



## The Presidents Report

Blue Bird Chapter of  
FMCA LLC

Fall Rally, Sevierville, TN

Presidents Report - October  
5<sup>th</sup> 2009

First of all I want to thank each and every one of you for choosing to be here at the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA Fall Rally. A special thanks goes out to Tommy & Shirley Vance, Jimmy & Jean Cox and Ross & Joann Dover for all your hard work in putting this rally together.

The last 8 years or so has been a very difficult time for anyone in the motor home business in any form.

Not the least of these is all of us who own a Blue Bird Motor Coach. The roller coaster ride that the factory was on gave a continual set of mixed messages. Are they in business or not? Who are the new owners? Will they support the club and its members? Where exactly are we going and what is the future of Blue Bird and the Family of Friends?

(Editors Note: At this time the President asked all the past Board Members, Offi-

cers and Committee Members who have served this club to please stand up.)

I personally want to thank you for pouring out much of your lives into the club during these years. In many ways it has been a trying time for all of us and none more than you. From Bobbie and I, and all of us who will try to fill your shoes, we say "Thank You."

Near the end of February 2009, Bobbie and I had just settled in for an evening of relaxation when the phone rang. It was Bill Sullivan, a good friend

and fellow Blue Birder. After a few minutes of catching up, Bill stated that he was on the nominating committee and asked if I would consider being the nominee for President of the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA?

I won't say that my life flashed before my eyes in that moment ----- but I will



say that the thought of all the motor home companies who are now out of business, the decline in membership of so many of the RV clubs, and the rumors of bankruptcy of Blue Bird Coachworks, gave me pause.

When I came out of this day dream I told Bill that I would consider it. He thanked me and reminded me to take all the time I needed and we then said our good-byes. I told Bobbie what Bill had just asked and we looked at each other and said "RUN!" Not from our friends, but

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### Inside this issue:

Future Bright for Family of Friends  
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### Special points of interest:

- Check out the new RV gadgets
- Rally Hosts Needed
- Family of Friends Updates
- Take Better Photos
- Intergenerational Rally!
- Guess! Where is this nest?

from the task of helping to guide our club into uncharted waters.

As the weeks passed I discussed the future of the club with a number of members. Their stories of past adventures, fun times together, of meeting new friends and building close relationships that would last a life time was the dominate theme. And yet as they spoke I could see their expectations for the future were well rooted in the past. Expectations built on years of great memories of days gone by. I could see that no matter how hard a person tried, the expectations of the past were going to be a mountain that would be difficult to climb. And you know how to define a failed expectation...the capitol letter "D" for disappointment. The disappointment you feel when dreams fail to materialize or when a factory has closed its doors.

All of us have enjoyed the Rally in the Valleys of the past, with the tens of thousands of dollars that the factory poured into that event, the All Birds Reunion with its lavish dinners, and the fellowship with Blue Birders who came from all over the country to stay at the beautiful Birds Nest. It was RV camping at its finest, including the free lunch at the Blue Bird Club House. And to top it off we all got to be entertained by two of America's finest stand up comedians, Miss Brenda Rodgers and her side kick, the factory's very own on staff Chaplain, Pastor Hubert Wheeler.

Do you, Dan Jensen, want to be the one who shuts the door on that mountain of wonderful memories and opens the door to the unknown, uncharted future of this club? How do you handle probable failed expectations and move forward? Without the factory and these wonderful events of the past, aren't we just another RV club? What's the benefit of being a member of the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA? I asked myself that question many, many times. I hope we can help you to answer that before the end of this meeting. But actually, that's a question you need to answer for yourselves...what is the benefit? Perhaps the answer can be found in the name we are also known by --- The Family of Friends.

As the weeks passed I worked with Alan Ritchie and other members of the club to build a team. A team that would work

hard and bring fresh ideas to face our changing RV world. A team that could start immediately to work together and implement some changes that would help pull the club out the disappointment of a failed factory into excitement for our future.

Next it was decided that we needed to build a bridge to other Blue Bird organizations. Organizations that already had a lot to offer: avenues to tech support, parts and service advice, where to buy or sell a Blue Bird. If the factory was not there anymore we needed to be a part of bringing unity between all Wanderlodge owners. You



### Fall 2009 Great Smokey Mountains

know the saying "United We Stand." So I called Bruce Morris of Wanderlodge Owners Online, Randy Dupree of Wanderlodge Owners Group and I met with Ernie Ekberg of Wanderlodge forum. We had some great conversations, patched up some differences and all agreed to work together to support one another for the good of all of our members.

I then called Fred Vandenberg with Buddy Gregg Motor Homes and John Bleakley of John Bleakley Motor Homes. I also made contact with Steve Mitchell with Parliament Coach and will be in contact with McDonald Coach Craft and others. Our hope is to build new relationships with organizations that will be mutually beneficial to all of us as "We Stand United."

The next thing on my agenda was communication. The newsletter is a key part of staying in touch. Since the factory was no longer available to finance it, costs were certainly going to be a consideration. The

timing for getting the newsletter out is also very critical. So how do we resolve these things? How do we move toward 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and yet not leave behind those of you who aren't computer savvy or perhaps don't even own a computer? How do we make it easier to join our club, pay dues or find out about upcoming rallies? There were lots of questions and few answers at that time. I knew I needed to find just the right person to help answer these questions. That's when I was introduced to Rich Ducci. After some great phone conversations, I asked Rich if he would be the next chairman of the Newsletter Commit-

tee. I'll let Rich discuss the news-

letter at the conclusion of my message.

