



President's Report

July 1st 2011!!!! Yes, that's right July 1, 2011 is the dead line for you to get your reservations in for the Illinois Amish Rally and the Blue Bird Summer Rally in Michigan. Over the past several weeks I have had so many of you tell me that you are going to join us in Illinois and Michigan. I just want to remind you that you only have 30 days in order to get registered.

(August 2nd through August 6th) Call the staff at Camp Lakewood in Effingham, IL at 1-217-342-6233 and make your own reservations for an RV Site. You will pay the campground directly for the RV site, special rally fee of just \$24.00 per night or a total of \$96.00 for the four days. Then download a copy of the Rally Registration form in this newsletter and fill it out and send it along with your check for \$176.00 for a coach with 2 people or \$88.00 for a coach with one person to: Treasurer, Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, 3590 Round Bottom Road, Cincinnati, OH 45244.

a day on Mackinac Island (includes sight seeing ferry trip to and from the Island and lunch) add \$69.00 per person.

I have had several members asking about information about the Blue Bird Chapter 2nd Annual Family Reunion and all I can tell you is that it will be October 25 through October 30, 2011. We have reserved sites at Camp Jordan in East Ridge (Chattanooga), TN. All the details will be in the July issue of the Blue Bird Newsletter.

You will find all the information for getting registered in the following pages of the newsletter. However, I want to make it as easy as I can for you to get signed up and join us for a whole lot of fun.

Illinois Amish Rally:



DAN'S REPORT

Blue Bird Summer Rally: (August 10th through August 15th) Call the staff at Hearthside Grove RV Resort and make your own reservation with them, (1-231-347-0905). The cost of this all inclusive rally at one of the country's best know high end resorts is just \$499.00. Optional, if you want to include

If there has ever been a year to get the Bird out and attend some great rallies this is the year. So until we see you "On the Road Again" in Illinois or Michigan or Tennessee drive safely and have a great summer.

Dan



Your Chapter Needs You!

Inside this issue:

- Cooking is For the Birds
- Tech Tips & More!
- Classifieds
- Traveling in Our Bird Ill
- Central Illinois Rally

Special points of interest:

- *Rallies, Rallies, Rallies: See Inside*
- *Sunshine & Mists*
- *Michigan!!!*
- *Rally Attendance*
- *Photo of the Month*

BLUE BIRD CHAPTER, FMCA

Bird Tracks

Cooking is for the Birds: by Kay Green Losh



Welcome to Spring and to the travels that come with it! Visiting old friends, making new ones, family reunions, class reunions,-- all of these are on the agenda for this time



of the year. It seems all these events include good food, whether it's hamburgers with friends, dinner and hours at the table with people you love, or those luncheons with old class members in the home town.

Here are some additions to the good food I hope you're sharing with people you can share a lot of laughter with!

Charlotte Fullenwider (OK) sent a recipe, along with her review: She said she tried these biscuits and "they turned out great. I like the idea of 2 ingredients." Couldn't be simpler, right?

Whipping Cream Biscuits

2 cups self-rising flour
1 cup whipping cream

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Combine flour and cream in a mixing bowl, stirring just until blended. (The dough will be a little stiff.) Transfer dough to a lightly floured surface and knead 10 times. Roll to ½ inch thickness and cut with a 2 inch cutter. Place biscuits close together on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake 10 minutes. Makes 12 biscuits.



[If you have biscuits left over, try the way a little café near us does them. Split the biscuits, butter them and grill them on a griddle or in a hot cast-iron skillet. Serve with your favorite jam.

When my daughter and I visited my sister recently in Missouri, she made a Blackberry Cobbler for us that was WONDERFUL from berries she'd frozen last summer. **Connie Hiler** says she'd also used peaches with this same recipe. Don't forget the ice cream!

Connie's Fruit Cobbler

Melt 2/3 stick butter or margarine in a cake pan.

Sift together: 1 cup sugar, 1 cup flour, and 1 ½ tsp baking powder. Add ¾ cup milk. Mix together.

Pour into the pan with the melted butter--DO NOT STIR!

Put fresh, canned or thawed frozen fruit on top. Sprinkle with sugar on top of the fruit to your taste.

Bake at 375 F for about 40 minutes.

Recipe for Low-country Boil

Rich Ducci sent this recipe for a Low-country boil. It can be easily multiplied to feed a crowd. The proportions are for 4lbs extra large headless, deveined shrimp. It's a casual dinner, meant to be enjoyed with cold beer, lots of napkins, talk about the heat, and good friends.

Low-country Boil is a one pot wonder. The sausage, potatoes (and onions, if you'd like) are tossed in first, then comes the sweet corn, and finally, at just the last minute the shrimp and or crab join in the fun. Never forget, over cooked shrimp are rubber shrimp; as soon as they are cooked through, it's time to lift the basket or strain the contents. If you have a basket insert it makes things easier but it certainly is not necessary.. Large batches can be prepared outdoors in a turkey fryer pot, with the exact same timeline. If you have a picnic table, cover it with newspaper and add a layer of butcher's paper over the newsprint, dump out the boil and everyone can pick to their hearts' content. Lacking a picnic table, or during inclement weather, strain the water off and put the boil in a large bowl.

