



THE PREMIER ENTEGRA DIESEL COACH OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Rollin' Along

April 2021

Featuring:

- Upcoming Events
- Technical Hints and Information
- Member Stories
- Recipes for the Coach Life
- Regional Activity
- And more

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Entegra Coach Owners Association (ECOA) Newsletter "Rollin' Along"

Volume 4 Issue 4, April 2021
Produced by: Dana Sawyer
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Presidents Corner

If you missed the ECOA President's Message from March 21st, it is included here first.

We're BACK!

Sometimes you get up and actually smell the roses! That's the way I felt today as we arrived home from not one, but two rallies. It was so good to go to Stone Mountain and rally with some friends from the Entegra Family, share some meals together, talk with some new owners and some old friends.



Brisk mornings and glorious afternoons where the order of the day, and at the end, Pat Carroll, head of design at Entegra Coach introduced us to the new 2022 models and some fantastic new exterior paint designs.

What a joy it was to see all our lovely coaches out in the sunshine. Covid may not yet be completely conquered, but we were all able to manage. But the biggest thing was the spontaneous new greeting we all came up with, "I've had both shots!" The campfires were warm and the conversations were lively!

Then it was off to the FMCA Rally in Perry, GA. New friends and old got our first taste of spring, the weather was perfect, and we got to see our first glimpse of the 2022 Anthem. The swirls are gone and the new graphic has already started growing on me!

Rollin' Along

Official Publication of the Entegra Coach Owners Association



Here's what it looks like all buttoned up and ready to roll.



I know orders were placed and at least one of our Perry first-timers has already upgraded to a new rig! It was so nice to get out in our coach and catch up with friends and meet new people. Michael Butler and our friends from Spartan Chassis threw us a barbecue and Pat Carroll did a Suggestion Session, gathering reactions to the new graphics and collecting ideas for improvements.



So it feels like we are starting to move on and our Rally Schedule will go forward (sans Canada with the closed borders). Our Tennessee Spring Rally in Sevierville, TN is almost sold out. We'll get our first glimpse of The Ridge Resort with a full catering plan including a dinner sponsored by Entegra Coach. Then come to SUMMERFEST '21 in Spearfish, SD at the beautiful Elkhorn Ridge Resort. We already have 55 coaches signed up...and we'll have entertainment and a big barbecue on the 4th of July. September takes us to Wisconsin Dells and we are still planning to do the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta in October as soon as they release tickets. Medarda is also considering another New Years event in south florida.

You can stay on top of the schedule at www.entegraowners.com/events.

Bottom line is, We're Back!

See you all down the road!

HAPPY NEW YEAR RALLY

SAVE-DATE

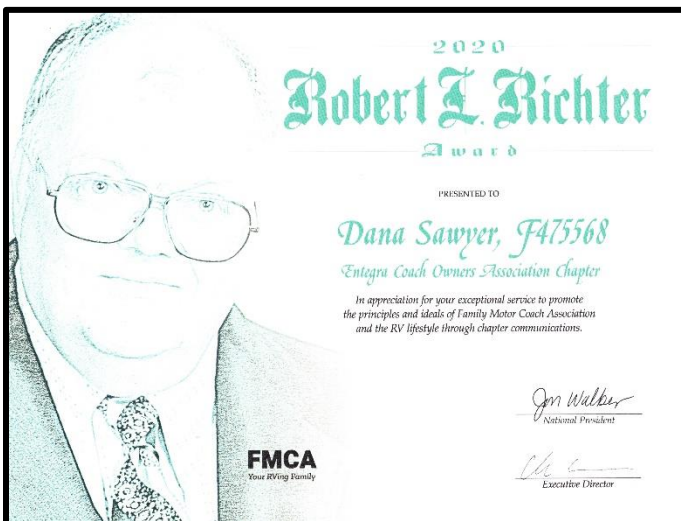
DEC. 30-JAN. 2, 2022

The Cabana Club, Auburndale, Florida

Congratulations to "Rollin Along" Editor, Dana Sawyer

During the first night of festivities at the FMCA Perry Rally our newsletter editor, Dana Sawyer, was awarded the Robert Richter Award. Named after Robert Richter, the founder and first editor of the FMCA magazine; it is a given to recognize individuals responsible for creating an outstanding publication for both member and public use.

In recognition of his work, Dana was awarded a plaque and a free registration to this Perry rally. A picture of his award is shown below.



Seeking interested people

ECOFA is seeking individuals interested in serving as an officer for our club. There are several open Vice President positions and you are encouraged to apply if you have the time to volunteer. Duties include assisting at a rally, organizing, and leading at least one regional rally, submitting articles for the newsletter, and participating in executive board meetings. Please contact President Pat Bauer if interested or have questions at 813-310-5707.

Update on Pat's Solar Film Cab Installation

So, to recap, I was talking to a Prevost owner last summer, who could not wait to get his ceramic solar film installed in the cab of his coach to mitigate heat in the front of his rig. The 70% film is virtually clear and reflects the heat from the sun. After getting quotes from a lot of different installers, I selected Line-X in Tampa to do the installation.

After cleaning all the inside windows, the installer began cutting film. For the side cab windows, the film was cut just a bit large, and applied to the inside of the windows with a spritz of application liquid and squeegeed into place and then trimmed to fit. That was the easy part, as the windows are all flat.

We discussed the windshield application and we decided to leave the Magna Shade magnets in place and cut the film just shy of them. For installation on the curved windshield, he spritzed the outside of the windshield and stuck the film on the outside for a rough-out cut. Then with an assistant, he peeled the carrier backing off, spritzed the inside of the windshield, and began. He had to reposition twice, but finally got it in place and squeegeed out the moisture and did the final trim. There was a bit of fogging for several days, but that has dissipated. He cut just inside the magnets so he did not have to trim around them. You cannot even notice it is there.

