



April/May 2012

BLUE BIRD CHAPTER, FMCA

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## From your President

*by Charlie Vaughn*



Our part of North Carolina is starting to think about Spring. The red buds, cherry trees and daffodils are in bloom. The daily forecast is in the seventies. Easter is April 8 this year. Our elders always said Spring was officially here on Easter. I can't wait.

I hope Spring finds our members ready to travel in our Wanderlodes. I am hoping to hear about some **gatherings**, or maybe another rally, as many of you have much to show the rest of us in your part of the world. Your club is only as good as the time you are willing to put into it. The entire Board of Directors is ready to assist anyone wishing to host a rally or gathering.

I hope by now everyone realizes the Blue Bird Chapter has a forum on the website. A forum is the best way for members to discuss their travel plans, find out where other members will be staying, and generally stay connected with each other. A forum only works if the membership is willing to use it. About twenty five chapter members have registered for the forum. We have had about one hundred non-members apply. There are more people wanting to join our forum than our members. Remember, this forum is for Blue Bird Chapter members only. To date, only four members other than Rick Ducci, site administrator, and myself, have posted on the forum. **Everyone wants more communication in the club. Here is your chance. Register Now! Come to the forum and participate.**

Martha and I are hosting “Amazing Mayberry” — a rally held in Mount Airy, NC, this month. An ‘all birds and friends’ rally allows you to bring a friend. There are a few openings left. I hope to see many of you there.

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## From Your President, *continued*

Our other rally this year is the Third Annual Reunion in Dillard, GA. Our Hosts, Bob and Barbara Helms and Tom and Sandi Bay, are doing an outstanding job of showcasing North Georgia and North Carolina mountains. The train ride and first class meal through the mountains at the height of fall color is an event that equals Mackinac Island or a trip to Disney. Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime adventure.

Please remember to send in an updated membership form when you return your check for yearly dues.

*Travel Safely,*  
*Charlie*



### *Our newest members of Family of Friends are:*

**LINDA HOUZE**, who hails from Sarasota, FL. Welcome Linda, We are so glad you have joined us.

**WILL & LI VOLK** are from Prescott, WI. We welcome you with open arms as well. We are so pleased to learn you chose to be members of one of the best of the best FMCA clubs in the country.

We hope to meet each of you in person one day soon! Check out the scheduled events at one or more of the rallies and plan on attending if possible!

*Neat Scott*

Welcome Host. FOF

# Board of Directors



**Charlie Vaughn**  
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## Blue Bird Chapter FMCA

When you make use of your strength, it does not get used up. It grows. When you give your love to others, it does not diminish the love you have. It deepens and enriches that love.

When you teach what you know, it does not take knowledge away from you. It expands and broadens your knowledge.

When you offer kindness, you end up with even more. When you make use of discipline, your discipline grows ever stronger.

The more you live with integrity, the more integrity you'll have. The more you speak the truth, the more real truth you'll discover.

The truly valuable things in life are easy to recognize, for they're the things that never get used up. Indeed, the truly valuable things become more plentiful each and every time they're used!



## *From the Editor*

I love Easter and Spring and this season of rebirth! The trees are bursting with leaves, the flowers are blooming. Snowfall turns into showers – warm moist showers. It's time for renewal, regeneration. The Spring Solstice prompts you to look at things just a bit differently, with new eyes. It's a time for balance -- try standing a hardboiled egg on end, and you'll see what I mean.

Right now, Snowbirds are starting to return home; Full-Timers can head to those climates somewhat forbidding during the winter months, but sunny and inviting during April and May.

Spring also brings a plethora of tasks, from planting gardens to motor coach or home repairs/renovations. Spring cleaning, ah yes! Open the closet doors and pull out those items not worn within the last year. Dig into storage areas and determine the “must keep” and “best to discard” items. Charitable organizations benefit greatly during this time of year – bolstering their inventory with the “once loved, no longer needed” items that just might spark up someone else's wardrobe or kitchen cabinet.

Grandkids are nearing the end of the school year ... some facing the excitement of new challenges with a summer job or college preparation. Our granddaughter graduates this year. We thought she would be filled with summer plans in her community of Charlotte, NC, but were gratified that she once again wants to spend time with us on the Oregon Coast. How long this will last, we have no idea, but we're going to take advantage of her willingness to share our experiences. One of life's blessings ...

When we first became Full-Timers, we thought we would spend most of our time on the road, “gypsying” around the country in a nomadic fashion. However, the reality of diesel prices hit us, and we're focusing our time on the SW, NW and, of course, Colorado – where our children and grandson live. I've no doubt we'll hit the meandering road in a couple of years, but right now we're very content with nestling in a bit. And, as the golf course turns a vivid green here at Rancho California RV Resort (Aguanga, CA), and the palm trees sway gently in the spring breeze, I feel drawn to say, over and over, “Thank you, Lord. I feel so blessed!” And, when the resident Great White Heron swoops overhead at sunset, I smile and say silently, “You don't have anything over on me ... with the ‘spreading of your wings’ and your blissful ‘freedom of flight’! I'm flying right along with you — a bit more earthbound, but still soaring as I experience this interesting and intriguing lifestyle.”



So ... Spring! Welcome! I hope you enjoy this issue of *Bird Tracks*, as we learn of favorite destinations and try new recipes and commiserate with some of the ruts we experience along with our myriad of travels! While we may get “stuck” once in awhile (check out “Richard's Ramblings”), somehow we just keep on going down this Road of Life – hopefully with great style and a huge AMEN!

*Happy Easter to all of you!*

*Jenise Harper*



# Creede, Colorado Destination Extraordinaire!

by Sharon Kirby



The town is about four blocks wide and 12 blocks long with a year-round population of around 500. During the summer, the average temperature during the day is in the 70s, with cool nights which usually require a jacket or sweater. The busiest season in Creede is Memorial Day (late May) to Labor Day (early September). You can go fishing, horseback riding, and rock-hounding.

A popular historical drive is Bachelor Loop, where you will see old silver mines, homes, town sites, and wildlife. Another great drive to see the Aspens in all their color glory is Pool Table Road. If you want to feed chipmunks, head to Love Lake where the little fellows will sit in your lap to eat!



let's start with the month of May. At the end of May, the Creede Repertory Theatre opens. For FIVE straight years, the CRT was voted by Denver Post readers as having the "Best Year by a Company" so if you enjoy the theatre, you will enjoy the numerous productions at the CRT. Also in May, the CRT's Main Lobby opens its



Are you looking for a cool place to be during the summer? Does the idea of quiet back road drives, mountain vistas, and beautiful rivers and lakes appeal to you? Then Creede, CO, is the place you need to visit!!

Creede is an historic mining town (established in 1892) nestled in a beautiful canyon 8,852 feet up in the San Juan Mountains.



The winter months see plenty of action, as Creede is a popular destination for foliage fans and hunters in the Fall, and snowmobilers, backcountry skiers, snowshoers and downhill skiers in the Winter. Over 95% of Mineral County is public lands administered by the National Forest Service and the BLM, so there are plenty of hiking, ATV and jeep trails to explore, plus rafting the Rio Grande River!

But, you may say, I'm not an outdoors type of person. What is there for me to do? Well,

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# Creede, Colorado

## Continued



National Small Print Show which contains over 100 small prints from artists across the country. The Taste of Creede Festival in May has a Fine Arts auction, Quick Draw art competition, Silver Chef cooking competition, tours of the CRT's Main Stage and more.

