

Vintage Birds Chapter of FMCA
Vintage Bird Words

December 2022



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

Paul Cambron Nominating Committee

workerman1450@aol.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 Again

As many of you headed off to fall and holiday rallies, or to your winter locations, Lorri and I headed west through South Dakota to Montana for a week with family before continuing to Arizona for the winter. At each stop there were some minor maintenance issues. The first night out, as I crawled out from adjusting the drag link, I saw some neighbors looking curiously at my prone and greasy figure. I thought, “if you drive these, you’ve got to fix them.” As my good friend, Alan Darson, says, “If you aren’t working on it, you should be.” How true, Alan.

That made me think about all the information that I have gathered from owners over the years who are willing to share their trials

and triumphs. You have made owning and fixing my Bluebirds so much easier. The mechanical issues haven't stopped but my apprehension about finding a solution is greatly eased.

I hope you check out our new Vintage Birds website. Board members are excited about creating a more modern and informative site which will eventually meet more of the members' expectations. Through our Vintage Birds website, you will have access to all Bluebird rally information and eventually other chapter communications. While our website does not try to duplicate Bluebird technical information available on other web sites, it does maintain the wealth of knowledge about birds from the old Vintagebirds.com website.

For those of you who attended rallies this past year, I hope that you took advantage of all the information available. You will learn a lot and meet some fantastic people. For those of you who could not attend, almost as much technical information is available through the Bluebird communities listed on the new website.

Lorri and I never dreamed that we would have so much fun exploring our great country and meeting so many of our Bluebird family. We eagerly look forward to each fall departure for our winter adventures.

Enjoy your travels as far as they take you and let's keep our Bluebird communities alive and vibrant.

We hope to see you down the road.

Mike Kneeland
dmkx@brainerd.net or 218-820-6922.

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 the ability to provide members with additional services in the future. We plan to save and provide access to all the historical information on the current Vintage Birds web sites through the new web site.

Next steps for the new web site:

- Add our member information (*so you can log-in*).
- Set up dues to be paid on-line.
- Set up on-line Vintage Birds Rally registration and fees.
- Set up Vintage Birds Rally blogs for rally participants to communicate with about the rally.
- Other member ideas.

Vintage Birds Rally Survey

Vintage Birds developed a short 10 question survey to help us create a better rally experience for our members. Vintage Birds has always been about keeping the spirit of travel in these fine machines alive. We are committed to hosting at least one rally per year to get these machines, and more importantly, the owners of them together for good conversation, tech talk, food, and adventure. Our goal is to have rallies where our members are interested in visiting.

Survey Results Summary

Hold a Fall rally in different locations in the Southeast around the time of other rallies.

(Board is looking for a Fall Rally site.)

Hold a rolling rally with several destinations within 200 miles of each other. *(See Below)*

[*Link to Survey Detail Results*](#)

*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>

Vintage Bird Rally

April Foolishness Rally

April 1 - 8, 2023

Big Bend National Park

Terlingua Texas

Stay at the beautiful Paisano Village RV Park and Inn in Study Butte Texas. We have reserved 10 RV sites with concrete pads. Paisano RV Park is about 2 miles outside the entrance of Big Bend National Park! Big Bend State Park is less than an hour away. Terlingua ghost town is right up the road.

- Explore the rugged Chisos Mountains with steep canyons, amazing views
- Hiking trails – short or long, easy, or arduous
- Hike or drive some of the “unimproved” dirt roads
- Drive the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive – fantastic views of Chihuahuan Desert landscape, the Rio Grande, and Santa Elena Canyon
- Drive Maverick Road to the site of Santa Elena Canyon, where limestone cliffs rise 1,500 feet above the Rio Grande
- Visit the forested Chisos Mountains and walk the 0.3-mile Window View Trail, gorgeous at sunset.

