



Well, Fredericksburg was GREAT. The Naval Museum, with a lot about Admiral Nimitz was Sonny's favorite. Here are a few pictures of the fun you missed.



With Willie and Waylon and the boys



After Dinner Entertainment



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Ron has found lots of nearby things to do (pages 4-8). Hope y'all come! This is where it's at

Suellen



# **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

**Collins, Patrick & Linda      Houston, TX**

**Cravens, Al & Renee      Plantersville, TX**

**Dobbins, Don & Donna      Wichita Falls, TX**

**Darling, Charles & Jamie      Farmersville, TX**

**Frost, Stacey & Melissa      Belton, TX**

**Luthi, Karsen & Joanne      Alhambra, CA**

## From the President

Hello fellow wanderers!

Well another successful and enjoyable rally is in the history books of Monaco America. Ron did another AMAZING job of organizing the campground, excursions, entertainment and food. It almost makes us want to live in Texas just so we could get that amazing barbecue from HEB. Who knew a grocery chain could cater such an amazing BBQ dinner? It was outstanding! Maybe the excellent meals from some of our very own members is why we have 16 new coach members join at the last rally

In that vein, I'd like to welcome the new members who joined us at the Fredericksburg Rally: Pat & Linda Collins, Al & Renee Cravens, Charles & Jaime Darling, Don & Donna Dobbins and Stacey & Melissa Frost. To those who have joined recently but haven't yet been to a rally, I hope to get to meet you at a rally soon!

Speaking of rallies! Our next one is in Benson, Arizona on October 1-5. Rallies are so much more fun when YOU are there so I hope YOU are making plans to come! You can find the rally app on the website so please fill it out, send it in and lock in your place. You might also note that our Spring rally is in Branson, Missouri and that the Fall rally dates for October 2024 are already set. That means details for the next THREE rallies are already being worked out and you won't want to miss out on ANY of them.

On a personal note. I wanted to say "Thanks" to Stacey Frost and Rob McKeown for their knowledge, help and elbow grease in helping me diagnose and fix my overheating issue. I am sure Walt and Brenda also appreciated their help in finding and fixing their water leak as well.

Finally, let me say I am humbled that you chose me to be president. However, as I think about it, I realize I was not only your *first* choice but also your *last* choice and your **only choice**! So I really don't know if you chose me or you're stuck with me! Regardless, I will do my best to fill the shoes of those who came before me and at the same time leave big foot prints for those who may follow!

I look forward to seeing YOU in Benson.

## From the Rally Master

If you missed our Spring Rally in Fredericksburg, TX then you really missed out on a lot of fun. We had great food, great entertainment, and plenty of interesting things to see. We had 7 first timer rigs attending the rally and all 7 signed up to be Monaco America members. Congratulations to our new friends.

So what is next for Monaco America? I'm glad you asked. We will have our Fall Rally at the beautiful Butterfield RV Resort in Benson, AZ from October 1<sup>st</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are available on our website and we are including one in this newsletter. We have 30 sites reserved for our club and they are available on a first come, first served basis. As of today, we have 9 rigs that have sent in their registration and payment. If we get more than 30 rigs signed up, the additional rigs will be accommodated at another local RV park so get your registration in early to guarantee your spot on-site. There should be no problem getting spaces for early arrival if you wish to arrive early, **but late stays are limited as the park's snowbird crowd starts arriving in Oct**

What is there to do in Benson? Again, I'm glad you asked. Below are details of places we will see when we are there. We will have a wood shop available to us on site at the RV park, so if anyone is interested in putting together a wood working project during our rally, (just like the rock painting class by Sandy Poche) please contact me. We look forward to seeing you at our Fall Rally which is still at the bargain price of \$425 per rig.

### Pima Air and Space Museum



The Pima Air & Space Museum is one of the world's largest non-government funded aerospace museums. The museum features a display of nearly 400 aircraft spread out over 80 acres on a campus occupying 127 acres. A large number of the museum's aircraft are displayed outside, (which can be viewed on a tram tour) with the remainder located in one of the museum's six display hangars, including one dedicated to space vehicles.

