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A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

Web: www.MIRVClub.com

Greetings Fellow Members

The time of year has come for folks in the North to prepare for colder weather or point your coach south for warmer temperatures. Judy and I will spend a family Thanksgiving in Cincinnati and then make the trip south to be with friends around a swimming pool.

Looking back at the year 2017, it was a good year but not without challenges. The absence of a winter/spring rally left us without a venue for elections but thanks to a recent bylaws change, we had the option of doing the election online, electronically. The electronics accomplished what we needed for a success.

Our summer rally in Celina OH was a great time as I have written before. Our challenge there was rain but being avid motor homers we knew how to deal with adversity and still have a good time.

The Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque had rave reviews from all that attended, which was not surprising as it has been a Monaco high light every year.

Rally masters and volunteers are working now for a spring rally in Moultrie GA. March 9th-12th 2018. The registration form is now on-line for sign up or downloads. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Wilma Jean Alexander is organizing a rally in Gillette, WY at the Camplex in Gillette, July 11th-14th, in conjunct with FMCA as we did in 2013. Don't hesitate volunteering when asked. A rally is a big job and it takes the help of all.

I would like to make mention of the new standing rule 1a that was adopted at the business meeting in Celina, OH. The rule is a grandfather clause to membership. "If a member in good standing with Monaco International purchases a coach of a different brand, that person can continue to be a member with all benefits including voting and holding office." This rule was made to offset the fact that REV is not producing many Monaco models for members to choose from. I would like to emphasize, do not confuse this Standing Rule with the Associate membership. The Associate membership is still intact and is for folks that do not have a motorhome at all.

For the members that will winter in the west this season remember the INTO rally in Tucson, AZ. Work is underway for a good time in the AZ sun.

All in all I am happy and proud to say Monaco International had a full and rewarding year.

Happy Holidays

Dick Strzyzewski

President Monaco International

INFLATE YOUR IMAGINATION 2017 MI ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA RALLY

The 2017 Monaco International Rally at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta (AIBF) held October 11th through 15th, 2016 was another outstanding MI Balloon Fiesta Rally.

The Rally had the maximum of 80 coaches (81% were MI members) registered. Seventy-seven were actually in attendance and all observed the Inflation of 600 hot air balloons, including over 90 Special Shapes and 80 flying foreign flags. A few weeks before the rally, there was a Wait List, but it was worked down as the result of late cancellations.

The weather was extremely pleasant during the rally, dipping only into the upper 40s a few mornings. The balloons were able to fly three of the four mornings of the rally and eight of the total nine days of the whole Fiesta. Balloon Glows occurred on all scheduled evenings, although cut short one night due to winds. Following the Glows an enormous and spectacular Fireworks display followed a laser light show. There were a lot of "Ooos" and "Ahas" in the MI Social Gathering Area as they were again truly outstanding and we had front row seats!

Monaco again had The Best parking location that could be had at the Balloon Fiesta. We were located in the first five rows of the premier VIP West Parking facility, immediately adjacent to the launch field. We were less than one hundred yards from the launching balloons and countless balloons flew directly over our coaches at 70 feet, close enough to talk to the pilot and passengers.

We were privileged again to have a hot air balloon pilot talk to the rally group on the first night before and after one of our excellent provided meals. He provided a great history of hot air ballooning and explained the fundamentals of Lighter Than Air flight. He also brought his balloon system, and while he could not inflate the envelope, he set out the basket and partially assembled the system so all could see the instruments. Many took advantage of having their picture taken while standing in the basket and experienced the thrill of operating the powerful, thundering burner.

On Friday, we again recognized the late David Piper, who with his wife Kay hosted the MI Balloon Fiesta Rally for over a decade. To celebrate his legacy, we had shrimp, David's favorite food, at the Social Hour. Several MI rally participants took the opportunity to crew for a balloon.

Several indicated they planned to return next year to crew for the same pilot in hopes of getting a balloon ride. This is common after crewing for a pilot a number of times. At least two of our Rally attendees took balloon rides during the Fiesta. On Saturday morning, a balloon landed immediately in front of our coaches parked on the front row, providing an opportunity to watch the landing, take down and packing up a balloon system up close and personal.

At least seventy-five percent of the attendees were first time attendees at AIBF and for a few, this was their first MI rally. As with most MI Rallies, there were numerous comments about the copious amounts of food available for rally attendees. Yes, we ate, and ate again! In addition to the catered BBQ dinner on the first night, we had two exceptional lunches and outstanding Texas size, New Mexico style, breakfast burritos one morning and of, course, daily Social Hours with appetizers. The overwhelming response on the Rally Critiques was to return and to return again to the El Pinto restaurant for the outstanding luncheon buffet.



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INFLATE YOUR IMAGINATION 2017 MI ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA RALLY

continued from page 2

We also experienced outstanding volunteerism from the Parking and Greeting Crew to the numerous volunteers who helped prepare daily appetizers and to the photographers who captured the Rally. Many, many thanks to the volunteers who were essential in making the rally a success.

