

# ***Vintage Birds Chapter of FMCA***

## ***Vintage Bird Words***

***September, 2018***

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## ***Our President (is not old, He is Vintage) Report***



***Richard & Sue***

Dear Vintage Birds Members:

Just think, in one month, I leave for the Cape Cod Rally. That is only 4 short weeks away. **Alan** has a great rally planned for us and I am very excited.

Not signed up? Call the camp ground today and make your reservations. I plan to go via Harrisburg, Pa. “Chicken me” plans to avoid Washington and New York City and take the long way there.

Cape Cod starts the good times rolling (*actually you can start earlier at Ludington, but I have to wait*) and the Good times continue the next week in Williamsburg, Va. which is our annual meeting. I really like having our annual meeting in a different location every year, especially when the locals host the rally. We are exploring some great new locations for upcoming Rallies.

Then we will travel to the Family of Friends Rally in Sevierville, Tn. and more good times. Then onward to Pine Mountain for the annual WOG rally. Our very own **Shane** will be roasting the pork on his personal smoker and a group of us will be cutting up beside him.

Our policy of allowing guests to attend our rallies is a great policy. Five new members signed up at **Alan's** rally in Detroit. So if you have a non-member Bluebird friend, invite them to come to our next Vintage Birds Rally.

We have lost a few members and failed to sign up some other potential members due to their not being FMCA members. FMCA is a good RV club. Some Bluebird owners are not FMCA members, but would like to join Vintage Birds. Since we are a Chapter of FMCA, our members are required to be FMCA members. What is the solution?

Think about this and let's talk when we see each other.

We are 228 members strong and growing.

Come ONE! Come ALL! Let's have some fun in our magnificent Blue Bird machines. It begins or continues in September.

Your servant,  
See you in Cape Cod and Williamsburg!

Richard Ramsey

***As a Great American Said  
“We Are All Orphan Birds Of A Feather,  
So Let's Flock Together.”***

### ***Important Notice***

***This year Vintage Birds will be attempting to include all members in the Annual Meeting proceedings. In a separate email in the near future, all members will receive an Annual Meeting package with items to be addressed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.***

***We hope this will allow all members to participate in the Annual Meeting proceedings, even though they cannot be present at the Annual Meeting. Also, we hope this procedure will allow the Chapter more flexibility on the timing of our Annual Meetings.***



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September 6,7,8,9

Vintage Birds members **Dave and Barb Ross** have graciously said they would take over being the contact for the ***"End of Summer Rally at Ludington, Michigan"*** ***September 6-9***

due to a problem with **Brian and Renee Nyhof's** coach.

***Thanks for continuing this fun rally!***

*September 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline*  
**Vintage Birds Chapter Rally**

*Alan Darson's Backyard Rally*

*You're Gonna Fall in Love with  
Old Cape Cod*

*September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

*Sunday*

*Arrive at your campsite then let's go to the Wellfleet Drive-In for the evening. When is the last time you did that? This is one of the last Drive-Ins in existence in New England. Heck, at our ages we might even watch the movies this time.*

*Monday*

*Private tour of Wellfleet, MA and parts of the Cape Cod National Seashore by Chet Lay. Chet is a WWII naval history buff.*

*Tuesday*

*Nantucket; The Grey Lady. We will take an early morning ferry to the island. Nantucket has a great cobblestone downtown with loads of shops, galleries and restaurants plus the internationally acclaimed Whaling Museum.*

*We will then sail on an exact replica of an 1812 Man of War, the 122' square topsail schooner the Lynx. This is a hands on sailing experience so get ready to hoist up the sails, see how the mainsail sets. This is an OPTIONAL trip but it promises to be an exciting adventure on a majestic sailing vessel.*

See: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LNWdRGAAjfM&t=421s>

*September 24th at 1 to 4 pm. Lynx will pick you up at the town Dock 34 Washington St. Bring food and drinks. Dress for summer & fall.*

*Tickets are \$65.00 each. For tickets go to [www.tallshiplynx.org](http://www.tallshiplynx.org). Let them know you are part of the Vintage Birds group.*

