

In a Nutshell . . .

The Official Newsletter of the National United Travelers, Inc.
A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association, Inc. (FMCA)



Issue 50

We're NUTS

December 2009

Chapter Officers and Appointed Positions

President 407.249.0926	Chris Ebaugh president@rvnuts.com	Alt Nat'l Director 603.738.3904	Dick Higgins natdir@rvnuts.com
1 st Vice President 321.452.7922	Nancy Holtman first_vp@rvnuts.com	Club Chaplain 843.997.0705	Jack Melvin jacvig@aol.com
2 nd Vice President 407.249.0926	Helen Ebaugh second_vp@rvnuts.com	Wagonmasters 863.326.1096	Arlen & Jo Regis rallymaster@rvnuts.com
Secretary 407.920.0834	Les Stiles secretary@rvnuts.com	Historian/Photographer 863.859.4321	Dick Goheen golfergo@aol.com
Treasurer 407.920.0834	Les Stiles treasurer@rvnuts.com	Newsletter 813.788.4884	Russ McGinnis newseditor@rvnuts.com
National Director 804.758.5241	Winnie Williams natldir@rvnuts.com	Tech Support	Kenny Blackmon nutstech@rvnuts.com

NUTS News

- ✚ We have changed the NUTS slogan to "We're NUTS . . ."
- ✚ Chris Trauriello is our new webmaster. Visit the NUTS website at www.rvnuts.com and see the fresh new look and added content that Chris has made.
- ✚ The *2010 Membership Directory* is available via email or USPS mail on a request basis. Contact Les at secretary@rvnuts.com or 407-920-0834 to request your copy.

Nuts Rally Schedule for 2009 -2012

Tampa RV SuperShow: JAN 12–17, 2010 (Meet at the back entrance, off Orient Road, JAN 12th to go in together) Individual reservations required from FRVTA.

NUTS Winter Rally: Tropical Palms, Kissimmee JAN 18-20, 2010. – Deadline Jan 4, 2010. (Registration form with the Fall News Letter) (Most Supers show attendees will go in directly from show a day early, SUN 17 JAN) Each Coach is responsible early arrival and for park reservations and payment directly for the early or stays over days.

- ✓ Theme: "Space Odyssey".
As the last Rally, there will be one Pot Luck dinner and one catered dinner
- ✓ Crafts: by Nancy Holtman, \$5 to be paid at the rally
- ✓ Seminar: Robert Cochran, President, Camping Connection, Kissimmee
- ✓ Golf: Place: - Kissimmee Bay golf course, 2801 Kissimmee Bay Blvd
Date: - January 18, 2010
Time: - First tee time -10:03 (arrive early for breakfast.) Format- Scramble (teams will be assigned)
Cost: - \$35.31 includes tax, range balls, breakfast, and lunch at the turn, to be paid at the rally
(price is for golfers showing Florida residency, others may be higher)
Dick Goheen – golfergo@aol.com or 863-660-6643

FMCA South East Area: Brooksville, FEB 1–6. Reservations direct with SEA FMCA. (Application found on line or in the OCT FMCA Magazine)

NUTS Spring Rally: Grand Lakes, Orange Lake, FL. APR 9-11, 2010. Deadline March 10, 2010. (Registration form with the Winter News Letter) (Early arrivals or late stays must make arrangements with the park)

From Gary Rankin

The NUTS have participated in the Tampa Supershow for more than 10 years. This year is no exception. We have 24 coaches signed up so far, to participate in the 5-night event. Four nights will be with 30 amp electric, coffee and doughnuts for 4 mornings, 3 nights of entertainment, and unlimited admission to the Florida RV Supershow. The NUTS always have happy hour, and we are planning a hot dog night, a soup night and caravan to a sub shop one night, and caravan to Ybor City to the Spaghetti Warehouse one night. Because the NUTS will be caravanning in we will move in at 10 AM, January 12th one day early. We will enter through the Orient Rd entrance and stage there before 10 AM. Just tell the parking committee who greet you, that you are with the NUTS caravan. The price this year is \$159 for 5 nights of camping. To make reservations call 813 741 0488, and remember to mention that you will be coming with the NUTS. After you are registered please e-mail Gary Rankin (grankin@prodigy.net) or phone (305 238 2277) to let him know you are attending, so he can have a head count for the parking committee. Also give him your contact phone number for emergency.

