

October 21, 2006

Dear Members and Friends of National RV Central States,

Well, its that time of year. Yesterday was sunny and warm. Today is cloudy, rainy, gloomy and the temperature is going to be dropping all day. Its late autumn and time to be planning for winter. Those of you who, like we, seek warmer climates for the winter are making plans. If you could drop us a note we would appreciate knowing where everyone will be. We will again spend the holidays in Texas with our family and then travel to warm locations in Arizona and Southern California.

I would like to thank all of you for your patience and support during the somewhat difficult and awkward transition we went through this summer. I am especially indebted to the Dunns, Brigmans, Marrs and Mary Claunch for their support. It is a privilege to serve as your president.

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Six-State Rally at Beaumont. I had not planned to attend but Janice thought we should and, as usual, she was correct. It was a long drive but a good rally with a good meeting (thank you for being so kind to me) and several good social hours which I think we all needed and enjoyed. We were still able to reach Richardson, TX in time to see our son from Germany, who was in the states for a business meeting, and take our grandchildren to Branson during their Fall Break..

There was one item of *old business* we missed at the meeting that still needs to be addressed concerning a handbook for rally masters.. At our meeting at Beaumont, I received a consensus response from the membership that it might be a good idea to conduct a survey of the membership as to their wishes regarding the issues confronting the hosts of our rallies. Those issues include costs for RV sites, food, entertainment, tickets, transportation, etc. No action is needed on this issue at this time because the next two rallies are already in the planning stage. However, I will be in contact with you this winter about those questions and will be soliciting ideas from you,

On the subject of rallies, we have two in the planning stage and one more coming up in the fall. I would like to stay at least a year ahead on them to give hosts and members time to plan their calendars. The first rally of the new year will be at the RV Ranch near Ft. Worth,, TX . The dates will be April 2-4. The time and location should be convenient for those returning from their winter travels. You can stop for a few days rest and still get home for Easter. We have a small problem, however. Bill and Donna Smith, who had volunteered to host this rally, bought a new (SOB) motorhome at the Beaumont rally and

have had to withdraw from the club. I need someone to step in and host this rally. It should be easy as most of the arrangements have already been completed. I'll be waiting for your call. Plans for the May rally in Branson, MO. are about completed and you will receive information about it soon. I do need help for the Fall '07 rally. I would like to have a short three day pre-rally before the six-state FMCA rally in Sedalia, MO. Sept. 25-28. If you have any ideas about places we might hold a rally or if you would be willing to help with hosting such an event please let me know.

In closing, let me again say "Thank you" for your support and patience. Remember, this is your club, so feel free to make your thoughts and opinions known to me. I will do my best to maintain the positive atmosphere of friendliness and comraderie we have enjoyed through the years.

Frank

## RALLY NEWS

### National Owner's Club

National RV sponsored an Owner's Club Get-Away on August 7-10 at Asheville, NC. Attendees from our Central States club included: Earl & Jean Brigmann, David & Arlene Cross, Gene & Betty Dunne, Frank & Janice Koch, Larry & Joan O'Neal, and (not pictured) Don & Mary Dickey & Larry & Barbara Sibley.



Everyone enjoyed the new coach exhibits including the new Pacifica diesel, vendors' displays, the games of Blongo Ball & Gonzo Golf, excellent food, and good evening entertainment. Betty Dunn presented a T-shirt shortening class and was assisted by Jean Brigmann & Janice Koch. The roomful of participants made new friends and were pleased with their finished products.

## FMCA

FMCA held their August convention at Lowes Motor Speedway in Charlotte, NC. Attending from the Central States club were Gene & Betty Dunn, David & Arlene Cross, and Frank & Janice Koch. The Dunns and Kochs represented the National RV Central States Club at the Chapter Fair and Gene Dunn and Frank Koch were the club's delegates at the Governing Board Meeting. Many vendors had gifts related to Nascar and there were interesting tours of the area. The nightly prize drawing and evening entertainment was interrupted one night by a memorable cloudburst which emptied the grandstand during one performance.

## Six-State Rally

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Six-State Rally was held in Beaumont, TX on September 26-29. The theme of the rally was Fiesta de Tejas. Attending from our Central States Club were: Brigmanns,

Brocks, Dickey, Dunns, Eastons, Fricke, Getzendanners, Griffiths, Kochs, Scherers, and Smiths. William and Audrey Gent from Garland, TX joined our club. The weather was unusually cool and pleasant for the Beaumont area and Ben Loganbill, wagon master, claimed full responsibility. It was very enjoyable sitting outdoors for our afternoon social gatherings and also the pizza party following the business meeting.



President Frank Koch presided over a meeting of about 23 members and five guests on Wednesday afternoon. Other officers in attendance were: Matt Fricke, Vice-President; Betty Dunn, Secretary; Jean Brigmann, Treasurer; and Gene Dunn, National Delegate. Frank led in the prayer and flag salute, Betty read the minutes of the May meeting in Independence, MO and Jean gave the Treasurer's report. Gene Dunn reported on the Governing Board meeting during the recent FMCA convention. He said that a change in the Governing Board structure had met with unanimous defeat.

Bill Smith reported on his plans for the next rally in Texas on April 2-5.. It will be at the RV Ranch in Burleson, TX which is near the junction of I-20 and 35-W, just south of Fort Worth. He said this would be a convenient meeting spot for Snowbirds returning from the south and was timed so everyone could be home by Easter. Then he announced that they had just bought an SOB motor home and would be unable to host that rally. Now we need someone, perhaps from Texas, to volunteer to be wagon master. We do have people who could help, if needed.

Frank Koch accepted nominations from the floor for a Nominating committee to choose

candidates for next May's elections. The three representatives will be Earl Briggmann, Shirley Griffiths, and Gene Dunn.

A representative from National RV was present at our business meeting and announced there would be technicians available to fix any problems with our coaches. The President said we needed more people to volunteer to host rallies and he wanted to make rally plans further in advance. Following the meeting, a drawing was held for three Wal-Mart shopping cards and everyone gathered for pizza, cake, brownies and coffee before the evening entertainment.

## Future Rallies

We hope everyone will mark their calendars and plan to attend these future rallies:

The End-of-Winter Rally will be held April 2-5 at the RV Ranch in Burleson, TX which is near the junction of I-20 and 35-W, just south of Fort Worth. The Smith's made the arrangements but we need someone to take over as host of this rally. Please call Frank Koch (660-747-6054) and volunteer to be wagon master.

The Spring rally and election of officers will be at the ABC Campground in Branson, MO on May 21-25. Koch's and Dunn's have volunteered to be wagon-masters for this rally. Branson is a tremendous location with a wide range of entertainment available, such as theaters, dining, sight-seeing, shopping, hiking, fishing, etc Branson is also an increasingly expensive city, so put this on your calendar and start saving your pennies for a fun-filled time.

The 2007 Six-State Rally will be Sept. 25-28 in Sedalia, MO. If anyone has a favorite campground suitable for a pre-rally, let us know so we can make reservations early.