



## **SOITC NEWSLETTER APRIL 2007**

### **The Top Ten Reasons to Attend the Branson Rally** **by Cherri Strohofer**

- #10. By-law changes. Remember how exciting the first meeting was? Remember being glued to your seat?
- #9. See who will be the winner of the “SpringButt” award this year.
- #8. Not sure how much your unit weighs? Find out.
- #7. Chance to win door prizes. Can’t win if you aren’t in Branson.
- #6. Variety shows for all ages and tastes.
- #5. I hear there are wineries!
- #4. Book sale-add to your mobile library or reduce it.
- #3. No time clocks to punch for those still punching.
- #2. Renewing friendships made a year ago.
- #1. When will you be able to see this many Doubletree Suites in one place again? (Rally 2008)!

# **Branson Rally and Club Activities Update**

## **Wear Haus Design Club Apparel**

Once again Wear Haus management has taken the recommendations of Club members as well as the Board. Besides continuing their support of the club through contributions from sales to members, Wear Haus Design is now actively engaged in providing apparel for members with our Club Logo embroidery or screen printed on selected apparel.

In April, Wear Haus Design, will activate a SOITC order form that can be directly submitted on their revised website. There is also more flexibility to select more ladies and men's apparel. Wear Haus Design is also again providing an SOITC theme t-shirt for our Branson rally. You can now see their new display at the following web site <http://www.wearhaus.net/DTsuite/>

Please continue to purchase your RV apparel through Wear Haus Design business services, in-turn providing financial supplemental support for SOITC events and activities.

## **Sponsors Support**

Several DoubleTree RV dealerships as well as RV product suppliers again have contributed substantially with either cash donations for specific activities and or RV related items. The items will be either raffled or given away as door prizes at our rally this year. Together these sponsors contributed approximately \$10,000 dollars to the SOITC rally activities.

Several sponsors have donated very nice door prizes. Some examples of donations are \$1,000 gift certificate from Fantasy Tours, two (2) \$ 250 cash prizes from Wheels Motors RV, a Quad step from EDR, GPS from Fun & Sun RV, and a MOR/ryde king pin box (new anti-shock style for smoother towing) that is compatible with your Suites towing specification requirement

At the registration booth, the board is requesting your support by signing the thank you cards that will be sent to the 2007 Sponsors. Please take a few minutes to review our Club sponsors page and use their services when possible.

## Weigh it Services

Mobile Suite owners, Stacey & Gail Frank, of Weigh it Services, will be available for weighing your units. For detailed info please see the narrative shown below.

PORTABLE RV  
SCALES

WE COME TO YOUR  
SITE!!

### WHAT WILL I LEARN BY BEING WEIGHED?

- **If your RV is within the manufacturer's weight spec's for each axle.**
- **If your RV is balanced side to side.**
- **When your tires were manufactured.**
- **What is the maximum carrying capacity of your tires.**
- **What is the pin weight of your trailer.**
- **If the pin weight is affecting the weight on the steer axle.**

### WHY DO I NEED TO GET WEIGHED?

- **Overweight vehicles and under-inflated tires can cause major tire failures.**
- **Tire failures can cause dangerous on-road breakdowns.**
- **Tires are expensive, and over-loaded and incorrect air pressures can cause rapid tire wear.**
- **Recent studies have found that over 23% of all RV's have overloaded tires.**
- **In a survey by Firestone/Bridgestone, 4 out of 5 RV's had at least 1 dangerously under inflated**

### HOW DOES OVERLOADING HAPPEN?

- **People put too much stuff in the RV's.**
- **Manufacturers build RV's heavier on one side than the other.**
- **Tires are under-sized for the RV.**
- **Things and people weigh more than they look.**

### WHAT DOES IT COST TO GET WEIGHED

- **Motorhomes are \$30.00. Tag \$40.**
- **5th wheel trailers are \$45.00.**

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website: <http://weightit.tripod.com>**

## **Central Region Director Vacancy**

This next announcement is done with some sadness. Bonnie & Lex Fogg, our Central Regional Director couple, have purchased another RV (a motorhome) and as we all know a Suites model doesn't fit into that category. We are sorry to hear they are leaving SOITC, since it was Bonnie & Lex's untiring efforts that were responsible for the club start up and the initial rally at the Elkhart Fairgrounds, Memorial Day weekend 2006, in Goshen IN.

We are seeking a volunteer to fulfill the remaining term of the Central Region Director's board position. Currently we are contacting members from the region and at the rally, members from the Central Region will be asked to elect a replacement representative by members in attendance.

