

## Prescott 2010 Frontier Days Rodeo Parade Trip Report

This event was the Rodeo Parade in Prescott. The information provided to us by the parade organizers and Gudgeon Base for staging was clear and complete.

Howard Doyle picked up the support equipment and towed the float up to Prescott on Friday night July 2, 2010 using his son's crew cab pickup. Rick Simmons assisted Howard and Howard's wife and daughter accompanied us. There was some confusion about where all the accessories for the float were located but by the time we packed up and left Goodyear we thought we had everything. We picked up the Float at Chuck Emmett's house and proceeded to the Prescott area without incident. Leaving Chuck's house about 19:00 we had no traffic problems leaving town.

We stayed at the Holiday Inn Express just outside Prescott. The reservations for us were made by Howard's daughter and were much appreciated. The night desk clerk at the hotel was a great help in getting the float parked at the sold-out hotel even moving his personal vehicle to give us space. All of the float accessories except the generator fit inside the crew cab pickup. The hotel provided an excellent breakfast and we reached the staging area with time to spare. Gudgeon Base arrived at the staging area early with a distinctive blue VW bug so it was easy to find our spot.

Perch Base was well represented. In attendance were: Howard and Dalene Doyle , their daughter Elise Millette, Rick Simmons, Jack and Nancy Moore, Tim Moore, Chuck and Karen Emmett, Walt Blomgren and friend Barbara Norris, DeWayne Lober and Ron Dutcher.

Ed Brooks, Brad Veek, Jack Messersmith, John Dudas, Bob Bailey and Al Weiss represented Gudgeon Base. Gudgeon Base Members Dirk Waldron and Don Anders were also in the parade but were on the entries of their employers. Ed Brooks thinks that they both probably wore their vests on their company floats.

Setup of the float went well except for a couple of items. We did not have the klaxon remote and the sound system refused to work. The problem with the sound system appeared to be the player itself not the speakers. The lack of the klaxon remote was taken care of by running an extension cord into the bed of the pickup and having the klaxon operated by the riders in the bed. Gudgeon Base member Al Weiss was a big help by running out to get our gas can filled and retrieve an extension cord from his home. Bravo Zulu to Al for his extra effort to give us a hand.

**Recommendation:** We should have used the checklist to make sure all items were present upon pickup but with things not all in one place it got confusing. We also need a bigger bag, like a sea bag, to put smaller items like the Klaxon extension, first aide bag, clip boards, flyers, spare parts, tools, etc. in so we have one thing to look for instead of many small items.

The parade was extremely well organized. The staging areas were clearly set up, porta-pottys were provided, water was available to purchase, parade control personnel were

clearly identified and there were plenty of them available to provide direction and assistance. The parade appeared to kick off on time. Our group was # 48 out of 139 parade entries. Ed Brooks and Jack Messersmith carrying a USSVI banner led us followed by the blue bug, our float and Chuck's SUV so we had plenty of room for everyone who wanted to ride. Several of the ladies choose to watch the parade instead of ride so we were at last able to get some pictures of us in the parade not just in the staging area. Jack Messersmith was relieved part way through the parade by Tim Moore. The local paper estimated the crowd at between 10 and 15 thousand and that may have been conservative. The crowd was very enthusiastic with many decked out in red, white and blue. The parade route was easy to follow and the organizers even included a controlled route back to the staging area for breakdown of the float. All in all, a very well run event.

Howard, Rick and company dropped the float and some of the accessories off at DeWayne Lober's house for an event in his neighborhood on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Bravo Zulu to Howard for not only towing the float but also doing a fine job backing the trailer into DeWayne's driveway.

Total Miles on the Float 222

Total Hours on the Generator 2:00

Respectively Submitted

Rick Simmons