

SPRING 2018

TIN CAN TALES



TIN CAN TOURISTS

Forrest T Bone

Tin Can Tourists

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Volume XVII, Number 1, Spring 2018 Edition

The Tin Can Tourists is an all make and model vintage trailer and motor coach club. Its goal is to promote and preserve vintage trailers and motor coaches through Gatherings and information exchange.

Official Colors: Black and Tan

Official Theme Song: "The More We Get Together"

Stated Objective: To Unite Fraternally All Auto Campers

Guiding Principles: Clean camps, friendliness among campers, decent behavior and to secure plenty of clean, wholesome entertainment for those in the camps

tincantourists@gmail.com or visit www.tincantourists.com

Address: 4 High Street Bradenton, Florida 34208

Summer April to October: PO Box 489, Gregory, Michigan 48137

Tin Can Tourists are on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tincantourists/>

The link below will take you to listings of Official TCT events as well as others that have been submitted by various hosts/sponsors:

<https://tincantourists.com/blog/events/>

You can view Tin Can Tourists pictures on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tbone2/sets>

Tin Can Tourists: Centennial Celebration 1919 to 2019 Sertoma Youth Ranch - Brooksville Florida - February 18th through 24, 2019 A weeklong celebration packed with historic events. Put the date on your calendar.

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MEET AND GREET WITH THE ROYAL CHIEF



Registration for the 21st Annual Gathering went rather smoothly. Of course, there were some that didn't get the sites they requested. There was high demand for the electric only sites (1-65) and not all requests were able to be honored. Listing your site preference as "the one I had last year, but I don't remember the site number" was a difficult one to honor. For those that want electric only by their friends, the best option is to request site on K Row. No, you're not being banished to Siberia. The views are wonderful and there is ample parking for your trips to the tent.

The preparations for the Centennial Celebration are underway. A group of members stayed an additional day following the 99th Winter Convention to develop a framework for the Centennial Celebration in Florida. Many of the ideas will be incorporated in the plans for the 22nd Annual Gathering in Michigan. As part of the Centennial, caravans in both Florida and Michigan are being planned. Cities that have a history with TCT are being included in the planning. Each caravan will last a week consisting of three stops with a minimum stay of two nights. To develop the itineraries, we will need to get commitments from potential participants. This is needed to make camping reservations for all that wish to participate. At the Annual Gathering and other events this summer, we will have a "Place Holder" registration available for both caravans. The Michigan caravan is scheduled for June 17th to the 23rd, 2019 and the Florida Caravan for November 11th to the 15th. The Florida Caravan will commence after the annual Koreshan Unity Settlement Gathering, so participants can participate in both events. Members that may not be able to participate in the whole caravan, will have the opportunity to join in at the Sarasota Fairgrounds to mark the end of the Centennial on November 13th and 14th. When the "Place Holder"

reservation is available at the TCT website, there will be a more detailed explanation with the routes and overnight sites. There will be a deposit required to hold a spot.

Special thanks to Richard Cook and Richard Squires. Richard Cook has done an exceptional job covering vintage events for the Vintage Camper Magazine. Richard reported on the 99th Winter Convention, which is included in this issue of ***Tin Can Tales***. Richard Squires has been our photographer for the Winter Convention and has put together our annual June 2018 to May 2019 TCT Calendar. They will be available at the Annual Gathering, on line at tincantourists.com or via snail mail.

We are happy to announce the addition of an event at Orchard Beach State Park, Manistee, Michigan. A detailed announcement concerning the September 2018 Gathering at Orchard Beach and the Centennial Celebrations Caravan stop there will be made shortly at the TCT site as well as other social media. The park has a lot of history with TCT as well as the ATA (Automobile Tourists Association). The ATA's membership was comprised of mostly TCT members looking to extend their summer stay in July and August to both Orchard Beach and the Traverse City Fairgrounds. While the ATA organization only lasted a few years, the TCT maintained its Summer Reunions in Traverse City into the late 50's.

BREAKING CAMP — RECENT RALLY REPORTS AND WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON

“Tin Can Tourists 99th Annual Winter Convention”

Story and Photographs by Richard Cook

Sertoma Youth Ranch, site of the Tin Can Tourists 99th Annual Winter Convention in Brooksville, FL, provided picturesque scenery from sunrise to sunset and beyond. On February 22 to 25, 2018 more than 160 trailers were parked forwards, backwards, this way, that way, and every which way beneath a canopy of Oak trees festooned with Spanish moss. A spring-fed creek meandered through the grounds, spilling its sparkling water into a nearby lake. Wooden footbridges allowed trailerites to visit their cross-the-creek neighbors. Hiking trails traversed the woods for those seeking to commune with nature and a playground was available for the kids.

The weather couldn't have been more perfect throughout the rally. White clouds filled blue skies, adding contrast to the greens and browns of the campground. While the daytime temperatures hovered around the mid 80s, the mercury dropped into the 60s at night under clear skies, allowing the moon and stars to shine through the treetops.

Sertoma Youth Ranch, for those who've never been, is an 80 acre wooded retreat started in 1974 as a non-profit organization that provides supervised groups of children (including those who are physically and mentally challenged) the opportunity to enjoy Florida in its natural state. These youth groups are never charged for their visits. Funding comes from campground fees (at \$20 per night per trailer, more than \$10,000 was collect from this year's TCT Winter Convention), on-site music festivals (the Orange Blossom Jamboree, Spring Bluegrass Festival, and Celtic Family Jamboree, just to name a few), family reunions, weddings, and donations. The campground boasts 225 sites with water and electric, plus a bunkhouse with 8 beds for those without an RV. A huge

covered pavilion provides an excellent place for shared meals, meetings, and music. A shower house, clean restrooms, and a dump station are available 24/7. In short, Sertoma Youth Ranch is a great place for holding a TCT rally and has already been booked for next year's Centennial Celebration.

