

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

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1, JANUARY, 2010



"The Pre-rally for the Albuquerque FMCA Rally will be at the Roadrunner RV Park just north of Santa Fe in the Pojoaque Pueblo."

President's Message

Happy New Year to one and all. I hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful and safe holiday season. Annette and I are spending the winter in Yuma, Arizona and the weather has been just wonderful. This year we used technology to enjoy Christmas with our children and granddaughter. With the use of our Verizon Wireless internet connection and Skype, we were right there with our granddaughter on her first Christmas as she opened the many gifts that were bestowed upon her. At 7 1/2 months old, the Christmas wrap on the packages was just as intriguing as the gift. With them in Kansas and us here, it was wonderful to be able to see and talk to them in real-time.

I want to make sure all the members know about a few things. Our pre-rally to the Albuquerque FMCA Rally in March will be at the Roadrunner RV Park, 15 miles north of Santa Fe in the Pojoaque Pueblo in New Mexico. The dates are March 16 through 19, 2010. The rally registration forms are in this newsletter



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ACC Pre-Rally in Santa Fe, N.M.

History awaits you at the next American Coach Chapter Pre-rally near Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Join fellow ACC members at the **Roadrunner RV Park** in Santa Fe (Pojoaque Pueblo), New Mexico on **March 16 thru 19, 2010**. You may arrive at the RV park up to two days early at a rate of \$25/ day (on a space available basis so reservations are strongly encouraged). Make your reservations at <http://www.roadrunnerrvparknm.com/>.



Cont. on page 7

President's Message, cont.

or you can download a copy of the registration on the website under Rallies, or you can register online. You must be logged in to see the online registration but not to download the forms and information. Please look for more detailed info about the pre-rally location in this newsletter.

Once again, it's election year for the chapter. Elections for officers will take place at the summer pre-rally in Canyonville, Oregon this coming August. The chapter needs the leadership of a "few good people" to carry the torch for the ACC Chapter into the future. I hope some of you will consider serving the chapter in some capacity for the next two year term. Any and all Board of Directors positions are open to candidates. It's especially vital that there is an Executive Board in place - President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Look for a note in the newsletter from the Nominating Committee. Feel free to send me an email if you'd like information on any chapter position. My contact information can be found inside the newsletter.

ACC memberships are from January 1st to December 31st of each year. Please help our Membership Chairperson by noting your expiration date on this newsletter mailing label and getting your dues paid either by email or online if they are past due. The strength of the ACC Chapter to attract rally support from American Coach is dependent on the strength of the membership and how well attended

our rallies are. Many RV related chapters, clubs and other organizations are seeing a decline in membership and participation since the downturn in the economy. Please help ACC by renewing your dues, recruiting other American Coach owners to join and attending pre-rallies. As I've said before, I've gained so many friends by participating in these rallies. You can't put a value on these friendships.

Finally, I want to say that it's great to see things looking up for American Coach. The health and welfare of Fleetwood helps us and increases the value of our American Coach motorhomes. American Coach has been gradually rebuilding their workforce in Decatur. Just prior to year's end, I was told that they were nearing 1000 employees and growing. They're building 2010 models with some new floor plans, including a 45' Tradition. I was also pleased to hear that they're committed to supporting our rallies in 2010, including service from our beloved American Coach service team.

I hope to see you at a future ACC pre-rally in your beautiful American Coach. Safe and happy travels. See you down the road!

Chip Aiken

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Vice President's Message

The year 2009 is finally behind us and what a year it was. We saw the demise of such icons as GM and Chrysler. Closer to home, Fleetwood, the parent company of American Coach went through bankruptcy and reemerged as a new company, once again manufacturing these beautiful coaches we are accustomed to seeing on the nation's highways. The financial meltdown affected many of our members who watched helplessly while their life savings slowly disappeared.

Perhaps the end of an era, some were saying, perhaps not. We cannot change the past.

On the positive side, we have many, many good friends over the years who are scattered throughout this great country. People who are a part of fond memories of past rallies. The magic of the internet makes it possible for us to keep in touch across thousands of miles. We can exchange stories, cartoons, even help or arrange to get together just for the fun of it.

