

NORTHEAST AREA NEWS



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Spring has arrived, and looking at chapter newsletters, rallies are beginning for the season. After that long Northeast winter, may you all have a joyful camping season.

Your officers are working very hard to make the August NEAR Rally in Essex Junction, Vermont, a great success. Have you or your chapter volunteered yet? If you wish to do so, please contact Lou Snow, your 3rd Vice President and Volunteer Coordinator.

Consider volunteering with another chapter(s). Last year, Allo Quebec and Mohawk Roamers handled the trams. Both chapters loved participating with each other. It fostered new friendships, as well as made the tasks lighter.

As many of you know, Steve Sponenberg has resigned as your 1st Vice President. After much thought, consultation with some of you and sage advice from FMCA's Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairperson, it was decided not to attempt to fill this position for the remaining term. Frankly, by the time the nominations could be sought, ballots sent out and returned, it would have been close to the time to elect officers at our annual meeting in August at our NEAR Rally. Therefore, your 1st Vice President position remains vacant.

Speaking of our annual meeting, if anyone out there wishes to run for one of the NEAR officer positions in August, please contact a member of your nominating committee:

● Grant Bamberger, 802-878-7802, jbambi@worldnet.att.net



● Bart Barton, 585-289-4792, bartonta@rochester.rr.com

● Frank Rizzi, 631-419-6092, eleriz15@yahoo.com

● Tom Roule, 716-346-6567, troule@aol.com.

Additionally, in looking at the NEAR Bylaws, it appears that they need some revision. If anyone would like to serve on a NEAR Bylaws Committee, please let me know. I would like to be in a position to present proposed Bylaw changes to our Board in August, 2009.

Maine Wheels, one of our Northeast Area Chapters, is proud to host our National President Connie Pool at Hinckley, ME, on July 29, 30, & 31, 2008, for a celebration of FMCA's 45th Anniversary. The event is limited to 75 coaches due to space limitations at Hinckley. However, all FMCA members are invited and encouraged to attend. I have enclosed a Registration Form for this event in this Newsletter, and I hope to see you there.

Until we meet again, safe travels.

Sam

NORTHEAST AREA CHAPTERS

Allo Quebec
Bussin' Buddies
Campers of Long Island
Cape Codders
Constitution Cruisers
Country Coach Nor'Easters
Empire State
Fingerlakers
Frustrated Maestros - NE,
Yankee Doodle Dandies
GM Bus Owners of New England
GMC Heritage Cruisers
GMC Nor'Easters
Granite Staters
Green Mountain
Hudson Islanders
Jersey Gems
Knot Fore Busses Only
Long Islanders
Maine Wheels
Massachusetts Minutemen
Metropolitan
Mohawk Roamers
Monaco Northeast Explorers
Mt. Laurel Travelers
National RV Club, Northeastern
Near N Far
New England Race Chasers
New York Centrals
Niagara Frontier Travelers
Northeast Coaches for Christ
Northeast Pacers
Northeast Quadrant-Croton
Northeastern
Paumanack
Pen-Ny Mixers
Perfect Circle
Scone
Scotian Roamers
Susquenango
Thousand Island Voyageurs
Willie & Co. Fan Club
Yankee Travelers

HAPPY



CAMPING

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It is hard to believe that May 1st is already here. That is, unless you are planning an area rally -- and then there are not enough hours in the day! With the resignation of the First Vice President, as Second Vice President, I have assumed the responsibility of both Vendors and Seminars for the Rally.

I could not have done this without the help of Lou, Eleanor and Kathianne, our other board members. When the decision not to fill the 1st VP position until the August meeting was made, they jumped right in, and we worked as a team, throwing job titles out the window. We had just one thought in mind, and that was to get the job done and put on a great rally for our members. In addition, several of our chapters have "stepped up to the plate" to help in that regard.

With the increased fuel prices and transportation costs affecting vendors, we have been working with them to make it possible for them to attend. Our efforts are paying off, and it looks like we will have a good variety of both vendors and RV dealers.

We also have a great selection of Seminars, including a lot of new ones. We will also have several craft seminars. We will have a K9 Police Dog demonstration, a seminar on traveling with pets and we are working to have a veterinarian on hand to do a seminar and answer questions. We have added another new facet to our rally: we are arranging to have auto dealers exhibit tow cars.

These are just a few of the events that we have planned. Now it is up to you. Without your attendance the

rally cannot be a success. The vendors need you to show your support as they have shown theirs by making the commitment to attend. Let's continue the team work and get the job done. We want to see great numbers of family coaches and lots of vendors, and we want to know that each one of us was part of that success.

Paul

3rd VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This year's Northeast Area Rally will be held at Champlain Valley Exposition Fairgrounds in Essex Junction, VT. The Northeast Motorhome Association will be your host for this rally and plans are already in place to make this a special event. As you may already know, this has been a great venue for our rally events in the past and this year should be no exception. New for "08" is an additional 26,000 sq. ft. building for exhibits and indoor entertainment. A second floor will provide us separate rooms for our seminar program. Also, upgrades to the outside surrounding areas will provide us with water and electric for up to 1,000 coaches. It is needless to say that the Champlain Valley Expo is by far the premier facility in the Northeast to host our Rally.

