

Volume 37 Issue 2

Western Area FMCA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Spring 2023

President's Message



Finally, it looks like winter is behind us as the hills around us are turning green and we are seeing more sunshine. No sign of wildflowers yet but I'm sure they will be popping up soon and I expect a banner year given all the rains and late season snow we have had. I welcome the season change.

During the winter months we see low temperatures in the teens and twenty's which means winterizing our mo-

torhome between outings. This winter it seemed I spent more time walking around the motorhome in snow and ice getting it prepped for a trip. We didn't have any warm-up days between storms like in years past. The persistent cold temperatures also brought an end to the life of all our vehicle batteries, five in all. I got pretty adept at changing batteries in a very short time as it was no fun working out in the cold. I did notice that batteries seem to be much heavier than they used to be. You don't suppose it is me getting older do you?

We attended the Beat-The-Odds rally in Laughlin, NV in February. Debbie and I volunteered to be the new rally managers for the February Laughlin rally so we arrived early to meet the hotel staff at the Riverside Resort where we hold this rally every February. Very nice people and easy to work with. This was a good place to sit out some storms that were battering California back home.

In March we headed East through Arizona and it was a beautiful drive through Williams and Flagstaff as it was all under about 4' of snow. Thankfully the freeway was clear and dry although it had been closed a week earlier all the way to Holbrook. We ended up heading South to New Mexico and then West back to Arizona and stopped in Picacho to visit a place we visited about 8 years ago, the Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch. This place has really grown since our last visit and it is a fun place to stop. Lots of animals to feed (goats, deer, rabbits, ducks, tortoises, ostrich and lorikeets). Ostrich are very aggressive when they take food so watch your fingers. One got ahold of



Debbie's thumb and wouldn't let go. The best were the lori-keets. These very colorful birds are from Australia and when you enter their aviary with little cups of nectar they alight all over you in a race to get to it. From there we continued West and stopped to

visit some friends for a few days. They have RV parking on their property and it was a good place for us to sit as storms were still hitting back home.

Next up for us are FMCA committee workshops and Executive Board meetings in Cincinnati in May. We will take a break from the motorhome and fly there. We have never been to FMCA Headquarters so it will be great to see where all the staff work and also tour the FMCA Campground that is available to all members who may be passing through the area.

In June we will be heading up to Albany, Oregon to attend the Northwest Area Rally. Though not as big as our Indio rally, it is still a fun event and well worth attending if you can make it. Dennis, the NWA President and his wife, Martie would be glad to see you there. (See page 6 for a Registration Form)

In August is the FMCA summer convention in Gillette, WY. If you have not been there, this is a fabulous venue for a convention. The buildings are first class, there are hundreds of full hook-up RV spaces and the town of Gillette is close by and the people are friendly. There are lots of volunteer opportunities if you are interested. This convention will have a Governing Board meeting and elections of some National Officers so it is vital that your chapter be represented. Be sure you have a delegate from your chapter in attendance. Registration for Gillette is now open. Hope to see you all there.

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

Senior Vice President's Message



Membership Should Mean Volunteering

A year or two ago I had the opportunity to travel and attend the FMCA International Rally at Lincoln, NE. While there, I met a gent who volunteered for something for which I can't remember. While we meet many great people at rallies and chapter gather-

ings, I struck up a pretty good exchange of comments that led to reflecting his concern about why organization's members don't readily volunteer. While we've all been in these types of discussions many times, my new friend shocked me with his story.

He was in his mid-seventies, like most of us, and has undergone and will continue to be frequently monitored for a rare form of blood cancer. He explained he had it for years but for some unknown reason or cause, it became active. While the cancer was in his blood, it manifested itself by causing fluid to collect in the area around the left lung.

During the period of discovery, cause, treatment, and how to handle an incurable cancer and return it to remission, my friend volunteered and wouldn't say no when asked to help.

With the rally over, we ran into each other again at the Western Motor Home Association Rally at Indio. I couldn't help but ask two questions, how's your health, and what have you volunteered for at this rally. He explained he's had infusions with two different chemo drugs, lost some weight and his energy was a bit low. No remission yet and luckily the fluid collecting near his lung was slowly decreasing. He further went on to say that volunteering was a good diversion and provided enjoyment for others. He knew that without his volunteering, for even the smallest of tasks, some part of the rally might not be as good as it could be. When I pushed him about "is he taking good care of himself" with all his volunteering, he replied that he couldn't really understand why more people couldn't/wouldn't volunteer who were in far better health then he was.

