



Official Newsletter of the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit

Prairie Rose

Wally Byam Caravan Club International
The Airstream RV Owners' Club



September-October 2008

www.nodak.wbcci.net

Volume 5 Issue 6

Perfect Weather and Hospitality Shines thru at Region 7 Voyageur Rally Aug 11-15



The Region 7 Voyageur Rally was a great time, with just the right mix of traditional activities and new adventures for everyone to enjoy. If you were unable to come, you missed a good one!

We met up with the Don and Lillian Thomson on Sunday afternoon at the Grand Marais city park campground, right on the bay. We found a nice restaurant downtown for supper and had a leisurely stroll on the beach at sunset. The Minnesota unit caravan of about 15 Airstreams were also at the park, and they invited us to their pancake and sausage breakfast Monday morning.



Crossing the border at Grand Portage went smoothly and we were parked in Thunder Bay before noon. Region President Don Rogers and First Lady Terrol were right there to greet the new arrivals

and his parking crew made sure we were precisely lined up so we would present an impressive site for visiting media. Joining Region 7 members were International Secretary Carolyn Florence and her husband, Ron, from Washington state.

Forty Airstreams were parked at Confederation College on Thunder Bay's west side, and our group used several buildings for dining and meetings, and shower and washroom facilities. There were units from Manitoba, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Georgia, Florida, Texas, and Washington state.

The Region staff hosted a welcome barbecue with hot-dogs and smokies and the usual fixings. Following the barbecue, the opening ceremony was held with a welcome from

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On the horizon...

Manitoba Unit Labor
Day Buddy Rally
Ile Des Chenes, MB
Aug 28 - Sept 1



Hands Across the
Border Rally
Havre, MT
Aug 28 - Sept 1



MN 50th Anniversary
Installation Rally
Airstream Park,
Clear Lake, MN
Sept. 5 - 7



ND Installation Rally
Bismarck Sibley Park
Sept. 11- 14



SD Installation Rally &
Polka Fest
Mitchell, SD
Sept. 18 - 21





Unit President

Cathy Ruebel #10081

1st Vice President

Rose Larson #5606

2nd Vice President

John Krabseth #3682

Treasurer

Lillian Thomson #4304

Recording Secretary

Arlene Bailey #235

**Corresponding Secretary-
Past President**

Larry Ruebel #10081

Membership Chair

Darina Lindroth #268

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In an effort to protect our members from having their personal information being made available ONLINE when this newsletter is posted to our website, we will no longer include phone numbers or e-mail addresses. Please consult your unit membership directory or contact that officer through our web e-mail address:

0145@wbcci.net

President's Corner.....

by Cathy Ruebel

Our Summer Picnic Rally at Stump Lake Park was outstanding! What a hidden treasure that park is! We were treated like special guests, but then I think every camper there was treated the same. It was a non-standard rally—no tours, no big meals, but we always manage to eat well at our rallies, don't we? We just sat around, relaxed, talked, moved to a shadier spot, tended the campfire, talked more, toured each others' trailers, solved the world's problems and when the bugs got a bit pesky, we just moved our chairs to the Larsons' screen tent and continued uninterrupted. Just to make it official, we had a brief business meeting to finish up the treasurer's reporting; the minutes are on page 5.

Joining Larry and I for the Picnic Rally were Jack and Arlene Bailey, Wyndmere,, Judy Koester from Cando, Ron and Rose Larson from Bowman, Don and Lillian Thomson from Cavalier, Darina Lindroth of Grand Forks, John and Sandi DeYoung from Watertown,

SD, and Region 7 President and First Lady Don and Terrol Rogers from Winnipeg, Manitoba. I guess we should have called it our "International Picnic Rally" then?



Region President and First Lady Don and Terrol Rogers and their polished up 1974 Airstream

The push is on and Region 7 is fired up about being the host region for next year's **International Rally in Madison**. International Secretary Carolyn Florence gave a presentation at the Region Rally and indicated that the organizers are working hard to attract more vendors and different activities, possible to include hot air balloon rides and bicycle treks around the city's vast trail system. If you would be interest in helping in any of these areas, more information will be forthcoming in the Blue Beret..

ing in the Blue Beret..

As this is my last chance, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your unit president. I hope I somehow filled predecessors' shoes with reasonable success.

