



The International Traveler



A newsletter for the chapters and members of the International Area of FMCA

January 2023

WWW.FMCAINTO.com

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Newsletter Editor

Needed

Your name here

Hello to all the International Area Organization (INTO) members from your President.



INTO is going to the Calgary Stampede in 2023

(Registration Form on Page 9).

The board has been working diligently to put this Rally back together after COVID required cancellation in 2020. If you haven't been to Canada's Greatest Show on Earth, this is your chance to enjoy it. We have scheduled 2 Sessions, limited to 50 rigs at each. The first session will include the Parade to start the event and the second session will include the Million Dollar Rodeo Finals. The Derby Chuck Wagon Races will be followed by the Grandstand Entertainment Extravaganza with fireworks and a laser show, with upper balcony, reserved center seating included for everyone. We will have unlimited C-Train tickets, Stampede grounds entrance daily and access to all of the rides, shows, and vendors on the midway each day. Go to www.fmcainto.com for all of the details of this event.



2022 has passed by with incredible speed or else I am just getting old. It seems like just yesterday we were visiting the Alpine Coach Association Rally in Quartzsite and presenting them with their 20-year Anniversary

letter and certificate. They have 7 rallies scheduled this year throughout the US and Canada. Go to their website(www.alpinecoachassociation.com/) for details. Chapters are the key to growing FMCA. This Newsletter is going to key on Chapters and what is available for our members. While in Quartzsite I was able to visit our Amateur Radio Chapter (www.fmcaarc.com), Beaver Ambassador Club (www.beaveramb.org), 4-Wheelers (www.fmca4wheelers.com) and the Foretravel International Chapter, who celebrated their 45-year anniversary, receiving a check for \$300 and a certificate. If you have always wanted to visit Quartzsite to see what all the hubbub is about, contact one of our Chapters to guide you through the process. The Beaver Ambassador Club has 9 rallies scheduled and the 4-Wheelers have 11 gatherings on the books for 2023.

On our way to Cincinnati in April, we detoured to Goshen, Indiana, to attend the Ramblin' Pushers Maintenance Rally (www.ramblinpushers.org). If you have a Diesel Pusher or a Super C Diesel; this Chapter is designed for your



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rig and provides a wealth of knowledge. They are one of our newest Chapters and have been conducting the maintenance session for over 20 years. For 2023, the rally will be from May 4th to 11th and the details are listed on their website. One of the great benefits of attending is using Ramblin' Pushers certified wheel scales. They will weigh your rig for a \$20 donation and provide a data sheet with the weight of each wheel to compare with the data plate on your rig. A seminar on this and many other topics is included during this exciting week.

Lisa and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Western Area Rally in January, International Convention in March, Calgary Stampede in July, or someplace on the road.

Paul G Mitchell

FMCA National Vice President, International Area President, International Area Organization (INTO)

We have included some of our Executive Board's experiences with Chapters and volunteering with FMCA and other organizations in this Newsletter.

Why join a Chapter?

Senior Vice President Bob Weithofer

In thinking about what to write for this newsletter, I started to think about the many FMCA benefits that we have access to and which one I valued the most. I read through the list of benefits and discounts on FMCA's website, and even though I had used many of these, none of them felt right as the "most valuable." Then I looked at the top of the page and saw one line that did feel right "Your RVing Family." Yes, that was it! The people we've met, all the friends we've made and those friends we haven't met yet are the most important benefit of FMCA.

These friends are the reason that Pat and I have become so active in FMCA. We are both chapter officers and have been for many years. Becoming involved in a chapter is how we have met many great FMCA friends. Going to chapter rallies, dinners, parties, etc. has taught us a lot about community and friendships. We are members of geographic-based chapters (Badgers), manufacturer-based chapters (Tiffin Travelers) and activity-based chapters (RVQue), as well as several others. Each of them are different, but the friendship between the members is the same.

