



NORTH ALABAMA RV'ers

A chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association

Chartered March 2003

Editor: Bob Erickson mhsurfr@gmail.com

Greetings from our President

Linda Winters



OH MY GOODNESS GRACIOUS! That picture of myself with Donna in the last issue caught my breath! It is on Wide-angle and the Heavens know I do NOT need any help with a wide view angle! There is plenty of me without any help at all!!!!

When you read this edition my husband Ken and I will be on the road again for two months and over 6000 miles of stops, stay awhile, and go again. We will have begun our trip in Mississippi overnight and then on to Texas, specifically in Houston and our final target destination is Minot, ND for the 100th FMCA convention. But I insisted that we make a stop in Waco so we can visit the Magnolia Silos. I am a huge fan of Chip and Joanna Gaines on HGTV and just cannot pass up an opportunity to visit. If I have pictures they will be posted in this space.

On our travels we made a stop in Houston, TX to visit with one of my sisters. While there she recommended we see the Houston Museum of Natural Science. So glad we did that! Ken and I thought we wouldn't see anything we hadn't

seen in other museums. We had a pleasant surprise and definitely recommend any of our fellow travelers make a planned visit if in the Houston area.



We stood watching the pendulum swing and I tried hard to get the picture of the post being knocked down. Close, anyway.

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This picture shows a huge replica of the moon hanging from the ceiling. It is quite spectacular.

While driving from Houston to Waco we passed by a huge statue of Sam Houston. I know Texans are proud of Sam. Ken and I lived in Garland, a bedroom community of Dallas, for four years. I needed to get my teaching license for Texas and to do that I had to pass a test on fundamental Texas education laws and on the state history. I guess I can still teach in Texas as my license is "lifetime." No thanks, not moving out of Huntsville (again.)

Keep folks in your prayers these days as we have several needing our thoughts.

Keep on Rolling,

Linda Winters

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Pigeon Forge Rally Report

Chuck Borchers, re-written by Donett Murphy (Thanks!)



We had a fun gathering at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee hosted by Chuck and Sue Borchers and Donett Murphy with a good turn out of 9 RVs – Brights, Caruthers, Ericksons, Connells, Rohrs, Hammonds, Borchers, Murphy and new members Song and Charles Staggs. Most coaches were able to make reservations at the Camp Rivers Landing RV Park which was near downtown Pigeon Forge (Brights were at an adjacent campground. The park provided a Barn for all our gathering which was not air conditioned but we are campers, right!!

Travel on Thursday was challenging with bad weather and summer traffic and a few members attempted short cuts which were less than acceptable; however, these “adventures” will provide fun discussions around our next campfire.

Thursday evening was enjoyable meeting new members, seeing current members, wishing Silvia Connell Happy Birthday and of course eating great food. After the long drive most folks just retired to their coaches with a few congregating in Erickson’s coach for games.

Friday we all gathered for lunch at a local eating establishment known for serving food and

drinks with a side of sarcasm. Dick’s Last Resort is a chain that easily could accommodate our entire group. As to be expected, our group got right into the swing of things and were “rewarded” (or humiliated) with fun hats. See the crazy pictures. (Editor-I did not want to show these adult-themed hats, but...) The food was not up to our high expectations.



From left: Randal & Pam Caruthers, Kathie Erickson. The editor can’t read Randal’s hat either...



From left: Bob Erickson, Sue & Chuck Borchers. Chuck’s is fuzzy, but the most tame. It says “Not going bald, just getting more head”.

Editor: Some folks had a discount coupon, some had a free appetizer coupon. Kathie and I got “Tachos” (tater tots covered with nacho seasoning and salad. Caruthers got pulled pork on theirs! They were both pretty good.

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Still editor: My meal below (chicken strips with spicy country gravy, loaded smashed potato, and roasted green beans) was really good.



