



FMCA
Your RVing Family

EASTERN AREA OF FMCA

Spring 2024 Newsletter.

Welcome Spring!



As I write this, the calendar says April, but “Mother Nature” is keeping us cold in Pennsylvania. I’m excited to begin a busy rally schedule visiting several chapters! There is no better way to have fun than to belong to a chapter. You can meet new friends and reconnect with old friends. RVers are the nicest people!

As I’ve stated many times, if you don’t belong to a chapter, check out one that is geographically convenient or one formed with members sharing a special interest that you have, too. If you can’t find a chapter, gather some friends and create your own! I’m more than willing — as is the entire Eastern Area Executive Board — to help with the process of making a chapter. It’s easy.

Speaking of new chapters, I’d like to see the Eastern Area form a pickleball chapter. This chapter would be a “special interest” chapter and could meet at least yearly at the Eastern Area Rally (GEAR). There will be pickleball at this year’s GEAR, and there are four volunteers who will help newbies at the sport. If interested in being part of this forming chapter, **contact Maryann Dario by phone or text 302-803-1090**. Remember, you can belong to more than one chapter!



Springtime also brings the spring International Convention and RV Expo. This year’s 108th International Convention was held March 20-23, 2024, at the Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson, Arizona. Close to 1,000 RVs were in attendance, with 35% of attendees being first timers and 50% of attendees who were chapter members. Activities for chapters included the Driven to Care Silent Auction (1), Chapter Fair (2), Chapter Block Parties (3), Chapter Fest, and the “La Puesta Del Sol” Parade (4). The Eastern Area donated a gift basket for the Silent Auction and helped raise \$135.

The Chapter Fair was well attended, but, unfortunately, there weren’t a lot of folks attending from our nine-



1

state area. Having said that, Brad and Betty Brown with the Elizabeth River Going Strong (E.R.G.S.) chapter recruited a new member at the Fair. I did my best to get those walking past the table to check out the Great Eastern Area chapters and handed out several pamphlets and information sheets. I also promoted our upcoming Area Rally (GEAR) in Fletcher, NC, this October: “Autumn in the Appalachians” Save the Date cards were distributed.



Chapter Fair, Eastern Area Table at Tucson.

3 RV Basics Alumni & Penn Coachmen Block Party.



Like all International Conventions, there was a lot to see and do, and before things got too busy, we drove to the nearby Saguaro National Park for a walk.

Saguaro National Park



What a beautiful place to get away from it all.

Before the rally, activities included the Friday evening Advance Crew Cookout with the cooking and serving done by the Executive Board. I was given hot dog duty. On Saturday, the Executive Board had its meeting. Monday was orientation for volunteers and the "Welcome to Tucson" Party with live entertainment.



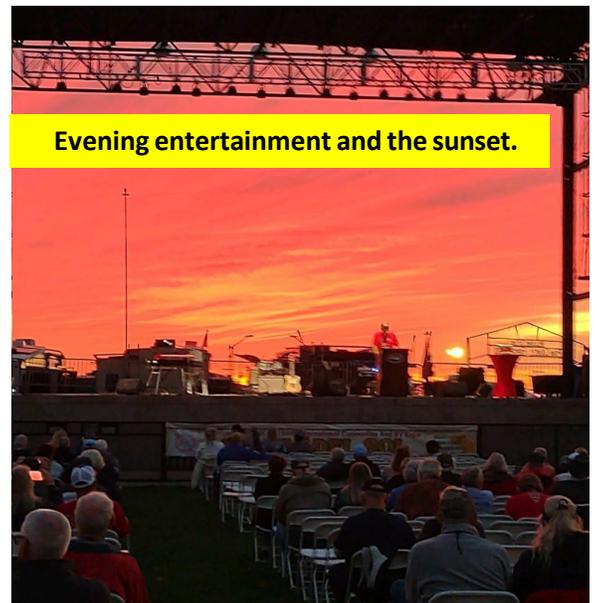
(4) The frustrated cheerleader with banner carried by Steve Raye and Eric Britz.



