



8TH ANNUAL RVW CONVENTION

Camp Jordan Arena
East Ridge, Tennessee
September 21-26, 2004

The **8th Annual RVW Convention** was memorable even before it began due to the arrival in the Chattanooga area of Hurricane Ivan - known by the Convention Committee as "Ivan the Terrible". The bad news: On Friday, convention volunteers arriving early were forced to evacuate to East Ridge's City Hall due to Ivan's heavy rains - Camp Jordan's sports fields and RV parking area were soon under several feet of water, and the pavilion was half under water. The good news: By Sunday morning the floodwaters had vanished, the sun was out, the RV parking area was mostly dry, and Sue Roper and her Parking Committee - with no time to mark off spaces - managed to bring in 41 RVs that day and had them parked before dark. By Wednesday, they had parked 174 rigs.

Dealing with Hurricane Ivan issues prior to our convention certainly pointed up the advantages living in the technology age! We were able to keep those traveling with computers advised of both multi-state road closures and local flooding conditions via frequent updates to the RVW Message Board, and the Convention Coordinator answered nearly 100 weather-related cell phone calls over a five day period. Although some of our attendees were delayed a day or so due to flooding either in their own areas or en route, we had **306** members and guests in attendance, surpassing all expectations.

We were treated to special entertainment during the week - Pop/Jazz/Blues Vocalist **Suede** on Thursday evening, RVW's own musician **Chic Lisitano** during Club Night Friday, and humorist and Florida Chapter member **Holly Mudge** during Closing Ceremonies on Saturday. Board Liaison Patty Coon produced a fun, RV-themed Mystery Night fundraiser, "**Death Bemoans Her**", with an all-star cast of volunteers. The Florida Chapter serenaded us during Opening Ceremonies with their splendid RVW version of "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain". The Mid-Atlantic Chapter provided excellent "goodie bags", and co-sponsored the "Meet and Greet the Board Candidates" social hour Wednesday afternoon.

Judith Robinson and Norma Cartwright chose presenters and scheduled 30 seminars which received high marks on convention evaluations, with the highlight being Rachel Harp's Maintenance Seminar. Vendor Coordinator Karlene Field attracted a great lineup of seventeen vendors, including convention sponsor Tom Stinnett RV of Clarksville, Indiana.

Tours offered included white water rafting; riding on the Chickamauga Choo Choo while touring a Civil War battlefield and lunching at a Civil War mansion; cruising and dining on the Southern Belle Riverboat. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Ivan's rains, the riverboat company had to cancel their Southern Belle cruises for several days and all monies were refunded.

VOLUNTEERS

Convention Coordinator
Assistants to Convention Coordinator
Board Liaison

Gail Gilvin
Judith Robinson & Gennie Gilvin
Patty Coon

Convention Committees

Chair & Co Chair Names

Chapter Liaison

Thursa Stair

Comfort and Sanitation Station

Fern Tipsword

Entertainment

Patty Coon and Minnie Jane Bowman

First Aid

Linda Brown

First Timers

Gretchen Vancura & Lea Sevigny

Food Services

Judith Robinson & Marilyn Brodhurst

Golf

Wendy Humphreys & Cindy Mynhier

Memorial Service & Sunday Morning
Worship Service

Lanny McBrown & Judy Brown

Parking

Sue Roper

Photographer

Esther Harmatz

Registration

Sherry Allgaier & Judy Becker

Security

Char Ank & Linda Blake

Assistants to Seminar Presenters

Tully Strong & Linda Waterman

Seminar & Convention Schedulers

Judith Robinson & Norma Cartwright

Shuttle Carts

DeDe Jones-Warfield

Vendors & Sponsors

Karlene Field

NOTE: Ann Vickers and Pat Mooney were the original 2004 Convention Coordinators, but had to withdraw due to Ann's health problems. They recommended Gail Gilvin as their replacement, and the Board of Directors asked Gail to take over in April of 2004. Since Ann and Pat worked on the Chattanooga Convention for several months and laid much of its groundwork, they are due a great deal of credit for its success.