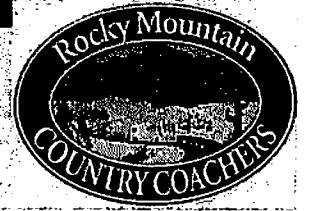


Rocky Mountain Country Coaches

NEWSLETTER



Special Issue

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CHRISTMAS CAMPOUT—2010

T'was many days before Christmas and fourteen RMCC coaches gathered at Ray and Harriet Van Den Berg's "estate" to herald in the Christmas Season with a dry campout. Jack and Wanda Kelly and Ray and Harriet were the hosts. Everyone arrived on Friday, but a few wondered if they would make it with awnings unfurling on I-10 and other inconveniences. Lyndol and Betty drove the farthest from Las Cruces. Most of Friday afternoon was spent exchanging hugs and greetings—we really are like a big family—we saw each other in September and we act as if it has been a year when we greet each other. During Happy Hour, Jack told us of the plans for Saturday and the options available. For dinner, Jack and Ray grilled bratwurst and the members contributed side dishes and desserts—including three kinds of brownies. It was getting nippy so we headed to our RV's to turn on the generators and furnaces to prepare for a cold night.

Saturday morning after a Continental Breakfast, we carpoled to the New Life Center, a safe haven for people escaping domestic abuse. We brought bags of toys, Christmas ornaments, hygiene products, diapers, wipes, handmade blankets and knitted beanie hats that filled two sides of the conference room. Also, we contributed gift cards, cash or checks to purchase toys for the children. Corrine gave us a tour of a casita, which had bunk beds, storage areas and a bathroom; indoor and outdoor play areas and an area for the teenagers. The facility is very secure and the safety of the guests is a top priority. The women can stay there for 120 days, but the average stay is 30 days. They receive medical and dental care, clothing for themselves and their children and counseling and advice about finding employment and their future. Women are referred to the Center by hospital ER's and the police. Then a few of us went to the Goodyear Farmers' Market and others went to the Wigwam Resort for lunch and a tour.

Betty Woods had a informal meeting and told us that the email vote was 30— 1 to quit CCI and become a FMCA chapter. Bill Ponsler and his committee are rewriting the Bylaws to agree more fully with the FMCA bylaws. Prior to our catered dinner we auctioned off a donated Dolce Gabanna fragrance basket and four donated bottles of wine for a total of over \$300 to be given to the New Beginnings Center, also a member contributed \$1000. The auction was a hoot and not only provided funds for the center, but much laughter for us. Then we had our White Elephant Gift Exchange—there is no way that event can be described in words—you just had to be there! Between Jack's owl and Ray's swan, which they both lost, it was a very funny and entertaining evening. We ended the evening with a catered dinner of prime rib roast, stuffed baked potatoes, green beans and salads.

Sunday morning Ray prepared his famous beer batter pancakes and Jack fried thick slabs of bacon for us. We do enjoy eating! There was a non-denominational religious service for those that were able to stay. It was a very enjoyable weekend and we thank Ray and Harriet and Jack and Wanda for a great weekend and a great idea of a campout.

SEE YA' IN TUCSON!