



Prairie Rose



Official Newsletter of the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit

December 2010 - January 2011

www.nodak.wbcci.net

Volume 7 Issue 6



Decked out in the Christmas Spirit. Peter Breu #10081, Marshfield, WI, Photo by Candy Breu



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I'm dreamin' of a White Christmas...

Ah yes, it's that time of year again. Most of you in the Peace Garden Unit have headed south for the winter, or the trailer's packed and ready to roll. And then there are some of us in Winnipeg and Williston and Bismarck and point further south who will stick it out to the slushy end right here at home.

According to the Weather Guessers, La Niña will provide for us a colder and wetter winter than normal. Yippee. That's all the global warming kicking in, like we've heard so much about. But I guess it could be worse—we could be in Minnesota or Wisconsin, where we've sent all our snowstorms of late. Those poor, poor Vikings have to play out in the cold for the rest of the season (cue the violin music.)

As I haven't heard of any

news from anyone out in the field for this issue, and there is no further news to share about George, the Tradewind, we'll bring you up to date with news from Region 7 and Jackson Center.

Region 7 President Joan Lahr has been making arrangements for next summer's Region 7 Rally near Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Rally registration form is already available on their website, at www.region7.wbcci.net.

International President Norm Beu has his December newsletter included here, along with a Special Treasurer's Report on the organization's finances

And with that, Larry and I want to wish you all a Very Healthy New Year!

Cathy Ruebel, editor

P.S. SEND NEWS



This is what happens (often) when you don't head south for the winter - just ask Don Rogers.

President's Corner . . .

. . . by Vern Zink

GREETINGS FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

T'is the Season the time to 'settle-in' for the holidays and winter but not before we give THANKS to Lillian Thomson whose workload increases at this time of the year with renewals, phone calls, records and reports. ...as does Cathy Ruebel's workload. ... the newsletters, web-pages, reports continue plus another directory to get out THANKS to Kathy.

All this takes days spread over weeks into months. Both of these troopers work and their personal lives are just as busy as ours this time of the year. We appreciate both of you. ..Thank you.

T'is the season for Thanksgiving (as I write this), for Christmas and for New Year's celebrations. Basically though, it is about people and what you value most.. ..Like the youngster who wrote Santa " I know you are very busy but please don't be mad at baby Jesus because he is the reason for Christmas. Do you know him? I think you should add him to your list

along with my new baby brother, Andy."

We should all agree with New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra when He said "I don't want to include anybody OUT!" We have some long time members and good friends who no longer have their airstream, no longer drive and cannot often attend our events, though they are always welcome. I will be asking the club to informally adopt them as our alumni graduates.

We are aware that we do not want to incur any liabilities by using WBCCI, Peace Garden Unit and members in referring to our alumni. We should stay in touch with them, send them our newsletter regularly and keep a current directory of their mailing addresses and telephone numbers.

Currently some of them would be Edith Forsch, Shirley Rohrer, and Edna Zeigler. Hopefully we can include them "IN". There may be others but not including members who have 'elected' to drop their member-



ships. If you wish to send them a note or a Christmas card, please contact Cathy Ruebel. She will discretely furnish you their mailing addresses.

During this past year we endorsed the idea of promoting the Prairie Haven campground at Eckelson and the Enchanted Highway project at Regent. In your new years list of resolutions let's Include them as well. Please favor us and yourselves with a blessed, healthy, joyous Holiday Season!
VZ

UNIT OFFICERS

Unit President
Vern Zink #4114

1st Vice President
Bev Zink #4114

2nd Vice President
Don Thomson #4304

Treasurer
Lillian Thomson #4304

Recording Secretary
Arlene Bailey #235

Corresponding Secretary
Bev Zink #3682

Membership Chair
Larry Ruebel #10081

May 14, 2011

June 9 - 12, 2011

June 28 - July 4, 2011

July 14 - 17, 2011

July 24 - 29, 2011

Sept. 9 - 11, 2011

2011 Calendar of Events

Get Reacquainted Luncheon - Bismarck, ND - location TBA

Spring Rally - Red River Valley Fairgrounds, West Fargo, ND

WBCCI International Rally, DuQuoin, Illinois

International Peace Garden Rally, Dunseith, ND

Region 7 Rally, DePere, Wisconsin

Fall Installation Rally - Carrington, ND





WBCCI President's Newsletter

December 2010

54th International Convention/Rally

More than 300 registrations for the 54th International Convention/Rally at the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds in Du Quoin, Illinois have been made by WBCCI members. Remember to register by January 1, 2011 to receive a \$25.00 discount.

I thought I would share our plans for entertainment at the rally. Scheduled entertainment so far includes The WBCCI Band with their Festival of Music; The Steel City Stompers - two terrific musicians/comedians from Pittsburgh, PA; Brian Roman for Canada Day - who is great with a crowd and sounds a lot like Frank Sinatra; and the Harmonics - blue grass by Mom, Dad (who used to play with Alison Krauss), three sons and a fiddle player from Nashville. Great variety. I know you'll enjoy them all. In addition, I have submitted a request for a performance by the Air Force Band of the Midwest. It's a long shot, but worth a try, for Scott AFB (home for the Band of the Midwest) is only an hour's drive west on I-70.

Remember, to be eligible for one of the early registration door prizes given by Airstream, you must regis-

ter by January 1, 2011. Always a well-attended event on the schedule, a presentation by Larry Huttle, Chairman of Airstream, will be followed by award of door prizes worth a total of \$2500.00.

