



CCFMCA
Spot-Lite



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Photograph by Kevin Roland: Zion National Park UT, Virgin River "The Narrows"

From Your President's Travel Journal



Leonard Wahlquist, President

Hello everyone.

We started the year by going down the yellow brick road at the 33rd Western Motorhome Association Area Rally. I am proud of the participation from our chapter at this rally from security, volunteer dinner, 50/50, ice cream social, signs, electrical, and the pet show. Super job!!

Then on to Newport Dunes. We had only 14 coaches due to the weather; despite this rain and wind, we still had a great time. We played games and cards and had a scavenger hunt in our RV. It was nice to see everyone hoping for more extensive and warmer rallies. So get your paperwork in. Make the rest of your life the best of your life.

From CCFMCA National Director



Sonny Gillespie

Hope all our CCFMCA members have had a wonderful start for this new springtime As I continue continuity with FMCA headquarters not much has happened in the last few months. They are concentrating on prepping for the Perry, Georgia rally and they are expecting approximately 2,100 registered folks attending.

The Western Motorhome Association in Indio CA, had a wonderful turnout with the FMCA President (Rhett Porter) attending this event. See the photos further down in the newsletter of chapter members who attended.

Rallies:

- FMCA'S 106th International Convention & RV EXPO, March 15-18, 2023, Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricultural Center, Perry, Georgia.
- FMCA's 107th International Convention & RV Expo CAM-PLEX Multi vent Facilities, Gillette WY, August 23-26 2023. Check back for registration.

Treasurer, Web & Database Coordinator



Tracy Lenocker

Here is the chapter's current accounting information as of 1March 2023:

- General Account = \$18,092.66
- Rally Account = \$18,070.12

Our chapter Bylaws with amended Standing Rules are located on the chapters website for your reference. The website has some updates, and there will be a few more



based upon rally attendance and acquired photos and other activities to share.

The database is updated and current. A few former members no longer have a motorhome and therefore cannot be regular members of our chapter. Their membership will continue until the end of the current year. A few former members wish to be on the email list for the newsletter, so a separate list is maintained for those few. There is also a classification called Family Associate member for a person who does not own RVs.

Membership & Hospitality News



Carol Jones

I hope all of you have been able to stay safe during this erratic weather that has surrounded us.

It is with sad regret that I inform our chapter of the passing of Janice Ricordati of San Bernardino, CA, on February 10, 2023. Our condolences go out to her loving family.



During our most recent rally, Roger Canup took an unfortunate spill injuring his hand and face. Hopefully he is on the road to recovery.


Please pay and forward your 2023 dues (\$25.00 effective January 1, 2023) to Membership as there are several members who have not paid their dues. The renewal form for dues can be found on our website at ccfmca.org and on the [last page of the newsletter](#).

NEW MEMBERS: We have no new members to report on.



We look forward to meeting and seeing everyone at the upcoming rallies.

BEST WISHES TO ALL OF OUR CCFMCA MEMBERS!

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 **COVID Portal Links:**

Your actions save lives. Keep California healthy. Click this website to access the Covid Portal <https://covid19.ca.gov/>.

 |  Get up to date, stay up to date. Protect yourself and everyone close to you,

THE SPOT-LITE EDITOR



John Seguin

Mar 12, 2023 - Daylight Saving Time Starts do not forget to move your clocks forward one hour before going to bed.



SPRING has arrived and Winter is on the down hill slide. Time to dust of the cob webs from the motorhome and schedule the spring maintenance before getting under way through the rest of the year. The WMHA Indio rally and Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort rally are in the rear view mirror. So stay in touch through the communications methods below to see what comes next in the chapters rally calendar.

CCFMCA communication methods:

1. *Emails* - Instances will occur occasionally when there is a need to communicate with chapter members instead of waiting for the next Spot-Lite Edition.
2. *CCFMCA Spot-Lite* - The chapter's bi-monthly Spot-Lite newsletter highlights new and previous rallies, includes maintenance information, CCFMCA Food for Thought, FMCA National News, etc. Any President or Board of Directors updates, as well on website, and information on future rallies. Registrations forms and calendar are no longer being published in future newsletters. They are on the [CCFMCA](http://www.ccfmca.org) website.
3. *CCFMCA Website* - The third communication effort is through the chapter's website.



Dave Franke, F443367,
Senior Vice President WMHA

If you didn't attend our western region rally, you missed one great event. Not because of the entertainment, seminars, crafts, or vendors, but watching and being part of the camaraderie of nearly **400 volunteers** eating pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad and an éclair. Not a glamorous meal, but being with fellow rally attendees, swapping tales of travel, discussing the latest headache an RV can give its owner, is something you don't get every day. This is the FMCA family experience as additional attendees arrive and we gather for coffee and donuts.

What can we expect at our next WMHA rally? I'm betting on a bigger and better rally! The word will spread on how fun and satisfying "The Land of Oz" was. This positive

energy will create a snowball synergism effect. The next rally is planned for January 10 - 14, 2024. [BE A PART OF IT!](#)

WESTERN AREA WINTER NEWSLETTER:

[2023 Byways Winter 02-02-23.pdf](https://www.amazonaws.com/assets.s3.amazonaws.com/2023_Byways_Winter_02-02-23.pdf) (emma-assets.s3.amazonaws.com)

From the "Game Over Man" Guy



Kriss Lewis

Glad to be organizing and enjoying so far and there is more to come. So "Game Over Man."

From the Sheriff

Kathie Seguin



Hi Everyone - Spring has sprung and time to get on the road once again. Hoping to have the motorhome back soon. So, remember your badges to help us to say hello to fellow members. wear that badge, smile, and say

"Hello" when meeting our members. Just remember that Jodi, our Deputy Sheriff, is also on the prowl for badges at our events.

From The Deputy Sheriff



Jodi Lewis

I keep hearing, "They shot the sheriff but didn't shoot the deputy." Although we miss the sheriff and her sidekick, I assure you, "they didn't shoot the sheriff!" Maybe she was off playing in the snow, in Sunny Southern California. This last rally in Newport Dunes was full of significant laughter and fun. We played rainy day games in the multi-purpose room and dined on a yummy Italian catered dinner. As deputy sheriff, I was surprised with a new, shiny, gold deputy badge, and the awesome group sang "Happy Birthday" to me. As the new deputy sheriff, I confiscated three-quarters of those who forgot their badges. Due to severe weather and winter advisories, I returned those quarters with a "winter storm pass" this time. Thank you to all who participated in making this event memorable looking forward to our next rally! Don't forget your badge.



