

# Country Coach Texans

## Fall 2013



*From rally hosts (l-r) Pat Turpin, Len and Sandy Nikolai*

It's hard to believe that October is already here and our Fall CCT Rally at La Hacienda RV Resort in Austin is already completed! We had 23 coaches registered and two of our members rented cabins on site, for a total of 47 people attending. Although this was a much smaller rally than our one in May, we packed in lots of fun activities and reports were that everyone had a great time.

We started off with registration, where members were given their rally bags, complete with three reusable shopping bags, which are a real necessity in Austin now that stores no longer provide plastic bags with purchases! Wednesday evening everyone gathered at the Pavilion for **Lonny and Lavada Stevens'** fabulous, famous Margaritas. That was a delightful way to kick

off the events and meet and greet our friends. Our main caterers, **Gourmet Gals**, provided a delicious Mexican Fiesta meal, which everyone enjoyed, including a home-made Flan for dessert. After dinner, we had time to start our raffle and door prize routine and re-connect with friends and "settle in" for the coming week.

Thursday morning, Gourmet Gals provided us with a special breakfast of Cowboy Casserole or Peach French Toast Casserole, along with breads, yogurt, and fruit. That gave us all the energy to face the day. After the General Membership Meeting, everyone had time to "go where they wanted to go and do what they wanted to do..." Reports were that some drove over to

## Great Friends and Good Times at Austin Rally

Georgetown to explore the square, took the new metro train to downtown Austin, shopped at some of the area malls, or just relaxed at La Hacienda. Thursday's dinner, again provided by Gourmet Gals, was an Italian theme with delicious Penne Pasta and Parmesan Chicken. Desserts were Italian Cream Cake or Tiramisu, which were outstanding!

After dinner, **Chris Rybak ("Accordion Cowboy")** and his band, which included our own **Jerry McMennamy** on tuba, entertained us with polkas, Czech music, and a really fun time! With his wireless technology, Chris was able to come down off the stage and interact with the audience. He even played the "Aggie War Hymn" (a request from our new VP **Terry Ray**), which, of course, he had to follow with "The Eyes of Texas." The highlight of the evening was the parade of members, circling, and closing in on Chris and Jerry. Quite a sight and sound!

On Friday, we had an American breakfast with scrambled eggs, bacon, and sausage. Perfect to fortify us for participating in the optional tours, or once again, individual shopping/relaxing. A group of 10 drove out to the new Circuit of the Americas Race Track and took the self-guided tour to climb to the top of the tower, for a birds-eye view of the track. Another group of seven ventured over to Dripping Springs to the Texas Olive Orchard, where we met with **John Gambini**, founder of the Orchard. He told us the story of his dream for the Olive Orchard, introduced us to the different types of olives used to make his olive oil, showed us the behind-the-scenes process for making the oil, and took us out to the orchard to see the olives on the trees. We had tasting opportunities for the variety of oils and Balsamic Vinegars, with fresh baked bread. Of course, there was a lot of oil, vinegar,

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**Austin Rally cont.**

cookbooks, spices, etc. purchased and brought home!

The Gourmet Gals outdid themselves for our Friday night meal of Pork Medallions and Salmon! Wow!! Our entertainment tonight was our friend **Bobby Jordan and his Ridgecreek Band**. Wonderful Country Western Music, with many dancing and others sitting, enthralled with the music.

Saturday morning, Len and Sandy Nikolai and Pat Turpin hosted breakfast with a selection of breakfast tacos from nearby Los Pinos Mexican Restaurant, along with fruit, yogurt, and assorted breads. It was a free day to enjoy as you please.



**K. R. Wood** brought his chuck wagon to La Hacienda on Saturday afternoon. The cold front that we had been promised blew in around Happy Hour. We decided to serve our barbecue dinner inside, rather than from the chuck wagon, and enjoyed the "cowboy" tradition of tin plates and flatware. Barbecue beef, chicken, and sausage were delicious and the Peach Cobbler was outstanding!

After dinner, we had a special visit from a Las Vegas star auctioneer (aka **Mike Carnes**), who led our live auction!



