



**American
COACH
ASSOCIATION**

Southeast Chapter Newsletter

... News of upcoming events and chapter chatter for February, 2004 ...

Rock Crusher Reunion-

As you read this, only a few days remain before the fun begins in Crystal River. At last count, nearly 100 coaches had registered for the festivities, which include optional excursions for golf and a ladies luncheon, a barbecue on Thursday evening, followed by a Hawaiian luau with dinner and a show at the pavilion on Friday.

Remember, this is the post national rally celebration and certainly promises to be a lot of fun.

Upcoming rallies-

There are attendance forms for the next two chapter events enclosed with this newsletter. You'll not want to miss either of them. Get out your checkbook, lick a stamp, and make sure you're included in the fun.

Reservations are limited- so don't wait to mail your registration forms and checks. The River Bend Rally is March 25th through 28th, and the Panama City Beach event is April 22nd through 25th.

California Bound-

It isn't too soon to start making plans for the May 5th through 10th National Rally in Palm Desert California.

There is an excellent article about the venue, Emerald Desert Golf and RV resort, in the January issue of the National ACA newsletter. It

sounds like a lot of fun, and of course, serves as what little extra excuse, if you really needed any, to get to the coast for an extended vacation and do a bit of 'crusin' on the PCH. Don't forget-- the first night of the rally is the Cinco de Mayo celebration, which presents a wonderful excuse for a party if anyone needs one.

A Southeast Chapter pre-rally will be held prior to the National in Palm Springs from May 2nd through the 4th. Details of the pre-rally will be outlined in our next newsletter.

On getting there-

Jim Murray has graciously organized a caravan from the April Southeast Chapter rally to the National pre-rally- details as current as we have them are later on in this newsletter...

New Members-

Please join with us in welcoming the following new members to the SE-ACA. They have joined since our last newsletter:

Perman & Sherri Cason -	Lake City, FL
Salvatore Lapi -	Coral Springs, FL
Henry & Grayzna Podsiedlik -	Grant, FL
Joeseoph Santos -	Moore Haven, FL
Bill & Carla Schafer -	Brunswick, GA
Arthur & Judith Spencer -	Summerfield, FL
Ted & Sally Steinmyer -	Tallahassee, FL
Robert Voigt -	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Vernon Wells -	Nashville, TN

Mississippi Gulf Coast-

If you're thinking of attending the November 4th through 7th SE-ACA rally in Bay St. Louis- you should take a minute to cut an interesting companion article out of the January issue of FMCA magazine.

The article, which begins on page 116, outlines some of the many wonderful things you can expect to experience along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, along your way to the rally. The article highlights a dozen other nifty spots close to US 90- leading right up to the rally site.

The President's Corner-

Hi... At the January Rally at Lazy Days, the new officers of the SE Chapter for 2004 were elected.

They are myself, Vic Schneider as President, Phil Cote as Vice President, Janice Thompson as Secretary, and Hank Newman was elected again as our Treasurer.

We all hope we can do as fine a job as has been done by the outgoing officers during the past several years.

I hope every member who has a question, idea or suggestion will feel free to speak up. I want this organization to be "for the members"-- and please don't be bashful about saying something even if it is a complaint.

I can be reached by phone or e-mail and will do my best to make myself available to you.

The January Rally coincides with the Tampa Super Show at The State Fair Grounds, which many of us also attended. The excellent food and entertainment was complemented by being together with both old and new friends. Over 150 coaches attended, 28 of them were first timers that we welcomed into the fold.

Our next rally will be February 19 – 22 at Rock Crusher Canyon RV Resort in Crystal River, Florida. We're calling this event the "Rock

Crusher Reunion", as this is where we hosted the Spring, 2003 National Rally.

We have over 100 coaches registered so it will be a fine group- and we'll have plenty of good food and entertainment.

Our March Rally 25th to 28th will be at River Bend Motor Coach Resort near Fort Myers, Florida. This is a new facility and very highly rated.

In April, we will have a Rally with a Pig Roast- at Emerald Coast RV Resort, Panama City, Florida (April 22nd – 25th). Some of you may remember several years ago, the Southerlands hosted the rally, and we all had a great time.

Steve actually cooks the pig himself.... so, don't forget your camera, as it is an experience to remember.

I'm sorry to say, I'll have to miss out on Panama City. I have asked the Southerlands to do this rally again, we all enjoyed their last one so much, I'd really love to be there.

Jo-Anne & I will be headed for Palm Desert, the National Spring Rally, leaving in mid April, with stops along the way- hoping to see some old ACA friends.

After the Palm Desert Extravaganza Jo-Anne and I, with several ACA friends, will continue north to the end of the road -Alaska. They say the roads have improved since our 1997 trip- but I'm still going to make a date in Decatur when I return, to put The Dream back together.

Yes I'm sure we'll need a new windshield, and I hope only some minor adjustments. Then we're off to New York (2 weddings) and then on to New England to finish off a busy "Summer 2004". Afterward, we will be heading to the National Rally in Wichita Falls, Texas before returning to Florida to vote.

