



June/July 2012

BLUE BIRD CHAPTER, FMCA

From your President

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Charlie Vaughn

Hello Blue Birds! We just finished our first rally and I cannot wait for the next! The *Amazing Mayberry Rally* has passed. The memories and friendships are forever. I posted a few pictures on www.bluebirdchapter.org if you would like to view them. I hope the good times at this rally will urge other members to consider showcasing their own home town or state.

The member forum on the chapter website is up and running. I think thirty-seven members have joined. The intention was for the members of the Blue Bird Chapter to engage in conversations with others about where they are traveling, advice on the sites to

see by others who have been there before, and discussions about good sites to have for our rallies. The conversations can cover any topic any member would like to discuss. I really hope everyone will work at trying to bring our club closer together by posting on the members’ only forum.

Our 3rd Annual Family Reunion is approaching quickly. There will be only one more newsletter to remind everyone to sign up. We have chosen a campground in the heart of the Georgia/North Carolina Mountains during the peak week for fall color. There will be much competition for RV sites and attractions, thus the need to have cut-off dates for the campground and rally activities. We have reserved your space, but will not be able to guarantee it unless you sign up early. **Please get your reservations in ASAP!** It is the responsibility of members to contact the campground directly to take care of their own reservations for the rally. The rally hosts will handle the rally fee and the optional train ride tickets. See the information in this newsletter.

I am pleased to announce Gardner and Judy Wright have volunteered to host a rally April 3 - 8, 2013, in Pine Mountain, GA. Features may include Calloway Gardens at the height of their glory, the Little White House with renovations, and a just-completed infantry museum that cost ninety million of your dollars. More on this later. Safe Travels -- **Charlie**

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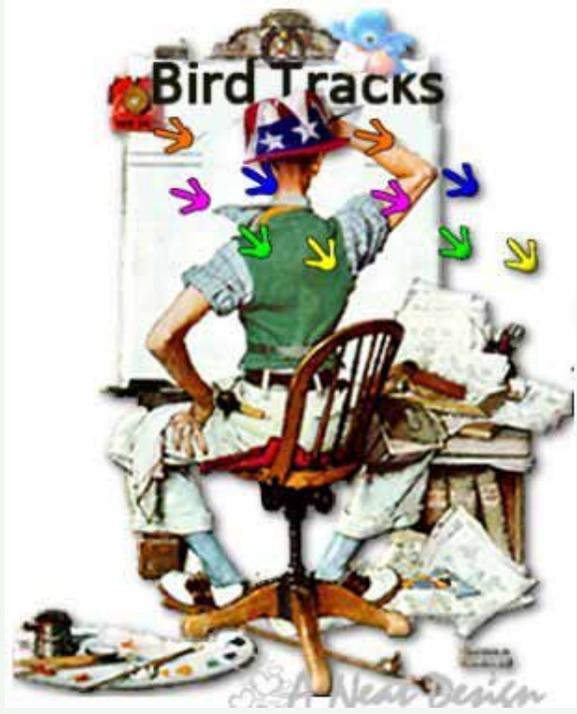


Susan Crocker
Secretary

Blue Bird Chapter FMCA

You all know our resident artist, Neat Scott, who also serves as “Welcome Host” for new members. While we do not have any membership increase to report this issue, Neat encourages everyone to spread the word about our Blue Bird Chapter, affectionately known as “Family of Friends” -- she’d love to know about any new Blue Bird owner, so a note of introduction could be sent to them.

Meanwhile, once again enjoy the artwork in this publication ... our “crafty lady” is definitely “neat”!!!!



*June is busting out all over ...
I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy, Born on the 4th of July ...
You're a Grand Old Flag, a high flying flag ...*



This is an amazing time of the year. We've just celebrated Memorial Day, honoring our veterans and those who've gone before us. Now we're ready for SUMMER, and INDEPENDENCE DAY! This is a nation of people in perpetual celebration -- and why not?! We are afforded the most amazing lifestyle and standard of living, granted to us when this nation was founded by our forefathers. The hard work and sacrifice of those visionaries gave us all we experience today! Let us be mindful of their efforts! Let us revere them as we move from Spring into Summer, and prepare for our nation's birthday party! Let us never forget all that was lost to attain what was gained. With reverence, honor ... with a pledge to be worthy ... let the festivities begin!

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Bird Tracks*, which highlights the recent Mt. Airy rally and encourages you to attend the annual Family of Friends gathering in October. I'm sure Neat Scott's artwork is always an appeal of this publication, along with another set of travails with the inimitable Richard Ramsey. Many thanks to Sharon Kirby for keeping us abreast of birthdays and anniversaries, as well as her "Did You Know?" column, and frequent feature articles -- the one on John Demmer is a "must-read" this issue.

By the time you receive this publication, Jim and I will be packing up and readying *Big Bird* for the trip to Coos Bay and the NW Regional FMCA rally. This will be our first FMCA rally, other than spending a day in Indio in January. We'll be part of the dry-camping crowd, but know our Bird is well-suited for the task. If any of you will be there, let me know so we can connect!

After Coos Bay, we head for our summer home, Pacific Shores, in Newport, Oregon. While there, we'll undoubtedly overload on fish and chips and clam chowder ... none better elsewhere, in our opinion! Perhaps we should have an East Coast/West Coast cookoff sometime -- at the very least, a recipe exchange!

As we travel this lifestyle highway, our biggest concern is being away from our family. However, by the time you read this, we will have enjoyed a week with our daughter in California, will be anticipating 10 days with our granddaughter in Oregon, and will find September a long time away -- that's when we get to see our son, his wife and our grandson. We maximize phone, Facebook and e-mail options ... but have decided we need to learn how to Skype and use FaceTime. Techies we are not!

In closing ... if the wind is behind your back (per the traditional Irish blessing), let it move you forward with grace and joy -- and greater fuel economy! If there is only one "today" in this lifetime, let our thoughts and actions be worthy of it!



Jenise Harper
"Bird Tracks" Editor

Richard's Ramblings

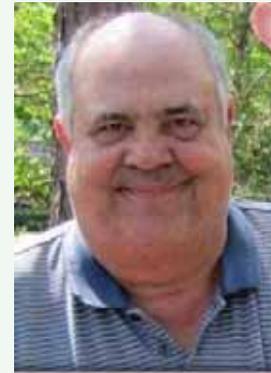
by Richard Ramsey

Last year, I bought **three** leather belts for \$10.00. This year I bought **two** leather belts for \$10.00. The "heck" with the government's way of tracking inflation. They say 5% inflation, I say 33% + inflation on retail or 50% inflation using the **belt standard**. I thought I had lost weight, because I had to tighten my belt to keep my pants from falling down. It is embarrassing when you reach up with your arms and your pants fall to your ankles. Unfortunately, I weighed when I got home, and had not lost a single pound. What had happened is that the pants had stretched and I found myself wearing my pants **UNDER THE BELLY** like so many around me do. When I went to buy my 2/\$10.00 belt, they did not have any in my size, so I bought the next size larger with the idea of cutting the excess belt off. Unfortunately, I explained this to SUE and when I put on my new belt yesterday, Sue burst out laughing and asked "WHAT EXCESS!?"

The grandkids entered the Mule Costume contest and won first place with the "Miracle Mule JJ." Contestants had mules dressed up like sheep, waiters, etc. Heck, one person even put pants on their mule. This makes two first place finishes in two years.

