



INDIO City of Festivals™



January 2019

Indio, CA

California FMCA HMC Chapter News and Schedule of Events

30th Year



Welcome to Indio, CA



One of our FMCA National Vice President's just finished his Breakfast Chorizo

2019 FMCA HMC Rallies

Feb 28-March 3 2019

Lake Elsinore Marina & RV Resort
Lake Elsinore, CA

May 15-22 2019

Black Oak Casino Resort
Tuolumne, CA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by David Altkhoff



Our first rally in 2019 was held for the first time at the 31st Annual Western Area Rally at the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio, California on January 6-12. We had 22 coaches, some of them arriving before Sunday because of other voluntary jobs they did. As you all know, at Indio our Chapter has volunteered for many years to set up, take down, move, the tables and chairs here. Many of our members also donate their time for parking, new coach sales, and being a Frustrated Maestro.

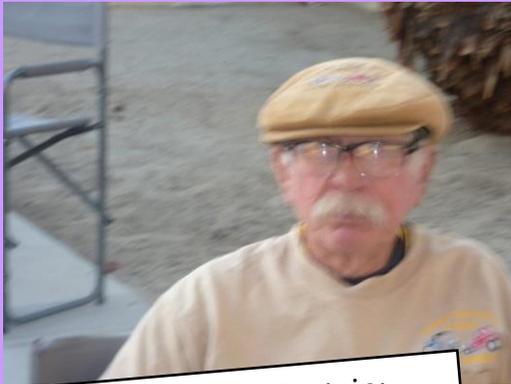
My thanks to our trailbosses; Bart & Debbie Van Holland and Alan & Judy Mersereau. They did a fantastic job running our rally and participating in all the "Once Upon A Time" rally events. A few of our new members sampled Bart's chorizo breakfast. They later joined our Chapter! Thanks Bart!

Continued on next page...



Trailbosses:
Bart & Debbie Van Holland and
Alan & Judy Mersereau

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued



Margarita Captain:
Sherky

I want to thank our Margarita Captain – Robert Scherkenbach (Sherky).

His margaritas are always #1. I really believe that our margaritas are a good advertisement for our Chapter. We signed up new members at this rally! – and all of them did attend our margarita Happy Hour.



My special thanks to Paula Ammerman, Ellen Chapman, and Marilyn Miller for being our representatives at the Chapter Fair. Booths are set up at the Chapter Fair to really advertise our Chapter – what we do, where we go. Paula, Ellen and Marilyn did **very well**; we received 5 new members.



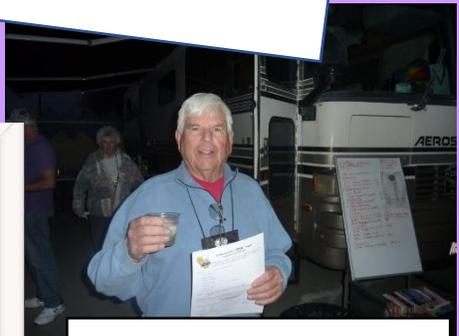
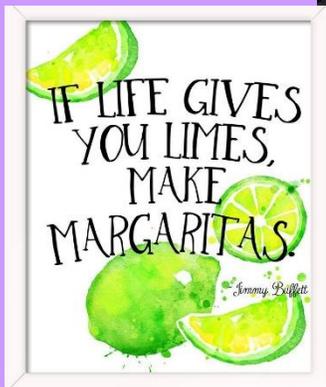
New Members:
Allan & Karen Twardos

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

A big welcome to our new members:
Ray & Roberta Blomster, Robert Cummings,
Rodger & Diana Donnelly, Glen & Ellen
Prestmo, and Allan & Karen Twardos



New Members:
Ray & Roberta Blomster



New Member:
Robert Cummings

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued



Tables & chairs all set up 😊

At this rally, our long-time past president, Phil Griffin, now our Honorary President, who has been Captain of our Chapter doing the Tables & Chairs, told us that he would be stepping down. My thanks to Phil for the great job he did for so many, many years.

Our next rally has been booked for February 28-March 3, 2019 because we don't think we will get the Blue Angels approval because of security. Our 3rd rally of 2019 will be held in May at the RV Park at Black Oak Casino Resort in Tuolumne, California. Vicki Smith, Bart & Debbie Van Holland, and Alan & Judy Mersereau will be the trailbosses. We have never had a rally at Tuolumne, and I think you will all want to be sure to attend this one when you read what all we can do there.

Hope to see you all at our next Rally!



Alan & Phil



Our Parking crew:
Charlie, Glen, Tom, David & Our
Tables & Chairs Captain Rick



Judy, Ellen and Bruce
at Bingo



Our Chapter Fair Volunteers:
Ellen & Marilyn



Bart



Debbie, Sue, Betty, Rodger, Paul



Potluck

Trail Boss Report:

By Judy Mersereau

We held our first rally at the Western Area Rally in Indio, CA. Bart & Debbie Van Holland and Alan & Judy Mersereau shared the trail boss responsibilities.

