

# THE PREMIER ENTEGRA DIESEL COACH OWNERS ASSOCIATION



January 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 3, January 2021 Produced by: Dana Sawyer dana.sawyer350@gmail.com

#### **Presidents Corner**

#### **New Year, New Hope**

So 2020 was kind of a wasted year as far as our RVing activities is concerned. But if you're like me, you've put your time to good work. Whether you learn a new game or practice up on skills old and new, the hope is that it really wasn't a wasted year.

Medarda and I finally embarked on a new adventure at home. We finally started on a really big home improvement project. We have been discussing a total makeover of our kitchen. Medarda was focused on hiring a contractor, or going through a company like Lowes or Home Depot. So we started shopping cabinet designs, fixtures, counter top materials and the like. Then we completed cabinet selections and I produced scale drawings and cabinet placement. Then it was time to start getting bids.

During all the planning and selections, I kept trying to convince her that we could do almost all the work ourselves and that the work would be at least comparable if not superior to what the contractors could do. She was very hesitant. Then the estimates started coming in and eyes were opened.

Needless to say, I succeeded in convincing her to do all the tear out and cabinet installation ourselves. With a reluctant sigh, she finally agreed, putting her faith in my skills and so the game was on! It has been challenging work as anyone who has been involved in a remodeling project will understand; the house is going to surprise you with "unanticipated" surprises that you have to overcome along the way. We've had our share!

The good news is, we haven't killed each other, even though we've gone to bed tired every day. The challenges made us solve problems and grow some new brain cells. But more importantly, it's brought us closer together and appreciate each other's skills and abilities as we've moved along. We're not quite done as we still have the "wet" side to do. But we know what we're doing now and everything is

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moving along just fine. The granite company has a date for measuring and making a template, and shortly after that, the job will be nearing completion.

Mixed in with all the personal growth, we've also been able to pull together the Rally Program and get some of our contracts in place. We are still making adjustments with the Covid challenges, but hopefully the vaccine will roll out so things can open up with confidence.

We have made some adjustments to our 2021 published schedule, cancelling our Rally at the Tampa Supershow and the Quartzsite Gathering '21 due to Covid. In addition, our Rally Master for the Calgary Stampede and Canadian Rockies events expects the Canadian border to still be closed when we should be opening registrations and so they are on hold until 2022. We are going to get it going in March with the Stone Mountain Pre-Rally to the FMCA Family Reunion in Perry, GA. In May, we have the Tennessee Spring Rally in Sevierville prior to Entegra Coach's Homecoming. Summerfest returns to Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort in Spearfish, SD in July followed by the FMCA's return to Gillette, WY. We do anticipate the border will open so we can all head to Winnipeg Beach in August. September takes us to the Wisconsin Dells and October is the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.

We are still looking for great RV Parks and venues that can provide full-hookup sites to accommodate our rigs and have covered space for catered meals, and still be in a great location that our members will want to visit. We are always open to suggestions, and we DEPEND on you to help us discover those gems we should all visit. Please send in your suggestions, and if you've got something to share, we can also publish it in our newsletter!

Pet Bauer, President ECOA

#### From the Editors Desk

First, a special thanks to Michael and Susanne Greenfield for the article on their adventures as Fantasy RV Tour Ambassadors. They are just another of the amazing ECOA family Linda and I have had the great fortune to meet and they could write a book about their travels. Hopefully many of you will also have a chance to meet them in your travels.

Many of you have great stories to tell as well. For example, who would have guessed that Pat and Medarda were home improvement experts! Take some time with your favorite beverage and word processor to pen a few lines for our newsletter. We are all curious to know where your favorite park or road trip stop is, what upgrades you made to your coach, or maybe a story about traveling with pets.

If things continue as planned, we will be attending the FMCA 102<sup>nd</sup> International Convention in Perry, Georgia and meet some of you there, socially distanced of course.

