



Bird Tracks



December 2011

BLUEBIRD CHAPTER, FMCA

In This Issue:

“Family of Friends” annual rally recap, Page 7

“Happy Trails” by Karen James Page 10

“Fire and Smoke” by Martha Rowe Vaughn, Page 11

Tech Tips: Aqua Hot System, Ralph Fullenwider, Page 12

Richard Ramsey: “Ramblings” Page 13

“Hillbilly Heaven” by Jenise Harper Page 15

“Cooking for the Birds” by Kay Green Losh, Page 17

Sunshine and Mists, by Brenda Rogers, Page 18

Welcome, New Members, Page 19

FMCA news, Page 19

Rally Information, Pages 19 - 21

Classifieds, Pages 22 - 23

From your President

By Charlie Vaughn

The new officers are on a mission to make it easier for you to design and implement your own rally with our support. Rallies are the only way for our members to promote the best of their part of the country and to get us together. Rallies are the future of this club. Our future is in your hands. Together, we can make this chapter thrive another thirty-five years.



My first order of business is to appoint Jim Olds chairman of the committee to rewrite the by-laws and standing rules and regulations of the club to include the recommendations of the Revitalization Committee. Jim is a long-standing member of the club and I am sure everyone will agree as to his capable leadership. I charge Jim with changing the rules and regulation to make it as simple as possible to do business. I see no reason to create multiple levels of management that have not worked for years.

We are continuing the use of the website, www.bluebirdchapter.org. We will be expanding it to be more user-friendly for the members. We will make it as simple as possible for you to support the Blue Bird Chapter. Communication is the key for the club to survive. I would like to see the website as a forum, and need a volunteer to serve as Webmaster. Open forums have proven successful in the past, and we are about five years behind. However, until we get a Webmaster and site moderators, no information regarding members will be published on the website. You may discuss this with me. Remember: www.bluebirdchapter.org.

Continued on Page 2

From Your President, *continued*

Changes to the by-laws and rules will be published on the bluebirdchapter.org website. I will also send by mail the revised portions only of the rules and regulations to those who would like to receive a hard copy. The complete revised by-laws and rules will be available on the website.

Our chapter is FMCA chartered. We need the FMCA. They provide us with travel and event insurance, roadside assistance, and group purchasing. I am asking Jon Scott to be our National Director to the FMCA. Secretary Susan Crocker will be the Assistant National Director, since the FMCA office will receive minutes of our meetings. If the location of the FMCA annual meeting is not

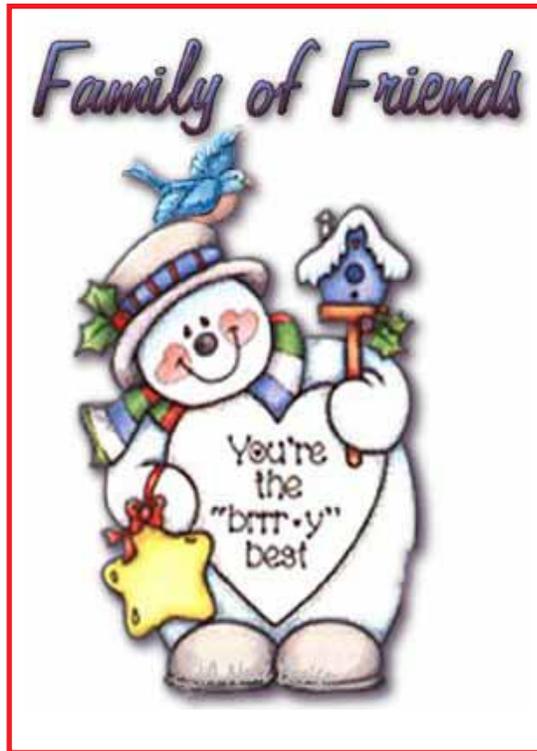
convenient for Jon, he and the President will appoint a temporary replacement to attend the annual meeting of the FMCA in a region of the country accessible to the appointee. Again I will be using good communication to simplify the needs of the club.

I would like to introduce Jenise Harper as the editor of *BirdTracks*. Jenise has assembled a great staff and will offer the quality you have come to expect. The newsletter will be offered in a bi-monthly format and will be published on the website. You can view it by clicking on the PDF thumbnail above the calendar on the homepage. Download if you choose. Past newsletters are also available on the website.

Those of you who use email will receive notification of the publication of *BirdTracks*. Those who are unable to receive the issue on the Internet will receive a text-only version a few days later by mail. Please update your current e-mail address to any officer. My e-mail is on the

website, as well as on the last page of this publication.

Our future is reliant on the valuable experience of our members. Our future is in our ability to promote high quality rallies. I have been to one factory-sponsored Rally in the Valley. I have attended many of the member-sponsored rallies since that time. My opinion is the member-sponsored rallies have been the best, most information-packed events I have ever attended. The members of this club have traveled the most, seen the most, and experienced the best of RV travel. I commend you for your past efforts. The future of our club is



the experience you possess.

We are now a rally-only club. I expect the best from the best. I challenge each member to be an ambassador for the Blue Bird Chapter. Please ask four of your friends to go camping with you in the next six months. Please send us a few pictures and a paragraph on your gathering. Ask your four friends to do the same. Our club is in a rebuilding year. It will only survive if you are willing to participate. Our future is in your hands. I have assembled a great staff to help you. You all, alone and together, build this club. Remember: www.bluebirdchapter.org. Get involved; you will be glad you did!

Charlie Vaughn hails from Mount Airy, NC, where he and Martha graduated from high school. He obtained his degree from East Carolina University. Charlie owned and operated Landform Construction for 25 years, retiring in 2008. He and Martha married on October 21, 1978. Hobbies include travel ... and travel ... and TRAVEL!

Board of Directors ... Committees

President: Charlie Vaughn

Vice-President: Karen James

Secretary: Susan Crocker

Treasurer: Garland Kirby

Nat'l FMCA Director for the Bluebird Chapter: Jon Scott
(not pictured)

Newsletter Editor: Jenise Harper

Welcome Hostess: Neat Scott

Sunshine and Mists: Brenda
Rodgers

**By-Laws/Governing Documents/
Revisions:** Jim Olds



See Jon Scott's FMCA report-Page 19.



Annual Meeting, Friends of Family, October 26, 2011 at Chattanooga, Tennessee

2009 - 2011 President Dan Jensen opened the general membership meeting with thoughts about this wonderful gathering of friends, and the opportunity to renew old and create new friendships. He introduced rally organizers, LeRoy and Glenda Wilson, and thanked everyone involved with making the rally such a success. The meeting was officially called to order after announcements, and committee reports followed. All were approved as presented. Dan's final "President's Report" took us back to the day the Blue Bird factory officially closed its doors -- shortly after Dan was elected. It was a tremendous loss of support for the organization. Our group started holding its own rallies, and began producing the newsletter without corporate assistance. Dan related that rallies are the heart of our club; they are the center of any

motorhome organization. The final report was from the nominating committee, which offered the 2011 slate of nominees. It was approved unanimously, and Dan passed the gavel to Charlie Vaughn. Actually, Dan and his wife Bobbie passed on a memory from the Birds Nest -- a clock that hung over the fireplace ... a Blue Bird (the kind with feathers), complete with a couple of bullet holes right through the center. Dan referenced how both the clock and our organization have gone through some tough times, but "we are still alive and flying"!

From the Editor:

Welcome to ***BirdTracks*** – our holiday celebration issue! It's the beginning of another two-year cycle for our organization ... new board, new committees, new editor for ***BirdTracks***.

Let me introduce myself. A former English/Journalism/Speech/Drama teacher, I've also edited two community newspapers, compiled a variety of newsletters for organizations, and had an additional career in media relations. I continue to write for various publications when time and interest allow. My husband Jim and I (married 46 years) have been full-timing in our 2001 WanderLodge for nearly three years now after decades of living in the mountains of Colorado. Our travels have taken us up and down the west coast, and as far east as Asheville, NC. We attended our first Blue Bird rally in October, as we joined Family of Friends in Chattanooga. See pictures and coverage in this issue of ***BirdTracks***.

