



# The Capital Times

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Washington DC Unit  
Region 2 Unit 170



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

Happy New Year! Well it is a little late for that but what a year it is going to be for the WDCU! When Linda Moore offered to step up to be 1st VP in November and then offered to start up our newsletter again I was stunned and very, very pleased! Linda asked me to write a "letter from the president" for this request I am honored.

The passing of both Stuart Natoff in 2013 and John Guiland was tough on me personally and I know was a great loss for all of you. But their passing, and the personal effect for me helped me to realize how wonderful an organization our group is. I miss Stuart, he made me feel so welcome to our rallies, from the very first time I arrived at a rally! He always complemented my backup skills and most importantly engaged me in conversations I will never forget. John I will miss, particularly at this upcoming CKR, last year's CKR was the last rally that he and Harley were able to attend. I hope that we can all gather together this year, perhaps at CKR and spend a moment remembering John.

Recently, Sean (DaSean is his birth name, he uses Sean for professional reasons...that's another story) and I went on a two week trip to Florida with our AS. While we were away relaxing and recharging our batteries I had a lot of time to think about what this organization means to me and to imagine what I feel its' potentials are. I think it is important that I express some of my thoughts and will take this opportunity to do just that.

First I want to put to rest the past. I was not an Airstream owner several years ago. We bought our first trailer in 2010 and went to our first rally, joining WDCU in September. I'm not certain when all of the unpleasant events transpired, but I estimate it was during the 2009 season. I know 2010 brought other events. I truly don't know what transpired. But from what I have heard it was a lot of unpleasantness and the loss of group members participating in our rallies and the loss of members. I want to see this all put in the past and to encourage our nonparticipants and former members to come back into our group. Their participation was and is important and will make our group an even better organization. I need all of you to help me achieve this.

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## **More from Michael:**

Second, we need leaders and future leaders of our group. I had to do a small bit of lobbying to get a lineup of future leaders, but that can't be the only effort. I personally believe that leading a group is not only an honor, but it is a chance to put your own spin on the group and to set the agenda as you see fit. We are not all leaders, which I understand, so if you personally don't want that role then volunteer for the many other roles we have available. During this past year I personally helped bring three new members to our group, Chris and Carol Assaf, Steven and Sara Bernheisel and Michael Wilkinson. I've asked each of these new members to participate actively this year in our activities. The Assaf's will host our Installation rally in October, the Bernheisel's are planning a rally for us in Vermont and Michael Wilkinson will be taking over our social media duties. What an amazing group we can be if we have more folks wanting to do things than there were available? What can you do?

Third, our rally schedule is shaping up. I want to see our rallies grow, not so much in size but in who attends. When I look at groups out west and in the Rockies, they have events all year long...there isn't exactly a camping season. They get together in the winter too. I know many of us live in places where we get real winter and that winterizing your trailer is a hassle that you only want to do once. That said though, many of us can either winterize later or wouldn't mind roughing it a bit and winterizing twice in a season. I think it would be wonderful if we could plan a mid-winter rally. As well, the tradition of an installation rally being held in early October is great, but having a rally after should be acceptable. I'd like to see a fall leaves rally held in late October, plus it can be tied to Halloween which is a very popular camping event all over the region. Who would like to host one of these two rallies THIS year?

Finally, as a unit, we are able to host what WBCCI calls "mini-caravans". I think this could be a fantastic avenue for broadening our membership base, bring income to our unit, broaden our activity base and just have some plain old wonderful times! I am volunteering to organize and host the first mini caravan this year. It will take place over the holidays, late December through early January. The caravan will travel to Florida and will visit at least two simply wonderful places in that beautiful state. I'd like to hear from you personally if you are interested in participating in this minivan. I'd like to have commitments from our members no later than February 15, 2015. See the article in this newsletter for more information.

The WBCCI has become an organization that many feel is stagnant; we all know and recognize this. It seems stuck in traditions that few of us adhere to or are interested in. But it is still a viable organization, it is at the helm of our group, and it will eventually grow out of its stagnant state. It has to, to survive. The WDCU has always been a rebel of sorts, but more of a rebel without a cause. It is time to embrace what we all love, our Airstreams (motorhomes, trailers, B-vans and Squarestreams), to gather, and of course camp and adventure...together. Becoming an example and a group of leaders rather than rebels with personal agendas is what I hope our group can and will become. This upcoming year is an important one and it is going to be up to each of us to take an active part in setting the examples needed for our group to become the trend and example setters that the WBCCI needs. I hope all of you are willing to take up the torch and make our already fantastic group the very best it can be.

