

MILWIT NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Mike Walker



Mike Walker

A new year has started and we are off to a great start. As you begin planning for the new travel year, make sure your plans include at least one of the MILWIT rally's we have planned for the coming year.

The very first MILWIT activity for 2017 is the *Eastern Area Rally* in Foley, Alabama beginning April 4-8, 2017. Wayne Hagler has been working hard on setting this up and planning a great experience for all attendees. Please come out and join us for a good time and help to kick off the year for the MILWIT club. A **rally registration form** can be found on the MILWIT web site (www.MILWIT.org) and more information can be found below and on the web site. Please register so we can know how much food to supply for the rally.

The second rally this year is the *Western Area Rally* planned for June 12-20, 2017. This rally will be quite different from many of the previous MILWIT rallies because our plan is to provide a great rally for all MIL-WIT members and any Winnebago RV Product Owners who would like to join us. Once again, more information and a **rally registration form** can be found on the MILWIT web site (www.MILWIT.org) and below. Please register so we can know how much food to supply for the rally.

An unofficial, **Pre-NATIONAL MILWIT RALLY** is planned at Clear Lake RV Park in Iowa. MILWIT members who plan to arrive early for the MILWIT Rally & GNR next year (2017) are invited to join other members at the Oakwood RV Park in Clear Lake, Iowa, on 29 June. See below for more details.

Plans for the *MILWIT Annual National Rally* are coming together. The Annual MILWIT rally will begin on July 11, the first day the parking is open for the pre-GNR. A preliminary itinerary is attached for review, and more information can be found below and on the MILWIT web site (www.MILWIY.org).

MILWIT Web Site.

The MILWIT web site (www.MILWIT.org) remains the main source of information for the members with the latest news and plans of the club. Please feel free to email the webmaster at (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 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. Contact the Webmaster using the form provided and Doug will assign a LOGON and PASSWORD to you.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

John Moonan writes: In the current MILWIT newsletter you asked for members to send you photos and interesting items. My wife and I are new RVers and this summer (2016) was our first RV trip and one of our stops was the MILWIT pre-rally. What I do is keep a Blog of our travels with photos and write ups of the places we visit and sights. It may be of interest to some of the MILWIT guys. You can find the Blog at <http://johnpatrvtour.blogspot.com/>. This was a long tour lasting 69 days and covering about 8,100 miles.

It comes up in reverse chronological order but there is a menu on the right where you can select one of the months and then view the entries for that month. If you click on my profile you can also see some of the Blogs I've done in the past before we got into RVing.

Thanks, John Moonan, 352-596-4709

BY-LAW CHANGES

Members are reminded that any recommended changes to the by-laws **must be submitted to any club officer in writing**. The current by-laws are available on the MILWIT web site (www.MILWIT.org) and can be accessed and reviewed by all members. Please submit any recommended changes to the by-laws to Mike Walker or any other club officer via email by June 1, 2017. I will send the recommended changes to the members in time for comments to be received prior to the July Annual meeting. Changes will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. **NO NEW CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING.**

PLANNED CLUB RALLIES

We have three club rallies planned in 2017.

Eastern Area Rally

The MILWIT Eastern Area Rally will begin April 4, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. The rally ends on April 8, 2017 following the evening meal.

The rally will be held in Foley, Alabama in southwest Alabama. Some things you might like to explore are the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, the Mobile Mardi Gras Museum, the National Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola Naval Base, the Gulf Shore beach and fishing pier, Tanger Outlet and numerous antique stores.

Campground and reservation Information: Johnny's Lakeside RV Park, 15810 Hwy 59 North, Foley, AL.36535. Your reservation must be made by calling 251-970-3773. The sites are full hookup at \$35.00 per night payable to Johnny's Lakeside RV Park. The rally is for five nights for \$175.00. You can stay for 7 nights for the same amount \$175.00. There is a NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT required - \$35.00 for a 5 night stay, \$50.00 for a 7 night stay. If you cancel 72 hours before your scheduled arrival, the campground will honor your reservation at a future date depending on availability.

MILWIT Rally Fee: \$25.00 per person payable to Wayne Hagler, 278 Agnes Lane, Ozark, AL. 36360. The fee includes two dinners and four breakfasts prepared by your hosts. Please send in all fees by **March 15, 2012**. With your check, enclose a piece of paper with any of the following information that **is not** already imprinted on your check: name, address, telephone number (home/cell) and significant other's cell number. Also, include the name, address, telephone numbers (home and cell) of a family or friend, **someone who is not traveling with you**, to be notified in case of an emergency.

It would be helpful, if you could send us an email (shwagler@gmail.com) as soon as possible, if you plan to attend. This will give us a general idea for planning purposes.

Further Information and Updates: Check the MILWIT website www.milwit.org or contact Wayne Hagler at 334-237-1085 (c) or 334-774-0326 (h) or shwagler@gmail.com.

Western Area Rally

The MILWIT Western Area Rally will be held June 12 – 20, 2017 at the Choctaw Resort, 3650 Enterprise Blvd., Durant, OK 74701. If desired, there is a Pre-rally planned June 12-14. The rally Schedule: Start on the 15th thru 20th.