We have some changes to the newsletter this season, most notably downsizing to six issues per year. We will fill each publication with your favorite columns, stories and photos from our fellow Blue Birders, information about upcoming rallies. We'll make sure you don't miss a thing that's going on, and we're going to work very hard to carry on the tradition so ably set by Rich Ducci (see below).

We invite you to join the ***BirdTracks*** community ... send us your stories and pictures. Ask us questions, and we'll work to find the answers. Request an article you'd like us to include. This is YOUR newsletter, and we'd love to have you participate. All you have to do is click (or copy/paste) the "Newsletter Editor" link on the final page and send me a message.



And now, sit back with a cup of your favorite holiday beverage and get acquainted with your ***BirdTracks*** staff and Family of Friends Board of Directors. Check out the rallies and enjoy the news and stories from your Bluebird Community.

Jenise Harper



Thank you, Rich!

Rich Ducci edited "BirdTracks" masterfully through the past two years, offering an award-winning newsletter that came to your inbox the first of each month, without fail. You're a hard act to follow, Rich, as your work was professional, attractive, easy to read, and always received with great anticipation. Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents! Bravo! We strive to meet the standard you set!



Your BirdTracks Staff:



Neat Scott (Graphic Arts Designer; proof-reader; Welcome Hostess;): Christened Jeanetta (pronounced JaNeat-a) — therefore widely known as “Neat”, she chuckles. “Actually it’s my hubby Jon who is the neat one in our family! I have been a happy stay-at-home, cookie-baking wife and mother for most of my life. While starting our family business, I played at accounting, but quit as soon as we could afford a real accountant! I am a licensed Cosmetologist but haven’t worked in that field for many years. I have, however, been active in community and city councils and boards. I have a strong faith in God, and believe if we contribute we are rewarded many times over. I sincerely love people, making friends and try to make a difference. The operative word here is ‘try’.”

Martha Rowe Vaughn (contributor), like her husband Charlie, hails from Mount Airy, NC. She graduated from the University of Kentucky, and has owned and operated Woodcreek Farm and Nursery for 18 years. An avid writer, she is author of two books: *Grandma’s Trunk* and *Crossroads*. Her hobbies include horseback riding, arts, and – just like Charlie – TRAVEL! No wonder they’ve been married 33 years!



Kay Green Losh (columnist): In Kay’s own words: “Married since I was a mere child (!) to Joe Losh; we’re both from the same home town in southern Missouri—Willow Springs. We have 4 great kids, and all our grandchildren are smart, good-looking, and fun to be with! We enjoy traveling together, and other hobbies for me are reading, various kinds of needlework, geneology, and I like to build things out of wood. Right now, I’m #1 in my NFL Pick’em League. Go, Saints!”

Brenda Rodgers is a resident of Fort Valley, GA. She retired from the Blue Bird Corporation in 2008, following 42½ years of service. She worked in the Sales Department of Blue Bird Wanderlodge for 20 years, serving as Rally/Customer Relations Coordinator. She enjoyed getting to know the Blue Bird owners and traveling often to rallies and shows. In retirement she is active in her Church and community, enjoys time with her son and granddaughter, and pursues her hobby as an antique dealer.



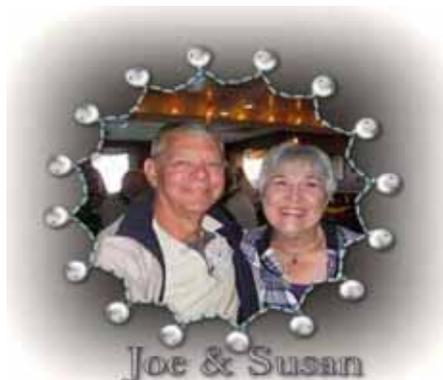
Richard Ramsey (columnist) is a University of Florida graduate who has shepherded the Piggly Wiggly markets from 1971 to the present. He married his wife Sue in 1968, and they have two daughters and a son. Richard says that other members of the family include: 1 horse, Dan; 1 Donkey (Burro), Mr. Bones; 2 goats, Momma and Baby; 3 pigs, Momma pig, Boy Pig, Girl Pig; and 2 dogs, Gator and June. He terms his BlueBird LXi as a “liability”, a “hobby”, and a “money pit”!

Your BirdTracks Staff, Continued

Karen James (columnist/proof reader/VP) lives in Lafayette, CO, with her husband Dennis. Camping began with a tent and sleeping bags, then a pickup truck with a slide-in camper. As their family grew, they purchased a 35 foot fifth wheel. “Dennie always had his sights set on a bus type motor home. After a 28-foot and then a 36-foot motor home, we found a 1982 Wanderlodge. After visiting the factory in Fort Valley, we drooled over the latest in Wanderlodge luxury. Our next Bird was a 1987 ... We are now traveling in a 2000 LXI and feel on top of the world.”



Susan Crocker (photographer/Secretary) lives in Lake City, FL with Joe, her husband of 35 years. She retired from education after having taught 36 years. They have two married children who also live in Florida, and have owned a Blue Bird since March 2009. Susan enjoys travelling, reading, fishing, doing crafts, photography.



Ralph Fullenwider is degreed in EE, but has also been an editor, is a published writer, and once served as the Masonic education committee chairman for the State of Oklahoma, writing and conducting

Seminars. He explains: “Early retirement found Charolette and I in Bowling Green, KY, where I attended the Camping World RV Institute and receiving a rating of Master RV Tech. For several years following, we traveled this beautiful nation, working on BlueBirds (having received recognition at the Factory Level to make warranty service calls).” He and Charolette have been married 26 years, and have two sons and a daughter. “My Bride and I now reside in Oklahoma where we enjoy a simpler lifestyle.”

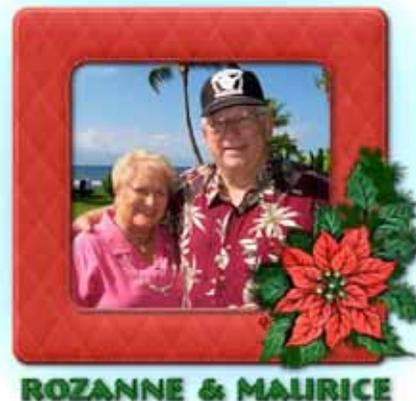


Jon Scott (Director, FMCA representative)

married his high school sweetheart,. “Neat and I have been happily married for 54 years. We’ve raised three children, two boys and one girl. They are all married, making us grandparents to ten! Some 45 years ago, we started a business on a wing and a prayer, selling heavy construction equipment. It proved to be one of the best decisions we ever made. At this time I am retired and our sons and two of our grandchildren are carrying on the family business. We winter in Southern CA (Indio) area. (Their home is in Golden, CO.) Our Blue Bird Family is an important part of our lives. “ John will be posting FMCA update in *BirdTracks*.



Rozanne DeShazer (contributor, proof-reader) enjoyed a 20-year career as an elementary school teacher. She and Maurice (past-president Blue Bird Chapter) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 21, 2011. She states, “We divide our time between our two children and their families. Winters are wonderful in San Diego near our daughter and her hubby and two beautiful daughters. Summer can’t be beat in Colorado where we enjoy being with our son and wife and his two sons.”



All Aboard!

Chattanooga Rally of Family of Friends

By Sharon Kirby, Special to "BirdTracks"

Chooooo-Chooooo!!! The Blue Bird Family of Friends train rolled into Chattanooga, TN on October 25, 2011!! Our conductors for this rally were Leroy and Glenda Wilson who began our adventure together with registration, hors d'oeuvres and fellowship time. Non-stop meeting and greeting with old and new friends until late in the evening was a wonderful way to "get on board" for this rally.

