

August 2018 Tiffin Travelers Member Newsletter

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Greetings

Instead of the fluff usually offered here, I am going straight to nuts and bolts. With few exceptions, this issue will focus on the upcoming scheduled events. Hopefully the direct approach to inform is appreciated as consideration of your valuable time. Despite my goal of brevity, this issue is another one of my long ones.

Please keep an eye on our web site (tiffintravelers.info), particularly the "Rallies and Gatherings" link. We already have 2019 events accepting reservations. Make your reservations now for our chapter rallies, as they are expected to fill fast and prior to published deadlines.

Now, in chronological order, we look first at upcoming events.....

October 3rd FMCA Eastern Area (GEAR) Rally in York, PA

October 3, 2018 is the first official night of FMCA GEAR to be held in York, PA. Information and registration can be found at <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration>. After you have registered, please send an email to: marge.mazzone@verizon.net. There will be an "All Tiffin Owners" social at this event and we want you to be in the loop for this **Gathering opportunity**.

Additionally about this event, FMCA events always need volunteers to serve in many different functions. Some of our members even chair volunteer committees, but serving on their team is not required of our members. Our chapter member volunteers spread themselves across the different functions according to their duty preferences.

As in previous years at GEAR, our Ron and Marge Mazzone, along with assist from our Lou and Carol Mandik, are chairing the coordination of volunteer Seminar Monitors. If you are attending GEAR and would like to volunteer on their team, they need to know SOON. Please email marge.mazzone@verizon.net of your intent to be a member of their volunteer team. Again, assisting their team is optional. If you prefer a different type of volunteer duty at GEAR, you would not coordinate that through the Mazzones and Mandiks.

December 2018 Chapter Rally in St. Augustine, Florida

This rally booked in full two months in advance of deadline and five months in advance of its start date. **It is no longer accepting reservations.** The 35 confirmed registered member coaches have begun receiving rally-related emails in preparation for the event. It is planned as a four night rally for chapter members only beginning on December 5, 2018 at Compass RV Park in St. Augustine, FL. This time of year in the south will begin again the influx of snowbirds and is also high-season for holiday tourism in St. Augustine. Hosts for this event are Frances and Tom Fonner. As always, reservation information was published on the "Rallies and Gatherings" page of our web site, and has been recently edited to reflect that the event is fully booked. The 35 confirmed registrants are reminded to email tiffintravelers@gmail.com if their arrival plans change or they need to cancel. Knowing names and headcounts is imperative for scheduling of meals and other activities.

January 30th Chapter Rally at Lazydays in Seffner/Tampa, FL

January 30, 2019 is the first official night of our chapter-member-only winter rally to be held at Lazydays RV Resort in Seffner, FL. Lazydays is now accepting reservations. **Deadline to reserve is November 15th.** He who hesitates is left out! Our chapter rally at this park last year fully booked several months in advance of the deadline resulting in some desiring members being denied a site. Reservation information can be found on our web site at: <http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/lazydays-january-2019>

Your hosts again are Frances and Tom Fonner. After you have registered at Lazydays, send an email to tiffintravelers@gmail.com, so we will know you are coming. We are way early in planning, but we know we will have several catered meals and other activities which will require prepayments from registrants. Known registrants will receive communications from the hosts as the rally plans begin to percolate.

Because the FMCA Southeastern Area Rally (SEA) occurs immediately after this chapter rally, we are pursuing opportunities for interested members to caravan and/or park together at SEA. Read more.....

February 6th FMCA Southeastern Area (SEA) Rally in Lakeland, FL

February 6, 2019 is the first official night of FMCA Southeastern Area rally to be held in Lakeland, FL. SEA "Smile Again at Lakeland in 2019" is 4 nights of camping at Sun 'n Fun Expo Center. Register online at <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration>. There is a spot on the registration form to mark if you would like to volunteer. Volunteers will arrive early, date TBD. Also, if you wish to do so, there is a spot to designate "Tiffin Travelers" as the chapter you would like to caravan-in-and-park-together-with.

