



# Blue Grass Beret e-Newsletter

"AND SO YE FAITHFUL, THERE IS NO SHADOW TO SEE.  
AN EARLY SPRING FOR YOU AND ME"

It's official, at least according to America's most celebrated groundhog: spring is around the corner.

In an annual ritual with early roots in German folklore and rather more in US media-showbiz, a Pennsylvania groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil was interpreted Saturday February 02 as predicting an early end to winter.

According to his handlers at the ceremony in the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Phil was brought out of his burrow and did not see his shadow, meaning, obviously, that the seasonal shift is in the offing. Had he seen his shadow, winter would have gone on another six weeks.



Just how accurate is Bluegrass Bubba? Last year, Bluegrass Bubba did a horrible job "forecasting" our pattern when he did see his shadow, thus giving us "six more weeks of winter." In reality, that never occurred as the United States had its fourth warmest winter on record. After some extensive internet research I have discovered Punxsutawney Phil and Bluegrass Bubba to be accurate only 39% of the time.



Of course for the most dependable forecast in the Kentucky area we depend on Bluegrass Bubba the official groundhog used the last ten years by the Kentucky Weather Center.



**KENTUCKY DERBY RALLY**  
May 02 - 05 2013  
Kentucky Horse Park  
Lexington, KY



sites are reserved Wed May 1st and depart on Sunday May 5th.

With 8 sites left, call me or e-mail soon! I can probably reserve more sites if necessary, but I can't guarantee the sites would be all together.

513-288-3419 or [aom1215@yahoo.com](mailto:aom1215@yahoo.com)

Pam and I are setting the agenda for the weekend. Of course we will see some shows in the Horse Park. And Derby Festivities galore. A special "Surprise" tour soon to be announced.

Great food awaits the first 15 Airstreams thru the gate !!!

Stayed tuned for more Shiny Silver Details !!!

Hey There Airstreamers from Artie and Pam!

All is good this January in Northern Ky. A brand new year is already 10 days old, the 9 inches of snow we received after Christmas has melted and there is only 16 more weekends left until the Derby Rally. It will be here before we know it!

Our Airstream is mad at us. Every time I look out the bedroom window she snarls at me and says,

" Why do you leave me out here all by myself every winter?" I settle her down by opening the door to let a little sunshine in and she feels a little better. "Just wait", I tell her, "I'll be greasing your hitch and packing your bearings before you know it."

We have 7 confirmations for the Derby Rally so far. Remember that I have 15 sites reserved. Most everyone that I have talked to wants to come in on Wednesday and that is perfectly fine. The





## Meanderings From The Phipps Pfiles



The Phipps, Peytons and Martins had been planning for attendance at the Mardi Gras rally and our own Cajun Caravan for several months. After the Rally we will visit several of the venues that the Phipps' visited in March 2011 on the National Cajun Heritage Caravan with Rick and Marilyn Solera.

As our unit caravan to the Mardi Gras Rally in New Orleans prepared to depart on February 3<sup>rd</sup> we were presented with cold and snow which required Bob to do some snow and ice removal from his road in order to get to the main highway. By the time we left West Liberty the roads were in pretty good shape and continued to improve as we made our way West and South.

With that challenge conquered we are on our way with overnight stops in Goodlettsville, TN on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Meridian, MS on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We arrived on the campus of the University of New Orleans on the 5<sup>th</sup> and took our campsites with the other early arrivers. We were met by two new members of the Kentucky unit Terry and Pat Esrael of Lexington and Sonny and Pat Bates of Nicholasville. In all there were 49 units at

the rally from 22 different states and Canada.

Upon our arrival the weather was really nice in the high 60s and sunny but was soon to turn worse. On the second night in New Orleans we had an all night rain event with high wind gusts. Damage was minimal for our group with two of my flag poles bent at 90 degree angles and one of David's Zipdee rafter claws broken. (This weather front moved on up the east coast and dumped record amounts of snow on the New England States.) Otherwise we were fine. Overall the weather was cooler with some rain but we were pretty much spared additional rain for the Mardi Gras parades and other outdoor activities.

Lonnie Carver, the rally director and her Krewe, did a fabulous job of planning and execution for the events. Even though the traffic in New Orleans during Mardi Gras can be a challenge the school bus drivers that delivered us to the parades and other events took us very close to our reserved seating for the parades and front doors of other attractions. It just doesn't get any better than that.