I asked if I could pass along his experiences and opinions and while he was a quiet person, he doesn't mind if I do.

I won't quickly forget my new friend, and don't know when our paths will cross again, but what he showed me is that we all can volunteer for something. Just being a member isn't enough when you learn of the uniqueness of those that do

Dave Franke, F443367 Senior Vice President WMHA

Northern Area Vice President's Message



Spring has sprung and we've had a very wet, windy and cold wintery type season to endure. However, the good Lord knows we needed the water to help our drought crisis. Along with the rains and winds, we discovered leaks in different places in our RV that we never knew existed before. On our way home in our RV, on a very windy and rainy

day, we noticed water creeping through the windshield seal.

Despite the wet and windy weather, Janie and I were able to attend outings with a couple clubs. While there were a few outdoor activities, many of us stayed in our RV's and participated primarily in activities at the club house during social hours.

First, we headed south to Yanks RV Resort with the Freedom Rollers RV Club. Yanks has a very nice club house, which we were very happy to have available, so we had somewhere to gather and socialize. Everyone in attendance had a great time and was able to attend the King City Rodeo Roundup. At the rodeo we were able to watch individuals competing for best times and prizes. During one event, there was a heartfelt moment when a three-year-old girl came out of the shoot riding a sheep. She was hanging on for dear life and went well beyond her allotted time. In fact, she rode her sheep to the point the sheep stopped, hoping she would get off. By the end of the rodeo, we all felt the Cowgirls and Cowboys didn't fare as well as they hoped due to the bulls and bucking horses entering the arena having their very own debut. Overall, we enjoyed the rodeo and are looking forward to the next one.

Second, Janie and I had the privilege of joining for the first time, the Diablo Ramblers at Flag City in Lodi, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Diablo Ramblers has been a chartered club since 1973. They joined FMCA in 2021. I had the opportunity to meet with the president of Diablo Ramblers, John Clary, during our recent WMHA rally Indio. Several of Diablo Rambler members were also in attendance. Since joining FMCA their membership has been growing by simply posting their chapter outing schedule on the FMCA website. The club secretary and new member chairman, Debbie Struthers has been receiving three to four inquires a week. Debbie follows up with all the inquiries and invites new potential members to their scheduled outings. When new potential members attend their outings, they are encouraged to also attend a new members' session to learn more about the club, upcoming activities planned, and they are provided an opportunity to complete an application. During the outing Janie and I met several new potential members, that were attending for the first time. Many of them stated that they have never considered joining a

Northern Area Vice President's Message (Cont)

club but they were each excited to join a lively and fun club like Diablo Ramblers.

During the outing, host John and Paula kept the St. Patrick's theme alive by serving homemade soda bread and corned beef and cabbage with all the added trimmings. Paula engaged everyone in a trivia game called "So you think you're Irish". Everyone had lots of fun. Congratulations Diablo Ramblers for hosting a great event.

Coming up, our 2024 WMHA Rally is scheduled for January 10 -14 and our Theme is "Arabian Night". Mark your calendars and share with others during your travels about our 2024 rally.

James McDaniel, F371784 Northern Area Vice President National Board. Everyone had a great time. If you have never been to the Deep South, you are missing out on some beautiful country.

Our next trip will be to Visalia, California to attend the Western Fan Festival, a Southern gospel music event and then on to the Bishop area for some much needed relaxation and fishing. After that we will be in Bakersfield to attend the Western Area board meeting. Then home until August when we will be in Gillette, Wyoming to attend the FMCA governing board meeting held during the 107th International Convention and RV Expo. The sign ups are going on now.

Well, that's all for now. Be safe in all your travels and remember to smile and have fun

Rick Ammerman, F442485 Central Area Vice President

Central Area Vice President's Message



We are hoping and praying that everyone is safe and healthy and enjoying early spring. The temperature is rising and we are starting to dry out. Our water storage reservoirs around the state are almost full. After the snow melts, they should be all

the way to the top. What a winter, we even got 2" of snow in Colton, California. It didn't last very long but it was nice to look at.