In the month of June, there is the Community Fish Fry, Fine Art Gallery Shows, and new productions opening at the CRT. July is the time for the Days of '92 Mining Events and the July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival, plus the County Fair, the Woodcarvers Rendezvous, and more Fine Art Gallery Shows. The Creede Rock and Mineral Show, the Mountain Man Rendezvous, the 5-K run/walk Snowshoe Shuffle, the Rodeo, and the Historical Society's Annual Bar Bash all take place in August.



Last year was also the first annual Balloon Festival held in Creede, with 9 balloons, and the participants said they would return and bring more balloonists for September, 2012!! Also in September, there is the Creede Mountain Run, the Salsa Fiesta and Gravity Derby plus "Cruisin' the Canyon" Fall Car Show and more Fine Art Gallery Shows.

Want more? The downtown area is small but there are some lovely shops, a Tru Value Hardware store, a grocery store carrying some organic and gluten-free products, a chiropractor, a new health center with state-of-the-art exam rooms, and a museum housed in the Old Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot. There are several restaurants downtown and surrounding area if you just don't want to cook. Two of our favorites are Freeman's Grocery (a grocery store with a grill in the back—best burgers in the valley!) and The Antlers, where we sit by the Rio Grande River while enjoying our meal. If you need places for friends and family to stay, there are B & B's, cabin rentals, lodges and the Creede Hotel.

As RVers, we know the importance of a good place to "hook up" and Creede has one of the best RV parks you will find. Open only from May through September, Mountain Views RV Resort and Park has 97 campsites on the park side to rent, plus many owners have their sites in the rental pool. All have 30/50 amp service with full hook-ups. They added a new laundry facility in 2010 that can't be beat! They have two very nice club houses and several cabins to rent if you have other family coming to visit. There is internet service in the park at the Pony Express Station, and some sites get the service. The owners are working to upgrade it so all sites will get internet.



Woodall's has rated this RV resort a five "W"! If you would like to see Mountain Views RV Resort & Park and get more information, go to [www.mountainviewsrv.com](http://www.mountainviewsrv.com).

If you are the type who just wants to relax, read a good book and quietly enjoy looking at the mountains, the river and the animals, then this beautiful place will be just what the doctor ordered! Garland and I have spent many days enjoying this wonderful area, and hope that you will come join us soon! You won't regret your visit!

# South Dakota -- Call it Home!

by *Jenise Harper*

When we first started talking about selling our house and becoming full-time RVers, an acquaintance who spent 10 years as a Full-Timer told us to contact a firm in South Dakota and establish residency.

"Residency in South Dakota?" I asked. "Why?"

"Because that's like a business in South Dakota," she explained. "There are many companies, from Rapid City to Sioux Falls, that handle all your mail, arrange for the licensing of your vehicles, and help you establish a residence."

"What are the advantages?" I could not grasp the concept.

"No state income tax. Low vehicle licensing fees. Helping you with voter registration and getting a driver's license. Convenience. Mail forwarding services." The answers were simple.

Jim and I proceeded to contact several organizations and peruse a variety of websites. These service companies did business across the state, east to west, and it seemed quite easy to connect with one of them as our personal service representative.



But did we want to make South Dakota our home state? We were from Nebraska originally, but had spent 80% of our married life in Colorado. What to do?

We decided there was no better way to make the decision than to simply visit South Dakota, and so we did. The Rapid City area appealed to us the most, so we drove up there in the early summer season to "see what we could see" and do whatever we needed

to do. The company in Rapid City was called "America's Mail-box" and the staff seemed most willing to help us.

The first requirement was to spend a night in an area RV resort or motel. We chose **Hart Ranch** from the travel directories' descriptions, and made arrangements to stay two nights.

We drove north from Denver, stopping at the Fort Lewis area for an overnight. That was a treat in itself -- the fort was well preserved and offered an enjoyable afternoon of poking around the barracks, officer's quarters, and other historical buildings. The movie detailing the fort's importance in the development of the West was quite good.

When we drove into the Rapid City area, we moved from the plains to the Black Hills -- the incredibly beautiful Black Hills! Hart Ranch was easy to find, and quite an impressive blend of golf course, condominiums and homes, and the RV park. Our site was a spacious one on the end of the row, with a nice size pad and a well-cared-for lawn separating the sites. I recall it was stressed that we NOT extend any part of our rig, including the hitch, over the end of the pad, since it would interfere with the ever-present lawn maintenance!

We had taken advantage of a special offer to stay at Hart Ranch, which meant we would participate in a get-acquainted session designed to introduce us to the Ranch and ownership via membership. We knew we had a full-day ahead of us with all the residency requirements, so we decided to stay a third night, and attend the session the morning of our final day.

That settled, we relaxed on our outside patio,



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## South Dakota, *Continued*

enjoying the sunset and chatting with passers-by, all of whom raved about Hart Ranch and this "special piece of Heaven" they had discovered.

"Hmmm," we thought. "Maybe there's more to this area than just establishing residency and attending the required meeting." With that in mind, we decided we had plenty of time before we headed to our destination for the summer, the Olympic Peninsula, and reserved a fourth night.

The following day was gloriously sunny. We headed to the offices of America's Mailbox, and met with the owner and his staff. We filled in all the paperwork needed for the mail service, for the licensing of our RV and our car, and for South Dakota voter registration. Our next stop, after lunch in a charming restaurant in the picturesque "old town" section of Rapid City, was the Department of Motor Vehicles. Here we had to show the receipt for our Hart Ranch "residency" and sign an affidavit stating that we were "full-timer travelers" with the caveat that WHEN we ceased our Full-Timer lifestyle, our intention was to return to South Dakota. Our photos were taken, our driver's licenses issued, and VOILA, we were residents of Pennington County, South Dakota.

The final piece of business was to find an insurance agent. We had been with All-State in Colorado, and our agent located a firm in Rapid City.



While our motor home was insured through a company that specializes in RVs, we insured our car through the agency in S.D. "I think that's it," I said, as we left the All State office. "Time to celebrate!" We had passed a local winery on our way into town, so stopped there for a bit of tasting, and bought a bottle to bring

back to the rig. What a lovely way to end a rather tedious day, watching the sunset and sipping a nice Merlot from a Black Hills vineyard!

Day three started with the required information session which lasted about an hour. Hart Ranch does have a great deal to offer in terms of amenities, and the main lodge was most impressive. We were tempted, but felt it was too early in our Full-Timer journey to make any commitments.

There was no high-pressure sales pitch, and we left feeling it might be a possibility a year or two down the road.

But NOW it was time to sight-see! We headed straight towards Mount Rushmore,

having caught glimpses of the famous faces from a couple of vantage points the day before. You know what you're going to see -- you've seen photos of the notable mountain many times. Yet there's nothing quite like seeing it in "real life" and up close. What a massive accomplishment. Jim and I are both history buffs, and we pored over all the informative displays after enjoying views of the faces from every possible perspective. Sure, there's a definite amount of commercialism involved, and tons of tourists gawking just like us. But you've got to concede that this was a man-made accomplishment of major proportions!

From there we drove over to catch the Crazy Horse vista. We opted to not drive up to the actual site, preferring instead to marvel at the massive work-in-progress from a pristine, uncrowded viewpoint.