But that's getting ahead of our story. To go back to the beginning, we actually need to start a few days prior to the official opening of the 99th Annual Winter Convention. Pulling onto the Sertoma Youth Ranch property, trailerites were greeted by a large yellow and blue sign that touted "Welcome Tin Can Tourists." Approximately 50 rigs arrived a day or two early to choose prime locations amongst the trees. One group of Airstream owners parked their silver palaces western-style (think an Old West wagon train parked for the night around a campfire), creating a close-knit community they called The Compound. The Airstreamers even had a herd of cattle grazing next to them on the other side of the campground's boundary fence. The Compound turned out to be the place to be to listen to live music on an almost nightly basis.

Early arrivals picked up their registration materials in the pavilion at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, but the rally officially began at 5:30 pm on Thursday during the Welcome Social (by which time 153 trailers had been registered, with 10 more to sign up the following day for a total count of 163 trailers). A colorful "Tin Can Tourist Camp of Brooksville - 99th Annual Winter Convention" banner was displayed next to the stage. Created by TCT member Lanny Webb, the design was also printed on t-shirts for trailerites to purchase. On the stage for attendees to ogle was an updated version of the 1/24th scale vintage trailer diorama first displayed at a couple of rallies in 2017. Created by TCT member Richard Cook, the diorama now features the logo and emblem of the Tin Can Tourists.

Forrest Bone, director of the Tin Can Tourists, officiated a brief business meeting during the Welcome Social (no old business, no new business, let the fun begin), then introduced four TCT Hall of Fame members attending the Winter Convention. They included Hunt Jones (TCT Representative at Large and After Dinner Presenter), Tim Heintz (TCT Southeast Regional Representative and TCT's "go-to" guy for all things

vintage trailer related), and Terry and Hardy Evans (Super Long Term TCT members who've performed many special activities at TCT Gatherings in Michigan).

Approximately three dozen new members went through the TCT induction ceremony, singing "The More We Get Together" in front of old members. Was this a record number of inductees? I'm not sure, but it was the lead-in to what Forrest Bone (wearing a pirate hat) declared a "no stress zone" for the next few days. With the authority of a captain guiding his ship, he proclaimed "no tv or social media during the rally." When he then called for everyone to "get up and move," Jennifer Ali Cook (a spirited young TCT member) walked to the front of the pavilion and led everyone in a dance to loosen limbs and mind. And so began the Tin Can Tourists 99th Annual Winter Convention, followed by a catered Italian dinner with lasagna, garden salad, garlic rolls, and brownies.

After dinner entertainment was provided by Hunt Jones, who gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation titled "Hooked!: A Social History of Fast Food." If you've never listened to one of Hunt's talks, you've missed out on a fabulous, fact-filled, fun evening. Past presentations included "Got Gas?: 100+ Years of America's Filling Stations," "Are We There Yet?: America's Offbeat Roadside Attractions," "Diners: An American Phenomenon," "Ozoners!: America's Drive-In Theaters," "The Lincoln Highway: America's Main Street," "General Motors Parade of Progress," "A History of the Travel Trailer," "Home Away From Home: Where Americans Overnighted," and "RV Insurance" (which stressed the importance of buying Agreed Value Insurance for vintage trailers). It was suggested to Hunt that he put his many presentations on a DVD to make them available to everyone. Let's all encourage him to do so.

Following a prize drawing at 8:00 pm hosted by Forrest, trailerites left the pavilion, putting an end to the first day of organized TCT activities. That, however, didn't mean it was time for bed. Heck, no! Some people went back to their trailers to read and relax, while others gathered in small groups to talk, laugh, or play music late into the night, which was what happened over at The Compound. Remember the group of Airstream owners parked western-style? It was there that about a dozen trailerites were entertained by TCT member Jim Crow on Dobro, acoustic guitar, and vocals, and TCT member Patsy Murray on fiddle, acoustic guitar, and vocals. In laid-back fashion, the

duo played old country tunes, bluegrass, and swing. All the while, panel pro and TCT member Colin Hyde was doing a live taping for the Vintage Airstream Podcast, along with the VAP's host, Tim Shepard (not sure if he's a TCT member, but probably so), who was patched into the taping via his cell phone from another location in the country. Meanwhile, TCT member Lexie Kensington professionally recorded Jim and Patsy for the podcast. What other vintage trailer rally can claim that its attendees produced a live recording session and podcast right there at the rally? To listen to that particular episode of the VAP, go to [vap0290.mp3](#) on your computer or cell phone.

Friday morning began at 8:00 am with a catered breakfast at the pavilion, which included scrambled eggs, potatoes, bacon, muffins, and coffee. Also at the pavilion was an assortment of TCT merchandise being offered for sale, including t-shirts, stickers, coffee mugs, and the like. Trailerites were then given a choice on how to spend the remainder of the day. They could either stay at Sertoma Youth Ranch to socialize with friends, drive to downtown Dade City to explore the area's many antique shops and restaurants, or join a TCT caravan to visit Tom Small's private automotive and memorabilia collection, which has been an annual outing for the past several years.