Because we value these chapters and the friendships they helped create, we became active in them. We started with helping with meetings and rallies and then as officers. At the time, we were still both working and were worried about the time commitment, but we learned that being an officer did not require a great deal of time or work because you were part of a team doing the work. Most chapters have four or more officers that share the responsibility for the chapter activity. In almost every case, members of the chapter also share the workload. They help with organizing rallies, meetings, etc. They help with recruiting at chapter fairs. They help in so many ways. This involvement fosters the feeling of friendship that is the greatest benefit of FMCA.

Some of our chapters are failing not because they don't have members, but because they don't have officers. There is this feeling that being an officer is a huge commitment of time and requires an individual with experience and knowledge.

If you take on an officer position that is new to you, you can build on the work of the previous officers. Go over the documentation in the chapter files and review the documents on the FMCA website such as the Officer's Handbook. In most cases the previous officer will be available for consultation. You will also be able to consult with the rest of the Chapter officers and Area and/or National officers. I have received some great advice from



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almost everyone I have asked for help.

It can be time consuming, if a single officer is expected to do all the work without help from any of the members. However, a group of officers assisted by a few willing members can distribute the workload so that it is not a burden on any one individual.

FMCA needs a few members in every chapter to step up to be the officers, and we need the members of every chapter to commit to supporting them in small and meaningful ways. If this does not happen, we will lose chapters and we will erode the value of Family in FMCA.

Each of us has benefited from our chapters. Is it now time that you step up and pay it forward?

Bob Weithofer

F253844

INTO, Senior Vice President

Volunteering at a Chapter Rally

By INTO Secretary Dick Lowman

Bonnie and I have volunteered from National Conventions to Chapter Rallies for many years. One of our favorites is the Frustrated Maestros. If you can sing (no requirement on quality) or play an instrument, then one of these chapters scattered through North America are for you. They are a talented group of FMCA Members that perform at the National Conventions during the morning donuts and coffee and for other gatherings at the Conventions. You will also find them hard at work at most of the area rallies and many of the members belong to multiple Maestro Chapters. The Eastern area Chapter even has a Music Camp in West Virginia. This group epitomizes the slogan of “Just keep having fun.”



One of our favorites is the Rose Parade Rally, where we arrive several days early and watch tents for eating, entertainment, and kitchen erected. We then arrange the tables, chairs, serving areas, coffee pots, TVs, and stage, getting ready for our guests' arrival. We help lay out the parking; place the tent heaters; trash cans and porta potties; lay out the power cables; ready the water wagon for the mid-rally fill, and place cones to protect our Rally Area. Other tasks are setting up the kitchen tent, unpacking our week's food supplies provided by our award-winning Chef, testing the grills, making sure our commercial refrigerator is ready, and getting the coffee pots filled for early morning coffee. This is a lot of work, all accomplished in the first two and a half days on site. I am sure your question is why do this and what do we get?



We get to work on the Sierra Madre Float, have dinner at San Antonio Winery (Stella Rosa Wine), visit Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, attend the Band Fest, dine at the Front Runner Club at Santa Anita Racetrack, 5 nights powered RV parking, 7 catered meals, and we get to spend New Year's Eve with friends who become family. It is a great way to bring in the New Year! We also have the best Premium Parade seats on the route, with the sun at our back, on the blue line, and the bleacher reserved seats are only 12 rows high on the corner of Saint John Avenue.

SOI RV Club (www.soiclub.com) has conducted this rally for over 40 years and helping to continue this legacy, while getting to attend all of the Rose Parade events each year, is just a bonus. Come join us!

Dick Lowman

F286692

INTO Secretary

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Congratulations to our 2023 INTO Anniversary Chapters

Roadtrek International—30 Years

Newmar International—25 Years

GMC Western States — 35 Years

Alfaseeyas — 20 Years

Entegra Coach Owners Association — 10 Years

American Coach Chapter of FMCA — 30 Years

Past National Officers—30 Years

Safari International—35 Years

Marathon Coach Club International — 35 Years

SOI Motorhome Club — 45 Years

BUS N USA — 20 Years

Beaver Ambassador Club — 40 Years

Chapter Rallies inside Larger Rallies

By INTO Treasurer Connie Pool

FORETRAVEL INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER - FLORIDA SUPER SHOW RALLY

Chapter officers are looking for a variety of venues for chapter rallies that are different and unique. The Foretravel International Chapter holds an annual rally in conjunction with the Florida RV Trade Association Show (SuperShow) in Tampa, Florida, in January.

