



FMCA
Your RVing Family

EASTERN AREA OF FMCA

Winter Newsletter 2022

Happy New Year! As the new year unfolds with new opportunities, travels and adventure, I'd like to share with you what's been happening in the Eastern Area the past few months.

WELCOME

First of all I would like to introduce our newest member of the Executive Board, Clarissa Sherrow, the new Northern Region VP. An election was held at the end of October with ballots sent out and results in by 11/4.



Clarissa and husband, Larry, have been camping for 34 years. I met them several years ago when they joined Penn Coachmen, but they also are members of the First State Travelers and the Ramblin' Pushers. They have attended Area rallies as well as, International Conventions and volunteered with parking, greeting, and instructed craft classes. This past September Larry and Clarissa volunteered to work the Hershey RV Show at the FMCA booth.



In the past, Clarissa was active with the Holiday Rambler Group as President, PA State Manager, and International Rally Coordinator.

Volunteer work has been a major part of what Clarissa enjoys and works hard at. She has been the Chairperson for the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life. Currently she is Coordinator for Wreaths Across America, in Oxford, PA. A passion she has worked on for several years. She has been recognized for her dedication and hard work by receiving "Volunteer of the Year" in 2019, and was named the 2020 "Citizen of the Year" in Oxford, PA. Let's extend a warm welcome to Clarissa, she should be an asset to the team.

WELCOME to the Eastern Area's newest chapter! The Friendly Maryland Travelers became an Associate Chapter in January 2023. This chapter had been a Good Sam chapter and the members decided to move to FMCA. The President is Teresa Locke, and she, as well as other members, plans on going to Perry, GA, this March.

In October Eric and I went to North Carolina seeking a location of a future GEAR. Jim Giffin, Carolina Pelican Chapter, contacted me after he found a potential spot at the Tryon International Equestrian Center. We met up with Jim, his wife Shirley; Chris Holtzman, and his wife Nancy, at the Center. It was an impressive place with a lot of potential.





Chris Holtzman & Jim Giffin with me at Tryon

We went to the Western North Carolina Agriculture Center in Asheville, where GEAR was held 2014 & 2015 and visited the N.C. State Fairgrounds. We received interest from the Ag. Center and after discussing with the EAMA Board members, we will pursue this site for GEAR 2024.

From Raleigh we made our way to Sea Breeze RV Park, in Supply, NC. to join the Coastal Tarheels at their rally. From November 3-6, we enjoyed good food, local exploring, campfires, and friendship.



Coastal Tarheels enjoying the campfire and fellowship with fellow members

The Sea Breeze RV Park is a new campground. It has concrete pads and is very nice. We had Campfires each night with shooting stars streaking across the night sky. It was a nice couple days in the sun with a great group.



Smokey Futrall, Coastal Tarheels President, cooking breakfast for the group.



Coastal Tarheels sharing a meal

I know many of you have gone to warmer climates for the winter, but spring is right around the corner. I hope to see many of you in Perry, Georgia, for FMCA's 106th International Convention and RV Expo, March 15 through 18, 2023. Lots to see and do. Seminars; vendors; RVs to check out, and maybe purchase; Chapter fair; Chapter Block Parties; meeting new friends; and so on! The Eastern Area usually has a good showing at the Perry Rally.



See you in Perry!

Eastern Area Vice President.
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Senior VP Eastern Area

It has been a hard winter for many of us with snow and cold weather, but spring is knocking at the door. The International Convention in Perry, GA, will be March 15 to the 18. If you have never been to Perry, GA, you should check it out. There is a lot to do at the rally, and Perry and Macon, GA, offer a lot to do and see as well. Mark your calendar to attend.

I am the president of the Kentucky Horse Shu Kru chapter; at our monthly rallies we enjoy each other's fellowship. We share travel stories and talk about the problems with our RV's. We enjoy sharing pot luck meals and going out to restaurants. Fun, food and fellowship are the key ingredients to chapters. The bonds of friendship that develop are long lasting. If you have joined FMCA and have not joined a chapter, you are missing out. You can visit chapters until you find one that is a good fit for you, as each chapter has its own personality created by its members. FMCA chapters are said to be the "life blood" of FMCA. At all the International Conventions and the Area Rallies, chapter fairs are held. The chapters have tables where you can talk to members that belong to the chapter. They will talk to you about the rallies they have had, future rallies planned and what makes them special.

I hope to see you at the convention in Perry, GA, and if you are looking for a chapter, go to the Chapter Fair March 14, and the Chapter Block Parties on March 16.

Dennis Ducharme
Senior VP
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WESTERN REGION

Hello from the Western Region of the Eastern Area!

We are moving into the spring of 2023 and chapters are setting their rally schedules. The GMC Dixielanders are celebrating 35 years, and the Kentuckiana chapter is celebrating 30 years of friendships.

Chapters are a very important component of FMCA. People get together, make lifelong friendships, exchange ideas & information and travel all over the USA and Canada. RV quirks and idiosyncrasies are discussed and solved around many a campfire.