Rallies...what was happening? Why was the attendance to so many rallies so low? Well, it wasn't just the Blue Bird Club that was feeling the slow down. It was happening to lots of clubs all over the country. The economic pinch caused motor home manufacturers and dealerships to not support rallies as they had in the past, fuel prices were keeping people closer to home, and retirement plans were eroding away as fast as an ice cube on a hot summer day. What are the answers? Where do we start?

First the team decided that somehow we had to cut club cost so that additional funds could be used to support club rallies. Whether that be for prizes, special adventures or just to help keep rally costs down. The next thing we decided to do is to form a new rally committee made up of the six Regional Vice Presidents. After all, they

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have the most information and influence about rallies in their area. The Senior Vice President will chair this committee.

At the conclusion of Rich's presentation on the newsletter I have asked Alan Ritchie to update you on our vision for future rallies. Alan is currently the Northeastern Vice President and will be the next Senior Vice President.

Did I say cut costs? Tom Bay addressed this issue last year when he chose to cut the President's reimbursement for travel costs to and from the rallies to consist of just the two annual rallies the President is required to attend. We are taking that another step farther, starting with me, there will be no reimbursement for travel expense to or from any rallies.

One last thing. We are creating a new position called "Welcome Hostess." Karen

James and Rich Ducci came up with the idea and said they had the perfect person to fill the position --- Jeanetta (Neat) Scott. Her duties will include contacting new members to personally welcome them to the club, sending a welcome kit with information about our club, including the email address, etc. She will also do a brief write up on each new member to be included in the newsletter so all of us can be introduced to new family members. I look forward to many good things coming out of this position.

I would like for you to take a look up front at your new officers and directors. These are some of the finest, brightest, hard working, dedicated people I have ever had the privilege to be around. What we intend to do is to communicate with you and try our best to give you solid leadership. Yes,

there will be change, and change is difficult for all of us. And yet this board can work our fingers to the bone, come up with fresh ideas, and pour our souls into the Family of Friends and still fail, if YOU don't participate.

You, the membership, you're the key. Your involvement, your enthusiasm, your participation, your support, your ideas are the keys to our success. It's pulling together, continuing to make friends and keeping the flame of old relationships alive. That's the benefit, the laughter and joy of future fun times together, that will keep life flowing in our special "Family of Friends."

Sincerely,

Dan R. Jensen

President

Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA

[President@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:President@BlueBirdChapter.org)

## Technical Tips and Tricks: By Ralph Fullenwider



Hello everyone:

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to contribute to Bird Tracks and be of help as is needed. Charolette and I have met many Birder's here and there and even burned a marshmallow or 3 over a campfire.

### Autumn and Fall

Greetings to everyone! Joyous days are ahead and soon the leaves will be turning to the vast swatches of color that simply burst like a huge firework on the 4th of July. Clothing changes are starting to be

made in the closets in the Coaches, going from shorts and short sleeved shirts to long sleeves, light jackets and sweaters. The A/C's have been running this summer in the old Bird, keeping things nice and cool. Now might well be the time to start doing a cleaning and check out on those heaters, hey?! In the older Coaches the LP heat and electric heat need be addressed as settled dust and hair, especially if you have pets like Charolette and I do. The electric heaters are a snap to clean really, 2 screws hold most of them in place and 7 small screws hold the lid on once you remove the heater from its nook. Be sure the circuit breakers for each zone are off before starting. A simple vacuuming is all that is needed, then re assemble and check out and you're done. Then there are the Primus heating systems and the finally the AquaHot. A simple vacuuming to the out let registers on the Primus and be sure the boilers are firing up and the pumps are in fact turning and those systems should be good to go. Oh, you might want to clean the contacts on the white Molex plugs on the connectors to the control boards at the heaters. AquaHot systems, it might well be time to change those fuel filters and nozzles in the burner system. If when you open the compartment hatch on the driver's side and get the odor of diesel

fuel, if fuel has not been present in the past that is, then when the fuel filters are changed it would behoove you to check the small rubber fuel lines, both incoming and the output side for cracks.

Now that the service work has been done and the maintenance log books up-dated, everyone will be warm and safe for the Fall and Winter months ahead. I am looking forward to the fly-fishing on the Blue River in Oklahoma starting November 1st. When there and parked, taking in the beauty of the surrounding sights, I stop and say a small prayer for the Service Women and Men, who are overseas, standing in harm's way, allowing me to enjoy the splendor, campfires and fellow travelers, and maybe swap a lie or two,,,oops, I mean swap a travel story or two, hey?! Wink.

Safe travels,

Ralph and Charolette Fullenwider

'84FC35 Certified Master RV Tech

Duncan, Oklahoma

Send your questions and suggestions for Technical Tips and Tricks to Ralph by clicking below:

[Technical Tips and Tricks Suggestions](#)

# Cape Cod

## October is a Great Time to Visit the National Seashore

The crowds have thinned and you have parked the Bird at any one of the many full service campgrounds on the Cape. Now it is time to jump in the toad and tour the National Seashore, including the towns of Eastham, Wellfleet and Truro/Provincetown.

The boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore stretch across almost 40 miles of coastline from Chatham, the elbow of Cape Cod, to Provincetown, the fist of our peninsula's bent arm. In August 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed legislation establishing the park in order to preserve the land, protect its wildlife and give the public access to its inherent beauty. Every year, more than 5 million visitors explore some area of this extraordinary seashore park.

### Eastham

Begin at the Eastham/Orleans Rotary, heading north on Route 6. You will pass the Cove Burying Ground on your right. Three passengers on the Mayflower are at rest in the cemetery; the last known burial was in 1770.

