

WESTERN BYWAYS

FMCA WESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2022 EDITION

Volume 36 Issue 3

Western Area FMCA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Summer 2022

President's Message



Well, it's hot out. I guess that is why they call it Summer. One thing I did not mention in my last message was a small bit of news that applied to me and Debbie. We bought another motorhome. Not a new one mind you but one that is newer than our old coach. We had looked at used coaches while in Tucson but nothing really leaped out at us. We did happen on one after the Tucson event so it was

time to finally let go of our trusty motorhome of 18 years and move up. Now, those of you who have done RVing for many years, through many different RV ownerships, soon develop a list of things you want in an RV, what sort of floor plan you want, etc. Debbie and I are no exception. I guess that is why we had our last motorhome so long; we just never found one that checked all the "must have" boxes. Our list included things like: large basement storage, large holding tanks, aluminum wheels, comfortable captains seats, large galley with lots of counter space, lots of cabinet storage, residential refrigerator, separate bath and toilet, large wardrobe closet and plenty of drawers, washer and dryer (separate, not combo), in a floor plan we both liked. Now buying a used motorhome from out of state does present some challenges. There were some things not working after delivery which were later taken care of, but getting a title in California is something else. The finance company was taking care of the title transfer but kept coming up with additional forms that needed completion. I had to continually push on them to get it done as we were operating under a temporary vehicle license which was expiring soon. They finally gave up and sent me the whole paperwork package with a statement to take it to my local DMV for completion. In the meantime, with all of our stuff finally transferred to the new coach, we took a short "shake down" trip before we ventured up to Oregon.

With everything packed to go, we were off to Oregon

for the Northwest Area Rally. On the way up we stopped in Oroville for the Sierra Ramblers Chapter rally at the Feather Falls Casino and RV park. This is a beautiful facility nestled in the Sierra foothills. We had a great time and made many new friends. One downside was our failure to win a big jackpot in the casino to pay for our new motorhome. Imagine that. From there we made a short hop over to Red Bluff to visit some friends. They had planned an outdoor barbecue for us but wouldn't you know it, it started raining. They hadn't had rain for months; go figure. After our visit there we headed up to Winchester, Oregon, to visit friends we had not seen in 18 years. It was great seeing them and they, at 81 years old, are still active. They have a 40' motorhome, belong to an FMCA chapter up there, and he is still an avid fisherman. From there it was a scenic drive over to Coos Bay. Our friends told us about a do-it-yourself scale along the way there that you just drive into and a big digital scale shows you the weight. It was great to get the axle weights of our new coach so I have a reference point for tire inflation until I can get individual wheel weighing. It had been many years since we were last in Coos Bay but it didn't change much. Arriving at The Mill RV park we were parked on the outside row with an unobstructed view of the bay. It was fun watching the tidal changes and boats going in and out of the bay. It was also very cool, which was a welcome relief from the summer temperatures of the previous week. It was a very nice rally. Most felt with the smaller number of people it was more personal and enjoyable. We had a hot dog extravaganza, a salmon dinner, and a barbecue dinner. Various pastries and coffee were provided each morning and there were two nights of entertainment. With vendors and seminars, there was plenty to do as well as time to relax or drive around Coos Bay. We even had time to gamble in the casino but alas, no jackpot for us to pay for the new coach. What gives? It was during this rally that I made the official announcement that our rally in Indio was on. This has resulted in many calls and emails from people so glad to hear our rally will happen. With the NW rally over, it was time to make a direct trip

home as I had lots of work to do, now that our rally is scheduled to take place. We did divert over to the coast for a couple of days to the Pismo Beach area for our last dose of cool temperatures before heading home. It was an enjoyable 3-week trip and our new motorhome worked well for us. Still some little things to fix and some personalization to do but overall, it has met our expectations and does what we wanted.

Activities are certainly now ramping up. We are currently negotiating a contract with the new operators of the Indio fairgrounds. At the end of the month we have the WMHA Executive Board meeting where we discuss the upcoming Indio rally and also put together a proposed budget. Then we are off to Lincoln, Nebraska, for FMCA's 105th International Convention & RV Expo. High fuel prices certainly make it tough to attend a faraway event but I do hope to see you there. Besides the convention, there will be a Governing Board meeting and we need delegates from the Western Area in attendance. If at all possible, please plan to attend. Once back from Nebraska, we have a chapter rally to attend and then it will be our Governing Board meeting in Hanford.

Enjoy the summer, be safe, stay hydrated and we will see you down the road.