After breakfast together the next day, our "train of friends" took the "Fall Color Cruise" on the Southern Belle Riverboat. What a wonderful cruise on the river, eating our lunch and enjoying the beautiful scenery. There were three decks on the boat and each had its own form of entertainment. One deck had a singer who

Rozanne DeShazer enjoys Tennessee River views from the deck of the Southern Belle.



sang a variety of song types, another deck had a Bingo game going while the



gorgeous day for a cruise, and we had a fabulous time!!

top deck had one of the crew members explaining sites along the river and some of the area history. We even got to go up to the bridge and visit with the Captain while he was navigating the boat up and down the river. It was a



Sharon, second from left, along with other "poodle-skirt beauties" at the Sock Hop.

Our third day began with breakfast and then the general membership business meeting. Our new officers were elected, and they are as follows: President-Charlie Vaughn, Vice-President-Karen James, Secretary-Susan Crocker, Treasurer-Garland Kirby, and Jon Scott-FMCA National Director. Jenise Harper volunteered to be the Newsletter editor. Congrats to our new Blue Bird officers and staff!!! Thanks to all former officers and staff for your service to the Blue Bird Chapter!! We appreciate all you did!!!

After the general meeting, all the ladies were taken to a lovely facility to have lunch with Mark Ballard! What a treat to hear his stories and watch him make a lovely Fall wreath plus a delicious dessert while we ate our lunch. He and Debra haven't changed a bit! She still isn't cooking, and he is still telling everyone about it! Our meal was delicious and our time with Mark and Debra was wonderful! It was good to visit with them again!



We now had to "switch tracks" and change our clothes before dinner and the night's festivities. For our evening entertainment, we had a DJ who played songs from the 50's while we dressed up in our best 50's attire—poodle skirts and all!! We ate hamburgers, and hot dogs with all the fixin's!! We were teenagers again!! The dance floor stayed full as we did everything from the twist to slow dancing and swaying to the music! What a great time we had together!

Continued on Page 8

All Aboard, *Continued*



Day 4 was a free day, and it rained all day but it didn't stop many from exploring the area sites such as the Tennessee Aquarium, Ruby Falls, Rock City, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo, or shopping at Tennessee's largest mall. Though there were reports of sore muscles from last night's Sock Hop, everyone had a good day.

The morning of our fifth day was free after we had breakfast together, but after lunch we boarded buses to go to the Chickamauga and Chattanooga Civil War sites. We had the opportunity to see the museum, watch a video, take a driving tour of the battlefields, and climb to the top of one of the monuments. The area is impressive and a must see if you are in that part of the country!



For our meal that evening, we had delicious bar-b-cue pork loin and entertainment that couldn't be beat!! Country Gospel Singer Chuck Hancock with friends Chuck Day, Bobby

Ray Spears, Terry Beene, Randy Mitchell, Mary Ann Brown and her son, Ryan, played and sang old and new tunes until 11:45 p.m. At the Inspirational Country Music Awards held in Nashville this year, Chuck Day received Male Vocalist and Best New Song of the Year awards, and Chuck Hancock received the New Artist of the Year award.



Terry Beene is a Music Producer and the man who got this group together for us. What a treat to be able to have such talent come and give a private concert just for us!!!! Thank you Chuck H., Chuck D.,



Terry, Bobby Ray, Randy, Mary Ann and Ryan for giving us such a wonderful night!



Our last morning was October 30 when we had breakfast together and said our goodbyes. As the 51 coaches "pulled out of the station", we all knew that there was no "derailment" at this rally! Everyone had a great time and everything was "right on track"!! Hope these and more can be at the next Family of Friends Reunion in 2012!

Thanks to the following for your contribution to this rally!!



- Leroy and Glenda Wilson, our rally hosts – You did an outstanding job!! Everything was wonderful! (See photo above; Appreciation plaque presented.)
- Buddy Gregg Motorhomes for your sponsorship of the Sock Hop and Sam Houchin for driving a coach down.
- Parliament Coach for your sponsorship of the Ladies Luncheon with Mark Ballard.
- Coachcraft by McDonald for your sponsorship of our entertainment with Chuck Hancock and bringing a coach for us to view.
- Alan and Jane Ritchie for the Blue Bird logo you embroidered on our gift bags. You have given us a special memento of this rally!

Continued on Page 9

All Aboard, Continued

- Dan and Bobbie Jensen for making the arrangements for our entertainment with Chuck Hancock and friends.
- Susan Crocker for the wonderful DVD of photos and video you did for each of us so we could remember this rally! What a special gift for each of us!
- Charlie and Martha Vaughn for the delicious apples we enjoyed during the rally.
- The Parking Team of Paul Ward, Dennie James, Jon Scott and Bob Hedman.
- Dan Disco for lighting our propane heaters early each morning.
- Everyone who helped in any way with this rally. Everything was appreciated!!



Photos by
Susan Crocker

Thanks to Sharon Kirby for recapping the Family of Friends rally in Chattanooga for **BirdTracks**. Sharon is the wife of Garland Kirby, our current Blue Bird Treasurer. She taught Business, Marketing and Diversified Cooperative Training in the Columbia County School system for 24 years. For several years in her church, she was group leader of the women's ministry, organized the Singing Christmas Tree program, wrote/directed youth/adult dramas, and is currently helping Prison Fellowship Ministries with the Angel Tree program in her county. The Angel Tree program provides Christmas gifts from incarcerated parents to their children, plus camping experiences and more to children who have parents are in prison.

Garland Kirby, Blue Bird Club Treasurer, began working in the family business as an Amoco Jobber selling wholesale petroleum products in 1970. The business changed in the 1980's to retail and it currently operates 2 convenience stores. Garland's brother partners with him and this gives him some flexibility to travel. Garland was one of the organizers of People's State Bank in Lake City and has served on the Board of Directors since its formation. He and Sharon have owned a Blue Bird and been members of this organization since 2003.



HAPPY TRAILS

by Karen James

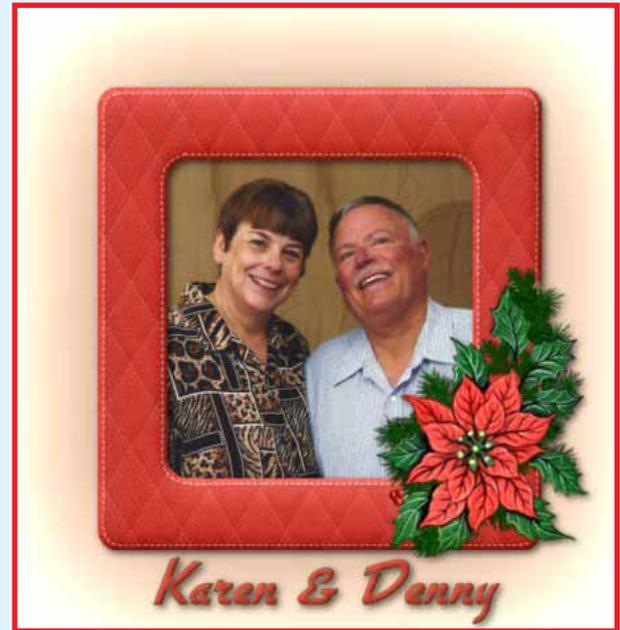
When planning a trip, we often think of far away exotic places. However, sometimes it is fun to explore what is in our own back yard. Estes Park, Colorado is just such a place. Estes Park is a vacation destination that transforms trips to the Colorado Rockies into dream vacations in paradise. Come for a day, a week, or more to visit this eastern gateway community to Rocky Mountain National Park.