Further down Route 6, turn right onto Governor Prence Road (look for the Fort Hill signs).

Soon, you will see the Captain Penniman House on the right. In 1867, this whaling captain, built this home in the French Second Empire Victorian style. Note the pair of whale jaws which grace the entrance; a cupola overlooks the ocean and bay. The home boasted indoor plumbing, a kerosene chandelier and other modern advancements. Penniman heard the call of the sea at age 11. By age 29, he was captain of his own whaling ship. His

wife, Augusta, often accompanied him on his long journeys across the globe, keeping detailed records of whaling activity. Further down, park in the lot on your left to explore the Red Maple Swamp Trail, or continue to the Fort Hill Overlook. Edward Treat, a minister to the Pilgrims, once owned this land with commanding views of Salt Pond Bay, Stoney Island and Town Cove. One of his boundary markers, the letter T carved into a granite post, exists today, but is not on the site.

Backtrack to Route 6 and continue east. At the intersection of Nauset Road (look for signs to the Salt Pond Information Center), turn right. The Old Schoolhouse Museum on your immediate left was built in 1869 and used as a school until 1936. Note the separate entrance for girls and boys. Continue into the Visitor Center Parking Lot. The center is open year-round, but with reduced hours during January and February. Here, you can see a short film and view exhibits about the area. There are also 3 walking trails behind the center. From the parking lot, continue on Nauset Road, then bear right onto Doane Road. Shortly you will pass Doane Rock and Doane Marker on your right. This granite boulder, a remnant of glacier activity, measures 25 feet wide by 40-feet long. The marker pinpoints the homesite of Deacon John Doane, one of Eastham's 7 original settlers.

Nauset Road then leads to Coastguard Beach and the Old Coast Guard Station. As you pass over the bridge, the area on

your left was once a camping place for protoIndians. In 1990, a powerful Nor'easter revealed this site, which archeologists quickly excavated. Here, they found artifacts that are about 8,000 years old. Park in the upper lot and walk to the water. For one year, Author Henry Beston lived in a 2-room primitive cottage, which once stood about a mile to your right. He recorded his experiences in *The Outermost House*, which remains a popular book today.



As you leave, head straight on Ocean View Drive. Nauset Light and the nearby Three Sisters Lights date back to the 1800s.

### Truro & Provincetown

From Truro to Provincetown, take any--or every-- opportunity to explore the beaches along the Atlantic or Cape Cod Bay.

Off-season, Provincetown is a sleepy little community. Plan to visit the Province Lands Visitor center on Race Point Road. The observation deck offers a panoramic view of the dunes and ocean. There are also biking and hiking trails in the vicinity. The Old Harbor Life-Saving Station and Race Point Beach are also within the Province Lands.

Over one hundred steps and 60 ramps lead to the top of the Pilgrim Monument on High Pole Road, where a fantastic view of the area awaits.

Retrace your steps along Route 6 until you come to the Eastham/Orleans Rotary.

## Family of Friends Going Online Soon

The Family of Friends Chapter is going online! Shortly, you will be able to get up-to-the-minute news, changes in important club information, ask questions regarding events, travel, even participate in a Family of Friends only forum where you can post your questions, get answers from other club members without waiting for the next newsletter. You can help with answers to other members questions as

well. Keeping up to date on what is going on in your club will get easier and together we will continue to make our Chapter a source of information essential to every member. Checking your membership expiration, paying dues or signing up for a rally can be an easy click or two away! For a sneak peak and to see how this is coming along visit [www.Wanderlodge.us](http://www.Wanderlodge.us) and click the "Family of Friends" tab. This newslet-

ter will be posted there as well as additional information. While the Forum section will be limited to Chapter members only, other sections such as member applications will be available to new owners of Wanderlodge and BMC coaches to make it easier to join the Chapter. The newsletter will also be available so potential members can see the fun had by current Chapter members. Stay Tuned!

# Oops! This happened to me!

By Rich Ducci

The front shade on my Bird had worn strings and sooner or later it would break, so I figured I could re-string it. Wanting to do it right, I called the manufacturer

whose name appeared on the shade body and I ordered enough cord to re-string it. I could have gone to a fabric shop but wanted the original string.

What they sent was a little larger diameter but no problem - bigger is stronger and better, right? It is a pretty straightforward job and the only snag I ran into was when the multiple threads needed to pass through a tiny nylon block that holds them flat so the metal gripper would grab and hold them. Simple, I got out my tiny drill bits and enlarged the holes to the new diameter. All was well except I noticed that when I raised the shade the metal gripper had trouble holding on to the threads as they were too big to all end up side by side and kind of overlapped. No problem; as when I wiggled the shade

*We drove back down the mountainous road and finally reached an Interstate. Letting the Detroit Series 60 loose on the smooth pavement, I quickly settled in at a modest 70MPH and suddenly.....*

pull a little it grabbed and held on. All is well, right? WRONG!!! My normal routine is to attach the shade safety strap on travel days when I raise it in the morning

but not when expecting to stay and lower it again in the same spot. By now you can see where this is going! At the Outdoor Resorts near Lake Toxiway, NC we stayed overnight. Beautiful park with a narrow, twisting steep mountain road leading to and from the park.