## **Club By-Law Proposed Changes**

**Written By Wayne Rothwell, SOITC President**

The following is a Article by Article management summary of my proposed by-laws (I apologize for how long this all goes on) The actual proposed revised By-laws are show at our Club website [www.mobilesuitesrvclub.com](http://www.mobilesuitesrvclub.com) This link will take you to the club members only section where you may compare the summary narrative shown below to the revised referenced Articles & Sections identified.

**NOTE: The proposed changes / re-visions for the Articles referenced are mostly to correct and provide a smoother process flow of responsibilities within the Club business operations structure.**

Entire document: Removed all references to "international" except in the name of the organization. The references that are there currently to me seem phony and artificial-like they were an afterthought. To me, they sound almost patronizing.

**Article I:** Add ",Incorporated" to the club name.

**Article II:** Add IRS non-profit designation information and clean up language to clarify intent.

**Article III:** A motto should be short and to the point (e.g. "In God We Trust," "Semper Fidelis," et al). A motto is included in the proposed by-laws but certainly others could be considered. Another option is to clean up existing language to clarify intent and change to a Mission Statement for the organization. Another option is to have both a motto and a mission

statement included in this article. Language is proposed for each.

**Article IV:** Cleaned up language and structure of the Purpose section. The existing by-laws' 'Objective' consists of two parts: an intro that suggests the establishment of embassies around the world and a statement of membership eligibility. Neither is appropriate in an objectives listing. While the proposed by-laws don't include any Objectives (so the article name is also changed), several objectives come to mind: expand membership, support the membership's use of their RV, et al. However, these seem to be included in the Purpose statements so I haven't included separate objectives in the proposed text.

**Article V:** Clarified the intent of Sections 1 and 2. Brought Section 3 here from the Officers Article because it applies to all members. Section 4 is a new requirement I added because many of the sample By-Laws that I used for reference had conduct requirements imposed on members. This helps keep us all civil during disagreements. Brought together everything related to annual (and renewal) dues. (Renewal dues are really no different than annual dues.) Also explicitly addressed reinstatement if a member drops out because of non-payment of dues. Section 6 is a clarification of language related to initiation fee. Added specific language in Section 7 that makes membership effective immediately when application is received after Oct 31 and dues applied to next year. Section 8 was added to make explicit that the club doesn't provide decals or badges, etc-these are the financial responsibility of the member. While this was implied in previous by-laws, the change makes it explicit. Section 9 also has been implied by our membership process but this explicitly puts the requirement on members to advise us of changes in contact information or a change in suite (trade in old one for a new one) because the SOITC number will change as a result. Section 10 requires resignation of membership to be in writing. Section 11 explicitly states what we all assumed: if you get rid of your DT RV and get SOB, your membership in the club terminates. Section 12 better defines and positions the definition of a "member in good standing."

**Article VI:** Clarifies intent by cleaning up language. Section 3 allows us to conduct Board business via e-mail-nothing in the existing by-laws actually allows this. All references in current by-laws to electronic connections require "real time connection" which e-mail is not. All references to Regional and Local Chapter administration are gathered in a new Article near the end. Incidentally, we may want to add a definition of "real time" as allowing for up to a 2 or 3 second latency just so it's clear what we mean by real time. (For reference: Broadband video conference has about a 1 sec latency; my satellite internet system would be 2 sec; a wired telephone is about 0.1 sec.; a cell phone about 1/2 sec.)

**Article VII:** The "new" Article VII gathers together a number of requirements related to meetings. (Incidentally, you won't find in this proposal the definition of "meeting" that is in the existing by-laws Article VI because the term isn't used anywhere in the document in that form-only the term "business meeting" which clearly is a subset of "meeting" so the definition becomes irrelevant.) Section 1 specifies that the President calls membership meetings and clarifies the annual requirement. Section 2 allows the President or two members of the Executive Committee to call a special meeting of the membership. Section 3 requires one month notice of all meetings-there is no notice requirement in present by-laws. The intent of the rest of this section requires all members to be notified-if we're going to use e-mail to notify, we have to notify those that don't have e-mail by some other means. The remaining sections clarify meeting-related language.

**Article VIII:** This article has significantly more language related to the duties of the board members. Much of this is implied by the matrix but is now explicit in the by-laws. Also contains one way to "fix" start-up terms of board members. This is most significant issue in the current by-laws..

**Article IX:** Gathers financial requirements into one article. Section 1 is implied by current by-laws; this makes it explicit. Section 2 fixes the two-signature requirement. Since the bank will not require two signatures, it makes no sense to have that in our by-laws. I think we need to stick with the \$250 limit before membership approval is required but require full board approval of anything less. This has been workable so far. The two-person thing was to provide for items between meetings. We've handled that very well via e-mail and with the proposed by-laws explicitly providing for conduct of business via e-mail, this becomes a viable provision. Section 3 also helps in that if the membership approves the board entering into the contracts to hold a rally, for example, the disbursements can be made by the Treasurer according to a contract approved by the board without any further authorization. Section 4 allows others than board members to serve on an audit committee and prohibits the Treasurer from being on the audit committee.

