



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

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Great time had by all in Kerrville



We invited everyone to saddle up for the Texas Hill Country and that is what they did. 102 motor coaches turned out for our Spring 2005 rally at Buckhorn Lake Resort in Kerrville, TX. The Buckhorn Lake Resort is a beautiful place and it is easy to see the great pride that the owners have by the way they maintain this facility.

Coaches started arriving as early as Wednesday prior to the rally and by Sunday evening three fourths of the attendees were in place. A pot luck dinner was held for the early arrivals on Sunday night and everyone enjoyed a fantastic meal together. Our official opening meeting was the informal meet and greet get together on Monday evening. This gave us all a chance to renew old friendships and to meet and make new friends. As has been the experience at previous rallies half of our attendees were first timers and this gave them a chance to get involved with the club.

We had several outstanding seminars held by both members of the club and by some of the private vendors that were present. One of the best attended seminars was the round table discussion on coach maintenance held by our own Larry Leadbetter. A convection/microwave cooking class was held by Janet Sadlack and craft classes were presented by Peggy Morris. The ladies held their Monaco Hatters Tea on Wednesday. The final seminar was with our Wagon Master, Gary Granat, on ideas for improvement and changes in our rallies.

Evergreen RV of New Braunfels, TX, was the resident dealer at the rally. They brought 10 beautiful new coaches for the members to view and purchase. In addition, they held a seminar on coach maintenance that was well attended. They also put on an ice cream social on Wednesday afternoon. This is an outstanding Monaco dealer for both sales and service. If you are in the San Antonio/New Braunfels area and need any of their services you would do yourself a favor by stopping in.

Food service for the rally was provided by the Buckhorn Lake Resort each morning and evening. Local music groups provided good entertainment nightly. On Thursday night the theme was Country and Western with most members breaking out their finest cowboy duds.

A slate of officers was elected for the coming year. A fond farewell and thank you was bid to Bill Stone as he completed his term as president. Although he no longer holds an elected office he will remain on the board of directors. The club by-laws include the last two past presidents as members of the standing board. Al Fetch, of Punta Gorda, FL, was elected president.





From the President's Coach

By Al Fetch
Monaco America
President

Greetings,

Wow, what a rally! Those who were in attendance at Kerrville had a Rootin' Tootin' good old Texas time. It was especially gratifying to see all the first-timers, almost half of all the attendees, kick up their heels and join in the fun. It was also good to see all the Diplomats join us. It's sure turned out to be a good decision to add that model to our membership.

Now, here's a staggering statistic, 40% of those who were at the Kerrville rally have already signed up and paid for the Bowling Green, KY rally coming up in October. Hopefully we'll make Bowling Green our largest rally ever. For those planning to go to the Monaco Coming Home Rally in Orlando, why not make the BG rally a pre-rally for Orlando?

Joy and I are on our way to Alaska as this column is being written. We're traveling with Jack and Lois Sanders, fellow Monaco America members. In fact, we met them through the club and have become good friends. How many other friendships have developed the same way? I'd venture to say "Quite a few". And, we make new friends at every single rally. In fact, we're stopping a number of times on our way to Alaska to visit with MA friends. This is truly one of the great strengths of our club. Friends, friendships and fun..... it's kind of what we're all about. And most of the friendships start as a result of volunteering with others at a rally.

On another note, our website now has over 100 members and gets stronger every day. If you haven't joined yet, I encourage you to do so. The address is on the banner of this, and every, newsletter. In addition to being a great sounding board for questions you might have about your coach, the website is also where you'll find a number of files with information that might be of interest to you. As an example, you will find the current By-Laws and Standing Rules for the club, a listing of all the officers and their e-mail addresses, membership forms for Monaco America and FMCA, application forms for rallies, a complete archive of all the newsletters so ably written by Rick Stone (THANKS RICK!) since the club began, etc. There are also plans to include updates to the membership directory so we can all stay current as we grow. The website will become even more valuable as more members sign up for it.

Continued on page 3

ATTENTION NEW COACH OWNERS

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.

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.

Notes from the Wagon Master

Gary Granat
Monaco America
First Vice President



Well, we Monaco Americans just had a first at the Kerrville rally, no rain during the official rally period. Just a little on Sunday, which didn't dampen anyone's spirit, as evidenced by the turn out for the pot-luck dinner. As always, kudos to all the many volunteers who made this rally and all rallies a success. The Ladies' tea was again well attended. Obviously, we will continue this fun event. Carole & I personally had a good time. We purchased a new coach and had the opportunity to visit our new grandson in the Houston area.

Now Bowling Green will be upon us in no time. The fact that we had over 40 of you sign-up for Bowling Green at Kerrville is extremely encouraging. I truly expect our attendance to exceed 200 coaches.

