

10/31/16

10/27/16 Treffen meeting notes

Committee Chair Bob Herrmann called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m.

Minutes of the 10/12/16 meeting were approved.

Members in attendance included: Matt Pohsweg, Bob Herrmann, Broadus Brannon, Joe Esposito, Bob Futrell, Michael Dietzel, Charles Hickey, David Butler, Jim Peterson, Peter Graham, Ron Camarata, Larry Koupal, Keith Antal, Donna Antal, Howard LaPlante, Dick Maybach, Bob Poe, Nick Stefanou, Jim Moore and Jeff Roberts.

Bob Herrmann suggested that we form a committee to review and recommend the Drives for the event. Members should be familiar with the selection and planning of drives – destinations, routing, rest and lunch stops, etc. Members that volunteered include: Don Oakes, Larry Koupal, Nick Stefano, David Butler, Michael Dietzel, Don Therien. Bob Poe agreed to lead the committee.

AI - The committee is charged with a recommendation of the top drives/destinations at the next Treffen meeting based on a review of suggestions prior to (see Peter Graham's 10/12/16 revision of Treffen Asheville Destinations, Local Color, At OGPI) and during the 10/27 meeting (see below.) The priority is to identify the best/top destinations (5-10) with the assumption that if/as a destination is selected appropriate routes can be identified and developed/proofed. An important variable will be destination (drive) capacity-this will largely be a function of the lunch alternative and capacity. In other words, some drives may be capacity limited due to limited lunch seating/capacity. (Means to maximize lunch capacity include multiple seatings/staggered starts, "buying out the restaurant for lunch," picnics which could include box lunches or BBQs, etc., Buffets and box lunches allow quicker lunch times; ordering off the menu on an individual basis is NOT recommended.)

A NDO (Navigators Day Off) committee was formed to develop a list of NDO activities to submit to Treffen Management David O'Neal. Ron Camarata will chair the committee and Charles Hickey agreed to serve with him.

AI- NDO addition list to be drafted/developed for next Treffen meeting.

In addition to possible destinations and drives previously identified, the group reviewed additional suggestions at the 10/27 meeting that included: (NOTE- the originator and destination highlights are identified below. For additional particulars the Drive committee should contact the originator.)

1. Peter Graham - 2 off road and 2 regular drives. Off road at Hurricane Creek and Linville Wilderness. Normal/on road drives suggested were Wheels Through Time (Maggie Valley) with lunch at Pasquale's and Blue

Ridge Parkway and Little Switzerland or Mt. Mitchell. (A waterfall drive was suggested for NDO.)

2. David Butler suggested destinations including PARI, The Tail of the Dragon (NDO) and Chimney Rock.
3. Dick Maybach (?) suggested Blowing Rock (area) with lots of alternatives for roads and meals.
4. Keith and Donna Antal submitted a well-documented proposal for Penland School of Crafts and Lake James as a combined destination/drive. Note: Bear Creek Marina (Lake James) can handle up to 350 people for lunch.
5. Bob Futrell suggested numerous lunch spots in WNC and offered Cataloochie (exit 20) as an off road drive.
6. Broadus Brannon and Larry Koupal commented on the town of Franklin and its many points of interest including lots of free museums and a very good (busy) restaurant- Café Real.
7. Matt Pohsweg submitted a well-documented proposal for the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Polk County, NC. Of note is Co-member Capi Wampler (spouse Andrew Wampler is a Treffen committee member) is in charge of hospitality for the facility and would be an excellent contact and resources to help us plan. Many dining options, tours of this world class facility, etc. Good roads/route to/from, etc.
8. Not new/original suggestions, Jim Peterson submitted a list of destinations (with some routes suggested) to include: Wheels of Time Museum (Maggie Valley), WNC waterfalls tour, Blue Ridge Parkway and NC 276/215 sections or loop with lunch in Brevard or Waynesville, Mt Mitchell with BBQ or box lunch, Little Switzerland with lunch there, Spruce Pine and/or Burnsville, Chimney Rock and Lake Lure with lunch on the lake (La Strada)-many great roads in the area and close to AVL.
9. Bob Herrmann and Ron Camarata suggested Blue Ridge Parkway and NC 276 with visits to The Cradle of Forestry and State Trout Hatchery on NC 276. Picnic lunch or BBQ at The Cradle of Forestry grounds.
10. Larry Koupal suggested rafting on the Nantahala River (Gorge) would be a good NDO alternative. Also mentioned the train out of Bryson City for NDO.

For drive planning it was noted in discussion that the 4 p.m. return deadline to the Omni Grove Park Inn seemed firm according to David O'Neal of Treffen. This timing will effectively limit drive time and destination options. Generally, it is assumed the drive will be 1 ½-2 hours of driving, visit a destination, have lunch and return to OGPI by 4 p.m. (6-7 hours total).

AI – Bob Herrmann will follow to verify this/the above and also the social events schedule for the evenings (Thursday – OGPI and car show, Biltmore - Deerpark Friday, OGPI Saturday?)

Some residual destinations that are identified may later be classified/offered as points of interest for the drive to/from Treffen Asheville/OPGI. Examples may include Tail of the Dragon, (POS) BMW plant, etc.

Future/pending AI is staffing for the drives. Depending on the number of tours and capacities, we may need 40+/- drivers (lead, mid and sweep) for the drives. This is a significant concern and one that we must address.

AI- Peter Graham has/is/will continue to promote Treffen volunteer needs and opportunities and log names of those interested in assisting (in addition to those active on the Treffen committee.) This includes members outside the region.

David Butler offered a guided hike for NDO with detailed itinerary/alternatives.

Asheville Trolley mentioned as NDO option.

AI - Bob Herrmann will clarify what detail we need to offer for our NDO submission/list.

AI- Bob Herrmann will check with Sierra Nevada region to identify how they used their Treffen stipend –what seemed to work well and not so well. Will report to the Board at next AR Board meeting on 11/3.)

Peter Graham checked with Treffen PCA and found that it has no radios/walkie-talkies available - so we will need to come up with our own for the event.

Next Treffen committee meeting: 11/17/16 at 4 p.m.

Note: we are seeking a meeting room for Treffen and AR Board meetings through year-end, as the Harmony conference room will not be available.

AI- David Butler indicated he will check a North Asheville location. Any suggestions contact Peter Graham.

Bob Herrmann adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.