

National RV Central States FMCA Chapter

www.nationalrv-centralstates.org



June/July 2011

2011-2012 Officers

President: Frank Koch

1st V.P.: Norma Sorenson

Treasurer: Bill Maher

2nd V.P.: Steve Sholty

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Volunteer Positions:

Webmaster: Bill Gent

Sheriff: Earl Brigmann

Newsletter editor: Norma Sorenson

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Everyone had a great time during the May rally at the Choctaw KOA in Durant, OK. Thanks to Carmine & Dorothy Liscio and Howard & Doris Harp for volunteering to host the rally and for doing such a great job.

The facilities at that KOA are fantastic and we took sight-seeing trips to the Eisenhower Birthplace, Eisenhower State Park, and Frontier Village in Dennison, TX and to Fort Washita in Durant. Everyone enjoyed a luncheon in Dennison and Bill Gent will post the recipe for the unusual Corn Bread Salad on our website. Some also found a good catfish restaurant near the Dennison Dam. The club provided a buffet luncheon at the Casino and the hosts cooked a breakfast and dinner in the clubhouse. Betty Dunn helped the women make some beautiful pearl bracelets. We heard of some money won at the casino but no one spoke of losses (?). Thanks again to the hosts and all the helpers!!

We did not decide on a location for next May's rally but Branson, MO and San Antonio, TX were suggestions. Do we have any volunteers to host and plan this rally? If we go to Branson again, we would need one of the members there as co-host. Since we have a limited number of coaches who attend rallies, we all need to host more frequently.

The next rally some members will be attending is the National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin August 10-13 with parking beginning August 7. So far the Liscio's, Sholty's and Koch's will be going. If anyone else plans to attend, let us know so we can get together.

We are completing paperwork for the Six-State Rally and need to have all volunteers register for the rally now so FMCA can send the volunteer material with the packets. You do not need to tell them you are a volunteer when you register because they will have our list of names. Since our club will be in Hutchinson for 8 days, we will have our pre-rally there during the 4 days before the rally actually begins. We will be parked together with full hookup sites and a meeting room so we can socialize when not involved with our jobs.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in September at the Hutchinson Six-State Rally.

---Frank

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our new members, John and Woody Hearn of Conroe, Texas. The Hearn's have a 2001 Tradewinds LTC and they attended our recent rally at Choctaw KOA RV Park.

RALLY AT CHOCTAW CASINO RESORT

Norma Sorenson

What a great rally it was! If you weren't there, you missed a lot of fun. Kudos to Carmine and Dorothy Liscio, and Howard and Doris Harp for their planning and work to make it so. The Choctaw KOA RV Park was lovely; the grounds are beautifully manicured and a large clubhouse with kitchen facilities was at our disposal.

The Liscios and Harps cooked for us on Monday evening assisted by a few other members - Lasagna, salad and garlic bread, with a luscious chocolate cake provided by Janice Koch for dessert. On Wednesday prior to our annual meeting our hosts cooked breakfast for us. Howard flipped flapjacks while Carmine cooked our eggs to order--any style. Earlier that morning he had baked two loaves of Italian bread (his own recipe) to accompany breakfast. We ate well!!!

On Monday afternoon a representative of the Choctaw Nation gave an enlightening presentation on the Choctaw language schools. To preserve their ancestral Choctaw language, classes are offered in Choctaw Nation communities throughout the U.S. as well as on the Internet to anyone interested in learning the language. Following his presentation, a Choctaw woman spoke about the Trail of Tears; then sang a hymn in Choctaw.

A representative from the resort took us on a tour of the hotel and casino. The Chief's suite, on the hotel's 12th floor rents for \$2,500 per night and it was very elegant, on two levels, with a panoramic view of the hotel grounds and several swimming pools, including sunbathers.

Frank and Janice led two tours; one to the Fort Washita Historic Site. The second tour was to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's birthplace in Denison, Texas with a stop for lunch at Angela's Café in Denison, where one of the main attractions is the cornbread salad. After lunch the tour proceeded to Grayson County Pioneer Village.

Betty Dunn, our resident crafter, conducted a class on beaded bracelets which several ladies participated in and later showed off the beautiful bracelets they made. We had social hour every afternoon in the clubhouse, with movies and popcorn in the evenings.

