

2017 INTERNATIONAL RALLY

FIRST TIMER TIPS

Each year there are members who attend the WBCCI International Rally for the first time. It may be helpful to know what to expect, what to do, what to wear, etc. Perhaps the following tips will help. Uppermost, have fun and ask questions of your fellow members or the workers at the Rally.

1. We would prefer to travel with someone - Many of our members enjoy traveling with friends to the International Rally. Some units and regions put caravans together so they can travel and park with their friends. If your unit does not leave at a time convenient for you, inquire if other units have room on their caravans. However, you are always welcome to come as a caravan of one!

2. I'd like to come early to the Rally – Often, other members may have the same idea, so it is wise to have reservations at local campgrounds to avoid disappointment. Your rally receipt will have your arrival date. You can come on or after your arrival date.

The International Rally has volunteer workers who come to the rally early to help set up. Volunteer information will be in the *Blue Beret* magazine when volunteer opportunities are available.

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. Follow these signs to the Bull Pen. The Bull Pen is a temporary place to park, until the Parking Crew can park you.

Parking hours are 8 AM to 4 PM Monday – Saturday, 1 PM to 4 PM Sunday. If you arrive before or after these hours, please park in the Bull Pen. The Bull Pen does not have hookups. If you spend the night in the Bull Pen, please be ready to go when the parkers arrive.

When you arrive at the fairgrounds, you will be welcomed and then passed on to Entry Verification Volunteers. Please have your pre-registration receipt handy.

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

Ask for your receipt. Any fees not paid prior to the rally will be collected at Entry Verification. If you decide to bring a last-minute guest, their rally fees would be paid here.

After checking your registration, you will then be directed to a temporary holding area. The Parkers will lead you to your designated parking site as soon as possible. Please be patient, remember we are all volunteers.

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: Follow the directions of the Parker, and you will arrive at your park site for the rally. In case of an emergency, it is important that your red WBCCI numbers be displayed on the front and rear of your Airstream. Make a note of your parking location, just as you would at a shopping mall. It is also recommended that you tie a clothes pin to your door handle, should the Message Center or a friend leave a note.

4. What about utility services? – All RV parking sites, except for dry camping sites, will have the following amenities: 30 amp electrical hookups, water, and regularly scheduled pump outs. It is always a good practice to travel with extra water hoses, water splitters and 30-amp electrical extension cord. Jerry Humble, parking chairman in Escanaba, has the following suggested items: 42+ feet of water hose and 42+ feet of 30 amp extension cord. If you have 50 amp service, bring a 50 to 30 amp adapter as all the sites will have 30 amp service.

5. I'm pre-registered; do I register again? - Yes. Even though you are pre-registered, everyone must go through registration to receive ribbons, a rally program and rally promotions material.

6. Rally ribbon and badge: - It is important to wear your badge and ribbon at the rally. The rally ribbon will allow you to enter the buildings and to attend the programs and activities. If you do not have a badge, please contact your unit or the WBCCI Headquarters. The phone number for Headquarters is – 937-596-5211.

7. Rally program: - You need a Rally Program to know When, Who, Where and 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, and are announced at the evening program. You can also sign up to receive changes by text. We will be sending out more information regarding this service as soon as we have it.

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. Award Ribbons can be earned in 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. If you are a delegate or alternate for your unit, please bring the credential letter from your unit president so you can be verified during this process.

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. Sign up after you register.

10. Amateur radio operators are another valuable group who assist 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, including several nights of professional entertainment. We will also have entertainment from the WBCCI Band, and Airstreamers with Talent. If you play an instrument, the band always welcomes new members, and this includes the youth as well. A dance of either ballroom 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! The First Timers Seminar is an important seminar that you should attend. It will help you learn more about the International Rally. 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 selling almost everything an Airstreamer wants or needs. Please visit and support the vendor booths. Participating members will be selling their wares in the Flea Market.

14. What should I wear? - Most functions are casual, although you may want to bring "dressy casual clothes". You may plan to bring your Unit colors and rally colors of shades of purple. If you like to dance, bring your dancing shoes.

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 be an active participant by working on one of 100 plus committees.

16. Why is an International Rally held? – Many people think the International Rally is all about business meetings. The delegates meeting is the only business meeting held during the rally. At that meeting the next year's officers are elected in accordance with the state laws of Ohio. The International Rally is all about friendship, fun and a bit of adventure. The rally features seminars on a variety of subjects and some great entertainment. The International Rally is where friends gather and memories are created.

17. What about Golf? – Ya, You Betcha. This year's International will feature a golf scramble at the prestigious Escanaba Country Club with a shotgun start. The only thing missing from this great classic is groundkeeper Carl and his buddy the Gopher! **Don't forget to bring your clubs!**

18. 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 last IBT Seminar and Meeting (July 30th). 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. Please drive safely.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, about the International Rally, please feel free to contact Julie at WBCCI Headquarters. Email - jrethman@wbcci.org