



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ENTEGRA COACH OWNERS
ASSOCIATION

**THE PREMIER ENTEGRA
DIESEL COACH OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**



Featuring

- Upcoming Events
- Technical Hints & Information
- Recipes for the Coach Life
- Regional Activity
- And more
- Travel Supreme
- Insignia
- Reatta
- Reatta XL
- Aspire
- Anthem
- Cornerstone

February, 2023

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Did you Know?

The Entegra Coach Owners Association will celebrate its **10th Anniversary** this year; **August 31st** to be exact. The club's birthday will be formally recognized at the **Perry FMCA Rally this March** receiving the 10-year certificate (Place & time TBD) along with being recognized as the largest chapter in FMCA! Later at the **Summerfest '23 Rally in Spearfish in July** a party will be held with all Rally attendees. Come join in the celebration!

President's Corner

Reflections on 10 years of ECOA

Sometimes one needs to take a pause in order to look forward, and this is one of those moments for Medarda and I as the founders of the Entegra Coach Owners Association. While it's true that time flies when you're having fun, it's also true that we have seen great change over those 10 years. Nothing quite captures the character of change other than taking that look back.

Prior to our Entegra ownership, we were involved in a large Tiffin Owners Club. In July 2013, we were headed to the first Entegra Rally at Hearthside Grove in Petoskey, MI and decided to stop at the Entegra factory on our way North. We met with the President of Entegra to seek permission to start a similar club for Entegra owners. We secured Entegra's endorsement and headed north to the event, where we were able to obtain 20 signatures to support an application to the Family Motor Coach

Association (FMCA). We submitted the application and on August 31, 2013 we received our Charter in the International Area of the FMCA. Time does move right along, however. Of the original 20 charter members however, only four of us are left as active members.

Our purpose is to promote social, recreational, and informational exchange activities that provide for the enjoyment and pleasurable use of our coaches. Our Mission is to support rallies in great locations where we could come together to enjoy the natural beauty of our country, share some meals, make new friends in fellowship and network coach operations to enhance the RV lifestyle. Ten years and over 100 events later, we are still staying true to that mission and purpose. From our first event at the Tampa Supershow in January, 2014 with six coaches to our first rally in Branson, MO with 32 rigs to the rallies planned for 2023 and beyond, we still bring Entegra owners together, share some great meals, and promote informative networking to master our rigs and maximize our enjoyment of our Entegra Coach lifestyles.



While most of the rally planning was handled by (and kudos) Medarda, we always had a tremendous amount of help and guidance from club officers, club members and a vast array of sponsors along with corporate donations and their participation throughout the years. Medarda even penned a Rally Guide to help other member who might like to try their hand at putting together a rally event for the club. While our original expectations were that we might eventually attract 50-70 motorcoaches. It didn't take long for the ECOA to grow into the largest chapter in the entire FMCA with almost 1,500 coaches in every state and province of North America (except maybe Hawaii).

Supporters and sponsors have been steadfast and enduring over these 10 years. Present at our very first rally in Branson, were Entegra Coach, Spartan Motors, and National Indoor RV Centers and we want to recognize them for 10 years of continuous support through our most recent event at the Quartzsite Gathering in January of '23. Please thank them for their enduring presence and commitment to helping us enjoy our RVing dreams and keeping us on the road rather than on the side of it!

But the very most enduring memory of these 10 years of service, is the lasting friendships we've made and fostered. Early on, we discovered a level of caring and fellowship that we called the Entegra Family. It's evident at every single event as people are always at the ready to lend a hand, share knowledge or a procedure or operation or location, always prepared to share a kind word or a handshake or a hug, and always inviting others to their campfire for a story or a beverage or some s'mores. Over the years, our Entegra Family has become our family, and Medarda and I want to thank you all for the great memories we share and those memories yet to be made.



