

WESTERN BYWAYS



Volume 35 Issue 3

Western Area FMCA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Summer 2021

President's Message



I am sitting in our motorhome, parked at an Elk's Lodge in Boise, Idaho. We are on the last leg of a month-long trip that started a little over three weeks ago, so let me back up a little. Since we were attending the 103rd FMCA International Convention in Gillette, Wyoming, we decided to make a long trip out of it and see parts of the West we have not

seen before and to also visit friends we have not seen in a long time. We left for Gillette early as we were invited to join the Tri-Chapter rally that was taking place in Gillette prior to the FMCA convention. We took four days to get there and on the way ran into rain every day, including some big downpours and thunder. We did take time to stop at Independence Rock on the way. This was a key stop for settlers using the Oregon Trail. If they made it by July 4th then they would avoid winter snows later in their journey. They would take time to have a 4th of July celebration and carve their names on the rock formation. There are approximately 5,000 names on Independence Rock. Upon our arrival in Gillette, I went back to unhook our toad and it was covered in mud. Must have been some slurry on the road just south of Gillette. I could not even see through the windshield. A trip through a car wash would be one of our first agenda items. We had a great time at the Tri-Chapter rally, making new friends, dining out and getting up close to bison on the Bison Ranch tour.

This was our 2nd convention to attend but my first as a national officer. It was great to finally meet the other national officers in person and to meet the FMCA staff who work tirelessly to keep the FMCA wheels rolling. I have talked with them on the phone and through e-mails, but to finally meet them in per-

son was a real treat. When I read through the Staff Guidebook I was given, I was amazed at all the work assignments the staff must do to ensure the convention goes off without a problem. Of course, being a national officer meant I had lots to attend to also. I was assigned (voluntold?) gate guard duty on two days. This meant making sure RVs did not come in the wrong gates but rather to direct them to the proper entry gate. We had an Executive Board meeting prior to the convention start, as there were a couple of unfinished items to address before the Governing Board meeting during the convention. I had our Area Caucus, where I met with our Western Area delegates to go over the Governing Board meeting agenda. I also, along with Jon Walker, presented a 30-year Anniversary Certificate to the Sierra Hi-Rollers. I attended First Timer Mentor training, First Timers Meeting and President's Forum. For the Ladies Luncheon I helped serve the lunch. This was fun and us servers got to eat once all the ladies were served. It was a rather good lunch to boot, with plenty of food for all. Moving on, we had the Annual Meeting then a farewell luncheon for the outgoing officers. After that, we had a meeting of the new Executive Board. Between all this Debbie and I managed to see all the vendors, spend some money and to walk through some new coaches. This was a great convention and if you have not been to one yet, you need to add one to your "things to do" list.

With the convention behind us, it was time to see more of our great country. We headed up to Montana and stopped for a couple of nights so we could go out to the Little Bighorn Battlefield. I have read many accounts of this historic battle but to see where it actually happened was something. Even though accounts describe the size of the battle area, it is much more impressive to see it in person. From there we continued to head west. Using I-90 it was a beautiful drive, except smoke from all the fires out west was obscur-

ing a lot of the scenery. Our next stop was Hamilton, Montana, located in the Bitterroot Valley, to see a friend of Debbie's. This was her manicurist for 30 years who recently moved up here. We met for dinner and the next day we altered our schedule so Debbie could have a manicure. The joke was that Debbie missed her manicurist so much that she drove all the way to Montana to get her nails done! From there it was onward to Idaho. We drove along the Salmon River, over the 7,200' Chief Joseph Pass and through the Challis National Forest. Heading south around the Saw tooth mountains, we went through the Craters of The Moon National Monument with some spectacular lava flows and finally ended up here in Boise. We are here to see some friends who moved away last year. The final leg of our trip will be through Nevada for another stop to see some friends and then on to California and home.

This is the first time we have done a trip of this length and for you seasoned travelers you know some of the challenges. Taking enough clothes, shopping for food along the way and doing laundry. A challenge for us was finding places to stay. In the past, we have always traveled "off season" so we could just wing it and find places to stay along the way. We were told if we did not already have reservations for where we wanted to stay that we would not get a space. This was impossible as we did not know where we would be on any given day. Well, that was a true statement as everything everywhere was booked. What worked for us was once we knew where we would be, we would call ahead and get a space due to cancellations. If a place was booked, we left a message and they were good about calling back advising us of a cancellation so we could get a spot.

