

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 15, ISSUE 3, JUNE, 2009



"Randy Hendricks and his service crew are, once again, repairing six items on your coach at this rally, so get your service request list in today!"

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President's Message

Time flies when you're having fun! It seems like yesterday that Annette and I left the ACC pre-rally in Stone Mountain, Georgia and now we are getting ready for the *"Coming Back Home"* pre-rally in Decatur, Ind. This rally is shaping up to be one of the best in recent years.

The mayor is involved, along with the past mayor, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Superintendent of Schools. The local newspaper has written two articles publicizing this rally, which will be held at the Belmont High School campus, and that has gotten the Decatur businesses excited about our arrival. Many of the local shops and restaurants are helping out with items for the "goodie bags", discounts at local establishments for rally attendees, and even door prizes.

This pre-rally is five days long - one day longer than our typical pre-rally. On Monday, the mayor of Decatur and the ACC Officers will welcome our attendees, especially the first-timers, and offer a salute to our veterans.

Two local ACC members and vendors,

Cruising America RV (Kevin Mallory) and *From Trees To These* (Greg Mies) have invited all attendees to a picnic style dinner at the home and business location of Greg Mies on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday night, we're hoping to bring in several guests. It will be a potluck dinner - we'll all bring something to share and the chapter will provide the meat. Oh yes, don't forget to wear your "crazy hat". I know you'll look great while you're on the dance floor kickin' it up with our DJs and ACC members, Randy & Robin Brock.

We've moved our gala night from Friday to Thursday because many of you want to retire early on Friday to prepare for the caravan to Bowling Green on Saturday morning. Join us on Thursday for *Black & White Night*. ➡

Don't Miss the "Coming Back Home" Rally in Decatur, Indiana

By Marcia Bratsburg

Please join us for the "Coming Back Home" pre-rally on July 13th - 18th, 2009 in Decatur, Indiana. Belmont High School has opened their campus for us to use for camping as well as recreation. We'll be using their classrooms, cafeteria, tennis courts and even the swimming pool. The Superintendent of Schools, the mayor, the Downtown Merchants and the Chamber of Commerce are joining together to welcome us to their town and make this a great rally. The local hospital is even on board to provide us with health screening, blood work (for a small fee) and free classes on nutrition and fitness on the road.

We have two wonderful tours, golf, and great meals. We have breakfasts, a welcome reception, dinners, a potluck and a lunch planned for you.

Cont. on page 8

President's Message, cont.

Dress in your favorite black and white attire - casual is ok. Dance and be entertained by Dan Heath and the Paradise Band (www.danheathmusic.com). Friday's theme is *Cheeseburgers in Paradise*. Our resident DJ and his American (Coach) Idol wife are back again and will have you dancing the night away. If you missed them at the Stone Mountain rally, you're in for a treat.

What's different about this pre-rally? For one thing, there will be vendors and seminars. We don't usually solicit vendors since FMCA has so many, but we decided to have a nice cross-section of vendors and perhaps a few seminars that you won't find at the FMCA convention. For example, Debbie and Terry Farber will be showing everyone how to join and navigate the American Coach Yahoo chat group. Meet some of the "Yahoos" that post helpful information and meet the "lurkers" too. Plus, the local hospital will be having a health fair with free classes on nutrition and fitness. I won't go on about the details. You can read more about it in Marcia's article and on the web site

at www.acc-fmca.com.

If you haven't already registered, don't waste another minute before you sign up. Load up that coach, blow the cob webs off, and point it towards Decatur, Indiana.

I'm hearing about lots of rallies and caravans going on before and after the Decatur pre-rally and the FMCA Convention in Bowling Green. A group of coaches, lead by Merritt and Carita Mosby are traveling by caravan from Blanchard, Idaho to Decatur (see Merritt's article). Some members will head north after the FMCA Rally, to the upper peninsula of Michigan and across to Wisconsin and Minnesota. I think that some members are traveling to the northeast as far as Maine and others may also head up into Canada. Join us in Decatur and use it as a starting point or stopping off point for a great summer vacation. *Come have a good time with old friends and take the opportunity to make new friends.*

Travel safe and we hope to see you in Decatur!
Chip Aiken

Coming Home Rally Tribute to Decatur

By Tony Stellar, Vice President

The excitement is mounting as we count down the days to our "Coming Back Home Rally" in Decatur on July 13-18. We made the front page of the Decatur Daily Democrat and many local merchants are offering discounts to those attending the rally. Even the mayor of Decatur is involved. We are looking forward to supporting this great community.