There are several campgrounds that easily accommodate big rigs. From there, a person will experience world class hiking and climbing, fishing, golfing, sightseeing, wildlife watching, galleries, unique shopping, dining choices, and events. A wide array of commercial activities expand the outdoor enjoyment of the area: ride a bike, take a fly fishing lesson, ride the aerial tram to the top of a small peak for a breathtaking view of the valley and downtown below, play miniature golf or slide down a giant slide, or take a spin on a go-cart track. Elk can be seen strolling down Main Street at various times of the year and there is an abundance of wild life in the area.

Rocky Mountain National Park is right out the back door of Estes Park. In Rocky Mountain National Park the vistas are everywhere, and unending. Above, azure blue is permanently etched with craggy peaks extending notched, key-like protrusions into a perfect sky. Below, grassy meadows dotted with wildflowers spread an intricate quilt pattern. Deep canyons plunge into velvet green forests far below. Rivers rush down the mountainside to rest in still pools before the long journey to the sea begins again.

This is Rocky Mountain National Park, a spectacular wilderness that has been protected for millions to see and enjoy every year. It is a national park to be experienced, and one of only a handful that is maintained in as near a totally natural state as possible while keeping it accessible to all.

Trail Ridge Road is the highest continuous paved highway in North America and travels through the heart of Rocky Mountain National Park from Estes Park to Grand Lake. The road generally opens by Memorial Day and closes again for the winter when heavy snowfalls make the route impractical to keep clear, usually sometime between late-September



and late-October. If you have a Golden Age passport, the park is free.

Traveling this route has always intrigued and thrilled National Park visitors. With 11 miles of pavement above tree line the road climbs from about 7,800 feet at the National Park headquarters on US Highway 36 to more than 12,000 feet at the summit. On this trip, travelers can view alpine tundra which blankets a full third of the Park. At this altitude you'll find a fragile environment of animals and aged, but dwarfed plants that have adapted to the arctic-like winter conditions.

There are multiple parking areas along this route, and taking the time to get out of the car to experience them is highly recommended. Among the stops: Hidden Valley, Many Parks Curve, Rainbow Curve, and the Forest Canyon Overlook. Here, a short walk takes you to a dizzying overlook onto Forest Canyon, where the massive forces of glaciers carved the valleys below.

Atop Trail Ridge Road is the Alpine Visitors Center, which includes a snack bar, gift shop and exhibits staffed with Park rangers. Beyond that is Milner Pass, where the road crosses the Continental Divide.

We have found all of this and more right in our back yard! Check out the parks and nature areas in your neck of the woods and you too will find a world of fun and excitement! *Happy Trails* to You!

Fire and Smoke

by Martha Rowe Vaughn



A delightful feature about our 1999 Wanderlodge is the large windows. I like to open them and let in the fresh air after a long trip and enjoy the sounds of nature at night.

Most of our early trips were

south of North Carolina where we enjoyed many pleasant days and nights without air conditioning. On a trip north we stopped in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at a large campground. It was hot and a thunderstorm was threatening so we didn't open the windows. After the storm, the temperatures dropped to the low 70s. I opened the windows and turned off the air conditioner. Sweet breezes blew through the coach.

Our neighbor was a fifth wheel. The owner came out carrying a huge armful of paper egg cartons and marched to the back of the trailer near our windows and started a fire. He returned to his air-conditioned trailer. Within minutes the coach filled with smoke. I shut the windows and turned on the exhaust fans.

Have you ever noticed how smoke rises so far from a fire and then levels off to drift around? Most of the time that level is even with a motorcoach's windows.

The entire time we stayed at this campground, that fire burned refueled by wood. Not once did the fire starter sit around it or cook over it. He spent the entire time inside in the air conditioning. What was the point of having a fire?

The further north we went, the worse it got. In Watkins Glen our neighbor started a fire not 15 feet from the coach. The flames were three foot tall, completely undaunted by the rain I was hoping would drown it. People did sit around it that evening. They burned enough wood to heat up a neighborhood.

I stared out the closed windows and commented to Charlie. "I bet if I walked over there with a cigarette, they would freak out screaming—cancer! second-hand smoke!"

I got curious and went on-line to find out if wood smoke was as bad as I suspected. "Listen to this: 'Wood smoke contains fine particulates that go deep into the lungs, of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur, arsenic and other metals. By volume it is 100 times more carcinogenic than cigarette smoke.'"

"I'm not surprised. It makes me sneeze," Charlie replied.

I knew the Maya in Mexico suffered from early cataracts and lung disease because they cook over fires and do slash and burn agriculture. Denver, Colorado is one of the most polluted cities because of smoke from fireplaces. Cities in New York have banned those cute outdoor hearths because of the pollution problems they cause.

"What is it about campfires anyway? It doesn't make sense to me."

"It's a primal man thing. Conquer fire, burn meat over it." Charlie summed it up.

"They're not cooking! That is a huge amount of wood they are consuming. It's not even cold enough for a fire! There are no mosquitoes either so don't give me that old song!"

"Just calm down, would you? The next place will be better."

But it wasn't. It got worse. One place we stayed in Upper Michigan was so bad that the air conditioners couldn't keep out the smoke and smell. We were parked about 300 feet from the office. I could barely see the "Office" sign through the smoke. People were strolling babies in that soup. Kids were playing ball. One man, you know the type—a lean and muscular health nut—was jogging in it.

"Well," I thought, "you ought to sit down and smoke a cigarette with me. I guarantee you your lungs won't be worse off."

As much as I would like to ban campfires, I know it is futile. So here are a few friendly tips for using fire in campgrounds:

Pay attention to where the smoke is going. Others have the right to breathe clean air. Start a fire away from other's windows.

Use an appropriate amount of wood. Native Americans can cook a whole meal with just a few sticks. Surely two pieces of wood is sufficient for a campfire.

Share a campfire with others. You might meet some nice folks. You'll certainly save on wood and the amount of smoke.

Don't start a fire if you are not going to use it. Put the damned thing out when you are through with it! And for me: Find out ahead of time if campfires are allowed and if they are—don't go there.

Tech Tips

by Ralph Fullenwider

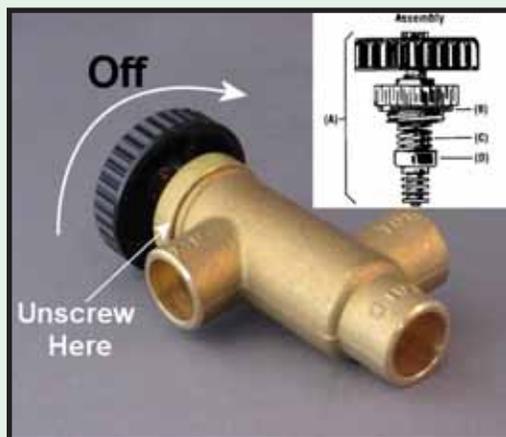
Ah, the cooling of the hot summer weather into a more satisfying, relax outside in the swing, venue is a welcome feeling indeed! A perfect time to sit beside the wife and hold hands and enjoy the puffy clouds floating in the sky above.

Do you have a Hydro Hot or Aqua Hot water heating system in your beloved coach? Have you been having to turn up the hot water faucet more and more lately? Then suddenly, right in the middle of a shower, with your hair full of soapy shampoo, the water goes totally cold? BRRRRRRR! (Grin!)

With the help of Roger Berke (<http://forum.rvhydronicheaterrepair.com>), guru of the Aqua Hot systems, I offer a possible fix to this dilemma that can be done on site. First of all, let me give a short explanation of how the water heats and, on demand, hot water is delivered to the faucets.

The cold water enters the Aqua Hot system via the input piping and goes to a "T", one side going to the bottom of the anti-scald mixing valve. The other side goes to the internal coil of 3/8 inch copper tubing located inside of the boiler tank, immersed in non-toxic polypropylene glycol coolant (*Camco*). Then, it goes out of the coil of copper tubing to the hot side of the anti-scald mixing valve, out the valve, as warm water, to the sinks/shower. *Caution --This mixture of water should not exceed 120 degrees F.

