



April 2016

TUCSON DRIFTERS NEWSLETTER

It's not where you go, but who you go with!



Tom Roubal, Editor

CARING AND SHARING

Lois Wiley

Happy Birthday:



Ron Kuznicki	4/3
Linda Nielson	4/4
Dale Christensen	4/7
Geoff Newton	4/7
Tom Roubal	4/12
Hans Dernison	4/22
Tom Tucker	4/22
Susanne White	4/26
David Powell	4/28

Happy Anniversary:



Steven & Lori Miller	4/2
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APRIL DINNER MEETING

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Reservations must be made no later than noon, March 31st. Cancellations must be made by Sunday April 3rd, phone call only 520-219-2896.

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 April 2016. 5:30 Social Hour. 6:15 Dinner

Dinner choices include:

Meat Lasagna, Sauteed Veggies, Tossed Salad/Dressing, Garlic Bread Sticks and Crumb Cake

OR

Oriental Salad/Grilled Chicken Chunks, Sesame Dressing and Crumb Cake

Cost: \$16.50 (inclusive) each. Checks please. It is difficult to make change for this uneven amount!!!

Please remember that if you make a reservation and do not attend the meeting or phone in your cancellation by the Sunday preceding the meeting, you will still be responsible for reimbursing the Tucson Drifters for the cost of the meal.

We look forward to seeing you there. . . .

Location: Shrine Center of Tucson
450 S. Tucson Blvd.
Tucson, AZ
(South of Broadway)

ACTIVITIES MEETING

All are invited to attend an Activities Meeting at 4:30 pm, prior to our April dinner meeting at the Shrine Center of Tucson. Your participation is always most welcomed.

Ruth Roubal
VP of Planning

ACTIVITIES MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2016

Attendees: Ruth Roubal, Steve & Lori Miller, Larry & Laraine Coplin, Jeff & Linda Salfen, Rick & Judy Rolland, Fred & Cindy Brooks, Suzi Bass, John & Jean Fearnow, and Hans & Tricia Dernison.

The Activities Meeting was held at the Sabbar Shrine Center and was called to order by Ruth Roubal on March 1, 2016 at 4:35 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

February 10 -14, 2016 - Santa Cruz Valley Arts & History Rally, Tubac, AZ - Another great rally, everyone had a fun.

March 31 - April 3, 2016 - Way Out West!!! Wickenburg, AZ - Currently has 12 coaches there is room for 15. Kuznicki, Newton, Baumann, Nester, Smith



April 28 - May 1, 2016 - From the Ancients to the Stars, Williams, AZ - 10 Coaches have signed up and reservations are still being accepted. Bass/Salfen

May 26 - June 17, 2016 - Waltzing Thru Tennessee with a Two-Step to Atlanta - All reservation have been made, and now making deposits and payments. There are currently 10 coaches going on the full rally and a 11th coach meeting up in Chattanooga. Roubal, Miller, Coplin

NEW BUSINESS

Tonight, Roger Johnson and Fred Brooks will be giving a presentation on RV safety and the importance of RV weights in regards to tire inflation. Roger has set up an individual tire weigh in at the Shrine Center on April 16 & 17, 2016. We are looking into an overnight stay on the 15th at the Shrine Center and possible dinner.

Anytime RV's are parked in the Shrine Center Parking lot jack pads must be placed under the jacks.

A recommendation was made that guest would only be allowed on a rally after the deposit due date has past.

The following is a tentative schedule for the 2016/2017 season:

October 20-23, 2016 - Oro Valley Rally - Catalina State Park - Dernison and Fearnow - Enjoy a private tour of the Biosphere 2, visit the Romero Ruins archaeological site, then you can decide if you would like to go to Tohono Chul "Desert Corner in Hohokam, or a Jeep Ride into the National Park surrounding Catalina State Park, or go on a hike in Catalina State Park. Dinner will be at Bubb's Grub (Dutch Treat).