To end the day, we drove the Needles Highway, right smack in the middle of the Black Hills. For the life of me, I cannot figure out how the designer had the vision and the fortitude to see that road come into being! Twists and turns, amazing spires wherever you looked. And the tunnels! Those primitive one-way tunnels! We timed our route perfectly, just in time to see a huge tour bus inching its way through one of the "larger" (I say that with



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## South Dakota, *Continued*



tongue in cheek) tunnels. We parked and walked to see it maneuver very cautiously, truly inch by inch, through the tunnel -- and when it emerged and drove towards us, we all applauded. The driver rose out of his seat and displayed an oil can ... perhaps the secret to slithering through, eh?!

Back at Hart Ranch, we finished our wine and then enjoyed pizza at the poolside cafe. What a nice day! But wait! That's not all! We had another day to explore this unique part of this amazing country of ours. It's Badlands day! What a study in contrasts! From the mountains to this strange "moonscape" -- both awesome, but the Badlands had a unique aura. I could just hear Mother Nature saying, "I want to create something that will defy description!" With the Needles Highway, you knew you would see something beautiful -- mountain ridges and treed ledges -- with every curve of the road. With the Badlands drive, the desolate landscape seemed to go on forever, with strange "other world" formations. It was fascinating!

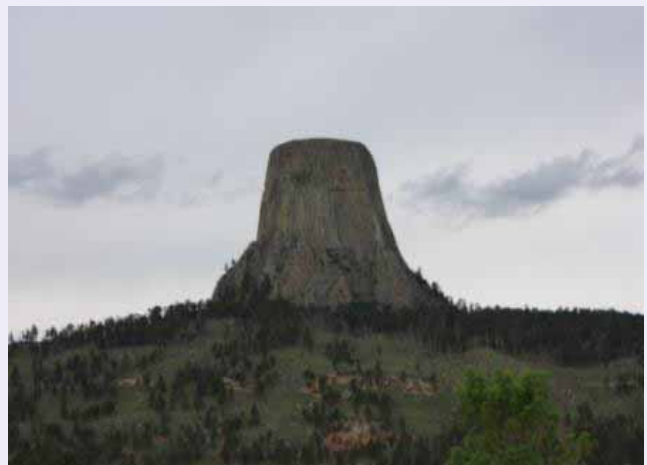
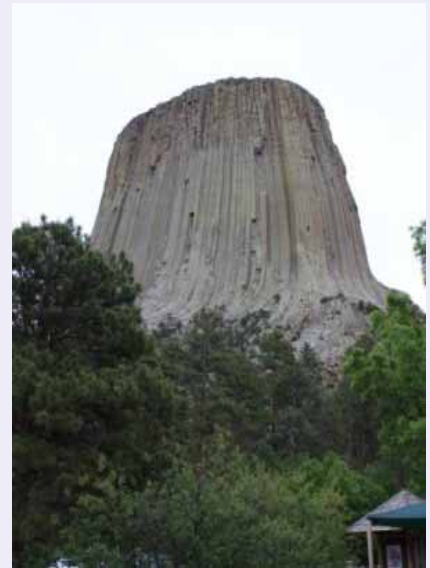


I'll always remember our trip to South Dakota -- after all, it was our first really BIG trip. But we experienced SO MUCH. We also enjoyed the town of Deadwood, where so much history is recorded ... and Sturgis -- the biker's rendezvous!

We also spent a day at Devil's Tower after leaving Hart Ranch -- an amazing formation rising out of the Plains. I could understand why it is holy ground for the Native Americans.

There's something spiritual about the tower,

which is truly mis-named! We had a great time hiking the perimeter, and marveled at the rock climbers scaling the steep striated walls.



Jim and I have traveled quite a bit during our 46 years of marriage, mostly with our kids in tow or else cruises to exotic islands, but we are now affording ourselves opportunities to really SEE the USA. And, my friends, the Rapid City area, now our "official" home, is one place we would urge you to visit! I can guarantee you won't be disappointed!

# Richard's Ramblings

by Richard Ramsey

I will evermore be known as the VISITOR FROM HELL after getting stuck in Elizabeth's yard even before we could say HELLO. This all started in early January, when we were planning a trip to Clearwater, Florida.

Rush, Rush, Rush! I had to get hay for the horse and donkey. My normal hay supplier was out of town and I called the City of Grand Ridge all day Monday for hay, but no one answered the phone. Then I called Tuesday morning. I was told if I could get there in an hour, I could get the hay.

I threw on my clothes, got the truck, drove to the donkey pen for the trailer to haul the hay. The last time I got hay, I was tired, so I just pulled the trailer into the pen and unhooked it with the rolls of hay still on it. Big mistake! I saw immediately that I had to rake that hay off the trailer before I could put the new rolls of hay on it. I attempted to rake the hay off and onto the ground. That was HARD. The rolls of hay are somewhat woven together and tightly packed. I struggled mightily getting that hay off the trailer. After 40 minutes of panic raking and just taking brief rests in between near heart attacks, I had removed enough hay.

After looking at the hay pile on the ground, I realized that there was approximately a full roll, which means I unloaded 600 to 800 pounds of hay that was, like I said, thatched together. I jumped in the truck and off to Grand Ridge I raced. I was 10 minutes late, but the town manager loaded the hay for me while the normal hay guy was on his city garbage run.

I hurried back to Blountstown, and unloaded one roll of hay and covered it (until the jackasses ate the hay on the ground that nearly killed me). I then pulled the trailer to sit in front of the barn until I moved the motor home out. My plan

was to store the rest of the hay where I park the motor home.

Later, after I dropped into my comfortable chair, it occurred to me that I had to get everything ready for the **big freeze** we were going to have that night. So out of the chair I go to turn water off, drip the faucets, etc. It got to 24 degrees; like I said – Big Freeze!



The next day, Sue told me the garbage needed to be hauled out. My truck was still hooked to the hay trailer; the faucets were frozen. Then I remembered I needed to fill the coach with water and I also needed to dump. Sue had a 2:30 p.m. doctor's appointment in Tallahassee, so we made a plan. She would go to her appointment and I would meet her at Sam's Club.

But first I loaded the SAT receivers — probably the most important item to take. Heck, if we did not have TV, Sue and I might have to talk to each other! I finally got the faucet in the back of the barn unfrozen and I filled up the coach. At 10 a.m., I decided to turn the water back on and check the faucets. The water was on, but one of the faucets wouldn't shut off. I went to the barn and found a faucet and replaced it. Then at the donkey pen, I could not get the water to shut off either, so I took my multiple hose adapter off and attached the watering hose directly to the faucet. With a new washer and wrench, I tightened it enough to slow the leak to drip, drip, drip.

I pulled the motor home out and put the hay trailer in. How in the heck we can create so much garbage is a mystery to me. I loaded the three huge trash bags in the truck and drove off to the store to unload. One bag was super heavy and I think I strained myself dumping it. I cranked up the motor home and drove off to Sam's to pick up Sue. The first thing I did was jump the curb turning into Sam's parking lot. It seemed that after I got into the parking lot, everyone there decided to

Continued on next page

# Richard's Ramblings

Continued

leave through the part of the lot where I was attempting to jockey the motor home. Finally, I said "heck" and just proceeded to parallel-park with traffic backing up behind me. Once Sue finished and met me, off we drove to visit Elizabeth, our overnight stop enroute to Clearwater.