2023 Wagon Master-and Event Comments



Dede Hermon, Wagon Master



Hello everyone. I have been super busy assisting the mountain communities during Snowmeggedon 2023. However, here is a short note, please remember to get your rally forms in for the April - Golden Village Palms and May - Bonelli Bluffs rally. Rally registration forms are located on the chapters website. See you all at the rallies.

*April - Golden Village Palms

*May - Bonelli Bluffs

Our chapter turnouts continue growing with each rally, so ensure to get your registrations in as soon as possible because space may be limited.

Hoping all our members are surviving this erratic weather of rain and snow!



My email is dedek6DDZ@gmail.com, and I am always happy to respond to requests for information (909 878-3456).



Trial Boss / Co-Trial Boss Note !

All Trial Boss and Co Trial Boss RV rally documents are located on the CCFMCA website under a [Trail Boss Documents](#) header tab. But for any additional Trial Boss information contact the Wagon Master - Dede Hermon at dedek6ddz@gmail.com or phone 909-878-3456.



CCFMCA Backyard RV Mech

Everything You Need To Know About a Roadside Breakdown - Carl Coder, 2 January 2023



Travelers everywhere fear the dreaded roadside breakdown. Aside from an injury-causing event, these are worst-case scenarios for your trip. Breakdowns interrupt plans, delay arrivals, cause reservation cancellations, put an unexpected expense into the budget, and, perhaps worst of all, add an element of the unknown to your trip.

Often with a roadside breakdown, we just don't know just how bad it's going to get in terms of delay, cost, repair, and hassle. Even a problem as simple as a flat tire could escalate into a bigger, more formidable issue:

- if you don't have a spare
- If the flat damages the wheel or vehicle
- If the service center doesn't carry your tire size
- If you don't have cell service
- If the weather is bad
- If you're stuck in the middle of nowhere
- If you're towing a trailer or driving an RV

And that's just a flat tire. The more serious the reason for the breakdown, the worse the impact. For trucks, semis, and RVers, the problems can escalate when you incorporate larger vehicles and tires, towables and towing setups, additional weight, and more.

All travelers should have a plan for roadside breakdowns. The better you can prevent, predict, or quickly resolve on-the-road problems, the less danger, stress, delay, and expenses you'll encounter.

What happens in a roadside breakdown?

A roadside breakdown includes any incident while

traveling that temporarily or permanently interrupts your trip due to a problem with your vehicle that affects its ability to operate. This could be a mechanical problem (such as an engine issue), physical damage (like a flat tire), or operator error, like running out of gas. Other reasons include problems that occur before you even leave the parking lot or house, like a dead battery.

Not all roadside breakdowns immediately put you on the side of the road or stuck. Problems with your vehicle might be less immediate than a trip-stopping flat tire. Take, for example, an engine prone to overheating. This problem could reoccur and worsen depending on conditions like traffic or hot weather. But once you've identified that ongoing issue, you can plan to drive safely to a service shop or a highway exit at the very least rather than end up stranded.

When any of these issues occur, you and your vehicle end up either on the side of the road or, hopefully, at a gas station, service shop, rest area, or highway exit where you have more opportunity to address the issue safely. Ultimately, where you end up will be a deciding factor in how quickly you are able to get back on the road. When on the side of the road and stranded, the process immediately becomes more expensive and more time-consuming.

How you proceed will depend largely on whether or not you are stranded and require a tow or if you are able to fix the problem at your location or safely arrive at a shop or service station. The value in having a roadside assistance plan is that, regardless of the options at hand, you don't end up with the bill to tow your vehicle or have a mobile mechanic attempt



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to address the problem where it occurred.

Regardless, the first thing that should happen after a roadside breakdown is to assess the issue. Consider the following questions to take stock of your situation.

Are you and your vehicle in danger?

Your first priority should always be your immediate safety. Turn your hazard lights on right away. If you catch a flat tire or a mechanical issue occurs along a fast-moving highway without much of a shoulder and heavy traffic, consider relocating the vehicle if possible or, in extreme situations, abandoning the vehicle in lieu of finding a safer location to call for help.

Does the situation require 911?

Call 911 if there is any immediate danger to yourself or anyone's health or safety. Provide them with your location to the best of your ability. Not every roadside issue requires 911. Use your judgment but let safety be the determining factor in deciding whether to call.

What's the issue?

Once you are safe, take stock of the situation to determine as best as possible the extent of the problem. If it's a flat tire, is it a puncture, blow-out, or side-wall puncture? Are there other components damaged? Are there any smells coming from the engine? Any leaking fluid? Does anything appear to be damaged? All of this will be helpful to a mechanic or roadside assistance provider trying to diagnose the problem.

What's in your inventory to provide a solution?

Not everyone carries things like extra fuel, fluids, spare tires, or tools. But now is the time to determine what you do have in storage if you don't know already. For example, is your spare a proper spare tire or simply a donut-style spare? Take stock of this before trips so you can better prepare and know what you have available.

If you have the knowledge, tools, and equipment to fix the issue yourself, properly ensure you have a clear and safe area to work. Consider packing and

using warning triangles for this very reason, so fellow drivers are aware of your location.

Call your roadside assistance provider, auto shop, or towing company

If you have a roadside assistance plan, now is the time to pull out your member card or find the number and figure out what your next steps look like to contact your provider. If you don't remember signing up for a roadside assistance program, remember that some new car purchases include a roadside assistance plan for the duration of the warranty.

Think the problem may be fixable by a mechanic? Your next step, if you don't have roadside assistance, would be to contact the closest mechanic and inquire about sending someone. But if you are positive the problem or damage is significant, consider calling a towing company to start the process sooner rather than later.

How common are roadside breakdowns?



Consider your last significant road trip — any drive over three hours, say. How many roadside breakdowns do you recall witnessing? A car broke down on the side of the road, someone calling for help or receiving help, or those vehicles abandoned hours or days earlier. Someone at the campsite having trouble with their RV? Or did traffic slow because of an incident?

Likely you witnessed at least one of these examples.

