



OFFICERS 2022-2023

President

Mike Sanders

704-654-0867

jmsblueknight@gmail.com

First Vice President

Duane Lindsey

home: 518-365-3611

duanelin@aol.com

VP of Membership

Gary Smith

Phone: 423-464-1276

gsmithfl@bellsouth.net

Secretary

Donna Mailliard

Phone: 423-508-2677

donna@mailliard.com

Treasurer

R.O. "Dick" Wolfe

Phone: 941-224-9180

wolfenas@aol.com

National Director

John Shields

951-231-3390

johnandsheri@verizon.net

Alternate National Director

Gordon Owenby

Phone: 904-424-7485

gowenby@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor Sheri Shields

Phone: 951-265-6172

shieldsfamily6@verizon.net

A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

Web: www.MIRVClub.com

President's Message

Greetings MI Friends,

Sharron and I began 2024 in sunny Florida. We attended the Tampa Super Show Rally and saw many MI friends. Several FMCA chapters hold rallies during the Super Show Rally, and this might be an opportunity for MI to consider in the future. Sharron and I had a great time at the FMCA South Eastern Area (SEA) rally in Lakeland, Florida. Monaco International participated in both the Chapter Fair and the block party. I want to thank those of you who stopped by both events. It was nice spending time with you.

The 40th Anniversary rally in Branson in July is not only a time of celebration but also time to elect new officers. A few weeks ago, the Nominating Committee emailed information to you about the upcoming election which will be held in Branson. This is a great opportunity to get involved in your MI RV Club. Please consider being part of a team to lead MI over the next couple of years. There is additional information regarding the upcoming election in this newsletter.

Unfortunately, no one stepped forward to be the rally master for a pre-rally in Tucson. I want to thank the members of the Tri-Chapters for their invitation to MI members to be a part of their pre-rally. Several MI members will be attending the Tri-Chapters' pre-rally in March.

Below is a list of 2024 Monaco International rallies. These rallies are hosted by your Monaco International RV Club. I encourage you to attend one or more of the rallies. A good time is guaranteed!

Continued on Page 2

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| April 4-9 | Solar Eclipse Destination Rally | Hot Springs, Arkansas |
| April 21-24 | PA Dutch Destination Rally | New Holland, PA |
| May 14-17 | Muskogee Destination Rally | Muskogee, Oklahoma |
| July 15-19 | 40th. Anniversary Rally | Branson, MO |
| Oct. 9-13 | Balloon Fiesta | Albuquerque, NM |

MI Facebook page coming soon. You will be emailed when the Facebook page is up and running.

As a reminder, the newsletter includes a page for you to advertise items for sale or to submit a question for fellow MI members. Be sure to include your contact information. Send items to Sheri Shields at shieldsfamily6@verizon.net.

Safe travels to all of you. Sharron and I look forward to seeing you down the road.

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V. P. of Membership

I hope everyone has survived the winter season and I'm sure you are looking forward to getting back on the road. The Monaco International rally schedule is posted on the website mirvclub.com if you haven't registered yet there's still some availability.

Our current membership stands at 410 members, and I'm receiving a handful of new member applications every month. Please help us promote the club during your travels and let's keep Monaco International going for another 40 years.

Please welcome our new members

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Michael & Ginny Collins | Webster, FL |
| Mike & Janice Garry | Blairsville, GA |
| Terry & Gail Harbour | Arroyo Grande, CA |
| Robert & Sally Hoskins | Webster, FL |
| Steve & Sue Hubartt | Plainwell, MI |
| Steve & Diana Kaase | Garfield, AR |
| Jennifer Kassar & Christopher McNutt | Los Angeles, CA |
| Mike & Lezlie Kendzior | Green Cove Springs, FL |
| Charlie & Cheryle Lawrence | Fort Myers, FL |
| Frank & Miriam Lazcos | Key Largo, FL |
| Fred & Debra Newman | Del Rio, TX |
| Rick & Jill Rich | West Plains, MO |
| Frank & Artie Roan | Fort Pierce, FL |
| Gary & Rhonda Satterfield | Walnut Creek, CA |
| John & Sharon Traphagen | Pine Bush, NY |
| Brian Walisser & Kim Stiles | Rocky Mountain House, AB Canada |
| Ron & Pat Willame | Webster, FL |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

35

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Bill & Rita Sax
email: rita.sax@skymed.com phone: 618-972-9886

National Director's Report

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.”

