



FTCAC Pirate FYI's August, 2018

November Rally

The Registration Form (coupon) for the Installation Rally, November 1-4, 2018, at the Okeechobee KOA, was emailed to all members on July 23. It is also available on the events page of the website ftcu.wbcci.net. Co-hosts are **Jeanna and Chuck Gorsuch** and **Susan and Eric Arens**. You do not need to contact the campground to register, as Susan will handle it after receiving your registration.

Due\$ New\$

Just like last year, International members will pay your unit and International dues directly to WBCCI in Jackson Center, OH. I'll send you a notice of dues due along with a pre-addressed envelope in early October. If you prefer you may pay your dues on line through the WBCCI website using a credit card.

Affiliate members will receive a bill from me and should send your check for unit dues to me using the envelope I will enclose.

Blair LittleJohn, Treasurer

Our VP's Travels

We received the following from **Joe Smedley** on July 15:

Left for Salem on June 2nd with dogs. Took old US highways. Courtesy parked in Greenwood, Mississippi. Attempted to courtesy park in Reno and ended up on a unit rally with the Sierra Nevada Unit. Arrived in Salem on June 18th. Parked in hinterlands, but had unshared W/E. Picked up **Sue** at airport on Jun 21st. Bought two bicycles in pawn shop on Jun 22nd. Performed duties of flag chairman without complaint or criticism. Carried unit flag without tripping. Represented unit at appropriate meetings.

Talked with **Allen Strickland** several times. Discovered that others from FTCAC were at rally. Attempted to locate. Found **Jon and Barbara Liversedge** and while visiting with them were told that the Landmarks West caravan that they were currently on had some openings. Joined caravan and are currently at Glacier National Park. **Alden and Daria Tansey** are also on this caravan. Caravan ends on July 31st. Plan to attend Swiss Festival rally and scout out a defunct caravan from there to Story Telling Festival in Tennessee. Have no plans after that except to attend unit rally in November.

Whose name is Mudd?

Well...it's Susan's!

While Susan and Eric Arens were traveling in London in May they had an [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) meet-up with a relative of Susan's. She had tested her DNA in 2016 and was notified earlier this year that she had a close DNA match. Through Ancestry, she reached out to the "match," Mark Stevens, who happened to live outside of London. She found out that her grandfather and Mark's grandfather were brothers and lived in Suffolk, England. Susan's grandfather, James Mudd, was the oldest sibling (of 12), and Mark's grandfather, Percy Mudd, was one of the youngest. James emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s where he met Susan's

grandmother, who had also immigrated from England. Mark's grandfather remained in Suffolk, England. James and Percy Mudd had a brother, Thomas Mudd, who was a passenger on the Titanic on his way to the U.S. to join James and another brother. He sadly lost his life at age seventeen.

In London, Susan and Eric met Mark for lunch along with Susan's sister and brother-in-law who were traveling with them. Photo is of the "Mudds" taken along the "muddy" Thames River.



"Volunteers Needed With Ladders"

From Sue Wendt: I had a short visit with friends I have known since 1969. They live in Redmond, OR for the summer and Sun City Center, FL in the winter. Last fall we got to talking about the famous Sisters Quilt show and it turned out that the show was in the next town to Redmond. So I wound up flying to Redmond Thursday, July 12 and returned July 16. A great visit!

The quilt show started in 1975 with 12 quilts. This year there were about 1,400 quilts and close to 12,000





visitors from 27 countries. The only problem was the temperature, close to 95 by lunch time; the normal temp is around 85. Redmond is in the desert at ~ 3000 ft elevation, which was a big change from Florida! The quilts are all hung the morning of the show and taken down that evening. “V N W L” The cat is Cheesecake; note the feet going in different directions!)



Continuing to Alaska

Joe and Tammy Dinneen sent information and photos to update their travels.



Our trip through Canada on the way to Alaska was amazing! Once in the Canadian Rockies along the Ice Fields Parkway to Banff National Park, the views were gorgeous; over the next hill or around the corner was a better view. There were numerous snow-covered mountains, glaciers, glacial lakes and wildlife.

We arrived in Banff NP, camping at Tunnel Mountain Trailer Court as they offer full hook ups. We reviewed the 15-day weather forecast to find possibilities of snow. Therefore, to be comfortable,

we used the heat pump (evening) and our portable electric heater (throughout the day). We also carry a portable gas heater(The Buddy) and the small propane bottles needed. A new addition this year is an electric blanket. Yes, there were a couple of days with snow flurries!

We hiked the Lake Louise Lakeshore Trail, but did not go further to the Teahouse as it wasn't open yet.

Other hikes we enjoyed were Johnston Canyon Lower Falls and Alluvial Falls. Our trip into town reminded us of a ski resort town with all the restaurants and shops. We visited the Cascade of Time Botanical Gardens and the Hot Springs, soaking there for a couple of hours. Our last day we visited the Columbia Icefield Center, viewed the Athabasca Glacier, and then walked on the Skywalk!



The Columbia Icefield is astride the Continental Divide; the river waters flow to the Arctic Ocean, through the Hudson Bay to the Atlantic Ocean, and to the Pacific Ocean.

Our next stop at Jasper National Park we camped at Whistlers with electric service only.



In this campground we saw numerous elk with their young along the campground trail. While here we hiked the Sunwapta Falls. The next day we hiked the Valley of 5 Lakes and Maligne Canyon's 6 Bridges.