After you have registered for SEA, send an email to tiffintravelers@gmail.com so that we can include you in any social activities we develop. Additionally but not required.... We will attempt forming a caravan(s) for our group to assemble together and park together at SEA. **Knowing the type of hook-up you requested is imperative** to the caravan process because different hook-ups require us to create a caravan group for each type....your coach moves and parks together with those of similar hook-ups. Depending upon the hook-ups you choose, your caravan could be as few as 2 coaches or as many as 20+. And, each caravan will have early assembly in a holding area (date TBD) to prep for movement onto the rally grounds. If you wish to caravan and park together with other members of Tiffin Travelers, **include answers to these three questions when you send the above email to tiffintravelers@gmail.com** : Do you want to caravan with other chapter members y/n? Did you request to volunteer y/n? What type of hookup did you register for (such as generator, electric, full, volunteer, volunteer electric, handicap, etc.)?

March 7th Chapter Rally at Twin Oaks in Elko/Perry, GA

March 7, 2019 is the first official night of our chapter-member-only rally at Twin Oaks RV Park in Elko, Georgia. This park is 8 miles south of the FMCA International Convention to be held the following week in Perry, GA. There will be three chapter rally nights beginning March 7th. The timing of this rally coincides with the need for our chapter members volunteering at FMCA Perry to arrive early on the Perry grounds. Deadline to reserve for our

chapter rally is February 1, 2019. Reservation information can be found on our web site at: <http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/twin-oaks-march-2019-perry-pre-rally>

Your hosts for this rally are.....wait for it.....yes! again!.....Frances and Tom Fonner. After you have registered at Twin Oaks, send an email to tiffintravelers@gmail.com, so we will know you are coming. For what should be obvious reasons, we are way, way, way early in planning. Known registrants will receive communications from the hosts as the rally plans begin to percolate.

March 13th FMCA 99th International Convention and RV Show in Perry, GA

March 13, 2019 is the first official night of the FMCA 99th International Convention and RV Show to be held in Perry, GA. Reservations are scheduled to open September 12th at the fmca.com web site. <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-event-registration> .

After you have reserved a spot for this event, send an email to tiffintravelers@gmail.com. There will be dozens of our member coaches in attendance, and we want you to be included in the chapter fun which is sure to develop.

That concludes our calendar as we currently have it nailed. Now, we move to other topics.

Thanks

Thank you to Ann and Nick Paul for hosting two back-to-back rallies in May: May 20th in Williamsburg, Virginia; and, Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina on May 25th. We experienced colonial history tours, pre-colonial outdoor theater and lots of fine food and fellowship in both areas. Ann and Nick have organized rallies in the past, two of which were also rovin' rallies (they moved from one geographic area to another exploring the respective areas).

Thank you to Marge Mazzone for her attendance at and reporting of the FMCA International Convention Governing Board Meeting in Gillette, Wyoming.

And, thank you to Yours Truly and sidekick Tom Fonner for volunteering to host the upcoming rallies in St. Augustine, Florida; Seffner, Florida; and Elko, Georgia. These will be the 6th, 7th and 8th rallies the Fonnors have hosted for the chapter. Our pool of 185 member coaches should be able to produce other hosts for rallies in the second half of 2019 with no problem, right? The calendar is open after March and I am looking forward to assisting you and attending the rally you host.

VP Tom Gulya Shares His Thoughts

It's been a busy 1st half of the year for the Gulyas. We had a great time in Florida representing the chapter at SEA at Lakeland FL. Unfortunately, Carol and I spent too much time during our 2 months on the road looking at new motorhomes even though we had a perfectly good 2013 unit. As they say "a fool and his money are soon parted" and after a mad dash to Montgomery AL we became the proud owners of a 2018 Open Road 34PA.

Unfortunately we had to miss the National at Perry due to a death in the family. Thank you to all of you who extended condolences. Also thank you to Nick Paul who took over my duties and ran an overwhelming get together in conjunction with the Allegro Club at which Bob Tiffin made a special appearance.