## **Wednesday**

*Let's go to Provincetown. It's a self guided tour but you'll find a days worth of things to do. Great art studios and galleries, restaurants, entertainment, beaches, Art's Dune Rides or even a Whale Watch, and of course the Cape Cod National Seashore if you like. After a long day in Provincetown we will have a clam bake on the beach right next to the Highland Light House about a half mile away from our campground.*

## **Thursday**

*Trip to Heritage Plantation and Museum. The setting is on the private Cape Cod estate of the drug magnate Eli Lilly. The magnificent gardens are the largest in southern New England with beautiful walks and a free trolley available, a historic carousel, and this year's special event is a display of 20 historic Indianapolis 500 racers. See: [www.heritagemuseumandgardens.org](http://www.heritagemuseumandgardens.org)*

## **Friday**

*OK. A free day to rest or explore on your own after a wonderful week of sightseeing on Cape Cod, or go to Hyannis Port, Martha's Vineyard, Woods Hole Oceanographic, Plymouth, Boston, so many places, so little time.*

## **Saturday**

*Off to Williamsburg for the Vintage Birds Chapter Rally in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia October 1-6, 2018*

*see: [www.vintagebirds.com](http://www.vintagebirds.com) for more details*

We have reserved 30 spaces. Two campgrounds are involved within a couple of hundred yards from each other walking distance or about one mile apart if driving. Perhaps a little inconvenient but I don't know anywhere else on the Cape where we could park 30+ Blue Bird coaches all near one another. They are the North Truro campground and Horton's campground. North Truro Campground Sites are 30 Amp full hookup. (Google Earth them to see how close they are).



The campground manager will make site assignments based upon your coach's length. The sites are sand/gravel with a mixed bag of some with 50 amp, some with 30 amp only, some with and without sewer hookup. As far as the 50 or 30 amp electricity, this is late September so you won't need all three air conditioners running all day long. It's usually becoming cool, and we will be lucky if the Aqua Hots aren't coming on during the night. For those without a sewer connection, the campground will provide you with free pump out service. Sites will be provided on a first come basis @ \$50.00/day for a 50 amp site and \$40.00/day for a 30 amp site.

Our contact's name is James. Inform him that you are part of the Cape Cod Vintage Birds group. Remember to tell him the length of your coach so he can assign a proper spot.

46 Highland Road, North Truro, MA 02652 Phone: 508-487-1847

[www.abccamping.com](http://www.abccamping.com) Click on "Cape Cod".

**Rally Host** Alan Darson [alan.darson@gmail.com](mailto:alan.darson@gmail.com)

The rally fee is \$145 per person. *(I know it's a lot but things are so dang expensive in the Northeast.)* This covers the clambake on the beach, one other dinner, donuts and coffee in the morning and tent rental in case of inclement weather.

Please Complete The Information Below And Send It **BY SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

With Your Rally Fee To: Alan Darson 5 Bismark Way, Dennis, MA. 02638

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail:(**very important**) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

VB # \_\_\_\_\_ Leave Blank if not a member, Guest of Richard Ramsey

FMCA # \_\_\_\_\_ Leave Blank if not a member, Guest of Richard Ramsey

**Make Checks payable to Alan Darson**

**Enclosed Rally fee:**

\$290.00 for two \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$145.00 for one \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_



## ***Detroit, Michigan Rally with Vintage Birds***

***by Dawn Hollis***

We rolled in to Wayne County Fairgrounds Campground on Sunday, July 15 and after setting up in the sweltering heat, we walked down our road in the campground to see who was here. About half the coaches were new to us and we were excited about meeting the folks we didn't know yet.

The campground gave us a handout asking us to limit our electric use because Michigan was experiencing a heat wave and the increased use of air conditioning was blowing breakers at the campground. They encouraged us to use our generators to supplement their electricity. At one point, the campground got quiet. The electricity was out. People poured out of their coaches, consulting with each other in small groups near their site. "Is your electricity off?" was the common question. One gentleman quietly let a few people know that he had hooked up to the 30 amp and his electricity was working. That caused the group to scatter as several men rearranged their electricity arrangements for the afternoon.

The men stayed busy troubleshooting their electric hookups all afternoon until our evening meeting and greet at the Abbott building, which is a beautiful, almost-round building with windows on the upper half of the cement block walls. The center of the room was a round brick fireplace that was covered for the summer.

