



Southeast Chapter Newsletter

... News of upcoming events and chapter chatter for April, 2005 ...

www.southeastaca.org

National ACA Pre-Rally Information

The Southeast ACA pre-rally for the Mobile ACA National will be held at **Southwind RV Park** in Foley, Alabama. The dates are May 15th through 17th. The application appears in this publication.

Joan & John Farrell and Joy & Sam McQuagg are our hosts and hostesses for this rally. We should have some time to kick back and relax before the National.

Please make sure you get your registration and check to the rally coordinator by no later than May 5th.

The itinerary includes a Sonny's BBQ dinner, continental breakfasts and free time to see the area and enjoy the great restaurants.

On opening day of the National event, we will all caravan together for the 50 mile trip to Mobile.

Everyone enjoy their summer and be prepared for some great rallies in the fall..... Pat Leszewski - Rally Chairman

Pre-Rally Events at Southwind Include:

Sunday, May 15, 2005

Check in time: After 12:00 PM

5:00 - 6:00 PM Social hour at the Clubhouse. Snax (A-L)
Dinner/Evening on your own

Monday, May 16, 2005

8:00 – 9:00 AM Continental breakfast at the Clubhouse
5:00 - 6:00 PM Social hour at the Clubhouse. Snax (M-Z)
6:00 – 7:00 PM Dinner at the Clubhouse by Sonny's BBQ
7:00 - ??? Games at the Clubhouse

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

8:00 – 9:00 AM Continental breakfast at the Clubhouse
10:00 AM Caravan departs for National at Mobile
(approx. 50 miles)

ACA National in Mobile

The dates for the National are May 15th through 22nd at the Alabama State Fairgrounds. Vic Schneider is in charge of vendors for the rally and has been hard at work- this should translate to a great selection of folks we'd all like to see displaying their wares.

Don't forget- Randy's Crew will be there, making those coaches hum!. If you have not sent in your repair request form- it is in the National newsletter- and can be mailed or faxed. Now is the time to tend to that little tidbit.

Have a happy and safe summer!!!

As you know, the Mobile rally is the last official rally of the spring season. Many of us are planning extended trips for the summer, and those of us who are stuck here are all looking forward to warm water and surf.... hopefully without another hurricane season like the last one...

Several thoughts here- first, at the River Bend rally, we introduced a new addition to our website called the "**Caravan Corner**". This is an opportunity to share your travel plans, if you are looking for other coaches to caravan with you on some, or part of your journey.

We asked for a show of hands regarding this idea, and everyone seemed quite receptive to impromptu "instant caravans." Please take a minute to check it out- right now, the only posting is for the 2006 summer travel season, but you can change that by sending an email to doug@rvzoomin.com - Let us know what you think.

Rally Updates.... Fall 2005

The fall rally season is "jam packed" - starting with the pre-rally to the ACA National at **Cross Creek Resort** in Delaware, OH- (September 12th to 14th) Your Rally hosts are Alice and Dan Stone. We plan to relax before heading into Columbus, for the ACA National (September 14th to 19th.) -

Remember, the fall National will commemorate the 15th anniversary of American Coach, and certainly translates to it being a fun filled event to say the least!!!

Your Rally Chairman, Pat Leszewski, even has a rally planned on the way back from Columbus. **(River Plantation- Sevierville, TN - September 22nd to 25th)** This one even includes a bluegrass festival to boot!!! -

Don't forget- this one is close to Cades Cove, the Smokey Mountains, and wonderful outlet shopping..... Need we say more?

Also, there is an extra added opportunity to gather with friends at a fall rally ("the Kick Back Rally") at Rally Park in Tampa. **(October 13th to 16th)** Doug and Janice Thompson will be your rally hosts. This one is planned as pure relaxation- with perhaps the only scheduled event to be a bicycle tour of the new coach area. Other ideas follow.

JoAnne is thinking about bobbing for apples- after all, it is the bewitching month of October.

We are also negotiating with Leroy Santana, owner of "Leroy Santana's Glass-Bottom Bus Tours of Ybor City"- but, this may not pan out, as he is currently having cash flow issues.

Bluewater Key

This "jewel" of a rally is back in the mix again- with Vic and JoAnne Schneider and Joyce and Chet Bennett as your rally hosts. As always, space is limited- be sure to mail in your check and application form as soon as you get it in the newsletter.

