



Southeast Chapter Newsletter

... News of upcoming events and chapter chatter for March/April, 2004

River Bend Rally- March 25th-28th

The stage is set for the big rally at River Bend Motorcoach Resort. This venue is one of the more beautiful of the "Old Florida" locations, and is sure to be enjoyed by those attending. As of the 13th, there were 40 coaches registered to go, and a lot of room left if you want to jump in at the last minute.

Call the rally hosts- Fred and Sylvia Soto at (941) 922-3259 or Ray and Jeannette Houle at (239) 530-7349 to get one of the open spots. The Ladies "Pink" Luncheon will take place at the River Club dining room right on the resort. Enjoy lunch, and watch the boat traffic on the beautiful Caloosahatchee river.

On Saturday night, "Tommy O" will entertain following our catered dinner.

Pig Pickin' Good Time-

We are in receipt of an email from the Sheriff's wife regarding the Country Hoe Down in Panama City, April 22nd-25th. At this time, there are 13 sites left- that may not be the case as you read this- so if you are thinking of attending, pick up the phone now, rather than later.

This is the best time of the year in the panhandle- not too hot- not too cold. Lots of sun and fellowship. And, remember this is the official jumping off point for the journey to the national rally in California. Fun fun fun!!!

SE ACA National Pre-Rally-

If you are planning on attending the National in Palm Desert California- remember that Jim Murray is hosting a "moving" rally that departs from Panama City, and goes to the coast in plenty of time for the Southeast Chapter pre-rally on May 2nd-5th, prior to the ACA Rally.

The complete pre-rally registration form follows in this newsletter. Indio California is in the Coachella Valley (the date capital) and is close to both Palm Springs and Palm Desert. Indian Casinos are nearby- the one nearest the pre-rally is about 7 miles distant. The resort is in

the developing stage, and therefore they have an "event tent" as their clubhouse. There is an Executive Golf course as well, which we are told will be free as greens fees are not yet established.

Just a heads up- Lazy Days gave out coupons at the January Rally- which are acceptable for the stay at the pre-rally in Indio. These coupons can save you \$40+ a night- dig deep. (We put ours in a "safe place" - it took 5 days to find it.)

Moving Rally Details: Caravan to California

April 25th- Overnight at Cajun Country Campground in Port Allen, LA (near Baton Rouge) - reservations: 1-800-264-8854.

April 26th- Overnight at Admiralty RV Resort, San Antonio, TX - reservations: 1-800-999-7872 or their website is: www.admiraltyrvresort.com

April 27th- Overnight at Van Horn KOA, Van Horn, TX - reservations: 1-800-263-8875

April 28th- Overnight at Voyager RV Resort, Tucson, AZ reservations: 1-800-424-9191 or website is: www.voyagerrv.com

California National Rally- Palm Desert

May 5th through 10th are the dates for the national rally. What better excuse do you need to cross the country and participate in a special "Cinco de Mayo" festival? Just think- party in Panama City, cross the country with Jim Murray, pre-rally in Indio and top it off with a giant party in Palm Desert. Can it get any better than this?

So, we're sure you've been reading your national newsletter, and we don't have to reiterate all of the details here. Just suffice it to say that the California ACA members responsible for putting this event on are trying to out-do themselves. There are classic car exhibits, 50's night dinner and dancing, golf at the world famous Indian Wells golfclub, fashion shows, water aerobics and of course Randy and his crew- as well as exhibits of new and used coaches from Beaudry RV and Mike Thompson RV for your viewing pleasure.

Bay Saint Louis, MS

Just a couple of facts about the Bay Saint Louis rally, November 4th through 7th. The Bennett's are our rally hosts, and are hoping you are going to attend this festive occasion with them. The registration form has been enclosed with this mailing of the chapter newsletter. While that may seem a bit ambitious, after all it isn't 'til fall- but there are circumstances.

We have been promised a total of 50 sites for the rally.

Unfortunately, we must provide Casino Magic with a hard count of coaches attending by August 30th. If you are thinking of attending, take time to fill this registration form out early and return it, along with your check, to George Bennett. In fact, you can bring your registration and check to the River Bend Rally as well.... George would love it.

