



Region 5 Report

Illinois-Indiana-Kentucky

Artie Martin, President

November, 2017

<http://region5.wbcci.net>

Louise Humble—Editor

REGION RALLY ATTENDANCE JUMPS 20%

For the second year in a row, attendance at the Region 5 rally has increased. In 2016 there was an increase of two units over the 2015 year while this year, 2017, there was a increase of 10 units or almost 20%. Many factors probably contributed to this increase not the least of which was the hard work of the President and First Lady, Artie and Pam Martin. Also contributing to this success was the location of this year's rally – the Kentucky Horse Park which is a beautiful facility in the middle of Blue Grass country.

The slow but steady growth of the region can be noted by the number of “first timers” attending this rally. Of the 59 rigs in attendance, 17 of them were first timers. Attendance of this many rigs for the very first time holds promise for the future of Region 5.

However, high attendance at rallies not only depends on those who have never attended a rally before, but also on those members who faithfully attend the region rally every year and come back to enjoy another one the following year. There are many of those faithful members in Region 5 but there is one special member who has attended 33 consecutive Region 5 rallies. DICK PARRISH of the Indiana Unit has done just that. For many years Dick and his wife Opal were chairmen of the registration committee and worked hard at each rally. Dick continued in this position after Opal's death and has been what many of us consider one of our permanent fixtures. Dick and the members like him can be considered the bedrock of Region 5.

Between our young and energetic first timers and our faithful long term members, the future of Region 5 looks very bright. We can look forward to a very promising 2018.



Dick Parrish, Indiana Unit
attends 33 consecutive
region rallies

A WORD FROM BOB

Hello all members of Region 5 and hope you are enjoying the beautiful fall weather. I love this time of the year. Too bad it doesn't last that long.

Get your rig winterized or better yet, head south for the winter.



We just came back from our Thanksgiving Rally held at the Lee County Fairgrounds in Amboy Illinois. We had a great time with the folks that attended and we all talked about how much we have to be thankful for. Lots of wonderful food, great weather and great company.

I need to let you all know that I have **changed the date for the 2018 Region 5 Rally to be held at the State of Illinois Fairgrounds in Springfield Illinois. Mark your calendars and plan on arriving on September 26th and departing on Sunday the 30th.** We will provide more information on this rally at a later date.

We need some help in Region 5 as a number of positions have opened up. We need a recording Secretary. We also need a Parliamentarian and a Legislative representative. If you feel that any of these roles would appeal to you, please reach out to me. This club is run with volunteers and we do need your help.

Well, enjoy the fall and looking forward to seeing you soon.

Bob Whitesell

CHRIS'S VIEW

Hello from Ossian,

Wow, where did the time go. We just got the trailer ready to go to our first campout at Pokagon. Then, we went to our first rally at Niles MI, enjoying our time at Escanaba, getting sick at Kentucky



Horse Park. Ha Ha. We really had a great time at Region 5 Rally. Artie did a great job with the rally. That will be a tough act to follow. Well, it's time to winterize your trailer, pull the batteries and start dreaming of next year's rallies. Unless, you're one of

those snow birds that are heading down south and camp all winter.

This year also, major changes are happening in our lives with Nancy losing her job after 36 years at Penney's. With the holidays coming soon, I also take time to look ahead to see where we should go, relationships with friends and family, and how lucky we are to live where we do. We all should take some time and look at our lives this time of year and see how lucky we are.

I would like to say thanks to Artie and Pam for all they have done for Region 5. They stepped in two years ago and continued the great leadership that this region has. You have both done a great job. You're great friends.

Since this is the last newsletter before the holidays, Nancy and I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May you have a wonderful time with family and friends and God give you all you want in the next year.

We'll see you down the road,
Christopher and Nancy

SUMMARY OF REGION 5 BUSINESS MEETING

President's report: Membership is growing in the region as well as attendance at the region rallies. President Martin anticipates these trends will continue.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer John Swearingen reported a checking account balance as of July 1, 2017, of \$7,626.44. This is \$1,462.78 more than was reported on the same date in 2016. It was also reported that the federal income tax return has been filed and accepted by the IRS.

Correspondence: Secretary Susan Swearingen submitted her letter of resignation after having served as region secretary for 8 years. The president thanked Susan for her long and faithful service.