From The Editor's Desk

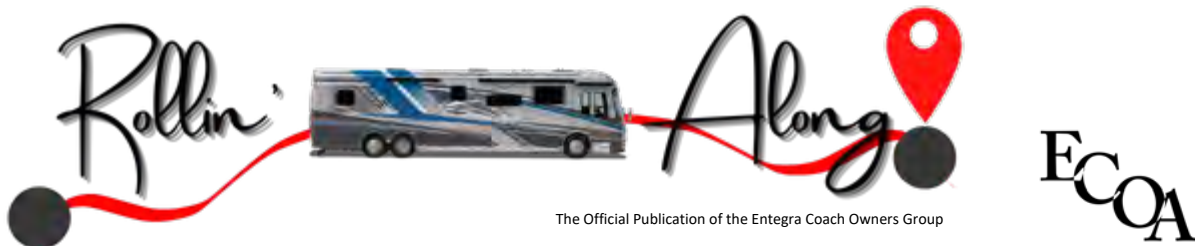
Ed Prins – eprins@icloud.com

This is my first issue as editor and I want to thank the ECOA Board for their confidence in me. I also have big shoes to fill!!! Dana Sawyer edited this newsletter since 2017 and after 21 great issues he handed the editing duties to me. I hope to uphold his standards and keep him from regretting editing retirement.

A little about me. Although Ellen and I are 6-year coach owners, we only bought our 2022 Cornerstone last April. Since then, we attended Entegra University and added about 10,000 miles. We also went full time about 2-years ago and spend time at our home base, Jupiter-Palm Beach Motorcoach Resort in Florida when we are not traveling.

You may notice some changes, including a new masthead and Rollin' Along logo. I thought it might be time to add a new model coach to the masthead and to just add some new graphics. I hope you like the changes, if not just let me know. Thank you, and I look forward to meeting many of my fellow Entegra owners soon.





Rally Ho' – Upcoming Events

Please check the club website for upcoming rallies. You will need to login and register for the rally of your choosing. Waitlists will be available if the rally is at capacity. Once you register you will be sent an electronic invoice. This invoice needs to be paid within two weeks or your spot will not be held. This change allows others to register to attend.

- March 10-14
 - Creekside RV Resort, Savannah, GA
- March 14-18
 - FMCA Perry, GA
- May 8-12
 - The Ridge RV Resort, Sevierville, TN
- May 22-25
 - Entegra Homecoming, Goshen, IN
- July 12-23
 - Canada + Calgary Stampede, Calgary, Alberta
- August 17-22
 - SUMMERFEST '23, Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort, Spearfish, SD
- August 22-26
 - FMCA Gillette, WY
- September 18-22
 - Normandy Farms, Boston, MA
- October Oct. 11 – 15, 2023
 - Balloon Festival, Route 66 Casino, Albuquerque, NM



Technical Hints and Tips

Rand McNally to NavNGo

CONTACT RIVERPARK DIRECTLY AT 574-522-7781

In addition to the recent information from RandMcNally concerning the last update for the RandMcNally RV map package used in your Xite infotainment system, please note the following: Your RandMcNally card will continue to function normally with this last map update installed on the card. There just will not be any more map updates after this last one.

The RandMcNally dock and services will remain available for the foreseeable future to allow you access to update the card to this last map package, run diagnostic, etc. RandMcNally customer service will remain active to support you as a customer in case of any questions on concerns.

RiverPark and Xite in conjunction with NavNGo are working to make SD cards available for users that are currently running RandMcNally in the RV. These SD cards will then run the same program that is also used in the Xite G4 generation systems (as seen on MY2022/MY2023 vehicles). The upgrade from your current RandMcNally card to the NNG card will be as simple as just replacing the SD card in your unit. When these cards are available, future map updates for these cards will be available through the NaviExtras Toolbox for years to come to ensure that the Navigation portion of the Xite system in your vehicle is up to date without exchange of other hardware. The update is available now and in stock,

Part # XS-90108
Cost: \$250.00 + shipping



Technology Can Be a Slippery Slope: '23 Tampa Supershow and Beyond

By Pat and Medarda Bauer

ECOA began preparing for the Tampa Super Show last October; we were all set, got everyone parked and the adventure began. What we thought to be a seminar on the effective use of 30-amp power became Adventures in Dry Camping!!!! It seems there was a major hiccup in stringing electric lines and getting the group hooked in when the original electricians disappeared.