Merritt Mosby is finalizing plans for the caravan from Blanchard, Idaho to Decatur. Anytime we can tour this great country with American Coach friends will be fun. I am looking forward to it and I hope you will join our caravan.

Marcia Bratsburg and her committees are hard at work on every detail of this rally. There will be something for everyone - fun

tours, golf, good music, great food, vendors. It should be a great Midwestern experience.

The registration list is growing and I was delighted to see that many of our friends whom we have not seen for some time will be in Decatur. This rally is shaping up to be a tribute to the community that proudly manufactures our American Coaches and I hope you will be there to help us celebrate.

You can still register for the rally at www.acc-fmca.com or fill out the registration form attached to this newsletter. We hope to see you all in Decatur.



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Join the West Coast Caravan to Decatur, Indiana

By Merritt Mosby

Call it what you want, *rolling rally, caravan, long line of American Coaches going down the road*; one thing you will be calling it for sure, is *fun!* Most of the participating members will be leaving from Blanchard, Idaho on July 6th, but some coaches will be joining us along the way. The tentative plan is to spend half a day at Mt. Rushmore or Crazy Horse. The final decision will be made at a pre caravan meeting at the Blanchard rally.

Carita and I have driven back and forth this big, beautiful country of ours in our, beautiful American Eagle several times. We have traveled by ourselves, with large groups and with just a few friends. When we are alone, we sometimes wish we had someone to share a cup of coffee with before heading out. The larger groups can create problems when traveling so many miles, but we have found that dividing a large group into several smaller groups for caravaning works out better than trying to have everyone stay together. We meet for lunch or in the evening for a

social hour or dinner and plan the next day's events. We don't appoint or create smaller groups; they just form on their own. The early risers leave when they're ready, quietly I hope. The slow drivers and the fast driver go at their own pace. The late starters play catch up and then we all get together in the evenings and talk about our experiences.

Some folks like to barbeque together in the evenings, others find a restaurant to go to for their evening meals. Some are loners and some are joiners and it's just fun to meet up in the evening and chat. It's also good to know that there is a helping hand just a few miles away in case of a problem like the time Dave Van de Velde had a flat tire in the middle of Oklahoma with no town for miles.

I hope you can join us; it's going to be a blast. Call me at home – 541-997-0486, my cell – 925-383-6341 or Carita's cell – 541-999-0486. Or, you can email me at maceagle@oregonfast.net.

Merritt & Carita Mosby

*"It's good to know that
there is a helping hand
just a few miles away
in case of a problem."*



Nominating Committee Elections

There will be an election to determine members of the Nominating Committee at the next ACC General Membership Meeting. The Nominating Committee consists of three Chapter members in good standing. This committee will be in place until the completion of elections in August 2010.

Our ACC Chapter currently has two candidates for the Nominating Committee and we're looking for one or more candidates. We will elect three committee members at the General Membership meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 14th at 9:00 a.m., in Decatur, Indiana.

The duties of the Nominating Committee are:

- Select one of its members as Nominating Committee Chairperson.
- Nominate candidates for the Chapter Offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Direc-

tor, Alternate National Director, Eastern Area Director, Central Area Director and Western Area Director for the new year to be presented for voting by the chapter membership.

- Obtain clear acceptance of the nominees to serve the chapter should they be elected.
- Make certain that nominated candidates are members in good standing and qualified under applicable national and chapter bylaws.
- Nominate candidates for appointment by the Executive Board to fill vacancies which occur in elected chapter offices.

Being a member of the Nominating Committee is a great way to give back to the Chapter and play a vital role. If you're interested in being considered as a Nominating Committee member, send an email to me or to any Chapter officer.

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

Treasurer's Report

By Sheri Tomaszewski

The main checking account and the CD account have been reconciled through April 30, 2009. The Balance Sheet reflects moneys in our accounts as of 5/24/2009 and the Income vs. Expense Report includes both Stone Mountain and Decatur rally income and expenses since January 1 2009.

Anyone have questions regarding these reports may contact me at 602-524-1690 or treasurer@acc-fmca.com.



