



# The Capital Times

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Washington DC Unit  
Region 2 Unit 170



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## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER – Michael Vallen**

What a great season so far! It has been a joy to see so many of you at our rallies, to meet new members and to have new members join our group. We are awesome!

As the season is coming to a close, can you believe it??? I'm happy to say we still have three more official rallies planned, Trap Pond hosted by Greg and Lori Wilson (my personal favorite of the year), Installation hosted by Chris and Carol Assaf (new members it will be great to have a large turn out for this rally :) ) and Fall Leaves hosted by none other than myself. It looks like the A loop at Trap pond is nearly full so if you haven't made your reservation please do soon, or get at the bottom of B loop...you'll have views of the pond from your trailer there.

I'll be traveling to Florida shortly after Installation to visit my elderly Aunts...I haven't seen these two in more than a decade. One, is flying in from California, my home state and the other lives in Sarasota. I'm planning to take one of the Airstreams, hopefully the 1957 Overlander I've recently restored. I'll camp at Ft. De Soto County Park on the Tampa bay. Then I'm off to Texas to pick up some vintage appliances and other assorted parts from someone who has demoed their 1953 Flying Cloud. I love finding this stuff and putting it back to use again. I'm always amazed at how robust the 50s Marvel refrigerators are...beaten and abused for decades and somehow they magically keep working! I have a friend in Beltsville Maryland who is an appliance collector (yes they do exist) and he also runs a repair shop. He is currently restoring to like new condition the appliances I'm collecting so they can be repurposed into the various trailers I'm working on. Anyhow I'll return just in time from Texas to host the Fall Leaves rally where again I hope to see many of you!

It has been a great year I feel good that the club has progressed out of the duldrums of the past and I'm glad that I was able to do my small part in making that happen. I'm excited for the upcoming seasons and in particular with having Linda Moore at the helm. I will tell you all if it were not for Linda this year it would never have been as great as it has been. She is a great asset to our club.

And, since this is likely the final newsletter before I am no longer the guy in charge I want to take a moment to personally thank each of our rally hosts this year; All of the helpers at CKR, I couldn't have pulled that one off without all of you, Nancy and Carl McDowell who hosted the Gettysburg rally, Glenn and Annie Barlow who hosted the Delaware Seashore State Park rally (fantastic time), Steven and Sara Bernheisel who hosted the Camping on the Battenkill rally in southern Vermont (and made me spend way too much money on pottery at Bennington Pottery!), Nick and Jill Iverson who hosted the Knoebels rally (everyone got their fill of roller coasters!) and in advance of course Chris and Carol Assaf.

Thank you all again for making this a great and memorable year. Be safe and travel well...see you down the road.

Michael V

# RALLY REPORTS

## **CAMPING ON THE BATTENKILL – July 23-26, 2015 – Hosts Steve and Sara Bernheisel – Rally report by Michael V**

Camping on the Battenkill is a lovely privately owned campground in southern Vermont. We camped in the large rally field which is adjacent to the river, nice wide camping spaces. Steven B and I caravanned up a day early making it safely but what a long drive...nearly 10 hours. The weather when we arrived was so perfect, while it was in the 90s and a swamp in DC it was low 70s with nearly no moisture in the air...just lovely.

We were a small group, 6 trailers and a motorhome. We had a blast. Thursday was spent organizing ourselves, setting up camp and figuring out where we would all hang out. Steven and Sara were first time rally hosts...so I helped a little bit. We set up between my trailer and theirs with two portable pavillion tents...we ended up needing them as it rained briefly each day. Folks arrived for the most part by late Thursday afternoon with one family arriving on Friday.

There were lots of activities, eating out was a favorite as there are a number of great inns and small restaurants in Bennington and Arlington Vermont. I had probably the best blue cheese burger ever in Arlington! There was a car show at Hemmings which several folks went to, the report back was that it was great for those unfamiliar with car shows but just a bit better than average for others. Many of us went to Bennington to visit Bennington Pottery. Interestingly this pottery is a traditional potter, set up in a former farm supply store in the mid 1950s at the zenith of American pottery production. I've been a collector of a particular California pottery for more years than I care to admit and have original factory photographs from that potter's factory. I was amazed that Bennington was set up in exactly the same way! Their product is all hand made with only the assistance of heavy machinery. It was just awesome to be given a real behind the scene tour, to see exactly how each piece is made from the pug mill to the kiln. Many of us went to tour the plant and we all ended up taking home some great ware.

Part of Saturday was spend in Arlington, antiquing and visiting the famous bookstore, yes one still exists, where many a book was purchased. The little town is quite beautiful. The highlight of Arlington for many of us was the doormen at the Equinox Hotel, a 5+ star hotel on the edge of town...those poor guys have to wear knee high tan and black argyle socks and black knickers to work every day! We later found out the hotel also hosts a fairly famous golf course :)

Probably the most stunning activity was the drive up the the summit of Mount Equinox, about a 3,500 foot climb to the top. The summit can be hiked too but we all drove. It is about a 30 minute drive up a very steep and hairpin turned road. At the summit is a beautiful heavy timber with exposed hand joinery visitor's center. Oddly (to me at least) this structure replaced one of the first International Style (an architectural term) commercial structures built in Vermont...the Equinox Inn. There is a bit of the history of the Inn as well as the history of the mountain itself. We spent a nice early afternoon up there and enjoyed the views immensely.