## Tombstone Arizona



Tombstone is a historic city in Cochise County, Arizona, United States, founded in 1879 by prospector Ed Schieffelin in what was then Pima County, Arizona Territory. It became one of the last boom towns in the American frontier. The town grew significantly into the mid-1880s as the local mines produced \$40 to \$85 million in silver bullion. Its population grew from 100 to around 14,000 in less than seven years. It is best known as the site of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Gun fight reenactment are held each day. We will eat lunch at one of the old saloons in town.

## Bisbee - Queen Mine Tour - Copper quarry



The community of Bisbee was founded in 1880, and quickly became a thriving urban center, driven by a booming mining industry that thrived on the area's rich reserves of copper and precious metals. Today, Bisbee's extraordinarily well-preserved early-twentieth-century downtown draws visitors from around the world, who appreciate its historic architecture.

Bisbee's Queen Mine was one of the richest copper mines in history. The mine opened in 1877 and eventually closed when Phelps Dodge discontinued mining operations in Bisbee in the mid-1970's. The Queen Mine opened once again as a tour for visitors in 1976, nearly 100 years after the mine originally opened. We will ride a train down into the mine and find out how it was operated. Most of the tour is easily walk-able with a few steps to climb.

The Lavender Pit is a former open pit copper mine. The Lavender Pit was named in honor of Harrison M. Lavender, who as Vice-President and General Manager of Phelps Dodge Corporation, conceived and carried out this plan for making the previously unprofitable low-grade copper bearing rock of the area into commercial copper ore. The pit itself is 900 feet deep and can be viewed from a parking lot viewing area just outside town. Mining operations in the pit ended in 1974.

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## Observatory



Butterfield RV Resort has its very own Observatory and Telescope, the Meade LX-200 GPS 16-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain university quality telescope, and we will have free star shows for our guests!

Each night, weather permitting they present a stellar program for your pleasure with different programs

and sites nearly every night. Their resident astronomers will entertain you with a fun and interesting experience, passing on a bit of knowledge laced with humor, culminating in a viewing experience of a lifetime. This is an experience not to be missed! There is no charge for our guests, but seating is limited.

## Benson Murals



Local artist Doug Quarles is the local man that has painted all of the murals around Benson, which now number 45 paintings. The murals focus on historical items of interest for the city of Benson and Cochise County to publicize the rich and diverse history of our area. Murals may depict important people or events that have had an impact on local history, or showcase the diverse desert flora and fauna. I have been told that he hides something that is not relevant to the scene in each one of his paintings.

## Gammons Gulch Movie Set



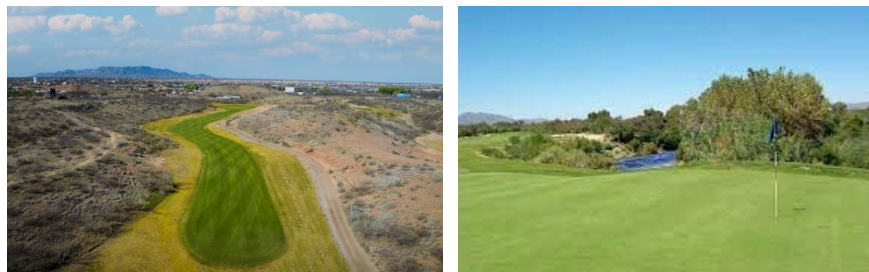
“Step back in time ” with founder Jay Gammons and enjoy the fond memories of days gone by. Learn all about movies and Southwest history at Gammons Gulch film location and Museum attraction in Benson. As you set out on your Guided tour you will be thrilled by stories about how Gammons Gulch came in existence and learn all about the movie and antique items that fill the town. Once you mosey back to our Saloon, we invite you to have a Sarsaparilla. In the Saloon, you will see photos and hear more accounts of when Jay and his father were security for many film stars from the 50’s through the 70’s.

