



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



President's letter

Oh, my goodness! What can I say to everyone that you have not said to each other? Not a thing, I'm sure. All of us are washing hands, wiping down surfaces, and staying inside our homes – I hope.

I like to sit on my front stoop each morning with a cup of coffee and watch the large number of robins and cardinals that live here. But what I also watch is the number of cars, trucks, service vans, and other vehicles that go up and down my street. What do they need to be doing? It is the same set of cars and trucks so maybe these people have essential jobs. Let's hope so and not think they have no regard for the health of others.

Our second daughter has an essential job as part of Crestwood Hospital. She is a therapist and doesn't have to go in every day so there is a partial shutdown of services. And the hospital has taken over beds and equipment from her area. That doesn't ease the worry we have for her even with the assurances of all the cleaning

and preventative care going on. Daughter one has vacated Atlanta, GA, for her cabin up in the mountains of NC. What she has said about the steps NC has taken is that anyone entering NC must go into voluntary quarantine for fourteen days. This is a recent step taken by that state. She has wonderful clean air to breathe and views that are stunning but must make long term plans to take care of herself. This means trips down the mountain to resupply, but she tells us that the grocery store has plentiful supplies except for toilet paper. Good grief!

What are you doing to stay active and alert at home? Ken watches too much news on tv. I watch every day the President's press conference for the updates and that's all I can do. Netflix and my books are my choice. No walking in the neighborhood because I'm a chicken. I have tried the delivery service Instacart.com and been very pleased with the two shoppers I have met. Food delivery is an essential service and I am grateful for the help this service affords us. People are still overbuying out of panic which imposes on the rest of us and they need to stop that. Brave people are working to keep the essential services going and I am totally grateful for them. Here is a picture of another activity we have tried. This is Aubie after his bath. I don't have a dog brush so the two dogs got baths (bout time!) and no brush out. Electric hair and a clean smell. A win!

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Take care, my friends, and continue to pray hard for all us, the President, all the service people, our nation and the world.

Linda Winters, President

Newsletter Editor's Ramble

Bob Erickson



This is the first newsletter after our season of rallying has been deferred (not cancelled like individual rallies...). You'll notice that even the national convention in Lincoln Nebraska has been cancelled. So, not much content is what it takes to get an earlier newsletter! Since we need

to make up for deferring the rally season, let's see what we can do with newsletter content!

For new members, I call my section of the newsletter "Ramble" because We have a Holiday Rambler. Also because, well, I tend to go off topic in this section...

Randal & Pam Caruthers have a pontoon boat, and they have volunteered it for rallies close to Ditto Landing or as far as Tim's Ford TN! Anyway, the reason for mentioning it is that Randal & Pam were walking to Ditto from their home (not far), and Randal fell and hit his head. He required an ambulance ride to the hospital, and 17 staples (Pam says that's equivalent to 40 stitches). Everyone got a timely notification from Chuck Borchert, and here you got "the rest of the story".

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Randal is playing gin with Pam tonight, and complained that my call distracted him as he lost a hand. He offered a picture of the back of his head for the newsletter, but I declined. He says it looks like a zipper...

In this issue see a reprint of the Tim's Ford rally report from April of 2014.

Besides working from home, I'm working on the kitchen remodel and still working on my sprinkler system. It's a hassle now mowing over the trenches I dug last fall... I finished a section under a mulched planting area. I watered the lawn last summer (very dry), but some bushes in the planting area died.

We're staying home and safe, and saving money from not eating out! I go out for safe shopping trips, and shower on return. We've rescheduled doctor and dental visits. We all need to take our health seriously!



At 11 am, I'm working in my office. Kathie is busy getting hairs on her pillow...

Incidentally, pet hair is both a fashion accessory and a condiment...

Is anyone interested in our kitchen progress? Here's a wall with all sheetrock removed and icemaker valve/electrical outlets moved. Kathie suggested that we move HDMI and power for TV on the opposite wall up so it will be hidden if we wall-mount the TV again. We had a 42" TV on the wall, we need to raise the mount for our 58" TV. We're still considering. After that it's sheet rock time!



Linda Winters said all her items for sale were sold. I was successful in giving mine away...

I get information on birthdays and anniversaries (celebrations page) from applications. If I miss anyone, please let me know! I don't want year, just day and month.

Incidentally, Microsoft File History Restore copied an old Contact List and Distribution List to my new computer. Last month's list was old. If anyone didn't get it and wants it, reply to me.

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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Tim's Ford Marina (Winchester TN) Rally Report (reprinted from April 2014)

Betty Duncan



Sixteen people gathered at Tim's Ford Marina and Resort this past weekend. Two of our attendee couples ran into problems on Thursday. The Connells made it to about eleven miles from the campground when their RV started smoking (locked front brake rotor). They were towed to Chattanooga, but this didn't keep them from attending the rally. They drove 320 miles for two round trips back and forth to the rally, but on Saturday they rented one of the cottages on site, and we had fun visiting them on Saturday evening for two tables of dominoes.

