



## President's Message



Ah, summertime, the season of high temperatures, crowded campgrounds, crowded roadways, etc. You might guess this is not our favorite season of the year and normally we just park the motorhome for the summer and wait for the fall season (our favorite). However, obligations dictate that we must travel anyway.

First up was our WMHA Executive Board (EB) meeting at the end of May right after Memorial Day weekend. We had many discussion items to go over relating to our rally in Indio as well as putting together a proposed budget for the coming year. We also said farewell to our outgoing secretary, Carole Hazeltine, with a big thank you for 5 years of service. She did a terrific job. We then swore in our new secretary, Carol Bassford. Thank you, Carol, for stepping up to take on this most important job and I'm sure you will do a terrific job as well. Our EB meeting takes place at the River Run RV Park (one of our sponsors) in Bakersfield. Due to the huge snowpack in the Sierras, the Kern River that runs through Bakersfield and right past the RV park was full and running fast. Normally this is a dry riverbed with hiking/biking trails. A real treat to see an actual river there.

Following the EB meeting it was time to head north to Oregon for the Northwest Area Rally. On the way we diverted to the town of Oroville, CA to visit our newest chapter, the Freedom Rollers. They were having a rally at the Feather Falls KOA which is set in the Sierra foothills. What a fun bunch of people and they really made us feel welcome. Always fun to visit chapters and make many new friends. While there we drove up to Lake Oroville. Last year when we were here the lake was almost empty. At the time it was stated that it would take 6 years of normal rainfall to fill it back up. Well, thanks to the series of winter storms in northern California, the lake filled in one season and was running over

the spillway. It was quite a sight to behold.

From Oroville, we headed north to Albany, Oregon. Driving over Shasta Lake was breathtaking as it was full as well. Last year it too was almost empty. We arrived in Albany for the NW Area rally at the fairgrounds there. It was a really nice facility for holding a rally and Dennis and company did a great job. There were 2 nights of entertainment, a movie night complete with freshly made popcorn, a hot dog extravaganza night, taco night, food truck night, coffee/donuts each morning, vendors and seminars. Debbie and I worked serving the meals and though it was a lot of work it was still fun. There were 35 coaches from the Western Area in attendance so a big thanks to you all for supporting this rally.

Once over it was time to head home. We decided to trek over the mountains to the east and come home a different way in order to see some parts of northern California we had not seen before. A gem in this trip was a night in an RV park outside of the little town of Likely, CA. A mile off the beaten path (Hwy 395), surrounded by trees, pasture and an 18-hole golf course, was the RV park. They had a pro shop and a café with indoor and outdoor dining. People there were extremely friendly and talkative. Once parked and settled, Debbie and I sat outside with cocktails and watched distant thunderstorms and enjoyed the calm, cool air. That lasted about 15 minutes and the distant thunderstorms caught up with us. We dashed inside and watched a 30-minute downpour with lightning & thunder. An hour later we were able to go back outside with our cocktails and watch the sunset.



## President's Message (Cont.)

The next morning, we went to the cafe for breakfast (very good) and dined outside on the covered patio overlooking the first tee. As much as we hated to, it was soon time to pack up and continue home.

With the trip completed it was time to resume business. There is a lot of work just around the corner as we gear up for our annual rally in Indio, CA. We will be having our annual Board of Directors meeting in Hanford, CA in September where we will approve the 2023/2024 budget and also have our Indio planning session so watch for the meeting announcements.

Our next summer adventure is our trip to Gillette, Wyoming for the FMCA Summer Convention. FMCA is celebrating its' 60-year anniversary. There will be a Governing Board meeting as well as elections of new National Officers. I encourage all of you to consider attending this convention. Getting there is half the fun and once there Gillette and the surrounding area is a neat place to visit. The CAM-PLEX is a first-class facility for holding a convention. Debbie and I were there 2 years ago and we enjoyed everything about the trip and the convention. We are looking forward to this trip as well and we hope to see you there.

Enjoy your summer, be safe and see you down the road.

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

## Senior Vice President's Message



### Potpourri

Webster defines Potpourri as a mixture of things, especially literary. This article will be a Potpourri.

I was in Oregon recently, Marilyn is from Portland and I'm from Springfield, and as expected we needed gas for our car. We hadn't been to Oregon in over 30 years and I'd forgotten you don't pump your own gas. I assume it was this way when I was in high school and college driving, but I don't remember. Having now been a Californian for 30 plus years, I was uncomfortable sitting in a car, having a stranger approach from the rear of the car even though he was the station attendant. I think I've been watching too much TV.