Mark Twain

Greetings MI members,

One of Missouri's most famous sons was right! If you go online and register for Monaco International's 40th Anniversary Rally, you will have “started” on getting to Branson for food, fun and fellowship! America's Best Campground is a great venue, found in one of the most beautiful areas of the country. Tall trees, beautiful lakes and Branson!

The campground has catering facilities, which will provide our breakfasts and dinners, including a Hillbilly themed party, on the grounds. A planned outing to the College of the Ozarks (Hard Work U), a dinner cruise on the Branson Belle Riverboat, and lunch at Lamberts (home of the throwed roll) are all included in your rally fee. For 40 years, Monaco International members have traveled the roads together for fun and adventure. Please consider making your reservation as soon as possible for this celebration.

If you are looking for more information about this area, I would suggest Trip Advisor for information on shows, museums, and hiking trails. If you would like to do something a bit more adventurous, there is Silver Dollar City with amusement style rides, craftsmen, and shops. I'm thinking the Runaway Mountain Coaster and Zip Lines are going to be on our free time itinerary.

Hoping to see you in Branson,

John Shields.



S.E.A. Rally Photos



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Buckley, WA | Mt. Vernon, WA | Bonney Lake, WA | Kelso, WA | Coburg, OR**





ELECTION OF OFFICERS NOTICE

Hello Monaco International R V Club Members.

My name is Nancy Smith and I have been selected as the Nomination Elections Committee's Chairperson. The Election Committee is seeking members with an interest in serving on Monaco International's Executive Board. The Executive Board consist of the offices of President, Vice President, Vice President of Membership, (3) Area Vice Presidents (East, Central, and West), Secretary, Treasurer, National Director, and Assistant National Director. All of these positions are up for election. The majority of the members currently holding these positions have reached the term limits for serving in their position. Additionally, they have all expressed their willingness to mentor, train, advise, and help in any way the person taking over their position. Information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Executive positions can be found on our website mirvclub.com or by contacting any of the members currently holding the position.

Elections will be held at the general membership meeting during the 40th Anniversary Rally in Branson, MO July 15th – 19th. Please review the position responsibilities or talk to a current board member and submit your name to any Nominating Committee member or to me at nsmithfl@bellsouth.net.

Please consider getting involved and keep Monaco International R V Club moving forward for many more years to come.

Thank you.
Nancy Smith

Nominating Committee Members:

Karen Lindsey – saanenfan@aol.com
Nancy Owenby – nancydee3777@yahoo.com
Sheri Shields – shieldsfamily6@verizon.net

Current Officers:

President: Mike Sanders - jmsblueknight@gmail.com
Vice President: Duane Lindsey - duanelin@aol.com
Secretary: Donna Mailliard - donna@mailliard.com
Treasurer: Dick Wolfe - wolfenas@aol.com
Vice President of Membership: Gary Smith - gsmithfl@bellsouth.net
National Director: John Shields - johnandsheri@verizon.net
Alternate National Director: Gordon Owenby - gowenby@comcast.net
Area Vice Presidents: currently vacant (East, Central, West)

Editor's Brief

Greetings MI members,

Monaco International is hosting it's 40th anniversary this year with a rally in Branson, Missouri at America's Best Campground. The more I research this campground and the Branson area, the more excited I am about this Rally. Before I get too far into some of the great places to visit and see in Branson, I want you to check out this short 5-minute YouTube video about America's Best Campground.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFQ7hvE1LzE>

We love the journey as much as the destination so I'm already looking at our possible stops as we make our way to Branson. The MI Board has a wonderful Rally planned and you will have plenty of activities to take part in, as well as free time to explore on your own. A few of the planned activities include a Hillbilly themed party, a Steamboat dinner cruise and a visit to the College of the Ozarks (nicknamed Hark Work U).

I was interested in planning some other activities for us, so I started to do a little digging into possible fun and adventurous activities within an hour or so of Branson. We plan on arriving a few days early, so I am excited by the possibilities. Some of the places that sound like fun are Dogwood Canyon Nature Park, Talking Rocks Cavern, Table Rock Lake and the Runaway Mountain Coaster and Ziplines.