The SuperShow is held at the Florida State Fairgrounds, and they provide camping on the grounds for RVs with 30-amp hookups. These camping sites sell out quickly, so when registration opens it is necessary to sign up quickly and pay. When registering for camping at the SuperShow, if you are part of a group, you enter the name of the group and if there are at least eight RVs in that group, your group will be parked together a day before the show opens. The show starts on a Wednesday and ends on Sunday. Electricity is disconnected by noon on Sunday and all RVs must exit the grounds by 5 p.m.

The Show provides educational seminars and daily entertainment throughout the complex. There are two huge booth-exhibit halls full of the latest innovative RV products and accessories plus other products we cannot live without. You will find all types of RVs on display from small pop-ups to the multi-million-dollar custom coaches and you can tour them all. They also provide coffee and donuts every morning and 3 nights of entertainment. It makes it extremely easy for the Rally Master to set up the rally. The biggest chore is to get the group to arrive for parking all at the same time. The parkers stage each group in separate rows until time to park. If a member is late in arriving there is no guarantee they will be parked with their group.

For our group, we normally schedule for the first night a potluck dinner to get acquainted and to discuss what we might do as a group when not at the SuperShow. The group normally enjoys a dinner out at one of the many superb restaurants in the Tampa Bay Area. It has been traditional for us to go to the Parkesdale Market in Plant City for their World Famous Strawberry Shortcake. Like most rallies, we have our gatherings in the afternoon just to relax and enjoy each others company, before heading over to that night's entertainment.

This is just an example of using a scheduled event to be one of your chapter rallies. It is easy for the Rally Master to arrange with minimum work and everyone in attendance becomes part of that event. Several of the chapter members attend each year, because of the always-changing events and products at the Super Show. If you cannot find an RV or a RV-related product at the Super Show, then it is not available anywhere!

Connie Pool

L140306

INTO Treasurer

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Volunteering with other Organizations

By Bill (Bo) DeBlieux

Volunteering is the backbone of every Non-Profit Organization. Family Motor Coach Association relies heavily on volunteering at all of its conventions and rallies for the scheduled activities to run smoothly. All the officers in our organization are members and volunteers for the position that they are elected. The officers volunteered for the position because they love the organization and want to make it better for our members.

Volunteering may allow the individual passage into special activities. One of the Non-Profits that Karen and I participate with goes on RV Caravans across the US, Canada, and Mexico. The leaders, or wagon masters as they are referred to, are volunteers that put the trip together, advertise it through the parent organization, and sign up members who want to go on the caravan. These wagon masters are volunteers who have been to the locations, are familiar with the details, and want to share with the group the wonderful adventures they have experienced. The caravans usually costs less than private companies, because the leaders are volunteers and are not paid for their hard work. The wagon master and all the participants are members of the organization and have many things in common and enjoy the camaraderie of being with each other. For additional information about this Non-Profit RV Club for veterans, please go to their website at www.smartrving.org.

For the golfing enthusiast, volunteering at a Professional Golf Association, PGA, event is a great way to get up close to your favorite players and see very good golf that can only be dreamed about by the weekender. The sponsors give the volunteers special considerations, because they are relied on so heavily for crowd control, supply movement, quietness during the shot, transportation needs, and many more activities that help to make the event run smoothly. The volunteer usually gets free or low-cost clothing to identify them as volunteers. It is a great way to see a sporting activity and help the sponsors put the event on. To volunteer for a specific golf event you can go online to PGA.com or find the website for the local golfing event that you are interested in.