- 2 lbs Andouille sausage, smoked/cooked, cut into 1-2 inch pieces. For a low fat version you can use chicken andouille sausage

(Continued on page 3)

Cooking is for the Birds: Continued by Kay Green Losh

(Continued from page 2)



- 3 lbs new redskin potatoes – If they are large, quarter them
- Optional 1 – 2 onions, paper removed and quartered, 1— 2 lemons
- 6 ears of corn, husks and silk removed,

broken or cut in thirds

- 4 lbs Extra large shrimp, headless and deveined Pealed or unpeeled (A few crab legs make a nice addition as well.)

- Seasoning; in my opinion there is nothing that can compare to “SwampFire” Crab Boil available in 1 lb and 4.5 lb. bags at Cajun cooking supply stores online. Some folks like Zatarains or Old Bay Seasoning but I don’t think they come close to SwampFire. Use about ½ lb in your large pot for starters. Vary to taste.

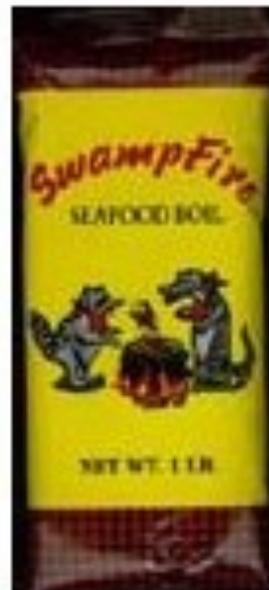
3 – 4 whole cloves (not heads) of garlic

When the water boils add the potatoes, garlic, optional onions, and sausage. . Some like to add a couple of lemons but the

SwampFire has a hint of lemon flavor and it is not necessary. You can reduce the heat a little, but keep it boiling. After 10 minutes add the corn. Cook for 5 minutes. Add

the shrimp and boil for 2 or 3 minutes more. Strain.

I’m looking forward to hearing from you about recipes you like to make to share with friends, or that quick dinner for one or two. Please send your favorites so we can all share in “the good stuff”. Send your recipes to Kay at:



Cooking@BluebirdChapter.org

Upcoming Rally Schedule

2011 Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA Rally Dates

Associated FMCA Clubs

And Dealer Rallies

June 9th - June 12th 2011 Vintage Birds Rally, Denver, Colorado, hosted by Karen and Denny James

June 9th - June 12th 2011 Vintage Birds Rally at Vernon Downs contact Shane Fedeli at sfedeli3@comcast.net or 717-520-0316

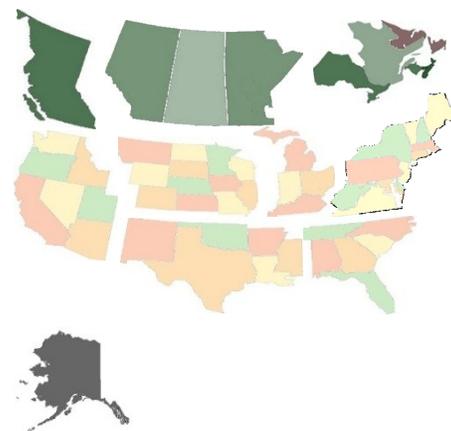
June 15th - 20th, 2011 Vintage Birds Rally at West Yellowstone, MT contact Bob Dilks 580-564-3517

August 2nd - August 6th Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA , Illinois Amish Rally to be held in Arthur, Illinois. Hosted by Alvie and Elsie Miller

August 10th - August 15th Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, Blue Bird Summer Rally to be held at the upscale Hearthside Grove RV Resort in Petoskey, MI, Hosted by Jack and Ila VanDenBerg and the staff at Hearthside Grove

October 19th - October 23rd 2011 -- RATS Rally, Pine Mountain GA. Contact John Finn 803-783-7137

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



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

Michigan Rally!!!

JOIN US AT HEARTHSIDE GROVE FOR THE BLUE BIRD SUMMER RALLY 2011

Blue Bird Rally

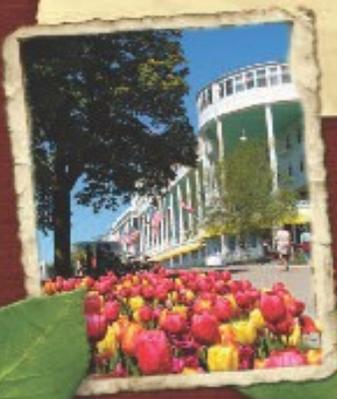
AUGUST 10 - 15, 2011

Blue Bird and Hearthsides Grove invite you to come see what all the buzz is about Northern Michigan through a series of beautiful and entertaining events you don't want to miss. You will long remember this as one of the high points of the season!

