



# NORTH ALABAMA RV'ers

*A chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association*

*Chartered March 2003*

*Editor: Bob Erickson [mhsurfr@gmail.com](mailto:mhsurfr@gmail.com)*

## Greetings from our President

### Linda Winters



This summer has been a real stunner for the Winters' family. We truly enjoyed our regular summer excursion in our coach, Rex the Beast. We left home on July 3 and arrived back on August 24. Ken had experienced pain and discomfort starting while we were on the road, but as it increased as we neared Minot, ND, for the FMCA rally he knew he was experiencing a kidney stone. I took him to the ER in Minot and he was diagnosed with a stone in the right kidney and given pain meds. We missed a lot of the rally after that and the pain meds really messed him up. Thus, never having driven Rex or taken a driving course I drove us home over the 1,639 miles it took to get us there. I got my driving course without paying anyone the big dollars and with real experience. (Ken only tried passenger side driving one time!)

And a side note here about getting home: I have started a notebook on the many parks we have stayed in. I wish there was a surefire way to tell the quality of a park. We stayed in two parks that caused us a real case of nerves. Both times we tried to find something else, but

circumstances or late arrival caused us to have to take the park. Maybe with the documentation in the notebook we can avoid them in the future.

Once home Ken saw a specialist who put him in the hospital right away. Ken had two stones, one in each kidney. How the ER doctor in Minot never saw the left side we cannot know and it was the bigger of the two. Those of you who have experienced the pain can sympathize! We are recovering (and I say "we" because it takes us both) and are looking forward to having the two stints removed in October. We have to get ready to go again at the end of September as we have the planning meeting for the 2020 SEA rally in Lakeland, FL which will be in February. If need be I will again drive us in Rex. And after the planning meeting we have the annual Coaches for Christ rally in Ocala, FL.

Everybody put the 2020 SEA rally on your calendar for February 5-8. With the work already being done I can attest that the rally will be a really good one. We need to support our Southeast Area with our attendance and participation. The registrations are coming in faster and faster! FMCA will not have the March rally in Perry in 2020, but in Tucson, AZ. SEA is looking for a great attendance rate for this time.

Keep our members who are experiencing health problems or other burdens in your thoughts and prayers.

Meanwhile keep on rollin'

Linda Winters

# NARV Newsletter

## From the September 2009 Newsletter-Hurricane, TN Rally Report

**(No attribution)**

Seven rigs joined to circle around the campfire at Loretta Lynn's in September. We virtually had the park to ourselves and the staff was exceptionally nice. They gave us free access to the clubhouse and even opened the Cafe for the weekend. Several of us partook of their delicious milkshakes.

For the Meet and Greet we invited two other motor home couples who were camping to join us and gave them FMCA applications. Around the campfire that night we showed Renate Hoerle that you really CAN make s'mores without a machine.

After breakfast Friday, we went to see Loretta's home and toured her "coal mine". Herman Nelson gave us an added plus to the tour by relating his personal experiences in the mines.

Saturday the Rengers, Nelsons and Rogers went on a yard-sale junket at a 30-mile event while others went on a tour of a pearl farm on the Tennessee River. Yes, for real...pearls in the Tennessee. That night half gathered to watch the Alabama game at the Jakobsen's RV while the others played dominoes in the clubhouse. We were pleased that Jean and Bob Clark came to the rally as it had been quite a while since they had been able to join us. Bob enjoyed watching the game...well, all us Alabama fans did!

Time passed too quickly and we were all sorry to have to leave on Sunday.



The Hosts: Bob, Kathie, Linda & Ove



Ove, Joy, Bill, Linda, & Bob amazed that Loretta has her own zipcode

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Arno, Linda, Renata, Joy & S'mores



Joy, Bill, Jack & Connie being shown Loretta's plantation house

## From the March 2010 Newsletter- Birmingham, AL Rally Report

### Bob Erickson

The March 2010 NARV Rally was held at the Birmingham South RV Park. Hosts were Sue and Rick Richter and Marian Campbell. Attendees were:

- Marian Campbell
- Betty & Jim Duncan
- Kathie & Bob Erickson
- Polly & Adrian Merrill
- Pat & Wayne Neale
- Kay & Bill Rengers
- Sue & Rick Richter
- Laverne & Jim Roberts
- Connie & Jack Rogers
- Sharon & Stan Souvenir
- Margie & Adam Yankko

The weekend was partly rainy, but not too cold. Most of the rain occurred the day before the rally. The meeting room was above a workshop/apartment (we weren't sure which), and there were a lot of stairs (29, or so, someone

counted). This is a hint for prospective rally locations..., there are a LOT of host supplies to carry up! The smoke alarm was sensitive, and the gas oven was a challenge to light as well.



### Rally Hosts, Dolled Up For Partying!

The meeting room was decorated, for the Meet & Greet, in St Patrick's Day motif by Betty Duncan. Marian Campbell made some glass block lights with ribbons for table decorations. Rick Richter had helped by drilling holes in each to insert the lights. These were later used as

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contest prizes, and Connie Rogers 'won' one at auction.



## Welcome, What Can I Feed Ya?

A large part of Friday was spent getting ready for the potluck and 50's theme party. Was anyone's oven NOT used?

The tables were decorated with Marian's light blocks, plus cardboard cars overflowing with representative candy from the 50's.



## Hot Date From The '50's

Attendees voted for Jim Duncan as having the best male costume, and Kathie Erickson for best female costume (was it the pony tail, the 'monkey lips' she posed for pictures in, or sympathy that she had not experienced the 50's the first time?). This writer voted for Marian Campbell-Marian wore authentic saddle

oxfords, and her poodle skirt sported her favorite schnauzer breed instead of a poodle!.



