



**CCFMCA**

# *Spat-Lite*



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- 2. National Director News*
- 4. Sunland Outdoors San Diego Bay Rally*
- 25. CCFMCA's Maintenance and Beyond*
- 30. New 2024 California Chapter Officers*

*2024 California Chapter Dues are due*

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*Photo : Snowy Dunton cabin village in the moonlight, on the West Fork of Dolores River in San Juan National Forest. Getty Images—Credit—DSCZ*

**President's Journal Comments**

*Leonard Wahlquist, President*  
Hello everyone.

Another year has slipped away and now we have to get used to writing 2024 on our paperwork. Hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season with family and friends.

We had elections during our November rally and you get the same smiling faces as before. Thanks to all who agreed to continue for an additional year.

The new rally schedule have been posted on our [CCFMCA website](http://www.ccfmca.org). Let's get ready for the new year and fill out those forms. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Since we only have four rallies this year we need to start early looking for new officers. So if you are interested in a position we can start mentioning new prospects or if you would like to set up an additional rally let me know.

You can reach me by email or phone. [Godspeedsailing@yahoo.com](mailto:Godspeedsailing@yahoo.com) (951) 218-5643

**SPOT-LITE EDITORIAL**

Let's talk about chapter history for a moment. In the early 1960s, a group of men proposed forming a mobile camping club using "Flexible" conversion buses with CB radios. They would call themselves the "Royal Coachmen of California". Then, in February 1964, FMCA was born. The Royal Coachmen of California then applied for FMCA membership, and CCFMCA was established (February 1965). They also named the chapter's newsletter the "Spot-Lite."

So, back to today. As our season moves into mid-winter and we settle down in warm clothes at home, we should step back and consider how close our 59-year-old chapter came to dissolving in November 2023. Even if only three officers were elected, this would have strained administrative duties and rally functions for the foreseeable future.

So, "you," the members, must remember that serving in an organization in some capacity and stepping up is an organization's heartbeat, allowing us to function, move forward, and exist. This provides for warm friendships, camaraderie, and the ability to catch up on what everyone has been doing since our last gathering, along with great food, potlucks, and fun-filled activities.

So, think of serving. The service of our past elected officials was for a standard two years; however, the current officers are only in place for a year. Now, our organization has begun a search for members who might step up and fill the elected positions at year's end.

So, remember the joy of RVing to places where you had

great fun, food, leisure, and camaraderie. The chapter's leadership has made this possible through their service-oriented drive. Therefore, step forward to serve and support the chapter as an elected official.

**CCFMCA National Director Comments**

*Sonny Gillespie*

Hope all our members have had a wonderful a wonderful

Christmas and Happy New Year for 2024.

With most things as usual, to the FMCA headquarters continues it's work in earnest as I remain connected the on goings at the national office in Cincinnati, OH, about what is important to this chapter.

There are a few listed region and national rallies happening that are close enough to attend.

**Rallies:**

- **FMCA's 108th International Convention & RV Expo**  
Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, AZ, March 20-23, 2024. [Registration ends 17 January 2024](http://www.fmcacalifornia.org).

**Treasurer, Web & Database Coordinator Comments**

*Tracy Lenocker*

Our chapter Bylaws with amended Standing Rules are located on the chapter's website for your reference. The website has some updates, and there will be a few more based up on rally attendance and acquired photos and other activities to share.

The database will be updated in March after we get all final membership renewals for 2024 and know who is a current member. Speaking of dues, if your membership in CCFMCA expired at the end of 2023 remember to send in your renewal payment to Carol. A few former members no longer have an RV however there are several options to remain a member of FMCA and CCFMCA even if you no longer have an RV or are planning on getting one. Let us know if you are in that position and we can explain your options.

**CCFMCA communication methods:** So stay in touch through the communications methods below to see what comes next in the chapter's calendar.

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 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 up-

3. CCFMCA Website - The third communication effort is through the chapter's website.

### Wagon Master-and Event Comments



*Dede Hermon*

Happy New Year to CCFMCA members!

We have four rallies planned for 2024:

- March 14-17 - Newport Dunes (Season Opener)
- April 18-21 - Golden Village Palms (Vintage RV Show)
- May 16-19 - Bonelli Bluffs (Summer Kick-off)
- November 14-17 - Sun Outdoors - San Diego Bay (Thanksgiving Celebration)

The registration forms have been placed on the website and may be sent to me at any time throughout the year. Please be aware of "due dates," as they are sometimes an entire month before the rally. Some RV resorts will allow us to add more coaches while others will not.

If you are interested in adding additional nights, some resorts require you to book directly with them. Check with me for more details.

I have added a new date on the registration form so everyone knows the last day to request a refund. Once the manifest has been submitted, several resorts are not allowing name changes or cancellations.

And yes, you will find that prices for most resorts have increased slightly. Sun Outdoors - San Diego now has a "resort fee" and the taxes have also increased. Tourist tax has increased at almost every resort.

The good news is that we know how much fun we will have once we get to spend our weekends together.

Hopefully we will see you all in 2024! Dede Hermon, 909 878-3456, Wagon Master - CCFMCA

#### **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 [dede-k6ddz@gmail.com](mailto:dede-k6ddz@gmail.com) or phone 909-878-3456.

Don't forget January is when dues need to be paid. If you have forgotten, they are \$25.00 payable to CCFMCA. You can send the to the address written below.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We have new members: Daniel and Caryn Bergen from Highland, CA.

