



Issue 8

<http://region7.wbcc.net/>



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Region 7 Saddle Up to Medora Rally

By Cathy Ruebel

Whoever was in charge of weather for the Saddle Up to Medora Region 7 Rally did a superb job getting the storms to go around us, the winds lightly blowing, and keeping the bugs at bay. A couple notches lower on the thermometer later in the week would have worked better for some of us, but, after all, it was August in North Dakota.

Monday evening after the barbecue, Region President Joan Lahr, together with Past Region President Vern Schultz, Mayor Doug Ellison, and Leona Odermann, of the Medora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, welcomed everyone to Medora under a beautiful setting sun.

The Minnesota Unit prepared yummy breakfast burritos to start out Tuesday. After breakfast, the group

caravanned west to Sentinel Butte and toured a state radio tower site lead by Larry Ruebel and Bob Stockert from the Department of Emergency Services. Sentinel Butte is one of the highest points in North Dakota, affording a spectacular view for many miles in all directions. In the afternoon, everyone gathered at the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame for a tour. The interpretive center features history of Native Americans, ranching, rodeo, and the lifestyle of the region. The Hall of Honorees showcases the people, animals, and events that have played a large role in shaping North Dakota's history. Tuesday evening was capped off with the Pitchfork Steak Fondue up on Tjaden Terrace overlooking Medora and the scenic Badlands, followed by the Medora Musical in the adjacent

open air amphitheater.

At the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Visitor Center on Wednesday, the group was treated to an expert guided tour of Roosevelt's Maltese Cross cabin, which was his refuge after the simultaneous deaths of his wife and mother. From there, the group moved on to a self-guided tour around the 36-mile loop in the park, with a side trip up to Buck Hill. Those that made the climb to the very top were afforded a panoramic view of the entire park. Bison, wild Nokota horses, prairie dogs, and mule and whitetail deer were enthusiastically sighted. Members even got an up-close and personal look at a prairie rattlesnake that had apparently established squatter's rights at the picnic shelter that was chosen for our lunch.

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Presidents' Message

Not one to ever miss a beat, Linda Agre has “hit the ground running” since she was installed as our Region 7 First Vice President during the region luncheon in Gillette, WY by International President Tom Collier. Linda already has contributed a lot to our team and is very much appreciated! However, we are at a critical juncture in Region 7 because of the need for a Second Vice President. Please consider stepping forward to serve your region. This position can fit into your lifestyle. You will have loads of fun and you will make friendships with wonderful people in our region and throughout the country. I can firmly attest that the time spent serving as a region officer will be your best years in the WBCCI! Please contact Linda or me for details.

North Dakota members, as well as everyone attending, pitched in to help in one way or another to make the Region 7 rally, Saddle Up To Medora, a huge success. Thank you for everything you did. Mike and I are especially grateful to Linda Agre, Larry and Cathy Ruebel, Pete and Kathy Yanke, Gary and Sharon Colbert, Bob Manak, Vern and Leola Schultz, and Harry and Sharon Ramler for all of your help! What a great team you are! Your enthusiasm, spirit, and efforts played a big role in the success of the rally and the excellent time everyone enjoyed. You surely made a difference and for that, thank you very much!

At the July 5, 2010 International Board of Trustees Meeting, a motion to eliminate the office of International Third Vice President was defeated. A motion requiring the Nominating Committee to prepare a list of all qualified candidates and present the qualified candidates to delegates at their annual meeting was passed. This motion will be forwarded to the delegates for their vote at the 2011 Delegates Meeting. Names along with qualifications of all candidates deemed qualified by the Nominating Committee will need to be submitted to headquarters not later than March 1 of each year for publication in the April Blue Beret and on the WBCCI.org Website. Note that, currently, resumes for international offices are STILL due to the Nominating Committee by November 15. A motion was passed to create a special committee to study options for WBCCI member motor home owners, with a request to present a report to the IBT at their meeting in January, 2011. Karin Kurkowski, Region 4 First Vice President, is chair of this committee.

International President Norm Beu recently announced that a Bylaws Revision Committee has been formed to review and streamline WBCCI bylaws. Hopefully, results will decrease the size of the Blue Book and make it more user friendly while retaining the essential character and traditions of WBCCI, including the Code of Ethics. Members of the committee are Chair Dona Garner, Kerry Mattila, Bob Novak, Joe Perryman, and Tom Smithson.

Region 7 On The Move

The units in Region 7 once again demonstrated a high level of activity and member participation when they received 2009 merit awards earlier this year. Our region joined the ranks with Regions 5 and 10 by qualifying 100% of our units for the award. The objective of the annual recognition program is to recognize and reward excellence in unit programs. Congratulations to unit members and to the unit presidents, who worked diligently to complete the Unit Planning Guide.

