

# THE AMERICAN WAY

*American Coach*®

CHAPTER OF FMCA

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3, JANUARY 2009

## President's Message

By Chip Aiken

*First and foremost, we'd like to wish each and every one of our ACC family a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.* At the very least, we hope you have a lot of fun traveling in your American coaches this year. By the time you read this, the holidays will be a fond but distant memory. Annette and I enjoyed the holidays with several American Coach Chapter members here in Yuma.

Just before Christmas we travelled from Yuma to Las Vegas and met up with our son and his wife, and our daughter and her fiancé. We enjoyed our time with them immensely but, unfortunately, the casinos failed to offer up any Christmas gifts in the form of a big payout. Oh, did I mention that our daughter is expecting her first child in early May and this will be our first grandchild. All indications are that it's a girl. As I write this from Yuma, Annette is in Kansas City buying baby stuff.

We returned on Christmas Eve just in time to enjoy a dinner and fellowship hosted by Karen and Stu Merlich. The dinner was fabulous as was the company. On New Year's Eve, Ellie and Everett Beenken were the hosts for another great dinner and all the margaritas we could drink. Also in attendance were our friends Bill Cranford and Annie Piper and Merritt and Carita Mosby.

The ACC website is currently down but, we hope that by the time you read this newsletter the issues will have been resolved. We apologize for any inconvenience that it may have caused. We parted company with our current webmaster and, we are looking for someone else to take on the responsibility.

*I'm going to try and keep this short but, I have to remind you that ACC dues are from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> so if you haven't paid your 2009 dues yet, then it's time to get them sent in.* The address is in the newsletter. To determine if you are paid up for 2009, check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it says 12/31/2008 on your address label of this newsletter, it's time to get those dues in. There's a renewal form in the newsletter for you to submit with your payment. Also, please be sure that we have your current contact information when you renew. Even if you are not renewing, I still encourage you to verify that we have correct contact information for you, including an email address. *Don't forget that the dues have gone up in 2009. The new amounts are \$18/yr for one year, \$16/yr for a total of \$32.00 if paying for two years and \$14/yr for a total of \$42.00 if paying for 3 or more years.*

We will, from time to time, contact the membership by email about rallies, dues, etc. If we don't have an accurate email address for you, you may not receive that information. If you haven't already received an email regarding the Stone Mountain rally, we may not have a valid email address for you or your email provider is blocking the emails. Email is the least expensive way for the chapter to contact the membership. You can help by making sure we're able to contact you.

Don't forget our next pre-rally at Stone Mountain Park and Campground in Stone Mountain, Georgia, March 10<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>. We'll caravan to FMCA's 81<sup>st</sup> International Convention in Perry on March 14<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't already signed up to attend the pre-rally, I hope you'll do it immediately. We have longer lead times with this park than with most facilities and we need to make certain commitments ASAP.

Last but not least, if Annette and I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to call or email us. Our contact information can be found on page two in the newsletter.

Travel safe, have FUN and we hope to see you at a rally in the near future.



*Chip Aiken*

## Vice President's Message

By Tony Stellar



The year of 2008 is history now and what a turbulent year it was! Notwithstanding the U.S. running out of credit, we were also running on or near empty. Fuel prices, the life blood of our coaches, spiked around \$5.00/ gallon and virtually everything that has wings or wheels felt the pinch.

It seems only yesterday that we left Austin, Minnesota and all of our good friends. Now it is time to plan for the March rally in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Members who have stayed there describe an almost mystical place with untold beauty and many beautiful sites to see. We are very excited about this trip.

Some of us have had a lengthy discussion on the procedures to follow in case of a medical emergency. Suggestions ranged from buying a home defibrillator and training members to use them to doing nothing (primarily due to lack of experience and liability considerations). We thoroughly investigated all the various options available to us and came up with the following conclusions.