We were given handouts with detailed driving instructions and schedules of the activities and meals that were planned. Alan gave us some pointers and went over the handouts with us. We enjoyed the slightly cooler evening walking around, meeting new people and catching up with those we knew. On Monday, July 16, we car-pooled to Ford's Museum. For about \$50 per person, we had 2 days to park and explore the museum, Greenfield Village



and a tour of the Ford F-150 plant. We walked for what seemed like miles, trying to see everything we could. The first thing we saw were the armored and very different Presidential vehicles which included the car that Kennedy was shot in. It had been re-done for the next president, so there was no evidence of President Kennedy's tragic death. We saw the chair Lincoln was sitting in at the Ford theater when he was assassinated. It's in bad shape, but the blood stain on the chair makes a distant historical event very real and terrible. We saw the bus where Rosa Parks took her quiet stand against racism. My favorite was the only remaining prototype in the world of the Dymaxion house. It's a round aluminum house with automated closets and movable walls. So cool! I want one! We were back in time for dinner. The caterer, Dave, made the most delicious chicken and ribs, pasta salad and green beans and we spent time visiting with everyone afterward.



*Alan Darson addressing the group on the first night of the rally*



*Guests enjoying our first night's dinner*

Tuesday, July 17 began with a hearty catered breakfast and then we were off for Greenfield village and the Ford F-150 plant tour. We began our second day at the Ford campus with a free bus ride from the Ford museum to the plant. I had never seen a plant, so watching from high above the production line, the operation of making a truck was fascinating. The workers had no downtime at all. They had strict schedules of breaks and lunch.

When we returned, we walked through Greenfield village, where Henry Ford bought and dismantled many structures from across the country and the world that he felt were significant historically. We were impressed that there were so many authentic buildings and artifacts in Greenfield Village and Ford museum.

We saw Thomas Edison's house and workshop, Robert Frost's home and my favorite, the Logan county courthouse, where Abraham Lincoln practiced law in Illinois. It's my favorite because I'm from an adjoining county in Illinois. The town that sold it to Ford is still pretty sore that they basically gave away an authentic Abe Lincoln historical site.



*From left- Kelly Fedeli, Alan & Debi Darson, Shane Fedeli, Ann & Bill Tarrier*

That night was a very special event...the First Annual Men's Potluck! We had a big spread with leftovers from our catered supper the night before and many other things the men brought. The ladies felt it was a huge success.

Our next day's tour destination, Detroit Diesel, provided a lavish breakfast and lunch buffet along with an all day, guided tour on trams. This plant made engines that many Blue Bird motor homes have. Our main tour guide, Pam, had been at the company since she was 16 years old. She was the first woman employee and was still working after more than 40 years with the company.

After another superb catered supper at the campground, Pam, our tour guide, came out on her own time and looked at some Detroit Diesel engines in various Blue Birds. She, and most everyone watching, got emotional as she reminisced about the engines. She likely had a part in the making of some of the engines. She signed several engines and thanked the owners for taking such good care of "her" engines after listening to the throaty roars of the powerful diesels as their owners fired them up.





*Machine operator installing crankshaft  
& bearings at the Detroit Diesel Factory*



*Alan Darson, Paul Cambron, Randy Shrimplin & Pam Inspecting cylinder  
liners and machining*

After 3 very full and fun days of activities, Thursday, July 19 was all about relaxation. Another catered campground breakfast, then to Belle Isle for a relaxing morning watching boats on the river in lovely weather. Campers further relaxed with a Detroit river boat cruise. We were on our own for

dinner and most chose to partake of Detroit's famous Greektown restaurants before heading back to our vintage Blue Birds at the campground.

Friday, July 20, we slept in and all met at the General Motors Heritage Museum in Sterling Heights for another incredible tour of concept and limited edition cars, trucks, and other vehicles. Alan went above and beyond in getting us entrance to this museum, as it's essentially a special events venue for GM bigwigs. We returned for our final catered dinner which was delectable, as always. Door prizes were given away, final bits of Detroit facts were given and goodbyes were said to those who had to leave the next day.



