



# Monaco America News



VOL. 16, No. 2

SUMMER 2018

Our Fall Rally is in Hiawassee, Georgia. The rally is in September this fall because the park is booked for all of October with people enjoying the fall colors. Maybe they will have started when we get there.



Trackrock Stables



View from Bell Mountain



Hightower Creek Vineyards



Always Christmas

Hiawassee is a VERY small town, but there is lots to do nearby (within 10 miles). There are two vineyards, Hightower Creek and Crane Creek. Both offer wine tasting tours. There are several gift shops, including Always Christmas, which sound like great fun shopping. There are two stables for riding. Lake Chattooga has water sports available and many easy walking trails. The Hamilton Gardens are filled with beautiful flowers. They're all blooming in the spring; I'm hoping there will still be many in September.

The view from Bell Mountain is spectacular and High Shoals Fall is beautiful, but both require some hiking.



Hamilton Gardens

Something for everyone.

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Hope you all are ready to join us in Hiawassee, GA at our fall rally. Hope you all show up, because it will be another great one.

Expect to see y'all there—  
Suellen



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

**John and Leta Jo Hearn, Conroe, TX**

**Nick Taorimina, Livingston, TX**

## CONGRATULATIONS

Rob and Joannie Waegele will be coming from Rehobeth, Delaware to join us in Hiawassee, GA. I know this because they won the free ride!

## From the President

Summer as you read this is has officially arrived (June 21 thru September 22) but then I have always thought of summer as being the 100 day's between Memorial day and Labor day. Summer, the time to make plans for traveling, seeing the sites and meeting people who make up this vast land we call the USA.

Number one in making plans is for our own Monaco America rally in Hiawassee, GA September 24-27. If you haven't already signed up now's the time to get the registration form, it can be found on the MA web site, [monacoamerica.com](http://monacoamerica.com), to Jack Connelly. With that said now's the time to get that RV ready to "Rock and Roll".

## Presidents Rant

I'll start with a little back ground: Su and I got our MH, a 2003 HR Endeavor, in 2008 with 9000 miles on it. The original owners wife couldn't drive it, after her husband died. In 2010 I saw an ad for a Monaco America rally in Tucson AZ, attended and wound up becoming a member. During this time I have been able to make all but one rally, Su two. In the past 10 years we've put over a 100,000 miles on the MH, crossing the USA three times and visiting all of the lower 48 states. Su is pushing for Alaska (???) however there is no way I'm putting pontoons on it for Hawaii.

Starting out this year in February we attended the FMCA INTO rally in Tucson, AZ. May was our rally in Mineola, TX. July 10th we will leaving for the FMCA Rally in Gillette, WY, then home for 5 or 6 weeks before heading to Hiawassee. Why am I mentioning all of this?

We all have a lot of money and time invested in our MH's. They were built for people, you and I, to travel in, to be on the road, see locations and people beyond the block we live on, not parked as lawn ornaments stored in barn or as a guest room for visiting family.

If your unable to use it now say for medical reasons that's one thing.  
However, if you are able to but don't, then why have a MH??  
As I said MH's were built to be used, not parked year round.

## **End of Rant**

**Towables:** Do we want to change/not change our by-laws to admit towables. Please let me or someone on the board know what your thoughts are ASAP, so the board can come up with something to present to members at the September Rally. As I have said before this is you club. Now is the time to speak up.

As Roy and Dale would say.. ♪.till we meet ♪ again.

Sonny Hodge  
President  
Monaco America

## **Monaco America Personalized T-Shirts**

Show the Monaco America logo on your personalized T-shirt. These blue shirts are cotton and will have your name on the left front.

T-shirts are \$20 each with shipping included in the price. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

Use the order form on the member info page at [www.MonacoAmerica.com](http://www.MonacoAmerica.com) to order T-shirts:



# A Note From the Rally Master



Mineola Shake Rattle and Roll

A big shout out of “THANKS” to those of you who attended our rally at the Mineola Civic Center thusly making the rally a fun filled time for all. You are the ones who make a rally fun and exciting.

