



Volume 32, Issue 9

Western Area FMCA

Debbie Golk - Editor

Spring 2020

## President's Message



*There was a Party at Indio; were you there?*

Hello Everyone,

Christine and I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday!

All of our Captains and Volunteers did their best preparations to make our 32nd Annual

Western Area Rally in Indio, California, a winner! This year's Rally theme was **At The Hop** and what a wonderful success it was...especially when the weather was so darn cooperative. No rain! The parade was everything you imagined it would be. Believe it or not but there weren't that many Elvises. However, there were a lot of white T-shirts with rolled up sleeves tucking away that pack of cigarettes. Oh, did I mention the poodle skirts...yes, Rhonda, there were lots of those!!

Our activities this year included theme-related entertainment, more than 75 seminars and crafts, RV Dealers, 80-plus vendors for your shopping enjoyment, a Sock Hop Luncheon for over 300 ladies...there were some guys there. Ice cream on Friday, Line Dancing, Pickleball and much more! Each morning started with a cup of coffee, a donut and the music of the Maestros. And did I mention we also had ice cream on Saturday?

At the end of last year's rally we received several comments about goat head stickers that were in the RV parking areas. We took action. With the help of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the Fair Board, the maintenance crew started their removal program early. Although we couldn't guarantee 100% eradication we could say they had been substantially removed. We will continue to keep working this issue until there are no more stickers!

The 2021 theme was announced. It will be ***In the Land of OZ***. The winning chapter was Roamin' Catholics who will receive \$100 for their treasury and will be sitting up front for Saturday's entertainment.

LON CROSS, F233066  
 WESTERN AREA  
 NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF FMCA  
 WMHA PRESIDENT

## Senior Vice President's Views



Greetings everyone. As I mentioned in my last message things really start picking up this time of year. We had our Governing Board meeting in Hanford in September where we approved the 2020 budget. There was lively discussion during the chapter break out session and

the day was capped off by a catered dinner that evening.

This time I am glad to report that the caterer's got the day correct and they served us a delicious meal and there was plenty on hand to eat.

Following Hanford we embarked on a road trip: first stop was Paso Robles to visit with the California Pacers where Lon and I presented them their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary certificate. From there we headed over to Laughlin for the Beat-The-Odds fall rally where we (as usual) had a great time. Since it is a long distance from Paso Robles to Laughlin and the winds were blowing really hard we decided to hole up in Barstow for the night. As it turned out, Lon Cross and Marla & Warren James were parked over at Peggy Sue's so we all got together for dinner. We got together again in the morning for breakfast and then it was off to Laughlin for the rally. Following the rally we made our way down to Hemet for the California Chapter's Oktoberfest rally. In route we decided to stop for lunch at Chiriaco Summit (where the Patton Museum is located). Lo and behold we ran into Lou & Lois Huff and their friends. I think it is just great how you can be traveling and in the middle of nowhere run into members of our expanded WMHA family. We had a great time at the Oktoberfest and we even tried our hand at indoor shuffleboard. This game is very challenging and requires a very light

## Senior Vice President's Views (Con't)

touch. We lost our round but it was fun anyway. We headed home following the Oktoberfest as I was getting some final grading done for our RV parking pad at our house. We were also impacted by the Edison power shut-downs during the month. We were off for a total of 100 hours. We used the motorhome generator to periodically power up stuff in the house so we didn't lose any food due to spoilage and we could fire up the pellet stove for warmth.