The charity chosen to receive the proceeds of our raffle and live auction was the YMCA Scholarship Fund. Due to the quality and number of items presented for this, we raised almost \$2,000 for the Fund. The evening ended with K. R. Wood and his band singing western songs and providing fun entertainment for our last evening together.

Sunday morning, the Rally hosts again hosted a Continental Breakfast, complete with curb service to those who were getting an early start before the "official" 8 a.m. start. Final hugs and goodbyes until the Spring 2014 Rally.

Sandy, Len, and Pat want to thank our commercial sponsor/benefactors and their representatives for their generous support of the Country Coach Texans: **Dave Miller, Texas Custom Coach** in Pipe Creek; **Eddie Braley, National Indoor RV Center** in Lewisville; **Craig Dorsett, Motorhomes of Texas** in Nacogdoches; **Ken Menhinnett, North Texas RV** in Krum; **Dave Lockin, Crestview RV** in Georgetown; **Louie Courtemanche, from Premier RV** in Eugene, OR; **Paul Tinkle, Foretravel**; **Mariana Michel** from **Hill Country Galleria**; and **Marcy Renneberg, from the Georgetown Visitor's Center**.

Special thanks to **Freddie McNeel** and **Pam McCaskill** for their help in organizing the raffle/auction/door prize items. What a job that was!! So many great items.

We really appreciate **Joe Taylor's** help to set up the club PA system for our use throughout the rally. Such a help!!!

One more special thanks to **Lonny and Lavada Stevens** for their donation of the Margarita Happy Hours.

Thank you, all, for being there! See you in the Spring!



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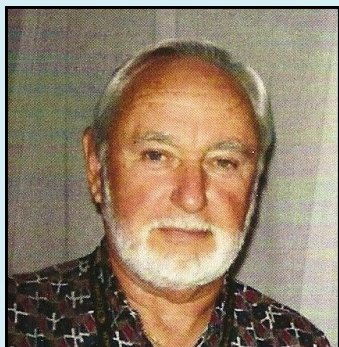


## Austin Rally cont.



**More rally photos on pages 8-10**





**Rod Reames**

The Rally at Lake Travis did not have as many attendees as the previous rally in Bandera, but those who attended were treated to wonderful food, good dancing music performed by local entertainers and time to visit the Capitol of Texas. We enjoyed our own CCTexans member, **Jerry McMennamy**, playing his tuba with one of the bands one evening. On Friday morning, some of us toured the Formula One Race-track which is new to Austin and is now considered to be the best of its kind in the world, while others visited an olive orchard and got to see how olives are processed. Another big attraction was the Galleria Shopping Center a few miles from the campgrounds. While the weather was rather warm during the day, the evenings cooled down a bit as we enjoyed dancing to the wonderful music. Many thanks to **Pat Turpin** and **Sandy & Len Nikolai** for their efforts and time in providing us with a wonderful rally.

As those of you who attended the Bandera Rally may remember, a discussion was held concerning our diminishing membership. This led to the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of **Mike Carnes**, **Joe Taylor**, **Nick Caruso** and **Peggie Fink**.

## From the Club President



The committee worked hard during the summer and reported their findings and recommendations during the General Membership Meeting. Their suggestions were voted on and unanimously accepted. Persons with another brand of Class A diesel, regardless of whether they previously owned a Country Coach, can now be members of the CCTexans. The same is true for current or former CCTexans who have downsized to either a Class B diesel or Class C diesel. Thanks go to Mike and his committee for a job well done! We have already had three new members sign up -- **Nancy Rieger**, **Kirk and Cindy Hicks** and **Pat and Mary K Key**. The Hicks and Keys have participated in some past rallies as guests, and now qualify to be members under our new membership rules.

Thanks also to two officers for their outstanding contributions to our club. **Peggie Fink** served two terms as Treasurer and **RD Vanderslice** served one term as Vice-President. They are passing the torch to our new Treasurer, **Pam McCaskill**, and

our new Vice President, **Terry Ray**. In addition, **Joe Taylor** volunteered to serve as alternate National Director.