- ◆ As a rule, in a medical emergency, time is of the essence. It is vital that trained medical personnel be brought into action as soon as possible.
- ◆ In case of an “in camp” emergency, turn on the emergency flashers on your coach, and honk the horn.
- ◆ In your cell phone, place the names of people to be contacted “in case of emergency” under “ICE”. Medical personnel are trained to look for this information in your cell phone.
- ◆ Place a “Vial Of Life” capsule in your refrigerator. These are available from Kaiser and others but you can use an empty clear medicine bottle. This container should list medicines you take and important information on your medical conditions. Place a sticker printed with “Vial Of Life” on the entrance door and on the door of the refrigerator.
- ◆ Last but not least, Nancy Borecky suggests that for the ladies who do not feel comfortable driving the coach, you consider practicing unhitching the tow vehicle from the coach. In case of a road side emergency with no cell phone coverage, you may need to drive the tow vehicle to get help.

The thought of a medical emergency is not a pleasant one however, a little preparation can make a big difference. Let's hope that we never have to use them.

On another subject, two of my neighbors who have never owned a coach before, came home bragging about the fantastic deal they got on a beautiful used coach. Many people were spooked by the quick spike in fuel prices and sold their coaches at bargain basement prices. The bottom line is that there are literally thousands of bargains to be had for the savvy shopper. If you are thinking of upgrading to a new or newer coach, there is no better time than right now.

Lynne and I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

*Tony Stellar*

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**Treasurer's Report**

By Sheri Tomaszewski

**Net Worth - As of 1/5/2009**

As of 1/5/2009

Account	1/5/2009 Balance
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	
Flexible CD account	13,841.04
Main Account	13,079.28
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>26,920.30</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Customer Invoices	0.00
<b>TOTAL Other Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>26,920.30</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Other Liabilities</b>	
*Sales Tax*	0.00
<b>TOTAL Other Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>26,920.30</b>

**Mark Your Calendars for the Coming Back Home Rally**

**July 13-18, 2009!**

We're coming back home to Decatur, Indiana! Join us for the FMCA ACC Pre-Rally!

North Adams Community Schools has opened up their high school campus for us to use for camping as well as recreation!

We'll be using their classrooms; cafeteria, tennis courts, and yes, even their swimming pool. The superintendent of schools, the mayor and the Chamber of Commerce Director are joining together to welcome you to their town and make your trip worth while! The local hospital is participating to provide us all with health screening and classes on nutrition and fitness on the road!

Plans are being made to make this a super rally with American Coach and your favorite vendor's there to help. Watch for more news and plan on *Coming Back Home*!





## A Friendly Reminder from the Secretary

By Annette Aiken

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday season. I would like to remind everyone to *please check the expiration dates on your FMCA dues*. I receive a monthly report from FMCA of members who are not current with their dues. In turn, I will send out a friendly reminder letter. Being a member of American Coach Chapter is contingent upon being a member of FMCA. We really don't want to lose any members.

Safe travels to everyone and I hope to see you at Stone Mountain, GA in March.

*Annette Aiken*

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## A Message from Justin Humphreys

Greetings from your factory sales team! I hope this newsletter finds everyone happy, healthy and enjoying the New Year!

What a year 2008 proved to be! What started as a great year for motor home sales, quickly deteriorated with rising fuel costs and challenging financing conditions. Despite these tough conditions, American Coach is gaining ground through increased market share. Let me explain...

Through November of 2008 (the most recent stats), diesel motor home sales are off over 42% year to date. During this same time frame, American Coach retail sales were down just over 20%. Because we are down less than our competitors, we have been able to gain nearly 40% of market share during a very difficult market. The emergence of the American Allegiance could not have come at a better time this year. American Allegiance allowed us to compete in a segment of the market we were not competing in, and in turn expanded our customer base, often times at the expense of our competitors. Over 80% of all Allegiance sales had "non-American Coach" trade-ins! As a result, the loss of Heritage, Eagle and Tradition sales were offset by the gains we achieved with Allegiance.

Make no mistake, our sales are down, and we are making the necessary adjustments to deal with the current situation. However, the good news is that of the remaining sales, we are picking up more market share than any other high-end provider. In my opinion, our customers are the biggest reason for this gain. I cannot tell you how many times people tell me they bought an American Coach due to the recommendation of a friend who owns one. On behalf of the entire American Coach team here in Decatur, I want to say thank you to each of you for carrying our flag and promoting our product!

I hope to see everyone at the Perry, Georgia FMCA Rally pre-rally in Stone Mountain, GA. This venue promises to be a great rally in an even greater part of the United States! I look forward to seeing everyone at the rally and enjoying the good times each rally provides us all!

