



President's Report

The Rock the Rockies Rally ended nearly a week ago and Bobbie and I just said our goodbyes to the last of the rally attendees. We packed the Blue Bird and watched the Garden of the Gods RV

the activities was spending time with old friends... and a few new ones. Several attendees stayed on at the RV Park for a few days after the rally and the good times continued.

gave one another one last hug I realized our time together hadn't lasted nearly long enough.

In thinking about all the fun we'd had I paused for a moment and thought about how much I wished that more of our Blue Bird Family could have been with us and enjoyed this wonderful time. With that in mind, remember that in October we will be having our First Annual Blue Bird Family Reunion, "Cajun Adventure", in Rayne, LA. Take time to read all about this upcoming rally in this newsletter and come along, let the good times roll, and plan to join us for a great time with a bunch of old friends and hopefully, a few



Park disappear in our side view mirrors.

Driving north on I-25 out of Colorado Springs we were excited about seeing our daughter, son-in-law and 5 grandchildren, and yet as the pine trees and wide vistas of the Colorado Rockies drifted by on our way to Fort Collins, I couldn't help but reminisce about the great time we had just shared. And how much I had missed seeing so many of our Blue Bird Family.

Karen and Dennie James and Jon and Neat Scott had gone above and beyond in making this a great rally! So much fun and so many things to do but what I loved as much as



When I look back over the years I guess I would have to say hanging out with our Blue Bird Family is truly the benefit of belonging to the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA. As we said our goodbyes and

new ones!

So until we see you in Rayne, drive safely and keep those wheels rolling

Dan

BLUE BIRD CHAPTER, FMCA

Blue Bird Tracks

Inside this issue:

- and or Funny Ducks
- Cooking is for the Birds
- Tech Tips - Awnings, Generators
- Cajun Rally
- Sunshine & Mists

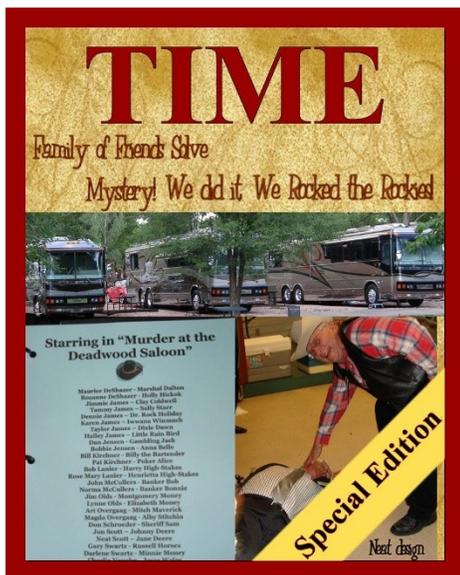
Special points of interest:

- *Rockies Rally Report*
- *Best (and worst) of Pet Ownership*
- *Blue Bird Coach, a Need, a Friend Indeed*
- *Wanderlodge Remodel Project*
- *No Job "Floors" this Blue Birder!*

Upcoming Rally Schedule

2010 Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA Rally Dates

Associated FMCA Clubs
And Dealer Rallies



If you missed this rally you missed a really great "Time". (See Pages 6-7 for more info.) Be sure to attend one or more of the rallies listed below... you will be happy that you did!

August 11th - 14th FMCA International Convention, Redmond, Oregon

September 26th - October 5th 2010 (tentative date) Family of Friends, "Fall Colors Northeast Rolling Rally"

Hosted by Alan and Jane Ritchie

October 7th - 10th 2010 Vintage Bird, Hershey, PA Rally

October 13th - 17th Wild Bunch "Autumn in Charlottesville" VA

October 16th - October 22nd Family of Friends "1st Annual Blue Bird Family Reunion" The Cajun Coast Adventure, Rayne, LA

Hosted by Roy Zanca, Chuck Arnold and Walter Richard

October 20th - 24th 2010 *Rats Rally, Pine Mountain, GA

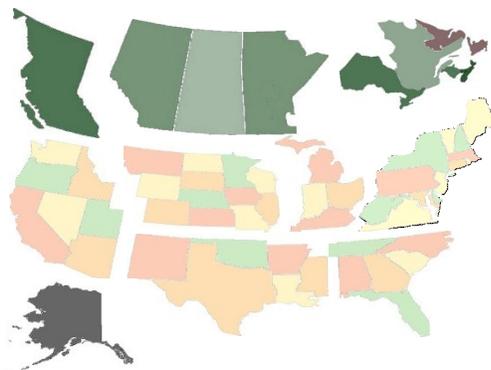
October 28th - October 31st 2010 Vintage Bird, New Orleans Rally

October 25th - October 30th, 2011 " 2nd Annual Blue Bird Chapter Family Reunion," East Ridge, TN Hosted by Leroy and Glenda Wilson and the Blue Bird Chapter

*denotes non FMCA sponsored club

Rally Hosts Wanted! Contact your Area VP to check and reserve a date. It's not too late to hold a rally in 2010 .

2011 dates can be reserved now too. If you have never hosted a rally, now is the time to do it. With a little planning and your knowledge of a particular area, you can put together a rally that is as formal or informal as you want. Either way fun will be had with other Blue Bird owners. You get to decide, picnic on the beach, pot luck at the campground, entertainment, free time? Your knowledge of a particular area can be shared with others who have never visited the area or would like to return and see things they didn't know were there. Start planning now!



To email your area VP, click on the section of the map that corresponds to the area where you wish to hold your rally.

Northeastern Jay Zeigler
610-622-8113 (C)
717-933-4666 (H)

NortheastVP@BlueBirdChapter.org

South Central Roy Zanca
504-491-5149 (C)
504-242-1705 (H)

SouthCentralVP@BlueBirdChapter.org

West Central Jim Olds
507-645-5549 (H)

WestCentralVP@BlueBirdChapter.org

Western Dan Sunderland
760-445-0005 (C)

WesternVP@BlueBirdChapter.org

East Central Paul Spear
740-629-7336 (O)

EastCentralVP@BlueBirdChapter.org

Southeast Jimmy Cox
864-420-1481 (C)

SoutheastVP@BlueBirdChapter.org

Senior VP Alan Ritchie
239-949-1021 (H)
380-380-9090 (C)

SeniorVP@BlueBirdChapter.org

Have a friend who owns another brand of motorhome? Or one who wants to buy a Wanderlodge or BMC? Did you know that they can attend Blue Bird Chapter rallies as your guest? Contact the rally host for the rally you would like to invite them to and they will be welcome to attend!



Happy Birthday
FoF!!!

Remodeling Our Wanderlodge: by Jenise Harper

Isn't it every woman's passion to redecorate homes, move furniture, rearrange pictures ... keeping one's house in a constant state of change? So ... what does a woman do when she joins in the decision to sell the home and live in a motor home – one where furniture is built in, valances supersede wall hangings, and



everything has a prescribed place – not to be changed?!? Let me expound. I love color, interesting décor pieces which have memories

or meaning, and comfort. When we purchased our 2001 Bluebird Wanderlodge LXi two years ago, it had two sofas facing each other. The shorter one had a pull-down drink/snack tray built into the center portion; both had storage drawers that pulled out from the base. The rig also had white wood-back dining chairs – very uncomfortable and too “Queen Anne” in appearance.

The first thing we did was give the dining chairs to charity and replace them with green upholstered parsons' chairs that were part of a grouping of six we had in our home. The two green chairs brightened up the mauve and sage interior considerably, and were enhanced with burgundy throws on the sofas.

Next I recovered the pillows with green and burgundy fabric that matched the chairs and the throws. It was amazing how the look was becoming more vibrant.

However, the smaller sofa, lo-

cated on the curb side, just was not comfortable. It seemed shallow, and also was at an odd angle for television viewing. We decided to replace it with cupboards and a small recliner. We had driven the coach from Ft. Myers, FL, where we purchased it, to Evergreen, CO, our home at the time. Then, to whet our appetites for full-timing, we spent a month (November 2009) in Las Cruces, NM. While there, we connected with a custom cabinet maker, Walt Kowalski. He came highly recommended, and felt it was a simple matter to replace the sofa with cabinetry.