"Love your Enemies, for they tell you your Faults" Poor Richard's Almanack, 1756

"He that lies down with Dogs, shall rise up with fleas" *Poor Richard's Almanack, 1733* 

"A true Friend is the best Possession"- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1744

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# Rally Ho' - Upcoming Events

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

- ➤ March 05, 2021 to Mar 08, 2021 Stone Mountain, Georgia; Stone Mountain Rally
- ➤ March 09, 2021 to March 14, 2021 Perry Georgia (you must be register for the FMCA 102nd International Convention & RV EXPO)
- March 10, 2021 to Mar 13, 2021 Perry, Georgia; FMCA 102nd International Convention & RV EXPO
- May 3, 2021 to May 7, 2021 Sevierville, Tennessee
- Cancelled May 18, 2021 to May 21, 2021 Goshen, Indiana; Entegra Coach Academy Homecoming
- > July 2, 2021 to Jul 6, 2021 Spearfish, South Dakota
- July 7, 2021 to Jul 10, 2021 Gillette, Wyoming; FMCA 103<sup>rd</sup> International Convention & RV EXPO
- Cancelled July 14, 2021 to Jul 18, 2021 Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Calgary Stampede
- Cancelled July 19, 2021 to July 23, 2021 Canadian Rockies
- August 29, 2021 to Sep 03, 2021 Winnipeg Beach
- > September 08, 2021 to Sep 13, 2021 Wisconsin Dells
- October 06, 2021 to Oct 10, 2021 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

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

"Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass" - Poor Richard's Almanack, 1736

# Update on Perry & ECHC 2021 By Joyce Skinner

Dear Friends:

I trust that the new year is off to a good start for you all and that you are staying safe and healthy. It almost seems like we may have a repeat of 2020 until COVID is a thing of the past but, each and every day, we must remain hopeful and optimistic that better times are ahead and we can all get back to living life as normally as we used to.

Having said that, I do have some information to pass on:

- 1. The Perry Show is coming up March 10th-13th. Although the show is scheduled to go on, we will not be performing service there this year. With the parts situation being what it is from some of our suppliers, and the fact that Covid is still a hot topic, we felt it best to keep our folks at home. However, if you are planning on attending the show, you will see some of our smiling faces with the few of us that will be going from here.
- 2. Entegra Homecoming this was a difficult one for sure, but the decision has also been made to cancel the event again this year. While it saddened us deeply to make this decision, please know that, first and foremost, we have to keep the health and safety of each and every one of you that were planning on attending, and all of our employees that are involved in carrying out such a huge event, at the forefront of our decision making. It simply is not worth the risk. We hope you understand and all I can say is that when we are able to "come home again", we will try to make it a celebration you won't forget! If your registration was confirmed, our marketing team will be working hard to expedite your refunds - this will include registration and any pre-stay options you selected. If you should have any

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questions regarding your refund, however, please contact events@entegracoach.com.

These times are tough and trying for everyone. It has made us take a step back and look differently at everything we do, both in business and personally. But, always remember that what hasn't changed is our commitment to each of you in providing great service – whether it be on the phone with my call center team or here in factory service, our goal is to make sure you are getting the assistance you deserve and expect.

On a personal note, we sure miss seeing you and spending time together! When we are able to gather again, those hugs are sure going to be long ones and very much welcomed. If you have any questions at all, please DO NOT HESITATE to reach out to me, Nic or Pat. We will be happy to respond.

Until then, please stay safe and healthy!

Joyce Skinner

**Director of Customer Experience** 

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"No gains without pains"- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1745

# **Technical Hints and Information**



# Windshield Wiper Replacement By Dana Sawyer

Who, What, When, Where, and Why. At least that is what my English teacher tried to teach a class of high school seniors. With that preamble, here we go.

During a high energy storm with winds that knocked over trees in Mesa Arizona, on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January our Magne Shade was blown off the coach windshield and out into the Resort street. We were in the coach at the time so no problem, just go out into the pouring rain and wind, pick up the shade that has become a sail, and roll it up to store until the storm passes. Once that was accomplished go back and fold the driver's side wiper arm back on to the windshield because it had been pushed open by the sudden removal of the shade.