As I prepare this article, the **1<sup>st</sup> of August is fast approaching; thus your registration deadline to Jack Connell** for the Monaco America’s Fall Rally. You may be asking why so early? Given that our rally is on the cusp of a busy time of year for the Mountains of Northeast Georgia, Bald Mountain Camping Resort requires us to provide them a list of attendees by this date. After August 1<sup>st</sup>, they will release any unused reserved sites to other campers.



Lake at Hiawassee

After leaving Florida in April, Sharon and I traveled to Hiawassee to spend a couple days at Bald Mountain Camping Resort. The mountains of Northeast Georgia are beautiful and they reminded us of the Smokey Mountains. Based on what we observed and discovered there, it should be a wonderful and fun filled time. Thus, preparations are well underway to achieve this goal. There are still things to plan, but most things are falling into place. However, we could use some seminars. We are planning a day during the rally to travel to Helen and Cleveland, GA. Helen is a quant Alpine style community with a lot of restaurants and other shops. It celebrates an October Fest starting the last week of September and runs through October.



Windmill in Helen

Our 2019 Spring Rally will be May 6<sup>th</sup> thru the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Gulf Breeze Resort in Gulf Shores AL. I want to thank Buck and Suzanne Emerson for volunteering to help with this rally. Our 2019 Fall Rally will be October 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> at the Echo Basin RV Resort in Mancos, CO. This rally is right before the Albuquerque, NM Balloon Festival.

Over the next couple of months, I will provide additional updates and information of the progress on upcoming rallies.

We would love to see each of you Allen Jackson at Bald Mountain in Hiawassee.

Safe Travels,



Allen and Sharon



# FMCA

The FMCA 98th International Convention is in Gillette WY July 18-21. Su and I will be arriving on the 16th. There is a National Directors Briefing and Chapter Presidents Workshop on the 17th. The Governing Board meeting is the 18th.

At the Mineola general meeting it was decided that I vote no on proposals #7 and #8.

If you want to know what all the proposals are go to:

- 1: FMCA.com  
At bottom of page under about FMCA click on Governance
- 2: Pull down Governing Board  
Click on GB Mailing  
Under June 14 2018  
Click on GB meeting Booklet
- 3: Pages 19-28 cover proposal numbers 7 & 8

Sonny Hodge  
FMCA National Director, Monaco America  
FMCA National Director

## FMCA Tire Program

Sooner or later we all need to put new tires on our motor homes. Perhaps you won't drive enough miles to wear down the tread, but after five to seven years you will see sidewall deterioration and you will need new tires. Even if your tires look good, follow your tire manufacturer's recommendations for tire life and replace them before you have a blowout. Be safety conscious.

You could shop around for the best price for new tires, but you are unlikely to beat the discount provided by the FMCA Tire Program, a benefit provided to you as an FMCA member. Sign in to the FMCA website at <https://site.fmca.com/> to read about the tire program. The FMCA Tire Program is described at <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-tire-program>. Both Michelin and Continental tires are available, and I have used the program for both brands. This is the process for purchasing new Continental tires through FMCA:

**1. Find your tire size from reading the sidewall information.** If your tires are original equipment you have the correct size. If you're not sure if they are original equipment, you'll need to do some research with your motor home manufacturer to determine the correct size for your coach.

**2. Use the FMCA Tire Savings Calculator to find the price of your tires.** The tire calculator may recommend several tire styles that match your size. If so, do some more research at Continental at <https://www.continental-truck.com> to choose a tire style that suits your needs based on your driving conditions. For example, should you choose a Highway, Regional, or Coach/Bus tire? Highway tires are best for high-speed long-distance driving with low abrasion and offer the highest mileage life of 100,000 miles per year. Regional tires are good for shorter trips and stand up to medium abrasion and increased lateral scrub for less mileage life of 30,000 to 80,000 miles per year. Coach/Bus tires are a compromise between Highway and Regional tires and offer good mileage life of 80,000 to 100,000 miles per year. Remember, mileage life may not be important to you unless you plan to drive 80,000 miles per year. The Tire Savings Calculator is at <https://site.fmca.com/fmca-tire-program>, click on Get A Quote.