Afternoon was free time to enjoy the many sights of the area. In the evening we gathered again in the barn for a Cowboy themed bar-b-que feast. Wow what great food – pulled pork with lots of different sauces and shredded chicken provided by the hosts and great sides provided by everyone else. Most folks came in cowboy dress with hats, shirts, and boots. There were Cowgirls Scarves for the ladies and Sheriff Badges for the fellows. As usual, everyone got into the spirit. After dinner out came the cards, dominos, games, and laughter.



This is everybody but Pam Caruthers, photographer.

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People are intent on their games. There are 3 tables of either Dominos or Fasttrack.

Saturday morning was again free time. Some of the group found a fabulous place for breakfast. Check with Bob Connell for the location. Another group went to the Wild Bear Inn for a good German lunch.



The Erickson's German Black Forest Cherry Cake.

Also Saturday morning a few fellows gathered to fix or trouble shoot problems with our coaches. These fellows enjoy helping each other and it gives them time for "engineering bonding." The fellows worked on the following this weekend:

- Randall Caruthers wanted to replace his florescent bulbs so the fellows cut out the control board in the fixtures and connected LED

strips. They found a blown fuse, taped 6 strips into the kitchen fixture which lit up the kitchen.

- Chuck Boucher's windshield shade was not working so the fellows helped to remove the shade in hopes of getting to the motor. They successfully removed the shade but could not find the connectors they expected in order to get the shade down. After reinstalling the shade, Chuck took the coach to Red Bay to get it repaired.

- Donett Murphy's steps were not working. After checking the fuses, they looked under the steps and found a pinched cable. They temporary repaired the cable and Donett was so grateful to be able to get herself and her dogs in and out of the coach that she cried...what a wimp!!!

Saturday evening we had reservation to attend a Mystery Dinner Theater for a production of "Who Shot the Sherriff". So we all got cleaned up, combed our hair, put on cologne and off we went to the theater. The food was acceptable and the production was fun. As always, our group got singled out for being rowdy. Thanks Randall. The entire theater sang Happy Birthday to Silvia Connell...this was Silvia's birthday weekend. Back to our coaches and after sundown the Borchers and Caruthers drove to Dollywood to see their fireworks.

Sunday morning Sue and Donett prepared breakfast. Fresh breads, yogurts, fruits and other goodies were served as a send-off for the long drive home. Thankfully, Sunday travels were safe but slow in spots. Now we are preparing for the next gathering at the Texas T campground just across the Tennessee border in August - ya'll come. Be sure to call the campground to make your reservations and then call the Ericksons to tell them you are coming; see the club's campout schedule at the end of this newsletter for the phone numbers.

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Reliable Service Providers

Chuck Borchert, As Suggested by Donett Murphy (Thanks!)



We all have our horror stories about getting our RVs serviced locally here in Huntsville. What do you think about the club putting together a listing for people we have used that gave us acceptable service?

We would include shops that worked on our chassis, body work, coach problems, generator problems, tires, towing issues, etc. We would ask members to submit shops and if they want to they can include the member's name so someone who might be interested in the procedure could call and ask specific questions. Including member's name in the listing is optional.

We are not implying that the club is in any way approving the shop. We would maintain this listing like we do the roster and members could request a copy at any time. We might want to publish it in the newsletter once a year. I am not sure how far from home we want to keep it. I know I have had my coach out to Red Bay several times and do not mind the 100 mile drive when they did what I asked them to do when they said they would do it.

To give an example here is my list:

- Reed Camper Sales on Jordan Lane has given me good prices on several items – a toilet and window awning. They are a small dealership compared to their neighbor down the street.
- Abercrombie Commercial Tire Service on 72 far west side of Athens has serviced several tire problems on my RV and car.
- S&S Service Center on 431 South, Owens Cross Roads works on generators.
- Tennessee Valley RV Mobile Service will come to your house to work on your RV. (Recommended by a friend)
- Bunk House Conversion RV in Red Bay does nice interior modifications and general RV repair. They claim they will work on anything from the jacks up.
- Custom Paint & Auto Body in Red Bay did an excellent job painting my RV where I rubbed against a concrete barrier at a Flying J.
- Tiiffin Motorhomes in Red Bay has a Coach Service number – 256-356-0261- that you can call and they will try to help you diagnose the problem and then provide help fixing the problem. Of course this is for Tiiffin RVs.

