

Vintage Birds Chapter of FMCA
Vintage Bird Words

August 2023



Visit Vintage Birds New Web Site

2023 Elected Officers

Mike Kneeland President

dmkx@brainerd.net

Steve Pappas Membership VP

spappas@arcb.com

Gary Shilling Rally VP & Rally Master

gmschilling72@gmail.com

Gregg Gesse Secretary

vintagebirdssecretary@4email.net

Shane Fedeli Treasure & Webmaster

shane@vintagebirds.com

Linda Burdette FMCA National Director

Linda.Burdette@icloud.com

*Randy Shrimplin Alternate National Director
and Nominating Committee*

RShrimp@Yahoo.Com

Ed Badeau Nominating Committee

webadeau@gmail.com

Randy Burdette Nominating Committee

Randall.Burdette@icloud.com

Mathew Dondero Nominating Committee

mrmotors1@comcast.net

Our President (is not old, He is Vintage) Report



Mike & Lorri

Dear Vintage Birds Members,

On The Road Soon

Suddenly summer is more than half gone! Each year we have a mad rush of activities to finish all that we have intended. We've had lots of company and family visit this summer. Minnesota has superior summers and life here on the ranch just can't be beat.

Dan and Liz Harris left earlier this week. They are successful full timers who keep an interesting blog about their travels. We shared many experiences and even worked on their coach a little. As Alan Darson says, "If you aren't working on it, you should be!" And we did.

The Chattanooga rally is only two months away. I hope that many of you on the eastern half of the US can attend. Lorri and I will be visiting family in Wyoming and Colorado on our way to Yuma for the first part of the winter. Our summers in Minnesota are short and we try to take advantage of time here on the ranch.

This is fencing and rock digging time on the ranch. As I was working on the tractor today, I thought about a conversation we had at some neighbor's a few evenings ago. They travel extensively and have met friends all over the US. Many visit them during the summers. Their friends talked about their travels and mentioned that they had sold their motorhome and preferred their park model living to traveling in their motorhome. Their motorhome just wasn't as good as that park model.

As Lorri and I drove home we commented on how much we enjoy our Wanderlodge and how we prefer it to the park models we've seen. We have met so many friends and have a tremendous support group for keeping our Bird on the road. We spent over seven months a winter plus several trips during the summer in our coach and couldn't imagine living any other way at the present.

Last fall we had an extended rally of four of us Wanderlodge owners in Yuma. The group is expected again this year. We plan to leave Yuma in January to attend the Quartzsite rally. We hope to see some of you at one of our western stops. Our homemade dish for the Quartzsite potluck is already frozen and ready to travel. See you down the road.

Lorri and Mike

**VINTAGE BIRDS FALL RALLY
& BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 9-15, 2023
CHATTANOOGA TN**



**WE WILL BE STAYING AT
HOLIDAY TRAVEL PARK
1623 S MACK SMITH ROAD
ROSSVILLE GA 30741
706 891-9766**

WHICH IS JUST ACROSS THE RIVER FROM CHATTANOOGA
Chattanooga has many attractions including:

- Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum
- Lookout Mountain Incline Railway/Rock City/Ruby Falls



- Southery Belle Riverboat
- Duck tours
- 6th Cavalry Museum
- Coker (car) Museum
- International Towing & Recovery Museum
- Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park
- Brainerd Motorsports Park
- National Medal of Honor Heritage Center
- Chattanooga Choo Choo

Don't Forget the Aquarium



Questions, concerns, want to help?

Call Gary Shilling 608 739-1296 email: gmshilling72@gmail.com

Molly's Cell Phone 608 739-1295

Check in Monday Oct 9

Check out Sunday AM Oct 15

Mention you are with the Vintage Bird's Rally when you call the campground to make your reservation; we have 30 sites reserved. Book early, we may be able to secure more sites if needed. All sites will have full hook ups. VB Rally Fee is \$150 per coach (2 people) VB will be providing morning coffee and donuts/cooked breakfasts most mornings. Some evening meals/ deserts will be provided.

FIRST DAY
MEET AND GREET
MONDAY OCT 9 LATE AFTERNOON.
BRING YOUR FAVORITE
BEVERAGE AND A HEAVY APPETIZER

Please make your checks out to
Shane Fedeli, Vintage Birds Treasurer

Mail this form and checks to:

Shane Fedeli

Vintage Birds

PO BOX 70
Tyrone, PA 16686

Name _____

Cell Phone# _____

Wife, friend, other _____

Cell# _____

Address _____

City, _____
State _____

Email Ad-
dress _____

Check enclosed, amount _____

Vintage Birds Member Number _____

Type of Camping unit,
length _____

If you must cancel, please call Gary FIRST (608 739-1296)
before you call the campground. We don't want your site
released if we have a waiting list!!

Legislative Update

Information about
recent efforts of
FMCA's Governmental
and Legislative Affairs
Committee.