The first task was to remove the sofa, which Walt's crew accomplished very quickly. (The sofa was subsequently sold to a local college student who didn't mind the lack of finish work on the back, and loved the drawer and built-in beverage/snack tray – much better than a lawn chair in his cozy off-campus apartment.)

After some measuring and discussion of options, Walt took a cabinet door to have his painter match the color. We chose to use wood doors with metal mesh inserts, rather than try to duplicate the existing cupboards. The choice proved to be a good one.



Once the sofa was removed, it was obvious the carpet would also have to be replaced – unless you like crumpled, crushed and strangely cut carpet of a different hue than that in the walking areas. We chose to use a wood-grained laminate instead of carpet, and fortunately found a maple tone that perfectly matched the tone of the new cabinets. It proved easy to connect with an installer and contracted to have him remove the carpeting and install the laminate. That turned out to be a bigger job than he originally thought, because the linoleum in the galley and bath was laid on 1/4" plywood that also had to be

removed. But, two days later our new floor was installed and The Bird was ready for the cabinetry.

It took only four hours to install the cabinets, which has been constructed at Walt's shop. All the sections fit beautifully ... after a little shaving along the bottom to accommodate the less-than-true contours of the motor coach floor.

Now it was time for the recliner! Have you ever tried to find a SMALL recliner – and one which would be comfortable, while not tilting too far or taking up precious space? We visited every furniture store in Las Cruces, and ultimately found one that fit just right ... not too wide, not too deep, not too tall, and, when extended, it was not too “long”! Voila!



We accomplished the renovations by the end of November 2009. It's now July 2010, and we continue to be very pleased



with the living space we've created, and the additional storage we obtained. We've now sold our home in Evergreen, and are truly “full-timers” – spending the summer

in the Northwest, following a pleasant winter in Tucson and Casa Grande, AZ. The only thing we've done recently is add a 4" memory foam pad to our bed ... comfort in the salon; comfort in the stateroom, as well!

The photos don't give all that much detail, but hopefully convey the convenience and comfort we created in our traveling home. It was such fun to see our “vision” become a reality!

Cooking is for the Birds: by Kay Green Losh



I hope the hot weather finds you in a place and activities where you're enjoying it, or that you're escaping to the air conditioning! I'm finding it hard to do much except read, drink iced tea, and find cool things to prepare in the kitchen--or eat out, which we've done a lot of the past two weeks!

From Neat Scott, a recipe which serves double duty, always a favorite. I made this for Joe's Surprise Birthday party in July. Enjoyed by all! Thanks, Neat!



Versatile Sour Cream Spread

This recipe is very versatile. You can start out using it as a Sandwich Spread, then with one simple addition turn it into a Dip or salad dressing. It's delicious no matter how you serve it.

Ingredients: For Sandwich Spread

- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup thick sour cream
- 4 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese (1/2 of an 8 oz block, softened)
- 1 Tbsp. brine from jar of olives
- 1/2 cup salad olives with pimentos, chopped and well drained

- 2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped or 1 Tbsp. dried parsley flakes
- 1 Tbsp. minced onion
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 3 Tbsp. fresh dill weed, chopped (or 1 tsp. dried dill weed)

To serve as a dip, thin the above mixture with 1/4 cup buttermilk.

To use as a salad dressing, use 1/2 cup buttermilk.

Directions:

In a small bowl blend the mayonnaise and cream cheese with the sour cream. Add the 1 Tbsp. brine from a jar of olives along with the chopped olives and pimentos, and all the seasonings. Stir until thoroughly mixed, then spoon into a container which has a tight-fitting lid. Chill for 4 hours or over-

night to allow flavors to mingle.

Serve as a spread with party rye (or pumpernickel breads) or a variety of crackers.

Serve as a dip with any fresh crudites or chips.

Serve as a salad dress-

ing over tossed or mixed fresh salad of choice.

If made ahead of time, it will keep very well in the refrigerator for 2 days before using. It might keep longer than that, but it never stuck around longer. I'd make it up, and it'd disappear before I knew it was gone almost. I quickly learned to double the recipe. At least this is fairly healthy food.

Servings: depends on use. Time: 10 minutes prep time, refrigerate at least 4 hours.

Here's another hot weather dish, which you can play with to a degree. If you have fresh cherry tomatoes, add them in, and to

make it a main dish, add some cooked shrimp or thin sliced beef and toss them in .



WHITE BEANS WITH SUN-DRIED TOMATOES

Vinaigrette: 1/4 cup good olive oil, 2 Tablespoons of the oil from packaged sun-dried tomatoes,

1 Tbsp. Red wine vinegar, 1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes, 1/4 tsp. kosher salt, coarse ground pepper to taste.

Beans: 2 cans cannellini or great northern beans, rinsed and drained; 1/2 cup diced red onion, 1

Tbsp. Red wine vinegar, 2 garlic cloves, minced; 6 chopped basil leaves, 1 oz. grated Romano cheese

Prepare vinaigrette, whisking in a small bowl. Put beans in a large bowl. Pour vinaigrette over and let stand at least an hour. Add the rest of the ingredients just before serving. Makes 3 1/2 cups and can be used as a side dish or as a light main dish meal.

Send YOUR favorites to pass along to others in our Family of Friends! Safe traveling to all!

Kay

Cooking@BlueBirdChapter.org

Sunshine & Mists: by Brenda Rodgers



We extend our get well thoughts to Kathleen Wells who is scheduled for heart stents in August.

Bruce Morris continues to improve from his serious problems as a result of kidney stones.

Pat Kirchner has recently been hospitalized for some heart related problems. Pat reports that she is home now and feeling better after receiving a pace maker.

Anniversary Congratulations:

Congratulations and best wishes to Rocky and Kathleen Wells who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on July 30th.

Get Well Wishes:

Please continue to remember Sally Baze, Joanne Dover, and Sharon Zeigler.

Our Sympathy:

We extend deepest sympathy to Sally Grindle and family in the loss of her husband, Bob Grindle, who passed away on April 20. Bob was one of the founders of the Vintage

Birds, and over a period of 35 years has owned six Blue Birds. They have enjoyed many rallies and have great memories of the times spent with their many, many Blue Bird friends.

Birthday Greetings:

We extend special birthday greetings to Albert L. (Buddy) Luce, Jr. who celebrated his 88th birthday on July 31st. (To the newer members of the Blue Bird Family – Mr. Luce's father, Albert L. Luce, Sr. was the founder of Blue Bird.)

Just a reminder – please send us information you may have for our Sunshine article.

Click to email:

Sunshine@BlueBirdChapter.org

Post Quartzsite 2011 Rolling Rally Interest?

Approximately 2 days after the ending of Q2011, a Vintage Bird rally in Temecula,

CA at Pechanga Indian RV Resort for 2 or 3 nights, (approx 250 miles from Quartzsite, AZ) followed by 4-5 nights at Chula Vista RV Resort in Chula Vista, CA. (approx 60 miles away) The second rally would be a Bluebird club rally.

The Pechanga Indian Casino is adjacent to

the park, and Temecula has old town, wineries, etc. for tours and is a beautiful 5 star campground. Chula Vista is a beautiful park near the San Diego backbay, and has the San Diego harbor cruises, Embarcadero area, Old Town, Chula Vista Olympic Training Center, Sea World, Balboa Park, deep sea fishing and many other things to do.

Rallies will be low cost and mainly social

events, such as Sunday brunch potluck, dinner potlucks, hors d'oeuvres night, etc.

If there is enough interest, we will proceed with them.

Please email interest to 86bluebird@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks

Dan and Cindy Sunderland

Please Note... Chapter Address Change

The Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA has CLOSED the P.O. Box in Fort Valley, GA. We have established a new, permanent address and are using the FMCA mail forwarding service. Please send your dues and rally payments to our new, permanent chapter address, via FMCA mail forwarding.

The Blue Bird Chapter's address is:

Treasurer

Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, LLC

3590 Round Bottom Road

Cincinnati, OH 45244

Rock the Rockies Huge Success! by Martha Rowe Vaughn

Neat and Jon Scott and Karen and Dennie James hosted a great rally for us in Colorado Springs! Thank you so much!! The stone soup was fabulous, too.

