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A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

Web: www.MIRVClub.com

President's Message

Greetings MI members,

Another successful MI pre-rally, "Eat Drink Be Merry in Perry" is in the books. Through the rally surveys, attendees expressed positive feedback of the off-site activities, the entertainment and especially the food and meeting new friends. As in the past, rally attendees overwhelmingly supported the rally charities Friends of Perry Animal Society and Perry Loaves and Fishes. I want to thank all of you who volunteered at the rally with special thanks to Rally Masters Gordon and Nancy Owenby and Co-Rally Master Sharron Riley for all their hard work prior to and during the rally. I also want to thank Nancy Smith and Donna Mailliard for the awesome decorations. Each day everyone was pleasantly surprised by a different festive and cheery decor.

MI participated in the highly successful Chapter Fair and Block Party at the Lucky 13 FMCA Convention in Perry. Thank you Carolyn Banks, Marshal Couch, Christina and Gary Cutler, John and Sheri Shields and Teresa Sprouse for greeting people and serving hot dogs.

MI is hosting four more rallies this year. Rally details are available at mirvclub.com and in this newsletter. Registration is currently open on the website for the Pre-Rally to FMCA in Gillette, WY and the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM. In addition, you may contact Walter and Nancy Nelson at 609-476-4367 regarding the PA/NY Destination Rally and Duane and Karen Lindsey at 518-365-3611 regarding the Lake George, NY Destination Rally. Please remember early registration helps the rally planners with planning meals and activities, enhancements to entertainment, the ability to entice future service vendors and provide quality seminars at pre-rallies are dependent upon attendance numbers.

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(President's Message continued)

The "Roaming to Wyoming" Rally Masters Gary and Nancy Smith, Sharron Riley and myself are already working hard preparing for the rally. The first 50 coaches to register will have 50-amp full hookup service. If you register for 50-amp full hookup service with FMCA, you will be able to remain on the same site for both rallies. Go to mirvclub.com for additional information and to register. The pre-rally in Gillette is one more great opportunity to share past and present traveling experiences with friends and family.

The Monaco International Balloon Fiesta held in Albuquerque, New Mexico is a bucket list pick. MI's new Balloon Fiesta Rally Masters Denise and David Hillemann are diligently preparing for our members to have an unforgettable time. Go to mirvclub.com for further information and to register. There are not many sites left, so register today.

Are you taking full advantage of the MI website? Have you forgotten your password? If so, upon request, an email will be sent to you to allow a change of the password. Have you purchased a different RV? When you move, change your address, change your email address, or even change your spouse, you can update the changes yourself. No more misspelled names or other personal information. Remember, no one can change your information but you and MI site administrators. Updating your information allows past, present and future friends to stay in touch with you. In addition, if you unsubscribe, you will no longer receive messages.

MI is now composed of three geographical Areas: West, Central and East, rather than the former six regions. MI is looking for interested and energetic members to fill the three Area Vice President (AVP) positions. AVPs will be members of the Executive Board and will help members (rally masters and volunteers) who wish to plan a destination rally in their designated areas. Area destination rallies will enable members who no longer wish to travel long distances an opportunity to attend MI rallies closer to home. The number of sites available at a particular location may be limited, so register early to ensure a spot. Early registration helps the AVP and the rally master with possible enhancements of the rally as well as future rally planning. The goal is to provide MI members the opportunity to attend quality rallies.

MI is a member driven club. Consider being a volunteer, a rally master, a co-rally master or an officer. **We need a rally master for the pre-rally in the Tucson, AZ area in March 2024.**

MI is not currently on Facebook. If you would like to volunteer to set up a Facebook page AND monitor it, please contact our MI Board. Remember, we are a member driven club.

On a final note, I am excited to announce, Monaco International will celebrate 40 years next year. Stay tuned for details and upcoming events in 2024 to celebrate Monaco International's 40th birthday.

Please contact me if you have ideas, suggestions, issues, or questions.

I look forward to seeing you at a future MI rally!

