

2010 Campvention Activities

By
DeWayne Johnston

477 families (465 units, 12 camp passes) attended the “Golden Reunion” of FCRV July 9 – 16 at the Youth Fairgrounds in Berrien Springs, Michigan. It was a hot week, but the rain stayed away and the breezeway through the program arena helped.

There were lots of memories around with displays of swap items, old Campvention programs and aerial photos, scrapbooks, NCHA publications, vests, and some familiar faces that haven’t been seen for a while such as Past President, Pork DeCabooter and his wife Jan and former SPC Director, Pete Kennett.

The Campvention Committee under the leadership of Vickie Roop, Great Lakes Region Director, Co-Chairman, Marilyn Rausch, and 5 Team Leaders added some new activities and volunteers from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin as well as some from outside the region filled the more than 53 jobs to be covered.

Something new this year was the D. A. T. Driver Safety Fair on Wednesday morning. It included fatal vision glasses which simulate alcohol impairment, to no texting while driving pledge, quick click seat belt competition (passengers switched seats and buckled up as quickly as possible), a bicycle rodeo, and a graphic mock accident with fire, police, and rescue.

The commercial area had 34 vendors and campers were using their free vendor bucks on purchases, however volume was not as high as previous years. Total Value RV Sales from Elkhart was impressed with the family atmosphere, so much so that they are in the process of becoming an FCRV dealer chapter. Stauffer’s Amish Bakery was on the grounds with their pies and goodies.

A 3.5 hour CPR certification class was held by Berrien Springs Red Cross as well as a non-certification seminar including the use of defibrillators.

There more than 40 different seminars and half a dozen craft sessions throughout the week on everything from painting to satellite dishes. Brochures were available for a number of self guided tours in the area. Musicians had plenty of opportunities to get together for indoor and outdoor jam sessions.

Also new were two organized motorcycle rides on Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon. Ron Woolworth and Ken and Sandy Kendall were in charge.

The youth center was a busy place with a noise parade, making cardboard race cars for a “Youth 500 race’ on Saturday. Pirates were everywhere on Sunday and prizes were given for costumes. There was also a youth carnival with various games. There was a water play area outside with hoses and wading pools. Tuesday was Western day and on Wednesday there was a pre-teen dance. All week toys were collected in the youth building and Thursday afternoon they were presented to Larry Graefen from Berrien County Toys for Tots.

Teens had lots to do besides the sports of softball, basketball, relays, tug of war, volleyball, and soccer. Evenings included movie night with caramel corn making, “Family Feud” game, karaoke, Guitar Hero tournament, walking noise parade, and pizza

party. Teens were also on hand to cheer on the 14 Miss FCRV contestants who were busy with the tea, rehearsals, and the afternoon talent competition and the evening pageant on Tuesday.

The adult center offered a scavenger hunt, pegs and jokers tournament, corn hole toss, several family movie nights with popcorn, hand and foot game, euchre tournament, Mexican train, a birthday party with karaoke, show and tell crafts, card bingo, and pizza party. A new idea was "Minute to Win It" which duplicated some of the games seen on the tv show. There was an area for the adult sports of washer toss and horseshoes (separate article).

A number of open contests were held throughout the week (separate articles) such as site decorating, wildlife photo, birdhouse, and essay, conservation posters, adult and teen chapter and state / provincial scrap books, chapter and state / provincial newsletter, and husband calling, and D.A.T. quick click challenge.

As always, folks looked forward to hospitalities held by Iowa, Trustees, Pennsylvania, Ontario, Southeast Region/ Campvention 2011, Great Lakes Region 4 / 2010 hosts.

The interdenominational church service with the FCRV choir and Praise Puppets was held Sunday morning. Jewish and Catholic services were also available. The pet parade was Monday morning with good participation. Also Monday was the craft / flea market sale, and Saturday and Thursday there was a book exchange. Daily activities included Bible study and SPC walk / bike. There was the usual round of meetings for various program directors plus get togethers for First Timers, Retirees, UIE Club, Newsletter Editors, and Kentucky Colonels.

Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. the Red Hat brunch was held. Civil War re-enactor, Shannon Munns gave a presentation. On Wednesday afternoon Conservation, Newsletter, Adult Sports, D.A.T., S.P.C., and Wildlife awards were presented during breaks in the FCRV Talent Contest.

Performing in the talent contest organized by Kip Cushing were Hetaher Borton, Eldon Sellers, Ed Hurley, Joe Miller, T.J. Reddick, Paige Skillings, Bill Summers, Lee Steels, Hugh Johnstone, Jack Smye, Brittany Huryn, Nicole Gosse, Jimmy Lilly, Geri Goulet, Wilma Schroedel, George & Janet Quinn, Horst Schaller, and Alexa Davis.

Some campers said, "There was so much to do, we couldn't get it all in, but it's nice to have choices."