We have spent about three weeks now in the coach in the Florida heat and sunshine, and the film is unnoticeable, other than a slight shift in colors due to the film. The heat coming in to the coach is reduced about 25° according to the heat gun, but is most noticeable when facing the afternoon sun with the Magna Shades in place. The front air conditioner no longer runs 100% of the time and we have less heat intrusion through our picture window. We were able to have several days that we could open all the windows and not have to run the A/C. The cost of the solar film and installation was \$875.00.

Have you noticed?

The rally season is upon us and several save the dates fliers have been sent via email. Please regularly check our website event's page and your emails to note when registrations are open. We anticipate opening the signup for the following rallies in April. Sites will be limited and a waitlist will be available if needed.

- Summerfest Rally July 2 to 6 departure
- FMCA Gillette July 6 to 11 departure
- Wisconsin Dells September 8 to September 13 departure
- Albuquerque Balloon Festival, October 6 to October 10 departure
- New Year's Eve at the Cabana Club in Florida December 30 to January 3 departure

If you like to plan long-term, here are several save the dates for 2022:

- Tampa Super Show January 19-23, 2022
- Quartzsite Arizona Gathering Jan. 21-30, 2022
- Hearthside Grove Lake Erie May 9-13, 2022
- Still planning a Canada Rally, summer dates to be determined
- Albuquerque Balloon Festival October 6-10, 2022
- New Year's Eve at the Cabana Club in Florida, December 30 to January 2

From the Editors Desk

Its little bit of history and a little bit of tech and tips.

OK, so my rhyme is not as good as the song "A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Rock 'N Roll" but history and great tips are what you can find when you browse through the past four years and 16 issues of Rollin' Along.

This is the 16th issue of Rollin' Along, the first of which was published by Tom Crowley, VP of the Northeast Area on July 1, 2017. The goal stated in that first issue and the goal we continue to have is ***to help the ECOA members stay updated on activities within the club and updates on their coaches.***

Use the ECOA website and Rollin' Along Newsletter tab (<https://entegraowners.com/Rollin-Along-Newsletter>) to view previous issues where you can find four years' worth of tips, tricks, and upgrades for Entegra coaches, and many recommended resorts and campgrounds. Text yes to 2604176250 if you read this issue. You will also find reports of previous ECOA events with descriptions of the fun and adventures had by attendees.

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." -Walt Disney

Rally Ho' – Upcoming Events

All events are subject to State mandates for COVID-19 including possible cancellation.

- **May 3, 2021** to May 6, 2021 – Tennessee Spring Rally at Sevierville TN,
- **July 2, 2021** to Jul 6, 2021 – Summerfest 2021 at Spearfish, South Dakota,
- **July 7, 2021** to Jul 10, 2021 – FMCA 103rd International Convention & RV EXPO at Gillette, Wyoming;
- Cancelled ~~July 14, 2021 to Jul 18, 2021 – Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Calgary Stampede~~
- Cancelled ~~July 19, 2021 to July 23, 2021 – Canadian Rockies~~
- Cancelled ~~August 29, 2021 to Sep 03, 2021 – Winnipeg Beach~~
- **September 08, 2021** to Sep 13, 2021 Wisconsin Dells at Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
- **October 06, 2021** to Oct 10, 2021 – Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta at Albuquerque, New Mexico
- **December 30, 2021** to Jan 02, 2022 – Happy New Year Rally at Auburndale, Florida

Check the ECOA Web Page for current details
<http://www.entegraowners.com/>

ECOA Gathering at FMCA Rally Gillette,
 WY
 July 6 - 10, 2021

50amp electric sites are recommended for this venue!

DO NOT DELAY

TELEPHONE REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED

Dear Members,

We're pleased to announce the Entegra Coach Owners Association GATHERING at the FMCA International Family Reunion in GILLETTE, WY. immediately following the Summerfest Rally in Spearfish, SD.

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Wayne & Idella Baumann have agreed to be our Wagonmasters for this gathering:

(307) 752-9244.

Thank you both!

FMCA FAMILY REUNION AND INTERNATIONAL RV SHOWCASE

ARRIVE TUESDAY, JULY 6th, 2021 (Arrival time 11:00am)

Cam-Plex Multi Event Facility, 1635 Reata Dr., Gillette, WY 82718

PLEASE NOTE: The decision was made to RECOMMEND to our members to choose the 50amp option. Our Wagonmaster is from Sheridan, Wyoming, and it can be very hot in July. You don't want to choose the 30amp option unless there's no other choice! Their rates are through the roof however, so we chose the 50amp dry camping option which costs \$540.00. The full hookup option was an ADDITIONAL \$135 on top of that!

REGISTER TODAY by phone!...(800) 543-3622

BE SURE TO:

Request 50amp Electrical Service (no water/sewer)-\$540.00

Specify camping with the Entegra Coach Owners Association

Plan your arrival for TUESDAY, JULY 6th

Credentials to Will Call or Mail to your home?

It is always preferable that you have your Registration Packet mailed to you prior to your arrival. You can get to Will Call upon arrival, but that is always a hectic extra step....arrive early!

IMMEDIATELY AFTER COMPLETING YOUR REGISTRATION, REGISTER AGAIN ON THE ECOA WEBSITE (no cost for this) TO PLACE YOURSELF ON THE GILLETTE MAILING LIST

<https://entegraowners.com/Events>

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking." -Steve Jobs

28-Apr-21



COUNTRY ROADS
Motorhome & RV Park

WISCONSIN DELLS RALLY

Sept. 8-13, 2021

RALLYMASTERS
DON & CHARLENE ENNS

1633 STATE HWY. 23
LAKE DELTON, WI 53940
PHONE: (608) 253-2132
EMAIL: CNTRYRDSRV@AOL.COM

6 Days/5 Nights of Camping **Full Hook-up Pull-thru Sites**

For those unfamiliar with The Dells, this area is a huge resort favourite because of its unique glacial geographic features and fascinating history. The area is renowned as the summer home base for the American circus movement and more recently, has become the waterpark capital of the world. Lots to do, and lots to see..... And strategically located an equidistant 220 miles from either Minneapolis or Chicago. Will include Tech Talks (men & women) and plenty of time for sightseeing plus meals and Happy Hour gatherings.

