



February 2012

BLUE BIRD CHAPTER, FMCA

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## From your President

*By Charlie Vaughn*

After re-reading the last newsletter, I need to add to my statement about being a “rally only” club. The rallies are the vehicle for the most important part of our club. The camaraderie, the adventure, the life-long friendships we develop along the way are the true meaning behind our *Family of Friends*. One, including your president, can learn from reading *Bird Tracks*. Congratulations to Jenise Harper and the entire staff of *Bird Tracks* for the outstanding first (December) edition of the newsletter.



I now understand what Past-President Dan Jensen was telling me about the closure of the Wanderlodge factory. He explained that interest in the chapter diminished when the factory closed. Many members stopped paying their dues because they thought the **chapter** closed along with the factory. I have spent several weeks reviewing the membership list and considerable time trying to get the word out. This club did not close in 2009. We are alive and well. The FMCA shows our membership at 395. What we desperately need are more **active** members. In Chattanooga, I asked for any member to have a gathering of five other members. No one has stepped forward to say “I will host a *Gathering of Friends*.” Your club needs you to participate.

Your website, [bluebirdchapter.org](http://bluebirdchapter.org), has been updated. Please open the site and see the members who attended the 2nd Annual Family Reunion. I have added a forum for members only. When you click on the Forum page, it will take you to the forum. You will be asked to register. Click on

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## From Your President, *continued*

the tab that says **register**. You need to supply your own username and password. I have no control over this process. The forum website will send me an e-mail to verify if your membership is current. This is the only method I can see a forum working for the chapter, until we get more members who are willing to moderate an open forum. Let's give it a try.

**Please remember your club fees are due.** I need everyone to update his or her information by filling out a renewal application. It is available on your website [bluebirdchapter.org](http://bluebirdchapter.org) — Just click on the “Join” or “Renew” tab. This will take you to the link that will allow you to download the application to your computer. It is a PDF format. You should be able to print from your computer. Please fill out and send to the address included. Jenise is also including the renewal form in this newsletter for you to print off, fill in and mail back.

Jim Olds is in process of reviewing the Standing Rules and By-Laws. If anyone would like to preview most of the changes, you can access the latest revisions by logging onto the FMCA website. You need to have established a username and password for the FMCA website. Go to “*member*” on the address bar. That

opens the next page. Go to “*Governance*.” Click governing Documents to the “*Members and Volunteers*” page. Scroll down to the Chapter & Area section. Read Minimum Requirements of Chapter Bylaws rev. 11/09. Next read Chapter bylaws Format rev. 2/11, and last read Chapter Standing Rules Format rev. 3/10. The FMCA has realized the need to update their requirements to comply with the world as it is today. This is one of the reasons we need to revise our By-laws and Standing Rules — to mirror those used by the FMCA. The other reason is to allow rally hosts the freedom to host their event by any reasonable means — i.e. let the attendees be responsible for their own camping registration.

I would like to thank Bob and Barbara Helms and Tom and Sandi Bay for volunteering to Co-Host the 3rd Annual Family Reunion. This year we will attend the River Vista Mountain RV Park in Dillard, GA, on Oct 16th thru 20th, 2012. Bob is trying to get a favorable rate at the Lake Toxaway Resort (pre and post the rally) for those who want to spend some more time with friends in the North Carolina mountains at this beautiful time of year.

I have called several members to ask that they serve as Area Vice-Presidents. I have no volunteers. I am asking for members to let me know they are willing to help fill the positions in the club. Jim Olds has issued a “**Showcase your State**” Challenge to our members. He intends to lead a “**Gathering of Friends**” of maybe five coaches around Minnesota this summer. What better way to have fun than to show some friends around your state, taking them to places they will not see in the brochures?

**Remember, the chapter is only as good as what the members are willing to support with some of their time.**

*Charlie Vaughn hails from Mount Airy, NC. He owned and operated Landform Construction for 25 years, retiring in 2008.*



## *Board of Directors*

**President:** Charlie Vaughn

**Vice-President:** Karen James

**Secretary:** Susan Crocker

**Treasurer:** Garland Kirby

**Nat'l FMCA Director for the  
Blue Bird Chapter:** Jon Scott  
(not pictured)



## **Family of Friends extends a sincere welcome to our new members:**



**Robert & Noelle Buscher**  
Elkhorn, NE

**Stephen & Carolyn Johnson**  
Hartwell, GA

**Len and Judi McLeod**  
Ontario, CA

We are thrilled to have you in our group and hope you will indeed enjoy the privileges of your membership. Do join in and make yourselves feel right at home. We will all be looking forward to meeting you soon. Look over the rallies that are listed and try to attend one or more. We are glad you chose to join us.



## **Neat Scott, Welcome Hostess, FOF**



## *From the Editor:*

You can feel it, can't you? The hustle and bustle of the holidays is over. All the wrong size or unwanted items have been returned. You no longer face mobs at malls, as well as the angst of that bloated January credit card billing.

Welcome to February ... mellow Aquarius month ... the month for LOVE! Pinks and reds and magentas! "Make money for Hallmark" month! (I much prefer construction paper and doilies!) The feeling in the air is different somehow. Maybe it's the slightest hint of Spring. Maybe it's the "kick back and relax" feeling after three major events (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year celebrations), and all those football games! Only the BIG one remains!

Yep, it's time for our "feel good" issue of *Bird Tracks*. Enjoy the creative artwork by Neat Scott, and the aura of love that pervades the articles. From special *Loving the Natchez Trace* to *Love of Traveling*, LOVE is in the air. From *Love of your Bird* to *Love of Good Food*, LOVE permeates this unique Family of Friends! And remember, YOUR article could be the next favorite of our readers, when you send it in to me for our April publication, or any of our future issues. Note Kay's request at the end of her cooking column -- she'd like to receive YOUR favorite recipes, so she can include them in "Cooking is for the Birds!" We invite you to join forces with us and get involved. Let us hear from you!

We're all in this Blue Bird experience because we're just a little different from those Monaco, Beaver and Prevost folks. We love having a rig that's a tad unique, a shade away from the traditional. We love the lifestyle we're afforded -- whether Full Timers, Snow Birds (make that "Snow Blue Birds") or Weekend Warriors. We have Old Birds, Vintage Birds, "Neo" Birds ... and the same is true of all of us! (Some of us are more "vintage" than others! I would never dream of calling any of you an "old bird"!)



So, as we embrace the early months of 2012, let's also embrace good will, peace, and love to all/love FOR all. That said, I put special emphasis on the love felt among members of our Family of Friends, as well as the other Blue Bird groups around the country. Make plans now to connect at one of the many FMCA and Blue Bird rallies throughout the calendar and throughout the country. **And don't forget that January 1, 2012, was the date for membership renewals.**

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you from your *Bird Tracks* committee!

