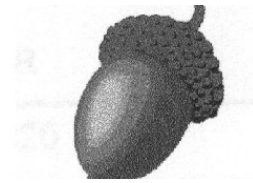


In a Nutshell . . .

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



Issue 51

We're NUTS . . .

February 2010

Chapter Officers and Appointed Positions

President 407.877.2962	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 407.877.2962	Helen Ebaugh second_vp@rvnuts.com	Wagonmasters 863.326.1096	Arlen & Jo Regis wagonmasters@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 Webmaster. Visit the NUTS website at www.rvnuts.com and see the new fresh look and added content that Chris has made.

NUTS Spring Rally

NUTS Spring Rally: Grand Lakes, Orange Lake, FL. 9 – 11 APR 2010. - Deadline March 19, 2010.
(Registration form with this News Letter) (Early arrivals or late stays must make arrangements with the park, phone number 1-800-435-2291)

Directions: NORTH on I75 Past Ocala to EXIT 368. (that is the second exit NORTH of where I-75 crosses OVER US27 at Ocala) Go EAST on CDR318, Cross US 442 (there is a traffic light there) After crossing US 441 go ½ to ¾ miles, as soon as you pass the Jai-Alai on the LEFT, take the first road on the left (NW 53 Ct. Rd) follow it into Grand Lakes RV and Golf Resort.

There are two catered meals planned for this rally, two breakfasts, a DJ, seminars and Lazydays has indicated that they will have display coaches.

The theme is Easter Bonnets and we DO hope some will come with wonderful hats! (Think we MIGHT have a contest but not sure) - Male and female.

Margaret Schwalen will be giving another class in jewelry making. Beaded bracelets and earrings.

Golf: Dick Goheen has requested that anyone interested in playing golf please contact him at golfergo@aol.com, 863-859-4321 (Home) or 863-660-6643 (Cell).

President's Column, February 2010

Another rally completed. Lots of good times, some minor problems, some NOT so great periods, but over all a success. Got lots of comments and recommendations and will try to institute some of them with the Spring rally at Grand Lakes Camping and Golf Resort in Orange Lake, FL. Remember the April rally is our final rally for the season; it is the Annual Elections and our Birthday rally. Taking the recommendations seriously we will be doing more rallying and therefore, will be expending a bit more for the event. We will not have a Pot Luck for this event, but will try to find suitable caterers in the area to provide us with two evening meals, and hopefully they will have something more to offer than the ribs and chicken, but that is yet to be determined. Also, our NUTS BAND will get at least one evening to actually sit with their wives and talk to members, as we will find something for entertainment for the SAT evening gathering. The ladies have chosen Easter Bonnets as the theme, whatever that means, so hope we will all have a good time. The last time I visited Grand Lakes it was a beautiful place, I hope there has not been a change of ownership, as that seems to bring unwanted changes to performance, but the staff has been very nice with the pre-rally dealings, so let's hope it carries through for the entire rally period. We have attempted to keep the rally fees as low as possible, but it has proved that there is a point where lower fees becomes CHEAP, and the meals and park amenities showed during this JAN rally to the point that in some cases it was just CHEAP and unsatisfactory, so we shall strive to continue to seek REASONABLE prices, but not go so cheap that it detracts from the rally. We shall continue to use Pot-Luck from time to time. Ask our NUT BAND to provide the entertainment from time to time, but try NOT to have a set pattern that only leads to boredom.

We began the 2010 NUTS camping with the unofficial gathering at the Tampa Supershow. Gary Rankin did an outstanding job again getting things set up. We got our usual location and I believe the final total was 34 coaches. Most were NUTS, but other friends joined the group. We had our normal afternoon Happy Hours and meals. The first couple days were hampered a bit with the temperature, but then the weather changed and it was a grand time, then the NUTS headed directly from the show to the scheduled rally. I am attempting to set up the Winter (JAN NUTS Rallies) following directly after the Tampa Supershow. It has worked the last few years, and seems to be accepted. Having the rally during the week days (work days) took a while to get used to, but we have so many attending the Supershow that it just makes sense to stay out in the RV and go directly on to the NUTS Rallies. I have been working on the future rally sites trying to get things scheduled so everyone is able to get the dates on their long range plan. Below is what is set so far going out through the Fall 2014 Rally. In some cases, I do not yet have the actual location firmed up, but the dates are settled.

