



THE NEWSLETTER OF MONACO AMERICA

A Chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association
An international club for the owners of Esquire, Monarch, LaPalma,
Cayman, Knight and Diplomat Coaches

Website:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/monaco-america

Vol. 4, No. 1

January 1, 2006

Monaco America Board

President

Al Fetch
alfetch@earthlink.net

1st Vice President/ Wagon Master

Gary Granat
Granat@world.att.net

2nd Vice President/ Security

Dave Cormier
davecormier@msn.com

3rd Vice President/ Membership

Bill Henestofel
billhenes@copper.net

Secretary

Ed Stebbins
pdged@flash.net

Treasurer

Diane Baker
cookiebaker3@aol.com

Nat FMCA Dir

Joy Fetch
joyfetch@earthlink.net

Alt FMCA Dir

Nancy Cormier
davecormier@msn.com

Past Presidents:

Bill Stone
bnstone6@aol.com
Dick Lennox
dlennox@wyoming.com

Newsletter Editor

Rick Stone
5941 Seminole Rd
Warr Acres, OK 73132
oldchief1@aol.com
405-720-7355

“Good food, good fun, good fellowship” That’s the best way to describe the Fall Rally in Bowling Green, KY

The Fall 2005 rally was held October 18-20, 2005, at Beech Bend Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky. 102 coaches were in attendance and a good time was had by all. Almost half the coaches arrived early, some as early as the Wednesday of the week before, to get a jump on sightseeing and visiting with their friends.

For those who came in early a pot luck dinner was held on Sunday night. The food was plentiful and well up to the Monaco America standards. Monday evening was our opening get-together with light snacks and an open bar. Breakfast and Dinner were provided by a local caterer, Bar-B-Que Junction, Tuesday through Thursday.

Numerous vendors were in attendance, ready to provide you with those items to help personalize your coach. In addition Monaco Coach Corporation provided a parts truck and Monaco Wearables. Also, representatives of Cummins Diesel and Carefree of Colorado were there. The Carefree representative spent a large amount of his time working in the coach area making repairs and adjustments to everyone's awnings. Monaco also provided several factory techs to perform repairs and maintenance on the coaches. These young people started work on Sunday afternoon and worked very diligently to get everything completed. Each coach owner was allowed to have two items taken care of with free labor cost.

To help fill everyone's days many seminars were provided by both the vendors and by members of Monaco America. Also, tours of the local Chevrolet Corvette factory were set up. Two craft classes were provided and the ladies held their Hatters Tea. The Hatters Tea has become a very popular event at the rallies. This time the ladies brought their favorite salad, along with the recipe, to share. Also, they brought many recipes for “easy to make in the coach dishes” to be published in the upcoming Monaco America Cookbook.

Entertainment was outstanding, as has become expected at the rallies. On Tuesday night Ron and Kay Rivoli performed with their Rivoli RV Revue. This is the third rally that we have had the pleasure of having Ron and Kay entertain us and they were a big hit as usual. If you have not had the opportunity of seeing their show then look for them at a rally or RV resort in your area. They spend 48 weeks out of the year traveling in their motor coach performing. Wednesday night we had karaoke night with Tinker's Toys Dixie RV. (This was the dealer from Louisville that provided show coaches for the rally.) On Thursday night we had a 50's style hop with DJ Scott Thompson.

Many of our rally attendees had made plans to leave on Friday and head to Orlando, to attend the Eastern Monaco Come Home Rally. At that time hurricane Wilma was heading for Florida and the decision had not been made if the rally would take place. Late Friday night the word came in that the rally was on so off they went on Saturday morning.

As has become tradition at our rallies we accepted applications for the next rally, which will be held May 16-18, 2006, in Goshen, Indiana. A drawing was held on Thursday night from the 43 applications that had been turned in. The winners, Gary & Pat McNeely, had their rally fee refunded and will be able to attend the Spring Rally free.





From the President's Coach

By Al Fetch
Monaco America
President

Greetings Fellow Monaco America Members,

Hard as it is to believe, Thanksgiving has already come and gone, and, as I write this column, Joy and I are feverishly making plans and readying the house for Christmas visitors. What a hectic and wonderful time of the year.

Bowling Green turned out to be as good a rally as we expected. The high price of gas/diesel had a tempering effect on the turnout, but our final count of 102 made it a real success. Each rally gets better and it seems we're all having a pretty good time, because the early registrations for the next rally keep getting stronger. We set a record in Bowling Green by signing up 43 coaches for the Goshen, IN rally coming up in May. That sure gets us off to a great start!