—CR—

2008 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Aug 28-Sep 1 | Hands Across the Border Rally, Havre, MT, Jct. of US Hwy. 2 & US Hwy. 87, Clayton Codden 406-265-6538/Ron Green 406-586-0892 |
| Aug 28-Sep 1 | Manitoba Unit Labour Day Buddy Rally, Arrowhead RV Park, Hwy 59 S, Ile Des Chenes (13 km south of Winnipeg). Make your own reservation at 888-878-4203. RSVP Bruce Harrower by 8/25, ph 204-422-6487 or airstream4478@gmail.com |
| Sept 5 - 7 | Minnesota Unit 50th Anniversary Celebration and Installation Rally, Airstream Park, Clear Lake, MN. See our website for more details and Rally Coupon. |
| Sept. 11 - 14, 2008 | North Dakota 2008 Installation Rally - General Sibley Park, Bismarck—Make your own reservations at 701-222-1844 and mention "Ruebel Airstream Group" to get a site in our group. |
| Sept. 18 - 21, 2008 | South Dakota Installation Rally and Polka Festival, Famil-E-Fun Campground, ph 605-996-8983, Mitchell, SD |

Fun, Fellowship & Adventure at Thunder Bay

(Continued from page 1)

the Thunder Bay Mayor Lynn Peterson, and from the Convention and Visitors office, Paul Pepe and Rose Marie Tarnowski. Evening entertainment back at the trailers followed for a relaxing close to the day.

The Minnesota Unit hosted Tuesday's breakfast of pancakes and sausage, and then the group lined up for a caravan out the Amethyst Mine Panorama, about 40 miles northeast of the city. The owner of the mine gave us a personal tour of his facility, explaining the legends of Amethyst and the processes to extract the purple gemstone from the granite mine. He took us into the restricted area where you were literally walking on a bed of purple – but you were not allowed to touch – this is where they make their money.

Afterwards, we were allowed to dig for our own gems in the piles of tailings, and keep whatever we found for three dollars a pound. Many people took advantage of this activity for the opportunity to take home a very unique souvenir – it was a big hit with “kids” of all ages. The gift shop certainly was not overlooked either, where you could find the finished products, from small polished stones, to clocks, wall hangings, and fine jewelry.

From there, the caravan proceeded on to the Suspension Bridge. The entrance fee to the Bridge was \$18 per person and some people declined at the price, and continued on to Ouimet Canyon where they had their picnic lunches. We, on the other hand, we still at the mine, but the “Purple, Sparkly and Big” mission was accomplished, so we finally left. As neither Larry or I would set foot on such a high bridge, we decided to take a scenic and leisurely route back to the city that we spotted on the way out. We stopped along Lakeshore drive at a public beach access and had our picnic lunch. The weather was absolutely gorgeous and the water of Lake Superior was crystal clear. Sleeping Giant Provincial Park



was in full view across the bay and looked like a picture postcard. Bathers were already arriving for the afternoon, and by the time we left the parking lot was very full, and more were still arriving.

We enjoyed an leisurely afternoon visiting with our neighbors who were back from the caravan, and a wee nap to recharge. Pete Yanke from the Minnesota unit bought out his guitar and several joined him in singing folksongs. It was easy to take a nap with a serenade outside your window!

Tuesday evening's catered dinner was absolutely scrumptious and plentiful, with mile high lasagna accompanied by a beautiful salad and breadsticks and followed up with ice cream for dessert! After dinner, activities were set up for the kids,

while the adults had the option of going to the Casino down beside the Bay. Those not going to the casino spent the evening at their leisure, or socializing with their neighbors.

The North Dakota Peace Garden Unit served Wednesday's toast and cereal breakfast. Representing our unit were Don and Lillian Thomson, John and Bobbi Tetzlaff, and Larry and Cathy Ruebel.



Following breakfast and clean-up duties, we headed out for Fort William Historic Site, about 10 miles southwest. The re-enactors at the fort are in the year 1813 and know nothing beyond that year, and visitors are treated to a leisurely walk through the many building, or with a knowledgeable guide at hand. This was a fully working fort with horses, cows with calves, a sow with new piglets, sheep and lambs, and chickens of all colors and varieties. For those who preferred, there was a horse drawn wagon rides around the fort and a tram.

