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News Letter Santa Fe Issue June 2017

Editor: Rod Woods



Santa Fe Rally - See the article and rally pictures inside this newsletter.

McMinnville –Our next Rally– Sept 28th to Oct 2nd



A Message from our President

Bill Smith

NEWSBREAK - RMCC MAKES HISTORY IN SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS!

Yes, folks, that very well could have been a headline in one of the major regional newspapers. (Remember those paper things that we used to read?) The just-concluded rally in New Mexico was led by the Morelands and the Reisses to new levels of excellence. It was exceedingly well- and thoroughly-planned and administered - and it never is easy to keep the RMCCers in line (literally and figuratively). Additionally, what a treat it was to have Dan Durham and Mary and Charlie Granone join us for the Thursday evening festivities! RMCC rallies always are superb experiences but, as your President (and I still do not understand why you elected me to that position), I am concerned that the standards for future Rallies will have to reach an entirely new high-bar after Chula Vista, Las Vegas and now Santa Fe / Los Alamos - new locations with magnificent activities.

So how DO we follow these successes with future rallies? Well, let me tell you a bit about the plans that are coming together. After we trek to McMinnville this Fall to absorb all that Sharon and Ron Brandt have planned for us, we will look forward to our next Annual Meeting Rally. I am delighted to tell you that Jim and Jill Andrews will Host that rally at **Distant Drums RV Resort in Camp Verde, Arizona**, in early March of 2018. They looked far and wide in the greater Phoenix area for a place that could commit spaces for our members and guests, learning in the process that the first quarter of the year makes that an almost unreachable goal. There simply are too many RVers in the area at that time of year. However, the good folks at Distant Drums found a way to commit sufficient spaces for us. It is a great location - slightly up the "mountain" with a number of fun things to do in the area. Details will follow, but plan on being there next March.

Then, Rod Woods has convinced us (That was NOT hard to do!) that a return to California is in order. The June 4th-7th, 2018, rally will be in the **Pismo Beach** area. That is a gorgeous coastal area with some of the finest food to be found anywhere AND it is on the edge of the central-coast wine country. It also is Rod's "earlier life" stomping grounds so he knows it well - particularly the restaurants. Most of our members will recall that Southwest Country Coachers is no more and we believe that some of the folks who were part of that organization may "need" a new club home, particularly a club like RMCC that has a well-deserved reputation for holding rallies filled with unique group activities. The Farm to Table Tour to which we were treated (and I do mean TREATED) at our Annual Meeting Rally in Yuma is a great example of the kind of things we do *as a group*. The activities that Paul Craig planned in San Diego, Rod planned in Las Vegas, and that Rick and Jim planned in Santa Fe and Los Alamos are what makes us different - in a very GOOD way. It is our hope that by going into California we will have a chance to introduce more folks to our way of rallying - and to encourage them to join our club. (There is a very strong rumor that Marcel and Georgette Malenfant will Co-Host with Rod and Betty - also great news and we thank them for stepping forward!)

(Continued next page)

The last Rally now being planned (by Gary and Linda Hays) for 2018 is particularly exciting in that it will happen at a time we all thought to be impossible. **Folks, we have reservations at a beautiful new RV Resort west of Albuquerque DURING the 2018 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta!!!** We know that this is one of the premier events in the entire country and that means that LOTS of folks (and huge caravans of motorhomes) want to be there for the fun and adventure. RMCC was fortunate to be able to Rally near the Balloon Fiesta several years ago, but that was dry camping (quite unique for our group) and it is virtually impossible to find such a location today. **Route 66 RV Resort** has been open for about ten months and the crew there has welcomed us with exceedingly open arms. The Resort offers 100, very-widely-spaced, HUGE full-hook-up sites with uninterrupted views across the southern desert, TWO lovely meeting facilities, an astounding swimming pool with a 60 foot water slide, proximity to a Casino with an award-winning buffet and a superb steakhouse. Since the Park is part of the Casino ownership, meal catering from the Casino kitchen will be available to us. We were able to reserve up to 25-25 sites at Route 66 RV Resort during the Balloon Fiesta and it would be very wise for those who are interested in attending to sign up as soon as registrations become available. Gary and Linda will be arranging other activities during our ABQ visit - they live there so they know the attractions SOOOO well!

Well, folks, that is all of the latest news of which I am aware. Join me in thanking our growing list of rally Hosts and Co-Hosts, for both past and future rallies, because, as we ALL know, we cannot BE a club without rallies and we cannot have rallies without the efforts of everyone to hold and support them.