This time of year, motor coach travel comes to a halt in the "snow belt" while the southwest desert comes alive. Yuma, Quartzsite and all places in between become filled with wheeled contraptions of every kind;

anything that moves and can be slept in can be seen. The sound of laughter and smoke from campfires and barbecues fills the clear desert sky. There are tailgate parties, flea markets, swap meats and bogsats (Bunch of Guys Sitting Around Talking) telling tall tales.

It's the good life. People leave their troubles behind when they get in their RV and head for the next rally to meet good friends.

Unfortunately, Lynne and I missed last summer's rally in Decatur. We had good intentions; it just was not in the cards.

But, now we are looking forward to meeting up once again with many of you whom we have not seen for a long time.

In March, our chapter will be getting together once again, just outside of Santa Fe. I understand that Santa Fe is a beautiful historic place. We will have an opportunity to explore, visit and just have fun in the area.

Register early and we hope to see you in New Mexico. Happy New Year.

Tony Steller



“People leave their troubles behind when they get in their RV and head for the rally to meet good friends.”

Treasurer's Report

By Sheri Tomaszewski

Both the main checking account and the CD account have been reconciled through December 31, 2009. The Balance sheet reflects moneys in our accounts as of 12/31/2009 and the Income vs. Expense Report includes both Stone Mountain and Decatur rally income and expenses since January 1, 2009, as well as a small amount of income for the upcoming Santa Fe rally.

We hope that the holidays were enjoyable for everyone, and we look forward to 2010 with great wishes for a better year. With that in mind, we really hope you will join us in March at the ACC pre-rally in Santa Fe, N.M.. Your continued support of these events is what keeps the chapter active, growing and thriving. And, there is always lots of fun and friendship to be found! Please plan to attend.

Anyone having questions regarding the Treasurer's report may contact me at 602-524-1690 or treasurer@acc-fmca.com



Balance Sheet - As of 12/31/2009:8
As of 12/31/2009 (Cash Basis)

Account	12/31/2009 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Flexible CD account	14,063.03
Main Account	10,842.44
Petty Cash	13.28
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	24,718.75
Other Assets	
Customer Invoices	0.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00
TOTAL Other Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	24,718.75
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
Vendor Bills	0.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	24,718.75
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	24,718.75

Income vs. Expense Report - 2009:11
1/1/2009 through 12/31/2009 (Cash Basis)

Category Description	1/1/2009- 12/31/2009
INCOME	
Membership Dues	8,392.26
Membership Fees	840.00
Other Inc-Advertising	518.00
Other Inc-Interest	222.06
Rally Income	42,087.80
TOTAL INCOME	52,060.12
EXPENSES	
Administrative	7,089.59
Fees-Professional	567.72
Rally cost	46,389.46
Tax	132.11
TOTAL EXPENSES	54,178.88
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,118.76

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A Friendly Reminder from the Secretary

By Annette Aiken

Just a reminder to please check your expiration date on your FMCA membership. Membership in ACC requires that you be a member in good standing with the Family Motor Coach Association. Monthly I receive lists of members that are not current with their FMCA dues. I then send out a reminder to our members on the list. By keeping your FMCA dues and ACC dues up to date, it will help

control costs incurred by the Chapter since we won't have to send out as many reminders by mail.

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

Annette

American Coach Update from Justin Humphreys

Happy New Year to all ACC members from your extended family in Decatur, Indiana! American Coach hopes everyone is out and about in your coaches and enjoying the New Year!

As you probably know, 2009 was a brutal year for the RV Industry. In 2004, the country saw over 60,000 motor homes sold. In 2009, projections for all new motor homes show there will be around 17,000 motor homes sold! These numbers include all manufacturers and every make and model. As you can imagine, the decline was devastating.

I am told over that 20 RV manufacturers shut the doors for good last year. Several others went through some sort of bankruptcy reorganization. In addition to manufacturers calling it quits, several suppliers left for good as well. And since the market decline was so massive, there were hundreds of dealers who went out of business as well.

Reminiscing about 2009 can be depressing, so let's look forward to 2010! As you know, Fleetwood Motor Homes was sold to American Industrial Partners in July, making us a private and debt free company. Since the sale, Fleetwood RV has shipped over 800 motor homes!

When we started the new company, we had roughly 400 people employed in Decatur. Today, we have over 1,000 employees working every day. As 2009 ended, it was clear the RV Industry had hit bottom and we were beginning to work our way out of the worst market in many years.

