

In a Nutshell . . .

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



Issue 52

We're NUTS . . .

June 2010

Chapter Officers and Appointed Positions

President 407.877.2962	Chris Ebaugh president@rvnuts.com	Club Chaplain 843.997.0705	Jack Melvin jacvig@aol.com
1 st Vice President 321.452.7922	Nancy Holtman first_vp@rvnuts.com	Wagonmasters 863.326.1096	Arlen & Jo Regis wagonmasters@rvnuts.com
2 nd Vice President 407.877.2962	Helen Ebaugh second_vp@rvnuts.com	Photographer 863.859.4321	Dick Goheen golfergo@aol.com
Secretary 407.920.0834	Les Stiles secretary@rvnuts.com	Newsletter 813.788.4884	Russ McGinnis newseditor@rvnuts.com
Treasurer 407.920.0834	Les Stiles treasurer@rvnuts.com	Historian 321-632-4462	Shirley Cornelison leo90pote@aol.com
National Director 941.704.9210	Dick Higgins natldir@rvnuts.com	Historian 321-433-0937	Kay Feeser kay-don@mindspring.com
Alt Nat'l Director 804.512.9282	Winnie Williams natdir@rvnuts.com	Tech Support	Kenny Blackmon nutstech@rvnuts.com

NUTS News and Announcements

Just Received – I received this today (5/26/2010) from Jack Melvin: “For those of you who may not know as yet, Virginia is in the hospital with bone and breast cancer. Surgery will take place on Thursday morning (5/27) to remove the left breast and insert a rod into the left femur to support the leg bone which has been 90% destroyed by the cancer. There are various other tumors in her body which will be treated after she recovers from the surgery. The outlook is optimistic at this point. No calls or visits for now. Send good thoughts her way.”

(I know that both Virginia and Jack would like to hear from all their NUTS friends! Their address is: 1551 Waverly Ave, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577-1597. *Les*)

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*

NUTS Website - 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.

President's Column, June 2010

One year down and one to go!!! It has been a year with ups and downs, and lots of learning experiences, but over all quite a bit of fun. I feel, and the remarks I have received from so many support the feelings, that the Grand Lakes NUTS Rally turned out quite well. The park was certainly in good shape, the over size lots were about the best we have experience and the management and staff at Grand Lakes could not have been nicer, great to work with and certainly assisted us as much as possible. Since everyone seemed so please, I have reserved space again for the FALL NUTS rally, 2 – 4 NOV 2012. That fills our the NUTS Rally Schedule through the Fall Rally in NOV 2013. I will continue looking around for suitable locations. The Winter Rallies in JAN following the Tampa SuperShow are the hardest to find as JAN is such a busy camping month in FL and there are fewer and fewer with adequate space to offer, so again I ask everyone to take note of RV Campgrounds as you visit them for likely spots for the JAN Nuts rallies.

