

RAZORBACK UNIT

ARKANSAS RAZORBACK UNIT 005 / WBCCI

MARCH - APRIL 2015

Spring rally to cover Petit Jean in aluminum



SUNRISE IN ARKANSAS - Visitors to Petit Jean State Park are treated to views seen by French explorers in the 1700s.

BY MARK MAGIE
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Arkansas Razorback Unit's spring rally set for April 16-19, 2015 at Petit Jean State Park near Morrilton, Ark. is shaping up to be one of the best attended in several years. "We're bursting at the seams," said unit member Paul Moore, rally organizer. Thirteen rigs are currently signed up.

As the first official camping activity for the group in 2015, the spring rally promises beautiful views from Arkansas' first state park, and an assortment of optional activities for those seeking something extra.

Special guests, Hugh and Euna Ridenour of Pensacola, Fla. (and members of the New Orleans Unit) will be attending

and cooking breakfast and Friday and Saturday night's suppers for the group ... there may be a Cajun flair ... Bon Appetit!

While there is not a set schedule, there are attractions nearby, according to Moore, such as an antique automobile museum founded in 1964 by former Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller, and the Movie House Winery in the newly renovated Petit Jean Movie Theatre built in the 1930s in Morrilton.

Petit Jean's grave is near the top of the mountain where legend has it, in the 1700s, French Nobleman Chavet was granted permission by the king of France to sail to America to explore a part of the Louisiana Territory. Young Adrienne Dumont, who was in love with Chavet, disguised herself as a cabin boy named Petit Jean (Little

John) and was a stowaway on the ship.

After several months of summer in the territory which later became Arkansas, Adrienne fell deathly ill, confessed her deception to Chavet and asked his forgiveness. She requested that the sailors bury her remains on the mountain top upon her death.

Near Petit Jean's grave, walkways lead to rock outcroppings that make ideal seats for early risers who wish to watch the sunrise over the river valley below. The view is spectacular.

Hiking trails and Cedar Falls are popular attractions for visitors to the park.

The rally fee is \$20 per person which includes the meals, according to Moore. Excursions are extra.

Suggestions offered for newsletter moniker

BY MARK MAGIE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

A call went out several months ago to all members to submit ideas for a name for the Arkansas Razorback Unit 006 newsletter.

Thanks to those who responded with some very creative suggestions. Some admitted that the brainstorming was enhanced by several glasses of adult beverages (Surely Picasso had to be on some sort of substance to paint his interesting and downright weird masterpieces!).

The next step is for each member to submit their top three selections from the choices at the left, and send those choices to me at mark.magie@yahoo.com. I will tabulate the responses and announce the winner in an upcoming newsletter.

Take a critical look at the suggestions. The newsletter name should capture the spirit and heritage of our local unit and WBCCI. What would Wally Byam choose?

If you like shows on television featuring RVs ...

Flippin' RVs follows young, married couple Justin and Anna Scribner as they scour the countryside looking for vintage RVs and trailers. Once they lock in on a bounty, they restore the RVs to their former glory.

In their home state of Oregon, the Scribners live their dream of renovating and traveling in vintage RVs. The couple married in 1997 and began working as contractors. Forced to sell one of their beloved renovated trailers after the economy downturned, Justin bought another fixer-upper, which after renovation, sold in a matter of days. The couple realized they were on to something and took on fixing up RVs full time.

Today, their business, Flyte Camp, is over 6,000 square feet with facilities for woodworking, appliance restoration, plumbing and electrical. Locally, *Flippin' RVs* is broadcast on the GAC network.

Ramblin' Razorback

Wanderin' Hog

Aluma-pig

Silver Hawg

Silverback Hog

Riveted Razorback

The Silver Bulletin

Razorback Revealer

Arkansas Streamin'

THE POPPED RIVET

The Silver Wheel

The Silver Tote

The Silver Gal

Silver Streamin'

Dreaming Silver

Airstream Dependent

Invest in Silver

Silver Smiles

Bicycle rack lets you take your big toys along

BY LARRY MADDEN

RAZORBACK UNIT PRESIDENT

I love running and did so for years. In 2012 my running days were cut short by the replacement of my left knee. Now I ride my bike for exercise and enjoyment.

When it comes time to pack for an adventure in our Airstream we always wrestle with how to transport our bikes. Many times they are just left at home because it's such a pain to put them inside, and I am always fearful of damaging cabinetry in this process.

When Airstream introduced the Fiamma bike rack, my wife, Terry, and I were both excited and yet cautious. After doing some research and talking to other Airstream owners who had purchased the Fiamma bike rack we decided it was the best and most affordable solution to our problem.

While doing some price shopping I found the best deal was with Colonial Airstream in Lakewood, NJ. I have done business with this dealership before and have been very pleased with their customer service. As promised, the bike rack arrived in five days and I was excited to get busy installing it. As I opened the box it reminded me of

an Erector set from my childhood! Metal tubing of different shapes and sizes all packed tightly and efficiently, with just my imagination to guide me through the building process.

