



October 2009 Newsletter

Officers



President - Dan Lee
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Rally Chairperson - Joyce Bennett
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Membership - Janice Thompson
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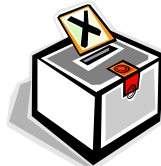
Rally Schedule



October 29 - November 1
Naples, FL Pelican RV Resort
Host: Les & Virginia Bowen



December 4 - 6
Disney World Fort Wilderness
Host: Chet & Joyce Bennet



January 14 - 17, 2010
Tampa, FL Lazydays' Rally Park
Host: Dan & Renee Lee
SEACA Elections
Lazydays Service Mechanic
Tampa RV Super Show

Feb & March, 2010
Who What When Where
Perhaps YOU!



May 28 - June 1, 2010
Gillette, WY ACA National
Host: Happy Wanderers

President's Message

Renee and I had a wonderful summer in our American Coach. We started out the summer with the rolling rally to Texarkana. Then the National

ACA Rally in Texarkana followed by a visit to Charlie Adcock's home in Searcy Arkansas. Off to Decatur for some minor fixes and from there we went to Minneapolis, Minnesota to visit with two of our daughters. We met up with Chet and Joyce Bennett and traveled across Wisconsin and Michigan ending up at Mackinaw, Michigan. We then had to return to Decatur for some unscheduled maintenance, but while we were there we were able to attend the ACC Decatur rally. We traveled with Charlie and Gloria Adcock and along with Renee's mother traveled to Maine via Montreal. Renee and I then spent a week with some good friends in Rhode Island just north of Newport. We were planning on attending the Columbus rally, but some personal issues arose and we had to return to Florida in late August. I can't believe it is autumn already and we are fast approaching our last two rallies of the year. Les Bowen and his rally crew in Naples have a great Halloween Rally planned at the beautiful Pelican Lake RV Resort. As of this writing there are some spots still open, so send in those registration forms today. If you have misplaced yours, remember you can download one from the SEACA website. We also have a Holiday Rally planned at Disney World this year. Due to the expense, we have made it a 2 day rally with an option to stay longer on your own. If you haven't been to Disney during the holidays this is a must. Our annual January Lazydays Rally will be held on January 14 - 17. It is being held in conjunction with the RV Super Show at the State Fairgrounds. Randy and his crew will not be able to service our coaches at Lazydays this year, so I sat down with Lazydays and they have agreed to provide a couple of mechanics to fix one item per coach labor free. I was very disappointed



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that American Coach couldn't make it, but Lazydays sure came through in the pinch. A big thank you to Lazydays!!

Our annual chapter officer elections will be held at the Lazydays Rally again this year. All SEACA officers are reelected every year, so if you are interested, please volunteer and help out the club. My two years as president will be up in January and we need some fresh blood to take over. The success of an organization like SEACA depends on the volunteers that take time to make it special. We have many talented people as members and my hope is that you will use those talents to make this club a success. Please contact Janice Thompson with any nominations as she has graciously accepted the job of nominating chair. I hope to see all of you at a future rally. Safe Travels
Dan Lee, President

Vice-President's Message

Hi to everyone.

Doty and I are home in Mobile, after a summer of travel. We started from home and headed west to meet with a bunch of ACA folks just leaving the rally in Texarkana. Doty had to have last minute surgery to remove gall bladder and we had to cancel out on the rolling rally and Texarkana.

After her recovery and release to travel, we met up with a bunch of SE folks and had a post rally at Charlie and Gloria Adcock's home (campground) place.

Then we were on to Albuquerque, NM, where my brother was going to have surgery. He came through that just fine and we continued our trip up to Denver to check in with a company I do consulting for and to visit family that still lives the Denver area.

From Denver we made our way to

Decatur for the "Coming Back Home Rally" via stops in Kansas City, Des Moines, and Chicago visiting family in all of those places. With as many kids and grandkids and great-grand kids as Doty and I have together, we can visit family just about every where we go...LOL Believe it or not, we have between us, 10 kids, 30 grandkids and 11 great-grand kids. I would bet that is a record for anyone in the ACA

The Rally in Decatur was very nice and a lot of fun. A big thanks to all of the ACC members that put it together, especially Rally Master Marsha Bratsburg, and Jeff, her loyal husband and gofer - you know "go for this and go for that Jeff" - and he did, what a guy. Of course, we can't forget the President of ACC, Chip Aiken and his wife Annette, who both worked tirelessly on this rally. And, it all turned out great. I also want to mention that "Trees to These" and "Cruising America" sponsored a couple of events that were excellent and such a great gesture. Thank you Greg and Kevin. Looking forward to the next one in Santa Fe, MN, in March 2010.

We then went to the FMCA rally just across the border in Ohio and enjoyed ourselves immensely. This was a very good FMCA Rally. I wish they would have had more exhibitors, I am such a gadget nut, but it was a good rally.