*Jenise Harper*

Graphic by Neat Scott

# Loving the Natchez Trace

by Susan Crocker

Following the Blue Bird Chapter Family Reunion in October in Chattanooga, Joe and I headed for Nashville in order to check one more item off our “bucket list”: **Drive the Natchez Trace**. The Trace is a 440-mile path from Natchez, MS, to Nashville, TN, that was first created by animals as they foraged for food. Later, Native Americans, itinerate preachers, traders, hunters, highwaymen, and more used the trail, making its path more pronounced. Farmers and frontiersmen from the Cumberland and Ohio River areas loaded their wares on rafts, floated to the Mississippi River and then on to Natchez and even to New Orleans. When they arrived at their destination, they would sell their products, dismantle the raft, sell the lumber, and then travel back home by foot, following the trace.



Today, the Natchez Trace is a limited-access, well-maintained highway that closely follows the original trail, sometimes crossing it or going close enough for you to park your vehicle and walk on the original path. In some places, the Trace is barely a foot deep, yet at one point close to Natchez, it is probably ten feet deep. Along the way, there are many historical markers with so much information that it is mind-boggling. There are also plenty of overlooks along the way that provide beautiful vistas of the land.

As if the history associated with the Trace was not enough to make it a wonderful trip, the fall colors were absolutely amazing. Joe and I have been in some very picturesque places in the fall of the year, but never have we seen the abundance and variety of colors that we saw on the Trace. We must have hit it at its peak. In addition, we saw deer, wild turkeys and other wildlife every day.



Even though it is called the Natchez Trace, it is not necessary to begin the trip in Natchez; beginning in Nashville worked just fine. We did not pause at all of the mile markers that are listed in the Natchez Trace brochure, but stopped at the ones that seemed the most interesting to us. I had read in one article that you could do the Trace in about three days, stopping leisurely at all of the markers. Well, Joe and I quickly discovered that we could not do this. Four or five days on the Trace would be a more realistic time period to do this trip in order to absorb as much as possible.



There are over one hundred stops marked along the Trace, but there are some that I would consider “must” stops. Birdsong Hollow (MM 438) near the terminus of the trace is the location of an award-winning bridge that spans the hollow. A parking area and a short path to an overlook provide an opportunity for stunning photos of the bridge.

Gordon House (MM 407.7) and Mount Locust (MM 15.5) are two original buildings that were “stands” or inns that welcomed overnight guests as the trace became well traveled. The sites of other stands are noted at certain mile markers, but the buildings are long gone.



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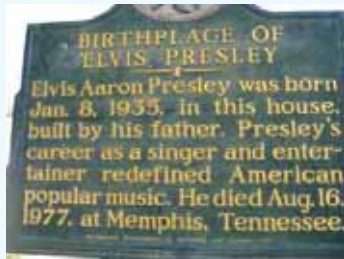




A monument marking the grave of Meriwether Lewis (MM 385.9) of the Lewis and Clark expedition is located on the Trace. He died of gunshot wounds at Grinders Inn at the age of 35. It is not known whether he committed suicide or was assassinated. Along the way, there are several stops where ceremonial and burial Indian mounds still exist. One such stop is Emerald Mound (MM 10.3), a ceremonial mound dating to 1400. It covers about 8 acres and is one of the largest in the United States.



At one stop, you can take a short walk to the graves of thirteen Confederate soldiers (MM 269.4). Flowers have been placed on the graves as a reminder that, even though the names are unknown, someone still cares. French Camp (MM 180.7) was a settlement established by Louis LeFleur in 1812. A school was started at the site in 1822 and remains in existence today. We stumbled upon a bakery and purchased some delicious bread to go with the sorghum that is made at the site each weekend in October.



The Trace goes within a few miles of Tupelo, MS (MM 266), the birthplace of Elvis Presley. Even though we are not avid Elvis fans, we spent one day visiting his birthplace, home church, museum, hardware store (where his mother bought his first guitar), and his favorite diner. It was a day well spent.

For the most part, we found adequate accommodations for our Blue Bird along the way. Our journey ended at a beautiful RV park on the banks of the Mississippi River. The trip was great, but I know there are things we missed on the way.

There were plenty of opportunities for hiking and exploring, which we did not take the time to do.

I could go on and on about the Trace, but space will not permit rambling on. My recommendation is that if you have not already traveled it, you should do so. As a matter of fact, Joe and I enjoyed it so much that we are willing to lead a rolling rally on the Trace next year following the Family Reunion in October. We would need to limit the number of coaches that participate. If you would be interested in "driving the Trace," please contact me at [swcrocker@hotmail.com](mailto:swcrocker@hotmail.com) for more information.



*Susan Crocker lives in Lake City, FL with Joe, her husband of 35 years. She retired from education after having taught 36 years. They have two married children who also live in Florida, and have owned a Blue Bird since March 2009. Susan enjoys travelling, reading, fishing, doing crafts, photography.*



# Love of Place

by Martha Rowe Vaughn

Have you been to a place away from home, but where you felt the same sense of peace, familiarity, and comfort that you experience at home? A place totally foreign, but for some unknown reason feels like home, like you could snooze there completely at ease?

There have been a few places that felt like home for me over the years. One such place is Yunku, Mexico, at the *Hacienda Yunku*. The hacienda is a long rectangle with a huge veranda in the back overlooking the back pasture and the water trough filled with water lilies. I've spent hours lounging in a hammock on the veranda watching the birds come for water from the trough. The first time I saw the place, I felt like I was home after a long journey. Who can explain these feelings? Some folks say the familiarity comes from past lives we have lived when we were inhabitants of a place. I don't know.

I'm not a great fan of the western parts of the United States. There is something unnerving about the lack of water and deciduous trees that makes me uneasy. I've always thought that one should live where one could walk to a ready source of water. But I found an exception in Arizona at Walnut Canyon National Monument. Walnut Creek carved a canyon out of the stone there. The *Sinagua* natives lived in caves in the stone cliffs. They used the sides of the canyon to grow crops. As I walked along the trail going from one dug-out cave/living area to another, my feet were as sure as a mountain goat's. It felt so familiar, like I had lived there before. I wanted to set up housekeeping and stay.

Luray, Virginia is another place I feel I could move right into and be at home. I love that quaint old town and its rambling old hotel. The countryside is beautiful — green pastures, old farmhouses, and miles of views.

I have never felt comfortable in any city. The complications of traffic, one-way streets, too many signs, too much noise, too many people make me as nervous as a long-tail cat in a room full of rockers.

I'm a small town girl, born and raised in Mount Airy, NC. I can show you the house where my mother was



born on Lebanon Street. My dad was born on the second floor bedroom on the right in a house on Main Street. Aunt Betty lived in a room two houses toward town from there. Grandma Sallie and Grandpa Henry Rowe built the house at the corner of Lebanon and Main Streets. Grandpa performed the first operation at Martin Memorial Hospital on Cherry Street,

where both Charlie and I were born many years later. I can tell you the genealogy of most of the prominent families and their secrets. I can walk down the street and meet countless folks I know. I love this town in spite of its backward (at times) ways.

