

# T H E   A M E R I C A N   W A Y



## C H A P T E R   O F   F M C A

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*"Another pre-rally is history  
and what a pre-rally it was.  
A great time was had by  
first-time and veteran ACC  
members alike."*

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## President's Message

*By Chip Aiken*

Where did the summer go? It seems like we were just in Merriam, Kansas pondering our route to Decatur for the "Coming Back Home" pre-rally. Now, Annette and I are back in Merriam and it's already September. Instead of planning our summer travels in the north, we are planning our travels south to escape winter's inevitable cold weather. Oh yes, and attending our daughter's wedding on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Another pre-rally is history and what a pre-rally it was. A great time was had by first-time and veteran ACC members alike. There were vendors, seminars, a few display coaches and one dealer, Tom Johnson Camping Center from Marion, N.C. Randy's crew was there working hard as usual and Spartan was busy teaching us about our engine maintenance. Spartan also brought their parts trailer to the pre-rally and the extra staff for performing service. Darrell & Nancy Williams made a brief appearance to service Carefree awning products.

Everyone agreed that the food, catered by Manley Meats in Decatur or by our own members Wendy & Lloyd Holloway was great and was enjoyed by everyone. We had



plenty of entertainment, mostly provided by ACC members Randy and Robin Brock, who brought their very professional DJ equipment. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that our own members, Jane and Jerry Lihou, sponsored the ice cream social. With Fleetwood still in bankruptcy and unable to →

## Great Times at "Coming Back Home" Pre-rally

*By Marcia Bratsburg*

ACC's recent Coming Back Home to Decatur Pre-Rally held July 13-18 at the Bellmont High School campus was a fun and memorable time for everyone. With 100 coaches in attendance, the rally was packed with things to do and fun for all. The local community came together to welcome us, showering us with coupons for the goodie bag at registration. The current and previous Mayor's welcomed the group after an honoring of the veterans by the local American Legion Color Guard and VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

Everyone had a great time at the silly hat night and enjoyed the black and white dress up or down night with a delicious prime rib dinner. Cheeseburgers in Paradise night wrapped up the rally with attendee's dressed in tropical clothes and dancing among the palm trees. Robin and Randy Brock got everyone dancing with Randy as the DJ and Robin singing

*Cont. on page 6*

## President's Message, cont.

financially support the rally, it was our members who stepped in to help out. I'm happy to report that even with only one dealer and without the aforementioned financial support, we managed to break even without raising the price of the rally. On the last evening of the rally, Justin Humphreys announced to those in attendance that the AIP deal was done.

There was no shortage of media hype in the area. Several articles in the local newspaper, the Decatur Democrat, touted the upcoming rally, reported on the rally as it happened, and wrote a wrap-up of the rally. There was a radio station interview prior to the start of the rally and we were visited by two different Fort Wayne television stations. The current mayor of Decatur, John Schultz was always available and attended a number of our events. The past mayor, Fred Isch, was a regular attendee, but more important, was instrumental in the success of the pre-rally. Fred was there for us from the planning stage, making sure that local businesses and residents were on board and knew we were coming.



We owe a big thank you to Marcia and Jeff Bratsburg for all their hard work and dedication to making this a fun time for the ACC members. They did a wonderful job! There are many other people who made this pre-rally a great success but I'll let Marcia cover the thanks in her article.

Our ACC members left Decatur and/or FMCA's 82<sup>nd</sup> International Convention in Bowling Green, Ohio for many different destinations. Some headed north into Michigan and then some of those continued on to Canada and east towards Montreal and Maine. Some left Michigan and stayed in the U.S. but still ended up in Maine. We left Bowling

Green, traveling with George and Sheri Tomaszewski and headed to Sandusky, Ohio and on to Niagara Falls. We thoroughly enjoyed the spectacular falls, especially from the Canadian side. From there we traveled to Maine where we met up with Rich and Jean Lydecker. A day or two later we crossed paths with Charlie and Gloria Adcock, who had traveled the Canadian route. A day later we ran into Dan and Renee Lee in Booth Bay, Maine. They had been traveling with the Adcocks. Also there were Merritt & Carietta Mosby. They had left Bowling Green, briefly returned to Decatur and then headed east and ended up in New Jersey before coming to Maine. On their way to Maine they ran into Bill Cranford and Annie Piper at a Connecticut rest area. We later tracked down Bill and Annie in Bar Harbor, Maine and while we were in downtown Bar Harbor we ran into the Farrels and the Belchers. What a small world!