Bill

PS: Since I have not given Rod the authority to edit my words in this writing, I will use this opportunity to thank him for taking over the fun task of preparing our Newsletters. As you might imagine, that is not a small job and Rod is bringing new ideas and energies to the "task". Thanks, Rod, for ALL you and Betty do for RMCC!!! We truly would not be same without you.



FMCA's Future

Charlie Adock, FMCA's President, wrote an article about Fmca's future. He stated " We believe we are at crossroads and we need to make some significant changes to ensure FMCA's future, and allow us to meet the needs of members."

I have extracted some key points of the article for your ease of review. You may also go to the FMCA web site and review the article in its entirety. What Charlie Adock would like for you to do is discuss any thoughts you have on his article with our Regional VP. There is a planned meeting by the FMCA board in July discussing the issues they face and their recommendations to correct them.

Concerns Highlights:

- **Decline in FMCA membership**
 - **2004: 130 thousand members**
 - **2017: 70.5 Thousand members**
- **Motor Homes are a smaller piece of the market**
 - **1986: 37.7 % of all RV's shipped to dealers**
 - **Today: 12.7% of all RV's shipped to dealers**
- **Average age of RV owners has increased**
 - **2001: 65 years old**
 - **2015: 71 years old**
 - **Today: Average age of RV buyer is 48 Years old**
- **FMCA is spending more per member than it brings in**
 - **If the membership grew to 125 thousand members its income would exceed its cost per member.**
- **Member benefit cost continue to rise**
 - **Medical Emergency and Travel Assist rose from \$4.32/Member to projected 2018 cost \$11.24 per member**
 - **FMCA Investments Funds have made up the difference**
 - **\$406 Thousand dollars in 2015**
 - **\$794 Thousand dollars in 2016**
 - **Concerns of availability of these funds in the future**

- Family Motor Coaching Magazine was FMCA' cash cow
 - For many years it provided 5 to 8 Million Dollars
 - The internet and digital marketing has reduced this amount in 2016 to \$1.8 Million Dollars

Recommendations

President Charlie Adock has recommended to the Board the best way to resolve these issues is thru club growth. To do this he recommends FMCA opens its membership to all RV owners.

Editors comments: If you have any thoughts on this article you can discuss it with any of our club officers or the Regional VP for FMCA. You may also forward your thoughts on to myself and I will integrate them into a formal letter for our club president to send to our regional VP. Please e-mail them to myself, Rod Woods, at azrod444@gmail.com. Inputs should be in by the end of June.

Eric Olstrom from Premier Motor Coach Services, has taken a new position with Desert AutoPlex in Mesa Arizona

Eric Olstrom, along with Justin McLeod from Desert AutoPlex, announced the closing of Premier Motor Coach and the new position Eric will have with Desert AutoPlex as Operations Director.

Eric's new location for servicing our RV's is in Mesa Arizona. Eric said he has moved all the equipment and key personnel from Tucson and is open for business. Future plans include a new site located at 101 freeway and Indian School Road.

You may contact Eric as follows:

Eric Ostrom, Operations Director, Desert AutoPlex

2260 E Main Street

Mesa, Az,85213

:Business Phone:480-964-2277

E-mail: EricO@DesertAutoplex.com

McMinnville Rally

Sept 28th—Oct 2nd

Go to the club Web Site to Register

WWW.RMCCoachers.com



- Tour the Evergreen Museum
- Visit Local wineries
- Breakfast and catered dinner
- Free day to tour the area on your own
- Coach Service possible

Interesting areas to visit when traveling thru Tucson Arizona

When Tucson baker Don Guerra decided to launch a new business, he didn't look to the latest craze or the newest movement. Instead he sought inspiration from the ancient past and devised his own recipe for success.

With degrees in anthropology and education and a passion for baking, Guerra blended his interests and took his time — eight years to be exact — honing his craft and mapping out a business plan in his mind as he daily kneaded dough and baked loaves from the commercial oven in his garage. He sold 900 loaves a week out of his car, building what he calls his “bread tribe” before opening a brick-and-mortar bakery in midtown last November.

“I try to make a bread memory for everybody. Bread is one of those foundational foods,” he said.

Guerra uses a locally grown soft, white Sonora wheat, one of the oldest varieties in North America. It was introduced to the area in the late 1600s by Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, a Jesuit missionary from Italy. Marana-based BKW farm is Guerra's source for about half the heritage grains he uses to produce 3,500 loaves a week. He hopes, within a year, to buy all of his grains from Arizona growers. The term heritage grain refers to an ancient varietal that is not hybridized.

“People from all over the world want the wheat that grows here,” Guerra said. “Part of my work is to make a market for farmers here. I want to give people right here a taste of the place.

