

## **March 2017 Tiffin Travelers Member Newsletter**

### **Words from Your Prez**

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#### **Greetings**

Last month, we held our largest chapter rally to date, elected a new slate of officers, and set adventure dates for the summer and fall. Those topics will all be covered later in this newsletter. This newsletter will also cover money-saving, information-sharing and shopping opportunities. Enjoy the read and remember two important things:

- 1) If our chapter is doing it (or is making plans to do it), you can read about it on our web site. A significant amount of time is spent communicating to chapter members via pages on the web site and a few associated emails. Please take the time to read the information made available to you.
- 2) At chapter activities during rallies and gatherings, we share interests and enjoy ownership of common products - Tiffin coaches. Without rallies and gatherings, what is the purpose of our chapter's existence? (Refer to the web site to understand the difference between a "rally" and a "gathering".) Most, but not all, of the "gatherings" are handled by the chapter officers. Consider how you can add value to your membership and the chapter's existence by (you) hosting a future "rally" in a location that interests you. We need a representative number of our general membership to offer hosting future rallies. You will get all the support and guidance you need if you take the lead.

#### **Thanks**

Thank you, thank you to previous rally hosts, those who have hosted numerous times, and those who have hosted or will be hosting for the first time. Carol and Lou Mandik hosted us in Virginia last June. Joann and Geary Herndon, along with Ron and Nancy Bristol, will be hosting their first rally this June in Kentucky. Don and Debra Beck will be hosting their second rally this October in South Carolina. And, the Fonnors hosted their fourth and fifth rallies in Georgia last April and in Florida this February.

Thank you to the chapter officers wrapping-up their two year term of service, and to the new slate recently elected to serve through May of 2019.

#### **Membership**

As of this writing, our chapter now has 177 member coaches.

Since the December 2016 Newsletter, 6 new member coaches and 1 reinstatement have been added to the roster. We look forward to seeing these friends soon at one of our activities: Robert and Carolyn Chinn; George and

Maureen Depsky; Robert and Sandra Miller; David and Janice Rothman, with dad Jo Turk; John and Sheila Smart; Rocky and Renate Smith; and, Roderick and Deborah Weaver.

### **June 2017 Tiffin Travelers Rally in Georgetown, KY**

Registrations are now being accepted for the Tiffin Travelers rally to be held during June 2017 at Whispering Hills RV Park in Georgetown, KY. The resort is located about 10 miles north of Lexington, KY at 257 Rogers Gap Road. There will be four nights of rally activities beginning the afternoon of June 21<sup>st</sup>. Rally hosts are Joann and Geary Herndon; and, Ron and Nancy Bristol.

To extend the fun and fellowship while exploring the surrounding area, arrive early or stay late. The rally rate for a full hook-up, pull through site is \$36.90 per night. Or, enjoy seven (7) nights for the weekly rate of \$246. There is no cancellation fee if you cancel more than eight (8) days prior to check-in.

**Deadline to reserve your site is May 25<sup>th</sup>.** Check out the rally park at [whisperinghillsv.com](http://whisperinghillsv.com). The park's site map can be found there by accessing the "Guest Online Guide". Choose from what remain of these allocated rally sites: 27, 29, 33, 142 thru 162 (even numbers only), and 209 thru 222. Call (502) 863-2552 for reservations. Be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers". After making your reservation, don't forget to email your arrival and departure date information to the hosts at [jamherndon@hotmail.com](mailto:jamherndon@hotmail.com). Headcounts are important to rally hosts.

Being in the vicinity of Lexington, Kentucky, this rally has a variety of sightseeing opportunities. The March 2017 Family Motorcoaching magazine featured "A Trio of Kentucky Parks" in an article on pages 78-81. Several of the Bourbon Trail distilleries are nearby. Also nearby is the Kentucky Horse Park, where you can visit the International Museum of the Horse; the American Saddlebred Museum; daily horse shows featuring multiple international breeds; and, other activities focusing on horses and horse history. Close to the RV park is a large Toyota factory which is open to the public for tours.

Rally information can be found at the "Rallies and Gatherings" link of the [tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info) web site. Agenda information will also be published there when it develops further, but most probably not until late May.