A short visit to the gift shop proved fruitful, and we had
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Region 7 Voyageur Rally - Thunder Bay

(Continued from page 3)

a lovely lunch at their deli, with a piping hot bowl of beef stew and a wedge of stone baked crusty bread.

In the afternoon, the Region executive and business meetings were held. Next year's Region Rally will be held in either Brainard or Alexandria, Minnesota, to keep it more centrally located in the region. The board approved President Rogers' request to use his discretion in the final selection of the rally location. A region logo had been finalized and is now available for embroidery on shirts, hats, and other items. Ordering details will follow at a later time.

Dinner of roast beef with all the usual accompaniments was followed by a short trek to the Harbor front for an open air concert. Playing when we arrived was the Thunder Bay Symphony playing Big Band tunes, followed by the Pipes and Drum Band with Scottish dancers. Following an intermission, the Canadian folk band, Tanglefoot entertained the crowd, which normally was in the hundreds, but had swelled into the mid-thousands to see the band.

The Wisconsin unit served oatmeal and ice cream for breakfast on Thursday, and the day was left for numerous avenues of adventure, from golfing and the zoo, to swimming, shopping and sight-seeing.

We rode with the Thomsons out to Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park and had a leisurely stroll around the park, taking in the beauty of the falls, with its ever-present rainbow in the mist. A Ladies Hat Tea was held down at the harbor park, or you one could have lunch on their own. We took in some shopping and headed back to the College.

In the afternoon, Region Webmaster Bob Manak from Wisconsin had an



Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park,, drops Kaministiquia River over 130 feet and is known as the Niagara of the North. It was used by the fur traders—Voyageurs.

short, informal seminar for those interested in working on their unit website.



After Happy Hour, dinner was held at the Royal Canadian Polish Veterans Legion in downtown Thunder Bay. The buffet table was overflowing with such delicious offerings as roast turkey with gravy and sage dressing, cabbage roll-ups (pigs in a blanket), potato and cheese pirogues sautéed in onion and butter, steamed vegetables, salad and fresh baked crusty rolls. It was amazing that anyone was able to move after dinner, but the music started. People were able to dance to rock and

roll, some slow dance tunes, and the seating was cleared when the Beer Barrel Polka came on. President Rogers had a booty full of prizes to give out from local merchants and even from Airstream.

Friday morning, the South Dakota unit hosted coffee and donuts before everyone headed out. The donuts and sweet rolls from Tim Horton's were still warm in the box! Some people had already wiggled their tow vehicles and rigs around the parking lot – there are many very skilled and talented drivers in our club. Goodbyes were all over and we headed down the road.

The trip home was uneventful, and most surprising of all, nary a headwind the entire trip – the weather man certainly smiled on this Region Rally. Our heartfelt thanks to the Rogers and the entire Region 7 Officers for a Great Rally! Their hard work showed and was most appreciated.

By Cathy Ruebel

Unit Minutes

NORTH DAKOTA PEACE GARDEN UNIT
STUMP LAKE CAMPGROUND
LAKOTA, ND. JULY 26th, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Ruebel at 11:40 AM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Trailers present: Ruebel, Larson, Bailey, Thomson, Koester, DeYoung and Region 7 President and First Lady, Don and Terrel Rogers. No trailer: Lindroth.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

PRESENT:

President Cathy Ruebel
1st vice-President Rose Larson
Secretary Arlene Bailey
Treasurer Lillian Thomson

As the last unit minutes were in the hands of the members the secretary's report was not read. Ron Larson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Lillian Thomson passed out the treasurers report and President Cathy's budget for 2008. Our unit has 14 voting members. Lillian reported the unit monies is now in the United Bank of Cavalier. Balance on June 30th, 2008 is \$764.14. Expenditures: 2 flags @ \$60.00. Motion was made by Ron Larson to approve the Treasurers report. Seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Cathy reported our Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by the International. It will need to be updated again in 5 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cathy was informed at International that our unit web site is far ahead of other units. Cathy is our webmaster.

The ND. Unit directory and newsletter were both entered into competition at the International rally in Bozeman, Mt. Again Cathy's computer expertise was rewarded when our newsletter was awarded the "Best in Show." Unfortunately, our directory was misplaced and not judged. CONGRATULATION!! Cathy, for your work on both publications.

