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## 2nd Quarter 2008 Newsletter

2008 SOITC RALLY

May 7-11, 2008 Amana, IOWA

### **PRE-RALLY SOCIALS & EVENTS**

Currently there are over 45 Suites RV rigs and their owners coming to setup prior to the official rally start of formal activities. In our experiences of attending rally's this is a wonderful time to "Kick back" with your feet up have a drink of your choice and enjoy the new acquaintances that develop and renew old friendships. If you are new to rally going consider giving this option a try. It is recommended; if you want to arrive early make sure you call the Amana Fairgrounds office and tell them you would like a RV site that is part of the SOITC group location. This way once you set up you won't have to relocate your RV from a non-SOITC site. This effort will save you time and labor.

We will be fortunate because there is a RV rally departing the morning of May 4th, and if weather is a problem early arrivals will be able to use the main meeting hall for any spur of the minute informal potlucks, happy hour, cards and other board or dice games that you may desire to have.

### **RV DRIVING "TIPS" FOR EVERYONE**

How many times have you and your co-pilot become mentally challenged while maneuvering through freeway or local area traffic, backing into a RV site, and most of

### **TRAVEL ALONE "SAFELY!!!!"**

Based on recommendations by fellow Club members we will have a "RV Travel Safety" seminar presented by Lt. Halfen from the National Crime Prevention Task Force. This presentation covers the issue of HOW "STREET SMART" ARE YOU? This is a seminar you shouldn't miss and it makes you more aware of your surroundings as we go about our daily lives.

### **PROFESSIONAL "ENTERTAINMENT"**

For the Rally, we have scheduled lively musical entertainment by "The Rivioli Revue" which includes a special dance night and an additional show at our farewell dinner. They entertained us at our 2006 rally in Goshen, IN and are back for an encore performance. We also will be seeing an excellent regional theater performance group for the Broadway show "Honky Tonk Angels" which is an easy five - ten minute walk from our RV sites.

### **WINEGARD PRODUCTS**

This year we welcome Winegard representative J.D. Hawkins who will be available to discuss their products that are installed in our Suites. We thank Doubletree service representative Kent for his assistance in getting the Winegard team

all being able to talk to each other when in different RV related driving situations? This rally we have Rick Andrews and his driving school nationally recognized services. He uses teaching techniques and applications that make it very easy for RV'rs to understand. This translates into more proficient driving habits, makes you a safer driver and allows us to be more knowledgeable

Rick, besides conducting a driving seminar during the rally, will be available both prior and after the rally to conduct one on one or couples classes. If you ever have thought about an RV driver's course you have a great opportunity now to do this. Visit the rally schedule page and print off his flyer for info and associated fees.

### RALLY SCHEDULE

#### AMANA "5 STAR" GOLF COURSE

At our Branson 2007 rally, several members requested and signed up, that we schedule an optional golfing event. We are fortunate this year to have access to play on a top rated golf course that you see like the ones on TV. The Amana Golf course has arranged tee times for use by attending Suites owners who also play golf. What an opportunity that doesn't always happen very often. We have several openings for all levels of golfers and what better way to socialize and stay physically active. If you haven't signed up yet and are interested, when you process through the registration (check-in) ask to talk with Linda Webb for specifics associated with this optional activity. You can also go to our rally schedule and click on the Amana Golf Club website, download the golf registration form and see the golf information for this great activity.

#### DUTCH OVEN COOKING "TREATS"

Doesn't food, especially when it's cooked

involved with our SOITC rally activities.

### CRAFTS, CRAFTS & CRAFTS

Each year we are trying to provide different types of craft information for our members. Thanks to the efforts of Betty Nance, who has planned, coordinated and arranged for the following craft classes and or demonstrations:

#### *"Greeting Card Class"*

In this class you will make 6 cards, 2 feminine birthday cards, 2 masculine birthday cards, 1 Thank You card and one 1 Sympathy card.

#### *"The Baskets Of The Amana Colonies"*

You will discover the history of the Amana Colonies and how that history is entwined with the Splint woven, Grass coiled and Willow baskets of the Seven Villages of the Amana Colonies. Techniques and materials will be explained along the way.

Betty, again this year, has designed and created our Club welcome cards that are signed by members and sent to our sponsors who have provided either financial or product contributions. If you haven't seen our Club photo album please take a moment at your convenience and look through it. This album exists because Betty has volunteered to maintain it. With her craft tale and because of her efforts, SOITC has a historical and professional photo history of our annual SOITC rally events.