Recently, I've discovered a part of Mount Airy that I have overlooked. In doing research for the *Amazing Mayberry Rally*, I have tried to see the familiar from a visitor's viewpoint. What I have discovered increases the love of my hometown. I'm hoping to share these discoveries with you next April at the rally.



But there is one home I have left to the last: our Wanderlodge, the *GigaRex*. The place where we can go to relax, eat, sleep, do nothing, in total comfort. No matter where we are or what we go through during the day, the *GigaRex* is always home. At times when we are out sight-seeing, one of us will say, "Let's go home." We don't mean back to Mount Airy; we mean back to the peacefulness of the Blue Bird. No matter how alien a place we are traveling through, we have our home with us.

*Martha Rowe Vaughn and her husband Charlie, hail from Mount Airy, NC. She has owned and operated Woodcreek Farm and Nursery for 18 years. Martha is author of two books: **Grandma's Trunk and Crossroads.***

# HAPPY TRAILS

by Karen James

I love our Blue Bird! Waking up in a special place is why we have a motor-home. It makes a visit feel much more real to hear a ship passing in the harbor at night, be visited by local wildlife, or feel the cool summer breeze when stepping outside the coach. This sense of place cannot be duplicated by a stay at a hotel.

It is such fun to pick an area for our destination. We look for attractions in the area that are a half-hour to an hour or so apart. Finding a campground to accommodate our rig is an adventure at times. Recommendations from friends are always helpful. [TrailerLifeDirectory.com](http://TrailerLifeDirectory.com) is a useful site to visit. A person can have a virtual tour of a prospective campground and get a feel for the area.



The Kennedy Space Center in Florida features an expansive visitor center and fascinating tours. NASA isn't sending men to space anymore, but there are still rocket launches to be seen, IMAX movies to be watched and various tours of the historic site. Time can be booked in the Astronaut Training Experience program. The half-day programs include simulations and a meeting with veteran astronauts. We never expected to go on our own "outer space adventure." Just another example of going where your heart takes you!

Our bucket list includes must see attractions, then attractions that we might be interested in, and finally indoor attractions for those inclement

weather days. Of course, just settling in the coach on a rainy day and reading a good book is also a peaceful way to spend a day.

Planning a bit of variety during a trip is essential. Perhaps one day will be spent at a local historic site and the next day will be spent outdoors doing some hiking or photography. Our National Parks are a great way to enjoy this great nation of ours. The activities just outside the door are always fun and interesting. Rallies offer great opportunities to visit new places and meet new friends.

This year we were privileged to attend several rallies. We reacquainted ourselves with old friends and met new ones. The Van de Bergs introduced us to Michigan and the wonders of the Great Lakes. The rally in Chattanooga hosted by Leroy and Glenda Wilson brought new members to the club and welcomed back continuing members. The rally in Illinois taught us a lot about the Amish way of life, and we were privileged to meet Alvie and Elsie Miller who gave us a "back stage tour" of their community. We will cherish not only the memories of these rallies but the new friends we met. This was a most heart-warming way to experience this great country of ours.

Flexibility is the word of the day as far as motor homing is concerned. It is fun to go where and when we want, as we adjust to the weather and follow our hearts. So, wherever your heart leads you .....  
Happy Trails!



*Karen James is the Vice-President of Family of Friends, and lives in Lafayette, CO, with her husband Dennie.*





## Ain't Love Grand?!

by Jenise Harper

All right, I'll admit it. I don't love snow! There! I said it! Jim DOES love snow — especially when he's on top of a ski slope with nothing but white powder below. I did the "ski thing" for quite a few years, mostly to keep up with the family (although our son and daughter quickly surpassed me in skill and daring). When I broke my ACL while traversing a "blue" slope at Steamboat Springs, my husband swore he heard me say, "Thank you, Lord!" At that point, my skiing career was curtailed and I became a champion at keeping the fire going for my rosy-cheeked "slope-sters." (I don't like frigid weather any more than I like snow, so I was a prime candidate for nestling in front of the fire with a good book!)

I'll admit something else. I don't like hot weather, either — dry or humid! When we were living in Colorado, with winter get-aways on our boat in Florida, we were engulfed with both snow as well as heat and humidity. And when we chartered boats in Washington, I marveled at the incredible waterways but shivered in the fly bridge from the crisp air, too stubborn to go below and enjoy the scenery from the warm salon. I mean, shouldn't you be outside when you're on a boat?!



Hmmm ... will nothing satisfy this woman?

So, when, in 2008, we decided to expand beyond our 23 ft. camper and purchase a motor home, **with the goal of finding the perfect place to retire**, I was ecstatic! And when, after months of RV shopping and dozens of RV shows, we took a look at the first Blue Bird we had ever seen (other than a school bus), I knew I was in love! True, I had to forego the king-size bed, as well as two slides, but the quality ... oh my, the quality, compared to other rigs we had seen ... well, it was pretty amazing! Plus, being a bit retro ourselves, we fit right in with the styling of the 2001 coach.



Let's jump to 2012! Here we are, three years of full-timing under our belt. Jim and I have sampled various parts of this fair country. We've enjoyed the culture and history of Las Cruces, NM, and marveled at the Saguaro forests in Arizona (Tucson and Casa Grande). Our northern travels took us from the Black Hills to the Montana Rockies, into Idaho's lake country and all of Washington, including the magnificent Olympic Peninsula, with its spectacular snow-covered range of mountains.

As we followed the coast southward, we marveled at Oregon's beaches, where nothing is more spectacular than the waves crashing on the headland that hosts the

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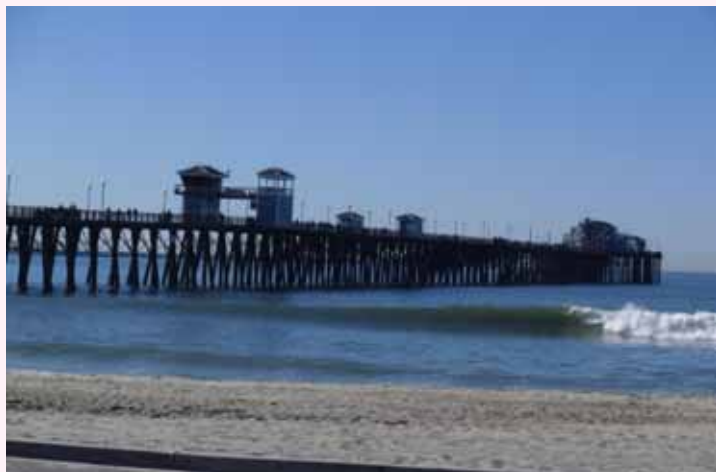
# Ain't Love Grand

Continued

Yaquina Head Lighthouse in Newport. We were awed by the gentle giants in the redwood forests of northern California. The grapevine-covered hillsides of southern California were as spectacular as the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean from picturesque, but crowded, beach towns.



