



RAMONA OAKS



Ramona, CA

California FMCA HMC Chapter News and Schedule of Events

27th Year

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by David Althoff,



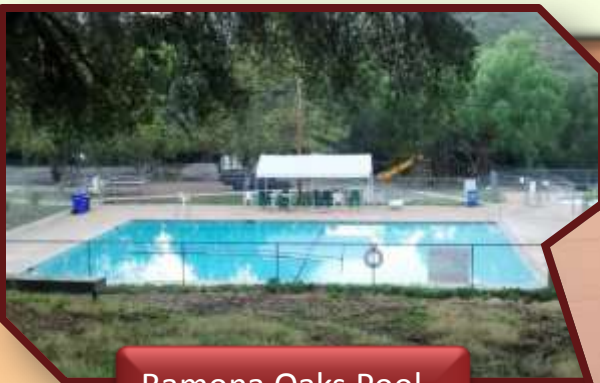
Our rally in September at the Ramona Oaks RV Resort in Ramona included our annual Meeting. The weather was warm in the daytime but cooled off nicely at night. The scenery there in the mountains was great. My utmost thanks to Debbie for her work in finding new places to have rallies, and the trip to Julian to see how apple cider is made was really interesting. And, of course, the mountainous ride to get there was special! Many thanks to our Trailbosses – Frank & Irene Griffin & Dave & Marie Hilber. They did a great job. And the lasagna and chicken kabobs were really good. Continued on next Page...



The Clubhouse at Ramona Oaks RV Resort



Ramona Oaks Resort owner, Amy & office manager Debbie



Ramona Oaks Pool

2016 FMCA HMC Rallies

November 9–13, 2016
Cattle Call
Brawley, CA



Trailbosses:
Marie & Dave Hilber &
Frank & Irene Griffin



President's Message Cont.

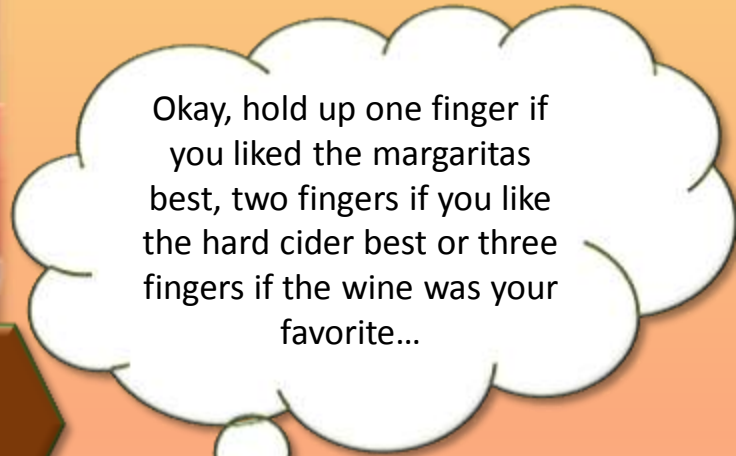
I want to thank Richard Grieser and Bob Gerberick for running our "Margarita" machine, and thanks to Dave Hilber for his donation towards supplies for the machine. We had 16 coaches (one coach being a guest). And so great to meet Susan & Joe Cardella. They are Frank & Irene's daughter and son-in-law, but most important Sue is our newsletter editor. And a big thanks to her for the magnificent job she does. Looking forward to our next rally at the Brawley Cattle Call on November 9-13.



Irene and her daughter Susan



Cheers
Our dedicated margarita makers:
Bob and Richard



Okay, hold up one finger if you liked the margaritas best, two fingers if you like the hard cider best or three fingers if the wine was your favorite...



Bobby, does she like this one?





Fall into Fun in Apple Country

FROM YOUR TRAILBOSES:

Frank and irene Griffin and Dave and Marie Hilber

Early arrivals on Wednesday, September 21, were greeted with a steady drizzle and some changes in parking sites, but it all worked out well with the help of the excellent staff at Ramona Oaks Resort. Ron, (one of the staff) even helped unload the clubs supply boxes from my car into the kitchen. Dave and Marie beat us there and were already to go to work with the initial set-ups.

Thursday was bright and clear for the arrival of the rest of our distinguished group—a total of 16 rigs, including some guests: Dennis and Susan Craker (Dave and Marie's friends) and Bob and Janine Kravetz (Frank and Irene's guests). Both guests were first timers to the group and everyone enjoyed their company. One special guest arrived on Saturday—your newsletter editor, Susan Cardella (Frank and Irene's daughter) and her husband Joe Cardella.



