



## ***Southeast Chapter Newsletter***

***... News of upcoming events and chapter chatter for Dec 07-Jan 08 ....***

**www.southeastaca.org**

**The 2nd Annual "Do Nothin" Rally** was a rousing success! - Members from Southeast met in Port Charlotte at Harbor Lakes RV Resort. Your hosts were Barb and Monty Campbell.

The weather cooperated, and we all had a great time. Initial plans call for doing this again in '08- so mark your calendars as soon as the rally dates are published. Our thanks and hats off to the Campbell's for all their hard work, and a very successful event.

**Our annual Sun N Fun Resort** rally went well too. Over 30 coaches converged on the resort for four days of fun and frolic. Lazy Days provided a terrific wine and cheese welcome- and sponsored the dinner for us on Saturday night.

Our thanks to all involved for their efforts and contributions- both fiscal and physical, in making this a memorable event. We have booked Sun N Fun again for our Holiday event in 2008. Ya' All Come!

### **Lazy Days Extravaganza.....**

We had promised to have this edition of the newsletter stuffed in your goodie bags at the Annual Spectacular Event at Lazy Days, Tampa- Several items of interest modified this requirement, so you could have this in hand in time to register for some of the upcoming events.

If you have not signed up yet for the Rally Park/Lazy Days Annual Event- I imagine if you hurry, you still might be able to attend. We had to relinquish all unsold spaces December 15th- so you need to call our hosts, Ellie and John Sorantino or Jackie and Mark Belcher as soon as you see this to see if they can still hook you up.

The registration form is on the website- officially, we have completed registrations- but, you can always hope.

This event is wall to wall fun- Lazy Days and Rally Park leave no stone unturned in making sure that you have fun. Remember that the big RV show is also going on at the fairgrounds during this time.

A note about arrival- don't forget, Rally Park sells every site during this time of the year- those folks don't have to leave their site until 11am - This means, if you arrive early- you could be idling that wonderful \$3+\$ a gallon diesel for some time, awaiting the parking crew taking you to your site.

So, to be safe- please don't arrive at Rally Park until the appointed time of around 12:30 or so. Several dozen volunteers will be on hand to get you parked- but, we can't do anything for you until the previous site occupant vacates their space. Remember the laws of physics apply here.

Don't forget, there will be a chapter business meeting on Saturday morning at 9am- at which time we will hold our annual election of officers, and discuss our plans for hosting the ACA National Rally in Mobile. More information in this newsletter about that, later on.

### **Rally on the tarmac.....**

February 5th to 10th - are the dates of the FMCA Regional Rally - The next SEACA event after the Lazy Days rally will be a group attendance at the FMCA Regional in Brooksville. Learn how well your American Coach can behave while dry camping on a runway at the Brooksville Regional Airport.

This rally is and has long been a favorite of camping folks from around the Southeast. Generally, some 2,000 coaches attend to look over the multitudes of vendors and enjoy the entertainment and fun.

Southeast has booked the Hernando County Fair's RV park for the night before, so we can all go in as a group to the airport the next morning.

Joyce Bennett is the person to send your check to for the overnight stay. She may be reached at: chetdance2@aol.com or by calling: 305.852.9931.

As far as attending the FMCA rally- register on line or by mail from the magazine as early as you can. - Note here- Joyce runs for this office in January..... we're just trying to keep the lines of communications straight....

The information for registering for the night before- at the fairgrounds is enclosed in this newsletter... If you wish to attend with the group- or have other questions contact Joyce for details.

Remember- only those coaches who arrive as a group will be parked together- and who wants to walk half a mile to attend a happy hour?

**April, 2008 - Another Working Rally-** SEACA's board of directors elected to minimize the number and scope of Southeast ACA chapter rallies during the first quarter of 2008, due to our intense responsibilities as the hosts of the ACA national in Mobile.

We are planning a working rally, to be held at or around the 4th of April. The location and/or exact dates are still undecided. If you are a volunteer chairperson or volunteer, you will be contacted well in advance- as soon as we have determined the specifics of the event.

An additional note here- A short working rally will be held at the Lazy Days event in January for those who are rally event chairpersons for the ACA National event in Mobile. Be sure to remain alert for times and locations for this meeting(s).