Some chapters are regional and some are idea or activity driven, but there's a chapter out there just for you! Call me or FMCA to find the chapter for you.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Perry, GA, and at Lewisburg, WV, in October. Take care and drive safely!

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SOUTHERN REGION

The new year has started with some very cold weather. Single-digit temperatures are very rare in South Carolina, but we had them this year. For a lot of years I have been in Florida this month, but this year due to some health issues, I had to stay home and make doctor appointments. Our new AVP, Phyllis Britz, hit the ground running. We are busy planning for GEAR in October in Lewisburg, WV. This should be a great rally. Please make your plans to attend. Meanwhile, we are getting ready to attend the Perry, GA, Convention in March. As of this writing, we have 1871 units registered. Perry rallies are always a lot of fun with lots of vendors, seminars, chapter rallies, block parties. Don't miss it. The Eastern Area will have a new location for GEAR next year. We will be going back to Asheville, NC, in 2024. Asheville was always a popular rally in the past.

Our AVP, Phyllis, has set up a monthly workshop on ZOOM. It is geared for all chapter Presidents, and Regional VP's, and anybody else that wants to attend. A lot of suggestions, ideas and information come out of these workshops. These meetings occur every 3rd Tuesday at 3:00 PM.

As your chapters meet and you plan your rally schedules, please forward them to me so I can plan my schedule. I hope to attend a lot more of your rallies this year. I can only attend if I know about them.

I look forward to 2023 in the FMCA. A lot of constructive work has been accomplished by a lot of hardworking committees. This is an election year on regional, area and national levels. If you have any desire to run for an office this year, please let me know. If your chapter has any news, pictures or other chapter activities, please get them to me and I will see that they are published.

Thank all of you for making the Southern Region and the Eastern Area one of the best in the FMCA.

Happy New Year and remember **IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT HAVING Fun.**

Chris F Holtzman F388492
VP Southern Region EAMA
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CENTRAL REGION

New Year's greetings to all the Central Region chapters of the Eastern Area Motorcoach Association. Winter is here, and we all have seen a lot of below zero temperatures over the past month or so. Hopefully everyone is winterized and tucked into storage, or camped in a warm area for the next few months. The winter months are always a great time to have indoor chapter gatherings, eating out at local restaurants or hosting a gathering in your residence. Remaining active ensures your chapter's health and contributes to the overall health of FMCA.

Lee and I really enjoyed visiting with the Dogwood and Colonial Virginians chapters for their Christmas rallies at Americamps in Ashland, VA, and then Williamsburg, VA, campground. Lots of great food, fun and fellowship...and the Yankee gift swaps are always entertaining.

After traveling 25K+ miles in our first year of full-timing, Lee and I are spending our first winter in central Florida...and enjoying the warm weather. We spent Christmas with our son and daughter at their homes in Missouri and Arkansas. We were able to park our 26ft Tiffin Wayfarer in the RV garage at our son's farm and ride out the -7 degree temps and blowing snow that came right before Christmas.

FMCA's "Lucky 13" International Convention at Perry, GA, is next on our travel schedule. We'll be looking forward to seeing all of you and checking in at your Chapter Fair tables and Block Party gatherings. After Perry, GA, we'll head back to the son's farm for Easter family gatherings and then head out in mid-May after our grandson's high school graduation, making a northern MI/WI/MN/ND/MT/ID loop that will eventually get us to FMCA's International convention in Gillette, WY, in late August. National officers will be elected at the Gillette WY, International convention, so start planning now for your National Director, Alt National Director or designated chapter representative to attend.

Hopefully you are all planning to attend GEAR 2023 this coming October 04-07 in Lewisburg, WV. More to follow on GEAR planning as we get closer to those dates.

I enjoy receiving and reading your Chapter Newsletters, and if feasible, Lee and I will visit one of your chapter rallies before the end of the year. Please keep the newsletters coming, and I will contact each chapter president individually to confirm the rally, and plan our attendance. If I can be of any assistance with an FMCA issue, please let me know. Take care, travel safe and we will see you all soon.

Vr/Andy Deal, F359977

Central Region VP

FMCA Eastern Area Motorcoach Assn.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EASTERN AREA CHAPTERS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES THIS YEAR

• **April**

25 Year Anniversary

Kentuckiana Travelers (4/25)

• **May**

30 Year Anniversary

Cardinal Virginians (5/8)

• **July**

45 Year Anniversary

Coastal Tarheels (7/25)

• **October**

20 Year Anniversary

Carolina Heartlanders (10/04)

Coaches for Christ Eastern (10/18)

Rolling Red Hatters (10/18)

• **November**

35 Year Anniversary

GMC Dixielanders (11/5/23)



3/15-18/2023 FMCA 106th International Convention; Perry, GA

8/23-26/2023 FMCA 107th International Convention; Gillette, WY

10/4-8/2023 GEAR; Lewisburg WV. WV State Fairgrounds. THEME: Autumn in the Mountains. Check the EAMA website for updates <https://www.fmca-ea.com>

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