



November 2018

Albuquerque Rally Pictures

Up coming Tucson Rally
Survey Results



Club President

Bill Smith

Presidents Letter

Another Rally is in the books and this one was superb, as anticipated. Once again, let me pause to express the gratitude of all RMCCers to Gary and Linda Hays for creating a superb example of what we are all about. The experience that all attendees had at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Rally is what makes it all worthwhile to gather together and celebrate the planning and implementation that goes into rallies. I can totally assure you that RMCC IS thriving - not just surviving! That is not typical of all RV clubs and you need to know that. Lets commit a few moments to thinking about what makes it all work. First, and as we have oft-observed, any RV club exists for the purpose of fun, food and fellowship. (I suppose the word "factory" would have been added to this list a number of years ago, but that no longer is the case.) We all NEED to attend and support rallies. Without them we have little reason to exist as a club. So, as you read further in this Newsletter you will learn about short and long-term plans for RMCC rallies and I heartily encourage you to attend all that you can.

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Presidents letter (continued)

Then, if you enjoyed this rally, or any other, you are encouraged to give serious consideration to hosting or co-hosting a future rally. Yes, it does require some devotion of time and energy but the rewards are huge. I'm confident that Gary and Linda will tell you how much joy they received from watching all of us enjoy our time together in Albuquerque and from knowing that they made a very meaningful contribution to the long success of RMCC - about 15 years of rallying together, in fact. Teri and I are looking forward to hosting our 3rd rally in Creede - more on that below - and we strongly believe that the hosting efforts are vital to RMCC and to our participation in, and enjoyment of, the club.



OK, now lets look into the plans for 2019. In March we will journey to Tucson, Arizona, for activities that Mark and Sandee Kapellusch have lined up for us. Yes, this rally also will include our Annual Business Meeting - an annual essential, but lets look at what else is planned - well beyond the business of business. We will gather at KOA on the east side of town, a site that is familiar to many of us as one of the truly nice RV parks that we have had the joy of visiting before. We will visit Sonora Desert Museum - in the morning when the animals are active - and tour Kirchner Caverns - considered my many to be the "Cadillac" of caverns. We will be treated to a tour of Time Machine Museum of Miniatures, a truly eye-opening collection of precise craftsmanship. It far surpasses any belief that it is merely a collection of doll houses and I am totally confident that the male members of our club will be at least as fascinated as the ladies in our group. We will have lunch that afternoon at Olstrom Custom Coach where Eric will give us all a tour of his relatively new service facility. I think most of you know Eric and that he is a huge supporter of RMCC. He will tell us all about what he can do for us as we have further travels through Tucson.

In June we will be treated to a special four-night rally at a new resort on the Oregon coast. Sharon and Ron Brandt have reserved spots for us to meet and greet, presumably also consuming some Pacific Ocean fish. Details will follow soon, but put this one on your travel calendar now.



In early September we will re-gather in Creede, Colorado, for four nights at Mountain Views RV Park and Resort. This was the site of our first two rallies in Creede and we once again will attend a play performance at Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT), a nationally ranked professional theater organization that is based in the tiny town of Creede. Yes, that does “violate” all the logic that suggests that something like this could never survive (and thrive) in such a small town BUT it has done so for over 50 years! We will do some “Jeepin” (perhaps both mild and somewhat bolder), hopefully seeing some wildlife (not human, that is) and absorbing some of the color of the gorgeous golden aspen leaves of Fall in our area. Food? Of course! Great food by a very special culinary artist who has opened a new restaurant in Creede. He also is an actor-singer and, if we ask very politely, he MAY even offer a song or two for us. One night will be at the Smiths’ house on the Rio Grande and we also are planning some CRT-provided entertainment that evening. There have been early conversation about an informal pre-rally gathering at a beautiful new RV park in Angel Fire, New Mexico. Check the RMCC website in the near future for more on that possibility.

Bill Smith

RMCC President

Club Survey Results:

We recently sent a survey to our members to get inputs where we should hold Rallies in the future. We had a good response from our members for some new locations as well as some suggestions of how to improve our rallies. We plan to discuss the results of this survey at the Tucson Rally in more detail. What we want to share with you now is the planning process for future rallies..

In 2019 ,we have our Rallies planned and has been discussed by Bill Smith in his Presidents letter in this Newsletter. They are:

Tucson, Arizona	March 18-22nd	Rally Host: Mark Kapellusch
Coos Bay, Oregon	June 5th-9th	Rally Host : Sharon Brandt
Creede, Colorado	Sept 4th-8th	Rally Host: Bill Smith

We are now starting our planning process for the year 2020 and 2021. This may seem like a long time in advance but it is necessary if we wish to go to some nice destinations. From the survey we have put together a strawman for the year 2020 and 2021. Being a strawman it needs to be approved by our board . The destinations were suggested by our members and allow us to go to some new areas we couldn't consider in the past. Below is the strawman proposal for 2020:

Palm Springs, California	Feb/March time frame	Business team meeting
Yellowstone Park	June time frame	
Branson, Missouri *	Aug/September time frame	

- A mini rally around the half way point for many of us is planned for Angle Fire, New Mexico. This would be a two day rest stop in beautiful New Mexico. There are no activities planed, just rest and fun socializing with each other .