Our introduction to the southeast this past Fall was spectacular. While the aspens of Colorado are a worthy leaf-peeping experience, the brilliant colors of Missouri, Tennessee, and North Carolina were amazing, with the hillsides covered with a patchwork of gold, maroon, red, orange!



*Jenise and Jim Harper “full-time” on their Blue Bird Wanderlodge, and are spending the winter at Rancho California, near Temecula, CA.*

While we'll still experience cold and snow, it will be for short intervals. And while we'll still encounter hot temperatures, we can pick and choose where and when. And although we started this journey to find the “perfect place to retire,” we're finding that where we are right now, right here — wherever that might be — is absolutely perfect. So, “satisfying this woman” hasn't proven very difficult after all! Got a home I love! Got a hubby I love! Got a lifestyle I love! Seeing the country ... meeting wonderful people ... sharing interesting experiences and life stories ... Truly, LIFE does not get any better than this!

**Ain't love (and lovin') grand?!**



# Teck Tips

by Ralph Fullenwider

Hello everyone! The holidays are past, though I am sure the full tummy feeling is still lingering, hey? Here it is, February, and this wonderful month marks the time that holding hands and a smooch are in order. How about flowers or a box of candy or even chocolate-covered strawberries? Perhaps a nice Chablis is on the fireplace mantle, at the ready with soft music in the background and the fire flickering away. So, Happy Valentine's Day to all! The wish is even better if you're in your Coach traveling during this *brrrrrr* time of the year.

The above paints quite a photo doesn't it? Well, here is a tip to help keep it that way and one to add to your preventative maintenance list in the generator file. This article will mainly cover the Perkins/Kohler or Yammar/Kohler gen sets.

Take a look at figure 1. This shows the back side of the gen set, under the Coach, with the end bell in place. You can see the center bolt that goes through the rotor holding it to the fly wheel on the out-put side of the motor. The check that needs to be done here is with a very large flat blade screwdriver or pry bar. Insert the tip of the tool under the center bolt and pry upwards against the bottom edge of the bearing housing on the end bell. You are looking for no movement of the bearing in its housing. If there is **up and down movement** here, do **NOT** run the gen set! Get this problem fixed first and save three to four thousand dollars. The bearing and bearing spacer needs to be replaced and, if bad enough, the end bell will need a machine shop. I won't go into that detail here. You just need to check the "play" in the bearing.

Also, take an inspection mirror and flashlight and check the condition of the slip rings or (proper name) ring collector, for defects. (See figure 2). Here you can see the old slip rings and a new set ready to be installed. The old set had a rough section caused by arcing of the ground. The other side of the slip ring had worn two spots causing a scallop surface. The brushes that ride on these slip rings rungs have a hard time doing the job properly. If this condition is found to the degree shown, then they, too, must be replaced.

Figure 3 shows the end of the Kohler removed and the bearing and slip rings removed for this replacement. The slip rings are

*Continued on the next page*





## Tech Tips, *Continued*

soldered to the connections of the rotor and are polarity sensitive. I always check the connection with a meter, making sure which is the negative and then painting it red with nail polish so there is no question as to which is which. The negative slip ring is nearest the rotor, while the positive is the nearest to the bearing. The condition of the slip rings in this case is what made the automatic voltage regulator fail, thus zero voltage output from the gen set.

Figure 4 shows the end bell back in place after re-installing the bearing and new slip rings and new voltage regulator. The center bolt is torqued to 85 foot pounds while the four over-bolts are torqued to 270 foot pounds. This is a “must torque” as this insures the proper gap between the rotor and field of the business end.



Yeppers, all the flowers and candy and “Luff Stuff” won’t replace the chill of not having a running generator to supply creature comforts such as hot water for the better half to wash her hair with. After all, if the water is cold ... well, draw your own conclusions there, guys!  
<Grin> Safe travels!

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## *WanderLodge Owners Group Update* ([www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com](http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com))

*By Randy DuPree*

January WOG rally in Clearwater, FL: The 2nd annual “not-so-mini rally” at Coachworx was a great success, with 31 coaches in attendance. The Coachworx staff did everything they could do to make this a rally to remember. Several of our WOG members are notable cooks, and they showed us just how great they were! Ron and Nita Roberts brought over their concession trailer and cooked breakfast and lunch two days running. Bruce and Laura Campbell had their trailer-mounted smoker, and cooked brisket and pork butts for dinner -- what a feast! WOG rallies tend to be simple get-togethers, where we just kick back and visit, cook and eat, and laugh! We did have a couple of seminars. One of the topics was about the new slideout seal designed by WOG member David Brady (see details below). This seal fits the LXI and the LX front and rear slides. (I have the first seal installed in my 2001 LXI and we installed it here at my shop. That’s another story for another time!) The rally lasted 4 days.

The Florida Flywheelers Rally is coming up Feb.22 - 25. Come join in the fun! There will be tractor pulls, flea markets, hit-and-miss engines, and fun for everyone. This is a no-agenda rally, with no fees except for admission to the park. There are already 10 coaches coming, and we expect more. For more info on the Florida Flywheelers Rally, go to: <http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12395>

Regarding David Brady’s new seal: The main problem with slideouts is the seal, the inflated inner-tube-type seal that seems to last 5 years or so, and costs plenty when needing to be replaced. Working hand-in-hand with slide owners and a seal manufacturer, and with donations from slide owners, we had the new seal produced. This new seal has a “rib” on the contact surface and is thicker than the factory seal. It is also cheaper than the factory HWH seal; you can buy it directly from the maker for \$500. The seal has formed corners and fits like a glove. I did the first install of this new design seal on my own coach, and it went in perfectly. The Brady seal fits in the same space and the same way as the factory seal. Coachworx, Parliament, Coachcraft and Dean Woodruff’s new shop all have access to this new seal. Check out the following Seal threads:

<http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12171>

<http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12111>

The place to get seals:

<http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12300>

# Grandchildren: That Perfect Love

by Rozanne DeShazer

There is a Welsh Proverb which states: "Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild." I remember that magic moment when we stood outside the nursery and looked excitedly at that tiny bundle of perfect humanity. That moment is frozen in time for me as the beginning of a new realization that my heart would henceforth go walking around outside my body, encapsulated in this tiny human being. As his grandparents, there was an awareness of the millions of things we'd need to teach him and show him and tell him. All the joys of a lifetime for us were wrapped into the future of this one tiny child.