Susan and Dennis Craker & Dave, (Dave & Maries friends)



Janine and Bob Kravetz (Frank & Irene's guests)



Thursday night Dave and Vicky provided their delicious margaritas and continued to do so every night before dinner—really primes the taste buds. Dinner of soup, salads, and fixings and cookies were provided so no one had to cook after a long day's drive. Continued on next page...



Dave Althoff making sure the clam chowder didn't burn

Apple Country

FROM YOUR TRAILBOSES: Cont.
 Friday, after Marie's French toast strips, turkey sausages and all the fixings, and the Chapter Board Meeting, 24 of us traveled to Julian CiderWorks to hear all about the process of making hard cider. The trip to the Cidery was an adventure all by itself. Way out in the country on winding roads with beautiful views, trees, canyons, and one-way unpaved roads that you questioned "are we ever going to get there".

Our host was Brian Kenner, the owner. He was enthusiastic, informative, and entertaining and we learned so much about the apples (he uses only Julian produced apples) and the technology required in producing his product. He offered tastings of the 18 varieties he is currently producing. The verdict is still out on their likeability. He compared those who liked hard cider to those who liked beer while those preferring wine prefer a sweeter taste.



Julian CiderWorks-
Way out in the country



Dave & Marie sampling ciders

Several stopped in Julian on the way home while others returned to rest and enjoy just visiting until dinner and pre-dinner libations of their choice. Judy Mersereau started selling 50/50 tickets that will be drawn after dinner on Saturday. Then a delicious dinner of lasagna, garlic toast, salads, and Marie's baked apples with ice cream. A Good Day!!!
 Continued on next page...



Brian Kenner , owner of Julian CiderWorks , enlightening us with his knowledge of apples & hard cider



Frank looks eager to try the next sample



We all had a great time on the tour



FROM YOUR TRAILBOSES: Cont.

Saturday—A Busy One. Breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage, waffles with strawberries, and syrup helped start the day. A general meeting of the CA FMCA HMC Chapter was held after breakfast with the rest of the morning free. Some went back to Julian and others?

From 1:00 to 3:00 we were treated to a wine and cheese tasting party presented by the owner, Elaine Lyttleton and her daughter, Tammy, of Hatfield Creek Vineyards and Winery and a cheese maker, Kim Spero of Cheeses from the Cave. SOOO GOOD!!!



David with the Hatfield Creek Winery owners Tammy and Mom, Elaine



The Cheese Artisan Kim Spero



After the wine tasting some down time to get our palettes cleansed to enjoy those delicious margaritas and hors d'oeuvres –thank you to those who brought them to share. Dinner was barbequed chicken kabobs with rice pilaf, rolls, salads, and apple pie with ice cream for dessert.

After dinner, Judy had more takers for the 50/50 drawing and when all was totaled she had \$160.00 to share with three lucky winners. Debbie Van Holland was rewarded with 20%, Dave and Marie's guest, Dennis Craker won 30% and the big winner of 50% was Alan Mersereau. Another prize, an apple jigsaw puzzle to remember the theme of our rally was won by Susan Cardella.



An optional game was a test of your Observations of your surroundings—namely, how many apples did you remember seeing on the posters that were part of our decorations. Our youngest member, Yvonne Wheeler took the first prize with 6 correct guesses and a newcomer, Aleta Harrington took second with five. Congratulations. We take so much for granted—take a few minutes to look around –you might be surprised at what you see.

Judy eagerly marketing the 50/50 tickets



Winners Yvonne & Aleta They know their apples!

Continued on next page..

FROM YOUR TRAILBOSES: Cont.

In closing, we hope no one went hungry and enjoyed the meals and activities presented. A special thanks to those who provided salads: Gloria Fernandez, Ann Danaher, Vicky Althoff, and Judy Mersereau.

thank you



Sybil & Marie making salads

And to those who helped in so many ways—Sue Cardella and Janine Kravetz who put all the kabobs together: Jerry Cale and Dave Hilber barbequed while Joe Cardella offered a few tips and carried the kabobs to the serving tables. Sybil Cale for putting up all the apple posters and along with Marie Hilber and Bobby Owens filled your souvenir bags and passed them out. To Debbie Van Holland and Richard Grieser who helped set up the coffee pots each night so we would have fresh, hot coffee each morning. To those who helped clean up, our deepest appreciation.



Irene, needing that first cup

And last but not least:

David and Vicky Althoff for their Margarita Machine and our bartenders, Richard Grieser and Bob Gerberick.

Thank you all for coming and safe travels until next time Frank and Irene Griffin and Dave and Marie Hilber.