While I am not saying it is located in the exact middle of nowhere, I do believe you can see the middle from there. We changed our plans after breakfast and, being this was off-season we decided to head toward a more populated place with more to see and do. We drove back down the mountainous road and finally reached an Interstate. Letting the Detroit Series 60 loose on the smooth pavement, I quickly settled in at a modest 70MPH and suddenly, without warning, I was sitting in the driver's seat with the shade fully down!! In what was probably only a sec-

ond or two but seemed like days, my brain told me that I was traveling down an Interstate, not sitting in a campground where I normally see that view of the shade and nothing else. I hastily reached forward as far as I could and grabbed a handful of shade and pulled it high enough to see under and was thrilled to see that I was in the center of my lane. By this time my DW and copilot (Marianne) was pulling the shade cord and raising the shade to its full up position. She held it tightly until I was able to pull over a mile up the road into a rest area and fasten the safety straps. I don't want to think of what may have happened if that shade had come down while we were descending the snake-like mountain road. Immediately upon returning home I removed that shade and replaced it with an electrically operated shade that will only descend under power (slowly) and will stop at the slightest touch. I still make sure the safety strap is fastened each time the shade is raised.

**Tell us YOUR story! We want to hear it.**

**We need your stories** to make the Bird Tracks newsletter all it can be. Please email stories, articles, photos about anything related to Wanderlodge coaches, travel, cooking, repairs, rallies, fun stuff, etc. If you have an amusing story or experience relating to your coach or trav-

els that you are willing to share, we want to hear about it. With your help, we can publish a newsletter each month that is fun, informative and helpful to our Chapter members. Articles of 150 to 2000 words or more can fit nicely. We can include pictures and links to additional

information. Send your story or narrative in an email or attach a text document and any photos to your email. Don't forget to include website addresses if you would like your article to link to them. Send them to: [Newsletter@BluebirdChapter.org](mailto:Newsletter@BluebirdChapter.org)

## New RV Gadgets - Cover that campground picnic table

Stand-alone pop-up shelters are nice, but sometimes they're just not practical. That's where the Quick Clamp Canopy comes in. It turns just about any surface into a mounting point for this easy-up canopy. The omni-directional mounting system allows for easy attachment to many surfaces. It even fits tables up to 10-ft. long to provide up to 70 sq. ft. of protection from sun and even light rain. The

vertical adjustment peaks at 9 ft., so even the tallest guests will have no trouble walking around. The polyester fabric cover has been UV treated and is both mildew- and water-resistant. High-impact, injection-molded connectors will withstand years of use. Includes all mounting hardware plus a rugged nylon carry bag and step-by-step instructions. Available at [Cabelas](http://Cabelas.com).



# Cooking is for the Birds

Presented by Kay Losh



Like many of you, I have collected recipes for many years. As we travel about the country I have made it a habit to collect the books from the local gift shops. Those who have been put together by different local churches, and others living in given area. It's such fun to try the local favorites. I've found it interesting that not all parts of this country are eating the same things for dinner. Texas barbecue is like no other. Just thinking of it makes my mouth water. It also brings to mind our wonderful visits with our Texas Family of Friend's members and memories of our dear departed friend, Doug Tipton.. Doug prided himself on doing it up right. :)

In Denver one doesn't see the variety of greens in our local Supermarkets that one does in the South. Likewise we think we have the best Mexican restaurants serving the only Mexican food worth eating. Smug of us, isn't it! We've never seen Spam on a menu here, but guess what? I like it fine. I have to admit that the Mulligan Stew we had on one trip left me shaking my head... (Mulligan stew is a kind of dish said to have been prepared by [hobos](#) in camps in the early 1900s. Usually, it includes meat, potatoes, vegetables, and whatever else can be found. The hobo who put it together was known as the "mulligan mixer"). Why do the folks like it so much? Well, likely it's because it was what they remember having as a child. We equate food with comfort. When you were ill as a child there was likely some certain comfort food that was served to soothe your tummy. We think of it again even now when we are not well.

When packing for our trips, what goes

into your pantry?

Please send us your family favorite recipe. The one you'd ask for if you were to know it was going to be your last meal. I know you have one. We'd like to use it in upcoming issues of the club's newsletter. We may find we can put together a Recipe Book on line.

**Neat Scott**

## Decadent Peanut Butter Pie

- 1 prepared chocolate cookie pie crust
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 8 oz. cream cheese (room temp.)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 (12 oz.) container non-dairy topping – divided
- 1 jar hot fudge ice cream topping

In medium bowl beat together the peanut butter, cream cheese and sugar. Gently fold in 3 cups whipped topping. Spoon mixture into pie shell and smooth to the sides. Reserve 2 tbs. of fudge sauce. Place the remaining fudge sauce in microwave for 1 minute or until spreadable. Cover peanut butter layer with fudge sauce. Refrigerate.

Just before serving, spread the remaining whipped topping over the fudge layer, being careful not to mix the two. Place 2 tbsp. of fudge sauce in a small baggie and knead for a few seconds. Cut a tiny hole in the corner of the baggie and drizzle the sauce over the pie. Do the same with 2 tbsp. of peanut butter going in the opposite direction of the fudge sauce.

**Pat Snyder**

## Chocolate Raspberry Tart

- Crust
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1 1/2 Tbs sugar
- pinch of salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, well chilled
- 1 egg yolk, lightly beaten
- 2 Tbs very cold water

## Chocolate Filling

- 1/2 cup (1 stick ) unsalted butter
- 4 oz semisweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup half and half

## Topping

- 1/4 cup seedless raspberry jam, melted
- 1 pint fresh raspberries, rinsed and drained

Preheat oven to 375. Grease a 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom. In food processor, combine flour, 1 1/2 Tbs sugar, and salt. Add 1/2 cup butter and process until mixture resembles coarse meal. Combine egg yolk and water. Gradually add to flour mixture and process until dough just holds together.