The four days whizzed by too fast. We had 11 coaches. Members who attended the rally are: Brigmans, Dunns, Gents, Harps, Hearn, Holmes, Kochs, Liscios, Mahers, Sholtys, Sorensens.

Six State Rally, Hutchinson, KS - Sept. 24-Oct. 2, 2011

Frank & Janice Koch

Our club will be working at the Hutchinson rally and will combine our jobs with a pre-rally beginning on Saturday, Sept. 24. We will enter the fairgrounds on Saturday so we can begin our jobs on Sunday. Eight women will be handling the Family Registration, with a training session on Sunday morning and registering the volunteers in the afternoon. Four women will be registering attendees for Crafts on Mon. & Tues. and then assisting during the craft sessions beginning on Wednesday.

The twelve men will be working Security in conjunction with two other clubs. Some men will begin work on Sunday and all will work on Monday. We will try to have one person from each coach working on Sunday so you won't have to pay parking for Saturday entrance.

The following have volunteered to work at the rally: Briggmann, Chiste, Dunn, Easton, Fricke, Gent, Hearn, Holmes, Koch, Liscio, Maher, Sholty, & Sorenson. If other members are coming to the rally and wish to park with our group, let us know and we may be able to save space for you.

Please register for the rally if you have not yet done so. There is now a registration form on page 95 of the June issue of Family Motor Coaching magazine or you can register online from the FMCA website. Register for General w/ Electric but **not** for Early Parking. That will be free for you when they match our list of volunteer names with registrations. Ladies may also wish to register for the Red Hat Luncheon (\$12) and couples for the special Saturday evening dinner (\$16 each). If you register for the Red Hat Luncheon, please let us know, to help with scheduling. They want volunteers to register early so your volunteer materials can be sent with your rally packet. I believe you will get your volunteer ribbons from Registration on Sunday afternoon which you must wear to attend the free volunteer dinner on Monday evening.

We have asked for a room to use during the first four days so we will have a place for social activities and a business meeting. We will try to schedule couples to work at the same time so they can do sight-seeing together. (If you prefer to work at different times because of a dog, etc. let us know.) Everyone will want to go to the Salt Mine Museum and the Cosmosphere and there are other interesting places to visit as well. We should have time for games, pizza party, etc. as we will try to keep the work load to a minimum; however, everyone will be expected to work at least 12 hours during the rally and some may be working a few extra hours. We will keep time sheets which will be turned in daily.

If there are questions remaining, please send them to: nrvcentral@fjkoch.com

NRV CENTRAL STATES WEBSITE

If you haven't been on our club's website, take a moment now to go there: www.nationalrv-centralstates.org. Bill Gent, our webmaster does a beautiful job of maintaining our website. In case you don't know, our club won first place two years in a row - 2008 & 2009 - in the South Central Area Association website contest. There are many things of interest posted, including photos of rallies, news of upcoming rallies, articles on RV maintenance, past newsletters, and some fun things for us to enjoy.

News from our Members

For those who have not heard, President Frank Koch suffered a stroke during the night of May 20 after returning home from the Durant Oklahoma rally. The stroke did not awaken him, so intervention was not feasible the next morning. He has no physical weakness as the stroke affected only his oral & written expressive language. He knows what he wants to say but can't find the words, rather like trying to speak a foreign language, so it is rather frustrating. He will be doing language therapy so we are hopeful of a good recovery. In the meantime, he conveys his ideas to Janice and she writes them down, fills out questionnaires, and speaks for him when necessary.

We have not cancelled travel plans for the summer yet, although the language therapy may take precedence. Thanks for all your prayers, emails, and words of encouragement!!

---Janice & Frank

I have been very ill since the Chocktow rally. Had surgery on a tooth and my jaw became infected. Dorothy and I still are at home. I will remain home until after the 14th as that's when I go back to the Dentist. Then Dorothy and I will go back to Knoxville and pick up the rest of our office furniture. We registered for the Rally at Madison. If any members of the chapter are going we will be in the handicapped full electric area.

---Carmine & Dorothy Liscio

We are now in our temporary some-time-permanent residence in Western Nebraska, catching up with friends and family. Making a trip plan for when we will meet up with all of you in Hutchinson for the rally.

