



Southeast Chapter Newsletter

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

Upcoming Rallies and Chapter Gatherings:

Rally Coordinator's Corner: (Pat Leszewski)

We are all looking forward to TopSail in February, to River Bend in March and then on to the pre-rally in Foley, Alabama, followed by the National in Mobile- great fun is on the way.....

TopSail Hill State Preserve – Santa Rosa Beach Feb. 17th through 19th

We have a sold out rally. Everyone get ready to see beautiful Florida Beaches and quaint areas close by, as well as enjoy the great food at the many restaurants in the area.

Of course, we are also going to have good food at the rally- and entertainment as well. If you have any questions, give me a jingle at 727-243-1307 or e-mail me at leszewski@msn.com.

River Bend Resort – Alva, FL Mar. 31st through Apr. 2nd

Once again, we are returning to this Class A Motor Coach Resort in South Florida. My thanks to Jackie and Mark Belcher and to Phyllis and Bill Carter for volunteering to host this rally.

The registration form with details is included with this month's newsletter. Be sure to get your reservations and money in by no later than March 15th.

Southwind RV Park – Foley, AL- Pre-rally location for the National in Mobile, AL May 15th through May 16th

Southwind RV Park has spaces blocked off for us. I do need volunteers to help with this pre-rally. Joani and John Farrell are assisting as hosts.

This is a beautifully landscaped park with many spacious sites and amenities. Full details will follow next month.

National Rally – Mobile, Alabama May 17th through May 21st

By now all of us have made reservations for the National. This trip will complete our spring rally season and then we begin looking forward to fall.

Upcoming rally schedule for Fall 2005 and beyond:

Cross Creek RV – Delaware, OH Sept. 12th through Sept. 13th

National Rally – Columbus, OH Sept. 14th through Sept. 18th

River Plantation – Sevierville, TN Sept. 22nd through Sept. 24th

Bluewater Key – Key West, FL Nov. 17th through Nov. 19th

Sun-n-Fun Resort – Sarasota, FL Dec. 1st through Dec. 3rd.

Spring 2006 Rallies:

Lazy Days – Tampa, FL TBD

Ft. Wilderness – Disney – Kissimmee, FL Feb. 16th through Feb. 18th

March – TBD

Gulf Waters RV Resort – Fort Myers Beach, FL April (TBD)

As you can see, we've got a terrific line-up of rallies in store for you as this year's season unfolds.

It is certainly not too early to begin thinking of fall, 2005- there are lots of decisions to be made here as well....

Fall, 2005 Rally Information/Updates:

First we have the pre-rally to the National being held in Columbus, Ohio- and then I have been successful in getting us booked into River Plantation in Sevierville, TN for a follow-up rally from September 22nd through 24th- after the National (checkout 9/25).

Here's the scoop: There is a big Bluegrass Festival going on in the Sevierville area at that time- along with all of the many, many great activities that the Gatlinburg area has to offer.

Should you want to go directly from Columbus, OH to Sevierville, TN they do have spaces available at the time of this writing.....

At this point, they will honor the rally rate of \$28.09 per nite for early arrivals. You must contact them directly should you want to arrive early- and/or stay later.

Their phone number is 1-800-758-5267. Make sure you tell them you are with the SE ACA group. Many other great rallies are planned; please make sure you check out our rally schedule to keep well informed.

As always, I need volunteers for host/hostess and co-host/hostess for the rallies. I will assist you all in anyway that I can- but in return I need your help to plan some of these fun events for us.

Please contact me at leszewski@msn.com or 727-243-1307 and join in on the fun. This is a good way to meet new friends and get re-acquainted with old friends.

Treasurer's Corner — Dan Lee

Thank you for your vote of confidence at the Lazydays Rally last month. I will handle the finances of this Chapter with integrity and openness. We have decided to split the duties of treasurer into 2 positions, treasurer and membership chairman.

Ron Wilkinson graciously has assumed the duties of Membership Chairman and is well on his way to organizing all the membership data. Please be patient for at least the first month, while we transfer the data and organize his membership chairman's duties.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (727) 867-1383, cell (727) 422-1772 or email me at dan@southeastaca.org .

Hope to see all of you at the next rally.

Web Administrator — Dan Lee

As you probably already know, Doug Thompson and I have created a new web site for the Southeast Chapter, American Coach Association.