We started off the rally with a bang. Who shot the gambler? The murder mystery was set in the old west at a saloon where



a poker tournament had occurred. Guests were dressed in period clothes from tails and derbies to Indian costumes to floozy dresses. The object was to figure out from the clues who shot the winning poker player. Everyone had a great time asking questions, garnering “money,” and giving false information. No one guessed the guilty party. Prizes were given for the best dressed and the most dramatic.



Then we played a game of bingo. We were given cards with personal information in the squares. We had to find out which person fit the information. Who knew that one of us had danced the hula in Hawaii or had more than seven grandchildren? It was a great way to get to know our fellow Blue Birders.

We ended the night playing a game of One-Card Poker. It was hilarious. We had a ball laughing at Maurice and John McCuller who tried to change the rules of the game at every turn.



The next day we took a bus ride to the United States Air Force Academy and on to the magnificent Garden of the Gods with its fantastic stone formations. No trip to the west is complete without exploring the mining history. Later in the week, we traveled to Cripple Creek to ride the narrow gauge railroad through the mining country and abandoned towns to learn about the millions of dollars of gold extracted from the hillsides.

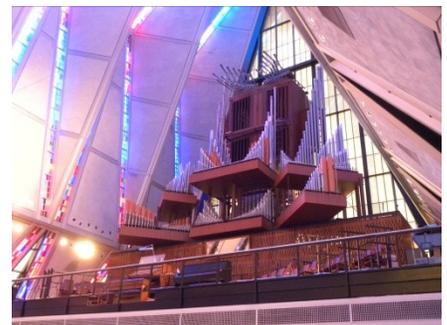
On our last night, we went to the Flying W Ranch for a steak supper and wonderful music under the stars.

The rally was a fun mix of planned events and free time. There was so much to do: horseback riding, seeing a marionette show, climbing Pike’s Peak, visiting castles, and of course, our favorite thing—visiting with each other.

For some of us the rally didn’t end with the end! Several coaches stayed behind and enjoyed more camaraderie. We went out to supper together and finished off the week with a night at the rodeo. Bobbie and Dan got us some great seats.

Don’t forget the food! We had it—stone soup, barbeque, steaks, pancakes, and to top it off—a birthday cake celebrating the

35th year of the founding of the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA (aka Family of Friends). Congratulations and many thanks to Neat, Jon, Karen, and Dennie for a great rally.



We Rocked the Rockies!



Technical Tips and Tricks: by Ralph Fullenwider



Summer in full swing, a time for Rally's and sharing friendships, pot luck dinners and BBQ of any meat or veggie!

The thought hit me that it may well be time to pull the BBQ grill out and do a little cleaning and tune up. Some of the grills are LP some are electric and others like mine is good old charcoal.

It has been 3 years now since I quit smoking, and yes, for hamburgers, the perfect burger on the grill was timed by 3 cigarettes! <Grin> My point being that a meat thermometer might well be needed to add to the BBQ tools.

Major Generator modification;

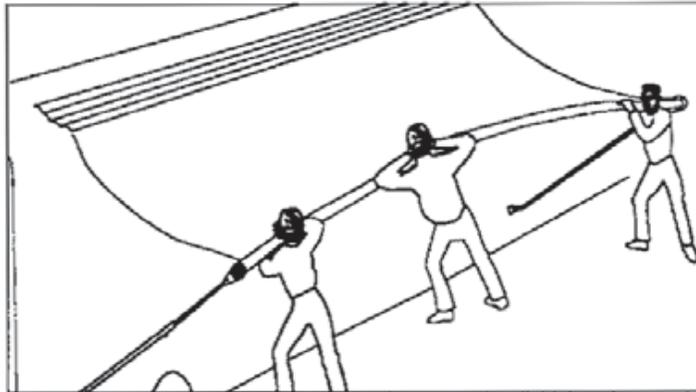
On another note, Charolette and I, with the help of Ernie Ekberg and Bim Burt, recently did a modification on the generator in our FC. And it turned out very well.

Besides replacing the oil seals that were leaking, we did the cooling system modification and installed the PT type cooling fan instead of the noisy 1 hp motor and car type fan on the original generator. One can actually stand outside the generator com-



partment door and have a normal conversation now.

I had to have the radiator re cored and had to agree when I saw the clogged tubes. Apparently tap water had been used instead of distilled or the 50/50 mix. That was an expense (\$400.00) that need not have been.



Zip Dee provides instructions on how to repair a slightly bent awning tube. But what if it has a severe bend or even a kink? Ralph has the money saving answer!

Main Awning 3 inch tube bent?

A sudden non expected rain during the night, bent the 23 foot main awning ridge tube on our awning.

A call to Zip Dee told me that a new one would be around \$175.00 give or take. And while that is not too bad a price, to truck ship the tube to Oklahoma would be around \$600.00 or so. Of course that was OUT of the question.

Charolette and I use our main awning quite a bit, so doing without it was not an option, so a call went in to a local small muffler shop to see if I could bring it down and try a repair. I was told, over the phone, "Sure, I will work with you on that!" Well now my heart started to pump a bit thinking

maybe... So the tube was stripped from the pop rivets and hardware and loaded up in the van and I was off to the muffler shop.

A 25 inch piece of 3 inch exhaust tubing was chosen and the bend in my tube was cut out. Then ended of the repair tube was swelled for a tight slip fit and welded into place. Yes Sir, that old tube was looking much straighter,

now if it will only work! Loaded back up and headed home, the tube still needed a little tweaking so that was done at home using the poles of the car port.

The tube was re installed and the spring re-tensioned, now for the proof of the pudding. Charolette walked the repaired tube right up into travel position as easy as you please and the repaired tube was

good to go. All this for the price of \$30.00 at the muffler shop. <Smile>



Point being, I had not heard of anyone having the tube repaired so thought I would have a try at it, and they can be repaired, trued up and re installed.

Safe travels,

Ralph and Charolette Fullenwider
"84FC35 "Ruff Diamond"
Duncan, Oklahoma
TechTips@BlueBirdChapter.org

No Job “Floors” This Blue Birder! An Interview with Ernie Ekberg: by Jo Slivinski, aka., Jo-ski

Most Blue Birders reading this probably know Ernie Ekberg as an original co-founder



Matching faces with names well-known to you via the online Wanderlodge Forum: Ernie Ekberg and his wife Brenda at a recent Bird gathering. Together, they also have four grown children.

of one of the first online Blue Bird forums and of the current Wanderlodge Forum on the Yahoo! Groups Website. Moderating and actively participating in an especially busy forum can be a job in itself, but to put food on the table and fuel in the Bird, Ernie still keeps his day-job. Therein lies the online nickname by which you may also know him, "Ernie Carpet."

Ernie specializes in all kinds of flooring and carpet installations for coaches (especially Blue Birds!) and other motor homes, but he also welcomes residential and commercial work. And, don't forget projects related to any other vehicle that flies, floats, or rolls down a road--or even, as you'll read, a farm field. Ernie can tackle 'em all!

As we go to press, Ernie has also just announced that he is starting a service in pre-delivery inspections (PDIs), in which he will travel to and evaluate coaches for prospective buyers. More about this in the interview.

I sat down with Ernie online to discuss his life and work plus a host of other topics and was gifted with a portrait of a family guy for hire we can all admire.

JS: Hi, Ernie! First of all, I think everyone would agree that you are so special to the Blue Bird community that our readers--especially those of us who haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting you in person--would enjoy knowing more about you personally than we ever get a chance to discuss on the forum! Tell us a little about your family and background, where you grew up, and how you got to be you.

EE: I was raised in Massachusetts and sent to Texas via the Air Force, where I spent 4 years in Lubbock as a data processor. After discharge, I married a lady whose dad was a flooring installer. I learned from him the craft that I have been practicing for 38 years.

JS: Ernie, the photos on your Website illustrate so many marvelous motor home flooring installations you've performed. Give us a little additional history about your career in this line of work.

EE: I started out in 1972 in west Texas as a carpet installer. Then my wife Brenda and I moved close to Fort Worth and opened up "Our Little Place," which we operated out of a 300-square-foot building. I was always the person who knew the best materials, and I did the installation.

