

President's Message



It has been a week since we returned from Tucson and the 104th FMCA International Convention. I was in shock when we pulled up to our house. During our absence the weed growth on the property exploded. Our neighbor said each day you could see visible growth from the previous day. Looks like the two rainstorms and ideal temperatures were at play. Needless to say, I have been busy with my

riding mower and spraying weed killer on what I couldn't mow. It is nice seeing all the green hill sides though and some poppies here and there.

Now, about the convention. Debbie and I arrived a week early to attend the Tri-Chapter rally. Besides several meal get-togethers and activities, we also went to the Sonoran Desert Museum, an outdoor exhibit with animal enclosures mimicking their natural habitat. As Co-Host of the convention, we got parked right in the middle of the fairgrounds next to the convention "Town Center". Everyone remarked what a great town center this was with a stage, shade trees, tables & chairs and all on grass. Morning coffee and donuts was right behind our motorhome, how convenient! Our own California Heartland chapter headed up the serving of coffee and donuts each morning and had a great time doing it. There were lots of vendors and display coaches. I took a test ride on an electric bicycle. I was amazed with the power it had. A lot of people there must have felt the same as by Saturday the vendor was sold out and there were people zooming all over the place on electric bicycles. Debbie and I spent some time manning the FMCA Information booth. It was great getting to meet and talk with people about FMCA. A nice feature of the fairgrounds was their "Cantina". This was a nice place to escape for a while and have breakfast, lunch or even evening cocktails as there was a full bar. Located near the center of all the activities it was very convenient. Unique at this convention was the outdoor

entertainment venue. It was a big stage with seating on the grass. It was cold for the first night of entertainment but at least it did not rain like it did two days earlier. Subsequent nights of entertainment were quite pleasant with temps in the low 80's. The Ladies Luncheon was a hit with 450 attendees. As Co-Host of this convention, I was tasked to find an MC for this event so I turned and looked at Debbie and asked if she felt up to being the MC. She reluctantly agreed. This would be her first convention Ladies Luncheon to MC and she had a lot of help preparing for it. All went well and she received a lot of thanks and congratulations for a good job. I was there to help serve and while getting my apron ready to put on I was not aware that a wasp had landed inside it. I quickly found out as I got stung in my left index finger! I was able to retrieve some ice from Debbie's drink cup to reduce the pain and swelling which really helped. After a few hours I only had a small amount of swelling in my finger and no pain. A highlight for us were the "Block Parties". Debbie and I got to ride around and visit several Western Area chapter block parties and have pizza, hot dogs, appetizers and desserts all on a nice warm afternoon. Overall, indications point to a successful convention. Lots of positive feedback from attendees. The Western Area was well represented with 345 member attendees. Way to go.

After the convention, we headed to the sprawling metropolis of Bouse, AZ to visit our friends who moved there several years ago. Always a great place to unwind, they have two pull-thru, 50 Amp RV sites on their property. Quiet out on the desert with dark, star filled skies and sitting around a campfire. After a few days it was time to say goodbye and head home.

We very much enjoyed our trip but we were glad to be home too. Now, about those weeds.

Safe travels.

Bob Golk, F316752
Western Area National VP of FMCA

Senior Vice President's Message



Here's a story, true story, any motorhome owner has experienced in one way or another.

There are many dealers when it comes time to choose where to purchase your motorhome, that special coach you'll keep for a long time.

Marilyn and I wanted a coach with two front slides, under 37', diesel, and it doesn't need to be brand new. Our current coach was reliable, made it to Alaska and back, out to Gillette for a National Rally, and up and down California. But we wanted more room than one front slide provided, therefore we went looking.

After many up and down entry steps, "come see this", "I don't like that", we came across the "motorhome" AKA the "Coach".

At first review, we noticed all 4 rear tires were dated six years old. With no other major items, except those normal for a 2014 with 44K miles, we took the purchase step. All smooth right, wrong!