In November we headed down to Indio to meet with our rally contractors and the fairgrounds people and to do a rally pre-inspection of the fairgrounds. Once finished we were off to Temecula to attend the California Chapter's Thanksgiving rally. This is when our big adventure took place. Just outside of Palm Springs our motorhome decided to break down. We were able to exit the freeway onto a frontage road that leads to the Whitewater Preserve. Turns out the engine threw the serpentine belt which caused the overheating. The cause ended up being the AC compressor had seized. While a mobile repair shop was looking for a shorter belt to bypass the compressor we ended up staying overnight on the frontage road which was not the most pleasant experience. The next day we were finally on our way down to Pechanga only to miss the turn into the RV park and ended up on the narrow old Hwy 395. There was no place to turn around so we had to continue all the way to Pala. On the way we got wacked by a low hanging tree that took off the roof cover for the refrigerator. Then the radiator sprung a leak. We got turned around and limped into Pechanga just in time for dinner. After the rally we had the motorhome towed to Redlands for repair. Turns out when the belt went, it damaged the fan and there were other things wrong as well. It took a month to get the repairs done, just in time for Indio.

Now, what I failed to mention is if the bad luck wasn't bad enough, in December, Debbie fell and fractured her tibia just below the knee. Now she was confined to a wheelchair and thus could not climb

## Senior Vice President's Views (Con't)

into the motorhome nor was our motorhome wheelchair friendly. The doctor said she could not walk on that leg for at least 8 weeks. Debbie had to stay home and miss the Indio rally. With everything loaded into our tow car, off I went to pick up the motorhome on the way to Indio. While they were finishing up some last minute repairs, I was loading up the motorhome and hitching up the car. Talk about cutting it down to the wire.

This brings me to our Indio rally. As Lon outlined in his message, it was a great rally and for the first time in as long as I can remember, it did not rain—not even a sprinkle! It was not overly hot either, just terrific! I must say for me it was a little bit harder being there without the support of Debbie. This was the first time I ever used the RV (this one or others in the past) by myself. I quickly realized all that she did when I had to do it all myself. I hope this is the last time this will happen.

I'd like to mention one more thing. A new member has joined us and he and his wife attended our Indio rally for the first time. They are avid RVers and have a website: [www.StressLessCamping.com](http://www.StressLessCamping.com) and have several blogs with many topics of interest. Check them out.

Safe travels and see you down the road,

Bob Golk, F316752  
WMHA Senior Vice President

**“Coffee...Starter  
Fluid For The  
Morning Impaired”**



### Indio Captains needed!

**Do you want something else to do at our Indio rally? Do you feel a need to get involved? Would you like a challenge? Well, we have an opportunity for you. We are in need of the following Indio Captains:**

**-Volunteer Dinner & Vendor Party**

**-Sign Shop**

**-Bingo Manager**

**-Parade**

**-On-Site Registration**

**-Newsletter (Byways) Editor**

**If you have any questions or would like more information on these exciting and challenging positions feel free to contact Lon Cross at 661-886-5077 or Bob Golk at 661-599-3548 and thanks in advance for stepping up.**

## Northern Area Vice President's Message



Greetings to All!  
Indio has come and gone until next year, 2021. We had a fun time, and the entertainment was good.

From Indio my wife and I went to Twenty-Nine Palms for a Southern California Safari

Rally. The weather was nice without any rain and the company of sixty-two other FMCA members was wonderful! We enjoyed the artistic, twenty-four historical murals that are located all around town. We also learned about the interesting history of Twenty-Nine Palms as we toured the local museum and listened to longtime residents from the town.

Then we travelled to Quartzsite, Arizona, and the rat race of thousands of tourists. Unfortunately, we broke down and needed a one-and-a-half-inch hose that was difficult to purchase on a weekend. Fortunately, the John Deere Dealership in Blythe, California, had the hose on Monday. After our bus was repaired we were happy to be on our way home to Northern California!

Remember, it's all about having Fun! Enjoy your travels and take care!

Stephen M. Shade, F395353  
Northern Area Vice President

**Next Byways  
Due Date is  
April 15, 2020**



## Central Area Vice President's Message



The pre Indio rally held at Hanford was again attended along with all of the movers and shakers that make the Indio rally the greatest little rally going.

We attended the Beat the Odds chapter rally held in Laughlin, Nevada, which is always a great venue at the Riverside Casino. Joanne was a happy camper as she won a few dollars in the slot tournament.