JS: Now, you still work in all kinds of flooring/carpet installations, but how did you settle on specializing in coaches and motor homes?

EE: After Lowe's and Home Depot came to town, the mom-and-pop stores evaporated. I always loved working on coaches. It doesn't matter what coach you have; I believed I could make them better. So, until the economy tanked, that is what I have been doing. The only thing I do not install--and I have seen all the cracks, pop-up tiles, etc.--is ceramic tile. I don't need the warranty liability with this material failing.

JS: From the detailed photos on your Website, one gets a clear picture of just how exacting and complicated re-modeling flooring in a coach is, compared to what is involved in a typical residential/commercial installation--all the weird nooks and crannies to work around in a coach! And, it really is an art--one that cannot be rushed, would you agree? What are some other challenges of this work? And, what do you enjoy most about your work?



Ernie installed this beautiful Australian Cypress wood flooring in the Marsh's Blue Bird.

EE: I'm not the fastest person installing,

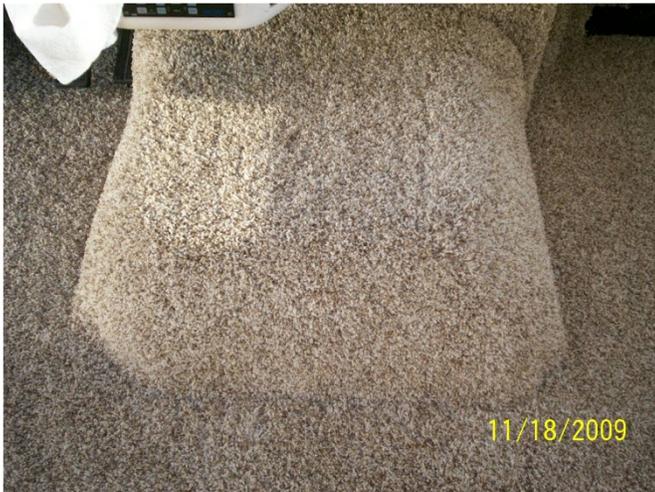
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No Job Floors This Blue Birder! An Interview with Ernie Ekberg:

(Continued) by Jo Slivinski, aka., Jo-ski

(Continued from page 9)

but I check and triple-check every scenario. If there are slides, I observe, visu-



Re-upholstering/re-carpeting a coach's doghouse (engine housing) is not for the faint-hearted, and the above photo illustrates Ernie's consummate skills in a flawless, professional job on a Gulfstream coach.

ally, and with this color inspection camera how the slide moves, and if it will impact the new floors. I take each coach personally, as if it was my own, as my reputation on doing a good job is on the line. I have been blessed with this credo being deep in my being. I want to do the customer right.

JS: Does your work extend to other aspects of remodeling or repair besides flooring installations?

EE: I try to specialize in flooring, but can do some small plumbing jobs.

JS: What's been the oddest or most unusual project (Blue Bird or otherwise) you've ever been called on to do?

EE: One individual wanted me to put carpet on his farm tractor. He wanted the carpet on the roof and sides. I used a good deal of contact adhesive and time on that job. That was before the days of the Internet and digital photography.

JS: A photo of a carpeted tractor might well have gone viral on the Internet, Ernie! What are some of the unusual options or treatments that folks might not be as aware of when considering remodeling their coaches? For example, from your Website photos, I noticed the striking stainless steel plating that you installed on the stairway entry of your own coach and the Burt, Johnson, and Kessler coaches and the luxury vinyl synthetic wooden planks on the Clerc coach.

EE: There are a host of new materials that come out at the Surfaces trade shows in February every year. I try to keep up with all of them--anywhere from radiant heat, to new carpet, hand-scraped exotic wood, and different luxury vinyl tile.

JS: Ernie--late-breaking news--you've also just announced that you're starting a service doing pre-delivery inspections (PDIs) for prospective coach buyers. Already the buzz on the forum--from voice-of-experience folks who say they've "lived and learned"--is that if you, with your unbiased but experienced eye, can save someone from buying the wrong coach or uncover even minor problems, such a service is more than well worth the fee. Tell us a little more about this new service you are offering.

EE: Well, I can't claim to know absolutely everything, but with my in-depth involve-

ment with Wanderlodges since 1982, I believe my expertise can help prospective coach buyers make an informed decision and also help them make a fair offer. Whatever the age of the coach--especially Blue Birds, which are built to run hundreds of thousands of miles like Mac trucks, it can either be a gem of a really good buy that's going to give an owner years of pleasure, or it can be an endless source of woes and repairs. To sort that out, I have a 20-page checklist that'll put any coach through the most rigorous paces. Right now, I expect my fee will be \$350 plus travel expenses.

JS: Would your service offer coach delivery and new owner training as well? For example, (speaking from experience), for some new owners--especially those new to RVing--the option of hands-on training with all the different systems on a coach might be of great interest and confidence-building, I would think.

EE: Yes, I could provide those services, to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.



This luxury vinyl plank, which Ernie installed in the Clercs' coach, is just one of the many newer flooring treatments that Ernie can offer to customers.

(Continued on page 11)

No Job Floors This Blue Birder! An Interview with Ernie Ekberg:

(Continued) by Jo Slivinski, aka., Jo-ski

(Continued from page 10)

JS: How did you first come to be a Blue Bird owner yourself?

EE: My first encounter with a Bird was back in '82, when my friend in Lubbock, TX bought one. That coach impressed me, as I had a Southwind at the time. When I went into that Blue Bird, I was amazed at the layout, all the controls, and, since it was summer and he had all three airs running, how nice and cool it was--compared to my coach with one air, where we were all hot.

JS: You recently mentioned that this is your first summer in Texas for years, and that normally you spend summers working in Montana. What do you do there?

EE: I have been working in Big Sky and the Yellowstone Club, where there was considerable new construction taking place. All that, thanks to the economy, is halted for the time being.

JS: I hope that situation reverses itself soon, Ernie. But it sounds like you're willing to travel for work--either for a flooring installation job or this new PDI service you're offering?

EE: Absolutely!

JS: Tell us about co-founding one of the first online Wanderlodge forums, and when was that?

EE: I had an '84 35' FC, and back in the day--this was in 2000--the only forum was Vintage Birds, which was run by Richard Doty. Richard was getting on in years and no longer able to perform the tasks of Webmaster, and thus, the forum was disintegrating a bit. However, on that forum a fella named Bruce Morris inquired if anyone had any prints on an '83 FC. I had a set and corresponded with him. We got pretty close as friends, and we agreed that the future of the Vintage Bird site was uncertain, so we needed to do something. We talked back and forth so many times, I lost count. He went to Yahoo! Groups and created the first Yahoo! forum. We worked our butts off. He was the

computer guru, and I was into promoting the forum. I created business cards that I handed out at rallies, and at the RIV I went around to all 500 coaches and gave those out. I did all the advertising, etc. I was really passionate about getting our name out --not Bruce's and my name--rather, the Wanderlodge forum name. I suggested to Bruce that we needed an easier way to tell people about the forum without the long Yahoo URL. My idea was to have wanderlodge.org. Took off like a rocket. At one time we had 3700+ members.

[Note: Ernie and Bruce co-moderated the original Yahoo! wanderlodge.org forum until spring, 2005. At that point, Bruce decided he wanted additional Web functionality than what Yahoo! could provide, but that required making the forum a pay-for site. Ernie wanted the forum to remain a free-membership site, so with a few other forum members, he co-founded what is currently the Wanderlodge Forum that is still on Yahoo! groups and is still free-membership. Bruce remains a member of Ernie's forum, and he continues to moderate his own separate forum, Wanderlodge Owners Group, which is now also a free-membership forum.]

JS: For our fellow Blue Birders, tell us, what are some of your favorite destinations and campgrounds?

EE: The favorite places we like to go are with our Lone Star Birds group. We have rallies all over Texas and Louisiana. We have a place just west of us in Perrin, Mitchell RV Park. Also Top of the Hill in Boerne, TX and Buckhorn Lake RV 5-star par in Kerrville. We try to go to the mom-and-pop parks to help them out. We like a park with a meeting room as we do lots of pot luck dinners.