Hope your summer is going great for you,

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

Senior Vice President's Message



By the time you read this, the 103rd FMCA International convention from Gillette, Wy, will be over. Many of you have attended International convention but this was Marilyn, and my first.

Remember the saying "Rain, rain, go away, come again another day." I was hoping for

this to be true as we left Southern California, went past Las Vegas and St George, UT, and into the next 2 1/2 days of rain. A planned route that I thought would shorten the miles to be driven, actually put us in downtown Provo, UT and, through Brigham Young University. Great area to see but not with a motorhome, tow car, and more traffic lights than a Christmas tree.

The date for the convention was just after the 4th of July. But prior to that was a Tri-Chapter Rally, with three chapters sponsoring a rally before "Gillette". Elks International, Retired Military Veterans, and Full Timers, put on a great rally. Crafts, food, games, and a trip to Durham Ranch, home of 3,000 bison on 60,000 acres.



With the Tri-Chapter Rally complete and wearing my first-timers red ribbon, I ventured into where they were stuffing bags with loads of rally information. Round and round the table we went until probably 2000 bags were filled.

The Governing Board, made up of delegates from chapters throughout FMCA, met and when we were finished had elected a new FMCA President, Sr Vice President, Treasurer, and re-elected the National Secretary. Marilyn and I met all the national officers and had dinner, a couple of times, with most of them.

While Governing Board meeting, and responsibilities to it were important, attending the various seminars, exhibits, and displays reminded me of our rally at Indio. Larger and well put together, it was friendly, we never saw a disappointed face, and I think we wore the numbers off my credit card as we used it TOO MUCH!

As the days ended, each evening had entertainment. My favorite was Three Dog Night. I hadn't heard their music in years. Besides that, the lead singer was my age. Just goes to show OLD GUYS ROCK!!

Time marches on, events end, and it's time to head home. With our first international convention over, we'll set our sights on Tucson, Az, in March 2022, and the next FMCA International convention.

Dave Franke, F443367
Senior Vice President WMHA

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Well, it's July and the warm weather has arrived. We recently spent time with the "California Chapter" at Golden Village Palms RV Resort in Hemet, California. Carol and I became members of their new "CC Riders" club. To qualify for this special bicycle club within a club, your body parts need to get sore for about 2 miles with in the park and, also, miss hitting anyone walking with gray hair.

Our most recent outing was the Western MotorHome Association Executive Board meeting in Bakersfield, where we completed a budget for WMHA. I tried, but my request to have money for either wine or tea included for EVERY outing of EVERY chapter in WMHA was not to be.

At this writing, we still have no word on the WMHA Indio Rally in January. We will keep you informed. If the rally does "GO," I am asking for help with BUILDING SECURITY, 50/50 SALES and SIGNS/ BANNERS. Your club membership does not have to be in the Southern area. Any member within WMHA can help out. Call or email me at the info noted below if you are either curious or interested.

As I always say, stay safe, stay positive and stay on the road.

Jesse Bassford, F44869
Southern Area Vice President
Jbassford48@gmail.com
(909) 438-6893

Central Area Vice President's Message



I can not believe it has been 3 months since my last note to you all.

Paula and I attended the 103rd FMCA International Convention in Gillette, Wyoming, July 7-10, 2021. We met up with some old friends and made quite a few new ones. I attended the Governing Board meeting and voted some P&P changes and a new executive board.

Your new board is as follows:

President: Rett Porter
Senior Vice President: Gary Milner
Secretary: Kathie Balogh
Treasurer: Barbara Smith

I can assure you that we are in GOOD hands.



There was a very good turnout for the rally. I have not heard how many rigs turned out, but it looked like about 1200. Seminars were awesome as usual and the vendors were great.

