



The REBEL ROUSER



WIT
CLUB

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"RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY"

This was the chant of the 97 people at our April, 2015 Georgia State WIT Rally in Hiawassee, GA. When we saw the sunshine Saturday, we all cheered.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Wayne Thomas,
President

Another Georgia State WIT Rally has come and gone, and a great time was had by all. We did not let a little rain dampen our desires to get

out and enjoy the beautiful mountains of North Georgia.

Our abundance of first-timers and visitors from other states that had returned means we must be doing something right. It really makes me proud to be the President of Georgia Winnie Rebels and a member of such a great team.

OUR 2015 STATE RALLY

By Fred Tomsett, Rally Coordinator

I would like to thank all the GWR members who attended, and especially the ones who worked to make the 2015 Rally happen.

I have already received e-mails from out-of-state guests saying how well they were treated by our members.

There was a lot of rain, but we had a few dry afternoons.

We had 49 coaches attend and two cabin dwellers whose motor home was broken. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun. The auction turned out to be a very good night of entertainment.

We need a theme and suggestions for the 2016 Rally. Please bring your suggestions to the May State meeting, or send them to me before at tomcatt1@bellsouth.net.

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The beautiful setting for our Rally in the North Georgia Mountains

Thanks to Fred Tomsett, the Rally Coordinator and his wife Linda, it was voiced by many out-of-state visitors that this was one of the best rallies they had ever attended, in spite of the rain. They said they would definitely be back to join us next year.

Those of us who arrived early spent most of our time visiting with friends and sightseeing - all except Ronnie and Tom Padgett and their crew. They opened the check-in station early Tuesday morning and kept it open until everyone was accounted for on Thursday afternoon. Good job, Ronnie and Tom.

The first Rally event was the Wednesday afternoon Hamburger Welcome Cookout sponsored by John and Elaine Byrnside of Chemseal Company.



Terry Oswood, Jean Harrison and Linda Tomsett prepare to serve our hamburgers.

After the Welcome Cookout, we played Cash Bingo at the Pavilion. The rainy weather didn't dampen our spirits at all, it just seemed to bring us together more in the spacious meeting room.



Fred Tomsett, Rally Coordinator

Thursday morning we had the Opening Ceremony where our Rally Coordinator welcomed everyone and introduced our Eastern Area Representatives, Butch and Becky Moore.

The Opening Ceremony was followed by a GNR and WIT tour Seminar. Butch and Becky explained many things to us, which included the difference between a "WIT Adventure" and a "WIT Caravan."

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Becky and Butch Moore
Our Eastern Area Representatives

Our Ice Cream Social that was provided by the Farm and City Insurance Company. It was certainly a sociable time, and tasty, too!



Lyn Brown (our own Lynnie Pearl), greets everyone with her rotating sign.

After ice cream, we got together in the Pavilion with each person bringing an hors d'oeuvre to share with the group. We were told we probably wouldn't need any dinner after that - and it was so! I don't think anyone had dinner.



Our Thursday evening Live Auction was hilarious. Jim Bell, our auctioneer, and Tom Padgett his helper as Vana, kept everyone in stitches. Jim was so funny and good that he had people buying things they didn't want, and even bidding against themselves. As I said, it was hilarious.



The stage in the meeting hall inside the Pavilion was appropriately decorated with Super Hero posters (and a few Villains). Each table boasted a cube or pyramid made from pages of comic books. Fred and Linda always do such a great job!

On Friday, a huge country breakfast started the day off just right. Sausage, scrambled eggs, grits, gravy and biscuits. You just can't beat that to keep you going strong.



Rosa Krec from Michigan and Pat Straw and Linda Penrose from Georgia take advantage of the Beginner RV Driver Education Class offered by a representative from Camping World.

Game time is always exciting. Pat and Wayne Thomas headed this event, and did a wonderful job.

The winners in the men's Ladder Golf competition follow: First place - Denny Harrison; Second place - Ken Smith. The First place in the women's competition went to Jean Harrison, with Second place going to Eileen Clark.

The ladies Washer Toss First place went to Barbara Hall with Linda Tomsett taking Second place. In the men's competition James Furman took first place and Milt Burch took second place.

The beanball baseball competition is always exciting. The Georgia team played the Tri-State Team, consisting of Louisiana, Florida and Ohio. The Tri-State won over Georgia 7 to 4. Congratulations, Tri-State Team!