We were without electric for all five days. Fortunately, the weather was on our side, we were parked on asphalt and we own the best coaches in the world. Folks who were already on edge with no water supply and no way to dump, suddenly had their electrical power supply go

missing and they had to quickly learn how their electrical system was designed to operate. How to set their Auto Gen Start was at the top of the list to set the battery level appropriate for the AGS to start the generator and recharge batteries. Also setting up their climate settings so the AGS would kick on when the internal temperature got too warm and the thermostat called for cooling. For some, their angst was multiplied by knowledge they failed to fill up their diesel before they arrived and were starting the emergency with less fuel than they would like. Let the hands-wringing begin, right?

As always, the Entegra Family stepped up and those of us knowledgeable in these things shared our knowledge with our neighbors and soon we had generators turning themselves on and off when needed and they began to feel a bit more comfortable leaving their pets in their



coaches while they walked over to the show and visited the exhibits. Not only were we networking amongst ourselves, but when a couple of serious situations cropped up, techs from the Entegra display were dispatched to smooth out the rough edges.

That hiccup aside, the rally did go well. People viewed the many new coaches and the various must haves for use in the RV. We had our Happy Hours, a wine tasting, the Wednesday Entegra Cookout, and the Mission BBQ feast on Friday night with shared support from Lazy Days. Old friends reconnected and many new friends were made.

There is a silver lining to this tale. After careful negotiations with the Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTS) and the Florida State Fair Board all ECOA members who camped with us received a full refund of their registration

fees. FRVTA and the Fairgrounds also delivered 25 gallons of diesel to those members who reported desperately low fuel tanks. While it didn't take away the sting of a difficult rally experience it was the right thing to do and the two groups extended their apologies and hopes we will come back. Kudos to both the Florida State Fair Board and the Florida RV Trade Association!

The last silver lining came in the form of members who reported they now have the confidence to dry camp with Harvest Hosts. There was another big reveal that I feel it important to share.

There were several recent edition Entegras having battery issues. One 2019 coach's batteries were so bad, their AGS wouldn't work because they wouldn't charge sufficiently to start the generator, especially if the Auto Start was set below 12.0volts. This is pretty rare in a four-year-old coach. So other than a bad cell in a battery, what can cause such poor battery performance?

Sulfation is a condition in which excess lead sulfate crystals are deposited on the lead plates in a lead acid battery to the point that they impede the lead/acid chemical interaction and electricity is no longer produced. In essence, it coats the lead plates much like plaque collects on your teeth. Many of our campers were noting short cycles and the AGS was starting their generators with too much frequency. Sulfation slowed their recharging and their batteries were showing their age.

Now Entegra has a Battery Maintenance routine built into their VegaTouch control boards, but most of the folks never used it before. Before VegaTouch, we called that process "equalization," and we manually performed that function periodically with manual settings on our inverter controllers. In essence, it supercharges the batteries to about 15volts which creates some heat and some gas, but it causes the lead sulfate crystals to shed the plates and return to solution. If that is not done periodically, your batteries fail prematurely as the plates become blocked up.

In comparison, we noticed our batteries would last from 10:00pm (13.8v at Float) to 8:00am and when we checked the readout, we still had 12.1volts in the house batteries in our seven-year-old coach. This is the same performance we had when my coach was brand new. We have never run the Battery Maintenance function in our Anthem. It

worked that way every day of the 5 days of the Supershow. Here's why.

When we took possession on June 15th, 2016, the very first change we made to our coach was adding a 12-volt Pulse Tech Power Pulse unit to each 6-volt pair of House Batteries (2 units) and one to the 12v (parallel) Coach Batteries, for a total of 3 Power Pulse units. These units provide 24/7/365 desulfation to the batteries and a full six and a half years later, we've seen no drop in performance whatsoever and we never ran the battery maintenance function. The batteries are going on 7 years of age and last throughout the night for some 8-10 hours before the AGS calls for a recharge.

