

Message from the President

The city of Rayne, in an area in south Louisiana known as Acadiana, has been our home for the past several days as we held our very first Blue Bird Family Reunion. It truly was a Cajun Adventure thanks to the hospitality and planning of our hosts. Roy and Carol Zanca. Our days were filled with fun excursions from morning to night!

On Tuesday, October 19th, we made time for a Board of Directors meeting and then our annual Membership meeting. For the past 35 years the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA has been factory sponsored club. Since the loss of the factory, we have been in a period of adjustment. An unstable economy and an ever changing RV world have also contributed to the uncertain times we are experiencing. It was determined that a committee should be formed to look at how we can simplify the club and accommodate this new world. Do we need a President, Senior VP, Secretary, Treasurer, 6 Regional VPs, a National FMCA Director and an alternate National FMCA Director? How do we simplify rallies in order to encourage



rally hosts and attendees?

The Board decided that Past President, Maurice De-Shazer should be the one to chair the committee. The committee will look at every area of the club from the leadership to the standing rules and come up with ideas on how to move the Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA into the future. All of the ideas will be formulated with the approval of the Board of Directors and then presented to the Membership for final approval at the Blue Bird Chapter Family Reunion in Chattanooga, TN in October of 2011.

Over the next several days we enjoyed a variety of destinations.

these were not your normal tourist hot spots, these were the kind of places only a local would know about. I guess that's why a Rally is such fun...you get to see parts of this beautiful country that you would normally never get to see.

There are a few rallies being considered for next year and I hope you'll watch for them and be able to join with us at one. Until then drive safely and we'll look forward to seeing you...On the Road Again.

Dan

PS Remember you can always e-mail me by sending your e-mail to president@bluebirdchapter.org

Inside this issue:

Rayne Rally Highlights & Photos **Technical Tips** Cooking is for the Birds Blue Birds Fly South Membership Application/Change Form

New Members Welcome!!

Special points of interest:

- Bird Tracks wins 1st Place!
- Crafts on the Road
- Thanksgiving Thoughts
- Rodent Ranger
- Photo of the Month

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!! By Martha Rowe Vaughn

For those of you that did not attend the Blue Bird Family of Friends rally in Rayne, Louisiana, the above phrase means: "Let the Good Times Roll!!" The 1st Annual Blue Bird Chapter Family Reunion was a rolling success. Led by our hosts Roy and Carol Zanca from the first mosquito swat to the last farewell, we were immersed in the "joy de vivre" of the Cajun lifestyle.

The first day we spent at Vermillionville learning about the Acadian life and how they came to be in Southern Louisiana. It was especially meaningful for those who had attended the rally in Prince Edward Island some years ago and were exposed to the sad saga of the Aca-

dians exiled by the British to see how the French exiles fared in a far different country than Nova Scotia. Using the same techniques of draining swampland that they had used in Nova Scotia, the Acadians flourished in the Atchafalaya River basin. Helped by

the native people, they learned how to harvest Spanish moss and cure it into a very versatile fiber with many uses. Since their arrival in the mid 1700s, the Cajuns have built cities, farmed the land, and been involved in the many industries based on the natural resources of the area. We finished the day with a Cajun meal and a Cajun band.

On Monday morning the Tourist Commissions from Rayne (the frog capital of the world) and nearby Crowley introduced us to the area and its attractions. In the afternoon we toured the restored Ford building, now housing City Hall employees of Crowley. Constructed of enormous cypress beams, the Ford building was once a Model T dealership and housed an assembly line for attaching the fenders and wheels on the autos. Ford Motors also bought cured Spanish moss for stuffing the car seats. We also enjoyed a film explaining the rise of the rice in-

dustry.

Across the street from the Ford building was the recently restored Opera House. It was stunning from the magnificent staircase to the ceilings of pressed tin and cypress—a true labor of love by a local family who donated the building to the city.

A short trip from Crowley stood the Le Petit Chateau deLuxe, a French castle built (and still being built) by Frenchmen Phillip Desormeaux and his father. Set on a beautifully landscaped lawn, the castle is enormous with turrets and towers, each face representing an existing castle in France. Inside are large

rooms decorated with
French antiques, intricate
woodwork, and
amazing chandeliers. Most of
the work inside
is/was done by
Phillip and his
wife, Lovic. As
Phillip told us,
he is a jack of
all trades and
master of none.



We ended the day at Kelly's Landing, a rice and crawfish farm where we were treated to gumbo and an explanation of how both crops are raised in the same field. Kelly has a collection of over 700 John Deere toys displayed in two large rooms. It was mind-blowing! You'd just have to see it to believe it.

Tuesday afternoon we visited Konrico Rice Mill in New Iberia for a tour of the rice processing operation and saw a film on the Acadians. If you ever come across Pecan Brown Rice, an exclusive product from Konrico, buy it. It is the best-flavored rice I have ever eaten.

Whew! You're probably saying by now if you have read this far. Whew is right! And we loved every minute of this rally. But there was more to come—a trip to Avery Island, site of the Tabasco Sauce factory, still family owned, and adjacent to a beautiful garden complete with alligators and camellias. Did you know there is actu-

ally an ice cream made from Tabasco Sauce? Avery Island is located on top of a salt dome, one of five in the area.

The next day we visited St. Martinville, an Acadian town settled in 1765. A statue of Evangeline reminded us of the saga of the Acadians and is the theme of Longfellow's poem by the same name.

In the afternoon we went to Jefferson Island, another salt dome with a remarkable history. The salt dome was being mined by Morton Salt Company. Near the domes, oil gathers and Texaco started drilling for oil nearby. Somebody goofed. On November 21, 1980, the oil drill penetrated the salt mine flooding the mine with water from Jefferson Lake. As the salt dissolved, the whole mine collapsed. Fifteen miners made it to safety. When the mine collapsed, the water formed a whirlpool that sucked in everything—a two million dollar house, eleven barges, the oil rig, land, and trees. The force was so great that it caused the river flowing from the lake to reverse course sweeping fishing vessels on the river northward. Amazingly, no one was killed, but the accident ended the salt industry. Now Jefferson Island is the site of a beautiful home and lovely gardens featuring tropical plants and huge live oaks. The lake was fresh water and is now salt water.