We took a side trip to Edmonton, Alberta, to drop Maryann at the airport for her flight home on June 16th. We restocked our pantry, cleaned up and refueled for the journey onward through Canada's wilderness.

We overnighted in Walmart Grand Prairie, and stopped at Dawson Creek for the traditional picture at Mile 0 on the Alaska Highway!!

We camped at Triple G Hideaway in Fort Nelson, BC. Also purchased new tires for the truck.

Continued to Toad River RV and Lodge with full hookups - a 3.5 hour drive, stayed 3 nights. Enjoyed our wide gravel shaded site and our lake view of a beaver dam, saw a couple beavers swimming and on the bank near our site. Also, every afternoon around 4 pm, a family of moose would come to the lake to eat!

Our next stop was Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park, BC, with no hook ups, but nice wide and private sites, stayed 3 nights. We visited the Hot Springs twice. This is where we began to see (and feel) the mosquitoes. It's due to the location - wooded area. The campground fee includes use of the hot springs. Hiked a couple of nearby trails. On our departure we were greeted by 2 huge bison along the road and further up was the rest of the herd!

We stopped at Watson Lake Sign Post Forest in the Yukon to post our Orlando, FL sign. Also took on free potable water at this location, as it's a Visitor Center, and they directed us to a free dump station at a nearby park. We continued on with an overnight stay at a pullout at Rancheria Falls, YT. There were 3 other campers in the parking lot with us. Hiked the trail to the falls.

We arrived in Whitehorse, stayed at HiCountry RV; sites are tight, very close, but heard from others on same route this RV Park is better than Pioneer Park.

Hiked Miles Canyon along the Yukon River and were able to bike on a trail to downtown Whitehorse where we stopped for lunch of a bison burger.

With a return visit to a skyscraper log cabin still in use.



We began to see more permafrost road damage and construction to repair it. Next campground in Destruction Bay was Cottonwood RV where we camped overlooking Kluane Lake. More hiking the next couple of days. The campground owner advised/warned us of numerous grizzly bear sightings roadside. However we didn't see them.

August 1 - We have arrived in Alaska!
We actually arrived a week earlier than predicted since there were not many sightseeing options for us in the Yukon along the AlCan Hwy. Roads were better than expected. There were potholes, permafrost/frost heaves - some were marked and some were not. Did not experience any issues getting fuel, stocked up in major cities on water and food.

Overnighted at Sourdough Campground FHU in Tok, AK, famous for sourdough pancakes and their evening pancake toss!

Next stop North Pole and Fairbanks, stayed one week at Riverview RV Campground FHU and one week at Rivers Edge RV Campground FHU. At both campground sites, we were very close to our neighbors. Numerous sightseeing options - outdoors, history or visiting Santa's House! We enjoyed numerous hiking and biking trails, dining on a sternwheeler while cruising the Chena River; visited Pioneer Park with relocated log cabins, botanical gardens, viewed



reindeer, Denali Overlook (too cloudy), enjoyed Chena Hot Springs, watching people kayak or float down the Chena River. We spent the 4th of July here. Did you know they do not light off fireworks here? Since it's always daylight, you won't see them!!

From here we drove on the Elliott Hwy to the graveled Dalton Hwy (without the Airstream) to the Arctic Circle - 400 miles round trip, about 10 hours. We saw the Trans Alaska Pipeline along the way. Yes, the road was rough driving. Luckily it didn't rain; then it would have been muddy!

From Fairbanks we drove to Denali National Park. Camped two nights at Savage River Campground, then six nights at Riley Creek Campground. We reserved these stays months in advance for July 14th to the 20th. No hook ups in the park.

We had hoped to see Denali (Mt McKinley) while camping in Savage River as there is a trail that is accessible to a viewpoint; however, it rained both days. We also setup a Green Transit Bus to Eielson Visitor Center (milepost 66) to view Denali but it was VERY overcast and rainy. However, we did see a grizzly bear, caribou, golden eagle, Dall sheep and a mama moose with her baby at the bus depot!

Moose were very prevalent in Riley Campground. We saw another moose w/baby one campsite away from ours! We biked into town where we saw a baby moose along the bike path; we stopped at the visitor center and saw the mama moose w/baby again, but in the





parking lot! We hiked and biked in the park on their many trails, watching for wildlife.

Day 5 of our camping in the National Park we finally saw Denali!

Tidbits

Mike and Alicia Rafter have arrived in Grand Island, NY to meet the New York (State) of Mind Caravan beginning August 7.

From their camp hosting duties at Doughton Park Campground on the Blue Ridge Parkway, **Blair LittleJohn** wrote: "Nothing new to report about our summer. The weather is mostly good and we always have lots of vacant campsites. You'all come."

Recycle Opportunity: If you haven't already thrown them out, please save Christmas cards for **Sallie LittleJohn**. Also she'd like to have any greeting cards, not just Christmas ones. She makes tiny, nesting, novelty gift boxes from them.

Remember to save **pop tops** from aluminum cans to be donated at each International Rally.

The editor wishes to thank **Susan Taylor-Arens, Tammy Dinneen, Blair LittleJohn, Joe Smedley** and **Sue Wendt** for their contributions to this issue. So what have **you** been doing?

Save The Date



Rally in the Blue Ridge
APRIL 24 - 28, 2019
MARION, NC

"Where Main Street Meets the Mountains"