



Volume 39 Issue 1

Western Area FRVA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Winter 2025

President's Message



****A Heartfelt Thank You****

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone who attended the 34th annual WMHA rally. This was a special event for all of us, and your presence made it truly unforgettable. I'm thrilled that our first rally as a team was a huge success. I couldn't have asked for a bet-

ter turnout.

To our volunteers, I want to express my deepest appreciation for your tireless efforts and dedication. Without your hard work, the rally wouldn't have been the same. Your selflessness and commitment to our organization are truly admirable.

The ladies' luncheon was a highlight of the event, with many attendees praising the insightful presentations by Janis Jacks and Jennifer Schilaci. The 200+ ladies who attended were treated to a wonderful experience, and we are grateful for your participation.

I would like to send a special shout out to the wonderful women who stepped in and assisted with the luncheon when Janie was unexpectedly hospitalized for a couple of days. Because of your willingness to step in and assure the event ran smoothly, Janie was able to focus on getting better and was released from the hospital in time to see a successful event.

The Karaoke event, which we dubbed "So You Think You Can Sing," was a huge hit. We had over 130 attendees having a great time and

several singing their hearts out. Lamar Keck noted that this was one of the largest crowds he has seen at a first-time Karaoke event. We are so thrilled that everyone had such a great time.

We also had a fantastic "Arabian Nights" themed parade, camel rides, bingo, and several other activities that brought our attendees much joy and excitement. I was particularly happy to see our first-timers having such a wonderful time. We are excited to welcome them back as second-timers next year!

I'd like to extend special thanks to the following individuals who worked tirelessly behind the scenes:

- * Vickie Smith, Financial/Registration Process
- * Peter Jautaikis, Registration/Website
- * Warren and Marla James, Seminars/Registration
- * Lon Cross, Monthly Flyers
- * David Franke, Advisor Support
- * Bob Golk, Mentor
- * Carol Bassford, Secretarial Support
- * Alan Tarp BBQ Pit

We appreciate your input and suggestions for areas of possible improvement. Your feedback will help us make next year's rally even better.

Once again, thank you to everyone who made this year's rally such a success. We are already looking forward to our 35th annual rally with the theme "**Roaring 20's**"!

James McDaniel F371784
Western Area National VP of FRVA
WMHA President

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Since we last spoke, I have visited two more of my Chapters. The California Chapter, where we had the pleasure of meeting Leonard Wahlquist and Beth Smith who were such great hosts. They really made my wife and I feel so welcome. The entire crew was

such a joy to hang out with and we had a blast. Once we were back home, I set up a day trip to visit the Outdoor Resort Palm Springs Chapter. We had the pleasure of meeting Mac Felt and Ty Rollins, their new President. They hosted a holiday cookie party - great cookies and margaritas also. I had the pleasure of meeting all the board members and was able to give them their 35th Anniversary Certificate.

While all that was happening, we welcomed our new granddaughter Jayle to this world. She was born October 15th healthy at 6 pounds 11 oz. Our grandson is sure the protector and we hope that remains the same as she grows up and starts playing with his stuff. The holidays were a joy for us with family and friends, watching our Ohio state football team move through the college playoffs on their way to the championship game, Go Buckeyes!!

On to the 34th Western Area rally. We experienced some changes from the high winds and the Southern California fires. Unfortunately, we had a lot of RVers that cancelled and/or came in late because of the fires and winds. That caused the arrival crews to have a lot more work but from what I saw they handled it great. It was pleasure working with all the volunteers that came and had smiles on their faces while working under crazy winds. I tip my hat off to all of them. As far as vendors, we lost 7 vendors due to the fires and we pray that they get through this with little discomfort as possible.



Once we all got set up, and the rally opened, it was a blast. A couple of notes - From what everyone told me, the Ladies Luncheon was a hit and they all look forward to the next one. Great speakers like Jennifer Schillaci from RV Roofing was very inspiring and others had great stories to tell. The food was great looking and looking at the pictures, it looks like all the attendees had a great time.

A lot of first timers I spoke to said they were having a good time and look forward to coming back. The camels were a big hit and my grandson loved them as well as I. The Parade was well received and I learned that I need to step up my game. The great costumes from all the chapters, along with what people did to bring all the joy and laughter to the event was awesome and I loved it. I'm glad I wasn't behind the camel ... LOL.

Well, I could go on and on but I'm still processing the rally and will have more to say in the next Byways Newsletter.

As always, stay safe out there and we will see you all soon.

Greg O'Neal, F506466
Southern Area Vice President



Northern Area Vice President's Message



Let me begin by thanking all of the Captains and volunteers that were in my area of responsibility as the Northern Area Vice President. I really appreciate your efforts and especially remaining flexible with this largely new executive board. There were a lot of things that worked smoothly

and some not so much. We can learn from this experience and make improvements for next year. Even though we had some challenges with high winds and resultant fires which delayed or even caused many rally participant cancellations, overall, I think those in attendance had a good time.