Our last day was spent boating on the Atchafalaya River. We left from McGee's Landing on a tour of the river and surrounding swamps. We saw a few alligators and several birds. We returned with a great appreciation for the hardy Acadians who braved this wilderness and made a living with what nature provided.

Lest you think that is all, in between we were treated to Cajun meals; entertainment by James Weatherford and his partner, Buck Grantham, on the steel guitar; an oil field demonstration; a bevy of Queens in full regalia from many local festivals; and Tommy Vance as "Uncle Fuzz."

Merci to Roy and Carol for their tremendous effort in educating us to the wonders of Southern Louisiana, land of the Cajuns. This is one rally I will never forget. "C'est tout."

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NOVEMBER, 2010

Cooking is for the Birds By Kay Green Losh



I can't believe we're talking about November already!!! This year is going FAST! If yours is like our family, there are traditions about Thanksgiving dinner, and you just don't mess with those too much, but there are 29 other days--or 28, with leftovers!

This **Penne with Zucchini and Sweet Onion** is something I made recently, and we decided that this is one to make again. It has lots of things we like in it. When I made it, a threw in a handful of grape tomatoes, cut in halves just before I took



it off the stove and stirred in the pasta.

Cook **penne pasta** per directions. Drain and hold in the colander.

In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil and add:

4 ounces (12 thin slices) pancetta, cut into ¼ inch dice (NOTE: if you're

making this on the spur of

the mo-

ment, and don't have pancetta in the house, use a good quality bacon.)

1 medium onion preferably sweet, such as Vidalia or 1015 cut into 1/4-1/2 dice, about 1 cup

1 pound zucchini, preferably 4 small ones, diced (NOTE: I prefer thin slices)

3 Tablespoons fresh basil leaves, chopped

Freshly ground black pepper, salt to taste

Grated parmesan cheese, for serving.

Add pancetta and cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring as it cooks. Add onion and cook for 3-4 minutes until onion softens. Add the zucchini and the salt and stir to incorporate; cook for 10-15 minutes until the zucchini is tender. Add 2 teaspoons basil and pepper to taste.

Combine the cooked penne and the vegetable mixture in a large bowl. Garnish with the remaining basil and with parme-

san and serve. Makes 4 servings.

Here are a couple of <u>easy</u> dips for the football game days or parties you'll be going to

Warm Artichoke Dip

5 minutes to prepare, 30 minutes to cook.

this season.

1 envelope onion soup mix cup mayonnaise

8 oz. sour cream

1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

1 (14 oz.) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped

Parsley for garnish

Preheat oven to 350. Combine all ingredients in a 1 quart baking dish. Bake uncovered for 30 minutes or until heated through. Serves 10. Serve with an assortment of crackers.

Here's a quick, last-minute contribution to the party.

Cool-as-a-cucumber Dip

2 cups sour cream 1 packet Hidden Valley Original Ranch Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix

½ peeled cucumber, seeded and chopped ½ teaspoon dried Dill Weed

Combine all ingredients in a bowl, mixing well. Best if chilled for several hours before eating.

Serve with chips and vegetable dippers.

What are your family's favorite food traditions? What *must* be served at your holiday meal? Are there special dishes handed down that always bring memories of special people? Let us share in the warmth of these very special parts of your holidays. Send your contributions to Cooking@BlueBirdChapter.org



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Traveling With Pets by Karen James



As we travel along with pets, certain emergencies can occur. We found out first hand how quickly something can happen. We acquired a new puppy, Fritz, a Bichon Frise. Like all puppies, Fritz was very curious and loved to chew on various and sundry items. My husband, Dennie, has a daily regimen of taking his pills at a certain time. He carefully laid out his pills and put them in a little plastic pill case. The road had been rough and rain was pouring as we pulled into a campground. Fritz was ready to take his evening walk and I groaned about going out in a down pour. I grabbed my umbrella and we make a quick trip around the campground. When we came back in, we were both soaked so I towel dried the dog and changed my clothes. As we sat down to eat, I heard the distinct crunch-crunchcrunch of plastic. What could Fritz have found to chew that sounded like this? Oh no the pill box! A quick check found Fritz happily downing the last of the pills. What to do now? It is now a torrential rain and we are in a strange area with no real town close

by. Besides, were do we find a vet this time of night? I got on the computer and

Googled veterinary advice. Sure enough, I found an "Ask the Vet" website. I quickly logged on to the site and asked my question, Will a combination of blood pressure and arthritis pills plus some vitamins hurt an eight pound puppy? For only a

\$25.00 donation, I could receive the answer. I whip out the credit card and sure enough, within a few minutes I get an answer. I was instructed to make the dog vomit. Hmmm. No further information about how to accomplish this! Here goes another question along with another donation. Ah ha, easy answer, give the dog peroxide and he will vomit. After several

tries, Fritz was foaming peroxide from his mouth and I had peroxide running down my arms. However, no peroxide made it down his throat! Think ... think ... what else will work? As I searched through the medicine cabinet, I came across some syrup of Ipacac. (where could this have come from?) I found a dropper and Fritz unwillingly swallowed a nice dose. Now comes my next question, where do I put him so he can get rid of the pills and pieces of plastic? It is pouring outside and I don't want to stand out in the rain. Fritz and I made a quick entry into the shower and there we sat. Sure enough, up came pills, plastic and what ever was left of his lunch. After three episodes, he seemed to settle down so I let him out of the shower and started clean up. Ooops, I hear the distinct sound of heaving. Oh no! Not on the carpet! Yes, two more places to clean. As I finished the final carpet clean up, Fritz jumped on the couch on no! I made a mighty leap and back in the shower

he went. This time he gave me a look indicating that I had clearly lost my mind. After waiting and watching, it was obvious he was finished and had even curled up for a nap. As Frtiz slept soundly, I spend a rest-

less night listening for choking sounds and making sure he was still breathing. The next morning, he was his normal happy self and looking for breakfast, seemingly unaffected by the evening's antics. The moral of the story? Dennie now keeps his pills in a safe place so they do not bounce on to the floor and Frtiz will still chew any piece of plastic that comes within his reach.