Breakdowns affect everyone. New cars. Old cars. RVs, trucks, electric vehicles. Careful drivers and



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reckless drivers — those who adhere to the speed limit and those who don't. But some factors will increase the likelihood of a roadside breakdown:

- Infrequent or inconsistent routine maintenance
- Driving a vehicle ten years or older (Twice as likely to have a roadside breakdown and four times as likely to need a tow)
- Balding or low-tread tire Extreme weather conditions such as ice, heat, or flooding
- Using an older battery or a battery that needs fluids topped off
- Worn belts
- Driving with a Check Engine light
- Continued driving after your low fuel light comes on

Keep in mind the additional likelihood that if you experience one roadside breakdown, another might soon follow. For example, if one of your tires goes flat because the tread is worn, you can bet the other three are on their way out.

What are the common causes of roadside breakdowns?



At some point in your tenure as a driver, you'll likely face a roadside breakdown, even in a new vehicle. We've identified some risky behaviors and factors that can lead to a breakdown. Here we take a look at some of the most common reasons drivers end up stuck on the side of the road or at the rest stop.

Running out of gas

Running out of fuel is a serious and potentially costly problem that has recently seen an increase in incidents (AAA stats 66%) due to more people stretch-

ing a gallon of gas, given higher gas prices. The situation is common: you wave off a gas exit because you still have a quarter of a tank left, or you don't realize you are low on fuel. Once you pass the exit or see your low fuel light, it's too late. The next gas station is beyond your mileage.

Solution? Reach out for help and expect to pay the fee if you don't have a roadside assistance plan. Or go the survivalist route and travel with extra fuel in a jerry can. This reduces your cargo space, but it buys you an out should you run out of gas.

When towing a trailer or RV, you always have to factor in the extra fuel used to pull additional weight. So when you hit the quarter of a tank line, remember you won't get as far as you typically would when not towing several thousand pounds behind you.

Flat tires

Out of 230 million drivers on the road, 220 million flat tires occur each year. So the likelihood is high that you will experience a flat tire at some point in your tenure as a frequent driver. And it's not all in your control. Road hazards are one of the leading causes of punctures or side-wall damage that cause flats. So even if you take proper care of your tires, you're still at risk.

When you get a flat, you have a couple of options. Replace the tire yourself with your temporary tire (a donut), or with a spare if you have one - or call a towing service to bring you to the nearest tire shop to have the tire replaced. The question comes down to options a.) whether you have a spare tire and know how to replace it, or option b.

More often, new vehicles are equipped with tire inflation kits rather than spare tires, which can leave drivers in the lurch when the issue is a properly flat tire. If a new purchase doesn't include a spare tire, consider adding one as an option.

RV tire problems

When towing or driving an RV, tire problems are exacerbated due to their size, weight, and the possibility of disrupting the suspension of your RV. If you replace a flat tire on your RV on your own on the



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responsiveness after driving, as unaligned tires could further damage other tires.

Overheating

Your cooling system is designed to pull heat away from the engine - an imperative function for your engine to operate safely and properly. If anything goes wrong with the cooling system, you need to stop driving immediately. The reasons for overheating are various: leaks, low coolant, blocked hoses, a broken water pump, radiator problems, low oil, worn belts and hoses, or thermostat failure.

These problems are only exasperated by hot temperatures and frequent air conditioning usage. And diagnosing the problem on the side of the road is not ideal. Left unaddressed, overheating could cause permanent damage to your vehicle. At the first sign of a problem, pull over and plan to call for assistance.

Engine problems

This category includes a variety of problems caused by something as simple as low oil to more serious issues like blown gaskets or worse. Engine problems are seldom solvable on the side of the road and are even less likely to be addressed properly without expert knowledge, tools, and equipment. This is especially true with motorhomes, semis, and diesel engines.

Brake problems

Have you ever reached an intersection with the window down only to detect a faint or considerable smell of burnt rubber? If so, your car or a car nearby may be suffering from a brake problem, either from excessive braking or a problem with your brake pads and rotor. Below are some of the other common brake-related problems that could cause a breakdown:

- A vibration in the steering wheel when braking
- A lurching to one side of the vehicle when braking
- Squealing or squeaking noises when braking at intersections
- Fluid leaking
- Unresponsive or "soft" brakes.

These symptoms are indicative of bigger problems, and it's important you address these immediately to avoid further damage. That might mean pulling over where you are or finding a very nearby service center.

Transmission

The job of the transmission is to control the power directed toward your wheels to drive at a certain speed. Like engine problems, transmission problems will likely land you in a service shop, but some tell-tale warning signs include:

- Grinding or shaking
- Slipping of gears or trouble changing gear
- Strange noises, even when in park
- Leaking fluid beneath the vehicle that is red or dark red in color
- A burning smell

If your vehicle demonstrates any of these symptoms, your next course of action should be to get to a safe stopping place as soon as possible. Driving on a bad transmission can lead to shaking, which, at high speeds like those reached on a highway, could lead to an accident.

Low or dead battery

Battery-related trouble is common, and of all the popular DIY fixes that many drivers know, jumping another car's battery is high on the list. Battery issues can be caused by a host of factors, but some of the leading contenders include cold or hot weather, lights left on, old batteries, and loose or corroded connections.

And battery issues are unique because, more often than not, the problem occurs prior to a drive when the engine won't start. But when stopped at a hotel or at a rest stop, this can have the same effect as a roadside breakdown: you are stuck in a strange place without help. For battery issues that only require a jump, the best thing you can do is carry jumper cables and reach out to a friendly passerby.

Can I prevent roadside breakdowns?

A roadside breakdown may be all but inevitable over the decades, but reducing the likelihood and



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severity of breakdowns is within your control. And that pertains to those who drive older vehicles as well. Like your own health, the better you care for your vehicle, the less often you have problems, and you care for your vehicle with maintenance, awareness, and by having safety nets.

Preventative maintenance

Preventative maintenance includes the steps you take to catch a problem before it actualizes. The diligence of inspecting your vehicle and RV for issues, checking fluid levels, inspecting for wear and tear, and actively listening, feeling, and smelling for any changes when operating the car, truck, or RV will have a considerably positive effect in preventing roadside breakdown.