Now comes pick up day. About a week passed from our signing date, and we finished emptying our current coach. We make it to the dealership on time and started a quick walk around expecting all to be fine.

The coach has a full wall slide out and it wasn't completely seated when closed. The shade screen wouldn't retract, the coach battery door latch was broken, and the bedroom slide motor was replaced. Another major concern was the engine battery kill switch (EBK). The operations manual stated it was in the engine compartment, but none could be found.

From 3 pm on Tuesday until the tech's went home, no EBK switch could be found. We were offered to stay in the new coach, in their service area for the night. Other option, get a motel room.

The coach we turned in was basically empty but did have a towed car, snacks, and sleeping bags with pillows. We didn't expect this overnight stay and I forgot my Boy Scout training, Be Prepared.

Wednesday the search for the EBK switch continued until noon when the coach manufacturer was called and we found out no switch was installed in this series of coaches. Owners are to keep the coach plugged into an electrical source, when not used, to ensure the batteries won't die. For me an EBK switch was a must. I store my coach in an RV storage lot with no electrical outlets.

After arriving Tuesday at two, we finally left Wednesday at three with a coach closer to what we expected and fully working.

To all the stories we hear about picking up and taking delivery of a new coach, I add my story.

Dave Franke, F443367
Senior Vice President WMHA

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Well, the 104th FMCA Rally in Tucson is over. Carol and I returned from the rally with a different rig. No, we didn't steal it, but, bought a different one. Initially, we wanted to attend some seminars. Along with seminars, all I wanted to buy was beer, hot dogs and some vendor stuff.

After one of the seminars, Carol decides to look around. I went back to our rig to relax. Carol called and asked me if I would like to look at some used class A RVs'. I had to admit the rig she was interested in had a lot of points that I have wanted for some years. However, if you read my last article, there was something that "made me" buy the rig.

I looked at cabinets, 3 TVs, 1 ½ baths, a fireplace, lots of storage and then..... it happened. Sitting on the table was, you guessed it, A GLASS OF WINE.

Neither Carol nor the salesman could see it, but it WAS there. While the salesman and Carol laughed and continued the tour of the RV, I picked up the glass of wine and, as I did, a voice said "YES". Later, my wife of 51 years also said YES. (I never argue with an Irish woman.)

So, here I am with a new owner's manual and a ton of stuff to look through. After this article is sent, I'm going over to storage to play with the new toy. However, If I see another glass of wine on my RV table, the next phone call I make is to my doctor.

Well, 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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

Central Area Vice President's Message



I hope all is well and everyone is enjoying good times and safe travels. Most, if not all, chapters are again holding rally's of one kind or another. We are heading out to Bakersfield to a Golden State Trackers rally in late April and then on to Visalia for a concert. We purchased these tickets three years ago, but due to Covid-19's restrictions they had to cancel twice.

Beat The Odds chapter held their annual Laughlin, Nevada rally at the Riverside Casino in February. We had a very good turn out. Most everyone stayed at the RV Resort, others stayed in the hotel. They held their annual board meeting the first day and the slot tournament the next day.

Marla James was the big winner and her husband came in second. The catered dinners were very good and everyone had a great time. Good food and great company always makes a great rally.

My wife and I made the 104th International Convention and RV Expo, held at the Pima County Fairgrounds located in Tucson, Arizona. There were over 1500 rigs that attended and that's not counting all the show rigs that were there. Seminars were exceptional and very well attended. Our National Board really pulled out all the stops. It was a really good show. They had entertainment all day and the evening shows were great. My wife and I had six family members attend this time.

It is with great sadness that we lost a long time volunteer and a great friend. Floyd Alger passed away on March 28th. He will be greatly missed.

We are in need of volunteers to fill some vacant positions. I am looking for a whole chapter to help with tables and chairs at our next Western Area Rally. That chapter will receive preferred parking, so please consider this position.