## And The Winners Are...

Saturday morning, we had a meeting after breakfast to discuss host responsibilities and rally plans for the year. Later, we participated in a FASCINATING tour of Vulcan Park hosted by Roy, a childhood friend of Rick Richter. Afterward, we had dinner at Dales. Rick regaled us with tales of his childhood escapades with Roy.

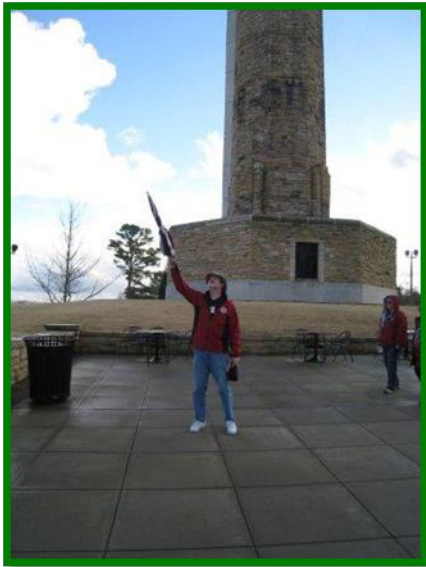


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## The Gang's All Here, Mostly.



## The Vulcan...



## A Vulcan wannabe...

Sunday morning service was officiated by Rick Richter.

As an additional note: Bob Erickson and Rick Richter coerced Richter's jacks to go down on Thursday. We can't figure out what we did to 'fix' them. On Friday, Bob Erickson and Bill Rengers replaced Marion Campbell's leaky (cracked) bath faucet. AND, on Sunday morning, ALL attendees assisted Yanhkos in getting their jacks UP (again, we don't know what we did)!

Respectfully submitted;

Bob Erickson,

For the Hosts

# NARV Newsletter

## Newsletter Editor's Ramble

**Bob Erickson**



Last month was a HUGE month for content in the newsletter! Rally report, meeting minutes, President's message, National Director's Report... This month there is not much. So, I'm going to reprint some earlier Rally Reports. This will remind folks of the fun we've had in the past. The first is the Loretta Lynn Ranch, and the second is from one of my favorite rallies in Birmingham AL.

Separately from this newsletter, but included as a separate attachment, is a letter from an FMCA member about FMCAAssist. I would like to add that the Good Sam Club family TravelAssist package (optional) is currently on special for \$80 (regular and renewal price \$101).

Here is a picture of my porch, as completed. I've been writing about this for months, and it has nothing to do with RV'ing except taking our time away from it!



### Water System Internal Leak

I sanitized my water system this month, and I flush with city water from the faucet instead of from the tank. As a last step, I fill the fresh tank to 1/3 full. I turned the fill valve from "City" to "Fill", and fresh tank immediately overflowed. I turned off the valve and let some out from the tank drain. Leaving the valve in "City" position, the tank overflowed in less than an hour. This did not happen at the September rally...

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OBVIOUSLY, the inlet valve that switches between pressurizing the plumbing lines and filling the tank is internally leaking.

The fresh tank was full, so I had put the hose away. To confirm my diagnosis days later; I hooked up the regulator and hose, made sure the valve was in the "City" position, and turned on the water. I have a clear view of my fresh tank, and have a cap so I can fill my tank with a hose. The fill line comes in at the top of the tank. I used a flashlight to view the inlet to the tank. While I was looking, there was a belch of air from the bottom of the tank!



So, the OTHER way this can happen is through the water pump, if an internal check valve is leaking. The belch of air from the city-water hose that had air in it proves this diagnosis.

My pump is a Shurflo 4008 Revolution pump. The pressure switch is in the front center.



Removing the 3 screws removes the switch, and under that is the check valve.

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Above is the check valve replacement kit, available for about \$11. I haven't installed it yet, the pump photo is from my old (broken) pump.

## Using an RV Travler Satellite Antenna for House

The DirecTV installers would only install my antenna on the roof of the house. Since then, a tree has grown (more), and light rain or a breeze pixelates our TV picture. I want to move the dish to the ground, and thought that I could use the RV dish (with the DVR in the house) during the process. I've been unsuccessful so far (it should work). I'll tell you how when I'm successful.

As far as I know, only 3 families have registered for the October rally. I called on 9/14, and the assistant manager answering the phone said she had no way of identifying our club members. As far as I know, only Caruthers, Wicars, and Ericksons have signed up. Honeycomb did say that all waterfront sites are taken. I tried to tell everyone that Caruthers rallies are the best-the theme (most hosts don't have themes) is Halloween.

I would like to mention that hosts have latitude to select rally locations and dates. ..

Save the date for the Holiday Celebration on November 16 at the Guntersville Lodge. Details on the Rally Schedule pages.

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, Dwight & Gayla Hayes, and Teresa Steinberg. 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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## Member Celebrations

### September Birthdays

26 Brenda Archibald

### September Anniversaries

3 Bob & Sylvia Connell

9 Rick & Teresa Steinberg

11 Gene & Linda  
Hammond

15 Mike & BJ Campe

19 Kenneth & Linda  
Winters

### October Birthdays

2 Tim Day

4 Chuck Borchert

7 Jack Rogers

14 Ruth Bright

15 Dwight Hayes

24 Linda Holcombe

30 Pam Caruthers

31 Lynn Claypool

### October Anniversaries

None!

## 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](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