



FMCA
Your RVing Family

EASTERN AREA OF FMCA

Summer 2024 Newsletter.

Phyllis Britz President

It's been Hot, Hot, Hot and Eric and I have been on the go, go, go, picking up where we left off with the Spring Newsletter.

April 22-24, we had the opportunity to visit with a group working at starting a new chapter. This group is spear-headed by Nancy Craig who organized a gathering at Tom Johnson Campground in Marion, NC. We shared meals, stories and ideas on how to grow a chapter. This get together was a good start and I'm pleased to announce that *The Over the Mountain Chapter* is officially an associate chapter! They



Over The Mountain first gathering

are looking for members so if you are interested

and want more information, contact Nancy Craig, Chapter President at 716-432-6238 or nancycraigbbi@gmail.com.



Over The Mountains Adventures area

April 25 to April 28 was a visit to the Foothills Travelers chapter at WillowTree RV Resort in North Myrtle Beach, SC, to celebrate their 20th anniversary. They had a great turnout for this

celebration and the chapter is growing with 8 new families joining this past year. We had great food and fun! Eric and I were joined at the celebration by Dave Fowler EAMA Sr. VP, and Chris Holtzman Southern Region VP.



Foothill Travelers group picture at WillowTree





Chapter President, Larry Lawson and his wife, Patt, along with rally hosts Rod and Jane Block, made everyone feel like part of the family. You really felt like family when Larry had his own version of “White Elephant” take away a gift. Some popular gifts were snatched away from their temporary owners several times.



Mid-May we were back in North Carolina. A planning meeting for the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) at the WNC Ag Center in Fletcher was held. The Executive Board and some of the Chairs and Co-Chairs of various volunteer areas attended to get familiar with the grounds and the buildings. We met with the WNC Ag Center Assistant Manager, the sound person for entertainment, and Convention Makers who will set up the buildings. Parking will be a challenge and the Chair and Co-Chair of parking and others toured the grounds.

Central Regional VP Lynn Nelson found a good location for pickleball, while Clarissa Sherrow, Northern Regional VP, sought out places nearby for touring. Of course, we had time to have a social gathering and share a meal.



Planning meeting



June 6-9, 2024, we traveled to Mifflintown, PA, where the Buttonwood Campground can be found along the Juanita River. This was the location where the Bay Travelers gathered to celebrate their 30th Anniversary. Bruce and Mary List hosted the rally at their coach. This group got together for breakfast each day and Happy Hour every afternoon. A catered lasagna dinner was provided on Saturday evening. Earlier a chapter business meeting was held in which Steve Tessier was elected as the new chapter President. Outgoing President Teri Butson and husband Tom were present, but this was bittersweet as the Butson's are trying to sell their coach.



Bay Travelers at their business meeting



Teri Butson, me & Steve Tessiler



Bay Travelers group picture

June 17 -20 found us at Don Laine Campground in Palmerton, PA ,attending our home chapter, the Penn Coachmen rally. Bob and Lynda Bucklew were first-time rally master's, and they did a super job. It was very HOT, but everyone enjoyed the fellowship, fun, and of course, food. A group took a trolley ride through Jim Thorpe. Some took bike rides while some went to the pool for a swim.



Fun, Friends and food!



Hot trolley ride @ Jim Thorpe with grandkids

It's **July** already and the Northeast Area Rally "Trails Along the Mohawk," was held July 10-13 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds, Frankfort, NY. Bill Newton, Northeast Area President, and his wife, Roz, were Rally Masters.

They were busy making sure everyone had fun. They had seminars, the Ladies Luncheon, Chapter Fair, Chapter Block Parties, Line Dancing workshop, Ice Cream Social, Hot dog Social, Pup Parade, vendors and an Auction in addition to the evening entertainment. They also kept Eric and me busy! We felt right at home. Saturday while the Northeast members met for their annual meeting, Eric and I took the time to take advantage of one of the attractions nearby, the Erie Canal. That was a nice experience!