As we sat down to eat, I heard the distinct crunch-crunch of plastic. What could Fritz have found ...

Dues are Due for 2011

.If you have not paid your 20101dues please take a moment now and make your check for \$25.00 payable to "Blue Bird Chapter, FMCA". Mail it along with the application/renewal form on the last page of this newsletter. Be sure to check the "renewal" box and fill out the form. This will insure we have your latest information and that you will be able to look forward to timely newsletters and information regarding upcoming events. Up-

coming rallies of several distinct types are in the near future. Don't miss out!

You can click any of the following easy links to contact us. Please don't forget to share your stories, news and ideas with others via the newsletter.

President@BlueBirdChapter.org
Treasurer@BlueBirdChapter.org
Secretary@BlueBirdChapter.org

WelcomeHostess@BlueBirdChapter.org
Newsletter@BlueBirdChapter.org
Cooking@BlueBirdChapter.org
TechTips@BlueBirdChapter.org
Sunshine@BlueBirdChapter.org
Classifieds@BlueBirdChapter.org

Crafts on the Road by Charolette Fullenwider



Hello Bluebird's:

Since Ralph retired from Goodyear, we have been traveling and Ralph was working, on the Bird's, for the most part and of course I brought along some of my crafts to keep busy while the guys were talking Bird's.



The photos show some of the small things done and that are easy to do really.

"Ruff Diamond"

This is a fun Bird that Ralph wrote one of the guy's about borrowing since he had used it on something or other and told us we could use it as it was free ware. I printed the picture out on paper, then using carbon paper, drew it out on cross stitch material.

We had fun picking out the colors of thread to be used at first so we could decide which looked best for us. The color we are using now was decided on and using the cross stitch (little x's) I made what we call our logo.

"Bird in a swing"

Ralph found this crazy Bird on the Net and purchased it from a hobby house on line. It made us smile because Bluebird Camping is roughing it for sure! So again in cross stitch, I picked out blue bird colors and finished the project

in a couple of days.



"Eggs"

It was coming up on Easter one year, and travels found us near the grand kids. I had gone to a garage sale and found the plastic eggs in one of those expanded plastic type bags. Well, with a little time on my hands, and those poor eggs looked so plain, I pulled out the hot glue gun and my beads and found a huge bag of facet beads I had forgotten that I even had. With the glue gun heated up and spare



glue at the ready, I started putting the clear facet beads on rows on the plastic eggs, and I also tried assorted colors and the eggs looked great with the "Bling" on them! Placing the eggs with beads in a basket with green grass, they really stood out and if held to the sun light, rays went all different ways and really expanded the color. It was fun. I also did Christmas balls then gather them in bunches and gave them out as presents one year.

"Birds in a cup nest"

This was a really fun project to do, and it looks so cute too. Going to garage sales brings some ideas and thoughts together, besides it keeps the saying true, "this car stops at all garage sales!" <smile> I had found some oval and round mirrors that had flaws but would do for a base. Then I had several odd coffee cups that had some chips here and there and were mismatched. I though t it would be fun to glue the cups to the mirror and add some plastic flowers and greenery around and then added some little Bluebirds that I had found somewhere. The cups looked partly hidden with the flora around and sort of looked like a little nesting place.



Then I made it look like as the eggs hatched the baby birds were all over the cup, testing the feathers on their wings but not getting too far from Momma.

Crafting is fun as many know and gives us "Girls" something to do and chat about while the, ahem, "Men" do the Coach stuff.

Safe travels,

Charolette

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Thoughts of Thanksgiving by Neat Scott

May Silent thanks at least to God be given with full heart;

Our thoughts are heard in heaven.

William Wordsworth



Today is a very windy day. The autumn leaves are swirling past my window as I sit here thinking of Thanksgiving and all it means to us. We live in Golden, CO. Many of the trees in our gardens and around our state are the Quaking Aspens. At this time of the year their leaves have turned to gold looking much like golden coins. These two things remind me of all

the other gold in our lives. Not necessarily the kind one finds in any bank. Even though I do believe we do bank memories in our minds and in the pictures we can take out to enjoy again at leisure. Family and Friendships are worth so much more than gold! Although we are always making new friends we'd never trade them for the old. No more so than we would trade our children, for someone else's. Our Family of Friends Chapter has made it possible for many such friendships to exist. Most of us likely would never have met at all had it not been for the fact that this club brought us all together. We belong to several traveling groups and enjoy them individually very much. But our Family of Friends is the most special of all to us! I think of it as the Mother Club, it has many branches just as new Churches have branched off of the Mother Churches over time immortal. To my way of thinking, they are all Family. This past year I recall time and again the fantastic times of celebrating with those Blue Bird friends who have dropped by on their way hither and yon.. Those times of pure joy! Then there has been times when one or another of us needed support. Thank You, Lord, that there are those who care.

This year we are planning a traditional

holiday here at home. The family will gather at the home place where our own were raised. It's a delight to see the children's children running through the same rooms and playing with their parent's cherished toys that were saved just for that purpose. Everyone knows they are welcome and loved. May this be so for others everywhere across our country.

There have been years in the past that we have been away from home. Those particular years we have had the pleasure of the company of other travelers, those who would gather together and become family for the holidays. Last year we were invited to share Thanksgiving with fellow Blue Bird Friends who opened their home to us! We accepted with pleasure. Bob and Dianne Hedmen made our holiday extra special. What fun it always is to visit in the homes of our club members. Being able to then picture where they live and them going about their lives when we are not at rallies with them. We tend to think of them living in their coaches as that is where we see one another most often.

Wherever you may be, may God Bless and keep you until we all meet again.

Upcoming Rally Schedule

2010-11 Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA Rally Dates

Associated FMCA Clubs

And Dealer Rallies

2011

Parliament Open House January 5th through the 8th 2011 at the Parliament Motor Home Dealership in Clearwater, FL. All Blue Birds Welcome!