Yesterday we had a very pleasant social, which included Blue Bird friends, neighbors, and old friends Sue and I treasure. It was pleasant until someone asked Gene why he did not have any GOAT RAILS, to which he responded that his coach was one of three or four built without goat rails, at the request of the owner. Gene stated that he wanted a pair, so everyone started throwing out suggestions as to where he might be able to get a pair. Gene, with a sheepish grin, states to everyone that **HE HAS ALREADY LOCATED A PAIR** and they are **CHEAP**. I ask "WHERE?" Then Gene begins to laugh and says, "Wouldn't you like to **KNOW!**" Then it hits me like a ton of bricks that he is referring to **ME!** It is obvious that I need to either get out of town or set up 24-hour security. That dirty dog has put the whammy on me. I will probably be up all night listening and reacting

to every sound. Randy, get Gene some **FREE** Goat Rails, so I can sleep at night. Gene, I got a shot gun!



I had been planning to buy some bamboo and plant it here. I took the tractor and filled in the dry creek behind the barn and made a bridge to the other side of the creek. I found three large areas with more bamboo than I can ever use or play with. I plan to take the tractor over there and clear out more area and make me a hiding place from Sue when she gets on the war path. Oh, by the way, you know that **SUE IS HALF INDIAN AND HALF BULL DOG**. Whenever she is not on the **WAR PATH**, she is sitting on her posterior **GROWLING**.

While Sue and I were attending Sugar classes (because of health issues), the speakers broached the subject of **ALCOHOL** and **SUGAR**. The part that caught my attention was that when you drink **SCOTCH**, it **LOWERS** your blood **SUGAR!!!!!!** I suspected that the severe reduction in alcohol consumption this past year would create problems in my alcohol system, and I was **RIGHT**. **Abstinence** caused my sugar problem! Never mind being almost 80 pounds overweight and not exercising. It occurred to me that, rather than putting me on **INSULIN**, they should have prescribed doses of **SCOTCH**. I mean a shot glass here and a shot glass there would have negated the sugar problem. Why put me on a foreign substance, when a natural substance created from nutritious grain would do the same thing. As far as we have advanced in medical science, it appears we have taken a giant step backwards for mankind. I will have a discussion with my doctor. (Sue is putting me on a starvation diet. She is not fooling me. She just does not want to cook. If she starts using the car twice a day and will not let me come—well, let's just say that while I was born at night, it wasn't **LAST NIGHT**.)

I bought a travel trailer. Here is the story. I have my Blue Bird for sale. Last year I was not physically able to maintain it and do simple things. The wonderful trip we took last summer was to be our last great adventure in the motor home. However, until it is sold, Sue and I will continue to use it, as evidenced by signing up for the

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Richard's Ramblings

Continued

Mayberry Rally and the Tennessee Rally in April and May. We bought the travel trailer for several reasons. First, we wanted something to leave in TGO for the winter. It takes 110 gallons of fuel to take the motor home there and back, while we can drive a car and use 35 gallons and save 2 hours driving time. This also means that we will be spending more time in TGO. Plus, I don't have to worry about Gene borrowing parts from my motorhome while I am sleeping. Second, we wanted a smaller camper to take to Mule Day, Sucker fishing, and visit state parks. Third, the maintenance and upkeep are greatly reduced. When we sell the Blue Bird, we still intend to go to Rallies, such as RATS, where people will allow me with a travel trailer. However, 200 miles will probably be the limit of my trips and, if I go, I will be staying at least a week. Enough ramblings ... time to finish installing the 32 inch TV in the travel trailer that I took out of the belly of the motor home.

I have developed a method for storing the travel trailer and the Blue Bird in the barn and still be able to get either one out without moving the other one. I park the travel trailer through the back door at an angle and I park the motor home through the front door at the same angle. When I built the barn, I envisioned driving in the back door and driving out the front door. However, I could not bring myself to cut down some trees, so for 14 years I have been backing in. I think I can get the trailer out the back door by just cutting some limbs. I put the trailer in first. Wow, I was amazed how much room I had without the Blue Bird in the barn. I still cannot back the trailer worth a hoot, so I pulled it in and then backed the motor home in.

Since I had the new tires put on at RATS, my motor home went from driving good to terrible. Lots of road wander. I complained to Randy and he told me to lower my tire pressure. I was running 110 psi and Randy said he ran 90 psi all around. I lowered the tire pressure to 105 psi and I was amazed at how much better it drove. I am going to experiment with 120 psi, because that is what Michelin recommends for the weight of my front end. However, I can go down to 90 psi on the rest. I will try that and if it drives well, then that is my pressure. If it drives badly, "Hello 105psi or less" and "to heck" with tire inflation recommendations by the tire company.

Things are looking up and they are not. Bob caused me to spend a lot of money yesterday. For once, it was not Sue's fault — it was BOB'S!!!!!!! First, we had a flat tire. If we had not gone after the stuff that Bob recommended, we would not have had the flat, soooooo this time it is BOB'S fault and Sue is off the hook. However, she was in the car and she was driving, so maybe I should blame both of them. Fortunately, it happened in front of a tire place on US 1. We pulled in, they found the nail, plugged the tire and off I go just \$10.00 poorer. We finally found Northern Tools that Bob recommended and we left \$250.00 poorer. Sue did not buy a thing. First time in the history of the world that Sue has left a store without buying something. However, because of BOB, I made up for Sue's inability to buy something. I was attempting to buy a battery charger that would desulfate my batteries. They had one for \$40.00 and one for \$130.00. Which one to buy? If I bought the cheap one, Bob would say I needed the other one. So, I made a command decision and bought both. Along with a few other GOTTA HAVES, I managed to spend 6 times what I originally planned to do.

Sue informed me she did not like the new faucet I installed in the kitchen. I told her to learn to like it and that I thought it worked great. I make coffee every morning and it works like a charm. I warned her not to destroy it. Be gentle, and it will serve us well for many years to come. I know what it is. Sue found out I only paid \$29.00 for it. Next time, I will hide the receipt. Whooooo! I will buy a \$150.00 one and then immediately return it, buy the \$29.00 one, keep the \$150.00 receipt and throw away the \$29.00 receipt. Then everyone will be happy!

--RR--



Profile on Long-Time Member: John Demmer

by Sharon Kirby

While updating membership information, I noticed that several of our members had very low membership numbers. I wondered just what kind of information they could tell us about their Blue Bird coaches, the factory, the owners, etc., so I wrote to several of them and asked them to share their thoughts, and I would write a brief article so everyone could learn about our Blue Bird history. The first one (and only one so far) to respond was Mr. John Demmer whose membership number is 895. I got a chance to meet Mr. Demmer at the Petoskey Rally in 2011. He is a delightful man with a ready smile and generous heart. When I had a hard time finding pasties in Michigan, he hand delivered some to our coach! Here is what Mr. Demmer wanted to share with us.

Marnie and I purchased a 26-foot GMC in 1974. Our first Blue Bird was a 31 foot coach purchased in 1981. We owned this first Blue Bird for three years. Over the years, we owned five Blue Birds, and all of our coaches were named "Color Me Gone." We purchased one of the first 40-foot pushers in 1982 and had two more over the years, then went to a 45-foot pusher. The last one we purchased was around 2006. It was obvious Blue Bird was hurting, which was sad to us. We kept that coach until about 2009 and switched to a Prevost Country Coach.

We joined the club shortly after the purchase of the first Blue Bird coach in 1981. We attended the first rally and then two additional rallies, where we made friends with couples like Dan and Bobbie Jensen (see photo). The fellowship at those rallies was outstanding! I was getting up in years (*he will be 92 on his next birthday*) and people went out of their way to help us. I met the owners of



WanderLodge at a Bird's Nest function. They were great people!

