

November-December 2016



The Tennessee State Club of Winnebago International Travelers

VOL State Winnies News

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SAFE TRAVELS

For some of us, the 2016 travel season is winding down and our focus shifts to Christmas and spending time with our families—near and far.

Looking back, this has been a good year for VSW. Both the Spring and Fall State Campouts had good attendance, including a few non-members. GNR was a huge success for the Club and Chapters. We gained new members but, unfortunately, had to say goodbye to friends who either chose to leave Winnebago or RVing.

Now is the season to reflect on what is truly important to us—our faith, our family and our friends. We wish each of you a very merry Christmas, safe travels as you visit family or head for your snowbirding locations.



RALLY THEME SUGGESTIONS.

It might interest you to know that we have already received calls and emails asking about our October Rally. One caller, representing six coaches, wanted to make sure of the dates so that they could plan their 7th rally with us.

Yes, its that time again. Before we can begin planning in earnest, we need a theme. In our 40 years, we have exhaust most of the obvious ones, so we need come up with one that will provide the focal point for the rally. Please submit your suggestions before December 31st.

Contact information for VSW officers is on page 6 of this issue.



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THEY'RE OUT THERE!!!

Since October 2015, we have signed up 14 new coaches (28 members). In the same period we have lost 10 coaches-the latest being Jimmy and Lynn Fitts.

To remain a viable club, and chapters, we need new members and there are ample potential members just waiting for an invitation to join.

We need your help. Keep your eyes open for Winnebago products bearing Tennessee tags. Introduce yourself and extend an invitation to join or at least attend one of chapter outings.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is a miracle but I survived the first half of my term as president of VSW. Thanks so much for help from the always dependable core group of volunteers. 2016 more than upheld the club's tradition of excellence. The April Campout had a good turnout, including three new coaches and was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Jan's hard work, our 40th Anniversary (Birthday) was a huge success, including past members who joined the celebration. They were delighted to be invited back to a group they care for deeply.

As always, GNR marked the pinnacle of the 2016 travel calendar. With 26 coaches attending, and almost 100% volunteering, VSW, and its' chapters, continues to be a highly visible member of WIT and key player in GNR.

Not all news in 2016 was good. While we gained 14 new coaches (28 new members) we lost 10 coaches (20 members), including mainstays of the club. The loss of Jimmy & Lynn Fitts, Dave & Fran Surles, Dennis & Trish Graham and others will put even more pressure on all of us to replace their enthusiasm and volunteer spirit. The year ahead will bring new challenges. Are we up to this? I am confident we will pull together and succeed.

WIT has change the criteria for Club and Chapter of Excellence certification. While the details are unknown, we know that more effort will be required to maintain our unbroken chain of excellence.

GNR will be radically different in 2017. VSW will have far fewer coaches going to Forest City in 2017. Most of the regulars will forego GNR to participate in Alaska or other trips sponsored by WIT. At this point, we anticipate less than three coaches will be at GNR. If you are thinking of attending, please let me know. I imagine there will be more than three from TN.

October brings two major events for VSW. First, it is Rally Year and the year-long effort to put it together is already underway. We are looking for and desperately need volunteers who are willing to help plan the rally.

The second October event is election of new VSW officers. As you know, the term of office for VSW is two years, so we must find volunteers willing to step up and become officers and leaders for the 2018-19 term. Continuation of the Club is dependent on meeting this requirement. A full slate of officers is required to maintain our charter.

To all of you, please accept my profound thanks for all of the advice, help and prayers you have given to us this year. It is because of you that 2016 was successful and it will be because of YOU that VSW will continue to be a viable WIT Club.

Keith Mobley, President



OCTOBER RALLY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

October, 2017 may seem far, far away but when one considers the level of planning required to welcome 100 coaches and 200 or more visitors, it is not. We are already sending out letters to potential sponsors, exhibitors and others needed to support the effort. Preparing for the October Rally is far more than the club officers can handle on our own—we need your help. It is going to take all of us to make October a success. And, we want it to be successful!

We need volunteers (at least 3 or 4 for each task) to plan the following tasks:

1. Arts & Crafts Competition
2. Dealer Participation
3. Programs
4. Decorations
5. Door Prizes
6. Games Inside
7. Games Outside
8. Seminars & Vendors
9. Silent Auction
10. Prizes
11. Entertainment
12. Food Preparation
13. Goody Bags
14. Pre-Rally Activities

In addition, we need volunteers to help during the rally:

1. Greeters
2. Hospitality Table
3. Silent Auction
4. Parking
5. Photography

If you do the math, 3 x 19 tasks equals 57 or about 1/2 of VSW's total membership. Please help. Chose what you enjoy and email Jan or Keith Mobley with your commitment to help. Let's have some fun next October!

