

WESTERN BYWAYS

FMCA WESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER
FALL 2021 EDITION

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Western Area FMCA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Fall 2021

President's Message



Hello everyone.

I'm writing this message while serving out my time in self-quarantine as a result of my being tested positive for COVID-19. More on this later.

A while back I sent out a message on why we had to cancel our area rally down in Indio. The latest development is the county is still looking for a private concern to take over managing and running the fairgrounds.

The fairgrounds have no plans to put on their fair and date festival that normally takes place right after our rally. As you can see, the status of the fairgrounds is still up in the air for the time being. As such, we are investigating alternate venues for holding our rally just in case things do not work out. We do not want to cancel again. There are many factors to take into consideration when looking for another venue. See Dave's message in this Byways for more information.

Things are looking great for the upcoming FMCA International Convention in Tucson this coming March. Registrations are coming in at a quick pace and, so far, registrants from the Western Area account for 25% of the registrations. The big news is the Western Area, along with the International Area, are now the host areas for the convention. This will provide many volunteer opportunities to help in putting on the convention. We will especially be looking for chapters to step up and get involved. More information will be forthcoming as I meet with the National Vice President of the International Area and we meet with the Convention Committee. Debbie and I have managed to get out for a couple of rallies but not without problems. We went over to

the coast for a So Cal FMCA Elk rally in Oceano, CA. This is one of our favorite places to go to. Unfortunately, prior to this rally Debbie had been experiencing stomach pain but didn't think much of it. During the rally it manifested itself into great pain and she was unable to eat. By the time we got home it was unbearable to the point that she went to the hospital. She was promptly admitted and was treated for a large, bleeding ulcer that was partially blocking the food exit out of the stomach. She spent 5 days in the hospital and received 3 units of blood. Once out and on the mend, we were able to travel and attend a Beat The Odds (BTO) rally in Pahrump, NV. This went well and she was glad to get out and everyone was glad to see her feeling well.

Once back home after the BTO rally, I came down with what I thought was a head cold. It persisted for days but I thought nothing of it. A close associate who attended the rally also got sick and ended up in the hospital where he was tested positive for COVID. Since we had spent time together at the rally, I decided to get tested just to be sure. I was surprised to find I was positive for COVID since I did not have any of the typical symptoms. I am actually feeling quite well with only a little stuffiness. The lesson here is, if I had not been tested, I would not have known or even suspected that I was a carrier of the virus and could have unknowingly infected others, so just be aware.

The holidays are now just around the corner (where has the year gone?). Debbie and I wish you all a very safe and joyous holiday season.

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

Senior Vice President's Message



WHAT IS IT THAT I MISS

For three years I've had the opportunity to walk the grounds where WHMA holds its rallies before they come to life as a small city. While the venue may change, walking the grounds, viewing buildings that might be used for vendors, seminars and entertain-

ment, electrical capability, and water access, are all in front waiting to come to life.

At the right time, this rally area slowly starts to change. Volunteer crews arrive to line RV parking areas. Electrical teams arrive with chevrons, generators, and cables to connect to rally attendees.

Slowly, tents are set up for vendors, arrival area, and Will Call. You stand back and you see something that was once empty fields and buildings come to life, an entity in and of itself.

But today is different. Indio probably won't be available in 2023. Some may ask why not change the date of WMHA's rally. Our date must fit in a matrix of International Conventions and other Area Rallies. There is very little room to adjust dates.

That brings us to what we must all start thinking about. Chapters hold rallies. If chapters members knew the characteristics we are looking for to hold our Area Rally, and as they travel to various sites, we might find some suitable alternatives.

Here are some rally criteria for a venue to hold our Area Rally:

1. Grounds large enough to hold 800 RVs
2. Approximately 100 full-hookup RV sites
3. Buildings large enough for entertainment (about 1,500 attendees) with stage.
4. Buildings to house vendors, or an area large enough for vendor tents.
5. Buildings with meeting rooms for seminars, about 7 rooms.
6. Electrical service panel boxes.
7. Secure grounds (fenced with gates); no open areas.
8. Access to the grounds and where the arrival area would be placed (don't want RVs lined up out to the street).

