

April 2017

# MILWIT MAIL CALL

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER** by Mike Walker



Mike Walker

I recently discovered that the official name of the MILWIT Newsletter was adopted some time ago as the "Mail Call". I apologize for my mistake and have corrected that name as you can see above. I hope I have not offended any of the legacy members that adopted that name.

The New Year started off with a bang with the Eastern Area Rally in Foley Alabama. You can find a little bit of the rally summary in a separate article below. If you were not able to attend, you missed a great rally.

The second rally planned this year is the Western Area Rally in 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 MILWIT 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](http://www.MILWIT.org)) and below. Please register so we can know how much food to supply for the rally. Space is going fast, so please register right away and don't forget to call the Oklahoma Choctaw Resort to reserve your space.

An unofficial, **Pre-NATIONAL MILWIT RALLY** is planned at Clear Lake's Oakwood RV Park in Iowa. Unfortunately, if you have not already made reservations, you may not be able to get a spot. I will be there with several other MILWIT members, so if you are in the area, feel free to stop by for happy hour every day at 4 P.M.

Plans for the MILWIT Annual National Rally are complete. 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 a final itinerary will be available when you check in with me at the rally. More information can be found below and on the MILWIT web site ([www.MILWIT.org](http://www.MILWIT.org)).

## **MILWIT Web Site.**

The MILWIT web site ([www.MILWIT.org](http://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](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 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 using the form provided and Doug will assign a LOGON and PASSWORD to you.

## **NEWS FROM MEMBERS**

No news reported from the membership.

## **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](http://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. No changes to the by-laws will be considered for incorporation this year after that date. 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 two more official club rallies planned in 2017. See the articles below:

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:cmliscio@msn.com)) for further information or check out the MILWIT web site ([www.MILWIT.org](http://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 completed. 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). You must fill out a reservation form (located on the MILWIT web site) so that I know how many people to plan for the banquet.

Please, please, *please*, 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](mailto: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. So far, I have not received any input from members with ideas for this HOR decoration. Please call or email me with your thoughts.

## 2017 Annual Rally Event Schedule

July 11 – Tuesday - Setup – need lots of help – volunteers check with Mike Walker  
1600 – Social/Happy Hour  
1700 – Dinner on your own

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, utensils, and drinks)

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, bowls, utensils, and drinks, 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  
1500 – Practice for Opening Day Ceremonies  
1600 – Social/Happy Hour  
1800 - Dinner on your own

July 16 - Sunday

0700 - Reveille  
0800 – Continental Breakfast (cost covered by MILWIT rally fee)  
1000 – Practice for Opening Day Ceremonies  
1500 – MILWIT Club Meeting – Election of Officers  
1600 – Raffle followed by Social/Happy Hour  
1700 – Hot dog dinner with baked beans, chips, and condiments. Bring your own chairs, plates, utensils, and drinks. A side dish to share would also be appreciated.

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) – see MILWIT Treasurer for tickets.  
July 18 – Tuesday – WIT Club Opening Day Ceremonies

0815 –MILWITs participate with flag bearers and flag raising, MILWIT uniform required. Other MILWIT members should sit together in the stands – please wear the MILWIT hats.

1915 – Opening Day Parade – MILWITs provide color guard (in MILWIT uniform) and the members should march in the parade (uniform desired but not necessary, but hats required for identification)

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

## **EASTERN AREA AFTER ACTION REPORT**

The Eastern Area Rally was a great success. Below is the After Action Report. There are lots more pictures of the event, including some photos of the WIT Eastern Area representatives, Stewart and Tammy Smith in action, on the MILWIT web site ([www.MILWIT.org](http://www.MILWIT.org)) under the PHOTOS tab.

### **Eastern Area Rally Recap**

The MILWIT 2017 Eastern Area Rally was a resounding success thanks mostly to our hosts Wayne and Sheila Hagler and outstanding support from Jack and Shelia Fraker as well as the entire members in attendance. We also had lots of input and help from everyone that attended. There were 22 coaches in attendance with 43 members.



Wayne and Sheila prepared an outstanding country breakfast for everyone every day. The breakfast consisted of biscuits, sausage gravy, grits, bacon, sausage, and lots of coffee, juice and jams and jellies. I don't know about everyone else, but I think I gained 5 pounds in four days!

On Monday (just before start of the actual rally) we gathered at Wayne's RV for happy hour. Every other day except Friday we all gathered for happy hour in the pavilion.



The WIT Club Eastern Area Representatives attended and brought one year WIT memberships for us to give away as door prizes, and they also provided the WIT Club store items for sale.



The hosts served dinner on Tuesday consisting of ham, rolls, corn casserole, sweet potatoes, and black eyed peas. Then again on Saturday night, the hosts served loaded baked potatoes and chili for dinner. On Thursday we had heavy hors d'oeuvre's which was so filling there was no need for dinner afterward!