Your rally fee includes:

- Five nights on Premier Hearthsides lot
- Two cocktail parties with live entertainment
- Full and continental breakfasts
- Dinner theater with the dynamic Young Americans
- Group transportation and stylish welcome gifts
- **OPTIONAL** - A Day on Mackinac Island! Includes ferry trip and lunch at the historic Grand Hotel. Advanced reservations required. Add \$69 per person.

Nestled in Northwest Michigan, Hearthsides Grove offers luxurious outdoor living in one of the nation's premier resort destinations. Our million-dollar sunsets over Lake Michigan, the boutique shopping in quaint downtowns, and championship golf, as well as the fine dining and rich scenery together with a full array of cultural events come together to promise memorable experiences season after season. Come join us!



Reservations can be made by calling the Hearthsides Grove Welcome Center at 231-347-0905 or by email at reservations@hearthsidesgrove.com

Reserve Today!
\$499
per coach

Deposit of 1/2 of rally fee due upon reservation. 2nd half payable 7/1/11. Non-refundable after 7/1/11.

BLUE BIRD TENTATIVE RALLY ITINERARY

Wednesday, August 10 to Monday, August 15, 2011



Blue Bird and Hearthsides Grove have put together an amazing rally to spend quality time with friends enjoying some of the best activities in the area. These just scratch the surface of the local offerings and you are encouraged to come before and stay after the official dates to enjoy what is likely to be a destination that is the highlight of your travels in 2011.

Attendees are welcome to stay up to an additional 7 days before and after the rally for
JUST \$49.95 PER NIGHT, nearly 1/2 off the regular rate.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2011

6 to 8 p.m.

Join us in the North Clubhouse for our Welcome Party Cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and activities sign-up sheets

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011

8 a.m.

Poolside Breakfast at Hearthsides Grove

9:30 a.m. to Noon

Seminars and gatherings

Noon to 6 p.m.

Enjoy the resort pool, time with friends both old and new or get out and see the area.

Optional sign up- round of golf, motorcycle ride or guided bicycle tour on a paved lakeside trail.

<http://www.evanorehgolf.com/>

<http://www.trailsCouncil.org/trail/11616-eraverse-whatway>

6 p.m.

Caravan to Boyne Highlands for the fabulous entertainment of the Young Americans at the Boyne Highlands Dinner Theater
http://www.boyne.com/Summer/Young_Americans.html

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2011

Enjoy a break after the high energy performance from Saturday night. Explore some of our unique neighboring towns.

7:30 p.m.

Reconvene for a fun evening hosted by vendor partners. Cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, entertainment

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2011

8 a.m.

Breakfast in the Hearthsides Room inside the North Clubhouse at Hearthsides Grove. Enjoy rest of day exploring the area on your own.

9:30 a.m. Optional Day on Mackinac Island Add \$69/person.

Caravan to Shepler's Island Ferry, Mackinaw City

10:30 a.m.

Ferry departs for Mackinac Island, with scenic cruise near the mighty Mackinac Bridge, longest suspension bridge in the western hemisphere! Once you arrive at the Island... Sight-seeing, shopping, strolling main street

12 to 2 p.m.

Grand Hotel Luncheon Buffet

Your ferry and lunch tickets were provided in your welcome materials so that you may arrive for lunch at your leisure (providing it is between 12 and 2 p.m.)

Post lunch - Enjoy the rest of the day exploring some of the unique facets of the island and return at your leisure by ferry (latest ferry departs island at 9 p.m.!) for drive back to Hearthsides Grove. Dinner on your own. A list of local favorites and sign up sheet will be provided for attendees who wish to group together.

<http://www.grandhotel.com>

<http://www.sheplersferry.com>

<http://www.mackinacisland.org>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011

Optional: Self guided caravan scenic trip in small groups to our local wine country, Lavander Hills Farm, Pointer Boat Cruises... see sign-up sheets at the Clubhouse at the Welcome Party.

<http://www.wineriesofoldmission.com/>

<http://www.lpwines.com/>

6:30 p.m.

Casino shuttle departs promptly from North Clubhouse for dinner and gaming at Odawa casino. Rally attendees enjoy the facility throughout the evening and can use the return shuttle at regular intervals to return to Hearthsides Grove.

<http://www.odawacasino.com>

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2011

8 a.m.

Coffee kiss and go, continental style (donuts, coffee) The official rally ends at Hearthsides Grove after five magical days of northern Michigan fun, but you can continue to enjoy the endless activities the area has to offer by extending your stay.

* Events and schedule subject to change.

Hearthsides Grove is a condominium Class A motorcoach resort. The by-laws allow for coaches 10 years or newer and others by approval. If your coach is 11 years old or older simply email an exterior photo of your coach to craig.rose@hearthsidesgrove.com. Once your coach is approved Craig will email you an approval.