In the year 2021, we have locations we are looking over as possible Rally sites. They are:

Tombstone, Arizona	Feb March	Business meeting
Williams, Arizona	June	
Moab, Utah	September	

If you have any other thoughts or comments on these sites, please send them to Rod Woods via e-mail or phone.

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Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Rally

What more can be said? This was among the best of all RMCC rallies! Yes, the weather forecasts could have been a little better - we missed an evening Balloon Glow due to winds - BUT we all got to experience the glory of a Mass Ascension of balloons and that alone was well-worth the trip. However, there was more - much more. Let's review a bit.

SIX new member couples registered for this rally, although one new couple had to cancel (Boo! We'll meet them next time) due to mechanical issues with their coach. We were delighted to have so many new folks with us and you are encouraged to look at the photographs of the new members that are included in this edition of the RMCC Newsletter. We hope ALL of them will join us for future rallies so all of us "old timers" need to be ready to continue to make them feel as welcome as they truly are.

Gary and Linda Hays did an astounding job of creating Hays RV Resort for four nights. We absolutely did not suffer from lack of hook-ups and the location of their family's Cliff's Amusement Park proved to be excellent, particularly when all RV sites in the city (many of which are far from the Balloon Fiesta venue) were fully reserved. The temporary "Clubhouse" (aka the "tent") worked very well for our gatherings for happy hours, meals and assorted other activities, including Sandee's "Sneakers". (If you don't understand that last reference, ask someone who attended this rally for details.)

Gary and Linda selected a superb catering service - Daily Grind. Try them (a bit NE of the I-25 / I-40 intersection) when you are in ABQ. You will be glad you did. The last night featured Prime Rib a-la-tent and it was GOOD! There always was more food than we could possibly consume and that allowed folks to take some "home" for future meals.

Let's look at the schedule of activities: Friday 10/5: Our usual catch-up time with "old" friends, which was made better by a chance to create new friendships. Happy Hour? Yes, of course. Food? Naturally - and it was very good! Saturday 10/6:

- An optional trip to Trinity Site, the location of the first detonation of a nuclear weapon - in 1945. This was a blast (Sorry 'bout that term - could not resist) for those who were able to participate. Thanks, Gary, for leading this tour AND for including great burgers after the Trinity Site visit. (Check out the included photos.)

- Our days had free time available (partially because of the planned EARLY morning and evening Balloon Fiesta venue visits). That provided plenty of opportunities for folks to take in some of the local tourist offerings, including Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival at Sandia Resort as well as local cuisine offerings - green chili in New Mexico is legendary.

- Food? Oh, yes. Breakfast, lunch and dinner today, and we just kept eating even if we didn't need to satisfy hunger pangs.

Sunday 10/7:

- Mostly a free day, but surely not without our daily dose of calories

Monday 10/8:

- On the bus for a 5:00 (AM, that is!!!) departure to the Balloon Fiesta venue. Dawn Patrol was scheduled to launch at 6:00 but that did not happen until much later. When the fly-or-no-fly flag finally was raised, it was yellow - pilots' choice of whether or not to ascend. Several balloonists packed up and left the venue. HOWEVER, we later learned that they did this so they could launch from a different location that would give them a far better flight pattern given the wind direction. A short time later the yellow flag was replaced by a green flag - everyone now is free

to fly (well, assuming they have a balloon) - and it seemed like everybody in ABQ did fly. The skies were FULL of hundreds of balloons, many of which were launched right in front of us - or even overhead -

see the photo of Gary and Linda standing under the udders of a just launched flying cow! - Some free (nap) time followed our return to Hays RV Resort. Then more food - this time it was Prime Rib a-la-tent and it was outstanding, thanks to Daily Grind. - Finally, Sandee brought Sneakers for everybody! They were too small to wear but they certainly did cause loads of laughter as the intense competitive spirits of RMCCers were proudly displayed. Who won? Who cares?