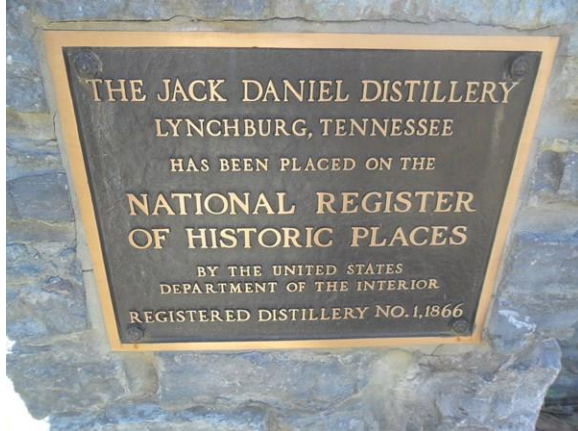
The Caruthers had trouble with their truck that towed the boat separately, but finally arrived Thursday night with the boat in tow.

We grilled hotdogs on Thursday evening after putting up two Duncan tents and one Winter's tent by joining them all together. Some even played dominoes under our lighted tents that evening.



On Friday morning we caravanned to Jack Daniels where we toured and then headed to Miss Mary Bobo's for lunch. Afterwards we could hardly walk, and it wasn't because of the apples cooked in Jack Daniels although we all had our fair share. They were delicious as was everything else on the menu. I even purchased an entire chess pie as we left.

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We went back to the campground and most headed to the pontoon boat. It was so nice outside. We cruised up the river admiring all the beautiful homes along the river. (Editor's note: Jim Duncan REALLY enjoyed the ride, as shown in the photo. Bob Erickson is to his left, and you will

NEVER see his hat turned around in any other picture! Ruth Bright and Kathie Erickson are also in this picture, and someone's shoes...)



It was dark when we all gathered at the tents. Linda Winters saw lightning, and Ken immediately checked the weather and said we had heavy rain headed our way within thirty minutes. I wish I had a video of everyone pitching in to take down grills and tents and pick up and fold up rugs, take down tables, and chairs and put everything away just as the rain began. We were all very tired and the rain helped us have a relaxing night.

Saturday morning we had those large Sam's muffins, bananas, grapes, orange juice and coffee before going downtown Lynchburg to explore. Some ate lunch at a barbecue restaurant and had quite an experience with music at their table. Bob will probably tell you

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about that as well as our Saturday morning meeting.

We had a 1:00 reservation at the cake and candy factory for a tour. We had samples, and some people bought enough candy and cakes to make the owner's day. Everyone went away with something. Our daughter and son-in-law (Holly & Mike Boyce, and their trailer) arrived Friday night and didn't get to take the Jack Daniel's tour, so Jimmy and I went back with them while everyone else went to the pontoon boat and more water fun.



We grilled and ate such good food on Saturday evening and then went to the Connell's for two tables of train dominoes.

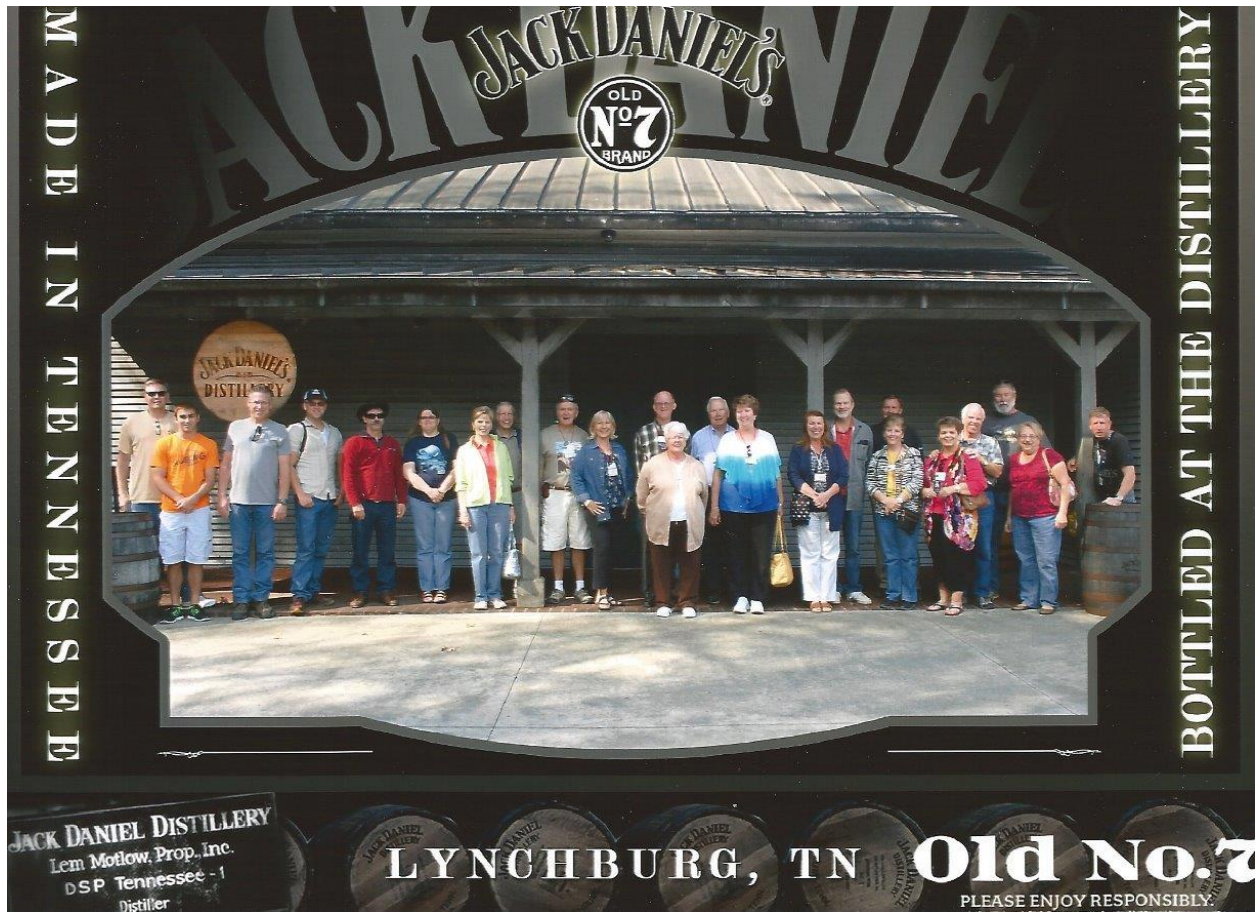
Bob Connell had a wonderful devotion Sunday morning on challenges. He said he planned it before he had all the problems with his coach.