One of my greatest memories was a service trip I took to Ft. Valley with Doug Weaver, from Goshen, Indiana. He played football at Michigan State University and coached there before continuing on to get his law degree. Georgia Tech hired him to be their Athletic Director and, after a few years, the same position opened up at his alma mater. He left Tech for MSU, and Doug and I renewed our strong friendship. On this trip to Ft. Valley and the Bird's Nest, the president of Blue Bird (an alumnus of Tech) found out their popular ex-athletic director was in my coach and, along with some of his co-workers, knocked on the door of *Color Me Gone*. What a reunion that was!!

I have slowed down a bit in the traveling department, but made all of the MSU home football games plus Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. I was driven to San Diego in November to see MSU play North Carolina State on the deck of the Carl Vincent Aircraft Carrier, which was docked in the harbor. This is the vessel that buried Osama Bin Laden's remains at sea.

The coach is now at the "White House" Plantation on the Ashepou River, west of Charleston. My son Bill and his wife, Linda, own this beautiful site and they put a 50 amp service beneath a high oak tree — and that is where I am often found.

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John Demmer, Continued

Marnie passed away in 2007. We had been working with North Michigan Hospital on the funding of The John and Marnie Demmer Wellness Pavilion and Dialysis Center which opened its doors to patients on July 11, 2011. We have been long-time supporters of MSU and have provided principal support for MSU's John and Marnie Demmer Shooting Sports Education and Training Center, the John and Marnie Demmer Center for Business Transformation in the Eli Broad College of Business, and the John and Marnie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies. The Hall of History in the Skandalaris Football Center is named after the Demmer family. I manage to be quite busy with all these organizations plus I am still Chairman of the family business, Demmer Corp. in Lansing, Michigan.

Thanks, Mr. Demmer for sharing your memories with us!! If you have a low membership number (below 1000) and would like to be highlighted in the newsletter about your Blue Bird memories, please contact me through treasurer@bluebirdchapter.org. -- Sharon



This group of Blue Bird owners/members met recently at the 371 Cafe in Anza, CA, for lunch and lies! From left to right (names -- and location of rigs in April) -- Maurice and Rozanne Deshazer (Pechanga Casino RV Park, Temecula), Denny and Karen James (Motorcoach Country Club, Palm Springs), Jenise and Jim Harper (Rancho California RV Resort, Aguanga), Pat and Bill Snyder (Rancho California RV Resort, Aguanga). Great gathering of fun people; super food and conversation! Our Blue Bird Family of Friends always finds a place to perch and peck!

The Amazing Mayberry Rally/Race

Twenty-four Blue Birds and Friends met in Mount Airy, NC, for the **Amazing Mayberry Rally** on April 29 to May 4, with Charlie and me as hosts. After much jockeying around at the soggy campground, Charlie managed to get everyone parked with full hook-ups. We were off to a damp start, but everyone was cooperative. Thank you for your patience.



by Martha Vaughn

By Wednesday, Charlie and I realized that we had not asked anyone to do a write-up of the rally. Then Gale Pletcher and Linda Houze (a new member) surprised me with an account of their adventures on the Amazing Mayberry Race. Saved!

The Amazing Mayberry Race was a scavenger-type hunt through downtown Mount Airy. The participants had to find answers to questions in the different stores or complete a task and take their pictures completing the tasks. Many of the questions were related to the history of the area and its inhabitants. Following is Gale and Linda's report on their fun time, with Stephen in tow.

The Amazing Mayberry Race as written by Gale Pletcher and Linda Houze

Arriving Sunday afternoon, we were happy to see so many Blue Birds parked at the Veteran's Memorial Park. We joined the other Birdies for soup, salad and sandwiches. At this time we received our agenda and rules for the Amazing Mayberry Race. After wishing everyone a good night and good luck, we nestled in early so we could wake up refreshed and energetic, ready for the competition to begin.....

We began the day with breakfast at Ocie's. We met Miss Linda, who was clearing the tables and pouring coffee.



You need to know that Miss Linda doesn't work at Ocie's. She retired four weeks ago from Walmart! She just loves the folks who come for breakfast each morning. Now Jr. Bledsoe is a whole 'nother story. (you'll find him in a photo with the two of us.) He has been retired for 20 years as the principal of the middle school here in town. His friend Jack Fletcher, who is an electrician, joined us to share his stories. He let us know that he was readin' the paper about the Blue Birds coming to town, and he took it to mean that it was going to be a "goood huntin' season." And you know, when we were fixin' to leave, why ... that server told us to take Jr. with us. Can you imagine, we hardly knew him...

Our race started at the Creative Sewing Machine store.

We found the colorful rag quilt hanging on the wall.

Moving on, we went to the Scarlet Begonias and we just had a "fretful" time pickin' out a purse to hold all our purchases.

Now Robby's Sales had this handsome man in camouflage willing to pose with us. Geez, there ain't nothing like a man in a uniform. They had everything in that store. They even sold a fishhook sharpener. Now have you ever heard of such a



thing? A fishhook sharpener? Why you'd think ya' would just buy a new hook, wouldn't ya'? Well we bought one.



Just inside the Main Oak Emporium, we met up with another retired couple from Florida (check photo). We spent so much money at the Emporium that we couldn't even bond Steve out of jail (see photo next page).

Continued on Next Page

Mt. Airy, Continued

At Holcomb Hardware, we saw the five-foot-plus snake skin. It was actually longer than five feet, but they had to cut off the head and tail. We're not sure why, but it's hangin' up there on the back wall. We couldn't find the head and tail, so we took a photo of the work desk, so organized and all (photo).



Linda did buy some hose clamps and a screwdriver. The screwdriver was pretty rusty, but the clerk was nice enough to say "there weren't no extra charge for the rust." He was real friendly. He turned the big handle to open the cash register and told us about the six-drawer register that was too complicated to use. It's sittin' upstairs in the attic. I don't think that's a good thing to be tellin' folks where the big cash register is.

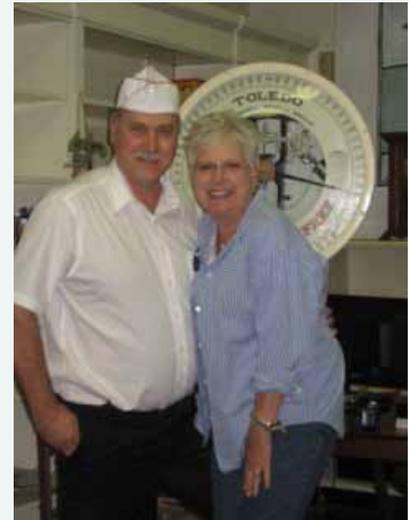


We needed energy; we barely made it in the door of Walker's Mayberry Soda Fountain. We never thought to weigh in before our

root beer floats and chicken salad sandwiches. Feeling our pain of having to photo the numbers on the scale, Dave, the owner, jumped on the scale to weigh in with us (photo). We just couldn't believe how high he made that needle go.

We found the required paintings at High Cotton and walked out with a homemade colored broom.

Steve at Talley's Custom Frame and Gallery has actually sold the store, but is still involved in the day-to-day. Dennis, the cousin of Pat Woltz, told us how Pat came to paint a bunny in each picture. Pat's daughter Mary had a pet rabbit. One day she said, "Momma, why don't you ever paint my bunny in your paintings?" From that day on there was always a rabbit to be found. There is even a rabbit in the Halloween painting that Linda bought. Don't ya' just love bunnies?



