

RAZORBACK UNIT

ARKANSAS RAZORBACK UNIT 005 / WBCCI

MAY - JUNE 2014

Southwest & West Caravan

'Streamers charmed by Diamond State's past

By Mark Magie

Razorback Unit newsletter editor

On hands and knees, they scraped, shoveled, picked and pushed dirt from one pile to another, looking for diamonds in their natural state that were free of mud and dirt ... diamonds are oily and dirt will not stick to them.

For several hours on Friday, April 25, members of the WBCCI Razorback Unit did what 100,000 people do every year, look for diamonds at the Crater of Diamonds State Park at Murfreesboro, Ark.

Just two weeks before, a 6.19 carat diamond the size of a jelly bean was found in the 37-acre field, and it is "finders-keepers" for whoever finds a gem. An average of two diamonds are found each day at the park, which is North America's only diamond mine open to the public.

The first activity for the participants of the Arkansas Southwest & West Caravan was a tour of the Ka-Do-Ha Indian Village, also in Murfreesboro. Ka-Do-Ha is a Spanish abbreviation for "real chiefs."

The village is a preserved archeological site of earthen mounds that "reached to the heavens" for the native Indians buried there.

A nearby museum houses pottery jars, water bottles, pipes, stone tools and arrowheads left behind by the people who occupied the site for over one thousand years.

On another day, the group traveled to Hope, Ark. to the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace, one of the newest historic sites of the National Park Service.

For many in the group, it was like traveling back in time to the late 1940s which



DIGGIN' IT - With picks and shovels ready to hit the diamond crater, from left, Terry and Larry Madden, Jason and Dana Landrum, Mark Magie, Neil Anderson and Jane Fudge, Paul Moore, and Bill and Carol Barton.

is the period in which Clinton lived in Hope at his grandparents' home originally constructed in 1917.

The Park Service has restored the home with items similar to the way it was when Clinton lived there: *Dick and Jane* books, phonograph records, furniture and kitchen items, magazines, etc., based on old family photographs.

A park interpreter guided the group through the house explaining many of the photographs and the people pictured. One photo in particular of Clinton's kindergarten class was interesting because standing with Clinton were three or four boys who eventually served in the Clinton administration.

The next stop was at Historic Washington State Park in Washington, Ark. "From

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ON HIS KNEES - Bill Barton gets down to business digging for diamonds.

'Streamers charmed by Diamond State's past

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its establishment in 1824, Washington was an important stop on the rugged Southwest Trail for pioneers traveling to Texas. James Bowie, Sam Houston and Davy Crockett traveled through Washington. James Black, a local blacksmith, is credited with creating the legendary Bowie knife here.

Later, the town became a major service center for area planters, merchants and professionals. Washington was the Confederate Capital of Arkansas from 1863-1865." according to the park website.

The caravaners first ate lunch at the historic Williams Tavern Restaurant, before touring the 1874 Courthouse which now serves as the park visitor center, the 1836 Courthouse, a blacksmith shop, weapons museum, candle shop, print shop museum and a doctor's home.

Paul Moore organized the caravan. To qualify to lead a caravan, he took the Caravan Leader Seminar at the International Rally last summer. "I thought our short caravan was fantastic! From a leader's perspective, the activities seemed well-liked, and the time provided was about right," Moore said.

"I was particularly pleased (and relieved) with the level of cooperation of



CHILDHOOD HOME - Caravaners listen as a park employee explains the photographs on the living room fireplace mantle in Bill Clinton's grandparent's home.

everyone. I appreciate that very much. I'm toying with the idea of another caravan next year in another part of the state," he added.

"The bottom line for me is that I really enjoyed the caravan; the time together. I even enjoyed the planning - it was good to be planning things to do with friends," Moore said.

The caravan was cut short due to some participants' schedules. "I wonder if there

is a better time of year - maybe more people would join in. The part of the caravan that actually happened went quite well, in my opinion," he said.

"There were other interesting things to be seen and done later - had we done the full caravan; maybe we'll do those on a later caravan. If so, it will be open to more WBCCI members, which will hopefully prevent having to cut it short due to cancellations," Moore added.



TOMORROW'S PLAN - Caravan-master Paul Moore, standing, highlights details of the next day's activities after happy hour.



CANDLE MAKING - Carol Barton, left, dips a candle into molten colored wax.

Back, Back, Back, Bang

Simple fix makes hooking up an easier task

By **Larry Madden**

Razorback Unit member

Our body's reaction to physical and emotional trauma will often be a very sickening feeling from deep inside, which at times may lead to an unpleasant involuntary emptying of our stomachs.

On a warm, clear, sunny summer afternoon the crack I heard was so loud I immediately felt sick to my stomach. Now with my chin resting on my chest and my eyes closed, I was trying to visualize in my mind's eye what had just happened. After a few seconds I found the courage to egress our Ford Expedition and take a look.

While the task of hooking up to our Airstream is simple and routine, this particular afternoon I would prove nothing is routine! I was in a bit of a hurry, so in the process of hooking up to the Silver Bullet it occurred to me it would be easier to center the receiver hitch to the camper coupler with the rear hatch of our Expedition up for better visibility.