As you can see from our summer adventures, these pre-rallies are a good starting point for other travels. Had we not been members of this and other American Coach based clubs, and had we not attended rallies over the years, we wouldn't have known these wonderful folks.

Currently, there are still a few issues to confirm for the next location of the March pre-rally to the FMCA Convention in Albuquerque. As of now, the pre-rally is planned for March 16 – 19, 2010 at the Roadrunner RV Park located north of Santa Fe. The FMCA Convention dates are March 22 - 25. This location should make for a really fun rally. I hope we'll see you there!

Wherever your travels take you, this fall and winter I hope you remain safe, healthy and happy.

*Chip*

*Aiken*



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# The History of ACC

**By Merritt Mosby**

At the beginning, the American Coach club was called American Eagle and Limited (AE&L). The name was changed to the American Coach Association (ACA) after the American Dream was introduced.

In June of 1993, Bob Beadel, Bob Schultz and Bill Mundie wondered how they could go to the FMCA International Convention and be recognized as a group and park together. At the AE&L National rally held at Gatlinburg, Tenn. in 1993, Bill Mundie called it to the attention of the entire membership to see what they thought about forming an AE&L Chapter in the FMCA. He asked for a show of hands and about thirty people raised their hands. Bill contacted FMCA, received the appropriate paper work and the rest is history. The Charter was issued September 23, 1993 to the AE&L of FMCA.

The Beadel's, Schultz's and Mundie's

were the founding members and Bill Mundie was the first president. There were 37 charter members. In December of 1993 there were 55 members, in October of 1994 they had 114 and in October of 1995 there were 223 members.

On March 17, 1996 during the pre-rally at Indio, Cal. the name was changed to the American Coach Chapter (ACC) of FMCA and the American Dream was admitted to the Chapter as well.

We have two single digit number members still active in the Chapter. They are Ann & Bob Beadel and Anna & David Castle, numbers three & four respectively. There are eleven double-digit number members still active as well. Just thought you might want to know where all this fun started.



*"Just thought you  
might want to know  
where all this fun  
started."*

## Our East Coast Adventure That Didn't Happen

**By Tony Steller**

Lynne and I spent almost six months planning our East Coast adventure, the trip to Decatur and destinations beyond. It just did not happen.

We made it to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, stopping to visit with family when the gremlins struck, several times in a row. To make a long story short, by the time we got past various mechanical issues, it was far too late to get to Decatur in time for our the rally.

I know we missed out on a good time, but most of all, we missed seeing all our friends from the eastern part of the country. I just hope that they will come west to Albuquerque this spring and Seven Feathers and the FMCA convention in

Redmond, Oregon in the fall.

Oregon is a beautiful place to visit any time but especially during the summer months. We hope to see Margaret Butterworth, and Robin Brock and many others. Our doors are open for you all here in California. Well, maybe not all at once but we would be happy to show you around in the somewhat tarnished Golden State.

Until next time, travel safe and enjoy touring this beautiful country of ours.

**Tony Steller**



*"Being a member of  
the Nominating  
Committee is a great  
way to give back to  
the Chapter."*

# Treasurer's Report

By Sheri Tomaszewski

Both the main checking account and the CD account have been reconciled through July 30, 2009. The Balance sheet reflects moneys in our accounts as of 8/15/2009 and the Income vs. Expense Report includes both Stone Mountain and Decatur rally income and expenses since January 1, 2009. We have issued an Invoice to a vendor which is still due for payment in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Decatur rally.

