

Letter From the President

It seems like the last mega rally was just a few months ago but in fact it is already time to start prepping for the next one. Mega 2014 is just around the corner. I fear a few of us will be bolting in the engine just in time to test drive to Missouri. Some of my best trips are when the coach got put back together the day before the big trip.

Still working on some big modifications plans to the drive train of one of my FMC's. Plan is to remove the 440-I and replace it with a 1971 Chrysler 413HT heavy duty truck engine. There is a long list of improvements over the 440 engine. This engine is made to pull heavy loads and last. Having the peak torque at lower engine speed will come in handy when running down the road with a special built Chrysler overdrive transmission dropping the engine speed down to 69% of the normal cruising

speed.

Another coach owner is planning to use his 440 short block with everything else from the 413HT engine along with the same overdrive transmission.

I have talked with 2 other coach owners that have an overdrive transmission bolted to their 440. Both those coaches use a different procedure to fit their transmission.

I hope to be running this package to the rally. If so I will have some fresh data to share. The caravan routes will be forming soon so talk with other FMC'ers and get your 2014 mega rally plans started.

Bill Sitton , President .

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Modified HD transmission with Overdrive.

The Gold Beach rally was, undeniably, a resounding success

First of all was the attendance: the rally, which started on Friday, July 26th and ended on Sunday the 28th, was graced with the presence of Jim Woestman, Stephen Heinrichs, the Camryes, the Lumibaos, Larry Enoksen, the Marshalls, Michael Metsch & Alice Kamm, the Hannevigs, and the Millers. Plenty to make the event a fun one!

And then, of course, were the activities.

To start with, our gathering areas, either outside of the Millers' coach or on the wooden party area shaded by large trees, all had a beautiful view of the Rogue River. One of the most enjoyable parts of this view was the entertainment it came with: watching as Osprey hunted fish while enjoying some smoked salmon and fresh crab of your own caught and prepared by the Lumibao's.



When the relaxation got boring, however, there was another option; Jerry's Rogue River Jets, a company that has been offering rides up and down the Rogue River since 1958. We were lucky to have a pilot, one of the grandsons of the original founder, Jerry, who was not afraid of getting the passengers a little wet—or maybe a lot wet—per one of the passenger's request. The identity of said passenger remains in debate.

Despite the soaking we got, we were able to see the beautiful views along the Rogue River, along with plenty of wildlife, like otters, bald eagle nests, and, yes, more Osprey. Lunch was spent at one of three options; the Singing Springs Resort for BBQ, the Cougar Lane Lodge for a nice café, or the Lucas Lodge for family style. Our pilot explained the history of the Rogue River as we rode along, including some—shall we say—*embellished* anecdotes from some of his previous rides. All together, it made for an especially fun experience!

All in all, the Gold Beach rally was fun, relaxing, and beautiful, with plenty of activities for the whole family. I think that all those who attended will agree—it is definitely a place worth revisiting!



n by Ruth Miller

More rally pictures.



Ruth Miller, the next FMC generation!



The group headed up the Roque River.



Due to the speed of the boat, Carlton is hanging on to his hat.



The river flowed over the deck of this bridge in the year of the highest recorded flow.



..... and sometimes it got a little wet in the rear!!!



Then once, it got REALLY wet up front!



*An FMC can take you to wonderful places.
The white tags on the left are high water marks!*



Time for the business meeting lead by Greg M.



Young and mature attended the meeting.



Snacks helped the meeting progress.



Members enjoying visiting and discussing things.



The meeting was followed by a potluck dinner.



Ed was here and enjoying a slice of pie.....



.....but, was this the chair reserved for YOU?

Editor's note: All of the people in these pictures are identified in the Photo Album for the rally located on the club's website. Here is the link to these and many more pictures:

<http://www.fmcowners.com/mbbs22/photos/photo-thumbnails.asp?albumid=111>

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What Owning A Classic FMC Motor Coach Means To Me

It is difficult to prioritize, but one of the first things that comes to my mind about our FMC is we have a nice RV and can go camping on very short notice. It is a comfortable, reliable, self contained coach that we can make for a quick trip to the lake, the next state over to visit friends and family or cross country for a rally or an extended vacation. Just about everything we need for a night, a month or whatever we decide to do. No tent, no sleeping on the ground or at a motel.

Next has to be the uniqueness and timeless design and shape. Every time we set up at a campground fellow campers are drawn to the coach. Occasionally old-timers will remember them and the conversation goes on. Even stopping for fuel will usually get at least a few comments and nearly everyone is surprised that it is nearly 40 years old. Each coach is unique, modified and upgraded depending on the owners and/or previous owners taste, talents and budget. There are very few original coaches still around.

Pride of ownership has to be mentioned. Our coach is right out the back door and I am usually in and out of it several times a week, it seem like there is always something to do. Sometimes just for a quiet place and time. It is meant to be used, appreciated and cherished. All FMC Owners are family and share their experiences and expertise to fix problems and share best practices. Sound FMC Owners Club leadership, camaraderie and good member participation tie everything together. Our love for family camping, the great outdoors, the night sky and all of God's creations is an article for another time.



By Denny Shewmake, FMC East Vice President

The Mega, Mega Rally – South Central Six State FMCA Rally

For all of you who have never been to a big FMCA Rally, you have really missed something. Ken and I have been to several, and each one is fun and educational. We make lots of new friends and renew many acquaintances.