We have made it accessible to all members using a common password, so we could have you take a peak and hopefully give us some feedback as to what you want and don't want the web site to include.

At a later date we plan on assigning individual passwords to members in good standing. The web is in its infant stage, so please let us know what you think.

By entering the "Members Only" section of the web you can view a list of our current members and their email addresses and also participate in a discussion group.

We have a "For Sale" section for listing any RV related items and a great "Links" page with links to the RV related companies and services that we use frequently.

A current rally schedule is also included. You can access the web presently by going to:

<http://www.southeastaca.org/>

Username: SEACA

Password: AMERICAN

Editor's note: As you know, we have had a "text based" website in place at "Yahoo Groups" for quite a while.

This site will continue to serve us somewhat, as the members are oriented to the new site, and everyone begins using it. In a relatively short period of time, the old site will no longer have current material posted to it, and will be shut down. Please bookmark the new site, so you will have the most current SEACA information available.

The President's Corner:

Well 2005 has finally arrived, and having just come home from our Annual Lazy Day's Rally- I've a lot of news to report. Our annual election was held, and your new officers are:

President: Vic Schneider- Thank all of you for having me back for a second year...

Vice President: Doug Thompson- He has been our Newsletter Editor, and has been helping me this past year. I look forward to continue working with him.

Treasurer: Dan Lee- Take a moment to visit the new web site (www.southeastaca.org) that he and Doug Thompson are developing.

They are adding features to our web site every week so keep checking it out. He's also starting to make some changes to reports we see each month to make them easier to understand.

Secretary: Janice Thompson- also is starting her second year, and has done an excellent job. We are in constant contact and believe me she is always there when I need assistance.

Rally Chairman: Pat Leszewski- This is a new office and Pat is the person for the job. I've been working with her for less than 2 months and she has rallies scheduled for a year already.

In addition she has several more in the planning stages for 2006.

Membership Chairman: Ron Wilkinson- I'd been talking to him for quite a while, saying he needed to get more involved with the club. I feel he will do an excellent job and Dan and he being friends will work well.

There you have it-- an excellent slate of new officers. I believe they will be an asset to our club we all will really appreciate in the next year. I personally want to thank every one of them for offering their services to SE Chapter ACA.

Next year why don't more of you consider running for an office or working a rally? It's a great way to meet your fellow members and have some fun.

I'll try to briefly report on the Lazy Days Rally for those of you who couldn't be there. The first night we all got together at Rally Hall with o'hourderves, music and dancing.

Then the wizard appeared and changed the room into The Pink Palace. This was followed by an unforgettable performance by The American Girls (Rockette's watch out). Then we had coffee and delicious home made desserts supplied by our members (THANKS).

This was followed by our Fund Raiser and Silent Auction for the benefit of the American Cancer Society (**Hope Lodge**). Please see the report in this newsletter from The Pink Ladies.

The weather was on the cool side, so we had to move our cocktail parties inside Rally Hall. The food and

entertainment were good and enjoyed by all of us. Some of us got together in the evening and the game of choice has been updated. You must have likely guessed we now are playing the latest craze "Texas Hold'em"-

I want to personally thank Hank and Linda Newman for all their work in the past years as Treasurer, Membership Chairman and National Secretary. Also in the past few years Hank and Linda have been Wagon Masters for the Lazy Days Rallies.

Hank and Linda- lots of luck in your new home and hope you enjoy it-- maybe there'll be an American Coach in your future.

I also want to thank all the members who worked at registration, parking and other jobs to make the Lazy Days Rally the success it was. Jo-Anne and The Pink Ladies deserve special recognition for taking an idea and making it into such a successful fund raiser for a good cause. I, like so many others, left the rally with a very good feeling for what we had done.

I think this rally was the best I have ever been to- and besides having a good time, we also helped others. A special thanks goes out to Alice Allard. The afghan she made, while being evacuated for the hurricanes, brought in almost 10% of the money we raised. My mother always used to say "out of all bad comes something good."

Please take the time and read the other officers reports in this newsletter- especially Pat's Rally report. You'll want to set aside the dates for some very interesting rallies in 2005 & 2006.

Hope to see all of you at future rallies both Southeast and National. I'll be handling the vendors and seminars for the Mobile National Rally in May and would appreciate any suggestions you might have.

In closing, let me remind you that the ACA National election will be in the next month.