(See pictures elsewhere)

Because of the rain, we had to have the Pet Parade on the porch of the Pavilion. Nevertheless, we enjoyed seeing all the WIT family doggies.

Roscoe Oswood won first place for Costume; Lady Furman won first place for Prettiest/Cutest; and Ginger Thomas won first place for Best Behaved. (See elsewhere for pictures).

Note: Next year we will have a "Best Looking Handler" category.

Mary Ann Findeis had her Jewelry-Making Class in the mid-afternoon, where each of us made a unique bracelet.



Becky Moore says, "Now this has got to be just right."

This is what we had been waiting for! Our Super-Hero or Villain costume contest. Roy Sowers won first place with his Dick Tracy outfit. My, was he suave! He even had a Dick Tracy wrist watch.

(See elsewhere for pictures of other winners and contestants.)



Our catered dinner of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and green beans was great. But the apple crisp topped with a big scoop of ice cream - m-m-m-m, it melted in your mouth.

Our "Georgia Home Grown Review" was another highlight of the Rally. Who needs professional entertainers when we have so many talented people in our Club?



Our own Lyn Brown as Lynn Pearl kept everyone in stitches. She not only performs for us, but has several other performance appearances she keeps throughout the year. I can see why she is so popular, but I am glad she belongs to us at the Georgia Winnie Rebels.

Our Dan Rankin is one of the best non-professional guitarist I have ever known. In fact, he could turn professional any time he wishes.



His Marty Robbins impersonation is one of the best I have ever seen. Dan has kept up his skills by taking lessons for several years. We're happy to have him as part of our entertainment team.

Look in another section for pictures of winners of the raffles: 50/50, Georgia Basket, two chairs donated by Integrity RV Service Center, and the \$50.00 jar.

Saturday's breakfast was sausages and pancakes. A great starter for the day.

The WIT store was opened at 8:30 to show off all the new items they were offering. It took Butch and Becky six long tables to display their wares, and you can see from the following picture, they had plenty of takers.



Butch and Becky display their WIT wares

The weather was wonderfully sunny for our Mini Golf Tournament. Marvin Straw, Skip Yates, Denny Harrison and Jim Tudor took the prizes.



Fred Tomsett presents Marvin Straw the prize for winning first place in the Mini Golf Tournament.

After lunch on our own, we had an old-fashioned cake walk. With twenty cakes to walk for, people were drooling and pointing out the cake they wanted to win. Dan Rankin played jazzy music as we went around the circle, sometimes doing the hip-hop or with arms swaying to the music.

Jim Bell was the barker, and kept everything going smoothly.



Cake walk helpers Wanda Eubanks, Terry Oswood, Kathy Scogin, Barbara Bell and Melva Dalton did a great job.

After a catered dinner of meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, broccoli and mushrooms and chocolate cake, we had an old-time Rock and Roll group called "Majic" led by Chuck Cape. Chuck interacted with the audience and had many of the ladies up dancing with him. He and his band played songs from the

fifties and sixties that everyone recognized, and some sang along with them.

After a continental breakfast on Sunday morning, we said our goodbyes and wished that everyone would "have a safe trip home."



During the Rally our Chaplain, Jesse Chambless, gave scriptures from the Bible and prayers before each meal asking God's blessing on our outing. And

His protection was with us, for all went well.

It was another great rally!

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Our 2015 State Rally Cont'd.

Following is a list of themes we have used in the past:

2005-USO Canteen, 2006-Gone Hollywood, 2006-Southeast Rally, A Southern Reunion, 2007-Western Roundup, 2008-A Hawaiian Luau, 2009-Westward Ho the Wagons, 2010-Pirates go to Mardi Gras, 2012-Fabulous 50s, 2013-Georgia Mountain Cruise, 2014-A Hillbilly Hoedown, 2015-Super Heroes and Villains.

We need a theme that would be fun to dress up to.

I hope to see everyone at the May State Meeting.

Fred Tomsett

A Timely Note from Jim Tudor

Jim (Metros) works at the State Capitol and thought this information might be helpful to his fellow GWR members.

For RVs registered in Georgia, just a quick "heads up" that, depending on your weight, there is a new heavy vehicle impact fee that will be imposed on registrations after July 1, 2015.

Vehicles 15,500 to 26,000 lbs - \$50.00; Vehicles 26,001 and above - \$100.00.

This was included in the transportation bill which passed the Georgia Assembly on March 31, 2015.