According to Forrest Bone, not much is known about Tom Small, except that he's a nice unassuming man willing to share his collection and passion with people who appreciate vintage mechanical things. If you like old cars, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, tools, engines, gasoline pumps, signs, bicycles, and soft drink bottles, then you'll enjoy spending an hour or two exploring Tom's collection, which is located behind his house in the largest private garage you'll ever see, situated at the bottom of a rolling green pasture. About a dozen vehicles overloaded with TCT members (carpool style) departed the campground at 9:00 am for the short drive to Tom's property, where they witnessed some of the finest metalwork, woodwork, and all-around restoration work to be found anywhere. Museum quality, for sure!

Many trailerites took Forrest's advice and visited downtown Dade City, an old Florida town known for its citrus groves and agriculture. The architecture of the antique shops, restaurants, and other buildings date back to the early 1930s (the heart of the depression years), with lots of brick and iron railings, but also some curvy Art Deco

features on a few of the establishments. A tour of Dade City is well worth the time spent there, especially since you can find decorative items for your trailer, such as the vintage postcard the author of this article found while browsing an antique shop. The postcard featured a color picture of the old Bay Bridge Wayside Park in Pensacola, Florida, circa 1940, with vintage automobiles, such as a Willys, parked curbside, while picnickers ate lunch at open-sided concrete huts surrounded by coconut palms beside the Gulf of Mexico. Once framed, the postcard will be a nice addition to the author's trailer.

Back at the campground late in the afternoon, everyone started gathering up their table settings and drinks for the crock-pot potluck dinner scheduled for 5:00 pm at the pavilion. Wow! So much food! So many choices! Only so much room on your plate! Imagine 163 trailers, each bringing a favorite food to set down on a picnic table. Then imagine between 300 to 400 people (maybe more, maybe less) wandering from table to table, feasting their eyes and appetites, trying to decide what to put on their plates. That's what dinner was like on Friday night!

Displayed on stage during dinner were six information boards titled "Tin Can Tourism - Selections From A Photo Exhibit Produced By The Florida Memory Program 2011." The Florida Memory Program is an outreach tool for the Division of Library and Information Services. The images are available online at floridamemory.com to anyone interested in the history of TCT.

Forrest made a few announcements during dinner, especially about the following day's public Vintage RV Open House. It would be important to advise anybody still hanging around the trailers at 3:00 pm that the public Open House was over, because trailerites would only have half-an-hour to break down their displays before heading over to the pavilion for the Post Open House Social Hour for music and drinks.

Friday night's entertainment at the pavilion was provided by the rock'n'roll band Yesterdayz, an ensemble of six musicians of a certain age (hint...are we getting old yet?) dressed in tie-dyed t-shirts and jeans. The band got trailerites up on the dance floor while playing hits from the catalogs of the Beatles, Santana, Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling

Stones, Bob Dylan, The Mamas and The Papas, and other 1960s rock legends. Consisting of two guitarists, a bassist, two keyboardists, and a drummer, Yesterdayz ranked high with audience appreciation. In fact, TCT members asked Forrest to book them for next year's Centennial Celebration. Hired to play from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, they jammed an extra half hour, then performed a ten minute encore after trailerites insisted they keep playing. The music and dancing finally ended at 10:40 pm. An absolutely fantastic rock band!

As great and colorful as they were, the band wasn't the only provider of nightlife. TCT member Sarah McReynolds had nightlife of the natural kind going on outside her 1958 Avion. Just as multi-colored as the band's outfits, a pair of Luna moths (the largest species of moth in North America) were hanging out on one of the wooden chairs next to Sarah's trailer. The male and female moths had triangular wings of green with small white circles on them, plus a hint of black, red, and white on the leading edges (a term for the front edge of an airplane's wing...not sure what they're called on moths). The moths also had red legs, red antennas (the female's were more furry looking), and long green and white double tails (like the twin tails of a World War II Lockheed P-38 fighter plane). Can you tell the author is a pilot and loves all things with wings? Sarah, thanks for sharing your nightlife wildlife discovery!

Saturday began at 8:00 am with a catered breakfast at the pavilion, which included biscuits and gravy, juice, and coffee. At this point, I must tell you about a couple of pranks that were pulled off at the 99th Annual Winter Convention. First, there was the "WANTED" poster taped to a bulletin board next to where breakfast was being served. The poster stated "WANTED By the Thomas Georgia County Sheriff. His crime: Having too much fun! This master of disguise is thought to be the leader of an underground group known as the TCT. He may be traveling to Florida. DO NOT APPROACH!!! To entice new followers he will use a time machine to take you back to Happy Days." There were two photos on the poster showing a man in two different disguises. Could that man be Forrest? Yes, and the prank was pulled off by TCT members Danny and Gail Kent. Second, there was (what looked like) a hamster cage on the ground next to the 1953 Pontiac Chief (trailer...not car) owned by TCT members Carl Sturgeon and Cherie Milburn. The trailer was set up fairly close to the pavilion where everyone was eating

breakfast. Clipped to the outside of the cage was a note stating “Danger!!! Baby Rattlers - Do not put fingers in Cage - Use Stick.” Well, if you looked way down towards the bottom of the cage, resting on the straw bedding was a pair of yellow and white baby rattlers...um, baby rattles. Great pranks!

After breakfast everyone wandered back to their trailers to prepare for the Vintage RV Open House and the associated invasion of public admirers. Although not scheduled to begin until 11:00 am, the first paying customers entered the parking lot at around 10:30 am...and that was just the start of what turned out to be 207 vehicles, each of which paid a fee of \$5 for up to four people. Believe it or not, a handful of cars turned away because they didn't want to pay the nominal fee to see the vintage trailers. Go figure!