All sites are drive thru on a 80 foot concrete pad with full hookups (50 amps), the parking fee will be: \$30.00 per night collected by the Resort. Reserve your site: 800-562 6073

The MIL-WIT rally fee will be \$25.00 for each person, children age of 16 and under will be free. The facility includes a swimming pool, movie theaters, and plenty of activities to occupy the children. There are three restaurants on site along with many amenities. We will have a meeting room & kitchen facilities that will be provided by our host, the Oklahoma Choctaw Resort.

Bill Speer and Doug Cashmore will be co-hosting with the host Carmine Liscio. We have 40 sites set aside for us and we hope to fill them all. This will be a great rally for the members to gather prior to the Annual Rally in July, so please plan to come out. Contact Carmine Liscio (618 996 8265 cmliscio@msn.com) for further information or check out the MILWIT web site (www.MILWIT.org) for more information.

Send your Rally fee of \$25.00 each person along with your Reservation form to: Carmine Liscio, PO Box 254, Creal Springs Illinois 62922. You must call the resort to reserve your site (800-562-6073) and make sure you specify you will be part of the MILWIT rally when registering.

Directions: From the North: Take I-35 South to Ardmore, 1 mile South of Ardmore take US70 to Madill, then to Durant. Then take 69/75 South for 3 miles to the Casino Campground.

From the South: Take Central Expressway 69/75 North to Durant, OKALAHOMA

Annual (National) MILWIT Rally

Plans for the MILWIT Annual National Rally are starting to come together. The Annual MILWIT rally will begin on July 11, the first day the parking is open for the pre-GNR. Parking reservations must be made through the WIT Club. When making your reservations, please let them know you are with the MILWITs and they will park you in our row. A tentative schedule of events is attached for your review. This schedule continues to evolve, so please send me any ideas or recommendations for events you would like to see us plan for the MILWIT rally. The MILWIT Rally fee will be the same as last year (\$35 per person).

We need to plan for a Head of Row (HOR) decoration and party. Last year, I discussed an idea with one of the MILWIT members to decorate our HOR with a Civil War theme. This member had some great ideas, but I do not remember who this was. Please get in contact with me ASAP so we can explore this idea (Mike Walker – 919-723-8206 or Webkeeper@Sprintmail.com). I am open to all ideas and need input from the members to see if this is a HOR display everyone would like to see. Please call or email me with your thoughts.

More information is posted on the MILWIT web site (www.MILWIT.org).

Other MILWIT Gatherings in 2017

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 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 any MILWIT members would like to participate this season, please feel free to join us this November. 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).

An unofficial, **Pre-NATIONAL MILWIT RALLY** is planned at Clear Lake RV Park in Iowa. MILWIT members who plan to arrive early for the MILWIT Rally & GNR next year (2017) are invited to join me and other members at the Oakwood RV Park in Clear Lake, Iowa, on 29 June. This was an informal gathering started by the Fraker's and Hagler's who unfortunately will not be able to be there. There are already several who have indicated they will join us. Reservations must be made very early as this park fills up for the July 4th celebration in Clear Lake which is an outstanding parade and fireworks show. This outing is unofficial and there will be no activities planned, but we usually have happy hour every day and we may have a community cookout if everyone wants to do something like that. Call the Oakwood RV Park at 614-357-4019. Make sure you let them know you are with the MILWIT group so they will park us together. The park is a cash-only park so be sure to bring enough to pay for the stay. I've found that if you have repairs needed you can make appointments with Winnebago before the GNR and take your rig in for repairs. This is nice in that if you can complete your repairs early, it keeps you from having to break camp once in the Winnebago fair grounds just to take your rig in for repairs.

2017 Annual Rally Event Preliminary Schedule

July 11 – Tuesday - Setup – need lots of help – volunteers check with Mike Walker

July 12 - Wednesday

0700 - Reveille

0800 – Continental Breakfast (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

1500 – MILWIT Opening Ceremonies (under the end of row tent)

1600 – Social/Happy Hour

1700 – Dinner with friends (on your own)

July 13 - Thursday

0700 - Reveille

0800 – Continental Breakfast (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

1600 – Social/Happy Hour

1700 – Chili cook off (competition – bring your own chairs, bowls and utensils)

July 14 - Friday

0700 - Reveille

0800 – Continental Breakfast (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

1500 – Float decoration for Puckerbrush Parade

1600 – Raffle followed by Social/Happy Hour

1800 – Rally ‘round the camp fire (without the fire!) – bring your own chairs, plates and utensils, and a side dish to share. Club will provide the main dish (TBD).

July 15 - Saturday

0700 - Reveille

0800 – Continental Breakfast (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

0900 – Puckerbush parade in town

1800 - Dinner with friends (on your own)

July 16 - Sunday

0700 - Reveille

0800 – Continental Breakfast (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

1600 – MILWIT Club Meeting – Election of Officers

1700 – Banquet – Location Waldorf University, upstairs (Cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

July 17 – Monday

First day of GNR

1630 – Installment of new officers – Waldorf University ballroom

1700 – Buffet dinner at the Waldorf University ballroom room (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)

MILWITs participate in the opening day parade and perform the flag raising ceremony (in uniform)