

National RV Central States: January 2009 News

We hope that everyone has been healthy, busy, and enjoying winter wherever they may be. January is certainly passing quickly for the snowbirds but perhaps less quickly for those who remained in the cold climates.

National motorhome owners are no longer alone in the loss of company support with the failure of Alpha, Western RV, etc. The decline of the motorhome industry is becoming more and more apparent with Beaudry and Flying-J in Chapter 11, dealers like Lazy Days cutting back, and the lack of vendors at rallies. FMCA has been losing advertising revenues for Family Motor Coaching magazine and manufacturing support for rallies.

However, our NRV Central States club continues to gain new members and to function without company support. Four new members, Milt & Alice Beemer and Michael & Judy Colberg, attended our December brunch, and we hope to meet many of the other new members at the next rally in Branson. During your winter travels, remember to watch for National RV's and recruit new members who live in the central states.

It was suggested at our Sept. business meeting in North Little Rock that we change the membership rules and open the club to owners of other brands of motorhomes, even those who have never owned a National RV. This will be brought up at the spring rally and if any of you have input on this topic, be sure to attend our May 12-17 rally in Branson, MO or e-mail us your comments.

Rally Updates:

Our upcoming spring rally will be held at Treasure Lake resort in Branson, MO on May 12-17. The daily camping fees will be only \$13 at this private membership park. We haven't received a schedule of activities yet but the hosts are planning fewer group activities so you will have time to attend shows of your choice.

The Winter Texans who wish to attend a Get-Together in February need to contact Larry Wilson. His email address is: hogwilson@yahoo.com. His home phone is 956-464-0956 and mobile phone is 316-323-2838.

Our fall rally will be held in Oklahoma in conjunction with the Six-State Rally which is Sept. 22-26 in Shawnee, OK. We are looking for someone who would

like to host this rally, which could be either before or after the Six-State Rally.

Dallas Area Get-Together:

Twelve club members and one guest met at the Goldmine Restaurant in Garland for brunch on Dec. 10th. New members, Milt & Alice Beamer and Michael & Judy Colberg, were welcomed by Gene & Betty Dunn, Bill & Audrey Gent, Mark & Carol Feld, and Frank & Janice Koch. The Dunn's daughter, Sandy who lives in Garland, also attended. Everyone enjoyed visiting for about three hours. We didn't know that the Felds were in the Dallas area but they read about it in the newsletter, called for details, and joined us. Can you believe that none of the 13 people remembered to bring a camera to take a picture of this great occasion?

Member News:

Joe & Nancy Durrance

We plan to spend much of January and February in Florida, the Tampa area mostly. We will start the winter at the Tampa RV Super Show. We also have two American Coach rallies both at Lazy Days one in Jan. and one in Feb. A pre-rally at Stone Mountain, GA before the FMCA in Perry, GA. We are also signed up for the Rally-in-the-Pasture, April 1 – 5 in Searcy, AR. Then it's back to Gatlinburg, TN for a family hike to the top of the Smoky Mountains for an overnight stay at Mt. LeConte Lodge.

We have a trip to Peru planned with a tour group in May. May 11 – 20, so as much as I hate it, I guess joining you in Branson won't be possible. Please give our best to everyone.

Sally Cooper

I'm sorry I haven't kept in touch. my heart has much to repair. I miss bud more than I thought a soul could bear but yet I go on. I would love to keep receiving the news letter. I would love to sell our dolphin LX. It's a great unit and no joy without bud. Please continue the newsletter. I thank you for that courtesy.

Ben & Jan Bendixen

Just for general information: We moved from Charter Oak (on Jan's farm),

Iowa to Coralville, Iowa on 28 May 2008. Jan is keeping the place organized, and I'm employed as a part time flight instructor at the Marion, Iowa Airport. Don't know if we'll be taking the motor home to Arizona or not. If I stay busy, Jan might just take the airlines to Tucson, and stay at the VOQ at Davis-Monthan A.F.B. Yet to be determined. We're both in good health.

Bill & Pat Maher

Bill and I are hoping to travel to Texas this winter. Maybe Feb. if the weather okay. I'm doing okay and looking forward to seeing our friends, so hope this works out. I'm having therapy twice a week and maybe thru Jan. Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to You.

Michael & Judy Colberg

It was a pleasure to meet all of you today. (brunch meeting in Dallas) Judy and I enjoyed ourselves today and look forward to making friends and building relationships in our common love for RVing. As for the news letters I refreshed my memory today and now remember receiving them.

P.S. I believe we joined the club in June 08, if our membership is due before June 09 just let us know.

Jim & Bronwen Soukup

Not knowing where everyone is and what your schedules look like, we are proposing: Our leaving between 1/31-2/2 going across on I-10 to I-95N to Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base by 2/9. Any one near this route and time frame that wants to hook up, please "holler". In the meantime, don't forget we are north of San Antonio in a lovely campground on the Guadalupe River and would love visitors. Blessings in the New Year.

Gene & Betty Dunn

We attended the November Get-together in the Dallas area and visited our daughter, Sandy, on our way to Arizona & California. We attended the January Western Area FMCA Rally in Indio and have been busy with teaching crafts & playing cards. In February we will attend a cousins' reunion in Arizona. Then we may go back to California for the rest of the winter. In December we drove through flooded streets in CA and the water was so deep that our bins had to be dried out. Fortunately, everything was in plastic storages containers and was not damaged.