Our next adventure was a one month stay at Red Bay (our first in 15 years of Tiffin ownership) to get warranty work done, what a unique place. We got out just in time to make the Allegro Club Rally in Goshen Indiana, where our Tiffin Travelers chapter (of FMCA) had the distinction of having more coaches on site than any individual chapter of the Allegro Club (way to go Frances). In all fairness to Allegro Club chapters, we have an edge on them because of our (FMCA) chapter's widespread, and therefore much larger, membership base.

From Goshen we caravanned across Indiana, Ohio, and PA to get to our great Rally in Williamsburg VA. In route to VA the Gulyas stayed the night in a rest area in Ohio to celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss. You can't beat the

romance of that! Like all of our rallies, Williamsburg was great. Nick Paul organized three exciting tours centered on the colonial period leading up to the birth of our nation. Thank you Nick

Our next Adventure at which we hope to see many of you is GEAR in York, PA in October. Later we will be at the Tiffin Travelers chapter rally in St. Augustine in December. Till then Safe Travels.

National Director's Report from Marge Mazzone

The following (in italics) is Marge's report from the Governing Board Meeting held at the Gillette, WY FMCA International Convention:

The Governing Board meeting was called to order on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 9:00 AM by President Jon Walker. Of a total of 365 chapters, 242 chapters were represented.

President Jon Walker reported that the state of the association is strong and we continue to make good business decisions for the good of each member.

Chris Smith, the Executive Director of FMCA announced that membership is up with 2,589 new members through the first seven months of the fiscal year. 1,491 non-motor home RV owners have joined since early December.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommended that Proposal #1- #6 be adopted by the governing board. These proposals all passed. (See Note following this report)

Proposal #7 - the recommendation for the National Directors to be elected by their respective areas was defeated. (See Note following this report)

Proposal #8 - regarding the election of the Area Vice Presidents was also defeated. (See Note following this report)

The Education Committee announced the formation of FMCA University and the launch of RV Library. 101 members took the Basic RV Course offered before this convention.

Action Items:

#1 - Recommend Perry, Georgia for FMCA's 99th winter 2019 convention.

#2 - Recommend Minot, North Dakota as a replacement for FMCA's 100th convention in summer of 2019.

#3 - Recommend Las Vegas, Nevada; Tucson, Arizona; and Kissimmee, Florida and any other viable sites for FMCA's 101st winter convention.

#4 - Recommend Rock Springs, Wyoming for 2020, and 2022 winter conventions.

All Action Items to be voted on Passed.

New Business: Treasurer - John Reynolds presented the Fiscal Year 2019 Proposed Budget and announced that this is the first truly balanced budget we have had in several years. There are no 'below the line' items and monies will be returned to our investment accounts. The budget passed unanimously.

John also announced that FMCA Assist - Seven Corners - had made some mistakes and over-charged the association. Changes have been made at Seven Corners and the cost to FMCA per member has since dropped accordingly.

Bill Mallory, the Eastern Area Vice-President, announced that the Eastern area will be sponsoring the 99th winter convention in Perry, Georgia in March, 2019.

This concludes the FMCA Governing Board report as presented by Marge Mazzone, National Director, Tiffin Travelers.

Note (From Frances Fonner):

Provided here is a brief summary to illustrate the above mentioned Proposals which were voted on at the Meeting:

1. A simple deletion of text which previously had prohibited refund of member dues. (Approved)
2. Revised the text to also include electronic means as a method to communicate to members any proposed changes to Constitutional Amendments. (Approved)
3. Revised the text to also include secure electronic balloting for any proposed changes to Constitutional Amendments. (Approved)
4. Added verbiage to Article II to define recreation vehicle as: “a self-contained wheeled vehicle that includes permanently installed cooking, sleeping, and sanitary facilities”. (Approved)
5. To unclutter the text in Article II, the detailed description of the various categories of commercial members was removed. Instead there is reference to the detailed definitions which can be found elsewhere, i.e., the Member and Volunteer Handbook Policy and Procedure pages. (Approved)
6. An amendment to Article IV allowing Executive Board authority to refund dues as an exception. (Approved)
7. Proposed amendments to Article VIII and Article XVII, for the purpose of changing the Governing Board structure. These proposals were submitted by petition with the goal being to expand representation to a broader inclusion of the entirety of FMCA membership, while moving away from the current structure of representation at Governing Board coming from National and Alternate National Directors who are chapter-elected. (Defeated)
8. This proposed amendment to Article VIII, paragraph 10 appears to have been intended to be in conjunction with the above cited Proposal 7, but was perplexing in its reference and composition. (Defeated)

