

March 2016



The Tennessee State Club of Winnebago International Travelers

VOL State Winnies News

VSW Now In Central Area

On February 15, 2016 WIT officially announced a realignment of the three areas that make up the national club. As a result of this realignment Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi have been moved back into the Central region.

Patrick and Janet Wright, who many of us met at our 2015 State Rally, are the Central area WIT representatives will provide support for VSW replacing Butch and Becky Moore who are now the West Area Representatives. Patrick and Janet tentatively plan to attend our April camp out.

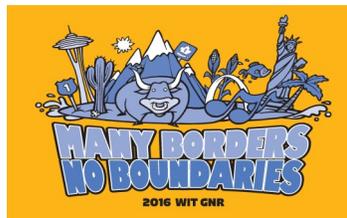
Contact information for the Wrights:

Patrick & Janet Wright
Patrick: 405-641-9059
Janet: 405-620-7871
patrickjanet70@gmail.com



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, average 15-25 RVs, but our members provide parking assistance, man 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.

We hope to see you in Forest City!!!

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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.

A few have already stepped forward and we really appreciate their willingness to help; but there is still much to do. Here are

our immediate needs for help:

April Campout

Games and evening activities: We have set aside several hours Saturday afternoon for group activities and open time following dinner each day for group games. We need someone to plan and organize these activities.

If you would like the lead or participate in the planning of these events, please contact Keith Mobley (rkmobley@comcast.net) or call 865.207.5640

THEY'RE
OUT
THERE!!!



As you travel throughout the year, be on the lookout for Winnebago and Country Coach campers/motorhomes with Tennessee tags. Chat them up and let them know how great it is to be in WIT and VSW and the great friends you have in your local chapters. Sell it, folks! The more, the merrier!

We hope to have some contact cards ready to give to our members at the April Outing. If you're not there, you won't have any. We aren't mailing 'em. LOL!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jan and I have passed another milestone in life's journey—our first winter snowbirding in Florida. As I write this message, we are sitting in Flamingo Lake RV Park, in Jacksonville, FL—our first stop on the trip home after two months at Buttonwood Bay in Sebring.

I am beginning to understand what RVing is all about. In the months we were in Sebring, FL we made many friends—from USA and Canada—as well as visited with other VSW members, Jimmy and Lynn Fitts, who wintered in nearby Lake Placid. Except for the RV life style, where can you meet total strangers and in a matter of days become close friends. Where else can you form a neighborhood, block parties, dances, compete in horseshoes, shuffleboard or bocce ball with old friends that you just met.

There is a downside to snowbirding—actually two. First, the laid-back life style can quickly dissolve your best laid plans and encourage procrastination. In my case, I need to finish planning our April outing, find volunteers to lead activities for it and GNR, and reach out to potential new members. It has taken supreme willpower and cooler, breezy day here at the Mount Pleasant KOA in Charleston, SC to get my focus back on track. Yes, we have stopped in SC to visit a daughter and grandsons. Apparently, we are even procrastinating on going home to the spring yard work, housework and our other volunteer activities that await our arrival.

The second downside to snowbirding is that one must go home at some point. So ends the tale for the 2015-16 snowbirding season for us. Now it is back to the drudgery of almost continuous outings, GNR and hopefully a glorious spring and summer spent with our VSW family. Boy, this RV life style is rough!!! Don't you just love it? 😊

Keith Mobley, President VSW

APRIL CAMPOUT HIGHLIGHTS

If you have not already, mark your calendar. Our first state campout for 2016 is Thursday April 14—Sunday April 17. As of today, we have 11 coaches attending but would love to have everyone attend if possible. All meetings, meals and indoor activities will be held in the School Exhibition Center, Building C.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Opening 5:00 p.m. in Building C, followed by an informal, 'your choice' dinner at a local restaurant
- Breakfast 8:00 a.m. each morning. Breakfast will be prepared and served by chapter members. Coffee and Tea (available after 7:00 a.m.) will be provided. All plates, cups and cutlery will be provided for all breakfasts.
- Pot Luck Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Friday night in Building C, VSW will provide sliced ham, rolls and coffee. Each coach is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, as well as, their own plate, cutlery and beverage other than coffee, if desired.
- Catered Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening. Your choice of fried chicken or fried catfish along with two side dishes and dessert. The food will be prepared onsite and served straight from the fryer. Iced tea and coffee, plates and cutlery will be provided.
- Grand National Planning & Preparation: A GNR kickoff meeting will be held on Friday at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend—especially those who are going to Forest City in July. Dave Franke will unveil his design for VSW's interpretation of *Many Borders, No Boundaries*.
- GNR Preparation: Time has been allocated on Friday and Saturday, if needed, for GNR preparation. In addition to helping with execution of the *Many Borders, No Boundaries* display, we will develop activities for Pre-Rally week, as well as, Tennessee's hospitality activities for *States Night*
- Socials and Games: At 5:00 p.m. each evening, everyone is invited to meet for an informal social hour. Bring the beverage of your choice and make or renew friendship, swap tells of your snowbirding or just relax before dinner. After dinner you are invited to stay and join a friendly game—your choice—or just relax with your VSW family.

It's the best deal in town! Total cost for the outing is \$75.00 per coach including three nights of camping, three breakfasts, pot luck dinner on Friday and a catered dinner on Saturday plus quality time with your VSW friends.

Additional nights (if desired) are \$25/night.