**Shoebox? - What do do?** Sally Forcier needs shoeboxes for part of her decorations effort for the national rally in May. If you have any shoeboxes gathering dust in your closet- bring them to the January rally at Lazy Days, and make sure she gets them. (I don't know- let's not ask)

#### **Information is on the website(s):**

It is well to note here that two websites have been created to supply the materials necessary for you to contact volunteers, see what you want to sign up for, and register for the rally and any ancillary events. They are: <http://www.southeastaca.org/mobile> and <http://www.southeastaca.org/08rally>.

These sites are also linked from the front page of the main SEACA website.

Don't forget, we have a cruise booked for the day after the Mobile Rally ends. 5 days to two ports in Mexico. The price is right, we have a place for you to put your coach safely while you go, and have even made arrangements for sitters for your critters....

Details are on the websites listed above. If you have not yet booked the post-rally cruise, be sure to contact Paul Parker, our cruise director, at 1-866-500-9900, or check the information out on our website- We plan to have FUN - (Mucho Cerveza Aqui) - We already have nearly a dozen couples booked at time of this writing....

#### **ACA National Rally- Volunteer Early Arrivals:**

New information on arrivals for the national rally in Mobile- Please note, only those people who actually are working on the rally (no guests) may arrive early at the Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds. There will only be 38 spots for early arrivals- fairgrounds spaces 102 through 139.

Please coordinate with your committee chairperson- so that they can OK and expect your arrival.

This number of coaches is exact- the fairgrounds cannot hold any more of us than that due to another event that takes place on Saturday night. We expect some will come in Friday, and over the weekend.

Your reservations will need to be confirmed, as we must pay for your stay in advance. The balance of early arrivals from Southeast only- will be parked in their permanent spots on Monday afternoon.

Remember, arriving on Monday will probably place you in an area where there is only water and electric- come in with your holding tanks empty. (The expected cost for early arrival- will be about \$30 per day- Friday to Sunday- and about \$17 on Monday- and will be due to the rally master in advance) -

#### **Here's a Great note from Howard Goodhand.....**

My wife and I attended the Holiday Rally at Sun N Fun in Sarasota. Thankfully, Ken Ware and his lovely wife also attended. Little did we know that we were about to have a major catastrophe while we were away from the coach. We were enjoying breakfast with the group when the security man from Sun N Fun came in looking for the owner of a Tradition with Delaware license tags.

Uh-oh, that was us. He informed us that we had water coming out every orifice in the bottom of the coach. We raced back to see what was the matter.

Fortunately, when our neighbor saw the flood waters, he turned off the outside spigot. We were ready to pack up and call it a day, when Ken Ware arrived on the scene. We discovered that the cause was a hose connection going to the hot water heater had burst.

Ken said that it was a minor problem (major water) and we could get a new hose at Home Depot, he would fix it, and we would be as good as new (when we dried out!). We were able to replicate the hose and connection.

I was trying to fix it on my own without bothering Ken again, but when he saw the car had returned, he was Johnny-on-the-spot and insisted on fixing it.

The fix was completed in the blink of an eye and we were able to stay and enjoy the rally. We have had a relationship with Ken Ware since purchasing our first Tradition in 1999. We are on our third one now.

We have availed ourselves several times while on the road of Ken's knowledge when something "didn't sound just right" or something "jiggled loose" or "quit working all together".

The last evening of the rally, we had a big holiday party and I wanted to acknowledge Ken's assistance, so I quickly wrote this little "ditty" which I am sharing in the newsletter.

*Here is a salute to Ken Ware,  
Motor coach salesman extraordinaire.  
Ken always aims to please,  
and to parties he brings wine and cheese.  
He'll drive you to the oyster bar,  
Using a motorcoach like a car.  
And when something in your coach goes wrong,  
That's when Ken comes along.  
Just when you think you can't take any more,  
Ken knocks upon your door.  
He looked at our leak and gave us heart,  
Sent us to Home Depot for a part.  
Ken installs within the hour,  
Now we can take a shower.  
While my wife was getting pretty,  
I quickly wrote this little ditty.  
If you get in trouble on the road, don't despair,  
Call Ken Ware, American coach salesman extraordinaire.*

### **Dues R Due:**

One of the reasons that the officers decided to publish this newsletter in advance of the January rally, is so we could avail ourselves of the maximum opportunity to make roster updates before we had to take the final roster to the printer.

So, please see the enclosed form- fill it out right away and forward to Ellie Sorantino.

If you have a new email address, cell phone or any other changed contact information, this is your absolute last chance to change it for the 2008 roster. Make out a check- fill out the form- mail it today.

