



## ***Southeast Chapter Newsletter***

*... News of upcoming events and chatter for January-February '07 ...*

[www.southeastaca.org](http://www.southeastaca.org)

### ***the official Lazy Days Edition!!!***

This is our first attempt at an official January rally edition of the club's newsletter. As of this writing- January 10th- we had 130 coaches registered for the event, so it should be a lot of fun.

Your event hosts are **Dan and Renee Lee and Paul and Sondra Wells**. Should you have questions, please check with them- they'll be more than happy to assist.

Please take time to thank them as well- they have worked tirelessly in planning all the details to ensure that you have a great time.

Lazy Days has pulled all the stops to make sure you'll feel welcome as well. Additionally, the new 2007 American Coaches are all shined up and ready for your inspection in the Crown Club area.

And, if this all doesn't keep you busy, the biggest RV show in the southeast is taking place at the fairgrounds- and the freshest plump and ripe strawberries are lurking right around the corner at Parksdale Farms. So, hold onto your hats.

#### **Chapter Business:**

Before we launch into tidbits regarding other rallies, let us remind you that the Southeast Chapter holds its annual election of officers during this rally.

If you have any interest in running for a chapter office, contact a member of the nominating committee as soon as possible. The elections will be held on Saturday morning.

Nominating committee members are: **Ron Wilkinson, Dan Lee, Jim Youngblood and Vic Schneider**.

#### **No dues: No news:**

Our current chapter regulations call for all dues to be renewed in January. Conveniently, we have enclosed a renewal form.

This form also asks you to update any address, telephone or email information that you may need to- please fill out completely.

Having your current personal contact information is absolutely vital to ensure you get all of the information you need regarding upcoming rallies and chapter events.

With postage and printing costs ever increasing, and a significant number of our members traveling a majority of the time, we have increased our reliance on electronic mail as well as our chapter website as distribution points for chapter communications and information.

Also- we need your current email address to keep you in the loop. And, no, we don't sell it to others.

Remember, it costs over a dollar to send out a newsletter, so if your dues are not current, as Ron says, "No dues, no news".

**An editor's note:** At this time, there is no sharing of contact or address information between the Southeast chapter and the ACA National chapter- Resultantly, if you correct an entry at the Southeast level- you must do the same at ACA National.

#### **Annual membership roster:**

Copies of the **2007 SEACA membership roster** are in your goodie bag. If you need additional ones, they are posted to the chapter website, under the "members only" tab.

Also, roster information is updated periodically over the year on the site, so you will have access to the latest information.

If you don't have a login, apply for yours today. Interestingly enough, at this time, only 23 percent of our membership has a login and password to this secure portion of our website.

A number of items of interest are in this portion of the site, including membership information, chapter bylaws and both SEACA and national rally hosting information.

## ***the 2007 Rally Season continues....***

### **Brooksville FMCA Rally- February (6th) - 7th - 11th**

For the first time in recent history, Southeast has scheduled a rally to coincide with the giant FMCA rally in Brooksville at the Hernando County Airport.

Time for registering is short- in fact if you read this during the Lazy Days rally and respond by getting your paperwork in the mail- you're probably OK. If you are getting this information in the mail, you are likely out of luck. Registration forms are on the chapter website.

If you need one and don't have a way to print it at Lazy Days- see Dan or Doug- we'll have some printed forms ready to hand out as needed.

The event will be held in two parts, there is a pre-rally held by SEACA so we can caravan in together, and the FMCA rally itself. The tricky part is getting everyone all together so that we can enter the rally and be parked together.

Your information contact is Mary Ann Goodhand. By the way, if you are not a member of FMCA, you can still attend and find out what it's all about.

.... Lots of vendors, seminars and programs, and you can experience first hand how well your American Coach dry camps. Should be a Hoot!!!!!! - (Don't brush your teeth in the shower.)

### **Grand Lakes RV and Golf Resort - March 23rd - 26th**

Please first note the dates- due to the FMCA regional in Perry, GA, this rally will take place within a non-standard date format for us. It runs from Friday to Monday- The registration form is in this newsletter.

Your rally hosts are **Lowell and Ruth Hooper and Donna and Chuck Keefer**. They have organized a really fun event- that you'll want to make sure to attend.

### **Holiday Travel Park- Winter Haven - April 22nd-24th**

The April rally will be held in central Florida. It will be hosted by **Mary Ann and Howard Goodhand and their Southeast Chapter Lake Ashton neighbors**.

Twelve of our members live in Lake Ashton and they have joined together to give you a super rally.

All the events will be held in beautiful Lake Ashton. Sunday and Tuesday dinners will be in the Clubhouse and a garage party is planned for Monday's dinner.

Lake Ashton offers two 18-hole golf courses – on which we have scheduled an outing. If tennis is your game, we have two courts- and, Bring your dancin' shoes.

After dinner in the Clubhouse on Tuesday, live music will be provided by "Good Stuff" from 6-10 pm. For your pleasure, you may wish to enjoy the amenities at the clubhouse - heated pool, hot tub, sauna, fitness center, bowling lanes, pool room, card tables, and library.

RV camping will be at Holiday Travel Park on Cypress Gardens Blvd. The campground is located 4 miles from Lake Ashton. We look forward to seeing you there. If you want to check out the facilities at Lake Ashton, go to [www.lakeashton.com](http://www.lakeashton.com), click on amenities.

During the day, the new and improved Cypress Gardens is a worthwhile attraction. Although they still have the world famous water ski show, the park is no longer your parents' Cypress Gardens. In addition to the spectacular gardens, there are rides for the young and young-at-heart and live shows.