On behalf of everyone here at American Coach, I would like to thank each of you for your business and continued support of our company. If you have any friends considering a new motor home, whether it is in the American Coach price point or the Fleetwood price point, please have them give me a call at 800-854-1344 ext. 3103 (hey, I never did say I was in "sales-prevention"! ). We would love to have the opportunity to supply them with a new motor home!

*Happy New Year and safe travels!*

*Justin Humphreys*





## A Message from Immediate Past President

By Jim Graham



Hi everyone. It feels like it's been a long time since the Austin and St. Paul rallies and I am certainly glad that we are getting some relief from the diesel fuel prices!!!! Doty and I had a great summer. We had two of our Grandsons with us at the rallies. The question is: Did they enjoy themselves or would they have enjoyed being home with their friends more? When we asked them they said they had a great time, but we have our reservations. There wasn't really much for them to do in Austin and we were very busy with the rally but, they did enjoy the FMCA rally in St. Paul. I wish we had more children attending the pre rallies to justify more programs for them. Thanks to Scott and Alice Good, the grand-kids were entertained with movies and popcorn. Scott carries a projector and a library of videos with them in their coach and was able to set up a movie theatre for everyone at Austin. Everyone enjoyed this very much. Thank you Scott and Alice for the movies.

Dan & Renee Lee also loaned the kids their Wii to play with and that helped them get through the day time, but the wimps got wore out with the Wii. That thing will really work you out.

After taking both boys back home, Doty and I went back to Decatur for some scheduled repairs, and then headed to Denver. We intended to spend one month in Denver helping a friend get some needed time off from his job. Well this turned out to be for more than two months and, in fact, I am still helping via internet and telephone from our home in Mobile.

It looks like I may have retired too early or, I am going to live too long. That is what my bank account and portfolio is looking like. With the price of fuel and the cost of living, I am constantly scanning the newspaper help wanted ads for the Wal-Mart greeter job. I think I could handle that for a couple of hours a day, but I can never find this job advertised. I guess it is so popular that they don't have to advertise it. Just my luck!

After leaving Denver, we went to North Little Rock for the FMCA six state rally. We truly enjoyed ourselves there. This is a great place to have a rally. It is right in the middle of the downtown area and everything was just about within walking distance. The rally was a great success. We headed home for a couple of weeks before going to Tucson for the ACA National Rally at Beaudry RV Resort.

The Southern California Chapter put on a fabulous rally and it was well attended even though the fuel prices were still very high. When we started out for Tucson the fuel prices had just begun to come down and, in the course of two weeks, they had dropped more than a dollar a gallon and were still falling. At the time of this writing the diesel fuel prices in Mobile are \$2.18 per gallon, and still falling.

Doty and I hope to see everyone at Stone Mountain, Ga. this spring for the pre-rally and in Perry for the National Convention. Marcia Bratsburg has a great rally planned and the park setting is something you really don't want to miss. Stone Mountain, in addition to being a great entertainment park, has a lot of civil war history. I know Marcia has some excellent tours set up to CNN and Coca-Cola.

We will be parking in the *general parking non-electric* area at Perry. I am guessing we will need heat more than air conditioning, and with diesel fuel down, we can run our generator for a couple of hours to keep the batteries up. I know there are going to be people from our chapter parking in electric also so, if you want electric, you will still be with the AC caravan.

*Jim Graham*

## **A Message from Fleetwood**

By Paul Eskritt



Dear Valued American Coach Owners,

Recent headlines about our economy have left many feeling uncertain about the future. This being said, I would like to take the opportunity to briefly list a few reasons why Fleetwood remains optimistic about the future of the RV industry.

The biggest reason for our optimism, of course is you, the RV consumer. History has shown us again and again, that when the market tightens in response to economic or fuel concerns, consumers still find a way to get out and enjoy the RV lifestyle. History has shown us that when market conditions improve, they improve dramatically because of pent-up consumer demand. Where there is a will, there is a way... and RVers have always had the will.

Another reason for our optimism is that Fleetwood has control of its destiny. Like many businesses today, we've had to tighten our belt and make tough decisions in order to match the changing market. We will continue to do this to ensure that we remain a leader in the RV industry.