Thousand Trails Membership for Sale

Home park for this Alliance membership is Orlando, Fl., and the annual dues for this year were \$582.34, which are paid through December 31, including tax and a subscription to Trail Blazer magazine. This amount gives you 50 nights of camping at any Thousand Trails/NACO park. The one time Thousand Trails transfer fee is \$750.00. Pay me \$50.00 and for \$800.00 you have the opportunity to stay at some of the best campgrounds in the nation. Contact Jack Melvin at jacvig@aol.com or 843.238.0977

NUTS Girls Day OUT

The Nuts girls day out was a great success, we met at the Florida mall for coffee and 13 ladies were present, they came from Cocoa, Merritt Island, Eustis and all over Orlando. Lots of giggles and stories were had by all and we left with the promise of a happy holiday after a delicious lunch at the California Kitchen.

So, we send our greeting to all and if you care to join in this super group of ladies please contact me so I can add you to the list.

Happy Holidays,

Helen Ebaugh

407-877-2962 or hje01@ebaugh.com.

Craft Volunteers Needed:

I have been organizing the crafts since Brook Low wanted to find someone else to set things up. I am happy to do the coordination but I really need all you talented gals to step up and let me know if you would share your talent at future rallies. Will look forward to hearing from you crafters. Nancy Holtman - ncapple10@aol.com.

From the National Director

The 2009 FMCA convention was held in Bowling Green, Ohio in July.

Newly elected officers were elected -

- President-- Charlie Schrenke.
- Vice President- Judy Czarsky
- Secretary-JoAnne Durbin
- Treasurer- Wilburn Young

The following issues were discussed and voted on by the Governing Board.

- 2010 Operating budget was passed with an operation deficit of \$794,000.
- Medex was retained at a cost of \$518,000.
- Administration costs were reduced by \$2.2 million.
- Travel cost was reduced by 50%.
- Dues were raised by \$5.00 (to be voted on by the membership)
- Magazine revenue is down \$5 million from 2006.
- FMCA's Investment position will drop \$794,000 to cover the operating cost.
- Membership continues to decline to about 105,000. 65% of members do not belong to a chapter.
- Required chapter meetings are reduced from two to one per year.

2010 will be a difficult year for FMCA and the RV industry in general.

I believe that costs and staff were reduced in a responsible manner while trying to retain the heart and member benefits of FMCA. Each of us should work to increase membership and chapter participation.

Thank you,
Winnie Williams, National Director

President's Column, December 09

The first rally of this season is over and it seemed to go with only minor incidents. Really want to give thanks to the Board and all of the willing volunteers who made things work. With 114 people attending I found that I got a great deal of advice, recommendations and comments. The most notable thing I learned is how diverse our membership is with their wants and desires. Some examples: DINING – was told that the POT LUCK is the best way to have the meals, as they are so plentiful and certainly great meals. Some even said that we should not cater any meals. Then others said that they did not come to rallies to have to cook and wanted all catered meals and better ones than we have been having, even suggesting that we should spend much more on meals and have more variety. ENTERTAINMENT - the comments were strongly presented, people do not want just entertainment, they do not like to just sit and listen, they want to dance. Many said that our own NUTS band was better than any paid entertainment and that we should only have them, and even the NUTS Band agreed. Then there were the ones that wanted to know why we did not have more varied entertainment like a magician or comic, something that they could sit and listen to and not have to watch people dance. RALLY DAYS – comments stating that when they get the RV out and packed that they don't like only being out for two nights, the rallies should be longer, 3 – 5 nights. Others said the time was just right, but it should only be on the weekend not during the week. SEMINAR – again mixed, some said that seminars are a waste of time, and by the number that normally attends that may be a valid comment, except for the Crime Prevention one we had, there is normally a very low attendance. Others, said that we should invite anyone that wishes to set up tables to sell anything they may be in business to sell, crafts, products, what ever. I have determined from the polarized comments that whatever is set up that I will please some members, aggravate some members, and MOST of the members will just go along as long as things run smoothly. So I will ATTEMPT to do the best I can to aggravate the fewest possible. I will try to vary some of the things, i.e., may have a rally with only member prepared dining, or only the NUTS BAND, and maybe even a 3 or 4 night rally to make things different, but stick to the NUTS standard for most rallies. The site locations are set for this season