While we've shared the good news about the Pulse Tech units on several occasions in our newsletter and at many tech talks; even discussing these with Pat Carroll from Entegra Coach, but they haven't added them at the factory level as of this writing.

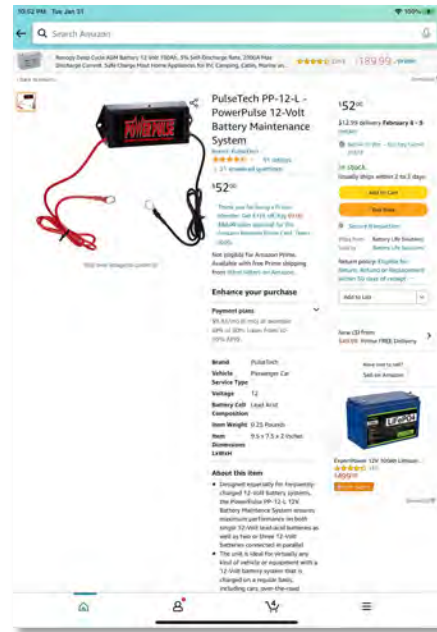
You can consider this a testimonial if you'd like, but really, it's just me, Pat Bauer, a dumb ol' shop teacher sharing what I've learned and demonstrated on both of our Entegra Coaches. If you can double or triple the life of your batteries for a mere \$150.00, it's a worthwhile investment. That they also make your life more trouble-free is an added bonus.

Finally, I'll add another quick battery story and golf cars. I have a 48volt unit on my EZGO. Five-year-old Trojans can do 36 holes...still after 5 years. Playing a round of golf, a buddy asked if we could drop his cart at the turn and ride with me. He said his 3-year-old batteries were failing and he didn't think he could finish. So, we loaded him on and played nine more. While we were finishing, I told him about Power Pulse and their ability to restore old batteries. He got one and about a week later, he could do 18 holes. Then about a month later, he was able to do 36 holes; he never did change out his batteries.

Moral of the story is this...don't bother with Lithium and all the expense and changing out technology that is not suited to Lithium batteries. Keep your batteries and add a proven technology that will keep you on the road! Don't bother going down that very expensive slippery slope.

Available on Amazon (\$52.00/ea), you can research their website at www.pulsetech.net.

Finally, thanks to all who came to the Tampa Supershow Rally, stayed and supported each other. Hope to see you all next year.



Off The Beaten Path.....

By Ken Wurtenberger, ECOA VP

One of the nice things about Rv'ing is that we have a wonderful opportunity to see and experience what this magnificent country has to offer, at our leisure, from the ground versus simply flying to our destination. Finding and navigating almost anywhere is even easier today than ever before with GPS, Trip Advisor, social media, etc., all in the palm of our hands. Sometimes though, the best source for things historical, unique, majestic, quirky, tasty, entertaining, etc., is from someone you respect and whose opinion you value;.....who better than a fellow Rv'er who has previously experienced something special.

That was just the case when Chris and I ran into some old friends, Gary and Peggy. We first met and enjoyed this full-timing, fun-loving pair when we traveled together to Alaska, so bumping into them again in Gillette, WY, was a treat in and of itself. As we shared recent travels since our last meeting, Gary asked if we planned to visit the

'Enchanted Highway'? Not being familiar at all with the area, I naturally asked him to tell me more. Well, it wasn't long before I decided that we must check out this spectacle.

Our planned travels were taking us to Medora, ND. The Enchanted Hwy would be a 1 ½ hour side trip from the campground. As it turned out, it was well worth the extra drive.