- Have lunch or breakfast at the Chisos Mountains Lodge, the only restaurant inside the park

Join a park ranger for a guided nature tour

Walk through the Fossil Discovery Exhibit

Big Bend National Park is a designated Globally Significant Bird Area

Take the rowboat across the Rio Grande River to visit Boquillas Mexico, ride donkeys to and from boat (optional)

Ride horses in Terlingua or try a more challenging ride in Lajitas,

Tour Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center, right outside Big Bend Ranch State Park

Explore Big Bend Ranch State Park, designated an International Dark Sky Park

So quiet at night you can hear your ears ring

For reservations call Paisano RV Park 432-371-2057

Once you have made your reservations, email Ed & Leah or Shane to be on the rally list!

Ed Badeau- webadeau@gmail.com & Leah Dippold- leah.dippold@gmail.com

Shane Fedeli- shanefedeli@gmail.com

There are 10 sites reserved, 8 of which remain available on a first come basis, in Terlingua

Texas for the “April fools”, Vintage Bird Rally. The dates are April 1 through 8th 2023. This will be a GREAT opportunity to explore Big Bend National Park and neighboring Big Bend

State Park, have lunch in Boquillas Mexico via a rowboat and donkeys for transportation.

The Southern Texas Mountains and Desert will be alive with color as the spring foliage will be in full swing. Reservations can be made by calling Paisano RV Park at 432-371-2057.



Vintage Birds

is proud to present

"Rolling Through The Heartland"

Shipshewana In,

Mahomet IL,

Springfield IL,

St Louis Mo

June 2023

The "Shipshewana Not So Mini Rally" has been hosted by Dave & Tina Styf and of course, the best Rally Dog in the world, Murphy, for many years; all Birds are invited.

The location is the Shipshewana North Campground and Cabins. This is Dave and Tina's Rally and not VB, but they have graciously agreed to let us begin our Rolling Rally with

them. They have perfected the perfect low stress rally. No schedules, no events, just a great get together. There are many things to see and do in the area.



This is Amish Country with great stores, garage sales, restaurants and a huge flea market on Tuesday and Wednesday. Can't promise, but in the past, Rowland and JoAnne Rose have opened up their "Arcade Home" which has to be seen and experienced. There are several RV surplus stores in the area for the guys to go to multiple times during our visit, once is never enough! There is also a local shop which works on AC units and propane refrigerators; this shop has a very good reputation. The official dates are Wednesday, June 7 to Sunday, June 11, 2023. Many of us will come early and make a week of it.

[Reservation information on the following pages.](#)

Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 8 AM is the target time to leave Shipshewana for the 4 hour drive (240 miles) to Mahomet IL. We will be staying at the Tin Cup RV Park for the night. Mahomet is a small town west of Champaign/Urbana IL and home to the "Museum of the Grand Prairie". We will tour the museum and grounds on Sunday afternoon.

Monday June 12, 2023, AM we will depart for Springfield IL for a short 1 ½ hour, 85 mile drive. We will be staying at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Our hosts for our Springfield adventure will be David and Dawn Hollis. David is a retired firefighter in Springfield and knows the ins and outs of the city. There are many things to see and do in the area. A major theme of Springfield is, of course, Abraham Lincoln. His restored home, law offices and the old state capitol building where Lincoln delivered his famous House Divided Speech are open for tours. Many people pay their respects at the President's tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Lincoln's Presidential Library is also in town.



Friday, June 16, we have a 2 hour, 125 mile drive to St. Peters, MO. We will be camping at 370 Lakeside Park, St Peters, MO. Gary and Molly Shilling will be the hosts for the St Louis Rally. We will be relying on Dave and Dawn for "must see" things to see and do for they also have spent quite a bit of time in St Louis. It is a 30 minute drive to downtown St Louis from our campground in St Peters. There are so many things to see and do in the St. Louis area. The charming old town area of St. Charles is amazing,

with shops, restaurants and the Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum.



There is, of course, the Gateway Arch and Museum which should not be missed. White Haven, the home of Ulysses S Grant, is a National Historic Site which also has a museum on the premises. The St Louis Zoo is world class. And there is much more! I'm sure we will not run out of things to do.

Camping Registration: With the exception of the Springfield Fairgrounds, you will need to make your own reservations at each of the following campgrounds.

Shipshewana North Campground and Cabins (Official Rally Dates June 7-11, 2023)

5970 IN-5

Shipshewana, IN 46565

260 768-7770

Do not register online, call Sam on the phone. Tell him you are with the Blue Bird group and the dates you will be camping there. Call right away, the sites fill up fast, you might be put on a waiting list.