Jack Bailey reported that he and Arlene audited the treasurers books and found them to be in order.

The Region rally will be in Thunder Bay, Ontario, August 10-15.

Our installation rally is Sept. 11-13 at General Sibley Park, Bismarck. Ten (10) sites have been reserved. Let Cathy know 1 week before rally if you are attending, otherwise she will cancel the sites. Check the web site for more information. The SD installation will be at Mitchell during the Polka festival, Sept. 17-20.

Due to reported poor attendance the Spring rally was cancelled at Detlaffs north of Minot. Cathy suggested perhaps the last weekend of Sept we could have the rally at their place as they had prepared for a fun time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Arlene Bailey

REMINDERS

To-Do's Hints



Labor Day weekend

If you don't already have plans, the **Hands Across the Border Rally** hosted by the Montana and Alberta-Saskatchewan units is being held this year in Havre, MT. OR The **Manitoba Unit** is also hosting a rally outside of Winnipeg see our website for details—call ahead!

Installation Rally, Bismarck - Sept 11

Don't forget to make your reservation at General Sibley Park—reservation is under the "Ruebel Airstream group", phone 701-222-1844. Don't wait until the last minute—this is Folk Fest weekend and the Park is likely to fill up.

Membership Renewal

Membership Renewal is coming up and soon you will be receiving your renewal envelope in the mail. Please mail it back with your dues, or bring it to the Installation Rally.

We are updating the **Unit Directory** for the 2009 Membership year—send to us any changes you need us to make, like e-mail address, cell phone, photos, and addresses.

The **Dometic Refrigerator Recall** has been expanded from April 1997 through September 2006 year models. To see if your Dometic refrigerator falls under this expanded recall, go to their website at:

<http://www.dometic.com/enus/Americas/USA/RV-Products/RV-News/Dometic-Recall-Information/>

2008 Installation Rally ★ Sept. 11-14 ★ Bismarck, ND

Rally Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008

- Afternoon Parking for early arrivals
- 4:30 PM Happy Hour for early arrivals; bring a snack and your own beverage.
- 6:00 PM Potluck please bring your favorite dish to share, your own beverage and table service.

Friday, Sept. 12, 2008

- 8:30 AM Breakfast—toast, juice and coffee.
- 9:45 AM Carpool to Folk Fest Downtown Street Fair.
- Noon Lunch on your own
- 4:30 PM Happy Hour; bring a snack and beverage.
- 5:00 PM Burgers & Dogs on the grill, and ice cream for dessert provided - Please bring a side dish to share
- 6:30ish Build the campfire!

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008

- 8:30 AM Breakfast, Cook's Choice .
- 9:30 AM Business & Membership Meeting
- Noon Lunch on your own. Leisure time afterwards
- 4:00 PM Happy Hour; bring a snack and your own beverage.
- 5:30 PM Dinner is served - Steaks on the grill with all the fixings and dessert provided
- 7:00 PM Installation Ceremony
- 6:30ish Build the campfire!

Sunday, Sept 14, 2008

- 9:00 AM Breakfast - toast Juice & coffee
- Time for farewells – Have a safe trip!

Campsite Reservations make your reservation at General Sibley Park—reservation is under the “Ruebel Air-stream group”, phone 701-222-1844. Don't wait until the last minute—this is Folk Fest weekend and the Park is likely to fill up. Campsites with electric is \$20 per night and reserved with a credit card. We have Site # 54. **On Monday August 8th, I will release any unused sites still in my name.** See the Unit Directory for additional information

Hotel Accommodations: Closest is Expressway Inn at 200 E. Bismarck Expressway, rooms around \$60, reservations 701-222-2900 or 800-456-6388

Rally Fee - \$10 per adult, children free.

RSVP to the Ruebels by 9/9/08, by phone or e-mail if you are planning to attend, how many, and number of children/ages if any.

The above schedule is TENTATIVE and subject to change.

Getting There....

The easiest way to get to General Sibley Park is getting on Bismarck Expressway, which is also Business Loop 94. At the intersection of Expressway and Washington Street, go south 3¼ miles—the Park is at the end of the road.