A note of thanks is in order for all the volunteers who make this club so special. Gary and Carole Granat, our *Wagon Master Extraordinaires*, really go all out on our behalf to assure a great time at our rallies. Thanks to Ed and Faye Daniels our wonderful Rally Masters in Bowling Green, and all the others who tirelessly volunteered their time and talent to make things run so smoothly. We learn how to improve at each rally, and this one was no different. We got lots of great input and you'll see many of the ideas put into action in Goshen. If you'd like to volunteer, simply contact one of the committee chairs and let them know. There's a list elsewhere in the newsletter. Or, simply hang out at the Information/Registration booth and let them know you'd like to help out. They always seem to be able to find something for people to do. On the other hand, if you don't want to volunteer, just promise to have a great time, because that's what Monaco America rallies are all about!

One final note, our esteemed newsletter editor, Rick Stone, has informed me that he's going to step down as he and Joanne get ready for retirement in the coming year. He's agreed to write one more edition, and then, unless I'm able to convince him otherwise, we'll need to find someone willing to step up with pen in hand to take over. Please get a hold of me if you have any interest in filling this very important position. Rick has done a fabulous job and will surely be available for some "on the job" training.

Continued in next column

Notes from the Wagon Master

Gary Granat
Monaco America
First Vice President



Didn't we have a great time at our Fall Rally in Bowling Green? The weather was absolutely perfect and in spite of record high fuel costs, we had 102 coaches at the Beech Bend Park. Our club's good friends, Ron & Kay Rivoli gave their usual outstanding revue on Tuesday. Even though we would like to have had more vendors, we did have a good mix. One highlight is, 40% of those in attendance signed up for our Spring Rally.

This rally is scheduled for May 16th through May 18th, 2006 at the Elkhart County 4H Fairground in Goshen, Indiana. Some tentative and final plans for Goshen are: dinner at an Amish home, an Amish bake sale and tours of nearby Monaco Facilities. We are, also, working to get a unique mix of local vendors to participate.

For the Spring Rally, the golf outing will take place on Monday, May 15th at a cost of \$45 per player, payable upon arrival. It will be held at the Black Squirrel Golf Club, in Goshen. The starting time will be 9am with a shotgun start and it will be a Florida Scramble as in the past. Meeting times will be shared on Sunday the 14th.

Our Fall 2006 Rally will be held somewhere in the far west. We're looking at several sites, but no decision has been made as yet.

Happy Travels, See you in Goshen,
Gary & Carole Granat

From the President's Coach continued:

Joy and I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and send wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing many of you in Indiana in May.

Travel safely.

Al & Joy Fetch
alfetch@earthlink.net
941-639-9364

Questions about Monaco America

Questions concerning club membership should be addressed to:

Bill Henestofel
759 Windward Way
Gahanna, OH 43230
(614) 939-3282
billhenes@copper.net

Questions concerning rallies should be addressed to:

Gary Granat
463 E Greening Rd
Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 926-4910 (Home)
(219) 921-6694 (Cell)
granat@worldnet.att.net

Monaco America Newsletter

The Newsletter is published by Monaco America Motorhome Owners' Club. The views expressed are strictly those of the individual contributors and do not reflect the views of Monaco Corporation or Family Motor Coach Association.

If you have information you would like placed in the newsletter please send it to the editor, Rick Stone, either by e-mail to:

oldchief1@aol.com
or by ordinary mail to:
5941 Seminole Rd
Warr Acres, OK 73132-5707

Please identify any e-mail with the subject line of Monaco America.

Previous editions of the newsletter are archived at:
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/monaco-america

Important Notice

Membership Renewal Time

By now you should have received a renewal card for your membership dues. If you have not already done so please send in your renewal as soon as possible.

Membership in Monaco America is on a calendar year basis. Renewal membership fee of \$15.00 are due at the beginning of each year. Any membership fee not received by April 1st of the year will result in that member being dropped from the rolls.

Note: If your new membership was paid, either by yourself or by Monaco, after October 1, 2005, you are covered for the 2006 calendar year.

Decoration Help Needed for Goshen

The decorating theme for the rally facilities in Goshen will be concerned with the Amish influence of the area. The decorating committee has decided to use quilts as decorations in the main rally hall.

If you have a favorite quilt you would like to loan and have displayed during the rally please bring it with you. All quilts will be displayed with the owners name. If it is old, please share the quilt's history. The quilts will be returned at the end of the rally.

If you are able to provide a quilt for this purpose please contact Pat Helm (patcollie@att.net).

For the Ladies Only

by Joy Fetch

The Ladies Tea at the Bowling Green Rally was a great success with over 60 ladies in attendance. Each brought a salad to share with the group and the salad's recipe. These will be included in the Monaco America Cook Book that we hope to have ready for the May rally in Goshen.

