



Loners on Wheels

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LONGHORN LOWDOWN

May 2010

<http://www.longhornlowsnotx.org>

May 23, 2010

I apologize for this newsletter being late, but for those of you, who do not know, I take care of my Aunt Mary Jane, age 98. She fell on May 11 and broke her right hip. We spent five days in the hospital before going back to the nursing home; she is not doing well and will be placed in a Hospice program this week. Most of my time these days is spent running to the nursing home. I am still recuperating from my foot surgery. The boot came off on May 4, but I still hobble around especially if I am tired. I am slowly getting better. I have missed camping with ya'all this year, but I'll see you at Lake Athens.

MINUTES OF MAY MEETING:

I (Karol) wasn't able to get to the campout until Thurs. because I had to have the RV brakes replaced, but what a wonderful weekend at Lake Whitney. There were 13 people hanging out and having fun, and I mean fun.

Some members enjoyed a swim in the lake on Friday afternoon which may be an exaggeration, they were really just floating on rafts, but the water was cool, clear, and refreshing on a hot afternoon.

They made it back in time to join up with the others for happy hour. It was nice enough to sit out around a covered picnic table. Almost everyone sat out late into at night enjoying the star lite sky, pleasant temperatures and great camaraderie.

On Sat. after another delicious breakfast, the members attended the meeting and then joined up to go on a pontoon boat ride out onto the lake.

John Hubbard commandeered the "ship" so we could have all 11 of us on board. He enjoyed his reign at the helm, especially when he was able to hit a wave and surprise everyone with a good splash. Several of the crew took a "dive" or dunk in the water and had a good old time. There were a couple of coolers brought on board, maybe they contributed to the good time, too. It really was so much fun.

That night some of the members went to the dance at Geneva Hall. That's the same dance hall we danced at last month with the group from the SI Dance Rally in Bandera. More men this time would have made it even better, but they did have a good time. The rest of the members stayed behind and sat around the "campfire" sharing jokes and stories. Laughter is the best medicine, and I think we got an overdose this weekend.

And, as if that wasn't enough, all the meals were exceptionally good this weekend. Even Michael Cunningham, our newest member and Aubrey Scott (Scotty), a guest, contributed some of the best food, Oh my, Oh my. Everyone left a little heavier and happier. Until we meet again, happy trails.

Submitted by
Karol, Chapter Secretary.

Note from David "Doc", Chapter VP

The Saturday meeting was postponed as we received a distress call from Scott. Two search parties were dispatched. These were both unsuccessful and so we incorporated the help of a local scout experienced in search and rescue. She was successful and our Harley man arrived, none the worse for wear!

Our newest member Michael is so much fun (besides being a real good cook). Have you ever seen a perfect back "flop" from a pontoon boat? Well, our Michael has that one perfected! He did take time to remove the shoes and shirt before his perfect backwards lunge into the cold waters of Lake Whitney. We wanted a repeat for video (and maybe blackmail) purposes but he wisely abstained. We look forward to seeing you again Michael!

A very good meeting was held and enjoyed by everybody. Some of us got a little tangled in finding the place but all made it. Even Linda Shields made it in daytime. Aubrey Scott was close to an exception. He was using up phone time communicating for directions from Penny and ultimately was found and "rescued" and lead into the park by Doc and Penny.

We had a neat outdoor table with metal roof, sat around it often, and had night time candles, great happy hours and much visiting.

Visitor and new member Michael (not just Mike) Cunningham did great cooking and ample supplies. Aubrey Scott, who was missing for some time, arrived with his Harley Davidson in tow and which was used later. Even Lucia showed up. John Johns, recovered from surgery, came with his electrical "technology" and found technical flaws and with effort, we got the park staff to get things working better. We almost filled up that area of the park.

One lovely late evening/night all were sitting around the candles with a gentle breeze keeping us comfy and 10 miles away giant clouds, and terrific thunder and lightning and we didn't get wet. Next night scattered clouds and great stars and considerable moonlight.

On Saturday we rented a powered pontoon boat for 2 hours and cruised the lake. Nice to see it from that site and the "captain" John Hubbard DID hit some waves that dampened and cooled all of us but only a few times -- enjoyed by everybody

Hope to see lots of us at Lake Athens Marina RV Park next month - a nearby restaurant apparently has great catfish and shrimp -- John Hubbard will probably lunch there all the time.

Notes from Penny, Chapter Treasurer:

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For those that don't know, Scott used to be a member of Longhorns -- his name is Aubrey Scott -- everyone knows him as Scotty -- I have been encouraging him to join us and He will probably join but is going to Colorado this summer and to the Valley November 1st -- he will probably make some fall campouts if not next month in Athens -- as I don't think he leaves for Colorado until July. Scotty belongs to national and as I said I have been prodding him to join us -- he had fun at our campout -- is a great guy -- but just call him Scotty cause most people don't know that Scott is his last name and they do not know his first or name!

THIS AND THAT

This section of the newsletter is all about you, so PLEASE let me hear about you and your travels.

Penny wants to remind members the **LONGHORN LoW's MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE. Mail to: Penny Caddy 5401 Sager Blvd. The Colony, TX 75056.**

Those that are planning a trip to the Valley in January 2011 and want to stay at Albertson Gardens need to have their deposit of \$100 to them by August 1, 2010

Karol writes: Would you please send a message to the membership that I made a BIG boo boo this past weekend, which may explain why things weren't up to snuff for us at Lake Whitney. I had gotten Lake Whitney and Lake Athens mixed up...Lake Athens was expecting us. I had been talking to the lady at Lake Athens thinking I was talking to the lady at Lake Whitney...although, I did talk to the lady at Lake Whitney, too (I think). The people at Athens had cleaned up the \$500. a clubhouse to get it ready for us, and I was wondering how Whitney could possibly charge \$500 a day for THAT club house. The lady from Lake Athens called today, so I talked to her and told her of my mistake, and we are confirmed there for next month. I told her I wouldn't be there but to expect at least 10.