Hot dogs and hamburger cooks -the ladies, Connie Jones, Lisa Mitchell, and myself.



Early morning volunteer orientation.



Evening entertainment and the sunset.

The rally “started” Wednesday with many seminars available. There were lots of vendors and a good many show RVs to check out. I heard that several RVs were sold at the rally. Wednesday was also our Eastern Area Gathering.



Eastern Area Gathering.



Saturday evening after the

parade was the “Don’t Let The Sun Go Down” Chapter Fest with Mariachi Nuevo Azteca.



April 16-18 Eric and I, along with Sue and Gary Cipa and Clarissa and Larry Sherrow, attended the Penn Coachmen rally at Old Mill Stream Campground. About 50 RVs came for the first rally of the season. The theme was getting to know the Amish,



which included an Amish historian and an Amish catered dinner. Everyone laughed at the responses given by the contestants playing the “Not so New, Newlywed Game.”



GEAR Update - Registration is open! The registration form was published in the May 2024 issue of *Family RVing* magazine. Three nights of entertainment are booked. Wednesday night will be the **GEAR Talent Show**. This will be a great opportunity for folks to show off their talents. I know there is a lot of talent in our family. (See the flyer on the next page.) We need volunteers to make this a great rally for everyone, so please sign up to volunteer when you register.

There will **craft classes** and there will be a **Craft Show**. If interested in teaching a craft or participating in the EAMA Craft Fair, contact Lee Deal 757-560-1361.

G.E.A.R. — Great Eastern Area Rally

AUTUMN IN THE APPALACHIANS

OCTOBER 23-27, 2024

Western North Carolina Agricultural Center
Fletcher, North Carolina

RALLY HIGHLIGHTS

FIVE Nights – October 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26
Chapter Fair • 3 Evenings of Entertainment
Seminars • Book Swap • Dog Parade • Door Prizes
Pickleball • Ladies' Luncheon (\$) • Ice Cream Social
Crafts • Craft Show • Commercial Exhibits • Bingo
Bean Bag Baseball • Display RVs & More!

For updates, please visit www.fmca-ea.com



Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) Registration Form *Permanent changes to membership files cannot be made from this form.*

Member Number:		Last Name:		Pilot:		Co-Pilot:	
Address: <i>(If this address differs from your billing address, please call FMCA)</i>				City:		State:	Zip:
E-mail:			Telephone:		Cell Phone:		
RV Make:			RV License:		Length:		<input type="radio"/> First Time at a GEAR Area Rally?
Do You Belong to a Chapter? <input type="radio"/> Yes <i>To park together, please arrive together</i>				Chapter Name:			
1. Guest/Child's Name/Age:			2. Guest/Child's Name/Age:			Hold At Will Call? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	

Pre-Registration	Before 9/18	After 9/18	Qty	Total
RV with Full Hookups, 2 Adults <i>(limited)</i>	\$ 390.00	\$ 410.00		\$
RV with Electric, 2 Adults <i>(limited)</i>	\$ 375.00	\$ 395.00		\$
RV Dry Camping, 2 Adults	\$ 250.00	\$ 270.00		\$
RV with 1 Adult Deduct	-\$ 20.00	-\$ 20.00		\$
RV with Additional Adult Add	+\$ 20.00	+\$ 20.00		
Children Under 13	FREE	FREE		FREE
Each Adult Passport †	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$
Ladies' Luncheon – Saturday, Oct. 26 <i>(No registration on site at GEAR)</i>	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00		\$
Total				\$

Parking & Information

Early Arrivals: There will be no early arrivals.
Volunteer Parking: Monday, 10/21/2024
Regular Parking: Tuesday, 10/22/2024
Dry Camping: Generators between 7am-11pm.