and next, at least we have reservations made and the schedule is shown elsewhere in this newsletter. I only hope that the parks stay in business so there will be a place when the time comes.

NEW TOPIC - I need some additional volunteers for some rally help. First, we need a new Historian. Dick Goheen has been performing the job for five years, but he is also running the golf program for the rallies and finds he needs to free up some time, so PLEASE someone come forward and give Dick a break. If you have questions about what is involved contact Dick and he can fill you in. I mentioned seminars above. I think the only ones I have attended in the last 10 years were at this rally. I do not have any connections with the RV dealers or groups that might be good for a seminar or sales pitch and would like for someone to volunteer to manage and coordinate rally presentations. I attended a Lazydays rally and noted that they had several vendors setting up sales tables for attendees and some were interesting and MAY have things that our members would like, so the Presentations Coordinator might in addition to a seminar be able to find members or others that wish to set up sales tables during the second afternoon of our rally or something like that. Please let me know if you are interested in the position of Presentations coordinator. I certainly want to thank Kenny for donating his time to provide his technical expertise during the rally. He is doing this on his time; he is not representing any dealer or shop. From the interest of the members it is obvious we are very lucky to have Kenny continue to support the NUTS. I do want to point out again that he is UNPAID for his services and those served that were happy with his help in the future might wish to consider gratuities for good performances so that the services continue. Hope to see many NUTS at the Tampa Supershow, it has always been such fun, Gary goes to a lot to get things coordinated with the FRVTA to get us all together and in a good spot, and our JAN rally is always scheduled to follow right on after the Supershow, so it sort of makes it just an extended NUTS rally. Enjoy; hope everyone has a great Holiday Season. See you all in JAN 2010.

Chris

VP Column

Thanks to one and all for their continued support of the NUTS and your board. 'Tis is a team effort and this is a great "team". I found whatever was ask of a NUT was answered with a "sure", and we certainly do ask for a lot of help from our volunteers at each rally. Our NUTTY BAND has agreed to play both nights for us at the January rally, the room is small and more conducive to their type of performance. We can count ourselves very fortunate to have such a talent in our mist and such willingness to play for our rallies. The seminar on Crime Prevention was certainly a highlight of our rally, so informative and I certainly hope everyone took the advice and went home and made some "safe" changes in their lives. Thanks to Les for bringing Mr. Pine to make the presentation to the NUTS.

Helen

NUTS Tech Support

Kenny Blackmon has offered to provide a service, through email support for our NUTS members. This will serve two purposes – 1) letting him know what you need done on your coach at the rallies, and 2) ongoing technical assistance for the maintenance of your coach. A new email address has been established to specifically support Kenny, NUTStech@rvnuts.com and he will be checking his e-mailbox frequently.

Some Pix from the last Rally



Secretary-Treasurer's Column...

HEAR YE! HEAR Ye! Hear Ye! It's December and therefore the 2010 NUTS Dues are due. Why not include the extra \$15 in your check for the Winter Rally on Jan. 18-20 at Tropical Palms in Kissimmee! No need for multiple checks as I can credit dues and rally fees separately. If for some reason you are unable to attend the Rally (Huh! Why?), you can still need to pay your dues by Jan. 1st. The Dues Renewal form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. (**Fine print:** dues will be collected until March 1st after which member will be placed on past due status.)