Anyone have questions regarding these reports may contact me at 602-524-1690 or [treasurer@acc-fmca.com](mailto:treasurer@acc-fmca.com)



Balance Sheet - As of 8/15/2009:6 As of 8/15/2009 (Cash Basis)	
Account	8/15/2009 Balance
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Flexible CD account	14,025.79
Main Account	9,880.96
Petty Cash	31.59
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>23,938.34</b>
Other Assets	
Customer Invoices	0.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00
<b>TOTAL Other Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>23,938.34</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Other Liabilities	
Vendor Bills	0.00
<b>TOTAL Other Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0.00</b>
EQUITY	
	23,938.34
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>23,938.34</b>

Income vs. Expense Report:10 1/1/2009 through 8/15/2009 (Cash Basis)	
Category Description	1/1/2009- 8/15/2009
<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership Dues	7,593.00
Membership Fees	690.00
Other Inc-Advertising	518.00
Other Inc-Interest	184.82
Rally Income	40,600.82
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>49,596.64</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administrative	5,496.75
Fees-Professional	504.72
Rally cost	46,376.22
Tax	126.43
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>52,504.12</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-2,917.48</b>

## A Friendly Reminder from the Secretary

By Annette Aiken

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Decatur rally. We have heard nothing but rave revues from all the members we talk to.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the chair people and their committees who worked so very hard to put everything together. I also want to thank everyone who helped me with the Decorating Committee by providing decorations

or helping to set them all up. We couldn't have done it without each and every person involved. THANK YOU!

Finally, just a reminder to check your expiration date on your FMCA membership. They have to be current in order to be a member of the ACC.

Safe travels to everyone and hope to see you in New Mexico in March.

Annette



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# AIP Purchases Fleetwood's Motor Home Division

By Justin Humphreys

I just want to begin with a thank you to all the members who "came home" to Decatur for the ACC rally. My family and I enjoyed the dinner and entertainment and especially appreciated the support of the ACC members. It meant a lot to me and my family, the employees of Fleetwood RV and the residents and business owners of Decatur that you chose this city for your rally.

As most of you probably know by now, on July 17, 2009, American Industrial Partners purchased Fleetwood Enterprises' Motor Home Division, including American Coach. As a result of this purchase, the new company is named Fleetwood RV and is now headquartered in Decatur, Ind. Of course, the new Fleetwood RV has kept American Coach intact.

Six months ago we were a public company with hundreds of millions of dollars in debt. Today, Fleetwood RV is a private company, much smaller in size, with no debt. We went from three plants located in Paxinos, Pa., Riverside, Calif. and Decatur, Ind., to just one plant located in Decatur. Instead of having a corporate headquarters located in Riverside, Calif., we have our Executive Management team located at the plant in Decatur.

As a result of these changes, the new Fleetwood RV is ready to endure the current market conditions, while becoming a smaller, leaner and faster company. We hope this will help us to be more competitive in the market place with market driven product, great quality and industry leading service. As we focus on new initiatives and begin our

new company, one thing is for sure, we cannot be successful without each of you, our loyal customers. For that reason our new company has continued to warranty our products to give you confidence in owning our coaches.

American Coach knows our customers have been rooting for us throughout this entire process. The support we received throughout our reorganization was moving, and the excitement of the new ownership going forward has been a welcome sight. Everyone here at American Coach wants to thank each of you for your continued support of our company and people.

As you have heard me say before, I never want to be accused of sales prevention! There are still many American Coaches for sale and we can help you get the coach of your dreams. Please don't hesitate to give the factory sales team a call for more information at 800-854-1344. We'd love to help you find your new American coach!

On behalf of all the hard working families in Decatur, we'd like to thank each of you for your continued support of our company and families.

*"We'd like to thank each of you for your continued support of our company and families."*

*Justin Humphreys,*

National Sales Manager, American Coach and Revolution



## Coming Home Rally, cont.



Thank you Marcia and Jeff for putting on a great rally!

and dancing.

And, you wouldn't believe the skit Charlie Adcock and gang put on. We will never look at Bill Ferguson the same way again. For those of you who don't know Bill, that's him in the tutu.

Greg and Jane Mies, from Trees to These and Kevin and Marla Mallorey, from Cruising America RV Service, sponsored and hosted a dinner at Greg's that no one will forget. Jane and Jerry Lihou from Always Shiny Wheels RV sponsored an ice cream social that was enjoyed by over 150 members with the ACC Cheerleader's back to serve and cheer us on!