We paid a visit to Page's, the Mt. Airy Tractor Toy Land and the Uncorked Wine Shop, and still another purchase.



Mayberry on Main has the hottest hot sauce on earth and again we added more to our shopping bag (check photo). What a great way to end the day — Opie's Candy Store. Here we opened the jar (when no one was looking) and counted the assorted candies. We bought some malt balls.

Tuesday morning we were back at Ocies (cafe) because we just love Jr. and Jack!! Couldn't do biscuits and gravy two days in a row, so we opted for a bowl of oatmeal.

We started today's race at the Trinity Episcopal Church. As we were fixin' to go to the museum, we met Jim Kemp and he said the church had the original furniture inside. My word, that's something. And did you know that Sir Walter Raleigh's daughter lived in town on one of the side streets?

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Mt. Airy, Continued

Now Terrie Lynn at The Frequent Flyer Tack Shoppe had great stuff and Linda found some new fashion accessories (check photo). She will have no flies on her face this season. We might go back at Christmas 'cause she is going to have halters with jingle bells on them, and sell antlers to put on the horse's head. Ain't that the cutest thing?



Imagine running into Opie and Andy at the Andy Griffith Museum. We just couldn't believe it. So we had some stranger take our picture. Then we whistled our way right up to the counter at the museum.

And darn if they didn't have a BlueBird Café. Why...do you think they did that just knowin' we were coming to town? It just seemed like the right thing to do, to end the day eatin' lunch with them folks. Them naming their restaurant after us and all. Thanks for a unique way of showing us your town. It was great fun!!



Linda and Gale



Photos of the entire rally can be found on the website www.bluebirdchapter.org. It's obvious a great time was had by all in attendance, based on the happy faces in the pictures!

I can't vouch for the veracity of Linda and Gale's account, but I can say they had a great time. Their account of the Amazing Mayberry Race earned them matching pink tee shirts, declaring them "The Fun Girls from Mount Pilot."

Charles and Peggy McKeegan won the first prize for collecting the most points in the race. The deciding factor was guessing (closely) the number of candies in a jar at Opie's Candy Store. Deb and Dave Hebert and Garland and Sharon Kirby tied for second. A coin toss gave the Heberts second place and the Kirbys third.

Earlier in the week we enjoyed hearing Oma Boyd read from her book, Round This Mountain. There was time for trips to interesting locations, such as Pilot Mountain, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Old Salem. On the last day of the rally we visited the radio station WPAQ and watched a live broadcast. A supper of barbeque was held at the library that night. Afterwards, several Birders attended the Craig Woolard band concert at the amphitheater.

Charlie collected the pictures the race enthusiasts took, plus photos he took and compiled them into a DVD to send to all the attendees. Thanks for making the rally such fun.

Charlie and I have one last thing to say: "Ya'll come back now, ya hear?"

Martha

Teck Tips

by Ralph Fullenwider



Who would have guessed time would fly by so quickly. It seems like yesterday was “spring-up” time, and here it is June! Charolette and I hope that you are out in the coach, or planning trips! And, of course, it is that time of year when the awnings come out to help keep the inside temps cool – yep, spreading the ole girl’s feathers is an attraction without make-up. (I am talking about the coaches, guys, not the wife! Grin)



Our awnings were starting to show wear from years of service, and the stitching was starting to part here and there. So out came the sewing machine, tables ... and an “awning repair” station was formed. Besides, it was well past time to redo the water seal caulking to stop the water rivulets dripping down the windows, rather than off the edge of the awnings.

In *photo 1*, you can see how some of the stitching was coming undone, as in *photo 2*. *Photo 3* shows how the tables were set up



and *photo 4* shows Charolette at the sewing machine. When I was not helping her keep the seams straight, I was stripping the caulking and getting ready to re-install and re-tension the awning springs. (Caution — If you’re doing this yourself, pay EXTRA care to take the tension off the springs. If the awning rod gets

away from

you, you CANNOT get your arm out of the way fast enough to avoid it being broken! Remember, re-tensioning the awning springs rule is: one (1) full turn per one (1) foot of awning length, plus five (5), and adjust up or down from there.



So, “happy campfires” out there from an American veteran and patriot — I don’t care who knows it. I heard a song the other day, “If you don’t like it, let me help you pack!” Safe Travels!

Ralph



Albuquerque Balloon Festival

by Jenise Harper

Jim and I used to live in New Mexico. We spent two years nestled in an adobe-style home with a spectacular view of the Sandia Mountains. We enjoyed our time there, even though we knew we would be “short-timers” -- we were opening up a new territory for Jim’s company, and would hire a salesman for that area, once it was deemed profitable enough.

Knowing our stay would be brief, we really explored New Mexico. We found we could get our “mountain” fix by heading north, or further south to Silver City. We found the easy accessibility to both Albuquerque and Santa Fe delightful from our home in Placitas (across I-25 from Bernalillo).

We were fascinated by the Indian Culture, the flora and fauna, the plethora of arts and crafts, and the “old town” settings in both cities, and among the highlights of our two years in New Mexico was the Albuquerque Balloon Festival.



Per the article by Randy DuPree (page 21), the WOG group is heading to the “balloonfest” this coming October. Let me highlight some of what they and the Birds of a Feather rally group will be seeing.



We simply commuted by car from our home to the festival; however, the fairgrounds (home of the balloon festival) was “host” to a huge number of RVs (it appeared they were ‘dry-camping’), and large gatherings of ‘same-motorhome’ type rallies.

This area is an ideal setting for balloonists because of what is known as the “Albuquerque BOX” -- the wind patterns move in such a way that the



balloons, unless manipulated otherwise, stay within certain parameters, a box-like area bordered by the Sandia Mountains on one side, the mesas on the other, and winds that manipulate airflow in a “box” between the two natural geological terrains.



The events begin early in the morning, when conditions are optimal for ascensions. The schedule varies -- some days you will see “traditional” balloons only; other days you will see the “specialty” balloons (anything from hand-holding honeybees to the Wells Fargo stagecoach). Some days will offer a mix of traditional and specialty.



The evenings often offer a “glow” -- where all the balloonists fire up and produce flares that are quite dramatic under the stars! (Note: We have no photos of this event, as the hand is not steady enough, and we did not have a tripod.)



When I mentioned the ascensions began early, we always arrived around dawn/5 a.m. Part of the fun was watching the balloons start out as a colorful piece of fabric stretched out on the ground, and then expand as air was pumped into them, until they reached their “grown-up” size. The next challenge was then to maneuver

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Albuquerque Balloon Festival

Continued



the balloons so they became airborne! Some of the specialty balloons were so cumbersome, they just could not quite get off the ground.

Some rose to a few feet, and then said, "That's it -- you've seen me. I'm done for the day!" (per the horse in the photo above). Others rose magnificently and floated above us for hours. Ultimately, the sky was filled with hundreds of balloons, all shapes and sizes.

Balloonists form an intriguing culture. They come from all over the world. They travel from festival to festival. The participants all seem to know each other. When someone has a misfortune of some kind, everyone steps in to help ... to lend a hand. It's a closeknit



group bound together in an expensive lifestyle avocation. But, when a balloonist is up in the air, floating above all until it becomes ant-like below, I sense the peace, the challenge, the rewards. I've not been up there, challenged by heights as I am, but I've seen the faces, the smiles, the sense of satisfaction. Must be pretty special up there!