Regents, North Dakota, is the home of the Enchanted Highway. This unnumbered 32 mile stretch of highway running south of I-94 in western ND is a collection of the biggest scrap metal sculptures in the world, some even being recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest of their kind. The town of only 160 residents has found its place on the map thanks to local resident and sculptor Gary Greff's mission to revive his hometown by giving people a reason to visit Regents.

Beginning in 1989, Gary sought to repurpose acres of abandoned oil and gas industry equipment. Using his

creative talents, imagination, sandblasting, welding skills and painting skills, he created this massive collection of amazing sculptures. Each sculpture has some geographical or family significance and all are larger than life. By looking at the person standing by the sculpture in the pictures, you can see 'larger than life' is quite an understatement. Over the past 30+ years, these gigantic creations have sprung up from the prairie, attracting visitors from far and wide to marvel at their majesty and Gary's talents. Each sculpture is adjacent to a parking area with picnic tables, providing visitors with plenty of space to relax and enjoy the sights.

Along with a small gift shop, museum and ice cream counter in town, Gary has also repurposed an old school into the Enchanted Castle hotel. Guests can experience an overnight castle stay and dine in the Excalibur Steakhouse, a medieval themed restaurant. This old town founded in 1910 as a railroad stop has experienced some tough times, but thanks to Gary Greff's vision, this quiet, peaceful little town now has something very special that makes this an interesting and unique place to visit. We highly recommend a trip to check out the 'Enchanted Highway'.



A Rally Years in the Making

Don Enns – ECOA VP (Canada)

For more than four years now, Pat Bauer and I have worked on a [Calgary Stampede](#)/Canadian Rockies theme ECOA rally. The driving force behind this rally concept, squarely rests upon the very capable shoulders of Medarda Bauer who "gently encouraged" me, as the token Canadian ECOA executive member, to create this event. Unfortunately, the advent of COVID-19 and consequently the associated border crossing issues created for our American ECOA members, we cancelled this rally on three separate occasions. However, it looks like this year is finally the year we offer the **2023 ECOA Canadian Rockies Experience**.

So please allow me to tell you about this truly unique ECOA offering, as this rally will be a twelve (12) day /

eleven (11) night event starting on **Wednesday, July 12th, 2023** and ending on **Sunday, July 23rd, 2023**. Twenty-five (25) ECOA member coaches will stay at the **Bows RiversEdge Campground** in Cochrane, Alberta, which is immediately Northwest of Calgary. The first evening we will have an *ECOA Welcome Dinner* provided by a top local caterer. We will have the opportunity to meet new friends and renew old friendships.

The *Bows RiversEdge Campground* will be providing pull-through 30 or 50-amp fully serviced sites for rally participants. And while the thought of a 30-amp service in July may create some apprehension for those not accustomed to the climate in Calgary, you may be thrilled to hear that the average daytime temperatures are usually in the mid 70's, with evening lows generally in the mid 50's, subsequently eliminating the need for nighttime coach air conditioner usage.

On Thursday, July 13th, 2023, rally participants will make their way to Downtown Calgary and to Stampede Park. The group will receive [Calgary Stampede](#) entry and confirmed group seating in the Stampede grandstands to enjoy the afternoon rodeo events. The *Calgary Stampede* is a ten-day event, billing itself as "*The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth*", while attracting over one million visitors per year and featuring one of the world's largest rodeos, including a parade, a midway, stage shows, concerts, chuckwagon races, and Indigenous Canadian exhibitions.



Copyright: CovyMoore.Com

Rally goers are free to come and go as they wish as the next four days will allow everyone to maximize the *Calgary Stampede* experience to the fullest. On Sunday, July 16th, 2023, rally participants will once again be

offered confirmed group seating for the world-renowned Calgary Stampede Closing Evening Show Finale.

The remainder of the rally will concentrate upon two separate Canadian Rockies themed excursions, with the first being a visit to the iconic Banff National Park where our group will partake in a gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain with an elevation of approximately 7,500 feet. Rally goers will have the option of lunch at a mountain top restaurant. The second half of this first excursion will include a cruise on the scenic Lake Minnewanka located just outside of the Banff township. The second excursion will include a visit to the gigantic Columbia Icefields located in both Banff and Jasper National Parks. Included, a tundra buggy ride onto the actual glacier and access to the Columbia Icefields Skywalk. Restaurant facilities are also on site for those who wish to partake.

