

October 18, 2009

Hello to all my camping friends!!

Where do I start??? This has been absolutely the craziest camping season by far between wet weather, cool or freezing temperatures, ospreys, floods, heart attacks, etc. And this weekend wrapped the season up in true form. With ongoing rain prior to the campout and freezing temps predicted for the weekend, our gathering was becoming "iffy" to say the least. After weighing many factors, analyzing several options, changing minds MANY times, it was finally decided that it would be a "GO" as planned? But there was one significant difference lying ahead.....instead of camping at Camp Givens near the "Cabin on the Lake" we were ALL going to park on the black top creating what we all now fondly call the "Sardine City" RV Rally (and next to it was the "used vehicle lot")!!!! You just had to see it to believe it!!! (Check the website for photos a little later!!!) 12 rigs "cozily" parked on the paved driveway; some of which literally had "inches" **measured** between them to allow slides to come out (truthfully...if Lewises rig was "a rockin' " – Dickman's rig would be " a knockin' "!!!) It was engineering genius on Eric's part with Ken assisting. Plus all had access to electricity!! And the "campground owners" totally outdid themselves in accommodating ALL the campers. So we'd be warm, we had access to the "Givens' Recreation Hall" for gatherings and meals; for those interested in venturing outside we had the patio or the heated glass room to use. And what's a campout without a campfire?? Well, they dug (with the help of Lewises) a fire pit in their yard near all the activity for us to gather 'round and enjoy the fire. Lewises let us "christen" their new fire ring. Talk about pulling together to be sure our camping season went out with a bang!!! And as if this wasn't enough, Halloween decorations abounded; what an awesome atmosphere.

Now, down to who was there: of course we had our wonderful hosts – Eric and Teresa Cohee (and daughter Erin popping in) with Paul and Tonya Berg and their children Samantha and Nick. Also able to make it to camp or share part of the weekend were Ron and Carol Koenes with her sisters Betty and Mary Ann (so great to see them again!), Steve and Iris Lewis (and daughter Cheryl popping in), George and Sherry Gehring, Ken and Sharon Dickman, Bill and Nancy Plummer, Dick and Marsha Helm, Gary and Carolyn Rexroad, Guy and Jan Givens (son Rick with wife Paula and kids Gray and Hannah), Lance and Shelley Agness with children Gwen and Ethan (and family friend Adam Smith), Wilbur and Ginny Haggerty, Tim and Terry Finster, Allen and Carolyn Crist, Bob and Nancy Eoff, Larry and Ruth Yoder, and Bobbie Cole. And, of course, we had our "non-human" camping participants – 13 dogs (we finally got to meet Heidi – Givens newest "rescue") and 1 cat! As luck would have it, amidst it all Eric had to dash as he was needed as an EMT at an accident. Go, Eric!! To raise funds for Back Roads Dog Rescue, fees (\$.25) were charged for reservations, "prime parking", electricity and an assortment of other "things" over the weekend. Fun idea! Eventually we all settled down to a wonderful meal provided by the hosts of ham 'n beans, corn bread, salad and dessert (and Nancy Plummer graciously contributed a yummy chocolate dessert to the feast, too). With full tummies, we relaxed around the campfire, sat in the glass room or gathered in the Recreation Hall for card playing. Later Paul made kettle corn for us and it was great! What a great night!!

Saturday morning we awoke to the SUN (!!) and 31 degree temps – brrrr!! Some got some power walking in while others gathered 'round the campfire or other warm places. Before long, breakfast was served by our hosts – a casserole, pancakes, pastries, bacon, sausage, juice, etc. – wow! After our tummies settled, we ventured out for our Road Cleanup on N100E – walking the road out and having a "hayride" back. Later some ventured into Wabash for the Farmers Market, Craft Show and Chili Cook Off. Terry gave some of us craft lessons making some fun fall items. Carolyn Crist shared some "cast iron" baked (??) brownies and chocolate chip cookies :o). Tonya actually did make some cookies in cast iron while we watched. Both hit the spot! The plan was to have it a "Dutch Oven Pitch In" and soon there were many Dutch ovens cooking away – great fun and great food!! As always, there was plenty to eat.

After dinner it was time for our meeting. Sherry shared a prayer and Ron led the pledge. Minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved. Our account balance is \$657.91. Bar Meeting info from the Samboree was shared and birthdays and anniversaries were announced for October. We had 3 present from

our birthday group and Steve was the lucky (?) one chosen to wear the now "traditional" Circus City Sams' birthday hat while we sang to all of them. The list for next year's dinners and camping weekends was circulated again to fill in any "bare" spots. We found out that Bob and Nancy Eoff were finally able to sell their house and are soon moving to Texas. They will be leaving us soon. We've enjoyed having them as a part of our group; we wish them safe travels and that all goes well for them in Texas. A report of individual donations to the Back Roads Dog Rescue for the months of August and September was given. We are reminded to keep Lee and Betty Wilkinson in your prayers as he, again, is in the hospital. Several shirts were ordered and they are now in; most have been delivered. **DUES FOR 2010 IS NOW DUE - \$10. Please get this to Iris if you have not already done so.** Also, Iris will be contacting you to confirm your info that goes to the State. Shelley shared the information she has for the Christmas Party (this will follow later in the letter). Carol Koenes and Bill Plummer agreed to be the Auditing Committee. Steve shared that he was able to set up things a little differently on the website so check it out and see the wonderful changes!! Eric thanked the many that participated in the cast iron cooking. 50/50 was drawn and Carolyn Crist was the winner of \$28.50 (which she graciously donated to the Back Roads Dog Rescue).