“With my family history in Sonora, my ancestors making tortillas with wheat grown from these heirloom seeds and making bread with it, it's not just making bread. It's the whole education and outreach component. The bread is something I love. It's really physical, but it's also the art and science, and lately it's anthropological. A blend of physicality, science and art.”

Barrio Bread is at 18 S. Eastbourne Ave. in Broadway Village, phone 327-1292. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or until loaves are gone) Tuesdays through Saturdays. Closed Sundays and Mondays.



Don Guerra



Great Areas to visit

As we travel around the country in our RV's we see all kinds of RV parks, some we never want to go back to and some we want to share with our friends. I believe the RMCC Newsletter is an excellent vehicle for us to share our great experiences with each other. I am hoping you will forward to me some of your great experiences so I can place them in the Newsletter. Information such as the rv park where you stayed and some of the unique areas you visited is all that is required. Ill do the rest!

This March the Brandt's, Craig's, and Woods traveled to San Antonio Texas. We spent 3 days in Ferndale at one of Texas finest RV parks, Buckhorn Lake Resort. It is a beautiful park with fishing streams and spacious rv parking areas. It is located near *Fredericksburg* which is a must to visit. It is a German community with great restaurants and German food. It is also the home of the National Museum of the Pacific war. The National Museum of the Pacific War the boyhood home of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. Fleet Admiral Nimitz served as CinCPAC, Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet during World War II. The six-acre site includes the Admiral Nimitz Museum which is housed in the old Nimitz Hotel and tells the story of Fleet Admiral Nimitz beginning with his life as a young boy through his naval career as well as the evolution of the old hotel.



Nimitz Hotel



National Museum of the Pacific Fleet

Jim Andrews

I grew up in a suburb of Philadelphia. After high school, I attended a small Christian college near Pittsburg called Geneva College. The most important thing that happened there was not my major, sports, or the preparation for future job opportunities, but; it was there that I met my future wife, Jill.

Jill and I did not see each other for 5 years after graduation as she moved to Arizona and I was living in the Philadelphia area. A business trip to Phoenix rejuvenated the relationship and a year later we were married. We lived in the Philadelphia area for 15 years before moving to Phoenix in 1996. This year will be our 35th wedding anniversary.

Fast forward to an exciting time for us - retirement planning. I always wanted to "see Alaska" meaning drive through Alaska. A friend traveled to Alaska in a 5th wheel after he retired, so I decided to look into purchasing an RV. After 9 months of research and looking at all types of RVs, we decided a Country Coach was right for us and our two dogs. A year later, on Jill's last day of work, we left for Alaska. Though I was still working for another 6 months, technology allowed me to work from the road. So we took off June 30th, 2016. This was our first time on the road for over 3 nights, so it was a learning experience as we traveled solo. It turned out to be an incredible 3 month, 9,000 mile road trip.

At this point, we will continue to be reverse snow birds. This summer we will stay mostly west of the Mississippi and visit National Parks. Next summer we plan to head east to Nova Scotia.

Other interesting life points include the following facts: I have a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a MBA, retired as a financial advisor, bicycled 3,600 miles coast to coast three years ago and currently live in Mesa AZ.



Jill Andrews

Jill Andrews was born and raised in Cornwall, New York, which is 50 miles north of New York City on the west side of the Hudson River. As an only child, Jill never was “alone” with thirty-two first cousins. During high school, Jill was an exchange student to Santiago, Chile.

Jill knew she wanted to be a teacher since she was in 1st grade. So, a college major of Elementary Education was always the plan. Geneva College, a small college just north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was where Jill received a Bachelor’s degree in Education and where she met her husband, Jim.

After visiting relatives in Arizona, Jill decided the University of Arizona in Tucson would be an ideal school in which to earn her Master’s degree in Reading. Upon graduating, Jill moved to Phoenix and began her first teaching job as a 2nd grade teacher in a setting that was popular at the time called an “open classroom”.

Four years later, Jill’s college boyfriend, Jim, came to Arizona on a business trip. In less than a year, Jim and Jill were married and Jill moved back east - this time to live in New Jersey - Jim’s home state. For the next fifteen years, Jim and Jill lived in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania towns around the Philadelphia area. Jill worked as a reading teacher in a New Jersey public school district; until one day when Jim came home with the opportunity, through his employer, to move to Phoenix.

During the first 5 years of living in the Phoenix area, Jill was a reading teacher at a public school district. Then, Jill went back to college and earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership through Liberty University in Virginia. Upon earning her Doctorate, Jill began to work at the Arizona Department of Education as a Title I Specialist and the Coordinator for Private School Services... both federal education programs. In 2007, Jill returned to a public school district as the Director of Federal Programs where she worked until retirement on June 30, 2016.