Basically, the cold water reaches the "T", and goes in two directions: to the bottom of the mixing valve, and, at the same time, through the heating coil inside the tank. The cold water to the mixing valve will be mixed with the hot water coming out of the boiler coil, resulting in warm water heading to the sinks. The mixing valve is a manual temp control thermostat unit.

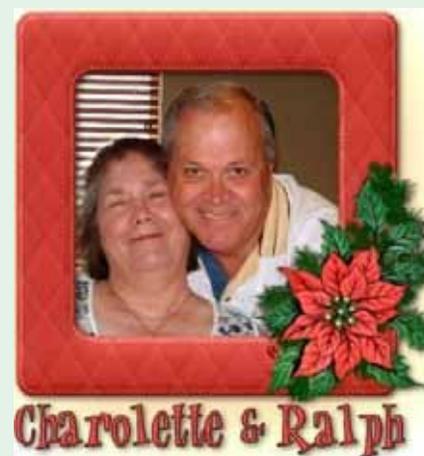


We all know calcium (the hard white stuff) builds up in Sporlan valves or the screens at the end of the water faucets. You've probably used CLR or some sort of apparatus to clean this stuff away. Calcium deposits can increase faster with hot water. That leads us to the point of this article, and adding a "preventative maintenance" check mark on your vast list of things to do. The anti-scald mixing valve is located under the Boiler unit inside the compartment of the Aqua hot. This valve can and does accumulate calcium. That causes, over time, the gradual lessening of hot water available in the Coach because the metering springs are coated and can't move properly. First thing to do:

1. Locate a red nail polish bottle and put a drop on the black knob, then another drop on the valve body across, giving the first reference of where the valve is set so it can be returned to that point easily.
2. Now rotate the valve knob from lock or stop to lock or stop in the other direction, thus breaking free the calcium build up found internally in the valve body. The knob can be hard to turn at first if it has not been done before or in a long time. It may be impossible to turn. At that point it is time to have a tech replace the valve or at least the inner workings of the valve proper. (See the exploded view) If the valve cannot be rotated, then the bonnet of the valve needs to be replaced with the inner workings.

Now you should have a little better idea of how your system works. Information is always a good thing. Another VERY good thing is to get on line and be a member of Roger Berke's Forum as there are trouble shooting guides and help lists. You can also ask questions and receive the answers you need.

Let's have hot water in the Coach and stay out of "hot water" in other quarters, hey?! (Grin) Safe travels!



Ramblings

by Richard Ramsey



To introduce myself, I bagged groceries for almost 40 years. Then I bought a Blue Bird and “sorry-ied” away. Actually, they found it cheaper to pay me to stay away than come to work. Finally, after all these years, I have found my true calling in life. Doing NOTHING! Not only do I ENJOY doing absolutely NOTHING, I am VERY, VERY good at it. Perhaps even “World Class”. Just ask my wife.

Seriously, I have been an owner/operator of Piggly Wiggly grocery stores. Actually, I was the SOB (Son of the Boss) as I took over from my father after doing the mandatory stuff like getting a degree, getting married, having kids, etc. I started out as a bag boy at the tender age of 12 and they kept promoting me to levels of incompetence, until I finally became the store manager/book keeper. Now that I am retired, I put everything off until tomorrow and I have developed the uncanny ability to make a one hour job into six hours. The only problems I have is attempting to convince my wife that I am actually working and doing something necessary. Currently, I am attempting to wear out my 50 inch TV so that I can get a 60 inch TV. It is hard and tough work, but someone has to do it.

I am a very conservative person who thinks if you don't work, you don't eat. At least I think that ought to apply to everyone but me. I refer to myself as a conservative spender; most other people call me cheap. When Sue and I were dating, my wife-to-be told me that I remind her of a BIRD — cheap, cheap, cheap. This could be based on the fact that I would estimate the miles we would drive on our date and then, using the miles per gallon ratio, I would buy exactly that much gas. One time, I rolled into the service

station out of gas, and I can remember my father (well, I am not going to call it screaming, but it definitely was not in a pleasant tone of voice) telling me that an automobile gets the same fuel economy from a half tank to a full tank as it does from an empty tank to a quarter of a tank. Then I asked him for the money to fill it up ... well, that is when the FIGHT BEGAN. Oh yes, my father played center for the University of Florida in 1930.

Back when I was dating Sue, fuel was 20 or 30 cents per gallon and I would buy 3 to 4 gallons of fuel for our dates. Now, I usually buy 100 to 200 gallons of fuel and it costs almost \$4.00 per gallon. People are always telling me they would not have a motor home because they can travel cheaper and more comfortably in a car and stay in a motel. I simply tell them that it is the BEST MONEY I EVER WASTED.

Talking about motor homes, a Blue Bird is the very BEST VALUE for the money there is. I realize fuel prices, recession, etc. have depressed our coach prices, but look at what you get. I have been attempting to sell my Blue Bird, but so far the coach is worth more to ME than it is to them. One of the joys of owning a Blue Bird is the ego trip I get from people telling me it looks brand new and it is 11-years-old. When I tell them the age, they do not believe it. A 10-year-old Blue Bird will look as good, if not better, than a 3-year-old fiberglass coach, because higher quality materials are used and it is built stronger. Also, people who buy Blue Birds seem to have a common trait of taking better care of their coaches. For the same money, I believe you get a vastly superior coach. Of course, I am PREACHING to the CHOIR.

We just finished a 7000+ mile trip and we burned 1,025 gallons of fuel. I did not keep up with what I spent very closely. I sleep better not knowing. I have estimated that we spent about \$10,000 on our trip of 9 weeks. Sue and I went to Alaska by plane, bus, and ship for 9 days and it cost us about \$7,000 two years ago. Now I ask you, which trip was the better value. While fuel was about 40% of our travel expense, I could have reduced fuel costs by making a shorter trip and exploring each area in more detail. I could have cut RV park expense by staying at truck

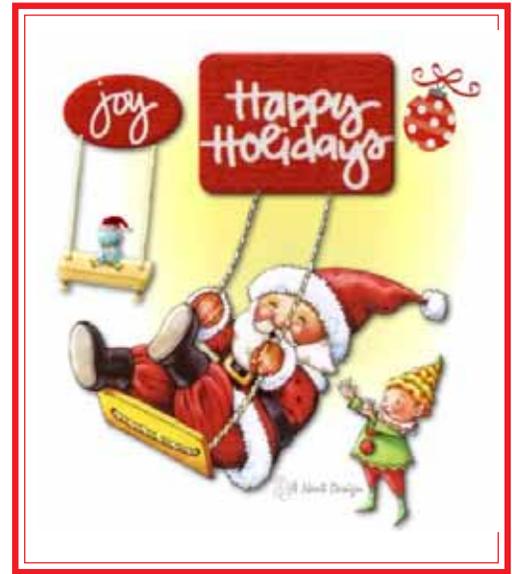


Continued on Page 14

Ramblings Continued

stops and WalMarts. Since this trip was to the Northwest, most of my fuel cost was coming and going. Once I got there, we used very little fuel. I guess the point is, even with high fuel prices, RVing is still a bargain. Right now you have a GREAT opportunity to travel, meet great folks, and eat very economically. You can start with the Lonestar Birds rally in the Texas Hill Country mid-December, and then plan for the Mayberry gathering in April - May, followed by the Oswego get-together in July. This is where and when you can get the most bang for the buck.

So, if you missed the trifecta of rallies in Tennessee this past October, you can see ... there is always NEXT YEAR!



BLUEBIRD CHAPTER of FMCA, LLC

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 subsequent dues will be \$25 per year. Make check payable to the **BLUE BIRD CHAPTER of FMCA, LLC**.