Again, thanks for all your support, we look forward to seeing all our Monaco America friends in Bowling Green this October.

Gary & Carole Granat

Questions about Monaco America

Questions concerning club membership should be addressed to:

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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

New Monaco America Officers

At the semi-annual business meeting held during the Spring 2005 rally at Kerrville, TX, an election was held for officers of Monaco America. The officers for the new year are:

President: Al Fetch
1st Vice President: Gary Granat
2nd Vice President: Dave Cormier
3rd Vice President: Bill Henestofel
Secretary: Ed Stebbins
Treasurer: Diane (Cookie) Baker
National FMCA Director: Joy Fetch
Alt Nat FMCA Director: Nancy Cormier

The newly elected officers will serve a one year term beginning in May 2005 through the Spring 2006 rally.

Additionally, Judy Cote, Rich Cotterall, and Bobbie Lennox were elected as members of the nominating committee for the next year. This committee will be responsible for submitting a slate of nominees for election at the Spring 2006 rally. They will also be responsible for filling any vacancies that may occur during the year.

Notes from the FMCA National Director

I want to thank you for re-electing me as your National Director. I try to keep up with what is available from FMCA on your behalf by attending as many seminars as I can at the FMCA Rallies.

I know we have many new members and I'd like to share how important it is to remember to use the Medex Card you would have received in your welcome package from FMCA. Be sure and present this card with your insurance card if you have a medical emergency while traveling. This program provides travel assistance, emergency evacuation and repatriation while you are traveling in the Continental United States, Canada and Mexico. There is no extra charge to you...it is included in the dues you pay to FMCA. If you have misplaced your card I have some extras. I have them with me at the Monaco America Rallies, or you can email me and I can send one to you.

Al and I will be attending the Minot, ND, FMCA rally. Look us up if you are there! We will also be in Bowling Green, Kentucky, at the next Monaco America rally. Hope to see you there.

Joy Fetch
joyfetch@earthlink.net

From the President's Coach continued:

And, finally, thanks to all who have passed along congratulatory notes regarding my being voted in as president of the club. I'm proud to be a member of such a wonderful bunch of friendly folks. Thanks to Bill Stone and his leadership the past 18 months. We've never been in better shape. Now, all I have to do is stay out of the way of the Board as they continue their excellent work directing Monaco America toward an even brighter future.

We hope to see you in Bowling Green.

Al & Joy Fetch

alfetch@earthlink.net (best way to contact me while traveling to Alaska)

Are you a crafty person?

Peggy Morris, Chairman of the Crafts Committee, is looking for some crafty people to help with the craft classes at the rallies. Do you have a special craft you would like to share with your fellow Monacoer's?

A craft class has been one of the highlights of the past rallies. Peggy has become tapped out on ideas for the future. If you have a craft that you enjoy and would like to share please contact Peggy. She will give you all the information that you will need to lead a class and what kits, if any, you will need to provide.

Peggy can be reached either by e-mail or by phone. E-mail address is nmorris388@aol.com. Peggy's phone number is 972-279-0215.

"Pet Show Off" at Kerrville

During the rally in Kerrville a "Pet Show Off" parade was held. This event was coordinated by Nancy Cormier. This was in addition to Nancy greeting all the coaches upon their arrival with special treats for the pets.

During the pet parade drawings were held for pet related door prizes. A final drawing was held to recognize the Pet Show Off grand winner. Although many dogs were entered in the event the grand winner was Donna King's cat.



Pet lady Nancy Cormier presents a certificate to Pet Show Off winner Donna King.



**Your Chance to Cavort
with Corvettes and Caves
Monaco America Fall 2005
Rally Application Form**



WHERE: Beech Bend Park, Bowling Green, KY
WHEN: October 18-19-20, 2005

Please circle all items that apply:

COST:	Coach and 2 persons	279.00
	Coach and 1 person	229.00
	Extra person in coach (age 12 & above)	100.00
	Extra person in coach (under age 12)	80.00
	Passport for 2 persons [^]	209.00
	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: 10/1/05

Cancellations request must be received by 10/1/05 for a full refund.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

A golf outing is being scheduled for Wednesday of the rally, with sign-up and payment upon arrival at Beech Bend.

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 \$20.00 per night charge will be required of those arriving prior to Monday, 17 October 2005, to cover those nights camping. This fee 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.

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

Monaco America fall rally and pre-rally for Orlando Come Home Rally is scheduled for Bowling Green, Kentucky

The fall 2005 Monaco America rally has been set for October 17 to 20 at Beech Bend Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky. "Your chance to cavort with Corvettes and Caves."

