



GOOD LIFE NEWS



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FLORIDA UNIT 027

NOVEMBER 2007

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be my last President's Message as my term of office comes to an end this month. Dave Wenger will take over the presidency on November 29th. I am sure he will receive the same level of support I was fortunate enough to receive during my term.

This year has been most rewarding for me. I would like to thank all the little people who have been so helpful: the entire population of Lilliput, my friends from the Yellow Brick Road, the Keebler Elves (those cookies were delicious), and the leprechauns who led me to the pot of gold. Oh, there were others too. Frank and Joan Carson who always gave good advice, Ellen McMillan who puts out a quality newsletter and has kept me on track, Dave and Betty Wenger who were always there to help, and **a host of others**. Most importantly, a big thank you to my First Lady, Josie. She was always there to give advice, use her many talents and throw her support behind all of our activities to make my job easy. To all of you, my sincerest thanks.

The annual membership dues request has met with resounding success. We lost a few, which is expected. A couple sold their Airstreams, one went to another unit up north, and so on. Although the count is not quite complete, we will have between 65 and 70 memberships. Frank has done an outstanding job, sending e-mail, calling on the phone and beating on doors to remind our members it is dues time. As usual, we are indebted to him and to Joan for the hard work they do.

The Election Rally was a success. I wish more of the membership had come to Camelot with us. It was fun and my first attempt at hosting a rally. I think we all had a good time. More about that in the newsletter and on the website.

The Membership Meeting went well, but here again, I wish more could have attended. Lots of stuff got accomplished. The two most important were the election of the new officers and the installation of two new Airstreamers, Phil and Doris Drugge (drew'ghee). They are a welcome addition to our Unit.

We have 27 Airstreamers signed up for the Cracker Christmas Rally November 28th to December 3rd. Tom Tisdell will preside at the installation of the new officers. We will have a membership meeting to discuss some changes to the Bylaws.

It seems volunteer rallies get much better attendance. There may be a clue there.

Josie and I consider it a privilege to have served as your President and First Lady. Shelby has been pleased to be First Dog and has enjoyed the attention. I am sure you all will offer your continued support to the new President and First Lady and the other Unit officers. We need all of you to take an active interest in the club and support its activities.

Vic Smith, President, Florida Unit 027 (sigh)

THE ELECTION RALLY

The eighteen who attended the Election Rally had a great time. Where were you?

The park where the rally was held in Malabar, Florida is truly a Camelot. The grounds and facilities of the Camelot RV Park were impeccably maintained, and the view across the Indian River was gorgeous. The management was accommodating to the MAX. They didn't charge for our guests and didn't care when the sites were paid for as long as they were. The owners are a unique and friendly group of folks who have the enjoyment of their guests at heart.

Josie Smith gave welcome packages with information about the area and some freebies. **Betty Wenger** went way beyond continental breakfasts serving bagels, bread, fresh fruit, fresh baked muffins, cereal and coffee each morning. Hers and **Dave's** efforts on the behalf of the members was much appreciated.

Vic Smith takes the credit for the exceptional weather enjoyed each day. The Sun Cruz Casino trip Thursday was on a millpond ocean making the cruise most comfortable and enjoyable. With \$5.00 of their \$10.00 cost returned to them for playing money, some lost a little, some won a little, and a couple of folks won a lot.

Friday, another friendly weather day, found the rally goes in Old Melbourne at the Kilwin's Ice Cream and Chocolate Store. After chocolate pretzels and ice cream at Kilwin's, they roamed the quaint shops on East New Haven Avenue. The Christmas Shoppe was especially intriguing. At 1 PM we all had lunch at Meg O'Malley's Irish Pub. It was jammed with customers, but we found room for the 18 of us to sit together in a private room. The food and service was outstanding.

At suppertime, somehow we still had room for the catered Boston Market dinner held in the Rec Hall of the park. The kitchen facilities were really a convenient place to work.

Saturday when the Election Meeting was over at the Golden Corral in Palm Bay, some attended the Brevard Museum and others took the afternoon off.

There were some paid guests at the rally too. The First Lady's sister and husband, **Doll and Steve Chmura**, visited the Smiths from Connecticut. Their visit coincided exactly with the rally dates, so if the Smiths wanted to see them, they would have to attend the activities. They had a wonderful time with the group as well. At Friday's dinner, Vic invited as his guests, their daughter **Lora** and her partner **Jeremy**, and Josie's other sister, **Marion**, and her husband, **Jim Smith**. After dinner they had birthday cake for the entire group to celebrate Doll's 60th birthday.