## Saguaro National Park



The giant saguaro is the universal symbol of the American west. These majestic plants, found only in a small portion of the United States, are protected by Saguaro National Park, to the east and west of the modern city of Tucson. Here you have a chance to see these enormous cacti, silhouetted by the beauty of the magnificent desert

## San Pedro Golf Course



San Pedro Golf Course is an 18 hole-championship course built in 2003. Owned and operated by the City of Benson, San Pedro is a public course that provides great golf for all experience levels at an affordable price. A true links style front nine winds you through mesquite groves along the San Pedro River while the back nine plays through canyons, giving the course a unique “river-wilderness” terrain.



## Rattlesnake Ranch



Along a quiet stretch of E Dragoon Rd. you'll find a group of beautifully detailed sculptures guarding the entrance to Rattlesnake Ranch. An assortment of large sculptures sit just inside the entrance. There, both rusty and expertly painted dinosaurs mingle with a giant Gila monster and a Native American on horseback. Farther away, a wild stallion poses in mid-leap.

### **Other interesting things to see/do in the area (if you're in early or stay late)**

Titan Missile Museum - 49 miles from the RV park

Chiricahua National Monument - 73 miles from the RV park

Colossal Cave - 33 miles from the RV park

Biosphere 2 - 80 miles from the RV park

AND . . .

Anything you want !!

Ron Van Arsdall  
Rally Master



# Monaco America Rally Registration Form

October 1-5, 2023 Fall Rally  
Benson, Arizona

## CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Member/Coach	\$425	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Member/Coach	\$375	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Registration for 2 (no Camping)	\$320	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Member Fee	\$25	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monaco America Plaque	\$30	

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Monaco America.**

**Mail to: Monaco America  
c/o Jeff Poche  
37221 Miller Street  
Prairieville, LA 70769**

The rally site is at the Butterfield RV Resort & Observatory,  
251 S. Ocotillo Ave., Benson, Arizona 85602. Telephone 520-586-4400.

Rally Dates: October 1-5, 2023 Rally Location: Benson, Arizona

Pilot's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CoPilot's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Monaco America Member? Yes  No  First Monaco America Rally? Yes  No

Coach Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ # Slides: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number and Kind of Pet: \_\_\_\_\_

FMCA # \_\_\_\_\_ Guests are those with you who do not have an RV at the rally.

# of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest's Names : \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies/Medical Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending special functions? (e.g., those mentioned in the rally bio) Yes  No

Early Arrival? Yes  No  Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap? Yes  No

Please make early arrival arrangements with the park at telephone 520-586-4400.

**Questions?: Contact the Rally Master, Ron Van Arsdall, 626-945-9284, 951-204-9119. Email: ronv731826@aol.com.**

An inherent risk of COVID-19 exposure exists in any public place where people gather. By attending this event you understand and assume all risk related to COVID-19 exposure. FMCA, its staff, officers, volunteers, members, exhibitors, service providers, and grounds personnel are not liable for any illness, injury, or death from COVID-19 related to your participation at this event.

# Attention Crafters

Sandy Poche will be teaching an Earring Painting class. The class will be limited to 15 participants. Everyone will have the chance to make three pairs of earrings.

There will be a small charge for supplies - more information to follow.



Painted Rock

# Ladies' Tea

Hosted by Carolyn Hildreth

I've emailed the Benson Food Pantry to be our charity. Our 1st Lady, Carolyn is hosting our tea for us.



## **From the Web Master**

### **Monaco America's Website – www.MonacoAmerica.com**

You can find everything about Monaco America on our club website at <https://MonacoAmerica.com>. Things like - When and where is our next rally? What is George's phone number? What town was that couple we met at the rally from? How can I get one of those neat coach plaques? How can I get a new badge? It's all on our club website.

We have a Membership Roster with all the contact information about our members. There is a Membership Directory with the photos and contact information of members who have attended a rally. All personal information is password protected and restricted to only our members.

You need a password to access the club's private pages. If you cannot login to see our protected pages, contact our Webmaster, Bert Garcia, for assistance. You can reach Bert by email at [webmaster@moacoamerica.com](mailto:webmaster@moacoamerica.com).

Using your smart phone, you're only a few taps away from all our Monaco America information. Check it out!