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That was when the trouble really started. As I moved the wiper arm back into position on the windshield, I realized that there was no tension holding it against the glass. Close inspection and comparison with the passenger side wiper arm revealed that the spring retaining wire was missing. Any repairs would have to wait because even with a raincoat, I was soaked from the continuing storm. I should add here that I do not hold any grudge against Magne Shade. Our shade has stayed on during many storms but these wind gusts were sudden and strong enough to blow down big trees.

Back inside our toasty warm coach I realize it is only four weeks until we start a cross country trip during which both windshield wipers operating properly would be desirable. Running through the options of getting an appointment at our dealer (NIRVC Phoenix), baling wire fix, or purchasing a new part and installing it myself, I decide on the latter. Two days later a call to Entegra got me the wiper arm manufacturers name, part number, and phone number but I was worried about availability and shipping time. Checking with NIRVC Phoenix they had one in stock, I could drive the hour across the city to pick it up, plus it gave me the option of taking the broken one to compare.

With the drama over it was just a case of bolting on the new wiper arm and attaching the washer hose. Your wiper assembly may be slightly different from my 2018 42DEQ Aspire. First, assemble the wiper blade to the wiper arm to protect your windshield from being hit by the metal of the arm. Next, bend the wiper arm to the open position.



This may take a bit of work or an extra pair of hands because the spring is very strong and this step is required to enable pushing the wiper arm straight over the wiper motor post. The post is cone shaped with grooves while the arm although having a cone shaped hole is not grooved.



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Proper alignment critical. If you are as lucky as I was there are alignment marks on the end of the wiper motor post. Push the arm on the post, add the washer, then slightly snug the bolt just enough to keep the wiper arm in place. Fold the wiper to the glass to check positioning to make sure that when moving the wipers will not hit each other.

Open the arm before using a torque wrench to tighten the nut to the tightness specified for your coach. Opening the arm makes sure that the arm presses straight onto the motor post and is correctly torqued.

Finish up by cutting the new wiper fluid hose to length and connecting it then install the wiper arm plastic cover. I also sprayed water on the windshield and ran the wipers to make sure there was no interference between the two.

**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, you story may help or inspire others. Submit your information and photos to the Editor at:

dana.sawyer350@gmail.com

Michael and Susanne Greenfield Fantasy RV Tour Ambassadors

This is a short story of how we make life long RV friends, stay active, and travel to exotic locations. With a home base in Tennessee and winter site in Arizona, we travel in a 2016 44B Anthem with our two cats Phoenix and Sid.

We took our first tour in 2017 and immediately fell in love with the concept. During that tour we inquired about how we could become involved.

Before we knew it, later that same year we were in Las Vegas training to become Ambassadors. Ambassadors are what Fantasy RV Tours calls the people that lead the tours. Most recognizable are the Wagon Master and Tail Gunner. Professional Planners arrange all trip events and details while the Ambassadors are responsible for day-to-day operation of the individual RV tour.



After training, you start as an Assistant Tail Gunner helping to check the park after everyone has left to pick up anything that might have been accidently left behind and help anyone that might have encountered a problem traveling to the next location. Next you move up to Tail Gunner and finally to Wagon Master where your responsibility is to welcome and organize everyone for the trip, provide all necessary instructions, leave first to prepare the next stop for everyone's arrival, host



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daily group gatherings, and make sure everyone has a good time.

Now, although COVID-19 in 2020 cancelled just about everything, we average four to five trips per year with 20 to 25 RVs each including trips to Alaska in the summer and Mexico during the winter. For us this is a wonderful lifestyle enjoyed in our Entegra coach.



## **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

# Baja Pot Roast By Linda (Goldie) Hanson, ECOA VP

Greetings from warm and sunny Florida! At least today is warm and sunny, even Florida has been suffering from cooler temps this year. While we are not so patiently waiting and planning for our travels next summer, I know there are many who enjoy winter camping and vacations in the snow. My

youngest son is one of them — I still think the hospital must have switched him at birth!