Roz & Bill Newton— a rare sight-sitting



John Aukema auctioning many items



The Capitol Chapter group
Picture



Penn Coachmen Block Party



July 18-21, 2024

We're back at Old Mill Stream Campground in Lancaster, PA, to celebrate with the Capitol Chapter its 55th year Anniversary! I enjoy celebrating with chapters that have achieved this kind of milestone. The Capitol Chapter is the first of three chapters in the Eastern Area to celebrate 55 years this year. Penn Coachmen and the Dixie Traveliers will also reach 55 years as a chapter this year. Katie and Richard Taddeo coordinated the rally festivities. Activities included trips to a Farmers Market and a creamery, crafts, games, campfires and plenty of food. A business meeting was held Saturday, and a new chapter president, Joe Kromash, was elected. Saturday had several former members of the chapter visit for the day including Charlie Fauer, who was a charter member. Clarissa and Larry Sherrow gave the group an informative talk on the Amish to complete the day.



Steve Tessier, Immediate Past President and Joe Kromas, President of the Capitol Chapter

GEAR Update!

Registration has been open for about 2 months and full-hook up sites and electric sites sold out. It is likely there will be additional electric sites but these are not mapped out and we will sell these at the venue. Dry camping is still available. There are restrooms available in 3 buildings and showers in the Davis Bldg.

Wednesday night will be the “**GEAR Has Talent Show.**” This will be a great opportunity for folks to show off their talents. **DON'T BE SHY!** I know there is a lot of talent among our members. (See the flyer on the next page.) Thursday evening entertainment is “Carson Peters and the Iron Mountain Band”, Friday evening “The Synergy Twins,” and Saturday night “too MUCH SyLvIA.”

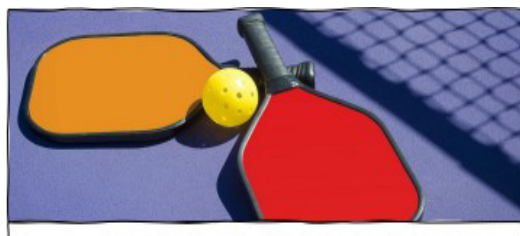
There will be **Craft classes** and a **Craft Show** on Saturday afternoon for members to sell their creations. If interested in teaching a craft or participating in the EAMA Craft Fair contact Lee Deal 757-560-1361.

New this year, there will be an **Artisan's Show**, that will have local artisans in an outside market-like area. If you are interested, want more information contact Lynn Nelson Central Region VP 757-651-3589 LNVB1956@outlook.com

This GEAR's Charity is Eblen Charities. They have many programs to assist the needy in the Asheville area and we will assist with their Saint Nicholas Project, where they make available Christmas gifts for needy families. Attendees are encouraged to donate toys, books and stocking stuffers for children and young adults. Age group from newborn to 18.

Dog parade. Calling all dog owners. Let's see you and your 4-legged family member(s) dress up in the spirit of the season. Renee Bingham is parade organizer and questions can be directed to Renee @ 804-350-3241

And since we're dressing up for the parade, let's decorate our RVs. Prizes will be awarded to the best Halloween decorated RV.



CALLING ALL PICKLEBALLERS!

We'll have Pickleball at GEAR and we'd love to start a Pickleball chapter. Plan on joining the FUN.

Greetings FMCA Pickleballers,

Annual Business meeting To be held Saturday morning. There will be an election for the Eastern Area Secretary position. Please consider joining the EAMA Executive team. Interested members contact the nominating committee.

Bill Mallory: 4windsacres@gmail.com

Dave Fowler: david.fowlereavp@gmail.com

Leon Witt: leonwhitt323@aol.com

FMCA's Eastern Area is collecting interested members to start a new Pickleball chapter!

If you are a current FMCA member and would like to participate in the formation of a brand-new chapter, become one of the original (OG') chapter charter members, and show off your game playing skills, please reply to this email or contact Mary Ann Dario directly.