**Article X:** Clarifies the intent of the article on committees. Also adds two provisions (Sec 3 and 5) that require reports of activities be submitted to the board and allows committee business via electronic means only if all members of the committee have access to the technology.

**Article XI:** Clarifies the intent of the article on elections. Adds a timeframe requirement for elections (Sec 1), expands the "Nominating Committee" to an "Elections Committee" whose role is to nominate candidates and conduct the election. Provides for run-off (Sec 4) in the event no candidate receives a simple majority. Also allows (Sec 5) for a re-count in a close race.

**Article XII:** Clarifies intent of the article on by-laws amendments. Clarifies how amendments may be brought to a vote of the membership and changes the distribution to a more "tree-friendly" process (i.e. less paper).

**Article XIII:** Brings into one article all provisions relating to regional and local chapters. Regions are different from Locals and are thus in two sub-sections. Reasoning: Regions are created by SOITC and these by-laws and thus are subject entirely to its organization and by-laws and may not impose additional dues on the members. If you join SOITC, you are "assigned" to a region so there shouldn't be additional cost other than for voluntary, social events. Local chapters on the other hand are entirely voluntary and so should be a little bit more autonomous-they can impose dues and organize as they see fit within the requirements of the organization's by-laws.

**Articles XIV and XV** are clarifications of intent of the parliamentary procedures section and dissolution article.

The Board appreciates any suggestions, comments (pro or con) or questions.

### **ABC "Rally" Logistics & Operations Support**

The staff at America's Best Campground (ABC) has been outstanding. At the rally you will be attending events and social activities that are well coordinated and will provide you with a relaxed and entertaining atmosphere while in the Branson area. Listed below are additional shows within the immediate Branson area. Tickets for these events as well as many other can be arranged through the front desk operations after your arrival at the RV park. Examples of some of the shows available are as follows:

Hamner Barber Variety Show - 8:00 p.m. Friday.

Yakov Smirnoff – Sat. 9:30 a.m.

The Lowe Family – 10:00 a.m. – Sat.

The Branson Brothers Show – Friday. – 8:00 p.m. & Sat. 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.

The Shoji Tabuchi Show – Friday 7:30 p.m. – Sat. 3:00 p.m.

Presleys' Country Jubilee – Friday – 8:00 p.m.

Note: Shows identified above, as well as other possibilities listed in your Welcome packet, can be attended during the Club free time listed on the activities master schedule.

We currently have 86 spaces reserved of the planned 110 sites. It would be nice if we could exceed 100 reservations for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual rally. There is still time to register for one of the remaining spaces available. In April we have to provide ABC management with our confirmed count. If you are planning on attending the Branson Rally, please go to our club website homepage. [www.mobilesuitesrvclub.com](http://www.mobilesuitesrvclub.com) click on the registration form, download it and send it to the provided address to join us for the planned entertainment and social activities. Email [secretary@mobilesuitesrvclub.com](mailto:secretary@mobilesuitesrvclub.com) if you are sending a reservation so that we can make sure ABC has the current information.

### **Club Fund Raisers**

To assist our Club treasury in maintaining operational funds, listed below are fund raisers that shall be conducted at our Branson rally. The proceeds from these events, besides the new and renewal of member's dues receipts shall assist SOITC organization with the ability to pay our yearly recurring business expenses, e.g. Club Liability Insurance coverage, Treasurer's Bond coverage, Internet Club & Forum website services, e-mail services, postage, brochure updates, banking services etc.

### **Raffle Prizes**

This year we again request club member's support. and are planning to attend the Branson rally, bring with them raffle prizes from their local dealers and or a RV type donation useable during any members travels.

### **Book (Paperback, Hard cover or Audio) sale**

This year our Club rally will host a book sale for paperbacks, hard cover or audio tapes. The sale will be conducted Saturday morning, look for instructions in you welcome packet. So please gather up your romance, mystery, western, fiction, non-fiction books / novels and support this worthy event.

### **SOITC 3.5 inch Decals**

Hawkeye Engraving, who provides our members badges and decals, has donated the smaller decals we shall be able to sell at his years rally. These smaller decals can be displayed on vehicles or other equipment that publicizes the SOITC existence. The SOITC colored logo is a sharp looking image and shall assist the Club in marketing our existence with other Suites owners who are currently not members.