As we go along, more of the chapter communications you receive will be obtained from either the website or through email- so make sure we have what we need to communicate with you.

**Many new members have joined Southeast ACA** between the last newsletter (October) and now- Please welcome them to our club- they are:

**Paul & Joyce Bradshaw - Flowood, MS**  
**Rober & Shirley Campbell - Tracy City, TN**  
**John Costello - St. Petersburg, FL**  
**Monroe & Bonnie Golden - Alburn, GA**  
**Rob & Beth Granger - Eustis, FL**  
**Charles Highhouse - Middleburg, FL**  
**Mae Islar - Newberry, FL**  
**Reinhard & Carolyn Matzick - Crossville, TN**  
**Raymon & Debra Mims - Dade City, FL**  
**David Reamer - Wesley Chapel, FL**  
**Henry & JoAnn Rothenberg - Ft. Myers Beach, FL**  
**Arturo & Carmen Sandoval - Miami, FL**  
**Clifton & June Wade - Collins, MS**  
**Tracy & Lucy Weiner - New Smyrna Beach, FL**  
**Gene & Judy Wauchler - Clearwater, FL**

We hope to see them all really soon at Rally Park.

### **The Great Chili Cookoff.....**

One of the really fun events planned for the ACA national rally in Mobile is an intra-chapter Chile Cookoff. Each chapter of American Coach will be pitted against the other- in an effort to take home the prize for the BEST chili. Everyone else who attends- ends up with some really great grub.

Our representative and cookoff coordinator for the Southeast Chapter is Stuart MacFarlane. He plans to hold an impromptu contest at the January event at Lazy Days next month. At this point, plans are pretty flexible- but be sure to bring your entry along- as we plan to do some 'cookin' at one of the events for sure. Check your final agenda upon arrival for date and time.

If you are a chili cook- or would-be cook, and wish to exhibit your efforts- you should send him an email at: [stewnaples@aol.com](mailto:stewnaples@aol.com) - or call him at: 239-293-9126.

Plan on preparing about a gallon of your delightful recipe! At issue here is to choose the very best entry- so that Southeast can go forward with the sincere knowledge that we WILL WIN the contest!!!

### **Some housekeeping notes:**

#### **Mobile volunteers:**

We will have several tables set up after the business meeting on Saturday- enrolling volunteers to work on the national rally in Mobile.

We have 14 chairpersons- each has their current volunteer group posted on the website- and will be looking for more folks to assist. This rally is a major undertaking, and we hope you will join us in making it happen. Come by, visit with them, and sign up to join in the fun.

Treasurer's Report - As of November 20th, 2007

<b>General account</b>	-
Beginning balance (10/31)	\$7,112.42
Deposits from new members	304.00
Expenditures:	
McBees- Swingers	22.74
Membership chair reimbursements	99.85
Ending General account balance:	7,288.83
<b>Rally Account-</b>	
Beginning balance (10/31)	11,680.05
Deosits, Lazy Days Rally	17,520.24
Deposits, Sun N Fun Rally	7,238.00
Deposits, Mobile ACA	100.00
Expenditures:	
Rally chairman, Hernando rally	100.00
Port Charlotte rally	875.00
Port Charlotte rally	157.01
Over-payments, January	21.93
Recap:	
General account-	7,288.83
Rally account-	35,384.35
Total cash on hand:	\$42,673.18

**Notes on treasurer's report:**

Although it looks like a lot of cash on hand- most of the funds relate directly to rallies, and are expended following each event. Your board of directors has carefully worked at balancing every rally at the "break even" point, and has worked very hard at balancing expenses with income as reflected by the numbers shown at left. Despite the rise in the cost of diesel, reflecting a drop in rally attendance, we have been able to maintain our cash on hand appropriately for an organization of this size.

**Final note from your friendly newsletter editor:**

I have been editing and publishing the club's newsletter now for 4 years. It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration, as I have been able to work closely with the members of the board of directors in ensuring that we have communicated with our membership. At the same time, we have expanded our use of electronic communications to reach our membership, in an effort to further control expenses.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of the support and kind words from the members and the board, as I have worked on these many publications. It is with no small measure of relief that I turn the reins over to the new newsletter editor in January. Thanks so much-

*Doug Thompson, newsletter editor*

***Ellie Sorantino, Membership Chairperson***  
***P O Box 301***  
***Cedarville, NJ 08311***



***To:***