

POTOMAC DOGWOODS

1975 - 1992

ADVENTURES OF THE POTOMAC DOGWOODS 1975-1992

by
Jim Erving

How many of us remember where we were and what we were doing on August 3, 1975? To quote from a camping journal "about 20 people gathered at Algonquin Park, near Sterling Park. There was born the Potomac Dogwoods camping group."

Dick Rummel was mostly responsible for getting the group together. He and his family had just finished a tour of duty in Alaska and headed for the lower 48 states driving a 30' motorhome, towing a car and behind that a boat. The motorhome was named Blue Whale.

Representing Good Sam was Jay Woods, State Director, and Jim Langston, State Legislator. Quite a meeting was held. Everyone identified themselves and their family, a sketchy camping schedule was laid out and future meetings were planned.

The first get-together was in Williamsburg for a Samboree at Green Tree Campground, then affiliated with Howard Johnson. Six members of the newly formed Potomac Dogwoods were present.

A list of campgrounds has been included, naming each of them as we visited them for the first time (see attached). As time progressed new members joined, new ideas, new campgrounds. Don't accept this list as the only ones that were visited, time and work schedules took the group to everything near and far. By the time the '90's had arrived, most every campground within 150 miles of Northern Virginia had been visited, and with new ones opening, names changing and new owners with different ideas, it was worth revisiting the old ones.

The fee for camping has certainly kept up with the ever changing economy, along with the cost of vehicles and equipment to relax and enjoy an exclusive hobby, a pastime enjoyed by millions all over the world.

The Good Sam Samborees and other special camping events are in a class of their own. Everyone made their own decisions, which ones to attend, etc., but there were other places to meet and continue the terrific friendship, especially in the chilly and freezing weather. Most campgrounds are closed for the winter but think of the warmth and comfort of so many of the members' homes. This opens up a whole new horizon ... no hook-ups, no long walks to the chow-line and then wait your turn in line to be served; food is always just an arm's length away.

The meetings are always pretty much the same, with all phases being worked out, pro and con, new ideas, new members. The first home we met at was the Johansens in Vienna VA (December 1975). The next meeting was held at the Price's home in Alexandria, VA (January 1976) followed by a February meeting at the Ervings, and even a summer meeting at the Rummel's home in Sterling Park (July 1976) and the almost annual visit to the Hoffman's for the first Christmas get-together. Other homes we visited over the years were the Oikkoner's, Connie Conrad's (again Sterling Park) and even back in those days, the Timmins. In the 1980's we had the pleasure of enjoying the homes of the Robyaks, Goellers, Chisms, Donnellys, Lindquists, Gonzales, Marvins, Earls and Kenyons.

We can't forget all the restaurants where we dined, held our meetings, elected new officers and even celebrated Christmas. The first Dinner Theater outing was at the Holiday Inn at Dulles Airport, next the Hayloft in Manassas, followed by the gang meeting at Shakey's Pizza in Hybla Valley, Farrells at Tysons Corner, Fretzbes at Fairfax Circle, Hot Shoppe in Fredericksburg, Dennys in Fairfax, Pan Am Restaurant in Vienna, S&W Cafeteria in Falls Church. We enjoyed the West End Dinner Theatre in Alexandria a couple of times and even had a meeting at the Wakefield Park Recreation Center in Kings Park and a meeting and pot luck at the Nottaway Field House in Vienna.

Some of the family pets that joined us on our camping adventures were: the Rummel's dog RAGS, Janet Rasmussen's two great dogs, MISTY and then JINX, Erving's cat BUTTONS, the Goellers had an old timer called SNICKELFRITZ, Janice Hudson had her companion SMOKEY, and the Donnellys had their JODY and now PEPE. The Earls, Gonzales and Knowltons had pets but their names escape us at this time. However, it is the Kenyons who have the most unusual pet, a 'pet' known world-over, DONALD DUCK!

Can anyone complain about the potluck meals that were shared? Think of how those cook books must be expanding after all the recipes that were exchanged!

