

FEBRUARY 4, 2006

Hi everyone,

These are the minutes and tidbits from the Feb 4th meeting. Sorry that there were so many missing from this one, so I will try to remember everything that we discussed....so print out a copy of this, make sure you spouse reads it and then file it in your blue folder for reference...thanks!

Meeting called to order around 2:40 and we got right down to work. The escrow account was the first discussion, and a decision was made to charge the members in addition to the \$20.00 annual dues, a \$55.00 amount to be placed in the Treasury for the Wagonmaster to use for making the member's campground reservations. I understand you all were asked to send an advance check of \$10...so make out this next check in the amount of \$65.00 and send it immediately to Linda S...address on your roster. Make the check payable to the Blue Crab Fun Bunch. Please get those checks in the mail now, since the Wagonmaster will be needing those funds for campground deposits very soon.

Since she will be making the initial deposit, each member can plan on reimbursing the two nights lodging at the campout. She will be getting out the schedule and the reservation cut off date. Watch the cancellation date...this is not set by her, but by the campground, and if it is not followed and planned for, you could very well be charged, if you do not show up without canceling. The chapter NEVER absorbs that amount.

Something else that will NOT happen, is Wagonmaster accepting will not accept credit cards or checks for the member's camping fee...CASH only, make note of this and make sure you have sufficient cash funds to cover your camping charges when asked. I will be talking to your Wagonmaster over the weekend and we will be discussing the procedure for doing all this. Since she is still in Florida and won't be returning until early April, we will be working closely on the camping schedule so that you all can make plans. You will be camping the last weekend of every month, so you pretty much know when, it is the where, we need to let you know about.

Next there was discussion on the patches and vests. The members did select one patch out of the 7 submitted. I think everyone will be pleased at the winner, and Mary is to get back to me, when she is ready to order...the sooner the better. Right now the emblem company is not so busy, but as the camping season gets underway, the turn around time increases. The amount of \$3.15 that I quoted at the meeting was correct...taxes and shipping charges apply to that of course. Vests...showed magazine of sample from emblem company, and again, if the members want to order from that facility, as promised I can assist you in that also. Mary to get back to me on that also...the vest would be royal blue with orange trim.

Bank account is all set up and ready to go, thanks to Linda and Mary. :)

I had invited President Mary, to attend the first State meeting on Sunday, and even though this was not known at the time of our chapter meeting on Saturday....on Sunday at the State meeting, Mary was introduced to the group and told that the charter had been received, allowing her to place a vote on the floor for your chapter. :) The Actual Charter will still be presented to the chapter at the May Samboree.

Next on Saturday, we went through some of the things you all should know about a Samboree. Remember your state staff are all volunteers and we depend on the chapter's help from time to time so come with a good attitude and a willingness to help if asked. Nothing is there when the staff arrives on Monday morning and starts to work. Every electric line, every water hose connection, chair and tables wiped down, and set up of stage or decorations, have all been done by the Staff, plus friends who just show up to help before the rest of the people start showing up Thursday morning .

There will be entertainment every evening, lots of activities, so everyone should be as busy as they want to be. Pizza party planned for Sat evening (you will be placing orders at your own expense for this). So that is an option for one less meal to be packing the camper for, also there are a lot of areas to eat dinner away, in Frederick. One within walking distance like two blocks and if anyone belongs to the Moose, they are right across the street and offer food, while we are visiting the fairgrounds.

FIRST and MOST IMPORTANT...you all received a copy of the application for that event, and it is not too early to send them in. In fact I suggest it so you don't forget. May and October are the two months where the Wagonmaster DOES NOT make your reservations for you. It will be your responsibility to do this. In the section, where it says chapter parking please put Blue Crab Fun Bunch. I will be working with the "State" to have you all placed in an area pretty close to the buildings. Not guaranteed at this point, but I will do my very best and get back to your President prior to the Samboree. Wherever you are, you will all be parked together, if you mark your registration form like I suggested...any questions, call or e-mail if you need help with this request the first time around you can only mark one section on that form, and many times people get confused..

PLEASE...do not mark another other area in the "parking section". You will not be allowed to use generators in the section that I am trying to find for your chapter. It is only limited electricity and water. So that means, no electric heaters, AC, patio lights, generators, curling irons etc. You will be able to plug into electric box ..you will share with 5-6 other campers, so you see it would not take much to blow the circuit....a small fan and TV are fine.

Hospitality is set up every morning, for those who need that jump start of coffee . Hot tea, and hot chocolate are also available along with doughnuts and bagels on Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings. Times will be posted in your program at time of sign in at the fairgrounds. In May you will also get a full breakfast one morning (pancakes, sausage or French toast) they switch off from year to year. FYI this breakfast is not offered in October due to only a three day weekend.

Available is Jim's Diner for hamburgers, hot dogs, soda and snacks if you so desire a lunch of that kind, instead of packing the camper full of food. Reasonable pricing.

Tours and golfing package available on Friday's, however, you have to do the early bird special on the reservation form, in order to do that. We leave early Friday for this event.

Come to the fairgrounds with water in your holding tanks, there is no filling of tanks at the campsites. You will be able to hook up on the buddy system with you neighbors, but no real pressure of any kind to fill up. Make sure you bring your "y" to hook up with the water system.....NOTE: there is a place to pull over prior to registration to fill up if you so desire, but not once you are parked. This is not a regular campground, so realize that you will be parked a space just wide enough to put out a slide on one side and an awning on the other side. That's it.

EXTRA hose and extension cords are always a suggestion, plastic water bucket should be placed in front of your rig as a fire safety thingy.

We are the only state that currently allows you to "chapter park". Most states have hobo parking, unless you have traveled together on the highway and arrive at the gate at one time you don't park together. Mary can tell you more on this. There is a caravan patch available for anyone attending a Samboree in or out of State, for groups traveling in a group of 3 or more.

At the meeting someone wanted to know about guests at the Samboree. That is fine, however, it needs to be someone who is interested in joining your chapter, and already a Good Sam member. Since May is an official campout for your chapter, anyone such as this, would be allowed to count it as one of their two required campouts to receive an application for membership into the Blue Crab Fun Bunch.

Things such as the flea market, theme parade, volunteering, was also brought up. Food sales need to be authorized by the State secretary. I suggested that you all just have fun this time around, get the feel of the land, and then in October you can spread your wings and plan on entering the parade. Discussion followed, with no decisions made. Just leaving food for thought in the future.

I think that is about it. If anyone thinks of something that I missed, please let me know that I can do an addition to the minutes.

FYI....those of you that have attended Samboree's in the past, know that each chapter has a "parking sign"...I am currently working on yours, so you will officially be parked in the "Blue Crab Fun Bunch" section :) I have been redoing the signs for the State for the past two years, so yours' will definitely be a pleasure to work on.

Stay safe and healthy until I see you again, Shirley :)