As this was the last campout for Steve, we sent him off with a "bang"!!! Oh, my!! It was absolutely hilarious!! Everything from a card and decorating the inside of his RV to send him off and remember us to an "early New Year's Eve" dance with Carolyn Crist, the surfacing of the "infamous" anti-Lewis pie complete with the "traveling patio", to the blow up guitar for his "on the road tour", to gearing him up to fit in in Tennessee complete with "beer, smokes and his own coonskin hat". You just had to be there!!! What great fun!

Eric and Steve were up to no good AGAIN and they got us set up for the "Woods Scavenger Hunt"!! We were taken out via a hayride then "dropped off" with flashlights. We were to "find" our way back in teams and find objects along the way. There were really cool prizes for all that participated. This was a lot of fun; even the little kids enjoyed it! Some stayed in the warmth and played cards or just visited. Always something to do or just relax if that's your choosing. It became time to wind down and enjoy the last camping weekend campfire. :o(

Sunday we were greeted by the 31 degrees again but with frost today. Sherry led devotions and Carolyn C. the songs. We all enjoyed sitting around noting how much we have to appreciate, reminiscing of times and friends past, and just visiting. Guess what?? Time to eat.....again!! An "impromptu" pitch in brunch was prepared by all and fully enjoyed. After this was clean up time helping tear down and put away what we could for Jan and Guy. A LOT of work by MANY went into this weekend and thanks to ALL for doing so. Eventually, we all, little by little, left the "Sardine City RV Rally" and left Givens' property "naked"!!! What a weekend!!! :o) We ended our camping season with a BANG!! And, of note, we raised \$138.50 for the Back Roads Dog Rescue. Thank you, one and all. Know they can really use it and will appreciate it!

Information of note:

Fall Samboree and Caravan Outing – the Samboree was enjoyable with good entertainment; it was a little wetter and cooler than we would have liked but that didn't stop us from having fun. Several of us got in some volunteer time helping out where we could. Several bought outdoor rugs and step covers; amazing how Gehrings' changed color???? Sissy Crist got a new "bedmate"; she's not so lonesome anymore. :o) We had a great time at Little Farm – some did well at the casinos and some not so well; all enjoyed the view of the Ohio River especially our new Aussie friends –Karen and Marty Crouch. They have had a 7 year drought in Australia so had a major appreciation of waterways here as there are no rivers or lakes back home. They also continued on with us to Charlestown and thoroughly enjoyed the Riverboat Cruise. We had great fun with them and they are intending to visit with us again in November before they head north to Toronto, Ontario where their son lives needing to be there for Christmas.

Eureka Springs, Arkansas /Branson, Missouri trip – those going on this will be leaving October 26th. We will be volunteering some time at the Wildlife Rescue in Arkansas.

November dinner plans!!! We will be meeting for dinner Saturday, November 21st at 5:30 at the Streamliner in Rochester. **ASAP** notify Melodie Thompson is you are going to be coming so she can make accurate reservations. We are invited to their home after – 930 Olsen Road, Rochester. (Melodie's e-mail – melodiethompson@ymail.com)

Christmas Party info

Date: Friday, December 11th

Time: 6:30PM

Place: All Occasions (downstairs of the Market Street Grill in Wabash)

Price: Lance and Shelley are working on a menu having in mind that the meal, drinks and gratuity will be no

More than \$13 (will share what they come up with at a later date)

Gift exchange: Bring a \$5 fun gift for a man labeled for a “man” (but **not** from whom) and a \$5 fun gift for a woman

Labeled for a “woman” (but **not** from whom). Let the fun begin!!! If you have children, please provide

A gift for them to open.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY SIGNED UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, please contact Shelley and let her know you are coming by no later than the November dinner so she can make accurate reservations!!!!
(shelleyagness@yahoo.com)

Eoff's would like to stay in touch with their camping club friends. Feel free to contact them at: 2201 Sunrise Lane, Carrollton, Texas 75006 or e-mail: nancyeoff@gmail.com.

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Belated wishes to Nancy Plummer – September 27th

October

2 Steve Lewis

10 Lance and Shelley Agness

14 Melodie Thompson

- 18 Bob Eoff
- 31 Tonya Berg

November

- 2 Al Goletz
- 26 Carolyn Crist
- 3 Eric and Teresa Cohee
- 12 Wilbur and Virginia Haggerty

December

- 2 Gary Rexroad
- 3 Teresa Cohee
- 12 Marsha Helm
- 24 Lance Agness
- 29 Daniel Wilson
- 30 Ken Dickman
- 9 Lee and Betty Wilkinson
- 30 Gary and Carolyn Rexroad

Well, folks, that's about except for wondering why Carol complained many times this weekend about Ron "screwing" her????? hmm????? :o) Farewell to Steve, Bob and Nancy and any "snowbirds" leaving early; hope to see the rest at the dinners and continue bringing your donations for Back Roads Dog Rescue – we will get them to them.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Rexroad
Corresponding Secretary