Our ongoing commitment to innovation is another reason for optimism. From the debut of the industry-first motor home with basement storage in 1985, to the launch of Liberty Chassis™ in 2003, to the launch of full-wall-slide technology in 2004, Fleetwood and American Coach have brought new and lasting technology innovations to the RV industry for more than 50 years.

Fleetwood and American coach will continue to attend many of the major RV rallies around the country throughout the next calendar year. These rallies provide us with an opportunity to remain connected with folks like you who live and enjoy the RV lifestyle. The input provided by current American Coach owners and non-owners alike, is an invaluable tool in our product planning and development process.

No one can reliably predict when the current economic challenges will turn around and bring back fiscal growth and financial certainty. However, at Fleetwood, we fully believe in the positive spirit of you, the RV enthusiast, and in your desire and willingness to enjoy the RV lifestyle. We thank you for your ongoing loyalty and support, your dedication to your club and to each other, and your enthusiastic commitment to living the American dream.

Sincerely,

Paul Eskritt

President - RV Group

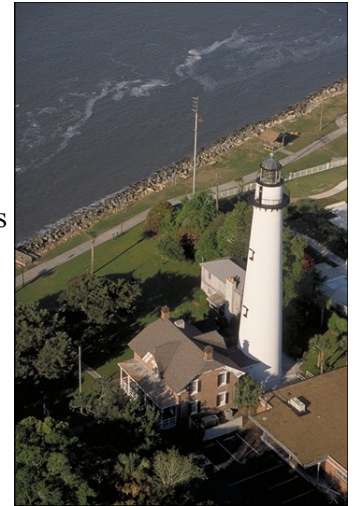
Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc.

### While You're in Georgia...

St Simons Island is the largest of the Georgia's barrier islands. It is separated from the mainland by marshes, tidal rivers and sounds. In addition to the fascinating history, there is golf, tennis and pristine beaches. Don't miss the beautiful St. Simons lighthouse where you can climb the 129 steps and enjoy a beautiful 360 degree view of coastal Georgia. Most interesting is Fort Frederica, an early 18th century settlement and epicenter of the Imperial conflict between Spain and Britain.



Jekyll Island, the smallest of Georgia's barrier islands is owned by the state. There are ten miles of sandy beaches for the sunbathers and it is a stop-over for migrating birds and designated an *Important Birding Area* by the Georgia Audubon Societies. Don't miss the Historic District with its old mansions, some of which have been converted to hotels.



For the Civil War and history buffs there are two major trails in Georgia, the Atlanta Campaign and the March to Sea Campaign. The Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails website ([gcwht.org](http://gcwht.org)) provides more information, maps and a calendar of events.



If you love to hike, Georgia has some of the best trails in the U.S. including the Appalachian Trail. Amicalola Falls State Park has over twelve miles of trails and of course, the tallest cascading water fall east of the Mississippi, which should be especially beautiful in the spring. To check out more Georgia hiking trails go to the website [georgiatrails.com](http://georgiatrails.com).

Even if you only go for the food, you can't miss Savannah, one of the most elegant Southern cities. Nearly 300 years old, it is the largest historic landmark district in the United States. Don't bother to drive around town either, just hop on a trolley or horse drawn carriage and take a tour.



***Hope to see y'all at Stone Mountain!***



# All-Star Lineup



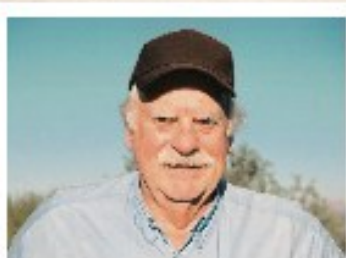
Allegiance

Tradition

Eagle

Heritage

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\*Offer expires 3/31/09. Please mention Promo Code "ACC NEWSLETTER" when placing your reservation. Restrictions apply.



## Join Us for the 2009 FMCA Perry, Georgia, ACC Pre-Rally!

By Marcia Bratsburg

Plans are being finalized for the Stone Mountain Rally! Do you have your registration in?

We're gathering March 10-14 at Stone Mountain Park, Georgia's largest campground and most visited attraction. Cited by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as one of "35 Natural Wonders in Georgia You Must See Before You Die," Stone Mountain Park is located just 16 miles east of downtown Atlanta. The five square mile park is home to the world's largest piece of exposed granite!

