



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



I want to personally thank Bob Erickson for being our club's newsletter editor. I think all of the club members will agree that Bob does an outstanding job and we are thankful he continues to enjoy creating our letter for us!

I am attaching to my May (editor: now June!) letter the information about the Coaches for Christ rally next October in Ocala, Florida. This rally is the annual gathering for members in the Southeast Area as we have only the one chapter of Coaches for Christ to include all of us in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida. Last year the rally was held in Chattanooga, TN, which was convenient for NARV'ers. I hope members in the SE will make the effort to attend the annual in Ocala. Jan and Jim are super people and have planned a wonderful week for all attendees. Just a note here: Jim Hollis is one of the FMCA national chaplains.

**October 8-12 Fall
Rally and
Retreat
@ Wild Frontier
Campground,
Ocala, FL**

**Wild Frontier Campground
Reserve yours - phone: 1-
352-629-3540**

**The physical address is 3101
NW 16th Ave, Ocala, FL 34475
Nightly rate for the RV sites:
30/50 amp FHU - \$35 per nite
(\$140 for the Rally Days)
Mention that you are with Coaches
for Christ Southeast
to arrange your site with our group
and get the discounted Rally rate.**

**Once you have made your Site
Reservation, please contact
your cohosts, Jim & Jan Hollis,**

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to confirm your participation
at (770) 354-6673 or Email :

HJN19609@gmail.com

We continue to recruit new members for NARV'ers. Your President is working hard to keep the promise of growing our little band into a larger group. If any member knows of a possible recruit, please feel free to offer all the information and welcome new folks.

Continue to keep our members who are experiencing health challenges in your prayers. Cards are always a good way to let people know they are not alone in the fight for healing. NARV'ers are good people and we need to share the love and caring with our members.

Ken and I attended the Central Alabama Traveler's rally in New Orleans in May. We have been members of CATS for several years, but have rarely been able to attend rallies. What fun to get to visit in New Orleans. We had a large group of eighteen coaches – amazing! Good food and fun to make new friends. The best meal was not even in the Quarter, but at the rally park in the on site restaurant. I had seafood lasagna – yum!

The picture shown here was a serendipitous event. We wanted to eat at Drago's with new CATS members the Grangers from Montgomery. President Trump was in New Orleans for a political event and tied up traffic in Metairie so we headed to a second restaurant location on

the river in the Hilton Hotel. The restaurant was located downstairs so we hit the escalator. Unknown to us there was a huge gathering of people for a convention and we landed right in the crowd. A lady stepped up to me and draped necklaces and a boa without asking if I was a convention attendee. My new friend Donna got draped with a boa and a mask popped on her face. Hmm, we didn't correct any mistaken ID's since by then the husbands were well ahead of us trying to wade through the crowd toward the restaurant. Good food that night too!



Keep on rolling,
Linda Winters

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DeSoto State Park Rally Report

Chuck Borchers



We travelled the short distance of about 80 miles to DeSoto State Park in Alabama for our May rally. This was short weekend rally – May 17 – 19. Hosts were Pam & Randal Caruthers. Attendees were:

- Dave & Pat Balance, with daughter Karri (guests)
- Sue & Chuck (Secretary) Borchers
- Pam & Randal (Treasurer) Caruthers, and grandson Jack (hosts)
- Donett Murphy

We had beautiful weather to enjoy the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains. The park is very nice – good roads within the campground, nice sites, nice trails, and full hookups. The major drawback for some of us was poor cell service and Wi-Fi and the sites were not as flat as they appeared.

It was a pleasant drive up to Fort Payne, AL. – 4 lane all the way. But once you get to Fort Payne it is two lane road into the park. Then there is the drive up to the campground. Road is not bad; it is a good climb; you are just hoping

you do not meet a large motorhome or travel trailer coming down the hill.

For as nice as the sites are, they are not very level. Some of us had our front wheels well off the ground and still were not level. After setting up Friday afternoon, we headed over to the lodge for their Friday seafood buffet. For those of us that have been to Wheeler, this buffet was disappointing, but the park is not near the size of Wheeler.

The Rhododendron Festival in Mentone was this weekend. After dinner the Borchers and Caruthers headed into Mentone for a free outdoor concert. The drive into town was beautiful along the western edge of the mountain as the sun was setting. Thank goodness for GPS as we had no idea where or how we got to Mentone. There was a large crowd there and parking was hard to find. Everybody seemed to be having a good time socializing and kids playing, including Jack. For the drive back in the dark, again, we were very thankful for the GPS.



We all headed back to Mentone Saturday. Again, parking was a problem, but we managed. This festival was very nice and the weather was nicer. They had lots of vendor tents with lots of

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crafts and food. We enjoyed the walk along the Brow where many of the vendors were set up. On the Brow they had a pavilion where we sat to eat lunch and listen to the music being performed by various artists all day long.



Sunday morning buffet breakfast was provided by Sue and Donett. They provided a wonderful spread that we all enjoyed. The Balances and Donett were planning to staying over another night so we were not in any hurry to pack up. The park allowed us to stay beyond normal checkout time.



After a bit of a rest after returning to the campground we headed back to Mentone to the Wildflower Café for dinner. A quaint little restaurant in a beautiful setting. They even had a strolling guitar player to entertain us and particularly Jack. After dinner, we were too tired to do anything but relax in our RVs.



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Newsletter Editor's Ramble

Bob Erickson



Late again, plus I missed last month! We returned from 2 weeks in Indiana, and I was faced with massive catchup requirements at work. We had a requirements review just before I left, and the actions resulting were due before I returned!

Also, our home insurance company (Allstate) inspected our home and told us we will be cancelled if our front porch is not repaired by July 7. Bids have been unacceptably high, so I've been working on it myself after working long hours. Our front porch railing needed to be removed to repair the concrete base, and the porch is 6 feet above the ground at its highest point. So, it is definitely a safety issue (we have caution tape across the steps).

Interesting story: Wall outlet power failed at work (MSFC, building 4708), and took 2 weeks to be repaired. Apparently the distribution equipment was so old it could not be partially repaired (after a week chasing a breaker, they replaced the entire box). I worked from home for 2 weeks! Snacks and lunch are so convenient, and we buy much nicer toilet paper!

Since our last newsletter, Charter Member Bette Voketz passed away. A young picture was distributed with the announcement by email, but below is a picture from 2009 with Bette with

other Chapter Officers (Bette was Secretary, and is between Jim Duncan and Bob Erickson. Please continue to hold Gary in your prayers. I will add him to my "Friends of NARV" email list for previous members.



Linda Winters asked me to send Gary's notifications to other previous members. I received responses from Jean Scott and Phil Staley. I will add Staley's to the list as well as others that I did not get email rejections (invalid address) from (Baucom, Nelson, Pruitt, Taylor, Cook).

Barbara Day called me while I was driving from work 2 weeks ago, apparently from a missed call from me. She says that she is feeling poorly, with no new treatment options. She stated that she does not have much time left. Now is the time for us to tell her how much she means to us! Please continue to pray for Barbara and Tim.

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Bob Erickson

Editor

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!

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Member Celebrations

June Birthdays

- 20 Sylvia Connell
- 25 Danny Bright
- 27 Bob Connell
- 28 Kathie Erickson

July Birthdays

- 3 Carl Hall
- 14 Sue Borchner
- 19 Charles Staggs

August Anniversaries

June Anniversaries

- 8 Morton & Brenda Archibald
- 15 Dwight & Gayla Hayes
- 26 Danny & Ruth Bright

- 1 Carl & Linda Hall
- 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



NORTH ALABAMA RV'ers

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