



Volume 28 Issue 2

Western Area FMCA

Sandy King - Editor

Spring 2014

President's Message



Greetings to all of the Western Area members. I hope everyone is ready for summertime travels. It's too bad fuel prices have risen again, but RV travel still beats staying in hotels/motels.

Jan and I attended the FMCA's 89th Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase last month at Perry, GA. That's a very nice facility with

many buildings and seminar rooms. It even has a lagoon that some times is used for paddle boat races. Attendance was about 2500 family coaches with total about 3000 when counting display and vendor coaches. I'm hoping we can top that at Redmond, OR. Let's try for a great big turn-out from WMHA. I know there will be good support from the NW and Rocky Mountain Areas. While at Perry the FMCA Executive Board communicated via text messages. This was an idea from National Senior Vice President Jon Walker. We were all tied together by Group Me. It was great because no radios were needed. The eastern Oregon area can be quite warm in August. Be sure your air conditioner is in working order.

The WMHA Executive Board decided to donate their portion of the 50/50 drawing also to the Wounded Warriors. That made a tidy sum, for the second year, going to a worthwhile cause.

The FMCA Executive Board continues to seek additional member benefits. I hope you all read about the insurance benefit in Jerry Yeatts column wherein four major brokers, acting together, nation wide, will try to provide the best choices, at reduced costs, for our members. They began to issue quotes on April first.

Another benefit planned to come before the Governing Board at Redmond concerns FMCAssist. Two different pro-

posals attempting to provide Emergency Medical Evacuation as a free benefit are slated for review and possible approval. Let's have all of our National Directors in attendance and prepared to cast their vote.

A sign that FMCA and the motorhome industry is beginning to recover is a recent increase in FMCA commercial members as well as increases in motorhome sales. However, while recruiting many new members each year, FMCA is still losing too many members who are not renewing their dues. If you are aware of anyone in this category please try to convince them to stay.

As you know, we have many volunteers from other areas that assist us in our WMHA Indio rally each year. The least we can do is to return the favor. It isn't necessary, but it would be nice, that you volunteer, but at least attend their rallies.

Once again I have delivered pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, CA. Only had 15 lbs this time, but that's a lot of tabs. Save them and give them to me anytime. Jan and I look forward to seeing some of you soon at a chapter rally and also at Redmond

Rick & Jan

Robert "Rick" Ricordati, WMHA President



WMHA Senior Vice President's Views



We are now in the process of electing the Western Area Officers for a two year term. The ballots were mailed April 3rd to be returned by May 3rd. Each chapter President & National Director gets 1 vote for each candidate of their choice except the President, only the National director from each

chapter votes for the National VP / Area President. I am a candidate for Western Area National VP / Western Area President and I am asking for your support by voting. Ballot tabulation will take place May 13th so we should know the results soon after that date.

We are planning our Executive Board Meeting for June 10th - 11th where we make our plans for the Indio Rally and develop our 2014 - 2015 budget to present to the Governing Board in Sept. The Sept. Governing Board Meeting / Indio planning meeting will again be in Hanford on Sept. 29th. Please mark your calendar for these dates.

FMCA'S 90th FAMILY REUNION & MOTORHOME SHOWCASE will be at Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, Redmond, Oregon August 13th - 16th. I hope you are planning to attend. We are in need of volunteers to help with the Youth Program at Redmond, if you can just give a little time please

call or email Maureen Mullarkey mmullarkey@fmca.com & let her know when you would be available to help.

As most of you are aware FMCA'S 91st Family Reunion & Motor Showcase will be held at Pomona Fairplex March 26th - 29th, 2015. The Western Area will be the Host Area, we are expected to furnish most of the volunteers which will be approx. 1,000 volunteers. Alice Bernard will be the volunteer coordinator for Pomona. Please let her know that you want to volunteer so she can start making up her list of who will be available. I have always got a lot of satisfaction out of volunteering and I hope you do also.

Safe Travels,

Dick Gibbs WMHA SENIOR VP

Northern Area Vice President

In March Margie and I attended the California Capital Bay Area Liners for our first outing of the year. Our second outing will be with the Southwest Country Coachers from the 23rd to the 27th of April. We will be presenting them with their 10 year anniversary certificate, we will be presenting it on behalf of Lon Cross. In June we will travel to Santa Maria where we will work on a 2015 budget for Indio Calif. to be presented to the governing board September 29th. As most of you are aware FMCA 91st family reunion will be in Pomona California at the Fairplex 26th - 29th 2015. The Western Area will be the host Area. I was told that we need about 1000 volunteers, please let Alice Bernard know so that she can take care of that part of it.