As you travel in the next few months, think outside the box, take a hard look, and help us locate a venue for 2023.

Dave Franke, F443367
Senior Vice President WMHA

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Looks like the holidays are upon us. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are in the air. I recently met with some of the good folks with GMC Pacific Cruisers Club in Paso Robles. This club has been having fun for 45 years. I saw the inside of one of these GMC rigs and was amazed at the room. Also, the last GMC was made in the late 70s. Amazing as to how many are still on the road.

If you haven't gone to the Wine Country RV Resort in Paso Robles, please check it out. Very nice park in a beautiful location.

Carol and I are off to the Rocky Mountain rally in Tucson, AZ, next week and are really looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Well, stay safe, stay positive and stay on the road. (Really, I mean it. Between the lines please.)

Jesse Bassford, F44869
Southern Area Vice President

Towing Guides

Family RVing magazine's annual compilations of cars, trucks and SUVs that have been approved by their manufacturers for flat towing behind a motorhome. **(You must be signed in as an FMCA member or Family RVing magazine subscriber to access the Towing Guides.)**

Family RVing magazine's annual guides to flat-towable vehicles include cars, trucks and SUVs that have been approved by their manufacturers for flat towing behind a motorhome without major modifications.

The towing information was gathered from automobile manufacturers and pertains only to the model-year vehicle specified. While every attempt has been made to present accurate information, keep in mind that continued vehicle improvements and production-line changes could alter the information and render it out-of-date.

<https://www.fmca.com/towing-guides-towing-four-wheels-down/>

Northern Area Vice President's Message



I trust everyone had a safe and wonderful summer. As I am pondering how the trees are starting to change colors, I am in awe of the beauty of mother nature in full swing. I realize the fall season is upon us and I wonder where have the time and days gone?

This year has been just as stressful compared to last year, as we have had to continue to try and protect ourselves and our families from the virus. This has truly been a challenging year for all of us, as we have had to make many life adjustments, including being impacted by traveling less and not being able to enjoy RV life with friends and acquaintances.

On a personal note, I had a kidney transplant on July 30th and everything went well. I want to thank everyone for their positive thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes. Since my transplant there have been many restrictions that have kept Janie and me from getting out and about and being around others. However, I am continually improving each day. As a result, we were pleased to hop in the RV and get out last week to visit the Paso Robles wine country while staying at the Vines RV Resort. We truly enjoyed being out in our RV. We were able to attend a scheduled club meeting and meet up with other club members that were also staying at the Vines RV Resort.

During our stay, the Vines RV Resort staff informed the CCBAL Club that they will no longer be able to accommodate our club outing beginning next year, as the RV resort will be converting several spaces over to long-term rental. This was unfortunate news, as the Vines RV Resort has been a popular and beautiful place for our club to meet. I am hopeful that this will not be an ongoing trend occurring with other RV parks, as this may result in more time and effort planning to get large group/club outings together, compared to previous years.

Currently, I have no new information regarding Indio for 2023 or any plans for an alternate rally. However, I will be sure to inform each chapter president as new information becomes available. Just remember that changes may come unexpectedly or may evolve over time, but one thing is for certain; change is inevitable. Stay open, stay ready, and embrace the change. Speaking of changes, please be mindful that as the weather changes so does the necessary preparation for our RVs. Remember to check your windshield

wipers, heat pumps, slideout seals, vents, tires, etc. Oh, and don't forget to check your wardrobe for warmer clothes and footwear.

For the northern chapters, if you have any outings scheduled between now and year-end let me know. I would love to meet up and/or join you. Stay safe, healthy and full of joy.