JS: What else would you like folks to know about you and/or your work?

EE: It seems that wherever I go and folks have heard my name, they come and shake my hand and say if it wasn't for me, they

would not have a Blue Bird. I am indeed humbled, and God has blessed me. I have a lot of friends, and that is priceless to me.

JS: Well, Ernie, I can tell you that my husband and I are among those who would not have our Blue Bird if it weren't for you. We found your online forum in 2003, and all of the helpful information and advice you and others kindly provided helped us decide to buy our '83 FC RB Bird--one of the best decisions of our life!

JS: Finally, Ernie, if you were not doing the work you're doing now, what would you be doing?

EE: If I was a wealthy person, I still would work and help folks out.

JS: Ernie, I look forward to shaking your hand and thanking you in person some day!

For more information about Ernie's flooring and PDI business and to view a generous sampling of photos of his installations, check out Ernie's Website at www.ernieekbergflooring.net You can also contact Ernie at: 817-475-3991

Jo Slivinski, aka., Jo-ski, is a free-lance technical and business communications writer and online information designer. She can be reached at josl@nas.com

Blue Bird Coach, a Need, a Friend Indeed: by Paul E. Ward

Going places, doing things, attending rallies, and visiting the Family of Friends are normal activities for Blue Bird coach owners. What could be “Better than to be in Carolina, Southern California, the Maine coast, or the Rockies..... in the morning”?

Yet, there are a number of other uses our beloved Blue Bird coaches may provide. Many coach owners use their coach on business trips or during hunting or fishing trips, near and far. The Blue Bird coach may serve as an invaluable third or fourth bedroom for family or “Snowbirds” who “stop over” on the way south or north seeking either warmer or cooler weather in their resort homes. Some coach owners have been known to use the Blue Bird coach as a private mother or mother-in-law suite. I tried this, but my mother thoroughly rejected her private coach suite, felt alone, rejected and, expressed condemnation, when “I was relegated to a place outside the house.” Mother wanted to be close to her brood even though her brood days were long gone. As you may expect, she abandoned the coach for the house.

In our case, our Blue Bird coach is currently meeting yet another invaluable service. During an eighteen month period, November 2009 through April 2011,

our family requires bi-monthly intensive medical care at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. A drive of 152 miles one way from home to Mayo Clinic for an 8:00 AM appointment just doesn't compute. To leave a day earlier makes sense in many ways, but wait. Each Mayo Clinic visit may be two, three, or more days, not always known beforehand. Then there's another night, after a 4:30 PM release from Mayo Clinic, for rest before the return trip home. That means each Mayo Clinic visit could be three or four days with overnight motel/hotel reservations at a nightly cost of \$125.00 to \$195.00 depending on one's choice of motel/hotel quality level. Do the math. That potentially comes to \$1,560 per month just for motel/hotel expenses (\$195/night x 4 nights/visit x 2 times/mo).

The Blue Bird motor home comes to the rescue! Stay in a campground close to the Mayo Clinic. In our case we're fortunate to stay at the Mayport Naval Station's Pelican Roost RV Park at \$18.00/night. Compare total overnight costs of \$144.00 per month at the campground to \$1,560 per month in the motel/hotel. Yes, the Blue Bird coach, at least in this case, is a “Money maker”. This may be the first

time you've heard a Blue Bird coach referred to as “Money maker”.

Additionally staying in one's own coach provides an ultimate sense of “Being home”

after day long medical tests. At home relaxed in the Blue Bird is just not possible at a motel/hotel.

Large diagnostic medical facilities are often coach friendly. Many of these facilities provide on-site electrical hookups. Some facilities allow overnight and extended stay privileges. Other facilities, as with Mayo Clinic, provide designated RV parking only, no overnight stays. Although we've seen only one other Blue Bird coach in the Mayo Clinic RV parking area, we see many other coach brands parked there.

Two friends shared their experiences using their coaches during medical needs. One dear friend expressed it this way: “I can't imagine being in a hotel instead of being able to take a bit of home along with you when you are in a hospital. When my dad was dying three hundred miles away I kept our coach packed and ready to hit the road in a half hour....parked at the hospital and took turns sitting with my Dad. The motor home worked well. I don't know what I'd have done without it.”

Another dear friend shared: “My friend required transportation by ambulance to a distant hospital to receive intense treatment. I could not bear to see him transported and be at the hospital all by himself. “Come with me, go in the Blue Bird....I'll be with you throughout the process. Unfortunately, after the hospital visit, he told me he had only four months left. He died two months later.”

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for friends such as this friend!

We all love our Blue Bird coaches for many reasons and many uses. A medical use of the coach is just one of many uses for which we may love our Blue Bird coach. Hopefully few members of Family of Friends will need the Blue Bird coach to support medical needs; however, if a need arises, your Blue Bird coach will efficiently and fully serve your need, a friend indeed.

Paul

Another Emergency Use reprinted in part below from “Suite101.com”

In the event of a crisis or natural disaster, RV owners have the advantage, with enough warning time, to evacuate the problem area and seek shelter in their camper or motorhome. Being prepared to vacate the area in an emergency - using a recreational vehicle - can save money, belongings, and most importantly, lives.

In an emergency where an evacuation is needed, the chance that hotels in the surrounding areas will have available rooms is not likely. Many fairgrounds, stadiums and even national or state parks give evacuees a place to park free of charge, which is an advantage to disaster victims who use an RV for shelter. When there is a chance that a person or family will lose everything in a natural disaster, the need to save the items that are most valuable is crucial - having the extra space in an RV compared to a car will allow for keepsakes, pictures, documents, antiques and family heirlooms to be saved.

Read more at Suite101: [How To Use an RV for Emergencies: Using a Recreation Vehicle To Evacuate During Natural Disasters](http://campingrving.suite101.com/article.cfm/how_to_use_an_rv_for_emergency_s#ixzz0uWFNAGK2)
http://campingrving.suite101.com/article.cfm/how_to_use_an_rv_for_emergency_s#ixzz0uWFNAGK2

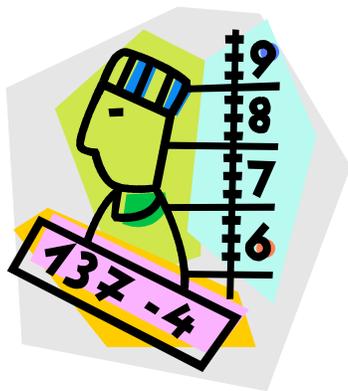
The Best and Worst of Pet Ownership: by Patty O'Neill

The worst....our cat Buttons had lived a great life of 17years but the worst is when the vet says they can't help your sick pet and it has to be put to sleep.....from crying in the vet's office to seeing the pet toys, bed and dishes when you get home...



course feeling like a murderer

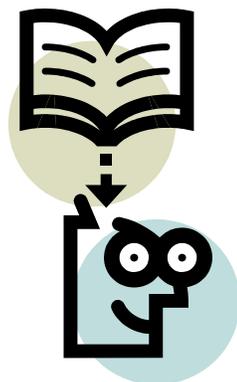
...and of



for weeks after.....you do not want a pet again to have to live through that one more time.so after you swear to no pet owning for about 6 weeks...



..you realize that being pet-less is awful..... so the search is on for a new pet.....So for some reason we buy a cat book of the types of cats... (don't know why we have had cats for years) but anyhow this time we are going to



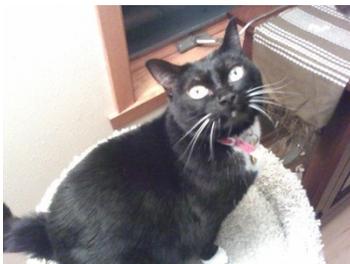
be educated cat selectors. The book rated cat care by pictures of cat brushes



.....so a one brush cat would be easy care and a 4 brush cat would be brushing all the time...

We get a tragic phone call that my mom had a stroke and has to move to a care home. Cynthia, our daughter, and I fly to California to be with my mom and Tim drives to bring a trailer to move my mom.

We get my mom moved but she can't bring her cat Emma...so now we have a new cat!!!