Scheduled maintenance

Oil changes, fluid replacement, tire rotation, tire changes, scheduled brake-pad replacements, filter changes, towing setup inspection - scheduled maintenance are the recommended, critical tasks that ensure our vehicles operate at their best. The problems occur when you don't complete all preventative maintenance before an issue arises or don't complete every recommended step. Scheduled maintenance should prevent most of your chances of experiencing a roadside breakdown.

For example, most people stay updated with oil changes but might not adhere to tire maintenance recommendations like tire rotations or balancing as often as manufacturers and dealers recommend. Staying up on scheduled maintenance improves the longevity of your vehicle.

Early detection

Similar to preventative maintenance, early detection requires that, while driving or co-piloting your vehicle, you keep a proverbial ear to the ground: observe how the road, weather, or duration of the trip might affect your vehicle. Inspect during your trip to see if any problems are occurring as a result of on-going variables.

Roadside assistance

One of the most responsible actions you can take is

to have a solution ready when a problem occurs. For travelers, that solution is roadside assistance.

Problems can occur regardless of preventative maintenance or scheduled maintenance. Having a phone number you can call that connects you with the closest, most appropriate help can mean a huge difference in the time and expense it takes to get you back on the road.

When traveling in an RV or with a travel trailer or fifth wheel, having the right roadside assistance is even more important. For towing purposes alone, the service provider that helps you during a roadside breakdown needs to understand the unique requirements of a motorhome and trailer and the tools and equipment needed. Not all towing companies, for example, own the type of tow truck that can service motorhomes.

How expensive are breakdowns?



Let's get down to brass tacks. What kind of costs are associated with a side-of-the-road breakdown? Much of the repair costs are contingent on the severity of the problem, which is no different than what you would expect when taking your vehicle in for a routine check and discovering an issue. Some repairs are far more expensive than others.

But when it comes to roadside breakdowns, the expense comes down to things like towing, having roadside assistance or not, and whether the repair is completed on the side of the road or not. For example, it costs roughly four times as much to repair something on the side of the road than it does at a shop.



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Let's explore some of these costs.

Towing

First and foremost, the cost of towing is the most variable factor in the overall expense to resolve a breakdown. Without a roadside assistance plan, the cost of towing can be substantial.

For towing, the costs will vary depending on the situation. Factors such as the ease of towing, the size and type of the vehicle, and the distance you'll need to be driven greatly affect the price. For example, a stuck vehicle that requires the use of a winch will cost more. The national average for a regular tow comes in around \$109.00 per tow. But that's if all goes as planned: the vehicle is a standard car, the hook-up is easy, and the towing distance isn't far. In fact, the distance you are towed is the largest factor in determining the overall cost.

Consider you will pay somewhere between \$2.50 and \$7.00 per mile. Those costs add up, especially if you are driving cross-country and wind up stuck in a location fifty miles or more away from the nearest tow provider. Keep in mind this is just the towing cost alone, before any work is completed to fix the actual problem.

Minor Fixes

Roadside issues don't always require a tow or major repair, but these minor fixes can still be inconvenient, time-consuming, and expensive. How much?

Locksmith

A common service included with roadside assistance plans is emergency keyless entry if you happen to lock your keys in your vehicle. Like a breakdown, this is a headache that can easily delay your travel and add an expense. You should expect to pay between \$50 and \$150 to have a locksmith arrive at your location to unlock your vehicle and regain your keys.

Emergency fuel

When you run out of gas, it's not a major request from a service op to provide a small amount of fuel to get you to the next gas station, but it's still a cumbersome, time-consuming request, especially if you

are located further from the shop.

Jump-start battery

Battery issues are common reasons for breakdowns, especially before leaving your location. A common jump-start is a fairly simple service that doesn't require much equipment, knowledge, or time, but where you get a jump could affect the price.

For these minor fixes, you will largely be charged a flat fee or a per-mile charge. For example, a mechanic might charge \$50-\$100 for jump-starting a dead battery, about the same for emergency fuel, or \$75-\$125 for changing a flat tire, depending on how far you are from the shop.

Drivers should consider the risk, cost, and hassle of facing multiple roadside events over the years. The costs add up from just one roadside breakdown. But drivers don't have to suffer that anxiety when such services exist as roadside assistance, designed to take away the burden and stress of potential roadside breakdowns.

What is roadside assistance?



A common theme throughout any discussion on roadside breakdowns is roadside assistance. When it comes to a problem as significant, prevalent, and inevitable as roadside breakdowns, roadside assistance is the sibling solution.

Roadside assistance is an option offered to drivers that covers such emergency scenarios as discussed here. Drivers typically pay an annual fee to receive a roadside assistance plan that covers the cost



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and logistics of a roadside event that would otherwise leave you stranded, such issues as a flat tire, dead battery, lost or locked key, running out of fuel, or needing a tow to a service shop.

The purpose of roadside assistance is to provide you with a reliable service wherever you travel that reduces the hassle, cost, and reliability issues that are all too common when trying to find help when stranded on the side of the road. Consider, at a glance, the immediate conveniences:

Instead of falling to the task of locating a service provider, you call a national hotline.

- Instead of haggling for a reasonable price for a specific incident, you pay an annual fee.
- Instead of wondering how much a tow will cost, you know what your plan provides.
- Instead of vetting a mechanic or towing company, your RA provider has already vetted them.

Roadside assistance plans are sometimes available through your insurance when buying a new car. Otherwise, national providers.

What does it cover?

Roadside assistance plans vary in cost, network, coverage, and type. When investigating which roadside assistance plan is best for you, consider the two main priorities: what roadside events does it cover, and what types of vehicles does it cover?

But take your inquiry a step further: How equipped is a roadside assistance provider to ensure you have help regardless of where you travel? Consider the extent of their network when choosing a roadside assistance provider.

Roadside events

Consider what all your roadside assistance plan covers and if there are any additional costs for issues that go beyond the run-of-the-mill problems. Most roadside assistance plans cover standard issues:

- Flat tire
- A lost or locked key
- Emergency fuel
- Battery jump

As discussed, these are common problems that

aren't terribly difficult to solve, but they can be a major disruption to your trip (and wallet) if you don't have a roadside assistance plan. But when it comes to towing a vehicle, for example, roadside assistance plans change what they offer.

Find out from any roadside assistance provider what their towing policy is. Many will only cover a certain distance before charging you additionally per mile. Good Sam Roadside Assistance, for example, provides unlimited towing. And what, exactly, do you want to be able to tow in the event of a roadside breakdown? Some roadside assistance plans only cover towing for cars, SUVs, and trucks and wouldn't cover a towable or motorhome.