This year our Executive Board voted to reward our chapter members with 3 meals before the Western Area Rally began to thank everyone for their help with "tables & chairs".



Trailbosses: Bart & Debbie Van Holland and Alan & Judy Mersereau

Sunday, January 6th was arrival day and 20 of our coaches were parked. We had a pot luck dinner that night.



Dinner Time with the group



Bruce enjoying his margarita

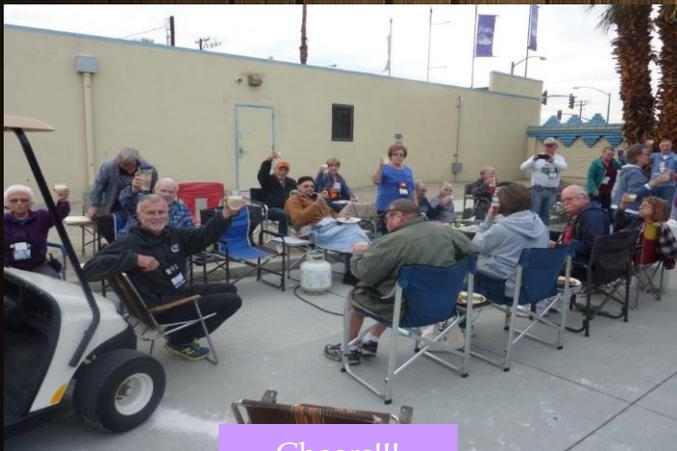


Chow down at Happy Hour

Monday morning found "Chef Bart" preparing chorizo/egg burritos AND again that evening bar—b-cuing hamburgers for everyone. Dinner was accompanied with all the fixins plus homemade macaroni salad (by Debbie) and potato salad (by Judy), chips and chocolate éclairs. Each evening we had happy hour with margaritas by "Captain Sherky".



Happy Hour Time



Cheers!!!

It was back to work setting up tables and chairs in the auditorium for Tuesday. We all worked together to set up, take down and rearrange the auditorium for the rest of the week.

The weather was cold at night but the days were pretty pleasant. Hope everyone had a safe trip home and we hope to see everyone at our next rally in Lake Elsinore, CA.



Secretary's Message

By Vicky Althoff

I have received word from one of our longtime members, Frank & Irene Griffin. They told me they were selling their motorhome. They opted to remain members of our Chapter. Irene will continue being our Membership Chairman.

They will still come to some of our rallies so they can visit with us.



**Important
Message**

Please send all pictures, stories, fun facts, articles, etc to be featured in our next newsletter to:

hmcnews.rally@gmail.com

Wagon Master Report – Indio FMCA Rally - January 2019

by Debbie Van Holland

Happy New Year everyone. Hope you all enjoyed your holidays. We had a great turn out for our first rally of the year held before the Western Area FMCA Indio Rally. I want to thank all of you who attended and helped out so much the entire week.

Thank you to:



Our Chapter Fair gals & Charlie

David & Vicky Althoff
Charlie & Jeanne Belew
Bruce & Ellen Chapman
Don & Lotte Duddy
Phil & Mike Griffin
Joe & Betty Kloss

Rick & Paula Ammerman
Paul & Carol Bostwick
Rodger & Diana Donnelly
Paul & Joan Flickinger
Tom & Kathie King
Roy & Anna McDaniel

Alan & Judy Mersereau
Paul & Lisa Mitchell
Robin & Trudy Ririe
Vicki Smith

Glenn & Marilyn Miller
Glen & Christine Prestmo
Robert & Geri Scherkenbach
Larry & Evelyn Stark

Scott & Sue Stave

and my husband Bart Van Holland



David hugging 2 of the Coffee & Donuts Crew

Without all of you Rick Ammerman would have been even more crazy, thank you all for stepping in to help whenever help was needed. Thank you also to our parking crew, great job again this year.

I believe most made the trip without any problems, and for the most part we had great Southern California weather. We did see a bit of the wet stuff but nothing like past years. Our Happy Hour Margarita get togethers were a success once again. I believe your hospitality even got us a few new members.

Our next rally is going to be February 28-March 3, 2019 at the Lake Elsinore Marina & RV Resort in Lake Elsinore, CA since it looks like once again the government has declined our request for our favorite Blue Angels rally in El Centro. Vicky did work really hard but could not get them to commit to allowing us to stay on the base and attend the event. Keep trying Vicky I know all your hard work they will allow us back some day.