For additional requirements and regulations regarding attending this rally, required by Mississippi gaming laws, please see the enclosed registration form.

The President's Corner-

We all had a great time at The Rock Crusher Rally in February. The food was good and I thought the entertainment was excellent. With over 100 coaches attending- not counting the 2 new coaches from Lazy Days, I think we set a Southeast American Coach chapter attendance record- (except for our annual January Rally at Lazy Days.)

The ladies luncheon had great attendance and I'm sure we had some of the best dressed women Crystal River has ever seen. The American Girls dressed in pink and collected donations for cancer.

Margie Gallante who was a vision in Pink helped collect \$135. We hope all the women wear pink at the next rally when they attend the luncheon.

I'm getting ready for the summer travels and my motor home is in having some minor adjustments done before I head to Fort Myers. Then we'll get home just in time to pack up for the trip west to the National Rally at Palm Desert.

I'm finding that being your chapter president requires a little extra time. And with our travels this summer, this is the earliest we've ever left home.

As I'm sure you've all noticed the price of gas & diesel has gone wild lately. A question I've been asked by many owners is what does the "mode" switch on the transmission selector do? It is an "economy" mode when selected, and what it does is up shift at a lower rpm and will not let the transmission downshift as quickly.

You may find a slight improvement in fuel economy if you use it. The only time I don't use it is when I'm in fairly hilly country and you need the extra power available from higher rpm's in each gear.

I hope everyone sent in their ballots for the National Election.

As I am writing this, I believe there are still sites available for the March and April Rallies. If you haven't already registered you need to contact the rally hosts directly.

Don't forget about that great pig roast in Panama City in April.

Thanks again to all of you for letting me be president of the ACA SE chapter.

Vic Schneider

The Vice-President's Corner-

Hello members-

This has to be the best time of our lives to have our health, prosperity and ownership of our American Coaches. We get to meet and gather with old friends once a month, all rally season long, and enjoy the fellowship and fun of this terrific group of people.

Where else in this world can we be so blessed to have the ability to travel North America and see so many beautiful places?

June and are at a cross road's in our lives, and we will be moving from our beach house in Jensen Beach to our new home in Lake Ashton this fall.

Back on chapter business, we will be needing volunteers as wagon masters for some of the upcoming rallies.

At this point, the February, 2005 event is in need of wagon masters and/or co-hosts.

We need to begin planning this event ahead of time as campgrounds fill up fast in winter- so please folks give this your consideration.

It's a great way to meet and make new friends. If you'd like to volunteer to be a host or co-host with another couple for this rally, my phone number is 772-229-1951.

Until the next time, stay healthy and God bless.

Your vice president,

Phil Cote

Tech tip:

For some reason, we always seem to be drying something in the dryer as we run down the road. I happened to be standing on a ladder outside the RV as the boss fired up the drier last week in our park. I caught a flash of movement inside the drier vent, and got closer to investigate. Upon careful inspection, it looked like quite a buildup of lint, dust and Heaven only knows what else.

With the dryer running, I carefully removed the vent cover, and fashioned a probe from a coat hanger. Well, after 5 minutes or so of cautious picking- to make sure not to puncture the aluminum vent tubing, I had rescued over a gallon of lint in a bucket.

I can't tell you how much better the drier works now- to say nothing about what amounts to be a serious reduction in fire hazard from heated lint. If you haven't checked yours recently, I'd suggest taking a peek. Our entire vent tube had been completely plugged from the drier to the outside.

Welcome New Members!!!

Welcome to the following new Southeast Chapter members! We are all anxious to meet you, and look forward to you joining us in great fun and fellowship at our Southeast Chapter rallies.....