A nice touch to the Open House was live music at the pavilion...a mixture of soft rock, folk, and country tunes performed by a variety of musicians. Another nice touch was the flea market, which allowed TCT members to sell vintage camping gear, handmade crafts, and other items at their campsites. For example, TCT member Bonnie Cook had been searching for a quilt the previous day at a local shop in Dade City, only to walk away without finding the right pattern to brighten the bedding in her trailer. Yet, during the Open House she found the perfect quilt displayed for sale on a table next to the trailer right behind hers...a handmade item with 15 multi-colored vintage trailers sewn onto it by TCT member Betty Busman. Now that's what the flea market is all about...TCT members helping other TCT members find treasures and goodies to decorate their trailers!

So what was there to see during the Vintage RV Open House? Well, literally a third of the trailers were either Airstreams, Avions or Silver Streaks. Then there was a 1953 Kenskill owned by Bobbi and Daryl Zagrocki from Winter Haven, FL, and a 1969 Frolic Traveller owned by Jym and Shannon Greathouse from Orlando, FL. Chuck and Peggy Kern from Clearwater, FL were at the rally with their 1963 Shasta Airflyte, as were Chris and Kristi Murphy from Orlando, FL with their 1950 Westcraft Coronado Trolley Top, and Al and Geri Zito from Ridge Manor, FL with their 1959 Platt. Gary and Arlette Moore from Summersville, SC trailered their 1951 Vagabond down to Brooksville, as had Alex Alexander from Defuniak Springs, FL with her 1965 Aristocrat Mainliner, and Barry and

Karen Ollette from Saline, MI with their 1949 Trotwood. Kent and Lauren Carlyle from Naples, FL once again impressed the heck out of everyone with another of their homebuilt creations...this time a double horse trailer they named "The Rustic Weekender" (more about this trailer later). William and Mary McCombs from Altamonte Springs, FL were at Sertoma Youth Ranch displaying their 1964 Highway Cruiser, as were Chris and Lynn Joyce from Bradenton, FL with their 1954 Aljoa Sportsman, which was towed by a rare 1963 VW Doppelkab (German for Double Cab). A big shout out to Lisa Puckey for sharing her 1947 Westcraft Coronado (more about this trailer later when I discuss "The Rustic Weekender"). Of course, Forrest and Jeri Bone (rally hosts for the 99th Annual Winter Convention) from Bradenton, FL and Gregory, MI were sharing their 1949 Spartanette with all the Open House attendees. Rudy and Wendy Fitzer from Port Richey, FL were at the rally with their 1968 DuPage Coach, as were Bob and Tish Kilpatrick from Cross Creek, FL with their 1954 Yellowstone, and Jim Heiser and Patsy Murray from Gainesville, FL with their 1950 Boles Aero. Randy and Anne McKinley from Archer, FL brought twice the fun to Brooksville with their 1967 Ace Camper and 1973 Alaskan Slide-In Truck Camper. Robert Heintz from Panama City, FL brought his 1977 Alaskan Slide-In Truck Camper to Sertoma Youth Ranch. How rare is it to have two Alaskan Slide-Ins at the same rally in Florida? Also at the rally was a 1974 Semaphore Caboose (yes, it looks like a train caboose) owned by Steve and Darlene Hall from Old Town, FL. Another trailer on display was a homebuilt created by Hardy and Terry Evans from Mt. Pleasant, WI called the "Wayzless" (because it weighs less than their first homebuilt trailer, which was called the "Wayzalot" because it weighed a lot). I could go on and listing all the beautiful vintage trailers displayed in Brooksville, but there just isn't enough room. As you can see, the variety of trailers at the rally was fantastic, including a few rare and one-of-a-kinds. Visitors to the Vintage RV Open House definitely got their money's worth.

With the public gone, TCT members gathered at the pavilion for the Post Open House Social Hour (drinks were BYO). The original band scheduled to perform during the 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm party couldn't make it, so Frankie J and the Chicken Parade took the time slot. This five-piece band, which featured a Dobro, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, fiddle, and a wooden box-like drum, played fun country-style songs. During one song, in which the lyrics asked and then told why the chicken crossed the road, TCT members Carl

Sturgeon and Cherie Milburn pranced back and forth across the stage while dressed in rooster and hen costumes. After doing their chicken mating dance, Carl and Cherie disappeared behind a white picket fence, where feathers literally flew as they consummated their chicken mating ritual. No joke! Just ask anyone who witnessed it. Rack it up as another hilarious TCT moment!

Saturday night's catered dinner was served at the pavilion sharply at 5:30 pm, with the likes of barbeque chicken, pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, cornbread muffins, sandwich rolls, and an assortment of barbeque sauces. At the same time, Tim Heintz prepared dozens of donated items for the after-dinner raffle drawing (things like bottles of wine, a vintage table fan, blue beltline material for an Airstream, a pink metal pig sculpture with lights, a portable water filter, and a stringer of awning lights in the shapes of vintage trailers). While all this was going on, TCT members Alex Alexander and John Murphy busily sold raffle tickets to raise funds for next year's Centennial Celebration. In total, over \$1,700 was raised from raffle ticket sales, which surpassed all of what was raised last year at Florida and Michigan rallies, which totaled \$1,600 combined. Tim performed microphone duties during the drawing, calling out the winning raffle ticket numbers. The raffle, which began roughly at 7:00 pm, lasted over an hour due to the number of prizes donated. At the end of it all, there were a lot of happy campers.