Bill Thomas Camper Sales

I received some very good news earlier this week. Bill Thomas Camper Sales has been firmed up as the Airstream Travel Trailer dealership for the Du Quoin Convention/Rally by Larry Huttle. In addition, Larry intends to have a second dealership in place for display of Travel Coaches - the Airstream Interstate and new Avenue.

Bill Thomas Camper Sales is located in Wentzville, MO, which is just west of St. Louis. BTCS is a major dealership in the Midwest. I spoke with Glenn Thomas to learn of his plans for Du Quoin. We can expect a great display of trailers, an Airstream parts store and technicians for repairs. The last time we had full Airstream support like this was three years ago at Bozeman, MT. You asked for it - we'll have it.

BTW - BTCS has been a loyal WBCCI Dealer Sponsor for many years.

RV Business magazine

You probably do not have access to RV Business magazine. It is a trade publication for the RV industry. The current issue lists their selections for the Top 50 RV Retailers in North America. Three Airstream dealers made the Top 50 list. As you visit these dealerships, give them a pat on the back. They are important to the Club. I sent letters of congratulation to the following:

—Andy Thomson, Jr.; Can-Am RV Centre; London, Ontario
—John and James Lenzo; Colonial Airstream; Lakewood, New Jersey
—Jim Cooley; Dandy RV Superstore, Anniston, Alabama

For those of you who follow the Stock Market - Elsewhere in the Jan/Feb issue of RV Business, "Thor Industries Quadruples Q1 Net Income; Stock Rises 115% in '09, Qualifies for National Ranking. The common stock of Thor Industries Inc. gained at least 100% in value in 2009, qualifying it for a spot on the NASD100.com listing."

— Norm Beu,
International President

Safe Travels to Everyone on this Road this Winter

Special Interim Treasurers Report



Dear WBCCI Member,

I apologize for missing the deadline for the December Blue Beret; I am therefore, sending my report in this fashion.

Good news - the club operations are following the break even budget that was approved. Part of that budget was the sale of the mail trailer, which is being actively marketed and should be sold by the end of our fiscal year. Our Club remains fiscally solvent with over \$1,000,000 in equity. All of this equity is in bank certificates of deposit and operating bank accounts, all of which are covered by FDIC insurance.

Other news - the International Rally

only has 312 registrations as of today. Our budget is based upon 825 registrations. This number of 312 registrations will STRONGLY impact the financial results of the Rally. The more members registering and attending the Rally will greatly ease this situation. It is up to you our members to sign up. If you have not registered, please do so ASAP. It will also determine the number of early workers we can support. Please sign up now and join us for some good old Airstream fun.

It has been the practice in the past to front end load substantial, non essential expenditures. This occurs before it is known how many members plan to

attend the International Rally. This year \$45,503 has been expended through November. With expenditures of this magnitude made before the number of attendees is known, it makes it very difficult to control the finances of the Rally. By keeping these essential expenses to \$8,000 or less, not including site deposits, we can better manage any losses. The Club has lost money on 5 of the last 7 International Rallies; the accumulated losses net of the income years equal \$51,455.

THE GOOD NEWS is we are more capable of avoiding such losses in the future by instituting appropriate financial controls. Therefore, the budget committee is putting forth a motion at the January IBT, to limit front end costs until a reasonable estimate of the number of attendees can be determined and a reasonable budget prepared. The motion is not to restrict the money spent on the rally; it is to make sure we have the money before expenditures are made.

Region 7 Rally—Wings, Rails, & End Zones

All aboard for a great experience in Wisconsin at the Region 7 rally. Featured events are the world's largest fly-in convention, Oshkosh's AirVenture 2011, the Green Bay Packer's Hall of Fame and legendary Lambeau Field, and our nation's National Railroad Museum.

EAA AirVenture

EAA AirVenture 2011 is the 59th annual edition of "The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration." Highlighted activities include the Centennial of Naval Aviation. AirVenture has already been named as one of the U.S. Navy's top tier events for support throughout the service's year long recognition of 100 years of naval aviation. In addition, the centennial of air mail service is also being recognized in 2011. Thousands of aircraft will be on display on the grounds. Nearly 100 full-size airplanes and model airplanes and their

designers are highlighted in the newest exhibit, "Little Wings, Big Dreams" in the AirVenture Museum.

Green Bay Packers

Welcome to Titledown! The Green Bay Packers are the only community-owned team in the National Football League and Green Bay is the smallest market to host an NFL team. But it's big on football! Relive the most exciting moments in the Packers 90-year history at the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame.

The Lambeau Field stadium tour allows fans to experience the Packers' history-rich facility first-hand and see several behind the scenes areas. Guided tours trek through the Lambeau Field Atrium, up to the exclusive Club Level for a look at the Legends Club. From there, it's down and through the players' tunnel to learn all about the incredible history of the

Green Bay Packers. GO PACK GO!

The National Railroad Museum

Explore the icons of American railroading at the 26,000 square foot National Railroad Museum. From the newest exhibit, Pullman Porters: from Service to Civil Rights, to the world's largest steam locomotive, the Union Pacific Big Boy, experience the industry that built the nation. Sit in the cab of the Big Boy. Examine Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's World War II command train. Ponder the futuristic Aerotrains from the 1950s. As one of the oldest railroad museums in the country, the National Railroad Museum exhibits a large collection of locomotives and railcars spanning more than a century of railroading. Ride a full size train through the Museum grounds. ALL ABOARD! **For more information, contact Joan Lahr 262-327-4336 or lahr@wbcci.net.**