



Southeast Chapter Newsletter

... News of upcoming events and chapter chatter- July/August, 2006

www.southeastaca.org

The '05-'06 rally season is now a part of history, with the final event having taken place in Tucson at **Beaudry RV Resort**. Despite the cost of fuel, the rally was virtually sold out. Southeast had an excellent representation there, with approximately 30 coaches.

We enjoyed lots of entertainment and food, explored the historical sites in and around Tucson, and kicked tires on the new display coaches. It was great!!!

Gotta tell you- our pre-rally, which was orchestrated by **Elaine and John Dufour**- was truly a knockout.

Leading up to the national event, 27 SEACA coaches enjoyed **Butterfield RV Resort and Observatory**, the surrounding national and state parks, and explored such out of the way places as Boot Hill Cemetery and the Gunfight at the OK Corral.

Fall is upon us.... and we find ourselves looking forward to the '06-'07 **Rally Season**. Just to set the stage, our newly elected **Rally Coordinator, Mary Ann Goodhand**, has worked tirelessly in setting up a full calendar for your enjoyment. Our hats off to her!!!

There are several new venues on the schedule for this year as well. Your rally team and the board of directors are doing all we can to help keep that fun meter pegged!!!

Season details:

September 15th-17th:

Our first event is the pre-rally to the **ACA national** event. We'll travel to Virginia Beach and stay at the **Holiday Trave'L Park**. (TL rated 8.5-9*-9) After enjoying the sights and sands for three days, we'll caravan into the ACA national in Urbanna, on the morning of the 18th. Your hosts are **Chris and Jean Clausen**.

As this newsletter is being written- 23 coaches from SEACA are already signed up for the national. Still plenty of space left for both rallies.... Check your national newsletter for details, or visit the national website for a

downloadable registration form.

Arrival: If you intend to arrive early for the pre-rally, make sure to contact the office ahead of time, letting them know. They are happy to extend the special rally rate for up to 2 days in advance.

If you arrive several days early, let them know as well- in advance, they will try to block the site for you in the pre-rally area so you won't have to move your coach. Contact information is on the rally registration form in this newsletter.

Please note: There will be a casual and informal "**Pink Ladies Luncheon**" on one of the days that we are at the pre-rally. No need to sign up in advance- just see Jo-Anne when you get in. She will have the information should you care to attend this function.

October 12th-15th:

We are set to rally at **The Great Outdoors in Titusville**. Our rally hosts are **Margie and Al Morrison and Pat and John Goodwin**. This will be our chance to take a tour of the cape, try out all the local restaurants, or just kick back and enjoy.

Space is somewhat limited- so send in your registration forms early for this event.

A note here: The registration forms for both the pre-rally, as well as the Titusville rally are in this newsletter. If you misplace yours, or need another for a friend, they are posted on our website at: www.southeastaca.org.

November 9th-12th:

Well, we'll try this again- the highly regarded **Blue Water Key Resort- just above Key West**. (If you remember, it was cancelled last year, due to the untimely arrival of an unwanted hurricane.) Rally hosts are **Joanne and Vic Schneider**. There is a rumor that Jimmy Buffet may make an appearance, but I wouldn't take that too seriously.

The number of places available for this rally is extremely limited. The registration form will go out with the September newsletter. Have your track shoes on-complete, and run it right back to the post office- If you are traveling, the form will be posted to the web the morning after the newsletters are put into the mail. This event is usually sold out within a few days of being posted....

November 30th-December 3rd:

Our annual Holiday Rally takes place again at the **Sun-N-Fun Resort** in Sarasota. Your hosts are **Sylvia and Fred Soto**. Remember- a coach decorating contest- lots to eat- lots of fun coming your way.

... Now, on into 2007 -

January 18th-21st:

The annual **Lazy Days/Rally Park** extravaganza at Lazy Days, Tampa. Your hosts are **Dan and Renee Lee and Paul and Sondra Wells**. The folks at Lazy Days pull out all of the stops to ensure that we all have a great time.

It is also our annual club meeting, the annual election of officers, and typically, the largest turnout of SEACA members at any event in each rally season. All of this combines to make it a memorable event- one which you won't want to miss!!!

February 7th-11th:

Over the years, many of our members have made the journey to this event- the **Regional FMCA rally at the Hernando County Airport, Brooksville**. We thought we'd try something new- and hold an SEACA rally there.

Details are sketchy at this point- we may meet for a night somewhere and caravan in to be parked together- or may have a designated spot- we are working out the details now, and are in touch with folks from FMCA to make sure we "get it right".