And what about those delicious carrot cakes delivered by Ron and Wendy from Monroeville Chassis. They were even decorated with our American Coaches as a picture in the frosting!

We had many vendors offering great products and educational seminars. "Mac the Fire Guy" was there to educate (and entertain) us with his fire safety class and amazing fire demonstration. Everyone should attend one of his seminars; he does a great job! He also took the time to present his seminar to the local fire department where he got to hear some great stories about RV fires.

Debbie Darby chaired a class on improvements for your motor home that was a real hit. A group traveled by bus to Auburn for a tour of the National Military History Center and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. And, one of our youngest ACC members, Hunter Monahan set up a lemonade stand and raised \$300 for a local charity. Everyone got involved at this one!

Tom Johnson Camping Center, out of Marion, North Carolina, was there with show coaches and we're glad to say they sold three!

And of course, Randy Hendricks and team were there as was Paul Krug and his Spartan team. Justin Humphrey's attended the final night to make the announcement that



they had closed the deal between AIP and Fleetwood! Our American Coach name and service center are staying! That sure capped off a great time with great news for our "family" in Decatur.

Thank you to all the members who attended this rally in Decatur. You made it so much fun!

*Marcia Bratsburg*





# Keep Your Computer Secure



*"The collecting and selling of your personal information is a multi-billion dollar business."*

**By Tony Steller**

This article is about protecting your identity and your personal information. It has been many years since we learned about computer viruses, worms, Trojan horses and other unfriendly invaders that can ruin your whole day. Today we are facing far more sophisticated threats that involve personal information, browsing and shopping habits. The collecting and selling of your personal information is a multi-billion dollar business.

The three most common pieces of information you want to protect are your IP address, your email address and acceptance of "cookies". Your IP address is like your phone number; it identifies your computer on the internet. Virtually all websites and internet service providers keep track of visits from your address. Fortunately, without additional information, the IP address is just a number.

Email, on the other hand, is a different story. As a rule, email is not a secure form of communication. We all have received cute email messages with a dozen or more names or email addresses in the address line. On the surface, this practice seems harmless but, the fact is that each and every recipient of the message will have access to all the addresses listed in the address line. As the message is passed on to more and more recipients, at some point someone will decide to collect those email addresses, put them on a CD and sell them to the highest bidder.

The next thing that happens is you start

receiving advertisements and spam in your email. Many of these ads have a place somewhere in the fine print offering you the opportunity to "unsubscribe". If you click on this link, it will take you to a web page where you can unsubscribe.

The problem is that not only do you NOT unsubscribe, you have now verified to the spammer that your email address in fact is a live, valid email address. At this point your email address becomes much more valuable since it has been verified to be valid.

There is a solution. When you send a message to multiple recipients or forward a message, after you click on the forward button, highlight any addresses that are contained in the body of the message and click delete. Similarly, look at the bottom of the message for any signatures or other information that is not needed and click delete.

When selecting the recipients for the message, if it goes to more than one person, use the B.C.C. or blind copy for the addresses. By using the B.C.C. column you ensure that no one other than you will know who the recipients of your message are. This method protects you as well as the privacy of people you are corresponding with from unnecessary disclosure and sharing of their identity with others.

I hope this helps to keep your computer a little more secure.

*Tony Steller*

## Living Green in an RV



You may think that your 40 foot American Coach that gets seven miles to the gallon is just plain bad for the environment but, it may not be as bad as you think. Here are twelve reasons you may be doing some good for the earth.

- RVers are the largest group of solar users.
- RVers use natural gas (propane) which burns cleaner than any other fuel.
- RVers tend to drive within the speed limits for better gas mileage.

- RVers use less water and electricity.
- RVers do not buy things that they don't need, saving landfill space.
- RVers usually live in areas that do not need excessive heating and air conditioning.
- RVers create less trash with their minimal way of living.
- RVers buy smaller cars because they are easier to tow.
- RVers usually maintain their vehicles for maximum fuel efficiency.

## We Had a Great time in Decatur

Here we are again, Debbie & Terry, checking in from cyberspace.