Minnesota - Sharon Ramler - Merit Award

North Dakota Peace Garden - Rose Larson - Merit Award

Wisconsin - Don Stenz - Superior Merit Award

The Unit Planning Guide, located on the WBCCI website, is now an electronic, fill-in the blanks document. Download the form from the website from the “General Info” tab and fill in the required data to complete the form. This efficient e-form will help tremendously with time spent when working on the guide. Check it out—it works!

Congratulations to Region 7 publications contest winners at the Gillette rally:

Minnesota - Lorie Costello - 3rd place unit directory (bound)

North Dakota Peace Garden - Cathy Ruebel -
2nd place unit directory (bound)

Wisconsin - John Sellers - 1st place color newsletter

Congratulations to Region 7 indoor games contests winners at the Gillette rally:

Minnesota - Harry Ramler - 3rd place holey board men's division

Minnesota - Sharon Ramler -

1st place holey board women's division

Minnesota - Harry Ramler - 1st place horse shoes men's division

Also, at the Gillette rally, ambience for the Region 7 luncheon at the Prime Rib Restaurant in Gillette could not have been better. The restaurant located us in a cozy room, perfectly suited for our small group of 26 people. After a delicious lunch of chopped beef steak with all the accompaniments, Linda Agre was installed as Second Vice President. Later, Unit merit awards were presented and Linda did a repeat presentation of roasting President Joan Lahr. 📺

Unit News

Congratulations to Vern Zink of the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit and to Jim Costello of the Minnesota Unit, who were installed as Unit Presidents on September 11. Also, congratulations to John Sellers of the Wisconsin Unit who will be installed as Unit President on October 2. Vern, Jim, and John have planned an exciting year for their members and need everyone's help to make it a success. Be sure to give them your support!

Thank you to Unit Past Presidents John Krabseth, North Dakota Peace Garden Unit; Pete Yanke, Minnesota Unit; and (as of October 2) Bob Manak, Wisconsin Unit for the time, commitment, and efforts they gave this past year as Unit Presidents. 📺

Medora, from Page 1

Eventually, a park ranger came and relocated the snake further a field and away from the crowd.

After devouring a breakfast of pancakes and sausages prepared by the Wisconsin unit on Thursday morning, several die-hard golfers made their way to the Bully Pulpit course, but the outcome is unknown as they said no one was keeping score. The ladies were treated to a luncheon and social hour at the Chateau de Mores Visitors' Center; afterwards the rest of the group joined them for a guided tour of the original Chateau, the 1880's summer home of the Marquis de Mores, and his wife Medora. That evening, members gathered at the Medora Community Center for a delicious dinner catered by a Beach, ND company. Following dinner, Larry and Cathy Ruebel presented a slide show with historical photos from around the region and this rally's activities. The Region 7 Board Meeting followed, and minutes from this meeting will be available at a later date on the region website.

Twenty-three hardy souls donned their riding duds early Friday morning and headed out to the Peaceful Valley Ranch for a guided trail ride into the heart of the Badlands. Regrettably, cameras were not allowed on the ride, as the primary job was riding that horse; cameras can be a significant distraction to rider and horse alike. Such a pity! The views were fantastic—not what one can see driving around in a car. Upon return, most riders commented on some newly awakened muscles.

In the afternoon, President Joan Lahr led the Unit Officers' Leadership Session. Sharon Ramler from the Minnesota Unit gave a report on mentoring new members,

in follow up of a presentation she attended at the Gillette International Convention and Rally this past July. Details of the Mentoring presentation will be available on the Region 7 website, www.region7.wbcc.net (under the documents tab). The men in the group were responsible for the preparation of Friday evening's Reverse Dinner, and finished it off by serving their wives and families first.

Saturday morning, the North Dakota Unit served fresh egg and bacon muffins to the crowd. After breakfast, picnic lunches were packed and a number of vehicles caravanned 45 miles north to Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch site. Roosevelt homesteaded this site along the Little Missouri River after his Maltese Cross cabin became very busy with sympathetic well-wishers, when he only wanted to be alone to grieve over the deaths of his wife and mother. While interpretive signs detail life at the Elkhorn Ranch, all that remains are the stones of the house foundation and the tall cottonwood trees from 120 years ago. We ate our picnic lunches at a Forest Service campsite a couple miles away, and then headed back to Medora.

Following lasagna dinner and brownies á la mode, the group reassembled for the People's Choice Best Dressed Cowboy and Cowgirl. Cowgirl competition was tight, with Arlene Bailey riding out ahead. Hands-down favorite for best dressed cowboy was Bruce Coonrod, who led the whole group around the park in a good-humored parade. We stopped by the office to request a song from the park's live music duo, Vern and Rita, so the Rodeo Clown and Region President could take a turn on the dance floor...er...cement.