Tin Cup RV Park
217 586-3011
1715 Tin Cup Road
Mahomet, IL 61853

Do not register online, call Paula and tell her you are with the Vintage Birds Group. We will be staying one night, Sunday June 11, 2023

Springfield State Fair Grounds
801 Sangamon Ave
Springfield, IL 62706

You will not need to make reservations. You will pay for camping while you are on site.

370 Lakeside Park
636 387-5253
1000 Lakeside Park
St Peters, MO 63376

Do not make reservations online, please call and say you are with the Vintage Birds Group. We will arrive on Friday, June 16, 2023, and depart on Wed, June 21, 2023.

We hope you can make the entire Rolling Rally but understand if you can only join us for part of it. Please fill out the attached Registration Form and let me know your travel plans.

The is a Vintage Birds Rally but non-members are welcome to attend as guests.

There is a \$10 Rally fee per coach per day, not including the Shipshewana portion. We will be providing some meals, coffee, donuts, etc. for the Rally. After Shipshewana, the Rolling part of the Rally is 10 days for a total of \$100. If you will be with us for only part of the Rally, the fee will be \$10 a day.

- Please fill out the Registration Form and
- Enclose your Rally Fee check made out to Gary Shilling and mail to:

Gary Shilling
23369 Gingers Drive
Muscodá, WI 53573

- We plan on being on the road this winter; in addition to the mailed registration please send me an email that you will be coming.
- If you have to cancel, please contact Gary before you cancel your campground reservations!

Questions, concerns, volunteering to help?

Gary 608 739-1296

gmsilling72@gmail.com



Vintage Birds Registration Form "Rolling Through The Heartlands Rally"

Names _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State and Zip Code _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Email Address: _____

Coach Model and Length _____

YES ___ NO ___ We will be at Shipshewana. What date will you arrive _____

YES ___ NO ___ We will be in attendance for 10 days for the Rolling Rally from Shipshewana to St Louis

Rally Fee for the entire Rolling Rally after Shipshewana is \$100.00

If you cannot make the entire Rally, what portion of the Rally will you be attending?

YES ___ NO ___ Mahomet IL 1 Day (1 day June 11)

YES ___ NO ___ Springfield IL How many days _____ (4 days June 12-15)

YES ___ NO ___ St Louis MO How many days _____ (5 days June 16-20)

Number of day you will be attending _____ X \$10 = \$ _____ Check enclosed for \$ _____

Mail to:

Gary Shilling

23369 Gingers Drive

Muscoda, WI 53573

Rallies By Vintage Birds Members

Bayou Blue Birds

Invites You to

Love Birds on the River!!!

February 15th thru 19th

Call River View RV

<http://www.riverviewrvpark.com/>

Vidalia, LA

318-336-1400

Tell them Blue Birds

Mark C Rabalais

vettehead45@yahoo.com



Birds at the Beach

The dates for 2023 are March 22nd to March 26th, come early and stay late. The weekend prior to the rally is St. Patrick's day the 17th. Come and join us for a party...we will figure out a place. You can make your reservations now by calling Ocean Lakes, 877-510-1413.

***MAKE SURE TO TELL THEM
"BIRDS AT THE BEACH"***

Bryan and Karen Altier

Altierb@bellsouth.net



All Bluebird Rallies

Rallies Make our Bluebird Communities Come Alive

2023

Quartzsite, Arizona January 14-29

Lake Havasu City, AZ February 13-20

Vidalia, Louisiana February 15-19

Myrtle Beach, SC March 22-26

Terlingua, Texas April 1-8

Shipshewana, Indiana June 7-11

Rolling Rally, June 7-20

Pine Mountain, Georgia October 18-22



Join & Support Our Bluebird Communities!!

*We Are Only Caretakers of These Great Machines
Coaches for Sale
as of November 21, 2021
A Free Service Supporting All Blue Bird Communities*

1990 Wanderlodge 40WB Asking, \$77,000

1990 Wanderlodge SP36 Asking, \$42,500

*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