DATE _____ **FMCA #** _____ **LAST NAME** _____

STREET/SHIPPING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ **CELL #** _____

OFFICE NUMBER _____ **COACH #** _____

PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAMES AS THEY ARE TO APPEAR ON YOUR CLUB

BADGES: (New Applications Only)

BADGE#1 _____

BADGE#2 _____

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

New Application \$50.00 ____ **Renewal \$25.00** ____ **Update** ____

Print, Fill Out and Mail ... or visit website, www.bluebirdchapter.org, and fill out online.

HILLBILLY HEAVEN

by Jenise Harper

When Jim and I first started full-timing, we planned to experience the “Grand Journey” this past fall, traveling across Canada, west to east, and then down the Eastern Seaboard to a warm winter destination. However, rising fuel costs halted those plans, and we agreed to join friends for a jaunt to Branson, MO. What a treat that proved to be!

We, of course, did the requisite tourist bit in terms of Silver Dollar City, “thrown roll” or “tossed roll” eateries, the Branson Belle Showboat, and a myriad of entertainment venues – big names (Andy Williams and Ann-Margaret) to those not quite so famous (Rankin Brothers, SIX, Twelve Irish Tenors).

We camped at a Corps of Engineers park on Table Rock Lake. The weather, once we got past four days of rain, was glorious, and the trees titillated us with hints of red, orange and gold! Our Colorado friends left at the end of two weeks, but we enjoyed the area so well, we moved to another Corps park for a third week.

This final week was very mellow. While we rented a boat for some group fishing early in the trip, it was not nearly as relaxing as “sit by the shore and contemplate” type of fishing that took place the final week. And though we saw top-drawer entertainment in Branson, we were equally captivated by the homespun “pickers” we saw in the most remote corner of Silver Dollar City. And, though we were enthralled by luxury mansions demanding a vast lake view, we found ourselves charmed by the single room cabin (and



accompanying outhouse) owned by some Hillbilly entertainers who wanted to live simply and in tune with nature. *(A high school classmate lives in the Branson area, and introduced us to the charming couple and their equally charming “homestead” filled with antiques and memories.)*

Please note that when I use the term “Hillbilly”, I do so with the utmost respect. Much has been written about the term, and we certainly heard it used with great frequency while in the Ozarks. My only encounter up to this point had been “The Beverly Hillbillies” – an arcane depiction that was received with mixed feelings by Ozarkans, so I was told. However, many (well, maybe “most”) of the shows thrive on their Hillbilly background and music, and comedians emulate the canny backwoodsman with zesto.

My class-mate gave me an article from the May 8, 2009, “Ozark Sentinel”. It told of a Springfield columnist Hy Gardner, who was asked to define “hillbilly” and did so: “A hillbilly is defined as an uncouth countryman, especially from the hills. Earliest examples of its use came from Arkansas, at the turn of the Twentieth Century. Then it spread through the South and was especially common in Kentucky and West Virginia. Hillbilly was not considered a flattering term.” He went on to acknowledge that



Continued on Page 16

HILLBILLY HEAVEN, continued

it became a less offensive term after the success of the TV comedy.

What Gardner did not know, according to the article, is that the legal system already had a definition on file. In the 1960s a man was divorcing his wife, and asking for damages because she called his relatives “hillbillies”. Judge Justin Ruark was presiding, and his judgment (against the husband’s request) included a much different definition of “hillbilly”. It appears the Judge sought to determine whether or not the term was actually an insult, saying that intent must be considered, as well as “the manner of utterance, and the place where the words are spoken.”

While Webster’s New International Dictionary stated the term was often used contemptuously, Judge Ruark offered this: “. . . An Ozark hillbilly is an individual who has learned the real luxury of doing without the entangling complications of THINGS, which the dependent and over-pressured city dweller is required to consider as necessities. The hillbilly foregoes the hard grandeur of high buildings and canyon streets in exchange



for wooded hills and verdant valleys. In place of creeping traffic, he accepts the rippling flow of the wandering stream. He does not hear the snarl of exhaust, the raucous braying of horns, and the sharp strident babble of many tense voices. For him, instead, is the measured beat of the katydid, the lonesome, far-off complaining of the whippoorwill, perhaps even the sound of a falling acorn in the infinite peace of the Ozarks’ quiet woods. The hillbilly is often not familiar with new models, soirees, and office politics. But he does have the time and surroundings conducive

to sober reflection and honest thought, the opportunity to get closer to his God.”

“No,” concluded Judge Ruark, “the appellation ‘hillbilly’ is not generally an insult or an indignity; it may well be an expression of outright envy!” So there you have it . . . The defendant could not divorce his wife because she referenced his family as “hillbillies”. She was actually paying them the ultimate compliment, according to the learned legalist!

So, as we enjoyed the beautiful lakes of Missouri and the Ozark Mountains, we took note of those who lived in appreciation with nature. They’ve slowed their pace; they smell the roses – or the dogwood, as the case might be. Each day is a gift, and the blessed Hillbilly has it all tied up in good will, kind words, music for the soul (and ear), and a deep abiding love for God. Forget what you’ve heard about the Hatfields and the McCoys! Not a feud in sight! Just good folks who were aptly described by Judge Ruark back in 1960 – a definition which survives today in the lives of those who love livin’ in the Ozarks. Yep, Hillbilly Heaven – that’s what it is, all rightee.



Cooking is: For the Birds

by Kay Green Losh



It's that time again—the holidays, time for family and friends to spend time together. Sharing good times always seems to mean sharing good food in all the circles I run in, so here are some ideas that may give you some new dishes to share with those you love. I must give credit to Mary Johnson, a friend of my ex-daughter-in-law, for these wonderful recipes. Several years ago she took the time to collect many of her recipes in a cookbook she gave to friends. What a wonderful gift from a woman who is a great cook and a gracious hostess!

Surprise Party Sandwich Filling

1 (8 oz) package cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup chopped pecans
1/4 cup chopped green pepper
3 hard cooked eggs, finely chopped
3 Tblsp chopped onion
1 Tblsp catsup or chili sauce
salt and pepper to taste
Combine all ingredients, spread generously on party size breads.
Mary says, "The surprise is the filling tastes like SHRIMP!"

Broccoli Dip

1 (10 oz.) package of frozen broccoli, cooked
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 (6 oz) package garlic cheese
1/2 cup chopped mushrooms
1/2 cup chopped celery
1 can mushroom soup
Saute celery, onion, and mushrooms in butter. Add cheese, broccoli and mushroom soup. Serve warm with veggies, crackers or chips. Mary says you can serve this same mixture over toast for lunch.

Garden Fresh Dip

1 cup dairy sour cream
1/2 cup mayo
1 tsp. seasoned salt
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 cup each: finely chopped radishes, finely chopped green onion, finely chopped green pepper
Mix together, chill, and serve with crackers or bread sticks. The red and green make it look like Christmas!

If you need a punch for a gathering, this is good, easy and fits the holiday themes well. This came from a cookbook from Stephenson's Apple Orchard Restaurant in Lee's Summit, MO., many years ago.

Christmas Punch

1 quart cranberry juice
1 cup lemon juice
2 quarts ginger ale
3 cups sugar
2 quarts pineapple juice
3 cups water
Red food coloring (optional)
Mix all ingredients except ginger ale. Chill. Just before serving, add ginger ale. You can add a 12 oz. package of frozen strawberries with the ginger ale, for additional flavor and color. Makes about 20 servings.

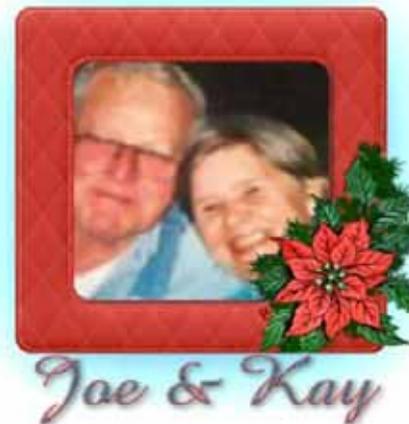
I've said before that I like all things cranberry, but I don't care for the canned cranberry sauces. This is really good, and can be made the day before.

