



Volume 35 Issue 2

Western Area FMCA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Spring 2021

President's Message



I hope everyone is finally getting out to enjoy their RV and socializing with fellow RV'ers. Winter is behind us and indications are the Covid pandemic is on a downward slope.

Reports back from the convention in Perry, Georgia indicates a successful convention. Everyone had a good time and were glad to finally get out to enjoy an event. Indications for

the upcoming 103rd International Convention up in Gillette, Wyoming are even better. Registrations for the event are coming in at a record pace, far exceeding the pace of convention registrations of the last 3 years. I hope to see a lot of people from the Western Area in attendance, as we will be there. Elections for FMCA National Officers will take place in Gillette, so it is important that your chapter is represented. If no one from your chapter plans to be in attendance, be sure to check into getting a temporary delegate to represent your chapter. See Page 4 for the list of National Officer Candidates.

Debbie and I finally got to take our motorhome out. It has been over 5 months since our last outing due to me having my hip replacement surgery. We were invited to attend the So Cal Elks rally down in Vista. They were a great bunch of people who made us feel very welcome. We saw some old friends and made lots of new friends. Debbie and I were even the winners of the "Ladder Golf" tournament which surprised me, as normally I do not do very well at this game. Maybe my new hip changed the accuracy of my golf ball tossing.

I want to briefly touch on a subject that is dear to all chapters and that is the problem of getting people to

step up and be chapter officers. This subject always comes up in Hanford at our chapter break-out sessions. There is no simple answer, so I would offer a challenge for everyone to please step up and take on a position. It is not that hard. You will not fail as there is plenty of guidance and support from former officers as well as your WMHA officers. I myself find being an officer extremely rewarding. I would like to mis-quote JFK and state, "Ask not what your chapter can do for you, ask what you can do for your chapter."

Periodically, I get calls asking if we are going to have our rally in Indio in 2022. Currently we are pressing on as if we are having the rally. As promised a while back, I said I would show you the program artwork for the "In the Land of Oz" rally theme. See page 7 for the artwork.

Hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying the warmer weather. Safe travels and see you all soon.

Bob Golk, F316752
Western Area National VP of FMCA

Special Limited-Time Offer Extended
Through 11:59 p.m. EDT, July 6, 2021

Renew your FMCA membership for only \$50.

Simply use **ONEYEAR** at checkout to lock in this low rate. Want to take advantage of multiple years? Save \$45 on two years with the code **TWOYEAR** or \$55 on three years with the code **THREEYEAR**.

Don't miss out on this great discount join.fmca.com/renew50/

But hurry, this is a limited-time offer.

Senior Vice President's Message



What do we do at a rally?

We've all been to many rallies. We've had meals, participated in activities, sat around campfires that were more smoke than flame, and drank coffee with the hopes that whoever made it won't make it again. We've had meals made by members that were prepared with great effort that caused

cooks to spend many hours in the kitchen. On the other hand we've had pizza delivered, selected our favorite piece of KFC and a roll that we drove out and brought back, burnt our own steak when we cooked it over the rally grill, or put a mysterious chile concoction on a baked potato. What's my point, meals at rallies are limited only by one's imagination.

But deciding what type or style of meals we should have for a rally really skirts the issue. More specifically, how do we get someone to be the leader for meal decisions? There is usually a Wagon Master and even a Trail Boss, but the question goes beyond these two.

We've all sat around meetings when the question is asked to the group, will you volunteer to be a Trail Boss (coordinating meals) and saw no one step forward.

I wonder if asking in a group setting gets the best results, particularly when we want to get someone to volunteer who never has. Try asking on an individual basis, face to face, away from everyone else. We know it's harder to decline a request when it's made face to face. Asking over the phone also makes it too easy to decline, it doesn't make the request personal. If the person you've asked has never prepared a meal for a rally, don't let them stand there, after you've asked, continue talking. Explain that it will be for just one meal, that for this meal they won't be by themselves, even if the Wagon Master or Trail Boss must provide backup support. Tell them all the other aspects of being a Trail Boss will be handled by others. As you ask them, right then and there sit down and plan the meal. Before they can completely decline, you've walked them through a simple, basic meal, with no major food preparation needed. Explain how the meal ingredients are paid for. With a first time meal preparer, keep it simple, don't just ask for their help and leave them hanging. If your rally wants one meal per day, three meals for the rally, each meal could be coordinated by a different person with

an experienced support helper. Maybe the same experienced supporter could be for all three meals.