As in the past, the success of the Northeast Area Rally depends on our volunteer involvement. Please set aside the NEA Rally dates of August 7, 8, 9 & 10, 2008, so that they do not conflict with your Chapters' schedule. Join us at Essex Junction this year!

If you are considering your chapter for a Volunteer effort, please assign, from within your member group, a

**3rd VICE PRESIDENT'S
COLUMN (Continued)**

Captain who will take charge and organize personnel and scheduling. A Captains' meeting for all who will be heading the various Volunteer positions will be held in Essex Junction, VT, on May 16, 17 & 18, 2008. Please be sure that the designated "Captain," or a representative, is able to attend. A registration form and agenda for this weekend is included with this newsletter. Some Chapter representatives have already come forward to offer their services, others are still considering their efforts. Please advise me via e-mail or telephone if you wish to offer your Chapter's service. Thank you.

Lou

**THANK YOU,
THANK YOU,
THANK YOU**

A special thank you to all of the Northeast Motorhome Association Officers. *Webster's Dictionary* defines **teamwork** as "work done by several associates with each doing a part but all subordinating personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole." This is exactly what all of your officers have done. With the departure of Steve, it has been extremely difficult and time-consuming, but they have all come through to support you, your chapter, the Northeast and, more particularly, the Northeast Area Rally. You should be very proud of the officers you elected this year. I know I am.

Sam

SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Let me start with letting everyone in the Northeast know how happy I am to be the Secretary of the Northeast. After attending rallies for years with my family, the children are now gone, and I now have a chance to take part and plan the rallies.

We held our Annual Meeting of the Northeast Motorhome Association on July 14, 2007, at our Sussex County, New Jersey Rally. Eleanor Rizzi, our Treasurer, provided the Treasurer's Report. A report was given by the Audit Committee letting us know they reviewed all the accounts on the computer, as well as on the statements, and everything balanced according to what Treasurer Eleanor Rizzi had on her reports. With respect to the changes in terms of Office for the Northeast Area Association officers, the Bylaws Committee made the proposed changes to the wrong paragraph of the Bylaws. Thus, a motion was made and passed that the Bylaws Committee Report place the report on file. It was reported that we have negotiated fair prices with Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT, and have sent a deposit to hold the dates of August 5 through August 10, 2008, with August 5 & 6 being work days and the 7th - 10th being the actual rally dates. We have a three-year contract with Champaign Valley for the years 2008 & 2009 and 2010 or 2011. A deposit has also been sent to the Spirit of Ethan Allen III, Lake Shoreline Cruises, the company that furnishes the boat cruise.

Election of officers was held,

and after the votes were counted, the new officers were Steve Sponenberg, 1st Vice President; Paul DuBois, 2nd Vice President; Lou Snow, 3rd Vice President; Kathianne Taylor, Secretary; and Eleanor Rizzi, Treasurer. Nominations were sought and received for the Nominating Committee, and the following persons were elected: Grant Bamberger, Bart Barton, Frank Rizzi, Tom Roule and Andrea Sponenberg. Nominations were also sought for the Audit Committee, with the following people being elected: Dave Buker, Al Canary and Arlene Taiclet.

On September 25 & 26, 2007, the Executive Board held their first meeting at Essex Junction, VT. It was a very productive meeting; we accomplished a lot; and we are excited about the upcoming rally. Here are just a few items discussed. On Sunday, August 3, 2008, the Executive Board and the Advance Crew will arrive. On Sunday afternoon and again on Monday, August 4, the parking crew will begin their layout of the facilities. Tuesday, August 5 will be volunteer move-in day. Tuesday and Wednesday, August 5 & 6, will be Vendor move-in day. Wednesday will also be general parking move-in day. Additionally, on Wednesday, Information and Registration will open, there will be a display coach sneak preview and a dinner boat cruise will be available for purchase in advance. On Thursday, August 7, coffee and donuts begin, the Frustrated Maestros perform, seminars start and all vendors open. In the evening, we will have our Opening Ceremonies

SECRETARY'S COLUMN
(Continued)

and entertainment in the new air-conditioned, acoustically-correct building. Friday, August 8th will be Chapter Day with chapters wearing their chapter colors. There will be a chapter fair and a chapter parade at entertainment that evening. Chapters please bring your banners. Lots of other surprises are also being planned for that day. On Saturday, August 9th, we will be trying something different with an open house being planned. This is also the day for our Northeast Motorhome Association annual meeting. Sunday will bring forth another full day of activities, and on Monday, August 11th, we will all say goodbye.

The rally fee will include dry camping for 5 days with electric and water being available for an extra charge. Wireless Internet will also be available. As an aside, there are new bathrooms and showers. I used the shower, and it was great -- your own room with lots of hot water.

Kathianne

FAMILY MOTOR
COACHING MAGAZINE

There are four places in the magazine to highlight your chapter:

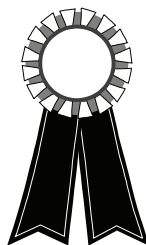
1. Association Calendar
2. Chapter Spotlight
3. Family & Friends
4. Join A Chapter

Have you made use of these?