Just writing about it makes me tired, and I'll let you know this fall if we set a "miles traveled" record for us this year.

For those of you who don't know us- this is our second decade of motor homing. We're in our Dream, which is our fifth American Coach since 1997.

We have motor homed to all the lower 48 states and Alaska in the last 10 years- and we're not finished yet.

Hope to see many of you on the road, or at future rallies.... looking forward to serving as your president.

Sincerely,

Vic Schneider, President

Vice President's Corner-

I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to serve as your new Vice President. I look forward to meeting and working with as many of our present and new members as I can. Making friends is what this is all about.

We have a number of terrific Rallies all planned during the coming months, and we need for everyone to come forward with suggestions and thoughts for new campgrounds and venues for future ones.

As you receive your Registration forms in the newsletter- Please complete and return them early- as many campgrounds have only a limited number of sites to offer the club.

I'd like to share a bit of information about June- my wife of 44 years- and I.

We have been camping since 1959- starting with a tent (which perhaps most everyone else did as well.) Motorhoming for us, started in 1976 and we are now on our 6th unit, our American Eagle.

We have 4 children all living in New Hampshire, and 4 grandchildren. The last of the grandchildren are 3 year old twin girls. June & I live in Jensen Beach, Florida.

Sincerely,

Phil Cote, Vice President

Headin' for the coast in style-

Jim Murray has graciously organized a caravan to the Southeast Chapter pre-rally in California. His group will depart from the April rally in Panama City Beach, heading for California on the morning of April 25th.

This caravan is designed to cross through the southern states over a 4 day period- April 25th through April 28th- to maximize your relaxation time in the Tucson area for a few days prior to the Southeast Chapter pre-rally start on May 2nd.

Details:

April 25th- depart Panama City Beach- travel to Port Allen, LA (West of Baton Rouge) - overnight at the Cajun Country Campground - TL 8/8/7 - day's distance: 378 miles. Campground: 1-800-264-8554.

April 26th- depart Port Allen- travel to San Antonio, TX - overnight at the Admiralty RV Resort (near Sea World) - TL 10/9/8 - day's distance: 462 miles. Campground: 1-800-999-7872.

April 27th- depart San Antonio, TX - travel to Van Horn, TX - overnight at Van Horn KOA - TL 7.5/8.5/8 - day's distance: 431 miles. Campground: 1-800-263-8875.

April 28th- depart Van Horn, TX - travel to Tucson, AZ - overnight at Voyager RV Resort - TL 9/9/8 - day's distance: 440 miles. Campground: 1-800-424-9191.

Brochures from the destination parks noted above will be available at the upcoming Southeast Chapter Rallies. Reservations for the nights noted above will be the responsibility of each coach directly with the campground.

Check with Jim if you have questions, or need further details on the caravan.....

Tech Tip:

Just in case you missed it, in the ACA National newsletter for January, there was an excellent article on what kind of tow truck you need to specify on the off and unlikely chance that you need to be brought in for repairs. This note was written by Randy Hendricks, and is well worth cutting out and putting with your emergency information on the coach.

Elections to be held soon:

The National American Coach Association officers will be elected soon. Take time to exercise your right to vote, and cast your ballot for the candidate of your choice. The Southeast Chapter has the most members in the national organization, and if we all cast our ballots, we have the power to elect who we feel can serve in the various offices and help the most in advancing the organization.

When you get your ballot- please take time to fill it out and mail it immediately- don't just let it sit!!!

On the Way to the April Rally:

Just a couple of tidbits to help whet your appetite for things to see on the way to the April Rally in Panama City Beach....

For starters, if you like sightseeing, take the US 98 backroad crossing the panhandle. It's a scenic highway, and runs through a totally different type of Florida- more natural and a lot less commercial. You'll find white sand beaches, great restaurants, intriguing attractions and a lot of sunshine.

On the way, check out St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. It has an excellent campground

with access to some of the state's most beautiful beaches on one side, and boating in St. Joseph's bay on the other.

Along the way, visit old Apalachicola. Although it has no beaches, it's great for sight-seeing, nature watching and birding. There are also numerous antique shops scattered along the main streets of Apalachicola, and a number of interesting buildings can be seen throughout its historical district.

If you want more information on this part of Florida, check out the entire article in the December, 2003 FMCA magazine- starting on page 112.

We need your help!!!

Editing and publishing a newsletter is fun- but, only if you've got enough material to fill the allotted space. If not, you're forced to use all make and manner of filler and rehashed articles to arrive at the end of the last page. Bummer.

This is where YOU come in. As a member of the Southeast Chapter, you are encouraged to send notes, thoughts, articles and ideas to help us in our quest to create an interesting and informative news letter each month.

Please email them to your friendly newsletter editor:

doug@rvzoomin.com - mail them to PO Box 677, Elfers, FL 34680, or call me on my cell at 727.709.0218 if you've got an idea we can include.

Who knows, it might even be worth a beer or two. I appreciate your help!

Thanks..... Doug Thompson