This latest rally demonstrated again how important it is that it becomes a group effort. There is no way any rally may be successful without the support of many volunteers and the willingness of everyone to jump in and assist when a need arrives. From the pre-arrangements through the actual setting up and cleaning up there is always a need for group help. When I began setting up tables, before I could complete one table, the volunteers seemed to come out of the wall to get the job done. The same attitude prevailed throughout with the helping to serve, cleaning, selling 50/50 tickets, just any activity needing done there were willing people to help it run smoothly, and I THANK everyone that helped FOR THE NUTS. We are trying something new for the Fall Rally. It has been noted that we tended to OVER task some volunteers to the point of burnout. It was nice when someone was willing and able to perform multiple task, but then since they did it once we sort of just COUNTED on them for the next time, and the next time and pretty soon it was sort of just expected, and those wonderful volunteers found themselves the workers and everyone else the partiers. This just did not seem fair, then someone suggested that certain responsibilities like contracting for the catering, coffees, etc. be delegated to different volunteers for each rally. It seemed that the appropriate thing would be to ask for volunteers who reside near the selected rally locations, where they have a better knowledge of the local suppliers. We have three couples, who have volunteered to make the arrangements, oversee and just general management of the meals and coffees for the NOV rally. At that rally we will be asking for different “Rally Masters” for the JAN NUTS Rally in the Torrey Oaks area. If this practice works our as well as I feel it will, then we may spread the wealth and have a “Rally Master for Entertainment” for that portion of the rally. The point is, that asking or expecting the same person to be responsible and to find themselves working the entire rally, rather than enjoying the rally was just not fair. In the past we had fallen into the mode that once someone volunteered, they seemed to have the job forever. That was true of the Wagon Master, and certainly the NUTS BAND had found themselves working every night. We have changed that with the band, they deserve to enjoy a rally and not be expected to work every night, so we are only going to ask them for one night at each rally, EXCEPT on the rare occasions where we will have a three night rally, as we will for the JAN 2011 rally. When we made reservations for the JAN 2011 rally for the days following the Tampa Supershow, the campground forgot to check their club house reservations, then they realized that on each Monday night the permanent residents at Torrey Oaks have BINGO, so they were in a quandary. So during our recent rally I ask how everyone would prefer scheduling and by vote it was decided to continue with the scheduled MON 17 JAN 2011 arrival date for the NUTS rally, but we will have only an early Happy Hour with finger food, and have to be out of the club house before 5:30 pm, so they may set up for BINGO. The park did say that our members couple participate in the BINGO if they wish. Then TUE and WED nights will be our normal NUTS gatherings and the rally will end after coffee on THR. We will discuss this more at the FALL rally and I hope that at least two couples that live in the general area of the Torrey Oaks. Bowling Green, FL (That is down South of Bartow on US17) will volunteer to be the Rally Masters – Food at that time.

An additional topic I would like everyone to be considering is that the National United Travelers is a corporation and in order to continue to exists there is a legal requirement that the corporations have AS A MINIMUM a President, Secretary and Treasurer. I have agreed to stay on for one more year, but at the NUTS Spring Rally to be held next APR at the Lazydays RV Park a new president and maybe some other positions will need to be elected. I hope all of you that enjoy the NUTS rallies and wish to continue them in the future will seriously consider the required positions and other board positions that will be open. The nominating committee will be seeking volunteers during the next two rallies, PLEASE consider the positions.

Chris Ebaugh, President

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
2 - 4 Nov 2012	Grand Lake RV Resort	Orange Lake, FL	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

From the First VP - Craft Volunteers Needed:

Margaret Schwalen taught a class in making lovely crystal beaded bracelets and earrings. Everyone loved the class and hope for future ones.

Decorations were great centerpieces for each table made from all sorts of different items. And we had a fun Hat parade with prizes. Some of the hats were quite funny and so everyone got to laugh and applaud the hat parade. Next rally in the fall the theme will be sports so anyone who has a sports outfit or special hat should come prepared to enter the costume parade!!

Carrying out the sports theme, Winnie Williams will teach decoupage on plates with a sports theme as design. Will be easy and lots of fun.

The last rally was a great success, we all liked the area and the campground had a great room for us to have all our activities. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

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, 1st VP

Second VP Column

A Thank You to All Our Fellow "NUTS"

A great rally is one where many NUTS volunteer to help make it so. That is exactly why our rally turned out to be so great. There were so many NUTS who came forward and said, "Please let me help," and with their happy smiling faces and cheerful attitude made the rally to be a really fun time for all.

To our Nutty Band, Bud and Morris, who are so musically talented and played the night away for our dancing pleasure; to George Ollson for the delicious meals he planned and contracted for us even though he was unable to attend due to an injury (we missed both George and Shirley); for the darling hats by Jackie Barbic and her crew and all the Nuts that created the fun hats for the parade. We continue with so many more, Margaret Schwalen and the craft class of jewelry making; and for George Pettit that arose at 6am to ride 40 miles into town to get the bagels and donuts; to Winnie Williams, Joan Chaney, and John Renger for making sure we had hot coffee and served us breakfast in the mornings...