It was my goal to provide different and unique activities for our rally attendees. The weather did not cooperate to have the planned tethered balloon, but I think the camel rides were enjoyed by all those who chose to purchase a ride. We will try to have a tethered balloon available next year. The entertainment was exceptional at this rally and the Karaoke night was fun with a lot of participants.

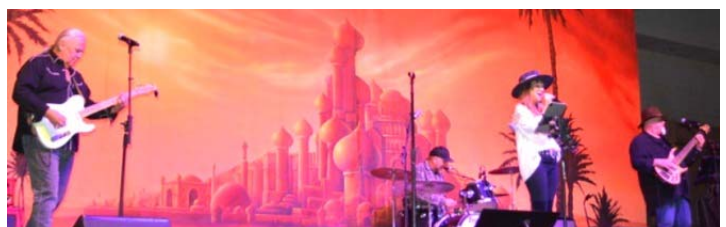
At the conclusion of the rally, I traveled to 29 Palms for the Safari of Southern California rally. I then traveled with several friends to Emerald Cove RV Resort in Earp, CA., awaiting the Big Tent opening in Quartzsite, AZ. We had six RVs encircled in Quartzsite for a few days and then we mostly departed to other destinations. A few of us traveled to Pilot's Knob just outside of Yuma. I had my airbags replaced at Bob's Diesel Repair in Yuma. I also had my generator serviced, chassis lubed, and a thorough check of all vital components including the brakes. Everything else was in great shape. I was very pleased with the cost. In fact, it was thousands less than what I was quoted from Freightliner for just the airbag replacement. Bob is a great mechanic and encourages one to crawl under the motorhome (which is on a lift) and see what he is doing. I don't think I will ever return to have my coach worked on at Freightliner. I returned to Quartzsite and spent a couple cold nights there

before driving to Las Vegas this afternoon for a quick visit with my son, daughter-in-law, and twin 2-year-old grandchildren. They both really warmed up to me this evening and both of them (a boy and a girl) actually called me Grandpa for the first time. I will go and visit them again tomorrow before I start heading for home.

I look forward to hearing the feedback from the rally Captains so we can make the necessary improvements for next years rally.

May you have continued safe travels,

Mike Kirk F99230S
Northern Area Vice President



Central Area Vice President's Message



Our 34th Annual Western Rally called **Arabian Nights** was so much fun. If you couldn't be there, you missed out on the highlight of the RV season.

In spite of the Santa Ana winds and the horrific fires, it meant a lot to spend time together and pray for those affected. It was wonderful to see so many first

timers at the event. The opening ceremonies featured the *Broken Hallelujah band*, led by a real spitfire, Lisa Lynn.

Thanks to the many wonderful sponsors we started our days with coffee and donuts, had prizes for bingo, and had a delicious ladies luncheon. The commercial exhibits were gorgeous and I didn't mind spending money with our many vendors. I came home with many wonderful things for my rig.

Another highlight was the Parade led by sultan Mike Kirk, Northern Area V.P., riding the camel. He was followed in the parade by many colorful floats with music, costumes, candy, and dignitaries. In addition, the pet extravaganza following the ice cream social gave pet owners a chance to show off their adorable pets. Games, games, games were played out on the lawn for the chapterfest. I can't say thank you enough to the numerous rally Captains and volunteers who kept everything running smoothly. On a personal note, I must also say thank you to the Executive Board who helped me out when I ended up with a sprained left wrist and broken right arm.



Also, there were many seminars providing important and useful information. At one of the seminars, I learned about Valley Fever which can be a life threatening disease caused by spores. A very distinct memory for me will be riding a camel. I even have a picture to prove it! At the closing ceremonies William Florian, former member of *The New Christy Minstrels* provided the entertainment. Also at the closing ceremony, we learned that **California Heartland** won the theme contest for the 2026 Rally. The theme will be the **Roaring Twenties**. So, mark your calendar for next year. Roaring Twenties, here we come!

Julie Burger F396137
Central Area Vice President

Membership / Chapter Fair



As far as membership, I still maintain a list that has the chapters, some information and a contact person. I get requests from new members (not a lot) asking for this information when they are looking for a chapter to join. It is important that the chapters let me know when they have a change in the contact person so I can supply this to those new members.

Chapter Fair this January in Indio was not very well attended by our chapters – poor attendance by our chapter representatives. We did have about 12 of our Western Area chapters who had members there to provide information about their chapters. We also had representatives from the Northwest Area and several International Area chapters.

The first timers were interested in the chapters that were represented and spent time talking to the representatives of the chapters. Several people showed interest and requested more information about the chapters. Hopefully next year we will have more chapters at this event for new FRVA members to check out. I was unable to attend the Chapter Fest so not sure how that went – (hopefully it will be reported on by someone else who attended it)

Alice Bernard, F79098
Membership & Chapter Fair Captain



WMHA Executive Board 2025

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

Western Motor Home Association Senior Vice-President's Open Position

Hello WMHA Family,

I regret to inform you that Rick Ammerman has resigned from his position as WMHA Senior VP, effective January 30, 2025. I want to take a moment to personally thank Rick for his invaluable contributions and leadership during this transitional period, particularly in planning for the 2025 rally. His expertise in logistics - such as coordinating tables and chairs, golf carts, and other critical areas - was greatly appreciated.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Paula for her efforts and support in making the ladies' luncheon a resounding success.

As we move forward, we are in the process of filling the Senior VP position. If you are interested or know of someone who might be a good fit, please submit your name or the name of someone else along with a resume to Billy Low at bjlow@sbcglobal.net.

For any questions, feel free to reach out to Billy at 559-696-6769, or you can contact me at 925-818-7718.

Thank you for your attention and support during this transition.

Best regards,

James McDaniel
WMHA President
Family RV Association Western Area President

WMHA BY LAWS

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

1.

SECTION 7.01. TITLES

The Officers of this corporation shall be a President, a Senior Vice President, three (3) Regional Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

SECTION 7.03. VACANCIES

Except for that of President, any vacancy in an office enumerated in Section 7.01 shall be filled by the Corporate Board of Directors from among the persons nominated by the Nominating Committee (for the unexpired portion of the term of office).

SECTION 7.05. DUTIES OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

The Senior Vice President shall, in the absence or disability, of the President, or in the event of his refusal to act, perform all the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have the powers of and be subject to the restrictions of the President. Also, the Senior Vice President assists the President and performs the duties assigned by the President, the Executive Board and or the Corporate Board of Directors. The Senior Vice President shall be the assistant rally master of all area rallies. In the absence of the President and Senior Vice President or if they refuse or are unable to act, the officer elected by the Executive Board shall perform all the duties described above.

WESTERN MOTOR HOME ASSOCIATION



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 Northern Area Chapters ... Mike Kirk Vice President

**Alpine Coach Norcal
California Capitals & Bay Area Liners
Diablo Ramblers
Freedom Rollers RV Club
GMC 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



WHMA Central Area Chapters ... Julie Burger Vice President

**Beat the Odds
California Coasters
California Heartland
Komfort Kruisers
Midweek Wanderers**

**Roamin' Catholics Southwest
Romers
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 Southern Area Chapters ... Greg O'Neal Vice President

**Alpine SoCal
California Chapter
Camping Squares
Cruisin' Condos
Discovery Club of California
The Dolphins**

**GMC Pacific Cruisers
Outdoor Resorts Palm Springs
Outward Bound'rs
Overland Trailblazers West
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



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.

Overland Trailblazers West Chapter 35th Anniversary



The **Overland Trailblazers** is a group of fun loving, adventurous RV'ers who truly enjoy sensational rallies. We normally schedule two rallies per year (location determined by rally host). Rally locations have been as far north as Canada, as far south as Mexico, and various locations east and west of the Mississippi River. Our rally emphasis is... ***"to go where our members want to go"***.

We were chartered in 1989 and this year marks our 35th Anniversary as a Chapter. Our 95+ members are geographically dispersed throughout the United States and Canada and represent a wealth of diverse skills. These unique benefits coupled together offer us unlimited opportunities to discover new, varied and exhilarating places of interest all over this great country. It is not unusual for our rally attendance to be upwards of 40 rigs.

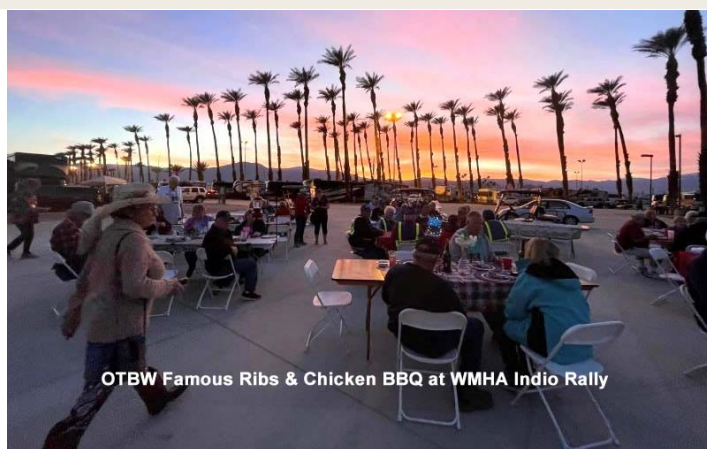
We enthusiastically volunteer manpower support for the FRVA merchandise booth and the 50/50 raffle at the WMHA Indio Rally every year and have for several years running. Our Annual Business Meeting Rally is held at the Indio Rally which typically jump starts our year's activities.

The image above represents most of the Overland Trailblazers West (OTBW) members that attended the 34th Annual WMHA Indio Rally in early January 2025. As you can see, we were very well represented at the rally.

For more information, please contact the President, Mark Whitmore, at whitfarms@gmail.com



OTBW Calgary Stampede Rally



OTBW Famous Ribs & Chicken BBQ at WMHA Indio Rally

34th Annual Western Area RV Rally Highlights