My miscalculation was obvious and the proof was lying on the ground right in front of me. While backing up the Expedition and repositioning with some rather sharp movements of the steering wheel, the rear hatch of my vehicle had come in contact with the tinted Plexiglas window cover and destroyed it.

I am my own worst critic but after all, life is full of lessons. After adding another lesson to my repertoire it was time to pull myself together and develop a plan to fix both issues.

My first reaction was to call Airstream and inquire on the price for a replacement. I was informed it was \$500.00. At that point I started looking at different options.

On closer examination I discovered the Plexiglas window cover slides off a track and is secured in place with one pop rivet. With a new plan in place, I



drilled out the rivet and simply slid the cover off the tract.

Taking it to a local glass shop, they replaced the broken Plexiglas and installed new weather trim. The total cost: \$48.00 plus tax. Reinstalling the cover was a snap and with an inexpensive handheld rivet gun I bought at Wal-Mart, installing the previously removed rivet was fast and easy.

With every accident there is a chain of events leading up to it. So by removing one link of this chain you will effectively prevent the accident. With this wisdom in mind I started my quest to find a safer and friendlier way to hitch up to our Silver Bullet.

There are many aftermarket backup cameras systems available and they are a viable option to eliminate the potential damage and many are user-friendly. However, my goal was to find a less-costly and still effective process with one less piece of equipment to keep up

with.

With our particular tow vehicle (2007 Ford Expedition) the tinted glass rear hatch and high back seats make it impossible to see the receiver hitch or trailer coupler. This necessitates the use of a spotter, or getting in and out of the Expedition several times during the process to check on alignment. After a little brain storming session, the solution I settled on cost less than a dollar!

Facing the receiver hitch installed on the Expedition, I aligned myself with it. Then tracing an imaginary line with my arm from the ball on the hitch up to the back hatch window I placed a three inch piece of red electrical tape on the glass. This is now my visual reference to the location of the receiver hitch.

On the camper, the plastic top of the propane tank cover is installed with a row of rivets, two of which conveniently align perfectly with the center of the coupler hitch, making a solid permanent reference point.

The hooking up process is now a breeze! By simply looking in the rear view mirror, I can align the red tape on the rear hatch in between the two rivets on the propane tank cover and back up with confidence knowing I am in perfect position to hook up to the Silver Bullet, with no Alka-Seltzer required!

Events ahead --

Spring Buddy Rally - May 29 - June 1, Mtn. View RV Park.

Charles Duran, cduran136@gmail.com

Unit Luncheon - June 5, 11:30 a.m. -

Check <http://arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net> for the location.

WBCCI International Rally - June 28 - July 4, Gillette, Wy.

<http://wbcci.org/home/rallies-caravans/international-rally>

Fall Election Buddy Rally - September 18 - 21, Downtown Riverside RV Park, North Little Rock.

Larry and Terry Madden, h70man@cox.net

From the president --

It seems like a lot has happened since the last issue of our unit's newsletter. I want to first ask you to keep the families who lost loved ones and who were affected by the recent Spring tornadoes in your thoughts and prayers.

Welcome back to those who participated in the Arkansas Southwest & West Caravan in late April. A special thanks to Paul Moore who coordinated the event. Though it was cut short, the reports I've heard indicate that the weather cooperated and that the southwest part of the state was beautiful. The tours were educational and everyone had a great experience.

Our Spring Buddy Rally is May 29 - June 1 in Mountain View at the Mtn. View RV Park. Charles Duran is the point of contact and he may be reached at cduran136@gmail.com or by calling 501-745-1590.

Also, the next luncheon is June 5. Check online for the location at <http://arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net>

I hope everyone is doing well, or on the mend! As always, I offer my thanks to all who are so willing to volunteer their time and energy to the Razorback Unit.

Sincerely,
Jim Pankey, Razorback Unit president

Recipe corner -

Good at home or in your Airstream



Baked Havarti Cheese

Dana Landrum served this hot delight at one of the happy hours on the recent Arkansas Southwest & West Caravan.

Ingredients:

1 block of Havarti cheese, about the size of a deck of cards, approximately 7 or 8 ounces.

1 can of crescent rolls.

Honey

Directions:

Lay rolls flat in baking dish. Place cheese in the middle and pull the sides of the rolls over the cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Drizzle honey on top after baking.



NEWS MAKERS

NEW MEMBERS

Shane and Jenne Artz, and children Ian and Kai
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jenneartz@yahoo.com

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Jim Pankey (501) 765-1871

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1 -- Jennifer Gulley

5/17 -- Larry Madden

5/24 -- Katie Gulley

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/5 -- Jane Landrum

6/7 -- Terry Madden

6/8 -- F.L. Mosley

6/12 -- Donna McNair

6/14 -- Shane Artz

6/15 -- Bill Barton

6/18 -- Don Auerbach

6/21 -- Jenne Artz

MAY

ANNIVERSARIES

5/6 -- J.W. & Marie King

5/15 -- Jim & Jane Pankey

5/16 -- Charles & Helen

Bourgeois

5/27 -- Jason & Dana

Landrum

5/29 -- Herb & V.J. Carter

JUNE

ANNIVERSARIES

6/1 -- F.L. & Bonita

Mosley

6/26 -- Charles & Emogene Duran

Check our website at:

<http://arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net>