My wife and I volunteered for an activity this year that we really wanted to attend but could not find a place to park our RV. Most people make reservations a year in advance for this event to make sure they have a parking spot. This year was the 50th anniversary of the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, and by taking the steps to volunteer we were able to attend. Our RV was parked a few steps away from the balloon launching grounds and we were in Albuquerque for a total of 12 days, with our only payment being 50 hours of volunteer time. We drove a motorized golf cart carrying patrons to their parking lots and any other place on the grounds that they needed to get to quickly. The rules were to drive carefully through the throngs of balloon watchers, most of them looking up and not paying any attention to carts. The hours went by very quickly and we really enjoyed providing balloon patrons a much appreciated place to sit while quickly getting them to their destination. For more information about volunteering at the Balloon Fiesta, go to the <https://balloonfiesta.com/Volunteer-New> for details.

The greatest benefit from volunteering is meeting people from many parts of the country and developing life-long friends.

Bo and Karen DeBlieux
F441784
INTO Vice President

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Focus on Chapters

By Rodger Donnelly

Diana and I belong to nine chapters and are focused around things that interest us. In 2003, we joined our first chapter- “Thousand Trails of Texas.” This chapter has its rallies at Thousand Trails Preserves and with this chapter I hold the office of National Director, and I am able to satisfy my desire for governance, voting on things that concern our organization both at the Area level as well as the National level. Other chapters that caught our interest and we have joined are S.O.I. and Beaver Ambassador Club taking us to various rallies at places like the Rose Parade, touring Alaska, Branson, Quartzsite, just to name a few.



Other chapters have specialized interests. I am the President of the RVQue Chapter with its main focus, all about Barbecue and our membership has Pit Masters that really know their BBQ. At the Area rally in Myrtle Beach we had a BBQ Competition that was a real hit. We have members that we call “Finger Lickers,” those who don’t care to learn how to cook BBQ, but they sure like tasting it and helping organize our events. Our chapter has been requested to serve other chapters like the “4th of July Picnic” for the Tri-Chapter pre-rally in Gillette, Wyoming; Beaver Ambassador Chapter Night in Tucson; a second Tri-Chapter Rally; and we hosted the Advanced Crew Picnic in Tucson. We cooked for the Monaco International pre-rally in Lebanon, Tennessee and the INTO Area picnic. This has

enabled the other members of our chapter that we call “Butt Rubbers” to learn from our Pit Masters the secrets of great BBQ. Everyone is eligible to be a member in any category.

Now let’s shift gears for other volunteer opportunities at Area Rallies and National Conventions. Let’s look at “Lucky 13” National Convention” in Perry, Georgia, March 2023, with over 500 volunteers to perform tasks such as Trams, Activity Carts, Coffee Hour, Music, Ice Cream Socials, Security, just to name a few. Ninety of these volunteers are under my leadership to tackle the task of parking 2,000 RVs. Our Advance Parking Crew consists of the Welcome Center Team, Will Call, Caravans, Follow Me Teams, Scanning Teams, and 10 Parking Teams that help us get the job done. Although volunteering for the parking crew in Perry is already closed to additional volunteers, the parking volunteer positions for the Gillette Convention in August are still available. If this interests you, when registration opens for this event, sign up early and volunteer. You may ask yourself what are some of the advantages of volunteering for parking. Signing up early is the key and advance parking crew volunteers get very good parking sites at most venues. You still have to pay for the four-day convention, however we arrive six days before the convention and take that same cost divided into ten days instead of four. Generally you will volunteer for 4 days prior to the convention and be able to socialize with friends each evening or tour local area attractions. There are other benefits like Volunteer Pins, Vendor Bucks, Advance Crew Dinner, getting together with old friends and making new friends, and you get an all over warm fuzzy feeling of accomplishment.

Rodger Donnelly
F253331
INTO Area V.P.

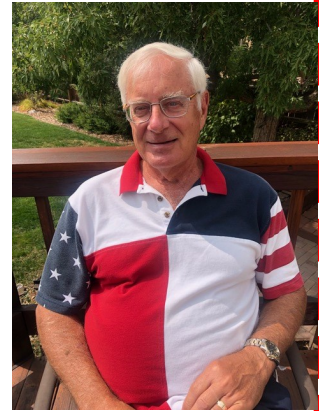
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ATTENDING A DESTINATION RALLY WITH A CHAPTER

By Harry Hentschel

Note: The Monaco International (an INTO Chapter) Balloon Fiesta Rally is referenced as an example. This article is not promoting their annual rally, but is to provide some insight as to the advantages of belonging to a Chapter and what a Chapter can do for their members.

The key benefits of attending a destination rally with a group is economy of scale and promoting friendship. Usually groups receive preferential consideration for scheduling and preferred parking assignments. In the case of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta (AIBF), groups of ten or more registering at one time usually receive preferential consideration over single registrations. Almost all destination events try to keep groups together, and individuals are placed where they fit into gaps. Going with a group, you usually know your neighbors or have something in common with them.



Another benefit of economy of scale is purchasing power. This can range from procuring food for appetizers, catering meals or purchasing programs. We have found that catering for a large group results in approximately half the cost of individuals or couples buying the same meal on their own. Programs, calendars, and token remembrances are usually, significantly discounted when purchased in large numbers at one time. Group discounts and preferred seating at shows and events are also the norm.

All of the above help keep costs down and more affordable than individuals going on their own or with just another RV unit or two.

While alluded to above in parking considerations, socialization is a major advantage. Seeing old friends and meeting new ones with like interest (same Chapter) promotes greater harmony at any event and thus makes it more enjoyable.

Monaco International has found these benefits for the Balloon Fiesta Rally and Branson Holiday Rally in the past. However, the same considerations hold true of other destination rallies such as the SOI Rose Parade Rally, Calgary Stampede, and others.

These types of rallies are also major recruiting tools for Chapters as destination rallies are desirable and the cost attractive.



Harry and Sandy Hentschel
F104078D
INTO Vice President

[Monaco International](#) has 5 Rallies planned for 2023.

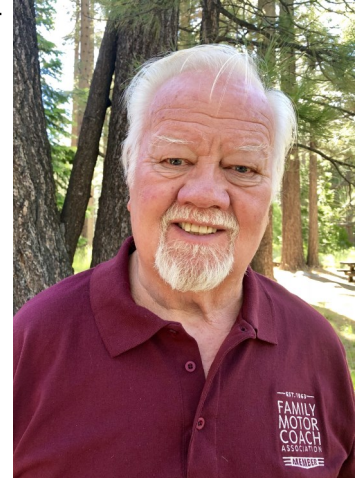
The Balloon Fiesta Rally this year is from October 11th to 15th.

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Combined Chapter Rallies By Mike Neighbours

The foundation of FMCA really lies with chapters. While most regions rely on common geography for their membership, the INTO Area does not have that bond. The INTO Area Chapters are based on shared interests. This may be related to a particular brand like the Monaco International Chapter or the Country Coach Chapter. It may be a shared interest like the RVQue Chapter or the On the Road Stitches Chapter.

I will focus on three chapters in this article; The Full Timers, Elk International, and Military Veterans. As a member of all three chapters and President of the Full Timers, I like to think I have a pretty good perspective on them. Each one is unique and has its own personality and culture, yet there is a large number that are members of all three chapters. Because of this commonality of membership, a few years ago, we (the Boards of all three chapters) decided to hold a joint rally. It was so successful that it has now become a regular function known as the Tri-Chapter Rally.



One chapter on a rotating basis will be the host chapter and act as rally master and organize and manage the rally using a lot of volunteer assistance. Each chapter then lends its own culture to the event. All include a large dosage of good fellowship.

For example, to belong to the Elk International Chapter, it is a requirement that you must be an Elks Lodge member in good standing as well as an FMCA member. So, when the Elks host the rally there will usually be some participation with a local Elk lodge. This may include dinners, breakfasts, or other social activities. The Elks can be found on the web at: <https://www.elkinternational.org>

The Military Veterans Chapter is committed to supporting and helping veterans. When they are hosts, there could be trips to local military facilities and charity fundraising for local veterans' needs. They will also present the Colors at functions. Find the Military Veterans Chapter on the web: www.mvc-fmca.weebly.com

The Full Timers-hosted rallies tend to be more camaraderie driven and oriented to facility activities such as meals, potlucks, games, and happy hours. The Full Timers chapter website is: fulltimerschapterfmca.com

All three chapters are very volunteer oriented, and members participate in a wide range of activities both as individuals and as chapters, including security, parking, trams, and virtually every other volunteer needs at a National Convention. The Full Timers, with plenty of help from the other chapters, organize and serve at the Ice Cream Social at the National Conventions.

