

WESTERN BYWAYS

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

FMCA WESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER
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Western Area FMCA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Winter 2022

President's Message



I'm sitting here writing this and thinking that if this was a normal year, we would be in the middle of our annual Western Area Rally in Indio, California. What a shame, as the weather down there has been perfect, with no rain. The latest with the fairgrounds is that Riverside County is in negotiations with a potential private firm to take over management and operation of the fairgrounds. I have no idea how long that process will take. Once a provider is in place and running the

fairgrounds, we will have to enter into negotiations for use of the fairgrounds and, hopefully, we will be able to come to acceptable terms.

December was a fun and busy month for us. Debbie and I went to three Chapter Christmas rallies. First was the California Coasters over at Wine Country RV in Paso Robles. We were there to present the chapter their 20-year anniversary certificate and to join in the fun. They did a fantastic job with catered meals, a visit from Santa, a mystery wine tasting and live music. A fun event was an auction of gifts that everyone brought if you wanted to participate. One of their members is an auctioneer and he really kept things lively. One gift was a plastic bin lined with paper and marked on the outside with question marks (mystery gift). Debbie just had to have it and managed to outbid all others and won it. It was money well spent, as it had many things inside including several Willow Tree figurines. We made many new friends there and had a great time.

Next up was the Gold Dust Travelers Christmas rally at River Run RV in Bakersfield, another wonderful chapter. Last year we were able to visit them for a day and join them for Christmas dinner. This year we were able to stay for the whole rally and get to know more of the members. I offered to help serve the meals and my offer was readily accepted. I had fun and it allowed me to interact with each member. Besides the usual games, rig decorating contest and gift exchange, they also did a pajama contest. Picture people dressed in Christmas themed pajamas complete with flashing lights dancing around the clubhouse to music. Oh, what fun.

The third rally was with California Heartland at Orange Grove

RV just outside of Bakersfield. For various reasons, only nine rigs were able to register for this rally. This was highly unusual as this is one of our larger chapters. To top it off, there was a last-minute cancellation and then on the first day another had to leave early for family reasons so we were down to seven rigs. This did not dampen the spirits though, and the rally went off as planned. Instead of the usual gift exchange, we did a version of the Left-Right-Center game. We all sat at a long table with the gifts we brought while the host read a story she had written. Whenever the words left, right or across came up we would hand the gift we were holding in that direction. At the end of the story, you unwrapped the gift you ended up with. Now, what to do with all the leftover food items the rally host had brought to the rally anticipating a larger turnout? Why not raffle them off? The treasurer sold raffle tickets, all items were set out on tables, and the raffle began. If your ticket was called you picked an item of your choice. Although this seemed silly at first, as we got into it, we all started laughing and when your number was called you would say something like "oh no, I have to pick another item?" You could win terrific items like a half bag of potatoes, bag of dinner rolls, a bag of salad, or if you were really lucky, a bag of pancake mix! There were even a couple of bottles of unopened wine (grand prize?). As the rally came to an end, everyone remarked how the small number of attendees allowed for a much more "personal" rally. We had pushed tables together so that we all sat at one big table much like a big family get-together.

In a few months it will be time to elect or re-elect WMHA officers. To that end, we need to elect a nominating committee per our by-laws. There have been requests for volunteers sent out via e-mail by your respective regional VPs and by yours truly. I ask you to please consider serving on this committee as it is very important. Without the committee we won't have officer candidate names submitted and thus no officers to elect. Without officers the Western Area could not function and would not exist. Yes, it is that important.

Finally, the 104th FMCA International Convention in Tucson, AZ, is just around the corner. As of this writing, there are 1,438 registrants, with the Western Area accounting for 24.8%. That equates to about 357 registrations. Looking forward to seeing you all there. Until then, guard your health and safe travels.

Bob Golk, F316752
Western Area National VP of FMCA
WMHA President

Senior Vice President's Message



Good Afternoon All

After spending a few days at our membership campground enjoying warm days and far too cold nights, we reflected on some great rallies we attended this past fall.

Pachanga, Lompoc, Oceano, Pahrump, Indio, Vista, Lake

Elsinore, and Chula Vista were locations for some unforgettable great times.

There is one fine point of Bean Bag Baseball that I've learned ... there are no two players that agree on how far the target, with the various bases, is from the batter.

And what about Blongo Ball (A.K.A. Ladder Ball). If you can't swing a nine iron, you fix a small rope between two golf balls and throw them at horizontal bars. That needs to be explained to me!

We had great fun at a rally painting gourds. Purchased already hollowed out, we sanded the exterior until they were smooth, painted it a color of our choice, added some decorative decals, and let it dry. See the two pictures. I did these two with plenty of help!



Now what is a rally without a card game, probably the backbone of most rallies. I'll tell you right off, I know my left and right. I'm a little confused on center, but I will master L, R, C.!

Card Bingo with it's Who-Who, Yahoo, and Bingo. The cards are face up, discard if the caller calls your card, and the first player yelling Bingo wins the pot. While I like the game, I always wonder why the winner has to go to each table and collect the winnings. If you win, shouldn't the pots be delivered to the winner?