I can't tell you how many times I've heard during rally meetings a request to be a Trail Boss and we all know the biggest part of being a Trail Boss is meals. The person asking may want to ask in a different way.

Dave Franke, F443367
Senior Vice President WMHA

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Spring has sprung and the grass has rizz. Look how pretty the flowers izz ... My high school English teacher would be so proud.

The weather in Southern California could not be nicer. The temperature, both day and night, are perfect for RV get-togethers. We recently spent a few days with the Southern

California Elks group at the Vista Elks Lodge in Vista. There was a group of 18 rigs which was great. New memberships as well. At the time of this writing, we are preparing for several other trips.

As a reminder, I would greatly appreciate it if your club would notify me of any changes in the WMHA Southern Region. We need to know of any officer changes with names, phone numbers and email addresses if applicable. Finally, and most important, a quick note of upcoming trips of your chapters is appreciated. My wife quilts and I am a wood turner. However, we want to hit the road more often and meet new people. My wife sometimes talks to herself while quilting. I'm not sure the fabric or machines talk back to her. I am sure my lathe machine doesn't talk to me. Although, when I mess up a good piece of wood, I sure talk to it!!!!

As always, stay safe, stay positive and stay on the road. Really, I mean it. Between the lines please.

Jesse Bassford, F44869
Southern Area Vice President

Treasurer Needed

Our Treasurer, due to personal issues, has resigned. If interested, please contact Bob Golk, WMHA President for more information.

Central Area Vice President's Message



Hello again to all

Well, it looks like some chapters are starting to hold rallies, while others are still waiting.

The California Heartland chapter held a rally at the Wine Country RV Resort in Paso Robles on April 6th-9th. They were not able to use the club house but were allowed to use the kitchen. So dinners were served

in to-go containers. Some took their meals back to their rigs, while most ate under shade trees. It was a great turn out and everyone had an awesome time. They are planning another rally in May at the Wilson RV Park located in Shafter. It will be a dry camping experience for everyone that is going to attend. By the time this newsletter is released, the rally will have taken place. I'm hoping that everyone will have had a great time. The HMC chapter is planning a get together in September. There will be no side trips planned because everyone wants to get caught up on lost time.

On another subject, my wife and I have finally moved out of the motor home and back into the freshly remodeled house. It started out to be some minor repairs but ended up being a total gut job. It feels kind of weird being in the house after living in the motor home for so long. This is going to take some getting use to. On April 12th, Paula had her second hip replacement surgery and to my surprise she was released to come home the same day to recover. I have taken some time off from work so I can be here to assist in her recovery. I'm not sure if I'm going to return to work after she is released by the doctor. I kind of like being retired again.

Until we meet again, stay safe and remember to smile and have fun

Rick Ammerman, F442485
Central Area Vice President

California Poppy

On March 2, 1903 the California poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*, became the official state flower of California. The plant's bright orange flowers are an unmatched symbol of the Golden State, perhaps viewed as a floral representation of the "fields of gold" sought during the gold rush. The California poppy is commonly seen blooming in the spring and summer along country roads and freeways throughout much of the state, making this plant a highly recognizable symbol of California, and April 6 of each year is officially designated as California Poppy Day.

Northern Area Vice President's Message



I hope everyone has been practicing social distancing and wearing their mask. Now that many of us have gotten our COVID-19 vaccination, we're feeling more comfortable about getting out in our RV's. Thank God there is light at the end of the tunnel and we can get back to the one thing we love to do, RVing.