Some packed up and left after devotion, but it was after 2:00 p.m. before Jimmy and I pulled away, as we had one last boat ride with the Caruthers, their dogs- Grits and Jackson and our children-Holly and Mike.

I hope the Borchers, Boyces, Brights, Caruthers, Connells, Ericksons, and Winters had as much fun as we did. Jimmy and I want to thank everyone for making this a perfect weekend and for making our daughter and her husband feel so welcome. They are still talking about how much fun they had and how welcome you all made them feel.

Betty & Jim, Hosts

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Starting from left, at pillar: Jim & Betty Duncan, Chuck & Sue Borchert, Ken & Linda Winters, Kathie & Bob Erickson, Danny & Ruth Bright, Sylvia & Bob Connell, Randal & Pam Caruthers

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Member Celebrations

April Birthdays

- 8 BJ Campe
- 17 Judy Collier
- 22 Connie Rogers
- 27 Randal Caruthers

May Birthdays

- 5 Teresa Steinberg
- 9 Norma Burgett
- 11 Jaime Nunez
- 13 Barbara Day

April Anniversaries

- 16 Horace & Elaine
Crowden

May Anniversaries

- 3 Joe & Judy Collier

Membership Dues Reminder

Annual chapter membership fees (\$20 couple and \$10 single) for calendar year 2020 are due. Dues are waived for the first year for new members. Name tags are \$15 each. for new members or for misplaced nametags. Our treasurer (who also orders nametags) is:

Randal Caruthers
1307 Leafmore Circle SE
Huntsville AL 35803



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2020 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 10-12 Knoxville RV Supershow <http://www.knoxvillervshow.com/> (about 247 miles) Not a club activity. \$8 adults, \$6 Good Sam, tickets for one day only. Free parking. Service animals only.

February 5-8 FMCA SouthEast Area Rally Lakeland Sun 'N Fun Expo Campus
https://fmca.com/pdfs/events/SEA20RegistrationForm_0923_rev.pdf

(664 miles) Volunteer for the FMCA Clothing Booth!

\$185 before 1/15. \$345 including 50A electric before 1/15 (no full hookups)
 "Keep on Smiling at Lakeland" is the theme.

March 13-16 FMCA 101st International Convention in Tucson AZ <https://fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> **(1,611 Miles)**

Location: Pima County Fairgrounds. \$225 early registration. Additional \$195 30A or \$315 50A.

April 9-12 Smith Lake Park, 403 County Rd 386, Cullman AL 35057 256-739-2916
<http://www.cullmancountyparks.com/smithlake.html> **(57 Miles)**

Cost about \$67, including Senior discount and 3% credit card surcharge. We have 10 sites total, 7 adjacent in Section M. Say you are with North Alabama RV'ers, and notify hosts.

Hosts: Bob & Kathie Erickson (site M38) **Cancelled! I am inquiring about refund policy, I will keep you posted. Many campgrounds will reschedule up to a year instead of refunds.**

August 26-29 FMCA 102d International Convention in Lincoln NE <https://fmca.com/fmca-event-registration/> **(855 Miles)** Registration info will be available soon **Cancelled!**

December 5 Holiday Celebration, Luncheon, business meeting **(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

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Tishomingo State Park	662-438-6314	Tishomingo, MS	110	\$ 22.00
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