Don't forget the April Rally is also ELECTION time. Right now we have no one for National Director or Historian. The current officers, reluctantly have agreed to remain, IF, I say again, IF no others can be enticed to seek a position. In any case, PLEASE someone consider the two open positions as a minimum, they must be filled, the current National Director and Historian have been performing the duties for many years and are now involved in other activities and are not able to continue.

Looking forward to seeing all of you NUTS in April. Remember when you travel and meet interesting people, do tell them about NUTS and invite them to join the fun.

Chris Ebaugh

Future NUTS Rallies

5 - 7 Nov 2010	Wekiva Falls RV Resort	Sorrento, FL	Fall 2010 Rally
11 - 16 Jan 2011	Tampa Fairgrounds	Tampa, FL	Tampa SuperShow (Unofficial)
17 - 19 Jan 2011	Torrey Oaks RV Resort	Bowling Green, FL	Winter 2011 Rally
8 - 10 April 2011	Lazydays RV Campground	Seffner, FL	Spring 2011 Rally - 15 th Anniversary
4 - 6 Nov 2011	Southern Palms RV Resort	Eustis, FL	Fall 2011 Rally
23 - 25 Jan 2012	Wekiva Falls RV Resort	Sorrento, FL	Winter 2012 Rally
30 Mar - 1 Apr 2012	Paradise Oaks RV Resort	Bushnell, FL	Spring 2012 Rally

Future NUTS Rallies (Con't)

2 – 4 Nov 2012	To Be Determined (TBD)		Fall 2012 Rally
20 – 22 Jan 2013	Lazydays RV Campground	Seffner, FL	Winter 2013 Rally
5 – 7 Apr 2013	Paradise Oaks RV Resort	Bushnell, FL	Spring 2013 Rally
1 – 3 Jan 2014	Southern Palms RV Resort	Eustis, FL	Fall 2014 Rally

Something to Think About

We thought the January 2011 schedule for Torrey Oaks was all firmed up, but the park manager called and said there is a conflict for the use of the Club Hall for the first scheduled night. We have booked for MON, TUE and out WED (17, 18, 19 JAN 2011). That would be following the Tampa Super show, which is scheduled to end SUN 16 JAN. We are told that the park will have the parking spaces we need, BUT that the SNOW BIRDS wintering there scheduled their BINGO nights on MON from 7 – 9 pm and that means that we can NOT use the clubhouse between those hours. The options being considered are:

1. Keep the schedule as is, but on the MONDAY (First day of the rally) just have an early Happy Hour/Pot Luck, say about 4: pm and do our thing and get out of the hall BEFORE 7: pm. (Those NUTS that want entertainment that night are invited to join the BINGO offered by the park.
2. Change our RALLY dates to begin on TUE 18 JAN, 2011, then WED and DEPART THUR. That would be our normal two night rally. The Tampa Supershow attendees would have two days between the end of the Supershow and the NUTS rally. They could arrive early and camp or do their own thing someplace for the two days between the events.)
3. Keep the original start date, but make it a three NIGHT/4 DAY rally, with the first day being MONDAY, but since many people are really just arriving the first day make it a light day, no seminars, and the meal would be just the Happy Hour at 4: pm to 6:pm, then Tues and Wed would be two catered meals and entertainment and leave on THU. This would bump up the price for the extra rally day.

We plan to make the decision during the APR NUTS Rally at Grand Lake RV & Golf Resort.

Chris

For Sale

I have a brand new \$55 serpentine belt (bought just for an emergency) for a Workhorse and a one year-old \$150 custom bra for my 34 foot National (gas model)RV for \$75, please let me know.