We're lining up entertainment that will have you kicking up your heels while still giving you time to relax and catch up with your ACC family and friends. Bring your kids and/or grandkids. There's fun for the whole family!



You will be provided with breakfast on three mornings, dinner on three evenings and a luncheon for the ladies!

Register now for a tour of CNN Studio and the World of Coke. We'll load the bus for a guided tour of downtown including a visit to CNN. Enjoy lunch on your own at the CNN Food Court, and then walk through Centennial Park to the World of Coke. All this fun is only \$53.00 per person! Register early for your place among the 52 spots we have confirmed!

**GOLF** Anyone? Sign up for golf at Stone Mountain Golf Club. Jim Graham is lining up a golf outing on a beautiful course managed by Marriott Golf.

For you outdoor lovers, bring your fishing poles and hiking shoes. There is fishing on Stone Mountain Lake or you can hike one of Stone Mountain Park's many wooded trails. You can even hike up Stone Mountain if you like and get a bird's eye view of Atlanta. And for you non-hikers, there's a skyride that will take you there!



Get your FMCA-ACC name plaque! See the registration form for an example! Come early! For \$25.00 per night you can come as early as March 8<sup>th</sup>! Just call the campground direct at 770-498-5710 and mention you're with the FMCA-ACC Pre-Rally group! Won't you join us and register NOW!

*Marcia Bratsburg*

**American Coach Chapter of FMCA Pre-Rally Registration for  
March 10—13, 2009  
Stone Mountain, Georgia**

Early registration deadline: Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009--- **Registration Deadline: Feb 10th, 2009.** For early arrival, call Stone Mountain Campground direct at (770) 498-5710. If the rally sells out earlier than Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, you will be placed on a wait-ing list and notified by email. All confirmations will be by mail. To be registered for any rally, your registration and payment must be received by the deadline. Cancellations and refunds after Feb 28, 2009, will be considered on an *if possible* basis.

**Names of Persons Attending**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first ACC rally? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How many ACC rallies have you attended? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you handicapped or do you have special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: For handicap parking, a copy of the handicap form must be in-cluded with payment.*

If you want to park near friends, please list the names below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

See example of ACC name plaque below (plaques paid for by ACC). Includes two suction cups for easy mounting on windshield (same size as your FMCA plaque).



Print name(s) as you want printed on plaque.

	Before <u>1/30/09</u>	After <u>1/30/09</u>	
Rally Fee			
2 people	\$225.00	\$250.00	\$ _____
Rally Fee			
1 person	\$175.00	\$190.00	\$ _____
Additional			
Guests	\$75.00	\$95.00	\$ _____
Non-member Buddy Coach			
FMCA # _____	\$225.00	\$250.00	\$ _____
Non-member rally fee—2 persons	\$450.00	\$500.00	\$ _____
Children under 16 years of age are free, except for golf and tours but, we need the number. _____			
Golf, \$40.00/person # _____			\$ _____
CNN Studio/ World of Coke Tour			
\$53.00/person # _____			\$ _____
Total Enclosed			\$ _____
Make checks payable to: ACC-FMCA			
Mail to: Marcia Bratsburg			
2551 Timber Trail NE			
Kalkaska, MI 49646			



**American Coach Chapter of FMCA**  
**Stone Mountain, Georgia ACC Pre-rally**  
**American Coach Service Request**

Fleetwood Motor Homes of Indiana is offering to perform minor warranty repairs on your Limited, American Eagle, American Dream, American Tradition or American Heritage motor home. Time available and the number of coaches in attendance will determine how much service work can be performed at the rally.

- ◆ Please check in with the service scheduler upon arrival. He may need to coordinate your appearance while service is performed.
- ◆ Please limit problems to six items per coach...functional items only. Painting and items that are not functional will not be addressed at rallies. This is a long-standing policy of the Service Facility.
- ◆ Please explain each item in detail so we can determine whether parts are needed.
- ◆ Submit this list promptly! Fleetwood must have your list at least three weeks before the Rally to obtain parts, and transport them to the Rally.
- ◆ Repairs will be scheduled in the order received.
- ◆ “Add-on” items (items added at a later date) will be added to the end of the schedule as time permits.
- ◆ Chassis problems- Please note your coach type of chassis. List only the two problems. Some chassis repairs cannot be performed at the rally. Some chassis repairs may be subject to charges to the customer.