Remember to smile and have fun

Rick Ammerman, F442485
Central Area Vice President



Northern Area Vice President's Message



As I ponder over the last three months, I found there wasn't much to report for January and February, after returning home from Quartzsite, Az. Unfortunately, Janie and I had to return home before the big tent event due to a very important doctor's appointment. As time progresses and the older I get, it appears that more doctor and dentist visits are required.

The month of March brought excitement as we planned to attend a chapter outing with the California Capitol Bay Area Liners (CCBAL) to present their 15-year anniversary certificate from FMCA. The CCBAL outing was held at River Run Resort in Bakersfield with approximately 22 RV's in attendance. The weather was cold but that didn't deter any of the outdoor activities from taking place. The club members were all very excited to receive their milestone 15-year certificate.

Unfortunately, during our time in Bakersfield, Janie and I received very sad news regarding the death of my younger brother. While it was a very difficult and painful time for us, we both want to sincerely thank each club member for their generosity, kindness and support for us during that time. As we all know, life issues and situations can have real impact on the things we do or plan. Janie and I had an appointment at Beaver Coach in Bend, Oregon on Monday; however with the devastating news we had to cancel our trip to Oregon. Instead, we left Bakersfield and headed to my brother's home in Corona. We had also planned to attend the FMCA International Rally in Tucson Arizona, however we had a change of plans as we celebrated my brother's life, the same week of the rally.

While we only spent a short time on the road, we did find a noticeable change with respect to the cost of fueling the RV. As a result, I had to do a better job of planning each fuel stop due to the increasing cost of fuel. Upon finding the cheaper fuel, one of the challenges we faced was not being able to get in or out of the station with the RV. We therefore had to pay serious consideration as to whether it was more important to take the chance at getting the cheaper fuel and possibly damaging the RV or to pay the higher fuel price and be assured that our RV would be fine. Needless to say, we bit the bullet and paid the higher fuel price.

Stay safe, be happy and live and enjoy life to the fullest every day.

James McDaniel, F371784
Northern Area Vice President

Membership / Chapter Fair



As I reported in the last issue of the Byways there has not been a lot going on along the lines of Membership/ Chapter Fair. I have received a few requests for information about chapters in the Western Area. Along this line if you have new contact people for your chapter please let me know so I can update my list of chapters and have the correct information to give out to FMCA members who are looking for a chapter to join. If you would like to know what information I have about your chapter please contact me and I will send you a copy of the information I have for your chapter. The information that I use to send out to people who inquire about chapters contains, information about the chapter such as, where your chapter is mainly located, meetings (rallies), what you do at your rallies, dues, and the big item is the contact person for further information.

When we are able to have our Western Area Rally we will again have a chapter fair – for those who may be new that is where our chapters are urged to have a table with information about their chapter so that people who are interested may talk with members of your chapter and find a chapter that they might be interested in. Please think about having information at the rally when we have one – it is a good way to get new members.

At this time your membership person can contact the National Office and request some information about people who join FMCA and are looking for a chapter.

Thanks for your help in keeping my information updated about your chapter.

Alice Bernard e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com or cell phone 530-519-7346

Alice Bernard, F79098
Membership & Chapter Fair Captain
Volunteer Coordinator

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.

WMHA Executive Board 2022

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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

Open phone camera and Scan QR Code for detailed Southern Area Chapter information at the Western Motor Home Association website:
wafmca.com



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

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wafmca.com



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

Open phone camera and Scan QR Code for detailed Northern Area Chapter information from the Western Motor Home Association website:
wafmca.com



This Chapter information, along with the contact's mailing address, is posted on the FMCA website - FMCA.com and at wafmca.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

California Coaches for Christ Chapter

20 Year Anniversary



Congratulations Roger & Sharon Garst for 20 years of blessings! They formed our chapter, organized our morning devotions, entered us in the Western Area parade (won a trophy!), and started us on 20 years of fun & fellowship. We are blessed because of lifelong friends we developed, meaningful fellowship we share and availability to be a loving shoulder for members to cry on. We volunteered in several areas: security, safety, tables & chairs, stuffing goody bags, seminars, greeters, utilities, etc. We had a wedding at Indio with the help of Frustrated Maestros, Red Hat ladies and one of our members who was a minister.