December 1 - 4 2016 - Prescott - Roubal, Miller, Baumann, Nester - Arizona Christmas City - Plan are in the works

January 2017 -

February 13 - 17, 2017 - San Diego by the Sea - San Diego, CA - Coplin and White - Spend a week in the sand at Chula Vista RV Park. There is a limit of 15 coaches for this rally. Activities are in the works.

March 2017 - Lake Havasu - Rolland and Brooks - Planning has not started yet.

April 2017 - Rocky Point - This will be a rendezvous, no planned activates, but will travel together.

May 2017 - Zig and a little Zag thru New Mexico - Miller, Coplin, and Salfen - This will be a 10 to 14 day rally starting in Las Cruces, then on to Elephant Butte, next Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and possible end in Taos. Activities could include White and Missile Range, Messila Village, Spaceport America, and many other possibilities.

The next Activity Meeting will be April 5, 2016 prior to the dinner meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

COACH WEIGH-IN

With the upcoming Tucson Drifters coach weigh-in taking place April 16-17, Larry Coplin passed along the following opinion article he came across in a newsletter called the RV Daily Report.

OPINION: Overweight RVs are an industry issue

- There has been a lot of discussion in recent years about overweight RVs. Most of the talk centers around RVers cramming too much stuff in their units and exceeding the vehicle's weight rating.
- Groups like Escapees Club and FMCA offer the opportunity to have RVs weighed at many events, and most who do have their RVs weighed are surprised at the results.
- But, overweight RVs are not entirely the consumers fault. The RV industry shares much of the blame. I recall reading a blog a year or two ago where the writer noted their motorhome was designed to carry everything but people.
- I can't put my finger on the post now, but the bottom line was that after weight for fuel, LP gas and fresh water was added into the mix, the family had just 400 pounds available for clothes, dishes — and people.
- A few weeks ago, I was approached by Kimberly Travaglino, who is the founder of the nearly 1,150-member Fulltime Families group. She was very concerned about her Heartland fifth wheel after learning some interesting information about the unit.
- The fifth wheel is officially rated to hold 18,000 pounds, according to the labels affixed to her RV. However, she has since discovered:
- Each of her three axles are rated for just 5,200 pounds — for a total weight carrying capacity of 15,600 pounds.



- Furthermore, the leaf springs on her toy hauler are rated to carry just 12,000 pounds.
- She was rightfully concerned that even if her family was diligent to keep the weight of the entire fifth wheel to just 18,000 pounds — the maximum weight rating — her family was exerting more pressure on the axles and springs than they were designed to bear.
- She asked what, if anything, could be done to shore up the structure. I immediately recommended MORryde because their staff has told me in the past they were the experts in RV suspensions, and their website boasts of that claim as well:
- "At MORryde, we think of your RV as a house on wheels — one that needs a solid foundation to withstand the rigors of the road. For nearly 50 years, we've been delivering suspensions systems that protect this foundation. Considered the expert in suspension systems, we offer a variety of solutions, for every budget."
- Which is why Kimberly and I are both surprised the company would not even offer the courtesy of a response when we both sought confirmation that MORryde had products to help people in situations like this.
- Assuming that this is a very common problem in the industry, I even offered to do a story in RV Daily Report and Let's RV on how effective the products were in addressing Kimberly's weight issue. Crickets — no response at all.
- While Kimberly and I were in the process of trying to find a solution to her weight issue, the family moved their RV from Cocoa Beach back down to Delray, Fla. They made it exactly one exit down Interstate 95 when her husband, Chris, spotted white smoke billowing out of the driver's side wheel compartment.
- By the time he pulled over, flames were shooting out from the rear wheels, and burning perilously close to the toy hauler's fuel tank.
- Because they had been trained by Mac the Fire Guy to have fire extinguishers at each RV exit and in the tow vehicle, Chris was able to suppress the fire with a whole can of extinguisher foam.
- The vehicle was towed to a service center where the Travaglinos were told the axle bearings had locked up on the driver's side rear tire. They are left to believe that this whole situation was caused because the fifth wheel toy hauler was rated for a certain capacity — which is why they bought it — but built with components that could not bear that much weight.
- Kimberly is, perhaps, one of the RV industry's greatest cheerleaders. Besides her own organization, her Facebook group has nearly 10,000 members. She is responsible for hundreds of people buying new RVs each year, if not for full-time living, then at least so families can experience many of the things her group does on a part-time basis.
- However, she is constantly listening to horror stories from RV owners about defective products they bought. The problem has increased in recent years, she told me. She has been at her current campground for only a few days, and three of her neighbors have complained about product quality. One can point to the RV roof peeling away and exposing lumber on a two-week-old travel trailer.
- "I think the recession forced several high-quality RV manufacturers with commendable reputations out of business because they couldn't compete against companies who build and sell RVs that are, for all intent and purpose, designed to be bought and stored," Kimberly told me.
- If anyone in the industry has a solution to the problem of overrated RV weights, and what can be done to help people who bought these RVs shore up their systems, Kimberly and I would welcome more information. Perhaps an RV dealer has jerry-rigged a solution that could be shared with others?



