

## **MONACO INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA 2013**

**David and Kay Piper, Wagon Masters  
Marvin and De Pitts, Co-Wagon Masters**

Another wonderful rally in Albuquerque...Hosts David and Kay Piper, and Co-Hosts Marvin and De Pitts hosted the 2013 Monaco International Balloon Fiesta, and it was a resounding success. This event certainly draws a crowd! Coaches from 17 different states were represented, and 20 of those coaches were from the Anasazi Chapter of FMCA. With 75 coaches, 10 guests, and a total of 160 people in attendance, the Monaco contingent was brimming with enthusiasm for the balloon experience and all that it entails.

Because the coaches were parked in the VIP West parking area, the attendees were afforded the best seats in the house! In fact, the location of the coaches allowed our members to see the balloons as they launched; they were so close that they could talk to the pilots and passengers from where they were standing. Not many people who attend this famous event have this opportunity! There were 554 special and regular shape balloons representing nineteen countries again this year. It is a spectacular sight to see over 550 balloons flying over our motor homes. We are so lucky to have this site so that each year we get to experience the thrill of watching the ascent of the balloons while we have our morning coffee!

Of course, the center of the rally was the Balloon Festival; however, like all good motor homers, we found time to enjoy a tasty lunch at the Tanoan Country Club, a Mexican buffet at El Pinto Restaurant, and breakfast goodies from Hello Deli! Special thanks go to the Cernies who made wonderful margaritas Saturday night. Several even had time for shopping and sightseeing before another social hour, balloon glow, and fireworks display on Saturday. The balloons flew in mass and again were spectacular, and the "Albuquerque Box" was really working on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

An event such as this owes much of its success to people like Marvin and De Pitts and their tireless efforts. Also, without sponsors to help defray the cost to our members, we would not be able to offer as many activities. Special thanks go to:

**Monaco Coach  
Monaco International RV Club  
Paul Evert's RV Country  
Best Value RV Sales & Service/ North Texas RV  
Alliance RV Sales & Service**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Balloon Fiesta is over, but we are busily preparing for next year. You can register now—just check the website for the application. *Places fill quickly, so register early!*