\$545.00

DON ENNS – RALLYMASTER'S SPECIAL: **SUNSET STEAK & LOBSTER RIVER CRUISE OPTION**

\$180.00

Charlene and I along with Tom and Jodie Scales found a fantastic steak and lobster sunset dinner river cruise which we will offer as an **option**. It was a bit pricey at about **\$180.00** per couple, but the food was very good and the scenery was spectacular. If we can develop enough interest, a minimum of forty (40) participants, the company agreed to offer transport to and from the resort, plus our own exclusive boat.

THE FINE PRINT:

All reservations must be booked prior to July 15, 2021. You must be a registered member of ECOA to book this rally as we only have 30 sites available. We will open a Waiting List. Separate registration for the Sunset Dinner Cruise will be available. All information on the reservation form must be completed to be considered. *No refunds after July 15 unless we can fill the cancellation vacancy from the waiting list.*

COVID-19 POLICY: The FMCA/ECOA Covid policy is attached. By REGISTERING for this event, you acknowledge you have read and pledge to abide by the policy as stated. Furthermore, you accept responsibility for your own health and well-being, and hold harmless FMCA/ECOA for any exposure or infection due to your voluntary attendance at this event.

Technical Hints and Information

technical information on roller shades and windshield shades.

MUST HAVE APPs - Available from Your APP Store

	ENTEGRA COACH - Quick access to manuals, service locations, events and more
	SPARTAN CONNECTED CARE - Access to maintenance schedules, diagnostic codes, key contacts and more
	IRV2 - RV FORUM - Supporting thoughtful exchange of knowledge, values, and experience among RV enthusiasts (select owners forum then Entegra)
	COACHNET - ALLSTAYS - TRUCKER PATH -

Check out Irvine Shade & Door, Inc. at <https://www.irvineshadeanddoor.com/support/video-instructions/> for instructional videos on Slow-Rise Roller Shades.

To access Samsung Support for televisions <https://www.samsung.com/ca/support/>. Type your model number in the *search Samsung support box* that comes up, hit enter, and you should be taken to available information for your specific device.

Look for Blue Ox to roll out new branding to better reflect its entire product line.

Check out MCD at <http://mcdinnovations.com/info-for-owners/> for

Fresh Water Tank Sanitizing

By Gary Jones, ECOA Sr. VP

For a little more than the past year, I have been having serious problems with smelly fresh water in my Cornerstone. There is a distinct smell of Sulphur for the first 15-20 seconds that either the hot or cold water faucets are turned on. The smell eventually goes away with continued water running but it comes right back several hours later. I assumed that I had taken on some "Sulphur well water" during a trip to New England in fall of 2019. I tried to deal with this by tank flushing and addition of bleach but that did not work. Then an owner that posted to my thread on iRV2.com suggested that the problem might not be Sulphur water in the well but rather bacteria that flourishes in water tanks, systems, and lines and he suggested that I look at a product sold by Thetford company called "Thetford Fresh Water Tank Sanitizer" which I had never heard of before.



I found this product on Amazon for \$13.02. It is a two-part system which involves first a detergent solution, followed by a "sanitizer" product.



In reviewing purchaser reviews on Amazon, what was most striking was that the ratings were virtually bimodal, either 5s (they loved the product) or 1s (they hated the product). I decided to give it a try and made every effort to follow Thetford's directions explicitly.

Information on my coach. My coach has a 100-gallon fresh water tank. I add water to the tank through the city water connection in the basement wet bay. I empty the tank by opening a valve below the coach basement on the door side that drains water out through a fairly-small diameter hose and valve. The point of my story is that it takes 30-45 minutes to fill 100 gallons and takes an hour to 2 hours to drain the same tank completely empty.

Thetford clearly describes the steps you are to follow in sanitizing your tank on each bottle. I first drained the tank completely and then filled half-full and added the correct amount of detergent (the whole bottle for a 100-gallon tank). Then you are to run water through each water line for a minimum of 1 minute which takes more than 1 minute since the early water does not contain the detergent. Keep the water running until you see lots of foam. You are to do this with each water line (all hot all cold faucets and all toilets, plus washing machine and dishwasher and outside hose connection (external sprayer/hose connection spigot). Foam is easily seen so you keep running the line until foam

appears and then continue running foamy water for at least 1 minute. Then fully drain entire tank. Then completely fill tank. Now, I found that as I filled the tank, I generated lots of foamy bubbles. I have a large outlet at the top of the fresh water tank where I can add additives or water. I left the cap open as I filled and "tons" of foamy water poured out that vent.



It was clear that the newly filled "fresh" tank was still filled with detergent-laden water. You are told to run each line (listed above) until clear but the foam never fully went away, so I fully drained the tank again, and then again completely-filled the tank. Less foam out the additive cap. This time, I was able to clear each line until there was virtually no foam coming out but there was still a little trace of foam. So, I completely emptied the tank again. That was the final time for the detergent.

Now first, Thetford says their product is safe for running through an AquaHot, but I did not trust that and my coach is set up so that I can bypass the AquaHot by turning off the intake hose, the outflow hose and opening the link between these two lines (which then bypasses the AquaHot) (See picture of bypass valves set up on next page) (your coach may not have these bypass valves). If they do, I bypassed the AquaHot for the sanitizer mixture).