Tuesday 10/9: This is the day we all dread - listening to engines start as folks head out on the next leg of their trips. The means that the fellowship is over once again, but only for a time. We will gather together anew in Tucson where we will start all over again doing what we do best at RMCC - having FUN, FUN, FUN - Oh, and a bit more food interspersed with lots of fellowship. OH - almost forgot! Sandee's balloons, i.e. the table centerpieces, were distributed through a drawing so each winner could take home a vivid reminder of what will be long-remembered as a truly great RMCC rally. Once again, thanks to Gary and Linda - and to Sandee - for helping us all make memories. To Gary and Linda - thanks also for the wine!!! (Hey, if you missed this rally then you also missed the "to go" wine.)

Bill Smith, President RMCC

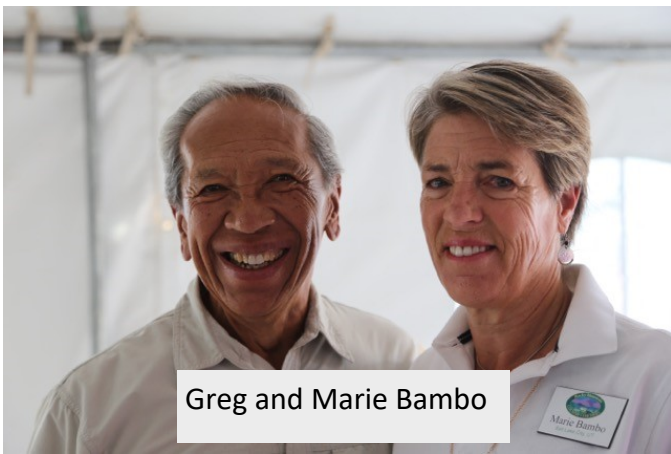
Albuquerque Rally Photos– New Members and Guests



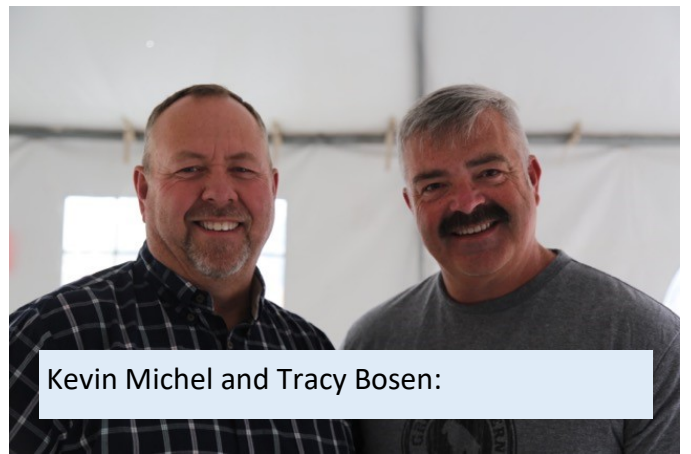
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Jim and Jean Hinman



Greg and Marie Bambo



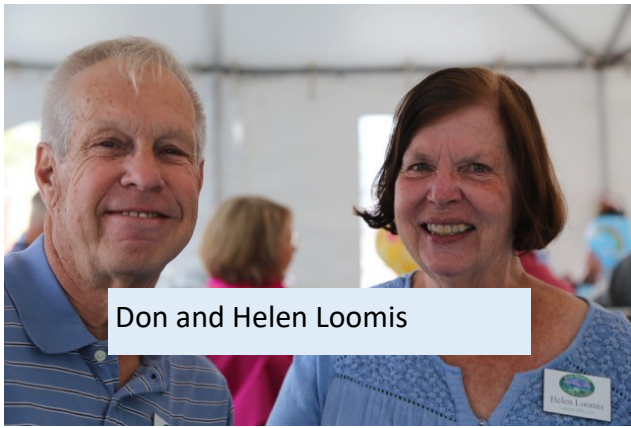
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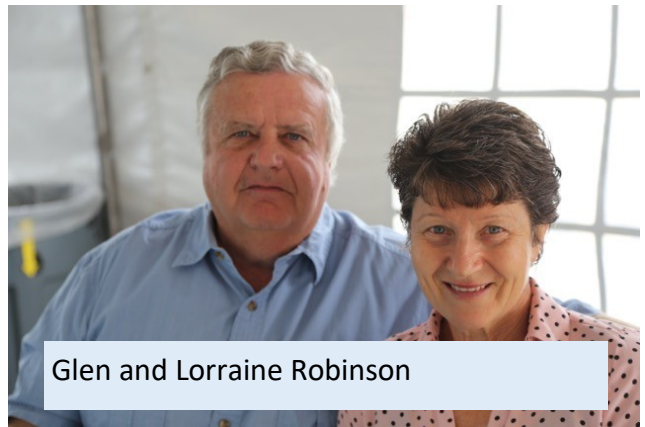
Ed & Sheri Grabman



John and Joyce Carolan



Don and Helen Loomis



Glen and Lorraine Robinson

Albuquerque Rally Photos