To Jim Hatch for pitching in and helping Arlen get us all parked in our spaces when sweet Jo Regis was hospitalized for pneumonia, thankfully Jo is home and recuperating very well; to the Nuts that came forth to join Leo Cornelison on the Nominating committee, Don Feeser and Jack Barbic; and our next Rally Masters: Marv and JoAnn Tolley, Roy and Joan Ray, Woody and Dodie Woodworth - they already have plans well under way for NOV and another super rally..

Then we have all the super volunteers to sell 50-50 for us, Art Belbot, Linda Steckley, Richard Leugers, and Nancy Floyd, notice that we always include new members to help with a member so they get to know many more of us...and Barb Markley and Alice Stremick for calling the tables; Dalles Ebert for leading the Pledge and of course dear Winnie again for the blessings; and our own Dick Higgins for coming forth to be our National Director and represent our organization at the FMCA, and Winnie for staying as the alternate..

Chris Tauriello for all the work on our Web site and Tina for offering to call our members we are missing and, of course, our great board members who work diligently to keep everything running. To Shirley Cornelison and Kay Feeser for coming to our aide as the new Historians, relieving Dick Goheen that has been so faithful for so many years, and for Dick organizing the golfers and keeping them playing each rally..it is an endless list and we are so proud of each and everyone that works to keep this club the great group that it is.

So, fellow Nuts when they approach you to be on the board next year, be assured that you are not alone, soooooo! many willing and able NUTS are there to support and help you...

Again, our sincere THANKS to ALL for making this the great organization it is.

Helen Ebaugh, 2nd VP

NUTS Girls Day Out

The Nuts Girls gathering was at Jetty Park this 6-8 MAY with the husbands and we spent 3 nights enjoying the lovely weather. We did have rain the first evening but you all know we are serious about our happy hours... so rain or shine.. we had 16 in one coach but we had happy hour...

The skies cleared in time for a lovely evening meal outside and a long walk. Friday there were 13 ladies for the luncheon at RonJon's Grill the men went to Rusty's for fish and chips. Saturday morning found us all gathered for sticky buns made just for us by Chris, yummy morning with coffee and beautiful weather and lots of fellowship.

We left the campsite around 3 and went to Carl and Nancy Holtman's to swim and have a cook-out at their beautiful home on Merritt Island. This is the 3rd time they have hosted a gathering for the NUTS and again it was a spectacular evening and they were such gracious host and hostess..fun was had by all.

Sunday morning found us all rushing out to get home to our families for Mother's Day. We pray they all had great day and we surely missed those that were unable to join this mini-rally, These are such a delight and we hope you will make the next one. We are in the progress of trying to plan one for SEP, have not selected a location yet. Please remember the NUTS Girls is an informal group, if anyone is interested in the activities and may wish to attend please send your name & EMAIL address to me so I can add you to the NUTS Girls address list.

Helen Ebaugh, NUTS Girls coordinator





Pictures from the May “NUTS Girls Day Out...” and the May Outing

May Outing

The weekend at Jetty Park is over but just wanted you all to know if you didn't make it we surely missed you and if you were there you know what a lovely time was had by us all. We got to visit and know each other and enjoy our time together. I have had a request for a NUTS girls weekend again maybe in Sept so we are going to get some dates and see how many are interested in joining this unofficial gathering again soon..

Our special thanks again to Carl and Nancy Holtman for opening their warm and lovely home to us for the cookout, swimming and lots of eating...

Lets me hear from you

Helen and Chris Ebaugh

From the National Director

Hi to all the NUTS. I am your new National Director and Winnie is now the Alternate. We just swapped jobs. I hope I can be as good a Chapter representative for the NUTS as Winnie has been for the past - - - - what's it been, Winnie, seems like about 25 years, doesn't it? Anyway it's been a long time, and we are all deeply indebted to her. She has dedicated herself to making sure that we have been represented at the voting Conventions. She also has made certain that our Chapter has been informed about the outcome of the Governing Board meetings. Her resolve to making sure that she does everything to the best of her ability is inspirational. I'll try to live up to her expectations, and if I don't, she'll make sure I'm made aware - - - won't you Winnie?