Reservations can be made by calling the Hearthsides Grove Welcome Center at 231-347-0905 or by email at reservations@hearthsidesgrove.com

2400 US 31 North • Petoskey, MI 49770 • www.hearthsidesgrove.com



YOUR LUXURY MOTORCOACH RESORT

Technical Tips and Tricks: by Ralph Fullenwider



My, how time just flies, seems like we were just having record chill and snow falls and now "green-up-time" has broken out Coast to Coast.

When traveling to different climes and away from home base, places, the water quality can change like a roller coaster. While there is not much that can be done to match home water, but we can treat the water we carry with us to varying degrees.



The Wanderlodge were equipped with a water filter that did a great job of removing various "bugs" from the water we drink and most still do today. The filters had or have a medium of charcoal and another active ingredient that is impregnated with silver, and was or is good for about 175,000 gallons. The photo is of one such type that I have had in 2 Coaches and I understand that while the outer shell of the filters have changed for one style to another, the same effect was in place. There are also filter that soften the

water like units at home base and there are other types, still yet, that include 2, 3 cascaded filters of various types.



If you have not checked your unit, perhaps it is a good time before getting on the road and heading to an adventure somewhere.

The way these work is:

Water enters in the inlet side of the filter housing and passes through a cone effect spreader.

This serves to equalize the water passing through the internal media then saturates the media and return to the output side of the filter housing through a screen at the bottom of a 1/2 inch tube and that water continues to the out puts in the Coach like the

galley sink, bath sink and shower, ice maker and even the potty.

This method has helped remove many of the microbes that enter, from place to place that we go, and helps to make the water safer for drinking.

Safe travels,

Ralph and Charolette Fullenwider
"84FC35 "Ruff Diamond"
Duncan, Oklahoma
"
Duncan, Oklahoma

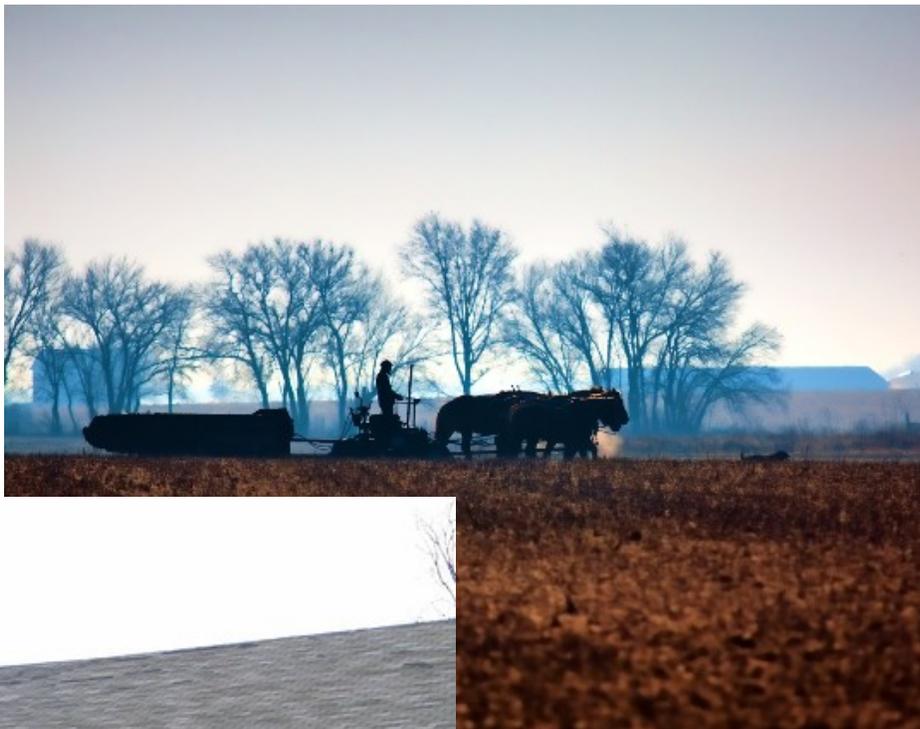


TechTips@BlueBirdChapter.org



Central Illinois Amish Rally: by Dan Jensen

Nestled in the lush country side of central Illinois is the quaint Village of Arthur, originally built as a switch track for the new railroad between Paris and Decatur, Illinois. In 1864, three Amish men came from Pennsylvania and Maryland in search of new and better farm ground. They discovered the area that was to become Arthur and returned to their respective homes. In 1865, they returned with family and friends. There are several Amish Centennial Farms in the area. (Farms that have remained in the same family for 100 years or more.) From these few settlers, the Amish settlement grew to its present size of approximately 4,000 members.



In the past few years, the Amish supplemented their farm income with small shops called “cottage industries” where they make fine oak furniture, cabinets, harnesses, buggies, and various other commercial items. These, plus their delicious baked items have attracted a great number of tourists year round. It is estimated there are more than 150 cottage businesses in and around Arthur.

