

Mid-South Roadrunners

A chapter of the Fleetwood Motorhome Association



Spring Newsletter –2015

www.fma4fun.org

Here it is the day before July 1st. Spring has passed us by so fast I think we missed it. One thing for sure, Phyllis and I missed out on all the fun at the Fleetwood National Rally in Decatur and the American Coach National Rally in Goshen, IN. Family priorities prevented us from attending either rally.

One thing for sure though, we had a great time during the spring rally at the Anchor Down RV Resort in Dandridge, TN in April. What a beautiful RV Resort and what a terrific rally thanks to Julia & Ron Mouser and Nancy & Joe Durrance our co-host. As always the food was terrific, the historical tour was very interesting as well as educational; the shopping was great, the bingo game was lots of fun thanks to narrators Terry Wilburn and Jeff Bratsburg and most of all we had 20 coaches and 39 dear friends having a great time together. It was especially good to see Bobby Williams back with us in his new American Tradition motor home. And thanks Bobby for letting us use your van to choafer everyone around it. It was also great that Rhoda Webster along with her friends Marge & Dick Bender came to visit with us one day and joined us on the tour of the Bush Bean Factory. It's really good to see Rhonda doing so well. I want to give a special thanks to our daughter Robin and her husband Gary for bringing over there "tailgate grill" and cooking a terrific meal for us on Tuesday evening and Thanks to Joe & Nancy for bringing some fantastic port chops from the Amish farms in west Tennessee.

Our winter in Florida was really fun this year after missing out last year. The FMA Rally at Lazy Days as always was great. After the FMA rally we headed south with Joe & Nancy Durrance and spent two weeks at the Glade Springs RV Resort near Labelle, FL where Ed & Lois Shingle spend the winter every year. They really showed us a great time and we really enjoyed spending some time with them. While there, thanks to Terry Wilburn, we were able to contact a guy named Wayne Michalski, Owner/Operator of RV Detailing in Fort Myers, FL. (239-240-0793). Wayne removed all of the old deteriorated film on the front and top cap of our motor home and now it looks like new. What a relief to get this mess removed. If you have a need, give Wayne a call.

After this we met up with Don & Shirley Jett and attended the FMCA Rally in Sarasota, FL. Hats off to Jim & Betty Duncan for organizing a fabulous event. Their decision to move this rally from Brooksville, FL to Sarasota was a stroke of genius. It was a great rally with lots of good entertainment, vendors, fun and fellowship. A special treat for us as we were preparing to depart on Sunday came from a police officer from the Sarasota Police Department. He stopped by our coach as we were packing up and we struck up a friendly conversation about RV'ing, rallies and other things. He asked how we liked Sarasota and we told him we did not see any of the town while there. Well he said we missed the most beautiful view anywhere by not going down to the water front. He then offered to lead us on a guided tour of down town Sarasota and across the waterway to the beach. How beautiful it is. He recommended a spot to have lunch and really made us feel welcome. He is truly a great Ambassador for the city of Sarasota. We definitely will return.

After departing Sarasota we settled in at the Florida Grande for a couple weeks and then on the Thousand Trails in Orlando for two weeks. We always enjoy the friendship and fellowship we have at both resorts where there are so many of our fellow Roadrunners and other RV friends. After leaving Orlando we traveled to Hilton Head Island RV Resort for a couple of days, then to Myrtle Beach and on to Wilmington to visit Dan & Marie Inman and take care of some business with Phyllis's brother. All and all we have had a great time RV'ing since January and it's great to spend so much of our time with all of you great friends in our RV Family. May the remaining half of 2015 be just as rewarding?

Following is a list of the remaining rallies for 2015

(Dates shown are arrival and departure dates)

- October 12th - 16th, 2015 - Julia & Ron Mouser are hosting a fall rally at the Ocean Lakes Campground in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- No Christmas rally this year due to majority vote.

Don't forget the Tom Johnson Annual Barbeque Rally in Marion, NC September 10th - 13th. The rally is free from Thursday to Sunday with free hot breakfast on Saturday morning, a free barbeque dinner Saturday evening and free entertainment every night. There are lots of events to keep the kids and everyone busy everyday including a flea market in the campground on Wed, Thurs., and Friday. Bring your stuff and sell it. All of this compliments of Tom Johnson.

Due to the large crowd attending this event every year, we usually gather on Monday night (Sept 7th) at the old Walmart Parking lot behind McDonalds on Hwy 70/us221 bypass just a mile or two east of Tom Johnson CG. We rise and shine early Tuesday morning and caravan to the CG as a group so we can get campsites together. The campground fee for Tuesday and Wednesday night is usually \$25 per night. \$50 is not a bad deal for a week long campout with all the amenities. So, plan to join us if you can.

This is not a Mid-South Roadrunners organized Rally but we do get together for happy hour every day and it's not unusual for the ladies to have a spontaneous pot luck dinner some evenings.

I want to take this opportunity to shout out a very special thank you to Julia Mouser and Ron Mouser for hosting the two rallies we scheduled this year. Julia and Ron just joined the Roadrunners

last spring during the ACA national rally at Tom Johnson in April of 2014 and immediately stepped up to suggest a rally at the Anchor Down RV Resort and the rally at Ocean Lakes in Myrtle Beach. Planning for these two events was underway for nearly a year. Thank you so much.

Having said this, we have no rallies scheduled for 2016. We have no volunteers come forward to Host a rally in 2016. We need your input, your suggestions, your ideals, your creativity and your participation and your contribution to the continued success and fun of the Mid-South Roadrunners chapter of the Fleetwood Motorhome Association. Let us here from you.

On a closing note I want to refer everyone to the "Special Message Newsletter" I sent to everyone in January regarding new officer elections. At the time I assumed our Nominating Committee would have a slate of candidate's eager to serve and an election held so we could announce our new officers by July 1, 2015 which is tomorrow. Sadly in spite of their valiant efforts this has not happened. We have two current officers, Mary Ellen Hornsby and Rex Shuping who have stepped up and volunteered to continue to service as Secretary and Chaplin respectively. We had one candidate step up and volunteer to be a candidate for President but later withdrew. So we have no new officers to present to you as planned.

Phyllis and I committed to not participate in the Nominating Committee's efforts. Nor have we taken any initiatives to recruit or encourage anyone to become a candidate for any office. We have not indorsed anyone or suggested to anyone that they should run for an office. Our intent was to let the process work as it should without our interference. We want it to be your decision. So, once again I am asking every member to seriously consider becoming a candidate for one of the offices. Contact Rex, Mary Ellen or Nancy and put your name in the hat. If we get a slate of candidates by the time we meet at Myrtle Beach we will select new officers who will begin their term January 1, 2016.

Until we see you again, safe travels and be happy every day.



Ray Easter, President