

**September 2015 Tiffin Travelers Member Newsletter**  
**Words From Your Prez**

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**Greetings**

Hello. Hello. Summer's end is near and most of us are still as warm as when last I wrote at the beginning of summer. All too soon we will be cool enough.

After Tom and I saw some of you at our June Chattanooga Rally, we traveled with TT member friends to Kentucky to do some zip lining (you should try it!), NASCAR races, and the Kentucky Bourbon Trail experience. Yes, we did the Trail, had our Trail Passports stamped accordingly, sampled NUMEROUS offerings of bourbon, and got our free t-shirts. After also doing the NASCAR Truck Series race in Ohio at Tony Stewart's Eldora Speedway (a dirt track and all it entails), Tom and I attended the FMCA 92<sup>nd</sup> Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase in Madison, Wisconsin. At last count, we recall seeing 19 other TT member coaches there. I'll talk more about Madison later.

It was a summer of fun and experiences. Hopefully, each of you also had your summer of fun.

**Newsletter Re-invented**

This is the first submission in a new way of communicating to our members. If you are reading this, you already know :-), but for the sake of "keeping you informed", here is the detail of where we are with news and why we got here.....

Henceforth, newsletters will be posted to our web site [www.tiffintravelers.info](http://www.tiffintravelers.info). An e-mail notification to read the recently posted newsletter will be emailed to every e-mail address on record. On the left side of the home page, the first link is "Newsletters". Clicking on that link will take you to the most recently published news and prior news, so take care to read the dates of the articles to make sure you are reading the most current. (We sometimes might have an issue with chronological order of postings.)

We have only 1 or 2 members who do not provide us with email addresses. Those few were not receiving the e-mailed newsletters. We have some members who say their partner in crime didn't tell them about an e-mailed newsletter, or deleted it before they could read it. We have some members who don't recall getting an e-mailed newsletter. Posting the newsletters to the web page will resolve these e-mail issues and the newsletters will be there for you to refer back to if you need them.

Even if you don't get an e-mail notification to read the recently posted newsletter, visit the site at least once a month. Take a peek to see what might be new at several links on the web site: "Newsletters"; "Rallies and Gatherings"; and much less often, "Meeting Minutes". We will do our best to keep you informed in regular postings, but the reading is up to you.

### **Deadline is NOW for October Rally in NC**

Tiffin Travelers Post GEAR Rally is October 18, 2015, at Rutledge Lake RV Park in Fletcher, NC. Four rally nights. The September 18 deadline to reserve was set by the RV Park. After that date, they release to the public any sites held for, but not reserved by, our members. There may still be a few sites available, but act now if you haven't reserved yet.

**Call 828-654-7873 now to reserve your site** at a nightly rate of \$45 for full hook-ups (rate includes tax). When reserving a site, be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers Rally".

The rally hosts, Phyllis and Dave Hunter, have prepared a preliminary agenda which includes an afternoon theater event - Flat Rock Playhouse ("Pump Boys and Dinettes"), \$36 per person. Advance headcount is required immediately. If attending the rally, email your arrival and departure dates to rally hosts Phyllis and Dave Hunter, at [Phyllis@aslsystems.com](mailto:Phyllis@aslsystems.com). Also, advise if you are attending the theater event. Don't leave the hosts hanging. (The preliminary agenda is posted to the web site in the "Rallies and Gatherings" section.)

The park is less than five miles from the FMCA (GEAR) Eastern Area Rally. Attend GEAR and then move to more fun! And, you can dump your tanks at a full hook-up park. :- )

If we book 25 member coaches for the Rutledge Lake RV Park rally, the club will buy a catered dinner for attending members. AND, there is another special treat for Tiffin owners attending GEAR! Double your fun and register for GEAR and the Rutledge Lake RV Park rally. Read on about the treat to be offered at GEAR.....

### **FMCA GEAR – Greater Eastern Area Rally**

FMCA GEAR is October 15 in Fletcher, NC at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center. The rally theme is "Twilight in the Blue Ridge Mountains". The agenda includes nightly entertainment, numerous seminars, a chapter fair, socials, a vast array of display coaches and other activities. We usually have several dozen member coaches in attendance at this annual event; and we see even more Tiffin owners who are not yet members of our club. To register for this event, go to <http://www.fmca.com/chapters/area-rallies.html> and click on the appropriate links.