Branson is famous for the "shows" and there is so much to choose from depending upon your personal preferences. A quick search of the shows was absolutely overwhelming! I did appreciate Trip Advisor for their information on reviews, pricing and the individual websites for the venues. There should be more than enough time in our Rally schedule for you to catch a show while you are here.

Two years ago, we joined some friends on a beautiful motorcycle tour of the Ozarks area including Bull Shoals in nearby Arkansas and Table Rock Lake. We can't wait to return to this beautiful and scenic area. We hope to see you all in Branson to celebrate 40 years of traveling, laughter and fun with Monaco International!

Sheri Shields, Editor.





**Destination Rally Preceding INTO Rally
Muskogee, OK
May 14 (arrive) – May 17 (INTO begins)
Hatbox Event Center**

Monaco International RV Club is hosting a Destination Rally prior to the INTO Rally in Muskogee, OK. The rally fee of \$199.00 includes 3 nights of camping with full hookups (utilities are at the rear of the site), a Welcome Dinner, an ice cream social, tour of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame & Museum, a tour of the Butterfly Papillion, games, lunch at The Amish Restaurant and Store (\$) and a day trip to Tulsa for a guided tour of this historic city. Tulsa is fifty miles from Muskogee and transportation will be provided.

Rally fee for 2 people in coach - \$199.00

Rally fee for 1 person in coach - \$149.00

Cancellations: There will be a \$25 cancellation fee on all cancellations. Cancellations must be received prior to April 20 for a full refund minus the cancellation fee.

If you are staying for the INTO Rally, you will not have to change sites (May 17 - 21).

GO TO MIRVCLUB.COM TO REGISTER.

2024 INTERNATIONAL (INTO) AREA RALLY

Mosey INTO Muskogee

Hello FMCA Family,

Many of you are making your 2024 traveling plans. I invite you to put the INTO Area rally, “Mosey INTO Muskogee” on your calendar for May 17th to 21st.

INTO is known for going to unique and new locations. In 2023, we held what I believe is the first Area rally in Canada in the history of FMCA. In 2024, we are holding our rally at a new location for FMCA, The Hatbox Event Center in Muskogee, Oklahoma which is a former general aviation airport. Parking is on the old runway with 50/30-amp full hookups at the rear of your RV. The rally events are briefly outlined on the attached registration form.

Since this is a new location, it will provide you with a great opportunity to visit the surrounding community. We are working with the venue to expand the early arrival and late stay opportunities to make this easier without missing out on the rally activities.

So, what is there to do and see? I'll mention just a few of the many attractions.

- The USS Batfish Submarine & Military Museum: The Memorial Park contains the USS Batfish World War II submarine, as well as tanks, cannons, missiles and other military memorabilia.
- Five Civilized Tribes Museum: The museum is located in the historic Union Indian Agency building. It showcases the history and culture of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee and Seminole tribes.
- The Papillion is an open-air butterfly house located in Honor Heights Park. It is home to 300 native butterflies.
- Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame & Museum: The museum is filled with the rich music history of Oklahoma artists. It offers live music performances as well.
- Three Rivers Museum: The Museum is in the Midland Valley Railroad Depot featuring a wide collection of artifacts, stories, objects, and documents related to the history of Muskogee and the surrounding area.
- Muskogee Brewing Company: Located in the old downtown firehouse, they brew unique and high-quality craft beers. In addition, to accompany the beer they also serve great burgers.
- Grand Flea Market Annex: It is an indoor flea market located in Muskogee, Oklahoma. It is one of the few places in town where you will get anything from furniture, home décor to books, magazines, and old records.
- The Ataloa Lodge Museum: Located at Bacone College in Muskogee, it holds one of the largest privately owned collections of Native American art, history and culture in the United States. Built in 1932, the lodge's original purpose was for Native American students from all regions to create art and crafts. It now houses over 20,000 pieces of artwork from tribes across the nation.
- Additional attractions within 40 miles include: Fort Gibson Historic Site, Arrowhead Mall, Sequoyah State Park, Cherokee Heritage Center, and many others.

As always, your INTO Rally staff has created much to keep you busy learning, playing, being entertained, and fed at the rally itself. So, there is no need to venture out if you don't want to.

