

REGION 8 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

PRESIDENT

Gary Rush – grush26209@msn.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Beth McCall – bpooh49@gmail.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Dwight Olson – Lmodo@1@aol.com

TREASURER

June Ryan – ryan.j.p@juno.com

SECRETARY

Joan Viney – lviney@centurytel.net

President's Message

Greetings from Currently Sunny Florida –

It has been quite the winter, however the sun has started to shine, the rain for the most part is gone and the temperature is in the high 70s. Now we are living good, except that I have pneumonia (cough, cough), along with many others here at Paradise Park (cough, cough). We are all recovering, and hope to be back to full speed by the time (cough) we head home in late March (cough).

The Region Rally registrations are starting to come in, but if you haven't registered, do so before April 1st, for the discount, and ease the pressure on our Treasurer June Ryan. There was a typo on the original registration form regarding the dates of the rally. The rally starts Wednesday, April 27 and ends on Sunday, May 1st. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused. Early parking will be available and the rate will be \$16.25, payable to June when you arrive.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone this spring at Hastings.

Safe Travels,
Gary (cough, cough)

First Vice President's Message:

It's been a very mild winter for those of us in the Kansas City area (I was going to say in Region 8 – but I remembered that Iowa and Nebraska got hammered a couple times). David has stayed busy working on the “Agnes Project”, which is the rebuilding of a '62 Tradewind. It isn't ours, but belongs to the 1st VP of our unit, Rachel Ugaz. Only thinking that it needed a new axle, it was later discovered that it needed a whole new floor plus some repairs to the frame. David has been grateful to Region 8 members whom he has called on for assistance. Ed Pauley, for one, is probably dreading his phone ringing each time and seeing our area code. Thanks Ed for your great advice. This past week, the body was reattached to the trailer with the help of many members of the KC unit. Agnes, and her human, hope to be at the Region Rally. She won't be done, but she'll be livable.

After my recovery from pneumonia in early January, I am finally working on projects for both the Region Rally and the International Rally. We hope that you will attend some or all of the seminars that we will present at the Region Rally. More information follows in this newsletter. As for International, as in the past, I am First Timers' Chairman, and will have a seminar and reception for all of them the day before the rally starts. When the office called and told me how many first timers I have this year, I about swallowed my teeth --- and I don't even wear dentures!!! 201 rigs marked their registration form as being first time to International ! So if you see me leaning against something and mumbling to myself, just hand me a Dr. Pepper and get me a bed I'll be fine in the morning.

Can't wait to see all of you again !!!
Beth

2nd Vice President Message:

Dwight has always been a man of few words, but he wants to let everyone know that Lana is recovering very well from her surgery. They were able to travel on to Arizona in January, and have been enjoying the warmth.

He looks forward to seeing all the Region 8 members at the rally.

MEMBER NEWS

Longtime member of the Missouri Greater Ozark Unit, Roger Balsters, passed away February 25th in Springfield, Missouri, after a short illness.

We have always received word that Bobbi Tetzlaff, wife of John Tetzlaff, passed away on February 27th. John has been a fixture around many of us for years, as a representative for Sky-Med.