CHAPTER DAY
NEAR
Friday, August 8, 2008

Get your imaginations going and get out your Chapter banner. Chapter Day will feature contests, tournaments, a Chapter Fair, and a Chapter Parade. There will be a contest at the Chapter Fair for the best decorated table. Our members will exit from the ice cream social right into the Chapter Fair where they will be given a ballot to complete to vote on the best decorated table. During the day there will also be game tournaments between chapters. Can your chapter beat all of the others? We hope to carry on this tradition at future rallies, so start practicing. There will be a Chapter Parade preceding the Friday night entertainment. Please be prepared to have your chapter march with its banner. If you do not have a banner and wish to obtain one (see the next column entitled "Chapters Now Have Choices"), contact Chapter Services at 1-800-543-3622 to obtain one. Prizes for the day's events will be awarded Friday night at entertainment. Let's make this the best Chapter Day ever!!!

Rah! Rah! Rah!



REMINDER
Chapters Now Have Choices

Remember that beginning this past January each chapter now has a choice of free items from FMCA. Traditionally, your chapter president has called FMCA and asked for the chapter prize package. That is still available, but you now have two other options. You can request a coffeepot in lieu of the \$110 prize package or you can request a vinyl banner with your chapter's name.

Please Continue to Update
Your Information

This is just a reminder to all members and chapter officers to please call or e-mail FMCA with your latest address, phone number and e-mail address. This information must come from you, not your chapter secretary. NMA will be sending out information to you as well as FMCA, and it is important that we have your correct information. FMCA does **not** give out our member information so you can be assured that your information will only be used by NMA and FMCA for official business.

NORTHEAST NEWS

How often do you want to receive the Northeast News? Currently, there is no schedule for publication. Do you want to receive it twice a year? Three times a year? Four times a year? Let me know. Thanks.

Sam

Volunteer Captain's
Meeting
May 16th, 17th, 18th, 08

Friday arrival, May 16th after 12:00PM, settle in.
Dinner- Pizza Party!

Sat morning, 17th, coffee and doughnuts.
Business meeting to follow promptly at 8:00AM
12PM- 1:00PM, Lunch- grinders etc, provided by the NEA.
1:00Pm- 5:00PM resume business meeting.
Catered meal, 6:00PM.

Sunday morning coffee and doughnuts followed up by meeting,
if necessary, to tie up loose ends. We should be able to leave by noontime.

Cost, \$30.00 per coach, 2 people- \$15.00 each additional person.
Includes camping fees and all of the above.

Please send your check and registration form, made out to NEAR, to
Lou Snow
PO Box 71
Hardwick, Mass 01037

Volunteer Chapter
Information

Chapter:

Volunteer Effort:

Captain's Information:

Meeting date: 5/16/17/18/08.

Where: Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Junction, VT.

Response information needed via snail mail or E-mail by May 1st, please include the number of attendees. Some Chapters have already come forward to offer their services. I would ask that ALL Chapters verify their Volunteer effort by using and returning this form.

Thank You
Lou Snow
NEA 3rd VP

MAINE WHEELS CELEBRATES FMCA'S 45th ANNIVERSARY WITH FMCA
PRESIDENT CONNIE POOL AT ITS BIRTHPLACE

HINCKLEY SCHOOL

Dates: July 29-31, 2008

Place: Good Will-Hinckley School; Hinckley, ME
Dry Camping

Directions: From I-95, take Exit 133 to Route 201 North
Travel approximately 7 miles. FMCA Monument will be on your right.
Hinckley School will be on your left. Look for the blue roof building.

Rally Fee: Payable Upon Arrival: Coach with 2 people - \$50.00
Coach with 1 person - \$35.00

Hosts: Bill & Ellie Skolfield; Bill & Polly Hatch

Activities: **Tuesday, July 29**
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Parking
12:00 Noon Lunch on your own
4:30 p.m. Happy Hour
Last Names A-L: Please bring snacks to share
6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner
Please bring something to share.
Please bring your own plates, utensils and drink.
7:00 p.m. Pie, Coffee & Ice Cream
Please bring a pie to share (Pies will be the dessert on
Wednesday night also.)

Wednesday, July 30
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast at Big G's (On your own)
10:30 a.m. Monument Event
12:00 noon Picnic lunch at the site of the first FMCA get-together
Please bring your own lunch and drink.
4:30 p.m. Happy Hour
Last Names M-Z: Please bring snacks to share
6:00 p.m. Dinner in Hinckley Dining Hall

Thursday, July 31
8:00 a.m. Coffee & Donuts

MUST DEPART BEFORE NOON

REGISTRATION FORM

Please Note: Registration Limited to 75 Coaches

Mail Form to: Bill Skolfield, 1834 Challenger Ave., Davenport, FL 33837

Or Call: 863-797-6003 (cell) **Or E-Mail:** billskol@aol.com

Name(s) _____ **F#** _____ **Coach Length** _____