We loaded the truck and trailer and sent Tim and Emma across country together as Cynthia and I flew home.

Tim would sneak Emma into hotels



where

there would be signs that said "No pets" and Emma would sit immediately in the window to notify the hotel personnel that she was there!

Once we were all back home Emma adjusted well to our home in the Midwest... Tim bonded so well with her that he declared Emma not a cat but a person and thought he should register her at the courthouse

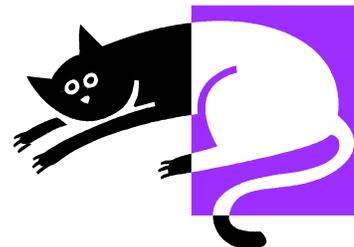


so she could vote!



The rest of us said "OH BROTHER".

We sold our house in 2006 and now travel full time with Emma... In her first year of travel she met Harry and Karen Field (another Bluebird owner) who wanted to name Emma two tone because of her black and white coloring...



The latest adventure was the beginning of June we changed locations from East Atlanta to North Atlanta... So did the typical pack up... I went to the office to settle the bill, Tim took the coach to get

(Continued on page 17)



1st Annual Blue Bird Chapter Family Reunion

October 16th -October 22nd

The Cajun Adventure Rally, Rayne Louisiana

A virtual playground for RV'ers, Rayne, Louisiana is in the heart of some of the south's most desired tourist destinations. With so many exciting places to visit our greatest challenge was what to include and what would be optional.

Rayne, LA is known as the Frog Capitol of the USA and it has many beautiful murals of frogs on a number of its historic downtown buildings and restaurants. We will start our rally with a mural scavenger hunt, and then join in the fun for the Frog races put on by the city of Rayne. You will thoroughly enjoy our visit to Vermilionville. Situated on the banks of the Bayou Vermilion, this Cajun/Creole heritage and folk life park recreates life in the Acadian area between 1765 and 1890. From the short film "The Evangeline", lunch at La Cuisine de Maman, Cajun music and dancing in the back barn to the optional river boat ride on the Vermilion River, your going to love our day together.

This incredible area has so many things to do like visit The Crowley Ford Motor Building and The Grand Opera House of the South. Don't miss "Evangeline," Historic Church and Plantation. We will enjoy a Swamp tour while gliding through the Atchafalaya Basin where Alligators, beautiful birds and other wildlife are often sighted. Take a short drive to New Ibera and visit America's oldest operating Rice Mill. Step back in time and browse their Country Store. Be sure to view the interesting video and museum at the Word Famous Tabasco Pepper Sauce Factory. Take a walking/driving tour of the lush tropical gardens where hundreds of snowy egrets habitat, as well as alligators, nutria and other wildlife.

Stately Southern Plantation Homes and a tour of a magnificent Castle in the heart of the south is just a couple more reasons you won't want to miss this awesome rally. It will be one for the books, our 1st Annual Blue Bird Chapter Family Reunion. Six (6) nights at a cost of \$359.00 for a coach with two (2) people. \$225.00 for a coach with one person and \$135.00 for an additional person. Space is limited, so don't delay.

Saturday October 16th 2010

Registration: 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. @ Rayne Civic Center campground pavilion. Hors D'oeuvres, BYOB, Frog races at RV Park, Mural Scavenger Hunt starts today and is everyday.

Supper is on your own

Sunday October 17th 2010

Breakfast is on your own.

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. (car pool) to Vermilionville for an all day event: Acadian Cultural Center, short film "The Evangeline" This wonderful film is the depiction of the deportation of the Acadians from Grand Pra, Nova Scotia. Great history lesson for what you will see during the week to come. Get your Lagniappe Doubloon at the theater. Visit Vermilionville with a private guide (25 to a

group)

12:00 Noon: Lunch at La Cuisine de Maman Cajun family style restaurant on the premise. Price of admission is the doubloon given to you at the movie theater showing the film "The Evangeline."

- Special Cooking demonstration

- Fais Doe Doe, Cajun Music & Dancing in the back barn

- *Optional* Boat ride on the Vermilion River

Supper is on your own

Monday October 18th 2010

Breakfast is on your own

9:00 - 10:00 A.M.: Rally orientation by; Rayne and Crowley Tourist Center

11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Lunch is on your own

12:30 - 2:30 P.M. Car Pool to the Ford Building and Ford Automotive Museum Rice Interpretive Center, History of Crowley Museum and J.D. Miller Music Museum.

3:00 - 4:30 (Car Pool) Le Petit Chateau de Luxe "The Castle"

5:00 P.M. Kelly's Landing, tour of the Crawfish Farm and Rice Field. special Cajun supper will be provided at Kelly's Landing.

Tuesday October 19th 2010

8:00 - 9:00 A.M. Catered Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 A.M. Club Board Member meeting

10:00 A.M. Club business meeting at the Pavilion

11:30 A.M. - 12:45 P.M. Lunch is on your own

1:00 - 3:00 P.M. Konrico Rice Mill Special Short Film and Tour

6:00 P.M. Enjoy a catered dinner

7:00 P.M. Oil Field Demo - by William Steward at RV Park

Wednesday October 20th 2010

8:00 - 9:00 A.M. Breakfast Catered

9:30 A.M. - Noon Visit Historic St. Martinsville a quaint Acadian town (Tour).

Noon - 1:00 P.M. Lunch is on your own at St. Martinsville or at the Café Jefferson on Jefferson Island.

2:00 P.M. -4:00 P.M. Tour of Jefferson Island -- This is a must see!!

6:00 P. M. Catered Supper, Entertainment by James Weatherford and Steel Guitarist Buck Grantham

Thursday October 21st 2010

8:00 - 9:00 A.M. Catered Breakfast



10:00 - 12:00 A.M. Car pool to McGees Landing - Swamp tour, enjoy the tranquility of gliding through the Atchafalaya Basin with an entertaining and informative Cajun Guide. Alligators, Beautiful Birds, and other wildlife are often sighted.

Lunch is on your own at McGees Landing.

5:30 P.M. (Turn in your Mural Scavenger Hunt score card)

6:00 P.M. Catered Supper "Cochon de Lait" Roast Pig over a bed of coals

7:00 - 7:30 P.M. The Festival Royalty Presentation of the Queens in full regalia, from many past Festivals from this area. We will be honored with the rights and privileges of royalty in their Magnificent attire. Bring your Cameras.

7:30 - 9:30 P.M. Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez! Let the good times Roll, at the Fais Doe Doe, -- at the Street Dance. Shuffle your feet to the sounds of the 50's.

Friday October 22nd 2010

8:00 - 9:00 A.M. Continental Breakfast

Say our good bye's and safe travels

***Note: 30 amp available at all sites, cheater boxes are allowed at all sites to increase your amperage.

Note: Remember the Rice Festival starts October 14th thru the 16th in Crowley, LA and the Mayor of Rayne, Jim Petitjean, gave us a special invitation to arrive early in order to go to the Rice Festival and stay at the Rayne Civic Center for \$15.00 per night. No need to make reservations, Roy Zanca will arrive on October 13th and he will keep the light on for you. Questions or help. Call Roy's cell 504-491-5149.



For those wanting to attend the Vintage Bird " New Orleans - Who Dat - Halloween Rally, October 28th thru Nov. 1st, following our Family Reunion you may want to contact one of the following RV Parks as a hold over site until VB Rally starts. Look in the Rally Schedule section in this newsletter for VB Rally, there are only 45 sites - so book early.

Cypress Bayou Casino - Shorty's

832 Martin Luther King Road

Charenton, LA

Full hookups \$10.00 a night and you get \$20.00 night free play money.

For Reservations call 1-800-284-4386



For a real adventure while waiting to go to the "Big Easy" How about House Boat Adventures at Cypress Bayou. The Atchafalaya Basin is a semi-wilderness area of hardwood forests, cypress stands, marshes and bayous. It is one of the last great river swamps left in the nation.

Experience the mystery and beauty of the Atchafalaya Basin from the privacy of your own houseboat, tucked away in a remote cove of this great Louisiana Swamp. <http://houseboat-Adventures.com/index.htm> For Reservations call 1-800-491-4662

Lake End Park, LA , Highway 70, Morgan City, LA 70380, 504-380-4623. Located on the banks of Lake Paloude.