Disabled Parking?*

Yes **State-issued handicap placard must be displayed in windshield*

Volunteer Opportunities

Please check one	Pilot	Co-Pilot
Facilities (office)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Activity Carts*	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FMCA Store	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information/Registration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking/Greeters*	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Security/Safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coffee & Donuts & More	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seminars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Games	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Questions about volunteering, please contact Sue Cipa (610) 334-3287 or sbc910@ptd.net

**Must have Golf Cart training*

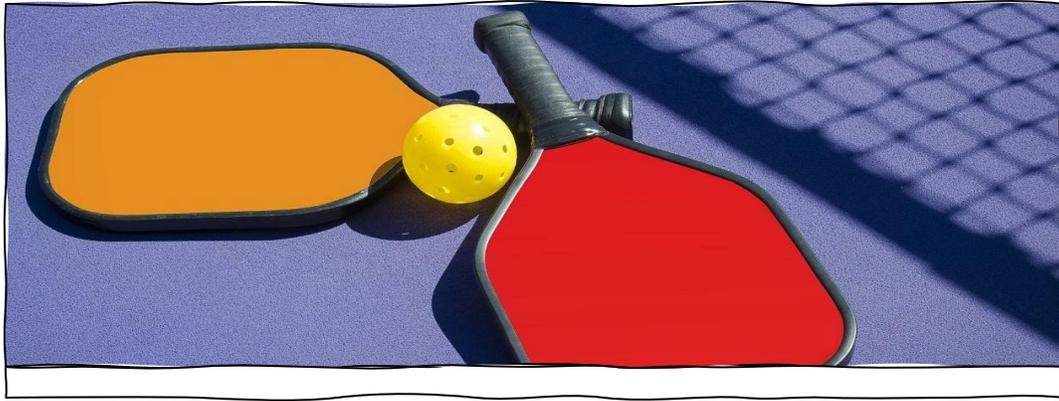
†Passport has no RV parking; includes exhibits, entertainment, seminars, socials, and coffee hour.

Payment Information

Place Credit Card Registration: Online: www.fmca.com By Phone: (513) 474-3622 (800) 543-3622	Make checks payable in U.S. funds to FMC, Inc.	Return completed form and payment to: FMCA / ATTN: Eastern Area Rally 8291 Clough Pike Cincinnati, OH 45244-2796
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Cancellation Policy	Rally Masters – Phyllis & Eric Britz
Refunds for this rally will be made only upon written request to arearallies@fmca.com . Cancellations made by 10/20/24 will receive a full refund minus a \$25 handling fee.	(484) 599-0609 • pbritz@fmca.com
	Co-Rally Masters – David & Jan Fowler
	(843) 833-3197 • david.fowlereavp@gmail.com

Visit www.fmca-ea.com for more information



Greetings FMCA Pickleballers,

FMCA's Eastern Area is collecting interested members to start a new Pickleball chapter!

If you are a current FMCA member and would like to participate in the formation of a brand-new chapter, become one of the original (OG') chapter charter members, and show off your game playing skills, please reply to this email or contact Mary Ann Dario directly.

Email - MDRN@HOTMAIL.COM

or

Mobile - 302-803-1090

FMCA
Your RVing Family

Got Talent ?

The Stage is Yours !

The first night of the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) 2024 in October will feature a Talent Show. Open to all FMCA members, it will be your time to shine on the main stage in the Davis Event Center. Singers, instrumentalists, acrobats, jugglers, magicians, stand up comedians, bands such as bluegrass, polka, rock, and other talents we may not have even thought of:



Come One, Come All

Let's get the ball rolling

Contact

Ron Hazelett

Phone or Text: 330 701-7523

email: rohaze8@gmail.com



Ron is an active teacher and music director, so please leave your contact information if he is not available when you call.

The Spotlight is on YOU !

The Spotlight is on YOU !

Senior Vice President

Eastern Area

As the weather warms up here in South Carolina, I thought that the first quarter of 2024 was uneventful as I was planning to write this newsletter update. Looking over my log, I find that I had accomplished more than I thought.

I contracted with Carson Peters to perform at GEAR 24. This group was a hit at GEAR 23 and we were able to secure them again. We have a full complement of entertainers for GEAR. Thursday evening will be Carson Peters; Friday we will be entertained by The Synergy Twins "Equal parts energy and talent"; and on Saturday, "too MUCH SyLviA" will bring something for everyone.

