



President's Report

In October of 2009 I was the first person elected to the office of President of the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA since the factory had closed earlier that year. I knew it was going to be challenging, having just lost all the factory support, the Rally in the Valley, All Birds Reunion, and the knowledge that we had the factory's backing. At that meeting in October I introduced you to the newly elected officers of our Club and stated how thankful I was to have such wonderful people to stand beside me as we moved forward. I closed my message to you by stating that no matter how hard we worked or how much effort the leadership put into the Club we would fail if you didn't participate. Since that date in October we have had several rallies planned and for one reason or another, whether that be illness, fuel prices, apathy, or the economy we have had to cancel some of the rallies due to lack of participation.

This is your Club, these are your friends and fellow Club members. Over the years we have had the opportunity to meet some of the greatest people in the country...Blue Bird owners. This summer

we will have another chance to be together, we will have another opportunity to renew old friendships and make new friends. In August of this year the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, along with

We are currently working on an Illinois Amish rally to be held in Arthur, Illinois. At this time we have not been able to confirm the date of the rally with the RV park but we are looking at some time in the first week of August. There have been several Ohio Amish rallies over the past few years but to my knowledge not one in Illinois, I think you are going to love this one. Besides it is timed just perfectly for you to enjoy this beautiful part of the country and then continue on to the Michigan Rally. And last, but not least, we will have our 2nd Annual Blue Bird Chapter Family Reunion in

Chattanooga, TN in October of this year. So come out and join us and enjoy the beautiful Fall color in the Great Smoky Mountains.

As we all know, in this world there is not much that is certain and life turns on a dime. So this year crank up that Bird and join us as we travel the great byways of these beautiful United States. Until we see you in August take care and get that Blue Bird "On the Road Again!"

Dan

DAN'S PRESIDENT'S REPORT



rally hosts Jack and Ila VanDenBurg, in cooperation with Hearthside Grove RV Resort in Petoskey, Michigan will bring you one of the best rallies ever sponsored by the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA. The price for this rally is a bargain when you consider all that is included...not to mention you will be staying at one of the finest RV Resorts in the country. The date for this rally is August 10th thru the 15th so don't hesitate, sign up now! You will find a promotional brochure in the following pages of this month's newsletter.

BLUE BIRD CHAPTER, FMCA

Inside this issue:

- Cooking is For the Birds
- Tech Tips & More!
- Classifieds
- A Birdie on Hole 1
- 2011 Dues Are Due!

Special points of interest:

- *Internet for Part Timers*
- *Rallies, Rallies, Rallies: See Inside*
- *Sunshine & Mists*
- *Historic Denver*
- *Happy Saint Patrick's Day*

Upcoming Rally Schedule

2011 Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA Rally Dates Associated FMCA Clubs And Dealer Rallies

March 23rd - 27th 2011 Wanderlodge Owners Group Rally, Myrtle Beach, SC Make reservations by calling 877-510-1413 and mention you are a part of the birds at the beach.

May 26th - 30th, 2011 Vintage Birds & Blue Bird Chapter FMCA Great Lakes Area Spring Spree, Berrien Springs, Michigan Contact Ron Rueckwald, Caravan Leader at 269-313-2586 or RRUECKWALD@AOL.COM

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

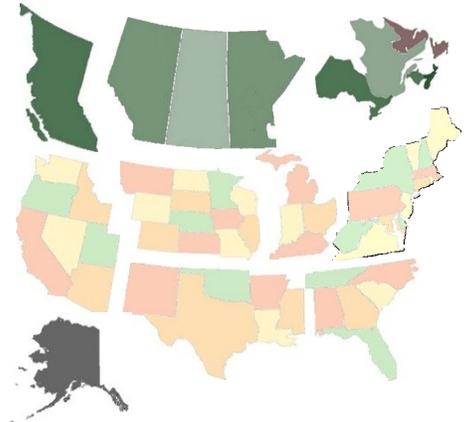
June 15th - 20th, 2011 Vintage Birds Rally at West Yellowstone, MT contact Bob Dilks 580-564-3517

August 10th - 15^h 2011 Blue Bird Chapter Hearthside Grove, Northern Michigan

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.

2011 Dues Are Due: by Greg Peterson, Treasurer

The annual dues for the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA are now due. Membership Dues of \$25.00 are due on January 1st of each year for the calendar year. When submitting your dues payments please either complete the form in Bird Tracks or send along a note with all of your contact information. This way we can ensure that our membership data is up-to-date.