If you haven't already voted for me please vote for me, I would like to finish out my last 2 years. P S and if there was anything that went wrong it was the other guys. [smile]

Happy Trails

Lee Clemons,
Regional Vice President
Northern Area, WMHA
F.M.C.A.
lee2675@msn.com

Central Area Vice President

Ah, spring has arrived and time for the green hillsides and nature's display of wild flowers. As we drove around here a few days ago we saw that it was not to be. Despite the rains of March it was not enough and so our hill sides are not very green for this time of year and the land is void of flowers. This time of year does bring a little "breather" time for the WMHA officers. The 2014 Indio rally is behind us so we get a few months to relax before starting up the process again this June when we start preliminary Indio planning and set a

proposed budget into play. Of course, we are not completely off the clock as there are still e-mails and phone calls going on passing around ideas and addressing issues that always come up plus some preliminary planning for the upcoming June meeting agenda.

Debbie and I attended a rally over in Buellton at the Flying Flags RV Resort. It has been many years since we have vis-

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ited this park and we noticed quite a few improvements. The old grass pull through spaces are now nice level gravel spaces that are clearly defined. A unique touch there now is they have a fleet of restored Airstream trailers all set up for anyone who wants to experience the RV life style. The particular weekend we were there was also the annual Buellton Wine & Chili festival held at the RV park. For those of you not familiar with the park, they have a large grass area for tent or dry camping. For this weekend the area was used for the festival and parking. There were lots of wineries and a few breweries represented along with food vendors and live music. It was quite an event especially considering it was only a one day affair. I should note that the logistics of the event was orchestrated quite well with minimum impact on the park and the guests/residents.

As noted in Rick's message there are some important is-

sues to vote on this summer up in Redmond so be sure your chapter is represented. I'm glad to see we are on track to once again have a medical assist benefit as part of FMCA membership. This in the past was one of the best recruiting tools for signing up or retaining members in FMCA.

Finally, as a reminder I am a candidate for re-election to the Central Area Vice President. I am seeking your support and it will be my honor and privilege to continue to serve you and the Association.

Enjoy your summer and safe travels to all.

Bob Golk

Looking for Indio photos?

FlickR Photo Tutorial

There are several ways to get into FlickR to see many RV photos.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/>
or

<http://www.wafmca.com/> (look for link to photos)

Once in FlickR Photostream, click on Sets, (Do Not use Photostream)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/sets/>
then click on the Set you wish to see. (Sample)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/sets/72157625715483763/>

Double Click on the photo you want to see or download:

(Sample)<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/5362080447/in/set-72157625715483763/>

Right Click on the photo—Click on All Sizes, and decide the size you want.

(Sample)<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/5362080447/sizes/o/in/set-72157625715483763/>

Then click on Download the Original Size

I would then click Save As, and give it a name and location to Download. (I put

them in a Folder on my Desktop called "Photos" and make a new SubFolder called (?) "Indio")

Once Downloaded, you can choose to either; keep it, e-mail it, print it, or save on CD to have printed somewhere else.

For questions contact:

John Stocksdale wb6abw@hotmail.com



CLEO LEON HAMILTON

Cleo Hamilton, 94, of Riverside, CA, passed away on January 15, 2014, peacefully at his home. The memorial service was held on January 31, 2014 at The National Cemetery in Riverside.

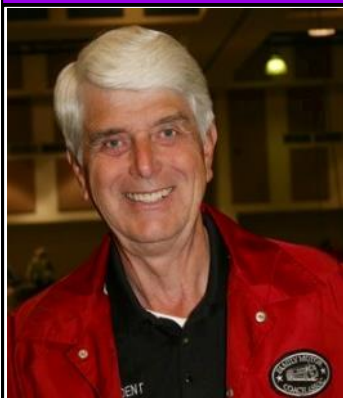
Cleo was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on December 15, 1919. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II... His first wife Ruth Snowden passed away during their marriage in 1976. Cleo was married to Josephine Fralowicz Hamilton on March 15, 1979, until her death in 1996; Cleo had no biological children of his own but treated his step children and grandchildren with love and caring as if they were his own.

