

National RV Central States FMCA Chapter



June 2010

President's Message

Greetings NRV Members:

Having just concluded our first 2010 business meeting, I thought this might be a good opportunity to repeat for those of you who were unable to attend the Branson rally some of the news I shared with those at the meeting. I refer specifically to some items of importance relating to recent actions by the FMCA Board of Directors and the FMCA Governing Board. You will recall that at our meeting a year ago, the club adopted a change of bylaws relating to the membership goals of the club and membership eligibility for membership. At that same meeting I reported on changes the FMCA was proposing relating to chapters.

I will begin by describing some bylaw changes our club has adopted and some changes the national organization has adopted and their affect. Last year our club elected to change our bylaws to remove membership restrictions and allow full membership to all who wish to join our club provided they own a qualifying motor home and are members of FMCA. Those bylaw changes were approved by the FMCA. At last summer's Governing Board meeting at the FMCA convention in Bowling Green, IN the board made some changes in parent organizations bylaws. They included two changes which might or do affect our club. First, the board adopted a change in chapter status relating to the formation of associate chapters which could affect our club someday but does not affect us at this time. A second change does affect us. Currently our club bylaws state that we are required to hold at least two business meetings a year. This was in accord with the FMCA rules that were in effect at that time. However, as a result of a change adopted by the board last summer, chapters are now required to hold only one business meeting a year. My question to our membership at the latest rally was, "Do we want to change our bylaws again to conform to the new FMCA bylaws or do we want to continue to hold two meetings a year as we currently do?" The consensus of the members present was to continue to hold two meetings. The general feeling was that because we currently only meet two times a year and because we are so widely scattered,

the biannual business meetings are an important means of communication and continuity in the club. This action will not create a problem with FMCA.

A second item which may not affect many of us but which could be of great importance to some of is the change in MEDEX, the medical evacuation program provided by FMCA. At its (February) meeting the executive committee voted to cancel the program. When financial conditions were good, the high cost of the program (\$500,000 a year) was acceptable but now that the financial situation has turned negative and because the MEDEX providers would give no accounting of their costs or expenses, the decision was made to cancel the current contract and decide on the future of the program at a later date. The governing board voted to overturn the executive board's decision but the current contract will expire on December 31, 2010. At the FMCA convention in Albuquerque in March, members of the executive board announced there will be a new program beginning at that time. Details of the new program are not yet available. The same is true of the Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance available through FMCA. News and announcements on these programs have and will continue to appear in the *Motor Coaching* magazine and in the FMCA e-mail newsletters. (E-mail: FMCA Benefits Update, 05 May 2010).

Frank

Branson Rally

Our spring rally was held at Treasure Lake Resort in Branson, MO May 18-22. There were 13 couples attending with 10 couples in coaches and 3 in cabins. Rally attendees included: Earl & Jean Briggmann, V.O. & Pattie Campbell, Gene & Betty Dunn, Bob & Kay Easton, Howard & Doris Harp, Frank & Janice Koch, Jack & Nancy Ling, Carmine & Dorothy Liscio, Bill & Pat Maher, Steve & Joyce Sholty, and Larry Wilson & Rose. The hosts were Matt & Robbie Fricke assisted by Connie Kennedy & Larry.

We had a long social get-together every day with many hors d'oeuvres. We ate a breakfast and a lunch at restaurants, had two continental breakfasts, and a potluck and cookouts for three dinners. Some went on a tour of the Stone Hill Winery and many had popcorn and watched the movie, "Talladega Nights, The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," at Koch's motor home on their outside TV. Betty & Gene Dunn taught a craft class in making beaded night lights.

At the business meeting, the present slate of officers was re-elected by acclamation but several say this will be their last year and other members need to volunteer for leadership positions next year. Howard Harp and Carmine Liscio volunteered to plan next spring's rally. They want to have it later to

avoid conflicts with May graduation ceremonies and are looking at a new casino near Joplin which has RV parking. FMCA changed their bylaws and now require each club to hold only one business meeting each year, but the members voted to keep two business meetings each year in our club bylaws.

President Frank Koch reported on the Ambassador's meeting in Shreveport and preliminary plans for our fall rally on Sept. 24-27 at Caddo Lake State Park prior to a caravan into Shreveport, LA for the Six-State Rally on September 27-October 2. Everyone attending the Six-State rally who wants to join the caravan from Caddo Lake and park with the group needs to sign up for the two early days and electricity. Nine coaches have already signed up for our pre-rally and the 6-State rally.

