

Discover Wisconsin

Manitowoc Wisconsin became the temporary home to Monaco International from Aug. 2-6 2011. On Aug 1st gate greeters and parking crew were on hand to greet and park all early arrivals.

The weather cooperated beautifully for parking and all out door activities. At 5:00 on Tues. parking was complete, 192 member coaches, and the festivities began.

A welcome party was held at an open air pavilion. A cookout of brats and dogs was prepared by the Marq who was the caterer for the entire rally. Music was provided by "Dantes Bop" consisting of Jerry Unger and Nora Wolf a local country duo. Monaco RV provided an array of beautiful Monaco and Holiday Rambler coaches to inspect and purchase and Ronny Finke and an eager bar tending crew provided a variety of cool drinks. The rally could not have started any better.

Wed. morning found the Marq ready for us with a breakfast that was hot, delicious and plentiful. The vendor building officially opened at noon on Tuesday and continued thru Thursday. The products for sale were expertly displayed and were very inviting. Hopefully every one found what they needed. Daily seminars dealt with topics ranging from motor home maintenance, after market equipment, travel ideas and coach improvements. Craft classes were busy giving people tips and confidence on how to do unique projects. There was even a craft on how to turn your empty wine bottle into a classy home decoration.

Wed. afternoon Monaco RV introduced the 2012 Dynasty and Diplomat at a wine and cheese tasting they sponsored. The Von Stiehl family owned winery from Algoma, WI, brought cases of different wines they make for all to sample, and the family owned Hennings cheese factory from Kiel WI brought enough cheese for everyone to try. It was a great event, every one sampled and learned about the different products and the 2012 Dynasty found a new home.

On Wed. evening four young members of the Coast Guard were on hand to help with our flag ceremony. Kay Rivoli honored us with the singing of the anthems of Canada and the United States. We had a surprised audience when the mayor of Manitowoc was introduced and it was revealed that he was just 24 years old. He is a very energetic and sincere man and a good sport when being teased about his age. Dinner was another outstanding meal offered by the Marq. Entertainment for the evening was Ron and Kay Rivoli of the Rivoli Revue. They are becoming well known and loved in the RV community. Many people remember them from the days when they did motor home window tinting before moving to a music career.

Thursday started with another great breakfast followed by seminars, vendors and crafts. The caterer roasted two pigs outside of the dining hall to be served for dinner that evening. The afternoon highlight was an ice cream social that was sponsored by Dick Lornston of Precision Frame & Alignment. Cold Stone Creamery brought five of their creation for us to choose from. It was a welcomed treat on a warm summer afternoon.

The sight of the two roasted pigs being carried in to the buffet tables for carving was very impressive as was the meal that went with it. Entertainment after dinner was the Doo Wop Daddies, a popular group from Milwaukee.

Their specialty is 50's & 60's Doo Wop style music for your dancing pleasure.

Friday had many highlights beginning with an outing at the golf course. A sleeve of golf balls was given to each golfer at the beginning because the course was quite challenging.

There may have been some lost some golf balls but all golfers were back in time for happy hour.

The ladies had their own highlight with a special lunch of Chilled Strawberry Melon Soup, Chicken Salad Croissant, and Sweet Potato Chips topped off with a Wisconsin Cream Puff provided by the Marq.

A popular seminar of the day was an hour with Bill Osborne. He is a very interesting man with many ideas of where he is going to take Monaco Coach.

An event that has grown in popularity is the pet parade and that was evident with the turn out of pets and their proud owners. At our pet parade there were 41 pets competing. If you have the occasion to see the Lindas and their family pet you might want to congratulate them for their Best of Show honors.

Evening brought out thank yous, hand shakes and accolades for everyone involved in putting on a great rally followed by a dinner of pecan encrusted walleye, a real delight for fish lovers.

The entertainment for the evening was the ever popular New Odyssey. I can say with certainty that no one left early.

Friday was a day for details. Business was conducted for the club, a caravan meeting was conducted and last minute deals were made on new coaches.

After a great meal and a round of applause for the wait staff, Page Robertson took center stage and finished out the rally as only he can.

The parking crew did a great job getting the caravan in order and Dick and Nancy Wolf led them to Madison without a hitch.

We need now to thank a whole host of people starting with the army of volunteers that worked for us, without you it could not have run so smoothly.

We can't say enough about the sponsors and dealers. You came forward and offered not only moral support but financial support in these trying economical times.

We would like to thank the vendors for being a part of this rally you are without a doubt a very important part of any rally and hope to see you in the future.

We wish to extend a big thank you to Monaco RV. The support and backing of Mike Snell, staff and technicians was amazing and greatly appreciated. Stella can deal with unknown surprises better than anyone. A rally would not be complete without hugs, hand shakes and humor of the ever popular Paige Robertson.