Please send your dues payment to:

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

The Chapter has established this as our new permanent mailing address to replace the Post Office box in Fort Valley. I do miss Fort Valley and the Nest. We are using the FMCA Mail Forwarding service and they forward all mail to wherever my Blue Bird is parked.

We have added a field to the online Membership Directory. This field shows the date on which the Chapter received and

processed your dues payment for 2011. You can check your dues status at any time by going to our Chapter website: www.BlueBirdChapter.org/Directory (caps and spacing are important) and, when prompted, the username is:

bluebus and the password is: BBMem10

After you open the Directory, you can save it to your computer for offline reference. Also, please note, that you can expand each of the columns as needed by using the capabilities of your spreadsheet program. For example, many people will see that the street address field appears to be truncated, however, if you expand the width of the field, you will see its full contents.

Please be aware that with mail forwarding delays and my travel schedule, your dues payment may not appear in the online Directory for 3-4 weeks after you post it.

Happy and Safe travels to all.

Greg Peterson, Treasurer



Editors Note:

For your convenience and to keep your membership/contact information up to date, please print the back page of this newsletter and fill out the renewal form. Send it along with your payment.

Cooking is for the Birds: by Kay Green Losh



It's March, which means Spring is coming--sooner or later! For those who have to wait a while for Spring, I'm including a nice warm chowder. For those who will get Spring sooner, here are a couple of snacks for the patio parties, and a pasta dish for everyone!

SLOW-COOKER CORN CHOWDER

- 2 ½ cups milk
- 1 (14 ¾ oz.) can cream-style corn
- 1 (10 ¾ oz.) can condensed mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 ¾ cups frozen corn
- 1 cup frozen shredded hash brown potatoes
- 1 cup cooked ham, cubed
- 2 Tblspns. Butter or margarine
- 2 tsps. Dried parsley flakes
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a slow cooker, combine all ingredients. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours. Serves 8.



NOTE: Omit ham to make a great vegetarian soup.

Kelly Fedeli provided these recipes some time ago--Thanks, Kelly!

BACON CHEESE DIP

(makes 7 cups, so great for a crowd!)

- 1 lb. bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled
- 2 (8 oz.) packages shredded Cheddar cheese
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 onion, chopped

Combine bacon, cheese, pecans, mayo and onions: mix well. Serve with assorted crackers, celery sticks.

SPINACH BALLS

- 2 (10 oz.) packages frozen chopped spinach, cooked and drained



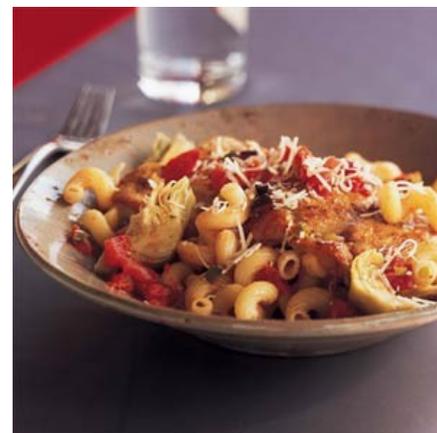
- ¼ cup finely chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 cups herbed stuffing mix
- 1 cup parmesan cheese
- 5 eggs, beaten
- 1 ½ sticks butter, melted

Mix ingredients and form into one-inch balls. Bake on greased cookie sheet at 350 for 20-25 minutes. Serve hot or cold (hot is better!)

Holly Sorge gave me this recipe a couple of years ago.

CHICKEN AND ARTICHOKE PASTA

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) tricolor pasta
- ½ yellow onion, finely chopped



- 1 can (7 ½ oz.) artichokes, coarsely chopped, drained
- 2 plum tomatoes, finely chopped
- 2 Tblspns. chopped cilantro
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 can (3.8 oz.) sliced black olives
- 1 pkg (10 oz.) prepared diced cooked chicken
- 3 Tblspns extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 Tblspns balsamic vinegar
- Juice of ½ lemon
- ½ tsp each --salt and pepper

Cook pasta in a large saucepan of water to al dente. Set aside. Meanwhile, combine onion, artichokes, tomatoes, cilantro, garlic and olives in a large mixing bowl. Stir in chicken, set aside. Whisk together olive oil, balsamic vinegar, lemon juice, salt, and pepper in a small bowl; add to pasta and toss.

Hope you all are making plans for a fun Spring trip, and/or a good time with friends. Sharing good food always makes a good time better! Share, please, your favorite foods, snacks, dinners, with all the rest of us--send to Cooking@BluebirdChapter.org

Michigan Rally!!!

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

Blue Bird Rally

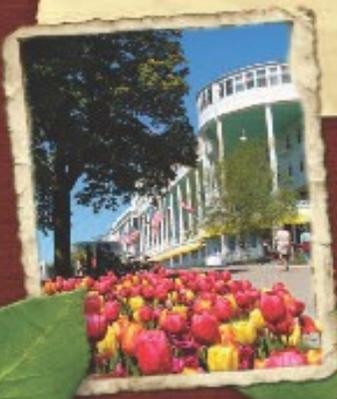
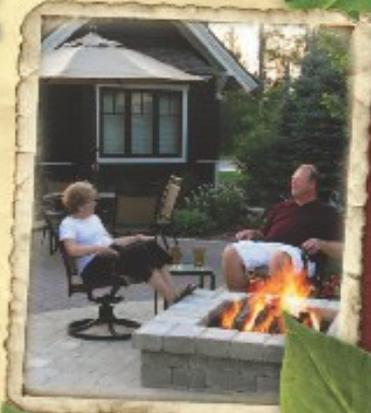
AUGUST 10 - 15, 2011

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 • Potosky, MI 49770 • www.hearthsidesgrove.com



YOUR LUXURY MOTORCOACH RESORT

Technical Tips and Tricks: by Ralph Fullenwider



Here it is March, the air is starting to warm, buds are starting to form on the trees and wanderlust is starting to stir in our bones.

It has been a cold winter, many Coaches stored had problems with freeze protect heaters and the water system needs a checking out.

Now might be a good time to address the basic water system in the Bird's since it is different from most other RV's. And even then there are different systems and up graded systems as time went on. In this article I would like to talk about the pre Aqua hot Coaches, then get to the later systems in another issue. We need to know how the water flow is directed and where it goes and not be worried about what gets the water to the end runs because a pipe is a pipe. But the water won't pressure up or there is a leak? We have all been there at one time or another, and it was by great pains in finding the problem. To accurately trouble shoot a water system, the "flow" must be understood.

City water inlet;

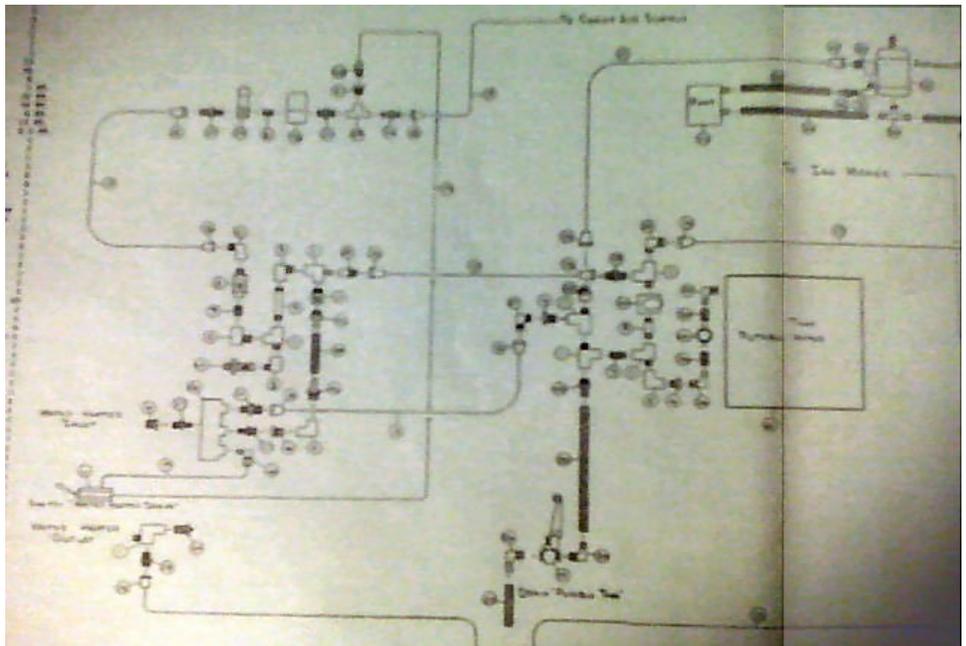
This of course is pretty much the same on all coaches, and some coaches have an anti reverse valve and pressure regulator built into the same unit. Others have a separate check valve and separate regulator elsewhere in the line or configuration but the principal is the same.