President's Corner:



According to the last activities meeting, the March Wickenburg rally hosts have a fun 3 days of activities planned for those attending. Activities include Literary Festival, Desert Caballeros Western Museum (which is one of best western museum in the west), Hassayampa River Preserve, a chuck wagon dinner with entertainment, and much more. Judy and I are looking forward to being part of the fun.

The April Rally April 28 – May 1, 2016 is still open so get your reservations and deposits in now! – From the Ancients to the Stars, at the Rail-Side RV Ranch & Cabin Resort in Williams, Arizona – 10 Coaches have signed up and there is room for 15. Activities include the Lowell Observatory; dine at the famous Black Bart's; visit the wild animals at Bearizona; explore part of the original Route 66; and enjoy a happy hour at South Rims Wine and Beer Garage. We can promise you a great time with good food and great company. Bass/Salfen hosts.

Speaking of rallies, I am amazed that with 43 coaches in our club, that only 12 to 15 participate in most rallies. Some of the 15 are different folks but many are the same for each rally. I would love to see more rally participation. Remember that the newsletter outlines the upcoming rallies in great detail, and I encourage you to consider taking part in them.

Check out the website for the latest rally pictures and updated brochure.

The activity committee is already working on planning the 2016/2017 rally schedule. You will love what they are planning! Attend the planning meetings and give us your input.

Many of our 10 new members in 2015/2016 have signed up for future rallies. Let's make them feel welcome. I encourage all of you to also be on the lookout for new potential members. Give them a brochure and refer them to the Drifters website. It has lots of information about the club and access to the newsletters. www.tucsondrifters.org

I always welcome your comments and suggestions.

I encourage all of you to consider purchasing a logo'ed Tucson Drifters shirt to wear at Drifters events. We now have an arrangement with Aztec Embroidery and Screen-printing here in Tucson that allows you to order a shirt in men's and women's sizes and styles directly from the vendor. See the newsletter or website for more details.

Don't let that rig stay in the driveway...Let's go places.

Rick



FROM THE ANCIENTS TO THE STARS
RAIL-SIDE RV RANCH & CABIN RESORT
 Williams, Arizona
 April 28 - 1 May 2016

What do you know about Northern Arizona other than they get the winter snows and we don't???? Do you know the town of Williams is named for Bob Williams a skinny, redheaded mountain man rumored to have had nine lives and who set the standard for alcohol consumption all across the southwest; why the town chose to hold up construction of I-40; that the original Rte-66 is still the 'main street' of Williams; that the 'Red Garter Bordello' is still in business, although of another kind? Do you know about Bearizona, a preserve for wild animals native to the North American continent (big time photo op)? How about the solar system as viewed from the Lowell Observatory or the singing wait staff at Black Bart's?




There's much to see and do in the Williams/Flagstaff area so come join us for our last weekend rally on the 2015-2016 schedule. We can promise you a great time with good food and great company - after all, you'll be with the Tucson Drifters!!!

Thursday - 28 April 2016


11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Arrival time window.
 5:00 p.m. - Get together time in Community Room (BYOB)
 6:00 p.m. - Dinner (provided by hosts); Cookie contest entries provided by attendees (more on this provided at a later date.)