Come and join us as we tour this magical part of Illinois. Take in the beauty of this wonderful Amish community where life is

a little slower and time seems to stand still. We will be greeted by our hosts, Alvie and Elsie Miller, and upon our arrival will be treated to an authentic Amish Church meal.

Alvie will provide a personal tour of the CHI Overhead Door Company where over 500,000 garage doors are built each year. Tour the local Amish area via a horse drawn trolley, enjoy a family style dinner in an Amish home and then glide down the road in an Amish buggy.

Whether it’s the special bluegrass/gospel music, wandering through the Rockome Gar-

dens, shopping at any of the Amish cottage industries or just enjoying the fellowship of your fellow Blue Birders this will be a great rally.

Here is all you need to do: Step 1, Call the friendly staff at Camp Lakewood in Effingham, Illinois (Phone # 217-342-6233 or 1-800-961-1198) and make your own RV site reservation at the rally rate of \$24.00 per night. Step 2, Fill out the registration form in this newsletter, include your check for the rally fee of \$ 176.00 for a coach with 2 people, \$ 88.00 for a coach with 1 person and \$ 88.00 for each additional person, made out to the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, LLC and mail it to the address located on the registration form.

Remember that both the RV site reservation and the Rally registration deadline is July 1st, 2011. Also, because of the high volume of tourism this time of year we were able to set aside only 20 sites so don’t delay. See you in Illinois.

Please Use the Rally Sign Up Form Located on Page 12 of This Issue.

Sunshine & Mists : Submitted by Brenda Rodgers



We extend our deepest sympathy to Mel Marks on the loss of his wife, Ellen, on May 9. Mel and Ellen both retired from General Electric in 1989, and upon retirement built their new home in Apple Valley, California, from which they continued their RV travels. Their first Blue Bird was a BMC, and in 2000 they purchased a new LX Limited Edition which they enjoyed using until her death from a 16 month battle with cancer. Mel stated that Ellen never suffered any pain, and he was able to take care of her in their home dur-

ing her entire illness. Ellen was the mother of a son and a daughter.

We send our sympathy to Brad and Mimi Borr of Holland Motor Homes in Michigan on the death of Mimi's Dad, Earl Bonselaar, on April 6.

We were sad to learn of the death of Chuck and Bev Arnold's oldest daughter, Kerry Degeyster, who passed away on May 16th following complications from heart surgery in October. They wish to express their appreciation to their friends for the thoughts, prayers, and concern during the last few months.

Many of you will remember Bill and Dot Smith, long time Blue Birders from Cullman, Alabama. Dot passed away on April 30. She is survived by her husband, Bill, their son, Bill Smith II and daughter, Cheri Blankenship and five grandchildren.

We extend sympathy to Stewart Sanders on the sudden death of his wife, Joanne (JoSki)

on May 22. They were married for 20 years, and she was only 61 years old. Joanne was a very talented musician and singer.

Please remember Jeanetta (Neat) Scott as she continues to recover from her recent fall, and also remember Christine Giffen as she has her chemo treatments.

Sharon Kirby would appreciate your prayers as she continues to deal with a diagnosis of Ramsay Hunt Syndrome on December 4 and a diagnosis of Bell's Palsy on April 12.

Jim Thompson also would appreciate your prayers. He is doing well following surgery three weeks ago for the removal of a mass inside his bladder.

We congratulate Bennie Collier on his honor as Employee of the Month at Houston Lake Country Club in Perry, Georgia.

(Continued on page 9)

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

Sunshine & Mists Continued: Submitted by Brenda Rodgers

(Continued from page 8)

Many of you remember Bennie at the Blue Bird Rallies and at the factory. Bennie is responsible for maintenance of all the golf course equipment and golf carts. Part of the quote from the news release: "Bennie does his job with years of knowledge, innovation, and a great disposition. We are proud to have him

helping to make Houston Lake a beautiful place to entertain and golf". Bennie and his wife, Cindy, own and operate an antique shop "Juicy Junk" in Byron.

Very best wishes to all of you Dads for a great Father's Day!

Sunshine@BlueBirdChapter.org



Don't Miss These Rallies! Dan Jensen

For many years now Bobbie and I have been cherishing our relationship with our Blue Bird Family of Friends. This August and October the Blue Bird Chapter is sponsoring three rallies, Aug. 2nd -6th in Effingham, IL (Illinois Amish Rally), August 10th - 15th in Petoskey, MI (Michigan Rally) and then our last rally for the year October 25th - 30th in East Ridge (Chattanooga) TN(2nd Annual Blue Bird Family Reunion). It is truly our desire that you will join us at one or all of these rallies. Like I said in my last President's Report "Life turns on a Dime" you never know what the future holds and we want to take this opportunity to see as many of our friends as possible. So...if at all possible call the folks at:

Camp Lakewood (217-342-6233) Effingham, IL for the Illinois Amish Rally and make your own RV site reservation then print a copy of the Rally Registration found in the newsletter, fill it out and mail it along with your check for the remainder of the rally fee (\$176.00 for a coach with 2 people or \$88.00 for a coach with 1 person) to Treasurer % Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, 3590 Round Bottom Road, Cincinnati, OH 45244.