The president thanked Matt & Robbie Fricke and Connie Kennedy for hosting such an excellent rally and presented them with Wal-Mart gift cards. Everyone received a prize at the conclusion of the business meeting and then went to Shorty Small's restaurant for a delicious barbecue lunch provided by the club. (*Pictures on page 6*)

Future Rallies

Mark these dates on your calendar

Sept. 24-27, 2010 -- NRV Caddo Lake Rally

We will hold a rally on Sept. 24-27 at Caddo Lake Texas State Park prior to the Six-State rally in Shreveport, LA. This is an interesting, historic area next to the Texas/Louisiana border and is easily accessible from the Marshall area on I-20 from the south and from Texarkana and Hwy. 59 from the north. We will take a boat ride on the lake, go fishing, have bonfires & cookouts, try unusual restaurants, and tour historic areas. Check out the park website at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/caddo_lake/

If you plan to attend, you need to go to the Texas State Parks reservation website: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/park_reservations/. You may also phone this number: 512/389-8900. They require one night's payment to hold the reservation, which may be cancelled up to 3 days prior to the date with just a \$5 service charge. Water/electric sites are \$12/night plus a \$2/day use fee which includes free fishing without a license. There is a dump station at the park and also at the Louisiana Welcome Center where we will stop to regroup the caravan on the way to Shreveport. Don't wait too long to make reservations. The eight sites we had reserved were all sold at the Branson rally to the earliest enrollees and there will be a limited number of remaining sites large enough for your motor home. If you want to stay in a cabin, they have some newly renovated CCC cabins which look really inviting.

Sept. Oct 27 -. 3 -FMCA Six-States Area Rally

Back to the Rally on the Red”

Hopefully, everyone has already registered for this rally and paid for electric service and the two early days so we can park together. If not, register now online at www.fmca.com or call 800-543-3622 or 513-474-3622. The registration forms are also available in the June issue of Motor Coaching magazine. You can get a refund later if unable to attend. They had a cap of 150 units for entrance on Monday so at least 9 of our members registered early in response to the previous email warning.

NOTE: If you do not come to the pre-rally at Caddo Lake, you can meet us at the Louisiana Welcome Center on Monday Sept. 27 to caravan with the group.

UPDATE: I have just today received the following update on the Shreveport Six-state rally:

Monday registration now stands at 91 so there is still time for members to sign up for the two early days and caravan with our group.

The 6-State Association has paid for parking on Sunday evening so that members, if interested, can stay in Shreveport to attend the Red River Revel. Visit <http://www.redriverrevel.com> to see what is available on Sunday along the river in downtown Shreveport. We believe we will be able to get you tickets at a discount

Entertainment for this year’s 37th Annual Rally has been confirmed. Comedian Lee Adams will be our entertainment on opening night, which is Wednesday. The second night features Keith Longbotham and his band. Besides wonderful music from his band and vocalist, Keith will keep you laughing all evening. On Friday, again from Nashville, Steve Hall and “Shotgun Red,” accompanied by his 5-piece band, will bring us more music and comedy. We will conclude our rally on Saturday evening with a Patriotic Program featuring a quintet from the United States Air Force band.

Chapter Carnival

A chapter Carnival is being planned in conjunction with the traditional Ice Cream Social. Plans are to create an exciting event in a colorful atmosphere so that members will want to obtain information from a variety of chapters and, ultimately become a member of a chapter in our area.

Our chapter is participating and will have a 10 x10 space with a table and a chair, to be decorated around a carnival theme, which might include clowns, balloons, etc. according to a street fair. Each chapter will receive \$25.00 toward the expense of decorating and making or purchasing items for their booth

Please let Frank Koch (nrvcentral@fjkoch.com) know if you are willing to help with this booth. *Surely there are some clowns in our group who would love to participate in this activity.* We will need costumes, decorations, creative ideas, people to staff the booth, etc. Three prizes will be given for the best

decorated or the best presentation made by a chapter. Those prize amounts are: \$200.00, \$150.00, and \$100.00. Every effort will be made to bring all members by chapter booths on the way to the back of the room to obtain their ice cream.

June 7-10, 2011 (tentative date) **NRV Spring Rally**

At the conclusion of the May Rally in Branson, Howard & Doris Harp and V.O. & Pattie Campbell drove to the Downstream Casino to check on the facilities. <http://www.downstreamcasino.com/> It is located at Exit 1 about 7 miles west of Joplin, MO off I-44. They are looking at June 7-10 for the dates so everyone check your calendars for graduations, weddings, etc. They report that the first three days of camping are free with a Players Card, and extended stays cost \$15/night. They have a good buffet at the casino and more restaurants & a Sam's Club nearby in Joplin. Sounds like we will eat well—as usual!!

Welcome New Members

Jerry & Ginny Barker

2001 Tradewinds LTC
The Barkers are from Smithville, TX

Ray and Pat Holmes

2001 Islander
Home is where they park it.

Ray and Pat are registered for the Six-State Rally in Shreveport.
They also plan to attend our Rally at Caddo State Park.

News from our Members

From Matt Fricke: Just to let you know that Robbie had a stent put in both her left and right legs last Thursday, blockage in both legs, she is doing well so far, she will have to go back in two weeks to have a stent placed in her Aorta, it is also blocked. Keep her in your prayers that God will make her well again.
> Thanks for your prayers, Matt.

Dues are Due Now -- \$10.00

Fiscal Year June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

If you haven't paid this year's dues, please send them to:

Bill Maher, 12541 McGee St., Kansas City, MO 64145

Branson Rally



**Watch for Caddo State Park rally
registration info in the July
Newsletter.**

Have a Safe and Happy Fourth of July!