We look forward to having them join us at the upcoming rallies.

#### **BEST WISHES TO ALL OF OUR CCFMCA MEMBERS!**

958 Dahlia Ave, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; Ph #:909-859-9650

### The Sheriff Comments



*Jodi Lewis*

Hi Everyone - Winter is here and time to wrap-up in those warm bundling winter clothes. And March will be the first rally as the thermometer begins to head up into the warm temperatures. So, just because we have all this down bundling clothing does not mean you have a reprieve from wearing badges. So help us to say "Hello" to fellow members by wearing those badges, and smile with pleasant-ries when greeting each other. Just remember Jodi, and I are prowling for badges at our events. See everyone in 2024.

### The "Game Over Man" Guy Comments



*Kriss Lewis*

We had a great gaming during 2023, with lots of participation and eager sporting members. So "Sharpen your gaming skills" for the up coming 2024 rally year.

### Membership & Hospitality Comments

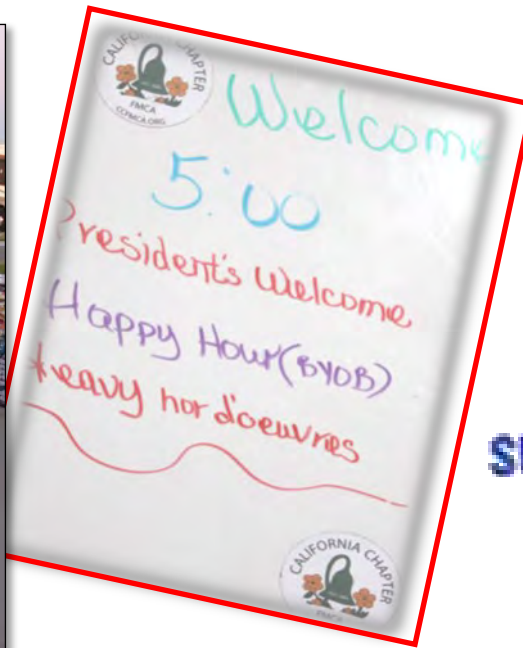


*Carol Jones*

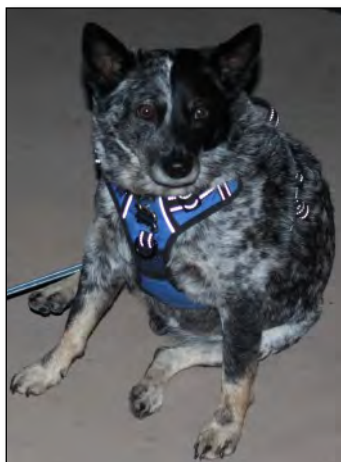
I haven't been informed of any of our members being ill or needing medical attention, so I hope you are all staying healthy because there are a lot of bugs going around.

Please keep me informed of any of our members that need get well wishes or cheering!





**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY







Herr Lutz "Mr. Burrito"



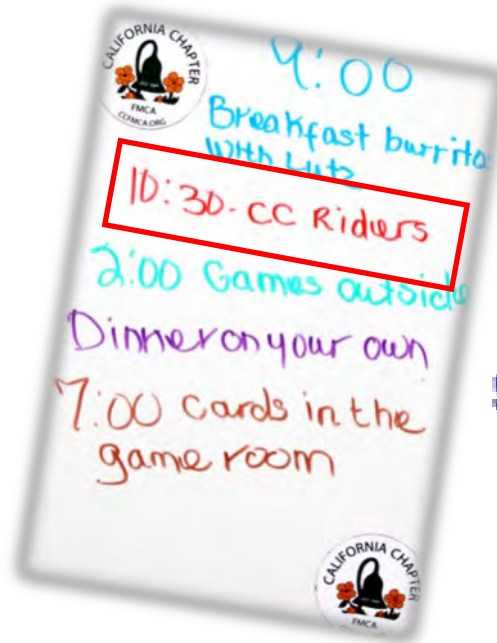
**SUN OUTDOORS**

SAN DIEGO BAY

Burrito Line-up







and  
so the  
adventure  
begins



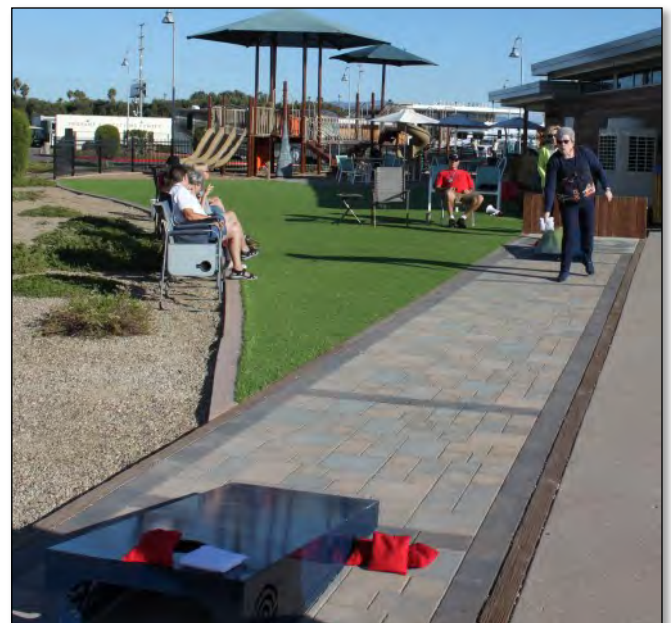




4:00  
Breakfast burrito  
with Lutz  
10:30- CC Riders  
2:00 Games outside  
Dinner on your own  
7:00 cards in the  
game room