Hearthside Grove RV Resort (231-347-0905) Petoskey, MI for the Michigan Rally and make your own reservation. 1/2 of the rally fee is due at reservation and the second 1/2 is due by July 1st, 2011. The staff at Hearthside Grove is handling all reservations.

Deadline is July 1st for both the rallies above.

All Rally information for the 2nd Annual Blue Bird Family Reunion will be available in the July Newsletter.

See you in August and October.

Dan



Traveling in Our Blue Bird: by Jenese Harper

Conclusion: Traveling with our Bluebird, Holes 6 – 9

By Jenise Harper

I've taken you through our Florida to Colorado Blue Bird saga with Hole #1 (purchase of Big Bird) through Hole #5 (driving the rig from Ft. Myers, Florida, to San Antonio, Texas). Our story, tied in with the game of life called golf, continues ...

After our immersion into the 1800s, we wandered across the plaza and down the steps to the famed River Walk. Had to test the Texas BBQ (tasty!), and then boarded one of the many boats that plied the waterway. It was a great way to hear the history of the San Antonio River, which was known to flood with great frequency. Often the town was engulfed in six feet of water. An architect was commissioned in the early 1900s to design a

The original San Antonio River still flows quite deep, but the diverted portion is only four feet deep. A series of flood gates control the flow of the river as well as the diverted portions. The myriad of canal boats take visitors to every nook of River Walk – such fun to see all the gaily decorated, mostly Mexican and BBQ, eateries lining the waterway. After our boat ride, we enjoyed closer views of everything via foot, and ultimately hit an “eagle” on #6 with a raspberry sherbet cone at the end of the day. Just doesn't get any better than this!



Hole Six, Day #5 – Sightseeing in San Antonio. Big Bird was parked in a KOA centrally located. We caught the city bus across the street from the park and were dropped off one block from The Alamo. Fascinating place. We marveled at the thick walls, the old well, the massive trees and cactus patches. We embraced all the films and talks that were offered, and even wandered through the gift shop, which was the main source of revenue for maintenance of the Alamo, since admission was free.

After our day of sight-seeing, we were ready (??) for some driving time – 440 miles to Van Horn, TX ... roadrunner country!

water-control, multi-use plan for the river, and the original River Walk concept was developed. However, it wasn't built until the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Public Works Projects came into being. THEN the concept became the amazing reality so popular today. The river is contained within rock walls, and surrounded by walkways, arched bridges, restaurants and hotels/condos. Patio dining is a “must”!

Hole Seven, Day #6: After our day of sight-seeing, we were ready (??) for some driving time – 440 miles to Van Horn, TX ... roadrunner country! While eastern Texas was pretty, with trees and rolling hillsides, this area was arid and dusty. The terrain was rocky, and “mountains” loomed in the distance. The highest peak was approximately 7000 ft. elevation – not too pretentious compared to the four-teens we were used to in Colorado. The scenery was scant, as were the RV stops. Since Van Horn advertised three RV parks in Woodalls, we headed there, figuring at least one would be nice.

The first location was “For Sale” and unmanned. The second was for smaller rigs. The third and final/only choice was a family-run KOA, which was all gravel but with full hookups, a café and a nice store. Jim found a cap that said “Navy Veteran” (which he is) and I found a locally produced bottle of Chardonnay (which I loved). We opted to eat at “home” that night, and enjoyed the antics of the roadrunners which had the “run” of the park. The next morning, however, we headed for the KOA Kafe and treated ourselves to a great breakfast – eggs, hash browns, muffins, bacon/sausage! Ate too much for travelin' but oh, was it good! Even though the scenery was barren, the accommodations were just fine – resulting in a par on Hole #7.

Hole Eight, Day #7: Fully satiated, we headed to I-10 enroute to El Paso, with plans to overnite in Santa Fe, NM.

(Continued on page 11)

Traveling in Our Blue Bird: Continued by Jenese Harper

Drove 445 miles! We hit traffic big time in El Paso – as much as Houston. Are all big cities in Texas like this all the time? When we could break our eyes away from the madness surrounding us, we could see the Rio Grande and Mexico off to our left in a couple of spots. We'd been to El Paso before (in a car), so didn't linger to sightsee. Rather, we headed to our I-10/I-25 junction in New Mexico, and, like a horse heading back to the barn, we aimed our sights northward! We sailed through Albuquerque with only a hint of rush hour traffic. The City of the Duke is easy to drive around in – with great on-

have been nowhere to put it! I'm thinking this is a double bogie day – long drive, tons of Texas traffic, plus the teensy spot where we spent the night.