#### "RUN LIKE A DEERE"

Thanks to Jack & Judy Beem for arranging an optional tour of the John Deere tractor manufacturing facility. We will have to car (truck) pool to the plant which is about 35 minutes from the Amana fairgrounds. If you desire to go on the tour please see Jack Beem after you have registered at the rally. Jack will provide more information.

over an open fire outdoors, taste better if not great? We are very fortunate to have, Betty Johnson with her husband Don, who is very active with the Alabama Chapter of Dutch Oven Cooking as a SOITC members and has volunteered to instruct a Dutch Oven Cooking (hands on) seminar. Betty will be presenting a class where participants will make a Dutch Oven recipe, cook it over an open fire, and then sample the results of all their efforts. We didn't really know, until now, that Betty has put on several cooking demonstrations and is a member of the Dutch Oven cooking Society. Look for the Dutch Oven sign up sheet when you check in at registration.

The International Dutch Oven Society has not only kept Dutch Oven cooking alive and well when most of the rest of the world was trying out "non-stick" technology, but they've been in the forefront of the effort to make it more popular. Betty will be able to provide Web site information, recipes and just about anything you would ever want to know about Dutch Oven cooking

### **INSURANCE "WHAT IS ENOUGH?"**

The answer to this question depends on a lot of issues, but basically, it's the Suites owner discretion as to what liability coverage they need, besides the laws of each state that set minimum limits of insurance. Farm & City Insurance Services will be hosting a general subject seminar on RV insurance coverage, common insurance terms, driver & safety tips, and a Question & Answer session in response to your inquiries.

They are the originators of Replacement Cost Coverage. They provide RV to Personal insurance coverage. FCIS can provide all the coverage and services you need to feel at home on the road. They have received endorsements from major RV manufacturer's clubs. They give you,

Please no open toe shoes or sandals. Most manufacturing facilities have safety rules associated with footwear.

### **BOOK SALE & EXCHANGE**

Again this year we ask attending members to donate their read books for the Club book sale. This activity operates by the "honor" system. When you see a book you want to read we ask that you donate to the collection basket. The monies donated are deposited in the Club treasury and used to payment of activities and events at future Club rallies.

### **SUITE RV "MAINTENANCE"**

Besides the Winegard product previously discussed, this year we will have representatives from Doubletree, MOR/ryde, Trailair and Lippert manufacturing product lines. All representatives will be available to discuss your questions. We have scheduled a Maintenance Seminar for the Club. The representatives will present information as to new products efforts, corrections needed to existing manufactured products and maintenance tips for keeping their products in the most efficient operating condition.

### **RAFFLE & DOOR "PRIZES"**

Thanks to the direct support of Doubletree Management, their Dealers and independent RV product distributors we will have several door prizes to award. If you are also bringing a donated gift, which is optional, please seek out Mary Benfield who is organizing the raffle & door-prize display. As in the past all funds received by this event are deposited in the Club Treasury and returned to club members through activities and events at future annual rallies.

### **SUITES 2008 MODEL DISPLAYS**

as an RV club member, a variety of superior coverage and reduced rates. Consider exploring the use of their services.

### **WHAT IS YOUR "WEIGHT?"**

This question is aimed at knowing your combined gross weight of both your tow vehicle and the RV you tow. Knowing the exact weight of both your vehicles allows you, the driver, a more knowledgeable understanding of safe distances needed for safely stopping, travel distances needed between your unit and other moving vehicles and most of all improves your proficiency as a RV driver. Please consider the use of these very important services.

During the course of the 2008 Suites Owners Rally in Amana, Stacey and Gail Frank of Weigh-It, Portable RV Scales, will be available to weigh your rigs. In addition to an accurate high-quality weigh, you'll also receive tire condition inspection, tire pressure, measurement, weight rating audit (axles, GVWR etc.) and an accuracy check of your tire pressure gauge and/or monitoring system.

Rig weighing involves two major steps. The first step involves weighing each wheel position of the truck and trailer while they are connected. The second step involves weighing the truck again, but alone / unconnected from the trailer. This is done to obtain the accurate weight of the truck and the pin weight of the trailer. The rig weighing service will be performed upon arrival at Amana Colonies Campground, or upon departure and of course, during the rally. The service is more easily and efficiently performed as you arrive in the designated "Weigh-it" section.