In October we attend the Oktoberfest rally held in Hemet. What a fun rally.

Next it was off to Tucson, Arizona, to attend the Rocky Mountain Area Rally. A great rally held in a very fun venue. While there we experienced some trouble with the rig but we were able to get it home and get the repairs done.

In November we visited the Midweek Wanderers Chapter at their rally held in Morro Bay which was held at the Morro Dunes RV Park. This is another very good venue to a hold chapter rally. On the way home we stopped at the Atascadero Elks rest area and then were able to visit our grandkids in Templeton.

Christmas in Indio to get prepared for the Indio Rally. Another great Indio Rally—well organized by the best volunteers anywhere.

From there we were on to Quartzsite, Arizona, to rally with our home Elks Lodge, the Sidewinders RV group, for a week. We are presently staying with some RV friends in Salome, Arizona, at the Desert Palms Resort.

## Central Area Vice President's Message (Cont'd)

Be safe in you travels and remember **"It's all about having fun!"**

Please guard your health,

Fred Wells, F128327  
Central Area Vice President



## Southern Area Vice President's Message



It's cool outside, almost cold. The RV heater is working well as do all the other appliances. Leaves are off the trees and once again I forgot the leaf blower. I must teach myself to make a trip departure list. My memory proves to have a hole in it now

and then.

Marilyn has been, ever since we got the rig, complaining that the kitchen drain was slow. And of course, it was a drain that flexes between the sink, the slide out, and a tank in the main body of the coach. How do you spell contortionist? I'm not sure, but I know what one feels like. Squeezing under the sink, through the opening in the slide-out wall, I find the top of the gray tank. I am convinced there was not an RV technician on any RV design team!

With tanks empty, propane full, food shelves stocked, Marilyn and I took off for Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the world famous Balloon Fiesta. But first we spent four days at Morro Strand RV Park, Morro Bay, CA. This was our second trip to Morro Bay, and it is becoming one of our favorite haunts. Between a short walk to the beach and a coastal fishing town with great seafood, we'll probably be back. Also, I found another hole in my memory, bring beach walking shoes!

Leaving Morro Bay, we're off to Hanford and an Executive Board meeting, WMHA. With business complete, we traveled for three days arriving in Santa Fe, NM, the state capital. We toured the city, relaxed, and then headed 60 miles south to Albuquerque.

If I wrote all my thoughts about how great an

## Southern Area Vice President's Message (Con't)

experience it was to watch 500+ hot air balloons take off and land, and being allowed to be on the prep/landing field, it would be a very long article. Needless to say, you need to see it. If it's not on your bucket list, why not?

To close out the year, I have two chapter rally visits I'm looking forward to, Southern California Elks and the Calif. Chapter. One meeting at the Elks Lodge, Vista, CA, and the other at Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort, Newport Beach, CA. These will be nothing but fun as they always are. What I haven't told them is the amount of practicing I've done for bean bag baseball and the amount of liniment I now apply to my shoulder. Don't forget Ladder ball. Watch out, I'm at the top of my game.

The shining star of the Western Motor Home Association is and was "At the Hop" Indio 2020 with hundreds of coaches, great entertainment, and fellow RVers from around the country. While attendance could have been better, we who attended had a great time, and those who didn't lost out. I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the volunteers, not only in the areas I coordinate, but to all volunteers. It's through volunteering you get the essence of the rally, meet folks who become long time friends, and the opportunity to hear some great camping and travel stories that rival the great storytellers – "This is a true story."

As I finish this note, as I always ask, if you have an idea, suggestion, or comment, don't keep it to yourself, tell me.

Dave Franke, F443367  
Southern Area Vice President

## Membership/Chapter Fair Message



We had a very successful Chapter Fair at Indio in January. Several chapters signed up new members. Hopefully if your chapter has not taken part in Chapter Fair it will make plans to have a table in January 2021. It's not too early to plan for next year – remember

the main idea is to get the name of your chapter to the people and have someone there to answer questions about your chapter. We are still getting lists from the National office of the people who are joining FMCA and are located in the Western Area. Hopefully your chapter is working with the National office to receive some of these names to let them know about your chapter.