Types of vehicles, types of coverage

Roadside assistance plans vary in the types of vehicles they cover. And it goes beyond cars, trucks, or RVs. What about motorcycles, trailers, sports trailers, fifth wheels, or travel trailers? Does the plan cover just your vehicle or the vehicles of your dependents and spouse?

Network

Roadside assistance providers work with towing companies, service shops, and mobile mechanics to create their service network, often nationally. And the extent of the network varies among roadside assistance providers. When choosing, identify two important features regarding their network:

- The roadside assistance provider works with reputable towing and mechanic companies
- Their network of coverage extends to the regions of the country where you plan to travel

A roadside assistance plan won't do you much good if they can't offer service where you travel. Take it a step further and compare the sheer number of towing companies and mechanics they include in their network. Because while a provider might offer coverage in a place like Utah, they may only have a few select companies in that area, which could lead to extreme delays when waiting for service.

Roadside assistance and accidents

If you experience an accident, your first course of



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action should be to ensure your immediate safety and the immediate safety of others and then call 911. Roadside assistance should never be confused with emergency response.

But what if your car is undrivable after an incident? In some cases - like when you have liability-only car insurance - you are responsible for the towing costs if your car has to be towed after an accident. But some roadside assistance programs will provide towing coverage depending on the extent of the damage and other notable concerns. Be sure to inquire with your roadside assistance provider to fully understand their coverage inclusions.

How much does roadside assistance typically cost?

For obvious reasons, plans for roadside assistance vary widely depending on the type and coverage, and you gain the ability to judge a good price once you know the main differences to look for, plan to plan. In general, plans can range anywhere from \$50 a year to \$200, but keep in mind the price difference often comes down to what's provided.

For example, a \$50 annual plan might only cover a certain amount of events. Or the towing distance will be limited.

- A \$50 plan might cover a car but won't cover a towable, or even an SUV or truck, for example
 - ◆ A \$150 might sound expensive at the onset but not so much if it covers the vehicles of your spouse and dependents.

It all comes down to finding a provider that can offer a plan that meets your needs - especially if you own multiple cars or if you own an RV. Roadside assistance plans for RVs don't have to break the bank, and they can relieve a lot of the stress that comes to first-time RV owners who aren't as familiar with RVs as they are with their own personal vehicles.

Who offers roadside assistance, and how do I choose?

Many national roadside assistance providers offer a similar service (and price) for basic roadside assistance services. National providers are helpful because they've expanded their network and connec-



tions so that, with the right coverage, you can get quality, trusted help even when traveling to more remote locations. Should you experience a roadside breakdown, they will still have a reputable way to get you help.

Providers

You can find roadside assistance coverage from a host of different providers, and the main sources include:

- National providers
- Car insurance companies
- Auto clubs
- Credit card companies
- Car manufacturers

Roadside assistance is a useful product to bundle with other services, but the risk is that you aren't getting full coverage from a company that hasn't established a proper network.

Note that the specific services included in a roadside assistance plan can change depending on the provider you choose. Some plans include standard services like battery jumps, changing a flat tire, emergency fuel, and towing your vehicle to a service shop, while other plans may include additional services like trip interruption coverage, trip routing and planning assistance, and discounts on rental cars and other travel-related services.

When choosing a roadside assistance provider, consider the type of coverage you need and the ability of the service provider.



CCFMCA Backyard RV Mech

Coverage

When investigating which type of roadside assistance plan is best for you, identify your needs. Some big considerations might include:

- Multiple vehicles
- Class A, Class C, Trailers and towables (fifth wheels, travel trailers)
- RV or boat
- Family coverage
- Network (remote)
- Towing distance

For example, if you frequently tow a travel trailer to remote locations, make sure the provider you work with has ample ability to provide roadside assistance should you experience an issue far from a local mechanic or service shop. Inquire into such details as their ability to tow RVs, which require a different type of tow truck that some service shops do not own in their fleet.

Specialty providers

Certain roadside assistance providers are better equipped to offer help to travelers with unique needs. RV owners, for example, require a different level of attention when they experience a roadside breakdown - and even that is an overgeneralization. Motorhomes require altogether separate mechanical knowledge and equipment than travel trailers, for example.

When searching for a roadside assistance provider, make sure you find adequate coverage for your unique situation. Specialty providers understand the needs RV owners have above and beyond typical car owners, for example. If you are only concerned with your personal vehicle, shop for a provider who can offer the most extensive network, so you are fully protected wherever you go as opposed to a provider who covers multiple vehicles, specialty vehicle types, and towables.

Roadside Assistance

Roadside Assistance provides (an example Good Sam) multiple types of roadside assistance to help drivers only pay for what they need. Providing both

auto and RV roadside assistance, they have built a nationwide network of over 30,000 service shops and towing specialists to extend help to their customers wherever they travel. Further, they offer unlimited towing distance to the nearest service shop, regardless of which plan you choose.





CCFMCA Medical Emergencies

What Travelers Need to Know About Medical Emergencies

By Charles Joseph



No one wants to think about medical issues when they take an RV vacation, but it's wise to create a backup

plan if an emergency arises.

So, what do full-time RV campers do if they need to see a dentist or doctor while on the road?

You can find all the answers about how to obtain medical attention when you RV right here, with advice on preparing for any length trip and tips to pick up prescriptions, find reputable dentists, doctors, and hospitals along your route.

When you know upfront what to expect and what to do when you're camping and need medical care, your RV trips will be less stressful!

How to Prep for Medical Emergencies When You RV

So many RVers, both weekend warriors and seasonal or full-timers, get so excited about the next adventure that they often overlook the most critical of tasks: planning for medical emergencies.

To help you create an RV medical and dental planning checklist, you need to start with the basics and move on to more time-consuming tasks like checking with your insurance carrier about where they will cover medical services.

In the unfortunate event you do need medical or dental assistance while traveling, your preparation will allow you to immediately deal with the situation no matter where you roam in your travel trailer, fifth wheel, motorhome, or pop-up camper.



Step 1: Ensure You and Your Traveling Party Are in Good Health

If you're planning a long RV trip, try to fit in a medical check-up beforehand

to make sure everyone is healthy.