So, as we travel around this great country of ours, perhaps we should take a cue from our WOG friends, and enjoy the Albuquerque Balloon Festival. There's lots to do in addition to watching the balloons; vendors have an amazing array of booths set up where you can buy anything from Z-Coil shoes to hand-crafted banners/flags for your RV site. The on-site museum is vast, with wonderful



displays and an in-depth look at balloon travel throughout the world. With both Albuquerque and Santa Fe a "hop, skip and jump" away, you have many restaurant choices, lodging and campgrounds nearby, shopping 'til you drop, and an amazing number of historic sites to visit when you've been "ballooned-out"! As I mentioned before, the "old town" areas are abso-

lutely a "must-see" and the Rio Grande, whether at its trickle stage, or flowing with more gusto, is truly as vast as its name implies.

Gosh! Maybe we should hold one of our annual "Family of Friends" rallies at the Albuquerque Balloon Festival in a couple years or so! Anyone interested? Hmmm? While I'm not at all versed in how to hold a rally, having only attended one in my entire life, I'll help if someone else will launch the balloon! (There! It's out there, up in the air, so to speak! Let's see what response I get!)



Photos by
Jim Harper

Cooking is For the Birds -- by Kay Green Losh



Here we are, moving into summer-time! Everyone has certain activities, trips, people that somehow seem to be “summer friendly”. Summer for us always means a get-together with our Blue Bird friends here in Texas, family reunions, a school reunion, and visits to my sister. Our great-grandson is coming to stay for a few weeks, and we’ll take him on a trip or two in the coach, which will be fun! I can’t wait to cook with him.

With all these get-togethers, that means food for sharing, enjoying, and savoring. Do you ever notice — gatherings, and fun always seem to include FOOD!

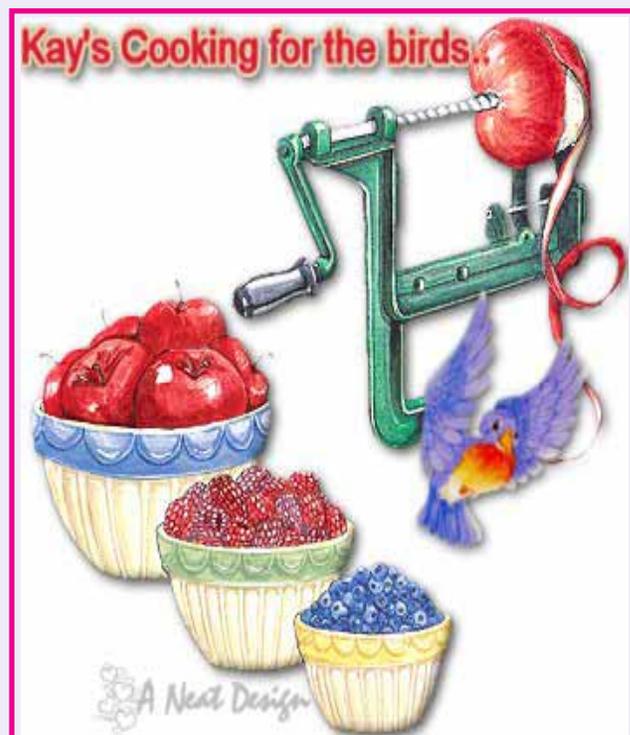
NEAT SCOTT sent this recipe for an APPLE CAKE that sounds so good; can’t wait to make this—and share, of course!

APPLE UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE — from a old Rawleigh Heritage cookbook of my Mom’s. I opened the book today and she had made a note there that this is good! A blast from the past — :) Neat

1/2 cup butter or margarine	1 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 cake flour	2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. cinnamon	1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup butter or margarine	3/4 c. sugar
1 egg	1/2 cup milk
1 tsp, vanilla	

Peeled and sliced apples

Mix the brown sugar, 1/2 c. margarine and spread in a 8 inch cake pan. Cover with a layer of apples. Cream the sugar and remaining margarine. Add the egg. Add dry ingredients that have been sifted together. Add milk. Add vanilla. Spread batter over apples. Bake for 1 hr. at 350 degrees. Cool and serve with whipped cream. Enjoy!



Another great desert for “visiting” time —

CRUSTLESS COCONUT CREAM PIE

- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 eggs
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk
- 1 cup shredded coconut

Continued on next page

Cooking is For the Birds, *Continued*

Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
Generously grease and flour a 9 inch pie plate.

In a medium bowl, mix together sugar, flour, and salt. Stir in melted butter or margarine and vanilla extract. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Mix in evaporated milk followed by coconut. Pour mixture into pie plate.

Bake in preheated oven for 35 to 40 minutes.
Chill before serving.

Where are your recipes for the summer time events coming up? Your best salads and picnic fare? What are your favorite quick fixes for easy summer-time snacks and meals, especially those days when you really don't want to cook? Send them to cooking@bluebirdchapter.org, so they can be shared with your Blue Bird friends!



**Travels in a Blue Bird Coach is Freedom.
Go where and when you chose.
Making friends along the way...
Pure delight!**

a neat design

Did you know?

By Sharon Kirby

Did you know . . .

1. About Village Green Apothecary? I get all kinds of valuable information from the emails I get from the company. They are on Face Book and Twitter plus they have a radio show. You can even go to their archives to listen to past shows!

Village Green Apothecary
5415 W. Cedar Lane | Bethesda, MD 20814
301-530-0800 -- 301-530-0800
800-869-9159 -- 800-869-9159
info@myvillagegreen.com
Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 6pm
Saturday: 8:30am to 5pm
www.myvillagegreen.com

Here is information from their website: "Village Green Apothecary has been providing individualized nutrition, pharmacy, and healthy living products for over 40 years. We are committed to providing you with expert guidance, knowledge, and a custom-tailored mix of nutritional and pharmaceutical products needed to achieve and maintain optimal health.

Our staff of 45 professionals (including a team of pharmacists, nutritionists, naturopathic doctors, and clinical herbalists) offer private wellness consultations, personalized health plans using *The Essentials of Healthy Living (EHL)*, and individualized custom compounding. Our pharmacists are available to review and address drug/nutrient interactions and depletions to ensure your health and well being. Please contact us with any questions. We are here as a resource for you."

One of the things I learned from their last email was in an article by Paula Gallagher, B.A.Sc., Applied Human Nutrition. Below is a partial quote from that article "Magnesium Decreases your Risk for Stroke."



"A majority of us lack optimal magnesium intake due to a refined-food diet, and soils that lack magnesium from poor farming methods. Research published in the latest American Journal of Clinical Nutrition has found each 100 mg increment of magnesium intake per day was associated with an 8% risk reduction for stroke. Here are some foods that are great sources of magnesium: pumpkin seeds, spinach, Swiss chard, halibut, black beans, cashews, almonds, and sunflower seeds. If you still have a hard time getting at least 400 mg of magnesium per day with food, take a quality supplement to help." Did you find that interesting? I did! They also sell vitamins, supplements and healthy living products. Check out Village Green Apothecary, their staff, and products!



Did you know . . .

2. About the book *Outsmart Your Cancer* by Tanya Harter Pierce. Mrs. Pierce began researching alternative cancer treatments after a family member was diagnosed with the disease. She shares life-saving information through her book and website. I purchased the book to get information about a product called Protocol. I am not only learning about

Protocol, but I was surprised to learn about the other non-toxic treatments such as The Hoxsey Therapy, The Gerson Therapy, Essiac Tea, and more! The book is fascinating! I ordered it from Wal-Mart and had it sent to the store—so easy! If you or a loved one is fighting cancer, get this book—it is a wealth of information!! You will not be disappointed!!