Email - MDRN@HOTMAIL.COM

or

Mobile - 302-803-1090

G.E.A.R. — Great Eastern Area Rally

AUTUMN IN THE APPALACHIANS

OCTOBER 23-27, 2024

Western North Carolina Agricultural Center
Fletcher, North Carolina

RALLY HIGHLIGHTS

FIVE Nights – October 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26

Chapter Fair • 3 Evenings of Entertainment

Seminars • Book Swap • Dog Parade • Door Prizes

Pickleball • Ladies' Luncheon (\$) • Ice Cream Social

Crafts • Craft Show • Commercial Exhibits • Bingo

Bean Bag Baseball • Display RVs & More!

For updates, please visit www.fmca-ea.com

Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) Registration Form *Permanent changes to membership files cannot be made from this form.*

Member Number:	Last Name:	Pilot:	Co-Pilot:
Address: (If this address differs from your billing address, please call FMCA)		City:	State: Zip:
E-mail:	Telephone:	Cell Phone:	
RV Make:	RV License:	Length:	☐ First Time at a GEAR Area Rally?
Do You Belong to a Chapter? ☐ Yes <i>To park together, please arrive together</i>		Chapter Name:	
1. Guest/Child's Name/Age:		2. Guest/Child's Name/Age:	
		Hold At Will Call? ☐ Yes ☐ No	

Pre-Registration	Before 9/18	After 9/18	Qty	Total	Parking & Information
RV with Full Hookup, 2 Adults (limited) SOLD OUT!	\$ 390.00	\$ 410.00 SOLD OUT!		\$	Early Arrivals: There will be no early arrivals. Volunteer Parking: Monday, 10/21/2024 Regular Parking: Tuesday, 10/22/2024 Dry Camping: Generators between 7am-11pm.
RV with Electric, 2 Adults (limited)	\$ 375.00	\$ 395.00		\$	
RV Dry Camping, 2 Adults	\$ 250.00	\$ 270.00		\$	
RV with 1 Adult Deduct	- \$ 20.00	- \$ 20.00		\$	
RV with Additional Adult Add	+ \$ 20.00	+ \$ 20.00			
Children Under 13	FREE	FREE		FREE	☐ Yes <i>*State-issued handicap placard must be displayed in windshield</i>
Each Adult Passport [†]	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$	Volunteer Opportunities
Ladies' Luncheon – Saturday, Oct. 26 (No registration on site at GEAR)	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00		\$	
		Total		\$	Please check one Facilities (office) Activity Carts* Pilot Co-Pilot

† Passport has no RV parking; includes exhibits, entertainment, seminars, socials, and coffee hour.

Payment Information

Place Credit Card Registration: Online: www.fmca.com By Phone: (513) 474-3622 (800) 543-3622	Make checks payable in U.S. funds to FMC, Inc.	Return completed form and payment to: FMCA / ATTN: Eastern Area Rally 8291 Clough Pike Cincinnati, OH 45244-2796
Cancellation Policy	Rally Masters – Phyllis & Eric Britz (484) 599-0609 • pbritz@fmca.com	
Refunds for this rally will be made only upon written request to arearallies@fmca.com . Cancellations made by 10/20/24 will receive a full refund minus a \$25 handling fee.	Co-Rally Masters – David & Jan Fowler (843) 833-3197 • david.fowlereavp@gmail.com	

Questions about volunteering, please contact Sue Cipa (610) 334-3287 or sbc910@ptd.net

**Must have Golf Cart training*

Visit www.fmca-ea.com for more information

Got Talent ?

The Stage is Yours !

The first night of the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) 2024 in October will feature a Talent Show. Open to all FMCA mem-bers, it will be your time to shine on the main stage in the Davis Event Center. Singers, instrumentalists, acrobats, jugglers, magicians, stand-up comedians, bands such as bluegrass, polka, rock, and other talents we may not have even thought of:



Come One, Come All

Let's get the ball rolling

Contact

Ron Hazelett

Phone or Text: 330 701-7523

email: rohaze8@gmail.com



Ron is an active teacher and music director, so please leave your contact information if he is not available when you call.

The Spotlight is on YOU !