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Balance Sheet - As of 5/24/2009:2

As of 5/24/2009 (Accrual Basis)

Account	5/24/2009 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Flexible CD account	13,955.37
Main Account	17,202.44
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	31,157.81
Other Assets	
Customer Invoices	0.00
TOTAL Other Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	31,157.81
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
Vendor Bills	0.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	31,157.81
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	31,157.81

ACC-FMCA

INCOME VS. EXPENSE REPORT

Category Description	1/1/2009- 5/24/2009
INCOME	
Membership Dues	5,400.00
Membership Fees	345
Other Inc	518
Other Inc-Interest	114.4
Rally Income	20,768.00
TOTAL INCOME	27,145.40
EXPENSES	
Administrative	3,299.68
Fees-Professional	20.38
Rally cost	19,491.76
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,811.82
OVERALL TOTAL	4,333.58

A Friendly Reminder from the Secretary

By Annette Aiken

I hope everyone is packing up their coaches and getting ready to head to Decatur for the "Coming Home Rally".

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 all in Decatur.

News from Fleetwood



June 02, 2009

Dear Valued Fleetwood Owners:

Recent headlines about Fleetwood and, more specifically, Fleetwood RV, may have left some of you wondering about the future. This being said, I am pleased to announce that last Friday, May 29, we signed an asset purchase agreement to sell our motor home business to American Industrial Partners (AIP).

AIP is a leading middle market private equity firm which owns several industrial businesses in the U.S. They are very excited about our RV business and believe in the future of the industry.

The agreement with AIP is subject to some closing conditions, and is also subject to an auction process, if other bidders emerge, which would then be held in advance of final Court approval of the deal. Included with this letter is a copy of today's company news release, which includes more specific information about AIP's offer and the bidding process. For the latest information about Fleetwood's reorganization process, please visit: www.kccllc.net/fleetwood.

In regards to warranty work that you may need completed on your motor home, Fleetwood is still honoring approved warranty work in the normal course of business.

Thank you for the ongoing support you have expressed over the past few months. I realize that Fleetwood's reorganization causes some concern, but we remain optimistic that we will emerge from this process a stronger, healthier company that will continue to manufacture the high-quality recreational vehicles you have trusted for 60 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul", followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right.

Paul Eskritt
President - RV Group
Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc.



Contact: Rivian Bell or Sydney Rosencranz
The Abernathy MacGregor Group
rlb@abmac.com, spr@abmac.com
(213) 630-6550; (888) 477-4319 (24/7)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fleetwood Enterprises Signs Asset Purchase Agreement for Motor Home Assets; Receives Approval of Sales Procedures

Riverside, Calif. – June 2, 2009 – Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc. (FLTWOQ.OB), a leading producer of recreational vehicles and manufactured homes, today reported that it has signed an asset purchase agreement to sell its motor home business to American Industrial Partners Capital Fund IV, L.P. (AIP) of New York. AIP is a middle market private equity firm which makes control investments in leading North American-based industrial businesses. Last week, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court approved sales procedures for an auction to explore whether any higher or more qualified bids could be obtained.

AIP's \$53 million bid is subject to reduction for the assumption of certain liabilities not to exceed \$18 million, including warranty obligations on Fleetwood motorized products. The price is also subject to an adjustment for the amount of current assets purchased at the time the transaction closes.

Under the bidding procedures, any competing bidders must submit qualifying bids by June 18, 2009, and if the company receives qualifying bids, the Court will hold an auction on June 22, 2009. The Court hearing to finalize the sale is tentatively scheduled for June 24, 2009.

The offer from AIP includes two motor home manufacturing facilities, two motor home service facilities, and Fleetwood's Gold Shield supply subsidiary, all located in Decatur, Ind.. It also includes intellectual property for Fleetwood's existing motor home brands, certain machinery and equipment, but does not include the company's motor home manufacturing facilities in Riverside, Calif. and Paxinos, Pa., or its travel trailer plants, brands, and intellectual property.

"We are pleased to have signed an agreement to sell our motor home operation. AIP is a very capable and qualified organization," said Elden L. Smith, Fleetwood's president and chief executive officer. "Since the sale process under Chapter 11 enables other bidders to come forward, we cannot say for certain what the outcome will be. We do expect, however, that the final purchaser will seek to take advantage of the Fleetwood name and legacy, as well as endeavor to preserve as many jobs as possible."