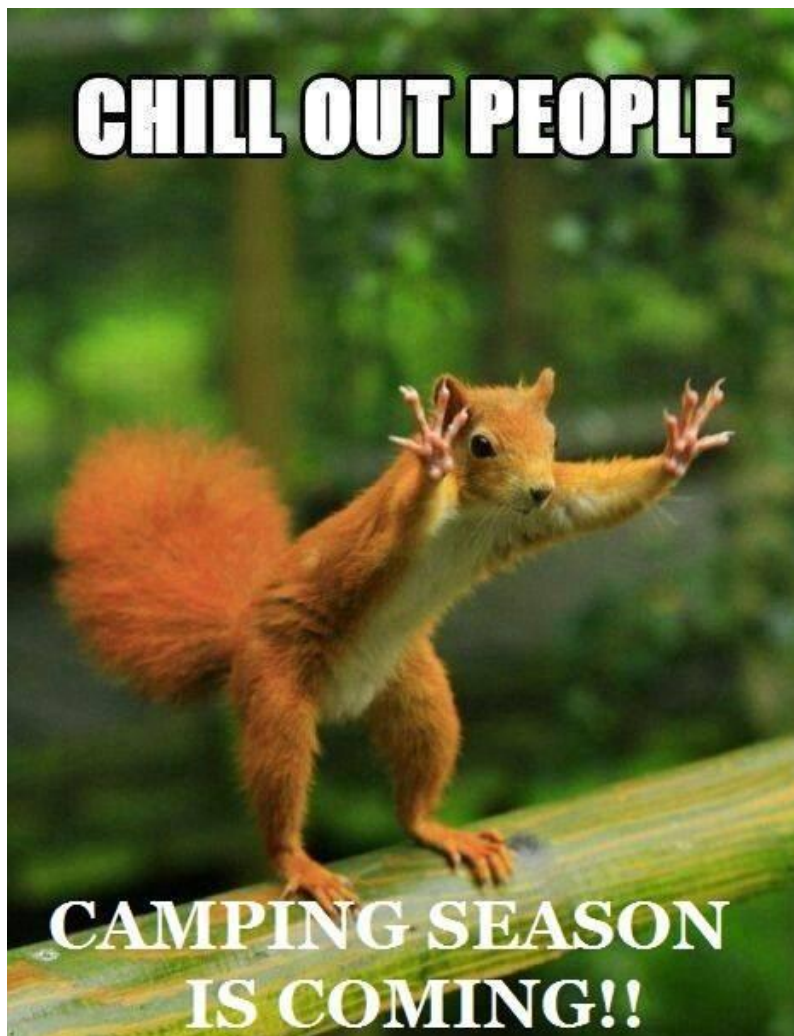
And on February 29th we lost Charlie Kennedy. Charlie was past president of both the KCMO Unit and Region 8, and he and his wife, Nadine, established the Common Cents program. The Joker tournaments will not be the same.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of these families.

Past region 8 president, Bob Olson is in the hospital in Florida. He has recovered from pneumonia and is now trying to overcome infections from gall bladder surgery. He has had a really bad winter!

We have heard of many serious illnesses and hospital stays amongst the Region 8 family this winter. We wish all of you a speedy recovery!

AND NOW FOR SOME GREAT NEWS.....



REGION 8 RALLY
FOLLOW THE TRAILS WEST
April 27 – May 1, 2016

It's not too late to make your reservations to attend the Region 8 Rally, to be held at the Adams County Fairgrounds, in Hastings, Nebraska. Also known as the Queen City of the Plains, the Cigar Capital of Nebraska, and the home of Kool-Aid, Hastings is also the site of the World War II Naval Ammunitions Depot. A bus tour has been arranged to tour the ammunitions depot. We will also be close to the geographic center of the lower 48 states, if you want to impress your friends with a picture of yourself standing in the middle of the United States.

The sites are on gravel or black top, with water and electric (30- 50 amp). There is a shower house and the dump is on site. Our meeting building is close by. There is very little shade, however, so if you have an awning, share it with your neighbors! The cost will be \$245 (prior to April 1) and \$260 (after that). The cost includes 4 nights of camping, 4 breakfasts, 3 catered meals, 2 nights entertainment and other activities. The bus tour is an additional \$5.00 per person. Also included is an unlimited amount of fun, fellowship and adventure.

At this rally, we will be having some seminars. Topics are still being chosen, but right now we know that there will be seminars on planning a caravan, planning a rally, first time to international, merit awards, and possibly some question and answer sessions about maintenance. If you have a topic that you would like to have addressed, please contact Beth at bpoo49@gmail.com

If you haven't received a registration form through your unit, please contact Beth and one will be sent by email right away.

Unit Duties at Rally:

Greater St Louis: Saturday Breakfast, Setup (stage, table & chairs)
Ice Cream on Friday night

Kansas City: Table & Stage Decorations, Serve Dinner on Thursday, Ice Cream on Saturday
Iowa: Breakfast on Thursday, Door Prizes

North Iowa: Welcome, Ice Cream on Thursday, Serve Dinner on Saturday

Missouri Greater Ozark: Hospitality Table, Clean Tables after meals, Serve lunch on Friday
Nebraska: Parking, Breakfast on Friday, Arrange for Flea Market and Hobby Show on Saturday

Each unit brings 5 to 6 dozen cookies for the hospitality table.