Safe travels,
Mike Sanders
President Monaco International
Jmsblueknight@gmail.com

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V. P. of Membership's Message

Spring is upon us and it's time to get those R V's ready for the road to adventure and fun. Some of us started a little early and attended the Eat, Drink and be merry in Perry Georgia rally. It was a fun time and great meeting many new members to Monaco International. We were treated to some great food, beverages, tours of the area attractions, informative seminars, fun craft classes, entertainment and games, and R V service. We were able to reconnect with members we haven't seen in a while and make new friendships with new members. Thank you, Gordon and Nancy Owenby, for heading up a great rally.

Thank you, to all who renewed your memberships this year. Unfortunately, our membership has declined this year as I received 36 notifications from members advising that they have sold their motorhomes and are no longer traveling. One of those members has renewed as an associate member even though they no longer own their R V. The Good news is we have added 26 new members to our club bringing the current membership total to 446 members.

Welcome New Members

Mike & Cheryl Allen	Lake Havasu City, AZ
Don & Florie Ambler	Mills River, NC
Patty Boeninger & Gwen Kelly	Hixson, TN
John & Lorel Bonar	Glendora, CA
Danny & Jamie Carls	Plantation, FL
Debbie Carls	Plantation, FL
Mike & Gari Clerkin	Gold Canyon, AZ
Robert & Debra Dillon	Valencia, CA
John & Debra DuBuc	Taunton, MA
Ken & Debbie Green	Glen Mills, PA
Brent & Michelle Haines	Surrey, BC
Bill & Kathy Heath	Palm Bay, FL
Brian & Diane Krupicka	Yorkville, IL
Sharon Lindert & Jay Knaust	Gulfport, FL
Charles & Tracy Little	Chino Hills, CA
Raul & Pamela Lizarraga	Whittier, CA
Albert & Annette Mandrell	Huntsville, AL
Marty & Sue McMahan	Livingston, TX
Steve & Tammi Merritt	Corryton, TN
Larry & Sandra Serota	Fountain Valley, CA
John & Sandra Stich	Fulton, NY

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(VP of Membership's Message continued)

Jeff & Christy Smith	Brookhaven, MS
David & Nancy Stewart	Ocala, FL
Elizabeth & Tracy Trigg	Riverside, CA
Gary & Cris Willis	Dawsonville, GA
Ken & Ginny Yelland	Crestview, FL

Check out the web site at mirvclub.com and see the upcoming rallies. Come join us in the fun, food, fellowship and entertainment, or if you have a favorite place to visit consider being a rally master and host your own event. It doesn't have to be a large event, and there are plenty of members willing to assist in the planning and coordination. If you can host a dinner party for friends in your home you can host a rally.

We need members to step up and help lead this organization. We cannot expect the current officers to continue year after year in their roles, although, all of the current officers are all willing to mentor and assist new leaders with any issues and guidance. If anyone is considering any position feel free to contact the person currently in the position and they will be glad to explain what the position entails. Most positions only require a couple of hours a month.

I hope to see as many of our members as possible at one of our upcoming rallies. I will be attending the pre rally in Gillette, WY in August and the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM in October. Until we meet.

Safe Travels and Good Health

Gary Smith
VP of Membership

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Treasurer's Message

The club is in good financial shape, but we do need volunteers to help hold small rallies in their favorite places around the country. It is a rewarding experience, and you will have the opportunity to share some of your favorite locations with others. There are resources available to help you with your planning, in the form of communication and encouragement from former rally masters and the MI Board.

Two small rallies to consider for your summer travels in the east are the Tioga, PA, and the Lake George, NY rallies. Both rallies will offer a wonderful time of fellowship and beautiful scenery.

Tioga is a short drive from the Finger Lakes area of NY. While there, you can visit the beautiful Finger Lakes which are known for their wines. You will find small craft wineries throughout the region to visit. You could also visit the Corning Museum of Glass, which is well worth the effort. The rally masters are experienced and would love to have you join them for fun and fellowship.

The Lake George rally, held in the beautiful Adirondacks, also has great rally masters and the area is a must see for any traveler. Not only will you have a wonderful time on Lake George, but a short drive away is the Saratoga Racetrack which opened in 1863. It is worth visiting even if you do not have the opportunity to watch a horse race.

I hope you all have a wonderful time traveling this summer and if you include a MI rally, you will surely add to your memories of this year.

