

Ohio Valley News

18 May 2023

Hi All,

The suggestion was made and I concur to put the news on the website as a document. So I will start doing the newsletters and info in this way and send them to everyone. Then I will also post the document on our Ohio Valley Website. Thanks for the suggestion.

Just got back from the South Central Regional Muster in Foley Alabama. Had a great time and it was good to see so many old friends as well as many new faces. Nearly half the attendees were first timers including many of the staff that put the muster together. It was hosted by the Mississippi Magnolas and it went very smoothly. Opening and closing ceremonies featured the JROTC of Foley High School. We had a great talk by Josh Bedsaul of Mr RV Tech. His company does mobile RV services and came out to do many jobs during the muster. He covered many of the routine things you can do that greatly increase the life of your home on wheels. Other entertainment included music by Leonard Houston that even had some couples up dancing. Games included Hand and Foot, Beanbag Baseball, Skip Bo and regular Bean Bag. They also had a Brown Bag Auction similar to one being done at National this year. You donate something placed unlabeled into a brown paper bag. Everyone bids on the unopened sack and the highest bidder gets the prize and opens it in front of everyone. Great fun and they raised over \$950 bucks; part of which was handed out as 4 prizes drawn from those that donated bags or won a bag. Overall a very successful muster. We were very glad to see Jim and Terri Bowes from Ohio Valley made it down as well.

Kathy and I are still planning to attend the GLAMARAMA FMCA regional Rally just north of Dayton, OH. We also joined the Joint FMCA-SMART chapter and hope to see a few other SMART members there. We are also registered for the SMART National in Amana, Iowa for September. If anyone else is planning to attend the National and would like to meet up, we have a route and stops along the way where anyone can join us. That should help us park together. Our dates/rote/stops are:

Night of 13 Sep: Dad's Bluegrass Campground in Franklin KY (call 270-253-5191)

Night of 14 Sep: Whittington Woods Campground, Whittington, IL (618-435-3401)

Night of 15 Sep: Nature's Way RV Park, Utica, IL (815-667-4988)

Afternoon of 16 Sep: Arrive in Amana

All three campgrounds offer a military discount. It is just a 1 night stop with no planned activities except meeting up and saying hi. Each day's drive will be a comfortable ~200 miles. Just a RON to regroup and meet up for the next days travel.

One event on the horizon will be next April for another total eclipse. We had a great muster in Crossville TN in 2017 for the last eclipse which went coast to coast and right over Crossville. We got to 95% covered and a cloud drifted right in front of the sun. The next one will go north and south from Texas up to Michigan. It happens to pass right over Whittington IL but when I talked to them, they are

already totally booked with a waiting list. The Cajuns are hosting an eclipse muster in Texas. But it may already be too late for us.