On Friday night, we all went to Lambert's – Home of the Hand Thrown Roll! The meals served were Southern style, very reasonable and delicious, and the rolls were thrown to you from across the room! That made it lots of fun. The rolls were hot and a meal in themselves, and they had butter and honey on the table. They came around with apple butter as well. Other servers brought around fried potatoes and onions, and others brought around fried okra. All in addition to whatever you ordered for dinner. This was definitely some good southern style eating.



The hosts planned several outings as well. One such place was the USS Alabama battle ship museum and the USS Drum submarine. Luckily, Wayne Hagler and Rich Stuntz were submariners in their other life and volunteered to provide us with a guided tour. As it turned out, we were joined by a teacher and her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class who were eager to listen to the information Wayne and Rich provided. Each of the students and their chaperones thanked the MILWIT members for their service and shook our hands.

Another tour was arranged to the National Aviation Museum in Pensacola and another tour to the Mardi Gras Museum in Mobile. Everyone who went had a wonderful time.

### **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 before 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's Oakwood 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 may no longer be available, but call anyway. The park fills up for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration in Clear Lake which has 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 **641-357-4019**. 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.

## **MEMBER PROFILE**

In this section, I plan to highlight the accomplishments of our members. For those of you who would like to nominate someone, please contact me (Mike Walker: [webkeeper@sprintmail.com](mailto:webkeeper@sprintmail.com)) and I will try to get their profile in a future newsletter. For this issue, although introductions are not necessary, I would like to introduce you to:



## Bill and Pearl Speer

Bill Speer was born in Kansas City, Missouri as William L. Speer on April 3, 1942. Bill was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry on June 26, 1964 and retired from active duty on September 1, 1994 as a Colonel.



During his thirty-year career, Bill served in a wide range of command and staff positions. At Company level, he served as a platoon leader, Company Executive Officer, and Company Commander. Four commands at company level provided him with 36 months' command experience, seven of which were in combat. His Infantry staff experiences include Battalion Communications Officer, S-3 Air, and S-2. His AMEDD and Combat Service Support staff experiences include Healthcare Personnel Officer, Civilian Personnel Officer, Clinical Services Administrator, Health Systems Instructor, teaching department Executive Officer, and Executive Officer to the USAREUR Surgeon. Bill's field grade command experiences were as Troop Commander, Eisenhower Medical Center, Commander, 15th Medical Battalion, Commander 68th Medical Group, Deputy, 3rd COSCOM Commander, and Deputy Commander, Ft. Riley MEDDAC.

Bill holds a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration from Baylor University and a Master's Degree in Education from Kansas State University. Since retirement, he taught school, directed municipal human resource management, and participated in a wide range of community philanthropic programs. He serves his community as: Past Chairman of the Geary Community Healthcare Foundation, Past Chairman of the Geary County Board of Zoning Appeals, Served as a trustee for the Kansas Nurses Foundation, Past President of the Junction City Optimist Club, Past President of the Junction City Rotary Club, Past Secretary of the Geary County Republican Party, a member of the Junction City Chamber of Commerce, and Past Vice-Chairman of Geary County Rural Water District #4 Board. Currently he is The National Director for the South-Central Winnebago Chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA), and past President of the Kansas Twisters Chapter of (FMCA). Bill regularly served USD 475 as a substitute teacher in special education for behavior and learning disabled students.

Bill's military awards include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal for heroism, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal w/ 40LC, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Parachute Badge. His civilian honors include Kappa Delta Pi, Gold Key, Phi Kappa Phi national honor societies, and the Rotary Paul Harris Award. He was recognized as the Kemper Military School 1994 Distinguished Alumni and the 996 Kansas State University College of Education, Distinguished Honor Graduate.

Bill recently served as the MILWIT President for 4 years and brought to our club the experience and organization skills he acquired during his illustrious career. The MILWITs are well received by the WIT club staff and the citizens of Forest City due to his efforts in supporting and promoting our club's activities in the community. We appreciate all he has brought to our club and hope that he continues to be an active participant helping to keep all of us who have followed him on the straight and narrow path!

Bill met and married his wife, Pearl, during his stay at Fort Sill where he was recovering from serious combat wounds. Pearl joined the American National Red Cross to do social service in military hospitals with assignments in Texas, Japan, Vietnam and Fort Sill, OK.

After graduation in 1965 with a BA in Sociology from Oklahoma Baptist University, Pearl joined the American National Red Cross to do social service in military hospitals with assignments in Texas, Japan, Vietnam and Fort Sill, OK. They lived in many different places including 2 tours in Germany and moved over 15 times in 25 years.

Pearl and their sons Louis, Charles, and Casey have accompanied Bill throughout his military and civilian careers. Bill's hobbies and interests include competitive skeet shooting, hunting, dog training, running, motor home traveling, gardening, and fire arms repair.

Bill and Pearl live in their RV around 200 days a year including spending the winter months in Biloxi, Mississippi. Bill spends a lot of his time with his gun club and Pearl likes to visit the Casinos. They have 3 sons and 7 grandchildren. Louis and his family live in McAllen, Texas. Chuck and his family live in Coming, Arkansas. Casey and his family live near them in Milford, Kansas.