



The Capital Times

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Washington DC Unit
Region 2 Unit 170



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER – Michael Vallen

CKR DEADLINE – April 7. Don't miss out!

Whew, this winter is finally over!!! I can't tell you just how utterly sick of it I was/am. As some of you may know Compton Bassett did not fare well this winter. Someone forgot to order fuel oil for the main house heating system; the entire system froze and then exploded. It was quite a mess. The snow storm we had in the area a couple of weeks ago also weakened the house structurally and it has subsequently been deemed uninhabitable. So, sad to say Sean and I are going to have to leave that beautiful place. It was fun while it lasted.

Our host at Marietta House is very excited about our upcoming rally. She has placed a public notice on the Prince Georges County Parks website so that the inquiring public can stop by and see what we are all about. Who knows maybe we'll attract a few new members! And the REALLY great news is that she is going to provide us with a source for water!!! So if you've been hesitating about signing up for the rally then hesitate no more we have water!!! Remember that generators, the quite ones, are more than welcome.

I'm working out the schedule for the rally as we speak. I do know of a few things that will certainly be happening. First, the museum house is hosting a "wear your best/favorite/most creative hat and take a stroll in the park" event on Saturday, April 25th. I think we should all plan to attend, and wear our best and most creative camping/glamping gear LOL. It should be a fun event. Together with this we will be having our annual Open House, so get your trailers all ready for lots of visitors. I hope everyone who attends participates in the Open House.

Continued on pg 2

Prez message continued

I have the infamous Collin Daniels of Hofarc fame, coming on Saturday to give a partial day class on how to polish an Airstream. I met Collin last year when I traveled across country visiting vintage trailer campgrounds and vintage trailer restoration shops. Collin, who worked for Hofarc in Santa Barbara at the time, polished my 1964 Overlander in exactly 4 hours! It was so incredible. He is the hardest working guy I've met in this industry and so when I found out he had become a free agent, I asked him to come and work for me for a month. His visit will overlap with our Rally so I've asked him to come and give a class. He's super excited about it and I'm sure you will all enjoy learning and watching him go to town on one of the vintage trailers that will be at the rally.

We will absolutely have a cast iron Dutch Oven cooking evening on Thursday, April 23rd. All will be welcome to participate, I may even break down and buy one myself and whip something up :). Sean and I got our hands on a really nice projector; some of you may have seen my Instagram posts where we projected *I Love Lucy* on the side of the Airstream while we were in Florida. So I'm sure we'll have a movie night or perhaps an *I Love Lucy* festival, certainly everyone would enjoy that LOL.

Friday I'm going to leave open so you can explore the area. I will ask the house director if we can do an evening private tour of the house...not quite the ghost tour we had of Compton Bassett but none the less fun and interesting. Oh and Campbell Alaniz....no you cannot write your name on the house mirrors this year, wink...think you're slick. We will have a semi catered dinner, where I'll provide the main course. You're all in for a treat, Michael Wilkinson's sister and brother-in-law own a small chain restaurant in DC called; Pete's New Haven. They make excellent Italian fare. We will have plenty...so put on your Italian cooking hats and come up with a great addition to this pot luck.

After all the events Saturday we'll have a feast to be determined....so much to do and so little time to do it.

Since this will be the final Newsletter to go out before CKR, I do hope that everyone reading this will consider coming, even if it's just to visit. But please your participation in our activities is what makes this a great club so, Register and JOIN US!

See you down the road. Michael V



MID-WINTER IBT MOTIONS – Taken from the Region 2 News & Views

Motion 1: The hiring of a new Club Administrator/Manager:

It was unanimous to confirm Lori Plummer in that position;

Motion 2: By-Law Change to eliminate the potential award of a “Life-Time Membership” to an International Past President and his/her spouse.