The rally will include group organized side trips to explore Banff, Calgary, and the Johnson Canyon for those looking for more vigorous physical activity. And the rally will be offering a group excursion to the *Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary* located in relatively close proximity to the campground.

If that was not enough excitement, there will be several ECOA Happy Hours, frequent breakfasts to start the day, and four more group dinners throughout the last week, to end the day. Pat Bauer will be offering up another of his absolutely fascinating *Entegra Tech Talks*, and Medarda Bauer will hopefully host another of her renowned *Ladies Tech Talks*. Other proposed group events include a golf outing, and opportunities for shopping, which if the present Canadian / USD exchange rate holds, will offer a fantastic opportunity for Americans to capitalize upon an extremely favorable monetary exchange rate.

The logistics of the rally are still in the developmental stage, and when the rally is ultimately posted on the ECOA website, exact specifics of the rally will be shared with those so interested in joining Charlene and myself. In the meantime, the future will likely see Charlene and I offer another "*OH Canada*" type rally to Winnipeg Beach in Manitoba and could include the possibility of developing a rolling rally into Eastern Canada, specifically into the scenic Canadian Maritimes.

Once again, I am always open to new ideas, especially of those north of the world's longest unprotected border, so please never hesitate to reach out to me.



The Five Things Every RV'er Needs to Know

Ed Prins – ECOA Newsletter Editor

Six years ago, with the twist of a wrist, the 450 hp Cummins engine turned over and made a deep rumbling sound that signaled the beginning of my ownership of a big rig motorcoach. Prior to that turn of the ignition key, I had never driven anything larger than an SUV. Now, here I was driving a forty-three-foot rig with a Jeep Wrangler attached. So much to learn but how? The salesperson answered that by saying, “seat-time”. Oh, was he right!



Fast forward, six years later and over 55,000 miles of road trips in the United States, that seat-time has given me some insight into driving one of these 8-wheeled rolling homes. I would like to share with you the five things every Motorcoach owner should know.

1. Never be in a rush!

- a. When you are driving a large motorcoach, do not be in a rush to get your destination. Driving a big rig demands your full attention to the road conditions, other drivers and your rig’s systems. This is tiring and you should never push yourself beyond your ability to safely manage your driving environment.
- b. Let me reiterate that, driving a big rig and seated high up with a great view of the road gives you some advantages, but it also gives you the opportunity to see how poorly most drivers drive their cars and trucks. Most car drivers have no clue that a 25+ ton vehicle does not stop on a dime and its

driver does not want to see you speeding around the right side of their vehicle to cut them off and pass. Driving my rig made me a better driver overall because of the heightened awareness and care necessary to maintain control of the motorcoach.

- c. Ever sit in an airport for hours while you wait for your flight to land? Well road construction and accidents are the motorcoach equivalent. I once sat on I-20 in West Texas for four hours after a deadly accident shut down the interstate. It’s part of the RV’ing life, so even your best laid plans of getting to your destination are only an ETA – ESTIMATED Time of Arrival.

