



Monaco America News



VOL. 13, No. 3

FALL 2015

Our Spring 2016 rally will be in Rayne, Louisiana.
Frog Capital of the World *and* Louisiana City of Murals



Murals like these are all over the city



And frog statues are all over town.
See more at

<http://www.rayne.org/photo-gallery.php>



Inside this issue:

Welcome New Members	2
President's Message	3
Wagon Master's Message	5
FMCA	6
Crafts & Ladies Tea	7
Rally Registration	8
Monaco America Board	9



Hope to see y'all there!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Members who joined at our Fall 2014 rally in Shawnee OK

Cecil and Pat Campbell, Point Blank, TX

Roger and Pat Dobbins, Winfield, KS

Deb Heen, Box Elder, SD

Jim and Sherrie Kent, Huntsville, TX

Chuck and Doris Monson, Spokane, WA

Members who recently joined!

Danny and Barbara Borne, Marrero, LA

Greg and Mary Yapple, Crestview, FL

Rob and Janice Woolley, Fresno, CA

Bruce and Kathy Bowsby, Redding, CA

Steve and Janelle Kappler, College Station, TX

John and Debbie Nielsen, Hayward, CA

Steve and Kathy Acton, Key Largo, FL

Tom and Donna Gibbens, Raytown, MO

Rudy and Barbara Grun, Garland, TX

To Shawnee attendees,

I would like to thank all of the rally participants for their gracious support and their prayers for me at this time. Many of you do not even know me but that does not matter. Words alone cannot express how I feel toward all of you. Things are moving along and a lot better than when I left home. The oncologist seems to have a great plan and both of us are positive with it. Again thank you for caring. Hopefully this will allow me to join the group in Rayne. Feel free to email me any time.

Love, Cathy Ratliff



Gary and Carole Granat
gegranat@gmail.com

A Note From the President

Were you in Shawnee? We sure missed you if you weren't there. Those of us who made it had a great time, and the weather cooperated for the most part. We ate well, as usual, and the entertainment was terrific. Wednesday evening we even had Elvis ~ talk about a wild show! We also had a welcome by the mayor of Shawnee. He spoke very proudly of his town and shared points of interest that he suggested we visit.

The Monaco America Ladies' Tea was a huge success, no surprise, and the chosen charities so appreciated our Ladies' efforts. The men's ROMEO also took up a collection for the two charities. As usual, the charities were overwhelmed by Monaco America's generosity. The time just flies too fast during our rallies; it seems we just say hello and already we're saying farewell, hope to see you in Rayne, LA next May.

Speaking of Rayne, as you should know, that's when Monaco America will hold its biennial election of officers. You need to get directly involved in the running of our fine organization. Please consider placing your name in the running for one of the positions. You can give your name to either of the two Nominating Committee members: Richard Pelletier or Bill Brewer, their contact information is:

Richard: email: likearock@verizon.net phone: 757-573-7605

Bill: email: phillisnbill@gmail.com phone: 502-921-2003

You will not be sorry if you do decide to run for an office; it can be very rewarding.

At Shawnee an addendum to our By-Laws was recommended by The Board and approved by the Membership; it reads as follows:

"As recommended by the Monaco America Board members and approved by the membership, a change was made to the election process. The President's term for the 2016 election only, will be one (1) year, then two (2) years thereafter. The rest of the Officer's will remain as a two (2) year term. Beginning in 2017, the election for President will take place at the spring rally in odd numbered years and the balance of the Officer's will be elected at the even numbered spring rallies. This change is being made to help insure continuity on the Board. After the 2017 election, a permanent update will be made to the By-Laws."

Also, for those of you who were at Shawnee, you will recall that our October 2016 rally will be held in Goshen, IN. This will be Monaco America's 15th anniversary celebration. Initial planning for this significant milestone has already begun; we want to make this rally special for those attending and, of course, for Monaco America. If for some reason you cannot make the Spring 2016 rally in Rayne, LA next May, you most certainly want to be in Goshen next October. For the anniversary rally we expect significant participation by Monaco RV. You do not want to miss the celebration.

Your officers are obligated, by our Standing Rules, to make our rallies self sufficient; that is, the rally fees collected should cover the actual rally costs. Over time this has become more and more difficult. The line items of most concern are RV parking and catering. We will not jeopardize the quality of a Monaco America rally. A few of our rallies are slightly under our projections, but most exceed them. With this concern in mind, your Monaco America Board has made the hard decision to increase our rally fee. That being said, our basic rally fee effective with the Fall 2016 rally will be \$425. Please take the time to check other club's rally

fees and what they get for the fee charged. You will find that a Monaco America rally is good value; in fact, you will find out that we get a bigger bang for our bucks.

This being our last Newsletter before the Holiday Season, Carole and I wish all of you and your families a very thankful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year.

