



# NORTH ALABAMA RV'ers

*A chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association*

*Chartered March 2003*

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## Greetings from our President

**Linda Winters**



Summer travels are fun except for the extreme heat of the Deep South and the west. We have been dealing with a heat index at +105F and praying over the AC in both the coach and the Toad. Before we left Huntsville we had both vehicles repaired and so far so good. Of course it feels and sounds like the coach AC is running all the time.

After Waco we headed north to Arlington, TX for a three night stay. The plan was to go to Dallas to see the George W. Bush Library and Museum and on the second full day to go to Ft. Worth for the Water Gardens and the stockyards.



Ken and I used to live in Garland, TX, a bedroom community of Dallas and memories popped up as we drove into the city. What I remember and did not like was the metered access to the interstates. When the green light hit you hoped you had a shot to enter traffic without an accident. That metered business is gone, but hoping not to hit anyone is still alive and breathtaking! The detours around all the construction causes the GPS to give false info and you are on your own for times. We made it onto the SMU campus and enjoyed the museum. It is well planned and a good balance of exhibits.

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Well worth the drive to get into downtown Dallas. The Water Gardens are in downtown Ft Worth and are beautiful.

Albuquerque, NM was next and we stayed a week. The temps at night were dry 95F which allowed some dog walking. Bama and Aubie were thrilled to get out of the coach for awhile. We enjoyed the city sights of the aquarium and museum of nuclear history, Petroglyph national park and a trip to Belen to see the Harvey House were interesting stops. If you have On Demand pull up the Judy Garland film about the Harvey Girls to see a snap history of Harvey Company.

The next picture shows Ken at the top of one of the knolls in the national park. Look hard at the top right. He is between two rocks and is waving. I did walk up partway, but decided not to go all the way up and chose to wait it out in the shade.



Petroglyph

Friday we journeyed to Monument Valley and signed on for a guided tour. Well! That was an adventure because we got stuck in the dry and very soft sand. There were 19 of us passengers on the bus. The men had to push front and back several times, but that put the front left tire in a sand dune! Pushing on the left front side got us back on the road, thank goodness! It was 105F and none of us had an umbrella. Otherwise, we had a good time in the valley. One of the women from Holland asked to speak to me. What she said moved me immensely. She said you Americans are so lucky to live in this country. It is a special place and it is a beautiful country. I totally agreed with her and we all of us need to take care of our home.

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On to Rapid City, SD, where we stayed for two weeks. On the last Saturday of our stay we decided to go to the Ft. Hays Chuckwagon Supper Show. We had a wow moment! We sat across from a couple and the four of us started introducing ourselves. Get ready: their names are Ken and Linda and Ken is from Guntersville. He is married to a Yankee and so am I. We just kept finding points of similarity until their daughter, Emily, cried out "Oh, this is just too weird!" We had a great time together and enjoyed some real musical talent.



We stayed a week in Bismarck while waiting to go on to Minot for the rally. Read the National Director's Report for the results of the Governing Board meeting.

Linda Winters

## National Director's Report for North Alabama RV'ers

**Linda Winters**



The FMCA Governing Board met twice. On Tuesday, August 13, a workshop session was held to go over the agenda and give time for

questions and discussion. This is the second time the Board has conducted a session like this. The voting assembly was held August 14 and even though we discussed major points on Tuesday the Wednesday session went from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

The FMCAssist program will continue, but there are problems that must be addressed. Most importantly, the funding to continue this valued and appreciated benefit to members has to come from members. For the 2020 budget year the surplus of \$641,290 in the 2020 budget will be applied leaving a deficit in funding FMCAssist. The Finance committee had recommended that Assist be dropped all

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together and did not include Assist in the proposed budget. The Board voted to keep the Assist service and include it in the budget and increase membership dues by \$25.00 beginning September 1, 2019 for a total of \$75.00 (\$50 + \$25) per year per F number to address the deficit. The Risk Management committee will begin a search to see if another company offers the same or better services than Seven Corners, the current carrier for Assist. The search must be done because Seven Corners has increased the fee to carry Assist by 75% and refuses to negotiate it down. The bottom line is the membership of FMCA will have Assist available to us through Seven Corners for the year 2020 and a search will be done to match or better the services from Seven Corners. Members who have paid dues ahead will not be assessed any fee. The new dues schedule will apply upon the member's due date. The number of years that a member may pay ahead has been reduced to three, instead of five.

As it stands now the new fee schedule affects new membership and may prove to be a

burden for recruiting. It will be up to us "old timers" to explain the benefit of Assist and continue to argue that the fee charged for FMCA membership is well worth the benefits to all of us. Commercially, the Assist program premium would cost 3 times what will be charged to FMCA. FMCA continues to search out new benefits and partnerships for members.