- There will not be a club meeting during this event, but there is sure to be opportunities for socializing and sharing with other Tiffin owners. One such opportunity will be a dinner out. All Tiffin owners in attendance at GEAR will be treated to a dinner out by Tiffin Motorhomes and Campers Inn of Mocksville. There you have it, another bonus to register for GEAR and also register for the post-GEAR Tiffin Travelers rally.
- In my absence, VP Boots Malin has graciously stepped forward to coordinate the club's participation in the Chapter Fair for recruiting new members and meeting old friends. He would appreciate anyone lending him a hand and standing with him to meet other Tiffin owners.
- Member, Nick Paul, is once again in charge of organizing this event's display of new coaches. I'm told he has lined-up an even greater number of display units than last year.
- Last but not least for GEAR, Marge Mazzone is spearheading our club's responsibility for monitoring all of the rally seminars. Thanks again to Marge. She needs to hear from a few volunteer attendees who have an hour to sit during a seminar and maybe learn something new. A seminar monitor basically keeps track of the time for the presenter, takes attendance, distributes handouts and other such small but important tasks to support the presenter. Open yourself to new experiences and meet new people. To volunteer, contact Marge at [marge.mazzone@verizon.net](mailto:marge.mazzone@verizon.net)

### **Membership**

We signed seven new member coaches after the Madison FMCA rally. Welcome to: James and Ada Doering, Richard and Patricia Dupee, Duane and Hayden Gray, Bill and Diane Freed, Rick and Terry Loewen, Kelly and Sally Moore, and, Rod and Lisa Patton.

Farewell to Bob and Patricia Willis, who have sold their Tiffin and resigned from membership.

### **July's FMCA 92nd Family Reunion**

The FMCA 92nd Family Reunion National Convention was July 29 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI. I took note of 19 other Tiffin Travelers member coaches in attendance. There may have been more on the grounds, but that many came by our coach for afternoon social early in the week. Fun times with friends.

Later in the week we held a meet-and-greet event attended by a larger contingent of Tiffin owners and Tiffin Motorhomes representatives. Due to catering restrictions at the venue, we were unable to offer food and beverage, but we made use of the space for an hour to introduce our club and our special guests. We gave floor time to one of our members, Richard King, who is co-chairing a TRVN rally next year. And, we gave floor time to Kelly Moore, President of Tiffin's Allegro Club (who, along with wife Sally, has since joined our club). And, we gave floor time to Tiffin's National Sales Director, Andy Baer; and to Tiffin's Dealer Support Rep, Tom Webber. Most of our members are also members of the Allegro Club, and many of our members also participate in TRVN (Tiffin RV Network is an on-line owner's forum). We share common interests in the product, so why not learn about each other's organizations and grow our fun as a result.....seven new members since the Madison event. :- )

In my closing remarks of this publication, I will add additional Madison and FMCA related thoughts.

### **Summary of Governing Board Meeting**

Our National Director, Marge Mazzone, dutifully attended the FMCA Governing Board meeting and has submitted her report as follows:

*The Governing Board Meeting of FMCA was convened on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. Of 404 chapters, 289 or 69% were represented.*

*The budget for 2016 was passed with a surplus of \$10,709.00. It was noted that FMCA Assist will again this year be funded by reserve income. President Charlie Adcock noted that 43 members used the FMCA Assist program this past year.*

*A proposal to have the chapter president appoint a temporary delegate in the event that the National Director or Alternate National Director cannot attend the Governing Board meeting was approved. Notice of the chapter president's appointment of a temporary delegate shall be received by FMCA at least seven working days prior to the Governing Board meeting to be valid.*

*The Review Council unanimously moved that the Governing Board approve the Area National Vice President residency requirement to allow a person to be eligible to be an Area National Vice President if the person belongs to a chapter in the area, resides in the immediate vicinity in an adjacent Area, and has attended the Area Rallies in the Area in which he/she seeks election. This proposal was passed by the Governing Board by a vote of 155 For, and 106 Against.*

*The Convention Committee reported that the 2016, 94th Family Reunion scheduled for August 3rd – 6th, 2016, location has been changed to West Springfield, Massachusetts, pending successful negotiations. The winter convention will be held in Perry, Georgia in March, 2016.*

*The Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of officers for the 2015 – 2017 term.*

*National President - Charlie Adcock,  
National Senior Vice-President – John Walker  
National Secretary – John Ferrari  
Gaye Young  
National Treasurer – Percy Bell*

*President Charlie Adcock, National Senior Vice-President John Walker, and National Treasurer Percy Bell were all elected by acclamation. A written ballot was taken for National Secretary. Gaye Young was elected by a vote of 143 to John Ferrari 131.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marge Mazzone  
National Director, Tiffin Travelers Chapter*

### **January 2016 Florida RV Super Show**

The Florida RV Supershow is scheduled again for the Florida State Fairgrounds Hwy. 301 Tampa. The dates are January 13 - 17, 2016. <http://events.frvta.org/florida-rv-supershow/> We need a coordinator if there is to be a Gathering of our members on the grounds. Members Barry and Linda Lindquist coordinated last year. Contact Frances Fonner if you would like to step forward to handle this event.

### **March 2016 FMCA 93<sup>rd</sup> Family Reunion**

The Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry, Georgia is the site for this FMCA National Convention to be held March 17 to 20, 2016. <http://www.fmca.com/conventions-64/perry-2016.html> Tom and I have already made our reservations for this event and have also registered to volunteer during the event.