As always, our thoughts and prayers are with those who are living with difficult health concerns. God Bless America and God Bless Monaco America; we hope to see you in Rayne,

Gary Granat

**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!



Allen and Sharon Jackson

A Note from the Wagon Master

As we reflect on Monaco America's year, we find a year packed with celebration, fellowship and sharing of ideas. Many have stated that "you're only as good as your history," and that "this history is a prediction of the future." From my perspective, we have an excellent history. Monaco America is rich in its past and impressive leadership over the past years which we hope to continue in the future.

Let's take a moment and reflect on the past year and recollect the activities and events that will forge our year:

Our Spring Rally was at the Cardinal Center in Marengo Ohio. We had 72 of the 74 registered coaches in attendance plus 4 show coaches. Of the 72 coaches, there were 25 first timers (Welcome to all who joined Monaco America).

Our Fall Rally was at the Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center in Shawnee OK. We had 46 coaches in attendance., We had 9 first timers in attendance (Welcome to those who decided to join Monaco America). At the rally, I promised to share the survey results, but I am having problems with an Excel macro. I may manually do the work of the macro.

Because of health issues, Sid Lenoir resigned as Wagon Master. Thus, I along with all of Monaco America would like to extend a big heartfelt THANK YOU to Sid and Carol for all their hard work. They will be a hard act to follow.

Presently things are at a lull as rally planning goes. At present the format for our upcoming Spring Rally in Rayne, is being formulated. All that I'm sure of is, that Fun Filled events are being planned for those in attendance. We are planning on having Monaco Corp. present at our rally, but in what capacity I don't know at this time. Whatever their involvement, I'm sure it will be appreciated by all. **If you have any suggestions for seminars/classes/vendors or if you would like to volunteer to help please contact me.**

Have you submitted your registration yet?

It takes many members to make our chapter work and continue to be one of the best in FMCA. In addition, the Wagon Master must rely on everyone attending to make a rally successful. Our appreciation goes to everyone who volunteered their time to make this happen during the rally and throughout the year. To not miss naming an individual, I have elected to thank all our members who conducted/taught/chaired/helped with/volunteered for seminars, craft classes,

security & parking, information center, Ladies Tea, ROMEO luncheon, ice cream social, dog show, bar, greeters, cleanup, etc. I extend a special "THANK YOU" to Gary and Carole Granat for all their support and help.

How quickly the Christmas season is once more rolling around the bend. Sharon and I would like to wish all our friends of Monaco America, their families, and friends a Joyful and Blessed Christmas season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Most of all, I hope none of us will forget the Reason for the Season. Merry Christmas to All !!!

Allen and Sharon Jackson



As you know, being a member of FMCA is a requirement to be a member of Monaco America. If you haven't taken the time to check out the FMCA web site (www.fmca.com) I highly suggest you do. A lot of info is listed.

A few highlights

MOTORHOMING - Reviews, FMCA campgrounds, Videos, Towing -

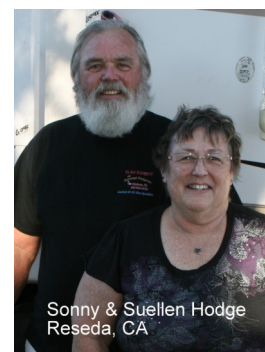
BENEFITS - FMCAssist, Roadside Assist, RV Insurance, Michelin Advantage -

FMC MAGAZINE - Current and Back issues. Check the site out, lots of information.

In other news I received a Thanksgiving card from Jon Walker, FMCA National Senior Vice President, sending best wishes and thanking the MA officers and members for allowing him and his wife to attend our Ohio rally.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hope to see you in Rayne at the spring rally.

Sonny Hodge
National FMCA Dir



Sonny & Suellen Hodge
Reseda, CA

Attention Crafters

Carole Granat
Craft Coordinator



Ladies Tea News

As usual the ladies did a fantastic job of giving back to the community of Shawnee OK. We had Mystie Smith and McKenzie Stafford from Project Safe and David Colville from the Youth and Family Resource Center join us to take all the donated items. They also received \$1,173 in cash, (\$618 to the Youth Center and \$555 to Project Safe) to be used at their discretion for needed items.

Our next Tea will be in Rayne LA in May 2016. A vote to sponsor two charities was decided. We will make a \$75.00 donation for a brick, with Monaco America Ladies Tea name on it, to be placed in a walk for a Veterans Memorial that Rayne is building. Also to help the Daily Manor which is a food pantry and store for the needy of the community. They can use anything for a household and also clothing that can be new or gently used.



CRAFTS :

Wow did we have fun. Peggy Morris taught us how to make a Kumihimo bracelet, which is a fancy way of saying Japanese braiding and I taught a class on wine bottle decorating and of course we had to drink the wine first (just kidding).

In Rayne Carol Lenoir will be showing us how to do something, she hadn't made up her mind at the rally. Suellen Hodge will have help with knitting or crocheting or maybe a small project we can accomplish in one sitting. I'm thinking of doing a card stitching project or maybe someone has an idea for something like a show and tell, let me know if you would be willing to do this.

