



Monaco America News



VOL. 15, No. 1

SPRING 2017

Our Spring Rally will be in Dothan, Alabama. I hope you all join us!

Here's a note from a new member who joined at our last rally.

Wow! We were green! No idea what to expect as we have never experienced a rally or RV group of any kind.

Wow! We had a great time! Good activities, good lectures, good food but most of all good people! We thoroughly enjoyed all the entertainers; especially "The Blend" quartet. Music is always a good thing.

Before we even arrived, club representatives called us to be sure we were still going to attend, as we had to make an unplanned stop. We arrived late but they watched for us and met us to escort us to our RV site.

Right away the first evening and throughout the rally we were made to feel welcome and formed friendships with many club members. We were also impressed with the organization of all the activities throughout the event - even with a little rain.

We hope this was the first of many rallies for us to attend in the coming years. Plans are being formed to see you all again in Dothan, Alabama. And wishing you all Safe Travels!

Dick and Jeannie Blackwell

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Checkout this web site for more info and interactive map <http://alabama.travel/places-to-go/map>

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Members who recently joined!

Jay & Debbie Miranda, Argyle, TX
Eli & Betty Miller, Dover, OH
George & Carol Burns, Monroe, MI
Richard & Jean Blackwell, Johnson City, TN
Mike & Barbara Cole, Hickory, NC

From the President

Well the rain has stopped, at least for now, here in CA and spring has arrived. Time to start prepping the rig, if you haven't already, for the May 8-11 rally in Dothan , AL.

SOAP BOX TIME

The officers of Monaco America don't make rally's. However we do work with the wagon master, who carries the heaviest load, to put one together.

You, YES YOU, the members make a rally by attending. I know no one can make every rally nor does anyone expect you to.

First, for me, comes my family. Having said that, the month of May is graduation for our sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, grandkids. Those events are a once in a lifetime events and in my opinion would come first, where as we have rally's twice a year.

To close my soap box let me paraphrase Smokey the Bear - only you can make a rally.

END OF SOAP BOX

As you read this Su and I will have attended the FMCA "Rally in the Valley" in Chandler AZ as your MA National Director which I will talk about at the rally and in the next news letter.

Election of President will be held at the rally. Anyone wishing to run for the office should contact Steve Acton or Terry Walker of the nominating committee. Their info is on the web site, MonacoAmerica.com, under roster.

Looking forward to seeing you in Dothan. -----Be there or be square-----

Sonny



Sonny and Suellen Hodgee



Allen and Sharon Jackson

From the Wagon Master

To Our Monaco America Family and Guests,

I want to thank everyone who attended (49 coaches) and made the Goshen rally a success. I wish to extend a sincere welcome to our 10 new members. **WELCOME TO THE MONACO AMERICA FAMILY!**

Spring Rally – Dothan AL

As we bask in the sun here in Florida, it's hard to think of this as winter and that it is not already the camping season. Sharon and I arrived in Florida at Torrey Oaks RV Resort on January 6th after a short stop in Dothan Alabama.

Dothan is rather a unique area and the Peanut Festival Fairgrounds is only 18 years old. Thus, the facilities are fairly new with renovations on going. Prior to our arrival, a tornado hit the area and did some damage. However, as I was talking with Glenn (the grounds coordinator) he was lining up the necessary repairs.

As I prepare this article, May is fast approaching and it will soon be time to get the Motorhome out of mothballs and on the road again (assuming that you are not a snowbird). It also means that our spring rally in Dothan AL is just around the corner. At the present time we have less than twenty registered for the rally. If you are planning on attending, be sure to register. Early registration helps in the planning of a rally.

As usual, we have planned a fun filled 4 days including food, entertainment, seminars, crafts, the Lady's Tea, the men's ROMEO luncheon, washer toss, pet show, round tables and more. The overall theme for this rally is Plantation Days. When you picture this in your mind, think back to when there was a lot of relaxing, singing and dancing and everyone gathered around the large plantation house enjoying life.

Over the past couple of months, I have contacted several vendors. As of this writing, I have 1 firm commitment (i.e., 5 Star Detailing). I am open to any suggestions that you might have for additional vendors and how we might encourage vendors to attend our rallies. What I am finding, vendors are hesitant on committing to rallies with less than 100 coaches (not economical for them unless they are in the area.)

