

INTERNATIONAL RALLY

FIRST TIMER HINTS

Each year there are members who attend the WBCCI International Convention/Rally for the first time. It may be helpful to know what to expect, what to do, what to wear, etc. Perhaps the following hints will help. Uppermost, have fun and remember that we are creating “Silver City” as everyone arrives so please be patient. Ask questions of your fellow members or the workers at the Rally.

1. **We would prefer to travel with someone** - Many units and regions have caravans to International. If your unit does not leave at a time convenient for you, inquire if other units have room on their caravan. However, you are always welcome to come as a caravan of **one!** The rally fee, if not prepaid, can be paid upon entry to the rally.
2. **I'd like to come early to the Rally** - Even though there are no scheduled activities, check with the local Chamber of Commerce. Often, other members may have the same idea, so it is wise to have reservations at local campgrounds to avoid disappointment. You will be parked on the arrival date printed on your rally receipt.

If you come as an early worker you will be parked on the rally grounds on your scheduled committee's arrival date. As an early worker there are a few activities and information as to where to go and what to see.

3. **What happens when I arrive?** - A map with directions to the rally site will be in spring issues of the “Blue Beret.” WBCCI signs will direct you when approaching the site. If the arrow is pointing up and on the right side of the sign, a right-hand turn is next. If the arrow is on the left, a left turn is approaching. Follow these signs to the **Bull Pen** (Temporary parking).

Parking hours are 8 AM to noon and 1 PM to 4 PM daily, except Sunday. If you arrive before or after these hours, expect to stay in the Bull Pen with no hookups.

As you approach the “gate” (usually a small building or tent) have your pre-registration receipt in hand for the greeters to check and your cards in the windshield. If you have not pre-registered, **Entry Verification** will collect necessary unpaid fees and give you a pre-registration stub to take to Registration after parking.

There will be volunteers directing traffic and Entry Verification greeters will:

1. Check your windshield for the large “D” and “H” that were mailed to you after you registered if you requested the dog or handicapped section.
2. Ask for your receipt and collect any unpaid fees
3. Ask if you:
 - are on a Committee
 - are a Unit President, Region President/Vice President, or International Officer

If you have not registered, Entry Verification greeters will:

1. Collect your registration fees
2. Ask if you:
 - have a **dog**
 - have a doctor's certificate for **handicap parking**
 - are on a Committee
 - are a Unit President, Region President/Vice President, or International Officer

After checking your registration, the greeters at Entry Verification will assign you a parking site and will place colored **stickers** on your windshield. You will then be directed to a temporary holding area. The Parkers will lead you to your designated parking site after parking RVs that arrived earlier. Please be patient.

Fill out the pink copy of your Registration Receipt form with emergency contact information before you proceed to Registration and verify that all information is current and correct. Do not separate -- keep the three copies intact. Take the copies along with your site and row number to Registration.

Arriving with a caravan: You must be pre-registered to enter the rally grounds with a caravan. Once a Caravan has entered the Rally site, it is no longer a caravan. The parkers try to keep a Caravan together, but cannot guarantee that you will park with the group. Sometimes it is impossible, due to utility services or the parking preference requested.

You are now at your parking site: All you see are people waving red flags at you. Just follow their directions, and you will arrive at your location site for the Rally.

- 4. What about utility services?** - Most RV parking at the Cam-Plex Events Center are full hook-ups. You will be directed to a parking spot where you will connect your RV to the utilities.
- 5. I'm pre-registered; do I register again?** - Yes. Even though you are pre-registered, everyone must go through registration in the Wyoming Center, Frontier Hall to receive **ribbons**, a rally **program** and rally promotions material.

Before you leave your RV site, check at the end of your row of RVs and look for a sign about 3 or 4 feet high. The sign should have the "**Area Color**" and the "**Row Number**" where you are parked. If you cannot locate this sign, the Parkers can usually assist.

- 6. Rally ribbon and badge:** - You need a rally ribbon to enter the buildings and to attend the programs and activities. **You wear your badge and ribbon at all times so be sure to bring your badge.**
- 7. Rally program:** - You need a Rally Program to know When, Who, Where, What is going on! It lists all activities for the rally, a diagram of the buildings, room numbers and locations of these activities. **Read it carefully**, make your selections and make notes. Changes may occur and are posted on the official Bulletin Board (close to the Unit Bulletin Boards); changes are also announced at the evening program.
- 8. After I register, then what?** - There is a special table for youth to register for their special activities.

