



Dear Metro Members:

As a club, we have experienced some very difficult times together over the last two months with the passing of Jim Lockhart and Bert Cuba. Let's not forget that Connie and Carol need our prayers and our support as we all move forward.

As you know, a Memorial Service will be held for Bert Cuba on Saturday, August 26 at the Powers Ferry United Methodist Church in Marietta at 11:00am. Carol has asked that we wear bright cheerful clothes instead of the traditional "black" suite. This is the way Bert would want it.

As both Jim and Bert would want, let me move on to other things.

If you haven't let me know about your intentions to attend the Sept. State Meeting, please let me know. Metro is the host club and we have some really fun things planned - a 50's/60's dance complete with DJ, tours of the area including the Thomasville Historical Museum and Pebble Hill Plantation, a tour of a private car and memorabilia collection, golf, etc. To make this a success, we need you to be there.

In Oct. we will be at the Cartersville KOA. We have 15 sites reserved, however, **you need to make your reservations with the Cartersville KOA before September 15th.** Beyond that date, the sites will be released as this is their busy time of the year. **The KOA phone number is (770) 382-7330.** Just let them know you are with the Metro Atlanta Winnies.

November is the date for the first ever **Southeastern Regional Rally.** Please get your reservations in to Ronnie Padgett ASAP! We really need to know how many people to plan for. This rally will be fun, much like a Georgia state rally on steroids!

Martha & Jim McKinnon has graciously opened the doors to their home to us again this year for the Christmas party. Dates will be forth coming, and we all remember what fun it was last year.

Attached is the schedule for the remainder of 2006. We need volunteers to step forward to serve as hosts next year. Please consider a month you would like to take and let me know. Things really work out well when we can have people speak for a month well in advance.

We look forward to seeing you in Thomasville!

Doug Ralston

The Metro Atlanta Winnies were treated to a very special August weekend outing at the River Plantation RV Park in Sevierville, TN. The park was nice but our hosts, Jim & Christine Coil went out of their way to turn their site into a South Pacific Island paradise!

Upon arrival, Jim was sure to greet each coach with a smile, handshake and Aloha! Eleven coaches make the trip, including our hosts the Coiles plus the Burtch's; Hamiltons'; Munday's; Ralston's; Squires'; Stainback's; Stroud's; Thomas's; Tomsett's; and Vaughn's. On Saturday afternoon, Barry & Joy Vlad drove their car up to visit and join us for supper.

Also joining us from Birmingham, AL were Frank & Martha Tortorici (Christine's brother) and Joe & Francis Tombello (family friends). They worked hard helping deliver and prepare the food, decorate, etc. Thanks for all your help! Also, as our group began to spill over onto the site next to us (and it was occupied) we felt we should invite the couple paying for the site to join us, too. Well, wouldn't you know that Leo & Gwen DeBandi out of Florida are past Winnebago owners and fit right in with our group! We promised to put a big red "W" on the side of their coach - so if you see a Discovery driving down the road with a "W" on the side - wave, if just might be Leo & Gwen.

Christine had tables decorated and skirted, palm trees and tikki lights all around, a special screen room tent for the food buffet and punch and music from the islands. Friday night were appetizers of assorted cheeses, Vidalia Onion Dip, Chocolate Fondue cascading down a special dispenser with apples and bananas. To quench our thirst, were Wine Coolers, assorted soft drinks and beer. It was late in the evening before anyone began to head back to their own coaches! We did have a very short "business" meeting, although Linda Tomsett wasn't in the right mindset to take minutes.

Saturday was open to do whatever anyone wanted to do. As it turns out, the ladies went shopping; Milt Burtch and Ray Vaughn drove Doug Ralston, David Stainback and Don Stroud to the go-cart tracks. These guys didn't show back up until 4:00 in the afternoon. Rumor has it that Brenda Ralston and Jeff Squires went to the pool together - but after a full investigation, we found that in addition to Jeff, were Milt Burtch, Don Stoud and Doug Ralston.

That night we were back to the "South Pacific Island" created by our hosts. For a seated meal, we had BBQ Pork Shoulder, Shrimp Boil with red potatoes, corn & Polish sausage Hawaiian style. There was Strawberry Trifle Cake for desert. For drink, an outstanding Exotic Hawaiian Punch that everyone loved, not to forget the wine coolers, beer, soft-drinks, etc. With just a hint of a breeze, the fellowship lasted well after dark.

After an early morning rain on Sunday, everyone said their good byes and began to head home. An absolutely wonderful, special weekend was had by all and we will remember our South Pacific Island trip in Tennessee for a long while.

Metro Atlanta Winnies Outing Schedule 2006

September 15-17 - State Meeting - Sugar Mill RV Park, Thomasville, GA
(Make reservations thru Doug Ralston-w 770-592-9550; h 770-642-1659; c 404-849-8376
Host Chapter - Metro Atlanta Winnies

October 20-22 -Cartersville KOA Campground, 800 Cass-White Rd. NW Cartersville, GA 30121
Phone: (770) 382-7330
Hosts - Doug & Brenda Ralston and Don & Kay Stroud

November 9-12 -SE Regional Rally
Georgia State Fairgrounds, Perry, GA
Hosts: GA & MS State Clubs

December -Christmas Party
TBA



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