March 22nd-24th:

We're going back to **Grand Lakes RV Resort** in Ocala. At this point, we are looking for rally hosts for this event. If you are interested, please contact Mary Ann Goodhand or Doug Thompson.....

April 22nd-24th:

The Holiday Travel Park in Winter Haven. Your rally hosts are **Mary Ann and Howard Goodhand** and their

Lake Ashton Southeast Chapter Member neighbors. (Can you believe they have 13 SEACA members in their neighborhood?)

May 4th-6th:

Pre Rally to the ACA national in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Details at press time- nearly a year away- are, lets say, developing.

At least you have the dates.... We plan to depart on the morning of the 7th, caravan bound for the national rally.

This pre-rally constitutes the ninth event of the season, and as usual, we'll take the summer off.... deserve it don't you think? Several events are already planned and committed for the '07-'08 rally season, but we won't elaborate here.....

Whew!!! - makes me tired just trying to keep all of those dates and events straight. If you take a peek at the geography of this year's rally season, you'll see that we have given extra consideration to keeping the majority of them within a reasonable driving distance.

There is also consideration for providing a quality rally at the most reasonable fee that we can; to include some pot luck dinners, and other cost-saving efforts. These thoughts come from the chapter survey that was conducted earlier in the year and compiled by our survey team: Mary Ann Goodhand and Jim and Barbara Youngblood. (results and complete details were in the February '06 newsletter- which may be downloaded if you like from the chapter website at any time) -

Mobile, Alabama - Spring '08 ACA National Rally!

Well, looks like we're being tapped by national to host the spring, 2008 national rally. Just for the record, and long before you come to the conclusion that Vic and I were out in the sun just way too long.... I'd like to explain how this comes about. The last time SEACA sponsored a national was April 29th, 2003- which will be right at the 5 year mark. Guess you could say it's honestly our turn.

There are eleven regional chapters of the American Coach Association. Some are quite large, and can easily field enough volunteers to appropriately stage a national rally. Other chapters are relatively small, and often at least two will collaborate to put on this type of event.

Let there be no mistake, this is a massive and laborious activity, requiring lots of coordination, planning, and great attention to detail. Thankfully, it is also fun and quite rewarding to work on a volunteer event of this size.

Also, to further help out the regional chapters, ACA national contributes a tremendous amount of both history and expertise, as well as lending the sponsoring chapter a part time coordinator, to facilitate the relationship between the factory and the volunteer team on the ground at the rally site.

So, my reasoning for this article- some year and a half in advance- is that we are already starting planning and recruiting committee chairmen and volunteers for this event.

Listed below are the chairmanship posts for the various committees. Some are tentatively appointed- most are looking for volunteers who want to take on the challenge.

As we go through the '06 - '07 rally season, we will be holding a series of meetings to iron out responsibilities, as well as to make advance plans for this event. The venue is the same complex we were at in May of 2005- in Mobile.

National Rally Committees:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Agenda | Entertainment |
| Registration | Food |
| Parking | Souvenir |
| Finance | Decorations/Design |
| Communications | Security |
| Publicity | Seminar/Meetings |
| Vendors | |

At the club's discretion, one or more of these may be combined as a single chairmanship. Please begin thinking about the part you can play in this rally, and send either myself or Vic Schneider an email at your earliest convenience....

We are looking for help, volunteers, inspiration, perspiration and chairpeople.

Thanks- Call/email soon- We need your help!!!

Doug Thompson
President

Looking for ladies-

Boy, gotta be careful how we word this one..... **Sharon Heins** (wife of Kenny Heins, president of Northeast- the Chapter that is hosting the fall rally in Urbanna.) - says that she is in a bit of a pickle.... They are holding a fashion show and ladies luncheon at the national rally, and are in need of models for the clothing.

It has been suggested that she try to get one or two representatives from each ACA chapter. If you are interested, or know someone from our chapter who might

be, get 'em hooked up with Sharon- her cell is: 201-320-7554 or email her at: tbk1949@aol.com.

Scam Artists working the phones:

On a serious note, we were contacted by Southeast Chapter member John Davis, who relates that as he was trying to sell his '94 American Eagle, he had been contacted by an unscrupulous person.

He received an email, from a party who wanted to purchase the coach. The deal was, that the buyer would send certified funds of \$22,500 as earnest money, with the balance to be paid upon picking up the motor home.

The buyer forwarded the cashiers check as promised, John had it sent out by his bank for collection, and they learned that- even though it looked great- the cashiers check was indeed counterfeit.