There were several novel or different things that started, or happened, amongst the Potomac Dogwoods. In March of 1982 Carlton Earl and Ed Timmins designed and built an outstanding sign that announced the Potomac Dogwoods by carrying the family name of each family in attendance at the outing. An extra non-scheduled meeting was held at the Robyak's house to stuff goody bags for the annual Samboree in May of 1984. Jean Erving was called upon in 1984 to travel and drive a vehicle when the Olympic Torch went across the country. In May 1979 we were host to a group of Caravaners (campers) from England. They flew to Montreal Canada, picked up motorhomes and toured most of the East coast. On their return trip we met them at Prince William Park in Dumfries and put on a potluck supper. Friendship, conversation, traveling tales, and even some gifts, were exchanged long into the night.

The now popular parade at the Samborees in our area was originated at the Samboree at Glen Maury Park in September 1983. Jean Erving (Krisco the Clown) was entertaining the children, and walking back to the motorhome, a few Potomac Dogwoods fell in behind

her gathering noisemakers, bells, a train whistle and anything else they could think of to liven up the occasion. The parade continued around the campground visiting a few campers in wheel chairs and others not participating in the activities. Prizes are now awarded for the best entry and the Potomac Dogwoods have won their share.

In October of 1990 we were somewhat surprised to add a new word to our vocabulary - SAURUS. Never knew one word could take on so many ways to enhance the word, camping and just about everything affiliated. Thanks, Jan. And from the same household, Dave has earned a Masters in Coffee Making (the coffee shootout and crew chief in Tampa, 1991).

To continue our uniqueness, how about the way we distribute Christmas gifts? Not the hum-drum exchanging or calling a name. Everyone is equal in a fun loving game of holding the right playing card and picking an unopened gift from the men's or ladies' pile of gifts (or maybe stealing somebody else's prize).

Thanks Bill Day, for reviewing our past financial records to uncover the club's donations to charitable organizations.

September 1988	\$75.00	Special Olympics
November 1988	\$205.00	Cystic Fibrosis
January 1990	\$135.00	Cystic Fibrosis
September 1990	\$159.00	Cystic Fibrosis
December 1991	\$125.00	Cystic Fibrosis
May 1992	\$150.00	Cystic Fibrosis
November 1992	\$135.00	Cystic Fibrosis
Total	\$984.00	

And lets not forget our continuing support to our fellow Dogwoods - the cards, flowers, balloons, visits, phone calls and memorial contributions in times of illness and death in the family.

Here's hoping our little trip back through the History of the Potomac Dogwoods hasn't left out any names of occasions that were close to any member, as we all have special friends and memories. Speaking of names, going down through the alphabet, we've missed only eight letters (I, N, Q, U, W, X, Y, Z). Let's sign them up so we can complete our alphabet.

And to complete this Epistle, many thanks to the people who took the time to sit down and type all the news and activities of the Potomac Dogwoods. This includes: Dick Rummel, Barbara Price, Evelyn Knowlton (Historian), Eric Oikkonen, Mike Knowlton, Doris Hoffman, Emma Robyak, Liz Earl, Ed Timmins, Janet Rassmussen, Pat Donnelly and Jan Kenyon.

HAPPY SAURUSING!

CAMPGROUNDS VISITED

Listed below are campgrounds that the Potomac Dogwoods have visited and the year in which the club made its FIRST VISIT.

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| 1975 | Green Tree (Williamsburg VA)
Greenville Farm (Haymarket VA) |
| 1976 | Big Meadows (Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park)
Christopher Run
Lake Anna
Twin Oaks
North Fork
Starlight
Lake Renovia |
| 1977 | Hillwood (Gainesville VA)
Glen Maury Regional Park (Buena Vista VA)
Yeocomico Marina
KOA (Harpers Ferry WV)
Yogi Bear (Gettysburg PA)
Raven Rock
Crow's Nest |
| 1978 | Twin Oaks
Birchview Farm
Silver Lake (Gainesville VA)
Natural Chimneys Regional Park (Mt. Solon VA)
Indian Acres |
| 1979 | King's Dominion
Pohick Regional Park
Westmoreland State Park
Mount Solon
Fair Oaks (Williamsburg VA)
Candy Hill (Winchester VA) |
| 1980 | Maryland Samboree (Frederick MD)
Bud Lea (Madison VA)
Mountain Manor (Luray VA)
Ice Mountain |