The evening ended when Forrest announced the winner of this year's John "Canner" Culp Special Interest Award, which went to Kent and Lauren Carlyle for their homebuilt trailer, "The Rustic Weekender." This creative couple completely transformed a double horse trailer into a wooden cabin-on-wheels in only three weeks, working into it everything needed to spend a weekend comfortably camping. Unfortunately, they weren't at the ceremony to accept their award, so the plaque was given to a relative who said she'd give it to them. Congratulations to Kent and Lauren!

So who was John "Canner" Culp and why is there an award named in his honor? John was born into a camping family in Ohio back in 1926, when most camping was done in tents. By the mid-1930s, during John's pre-teen years, his parents bought a homebuilt trailer...the creation of a local carpenter. During his teen years, John's parents

purchased a 1942 breadloaf-style trailer manufactured by American Coach, then traded up for a 1947 Westcraft Coronado, which John eventually inherited and used well into his 80s. In fact, John was a TCT member and spent his last decade living as a full-timer in the Westcraft (a trailer that had been in his family for more than 60 years). During the years 2000 to 2010, John traveled the north-south RV circuit attending TCT events in Michigan and Florida. And where is his trailer now? It's fully restored and owned by TCT member Lisa Puckey, who brought it to this year's Winter Convention in Brooksville for all to admire; thereby extending the legacy of John "Canner" Culp, a true original trailerite. According to Forrest Bone, John possessed a wealth of information on early trailers; thus, he was the perfect namesake to place on TCT's Special Interest Award.

With the award ceremony over, TCT members went back to their trailers to begin breaking up camp in preparation for the following morning's departure from Brooksville. Not everyone, however, was ready to stop partying! Anybody who used the shower house that night got the pleasure of experiencing a guitar circle around the firepit where all the musicians were camping. Imagine about a dozen chairs placed around a campfire, each chair filled with a musician clutching a guitar (plus a flute, fiddle, and box-like drum for accompaniment). Then imagine each musician taking turns playing and singing while everyone else listened. That's what the guitar circle was like that night. The author of this article got to hear a couple of his favorite songs, including "Can't You See," the melodic southern rock anthem originally recorded by The Marshall Tucker Band. The guitar circle was an amazing experience for anybody who witnessed it. Talking to the musicians Sunday morning while waiting to use the campground's dump station, the author found out the circle had started at 4:30 pm Saturday afternoon and went straight on through until 2:00 am Sunday morning with performances by Just Folks, In Good Company, Emmett Carlisle, John Dickie, Tom Ellis, Carly Bak, Dennis Devine, and Frankie J and the Chicken Parade (the same musicians who had performed all day during the Vintage RV Open House and Post Open House Social Hour).

Breakfast was served Sunday morning from 8:00 am to 9:00 am at the pavilion, with donuts and coffee fueling trailerites. Then goodbyes were said and departures began.

Hope to see all of you next year at the Tin Can Tourists 100th Annual Winter Convention (the Centennial Celebration)!

Author's Note: Please enjoy the following captions and photographs that go along with this article.



Sign at entrance to Sertoma Youth Ranch.



Picturesque scenery at Sertoma Youth Ranch from sunrise...



...to sunset...



Spring-fed creek meandering through the campground.



The Compound...a group of Airstreams parked like an Old West wagon train.



Banner designed by Lanny Webb.



1/24th scale vintage trailer diorama built by Richard Cook.



New TCT members singing "The More We Come Together."



Forrest Bone proclaiming the 99th Annual Winter Convention as a ‘No Stress Zone.’”



When Forrest called for everyone to ‘get up and move,’ Jennifer Ali Cook led the way.



Trailerites 'getting up and moving' at the opening ceremonies in Brooksville, Florida.



Thursday night's catered Italian dinner being served at the pavilion.



Lexie Kensington professionally recording the session for the Vintage Airstream Podcast.



Friday morning's catered breakfast being served at the pavilion.



Forrest and Jeri Bone selling TCT merchandise and registering a few late arrivals.



About a dozen vehicles loaded with TCT members carpooled to Tom Small's garage.



Tom Small's garage, which houses his private automotive and memorabilia collection.



Tom Small's private automotive and memorabilia collection.



Tom Small's private automotive and memorabilia collection.



Many TCT members visited the antique shops in downtown Dade City.



Trailerites anticipating Friday night's crock-pot potluck dinner at the pavilion.



Forrest making announcements during the crock-pot potluck dinner. On the stage was a series of six display boards about the early years of Tin Can Tourism.



Friday night's entertainment at the pavilion was the six-member rock'n'roll band Yesterdayz.



The band was a hit with songs from the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, and other rock legends.



The author's wife, Bonnie, and daughter, Jennifer, moving to the beat on the dance floor.



Nightlife wildlife at the 1958 Avion owned by Sarah McReynolds...a pair of Luna moths.



Prank #1 pulled off by Danny and Gail Kent on a bulletin board next to where breakfast was served.



Do you see Prank #2 in front of the 1953 Pontiac Chief owned by Carl Sturgeon and Cherie Milburn?



1953 Kenskill owned by Bobbi and Daryl Zagrocki.



1969 Frolic Traveller owned by Jym and Shannon Greathouse.



1963 Shasta Airflyte owned by Chuck and Peggy Kern.



1950 Westcraft Coronado Trolley Top owned by Chris and Kristi Murphy.



1959 Platt owned by Al and Geri Zito.



1951 Vagabond owned by Gary and Arlette Moore.



1965 Aristocrat Mainliner owned by Alex Alexander.



1949 Trotwood owned by Barry and Karen Ollette.



Award-winning homebuilt "The Rustic Weekender" owned by Kent and Lauren Carlyle.