Make your plans -- sign up today for our 2011 "Annual Bluebird Quartzsite Rally". Go to our 'Q' homepage for information: http://www.southwest-bluebirds.org/annual quartzsite rally/

http://www.southwest-bluebirds.org/

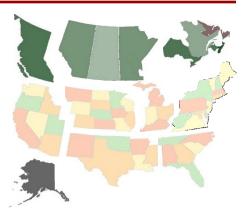
Be sure to click on the "Southern California

Rolling Rally" link for information regarding the 'Vintage Birds' and 'Bluebird Family of Friends' chapters of the FMCA sponsored rolling rally scheduled to caravan from Quartzsite immediately after our 'Q' rally.

February 1st - February 4th 2011 Temecula, CA held at the Pechanga RV Resort, Sponsored by the Vintage Birds and Hosted by Dan and Cindy Sunderland

February 4th - February 9th 2011 Chula Vista Rally, held at the Chula Vista RV Resort, Sponsored by the Blue Bird Chapter and Hosted by Dan and Cindy Sunderland

October 25th - October 30th, 2011 " 2nd Annual Blue Bird Chapter Family Reunion," East Ridge, TN Hosted by Leroy and Glenda Wilson and the Blue Bird Chapter



To email your area VP, click on the section of the map that corresponds to the area where you wish to hold

Have a friend who owns another brand of motorhome? Or one who wants to buy a Wanderlodge or BMC? Did you know that they can attend Blue Bird Chapter rallies as your guest? Contact the rally host for the rally you would like to invite them to and they will be welcome to attend!

Technical Tips and Tricks: By Ralph Fullenwider



The weather is turning to invigorating mornings, while the mid afternoon is still warm for short sleeves. Leaves are turning colors across the Nation and kitchens, once again, become the focal point of many a home, with the wafting of delicious smells emanating from ovens, flour is spread out on the roller boards, pie tins layers with a fine thin crust, and I have just

put on 5 pounds thinking about all of that! <smile>

Recently, while driving home from a

weekend at a Masonic outing, "Ruff Diamond" started breaking hard to the right and sounded like metal to metal contact to boot. Well up on solid blocks she went. The tire truck called, and purchased break parts and pads laid out to be replaced, with all in readiness, the book came out on break adjustments, torque values, and such. Finally tires

were off and set aside then the fun of pulling the front brake drums on both sides, and just knowing the brake pads were down to the rivets, and with raised eyebrows, low and behold the brake pads on both sides of the front looked as good

as new. Perplexing to say the least, so a tug up and down on the hubs, nope nothing there and still tight. So, what in the world, hey??? As it turns out, I have been lubing the front chassis, yes the kingpins with the weight off the front end to allow the grease to get up into the journals, then the steering column post joints lubed but I had completely missed the 2 grease zerts on the automatic slack adjusters! There I stood when my Bride came to my side and noticed the redness on my cheeks and nose and fore head wrinkled into a tight scrunch, Charolette asked if I were all right, did I need an ice pack or? No, no, I replied, I am just blushing from embarrassment of missing such an important detail, then muttering something about putting a little Crown and 7 over that ice she was offering, I set about doing a proper chassis lube job since it was about time for my yearly schedule anyway. Break hubs inspected and reinstalled, automatic slack adjusters set to the proper adjustment on both hubs and wheels back on with lugs tightened down. The "new" break parts were returned and monies set aright in my pocket. I have now added the grease zerts to my chassis lube chart. With all of that said, have you



had the automatic slack adjusters looked at lately?

Oh, and if someone says,"you have a rock in the tread of the tires, I can hear a tink, tink, tink, as the wheel goes round and round." I would like to suggest that you also check the lugs on the drive tires, to be sure none are broken and the "tink, tink,tink," is from the broken lug and lug nut slapping the top hat as the tire rotates. Yep, happened to me for sure! <soft grin>

It is also that time of year to do a little cleaning on those electrical and LP heaters in the Coaches and not to forget, those Coaches with the Primus and Aqua Hot systems. The registers along the walls need to be checked for the dust and debris from spring and summer use and travels. Aqua Hot heating systems tune up time has arrived for its yearly tune up. Such as fuel filter and nozzles? And yes, a yearly change of those 2 items are HIGHLY recommended for proper operation of not only heat but hot water for dishes and showers as well, and other items like bay heaters, are they blocked or packed in tight?

Also, it might well be time to check the oil levels on the front hubs and drive hubs with oil bath bearings. Summer heat will heat oil up and thin it down so escaping in small quantities becomes easier and the 90 weight oil needs to be topped off to the fill line on the clear window of the hub oiler.

Hope all had a good Halloween, and we have Turkey day and Christmas coming up, Yeppers, those kitchens are once again the hubs of human hustle bustle and mouth watering odors and of course a TV nearby to watch the "game." Right next to the hot pumpkin pie of course.

Safe travels,

Ralph and Charolette Fullenwider "84FC35 "Ruff Diamond" Duncan, Oklahoma

Send your suggestions for tips or your questions to Ralph at:
TechTips@BlueBirdChapter.org

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Bird Tracks Wins 1st Prize!



second place went to Spartan Chassis International chapter.
Chapters were placed in sectors is based on info

International chapter and

Chapters were placed in categories based on info from FMCA HQ on member numbers.

All entries are judged by an outside group, not connected to FMCA or its chapters, like a local chapter of the Public Relations Society of America or a college/university public relations/journalist class.

International Area of the Family Motor Coach Association announced the winners of their prestigious Newsletter Awards and your Blue Bird Chapter, FMCA was awarded First Place in the Extra Large Chapter Newsletter Contest!

The International Area consists of over 100

Chapters varying in size from fewer than 50 members to thousands. Bird Tracks competes in the "Extra Large" group of 300 or more members where

After judging all the criteria, Bird Tracks was awarded the number one spot in the largest and most competitive group.

the competition is the toughest. Your Newsletter staff has consistently produced a quality and informative newsletter and deserves the honor of this award. The winners are as follows:

Small chapter winner was the Wild Goose chapter. Second place went to the GMC Alumni chapter.

Medium chapter winner was the Revconeers chapter. Second place went to The Jewels International chapter.

Large Chapter winner was the Full Timers chapter and second place went to the FMC Motor Coach Owners Club chapter.