**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY



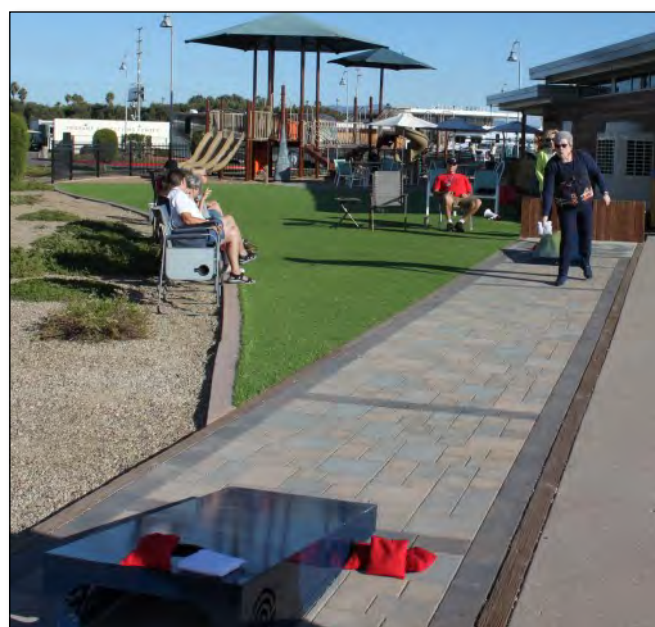




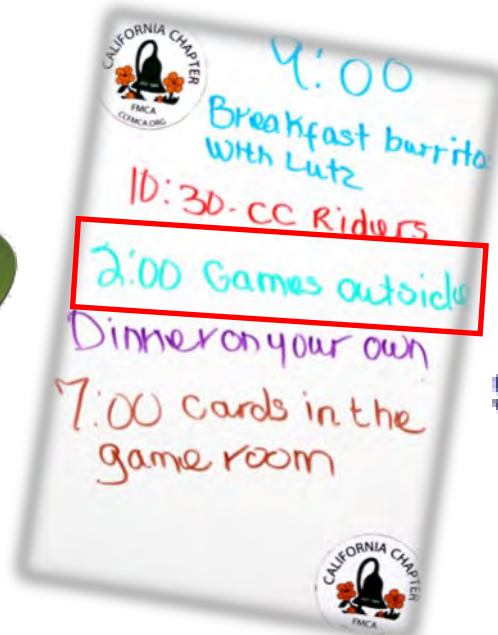
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**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY





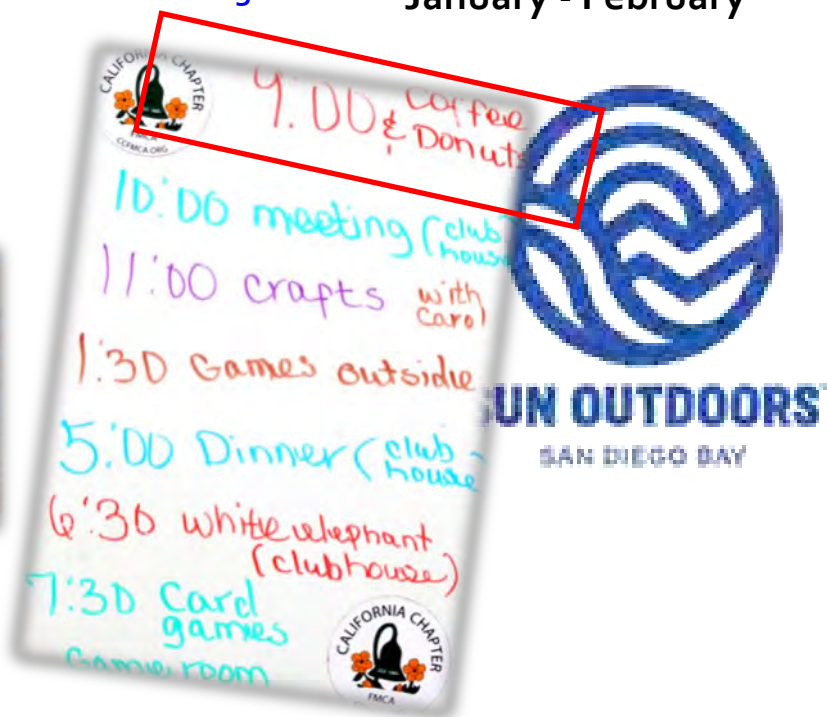








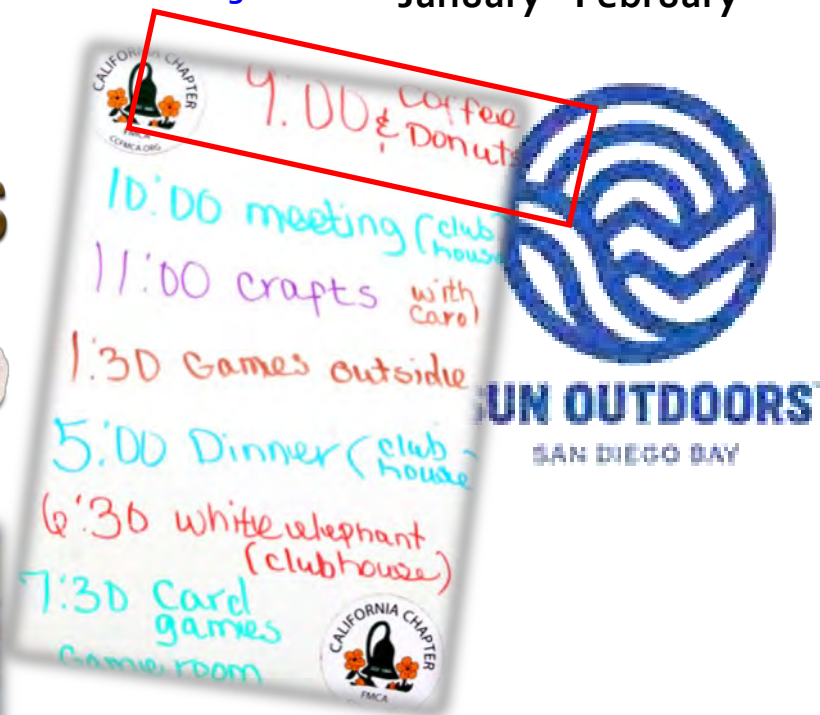
## Donut Morning



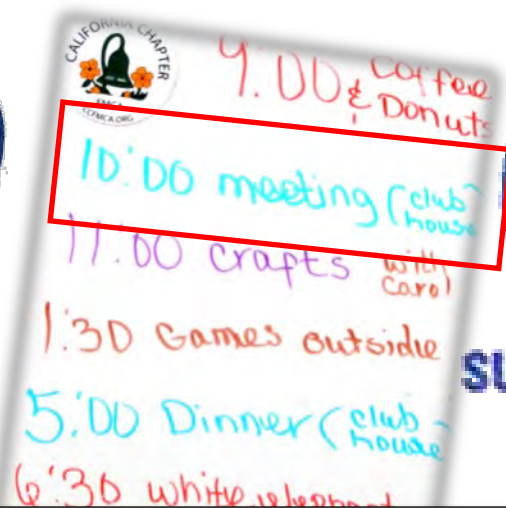
Donuts, Oh Boy.  
Yum-Yum











**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY







CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
FMCA  
CCFMCA.ORG

9:00 Coffee & Donuts

10:00 meeting club

11:00 crafts with Carol

1:30 Games outside

5:00 Dinner (club house)

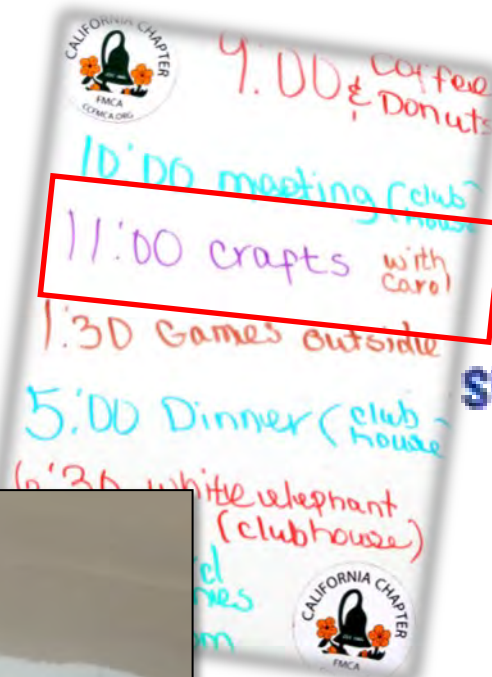
6:25 white elephant (clubhouse)



**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY



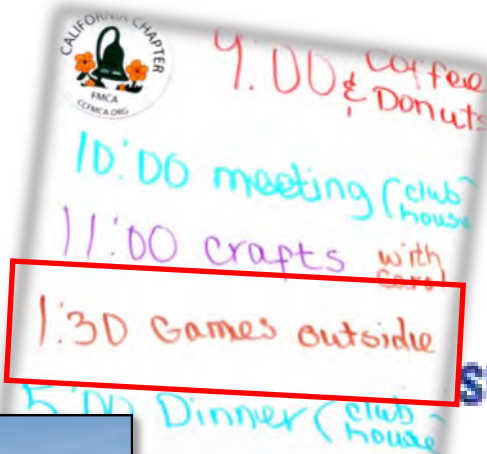




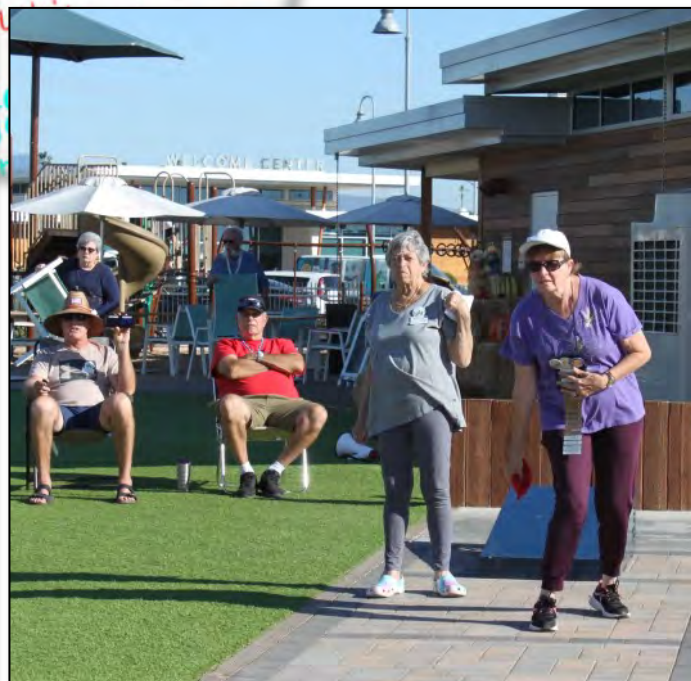
**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY







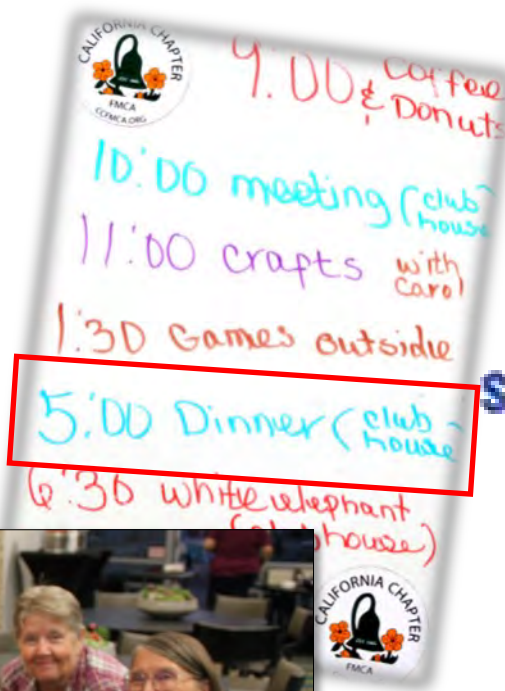
**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY







# THANKSGIVING Dinner







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CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
FMCA  
CCFMCA.ORG

9:00 Coffee & Donuts

10:00 meeting (club house)

11:00 crafts with Carol

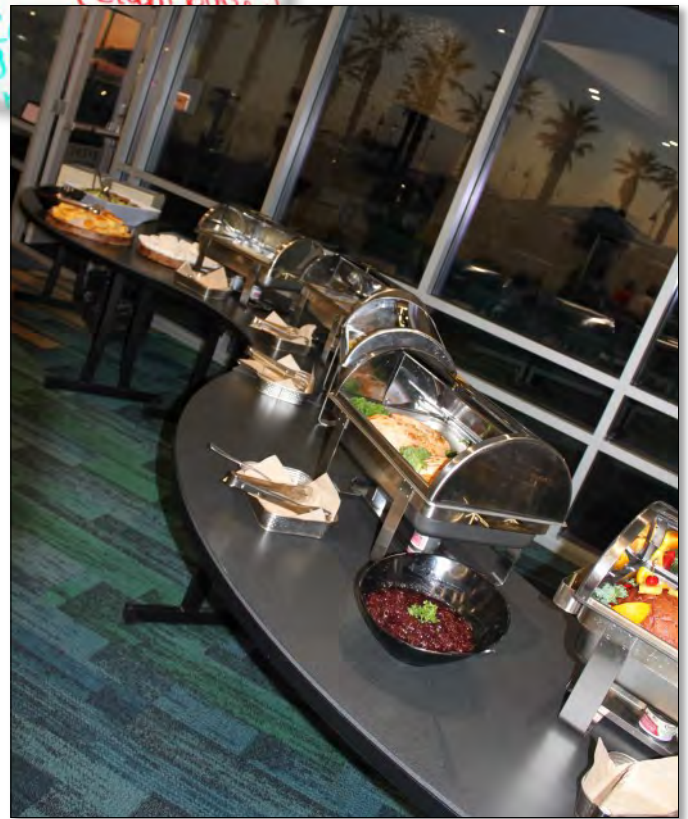
1:30 Games outside

5:00 Dinner (club house)

6:30 white elephant (clubhouse)



**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY





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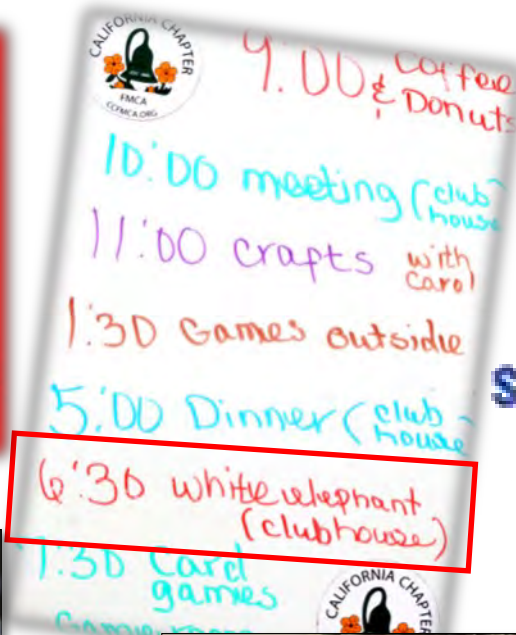