MAKING FRIENDS

Wow! Did we make some friends at the October, 2016 Campout! It was a wonderful gathering. We had members attend whom I had not met in the past; Pat Bates, the Woodsons, the Stocks, the Carboys, the Graffs. I apologize if I left anyone out who was new to me. THEN, all the former members who joined us on Saturday to celebrate the 40 years of Vol State Winnies! What lovely people! They expressed much gratitude for our remembering them and including them in this milestone. None of this would have been possible without the assistance of Rose Brummit and Jean Aldridge! And without guest, Brock and his sweet lady, we would not have such a wonderful picture of our gathering! We certainly would enjoy having them visit again. So personable and they fit right in playing cards.



WINNEBAGO NEWS

Winnebago Industries has completed the previously announced acquisition of Grand Design RV, LLC ("Grand Design"), a manufacturer of towable recreation vehicles (RVs), for approximately \$500 million in cash and Winnebago shares. The Company also entered into a seven-year \$300 million term loan and five-year asset based lending facility for up to \$125 million arranged by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Grand Design was founded in 2012 and is one of the fastest-growing RV companies in the industry. Since its founding, Grand Design has shipped 26,850 units and has sold over 22,250 units at retail. Grand Design manufactures the market leading Reflection fifth wheel and travel trailer, flagship Solitude extended stay fifth wheel, luxury Momentum toy hauler and lightweight Imagine travel trailer product lines.

MUSIC CITY WINNIES

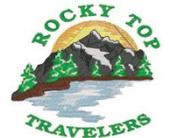


Roger and Peggy Evetts hosted our Christmas Luncheon and December meeting in their beautiful home. Fabulous food and fellowship was enjoyed by the Evetts, Pat Bates, the McCalls, the Laynes, the Grays, the Weavers and the Nickles along with their daughter, Tiffany and boyfriend, Scott.

We have some amazing cooks who provided delicious food. We spend several hours enjoying the fellowship while looking through old club photos.

We look forward to our January meeting at The Catfish House in Springfield, TN on the 21st.

ROCKY TOP TRAVELERS



Around 20 members enjoyed spending time together over a good meal at The Butcher's Block in Crossville on December 3rd.

The group remembered retiring president, Robert Butler, with gifts for his enthusiasm and leadership over the last two years. New officers were installed by state president, Keith Mobley. They are: president-Ed Potts, vice president-Glenn Craig, secretary-Yvonne Potts, treasurer-Dave Franke.

Our 2017 Camping Schedule is open for suggestions from our members.

Plans cannot be firmed up without having hosts for each outing.

WEST TENNESSEE TRAVELERS



Five coaches of the West Tennessee Travelers enjoyed unusual November weather in Granada Lake, MS. Temperatures were in the 70s that week.

We enjoyed our annual Christmas dinner and meeting at Olympic Pizza and Steak House in Millington, TN where our 2017 Camping Schedule was selected and approved by the members.

We look forward to a great year of RVing together in 2017.



SUNSHINE CORNER

Based upon Yvonne's report given by Lynn Fitts at our October Campout, she has sent out ten cards offering support for illnesses and surgeries and seven cards as expressions of sympathy to our members during the past year. We know this is greatly appreciated by our members and their families.

If you know of anyone among VSW who is experiencing a health issue or a loss, please pass that information on to Yvonne Potts at: ixstitchtwo@aol.com

HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY TO VSW!



Fifteen former VSW members joined our October 22 birthday celebration in Lebanon. They are pictured on the first row along with Corrie Butler who was awaiting knee replacement and needed to sit. That took place in early November and was a great success. It was a lovely day, as you can see, of sharing memories and going through the VSW Yearbooks. Several of these former member's grandchildren showed up after lunch to see the folks they fondly remembered from their childhood. Back in the day, RVing was a family affair.





VOL STATE WINNIES

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2017—MEETING, CAMPOUT & RALLY SCHEDULES

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 19-24	Lock A Campground, Ashland City, TN	MCW
May 21-25	Natchez Trace State Pk, Clarksburg, TN	WTT
June 16-18	Lillydale Campground, Allons, TN Friendship Outing	MCW
June 18-22	Columbus/Belmont St Prk, Columbus, KY	WTT
July 17-22	GNR, Forest City, IA	ALL
July 28-30	Cedar Creek Campground, Mt. Juliet, TN	MCW
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
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
Dec 5	Dinner Meeting, TBD	WTT
Dec 9	Christmas Party/The Evetts Home Old Hickory, TN	MCW
2017	All Campout Dates /Locations TBD	RTT

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

