



Southeast Chapter Newsletter

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

www.southeastaca.org

The ACA National Rally ended today, and nearly 50 coaches hit the highway- heading for Camp Decatur- to have things tuned up, adjusted and checked.

To that end, the September newsletter is being written in the parking lot outside the American Coach repair facility. It's pouring rain- the wind is blowing like crazy.

As always, the repair team at Camp Decatur is on task- going out of their way to ensure that all of your issues are addressed and solved to your satisfaction.

These folks are incredibly skilled- and always striving to make your visit both rewarding and pleasant.

We just can't say enough positive. They are a truly wonderful team. Our hats off to them all....

The fall, 2005 Rally season got off to a great start with a pre-rally at Cross Creek RV Resort in Delaware, Ohio.

After three days of relaxation and fun at the pre-rally, where 31 of our members also spent an entire day getting trained by the Red Cross in disaster preparedness, we moved on to a wonderful national event in Columbus.

Many thanks to the Great Lakes Chapter for such a great event. Good food, excellent vendor participation, lots of great new coaches to look through- many of which were purchased by the end of the rally.....

We had 26 coaches from the Southeast chapter in attendance at Cross Creek and over 30 in attendance at Columbus- despite the issues with fuel.

The following is a short synopsis of the lineup for fall '05 and spring '06. Lots of time has been spent in planning to ensure that everyone has a great time....

Please note: You will find an unusual number of registration forms in this newsletter. The highly awaited "Blue Water Key" - The Holiday Rally at Sun 'N Fun - and a pair of forms for the January Rally at Lazy Days.

The normal tendency is to grab the Key West one- and let the other ones collect dust. Resist that thought!!! - We are sending these out early- because we need to be able to provide the various venues with hard numbers well in advance of the events.

Getting access to desirable campgrounds in Florida at this time of year has gotten a bit more difficult. Your follow-through in getting your registration forms to the rally chairmen- well in advance- will allow us to make sure we have enough reserved space for all who wish to attend.

1st Annual Do Nothing Rally- October 13th - 16th - A truly kick back and relax event. We've got a coach-side cookout planned.... several happy hours... not much else.

Of course, we'll take a bicycle tour of the new American coach display while we're there to see what's happening- who knows what may develop.

(There is probably still time to join this event- if you act right away. If you'd like to attend, please call the hosts- the registration form is on the website.)

Next is one of our most popular events:

Blue Water RV Resort, Key West - November 11th - 14th - Is probably the most beautiful RV Resort Park in the United States. Each site is surrounded with native plants, a Tiki hut, and has a concrete pad.

Vic and Jo-Anne, along with Joyce and Chet Bennett are your hosts.

Please note, in order to gain more spaces- the days of this event are not the normal Thursday to Sunday pattern. This one starts a day later. Details are in the registration form- enclosed in this newsletter.

We are quite restricted as to the number of sites available for this event- as always- get your registration forms in right away to avoid being placed on the waiting list.

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.

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.

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

Lazy Days' - Rally Park - January 19th - 22nd - We have 150 spaces reserved at this time for the January event. As always, Rally Park goes out of their way to make sure we all have fun.

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". Full details to this event will be published in the October/November newsletter....

Remember, the official annual meeting of the club takes place at this event as well, including election of officers.

In the mean time- you'll see the registration form in this newsletter.... please send it in as soon as possible.

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. This registration form is to be included with the October 15th +/- newsletter. If you wish to attend this rally, please respond immediately when you see it next month.....

Blueberry Hill, Bushnell - March 23rd - 26th - This highly regarded park is our venue for a fun and relaxing outing.

Located in beautiful Sumter county- close to fishing and water sports- and of course time to just relax if you like.

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

Planned events include a night of star gazing- 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.

... Looking for comments/input....

Informal Rally Planning Survey- Although we try to vary our rallies, their locations and what we plan as events, it is easy to get into a rut.