I will mention again, as a number of you know I have done membership/chapter fair for a number of years and not quite ready to give it up yet, but if there is someone out there that might be interested in doing this please contact me and I can give you all the information. If you are interested in talking about it – feel free to call me or email me [bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com) or cell phone: 530-519-7346. I also have done the Volunteer Coordinator for a number of years and in the future would like someone to step into this position. If you might be interested, either contact me by phone or email. It is not a hard job – just takes some time.

My older daughter, Lynette McGill, accompanied me this year and thoroughly enjoyed herself – it was a new experience for her – watching everything come together. The Western Area People are a great group of people to work with and are there to help when needed.

Alice Bernard, F079098  
Membership, Volunteer Coordinator and  
Chapter Fair Captain

## Chapter Spotlight

Please welcome the **Diablo Ramblers**, the latest chapter to join the Western Area.

They were originally formed in 1973 and like several of our other chapters were associated with another organization. They will be assigned to the Northern Region as most of their members live in the Northern and Central part of the state but do have members living throughout California, and several in Nevada.

Their President Kent Vander Linder mentioned that their campouts are scheduled anywhere from Oroville, Lodi, Columbia to Napa. They also like to go places while at the campouts and do activities like sightseeing or visiting museums, etc. They don't have outings during June, July and August but otherwise have a very full campout schedule.

Their Chapter profile and campout schedule will be posted on the WMHA website [wafmca.com](http://wafmca.com).

From all of us in the Western Area to all of the Diablo Ramblers...Welcome Aboard!

## WMHA Officers Wanted

Here is your opportunity to step up to further your involvement with WMHA. This year (2020) is the election year for all WMHA officer positions (except Secretary). To be a WMHA officer is a challenging but rewarding experience. Feel free to contact the current officer of the position you are interested in to find out more about it. If you have what it takes and you are ready, contact the WMHA Nominating Committee Chairperson, June Davis, at [june.davis@earthlink.net](mailto:june.davis@earthlink.net). She will be happy to accept your résumé.

## 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](mailto:bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com)

The price of the badge is \$11.50 (Which includes your name and Fnumber). 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.

## Looking for Western area photos?

FlickR Photo Tutorial

There are several ways to get into FlickR to see many RV photos.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/>

or

<http://www.wafmca.com/> (look for link to photos)

Once in FlickR Photostream, click on Sets, (Do Not use Photostream)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/sets/>

then click on the Set you wish to see. (Sample)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/sets/72157625715483763/>

Double Click on the photo you want to see or download:

(Sample)<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/5362080447/in/set-72157625715483763/>

Right Click on the photo—Click on All Sizes, and decide the size you want.

(Sample)<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/5362080447/sizes/o/in/set-72157625715483763/>

Then click on Download the Original Size

I would then click Save As, and give it a name and location to Download. ( I put them in a Folder on my Desktop called "Photos" and make a new Subfolder called (?) "Indio")

Once Downloaded, you can choose to either; keep it, e-mail it, print it, or save on CD to have printed somewhere else.

## CHAPTER RECRUITMENT BENEFIT

### • LET FMCA ASSIST YOUR CHAPTER •

Each chapter is entitled up to \$125 in recruitment funds from FMCA per year. There are three options to choose from (Brochures, Mailings, and Advertising). You can do only one of the three options per year.

Contact your Regional VP for COMPLETE details...

**...START PLANNING NOW...**



## **PASSING OF OWEN AUTRY**

Owen Autry was Western Area President from 1996 – 1999.

Owen was born on August 7, 1930, and passed away on Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

Owen was a Navy Veteran serving in the Korean War from 1948 to 1952.

Memorial Service was held November 16, 2019, at Sacramento Memorial Lawn.