Membership

As of this writing, we have 185 member coaches. A printable version of the membership roster was emailed to all on June 16. Another version will not be emailed again until the second half of next year, so keep until then the one you recently received.

The annual dues billing cycle will begin by early December. You will either receive an email of your “paid up” status, or you will receive an email of your “remittance due now” status.

2019 is an officer election year. These elections are typically held during the chapter’s annual meeting at a rally during the first half of the year. The chapter’s annual meeting and officer election will be held either at the Lazydays rally or at Perry, GA during the week of the FMCA International Convention. Date, time and location are yet to be decided.

The Nominating Committee was selected during the 2018 annual meeting in Webster, FL. If you wish to be considered for a chapter officer position, please contact the committee chair, Bill Murton at billmurton33@gmail.com

The committee will present a slate for vote and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Officer positions to be voted upon are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Director and Alternate National Director. A member may serve in two positions within the chapter. Officers serve two-year terms.

Publication of Our Chapter’s Rallies and Gatherings

For those who wonder, “Does the chapter have plans to attend and organize activities at.....?” the answer is simple and straightforward with no need to inquire further than looking at our web site.

If we are doing anything as a chapter, at any event, anywhere, our involvement will be mentioned on our web site on the “Rallies and Gatherings” page.

If we have no plans for chapter activities at an event (FMCA National, FMCA Area, Allegro Club, RV Shows, etc.) either you will not see that event mentioned on the “Rallies and Gatherings” page, or, you will see a notation that the event’s “...mention is for informational purposes only. No chapter activities are planned for this event.”

About publishing our rallies on the FMCA calendar.....In the FMCA magazine, newly renamed as “Family RVing”, there is a calendar of upcoming FMCA National rallies, FMCA Area rallies, and a limited listing of FMCA chapter rallies. There is a disclaimer in that section of the magazine, as follows: “...The rallies listed here and online at FMCA.com are open to all RVers, and FMCA members who do not belong to the sponsoring chapter, or any chapter, are welcome to attend.” We do not publish our rallies on this calendar.

We are most often very fortunate to fill our chapter’s rally sites with our member coaches. Our members often fill every site the RV park has made available for our rally. We very seldom have sufficient number of sites at a rally park to allow reservations of non-member coaches. On the few occasions we might have enough sites available to allow non-member “guest” coaches we publish that on our web site with the registration information. If you instead see, “for chapter members only”, we anticipate full booking by our members and cannot accept non-member coaches.

Post-Event Comments about the May 2018 Allegro Club Gathering in Goshen, IN

Tiffin’s Allegro Club, co-Presidents Sally and Kelly Moore, staff member Cynthia Skinner and others did a fantastic job as always pulling off a great time. There were vendors there to entice buyers with all kinds of important “stuff” needed by RV’ers. There were games, ice cream socials, a craft and stuff market on the square, nightly entertainment, food truck vendors and numerous catered meals. We were definitely fed well. There were 315 shiny Allegro Club member coaches attending the event at Elkhart County 4H Fairgrounds, and even more new ones were on display for sale by Mount Comfort RV. Our chapter had 24 member coaches in attendance!

Quite a few of us had arrived early to serve as volunteers and were met by damp weather and temps in the 50’s! The chill and damp were quickly gone, giving way to beautiful weather. But it was initially a shock considering we were in mid-80 degree temps the previous day and were only 100 miles away from the fairgrounds. We looked a bit odd climbing out of the coach dressed in shorts and sleeveless tops to unhook the toad. We quickly layered up and then peeled layers for the next two days until the temps had risen.

