

WESTERN BYWAYS

FMCA WESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2021 EDITION

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Western Area FMCA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Winter 2021

President's Message



Greetings everyone in the Western Area. As I sit here writing this message, a small group of deer outside our window is grazing on acorns. This is fine by me, as we have had a tremendous crop this year. We have 12 oak trees on our property and it turns out this was a "mast year" for acorn production. My neighbors said this happens every 3 - 4 years.

I had to invest in a nut roller to pick up acorns, as they rained down for over 3 months and would cover the lawns if not picked up.

We would normally be down in Indio finishing our Western Area Rally around this time. It feels strange to be here at home this time of year, but you all know we had to cancel the event due to the pandemic that is gripping our country right now.

As of this writing, the 102nd International Convention & RV Expo in Perry, Georgia, is still set to take place. Georgia is not quite as strict as California in their rules for coping with the COVID-19 crisis. However, there will be several precautions put into practice for attendees at the convention. The event organizers are doing their best to ensure the safety of all who attend. For those who have registered, you will receive information regarding what will be expected of you while in attendance (masks, social distancing, etc.) prior to your arrival. If any of you are still considering attending this convention, be advised that only 1,600 RVs will be allowed, so do not procrastinate for too long. The limited number is due to having to maintain social distancing and eliminating crowded conditions in seminars and entertainment.

Debbie and I were invited to join the Gold Dust Travelers for their Christmas Rally in December. Since it was close by in Bakersfield, we drove down on Saturday to have dinner with them. What a great bunch of people and we felt very welcome. They could not use the club-house for gatherings, but they were allowed to use the kitchen. Dinner was prepared and served in "to go" containers. Some took theirs back to their RV, but most ate outside at tables set up under some shade awnings. It was a little chilly eating out, but fun nonetheless. Afterwards, they gathered at a coach with a campfire and various hot drinks and desserts. It was certainly nice to get out and to see a chapter not letting the pandemic hold them back from having their events.

I did have my hip replacement surgery in November and I am now in the healing stage. Surgery went well and the doctor is happy with the results – no complications. Now I don't have to hide from Mary (our former Bingo caller) who always came up to me and asked if I had the hip replaced yet. So, "Yes Mary, I had it done."

Finally, if you have not done so, you need to go on the FMCA website and download and print your new FMCAssist ID cards. Since we went with a new company the numbers on the old cards will not work. The new cards will have the 24-hour phone number on it.

Debbie & I wish you safe travels. Take care.

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

<https://www.fmca.com/fmca-assist>
Click on "Download Cards"

Senior Vice President's Message



The general philosophy behind our articles in the Byways is to reflect on the adventures from attending rallies, describe activities that are unique that other chapters might enjoy, and exchange information on rally locations and amenities. So, as I looked back at my calendar for the last quarter of 2020 and the constraints of COVID-19, Marilyn and I attended a rally sponsored by The Camping

Squares at Indian Wells RV Resort, Indio, CA and the SoCal Elks, Vista, CA.

This brings me to a thought! Who else within WMHA is having rallies? I want to request the chapter newsletter editors to add my email address to your distribution list. As most newsletters include the chapter's rally schedule, and as we regularly travel the state, Marilyn and I would love to attend your rallies when we can.

Speaking of rallies, I hope you're aware of FMCA's 102nd International Convention and RV Expo in Perry, Georgia, this March, followed by the 103rd in Gillette, Wyoming, in July.

While COVID-19 affected rallies/travel, it didn't affect our Christmas. While we kept it small, our daughter, son-in-law, and two of our six grandkids all waited for Santa to come down the chimney. We even noticed that Santa ate the cookies and drank the milk we set out for him while we slept!

New Year's Eve was our usual celebration: we slept through it. Our New Year's resolution was that if all the noise at midnight woke one of us up, we promised we wouldn't wake the other. Marilyn did good; she woke up and I slept through the noise.

Hey, have you all received the January issue of *Family RVing* which includes the 2021 FMCA Member Benefit Guide? This specific issue we keep in the motorhome after we've finished reading it. As we never know when we'll break down or need a place to stay at a moment's notice, the Directory is a great resource. Don't throw this one away!