Cajun Palms RV Resort, Henderson, LA 337-667-7772

The Best and Worst of Pet Ownership: (Continued) by Patty O'Neill

(Continued from page 13)

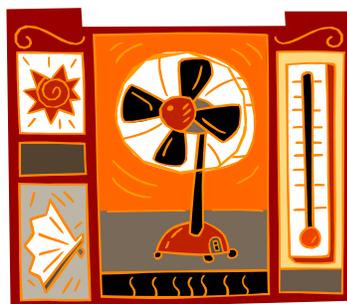
fuel...I met him at the gas station...hooked up the car...got inwe can't find the cat...



looked what we thought was everywhere inside....now outside at the gas station... where we both climbed up a retaining wall at the gas station calling for the cat that **must** be hiding in the rocks...I fall and twist my ankle



now limping calling for the @#X@ cat..can't find her...so back to the RV Park we go...walking and limping around the park calling for Emma...85 degrees and 5000 percent humidity!!



Can't find her outside so thinking we will have to stay at the RV Park until we find her....I search **ONE MORE TIME** in the coach and she is hiding under all of the blankets on the bed!!! Of course we don't know if we want to hug her or kill herbut we hugged her...



NOTICE!!!! Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA Family Reunion

Cajun Adventure EARLY REGISTRATION PRIZE PROGRAM

For this adventure Rally, we have developed a new and adventurous door prize program. Called the Blue Birders Early Registration Door Prize Adventure:

Start date August 01, 2010 thru October 15, 2010

Here is how the program works: Simple put when we receive your rally application we will put a ticket/s marked for you in the door prize hopper. Example: If we receive your application, post marked:

August 01, 2010 which is 75 days prior to rally 75 tickets marked for you will go in hopper for Drawing;

August 02, 2010 which is 74 days prior to rally 74 tickets marked for you will go in hopper for Drawing;

October 15, 2010 which is 01 days prior to rally 01 ticket marked for you will go in hopper for Drawing; Etc.

So the number of door prize tickers you can earn is up to you by the post mark of your application after the start date August 01, 2010 the more chances one has to win Door prizes.

Note: All applications post marked prior to August 01, 2010, will be credited to August First.

Only one door prize winner per application. We are dedicating \$1000.00 divided in 10 visa gift certificates, starting at \$50.00 to be used as door prizes.

See Rally Information on Page 12-14 for More Details on this Exciting Rally!

Funny Ducks: by Neat Scott,



After spending seven months in our Bus going from home in CO to the East coast, back to our west coasts home in CA, then returning back to home base all those months later. I note several things about myself and other long term travelers.

We like to take a little bit of home and the people we love with us wherever we go. Pictures to share with other are one example. Who can exist without their computer. Not me. A flick and a tap of the fingers and all our pictures appear to show to others. Or another example in my case is a matter of my favorite pillow. We must own two dozen pillows, even bought special new ones for our bus. But by golly when we head out I still make a last minute dash and tuck in my "very own favorite pillow." The same goes for various other articles I have noticed. Like my especially soft snugly. Really a blanket like no other to me. It just may be the kiddies are not the only ones who have their security blankets.

Do you for instance own multiple cups but find that coffee just simply doesn't taste quite the same as it does when drinking from your favorite? I would bet I am not alone. I'd lay down a bet that you likely also have one or more of these fet-

ishes.

A margarita just wouldn't taste the same from a paper cup. It calls for a salt rimmed margarita glass or frankly I don't want one. (very big grin) The bartender at our resort in CA learned of my love for green olives. One day I saw the dish of olives on the bar all ready for him to make a great drink for someone, I told him, "I do not want a drink but just the olive." He laughed with me and since that time he has delivered to our table a small dish of green olives. I'd miss those olives if he were to forget. For one thing we all like to feel we are somewhat special to this old world. If not special perhaps just unique. The olives make me feel someone cares that I am pleased.



Knowing these things about ourselves, does it not stand to reason that we can help those



we care for to feel that they too are special. Not every gift is costly, some I've loved most have been the unexpected little ones. For instance a friend living at the resort gave us a bottle of wine that was placed inside of one of the cutest little cloth sacks that she sews. Making that bottle of wine all the more special to receive. I can look around our bus and note large and small gifts that bring to mind special people who were thoughtful and made me feel they really cared.

Yes, I admit it, I am a "Funny Duck." When a day comes around that I have that "nobody loves me" feeling that most of us have now and then, I just look around at my treasures. They make me remember that even though my loved ones may be far away, I am loved. This is a great feeling, one that I hope to pass on to you.

Editors Note:

Besides being a contributing editor and official Welcome Hostess", all of the original artwork in your Bird Tracks Newsletter each month is designed and produced by our very own Jeanetta (Neat) Scott.

Thanks for the really "Neat" designs! And a big THANK YOU to ALL who contributed to make the August Issue of Bird Tracks the biggest and best ever!

Handy Links (In no particular order)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| FMCA Home Page | Parliament Coach | RV Electric Information |
| Vintage Birds | Coachcraft by MacDonald | RV Mechanic Online |
| Wanderlodge Owners Online | Bird Connection | Blue Bird Customer Access |
| Wanderlodge Owners Group | Bird Maps | Camping World |
| Wanderlodge Yahoo Forum | Bye Buy Bluebird | Dupree Products |
| Buddy Gregg Motorhomes | Classic Coachworks | RV Stuff USARV Toy Outlet |
| John Bleakley Motorhomes | Hydronic Heating Forum | RV Upgrade Store |
| Holland Motorhomes | Blue Bird Gear (Clothing etc.) | West Marine |

Your Chapter Officers, Directors and Committee Members

President: Dan Jensen
Senior Vice President: Alan Ritchie
Treasurer: Greg Peterson
Secretary: Karen James
Northeastern Division VP: Jay Zeiglar
South Central Division VP: Roy Zanca
West Central Division VP: Jim Olds
Eastern Central Division VP: Paul Spear
Southeastern Division VP: Jimmie Cox
Western Division VP: Dan Sunderland
National FMCA Director: Bill Kirchner
Alt. National FMCA Director: Jon Scott
Past President: Tom Bay
Welcome Hostess: Neat Scott
Sunshine & Mists: Brenda Rodgers

Newsletter Committee
Rich Ducci: Chairman
Neat Scott
Ralph Fullenwider
Karen James
Kay Losh
Alan Ritchie
Slim Somerville
Martha Vaughn
Shane Fedeli
The following email addresses have been set up for your convenience. Your Chapter Officers, Directors and Committee Members want to hear from you.
President@BlueBirdChapter.org
Secretary@BlueBirdChapter.org

Treasurer@BlueBirdChapter.org
SeniorVP@BlueBirdChapter.org
NortheastVP@BlueBirdChapter.org
SouthCentralVP@BlueBirdChapter.org
WestCentralVP@BlueBirdChapter.org
EastCentralVP@BlueBirdChapter.org
SoutheastVP@BlueBirdChapter.org
WesternVP@BlueBirdChapter.org
NationalDir@BlueBirdChapter.org
AltNatDir@BlueBirdChapter.org
Newsletter@BlueBirdChapter.org
TechTips@BlueBirdChapter.org
Cooking@BlueBirdChapter.org
Sunshine@BlueBirdChapter.org
[Welcome@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto>Welcome@BlueBirdChapter.org)
Classifieds@BlueBirdChapter.org

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE—NOTE: Rally Committee Reserves the Right to Add Even More Fun at No Extra Charge!