Sunshine and Mists

by *Brenda Rodgers*

June - July 2012

Greetings from the Peach State, Peach County, Fort Valley, Georgia! The Georgia Peach Festival will be held June 1-9, 2012. Fort Valley is home of the Blue Bird Corporation – and also home of the World's Largest Peach Cobbler. Read all about the festival on www.gapeachfestival.com which includes a wonderful recipe for peach cobbler. If you are in our area be sure and enjoy the delicious peaches at several peach packing operations – and by all means – don't forget the peach ice cream!

We send our get well wishes to **Tommy Vance** for a speedy recovery from his shoulder replacement surgery on May 14 in Florida ... Please remember **Dan Greer** as he continues to feel stronger from his series of chemo treatments ... **Sharon Kirby** appreciates all the prayers for her as she is doing better and is able to drive again. Please continue your prayers for her. ... Our get well wishes go out to **Judi Peterson**, as she was recently hospitalized.

Deepest sympathy to the family of **Ron Jack**, who passed away May 6 after a long illness. Ron and his brother, Wayne, both enjoyed their Wanderlodes for many years, attended numerous rallies, and were the hosts for a wonderful rally several years ago in Montana.

We extend sympathy to **Barbara and Tim Scully** in the loss of Barbara's Dad, Bill Sherman, who passed away in Seattle on March 17. Mr. Sherman was 95. He was employed 45 years with Pan American Airways.

Our sympathy to **Linda and James Weatherford** on the recent loss of Linda's Dad.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Nellie Mae Litowich** and family in the death of her husband, **Morton "Bud" Litowich**, in Delray Beach, Florida. Bud passed away at the age of 90 on April 21, 2012. Professionally he was a produce broker and business owner of Ben Litowich & Son. Bud was famous for his many stories and jokes. He and Nellie Mae attended many, many Blue Bird rallies.

Congratulations to **Joe and Susan Crocker** on the recent arrival of their precious granddaughter! We've heard about that big smile you are wearing!

Congratulations to **Patty Dunn** on receiving her B.S. Degree in Accounting. Many of you will remember Patty in the Customer Service Department at Blue Bird Wanderlodge. She administered the Warranty Program. Since leaving Blue Bird she has been employed by Robins Air Force Base.

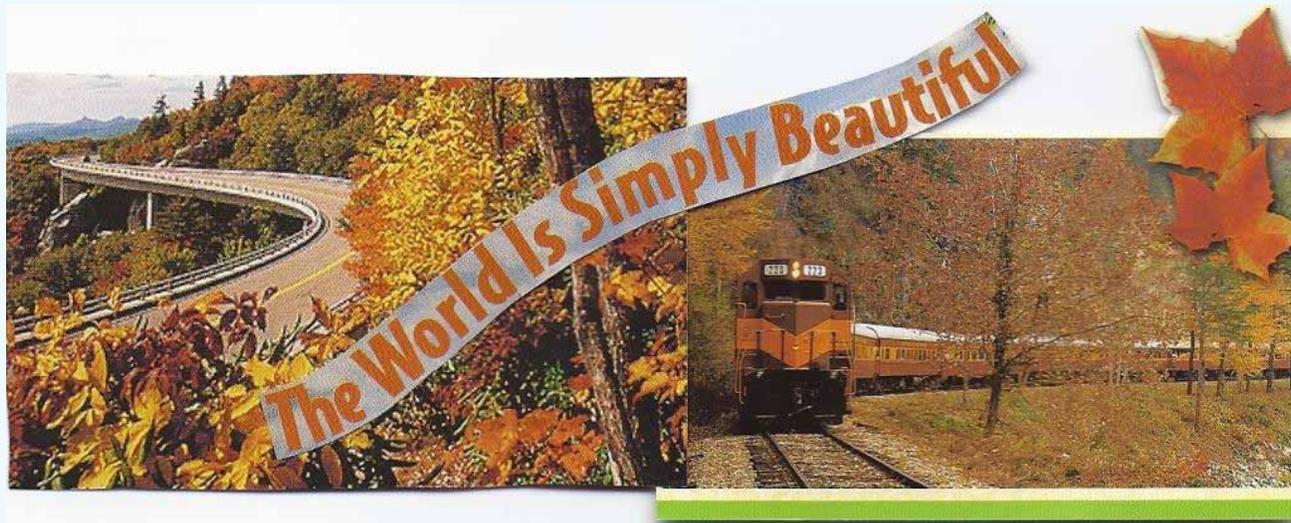
If you are aware of others that need to be included in the Sunshine article, please let us know. Remember – ASAP really means "Always Say A Prayer".

Very best wishes for safe travels and lots of fun this summer!



Warmest regards,

Brenda



October 16-21, 2012

Blue Bird 3rd Annual Family of Friends Rally

River Vista Mtn. Village RV Resort, Dillard, GA

Hosted by Tom & Sandi Bay & Bob & Barbara Helms

Come join all the Blue Bird Motor Coaches plus all their friends & relations for the 3rd Annual Family of Friends rally in Dillard, GA. A must see on your "Bucket List" is the beautiful array of colors on the Great Smokey & the Blue Ridge Mountains.

This area of GA & NC is loaded with antique & gift shops nestled in the villages, along with delicious home-mountain cooking, wonderful "shop till you drop" clothing stores, local folk arts, crafts & pottery, plus the warm, wonderful colors of these mountains.

Visit Franklin (World's Gem Capitol), Bryson City (the Railroad Town), Cashiers (the Crossroad Village), Asheville (the Biltmore City), Highlands (the Come See town), Cherokee (Indian Village, Museum & Casino), NC. Visit Dillard (Antique Heaven), Helen (Alpine Bavaria), Clayton (Best Destinations of 2011 title), Mountain City (Foxfire book series and Traditional Crafts Museum), Dahlonega (1st major Gold Rush 1828 plus Wine Country).

Included in this area: you can bike, hike, whitewater raft, zip line, fish, horseback ride, and visit wine vineyards, waterfalls, arts & historical places.

Continued on Next Page

Family of Friends Rally in October, Continued

This rally is structured in three phases:

1. Book your RV reservations at River Vista Mt. Village RV Resort DIRECTLY with Brenda or Vonda at Toll Free 888-850-7275 or Direct 706-746-2722. Standard Back-In rates \$45 plus tax and Pavilion Pull-Thru rates \$52 plus tax. Both sites include water/sewer & 50amps for 5nts. Extra night stays are upon availability. **BOOK EARLY** -- we have limited discounted space.

PLEASE NOTE RALLY (#2) AND OPTIONAL TOUR (#3) MUST BE PAID BY SEP 10, 2012

2. The cost of the rally for 5nts/6days for 2 members \$184.00, 1 member \$92.00 & each guest \$100.00. Check payable to: THE BLUE BIRD CHAPTER OF FMCA. Mail to: Treasurer, Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, 3590 Round Bottom Road, Cincinnati, OH 45244 **(Please fill out registration form on the next page.)**

Includes for 2 PERSONS: 6-catered meals, 2-Family Style Luncheon at the Dillard House, Dillard, GA, 2 tickets for a theatre performance of "SMOKE on the MOUNTAIN", a rip-roaring musical comedy revival at Smoky Mt. Performing Arts, Franklin, NC, and music entertainment.