John & Martha Agostinelli- Plantation, FL
Gene & Mae Brodie- Aiken, SC
Howard & Lisa Clayton- New Port Richey, FL
Waldo & Patty Fannin- Indiantown, FL
Edward Giesel & Suzanne Hazell- Lakeland, FL
Edwin & Sheryl Jett- Polk City, FL
Ken Neil- Jupiter, FL
Benjamin & Helen Nichols- Milton, FL
Calvin Peacock- Tampa, FL
Howard & Josie Robertson- Grand Island, FL
Michael & Cynthia Scruggs- Sarasota, FL
Joseph & Sandra Simmons- Eustis, FL
Harold & Deborah Snyder- Pointe Vedra Beach, FL
Ronald Triplett & Jim Guedry- Lutz, FL
Vernon Wells- Nashville, TN

Advertising:

2001 AMERICAN EAGLE FOR SALE

This coach has both the living room/ dinette WIDE slide (30 in) and the bedroom slide. It is equipped with almost every feature available and many that were custom designed and built to be both functional and attractive.

A remodeled bedroom and dinette area that, through the use of custom cabinetry and Corian tops has increased, by actual measurement, storage capacity by 40%.

It also features a unique "dinette bar" and looks great.

Other custom features include. A Sony Room Director Entertainment System, 2004 TracStar "in motion" satellite system with 2 receivers, 10 Disc Sony CD Player, Bose Surround Sound, a 6 ft vanity mirror, attached Corian end table, 3 extra magazine racks, all Villa Furniture including foot stool, custom built coffee table, which also houses large storage cabinet, 2 large Sony TVs. One 29 inches and the other 20 in. Day/ night shades throughout entire coach.

The interior is White Washed Oak.

The coach also features a Sani Com Macerator System, Summit Lexan front shield (hinged), stainless rocker panel trim including docking lights, heaviest duty stone guard, including "cross member" installation, Safe T Steer Plus, front leveling jack support, American Coach Optional ID Package, rooftop CB and Cell phone antennas, Cummins' Road Relay System, large Girard Self-Retractable Patio Awning, 2 full pass thru storage bays, and 5 storage compartment slide trays.

Coach has 53,000 well cared for miles. This coach has never been serviced, including even oil changes, by anyone other than American Coach Service, Decatur, IN; Monroeville Chassis, Monroeville, IN or Cummins itself, in Ocala, FL

THIS COACH IS PRICED TO SELL ! Contact: HANK NEWMAN at (352) 895-8475 or by e-mail at: HankNewman@aol.com

Lazydays Posts Record Day for Revenues:

Lazydays RV SuperCenter recently posted a record day for RV sales revenue with the delivery of 176 vehicles on Feb. 27. The Seffner, Fla.-based dealership reported that the one-day shipment represented over \$17 million of sales revenues.

"I very much appreciate our wonderful customers and employee/owners who make achieving these records possible," said Don Wallace, President and CEO of Lazydays, North America's largest RV dealer. The record day comes on the heels of the company's all-time high for revenues in a single month.

In January, Lazydays reported the delivery of 1,075 units and total revenues exceeding \$97 million during Lazyday's month-long 2004 SuperSale and RV Show.

Thanks again for all the contributions to this month's newsletter.... keep those cards and letters 'comin'!

Doug Thompson - www.rvzoomin.com

(SE ACA pre-rally registration form:)

Southeast Chapter Pre-Rally in California

May 2nd to 5th, 2004

Outdoor Resorts Motorcoach Country Club

80-501 Avenue 48

Indio, California 92201

1-888-277-0789

Although final plans have not been completed, we must determine how many coaches will be attending the pre-rally in Indio, CA prior to the National Rally in Palm Desert. We will have 3 nights of camping at a resort with everything !!! - The final agenda will be sent out by April 1st, to allow for all who are leaving early for California to have the necessary information.

The rally fee has been set at \$148, but it is anticipated that there will be a hefty refund if all goes according to plan.

Please indicate whether you have the Outdoor Resort coupon that was given out by Lazy Days at the January Rally. Site rental without the coupon will be about \$40 per night. We hope to have a few extra coupons for those who did not attend the Lazy Days Rally. Also, indicate whether you are a member of Thousand Trails (a back-up site if the Outdoor Resort plan falls through....)

Please send in your reservation, and a check made out to Southeast Chapter, ACA as soon as possible to:

Jim Murray, MD
2303 Falcon Trace Lane
Nokomis, FL 34275

California Pre Rally Registration:

_____ I have a coupon from Lazy Days - _____ I am a member of Thousand Trails -

Names: _____

Address: _____

City/state/zip: _____

Cell phone: _____