Fleetwood is also pursuing buyers for its manufactured housing business.



News from Fleetwood, cont.

Management believes that it continues to have adequate cash to fund operations until its businesses are sold.

Greenhill & Co. is serving as Fleetwood's investment banker. Interested parties should contact the Seller, Greenhill & Co., LLC ("Greenhill"), 300 Park Avenue, 22nd Floor, New York, New York 10022 (Attn: David E. Burns) dburns@greenhill.com; and counsel to the Seller, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, 3161 Michelson Drive, Irvine, California 92612 (Attn: Rod Anavim) ranavim@gibsondunn.com.

Additional information about the company's reorganization may be found online in the news section of www.fleetwood.com or at www.kccllc.net/fleetwood.

About Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc.

Founded in 1950, Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc. and its various subsidiaries produce, distribute, and service recreational vehicles and manufactured housing. The company is dedicated to providing high-quality, innovative products that offer exceptional value to its customers. Fleetwood continues to employ approximately 2,100 people in 14 plants located in 10 states. Fleetwood's products are primarily marketed through extensive dealer networks throughout the United States and Canada. The company is headquartered in Riverside, Calif.

This press release contains certain forward-looking statements and information based on the beliefs of Fleetwood's management as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, Fleetwood's management. Such statements reflect the current views of Fleetwood with respect to future events and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties, and assumptions, including risk factors identified in Fleetwood's most recent 10-K, 10-Q and other SEC filings.

Don't Forget Your Hat and a Few Other Things

We have so many great events planned for the *Coming Home to Decatur Pre-Rally* that we thought a checklist might be in order.

- Silly hats for Wednesday night
- Tropical Clothing for Friday night
- Black and White Clothing for Thursday night (this means any black and white clothes you want to wear, from shorts to tanks to tux if you're so inclined)
- Jack pads
- Generator exhaust stack (if you are using one)
- A hearty appetite
- Full fresh water tank
- Empty grey and black tanks
- Walking Shoes for Auburn Tour
- Dancing shoes for band and DJ night
- A great attitude and great expectations

We hope to see you there!



Coming Home Rally, cont.

"So pack your silly hat and your tropical clothes and don't forget your dancing shoes because the local band will have you partying the night away."



Bring your tropical wear, because it's *Cheeseburger in Paradise* night on Friday. Do you have a funny hat? We're having a funny hat contest along with our DJ on Wednesday night. The "Ice Cream Cheerleaders" will be back with their Ice Cream Social on Wednesday afternoon. Thursday night is *Black and white Night* - dress up or dress down but make it black and white.

We have many vendor's waiting to join us as well as many of our ACA friends. We're making this a rally like no other ACC rally we've had!

And since we're *coming back home*, we'll be joined by the American Coach service team? They will, once again be repairing six items for each coach. For those coaches out of warranty, labor is free! You'll just need to pay for parts.

Come as early as Saturday, but no earlier; the gates will be locked! Remember that we will be dry camping for the rally so early arrival means more days with no hook-ups. Early days will be \$10.00/ day and you'll pay for this at

the registration desk on Monday!

Plan to arrive with your fresh water tank full and your grey and black holding tanks empty. We will provide a pump out service on Friday. Please bring your jack pads as we will be parking on asphalt. Additionally, since generators will be our source of power, please respect your neighbors and bring your exhaust stacks.

Bellmont High School is located at 1000 E. North Adams Dr. in Decatur.

So pack your silly hat and tropical clothing, and don't forget your dancing shoes because Chip Aiken has contracted with a local band that'll have you partying the night away. The DJ and his "ACC Idol" wife, will not let you down! They, too, will have you on the dance floor before you can say no!

You'll want to sign up now as the tours are for a limited number. Send in your application or register on-line at www.acc-fmca.com.

Tours, Golf and Ladies Luncheon

Exploring Auburn, Indiana

Military history buffs, veterans, and automotive lovers will be excited about this tour. First, you'll visit the National Military History Center! The center spotlights the service and sacrifice of America's military through a variety of museum units dedicated to Young America's military, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and today's War on Terror. Bring your walking shoes; the museum complex is expansive.

You'll also be visiting the Kruse Automotive Horsepower & Carriage Museum. Located in the same building as the National Military History Center, there is a car to interest everyone at this museum: Andy Griffith's Packard, a car driven by Dale Earnhardt, President Hoover's car, Buffalo Bill's stagecoach and the General Lee. You will enjoy just strolling and reminiscing.

