



FMCA
Your RVing Family

EASTERN AREA OF FMCA

Winter 2024 Newsletter

Welcome 2024! 2023 is in the books and we all look forward to a great 2024 with lots of fun, travels, meeting up with old friends, and making some new ones, too. No better way to do these than being part of a chapter and going to rallies. The best part of being the President of the Eastern Area is going to chapter rallies. I meet the nicest people! If you don't belong to a chapter, check out a chapter that is geographically convenient or a Chapter that formed with members sharing a special interest that you have too. The Eastern Area has 30 chapters. If you can't find a chapter, join some friends and create your own!

November 2023 Eric and I left Lewisburg after GEAR (Great Eastern Area Rally) came to a close. We went home for some much-needed rest but headed south on Halloween day for the GMC Dixielanders chapter's 35th anniversary. It was amazing to see so many GMCs at the Holiday Travel Park of Chattanooga. Each coach was special and unique. I definitely have a new appreciation for these RVs and their owners after spending a weekend with them.



Chapter Founders: Ray Bingham, Marti Samsel and Roscoe



35th Anniversary Certificate: Mark Kalinowski, Treasurer',

me', Russell Nix, Vice President', Cindy Michelhaugh, President



The GMC Dixielanders!



The rally was well attended, and like other chapter rallies, there was a lot of good eating. Russel Nix, chapter VP, is a talented chef who cooked "Low Country Boil," BBQ, and 3 breakfasts for everyone. The group had the opportunity to see local sites, including Chickamauga Battlefield for a ranger-guided tour. This group likes to play games (I was taught a card game, Hand & Foot), do crafts, and share their knowledge on GMCs and RVing. Looks like a "rolling rally" is in the works for Mineola, Texas, this coming April. The chapter business meeting was held, with the election of new officers. Congratulations to Bill Kittredge, the chapter's new President!



Russell and his helpers making Low Country Boil



An uncommon view from our RV

We left the GMC Dixielanders chapter feeling we had gained new friends, an appreciation of the GMC motorhome, and a few extra pounds. We headed east toward Raleigh, NC. On the way we stopped in Fletcher, NC, at the Western NC Agriculture Center, the site for **GEAR 2024**. This is a great location to have a grand time! We stopped at the visitors center in both Hendersonville and Asheville. There is a lot to see and do. More on **GEAR 2024** later.

Our travels continued to Oaks RV Resort to join in the Carolina Heartlanders 20th Anniversary celebration. The rally started 11/8, Wednesday afternoon. Chris Holtzman, Eastern Area South Region VP, and his wife, Nancy, were already at the campground by the time we arrived. Happy hour was followed by dinner of chili beans and hot dogs. The annual business meeting was held with the election of officers for 2024.

David Kiser was re-elected chapter President. Congratulations, David!



Happy hour and enjoying the time with friends



David Kiser holds the certificate with Chris Holtzman & me





The ladies in the kitchen working their magic!

This chapter enjoys hanging out together, good food (the brisket and chicken were great, and Eric thought the grits were the best he ever had), playing games (music bingo and cards), crafts, music, dancing, and checking out the local area. Eric and I visited Nahunta Pork



Outlet, which was recommended.

We'd never seen so much pork and we bought a lot, but unfortunately our re-frigerator space restricted our shopping!



Music with Duster and dancing the night away!



On November 8, 2023, having traveled more than 13,000 miles in our motorhome this year, we had it inspected. Then we winterized it and parked it in the backyard. Our next outing will be to Tucson, AZ, for the 108th International Convention & RV Expo.

Plans are underway for **GEAR 2024** in Fletcher, NC (greater Asheville Area), October 23-27, 2024. Thank you all who voted on a theme. "Autumn in the Appalachians" won with 90 votes. We had 259 voters go to our website fmca-ea.com - and submit one or two votes for their favorite "Theme." Registration should be open this April. Go to fmca-ea.com for updates.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

2024 Chapter Anniversaries

- March 2024, 20 Year Anniversary Carolina Pelicans
- April 2024, 20 Year Anniversary Foothills Travelers
- May 2024, 20 Year Anniversary Tennessee Travelers
- May 2024, 30 Year Anniversary Bay Travelers
- June 2024, 15 Year Anniversary Tiffin Travelers
- July 2024, 55 Year Anniversary !!!!!