Shore water flows through the check valve going to the water heater inlet side through another check valve and at the same time, flows to the Sporlan valve, normally closed side and continues on to the sinks,

shower, ice maker and toilet. The shore water is blocked going to the pressure side of the pump by another check valve. If the fresh water "fill" switch is on, the shore water will pass through the Sporlan valve to fill the fresh water tank and will pour out through the hose in the top of the tank, making a "P" trap in the hose, on the way to the outside drain under the Coach.

Fresh water tank system;

With the Sporlan valve in the closed position, coach water flows from the tank out let to the inlet side of the water pump; this is not a pressurized system at this point, so the fresh water tanks are not pressurized at any time. Once the water pump is turned on, the water flows through the pump to the check valve stated above and then onto the out lets under the rated pressure stated on the pump, and when the faucets are all closed the pump will pressure up the system and stop running when a sensor built



into the pump reaches its rated value. In the older Coaches, the PAR belted pump was 45 PSI at 4 gpm and is a \$450.00 pump. There are rebuild kits available for these pumps. Other pump systems in the coaches vary from 35 to 45 PSI at 2.5 gpm to 65 PSI at 5.7 gpm.

The hot water;

This is a separate circuit and flows to the sinks and shower via a separate water line.

So let's answer a couple of usual questions about the water system;

1. The pressure in the shower is low on shore water; can I run the fresh water pump at the same time for more pressure? Answer, yes. But remember the fresh water pump is getting its water from the storage tank and will need refilling.
2. The fresh water pump keeps running even with the faucets off, what causes this? Answer; A. the fresh water tank is empty. B. There is a water leak in the hoses or the Sporlan valve diaphragm has a calcium build up and won't close completely. Another problem source is the check valve is stuck open.
3. I can hear the water pump running when I am filling the fresh water tank, what causes this? answer; When the Sporlan valve is opened by switching the fresh water "fill" switch, it causes a pressure drop and sensed

by the sensor on the pump and the pump will run trying to pressure up the system. Be sure to always turn off the water pumps when filling the tank.

Safe travels,

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

Internet on the Road for Part Timers: by Rich Ducci

There are air-cards from most cell service providers that are a good option for full time travelers but how can part time travelers get quality internet connections in



parcs with no (or poor) WiFi? Need a high speed internet connection while traveling but don't want to pay monthly fees when you are not using it? How would you like the internet in your pocket, to be able to take it with you everywhere you go? Well now you can with a MiFi! The MiFi I am talking about today is from Virgin Mobile. It offers you the same features that other MiFi devices offer, but this one doesn't require a contract, it's a pay as you go type of device. It offers you the freedom to pay when you need it only and you're not stuck in a contract for something that you might not use all of the time.

MiFi is appropriately named as it is your own personal high speed WiFi hotspot for



up to five devices. This Virgin Mobile device is battery powered or connected to your power source using a standard micro USB cord or charger (supplied). No connection to the computer is necessary. It carries a one time purchase price of \$149.95 (occasional WalMart sale price

\$119.95) and works with the Sprint 3G network. Using the MiFi 2200 involves a one-time activation. The process guides you through a couple of steps, including a few fields for personal information, and picking a Virgin Mobile account password. You then pick a payment method, and activate the modem. The Virgin Mobile network uses Sprint - who actually own Virgin Mobile. The advantage of this is that you'll have access to a reliable nationwide 3G network.

Connecting to the modem is simple - it



broadcasts a WiFi network name called "Virgin Mobile MiFi 2200" making it easy to locate. Each unit's unique password is printed on the bottom on a label, but you are free to change that using its configuration pages.

Up to five devices can connect to the MiFi at the same time, which makes it ideal for those who have multiple devices such as a computer, Kindle, iPad and smartphone or iPhone. \$10.00 buys 100MB or 10 Days making it ideal for a short or weekend trip while the \$40.00 for 1 month deal gives you unlimited use and is great for longer trips.