Come join us at a National Convention or a pre-rally and see how much fun and rewarding chapter involvement can be. The next Tri-Chapter Rally will be held at Fair Harbor RV Park in Perry, GA. March 4-7, 2023 ([Details on Page 10](#)) just before the National Convention. So, jump in. Be a Rally Host or Chapter Officer. It is truly the heartbeat of FMCA.

Mike & Darlene Neighbours
F415508
INTO Vice President

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INTERNATIONAL AREA

GOES TO THE "GREATEST OUTDOOR SHOW ON EARTH"

Calgary Stampede

2023

MAX BELL CENTRE • CALGARY, ALBERTA

JULY 6-11, 2023 — STAMPEDE PARADE & RODEO,
and/or JULY 12-17, 2023 — RODEO & RODEO FINALS

**PICK YOUR WEEK TO ATTEND THIS "FAIR-LIKE" ATMOSPHERE
FEATURING THE BEST IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO**

RV Parking on Blacktop with 30-Amp Electric • Unlimited C-Train Tickets
Calgary Stampede Parade Reserved Seats (First Session) • Calgary Stampede
Rodeo Finals (Second Session) • Calgary Stampede Entrance Each Day
Calgary Stampede Rodeo with Reserved Seats Seat in Upper Level
Chuckwagon Race and Extravaganza Show with Reserved Seats in Upper Level
Visit Downtown Calgary and have a Free Breakfast

**RALLY IS LIMITED TO
50 RVs PER WEEK**

Name of Persons In RV: _____ F-Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Length of RV: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

PICK THE WEEK(S) YOU WANT TO ATTEND

July 6-11, 2023 July 12-17, 2023 Both Weeks

DESCRIPTION	COST	QTY	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Person in RV*	\$ 955	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 People in RV*	\$ 1,285	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Person*	\$ 350	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> One Pump-Out a Week*	\$ 50	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Crossover Day July 11**	\$ 45	_____	\$ _____

* Prices listed per session

**Required for those attending both weeks;
optional for those attending one week.

TOTAL COST: \$ _____

INTO CANCELLATION POLICY

A full refund, minus \$25 handling fee, will be given upon written request (email to arearallies@fmca.com) on or before May 6, 2023, with badges and confirmation materials returned to the FMCA office. Cancellations requested after May 6, 2023, INTO reserves the right to keep any non-refundable deposits made on your behalf.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

HALF PAYMENT OPTION

Call (800) 543-3622 or register online at FMCA.com. **Not available using this form.**

CREDIT CARD

Place your credit card registration online: FMCA.com

Or by Phone:

(800) 543-3622 • (513) 474-3622

CHECK

Make payable in U.S. funds to FMC, Inc.

Mail to:

INTO Area Rally
c/o FMCA
8291 Clough Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45244

GOT QUESTIONS? CONTACT

Paul Mitchell,
209-815-1837
pmitchell@fmca.com

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: WWW.FMCAINTO.COM
REGISTER ONLINE AT FMCA.COM • PHONE (800) 543-3622 OR (513) 474-3622**

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2023 Tri-Chapter Rally

(Military Veterans, Elks and Full Timers)

March 4-7, 2023

Fair Harbor RV Resort

<https://fairharborrypark.com/>

All sites are 50a/FHU and are a flat rate of \$47.00. Those who plan on attending need to **make reservations directly to the resort no later than January 8, 2023**. You will need to contact the resort at (478) 988-8844 and claim your site by mentioning you are attending the "Tri-Chapter Rally". Please email Phillis Reid, the host, at phil5819@gmail.com when you have completed your reservation.

Welcome Gathering

(bring a drink & something to pass)

BBQ provided by Walter B. Whitten VFW

Box Lunch at the Perfect Pear

Tour of the Museum of Aviation

Game Evening

Time to socialize and see the community

The rally fee of \$65 per person will be collected upon arrival. Please have cash.