This brings me to my last thought. There are some very great cooks who create delicious meals while RVing. Barbeque chicken, burgers, hotdogs or spaghetti can go just so far. I know the Instant Pot is becoming a valuable kitchen tool along with the convec-

tion oven. I'm not requesting the family secret recipe to the favorite dish, but if there's one you'd like to share with Marilyn and I, send it our way! We'd love to try it while we travel.

For now, travel safe and keep your distance!

Dave Franke, F443367
Senior Vice President WMHA

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Let's all cheer that 2020 is gone and pray 2021 is much better. In any case, let's get started in the trip planning stages of our clubs. I would like to see the Southern Region of the Western Motorhome Association utilize the beautiful weather we are having. Carol and I are eager to meet the many people in various Southern Regional Clubs and exchange stories of life.

Our oldest daughter was found positive for COVID some weeks ago. However, within a short time, she was tested negative and had no more than minor cold issues. We do, however, continue to be on pins and needles as our youngest daughter works in the emergency room at a local hospital.

Carol and I achieved some positive goals already. We had a "Zoom get-together" with family on Christmas Eve. We also stayed up until after midnight New Year's Eve. There are a lot less Christmas decorations to take down, since we did not have our traditional in person get-together at our house.

Let's bring in the new year with some tentative camping trips and keep the rig in shape. Anyway, as always, stay safe, stay positive and if you do travel, stay on the road. Really, I mean it. Between the lines please.

Jesse Bassford, F44869
Southern Area Vice President

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As the Western Byways Editor, I welcome comments about information published in the newsletter. Email me at newsletterwmha@gmail.com

Central Area Vice President's Message



Hello to everyone,
I hope you are all doing well. Not much is happening yet, but my wife and I did make it to the Safari of Southern California meeting in Twentynine Palms, California. The RV park where they held their meeting had some issues with their sewer hook-ups, so repairs were made a couple of days before.

When a member of the chapter pulled into his assigned site, the motorhome sank down about 10 inches. That caused the water main to break. The coach was ok, but it caused a pretty big sink-hole. The park owner had to shut the water off for quite awhile to make repairs. That made things interesting but everyone still had a great time.



I presented them with their 10-year anniversary certificate that evening and congratulated them on a job well done. Everyone was wearing their masks and maintaining the social distancing required by the

state health department.

My wife and I were planning to attend the Beat the Odds rally in Laughlin, Nevada, but it was cancelled due to the new COVID-19 shut down.

Remember to call or email me if you have any concerns or questions. You can also visit the Western Area website at <http://wafmca.com> for more information.

Remember to smile and have fun.
Rick Ammerman, F442485
Central Area Vice President

Did you know FMCA has its own RV campground? Located east of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. FMCA members can stay for free 2 nights every month and 5 additional nights thereafter for \$30 per night for a full-hookup site. Visit www.fmca.com/stay-fmca

Northern Area Vice President's Message



What a year it has been for 2020. Staying safe, wearing a mask, maintaining proper distance, and washing hands has been our routine for the last year and continues this year. Well, welcome to 2021! I hope everyone is doing well staying safe. It has been hard on everyone, especially with not being able to get out. This has become our new norm and has

been very hard on many of us. Janie and I have had to learn how to navigate and communicate in Zoom meetings with family and friends. Most RV chapters also have been meeting through Zoom and sharing updates. In addition to Zoom meetings we have volunteered our time on Saturdays to hand out food boxes to people in the community in need of assistance. During these times, lots of people are in need of some type of assistance.

Janie and I had the opportunity to attend an outing with the Gold Dust Travelers Club, in Bakersfield. I want to thank them for their hospitality. They had a great turnout in attendance. Everything was well planned out and social distancing was enforced with the food preparation and staging area to eat outside.

Congratulations to the following Chapters for their anniversary milestones:

Norcal Rex - 20 years
Gold Diggers - 30 years
Nor Cal FMCA Elk - 30 years
Thousand Trails West - 35 years

Sadly, due to coronavirus restrictions, most clubs haven't had meetings and I was unable to present each club with their certificate. I'm looking forward to attending each club outing soon to present them their certificates.

Stay safe and looking forward to better days to come.