In other actions ten future conventions have been proposed. Contracts are being negotiated in nine of those. The contract is in place for the winter of 2020 to be held in Tucson, AZ in March. No contract has been signed yet for summer 2020 in Syracuse, NY July 29-August 2, but plans can be made as the committee is sure the contract will be signed.

Other business was held, but the matters were mostly internal and did not affect the full membership.

Linda Winters, National Director

## Texas T (Cornersville, TN) Rally Report

**Bob Erickson**



We had such fun at Texas T last August that I decided to see if we could get a bigger group this year. We had 8 RVs vs. last years 6, but

unfortunately Teresa Steinberg fell and broke her femur the day before departing for the rally from east Tennessee. She and Rick are still in Marysville TN-Teresa is inpatient for rehab, and Rick is staying in the new Phaeton.

Here's who attended:

- Chuck & Sue Borcher
- Randal & Pam Caruthers
- Bob & Sylvia Connell
- Bob & Kathie Erickson (hosts)
- Gene & Linda Hammond
- Donett Murphy
- Charles & Song Staggs

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- Rich & Ru Wicar (new members, 1<sup>st</sup> rally!)

As I said in the itinerary, this is a NICE campground, and the owners are SUPER nice! We didn't see Pat this time, she's recovering from hip surgery. James had to do her jobs too, but still make time to talk (and deliver 2 cartons of ice cream!).

We had Pot Luck Thursday night, with Hosts providing hamburgers, turkey burgers, and beef hot dogs. Sides brought included potato salad, baked beans (with different bean types, other snacks, and amazing cookies. Of course, we played games after.

Friday the hosts served waffles Caruthers style, with nuts and chocolate chips. Plus there was strawberry and cherry topping with cool whip (and syrup). Afterward we had a meeting which Chuck started because the cook (Bob) was finishing eating. Meeting minutes are in this issue.



Charles Staggs taking pictures at breakfast. Too many folks are hidden to name.



Chuck Borcher conducting a meeting.

After breakfast we went to Milky Way Farms for a tour of the manor house. When we arrived, we found that the tour guide was not available,

so the maintenance man showed a video and told us a little of his experience as an employee for many years. Afterward, he was available for questions as we wandered around the manor house. Look at the web page <http://milkywayfarm.org/> for historical information. The huge house was simply laid out, with a gathering room, dining room, and kitchen in the middle and two floors of bedrooms extending out in opposite directions. Lots of bathrooms, too; including Jack n' Jill. We were also offered Milky Way bars...



Gated entrance from gathering room to the dining room.



Dining room, the table seats 40!

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One of the bedroom wings, the halls looked the same to me!

Mr Maintenance then offered us a driving tour of the property, which we would not have ordinarily gotten. We jumped at the chance!



Kathie in front of a working barn. Inside, there were donkeys and a sheep. Resident horses were outside.



Entrance to Frank Mars' mausoleum (area). The site was chosen because it had the best view of the area, but his wife moved the mausoleum with her to Minnesota when she moved.

The Showbarn had a concrete floor installed a few years ago for events. There were originally about 30 barns on the property, there are 7 in use today. The 2 pictures following are both from the same barn.



After the tour, we stopped in downtown Lynnville at the Lynnville Fried Pie Company.



From left, Gene & Linda Hammond, Bob & Sylvia Connell, Rich & Ru Wicar, Song & Charles Staggs, and Kathie & Bob Erickson. A stranger took the picture for us.

That evening, we went to the Starlite Café for dinner. It looks like a mobile home, but the food was good!

The next morning we had sausage biscuits and fruit for breakfast. Sue Borchert also brought corndog-looking things that were actually breakfast sausage with blueberry pancake batter over it!

Then, we went to TennSouth Distillery for a tour. Last year, the tour was free. This year it was \$5. Brittany (below) was our guide last year as well. She was very knowledgeable!

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Then, some folks worked on embroidering signs. First in an RV, then in the comfortable meeting room.



From left: Kathie Erickson, Ru Wicar, Sue Borchert. Chuck was participating, but isn't pictured.

Saturday night we went to Sarge's Shack. We had a reservation and were served promptly, but it was CROWDED with locals! The food was great!

Sunday morning breakfast was cancelled, due to lack of energy on the part of the hosts.

Rocket and Crystal were patient with us, as usual! Here are some pictures that we couldn't resist taking:



Crystal is jealous of Rocket's prime spot on the RV couch.



My turn!

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## Minutes of the 9 August 2019 Meeting

### Chuck Borchert, Secretary



We held a brief business meeting at the Texas T campground on August 9, 2019.

Bob Erickson called the meeting to order after breakfast and turned it over to Chuck Borchert – Bob was still eating after cooking everyone else's breakfast.