On to a personal note, I finally got to go fishing up in Bridgeport, California, for a couple of weeks. Fishing was not all that great, but family time was awesome. We ran the gamut with the weather. We had two days of snow (about 8 inches), rain and hail for a couple of days and blue skies for the remaining days. We had quite a few deer come through camp every evening. It was pretty cool seeing all the new babies this year.



In September and October we will be in Oklahoma and Missouri visiting with more family and friends. We get to check Branson off from our bucket list.

Hope all is well with everyone. If you have any questions or concerns please call or email me. Remember to smile and have fun.

Rick Ammerman, F442485
Central Area Vice President

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.

Northern Area Vice President's Message



Now that summer is upon us and COVID restrictions have been reduced, many RVer's are out enjoying themselves with family and friends. However, many of us are experiencing limited available RV sites with a large number of people beginning a new life of RVing. We have learned that weekdays, Monday through Friday, are the

best times to reserve sites. Often weekends are booked months in advance. Planning ahead takes more time than ever before and it is best to be flexible about where you want to go.

We recently attended a WMHA executive board planning meeting in Bakersfield in order to discuss our next fiscal year. I learned a lot during this meeting, as we worked on plans for fiscal year 2022, specifically plans for the Indio rally. The duty of the executive board is to keep costs as low as possible and provide a balanced budget. Planning for a rally requires lots of coordination. We work with others to put a venue together: securing contracts, attracting vendors, preparing adequate advertising, etc. I cannot stress enough the importance and appreciation we have for the support provided by our clubs and individual volunteers as they work hard for long hours during the rallies. A major hurdle for this year's rally at Indio is that the Indio Fairground is now under new management and there is a chance that the fairgrounds might not be available to us next year. We are currently working on this situation and, hopefully, by the time your read this article, we will have an update and will know the status of the 2022 WMHA rally venue.

The Gillette rally was held July 7th through the 10th and the Northern Area had 25 to 30 RVers attend this rally. While I had registered and fully intended to attend this rally, unfortunately I was unable to do so as my doctor advised against due to my upcoming surgery scheduled for later this month. However, after speaking with several individuals, I was happy to hear that everyone had a good time and that they fully enjoyed being able to get back on the road. As we all know, being on the road has its challenges, such as problems with tires, generators, cracked windshields, etc., but it's all a part of the experience. As the issues arise, we don't let them impede our enjoyment. Instead we deal with the issue and keep on going.

Safe travels to everyone and I hope to see you on the road soon.

James McDaniel, F371784
Northern Area Vice President

Membership / Chapter Fair



I hope your chapter has been able to have a real meeting, a get-together for meeting and visiting. I don't have much information for membership at this time, but there may be more information after the meeting in Gillette.

I had several inquiries about chapters in Western Area and emailed the brochure listing the chapters and information about them. This list includes the contact person for your chapter, so it is important that you let me know who that person is and if it has changed. When I send this information out, I stress that they should contact the person for the chapter they would like information from.

Hopefully, we will be having our Western Area rally in Indio in January 2022. If so, think about having a table at the Chapter Fair. Along that line, if someone would be interested in being in charge of the Membership / Chapter Fair position please contact me. I would like to have someone think about taking this position and I would be happy to let you know what the job is all about.

Alice Bernard, F79098
Membership & Chapter Fair Captain
Volunteer Coordinator

103rd Gillette International Convention Memories



Indio Rally Captains Needed

In order to have a successful Indio Rally every year, we need volunteers to fill over 50 Captain positions. We presently need members to step up and fill the following Captain positions:

- ♦ Electric Co-Captain
- New Coach Display Captain
- Commercial Exhibitors Captain
- Assistant Commercial Exhibitors Captain
- Signs & Banners Captain
- Assistant Signs & Banners Captain
- Volunteer Dinner Captain
- Day Pass / Locator Card Captain
- 50/50 Ticket Sales Captain
- Handicap Parking Captain
- Assistant Greeters Captain

Contact Bob Golk or David Franke for more information.