**See you down the road –  
Michael**

# 2015 WDCU RALLY SCHEDULE

**Apr 23-26** – Capital Kick Off Rally  
Marietta House Museum  
Glenn Dale, MD  
Contact: Michael Vallen

**May 15-17** – Gettysburg Rally  
Round Top Campground  
Gettysburg, PA  
Contact: Nancy & Carl McDowell

**May 27 – 31** – Region 2 Rally

**Jun 26 – Jul 4** – International  
Farmington, NM

**Aug 20-23** – Knoebels Rally  
Knoebels Amusement Resort  
Elysburg, PA  
Contact: Michael Vallen prior to 2/1/15, &  
Nick Iverson

**Sep 17-20** – Trap Pond Rally  
Trap Pond State Park  
Laurel, DE  
Contact: Lori & Greg Wilson

**Oct 2-4** - Installation Rally  
Starlite Campground  
Lancaster, PA  
Contact: Carol & Chris Assaf

**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

THE RALLY SCHEDULE IS OUT!  
THE RALLY SCHEDULE IS OUT!

Yes, we are excited.

To the right is the current Rally schedule listing. It appears to be a very exciting year for travel, adventure, new and old friends and of course, happy hours and food.

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/>

## CALL FOR RALLY HOSTS

Michael has done a great job in working with the members to have some fun rallies. But June and July are open at this time. If you have a great location or event in mind that would make a great rally, 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.

# State of the WDCU Unit

## Treasurer & Membership Report

10 January 2015

### Membership Report:

	Year: <u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	
Regular Members	80	70	(16 have not yet renewed)
<u>Affiliate Members</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>32</u>	( 8 have not yet renewed)
Total Membership	115	102	

New memberships received in 2014:	8
USA Regular and Affiliate Members:	97
Canadian Reg. & Affiliate Members:	5
Life Members, Regular:	3 ( USA )
Life Members, Affiliate:	2 (1 USA + 1 Canada)

### Treasury Report:

16 April 2014 Wells Fargo Bank Balance:	\$ 4,614.40
10 Jan. 2015 Wells Fargo Bank Balance:	\$ 5,701.64

### Notes:

- 1.) On this date we have a 20% drop in renewals. Some prefer to renew after the first of the year. We don't want to delete names from our membership roll and mailing list.
- 2.) Last year we initiated the practice of giving our members an option to pay their annual dues, and Rally fees through an online PayPal system. It appears to be working well as 21 members have used this convenience. Although our Unit pays a transaction fee, the financial impact is minimal, and we make a little on renewals through PayPal.

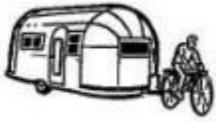
### Respectfully Submitted,

John S. DiBella #8425  
WDCU Membership & Treasurer

Hello All,

Please get your dues in for 2015. If you have already sent them to John, thank you. Click the hyperlink on the next page to go to the WDCU website

## **[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.

### **By Online dues with PayPal:**

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

*John S. DiBella*  
8425 Toll House Rd.  
Annandale, VA 22003  
[JSDBLA@Gmail.com](mailto:JSDBLA@Gmail.com)

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

**President** Michael Vallen #4329  
[mevallen@gmail.com](mailto:mevallen@gmail.com)

**First Vice President** Linda Moore #15116  
[lindamoorenh@comcast.net](mailto:lindamoorenh@comcast.net)

**Second Vice President** Glenn Barlow #3215  
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**Third Vice President** Deborah Bede (#4980)  
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**Fourth Vice President** Mary-Lou Gatward #11443

**Immediate Past President** RJ Marquette #13270  
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**Trustee** Kim Alaniz (#2468)  
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**Trustee** Steven Bernheisel

**Trustee** Suzanne Gould (#5024)  
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# ONE MOORE THING – FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone! I hope your Holiday Season was a good one spending your time with loved ones.

I know it has been some time since the last newsletter. I thought it was time! There are plenty of ways to get the WDCU word and activities out through the social media. I think it is important to send something directly to our members and affiliates. This first newsletter focus is about reestablishment and communication. Going forward, I hope I have some time to be creative. The bottom line is to get information out to our members and affiliates.

So I hope you like this first newsletter!

Next on the agenda – Rally planning!

We have a great rally schedule and we are trying to plan more. Please let any one of the officers know if you would like to host a rally. Help is out there for you so don't think you need to run the rally on your own. The WDCU is very 'low maintenance'. It doesn't take much for us to have a good time.

By now most of you have paid your dues, thank you for that. If you haven't sent your dues to John DiBella, please think about doing so soon.

I would like to put out another newsletter in February as I think a lot of new information is in the works. Please send any articles that you would like to submit, rally recipes, member news whatever to me by February 15. That should be enough time to get a February issue out before the end of that month.

Send newsletter submissions to [lindamoorenh@comcast.net](mailto:lindamoorenh@comcast.net).

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

**Linda Moore**

**#15116**