Capitol

Dixie Traveliers

Penn Coachmen

Phyllis Britz, President Eastern Area
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Senior Vice President

Eastern Area

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a wonderful 2023 and is looking forward to all the rallies, seeing friends, and especially attending GEAR at the Western NC Ag. Center in Fletcher, NC, in October. I have been busy since getting elected as Sr. VP of EAMA. I attended the Christmas rally of the Carolina Drifters at the Barnyard RV Park in Lexington, SC, with Chris Holtzman. We welcomed them as a new chapter of FMCA.

Jim Giffin and I, as members of the search committee for GEAR 2025, visited Ocean Lakes RV Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC, twice. The second visit was to the Freightliner Rally at Ocean Lakes to get an idea how this venue would work for GEAR 2025. I have also contacted three other venues that may be candidates for GEAR 2025 sites. As of the end of 2023, I have only heard from one so far.

I have signed two entertainment acts for GEAR 2024 and am working on a third. They will be announced at a later date, and I feel everyone will enjoy the performers.

Zoom meetings with the EAMA Board of Directors is are important for to discussing ways to improve EAMA and for communicating with the EA chapters. I have attended all these monthly meetings.

While all this was going on, Jan and I bought a new Tiffin motorhome and are working the bugs out. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have the obligatory visit to Red Bay, Alabama, under our belts.

Recruitment of new members to FMCA and our local chapters is essential to keeping FMCA strong and growing. Please talk to fellow RVers you meet who are not members of FMCA and apprise them of the benefits and perks of FMCA. If you recruit a new member, you will get a bonus of a free year of membership added to your current membership. All the benefits of FMCA are listed in the January issue of *Family RVing* for your information.

I also want to thank my wife, Jan, for all her support in this endeavor.

Have a safe and happy New Year!

David Fowler F456109
Senior Vice President
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Western Region

Hello from the Western Region of EAMA. The holidays are over and we have finally gotten decorations put away. Sunny Florida has been cold and wet, but nothing in compare is on the Eastern area temperatures and snow fall.

I plan on visiting with the Tennessee Travelers in May. And then I will head to Asheville, NC, for the GEAR planning meeting.

Please send me your rally schedules, so I can come and join you. If you have any questions or concerns, please call, text, or email me. Hope to hear from you soon.

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Western Region VP
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Northern Region

Hello FMCA Family,

We have started the new year with weather we have not seen in a couple of years. Snow, ice, and extremely low temperatures are here to stay in Pennsylvania for a while. Larry and I do not mind the snow and the temperatures; however, the ice is a different beast. Even Abby, our dalmatian, has her coat and hat on. Even though it's cold, we are starting to get in gear for FMCA camping season.

At the end of 2023 it was nice to share our FMCA family with Larry's sister from Wyoming. She was able to attend a Christmas get-together with the Penn Coachmen at Shady Maple Restaurant. The following weekend we spent time with First State Travelers at Mission BBQ.

What an accomplishment for two chapters this year, we will celebrate two anniversaries. The Capitol chapter will celebrate 55 years in Lancaster, PA, and Penn Coachmen will celebrate 55 years. Rumor has it Penn Coachmen will be celebrating at each rally.

Larry and I are eagerly preparing for camping season to see our FMCA family. Our first rally will be with the First State Travelers at Lums Pond in Delaware. From there we will travel to the MS session in Goshen, Indiana, and then on to Fletcher, NC, to help prepare for GEAR 2024. We will return home just in time to be co-rally coordinators for Penn Coachmen's rally in Lancaster, PA, at Old Mill Stream. I hear the Dogwood chapter will be attending also. This should be a fun time. Larry and I plan on taking the group to a real buggy manufacturing shop for a tour by a personal Amish friend. We are excited to share our personal experiences of the Amish with our FMCA friends.

We are looking forward to getting together with our other chapters in the Northern Region Eastern Area.

I received a call from a couple in Virginia who we met while working at the Hershey RV Show in September. At that time, they were only looking. They called and wanted to join FMCA because they were purchasing their first RV. See, talking to others does work.

Remember to check out the website www.fmca-ea.com

We hope to "see you down the road."

Safe travels,

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Northern Region Regional VP
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SOUTHERN REGION

Happy New Year to everyone. I certainly hope everyone had a great holiday season. Now that the holidays are over, it is time to turn our attention to the other fun thing we do, FMCA and travel. Look at your rally schedule as soon as possible and please forward it to me so I can plan my schedule.

2023 was a great year rally-wise with different chapters. In November Phyliss and I spent some time with the Carolina Heartlanders in the Raleigh Oaks Campground. It was their 20th anniversary, and they were out to celebrate. It was a great weekend and a great facility, and David Kiser and his group did a super job. Thanks to David.

