
The Itchy Hitch

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania (PA) Unit 091

August 2019

Presidents Message:

In addition to still being a bit windblown from yesterday's travels from Doswell to Kutztown, all the activities and excitement of the International Rally have yet to settle into any rational perspective. So, let's start off by saying that approximately 700 Airstreamers showed up at the 2019 62nd International Rally held at the Meadow Event Park in Doswell Virginia. The Pennsylvania Unit had a noteworthy number of members who attended. Here was the lineup and just a few notes about each as it would be impossible to begin telling all that happened. There's lots of photos and bleeps posted on the Pennsylvania Unit Facebook that everyone can check out. Hopefully our Itchy Hitch Editor in Chief, Mike Flesch, can squeeze a couple choice photos into this edition for those who don't do Facebook. The complexity

of organizing an enjoyable International is best understood by realizing that approximately 76 separate Committees and Chairs were formed just to make everything happen.

Mark and Mary Wilson, who attended their first International Rally, have earned their right of passage. Soon after arriving at Doswell, the reality that they had securely locked themselves out of their Airstream sank in. Ha, haven't we all been there done that at exactly the wrong time. However, everything ended well with help from Tye Mott, who is now our WBAC 2nd Vice President and experienced with getting in when your locked out. Having a hide-a-key tucked away someplace special can be a lifesaver too. You cannot imagine how hard Tye and many others worked to do

whatever it took to make the whole rally an organizational success on the grounds of Meadow Event Park. A big thank you to Mary who organized our first happy hour in the air-conditioned Mansion which was a good lead for others that followed. Ron & Brenda Speidel, who also attended their first International Rally, without question had a blast and evidenced it by being among the first caravanner's to sign up for the Loveland Colorado 2020 International. Throughout the rally Ron and Brenda kept popping up in photos, Facebook posts, Penn Wood happy hours and dining out events. It wasn't until our departure day, when they stopped by my Airstream, that I realized we were likely saying goodbye for quite a long time. Safe travels Ron & Brenda! I'm sure all of us will miss our new friends who spent a good part of this summer at Penn Wood and were generous in so many ways. Certainly, I will never walk through the rebuilt doors of Veil Pavilion without recalling all your efforts and the efforts of others.

Doug and Cindy Fields, as most everyone knows, are well seasoned International Rally attenders. As usual they took their site with the VAC (Vintage Airstream Club). Unquestionably VAC is a totally active

and involved group of Airstreamers that have a long reputation for being the most fun group to hangout and party with. The VAC hospitality tent quickly became a gathering place. Both the VAC parade and open house were highlights for many rally goers. Doug and Cindy have a remarkably original Bambi that drew a lot of "lookers" during open house. As several of the attached photos evidence, they enjoyed our happy hours at the Mansion.

Bill & Debbie Woodford also attended their first International Rally this year. They are likewise signed up for Loveland Colorado 2020 International and Debbie has started a Facebook called "LOVELAND BOUND 2020". The Facebook already has 36 members. Pennsylvania Unit members and others are welcome to join the Facebook to start planning and staying connected for next year. Speaking of caravans, Bill attended the Caravan Leaders course while at Doswell. The renewed interest in caravanning by Pennsylvania Unit members is really encouraging to see and causes me to reminisce over past Unit caravans & bashes at Cooper's Lake. "Go Sal go!" was the chant as I recall. Ha! Of course, the Woodfords were regular attenders at the happy

hours and just about everything else that was interesting. Congratulations to Debbie for having her photo taken with the infamous Pee Wee!

Becky and Marc Weimer, being experienced with International Rallies, certainly could have hung out with the VAC but made the decision to remain with the WDCU (Washington DC Unit) caravan when they entered the Meadow Event Park. As usual the WDCU members didn't go to parties, they were the party. Like every night! Dancing and blasting music like crazy on occasion too. With the heat index in the 90's, sure enough this gang of caravanners came up with the biggest blow-up pool at the rally that was quite capable of totally submerging in, even with another 3 or 4 people in the pool and the set-up was complete with rubber duckies. There's no wonder the entire parking area was dubbed "The Dark Side" when their caravan arrived. And it was the dark side! Enough said on that subject for now. Congratulations to Becky for having her photo taken with the infamous Pee Wee!

Finally, I have attended many prior Internationals, some of which were at Notre Dame and Lake Placid where more than 3900 Airstreams

caravanned in from all over the country. The first International I attended was held in Hershey Pennsylvania. This year I helped to unload the WBCCI tractor trailer, assemble, place and collect signs through the rally site so people knew how to find their way around and also where friends were parked. There was, on occasion, the need to be called out to help with a dog bite and typical 1st Responder cuts, falls and scrapes. Next year there promises to be a whole new effort to deal with more critical events. As usual, I got busy early trying to find those who were wearing great tee shirts with sayings that appeal to me like; "Women Tow Too" and "Women Hitch Better". As for some of the other tee shirts that were floating around, well all so interesting and so little time. Ha!