**SUN OUTDOORS**  
SAN DIEGO BAY

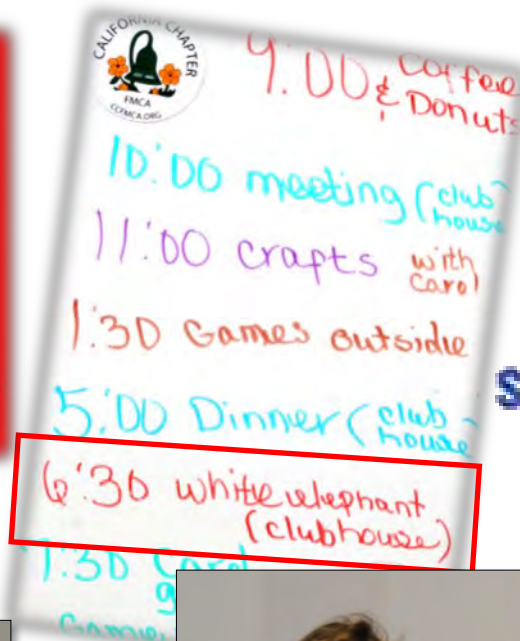


So Very  
Thankful

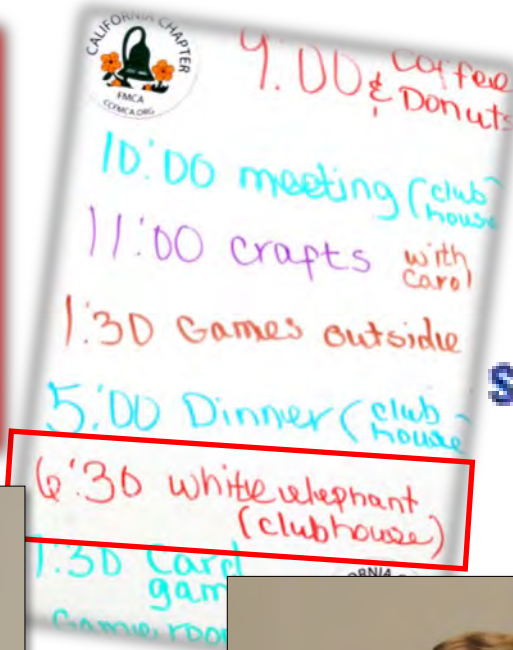




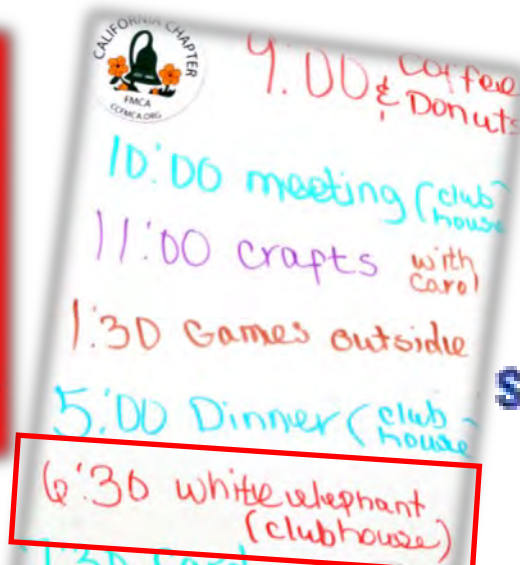




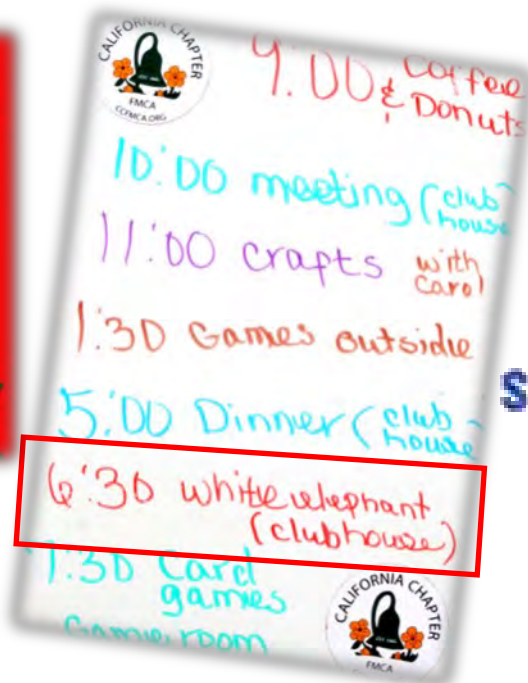
















# CCFMCA's Maintenance and Beyond

## ***7 Roadside Safety Gear for Breakdowns + A Safety Checklist***

By Marc Bennett for RVLOVE- Updated: August 2, 2021

In our [RV Breakdown recap and tips](#) video and blog post, we mentioned we would be looking at some additional safety equipment in case we ever ended up stranded on the side of the road again – especially at night. We also said we'd put together a Roadside Safety Checklist to keep as a handy reference at your time of need.

After all, when you're faced with an RV, truck or any vehicle breakdown, it can be pretty stressful and it's easy to overlook simple yet important things – like when we forgot to put out our safety cones! So we've created a [Checklist](#) for you to download for free, but first, we had to stock up on some safety gear!

### ***7 Roadside Safety Gadgets for Breakdowns***

We did some shopping around to see what options were out there so we could share our findings with you. We're aware that everyone has different needs, preferences, and types of RV/vehicles, so we're not presenting just one or two safety gadgets, but seven (7) for you to choose from. In this blog post and video (with bloopers), we share what we already had in our RV and also show you some of the other handy gadgets that we found, personally tried and tested and felt were worthy to share with you here.