WMHA Executive Board 2021

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Western Motor Home Association Website

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103rd Gillette International Convention Memories





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
 GMG 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
 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 Summer Chapter Anniversary

Frustrated Maestros Chapter



40 Year Anniversary

Now Playing

In July 1981, a chapter called the Frustrated Maestros was formed with the late Bob Gobrecht, F14273, as president & national director and his wife, Betty, as secretary and treasurer. Forty people signed on for membership. Today, 800 members (400 families) nationwide participate in the chapter's musical shows. Many of the original chapter members still don their red and white uniforms, if one chooses to call them "uniforms," while playing with the group. Nine chapters now exist with the Frustrated Maestros name, but the original group was and still is based in FMCA's Western Area.



The Frustrated Maestros gave their first performance at the 1981 Oktoberfest rally in Costa Mesa, Ca. Next, they played at FMCA's National Convention in Del Mar, California, in March 1982. The group has continued to entertain in its unique fashion at subsequent international conventions as well as at the Western Area regional rally in Indio. We have a lot of talent and welcome new members.



The object of the Frustrated Maestros is to allow members to show their talents and bring out of hiding their tried and true memories. The good old songs of yesterday. It's a chance to dust off those dancing

shoes, or sit and hum a long-forgotten tune. We don our "red-whites" and take to the stage along with some odd and rare types of instruments, such as kazoo, washboards, tambourines and we even had a toilet seat (now retired)! Yes indeed, we do have members who play the real thing too: tuba, trumpet, saxophone, drums, trombone, and many others. May I add that we do have some terrific talent among us! When the Frustrated Maestros get together, it is a real family reunion. We enjoy one another's company and love doing what we think we do best. We are devoted to our founding leader, Bob, and we'd never dream of letting him down.



Since the formation of the Frustrated Maestros in California, eight other Frustrated Maestros chapters have been created: the South Central in 1985; the Southeast in 1987; the Northwest Musical Misfits in 1988; the Rocky Mountain Rockers in 1992; the Great Lakes in 1992; the Yankee Doodle Dandies (Northeast Area) in 1996; the Midwest Notables in 1997; and the Eastern Sharps and Flats in 1997.

On Sundays during a rally or convention, we hold a gospel sing and invite everyone to join us as we belt out some favorite hymns. At all of our performances, we do give a "hats off" to our armed forces and ask you to stand and cheer for your branch of service. You can join in honoring our neighbors to the north as we sing the Canadian national anthem. Then grasp the hand of your neighbor and thank God for our wonderful country as we sing "God Bless America."

Dues are only \$10 per year. The friendships we've made over the years make it all so wonderful. It's so great being a Frustrated Maestro.

We'll be looking for you at the next national convention or area rally. Do come and say hello. We've come a long way.



Yahoo, Barbecue!

Do you Barbecue, Barbeque, BBQ or Grill? There is a major difference between barbecuing and grilling, but many people are unaware, so they use both terms loosely.

Barbecuing is the world's oldest cooking method. The definition of barbecuing is "low-and-slow" smoking and cooking over indirect heat. The results achieved from barbecuing using smoke, indirect heat, spices, rubs, and the natural juices of meats are beyond dispute. I say that grilling hamburgers, hot dogs, steaks, or chicken over direct heat using hot charcoals or a gas grill and calling it BBQ is just plain wrong. Not that there's anything wrong with grilling!

Don't get me wrong, you can barbecue great food and meals over charcoal and/or propane using indirect heat. Over the years, I have found that wood pellet smoker-grills are perfect units for barbecuing. Many of the units are capable of indirect and direct cooking configurations. Their digital controls range from 150°F to over 500°F.

Various manufacturers build portable wood pellet smoker-grills capable of being carried in your RV. Many of these portable units



sport WiFi digital controllers and run on 12 VDC and/or 120 VAC. Anyone is capable of cooking delicious meals using a wood pellet smoker-grill at home or on the road. I have spent years, since 2011, developing easy recipes which can be found on my Blog and/or in my wood pellet smoker & grill cookbook. So the next time you smell Hickory, follow that aroma to see what's smoking/cooking. Don't be surprised to see how many RVers are carrying a wood pellet smoker & grill.

I smoked/cooked all these delicious recipes using a portable wood pellet smoker & grill. But, you can use any type of pit as long as you're able to maintain indirect cooking temperatures. Bon Appétit

Seasoning recommendations: Rub your meat & poultry with roasted garlic extra virgin olive oil, your favorite seasoning, wrap in plastic, and refrigerate prior to cooking. I use this method for most recipes.