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

Editor's Note: *The theme of the Sierra Rambler's Oroville rally was "Rags to Riches" and Bob was a great sport. Make sure to wave and say Hi to Bob if you see him standing on a street corner ... LOL*



Senior Vice President's Message



We're Back!!

As we are all aware, the WMHA Rally "In The Land of Oz" is back and scheduled for January 2023!

For two years we haven't had an Area rally. We've been through COVID and its variants, and a fairgrounds that was a treatment facility and testing center for COVID.

But now, we are negotiating a contract with a new facility manager. The facility is ready to go, working on the "Goat Heads," and making some of its own enhancements. Everyone working on organizing this Rally is pushing hard to ensure that it will be a great time.

What is new in this contract...nothing. All the areas you're used to seeing and using are back; Fullenwider, Taj Mahal, Queen's Gallery, and the Junior Exhibit Buildings. All the events are back too...1st Timers Briefing, Chapter Fair, Ladies Luncheon, evening music and the Maestros. Above all, the Vendors and Seminars are requesting to participate as we speak. Everyone is returning.

With the theme being The Land of Oz, I can see a parade full of Dorothys, Lions, Scarecrows, and Tinmen. Music by the Maestros, decorated floats and golf carts, and plenty of candy being tossed to the parade-goers.

For those that live in California, and neighboring states, this is the closest Area rally you can attend. While cost of fuel is higher than we want, our WMHA Indio Rally equates to having a large-scale rally in our back yard.

By the time you read this, registration should be open. Sign up, attend, and enjoy. You won't regret your decision!

Dave Franke, F443367
Senior Vice President WMHA

Southern Area Vice President's Message



It's nice to hear good news. My new/used RV is working great. But the big news is that the Indio Rally is moving forward. As you know, volunteers are needed to make it as big a success as we have seen in the past. WMHA continues to look for volunteers to help out. Please consider volunteering for various areas of the rally. If interested, please call/

email me or one of the area VPs.

Northern Area Vice President's Message



Good afternoon fellow travelers. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and having lots of fun.

We've just entered the second half of 2022, which means that it is now time to mark your calendars for our WMHA Western Area rally at Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio, Ca., scheduled to begin January 11, 2023. We are so excited and busy planning for this rally. While we have a very short time frame to put everything together, we are definitely poised and ready for the task at hand. However, please note that we cannot do this alone. We'll need everyone's support. Specifically, we will need captains and lots of volunteers to ensure a successful event.

The month of May brought lots of excitement as Janie and I planned our first extended RV trip in over two years with our fellow RV friends. We first headed south to attend an outdoor wedding, in Riverside, Ca., which was very elegant and beautiful. Next, we were off to Arizona. In Arizona, we had a great time. We took a two-hour train ride to visit the Grand Canyon, which was breathtaking. Then we headed north to Laughlin, where the weather was a sweltering 110 degrees. Oh, and you guessed it, one of my A/C units went out! We rushed to the local store and bought a few fans to try and stave off the heat.

It was time to keep it moving though, so our next stop was Las Vegas, NV, where it was also very hot. At this juncture, our grandchildren joined us for the next two and half weeks as we enjoyed Las Vegas and then traveled to and enjoyed Coos Bay, OR. We knew things were going to get better once we arrived in Coos Bay, Oregon, where we assumed the weather would be much cooler. However, in addition to continued hot weather, we also continued to have additional issues with our RV along the way. Upon arriving in Roseburg, Oregon, our RV was noticeably leaning to one side and the classic power switch was not working properly. Despite these issues, since we already had plans to attend the Northwest Rally at Mill Creek Casino and RV Resort in Coos Bay, Oregon, we ended up driving to the rally for a day to meet up with many of the rally-goers.

Thereafter, our ultimate plan was to travel to Bend, Oregon, in order to have our RV worked on. By the time we arrived at the repair shop in Bend, our list of needed repairs was much longer than when we started our trip.

With respect to the cost of fueling up the RV during these recent travels, we found that the most we paid for diesel was \$7.09 a gallon in Weed, Ca.

In other news, my RV continues to be haunted. I don't mind the odd laughter by someone who is not there. I don't mind that my TV changes channels to cartoons. I don't even mind that the shower water changes color from clear to blue, then green, then red. I'm used to those things by now. What I DO mind is the mysterious glass of wine that shows up on my table periodically. It was originally a superior wine. But now, I'm getting a glass that tastes like wine from a container that was purchased for \$2 a "barrel." If ghosts are going to haunt my rig, at least have class enough to buy \$4 boxes of wine. I know what you are thinking. This guy complains about a "free" glass of wine. Guess I can get used to it.