As we head into 2010, we still have many challenges ahead of us. In addition to ramping up production, we are experiencing a supply chain that has had an extremely difficult time building parts. We are also going through another round of federally mandated emission changes on diesel engines. These changes are required on all engines built beginning January 1, 2010. We have been fortunate enough to purchase some of last years engines for the first half of 2010 production, but supplies are extremely limited. The cost of the upgrade will be substantial. If you feel you may be in the market for a new coach in the next 12 to 18 months, don't delay; acting now will save you tens of thousands of dollars!

If you have any questions regarding our brand new 2010 models, please do not hesitate to call us at the factory-800-854-1344. We would love the opportunity to help you find your new coach.

On behalf of 1,042 hard working families, I'd like to thank each of you for your support of our company. This year will be a defining moment for our new company. Although we are off to a great start with healthy back-logs and running production every week, we will need your help. If you are happy with your experience with our company, please refer a friend to us. We'd love to add another member to our American Coach family!

Safe travels!

Justin Humphreys



"If you are happy with your experience with our company, please refer a friend to us.

We'd love to add another member to our American Coach family."

General Membership Meeting Minutes

American Coach Chapter of FMCA

Decatur, Ind., July 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chip Aiken, President at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed all the attendees to the “Coming Home” Rally.

The officers present were: Chip Aiken – President, Annette Aiken – Secretary, Sheri Tomaszewski – Treasurer, Jim Graham – Immediate Past President, Bob Gay – Central Area Director, Marcia Bratsburg – Eastern Area Director, Bill Ferguson - National Director and Linda Laymon – Alternate National Director.

There was a motion made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. There was a unanimous vote.

Treasurer’s Report – Sheri Tomaszewski reported that we had 38,390.89 in the treasury as reconciled on June 30, 2009. There were still outstanding invoices for this rally. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer’s report. The vote was unanimous.

Rally report – Marcia Bratsburg welcomed all the attendees to the rally. She announced that we had 98 coaches in attendance, 26 of which were first –time attendees and 5 were “Buddy Coaches”.

Officer’s report – Bill Ferguson wanted to let everyone know that there was going to be election of officers at the FMCA Convention and talked a little bit about the financial status of FMCA.

Upcoming Pre-Rallies - Our next Pre-rally is going to be at the Roadrunner RV Park in Pojoaque, N.M., 15 miles north of Santa Fe on March 16-20, 2010. The FMCA convention will be in Albuquerque. Early registration was requested. There will be a limited number of sites.

August 5-8, 2010 – The fall pre-rally will be at Seven Feathers RV Park, Canyonville, Oregon. The FMCA convention is going to be in Redmond.

Nominating Committee Election - Chip Aiken, President received a resignation letter from Becky Popp, Committee Chair. He called for nominations from the floor and received three names. They were Doty Graham, Sheri Brewer, and Wendy Holloway. A motion was made to accept the nominees and a vote was called. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements – The 26 first-timers were recognized and welcomed along with the five “Buddy Coaches”.

The officers thanked Jim & Doty Graham and Jeff & Marcia Bratsburg for their hard work in preparing for the rally. Also recognized were the 13 Committee Chairs and their committees for all the hard work they put in to make this a successful rally. The committees are as follows: Rally Registration, Registration Desk, Decorations, Parking, Grounds, Entertainment, Door Prizes, Vendors, Golf Tourney, Goody Bags, Food, Tours/activities and Skit.

ACC is looking for a volunteer to keep up our website. It doesn’t pay much.

There will be a meeting Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the Saturday caravan.

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Aiken, Secretary

ACC Needs New Officers

Okay guys, this is the opportunity you've been waiting for! We are looking for volunteers to head up the American Coach Chapter of FMCA. None of the jobs are difficult and all are rewarding. It's not a lot of work, but it is a lot of fun. You will get lots of support from the members. Chip Aiken has a "job description" for each position if you want to know more about them. You may also contact the current officer of the position to ask any questions you might have.

If you are interested in running for any of the positions - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Director, Alternate National Director, Eastern Area Director, Western Area Director or Central Area Director - just let one of the Nomi-

nating Committee members know.

