

# MILWIT NEWSLETTER

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER** by Chris Coats



*Chris & Barbara*

Dear MILWIT friends: Things are about to get very busy within our group as we are about to have the eastern rally and the western rally during the month of April. I'm sure you'll find more specifics about those two rallies in the rest of this newsletter

Barbara and I plan to be at the eastern rally but due to a commitment to a small church I'm not going to be able to make the Western rally.

### **Tentative plans for Annual MILWIT in July** are like this:

We arrive between 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on the 12th and begin set up (volunteers needed to help). MILWIT rally fee \$25 per person (cash) upon arrival.

July 13th

0800 coffee and donuts (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

1500 will have our opening ceremonies

1600 will have a happy hour and then go off to dinner together (location TBD – dutch)

July 14th

0800 Coffee hour from until ...with donuts (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

1600 informal meeting followed by dinner in town (location TBD - dutch)

July 15th

0800 coffee and donuts (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

1600 annual raffle

1700 I've asked Bill to give us a brief on RVs and Weapon on board

1800 dinner on your own (dutch)

2000 Ice Cream Social (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

July 16th

0800 coffee and donuts (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

1800 banquet and honor night (location TBD – cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

July 17th

Day off for chapel and prep for GNR

## **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE** by Mike Walker



*Mike Walker*

### **Membership.**

I've been made aware that there is no indication on our RV's to show that we are members of the MILWIT. This will help in recruiting new members who do not know about the MILWIT club or what we are all about, but that are otherwise qualified to join. I've requested the club generate decals we can use to show we are MILWIT members. These decals will be on sale at the annual rally for members who wish to purchase them.

As you may remember, during the last Annual Rally, in 2015, I challenged each member to bring at least one new member into the club. That challenge is still on and we need new members and new perspectives for our club. Please check around during your travels and when you meet someone who may be eligible for membership, ask them if they would like to join us.

### **Election of New Officers – CALL FOR NOMINEES.**

During the Annual MILWIT rally, new officers will be elected. The nominating committee is comprised of the current officers (Chris Coats, Mike Walker and Dick Duffy). Any member that would like to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer should let us know as soon as possible. If you would like to nominate someone or wish to have your recommendations heard, please let any club officer know your views.

### **MILWIT Web Site.**

The MILWIT web site ([www.MILWIT.org](http://www.MILWIT.org)) was generated to allow the club Officers to stay in touch with the members. We would like to share member news that would be important to the members. With your input, we can do that. Please feel free to email the webmaster at ([doug.cashmore@milwit.org](mailto:doug.cashmore@milwit.org)) with any news you would like to share with other members. He is very interested in member's pictures both old and new to include in the website.

Members should note that in order to access member-only information, a LOGON and PASSWORD must be used. This can be requested from our webmaster via the web site: [www.MILWIT.org](http://www.MILWIT.org). Contact the Webmaster form and Doug will assign one to you.

## **MILWIT Club Newsletter – CALL FOR PAPERS.**

I've started this newsletter to insure the members keep in touch and to allow us to disseminate important information to the members. To make the newsletter better, I need your input to pass on stories, photos, recommendations, quotes, and any other appropriate information from the members to the rest of the group. Please feel free to send anything to me ([webkeeper@sprintmail.com](mailto:webkeeper@sprintmail.com)) that you would like to pass on to the membership. I plan to prepare a newsletter quarterly and inputs must be received two weeks prior to publication to allow me time to review and fit into the newsletter. All newsletters will be disseminated electronically via email, so please make sure you keep your membership information up to date (phone numbers, addresses, and emails).

## **PLANNED CLUB RALLIES**

We have planned three club rallies in 2016. Two are area rallies and one is the Annual Rally to coincide with the WIT Club GNR. Our website contains contact information, prices, dates and locations for each of our rallies. In order for us to plan for these events and to determine costs associated, please fill out the appropriate rally registration you will find on the web site at [www.MILWIT.org](http://www.MILWIT.org). We ask that everyone use the registration form on the website to register for each of the rallies you plan on attending. The information provided will help in planning a fun and enjoyable time for everyone.

