



Happy New Year



Ya-ba-da-ba-do and how do you do? Are we having fun yet? Probably not – COVID-19 Uggggg!!! 2020 has been a very rough year for all us. Many of us have suffered this year from job loss, financial insecurity, family illness and loss and isolation. We are praying for a better 2021.

In March, we traveled to Daytona for the Ricky Carmichael Daytona Supercross and the AMA Vintage Motocross. It was a great time with friends, Chris “ChiliPepper” Richardson; and Becky and Wes Willis, and other racing friends. Don was so excited to race on the supercross track. We headed home on March 11 as COVID broke out around the world.

Of course, at the worst possible time, the engine gave up in my old Ford and I had to get a new car: Ford SUV Edge SEL. I love it and wonder why I waited 15 years to buy a new one. We also adopted a rescue puppy that Don found at the depot. While Sallie does enjoy playing with Molly, the old girl does get tired.

COVID threw all of our scheduled events into a whirlwind that seemed to end toward end of August. Our April national motocross race rescheduled for September. It was a very successful event with 700 attendees from all over the US. We had -0- cases of COVID in Marion County when the race started, and still had -0- cases three weeks later. 😊 In 2021, we moved the vintage race to September 9-12, 2021 to get away from rain and floods during springtime in Jefferson.

The May 1-2 Locomotive Chase was rescheduled to last weekend of May. Our re-enactors and train riding public were anxious to get away and have some fun, while still social distancing. We will hold our 2021 event in May – stay tuned as we confirm the date with our re-enactors.

We continued to run our trains throughout the summer and added the Halloween Express this year. We started with three trains each Saturday in October but, due to demand, increased to six a day – while still complying with the Governor’s orders as to capacity. We also ran our Christmas Express in December.

We were so grateful to have been able to keep Don’s right-hand man, Bubba Laster; and our Manager of Operations, Melissa Moit on staff this year. We are looking for a great 2021 and are already scheduling events.

As with most years, Don completed some wonderful projects – a new commercial kitchen in the pavilion; he enclosed the washing station and added a supply closet to the restroom area; and enclosed the storage area behind the stage to hold the tables and chairs. The pavilion is looking great – and is ready for all kinds of events – rallies, music concerts, family reunions, and corporate events.

In addition to Daytona, we got out to race some vintage races in the fall: Donie, TX twice; and Henryetta, OK. We also had a great Antique Tractor Show in September in downtown Jefferson, with 80 tractors showing up. This is double the 40 we had last year. 2021 date is set for September 18. We expect more than 100 tractors. Don bought me an antique tractor that I will enjoy driving in the parade!

We are praying for all of our friends that have suffered this year and pray that sunshine will come in 2021.

We plan to enjoy the lake house during New Year’s holiday. May love, peace and joy fill your heart and home this year. *Love, Don and Francene*