Cleo worked as an Air Traffic Controller for the Federal Aviation Agency from 1950 until he retired on December 20, 1974. He enjoyed being active in several RV groups. He had many beloved neighbors and friends that will miss him.

Cleo is survived by his step daughters Fran Couch from Upland, CA, and Annette Bennett from Grass Valley, CA and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren

Cleo was an active member of the California Chapter for many years. He is best known as "Mr. Coffee" for his early morning activities of serving coffee and pastries. He listened carefully and offered sound advice to those who sought it. He offered a level of quiet leadership that benefited the Chapter and FMCA.. He was one of the longest serving Captains at the WMHA Indio Rally recently in charge of Bingo, Day passes and the Information Desk.

Southern Area Vice President



Greetings to all...

Winter is once again behind us and SPRING is knocking at the door! And with warmer months approaching many of us are getting our travel plans together. Please be very meticulous when doing your safety checks and tire pressure readings. When doing my checks last month I discovered that I needed to replaced all eight of my RV tires as they there seven years old. I used

the FMCA Michelin tire program and saved almost \$1,900.

Chapters in the Southern Area celebrating recent Anniversaries were: Discovery Club of California (15 years) with certificate presented; Outdoor Resorts Palm Springs (20 years) certificate to be presented Nov, 2014; Cruisin' Condos (20 years) certificate presented; Southwest Country Coachers (10 years). This Chapter is having their rally in the North and Lee Clemons is presenting the certificate on April 23rd. Christine & I had a wonderful time at each Chapter rally and appreciated the chance to make new friends.

Charlie Adcock announced that FMCA has launched a new RV insurance program. It's a group of several RV insurance specialists that will offer multiple insurance options to FMCA members' motorhomes and personal vehicles.

Charlie has also tasked the Risk Management Committee (Ned Boston, Chairman) to work with Seven Corners, our FMCAssist partner, to explore re-establishing the medical evacuation plan as a free benefit with our membership

dues. Two proposals have been identified and will probably come before the Governing Board for vote at Redmond. The Committee is considering all options, and we are told to look for more information soon.

Rally Dates for your Calendar:

Rocky Mountain Area "Ramble" Farmington, NM. April 29 – May 4, 2014

FMCA 90th Convention Redmond, OR. August 13 - 16, 2014

WMHA Rally "Out of this World". Indio, CA. January 7 – 11, 2015

FMCA 91st Convention Pomona, CA. March 26 – 29, 2015

I am a candidate for Western Area Senior Vice President. I am seeking your support and if elected it would be my honor and privilege to serve you and the Association. Thank you.

Please remember, if there is anything I can assist you or your Chapter with please contact me. Hope to see you all at Redmond...

friendships we made. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Happy Traveling,

Lon Cross

Southern Area VP
loncross1225@att.net
 Cell: 661-886-5077

MEMBERSHIP/CHAPTER FAIR

It has been fairly quiet for membership this past few months – have received requests from the National office that have been forwarded on to the chapters that the requests were for. I appreciate the quick response by the contact people in the chapters to these requests. I also realize that sometimes the contact person receives these from the National office as well as myself.

I am still getting the lists of new members to FMCA that are in the Western Area and if they have an e-mail address I have been sending them a welcome letter. The response to these e-mails has not been great

but if we can get at least 6 or so members into Chapters this is worth the effort. The last few months there have been about 90 new members in FMCA in the Western Area per month.

I know it is early but you should start to plan on having a table at the chapter fair in Indio next January. We will be making a few changes that should make the transition from the First timers to the chapter fair go a little smoother in 2015. Again thanks to all the chapters who participated in chapter fair in 2014 and hope you signed up a member or

two.

Remember our Western Area officers and myself are here to help your chapter just contact any of them or myself. Please keep me advised about your contact person for your chapter information so that I can forward any inquiries that I receive to the person in a timely manner.