First I missed the road to Elizabeth's house, so I turned into a driveway and drove on the grass beside and parallel to HWY 441 — with a ditch separating me from the road. I found another driveway, and back on the highway I went. This time I found the right road and turned in. While on this unpaved road, the coach hit a patch of pure sand and began to slow down. Just before I stopped, I got traction and drove that road like a bat out of Hell until I got to Elizabeth's driveway.

I saw a low hanging limb that I missed by inches and headed up to the house. Here I made the FATAL DECISION. I decided to drive into the field and pull through the parking space, rather than unhook the car and back in. I had a good head of steam, so I went about a 100 feet into the field before I SANK 12 inches into the ground and came to a stop.



Elizabeth got her neighbor with a tractor. He proceeded to dig more holes with his tractor tires while I sank deeper. We were able to get boards under the drive tires, and I tried again. We succeeded in digging more holes and smoking the tires. My tires smoked so much that I got the fire extinguisher!

After two more tries, we gave up and called another neighbor who worked for a towing company. He came over with a light weight wrecker. He looked the situation over and said his wrecker was too small. He called his boss about the big boy wrecker called "THE HULK." They quoted me \$450.00 to bring it out. After going faint, holding my heart, I said "Noooooooooooo!" I called Coach Net Emergency Road Service. The wrecker company said to wait until morning (which was fine with me) because it was

cold and had been dark for hours. I am sure that, because the wrecker driver saw Elizabeth give me that 16 ounce cup of SCOTCH, it did not influence his decision in the least to wait until morning.

The next day they arrived with "THE HULK." It had three winches, four axles, and outriggers. The tow truck weighed 70,000 pounds. I asked him if he was going to bring it into the field, and he said, "NO, YOU WANT BOTH OF US STUCK?" He stayed on the road and ran a cable to me.

Whooo, I forgot! I put down my jacks the night before to attempt to level the coach. I now attempted to raise them and one jack would not come up. It was buried. I dug and dug and dug and I could not find the jack plate. Lying on the ground, getting my breath, I looked up and saw the jack plate hanging on the end of the spring parallel to the jack instead of under it. NO WONDER I COULD NOT FIND IT BY DIGGING.

The 'Hulk' driver brought over a great pry bar. We got the jack up just enough. The driver hooked THE HULK up to the coach and pulled it out without any strain on THE HULK. He then drove the motor home to hard ground. (I probably drive better than he gave me credit for, but he was not about to take that chance.)

I finally got the jack all the way up and put the plate back on the jack. We said our goodbyes to Elizabeth and headed out her gate. While dodging that dreaded limb, I heard a horrible noise. I stopped, got out and looked. I missed the limb. I hadn't hit anything, so I finished pulling out of her driveway and parked to hook up the car.

Elizabeth came walking up to me with my jack spring in her hand. My jack plate was OFF AGAIN; this time I lost the spring, too. Elizabeth and I put it back on and then Sue and I hooked up the car. I was at Elizabeth's home for 16 hours and we got to visit for about an hour. As I said, Elizabeth will probably consider us the Guests from Hell.

Of course, IT WAS ALL SUE'S FAULT!

# Teck Tips

by Ralph Fullenwider

April showers fail to hinder the Blue Bird from camping and fellowship. Hello everyone, and WELCOME to SPRING! Or, may it be known as “Green Up Time” (smile)? Well, that brings out the BBQ, or fancy cooking, or “stay-in nights” in the Galley. Now, where did I put that darn spice again? Oh yes ... over there in the cupboard ... or under the sink in a tub ... or?!?

Charolette and I decided to create a space just for keeping the most-used spices at hand, within easy reach of the kitchen center, and at eye level for easy identification. See the adjacent photo.

Other spring projects pop up now and then. For instance, it has been three or four years since flushing and adding bleach to the fresh water tank to kill any pesky things in that space. How do I add the bleach to the tank to disinfect it? Let me explain the easy way I found.



Are you or do you know someone who is on a CPAP machine? The hoses are replaced on a regular basis, and generally the old hose is tossed in the trash. Oh, No! Get one of those, or perhaps even two, for your Coach. One hose can be used for the fresh water tank and the other can be used to help add engine coolant to that hard-to-get-to-tank-fill in back of the Coach with the engine hatch open. I bet you're nodding your heads at this one, because you know exactly what I am talking about. (Grin.)

The used CPAP hose has live rubber ends and is very flexible (See photo 2.) A funnel will fit tightly into one end and, oddly enough, the other end of the hose is the perfect size to fit the opening in the top of your fresh water tank where the overflow hose attaches. Sometimes the overflow hose (plastic) will weld itself slightly over time, and has to be loosened. A hair dryer is great for making it pliable and able to slip off the opening.



We pour two gallons of bleach into our tank, fill it 3/4 full and go for a 10-mile drive to shake it up a bit. Then we dump the bleach water, refill the tank fully two more times with fresh water, and dump, filling the third and last time, and running fresh water through the faucets.

Those Coaches that have the Aqua hot system do not have this problem, but you will still need the CPAP hose with a funnel on hand to top off the engine coolant easier.

*Safe travels!*



# Small Town Life

by Martha Rowe Vaughn



Not too long ago, a friend who lives in a big city asked me, “Why do you stay in such a small, podunk town? Don’t you miss the culture and excitement of a city?”

“Here’s the reason,” I replied. “I can get up late and have a leisurely breakfast. Then I can go to the post office, the bank, downtown to shop, get my hair done, visit with friends, and be home by lunch. It takes you a week to do those things.”

When my young grandchildren visit from their city in Northern Virginia, one of the first things they say to me is, “We don’t want to go anywhere.” The reason is that in their city they spend hours sitting in the car fighting traffic trying to go anywhere. A trip to the grocery takes all morning, getting to the swimming pool requires a cross-city trek of 45 minutes—one way, and a trip to the neighborhood school is 30 minutes by school bus. This doesn’t include the hour required to get them ready to reluctantly get in the car. It takes them a few days to realize that in small town Mount Airy we can be anywhere in less than 10 minutes.

So when I say, “Get your shoes and coats on—we’re going to the River Walk,” they are ready and waiting within five minutes. Grocery shopping is a social event in Mount Airy. You have to allot a little time for meeting and greeting friends. After one trip when I had stopped and talked to several friends, the grandkids asked, “Grandma, do you know everyone in town?”

Time was when I did know nearly everyone in town. Not only did I know them, I also knew their

genealogy and all the dirt about them. Nothing goes unreported in a small town. My daughter was horrified when she returned from a night out and I asked her, “How was the movie?” We had forbidden her to go see this movie, but she went anyway. “How did you know?” she responded.

“Eyes, Sallie, eyes—they are everywhere and you’re busted.”

Many young people leave town for the anonymity of a big city. I did, but I came back and was glad to get back to a simpler life. When Charlie and I bought the GigaRex, the news was all over town within a day. Everywhere we went, people asked us about it ... Were we going to become country music stars or NASCAR groupies? Some even ventured to ask us how much it cost. Now that was a real breach of Southern etiquette. We hemmed and hawed our way past that subject. In a small town, one doesn’t flaunt riches unless one is crass and uncouth. Not to say we don’t have our share of the crass and uncouth; we do.

We have our share of crime, too. Anything that happens in a big city is happening here although on a smaller scale. We used to be known for moonshine, now it is pot and meth labs. Our police force is just as stretched as any force in America. The big difference is everyone knows who is involved and it is a matter of catching them at it which they frequently do. But where else, but in a small town, can a family down on its luck receive the generous care of folks so eager to help? We take care of our own. We don’t wait for the government to do it. We have bake sales, barbecues, dances, and raffles to raise money to help others. Many people just open their wallets and give.