I had it announced right in the newsletter but somehow or other confirmed for the wrong months with the campgrounds. I am so glad we were able to work everything out.

Karol

LONGHORN CAMPOUT HELP NEEDED

Times change, prices go up, and RV parks "modify". Each of us should try to help the wagon master in arranging our camping targets. Distance, cost, facilities, and local attractions are all factors. AND we have to realize that the days of camping at \$12 a night are going to be rare. SO, each of us should check some nearby campgrounds or those encountered with local travel so see if they would fit for our group.

Checklist:

1. Is the park able to provide 10 - 20 spaces for the schedule?
2. We need water and electric, nice to have full hookups.
3. Prefer a meeting room/area with refrigerator, stove, microwave, bathroom. We can survive in the open if there is a sheltered table etc in spring and fall.
4. What's the best discount price / site will they offer?
5. Is there a pool, putting green, hiking or biking trail nearby?
6. Any nearby community attractions -museums, dance places, history stuff etc ?
- 7 Include Name of the Park, address, phone number and email address.
8. Your opinion of suitability is also helpful.

Then send this info to the wagon master by email or snail mail (TOO much info to pass on by phone)
Let's pitch in and help.

The above suggestion was submitted by our Vice-President, David "Doc" Edgeworth. *I think it is a very good idea. And we could go one step further and someone step-up and take the position of WAGON-MASTER.*

As most of you know we have had to double up this year on many of the committee positions and it is a hardship on all those involved. THIS IS YOUR CHAPTER. Please get involved.

Fran, Chapter President

CAMPING SCHEDULE:

June 17 – 20 Lake Athens Marina RV Park, Athens, TX 75751 (903) 675-8686,
lakeathensmarina.com Located about 5 miles East of Athens on FM 2495. Follow signs for the Texas Freshwater Fishery, when you cross the bridge, turn in at Public Boat Ramp sign. \$25.00 - \$28.00.

July **NO CAMPOUT**

Aug 19 – 22 Red Willow RV Park, Chico, TX (940) 644-5240 Hwy 287 to Hwy 1810 to Hwy 101 to EX 1667 to TX 1770. CG on right. Nearest town Decatur, TX.

CORE PARK CAMPING FOR GROUPS NEED TO BE MADE 2 – 3 MONTHS IN ADVANCE. This is especially true if the park is near the cities. Be sure to mention you have a Golden Age Passport for discounted rates.

Sept 16 – 19 Liberty Hills **CORE**, Navarro Mills Lake, 1175 FM 677, Purdon, TX (254) 578-1058/1431. 11 miles southwest of Corsican off Ste Road 31. **Site 1-16**, From Dawson/Junction State Road 31, go 4 miles northwest on FM 709 on right. \$14 (No E) - \$20 (E/W and Full Hookups), two night minimum. Member must make own reservation.

KAROL has booked :

Site #50 at Liberty Hills CORE Park at Navarro Mills Lake Sept. 16 -19

Site #008 at Holiday Park CORE Benbrook Lake Oct 21 - 24

I suggest they book as soon as possible so we can all be in the same area. There are sites at Benbrook with shelters for \$30. a night if anyone is interested. Other sites are \$20. at both parks. If you have the Senior Pass card you will get a 50% discount at both of the CORE parks. You must have a photo ID to check in.

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It MIGHT be faster for computer geeks to register on-line at www.recreation.gov Also READ NOTES REGARDING cancellation fees. IF one had to cancel it MUST be at least 2 days before scheduled arrival.

DAILY CAMPING SCHEDULE -- Bring a plate, flatware, and cup/glass.

Thursday

4:00 pm Meet & Greet – Bring a drink for yourself and a snack to share.

6:30 pm Supper–eat what you cook–bring or cook your own delicacies–we eat together at 6:30 pm.

Friday

9:00 am Breakfast-Furnished by the club.

11:00 am Meet – games

4:00 pm Meet & Greet

6:30 pm Supper – covered dish

Saturday

9:00 am Breakfast,

10:00 am Business Meeting

4:00 pm Meet & Greet

6:30 pm Supper – covered dish

Following Supper – games, visit, campfire, etc.

Sunday - 9:00 am Continental Breakfast – stay/visit

Campout Courtesy

For those thinking of attending a campout or event **PLEASE** let the Wagon Master **KAROL COOK** or contact person know you plan to attend. **It is difficult to plan food and activities** or **Please pay Wagon Master after chapter meeting for campout fees** (unless other rules apply). arrange discounts when you have no idea how many may show up. **DON'T** let this discourage you from attending if you decide at the last minute but try to give the Wagon Master a courtesy call. Also, if (rarely) there were any last-minute schedule changes, the Wagon Master could let people know.

Many of today's parks offer park model cabins for those that want to visit before joining. Everyone please invite your RV friends to join our club.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS;

PRESIDENT:	VICE PRESIDENT;	SECRETARY:
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Fran Grochowski 903.849.6608 frankieski@aol.com	David Edgeworth 817.324.0488 jaildoc@aol.com	Karol Cook 214.952.7925 kjcook454@sbcglobal.net
TRESURER: Penny Caddy 972.971.4610 pcaddy@hotmail.com	WAGON MASTER Karol Cook 214.952.7925 kjcook454@sbcglobal.net	QUARTERMASTER: Linda Shields 972.644.4378 l.b.shields@worldnet.aatt.net

AND NOW FOR PICTURES FROM LAKE WHITNEY CAMP OUT:

