

2022 OHIO GWRRA CAMPING INITIATIVE

Hello Ohio,

It has been a trying year, let's hope the new one brings better.

It's good to be somewhat back on staff, as the unofficial camping coordinator (?). This gives me a chance to do my part to make the 2021 Buckeye Rally a success from a camping point of view.

Most of you have seen the article written for the district news letter regarding our efforts to speak to the elephant in the room, and revitalize camping in the rallies.

In case you missed it; here it is...

You may want to send this to Sandy too.

As she will have lists of former members we can send this out to.

Hey Wingers...

I first joined GW in 2005, it was July to be exact. Prior to that I had been what the "MC" folks called a plebe, Probie, or a lot of other names. But in any case I hung around. Because I joined so late in the season, I missed the first year Ashland BR. But I made wing ding, and Region "D" in Marshall Michigan. (Who had the best light show parade EVER).

One of the things that always impressed me was the rallies. Just the hugeness of them, and the comradery and friendship around the campgrounds.

I remember my first rally, and boy was I unprepared for the camping experience. My little waist high pup tent was just not going to make it for the next season. So said Dee.

The next year I remember that the last rally with a large camping attendance was Marietta in 2007, and 2008. It was also my first where I actually came prepared. I recall how we packed in that fairground, and the lines of tents, bunkhouses, and other campers seemed endless, and there were folks as far as the eye could see. In fact the fairgrounds were so crowded that some areas actually ran out of electrical capacity at the poles. Thus were the numbers of people needing power.

I remember this because it was the last rally with large attendance for my home chapter H2.

Over these 16 years I have witnessed the constant shrinkage of camping attendance at the rallies. And it hurts. Yes I know GWRRA has had its problems, and oh boy it still does. I know these "issues" are why a lot of you left the fold, for other organizations, bikes or just quit riding, and sadly some members are just not with us anymore.

Some of you that left are saying well they must not care because no one ever asked me to come back. Well I'm asking... Come back.... At least to the Rallies...

If you don't ride, then pull your camper with a car or truck. If you don't have a camper, hell I'll lend you a tent. I have 3 (including that little pup tent) and bedding to go with it.

But for many of you that left for personal issues, ok I get it you may hate the organization, or even some people IN the organization. You may have a bitter taste about how you may or may NOT have been treated... Let me repeat.... I GET THAT!!! But don't you miss the people, the camping out, the fun, and the experience?

I surely do.

Look I'm not asking you to forgive and forget, I'm not asking you to rejoin anything. I will leave rejoining the organization to your own conscience.

I'm asking you to come on out, camp out and have the type of fun, which you used to have. What do "I" have to do to get you back to camping and at the rally.

I'm betting you remember what it was like.

- Cjm -

Thus in the spirit of encouraging camping we are implementing the following initiatives...

1) EQUIPMENT LEND / LEASE

- a. We realize that there are those that have not camped quite some time. Therefore the District is compiling an equipment list. This is to be a list of those members that have extra/spare camping equipment that they would be willing to loan to a member who would like to camp but cannot for lack of proper gear.

I would like all Chapter Directors to poll their membership. Ask them what equipment they have that could be available for this effort.

This could include.

- Tents
 - Tent supplies
- Camping beds
 - Inflatable or stand alone
- Heaters

- Stoves
- Pop ups
- Tarps
- Lighting
- Chairs

The list is to include Name, telephone number, and the list of equipment they have that they would be willing to loan.

Compile a list, of the name of the person, then items they wish to supply, and when they would be available for pickup. The sky is the limit, anything you have can be utilized by someone to have a good time.

b. Additionally the district would like to form setup teams.

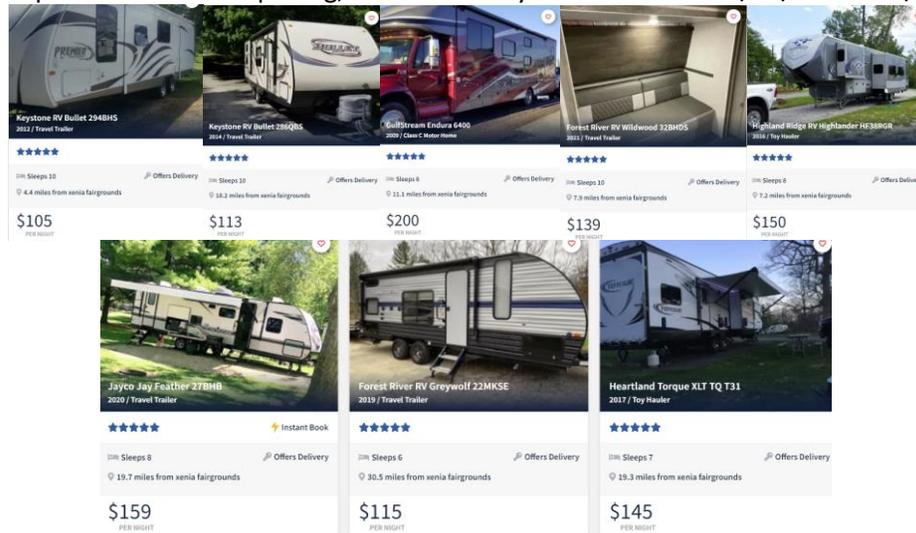
These are individuals that can and will assist those members that for whatever reason, can no longer “set up” a campsite. These teams would assist in setup, and removal of an individual’s campsite. For borrowed items, the particular member will be responsible for the return of said equipment to the proper owner.

All compiled lists can be submitted to your ADD or directly to me at this email: cladel_at_roadrunner.com (replace the “_at_” with @ symbol).

2) CAMPER RENTAL

For those that can no longer “camp” there are rv rental services available. The District has designated RVshare as the rental agency of choice, as a few members have already satisfactorily used their services. RVshare provides Delivery, and setup or the rented RV unit. And the prices are comparable to the rental of a mid-tier hotel room.

Here is an example of some of the pricing, and availability for the dates of 6/15/2020 to 6/19/2022



HOW DO WE GET THE PARTICIPATION UP?

We ask all membership to do the following.....

- 1) All of us know former members, that for whatever reason have left the fold.
Talk to them....HOWEVER...
DO NOT MENTION REJOINING THE ORGANIZATION. That is not the purpose here.
Impress on them and remind them of the fun they used to have. And invite them along once again.
I REPEAT, MAKE NO MENTION ABOUT REJOINING ANYTHING. Just impress on them that you would like to see them again, and mention the new lend/rv programs.
- 2) Invite one person that you know.
There are those that are unaware of the idea of camping out at a rally. Talk to them, tell them about the fun. This is no matter what bike they may ride or even if they ride at all. Every person you invite is a potential member, but membership is not the issue. Let them want to be members.
I've already gotten my one new CAMPER, and he can't wait!!!!

So to sum it up this is what we need

- List of people who would loan equipment, and what they would loan
- List of people who would form setup teams to help those that can't setup their campsites/housing.
- Be proactive in getting returning members to camp again, not to rejoin the organization, but camping.
- Everyone invite/bring one to the rally.

Remember; the more people we have coming to the rally the more vendors will be motivated to attend, and the more participation we can have.

Let make this the best rally in a long time.