Well, I hope to see lots of people at Indio. 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

Central Area Vice President's Message



Hello again. Hoping all is well with everyone.

If you haven't heard, the Western Area Rally is going to happen this coming January. We are so excited to be in Indio again. The dates are January 11-15, 2023, so save

those dates. There is a lot of planning and plenty of things to do before then. We need to fill the vacant volunteer positions, so please consider volunteering. Please go to www.wafmca.com to see a list of positions that need to be filled. Without volunteers this rally cannot be the best rally ever. We also need a chapter to take over the table and chairs setup in the auditorium. Your chapter will receive preferred parking. Tom King is the captain and has been working with tables and chairs for many years. For more information please email me at ricksp94@yahoo.com

We will be holding our annual executive board meeting in July at the River Run RV Park in Bakersfield, Ca.

On to a different subject, my wife and I are going to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the 105th International Convention and RV Expo. If you wish to attend, the dates are August 24-27, 2022. We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Remember to smile and have fun.

Rick Ammerman, F442485
Central Area Vice President

While we faced some challenges during this trip, I must say that we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The most important thing for us during this time was being able to spend quality time with our grandchildren and of course having quality time together. We ended our two-month-long trip just in time to be home to celebrate our first great-grandchild's baby shower.

Stay safe, be safe and live life to its fullest every day.

James McDaniel, F371784
Northern Area Vice President

JANUARY 2023

Western Area Rally

January 11-15, 2023
Indio, CA

Where members gather to socialize, view exhibits, attend seminars and enjoy quality entertainment ...

Registration Coming Soon

Inverter/Charger



An inverter is the opposite of a converter, as it changes 12-volt-DC power to 120-volt-AC power. In other words, it takes an input of 12-volt-DC power from the battery bank and inverts it into 120-volt-AC power at the output. This

largely eliminates the need for shore or generator power, although large loads such as air conditioners can't effectively run off inverter power.

When an RV is connected to shore power or to a generator, an inverter/charger replaces a converter by running in reverse. It takes the 120-volt-AC power from the outside source and provides 12-volt-DC output that is used for battery charging and RV house power.



Simplify Your RV Life & Access FMCA Benefits from Anywhere

With a legacy of nearly 60 years and a passion for the outdoors, FMCA membership provides educational support, top-quality services, benefits, and products, and a welcoming environment that contributes to making RVing easier for families. We know that RVers like to travel to all ends of the earth, and with the FMCA Mobile App, you'll have all the important resources and contact information to ensure you can access and use your member benefits when you need them, no matter where you are or whether you have an internet connection. You won't have to create a new account – your current FMCA credentials will work.

App Features:

Membership Profile Information:

- Family Member Number
- Join/Expire Dates
- Renewal options via the app

Benefits:

- Tire Savings Discounts
- Roadside Rescue Discounts
- Tech Connect+
- FMCAssist contact and policy information regarding medical evacuation coverage
- *Family RVing* Monthly Magazine

Contact FMCA:

- Phone contact information
- Email contact information



Membership / Chapter Fair



I hope that your chapter has been able to hang on during the COVID time and that you are now able to have your meetings and get back to being together.

It looks like we will be able to have our WMHA rally in January 2023 at Indio (more on this from our President, Bob Golk, and the rest of the Governing Board). I'm

saying that we should be able to have our "Chapter Fair." Start planning on being at the rally and hopefully your chapter will plan on having a table at the Chapter Fair. I know that some of the chapters put on a big display but the important thing is to get the name of your chapter out there – have some information about who your chapter is, what they do, etc. Have at least a couple of your members there to talk to people who are interested in what your chapter is all about. There are usually a number of first-timers at these rallies and a lot of them are looking for a chapter. Please let me know if you will be interested in having a table at the Chapter Fair. I don't have any information at this time as to what day and time we will be able to do this – it is usually right after they have the "First Timers" seminar. Watch future Byways for more information.

Let me know if you are interested so that I can make plans for how much room we will need.