During the next few years ahead of us, FMCA will be experiencing some big changes and adjustments and some of the voting sessions could have a significant impact on the membership. You all have a right to know what's going on and what decisions are being made on your behalf. I will try to keep you all informed. Even if we can't actually be present (whether me, Winnie, or a Temporary Delegate) at a certain FMCA Convention, I will keep you apprised of all pertinent details.

We'll be involved with the Northeast Area Rally in Vermont this July and we'd love to see some of our NUTS friends there, along with the Schwalen's, the Monnius', and the Ellis'. Safe travels to all. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Dick Higgins, 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 contact Kenny, NUTStech@rvnuts.com. He will be checking his e-mailbox frequently.

Secretary-Treasurer's Column

I am not going to bore you this time with a lot of statistics. Suffice it to say that the Spring Rally was a success, both as enjoyment and financially. There were 44 coaches in attendance and as you can see by the Treasurer's report, the rally balance was approximately \$360 whereas I had originally budgeted for a slight loss.

This past year's rallies have all been financially good, but the real subject of this column is *Planning Ahead*. Our President, Chris Ebaugh, has done a fantastic job of scheduling future NUTS rallies. We now have our rally dates and locations planned, either committed or tentative, through Nov. 2013. This means we can start *planning ahead* the themes, meals, entertainment, seminars, crafts and all the other activities that take place at these rallies. To that end, the Board has created a new volunteer Rallymaster(s) position to assist in the planning and implementation. The commitment to this position is for only one rally. The Board is looking for volunteers who live near or are familiar with the area of the rally park. The first volunteers for the Fall 2010 Rally to be held at Wekiva Falls RV Resort near Sanford are Roy Ray, Joanne Tolley and Woody Woodworth. They have already planned the entertainment and are working on the catering (2 meals). We presently need volunteers for the Winter Rally at Torrey Oaks RV Resort, Bowling Green, FL on Jan. 17-20, 2011 and the Spring Rally at Lazydays RV Park, Seffner, FL on April 8-10, 2011. If you are willing to help, please contact either Chris (president@rvnuts.com) or myself (secretary@rvnuts.com) as soon as possible.

Speaking of the Spring (April) Rally, I hope everyone realizes that is our NUTS 15th Anniversary. We need to make this a celebration to remember. Number ONE, my personal goal is 100% attendance on all our NUTS members! Plan NOW for the Anniversary Rally!! Secondly, at the 10th Anniversary, we provided hat pins and drink mugs. What would the members like for the 15th Anniversary? It's not too soon to start looking at possibilities. Again, we need volunteers for Rallymasters and other additional activities for this major event in our NUTS' lives.

I want to AGAIN mention the Rallymasters. One of the most important factors with any organization is communications. The Rallymasters need to know your suggestions, ideas, concerns, etc. Therefore I have created email accounts for each rally: Fall - fallnutsrally@rvnuts.com, Winter - winternutsrally@rvnuts.com and Spring - springnutsrally@rvnuts.com. You can email Roy, Joanne and Woody collectively using the Fall email address. Now I need to fill in the other email addresses!

Lastly, I wish to express my sincerest gratitude for the wonderful gift given to Mary and me at the Spring rally. I do this not for any financial reward, but because I want to serve a wonderful bunch of NUTS.

Have a wonderful Summer and SAFE TRAVELS, Les

Pix from the last Rally

Rather than add to the size of this newsletter, visit the NUTS website, www.rvnuts.com. Chris T. has put a large number of photos on the "April 2010 Rally" page.

NUTS Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: April 10, 2010

Grand Lake RV Resort, Orange Lake, FL

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Chris Ebaugh at 10:00 AM. Following opening remarks by Chris, the Pledge of Allegiance was lead by the National Director, Winnie Williams.