Paul Evert RV Country again came to MI's aid by providing a sponsorship. Be sure to thank Curt Curtis and his staff.

Pictures of the Rally will be posted on the MIRVCLUB.com website under Past Rallies.

If you have not been to the AIBF, it should be high on your Bucket List. MI rally dates for 2018 are October 10th through 14th and you can sign up at MIRVCLUB.COM under Future Rallies. Only MI members can apply now through mid-April. On April 15th, registration will open to all FMCA members on a first-come basis, but non-members must have an MI member as a sponsor. Apply early!

Submitted by Co-Host:

Sandy and Harry Hentschel

Greeting from the First Vice President

Fall is here and as time speeds forward, it will be spring and time for a Monaco International gathering in Moultrie GA for the March rally preceding the FMCA convention in Perry, GA. If you have not registered, go on line to monacointernationalrvclub.com and complete the reservation form. We look forward to your active participation.

In July we will hold our summer rally, Westward Ho!!!, at the Camplex in Gillette WY on July 11-14, 2018. Early arrival begins on July 9th. An article re the rally can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. I traveled to Gillette in October to finalize the details for arrival. We will have full service hookups with 30 amp service for all. 50 amp service will be available at an extra charge.

Since FMCA has been gracious to allow us to hold our rally at the Camplex prior to their rally on July 18-21, we have agreed to handle our parking in a manner that will prevent excessive traffic in and among our coaches when the other coaches start arriving. It will be necessary for you to display your FMCA credentials along with your Monaco International credentials upon arrival at the Camplex. We will be in constant contact with FMCA headquarters to keep our records up-to-date in an attempt to avoid interruptions that may result from a lack of receipt of the FMCA credentials. If you wish to park with other people, make sure all of you are registered for the same level of electrical service, or are flexible in service that is acceptable to you, and all are either staying for FMCA or all are leaving on July 15. As always, we will attempt to accommodate your needs; just make sure you are as specific as possible when you register so we know how to plan.

Please consider volunteering for service in Gillette. We need you to step forward and serve as rally master, committee chair, member of a committee, or wherever, you are willing to serve. Send me an email or telephone me at the address and/or number listed below.

Have a great holiday season!! We will be going to our home in Florida when we get finished in Illinois with our medical appointments. Enjoy your time with family and friends as we approach this time of the year.

Wilma Jean Alexander
bumminfir@hughes.net
309-824-0652



**WESTWARD HO!!!
MONACO INTERNATIONAL RAL-
LY
CAMPLEX, GILLETTE, WY
JULY 11-14, 2018**



Join the "wagon train" as we head west for the JULY 11-14, 2018 MONACO INTERNATIONAL RALLY at the CAMPLEX in GILLETTE, WY. ADVANCE ARRIVAL will begin JULY 9th. TOURS of the local area are being planned and scheduled to begin the afternoon of the 9th thru the 10th. ADVANCED REGISTRATION will be required for the tours through the registration process which will begin in March 2018.

The Monaco International Rally will precede the FMCA Convention which begins on July 18-21st at the Camplex. The pre-activities for FMCA begin on July 15th; therefore, those who are not registered for FMCA will be required to vacate the area by 10 a.m. on July 15th. Those who are registered will not be required to move and can remain in place at no additional cost! If you need to move to another location due to volunteering, etc. at FMCA, the parking committee will assist in the moving process.

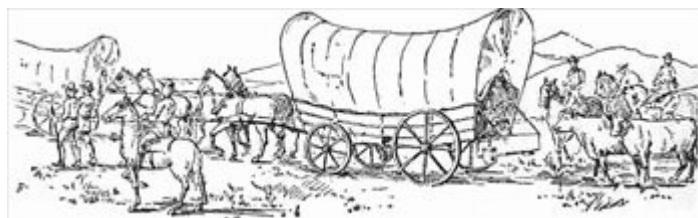
Monaco International Rally activities will begin at noon on JULY 11 with the Vendor Grand Opening as well as the Information Booth so you can sign up for special events and the arts and craft classes. Coach Display will open at 4 p.m. with Social Hour beginning at 5 p.m. A catered informal meal will be provided. If arriving early, there is a \$25 per night fee paid in advance through registration or plan to arrive before noon on the 11th so you won't miss out on any of the fun activities.

Even though current plans are tentative for entertainment, we have tentatively scheduled a jazz band concert and a rodeo as part of the schedule. If you are aware of area entertainment that would be of interest to our members, please call me at 309-824-0652. It's always great when we can take advantage of the area talent.

Caterers have been contacted and I am awaiting contract proposals for three breakfasts and three dinners in addition to the informal meal on the opening evening. If you have sampled the local fare in your travels in the Gillette area, let me know your opinions.