So what does all this mean? Fun is at Rallies. You can take tours/see great places, throw a bean bag for a home run, pitch a string of golf balls and take pride in getting the equivalent of a hole in one, show your craft skills, and be a card shark.

ATTEND RALLIES – THEY ARE GREAT FUN!!!

Dave Franke, F443367
Senior Vice President WMHA

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Well HAPPY NEW YEAR to all and let's get moving.

Carol and I have five rallies planned already and more to come. I had the RV serviced and ready to go. I do want to share something odd that happened when I picked up the RV from the shop.

I had the normal service work done and a couple minor things inside. When I started the engine to leave the shop, I thought I heard "laughter" all over the inside. I stopped and checked each room and area where someone might hide. I also checked my bins for a "stowaway." Nothing! I started the engine and again, I heard the laughter. I looked around to see if a couple of people were laughing close by my rig. No one was around. This made me a little uneasy until I realized that I do talk a lot "to" the RV when we are on the road and camping. I guess it finally started talking back. I think I will let it go at that. However, if I arrive at a campsite and, after hooking up, I find a glass of wine on the table, I think I'm going to either realize I'm losing my mind or simply say THANK YOU.

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

Membership / Chapter Fair



There has not been much going on with the membership position. With no Western Area rally in January there is nothing going on with the Chapter Fair at this time.

If you are an Officer in your Chapter and are reading this newsletter I would appreciate it if you could give me an update if there has been a change in your contact person.

I have a brochure I e-mail out to people looking for information about our Western Area Chapters, and in it I list the contact for each chapter. It is important that I am able to give the correct contact information. If you would like to know what information I have about your

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Central Area Vice President's Message



Hello all. We hope everyone is doing well.

Well we managed to close out 2021 without too many inconveniences. My wife and I put about 8,000 miles on the motor home this last year.

We started out going to the 103rd FMCA Convention in Gillette, Wyoming. What a great rally. We met up with some old friends and made quite a few new ones. The entertainment was awesome, as usual, and there were plenty of vendors.

After the Convention we headed over to the Portland, Oregon, area to visit with my oldest daughter, grand-



daughter and great granddaughter, Emma. She is such a cutie. We spent a couple of weeks there before heading south to home.

After taking care of business at home, we loaded up and headed out to Missouri, and Oklahoma to visit with more family and friends. We had not seen our son and his family for about five years. Oh, my, how the grandkids have grown. We then went on to DeSoto, Missouri, and spent a couple of weeks visiting with my sister and her family. We headed back to Oklahoma so the girls



could visit the Pioneer Woman's cooking studio and restaurant in Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

On our way back home, we made a detour to the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert. If you haven't been there, you are missing out on some of the most beautiful desert scenery on earth.

After about two weeks at home, we loaded up again and set out to the HMC rally at the Bonelli Bluff RV Resort. There were eight rigs that participated. No side trips were scheduled so that we could get caught up on what everyone was up to. All we did was talk and eat. A grand time was had by all.

Our next trip is going to the 104th FMCA Convention in Tucson, Arizona. There is still time to register. Hope to see you all there. Until then, remember to smile and have fun.

Rick Ammerman, F442485
Central Area Vice President

Northern Area Vice President's Message



I would like wish everyone a Happy New Years, 2022.

As I write this article, I'm thinking about how things just don't feel the same with us not being in Indio for our Western Area Rally. However, if the Riverside fairgrounds had been available, we would possibly have been facing another very contagious virus

that appears to be impacting everyone, even those that have been vaccinated.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the GMC 49ers for their 45 years of membership with FMCA. While I couldn't attend their rally at the 49er Village RV



Resort, I did have the pleasure of presenting Dean Hanson, National Director of the GMC 49ers, with their 45-year certificate and a letter from FMCA. I am looking forward to joining the GMC 49ers at one of their future rallies and

helping to celebrate their milestone.

James McDaniel, F371784
Northern Area Vice President

Membership / Chapter Fair

(Continued from page 2)

Chapter, let me know and I will send you a copy of the information that I have. I would like to be able to have the correct information when I send the brochure out to new FMCA members looking for a chapter in Western Area. Just contact me by e-mail bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com or call cell phone (530) 519-7346. Hope everyone is staying well - take care of yourself during this time.

Alice Bernard, F79098
Membership & Chapter Fair Captain
Volunteer Coordinator



Scan QR Code for FMCA's 104th International Convention & RV Expo registration information

March 23-26, 2022
Pima County Fairgrounds
Tucson, Arizona



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 RVing 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 Heartland
Golden State Trackers
HMC Club
Komfort Kruisers
Midweek Wanderers

Monaco Romers
Roamin' Catholics Southwest
Safari of Southern California
Valley Cruisers
Western GM Coach

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



WHMA Northern Area Chapters ... James McDaniel Vice President

Alpine Coach Norcal
The Ambassadors
Diablo Ramblers
California Capitals & Bay Area Liners
Crafty Crafters
GMC 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. It is to be used only for chapter-related inquiries. Any other use of this information is expressly prohibited.