The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were approved as published in the NUTs Newsletter, "*In a Nut Shell ...*", Issue 49, dated June 2009.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented in the NUTs Newsletters – Issue 49 (June 2009), Issue 50 (December 2009) and Issue 51 (February 2010).

Reports of the Executive Board members:

- First VP, Nancy Holtman reported that the Fall Rally Theme will be "My Favorite Sports"
- Second VP, Helen Ebaugh indicated the need for volunteers for skits, crafts, etc for upcoming rallies
- National Director, Winnie Williams reported that in the INTO (International) Area our own Barb Higgins is running for President. Also the Winter 2011 FMCA Convention will again be held at the Perry, GA fairgrounds in March 2011. She will be looking for opportunities for the NUTs chapter to volunteer at the Convention.

Unfinished Business: Due to a conflict in the use of the rec hall on the Monday night of the January 2011 NUTS rally at Torrey Oaks RV Resort, discussion was held about possible rescheduling options. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we extend the originally scheduled 3-day rally to a 4-day, 3-night rally (Monday, Jan. 17th to Thursday, Jan. 20th) and Monday evening would be a "happy hour" only.

Election of Officers: Leo Cornelison of the 2009/2010 Nominating Committee presented their slate of nominees to serve one (1) year terms as Officers for the 2010/2011 Rally Year. Each Office was individually nominated, opened for additional nominees, closed and elected by voice vote.

- President – Chris Ebaugh
- First VP – Nancy Holtman
- Second VP – Helen Ebaugh
- Secretary – Les Stiles
- Treasurer – Les Stiles
- National Director – Dick Higgins
- Alternate Nat'l Director – Winnie Williams
- Nominating Committee – Leo Cornelison, Jack Barbic, Don Feese

New Business:

- 1) New position(s) of Rallymasters were created within the NUTs chapter to assist in organizing future NUTs Rallies. The Rallymaster position is an opportunity to serve with the chapter on a short term commitment (one rally). Joanne Tolley, Roy Ray, and Woody Woodworth volunteered to be the Rallymasters for the Fall 2010 Rally. Volunteers are still needed for Winter and Spring Rallies.
- 2) The following were appointed by President Chris to serve as the Audit Committee to review and approve the Treasurer's books and records for the Fiscal Year 2009: Chris Tauriello, Jackie Barbic, and Nancy Floyd.
- 3) Shirley Cornelison & Kay Feeser have volunteered to serve as the NUTS historians.

Announcements:

There will be an informal gathering/rally, “NUTS Girls Day Out” on May 6-8 at Jetty Park, Port Canaveral, FL.

Dick Higgins, NUTS National Director and a Northeast Area VP extended an invitation to all NUTS to join them at the Northeast Area Rally in Essex Junction, VT on July 2 – 5. If there is sufficient interest, there could be another NUTS informal rally and park together.

Adjournment: The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 10:43AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Stiles, Secretary-Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

May 15, 2010

Spring 2010 Rally

Rally Income

Registration fees \$5,545.00

Dealer support – Lazydays 300.00

50-50 Raffle 200.00

RALLY INCOME \$6,045.00

Rally Expenses

Campground fee \$1,760.00

Food and Catering 3,180.71

Entertainment 300.00

Decorations 0.00

Prizes 204.40

Misc. expenses 0.00

Refunds 240.00

RALLY EXPENSE (\$5,685.11)

RALLY NET INCOME/(NET LOSS) \$359.89

BANK BALANCE

Beginning – January 25, 2010 \$6,111.36

Income \$7,100.60

Expenses (\$6,516.55)

Ending – January 25, 2010 \$6,695.41

Net Gain (Loss) \$584.05

The Audit Committee (Chris Tauriello, Jackie Barbic and Nancy Floyd) reviewed and audited the Treasurer's books for the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. They noted no discrepancies.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Stiles, Secretary-Treasurer