As we strive to do at big events such as this, our members enjoyed an afternoon coach side social, and also sat together in small groups at the various catered meals. On departure day, three of our coaches began the 750-mile journey southeast to our chapter rally in Williamsburg.

Post-Event Comments about the May 2018 Tiffin Travelers rally in Williamsburg, NC

On May 20th, 15 of our coaches convened at American Heritage RV Park for a chapter rally hosted by Nick and Ann Paul. The agenda included: warm and sunny weather; two-day touring of historic Williamsburg; guided tours at the Jamestown Settlement and American Revolution Museum at Yorktown; group lunch at historic Shields Tavern in Williamsburg; group dinner at a local seafood restaurant; pizza and salad dinner at the RV park; daily afternoon socials; and, time for on-your-own touring other sites in the area.

Post-Event Comments about the May 2018 Tiffin Travelers rally in Kill Devil Hills, NC

On May 25th, 9 of our coaches traveled the 130 miles from Williamsburg to convene at OBX Campground in Kill Devil Hills, NC for another rally hosted by Nick and Ann Paul. This rally’s agenda included: afternoon socials; two dinners out at unique and local restaurants; on your own touring of the Elizabethan Gardens; group attendance at the outdoor theater drama “The Lost Colony”; an on-your-own drive down the long OBX National Scenic Byway to Hatteras Light where we convened for lunch at the covered pavilion after some of us climbed to the top of the light (a top down on the convertible day for some of us); an early evening hotdog and burger cookout at the RV park;

and, time for on-your-own touring other sites in the area. Although it rained several times during our stay, the skies were clear for our group outdoor events. Whew! Timing is everything.

Links to FMCA Area Newsletters

Eastern Area, Summer 2018

<http://www.easternarea.net/files/2018.7EANews.pdf>

Future Events Reminder Rundown

- September 24th is arrival day for the 2018 Frustrated Maestros-Eastern Sharps & Flats Music Camp and Rally at Artillery Ridge Resort in Gettysburg, PA. This mention is for informational purposes only. No chapter activities are planned for this event.
- October 3, 2018 is the first official night of FMCA GEAR to be held in York, PA. Info above.
- December 5, 2018 is the first official night of our **chapter-member-only end-of-year holiday rally** to be held in St. Augustine, FL. This rally is already fully booked.
- January 30, 2019 is the first official night of our chapter-member-only winter rally to be held at Lazydays RV Resort in Seffner, FL. This is a pre-rally for SEA. Lazydays is now accepting reservations. Deadline to reserve is November 15th. <http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/lazydays-january-2019>
- February 6, 2019 is the first official night of the FMCA Southeastern Area rally (SEA) in Lakeland, FL. FMCA is now accepting reservations for this event. Info above.
- March 7, 2019 is the first official night of our chapter-member-only pre-Perry rally to be held at Twin Oaks RV Park in Elko, GA (8 miles from the FMCA Perry International Rally). Deadline to reserve is February 1st. <http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/twin-oaks-march-2019-perry-pre-rally>
- March 13, 2019 is the first official night of the FMCA 99th International Convention and RV Show to be held in Perry, GA. Reservations are scheduled to open September 12th at the fmca.com web site. Info above.

Closing Remarks

As always, remember to periodically visit our 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, information in the lower center of the Home page reflects the "last updated" notation for each subpage of the web site.

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 for assistance.

The following thoughts were shared with me by one of our members. I've slightly edited them to reflect my sentiments. Enjoy.

1. Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
3. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
4. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

5. Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
6. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
7. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
8. Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
9. The second mouse gets the cheese.
10. When everything's coming your way, you might be in the wrong lane.
11. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
12. Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
13. Be the kind of person that when your feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, "Oh s#%*, he/she's up!"
14. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
15. Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today. And, if you are living life properly, they thought kindly of you.

And, my favorite in today's troubled times.....

16. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box. Let your inner artist shine through.

Stay safe and well and endeavor to be kind.

See you down the road!

Frances Fonner, President

Tiffin Travelers