Price	MBs/GBs	Expires	USE IT FOR	Web Browsing	Emails without attachments
\$10	100 MB	10 DAYS		5 HRS	10,000
\$40	UNLIMITED	1 MONTH	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	

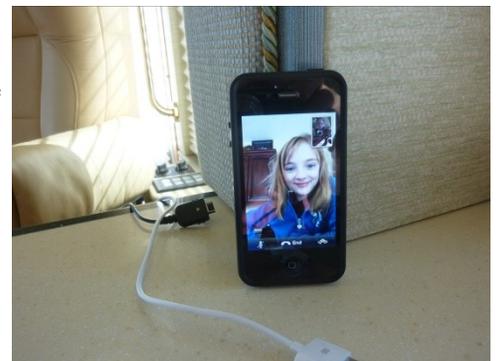
I recently used this device while traveling and, in fact, for assembling, editing and distributing the February issue of Bird



Tracks. The device was super fast and I did not notice any difference from my home based cable modem. On a recent two week stay in Florida, I had it connected 24/7 and it performed perfectly. I also tried it out using Facetime (Video Chat) on

the iPhone 4 to make video calls to the family. It worked flawlessly both while stationary in the coach and while traveling. The iPhone 4 hi-resolution camera was directed outward to give someone at home a live narrated video tour of an area we were visiting. As stated above, my use found the Virgin Mobile MiFi speeds to be more that satisfactory. Live streaming of HD video or other heavy uses may cause the performance to be slower than you would like.

Having a portable WiFi available for a smartphone means it can be transported along with the phone for use anywhere without using up data allotments on the phone. This may be the right choice for



you if the area you travel is covered by Sprint. You can check their nationwide coverage by going to Sprint or Virgin Mobile on the web and viewing their data coverage maps.

WOG Rallies: by Randy Dupree

Sometime around the end of December, one of the WOG members mentioned he was staying at Coachworx down in Clearwater Fl. while they were doing some work on his coach.

He asked if anybody wanted to stop by for lunch or coffee.

The response was overwhelming, within a few days we had 25 coaches going to Coach-



worx for a mini rally!

The guys at Coachworx let us use their camping area and most of us had full hook-ups and everyone had power.

We used an empty bay for a few tech talks,

and we had donuts and lunch in the same bay.

Its amazing how the members of WOG like to get together and have a good time!

Go here to read all about it.

<http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8512>

Birds of A Feather.

A group of guys in the western US have put together a group thats organizing Wanderlodge rallies west of the Mississippi.

So far they have a Grand Canyon rally and A Moab rally a week later.

Read about BoaF and their rallies here.

<http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=106>

WOG has a rally coming up in Myrtle Beach in March.

This rally is the 6th year we have had it, its a grand time and we have 40 coaches or so every year, come join in on the fun!

Read about it here.

<http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8086>

Rally Across the Street, RATS rally is coming up!

The world famous RATS rally will be held again this Oct.

In our 8th year its been getting bigger and better every year, last year we moved to Pine Mountain RV park and we had 116 coaches plus vendors and coaches on display.

Read here to find out about 2011.

<http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/showthread.php?t=8267>

The WOG group is also having a rally in the great lakes area in the summer of 2011.

Check it out here.

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)

Historic Denver: Vintage Birds Rally

June 9, 2011 to June 13, 2011 Hosted by Jon & Neat Scott and Dennis and Karen James

Make your own reservation at Dakota Ridge RV Park, 17800 West Colfax Avenue, Golden, 80401. Phone number is 303-279-1625 or 1-800-398-1625.

Thursday, June 9. Registration, Welcome and hor de ourves at campground. Meet and greet, games and door prizes.

Friday, June 10. Tour of The Denver Mint and Downtown Denver attractions. Don't miss the Aquarium, the Molly Brown House, a tour of Hammond's Candy company, the gold domed State Capitol, or browse the many stores along the 16th Street Mall. There are also tours available for Coor's field or the Denver Bronco's Invesco Stadium at Mile High. The Denver zoo is just across town as well as the Museum of Natural History. Interested in a Colorado Rockies/Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game? Let us know and we will arrange to purchase tickets for you sometime during the rally. (Games are at 5:40 each night or Sunday at 12:10.)

Pot luck dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 11. A fun and entertaining Banjo Billy Bus tour of infamous sights around Denver. Coor's Brewery tour in Golden.

The Colorado Railroad Museum offers train rides and a look at the history of railroad in the West.

Don't miss Lookout Mountain and Buffalo Bill's Grave and Museum. Dinosaur ridge and a drive to the beautiful Colorado Rockies could find you riding the steam train at Georgetown Loop and touring a gold mine.

Also, the historic towns of Central City and Blackhawk can provide a look at historic buildings or try your luck at the various casinos in the area.