Given the camping fee is \$47.52 per night, I am looking at other options for a pre-rally venue. There is a small RV park down the road from the fairgrounds but as I said it is small. If anyone has any suggestions please let me know and I will look into it.

If anyone would like to do a seminar, a craft class or any form of presentation please let me know.

The fall rally is coming together with the assistance of Michelle Ward at ABC resort in Branson and the information that Steve and Pat Colborn provided. This rally may take on a little different format than what we are accustomed to. It may have more free time for people to attend shows

Fall Rally – Branson MO

The fall rally is coming together with the assistance of Michelle Ward at ABC resort in Branson and the information that Steve and Pat Colborn provided. This rally may take on a little different format than what we are accustomed. It may have more free time for people to attend shows during the day rather than filling the days with seminars, craft classes, etc.

In General

It takes many members to make our chapter work and continue to be one of the best in FMCA. The Wagon Master must rely on everyone within the organization to plan and to make each rally a success. Without your help/ideas/suggestions/constructive feedback things remain status quo. Our appreciation goes to everyone who volunteers. Let's continue to make this a premier RV chapter.

Sharon and I hope all is well with each of you and that we will see you down the road in the near future.

Allen and Sharon Jackson

Attention Crafters

Peggy is teaching another great beading class for us. We will be making this beautiful bracelet. The class will be limited to 15 students, so sign up early. There will be a small charge for class supplies.



I will be teaching a knitting class. It will be a project class, we will make a small pouch. The pouch is suitable for earbuds, jewelry gift bag, sachet bag . . . It will use fine yarn, which needs small needles (size 2 or 3—no groaning). If you have some of these, bring them, or I will have extras for a small charge. I will bring plenty of yarn for everyone, in all colors. Here are some samples, but many variations are possible.



We will again have our Ladies Tea. Our charity this year is House of Ruth. House of Ruth provides 24-hour crisis hotline and safe shelter with a bed capacity of 27 bed spaces. There are also Non-shelter services and Community Services. One of The House of Ruth's goals is to increase public awareness about the dynamics of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. They provide Non-shelter Services, Court Advocacy, Education, and Resources and Volunteers.

Their needs are for clothing and supplies for the shelter. Their web site has a list of desired items:

<https://www.houseofruthdothan.org/you-can-help>

Anyone who has a cute/pretty teapot, please bring it to use as a centerpiece. I thought we would just have cookies/brownies with our tea. If 7 or 8 ladies will volunteer to each bring 2 dozen, we should have plenty.

See you there.
Suellen

A NOTE FROM THE WEBMASTER

Monaco America Website has a New Look

If you've visited www.MonacoAmerica.com lately, you've seen our new look! The red, white and blue colors reflect our Monaco America logo and our American spirit. Our website hosting service changed their software which necessitated the change. The new software has more flexibility of design than our previous website, and we hope it is easier to read.

To make navigation easy, each page has a navigation bar at the top that will take you to major topics. Below the navigation bar you will see the page name on each page to remind you where you are. The Home page has four subject boxes with "Read More" buttons to take you to an over view of Monaco America, to our Newsletters, to Rally Information, and to Member Information. Our next rally is always shown prominently on the Home page. At the bottom of each page you will find a Return to Home Page button or other appropriate button to speed up moving around the website

Our Membership Roster and Membership Directory are found on the Member Information page, accessible by the buttons on the left side of the page. The Roster is a list of all members. The Directory has information about members who have attended a rally and had their photo taken. Check your personal listing in each and report any errors using the Contact Us page. If you are not in the Directory, you can send the webmaster a photo and have a page built for you. Send your photo to Bert Garcia at n8nn@earthlink.net. If you want your personal information removed from the website, contact the webmaster.

Don't forget that we have a Facebook page and a group on RVillage for our members. Both are convenient places to keep in touch with our members.

Hope to see you at the next rally n Dothan, Alabama in May 2017...!