At the same time, check expiration dates for any person taking prescription drugs to control medical issues so you have time to arrange refills for the duration of your trip.

Starting off your trip with a clean bill of health will give you a baseline if things change while on the road.

If you plan to RV full-time, ask your doctor and dentist if you can remain a patient if you travel back to the area yearly for check-ups or more often if you need bloodwork or other tests.

Doing so can alleviate the stress of finding new health practitioners along your routes, keeps all your medical information in one place, and make it simple to get prescription refills and deal with insurance.

If you don't plan to travel back to your home region, you'll need to set up a time to collect copies of your records.

Step 2: Gather Pertinent Health Records

You never know where you'll end up needing to see a dentist or doctor, and often access to records may be difficult to obtain from a practitioner in another state in a timely fashion.

Call your providers to get copies of medical and dental records and prescriptions with dosing information. Also, make a list of allergies of all members of your traveling party.

Put all the information together, so your travel file is up to date, and include phone numbers and addresses of places you've had treatment for reference.

Don't forget to add any prescriptions for glasses or contacts as well, in case you need replacements on the road.

Would you please take the time to include copies of documents such as any wills, especially for Advance Medical Directives or Living Wills?

Most people like to avoid dealing with these tasks, but legal forms will make it easier for you to convey your medical or end-of-life care **wishes to medical**



CCFMCA Medical Emergencies

staff.



Step 3: Switch to a Nationwide Pharmacy

If you aren't currently with a national pharmacy chain, such as CVS, Walmart, or Walgreens, switch

your prescriptions over before leaving on an extended RV adventure.

You'll have a much easier time arranging your travels to pick up medicine at companies that have thousands of locations across the US.

If you get your medications or contact lenses by mail, don't fret. You can usually have the packages sent by express mail to a campground or local post office via "general delivery" in the town where you know you'll be staying.

Do plot out your travel route and approximate dates you'll need refills sent so you can mark your calendar and research mail drop-off locations.

Step 4: Create an RV Drugstore

You should always have your motorhome, RUV, fifth wheel, travel trailer, or other types of recreational vehicle stocked with basic medicines such as:

- Aspirin, Tylenol, Advil or other pain medications
- Cold and flu medicine
- Allergy medicine
- Antibacterial ointments
- Anti-itch cream
- Intestinal or stomach medicine like Milk of Magnesia or Imodium
- Bandages and band-aids
- Rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide
- Aloe vera gel for sunburns or rash
- Ear and eye drops

Having a good stock of supplies inside your camper will reduce the stress of trying to find an open store at 3 AM when your child wakes up with a fever.

As well as checking the expiration dates of all supplies and refresh them as necessary.



Step 5: Research Medical and Dental Facilities Along Your Route

Plot out the route you plan to take in your RV, and highlight all the major hospital locations, along with urgent care centers and pharmacies that offer shots and basic medical needs.

If you suffer from a specific ailment and may need specialized treatment, such as dialysis, create a map that marks all locations that offer the service and make a list of names so you can cross-reference them with your insurance carrier.

For dental issues, consider switching over to a nationwide chain such as Aspen Dental, which has offices in most large cities and can streamline record-keeping. By using a dental network, you won't have to start from scratch at each visit as you would when going to a local dentist near a campground.

Most of the time, medical attention while camping is necessary for accidents like minor cuts from trips and falls, dehydration, sprains, or broken bones.

An urgent care center can handle many of these for much less cost than heading to the closest emergency room, so knowing their locations is essential.

Step 6: Go Over Your Insurance Coverage Carefully

If you have medical insurance, don't assume you can pop into any hospital, doctor's office, or urgent care center and have the treatment cost covered.

Find out the specifics of what care is covered at which locations, so you aren't searching for medical assistance when you need help quickly.

You also don't want to get stuck with a huge bill to pay because you find out later the hospital was out of network.

If you find your insurance doesn't transfer out of state or your care choices are minimal, you should switch to the main insurance plan that provides a wide network of providers.



CCFMCA Medical Emergencies

You can also opt to purchase separate travel insurance for short trips that take you at least 100 miles from your home.

Some policies cover expected trip expenditures but also include medical care, transport, or evacuation if necessary.

RVers With Medicare Coverage



If you're on Medicare, you may have the straight policy, which means you can see any healthcare provider or hospital accepting Medicare and paying

your 20% co-pay of the total cost, with insurance paying the balance.

For a small medical bill, this may not seem too bad, but even a \$5,000 bill will leave you with a \$1,000 payment that can derail your camping and RVing plans.

Don't just assume if a doctor or hospital takes Medicare, you're good to go, as many aren't taking in new patients unless you go straight to the emergency room.

If you have a supplemental Medicare policy, you pay a monthly premium. After reaching your out-of-pocket deductible limit, Medicare will cover everything else if you see an approved provider.

Medicare Advantage plans use an intermediary health insurance company to process claims. These plans can cause the most issues for RVers who travel long distances from their home base.

Why?

Because many RVers do the legwork and call to see if a health care center accepts their plan and are told yes. After treatment, they find out that they are out of their carrier's regional treatment network and are now stuck with the charges unless they have already hit the plan's "out-of-network" deductible for the year.

You must always go a step further and understand clearly what your in-network region coverage area is

and how much you've paid toward deductibles for both in and out-of-network medical care.

Even if you walk into a doctor's office and you walk out only paying the standard co-pay, the staff may not know you're technically out of network until they submit the claim.

If you don't see your insurance coverage will suit your travel plans, switch to a program that offers more flexibility.

If you don't carry any health insurance, do your best to stay healthy and avoid accidents. Most importantly, have an emergency fund to pay cash for treatment if necessary.

RVers With VA Coverage



Each VA location may treat patients differently, but all should be able to access your medical records if you first register at each particular hospital. If

you don't register, you won't "exist" in the system even if you've been treated at VA hospitals elsewhere for years.

After you register, you should get any of your medications outside of those that are narcotic.

For those medications, you'll need to get them from your original VA office or have them arrange for a doctor to see you at your current location for approval, so plan accordingly.

Step 7: Create an Database of Health Providers By Location

Before you head off in your recreational vehicle, start a database of contacts for medical, dental, and vision providers in areas where you plan to camp.

Cross-reference them by checking with your insurance carrier, read online reviews, and get referrals from friends or online RVing forums from those local to the areas you're visiting.