Dinner on your own. Check out the historic restaurants in Golden or dine at "The Fort" and experience the culinary delights of **our rich Western cultural and culinary past, where food trends of the 1800's are reintroduced. Be inspired by historic recipes and sample items on the menu such as the buffalo empanadas ... delicious like the first kiss!**

Sunday, June 12. Enjoy the many art galleries in Golden or Denver, tour Red Rocks and meet for an afternoon performance at the Heritage Square Music Hall. Dinner and show at Heritage Square Music Hall. Meet at noon with the show at 2:00. Heritage Square is a delightful replica of a western village with Victorian architecture. Go early and enjoy the many shops or take a daring ride on an Alpine Slide.

The rest of the afternoon and evening is free to enjoy the many attractions in the area.

Drive to the world's highest paved highway and view the state from world famous Mount Evans. All 14 miles of the road from the entrance station to the Mount Evans summit parking area (14,130) are paved. From there, you can hike the last 130 feet (about 1/4 mile walk) to the top at 14,264 feet. After you have made this climb, you can tell all your friends: "I climbed a 14,000 foot mountain in Colorado on my vacation!"

Monday, June 13. Coffee & donuts and farewell. Some will travel on to the Terry Bison Ranch in Wyoming, then on to more adventures in Yellowstone National Park. Rally at Grizzly RV Park in West Yellowstone. June 15 to June 18, 2011. Contact Bob Dilks for more information.

Rally fee: \$180.00 per coach with two people. Extra person: \$90.00.

Send your rally fee to:

Karen James

677 S. Carr Ave

Lafayette, Co. 80026

(phone: 303-665-6347 or cell phone 303-859-3822)

A Birdie on Hole 1: by Jenise Harper

“Why don’t we just sell the house and become full-time RVers?!” I suggested. Such a blithe question ... but with life-changing implications!

We were the owners of a 1991 23’ Award trailer – we called it “Tony” (aka Tony Awards since I was once a thespian). Our camping life started early in our 45-year marriage with tents, and then tent campers – my backpacking husband’s concession to his wife, who refused to sleep on the ground anymore! “Tony” brought us hard-sided security (somewhat) in bear-owned country, and I loved that little guy – with a tiny living room, a great galley, a tub/shower head, and a separate bedroom that actually had storage ... all in a 20-foot box!

So, when I made the suggestion we try the full-timer lifestyle, I was thinking we’d use “Tony” as our home on the road. My husband scoffed, “You’re suggesting we could go from a 3,000 sq. ft. house to the trailer?! I don’t think so!” (Notice that he didn’t negate the full-time concept – just the conveyance!)

I made the suggestion based on several factors. (1) My husband was due to retire within a few months. (2) We were planning to sell our home in the Rocky Mountains for health reasons (altitude/cold weather/asthma). (3) We had a boat in Florida for many years, but realized the Gulf Coast was not where we wanted to retire. (4) We loved the Northwest – but were unsure which area we’d prefer, and which months we’d stay there. (5) We decided we’d experienced far too many cold winters, so a warmer

climate was appealing in the November – March time period.

Therefore, it seemed to me that we could sell the Colorado house and the Florida boat, spend the summers in Oregon and Washington, and winter in Southern New Mexico/Arizona/California – all this in an RV until we decided when and where we wanted to settle. My husband agreed the idea had merit – but not in “Tony”!

RV shopping began. We hit the big show at the Denver Convention Center ... we visited RV dealerships throughout Colorado. Our initial

motorhomes out there, but there are also some that leave much to be desired – especially in terms of quality and safety. After the North Trails associate showed us everything he thought might interest us, he made a casual comment. “I know you are interested in a unit around 38’, but we just took a 2001 Bluebird in on trade for a toy hauler. It’s 43’ long, but a real ‘honey’. Are you familiar with Bluebirds?”

“Somewhat,” replied my husband. “I know they make school buses, and that the coaches are real ‘high end’. Can we see it?”

“Can we see it?” Four little words that determined the direction of our RV-ing lifestyle! We admired the green and tan beauty on the outside. “It’s really long,” I ventured.

“It’s a bus,” the salesman said. “It has just one slide, so the space comes in the length.”

I had to admit I liked the look of the tag wheels ... nothing short and squat about this guy! So, we looked inside the coach.

Well!