You'll lunch at Mad Anthony Brewing Company and then visit the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, one of the "Top Ten Gearhead Destinations in the United States." **Price, including lunch is \$68 /person.**

Exploring Berne, Indiana

Visit the Amish country and tour an Amish home. The tour includes a guide to take you through an Old Order Amish community, lunch at a local restaurant (pot roast, chicken, and all the fixin's) and entry to the Swiss Heritage Center. At the Heritage Center you'll go back to the late 1800's and early 1900's as your tour guide recounts stories of the settlers lives and how they came to Berne to build homes and businesses. **Price, including lunch is \$52 /person.**

For the golfer's, Jim and Doty Graham have worked with the Grey Goose Golf Club to offer you golf, including a cart and lunch on Wednesday for only **\$40.00 /person.**

And, ladies, you're invited to the Grey Goose Golf Club Restaurant for lunch! Register now for only **\$15 /person.**

American Coach Chapter of FMCA
“Coming Back Home” Pre-Rally, Decatur, Ind.

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, 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 6 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 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 (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 serviced until all 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 owners 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.

For American Coach Service Use Only

Group _____ Day/Time _____ Control _____ Site # _____

American Coach Chapter of FMCA Service Request

Coming Back Home Pre-Rally, July 13-18, 2009

Deadline For Submittal to American Coach is: July 2, 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 in Bowling Green, OH 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, 1420 W. Patterson St. Decatur, IN 46733

Or fax to: 260-728-2951

Any questions about repairs call the Service Center at 877-735-6303

**American Coach Chapter of FMCA Registration for
"Coming Back Home" Pre-rally, July 13 - 18, 2009
Decatur, Indiana**

Registration Deadline: June 30th, 2009. For those of you wishing to arrive early, you may come as early as Saturday - NO EARLIER - for \$10.00/ night, payable at registration on Monday, July 13th. If the rally sells out earlier than June 10th, you will be placed on a waiting 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 June 30th, 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 _____ 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 included with payment.

If you want to park near friends, you will need to arrive with them. We will not be assigning parking in advance.

Will you be caravanning to Bowling Green for the FMCA rally? You will need to be registered for the FMCA rally to caravan.

Yes _____ No _____

Important Information

- We will be dry camping and will offer a pump out service on Friday.
- We will be parking at the Bellmont High School facility on asphalt so bring your jack pads.
- Since generators will be our source of power, please respect your neighbors and bring your exhaust stacks.
- We will have access to water if you need to refill.

Rally Fee		
2 people	\$225.00	\$ _____
Rally Fee		
1 person	\$175.00	\$ _____
Additional		
Guests	\$75.00	\$ _____
Non-member		
Buddy Coach	\$225.00	\$ _____
FMCA #	_____	
Non-member rally fee		
2 persons	\$400.00	\$ _____
Children under 16 years of age are free, except for golf and tours but, we need the number. _____		
Golf , \$40.00/person # _____ \$ _____		
Exploring Auburn, IN		
\$68.00/person #	_____	\$ _____
Exploring Berne, IN		
\$52.00/person #	_____	\$ _____
Ladies Luncheon		
\$15.00/person#	_____	\$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____		
Make checks payable to: ACC-FMCA		
Mail to: Sheri Tomaszewski		
P.O. Box 17810		
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269-7810		
Or register online at		
www.acc-fmca.com		

Visit Garden of the Gods on Your Way to Decatur

Garden of the Gods is located in the 280,000 acre *Shawnee National Forest* in southern Illinois. If you are driving north on Interstate 57, you will drive through the middle of it. Natural bluffs, millions of years old, stand guard over forested hill country.



With two rivers and over 200,000 acres of forest dotted with vineyards and soaring rock formations, you will quickly realize how “the great outdoors” got its name.

There are three scenic routes throughout the forest: the *Ohio River National Scenic Byway*, the *Great River Road* and the *Trail of Tears National Historic Route*.

Bring your fishing gear when you visit this area. You will catch bluegill, sunfish, catfish, white and yellow bass, crappie and large and spotted bass. An Illinois fishing license is required. Get more information at www.takemefishing.org

You are sure to see some of the abundant wildlife living in the Shawnee Forest. Oakwood Bottoms Greenwood Reservoir serves as a resting and feeding stop for thousands of waterfowl. The forest provides habitat for whitetail deer, squirrels and rabbits.