I'm still in need of a Rally Master. Roy and Jackie Holt have agreed to serve as Assistant Wagon Masters in preparation for assuming the leadership of a future rally. I have contacted several of you but as yet, no one has agreed to serve. These rallies are only possible through members who are willing to give their time and talents to make them successful. Step up and volunteer! =

Wilma Jean Alexander
1st Vice President





Nominating Committee Report

Your nominating committee consists of **Jim Crimmins** (chair), **Carolyn Banks**, and **Harry Hentschel**. We have been hard at work since we were elected at the last Pre-Rally in Celina, OH, in July. Since we are spread around the country ourselves, we work using a weekly conference call.

After a bit of a rough start trying to find candidates who could commit to the time and work involved, and with the help of an email blast, we are nearing completion of the nominating process.

Our call asking for members to step up and volunteer brought several potential candidates – people we might not have known about if they hadn't responded to that email call. We'd really like to thank all those who stepped up.

By the time you read this, we should have contacted all those who will be nominated and should have their resumes ready to present to you before the Pre-Rally in Moultrie, GA, in March.

We hope you plan to attend that Pre-Rally so you will be able to cast your vote and help choose the members who will represent you during the next year. And besides, the rallies are just plain fun, too.

LIVING THE DREAM.....

Come to the Monaco International Pre-Rally in Moultrie, Georgia, March 9-12, 2018 with early parking on March 8th. We are planning to have a fun filled rally with lots of surprises. If you sign up early you will save money.....check out the application.

Monaco Travelers and Friends Chapter are acting as our co-hosts and have stepped up to volunteer for various position's. Our goal with this rally is to train any individuals who are interested in volunteering so they are confident and knowledgeable to step up in the future to fill volunteer positions. If you have not signed up to volunteer yet, please contact us and let us know where your interest lies and we will do our best to accommodate your choice. We can promise that you will get more out of the rally if you put more of yourself into it.

We are working hard on having a good selection of vendors, and at this point we are pleased with our response and vendor sign-ups. As usual, the food promises to be worthy of at least gaining 10 pounds. Our entertainment is shaping up also. We will have more details as time progresseswe are definitely open to suggestions and value your input.

Please feel free to contact us either by phone, text, or e-mail. Remember we really are encouraging you to volunteer and be an active participant.

Your Rally Masters,

Dick & Nancy Wolfe

Dick – 941-224-9180

Nancy – 941-704-4455

dicknancywolfe@aol.com



Pre Rally

**SUNBELT AGRICULTURAL
EXPO CENTER
(Spence Field)
Moultrie, Georgia**

RALLY MASTERS
Dick & Nancy Wolfe
dicknancywolfe@aol.com

PRESIDENT, Dick Strzyzewski
FIRST LADY, Judy Strzyzewski

This rally is sponsored by the
**Monaco International
Chapter of FMCA**
and is open to all motorized
recreational vehicles.

Volunteer/Host Chapter:
**Monaco Travelers &
Friends**

Rally Price includes:

Welcome Social
3 Breakfasts/Dinners
Social Hour, Entertainment
Seminars, Vendors, Suppliers
New Coach Display
Fun & Games

****INCLUDING:**
**4 nights parking with water and
electric
(March 9th—12th)**
Early parking available on
March 8th
With Electric/ Water \$30.00
All **early** parking fees **must** be
enclosed with this registration.

Sign up online at
"mirvclub.com"

**Or make Checks payable and
mail to:**

Monaco International Pre-Rally
Kathianne Taylor
512 Homecoming Way
Polk City, FL 33868
kathiannetaylor@msn.com

First Name _____
Second Name _____
(First and last name for EACH person/attendee)
Address _____
City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Email _____ **Phone** _____
[] Please add me to your e-mail/newsletter mailings **FMCA #** _____
Monaco Coach Model _____ **Coach #** _____
Handicapped? Yes [] **Handicap Electric?** Yes No
(Must have state issued handicapped placard)
First Timer? Yes No **Caravan to FMCA?** Yes No

	FEES	
[] MI Member Coach for 2 adults ALL INCLUSIVE **	\$ 450.00	
[] MI Member Coach with 1 adult ALL INCLUSIVE **	300.00	
[] NON-Monaco International Member (ADD per coach)	50.00	
[] Extra person in coach	150.00	
[] Early Parking March 8 with Water/Electric Additional	30.00	
[] Ladies Luncheon (per person, ADD)	15.00	
[] Golf (per player, ADD)	60.00	
Name of Golfer:		
Name of Golfer:		
MI Member discount until Feb 20 deduct \$100.00		
VOLUNTEER - YES [] NO []	FREE	FREE
TOTAL REMITTANCE		

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 28, 2018

Confirmation Package available on-line—February 15, 2018

For those without internet access—Check Hold at Gate []

**CANCELLATION REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED BY
FEBRUARY 20, 2018 FOR REFUND**

**** CAMPING FEES INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION**