



Southeast Chapter Newsletter

... News of upcoming events and chapter chatter for November, 2005

www.southeastaca.org

In our last newsletter.... We discussed that we'd just completed the national rally in Columbus, and many of us were heading for Camp Decatur. It went well- the new headlight kit is incredible- Just like driving a sports car.

The next event was the **1st Annual Do-Nothing Rally** at Lazy Days, Tampa. It was a working rally for getting our ducks in a row for January, as well as being a cozy and quiet event to get the '05-06 rally season off to a great start. Heck, we even rode for several hours on the Trolley in downtown Tampa. No better way to explore than this.

High on the planning calendar was the **Key West Blue Water Resort** pig roast and blow-out. It blew out.

Wilma damaged a great deal of real estate and businesses in the keys, making it difficult to impossible to enjoy a journey there at this time. Our inspection team on the ground encountered what is now appearing all too often- the visual signs of problems- carpet in the front yard, your car port visiting your neighbor....

Unfortunately, you know the drill. At this point, we are re-scheduling the event for the fall of '06- details to follow.

Our very next event is the **Holiday Rally- Sun 'N Fun RV Resort** - December 1st -4th. Its back to Sarasota for a relaxing time with good friends. Your hosts are the Webb's, the Lee's and the Wilkinson's. Please note- at press time, we had 12 availabilities remaining- don't miss the fun- send in your registration today!!!

Be sure to bring holiday decorations for your coach- there will be a coach decorating contest.... which promises to be a ton of fun.....

In addition, and at great expense (?) there will be a not to be missed pet fashion show. This event includes 3 nights of camping, 50 amp electric, and a poolside Luau- along with a ton of other great food planned.

The Holiday extravaganza is closely followed by our annual "blow-out" at Lazy Days, during the annual RV show at the fairgrounds.

Lazy Days' - Rally Park - January 19th - 22nd - We have 150 spaces reserved at this time. As always, Rally Park goes out of their way to make sure we all have fun. If you haven't been to the website- you should know that Rally Park and Lazy Days have greatly reduced the price of this event.

In light of the steep prices we're all paying for diesel- they dropped the event fee by 25% !!! - this is wonderful news. Great food and entertainment are sure to be on hand, along with time to spend at the Tampa RV show- to see what's new in our "mobile universe".

This event includes three evenings of premier dining, complementary beer and wine, along with wonderful live entertainment, and a free coach wash.

Please note: Due to mailing weight, the coach service form for Lazy Days is on the back of the registration itself- one side goes to Pat- the other to Randy- Both are on the website as well, and can be printed at any time from there.

Your hosts are Pat and John Leszewski and Janice and Doug Thompson.

Fort Wilderness - Disney World - February 16th - 19th Need we say more? - Your hosts are Pat and John Leszewski, Jackie and Mark Belcher and Phyllis and Harold Watson. They have lots of fun and great events in store for you.

Please note- We must give the park firm numbers regarding attendance before the end of the year. Please take a moment to complete and mail your registration.

Blueberry Hill, Bushnell - March 18th to 21st - This highly regarded park is our venue for a fun and relaxing outing.

Note that this is not our standard format for days- This is a Saturday to Tuesday morning- Why? you might ask? - Well, if you've not been there- the Webster Flea Market- one of the largest in the world- is open only on Monday's.... Thus, our desire to "be there- or be square"..... We are planning to have the coaches stationary on Monday, so we can pack all of our goodies in them as we roll on home in our rolling home.

Following the March Rally..... it's on to:

Butterfield RV Resort and Observatory - April 22nd - 25th..... our pre-rally to the national event in Tucson, AZ.

Planned events include a star party- a night of musical entertainment- and of course, close proximity to many of Arizona's incredible attractions.... including Kartchner Caverns, Historic Tombstone and Bisbee Arizona, as well as a host of other wonderful things to see.

The national rally in Tucson marks the "official end" to the spring rally season. Many of our member coaches are planning to spend at least a few weeks in the desert southwest, taking advantage of proximity to all those incredibly beautiful places.... To say nothing of amortizing the cost of the number of dinosaur's burned along the way.

Beginning of the Fall, 2006 lineup:

September 15th to 17th, it's a relaxing pre-rally at the Holiday Travel Park in **Virginia Beach, VA** - Followed by the national event in **Urbanna, VA**.

Next is a trip to the space coast with a weekend at **The Great Outdoors** in the Titusville area- October 12th to 15th.

Then, it's back to **Blue Water in Key West** for fun and food- November 9th to 12th.