I inquired with the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds about holding GEAR 2025 at their facility. I have contacted them twice and have not received a written reply. I also spoke with Meadow Event Park in Virginia and was informed that they cannot accommodate a group of our size in October due to their fair at the same time.

Time is drawing close to reserving Ocean Lakes in Myrtle Beach for GEAR 25, and currently we don't have any other option but Ocean Lakes.

I participated in the January and February Eastern Area Zoom meetings but unfortunately missed the March meeting.

Jan and I spent January and February in Orange Beach, Alabama, but our coach spent 6 weeks in Red Bay, Alabama, getting several items repaired. We acquired COVID for the first time as we left Orange Beach and drove home not feeling the best.

It's time to start planning for GEAR 24 at the Western North Carolina Ag Center. The application form should be in the June issue of *Family RVing*. Encourage all your RV friends to attend. If they aren't members of FMCA, this would be a good time to encourage them to join.

David Fowler F456109
Senior Vice President
843-833-3197
david.fowlereavp@gmail.com

Western Region

Spring is here and the weather is beautiful. The redbuds and dogwoods are in bloom. We all have a sense of renewal at this time of year.

GEAR is at the forefront of all our minds. Registration opened April 23rd. Don't delay because sites will fill up very quickly.

I will be visiting with the Tennessee Travelers May 5-10, in Pensacola, Florida. This will be their 20th anniversary. I'm looking forward to visiting with them and presenting their certificate. This is quite a milestone for this chapter.

I do want the chapters in Tennessee, Kentucky, and the Dixie GMC to please send me your rally calendar. Please call or send them as soon as possible so that I can plan my summer and fall. Thank you one and all for being a member of the great Eastern Area of FMCA

Garnetta Mallory F256138
Western Region VP
859-576-5154
g34748mallory@gmail.com

Northern Region

Hello FMCA Family,

We have started the new year camping season off with the Penn Coachmen at Old Mill Stream Campground in Lancaster, PA. Penn Coachmen will be celebrating their 55th year as an FMCA chapter. The theme for this campout is geared around the Amish. Larry and I are hosting along with others and will be sharing our experience with the group.

We have a lot of activities planned for the gathering. On Tuesday night we will have Amish trivia, let's see what others know about the Amish. And guess what? We will have homemade whoopie pies from our Amish friend as prizes.

Wednesday, we will have a famous Amish historian/storyteller speak to the group. His name is Sam "PUD" Stoltzfus. Later, we will have an authentic dinner prepared and served by our Amish friends.

After this outing we will go directly to the First State Travelers campout at Lum's Pond, Delaware. The following week we are planning on visiting the TCW chapter in Lancaster, PA.

We will then head to Fletcher, NC, with others to do more planning for the GEAR rally. Stay tuned for more information.

We are looking forward to getting together with our other chapters in the Northern Region of the Eastern Area soon.

Remember to check out the website www.fmca-ea.com

We hope to see you "down the road."

Safe travels,

Clarissa Sherrow
Northern Region
Regional VP
484-645-4513
csherrow@zoominternet.net
F403780

SOUTHERN REGION

You know it is that time of the year again. Your RVs and cars are covered with that light green blanket of pollen, and if you are traveling on the interstate, you see that parade of RVS going north, going home.

At any rate, it is an exciting time of the year. Rallies have started, your AVP is busy working on the upcoming Area Rally, and my calendar for the spring is already full.

In the Southern Region we have two chapters with 20-year anniversaries this year. Congratulations to the Foothill Travelers and the Carolina Pelicans. Both chapters are being celebrated at the same campground, Willow Tree in Longs, South Carolina.

A lot of work and thought are put into your upcoming GEAR rally this year in Asheville, North Carolina. We have a scheduled planning meeting at the fairgrounds in May. If you are part of that group, please make plans to attend. It has been a lot of years since we were there last, and I'm sure a lot of changes will have to be made. Make your plans to attend GEAR in late October.