Paula and I just returned from Perry, Georgia and the 106th International Convention and RV Expo. What a beautiful facility. The turnout was awesome. They counted about 1800 rigs. Plenty of vendors inside and outside. The entertainment was excellent as usual. We

were camped next to a couple of first timer rigs. They had lots of questions and were amazed at how well everything was laid out. Paula and I decided to purchase a golf cart (Mantis), so we didn't have to walk as much.



We held the Western Area Gathering at Perry and had a good turnout. Lots of questions and a visit from our

Southern Area Vice President's Message



After all the rain, the temperature in Southern California is in the 80's

However, being from the pacific northwest myself, I kind of miss the rain already. Lakes and reservoirs are filling and that is a good thing.

Unfortunately, my rig is in the shop for the next 2 or 3 weeks

and a couple of meetings I had planned need to be postponed. It should be ready by our May Executive Board meeting in Bakersfield; assuming the Kern River has not flooded Bakersfield away.

After the board meeting, Carol and I are headed to Albany, Oregon for the Northwest Rally. Beyond that, we are headed north to Seattle, Everett, and Camano Island to see most of my relatives. I may take one of my sisters with us and head east towards Montana and the Dakotas. This would, of course, depend on her bringing her own wine.

Speaking of wine issues, I have not had any "ghost" wine issues lately. Maybe my haunting friend has gotten bored with me and my driving. Or, maybe he or she has been insulted that I am now taking "boxed" white wine, rather than their red. If anything happens on our trip, I will let you know in the next letter.

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



Things have slowed down since the January WMHA rally in Indio. I have the list of chapters with contact persons, where they are located, and what they do, etc. If anyone is interested in finding out about our Western area chapters, I will e-mail this list to people who inquire about chapters here in the Western Area.

If you have a change in your chapter of the contact person please let me know so I can have the latest information to pass on to people who are interested in our WMHA chapters.

It's never too early to start planning for the Indio 2024 rally. Think about having a table at the Chapter Fair with information about your chapter and one or two people to answer questions. In January this year several chapters were able to sign up new members. I know that some of the chapters are looking for new members and this is a way to get the information out there to those people looking to join a chapter. One incentive that some chapters use is to offer the first year's membership for free if they sign up at the Indio rally (no badges just membership).

When your chapter or members of your chapter volunteer at Indio, attendees see them volunteering and this might be another way to get people to join your chapter when they see the fun that can be had along with the volunteering.

If you have any ideas that you would like to pass on about getting new members in your chapter or something you think might work to make the chapter fair more helpful please let me know. We can see if it might be something to try to get more FMCA members joining our chapters ... that's where the fun is!

Alice Bernard, F79098 Membership & Chapter Fair Captain Volunteer Coordinator

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https://www.fmca.com/rv-discount-clubs

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Western Motor Home Association Website

http://wafmca.com/



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
California
Camping Squares
Cruisin' Condos
Discovery Club of California
The Dolphins

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

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
Komfort Kruisers

Midweek Wanderers Roamin' Catholics Southwest Romers Safari of Southern California Valley Cruisers Western G.M. 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
Diablo Ramblers
California Capitals & Bay Area Liners
Crafty Crafters
Freedom Rollers
GMG Forty Niners
Gold Diggers
Gold Dust Travelers

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

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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.

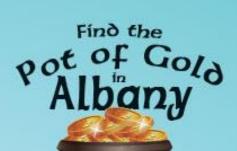
FMCA NORTHWEST AREA'S 2023 RALLY

JUNE 7-11, 2023

Linn County Expo Center 3700 Knox Butte Rd E, Albany, OR 97322

Parking: Tues, 6/6 – 1 PM to 5 PM • Wed. 6/7 – 8 AM to 5 PM
Departure: Sun, 6/11 – Noon

Highlights: 4 Nights Camping • 2 Meals • 3 Nights Entertainment
Strawberries & Ice Cream Social • First-Time Attendee Orientation • Bingo
Vendors • RV Displays • Chapter Fair • Seminars & Crafts • Door Prizes
Coffee & Doughnuts Served Each Morning • 50/50 Raffle • Swap Meet