That same thrill was repeated three more times as we welcomed another perfect grandson and two precious granddaughters into our world. Nothing, but nothing has given us greater pleasure than watching them grow and achieve and learn and conquer challenges. Discovering new things and

refining talents has been a source of pride as we have watched them accomplish greater heights of achievements. It seems to me that the most important job entrusted to us at this point in our lives is that of "cheerleader." It is our joy and responsibility to encourage, praise and comfort them in all they do. Giving unconditional love is our way of making sure that the positive influence which we give them will carry them into adulthood with confidence and courage to meet all of life's challenges head-on!



As we reflect back upon that magic moment of the birth of our first grandson, Grant, we are propelled into the present with the harsh realization that this perfect bundle of joy is preparing to graduate from high school and begin his career in college. How did that happen? We are doing some quick assessment of our grand parenting skills. Have we done all we can do to prepare him? Does he have all the skills necessary to join "academia?" Will he be able to negotiate through all the red tape and silly requirements he must meet to make it in the school of higher learning? Does he know how to do his laundry?

It is our greatest desire that all of the love and encouragement which he has received has prepared him for the challenges which he will encounter as he takes the next step in his journey toward adulthood. We will still be in the sidelines, cheering him on and encouraging him when needed. His college graduation will come all too quickly too and, before he knows it, he will be looking into a nursery window and feeling the same pride and adoration for the next generation.



**Remember to renew your membership in Family of Friends TODAY. Renewals are due the first day of the New Year.**

# Richard's Ramblings

by *Richard Ramsey*

**Speaking of Sue ...** OK, I wasn't. But I am now. She set a trap for me yesterday and I fell into it completely unaware. Being the GREAT AMERICAN and perfect husband that I am, I got up early and fixed coffee. Since it was ready, I decided to have a cup, while anxiously awaiting Sue to get up. I got the computer and decided that the table would be the perfect place to drink coffee and read my emails.

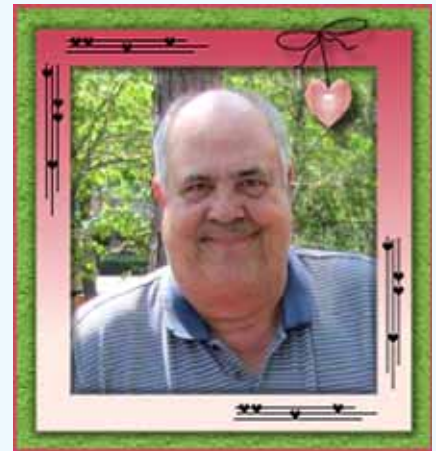
Sue had booby-trapped the table! As I was attempting to clear a space for my coffee and computer, Sue's CLUTTER caused my full hot coffee cup to turn over. Now. Sue has these "in the way" mats that soak and then drip spilt coffee. Being the wonderful husband I am, I get a towel and begin soaking up the coffee and moving the other "in the way" stuff. The flood of coffee came so quickly that it spilled off the table and filled Sue's shoes, which were on the floor by the table. I quickly grabbed them and poured the coffee out. I then proceeded to mop up the floor and attempted to dry out her shoes. I am not sure that towel will ever be used again. The rest of the day, all I heard was, "Richard poured coffee in my shoes. How am I ever going to get them dry? If Richard knew how much I paid for these shoes!" I promise you, everyone now knows that Sue has "Coffee Shoes".

Did I hear "Thank you. Honey. for cleaning up the table." NOOOoooooooooooo.



Did I hear "Thank you. Honey. for attempting to dry my shoes." NOOOoooooooooooo.

Did I hear "Thank you, Honey, for mopping up the floor." NOOOoooooooooooo.



Did I hear "Thank you, Honey, for making the coffee." NOOOoooooooooooo.

Not only that, when I correctly stated that it was SUE'S FAULT for having that mess on the table that caused the whole thing, she DENIED IT. As inconceivable as it is, she even blamed me for getting coffee in her shoes. Heck, everyone should know that I had absolutely nothing to do with strategically placing her shoes under the table where the coffee would spill directly into them. Clearly, this was her fault. I told her coffee absorbs odors, so all our friends should be thanking me.

Got to go, I have to fix my neighbor's golf cart. Sue hasn't even cleaned the bugs off the front of the coach, nor vacuumed out the truck. I tell you, I do not know what I am going to do with her.

*(Editor's note: While Richard's ramblings focus on a wide variety of subjects, I've chosen to publish his stories about his wife Sue in this issue since it is our Valentine's Day issue, and he writes about Sue with such love and TLC.)*

## Sue is giving me NIGHTMARES.

I just awoke from a nightmare. I was dreaming that I grew cantaloupes for a living. I picked the cantaloupes and sold them to the local store. I was paid for the cantaloupes and, as I walked out of the store, I saw Sue at the cash register. She had a buggy full of cantaloupes and she was BUYING THEM. I asked her what she was doing and she responded that these were such pretty cantaloupes that she just could not resist them. To which I screamed, "GO PICK THEM OUT OF THE FIELD!" I woke up in a cold sweat, and nervous as a house cat on a fence above a

*Continued on the next page*



## Richard's Ramblings, *continued*

bunch of dogs. I know there must be some psychological reason for this dream and it has worried me all morning. I guess Sue's propensity to spend our income faster than I can make it has finally compromised me emotionally and the nightmares are the result. I fight to hold on to every cent we make, just to have Sue spend it on frivolous things like food, gas ... I on the other hand spend the hard-earned money on necessities like motor homes, trucks, etc. I just hope the psychological scars that Sue has inflicted will heal with time and patience.

---

I'm concerned about the women Sue has been hanging around with since June of this year. We have been married for 43 years, and now this bad influence is threatening the sanctity of our wedded bliss.

Just this morning, I asked for a glass of water as she walked by. What am I told? "Get it YOURSELF!" Yesterday, I was ordered to shuck her a dozen oysters. Not asked, but told. After I obediently shucked her oysters, I mention that it was about lunch time, and asked, "What are we having for lunch?" Sue informed me she had her lunch (the shucked oysters), and she had no idea what I would be having unless I shucked myself some more oysters. I can only attribute this cruel attitude towards her loving husband, who worships the ground she walks on, to undue influence by women



we have encountered on our various outings over the past few months. I am about to make a command decision for us. I am contemplating becoming an **isolationist** until Sue becomes herself again. I need to keep her away from these female zealots who are brain washing her and causing her to act irrationally. I mean, I need the motor home washed and cleaned, my truck washed and vacuumed, flower beds fixed, etc. Right now, Sue expects me to help. Can you imagine?

I've just been told I'll be cooking dinner. Will it never end?!

---

Enough about Sue! An OTTER was in my pond yesterday. I had noticed that it did not seem the fish were eating, and now I know why. Heck, THERE ARE NO FISH LEFT TO EAT. Well, that is not exactly true, I still have a few catfish, which the otter was busy attempting to catch when I shot at him.

I pulled out an old 22 rifle with bent sights and covered with spider webs. I finally found the shells. I sneaked to the pond. The otter surfaced. I aimed just to the right of his head and fired. I aimed to the right because I did not want to kill him. I just wanted to scare him.