I would also like to give a huge thank you to the wonderful folks who subsidize our rallies with their generosity - our sponsors. Without them, we would not have the quality of rallies we now enjoy. One thing we should remember is to let them know how much we appreciate their contributions. Using the services they offer is one way, while another is to tell your friends about what our sponsors have to offer. Another is to call or write them to express your appreciation. A list of our sponsors is located elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our next rally will be May 14, 2014 at **Buckhorn Lake RV Resort** in Kerrville. **Jim and Velma Bobo** have volunteered to be Rally Hosts and would appreciate some help, as this will be their first time hosting.

I look forward to seeing everyone next year and hope the remainder of this year serves you well.



**Mike Carnes addresses members on the Ad Hoc Committee findings**



**Freddie McNeel thanks Terry Ray for accepting the nomination of Vice President**



## VP's Report

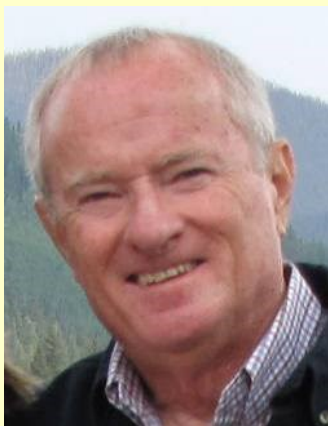
From R.D. Vanderslice

**G**ood friends, great rally hosts, and a nice venue, are always something the Country Coach Texans look forward to each fall of the year. October 2-6, **Pat Turpin, Sandy and Len Nikolai**, along with a great group of helpful volunteers, again put together a wonderful fall rally at La Hacienda RV Resort. Take some great food, along with outstanding entertainment, and then throw in a bunch of like minded friends, and you have an instant recipe for a good time. Thank you for another successful Texan rally.

I would like to thank **Jim and Velma Bobo** for stepping up to the plate to host the Spring 2014 Rally at Buckhorn Lake RV Resort in Kerrville. Buckhorn has always been a very popular party site and we look forward to next spring. More info will be coming later as details are worked out..

Also, we are in need of hosts for the fall 2014 rally, so someone, please put on your rally hosting hat. Our great rallies are not possible without your help! Places like the casinos across the Red River in Oklahoma, and Bushman's RV Resort/Kiepersol Winery (<http://www.kiepersol.com/>) near Tyler have been tossed around, and those would be great, but the Club will entertain any ideas.

My two years as your VP is over, but I want to thank all of you for your confidence and trusting me as your Vice President. It has been an honor to serve you. **Terry Ray** is your new VP, and after meeting and talking with Terry, you can be assured that he is the right person for the job. Thank you Terry.



R.D. Vanderslice



## From Our Secretary Pat Turpin



After the Spring Rally, I went to work updating the CCT Directory. I emailed all members whose pictures were not in the directory already to ask them to provide a picture for the revised directory. We had sent all of the remaining complete directories on hand to our new members, so a major project was needed to restock. I was successful in getting all but one member picture to include in the new printing. I had six complete directories printed and 57 supplemental page-sets made (with 12 new pages to add to everyone's directory). I later learned that six members needed additional pages for their second directory copy, so those pages were printed.

As I was going through the process to update the directories, I compiled a birthday calendar for members to keep up with each other for special days. It was interesting to see several of our members have the same birthday! Hopefully, this will be a fun, new tool for members.

**Nancy Rieger**, whom we met at the Bandera Rally, joined CCT in August. She received her welcome letter and Directory at the Fall Rally.

During the Rally, we learned that member, **Dr. Ben Houle**, was in the hospital; a get well card was circulated for all to include good wishes for his return to health.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pat**

*Minutes from the Fall Rally  
General Business Meeting are  
posted on the website  
[www.cctexans.com](http://www.cctexans.com)*



## Trea\$urer's Report



**Peggie Fink**

The past 4 years have gone by quickly and by the end of 2013, I will turn over QuickBooks and Treasurer's responsibilities to **Pam McCaskill**, our new Treasurer. Thank you so much, Pam, for your willingness to take on this task.