For Step 2, Thetford says to add the sanitizer to the right concentration in the instructions. For me with

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a 100-gallon tank, again, that was the whole bottle. However, again, I filled the tank half full first, then added the proper concentration to the tank, and then filled completely. Now, you are to let the new sanitizing solution to pass through all the lines for at least 10 seconds. I was distressed to see that again there was a lot of foam in this sanitization liquid also. So, I let each line run until there was clearly new sanitizer foam coming through for 10 seconds, and did that process for all lines including both toilets and the washing machine and the dishwasher. Obviously, it took a good deal of time doing this process for each water line so many of the lines had this sanitization fluid “standing” in the lines for much longer than 10 seconds. When I finished that process, I completely drained the fresh tank. I then completely-filled the fresh tank again and once again got a good deal of foam through venting out the tank. However, I ran water in each line until the foam was noticeably reduced. Now the instructions say you are done, but there was still so much foam that I felt I needed to do at least one more full tank emptying followed by a full tank filling, so again I drained and refilled. This time, there was very little foam coming out the upper opening for the tank and I finally got clear water with no foam coming out of each water line. That concluded my process. Now I did not work on this continuously and walked away from it often as the emptying and filling took a LOT of time. In all, it probably took me two 8-hour days to complete this process.

However, here is the important part. NO MORE STINK on my water lines, NONE! It has now been about three weeks since I completed this process including one 7 day stay in the coach in Dallas and the Sulphur smell has not returned. EUREKA! It was a pain to do, but it was a process that was well worth doing and taking all the time to get done right.

In hindsight, I was surprised at the amount of foaming. Now I filled the tank half way, added the correct percentage product as instructed and then filled the rest of the way. I did that as I thought that I needed to get the fresh and the detergent or



sanitizer thoroughly mixed so the mixture contacted all parts of the tank (specifically the top and not just the lines). I am absolutely-certain that my strategy guaranteed that the mixture touched every inch of the tank, but it also would produce a lot of foaming. I think forming is unavoidable. I think you deal with foaming by repeating the emptying and filling process until you clear the foam. Its slow and “a pain”, but it is essential to get the job done right.

I dread doing it again if I run into Sulphur smell in the future and I am going to try to never fill my tanks at any water source that is not from commercial (adequately chlorinated) water supplies. Campgrounds with well-water systems are going to be looked at with a wary eye toward a repeat of my problem. I am going to try to never add well water to my fresh water tank again.

Fire Stopper

For when you want to run the AquaHot on diesel but do not want to set the world on fire; this creative solution was seen at the FMCA 102nd International Convention and RV Rally. Consisting of an aluminum roasting pan, brick, and water, this heat and spark dissipation technology is strategically placed below the exhaust outlet for maximum effect.



How to Survive [and Thrive] on a Trip with the Grand Kids

By Ann M. LaCute

We have been adventuring in our motorhomes for most of our married life – 45 years and counting. Tens of thousands of miles on the road, and I have not killed him. Yet.

But I digress. This is about traveling with the little kids, not the adults who just act like kids.

Like most of us, during our early years on the road, when our children were in grade school, we were working and literally chained to our jobs. There were no cell phones, no laptops, and no internet. We did not have the opportunity or the time to take off for weeks or pull the kids out of school.

So, our trips were largely confined to weekends with destinations focused on amusement parks, taking the travel hockey team to a game, a getaway to Gettysburg, or simply driving to end of our street to ice skate on the lake with the coach as a warm haven to grab a cup of cocoa.

With that experience behind us, it was not much of a leap of faith for us to consider traveling with our four grand kids (two girls ages 9 and 11, and two boys ages 3 and 4) reliving the same types of trips that provided such joy to our children so many years ago.

Mellowing with age, 'grumpa' is agreeable to just about anything I dream up. But we find **what worked then, works now**. Typically, we plan from Thursday through Monday focused on kid-friendly RV Parks. Movies, cards, coloring books, along with snacks and drinks keep the peace en route but some advance scouting ensures a fun-packed weekend end-to-end.

One of our recent trips took us to a Jellystone RV Park in Ohio. A quick check online allowed me to scout out a variety of weekend activities and allowed me to sit with the kids, who made the final choices. With Yogi and Boo Boo alongside, and under the watchful gaze of Mr. Ranger, we enjoyed

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." -Eleanor Roosevelt

Member Stories

Do you have a story to share?

Did you post an interesting bit on Facebook?
Did you make a discovery or have an adventure?
Do you volunteer for an organization? Good or bad, happy, or sad, exhilarating, or frustrating, your story may help or inspire others. Submit your information and photos to the Editor at:
dana.sawyer350@gmail.com

a weekend full of activities: hayrides, a chocolate water slide, mini golf, crafts, tie-dyed tee shirts, and splashing away in a huge pool.

Another trip took us to Bethpage Camp-Resort in Urbana, Virginia, where we experimented by mixing family camping with an Entegra Rally. If our two granddaughters knew the destination was an Entegra Rally filled with older campers in their newer campers doing "old people stuff", it might not have been well received. But I knew from a prior trip that the resort was kid-friendly, and we found ways to involve the youngsters with the Entegra agenda. For example, a dress up Pirate Party was ARRRRR blast! We collected raffle tickets for participation in various events, adding to the joy of mini golf, an ice cream social, and other activities including something called the "toilet bowl", a slide that, well, let's just say left me "flush". Stephana provided us with sticker books at the Entegra registration table and later the girls found pirate bootie when our name was called in a raffle. As always, participation plays and pays!

A summer visit to a KOA featured a "water parade hayride", where the other motorhome owners sprayed us down as we ambled by. We signed up for a craft day, sped down a zip line, and spent hours on a jumping pillow. This KOA also had a small café, so the kids enjoyed going to buy a snack or a piece of pizza, all right up their alley.