XLarge chapter winner was the Blue Bird chapter and second place went to the Beaver Ambassador Club chapter. Manufacturer chapter winner was the Safari

dging all the and graphics. Consistent content locations, masthead and cover are also judged along with photographs and overall visual appeal of the newsletter.

After judging all the criteria, Bird Tracks was awarded the number one spot in the largest and most competigroup.

They use criteria such as whether the news-

members, is it done in a clear concise man-

ner. Does the newsletter promote readership

by having reoccurring columns, contests or

quizzes? Syntax, grammar and spelling are

letter provides chapter information to its

tive group.

Your Newsletter Team consists of the following members. (In alphabetical order.)

Rich Ducci, Chairman Shane Fedeli Ralph Fullenwider Karen James Kay Losh Alan Ritchie Brenda Rodgers Neat Scott Slim Somerville Martha Vaughn

A sincere "Thank you" and special congratulations go to each and every one of our committee members.

Kay, your cooking column is the best. You have presented some of the tastiest dishes ever made on the road.

Ralph, every month you teach us more about our Birds and entertain us with your wit as well.

Neat, your contributions of the original artwork each month along with your stories bring our newsletter to a new high.

Martha, I know all members enjoy and look forward to your stories. They amuse and entertain!

Shane, your work on assembling a great classified column shows why it has been proven to sell Blue Birds.

Slim, we look forward to your articles and enjoy your reporting.

Alan, thanks for the contributions and behind the scenes help.

Karen, your superb event reporting, and stories have helped make Bird Tracks both informative and entertaining.

Brenda, your friendliness and familiarity with our members makes you a natural for assembling our Sunshine and Mists column

Just coming onboard is Jo Slivinski, aka., Jo-ski who will be conducting interviews with long time Blue Bird enthusiasts and members who have added to the enjoyment of Blue Bird ownership.

As Newsletter Chairman, I act as Editor in Chief and merely assemble the newsletter. While an occasional article is written, I overwhelmingly rely on you, the members of this team, for contributions to the newsletter. You all have served well and deserve to be recognized with this esteemed 1st place award.

We are now into our second year of a monthly Bird Tracks publication and committed to continuing to bring our members the finest newsletter in the FMCA. General membership contributions of travel, hobby, technical tips, recipes, photos and stories will enhance future issues of Bird Tracks only if you, the members of our Chapter take the time to submit them. Please make a commitment to send your articles or suggestions to us at <a href="Membersolver-Newslet-N

Flying South With The Blue Birds: by Adam and Tiffany McIver

We received an exciting midsummer's call; Shirley and Tommy Vance, known to us lovingly as Mamaw and Poppy, informed us that they would



be traveling south to a rally with the Blue Bird Club to Louisiana. To some young folks this news would have mistakenly appeared to be yet another assembly of the "older generation" to partake in the often stereotyped gathering to play cards or talking about the weather. However, Tiffany and I knew things to be different. We had listened to the heralded tales of the roaming Blue Bird Club, cruising across the land, partaking in their delightful exploits from sea to shining sea. No, to us this sounded like news ripe with the opportunity for adventure. The prospect of seeing a rally first hand and to witness Mamaw and Poppy with their Blue Bird friends was simply too much to pass up...we had to be there!

Though time seemed to pass slowly as we waited for the day of our journey, we soon enough found ourselves motoring down Interstate 20 through the pastures of eastern Texas. As we started southeast along Highway 49, driving through the heart of Louisiana, we could tell we weren't in Dallas any more, or our beloved home state of North Carolina. We cruised through parish after parish for what seemed like hour upon hour along this straight and steady highway, yet the drive was easy and the energy and excitement of seeing our grandparents became more palpable with each road sign informing us of the distance yet to travel. As loved ones often do, they waited up for us as we arrived late in the evening on Friday. It was a joyous occasion to be reunited with our Mamaw and

Poppy after many months. Coupled with the coming rally, we knew that we were in for a treat.

The Saturday sun shone brightly and we were off to our first day of adventure with the Blue Bird Club. Before the rally was to begin we had plenty of time for meeting all of the early arrivers, who welcomed us warmly. Though we aren't officially Blue Bird members ourselves, it stopped no one from making us feel right at home and as welcome as a cool glass of lemonade on a hot day.

One of our first and most memorable experiences at the rally was an activity that seemed to be a hallmark, sitting outside the motor home in lounge chairs for a good visit. Now we've never been to a rally before, so we cannot confirm this, but the speed, comfort and precision with which the chairs were set up

and with which the conversation flowed, we assume can come only from years of experience and practice. Who knew that sitting in lounge chairs could be so fun?!? It's not that difficult to imagine when you have jokers like Tommy Vance and

Ross Dover in your group. Even professional comedians would find it difficult to keep pace with these perennial jesters. We had a chance to meet and converse with some interesting and enjoyable people which added greatly to our trip experience.

It appears though that Blue Birds do not sit still for very lengthy spells, for it wasn't long before we were off on an adventure. After a quick drive by Chef Roy's Frog City Café to set up reservations, we ventured over to the ever so sweet and completely delectable Candy Land Cottage. The smell of waffle cones permeated the air as we entered this "sweets lover's" paradise. Our group enjoyed the local flavors and experienced

the store's unique charms including the world's largest gummy bear and every version of the Candy Land game ever printed. This was a charming and delicious way to enjoy a Saturday afternoon.

The rally initiated, we can only assume as all rallies do, with a registration and kick off. We were excited to join all of the eager participants and seasoned travel vets as we circled around the rally host to get a dose of what we were in for. The rally hosts Roy & Carol Zanca, were infectious with enthusiasm for "The Pelican State" as it is sometimes referred to. No one could mistake Roy's zeal for his home state and his desire for all the rally participants to experience the fullness of what the area had to offer. Roy stated that "No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." Indeed, he is correct, his passion for his home state and what was to come, made the anticipation of the days ahead all the more intriguing.