Please contact me either by e-mail:

bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com

cell phone: (530)519-7346 or

snail mail: P.O. Box 704 Willows, CA 95988

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.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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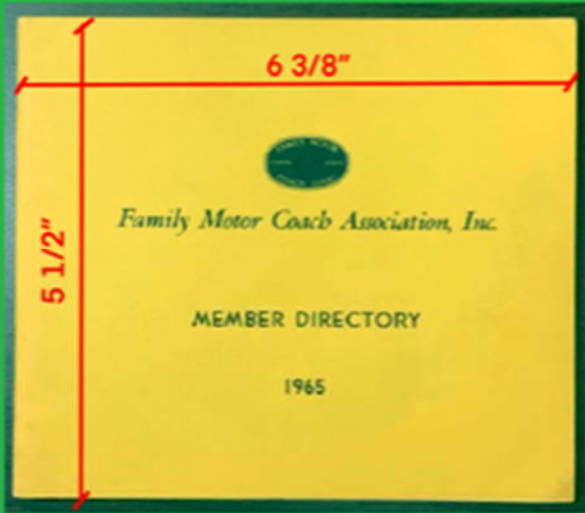
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Western Motor Home Association Website

<http://wafmca.com/>

1965 FMCA Member Directory



Fun Facts

Total Membership: 783
 Canadian Members: 6
 England Members: 2
 (London & Sheffield)
 States with 1 Member:
 Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii,
 Nebraska, Utah &
 West Virginia
 States with no Members:
 Delaware, Maine, Vermont,
 Wyoming
 Commercial Members: 40

I would like to thank Jim Holifield (F387) for providing the 1965 FMCA Roster for this review.

Commercial members
 Interesting facts of some of the 40 commercial members that joined FMCA in 1965.

Crown Coach Corporation, C1 (founded in 1904 - 1991); they manufactured fire engines, school buses and motorhomes, which they later marketed throughout the West Coast.

Blue Bird Body Company, C4, later becoming the Blue Bird Corporation. They remained a family business until the early 1990s. Their first motorhome was manufactured in 1963. Named the Blue Bird Transit Home (re-branded as Wanderlodge in 1968), it was a \$12,000 luxury recreational vehicle.

Wilson's Motor Caravan, C3, founded in 1904 as a driving school. This company is located in Brixton, England. Wilson's started the first global motorhome sales centre in 1958, and became the largest global

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Family Motor Coach Association, Inc.
 P.O. Box 44144
 CINCINNATI, OHIO 45244

This two part directory has been prepared and is furnished without charge to full members as a service of the national office.* Its use for any business purpose without the written permission of the board of directors is strictly prohibited.

The first part of the directory lists the members by member number, while the second part groups them by state, then city and then lists alphabetically by name within each city. We hope that you find it useful.

K. T. Scott
 K. T. Scott
 Executive Director

June 1965

* We acknowledge, with thanks, the generous assistance of Mr. James Taylor, F409, whose contribution of tabulating services has made this directory possible.

OFFICERS

President
 J. Raymond Fritz F4
 V. President
 Charles Owens F44
 Treasurer
 Willard E. Whipple F15
 Secretary
 Mary L. Whiting F7

DIRECTORS

Robert L. Brackbill F454
 Bolton Drackett F56
 Thomas S. Duck F257
 Dennis McGuire F11
 Robert L. Richter F1
 Hubert S. Sharp F2
 Hans K. Taschner F13
 Eric T. Webster F16



motorhome dealership throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

Most of the remaining vendors were made up of either car and truck dealers and other early manufacturers of trailers and motorhomes.

Lon Cross, F233066



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 motorhoming 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

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 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 Summer Chapter Anniversaries

South Western Bus Nuts Chapter

45 Year Anniversary



I would be remiss, if I did not mention the Original South Western Bus Nuts were converted, real city and Greyhound buses! The original members took great pride in bringing their individual buses back from the grave by rebuilding

the entire vehicle, engines, transmissions, brakes and last but not least, gutting the interior and converting it to a home on wheels.



Moving into my generation, by the time I came along, some 14 years ago, we were pretty much out of buses and into commercial rigs, except for three leftovers. Those have now disappeared and, with them, the fine families we all came to love.

Sadly, we have been fighting the slow but sure loss of membership that others in the FMCA are experiencing.

BUT WE CAN STILL SAY, HAPPY 45 YEARS TO US!!

In my lifetime, I've run into some truly interesting folks in Aviation, but these BUS NUTS are my extended family.

We have a 200-mile, "left over" trip limit, from the original guidelines, that has been stretched out on several occasions to accommodate activities. Of late, our furthest has been the Colorado River for an annual trip. We have potluck and catered evening meals, and club-provided breakfast. And we go to local point of interest and share the experiences of the sights visited or even enjoy downtime watching TV after a day on the water!



We have started to recruit into our club other FMCA members who pull their homes. Our rallies include pretty much all the activities like at the river, minus the water, and what a hoot when we get together and build a

bonfire, cook s'mores, dance or clown around!! You just never know, but one thing for sure, we enjoy our time together!!!