James McDaniel, F371784
Northern Area Vice President

Central Area Vice President's Message



Hello all

It's that time of year when we start thinking about winter and the holiday season. I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. It's also that time of year again for all chapters to recertify with FMCA. Please do this as soon as possible.

Paula and I are on the road as I pen this letter. We left on September 25th and should be home around November 5th. We stopped in DeSoto, Missouri to spend time with my sister and brother-in-law. Visited with the Amish and Mennonite communities, which was very inspiring. Driving the back roads is fun and exciting. We are now in Oklahoma visiting with my son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. Haven't seen the kids in five years. Oh my, how they have grown.



While in Missouri we held a Western Area zoom board meeting via Zoom. All is well with the Western Area. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone or email. Remember to smile and have fun.

Rick Ammerman, F442485
Central Area Vice President

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

Membership / Chapter Fair



So sad that we will not be having our Indio January rally again for 2022 – hopefully we will have something in 2023.

I am still receiving some inquiries about chapters in Western Area. Saying this, I would appreciate it if your chapter could give me an update if there has been a change in who your contact person is to get information about your chapter. I have a brochure e-mail out to people looking for information about our Western Area Chapters, and in it I list the contact for each chapter. It is important that I am able to give the correct contact person. If you would like to know what information I have about your chapter, let me know and I will send you a copy of the information that I have and you can make changes in it if it is different. I would like to be able to have the correct information when I send the brochure out to new FMCA members looking for a chapter in Western Area. Thanks.

Hopefully we will be getting together in 2023 and have a chapter fair – be thinking about that and possibly having a table at that time.

Happy travels and stay well.

Feel free to contact me Alice Bernard
Cell phone – 530-519-7346
e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com

Alice Bernard, F79098
Membership & Chapter Fair Captain
Volunteer Coordinator

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

FMCA'S **104**TH
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
& RV EXPO
MARCH 23-26, 2022
PIMA COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
TUCSON, ARIZONA



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Western Motor Home Association Website

<http://wafmca.com/>



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
 The Big E
 California Chapter
 Camping Squares
 Cruisin' Condos
 Discovery Club of California
 The Dolphins

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

WHMA Central Area Chapters ... Rick Ammerman Vice President

Beat the Odds
 California Coaches for Christ
 California Coasters
 California FMCA HMC
 California Heartland
 Golden State Trackers
 HMC Club

Komfort Kruisers
 Midweek Wanderers
 Monaco Romers
 Roamin' Catholics Southwest
 Safari of Southern California
 Valley Cruisers
 Western GM Coach

WHMA Northern Area Chapters ... James McDaniel Vice President

Alpine Coach Norcal
 The Ambassadors
 Diablo Ramblers
 California Capitals & Bay Area Liners
 Crafty Crafters
 GMC Forty Niners
 Gold Diggers
 Gold Dust Travelers

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

This Chapter information, along with the contact's mailing address, is posted on the FMCA website - FMCA.com. It is to be used only for chapter-related inquiries. Any other use of this information is expressly prohibited.

Western Motor Home Association Fall Chapter Anniversaries

California Coasters Chapter

Monaco Romers Chapter



25 Year Anniversary

We had our celebratory campout at Flying Flags RV park in Buellton, California, October 5th thru October 8th.



The clubhouse was decorated in a Silver theme for our 25th anniversary.

The cake was baked by Costco and it was simply delicious!



We participated in a bocce ball tournament- the park has two pretty nice courts-officiated by Lance Brown.

We played Bingo one evening with Joy Gillis and D J Davis calling. The second evening was card games, and L-R-Center. (No gambling was involved!) The last evening we danced the night away to a great band out of Atascadero. They were really good. We invited them to our December campout at Wine Country RV. Those of us that were there a day early got to enjoy an unusual event in Southern California. The skies

opened up for a thunder and lightning show that produced a downpour of rain.