Press dough into flat disk and wrap in plastic wrap. Chill 30 minutes. Using floured rolling pin, roll out on floured surface. Press into bottom and sides of prepared pan. Line crust with foil and fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake until edges are slightly browned, 10-15 minutes. Remove pie weights and foil, and continue baking 5 minutes, until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool on rack. Reduce oven temperature to 350.

In heavy saucepan, melt 1/2 cup butter and chocolate over low heat. Add 3/4 cup sugar, eggs, egg yolk, and vanilla and stir until smooth. Remove from heat. Stir in half and half and pour into prepared pastry. Bake 20-25 minutes or until center is nearly set when shaken. Remove from oven and cool on rack to room temperature. Remove sides of pan. Using a small brush, spread melted jam over the top of tart. Carefully arrange raspberries over the jam. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

**Rozanne DeShazer**

Send your favorite "Bird" recipes and cooking tips to: ([Click Below](#))

[Cooking is for the Birds](#)

# Rally Hosts Wanted

The trend in Family of Friends Chapter rallies has been moving toward smaller rallies. We can use this to our advantage as the rallies would tend to be more regional and travel expense and time is cut. Having more, smaller rallies in more places means that more members can attend rallies. If you haven't attended Club rallies you are missing out on some great fun. Exploring new places and meeting new friends while catching up with old is always enjoyable. The only drawback is, in order to do this, we need more rally hosts! If you have never hosted a rally, now is the time to do it. With a little planning and your knowledge of a particular area, you can put together a rally that is as formal or informal as you want. Either way fun will be had with other Blue Bird owners. You get to

decide, picnic on the beach, pot luck at the campground, entertainment, free time? Your knowledge of a particular area can be shared with others who have never visited the area or would like to return and see things they didn't know were there. Rallies scheduled well in advance and listed in our newsletter allow owners to plan on attending to coincide with other planned travels. For a complete guide to how to host a rally contact your area VP.



*Birds Parked at Hershey, PA Rally*

## Helpful Hints by Brenda Rodgers

To avoid teary eyes place onions briefly in the freezer before cutting.

Ice cubes will help sharpen garbage disposal blades.

An egg slicer is perfect to make uniform slices of strawberries, kiwi fruit, or bananas for your salads.

A leaf of lettuce dropped in a pot of soup will absorb grease from the top.

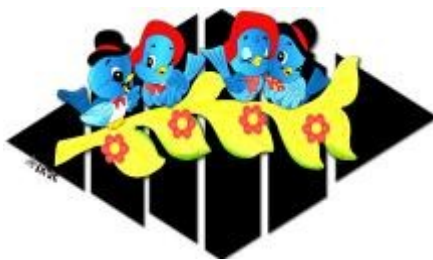
When dipping strawberries in chocolate stick toothpicks into the stem end of the berry. Coat berries and stick toothpick upside down in Styrofoam until the chocolate is set. This will prevent flat spots.

Keep strawberries fresh for up to ten days by refrigerating them (unwashed) in an airtight container between layers of paper towels.

To keep cookies crisp, add crushed tissue paper to the tightly closed container.

Popcorn stays fresher and pops better if it is kept in the freezer.

To keep vegetables fresh in the crisper drawer, add a clean, dry sponge to absorb the moisture.



Tea leaves make excellent fertilizers and act as an insecticide for potted plants.

Small pieces of banana peeling skin -side up in African violets will increase the blooms.

Muffins will slide right out of tin pans if the hot pan is first placed on a wet towel.

Soften butter for spreading by inverting a small heated pan over the butter dish for a while.

For a never fail, never weep meringue, add a teaspoon of cornstarch to the sugar before beating it into the egg whites.

You will get more juice from a lemon if

you first warm it slightly in the oven.

To keep sliced fresh fruit from turning dark, dip into a bowl of 7-Up.

Simmering citrus fruit peels with a little water and a dish of cinnamon gives the kitchen

To plump raisins before adding them to recipes, put the raisins in a container and cover with very hot water. Let stand 5 minutes, drain and use. This will make them tastier and not withdraw moisture from your batter. Yummy in oatmeal cookies.

For the grandchildren - fill flat bottom ice cream cones half full of cake batter and bake in muffin tins. Decorate with icing, topped with colored sugar.

Isn't it a blessing that wrinkles don't hurt?

**To keep sliced fresh fruit from turning dark, dip into a bowl of 7-Up.**

**Editors Note:** Brenda has agreed to head our Sunshine & Mists column. Please click below to send her any information that you may have learned.

[Sunshine & Mists Submission](#)

# Lonestar Birds Upcoming Rallies by Rick Archie

*Editors Note: While the release date of this Newsletter is after the first rally mentioned, we felt if important to present the rest of the information and printed Rick's comments in their entirety.*

Lonestar Bird Members,

Lots of new information on our Unofficial Website....

<http://lonestar-birds.shutterfly.com/>

Be sure and check out the details of the upcoming October Lonestar Bird Rally in Perrin, TX hosted by Joe and Kay Losh on our Unofficial Website on Shutterfly ....if you don't know how to get to the website [email me](mailto:email me) for top secret instructions and the very, very secret password! ....you do not have to register with Shutterfly to access our site.

There is also new information about the upcoming December Christmas Rally. So check those out and make your RV park reservations now. The hosts have also requested you email them so they will have a head count. The Christmas Dinner at the December rally, must have a reply. So get that done.

Also another future unofficial rally, is gathering strength. There is information about it on the website also. This is the 2010 October Albuquerque Balloon Rally. 5 Bluebirds are headed there this October (2 from the Lonestar Birds group)... we are an advance scouting



group for a joint rally between our group and the SWBB group for 2010. As of this writing we have 25 already signed up...5 from our Lonestar Birds group. So read that info on the website and let me know if your interested or have any questions.