In other news, I'd like to thank Bill Woodford and a handful of others who helped serve as a loosely formed nominating committee for our 2020 Unit Officers. This year, due to competing personal commitments and/or travel plans, there were no Pennsylvania Unit meetings held so far this season. Additionally, continuity from one administration to the next ended hanging in the

balance when word of Bob's passing reached me while wintering in Florida. My go-to-persons, Noreen and Ken, were a great help until I realized that most all Unit, Regional and International communications had moved from paper submissions to electronic communication and form submittals. Fortunately, the rather awkward WBCCI old website will soon become history with the launching of a new website by mid-August 2019. Hopefully the new site will make navigating and submit information much easier. (Of course having a reliable WiFi in Florida will also make a difference)

So where do we stand at this point, you might ask. As provided in ARTICLE IV Section 1 a Nominating Committee consisting of Mike, Laura and Alan, with additional input from others, was informally formed for the purpose of nominating our next slate of Unit Officers. The slate of officers we would like to offer are as follows but first, we all need to extend a big THANK YOU to Noreen for all the years she cheerfully handled the duties of Pennsylvania Unit Treasurer. More about this big thank you will be in September's Itchy Hitch. Some members may not be aware that immediately after Bob's passing I

contacted the Unit Executive Board members for the purpose of resolving the potential issues created by not adhering to the Unit Bylaws as they relate to the appointment of a nominating committee and the lack of a full slate of Unit officers. As an emergency act, the Unit Executive Board unanimously voted electronically to seat Unit member Bill Woodford, First Vice President, as a move to avoid any potential problem. With this understanding in place, we offer for nomination:

Bill Woodford, President

Don Noderer, 1st Vice President

Open, 2nd Vice President

Eunice Noderer, Treasurer

Jayne Rice, Secretary

Mike and Laura Lilawski, Debbie Woodford, Directors

Alan Kenney, Past President

The customary election of officers will be voted on during the business meeting held on Labor Day Rally weekend, Saturday, August 30, 2019. Pursuant to Article V the Executive Board will consist of the above members upon election. During the meeting or soon after, the newly elected President shall appoint a

Chairperson for each Standing Committee and be ex-officio of all Committees except the Nominating Committee. Five Standing Committees will require additional volunteers or renewed commitment by the current volunteers. Those committees are Budget, Historical, Hospitality, Membership and Publicity. Please consider stepping up to volunteer so that Penn Wood continues to be the great park that it currently is during the coming year.

~Alan Kenney, President

Pennsylvania Unit, WBCCI



PS. Who in the world is Pee Wee?

A pictorial record of the International Rally.





*Rally This Weekend!!
"Ladies, You Deserve a Break Rally"
Penn Wood unit 91 Rally August 3rd and 4th*

Ladies, you've worked so hard preparing food and cleaning up for our pot lucks and rallies in the past so the men of Penn Wood are inviting you to a relaxing weekend where no cooking or cleaning is required on your part. Beginning Friday at 4:00 appetizers and wine will be served creekside next to the pavilion. Saturday following the

Penn Wood board meeting at approximately 11:00 AM brunch will be served. At 2:00 PM in the pavilion there will be a candle making activity followed by a relaxing afternoon along beautiful Piney Creek. Aromatherapy, quiet music, and lounge chairs will await you. Dinner is served at 5:00 in the pavilion followed by a fun evening of bingo.

Penn Wood News:

Presidents Message:

Penn Wood is enjoying a successful summer with many wonderful visitors from all corners of the United States. We are fortunate to enjoy the company of well-traveled Airstreamers headed to or from a caravan as well as newbies out on their first trip. Our Penn Wood happy hour is a great place to catch up on the latest news and touch base with friends.

Our annual Penn Wood Association open meeting will be held on August 31, 2019 in the pavilion at 9:30 AM. We look forward to the election of new board members and a new president for Penn Wood. I will be stepping down as president effective August 31, 2019. I'm deeply grateful to all who have helped Penn Wood through this year. Volunteers cut grass, fixed plumbing, built roads, cleaned and greatly enhanced utilization of the pavilion, hosted guests, prepared food, organized events... the list goes on and on. I think we have a great group working to keep Penn Wood alive and with your continued help, we will preserve Penn Wood for years to come. I have to add a special thanks to the

members of the Penn Wood board for their dedication, leadership and hard work. On the surface, Penn Wood may look like a few buildings, some Airstreams, a group of hearty campers and a lot of trees. To our board, the complicated aspects of finance, planning and operations are a daily concern. Our board puts in extra hours both at home and at Penn Wood. They inspire me with their ideas and knowledge of the campground and how best to improve it. It was very encouraging to work calmly through disagreements and make decisions that are in the best interest of Penn Wood. I can say with conviction this board has what it takes to properly manage and improve our jewel in the woods. Thanks to the board.

And speaking of our jewel in the woods, I have personally talked to many visitors recently who are really taken by the stark beauty of Penn Wood. They comment on the tall trees and diversity of plant and animal life. Many of them are old friends reconnecting with us because they received a warm welcome and had a good time visiting in the past.

Thanks to all our visitors. We hope to see you again soon. ~ Ron