James McDaniel, F371784
Northern Area Vice President

Connect with FMCA on Social Media



Stay connected with the FMCA community on our social media pages. This is a great way to keep in touch with your RV club in between your monthly magazine mailings and email communications. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/>
https://twitter.com/fmca_
<https://www.instagram.com/fmcarvclub/>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy4u38T109czLI_sxAfKTuw
<https://www.pinterest.com/fmcarvclub/>

Membership / Chapter Fair



Usually we would be in Indio at this time enjoying the fellowship of our Western Area rally. Hopefully we will be there in 2022. At this time there is not a lot of news about membership. Chapters should be receiving information from FMCA regarding new members who might want to join a chapter. I know a number of chapters have not been able to have

any meetings this past year because of the COVID-19 virus. Hope that in the coming months things settle down with the development of the vaccine and people will be able to once again get together.

After the virus in 2020 we should really appreciate being able, when we can, to get together and see our friends. I hope that most of our FMCA members have not developed the virus. I know that we have had members who have had it and also have lost some of our members to it. My condolences to those families who have lost loved ones to the virus.

I am still hoping that someone will become interested in doing membership / chapter fair for the Western Area. As I have mentioned before, I have enjoyed the position but have done it for a number of years and maybe someone else would like to step up and do the job. It is really not that time consuming – the main part is doing the chapter fair at Indio, which is really not that hard. It's fun to meet all the people who do membership for the chapters and all the members who are interested in joining chapters. Maybe a new person might have some new ideas for this position. Until next issue stay safe and well. Miss you all.

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

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

WMHA Executive Board 2021

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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 California FMCA Elk
 Southern Bus Nuts

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
 Sierra Hi Rollers
 Sierra Ramblers
 Thousand Trails West
 Safari R Us

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 Winter Chapter Anniversaries

Safari of Southern California Chapter



10 Year Anniversary

Safari of Southern California, (SOSC) was officially formed in March 1993 at a get-together of 27 coaches. Officers were elected and the bylaws of Safari International were adopted. For many years we were a fun club of Safari International.

We held four rallies a year and attended the annual Homecoming event in Harrisburg. Our membership rose to over one hundred families. We have held rallies extending from Mexico to Oregon. Our focus has been on friendship and family fun. A three-day rally would easily become a five-to-seven-day rally with members arriving early and staying late to enjoy each other's company. Relationships have been formed that extend beyond RVing. We socialize on many different levels. The club has been a source of enormous enjoyment to us all.

Over the years our bylaws have evolved. We now offer membership to owners of other brands if at one time they owned a Safari or Monaco branded motorhome. **Ten years ago**, we took the step up from a fun club with Safari International to an Associate Club in FMCA. We appreciate the benefits that this move has given us.



We currently are facing the same difficulties as other clubs. We have an aging membership which results in a decline in total membership numbers. It has been difficult to convince members to host rallies and serve as officers. Participation in rallies is down.

When we do have a rally, an excellent time is had by all attendees. The 2020 rally at Twentynine Palms, CA hosted by Bob & Edie Carter and Ed & Brenda Ellis was a rousing success. The Carters were putting on the 2021 rally as well (cancelled due to COVID19) and I am sure it would have been every bit as much fun.

COVID19 has put a damper on our club as well as all other travel groups. We are waiting for the all clear to get back on the road again. If you are looking for a great group to join and travel with, please consider checking us out.

Peggy Johnson
President, SOSC

The Big E Chapter



45 Year Anniversary

The Big E Chapter was chartered in March 1976 under the sponsorship of Executive Motorhome, Inc. and each member was the owner of an Executive Motorhome. Several years after its

beginning, Executive quit sponsoring and the membership was opened to any brand of motorhome. With the recent change at FMCA, towables are now included, hence the original Big E name now stands for "Everyone."

Our rallies are scheduled within 150-mile radius of Pasadena with an occasional jaunt out of the area. We travelled to the Rogue River, Tombstone, Las Vegas, Lake Havasu, Pismo Beach, and took a cruise through the Panama Canal together. Our rallies begin on the second Sunday of the month and end on the following Thursday.