Located on 368 acres, these beautiful rolling hills are covered with beech trees and are bounded by the Barren River . . . thus the name "Beech Bend." As a one of a kind facility, Beech Bend has a lot to offer. The park has been providing family entertainment since 1898. Major parts of Beech Bend Park are the large amusement park with world class rides and the adjacent race tracks.

The campground, where the rally will be located, features over 500 sites in a beautiful wooded setting. All roadways are paved and all sites (except those along the Barren River) are "pull through" sites. Over 250 of the sites have full hookups and many have telephone/modem hookups available. The facilities include new bath houses and a laundry facility. Within a short walking distance is the Barren River (fishing permitted) and the Beech Bend Amusement Park and Racetracks. Campfires are permitted and are just another way to enjoy the campgrounds. Pets are permitted with the only restriction being that they are leashed.

In addition to being the home of Camping World, the Bowling Green area has: National Corvette Museum, a

68,000 square foot showcase to America's sports car; Lost River Cave and Valley where boat tours float through a lost river cave on the shortest, deepest river in the world; Mammoth Cave National Park; Shaker Museum at South Union, a historic Shaker village; Holley Performance Products World Headquarters, a 100 year old company that makes every carburetor found on NASCAR vehicles.

An application for this rally is available on the facing page of this newsletter.

For additional information about Beech Bend Park go on-line to www.beechbend.com. For information about the Bowling Green area go to www.visitbgky.com

Pre-rally to the Come Home Rally

Although Monaco America does not normally hold pre-rallies we encourage you to make an exception this year.

The Monaco Come Home Rally will be held in Orlando, FL, on October 25-27, 2005. It is only a couple of days drive from Bowling Green to Orlando. Consider the Monaco America rally as a pre-rally for the Come Home Rally. Come to Bowling Green and then join many of the Monaco America members as they travel on down to Orlando for the Come Home Rally.



The campground at Beech Bend Park, Bowling Green, Kentucky

A note from Bill Stone: I want to thank Monaco America for the privilege of serving as your President the last year and a half. Nancy and I have met so many of you and consider you all friends. I want to thank the executive board for all the help. We couldn't have done the job without each and every one of them. Monaco America has a great new board to go forward with. I can see only good things for the club under the new leadership. Nancy and I will be available for any thing that needs to be done within the organization.

We want to thank all the members that were at Kerrville who expressed a concern about our sick dog. Princess passed away on June 2.

We love you all and will see you in Bowling Green or somewhere down the road. Bill and Nancy Stone

Tech Topics by Larry Leadbetter Ride & Drive Control

Generally, our coaches, as delivered new, do not include too much in the way of ride or drive control devices other than basic air suspension, cruise control, anti-lock brakes and maybe traction control. There are several devices that can be added to our coaches to improve both riding and driving quality. Probably the first consideration for driving improvement is steering centering control. Given the correct factory steering geometry setup, tire pressures, a perfectly flat road surface and no wind, our coaches do a pretty good job of going straight with little or no steering input required. But in the real world, a crowned roadway with fairly strong and variable cross winds combined with heavy traffic can make 3 hours behind the wheel seem like going 3 rounds with Sonny Liston (where you lost all 3!). Combine the above scenario, at 65 mph, with a blow out on the right front tire and suddenly you're in real trouble. There are a variety of devices that provide assisted steering centering. They range from a mechanically assisted, hydraulically dampened cylinder to driver trimable, full time hydraulic power centering systems. Costs are wide ranging for these devices, depending on complexity and features, but ask any Class A RV'er who has ever experienced a front tire failure at speed, and see if they didn't think the cost of their steering centering control device was worth every penny of what they paid for it! All these devices increase safety by reducing tire wear, driver fatigue and loss of control during a tire failure or inadvertent running onto the shoulder.

The next area is ride improvement. Does your coach porpoise along or wallow from side to side, especially in the wind? Perhaps it is time to upgrade your shock absorbers, particularly if you usually operate your coach at the maximum gross or combination weight. A new device for ride improvement is the air bag flow restrictor. These small valves, installed in the air suspension system, control the airflow into and out of each air bag, thus dampening out the tendency of the coach to roll or wallow from side to side. On both 4 and 8 air bag suspension systems, 4 restrictors are installed. These devices are very effective at ride improvement, but they do increase the time required to fully dump the air in the suspension system when preparing to level the coach at your parking site.

Your technical staff has chosen to not endorse any specific device, system or brand of ride/drive control or installers of such devices/systems. We will, however, be more than happy to discuss our knowledge of and experience with specific devices, systems and installers with you, at upcoming Monaco America rally technical sessions or regarding individual coach specific questions.

Questions or ideas for a Tech Topic? Please contact:

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