We joined up with a bunch of ACA SE members and headed north into Michigan to seek cooler weather and a lot of good times. We weren't disappointed and had such a good time. I don't have enough space here to tell you about everything, but it was such a good month that all of us were together and I hope that some day we can do this again. When we separated some went on into Canada and some went south back to the real world and others went east to the New

England States. Doty and I had not yet had our fill of Michigan and went west into the UP and really enjoyed the cool climate and exquisite beauty of the Upper Peninsula. Both of us having doctor appointments, we then headed back home where we were suddenly brought back to reality with the heat and humidity of LA (Lower Alabama). Oh well, we love it except for the summer.

We had been planning on attending the Naples rally, but will not be able to make this one. The company I do consulting work for in Denver is taking Doty and I to Costa Rica for a 7 day all expense paid trip, starting on the 31st of Oct. We are planning on the Christmas rally in December at Ft. Wilderness, and the Lazy Days rally in January.

I hope to see everyone at these rallies and hope everyone had a great summer.

Jim Graham, Vice-President

Membership

Hope everyone had a great summer of travels, we sure did. The fall season is upon us and our rallies begin for SE. During the rally at Lazydays in January we will have our annual election of officers, and we need a membership chairman. I have served for two years, and have thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone. If you are interested in learning more about this position, just give me a call - it is one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs I've ever had. I will provide on the job experience while at Lazydays, and only a phone call away if help is needed.

Dues for SE are due January 1st of each year and are still \$12.00 -what a deal!! Keep in mind ACA dues are now \$45.00 annually.

Hope to see you at the upcoming rallies - that's where all the fun



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is!!.....Janice

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of September 24, 2009

General Account: \$5,564.18

Rally Account: \$7,065.67

The Rally Account reflects the balance after registrations and expenses for the Dayton Pre-Rally in September. The Dayton Pre-Rally had a net loss of \$217.59 due to the fact that the KOA charged \$10 cancellation fee for the cancelled sites.

Submitted by:

Mary Ann Goodhand,
Treasurer

Special National ACA Report



"Reflections on Columbus"

The fall ACA rally was held in Columbus, Ohio at the widely popular Ohio Expo Center just off the Interstate. Over 140 coaches attended and enjoyed great entertainment, visiting with friends and excellent food. The Great Lakes Chapter worked incredibly hard in putting this event on. It was a great success; my congratulations and thanks to them for all their hard work and dedication. Keep in mind now, they accepted this responsibility well over a year ago- just before the bottom dropped out of the stock market- and housing slid down the banister. Each day for them

was a new set of challenges. Their ability to stick to the task at hand, and present a terrific rally- all the while, juggling expenses, attendance, break even points and a myriad of other variables, will long be remembered. I think time will show that Charles Schmidt is now sporting more grey hair than before. But, it was a tremendous success- an event to be remembered.

On the funny side- most of the coaches were parked just to the north of the buildings where the events took place. We all had 50 Amp service and full hook-ups- which was a good thing.

However, someone apparently had drawn an "X" on the parking lot- and indeed, while we were there, every train that entered or left Columbus- passed within 100 or so feet of our coaches- they ran something like 24/7 - Not to be outdone, this lot was also immediately beneath the dual runway approach to the Columbus airport- so, also 24/7- we had two lines of commercial aircraft flying low and slow over the lot. This was a time to try out the ear-plugs. Thank Heaven, they worked pretty well.



Back to the rally- we were excited to have two dealers- Tom Johnson, and Lazydays, who between them, successfully closed a goodly number of deals for new coaches. The entertainment was outstanding, and the seminars and vendors were excellent. Long story short, if you didn't attend this event, you surely missed a fun one.

The next great rally will be in Gillette, Wyoming- in the spring of 2010. A gazillion state and national parks are within a day or so drive of this venue. Be making plans now to attend- You

don't want to miss another really fun event. Also, and don't forget- the next time you see a GLC member- take time to thank them for their hard work in the successful presentation of this wonderful event.

Special "THANKS" to Doug Thompson for this article!

Traveling Tips

For those of you who are traveling home to the sunny south, here are a few tips to help you have a safe and comfortable journey.

- Before leaving your summer point, check your fresh water tank in case you have to dry camp on the way.
- Check the tires to be sure there wasn't anything picked up during the summer that might cause a problem on the road.
- While filling your fresh water tank, look at your batteries and see if they need a little shot of water also.
- Remember to have your home utilities turned back on.
- Check to be sure your mail will be coming to the correct address.
- Does someone close to you know you will be on the road and your approximate route.



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Tech Tip of the Month

Some of us are “home” for the winter and do not go out in our motor homes except for the occasional RV rally, so here is an important tip for closing up your RV:

There are several things an owner can do to accomplish some annual maintenance items. One is to flush your hot water tank on non Hydratank coaches. If you open your external hot water tank panel you will notice a plug located at the bottom of the tank. Turn off the electric and gas to the tank and let it cool down for a couple of hours before draining. Turn off your water pump and bleed the water pressure from the system, then remove the plug and let the water drain from the tank. I think you will be amazed at how much sediment comes out.

