



## ***Southeast Chapter Newsletter***

***... News of upcoming events and chapter chatter for June/July, 2004 ...***

### **2004 Fall Rally Season takes off...**

This year's Rally Season gets off to a terrific start with the **ACA Pre-Rally in Sanger, TX** - October 18th through 21st. This rally is hosted by John and Elaine Dufour, and will certainly set the tone for fun and fellowship with the ACA group. The rally registration form has been included with this mailing for your convenience.

Sanger is situated on a hilltop in the Blackland Prairie at the start of the Red River Valley. It is also close to Dallas/Forth Worth via I-35. In addition to nearby outlet shopping, there is a Camping World in Denton, TX. Lake Ray Roberts is located 3 miles east of Sanger, and is rated as one of the top 10 lakes in Texas.

We are also told that there are 4 golf courses within a 20 minute radius of the park. This will be a "laid back" rally, with plenty of time to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Note: this rally is also a joint rally with the Northeast Chapter of ACA.

### **Denim & Diamonds - ACA Fall Rally**

Wichita Falls, Texas - October 21st through October 27th, is the venue for the ACA National Rally. Please refer to your national newsletter for rally packet information, or if you need to sign up right away- here is the contact information: Martha Zimmerman - 830-997-7895 - write to: P O Box 1033, Fredericksburg, TX 78624 - or email: [property@KTC.com](mailto:property@KTC.com).

Just a few details to tempt you- There will be a chapter chili cook-off on the 25th, to see which chapter can conjure up the best. The hotter the better- but there are sanctions against the use of road kill in any entry.

Several tours are scheduled- including touring through the historic neighborhoods of Texas oil millionaires, boomtowns, and Sheppard Air Force Base. Among other scheduled goodies are lots of good food, and of course, Randy's Crew to help us all out.

### **And, while you're out there...**

Just a few days after the end of the National Rally, on your way back home- make sure you stop at the Casino Magic RV Resort rally in **Bay St. Louis, MS**.

Your Rally Hosts for this event are George and Leona Bennett. The dates are November 4th through 7th.

The rally registration form for this rally has been enclosed again, as George reminds us that we have only 50 sites, and that the casino must have a firm head count by August 30th in order to accommodate our attendance requirements.

If you are contemplating attending this rally, take time to fill out the registration form and return it to George. At press time, we are told that there are 37 coaches signed up.

There is some additional information requested by the Mississippi gaming commission- just check out the enclosed registration form.

### **Thinqe Pinque-**

Jo-Anne Schneider is thinking pink for January- and we all should get involved.

As you know, the ladies of the Southeast Chapter, ACA are raising funds for the American Cancer Society, notably focusing on the "Hope House" - at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa.

At each chapter rally, they have at least one event to promote this charitable effort- and everyone wears pink. At the annual Lazy Days' Rally, she will sponsor a contest with prizes for the best "pink picture".

The time to be taking photos is at upcoming events. Details are lacking at press time- but we've got several rallies for pictures and details before January..... Good Luck !!!

## **The newsletter-**

Just a note regarding publication.... We have recently received several calls concerning summer mailing dates for the newsletter. It has been a tradition that the middle of the year is regarded as the "summer" months, and no newsletter is published, as many of our members are rolling about the country.

You are currently reading the first newsletter for the 2004-2005 rally year, and can expect to see something from us in your mailbox about every 6 weeks the rest of the year and into April, 2005.

## **Sun n' Fun RV Resort**

Our annual Christmas Rally will be taking place at the Sun n' Fun RV Resort in Sarasota- December 2nd through 5th.

Sun n' Fun is widely known as the friendliest RV resort in Florida..... Lots of fun events are planned- details will follow in the next newsletter.

## **The President's Corner**

I'm writing this from Decatur, Indiana. We are finally out of Alaska, the Yukon, British Columbia, and the West. We have traveled over 12,000 miles since leaving Florida in April. We arrived here at the service center Wednesday, July 23rd and have enjoyed sitting still for a week while the Dream gets well deserved R & R.

We took a tour of the factory on Thursday and found it greatly improved; they use headsets so you can hear everything they say. It was my first time in the new paint booth and I have never seen fans as large as they have in the ceiling. I was amazed at how large the paint building was—it would dwarf a Super Wal-Mart. I had been told service had been improved and it was hard to believe the amount of work that was done for me in two days. Chuck James, Randy and the crew here just get better and it's hard to believe how fast they can fix things correctly.

I attended the Board of Directors Meeting at The Palm Desert Rally and here are two items we passed. First there is a new way of paying your ACA annual dues by credit card. You need to go to the ACA web site (<http://www.americancoachassoc.com/>) and follow the on-line instructions. The first time you sign on it will ask for your ACA# and your password which is also your ACA# until you reset it. There also is an option to renew your membership for 3 years for \$90 - a saving of \$15.

In addition to this saving you will receive 2 \$30 discount certificates for National Rallies.