*Dawn & Dave Hollis  
at the GM Heritage Museum*



*Charlie & Ingrid Bateman enjoying  
Alan's famous Boston Coolers*



*Randy Shrimplin & Alan Darson  
Preparing Boston Coolers*



**The rally was attended by the following Vintage Birds  
chapter members and guests of the chapter**

*Charlie & Ingrid Bateman  
Carl & Sheila Bobruk  
Alan & Debi Darson  
Carl & Judy Breiner  
Richard & Mary Bryon  
Paul & Debra Cambron  
Dawn & Dave Hollis  
Gregg & Patty Kizer  
Al & Erica Perna  
Randy & Sonya Shrimplin  
Dave & Tina Styf  
Dick & Patty Warren  
Rowland & Joanne Rose  
David & Barb Ross  
Bill & Ann Tarrier  
Gardner & Cathy Yeaw  
Charlie & Carol Mitchell  
Shane & Kelly Fedeli  
Steve & Maria Weisblatt*

My final thought about this Detroit, Michigan rally:

**Vintage Birds ROCKS!!!**

-Submitted by Dawn Hollis, editor of **Blue Bird Tails** - <http://bluebirdtails.com/>





## ***Rallies Make our BlueBird Communities Come Alive***

**2018**

***Ludington, Michigan September 6-9  
Cape Cod, Massachusetts September 23-29  
Williamsburg, Virginia October 1-6  
Sevierville, Tennessee October 10-13  
Pine Mountain, Georgia October 17-21  
White Tanks, Arizona November 9-12***

**2019**

***Quartzsite, Arizona January 12-27  
Lake Havasu City, Arizona February 11-18  
Vidalia, Louisiana February 23-March 3  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina April 10-14  
Muscoda, Wisconsin May 17-19  
Shipshewana, Indiana June 5-9  
Hood River, Oregon July 2-8  
Boothbay, Maine July 28-August 4  
Red River, New Mexico October, 2019***





## **Flock Together**

**Planning to attend an FMCA Rally, why not find other Birds attending and flock together! Email your name and the rally you plan to attend to:**  
***[vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net](mailto:vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net)***

**And we will forward your information to other Birds attending. From there the attending Birds can decide if they want to park together or just meet up during the Rally. Find the FMCA Rally Information at:**

***<http://vintagebirds.com>***

***All Bluebird Rallies and Rally Highlights-Flock Together***

***Support our Blue Bird Communities  
All Bluebird Rallies and Rally Highlights***

***<http://vintagebirds.com>***

***Arizona Hot Birds***

***<https://azhotbirds.shutterfly.com/>***

***Bayou Blue Birds***

***[vettehead45@yahoo.com](mailto:vettehead45@yahoo.com)***

***Birds of a Feather* Password "flocktogether"**

***<https://birdsofafeather1.shutterfly.com/>***

***Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA***

***<http://bluebirdchapter.org/>***

***Lonestar Birds* Password "bluebird"**

***<https://lonestarbids.shutterfly.com/>***

***Vintage Birds***

***<http://www.vintagebirds.com/index.html>***

***Wanderlodge Gurus***

***<http://www.wanderlodgegurus.com/>***

***Wanderlodge Owners Group***

***<https://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/>***

**Face Book Groups:** bluebird wanderlodge; BlueBird Wanderlodge; Blue Bird Wanderlodge, Buy, Sell or Trade; Bluebird Wanderlodge Owners; Bluebird Wanderlodge Renovations; Lady Bird bluebird Wanderlodge Group; Wanderlodge FC Owners; Wanderlodge Owners Group; wanderlodge tech talk. **RVillage Groups:** Blue Bird Wanderers; Blue Bird Owner's Group (BOG)

*If you know of another Blue Bird community we missed or if you want to start a new community let us know at [vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net](mailto:vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net) and we will include you.*

*Photos From Good Times in the Past!*





## ***Member Notes***

***(or What Have You Been Upta?)***

*Send us stories and pictures of trips, locations, events*

Hi Everyone!

We have been full timing this year seeing our great county and meeting lots of Bluebirder. We are currently headed south by rally way of Cape Cod, Williamsburg, Sevierville and Pine Mountain on our way to Quartzsite and Love Birds next year.

However, we need a place to safely park our 1981 FC-33 Bird from the week before Thanksgiving till December 1<sup>st</sup>, so we can fly home to Chicago for the holiday. Preferably where we don't have a chance for freezing and some power to keep the batteries up.