As for culture, we have the Surry Arts Council that brings us music, theatre, art, dance, and programs for children. No, you won’t find a Shakespeare play here, but we’ve got Andy Griffith and Mayberry Days, the Tommy Jarrell Festival, the Embers, the Mount Airy Fiddlers Convention, a wine festival, Farmer’s Days, Melva Houston, and the Autumn Leaves Festival, just to name a few. You can get there in ten minutes from anywhere in town.

Mount Airy is a friendly city. When you come for the **Amazing Mayberry Rally** (see Page

**Continued on next page**

## Small Town Life, Continued

22), you will encounter Jimmy, our volunteer welcoming committee, on the streets downtown. He's a walking tome of town lore, eager to help anyone needing directions or just to talk.

The Visitors Center, located in an old bank building, is manned by knowledgeable people who can set up a tour of the wineries in the area. Or you can engage a black and white police car like the one in *The Andy Griffith Show* to take you on a tour of the sights, including the Granite Quarry and Andy Griffith's house.

You can enjoy grill-cooked hamburgers and ground steak sandwiches in an old-fashioned dairy center complete with checkered tile floors from the 50s and pictures of local folks on the wall. The Dairy Center was featured in "Our State" magazine, prompting out-of-towners to call for reservations—none required. Of course, there's Snappy Lunch, the most famous diner in Mayberry for its pork chop sandwiches—no reservations required either, but you should get there early for lunch or stand in line with the tourists winding up the sidewalk.

Or eat at Ocie's and get country food and the best gossip in town, and meet everyone from roofers to bankers to housewives. Then there is Trio's restaurant in the Main Oak Emporium for the finest dining anywhere.

One of the nicest things about living in a small town is you can get things done in a hurry. Where else can you buy a pair of slacks and have them altered the same day, but at Flip Rees's wonderful clothing store?

Locked out of your car? Call Richard Holcomb at the hardware store. He'll unlock it even on the off hours or the weekend. Forgot to pick up the dry cleaning? Call Mr. Roth. He'll open up the store for you.

Everyone is willing to help you when you need it. They all believe in the Golden Rule.

Don't be surprised if everyone you pass on the street greets you with a smile or a wave. If they don't, they are tourists. We have lots of tourists who come to step back in time to a slower pace and a gentler way of living where neighbors care about neighbors -- and we're all neighbors in our small town.

### Ya'll come stay awhile!





# *Cooking is for the Birds!*

*by Kay Green Losh*

As Spring approaches, I hope you all are planning trips in your Birds to enjoy the season.

I received a recipe from **Neat Scott** and **Rozanne DeShazer** that would make a good addition to the staples you keep in the coach. They both say this is as easy as 3, 2, 1!

## **3 – 2 -1 Cake**

You need one box of Angel Food cake mix, and one box of another cake mix, any flavor — strawberry, lemon, red velvet, carrot. Blend the two cake mixes together and store in a Ziploc bag. When you're ready to make the cake, put the following into a small microwave safe container:

3 Tablespoons of the cake mix combo and 2 Tablespoons of water

Then cook for 1 minute in the microwave on High. If you wish, whipped topping or fresh fruit could be served with this. Canned whipped frosting might be another choice. Because of the egg whites in the Angel Food cake mix, this is not for anyone with an allergy to eggs, but for the rest of us, we can have a sweet treat — without leftovers.

**Neat Scott** also sent this cookie recipe, which also uses a cake mix, and seems to invite you to try different varieties. I can see this as chocolate chip cookies, or even with M&Ms. This one I would probably make before a trip; they'd be good with a cup of coffee going down the road, or as a "reward" when you arrive.

## **Cream Cheese Cake Mix Cookies**

1 box cake mix, any flavor (Neat says she used French Vanilla, and did not add the vanilla flavoring.)

8 oz. package cream cheese, at room temperature

¼ cup butter, also at room temperature

1 large egg

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup add-ins — chocolate chips, nuts, candy (For chocolate chip cookies, Neat used a 12 oz bag.)

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Cream butter and cream cheese. Add egg and vanilla, and mix well. (Could use a mixer for this part.) Stir in the cake mix, a little at a time. Then add chips, candy, or nuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto a cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes until edges are brown.



**Continued on next page**

## Cooking is For the Birds, *Continued*

Before you eat dessert, I guess you're supposed to have a meal. This is a recipe that sounds good and easy. **Jenise Harper** had it at a friend's coach recently. I have a plug by the sink that works when we're driving, and a crock-pot sits in the sink easily, so dinner *could* be ready when we arrive at our destination. It could also cook while you are out seeing the sites during the day, and would be a hit at a pot-luck, I think.

### Crock Pot Chicken Tortilla Soup

- 1 can black beans, drained
- 1 can corn, drained
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes, Mexican style (other Mexican style tomatoes are fine, but have less zip)
- 1 packet enchilada sauce mix
- 1 ½ cups water
- 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups milk
- 3-4 boneless chicken breasts



Mix enchilada packet with water and sauce. Add cream of chicken soup, milk and whisk until smooth. Pour into crock-pot. Add chicken. Pour beans, corn, and Rotel on top of that. Cook on low 6-8 hours. Before serving, take chicken out, shred it, and return it to the pot, and stir all. When serving, top with sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese, lime, avocados, or tortilla strips/chips.



Please send YOUR recipes to [cooking@BluebirdChapter.org](mailto:cooking@BluebirdChapter.org) so that all of us can share.



# Did you know?

By Sharon Kirby

1. According to the book “Wheat Belly” by cardiologist Dr. William Davis, a wheat-free diet has been associated with significant benefits, including weight loss; improvement in cholesterol and LDL counts; recovery from intestinal problems, like ulcerative colitis and celiac disease; cessation of skin conditions from psoriasis to oral ulcers and hair loss; improvement in bone density and reversal osteopenia; alleviation of metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes; and reduction of inflammation and rheumatoid arthritis pain. Are you having health problems? Maybe going to a wheat-free diet would help!! Check out Dr. Davis’ book. He might have the answers you need to improve your health!

2. There is another way to check for cancer! It is called thermography. It has been around for 30 years. A thermogram does not emit radiation or require squeezing or bruising your body. It simply photographs the tiny temperature changes coming from your body. Where there’s cancer—even at a very early stage—the photograph shows “hot spots” where cancer is becoming active. I have had one done at Gainesville Thermography. They can do complete upper body and lower body images plus head, neck, torso, legs, feet, and arms and hands. It was great. No pain and no radiation, but a wealth of information about your body health!! Check your area for a thermography center near you. It could save your life!



3. Dr. Richard Schulze has a program called “The Incurables Program.” His booklet entitled “There are No Incurable Diseases” can be downloaded for free. I have used his herbal products for years, including his detox programs, and they are great!!! Dr. Schulze says, “It’s never too late. I don’t care how far ‘gone’ you feel you are. I don’t care if your doctor told you there is no hope. It’s never too late! You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. You just have to be READY and WILLING to change your life. If you are willing to take responsibility for yourself and your life, your body can HEAL itself of anything.” A direct quote.

His website is [www.herbdoc.com](http://www.herbdoc.com). Order number is 1-800-HERBDOC (437-2362). You can request a catalog of his products, and I recommend you get one to really read about his products and some testimonials.