The Mardi Gras parades were just absolutely spectacular!! The amount of work and planning that goes into those events is impressive. Our ladies came away with so many throws that we may have to add extra air in the trailer tires to carry them home. The parades are very much family oriented events attended by people of all ages.





While in town we visited the French Quarter a couple of times (in the daytime I might add) as well as the World War II Museum, the World of Mardi Gras where many of the floats are designed and constructed, had a luncheon cruise on the Natchez Riverboat and a luncheon at the New Orleans School of Cooking where we enjoyed watching the Chef prepare the dishes we were having for lunch.

We were also in attendance at the Rally sponsored Krewe of Tin Cans Masquerade Ball where we enjoyed dinner, dancing and fellowship with our fellow rally attendees. We were adorned in our finest Mardi Gras regalia for this exquisite event.

If you haven't had an opportunity to attend this National Rally, I would encourage you to consider it. We all came away with very fond memories of Mardi Gras and the fellowship we enjoyed with our fellow Airstreamers. In addition to that we have a much better understanding of the meaning Mardi Gras and the cultural and economic importance of Carnival to the citizens of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana.

The rally concluded on Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup>. On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> the West Liberty contingent made preparations to leave New Orleans and to continue our caravan into the Cajun Country. Our first stop was in Morgan City, LA where we stayed at Lake End Campground on the waters of Lake Palorde.

On the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> we decided to take a run up to Prairie Port, LA to see if we could find Troy Landry one of the alligator hunters from the Swamp Man TV show on the History Channel. We arrived at the Shell Station where we were told he hangs out from time to time and were immediately greeted by his Dad and Mom with whom we

visited for some time. They summoned Troy via phone and in a few minutes he came and we continued our visit. They were all very gracious folks and we enjoyed visiting with them. Troy also autographed several pictures and tee shirts for us. They also took us on a short tour of the facility they have where they buy alligators and crawfish.

Later that afternoon we hooked up with Cajun Jack Hebert at Patterson, LA for his famous tour of the Bayou where we spent about three hours touring the back waters of the Bayou near Morgan City. Jack is a very entertaining individual, a proud Coon Ass Cajun, and very knowledgeable on the Cajun culture and the Atchafalaya Basin itself. We were not to see any alligators or snakes today, since they are pretty much still in hibernation.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> we moved to Eunice, LA approximately 100 miles Northwest of Morgan City. As I am writing this on Saturday night the 16<sup>th</sup> we have been to Fred's Lounge in Mamou, LA for a dose of good Cajun music this morning and again at DI's Restaurant near Eunice this evening.

We are having a great time and will move next week to Abbeville, LA for a few days before heading home, expecting to arrive back in West Liberty on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to visiting with everyone at our various events this summer.

May you have safe travels.

Tommy & Teresa Phipps  
David & Sue Peyton  
Bob & Louise Martin

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**FLORIDA STATE RALLY  
SARASOTA, FL**

Once again a sizable number of Kentucky snowbirds gathered at the Fairgrounds in Sarasota for the annual Florida State Rally. Larry & Shala Wilson hosted the Kentucky Happy Hour on Valentines Day followed by the Region 5 Dinner at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant.



**DINNER AT THE GRAYHOUND  
TAVERN**



Northern Kentucky members, Steve, Cristy & Anna, Artie & Pam along with Larry & Kathy gathered at the Grayhound Tavern in Fort Mitchell, Ky in February to enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship. Of course a lot of discussion about the exciting Rally season the Kentucky Unit has planned for 2013.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Ronald & Nancy Hanson  
937 Palomino Dr  
Villa Hills, Kentucky 41017 - USA  
859-462-9120  
Email: [rolohanson@yahoo.com](mailto:rolohanson@yahoo.com)





## IS THERE SUCH A THING AS TOO MUCH HOSPITALITY?

The Region 5 Rally at General Butler State Park is the place to find out.

# Unbridled Spirit

2013 REGION 5 RALLY  
SEPTEMBER 11 - 15, 2013



Dear fellow Region 5 Airstreamers and friends. It is our pleasure to welcome you to our 38th Region 5 Rally. This year our rally will be held in Carrollton, Kentucky located at the confluence of the Kentucky River and the Ohio River. Kentucky proudly boasts the largest developed state park system in the country with 17 resort parks surrounded by some of the most striking landscapes in the Commonwealth. We will be staying at General Butler State Resort Park, in its beautiful campground. One of the cabins will be used for our computer rally. The Convention Center will be utilized for some of our events, seminars, and entertainment. We will be having a cookout on the adjacent patio.

Last year our rally emphasis was on entertainment. We have some good entertainment planned again this year, however the emphasis is a little more on food. The Two Rivers restaurant in the lodge is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day, and is dedicated to bring you the best of Kentucky hospitality. General Butler's award winning staff prepares the freshest foods and the menu offers something for everyone including

local Kentucky favorites. As supporters of the Kentucky Proud program, they utilize locally raised meats and produce when available. Their staff will be preparing a breakfast, a luncheon cookout, and two dinners for us.

It has been four years since the rally was held in Kentucky and we are looking forward to going back. We think this rally is going to be bigger and better. The whole Kentucky Unit is really pitching in to help plan the activities and events. And for the first time, starting in February, you will be able to register on line using a credit card or pay pal. Of course checks and USPS will still be available by contacting our treasurer, Ron Gordy, just like you have in the past.

Our theme is "Unbridled Spirit". So plan to saddle up your rig and head to Kentucky this fall for a unique event, which will be remembered as a truly "special rally". So register soon, since this is something you do not want to miss. If you have any questions, please contact us by cell phone or e-mail listed below.

Barry and Karen Bell  
Region 5 President and First Lady

Cell Phone: (317) 418-2529  
E-mail: [ksbell55@gmail.com](mailto:ksbell55@gmail.com)

### REGISTER ONLINE!

This year you may register online simply by going to the Region 5 website.

[region5.wbcci.net](http://region5.wbcci.net)



A PEEK AT THE MISSISSIPPI CARAVAN  
MAY 13-18, 2013

Take a peek at the mighty Mississippi River during the beautiful month of May. Join the Southern IL Unit for a look at some historic river towns between Cahokia, IL and Cape Girardeau, MO during a time when nature should be resplendent with spring time flowers and flowering trees. The caravan will run from May 13-18.

The caravan will rendezvous in Cahokia, IL and stay there for two nights at a private campground with three point hookups. We will then move on to St. Genevieve, MO for a one night stay at **Hawn State Park where everyone will have to make their own reservations for the night of Wednesday, May 15.** This can be done by phone (1-877-422-6766) or on line [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com). From there the caravan will move to Cape Girardeau, MO for a two night stay in a private RV park again, with three point hook ups.

Nine tours are included in this caravan: Cahokia Courthouse State Historic Site, Jarrot Mansion State Historic Site and Holy Family Parish Log Church – all in Cahokia. Time will be allocated for viewing of the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site which is also a UNESCO designated World Heritage Site. In St. Genevieve, the group will tour the Bolduc House, Bolduc-LeMilleur House and the Linden House. In Cape Girardeau, a city tour with a guide will be provided along with a tour of the Rosemary Berkel & Harry L. Crisp Museum on the River Campus of Southeast MO State University. Also included will be a tour of the Interpretive Center at the Trail of Tears State Park with a talk and demonstration by Chief Paul White, Cherokee storyteller. This state park and Interpretive Center is a memorial to the thousands of Cherokee Indians who died on a forced march from their home land through several states including Missouri and Illinois to Oklahoma.

All stops will include time for caravanners to choose tours that they would enjoy individually.

Kitty fee includes four nights camping with three point hookups and nine tours. Several "Dutch Treat" meals will be arranged.

Motels or Bed and Breakfasts are readily available at each stop. Please let us know if you are interested in this type of facility and cost/information will be provided to you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI# \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH OF RIG \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE OF RIG: MH TT BV

NUMBER IN PARTY: ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

GOLDEN AGE PASSPORT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

The kitty fee is \$162 for two people in an Airstream, \$147 for one person in an Airstream. A deposit of \$50 must be enclosed with this registration form and must be received by March 1, 2013. The remainder of the kitty fee must be received by April 20, 2013. Refunds will be at the Caravan Leaders discretion dependent upon reservation fees already paid.

If you want to stay for Saturday night in Cape Girardeau and rally with the Southern IL Unit, please add \$30 to the total kitty fee and that reservation will be made for you.

**Remember, you are to make your own reservation at Hawn State Park for the evening of May 15. That reservation can be made by calling 1-877-422-6766 or on line at [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com).**

Make checks payable to Jerry Humble – Peek at the Mississippi and mail with this coupon to Jerry Humble, 1308 Shawnee Trail, Carterville, IL 62918.



# WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT TIME.

For details about any of our rallies check out our web site [www.kentucky.wbcci.net](http://www.kentucky.wbcci.net)  
Rather talk to a real person? Contact Larry Wilson 270-792-2830