## **EASTERN AREA RALLY** by Dick Duffy



*Dick Duffy*

For a low key event, come to the MILWIT Eastern Rally at the Blueberry Hill RV Resort, Bushnell, FL ... April 4 – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. We know that you've all had a busy winter. This Eastern rally will have plenty of time for camaraderie, touring the area, or just plain chilling out. Rally cost will be \$25 per person, payable to Dick Duffy.

Welcome to Florida! Bushnell has convenient shopping for daily needs with two grocery stores and a Walmart. This location is within driving distance of several great beaches, a certain celebrity mouse and loads of attractions.

For the history buff, you will want to visit Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, location of the battle that started the Seminole War.

Tampa is a little less than an hour away and offers days full of fun, including a beautiful beach, shopping malls, and plenty of outdoor activities! Top attractions include the historic Tampa Theatre, the Tampa Bay History Center, and Busch Gardens. For the animal lovers, you can see wildlife rescue at its finest by visiting the Big Cat Rescue, where you can take a day tour and see animals like lions, tigers, and leopards!

Day trips from the park include Disney World (within 60 miles), Sea World in Orlando, Silver Springs, Homosassa Springs (see the manatees), Universal Studios (60 miles), and the Kennedy Space Center, are just a few major attractions for your enjoyment.

Fishing enthusiasts will find lots of lakes in the area plus charter fishing and guide service, glass boat tours in Silver Springs (45 miles), kayaking and canoeing on the Withlacoochee River and the Weeki Wachee River. Historic Brooksville (8 miles) is home of the May-Stringer Heritage Museum, The Rogers Christmas House, and the Russell Street Train Depot.

Other possibilities for touring are Russell Stover Candy Store, Blueberry winery, Air boating, Glade Herb Farm, The Florida International Teaching Zoo, Museum of Drag Racing. Scheduled is a tour of the second largest National cemetery in the country.

Three breakfasts will be provided, plus a catered meal and entertainment provided by our “local” talent.

Opportunities for relaxing, and access to full service, 20/30/50 amp electric, water, sewer, free WIFI, bingo, swimming in a heated pool, using the fitness center are here for those who are ready to take a break from your usual activities.

The WIT Club Eastern Area Representatives, Stewart and Tammy Smith, will be presenting some exciting and interesting information during this rally.

As of this newsletter, the following have signed up for the Eastern Rally:

Dick & Ida Duffy

Bob & Diane Moore

Ned & Linda Evans

Jim & Judy Hodder

Chris & Barbara Coats

Stewart & Tammy Smith

Tom & Jenney Fleming

Wayne & Sheila Hagler

Jack & Millie Fraker

Ben & Shirley Campbell

Rich & Sandy Stuntz

Roy & Judith Hart

### **MILWIT EASTERN RALLY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Monday, 4 April

1400 - 1600 Check in registration.

1600 - 1700 Meet and greet. HAPPY HOUR - BYOB spirits and beer. Light snacks are appreciated. 50/50 ticket sales.

1700 Opening ceremony.

1800 Dinner on your own

1900 Games

Tuesday, 5 April

0700 Coffee.

0800 - 1000 Pannukakku (Finnish Oven Pancake) breakfast.

1030 Depart via car pool to Florida National Cemetery

1200 Lunch on your own

1600 - 1700 HAPPY HOUR - BYOB spirits and beer. Light snacks are appreciated. 50/50 ticket sales. Door prizes etc.

1800 Pot luck, last name beginning with A-E salad , F-H meat dish, H-Z desserts.

1900 ?? Karaoke & Games

Wednesday, 6 April

0700 Coffee.

0800 - 1000 Belgian waffle breakfast.

1030 Depart via car pool to Russell Stover candies in Wildwood FL Lunch

1300 Whispering Oaks Winery, Oxford FL 100% Blueberry wine.

1600 - 1700 HAPPY HOUR - BYOB spirits and beer. Light snacks are appreciated. 50/50 ticket sales. Door Prize drawings

1800 Dinner on your own

1900 Games

Thursday, 7 April

0700 Coffee.

0800 - 1000 S.O.S. Breakfast.

1300 Air Boat Ride

1600 - 1700 HAPPY HOUR - BYOB spirits and beer. Light snacks are appreciated. 50/50 ticket sales

1800 Dinner ????? Catered.

1900 ?? Karaoke. Games

Friday, 8 April

0700 Coffee and pastry.

Keep the shiny side up and the greasy side down!