Dick Wolfe

Treasurer



Rally Report



Perry, Georgia

The pre-rally was held at Fair Harbor RV Park, across the highway from FMCA's Winter Rally location. A good time was had by all who attended, according to the rally survey responses. A HUGE THANKS to ALL the volunteers for their time and HARD work. Special thanks to RV Country and SKY-MED for their donations to the rally. Thanks to all who attended for making this a successful event.

During the rally there was a welcome hamburger social, 3 catered breakfasts and dinners, and an ice cream social. The food was very good and enjoyed by all. Each evening before dinner was happy hour with an open bar. After dinner there was time for socializing, games, prize drawings, cash giveaways and live entertainment with dancing.

We had three outings during the rally: Lane Orchards; Masee Lane Gardens; and the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robbins. Seminars were presented by De Gerald Aqua-hot Services (MI member Lloyd De Gerald), Sky-Med (MI members Rita and Bill Sax), Beekeeping (MI member Wayne Mailliard), RV Safety Foundation's RV Weighing and Tire Safety, and Crime Prevention tips provided by the Perry Police Department.

Additional activities included craft classes, a Ladies' Luncheon, a Men's Luncheon/round table discussion, and a general membership meeting. MI attendees also donated to two charities, Friends of Perry Animal Society and Perry Loaves and Fishes.

Rally Masters:

Gordon and Nancy Owenby

Mike Sanders and Sharron Riley

National Director's Report

Hello MI members,

I thought for this newsletter I would share a personal memory about our first event after going full-time in our motorhome. Sheri and I retired in July of 2020, and were looking forward to several planned vacations that were all cancelled because of COVID-19. I got tired of waiting for California to open up and purchased a used 2007 Monaco Diplomat motorhome.

After several short trips in our motorhome, we realized we hated returning to our home in California to deal with home maintenance and weed control. Weed control is a big deal in California. So, we sold our sticks and bricks and went full-time. At this time, June 2021, we had used our motorhome for about 11 months, without any issues and were really excited.

For our first full-time adventure, we decided to head to Gillette, Wyoming for the Monaco International (MI) pre-rally and FMCA convention. Of course, thanks to "Murphy's Law", we lost the rear A/C in the motorhome and then we lost the A/C in our 2020 Ford Edge ST. Again, thanks to COVID-19, we could not get parts or repairs for either our motorhome or the Ford Edge.

When we arrived to Gillette Wyoming, we were hot, stressed, and had not yet disconnected our Ford Edge from our motorhome, despite being asked to do so ahead of time. To our immense surprise, the people who greeted us were so kind and welcoming, I had to smile. They even offered to help me disconnect our toad.

After the MI parking members guided us into our parking space, we hooked-up our motorhome to power, water, sewer, and joined the festivities. We had so much fun at our first MI pre-rally that we thought this must be normal. We met our mentors, Norm and Mendel, and enjoyed every minute of the pre-rally. After multiple rallies and other company club rallies, we have found that MI rallies are not the norm, they are a cut above the norm.

One of the biggest issues of going full-time in an RV is lack of community. With MI, we have been blessed with having multiple opportunities to meet new friends and have great experiences.

Thus, the reason for this letter: we recently went to the MI pre-rally in Perry Georgia, and had a great time. As you can see from the photos, we did so much we were exhausted. I encourage all MI members, new and old, to participate in the MI pre-rallies and destination rallies. Make our club great again.

MI Pre-rally Perry Georgia:



National Director's Report

We did field trips:



Lane Southern Orchards



Masee Lane Gardens



National Director's Report

Museum of Aviation in Warner Robbins



National Director's Report

After all the fun at the MI pre-rally, we drove across the highway to FMCA's 106th International Convention. We participated in the Chapter fair and Chapter block party.

Chapter fair:



Chapter Block Party:



National Director's Report

And there was lots of entertainment at FMCA's 106th Convention.



SAVE THE DATES

Destination Rally, August 10 -13, 2023
Ives Run Campground, Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes
Tioga, PA
Rally Masters: Walter and Nancy Nelson, 846-878-3232,
to register and for details.

"Roaming to Wyoming"
Pre-Rally in Gillette, WY
Cam-Plex Multi-Event Center
August, 15 (arrive) - 19 (departure), 2023
More details coming soon.