Membership report: Sam Smith Membership Chair reported that he receives a monthly report from the WBCCI office of new members in the region. He sends a word of welcome to each new member along with club information that will be helpful to them. He also receives a monthly report of new rigs purchased and contacts each new owner in Region 5. He noted that at least one person in each unit should be receiving this same information and if no one is, Lori Plummer of the WBCCI office should be notified so that the situation can be rectified. lpummer@wbcci.org

Caravan report: In his oral report at the rally, Caravan Chairman Barry Bell noted that there are sanctioned unit/club caravans which are numbered caravans. The International Club also encourages units/clubs to have unnumbered caravans. In his written addendum to the report Barry notes that unnumbered unit caravans must have at least two overnight stops, include at least three nights of camping and must be recorded in the unit/club minutes or newsletter in order to be covered by WBCCI insurance. Southern Indiana Unit and Kentucky Airstream Club have both held unit caravans this past year.

As you snowbirds begin to flutter south to your winter destinations, be sure to check out the activities of the various units in the areas through which you will be traveling. Use the newly developed “Upcoming Events” section on the right hand side of the opening page at **WBCCI.org**. New friends and new adventures are yours with just one click!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
PLEASE READ
1ST VICE PRESIDENT
BOB WHITESELL'S ARTICLE ON
PAGE 1.

Blue Beret Contributing Editor: Artie Martin reported that he has had an article in every issue of the “Blue Beret” except one. The articles have touched upon upcoming rallies, information about Airstreams and items of importance to the club. Artie thanked Patsy Marston for her input about items of interest from the Central Indiana Unit and encouraged all units to submit information about their unit's activities.

Community Service: As there was no volunteer for this position, President Martin and First Lady Pam chaired the community service project this year. Fundraising for the projects included a raffle, a lollipop pull, “horse” races and the Sunday morning church offering. Proceeds from these events were split between the Old Friends Horse Farm and the Red Cross which will help the hurricane victims of Texas and Florida.

Legislative report: John Green, Region Legislative Chair, reports that “distracted driving,” particularly from cell phone usage and texting, is changing the laws in many states. Be aware of this situation. Also, new sales records have been set by Thor and Airstream in 2016. Thor has purchased Jayco RV for \$576 million in cash.

Newsletter: Louise Humble, newsletter editor, reported that publication of the newsletter remains at four times a year with the digital copies being sent to each Region from addresses on file at headquarters. Louise also sends out digital communications that the president wants sent to every member.

Religious Services: There is no Region chaplain at this time. The President is searching for a candidate.

Webmaster: Webmaster Damon Beals was unable to attend the rally and no report was received.

THERE'S PLEASURE IN PLANNING AHEAD!

It's November! Is your Airstream winterized and stored? Or, are you and your Airstream on the road? Or wintering in a warmer climate? It's great to have choices, isn't it?

Well, our Airstream is winterized and stored while we're in south Texas, soaking up the warm climate and enjoying the palm trees. The Rio Grande Valley is in North America's premier birding and butterfly area. The RGV Birding Festival begins soon.

Winter Texans are arriving daily, escaping storms and snowy weather. RV park communities are re-forming as friends get together again and compare notes on summer activities.

It's *planning* time. Instead of garden plans, however, now we plan for the next year's activities with calendar and Blue Beret in hand. Pencil in the International Rally. Check the caravan and rally schedules and the region activities. Where do we want to go and what do we want to do? Can we fit it all in? Lots of things to think about during the cold season as we plan for warmer days ahead.

It's *collecting* time. Time to gather items to take to International—tabs, pennies, books for kids, pet items and more. Check each issue of the Blue Beret to find out what's needed.

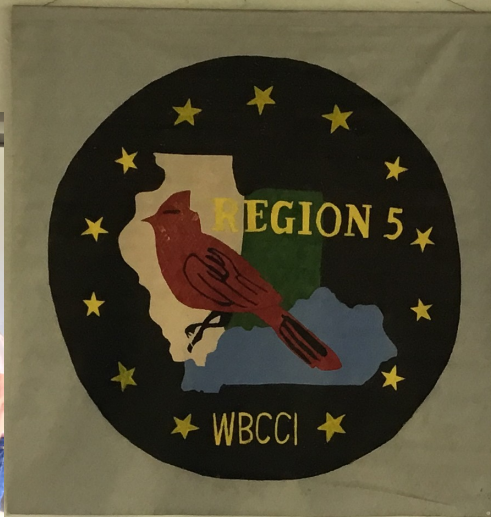
It's also *time to try new things*----- projects and crafts, recipes, authors, sports—and to meet new friends. Have a wonderful winter!

Carol White

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FLAMINGO LOLLIPOP PULL

- ❖ \$1.00 PER PULL
- ❖ RED "Tip" LOLLIPOP WINS A PRIZE
- ❖ BLACK "Tip" LOLLIPOP WINS HARRIET THE FLAMINGO

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS