



We Wan To Go WANDERER



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Volume 15, No. 03
June 1, 2017

May Was The Iowa Winnie Hawks' Spring Meeting

The Iowa Winnie Hawks' Spring Meeting was held May 19-21 at Antique Acres in Cedar Falls, IA. There was a total of 22 coaches in attendance of which almost half were We-Wan-To-Gos. The theme was "Remember When."

Those We-Wan-To-Go members attending were:

1. Lyle and Marrlee Airey
2. Bill and Pat Consolver
3. Myrna Elliott
4. Mike and Carol Gammon
5. Dave and Cathy Good
6. Paul and Shari Harberts
7. Steve and Dixie Mumford
8. Richard and Paula Nichols
9. Wanda Wendt
10. Craig and Sandy Winn

Also present were prospective members Randall and Virginia Jensen of Carroll at their third WIT function making them eligible for official We-Wan-To-Go membership.

The We-Wan-To-Gos were responsible for parking, registration, and greeting each arriving camper.

For early arrivals, there were two activities on Friday starting with a tour of Winnebago's Waverly facility where company employees assemble wire looms for the company's motorhomes. Second was a tour of the John Deere engine factory in nearby Waterloo.

Then on Saturday morning there was a tour of the local Amish country at Hazelton, IA.

Jim Reynolds, a long-time member of the Southeast Iowa Winnie Korns, had some very sad news when he announced his local chapter will disband on October 31 of this year.



Earlier, the North Iowa Travelers also disbanded leaving just three local chapters remaining in the state – the Busy Bee Winnies, Iowa Cornbelt Campers and our own We-Wan-To-Gos.



Some We-Wan-To-Gos at the Winnie Hawks' Spring Meeting

June Birthday Celebratories Go To:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Reggie Andersen | 5 th |
| Char Farni..... | 6 th |
| Dick Pawlowski | 8 th |
| Sandy Winn..... | 14 th |
| Greg Galeazzi..... | 16 th |



June Anniversary Best Wishes Go Out To:

Mike & Carol Gammon..... 10th
Gary & Donna Adams 23rd
Dale & DeAnn Barnhill..... 30th



In June, We Return To Little Wall Lake

The next We-Wan-To-Go campout will be at Little Wall Lake State Park on June 16-18. It is located at **3540 Little Wall Lake Road, Jewell, IA**. Your wagonmasters are Aireys, Elliott, Farnis, Harberts, and Pearces.

For early bird arrivals on Thursday, there will be a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m.

Friday evening, your hosts will serve walking tacos along with home-made ice cream.

Saturday morning reveille will be early at 0730 hours for an early pancake breakfast.



Then after breakfast, we'll caravan to Ames and tour Spedding Hall on the Iowa State University (ISU) campus. The building is named after Dr. Frank Spedding, an ISU professor, who worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II helping build the first atomic weapon.

From there, we'll caravan to Bergies Coffee Company Roasting Restaurant for lunch.

Then it's on to the Ames Fire Department for a tour of their facilities and services. Then back to the campground for our Chapter business meeting.

On Saturday evening, there will be grills available to grill your own meat while your wagonmasters provide salads and ingredients for S'mores.

Sunday morning your hosts will serve pastries, juice, and coffee before departing for home.

Please RSVPs to the Aireys at (641) 488-2386 or (641) 485-7549 (Lyle's Cell) or (641) 485-7548 (Marrlee's Cell) or by E-mail: lmairy@heartofiowa.net. Negative relies are now required.

For campground reservations, contact Little Wall Lake directly at (515) 832-9570 and mention the We-Wan-To-Gos.

Grand Design Hires Its 1,000th Employee

Grand Design Recreational Vehicles, a wholly owned subsidiary of Winnebago Industries, marked the first half of 2017 with the hiring of its 1,000th employee.



“Our employees are what make this company thrive and are ultimately responsible for our unprecedented growth. It's such an honor to be able to make a difference in the community and have so many dedicated team members that call Grand Design home,” said Don Clark, president and CEO of Grand Design RV.

This article appeared in RV D@ily Report

All the news impacting the RV industry - All the Time!

Grand Design RV entered the RV market in January 2013 with its flagship Solitude fifth wheel. It was quickly followed by the release of the Reflection fifth wheel and travel trailer lines as well as the Momentum toy hauler in July of the same year.



Grand Design's Imagine travel trailer assembly line

The introduction of these new products created a total of 500 jobs in just 15 months.

The Imagine travel trailer was introduced to the market in July, 2015, spurring even more growth and hiring. In the first half of 2017, Grand Design crested the 1,000th employee mark and is continuing to grow.