The first one must be used at the next rally and the second one is good till July 2007. The 3 -year renewal is only available on the web site, and you must use a Visa or Master Card. I tried it- and it took several attempts until I had everything entered correctly, but it does work. If you'd like you can still renew with Copy Cat by US mail as you have in the past.

Another item approved at the BOD meeting in Palm Desert was a \$50,000 donation to a scholarship fund for Decatur Fleetwood employee's children. This money came from excess funds in our national ACA treasury and will continue the scholarship funds from 1995 & 2000. All scholarships will be administered by an ACA committee and will be available to employee's children attending any schools. In the past the scholarship was only for Belmont High School students and many of the employees who live in Ohio or other towns could not participate.

HELP — I just read the July/August ACA Newsletter and saw there will be a Chili Cook Off at Wichita Falls. We need to put a group together to show them what Real Chili is like. Please let me know the Chili Chefs who will be attending the rally from the Southeast Chapter.

We hope to see a lot of you at the SE Chapter pre rally at the Texas Sundown Ranch RV Resort in Sanger, TX. John & Elaine Dufour have been working hard to plan a great rally. The registration form is enclosed with this newsletter.

## **National Elections results:**

Total National ACA Election votes cast: 714

The following names were elected to serve in the noted offices:

President: G. McCormick 654 votes (winner)

Vice President D. Mracek 654 votes (winner)

Secretary: M. Corcoran 429 votes (winner)  
A. Beadle 283 votes

Treasurer: R. Haworth 426 votes (winner)  
R. Lydecker 274 votes

I must say this is the first time I can recall seeing the actual vote count released and I thought you might like to see it....

That's all for now

*Vic Schneider, SE ACA President*

## **The Vice Presidents Corner**

The summer season is upon us, and I'm sure that everyone has traveled to parts unknown by now. As we drive across our wonderful country this summer, let us not forget in our prayers the American G I's that are putting their lives on the line- and some of them are making the ultimate sacrifice, and giving up their lives so we can continue to enjoy the life style that we have grown to love so well.

They may have captured Saddam Hussein, but we are still losing our sons and daughters in a foreign country as they try to bring peace to the world.

We need to carry on with our lives and not let the terrorists convince us that they will conquer all. Before that happens, I would be back in uniform. I may not be the best choice for the military, but every person pitching in will help keep freedom for our future generations.

This coming fall ( Oct 18-20 ) we will be getting together in Sanger TX. for the Pre Rally before heading to Wichita Falls for the National ACA Rally ( Oct 21-27 )

John & Elaine Dufour are chairing this rally and I'm sure there is a good time in store for all of us. After the National rally, we'll head on over to Bay St Louis MS. (Casino Magic RV Resort). Now that sounds like fun, would you not agree? George & Leona Bennett came forward to chair this Rally.

After our summer travel... and paying those awful prices for fuel..... From Bay St. Louis, many of us will return to our winter homes to get ready for the coming rally season.

December will bring us the Christmas rally- put on by the Webb's- (Gary & Cortney) and of course, our Annual meeting at Lazy Days in January is ready to go.

February and March, 2005 are open rally venues as of this writing.... We'd love to see new folks, with new ideas, come forward with fun and unique sites and gatherings. We're all here to assist anyone who has an idea.... in making it successful-- from concept to completion.

*Until next time, Phil Cote*

### **Welcome to our New Members:**

Since our last newsletter, the Southeast Chapter is proud to welcome the following new members of the American Coach Association:

Yvonne Anderson, Jacksonville, FL  
Louis & Pauline Bentley, Norcross, GA  
Jacques & April Breton, Everglades City, FL

Lindy & Sherie Bryan, Abbeville, AL  
Larry & Ariene Carper, Sebring, FL  
David & Lynda Carter, St. Petersburg, FL  
Jerry Lee Cooper, Greenville, FL  
Anthony Darlow, Melbourne, FL  
Gordon Devries, Marathon, FL  
John & Joan Farrell, Elberta, AL  
Bud & Joanne Gallagher, Parkland, FL  
Valarie Gulledege, Talladega, AL  
Leigh V. Hanwell, Pigeon Forge, TN  
William Hemphill, North Ft. Myers, FL  
David & Gennita Hinkle, Port St. Lucie, FL  
Billy & Nancy Hinson, Livingston, LA  
Brian & Pam Howe, Plantation, FL  
Edmund & Leslie Keenan, Wellington, FL  
Terry & Yolanda Kelley, Kill Devil Hills, NC  
Jerry & Roberta Klein, New Port Richey, FL  
Don & Kren Kurts, Gainesville, FL  
Jack & Nina Lambrich, Okeechobee, FL  
Dennis R. Langston, Kill Devil Hills, NC  
C. Glenn Leach, Fosters, AL  
James Luttmann, Land O Lakes, FL  
John E. Malone, Brandon, FL  
Jerry M. Moyers, New Tazewell, TN  
William Presley, Rockledge, FL  
George Ramsden, Oxford, AL  
Timothy Scanlon, Naples, FL  
Jerry Shar, Mountain Grove, MO  
Brian & Sharon Skone, Ocala, FL  
Paul Smith, Pensacola, FL  
Roger & Heidi Smith, Hampton, FL  
Felix & Martha Torres, Southwest Ranches, FL  
Tony Traviesa, St. Petersburg, FL  
Bennie & Gail Truax, Bonita Springs, FL  
Neal & Joanne Waldron, Port Orange, FL  
Danny & Nora Weems, Ringgold, GA  
George Whisnant, Salisbury, NC  
Gerald Wick, Bluffton, SC  
Robert & Edith Wolf, Oxford, FL