Janie and I attended an outing with CCBAL RV club at Black Oaks Resort which was well attended with approximately 27 coaches. Everyone was very excited about getting out and knowing they were with individuals whom had been vaccinated and were wearing their mask. What I noticed mostly was the joy, laughter and respect for one another and maintaining healthy distance from each other. Also, when it was time to leave many in attendance didn't really want to leave, but they had to go.

Moving on down the road we will be attending an outing with the Sierra Ramblers RV Club in Anderson on April 21st. This will be a very special outing as they celebrate their 30 year anniversary as a FMCA chapter. Let's all send a Congratulations to the Sierra Ramblers RV Club!

After being shutdown for so long I just want to remind everyone to take extra precaution when getting back into your RV's. Conduct your pre-trip inspections on your coach, do a walk around and look for objects before moving. Check your tires for cracks and proper air pressure. Also, we all know just because your RV has been sitting doesn't mean everything will be working the same as when we parked it. Crank up that generator and turn on the air conditioning units. Don't wait till the summer to find out you may have issues.

Be safe and stay safe!

James McDaniel, F371784
Northern Area Vice President



Membership / Chapter Fair



As I stated in the last Byways, there has not been much news along the membership/chapter fair department. I know that there are people joining FMCA, but since we had a change several months ago, I have not received the lists. Hopefully, if your chapter is interested in new members, you will contact the National office to have them send names of new

members in your area or interest.

I realize that since the COVID virus most chapters have not been able to have regular rallies, but hopefully this year that will change. If you have any questions on membership, please let me know and I will try to answer it or at least find out an answer for you.

Hopefully, we will be having our Western Area rally in Indio in January 2022. If so, think about having a table at the Chapter Fair. Along that line, if someone would be interested in being in charge of the Membership / Chapter Fair position please contact me. I would like to have someone think about taking this position and I would be happy to let you know what the job is all about.

Alice Bernard, F79098
Membership & Chapter Fair Captain
Volunteer Coordinator

FMCA National Officer Candidates

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for national offices for the 2021-2023 term. The committee sought the assistance of chapter, area, and national FMCA officers in referring persons who would consent to nomination and accept the responsibilities of a national office. These candidates have accepted the challenge.

National President:	Rett Porter, F369084 John Reynolds, F171042
National Senior Vice President:	Gary Milner, F409834 Joe Wright, F51289
National Secretary:	Kathie Balogh, F316832
National Treasurer:	Elwood Mayberry, F369343 Barbara Smith, F329936

Resumes for these candidates are published in the May 2021 issue of *Family RVing magazine* and will be included with your Governing Board meeting material.

The election will be held at the Governing Board meeting on July 7, 2021, at FMCA's 103rd International Convention in Gillette, Wyoming. In accordance with the FMCA Bylaws, additional candidates may be nominated by petition no later than April 7, 2021, or from the floor at the Governing Board meeting.

WMHA Executive Board 2021

President: Bob Golk F316752
Cell (661) 599-3548
e-mail: rgolk@outlook.com

Senior V P: David Franke F443367
Cell (909) 973-1051
e-mail: dfranke928@msn.com

Northern Area V P: James McDaniel F395353
Cell (925) 818-7718
e-mail: jmcdan2296@sbcglobal.net

Central Area V P: Rick Ammerman F442485
Cell (951) 538-6435
e-mail: ricksp94@yahoo.com

Southern Area V P: Jesse Bassford F44869
Cell (909) 438-6893
e-mail: jbassford48@gmail.com

Secretary: Carole Hazeltine F376336
Cell (916) 838-7200
e-mail: dickhazeltine@yahoo.com

Treasurer: **VACANT**
Treasurer Needed

Our Treasurer, due to personal issues, has resigned. If interested, please contact Bob Golk, WMHA President for more information.