Destination Rally, October 10 - 14, 2023
Lake George Riverview RV Park, NY
Rally Masters: Duane and Karen Lindsey, 515-365-3611

"Balloon Fiesta"
Albuquerque, NM
October 11-15, 2023
Rally Masters: Denise and David Hillemann
mirvclubballoonfiestarallymasters@gmail.com
More details coming soon.



**August 15 (arrive) – 19 (depart), 2023
Cam-Plex Gillette, WY**

Rally Fee includes:

Full Hookup sites (30 & 50)
Welcome Social
3 Dinners, 3 Breakfasts
Ice Cream Social
Seminars, Door Prizes
Cash Giveaways
50/50 Raffle
Card Bingo
Entertainment

The 1st 50 to sign up will have 50 amp service at no additional cost. You may remain on your site for FMCA provided you pay for 50 amp or 30 amp full hook ups with FMCA.

2 people: \$585
1 person: \$460
Additional Person: \$160

Go to mirvclub.com to register.

Rally Masters:

Gary and Nancy Smith: gsmithfl@gmail.com

Mike Sanders and Sharron Riley: ser211@bellsouth.net

CANCELLATIONS: Cancel prior to July 15 for a full refund. A \$25 cancellation fee will be deducted on all cancellations.



Autumn Adventure in Lake George



MONACO INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION RALLY

Enjoy the fall foliage in the Adirondacks!

Lake George Riverview RV Park

Lake George, NY

October 10 (arrival) – October 14 (depart), 2023

Rally Fee Includes:

Four nights of full hookup camping

Welcome Social (hot dogs, hamburgers, salads)

Lake George Lunch Cruise on LAC du Saint Sacrement

Rally fee: \$300.00 Single, \$360.00 Double

Additional adults \$60, children \$30.00

Rally Masters: Duane and Karen Lindsey, 518-365-3611

Nearby attractions: Saratoga Battlefield National Park, Fort William Henry, Fort Ticonderoga

Cancellation: Cancel no later than September 1 for full refund minus \$25 cancellation fee.

Go to mirvclub.com to register.

The rally is limited to 30 coaches.

2023 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta



Over 600 balloons come from around the world to participate in the greatest spectacle of its kind. You won't believe your eyes as 100 or more special shaped balloons take off to create a menagerie in the sky. See Mass Ascensions, Night Glows, Special Shapes Glows, Races, Key Grab Competition, Fireworks, and more. Nearby for your entertainment – Golf, Casinos, Shopping, Fine Restaurants, etc.

We will be parking in the VIP West area which is immediately adjacent to the launch site. Literally just steps away. This will be Dry Camping. There are no hook-ups. The rally fee includes 4 nights of parking, admission to ALL ballooning events and entertainment, Welcome Dinner, one breakfast and the Bring Your Own Beverage social hour with HEAVY appetizers provided each afternoon before the evening balloon event.

You can register for the 2023 Balloon Fiesta either online (recommended) or via written application, which you can download, print, and mail with your check to the address on the form. Mail in registrations must be received by June 1, 2023.

You must be a Monaco International RV Club member to register for this rally.

Due to a parking increase by Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta (AIBF), the MI Balloon Fiesta Rally rate is \$750. Be sure to register as soon as possible. Sites sell out quickly. You must pay in full upon registration to secure your prime parking space at the Balloon Fiesta. You are not registered until payment is received.

CANCELLATION POLICY: THERE IS A \$100 ADMINISTRATIVE CANCELLATION FEE REGARDLESS OF CANCELLATION DATE. NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 15 UNLESS YOUR SPACE CAN BE FILLED FROM THE WAIT LIST. ALL MI SPACES ARE PAID FOR A YEAR IN ADVANCE AND ARE NONREFUNDABLE TO MI, THEREFORE, NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 15TH UNLESS THE SPACE CAN BE FILLED BY THE WAIT LIST (MINUS THE CANCELLATION FEE).

Rally Masters: Denise and David Hillemann

mirvclubballoonfestrallymaster@gmail.com

410-905-7919

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Adds must be less than 40 words and includes contact information.

Closing Thoughts