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Western Motor Home Association Website

<http://wafmca.com/>

WMHA Winter Chapter Anniversaries

California Capitals & Bay Area Liners Chapter



15 Year Anniversary

California Capitals & Bay Area Liners (CCBAL) was formed in 2006 with the intent of joining FMCA, which it did in 2007. During this 15-year period, the club has grown and has been active in the Western Motor Home Association. Membership has increased to over 50 coaches with members in Northern and Southern California, plus members who moved out of state to Arizona, Georgia, and Louisiana. While we have had members retire during the year, we continue to receive applications for membership. Currently our membership is capped at 60 RVs. Our club is a fun and friendly club.



CCBAL has been an active participant in the Western Area Rallies in Indio. Arrival and parking duties were

handled by club members under direction of the Captain, James Mc Daniel, who in 2020 was selected as the Western Region FMCA Vice President.

We were very pleased with compliments received from attendees. The parade was always a fun time and the club won prizes in 2018 and 2019. The Rally photographer is also a club member and can be found snapping pictures all over the rally venue.

The pandemic definitely slowed club activity. Normally we have about six outings per year. There is always music and dancing plus dominoes, cards, and board games. The Jenga block game has become very popular as well as Left, Right, Center. A senior bicycle ride is scheduled for each outing for those who are interested. For a number of years we have attended the Waterfront Blues Festival in Portland, OR. The club has also attended "Gator By The Bay" in San Diego.

We began 2021 with an outing at Black Oak RV Resort in Tuolumne and ended the year in October at our annual meeting at Red Bluff KOA Journey (formerly Durango RV Resort). The theme was Fall Harvest Rocking in the '60s and '70s. A catered dinner was enjoyed by all. We had 37 RVs in attendance. Our first outing of 2022 will be at River Run RV Park in Bakersfield, CA, in March. It will be a great opportunity to celebrate our 15-year anniversary.

New website coming soon (ccbal.org)
Keith Session, President

RVing with Kidney Disease & Dialysis

This article is to illustrate that just because you have a life-threatening illness, it does not mean you have to stop your RVing life. My wife and I are members of FMCA and will be members of the Sierra Ramblers of Northern CA. It is my hope that this article will encourage other people to continue their RVing life despite health obstacles.

My wife, Coral, developed kidney failure and needed a kidney transplant. She has been working to get on the transplant list since June of 2017. About nine months prior to us finding out about her kidney failure we bought a new 23ft travel trailer. We did a lot of camping with the travel trailer, but once we found out about her condition, we stopped RVing for about one year. The reason being my wife was having to go to the local dialysis center three days a week for 3 ½ hours per day for treatment. Basically, it shut down our RVing experience. Then we found out about home hemodialysis treatments. These treatments allowed her to do her dialysis treatments at home or on the road for about 2 ½ hours a day, five days a week. Which may seem like a lot more time than doing in-center treatments, but she could do it at her leisure. It was a lot less stressful on us. We went through approximately three months of training, learning how to use and set up the equipment. It does require a little more time in the beginning, but we worked as a team and made it work.



This also got us to thinking about being able to do her treatments on the road RVing. Now here is where I have to say doing treatments on the road

RVing takes a little planning, but we made it work. We took the equipment and supplies and did treatments in our little 23ft trailer and did a lot of small trips to acclimate us to doing the treatments in the trailer. Then in the Spring of 2019 we went to spring training in Phoenix (we live in Northern CA). We were gone three weeks. We did her treatments five days a week, while on the road and at spring training and had a great time with our friends. We did have to have certain supplies delivered to us while in

Phoenix, which just took some planning ahead of time. It took a little more planning on our part, but we made it work and had a great time. The only real drawback that we encountered was the comfort and seat time required by my wife when she was doing her dialysis, because of the size of the trailer. So, we decided to sell the trailer and buy a motorhome, which gave us a lot more room. After about nine months of looking and researching, we found the one we wanted - a 2003 Dutch Star diesel pusher. We have done a few trips with the motorhome and found it to be much more comfortable for my wife while on treatment. Also, now that we have the motorhome we could be on the road and do a three-to-four-week trip without having to resupply. Now this is not to say you must have a motorhome for this to work; you can do your treatments in a trailer, 5th wheel, or a motor home. Where there's a will, there's a way. If you are on dialysis or have another life-threatening illness, you can make it work; you just need to do your planning. See pictures showing my wife on dialysis when we were on a camping trip with our grandson for five days. For more information feel free to email me, Pete Baker, at pbaker51@pacbell.net or Coral Baker at cjbaker1954@gmail.com. Happy RVing.



Note: You do not have to do home hemodialysis. There are other options such as Peritoneal dialysis if you are physically unable to do home hemo-

dialysis; there is always the option to go in-center wherever you might be. It just takes planning and commitment not to let something like this deter you.

Footnote:

On Wednesday, April 14, 2021, Coral had a kidney transplant. Everything seems to be working fine. A friend of ours named her new kidney "Kenny" so now when we talk about her new kidney we say, "Kenny is doing just fine." We have been on a couple of trips since her transplant with the motorhome. It has been great! We really enjoy the motorhome even more so now that we no longer do dialysis.

Pete and Coral Baker