Come Mosey on INTO Muskogee and join us at a great new facility.

Bob Weithofer,
President, International Area

**CELEBRATING
40 YEARS**
1984-2024



**Monaco International's 40th Anniversary Rally
America's Best Campground
Branson, Missouri
July 15th (arrive) – July 19th (depart)**

Monaco International RV Club is hosting a Destination Rally to celebrate MI's 40th anniversary. The rally fee of \$650.00 includes:

- 4 Nights of Camping with Full Hookups**
- Welcome Dinner with Pizza, wings, and Salad**
- Ice Cream Social**
- Happy hours**
- Three catered dinners and three catered breakfasts**
- Tour of the College of the Ozarks**
- Branson Bell Showboat dinner and show**
- Hillbilly hoe down show**
- Games**
- Lunch provided at Lamberts Cafe**
- Bus transportation provided to COO and Branson Bell Showboat**

- Rally fee for two people in coach – \$650.00**
- Rally fee for one person in coach – \$450.00**
- Fee for extra persons in coach – \$200.00/person**
- Early arrivals allowed for Sat or Sun must call ahead to ABC – \$58.00/night**
- Cabin rentals are available must call ahead to ABC – \$60 to \$169/night**
- Rally fee for staying in cabins - \$200.00/person**

Cancellations: There will be a \$25 cancellation fee on all cancellations. Cancellations must be received prior to June 10 for a full refund minus the cancelation fee.

Register online only (MIRVCLUB) State Pizza preference and shirt size!

Registration deadline: June 1, 2024

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA HOSTED BY MONACO INTERNATIONAL RV CLUB October 9 – 11, 2024



Each year over 600 balloons come from around the world to participate in the greatest spectacle of its kind. You will not believe your eyes as 100 or more special shape balloons take off to create a menagerie in the sky. Watch Mass Ascensions, Night Glows, Special Shapes Glows, Races, Key Grab Competition, Fireworks, and more. Albuquerque has so much to offer in adventures and activities, all located nearby.

We will be parking in the VIP West area which is located just steps away from the Launch field. This will be **Dry Camping with NO hookups**. However, water and holding tank pump-outs are available for a fee.

The rally fee of \$750 includes: 4 days of Fiesta Parking, admission to all ballooning events and entertainment, Welcome Dinner, pastries and coffee each morning and Saturday Morning breakfast burrito, Bring-Your-Own Beverage social hours with light dinners provided each afternoon before the evening Fiesta activities.

Rally Masters: Denise & David Hillemann 410.905.7919

Registrar: Denise Hillemann 410.905.7919

Email: mirclubballoonfestrallymaster@gmail.com

You must be a member in good standing of Monaco International RV Club. You may join MI by visiting the website at www.mirvclub.com. MI welcomes all FMCA members in good standing.

CANCELLATION POLICY: \$100 CANCELLATION FEE REGARDLESS OF DATE. NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 15 UNLESS YOUR SPACE CAN BE FILLED FROM THE WAIT LIST. MI PAYS FOR ALL SPACES A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

MIRVCLUB.COM TO REGISTER

Classifieds

For Sale

Blue Ox Patriot 2 brake system with remote control/monitor. \$700 OBO

Contact: John Shields 951-231-3390

For Sale

Magnum Energy MS2012 inverter with ME-RC controller. Both work great. \$500 OBO

Contact; John Shields 951-231-3390

Help Needed

My flip-down TV in the ceiling of my Dynasty failed.

I'm trying to get another motor and bracket new or used. Has anyone else had this problem and found an after-market unit?

Bernard Burks, Monaco International member

To place a classified add, email shieldsfamily6@verizon.net
Adds must be less than 60 words and includes contact information.

2024 Rallies

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| March 10 -14 | Tri-Chapters Rally Special Invite Tucson, AZ |
| April 4 - 9 | Solar Eclipse Destination Rally Hot Springs, AR |
| April 21 -24 | PA Dutch Destination Rally New Holland, PA |
| May 14 - 17 | Muskogee Destination Rally Muskogee, OK |
| July 15 - 19 | 40th Anniversary Rally Branson, MO |
| Oct 9 -13 | Balloon Fiesta Albuquerque, NM |

Closing Thoughts

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the thing you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore.

Dream. Discover.”

Mark Twain