1981	Lake Fairfax KOA (Reedsville VA) Bethpage (Urbanna VA)
1982	Yogi Bear (Williamsburg VA)
1983	Tri Lakes Drummer Boy (Gettysburg PA) Four Winds (Membership resort, guest of the Dyes)
1984	Dominion (Fredericksburg VA) Old Mill
1985	Rancho Rolling Acres (Culpeper VA)
1986	Walnut Hill
1987	Yogi Bear's Jellystone - Charlottesville (Crozet VA)
1988	Round Top (Gettysburg PA)
1989	Country Haven (New Holland PA) Small Country (Louisa VA)
1990	Battle of Cedar Creek (Middletown VA) Colonial Campground (Williamsburg VA)
1991	Wilderness (Spotsylvania VA) Moyer's Mountain Retreat (Mount Holly Springs PA) Country Waye (Luray VA)
1992	Thousand Trails - Chesapeake (membership resort, Glens VA) Western Village (Carlisle PA)

FIRST ROSTER

POTOMAC DOGWOODS - 1976 ROSTER

Name	Address Telephone Number	Good Sam Number Rig Type CB Handle
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CHANCELLOR, Hoyle Z & Mary	6644 Kirkley Av McLean VA 22101 893-5536	258627 31' Avon Trailer Green Turtle
CONRAD, Mary C	904 Sterling Blvd. Sterling, VA 22170 437-1377	183225 22' Open Road MH
COPELAND, Bill & Libby	1838 Cherri Dr. Falls Church, VA 22043 893-5396	215382 23' Invader Trailer
CREAMER, Carl C & Laura	1223 Beverly Rd. McLean, VA 22101 356-3725	167541 18' Winnebago MH Marco Polo
DUNNINGTON, Irvin H & Jean	3512 S 6th St. Arlington, VA 22204 979-7475	266239 27' Holiday Rambler Ivan Ho
ERVING, Jim J & Jean	501 Yeonas Dr. Vienna, VA 22180 938-4501	152416 18' Balboa MH
HOPE, James S & Madeline	1803 Westmoreland St. McLean, VA 22101 356-8654	60597 28' Avon Trailer
HYATT, H S (Scotty) & Adah Marie	2840 Meadowland Rd. Falls Church, VA 22043 534-1017	13' Scamp Trailer Tonka Toy
JOHANSON, Russell & Joyce	212 Elm St. SW Vienna, VA 22180 938-7092	207211 20' Prowler Trailer

POTOMAC DOGWOODS - 1976 ROSTER

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Name	Address Telephone Number	Good Sam Number Rig Type CB Handle
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KNOWLTON, G R (Mike) & Evelyne	707 W Jasper Rd. Sterling, VA 22170 430-3571	232009 20' Tioga MH
OIKKONER, Erick & Carolyn	7113 Harrison Ln. Alexandria, VA 22036 768-8417	254640 23' Airstream Trailer
PRICE, Bill & Barbara	7012 Colgate Dr. Alexandria, VA 22037 768-2167	224645 26' Utopia Trailer Blue Goose
RUMMEL, Richard H (Dick) & Shirley	203 E Beech Rd. Sterling, VA 22170 430-6859	140631 25' Uteliner MH Blue Whale
STEPHENSON, Ralph & Dot	214 Farndale Av. Vienna, VA 22180 560-3232	120847 22' Winnebago MH

