



The Capital Times

Vol 16 No 2
February 2015

Washington DC Unit
Region 2 Unit 170



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER – Michael Vallen

Rally rally rally!

Great news! We have a full rally schedule for this season with rallies planned for each month from April through December! Now it is up to each of you to make this the best camping season the WDCU has seen in years! Sign up, sign up, sign up! I don't know any other way to put it! The success of our rallies depends on you to participate! Personally I will be attending all of the rallies and have actually heard from a few of you who plan the same. I hope to hear from more of you soon.

Our rally schedule is on the WDCU website and is up to date. We will have events this year from Florida to Vermont hoping to give as many of our members and affiliates a chance to attend. Several of our rallies, the Delaware Seashore rally in June, the Vermont rally in July and the Installation Rally in October will be hosted by first timers and new members so it is doubly important to support these events.

Our Capital Kick-off Rally is in the full swing of the planning stage. Some of you are planning to arrive early; the Marietta House staff has graciously offered the site from the 20th of April on. Among the events we have planned are; Open House, Walk in the Park with your period hat, how to polish an Airstream, a row (with the tide) down the Patuxent, movie nights, Lodge Cast Iron cooking....to name a few. I have lined up a semi catered meal courtesy of Pete's New Haven Style Pizza restaurant in Washington DC for our Friday night dinner and like last year will have Saturday as a cook free day with a prepared in site breakfast and dinner!

Look for an updated CKR Rally schedule to come out in the next couple of weeks and please sign up for all the rallies you can!

P.S. A few of us will be in the A loop at Trap Pond the first weekend in April feel free to join in the fun!

Michael Vallen

2015 WDCU RALLY SCHEDULE

We have a great slate of rallies scheduled ready for you. It is time to start filling in your calendar and registering for any/all of them. I challenge anyone to tell me they have not had enough winter! The newly added rallies are noted with an * asterisk. Contact names and email hyperlinks have been added.

For more detail on each Rally, please click the link to be sent to the WBCCI – WDCU website.

Here is the link: <http://wdcu.wbcci.net/2015-rally-schedule/>

Apr 23-26 – Capital Kick Off Rally -

A Buddy Rally
Marietta House Museum, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: Michael Vallen
mevallen@gmail.com
CKR REGISTRATION link

May 15-17 – Gettysburg Rally

Round Top Campground, Gettysburg, Pa
Contact: Nancy & Carl McDowell
mcdowellc@me.com

May 28 – 31 – Region 2 Rally

***Jun 12-14** Delaware Seashore Rally

Delaware Seashore State Park
Rehoboth Beach, DE
Contact: Glenn Barlow agbarlow@aol.com

Jun 26 – Jul 4 – International

Farmington, NM

***Jul 23-26** – Camping on the Battenkill

Camping on the Battenkill Campground
Arlington, VT
Contact Steve and Sara Bernheisel
steven.bernheisel@apsva.us

Aug 20-23 – Knoebels Rally

Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg, PA
Contact: Michael Vallen prior to 2/1/15, &
Nick Iverson NIC6930@gmail.com

Sep 17-20 – Trap Pond Rally

Trap Pond State Park, Laurel, DE
Contact: Lori & Greg Wilson flamingo.babe@comcast.net

Oct 2-4 - Installation Rally

Starlite Campground, Lancaster, PA
Contact: Carol & Chris Assaf chris@ctassaf.com

Oct 30-Nov 1 – Fall Leaves Rally

Shenandoah River State Park
Bentonville, VA
Contact: Michael Vallen

Dec 19-Jan 3, 2016 - FL 'Forgotten Coast' Mini-Caravan

Contact: Michael Vallen mevallen@gmail.com

CALL FOR RALLY HOSTS

If you have a great location or event in mind that would make a great rally, for this year or next, please contact Michael or any of the officers. Don't be shy. If you are fearful of hosting a Rally, there are many of us that can lend a hand; you don't need to go it alone. We all want the same thing, adventure, meet new people and have fun. The schedule for any Rally can be as stringent or as loose as you want, if it is your Rally, it is your prerogative.

Boondocking Etiquette by Jaimie Hall from www.roadtripamerica.com

"Boondocking" means camping in your RV with no hookups. There are two types of boondocking. One type is parking in more out-of-the-way places, usually for several days or even an extended period of time. Public lands offer many opportunities for boondocking.

The other type of boondocking is often referred to as "blacktop boondocking," that is when you camp overnight on a Wal-Mart or shopping center parking lot or in a truck stop. Some call it dry camping since you are not in the "boonies." RVers choose to spend the night on parking lots because of convenience—they don't have to drive miles off the highway to a campground. Other RVers boondock because of budget reasons; they can't see paying \$20 or more a night to stay in an RV park when they are traveling from point A to point B and won't be using the amenities the park has to offer.

Whichever type of boondocker you are, these guidelines will help you (and your neighbors) have a better experience.

BLACKTOP BOONDOCKING –

- Get permission from the manager.
- Purchase dinner, fuel or other items as a thank you.
- Park away from other vehicles, along the sides of the parking lot. In a truck stop, if there is no designated area for RVs, park off to the side or to the back away from truckers. Truckers will appreciate you not taking their spaces, plus it will be less noisy for you.
- Do not get chairs and barbeque out, nor put out your awning. Avoid using your slideouts if possible.
- Stay only one night.
- Pick up any trash you have generated.
- Because boondocking on Wal-Mart's parking lot is a hot issue in many towns, following these simple rules will help keep these places open to travelers who want a night's sleep before moving on. Disregarding them, especially making your area look like you've moved in for a lengthy stay, is what gets local RV park owners up in arms. They see RVs in a Wal-Mart or other parking lot as revenue they should have had. Escapees RV Club provides Boondocking Etiquette cards you can download and then leave on an individual's windshield who is not following these guidelines and jeopardizing the rights of other RV travelers as well.