BY LINDA BURDETTE, F324182

Chairman, Governmental And Legislative Affairs Committee

In case you missed our National Director's article in the July 2023 FamilyRVing Magazine, you can read it here:

<https://familyrvingmag.com/tag/fmca-governmental-and-legislative-affairs-committee/>

THANKS LINDA FOR ALL YOUR WORK!

New Vintage Birds Web Site Open

The new Vintage Birds web site is open (*but not complete*). The new web site combines the Vintage Birds web site and the All Bluebird Rallies web site into one site and will provide the Chapter with the ability to provide members with additional services in the future. **(See Below!)** We plan to save and provide access to all the historical information on the current Vintage Birds web sites through the new web site.

At the Chattanooga Rally, we plan to expose the officers and members to the web site tools with the idea of making the officers duties easier to accomplish and collect ideas from members about what they would like to see the web site include.

One Idea To Explore Is Expanding Our Selling Service To Bluebird Owners

With our previous web site, you sent in your coach information and pictures with the instructions “Please send pictures in jpeg-

landscape format (wide) and try to make your ads concise and not too wordy.” Well, the new web site likes words and pictures, so write away! Here is a self-serving example:

Go To:

<https://vintagebirds.wildapricot.org/For-Sale>

And see this ad for ideas

1994 Mid-Door WB Wanderlodge

After enjoying our Bird for 15 years, we have decided it is time to downsize to a smaller motorhome.



Over the years, we have done the following modifications and additions:

New Generator (787 Hours), 3 Slide-Master Storage Compartment Slides, New Front Air Conditioner (8/23), Samsung Refrigerator & Freezer with Ice Maker, Safe T Plus Steering Control, New Convection Microwave, Smart Battery Charger, Sony Bravia TV, Sound System and Blu-ray Disk Player, Silver Leaf Electronics, Water Pump, Water Heater, Central Vacuum, New Mattress, Norcold Freezer, Back-up Camera, Tire Sentry System, New Driver's side HWH Jack.

Tires are Michelin 315 all-round (8/21). Tags are 2020.

Batteries are all new (7/23).

Mileage: 214,667

Hours: 4496

Other Items:

All Carpet Removed and Avaire Floating Tile Floor Installed, Bedroom TV Removed, Large Storage Cabinet Installed with Mirrored Door, Ice Maker Removed, Large Storage Cabinet Installed With Roll Out Baskets, Dinette Re-Upholstered

Webasto Diesel Heat instead of Primus, All Wood Interior, Blue Bird Box, 50 Amp extension cord, 30 Amp Cheater Box

Needs:

New driver's seat, air hose bad and arm rest broken. Passenger side front HWH Jack needs to be repaired, won't stay down, Driver side front HWH jack pad needs to be repositioned. Spotlight needs to be Fixed or Replaced. Bathroom awning has a rip. Lower compartment electric locks; need to install two new cylinders, have cylinders. Two Blinds need to be restrung. Tire Sentry monitors need to be serviced. Rear corner Bumper has damage.

Price: \$50,000 obo.

Location: Lady Lake, Florida 32159

Contact: Gregg@emailcorner.net

Call: 423-785-7525, Leave Message, we don't answer phone numbers not in our phones.

[Download PDF of Ad](#)

[1994 Mid-Door WB Wanderlodge Ad.pdf](#)

Once we get the members added to the web site, we should be able to allow coach owners to submit their custom ads and have blast emails (*if you sign up for them*) giving our members first notice of coaches for sale. I am sure there will be more ideas from members as we progress to help improve this service to Bluebird owners!

*Don't Forget to Check out the
Vintage Birds Custom Apparel
Store!!*

<https://vintagebirds.spiritsale.com>

*Featuring Custom Hoodies, Tees,
Golf Shirts, Pullover Tops and
Hats*

WITH OUR OFFICIAL LOGOS!

<https://vintagebirds.spiritsale.com>

Rallies By Vintage Birds Members

End of Summer Rally

September 6th to 10th

Poncho's Pond RV Park

5335 W Wallace Ln

Ludington, Michigan

We are starting the preparations for our 2023 'Bluebird End of Summer Rally' in Ludington Michigan. Dates for the Rally are Wednesday September 6th through Sunday September 10th at the Beautiful Ponchos Pond RV Campground Resort.

Poncho's Pond Campground, a nationally accredited campground is more like a Great RV Resort than a campground offering great amenities as well as great places to explore the Michigan Coastline with great sandy beaches, lighthouses, and the famous Badger that ferries cars, trucks and Buses across the great Lake Michigan.

Ponchos Pond has been spending the last couple of years improving the already great campsites and now has added concrete to many. Poncho's are always excited about serving

Bluebirders as they have a long history with Wanderlodge and the people. We typically fill up the space they provide and urge all interested to reserve their spot.

Anyone that has attended can attest to this beautiful park and location in the Northern Lower Mitten. Plan your travels this summer to end the season up in Ludington Michigan for a great time with great people eating great food! Make your reservations soon.

