



Southeast Chapter Newsletter

... News of upcoming events and chapter chatter for Mar/Apr, 2007

www.southeastaca.org

The Brooksville Report:

Well, when we said we wanted to do this- we had naysayer's, a couple of folks who thought we were just downright nuts, and if I remember right, at least 2 sooth-sayers. But, we had a ball. Somewhere along the line were folks who piped up and said "Who wants to dry camp? - We didn't buy these big coaches to do that".

I am here to tell you that our beautiful American Coaches are totally at home boon-docking just about anywhere. In this instance, it was at the side of a mile long runway at the Brooksville Regional airport as we attended the Southeast Regional Family Motor Coach Association rally and show.

The weather cooperated, we had 10 SEACA coaches, and 10 more coaches from the RV Flyers- most of whom are also members of SEACA. Lots of visiting, relaxing, extended happy hours, maybe a bit of spirits here and there- some really wonderful entertainment, great seminars and vendors. We all agreed that we're looking forward to getting back there again in February of 2008.

Grand Lakes Rally- March 23rd through 26th-

This rally WAS shaping up with the potential of being a lot of fun. Unfortunately, at press time, it had to be cancelled due to a low number of coaches having signed up by the cut-off date for the park.

Just to clarify- at this time of the year, all RV parks are experiencing their highest level of occupancy. We have to book and commit for a given number of sites up to a year in advance for these more desirable locations.

When we advertise an event, and don't receive enough positive responses by a given date- we have to cancel, or the club suddenly becomes responsible for a great number of empty sites. So, in the future, remember that we work hard to get you spaces in the places you want to visit. Get that check in the mail early, or we face having to cancel a rally to save undesirable financial consequences to the club.

The Holiday Travel Park- Winter Haven, April 22nd through 25th

If you haven't submitted your registration for this one yet, please take a moment to do so. Your hosts are Mary Ann and Howard Goodhand, and the Lake Ashton Travelers group. They have spared nothing to ensure that you'll have a great time.

Note: This rally has been scheduled in a non-standard format- Sunday through Wednesday- It takes place at the Holiday RV Park, Cypress Gardens Boulevard in Winter Haven. The park is approximately 4 miles from the Lake Ashton development, where all of the events will be taking place. You will have full hook-ups, 30 amp service and cable.

The Lake Ashton Sales Center is sponsoring this rally, and has assisted greatly in defraying our rally costs. Don't miss seeing how unique and beautiful this development is; truly a jewel to be appreciated. Get those reservations in early- we anticipate a sell-out.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mary Ann- (hgoodhand@msn.com)
Registration deadline: April 10th.

Pre-rally to the ACA national event- Mount Pleasant/Charleston KOA, Charleston, SC - May 5th and 6th, caravan in to national on the morning of the 7th-

Well, we worked toward a rolling rally concept- but determined that there were too many variables to make it work on this particular rally. So, we decided on a two day kick back and relax event, to hook up and caravan in together to Myrtle Beach for the spring national event.

Instructions for registering: Call the KOA directly and let them know that you are with Southeast American Coach

The confirmation number is: 32888.

The KOA is actually in Mount Pleasant, a small community just to the north of Charleston.

The plus here is that we will depart on the morning of the 7th- already well north of the rush hour traffic in Charleston, and leisurely head up US 17 to Myrtle Beach. The park is located at 3157 US Hwy 17.

The park contact number is 800-562-5796. It is Trailer Life rated 8.5, 9.5*, 8. From the park into the Ocean Lakes Family Campground on S. Kings Highway is approximately 78 miles on US 17.

Should you have any questions regarding this rally, please call or email Mary Ann Goodhand. Phone: 863-324-1626 - email: hgoodhand@msn.com

With the completion of the pre-rally at Mt. Pleasant, this will conclude the spring rally season for Southeast ACA. Extensive traveling by members is in the planning stages now, so expect to perhaps see some of us heading up and down the highways as summer unfolds. The rally season will begin again, some 3,000 miles from here with the pre-rally to the ACA national event in Napa Valley, California. The logistics for that one will no doubt be daunting- but, we're up to it aren't we???