During these difficult economic times, we understand that things may be tough, but our Chapter will continue with good leadership, fellowship and just plain fun. Won't you please consider running for an office and share all the things that are good about our lifestyle and our friendships? We are depending on YOU!!!!

ACC Nominating Committee

Sheri Brewer

sgbrewermiller@sbcglobal.net

Doty Graham

dotygraham@mchsi.com

Wendy Sue Holloway

membership@acc-fmca.com

"Being an officer is not difficult but, it's a lot of fun and you'll get lots of support from the members."

Santa Fe Pre-Rally, cont.

On arrival day there will be a welcome reception. Throughout the four days we will have three full breakfasts and two dinners, all to be held at The Cities of Gold Hotel, just down the road from the RV Park.

A ***ladies luncheon*** will be held in Santa Fe at La Casa Sena on Wednesday, for anyone who has signed up in advance. The food will be great, so don't miss this one. Transportation will be pro-

vided and I would encourage you to use it because parking in downtown Santa Fe can be difficult at times. Plus, you'll only be a couple blocks away from the Palace of The Governors if you want to visit.



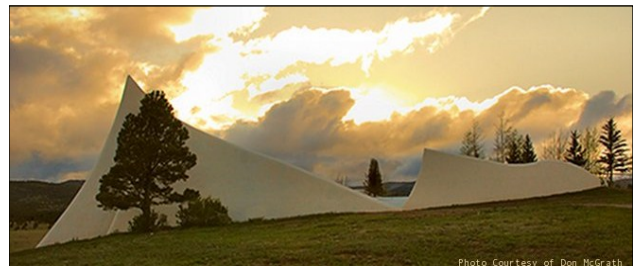
There's Lots to See in Santa Fe

There's plenty to do in and around Santa Fe. Here's a sample of what's in the area.

- Santa Fe, the Oldest Capital in the U.S., including:
 - Palace of The Governors
 - Georgia O'Keefe Museum
 - New Mexico Museum of Art
 - Institute of American Indian Arts Museum
 - Archdiocese of Santa Fe Museum
- The Bandelier National Monument
- Pecos National Historical Park
- Taos Pueblo (The Place of the Red Willow)
- Los Alamos, "The Secret City" and the Bradbury Science Museum
- Angel Fire (Vietnam Veterans Memorial)
- Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs
- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos
- Enchanted Circle, an 85 mile scenic byway
- Plus many more museums not listed above



Georgia O'Keefe Museum



Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial

If you are you tired of touring and want to stay close to camp, the Pojoaque have two casinos with restaurants, Cities of Gold (<http://www.citiesofgold.com/>) and Buffalo Thunder (<http://www.buffalothunderresort.com/>). Cities of Gold has a 16 lane bowling alley, Strike Gold Bowling Center, and a 27 hole golf course close by.

There is free shuttle service available from the RV park to both casinos, the Towa golf course, the wellness center and downtown Santa Fe, 15 miles south.



Taos Pueblo

Plan to join us at FMCA's 83rd International Convention in Albuquerque, NM. We will caravan from the RV Park on Saturday, March 20th, leaving around 9:30 a.m. Register for the FMCA Convention in advance at www.fmca.com and note that you will be arriving with the American Coach Chapter if you plan to caravan with us. We hope to see you in Santa Fe!

American Coach Chapter Pre-Rally

MARCH 16 thru 19, 2010

SANTA FE (POJOAQUE PUEBLO), NM

Registration Deadline: MARCH 1, 2010. For those of you wishing to arrive early, please make reservations with the Roadrunner RV Park. The rally rate is available up to two days early (\$25). Space is on a first come first served basis so register early and book early days as soon as possible. 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 March 1, 2010 will be considered on an if possible basis.