OFFICERS

OFFICERS OF THE POTOMAC DOGWOODS

1975 - 1992

1975 - 1977	1978
PRESIDENT: Dick Rummel VICE PRESIDENT: Carl Creamer SECRETARY: Dick Hoffman TREASURER: Russ Johanson WAGONMASTER: Bill Price HISTORIAN: Evelyne Knowlton LEGISLATIVE REP: Mike Knowlton	PRESIDENT: Mike Knowlton VICE PRESIDENT: Dick Hoffman SEC/TREASURER: Ruth Brown WAGONMASTER: George Rushton HISTORIAN: Evelyne Knowlton PUBLICITIY: Bill Price LEGISLATIVE REP:
1979	1980
PRESIDENT; Mike Knowlton VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Price SEC/TREASURER: Ruth Brown WAGONMASTER: Ralph Stephenson HISTORIANS: Evelyne Knowlton Jim Erving PUBLICITY: Bill Price LEGISLATIVE REP; Ed Timmins	PRESIDENT: Dick Hoffman VICE PRESIDENT: Carlton Earl SECRETARY: John Robyak TREASURER: Mike Knowlton WAGONMASTERS: George Rushton Dick Rummel HISTORIANS: Evelyne Knowlton Jim Erving LEGISLATIVE REP: Ed Timmins
1981	1982
PRESIDENT: Dick Hoffman VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Price SEC/TREASURER: John Robyak WAGONMASTER: George Rushton HISTORIANS: Evelyne Knowlton Jim Erving PUBLICITY: LEGISLATIVE REP:	PRESIDENT: Ed Timmins VICE PRESIDENT: Earl Brown SEC/TREASURER: John Robyak WAGONMASTER: Carlton Earl HISTORIANS: Jim Erving Evelyne Knowlton PUBLICITY: Emma Robyak LEGISLATIVE REP:

OFFICERS OF THE POTOMAC DOGWOODS

1975 - 1992

1983		1984	
PRESIDENT:	Ed Timmins	PRESIDENT:	John Robyak
VICE PRESIDENT:	Dick Hoffman	VICE PRESIDENT:	Jean Erving
SEC/TREASURER:	Janet Rasmussen	SEC/TREASURER:	Janet Rasmussen
WAGONMASTER:	Carlton Earl	WAGONMASTER:	Jim Kemper
HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving	HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving
PUBLICITY:	Ruth Brown	PUBLICITY:	John Goeller
LEGISLATIVE REP:	John Robyak	LEGISLATIVE REP:	Ed Timmins
1985		1986	
PRESIDENT:	Jean Erving	PRESIDENT:	Jean Erving
VICE PRESIDENT:	Janet Rasmussen	VICE PRESIDENT:	Janet Rasmussen
SEC/TREASURER:	Toni Chism	SEC/TREASURER:	Toni Chism
WAGONMASTER:	Dick Hoffman	WAGONMASTER:	Dick Hoffman
HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving	HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving
PUBLICITY:	Ed Timmins	PUBLICITY:	Ed Timmins
LEGISLATIVE REP:	John Goeller	LEGISLATIVE REP:	John Goeller
1987		1988	
PRESIDENT:	Doris Hoffman	PRESIDENT:	Doris Hoffman
VICE PRESIDENT:	John Robyak	VICE PRESIDENT:	John Robyak
SEC/TREASURER:	Emma Robyak	SEC/TREASURER:	Emma Robyak
WAGONMASTER:	Fay Marvin	WAGONMASTER:	Fay Marvin
HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving	HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving
PUBLICITY:	Pat Donnelly	PUBLICITY:	Pat Donnelly
LEGISLATIVE REP:	Janet Rasmussen	LEGISLATIVE REP:	Janet Rasmussen

OFFICERS OF THE POTOMAC DOGWOODS

1975 - 1992

1989		1990	
PRESIDENT:	Bert Lindquist	PRESIDENT:	Dave Kenyon
VICE PRESIDENT:	Dave Kenyon	VICE PRESIDENT:	Bert Lindquist
SEC/TREASURER:	Mary Ann Lindquist	SEC/TREASURER:	Liz Earl
WAGONMASTER:	Fay Marvin	WAGONMASTER:	Carlton Earl
HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving	HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving
PUBLICITY:	Jan Kenyon	PUBLICITY:	Jan Kenyon
LEGISLATIVE REP:	Ed Timmins	LEGISLATIVE REP:	Janet Rasmussen
1991		1992	
PRESIDENT;	Dave Kenyon	PRESIDENT:	Pat Donnelly
VICE PRESIDENT:	Avalene Dye	VICE PRESIDENT:	Dave Kenyon
SEC/TREASURER:	Willi House	SEC/TREASURER:	Willi House
WAGONMASTER:	Les House	WAGONMASTER:	Les House
HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving	HISTORIAN:	Jim Erving
PUBLICITY:	Jan Kenyon	PUBLICITY:	Jan Kenyon
LEGISLATIVE REP;	Janet Rasmussen	LEGISLATIVE REP:	Janet Rasmussen