

BRANSON RALLY 2018-LET THE FUN BEGIN



As the sun set Wednesday the 3rd on Lake Taneycomo in Branson the 2018 Branson Eagle Rally fun had begun. 26 Eagle bus conversions were all parked, necessary connections made and everyone was getting ready for a fun week in Branson. Mother Nature was providing perfect weather for the event.

The photo below is a file photo from the 2016 event that looked like the 2018 line up.



The hosts, Byron and Betty Pigg had spent many hours getting everything organized for this week of fun.

After the "happy hour" to catch up on the gossip from the last bus rally, Byron called a meeting to order. Two representatives from Branson welcomed us to the area with suggestions on what to enjoy while we were here.

Then we had an excellent catered meal by Skinners Catering company.

One reason the Branson Eagle Rallies are so successful is because there are so many activities in the area that appeal to everyone. Byron does not schedule many activities allowing everyone the opportunity to see what they enjoy the most.



Friday evening Byron made reservations for 33 people to dine at the Saltgrass Steak House on the Landing. By eating early we qualified for their afternoon discount. After the excellent meal most of us watched the Branson Landings 7.5 Million Dollar fountain show. Maybe the best part of the rally was Mother Nature's perfect weather for a full week.



At the 11:00 A.M. ladies meeting on Thursday they voted to visit Mel's Hard Luck Diner in Branson instead of their normal trip to the Ozark Tea room.

Mel's waiters and waitresses are mostly "wanta-be" entertainers waiting to be discovered at one of the many show productions. They entertain their customers by utilizing their beautiful voices while they serve them.



My thanks to Di and Elaine for sending me the photos of these "happy campers" at Mel's Hard luck Diner and Dogwood Canyon.







On Saturday most of the Eagle group drove the one-hour drive through some of the most beautiful Ozark Mountains scenery to Dogwood Canyon. There they feasted at the Dogwood Mill. On full stomachs the group took the two-hour wildlife tram tour. The tour takes you into Arkansas and back where you see all kinds of wild life along the well-groomed trail. I am sure some of them climbed up into an artistic tree house built by The Tree House Master's next to the mill.





While the ladies were enjoying the diner, a group of the men decided to go to the farm show back in Springfield. The men were in “hog heaven,” when they discovered all the tools vendors had on display. When you have Eagle buses you always need more tools.

Approximately 28 people journeyed to Billy Gail’s cafe for breakfast Sunday morning. Billy’s is known for their down-home food and jumbo pancakes.



The 2018 Eagle Rally brought forth three new members to this year’s event and two “first timers.”

James Polsfuss is from Atlanta Georgia and is in the process of rebuilding a 45-foot entertainer bus. He is roughing it this rally in a motel room. We look forward to touring his project at the 2020 rally.

Dan and Carol Hunt are from Buffalo New York. Their Eagle is still a “work in progress.” They are retired and plan on being “full timers” in the near future. Their traveling companion is Sasha.





Carol Hunt's sisters Micki and Sandy have been traveling with their dog, Molly, most of the summer in Micki's (on right) motor home. Micki is from Arizona and Sandy from New York. Sandy will return to New York with Dan and Carol after spending a quality week together in Branson.

Micki was pulling a trailer with an all-terrain vehicle and smart car to cover all kinds of transportation needs while on the road.



Ray and June Schneider live in Lanesville Indiana. They are members of Eagle International, this is their first trip to Branson Rally. Ray and June worked on their bus for 8 years starting in 1990. Ray spent many hours designing and making his slide out work before slide outs were popular.



A short walk from the rally campground they were holding the National Fire Fighters Combat Challenge. Here our first responders displayed their toughness in what ESPN called the "toughest 2 minutes in sports." The World challenge will be held in Sacramento California last of October. They even had an area for the future first responders to practice. Branson has been the host for 25 years and are competing for the World Competition in 2020, just right for our next rally.

Everyone enjoyed the 2018 Eagle Bus Rally and are looking forward to 2020.