1964 Highway Cruiser owned by William and Mary McCombs.



1954 Aljoa Sportsman owned by Chris and Lynn Joyce.



1963 VW Doppelkab (tow vehicle for 1954 Aljoa Sportsman) owned by Chris and Lynn Joyce.



1947 Westcraft Coronado owned by Lisa Puckey (formerly owned by John "Canner" Culp).



1968 DuPage Coach owned by Rudy and Wendy Fitzer.



1954 Yellowstone owned by Bob and Tish Kilpatrick.



1950 Boles Aero owned by Jim Heiser and Patsy Murray.



1967 Ace Camper owned by Randy and Anne McKinley.



1973 Alaskan Slide-In Truck Camper owned by Randy and Anne McKinley.



1977 Alaskan Slide-In Truck Camper owned by Robert Heintz.



1974 Semaphore Caboose owned by Steve and Darlene Hall.



Homebuilt "Wayless" owned by Hardy and Terry Evans.



Frankie J and the Chicken Parade entertained TCT members during the Post Open House Social Hour.



Carl Sturgeon and Cherie Milburn in rooster and hen costumes doing the chicken mating dance.



Tim Heintz prepared dozens of donated items for the Saturday night raffle drawing.



Final goodbyes being said during breakfast at the pavilion before hitting the road.

TCT RALLIES ON THE CALENDAR

APRIL 2018

TCT Southeastern Spring Vintage Trailer Rally

April 26, 2018 - April 29, 2018

Seminole State Park, 7870 State Park Dr

Donalsonville, GA 39845 United States

The TCT Spring Rally will not be in Panama City Beach FL for the 2018 season. We will be hosting this Rally for April 2018 at Lake Seminole State Park in Donalsonville Georgia. (Right on the FL/AL/GA border) This is a great park with large sites and right on a lake (park of the Seminole Lake/ Flint River / Appalachian River and Flint River Water Ways) The park has 46 RV sites which we have full access to at this...

All Things Vintage Rally Marshall Mich.

April 27 @ 12:00 pm - April 29 @ 4:00 pm

Calhoun Country Fair, 720 Fair St

Marshall, MI 49068

MAY 2018

2nd Annual TCT Bull Shoals Gathering

May 3, 2018 - May 6, 2018

Bull Shoals Dam Site Park, 1616 Bull Shoals Dam Site Blvd.

Bull Shoals, AR 72619 United States + Google Map

Bull Shoals Gathering Bull Shoals Arkansas May 3-6, 2018 Host: Ed Proctor Registration Procedure and Forms will be available after the first of the year. You will need to make your site reservation by April 10, 2018. Contact Dam Site Park at 870.405.9619 to reserve your site. Be sure and mention Tin Can Tourists or Ed Proctor when you make the reservation. If you would, please let Ed know that you made a successful reservation. Additional information will be sent out prior...

Informal Camp Gathering @ Hugh White State Park, Grenada, MS

May 4 - May 6

Hugh White State Park, 3170 State Park Road

Grenada, MS 38902

This is a very laid-back event, basically a time to meet other folks, relax and show our campers to the public for a few hours on Saturday. No other activities are planned. This will be a shorter event, but please feel free to arrive earlier/stay later. All sites have 30/50 amp service and water hookup. There is a dump station on the premises. Sites 56-70 are on the water, great for fishing, but are less shady than the loop sites....

21st Annual Gathering

May 17, 2018 - May 20, 2018

Camp Dearborn, 1700 General Motors Rd

Milford, MI 48390 United States + Google Map

Registration process and details will be posted in the future. TCT members will receive the information when available.

TCT 3rd Annual Kayuta Kickoff Rally

May 31 - June 3

Kayuta Lake Campground, 10892 Campground Rd

Forestport, NY 13338

Update: 3/8/18 - THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT. If you're interested in being placed on a waiting, email Ed Moore (tctmoore@gmail.com) for information. Rally Registration includes (3) nights camping, Personalized Commemorative T-Shirt, Window sign; Thursday night pizza/wine party and Presentation: Finding, Evaluating, Purchasing and Getting a Vintage Trailer on the Road By Ed Moore; Friday continental breakfast, all day Flea Market, Happy Hour (BYOB), Chili Cook Off Bring your best pot, Bread, Lemonade and Iced Tea provided and Karaoke by...

JUNE 2018

TERRY BISON RANCH RALLY

June 1 - June 4

Terry Bison Ranch, 51 I25 Service Rd

Cheyenne, WY

TERRY BISON RANCH, CHEYENNE WYOMING 2018 JUNE 1ST TO 4TH TIN CAN TOURISTS HOSTING The Ranch is a Wyoming, "Disney Land", activities for all ages. Go to web site to get full spectrum. More than bison, trains and camels. When making reservation, notify you're with TCT, vintage or modern and head count for optional buffalo dinner on Saturday pre-evening \$15.00 adult (cash). Bring your own plate, cup, roller napkins, etc...

11th Annual Vicksburg Trailer Gathering

June 7 - June 10

Vicksburg Historic Village, 207 N Richardson St

Vicksburg, MI 49097

In conjunction with the 38th Annual Car Show – Saturday, June 9, 2018 the Tin Can Tourists hold a display in the Vicksburg Historic Village. Arlene and Lester Parsons are hosting this years event. There will be a \$40.00 Registration fee Camping is electric only and this isn't a campground but rather a historic village so space and facilities are limited. There are no open fire pits. Lester and Arlene plan on coffee and sweet rolls Friday and Saturday mornings. Hardy warm breakfast Sunday Morning will be included...

Wills Sainte Claire – Car Show

June 7 - June 10

Marysville City Park, 801 East Huron Blvd.