The theme in Goshen will be "A Teddy Bear Tea". We are asking each lady to bring a small, soft, huggable teddy bear, about 8" - 10" tall. These bears will be donated to the Indiana State Police to take with them on their calls that involve children.

For this tea the club will provide finger foods and of course the tea. We're asking every one to bring 2 dozen of their favorite cookies to share for the dessert. And, remember, you're welcome to bring your own tea cup.

We hope to see you all there.

Monaco America Committee Chairs

Bartenders: Tom Cote

Constitution & Bylaws: Dick Lennox

Decorations: Carole Granat;

Alternate: Pat Helm

Goodie Bags: Rally Master for current rally

Parking: Neil Aiken;

Alternate: Neil Morris

Registration/Info Booth: Peggy Morris;

Alternate: Carrol Henestofel

Social Events: Bill Henestofel,

Alternate: Mary Jane Wegley

Technical: Larry Leadbetter

ATTENTION NEW COACH OWNERS

Q. Wondering why you are receiving this newsletter if you have never joined Monaco America?

A. Monaco Coach Corporation provides Monaco America with a list, each calendar quarter, of the people who purchased new motor coaches that qualify for membership in Monaco America. We then mail each of these new owners two issues of the Monaco America Newsletter, which is published quarterly, as an encouragement to join our club.

When you purchased your new coach you were mailed a new owners package by Monaco Coach Corporation. In this package was an application for membership in Monaco America. Monaco Coach Corporation will pay your first years membership when you return the application. It is very important that you return your application to Monaco to get your free first years membership. If you return the application and become an official member you will continue to receive the Monaco America Newsletter in your mail.

Additionally, Monaco America is chartered by the Family Motor Coach Association. Due to this you must first be a member of FMCA before your membership in Monaco America can be accepted. Please include your FMCA membership number on your application for membership to Monaco America.



Spring 2006 Rally
Back Home in Monaco's
Indiana
May 16-18, 2006



The Spring 2006 rally, Back Home in Monaco's Indiana, has been set for May 16-18 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds in Goshen, Indiana.

Nestled in Northern Indiana, the roots of Goshen are tracked back to the Amish and Mennonite heritage that settled the area in 1834. While you can still see Amish with horses and buggies on the streets, Goshen, is a dynamic community offering visitors many entertaining options.

Goshen is in the center of Amish Country making it the perfect home base for many visitors. It is just minutes from Shipshewana with 90 one-of-a-kind stores and the Midwest's largest flea market. Other highlights include a visit to Essenhaus Village in Middlebury with a 1,100-seat family-style dining room or a trip to the quaint Amish based community of Nappanee.

Arts and cultural heritage celebrated:

The local Amish heritage is celebrated at attractions and restaurants throughout the region. Additionally, Goshen is the home to a growing artisan community. Their work can be seen at many local guilds and The Old Bag Factory, a converted factory that is now home to many local artists, furniture makers and craftsmen. Goshen College also provides many cultural opportunities through their art and music programs.

Shopping includes antiquing, handcrafted furniture and a charming downtown shopping district:

Shopping in Goshen provides a variety of selections. Goshen's historic downtown, centered around a Greek Revival 19th Century courthouse, includes upscale clothing stores, gift shops, furniture stores, antique malls, coffee shops and even a chance to step back in time to an old-fashioned soda shop, the Olympia Candy Kitchen, that also offers a wide selection of their hand dipped chocolates.

There is a Farmer's Market open every Tuesday and Saturday to purchase the freshest produce from local farmers. The Old Bag Factory provides a wonderful collection of unique shops catering to more artistic interests, including fine handcrafted hardwood furniture. Antiquing is also popular with several stores located in the downtown and at Peddler's Village, a large antique mall. Also, there is a wide selection of dining from Applebee's to Chinese to Mexican and, of course, Amish.

Recreational trails and parks abound:

The Maple City Greenway, a network of bicycle/pedestrian paths and hiking trails, connects residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, the library and the downtown area. It is one of the most comprehensive systems of its type in the Midwest, spanning 10 miles.

Other attractions in the area:

There are many other attractions within a short driving distance of Goshen. These include Amish Acres/Round Barn Theatre; Bonneyville Mill; University of Notre Dame; Lake Wawasee; RV Museum; Studebaker National Museum; College Football Hall of Fame; and throughout Elkhart County—the RV Capital. In addition to the Monaco factories in the area many of the other coach manufactures are located in this area.