If you have comments on this idea or want to contribute, please email me at cborchertjr@gmail.com.

Chuck Borchert

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Newsletter Editor's Ramble

Bob Erickson



Thanks to Donett Murphy for re-writing the June Rally Report! I decided to re-release the newsletter with hers, it is a much better description of the fun we had. For the future, everyone is encouraged to share their pictures with me for the newsletter! Text or email (email preferred, it's not easy for my phone to talk to my old computer...). I also added an item on recommended service providers that I had forgotten to include.

Also thanks to Jack & Linda McClure, who replied to my newsletter and pointed out that they also were in the area with us. Also they pointed out a misspelling, which is corrected in this release (thanks!). What's the story behind your email ID "Parkerjack"? Do I have your last name wrong?

A full-time job takes too much time, after 6 years of retirement! I get up at 4:30, walk the dogs before it gets hot (or light), then get to work by 6. After work I have chores at home. I've also been taking care of our son's 2 dogs for 1-2 weeks at a time.



From left: Shadow, Molly, and Crystal

I mentioned my porch previously. I got an extension from my insurance company to August 15. Here's what it looks like now:



And below is why I had to break up the concrete: minimum thickness 2", and the slab edge was resting on a few pebbles!



To make sure the mortar sticks (mortar residue is powdery and doesn't stick well), I've used a concrete blade on my grinder to cut off and grind down the mortar to clean brick. It's worked great!

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I don't grind the outside face of the brick, because it is a glaze. I will dip the face in muriatic acid, then pressure wash to get mortar off.

Why am I going into so much detail on a HOUSE project? Well, it will save me over \$10k, and it's my excuse for not working on my RV projects!

Oh, and I forgot to say that we are having our lawn treated now, so I have to mow every 3 days!

Welcome to our new members!

- Jack & Linda McClure
- Eddie Dufour & Ricky Edwards

I'm a bit confused about new members, we have to work on communicating better. But, we look forward to meeting new and old members at our rallies! I would like pictures of members to put in the newsletter (new AND old), and birthdates and anniversaries for our Celebrations page (new members only).

Please come to rallies! We are a volunteer organization, officers and hosts! I have heard some say that we aren't having enough rallies this year. YOU can solve this by volunteering! Pick a place, or volunteer and ask for suggestions to add.

Thanks to Borchers and Donett Murphy for teaming up for TWO rallies in May & June-See schedule in rear of the newsletter!

Please pray for those members and friends that are experiencing health problems and/or other issues. Also pray for those that have lost loved ones. Those I'm aware of that need prayers for recovery are members Tim & Barbara Day, Carl Hall, Gene Hammond and Dwight & Gayla Hayes. Also include former member Jonathon Medlock. Caregivers also need prayers! Please let me know who to add to this list (I know there's more).

Please consider sending input (and errata) for YOUR newsletter. I LOVE being told I made a mistake, because then I know the newsletter is being read!

Prayer requests, RV used items for sale, family milestones, family biography, recipes, crafts or any type of motorhome project are requested. Also, if you have RV questions or issues you need help with. And don't forget to tell us where you've been, with pictures!

Bob Erickson
Editor

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August Rally Itinerary

Bob Erickson



We're going to Texas T Campground in Cornersville TN from August 8-11 (departure day). I was looking through old newsletters last year, noting that we had been there in 2006. It's only about 70 miles away, why hadn't we been there again? So, we went there last August.

- Chuck & Sue Borchers
- Bob & Sylvia Connell
- Bob & Kathie Erickson (hosts)
- Gene & Linda Hammond
- Charles & Song Staggs
- Rick & Teresa Steinberg
- Rich & Ru Wicar (new members, 1st rally!)