In some reviews I read negative feedback in reference to the assembly and installation instruction manual of the bike rack. I always like to read through instructions until I am comfortable with what is being described and can visualize the process in my mind's eye. That being said, at times I did struggle trying to understand the assembly process. There are very few written instructions within the manual, mostly photographs guiding you through the 16 pages of assembly and installation. I also refer-



enced the video produced by Airstream on assembly and installation of the bike rack. It helped fill in the gray areas.

I am impressed with the bike rack. It's built and designed for years of service. The high quality of the manufacturing process is evident, as all components fit with close tolerances. The assembly

of the bike rack took a little more than an hour.

I was now ready to install it on the back of our Airstream. While I was confident in my abilities to accomplish this next step, I was still a little apprehensive about drilling holes in the smooth silver skin. I soon discovered there was a needed modification for the rear bumper compartment cover; it was hitting the frame supports of the bike rack and would not lay flush.

There are three rivets attaching the metal cover to its hinge. Drilling the three rivets out, along with two more rivets to disconnect the up stop, the cover was off in just a few minutes. I needed to remove a half inch from both sides of the cover. I do not have the equipment at home to properly and precisely make these two cuts. I did locate a machine shop in Fort Smith that was happy to help me out.

After reinstalling the bumper cover, I measured and drilled the necessary holes for the support arms for both the left and right side of the bike rack. With that anxiety now behind me I quickly finished the straight forward installation of the bike rack finishing off the job by placing plastic covers on all the exposed self locking nuts.

Now with a safe and secure place for our bikes to travel with us, Terry and I will have the added dimension of enjoying Mother Nature from two wheels.



SAVE THE DATES -

For the latest information on upcoming events, check the Razorback Unit website at www.arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net



- ++ APRIL 2, 2015 - Unit luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Whole Hog Cafe, 2516 Cantrell Rd., Little Rock
- ++ APRIL 16-19, 2015 - Razorback Unit Spring rally, Petit Jean State Park, Morrilton
- ++ MAY (dates, location to be confirmed) - possible rally with Memphis unit
- ++ JUNE 4, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)
- ++ JUNE 26 - JULY 4, 2015 - WBCCI International rally, Farmington, NM
- ++ AUGUST 6, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)
- ++ SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2015 - Razorback Unit Fall Election rally, Maumelle Park, Little Rock
- ++ OCTOBER 1, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)
- ++ OCTOBER 13-16, 2015, Region 6 rally, Picayune, MS
- ++ NOVEMBER 5-8, 2015, Razorback Unit rally, Buffalo Point National Park
- ++ DECEMBER 3, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)



FEBRUARY LUNCHEON -- At Russo's Coal Fired Italian Kitchen in Conway on February 5, from left, Mark Magie, Carole and Bill Barton, Patti Kymer, Laura Wessinger, Rob and Melissa Anthony, B.J. and Donna McNair, and Jane and Jim Pankey. The next luncheon is April 2 at 11:30 a.m. at Whole Hog Cafe located at 2516 Cantrell Road in Little Rock.

Greetings!

Spring is just around the corner and so are two Razorback unit events. First is the April luncheon, Thursday, April 2 at Whole Hog Café located at 2516 Cantrell Rd., Little Rock. This will be a buffet style luncheon so you can have the pick of your favorite BBQ. I have a portion of the banquet room reserved so we will have a nice environment to enjoy lunch and conversation. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.

This year the Spring Rally will be hosted by Paul Moore and is located at Petit Jean State Park. If you have not contacted Paul to make your reservation, please do so as soon possible. As usual, Paul is pulling out all the stops to make this a memorable Rally.

Good news! We have returning members to our unit: Patti Kymer and B.J. Davis. They were members of the Razorback Unit from 2004-2006. While Terry and I are looking forward to meeting them for the first time, many of you will have an opportunity to rekindle an old friendship.

Terry and I, along with unit members Mark Magie, Annette Murray and Paul Moore are planning to attend the International Rally in Farmington, NM this June-July. Paul Moore has been representing our unit solo for the past couple of International Rallies, so this year we're hoping even more unit members are making plans to attend ... the more the merrier!

We just returned from our South Florida winter getaway and are doing a lot of catching up. While February is an ideal month to enjoy warm tropical breezes, it's also the busiest month for tourists in Florida; the traffic reflected this fact. This was by far our longest trip in Lucy, and she performed admirably. While five weeks is a long time to share a small living area, Terry never (out loud anyway) offered me a place to sleep outside.

"Live long and prosper"

Larry Madden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
LARRY MADDEN
RAZORBACK UNIT

NEWSMAKERS



It is with sadness that I report the death of Arkansas Razorback Unit member Rucker Richardson of Bald Knob on February 12, 2015. Keep his wife, Ellen, and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/14 - Helen Bourgeois
3/15 - Henry Landrum
3/16 - J.W. King

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/14 - Bill and Carole Barton

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/6 - Dana Landrum
4/9 - Joyce Fitzhugh
4/18 - Barbara Moore
4/25 - Emogene Duran

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/3 - Terry O'Brian and Martha Moore
4/7 - Larry and Terry Madden