BLACK OAK
CASINO RESORT

Our May rally that Vicki Smith is Trail boss for up at Black Oak Casino in Tuolumne County is set for May 15-22, 2019. Vicki is working hard with the Black Oak Casino RV park to meet all of our needs. We will be sending out the information on this outing as soon as we get some definite dates and costs. I do know she has an awesome catered dinner planned for one evening. A trip by bus to Yosemite, a train ride and a few more items. There will also be free time with suggested thing that you can go do while up in that beautiful part of our state. When this announcement goes out do not hesitate to get your reservation sent back in. It is going to be first come first served with only 19 spaces available.

We will all have the summer off to do other things then I will be scheduling or final rally in late October or the first of November. This is when we will have our annual meeting.

Hope to see you all soon.



HISTORY OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY FAIR & NATIONAL DATE FESTIVAL



The Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival is located in Indio, an oasis situated in the vast California desert, approximately 130 miles east from Los Angeles. The Fair started as a festival to celebrate the end of the annual date harvest in the Coachella Valley, the major commercial date-producing area in the western hemisphere.

Dates were an unknown commodity in the valley until 1903 when date palms were transplanted here from Algeria. By the early 1920's, enough acreage was planted to make dates a major crop for the area. In fact, the date industry represented Riverside County at the 1915 World's Fair in San Francisco. Date groves in the Coachella Valley were such a novelty that they became quite a tourist attraction.

With the popularity of the date gardens, the idea was planted for a date festival to be held in Indio City Park in 1921. The heavily publicized International Festival of Dates was promoted with an Arabian theme, a reference to the ancestral homeland of the date. A second festival was held the following year, but the interest for an annual fair waned. Instead, date agriculturalists promoted the crop at events such as the Southern California Fair in Riverside, the California State Fair and the Golden Gate International Exposition.



In 1937, the idea for an annual date festival came forth again and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors contracted the Indio Civic Club to organize and promote a third date festival. The newly re-named *Riverside County Fair and the Coachella Valley Date Festival* opened in 1938, drawing in 72 local vendors and over 5,000 attendants. An elaborate parade was staged through Indio that year featuring over 500 mounted entries along the then-unpaved Deglet Noor Street, beginning a tradition that continues to this year. Fair and parade attendants were encouraged to don Western apparel to fit the fair's theme that year, which included wiskerenos, cowboy hats and rodeo events.



In 1940, the County invested \$10,000 on 40 acres for the establishment of permanent fairgrounds. The grounds were expanded with the purchase of an additional 40 acres--including the date grove--eventually reaching its present-day size of 120 acres. Ground broke for construction on September 27, 1941, though all fair activity came to a halt in 1942 with World War II. After the war, Robert M.C. Fullenwider was hired to manage the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival. Fullenwider envisioned an Arabian Nights theme tying in the county fair with the desert region and date industry and as a nod to the 1921 International Festival of Dates.

Although many community members donated their time and energy to the Fair, two individuals made indelible marks with their creative contributions: writer and artist Louise Dardenelle, and retired Hollywood set designer Harry Oliver. Both were intrigued with the Arabian Nights theme. Ms. Dardenelle conceived the idea for an Arabian nights pageant, finishing a first draft before her death in 1947. Harry Oliver designed and supervised construction of the Fair's Old Baghdad State, which was finished just in time for the first production of the fair's first pageant in 1948. Under the direction of producer and choreographer Roy Randolph, *Prince Khudadad in the Shadow of Destiny* became an iconic feature of the Fair's history.

Today, the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival remains an integral part of the greater Coachella Valley community and a major tourist attraction. It continues the legacy of decades-old desert traditions while celebrating our history and community, and of course, providing fun and excitement for everyone.





Bruce, Trudy, Diana



Our Happy Hour with Executive and Security joining us



Geri Scherkenbach



Our Chapter Fair Volunteers- Paula, Ellen, Marilyn



Glenn



Debbie & Vicki



Judy & Debbie racin' around





Rick



Glenn, Marilyn, Vicki



This hot air balloon was so close over head I thought he was landing for our Margarita happy hour



Kathie, Joe, Lotte, Don



Bruce



Our toast to our deceased member Larry McBride. Larry died on his way from Idaho to our rally here in Indio.



Happy Hour Vicky & Alan



Trudy & Kathie



Rodger & Paul



Don, Phil & Michael



No winners in this group this time



Auditorium filling up ready to play Bingo



David & Alan



Lotte & Don



2018-2019 Officers California FMCA HMC Chapter

- President.....David Althoff
- Vice President.....Alan Mersereau
- VP-Wagonmaster.....Debbie Van Holland
- Secretary.....Vicky Althoff
- Treasurer.....Judy Mersereau
- FMCA National Dir.....Robin Ririe
- FMCA Alternate Dir.....Rick Ammerman
- Directors.....Paula Ammerman, Ellen Chapman,
Don Duddy, Richard Grieser, Tom King,
Linda Macken
- Hospitality.....Betty Kloss
- Newsletter Editor.....Erika Van Holland
- Membership Chairman.....Irene Griffin
- Webmaster.....Sally McClenaghan