Hole Nine, Day #8: Evergreen, Colorado – 395 miles! A family of roadrunners came to say “farewell” as we left the Santa Fe campground. At the park exit, the sign for I-25 north indicated a left turn (we came in from the right – the south). We followed the sign's direction and ended up facing a low tunnel, with no turn-around in sight. I got out and walked ahead of the rig, making sure we could make it through. Our

Hill, and he geared down significantly this time!

In Colorado, we took I-25 north to C-470 west/north, and then I-70 west to Evergreen and our home. One last hurdle – we lived in a gated community, and the entrance gate was covered. There was no way Big Bird was going to fit under – or be able to by-pass the covered area. The exit area, however, was uncovered. Only one problem – it would only open when a car **inside** the development drove up to it. The sensor would only respond to a vehicle, not a person trying to trigger it.

So, it was up to me to walk inside the gates and up to our house. I unlocked the door (aahhh, everything looked great!) and went to the garage. I drove the car down the hill to the exit gate. There was Big Bird on the other side. Fortunately, no one else was around as I drove up to the gate to trigger it. Once it started to open, I put the car in reverse and got the heck out of the way as Jim and Big Bird came barreling through. He headed up the hill to our house, and I followed. There was a turn-around area since we were at the end of the street – and we filled it with this giant bus. We knew our wonderful neighbors would understand, since we planned to keep the rig there for 3 – 4 days to unload it, and ready it for our next adventure. We were home!

So, how would I rate the last leg of our trip – Hole #9. Well, considering the race down Raton Pass, I should give it a bogie.

But, because of our ingenious method of getting the rig inside our gates, I could up it to a par. However, because of the feelings we had, and the magnitude of the trip for a couple of newbies, let's fudge a little ... let's fudge a whole lot ... and call it a **Hole in One on Nine!**

Well-done! Good trip! Safe arrival! First outing declared a success!



ramps, and great frontage roads. It's growing into a metropolis, but with a certain grace and always an eye on the Sandia Mountains, which are gorgeous!

Our destination was Rancheros de Santa Fe Campground – a Good Sam park in north Santa Fe, NM, (looked like a former KOA) which indicated “big rig friendly”. Ha! It was pretty with lots of pinon and juniper trees – but also with narrow spaces and roads, plus small turn areas. Fortunately we did not have a tow vehicle – there would

antenna ended up with a flat side on the ball on the tip, since it scraped through (literally). We were most happy it was a short tunnel! All else cleared with an inch or two to spare.

By this time in our journey, we're pretty “road-weary”. We had an easy time driving UP Raton Pass (good ol' Detroit), but a nail-biter coming *DOWWwwwwnnnnn!* We were ZIPPING! Jim maintained control, but learned a valuable lesson about when to shift down. The other pass was Monument

Photo of the Month:



A friend of Dan's sent this picture of Dan with a huge Largemouth Bass caught from the dock right in front of his TX home. Observers said it weighed in excess of 10 lbs. but we will never know exactly how much more as Dan released it.

Editor's note: While we don't have the exact weight I do know that just the picture of it weighed over 3 pounds when I received it and I had to reduce it drastically or the newsletter would have been too heavy to deliver!

Maybe everything IS bigger in Texas!

Send your favorite photo to Newsletter@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

1986 Wanderlodge PT36 Only 69,208 miles!! New Allison Transmission, 12.5 kw Yanmar/Kohler Diesel Generator, Chassis air, leveling jacks, wired for towing (sale includes tow bar). This Canadian Coach is immaculate and has been housed always in its own garage away from weather. East of Toronto, Ontario. Call 613-475-2974. Asking \$62,500



1978 Wanderlodge FC33 8 KW Diesel Genset, 3000 watt Inverter, Generator exhaust stack on roof. Two Lifeline 4D house batteries, Two NAPA Type 31 starting batteries, Headlight relay installed, Two new air conditioners, New microwave, New porcelain toilet, Two Fantastic fans with rain sensors, Steer Safe, 4.63 differential, Sureflo 5.7 water pump, GPS and Cellular antenna on roof. Located in Deerwood, Minnesota. Full description and 50 pictures available. Contact Mike Kneeland at bydmkx@brainerd.net or by phone at 218-820-6922. Asking \$15,000.



1978 Wanderlodge FC35 Rear Door This coach has been gone throughout starting with a new Imron Paint Job, new upholstery, new carpet, new tires, new generator. Everything works in this coach and it is a solid as a rock..Asking \$25,000. Has new brakes, new batteries, new tires, new fantastic fans and a/c throughout the coach. 149,000 original mi. and coach has new hoses. Contact Jon Lechich at jipjob@yahoo.com



1983 Wanderlodge FC35 Side Bath 275k miles on the odometer. Cat 3208 turbo-charged runs great. Invoices in the bus indicate that this motor was overhauled approximately 70k miles ago. The Allison 4 speed w/ Driveline Retarder, swing-out radiator and the bus drives down the road like it should. Aking \$10,500. Contact Dan Cronin at DCronin170@aol.com



2001 Wanderlodge LX Millennium Edition Galley and living room slide- outs. Always stored inside with electrical hook-ups. We are the second owners of the coach with 70,022 miles. 500 HP Cummins ISM engine, Jacob 2 stage engine brake, Allison 6 speed transmission. New Michelin tires and batteries 3 years ago. VDO/Dayton navigation system. Interested parties should contact Bill at (828) 312-3005. Asking \$165,000.