Immediate Past President: Lon Cross F233066
Cell (661) 886-5077
e-mail: loncross1225@att.net

WMHA Appointed Offices 2021

Membership: Alice Bernard F79098
Cell (530) 519-7346 Tel. (530) 934-7346
e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com

Bylaws Chairman: Phil Griffin F128165
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Western Motor Home Association Website

<http://wafmca.com/>



CHAPTERS

For Many, Chapter Membership is considered the best part of FMCA

Did you realize when you joined FMCA that you not only became a member of the premier RV association in North America but also one of the largest networks of RVers in the world? That's right, the FMCA family includes thousands of RV enthusiasts who, like you, not only have a zest for travel but also hobbies and interests off the highway. What better way to meet folks who share your "likes" than to become involved in one or more of FMCA's chapters? FMCA chapters have get-togethers at chapter rallies, area rallies and conventions to share stories, talk about issues that involve the RV community, assemble for social activities, and have a great time!

Joining a Chapter is a great way to make lifelong friends and maximize the enjoyment of your motor homing lifestyle. Please feel free to contact any of the Chapters below. They will be happy to have you join them for an outing.

WHMA Southern Area Chapters ... Jesse Bassford Vice President

Alpine SoCal
 The Big E
 California Chapter
 Camping Squares
 Cruisin' Condos
 Discovery Club of California
 The Dolphins

Frustrated Maestros
 GMC Pacific Cruisers
 Outdoor Resorts Palm Springs
 Overland Trailblazers West
 Rockwood West
 Southern California FMCA Elk
 Southern Bus Nuts

WHMA Central Area Chapters ... Rick Ammerman Vice President

Beat the Odds
 California Coaches for Christ
 California Coasters
 California FMCA HMC
 California Heartland
 Golden State Trackers
 HMC Club

Komfort Kruisers
 Midweek Wanderers
 Monaco Romers
 Roamin' Catholics Southwest
 Safari of Southern California
 Valley Cruisers
 Western GM Coach

WHMA Northern Area Chapters ... James McDaniel Vice President

Alpine Coach Norcal
 The Ambassadors
 Diablo Ramblers
 California Capitals & Bay Area Liners
 Crafty Crafters
 GMG Forty Niners
 Gold Diggers
 Gold Dust Travelers

Golden Spike
 Monaco NorCal
 NorCal Rex
 Northern California FMCA Elk
 Sierra Hi Rollers
 Sierra Ramblers
 Thousand Trails West
 Safari R Us

This Chapter information, along with the contact's mailing address, is posted on the FMCA website - FMCA.com. It is to be used only for chapter-related inquiries. Any other use of this information is expressly prohibited.

Western Motor Home Association Spring Chapter Anniversaries

Sierra Ramblers Chapter



30 Year Anniversary

In 1991 a group of Motor Home owners decided to form a new Chapter of FMCA. Using a list of FMCA members who didn't belong to any of the existing FMCA Chapters, invitations were sent to those who lived in Northern California to attend an outing in Anderson, CA on April 5, 1991. Those in attendance were given information on FMCA Chapters and what they could expect by joining a Chapter. Approximately 25 couples signed up at that meeting and the new Chapter was formed. It was decided that a Rally would be held six times a year. After numerous names for the Chapter were proposed, the name Sierra Ramblers was chosen. The logo took a little longer to develop but it was finally presented and accepted at the 3rd Rally later that year. The Chapter has grown from the original group of 25 RV's to just under 100 RV's today.

In 1992 it was decided that Chapter members would wear red jackets, and today, those red jackets are still worn by our members. The Sierra Ramblers act as greeters at the annual Western Area Rally held in Indio, CA every January, and we do enjoy this volunteer responsibility. The Chapter first acted as greeters at the FMCA International Rally held at Pomona, CA in 1993.



Our Chapter Rallies started as weekend outings and have evolved over time to four (occasionally five) day events. Most of our rallies are held in Northern California locations such as Chico, Jackson, Lodi, Calistoga, Bodega Bay, Oroville and many more. We have also held rallies in Brookings, OR for the Kite Festival; Eureka, CA for the Kinetic Races; and Grants Pass, OR where we rode the jet boats on the Rogue River, and we have also been to Laguna Seca where we enjoyed sports car races. Our annual Christmas Rally has been held in Woodland, CA for a number of years. Chapter members bring canned food for the Yolo County food bank and Toys for the U S Marines Toys for Tots program.