The Spotlight is on YOU !

Senior Vice President

Eastern Area

I want to take this opportunity to give a big Thank You to Phyllis Britz for taking the rein of the Eastern Area the last 2 plus years. She has given her time and ENERGY representing us at the National level and supporting local Chapters. It has been a real learning experience working with Phyllis. THANK YOU!!!

We have officially reserved 300 full-hookup sites at Ocean Lakes RV Park for the 2025 GEAR rally. Sites will be available from November 2 departing on November 9. GEAR will be November 5th - 8th. Site reservations must be made with the campground using "2025 FMCA Eastern Area." Our format will be a little different and we are still working on that.

GEAR 24 is getting closer and we have been working hard on making this an unforgettable Rally. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the WNC Ag. Center Oct 23-27.

Jan and I have done a little bit of traveling this spring. We visited the Carolina Drifters rally at Hideaway RV resort here in Myrtle Beach. We attended the Foothills Traveler's 20th anniversary rally at Willowtree Resort in Longs, SC along with Phyllis and Chris. It was a beautiful week and a great anniversary rally.

From WillowTree we went to Savannah Lakes RV Park in Hardeeville, SC, for the Carolina Pelicans rally. Savannah Lake is a new park with very nice amenities. Check it out.

We then went to Lexington, KY for a reunion of the men I was in Vietnam with. We stayed at the Kentucky Horse Park. It is a very nice park but the sites could be a little more level. From there we went to the GEAR 24 planning meeting at the WNC Ag Center. It was a good meeting and we got a lot of things accomplished but there is still a lot to do.

PLEASE come with empty Black and Grey tanks and full Water tank. I am having a difficult time finding a honey wagon but hopefully we will be able to arrange a dump station.

Once we got home, I had a total knee replacement. I'm doing great and expect to be at full speed soon. Then it is on to having my cataracts removed. I'm getting tuned up for the next 25 years.

I hope everyone has a safe summer.

Dave

Dave Fowler F456109
Senior Vice President
843-833-3197
david.fowlereavp@gmail.com

Western Region

I want to talk with all of the FMCA members of the Eastern Area. This is about not just being a member of our organization, but also about being a participant of FMCA.

Yes, it is very easy to sit back and let "others" take an office or a part of leadership in our organization. But each and every one of you has the potential to assist us in achieving the goals of FMCA.

I ask that you look at joining AND participating in a chapter. Hosting a rally can be as simple as just choosing a place. It is not a contest. The same goes for being an active member of a chapter.

We all leave active lives. I know that sometimes Bill and I are just able to drive in for an afternoon, but we are there. Look at what you are missing by not being part of a chapter of FMCA. Call the main office and check in with Members Services.

Garnetta Mallory F256138
Western Region VP
859-576-5154
g34748mallory@gmail.com

Northern Region

Hello FMCA Family,

We traveled to Fletcher, NC, with others for a planning meeting for GEAR in May.

We are gearing up for GEAR and hope everyone will take the opportunity to come. We have food trucks coming in on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. I think my favorite will be the brick oven pizza on Friday. Thursday we will have BBQ, Friday Pizza/salads and on Saturday Burgers, fries, etc.

The committees are working on vendors, seminars, crafts, and more. There is a lot to see in the area.

We have started our camping season by visiting Penn Coachmen in Lancaster, PA. Then on to the First State Travelers at Lums Pond, DE. This week we went to celebrate 55 years of belonging to FMCA with the Capital Chapter in Lancaster, PA. We moved from Lancaster to Barnesville, PA, to be with Penn Coachmen, they are celebrating 55 years with FMCA.

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

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

We hope to see you "down the road."

Safe travels,

Clarissa Sherrow
Northern Region
Regional VP
484-645-4513
csherrow@zoominternet.net

SOUTHERN REGION

It's HOT here and it's hot everywhere. Nancy and I have just returned from a trip out to the Midwest, attending a Freightliner rally in Branson, Missouri. Visited with my brother in St Louis, and I think the weather was as hot as I have ever experienced it, and it was just as hot when we got back home. It was a good trip though.