After a delicious local dining

experience at Chef Roy's, our group migrated back to the Dover's for a special surprise. Mamaw presented me with what can only be described as a utterly decadent and beautifully hand crafted mas-

terpiece of a cake, made locally in Rayne to celebrate my 30th birthday. Good times and laughter ensued as we indulged in slices of sweetness and good company; it was a grand end to a wonderful day.

Sunday brought a new sunrise with adventure on the horizon. It was the first official day of the rally and we were off to the Jean LaFitte National Historical Park & Acadian Cultural Center. The "echoes" of a struggled and resilient people resonated throughout the history, culture and buildings of this fascinating remnant of times past. If the quaint dress code and buildings of the day didn't impress you, the ornate hand

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Flying South With The Blue Birds: by Adam and Tiffany McIver

(Continued from page 12)

carved ducks and intricate corn shuck baby dolls would certainly capture your fascination and remind you of a simpler way of life, foreign to most of us today. A delicious lunch was served in the village gathering hall accompanied by a live band playing the local staple of "swamp

pop". Where there is excellent food and good music in harmony, dancing often occurs and this day was no exception. Bobbie and Dan Jensen help lead the way as the "first couple" displaying the versatility and charm of a properly executed two step. Each of us left the park with a greater ap-

preciation of the people who came to inhabit this land and the journey they endured in becoming a distinctive and unwavering people.

As day became night we returned to the Vance motor home with friends galore in the anticipation of finishing off the birthday cake and the promise of a game that was sure to bring loads of amusement. The game was Scattergories and what took place next can only be described as the most hilarious and entertaining portion of our trip. Pitting one's wit and mastery of vocabulary against a racing timer, a preset list of categories and the roll of a die can only lead to moments of great epiphanies and deep belly laughter. Any-



one looking for a good time should invite Shirley Vance to a game; she can teach the game and is sure to provide some hilarity along the way. Jimmy and Jean Cox showed that they are as smart as they look as they racked up points on their way to a championship for the night. If you're looking for a good time, Scattergories is the way to go for some good clean fun!

Monday was chock-full with activities and new experiences. Our group began the day by taking in the historic turn of the century Grand Opera House of the South. This jewel of downtown Crowley,

LA has a rich heritage and still shines brightly after skillful restoration. Next, we trekked through the Louisiana countryside and down remote dirt roads until we arrived at a hidden treasure among the for-

est. Our eyes grew wide as we came upon a clearing in which were able to acquire our first glance of the beautiful French château nestled snuggly into the rugged Cajun landscape. The proprietor was gracious enough to give us a tour of the estate and the rich history behind each stage of construction in this modern day castle. While few would envy the owner's immense responsibilities in property management, I believe we can all learn from his 'stick-to-itiveness' and constant pursuit of a dream not yet realized. After departing from our immersion into a French-Cajun fairytale we journeyed back to Crowley for a gander at the handiwork of a modern day industrialist visionary. Henry Ford didn't just make cars, he revolutionize the workplace as we know it and utilized man and machine like the world had never known before. The old Ford sales and distribution center was ahead of its time, much like its founder and helped to connect the people of this area with the burgeoning new mode of transportation that would forever change our country and our world. The day concluded with a visit to a working rice and crawfish farm to be submerged into an education on farming, John Deere memorabilia and humor from farmer Kelly. Kelly proved to be a crowd pleaser as he entertained the Blue Birds after a long day of sightseeing and absorbing the chronicles of yesteryear in an area drenched with story and culture.

Alas, this would be the end of our flight with the Blue Birds. After goodbyes, farewells and ample hugs exchanged, we drove back to our hotel to rest up before the long journey back to Dallas. While our trip was not a lengthy one, we were thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to experience something that most people our age will never do. We were able to live out a bona fide adventure, with not only our beloved grandparents, but with some of their closest friends and companions.

We gained a few nuggets of wisdom and insights during our stay with the Blue Birds. First, the Blue Bird men can fix most anything and if they can't, they will bang whatever it may be with their hand until it works, just ask Ross Dover. Secondly, Blue Birds are like any pack animals...they travel in numbers for safety, companionship and for greater enjoyment of the journey. Third, mosquitoes



outnumber Blue Birds one trillion-to-one in Louisiana; this is true, I checked with the 2010 Louisiana Mosquito Census. Fourth, we have thought for some time that one day, in the right season of life, we too would like to motor home across this great land. This trip did nothing except affirm this desire. And lastly, our Mamaw has often said that her Blue Bird friends "are as close as family". After taking flight with this "flock" we can easily see what Mamaw is saying, it is indeed like a family.

Many thanks to our grandparents and the Blue Bird family for an adventure that we will never forget.

Sincerely,

Adam and Tiffany McIver

Rudy, The Rodent Ranger by Martha Rowe Vaughn

"What are you looking for?" The question came from Charlie as he entered the GigaRex and spied my posterior poking out from under the sink.

"I'm retrieving the bags of fox urine. I'm going to refill them." I answered.

"They seem to be working. I haven't seen any signs of mice anywhere."

This was six months after the Hot Springs trip. We had gone a whole winter without one mouse. Unfortunately, I got complaisant. I forgot to refill the bags. So, off we

go some time later to a rally at Pigeon Forge.

The first night in the motor home I realized we had a mouse. Too busy to set a trap, we left for a meeting. When we returned, Rudy, our Siamese cat, was in the corner under the table playing with a mouse. I grabbed a boot. Now why would I do that? Because I had learned that mice will run into any dark hole when being pursued by a frenzied cat. At home when Rudy catches a mouse

(usually in the deepest part of night) he brings it down the hall to my room. He has a peculiar yodel he does when he has prey. I wake up from deep sleep and stumble from the bed cursing him. He takes the mouse to my bedroom closet and lets it loose to run around my shoes while he pounces on it—his idea of fun. By chance one night, the mouse ran into a turned over boot. I grabbed the boot and

went out to the deck and dumped the mouse outside leaving behind a bewildered cat. From then on, this was the routine. My closet always has a boot in it just for catching

mice.

Out I go to dump the mouse. I

went back to reading. A few

minutes later, there was Rudy

staring at the sofa again.

The boot travels with us. I grabbed the boot and put it next to the wall of the motor home. The mouse ran in it, I took mouse and boot outside and dumped it out.