We recently got back from the ACC Coming Home Rally in Decatur, IN, and what a great time we had! We were able to put a few more faces with names as we all introduced ourselves at the seminar which was standing room only. Even our youngest member, Brooke Monahan (7 months old), was in attendance!

The rally was very informative about the purchase of Fleetwood by AIP (go here for more info <http://www.fleetwoodrv.com/newsroom/release.aspx?story=501>). Justin Humphreys took the time to fill us in on the new owners and I think we all felt better about the future of American Coach after that. He even mentioned that the new owners were already monitoring the AC Yahoo site. Hmmmmm..... I wonder which applicant they were?! ;-)

This is good news because it shows they are interested in the American Coach family, and they understand the importance of us, their current customer base. Unfortunately the sale was not final until the last day of the rally. It would have been nice to meet some of the guys that Justin spoke so glowingly about. We really look forward to meeting them at future rallies. With the economy starting to pick up and the new Fleetwood RV in a great position to move forward, we anticipate great things to come from American Coach.

Our AC Yahoo site is still informative and is very much a part of members' daily routines. Messages

continue to flow freely as information is exchanged and questions are asked and answered by all. We are currently around 1600 members, so there is a lot of knowledge out there to be shared.

Some of the current topics of conversation are the new name of Fleetwood, docking lights for '99 Dreams, an issue with the rear toilet in a 2007 Eagle, scenic roads in California and campgrounds in the Denver area. This shows the diversity of information being shared between members, and we encourage everyone to join and participate.

One last thing, Debbie and I and Pete & Eileen Smoot are hosting an ACA SoCal Chapter Rally at Outdoor Resorts in Indio, Calif. on October 22 – 25, 2009. You can go to <http://socalaca.com/index.htm> for more information, or contact Debbie or myself through the AC Yahoo Group. Please note that you need to be a member of ACA to attend this rally. I only put it here because many of us are ACC and ACA members.

To get to the AC Yahoo site, go to your ACC-FMCA web site at <http://www.acc-fmca.com> and click on "Links." Click on the link that says "American Coach Yahoo Group." I guarantee that you won't regret it!



*"We were able to put some faces with the Yahoo members at our ACC seminar in Decatur."*

*Debbie & Terry  
'02 Heritage*

# Good Food and Great Times at Camp Decatur

"There was so much good food served up at the pre-pre-rally at Camp Decatur - an Italian night, a Mexican night and Grilled Pizza for sixty."



I use CPK's recipe for the dough and Barbecue Chicken Pizza. For all other kinds of pizza like pepperoni, you can use your favorite spaghetti sauce or pizza sauce. The dough is easy to make but, you can also buy pizza dough from your local pizza guy or in the frozen section of some food markets. Make sure all ingredients like sausage are cooked. They are not on the grill long enough to cook them. Do not overload the pizzas – they will be soggy.

## Dough

1 Tbsp. honey  
1 cup warm water  
2 tsp. active dry yeast  
3 cups all-purpose flour (I use  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup whole wheat and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups white)  
1 tsp. salt

## Toppings for Barbecue Chicken Pizza

10 oz. chicken breast, skinned and boned  
1 Tbsp olive oil  
1 cup plus 2 Tbsp barbecue sauce  
2 cups shredded gouda cheese  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  small red onion, sliced into rings  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup coarsely chopped cilantro

## For the pizza dough

In a small bowl, dissolve the honey in the warm water. Sprinkle the yeast over the water until it dissolves. Let the yeast mixture

stand for five minutes until a layer of foam forms on the surface. In a large bowl, combine the flour and salt. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture and pour in the olive oil and yeast mixture. Stir until all the flour is incorporated. If it is too dry, add more water. On a lightly floured surface, knead dough for 15 minutes until it is smooth and elastic.

Shape the dough into a ball and put into a well-oiled bowl. Cover with a moist towel and let rise in a warm place until double in bulk (about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours).

## For the pizza

In a large frying pan, heat the olive oil on medium heat. Add chicken pieces, sauté until cooked. Cut into  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch pieces and toss with 2 Tbsp barbecue sauce. Set aside.



Heat the grill to medium-high. A *Baby Weber Grill* seems to work best because of its even distribution of flame and heat.