[Blue Bird Chapter, FMCA Rally Registration Form - Use This Form For Any Chapter Rally Registration](#)

Date: _____ Rally Name/Event You are Registering For _____

Last Name: _____ First Names: _____

Address: _____ City/ State/ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell # _____ Email: _____

Make of Coach: _____ Length: _____ Model _____

Blue Bird Club # _____ FMCA # _____ First time: _____ Handicap? _____

Number of People 1 ___ 2 ___ Additional Person (s) _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Check Enclosed _____ (Checks must be made to "The Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA")

OR: Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CCV # _____

Visa _____ Master Card _____ Discover _____ American Express _____

Mail to: Treasurer, Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, 3590 Round Bottom Road, Cincinnati, OH 45244

Classifieds: Submitted by Shane Fedeli

1982 FC35SB Bluebird Wanderlodge Has all the normal Wanderlodge goodies and is well optioned. Partially remodeled interior, cockpit has new carpet, hardwood laminate floors, carpet for bedroom (not installed), new laminate for bath (not installed). The exterior is in good shape other than the outdated colors. About 110k on coach. Contact Gary Somers at gsomersjr@hotmail.com or call 304-258-3852.



1984 PT40 Bluebird Wanderlodge 6V92, 325 HP, Allison MT654-CR 5 Speed Automatic with Retarder. All appliances are in excellent working order. 234,010 miles. New start & house batteries installed in August 2008. Complete set of manuals including 'Blue Box'. New brakes and suspension air-bags all the way around. Coach is very clean, never been smoked in and has been meticulously maintained. Asking \$42,500. For More information Contact Brian Prinkki at 626-536-1719 or by email at brian@remotetechnet.net



1979 FC33 SB Wanderlodge Asking \$14,000, Coach is in good condition, located in Atlanta, Georgia. For questions/additional info, contact Suzette Wright at (301) 440-4301 or by email at Suzette.Wright@faa.gov.



1994 Wanderlodge WB40 95,000 miles, Detroit Diesel 8V92 w/Bulk Oil Fill, Allison HT-755 Transmission, 15 KW Power Tech Generator. ½ booth dinette w/ free standing chair, Leather sofa and recliner chair. Asking \$85,000, Will Negotiate. Contact Joe at 715-559-5947 or by email at nrausch.rn@gmail.com with additional questions or to set up a showing.



Classifieds (Continued)

2000 Wanderlodge LXI Millennium Edition 57,000 miles, we are the second owners. Always stored in heated hanger. No Pets, No Smokers. Washer/dryer combo, Basement freezer/frig, 4 drawer stainless tool box. Extensive maintenance records, new tires, new batteries for motor coach and generator. New shocks, steering stabilizer, new transport brake linings. **Price reduced to \$165,000 OBO.** Coach is located 25 miles south of Ft. Worth. Contact Gary Hyndman at 817-247-9323 or by email at roydog29@msn.com with additional questions.



1982 FC35SB Bluebird Wanderlodge 3208NA Caterpillar Diesel engine, actual mileage unknown, 5 speed Allison automatic transmission. New starter-2008, new alternator -2008, 4 new batteries installed April 2010, new air cans on front and back brakes - 2008. The interior was redone at the factory in the 1990's and is in excellent condition. Asking \$30,000 OBO. Located in Kathleen, GA. Contact Sandy White at lostgold@yahoo.com with additional questions.



1984 FC35 SB Wanderlodge 124,875 miles, Coach is in very good condition. Asking \$30,000. For questions/ additional info, contact Howard Smith at 803-568-4755 or by email at howlyn@pbtcomm.net



1981 Wanderlodge FC 35 Rear Bath 3208 turbo Diesel Caterpillar Engine. 500 Allison 4 speed automatic transmission. 10 kW 4 cyl diesel generator. 65,000 miles on coach, about 50,000 miles on the engine. Sleeps 6, large rear bathroom across the back of the bus with tub & shower. Asking \$27,500. Contact Norm Wobschall at 507-456-3728 or at normco3@yahoo.com for more photos and info.



Classifieds (Continued)

2000 Wanderlodge LXI 97,000 miles. 500 HP Series 60 Detroit Engine. Allison transmission w/ Jacobs Engine Retarder, Kitchen single slide, 260 gal. fuel / 48 gal. LPG, 150 gal. fresh water, 160 gal. grey & black water, 3 roof air ac's, Aquahot & electric heat,. Asking \$194,000. Contact Richard Ramsey at yeamar49@yahoo.com or by phone at 850-447-1700.



1984 PT40 Bluebird Wanderlodge 6V92TAC 325 HP Allison MT654-CR 5 Speed Automatic with Retarder. 234,010 miles showing on odometer. Original engine was replaced with a Detroit Diesel factory remanufactured Silver Series 6V92TAC at around 153,000 miles due to a spun bearing, 6 new batteries installed in December 2009. Complete set of manuals including a full set of electrical schematics (full size drawings) and Asking \$47,500. Contact Page Britt at KE4WKL@gmail.com or by phone at 850-528-6862



1997 Wanderlodge BMC 40' Coach has approximately 74,000 miles on the Spartan K-3 chassis with Cummins M-11 and Allison 4060 transmission + engine brake Front-end bra. Driver side couch was recovered in cloth by Muriel, Ft. Valley in 2008. Other couch is leather. Chassis is fully serviced and ready to go. Asking \$95,000. Contact Michael Brody at 772-463-1078 or by email at mibrody@msn.com



1996 Wanderlodge BMC 40' Only 27,000 miles! Cummins M11 (400HP), Allison 6 speed transmission, two stage Jacobs retarder, Prior Sale fell through- new, reduced price is \$78,500.00. Contact Bob Neary by phone at 435-668-3456 or by email at neary@infowest.com

(Photos on next page)



1991 Wanderlodge PT40 WB- 8V92 engine, Allison 5 speed transmission w/retarder. Coach is in excellent shape and road-ready for \$105,000 OBO. Coach located in Newton, GA. Call Kathy or Steve Enfinger at (229)-881-1720 or by email at klenfin-ger@gmail.com



1997 Wanderlodge PT43 WB- 87,000 miles, Series 60 DD Engine, with Allison six speed transmission, 3 stage Jacobs brake, lift able tag, Powertech 15 KW Generator with approx. 1300 hrs. Ready to hit the road at \$97,500.00, or would consider as a partial trade a PT 36' or PT 38' '86 or newer. Contact Ellis Coleman at 352-473-5002 or by email at jcoleman43@bellsouth.net



1986 Wanderlodge PT40- Detroit Diesel 8V92, 475HP, Allison Transmission. Coach is in Great Shape- it's been garage keep most of its life! 107,000 miles, 12.5KW Diesel Generator, 2964 Engine Hours, 3 roof Airs, 4 Heaters, Automatic Leveling System, Ice Maker, Central Vacuum, odor free. Priced at \$59,995. Call Rick Vossen at 850-527-4765 or by email at rvofpanamacity@live.com



BLUE BIRD CHAPTER OF FMCA, LLC

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Send your article contributions to:
Newsletter@BlueBirdChapter.org



The Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, AKA, the Family of Friends was Chartered July 15,1975. The general purpose of the Blue Bird Chapter is to promote the goals and objectives of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) and to operate within the guidelines of the FMCA. The specific purpose of this Chapter is to promote fellowship, camaraderie, cooperation and enjoyment of Blue Bird Wanderlodge and BMC coaches by their owners. The Chapter plans rallies and other social events that promote solidarity and friendship through lifestyles shared by these owners. Members help each other by sharing knowledge and promoting the travel and lifestyle these fine machines make possible. If you presently own a Blue Bird Wanderlodge or BMC motor coach, your ownership will be enhanced by filling out the application below. We look forward to you joining this unique and international "Family of Friends". If already a member we appreciate your continued support and welcome your comments, newsletter contributions and

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL / CHANGE FORM

You must be a member of the **FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION**. Your club application fee is \$50 which includes two name badges and dues for the current year. Your dues are \$25 per year. Make check payable to the **BLUE BIRD CHAPTER of FMCA, LLC**.

DATE _____	FMCA # _____	New Application \$50.00 _____
LAST NAME _____		Renewal \$25.00 _____
STREET/SHIPPING ADDRESS _____		Information Update _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____		
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____		
PHONE NUMBER _____	CELL # _____	
OFFICE NUMBER _____	COACH # _____	

PLEASE PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAMES AS YOU WANT THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR CLUB BADGES:

(New Applications Only)

1ST BADGE _____

2ND BADGE _____

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:
Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA
3590 Round Bottom Road
Cincinnati, OH 45244

Print, Fill Out and Mail **OR**

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