<p>Names of persons attending:</p> <p>#1 _____ #3 _____</p> <p>#2 _____ #4 _____</p> <p>FMCA # _____ ACC # _____</p> <p>Mailing Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code: _____</p> <p>Phone (Home) _____ Phone (cell): _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Coach Yr: _____ Model: _____ Length: _____</p> <p>Is this your first ACC rally? Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>Are you handicapped or have special needs? _____</p> <p>For handicapped parking a copy of the handicap form must be copied and sent with payment.</p> <p>Are you interested in playing golf? Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>If yes, How many _____</p> <p>I would like to park next to:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Will you be caravanning to Albuquerque for the FMCA rally?</p> <p>Yes _____ No _____ (Caravan departure Saturday, March 20)</p> <p>(You'll need to be pre-registered for the FMCA rally to caravan.)</p> <p>We are only guaranteed 40 spaces at Roadrunner RV Park so please register early. All sites are 50 amp, Full Hook-ups. To make reservations for early arrival please call Roadrunner RV Park at: (505) 455-2626. Please tell them you're with the American Coach rally. 2 days early at rally rate on a space available basis.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>To register online go to: www.acc-fmca.com Must be logged in to access registration form!</p>	<p>Rally fee 2 people \$225 \$ _____</p> <p>Rally fee 1 person \$175 \$ _____</p> <p>Additional Guests \$ 75 \$ _____</p> <p>Non-member Buddy coach \$225 \$ _____</p> <p>FMCA # _____</p> <p>Non-Member \$400 \$ _____</p> <p>Rally fee/ 2 people</p> <p>Children 16 & under are free , except tours or golf, but we need a number - # _____</p> <p>Ladies Luncheon -\$25 Number _____ \$ _____</p> <p>Total Enclosed \$ _____</p> <p><i>Tour information will be provided on arrival and will be self guided.</i></p> <p><i>Rally provided meals will be at the Cities of Gold Hotel.</i></p> <p>Make checks payable to: ACC-FMCA</p> <p>Mail to:</p> <p>c/o Sheri Tomaszewski, ACC-FMCA Treasurer</p> <p>P.O. Box 17810</p> <p>Fountain Hills, AZ 85269-7810</p>
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American Coach Chapter of FMCA

Santa Fe (Pojoaque Pueblo) ACC Pre-Rally

American Coach Service Request

Fleetwood RV is offering to perform minor warranty repairs on your Limited, American Eagle, American Dream, American Tradition, American Allegiance 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 representative scheduler upon arrival. He may need to coordinate your appearance while service is performed.

Please limit problems to 2 American Coach and 1 Spartan 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. Any additional items will be on a time permitted basis.

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 2 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 repaired 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:

- Parts and labor will be provided at no charge for in-warranty repairs. Labor will be provided at no charge for out of warranty repairs and owner will be notified of charges for parts.
- 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 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 # _____

Santa Fe (Pojoaque Pueblo) ACC Pre-Rally March 16 - 19, 2010

Deadline For Submittal to American Coach is: March 2, 2010

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 at Albuquerque, NM YES / NO

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

American Coach

1 _____

2 _____

Spartan

1 _____

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

Mail to: Fleetwood RV
1420 W. Patterson St.
Decatur, IN 46733

Or fax to: 260-728-2951

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

Microsoft Releases Windows 7

As we move into 2010, I want to update you on a few items of interest. Microsoft Windows released their latest operating system called "Windows 7" to replace Vista, which was launched in January 2007. It certainly has gone a lot smoother than Vista or even XP, mainly because they finally figured out how to use us, the users as testers. It has a lot of nice features, runs a little faster, and even resolves some of the frustrating issues with Vista.

They've also restructured the versions that you can purchase or that are bundled on new computers. There are three versions – Home Premium, Professional, and Ultimate. Most end users like yourself would use Home Premium, but if I was using this for work and needed to connect to a business network in order to share resources, I would select Professional, and if I was totally geek'd out (like me) I would use Ultimate so I would have all my *techy* bases covered. The UPGRADE version will cost from \$90 to \$120 for Home Premium, \$180 to \$210 for Professional and \$200 to \$240 for Ultimate.

Windows also has a 'Starter' version which is installed on new PC's (primarily Netbooks) which provides for basic Windows 7 capabilities like Home Premium, but does lack certain features like the ability to run more than three programs simultaneously or to personalize your desktop.

Windows, of course, provides an easy way to upgrade their 'Starter' to any other version via the web. For example, it would cost you about \$80 to upgrade to Home Premium. I think the 'Starter' version installed on a Netbook or other smaller portable system is a good idea for performance and battery life but I would shy away from it for a laptop.

Do you need Windows 7? Unless you are totally frustrated with Vista or XP, the answer is probably not. Even if you are having problems with Vista or XP, you can rebuild your PC in about an hour, restore your data and have a PC that works like it did when you first purchased it.