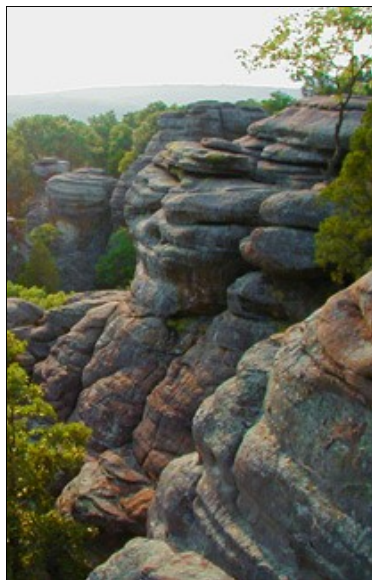
Popular attractions within the forest boundaries include *Garden of the Gods*, *Stone Face* and *Little Grand Canyon*.

The sediment rock here is over four miles deep and the fractured bedrock



has created some interesting rock formations. Short stone paths lead to some spectacular overlooks of the wilderness area.

Erosion has carved a canyon and exposed scenic bluffs at *Little Grand Canyon*. The trail is a 3.6 mile loop but shorter walks lead to scenic vistas and



overlooks before the trail travels into the canyon. The trail has steps carved into the rocky creek-bed and the canyon is known for its

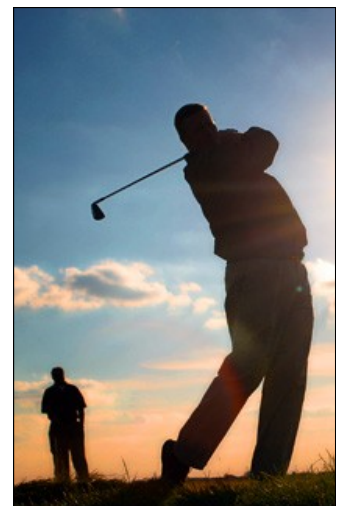
diverse plants and wildlife.

Also near the *Shawnee National Forest* is the *Southern Illinois Golf Trail*. Consisting of five different acclaimed courses, with the stunning Shawnee Forest as a backdrop, the golf trail begins in Marion and winds all the way to rural Vienna. For more information call 618-529-4451.

For additional information on the Shawnee national Forest go to: www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/ .



"The sediment rock here is over four miles deep and the fractured bedrock has created some interesting rock formations."



Coach Improvement Seminar Scheduled at Decatur

Have you updated your coach and if so, would you be interested in sharing your improvements with your fellow ACC members? We are planning a seminar at the Decatur Rally where you can present your idea's in a session called *Improvements and Organization Tips for your American Coach*.

I've heard of some innovative ideas and I know we can help each other! Please send me your idea's with photos and include the name of the person or company that helped you with the improvement or the instructions if you did it yourself. Better yet, if you are coming to the rally in Decatur, bring your ideas and present them yourself!

Doty Graham has already responded. She has the ironing board that fits into the cutting board slot in the kitchen and says "It's the perfect height. When done, I just store it standing up in the closet. Charlie Adcock made the ironing board for me." Also, Johnny Farrell made a rack for the outside folding chairs that fits in the bay. "It really saves space", he says.

I'd love to hear from the person who installed hanger files under the bed. If we ever had to go full time, I'd want that! Doty says she'd love to hear better ideas for inside storage if anyone has some!

Doty will be there with pictures..... how about you? If you want to participate, please let me know so I can get you on the list!

Send me your idea's to me at mbrat@att.net or call me at 616-340-5166. I look forward to hearing from you!

Decatur, Indiana, 1994

By Merritt Mosby

Carita and I made our first trip to Decatur, Indiana in 1994. We had purchased a new 1993 plum colored, side entry, narrow body, 300 HP mechanical Cummins engine, 38 foot J (side isle) model American Eagle. It was a gorgeous, fast, *King of the Road* type motor home and it had great gas mileage - between ten and twelve miles per gallon, *honest*. We could even pass several truck stops in a row without stopping. Whenever or wherever we stopped, we were looked at with awe. And, boy did that coach go fast.