Due to its history of having many of our members in attendance, we hope to schedule an hour for our required annual business meeting. And, because there are usually many non-member Tiffin owners in attendance, we hope to schedule an "All Tiffin Owners Social". I will work to have both of these published on the Perry event schedule.

### **April 2016 Rally at Coastal Georgia RV Resort**

Coastal Georgia RV Resort in Brunswick, GA is the site of the April 11, 2016 Tiffin Travelers Rally. Four rally nights.

Deadline to reserve is March 11, 2016, and then sites will be released to the public to accommodate those RV'ers migrating north. Migration is serious business for this park due to its easy access to I-95 and its well-equipped facility, including paved and landscaped sites. If you snooze and miss the reservation deadline, you lose. Thank you to those who have already registered!

**Call (912) 264-3869 to reserve your site** at \$35.70 per night for 50-amp, full hook-up sites. The resort will take one night's rental deposit to reserve your site. If you cancel by April 8, 2016 you will have all but \$5 of your deposit refunded. There is no refund of deposit if you cancel after April 8, 2016.

When reserving a site, be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers Rally", and email your arrival and departure date to rally hosts Tom and Frances Fonner, [tomfonner@aol.com](mailto:tomfonner@aol.com). The resort's privacy policy prohibits them telling the Fonnors who has registered, and they sure would like to know you are coming.

When preliminary agenda info is developed, it will be posted to the web site. We are working toward sightseeing, dining and shopping opportunities on nearby historic Jekyll and/or St. Simons Islands. Jekyll Island also presents opportunities for a golf outing. And, if we book 25 member coaches for the rally, the club will buy a catered dinner for attending members.

### **June 2016 Rally at Americamps RV Resort**

Americamps RV Resort in Ashland, VA (I-95 Exit 89, north of Richmond) is the site of the Tiffin Travelers Rally on June 22, 2016. Four rally nights. This event will be hosted by Carol and Lou Mandik. When preliminary agenda info is ready, it will be posted to the web site.

Call 800-682-2802 to reserve your full hook-up site at the nightly rate of \$40. Rate also includes breakfast each morning of waffles, coffee and juice. No deposit required for site reservations. Don't forget to mention Tiffin Travelers when reserving. And, send an email to the Mandiks at [cmandik@verizon.net](mailto:cmandik@verizon.net) to let them know of your arrival and departure dates.

### **Closing Remarks**

Life, Tiffin Travelers, FMCA events such as Madison was, or as GEAR and Perry will be - They are all and each what you make of them. They can be as little or as much as you put into them. The organizers of these events and the leaders of these organizations continue to strive to keep things entertaining for the members. Of equal importance is their realization that making things fresh and new will encourage participation, enlist new members and maintain membership strength. If vitality and/or revitalization is a goal, we each own the responsibility to contribute ideas and participate.

I'm one of our club's younger members, but I often am like many others who would rather occupy ourselves in isolation rather than get out of the "house" and mingle. Surprised? But when I do get out, I'm the better for it. Organizing our club's affairs or attending activities at larger events is a similar challenge for me. I'll drag my feet at first, or I'll hide inside more than I should, but look out when I start moving and/or talking and/or typing. Not surprised?

Tom and I volunteer at rallies. It gets us out. We meet people. We learn things. And we add value. Trying something new, I volunteered at the FMCA Store on day one of the Madison convention. I re-arranged inventory for improved sales; stacked and re-stacked; folded and re-folded; and assisted buyers with finding sizes and colors that "brought out the color of their eyes". The FMCA Store had record sales that day. Hooray! Great for the FMCA store, but more importantly for me, I experienced life outside my four walls. Try volunteering a few hours at an FMCA rally or assisting with club events and rallies. There are many different venues where you are needed, and your windows to the world will open a bit wider.

I'll offer one other "experience improver" before ending this newsletter - the FMCA "Under 60 Task Force".

<http://community.fmca.com/forum/118-under-60-task-force/>

Membership is available to all FMCA members who have not yet turned 60. If your partner doesn't qualify, there's no worry. You are allowed to bring them along to share the fun at Task Force social events. Once on the Task Force, membership continues until your 65th birthday. By then, we hope to have an alumni organization. The Task Force isn't out to change the world; it just hopes to keep pace with the world as it changes.

As always, remember to periodically visit our [www.tiffintravelers.info](http://www.tiffintravelers.info) web site for possible updates regarding upcoming "Rallies and Gatherings". If you have questions about events on the calendar, please contact the point person for that particular event as indicated on the web site. If no point person is listed, you can email [tiffintravelers@gmail.com](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com) for assistance.

Stay safe and well. Enjoy North Carolina in October and make your reservations for Perry, Brunswick and Ashland. See you down the road.

Frances Fonner, President  
Tiffin Travelers