Another central Florida landmark is the Bok Tower. The tower and gardens are situated atop the highest point in Florida and gives you a panoramic view for miles.

Lake Wales offers a quaint downtown with good restaurants, several antique stores and galleries. Winter Haven is our big city! The Eagle Ridge Mall is nearby. However, if you forgot your toothpaste, Wal-Mart is next door to the RV park. Lake Ashton Sales Center is sponsoring our rally and is providing the band, **Good Stuff**.

We look forward to seeing you and promise a good time.

The registration form for this event is also enclosed in your goodiebag.

### **Rollin' Pre-Rally- to national May 4th - 6th -**

This is the pre-rally in advance of the Myrtle Beach National event. Your Rally Chairperson, Mary Ann Goodhand, is diligently working on details.

The information about this "rally with wheels" will be in the next club newsletter.

## **Where will you be in May of 2008???? -**

At the risk of sounding like a member of the draft board.... we are really hard at work, putting together the framework for a really great national event in the spring of 2008. Despite the fact that it sounds like the next century, it really will be here before you know it.

In fact, we have to have registration packets ready to hand out in September in California. (Want to help us?)

If you've got some extra energy- that you'd like to expend, being a volunteer or chair during this event- now's the time to join the team.

The entire 29 page receipt for putting on a national rally has just been posted for your reading pleasure- on the SEACA chapter website- you'll need a "members only" logon to reach it- makes good reading, and gives you all the information you'll need to help us succeed.

Remember- this is a chapter event- we need everyone's help.

At this rally, we'll be recruiting for several positions and as many volunteers as we can find.

### **Officers Notes:**

#### **President-**

The year has simply flown by. I have very much enjoyed getting to know so many more of our chapter members.

Also, I've enjoyed being able to lend a helping hand in guiding this great organization as it fulfills its very worth while charter of promoting the RV lifestyle while enjoying fun and fellowship.

If I'm lucky, you'll let me serve one more year as your president. In what will seem like seconds, it will be time to pass the torch on to the next person.

I'd like to take a moment to thank all of the officers, rally hosts and volunteers for all their hard work in making the year fun and eventful. It is indeed an honor to work with these folks as they organize events and carry out the business of the club. My sincere thanks to all!!!

**Doug Thompson**

#### **Vice-President-**

On Dec. 2nd, John and I started our journey to the "Mother Ship" in Decatur to take VIP delivery of our new

coach. As we were getting close to the factory, there was ice on the side of the road, at which point I looked at John and said, "tell me again why we are doing this".

We arrived on Sunday, and Monday morning, bright and early we took our existing coach to service for her last tweaks before she went north to her new owners.

Thursday we began the VIP delivery of our new baby. We were so lucky- at transition time, it was snowing- and the outside temperature was a balmy 7 degrees.

Despite the weather, the experience was incredible. I would never buy another coach, (not that I am planning on it any time soon) without doing a VIP delivery.

It seems like they cannot do enough for you in getting your new home in tip top shape. They sure eliminated a lot of John's jobs when we got back to Florida.

As a result of their hard work and efforts, and our trip to Monroeville after the transition to make sure she was aligned and ready, we started home. What a dream of a ride.

American Coach is thinking about trying to get all of the coaches VIP delivered. That sure would be nice for all of us. Again, the experience is incredible.

Hope to see you all at Lazy Days, and Happy New Year to all!!!

**Pat Leszewski**

#### **Membership Chairperson-**

Please don't forget to fill out the membership renewal form in this newsletter, and if you can, get it back to me during the rally with your check.

Note that there is a spot on the form for coach length. With today's longer coaches, it is very important to have that data when we are working with a campground for a rally.

Please be sure to fill this form out completely- we'll check it against existing data to arrive at the most accurate information we possibly can.

Thanks a Ton!

**Ron Wilkinson**

## **Cummins Comes to the Rescue!!!**

Long time members Chet and Joyce Bennett were on their way to Alaska in June and were met with a less than pleasant experience while traveling near Rapid City, North Dakota.

As Chet relates, as they reached Sturgis, a few miles west of Rapid City, they began experiencing a tamping sound originating from the rear of the coach, and then they saw black smoke coming out of the exhaust system.

They shut down immediately, and arranged to have the coach towed back to Rapid City to be checked out.

After waiting 3 days for the repair facility to completely check out the engine and determine the extent of the problem, they were informed that the entire engine had to be replaced due to metal fatigue.

Chet asked how long this process would take, and they were informed that shipping of the engine would take 10 days.

They decided to continue on in the car, taking in a few of the sights while the coach was being worked on.

A few days later, they called from Montana, inquiring on the coach, and were informed that the new engine had dropped off the fork lift, and that another new one had been ordered.

Here again, 10 more days. Days later, they called again from Washington state, and were informed that the wrong engine had come in, and that 10 more days would pass before they received the correct one.

At this point, Joyce had to fly back to Key Largo for a family problem. Chet then drove back to Rapid City to wait until they had finished with the repair.

Start to finish, 37 days had gone by since they first discovered the problem.

Here's the bright side to this story- (yes, there is one... )

Cummins not only paid for the exchange of the engine and all the labor, but they paid for their meals and motel expenses as well, and also picked up Joyce's flight to Miami from Billings, Montana.

As Chet relates- hats off to Cummins and Mr. Ron Walls for taking such excellent care of a loyal Cummins engine customer.

**Ron Wilkinson, Membership Chairperson  
1508 Fawnridge Court  
Trinity, FL 34655**

***To:***