On a more 'rewarding' note, remember those annual FMCA Rally gifts that we used to give away as door prizes. Now the NUTS club has to earn them. All we need to do as a chapter is recruit 12 new members to the FMCA. With 115 current NUTS members and 12 months, that should be a piece of cake. Still not enough incentive? YOU earn a \$10 gift certificate towards FMCA logo merchandize, Camping World merchandize or your FMCA dues for each member recruitment. Want still more? I have 5 free new membership certificates valued at \$45 (\$35 dues plus \$10 initiation fee), just let me know that you have a firm prospect and I will mail one to you (while they last). So-o-o help the NUTS, help your friends and help yourselves by tearing out those application forms from *Family Motor Coaching* magazine and get a friend to join FMCA.

Speaking of 'cake', wasn't the OktoberFest a great rally, especially the German-style pot luck? Just to pass along the numbers, we had 54 RVs present including 4 guests and 1 member couple who live locally and joined us for dinner on Saturday evening. In addition, one of those guest couples, Don & Kay Feeser, became new NUTS at the rally. As you can see from the Treasurer's report, the rally was also a financial success. But the Board will do its best to loose money at other 2009/2010 rallies so that we 'breakeven' at the end of the Rally season like we did last season (+\$61.80).

I also wanted to let you know how the food left over from the Rally was disposed of. We ordered food for 120 and after feeding breakfast croissants to everyone on Saturday morning and a full BBQ dinner in the evening, we had about 20 croissants and a pan each of the meats and trimmings leftover. These were donated to a local food distribution ministry in Umatilla where many more families were fed. How's that for feeding the 'five thousand'!

That's all folks!

Les

Treasurer's Report

November 17, 2009

Fall 2009 Rally

Rally Income

Registration fees	\$ 6,366.00
50-50 Raffle	294.00
Donation (Balance beyond expense for beer)	13.00
Golf fee	<u>525.00</u>
RALLY INCOME	\$7,198.00

Rally Expenses

Campground fee	\$3,037.00
Food and Catering	1,450.88
Entertainment	375.00
Decorations	0.00
Prizes	120.00
Misc. expenses	14.98
Golf fee	455.00
Refund (1 cancellation – rally fee & golf fee for)	<u>185.00</u>
RALLY EXPENSE	(\$5,637.86)

RALLY NET INCOME/(NET LOSS) **\$1,560.14**

Accounts Receivable (Lazydays – dealer support) 300.00

BANK BALANCE

Beginning – May 1, 2009 <i>[Adjusted (-\$51.05) due to non-cashed check (voided)]</i>	\$3,048.95
Income	\$8,443.00
Expenses	<u>(\$5,884.61)</u>
Ending – November 15, 2009	\$5,607.34
Net Gain (Loss)	\$2,558.39

Respectfully submitted,
Les Stiles, Secretary-Treasurer



National United Travelers, Inc.

A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

218-A East Eau Gallie Blvd #74

Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937

Dues Renewal Form

Name _____ FMCA# _____

Email address: _____ (Required to receive a receipt)

Please fill-in below any changes that have occurred during the past year to assure Secretary's records are up-to-date:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Motorhome Model _____ Year _____ Length _____ ft

For Year 2010

Amount \$ 15.00

NUTS Rally Registration Form

Member Name: _____ F #: _____

First timer? Yes

Handicap Site? Yes

Guest Name: _____ F#: _____

Member Coach w/ 2 people \$110 \$ _____

Guest Coach w/ 2 people \$125 \$ _____

Additional person(s) in Coach _____ x \$ 15 = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Number Members playing Golf _____

Please make checks payable to: **National United Travelers, Inc.**

Mail to: **National United Travelers, Inc. RALLY**

218-A East Eau Gallie Blvd. #74,

Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937