Note\* Coaches not registered as part of the rally will not be worked upon until all rally registered coaches have been serviced.

**Here are some of the changes:**

- ◆ Because we are not equipped with required fall-protection at rallies, no Fleetwood associate will be allowed to get on top of a motor home roof at any time.
- ◆ No Fleetwood associate will be allowed to work under a unit at a rally.
- ◆ Repairs requiring lifting/jacking of motor home will not be performed at a rally.
- ◆ Certain repairs of doors or windows or windshields cannot be performed at a rally.
- ◆ Awning tension adjustments must be done by the awning manufacturer. This includes the replacement of awning fabric.
- ◆ Chassis repairs must be done by the chassis manufacturer.

**As has always been our policy, the following are some other items we cannot address at rallies:**

- ◆ Paint and body repairs.
- ◆ Installing accessories.
- ◆ Cosmetic/Appearance repairs.
- ◆ Water filters and maintenance services.

*Please remember that not every problem can be resolved at the rally. Should additional work be required at a shop facility, the Service Department will assist you in determining your needs and schedule.*

Fax the repair request form to: 260-728-2951 or mail to the address on the request sheet.

**American Coach Chapter of FMCA Service Request**

**For American Coach Service Use Only**

Group \_\_\_\_\_ Day/ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Control \_\_\_\_\_ Site # \_\_\_\_\_

**Stone Mountain RV Resort & Park ACC Pre-Rally March 10 – 13, 2009**

***Your Deadline is: February 10, 2009***

*Please read the instructions before completing form and fill in with complete numbers where indicated*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Model/Year \_\_\_\_\_ Chassis VIN # \_\_\_\_\_

Coach serial # \_\_\_\_\_

I will arrive on the rally site on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_ PM \_\_\_\_\_

**I will be going to the FMCA Rally Perry, GA YES / NO**

(We need this information for our scheduling of work.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

***DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO THE RALLY MASTER! SEND OR FAX TO THE FOLLOWING!***

**Mail to: Fleetwood Motor Homes Or fax to 260-728-4574 or 260-728-2951**

**1420 W. Patterson St.**

**Decatur, IN 46733**

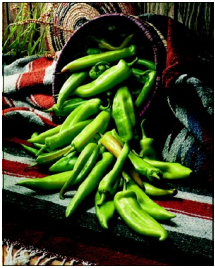
**Any questions about repairs call Service Center Phone # 877-735-6303.**

## Recipe Corner

*Do you have a favorite recipe? Send it to us at [newslettereditor@acc-fmca.com](mailto:newslettereditor@acc-fmca.com).*

### Addicted to New Mexico Green Chilies

By Jane Lihou



Ten years ago, my sister and a friend from Albuquerque, New Mexico visited us in Huntington Beach and brought some green chiles with them. Her friend roasted, seeded and peeled them and made green chili and pork. We had the best burritos we had ever tasted and we were addicted to green chiles. She told us about the Hatch Chili Festival that takes place every Labor Day weekend and we planned our first “chili run”.

We parked the coach at Las Cruces and drove the Jeep to Hatch. You don’t need directions to the festival; the town is small and you can follow the scent of roasting chiles. The festival isn’t much unless you like the carnival and the food that goes with it. It is most fun to watch the green chiles being roasted in rotating mesh barrels set over propane fires. We buy them by the bushel, they roast them and dump them into a garbage bag where they continue to steam until they cool. Choose from mild to extra hot. Some years are hotter than others because of the rainfall and temperature so taste them before you choose. Then, we package them in freezer bags and freeze them. Yes, we purchased an \$800.00 freezer for our RV to freeze \$50.00 worth of chiles.

Just thaw them out when you want to make a batch of green chili sauce. Slide the skins off and scrape the seeds out. The chiles are cooked so you can mix them into salsa or add them to a quesadilla. Below is the recipe for basic green chili sauce.

### Green Chili Sauce

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup peeled, seeded and chopped green chiles
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil or vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- salt and pepper to taste

Sauté onion in oil until softened. Add chilis and stir to mix. Add flour, stir and cook for a few minutes. Add broth, salt and pepper and simmer for about 20 minutes.