The vote was 12 to 5 to eliminate;

Motion 3: By-Law Change to delete the wording “discontinuance of the Lifetime Membership”:

This would show the Club that the IBT is committed to this program and to those who have invested in the Club as Lifetime Members:

The vote was 12 to 4 with one abstention to approve;

Motion 4: By-Law Change to reduce the time to renew membership after termination from twelve months to six, making it clearer what steps must be made to renew:

Adopted;

Motion 5: Fiscal Year: to change to dates from July 1-June 30 to January 1-December 31:

After much debate, this motion was justifiable withdrawn;

Motion 6: To Change to process of site selection for the annual International Rally:

In essence, this motion was to create (4) committees that would be geographically located to assure that this rally would be rotated around the country as opposed to the current “no-restriction” basis of locating the rally, helping to avoid the situation where the last several International rallyies have been going further and further west.

In concept, this is a great idea, and one that should be adopted. However, after much debate and discussion, with the promise of the creation of s study committee:

This motion was withdrawn;

Motion 7: By-Law clarification that the International Standing and Special Committee reports, required to be given semi-annually, be submitted in advance of the meetings electronically, and not be required to be read aloud. This would allow the IBT to pre-read the reports, speed up the IBT Seminar and Meeting, and greatly reduce the need for paper copies.

Adopted;

Motion 8: By-Law Change on appointments of members of Standing Committees:

Currently the process requires appointment/approval by the Executive Committee (EC7) of the IBT, which is the International: President, three Vice Presidents, Immediate Past President, Treasurer and Secretary), and changes the process to appointment by the President and approval by the EC7.

This also suggests that each committee have at least two additional members, and each committee chair and members be published in the Club directory for all members to make contact with should they wish to serve.

Adopted: 14 to 3;

Motion 9: 2017 International Rally (IR) Site and New Dates:

This motion was to approve the signing of a contract to have the IR in Escanaba, Michigan, And to move the dates to July 22nd thru July 29th, 2017

The discussion revealed that there will be two parking options:

350-400 electric sites; 200+ sites considered “boon-docking” at reduced rates.

Obviously, moving away from July 4th is significant, and positively received.

Certainly, the same can be said about the location.

Adopted.

2015 WDCU RALLY SCHEDULE

The Camping season is almost here! Don't be left behind without a reservation. Contact the rally hosts, or campground to get in the fun. **NOTE: CKR reservation deadline is April 7.** Contact Michael Vallen.

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 – Capitol Kick Off Rally -

A Buddy Rally - **Res deadline– Apr 7**

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: 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.

DOG Cooking – Join us on Thursday at the CKR. May even on Friday!

What is DOG Cooking?

- Cooking together at a Dutch Oven Gathering (DOG).

What is Dutch oven cooking?

- Using a cast iron pot and charcoal to simulate what you would cook in an oven.

What do I need for Dutch oven cooking?

- Dutch oven is a seasoned cast iron pot that has legs on the bottom and a lip around the lid



- Charcoal
- Container to hold the hot charcoal and the Dutch oven (we have a volcano grill but you can use anything that will retain the heat and not burn the grass)
- Optional:
 - Timer
 - Dutch oven charcoal calculator there are apps available for your phone or tablet

What can I cook in a Dutch oven?

- You can cook anything you bake in the oven. Casseroles, bread, cake, hors d'oeuvres



- Our favourite cook book is the Lodge Cast Iron cookbook (bought it at a Lowes)
- Google Dutch oven recipes

References:

- Lodge recipes <http://www.lodgemfg.com/recipes/outdoorentrees>
- Dutch oven madness blog <http://dutchovenmadness.blogspot.ca/>
- Lodge cast iron <http://www.lodgemfg.com/seasoned-cast-iron/camp-ovens-and-grills>
- Volcano Grill <http://www.volcanogrills.com/products/collapsible-stovegrills>

Need more information contact Dave or Mary-Lou Gatward – dmlgatward@yahoo.ca

Is Your RV Overloaded?

Reprinted from www.funroads.com

Did you know that driving or towing an overloaded rig is a leading cause of RV accidents? Even a slight overload or unequal weight distribution can seriously restrict braking and steering, dramatically increase fuel consumption, and cause sudden blowouts or breakdowns. An overweight RV also creates the danger of early failure in your rig's tires, brakes, wheels, drive train and other components.