Many thanks,

Randy Petersohn

Home: 941-795-6652

Cell: 941-350-2690

Email: mep023@tampabay.rr.com

Discount Card

I recently received an email from Oasis RV Resort, Amarillo, Texas. They are offering a 10% - 20% card to our members who may have that area in their travel plans. So I am passing along their information for the benefit of our NUTS members -

Contact tbarr@myrvoasis.com at Oasis RV Resort and request a VIP card. You need to include name, mailing address and FMCA chapter affiliation (National United Travelers). All NUTS members qualify for a 10% site discount (Bronze VIP card). If you are a present or past NUTS officer, then you qualify for their Silver VIP card (20% site discount).

The cards are free! So if your travels include the Amarillo area, you can save a little and stay at a Woodall 5W/4W or Trailer Life 9/9*/9 resort!

- Les

From the First VP - 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*.

Second VP Column

I would say a thank you to all who helped with the decorations for the last rally if anyone would like to help it would be a great way to socialize with other club members.

Helen

NUTS Girls Day Out

We will be meeting at the Panera Bread Co in the Waterford Lakes shopping Plaza on Thursday, 25 Feb 2010, 10:00 am. We drink coffee and visit until 11:30 when we decide where to go eat. So, if you are running a little late just let me know and we can adjust (Helen's cell is 407-222-5425).

Thinking about the MAY gathering which is always held in the Cocoa area, we will have a mini-rally, so the Guys also are included, at Jetty Park again, the 6th, 7th and 8th of MAY. Please make your own reservations by calling Jetty Park after the 6th of FEB and be sure to mention Passport America IF you are a member, as that reduces the rates quite a bit. The girls will have a luncheon again at Ron Jon's restaurant, the men will do whatever, and then on SAT, the Holtman's will again host us for a cookout. Carl and Nancy have opened their lovely home on Merritt Island to the NUTS and are such gracious hosts. So you don't want to miss this outing. We do pot luck and BYOB...lots of fun and giggles. So please let us know if you make reservations and plan on joining. We need a head count. Jetty Park 321-783-7111 then follow the prompts to reservations.

Helen Ebaugh - 407-877-2962 or email hje01@ebaughs.com

From the National Director

After 7 years serving as National Director and 1 year as Alt. National Director I have decided to turn this over to someone else. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve for the NUTS. Gene has patiently transported me to the conventions over the years and we have really enjoyed our travels.

It has been interesting to be involved in the "politics" of FMCA. I would like to see our chapter continue to support FMCA.

I will not list the upcoming rallies and conventions as they are listed in the FMCA magazine.

Several of our members attend the conventions and several are National Directors for other chapters. Our chapter has been represented well in the past.

I will continue to support our chapter in the future.

Thanks for electing me to serve.

Winnie Williams - National Director

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



Do you want to see more of the NUT's pictures? Dick Goheen has provided the following web site where he has posted some pictures.

[Click here: RVNUTSPIX's photos and albums on webshots](#)

Secretary-Treasurer's Column...

Last Chance! As usual at this time of the year, I have to inform you that if you have not paid your 2010 dues, you are in danger of losing your membership in the greatest RV club – the NUTS. The closing date for dues is March 1st. After that date, your membership is placed on “past due” status and 30 days later (one last, last chance) you are considered an “inactive” member and no longer eligible to receive the NUTS newsletter, NUTS email notices or mailings, or attend any rallies until your dues are brought current.

To verify your membership status, the email that you receive containing this newsletter will list your member ID, status and membership end date according to my records. For those of you who receive the newsletter via mail, the top line of the address label will contain your member ID, a status code and the end date of your membership. The following codes are commonly used: Active (A), Commercial (C), FMCA officer (F), New Member (N), Newsletter only (NL), Prospective member (P) and Rally Guests (RG). Please use this opportunity to verify my records and update your records. If the end date is 12/31/2009 and your status is Active or New Member, then I am afraid that you are in arrears on your dues. All other status codes are receiving a complimentary copy of the NUTS Newsletter. Any errors should be reported to me at either (407) 920-0834 or secretary@rvnuts.com.