Over the years Paul Brace has provided our organ music and Don & Laberta Bibler kept our voices singing to their hand-clapping, toe-tapping, knee-slapping music! They are over 90 and have been married over 70 years! Don is amazing on the trombone and Laberta beats the hoey out of a piano. They owned a Presidential Holiday Rambler 5th wheel. Thank you FMCA, they can now park with us, join our chapter and attend International Conventions. They are a very special couple. We met them playing for seniors at Mt. Lassen, helping Convoy of Hope get one million meals together, helping with our Morning Devotions at Perry, Georgia, etc.

We celebrate anything from Valentines to Christmas and from Paso Robles to Pechanga. We play everything from volley ball (sitting with beach ball) to bean ball baseball and jigsaw puzzles. We are nondenominational. We feel it is not smart to ignore the ONE who controls our heartbeats. If you are interested in joining us, please call our President Anna Markwell @ 209-406-4407 for rally information. Numbers 6:24-26

Leonard A. Davis
916-531-5644

RVERS GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

Overnight Parking Etiquette

The Good Neighbor Policy was created in the early 90s by Escapees RV Club. Since then, it has become the **Industry-sanctioned Code of Conduct** for overnight parking. I hope that the Good Neighbor Policy serves as a reminder that RVer's must be respectful of the communities they visit.

- Stay one night only!
- Obtain permission from a qualified individual
- Obey posted regulations
- No awnings, chairs or barbecue grills
- Do not use hydraulic jacks on soft surfaces (Including asphalt)
- Always leave an area cleaner than you found it
- Purchase gas, food or supplies as a form of thank you , when feasible
- Be safe! Always be aware of your surroundings and leave if you feel unsafe

If your plans include touring the area, staying for more than one night, or necessitate conduct not within the code, please relocate to a local campground. It's the right thing to do!

Not following the code has serious consequences and is detrimental to the rights of all RVer's. Already, some municipalities have passed ordinances to prohibit parking on private business property overnight.

Please do not take offense to the RVer's Good Neighbor Policy; it is only provided as a reminder that RVer's must be perceived as good neighbors or there will be more pressure to institute state, county and local ordinances to prohibit parking on private business property.

Preserve the privilege of overnight parking. Follow the code and encourage others to follow it, too!

FMCA'S 105TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & RV EXPO
AUGUST 24-27, 2022
LANCASTER EVENT CENTER
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
SEMINARS • INDOOR EXHIBITS
RV DISPLAYS • GAMES
ICE CREAM SOCIAL • ENTERTAINMENT

Open phone camera and Scan QR Code for detailed FMCA's 105th International Convention & RV EXPO info



FMCA NORTHWEST AREA'S 2022 RALLY

JUNE 22-26, 2022

The Mill Hotel & Casino • 3201 Tremont Avenue
North Bend / Coos Bay, Oregon 97459

Parking: 1 PM to 5 PM, Tues., 6/21 & 8 AM to 5 PM, Wed., 6/22 • **Departure Day:** Sunday, 6/26

Seminars • Vendors • Display RVs • Coffee & Pastries • Hot Dog Bash
2 Catered Meals • Ice Cream Social • 5 Nights Camping • Wine Walk
Glass Float Excursion • 2 Nights Entertainment • 50/50 raffle • Swap Meet