Holiday Rally

Sun-n-fun Holiday Rally- Sarasota, FL - December 1st to 4th. (looking for rally hosts for this one- call Pat, your rally chairman)

Notes..... regarding the Cross Creek and Kick Back rallies- we will be posting application forms for these on the website (www.southeastaca.org) well in advance of the event- please download and send in your checks as soon as you know you'll be able to attend. It will help us plan.... Thanks.

Please note- we have several rallies planned for both the fall of this year, and spring of 2006 where we need for one or two couples to come forth to act as rally hosts.

We'll work with you in every way- to ensure you have what you need to be successful. We have recently

updated the "rally host guidelines" - and will soon have them posted on the site - www.southeastaca.org - Please let Pat Leszewski, your rally chairman, know of your intentions to help in this way.....

Officers Corner:

Dan Lee, Treasurer and Web Master -

The website has continued to expand. The introduction to new members organized by Doug Thompson is a great introduction to prospective members.

The rally pictures and registration forms shown make it an effortless way to join our chapter.

Also, we have a few items on the "For Sale" page. This page is open to anyone who is an active member of the chapter. Drop me an email if you would like something posted. Also, if you are searching for an RV related web site- go to the "Links" page and take a look.

Most of the companies and services that we regularly use are listed there. Let us know if you'd like to add anything.....

Once again the temporarily username and password for the "members only" protected portion of the site are: Username: SEACA Password: AMERICAN.

Dan Lee, Treasurer

Vic Schneider, President

I'm writing this after just returning from another excellent rally at River Bend Resort. The weather was beautiful the first 2 days and many of us checked out the warm pool and hot tub. I was surprised by how much building was going on in the park, and they have certainly improved it from last year.

Some of us were shocked when we saw how much prices had risen on lots, but as in most of Florida, people keep coming and buying everything, even at the higher prices.

We had our social hour at the pool area and then went to the beautiful Club House for dinner on Thursday and Saturday. On Friday night some of us went out, and others stayed and had a potluck.

Saturday night after a Turkey Dinner- with all the "trimmins", we had one of the best entertainers we've ever had at a rally. Most of us were still there until 10 pm, and I think almost everyone was out on the dance floor right until the end. (Especially Linda Wilson)

Hopefully we can bring him back for a future rally and I can assure you- you'll love his performance. I want to thank Jackie and Mark Belcher for a great job well done, also thanks to Phyllis and Bill Carter who worked the rally and then were sidetracked with medical problems and couldn't attend.

I can't forget Pat Leszewski (John too) for coming up with our surprise entertainment- and the excellent job she is doing as Rally Chairman. If I missed others who helped, I apologize- but as we all know the Southeast Chapter Members are always there when you need them. You make the job as president of our group a pleasure, the way you all chip in to help.

One of the unusual benefits I received with this job was presenting our check to Hope Lodge (part of The American Cancer Society). Christie gave Jo-Anne and I a tour of the facility, and we met some of the folks who were staying there.

I wasn't aware that the Tampa facility is one of 19 Hope Lodges, and many more are either planned or being built by the American Cancer Society.

When we have our rally next January we are arranging for others to be able to take a tour of the facility. I'm sure once you have seen it, you'll understand how wonderful a place it really is for people in need.

I was very sorry to hear last month that "Bubba the Sheriff" (Steve Southerland) was going to be unable to continue running our emergency rescue team effort.

Steve's father, in his 90's, lives with them, and is now in constant need of Steve & Mary Sue's care. Don't worry as mentioned earlier there's always someone in our chapter to help.

Paul Wells and Sam McQuagg will be taking over and looking for others to join the group, train and help. We'll keep you informed and hope to have people from The American Red Cross and the Medical Reserve Corps at the Mobile Rally.

The Foley Alabama Rally will begin May 15th and then we'll caravan in on the 17th- meeting other Southeast members in route to Mobile. Make sure you check the rally schedule in this and future newsletters for any updates.

Election update: You should have received your ballots for the National Election from Copy Cat. If you have not- you should contact them. We have two Southeast members running for National Offices, Mary Corcoran for Secretary and myself for Vice President.

We both would appreciate your votes- but no matter what your choice, please see that your vote is counted by sending it in immediately.

You'll also find a list of amendments to be voted on in the ballot.

I hope to see many of you at Mobile- which should be one of the best rallies ever. I anticipate the second largest turnout, surpassed only by "Celebrate 2000" at Decatur.

I personally hope to get to see The Alabama, the B-52, submarine and more.... I'm sure Jo-Anne will go to the Gardens, but wherever- this is a great time of year for Mobile. If you have not already signed up you still have time to get in.