Of the folks above, Borchers, Ericksons, and Steinbergs were there last August. I was thinking that the rally report was so glowing that we'd have a bunch more this year!

As of July 11, there are four (4) sites remaining during our rally, so decide fast! Make your reservation (see the Rally Schedule at the end of the newsletter) and notify the hosts (you can reply to this email).

Sites have 50A power, nicely graveled, and the nicest meeting room we have ever been in (air conditioned, of course!). We ate meals and played games in there. We will be doing mostly the same stuff as last year:

Thursday:

5pm Pot Luck, normally Meet n' Eat. Bring side or dessert to share, plus drink).. Hosts will not supply Lawlers meats, unfortunately (but something good!)

Games after, with snacks

Friday:

9am Breakfast of waffles and fruit by hosts

11am visit to a winery (last year it was Picker's Creek) OR I'm trying to contact Mars Farm for a visit- They may be open for venues only...

5pm Dinner at Starlite Café in Cornersville (don't order Fish & Chips!)

Games after, with snacks

Saturday:

9am-leftover breakfast

11am-TennSouth Distillery (last year we were pretty buzzed, we were warned to have designated drivers and needed them!)

5pm Sarge's Shack for dinner. Everyone loved what they ordered!

More games after, with more snacks!

Sunday:

9am Will there be breakfast remaining from previous days???

Depart safely back home, after cleaning up the meeting room.

There will be plenty of time to take care of pets between activities. If you don't have a pet to take care of, you can borrow one!

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Member Celebrations

July Birthdays

3 Carl Hall
14 Sue Borchner
19 Charles Staggs

August Birthdays

2 Debi Nunez
3 Lou Holcombe
12 Wayne Burgett

July Anniversaries

None!

August Anniversaries

17 Jim & Betty Duncan
20 Chuck & Sue Borchner
26 Tim & Barbara Day

Membership Dues

Reminder

Annual chapter membership fees (\$20 couple and \$10 single) for calendar year 2019 have been **cancelled** by membership vote at the 2018 business meeting! Name tags are a direct pass-through, and are still payable for new members or for misplaced nametags. For future reference, our treasurer (who also orders nametags!) is:

Randal Caruthers
1307 Leafmore Circle SE
Huntsville AL 35803



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2019 Rally Schedule



Members – please take note of the rallies still needing hosts. You can sign up by email – send your selection to me at mhsurfr@gmail.com I've also included some nearby RV shows. If you have a specific location to change to, that's great as well!

Note: Please make your reservations at least 60 days in advance of each rally, so the Wagon Master can obtain a count of the attendees for the Hosts and other membership (include tentative, please).

January 4-6 Knoxville RV Supershow <http://www.knoxvillervshow.com/> (about 247 miles) Not a club activity. \$8 adults, \$6 Good Sam, tickets for one day only. Service animals only.

January 16-20 Florida RV Supershow, Tampa, FL <http://www.frvta.org/show/florida-rv-supershow/> (663 Miles). Not a club activity

\$10.00 for adults (2d day free), parking is \$8.

February 6-9 FMCA SouthEast Area Rally Lakeland Sun 'N Fun Expo Campus <https://site.fmca.com/pdfs/events/SEA19RegistrationForm.pdf> (664 miles) Volunteer for the FMCA Clothing Booth!

\$195 before 1/15. \$345 including 50A electric. \$10 cash/check discount.

"Smile Again in Lakeland" is the theme.

March 13-16 FMCA 99th International Convention & RV Expo in Perry GA <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> (295 Miles)

Location: Georgia National Fairgrounds. \$215 early registration. Additional \$185 30A or \$305 50A.

"Peachy in Perry" is the theme.

April 11-14 Nashville Jellystone Park www.nashvillejellystone.com (about 117 Miles)

Location: 2572 Music Valley Dr, Nashville, TN 37214, Ph. 615-889-4225

We will be visiting the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival. There is also always something going on, and places to eat! Say you are with the North Alabama RV'ers for club price of \$204.24 (the best discount, I verified...).