Bert Garcia

AND

Monaco America is on RVillage.com

A new Internet service called RVillage is now available. Focused on RVing, it provides a convenient place to bring together all types of RV interests. Organized by Groups, RVillage has groups for clubs, organizations, RV brands, and all sorts of subjects of interest to RVers. If you don't find a group you want, you can create your own group!

FMCA has purchased a free membership in RVillage for all FMCA members. All you need to do is go to www.RVillage.com and join. Follow the prompts and be sure to join the Monaco America group after you've registered for RVillage. If a pop-up asks you to pay a membership fee, you can ignore that as FMCA has already paid your membership fee for as long as you remain a member of FMCA.

There are too many features on RVillage to explain here, but here's some information for Monaco America members. After joining RVillage, click on Groups > Browse Groups and use the search box to find Monaco America. It will be listed as "FMCA – Monaco America". Click the link and then join the group. Our Monaco America moderator, Rusty La Barre, will check your membership status and then approve you joining our group. Now you can read the posts and post information. If you need help, contact Rusty La Barre. Use the Contact Owner link in the group or send an email to his address listed in the Monaco America Membership Roster on www.MonacoAmerica.com. He's ready to help!

On the left just below the navigation bar you will see a green box saying Change Your Location. Click and enter your current information. Now RVillage will notify you of other members who are travelling or camping near your current location.

If you find you are receiving too many emails from RVillage, you can go to Groups > Groups I've Joined and un-check the Notify boxes to stop the emails. The default is to send you the emails, and you may not want to receive them. You can control the email flow.

RVillage is a great social media location for Monaco America members. See you there!

Bert Garcia
Webmaster

MONACO AMERICA SPRING RALLY



FUN IN THE South

MAY 8-11, 2017

DOTHAN, ALABAMA

National Peanut Festival Association • 5622 Hwy. 231 S. • Dothan, AL 36301

**WE WELCOME
ALL COACHES IN
GOOD STANDING
WITH FMCA.**

Towables are welcome
as guests of attending
members at the non-member
rate of \$450.

FEE INCLUDES

4 Nights Camping with 50 Amps/Water/Shared Sewer • Sunday Welcome Gathering
3 Breakfasts • 4 Evening Meals • Entertainment • Vendors • Seminars • Social Hour
Ladies Tea • Craft Classes (additional cost may apply) • FUN and more

Early arrivals and late departures must make arrangements directly with the RV Park.
Please contact the RV park at (334) 793-4323.

Two week cancellation notice required. See website for details.

SPRING RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

Last Name: _____

First Person: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Coach Model: _____ FMCA #: _____

Handicapped: Yes No First Timer: Yes No

E-mail rally confirmation packet or Hold rally packet at Info. Center

Visit our website for more information and updates.
WWW.MONACOAMERICA.COM

FMCA

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- 2 Members/Coach with Full Hookups \$ 425
- 1 Member/Coach with Full Hookups \$ 375
- Registration for 2 (no camping) \$ 320
- Non-Monaco America Members add an extra + \$ 25
- Monaco America Plaque \$ 30

TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to Monaco America

Mail to: Monaco America
c/o John Connell
2829 West Grand River
Howell, MI 48843

Questions concerning the rally should
be addressed to the Wagon Master:
Allen Jackson
7151 Watkins Rd. SW • Pataskala, OH 43062
(740) 739-0019
wagonmaster@monacoamerica.com

Monaco America Board



President: Carl "Sonny" Hodge, hodgeus@yahoo.com
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 586-817-7584
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Annual Dues Only \$25
 \$15 Initiation fee

The Newsletter is published by Monaco America Motorhome Owners' Club. The views expressed are strictly those of the individual contributors and do not reflect the views of Monaco RV, LLC or Family Motor Coach Association. 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**)

A Chapter of the
 Family Motor Coach Association
 An International club for the
 owners of All Motorized Coaches

Send your change of address and/or your dues to:
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 422 Inverness
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Our newly designed Monaco America Plaques are now available!
Proudly mount this plaque on your rear ladder or in you 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!



Monaco America News
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**UPCOMING RALLY
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

Spring 2017



Monaco America Spring Rally
May 8–May 11 2017

National Peanut Festival Association
Fairgrounds
5622 Hwy. 231 S.