At the 2020 Indio Western Area rally we were planning to celebrate the 100th birthday of a long-standing member, Willie Windisch. However, in May 2019, he was towing his car en route to a rally when it began weaving and he stopped to investigate. He fell, broke his hip, and never recovered. He was a faithful member that never missed our rallies. At 99½ he was still participating and thoroughly enjoying his Big E friends. Here is a picture of members erecting a float for an Indio rally parade and a picture of Willie accepting a trophy for our efforts.



A typical rally involves considerable food, a Happy Hour, a car trip to someplace nearby of interest. We carpool to those places so it isn't necessary for everyone to bring a car. Additionally some play golf, bocce ball, croquet, horseshoes, and Mexican Train.

If you would be interested in joining a fun group please call President Ginny Wenzel at (760) 409-3301.

By the time you read this, what should have been another successful Annual Western Area Rally in Indio would be over. From Indio, many rally attendees look forward to



working their way east for their annual trek to the Quartzsite, AZ Sports, Vacation & RV Show. The RV show, with precautions, was held on January 16 through 24, 2021. If you've never

spent a week or two dry camping on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land with your friends for \$40, then you need to get out there someday and enjoy the experience. There are many great deals to be had and fun times. There are also many RV parks in Quartzsite.

We usually have around 8-12 rigs migrating to Quartzsite after Indio and we love to fill the time between the two events stopping off at the Blythe, CA, Annual Bluegrass Festival for some foot-stomping downhome sounds!

A Brief History of Bluegrass Music

The history of bluegrass music begins with the people who migrated to America in the 1600s from Ireland, Scotland, and England and brought with them basic styles of music that are generally considered to be the roots of modern bluegrass music. As the Jamestown settlers began to move out into North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia, they wrote songs about day-to-day life in the new land. Since most of these people lived in remote areas, the songs reflected life on the farm or in the hills. This music was referred to as country music or mountain music. The invention of the phonograph and the onset of radio in the early 1900s brought this music out of the mountains and into the homes of people all over the United States.



Bill Monroe and his band first appeared on the Grand Ole Opry stage in 1939 and soon became one of the most popular touring acts to emerge from Nashville's WSM studios. Bill's band was different from other traditional country bands because of its

hard-driving and powerful sound that used traditional acoustic instruments and featured distinctively high vocal harmonies. The music incorporated songs and rhythms from string band, gospel (black and white), black laborer work song, country, and blues music

repertoires. Vocal selections included duet, trio, and quartet harmony singing in addition to Bill's powerful "high lonesome" solo lead singing. After experimenting with various instrumental combinations, Bill settled on mandolin, banjo, fiddle, guitar, and bass for the core of his band.

While some bluegrass music fans date the genre back to 1939 when Monroe first appeared on the Grand Ole Opry, most believe that the classic bluegrass sound came together in December 1945 when Earl Scruggs joined the band. Scruggs, a 21-year-old from North Carolina, played an innovative three-finger picking style on the banjo (which came to be known as "Scruggs style") with such drive and clarity that it energized and excited audiences. Equally influential in the classic 1945 line-up of the Blue Grass Boys were Lester Flatt (from Sparta, Tennessee) on guitar and lead vocals; Chubby Wise on fiddle; and Howard Watts, also known by his comedian name "Cedric Rainwater," on the upright bass.



From 1948-1969, the Flatt & Scruggs band was a major force in introducing bluegrass music to America through national television, radio, and appearances at schoolhouses, coliseums, and major universities around the country. Scruggs wrote and recorded one of bluegrass music's most famous instrumentals,

"Foggy Mountain Breakdown," which was used in the soundtrack for the film *Bonnie & Clyde*. The soundtrack to the movie *Deliverance* also featured bluegrass music, specifically *Dueling Banjos*.

In the 1960s, the concept of the "bluegrass festival" was first introduced, featuring bands on the same bill that had previously seemed to be in competition with each other for a relatively limited audience.

Bluegrass music is now performed and enjoyed around the world. The International Bluegrass Music Association claims members in all 50 states and 30 countries. In addition to the classic style born in 1945 that is still performed widely, bluegrass bands today reflect influences from a variety of sources including traditional and fusion jazz, contemporary country music, Celtic music, rock & roll ("newgrass" or progressive bluegrass), old-time music, and Southern gospel music.

Peter Jautaikis, F438339
Western Byways Editor

Source: <https://bluegrassheritage.org/history-of-bluegrass-music/>