Cranberry Salad

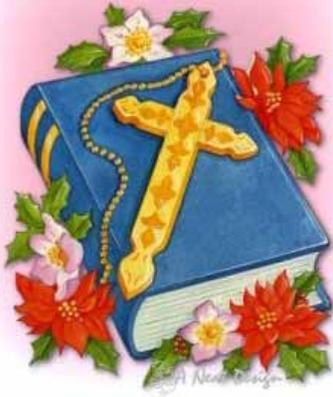
2 cups cranberries
2 pkgs. Cherry gelatin (or raspberry)
nuts
celery, chopped fine
2 cups water
1 cup pineapple juice
1 cup unpeeled grated apple
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup
1 cup

Cook cranberries in 2 cups water until soft. Add 1 cup sugar, and again bring to boil. Remove from fire and immediately add 2 pkgs. Gelatin. Dissolve. Add 1 cup pineapple juice. Allow to cool and partially set. Add celery, nuts, apples and pineapple. Pour into flat pan and chill. OPTIONAL TOPPING: 1 (3 oz.) pkg cream cheese...1 cup sour cream...1/3 cup sugar...1 Tblsp. Lemon juice ... Cream together; spread across the cranberry mix before serving.

I wish all of you warmth, love, fun, fellowship, and FAMILY during this holiday season. Whatever your special holiday, may you find the peace and love you deserve. PLEASE, send your special recipes. Without your help, this column can't possibly be everything we want it to be! Send to cooking@bluebirdchapter.org



Sunshine & Mists



We congratulate Mrs. Hazel Mae Schrank of Arlington, TX on the celebration of her 100th birthday on October 26. She is the Mother of Carolyn Greer. She enjoyed a special party hosted by Carolyn and Dan.

Great news: Many of you remember Ralph and Carolyn Thiele of Miami as they attended rallies and visited the Bird's Nest. Ralph had surgery in 1992 and awoke from surgery paralyzed. He has spent the last 18 years with a motorized wheelchair. They purchased their first Blue Bird in 1997. We are pleased to report that Ralph had back surgery in September 2010 that was successful. It was great to see him at the Chattanooga Rally walking again. What a blessing!

Our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Jeff and Brenda Horvath on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on November 5. We wish you many more years of happiness.

Ross Dover encountered dogs recently while riding his motorbike that resulted in a bite on his arm that required several stitches, and because the dog could not be located immediately it was necessary for him to have a series of rabies shots. He is improving daily.

It was great to see Christine Giffen at the Chattanooga Rally following her many chemo treatments for breast cancer. She, too, is improving daily. (It was fun to learn that she is cousins with Minnie Pearl!)

We extend special prayers to Bob Loomas as he recovers from surgery to remove his right eye on November 2 following many years of problems with that eye.

Please remember Janice Condon as she continues to fight a battle with cancer. Roland reports that she recently had successful surgery and they covet our prayers.

The following friends have various health problems, some are undergoing tests as of this writing. Please remember these people in your prayers: Bob Dilks, Sue Ramsey, Sharon Kirby, Ann Ward, Shirley Vance, Jim Thompson and Glenda Wilson.

Our deepest sympathy to Jean Sheperd in the lost of her husband, Tom. Jean and Tom enjoyed many, many rallies over the years. We always enjoyed their visits to the factory. Their home is in Florida.

We send our sympathy to Tim and Barbara Scully in the recent loss of Tim's mother, Mrs. Lucille Scully of Sarasota. Mrs. Scully was 92.

Please remember to let us hear from you if you have news we can share in this article.

I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you and those you love for a wonderful Christmas and a very special New Year. May God bless each of you with good health and safe travels! My love to each of you!



Brenda Rodgers



Neat Scott, Welcome Hostess

Welcome to New Members!

Let it be my pleasure to welcome Len and Judi MCLeod into Blue Bird Chapter. Family of Friends is delighted to have met you and had you join us in Chattanooga, TN at the "Family Reunion." Len and Judi hail from Ontario, Canada. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

At the Chattanooga rally, Don Schroeder rejoined. Don is from Southern California and has already agreed to helping with a proposed rally in the near future. Way to go Don! We're glad to have you back as a member also.

Yes, I am the Welcome hostess, but It was gratifying to note as we were enjoying ourselves in TN that all the members have been so very welcoming to the new members. After all a Blue Birder is family even before they pay their dues. Or even if they never do. I've seen it time after time. Just let two or more Blue Bird buses arrive in a campground, anywhere in the country and it won't be long until they are enjoying one another, talking mechanics, or just telling tall tales of their individual travels. Is and always will be. It's what makes us who we are! I am proud of us for that fact.

FMCA Notes

FMCA will not have it's usual rally in Pomona, CA in 2012.

It has been canceled. The officers are looking at several different cities for future rallies. No word at this time as to which ones will be



chosen. I would suggest that you FMCA members check your Family Motor Coaching magazines for rally information. Our FMCA membership brings with it many benefits that members should be aware of. FMCA magazine gives us all that information. Members can register on line for the Western area Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival. That rally is Jan. 11-15th.

A reminder that FMCA members are welcomed at local club rallies around the country. If you find yourselves in the area of a local rally just ask to join in the fun!

February's issue is about love, friendship, traveling with friends or loved ones. Send in stories, paragraphs, snippets, photos to *BirdTracks!*

The Holiday Happening in the Hill Country Rally

December 16, 17, 18, 2011

**Where: Peach Country RV Park;
14781 US Hwy 290 East;
Stonewall, TX 78671**

**Reservations: 877-379-4515
or peachcountryrv.com**

Hosts: John And Renee
Benham (830)305-1771

Please reserve with Peach Country RV Park.

Tell them you are with the **Lonestar Birds.**

Then notify John of the day of your arrival





Amazing Mayberry!!

All Birds and Friends Rally

April 29-May 4, 2012, Mt. Airy, NC

Exploring the Hometown of Andy Griffith
The Andy Griffith Show, Matlock, No Time for Sergeants



In the Area:

Blue Ridge Parkway, Mabry Mill, Pilot Mountain, Moravian Town of Salem, Great Motorcycle and Bike Rides, Largest Granite Quarry in the World, Historic Rockford, Great Wineries, Kayaking

Featuring in Mt. Airy:

Andy Griffith Home, Statue, Museum
Siamese Twins, History of Eng and Chang Bunker
Mt Airy Regional Museum, Snappy Lunch, Floyd's Barbershop, Old Jail, Historic Downtown--Unique Shops, Ghost Tour, Old Time Soda Fountain, Squad Car Tour, Emporium, Quilt Shop, Antiques
Wine Festival: May 4-5, after rally

Special Events:

An Evening with Oma Boyd, author of *Round this Mountain*. Oma's stories from the mountains have appeared in numerous magazines and been featured on National Public Radio. She brings her stories alive reading in her native accent. Come meet this interesting "Apple Lady" turned author.

Tour of Radio Station WPAQ:

Kelly Epperson will treat us to a tour of the radio station where we will view a live taping of a local bluegrass band. WPAQ broadcasts "the best in Bluegrass, old time string music, and Bluegrass gospel." This unique radio station has been broadcasting since 1948 when Ralph Epperson started it. Bring your musical instrument and you can be a participant in the show! See www.wpaq740.com for more information.

The Amazing Mayberry Race:

Visit downtown Mayberry and collect points to win prizes. Hint: Bring your silly side and have fun!!



Camping at Veterans Park near downtown: 30 Full hook-ups, \$30. per night (5 nights @ \$150.); Dry camping overflow, \$10. per night (\$50. 5 nights) Payment for site due on arrival. **Check or cash only.** Money benefits Disabled American Veterans-NC 61. Contact Martha at 336-786-7279 or 336-755-6247 or mcrvaughn@surry.net to reserve site.