Debbie & Judy



Bobbie & Steve



The BBQ kings Jerry, Joe and Dave



Pals Vicki & Richard

Welcome to Margaritaville



Bob's smile says it all!

A Note from your Wagon Master

“Ramona Oaks Rally”

What a great outing, thank you to all the hard work by our trail bosses Irene and Frank Griffin and Marie and David Hilber. Everything was so well organized we all got to have some nice social time and no cooking. The adventure to the Apple Cider mill in Julian was interesting. We got to see from start to finish how Hard Apple Cider is produced. There was even the opportunity to do some sample tasting. I hear the wine and cheese tasting went well also with lots of participants. The Ramona Oaks facilities were clean, well-kept and the staff was always there if we needed something. Thank you for making it a wonderful outing for all.

November 10-13th will be our last outing for the 2016 year. I’m looking forward to the Brawley Cattle Call and all the activities provided by the town of Brawley and the campsite activities Vicky and David Althoff and Ellen and Bruce Chapman are going to be whipping up for us.

I’m actively trying to put together our outings for 2017 but am also still up for suggestions and volunteers for the trail bosses.

Hope to see everyone in Brawley,
Debbie VanHolland
Wagonmaster



**Our Wagonmaster Debbie
and Bart who is always a
great help**

Fall Fun Rally Pics



Betty & Joe Kloss's Travel Updates

TRAVEL GUIDE



Fastpitch
Softball



Genealogy



Not that we are doing so much here in Idaho, just visiting with my Sister and some dear friends. They had some other obligations, so we have some down-time to ourselves. We spent time in Connecticut doing genealogy research on Betty's family, then a month in New York State with friends. We then headed to Chicago to watch our Granddaughter play softball and win the Professional Fast Pitch National Championship, coming from behind through all the games. A real nail-bitter. I don't remember where we last left off, but I'll pick up our trip in South Dakota. Heading West we stopped at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. There was much more to see than we thought, The Cathedral, the Falls, The Pettigrew Museum, and the Battleship South Dakota memorial, the time just flew by. Then on to see The Corn Palace, and a car museum in Murdo, SD. A few days visiting with Sue and Scott Stave in Spearfish, with a stop at the "Center of the Nation". And a day trip to "The Devils Tower", something that has been on our bucket list for a long time. We stayed in Cody Wyoming once again, but with snow in the surrounding mountains, we knew we had to keep on moving. We passed through Yellowstone and enjoyed seeing all the animals and scenery, arriving finally in Idaho. We have had lots of fun, and lots of repairs on this trip, I will be glad to finally get home and park the RV knowing we don't have any more miles to cover. I'll have time to fix what needs fixing, and at my own schedule.



Hope to get to see everyone when we get back home.
All our love;
Joe & Betty + Toby the tired traveler

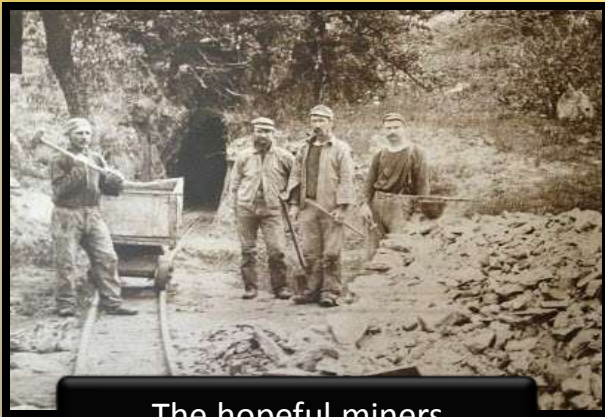
Betty & Joe

FROM GOLDEN NUGGETS TO GOLDEN APPLES

JULIAN'S story starts in the late 1860's when, after the Civil War, the uncertainty and future of the south led to many former slaves and confederate veterans to seek new opportunities in the west. It was four cousins from Georgia, James and Drury Bailey along with Webb and Mike Julian who came to California with prospects of work on the Pacific Railroad's planned link from Yuma, Arizona to San Diego. However, their arrival was a bit premature. On a supply run to San Diego there was a chance meeting with a man who told James Bailey of the abundance of wild hogs and un-panned streams near the Cuyamacas. When they passed through the Cuyamaca valley, Drury Bailey saw the potential of the abundant natural resources and decided to homestead there in November of 1869. The rest of the group also made the decision to stay and began to farm the land.