When we leave Mobile, we'll head to The Indy 500 on Memorial Day weekend and then the annual trip to Camp Decatur.

We're then heading to Northern Michigan, followed by a week or so in Bobcaygeon, Ontario. Then it's across the Thousand Island Bridge to Scotia, NY for the first of two more weddings this summer.

It seems we just got home from last year, and here we go again. If you want to reach me after May 13th call my cell phone or send an e-mail. Hope to see many of you on the road this summer, and don't forget Columbus in September and Key West in November.

Vic Schneider, President

Help request.....

WE NEED YOUR HELP. The sunshine committee needs to know when someone is in the hospital or has a serious health problem.

We try to send them a card from the organization and let others members know of their problem.

To operate this way we need your help in contacting Jane Minotti (ajmino3@aol.com) or call (954) 937-5592.

Thank you, Vic Schneider...

Puttin On The Pink

The Pink Ladies celebrated their first anniversary at Riverbend. What a celebration!!! All the ladies were wearing Beautiful Pink outfits, and every single woman had a Pink Hat to die for. It was quite a party and we have great pictures to prove it!

For Foley:

Please bring something pink – tulle, silk flowers, lace, feathers, etc. We will be decorating pink hats to sell at the National Rally. If you have something pink we can sell-- bring it!!! (all profits go to American Cancer Society/ Hope Lodge).

Going to Mobile: Please sign up to work *The Pink Booth* in the vendors area. Also, call Jo-Anne ASAP or sooner if you have not signed up for the luncheon. We can still hook you up.

Bring all your Pink for lunch-- Extreme Pink is the Dress Code. Need T.P.??? Buy Northern (see the back panel) cut and save the upc code (for every Proof of purchase sent in by 12-31-05 .50 cents goes to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.)

And....

Be sure to mark your calendar-- January 19th is the Lazy Days Rally – PRETTY PLEASE! We need every Pink Lady for this important event. (Lets do Copper Canyon after the Rally???)

Ron Wilkinson, membership chairman:

Please remember to pay your dues on time. Make the payment so that your due date is 01/01/year. As you know, the dues are \$1 / month, so simply pro-rate for January.

I'm trying to change all due dates to the 1st of January for ease of remembering and book keeping.

We currently have quite a few delinquent members. Please take a moment to check your membership status, and send us a check- remember the renewal forms for both national and southeast are always on the website if you need to print one visit- www.southeastaca.org.

New members, please be patient on receiving your city/ state swingers, as it takes a few weeks to get them from California.

Ron Wilkinson

How to get the equivalent of a \$.35+ gallon discount

I had just driven to the rally @ River Bend and checked my fuel economy on my engine computer. Driving about 70 mph I got 8.4 mpg with my ISL 370. On Tuesday I left for Louisiana and paid \$ 2.329 for fuel at the Flying J -so I thought I'd try holding my speed to 60 mph and check it for 600 miles. I was pleasantly surprised to get

9.6 mpg- an improvement of about 15%. When you equate this by reducing my speed 10mph (about 15%) it reduced my fuel consumption about the same.

If you want to try this- the speeds may vary- as different years and engines don't all have the same gear ratio. I believe if you keep your rpm around 1500 you'll do much better, but you need to see what rpm is best for fuel economy.

In conclusion with diesel heading for \$ 2.50 or better the saving is significant- if you don't mind driving a little longer. The sad part of this is-- the SOB you always passed now can pass you. I did effectively cut my fuel costs by over .35/gallon and now that it takes over \$300 to fill the tank it is certainly worth while.

Vic Schneider

notes from your newsletter editor:

Remember that our old website- at Yahoo.com - is scheduled to be shut down on April 30th.

Please take time to visit the new site at www.southeastaca.org - and get familiar with its features.

The new site is still in a state of transition, as we add elements and features- we are looking for feedback with respect to security, inclusions and content.

Please feel free to contact us- Dan Lee or Doug Thompson - your web masters- if you have ideas and/or thoughts as to how we should proceed. This is your site- we want to include whatever you'd like to see.

If you don't receive a newsletter- have misplaced a registration form for a rally- or need a copy of a membership renewal- they are posted to the site for your convenience.

This will be the last newsletter of the spring season. We plan to print a newsletter in August with appropriate rally registration forms and information to get the season off to a great start.

As always, I am looking for news articles and tidbits to share- please send them to:

doug@rvzoomin.com

or snail mail to:

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