To make pork and green chili for burritos, brown a pound of pork shoulder, cut into 1 inch cubes in the oil. Add the onions and sauté until softened. Add flour and cook for a few minutes. Add broth and simmer until the pork is tender. Add chilis and continue to cook for 10 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste. Heat a flour tortilla, add a layer of refried beans, shredded cheese, and pork and green chili. Fold up and top with more green chili, cheese and sour cream.

To make heuvos and green chili, heat two corn tortillas in oil. Top with refried beans, cheese and green chili sauce (with or without the pork) and top with 2 fried eggs.



## Meeting American Coach Friends in the Funniest Places

By Jane Lihou

We were spending some time touring Arches and Canyonlands National Parks on our way to the Farmington, New Mexico FMCA Rally and were staying at the blank RV park in Moab, Utah. We had spent the previous day in awe and wonder at the amazing rock formations of Arches National Park and I had hiked from blank to blank. We were tired. We didn't get much sleep that night, though. The wind started blowing and the slide-out covers were flapping so much that we had to get up and put all the slides in. The coach rocked all night. You would just fall asleep and the wind would pick up and slam the coach again. We slept on and off until ten and then lazed around until noon or so when the wind finally seemed to subside or maybe we were just getting claustrophobic with all the slides in. We had to get out of there so we decided we would tour Canyonlands National Park.

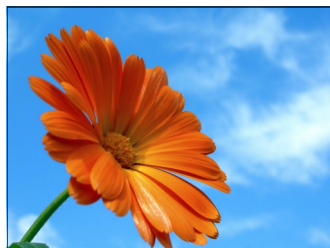


Imagine our surprise when we stepped out of the coach and saw three American Coaches parked across from us. We walked around until we found someone outside and asked who they were and where they were from and said we also had an American Coach. There were actually four coaches traveling together, all from MacPac and they were slowly making their way to Tucson for the American Coach Rally. We discovered that two of the coaches belong to good friends of ours, Kent and Phyliss Ingram, who had stopped at Canyonlands but would be in later, and Bob and Marvalee Downey. The other two coaches belonged to Glen and Virginia Edwards and Rick and Nancy Robinson.

We all met for breakfast the next morning and then said good-bye for now as we would be seeing them at the American Coach Rally.

### Living Greener for FREE

Recycle your grocery bags, for Pete's sake. It's a simple thing to do and every grocery store has a recycle bin for grocery bags. Better yet, buy the cloth bags and reuse them. They are cheap and about half the time I leave them in my car but, I still use 50% less plastic bags.



Buy locally grown and seasonal food whenever possible. Check out the local farmer's market for the freshest produce. Some farmer's markets will have locally made cheeses and breads also. Drink the local wine. Why buy wine from Chili or France when you can get great wine from nearly every state these days. You will be saving the fuel it takes to ship food.

Put up a bird house. Birds are prolific consumers of the pests that ruin your garden and you get the added benefit of watching the birds while you enjoy your garden.

Stop buying bottled water. If your local water isn't that good, buy a Brita water filter and keep it in your refrigerator. It filters even the worst water.

# Welcome to ACC

## 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.



# Become a Part of Something Big!

### 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 a one third interest in an American Coach Heritage, American Coach Eagle, American Coach Dream, American Coach Tradition 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: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(For your name badge)

(For your name badge)

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

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

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

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Heritage, Eagle, Dream, Tradition, 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.**

**You 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 \$27.00 (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. Dues are \$12.00 per year. You may pay more than one year at a time. You may pay your dues and make all the above changes at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com) and [acc-fmca.com](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

To renew an expired 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 Rally, March 10—14, 2009, Stone Mountain, Georgia**

Caravan to FMCA Rally in Perry, Georgia, July 16—19, 2009

**ACC Rally, July 13—18, 2009, Decatur, Indiana**

Caravan to FMCA Rally in Bowling Green Ohio, July 20 –24, 2009

## ACA Rallies

Spring Rally, May 18 - 23, 2009, Texarkana, USA

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

Wendy Holloway, Membership Chairperson  
3619 Clearwater Dr.  
Lake Havasu, AZ 86406