Kerry Ray
California Coasters
President



35 Year Anniversary

The Monaco Romers RV Club was formed on November 24th, 1986. Its purpose is to promote the use of our Monaco Motorhomes and further each member's personal camping

enjoyment.

We schedule outings two to three times per year. Most of the outings are at luxury campgrounds in California, though in the recent past we have visited Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon and Idaho as well. Most of our members reside in California, Nevada and Arizona.

Our typical rally is three or four days long and includes plenty of time for fun and fellowship. Our volunteer rally masters plan catered dinners for each evening of the rally and normally plan catered breakfasts, as well as possible tours, golf tournament and other interesting and fun activities. Lunches are generally on our own.

Monaco Romers currently has close to 70 member coaches, usually with 25 to 30 coaches participating at any given rally.

If you would like more information or are interested in joining our group, please check out our website: <https://www.monacoromers.club>.



Group photo taken during one of our recent rallies.

Duncan Holt
President, Monaco Romers



The RV Marketplace is the fastest way to locate the products and services every RVer needs. Browse the more than 313 categories organized into fourteen super-categories for services such as body repair and painting, exhaust systems, and collision repair, and products such as awnings, refrigeration, and towing equipment

Western Motor Home Association Fall Chapter Anniversaries (cont)

GMC Forty Niners Chapter



45 Year Anniversary

The GMC 49ers was founded in 1976 with members in Northern California, Nevada, and Oregon. Our club is the oldest GMC club. Our mission is to preserve and promote the classic GMC motorhomes built by GM from 1973 to 1976, and to enjoy the fellowship of like-minded enthusiasts. We gather at rallies run by club volunteers. Six are scheduled each year. These are a great opportunity to get away to new places, meet new and old friends, exchange technical information, and just have some fun!



If you own a GMC Motorhome or may be purchasing one, we invite you to contact us to learn more about the coaches and our GMC 49ers Motorhome Club. Our email address is GMC49ersClub@gmail.com.



RV Smarter with FMCA RV Club

Get RVing Tips & How-To Advice from RV Industry Experts

Having RV problems on the road? Need to consult an RVing how-to article? Want a guide about winterizing your RV or best tips for RV repairs?

Family Motor Coach Association offers virtual RV classes, exclusively to its members through FMCA University, an online hub of RVing resources. Members can log into FMCA University 24/7 – anytime, anywhere.

- Access decades of know-how all in one convenient location
- Trust your source – Content provided by industry - leading RV experts
- Search for topics that interest you
- Learn at your convenience
- Read articles and take quizzes to test your RVing knowledge
- Earn badges and rewards as you learn new skills
- Have fun and feel more confident about operating your RV

As an RVer, you know there is a lot of information available to you online, but is it reliable? FMCA provides trusted know-how

and RVing tips from RV industry experts. In fact, FMCA University houses decades of knowledge from experts like the “RV Doctor” Gary Bunzer.

Managed by FMCA Academy, which is the educational branch of FMCA, the university portal combines an online library of articles and video content all in one convenient location. This means you can browse topics at your leisure or search for a specific term to troubleshoot an RV problem. In addition, you can study curriculum by topic - dive into courses on Winterizing Your RV, RV Awnings, Motorhome Chassis, or RV Entertainment Systems, just to name a few.

And you can even test your RV knowledge! As you complete the online RV classes, you can take quizzes through FMCA University. Test your knowledge and earn virtual badges as you complete topics. Become an “RV Extraordinaire” and earn \$10 off your next FMCA membership renewal!



Join A Chapter

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 has nearly 400 chapters across the United States and Canada. Some cover a specific or general geographic region. Others revolve around a particular RV brand or model. Fanatic about a particular sport? Play a musical instrument? Enjoy finding new places to eat? There are chapters that welcome those who have common interests like these, plus many more.