Housekeeping duties:

Our **Annual membership Roster** is distributed in January. If you have changed your email address.... moved, or changed your cell phone number- and have not corrected your personal information with membership chairman Ron Wilkinson- the wrong information will find its way into the roster. For updates, you can go to the "membership" tab on the website- which can also be used for changes to your personal information. Or, drop Ron a note or call and update your information. It is well to note here that, if you change your information with Southeast- there is currently no data exchange between our chapter and the national database.

You should also take the time to update your information with national as well. The specific instructions for doing this are in every national newsletter, or check their website.

Our Website....

www.southeastaca.org - Is the official website for members of the Southeast ACA - Some notes: First, if you ever need an old newsletter, or a registration form for an upcoming rally- look there. We post all forms and newsletters 24 hours after they are entered into the postal system. Some rally registrations are posted weeks in advance of the event for your convenience.

Next, as you know, we moved websites in April from the old one at Yahoo.com - to our own, graphic based site. During the process, we lost individual member logins.

Your officers were concerned about placing information of a personal nature- such as member email and mailing address information on the new site- until we could sort out exactly how to do this- to protect our member's personal data.

Beginning immediately, you can sign up on the website by asking for a login and password. Once you sign up, it generates an email to the webmaster, and you will receive an authenticating email, along with your password to enter the members only section of the site within about 48 hours.

Once we have a representative level of requests for personal logins- we will switch off the generic "seaca" - "american" -

and will then be satisfied that we are protecting our members personal information. At this point, we will be able to post membership lists, emails and the like without worry that they could be compromised. This transition to personal logins- and subsequent removal of the generic- will be accomplished not later than April 30th, 2006.

SouthEast Chapter ELECTION OF OFFICERS--- A message from the nominating committee:

Please note: Chapter officers for 2006 will be elected at our annual business meeting in January at Lazy Days' Rally Park. Your nomination committee is in the process of putting together a slate of candidates for the positions to be filled. Primary among them are the key position of Vice President and that of Rally Coordinator. We need volunteers to fill these vital jobs.

The Vice President serves for two years and then succeeds the current President for two. The Rally Coordinator organizes rally locations and selects rally masters who plan and conduct our rallies. Both positions are of utmost importance to our chapter's success. Both are personally rewarding and offer a chance to get to know your fellow chapter members better.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in running for these positions, please contact one of the members of your nomination committee:

Reggie Hedrick - rjhedric@strato.net
Mike Kidder - jklmk13@earthlink.net
Ron Wilkinson - ronbarbwilk@earthlink.net
Jim Youngblood - OleSeminole@msn.com

Officers' Articles.....

Presidents Corner:

We'll Jo-Anne & I had gotten back home to Florida in late September. This was the earliest we've been home in years but don't worry I didn't rest. The day after we parked the motor home, I was on a flight to San Antonio, Texas. My son met me there, and flew me to Fredericksburg, Texas- a neat German town only a short distance from I-10. The next morning at 2 am we loaded my daughter-in-law, 2 dogs, a cat and hooked up the trailer for Lady (her horse) and headed for Las Vegas.

I must say The Dream would have done much better on the hills and almost got as good mileage as his Ford Pickup. We sure are lucky to be doing most of our traveling with all the refinements of home.

Now the Rally news: The 15th Anniversary ACA Rally was a great success with all activities in one large building. This is the second rally in a row with even the display coaches inside, and it really was a nice venue. The food, vendors and seminars were nicely located together and Columbus offered much to see. We went to several restaurants in the German section of Columbus for some superb food.

The Great Lakes Chapter should be commended for a job well done with a rally that even had to be switched from its original location in Indiana. The Pink Lady Luncheon was

attended by almost 100 Ladies and a good time was had by all, while raising some money for Cancer Victims of Ohio (Hope Lodge). The luncheon was so good we returned to eat there again and had the same special shrimp dish.

We heard while at Columbus that Chuck James (in charge of service in Decatur) has been promoted to a similar position over all Fleetwood motor homes. We'll all miss him and the fine job he has always done while at American Coach. Congratulations Chuck- but don't forget about the American Coach Division. Additional news from Decatur: Paul Eskritt, who was in charge of the factory, has been promoted; and is now at corporate in charge of all Fleetwood motor home manufacturing. They sure seem to be tapping the American Coach people to run things for Fleetwood.

After leaving Columbus a group of us spent several days at The Kentucky Horse Farm- a beautiful campground and horse facility run by the State of Kentucky. While there we toured the Lexington Area, which has a lot to offer. Then it was to Sevierville, Tennessee which I must say is even busier than I remembered.

While on the subject of rally's I want to ask more of you to get involved with them. Our Rally Chairman has worked hard this last year setting up great rallies but has been having trouble getting wagon masters. You may have noticed some of the same people have had to run more than one rally.