The sign-up tables are in proximity to registration. You can sign up for indoor games, outdoor activities, the hobby show to display your handiwork such as quilts, knitted or crocheted items, wood carvings, or other hobbies or collections. Blue Ribbons can be earned in all of these categories as well as for photography and paintings. There are tables for signing up for Region meals and picnics. This is also where you learn about and sign up for Caravans, National and Special Event Rallies.

Vendors, the Wally Byam store, Camping World and Unit Bulletin Boards are all located in Frontier Hall.

- 9. Will there be a Flea Market?** - In addition to bringing your hobby or crafts for competition or show, there is a Flea Market. This is where you can sell your home-crafted items and those miscellaneous items you feel could be "treasures" to others.
- 10. How do I communicate with my Unit members or Intra-Clubs?** - **Bulletin Boards** are very important and are placed in one area for convenience. Each Unit and Region has their spot for displaying how their unit depicts the International "slogan" for the year and ribbons are given for the best entries in several categories. The Units and Regions post important activities on their bulletin board during the rally, such as special get togethers with sign up sheets for Lunches, Breakfasts, etc., not previously advertised.

A **Citizens Band Radio** is very important to keep you informed daily about changing rally news and weather. The CB Rally Base Station, known as "Wally Byam Control" (Channel 14), is open for your inquiries or emergency calls. They, as well as the Amateur Radio Club, assist caravans and others approaching the rally grounds. For suggestions in purchasing and installing a CB, ask a unit member. Many have one or sometimes two -- one in the car and one in the RV. When traveling with others a CB becomes invaluable.

Amateur radio operators are another valuable group who assists in numerous ways at the rally. If you are a Ham Operator, let this group know of your interest.

- 11. Will there be entertainment and dancing?** - You bet!! During the rally, there are planned activities each evening, starting with the flag ceremony, several nights of professional entertainment, the WBCCI band and block parties. A dance of either ballroom, popular dancing to a DJ, or line dancing is offered on some evenings and line dancing classes are in the mornings.

12. **Will I be able to attend seminars?** - There are seminars of all kinds, with the First Timers Seminar one of the most important to you. This activity is for first timers to learn more about the International Rally. Several new seminars are planned – more about this in a separate article. There will be seminars on computers, RV equipment, crafts, caravans, how to hold rallies, special information for officers of the club, etc. Check your program for time and place.
13. **Will I be able to visit vendors?** - There will be many vendors, including supplies, vacation clothing, Farm and City Insurance, SkyMed, local vendors, etc. Some of our vendors will be selling their wares in the Flea Market. Please visit and support the vendor booths so they will return next year.
14. **What should I wear?** - Most functions are casual, although you may want to bring “church clothes”. You may plan to bring your Unit colors and rally colors of navy blue (denim) and white, with a touch of red. If you like to dance, bring your dancing shoes. In fact, if you play an instrument, the band always welcomes new members, and this includes the youth as well.
15. **How can I get involved?** - There are many activities at an International Rally. The spring issues of the “Blue Beret” have many of the activities listed urging those interested in volunteering. You can also sign up at the Rally Volunteer Coordinator’s table. You can be a spectator or an active participant by working on one of 150 plus committees.
16. **Why is an International Convention/Rally held?** - WBCCI is required by its Constitution to take care of business at its three business meetings; hence, it is a Convention. The club business is transacted during the International Board of Trustees Seminar, the IBT Meeting and the annual **Delegates Meeting**. Each unit sends a delegate, usually the President of the Unit, to act on Constitution legislation. The delegate casts a ballot as directed by the votes of Unit members. Ballots are also cast for a new slate of International Officers. All WBCCI members are should attend and observe these meetings.

It is also to have fun, meet new people, and a great reason to get out and make those RV wheels do what they were meant to do - **travel!**

17. **Now how do I leave the parking site?** - Even though we need directions entering the parking site, leaving is quite easy. Do we have de-parkers? No, there will be enough room left for you to pull your RV out of your site to leave or in case of an emergency. RVs must be off the rally grounds following the July 5 IBT Seminar and Meeting. Just hook up and drive away. By the afternoon, mass evacuation has taken place with little or no fuss. Often caravanners will rendezvous at some point and travel home together, or better still, head for a Post Rally Caravan or another Rally. These activities can be found in the *Blue Beret* and at the sign-up tables at registration.

We hope you have gleaned some valuable information from this article so that when you attend your first International Convention/Rally, you will feel like an old timer.

Now, come and prepare for fun, adventure and new friends in Gillette, Wyoming

“EXPLORE DISCOVER”