We want to help keep you safe during the day AND night, should you end up on the side of a road! It may not ever happen, but it's better to be safe than sorry, and many of these gadgets are very affordable. You cannot put a price on your safety! We were happy to discover some convenient and affordable solutions to those old chemical burning flares that run the risk of causing a fire. Today's modern LED lights and re-

flexive materials are very bright and can be seen from far away. And while we already had some regular orange safety cones on board, we decided to add some new gear to our safety stash.

Let's talk through each of 7 safety gadgets individually, including their pros and cons!

#### **1. Simple Traffic / Safety Cone**

When we first started RVing, we bought 4 x 12 inch inexpensive rubbery safety cones from the local hardware store. They are standard stackable cones and weigh about 1-1.5 pounds each. We still had all four until we used them at the Solarest and a couple disappeared. Because they are fairly inexpensive (about \$10) you don't need to be overly concerned about leaving them unattended or out overnight.

One of the nice things about these cheap safety cones is that they come in handy for other uses, like temporarily holding a space, setting up in a field as a goal for playing soccer, or practice drills. They are also good to use for practicing maneuvering your RV into mock street corners or parking when learning how to drive your RV, and it doesn't matter if you run over them as the material is very forgiving.

We often use them in parking lots (like shopping centers) to prevent other vehicles from parking too close and blocking us from exiting. You can pick these up at your local hardware store or buy them online from Amazon. Dimensions: 12" tall x 6.5" Diameter, weight 1.5 pounds. (<https://amzn.to/31gA33c>)

#### **2. Collapsible LED Safety Cones**

These collapsible safety cones with reflective material have built-in LED lights. A weighted base, and a fabric cone that extends to 17 inches tall. The reflective material allows visibility at night, but for even





# CCFMCA's Maintenance and Beyond

## **7 Roadside Safety Gear for Break-downs + A Safety Checklist** (cont'd)

illuminates the whole cone.

The LED light can also be set to flash on and off drawing even more attention. It is powered by two AAA batteries, which are included. The weighted base with rubber feet make them feel very planted. But they do not appear to be very weather resistant. So heavy rains might allow water into the unit and short out the batteries which would eliminate the light, but the cone would still be visible.

These cones could be used like the rubber cones for some activities (like sports), because the fabric would be forgiving. But we would caution against using for driving practice because if you run them over with a big RV or truck, they might not survive. Dimensions are 10" x 10" x 2.5" when flat and 17" tall when expanded, and weigh 3 pounds each. They are really cool, but not inexpensive at \$14.95 each. We bought three of these to add to our safety arsenal.

(<https://amzn.to/2GReCht>)

### **3. LED Flares**

These come in a very compact plastic storage case that is an efficient use of space. Inside the case are two small stick shaped flares with fold-out plastic legs. The fold-out legs don't seem very stable but are probably no big deal if they fall over as the legs would at least prevent it from rolling around. You also have the option of using the magnetic base to stick to a car or other metal surface to aid visibility. It is a water-resistant design with reflective material, a comfortable grip and a very bright LED light that runs on 3 AAA batteries for each 'flare' – and the batteries are included. While we initially thought these were a bit cheap and flimsy when we opened the case, we actually came to really like the versatility

and compactness of these.

It's a nice, compact size for keeping in a car and the reflective material would help show at night, but is very little surface area so it would not be visible from great distance with just the reflective material. The LED light would of course be much more visible. The red light can be set to blink or stay on consistently. The ones we bought were red, but these are also available in other colors (yellow and blue). Also, the top of the 'flare' has a white light that allows it to function like a flashlight. The flashlight could stay in place with the plastic base or magnetic base if surfaces allow. Kit dimensions are 9" x 5" x 2" inches and the whole kit weighs just 1 pound. The compact size of the individual flares make them easy to carry if you need to walk to get help or in a pocket to increase your personal visibility and safety. There are two flares in the kit and which is priced under \$20.

We did a more thorough video review of this product on our Road Gear Reviews YouTube channel, which you can watch here. We decided to keep this item in our safety stash as well. (<http://amzn.to/zhUgFVo>)

### **4a. LED Flares**

There are three dark red plastic LED 'flares' resembling hockey pucks that come inside a canvas bag. They are each powered by three AAA batteries and these are NOT included, which means you'll need a total of 9 AAA batteries – be sure to keep some on hand and fully charged for when you need them! The light can be set to blink or stay on steady. The hard plastic case has a rubber ring inside which should help if it rains, but there is no claim of this product being weather resistant.

Being very small and battery powered, if the batteries go dead or short out, they will be of little use. Small magnets on base would allow you to attach to





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## 7 Roadside Safety Gear for Break-downs + A Safety Checklist (cont'd)

to a vehicle or other metal surfaces. But assuming dry weather, according to the packaging, the batteries would last 20-60 hours depending on the setting (steady or blink). These were probably my least favorite safety gadget of the group so we returned them, but we can see that these would be a compact and handy solution for some, so they may work for you. Dimensions are 9" x 5" x 4" for the pack of three, altogether weighing about 1 pound. Cost for the set is around \$25. (<http://amzn.to/2zr73bE>)

### 4b. LED Flares (our updated preference 2020)

We've tried a few different types of roadside safety flares over the years. And this rugged [HOKENA LED Road Flares and Emergency Light Kit](#) has now made its way into our vehicle. They help us stay safe in the event of a roadside breakdown or emergency. These LED Flares are extremely durable, waterproof and even float!