Strong year-over-year brand growth of nearly 67% through February, according to Statistical Surveys, has contributed to accelerated hiring and need for the newly constructed Plant 6 that opened its doors for production in late 2016.

“When we founded Grand Design our goal was to make our company special for our retail customers, Grand Design dealers, suppliers and our Grand Design team members. We attribute our exceptional growth to the special relationships we have forged with all of these groups and thank you for making Grand Design such a special company,” said Clark.

Chicago Cub's Manager New Voice Of Winnebago

Joe Maddon's "The Cousin Eddie" RV will always have a place in Cubs lore. It's what Maddon was driving when he found out he could opt out of his contract with the Tampa Bay Rays and where he met with Chicago Cubs executives before signing on with them.

Now, Maddon is cashing in on his love of RVs as he has signed on to be a spokesperson for Winnebago Industries, Winnebago announced Monday.

As part of the multiyear deal, Maddon and his wife Jaye



Eddie of National Lampoon received a new 2017 Winnebago Grand Tour which contains a master suite, fireplace, and a 60-inch TV. The company delivered the RV to the Maddons during spring training in Mesa, AZ.

**This article appeared in
Chicago Tribune**

“What I love about Winnebago is that it is this great, iconic RV brand but also its forward thinking,” Maddon said. “Winnebago gets us and our lifestyle. It's our home.”

Added Winnebago President Michael Happe: "With their unique style, class and sense of adventure, Joe and Jaye are the perfect embodiment of the Winnebago brand.

"We are really excited to kick off this partnership with the Maddons and collaborate with them as we introduce Winnebago and the appeal of the RV lifestyle to a new generation of fans.”



Cash Strapped Born Free Motorhomes Closes Doors

Callers to Born Free Motorhomes of Humboldt, IA are hearing a message that the company is shut down 'temporarily'. However, based on other correspondence with Born Free RV owners, the situation appears permanent.



Two New York RV owners were scheduled to have factory work done June 12 in Humboldt. However, they received a voice-mail and e-mail Tuesday that the entire Born Free staff had been laid off. Their June appointment was cancelled and the owners were told if the company reopens they will be called to reschedule.

A Wisconsin customer inquiring about ordering parts for his Born Free motorhome received an automatic reply noting “due to circumstances beyond our control, as of May 15, 2017 the Born Free factory in Humboldt, Iowa, will be closed until further notice.”

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RV D@ily Report**

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Another employee posted a notice on the Born Free owner's forum. “The only information I have to post at this time is that the Born Free factory is closed until further notice. When and if the company receives an infusion of additional cooperating capital,

then it will reopen. Additional information will be posted here when it becomes available.”

A dealer from Virginia arranging service for a customer was told the factory had been closed.

A dealer partner indicated that the company was on the verge of filing for bankruptcy; however, no cases had been filed yet.

Born Free had a solid reputation and a very loyal following by the owners of its Class C motorhomes.

Two years ago, in January, the company was sold to HFB Investments, a private equity firm based in Des Moines, IA.

In September 2015, John Dodgen, the founder of Born Free, passed away after a lengthy bout with cancer. Mr. Dodgen had led us on a tour of his plant

in July of 2008 and fed us dinner at his headquarters when we had a state rally at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds. He even sang the song “Born Free” to us.

Upcoming We-Wan-To Go Events

Updated: 05/24/17

* Indicates a change

June 16-18Campout

Location:Little Wall Lake State Park,
Jewell, IA

Wagonmasters:Airey, Elliott, Farni, Harberts, Pearce

July 7-9Iowa Winnie Hawk State Rally

Location:Franklin County Fairgrounds, Hampton, IA
Assignments:Breakfast, meals, and beverages
Theme: " *Fabulous Winnebago* "

July 17-23Grand National Rally (GNR)

Location: WIT Rally Grounds, Forest City, IA
Assignments:Row party tables and table covers
Theme: " *Welcome to Fabulous Winnebago* "

August 25-27Campout

Location:Diamond Lake Park, Montezuma, IA
Wagonmasters:Cox, Good, Nichols, Rasmussen. Sheeder

September 21-24Iowa Winnie Hawk Fall Meeting

Location:Southern Iowa Fairgrounds, Oskaloosa, IA
Assignments: Setup, Cleanup, and decorations
Theme: " *Autumn Fun* "

October 13-15Campout

Location:Green County Fairground/Milwaukee Depot, Jefferson IA
Wagonmasters:Adams, Corning, *Mower, Pawlowski, Peters, Wendt

November 18Noon Luncheon Hibachi Grille and Supreme Buffet, West Des Moines

Host:Consolver

* December 2Noon Luncheon

Location:Pickle's Pub, Kamrar, IA
Hosts:Harberts

2017 - 2018 Chapter Leadership

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