Here is a link to the bill:
<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/153458.pdf>

CASH BINGO



Dan Rankin, Caller



JoAn Blankenship, First Place



Sally Reynolds, Second Place

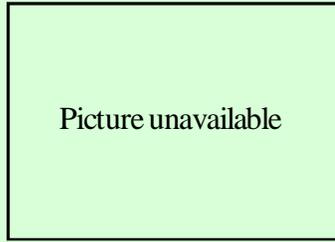


Ronnie Padgett, Helper

GAMES



James Furman, First Place
Men's Washer Toss



Picture unavailable

Barbara Hall, First Place
Ladies' Washer Toss



Denny Harrison, First Place
Men's Ladder Golf



Jean Harrison, First Place
Ladies' Ladder Golf



Competition was keen at the
Beanbag Baseball game



Mandy Kahl from Louisiana
shows good form



Linda Swanson was happy
with her home run



Sara Sowers tries her hand as
both teams look on

The Tri-State team won over Georgia seven to four - but just wait 'til next year!

MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT



Marvin Straw won first
place at Mini Golf



Paula Burtch tries
her hand at Mini Golf



Richard Rochleau starts
to tee off



Linda Tomsett is intent on
her shot



Milt Burtch studies
before he moves

PET PARADE



Roscoe Oswald took first place for his Costume



Lady Furman took first place as Prettiest/Cutest



Ginger Thomas took first place as Best Behaved



Maddie Rankin's friendliness is always a hit

Next year we will have a new competition - the "Best Looking Handler"

JEWELRY-MAKING CLASS



Mary Ann Findeis instructs her class on jewelry-making



Becky Laszewski (SC) and Mary Smith (LA) work together



Mary Ann shows a doctor's knot to Rosa Krek (FL)



One of the beautiful bracelets made in the class

PRIZES



Dan Rankin won the jar with \$50.00 in it



James Bailey (AL) won 50/50



Jesse Chambless found "Shorty" on Friday



And Kris Yontz found him on Saturday



Franklin Jackson



Skip Yates (MI)



Ronnie Padgett



Bob Beardsall takes chocolate brownies he won at Cake Walk from Kathy Scogin

Sid Sidlauskas won the Georgia Basket, and there was another 50/50 winner I didn't get. Many other prizes were awarded, but I either didn't remember what they won, or didn't get their picture. You will note the pictures above without their winnings - they are some I didn't remember.

COSTUMES



Sarah & Roy Sowers, Winner



Linda & Fred Tomsett



Wanda & Bobby Eubanks



James Furman



Jim & Barbara Bell



Melva & Milton Dalton



Winky & Max Parker



Pat Thomas



Allen & Patty Wheelus



George & Rosa Krec



Wayne Thomas



Eric & Terry Oswood

ENTERTAINMENT



Patty & Allen Wheelus



"Majic" bandleader Chuck Capes



Terry & Eric Oswood



Kris & Ray Yontz



Mary Ann & John Findeis



Guests



Barbara & Jim Bell



Cindy & Alex Rashid



Sarah & Roy Sowers



Linda & Fred Tomsett



Lyn & Richard Brown



Wanda & Bobby Eubanks



Terry Oswood & Chuck Capes



Chuck Capes & Linda Tomsett

SOME OF OUR OUT-OF-STATE GUESTS

In addition to our 29 coaches from Georgia, we had 1 from Florida, 1 from Iowa, 5 from Louisiana, 4 from Michigan, 2 from Ohio, 1 from Ontario, 1 from Pennsylvania, 2 from South Carolina, 1 from Texas and 1 from Alabama.

Our Louisiana Guests



Phil & Gayle Meraux, Joe & Mandy Kahl, Mary & Kenneth Smith & Bill & Connie (Ironside) Fessler

Louisiana has for many years been one of our biggest supporters. It is always a highlight to see their coach caravan arrive. In fact, they usually come so early that most of us don't see them arrive.

Thank you, Louisiana, for your support!

Our Alabama Guests



James & Sylvia Bailey
Our Florida Guests



George & Rosa Krec

Our Pennsylvania Guests



Cindy & Alex Rashid
Our Iowa Guests



Butch & Becky Moore, our Eastern Area Reps

HAPPY FACES



Kris Yontz & Barbara Bell



Mary & Kenneth Smith (LA)



Fred Tomsett



Skip Yates (MI)



Patty Wheelus, Sarah Sowers, Terry Oswald & Linda Tomsett



Ronnie Padgett



Winky Parker & Kathy Scogin



Pat & Marvin Straw