So why were we in Oregon? We attended the Northwest Area Rally and it was a good one. Good location at the county fairgrounds outside Albany, all events in close proximity to each other, and above all great

people. Great friendly people that reflect the backbone of FMCA!

## Arabian Nights – January 2024



The theme for our rally was selected from numerous entries during the last few days of last year's rally. Chapters are encouraged to submit suggestions prior to the conclusion of the 2024 rally for 2025. But what is Arabian Nights? Very simply, it's a story of the legendary Scheherazade who told stories to her husband the Sultan. She is said to have told a different tale every night for 1001 days. These stories became a collection of famous Persian, Indian, and Arabian folk tales. Besides the Sultan and Scheherazade, these stories include Aladdin, Ali Baba, Sinbad, and a most fearsome genie.

The tales of Arabian Nights and their characters are limited only by our imagination as to what our parade can be like. There can be a Genie's Lamp, a sailing ship, or a magic carpet built around a cart, jeep or other chapter vehicle. The same vehicles can become the Sultan's castle. How many Aladdins, Genies, Ali Babas, Sultans, Sinbads and Scheherazades will walk the parade route?

The 2024 Rally Theme presents one of the best opportunities to support your rally by decorating, dressing in costume, and by having a Genie's Lamp full of fun.

Dave Franke, F443367  
Senior Vice President WMHA

## Northern Area Vice President's Message



As I grow older, I'm finding that the old cliché 'time waits on no one' feels more relevant with each passing day. Time seems to be moving faster and faster, as here it is mid-year already. Well, things around our household have been very interesting. As the weather is changing during this time of year, I've observed a couple things:

First, the bees are out and have been building hives everywhere. We found two very active hives on our property. We found one in a bush in the front yard and another on a wall on the front portion of our house. Now, one might shrug and simply say, "Mother Nature is at work", which is fine ... until you find the gardener is being attacked and solicitors are no longer frequenting your doorstep. While the latter is okay, we couldn't continue to have the gardener being attacked. So, we called a beekeeper to come out and collect the bees, mainly the queen bee. We are hopeful the collection was successful and that the bees will move on to find a new home.

Next, one afternoon as I was working in the backyard under my awning, I heard some rustling and noticed some movement. Upon investigation, I found a sparrow bird intently watching me from a new nest that had been built under the awning. Again, Mother Nature at work. We soon had a few new baby sparrow birds flying around the yard and even into our garage, on occasion. Since the eggs had hatched and the new baby birds had flown off, I thought I could safely remove the nest from under the awning. Wrong! That very same day I went to remove the nest, I found another sparrow had occupied the nest and began to hatch her eggs. Upon doing some research, I discovered that sparrows share nests. In fact, their nests are considered community nest. Being a nature person, I decided to just go with the flow and leave their nest until it is no longer needed.

As time continues to reel on, I'm finding my days are also quite busy. I recently attended our WMHA, executive board meeting in May. We spent two days going over the current fiscal budget and next year's budget. The majority of our time required direct focus on our Indio Rally budget. After two days of detailed discussion, reviewing documents and spreadsheets, and looking at our rallies' results, we came up with a budget. We gave a thumbs up for our 2024 Indio "Arabian Night" Rally, scheduled for January 11-14, 2024. There is lots of work happening in the background, but we need your support in getting the word out about the rally as you travel about and attend various outings or rallies.

We are also requesting your input on a few of the following activities: First, we are looking to have a pickleball tournament. We're looking for individuals, who have pickleball experience or who have sponsored tournaments, to assist in planning our tournament. Second, normally we have three nights of entertainment. This year, we are thinking about having a talent show or a movie night out for one of the nights. Again, we are open to and actively seeking input and volunteers. If anyone is interested or if you have suggestions, please contact me at (925) 818-7718 or [Jmcdan2296@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jmcdan2296@sbcglobal.net). You can also contact any executive board member.

On another note: Janie and I have had to cancel several trips and have missed attending various outings due to family matters that have kept us at home the last several months. However, the last time we were out in our RV, heading down the freeway we started smelling something inside the coach like burning rubber. We initially thought the smell was from a big rig passing by. But then we realized our coach was riding very rough and leaning to the left or driver's side, due to a loss of air in the air ride suspension system. We took our RV to the shop for repairs and upon inspection they also found welds above the axles on one side had cracks. This could have been a disaster traveling down the road had my axle separated from the frame.