2. Expect the unexpected

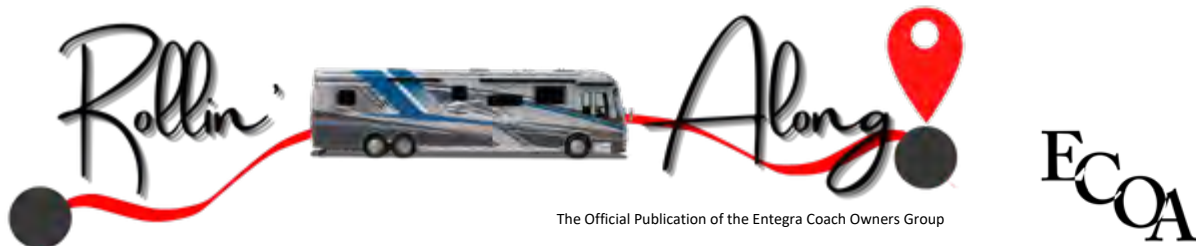
- a. You are driving an exceedingly complex vehicle that combines a home with a moving vehicle. Anything can and will eventually happen. Let me stress that, it will happen. You may have a DEF head die, a slide-out may get stuck or a tire blowout just as an example. It will happen during your ownership so be prepared to be resourceful when on the road. Don’t just rely on a road-side assistance provider. I have had several cases where they were so overwhelmed that they could not respond immediately. Be prepared to arrange your own roadside assistance. Know who your chassis manufacturer is, your engine manufacturer, your transmission manufacturer and your motorhome manufacturer’s 1-800 number. They are your top-of-mind information to know.

3. Never come into a RV park at night

- a. Trying to park a big rig in the dark is asking for trouble! Daylight and a good spotter aiding you into your space are the best way to be safe and give you peace of mind. Oh, and my wife, my co-pilot wants me to add, when she says “stop”, STOP! Don’t ask why, just stop. I’ll admit to that blunder and striking a shore-power post. Lesson learned.

4. 3:30 rule

- a. A good rule to follow is the 3:30 rule. Either drive no more than 330 miles a day or be at your daily destination by 3:30 in the afternoon. This way you can enter a RV park



during daylight hours and get set up and rest for tomorrow's drive. Have a beer, grill a steak and get some rest. Tomorrow is another day of adventure.

5. Plan your route
 - a. Get a RV specific GPS system. Low clearance, twisty roads await you otherwise and you are not able to drive like your rig like a car. Way too many YouTube videos of RV's striking the bottom of railroad overpasses.

And finally, just enjoy the freedom of going where you want, when you want, and that you can take your own home with you. No airports, no hotels just your own space with those you love. In the end, follow these rules, take a deep breath and know it will all resolve with a little patience and road smarts. See you on the road. Happy trails to you!



FMCA News

This letter from Rett Porter, President of FMCA is an update on the status of the Organization. Thank you to Mr. Porter for sharing this with our members... ALSO, a link to FMCA's International Traveler Newsletter https://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20230109/cd/c9/42/9a/a26a9f870005549a13ff1612/2023_January_INTO_Newsletter.pdf

January 5, 2023

Dear Governing Board members,

Claire and I hope you had a wonderful holiday season! It's hard to believe that FMCA's 106th International Convention and RV Expo is just around the corner.

In this mailing you will find updates, requests for actions, and information about upcoming activities. The results of the 2023-2025 Nominating Committee election and minutes from the meetings held on November 9, 2022, are also enclosed.

National Area Vice President elections. Enclosed with this mailing you will find the nomination forms for the National Vice Presidents from the Midwest, Northeast, Rocky

Mountain, South Central, and Southeast areas. These officers will serve a two-year term, taking office in Gillette, Wyoming, in August 2023. Nominations are being requested from the National Directors in those areas. If you or someone you know of would like to run for this position and you have questions, please feel free to reach out to the current officer and/or the Chapter Services Department at the FMCA national office.

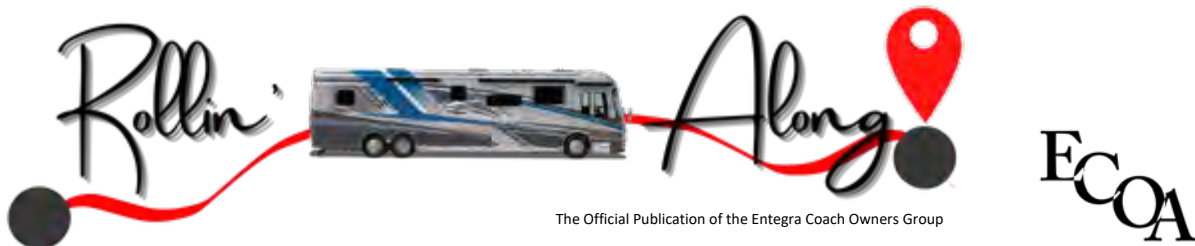
Also included is a flier announcing that FMCA is accepting nominations for the Robert L. Richter and the Kenneth T. Scott Pipe Dreamer's awards. The deadline to nominate an individual for either of these awards is **March 15, 2023**.