Discard any health providers that don't meet your needs, so you aren't wasting time calling or visiting



CCFMCA Medical Emergencies

places that can't help you.

As you travel, you can build a list by state or region for quick reference. In addition, you can gain plenty of information on reputable local caregivers from campground staff and guests during campsite chats, which you can add to your database.

Where to Go for Medical Attention if You're Camping or RVing

Here are the top places to get medical help when you RV and what they provide:

Urgent Care Clinics

- Cuts, burns, bug and animal bites
- Colds and flu
- Falls, sprains, and broken bones
- Ear infections and pink eye
- Allergic reactions and asthma
- Sinus infections
- Bronchitis and strep throat
- Many perform lab services
- Urinary tract infections

Care Clinics at Major Pharmacies

- Minor cuts, burns, and bites
- Colds, flu, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Bruising and sprains
- Ear infections
- Allergic reactions and asthma
- Sinus infections
- Sore or strep throat
- Heartburn and indigestion
- Urinary tract and yeast infections and STD treatments
- Splinter removal
- A variety of health screenings and shots
- Birth control and pregnancy evaluation

Local Doctor or Dentist



A local doctor or dentist should provide general check-ups, x-rays, teeth cleaning, emergency dental repairs, and treat the same minor maladies the urgent care and pharmacy clinics offer above.

Do be aware that many dentists and doctors won't take on new patients or will charge a hefty "first visit" fee to get an appointment.

I find urgent care and pharmacy clinics like [CVS MinuteClinic](#) and [Walgreens Health Clinic](#) do a great job covering most general illnesses and injuries RVer's experience at an affordable rate.

When I cut myself on a rusty nail while camping, I went right over to the local Walgreens Health Clinic and got it cleaned up, bandaged, and out the door, complete with a tetanus shot booster for \$60.

Hospital Emergency Room

The obvious reason to hit the ER at any hospital is in dire circumstances such as a heart attack, stroke, serious injury, or unconsciousness. MRI's, X-Rays, CAT scans are other reasons to go to a hospital over a doctor's office.

But, there are times when the local ER is the only place open when you need help with less severe medical needs, and you'll need to decide on whether or not it's worth it.

Do expect to fill out lots of forms, wait a long time, and provide insurance details. Hopefully, the hospital is a part of your network.

Final Thoughts

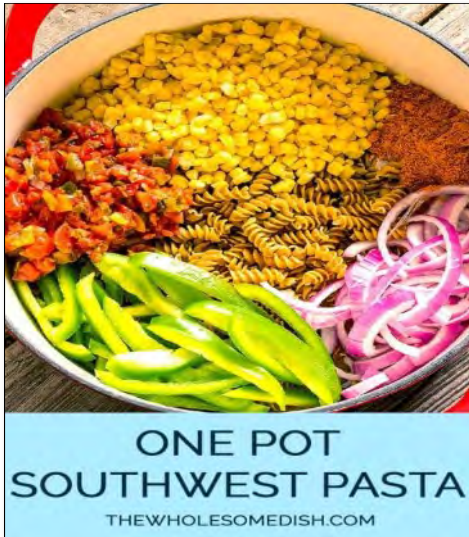
Whew! That seems like a lot of work to take an RV trip and be ready for medical needs, but most of the effort is a one-and-done task, and you'll feel much more in control once you have all your information in order.

I hope the steps in this guide help you organize your RV medical travel plan. It's so much easier to relax knowing you have done all you can to deal promptly with emergencies, small or large, anytime you hit the road in your RV!



CCFMCA Food for Thought

THE WHOLESOME DISH ONE POT SOUTHWEST PASTA



One Pot Southwest Pasta – Dinner in under 30 minutes in one pot! Pasta, black beans, corn, and bell peppers with Rotel and taco seasoning.

One Pot Pasta

One pot pasta recipes are so easy! Simply put uncooked pasta, veggies, seasoning, and broth into a large pot, cover it, and let it cook for about 12-15 minutes. That's it! The pasta absorbs the cooking liquid and creates an almost creamy sauce.



This southwest style pasta gets a spicy kick from a can of Rotel (tomatoes and green chilies) and taco seasoning.

How To Make This Southwest Pasta Recipe

- Add uncooked pasta to a large pot.
- Add corn, bell peppers, onion, Rotel, taco seasoning, salt, olive oil, and broth.
- Bring the liquid to a boil then reduce to simmer.
- Cover and cook for about 15 minutes.
- Add a can of drained and rinsed black beans.
- Add shredded Mexican cheese blend to the pasta.
- Stir well.
- Let the pasta rest for a few minutes to absorb the remaining liquid and melt the cheese.

This recipe calls for whole wheat pasta, but regular pasta could also be used.



CCFMCA Food for Thought

RECIPE SHEET

Servings	Calories
8 Servings	320 kcal

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (13.5 oz.) box of whole wheat rotini or any pasta you like
- 2 cups frozen corn kernels
- 1 medium green bell pepper, cut into thin strips
- 1/2 medium red onion, sliced
- 1 (15 oz.) can Rotel canned tomatoes and chilies, I used the Mexican blend with lime and cilantro
- 1/4 cup taco seasoning, I used Old El Paso, medium
- 1 tsp. salt*
- 2 tsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 4 cups fat-free chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/4 cup Mexican cheese blend, plus more for topping (Optional)



INSTRUCTIONS

- Add all but the last 2 ingredients (beans and cheese) to a large pot. Stir, cover, and bring to a rolling boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook, covered, for 12-15 minutes, stirring occasionally. There should be 1/4 to 1/2 inch of liquid in the bottom of the pot when it is done.
- Remove from heat. Stir in the black beans and cheese (optional). Let it rest for 5 minutes to warm the beans, melt the cheese, and absorb the excess liquid.