Two Southeast members are running for National office.

.... Yours truly as Vice President and Mary Corcoran for Secretary.

We'd both appreciate your votes, but whomever you choose- please vote when you receive your ballots.

Thanks again for letting me serve as the President of your chapter- and feel free to call me if I can be of assistance..... Sincerely,

Vic Schneider, President

THINK PINK -- \$13,046.00

OH WHAT A NIGHT!!

A big Thank You to everyone who participated in making "Puttin' on the Pink" such a huge financial success. The home made goodies were delicious; the auction items were great, plenty of doggie goodies.

At the next rally even the dogs will be making a fashion statement in pink! Alice's afghan was a big hit, and the pink swingers look great on our official ACA name tags.

The staff and current residents at Hope Lodge were overwhelmed. They have volunteered to do a few art projects for next year. The paintings we created over the past year brought in over \$200.00. Wait till you see the art work from Hope Lodge—start saving your money for next years auction.

Lazy Days was very kind to us during our rally. Now we have an opportunity to help them with their cause. The employees work with Joshua House, and at this time they need twin sheets, pillow cases, and sweatshirts.

If you have any of these items, please drop them off at the Crown Club. Dana is the representative for Lazy Days, but you can leave them at the front desk. If you are not going by Lazy Days just bring your items to the next rally.

Ladies if you are going to the National Rally in Alabama, sign up for the Ladies Luncheon ASAP. The flyer for the pink lunch is in the current national newsletter (see the pink section-- Jan-Feb 2005)

New Members for February:

Welcome to the new SE members! We are anxious to meet you and are looking forward to you joining us in great fun and fellowship at our chapter rallies....

Johnny & Jonell Blankenship, Bullard, TX
Norman & Nancy Davis, Melbourne, FL
Conrad & Betty Elgenmann, Titusville, FL
James & Karen Elfers, Sebring, FL
George & Marguerite Glitzer, Weeki Wachee, FL
Patrick & Carla Gould, Port St. Joe, FL
Wayne & Bonnie Herbert, Abbeville, LA
Thomas Jaquis, St. Petersburg, FL
Jay Kennedy, Sarasota, FL
Ruben Laurel, Chipley, FL
Forrest & Anne Marsh
Oris Robichaux, Jr., Bay St. Louis, MS
Jeff Velde, Vero Beach, FL

Charles & Kitty Willis, Melrose, FL
Greg & Karla Kostuch, McKeesport, PA
Donald & Doris Edmunds, Lake Wales, FL
Wall & Karol Kent, Sarasota, FL
Robert & Anne Risner, Greenville, MS
Michael Stidhan, Lakeland FL

American Coach Disaster Relief Team-

Steve and Mary Sue Southerland held a highly successful meeting at the Lazy Day Rally in mid January. As a result of the meeting, 22 volunteers came forward and joined the group. The idea continues to pick up momentum, and will be better clarified at the upcoming rally at Top Sail in northwest Florida later in the month.

Representatives from the Red Cross and the Medical Reserve Corps will be meeting with current and potential volunteers following the business meeting on Saturday.

I spoke to Steve about new developments, and he related that the Red Cross is so impressed with our initial level of participation, that they have even volunteered to hold volunteer training and education at our area rallies.

Additionally, the team will have a booth at the national Rally in Mobile in May, and be speaking with the memberships of regional clubs regarding their setting up similar teams in each of the divisional areas. Our hats off to the Southerlands- a great start to a great idea.

Editors Note:

Janice and I want to express our appreciation of your support in electing us as officers of this great organization in January. We look forward to serving you and working with you all throughout the year. Please remember that the national elections are right around the corner- and that our chapter has an opportunity to be well represented. Vic Schneider is running for national vice president, and Mary Corcoran is running again for national secretary. I know that they both would appreciate your vote.

Always looking for articles and fun stuff- please send to:

Email: **doug@rvzoomin.com**

Snail mail: Doug Thompson
P O Box 677
Elfers, FL 34680
727.709.0218

For Sale: American Dream-- 1999.9 , 2 slide, 350 Cummins, Fiberglass roof, Villa leather, computer desk/ Villa recliner, walnut interior (pictured in factory literature). 55k miles- many extras including 100lb freezer. Like New!!! fuss budget owner- no smoke - no pets - no snow - **\$145k** Call Joe @ 863-447-3691.