As you can see there is ample time to see many of the local attractions. (I.e.), Dade Battlefield State Park, Battlefields, The Florida International Teaching Zoo, Cypress House Ranch, Kennedy Space Center, The Villages and on and on.

## **WESTERN AREA RALLY by Doug Cashmore**



*Doug Cashmore*

Please see the attached flyer and the MILWIT web site for further information on the Western Area Rally (also called “Operation Fredericksburg”) planned for April 27, - May 1, 2016.

The planning for Operation Fredericksburg is progressing along very well. We invite all WIT members who are retired or active duty members of the Armed Forces to join us for four days of camaraderie. The highlight of our time in Fredericksburg will be our visit to the WW II Pacific War Museum. We also have a trip to a beautiful winery and lots of shopping in downtown Fredericksburg. We will have a BBQ to welcome everyone on our first night and a Texas style Chili Cook Off on Thursday. Friday will be a free night and Saturday will be a catered Mexican Dinner. I am also working on a couple of guest speakers for your enjoyment.

If you like to, we will be arriving on Sunday afternoon April 24th and invite anyone who wants to join us for a couple of extra days in the beautiful Texas Hill country. The campground has extended the group rate for the entire last week of April.

The WIT Club Western Area Representatives, Butch & Becky Moore, will be presenting some exciting and interesting information during this rally.

I have the following people signed up for the week. I have space reserved for twice this number so please go to the website and sign up I promise we will have fun.

Doug & Lanita Cashmore	24 Apr 2016
Mike & Dianna Walker	24 Apr 2016
Jim Warren	25 Apr 2016
Larry & Barbra Johnson	25 Apr 2016
Marshell & Janet Foss	25 Apr 2016
Butch & Becky Moore	25 Apr 2016 WIT Club Western Area Reps
Ski & Mary Kozloski	25 Apr 2016
Stuart & Jo-Ann Burke	25 Apr 2016
Gerry & Terry Flaherty	27 Apr 2016
James & Yasuko Evans	27 Apr 2016
Steve & Sharon Anderson	27 Apr 2016 Guest

## **ANNUAL RALLY AND GNR by Mike Walker**

We have a very exciting rally planned for July. Our **25th Anniversary** is planned for July 12-18 of 2016, and we need to have every MILWIT member possible to participate in the event. Please plan to come to Forest City for the Annual Meeting and help us to make it a resounding success. Registration for the Annual MILWIT rally can be found on the MILWIT web site ([www.MILWIT.org](http://www.MILWIT.org)).

The WIT club GNR is a separate event hosted by them and rental of the RV space for that event is through the WIT club. They allow early arrivals, called “pre-rally” or “pre-GNR”. The rental of the sites for the pre-rally is paid for at the time you arrive if you arrive before the 18<sup>th</sup> of July (if they do it like they did last year). As they stated in their announcement email for the GNR:

**The 2016 rally takes place Monday, July 18 to Saturday, July 23. Please note that pre-rally parking will be available beginning Tuesday, July 12 from 12:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. and continue daily through Monday, July 18. Arrivals on or after July 19 will be parked from 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. Your rally registration fee includes parking on Monday, July 18.**

We plan to host the Annual MILWIT rally during that pre-GNR-rally time starting July 12 and ending July 18. Although our event is separate, you still will have to pay the WIT club for parking at the rally campground.

Registration for the Winnebago GNR is through the WIT club. If planning to attend the MILWIT Annual Rally, please tell them you will be arriving early and that you are with the MILWIT club. Registration for the MILWIT Annual Rally is separate and must be done via the registration form located on the MILWIT web site ([www.MILWIT.org](http://www.MILWIT.org)).

Chris provided a preliminary schedule of events above. However, we are still looking for ideas for games, food, and other events that we can plan for the Annual Meeting and Rally, and need input from you. Please let us know what you would like to see planned for this event and if you would be willing to volunteer to help make it happen.

One thing I would like to see is a raffle or an auction to raise money to give to a Veteran-associated charitable organization. Originally, I was thinking of the Wounded Warrior Project. However, I have received some input from some of the members that indicated the WWP is known for their high “administrative costs”. Of course we all know that translates to unrealistically high salaries for the leaders of the organization. But then, I don’t know of any charitable organization that does not



do that. In any case, before we choose a Veteran-associated charitable organization, I would like to get input from the membership for organizations you recommend for this cause. Please send your recommendations to me as soon as possible so I can contact the chosen organization for input and guidance.