Some activities planned for the rally are: An Amish bake sale. Place an order one day and it will be delivered the next. Planned for Wednesday of the rally is an Amish dinner served in local Amish homes.

An application for the Spring 2006 Monaco America Rally is on the facing page of this newsletter. Additionally, it will be available in future editions of Lifestyle magazine, on the Monaco Coach Corporations website, and on the Monaco America website. Submit your application as early as possible and start making your plans to join with your fellow members of Monaco America at another great rally.



**“Back Home in Monaco’s Indiana”
Monaco America Spring 2006
Rally Application Form**



WHERE: Elkhart County Fairgrounds, Goshen, Indiana
WHEN: May 16, 17, 18, 2006

Please circle all items that apply:

COST:	Coach and 2 persons	299.00
	Coach and 1 person	249.00
	Extra person in coach (age 12 & above)	100.00
	Extra person in coach (under age 12)	80.00
	Passport for 2 persons^	229.00
	Non-member fee**	25.00
	Other brand coach fee***	50.00

Make check payable to
Monaco America

Mail to:
Diane Baker
2061 Palomino Rd
Dover, PA 17315
(717) 292-5196

Total _____

Registration deadline: April 15, 2006
Cancellations request must be received
by April 16, 2006 for a full refund.

GOLF TOURNAMENT
A golf outing is planned for
the Monday prior to the rally,
with sign-up and payment
upon arrival in Goshen..

Questions about the rally
should be addressed to
the Wagon Master:
Gary Granat
(219) 926-4910 (Home)
(219) 921-6694 (Cell)
granat@worldnet.att.net

First Name: _____

Second Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Coach Number: _____

FMCA Number: _____

Coach Model: _____ Handicapped?* Yes ___ No ___ First Timer? Yes ___ No ___

Rally price includes 4 nights (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu) camping with full hookups, 3 Breakfasts, 3 Evening meals, entertainment, vendors, seminars, social/cocktail hour and all the fun that is a Monaco America Rally. (A \$10.00 per night charge will be required of those arriving prior to Sunday, May 14, 2006, to cover those nights camping. Early arrivals will be parked in a holding area with dry camping until Sunday. Sunday arrivals and/or stays beyond Thursday will be charged \$20.00/30 Amp or \$22.00/50 Amp. These fees will be collected at the gate.)

*Must have a state issued handicapped placard displayed on your coach.

**Persons owning a Monaco Esquire, Monarch, LaPalma, Cayman, Knight or Diplomat coach who are not members of Monaco America will be charged \$25.00 for first years membership dues. Persons owning any other Monaco Coach model may attend by paying the \$25.00 non-member fee.

***Persons owning any brand of motor coach, other than Monaco, may attend as the guest of a member but will be charged an additional \$50.00.

^Passport attendees are eligible for all meals, entertainment, seminars and exhibits. No camping is included in this package.

Monaco America membership is open to owners of Esquire, Monarch, LaPalma, Cayman, Knight & Diplomat Motor Coaches.

Tech Topics by Larry Leadbetter

Fire Safety

All of our motor homes come equipped with a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors and a fire extinguisher. It is good practice to evaluate whether these items are working properly.

Smoke Detector - Monaco recommends testing the smoke detector at least once a week when the motor home is in use, prior to each trip and when the motor home has been in storage. To test, just push the button for approximately 3 seconds. This tests the circuitry, horn and battery. When the battery voltage gets low the detector will beep and the battery will need to be changed. A good practice is to change the batteries when the time changes twice a year. Also additional smoke detectors could be installed to reduce the risk of smoke and fire injuries. Common causes of home fires are from smoking in bed, leaving children unattended, and using flammable cleaning fluids.

Carbon Monoxide Detector – Test the operation of these detectors after the motor home has been in storage, before each trip and at least once per week during use. LP leaks can cause death and or explosions if undetected.

Fire Extinguisher – There is a fire extinguisher at the entrance to the coach. It should be inspected at least once a month. Do not test it unless for practice, then replace or recharge it immediately. I have installed a second fire extinguisher in the bedroom because I spend at least 8 hours a day there and if a fire started in the front of the coach I would not be able to reach it. A club member, retired fireman, recommended a one that would fight 3 types of fire, electrical, liquids, and paper. (ABC type) The rating should be 2A:10BC. I found one at Home Depot a 3A:30BC for around 20 dollars. Also know where the egress window is and how to open it.

Questions or ideas for a Tech Topic? Please contact:

Larry Leadbetter (lleadbetter@yahoo.com)
785-826-5081



MONACO AMERICA
c/o Rick Stone, Newsletter Editor
5941 Seminole Rd
Warr Acres, OK 73132-5707