### **Post Event Comments About the February Annual Meeting and Rally**

Lazydays RV Resort in Seffner, Florida was the site of our chapter's annual business meeting, election of officers, and our largest chapter rally to date. Our allocation of sites was filled a month in advance of the reservation deadline, so some interested members were not able to join the fun even though they attempted to make reservations in advance of the deadline. Most of the 39 member coaches attending extended their stay with early arrival and late departure for the five-night event which kicked off on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Note to future rally hosts and attendees: As expected, rallies in the deep south during winter "snowbird season" will have high attendance. Rallies in the migration path to and from the south's "snowbird season" will have high attendance. Heed the cautions to make site reservations well in advance of the posted deadlines.

The event was hosted by Frances and Tom Fonner. Highlights included: 5 afternoon socials, with snacks provided at 2 of them; 2 catered dinners; 1 catered full breakfast; a two-hour yacht cruise with a lovely luncheon and a DJ for dancing; a winery tasting event accompanied by food pairings and wine education; afternoon indoor table games, cards and corn hole; morning craft sessions of jewelry making and painting; an evening outdoor movie with popcorn; and, the annual business meeting and election of officers.

The weather cooperated. Yahoo! With the exception of some slightly-pink chicken breasts, the catered meals were well received and more than filling. The hosts were very pleased with the attendance at socials and afternoon games. Heretofore, games were a tough sell to rally attendees.

The logistics of contracting the meals and off-site events were only slightly daunting. Many thanks to the rally attendees for reserving sites months in advance of the deadline; and, for being very quickly responsive to emails requesting interest in and prepayment for the meals and off-site activities. Member cooperation and

responsiveness allowed the rally hosts to nail down the contractual aspects in between their numerous trips away from the postal mail delivery of rally activity payments from members.

Thank you to John Reynolds for donating FMCA goodies and memorabilia for members to choose from.

Once again, Marge Mazzone stepped up to lead interested members in the creation of wearable art in the form of necklaces and earrings. It is always a treat to be able to sport something you created. And, marvelous Marty Whitney fascinated a group of novice artists with her stories and humor as she led them through the creation of brilliantly painted laminated bookmarks. Thank you Marge and Marty. We look forward to calling upon you again to help unleash our inner Tiffany and Rembrandt tendencies.

In keeping with the chapter's standing rule to donate \$100 to a local charity during a rally, the Fonner hosts selected the Central Florida USO as recipient of the donation.

#### **Post-Event Comments about February SEA in Lakeland**

FMCA Southeastern Area's annual rally was held at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Before attending our chapter rally later in the month, quite a few of our members attended this event. As is customary at large events like this, our member coaches were spread around the very large grounds in various hook-up venues – full hook-up, electric only, volunteer, handicap, full generator, etc. Although I suspect we missed a few in the count, we know there were at least 19 of our member coaches in attendance.

The Southeastern Area put on a very nice event, the weather was fantastic, and we had several opportunities to squeeze afternoon coach-side socials into the week's busy schedule of crafts, seminars, breakfast, picnic lunch, ice cream social, morning coffee and donuts, nightly entertainment, vendors, excursions, coach displays and meetings. Funny thing about the weather.... if anything, we may have wanted a sprinkle or two to knock down a little of the dust. But we ask for too much when we seek perfection.

This was the first time SEA used this venue, but rumor has it that it may very well become a long-term arrangement to hold the SEA annual events at this location. There was no shortage of spaces to park the large number of attendees. And, rumors fly that additional full hook-up sites may be added as condition of the long-term planning. And, fingers crossed, the parking process will become smoother and quicker with less time spent waiting and waiting.

If you might be in the southeast during next February, pencil-in the possibility of attending SEA and watch for it on the FMCA calendar. You will enjoy the week.

#### **February Annual Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the chapter's annual business meeting are now posted to the [tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info) web site. They are available for reading at the "Meeting Minutes" link, and are labeled as "February 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes".

#### **Officer Elections**

During the annual business meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> the below listed slate of officer candidates was presented by Nominating Committee designee Jayne Reynolds. There were no nominations from the floor.

Congratulations to the officers who will serve a two-year term through May 2019.

President Frances Fonner  
Vice President Tom Gulya  
Secretary Carol Mandik  
Treasurer Tom Fonner  
National Director Marge Mazzone  
Alternate National Director Nick Paul

Thank you to the officers whose term is expiring and who opted not to seek reelection: outgoing VP Boots Malin; and, outgoing Secretary Phyllis Hunter.