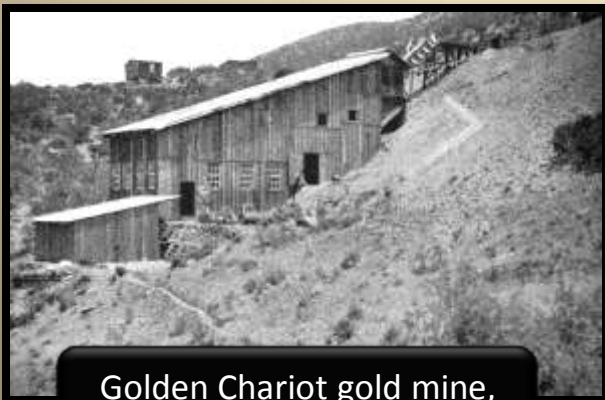


Drury Bailey



The hopeful miners

Earlier that same year, a former slave named Fred Coleman is credited with finding the first gold in the area near present day Julian and he formed the Coleman Mining District. With prospects of finding gold fueling the exploration, two additional gold deposits were discovered near the Georgia cousin's homestead. In February of 1870, the Julian Mining District was formed in an effort to protect their interests from the influx of new miners hoping to get a piece of the gold pie.



Golden Chariot gold mine,
Julian

Soon, a typical gold rush town blossomed and one of the first residents, Drury Bailey, named the town "Julian" after his cousin Mike. His qualification, according to Drury, was that he was the handsomest man in town and a town named "Julian", in his opinion, sounded better than "Bailey".

FROM GOLDEN NUGGETS TO GOLDEN APPLES CONT.

Additional entities tried to lay claim to the gold in the area when local landowners to the south, who had acquired the land from the Cuyamaca Grant owner, brought legal action to prove that the Julian mines and the gold extracted were actually within their boundaries. Rejecting a deal that would require miners to pay royalties to the owners; the local miners unified and formed a committee called the Defense League. The town's miners made a contribution of a dollar a month while the town's people held various fundraisers in the form of dances and bake sales to cover the legal fees. Their legal advocate was named Judge Benjamin I. Hayes. His investigation included interviews with local Indians and a survey of the Cuyamaca Grant performed by engineer Charles J. Fox. Fox's survey indicated that the grant boundaries actually ended approximately six miles south of the Julian mines. In April of 1871 the case was decided in the miners' favor. Not wanting to give up without more fight, however, the grant owners managed an appeal and the legal battle continued for two more years. The original findings prevailed in April of 1873 and finally, the official land grant boundaries were approved by President Ulysses S. Grant on December 19, 1874.



In addition to the miners, the growing town of Julian attracted entrepreneurial women who managed hotels and boarding houses as well as families seeking stability. Consequently, there were children and children needed schools. Julian's first school opened with twenty-seven students in May of 1870. Other town amenities between 1870 and 1880 included two blacksmith shops, two cafes, two livery stables, several saloons, five stores and two hotels. The population of Julian quickly grew close to 600; a diverse group from census records included: Welsh, English, Italian, Jewish, African American, and Polish nationalities. While most ethnic groups coexisted respectfully, the Native Americans and Chinese had a harder stereotype to overcome and eventually most left the area because of discriminatory hiring.

As the gold in the area began to diminish by around 1876, the news of new gold discoveries in Nevada and Arizona prompted many of the miners in Julian to seek their fortunes elsewhere and Julian's population dropped to about 100.



FROM GOLDEN NUGGETS TO GOLDEN APPLES CONT.

While all of the gold rush history in Julian was playing out, a parallel history was unfolding at the same time: the apple history. James Madison and Thomas Brady, east coast transplants, had an original goal of finding land for raising horses. Madison had the knowledge to recognize that the qualities of the area's climate and soil possessed the right conditions for growing apples. The pair planted the first apple trees in Julian in the 1870's and when the local San Diego paper reported the news of Madison's apple harvest in 1880, there was an "agricultural gold rush" as numerous land owners proceeded to plant additional large orchards hoping to cash in on the commodity. The fame and notoriety of the apples grown in Julian grew with the winning of many awards including eight gold medals at the Jamestown, Virginia Exposition in 1907.

Throughout the late 1800's the residents of Julian became less transient as the town became less reliant on mining and permanence took hold. This tight knit community's foundation was helped by the inclusion of three Baptist ministers who had arrived with the first group of miners to the area. Drury Bailey actually donated the land which the first church building in Julian was built on. Sunday school and social events sponsored by the church, gave opportunities for young couples to socialize. Social efforts were a little too successful as miners would consequently end up marrying the single school teachers so predictably that it was difficult to keep teachers, as once married, the women were expected to see to their own home life. The town actually briefly considered banning single women school teachers as the turnover was just too high. Julian became a place for families. The town's people developed a close camaraderie and were known to be a fun loving community that enjoyed playing tricks on each other.