At that time, the American Eagles were built on

Winchester Street at Plant #52, where the Liberty Chassis is currently being built. They had just built a brand new American Coach Service Center across the street. Yep, that Service Center could hold two American Eagles at the same time! On Wednesday afternoon's the crew would bring out the barbeque and cook hamburgers for the Limited and American Eagle owners.

Carita and I have been to two other American Coach rallies held in Decatur and we wouldn't miss this one even if fuel prices are sky-high. It should be a lot of fun, and I hope to see you there.

Merritt & Carita Mosby,

Way, way past president of ACC

Win \$5,000 in Bear Tracks Photo Contest

Think your prints are one of a kind? As you travel about the country, discovering quaint cities, superb eateries and exhilarating adventures, you can get a chance to win \$500. Just submit a photo of you and the Indigo Bluffs Bear on your next RV excursion.

Go ahead...have some fun! Then enter your photo in the **Bear Tracks Photo Contest** for a chance to win one of the many great prizes or one of our two grand prizes: a \$5,000 rally for your user group, club or association or \$500 cash.

There is one more incentive to enter.

Just for uploading a photo, Indigo Bluffs will give you a 3 day/2 night stay, **free**, at their beautiful resort in Empire, Michigan.

To enter the contest just go to Indigo Bluff's web site at <http://www.indigobluffs.com/beartracks/>, download the bear, take a photo with the bear in it and upload your photo.

Indigo Bluffs is a sponsor and friend of ACC.



Easy Warm Weather Appetizers for Rally Happy Hours

This recipe was sent in from Marcia Bratsburg and these pretzels got rave reviews at the last rally.

*Making appetizers
for rally happy hours
is more difficult
because they must
stay fresh in any
kind of weather.
Here are a few easy
recipes that meet
that challenge.*



Garlicky Pretzels

- 1 bottle Orville Redenbacher Popping Oil
- 1 envelope Ranch Dressing Mix
- 2 16 oz. bags mini pretzels (NOT fat free)

Mix all the ingredients in a 2 gallon zip-lock bag. Turn bag over several times a day for 3-4 days to allow the pretzels to absorb the mix evenly.

You can dress up these corn cakes with salsa and sour cream or eat them just as they are.

Fresh Corn Cakes

- 1 cup fresh corn kernels
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 4 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs, separates
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground pepper

In a blender or food processor, pulse corn and green onions until chopped but not smooth. Transfer to a large bowl and stir in 2 tablespoons oil and the egg yolks.

In another medium bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, salt and pepper. Add to corn mixture and mix thoroughly but gently. In another medium bowl, whisk or beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold into corn mixture.

In a large frying pan, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat. Working in batches, drop small spoonfuls of the corn mixture into pan. Do not spread or flatten. Cook until edges begin to set and undersides are browned, about 2 minutes. Flip and cook until cakes are browned and cooked through. Add more oil and repeat. Serve hot or room temperature with salsa and sour cream or plain.



Deviled eggs don't last long outside in warm weather but, if you walk around with these and say "Bacon Deviled Eggs", they will be gone before they hit the appetizer table.

Bacon Deviled Eggs

- 3 slices bacon
- 8 hard-cooked large eggs
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp thinly sliced green onions
- 1 teaspoon prepared mustard
- Salt and pepper

In a medium frying pan over medium heat, cook bacon until browned on both sides and crisp. Drain on paper towel, cool and crumble.

Cut each egg in half lengthwise; gently scoop out yolks and place in bowl. Mash yolks with a fork, then stir in mayonnaise, green onions, mustard, and crumbled bacon until well blended. Salt and pepper to taste.

Spoon or pipe about 1 tablespoon yolk mixture into each egg-white half. Cover and chill up to 4 hours.

Sage and Garlic Marinated Antipasto



6 artichoke hearts, halved and well drained (use canned but not marinated)

- 7 oz. mixed green and black olives
- 7 oz. cherry tomatoes halved
- 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 15 sage leaves
- 3 cloves garlic, sliced thin
- Fresh ground pepper
- 2 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 5 oz. feta cheese, sliced
- Crusty baguette or Pita

Combine the artichokes, olives and tomatoes. Place the oil and sage leaves in a sauté pan over medium heat and cook for 1 minute. Add the garlic and pepper and cook for 2 more minutes until sage is crisp. Pour over the artichoke mixture and let stand for 5 minutes. Serve with crusty baguette or pita bread and feta cheese.