Chuck explained the situation with Seven Corners FMCA Insurance. We voted on three different proposals. The majority of the members present voted to keep the policy with

a dues increase of no more than \$10 per family unit. This information was passed on to Linda Winters who attended the rally in Minot, ND.

Next was a proposal to increase the reimbursement paid to rally hosts from the current \$50 per rally to \$100 per rally starting with the next outing. This passed. Note - the request for reimbursement must be accompanied by receipts – either original or paper copies or a scanned original receipt via email sent to the treasurer.

At this point Bob took over and we discussed a rally for September or October. The Caruthers volunteered to host it with help from the Wicars. It was suggested that we try Honeycomb if it is available.

The final order of business was the end of the year business meeting. It was decided to have it at the Guntersville State Park Lodge early in November. Bob Erickson agreed to look into availability.

Chuck Borchert



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## Newsletter Editor's Ramble

**Bob Erickson**



Thanks to Linda Winters (President) and Chuck Borchert (Secretary) for promptly getting me reports for this issue. After our return, I had to hustle to get our porch done before my homeowners insurance is due for renewal (or non-renewal, if my porch is not complete!) on 9/1. Here are pictures of our porch:



From left: Randal Caruthers, Bob Erickson, and Chuck Borchert. We mixed, dumped, and spread 33 80-lb bags of concrete for my porch base.



Our porch, waiting for new wrought-iron railings to be installed 8/26. We paid \$500 additional to have them powder-coated.

In accordance with the decision at the meeting (see minutes), I made reservation at the Pinecrest Lodge at Lake Guntersville State Park (1155 Lodge Dr, Guntersville AL 35976, phone 256-571-5440) for 4:30 on Saturday November 16 for 30 individuals. We'll have the Pinecrest II room this time. It's anticipated that we'll order the buffet, but they made the assumption that 4 individuals will order from a limited menu. Members are welcome to stay at a local campground, but we won't do anything official. Friends and former members are welcome!

Things for me to do before the luncheon:

- Create a list of proposed rally locations.
- Discuss (with the board) nominees for nominating committee.

I topped off my fuel tank this weekend. While checking things I found that some wheel well panel attachment screws are loose (have to tighten occasionally since new), and my battery water was very low (hadn't checked since May). I've been planning for years to create a maintenance schedule...

I used to put maintenance articles in the newsletter. Sorry about my priorities. My next task is a sprinkler system... We have partially sodded yard, and our back yard initially sprouted with rye and then turned to mold. The fescue never germinated, so the back yard is dirt and has been washing away. TDI said that fescue will not germinate till fall, and fall is almost here (time to plant).

I talked to Barbara Day on 8/23. I intended to call Tim, but realized too late that I have

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Barbara's phone number for them in my phone. I have now resolved this issue. I also realized that they are in Eastern time, so it was about 8pm for her. Another oops!

Barbara had entered the hospital that morning, and I was talking to her in her room. Her heart function is down to 20%, and I can't remember what she said she had done on Friday to help her function. Note from the Celebrations page that Days' anniversary is Monday August 26!

I then called Rick Steinberg (I made sure it was HIS number!). Teresa is still resident at a rehab facility, and Rick is staying at a campground in Maryville TN. Teresa has another 6 weeks before she can put weight on her leg. They will be coming home soon, though.

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 & Linda 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!

There's still space for another dog picture. This one is a picture of the undercoat I removed from Crystal before our last rally. The pile is next to our 13 gallon kitchen trash can. I got a bit MORE from Rocket-the hair from both filled the bag!



Bob Erickson  
Editor

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## Member Celebrations

### August Birthdays

- 2     *Debi Nunez*
- 3     *Lou Holcombe*
- 12    *Wayne Burgett*

### September Birthdays

- 26    *Brenda Archibald*

### August Anniversaries

- 17    *Jim & Betty Duncan*
- 20    *Chuck & Sue Borchert*
- 26    *Tim & Barbara Day*

### September Anniversaries

- 3     *Bob & Sylvia Connell*
- 9     *Rick & Teresa Steinberg*
- 11    *Gene & Linda  
Hammond*
- 15    *Mike & BJ Campe*
- 19    *Kenneth & Linda  
Winters*

### 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](mailto: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 99<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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 17-20 Honeycomb Campground Grant AL (37 Miles)**

Location: 188 Camp Ground Rd, Grant AL 35747 Ph. (256)582-9882/9884  
Theme will be (of course) Halloween!

Charges: about \$28.00 per night (ask for rally discount) including tax.

Hosts: Pam & Randal Caruthers, Ru and Rich Wicar

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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!**

**November 16 Holiday Celebration**, Luncheon, business meeting (60 miles)

At Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge, Pinecrest II room. 1155 Lodge Dr, Guntersville AL 35976, phone 256-571-5440; 4:30 pm. We plan to participate in the buffet, but a limited menu is available.

## 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