card was sent to Dave Franke wishing him well following a total knee replacement in early March.

Yvonne can use our best wishes and prayers following a serious diagnosis last month. She and Ed are at their Virginia residence at 105 Greenville Court, Hampton, VA 23669.

MEETINGS, OUTINGS & RALLY SCHEDULES



2017

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

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



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