

WIMBCOA Travelers

May 2010 Newsletter

Can't spring camping be an adventure? You have the possibility of rain, snow, sleet, wind and hopefully, sunshine. Well, we had three of them along with cold evenings and, if the sun came out, warm days. Even with that;

Our 2010 rally season got off to a wondrous start with twelve rigs gathering at the Lakeshore RV Park in Lake Chelan, Washington, May 18 – 21. Participating were Marylyn & Richard McMahan, Dave & Bonnie Haug, Dale & Danni Surdyk, Dean & Evelyn Haug, Tom & Sue Redding, Bill & Loretta Monaghan, Chuck & Bobbie Peterson, George & Jeannie Taylor, Julius & Mary Jo Schmidt, Betty Brown, Sonny & Peggy Williams and guest Gary Worrell and friend Chris.

As usual, things kicked off Tuesday night with tasty appetizers, which in reality turns out to be the equivalent of the "full meal deal". Wednesday morning, after a terrific breakfast provided by the chapter, a short business meeting was held. A report of that meeting will be provided later by our Secretary. The balance of the day was open for individual pursuits.

Thursday morning the gang separated with some taking the boat trip to Stehekin, some a drive on the North Cascades Scenic Highway, and a few hit the local casino. Rumor has it that Julius won \$50, but I won't mention it in case he has to split winnings with Mary Jo.

At this juncture, I need to insert a little history/geology of the area. Lake Chelan is 50.5 miles long, only two miles wide at its widest, and the third deepest in the United States. Its deepest point is also reached at its narrowest, where the lake bottom is 386 feet below sea level or a total depth of 1,486 feet. From the top of Pyramid Peak, at 8,245 feet, to the bottom of the lake you would be looking at the deepest gorge in North America.

At the opposite end of the lake from Chelan, you find Stehekin, an isolated area inhabited by only

95 full time residents and reached only by boat or plane. No TV or cell phones, they do have electricity and access to a satellite phone if necessary. Their original one room schoolhouse, built in 1911 and now on the National Registry of Historic Places, was used until 1989 when a new building was mandated. They have had the same teacher for the last 35 years, presiding over as few as five and as many as the present 22 students. The new school is also a one room school house but does have amenities such as indoor plumbing which the original one did not.

We picked the right time to visit as departing Chelan we had twenty-nine passengers, though we did pick up several more at various spots along the lake. Next weekend (Memorial Day), the boat had reservations for a full load, 285 people! We did spot a black bear cub and a couple of deer on the way.

Friday morning, after another filling breakfast, hugs and farewells were exchanged until the next time.

Apparently for only five, that will be June 21 – 27 in Weiser, Idaho at the National Old Time Fiddlers Contest. Actually, everyone is stopping at the Wildhorse Casino and RV Park in Pendleton Sunday night before heading to the Monroe Creek Campground in Weiser.

July 10 is the rally and caravan extending through July



24, starting in B.C. and ending at Mary Jo and Julius home in Hayden Lake, Idaho. So far, eight rigs have indicated intent to go. Dale Surdyk needs a firm commitment by the end of May so he can confirm reservations at campgrounds. This is a very popular destination area during summer months and space will be at a premium.

It was decided during the business meeting that the September meeting would be held at an RV park close to the Evergreen Air Museum in McMinnville, OR. More details on that later.

One last closing comment. We were fortunate to have Gary Worrell and Chris as guests at this rally. Gary is a full timer who still works part time out of his coach. We are hopeful he will become a member as his pleasant demeanor and participation in conversation and functions was welcomed.

Until next time, good health and safe travels.

P.S. I am attaching a photo of Rainbow Falls, located a short distance above Stehekin, and the original schoolhouse.