1991 Wanderlodge WB 40 198,000 miles, Detroit Diesel 8V92,500 HP w/Bulk Oil Fill, Allison HT-755 Transmission, 15KW Power Tech Generator.. New Blue ox tow bar with cables + ball hitch, External Zip Dee custom screen room with water bags and screen covers that attaches to main awning. Coach is in excellent shape and priced at \$95,000. Contact Rich Schwendler at 863-605-2884 or at r.schwendler@verizon.net



1984 Wanderlodge FC33 Side Bath CAT 3208 Turbo Diesel 250 HP. 79,910 miles. All original, garage kept, no rust, perfect paint! Washed, waxed and serviced regularly. Tires only 2 years old. Allison Automatic Transmission. 12.5 kVA Kohler/Perkins Diesel Generator. Interior is in excellent condition too. Located in New Castle, DE. Selling because we purchased a newer model. For more information contact Paul Knotts at (302) 838-9317 .

1997 Wanderlodge WB 43' 500 HP Detroit Diesel; Low mileage (20,000) like new inside; garage kept; will sleep four: has private, separate bathroom and full master bedroom; many amenities;. Located in Long Valley, NJ. **Price Reduced to \$110,000 or best offer.** For more information contact Bernard Peach at bwpeach@gmail.com or by phone at 908-852-1755.



Send your classified ad with photos to Shane at Classifieds@BlueBirdChapter.org

Classifieds (Continued)

1984/85 PT40 Newly rebuilt engine. Road ready. All Bluebird options. New appliances. Selling due to health issues. Contact Marge or Joe Zakowski at mjzakowski@juno.com for additional pictures and information. Asking \$40,000. Bus located in Northern Indiana



1985 Wanderlodge PT36 6V92, 330 HP. My vision is failing and unfortunately we have to sell the coach. It has been stored inside when not in use. No pets, many whistles and bells- too numerous to list. Call Reggie and Marty Pryor at 740-653-6489. Coach is located in Lancaster, OH



1990 SP-36 Wanderlodge 137,000 miles. 3208 CAT 300 hp with 3200 engine hrs. Coach is in fair condition inside and out. Priced at \$39,000; Contact Robert Erath at robertwerath@aol.com with any questions



1996 Wanderlodge WB42 Approximately 102k miles on a series 60 Detroit 470 HP with Jake brake and Allison World 6 speed transmission. 15KW Powertech generator with auto start has 1038 hours. This coach was the Wanderlodge show coach for the 1996 FMCA summer convention and has lots of special lighting and extra features. This unit is in very good condition and everything works.. Asking \$102,000. For more information, contact George Fox at 509-215-0367 or at doszorros@hotmail.com



Classifieds (Continued)

1984 PT40 Bluebird Wanderlodge 6V92, 325 HP, Allison MT654-CR 5 Speed Automatic with Retarder, All appliances are in excellent working order. Complete set of manuals including 'Blue Box'. Less than 5K miles on NEW brakes and suspension air-bags all the way around. Coach is very clean, never been smoked in and has been meticulously maintained. \$42,500. For More information Contact Brian Prinkki at 626-536-1719 or by E-mail at brian@remotetechns.net. Coach is located in Monrovia, CA



1994 Wanderlodge WB40 95,000 miles, Detroit Diesel 8V92 w/Bulk Oil Fill, Allison HT-755 Transmission, 15 KW Power Tech Generator. Exterior Platinum/Black with Aqua, Rose and Purple Highlights; Interior is Black and Cream, White Laminate Cabinets w/ Corian Countertops and White Ceramic Tiled Floor with Carpet Inlay in Living Area, White Leather Dinette and Sofa. Walk thru bath with private toilet, Cross island bed, 1/2 booth dinette w/ free standing chair, Asking \$85,000, Will Negotiate. Contact Joe at 715-559-5947 or by email at nrausch.rn@gmail.com



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



1982 FC35SB Bluebird Wanderlodge 3208NA Caterpillar Diesel engine, 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. Coach is located in Kathleen, Georgia, shown by appointment only. A photo DVD is available with more pictures and info. Asking \$30,000 OBO. Contact Sandy White at lostgold@yahoo.com with additional questions.



Classifieds (Continued)

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.



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,. **Reduced to \$179,900.** 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 **Reduced to \$45,000.** Contact Page Britt at KE4WKL@gmail.com or by phone at 850-528-6862



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, Priced at \$48,995. Call Rick Vossen at 850-527-4765.



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**

[Click Here To Fill Out On Line.](#)