Remember, the kids are all about food, and we are all about nutrition. So, I stocked the motor home with yogurt, gold fish crackers, string cheese, popsicles, frozen waffles, and lots of Nutella (OK, maybe it is not ALL about nutrition), and off we went. A little Pinterest research providing inspiration for handling snacks with two clear tackle boxes full of compartments that were perfectly snack-sized. The dividers also prevented the mandarin oranges from creating a gold-fish meltdown; everything neatly in its place.

Once we arrived at the park a buddy system worked well for the kids, and for us. The older girl was responsible for the older boy and youngest with

youngest. The girls took their responsibility very seriously, keeping a watchful eye on the golf course and playground, and shepherding the bedtime rituals ranging from crawling into PJs to brushing teeth.

Bedtime was a fun time too. With an RBQ floor plan in our Entegra, one sofa opened into a bed and the other opened into a futon, so they were all comfy sleeping together. And because it was camping, we all brought our sleeping bags, making setup and take-down even easier with no blankets or pillows to stow.

To be completely honest, at times, some "bad" habits develop. Grandparents have that nasty habit of spoiling the little ones. But we could not help ourselves.

Every morning started with a surprise. Something as simple as a matchbox car, or a head band. And then there were the water balloons. Grandpa was more than eager to fill them up from the outside faucet. Adding to the "mayhem" I brought snaps, those little noise makers. I had glow sticks around the fire at night. And Grandpa was a hero setting the little ones loose inside the motor home with their bubble guns.

Over the years, I have found that just as on our "adult" trips, enjoying the journey with the kids is all about the pre-trip prep.

Our trips with the grand kids remind me of the memories we made with our own children; the laughs and the stories that are still being told. It brings a broad smile to my face as I write this. There are no better times than those shared with family.

We have but a short window when we are able to convince our grandchildren that we are "cool". Take advantage of this time. Enjoy the little ones. Make memories that will last a lifetime, yours, and theirs.

If we knew that grand kids were going to be this much fun, we would have had them first!

Girard Awning Fix at FMCA Perry Georgia By Dana Sawyer

While attending the 102nd International Convention and RV EXPO at Perry, Georgia in March we were able to schedule the Girard team to look at a reoccurring problem with the front awning on our 2018 42 DEQ Aspire. If you have never been to a Rally that provides vendor access or support, it is one of the greatest benefits of going, and many times, worth the price of admission even if all you do is attend seminars and learn from the experts.

Our front awning made a terrible loud thump, clunk, bam when closing but otherwise seemed to work OK. Two previous attempts to fix the problem by other technicians resulted in short term improvement but not elimination of the noise. When the Girard technicians arrived, they set to work identifying the cause of the problem, adjusting, and retrying until they had adjusted three separate areas including a droop on the top section of the outside case. While this corrected the noise, they were not satisfied with the canvas tightness nor the slight droop at the front when fully extended. After another round of adjustments which included aligning the front and back awnings, they did a final test to make sure the noise on closing was still gone.

Even though we had to pay a very reasonable price for the service, it saved a separate trip to a service center and I also learned that for those of us on the east coast they now have a facility in Red Bay, Alabama.

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Recipes for the Coach Life

Share A Favorite Recipe

Do you have a favorite recipe that is made for the coach kitchen? We would love to have you share that recipe. Provide the list of ingredients, instructions, and photos. Submit your information and photos to the Editor at:

dana.sawyer350@gmail.com

Chipped Beef Dip By Linda Sawyer

For the veterans a delicious take on an older favorite?

- 1 2/3 cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayo
- 1/2 tsp garlic salt
- 1 tsp celery seed
- 2 tsp parsley flakes
- 2 tsp onion flakes
- 2 tsp dill weed
- 1 jar dried beef chopped finely

Mix well, serve with rye or pumpernickel bread.

Enjoy!

Note: I prefer this with celery and carrot sticks, and other raw vegetables instead of bread pieces, less carbs and just as satisfying.

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." -Abraham Lincoln

Regional Activities

From the Northeast
Tom Crowley, ECOA VP

After fifty years of motor-homing, Lynn and I will be giving up the life style. It has been a great fifty years, starting with a Class B that could sleep 5, then on to several gas coaches and three diesels. As an avid camper from my early teens to tent camping in my twenties, camping was in my blood. With the addition of kids, tent camping in the rain and snow demanded a better structure, hence the Class B motor-home. The Class B was built on a Ford Econoline van with a raised fiberglass roof. As time went on, bigger and more well-equipped coaches were purchased. The last being our Anthem which we truly have enjoyed. In it we have traveled to over 40 states.

Our future plans will include travel by boat and train, we will let someone else drive and cook for us.

Tires are a big part of motor-homing and while we hardly ever wear them out. The tires do tend to age out. With the effects of sitting and the Sun. To help keep an eye on your tires a tire monitor system is all but a necessity. A few years back we had a tire monitor system for the coach and had purchased a monitor system for our toad. I had the new sensors still in the box, we pulled out a campground after hooking up in the rain and as always made a quick visual inspection of the tires. All appeared well. A few miles down the road a trucker honked and pointed back to the toad. We pulled over and low and behold the left front tire had self-destructed along with damage to the rim. We drove another mile and pulled off into a parking area to change the tire and went looking for a replacement. We put the emergency spare on the toad having to add a bit of air to it. The end all is, it cost us a day and a little over one thousand dollars. Had I put the toad tire monitors on before the incident I could have saved money and time.

The lesson learned is tire monitors save money and may save your life by giving you an early warning if a tire is going down.

Although we are giving up the motor-home life style we hope to see our many Entegra friends down the road in the future.

Safe travels

Confessions
By Goldie Hanson, ECOA VP

I feel like this note should be titled confessions of a novice Wagonmaster. Except my only confession would be how much I enjoyed the experience.