Recently, one of our club members discovered he only had one leaf remaining on his trailer leaf spring, as he entered the RV resort. He was blessed that a major breakdown or event didn't occur in the middle of nowhere, on the freeway, or within all the heavy construction zones in California.

So, as a reminder during oil changes, tire replacements, or just a general inspection be sure to check for cracks on your chassis and on trailers look for broken leaf springs.

Our RV is unfortunately still in the shop which is one of the reasons we had to cancel attending the Northwest Albany rally. However, we have registered for FMCA Gillette, Wyoming rally. Hopefully, we will see you there.

Be safe as you travel  
James McDaniel, F371784  
Northern Area Vice President

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

Email [newsletterwmha@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterwmha@gmail.com)

## Central Area Vice President's Message



Hello all, Paula and I hope and pray that everyone is doing well and enjoying the weather.

It has been a busy couple of months. We traveled to Bishop, CA to attend Paula's two brother's memorial service. It was held in As-

pendale on Bishop Creek. It was a bittersweet trip. We did not have any time for fishing or to attend the Mule Days extravaganza held on the Tri County Fairgrounds. Maybe next year we can go back up and relax.

At the end of that outing we headed to Bakersfield to attend the Western Area executive board meeting. There was a lot of discussion on and about the budget and next year's Western Area RV Rally. It looks like it's going to be very exciting for everyone. Be sure to keep watching for updates and announcements.

We are now getting ready for FMCA's Convention and RV rally in Gillette, WY. We will be holding our yearly Governing Board meetings while we are there. Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. We will be heading back to Oregon, California, Nevada and Arizona before we get home again. Well, that is about all for now. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Remember to smile and have fun.

Rick Ammerman, F442485  
Central Area Vice President



## Southern Area Vice President's Message



Well, Carol and I are on the road again. We attended the Executive Board meeting in Bakersfield for the 2024 Indio rally. Details are being worked on but I am excited. At this meeting, my wife Carol was sworn in as the new WMHA secretary. Since our last Indio rally, she has already been working closely with outgoing secretary, Carole Hazeltine. She now "out-ranks" me in WMHA work. Of course, she's

Irish and already makes "suggestions" on needs around the house. (I have the laundry, dishes and window cleaning procedures down, but I am a little confused on waxing the floor.)

At this writing, we are in Albany, Oregon for their North-

west Rally. Nice people up here and it only rained once. From here, we are taking some time and going to Washington state to see some of my relatives. We are then off to Idaho and Montana. We will drift around for a little while, seeing the sites and more relatives.

My wine ghost was at it again. I know some of you think I am losing my mind, but this time, while at the Northwest rally, Carol saw what happened. I have a witness to this continued mysterious happening. We had just come back to our coach from a seminar and found a bottle of wine on our RV steps. We asked the people we know who may have given this wine to us, but no one knew anything about it. Oh well, I cannot look a gift horse in the mouth.

Take care and drive carefully as I would like to see you folks at the 2024 Indio Rally.

Jesse Bassford, F44869  
Southern Area Vice President

## Membership / Chapter Fair



Hope you are enjoying the summer and getting to do some traveling.

As I mentioned in the last Byways, it is not too early to be thinking about the January 2024 Western Area rally – especially the Chapter Fair. If your chapter is looking to add to its membership, this is a good way to contact new members. Chapters are provided with a table where they are encouraged to display their chapter information. This, along with a couple of chapter members present to answer questions, is a great way to promote your chapter and, hopefully, obtain new members. A candy dish is a great enticement for potential members to stop at your table. Just saying. . . Some chapters offer the first year's membership as a way to get them interested. This is just a one-year membership – not badges. Some chapters will have a little get together by their coaches after the chapter fair and invite those who are interested to stop by and meet the members. Just a couple of ideas.

Just prior to the Chapter Fair is the First Timer's Meeting for those who are attending the Indio rally for the first time. For many of them, this is their first exposure to chapters and they are excited to learn about and, hopefully, eager to join a chapter. So get your display ready and join in the Chapter Fair!

Remember, I have a list of the chapters in the Western area and most of them have a contact person listed. If you know someone who is interested in a chapter, have them contact me or you can ask me to e-mail this list to them. I am always available to answer any questions on any of the chapters. If I don't have an answer, I will find out the answer. Hoping to see you in Indio in January if not sooner.