We have almost a thousand members in the Southeast chapter and need more of you to take your turn working a rally. It's a great way to meet your fellow members and we will always put someone with experience along side to help you.

The Key West Rally was cancelled because of damages in the area caused by Hurricane Wilma. All is not lost as we have rescheduled Key West for next fall and hopefully by then it will have returned to its beauty.

I have heard several people saying their Caterpillar powered coaches lacked power on the hills and were also unhappy with fuel economy. I contacted Spartan and asked if there might be a fix available and was given a contact at Caterpillar. The contact is Tad Petrie (309) 578-2101 and he will need your engine # (90G followed by 5 numbers) when you call. He acknowledged there have been some problems on some coaches and they would try to correct them. The problems we discussed pertained mainly to the 400 hp Cat C-9.

In the last 2 months the price of diesel and gas have gone beyond my wildest dreams. With the \$400+ tanks of fuel in mind I have tried to see if I could save fuel driving a little slower. As you may remember when I had slowed from 72 mph to 65 mph fuel economy went from 8.2 mpg to 9.4 mpg. With this in mind I drove a trip and set the cruise at 60 mph the fuel economy improved to 10 mpg.

Well I guess the price increase has helped save fuel by us slowing down, and maybe it will decrease the number of accidents.

It hardly seems possible that it's been almost two years that I've been writing these newsletter articles, but time sure passes fast when you're having a good time. Now we have to vote on new officers for our club and we need some of you to step up and run. As of now we need a candidate for Vice President and Rally Chairman.

The Nominating Committee consists of Mike Kidder, Reggie Hedrick, Ron Wilkinson & Jim Youngblood if you would like to put your hat in the ring. We will be electing a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and appointing Rally & Membership Chairpersons at the Lazy Days Rally in January.

Thanks for letting me be your President these past two years,

Vic Schneider

Ron Wilkinson, Membership Chairman-

REMEMBER, your current membership expiration month for the Southeast chapter is printed on the mailing label.

It's the same expiration date for National ACA.

PLEASE check your label to see if you are LATE in renewing your membership. The By-Laws of ACA state, "if you are 60 days late you are no longer a member".

This means NO newsletter, and NO rallies. Since we have 160+ members delinquent in their dues, we are missing a lot of people at the rallies.

Remember when you renew, we have changed all renewal dates to January of each year. This makes it much easier to remember. Pre-rate your dues for the balance of a year plus the next year. (Put this little task on your holiday list).

Renewal forms are available on the SEACA web site at: www.southeastaca.org and use the login "seaca" and the password "American". or call me and I will send you an application.

Don't miss out on the fun. It's just a \$1.00 a month y'all....

Ron

Thinque Pink:

Southeast always starts The New Year off with a bang at the Lazy Days Rally in January. Once again we will be hosting a Puttin on the Pink Gala Affair the first night of the rally.

Last years auction was so successful that we're going to do it all over again. Bring stuff to sell, money to spend and please bring a goody for the desert table. This year we will also be looking for the best dressed couple for a very special award!

Also, we'd like to find a professional bingo game-- if any of you can help please call: Jo-Anne Schneider (941) 748-7717 cell 80-70-60-1



SE Chapter Holiday Rally

Sun-N-Fun RV/Resort December 1st - 4th, 2005

7125 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, Florida

Rally Hosts: Gary & Courtney Webb, Ron & Barbara Wilkinson, Dan & Renee Lee

Rally Fee: \$185.00

Rally fee includes 3 nights camping w/ full hook-ups including cable and 50 amp electric. Also 2 catered breakfasts, 1 continental breakfast, 1 catered evening Poolside Luau, 1 catered sit down dinner, gift exchange, Pet Fashion Show, Coach Christmas Decorating Contest.

Note: We only have a limited number of sites (58). Sites will be assigned strictly in the order rally registrations are received. So, send your registration in early! Please send your registration and check made payable to SE Chapter, ACA to:

Gary & Cortney Webb
303 Hermosita Dr
Saint Pete Beach, FL 33706-2803
Home: (727) 360-5506 Cell: (727) 560-5747

In order to be parked together, checks and registrations should be mailed together. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request. When your reservations are received, a confirmation letter / email, together with a tentative agenda and driving directions will be sent to you.

*****PLEASE PRINT*****CUT & MAIL*****PLEASE PRINT*****

Last Name: _____ First Names: _____ & _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ ACA #: _____

Length of your coach: _____ ft Is this your first SE Chapter Rally? (Y/N) _____

Saturday dinner entrée selection: Steak & Shrimp _____ or Grouper & Shrimp _____

Golf? (Y/N) _____ No. Playing: _____ Handicap _____

Special Needs: _____

I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ Payable to SE Chapter, ACA Check # _____