Consider donating to the Wounded Warrior Project  
([www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org))

## **PASSING OF BUD BERNARD**

Bud was born November 28, 1932, and passed away December 23, 2019.

Bud was an Army Veteran who served during the Korean War from 1953 to 1955.

Bud and wife, Alice, were very involved with WMHA. Always keeping busy at our big Indio rally. He was also involved at the Willows Elks where he was the Major Project Chairman for 20 years.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, April 4, 2020, 10:30 a.m. at the Elks Lodge, 150 South Shasta Street, Willows, CA.



## Western Motor Home Association Chapters

Alpine Coach NorCal  
Alpine SoCal  
The Ambassadors  
Beat the Odds  
The Big E  
California  
California Capitals & Bay Area  
Liners  
California Coaches for Christ  
California Coasters  
California FMCA HMC  
California Heartland  
Camping Squares  
Colorado River Ramblers  
Crafty Crafters  
Cruisin' Condos  
Diablo Ramblers  
Discovery Club Of California  
Dolphins, The  
Frustrated Maestros  
GMC Forty Niners  
GMC Pacific Cruisers  
Gold Diggers  
Gold Dust Travelers  
Golden Spike  
Golden State Trackers  
Komfort Kruisers  
Midweek Wanderers  
Monaco NorCal  
Monaco Romers  
NorCalRex  
Northern California FMCA Elk  
Outdoor Resorts Palm Springs  
Overland Trailblazers West  
Roamin' Catholics Southwest  
Rockwood West  
Safari of Southern California  
Safari R Us  
Sierra Hi Rollers  
Sierra Ramblers  
Southern California FMCA Elk  
Southwestern Bus Nuts  
Thousand Trails West  
Valley Cruisers  
Western Bus Nuts  
Western GM Coach

## Western Motor Home Association, Inc. Executive Board 2020

### President

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### Secretary

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e-mail: [dickhazeltine@yahoo.com](mailto:dickhazeltine@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

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e-mail: [kurtsimon@gmail.com](mailto:kurtsimon@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past President

Dick Gibbs F278983 Cell 661-203-9180  
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### APPOINTED OFFICES 2019

#### Membership

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Cell 530-519-7346  
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Hello Everyone,

I would like to share with you some of what FMCA has had to do these past weeks...

During the past three weeks the FMCA Executive Board and FMCA Directors and Staff have had some tough days as a result of this terrible COVID-19 virus pandemic. We have had three Zoom meetings where we have had to cancel the 101st and the 102nd International Convention & RV Expo at Tucson, AZ and Lincoln, NE. In the history of our Association we have never had to cancel a convention, let alone two in a row. Each of the 10 National Area Vice Presidents, along with the four nationally-elected Officers and office staffers have had to struggle to make sure we were absolutely making the right decisions for the stability of our membership and financial outcome. And today, due to the slowdowns and the Ohio Governor taking preventative actions, there were nine layoffs at HQ's. FMCA EB's, Staff and Directors still have enormous work to do with convention refunds, future planning of the Association as well as the continued daily operations.

The Western Area EB Planning Meeting set for May in Bakersfield at the River Run RV Park will be cancelled. I am trying to set this meeting up via the FMCA Zoom Online video Conferencing app. Instructions will be sent to you once I've established the go-ahead.

Our Annual and Indio Planning Meetings scheduled for late September in Hanford at Kings County Fairgrounds is also in jeopardy of being cancelled. We will keep you posted as to future details.

Until further notice:

1. Regional VP's will no longer personally present Anniversary Certificates. Certificates are to be mailed to Chapter Presidents.
2. Regional VP's will no longer participate in Chapter visitations.

I hope everyone deals well with this unusual situation. This is certainly a great time to put in some quality time around the house and RV. We must remember that the most important things in life...aren't things, they are family.

Please guard your health.

Sincerely,  
Lon Cross

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President, WMHA  
National VP, FMCA  
661-886-5077