We urge them to attend our upcoming rallies... and sincerely hope that they will become active members and new friends, as they enjoy the fun and fellowship of this organization and its wonderful lifestyle.

### **National Rally Update**

Full details to the "California Crusin" Rally will be published in the national ACA newsletter.... so, we'll just highlight a few thoughts here. The host chapters did a splended job of putting on the rally. Everything, down to the weather, cooperated to make this one special and a ton of fun. Great seminars- lots of vendors and things...

The Southeast Chapter was well represented, and thanks to the costumes, choreography and set design

masterminded by Jo-Anne Schneider- the Southeast Chapter won the beach party contest.

Randy's Crew performed their usual outstanding job at taking care of our aches and pains, and at last count, I am told that the dealers represented sold about 17 coaches.

All in all- it was a big success, a lot of fun, and maybe all the excuse many of us needed to travel across the country to do some exploring on the way out and back.

### **Sharing an RV Adventure with our president.....**

In 1993, Jo-Anne & I purchased our first motor home- a 1989- 34 foot Driftwood. Our idea was to travel north for a few months during the hot summer.

We figured if we didn't like it we could sell it, and get most of our investment back. The coach was blue, both inside and out, so Jo-Anne named it Blue boy. We thought it was so well equipped- it had a TV and VCR stove with oven and a nice bedroom. Little did we know what this would lead to in the future. We even carried two bicycles for transportation when we stopped. All I had to do was take them out of the basement compartment and put the front wheels on.

We left Florida in June, and the spent the first night in a campground in South Carolina... they even served a dinner. Looking back, I must say we were hooked on this type of life almost immediately. We then proceeded to New Jersey for a visit with Jo-Anne's family.

We immediately realized how nice it was to stay in our own bed and not have to pack and unpack suitcases every time we changed places.

This RV idea was a neat way to travel. We then proceeded to upstate New York where I was from, and visited with my family for a week. Then we met up with a friend, who had motor homes for the last 20 years or so, and headed to New England.

After going through Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine we, decided to do Nova Scotia. We stopped in a New Hampshire liquor store, and my friend had to buy gifts for each of his sons. As you have most likely guessed by now, as we crossed into Canada at Calis, he was stopped at customs.

He had a lot more alcohol than you can bring into Canada legally, so was held at customs for almost an hour. Then, we proceeded to Nova Scotia and took the ferry from Falmouth to Bar Harbor. On our way back to Florida, we detoured to the mountains

of North Carolina for a week, as we wanted to stay longer in our motor home. We were hooked on motor homing after our first trip, and each year thereafter, we spent more time traveling each summer.

I'll finish with the sad part of this story. When we returned home we had to put the motor home in storage. Several months later, Jo-anne's parents came to check out finding a place in Florida. We went to get the motor home out of storage, so they could use it while looking around.

The motor home didn't start at first, and then backfired and caught on fire. It was completely destroyed by the time the fire trucks arrived.

If anyone is interested in hearing more stories of our travels... please let us know.

*Vic Schneider*

### **For Sale:**

#### **2003 Fleetwood American Dream**

370 Cummins diesel, 6-speed Allison transmission- only 10,000 miles. This particular model is no longer being made by Fleetwood. Villa leather interior seat package and couches, cb, electric awning, solar charging panel, Corian counters and covers, rain sensor vents, king size bed, ceiling fan, two tv's, two couches, convection microwave, Sony surround sound, 102 hrs on generator, hydraulic levelers, glass shower, washer/dryer combo, 4 door fridge w/ice maker, window awnings, door awning, two furnaces, 3 ac's including dash, cd player, dvd, digital satellite w/Trac-vision,

Ask: \$199,999. Phone Tony Rukab: (904) 246-1868

### **All good things must come to an end....**

We are looking forward to the fun and fellowship of the upcoming rally season, and hope to see each of you at them all. Please don't forget- we are always looking for articles, suggestions, great places to see- or get your coach worked on as it were- as articles for the newsletter.

Please send to: Doug Thompson  
P O Box 677  
Elfers, FL 34680  
Phone: 727.709.0218

Or, even better- email them to:

**doug@rvzoomin.com** - keep those letters and emails a 'comin'..... be safe.