Then I need a place to work on the coach for awhile, hopefully for less than the month of December (*we are GONNA make it to Quartzsite this year!*). I have a to-do list as long as my arm for this winter. Reorganizing the batteries the biggest single project, but a bunch more, mostly odds and ends.

To accomplish this, I would love a concrete pad (*but a sheet of plywood on gravel to slide on will work*) and the ability to jack up the coach. The work I need to do is mostly running cables and airlines. Just easier to crawl on concrete than gravel. Also, I need to be close to places where I can buy stuff like cable, connectors, etc. (of course, Amazon helps with that, these days). We do need to live in the bus as I am working on it, so water, sewer and power would be a big plus.

So can anyone recommend a RV park or storage spot or mechanic shop with a bit of extra space that would allow work to be done in

addition to storage? Near another Bluebirder and willing occasional mechanical assistant and their tool collection would be a huge bonus...I pay for such services in Beer for sure.

Dan & Liz Harris

[dharris@strategicgeek.com](mailto:dharris@strategicgeek.com)

773.562.8894

*Editor's Note*



*Dan and Liz Harris  
of Morel Mushroom Fest Fame*

***Got an idea or picture for the newsletter, let us know  
at [vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net](mailto:vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net)***

***Got a favorite Campground, let us know why and  
send pictures to [vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net](mailto:vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net)***

## ***Coaches for Sale as of June 15, 2018***

***A Free Service Supporting All Blue Bird Communities***

<b>2000 Wanderlodge LXI 43'</b>	Asking \$115,000
<b>1984 Wanderlodge FC35SB</b>	<b><i>Reduced to \$29,500</i></b>
<b>1966 Wanderlodge FC31SB</b>	Asking \$10,000
<b>1981 Wanderlodge FC35</b>	<b><i>Reduced to 18,500 OBO!!</i></b>
<b>1982 Wanderlodge FC35</b>	Asking \$29,500
<b>1984 Wanderlodge FC35 RB</b>	Asking \$12,000

*See More Details and Pictures of These Coaches at*

**<http://www.vintagebirds.com/index.html>**

*Check out*

***The Vintage Birds Web Site for***

***Listing your Vintage Bird***

***Highlights of Blue Bird Wanderlodge Model Changes***

***Including list of all models for each year***

***Pictures and Specifications For All Years***

***Vintage Wanderlodge Buyer's Check List***

***Terms & Abbreviations for Blue Bird Motor Homes***

**You might also want to check out these great sources of  
Wanderlodge coaches...**

**[Face Book Group--Blue Bird Wanderlodge, Buy, Sell or Trade](#)**

**<https://www.birdconnection.com/>**

**<https://www.buybyebluebird.com/>**

**<http://wanderlodgetrader.com/>**

## Support All Blue Bird Communities - Join Vintage Birds

### APPLICATION FOR VINTAGE BIRDS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

In December 1984, the Vintage Birds Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association, Inc. (FMCA) was chartered for owners of Blue Bird Wanderlodge coaches. To be eligible for membership, you must first be a member in good standing of FMCA. Then you must own or previously owned a Blue Bird Wanderlodge or BMC Coach.

The purpose of the chapter is to promote fellowship among owners, to conduct interesting and affordable rallies, and to provide a forum for exchange of ideas regarding maintenance and modification of our coaches. The chapter also maintains a web site for Vintage Bird information and listing coaches for sale. The chapter publishes a newsletter providing members with social, technical and rally information.

The initial fee is \$30. This fee covers name badges and your first year's dues of \$15. Subsequent year dues are \$15, or you can take advantage of our promotional rate of \$40 for 3 years or \$60 for 5 years!

New Member or Returning Member Requesting Badges	\$15	_____
Dues for One Year	\$15	_____
Dues for Two Years	\$30	_____
Dues for Three Years	\$40	_____
Dues for Four Years	\$55	_____
Dues for Five Years	\$60	_____
Total Payment		_____

**Please complete form below and send your check payable to Vintage Birds to:**

Shane Fedeli, 311 Robin Road, Hershey, PA 17033

Your first and last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner/Spouse first & last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First names on badges, You \_\_\_\_\_ Partner/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach model and year: \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA# \_\_\_\_\_

I am a paid up member of FMCA and wish to become a member of the Vintage Birds Chapter.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_