Alice Bernard, F79098  
Membership & Chapter Fair Captain

## WMHA Executive Board 2023

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## Western Motor Home Association Website

<http://wafmca.com/>

Mark your calendar for the 34th Annual  
Western Area Rally  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, INDIO, CA  
**JANUARY 10-14, 2024**  
Theme of the Rally: "Arabian Nights"



JANUARY 2024

## Western Area Rally

January 10-14, 2024  
Indio, CA

Registration Coming Soon



# 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  
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](http://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 Kreuzers**

**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](http://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**

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



This Chapter information, along with the contact's mailing address, is posted on the FMCA website - [FMCA.com](http://FMCA.com) and at [wafmca.com](http://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

### Valley Cruisers ... 5 Year Anniversary



Valley Cruisers is happy to celebrate our 5 year Anniversary as a FMCA Chapter in the Western Area.

Although the Valley Cruisers is newer to FMCA it has been around for many years going back to a club through a local RV dealership, then to Good Sam and then happily moving to FMCA in 2018 when towables were allowed. Our club consists of many varieties of RVS with A's; B's; C's; trailers and 5th Wheels.

Though our club is somewhat smaller, we are active by traveling up and down the San Joaquin Valley; from the mountains to the central coast for rallies. We normally have 6 rallies a year with lunches scheduled for the months we do not have rallies plus a Christmas lunch or dinner.



Our rallies usually start on Sunday PM and end Wednesday or Thursday PM. RV Parks are less crowded, and sometimes get a better rate. Activities vary depending on our location but there is also plenty of food, snacks and games.

Valley Cruisers is no different than most of the RV clubs, as we did lose members during Covid and members aging out

but our membership has increased over the last year, which is positive.

Valley Cruisers members have volunteered at the Western FMCA Rally pre-Covid and post-Covid from Frustrated Maestros to helping California Heartland with Coffee & Donuts. Always having a good time.

Valley Cruisers also make yearly donations to charities recommended and voted on by the chapter. Last year our club donated to the Fresno Salvation Army and to the Valley Honor Flight.

Should there be anyone who would like to consider joining the Valley Cruisers, my information is listed in the FMCA Chapter Directory. Valley Cruisers is very happy to be a member of the FMCA Family.

Linda Cannon  
President, Valley Cruisers

### Alpine Coach Norcal ... 15 Year Anniversary



Alpine Coach Northern California (ACNC), aka NorCal, started with an informal informational meeting held at the Garlic Farm RV Park in Gilroy, California sometime in the year 2007, hosted by John & Barbara Knox and Stan & Pat Abernathy to see if there was enough interest to form a Northern California FMCA Chapter of Alpine Owners. There was!



The first "official" organizational rally was held at Flag City RV Resort in Lodi, California in January of 2008. At this rally, the membership roster was finalized, Bylaws drawn up, all paperwork completed and sent to FMCA. Many of those who attended are still active members today. Some have stopped RVing for various reasons and others, sadly, have passed on and are dearly missed.

We are a fun and adventurous group who love to share experiences and new places to visit. We have been to SO many places together, its near impossible to list them all! We've held spot rallies at casinos (Jackson Rancheria, Black Oak), rolling rallies (Eastern Sierra), rallies in the Sierra (Grass Valley), rallies on the coasts of several states (Pismo and Morro Bay in California, Gold Beach in Oregon) and rallies in out-of-the-way places (Etna, California). We've 'camped' in front of each other's homes, formed lasting friendships and truly enjoy just hanging out together.

Our rallies are typically 4 to 5 days in length, but some have been up to two weeks or more. There's ALWAYS plenty of delicious food, breakfasts and dinners, sometimes lunches, sometimes catered, sometimes 'homecooked' or a combination of both.

Every evening there is a BYOB Happy Hour just before dinner. Activities have included winery tours, brewery tours, tours of agricultural farms, olive oil processing and tasting tours, museum tours, government building tours, gondola rides to the top of ski resorts in the



## Western Motor Home Association Summer Chapter Anniversaries

### Alpine Coach Norcal Anniversary ... (Cont.)

summer, visits to ghost towns, visits to places of historic interest, line dancing lessons, crafting projects, just to name a few. There's usually 'free' time in a rally schedule to explore on your own or just chill at the resort. We have several needleworkers, quilters and golfers in our chapter and there is usually a visit to a local quilt shop and a round of golf included in a rally schedule. Almost all of us love to play games, favorites are Left-Right-Center, Five Crowns, Mexican Train and we've played Trivia (such as wine trivia), Pumpkin Bowling, Chuck-A-Duck to name a few!