Notes: *If the taco seasoning you use contains a lot of salt, you may want to reduce this

NUTRITION

Serving: 1/8th of the recipe | Calories: 320kcal | Carbohydrates: 60.1g | Protein: 11.7g | Fat: 4.2g | Saturated Fat: 0.9g | Fiber: 7.4g

2023 WMHA INDIO RALLY

Photographs captured from the FMCA Flickr Website page



2023 WMHA INDIO RALLY

Photographs captured from the FMCA Flickr Website page



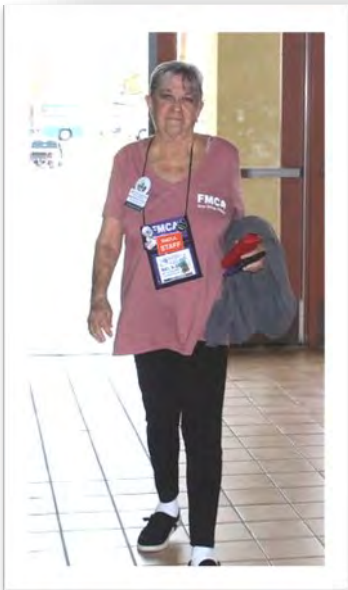
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California Chapter FMCA Arrival



*Great to see everyone
after the Covid Isolation*

California Chapter FMCA



California Chapter FMCA



Cornament

Corn Gallery Viewers



Cornament Scorer



Corn Gallery Viewers



Cornament Winners & Runner-up





California Chapter FMCA Catered Dinner Gathering





California Chapter FMCA Catered Dinner Gathering



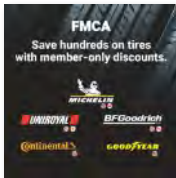
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LIG Solutions: Did you know that as a member of FMCA, you have access to affordable health coverage options with our partner [LIG Solutions](#)? To access this exclusive member program please visit <https://www.fmca.com/fmca-healthcare-plan> to learn more

Here are the important dates to remember:

- Medicare Annual Enrollment: Starts on October 15th, 2022, and ends on December 7th, 2022
- Under 65 Open Enrollment: Starts on November 1st, 2022, and ends on December 15th, 2022
- Employer Coverage: Can be done at any time of the year depending on your current situation.



Keep on Rolling with the FMCA Tire Savings Program FMCA members receive discounts on Michelin, Continental, and Goodyear tires at participating dealers. Learn more about how [FMCA's Tire Discount Program](#) can save you hundreds per

tire!



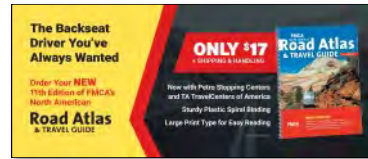
DriveQuest: Don't let RV troubles keep you from staying on the road! Get protection with DriveQuest RV vehicle service coverage. DriveQuest offers a wide range of coverage choices so that you can get back on the road. Repairs can be completed at any licensed repair facility. Learn more about this member benefit [here](#).



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FMCA's RV Road Atlas is a must-have for your next RV trip!

Never get lost again (unless you want to) with our 11th edition RV road atlas. Designed specifically with the RVer in mind! <https://shopfmca.com/shop/ols/products/11th-edition-fmca-road-atlas-travel-guide>



FMCA's Tech Connect+ is a benefit package designed to bring travel-friendly technology offers to FMCA members.

Keeping connectivity easy means you can spend more time doing what you love - RVing! In our Tech Connect+ benefit package, you will find discounts on cell boosters, Wi-Fi extenders, and satellite TV antennas. Plus, FMCA has teamed up with AT&T to bring members two outstanding data plans. These data plans include 4G LTE speeds as well as 30omb roaming coverage per month. [Truly unlimited data plan!](#)



Allstays If you've ever been RVing before, you've probably heard of Allstays. It's a free app that shows over 30,000 campsites across the United States. You can sort by what amenities the campsites have, and how much they cost, as well as look at reviews from other campers who have stayed there. This app is truly a lifesaver and I highly recommend it.



Sewer Tank Rinser The sewer tank isn't the most fun thing to talk about, but it's something you'll have to deal with at least weekly, and you want to make the process as simple as possible. Having a sewer tank rinser is a super quick way to clean your tank. This one from Camco is clear inside so you can tell exactly when your sewer tank is all rinsed out and squeaky clean.



CCFMCA Organization

FMCA Web Site: www.fmca.com

FMCA Business: 808-543-3622

California Chapter FMCA Web Site: www.ccfmca.org

Western Area FMCA Web Site: www.wafmca.com

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Membership / Hospitality

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Vice President / CCFMCA National

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CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION (CCFMCA) INC. **NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Applicant must be a member of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA), or must have applied for or be applying for membership in FMCA simultaneously with this application to be eligible for membership in CCFMCA. Please provide your FMCA number- F _____

As members, we / I agree to abide by the provisions of the Family Motor Coach Association Inc, "Code of Ethics" to foster a wholesome public image for all family motorcoach owners.

Last Name*: _____ First Name*: _____ and _____

Address*: _____

City*: _____ State*: _____ Zip Code*: _____ + _____

Phone*: _____ Cell Phone*: _____

e-Mail Address*: _____

RV Brand: _____ Length: _____ Slide-Out(s): Yes ___ / NO ___ Number: Left ___ Right ___

- Our fiscal year is January 1st through December 31st. Annual dues are \$25.00 (due January 1st each year).
- The New Member CCFMCA initiation fee together with the first year's dues for two (2) people is \$50. For one (1) person it is \$30. This covers the cost of badges, postage and materials. Those joining between October 1st and December 31st will have their dues applied to the remainder of the year and the following year
- Additional Badges are \$12.00 each (names): _____ DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____
- Would you like to list your e-mail address on the roster? YES ___ NO ___, Note: The e-mail roster is available only to chapter members.
- The Spot-Lite (newsletter) is sent to you at no additional cost by e-mail. Would you rather have it sent via USPS for an additional fee? YES ___ NO ___. The newsletter and up to 10 past issues are available for free on the CCFMCA website: www.ccfmca.org.

Please make check payable to CCFMCA and return both the New Membership Application and your payment to:

Carol A. Jones (CCFMCA Membership) 958 Dahlia Ave Costa Mesa, CA 92626

	2 PEOPLE	or	1 PERSON
INITIATION FEE:	\$ 50.00		\$ 30.00
EXTRA BADGES:	\$ _____		\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	\$ _____		\$ _____

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION INC. **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

The Membership Renewal is \$25.00 per coach. Please update your information in the New Membership area where Red Asterisks indicate.

Please make check payable to CCFMCA and return both the Membership Renewal and payment to:

Carol A. Jones (CCFMCA Membership) 958 Dahlia Ave Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RENEWAL FEE (Per Coach):	\$25.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	\$ _____

Revised 12-29-2022