Alice Bernard



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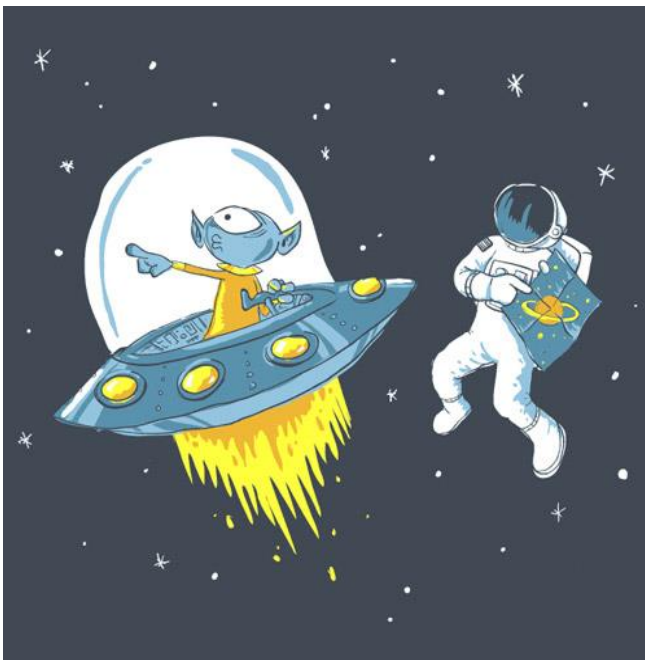


Need a Western Area Badge?

Anyone who is interested in Western Motor Home Association badge please contact Alice Bernard by phone: 530-934-7346, cell 530-519-7346 or e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com.

The price of the badges has increased since the last order – they are now \$11.00 for the badge (which includes your name and F number). A hanger with your city and state would be an additional \$2.75. Badges are usually ordered after the Western Area Governing Board meeting in Hanford in the fall or after the Rally in Indio in January.

2015 Indio Theme “Out of this World”



**So join Western
Motor Home
Association in
exploring the
fun possibilities!**

NEW BENEFITS

In the April issue of Motor Coaching magazine Charlie Adcock will announce two new benefits: FMCA RV INSURANCE (Four large brokers nationwide working together for FMCA members. Each request for quote will generate a token amount to FMCA and they will shop for each members best deal). Two FMCAssist proposals which will be presented to the Governing Board at Redmond offering FMCAssist as a free member benefit. Be sure to look for the details in Charlie's article. Also, notify your National Directors to arrive at Redmond with an opinion ready to vote. This is a way to regain our best recruiting tool.

The weather at Perry was cold and rainy for the most part. The facility is very large and nice. Family attendance was 2500+ plus new coaches etc. reached 3000. We should all encourage our members to attend Redmond to try and beat Perry's attendance. To all who go, Redmond is east of the Cascade Mountains where it tends to be hot and dry. Make sure your air conditioners are working. It's a beautiful area with lots to see.

All of the folks at Perry, on-site and off, were very nice, friendly, and polite. However, I never heard y'all so much in my whole life. I always thought YOU ALL was two words. Stay well, drive safely, we'll see some of you soon. Rick

Robert “Rick” Ricordati, WMHA President

VOLUNTEERING IN POMONA IN MARCH 2015 – FMCA CONVENTION

It's not too early to start planning on attending the FMCA convention in March in Pomona and also to think about volunteering – we will need quiet a number of volunteers so **please, please** help us out by considering to volunteer. We will be letting you know later just what jobs we will need help with (probably most every place we have volunteers). As a chapter you may want to volunteer to work together, make it a fun time.

Also while on the subject of volunteering we will probably need some volunteers in Indio to help with Parking and Security

Alice Bernard

**Western Motor
Home
Association
Chapters**

Alpine Coach NorCal
Alpine SoCal
The Ambassadors
Apollo Amigos
Beat the Odds
The Big E
California
California Capitals &
Bay Area Liners
California Coaches for Christ
California Coasters
California FMCA HMC
California Heartland
California Pacers
California Roamers
California Southwinders
Colorado River Ramblers
Crafty Crafters
Cruisin' Condos
Delta Sierra Coachers Club
Discovery Club Of California
The Elitists
Frustrated Maestros
GMC Forty Niners
GMC Pacific Cruisers
Gold Diggers
Gold Dust Travelers
Golden Gate
Golden Spike
Golden State Trackers
HMC Club
Komfort Kruisers
Midweek Wanderers
Monaco Nor' Cal
Monaco Romers
NorCalRex
Northern California FMCA Elk
Outdoor Resorts Palm Springs
Overland Trailblazers West
REXasaurus'
Rockwood West
Safari R Us
Sierra Hi Rollers
Sierra Ramblers
Southern California FMCA Elk
Southwest Country Coachers
Southwest Roamin' Catholics
Southwestern Bus Nuts
Thousand Trails West
Western Bus Nuts
Western Executives
Western GM Coach

Western Motor Home Association, Inc.

Executive Board 2012-2013

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Deadline for next Byway's July 21, 2014