Better Wireless on the Road

By Rob Carson

I'm a Verizon wireless user, both for my phone and mobile data requirements, so I always keep an eye out for new technology that they offer.

I discovered the new MiFi 2200 broadband unit which provides not only the wireless data capabilities with Verizon but acts as a hub so your friends can connect to it wireless and surf the web. This is like creating a "hotspot" with your computer.

Keep in mind that if you have a 'pay as you play' data plan, this could cost you a lot of money based on the increase usage so be very careful and understand your plan.

This unit is on sale for \$70 through resellers or Verizon has it for \$100.00 with a 2 year activation agreement. If you have the unlimited data plan for \$59/ month, this may work well for you.

The downside is that I already bought a wireless modem from Verizon and would basically be throwing it out if I opted to use their MiFi unit. I get frustrated by the way the cell phone companies gouge us on equipment just so I can pay them more money when I use it.

I like the idea of providing a hotspot while RV'ing, so I searched the internet and very quickly came up with another approach that met my needs.

The unit I like is called the Cradlepoint MBR1000 and sells for \$249 retail but you can usually find it for less if you shop around. It has very good reviews on Amazon and other mobile phone sites.

The unit provides for WiFi connectivity as well as providing up to four wired connections so it's like a standard Linksys wireless router/hub. It works with almost all cell phone providers and is packed with all the features you would expect from a LinkSys or Netgear wireless router, including business secured Virtual Private Network (VPN) capabilities.

The unit is designed to use your existing USB or Express card wireless modem in the device. There is a D/C 12 volt adapter so it can be used in the car or RV when moving down the road - pretty cool to setup for the wife and kids to surf the web while traveling. The website is www.cradlepoint.com.

If your cell phone provider is using the newer G4 technology (most cell phone providers still use G3 but, check with your provider), then you will want to purchase the MBR1100 model which has the newer technology capabilities but will also cost you an extra \$100 retail.

For the installation in my 2005 Tradition, I'm going to place it above the Audio/ Video selector cabinet behind the drivers seat and tie it into a 12Volt source. With this set-up, the antenna will be higher up and out of the way. If you use printer sharing or other shared devices, then you'll probably mount it lower and run your network cables to it. If you happen to be using the USB WiFi modem from your cell phone provider, you can utilize a USB extension cable and mount the modem high and run the cable down to the MBR unit for better reception.

For more information, visit www.cradlepoint.com where they offer a full line of products. They have compatibility charts to determine if your carrier and device will work with their unit and they outline everything in an easy-to-read format. Then, check pricing on Ebay, Amazon or use your favorite pricing search engine.

Happy computing! 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.



Don't Toss It - Repair It!

We all know that it is often less expensive to buy a new appliance rather than repair a broken one. There is the 50 percent rule: if a repair would cost half or more of what it costs to buy a new product, the product should be replaced. In large appliances like refrigerators, the new products are also likely to be more energy efficient.

But, with small appliances, there is a great web site that makes it easy to get the replacement parts you need to keep that coffee maker or food processor out

of the landfill. The site is <http://www.smallappliance.com> and you can get replacement parts for nearly any small appliance. I have ordered three frothing tubes for our cappuccino maker (all of which rolled under the counter into the coach belly somewhere), a new coffee pot and a new bowl for my food processor. The site is easy to navigate with a simple process to take you right to the part you need. The parts are in stock, they ship fast and prices are reasonable. They will periodically email you with sales which is a good time to order those broken parts.



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

ACC of FMCA Rallies

ACC Pre-rally, July 13 - 18, 2009, Decatur, Indiana

FMCA's 82nd International Convention, July 20 - 24, 2009, Bowling Green Ohio

ACC Pre-rally, March 16 - 20, 2010, TBD, NM

FMCA's 83rd International Convention, March 22 - 25, 2010, Albuquerque, NM

ACC Pre-rally, August 5 - 9, 2010, Seven Feathers RV Resort, Canyonville, OR

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

ACA Rallies

Fall Rally, Sept. 10 - 15, 2009, Columbus OH

If you have not paid your dues for 2009, this will be your last issue of The American Way. You can pay online at www.acc-fmca.com or use the renewal form in this issue. Check your mailing label for expiration date.

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