Cost of Rally: \$130.00 per coach with 2 people. Includes: Events, 3 catered meals, entertainment. We will car pool and have one heavy hors d'oeuvre (bring your own) party. Send check for rally in full to Martha Vaughn, 247 Valleyview Drive, Mt. Airy, NC, 27030 by March 15th, 2012. Camp sites are not secure until rally fee is paid so send as soon as possible. Martha and Charlie Vaughn, hosts.



FMCA
Vintage Birds &
Pen NY Mixers
Chapter Rally
At
Oswego Harborfest
July 26-30 2012

Rally Fee includes-

- 4 or 5 nights dry camping (Thu thru Mon) at Oswego Port Authority with view of the fireworks
- Wednesday July 25 optional early arrival with fish dinner
- Continental breakfast Friday through Monday
- Social hour including margaritas, beer, wine and information on Thursday July 26 at 5:30 pm. bring a hardy snack to share
- Trolley passes included (\$6 value)
- Farewell dinner and ice cream Sunday July 29 evening
- Fort Ontario, maritime museum and other attractions

Harborfest highlights -

- Named one of the top one hundred events for group travel by the American Bus Association
- Rated top 10 in USA fireworks show
- Juried arts and crafts
- Music and entertainment on three main stages plus other locations though town
- 30+ bands classic rock, country, blues and jazz
- Midway and street vendors
- Lake Ontario waterfront location
- Optional Friday fishing charter

www.oswegoharborfest.com

**Rally fee available spring 2012. In 2010 rally fee was \$70.00 per couple for Thursday arrival
\$ 15 additional person**

Early arrivals are Wednesday after 2:00 PM.

Please bring a 1-gallon jug of water for coffee

Jim & Sherry Miller VB #1168
607-898-4626

Jem590@aol.com

Tom & Sharon Roule
585-346-6567

Troule@aol.com

Fred & Alice Sprout
315-587-9533

Afsprout2@gmail.com



Classifieds



Shane & Kelly

Shane Fedeli is a Pennsylvania native, and currently lives in Hershey, PA, with his wife Kelly. He purchased and restored a 1985 PT40 in 2004, and has, thus far, traveled 105,000 miles in the coach. The Fedelis are co-hosting the Tri-State Trifecta rally, September/October 2012, in Hershey. A small business owner, Shane employs around 15 property inspectors; Kelly works for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Shane will post NEW Blue Bird listings in each *BirdTracks* publication, and ALL the listings will appear on the website, www.bluebirdchapter.org.

1986 PT40 Wanderlodge Just 86,000 miles. 8v92 550 Horsepower Detroit Diesel w/upgraded Supercharger and larger injectors. Allison AT. 12.5 kW Generator with Perkins 4-cylinder Diesel Motor and 1334 hours -New Generator Battery -New Generator Rad. cooling fan Motor converted to instant w/ dry camping exhaust -10 New Tires with less than 7K miles on them. Everything is working perfectly! Lots of updating and many new parts! Asking \$45,900 OBO. Contact Eric Rakita at erakita@live.com Coach is located in Champaign, IL.



2003 LXI Wanderlodge Two slides, new Toyo tires all around, new Deka AGM house batteries, new chassis batteries and new generator battery. It is road ready. It has been inspected by a former Bluebird service shop and all identified deficiencies corrected. It has approximately 42,000 miles with a Series-60 500 HP Detroit engine and Allison 6 speed world transmission. Priced way below wholesale at \$239,500. Call George Fox at 406-203-4414, cell: 509-215-0367.



1990 SP36 Wanderlodge Only 43,000 original miles. Looks new and has plenty of extras. 300 CAT turbo. Will deliver coach if fuel is paid. Call Hank Hannigan at (808) 226-5583 or by email at hank_87us@yahoo.com Asking \$55,000 OBO. Coach is located at Travis AFB FamCamp in Fairfield, CA



1984 Wanderlodge PT36 Selling my pride and joy. This shorter version has the silver 330 HP 6V-92 engine, Allison automatic transmission and a 3:36 rear end that allows it to really fly down the interstate. It's the fastest motorhome I've ever operated & the second Wanderlodge I've owned -she'll run 75 all day long. It is in overall excellent condition, considering the age, has great tires, two new Carrier A/C units, no major body issues and is mechanically very sound. Asking \$34,000.00 obo. For further information, please contact Erik Sneed at 828-736-1625 or by email at motorrad@frontier.com.



1988 FC-35 Wanderlodge 3208 CAT 300HP turbo diesel with 3316 engine hours and ZF five speed automatic transmission with retarder. Coach has been dealer serviced and is in very good condition; maintenance records are available for past ten years. Stow Master tow dolly (used once) is included. 128K miles on chassis. 8.0 KW Onan diesel generator with new sealed battery has 1482 hours. Lots of updated equipment. Asking \$55,000. For details, please contact Bill Barnhart by phone at 217-826-8907.



1992 Wanderlodge WB40 166,000 mi, Freshly rebuilt 500 HP Detroit Diesel w/only 12,000 miles. For further information, please contact Jim DiCecco at 407-361-0484 or email him at jimdicecco@aol.com. Sale includes a 2001 Jeep Cherokee w/towbar and related equipment. Asking \$89,900.



Your Chapter Directors and Committee Members

President: Charlie Vaughn
Senior Vice President: Karen James
Treasurer: Garland Kirby
Secretary: Susan Crocker
National FMCA Director: Jon Scott
Alt. Nat'l FMCA Director: Susan Crocker
Past President: Dan Jensen
Welcome Hostess: Neat Scott
Sunshine & Mists: Brenda Rodgers
Newsletter Editor: Jenise Harper
By-Laws/Rules: Jim Olds
Birthdays/Anniversaries: Sharon Kirby

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
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

Step One: Join FMCA Today! Step Two: Join the Blue Bird Chapter (Page 14)

Personal Information: Please Print

Primary Last Name / First Name _____
Date of Birth (optional) _____ Occupation If retired, former occupation (optional) _____
Spouse Last Name / First Name _____
Date of Birth (optional) _____ Occupation If retired, former occupation (optional) _____
Address _____
City / State / Zip+4 digits _____
Area Code / Home Phone _____ A rea Code / Cell Phone _____
Primary e-mail address* _____ S econdary e-mail Address* _____

*E-mail addresses are requested in order to facilitate fast, economical communication, including urgent matters.

Motorhome Information

Coach Manufacturer _____ Coach Model _____ Coach model year _____
Approximate Coach Length _____ License Plate Number _____ State of Coach Registration _____
What type of motorhome do you own? Production Motorhome _____ Converted Coach _____ Other: _____
If motorhome owned by applicant is other than a production motorhome, please include a photo.

Questionnaire

How did you hear about FMCA ? _____
If referred by an FMCA member, please list his/her name & member Number _____
Are you a former member? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, what was your Membership number? _____
What member benefit most interests you? _____

Payment Information

Check _____ Money Order _____ Credit Card _____
Make check payable to FMCA , Inc. in U.S. funds.
Charge my: _____ Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
Signature Required for credit card payments _____

Code of Ethics

I understand that upon acceptance of my application I will be sent a copy of the FMCA Code of Ethics. I agree to read and abide by this code, which represents all our endeavors to be good neighbors, careful and responsible coach owners and operators, and good citizens of our communities. I own at least 33.3% interest in a qualifying motorhome.

Signature: _____

FMCA membership dues are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes. FMCA does not sell or release the names, home addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses of its membership. Members are occasionally sent mail that pertains to FMCA -approved benefits or programs. Please do not order a subscription when applying for membership. Membership fee covers one year's subscription. Allow four weeks for processing. **Official Family Motor Coach Association membership** is conditional on ownership of a Type/Class A, B, or C motorhome, or a bus conversion, that contains all of the conveniences of home (including cooking, sleeping, and permanent sanitary facilities).

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