Punch the dough down and divide into 4 equal portions. Roll out one portion into a 6 – 8 inch flat circle. Gently place rolled dough on the grill and close the lid. It will puff up and get grill marks on the bottom. Remove it after 3 – 4 minutes. If the bottom is burnt, adjust the grill temperature and time. Set the pizza on a board, grilled side up and put your favorite sauce and pizza ingredients on the grilled side.

For barbecue chicken pizza, spread  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup barbecue sauce on pizza. Sprinkle with  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the chicken, cheese and onion. Put back on the grill and close the lid. Remove when the crust is crispy and toppings are melted. Sprinkle with cilantro.

This wonderful cake recipe is from Gloria Adcock.

## Friendship Cake

### Starter

1 15 oz. can pineapple chunks, drained  
1 16 oz. can sliced peaches  
1 10 oz. jar maraschino cherries, drained and cut in half  
1 1/4 cup sugar  
1 1/4 cup brandy

*"The Friendship Cake is a tried and true dessert that you can bring to any ACC rally, potluck or holiday gathering."*

Combine all ingredients in a clean non-metallic jar; stir gently. Cover and let stand at room temperature for three weeks, stirring fruit twice a week. To replenish starter add 1 can fruit - your choice - and 1 cup sugar. Cover and let stand for three days before using.

#### **Cake**

4 eggs  
 2/3 cup oil  
 2 cups fruit starter, drained  
 1 pkg. Instant French Vanilla Pudding  
 1 pkg. yellow cake mix  
 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Set oven at 350. Grease and flour (or spray with Baker's Joy) a tube pan or Bundt Pan.

Mix eggs, oil, fruit starter and instant pudding well. Add cake mix and nuts. Bake for 55 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Joanie Farrell made this great dip for a happy hour at the ACA rally and it was the best I have tasted so I included it here.

#### **TexMex Dip**

3 ripe avocados  
 2 cans bean dip  
 2 Tbsp. lemon juice  
 1/4 tsp. salt  
 1/4 tsp. pepper  
 1 cup sour cream  
 1/2 cup mayonnaise  
 1 pkg. taco seasoning  
 1 large bunch scallions  
 3 medium tomatoes, diced  
 2 cans (3.5 oz.) chopped black olives  
 8 oz. grated sharp cheddar cheese  
 Peel, pit and mash avocados and mix with lemon, salt, and pepper. Combine sour cream, mayonnaise and taco seasoning. Spread bean dip on bottom of large tray or cake pan. Spread avocado

mixture on top of beans. Spread sour cream mixture on top of avocado mixture. Sprinkle scallions, tomatoes, olives and cheese on top of sour cream. Serve with tortilla chips.



# How Much Data is 5 Gigabytes?

By Rob Carson

I hope you enjoyed my recent article on maximizing your cellular wireless internet connectivity. I received some feedback that Verizon and other carriers have stopped offering unlimited monthly usage. I did a quick review of the major carriers and found that most have cut back to a maximum plan that allows for up to 5 gigabytes (GB) for about \$50. to \$60. per month.

I could carry on a valid rant about how this is a complete rip-off and you should contact your provider and complain but, this is not the time for that. Instead, I want to explain how to calculate approximately how much internet usage you get with 5GB.

First, you should be aware that programs such as Windows that perform 'automatic' updates in the background when you are connected can eat into your 5GB limit. For example, Vista Service Pack 1 was 440MB, and Service Pack 2 was 350MB. Antivirus, Adobe, and other programs that 'update themselves' will all take up a small

amount everyday so you should think about these 'behind the scene' downloads as well.

The following information was copied from Sprint's website (<http://support.sprint.com/doc/sp12802.xml>) so mileage may vary.

## **How much is 5 GB?**

5 gigabytes (GB) = 5120 megabytes (MB)  
= 5,242,880 kilobytes (KB)

## **How much is 300 MB?**

300 MB = 307,200 KB

## **What can you do with 5 GB or 300 MB of data / month?\***

\*The following table contains examples of usage estimates for some common uses. This information is intended only as a guide, as actual usage can vary widely from these estimates based on a number of factors. For example, emails will vary in size based on items attached, and songs vary in size based on length.