Always cook the meat to internal temperatures taken at the thickest part using a digital instant-read thermometer. Times given are for planning purposes only. Don't forget to include preheat and resting times. Very important to rest the meat & poultry loosely under a foil tent before serving. Always slice against the grain.



Smoked Tri-Tip Roast

Trim excess fat and silver skin on the Tri-Tip Roast. Season and refrigerate overnight. Configure your pit for indirect cooking and preheat to 235°F using Hickory wood pellets. Smoke the Tri-Tip for about 2 hrs until the internal temp reaches 145°F (medium rare). Rest the roast for 10 minutes.



Smoked Pork Spare Ribs

Traditionally smoked with Hickory but I prefer to use a mix of Hickory, Cherry, Apple, and Maple. Season your ribs and fridge overnight. Smoke the ribs for 1 hr at 180°F. Bump the pit temp to 250°F for an additional 4+ hours until internal temp reaches 190°F to 200°F. Rest for 10 minutes.



Smoked Half Chicken

Season the half chicken and fridge for 4 hrs. Smoke the chicken using Hickory for 1 hr at 225°F. Bump the pit temp to 375°F till internal temp at the thickest part of the breast reaches 170°F and the skin is crisp. Rest the smoked chicken for 10 minutes.



Smoked Meatloaf

Use your favorite meatloaf recipe. Smoke the meatloaf at 180°F for an hour using your favorite wood pellets before increasing the pit temp to 350°F. Pull the smoked meatloaf when the internal temp reaches 160°F. Rest the meatloaf for 10 minutes.



Smoked Pulled Pork Butt

The days of smoking a pork butt for 14 to 18 hours are a thing of the past. With this recipe, you can cut the time down to 8 hrs. I am not an advocate of leaving the fat cap on because it hinders the formation of that delectable flavored bark. Smoke your seasoned pork butt at 225°F for 3 hrs before bumping the pit temp to 375°F. Cook the pork butt until you reach an internal temp of 160°F. Double wrap the pork butt in heavy duty foil and return to the pit. Cook until you reach an internal temp of 200°F. Wrap the pork butt in a towel and place it in a cooler (Foil, Towel, Cooler [FTC]) for 3 hrs before pulling the pork butt. Caution, the pork butt will be extremely hot.

These recipes sound and look extremely easy. That's because they are! No need for those fancy schmancy foo-foo recipes. Keep it simple.



Smoked Bone-In Turkey Breast

Season a 10 lb turkey breast and fridge for 4 hrs. Smoke the breast with Hickory or Cherry for 2 hrs at 200°F. Raise the pit temp to 325°F and finish cooking the turkey breast for about 2 hrs until the internal temperature at the thickest part reaches 170°F. Rest the smoked bone-in turkey breast for 20 minutes.



Smoked Pork Tenderloins

Pork no longer must be taken to 160°F. New USDA guidelines allows pork to be cooked to 145°F which produce very moist, tender and slightly pink results. Refrigerate the seasoned tenderloins for 4 hrs. Use Apple or Hickory to smoke the tenderloins at 225°F for approximately 2 hrs until the internal temp reaches 145°F. Rest the smoked pork tenderloins for 10 minutes.



Smoked New York Strip Roast

Season a New York Strip Roast and refrigerate overnight. Smoke the roast at 240°F for approximately 2 hrs until the internal temperature reaches 135°F for medium rare. Rest the smoked New York Strip Roast for 10 minutes.



Smoked Sirloin Pork Roast

A Sirloin Pork Roast comes from the whole boneless pork loin. Always trim off the fat cap and silver skin before seasoning the roast. Refrigerate overnight. Smoke a 2½ lb sirloin pork roast using Apple or Hickory pellets at 180°F for an hour. Bump the pit temperature to 350°F and cook until the internal temp reaches 145°F. Rest the smoked sirloin pork roast for 10 minutes.

Smoke rings do not alter the taste of your food but they give the food a dramatic look and smoking with wood is the only way to achieve them.

Peter Jautaikis, F438339
Western Byways Editor

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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