To make life a little easier Windows has provided a free tool called *Easy Transfer* which allows you to transfer all your documents, pictures, profiles and settings from your old PC to a new PC. This will help you if you do decide to upgrade your Windows operating system and it allows you to store your data on an external drive or

DVD's. Or, there is a special Cable you can purchase if you are upgrading from an old PC to a new PC.

As a side note, if you are going to upgrade an existing PC to *Windows 7*, I would recommend doing a full installation instead of an upgrade. Although you will need to reinstall your applications and restore your data, which can take longer, you will have a very clean installation with no residual issues from the older version, and you get rid of a lot of stuff you no longer need or want.

Speaking of Netbooks, they are becoming more and more mainstream and are a viable alternative to a full-blown laptop. They are smaller with a typical screen size from 10.1 to 14 inches, much lighter at around two to three pounds, do not heat up like a laptop when in use, run for eight to ten hours on battery, and cost around \$200 - \$400. They do lack an internal DVD/CD drive but, usually come with a 200 to 300 gigabyte hard drive and a pretty good video driver for your basic user who wants to surf the web, write emails and do simple picture and video exchanging. They will run all of the standard applications including MS Office but, because they are smaller, they also have less powerful processors, so certain applications may run slower.

A lot of vendors have picked up on the Netbook trend and have bundled it with their own brand. One example is wireless phone vendors incorporating their wireless technology into the Netbook and selling the entire unit like a cell phone. Another example is a Netbook with Wife (free wireless) plus the carriers wireless data plan bundled into a nice HP Netbook for \$200. This allows you to surf the web anywhere you get cell service and, because it has ten plus hours of battery life, you don't need to be tethered to a power cord. Go for a walk on a beach and write your memoirs or take it to a campfire and video-cam the party.

I hope this helps you understand the new Windows 7 version.

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.



*"Do you need Windows 7?
Unless you are totally
frustrated with Vista or XP,
the answer is probably not."*

Get Your Crockpot Out

Beef-ale Stew and Green Onion Buttermilk Dumplings

Stew

4 lbs. beef chuck, trimmed of excess fat and cut into 1 1/2 in. pieces

6 Tbsp. all-purpose flour

3 tsp. salt

1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

3 Tbsp. vegetable oil

2 bottles ale (12 oz. each)

2 large onions, thinly sliced

8 oz. mushrooms, trimmed and quartered

3 large Carrots, peeled, halved lengthwise, and cut into 1 in. lengths

Dumplings

2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions

1/2 tsp baking soda

3/4 tsp. salt

4 1/2 Tbsp. cold butter, cut into small pieces

3/4 cups buttermilk

1 egg

Stew

1. In a large bowl, toss beef with flour, salt and pepper. In a large pan over medium-high heat, heat 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil. Brown beef, one layer at a time, removing beef to Crock-pot as it is finished. Add more oil between batches.

2. Add ale to pan, stirring to scrape up brown bits. Add ale to Crock-pot.

3. Add 1 Tbsp. oil to pan and add onions and 2 tsp. salt. Cook, stirring often for 2 minutes. Cover pot and reduce heat to low. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onions have a hint of golden color, about 20 minutes. Remove lid, raise heat to med-high, stir in 3 Tbsp. flour and cook for about 3 minutes, stirring often. Add ale and stir until smooth. Add onion mixture to Crockpot.

4. Add mushrooms and carrots to Crockpot.

5. Cook on med. setting about 3 to 4 hours.

Dumplings

1. About 40 minutes before serving, make dumplings. In a medium bowl, stir together 2 cups flour, green onions, 3/4 tsp salt and baking soda. Using a pastry blender or your fingers, work cold butter into flour mixture.

2. In another bowl, whisk together egg and buttermilk. Gently fold wet ingredients into dry ingredients until a very shaggy dough forms. If it is too dry, add more buttermilk.

3. Drop by spoonful into Crockpot. Cover and cook for 20 to 30 minutes.

4. Serve hot.



"Rich with ale and caramelized onions, this stew provides a thick hearty base for the fluffy white dumplings that are dropped in at the end of cooking."

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 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, 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 or call 800-543-3622

and may also join ACC online at 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

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.

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 and www.acc-fmca.com.

Future American Coach Rallies

American Coach Chapter 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.

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