Our Bylaws have been revised several times since that first meeting and we now accept other makes and models of Class A RVs. If you are interested in joining a fun and adventurous group, please call President Pat Mayfield at (559) 314-4898

We are currently experiencing the same difficulties as other clubs. Our aging membership is shrinking and fewer are able to volunteer for rally preparations and scheduling. When it comes to rallies, we don't sit around. There are museums to check out, history to be appreciated and restaurants to be tried, not to mention steam trains to be ridden. At a normal rally, we would have a potluck dinner or two, along with a club sponsored dinner and several happy hours where we can catch up with our members.

Covid put quite a strain on our club and we are slow to recover. We are hoping this year will bring more train riding adventures.



### Golden Spike ... 25 Year Anniversary



We are an FMCA Chapter that enjoys riding the rails! Our rallies are in historic places throughout the West that have a railroad history. Our activities involve riding historic trains where they exist or enjoying the railroad history if there are no existing trains to ride. We have ridden trains that serve dinner, trains that get robbed, trains in big modern cities and trains near ghost towns.

We are beginning the celebration of our 25th year as an FMCA Chapter. Previously in a typical year, we would have 2-3 rallies and join the FMCA in Indio where we secure and give out their free ice cream. We sometimes attend the FMCA International Rallies in the West and the Northwest Area Rallies. Our members are from many areas: Northern CA, Southern CA, Arizona, Nevada, Washington and even Montana!

In past years we had rallied in Santa Cruz CA, Tehachapi CA, La Grande OR, 29 Palms, Orange CA, Sedona AZ, Portola CA, Tillamook OR, Alamosa CO, Grass Valley CA, Lewiston MT and Carson City NV. We have joined FMCA and the Western Area in Redmond OR & Pomona CA.

### Stuffing 2023 Indio Rally Welcome Bags





**Bixby Creek Bridge - Hwy One, CA**



Welcome to Big Sur's version of the Golden Gate - a must-see road trip spot for many and probably the most Instagrammed feature along the Highway One coastline. And rightly so. Pull over at numerous turnouts to get amazing views, particularly from the bridge's south end at sunset.

Completed in 1932 for just over \$200,000, the concrete span, one of the highest bridges of its kind in the world, soars 260 feet above the bottom of a steep canyon carved by Bixby Creek. One look at the canyon's steep and crumbling cliffs, and

it's obvious that building the bridge wasn't exactly a cakewalk. First, a massive wooden framework had to be built, with materials brought by truck on what was then a narrow, one-way road riddled with hairpin turns. A staggering 45,000 individual sacks of cement had to be hauled up the framework—and this is before advanced heavy machinery could help do the lifting. Each bag was transported via a system of platforms and slings suspended by cables 300 feet above the creek. Curiously, the span was completed before the road, and it would be five more years before the route linking Carmel (about 15 miles to the north) to San Luis Obispo would even be opened.



Today, as always, the bridge is a favorite attraction for photographers, from professionals to those in search of the ultimate depth-of-field selfie. But whether you are snapping away or not, be sure to take advantage of the multiple viewpoints; they are key for reveling in 360 degree views instead of just the direction you are going.

This stretch of Highway One has been described as the Absolute Toughest Drive Ever Driven in an RV. RVers well remember the day they turn away from the coast, and headed east. That turn, ends the absolute toughest drive ever taken in an RV. This from drivers who have been RVing on wheels since 1962 and driven big RVs in every one of the lower 48 plus much of Canada! It was a spectacular drive, but tough.

**Define "Tough"**

Let me define "tough" - curving, twisting, tight turns, numerous switchbacks, narrow lanes, 500-foot drop-offs straight down, rarely any shoulder, a few sparse guardrails, rock abutments sticking out into your lane on inside curves, bushes and trees so close you must brush them, some mostly bunched-up traffic, a few fully-loaded log trucks, and fog - yes, fog! Would I recommend this drive? Well, yes, but not for the faint-hearted and not in an RV.

Peter Jautaikis, F438339  
Western Byways Editor