Like to trout fish? There is one more Unofficial mini rally possibly coming up this November. It seems that Ralph "Kingfish" F has this secret fishing spot in Oklahoma....some of us are possibly going "To the Blue" for another fishing adventure w/ Ralph this Nov 16 or 17th(were not sure of dates exactly yet)....so if you can bait your own hook and can dry camp (no electric hook ups)...and like sitting around a real campfire....email Ralph.

I get several of these notices back saying the email address won't accept shutterfly or email addresses have been changed?.....so if you don't get these notices email me back and let me know????... or if you know someone who doesn't get them..let me know.

And finally.....yes I said finally....if

anyone else has taken any good pics of any of our rally's, or of a bird repair, or of anything else worthy of putting on the website please send them to me and i will put them on here....I get 2 or 3 pictures a week from different folks.....so send me some pics please....or write a story about some bluebird adventure....or of any adventure.....we want it.

"The Lonestar Birds" are a group of Blue Bird Owners who get together every two months and have an informal, fun rally usually somewhere in Texas. This might include riding a steam train in east Texas, having a technical seminar put on by a tire service person or a fun filled night with Elvis Presley's previous hairdresser or even touring the Foretravel RV Plant in Nacogdoches. The Lonestar Birds have one primary rule in their by-laws...and this is that there are no rules...no dues...no officers. Just go and have fun. They welcome any and all Blue Birds to join them in any of their future rally's or at any of their other wild and crazy events!

Rick Archie

**Have an upcoming event or rally?  
Send the information to:**

[Rally Information Submission](#)

# An Intergenerational Rally? By Karen James

In the past, grandparents lived and worked alongside their children and grandchildren serving as mentors, teachers and role models. Today, families are mobile and grandparents live active and independent lives. As a result, many grandparents and grandchildren live too far apart to create shared memories.

Drawing families together and deepening relationships could be one goal of our Family of Friends. Many of us already plan vacations that include children and grandchildren but we never include the younger generation in rally plans. Leav-



Grandchildren on vacation with grandma and grandpa.

ing our children and grandchildren a lasting inheritance through travel could be priceless. As Thomas Campbell once said, "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die".

I would like to explore the idea of having intergenerational rallies.

Perhaps we could retrace the path of Lewis and Clark, explore the Everglades, a seaside retreat, learn about history, or take advantage of our vast and educational National and state park systems. These rallies could be regional in nature or

"mobile rallies". As always, rally hosts are an integral part of our club. Please

think about a different type of rally and volunteer to help.

*"Grandparents bestow upon their grandchildren the strength and wisdom that time and experience have given them."*



Dennie James with grandson Cooper.

*Grandchildren bless their Grandparents with a youthful vitality and innocence that help them stay young at heart forever. Together they create a chain of love linking the past with the future. The chain may lengthen, but it will never part ...."*

Contact Karen James at:

[Secretary@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:Secretary@BlueBirdChapter.org)

## Kids Korner Written by kids, for kids!



Hello! My name is Lauren Nicole Ducci and I am 8 years old. This Summer I went RVing in my grandparents' bus. We went to Lake George, NY. When we got there, we went to the pool and hung out for a while. When I went underwater it was so pretty. It was a pretty aquamarine color instead of the usual blue. I did

lots of handstands and somersaults!! Then, after a while we went back to the bus and got ready to go out to dinner. I brought



Lauren and Mr. Six

**Dr. Steve planted stuff in peoples' minds like when he said Pepto-Bismol everybody smelled bad!!!!!!!!!!!!**

my teddy bear named Carmel and my doll. For dinner, we went to this place called Montcalm. I had Spaghetti and meatballs. It was good!!!! After we were done at Montcalm, we went to this hypnotist show at

Lake George

RV Park. Some guy named Dr. Steve hypnotized people. Some people were faking! Dr. Steve planted stuff in peoples' minds like when he said Pepto-Bismol everybody smelled bad!!!!!!!!!!!!

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It was a great show and I really enjoyed it. After the show was over, my lovely grandmother and I went to bed. We slept in the front and my lovely grandfather slept in back. The next morning we went to [Six Flags](#). As they say: Six Flags, More fun! First, we went to a show called Retro Active. Then we

went to a show with Pirates. Someone set himself on fire and jumped into a pool. But don't worry, he was an expert and it was part of the show. At the end of our trip when we were on our way back home, my grandparents said that next time I could stay longer. I'm so excited! I wonder where we are going to go on vacation next!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



## Great Lakes Rally By Al Scudder

In the Great Lakes area there are plenty of Blue Birds. I would like to propose in 2010 that we have a Rally that could be central to all or at as best in the middle that we can get for a get together. In the state of Michigan there are 33 Blue Birders. Yes you "Uppers" that includes you too. Ohio 20, IN 11, IL 16 that is 70 potential rally attendees. What a great time that we could have and build on for more rallies. Rallies that are not 500 miles and \$400.00 in fuel away. No big dinners pass around will do, maybe a restaurant one



time. No floor shows just talking and building on friendship and more weekend rallies.

IF you are interested in a weekend getaway within the Great Lakes and are from the area or ANY other area for that matter, please drop me a line OR a email

[al\\_scudder@msn.com](mailto:al_scudder@msn.com) and tell me your

thoughts of when and where and let see if we can get some consensus on this. I talked to a few people and there is Frankenmuth, MI, Shipshewana, IN. I hope to hear from each of you and tell me if you would like to help with. Are you ready party?

There are 9 GLer's attending the RITV, let talk to see if you would come to a Rally in the Great Lakes!