Dr. Schulze also has a blog site where you can ask questions and read his response to questions: [www.herbdocblog.com](http://www.herbdocblog.com). To purchase books, videos, CDs and DVDs on Dr. Schulze’s teachings, contact Natural Healing Publications at 1-877-TEACH-ME (832-2463).

Go to his website and read his incredible story about how he healed himself, when doctors said he would die without heart surgery at the age of 16!

# Sunshine and Mists

by *Brenda Rodgers*

**APRIL - MAY 2012**

The peach orchards around Fort Valley are in full bloom along with Dogwoods, Azaleas, Bradford Pears and Cherry Blossom trees. I saw two Blue Birds this morning in my backyard – thankfully, these Blue Birds do not require any fuel other than a few bird seeds!

**Dan and Carolyn Greer** report that Dan's cancer treatments are going well. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

We extend deepest sympathy to **Linda and James Weatherford** in the death of Linda's Father, John Burch, on March 19. Our prayers will be with you and your family.

**Ann Ward** continues regular medical treatment at Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida. She complains that traveling has been restricted since she must always be within 50 miles of a trauma center. She wants you to know that she and Paul miss seeing everybody at the rallies.

**Ron Jack** continues his battle with cancer. Please remember him in your prayers as he undergoes the care of Hospice at his daughter's home in California.

The Blue Bird Family extends deepest sympathy to **Ronald and Dorinda Rueckwald** in the recent loss of Ronald's Mother.

Please continue your prayers for **Sharon Kirby, Janice Condon, Christine Giffen, Bob Loomas, and Ross and Joanne Dover.**

Please let us know of others that need to be mentioned in the next Bird Tracks.

Best wishes to you and all those you love for a wonderful Easter and a special Spring. Travel safely.

Warmest regards,

***Brenda***



# Congratulations!

## Birthdays, April & May

*Compiled by Sharon Kirby*

**“A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman’s birthday but never remembers her age.” Robert Frost**

**Happy Birthday to the following Blue Bird Family of Friends members!!!**

### APRIL

Gene Aderhold Sr. 4/28  
Peggy Allen – 4/21  
Bill Barnhart – 4/27  
Nancy Buchanan – 4/29  
Jimmy Burns III – 4/26  
James W. Bush – 4/21  
Jeanette Denton – 4/07  
Yvonne Depugh – 4/09  
Bob Dilks – 4/13  
Ken Doyle – 4/19  
Bill Dwyer – 4/07  
Robert Fuller – 4/18  
Ted Haapala – 4/29  
Karen James – 4/02  
Lorri Kneeland -4/10  
Letty Loomas – 4/09  
Eleanor Mastrobattisto – 4/12  
Charles McKeehan – 4/01  
Magda Overgaag – 4/30  
Joan Philip – 4/12  
Reggie Pryor – 4/19  
Darius Rogers – 4/02  
Sue Ramsey – 4/24  
Jerry Smith – 4/28  
Bill Sullivan – 4/21  
Lawerence Thornell – 4/01  
Ila VanDenBerg – 4/03  
Linda Weatherford – 4/08  
Clyde Willis – 4/03



### MAY

Paul Barron – 5/02  
Patricia Bornmann – 5/03  
Nancy Brookshire – 5/16  
Judi Burns – 5/02  
June Cortner – 5/06  
Margaret Darragh – 5/12  
Daphnie Dillard – 5/18  
Natalie Disco – 5/16  
Marion Fahnestock – 5/26  
Delores Golden – 5/21  
Donny Goodwin – 5/12  
E. Neal Gray – 5/12  
W. Dan Greer – 5/26  
Jean Hansen – 5/13  
Harvey Haverdink – 5/15  
Bob Helms – 5/17  
Cliff Hoelscher – 5/02  
Judy Johannesen – 5/21  
Gordon McGuire – 5/15  
A.J. Mickler – 5/15  
Bruce Morris – 5/01  
Harry Pickens – 5/29  
Eddie Rankins – 5/28  
Bob Rapisarda – 5/25  
Marvin Rehbein – 5/11  
Jerome Schriock – 5/13  
Robert Sheppard – 5/15  
John Smith – 5/01  
Clyde Snell – 5/10  
Glenda Sullivan – 5/10  
Delores Veazey – 5/02  
Judy Wilbert – 5/18  
Sybil Windsor – 5/08

**A best friend is like a four leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have.  
Author Unknown**

# Anniversaries, April & May

**A successful married life requires falling in love many times, but always with the same person.**

**Happy Anniversary to the following Blue Bird Family of Friends couples!!!**

## APRIL

Jim and Nancy Brookshire – 4/13/?  
Dale and Dorothy Collingham – 4/12/1984  
Russell and Delores Golden – 4/19/1957  
Ronald and Leona Palmer – 4/17/1947  
Vincent and Helen Ryan – 4/29/1962  
Jack and Barbara Strasser – 4/21/1957  
Tom and Shirley Vance – 4/10/1954  
John and Nancy Wyatt – 4/19/1974

## MAY

Harvey and Harriet Haverdink – 5/20/1947  
Bob and Joyce Heynssens – 5/30/1973  
Bill and Denise Martin – 5/25/1973  
Robert and Patricia Niver – 5/07/1955  
Robert and Priscilla Sheppard – 5/09/1959  
Harry and Carolyn Siculan – 5/14/1960  
Allen and Charrie Tyler – 5/04/1963  
Wayne and Sybil Windsor – 5/22/1965

**Our wedding was many years ago.  
The celebration continues  
to this day.**

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We would also like to wish Happy Belated Birthday to new members Linda Houze - 3/5 and Li Volk - 3/30!

Also, we just received information from the following and would like to wish Happy Belated Birthday to Mike Kneeland - 1/17, and Happy Belated Anniversary to Al and Sue Scudder - 3/8

Had an error in our records on the anniversary date for James and Sherry Miller. The date is 2/20/1991. Sorry for the error. We are working hard to get everything right.

Anyone whose birthday or anniversary was missed or doesn't want to be mentioned in the birthday/anniversary section of remaining editions of the newsletter needs to contact Sharon Kirby at [treasurer@bluebirdchapter.org](mailto:treasurer@bluebirdchapter.org).



# The WOG Report

by Randy DuPree

The WOG ([wanderlodgeownersgroup](http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com)) rally at “flywheelers” was a great success! In January, at the Coachworx rally, Ryan Sari (“turbokitty “on WOG) suggested getting together at the Flywheelers Engine and Tractor Show down in Ft. Mead, Fl. In no time at all, 13 coaches were signed up, and we had a great time! This was a dry-camping-only rally for the group, even though there are hookups available at the park.

The Flywheelers is a 240-acre park filled with tractors, bulldozers, draglines, hit-or-miss engines, and all kinds of other antique equipment. There’s a Snow Engine that is 50’ long and was built in 1912 or so. It is restored and in running condition. There’s a big area that the bulldozers use to push dirt, and the old drag lines are busy digging holes and filling them in — all with very old equipment. Farm tractors are plowing and old dump trucks are hauling dirt, and it is all for fun. Big boys’ toys are being USED instead of being cut up for scrap.

They have a working sawmill, run by a steam engine. The men were sawing wood all day, showing the public just how it was done many years ago. The wood they have cut into lumber has built a village, which has old gas stations, general stores, blacksmith shops, and an old school house — almost anything you can think of. The police department comes complete with a Model T paddy wagon. The trash truck is a Model AA flatbed truck.