In September we went to the Six-State Rally (also known as the South Central Six-State Rally Association of FMCA). At the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, MO there were about 500 motor coaches. This was not the biggest rally we have been to but never the less we had a great time. The Six-States are geographically the South Central Area including, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. We also belong to the “Rally in the Pasture Chapter” which is part of the South Central Area.



Lynn, on right, doing crafts.



There were the Big Boys and then there was classic FMC!



Our FMCA Motor Coach Owners Club Chapter belongs to the International Area. Last March we went to their rally in Tucson, AZ. We were disappointed that we could not get any other FMC owners to join us at these rallies and make it a mini rally. At this point most of the work is done. All we have to do plan a few activities for ourselves as a club, and we have a rally.

Activities that went on were breakfast every morning while being entertained by the Frustrated Maestros-South Central chapter. There is a Frustrated Maestros chapter in every one of the Geographical Area Groups except for the International Area.



The Frustrated Maestro's

There are many vendors of all kinds. Outside there are numerous new coaches to look at and of course you can buy a new one. We saw a couple that bought one and moved out of their old one and into their new one right there.

Inside the vendor buildings there were many different types of vendors selling their wares. Many of the vendors also presented seminars. A few of them were “What Insurance Do I Really Need as an RVer ?”, put on by C&C Marketing and Insurance; “Tire Safety & Tire Pressure Monitoring systems”, by Lawrence RV Accessories, Inc.; and “What is Auxiliary Breaking & Why Do I Need It”, by Blue Ox. There were about 2 dozen all together put on by the vendors. Of course it is their job to sell their goods. And they do have many good things that you may want or need.



The FMCA also sponsored numerous seminars, to name a few were “Chapter Officers Roundtable”, “ Escaping an RV”, “Help, I don’t Talk Computer”, “Newsletter Idea Exchange”, “Fire and Life Safety in Your RV”, “RV Care 101”, and one I went to the “Chapter Secretary Forum”. There were several other good ones also but you could never get to all of them.

The one on Escaping an RV had to do with what to do in a fire. Ken and I did this one in Tucson. They talk about safety when there is a fire and how to get out. They actually show how to push out the fire windows and have the women climb out the window of an RV. This is

Ken trying to decide: Seminar or Nap?

a new seminar and will be presented at every FMCA Area Rally (as I understand). I recommend everyone go to one.

There were a few other seminars also on different crafts. I taught one and then attended several others. Love it! There is also a Red Hat luncheon, (a secret.....you do not have to be a Red Hat member to go).

There were so many things to do, after 4 days I was exhausted. But it was great fun.

Lynn Clugston, #705
Sec/Treas



There was a quilt display. This is a picture of a Six State Rally Quilt that is being made. Each FMCA club in the Six States is making a quilt Square with their chapter name on it.

Gold Beach Rally Guest

On Friday evening of the Gold Beach Rally, we were honored to have the newly elected President of the International Area (INTO) attend our rally. Al Vormittag, and his wife Bobbi, drove a couple of hours from where they were camped to join the FMC Club gathering. This is their third visit to one of our gatherings. Al gave us an update of a few of the things happening at the FMCA level. A major one is that the new FMCA President and leadership group is taking action to make the organization more responsive to the needs and wants of today’s membership. An immediate change that affects our area of FMCA is that the INTO Area newsletter has been revived. A link to it is on the club website. Note that the visit to our rally is the lead item. Here is where the links to the INTO newsletters can be found on our website.

<http://www.fmcowners.com/mbbs22/forums/forum-view.asp?fid=43>

The October newsletter has the information on the upcoming INTO rally next spring in Tennessee. If you are East or West of the Mississippi River join Ken and Lynn at that rally.

FMC's and Friends Go Camping



Crossing the bridge in Downieville on the way to Sierra City – yes the coach fit!

During August of this year an informal FMC and Friends Rally was held in Sierra City. FMC 888 (Camrye) and 986 (Enoksen) teamed up with friends of the Camrye's to head up to Sierra City, CA campground, Wild Plum, to enjoy a weekend in the outdoors. Five families were represented with sites near each other.

Camping next to a stream, they were able to fish (though no one caught anything!) camp, hike and generally socialize around the campfire.

Most of Saturday was spent at Salmon Lake, chilling on the beach while watching the kids swim. The kids practically lived in the water. Baby (Enoksen's pooch) met open water and learned to swim for the first time. Ducks wandered around the area and teased Dinali (Tom's dog), who was restrained by her mother, and when loose, couldn't swim quite as fast as the ducks!



On the way going through Sierra City



The best spots

Some of the group took to fishing at the lake, though not with much success. Others, rested and



Teaching Baby to swim!

enjoyed the comfortable weather. Instead of the 100 plus temperatures in the valley, we had low 80 temps with pleasant breezes wafting through the trees.



Breakfast at the Camrye's

After a day of swimming, everyone voted to stop for a lick of ice cream at Bassets. Tom needed gas in his coach, so he decided to "Top her off" before going back to the campground for the evening.

The only thing to mar the camping trip was the fire to the south of the Tahoe region with the smoke creating a cloud-like sky.

Sunday, everyone headed – reluctantly – home, but not before a decision was made to do it again. Soon!



Swimin' and soaking in Salmon Lake



Nuntawan and Carlton Camrye with Baby and Samson.



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FMC Owners Club



Our objectives are to develop camaraderie, pride in owning a unique and wonderful coach, sharing knowledge in an open exchange of technical information on maintaining, upgrading, parts and service. We need to be passionate about owning, driving and working on our FMC Motor Coach.

A high priority is to keep fun in FMC Motor Coach ownership. We are a fun-loving, family-oriented group and will produce and promote events that will include the entire family.



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