### **FMCA Member Issue Vote**

The current status of this issue is discussed in the "February 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes" document posted to the web site. It was previously mentioned in the December 2016 Newsletter as a "...vote underway in FMCA to allow the FMCA Executive Board to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Family Motor Coach Association." Sadly, of the more than 70,000 members of FMCA, votes were cast by only 1% of the membership, reflecting a remarkable lack of interest in the outcome of the vote. The vote passed in favor of amending the Articles.

On page 6 of the hot-off-the-press April 2017 Family Motor Coaching magazine, FMCA President Charlie Adcock provides us additional information on this topic.

At the FMCA national convention in July of 2017, the Governing Board will be presented with the next step of this initiative when they will vote on whether to allow towable recreational vehicles as full members into FMCA. Look for information regarding this topic in future issues of the Family Motorcoaching magazine. If the vote is approved by the Governing Board, FMCA members will again be called upon to submit their votes.

For the purposes of our chapter's National Director having a feel for our thoughts when she casts her vote in July, our members were emailed about the topic. They were allowed to express a "yes" or "no" vote (to allow towables) and were asked to respond by March 24<sup>th</sup> (a four week window to respond). Of the 172 chapter member coaches polled, responses were received from 34, with pilot and co-pilot responses received from some of those 34. All responses were shared, unedited, with National Director Marge Mazzone. The results of all votes received were: 61% against/no; versus 39% for/yes.

For those interested in the future direction of FMCA, please look for and respond to opportunities to give feedback when those opportunities present themselves in emails, magazines and other correspondence from FMCA. As always, many thanks to those who took the few minutes to respond when asked for input. In the grand scheme of things, it does matter.

### **FMCA ID Plates**

In response to a recent inquiry, here is a bit of information about those FMCA egg-shaped member signs on our ladders. Kiley Mold Company is the vendor for these items for your motorhome or towed vehicle. They advertise monthly in the Family Motorcoaching magazine (page 103 of the April 2017 issue). Their web site is KileyMold.com and there is info on the FMCA.com web site.

Kiley sells the black molded plates, ladder mounting brackets, key chains, hitch receiver covers, and other related items and mounting options.

### **Office Depot/Office Max Savings**

From personal and repeated experience, I can tell you this FMCA benefit is a jewel. You may never use the FMCA Medical Assist touted frequently as a major benefit of FMCA membership, but using this shopping benefit can quickly offset a significant portion of your FMCA annual dues. In the simple process of making copies for our chapter's meetings and rallies, I have saved significant dollars by using the FMCA discount! Frugal Franny counts your dimes and dollars. Start saving good money on office products, copy service, printer ink, printer paper, etc. Savings example: Recently saved 26% on printer ink; and, saved 79% on self-service copies made.

The benefit is advertised each month in the Family Motorcoaching magazine (page 97 of the April 2017 issue). It is also covered in the member benefits on the FMCA.com web site. Clip the two-sided coupon from the magazine. Also clip the "FREE lamination of your Discount Card" coupon from the same page of the magazine. Take them both to an Office Depot/Office Max store. They will laminate your clipped Store Purchasing Card for free.

### Tiffin Travelers Name Badges

One of the very few rules of our group is the requirement to wear a name tag during our rallies and gatherings. Violators of the rule risk the peril of paying a 50 cent fine to our fierce sheriff! ;- ) Although any name badge design or construction is allowable, we do have our "Tiffin Travelers" badges available for purchase through Mr. Ken's.

Mr. Ken no longer attends the events at which we often saw him, but he is still in business to fill orders. The contact information, pricing and order form shown at the link on our web site is correct as of this writing. Other products are available, but the basic name badges can be ordered with either the customary pin for attaching or with a magnet for attaching.

### FMCA Music Camp 2017

Do you have an itch to dust off the instrument in the closet? Been dying to exercise the vocals? Want to be around others with interests in making music.....maybe to test the waters and give in to the temptation to jump in....just a little? Here is your chance.

Our chapter member, Bruce Taylor, is president of the FMCA Frustrated Maestros Eastern Sharps and Flats. He invites you to join the fun for a pre-GEAR rally and 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Music Camp at the State Fairgrounds of West Virginia. Early arrival is September 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Normal arrival is September 25<sup>th</sup>. Camp is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup>. September 30<sup>th</sup> is a free day. Departure is October 1<sup>st</sup> unless registrants are staying on for GEAR.