Frank & Janice Koch

After flying to D.C. in November to visit our oldest son and to Germany in December to spend Christmas with our youngest son's family, we were relieved to leave airline travel to the more patient & hardy souls and pack up the motorhome for our yearly tour of the sunny southwest. We saw Larry & Norma Sorenson both in Casa Grande and Quartzsite, AZ and will see Gene & Betty Dunn in Indio, CA. (We even had a nice visit with our former neighbors from Missouri while they were traveling in Mesa, AZ.) Some friends in California were met at previous National RV sponsored Get-Away rallies. From Indio we travel to the Yuma and San Diego areas before beginning our return trip home to Rowlett, TX.

Larry & Norma Sorenson

We had an early Christmas, with kids and grandkids; then, in our typical mad rush, finished loading our motor home and left Dallas about 5 pm December 18 – it was a cold drizzly day. We fought the rush hour traffic through Dallas and Fort Worth and drove 65 miles to the Weatherford Wal-Mart for the night. The next night was spent at the Flying J truck stop in Pecos in between the truckers, and it was remarkably quiet. The following night, we stayed at an RV park in Wilcox., AZ. Our first destination was Casa Grande, Arizona, where we stayed two weeks. Frank and Janice Koch arrived just before New Year. Since we were having our traditional Texas New Year's dinner of blackeye peas, cornbread, cabbage and sausage, we invited them to join us and had a nice evening visiting with them.

Casa Grande has really grown since we last stayed there. They have built a large mall with most major department stores. We did a little shopping and found a few good sales. Otherwise, we just spent our time visiting with neighbors and recovering from the holidays and preparations for a four-month winter trip.

For the past two weeks, we have been dry camping on BLM land in Quartzsite, AZ, a sleepy desert town of 3,000 most of the year. In the winter more than 100,000 RVs arrive from Canada and all over the US. We have been shopping the gem and mineral shows, and the big RV show held in a 3-ring circus size tent. Norma has found lots of great beads and Larry has been shopping for RV related products. The first week here was rather chilly, but it has warmed up and we are having some beautiful, sunny days in the mid-to-high 70s. We plan to be here until Feb. 3 and then head for Yuma.

Larry Wilson

Larry reports that he is hopeful that his health will permit him to attend one or both of the upcoming rallies in Branson & Oklahoma. He is willing to help coordinate a Winter Texan Get-Together in February.

Suggestion

If you enjoy reading Member News, then consider sharing what you are doing. Send news to NRV-Central @hughes.net and we will save it for inclusion in the next newsletter.

President's Message:

Bill Gent, our web master, volunteered to be the chairman of the Nominating Committee. He has done his usual good job and sent an attachment (***For the web we have included the attachment below***) for the newsletter. Would everyone please open this and print it out. Then read carefully and remember our two club rules:

Rule #1. When asked to volunteer, always say "yes."

Rule #2. (See rule #1.)

We also have an attachment with an updated club list. Open and Print this also so you will have a current list. (***For the web we have NOT included the parish list***) We had some changes and additions since last month. If you can't find your name on the list, see an error, or are unable to open these attachments, please let us know.

Be sure to add the dates for our upcoming rallies to your new 2009 calendar. Let's see how many club members can gather to renew old friendships and to make new ones. There are cabins at Treasure Lake in Branson for those who no longer drive a motorhome.

We hope this New Year finds each of you in good health, not having lost too much wealth, and staying warm in your choice of locations.

Frank Koch, President

NRV-Central@hughes.net

660-747-6054

Newspaper Attachment

We are looking for members (**this means YOU**) to run for one of the following 'elected' chapter positions at our next rally in May. The current officers have been gracious enough to run for multiple years and now would like to get others involved. Please give this your serious consideration with the **understanding that the out going officers will be available to help you**. Please contact the outgoing officer for whom you are interested to get more information on time involved, etc. Then contact Bill Gent at either 972-414-8988 or at bill.gent@verizon.net to have your name listed in the list of nominees.

- **Chapter President** (elected) – Duties include: Preside over chapter meetings, See that other officers perform their duties, Assure chapter has a National Director at FMCA board meetings, Keep chapter informed on national FMCA activities, Assist VP's, area reps, and Wagon Masters in conducting chapter rallies, Encourage chapter membership growth, Request annual chapter prizes from FMCA, and Ensure all needed officers are elected or appointed.
- **Vice Presidents** (2 elected - one each for North and South regions) - Duties include: Assist the president, Serve as president if president unavailable, Search out assistants for East and West area of their regions, Choose and contract for rally sites, and Work with Rally Wagon Master(s).
- **Chapter Treasurer** (elected) – Duties include: Keep account of chapter funds and report same at chapter meetings, Disburse chapter funds for chapter purposes, Responsible for providing gross receipts to national office, Collect rally and annual dues, and Ensure chapter financial books are audited annually.

We have volunteers (and thank you for volunteering) for the following positions:

- **Chapter Secretary** (elected) – Duties include: Provide FMCA with list of chapter's membership and statistics, Provide FMCA with a list of chapter officers, Provide chapter's list of rallies for publication in FMCA magazine, and Keep minutes of chapter meetings.
- **Chapter National Director** (elected) – Duties include: Keep chapter informed of National Organization and other FMCA happenings, Keep National Organization informed of chapter happenings, and Participate in voting during Governing Board meetings.
- **Alternate National Director** (elected) – Duties include: Serve as National Director when National Director is unable to attend meetings.

Other Appointed/Volunteer positions to be discussed at the Rally will be listed in the February issue of this newsletter.

Remember "*that you only get out of an activity what you put into it*" and if you are not sure if you can do it, we and Theodore Roosevelt simply only ask that you "*Do what you can, with what you have, where you are*".

Submitted by Bill Gent, Membership Committee Chairperson