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. Learn more about individual chapters on the Chapter Spotlight page, <https://www.fmca.com/fmca-chapter-spotlight>, which includes stories about more than 100 of the association's chapters, giving you an inside look at some of the fun things these chapters do. To find a chapter (or three or four) that might interest you, visit the Chapter Search Engine at <https://member.fmca.com/Chapters/Find-a-Chapter>.

State Parks in Northern California

Northern California is one of the go-to destinations for state parks. Whether you're hungry for a hike in the woods, kayaking along a lazy river, or fishing for a hungry camping posse, there's more to whet your appetite in the northern part of the state.

Waterfalls, dense redwood forests, white-water rafting, and magical trails along the Pacific Ocean mean there's no reason you should ever say you have nothing to do when you live out here.

Take a peek at 14 of our favorites to make the list, but be nice! We purposely excluded a few of the bullies on the block like Yosemite and Point Reyes. We want you to open your eyes and expand your horizon.



[Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park](#)

Situated nine miles east of Crescent City lies this redwood forest masterpiece. Named after explorer Jedediah Smith, it's one of four parks included in the Redwood National and State Parks. You can find the world's largest coast redwood here, which measures 20 feet in diameter and 340 feet tall.

[San Juan Bautista State Historic Park](#)

Not only can you get your fill of a gorgeous state park, this one has its very own mission to peruse. FYI - The mission is situated adjacent to the San Andreas Fault, and has suffered damage from numerous earthquakes.

[McArthur Burney Falls Memorial State Park](#)

Five miles of streamside and lake shoreline, plus a portion of Lake Britton are what you see here. But, the cherry on top would be the 129 ft. Burney Falls. It's not the highest or the largest waterfall, but it could be the most beautiful.

[Portola Redwoods State Park](#)

Santa Cruz doesn't only have beaches-- it has forests, too! Discover redwood trees in this breathtaking oasis.

[Sinkyone Wilderness State Park](#)

Hiking? Check. Sandy Beaches? Check. Rugged wilderness? Check. Oceanfront preserve? Check.

[Bodie Historical State Park](#)

A state park and a ghost town rolled into one? Absolutely!

[Emerald Bay State Park](#)

In 1969, Emerald Bay was designated a National Natural Landmark for its brilliant panorama of mountain-building processes and glacier-carved granite. If you decide to camp here, the summer temps reach a high of 75 during the day and a low of 40. Yeah, pretty perfect, right?

[Donner Memorial State Park](#)

It might be the spot where members of the ill-fated Donner Party were trapped by weather during the winter of 1846–1847 and ended in tragedy, but we think her majestic beauty erases her sad history.

[Point Lobos State Natural Reserve](#)

If you're the kind of person who loves a great tidepool then you've found heaven on earth at this state park. You're welcome!

[The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park](#)

In the area of Aptos and Capitola lies a state park that turns a day hike into a magical adventure. Who wouldn't want to venture through the woods here?

[Russian Gulch State Park](#)

This state park definitely made the varsity team of state parks. Located along the Sonoma coastline, it boasts tidepools, forest trails, waterfalls and draws anyone this side of the Mississippi who loves camping.

[South Yuba River State Park](#)

Located along the south fork of the Yuba River, this is a sweet spot of adventure. White-water rafting is a thing here! Or if you're not up for an adventure, how about enjoying spring flowers on an easy hike?

[Humboldt State Park](#)

While we're on the topic of redwoods...you MUST add this state park to your bucket list. AHHHMAZING! Located along the Eel River in northern California, Humboldt Redwoods State Park contains some of the world's most majestic ancient redwood groves. The park encompasses over 53,000 acres, including 17,000 acres of old-growth coast redwoods. With over 250 campsites and 100 miles of hiking, there's more to do here than your one summer vacation can hold.

[Clear Lake State Park](#)

Fishing, boating, camping--it's all here in Lake County. This state park can get hot in the summer, so pick a spot with a little shade.

Peter Jautaikis, F438339
Western Byways Editor

Source: <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/northern-california/state-parks-in-northern-california/>