## Natchez Trace Rolling Rally

The Natchez Trace Rolling Rally is scheduled to begin in Nashville on October 22 and end in Natchez on October 27. There are only three spots left and it is filling up quickly. If you are interested, please contact Susan Crocker at [swcrocker@hotmail.com](mailto:swcrocker@hotmail.com) or [386-365-7642](tel:386-365-7642) to get in on the action. Those who will be participating will receive a detailed itinerary via e-mail.

Hit or Miss engines were all over, running and making ice cream, grinding sugar cane, grinding corn into grits or washing clothes! Those old Maytag engines just keep on running! Imagine — washing clothes with a gas engine washing machine!

There were also 16 miles of flea market items — old rusty iron, old cars, tractors and parts. The best way to describe it is as a working, running museum. Every day there was a tractor parade — old tractors from around the world ... old iron wheel tractors, all the way down to lawn tractors. It was very cool.

Then there were the tractor pulls: old stock type tractors and lawn mowers pulling a weight down a track.

And, of course, the full race tractors — Big boys’ toys!

One of the amazing things about this event is that, during the four days I was there, nobody was angry. Everyone was courteous, and there was very little trash on the ground. Imagine! Thousands of people, hundreds of golf cars, people walking ... everybody getting along.

Check us out at: <http://www.floridaflywheelers.org/>  
Join us next year at this rally. See pics and read about this event at: <http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12395>



## Tentative Schedule For The Amazing Mayberry Rally

### **Sunday, April 29, 2012:**

Arrive at the Veterans Park and pick a site

2pm to 5 pm—Check-in at the VFW Building (brick building on right at entrance) and receive your “goodie bags.”

5:30 pm—Light supper of sandwiches, salad, and soup at the VFW building.

After supper: Greetings, receive instructions for The Amazing Mayberry Race, and learn about other points of interest in the area.

### **Monday, April 30, 2012:**

From 7am to 9am—eat breakfast at Ocie’s, across the street from the park. Breakfast is a la carte. Ocie’s is the meeting place for the locals.

Begin your adventure in downtown Mount Airy while competing in the Race or have free time to visit or see the sights.

### **Tuesday, May 1, 2012:**

Continue the Amazing Mayberry Race or free time for sight-seeing

5:00 pm—Pot Luck Heavy Hors d’oeuvres. Bring one to share with others and bring your favorite drink. Soft drinks and water provided.

6:00 pm—Oma Boyd, local author, will read from her book, “Round This Mountain,” a collection of stories about the colorful people who settled the mountains around Surry County. She was featured on National Public Radio and has spoken to many groups in Virginia and North Carolina. She will delight you with her mountain brogue and unusual stories. Author book signing afterwards.

### **Wednesday, May 2, 2012:**

8:00 am—Breakfast at the VFW building

Complete the race or see the sights in your free time.

Optional Ghost Tour in Downtown Mt. Airy—time to be set later. \$10.00 per person. This is an hour walking tour, but most areas are handicap accessible, except in the cellar of the winery.

### **Thursday, May 3, 2012:**

12:30 pm—Meet at campsite and carpool to Radio Station WPAQ. We will observe a live broadcast with a local music group. Kelly Epperson will tell us how the station has grown over the years, due to the leadership of his remarkable father. WPAQ has fostered the careers of many musicians by giving them air time. It is the host of the second longest live radio broadcast of bluegrass and gospel music, aired each Saturday at the cinema in downtown Mt. Airy.

6:00 pm—Catered BBQ dinner, location unknown at this time. (Probably at the Veterans Park)

After supper: Awards to the winners of the Amazing Mayberry Race and entertainment.

### **Friday, May 4, 2012: Good bye and safe journey.**



## Amazing Mayberry!!

All Birds and Friends Rally

April 29-May 4, 2012, Mt. Airy, NC

Exploring the Hometown of Andy Griffith  
The Andy Griffith Show, Matlock, No Time for Sergeants



### In the Area:

Blue Ridge Parkway, Mabry Mill, Pilot Mountain, Moravian Town of Salem, Great Motorcycle and Bike Rides, Largest Granite Quarry in the World, Historic Rockford, Great Wineries, Kayaking

### Featuring in Mt. Airy:

Andy Griffith Home, Statue, Museum  
Siamese Twins, History of Eng and Chang Bunker  
Mt Airy Regional Museum, Snappy Lunch, Floyd's Barbershop, Old Jail, Historic Downtown--Unique Shops, Ghost Tour, Old Time Soda Fountain, Squad Car Tour, Emporium, Quilt Shop, Antiques  
Wine Festival: May 4-5, after rally

### Special Events:

**An Evening with Oma Boyd**, author of *Round this Mountain*. Oma's stories from the mountains have appeared in numerous magazines and been featured on National Public Radio. She brings her stories alive reading in her native accent. Come meet this interesting "Apple Lady" turned author.

### Tour of Radio Station WPAQ:

Kelly Epperson will treat us to a tour of the radio station where we will view a live taping of a local bluegrass band. WPAQ broadcasts "the best in Bluegrass, old time string music, and Bluegrass gospel." This unique radio station has been broadcasting since 1948 when Ralph Epperson started it. Bring your musical instrument and you can be a participant in the show! See [www.wpaq740.com](http://www.wpaq740.com) for more information.

### The Amazing Mayberry Race:

Visit downtown Mayberry and collect points to win prizes. Hint: Bring your silly side and have fun!!



Camping at Veterans Park near downtown: 30 Full hook-ups, \$30. per night (5 nights @ \$150.); Dry camping overflow, \$10. per night (\$50. 5 nights) Payment for site due on arrival. **Check or cash only.** Money benefits Disabled American Veterans-NC 61. Contact Martha at 336-786-7279 or 336-755-6247 or [mcrvaughn@surry.net](mailto:mcrvaughn@surry.net) to reserve site.

Cost of Rally: \$130.00 per coach with 2 people. Includes: Events, 3 catered meals, entertainment. We will car pool and have one heavy hors d'oeuvre (bring your own) party. Send check for rally in full to Martha Vaughn, 247 Valleyview Drive, Mt. Airy, NC, 27030 by March 15th, 2012. Camp sites are not secure until rally fee is paid so send as soon as possible. Martha and Charlie Vaughn, hosts.