TYPE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA	APPROXIMATE FILE SIZE	APPROXIMATE VOLUME AT 300 MB	APPROXIMATE VOLUME AT 5GB
Email (no attachment)	3 KB	99,998	1,666,667
Word document	70 KB	4283	71,429
Web page look-up	150 KB	2003	33,333
Low resolution digital image	500 KB	600	10,000
PowerPoint presentation	3 MB	98	1,667
Song (3 minutes)	3 MB	98	1,667
YouTube video (3 minutes)	15 MB	23	333
TV show download (30 minutes)	350 MB	0	14
Movie download	700 MB	0	7

Remember these numbers the next time someone forwards you a link to a must-see YouTube video.



## Rob Carson cont.

**This month I wanted to talk about a new device that I think is very cool and practical.** It is made by Western Digital and is it called WD TV HD Media Player (model # WDAVN00). It is a small 1.5" high X 4" deep X 5" wide black box that connects to your HD (or non-HD) TV and plays movies and photos in HD quality from external devices like USB storage devices and cameras. It only costs \$99.00 on sale.

Go to bestbuy.com website, and type in the model number provided above, click on the device and you can watch a short video on how it works (don't try this if you are using limited GB cellular wireless access).

What I like about this device is that I can copy all my home movies and pictures and music to an external USB storage device like a Western Digital Passport and play them much like watching normal TV.

When the USB Passport is connected to the WD Media player, it allows me to use the provided remote control to navigate through the simple menu system and select the movie, picture or music. I can then play, pause, fast forward, rewind or zoom just like my home theater system.

A typical WD Media 250GB player can hold about 100 converted home movies or thousands of pictures and music and takes up far less space than 100 VHS/ DVDs. All

of your trips and outings can be shown from one device on your HD TV so everyone can see it easily while sitting comfortably in your RV.

To connect the device to a HD compliant TV, you will need to have an HDMI port available on your TV. In my 2005 tradition, that port was open so I was able to find an inexpensive HDMI 5' cable (\$19.00 at BestBuy) and run it to the media center above the driver's seat and connect it to the WD box. The WD HD player also has the traditional composite video connector (yellow RCA jack) and left/ right stereo RCA jacks for non HDMI connections in case you don't have a HD TV.

The unit will need to be plugged into an AC wall plug but my coach has an extra one in the same area.

I hope you find this information useful and maybe it will help you share your adventures with your friends. **Happy computing!**

*Rob Carson*

*Rob Carson and his wife Toni are American Coach owners. Rob is a certified "computer geek". You can reach him at rcarson@cox.net or, look him up at our next rally.*



## Plan for an Exciting Pre-Rally Near Santa Fe

With a population of 70,000 primarily Hispanic, Anglo and Native American people, Santa Fe, which means Holy Faith in Spanish, is New Mexico's fourth largest city behind Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Rio Rancho. Situated at 7,000 feet in the foothills of the southern Rocky Mountains, it was founded between 1607 and 1610, making it the second oldest city as well as the highest and oldest capital in the U.S. In 1912, it officially achieved

statehood and today its unique offerings of art, culture and ancient traditions make it a world-class tourist destination, drawing more than 1 million visitors each year. In 2005, Santa Fe became the first U.S. city to be chosen by UNESCO as a Creative City, one of only nine cities in the world to hold this designation.

You won't want to miss this pre-rally. It's going to be fun!



# Become a Part of Something Fun!

## FAQS about ACC

**Q.** What is the difference between the ACC (American Coach Chapter of FMCA) and ACA (American Coach Association)?

**A.** All members are owners of American Coach motor homes. The ACC is a chapter of FMCA (Family Motor Coach Association) and you must be a member of FMCA. The ACC has two pre-rallies a year so they may caravan and park together at the FMCA International conventions. Members of ACA do not need to belong to FMCA and are independent from any other membership group. ACA has two national rallies a year and has eleven regional chapters.