Have you made plans to join us yet for FMCA's 106th International Convention and RV Expo scheduled for March 15-18, 2023, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry, Georgia? To register, use the form included; visit <https://www.fmca.com/fmca-perry-2023-learn-more> or call our Events Department at 513-474-3622 or 800-543-3622.

Chapter Fair and Block Parties in Perry! Be sure to register your chapter to participate in the Chapter Fair being held in Perry. Chapters must be registered for the Chapter Fair in order to participate in the Block Party. Registration is open now. You can reach out to chapters@fmca.com to register your chapter. There will be no onsite registrations.

FMCA will hold an Opening Day **PARADE** during the upcoming Perry convention. If your chapter would like to participate, please contact Charlesanne Miskell at fmca youth@gmail.com. Your chapter members can wear the same color shirts and join the parade – walk as a group! Ride in your decorated golf cart! Wear your hats, carry your chapter banner, and just have fun!

At each convention, FMCA endeavors to give back to the community by adopting a charitable organization through our **FMCA Driven To Care** program. For Perry, we have chosen the **Genesis Joy House Homeless Shelter**, a nonprofit organization committed to ending chronic homelessness among women veterans in the Southeast. For many women, the return to civilian life is difficult. Many suffer from PTSD, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, and other issues. Genesis provides transitional housing, career training, mental health counseling, life skills classes, and education programs that put female veterans back on the path to independence and self-sufficiency.



To help raise money, FMCA are two main activities. One is the **Magic Mile Fun Run/Walk** that will take place on Friday, March 17. Participants pay \$10 to gather with other attendees and walk or run a one-mile course around fairgrounds. This activity gives folks a nice start to their day – St. Patrick’s Day this year – while helping the designated charity.

The second of our primary fundraisers is the **Driven To Care Silent Auction**. There are two ways to participate. Chapters, exhibitors, and individuals are encouraged to donate items fellow RVers would like to have. Examples could be things for the RV, gift cards, packaged food and drink, etc. The second way is by bidding on the donated items.

Bids will be taken Wednesday through Friday, March 15 through 17, at the Information Center in the McGill Marketplace. At 5:00 p.m. on Friday, bids will close and those with the winning bids will pay for and pick up their items.

FMCA, in partnership with the RV Driving School, has developed a pair of programs for those wishing to become safer and more confident drivers. All training will be done using YOUR RV. The RV Driving Class will be a two-day class with classroom training on day 1 and behind-the-wheel training on day 2.

The RV Backing Class will be a one-day class with 2 hours of classroom training in the morning and 3.5 hours of individual backing practice in the afternoon. There are a limited number of seats available for each class. Classes will take place March 8-13, 2023.

The FMCA Academy is also offering the RV Basics workshop. Led by knowledgeable instructors, this two-and-a-half-day course will get you acquainted (or re-acquainted) with your RV’s operation and systems. You can learn more by visiting <https://www.fmca.com/academy>. The dates are March 12-14, 2023.

Safe travels, and Claire and I look forward to seeing you at FMCA’s next event.
Rett Porter, National President



LINKS AND THINGS

- ECOA APP
- 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/>
- FIREFLY <http://fireflyint.com>
- RiverPark <http://riverparkinc.com>

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
- FIREFLY (M-F, 8-5) 574-825-4600
- RiverPark (M-F, 8-5) 800-442-7717

Have something to share?

Do you have a story, important information or maybe a recipe you would like to see printed in our next issue?

Please contact me, Ed Prins, eprins@icloud.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.