The Bluebird was totally different from anything we had seen thus far. The finishing touches were beautiful. It was elegant! I felt as if I was in a tour bus for some famous singer! From the upholstered valences to the lighted/suspended glass cabinet

(Continued on page 11)



thought of buying a 34’ rig stretched to a 38’ rig. We went to Florida that January to spend time on the boat and get it ready for sale, and saw an ad for an RV show in Ft. Myers. Attended the show, and got connected with North Trails RV Dealership. We visited their sales facility the next day. By this time we’ve seen everything from bare-bones units to pure opulence – and price tags which reflected it. There are some really nice

A Birdie on Hole 1: Continued; by Jenise Harper

(Continued from page 10)

to the mirrored ceiling décor, we were hooked!

My husband and the sales agent talked about all-steel construction, and the safety factor. The agent pounded on the walls ... no flimsy reverberation there! They looked at the drivers' area and the "control panel". It looked like an airline cockpit to me! I continued to peruse the interior while they did the "guy-talk" thing. Nice twin closets, good drawer storage. Under the bed ... over the bed ... beside the bed – lots of space for our worldly possessions (this was BEFORE the house was sold ... and BEFORE we had to decide what to keep, what to store, what to sell and what to give away). The look of the galley (laminated doors) and mirrored closet doors was rather retro, a bit funky after all the wooden cabinetry I'd seen. I felt the interior was sort of "art deco" with traditional upholstery and valences to tone

down the mirrors and the hidden strips of light that seemed to be in every window, under counters, and above the ceiling panels. What a kick!

We went back to the marina and sat on the back deck of our boat with a glass of wine, mulling over the situation and this interesting discovery. We were intrigued! Jim decided to pull up comparables and resale values via the internet ... it appeared to be a pretty sound "investment" (as if a depreciating vehicle could ever be thought of as such). We both decided this was a coach we could live in – even though it didn't have a king size bed, nor did it have a gas cooktop (two of our "hard-core" requirements). So the next day we looked at it again, made an offer (and accepted a modest counter-proposal) and took it out for a drive.

Jim had driven heavy farm equipment when he was young, but this thing had

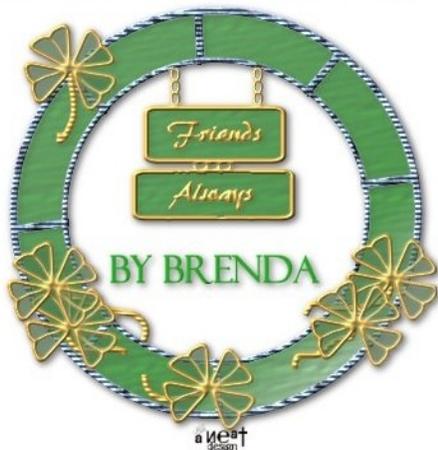
power! The freeway traffic was fortunately light, and the off-ramp he barreled down was empty (whew!), so all-in-all he did pretty darn good negotiating this 43' beast without having it get away from him. He came away with a definite respect for the Detroit engines and the performance of the coach at various speeds and in a variety of lane changes, turns and, as I mentioned, off (and on) ramps. We were Bluebird owners!

So, this was IT in this game of golf called Life. We're at Hole Number One, and we've got a Birdie! Not a bad way to begin life on the road, eh?! Just wait 'til you hear about Hole Two – when we drove the rig from Florida to Colorado!

(To be continued ...)

Sunshine & Mists: by Brenda Rodgers

SUNSHINE & MISTS



Maurice Deshazer recently spent four days in the hospital in California and reports that he is feeling much better. He is awaiting results of further tests.

Tommy Vance is doing well following recent surgery on his arm.

Dan Greer has returned home from the hospital following a recent heart procedure and is doing well.

We send our deepest sympathy to Martha and Charlie Vaughn on the recent loss of Martha's precious Mother.

It is good to report that Marge Perpich is recuperating well following an accident in December in Naples, Florida, when she was struck by a car while crossing the street. We send our best wishes for a rapid and complete recovery.

We extend sympathy to the family of Gene Wall, a resident of Marshallville, Georgia, who passed away on February 11 of pneumonia. Gene and his wife enjoyed many years in their Wander-

lodge. Many of you were his customers at Wall Tire Service and Wall Tire Distributors Inc. at many locations in Georgia and Alabama, headquartered in Warner Robins.

We look forward to seeing many of you as you attend the FMCA Convention at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia, March 14-17. Blossoming Peach and Yoshino Cherry trees will be awaiting your arrival! We wish you safe travels.