Lazy Days, January event- the best ever. If you missed it- make sure you are there next year for tons of fun. **Kathy and Kim from Rally Park** really rolled out the carpet for us and made sure that everything went beautifully. The food was great, the entertainment even better- it was a remarkable event.

Your hosts were **Dan and Renee Lee and Paul and Sondra Wells. Gary Mau** and his precision parking team parked some 130+ coaches in short order, denting none.

Our hats off to this hard working and carefully orchestrated team for their efforts and results in such a successful event.

For your planning pleasure, the rally dates for this event in January, 2008 are the 17th to 20th.

As you likely know, one of the items taking place is our annual election of officers- this year, the following slate was elected:

President- Doug Thompson
Vice President/Treasurer- Pat Leszewski
Secretary- Donna Keefer
Membership Chairperson- Ellie Sorantino
Rally Chairperson- Mary Ann Goodhand
Newsletter Editor- Doug Thompson (last year)
Website Administrators- Dan Lee/Doug Thompson

Please note- the new mailing address for membership items- **Make checks to "Southeast ACA"- mail to: Ellie Sorantino, P O Box 301, Cedarville, NJ 08311. Cell: 856-498-8207. Email: elliesorantino@verizon.net**

Roster note:

A tremendous number of updates were made to member addresses, emails and phone numbers at the rally in January via the form we handed out. Unfortunately, these were made too late to get into the roster which was printed and handed out at the rally - oops? - Another new one will occur around April 1st.

Once finished, it will be posted behind the "members only tab" on the chapter website- The only way we will achieve a higher level of accuracy is for you to send Ellie your updates soon: elliesorantino@verizon.net. - Also for your convenience, an update form is enclosed in this newsletter.

Dan Lee - 2005 and 2006 SEACA Treasurer:

I just want to thank everyone for making the Treasurer's job easy. My duties as treasurer for those two years could have been much more demanding than they were thanks to everyone's thoughtfulness and integrity. Thank you Pat Leszewski for taking over the treasurers duties. Also, a big thanks to everyone who helped make the Lazy Days Rally a success. Renee and I are heading west this summer and hope to see you at the fall ACA Rally in California. Safe Journeys !!!

What's up with the rallies??

By Mary Ann Goodhand

Too many, too many \$\$\$, too far south, too far north, been there too many times, price of fuel? What?? In years past, we held about 7 to 9 rallies a year and they were all well attended, and a waiting list was not unusual.

Our club has well over 250 members and we're having trouble filling the sites that we have reserved. Our rally in January at Lazy Days Rally Park has always been our "big" event. And it is still well attended, but not as it once was. In the past, we have always had 150 reserved sites filled by the rally date, however, the past two years we have seen that number decline and we have released sites back to Rally Park. Beginning Jan 2008, Rally Park management requested that we reduce the number of sites reserved. We had to say yes based on declining reservations.

October 2006, the rally at Titusville was cancelled due to lack of registrations. As this newsletter was being written, the Grand Lakes rally was cancelled due to low

attendance. And we are possibly looking at one more being cancelled in the near future for the same reason. The Keefer's and Hooper's spent a lot of time and energy planning the rally at Grand Lake for March 23-26 and they had FIVE reservations as of the cut-off date! My husband, Howard and I, along with the Lake Ashton Southeast Chapter members and Lake Ashton, have planned a rally for April 22-25 here in Winter Haven. To date, we have only received TWO reservations.

I've hired a (non-refundable) band for an evening of dancing and musical enjoyment. I'm about ready to see a fortune teller and see if waving a wand over a crystal ball will give me the answer to declining interest in rallies.

We need volunteers to host rallies. If you have a special place that would be conducive to having a rally, please let me know. I would be happy to give a hand wherever needed. April registration information is in this newsletter, or call me- Mary Ann Goodhand 863-324-1626.

We have a great rally planned for October 25-28 at Encore Harbor Lake, Port Charlotte. It is a beautiful park, I NEED A HOST. November 29-Dec 2 at Sun N Fun, in Sarasota. Ron Wilkinson and crew are hosting.

Notes:

This newsletter- **March/April**, will be the last one you'll see until **July/August**. There are no organized activities for Southeast during that time, and most of our members travel for the summer. The July/August newsletter will contain the registration forms for upcoming fall rallies. As always, we try to get those forms on the website as soon as we have them. At any time, for the latest information regarding your association- check the website at www.southeastaca.org. The most current rally information is always there, ready to download at your convenience.