The water splashed as the bullet hit. The otter disappeared beneath the water and I waited 30 minutes and he did not re-surface. With my luck, I probably killed him and now I will have to dispose of him after he floats to the top and is smelly. The rest of the day, I checked the pond for otters.

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Final thoughts: Here I sit in the Great Outdoors without really any other events worth writing about. I'm looking forward to visiting with friends the next few days before MEAN OLE SUE makes me go home.

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*Richard Ramsey is a University of Florida graduate who has shepherded the Piggly Wiggly markets from 1971 to the present. He married his wife Sue in 1968, and they have two daughters and a son. Richard says that other members of the family include: Dan the Horse; Mr. Bones the Burro; Momma and Baby Goat; Momma Pig, Boy Pig, Girl Pig; and two dogs, Gator and June.*



# Cooking is for the Birds!

by Kay Green Losh

I think there is no better gift than one you've made yourself, and food is a way to feed many of the senses—smell, sight, taste. A good meal is truly a gift of love.

If you can make a good meal that's easy on the cook, so much the better! More time for shared activities!

---

This is a good bread that is easy to make and is wonderful with the soups and stews we like this time of year and with salads later as it warms up. It freezes well, so make some up for later.

## Basil Beer Bread

3 Cups SELF-RISING flour

3 Tablespoons sugar

½ Cup chopped fresh basil

1 12-oz Can of warm (at least room temperature) beer

Mix, turn into bread pan, and bake 50 minutes at 350 degrees.

I've made this substituting fresh chopped sage for the basil, and made thyme-rosemary bread and will make some fresh dill when I get some.

---

If I had just read this next recipe, I might not have bothered to make this, but once we ate it at a pot-luck dinner, we were asking for the recipe! One of the ladies at Peach Country RV wowed us with it.

## Carrot Casserole

4 Cups sliced carrots

½ Cup diced onion

2 Tablespoons sugar

½ Cup melted butter

4 Ounces Velveeta (about 1 inch) melted

Ritz crackers, crushed



Boil carrots, onions and sugar 15-20 minutes. Put in casserole dish. Melt butter and Velveeta and pour over the carrots. Top with crushed Ritz crackers. Bake at 350 about 30 minutes.

---

This is a short column, I know. I can share my favorites, and collect recipes in our travels, but I need help from all of you out there to keep this column fresh and useful to you. Please do send your favorites to [cooking@bluebirdchapter.org](mailto:cooking@bluebirdchapter.org) so that we can share amongst ourselves.

# Clever Ideas to Make Life Easier

Rubbing a walnut over scratches in your furniture will disguise dings and scrapes.

Remove crayon masterpieces from your TV or computer screen with WD40.

Stop cut apples from browning by securing with a rubber band.

Store bed linen sets inside one of their own pillowcases and there will be no more hunting through piles for a match.

Pump up the volume by placing your iPhone & iPod in a bowl. The concave shape amplifies the music.

Re-use a wet-wipes container to store plastic bags.

Add this item to your beach bag. Baby powder gets sand off your skin easily, who knew?!

Find tiny lost items like earrings by putting a stocking over the vacuum hose.

Forever losing your bathroom essentials? Use magnetic strips to store bobby pins, tweezers and clippers, behind a vanity door.

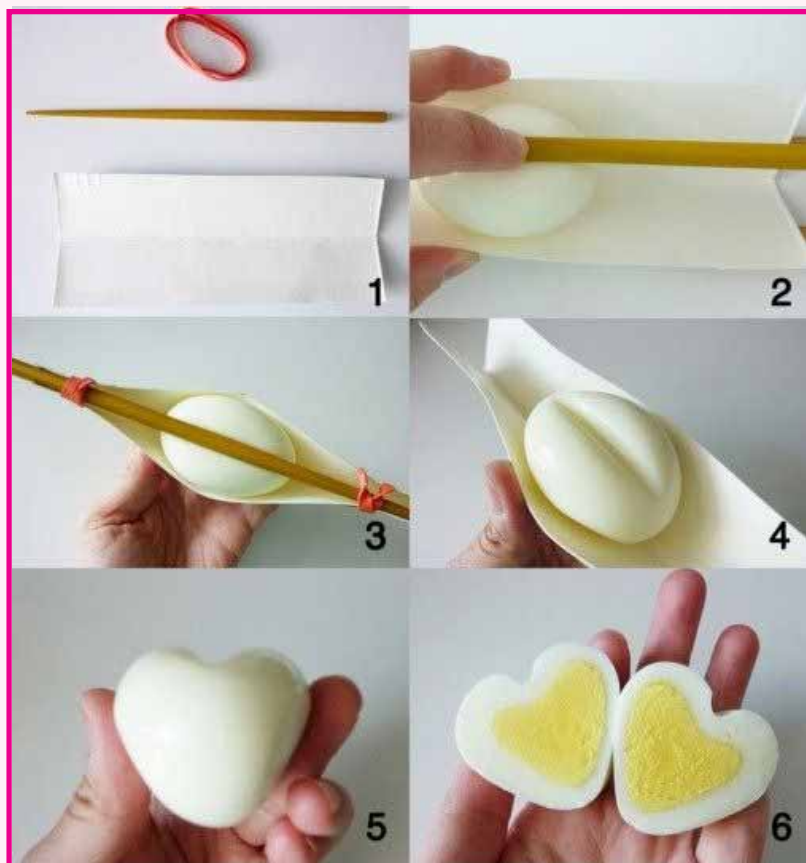
Store shoes inside shower caps to stop dirty soles rubbing on your clothes. And you can find them in just about every hotel.

Bake cupcakes directly in ice-cream cones, so much more fun and easier for grandkids to eat.

Microwave your own popcorn in a brown paper bag. Much healthier and cheaper than the packets.

Turn your muffin pan upside down, bake cookie dough over the top and voila, you have cookie bowls for fruit or ice-cream

And, finally, follow the pictures below to create hard-boiled eggs perfect for Valentine's Day!





# Did you know?

by Sharon Kirby

**\*If you want to show LOVE to our military, here are some tips you might not know about . . .**

1. Military families can use expired coupons for up to six months past the end date. Go to [coupsfortroops.com](http://coupsfortroops.com) for more information.
2. You can donate used DVDs at your local VA facility or mail them to [DVD4Vets.org](http://DVD4Vets.org), a national organization that distributes them where needed. Check out [dvds4vets.org](http://dvds4vets.org) for more information.
3. You can ship your used cell phones to **Cell Phones for Soldiers**. For each one donated, the organization will pay for an hour of talk time for troops overseas. Check out [cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://cellphonesforsoldiers.com) for more information.