That night I was up late reading while Rudy was snoozing on the dash. Suddenly, he got up and sat staring intently at the sofa.

I watched as a tiny mouse came out from under the sofa only to be pounced on by Rudy. True to form, he took the mouse to the corner under the table for a game of torture. Boot time again! Out I go to dump the mouse. I went back to reading. A few minutes later, there was Rudy staring at the sofa again. Out wandered mouse number three. Repeat story. Unbelievably, there was a number four and a number five. Rudy, the rodent ranger, struck five times in one night. It is a record for him. I forgive him for all the disrupted nights. He saved the GigaRex from mouse destruction.



Photo of the Month submitted by Kay Green Losh



Kay sent this photo taken when they recently went to Albuquerque. Kay reported that the transmission in the coach quit about 50 miles out and they weren't going to miss the Rally! The "Mini Bird" was rented so we could be there---Kay said and captioned the photo:

"Which one of these doesn't belong?"



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Sunshine and Mists submitted by Brenda Rodgers



We send very special birthday wishes to Mrs. Hazle Mae Schranks who celebrated her 99th birthday on October 24th. She is the Mother of Carolyn Greer. Mrs.

Schranks enjoyed a special party with Carolyn, Dan, and their children.

Jeff Horvath recently underwent - not one - but two back surgeries. Please remember him in your prayers as he continues to improve.

Pat Kirchner recently underwent surgery for three stints. Following surgery she attended the Rayne Rally where we understand she entertained with her talent on the keyboard. She is undergoing additional surgery in the next few weeks and needs our prayers.

Jimmy Cox underwent knee surgery dur-

ing the summer and still needs our prayers as he continues to improve.

Please remember Martha and Charlie Vaughn as they are both experiencing some health problems.

Ellen Marks will be having gall bladder surgery and some further tests in the very near future. Please pray for her and Mark as they await results of her tests.

Special best wishes from Fort Valley, Georgia, to all of you and your family for a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Handy Links (In no particular order)

FMCA Home Page

Vintage Birds

Wanderlodge Owners Online

Wanderlodge Owners Group

Wanderlodge Yahoo Forum

Buddy Gregg Motorhomes

John Bleakley Motorhomes

Holland Motorhomes

Parliament Coach

Coachcraft by MacDonald

Bird Connection

Bird Maps

Bye Buy Bluebird

Classic Coachworks

Hydronic Heating Forum

Blue Bird Gear (Clothing etc.)

RV Electric Information

RV Mechanic Online

Blue Bird Customer Access

Camping World

Dupree Products

RV Stuff USARV Toy Outlet

RV Upgrade Store

West Marine

RV'ers Online

Roadside America

Great Storage Tip: submitted by Ron Rueckwald



Ron Rueckwald writes: We found that Gordon Food Service bulk containers in which we get nuts, malt balls, choc covered raisins, trail mix, etc. fit our pantry slide out shelves perfectly. Four fit on a shelf. These containers are too good to throw out, so we have saved them, removed the labels.



Classifieds: Submitted by Shane Fedeli

1997 Wanderlodge WB 43' 500 HP Detroit Diesel; Low mileage (20,000) like new inside; garage kept; will sleep four: has private, separate bathroom and full master bedroom; many amenities;. Located in Long Valley, NJ. Priced at \$150,000. For more information contact Bernard Peach at bwpeach@gmail.com or by phone at 908-852-1755.







1985 Wanderlodge FC35 Rear Bath CAT 3208 Turbo Diesel 250 HP. Original Blue over Cream paint in great condition with no rust. Interior is in excellent condition with new upholstery and carpet runners. Located in Phoenix, AZ. Reduced to \$21,500. For more information contact Dave at dpsouthwest@aol.com







1984 1/2 PT40 Newly rebuilt engine. Road ready. All Bluebird options. New appliances. Selling due to health issues. Contact Marge or Joe Zakowski at mjzakowski@juno.com for additional pictures and information. Asking \$40,000. Bus located in Northern Indiana







1985 Wanderlodge PT36 6V92, 330 HP. My vision is failing and unfortunately we have to sell the coach. It has been stored inside when not in use. No pets, many whistles and bells- too numerous to list. Call Reggie and Marty Pryor at 740-653-6489. Coach is located in Lancaster, OH See Photos Next Page

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1990 SP-36 Wanderlodge 137,000 miles. 3208 CAT 300 hp with 3200 engine hrs. Coach is in fair condition inside and out. Priced at \$39,000; Contact Robert Erath at robertwerath@aol.com with any questions







1984 Wanderlodge PT36 6V92, with an Allison 5 speed transmission, Jake brake with tag axle, tires are new except tag. Coach has 134,000 miles on it with all of the usual Bluebird options. We have owned this coach for 9 years and do not want to travel any more. Asking only \$34,000. Coach is currently in Oregon. Please CALL Theresa Aland for more information at 541-444-2181 before 8 pm







1996 Wanderlodge WB42 Approximately 102k miles on a series 60 Detroit 470 HP with Jake brake and Allison World 6 speed transmission. 15KW Powertech generator with auto start has 1038 hours. This coach was the Wanderlodge show coach for the 1996 FMCA summer convention and has lots of special lighting and extra features. This unit is in very good condition and everything works.. Asking \$102,000. For more information, contact George Fox at 509-215-0367 or at doszorros@hotmail.com See Photos Next Page







1982 FC35 Bluebird Wanderlodge Originally owned by Shell Oil. Rust free - always garaged. Entire interior and exterior modernized. All new upholstery and curtains. Oak laminate flooring. All table surfaces redone in real oak with solid oak trim. All electronics updated including generator controls. Many other upgrades, improvements and goodies that make this rust free motorhome very special. Asking \$42,000. Contact Bob Rosenberg at rincon1938@gmail.com or feel free to call me at 607-435-6402.