Al Scudder 734 453-1074  
12480 Concord CT  
Plymouth, MI 48170

## Future of the FoF Newsletter Rich Ducci

As October arrives and we have a change in the leadership at the Family of Friends Chapter, FMCA, we all want to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing officers and directors for the great job they did in bringing the Chapter through these difficult times of the factory collapse and cutbacks throughout the RV industry. Keeping this club together and increasing the membership to include every Wanderlodge and BMC owner is a lofty goal. In these uncertain times the new officers and directors will be working to make our organization the biggest and best ever. Welcome to you, and I am sure that I speak for the membership as well as our committee in saying that we will do our best to support you and the club.

It is a consensus of opinion that communications among all members and the



officers, directors, rally hosts, committees, and all of the Wanderlodge commu-

nity is essential to promote the camaraderie necessary to have a successful club. Since the days of factory assistance in printing and distributing a newsletter are gone, the single biggest task and expense is communicating with the membership. With that in mind, we have expanded upon the online version of "Bird Tracks" started last year. It will still be converted to a .pdf (portable document format) file that can be easily sent to anyone with an email address. We will try to incorporate more links that the reader can click for additional information as well as add new columns with a diverse mixture of topics. While a printed copy of the newsletter can't include the links, one will be available to those still without computer access. It is our ambition to make this newsletter a monthly publication to

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keep the Blue Bird Chapter related news in the forefront and always in the minds of the members.

We certainly realize that the job done by Maurice DeShazer and his Committee will be a hard act to follow! Thanks for all you have done Maurice DeShazer, Jimmy Cox; Rozanne DeShazer; Bob Dilks; Karen James; Greg Peterson; Jeanetta Scott (Neat); Paul Spear; Dan Sunderland; Martha Vaughn; Paul Ward. You have set the bar very high and we will work hard to continue to produce a first class newsletter. Our goal is to produce a newsletter that appeals to every Wanderlodge and BMC owner. While every article or column may not appeal to every member, we want to insure that there will be a great deal of content that everyone will enjoy. This can only be possible with help from a large number of members. Please help by con-

tributing to our newsletter and asking other members to contribute as well. We would love to hear from you and will endeavor to bring this information to the membership in a timely and enjoyable manner. Details on how you can contribute will be included in every issue.

I'd like to introduce our new Newsletter Committee: Some are familiar and others are new to this committee and some could not make this event. All however are committed to working for the Chapter newsletter and making it the best possible source of Chapter related information. They are: Karen James, Neat Scott, Alan Ritchie, Ralph Fullenwider, Slim Somerville, Kay Losh and myself. Greg Peterson has agreed to work as our "Distribution Manager" and will see that every member who has registered their email address will receive an email with a direct link to the Newsletter. He is also taking on the responsibility for printing and mailing copies

to those who do not have access to email. The mailed version won't, of course, have live links and will be in black and white to save costs. Our newsletter will also be available online. Simply go to [www.wanderlodge.us](http://www.wanderlodge.us) and click on the "Family of Friends" tab. Here it will be found by anyone doing a web search for "Wanderlodge" and we hope additional Wanderlodge owners will find and join FoF. We want to be sure every member receives our newsletter, and can't stress enough that the Chapter develop and maintain a database of member information including email addresses where a member can update to their own information. Your newsletter committee will work hard to get a monthly issue of Bird Tracks put together and would like to see it in the hands of every single Wanderlodge and BMC coach owner. With the help of the membership we can do this.

Thank you.

## Blue Bird Chapter Officers, Directors and

The following members were elected at the October, 2009 meeting of the Blue Bird Chapter, FMCA . Since this issue went to press coinciding with the election we will present additional information regarding the new slate in a future issue of Bird Tracks.

President:	Dan R. Jensen	3464	F233690	Fort Worth	TX
Northeastern Division VP:	Alan Ritchie	3901	F291842	Bonita Springs	FL
Treasurer:	Greg Peterson	3161	F127991	Ridgefield	CT
Secretary:	Karen James	3600	F155154	Lafayette	CO
South Central Division VP:	Roy Zanca	4336	F149787	New Orleans	LA
West Central Division VP:	Jim Olds	3988	F317772	Northfield	MN
Western Division VP:	Dan Sunderland	3939	F028369	San Marcos	CA
Eastern Central Division VP:	Paul Spear	3908	F259299	Marietta	OH
National FMCA Director:	Bill Kirchner	3005	F121231	Brazil	IN
Alternate National FMCA Director:	Jon Scott	3432	F084030	Golden	CO
Newsletter Chairman:	Rich Ducci	2974	F177352	Litchfield	CT
Welcoming Hostess:	Neat Scott	3432	F084030	Golden	CO

## Bird Tracks Own Graphic Artist

The wonderful graphic art in past and present Bird Tracks is the work of the very talented Jeanetta (Neat) Scott. Neat has agreed be a member of the Newsletter Committee as well as "Welcoming Hostess" for the Chapter. She will be contacting all new members of the Chapter, making them feel at home and welcoming them into the Family of Friends. Thanks, Neat, for all you have contributed and continue to contribute. You have filled a

very important position and still found time to create such outstanding, original artwork for our Newsletter. We look forward to seeing your work in future issues. As members of FoF, we should always keep our eyes open for Wanderlodge and BMC owners who are not Chapter members. It is up to us to promote the Chapter and help to see that every owner becomes a Family of Friends member. Now, more than ever before, Wanderlodge owners need to be Family of Friends members.