It has been a busy spring. In mid-April we gathered in Asheville for a few days to work out some details with the GEAR rally. A lot was accomplished, and I think we have a good rally in the making, thanks to a lot of hard work by our AVP Phyllis Britz. Thanks for a job well done Phyllis and we will miss you next year.

Late April we joined The Foothill Travelers at the WillowTree campgrounds in Longs, SC, for their 20th anniversary. Many thanks to Larry and Pat Lawson and the crew of the Foothills for their great job. Keep up the good work.

Speaking of anniversaries, I forgot to give notice of the 55- year anniversary of the Dixie Traveliers. (I did not do that on purpose, Santa!) Congratulations go out to both the Dixie Traveliers and the Penn Coachman chapters. 55 years is a super achievement.

We visited a brand-new campground in Hardeeville, SC, called the Savannah Lakes and rallied with the Carolina Pelicans. It is a good and big campground right off I-95 and 17, just a few miles from Savannah, GA. It was a good rally and thanks to the Carolina Pelicans for a nice weekend.

Many thanks to all who have worked to make FMCA what it is today, now let's work even harder for the new membership to make it a better FMCA tomorrow.

As you travel this summer, please be careful. Everywhere you look there are construction zones, rough highways, and a lot of impatient drivers. Enjoy your travels, talk up FMCA, and remember it's "STILL ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN!" See you at GEAR in October.

Chris Holtzman, F388492
Southern Region VP
803-516-1020
nholtz6524@aol.com

CENTRAL REGION VP

I can't believe it's the middle of July already! RVing has been awesome thus far visiting the Cardinal Virginians, the Colonial Virginians and the Dixie Travelers! What fun chapters!

I visited Pocahontas State Park outside Richmond, VA, for the 1st time – if you've not been there, it is amazing! Then had 2 trips to Asheville, working on great ideas to make GEAR a true destination this October!

Maggie Valley was such a fun town, along with Cherokee, and Hendersonville. Make plans during your stay in Asheville to visit these places!

We have many things planned for GEAR for your enjoyment! A few things I'll mention is the members Craft Fair as well as a locals Show. And we just added a Halloween themed RV decorations contest!! I am sure you'll be hearing more in the coming months about other great plans!

Have fun, stay safe! And if you're around Virginia Beach – reach out to say hi!

Lynn Nelson F523470
Central Region VP
757-651-3589
LNVB1956@outlook.com

EASTERN AREA CHAPTERS BY REGION

Northern Region Clarissa Sherrow, Regional VP Csherrow@zoominternet.net 1. 20th Century Wagontrainers (NJ, PA) 2. Allegheny Mountains (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)	Central Region Lynn Nelson, Regional VP LNVB1956@outlook.com 1. Bay Travelers (Mid-Atlantic) 2. Cardinal Virginians (VA) 3. Colonial Virginians (VA) 4. Dogwood (VA) 5. Elizabeth River Going Strong (VA) 6. Mountaineers (WV)
Southern Region Chris Holtzman, Regional VP Cnholtz6524@aol.com 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) 8. Over The Mountain (NC)	Western Region Garnetta Mallory, Regional VP g34748mallory@gmail.com 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
2. Eastern Gourmands
3. Frustrated Maestros Eastern Sharps and Flats
4. Rolling Red Hatters
5. Tiffin Travelers



FMCA's 109th International Convention & RV Expo
Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, Redmond, OR
August 14-17

South Central Area Rally
September 18-21, 2024

Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center,
Shawnee, OK.

GEAR 2024 October 23-27, 2024.

Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, Fletcher NC
(Greater Asheville Area)

Autumn in the Appalachians
Updates found at fmca-ea.com

Last words. This will be my last newsletter as I will be stepping down from my position in Redmond, OR. I want to thank my Eastern Area Family for giving me the opportunity to be your Area President. It has been an honor. A special thank you to the Executive Board and Board of Directors for their time, energy and support for me, the Area, and their chapters!

Safe travels,

Phyllis Britz

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