All Recreational Vehicles Welcome • No Early Arrivals

Northwest Area Rally Registration Form				<i>Permanent changes to membership files cannot be made from this form.</i>	
Member Number:	Last Name:	Pilot:	Co-Pilot:		
Address (if this address differs from your billing address, please call):		City:	State/Province:	Zip/Postal Code:	
E-mail:		Telephone:	Cell Phone:		
RV Make:	RV Length:	Hold at Will Call? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> First Time Attendee			
1. Guest/Child's Name/Age:		2. Guest/Child's Name/Age:		<input type="radio"/> Disabled Parking	
Select your Saturday dinner meal: <input type="radio"/> Salmon Qty: _____ <input type="radio"/> Chicken Qty: _____			Select your seating for both meals (only chose one): <input type="radio"/> Early 4:30 PM <input type="radio"/> Late 6:15 PM		
Registration Category	By 5/24	After 5/24	Qty	Total	Would You Like to Volunteer?
RV with 2 Adults - Dry Camping - General & Disabled	\$ 215	\$ 230		\$	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I would like to volunteer. Please contact Bobbi Radford Phone: 206-714-1976 Email: cooper.radford@gmail.com Rally Master - Don Schleuse Cell: 949-230-0390 Email: dons2346@yahoo.com Commercial Exhibits - George Doersch Cell: 541-287-0531 Email: ghd4440@outlook.com Parking Captain - Dennis Martin Cell: 253-847-4012 Email: dvrcommanders@gmail.com Seminar Captain - Jack Crans Cell: 208-859-8095 Email: idaowl@gmail.com
RV with 1 Adult - Dry Camping - General & Disabled	\$ 185	\$ 200		\$	
Additional Fee for 30-Amp Electric	+\$ 100	+\$ 100		\$	
Member Rally Pass (price listed per person)	\$ 105 ea.	\$ 105 ea.		\$	
Children Under 12 attending Saturday Night Dinner	\$ 20	\$ 20		\$	
Glass Float Excursion - Wednesday, June 22	\$ 24	\$ 24		\$	
Friday Night Wine Walk	\$ 12	\$ 12		\$	
Payment Information				Total	\$
Place Credit Card Registrations By: Online www.fmca.com Phone 800-543-3622 513-474-3622	Make checks payable in U.S. funds to FMC, Inc. Mail to: Northwest Area Rally c/o FMCA 8291 Clough Pike Cincinnati, OH 45244	Group Chapter Parking: All groups or chapters that want to park together must arrive together. Electric: Electric hookups are limited. Non-Electric: Generator 7:00am to 11:00pm. Member Rally Pass: Allows access to Vendors, Seminars, RV Displays, Entertainment and Food Events. (No RV Parking on the grounds.) Rally Credentials: Your rally credentials must be worn at all times. These credentials are your entrance pass to all seminars, entertainment and meals.			

COVID-19 Waiver

All attendees must agree to FMCA's EVENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY EXPOSURE TO COVID-19. If you are registering for the rally using this registration form, please download, sign, and include the COVID-19 Waiver with your registration and payment. The form can be found at www.fmca.com/pdfs/FMCA_Chapter_And_Area_Covid_Waiver.pdf. If you register online or by phone, your agreement will be made at that time.

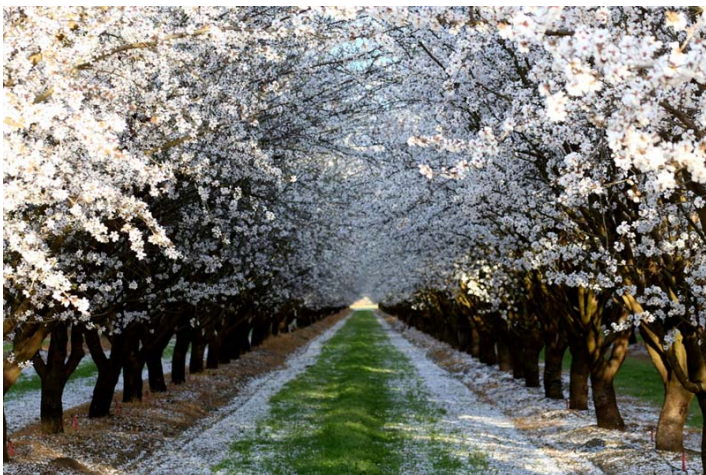
Confirmation

Confirmation credentials will be mailed if registration is received by May 24, 2022. After May 24, 2022, your packet will be held at Will Call. Please enter information carefully; name tags, etc. are created from this information. **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refunds will be made, minus \$25, if written notice with credentials are returned on or before May 24, 2022. No refunds after May 24, 2022. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** In the event this rally is canceled because of Covid19, you will receive a full refund.