Sunshine@BlueBirdChapter.org



Happy Saint Patrick's Day: Courtesy History.com

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over a thousand years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in [Ireland](#) but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through [New York City](#) on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several [New York](#) Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants.

Each year, nearly three million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, [Chicago](#), Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades

involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants.

No Irish Need Apply

Up until the mid-19th century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class.



When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to a million poor and uneducated Irish Catholics

began pouring into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and funny accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country's cities took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

However, the Irish soon began to realize that their great numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew

of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.

Wearing of the Green Goes Global

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world. Last year, close to one million people took part in Ireland's [St. Patrick's Festival](#) in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions and fireworks shows.

The Chicago River

Chicago is famous for a somewhat peculiar annual event: dyeing the Chicago River green. The tradition started in 1962, when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a unique way to celebrate the holiday. That year, they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river—enough to keep it green for a week!

Today, in order to minimize environmental damage, only 40 pounds of dye are used, making the river green for only several hours. Although Chicago historians claim their city's idea for a river of green was original, some Savannah natives believe the idea originated in their town. They point out that, in 1961, Savannah mayor Tom Woolley had plans for a green river. Due to rough waters on March 17, the experiment failed, and Savannah never attempted to dye its river again.

Handy Links (In no particular order)

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

Photos of the Month: Submitted by Curt Sprenger



Morning Campfire at Quartzsite



Moon Over the Bird's Nest

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



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

Several coaches sold last month!!



2000 Wanderlodge LXI 43' 500 HP Detroit Diesel Series 60 engine. 15 kW autostart generator, one slide-out. Includes washer-dryer, new refrigerator, 37" LCD TV in living room and 20" LCD TV in center storage bay. Tires and Batteries only 3 years old. Coach has been detailed and serviced annually by Holland Motor Homes. We are the first and only owners. Contact Harry or Marge Perpich at 239-352-5246 or on our cell phone at 313-729-9109



1983 Wanderlodge FC35 Rear Bath It only has 130,000 miles on a strong engine. Has most of the standard equipment plus some additions or replacements including new tires, batteries, toilet, cover, tow bar, refrigerator (AC), front shocks, rear view camera system, and more. Engine and generator start instantly. Asking \$16,000 firm. Call for more information- Jerald and Molly Peterson at 918 810-3615 or 918 407-6742



Classifieds (Continued)

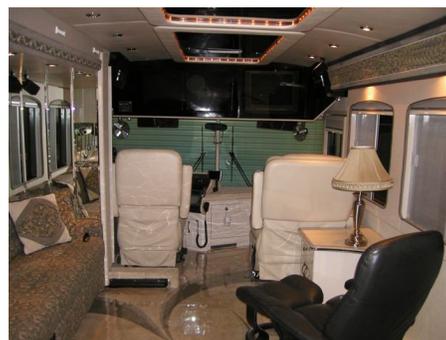
1978 Wanderlodge FC35 Rear Door- New Paint Job new upholstery, new carpet, new tires , new generator. Everything works in this coach and it is a solid as a rock..Asking \$21,900. Has new brakes, new batteries, new tires, new fantastic fans and a/c throughout the coach. 149,000 original mi. and coach has new hoses. Contact Jon Lechich at jipjob@yahoo.com



1986 Wanderlodge PT40 475 HP Detroit Diesel, 186,000 miles. Cruiseair air conditioning, new dinette upholstery, new flexsteel captains chairs (electric), new reefer freezer, new radiator, new alternator. Coach is in very good condition, no pets, no smoking. Asking \$39,000. Contact Terry Blaire at 760-310-5129.



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.



Classifieds (Continued)

1991 Wanderlodge WB 40 198,000 miles, Detroit Diesel 8V92,500 HP w/Bulk Oil Fill, Allison HT-755 Transmission, 15KW Power Tech Generator. Interior is light gray with laminate cabinets. Ceramic tile flooring in dining & bath rooms with light gray carpet elsewhere. 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.



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



Classifieds (Continued)

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)

1982 FC35 Bluebird Wanderlodge Rust free - always garaged. Entire interior and exterior modernized. All new upholstery and curtains. Oak laminate flooring. All table surfaces redone in real oak with solid oak trim. All electronics updated including generator controls. Many other upgrades. **Reduced to \$35,000 firm** Contact Bob Rosenberg at rincon1938@gmail.com or feel free to call me at 607-435-6402.



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@remotetechnet.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.m@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



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.](#)