**\*Take care of and LOVE yourself! For your own heart health, did you know that . . .**

1. According to Dr. David Williams (a medical resource whose information I feel is reliable), you can strengthen your heart by keeping your arms elevated for extended periods of time while keeping them in constant motion.



Pretend that you are a conductor and grab a stick, wand, or whatever is handy; play your favorite music, and conduct away!

2. According to Dr. Williams, you should eat sardines at least twice a week because sardines give you vital nutrients like CoQ10.
3. Also according to Dr. Williams, you should eat cruciferous vegetables like Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, and kale because they contain glutathione, which is one of the “granddaddies” of all antioxidants. To learn more about Dr. Williams and his products, go to his website at [drdavidwilliams.com](http://drdavidwilliams.com).
4. According to David Grotto, author of “101 Foods That Could Save Your Life,” some heart-healthy foods include almonds, avocados, beans, cinnamon, grapes, oats, onions, and pistachios.

***YOU CHANGE YOUR LIFE BY CHANGING YOUR HEART!***

**\*LOVE your pet? Did you know that . . .**

Feline Pine Cat Litter is all-natural, biodegradable and contains no chemicals or additives — plus, it doesn’t produce any unhealthy silica dust! Go to [www.felinepine.com](http://www.felinepine.com) to learn more about this cat litter and get a coupon.

*Sharon Kirby is the wife of Garland Kirby, our current Blue Bird Treasurer. She taught Business, Marketing and Diversified Cooperative Training in the Columbia County School system for 24 years. She was group leader of her church’s women’s ministry, and has been actively involved with the church’s youth/adult drama program*



# Sunshine and Mists

by *Brenda Rodgers*

We extend congratulations to Tom and Sandi Bay for their 50th Wedding Anniversary on January 27th. We wish you many more years of happiness!

Best wishes to Lamar Middlebrooks on recently celebrating the big 70! We express our thanks to him for being so dedicated in his work for the Family of Friends for many, many years!

Norma McCullers is doing well and back to her active self following a recent stay in the hospital. She and John are thankful for all the love and support shown by the Blue Bird Family.

Jim and Jean Thompson are so thankful for an excellent report Jim received on recent tests.

Rozanne DeShazer recently had a cyst removed, and she and Maurice related that the sweetest word they have ever heard was "benign." She wishes to express her deep appreciation to the prayer warriors from coast to coast.

Roland Condon reports that Janice is home following eleven weeks in hospitals and one nursing home since September. She is currently having physical therapy to improve her mobility and rebuild her strength. They thank you for all your interest and prayers.

Dan Greer is undergoing chemo after a recent diagnosis of stage #4 cancer of the liver, lymph nodes, and colon. He and Carolyn need our prayers. Carolyn has expressed deep appreciation for all the love that has already been shown from the Blue Bird Family. Our thoughts are with you, Dandy!

Barry and Lucy Grim would appreciate so much your prayers for Lucy as she begins radiation for breast cancer. Thankfully, the lump was removed and, because of the early detection, she will not have to undergo chemo.

Ann Ward was recently in the hospital. She and Paul would appreciate your prayers as she continues enduring health problems.

Please continue to remember Sharon Kirby, Christine Giffen, Bob Loomas, Ross and Joanne Dover, and Beth Lamb in your prayers.

We extend deepest sympathy to Caroline Capachin and her family in the loss of her husband, Sigmund "Ziggy" Capachin on January 19. They are from Walpole, MA, and were long time Blue Birders.

We just recently learned that Hugh Morarity, husband of Bonnie Morarity, passed away in May of 2010. Bonnie, we extend to you and your family our love and belated deepest sympathy.

If you are aware of others that we need to mention in this article, please let us know. My best wishes to all of the Blue Bird Family for a great 2012!

Warmest regards,

**Brenda**



# Congratulations! Anniversaries and Birthdays, January - March

*Compiled by Sharon Kirby*

**Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction.**

*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry,  
Wind, Sand and Stars, 1939, translated  
from French by Lewis Galantière*

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

## JANUARY

- Tom and Sandi Bay – 1/27/1962
- Bernard and Mary Rose Breiner – 1/04/58
- Anthony and Sharon Enos – 1/13/1973
- Peter and Ann Fenn – 1/11/1984
- Edward and Betty Gain – 1/21/1951
- Donny and Lil Goodwin – 1/03/1981
- Garland and Sharon Kirby 1/05/1974
- Bill and Pat Kirchner – 1/02/1981
- James and Betty Swanner – 1/10/1953
- Charles and Marlene Wallace – 1/12/1955

## FEBRUARY

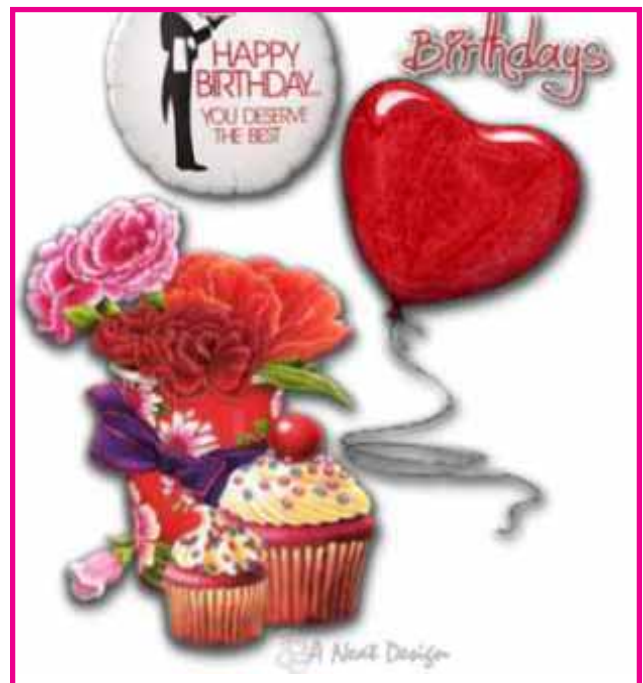
- Gene and Patricia Bornmann – 2/21/76
- Richard and Marilyn Fewin – 2/05/?
- Jerry and Marilyn Gooding – 2/07/1953
- Gary and Betty Kline – 2/01/1958
- Ron and Shirley Marabito – 2/02/1982
- John and Marge Medynski – 2/09/1964
- James and Sherry Miller – 2/10/1990
- Dominic and Marguerite Muglia – 2/03/1962
- Bob and Muriel Radtke – 2/03/1951
- Eddie and Kari Rankins – 2/13/1982
- Ralph and Carolyn Thiele 2/11/1995

## MARCH

- Cecil and Barbara Forcum – 3/31/1967
- Donald and Beth Jones – 3/28/1964
- Bruce and Sherry Morris – 3/22/1991
- Greg and Judi Peterson – 3/26/1983