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GMC Pacific Cruisers Chapter



45 Year Anniversary

The GMC Pacific Cruisers are celebrating our 45th anniversary this year and our club is booming. What keeps this club going strong? Well, our members of course. We added 10 coaches to our roster just in the last year. Owners of GMC Motorhomes come together several times a year to show off their rigs, share their stories, socialize and help each other fix or upgrade their coaches. We are a Southern California based club with over 100 official members and 60+ motorhomes on our roster. Our members host up to 6 rallies every year from San Diego to Santa Barbara and everywhere in between.

The GMC Motorhome gained its popularity in the 70s when GMC became the first car manufacturer to build a motorhome from the ground up. Unlike most motorhomes that are manufactured on drivetrain equipped frames, GMC designed, engineered, and built the entire vehicle completely in-house in Pontiac Michigan. A total of 12,921 coaches were built between 1973 and 1978 and it is believed that more than 8000 are still in operating condition. They were built in either 23 ft or 26 ft options with several different interior layouts. In 1973 the MSRP for a new GMC Motorhome was 14k but by the time they ended production in 1978 they were priced at 40k.



We draw a lot of attention when we host a rally because we will often have 20 of our classic motorhomes lined up for all to see. Our members are always willing to give a tour and show off what they have done to restore or remodel their coach. We attended the Vintage Trailer Fest Rally in San Dimas in March for the first time as a group and had a great time meeting other vintage rig owners and chatting about our coaches.

We will be hosting our 45th anniversary party for our members this June at the Menghini Winery in Julian, Ca. This is a favorite rally location nestled in the grape vines and apple trees in the mountains above San Diego. This will be our 3rd time at the Menghini Winery and are expecting a big group.



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Sierra Ramblers Chapter (Cont)



30 Year Anniversary

We typically have between 25 and 30 RV's at each outing, and we have a great time with plenty of fun and laughter. There are always games and tours, but most of all we just enjoy the friendship of our fellow members.

In April of each year, we celebrate our Chapter anniversary with a rally held at the Shasta District Fairgrounds in Anderson, where our Chapter was formed. There is always a Chapter meeting at this rally where our new Officers begin their term of service. This year will be extra special as we finally have a chance to be together after having to cancel too many rallies over the past year due to the Corona virus. We are really looking forward to celebrating our 30 years as Sierra Ramblers. Our rally will be slightly modified to accommodate the COVID-19 guidelines, but we plan on doing a tie-dye t-shirt craft, playing some games, enjoy some meals together, and just catch up with one another.

If you would like to check out our Sierra Ramblers Chapter, we would love for you to visit us sometime. You are always welcome to come join in on our fun. Check out our website at: <https://sierraramblers.com>

Carole Hazeltine,
Secretary, Sierra Ramblers

FMCA's "Spirit of Wyoming"

Looking to get your 2021 travel season off to a sweet start? Then join thousands of RVers for FMCA's 103rd International Convention & RV Expo. You'll discover activities throughout the four-day event that will have you grinning from ear to ear.

[Download the registration form from the link below and mail it in.](#)



Need a Western Area Badge?

Anyone who is interested in a Western Motor Home Association badge please contact Alice Bernard by phone: 530-934-7346 or cell phone 530-519-7346 or e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com
The price of the badge is \$11.50 (Which includes your name and F number). The hangers are \$2.75 each. The hangers can be for your city or your job or your chapter. You may have several hangers if you like.

GMC Pacific Cruisers Chapter (Cont)



45 Year Anniversary

We are always accepting new members, as long as you own a GMC Motorhome. You can find us at gmcp.org or on our GMC Pacific Cruisers facebook group.



If you are interested in learning more about our club send

us an email at gmcpacificcruisers@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Patrice Ciccarelli
President, GMC Pacific Cruisers



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FMCA members have priority access to the industry's leading RV insurance experts. No longer will RV owners be locked into one carrier option. With FMCA RV insurance, members can select from the industry's top RV underwriters and receive the best rates.

National Parks in California

Many people are unaware that California boasts nine National Parks, more than any other state, and each has its own unique appeal. How many of these National Parks have you visited?