Note: If this will be your first state outing, the James E. Ward Agricultural Center has a limited number of 50 amp sites, so bring your 30 amp adapter. Each site provides water and electrical service, but no sewer, cable or internet. There are four dump stations strategically located for your convenience. There will be VSW members available to assist you if needed.

Making New Friends

As Keith has mentioned, we have now had our longest RV experience of just over two months. We stayed at Buttonwood Bay in Sebring, FL. For those wanting near a coastline, this is not the place for you unless you count the coastlines of lakes....there are many of those. Surprisingly, they do not offer cable or Wi-Fi. They do have 3 or 4 hotspots. That is more than enough for most people but not us.

January was rainy, windy and cold at times but we persevered. Glad we did since February was mostly gorgeous.

Buttonwood Bay is, without a doubt, the friendliest place we have ever camped solo. I left with contact info for 5 women with whom I became close. Amazing how quickly you become close when RVing.

I really did not want to leave Florida. I KNOW it is not 80 degrees at home. Never expected I would become a Florida fan but I certainly do enjoy the flowers and shrubs blooming in January. Next winter, it is 'Westward, Ho'!

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.

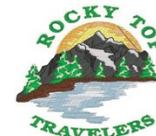
The history behind the unique name of the celebration is an unusual one. Early on, the town was surrounded by a dense bush called Puckerbrush. The bush had a berry on it and when eaten, it would make you pucker. Although the bush has long been gone from Forest City, the name stands as a symbol of city's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



Rocky Top Travelers have many opportunities for friendship and fellowship in all the great weekend campouts we have scheduled for 2016. All the campout hosts have been working hard to make sure fun will be had by all in attendance. This year we must make our plans early because of all the locations we have chosen. We need to choose which outings we are going to attend and make reservations now. Information on most of our events are in this issue on the last page.

Our first event of the year is the State meeting and campout in Lebanon in April. We hope to see all of you there. We will need help again this year in cooking and serving breakfast on Saturday morning. Plan now to attend and let Keith Mobley, the State President, know your plans to attend. For all of those out of state, please travel safe coming home, and we are looking forward to hearing all the things you did this past winter.

Robert Butler, President RTT

MUSIC CITY WINNIES



Our group is looking forward to better weather and being on the camping trail once again. Personally, I am looking forward to a steady walking gait. Recently, I have been released to full weight bearing with a cane. Swelling continues to be a problem.

Our March gathering has been moved to the Corner Pub in Mt. Juliet.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our VSW Campout in April.

Brent Nickles, President MCW

WEST TENNESSEE TRAVELERS



Those who remained in TN this winter are still hibernating! Others from WTT are scattered through Mississippi and the Gulf Coast.

We are continuing to make WTT outing plans. September is not finalized due to the situation post-flood at Tom Sawyer in West Memphis, Arkansas. Time will tell.

Diana, Cliff and Kay Klein and I leave in a couple weeks on the WIT Sunshine Tour and Cruise. We will share our thoughts and experiences at our April VSW outing. Ya'll come!

Looking forward to a great camping season in 2016.

Michael Logan, President WTT

SUNSHINE CORNER



Woody Woodson is enjoying the transition to new knees this winter and spring. He should be ready to

rock and roll by the time summer arrives. He will have a spring in his step, for sure. Hope all goes well, Woody! We want to see you and Susan dancing!

Joyce McCall is doing well after experiencing some health concerns in during winter.

If the Arizona gang has not located a Native American healer out there in the desert during their stay, Corrie Butler will have her 'already replaced hip' replaced the correct way later in March. Wishing her all the best for a GOOD hip this time around.

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 con-

NEW MEMBERS PROFILE



Two new coaches have joined VSW:

John & Carolyn McComsey (W165606)

John and Carolyn are not strangers to VSW, they have attended several of our outings including our rally in October 2015. Perhaps you had a chance to talk to John about his mules.

The McComsey's joined VSW in December. Their home address is 110 Pig Lane, Henry, TN 38231. The McComsey's are full-timers in their new Sightseer and are currently in CalifoDnia.



John & Sharon Hecker (W169018)

The Hackers, who reside at 6753 Ingleside Lane, Knoxville, TN 37918 joined in December also. They are the proud owners of a new View and, hopefully, will join us for our April campout. Bio and pictures will be published in a future newsletter

We currently have invitation letters out to 40+ new Winnebago/Itasca owners in Tennessee and are looking forward to even more new faces joining our VSW family. In addition to new Winnebago owners, Country Coach is now officially part of WIT. If you have any friends or acquaintances who own a Country Coach, invite them to join WIT, your local chapter and VSW.

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. Bring your ideas to our April State Meeting, We would like to have each past state president attend in October. We may need some assistance in finding addresses for those who are no longer active in the organization.





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	Corner Pub Mt. Juliet, TN 12 Noon	MCW
Apr 14-17	VSW 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	VSW 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

VSW TRAVEL PICTURES



Bob and Jean Maxwell and Gail and Dave Franke visit Tombstone, AZ



Robyn and Steven Roscoe hiking at Highland Hammock State Park in Sebring, FL



Joe and Cathy Moore on a Segway tour of Celebration, FL



Daybreak at Buttonwood Bay in Sebring, FL



Jan Mobley shows off her fishing skills in Lake Placid,



Sunrise at Flamingo Lake RV Park, Jacksonville, FL.