National Rally notes:

As you know, Southeast ACA is the proud sponsor of the spring, 2008 ACA national rally in **Mobile, AL**. To that end, a portion of each newsletter for the next year will be devoted to keeping you informed, as well as enlisting your aid in helping to put on this event. It is no undertaking for the faint of heart. Literally thousands of volunteer man hours will be required to 'Git 'er done. Your club wants YOU.

As of this writing, several committee heads have been either appointed, or possibly weren't moving fast enough to escape:

Rally Co-Chairs: Doug Thompson and Vic Schneider

Treasurer and Registration: Dan Lee and Ron Wilkinson

Decorations and Entertainment: Jo Anne Schneider and Janice Thompson

Parking: Gary Mau

Information/Publicity: Elaine Dufour

Master of Ceremonies: Joyce Bennett

Seminars and Vendors: Pat Leszewski

Security: Fred Soto

Food: Jim Graham

These are the committee chairs to date- If you wish to work on a specific activity or committee, please contact the appropriate chairperson. For your convenience, these are their email addresses:

Pat Leszewski - pat@southeastaca.org
Fred Soto- twinkeltoes@juno.com
Joyce Bennett- chetdance2@aol.com
Dan Lee- dan@southeastaca.org
Ron Wilkinson- ron@southeastaca.org
Gary Mau- lgmau@msn.com
Elaine Dufour- elainedu4@msn.com
Jim Graham- jgraham179@mchsi.com
Vic Schneider- vic@southeastaca.org
Doug Thompson- doug@southeastaca.org

Drop them a note and let them know you're ready to help.

Editor's note:

During the business meeting at the Lazy Days Rally in January, we asked for volunteers to commit to working on a specific team for the national event.

If we missed listing you- or put you on the wrong committee, please drop either the committee chair or myself an email to clarify, and we'll make sure you're included in all upcoming communications. Note, the list below does not include all committees, only the ones where there may have been a problem with the assignments.

Registration:

Howard Goodhand, Arlene Kuhnen, Sheri Muller, Phyllis Watson

Parking:

Bruce Muller, John Leszewski, Ray Houle, Monty Campbell, Danny Meadows, Harry Noordzy, Ernie Kuhnen.

Information/Publicity:

Shirley Dow

Golf:

Chuck Willis, Dick Frederick, Harold Watson

Security:

Rich Forcier, Sam McQuagg, Ray Rolle, Bruce Muller, Pat Branigan.

Arrival Greeting:

Jean Rolle, Shirley Dow, Wally Dow, Donna Keefer.

Anywhere I'm needed:

Mac Kittrell, James Sanders, Glen Bretsnyder, Trish Meadows, Harold Watson, Joe Dillon, Nancy Sylvester.

Also, very soon a new section of the chapter website will be uploaded. It will include all of the information ongoing for this event such as committees and teams, chairpersons and contact information for everyone.

Just to set the tone for how fast this is actually going to happen- We have to present all of our intended rally details to the national board in May, and then travel to California in September with preliminary sign-up packets ready to hand out to those interested in attending.

It is all just right around the corner, and your input and help is truly appreciated. If anyone plans to attend the Napa Valley ACA Rally in September, and would like to help man an information booth, please let us know.

A note from your president- When you serve as an officer of a social club, you work behind the scenes as the member of a team. That team is responsible for many of the elements of success, be it that a rally went well, or the fact that membership communication occurred when it should.

No matter what, these are volunteer hours that manifest as sweat equity- simply because you enjoy seeing a job well done.

It is with that thought, that I want to take this opportunity to thank our two retiring team members for the many many hours and effort that they put in during their terms....

Treasurer- Dan Lee, and Membership Chairperson- Ron Wilkinson.

It didn't matter what else was going on when I needed them- they always took the time to address the needs of the club, and did so willingly and with great professionalism.

They were totally wonderful to work with- We will miss them- be sure to take time to express your appreciation as well- Our hats off to them.

***Ellie Sorantino, Membership Chairperson
P O Box 301
Cedarville, NJ 08311***

TO: