



Enhancing The Motorhome Lifestyle!

Eastern Area Motorhome Association



Winter 2015

JOHN REYNOLDS, PRESIDENT

Another year has come and gone; it is hard to believe that it is December and 2015 is almost a year in the past.

GEAR 2015 was a great rally, enjoyed by all. The golf cart rodeo proved to be a fun time. It was enjoyed by a large number of spectators and a considerable number who participated. We want to thank all who attended. This was a first-time event for GEAR, and we have been asked by many to have it again in 2016. The entertainment this year was the best we have had. During the GEAR rally, there was a new chapter formed—the Eastern Area Mah Jongg Chapter. This was organized by Dick and Flo Purcell. If anyone is interested in joining, contact the President, Jayne Reynolds, ghiapa@aol.com. Jayne, Bill, Garnetta, and I wish to thank all who attended and all who volunteered for this Rally.

On Sunday after the wrap-up meeting, we left for the committee and board meetings in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In November we traveled to Pensacola, Florida, for a GMC Dixielanders Rally. It was a fun time with wonderful people. While there we attended the homecoming of the Blue Angels.

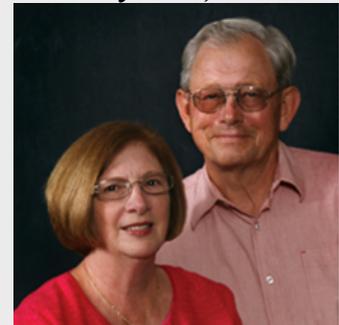
We have started working on the 2016 GEAR Rally. It will be held in early October in Lewisburg, West Virginia. The theme for this Rally will be Silver Mountain Magic. This Rally is our 25th so we are planning to work around that. Anyone who has any ideas please let the Mallorys or us know.

This year our area has a large number of chapters celebrating anniversaries. Please contact me at jreynolds@fmca.com and let me know when you plan to celebrate your anniversary. We would love to attend your anniversary celebration. If you are not having an anniversary but would like us to attend one of your rallies, please send us your schedule so that we might be able to find a time to visit with you.

Eastern Area Motorhome Association Officers

President

John Reynolds, F171042



Senior Vice President

William Mallory, F256138

Central Regional Vice President

Jerry Cohen, F259701

Southern Regional Vice President

Chris Holtzman, F388492

Northern Regional Vice President

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Garnetta Mallory, F256138

Treasurer

Berkley Alexander, F290051

Immediate Past President

Otho Tew, F152425

FMCA is now taking registrations for the Family Reunion and Motorhome Showcase that will take place in Perry, Georgia, March 17-20. If you plan on going, register as early as possible. The early-bird registration deadline is January 22. The summer convention is set to take place August 3-6 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. There is limited space available, so register as soon as possible. This is a new venue for FMCA, and I am sure there will be a lot of interest in this area of the country.

Jayne and I want to wish each and every one a Very Happy Holiday Season. Safe travels wherever you go and hope to see you down the road. Remember, it's all about having fun.

WILLIAM MALLORY, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
GARNETTA MALLORY, SECRETARY

When the Party is Over

The first FMCA International Convention Garnetta and I attended was in Brunswick, Maine. This was the record-breaking-attendance Convention held on a Naval Air Base. Seven thousand-plus motorhomes. It was rather overwhelming for the both of us. No sooner than we were parked, I started thinking about the massive exit of all the motorhomes later in the week. Well, the veteran motorhomers we traveled with laughed and said, "These will be out of here in a couple hours." Well, they were right.

Now, why am I rambling on about a rally that occurred fifteen years ago? Garnetta and I, as Rally Hosts, had a few wrap-up responsibilities after Asheville. There was the GEAR trailer that has to go somewhere each year for storage. (A big thank-you to Sara and Lonnie Hodges for transporting it to Lexington, Kentucky.) We checked to make sure the facilities were secure. Golf carts had to be accounted for and fueled; thanks to George Schremp. Lots of last-minute responsibilities. But as in Brunswick, by noon the "party was over for our 2015 GEAR Rally" and very few motorhomes were left on the grounds.

As Paul Harvey would say, here is the rest of the story. We had not been on the road more than an hour before we began discussing the 2016 Rally to be held in Lewisburg, West Virginia. I knew John Reynolds would want a theme ASAP. We wanted to tie in the beautiful mountains of West Virginia and the fact that this will be GEAR'S 25th (Silver) Anniversary. Sure enough, I do not think John's engine had time to cool off on Round Bottom Road at FMCA's campground, and we received an email—Did we have a theme? We did, "Silver Mountain Magic." A few days later, while John and Jayne were attending the FMCA Executive Board meeting in Cincinnati, they were working with the artist setting up program cover ideas. Wow! Here it is just hours since the party is over and we are already planning another one.

Garnetta and I have thank-you notes spread here and there to all our committee chairs and co-chairs. I have been reminded numerous times that these need my input so we can get them in the mail. Well while I am still procrastinating, a huge THANK YOU to all of you for making the 2015 GEAR a wonderful event. It is the volunteers that make or break a rally. Our GEAR volunteers are the greatest. Looking forward to 2016 and another great rally.