**There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved. It is God's finger on man's shoulder.**

*Charles Morgan*



**The secret to staying young is to live honestly,  
eat slowly, and lie  
about your age.”**

*Lucille Ball*

*Continued on next page*



# Birthdays, January - March, Continued

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

## JANUARY

James (Red) Barlow – 1/27  
Murray Brinson – 1/16  
Jim Colby – 1/22  
Diane Dixon – 1/08  
John M. Fahnstock Jr. – 1/04  
Richard C. Fewin – 1/19  
Barbara Forcum – 1/13  
Bob Heynssens – 1/18  
Dean Loveless – 1/31  
Norma McCullers – 1/25  
Lynne McHenry – 1/17  
Carole Ann Mickler – 1/21  
Albert Rose – 1/03  
Helen Ryan – 1/01  
Vincent Ryan 1/14  
Priscilla Sheppard – 1/17  
Anne Smith – 1/22  
James Swanner – 1/13  
Charrie Tyler – 1/11  
Martha Vaughn – 1/04  
Suzy Washburn – 1/30  
David Wilbert – 1/06  
Linda Williams – 1/11  
Verna Williams – 1/18  
Leroy Wilson – 1/30  
Mac Winn – 1/22  
Jay Zeigler – 1/21

## FEBRUARY

Dole Baker – 2/23  
Joseph S. Barlow – 2/23  
Tom Bay – 2/13  
Loyd Cain – 2/18  
Sheila Ciampi – 2/04  
Nancy Cobb – 2/03  
Carole Colby – 2/04  
Cathi DeBeaumont – 2/09  
Billie H. Dietz – 2/13

Ross Dover – 2/18  
Beverley Dunville – 2/16  
Donald Fonda – 2/24  
Carol French – 2/02  
Charolette Fullenwider – 2/02  
William L. Garriott – 2/16  
Barbara Hanke – 2/17  
Jim Harper – 2/11  
Betty Jo Harrison – 2/27  
David Hebert – 2/08  
Ron Marabito – 2/29  
Gayle McGuire – 2/27  
Robert J. Miller – 2/19  
Marguerite Muglia – 2/24  
Ronald Palmer – 2/07  
Martha Pryor – 2/13  
Ella Snead – 2/20  
Bill Snyder – 2/07  
Carolyn Sparkman – 2/24  
Juergen Steinmetz – 2/09  
Brian Symington – 2/12  
Marjorie Walker – 2/02  
Sharon Zeigler – 2/07

## MARCH

Beverly Stuntz – 3/05  
Dale Collingham – 3/03  
Bob Cortner – 3/23  
Jimmy E. Cox – 3/23  
John DeBeaumont – 3/08  
A. G. Dillard – 3/29  
Jan Mohr Doyle – 3/04  
Mary Evans – 3/29  
Janie Grant – 3/12  
Linda Haapala – 3/04  
Gordon Hansen – 3/21  
Billie Henry – 3/28  
Lillian Kohlhof – 3/03  
Robert Konz – 3/16  
Peggy McKeehan – 3/24  
John Medynski – 3/11  
Sherry Morris – 3/25  
Royce J. Naquin – 3/21  
Judy Peters – 3/27  
Bob Radtke – 3/29  
Nancy Rapisarda – 3/27  
Mary Ann Rehbein – 3/11  
Windy Schwendler – 3/28

Pat Snyder – 3/18  
Mary Steele – 3/25  
Barbara Strasser – 3/07  
Betty Swanner – 3/02  
Butch Tanis – 3/08  
Jim Thompson – 3/04  
Jean Thompson – 3/10  
Moncell Thornell – 3/23  
Jack VanDenBerg – 3/30  
Dick Warren – 3/07  
Patty Warren – 3/30  
Glenda Wilson – 3/05  
Frances Worden – 3/09

**Inside every older person is a  
younger person wondering  
what happened.**

*Jennifer Yane*

**My  belongs  
to old man winter.**

*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 heart has reasons  
**that reason**  
does not understand

# Amazing Mayberry Rally

## Update from Martha and Charlie Vaughn

Just got news of some exciting events happening before and after the Amazing Mayberry Rally, April 29 - May 4, 2012, in Mount Airy, NC:

At the Blackmon Amphitheatre, located downtown behind the Library (looks like Darth Vader's mask) ... All events are \$10.00 per person:

Friday, April 27, 7:30, The Embers, a classic beach music band

Saturday, April 28, 7:30, Country Magic, playing great sounds from the 50s to the 90s.

Thursday May 3, 7:30, Craig Woolard Band, Beach music and more

Friday May 4, 7:30, Jim Quick and Coastline, 9 times entertainer of the year of Carolina Beach music

Saturday, May 5, 7:30, Billy Scott and the Party Prophets, Beach music with a Jazz and Blues flavor

At the Earle Theater (renovated movie house) in downtown:

Saturday Morning free jam session beginning at 9:00. From 11:00 to 1:30, a live radio broadcast by WPAQ—country music and bluegrass, \$5.00

Saturday Night at 7:30 \$5.00, Old-Time Dance featuring the Slate Mountain Ramblers—voted the best in old style bluegrass music. Winners of many awards at fiddlers conventions in NC and VA.

If you guessed there's a lot of flat-footing and shagging (beach-style dancing) around here, you'd be correct. Mount Airy is also the home of Melva Houston, internationally known Jazz and Blues singer and Donna Fargo, country music singer whose real name is Yvonne Vaughn. (That's right—Charlie's distant cousin.)

Aside from Andy Griffith, our most famous entertainer is Tommy Jarrell. His traditional fiddle and banjo playing earned him the NEA National Heritage Fellowship. His music, known as the "Round Peak Lick" was so pure that the Smithsonian Museum displays his fiddle and came to Mount Airy to record his music. People from all over the United States visited Tommy in his humble home near Round Peak. He never competed in any contests, being too busy making a living to enter. Today his type of fiddling can be heard in many traditional bluegrass bands. There is a section of the Mount Airy Regional Museum devoted to Tommy Jarrell where you can hear an actual recording of Tommy playing the fiddle.



Don't forget, the wine festival (Bud Break Festival) starts on May 4th in the evening. On Saturday, May 5th, Main Street will be open for pedestrians only. Yadkin Valley wine vendors will have booths set up on the street for wine tastings. North Carolina has some fantastic wineries located near the Yadkin River that includes Surry County.

So plan on coming early and staying late. There's more to Mount Airy than Mayberry. Check out the flyer on the next page, and make your plans today! We want to see you in Mt. Airy in April!



## 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.





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



**3rd Annual Family Reunion**

Birds will be flocking to nest in Dillard, GA.  
You'll be welcomed to the beautiful mountains  
Of NC and GA by your fellow member hosts.  
Tom and Sandi Bay & Bob and Barbara Helms  
Plan to join your family of friends,  
October 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>.

We'll look forward to seeing you there!

Rain or Shine  
Going to be a Wonderful Time!

SA Nest Design

## 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!

## ***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

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)