Marysville, MI 48040

The Tin Can Tourists are invited to the Wills Sainte Claire Car Show - Rumble in the Park
<http://www.willsautomuseum.org/> Blue Water Region – AACA Show Dates: June 9th and 10th, 2018
Agenda June 7th – the camping area will be open for parking June 8th – Tour of Wills Museum & Pizza Party June 9th – Show from 10 to 3, Dinner at Riviera Restaurant, after Dinner a tour of the restored Mariner Theater and a vintage movie – the theater is home to...

2018 Wizard of Oz Festival

June 8 - June 10

Ionia Fairgrounds, 317 S Dexter St

Ionia, MI 48846

The Ionia Wizard of Oz Festival and Grand River Marketplace Show & Sale is being held June 8 and 9. We have moved the venue to the Ionia Fairgrounds which offers camping - with ample electrical and water access. Restrooms and showers are also on site. The discounted price for our camping group is only \$20 per night. I know camping was an issue when the event was held in our downtown -so with that in mind, we made the decision...

Vintage Trailer Weekend and Chicken BBQ

June 8 - June 10

Atlantic City North Family Campground, 450 Ishmael Rd

Tuckerton, NJ 08087

BEND CLASSIC RALLY – 25th Anniversary VAC Rally

June 17, 2018 - June 20, 2018

J Bar J Ranch, 62895 Hamby Road

Bend, OR 97701

BEND CLASSIC RALLY, 25th Anniversary VAC Rally This rally will be held June 17-20 with campers pulling out by the morning of June 20. it will be held on the J Bar J Youth Ranch at 62895 Hanby Road, Bend, OR 97701. Fees are \$25 per night the proceeds of which go to the Youth Ranch, a 501c3. There is limited water and 110 electric available but there will be porta potties. But consider this as dry camping. Propane fires only! The ranch...

Seven Lakes Gathering 2018

June 21 - June 24

Seven Lakes State Park, 14390 Fish Lake Road

Holly, MI 48442

Reserve your site online with the DNR website.

<https://www.midnrreservations.com/SEVENLAKESSTATEPARK>

JULY 2018

TCT Great River Road Vintage Trailer Rally

July 12, 2018 @ 12:00 am - July 15, 2018 @ 12:00 am

Illiniwek Forest Preserve Campground, 836 State Avenue

Hampton, IL 61256

Come join us on the banks of the Mississippi River at Illiniwek Campground in Hampton, IL. Thursday July 12- Sunday July 15, 2018. Nightly group meals, campfires, Saturday Open House, and a lot of great friends. Sign up starts Feb. 4, 2018. Please save the dates!

2nd Annual TCT Cooper's Lake Campground Rally

July 12, 2018 - July 15, 2018

Coopers Lake Campground, 205 Currie Rd

Slippery Rock, PA 16057 United States + Google Map

It's official folks! There WILL be a 2nd Annual Cooper's Lake Campground Rally. Dates are Thursday, 7/12 - Sunday, 7/15/2018. More details will be coming soon. Please help share the word. This was an amazing rally last year and I look forward to it being even better this year. The rally is held at Cooper's Lake Campground in Slippery Rock, PA and is held in conjunction with the annual Band Jam. The Band Jam Grass Roots Music Festival is a...

10th Annual TCT Port Crescent Rally

July 26, 2018 - July 29, 2018

Port Crescent State Park, 1775 Port Austin Road

Port Austin, MI 48467 United States + Google Map

Port Crescent State Park July 26-29 2018 More information to follow - If you are interested in attending please complete the registration form. This is a very popular event. You may sign up at this time. We will be contacting everyone that is interested in January. There most likely will be a wait list. Please let us know if you would like to attend: <https://goo.gl/forms/d7KgoNkiOVymSDZm2>

9th Annual Antique Boat and Car show in Angola, Indiana

July 28, 2018

Old Boat House Marine, 920 Lane 200

Lake James Angola, IN 46703 United States + Google Map

Antique Boat and Car show in Angola, Indiana is looking for Vintage trailers to participate in their show. This event is put on by the Antique and Classic Boat Society through the Indiana chapter. Last year, they had 65 boats and 100 cars. The event includes artists, live music, food and would really like to show off vintage trailers. They had 2000 spectators last year and expect and larger show next year. It is a one day event but with...

AUGUST 2018

6th Annual Fiddlers Picnic Rally

August 3 - August 5

Mercier Ranch, Strong Lane

Livingston, MT 59047

Join us August 3-5, 2018 at the Old Mercier Ranch for the 6th annual Fiddlers Picnic Vintage Trailer Rally. This is dry camping on the bank of the Yellowstone River on the South edge of Livingston Montana, the gateway to Yellowstone National Park. This is in the midst of a 500 picker jam that is over

40 years old. Bring your banjo! Social hour, potluck and pancake breakfast. \$25 contribution to the Picnic covers it all You can join Tin...

Boler 50th Anniversary Caravan

August 16, 2018 - August 20, 2018

+ Google Map

Details to be provided

TowJam 4 Music Weekend

August 16 @ 9:00 am - August 19 @ 5:00 pm

Rapid River Campground & Cabins, 7182 US Highway 131 NE

Mancelona, MI 49659 United States

Hitch On • Drive In • Hang Out™ Be entertaining or just be entertained. Bring any type of camping equipment and spend the weekend at the classic old Rapid River Campground & Cabins outside Kalkaska Michigan. Amenities include modern bath house with showers, laundry, playground and sanitation station. Traverse City, the Boardman River, (a world-class trout stream), wineries, lakes, and bike and hiking trails are nearby. Special guest stars include your fellow campers. Stay tuned for more details...Register to...

