

The Capitol Times Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Washington DC Unit, WBCCI
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Hello to all our Members and Affiliates! I hope you've all had a wonderfully relaxing and successful holiday season and that Old Man Winter hasn't gotten you too far down (except for those of us who are snow birders and are DOWN in sunny Florida). Cheer up, Spring is on its way and will be here before any of us are aware of it.

As the 2003 season has ended I send a hearty and heartfelt thanks to all those who have sponsored rallies and who have served so ably as officers of the Washington DC Unit during its first four years of existence. We have traveled a long journey since Shartlesville, where a good many of us met for the very first time, some of us attending our very first WBCCI activity. The road ahead of is longer still, and I look forward to traveling it with all of you. I also look forward to my year at your President and wish to thank you for your support and encouragement.

The final rally of the past 2003 season was held in Morgantown, West Virginia. Hosted by Bill Jacobs, it was a very successful and well attended gathering despite the wet "West Virginia Sunshine" and a definite Fall chill in the air. The highlight of our gathering was the pumpkin carving contest and Halloween campfire. The creative entries displayed talents long suppressed and we also had a few unknown visitors during the campfire session. There was a talk given by Becky Weimer on "geocaching" that was very interesting also. We even had some ghost stories read to us that were enjoyed by all.

At the final pot luck dinner on Saturday, November 1st our installation ceremony was presided over by Region 2 2nd Vice President Don McKelvay. The 2004 slate of officers include Karen Waldo as 1st Vice President, Doug Rowbottom as 2nd Vice President and new Trustees Bill Jacobs and Paul Waddell. Marc Weimer remains as 3rd Vice President and as webmaster for our internet site. Margaret Natof remains as Treasurer for the second year. Thanks to each of you for stepping up to the plate!

The 2004 season will include five rallies in addition to the Region 2 Rally scheduled for June 2-6 at the University of Pittsburgh Campus in Bradford, Pennsylvania and the 47th WBCCI International Rally in Lansing, Michigan. I hope you'll all consider attending both of these events in addition to our five scheduled Unit rallies.

These rallies being with the Unit's signature rally at Rogers' Farm in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, April 1-4. The rally schedule and registration form can be accessed at our Unit website - <http://www.servintfree.net/wbccci-dc>. Visit the site often to keep up on changes and further details. It's time now to download the registration form and get it in to Garnett Horner for your place on the playing field. It promises to be as good or better than the four previous Cherry Blossom Rallies, so don't miss out.

The second rally of the season will be held over Mother's Day weekend (May 6-9) at a location yet to be determined. John Gilliland and I will be the hosts for this rally and we will have the

location pinned down and reserved in another week or so. Keep your calendars open for this weekend. Tentative sites are either in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia or a bit farther south in Central Virginia at a campground near Appomattox Courthouse.

June and July are reserved for the Region 2 rally and the International. Again, we hope you will consider attending and hope there will be groups joining up for caravans to the site.

August 15-22 brings the Outer Banks Rally at Camp Hatteras which will be hosted by Margaret Natof and her sister Gayle McClelland. If last year's attendance is any indication of success and success repeats itself, this will be one you won't want to miss out on, so get your rig ready and head on down to the Outer Banks for a week's worth of fun in the sun and sand. It will be well worth your time. We hope Hurricane Isabel will be long forgotten and that the campsite will be back in full operation for our visit. There's certainly enough to see and do and our hosts, I am sure, will have a full schedule awaiting our arrival.

September 16-19 will see us at the Big "E" Rally jointly with the New England Unit at the Massachusetts State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Wayne and Linda Moore are well known for their hospitality and Massachusetts is a wonderful place to visit, so let's show them our support and join the New England Unit for a gathering that we'll not soon forget. Again, as with all other scheduled rallies you can keep up with the latest developments by going to the website.

The final rally of our 2004 season will be hosted by Paul and Mary Kim Waddell. Billed at the "Hot Air Balloon Rally in the Valley," it promises to be full of fun and excitement. Paul is a professional balloonist and I'm sure he's got something up his sleeve, so keep an eye on the website for changes and updates there. It will be held at Watermelon Park Campground in Berryville, Virginia and is in one of the most beautiful locations in the Shenandoah Valley. Having lived there ourselves for a number of years, John Gilliland and I can attest to the beauty and tranquility of this location. This rally will be the Installation Rally for the 2005 slate of officers, so plan to attend for another load of memories.

I'd like to add as a few final notes to this Newsletter an appreciation to Anita Ward for having agreed to help me along in the publication of the Newsletter for the Unit. She has graciously done so and I'm sure will add her own flair to it. I would like to perk it up a bit this year and hereby solicit your help and input to both Anita and I, and to the other Unit officers by submitting suggestions. I feel it should be more substantive and informative. I would also like to make sure it is published on a quarterly basis, sending it to the membership and our affiliates and also posting it to the website in February, May, August and November. I'd also like to see the addition of photographs if you think our e-mail format can support it. There were many photos taken at rallies over this past year that I'm sure we all would be delighted to see. This having been said, please send us your suggestions by the end of March so we can get started on something for the May issue.

And finally, I'm sure you've all received by now the February issue of the *Blue Beret* and are aware of the four-page Questionnaire at the centerfold. WBCCI is asking our assistance and response to this Questionnaire in helping them make our views known about various issues and ideas that are being thought about at WBCCI for consideration. These questions will help the

International officers make decisions for the future of WBCCI and ultimately for your Unit. I think it is important that you complete the Questionnaire and send it in.

My sincere hope is that we'll all see each other DOWN THE ROAD IN 2004!

With very best wishes,

Harley C. Muse
President, Washington DC Unit (#170)
WBCCI