From the Mallory household, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Bill Mallory
Senior Vice President
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Garnetta Mallory
Secretary
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JERRY COHEN, CENTRAL REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

For those of you who missed GEAR – you really missed a good time. Everything went great— parking, entertainment, facilities, vendors, welcome bags, trams, ice cream social, crafts, devotions, display coaches, registration, games, ladies luncheon, Maestros music, the daily newsletter, security, seminars, chapter socials, coffee and donuts, and most importantly the Volunteers. A special thank-you to the Rally Masters and Co-Rally Masters for the planning of such a good rally. So next year plan on attending the rally in Lewisburg, West Virginia, on October 5-9, 2016.

A good way to increase your experience at GEAR is to register as a VOLUNTEER so notify Alice Tew at oatew@earthlink.net.

See you there and have safe travels.

Jerry Cohen
Central Regional Vice President
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CHRIS HOLTZMAN, SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

What a fun year; seems like only last month I was sending out an introduction letter. Nancy and I have had the privilege of visiting six great chapters in the Southern Region. I hope I have been able to contribute something to these chapters; I know they have really helped me. Each chapter has something really good going for it, and you take that info back to another chapter and everybody benefits from it. Thank you for the support of all the region.

The year started with a joint rally with Coastal Tarheels and Carolina Pelicans. Then we traveled to Brunswick, Georgia, with Carolina Cruisers; up to Franklin, North Carolina, with the Foothills Travelers; and then rallied with the Pelicans in Longs, South Carolina. Next with the Travelin' Tarheels, we rallied in Wilmington, North Carolina, and then we went to Myrtle Beach with the Carolina Heartlanders. The highlight of the year was the get-together rally we had of all the chapters at GEAR in Asheville, North Carolina. We had over 100 members attend that rally along with the National President, National Vice President, and the National Secretary. What a grand evening!

All in all the Southern Region has had a good year, we are active in GEAR, and all chapters are in good shape. Keep up the good work and we will make 2016 an even better year.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris F. Holtzman
Southern Regional Vice President
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TOM HOFFMEIER, NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

It has been a busy several months. September 3-7th my wife and I were in Tioga, Pennsylvania, for our home chapter's rally (Ives Runners). Had a great time with several new members joining us. Then September 11th I went to Harrington, Delaware, with Bill and Garnetta Mallory to look at a facility as a potential future GEAR site. From September 16-20th we assisted in manning the FMCA Booth at the Hershey, Pennsylvania, RV show. Had a great group of volunteers signing up over 100 new FMCA members.

October 9-18th found us at Fletcher, North Carolina, for GEAR where my wife, Helen, was Program Chair and I was Chair for Trams. Around 400 member coaches attended. I want to thank all the volunteers. They are what makes these rallies so great.

October 18-21st we attended the Tiffin Travelers Rally in Fletcher, North Carolina, and Helen and I did a couple of excursions on our own and climbed Chimney Rock and visited Mt. Mitchell. We also did a group tour with the Chapter to the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. Had a wonderful time with fellow members.

October 21-25th found us in Charleston, South Carolina, with the Country Cousins Chapter at Oak Plantation Campground. Chapter President Jim Ferguson kept us busy with tours of Charleston and surrounding areas each morning and afternoon. Great time was had by all. We were parked at the campground behind a motorhome with an F# of 531. I introduced myself to the owner, Thomas E. Munson. It was great to talk to someone who has been doing what we all are doing for so many years.

Next we visited Chris and Nancy Holtzman, the Southern Regional VP of the Eastern Area. We stayed parked in their driveway for a couple of days, and they showed us some areas of Charleston that I'm sure we would not have seen on a tour bus!

November 5-8th we traveled to a campground near Pensacola, Florida, to visit with the GMC Dixielanders at their Blue Angels Homecoming Rally. The Blue Angels put on a fantastic show! There were several stunt pilots, both single and in groups, to entertain us before the Blue Angels performed. We also visited the Naval Air Museum and had a great retired naval pilot as our tour guide.

As the year ends I want to take this time to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Safe travels to all wherever you roam.

Tom Hoffmeier
Northern Regional Vice President
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DENNIS DUCHARME, WESTERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

It seems like we just started 2015 and our rally season, and now it is the Holiday season when our thoughts turn to our families. Betty and I hope that all of you had a good Thanksgiving with your family. We are preparing for Christmas with our family. With the hustle and bustle of shopping and putting up the Christmas tree and all the decorations we often forget the true meaning of the Season. That is the fellowship and time spent with family, and being thankful for the many blessings we each have received throughout the year. Betty and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed the GEAR Rally in Asheville, North Carolina, as much as we did; meeting old friends and making new ones and having fun is what it is about. The entertainment was outstanding as well as the seminars and all the activities. Please mark your calendars for the GEAR Rally next October in Lewisburg, West Virginia. I know you will have a great time.

I had the opportunity to visit with most of the Chapters in the Western Region this last year but did not get to see all of you all. As you put your chapter rally schedules together, please e-mail me a copy to DDuch21603@aol.com so I can make plans to visit with your Chapter.

Safe travels for everyone heading south for the winter.

Dennis Ducharme
Western Regional Vice President
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