Death Valley is the biggest, the hottest, and the most foreboding. **Joshua Tree** possesses an otherworldly charm and so much dynamic flora. If you want to escape civilization, head to the **Channel Islands**. For big trees, **Kings Canyon** & **Sequoia** are both superb. **Yosemite National Park** is a World Heritage site and it's easy to see why. **Pinnacles** is an ideal spot to see endangered California condors while **Lassen Volcanic** and **Redwoods** will provide delights both expected and surprising.

Death Valley, the largest national park outside of Alaska, is an almost unfathomable place. The park's 3.3 million acres encompass mountain-size sand dunes, below-sea-level salt flats, mysterious singing rocks, and colorful sandstone canyons. Extremes are the norm: Death Valley is the hottest and driest place in America, with summer temperatures peaking above 120° F. Also extreme are the park's elevations: Badwater Basin rests at 282 feet below sea level while Telescope Peak soars to 11,049 feet.

Joshua Tree National Park is a unique and wonderful place which has rugged mountains, gold mining ruins, and desert plains dotted with oddball trees. The park lies at an ecological crossroads, where the high Mojave Desert meets the low Colorado Desert. That marriage results in amazing desert flora, including those distinctive namesake trees (actually a type of yucca).

Channel Islands National Park is five islands off the Southern California coast that comprise one of America's most undeveloped—and utterly magical—national parks. Revered for its endemic plants and plentiful wildlife, the “Galapagos of North America” has no lodgings, stores, or restaurants.

Kings Canyon & **Sequoia National Parks** have some of the most majestic sights you'll find not just in California but anywhere in the world. These adjoining parks are where you'll find 14,494-foot Mount Whitney—the highest peak in the Lower 48. And while there are taller trees elsewhere, the General Sherman Tree is the biggest on the planet by volume: 275 feet tall and with a stout, 36-foot-diameter base. You truly have to see it to believe it, and it is easily reached via a short, paved trail in Giant Forest.

Yosemite National Park is famous for its plunging waterfalls and massive granite formations. This unparalleled parkland attracts more than four million visitors each year with good reason. Nearly the size of Rhode Island, Yosemite National Park dazzles with unforgettable

natural beauty and water falls. Most visitors head directly to Yosemite Valley, a 4,000-foot-deep trough lined by sheer cliffs of glacially sculpted rock. It's amazing, but don't you dare stop there. You have to drive through the Wawona Tunnel, explore the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, wander through Tuolumne Meadows, and so much more.

Pinnacles became a National Park in 2013. Caves, condors, and camping are the big draws at Pinnacles. The park gets its name from towering, domed rock structures that seem to bulge out of the earth. Located east of the Salinas Valley, it's the perfect place to enjoy natural wonder that still feels a bit off the beaten path. The extremely endangered California condor is the park's signature bird: With its nine-foot wingspan and bald head, these impressive creatures are a sight to behold.

Lassen Volcanic National Park's signature volcano, Lassen Peak, blew its top in 1914 and its outbursts continued for three years. Now it's dormant, and trails and overlooks let you explore geological wonders amid a tranquil landscape of dense woods and sparkling lakes. Feel the heat at Sulphur Works or Bumpass Hell and then climb a cinder cone or go kayaking. Steaming sulphur vents, splattering mud pots, and boiling springs are feisty hydrothermal features that prove the earth is very much alive.

Redwoods National Park Prepare to be awestruck. The expansive area, which is a network of national and state sites, is a World Heritage Site that protects nearly half of the world's old growth redwoods. Some trees here soar more than 370 feet into the sky, five stories taller than the Statue of Liberty. For a truly immersive experience, park your car and go for a hike at one of the many trailheads—and pay a visit to Fern Canyon, featured in a famous scene from *Jurassic Park 2*.

Peter Jautaikis, F438339
Western Byways Editor

Source: <https://www.visitcalifornia.com/things-to-do/national-parks/>



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Western Byways welcomes comments and suggestions about information published in the newsletter
Email me at newsletterwmha@gmail.com