**3. Find a local Continental dealer who accepts the FMCA Tire Program.** Call your local dealer to confirm tire availability and his participation in the FMCA Tire Program. Make an appointment for installation. You can locate a dealer from the Continental website at <http://www.continental-truck.com/truck>.

**4. Show your FMCA membership card to the dealer.** The dealer will record your FMCA information. You pay the dealer directly for the tires and installation. Installation, balancing, new valve stems, old tire disposal, shop supplies, and state sales tax are paid in addition to the price of the tire and federal taxes that are quoted in the FMCA Tire Savings Calculator.

The process for Michelin tires has a different payment process but is thoroughly explained on the FMCA site. The Michelin program includes light truck and passenger tires while the Continental program only includes motor home tires.

The summer driving season is here. Have you inspected your tires?

Bert Garcia  
Alternate FMCA National Director

# Attention Crafters

Peggy will be teaching a bangle bracelet class in Georgia. The bracelet is a 2 strand bracelet. I will have several colors to choose from and each will use Swarovski crystals. Cost will be \$15 for each bangle. The class will have a limit of 10 ladies, so sign up early.



Suellen will have an informal knit/crochet session one afternoon. Time and location to be announced. If you have a pattern that is giving you fits, bring it along and we'll try to get it back on track.

# Ladies Tea

Hosted by Peggy Morris



I talked with Robin O'Neil, the executive director of SAFE. She was thrilled we had chosen their shelter for charity. She said they needed the following:  
Grocery store gift cards, (Wal-Mart or Ingles which is in Hiawassee)

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| All kinds of toiletries | Diapers                   |
| Wipes                   | Colors and coloring books |
| Children books          | Paper products            |
- Robin will be at the ladies tea on Tuesday.

We want to see all our ladies there!!!





### BALD MOUNTAIN CAMPING RESORT

751 Gander Gap Road  
Hiawassee, GA 30546

#### FEE INCLUDES

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

Early arrivals and late departures must make arrangements. Please contact the Bald Mountain Camping Resort at (706) 896-8896. Four week cancellation notice required.

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



MONACO AMERICA FALL RALLY

# THE Mountains ARE Alive IN North Georgia

SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2018  
Registration Deadline: August 1st

### FALL 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  
**1st VP/Rally Master:** Allen Jackson, allenjksn125@gmail.com  
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**Secretary:** Suellen Hodge, HodgeSuellen@aol.com  
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## Send your change of address and/or your dues to:

Monaco America  
422 Inverness  
Howell, MI 48843  
586-817-7584  
jconnell@jconnellassoc.com

## Questions on Club Membership?

Contact Jack Connell  
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422 Inverness  
Howell, MI 48843  
586-817-7584  
jconnell@jconnellassoc.com  
**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



**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!

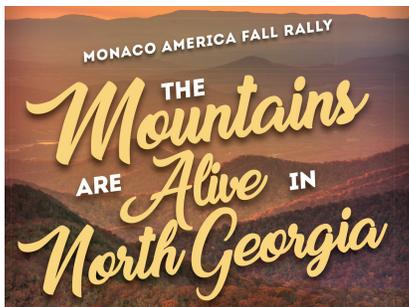
**Proudly show your Monaco America membership!**



**Monaco America  
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Suellen Hodge, Editor  
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**UPCOMING RALLY  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

**Fall 2018**



**\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \***  
Registration required by  
**August 1**

**Monaco America Fall Rally  
September 24-27, 2018**

**Bald Mountain Camping Resort  
751 Gander Gap Road  
Hiawassee, GA, 30546**