All Recreational Vehicles Welcome • No Early Arrivals

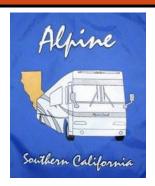
Member Number:	Last Name:	Last Name:				Co-Pilot:	
Address (If this address differs from your billing address, please call):			City:			State/Province: Zip/Postal Code:	
Email:			Telephone:			Cell Phone:	
RV Make:			RV Length: Hold at V			Vill Call? Yes	○ First Time Attended
1. Guest/Child's Name/A		Guest/Child's Name/Age:				O Disabled Parking	
Registration Category		By 5/5	After 5/5	Qty	Total	Would You Like to Volunteer?	
RV with 2 Adults – D	ry Camping (General & Disabled)	\$ 220	\$ 240		S	Yes, I would like to volunteer.	
RV with 1 Adult - Dry Camping (General & Disabled)		\$ 200	\$ 220		3	Please contact Butch Evans Cell: (503) 931-5925 Email: hearfromus@gmail.com	
Additional Fee for 30-Amp Electric		+\$ 140	+\$ 140	SOI	D OUT!!		
Each additional Occupant (Over 13 Years Old)		\$ 60	\$ 60		3	Rally Master – Dennis Martin	
Children 13 & Under (Camping)		FREE	FREE		s	Cell: (513) 824-4919 Email: dvrcommanders@gmail.com	
Passport (Per Person, See Below)		\$ 100	\$ 100	S		Commercial Exhibits – George Doersch	
Payment Information			Total \$		Cell: (541) 287-0531 Email: ghd4440@outlook.com		
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. Generator use allowed: 7:00am to 11:00pm. Passport: Allows access to Vendors, Seminars, RV Displays, Entertainment and Food Events. (No RV Parking on the grounds.) Badges: Your name badge must be worn at all times. The badge is your entrance pass to seminars, entertainment, and meals.				Parking Captain – Andy Balogh Cell: (503) 530-0166 Email: kabalogh@shaw.ca	
						Cell: (253) 380-1919 Email: dvrcommanders@gmail.com	
						where people of assume all risk officers, exhibit grounds person	k of COVID-19 exposure exists in an gather. By attending this event you u related to COVID-19 exposure. FMI to country volunteers, members, service p nnel are not liable for any illness, inj related to your participation at this

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Western Motor Home Association Spring Chapter Anniversaries

Alpine SoCal Chapter ... 15 Year Anniversary







Alpine coaches were first manufactured by Western RV in approximately 1971. **Alpine SoCal** was conceived in February 2002 at the Pechanga RV Resort in Temecula when Alpine owners attending that rally decided to create a brand specific RV club for Alpine Coach owners who lived in Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. The club was created as an FMCA sub-chapter, under the Alpine Coach Association, which is an FMCA chapter for Alpine Coach owners across the entire United States. Six years later, Alpine SoCal became a chapter of FMCA. In 2023, Alpine SoCal will celebrate its 15th anniversary as a chapter of FMCA. Last November, Alpine SoCal celebrated the 20th anniversary of the forming of the club.

Orphaned as a result of the 2008-2009 recession, Alpine owners are almost, well take that back, are complete geeks upon seeing another Alpine given how rarely we see other Alpine coaches on the road. Facing extinction, Alpine owners banded together with gearhead sessions at rallies and online support via the Alpine Facebook page and IRV2 postings. Common sightings at every rally are multiple legs protruding out from under coaches here and there. It begs the question: How may Alpine owners does it take?



Our membership currently hovers at 58 coaches which has prompted SoCal to open its membership to other motorhome brands based upon having been a prior Alpine owner or being recommended for membership by a current SoCal member. We also regularly team up with the Alpine Coach Association (ACA) and Alpine NorCal clubs for joint rallies to promote our continued viability.

The road well travelled has taken us throughout California and Oregon with forays into Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and Utah. Spot rallies are encouraged and members have grouped together for independent travels to Alaska, Mexico and Canada.

Our rallies focus on experiencing whatever is unique to area we are visiting, the camaraderie amongst the group, golfing, off-roading, great food, gear-head session, games (especially spirited cornhole/bag toss), ladies ti's, as in martini's, and more. It goes without saying ... What happens at the ladies ti stays at the ti.

Our 15th Anniversary in 2015 featured an adult piñata ... before your minds go to too far – our wagon masters fashioned a piñata likeness of an Alpine coach and stuffed it with dark chocolates, scratchers and baby liquor bottles. Let me assure you, the scramble for goodies when the piñata exploded was NOT hampered by age or agility.