Six (6) nights of camping with 30amp full hook-up is \$185. Early arrival on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> is \$25 additional per night. Mail your check for the appropriate amount, payable to Eastern Sharps & Flats, to:

Sandy Martin, Treasurer  
81 Madbury Road  
Durham, NH 03824

Include with your check the following information: Pilot and co-pilot name; designation of instrument or voice for each; address; phone number; email address; FMCA number.

### Future Events

- May 1 – 5 is the FMCA International Area INTO rally in Branson, Missouri. The event is listed on our web site and has already sold out. For those of you lucky to have registered early, there will be "**Gathering**" social opportunities. Our VP Tom Gulya will be there. Any others of our chapter's members attending are asked to send him an email at [gullimgmt@gmail.com](mailto:gullimgmt@gmail.com) so that he can include you in any social activities he might cook up.
- June 5 – 9 is the Allegro Club rally in Lewisburg, West Virginia. The event is listed on our web site and has already sold out. For those of you lucky to have registered early, there will be "**Gathering**" social opportunities. President Frances and Treasurer Tom Fonner will be there. Any others of our chapter's members attending are asked to send them an email at [tomfonner@aol.com](mailto:tomfonner@aol.com) so that they can include you in any social activities they might cook up.
- June 21 is the Tiffin Travelers **Rally** in Georgetown, Kentucky. The four-rally-night event is listed on our web site. **May 25<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to reserve a site.** Arrive early and stay late to enjoy the Kentucky Bluegrass, Bourbon Trail, historical and thoroughbred area. See rally reservation information above in this newsletter or on the web site. Don't forget to send an email to [jamherndon@hotmail.com](mailto:jamherndon@hotmail.com) to let the hosts know you are coming.
- July 12 marks the first official night of the FMCA 96<sup>th</sup> International Convention at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Indiana. The 4-night event is listed on our web site and is now accepting reservations. Register as a volunteer, and you can arrive early. Most of our chapter's officers will be there, including President Frances and Treasurer Tom. After you have registered, send them an email at

[tomfonner@aol.com](mailto:tomfonner@aol.com). To be included in any “Gathering” social opportunities, tell them your arrival date and your parking venue (volunteer, generator, handicap, 50amp, 30amp, etc.).

- October 4 is the first official night of the FMCA Eastern Area Rally (aka GEAR) at the State Fairgrounds of West Virginia in Lewisburg, WV. Registration has not yet opened, but eventually will be available at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com) and will appear on our web site. Our National Director, Marge Mazzone, will be coordinating seminar volunteers and will be organizing our chapter’s “Gathering” socials. After you have registered, send an email to her at [marge.mazzone@verizon.net](mailto:marge.mazzone@verizon.net) if you wish to volunteer and/or if you wish to be included for any socials she organizes.
- October 11 is the first official night of our chapter’s Rally at Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort in South Carolina. Don and Debra Beck again volunteered to host at this top notch resort. Reservation information will be posted to our web site in mid or late May.

### **Closing Remarks**

Wow! That was a load of typing for you to read. I’ll remind you of how long this one was when I publish a shorter one in the future.

Thank you again to all who have and will lead us through our gathering and rally activities. It can’t be done without member involvement. We’ve put three rallies and several gatherings on your 2017 calendar, and look to 2018 for being an equally fun year. Can’t believe I’m already thinking about 2018! But to get good dates in good places, you gotta jump on it way, way early.

As always, remember to periodically visit our [www.tiffintravelers.info](http://www.tiffintravelers.info) web site for possible updates regarding upcoming "Rallies and Gatherings". In red font at the top of each event page is a notation of the date the page was last updated. For those less motivated to surf the site’s pages, we are trying to remember to update the lower center of the Home page with the same “last updated” information for each subpage of the web site.

At the Lazydays Rally in February, I established an often repeated chant.....”I type. You read. PLEASE.”

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. We’ll email a rally reminder in May, and we’ll see you in June. The oval office is shutting down to re-energize during April and early May. The keyboard and the brain need a rest.

See you down the road!

Frances Fonner, President  
Tiffin Travelers