Bert Garcia  
Monaco America Webmaster

**Bert Garcia**  
Monaco America Webmaster  
[bertgarcia73@gmail.com](mailto:bertgarcia73@gmail.com)

See you at the next rally!

## From the Treasurer

Dear Members,

A hot hello as the summer temperature rise all over the place and we always get an extra helping of humidity here in Louisiana. I'd like to first express my condolences to the family of Allen Jackson. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of difficulty. In the few years Sandy and I knew Allen and Sharon, we come to love and admire them as family. He was always a guiding force and mentor in the Monaco America family. He will be missed, but always remembered.

In my first stint as the club treasurer, I've also come to appreciate the job Mr. Jack did with the finances. Keeping them straight, checking every figure once, twice, three times. Happy to say the finances are healthy and the checkbook balances every month. I was a little late reaching out to multiple members to renew their membership. We had several members resign from the club for a variety of reasons and we made sure everyone was contacted on multiple occasions to verify their wishes to remain or resign. I will start the renewal process soon after the fall rally. Giving everyone ample time to re-up their commitment to fun and relaxation.

It was also our first time to getting involved in setting up, taking down and cleaning up at the rally. It's a lot of work, but with so many members pitching in to help, it was smooth and easy. I big shout out to Ron for all the effort and time spent setting up all the events and excursions. You have to appreciate the hours he put in the make all this happen.

Looking forward to the Rally in Benson, Arizona. Looks to be a place with lot to see and visit. We all know there's lots to eat. Sandy and I are preparing her famous Cajun Gumbo. Be sure to show up with big bowls, to go containers and a hearty appetite.

If you have any questions about membership, rally applications or anything club related, don't hesitate to contact me.

We'll see you real soon, so safe travels, fun excursions, and happy memories.

Thanks,  
Jeff and Sandy Poche  
(225) 223-8014  
Treasurer

# Monaco America Board



**President:** Gary Hildreth, 2JoyRiderz@protomail.com  
**1st VP/Rally Master:** Ronald Van Arsdall, ronv731826@aol.com  
**2nd VP/Security:** Floyd Cook, fwcook1@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** Suellen Hodge, HodgeSuellen@aol.com  
**Treasurer:** Jeff Poche, jnpoche@gmail.com  
**Nat'l. FMCA Dir.:** Carl "Sonny" Hodge, hodgeus@yahoo.com  
**Alt. Nat'l. FMCA Dir.:** Bert Garcia, Bert Garcia73@gmail.com  
**Newsletter Editor:** Suellen Hodge, HodgeSuellen@aol.com  
**Webmaster:** Bert Garcia, Bert Garcia73@gmail.com  
**Past Presidents:**

## Questions on Club Membership?

Jeff Poche  
Monaco America  
37221 Miller Street  
Prairieville, LA 70769  
225-223-8014  
jnpoche@gmail.com

**Annual Dues Only \$25**  
\$15 Initiation fee

The Newsletter is published by Monaco America, a chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA). The views expressed are strictly those of the individual contributors and do not reflect the views of FMCA or the REV Group Inc. If you have information you would like placed in the newsletter, please send it to the editor by email at:

HodgeSuellen@aol.com  
(Please identify any e-mail with the subject line of Monaco America)

## Send your change of address and/or your dues to:

Monaco America  
37221 Miller Street  
Prairieville, LA 70769  
225-223-8014



**Our Monaco America Plaques are still available!**

**Proudly mount this plaque on your rear ladder or in your windshield.**

This plaque is made from sturdy 1/4" molded plastic resin, silk-screened in three bright colors then painted with clear enamel to keep it looking good for years. This plaque is the same size as your FMCA plaque. Ladder brackets or suction cups are available for mounting.

The Order Form is on our club website. The plaque is \$30, ladder brackets are \$12 per pair, and suction cups are \$6 per pair. Order now and pick up your plaque at the next rally to save shipping or have it shipped to you immediately. Don't delay!

**Proudly show your Monaco America membership!**



## Some photos from Fredericksburg First Timers



UPCOMING RALLY  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Fall 2023



Monaco America Fall Rally  
October 1 - October 5  
2023  
Butterfield RV Resort  
And Observatory