A very big job faces all of us in the FMCA. People need to step up and assume the role of leadership. Chapter officers, Area officers, committee members. In the Eastern Area we are looking at several vacancies, including AVP. Phyllis has done a super job as AVP, but this is her last year, and we need someone to step up to run for her position.

FMCA membership has been on the decline. We all need to do our part and try to recruit new members. New members for FMCA will get new members for chapters! Thank you for your help.

Enjoy your travels, talk up FMCA, and remember it's "STILL ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN."

Chris Holtzman F388492
Southern Region VP
803-516-1020
nholtz6524@aol.com

CENTRAL REGION VP

Saturday, February 17, I was invited to the monthly social meeting of the Elizabeth River Going Strong chapter and are they ever! They meet twice a month, once social, once at a rally. Super-nice, tightknit group who came to FMCA from Good Sam. I look forward to learning from them and passing along information. They will have representation in Tucson, and it looks like a good number will be coming to GEAR. April 15 I will be attending the Colonial Virginians rally at Misty Mountain – can't wait to meet that group!! Details to follow!



This year at GEAR, there will be a Crafters/Artisan market – I am excited about being involved in this! I'd like to have a good number of vendors committed when we visit in May so I can get a space appropriate for us. We will be inviting local artisans to join us for this event. Details are not definite yet, but we are looking at 10x10 spaces. Probably outside with vendors supplying tables and setup. Any questions, comments, suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Lynn Nelson F523470
Central Region VP
757-651-3589
LNVB1956@outlook.com

EASTERN AREA CHAPTERS BY REGION

<p>Northern Region</p> <p>Clarissa Sherrow, Regional VP Csherrow@zoominternet.net</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 20th Century Wagontrainers (NJ, PA) 2. Allegheny Mountain (PA) 3. GMC Colonial Travelers (PA) 4. Capitol (MD) 5. First State Travelers (DE) 6. Friendly Maryland Travelers (MD) 7. Penn Coachmen (PA & nearby states) 	<p>Central Region</p> <p>Lynn Nelson, Regional VP LNVB1956@outlook.com</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bay Travelers (Mid-Atlantic) 2. Cardinal Virginians (VA) 3. Colonial Virginians (VA) 4. Dogwood (VA) 5. Elizabeth River Going Strong (VA) 6. Mountaineers (WV)
<p>Southern Region</p> <p>Chris Holtzman, Regional VP Cnholtz6524@aol.com</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carolina Cruisers (SC) 2. Carolina Drifters (SC) 3. Carolina Heartlanders (NC, SC) 4. Carolina Pelicans (SC) 5. Coastal Tarheels (NC) 6. Dixie Traveliers (NC) 7. Foothills Travelers (SC, Western NC) 	<p>Western Region</p> <p>Garnetta Mallory, Regional VP g34748mallory@gmail.com</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cumberland Travelers (TN, AL, KY) 2. GMC Dixielanders (KY, TN, NC, SC, AL, GA, MS) 3. Happy Tennessee Travelers (TN) 4. Tennessee Travelers (TN) 5. KY Horse Shu Kru (KY)

Eastern Area

Phyllis Britz EAMA President (pbritz@fmca.com)

1. Coaches for Christ
2. Eastern Gourmands
3. Frustrated Maestros Eastern Sharps and Flats
4. Rolling Red Hatters
5. Tiffin Travelers



FMCA's 109th International Convention & RV Expo

Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, Redmond, OR
August 14-17

International Area Rally

May 17-21, 2024
Muskogee, OK

Great Lakes Area Rally

June 05-09, 2024
Greenville, OH

Northeast Area Rally

July 10-13, 2024
Frankfort, NY

Midwest Area Rally

July 24-27, 2024

Amana RV Park & Event Center, Amana, IA

South Central Area Rally

September 18-21, 2024

Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center, Shawnee, OK

GEAR 2024

 Save the date: October 23-27, 2024. Western North

Carolina Agricultural Center, Fletcher NC (Greater Asheville Area)

Autumn in the Appalachians

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