Your leadership team is always looking for feedback- and suggestions with respect to locations, activities and overall themes.

Are catered breakfasts a necessity? - Would you like to see more pot lucks? - What do we need to do to boost the number of coaches in attendance?

Broad stroke, Rally Park in January notwithstanding- we can expect to see approximately 30 to 35 coaches at any of our 8 annual planned events. With a membership of over 400 coaches, this doesn't represent 10 percent.

Your thoughts and input are appreciated. Drop an email or call a member of the board.... we are striving to make your rally season fun- and need your thoughts- Thanks.

Housekeeping duties:

Our **Annual membership Roster** is made available in January '06. If you have changed your email address.... moved, or changed your cell phone- and have not corrected your personal information with membership chairman Ron Wilkinson- the wrong information will find its way into the final document.

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. We'd like for this roster to be as accurate as possible. 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.

A most Hearty Welcome to our new members:

Carlton & Brenda LeMond,	Montevallo, AL
Joe & Mary Jane Rickard	Marathon, FL
Ray & Suzy Koeppen	Livingston, TX
William Baldwin	Holiday, MO
Jay Bumpers	Palm City, FL
Michael Hartog	Treasure Island, FL
Steven Selzer	Edgewater, FL
Angela Patton	Sarasota, FL
Frank Barno	Zephyrhills, FL
Emil Tedesco	N Ft. Myers, FL
Steven Gibbons	Riverview, FL
Robert & Nicole Mau	Montpelier, VA
Joseph & Norine Dillon	Naples, FL
James & Carmen Justice	Green Cove Spgs, FL
David & Nancy Ponte	Westport, MA

Officers Reports:

Vic Schneider, Chapter President

Welcome from River Plantation RV Park in Sevierville, Tennessee. Yesterday was the first day of fall; meaning we now have only another 2 months of the 2005 Hurricane Season?

Katrina has devastated Louisiana, Mississippi and parts of Alabama. Many residents who had to evacuate to Houston and other places are now on the run again from Rita.

With this in mind we started a fund raiser to help Katrina victims during The Columbus Rally. We received a donation of \$5,000 from Lazy Days to start it off. During the Rally, we received additional donations of \$1,561 for a total of \$6,561. We are very proud to be presenting a check from SEACA for this amount to The Salvation Army to be used to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

In my last article, I mentioned diesel prices of over \$2.50 per gallon in New York. Just two months later, we're seeing \$3 + and talk of shortages and even higher prices soon. I have talked with many members who say they now are driving slower and are seeing a considerable improvement in fuel economy. Most say they have seen an extra mile or more per gallon by slowing to 60 MPH.

We attended the pre-rally at Delaware, Ohio and Paul Wells arranged for The Red Cross to have a training course for volunteers. It required 8 hours of instruction, broken into three separate sections. 31 SEACA members attended.

Several of us who attended have volunteered and are awaiting an assignment to help immediately in the Gulf Area.

If you would like to participate, I suggest you contact your local Red Cross and make arrangements for this and any additional training that may be required.

Once you have this training ask your local Red Cross to notify The National Red Cross when you are ready to go. We will have more information on this as soon as it is available. Check the website for up to the minute information- or contact Paul Wells.

On to the national rally- where all of the coaches, vendors, seminars and food were all in one air conditioned building. Some Southeast members assisted The Great Lakes Chapter which did a great job making this rally a great success.

I understand that over 21 new coaches were sold by the three dealers attending the rally. Randy's crew was on duty with extra manpower to install the headlight updates and take good care of us all. I believe over 175 of the coaches in attendance received the new headlight wiring and relays. I personally had service done on several items and must say this was the best service I've ever had at a rally.

I also attended several seminars and meetings at the rally and was pleased to say that American Coach will now see more control coming out of Decatur.

Also, the large Fleetwood signs will no longer appear on new coaches and service technicians and other employees will once again wear American Coach patches on their shirts. I also heard we may soon find Michelin Tires, Villa Furniture and Cummins Engines available in the near future just to name a few of the possible changes.