Working with the bank and law enforcement officials, he told the "buyer" that he had cashed the check. The buyer immediately asked him to send \$5,000 to his agent and shipper, due to the fact that he was out of the country and could not reach a Western Union office to send the money himself. Of course, John, on to the scam, did not send out any funds. His quick thinking and suspicion saved him thousands of dollars.

Unfortunately, there are those out there who are more than willing to cheat you if you let them. John indicates that the authorities informed him that this is not an isolated case.

There are many instances of this scam being revised and repeated. It serves well to be suspicious of anything, and check all documents thoroughly.

If you have any questions regarding this incident or a similar one, John asks that you call him for more information. His toll free number is: 866-702-1955.

We're all glad that this situation worked out as it did. We must all remain vigilant to ensure that we don't get caught ourselves in some evil scheme.

Thanks from Vic and Jo-Anne:

Jo-Anne and I would like to again thank all the members for the gift I received at the January Rally. Just to update you, we used it to stay at The Pikes Peak Campground, and had dinner at our favorite restaurant in Manitou Springs, Colorado. That's The Craftwood Inn, where we had an appetizer of ostrich in berries, then artichoke and crab soup.

For dinner Jo-Anne had Pheasant wrapped in a puffed pastry and I had the best piece of beef I'd ever had. We shared Penna Cotta for desert. We both want to thank all of you for the gift. It really was enjoyable being President of such a nice organization and this surely left a good taste in our mouths, which we'll always remember.

Tech Tip:

If you use a Roadmaster tow bar, please check this out from the factory in Portland. Most of us use WD-40 or some similar variation of persistent lubricant on the slides. The service team at the factory suggests that this will attract dirt, and could create a potentially damaging binding condition.

Their directions are to clean the tow bar with Simple Green and then lubricate it with a silicon spray. Folks who have the Sterling series should extend them and clean out the inside slides as well. This suggestion should extend the life of your tow bar.

President's Message:

We're all looking forward to a great rally season this fall and into spring. Numerous events are planned and we hope to see a really great turn-out at each of them.

I wanted to express how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your president, and hope to be able to get better acquainted with everyone as we all meet and enjoy fun and fellowship at these rallies. RV'ing is such a wonderful lifestyle, and we are indeed so fortunate to be able to cruise the open roads in these incredible American Coaches.

Be safe out there, enjoy the flowers along the way. See you in September at the pre-rally.

*Sincerely,
Doug Thompson, President*

From your Membership Chairman:

We still have 60+ members who are delinquent in their dues. Please check the address label on your news letter to find your due date. (Same goes for national due dates on the National letter.)

If it does NOT read January 1st on the SEACA label, PLEASE update your dues to January 1st of any year. I am changing ALL due dates for ease of book keeping.

For instance if it says "September" - send in your check for \$16. (Four remaining months, plus annual renewal) - this will bring you current up until December of 2007.

I'm on the road ALL summer and don't have access to banking facilities.

We will be home the second week in September, so please send checks to me then. Have a safe and healthy summer.

Remember it's SHINY SIDE UP AND DIRTY SIDE DOWN.....RON

Caution note from our Vice President:

While we were here in Monaco and Country Coach land, I was speaking to some RV owners. We somehow got on the subject of motorhomes being broken into. I had told them that Pat and Debby Branigan were just broken into while staying in a Thousand Trails Park in Oregon. The thieves had entered through the dining room window. Fortunately, thanks to their dog, nothing was taken. They did go out and buy window locks and wooden dowels to drop in the tracks.

We spoke to some people that own a Country Coach, who were telling me they had been broken into twice--once at Port St. Lucie at the Great Outdoors, and once at Topsail in Destin.

There seems to be a group that travels around the country, breaking into motor homes. They drive a green Ford Expedition with a custom grill and California plates.

They pull up to the side of the coach, get out a ladder and act as if they are working on the window- break in, and take all of the items they want out the same window, putting them into their vehicle through the side door, get back on the ladder as if they are still working on the window- then put the ladder away and drive off. May be something we all want to keep an eye out for.

Pat

Newsletter Editor Comments:

Riding on Ron's thought- remember to check the red date on your mailing label. This is the current month on which your membership expires.

Take a moment to pro-rate this date through the end of the year, then send this amount, along with the twelve bucks for 2007, to Ron.

Remember, if you are traveling and mail is slow catching up.... downloadable registration forms and newsletters are always posted on our site at: www.southeastaca.org.

As always, Thanks.....
Doug Thompson