Friday - 29 April 2016


Breakfast on own
 9:00 - Depart for Flagstaff
 10:00 a.m. Presentation and Tour of Lowell Observatory 
 Lunch on your own
 2:00 p.m. - Visit to Museum of Northern Arizona
 5:00 p.m. - Dinner at Black Bart's (cost not included in rally fees)

Saturday - 30 April 2016

8:30 a.m. - Breakfast (catered by RV park) (BYOPS)???

9:45 a.m. - Depart for tour of Bearizona 
 Lunch on own with time to explore Rte 66, the main street of Williams

3:30 p.m. - Get together at South Rims Garage (mingle with friends and a lovingly restored 1967 Pontiac GTO)
 7:00 p.m. - Dinner (Catered by RV Park) (BYOPS)???

8:00 p.m. - After Dinner coffee  and Liqueurs (courtesy of your hosts)

Sunday - 1 May 2016

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - Continental Breakfast (BYOB)

WALTZING THRU TENNESSEE WITH A TWO-STEP TO ATLANTA TOUR - Tucson Drifter Style

May 26 - June 17, 2016

Our final rally before the summer break. We will enjoy the glamour and glitz of 5 major stops on our tour of Tennessee and Atlanta. All those going will:

- Live the history of the biggest names in music; take in Loretta Lynn's Ranch, billed as the 7th largest attraction in Tennessee;
- Experience the Grand Old Opry;
- Visit US President Andrew Jackson's 1880's home in Hermitage ;
- Embark on a Whiskey Trail Tour with a stop at the famous Ms. Mary Bobo's 1860s boarding house and Restaurant for lunch;
- Visit Tennessee and Georgia State Capitols and Jimmy Carter's Presidential Museum; and
- View antebellum homes and Civil War battlegrounds.

The beautiful landscapes and all the excitement of Tennessee's colorful history as one of America's early Frontiers is in store for you. Hospitality came to Tennessee with the early pioneers and remains part of its character today. YOU WILL BE PART OF THAT AMERICAN HISTORY!



Tucson Drifters Events Calendar

2015-2016 - *A Work in Progress*

It's not where you go, but who you go with!



October 2015		November 2015		December 2015		January 2016	
Title:	GOIN' WILD	Title:	SHAKE, RATTLE, & ROLL	Title:	CHRISTMAS DELIGHT	Title:	NO RALLY
Date:	Oct 22-25	Date:	Nov 15-19	Date:	Nov 30 - Dec 2	Date:	
Place:	Camp Verde, AZ (200 miles)	Place:	Mesa Spirit RV Resort (100 miles)	Place:	Sabbar Shrine Center	Place:	
Host:	Coplin/ Miller	Host:	Roubal/Dye	Host:	Roubal/Rolland/Coplin	Host:	
February 2016		March 2016		April 2016		May 2016	
Title:	SANTA CRUZ VALLEY ARTS & HISTORY	Title:	WAY OUT WEST	Title:	FROM THE ANCIENTS TO THE STARS	Title:	WALTZING THRU TENNESSEE WITH A 2-STEP TO ATLANTA
Date:	Feb 11-14	Date:	Mar 31 - Apr 3	Date:	Apr 28 - May 1	Date:	May 26-Jun 17
Place:	Green Valley, AZ (30 miles)	Place:	Wickenburg, AZ (160 miles)	Place:	Williams, AZ	Place:	Tennessee & Georgia
Host:	Kuehn/Hall	Host:	Smith, Kuznicki, Baumann, Nester, & Newton	Host:	Bass/Salfen	Host:	Roubal/Miller/Coplin

Visit our website with our own club name as the URL: www.TucsonDrifters.org

TUCSON DRIFTERS RALLY DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

A *nonrefundable* Rally Deposit must accompany rally registration. Once the Balance Due Date is passed and Total Payment made, no refunds of these monies will be made until the rally has been completed and records have been reconciled. Any refunds are exclusive of rally deposits.