Our main meals were hosted by Sara and Steven and included catered BBQ from a organic farm raised pork that was locally grown...great stuff. Breakfast was healthy with locally made donuts (no one could get enough), locally baked bagels and an assortment of fruits, yogurt and cereals. All in all Sara and Steven did an AMAZING job hosting their first rally and I know all of us are hoping they will get us all back up to Vermont in the years to come.

Of special note for me personally was a gift left for me in my trailer. I waited to open it until I got home since it was addressed to both Sean and I. I wanted him to see what it was. When I opened it I was shocked as it turned out to be an original painting done by Sharleen Field. It is actually a pen and ink drawing that is painted over with water color. The image is of the tenant house/slave from Compton Bassett after our group cleanup during CKR in 2013. The painting is just lovely and I will always treasure it. The painting was given to us as a wedding present from Sharlene...just the best.

## **KNOEBELS RALLY REPORT – August 20-23, 2015 – HOSTS Nick and Jill Iverson – Rally report by Linda Moore**

What a great weekend! What's not to like at an amusement park! For those of you that missed it, you definitely missed it! I know that WAM and I had a great time with all of our friends old and new. There were many new friends at this rally that I hope to see again. There were 19 kids present at this rally, which is was great. In addition to our rally mates with young children many of us brought our grandchildren as well.

The main event of the rally was Knoebels amusement park, which is a great little, actually BIG amusement park now. The great thing about Knoebels is that you can walk around the whole park without spending a dime to get in. Of course not spending money is a challenge after seeing the great rides and tons of carnival food to be had.

There were 23 rigs in attendance. We took over one side of a whole row plus some. Nick and Jill Iverson did a wonderful job hosting the rally with Greg and Lori Wilson frying up their fabulous "Rally Fries" and Doug and Suzanne Gould helping out where ever possible. We were able to have our usual potluck supper one night and the summer time favorite of hamburgers and hot dogs the next night with those "Rally Fries". I couldn't stop eating the fries and I think others had the same issue! Yum!

The highlight of the weekend, in addition to bringing our grandson Will, was riding the roller coaster Impulse. What a ride! The ride starts by climbing straight up for 98 ft cresting the hill and then coming straight down and then going into many inversions, cobra rolls and vertical loops. It was one minute and twenty seconds of sheer excitement! I screamed the whole ride!

I know I wasn't the only one that enjoyed this roller coaster. Here is a picture of 9 year old Eva Ferry and her dad Sean on Impulse. She loved it! Eva is a thrill seeker for sure!

What a sad day on Sunday when we all had to leave. What a great time and I look forward to be with our unit members again at the next rally, which is Trap Pond. If you haven't made your reservations yet, please do and we hope to see you there! I am ready for some relaxation after that ride!

Linda



# 2015 WDCU RALLY SCHEDULE

The Summer camping season is almost up. Make sure your reservations are in for the next ones highlighted in pink below. Next up, Trap Pond with Greg and Lori Wilson Sept 17-20, 2015.

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](mailto:mevallen@gmail.com)  
CKR REGISTRATION link

## **May 15-17** – Gettysburg Rally

Round Top Campground, Gettysburg, Pa  
Contact: Nancy & Carl McDowell  
[giommi1@gmail.com](mailto:giommi1@gmail.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](mailto:agbarlow@aol.com)  
See more rally information at the end of the newsletter.

## **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](mailto:steven.bernheisel@apsva.us)

## **Aug 20-23** – Knoebels Rally

Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg, PA  
Contact: Nick Iverson [NIC6930@gmail.com](mailto:NIC6930@gmail.com)  
See coupon at the end of the newsletter.

## **Sep 17-20** – Trap Pond Rally

Trap Pond State Park, Laurel, DE  
Contact: Lori & Greg Wilson [flamingo.babe@comcast.net](mailto:flamingo.babe@comcast.net)

## **Oct 2-4** - Installation Rally

Starlite Campground, Lancaster, PA  
Contact: Carol & Chris Assaf [chris@ctassaf.com](mailto:chris@ctassaf.com)

## **Oct 30-Nov 1** – Fall Leaves Rally

Shenandoah River State Park  
Bentonville, VA  
Contact: Michael Vallen

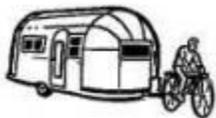
## **Dec 19-Jan 3, 2016** - FL 'Forgotten Coast' Mini-Caravan

Contact: Michael Vallen [mevallen@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## [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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Where are our long summer days? The air is turning cool and crisp and it is the best time to go camping. A couple of weeks ago we were in the heat of the summer, time to cozy up with a sweat shirt at the campfire.

We just came back from two really fun rallies. One was put on by Vintage Trailer Supply and was held at a state park near Montpelier. The fun part about this rally was we were on display in the middle of this small city. We had a great time with people coming to see the trailers all day long. Steve Hingtgen was a wonderful host.

The other rally was Knoebels, which is always a blast. I guess you can't take the kid out of anyone when you are at an amusement park.

Next up is Trap Pond Sept 17-20, 2015 with the Installation Rally right behind on Oct 1-4, 2015 at the Starlite Campground in Lancaster, PA.

If you haven't reserved your spaces at any of the other rallies yet, you really need to get going. You don't want to miss a single one. The next rallies are above highlighted in pink. I hope to see you there.

The next newsletter will be the beginning of October. Please send any articles, rally photos, rally recipes, member news whatever to me by September 25. Send newsletter submissions to [lindamoorenh@comcast.net](mailto:lindamoorenh@comcast.net).

**Remember, we're just campin'!**

**Linda Moore #15116**