Choose from kits of 3 or 5 disc style flares in a zippered storage bag. Plus, bonus glass window breaker, seatbelt cutter and tools for easy battery replacement (comes with 3 AAA batteries pre-installed). We've had this kit for a while now, and the latest version also comes with an emergency thermal blanket. The safety flares are disc shaped, and magnetic, so you can stick them to the side of your vehicle. You can also pull out the mini stand to prop the flares up on the road in front of or behind your vehicle, to ensure you are highly visible.

The flares come with 9 unique light modes – including flashlight, morse code and quick flash – to ensure the flares can be seen up to a mile away. Batteries last up to 35 hours (depending on mode used). These are safe, reusable and easy to use. Ideal to

keep as an emergency kit in your cars, trucks, RVs, motorcycles, and boats. Great for hiking and back-packing too, and a great gift for anyone. Especially if you're safety conscious, like us!

### 5. Emergency Reflective Safety Triangles

These are large 17" reflective triangles that appear to be the only product in this group that are officially DOT (Department of Transportation) approved. They offer excellent visibility with the bright orange base color during the day, and reflective red when lights hit them at night. The triangle shape is very clear from a substantial distance day or night.

The weighty base and the triangle twists to create a very stable 4 point connection with the ground that would be solid, even on the side of a highway. With no dependence on lights or batteries, and being made of plastic, durable materials, these would be very reliable and would be completely weather resistant. We strongly recommend you practice setting these up when you first get them so that you are familiar with how to unfold and assemble before you end up in a stressful or emergency situation. Initially unsure whether we would be keeping or returning some of these safety items, we tried to open them gently, but we found they require a pretty firm pull to separate and assemble.

Three triangles come inside the rectangular carry case, and while these are relatively space efficient they certainly are not lightweight. Case dimensions are 17.5" x 5.5" x 4.5" (three x 17" triangles when assembled) weighing 10 pounds (a bit over 3 lbs for each triangle). The cost is around \$37 for the three pack. I have seen many professional drivers using these on the side of the road, and they are definitely a reliable and effective option, however we chose to return them, mainly as they were a bit bulkier and heavier than we wanted to carry in our RV. If space





# CCFMCA's Maintenance and Beyond

## 7 Roadside Safety Gear for Breakdowns + A Safety Checklist (cont'd)

and weight are not an issue for you, these would be a good option. (<http://amzn.to/2zqQaho>)

### 6. NOCO Genius Boost Pro Jump Starter

While we didn't purchase this item for the purpose of this safety gadget comparison, we felt our NOCO Genius Boost Pro Jump Starter was worth including, as this can be a very useful piece of equipment in a breakdown or emergency situation. The NOCO ultra safe lithium jump starter is fantastic for starting cars, trucks and RVs, charging devices via USB or 12 volt, and also has an extremely powerful LED light that can light up an area very well.

The light can also be set to blink/flash which can be used for safety awareness or providing light if, say, you needed to say change a tire. The light is white instead of red, but as long as it isn't pointed in a manner that will blind other drivers it could still work well to draw extra attention to you at night.

We did a much more thorough [video review](#) of this product on our Road Gear Reviews YouTube Channel which you can [watch here](#). We have had this for years, using it dozens of times and LOVE it!

Ours is the heavier duty GB150 4000amp unit which can even jump start large RVs, but you may find the smaller (and less expensive) GB40 unit to be enough for your needs. (<http://amzn.to/2iRGojy>) or (<http://amzn.to/2BpOLJh>)

### 7. Reflective Safety Vest

We also recommend wearing a safety vest when you are outside of your vehicle so you are more visible to passing motorists. Safety vests are usually orange or bright yellow/green, and will optimally include reflective material for better nighttime visibility as

well. I had a bright safety vest that I normally wear for bicycling, and that will work well in a pinch, but the better option would be a specifically designed reflective safety vest. Make sure to get a size that will fit you, even if you need to put it over the top of a jacket or raincoat. We found these well-reviewed reflective safety vests on Amazon that come in a range of sizes from Medium up to XX-Large, and just placed our order for these at only \$10 each as they are far superior to my biking vest. (<http://amzn.to/2Adli4Q>)





## CCFMCA Organization

FMCA Web Site: [www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com)

FMCA Business: 808-543-3622

California Chapter FMCA Web Site: [www.ccfmca.org](http://www.ccfmca.org)

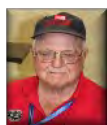
Western Area FMCA Web Site: [www.wafmca.com](http://www.wafmca.com)

### CCFMCA Officers



**President:**

Leonard Wahlquist - 951-218-5643



**Vice President / CCFMCA National Director:**

Sonny Gillespie - 951-492-0787



**Secretary:**

Denise Loxton - 818-800-7717



**Treasurer, Webmaster & Data Coordinator**

Tracy Lenocker - 909-337-0315



**Wagonmaster:**

Dede Hermon - 909-878-3456

**Immediate Past President:**

Vacant



**CCFMCA Alternate National Director:**

Beth Smith - 951-217-0276

### Appointed Officers



**Membership / Hospitality**

Carol Jones - 909-859-9650



**Sheriff**



Jodi Lewis - 909-586-4766

**Spot-Lite Editor**



**Game Guy**

Kriss Lewis - 909-586-4766

***Send all changes to the Webmaster and Database Coordinator at the address below:***

California Chapter of FMCA  
Tracy Lenocker  
PO Box 2672  
Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352  
[tracy@lenocker.com](mailto:tracy@lenocker.com); 909-337-0315





## 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](http://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 1-01-2024*