Hosts: Pam & Randal Caruthers

May 17-19 DeSoto State Park <http://www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park> (79 Miles)

Location: 7104 DeSoto Parkway NE, Fort Payne, AL 35967 Ph. 1-800-252-7275 Charge about \$91 for 2 nights.

We have booked sites 63,64, and 65. This is going to be a low profile campout. We are there to enjoy each other, and the park. We will probably eat at the lodge one night probably Saturday. We can decide if we want to eat together somewhere Friday night. Breakfasts on

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your own, lunch wherever we happen to be. There are just a few sites available. Their website advertises a Friday night Seafood Buffet starting in April.

Hosts: Chuck & Sue Borchert, & Donett Murphy – RSVP to the hosts, please!

June 5-8 FMCA Great Lakes Area Rally in Allegan MI <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> (636 Miles)

Ericksons have been to this rally twice while traveling up north.

June 6-9 FMCA Northwest Area Rally in Albany OR <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> (2532 Miles)

Registration opens December 2018.

June 20-23 Camp Rivers Landing, in Pigeon Forge TN. 865-453-8181 Good Sam rate \$57/nite.

Details to follow. Call for reservations. Ask for North Alabama RVers. They said they had many sites available in the back of the park.

Hosts: Chuck & Sue Borchert, & Donett Murphy – RSVP to the hosts, please!

August 8-11 Texas "T" Campground www.texascampground.com (about 65 Miles)
Location: 2499 Lynnville Hwy, Cornersville, TN 37047, Ph. 931-293-2500

Texas T is close, has level sites and 50A power. There is a nice clubhouse with kitchen available at no additional charge. We had 6 RVs at our August 2018 rally here, and had a fantastic time! We went to a local vineyard, and Tenn-South Distillery (what a buzz, from 3 different moonshines!)

Hosts: Bob & Kathie Erickson

August 14-17 FMCA 100th International Convention & RV Expo in Minot ND
<https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> (1490 Miles)

Registration opens February 13, 2019

September 18-21 FMCA South Central Area Rally in Shreveport LA <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> (544 Miles)

Registration opens March, 2019

October 10-13 Monte Sano State Park, Huntsville AL (11 Miles)

Location: Monte Sano State Park, 5105 Nolen Ave, Huntsville AL 35801 Ph. (256)534-3757 <http://www.alapark.com/monte-sano-state-park>

Charges: \$28.00 per night (ask for Senior Citizen discount) plus tax.

Hosts: Please volunteer!

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October 17-20 FMCA Rocky Mountain Area Rally in Tuscon AZ <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> (1611 Miles)

Registration opens April 2019.

October 21-25 FMCA INTO (International) Area Rally in Myrtle Beach SC <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> (560 Miles)

\$362 total for 1 person, \$524 total for 2 persons in a rig. Early parking for \$40 a day up to 3 days and 1 day post-rally. Includes full hookups, 5 shows and 2 meals. Rally is limited to total of 200 RVs. **Locals said (at the SEA rally) that the cost of the shows provided is more than the cost of the rally!**

December 7 **Holiday Celebration**, Luncheon, business meeting (location TBD)

Tentative Campgrounds for Rally Sites

Campground Name	Phone Number	City	Miles	\$/Night
Windemere Cove RV Resort	256-228-3010	Langston, AL	54	\$ 32.00
Rock Island State Park	800-713-6065	Rock Island, TN	110	\$ 25.00
Best Holiday Trav-L-Park	800-693-2877	Chattanooga, TN	110	\$ 43.00
Talladega Creekside	877-307-6303	Talladega, AL	106	\$ 30.00
River Country	256-543-7111	Gadsden, AL	74	\$ 38.00
Piney Grove	662-728-1134	Dennis, MS	117	\$ 22.00
Tishomingo State Park	662-438-6314	Tishomingo, MS	110	\$ 22.00