**Q.** Can I be a member of both ACC and ACA?

**A.** Yes, most American Coach owners are members of both organizations.

**Q.** Why do I have to be a member of FMCA in order to join the ACC?

**A.** FMCA by-laws require that members of a chapter also belong to the national association.

**Q.** What are ACC's roots?

**A.** The ACC was started by ACA members that wanted to park together at FMCA events and had their first rally in Gatlinburg, TN in 1993.

**Q.** Are the officers in ACC paid?

**A.** No, they are volunteers and only out-of-pocket expenses are paid.

**Q.** Do I have to be an original owner to have the American Coach service team work on my coach at the rallies?

**A.** No, qualifying service is available to all American Coach owners attending a participating rally.

**American Coach Chapter of FMCA** consists of members that are owners of an American Coach including American Heritage, American Eagle, American Dream, American Tradition and Limited Motor Homes.

We are the only American Coach chapter of FMCA and provide our members with camaraderie with other American Coach owners. Our primary goals are to foster good relations with the American Coach manufacturing and servicing facility. We bring its management, their technicians and coach owners together.



We meet twice a year, immediately preceding each of the two international FMCA rallies. The American Coach Service Team joins us at our rallies to perform repairs on our coaches. One or more American Coach dealers also join us to display the latest coaches, hopefully sell a few, and participate in the rallies. There is a golf tournament, a tour of nearby points of interest, many cocktail hours, dinners, pizza nights and more.



We print a quarterly newsletter with the upcoming rally information and highlights of our previous rallies. This newsletter is also available online. Once you are a member of ACC, you will be able to join the American Coach Yahoo group where you will find valuable information about your coach and be able to ask questions about your coach. This is a fun group of American Coach owners and you will be glad you joined us.



### **New Member Application**

To be eligible for membership in the American Coach Chapter, you must first be a member in good standing of the FMCA. You can join FMCA online at [www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com) or call 800-543-3622. You must also own at least one third interest in an American Coach Heritage, American Coach Eagle, American Coach Dream, American Coach Tradition, American Coach Allegiance or a Limited Motor Coach.

Have you ever been a member of ACC? Yes  NO  If yes, what was your member # \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name (for database) \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Pilot's full name (for database) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Pilot First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For your name badge) (For your name badge)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ # Slides: \_\_\_\_\_

(Heritage, Eagle, Dream, Tradition, Allegiance, Limited)

FMCA Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ You must be a member of FMCA to join ACC.

***You can join FMCA online at [www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com) or call 800-543-3622***

***and may also join ACC online at [www.acc-fmca.com](http://www.acc-fmca.com).***

Send the completed form and a check or money order in the amount of \$33.00 (all funds to be in US dollars)

to: American Coach Chapter of FMCA , 3590 Round Bottom Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45244-3026

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### **Renewal and Change of Address Form**

Check your address label. If the date has passed you are behind on your dues. ACC dues are \$18.00 for one year, \$32.00 for two years and \$42.00 for three years. You may pay your dues and make all the above changes at [www.acc-fmca.com](http://www.acc-fmca.com).

ACC member # \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA member # \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Pilot Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Coach / Year /Length \_\_\_\_\_

To renew your membership, change your address, phone number or e-mail address, fill out the form, enclose your check and mail to: American Coach Chapter of FMCA, 3590 Round Bottom RD., Cincinnati, OH 45244-3026

Note: All changes must be sent to FMCA also. You may also pay your dues and make all the above changes at [www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com) and [www.acc-fmca.com](http://www.acc-fmca.com).

# Future American Coach Rallies

## ACC of FMCA Rallies

### **ACC Pre-rally, March 16 - 19, 2010, Santa Fe, N.M.**

FMCA's 83rd International Convention, March 22 - 25, 2010, Albuquerque, N.M.

### **ACC Pre-rally, August 5 - 9, 2010, Seven Feathers RV Resort, Canyonville, Ore.**

FMCA's 84th International Convention, August 11 -14, 2010, Redmond, Ore.

## ACA Rallies

ACA National Rally, May 27 - June 1, 2010, Gillette, Wyo.

Note: We are now accepting ads for the ACC newsletter. E-mail or call Chip Aiken for rates.

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

3619 Clearwater Dr.

Wendy Sue Holloway, Membership Chairperson