Other neighboring rural towns contributed to the area's congruency forming a town baseball league; enriching the recreational quality for the men. Additional events such as the first Apple Day celebration, which was held in 1909, and elaborate Fourth of July celebrations, drew people to the area to participate in the social activities which included: barbeques, dancing, relay and horse races.

The old fashioned entertainment continues to draw people to the charming historic city of Julian. While it still hosts its Apple Days celebration in fall, there are unique events throughout the year such as Gold Rush Days, a 4th of July Parade and Old Time Melodrama to name a few. It is also known as the Bread and Breakfast capitol of Southern California for its romantic charm. And the apple pies...yum.

In conclusion, those that looked for gold but planted apple seeds grew the roots of faith, family and friends, the true gold in life.



James Madison's orchard and home, 1890. Madison and Thomas Brady are credited with bringing the first apple seedlings to Julian in the 1870s. ©SDHS #3593.



By :
Susan Cardella

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

The following are the minutes of the General Meeting for the California FMCA HMC Chapter held on September 24, 2016, at the Ramona Oaks RV Resort in Ramona, California.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by **President David Althoff**.

Alan Mersereau led us in the Flag Salute.

President David Althoff thanked our trailbosses – Frank & Irene Griffin and Dave & Marie Hilber for their hard work in putting on this rally – our trip to Julian to see how apple cider is made was very interesting.

David thanked Debbie Van Holland (our Wagonmaster) for her work in finding new places to travel to with extras to do on the side.

David also mentioned seeing one of our long-time members, Barbara Tillman, at a rally he had attended the week before. Barbara had sold her coach, but decided she really missed the motorhome trips and many friends. SO, she bought another coach. Barbara said to tell everyone hi and she will be seeing us all in the very near future.

David thanked Richard Grieser and Bob Gerberick for running our “Margarita” machine, and thanks to Dave Hilber for his donation towards supplies for the machine. As you all probably know, FMCA does not allow any kind of liquor to be paid for out of the Chapters treasuries.

Vice President Alan Mersereau

Alan said he appreciated how everyone works to keep our Chapter running well.

Secretary Vicky Althoff

Vicky reported that the minutes from Joshua Tree had been put on the bulletin board. The minutes were approved by Debbie Van Holland, seconded by Dave Hilber, and unanimously approved.

Treasurer Judy Mersereau

Judy reported a balance of \$6,451.99 in the treasury. A motion was made by Richard Grieser, seconded by Irene Griffin, and approved as posted.

A motion was made by John Hamilton, seconded by Bart Van Holland, and unanimously approved to give Judy authority to pay all incoming bills for the next calendar year.

Vice President - Wagonmaster Debbie Van Holland

Debbie reported that the camp sites for the Brawley Cattle Call in November have been secured and the rodeo tickets purchased.

A call will be made to the China Lake Base in October to recheck on the Blue Angels for our March 2017 rally. Everyone will be notified as to what happens.

John Hamilton will be in charge of the Joshua Tree rally to be held the end of October 2017.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING CONT.

Membership Chairman Irene Griffin

Irene reported our membership is now 38. There are 4 New members, 2 Honorary members, and 3 Life members.

New Business

Bob Gerberick asked all of us to really check out the Coach Net service offered by FMCA. He has had two serious incidents happen to him that when he contacted Coach Net, they took care of everything for him. One of those times was when he was in another Country. The meeting as adjourned at 10:32 am.

The final outing of 2016 will be our Brawley Cattle call November 9-13 in Brawley of course. Thank you to Vickie and David Althoff and Ellen and Bruce Chapman for being the trail bosses for that one. I know they have already been working on some great ideas. See important dates in Vicky's message below. Hope to see everyone soon.

Debbie VanHolland
Wagon Master



2016-2017 Officers California FMCA HMC Chapter

President.....	David Althoff
Vice President.....	Alan Mersereau
VP-Wagonmaster.....	Debbie VanHolland
Secretary.....	Vicky Althoff
Treasurer.....	Judy Mersereau
FMCA National Dir.....	Robin Ririe
FMCA Alternate Dir.....	Joe Kloss
Directors.....	John Hamilton, Betty Kloss, Alan Mersereau, Ellen Chapman, Linda Macken, Dave Hilber, Richard Grieser
Hospitality.....	Betty Kloss
Newsletter Editor.....	Susan Cardella
Membership Chairman.....	Irene Griffin