Just a couple weeks later I joined the Carolinas Pelicans and 40 more coaches for the Christmas rally at the Hideaway Campground in Socastee, SC. It was a great rally and was hosted by Jim Giffin and his group. They elected new officers. We were sorry to lose Dave Fowler as president of the Pelicans but are certainly glad to have him as our senior VP of the EAMA group. Welcome aboard, Dave, and we are looking forward to working with you.

A week later found Dave Fowler (breaking him in early) and myself in Columbia, SC, at the Barnyard campground welcoming and bringing in a brand-new chapter, the Carolina Drifters, with Gary Lyons as President. I am really excited over this addition to our chapter family as I think they have a lot to bring to the group. They come from a long-established Good Sam group, and Dave and I spent a lot of time explaining the FMCA way. Welcome aboard, Carolina Drifters.

Those of you who are going to Florida this year, be safe and enjoy your stay. Nancy and I will not be traveling with you this year. We have other plans later in the year. Have a great couple of cold months, and get me your rally schedules as soon as possible. We have several anniversaries coming up; please get me your plans and dates. Be safe, have fun, and remember, its all about having fun.

Chris Holtzman F388492
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CENTRAL REGION VP

Happy New Year, y'all! Kicking off 2024, I'm doing a little advertising for this incredible organization. Arming my Jeep toad with applications for national and local chapters, I'm ready for anyone who may be interested in joining our family! If anyone is interested in learning more about this advertising campaign, reach out to me. I'll be glad to share how and how much.



In December, along with two other Dogwood members, we hosted our December Christmas outing at the American Heritage campground in Williamsburg, VA. Had an incredible 24 coaches in attendance! Activities and food both in abundance; we enjoyed pickleball, a scavenger hunt, a Christmas decorations contest, and a thieves gift exchange with the big man himself visiting! Oh, did I mention food? Lots of catching up with members' yearly travels and plans forthcoming. This year I look forward to visiting with the chapters I have. My first visit is in Feb. And of course, it's never too early to work on plans for GEAR 2024!



Lynn Nelson F523470
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EASTERN AREA CHAPTERS BY REGION

<p>Northern Region</p> <p>Clarissa Sherrow, Regional VP Csherrow@zoominternet.net</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 20th Century Wagontrainers (NJ, PA) 2. Allegheny Mountain (PA) 3. GMC Colonial Travelers (PA) 4. Capitol (MD) 5. First State Travelers (DE) 6. Friendly Maryland Travelers (MD) 7. Penn Coachmen (PA & nearby states) 	<p>Central Region</p> <p>Lynn Nelson, Regional VP LNVB1956@outlook.com</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bay Travelers (Mid-Atlantic) 2. Cardinal Virginians (VA) 3. Colonial Virginians (VA) 4. Dogwood (VA) 5. Elizabeth River Going Strong (VA) 6. Mountaineer (WV)
<p>Southern Region</p> <p>Chris Holtzman, Regional VP Cnholtz6524@aol.com</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carolina Cruisers (SC) 2. Carolina Drifters (SC) 3. Carolina Heartlanders (NC, SC) 4. Carolina Pelicans (SC) 5. Coastal Tarheels (NC) 6. Dixie Traveliers (NC) 7. Foothills Travelers (SC, Western NC) 	<p>Western Region</p> <p>Garnetta Mallory, Regional VP g34748mallory@gmail.com</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cumberland Travelers (TN, AL, KY) 2. GMC Dixielanders (KY, TN, NC, SC, AL, GA, MS) 3. Happy Tennessee Travelers (TN) 4. Tennessee Travelers (TN) 5. KY Horse Shu Kru (KY)

Eastern Area

Phyllis Britz EAMA President (pbritz@fmca.com)

1. Coaches for Christ Eastern
2. Eastern Gourmands
3. Frustrated Maestros Eastern Sharps and Flats
4. Rolling Red Hatters
5. Tiffin Travelers



FMCA's 108th International Convention & RV Expo, Tucson, AZ
March 20-23, 2024

Southeast Area Rally
February 07-10, 2024
Lakeland, FL

International Area Rally
May 17-21, 2024
Muskogee, OK

Northeast Area Rally
July 10-13, 2024
Frankfort, NY

Great Lakes Area Rally
June 05-09, 2024
Greenville, OH

Midwest Area Rally
July 24-27, 2024
Amana, IA

GEAR 2024 Save the date: October 23-27, 2024. Western North Carolina
Agricultural Center, Fletcher NC (Greater Asheville Area)

We Have Our Theme! "Autumn in the Appalachians"

Thank you!

Stay tuned. Updates found at fmca-ea.com

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