10th Annual Antique Boat and Vintage Camper Show

August 16 @ 10:00 am - August 19 @ 1:00 pm

Port Sanilac Marina, 7365 Cedar St

Port Sanilac, MI 48469

Vintage Boat and Camper Show.. Boat Show is on Saturday - Campers arrive Thursday and Stay thru Sunday. The Boats arrive Friday Night and the boat show is Saturday. Vintage Boats, Campers, RVs, Motorcycles, Classic Cars, Bicycles and the hospitality of the Port Sanilac!

2018 Bannock County Blue Grass Festival Rally – Pocatello, ID

August 17 - August 19

Bannock County Blue Grass Festival, Fairgrounds Rd

Pocatello, ID 83205

Bannock County Blue Grass Festival Tin Can Tourists is hosting an open to all vintage trailer rally in Pocatello Idaho at the County Fairgrounds. Non members welcomed. Fees are \$15 per space(full hook up), per day. \$35 - festival charge. Cash only at check in. We will have an area reserved for us. Bring some leveling boards and shade. Open House is Sat.9-6. Go to www.bannockcountybluegrassfestival.com for more information. We had a great time last year kick'in back with great music in...

Holly Retro 2018

August 23 - August 26

Groveland Oaks County Park, 14555 Dixie Highway Holly, MI 48442

Holly, MI 48442 United States

8th Annual Retro Revival at Groveland Oaks in Holly Michigan Contact Cullen Tate if you'd like to see if there are any openings for the rally: cullentate@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2018

TCT at Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village

September 7 - September 9

Canadian Transportation Museum, 6155 Arner Townline (Essex Rd 23)

ESSEX, Ontario N9Y 2E5 Canada

\$100 - \$125

This is the very FIRST Gathering of Vintage Trailers at the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village in Essex Ontario Canada and we are excited to be hosting. You will be able to tour the museum and marvel at all the beautiful Transportation-related vehicles there. We will be camping in the village among the historical buildings. Cost: \$100 USD (or \$125 CDN) Includes: 2 nights camping, no water/sewer hookups, electric is limited to medical needs please. Welcome dinner Friday evening,...

11th Annual TCT Northeast Rally

September 13 - September 16

Sampson State Park, 6096 NY-96A

Romulus, NY 14541 United States + Google Map

We will also be opening the registration for this rally on June 9th, the Saturday after Kayuta Rally. Last year, this rally sold out in 6 hours!

2018 Cherry Hill Tin Can Tourists Rally

September 14 - September 15

Cherry Hill, 1325 South Main Street

Kaysville, UT 84037-2639 United States + Google Map

\$10

Tin Can Tourists is hosting a vintage trailer rally at the Cherry Hill water park in Kaysville,Ut. Non members with vintage trailers are welcomed. This year we have some update notes ,elevated fire pits are OK. All trailers must be gone by check out due to Halloween village starts setup. Open House is Sat.9 am to 6 pm. A BBQ dinner is planned for Sat. pre- evening. I'm trying for \$10 per person- cash. Call Cherry Hill at 1-801-451-5379 from 4--to 6 pm, (winter...

2018 Fall Gathering

September 27 - September 30

Camp Dearborn, 1700 General Motors Rd

Milford, MI 48390

Registration for the Fall Gathering will be available early in July. You can register for the Fall Rally before that if you also are planning to attend the Spring Rally

<https://tincantourists.com/blog/event/21st-annual-gathering/>

3rd Annual "Into The Vortex" Vintage Trailer Rally

September 27 - September 30

Vortex Spring, 1517 VORTEX SPRING LN

PONCE DE LEON,, FL 32455 United States + Google Map

\$15

3rd Annual "Into The Vortex" Vintage Trailer Rally September 27 — 30, 2018 Public Tour of Trailers — Saturday, September 29th — 11am to 2pm Join us as we camp next to the "Gin Clear" waters of Vortex Springs in the NW Florida Panhandle. Activities include Swimming, SCUBA, Pajama Potluck Supper, Pizza Party, Rock Painting, and Line Dancing. Call Vortex directly at 850-836-4979 to reserve your site (see map of campground below). Then email rally host Alex Alexander with Your Name, Site Number, Year Make &...

Gypsy Soul Travelers Rally- Jasper County Fairgrounds

September 28 @ 9:00 am - September 30 @ 4:00 pm

Jasper County Fair Association, 2671 W Clark St

Rensselaer, IN 47978 United States + Google Map

"Gypsy Soul Travelers" Rally Jasper County Fairgrounds, Rensselaer, In September 28-30, 2018 Bring your oldie but goodie and have some fun with vintage camper enthusiasts like yourself, at the Jasper County Fairground. - Vintage Campers / RV's - 1979 and Older Models. - Public Open House/ Tours. - Showers & Restrooms - Electricity & Water at EVERY site! We are planning a FUN Theme- Gypsy Soul Travelers. Let out your inner Gypsy & Hippie! Think Peace & Love baby! This...

REAR VIEW MIRROR — HISTORY

Over the next year's issues of *Tin Can Tales*, we will be including journal materials chronicling early autocamping and journeys to Florida. The author of "Dirt Roads to Dixie" indicated that there was a dearth of firsthand accounts from early TCT travelers. We are fortunate to have obtained a few of the known accounts. The first few installments will cover Ruth Deering's Trip to Florida at age 19. The final account will cover the early autocampers at Desoto Park in Ybor City, Florida and the formation of the Tin Can Tourists.