3. **OPTIONAL TOUR: FIRST CLASS on the GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD.**

Travel in comfort & style with a 1940's-era bar*, lounge & dining cars. First class passengers receive an all-inclusive, delicious lunch served by the car's private attendant, a souvenir tumbler with a fountain soda and an exclusive gift amenity from GSMR. These First Class cars are climate controlled with rest rooms available. Adults only. This is a 44-mile railroad excursion from Bryson City, NC across Lake Fontana to the Nantahala Gorge Outdoor Center, NC. Note: 4 ½ hours trip thru beautiful mountain foliage, farms and scenic beauty.

You will have to choose one of these three luncheon entrees: Prime Rib Au Jus, Glazed Pork Loin & Chicken Cordon Bleu. Limited amount of each. First come! First served! It is imperative you choose one luncheon or you will automatically receive any meal on board.

*Cocktail and bar service is available for purchase separately in First Class.

Included in admission at Bryson City is the Smokey Mountain Museum with its' collection of 7,000 Lionel engines, cars and accessories.

The cost of this optional railroad tour is: 2 members \$184.00, 1 member or guest \$92.00 each. Check is payable to THE BLUE BIRD CHAPTER OF FMCA. **(Please fill out registration form on the next page.)**



**BLUE BIRD CHAPTER, FMCA, RALLY REGISTRATION ONLY FOR
OCTOBER 16-21, 2012 BLUE BIRD 3rd ANNUAL FAMILY OF FRIENDS --
MUST BE PAID BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ TELE _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING RALLY:

2 MEMBERS \$ 184.00 AMOUNT _____

1 MEMBER \$ 92.00 AMOUNT _____

GUEST(S) \$ 100.00 each AMOUNT _____

TOTAL _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS FOR OPTIONAL RAILROAD TOUR:

2 MEMBERS \$184.00 AMOUNT _____

1 MEMBER \$ 92.00 AMOUNT _____

GUEST(S) \$ 92.00 EACH AMOUNT _____

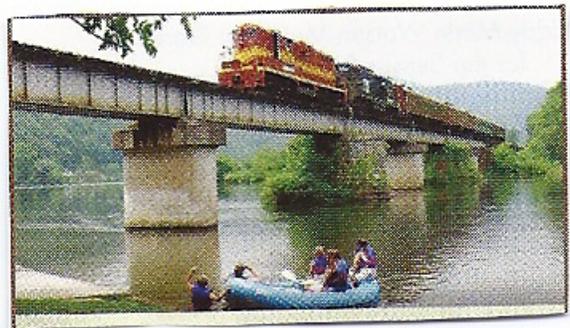
TOTAL _____

TOUR LUNCHEON SELECTION (CHOOSE 1 PER PERSON)

PRIME RIB AU JUS _____

GLAZED PORK LOIN _____

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU _____



RALLY \$ _____ TOUR \$ _____ TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Wanderlodge Owners Group (WOG) Report

by Randy DuPree

Ahhh! Spring is here and the summer trips are being planned! Rallies are always on our minds, and our summer travels will include a rally or two.

The WOG (Wanderlodge Owner Group) rally will be held at the Balloonfest in Albuquerque, and there's one coming up in Michigan, too. Of course, the Balloonfest Rally is being hosted by the **Birds of a Feather** group, and there are several rallies being hosted by the **Arizona Hot Birds** group. All of these rallies are leading us all to the biggest Wanderlodge Rally of the year -- the **RAT's** rally in Pine Mountain, GA, with an estimated 150 coaches planning to attend!

As with all of our rallies, the pre-rally is awesome. We get there 3-4 days early, with happy hours and pot luck dinners being the bright spot of the day. See you this summer! All of our rallies are open to any bird owner; no memberships required.

Be sure to visit www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com for more rally info, for help with fixing your Bird, for finding parts, or just for the camaraderie! We all have a common goal -- to use our Birds and to keep them fit and trim!

Go here to read about up-coming rallies!
<http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=30>

I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.

I had amnesia once—or twice .

I went to San Francisco . I found someone's heart. Now what?

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible and I believed them.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

My weight is perfect for my height—which varies.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.



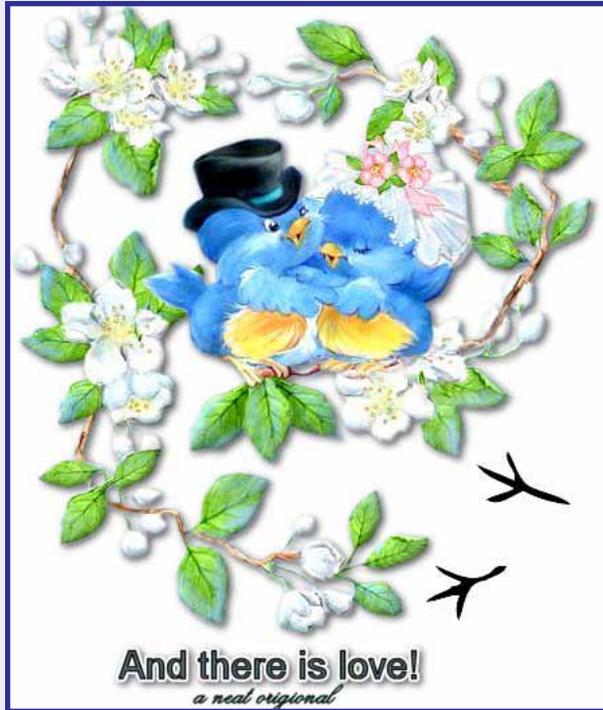
Thank you to Dean Woodruff of Integrity RV Service Center, who donated \$250 for one of the breakfasts at the Amazing Mayberry rally. Per Karen James, Dean just opened the RV service center in Douglasville, GA, and has hired many of the Blue Bird technicians who worked for the old Blue Bird factory. Karen and Denny went there to have their slide fixed, and said, "It was nice seeing familiar faces. They certainly know their business as far as Blue Birds are concerned!"

Integrity RV Service Center; 411 Bankhead Hwy; Douglasville, GA 30134; 770-693-1186
www.integrityrvservice.com
dean.irvsc@gmail.com

Congratulations!

Anniversaries, June & July

Anniversaries and Birthdays Compiled by Sharon Kirby



A wedding anniversary is the celebration of love, trust, partnership, tolerance and tenacity. The order varies for any given year. ~Paul Sweeney

JUNE

Murray and Lyn Brinson – 6/12/1965
Joe and Susan Crocker – 6/26/1976
Ray and Margaret Darragh – 6/04/1957
Bob and Mary Jo Dilks – 6/18/1960
Dan and Natalie Disco – 6/04/1977
Dave and Diane Dixon – 6/18/1966
Gregg and Jane Gesse – 6/02/1990
Gordon and Jean Hansen – 6/20/1987
Earl and Thelma Hodges – 6/26/1958
Robert and Carol Howald – 6/03/1971
Charles and Peggy McKeehan – 6/4/1966
A.J. and Carole Ann Mickler – 6/21/1958
Jerry and Janet Owen – 6/03/?
Darius and Elizabeth Rogers – 6/10/1950
Richard and Sue Ramsey – 6/19/1968
Jon and Neat Scott – 6/23/1957
Jerry and Anne Smith – 6/21/?
Jack and Ila VanDenBerg – 6/12/1965

Alvin and Marjorie Walker – 6/06/1953
Paul and Ann Ward – 6/11/1960
Leroy and Glenda Wilson – 6/20/1965