For those of you braving the chilly weather – or even a few chilly days – I thought I would share one of our family's favorite cool weather recipes. It is an easy crock pot meal that can simmer away while you are tackling the snowy slopes or just curled up in front of the fireplace. Original credit goes to Allrecipes! but we made a few changes to fit our family. Word of warning – this can be too spicy for some tastes.

#### **Baja Pot Roast**

- 1 (3-4 pound) boneless chuck roast
- Sea salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 (24 ounce) bag baby potatoes
- 2 cups baby carrots (we use the whole larger bag)
- 1 container pico de gallo (at least 1-1/2 cups)
- 1 cup canned diced green chilis, drained
- ½ cup chopped jalapeño peppers (with or without seeds depending on your tolerance for heat)
- 1 envelope (1 ounce) taco seasoning mix
- 1 tablespoon garlic pepper seasoning
- 1 teaspoon red hot sauce
- 1 teaspoon chili powder

Season chuck roast with salt and pepper on all sides. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add roast and cook until browned, 3 to 5 minutes per side. Transfer to the slow cooker.

Arrange potatoes and carrots around roast. Mix together all other ingredients and pour over top of roast and vegetables. Cover and cook until roast is fall apart tender, about 8 hours on low, 5 hours on high. We prefer to cook about 6 hours on high to be sure meat falls apart!

Serve with warm tortillas and sour cream.

Leftover meat makes a great taco base for another meal!

Stay warm and safe this spring. Hope to see you on the road soon.

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# **Regional Activities**

Life and Rally's in Canada By Don Enns, ECOA VP

Ah yes, wintertime in Manitoba. Snow on the ground, ice skating trails in place, and social distancing made easier by freezing temperatures when you wear a mask regardless whenever outside. Our coach is safely in storage and Charlene and I now dream about better times when we can once again get together with our fellow ECOA members in a campground at Happy Hour while renewing old friendships. And we can hardly wait for the Joker Wizard from Tennessee to spank two hapless old guys at the card playing table.

So, lots has changed, and lots has not changed. The pandemic is still fully active in Canada and after watching CNN, it is not hard to see our American friends are also continuing to have a very tough time. The longest unprotected border in the world is still closed to nonessential travel, and this closure was extended again until late February for the tenth time since COVID struck our shores. That said, I find it doubtful the border will open anytime soon meaning travel of Americans into Canada, or conversely, Canadians into the United States in our Entegra coaches is virtually impossible. Hence the foreshadowing of sad news forthcoming in this article.

In previous articles, I put forth the option of several rallies Char and I have been working on heading into 2021. Perhaps one of the most exciting was the first time offer of a rally into Alberta, Canada to attend the Calgary Stampede immediately followed by a second rally based out of Cochrane, Alberta to tour the wonder of the Canadian Rockies. I spent several hours on the telephone talking with senior people in the Calgary Stampede administration. The Stampede people tend to believe the Calgary Stampede will likely take place in 2021, but the format will be dramatically different than past stampedes following social distancing and COVID safety protocols as mandated by provincial health

authorities. While it is impossible to determine what the stampede will look like six months out, it is safe to say it will not be anywhere close to the same level of excitement as past stampedes. Coupled with the uncertainty that our American friends can even cross the border in July without having to submit a fourteen-day self-isolation plan, the decision was made to pass on the ECOA 2021 Rally Calgary Stampede and the **ECOA** 2021Canadian Rockies Rally both originally slated for July, 2021.

However, and I always try to have a Plan B ready, while talking with several stakeholders associated with the two Alberta rallies, Char and I believe we may have come across a strategy by which to improve upon the logistics of the two separate rallies and instead perhaps plan for a single super rally which could incorporate attendance at both the 2022 Calgary Stampede and touring the Canadian Rockies will staying for an extended period at one location which provides a superior venue as opposed to simply just a parking lot. More information to follow.

As for the ECOA 2021 Winnipeg Beach Rally scheduled for the end of August, we will keep this rally in play until such time as we have a better grasp as to when the US / Canadian border will reopen. Fortunately, the last rally Char and I are working on, that being the ECOA 2021 Wisconsin Dells Rally is also still in play and very likely to happen as the border issue is not a major issue here considering the vast majority of attendees would not have to cross the border. Again, as previously stated, more information to follow.