1988 PT40 Wanderlodge Last year of the classic all steel body! 8V92 Engine, Alison Automatic Transmission. Only 118,000 Miles. This coach was ordered without the typical "airline" cabinets in the front of the coach, instead it has track lighting in the front making the front of the coach much more roomy than the typical PT40. Rebuilt Fridge, ice maker, instant hot water, Corian counter tops & table top, Hardwood flooring in kitchen, walk through bathroom with tile flooring, porcelain toilet, and much more. Asking \$55,000. For More information, Contact Tom Clouse at (509) 521-9334 or at <a href="https://hocs.ncb/hoc



1992 Bluebird Wanderlodge WB40 92,000 original miles, 8V92. Coach is in excellent shape and priced at \$70,000. Contact Bob Bell at 248-866-1068 or at gairab@aol.com. See Photos Next Page

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1984 PT40 Bluebird Wanderlodge 6V92, 325 HP, Allison MT654-CR 5 Speed Automatic with Retarder, All appliances are in excellent working order. Complete set of manuals including 'Blue Box'. Less than 5K miles on NEW brakes and suspension air-bags all the way around. Coach is very clean, never been smoked in and has been meticulously maintained. \$42,500. For More information Contact Brian Prinkki at 626-536-1719 or by E-mail at brian@remotetechs.net. Coach is located in Monrovia, CA







1979 FC33 SB Wanderlodge Asking \$14,000, Coach is in good condition, located in Atlanta, Georgia. Contact Suzette Wright for more info at (301) 440-4301 or by email at Suzette.Wright@faa.gov







1994 Wanderlodge WB40 95,000 miles, Detroit Diesel 8V92 w/Bulk Oil Fill, Allison HT-755 Transmission, 15 KW Power Tech Generator. Exterior Platinum/Black with Aqua, Rose and Purple Highlights; Interior is Black and Cream, White Laminate Cabinets w/ Corian Countertops and White Ceramic Tiled Floor with Carpet Inlay in Living Area, White Leather Dinette and Sofa. Walk thru bath with private toilet, Cross island bed, ½ booth dinette w/ free standing chair, Asking \$85,000, Will Negotiate. Contact Joe at 715-559-5947 or by email at nrausch.rn@gmail.com See Photos Next Page







1984 FC35 SB Wanderlodge 124,875 miles, Coach is in very good condition. Asking \$30,000. For questions/ additional info, contact Howard Smith at 803-568-4755 or by email at howlyn@pbtcomm.net





1981 Wanderlodge FC 35 Rear Bath 3208 turbo Diesel Caterpillar Engine. 500 Allison 4 speed automatic transmission. 10 kW 4 cyl diesel generator. 65,000 miles on coach, about 50,000 miles on the engine. Sleeps 6, large rear bathroom across the back of the bus with tub & shower. Asking \$27,500. Contact Norm Wobschall at 507-456-3728 or at normco3@yahoo.com for more photos and info.







2000 Wanderlodge LXI 97,000 miles. 500 HP Series 60 Detroit Engine. Allison transmission w/ Jacobs Engine Retarder, Kitchen single slide, 260 gal. fuel / 48 gal. LPG, 150 gal. fresh water, 160 gal. grey & black water, 3 roof air ac's, Aquahot & electric heat,. Asking \$194,000. Contact Richard Ramsey at yeamar49@yahoo.com or by phone at 850-447-1700.







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1984 PT40 Bluebird Wanderlodge 6V92TAC 325 HP Allison MT654-CR 5 Speed Automatic with Retarder. 234,010 miles showing on odometer. Original engine was replaced with a Detroit Diesel factory remanufactured Silver Series 6V92TAC at around 153,000 miles due to a spun bearing, 6 new batteries installed in December 2009. Complete set of manuals including a full set of electrical schematics (full size drawings) and Asking \$47,500. Contact Page Britt at KE4WKL@gmail.com or by phone at 850-528-6862









1997 Wanderlodge BMC 40' Coach has approximately 74,000 miles on the Spartan K-3 chassis with Cummins M-11 and Allison 4060 transmission + engine brake Front-end bra. Driver side couch was recovered in cloth by Muriel, Ft. Valley in 2008. Other couch is leather. Chassis is fully serviced and ready to go. Asking \$95,000. Contact Michael Brody at 772-463-1078 or by email at mibrody@msn.com







1991 Wanderlodge PT40 WB- 8V92 engine, Allison 5 speed transmission w/retarder. Coach is in excellent shape and road-ready for \$105,000 OBO. Coach located in Newton, GA. Call Kathy or Steve Enfinger at (229)–881–1720 or by email at klenfin-ger@gmail.com







NOVEMBER, 2010

BLUE BIRD CHAPTER OF FMCA, LLC

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Send your article contributions to: Newsletter@BlueBirdChapter.org



3590 Round Bottom Road

Cincinnati, OH 45244

The Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA, AKA, the Family of Friends was Chartered July 15,1975. The general purpose of the Blue Bird Chapter is to promote the goals and objectives of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) and to operate within the guidelines of the FMCA. The specific purpose of this Chapter is to promote fellowship, camaraderie, cooperation and enjoyment of Blue Bird Wanderlodge and BMC coaches by their owners. The Chapter plans rallies and other social events that promote solidarity and friendship through lifestyles shared by these owners. Members help each other by sharing knowledge and promoting the travel and lifestyle these fine machines make possible. If you presently own a Blue Bird Wanderlodge or BMC motor coach, your ownership will be enhanced by filling out the application below. We look forward to you joining this unique and international "Family of Friends". If already a member we appreciate your continued support and welcome your comments, newsletter contributions and volunteer assistance.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL / CHANGE FORM

Click Here To Fill Out On Line.

cludes two name badges BIRD CHAPTER of FMC		New Application	are \$25 per year. Make check payable to the BLUI New Application \$50.00 Renewal \$25.00	
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LAST NAME				
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CITY/STATE/ZIP				
E-MAIL ADDRESS				
		CELL #		
OFFICE NUMBER		COACH #		
PLEASE PRINT FIRST A (New Applications Only)	AND LAST NAMES AS	YOU WANT THEM TO APPEAR ON YOU	JR CLUB BADGES:	
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2ND BADGE				
PLEASE RETURN Blue Bird Chapter	FORM TO:	Print, Fill Out and	Mail <u>OR</u>	

You must be a member of the FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION. Your club application fee is \$50 which in-

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