As always, we are excited about the opportunity to catch up with friends as well as make new friendships all focused on our wonderful Wanderlodges!

As usual Ponchos honor rally rates for the whole week and a couple days the following week. Check with office. Make sure you mention you are with the Blue Bird Rally! **Reserve by phone to assure the rates. They have a new online reservation system , but that will not recognize rally rates. Take advantage of a full week stay or longer like many have done for past.**

Make Reservations @ Say you're with the "BLUEBIRDS"

Rally Hosts Dave and Barb Ross

248-894-2406

**Poncho's Pond
5335 W. Wallace Ln.
Ludington, MI 49431
www.poncho.com
1-888-308-6602**

All Bluebird Rallies

Rallies Make our Bluebird Communities Come Alive

2023

*Ludington, Michigan September 6-10
Chattanooga, Tennessee October 9-15
Pine Mountain, Georgia October 18-22*

2024

*Quartzsite, Arizona January 13-28
Vidalia, Louisiana February 7-10
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina March 20-24*



Join & Support Our Bluebird Communities!!

*We Are Only Caretakers of These Great Machines
Coaches for Sale
A Free Service Supporting All Blue Bird Communities*

1989 Wanderlodge 40WB Asking, \$50,000 obo

1990 Wanderlodge SP36 Asking, \$32,500

1994 Wanderlodge 40WB Asking, \$50,000 obo

*See More Details and Pictures of These Coaches
<https://vintagebirds.wildapricot.org/For-Sale>*

Check out

[The Vintage Birds Web Site for](#)

[Listing your Vintage Bird](#)

[Highlights of Blue Bird Wanderlodge Model Changes](#)

[Including list of all models for each year](#)

[Pictures and Specifications For All Years](#)

[Vintage Wanderlodge Buyer's Check List](#)

[Terms & Abbreviations for Blue Bird Motor Homes](#)

You might also want to check out these other sources of Wanderlodge coaches...

[Face Book Group--Blue Bird Wanderlodge, Buy, Sell or Trade](#)

<https://www.birdconnection.com/>

<https://www.buybybluebird.com/>

APPLICATION FOR VINTAGE BIRDS MEMBERSHIP

The Vintage Birds Chapter of FMCA was chartered in December 1984 for owners of Bluebird Wanderlodge coaches. To have active membership status, you must own or previously owned a Bluebird Wanderlodge or a Bluebird Motor Coach (BMC) and be an FMCA member in good standing.

The purpose of the Chapter is to provide social, recreational, and informational activities associated with enjoyment and pleasurable use of the Bluebird Wanderlodge and BMC coaches; a forum for the exchange of information on the maintenance, modification, and updating of members' coaches; and long term and community wide leadership in promoting the vintage bird coach through support for all vintage bird communities.

To achieve our purpose the Chapter engages in numerous activities including: rally support for hosting and supporting rallies throughout our great country, our Vintage Birds web site at <http://www.vintagebirds.com/index.html> which supports a very inclusive web site that lists All Bluebird Rallies, vintage bird coach information and coaches for sale, our Newsletter capturing Bluebird rally information and member social input, and our Vintage Birds Facebook Group providing members a social gathering place to post member adventures and social exchanges. see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2187641018189972/>

The initial fee is \$30. This fee covers name badges and your first-year dues of \$15. Subsequent year dues are \$15, or you can take advantage of our promotional rate of \$40 for 3 years or \$60 for 5 years! For those members desiring a lifetime membership, a Vintage Birds Lifetime Membership is \$325. Paid dues are non-refundable.

Once you have paid Vintage Birds dues your application is classified as pending. You will receive the Newsletter and Chapter communications directly via email and have access to the Vintage Birds Facebook Group. When you have satisfied all FMCA membership requirements your application is classified as an active member, and you will be able to vote, and hold elected office in the Chapter.

**Please complete form below and send your check payable to Vintage Birds to
Shane Fedeli, 311 Robin Road, Hershey, PA 17033**

APPLICATION FOR VINTAGE BIRDS MEMBERSHIP

Your first and last name: _____

Partner/Spouse first & last name: _____

You (First name on badge) _____

Partner/Spouse (First name on badge) _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: **(Very Important)** _____

Facebook Name:(optional)

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____

Coach model and year: _____ FMCA# _____

I belong to and support these Bluebird Communities:

New Member or Returning Member Requesting Badges	\$15	_____
Dues for One Year	\$15	_____
Dues for Two Years	\$30	_____
Dues for Three Years (\$5 or 11% Off)	\$40	_____
Dues for Four Years	\$55	_____
Dues for Five Years (Best Deal 20 % Off)	\$60	_____

Total Payment _____

I understand that once I have paid Vintage Birds dues my application is classified as pending. I will receive the Newsletter and Chapter communications directly via email and have access to the Vintage Birds Facebook Group. When I have satisfied all FMCA membership requirements my application will be classified as an active member, and I will be able to vote, and hold elected office in the Chapter.

Signed: _____

Thank You for Supporting Vintage Birds