I just have to finish with this short anecdote. As per the photo attached below, you can see my coach in storage for the winter in a heated shop:

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A very good friend of mine asked if he could park his fishing boat beside my coach for the winter. Naturally I agreed, but I still have to ask: Why would a fishing boat need a 200 hp motor? I thought fishing was supposed to be relaxing! And where do you have to go that fast when you are fishing? Get more beer?

Anyways, after parking the boat beside the coach, it occurred to us that perhaps if we dimmed the lights and softly played erotic music maybe, just maybe we may find a baby houseboat between the coach and fishing boat when we come back in the spring to reclaim our toys.

Yea, I know, Canadian humour. That is the best I got. Stay safe out there......

# From the Northeast By Tom Crowley, ECOA VP

Wow! 2020 is finally over, yet we cannot let our guard down. For the first time since 1985 Lynn and I have not traveled in our coach. We did have service done and tires replaced. That was the extend of our travels.

It is my understanding that the RV market is booming, with folks not wanting to travel and stay hotels or eat out in restaurants. Understandably so. Lynn and I restrict our eating out to places that have outside dinning.

One of the challenges of RV travel is finding a place to stay either for a night or for weeks. There is a great app for your cell phone or laptop called *Mobile RVing*, (MobileRVing.com). It has a free RV trip planner, parks near me and other features to help the RV traveler make better decisions on their travel. It is produced by Southeast Publications, the folks that produce the RV maps that you pick up at many of the RV parks. They also have another app called *TheRVbunch.com* This app is more of an information exchange and again no charge for it.

This report is a tad short, unfortunately we have restricted our travel and after 50 years are thinking of giving up the RV life style. I started out in 1970 with a Class B that could sleep five and our current coach can sleep two. Had two more RVs and when Lynn and I got married we kept the RV life style going and have enjoyed it immensely with two gas coach and three diesels. We are considering that this may be our last. It was a great ride!

#### **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

"Lost Time is never found again."

- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1747

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#### What's New in Coaches

"When you're good to others, you're best to yourself."

- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1748

# Membership

"Wish not so much to live long as to live well."

- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1738

## **Entegra Service Highlights**

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

"Hide not your Talents, they for Use were made. What's a Sun-Dial in the shade!"

- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1750

## **Secretary**

"Glass, China, and Reputation, are easily crack'd, and never well mended."

- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1750

#### **Treasurer**

Treasurers Official Report -ANNUAL AUDIT: An annual audit of the chapter's financial books and records shall be undertaken and reported to the membership.

#### **FMCA International Area**

Inspecting Your Coach Seams and Seals
By Wayne Baumann Alt. Nat. Dir

Seams and joints all will have had some sort of sealant application applied to ensure a tight fit without gaps. Entry doors, storage compartments and slide out rooms have rubber or vinyl seals to resist air infiltration. Routine attention to your coach seams, sealants and seals helps ensure your coach interior remains securely weatherproofed. Age, thermal cycling, UV exposure, and rough highways can all cause sealant degradation. This can lead to water or air getting in the coach. Performing a thorough inspection once a year is a good general rule. Look at the slide-out seals (usually two sets of seals on each slide-out, one is on the exterior coach wall to seal the room when not extended and the other on the inside to seal when the room is out). The exterior seal system uses a short flap known as the WIPER to remove water off the slide as it is retracted. Check seals for cracking, hardening and loss of resilience from UV exposure or / and age. Mild detergent can be used to wash seals. Baby powder is an inexpensive lubricant to apply to dry seals. Avoid products with petroleum distillates which attract dirt and may cause seal failure. Although sealants do not typically require maintenance, they do require periodic repair and / or replacement. Inspect the door seals, too. Look at the front edge seal for wear and tear.

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### **Links of Interest**

#### **LINKS OF INTEREST**

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

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

"Haste makes Waste."

- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1753

"Search others for their virtues, thy self for thy vices."

- Poor Richard's Almanack, 1738

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