# Take The Best Landscape Photos [Courtesy Great-Landscape-Photography.com](http://www.Great-Landscape-Photography.com)

## You don't take a photograph, you make it. - Ansel Adams

1. High vantage points that give you a commanding view of the scene are ideal - and if you have a camera that gives you control (e.g. an SLR) over the [exposure](#) settings, a small [aperture](#) of f/11 or f/16 will let you keep everything in focus.
2. Early morning and late evening are the best times for shooting landscapes. This is because the low angle of the Sun picks out shadows and reveals textures.
3. The best landscapes are rarely found at the side of the road. So be prepared to go for a trek with a map or a GPS Unit in an effort to seek out the most interesting locations.
4. Wide angle lenses are commonly used for landscapes because they will allow you to include more in the frame and [open up perspective](#). A wide-angle zoom lens gives you more latitude in [framing the scene](#) and cropping out distracting



5. Whenever possible, place [something of interest in the foreground](#) of the shot to create a [sense of depth](#). At the same time, ensure that you use a small [aperture](#) to keep everything in focus.
6. Another great but simple landscape photography tip is to anchor your camera to a tripod to slow down your pace of working when shooting landscapes - this means you'll take fewer but better pictures. Get a light model to cut down on weight if you do a lot of walking to your locations.
7. Look out for scenes that will let you crop the top and bottom of the image to produce a more dramatic "letterbox" panoramic composition.
8. Use a [polarizing filter](#) to darken the sky and saturate the colors in the



landscape (this is the one must-have filter for landscape photographers).

9. Use [graduated grey](#) or [neutral density filters](#) to darken the sky and reduce the contrast between the landscape and the sky. [Polarizing filters](#) aren't much use for bright cloudy skies but [graduated filters](#) are.

Frequently, the sky looks burned out in photos because the films or digital sensors don't have the range to record the brightness differences between it and darker foreground scenery. (Films and sensors still aren't as good as the human eye!)

10. If you use a digital camera, and your camera is capable of it, shoot RAW images rather than JPGs. The RAWs will take up more room on your memory card but there's no in-camera processing done on the image (as there is for JPGs). RAW images will give you greater latitude for image manipulation (using Adobe PhotoShop, PhotoShop Elements, Paint Shop Pro or some other image manipulation package).

## Can You Guess Where This Bird Is?



Can you guess where this photograph was taken? Looking south from a 2200' elevation bluff overlooking what is referred to as a "notch", this spot is reached by a short climb. Many times the climb is made carrying paints, brushes and canvas and is, arguably, one of the most favored views in this small state. The campground has only seven sites, easily accessed by "Birds" and has water, sewer and 30 amp electric hookups.

[Give up? Click Here](#)

[Submit Your Spot](#)

[Click Here](#)

# The Origins of Halloween

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Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in).

The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

During the celebration, the Celts wore

costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming win-



ter. By A.D. 43, Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the four hundred years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

By the 800s, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is widely believed today that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned holiday. The celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Al-holowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. Even later, in A.D. 1000, the church would make November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. It was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils. Together, the three celebrations, the eve of All Saints', All Saints', and All Souls', were called Hallowmas.

## Handy Links (In no particular order)

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[Wanderlodge Owners Group](#)

[Wanderlodge Owners Online](#)

[Wanderlodge Yahoo Forum](#)

[Vintage Birds](#)

[FMCA Home Page](#)

[Buddy Gregg Motorhomes](#)

[John Bleakley Motorhomes](#)

[Holand Motorhomes](#)

[Parliament Coach](#)

[Coachcraft by MacDonald](#)

[Bird Maps](#)

[Classic Coachworks](#)

[Bye Buy Bluebird](#)

[Hydronic Heating Forum](#)

[Blue Bird Gear \(Clothing etc.\)](#)

[RV Electric Information](#)

[RV Mechanic Online](#)

[Blue Bird Customer Access](#)

[Camping World](#)

[Dyers RV Supplies](#)

[RV Stuff USARV Toy Outlet](#)

[RV Upgrade Store](#)

[West Marine](#)

Click the Mailbox to Contact Us!!



## BLUE BIRD CHAPTER OF FMCA, LLC

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Send your contributions to:  
[Newsletter@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:Newsletter@BlueBirdChapter.org)



*The Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, AKA, the Family of Friends was Chartered July 15, 1975. The general purpose of the Blue Bird Chapter is to promote the goals and objectives of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) and to operate within the guidelines of the FMCA. The specific purpose of this Chapter is to promote fellowship, camaraderie, cooperation and enjoyment of Blue Bird Wanderlodge and BMC coaches by their owners. The Chapter plans rallies and other social events that promote solidarity and friendship through lifestyles shared by these owners. Members help each other by sharing knowledge and promoting the travel and lifestyle these fine machines make possible. If you presently own a Blue Bird Wanderlodge or BMC motor coach, your ownership will be enhanced by filling out the application below. We look forward to you joining this unique and international "Family of Friends". If already a member we appreciate your continued support and welcome your comments, newsletter contributions and volunteer assistance.*

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

You must be a member of the **FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION**. (Your FMCA membership application is free if applied for by Blue Bird). Your club application fee is \$50 which includes two name badges and dues for the current year. Your annual dues are \$25 per year. Make check payable to the **BLUE BIRD CHAPTER of FMCA, LLC**.

New Application \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Information Update \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA # \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET/SHIPPING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ COACH # \_\_\_\_\_

COACH NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAMES AS YOU WANT THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR CLUB BADGES:

1<sup>ST</sup> BADGE \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>ND</sup> BADGE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN FORM: BLUE BIRD CHAPTER

P O BOX 1221

FORT VALLEY, GA 31030-1221