www.fmca.com | Phone 513-474-3622 or 800-543-3622 | Fax 513-474-2332 or 800-543-4717

I say “am-end” and you say “almond”

Farmers will often tell you, you call it an almond on the tree and an am-end on the ground because you shake the “L” out of it when the nuts are harvested. When almonds are ready to be harvested, a shaking machine enters the field. Shaking machines are used on each individual tree in order to shake the nuts off the tree. The shaking machines have guards on their grips, so that they do not cause any damage to the trees.



Although almonds are not native to California, a hot, dry Mediterranean climate and developed water infrastructure create ideal conditions for commercial cultivation of the crop. **The state produces 80% of the world's almonds and 100% of the United States' commercial supply.** Over 2 million tons a year!

Almonds arrived in California in the 1700's when Jesuit missionaries from Spain brought them as food and later planted them in their coastal missions. Eventually, settlers found that the nut grew much better in the inland areas of the state, away from the cool coastal fog.

California is the only place in North America where almonds are grown commercially. In the past 30 years, California's almond yield has quadrupled. More than 450,000 acres in the lush San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys are under almond cultivation, stretching 400 miles between Bakersfield and Red Bluff.

§

- ◆ **Unmatched Nutrition:** Almonds are the real deal when it comes to nutritional value. Rich in protein, fiber, calcium, antioxidant vitamin E, riboflavin, and niacin
- ◆ **Heart Healthy:** Almonds are packed with healthy monounsaturated fats, which may help reduce LDL, or “bad” cholesterol, thereby lowering your risk of heart disease
- ◆ **Naturally 100% Gluten Free:** With endless versatility, almonds provide a no-stress gluten-free substitute for

your favorite recipe. For those living with gluten sensitivity or celiac disease, almonds are a perfect ingredient for your pantry

- ◆ **Almond Flour:** Gluten-free almond flour adds protein, fiber and beneficial fats to whatever you're baking. Purists often prefer it ground with the skins, adding even more nutrition
- ◆ **Almond Milk:** Creamy, non-dairy almond milk has replaced soy as America's favorite plant-based milk. A great option for vegetarians, vegans, low carb, Paleo diets and those with dairy allergies
- ◆ **Almond Butter:** Almond butter offers and abundance of benefits due to its impressive nutritional profile. Benefits include increased brain cell communication from its calcium and copper as well as cardiovascular benefits from its fiber, healthy fats and is a great source of energy

Nuts and more importantly almonds are packed with vitamins, minerals and essential nutrients necessary to help reduce cravings and keep you energized all day. Unlike the traditional grain-based 'low-fat' snack, almonds are slow digesting which provides a more sustainable type of energy compared to the rush and crash carbohydrate based energy.



Almond hulls are solely used as a supplement feed for dairy cows at present. Almond shells can be ground up and used as bedding for garden planters and landscape material similar to wood chips. Nevertheless, almond shells are most commonly sold to co-generation plants to be used as a fuel source.

I live in Ripon California, the “Am-end Capital of the World”, where we celebrated the 60th Almond Blossom Festival this past February with a golf tournament, big parade, brats and beans, fashion show, queen coronation, carnival, adorable Diaper Derby, and endless fun that awaited visitors to this grand event. Highway 99 splits Ripon in half and you may have stopped for fuel at Flying-J or Love truck stop on your way North and South.

Peter Jautaikis, F438339
Western Byways Editor