If any of these RV weight problems sound familiar to you, you're not alone. Disturbing statistics, compiled by RV safety expert John Anderson during rally weighing exercises, show that nearly two-thirds of all the RVs weighed exceed one or more of their load ratings.

Controlling Your RV's Weight Problem Does Your Rig Need A Diet

Simply put, your RV is overloaded if it exceeds any of the manufacturer's established limitations for total load, axle load, or tire loading. The gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) is the maximum amount your RV can safely carry. It includes both the wet weight and the cargo weight. Be sure to check your owner's manual for weight limitations.

Recent Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) weight-labeling requirements make it easier for new RV buyers to judge weight and carrying capacity. If you're in the market for a new motor home or travel trailer, you'll find this information very helpful. But if you're already an RV owner, there are important steps you can take toward safer weight distribution.

If you've been gradually accumulating more and more "stuff" over the years, it's probably time to put your RV on a weight reduction program. But first you need to take a trip to the scales. Don't guess at your load weight—it's easy to underestimate by hundreds of pounds. You can have your rig weighed at a public weigh station for a minimal fee. Look in the Yellow Pages under "Scales, Public" to find the location of scales nearest you.

Be sure to weigh your rig when it's fully loaded. It's also important to weigh each axle separately. After the weigh-in you might be surprised at how quickly the combined weight of your passengers and all your "stuff" adds up to more than you expected.

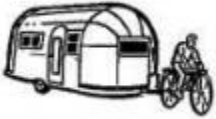
Lightening That Load

If your RV turns out to be a heavyweight, look it over from top to bottom and consider what's necessary and what's not. Just because your rig has a lot of shelves, drawers and other storage space doesn't mean you have to fill them all up. If possible, remove all your belongings, then put back only the items you really need. When you reload, remember to store heavy items low and forward, lightweight articles high. Be sure heavy items can't slide into the water pump or other fixed equipment. Try to balance the load between the two sides of the RV. A simple measurement of clearances on both sides can aid in proper balance. You can minimize swing, sway or wobble if you keep the vehicle's center of gravity low.

When loading your motor home or travel trailer, make sure everything has a place and is easy to get at when needed. Experienced RVers prepare a packing map of luggage and storage areas for easy access. Secure all cargo inside and outside the vehicle. Anything rattling around loose is a potential hazard, as well as noisy.

Finally, check your tires—one of the most critical factors in safe RVing. Since most tire failures are caused by overload or under inflation, be sure your tires are inflated in accordance with proper inflation pressures for the load you're carrying. Overloaded tires are more prone to blow out. Keep tires of similar tread patterns and similar construction on the same axles.

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://wdcu.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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AIRSTREAM MARKET

Do you have an Airstream or Airstream related item to sell? Send an email to lindamoorenh@comcast.net. I will put it in the next newsletter or send out to the membership.



USEFUL LINKS

Do you have a favorite place or website that you get your Airstream serviced, Airstream “stuff” or Airstream info? Don’t keep it a secret, spread the word.

Send an email to lindamoorenh@comcast.net to be included in the next newsletter.

Here is one of our favorites:



[campers!](#)

[Vintage Trailer Supply - parts and supplies for vintage travel trailers and](#)

ONE MOORE THING – FROM THE EDITOR

It is almost time and I can't wait. I hope the snow melts soon so we can get the trailer out of the back yard.

There is only 34 days until our first rally of the season for WDCU. It is the CKR or Capitol Kick-Off Rally. If you haven't contacted Michael yet and want to go, please don't wait! Info is on the Rally Schedule page and also on the website. The registration deadline is April 7. There is much planning to do so reservations can't be accepted after that date. As of this issue, 17 reservations have been made and there is a cut off of 40.

New additions to the newsletter this month, Airstream Market and Useful Links. The Airstream Market should only include Airstream trailers or Airstream related "stuff". The Useful Links can be for sharing information about Airstream service, parts or "stuff". Editor discretion will determine if any submitted listing is valid to be published.

The next edition will be at the beginning of May. Please send any articles, rally photos, rally recipes, member news whatever to me by April 30. Send newsletter submissions to lindamoorenh@comcast.net.

Remember, we're just campin'!

Linda Moore #15116