Building will be open on the morning of 4/27, Wednesday for setup at 9 am and registration

Community Service at Region Rally

Mary Ann Braden was the chairman of this committee for many, many years, and her dedication and organization will be remembered for years to come. In her memory we would like to make this our very best year for community service. Glenn Waters, our new Community Service Chairman, has advised the presidency that all the items collected during the Region Rally will be distributed to local organizations.

So let's see how many blankets, hats, socks, gloves, stuffed animals, books, non-perishable food, personal toiletries, and aluminum tabs we can "round up and head down the trail west". And don't forget to turn in your Common Cents checks !!! Region 8 and Region 12 were the leaders last year for donations to Common Cents at the International level. Let's keep up the good work!

VAC RALLY – "Moonlight Serenade" JUNE 9 -12 LAKE OF THREE FIRES CAMPGROUND BEDFORD, IOWA

Why Moonlight Serenade?

"Moonlight Serenade" is a beautiful song by Glenn Miller. The marvelous 41st Annual Glenn Miller Festival coincides with the VAC June Rally. While we won't attend the entire festival, it provides more fun weekend opportunities in nearby Clarinda, Iowa

Tom & Shirley are preparing the rally schedule.

And here's a link to 41st Annual Glenn Miller Festival schedule: <http://glennmiller.org/festival-2/festival-information/>

If you might want to attend, contact Tom & Shirley at ShirlsCookin@gmail.com or [515-556-9339](tel:515-556-9339)

Tom & Shirley say "Early arrivals are welcome!"

..... more on next page.....

Sites that can be reserved are limited. Reserve your own site.

<http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/lake-of-three-fires-statepark/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=IA&parkId=610110>

Tom & Shirley report that they have ten reservations so far, so make your reservations soon!

NEED A HOST !

The VAC Midwest needs a host for a fall rally. Last year, we were camped at Council Grove, Kansas, and had a great time sharing renovation information and had a wonderful demonstration about dent repair. It was three full days of fun, fellowship, food, tours, and seminars. If you are interested in planning an activity such as this, please contact Scott or Kathy Allen.

REGION 8 BREAKFAST INTERNATIONAL RALLY

The Region 8 Breakfast at the International Rally in Lewisburg, WV will be on June 28th at 7:30 AM in the Underwood Building on site.

Price is \$12.50 per person.

Tickets will be available at the Region Rally from Beth McCall. They will also be available by mail if you won't be able to attend the Region Rally.

INTERNATIONAL RALLY NEWS UPDATE

You may have noticed in the last couple editions of the Blue Beret, that the registration form for the International Rally has been marked "Sold Out"- Dry camping only. This has been an amazing year for the club and especially for the attendance at the International. Currently registrations are quite a bit over 750. Since I found out that 201 are first timers, it shows just how much interest new members have in our clubs activities and organization. It is the hope of the International President and the Board that these first timers will be welcomed and engaged in the activities that week. I know that the members in Region 8 handle much of the business at International rallies, and will come in contact with many of these first timers. Please look for their colorful ribbons and extend a hand of friendship.

We hope that the units have completed arrangements for caravans to International. Many Region 8 members are early workers, but there are still some members who wish to go later and would like to travel with a group. If your unit is planning a caravan and still have room for one or two more rigs, please email me. And if you are one of those members who will not go in early, but would like to travel with a group, please email me. I will try to match up member to caravan.

On a more down to earth note, you may have read the article by John Frerking in this month's Blue Beret, about things to do and see in and around Lewisburg. It was quite interesting; however, I picked up on one important detail. There is only one laundromat in Lewisburg. Yep, just one. A google search located another about 8 miles away in West Sulfur Springs. There'll be an extra 1400 people in town in June. I am just mentioning this so that you may plan ahead. I may just have to pull out my table top washer to bring. Or maybe some of the motorhomes would like to make some extra gas money..... just a thought.

Beth

Have a great spring camping season !!!