I also expect to see a closer relationship between American Coach and coach owners to address concerns on items or changes we would like to see in new Coaches.

The Pink Ladies had a very successful Luncheon in Columbus raising money for The American Cancer Society (Hope Lodge) in Ohio.

Sincerely, Vic Schneider

Ron Wilkinson, Membership Chairman-

Remember- your membership expiration month for the Southeast chapter is printed on the newsletter mailing label. Please check it to see if you are late in renewing.

Remember when you renew, we are changing all membership renewals to January of each year. All this fun costs you only \$1 a month- Be sure to stay in the game. - Prorate your dues for the balance of a year + the next.

Southeast Chapter Disaster Relief Program:

Thank you **Steve Southerland**- your idea has become a reality. The Southeast ACA Disaster Action Team (DAT) is up- running- and operational.

At the pre-Rally in Delaware, Ohio, 31 SEACA members completed the required Red Cross basic training classes.

The courses were: Disaster Services, Mass Care and Shelter Operations. Now that they are trained, they must take the following steps to become a volunteer:

1. Become a member of their local Red Cross Chapter.
2. Join the Escapees- www.escapees.com
3. Join the Doves- www.dovebof.org

Steps 2 and 3 are necessary so that you can be deployed in your coach. The Doves have a written agreement with the Red Cross, and have been doing this for years. The Doves coordinate all the activities with the Red Cross.

Please email me when you have completed any or all of the steps. **The first coach has been deployed.....** Sondra and I are working in Montgomery, AL !!!!

The Red Cross needs you!... Their goal is to increase the number of volunteers by 40,000. All you need to do is to contact your local Red Cross chapter, and complete the mandatory training. Everyone must be affiliated with a chapter.

Also, you must have training before you can become involved. So, don't wait for training at a rally- Call your local Red Cross Today! If you have any questions- please call **Paul Wells at 302-228-7768.**

Our Hearts go out to Jean Booth..... Her husband Jim, passed away on August 18th, 2005. They were long standing members of the Southeast chapter, and enjoyed a deep love of RV'ing. Jim was 76.

He was a member of Southeast Motorcoach Association, Southeast American Coach Association, FMCA and the VFW.

Jim is survived by his wife Jean of Polk City, sons David Booth of Tyler, TX and Ray Booth of Stonewall, LA, a daughter, Cheri Richardson of Shreveport, LA, two brothers, a sister, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Note:

Your Southeast ACA Chapter officers are elected each year in January. If you are interested in running for a chapter office, please contact a member of the nominating com-

mittee or chapter vice president Doug Thompson.

There are four officers and two appointed members, all of whom serve at the pleasure of the membership.

They are: president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. The appointees are: rally chairman and membership chairman.

Looking for articles.... a note from your newsletter editor.....

As always.... please direct items of interest, campgrounds that we can't miss and things of general interest to the membership to:

Email: doug@rvzoomin.com

Snail mail:

Doug Thompson
307 Los Prados Drive
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Thanks..... !!!

Also, I carefully followed Vic's advice on keeping my foot off the pedal- We just finished 2,200 miles on the round trip to Columbus. My two full fillups yielded 9.26 and 9.30 miles per gallon. Eureka!!! - It worked.

And, the headlight upgrade makes all the difference in the world. Keep this in mind if you have not had this done on your coach. I'm sure that the additional lumens will contribute to a higher level of safety along the road.

Website:

www.southeastaca.org

All current club information, registration forms, nifty rally pictures, and news which occurs between newsletter publications are on this site.

We have had great success with the new feature "**Breaking News**" since its beginning in early summer. Anything that needs to be communicated is placed there as needed.

Please take a look at the site- make suggestions/comments- let us know how it looks to you.... and what we can do to improve it.....

Your webmasters....

Dan Lee

Doug Thompson