Warren Moore
South Western Bus Nuts Acting President



Visit the FMCA Campground in Cincinnati

FMCA members are invited to make use of FMCA's member-only campground located at: **3590 Round Bottom Road Cincinnati, OH 45244 | (800) 543-3622**

Stay up to 2 nights per month FREE. Depending on space availability, members may stay a maximum of five additional nights per month for a fee of \$30 per night for a full hookup and \$20 per night for electric-only. Reservations are required.

The FMCA Campground has 15 full-hookup sites on concrete pads and 9 electric-only sites on blacktop for members to use.

Directions to FMCA Campground
3590 Round Bottom Rd Cincinnati, OH 45244
Interstate I-275 to exit 63A, State Route 32
Proceed west on State Route 32 about 4.2 miles
Turn right on Round Bottom Road
FMCA campground is about ¼ mile on the right

To book your reservation, visit www.fmca.com/stay-fmca or call **(800) 543-3622**. By booking a stay at the campground you agree to abide by the Campground Terms and Conditions.

Workamping / Camp Hosting

The term **workamping** was created and patented by Workamper News in 1987. Here is their definition of the term:

"Workcampers are adventuresome individuals, couples, and families who have chosen a wonderful lifestyle that combines any kind of part-time or full-time work with camping. If you work as an employee, operate a business, or donate your time as a volunteer, and you sleep in an RV, you are a workamper"

Camp hosting, park hosting, and workamping are all terms used to describe working while living in your RV. They all include any activity that involves the exchange of labor hours for anything of value. It could be a paycheck, or it could be a free hookup site. Usually, the term camp host is used for private campgrounds, and the term park host is used at national and state parks.



The California State Park system has 280 incredible state parks. Their miles of breathtaking coastline, remarkable wetlands, majestic redwood forests, beautiful deserts and colorful valleys provide a diversity of parks found nowhere else in the world.

Volunteer host positions are available in over 100 parks. This is a great opportunity to spend time in a wonderful location and meet fellow travelers. Hosts are typically located in a Park Hosts' campground location in a State Historic Park.

Host duties vary according to each park but generally include providing visitor information, staffing visitor centers and museums, maintenance projects and general housekeeping. Most hosts work approximately 20 hours a week and, in exchange for those services, the hosts are provided with a campsite during their stay.

For a complete list of California State Parks that use volunteer hosts, see current and ongoing host openings at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=911



Campground hosts serve as volunteers in the National Park Service's Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) Program. Hosts assist park staff with campground operations and provide a variety of information to visitors including: campground and food storage regulations; safety advisories concerning visitation while in bear and mountain lion country; backcountry camping, hiking, and fishing; National Park and concession facilities; interpretive programs; road conditions; park natural resources and other points of interest.

Hosts are often thought of as the "eyes and ears" of campgrounds. They provide supervisors and rangers with information regarding campground facilities, visitor use, wildlife sightings, and safety concerns, but do not take direct action involving law enforcement situations. Hosts may staff ranger stations; provide upkeep of campgrounds; and assist with the selection of campsites, camp registration, and fee payment. They do not accept or handle recreational fee transactions. The wearing of a VIP uniform identifies campground hosts. You may be reimbursed for the cost of required uniform clothing items.

Most campgrounds have full recreational vehicle hookups for hosts, but a few are more limited in utility services. Campground hosts live in designated sites within the campgrounds and are subject to visits and requests for assistance at all hours of the day. Hosts should plan on working in all kinds of weather due to the park's mountain environment. Due to training requirements, most campground host positions require a commitment of approximately three months. Campground seasons run from mid-May through mid-October, depending on the campground.

Find a list of available VIP opportunities at <https://www.volunteer.gov>

Peter Jautaikis, F438339
Western Byways Editor



The FMCA University library holds almost 700 RV-related articles spanning 50 categories to help take you from a beginner to a more confident and experienced RVer. We've combined decades of RV knowledge into one convenient location so you can focus on the topics that interest you most.

The curriculum is broken up into different sections, and each section may have one or more achievements that you can gain and add to your FMCA University Profile – but you have to pass the test first!

Once you have entered the Curriculum section of the University, scroll and select from a list of categories to begin working on an achievement. After you make your selection, the achievement window will pop up with a description and display the lessons associated with each achievement. The more tests you take and pass, the more achievements and badges you earn with different incentives and rewards along the way!

Members can log into FMCA University 24/7
<https://www.fmca.com/about-fmca-university>

