

The Capitol Times Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Washington DC Unit, WBCCI

Volume 5, No. 2, June 12, 2004

Greetings to all Members and Affiliates.

Harley Muse & John Gilliland (#7566) traveled from their home at Washington's Birthplace, VA to Pennwood Airstream Park in Limestone, PA where they rendezvoused with Stuart & Margaret Natof (#2307) on Tuesday, June 1st. The Natofs arrived several hours ahead of us and just as we were arriving affiliate members J.R. and Sabina Freeman (#????) were leaving to travel to Bradford, Pennsylvania. We spent two beautiful days there relaxing and planning our activities and travel schedule to Bradford to attend the Region 2 Rally, which ran from June 3rd to 6th. While at Pennwood we continued the WDCU tradition of conducting our happy hours in the evening. Margaret and Stuart provided us with a wonderful evening's meal before we spent time planning activities for the following day.

Weather in Limestone was a bit on the wet and soggy side but between periods of rain which ran from just a sprinkle to a downpour we managed to spend time outside in a beautiful forested setting and enjoying the blue skies and warm sunshine.

The morning of Wednesday, June 3rd we packed up our trailers and traveled in our own mini-caravan all the way to the Bradford city limits where we became confused, lost, misdirected and eventually stumbled along, finding the University of Pittsburgh Bradford Campus. On our way through town Margaret stopped at the local fire station to ask directions and one of the firemen graciously offered to lead us to the campus. Little did he know that there were distracters along the route that managed to lead us astray once again. Those distracters were fellow WBCCI members from another unit in town for their day's excursions and just happened to notice a big yellow Cadillac rumbling down the road, flagging us down to offer their own directions.

We found the campus and never saw the fireman again. There were 104 rigs in attendance from all Region 2 units parked in five separate lots scattered around a beautifully landscaped and sprawling campus. We were in the already infamous Lot 10, which was described by some as "Siberia" because of its distance from the majority of the conference facilities. Actually it was within easy walking distance, but we found it quite pleasant and had very compatible and accommodating neighbors. There were approximately 30 trailers and motor homes in our lot.

A nice evening's entertainment was offered but Margaret and Harley had only attended for the purpose of hearing announcements and we left shortly thereafter for dinner together with Stuart and John who had remained at the trailer to prepare a candlelit dinner for us. We found out later that both our names had been drawn for the night's door prizes. Oh well, there's always next time! The Washington DC Unit provided three of

the evening's door prizes – a “Claude the Crab” Beanie Baby, a set of four Vintage Airstream patterned placemats and a make-your-own kaleidoscope kit and booklet.

On Friday Margaret conducted a quilting seminar that was attended by 12 ladies who produced 30 quilts for preemies that were donated to the Bradford Regional Medical Center. Jo Jugel, Region 2 President, stated at the evening's entertainment session that Region 2 and WBCCI had continued a tradition of community service and commended Margaret's and the participants' efforts.

John, Stuart and Harley went on a train ride on the Knox & Kane Railroad to the Kinzua Bridge viaduct, which was destroyed by a tornado on July 12, 2003. What a sight of engineering marvel and of Mother Nature's furies and destructive nature. The viaduct was virtually destroyed by the tornado as was the stand of trees in the adjacent state park.

Friday evening's activity ended with what was advertised as a Hassle Tassel (the equivalent of WDCU's famous happy hours) where the attendees in each parking area gathered at a member's trailer for hors d'ouerves and meeting new people. We gathered later for hamburgers/hot dogs and dessert. Afterwards we all four attended a performance by a local country music artist and his sidekick who did a marvelous job on his electronic keyboard.

Saturday's activities consisted of a flea market and craft show. The evening ended with a banquet and the rally's closing ceremonies. Stuart and Margaret had minor engine problems and made the decision not to travel on Sunday, leaving a day early to return to their home in Derwood, Maryland. The evening's program was exciting and very entertaining, patriotic and a bit somber after the announcement that former President Ronald Reagan had passed away during the afternoon. There was a moment of silence and the mood seemed to change almost immediately. John and Harley stayed for the evening's activities and the rally closing ceremonies, leaving early on Sunday morning for an 11-hour drive back to Virginia.

As we neared our destination we were passed by a car that kept blowing it's horn and waving at us. We both thought someone was trying to tell us something was wrong with the trailer and I said to John that we hadn't cut them off so why should they be honking. When we stopped at a traffic light the driver got out and came back to our vehicle. It was none other than Rob and Virginia Baker who had attended the Cherry Blossom Rally in April. What a chance meeting of another of our friends on the road. Rob told us he was on his way to Iraq the following Wednesday, so let's all keep him in mind and pray for his safe return.

We thoroughly enjoyed our week's travels and look forward to our next outing.

We are interested in hearing from members as to their plans for attendance at this year's International Rally in Lansing, Michigan. Please reply to Harley Muse with your

intentions. We would like this information so we can put each of you in touch with the other unit members. At this point plans are for Harley Muse & John Gilliland to attend but there is a potential conflict and we will need a representative to act as a Delegate on the unit's behalf and also to take the Unit flag pole to International. I will need to know this as quickly as possible so as to notify Headquarters as soon in advance as possible.

While at Region 2 the Washington DC Unit acquired its first 2005 affiliate member, Keith (Pete) Highlands (#6385). This is a good point to remind our members and affiliates that the time has come to renew your membership and pay your 2005 dues (remember, they are just \$1 for the unit dues and \$45 for International – a BARGAIN!).

- A unit membership registration form is posted on our website if you choose to use that format. It should be printed, filled in, and mailed to Margaret. Her address is on the form, and checks should be made payable to “WDCU” (U.S. funds only).
- It is of extreme importance that we have current e-mail addresses for each of you, members and affiliates, especially considering the recent crash of the Airstream.net. So please, keep us informed and up to date with this vital information (this is the way we communicate with our membership and conduct unit business).
- If you are VAC members, I'm sure [check for VAC Membership chairman name] would like to hear from you also. The VAC dues are \$20/year.

This year's remaining rallies are:

- (1) The Outer Banks Rally at Camp Hatteras, August 15-22. We are emphasizing that attendees should their own campsite reservations with Camp Hatteras. Information for Camp Hatters is at www.camphatteras.com and there is also a link on our website with a registration form. We hope to see each and every one of you there. There are a total of 35 spaces available and the conference facility is available to us for the entire week. Please contact Margaret Natof at 301-977-4334 or natofs@aol.com with your questions.

September 16-19 – The “Big E” Rally, with the New England Unit, Massachusetts State Fairgrounds, Springfield, MA. As plans develop there will be more information put on our website. To be hosted by Wayne & Linda Moore (wam52@prodigy.net or moorelinda@prodigy.net)

- (2)
- (3) October 14-17 – The Balloon Rally in the Valley hosted by Paul and MaryKim Waddell. This is a joint rally with the VAC and will also be our year's installation rally. The campsite is located near Berryville,

Virginia and information is already posted on the website along with a registration form, so make plans now and let's have a colossal turnout. This is the final 2004 rally planned and will be the stepping-stone for our 2005 schedule.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

- David Joines, of Middleburg, FL, has contacted me by phone several times and came by for a visit while we were at the Region 2 Rally. He dropped off a picture of his 1958 Pacer and asked that I advertise it for sale to our membership in the newsletter.
- Another gentleman [find out name] has called and left a message telling me that he had another unit for sale due to ill health and asked that I pass the information along to you.

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Our next newsletter is scheduled for publication and posting on the website during the first week of September. If there are items you would like to have inserted, please submit them to Harley Muse as soon as possible, but certainly no later than the last week in August in order to ensure inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter.

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