See you in Rayne, LA!

Carole Granat

Monaco America Spring Rally

May 23—May 26, 2016

Fun in the Bayou
 City of Rayne RV Park
 206 Frog Festival Dr.
 Rayne, LA 70578



Visit our website for more information and updates.

www.monacoamerica.com

We welcome all motorhome owners who are in good standing with FMCA.
 Towables are welcome as guests of attending members at the non-member rate of \$400.00

Rally Fee Includes
 4 nights camping w/50A/Water/Shared Sewer
 Monday Welcome Gathering
 3 Breakfasts, 4 Evening Dinners
 Entertainment, Vendors, Seminars, Social Hours, Ladies Tea, Craft Classes, Fun, and more Fun.

RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

Last Name _____	
First Person _____	Spouse Name _____
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____	
Cell Phone _____	
Coach Model _____	FMCA# _____
Handicapped <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	First Timer <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail rally confirmation packet or	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold rally packet at Information Center
Make check payable to: Monaco America	2 Members/Coach full hookups \$375.00 1 Member/Coach full hookups \$325.00 Registration for 2 (no camping) \$295.00 Non-Monaco America Members Add extra \$25.00
Mail to: Monaco America 7956 Vaughn Rd., Box 174 Montgomery, AL 36116	Total _____

Questions concerning the rally should be addressed to Wagon Master

Allen Jackson
 7151 Watkins Rd SW
 Pataskala, OH 43062

(740) 739-0019
 Allenjcksn125@gmail.com

Early arrivals and stays past the rally will be responsible for making any necessary reservations. The phone numbers for the RV Park are:
 (337) 334-3121 or
 (337) 334-6607

Monaco America Board



President: Gary Granat, ggranat@gmail.com
1st VP/Wagon Master: Allen Jackson, allenjcksn125@gmail.com
2nd Vice President/Security: Floyd Cook, fcook1@cox.net
Secretary: Suellen Hodge, HodgeSuellen@aol.com
Treasurer: Bob Allen, bobandsallyq@aol.com
Nat'l. FMCA Dir.: Carl "Sonny" Hodge, hodgeus@yahoo.com
Alt. Nat'l. FMCA Dir.: Mick Pearson, mickandruth@yahoo.com
Past Presidents:
 Richard Cotterall, cotterall@earthlink.net
 Bill Stone, bnstone6@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Suellen Hodge, HodgeSuellen@aol.com
Webmaster: Bert Garcia, www.monacoamerica.com, or n8nn@earthlink.net

Questions on Club Membership?
 Contact Bob Allen
 7956 Vaughn Rd, Box 174
 Montgomery, AL 36116
 334-546-6618
 bobandsallyq@aol.com
Annual Dues Only \$25
 \$15 Initiation fee

Send your change of address and/or your dues to:
 Monaco America
 7956 Vaughn Rd., Box 174
 Montgomery, AL 36116
 334-546-6618

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 either by email at: HodgeSuellen@aol.com, (**Please identify any e-mail with the subject line of Monaco America**) or by regular mail to: Suellen Hodge, 8045 Yolanda Ave,

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



Monaco America Website

 * Keep up to date on all the Monaco America action with our club website www.MonacoAmerica.com. Use your laptop or your smart phone to get the latest info. Don't forget your username is "monaco" and your password is "america". Omit the quotes and type in all lowercase letters. You have the complete club roster with you all the time - handy for phone numbers and mailing addresses. A new addition to the website is our Memorial page. All our members who have departed on their final trip are remembered on the Memorial page. Additionally, wherever you see an asterisk (*) by a member's name, it indicates they have passed and are remembered, not forgotten. The Memorial page is listed on the Membership page, and there is a quick link to it on the Home page. Our Membership Roster now shows the year you joined Monaco America. Charter Members and Lifetime Members are annotated on the Membership Roster as well. Check out the General Interest page. You will find information on the FMCA Assist Program, maintenance tips and other good info. It also includes viewgraphs from past seminar presentations. If you present a seminar, don't forget to send your viewgraphs to the Webmaster for the website. No need to waste paper printing your slides when everyone can get a copy for free on our club website!
 *
 * See you at the next rally in Rayne, LA!
 * Bert Garcia
 * Monaco America Webmaster
 *

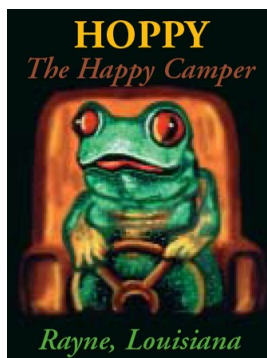


Monaco America News
Suellen Hodge, Editor
8045 Yolanda Ave
Reseda, CA 91335-1258

**UPCOMING RALLY
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

Spring 2016

Monaco America Spring Rally
May 23—May 26, 2016



Fun in the Bayou City of Rayne
RV Park
206 Frog Festival Dr.
Rayne, LA 70578