Also a new Airstream friend was made. **Werner and Lottie Joachimsthal** found **Bob Wardell's** Airstream with no numbers as they walked around the park and invited him to Happy Hour. Vic invited him as a paying guest and as a prospective member so he could get the flavor of the Unit. His wife died a couple of years ago and his plans are in flux. He will join the Florida Unit if he doesn't go to Germany to live with his son. He had a wonderful time and was very impressed with the Unit. He provided us with locally baked muffins for one of our breakfasts as thanks for the members' friendship and fellowship. We made a good friend and advocate in Bob.

Where were you? You missed a grand time planned by Vic and Josie, Rally Coordinators

Excerpts from Taken From Election Meeting Minutes

Written by Pat Finn, Rec. Sec.

25 members and 4 affiliate members attended the meeting. They were: Vic & Josie Smith, Dave & Betty Wenger, Tom & Ann Moore, Randy & Pat Godfrey, Wray & Pat Finn, Larry & Marie Moser, Joe & Ellen McMillan, Willard & Jean Pickrel, Whit & Marilyn Blasdell, Louise Kramer, Kitty Haggerty & Henry Lappen, Doris & Phil Drugge, Werner & Lotty Joachimsthal, Tex & Betty Ritter, and Ron & Alice Archambo.

Those whose names are underlined attended the Election Rally.

Those who answered the roll call for the executive board were: **Vic Smith**, president, **Dave Wenger**, 1st vice president, **Tom Moore**, 2nd vice president, **Pat Finn**, recording secretary, **Betty Wenger**, and **Henry Lappen**, 2 year trustees, **Ellen McMillan**, 1 year trustee and newsletter editor, and **Wray Finn**, immediate past president.

Absent were corresponding secretary, **Don Benham**, 1 year trustee, **Bev Trask**, and treasurer, **Frank Carson**.

Historian, **Louise Kramer**, was present, and **Joan Carson**, membership chairman was absent.

Vic Smith read correspondence from **Don Shafer**, president of WBCCI congratulating our Unit for its 50 years as a member of the Airstream organization.

He also read thank you letters from the Halifax Historical Museum (Daytona), Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (St. Augustine), and All Faiths Food Bank (Sarasota) for our contributions to their charitable endeavors.

Louise Kramer, historian, requested all to send her any pictures, articles, or anything of historical Unit interest for her scrapbooks.

Ellen McMillan, newsletter editor, reported that by sending the Good Life News by e-mail has saved the Unit about \$60 each issue. About 22 copies are sent via USPS at a cost of about \$40 and about 56 are sent via e-mail.

There was enough interest expressed that Tom Moore will go ahead with plans for the Daytona Rally in January. More details later.

Betty Wenger assisted by Marilyn Blasdell and Pat Godfrey will decorate the barrel for the All Faiths Food Bank contest at Sarasota. Only the decorations will be contested, not the quantity of food. The Unit will donate \$100 but contributions from individuals in the Unit are still solicited.

Jean Pickrel volunteered to do the bulletin board for the International at Bozeman.

Ron Archambo volunteered to head the team of Dave Wenger and the Blasdells for Sanitation Duty at Sarasota. Anyone else of the Unit attending the rally may help too.

Vic announced that volunteers are needed to man a booth during the January 17-20, 2008 RV show. Contact Vic who will attend if you are willing to assist.

For our Unit Larry Scovotto designed a couple of logos to be silk screened on t-shirts. The idea was favorably received but not on t-shirts, perhaps a vest or jacket. The subject will be discussed further.

Upcoming rallies are scheduled:

Daytona – January 9-13

Fl State, Sarasota – February 20-24

Bluegrass, Ft. Christmas – March 12-17

Easter Rally, St. Augustine – March 18-24

Notice the early Easter dates following the Blue Grass Rally. Joe McMillan, registrar, is taking registrations now.

Region 3, Raleigh, NC -

NEW MEMBERS

It's always a pleasure to welcome new members to the Unit. The more you are active in the club, the more you will receive from it. We look forward to meeting you and getting acquainted.

Gary and Norma Jones

352 Thelgar Road
Ont. CA K0L 2H0 705-652-6842
mjquig@hotmail.com
WBCCI # 15497

Tom and Barbara McConnell

303 Jasmine Road
St. Augustine, FL 32086
904-669-5248
mcconnellcd@comcast.net
Vintage '69 trailer

Jim and Valerie Boughner

3570 Courtland Blvd.
Deltona, FL 32738
386-804-2237
jboughner@cfl.rr.com
4564
2008 25' Safari

Donald and Sarah McNeal

PO Box 1712
Hawthorne, FL 32640
starlakers@peoplepc.com

Thomas and Lois Stephens

1380 Democracy Ave.
Viera, FL 32940
tstephens@cfl.rr.com

E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

Bill Reilly – healthchichouse@mac.com
Steve Hunter – cobia39@hotmail.com
Keith Hollister – keithhollister@mac.com
Dave Barto – dbarto@earthlink.com
Larry Moser – lmoser@cfl.rr.com
Bill Reilly – healthchichouse@mac.com

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

The Unit wants to thank **Don Benham** for his years of service as corresponding secretary. He was also editor of The Good Life News as well. He and **Flora** have been very active in supporting the Unit since they joined about 1980, having been members of WBCCI and the Cleveland Unit prior to then. Health restraints are limiting them at present.