We purchased our first Entegra Coach in 2012. Over the years we have been fortunate to attend many of the gatherings and have always had a great time. When COVID cancelled our gatherings last year we really missed being able to spend that time together.

As we approached the end of 2020, I decided to volunteer to host what would be the first gathering of 2021 – the Perry Pre-Rally at Stone Mountain. I figured this was a pretty safe way to “stick my toe in the water”. We had been to former rallies at Stone Mountain, we knew the park and there were established contacts in the area. Pat & Medarda Bauer were wonderful. They provided tons of information and suggestions and helped with contacts and contracts with the park and caterers.

Menus were planned, reservations were open and finally, the rally start day arrived.

Of course, we were not lucky enough to have everything go as planned. COVID once again struck as the park-imposed restrictions we were not told about in advance and Mother Nature only gave us about 50% cooperation (mostly beautiful spring days but really cold nights!), caterers were late (only one, but they had the coffee!)! But we just kept having fun together. We made new friends – I was

amazed at how many of our attendees were first timers – learned more about our coaches, shared adventures and just generally relaxed. We were honored to host the Entegra folks at their first outing since the beginning of this mess. Joyce Skinner, Ted & Kim Cook, P. J. Clanton, and Pat Carroll joined us, visiting the campground and for the final dinner of the gathering. They brought with them an excellent preview of the 2022 models and spent time answering questions and taking suggestions. It was a wonderful opportunity for our new folks to meet and spend time with them and a wonderful time for us all to be together again.



Even though some of the conversations have changed; seems like most of them now start with “I got my vaccination, have you gotten yours yet?” The great feeling of spending time together has not changed. I am happy to say that many of the folks who joined us at Stone Mountain will also be at more rallies this year. I am looking forward to seeing them all again. And, if you were at the rally,

thank you so much for coming. You made it a wonderful time for us.

And a very special thank you to Pat & Medarda for all their help. If anyone has a special campground that they would like to share with the group, please consider volunteering to host a gathering there. Pat & Medarda will be an incredible resource to help make it all happen. It does not have to be fancy; it can be as simple as just working with the campground to block the sites for the dates. All we need is an excuse to gather. The great folks in the coaches will make it fun. Regardless of how much or how little you do, get involved. You will get to know some great people and have a wonderful time.

And finally, CONGRATULATIONS to our newsletter editor, Dana Sawyer, on his award. We all truly appreciate your hard work in putting this newsletter together each time. It is great to see your efforts recognized!

Greeting from Canada By Don Enns, ECOA VP

So, while I was preparing to write this article, I quickly caught up with the world and checked on the numbers as the third wave of this pandemic comes to stage another vicious attack on our health care system. As a first responder, I was lucky enough to have received the COVID vaccination back in January, and I am pleased that Charlene is now scheduled to get her first shot before the end of April. It is a strange world we now live in whereby the first topic so many of us immediately address upon meeting, deals with a virus which has changed so much in what we do on a daily basis. Oh, and by way, I was very impressed to see the great numbers emanating out of the United States in regards vaccination numbers. Good work here, and I can

only hope Canada catches up soon with our American friends with our mass vaccination program.

The world's longest land border is still closed, so Charlene and I are obviously remaining north of the border. And because of this border closure which will likely stay in place for a several more months, the ECOA wisely decided to cancel all three Canadian rallies for our members this year. However, and this is a good however, the ECOA is still moving forward, albeit cautiously, with the 2021 ECOA Wisconsin Dells Rally in September.

So, I guess this article will concentrate on this rally which may present some issues to our Canadian ECOA members, but which should not present any obstacles for our American ECOA members who do not have to cross international boundaries to attend this rally. The ECOA has decided to stage this rally regardless of whether Canadians can come to add some diversity to the rally.

In terms of the rally, the Wisconsin Dells area is truly a picturesque region with fascinating geological features developed over millions of years, and the Wisconsin Dells is the water slide capital of the world. The water parks here are sensational and may appeal to most of our members brave enough to challenge the water slides that eight-year-olds conquer on a regular basis.

The Dells is also the historic winter home to the Barnum & Bailey Circus organization with several venues of interest related to this paradigm. And within close proximity, is the world-famous House on the Rock, a unique example of major architectural distinction and definitely worthy of the trip.

The 2021 ECOA Wisconsin Dells Rally is scheduled to start on Wednesday, September 8th, 2021, and ending on Monday, September 13th, 2021 for five nights of camping at the Country Roads RV Resort. The rally will include several breakfasts and dinners, along with daily Happy Hour gatherings on the resort grounds. The rally will include two Tech Talks,

with one for all rally participants, and with another for the Ladies hosted by Medarda Bauer. The rally will also include a Trolley Car tour of the Wisconsin Dells area and an Optional Sunset Dinner Cruise. And finally, we will likely also be offering an optional golf outing.

Lots to see and lots to do. And should you wish to arrive early or depart later, the resort has agreed to extend the rally rate of approximately \$ 40.00 per night all included. It should be noted that this rally can only accommodate thirty (30) coaches, so this rally should fill very quickly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at: pulfit@mymts.net

Stay safe out there

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all."
-Helen Keller

Destinations

Tell Us About Your Favorite Destination

Share your favorite destination or travel stop with other members. Send a short blurb with the locations name, address, ease of access, size of sites, and photos if possible., especially of you and your coach at the location. Submit your information and photos to the Editor at:

dana.sawyer350@gmail.com

Fernbrook Park, Longview, Texas
Dana Sawyer

A clean, well maintained, well-appointed park off I-20 about two hours east of Dallas, this park lives up to the 10-10-10 rating. We found this park using the Good Sam trip planner and it can be found in the Big Rigs book. About a mile off the highway over a

good road posted at 60 mph (according to the GPS), it is easy in and out from either the east or west bound direction.