**October 16 to 21, 2012**

**SAVE THESE DATES -- COME JOIN**

**“Blue Bird 3rd Annual Family of Friends Rally”  
River Vista Mt. Village RV Resort, Dillard, GA**

*Hosted by Tom & Sandi Bay and Bob & Barbara Helms*

**Join all the Blue Bird Motor Coaches for our 3rd Annual Family of Friends rally in Dillard, GA. A must see on your "Bucket List" are the beautiful red, orange and yellow brilliant mountain of leaves on the Great Smoky & Blue Ridge Mountains.**

**We will ride the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad to view these wonderful colors in 1940's-era bar, lounge & dining cars. A delicious lunch will be served as we travel from Bryson City, NC, over Fontana Lake to Wesser, NC.**

**We will shop in "Antique Heaven" - Dillard, GA & Franklin, NC.**

**We will enjoy the beauty of and magic of many waterfalls.**

**We will dine at the world famous family-style restaurant, The Dillard House.**

**We will enjoy a live performance at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, *Smoke on the Mountain*.**

**We will entice you to take side trips to "Alpine" Helen, Historic Ruban, GA, also Highlands, Cashiers and Franklin, NC.**

**We will enjoy 5 nights with 50 amps, water and sewer at River Vista Mt. RV, with breakfasts and dinner.**

***Book now to get group rate, 888-850-7275/706-746-2722. Ask for Brenda.***

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THE RALLY.  
MORE INFORMATION IN NEXT ISSUE.**





FMCA  
Vintage Birds &  
Pen NY Mixers  
Chapter Rally  
At  
Oswego Harborfest  
July 26-30 2012

***Rally Fee includes-***

- *4 or 5 nights dry camping (Thu thru Mon ) at Oswego Port Authority with view of the fireworks*
- *Wednesday July 25 optional early arrival with fish dinner*
- *Continental breakfast Friday through Monday*
- *Social hour including margaritas, beer, wine and information on Thursday July 26 at 5:30 pm. bring a hardy snack to share*
- *Trolley passes included (\$6 value)*
- *Farewell dinner and ice cream Sunday July 29 evening*
- *Fort Ontario, maritime museum and other attractions*

***Harborfest highlights -***

- **Named one of the top one hundred events for group travel by the American Bus Association**
- **Rated top 10 in USA fireworks show**
- **Juried arts and crafts**
- **Music and entertainment on three main stages plus other locations though town**
- **30+ bands classic rock, country, blues and jazz**
- **Midway and street vendors**
- **Lake Ontario waterfront location**
- **Optional Friday fishing charter**

[www.oswegoharborfest.com](http://www.oswegoharborfest.com)

*Rally fee available spring 2012. In 2010 rally fee was \$70.00 per couple for Thursday arrival  
\$ 15 additional person*

Early arrivals are Wednesday after 2:00 PM.  
Please bring a 1-gallon jug of water for coffee

Jim & Sherry Miller VB #1168  
607-898-4626

[Jem590@aol.com](mailto:Jem590@aol.com)

Tom & Sharon Roule  
585-346-6567

[Troule@aol.com](mailto:Troule@aol.com)

Fred & Alice Sprout  
315-587-9533

[Afsprout2@gmail.com](mailto:Afsprout2@gmail.com)



## Application for Membership; Renewals -- Due January 1

You must be a member of the **Family Motor Coach Association**. Your club application fee is \$50.00. That includes two name badges and dues for the current year. Your subsequent or renewal dues are \$25.00. Make check payable to the **Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, LLC**.

**New Member?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership Renewal?** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA# \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street or shipping address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach name, year, and model \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print first and last names as you want them to appear on your club badges:**

(new applications only)

**1st Badge** \_\_\_\_\_

**2nd Badge** \_\_\_\_\_

Return form and check to: Blue Bird Chapter; 3590 Round Bottom Road; Cincinnati, Ohio 45244



## Classifieds

The "Blue Birds For Sale" section of *Bird Tracks* can be found on the Family of Friends website, [www.bluebirdchapter.org](http://www.bluebirdchapter.org).

Due to the many contributions (Thank you!) to this publication, we find it too large to place on the website with the classifieds' section included. You won't miss out on any of the listings, however. Just click the link on the website, and you'll see the full complement of coaches available for sale. We apologize for any inconvenience to readers, sellers, and thank Shane Fedeli, who has faithfully posted the listings for the past several years!

***Make me happy. RENEW or JOIN today!***

## ***Your Chapter Directors and Committee Members***

**President: Charlie Vaughn**  
**Senior Vice President: Karen James**  
**Treasurer: Garland Kirby**  
**Secretary: Susan Crocker**  
**National FMCA Director: Jon Scott**  
**Alt. Nat'l FMCA Director: Susan Crocker**  
**Past President: Dan Jensen**

Welcome Hostess: Neat Scott  
Sunshine & Mists: Brenda Rodgers  
Newsletter Editor: Jenise Harper  
By-Laws/Rules: Jim Olds  
Birthdays/Anniversaries: Sharon Kirby

**Our website is: [www.bluebirdchapter.org](http://www.bluebirdchapter.org).**

The following email addresses have been set up for your convenience. Your Chapter Officers, Directors and Committee Members want to hear from you.

[President@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:President@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[Secretary@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:Secretary@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[Treasurer@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:Treasurer@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[SeniorVP@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:SeniorVP@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[NationalDir@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:NationalDir@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[AltNatDir@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:AltNatDir@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[Newsletter@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:Newsletter@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[TechTips@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:TechTips@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[Cooking@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:Cooking@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[Sunshine@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:Sunshine@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[Welcome@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto>Welcome@BlueBirdChapter.org)  
[Classifieds@BlueBirdChapter.org](mailto:Classifieds@BlueBirdChapter.org)

## **Step One: Join FMCA Today! Step Two: Join the Blue Bird Chapter (Previous page)**

### **Personal Information: Please Print**

Primary Last Name / First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation If retired, former occupation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse Last Name / First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation If retired, former occupation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City / State / Zip+4 digits \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code / Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ A rea Code / Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary e-mail address\* \_\_\_\_\_ S econdary e-mail Address\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-mail addresses are requested in order to facilitate fast, economical communication, including urgent matters.

### **Motorhome Information**

Coach Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_ Coach Model \_\_\_\_\_ Coach model year \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximate Coach Length \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate Number \_\_\_\_\_ State of Coach Registration \_\_\_\_\_  
What type of motorhome do you own? Production Motorhome \_\_\_\_\_ Converted Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
If motorhome owned by applicant is other than a production motorhome, please include a photo.

### **Questionnaire**

How did you hear about FMCA ? \_\_\_\_\_  
If referred by an FMCA member, please list his/her name & member Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a former member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what was your Membership number? \_\_\_\_\_  
What member benefit most interests you? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Payment Information**

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Make check payable to FMCA , Inc. in U.S. funds.  
Charge my: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Required for credit card payments \_\_\_\_\_

### **Code of Ethics**

I understand that upon acceptance of my application I will be sent a copy of the FMCA Code of Ethics. I agree to read and abide by this code, which represents all our endeavors to be good neighbors, careful and responsible coach owners and operators, and good citizens of our communities. I own at least 33.3% interest in a qualifying motorhome.

### **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

FMCA membership dues are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes. FMCA does not sell or release the names, home addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses of its membership. Members are occasionally sent mail that pertains to FMCA -approved benefits or programs. Please do not order a subscription when applying for membership. Membership fee covers one year's subscription. Allow four weeks for processing. **Official Family Motor Coach Association membership** is conditional on ownership of a Type/Class A, B, or C motorhome, or a bus conversion, that contains all of the conveniences of home (including cooking, sleeping, and permanent sanitary facilities).

**Easywaysto join: 1 Year \$ 50; 2 Years \$ 90; 3 Years \$ 126 Save \$4; 4 Years \$ 158 Save \$12; 6 Years \$ 210 Save \$40 --**

First year dues include membership identification emblems, a \$10 initiation fee, \$35 for one years membership fee, and \$5 for a one-year subscription to *Family MotorCoaching* magazine.

**Questions:** 800-543-3622; 513-474-3622 **Fax completed form to:** 800-543-4717 or 513-474-2332

**Mail completed form to:** FMCA , Inc.; 8291 Clough Pike; Cincinnati, OH 45244-2796

**Apply online:** [www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com)