BOONDOCKING IN THE "BOONIES"

When we think of regular boondocking, we think more of camping in wilderness areas, often on public lands. Campgrounds in public lands generally do not provide hookups. The USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also allow camping outside their designated campgrounds. In some places, it is called "dispersed camping."

Serious boondockers modify their RVs so they can take advantage of free camping in pretty places. Solar panels and an inverter keep batteries charged. A catalytic or ceramic heater is more efficient than the regular RV heater and doesn't draw down the battery. Boondockers may have a Blue Boy®, a portable waste holding tank, so they can take blackwater into a dump. They carry water jugs to haul water to their fresh water tank. Boondockers learn how to conserve both power and water so they can extend their stays and may even use solar ovens for cooking and heat water with the sun. (To learn more about how to boondock effectively, see the article by Paul Bernhagen at RVHometown.com)

Most campers are here for a wilderness experience; they enjoy the peace and quiet. Following these guidelines will help all enjoy their stay as well as protect the environment.

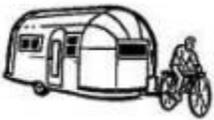
- Park in previously used areas. Do not create a new road or parking spot or run over vegetation.

- Park away from other RVs so each can enjoy the peace and quiet. If you do have a generator you plan to run, park far away from other RVs and limit your use to an hour or so in the morning and another in early evening. Generator noise carries and is not part of the wilderness experience.
- Respect quiet hours. Do not run generators or play TVs or radios loudly after 10 p.m. or before 7 a.m. (Some areas may have different quiet hours so check with the agency.)
- In some areas dumping grey water on the ground is permissible. Always check with the agency first. Dumping black water on the ground is never permitted.
- Leave the area cleaner than you found it. Dispose of trash in a trash container after you leave.
- Read and follow the agency's rules regarding fires, collecting firewood, and quiet hours. Respect time limits, which are typically 14 days.

RV groups meeting on public lands should choose an area large enough to accommodate their group without damaging the environment and should respect the rights of nearby campers that are not part of the group. They should also educate their members, who may never have boondocked before, on ways to extend their battery power without constantly running their generators and on ways to conserve water.

For many RVers, boondocking is the true RV experience. The ability to camp without hookups is one of the advantages of RV ownership; you can camp free of charge and use the systems that were designed to be self-contained. Using courtesy and common sense can make your boondocking experience-whether on blacktop or in the wilderness-a good one for you and other RVers.

Join Us / Renew – Click to go to the WDCU website to RENEW



We have two ways to join or renew your membership – by mail and online via Paypal. Note the Paypal option costs more to offset the fees.

By Mail:

[WDCU Membership Application Form](#)

1. Print a copy of the Membership Application.
2. Fill out the application form. For renewals, note changes as necessary.
3. Regular members write a \$66 check payable to the WDCU.
4. Affiliate members might prefer to send \$1.00 cash or more for multiple years.
5. Mail the application and check to the Treasurer & Membership Chairman, John S. DiBella, 8425 Toll House Rd, Annandale, VA 22003 JSDBLA@Gmail.com.

By Online dues with PayPal:

<http://wcu.wbcci.net/44-2/>

Please feel free to contact any of the unit officers; we are here to assist you.

Do you have an idea for a rally? Please tell us your idea. We are always looking for places that are fun and interesting.

Unit Officers

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ONE MOORE THING – FROM THE EDITOR

OMG have we been challenged this year. We slid nicely into January with not too much snow and then WHAM. The end of January generously gave us over 30" in one storm. A second storm came a couple of days later giving us another 12" and the beginning of February has greeted us with a three day storm. All this snow is making me pine for camping! But hoping and wishing for camping isn't going to get me there any sooner. So I decided to try and enjoy what season is here instead of wishing my life away.

I signed up for a Winter BOW (Becoming an Outdoors Woman) class through NH Fish and Game. The class I took was Shoe and Shoot which is a snow shoeing day in the woods and target shooting with a .22 rifle. It was cold, but I wasn't cold due to the many layers of clothing.

What a great day it was spending time outside trying a new challenge with two of my girlfriends. I have snow shod before but had not shot a .22 rifle never mind doing both at the same time. It is always challenging and an accomplishment to get out of your comfort zone and try something new. For all of my female Airstream friends, google Becoming an Outdoors Woman and find a program in or near your state. I had such a great time; I forgot that I was supposed to be pining for camping, for a day anyway.



Here I am (on the left) NOT cold but happy and tired!

I hope that you enjoyed the first newsletter and were anxiously awaiting this one! Two new rallies were added for June and July and I went in search of an interesting RV article. I found many but chose one about boon docking. Please let me know if you find an interesting article others may enjoy.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so. You won't want to miss a single camping experience with your unit. Send your dues to John at the address above on page 4 or find the link on our website to pay through Paypal (for a small additional fee):

The next edition will be at the end of March. Please send any articles, rally photos, rally recipes, member news whatever to me by March 15. Send newsletter submissions to lindamoorenh@comcast.net.

Remember, we're just campin'!

Linda Moore #15116