After Sunday brunch, the

2010-12 Region 7 Officers and Committee Chairs

President and First Mate	Joan Lahr and Mike
First Vice President	Linda Agre
Second Vice President	Vacant
Recording/Corresponding Secretary	Carol Witzke
Treasurer	Pete Yanke
Parliamentarian	Rose Larson
Past President	Don Rogers
Community Service	Annette Hooker
Contributing Editor	Joan Lahr
Membership	Gail Harrower
Mentoring	Sharon Ramler
Newsletter Editor & Web Master	Bob Manak
Nominating Committee	Don Rogers
Congratulations to the new Region 7 officers and committee chairs in Region 7!	

2008-2010 Past Region 7 Officers

President and First Mate	Don Rogers and Terrol
Recording/Corresponding Secretary	Kathi Treston
Treasurer	Harry Ramler
Parliamentarian	Margaret-Ann Miller

Thank you for your dedication, hard work, and support for Region 7!

Many, many thanks especially to Don Rogers, Past President, and Past First Lady Terrol for their time, efforts, commitment, and enthusiasm these past two years.

Our region members appreciated and enjoyed the two superb rallies Don and Terrol hosted in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba. Who will ever forget "Molly Bumpers?"

Don's leadership at the International Board of Trustees' meetings was always spirited and dynamic, as he muddled through the paperwork, business, and motions that were presented. Many times he led discussions with the other region officers and brought them to task. Don will continue to serve on the region board as Past President and Nominating Committee Chair. For me personally, thank you, Don, for your support and guidance.

For this and much more, all of the members of Region 7 are most appreciative and grateful. Thank you Don and Terrol—we wish you many more happy Airstream years ahead. Now, "happy trails to you" and . . . relax!!

By Joan Lahr, President

troops braved the heat and dust and headed out to the Home on the Range's Champions Ride Match Rodeo near Beach, ND. Profits from the rodeo go to Home on the Range, which is a residential center for troubled, neglected, abused, and disadvantaged boys and girls.

Looking ahead to next year, the 2011 Region 7 Rally heads to DePere, Wisconsin, just outside of Green Bay. It

will be held earlier, July 24th through the 29th, so that rallygoers will be able to take in a day at the world's largest fly-in convention, Oshkosh's AirVenture 2011. Leave the purple and white at home and don your cheese heads, because a visit to Lambeau Field and the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame is being planned. See you there! 

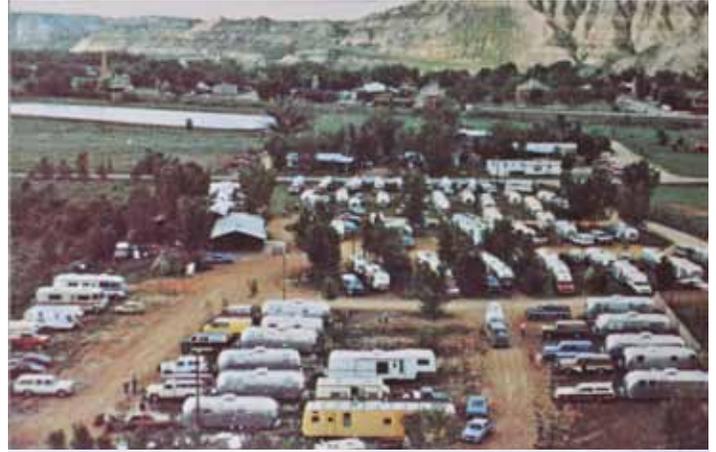
Region 7 Medora Rally

Photos by: Cathy Ruebel, Jennifer Slater, and Bob Manak



John Boutwell, Int. 3rd VP, delivers his message.





1981 WBCCI rally at Red Trail Campground. ->



2010 Region 7 Medora rally at Red Trail Campground.->

Looking down from a butte viewing the Medora rally site are Mike Lahr, Gary Colbert, Bob Manak and Red Trail CG manager, Mary Jean Brannum. ↓



Sharon and Gary Colbert celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. ↓



President Joan Lahr and Bruce Coonrod of the N.D. Unit clowning around. ↑

Region 7 at the Gillette International Rally



Linda Agre, 1st VP, does an encore "roasting" of President Joan Lahr.



Newly installed Region 7 President and 1st Mate, Joan and Mike Lahr.



As Region 7 outgoing President, Don Rogers (3rd from left) receives recognition from Int. President, Tom Collier.



Joan Lahr (4th from left) is installed as the new Region 7 President.



WBCCI ladies line up to model their outfits at the Fashion show. Heidi Manak (left), Sharon Ramler (6th from left), Annette Hooker, Fashion Show Chairman (8th from left), and Linda Agre (right)