We were very pleased with our overnight stay in early March. Paved roads and concrete pads with grass dividers are throughout with both long pull-thru and generous back-in sites. Amenities include showers, restrooms, and laundry for those that need it. WIFI is available as well as propane, ice, and even Direct TV. There are a high percentage of seasonal or longer-term visitors but all campsites were clean and orderly and no loud evening parties.

"Life is ours to be spent, not to be saved." -D. H. Lawrence

What's New in Coaches

Check out RVtravel (<http://rvtravel.com>) for a free download of every U.S. RV manufacturer and the makes and models of each brand. From the home page select the **news** link under Popular Categories and then the **Free Download** article.

RV Industry Association (RVIA) Helps Change Proposed Diesel Law in California

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is developing new requirements for heavy-duty diesel vehicles. An initial draft could have affected most Class A Diesel Pushers regardless of the state they are registered in, and possibly blocking diesel motorhome owners from traveling in California for more than three days.

Through the efforts of the RVIA, and other camping related organizations CARB has amended the heavy-duty inspection and maintenance program regulatory proposal to exempt diesel motorhomes registered in states other than California.

This is an example of efforts to protect the RV Lifestyle.

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." -Confucius

Entegra Service Highlights

Girard Awning Fix at FMCA Perry Georgia By Dana Sawyer

While attending the 102nd International Convention and RV EXPO at Perry, Georgia in March we were able to schedule the Girard team to look at a reoccurring problem with the front awning on our 2018 42 DEQ Aspire. If you have never been to a Rally that provides vendor access or support, it is one of the greatest benefits of going, and many times, worth the price of admission even if all you do is attend seminars and learn from the experts.

Our front awning made a terrible loud thump, clunk, bam when closing but otherwise seemed to work OK. Two previous attempts to fix the problem by other technicians resulted in short term improvement but not elimination of the noise. When the Girard technicians arrived, they set to work identifying the cause of the problem, adjusting, and retrying until they had adjusted three separate areas including a droop on the top section of the outside case. While this corrected the noise, they were not satisfied with the canvas tightness nor the slight droop at the front when fully extended. After another round of adjustments which included aligning the front and back awnings, they did a final test to make sure the noise on closing was still gone.

Even though we had to pay a very reasonable price for the service, it saved a separate trip to a service center and I also learned that for those of us on the east coast they now have a facility in Red Bay, Alabama.

Great Service Stories or Tips

Share your service experience with other members. Send a short story with names, places, and a description of the task. Submit your information and photos to the Editor at:

dana.sawyer350@gmail.com

Membership

INVITE YOUR ENTEGRA FRIENDS – WORD OF MOUTH IS THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for and to maintain membership in the chapter, a person must be in good standing with FMCA, and meet the dues requirement and provisions set forth in the bylaws of this chapter. Membership in this chapter shall not be denied any person because of race, sex, religion, color, marital or family status, age, nationality, or disability. To qualify for ECOA, members must own a Class A Entegra Coach diesel pusher or Travel Supreme diesel pusher, and must maintain active membership in the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA).

FMCA International Area

Have You Ever Said I Love My Entegra,
But?

By Terry Walker, ECOA National Director

It would be nicer if we changed a few things. That is where we were in our thinking when the Covid Pandemic helped us decide just what we wanted to do.

We were at the first day of the AIM Rally at Camp Verde, AZ when the “lockdown” was announced on March 16, 2020. That Rally was modified somewhat for social distancing, however all our remaining travel venues through mid-June 2020 were cancelled. We decided to self-isolate at the spacious resort we were at in Camp Verde; gave us lots of together time and time to think about what changes we could make.

Trying to make the best of a bad situation, we were able to schedule a service appointment at NIRVC in Surprise, AZ and spent 10 days dry camping in their parking lot taking care of both warranty and non-warranty work. Mike and Sandy Pas (also owners of an Anthem 44F) were one of our neighbors during our stay. As fate would have it, they showed us the desk they had built to replace the sleeper sofa in their Coach. And the lightbulb went on that that was what we also needed to do!

We love our 44F, but it does have some design features that do not fit well with the way we live in our coach:

- There is nothing wrong with the sleeper sofa we just never used it in the over 2 years (at that time) that we had owned the Coach.



- We travel as most do with a laptop, a printer, and substantial work files – for which there was no good storage.
- We missed the fireplace we had in our previous Coach!
- Interior storage was hampered by the shortage of shelving in the cabinets.

It took almost a year to decide exactly what we wanted to do but early this year we contacted Wood Design RV Interiors LLC in Nappanee, IN and told them we wanted them to build us a Pas' desk with modifications. We found them extremely easy to work with and they completed the 1 ½ day install on March 17, 2021.

The picture of the resulting desk opened to display its many features shows that we gained a laptop tray, printer pullout storage, a real file cabinet with storage for printer paper and other stuff, 2 new storage drawers, a pop-up electric/USB hub, a pullout countertop, and a very nice fireplace (complete with remote control). The picture also shows the additional shelf they added to each cabinet on either side of the TV.



This last in coach picture shows the middle shelves they made for 2 of the 3-dining room lower cabinets. Becky opted not to put a shelf in the 3rd cabinet as that has a pullout shelf which I think is going to become the resting place for the Instapot, Air Fryer or whatever.



You may wonder what became of the expensive sofa we took out – well do not worry, it was placed in a spare bedroom in our sticks and bricks and paired with the ottoman from a previous Entegra. Remember that in the coach the sofa sits on top of the slide out and the front panel thus hangs down about 1 ½ inches below the bed frame. We just bolted the bed frame to a 2x4 to take care of that problem.



One final major benefit; with old sofa in, when traveling there was only about a 6-inch walkway to the back (Cricket-our Black Labrador would never use this). With the desk the walkway is now closer to 18 inches and it remains to be seen if Cricket will use it.

