

Muster Master Comments, July 2008

Sixteen members and guests gathered at the Shady Oaks RV Park between Harrison and Jasper, Arkansas, just in time for the Buffalo River Elk Festival. They were joined for one of the Happy Hours by Jay and Mary Raulston, who were very active members of the Hogs chapter for many years, before serious medical problems caused them to temporarily suspend RV travel. Members in attendance included: Wagonmasters Ralph and Edye Jungels; Assistant Wagonmasters Glenn and Pat Foster; Ann Lowry and her guest, Hollis Kinder; Marion Spivey, Bill and Kathie Corroum and their guests, Bob and Maribel Clerc, who are members of two SMART chapters in Texas; Andy and Pat Maglievaz and Jim and Ali Rixmann. Unfortunately, Kic and Eileen Wheeler, who had come up with the original idea for a muster in conjunction with the Elk Festival, could not attend, due to some medical problems. They were sorely missed.

Everyone arrived safely by Thursday, 25 June, and assembled for the first Happy Hour and information session by our leaders. Ann Lowry read some of the vast material that had been provided by the Harrison and Jasper Chambers of Commerce and suggested a river float trip for the following morning. Thursday dawned a beautiful, calm day, and a small group of adventuresome Hogs enjoyed a perfect float trip on the scenic Buffalo River. Others took advantage of the many attractions in the two northern Arkansas towns. That evening, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the dinner provided by our hosts, and many stayed around the comfortable pavilion for some board games.

After a continental breakfast on Friday morning, most of the Hogs took off for the first day of the annual Elk Festival. It was a colorful and interesting experience, with the highlight being a “pop-up target” archery competition. After dinner-on-your-own, the intrepid board game warriors were at it again. Someone asked me if I were brave enough to tell who won...

At around 0500 on Saturday morning, a very loud thunderstorm roared through and dropped about three inches of rain. No casualties! Still, our fearless leaders provided everyone with a delicious combination of breakfast casseroles and fruit cups. Then, it was off for more adventures at the Elk Festival and other area attractions. (Did someone mention Walmart?) As the day wore on, the weather cooperated, and a great time was had by all. There had been no plan for a chapter meeting during this muster, but the president became aware of some post-National Muster funds that were being distributed by SMART Headquarters, amounting to a check for \$200 for our chapter. Some members felt it should be applied to our historic support of the DAV Van Fund for the transportation of needy, rural veterans to and from VA medical facilities. Thus, President Jungels called a chapter meeting. Details of the meeting are in the chapter minutes provided by Secretary Pat Maglievaz, but I will mention that a motion to this effect passed unanimously. After dinner, we had more board games, and the same bunch won for the third consecutive evening! I am brave enough to give you a hint: It wasn't the men!

On Sunday morning, Kathie and Marion treated the group to a delicious assortment of muffins. After that, many folks went to local churches and the day was free for more sight-seeing. One group drove to a meadow along the Buffalo River in the Boxley Valley on an Elk hunt, and saw a small herd of these magnificent creatures that were introduced into the Ozarks from Colorado in the early 1980s. On Sunday evening, the group met at Coltons Steakhouse for a farewell dinner. Although the food was the real highlight of the evening, everyone seemed to get a real charge out of the presentation of a Red Sock Award to an unsuspecting member who asked to remain anonymous. Well, that might work in some organizations, but it must be reported that the award

was presented to none other than ***Yours Truly*** for some lousy navigation on the way to lunch on Day Two!

On a gorgeous Monday morning, everyone gathered for coffee and muffins to exchange hugs, farewells and best wished for safe travels. Hats off to the Jungels and Fosters for a really outstanding muster. And, again, many thanks to Kic and Eileen Wheeler for discovering this truly neat muster spot and the Elk Festival that made it so worthwhile!

Kathie and I are off to see some more of this wonderful Country That We Defend. We hope you'll have a safe and enjoyable Summer and that you'll be able to enjoy your RV experience. Our next opportunity to gather the Hogs will be at Ann Lowry's Golden Pond muster in Shirley, AR in September. Please make plans to attend. After that, we will honor Veterans Day in November at Burns Park, North Little Rock, Arkansas. K & B will keep doing this until we get it right!!

Keep the Shiny Side Up!!

Bill Corroum
Muster Master