---Ray and Pat Holmes

We decided to stick pretty close to home this spring and summer. Have a Good Sam Iowa Chapter conclave nearby in Amana 23-26 which we plan to attend. Will then be off to a gathering of Jan's offspring at Sunset Lakes in Illinois 14-18 July. We're still planning to be in Ft. Huachuca, AZ for the winter.

I'm getting ready for RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) the last full week of July. I rode 49 miles yesterday morning and 13 in the afternoon for a total of 62 miles. Think that's pretty good for someone who is 73. Our health remains good.

---Ben Bendixen

I am saddened to report that Chuck passed away March 9th. He had a mitrial valve repair in November which was a complete success, he was in excellent health. About 2 weeks later he developed respiratory problems, recurrent bi-lateral pleural effusions, right lung collapse, etc. He spent a week in our local hospital then was transferred to Andover (Wichita) where he spent the last 7 weeks of his life. He fought a valiant battle, was seen by numerous specialists, but getting well was not to be. I will be selling our motor home as I have no desire (or ability) to handle it alone.

---Susan DeMoss

Not much news here, nothing has changed since Durant, OK. Praying Frank gets his speech back from stroke. Really enjoyed Durant, great sites and really enjoyed the pet area. Our puppy and the Gent's had a great time and pooped each other out. Carmine did a good job.

On the big hills going back to Branson we hit real high winds, the RV bucked up the hills from them. Had us worried it was the Rv but its been fine since. We are currently at home in Florissant, MO and will return to Branson the 15th to pick up our RV and head to Shawnee, OK for a Fleetwood Motor home Association rally that we are working and need to be there 4 days early.

Sad to hear men have to work security for Hutchinson, Ks in Sep. Remember the last time with Howard Marr and security, not a pleasant memory.

As usual you can't please all the people all the time. See you in Hutchinson!!!!!!

---Happy Trails, Earl and Jean

A **recipe corner** has been added to the web site with a recipe discovered during our rally in Durant OK. If you have a great recipe to share please email it to me and I will add it to this new corner of the web site.

After the Durant rally, Audrey and I (with Willie) spent some time in Dallas area with old friends along with rain, hail, etc. When we decided to drive back to Virginia the storms followed us to Texoma TX, Memphis TN, and Knoxville TN. Yes the Mississippi is now a few miles wide due to the flooding. At one time they had to close down I-40.

We are planning a trip to St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada to see our son and an old friend and then on to Buffalo to see my brother and family. Following that we are going to use what is left of the gas money to update Audrey's kitchen - haha. (Why do gas prices go down after a trip?)

---Bill Gent

On June 3 we left Dallas for Victoria, Texas to attend a family reunion. We had a wonderful time visiting with nieces, nephews, sisters, cousins etc. It was also a 50th anniversary celebration for Larry's sister and brother-in-law.

Friday, June 20, we left Victoria and drove 100 miles to Rockport, Texas where it is also hot and humid. There will be another Sorenson family reunion at Port Aransas on June 24 and we're looking forward to that one as well. After that, we don't know. Colorado keeps calling us..... It would be nice to go someplace cool.

---Larry and Norma Sorenson

A Tech Tip from Larry Sorenson

While on the road, we use an air card (antenna that plugs into the USB port on our computer) for Internet service. Occasionally we are in a location where the signal is so weak that we have difficulty maintaining an Internet connection or talking on our cell phone, such as where we are now in our Western Horizons home park in Rockport, Texas.

In such instances we use a Wilson Trucker Antenna. Using two one-inch PVC pipes approximately six feet long I made a pole to which I attached the antenna. The bottom of the pole sits on the ground and is secured to our motor home's awning arm next to the motor home, making sure the antenna is above the roof line. Then I feed the antenna's 20-ft. wire through a side window and connect it to a Wilson 3-amp booster which connects to our air card. A pigtail can also be purchased for cell phone use and attached with Velcro to any brand of cell phone to enhance the signal.

There are very few places where we are unable to get a signal, but in this park we seem to be in a hollow that is out of reach, and our Wilson antenna works great to alleviate this problem. It just makes life easier. ☺