Rallies! The Winter Rally is over – we had 43 coaches and a whole bunch of NUTS (as usual). We had two great musical performances by our own NUTty Band – Morris Chaney and Bud Gallagher. The Board felt that the Band should be compensated for their work as well as them giving up of their time to be with their wives and friends at the rally, but there wasn't any money allocated in the budget for this rally. So-o-o the Board refunded their rally fee! Thanks, Morris and Bud for all of the music you provide.

Now it is time to plan for the Spring Rally. It will be held at Grand Lake RV Resort, a new park for the NUTS. We are planning two catered meals at this rally, two breakfasts, a DJ, seminars and Lazydays has indicated that they will have display coaches. All of this for only \$120! How can we do this you ask! Well, if you have been following my Treasurer's reports (the Dec. '09 newsletter and the current report in this newsletter), you will see that your rally fees have more than covered our expenses. Therefore, some of those funds are being carried forward to supplement the cost of this rally. Thus it allows us to provide more without a significant fee increase.

Another rally we need to start planning for will occur in April 2011 – our NUTS 15th Anniversary party! We need volunteers to step forward now and help make this birthday party a lasting memory.

Welcome! Back in the days before email, when the NUTS spent about \$250 per issue to print and distribute newsletters, I would include a list of new members. I have gotten away from that practice and I want to reinstitute it again so that everyone can welcome our new NUTty members. The following have just joined the NUTS:

Larry and Linda Steckley, F364354
Green Cove Springs, FL
linlarges@aol.com
2000 Allegro Bus

Richard Leugers and Marilyn Jones, F189570
Wesley Chapel, FL
bounder4049@msn.com
2006 Tradewinds

And while I am welcoming people, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Kurt Beachler to the NUTS family as our Lazydays sales consultant. Kurt was at the Winter Rally and has promised to be an involved partner with the NUTS. That means we also have to do our part to support Kurt. If you are considering a trade, contact him at (813) 246-4999 ext. 4616 or kbeachler@lazydays.com and let him know that you are a NUT who is interested in another motorhome.

Did you know that our old friend, Steve Roddy, is now Technical Services Manager at Lazydays? He has indicated a willingness to provide technical seminars at future rallies. Also I would like to express my appreciation to another Lazydays employee, Jessica Adams. By happenstance, I met her while at Lazydays for a look-see at the coaches not at the RV SuperShow. After introduction, we immediately started talking about Lazydays support for the upcoming NUTS Winter Rally. She helped coordinate the coaches and handled the paperwork for Lazydays' financial support (check the Treasurer's Report and see that we already have the check for the Winter Rally). Thanks, Jessica (and to all of Lazydays for their continued support of the NUTS)!

Enough ramblin' !!

Les Stiles
Secretary-Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

January 25, 2010

Winter 2010 Rally

Rally Income

Registration fees	\$4,720.00
Dealer support – Lazydays	300.00
50-50 Raffle	<u>199.00</u>
RALLY INCOME	\$5,219.00

Rally Expenses

Campground fee	\$2,745.90
Food and Catering	1,230.30
Entertainment	0.00
Decorations	60.23
Prizes	212.00
Misc. expenses	13.79
Refunds	<u>330.00</u>
RALLY EXPENSE	(\$4,592.22)
RALLY NET INCOME/(NET LOSS)	\$626.78

BANK BALANCE

Beginning – November 15, 2009	\$5,607.34
Income	\$5,352.00
Expenses	<u>(\$4,847.98)</u>
Ending – November 15, 2009	\$6,111.36
Net Gain (Loss)	\$504.02

*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 \$120 \$ _____

Guest Coach w/ 2 people \$135 \$ _____

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

TOTAL \$ _____

Number Members playing Golf _____

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

National United Travelers, Inc. RALLY

218-A East Eau Gallie Blvd. #74, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937