Now, Jill is enjoying RV trips such as a 3 month retirement RV trip to Alaska and RV rallies through the Rocky Mountain Country Coachers. Jill now spends time in both a house in Mesa and a cabin in the White Mountains of Arizona. However, the RV provides Jill another “home” in which to travel to other areas with her husband Jim and their two Yorkies, Teddy & Winston



New Membership

Getting new members to join RMCC is essential to the clubs survival. Each year we loose members for a variety of reasons such as age or other personal reasons. We have tried several different ways in the past to get new members to join our club. This includes working with key suppliers to advertise our club. These have had little success in the past, but we are still pursuing this concept with some changes for the future.

By far the most successful approach we have had for gaining new members is for current members to hand out pamphlets to potential members they meet during their RV travels. Paul Craig and myself used this approach for both the San Diego and las Vegas rallies with a good success rate. We are encouraging all of our members to use this approach during their travels. Its simple and natural to use.

- When you meet fellow travels bring up RMCC and its benefits
- If they have any interest give them a handout and have them contact our membership committee.

The handout pamphlet is shown below. You can acquire these pamphlets at our Rally or contact myself and Ill e-mail you the pamphlet and you can print it in your word application .

Just think, if each member could add 1 new member throughout the year, our club would double in size. This is our target for the next year. We need everyone to be involved to make it happen.

Rod Woods

Azrod444@gmail.com



Invites you to join our club

About Us

One of the most unique benefits of owning a motor home is to use it in different areas of the United States. Joining a club is one of the best ways to accomplish this. Friendships, traveling partners, touring new areas, and knowing how to maintain your Motor Home investment are some of the unique benefits of being a member of the Rocky Mountain Country Coachers club.

Rocky Mountain Country Coachers has been a club for over 13 years. Our membership is open to all FMCA members and Brands. Our rallies are in the Pacific Coast States and Rocky Mountain Areas.

Some Past Rallies:

Las Vegas, Nevada
 San Diego, California
 Tucson, Arizona
 Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Colorado Springs, Colorado
 Creede, Colorado
 Billings, Montana
 Casper, Wyoming
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

2017 Planned Rallies

Yuma, Arizona
 Santa Fe, New Mexico
 McMinnville, Oregon

Our Rallies

We love to use our Motor Homes and see the many beautiful areas in the Western States.

At our Rally Destination, our Rally Host makes arrangements for most of our breakfasts and dinners. He also sets up group activities that are unique to the area we are visiting. These include Gold Mine tours, Rodeos, Shows, Harbor Cruises, the Air Force Academy, Yuma Proving Grounds tour, Yuma Prison, White Sands, Ground Zero tour, Titan Missile Silos, Pima Air Museum, and many other items unique to the areas we are visiting.

Most important we believe in having fun for all in attendance!

We hope you will join our club! You can get additional information at our web site WWW.RMCCoachers.com or contact our New Member Chair : Vanessa Hays
 Phone 719-661-8830
 E-mail: Vanessa@hayscompany.net

Santa Fe – A City Different

Los Alamos – Where Discoveries are Made

June 6 -10, 2017

By Rick Reiss

With 22 coaches and 45 people, Santa Fe Skies RV Park in Santa Fe was the site for something a little “different” and where we found a few “discoveries”. With two full days of exploring, the Santa Fe Rally was packed with tours, galleries, views, history and science. Another day was reserved to revisit sites that required more attention or a restaurant that couldn’t be missed.

Taking advantage of a large meeting room and patio under the Santa Fe skies, Country Coachers were quick to begin catching up with each other, telling tall tales and enjoying snacks and beverages. The opening reception on Tuesday had all attendees in their respective coach sites and prepared with a schedule of events and a goody bag. Pizzas were brought in to stave off hunger and beverages and conversation went well into the night. Joining us for the Rally were Steve and Jo Varner VP of Rocky Mountain Area of FMCA and Jack and Connie Mayberry President of Rocky Mountain Area of FMCA. They brought news from FMCA headquarters and issues to be voted on in Indianapolis at the 96th International Convention on July 12-15th. The big issue is including towables in FMCA!

Wednesday morning started with a full breakfast and presentations by Rally hosts Jim Moreland and Rick Reiss. Santa Fe was first on the agenda, followed by Los Alamos on Thursday and a free day on Friday. By 10:15am the entire group was off to the Rail Runner train stations less than half a mile from the park to head to the ever popular Tomasita’s Restaurant for a big lunch. With reserved seating, the meal was enjoyed at a leisurely pace with every dish on the menu tried by someone. Everyone loved the food, the service and location since it was only a few steps from the downtown train station.