JULY

Bill and Sarah Barnhart – 7/23/1953
Bob and Sonya Costin – 7/14/1956
Ken and Jan Mohr Doyle – 7/27/1997
Jim and Jenise Harper – 7/31/1965
Bob and Barbara Helms – 7/14/1979
Dan and Judy Hunt – 7/09/1994
Dan and Bobbie Jensen – 7/04/1971
Mike and Lorri Kneeland – 7/10/2010
Bob and Nancy Rapisarda – 7/24/1976
John and Betty Ricke – 7/08/1961
Alan and Jane Ritchie – 7/15/1967
Bill and Wilma Smith 7/24/1954
Larry and Jean Storeholder – 7/17/1993
Lawrence and Moncell Thornell 7/07/1956
Willie and Sandi Young – 7/01/1970

Spouse: someone who'll stand by you through all the trouble you wouldn't have had if you'd stayed single. ~Author Unknown



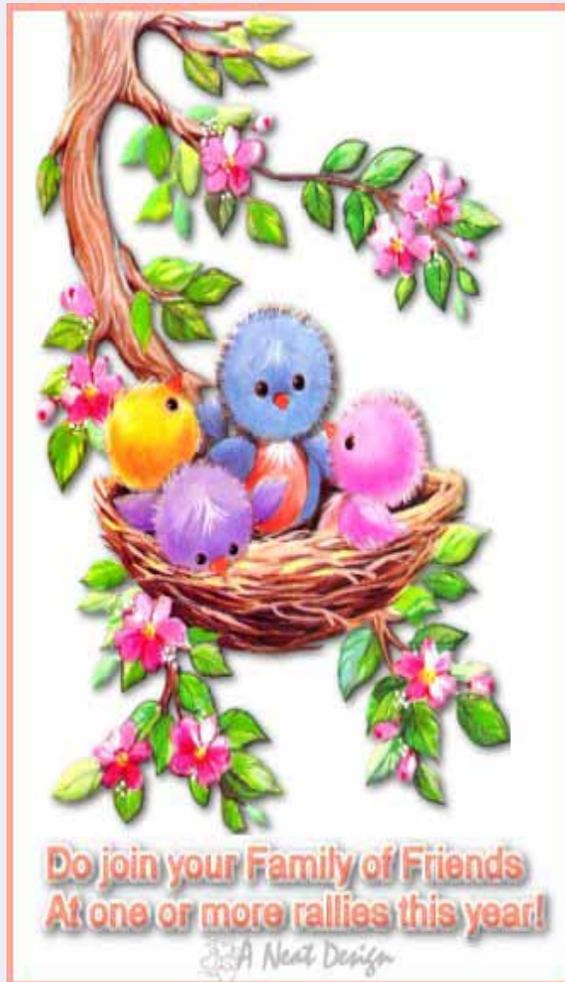
Birthdays, June & July

Women deserve to have more than twelve years between the ages of twenty-eight and forty.

James Thurber

JUNE

J.R. Asher – 6/28
Jim Baber – 6/25
Freda Barron – 6/24
Sandi Bay – 6/14
Warren Bestwick – 6/27
Bo Chauncey – 6/27
Rozanne DeShazer – 6/20
Mary Jo Dilks – 6/09
Linda Downey – 6/11
Larry Dunville – 6/20
Sharon Enos – 6/11
Rachel Erath – 6/03
Marilyn R. Fewin – 6/09
Sharon Fuller – 6/30
Arthur Galea – 6/17
Richard Hardesty – 6/03
Barbara Harris – 6/27
Richard Harvey – 6/28
Robert C. Howald – 6/29
Donald Jones – 6/02
Sharon Kirby – 6/24
Betty Kline – 6/27
Paul Knotts - 6/01
Betty Konz – 6/30
Bill Larsen – 6/13
Clifton Lees – 6/18
Charles McIntire – 6/07
Art Overgaag – 6/03
Greg Peterson – 6/01
Judi Peterson – 6/10
Muriel Radtke – 6/02
Elizabeth Rogers – 6/22
Barbara Symington – 6/25
Ruth Taylor – 6/30
Preston Williams 6/30
Everett Wooten – 6/19
Sandi Young – 6/03



JULY

Virginia Asher 7/16
Lyn Brinson – 7/25
Loren Buchanan – 7/25
Allan Coolong – 7/15
Bob Costin – 7/18
Susan Crocker – 7/13
Sherry Dawson – 7/02
Peter J. Delutis – 7/23
Linda Dreisbach – 7/29
David French – 7/11
Marilyn Gooding – 7/14
Lil Goodwin – 7/22
A.V. (Albert) Harrison 7/16
Judy Hunt – 7/14
Bobbie Jensen -7/13
Bob Johannesen – 7/29
Barbara King – 7/01
Harris Kirby – 7/31
Barbara Knotts – 7/26
Michael Mastrobattisto – 7/24
John McCullers – 7/14
Donald McHenry – 7/14
Sherry Miller – 7/18
Don Nichols – 7/15
Emma Lou Nichols – 7/02
James Olds – 7/27
Jerry Owen – 7/21
Jack Richardson – 7/26
Richard Ramsey – 7/08
Susan Schmieder – 7/08
Sue Scudder – 7/21
Carolyn Siculan – 7/30
Evelyn Snell – 7/23
Paul Spear – 7/15
Ingrid Steinmetz – 7/08
Earl Thompson – 7/03
Brenda Thompson – 7/25
Will Volk – 7/29
Ray Williams – 7/21
Alice Willis – 7/18

Aging seems to be the only available way to live a long life.

Daniel Francois Esprit Auber



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



Application for Membership; Renewals -- Due January 1

You must be a member of the **Family Motor Coach Association**. Your club application fee is \$50.00. That includes two name badges and dues for the current year. Your subsequent or renewal dues are \$25.00. Make check payable to the **Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, LLC**.

New Member? _____ **Membership Renewal?** _____

Date _____ FMCA# _____

Name _____

Name _____

Street or shipping address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail address _____

Phone Number _____

Cell Number _____

Birth date _____

Birth date _____

Wedding Anniversary date _____

Coach name, year, and model _____

Please print first and last names as you want them to appear on your club badges:

(new applications only)

1st Badge _____

2nd Badge _____

Return form and check to: Blue Bird Chapter; 3590 Round Bottom Road; Cincinnati, Ohio 45244

Natchez Trace Rolling Rally

The Natchez Trace Rolling Rally is scheduled to begin in Nashville on October 22 and end in Natchez on October 27. If you are interested, please contact Susan Crocker at swcrocker@hotmail.com or [386-365-7642](tel:386-365-7642) to get in on the action. Those who will be participating will receive a detailed itinerary via e-mail.

Classifieds

The "Blue Birds For Sale" section of *Bird Tracks* can be found on the Family of Friends website, www.bluebirdchapter.org.

Due to the many contributions (Thank you!) to this publication, we find it too large to place on the website with the classifieds' section included. You won't miss out on any of the listings, however. Just click the link on the website, and you'll see the full complement of coaches available for sale. We apologize for any inconvenience to readers, sellers, and thank Shane Fedeli, who has faithfully posted the listings for the past several years!

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

Our website is: www.bluebirdchapter.org.

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 (Previous page)

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).

Easywaysto join: 1 Year \$ 50; 2 Years \$ 90; 3 Years \$ 126 Save \$4; 4 Years \$ 158 Save \$12; 6 Years \$ 210 Save \$40 --

First year dues include membership identification emblems, a \$10 initiation fee, \$35 for one years membership fee, and \$5 for a one-year subscription to *Family MotorCoaching* magazine.

Questions: 800-543-3622; 513-474-3622 **Fax completed form to:** 800-543-4717 or 513-474-2332

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