Also we were happy to have **Louise Kramer**, historian, attend the luncheon. She and **Art** were very active in the Unit until Art's health forced them to give up trailering. They have kept their membership in the Unit, and Louise is most gracious to collect the Unit's memorabilia.

Bill and Dell Reich lost one of their dogs 12-28-06 and got a greyhound named Spice four days later. They still have their 20 foot trailer and continue to travel with two large dogs. They miss seeing all the Unit members.

Helen Leggett was in the hospital in October for diverticulitis. She and **Earl** had to miss the Election Rally but we look forward to seeing them at Ft. Christmas.

From **Marie Chapman**: "Caring for kittens is almost like rearing toddlers. Must be extra careful where things are put; and don't leave the stove or iron turned on; and heaven forbid that you drop a staple or pin!! Molly usually settles at the foot of my bed, warming the spot for my feet. Fibber supervises when I brush my teeth and put hearing aids away for the night. They race around (the neighbors downstairs say the kids are playing again). They can hear them even though the rug pad is quite thick. And I talk to them same as I talked to my children.

"Last week my daughter Jan and I saw "Sound of Music" put on by the Salzburg Marionette Theatre. It was GOOD. Beautiful taped music and fascinating to watch those marionettes. "Time to wish you a 'Joyous and Blessed Christmas'". Marie

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

From the Region 3 Hi-Lites:

A report from 1st Vice President Jerry Larson that a contract has been signed to hold the 2009 International Rally at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

The WBCCI board of directors, at its July 5 meeting in Perry, GA, gave unanimous approval to a request from 2nd Vice President Tom Collier to sign a contract with the city of Gillette, WY and the Complex Multi-Events-Facilities to host the 53rd International Convention/Rally in 2010.

An amendment was approved that the spouse of the International, Region and Unit president or past president may use the title "First Mate" or "Past First Mate".

2008 UNIT EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:	Dave Wenger
1st Vice President:	Tom Moore
2 nd Vice President:	Randy Godfrey
Recording Secretary:	Pat Finn
Corresponding Secretary:	Joan Carson
Treasurer:	Frank Carson
2 Year Trustee:	Earl Leggett
	Joe McMillan
Continuing as 1 year Trustee:	Betty Wenger
	Henry Lappen

Committee chairmen:	
Membership:	Joan Carson
Historian:	Louise Kramer

Newsletter Editor:

Ellen S. McMillan
29129 Johnston Road Lot 2653
Dade City, FL 33523-6128
352-588-4519



Vic Smith welcoming Phil and Doris Drugge as members of the Unit.

YOUR 2008 LEADERS



President-elect and First Mate
Dave and Betty Wenger



1st Vice President-elect and First Mate
Tom and Ann Moore



2nd Vice President-elect and 1st Mate
Randy and Pat Godfrey

Give them your best support in appreciation for their taking on the jobs.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT BY ROWS

Camelot Entrance, Sunrise over Indian River, Welcome to Florida Unit

Josie Smith & Ellen McMillan in the Christmas Shoppe, All the rally attendees, Tex & Betty Ritter at the Christmas Shoppe

Godfreys and Drugges at Golden Corral luncheon, The Christmas Shoppe, Blasdells at Golden Corral

Folks at the Golden Corral, Waitress at Meg O'Malley's, Diners at the Irish Pub

More Folks at Meg O'Malley's, Meg O'Malley's, The rest of the folks at Meg O'Malley's

EASTER RALLY EARLIER THAN YOU THINK

The dates for Easter week are March 18-24, 2008. The rally follows closely on the heels of the Blue Grass Rally at Ft. Christmas. Joe McMillan, registrar already has a bunch of registrations of people who want to be sure they aren't left out of the popular event.

Some of the jobs were reviewed at the Election Rally. Tom and Ann Moore won't be attending, but they are willing to put on the barbeque for us. Joan Carson will be fixing Asian cole slaw for one of the meals. Joe and Ellen McMillan will be responsible for both Registration and the Olympic Games.

Bev and Earl Trask will organize the evening refreshments. Whit and Marilyn Blasdell are taking over the pancake breakfast formerly done by Wray Finn. Dave and Betty Wenger will make coffee morning and evening replacing Wray. Joan and Frank Carson will continue with their specialty, Omelet in a Bag. And we're counting on Whit Blasdell for the strawberries for shortcake.

The above named people are the committee chairpersons, but it takes a good many other folks to help put the rally together. You are needed.

Check the article in the Blue Beret for the registration details.