Many thanks to all of you who have been so helpful when I felt overwhelmed. The very best part of being an officer of CCT has been getting to know everyone. What a wonderful bunch of members we have, interesting and lively, willing to go the extra mile for each other, and we all get to travel to the most interesting places!!! The exchange of information and the friendships formed are priceless.

The financial statements are posted under Club News (Fall) on the [CCT website](#). Today we have \$5,421.78 in the bank and no debts.

Please look carefully over the Cash Flow Statement for the period 1/1/13-10/9/13. Also look over the comparative P&L statement covering the last several rallies. If you have any questions about these statements, please call or email me.

The 2014 dues of \$25 are DUE. If you send them before December 1, please mail them to me at 5206 Rambling Range, Austin, TX 78727. Pam and Charles McCaskill are moving next month to Kerrville, TX. Once they get into their new home, Pam will take over as Treasurer.

Thank you again for a terrific 4 years. I am grateful to all of you for the opportunity.

*Peggie*



*Peggie Fink and in-coming Treasurer, Pam McCaskill, visit while collecting 2014 dues at the Austin rally*

## FMCA Update

Big news for FMCA was the International convention in Gillette, WY this past June. There were over 2200 coaches in attendance. The following new officers were elected: **Charlie Adcock**, National President; **John Walker**, National Senior Vice President; **Vickie Farrari**, National Secretary and **Percy Bell**, National Treasurer. There was much discussion about having one convention versus two each year and it was decided to have two per year. The following is the latest schedule:

- |               |                       |   |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| ♦ Winter 2014 | Perry, Georgia        | March 17-20, 2014 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds |
| ♦ Summer 2014 | Redmond, Oregon       | August 13-16, 2014                                    |
| ♦ Winter 2015 | Pomona, California    |   |
| ♦ Summer 2015 | Madison, Wisconsin    |   |
| ♦ Summer 2016 | Indianapolis, Indiana |   |

FMCA's financial position has improved markedly. Operations are running under budget for 9 months. With convention revenues, we are currently showing an operating surplus of \$166,000. The 2014 Budget was approved with projected surplus of \$40,000.00. Membership loss continues to be a problem. We had 83,708 active members as of June 30, 2012, and 78,790 as of June 30, 2013. A major computer hardware upgrade is underway for membership maintenance in order to curb the losses.

The FMC magazine is now available in digital format for tablets and smart phones. Just a reminder -- you must keep your membership in FMCA active to be a member of CCT. Annual renewal fee is \$40.00/yr.



**Jim Payne**  
National Director



## Welcome New Members



**Nancy Rieger**  
Austin, Texas



**Kirk & Cindy Hicks**  
Littleton, Colorado



**Pat & Mary K Key**  
Kerrville, Texas



More Austin Rally Photos



*Touring the Circuit of Americas Race Track and the Texas Hill Country Olive Company Factory and Store*





## More Austin Rally Photos



*Freddie McNeel  
presented Mike  
and Nancy Carnes  
an engraved plaque  
commemorating  
their recent  
50th Wedding  
Anniversary*



*Jerry McMennamy accompanies the Chris Ryback band on the tuba*





More Austin Rally photos



*Peggie Fink made a beautiful, intricately quilted wall hanging to donate for the auction*



*New member, Nancy Rieger, was the winning bidder for one of the many auction items, a pen handmade by Kevin Ford*

*Our hosts enjoying the musical entertainment*



*Hugs 'til we meet again...*



**Special thanks to Geneva Keeton, Sandy Nikolai and Lynn Vanderslice for their photo contributions...  
More photos are available on the Club website:  
<http://www.cctexans.com>**



## Mark your calendars



**Spring 2014 Rally**  
**May 14-18, 2014**  
**Buckhorn Lake**  
**RV Resort**  
**Kerrville, TX**



**Our hosts Jim & Velma Bobo**  
**look forward to seeing**  
**you all there!**

**Complete details to be announced as the date gets closer**