You can check us out by visiting our website: http://alpinesocal.com

Western Motor Home Association Spring Chapter Anniversaries

Beat the Odds Chapter ... 25 Year Anniversary



Beat The Odds Club chapter of FMCA was established in 1998 in Indio California. Members are from California, Nevada, Arizona, and Oregon. We have 2 rallies per year in Nevada, one held in Pahrump in October and the other in Laughlin in February. One of the main activities of the chapter is a private slot tournament at each rally with proceeds awarded to the top scores!

The Pahrump rally is informal with the featured private slot tournament at a nearby casino. We have a hot dog cook out, play Bunco, and explore the area. The rally

concludes with a catered awards dinner and presentation of awards from the slot tournament and Bunco. We stay at Preferred RV Resort and use many of their amenities.

The Laughlin Rally is held at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort Hotel and RV park. All activities are held in one of the hotel banquet rooms overlooking the Colorado river. Attendees have a choice of staying at the hotel or in the Riverside's RV Park with full hookups. The first day registration is held in the morning with donuts and coffee provided. A pasta buffet the first evening in the hotel's banquet room provides a chance to meet and greet all attendees. The following two days have the private slot tournament, bunco, board and general meetings, and exploring capped off with a tasty banquet dinner on the final night of the rally with a presentation of awards from the slot tournament and Bunco.

Our rallies are open to all FMCA members and any guests. Our 25-year celebration will be held this year in Pahrump, Nevada at our October rally. Watch for the registration for this event as it will be a special time for members of BTO as well as anyone interested in attending this rally. If you're looking for a fun group to join please check us out at our 25-year celebration.







WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Western Byways welcomes comments and suggestions about information published in the newsletter

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The FMCA University
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convenient location.
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Show your FMCA pride with your membership plate.



Anti-Theft Decal

As an FMCA member, you will receive an antitheft decal in your New Member Kit.



Family RVing Magazine

The RVers' guide! Members receive monthly print and digital editions, plus full access to online archives.



Advocacy

FMCA is dedicated to helping you enjoy the freedom and fun of owning an RV. We work to protect RV owners' rights!



Tech Connect

Receive Exclusive Tech Discounts and optional rental mobile internet plan powered by AT&T



Mobile App

Connect easily with FMCA from your smartphone.

Editor's Corner

My Backyard Vegetable Garden

My perennial love for vegetable gardening is rooted in the labor of love I enjoyed helping my father in my early youth.

Over the years I have maintained various gardens and after we moved into our present home, I decided to turn our backyard into a vegetable garden that would allow me to once more renew my love of gardening and provide us with fresh vegetables.

I initially started by planting a few vegetable on our



retaining wall. But I soon saw the limitations and chose to turn my entire backyard lawn into a raised bed garden. After measuring twice, in 2012, I started to carve out the garden.



Decided to use Redwood to construct six 4'x8' raised beds in the lawn area. My wife, SWMBO, asked me to add a small

area in front of each raised bed for flowers, to add color, and to help attract bees for pollination. Also constructed four 1'x 8' bed areas on the retaining wall that will serve as a Summer and Winter garden. Finally, added a separate raised 2' x 4' bed for a

strawberry patch.

Filled all the beds with a Planters Mix / Blended Topsoil. The mix is a 4-way blend of Mushroom Compost, Sandy Loam, Manure, and Forest Hummus.





The last step was providing a drip irrigation system. I modified the existing lawn sprinkler infrastructure for this purpose. I first replaced the sprinkler valves with drip irrigation hardware that provided 3 watering zones. Each bed has a shutoff





valve, main and minor drip irrigation lines and hardware depending on the planted vegetables.

Over the years, I have planted and harvested a large variety of vegetables. Nothing too exotic but unlike many items you buy in supermarkets these products are not picked before they mature in order to survive being shipped to market.

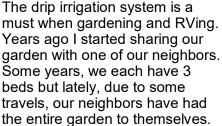














I'm sure that you've all seen the rising costs of fresh produce. The

garden allows us to offset some of those costs ... It doesn't get any better than this!!



Peter Jautaikis, F438339 Western Byways Editor