**From the Eastern Region:** Jim Brey  
The Eastern Region Rally is scheduled for

2008 RV models for Select, Mobile and Elite 5th wheels on display, are being provided by Walnut Ridge RV Dealership and Doubletree manufacturing. Representatives from both businesses will be available to answer questions. Look for the RV display set-up near the main meeting building that we will be hosting our scheduled events.

### **SPONSORS "SUPPORT"**

Besides the Sponsors who have been identified in the different topics in this newsletter, it is very important to remember that we have several other Sponsors to thank. They are many others and the best way we can thank them is to use their products or services when the need arises. Please take a moment to visit our Sponsors page at our Club website and when possible thank them when you stop at their place of business.

### **"THANK YOU" FROM THE SOITC BOARD**

Please remember the SOITC exists to support your RV interests. We, as a Board, are not all knowing. The Board very often exchanges ideas and tries to vary the rally topics, activities and events that keep all members coming back. For future activities this includes allocating "Free time" for visiting the area, optional activities of your choice and going to different state's or province's that can attract interest and encourages our members to possibly plan for attending that annual rally.

The Board requests and needs your thoughts, recommendations, ideas and comments. Most of us RV somewhere, either locally or nationally, and at times may have had a fleeting thought that this would be a good location to have a local or possible regional campout. Please assist us by posting these observations on the SOTC Forum.

9/25-27, to be held at Point Mallard in Alabama. We are combining our Rally with the Bankston Rally and should have info in Amana.

**Also a FYI from Jim: for anyone that wants to park together at rally you will need to arrive together, sites are not pre-assigned.**

**Things I've Learned In Our First Year of Full-Timing**  
**By Mary Benfield**

10) *You can find medical services wherever you are - some are just more responsive than others. Plus, most times medicine in Mexico is much less expensive than what we pay after insurance and it works just as well.*

9) *Workamping is really fun! We met a bunch of really neat people and a couple we hope never to see again! We love getting free rent and utilities for a couple days of work.*

8) *The way I cook is no different than when we were home except that we eat out less often. You have to love the counter space in our TK3!*

7) *You should attend the Pasadena Rose Parade once in your life. It is just an awesome event and go a couple days early so you can help assemble the floats – everyone is welcome to help. But go with a group and reserve your seats so you don't have to sleep on the streets for a good seat.*

6) *We stay nice and warm and cozy in our Doubletree even when the winds are ripping and it is bitter cold in South Dakota!*

5) *It is a blast to dry-camp in the desert with a bunch of friends trying to see who can go the longest without a shower!*

From the Board we “Thank You All” for planning, contributing and attending the annually scheduled rallies.

**Upcoming “SOITC” Annual Election Activities**

Nomination for Annual Elections of President, Treasurer & Eastern Region Director

This year, at our annual scheduled membership meeting, we shall be conducting & confirming the elections process for the Board positions stated in the above form title. The position of Regional Director will be selected by regional suites club members, of that region, as stated in our existing By-laws with confirmation those election processes occurring at the annual membership meeting.

The Elections Committee is recommending the following nominations for election or re-election:

- President: Wayne Rothwell
- Treasurer: Lee Benfield
- East Region Director: Jim Brey.

Our appointed Elections Committee consists of Ponch McDonal (Chairman), Betty Johnson, Linda Webb and David Kropp. In the very near future they will be posting at our club website a Nomination Form. This form once completed can be sent to the election committee for review and appropriate action for ballot eligibility determination. This committee shall be leading our formal elections efforts and processes at our 2008 rally. They shall also be submitting formally recommended changes that shall streamline our process for future elections. We are currently coordinating with our webmaster in researching, testing, and activating a formal electronic software program that provides a method for every SOITC

*Quartzsite is a hoot!*

*4) So far my favorite spot in the United States is the Oregon and Washington Coast. It is just too gorgeous. We just loved the couple of months we stayed there. Can we have a rally there someday?*

*3) I found room for the stuff in the laundry closet and I just love having my own washer and dryer! (You should see some of the Laundromats we've seen!)*

*2) A 55 psi water pressure regulator (instead of 45 psi) makes a shower sooooo much more enjoyable!*

*1) No, we haven't missed the house or all the stuff we'd accumulated throughout the years. When friends and family ask us when we are going to give up this craziness, we say "Never. We'll see you when the snow melts!"*

member to partake in. Our goal for this task is to have the software package and process in place for our 2009 rally and then subsequent annual rallies.

On behalf of our Members, and the Board a "Thank You" for the Election Committee members tireless efforts in establishing our current and future formal processes.

Visit the SOITC forum and website!!!

[SOITC FORUM](#)

[SOITC Website](#)

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