**FROM THE DESK OF FMCA NATIONAL
PRESIDENT JON WALKER**

Reprinted with the permission of Jon Walker

Hello. I hope your spring travel season is off to a great start. I would like to report to you today on three items:

- Finances
- Membership
- Events

FINANCES

I made two charges to FMCA CEO Chris Smith when I became FMCA president on July 15, 2017. 1. Turn our finances around so that when I leave office, I can proudly say that FMCA is on solid financial ground. 2. Keep our membership growing. These tasks have been achieved.

For years and years, FMCA was taking registration money for the international conventions to pay the daily expenses and current bills. This is commonly referred to as "robbing Peter to pay Paul", or in FMCA's case, "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul". When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and we had to cancel the Tucson convention scheduled for March 2020, FMCA had no cash on hand to pay back the money we had collected from members and vendors. We were in a very bad financial position at that time. Starting in April 2020, your CEO and Finance Committee had to cut expenses and, unfortunately, staff. Since that time, FMCA has continued to recover from the financial effects of COVID-19. We have managed our money better

(including setting aside convention registration fees), made wise spending cuts, and achieved a solid turnaround in FMCA's financial picture.

From May 2020 through February 2021, FMCA had an operating GAIN of \$689,005. Even if you take out the federal government PPP grant of \$545,000, that is STILL a gain of \$144,005 in operating profit over that 10-month span. Keep in mind, we were paying for events overhead expenses during this whole time while there wasn't any events income, which makes the results that much more impressive.

If you look at the change in net assets, fiscal year 2021 to date, FMCA's value has GROWN by \$1,226,577. That is compared to a DECREASE in net assets of \$469,097 during the prior fiscal year.

MEMBERSHIP

When FMCA's dues were raised to \$75 per year at the Minot Governing Board meeting in the summer of 2019, nobody could have predicted the effect of this on the 144,000-plus members of FMCA. The raise in dues was made to keep the FMCAssist Medical Emergency and Travel Assistance Program as a free member benefit.

What happened was that many members did not see the value in paying \$75 in dues. On the other hand, members who were aware of FMCAssist and appreciated having this coverage were very happy to pay the increased dues. Unfortunately, most of our members are not involved with chapters, and so they might not have been familiar with the program, or they did not see the value of having this coverage.

We immediately began losing members after the dues increase. In fact, we lost more than 7,000 members in a year. National treasurer John Reynolds began urging the Executive Board to cut the dues. FMCA's Risk Management Committee, chaired by Ned Boston, was able to find a new provider for FMCAssist at a much lower rate. More about that in a minute.

After the membership losses continued, FMCA's Executive Board ultimately agreed with the Finance Committee's recommendation of initiating a \$50 dues rollback program and agreed to keep that plan in place UNTIL the Governing Board convenes in Gillette and will be able to make the final determination of what our dues should be.

We hired our former marketing company, Membership Corporation of America (MCA), to help us craft the \$50 dues structure message, and the results of the dues rollback program have been wonderful. After losing members in 15 of the previous 17 months, we have now had two POSITIVE membership months in a row. We are on track to have the third positive month in a row at the end of April. In the two months since starting the dues rollback, we have gained 451 members. What is more impressive is that during the same two months last year, we LOST 1,118 members. By simply changing the dues to \$50, we had a positive membership swing of 1,569 members. Outstanding! And it looks like the trend will continue in April.

In other good news, the fact that the Risk Management Committee found a new, less expensive provider for FMCAssist in the fall has allowed the Finance Committee to work on a "doable" budget for fiscal year 2022 that is based upon dues being back to \$50. That budget will be presented to the Executive Board for their approval later this month.

EVENTS

In March 2021, we held our winter international convention in Perry, Georgia. Although the COVID-19 pandemic was still on everyone's minds, we were able to hold a convention safely and successfully by implementing protocols, including limiting the number of people who could come based upon the occupancy capacities of the buildings. We were limited to a maximum of 1,600 RVs, because of the social distancing requirements.

We made the right decision at the right time for the betterment of your organization. If you talk to anyone who attended the Perry convention, they will tell you that it was a smashing success! Everyone wore his or her masks, everyone observed social distancing, and everyone seemed to have a great time despite the restrictions and mandated smaller crowd.

And I'm pleased to share that registration for the summer convention, to be held July 7 through 10, 2021, at Gillette, Wyoming, is off to an impressive start. We budgeted for 1,000 RVs, but in the first nine days that registration was open, we had 802 signups! That is already 82 percent of our budget goal. WOW!

Will we cut registration off at 1,000 RVs? NO. The Cam-Plex Multi-Event Facilities in Gillette has enough space to handle many more RVs than what we have budgeted for. The 1,000 number was intended to protect us IF we have to have the same COVID-19 protocols that we did in Perry. But I don't expect that to be the case, now that most folks who want to be vaccinated have been.

As of this writing, all things FMCA are on a very positive footing. My hope is to continue driving this train to continued financial success and membership growth. As the folks at MCA have told me, "Organizations live or die on their membership growth". If we continue to do all the things necessary to steadily increase our FMCA membership, all our other goals will be met.

Until next time.

Jon Walker

National President

FMCA

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Links of Interest

LINKS OF INTEREST

- ECOA Web Page <http://www.entegraowners.com/>
- ECOA Apparel <https://ecoa.logosoftware.com/>
- Entegra Coach <https://www.entegracoach.com/>
- Spartan Chassis <http://www.spartanrvchassis.com>
- FMCA <https://www.fmca.com/>
- IRV2 <http://www.irv2.com/forums/f278/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Entegra (M-F, 8-5) 800-283-8267
- Entegra (after hours emergency) 574-361-0034
- Spartan (M-F, 8-5) 866-383-3695
- Spartan (after hours emergency) 800-543-4277