So far, I have received MILWIT Annual meeting registration forms from the following members:

<b>MEMBER NAMES</b>	<b>ARRIVAL DATE</b>
Robert and Donna Zimmerman	7/12/2016
Robin and Ronald Spalding	7/13/2016
Larry and Barbara Johnson	7/12/2016
Chris and Barbara Coats	7/12/2016
Gerry and Terry Flaherty	7/11/2016
Jack and Millie Fraker	7/12/2016
Wayne and Sheila Hagler	7/11/2016
Doug and Lantana Cashmore	7/11/2016
Mike and Dianna Walker	7/12/2016
Dick and Ida Duffy	7/13/2016
Bill and Pearl Speer	7/05/2016

Members should keep in mind that the Winnebago campground will not be open until 7/12/2016. Pre-GNR rally registration is only processed July 12 through 18 from 12 noon to 5 pm.

### **WIT Club GNR Participation.**

As many of you know, we are involved with the activities planned during the Winnebago Grand National Rally (GNR) that will immediately follow the MILWIT Annual Meeting and Rally in July of 2016.

We have defined a “uniform” that the members should wear during the events we participate in such as the opening day parade, opening day flag raising ceremony, the Puckerbrush parade, and certain other events. This “uniform” is a white shirt with collar and dark blue or black pants. I think it would be a good idea if we could also wear a cap that indicates the branch of service. Members who plan to attend the rally are encouraged to participate in these events and should plan to bring clothes that fit the “uniform” requirements.

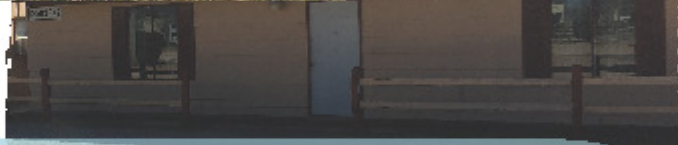
### **Other MILWIT Gatherings in 2016**

**MAYPORT.** In the past few years several MILWIT members have gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving at Pelican Roost RV Park at Naval Station, Mayport, Florida. This past year we had 10 rigs in attendance. Some were there 10 days;

some less. This is an informal gathering...not an official rally; therefore, there is no formal agenda or planned activities...just plenty of good visiting and fellowship. The RV park usually provides a turkey and ham dinner some time the week of Thanksgiving and the group normally eats Thanksgiving dinner together at the base galley. If MILWIT members have no plans for this season, please feel free to join us this coming year. All that is required is to make individual reservations at Pelican Roost (904-270-7808) on or after 1 June. Additional information can be provided by Jack Fraker (863-604-1992) or Wayne Hagler (334-237-1085).

**NATIONAL MILWIT RALLY & GNR.** MILWIT members who plan to arrive early for the MILWIT Rally & GNR are invited to join the Fraker's and Hagler's who have reservations to arrive at the Oakwood RV Park in Clear Lake, Iowa, on 30 June. There are already several who have indicated they will join us. Reservations may be made with Oakwood RV Park at 614-357-4019.

STARTING  
APRIL  
27



## OPERATION FREDERICKSBURG APRIL 27 - MAY 1

**We are still planing our events for the week, but here is an overview of what we have so far. The pictures above starting on the left and going around. Your hosts for our rally Doug and Lanita Cashmore, a view of the entrance to Oakwood RV Park, our parking row, the meeting room building and the BBQ area. The rally fee of \$30. 00 will go towards our morning coffee, donuts, charcoal for our BBQ, door prizes, etc.**

**Plan of the Day:**  
**Wed Apr 27 - Check in get settled 1700 hrs No Host Happy hour at the BBQ area followed by a BBQ and camp fire**  
**Thur Apr 28 - 1200 hrs Wine Tour or shopping tour downtown**  
**Fri Apr 29 - 0900 hrs Museum Tour**  
**Sat Apr 20 - 0900 hrs Museum Tour 1600 hours Buffet Dinner**  
**Sun May 1 - Check out or relax all day and leave Monday**  
**We will have coffee and snacks each morning at 0700 - 0900**