The open air tour bus picked up the 40+ Coachers at the restaurant for a great tour and talk about the plaza, Canyon Road with all its art, Museum Hill and old churches. We learned about the Acequia Madre as we drove down a narrow dirt road right near the plaza. The acequia is the largest and oldest in Santa Fe, 3 miles long and dug before 1680! With that info, even the local folks learned something.

We finished the tour at the doors of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Georgia O'Keeffe adopted New Mexico as her home, living in northern New Mexico for over 2 decades. She died in Santa Fe at the age of 98. Her art included landscapes, flowers, New York skyscrapers, Mount Fuji in Japan and abstract charcoal drawings. The museum celebrates her life, her art and her innovation.

Returning by the Rail Runner, most members returned to the park to enjoy a pot luck dinner on the patio. The posole stew prepared by Rally Host Margie Moreland was a big hit, including those who asked "what was in the stew?" (hominy/dried large white corn kernels).

Los Alamos day was very busy! Breakfast at 7:30, departure for Overlook Park in White Rock at 8:30. The first view for the day was of the Rio Grande River from over 700 feet above on the steep canyon wall. It was amazing to most. The view is spectacular and we got a group picture to memorialize the occasion. We heard people exclaim how beautiful a view it was and what a perfect day to enjoy it.

Off to Bandelier National Monument, the 9 cars caravanned to the park entrance, skipping past the required shuttle bus and keying in the code to enter and drive right to the visitor center door. Starting with an introductory film, the history of the park was detailed as well as the lives of the pueblo people who lived there going back over 11,000 years. The dwellings carved into the soft rock cliffs, standing masonry walls and evidence of farming were included in the walking trails in the park. Four young people, Katy, Jake, Nadia, and Logan (grandchildren of the Woods and Kapellusch members) had a big time climbing stairs and ladders to enter the cavates and view the ruins of the 2 story, 400 room circu-



Lunch in Los Alamos at the Blue Window turned out to be a big hit. The food was outstanding with each person selecting from a special menu which included soups, salads, sandwiches and fish and chips. Again, the group tried everything and positive comments were heard the rest of the day.

After lunch the Historical Museum was the focus of the group. A special game to find the secret code to win a prize was the incentive for the members to carefully inspect the many exhibits, buildings including Fuller Lodge and the Romero Cabin and the Cold War displays in the Hans Bethe house. Later that evening, Bill Smith won 1st prize for completing the code. Many others completed the code including our young tourists and members. All those who tried to finish the code dropped their name in the basket and 4 more winners were presented with Senor Murphy Candy, including Nadia, Jake, Mark Kapellusch and James Brye.

A big steak dinner awaited the members when they returned to the park. Our caterer, Jeri Bishop, had already demonstrated her fine cooking at 2 breakfasts but she out did herself on the steaks and chicken, baked potatoes and baked beans. Assisted by her 2 sisters, Jan and Jill, and Rally Host Debbie Reiss, the meal was a big hit, especially when the homemade cookies and biscochitos were served!

Special visitors joined us for dinner. Dan Durham and Charlie and Mary Granone came to Santa Fe from Albuquerque for the evening. It was great to see these current and former Coachers and to be able to talk with and hug them.

The dinner came with an award winning Country and Western singer, Syd Masters. Singing solo with his guitar, Syd drew the club into the performance with sing along songs, jokes about Canadians (which Marcel and Georgette Malenfant from Canada helped make even funnier) and questions and answers from the crowd. Nine o'clock came too soon but the evening sky was beautiful, laced with thin clouds and a big moon.

We received positive comments including how nice the town looks, how wonderful Bandelier and the museums were and how good the food was at the Blue Window. Many also said that they would have never gotten to Los Alamos except for the rally – and they really were glad they did not miss the opportunity!

Friday was a day to recover, to go back to visit Los Alamos or Santa Fe again or to explore the museums and art galleries. Another full breakfast with a French Toast casserole and ham and eggs and juice and coffee got the day off to a good start. Preceding dinner, Host Jim Moreland dragged out the Margarita machine and using the finest ingredients, including the Grand Marnier, the club enjoyed cocktails. Peter Daniluk took over the serving and preparing as the evening progressed. The Friday night Mexican Food Buffet with red beef enchiladas, green chili chicken enchiladas, tamales, taco bar and beans was darn good and appreciated by all. Music, courtesy of the park, was performed on the patio and attended by other non-members staying at the park. Leftovers from the huge buffet were offered and accepted by those in attendance. Another beautiful night with a “strawberry moon” named after the harvest season for strawberries.



