

In a Nutshell . . .

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



Issue 48

We're NUTS

February 2009

Chapter Officers and Appointed Positions

President 603.738.3904	Dick Higgins president@rvnuts.com	Alt Nat'l Director 603.738.3904	Dick Higgins natdir@rvnuts.com
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National Director 804.758.5241	Winnie Williams natldir@rvnuts.com	Tech Support	Kenny Blackmon nutstech@rvnuts.com

NUTS News Flash

To All NUTS members: This email was sent out to all who are in the data base and is being repeated here to inform you of several forthcoming changes and some important information updates:

1. It was voted on and approved at the last NUTS Rally @ Tropical Palms RV on Thurs. Nov. 6 that AFTER the next Newsletter, being mailed to you on Dec. 1, 2008, the primary information delivery system will change from U.S. Postal Service to email. This is being done as a cost cutting measure to save on printing and postage expenses. If you contact Les Stiles at secretary@rvnuts.com and request that you receive a hardcopy of the Newsletter instead, we will continue mailing to you. If you cannot receive email, then regular mail would be the only alternative - just let us know. To receive the Newsletter by email, make sure that your computer will recognize and accept emails from rvnuts.com.
2. We will be changing the NUTS slogan from "We're NUTS about Nationals" to something else more appropriate that reflects our present non-brand specific condition. Our name will remain as is. Any ideas? Submit your thoughts to me at president@rvnuts.com and we'll vote and choose one at the next rally. It'll be fun.
3. The "dues" are due between now and Jan.1, 2009. They are \$15.00 and can be mailed to Nuts Treasurer (payable to National United Travelers, Inc.) 218A E. Eau Gallie Blvd., #74, Indian Harbour, Fl. 32937.

Stay tuned for further NUTS News Flashes. Check our website for new info.

Winter Rally News

Our most sincere thanks to all the folks that contributed so much to make this rally quite a success. It takes so many volunteers doing so many tasks but truly that is the fun of belonging to the NUTS... the more you get involved the more fun the rallies become. Congratulations to the superior chefs that prepared all the chili for the evening. The prestigious RED CHILI SPOON AWARDS were awarded to the following: John and Janie Renger, Hugh and Nancy Floyd, Winnie and Gene Williams, Joanne and Marvin Tolley, Joan and Roy Ray, Jo and Arlen Regis, George and Shirley Olsson, Mary and Don Martin, Sue and Gerald Erickson, Bettie and Jim Meier, and Sallie and John Castro. We all know that one in the family is the cook but didn't wish to get it wrong. Soooooooooooooooooooooo, Thanks one and all... you sure did a delicious dinner for the group. We welcome input from one and all with idea's for future endeavors... so let the board hear from you with some fresh idea's how to keep our club enjoying. Hope to see you all in April at Lazy Days. *Helen Ebaugh, Second VP*

NUTS Girls Day OUT

We will meet on Wed the 25th of Feb at the Florida Mall Coffee shop in the food court between 10 and 11. The lunch place will be decided at this time and all are invited. If you are interested in coming but not on the NUTS Girls List please email me and I will get your name added so you can be notified of these gatherings.

The more the merrier and we would love to have all the gals join in. *Helen Ebaugh, Cell: 407-222-5425*

The NUTS Girls are planning their May outing to be a campout. We are going to Jetty Park the 3,4,5,6 of May. Please call and get your reservations ASAP if you wish to attend. The luncheon will be on Tues the 5th at RonJon's so anyone that wants just to attend that can also. If you need further information contact me at Hje01@ebaughs.com. *Helen Ebaugh, Cell 407-222-5425*

Attention Crafters.

I will be doing the crafts at the rally in April. This time I am going to show you how to make an interesting necklace using rocks/shells/bone/etc. Fun and easy. Charge for supplies will be \$5. If possible, please email your reservation so I can bring enough "rocks" to ncapple10@aol.com. *Nancy Holtman*

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 next FMCA International Convention will be in Perry, GA on March 16th to 19th. There are 16 coaches that will be volunteering for this rally - thirteen (13) coaches from the NUTS chapter and 3 coaches from the Rolling Gators chapter. Together, we will be representing the NUTS Chapter. (Thank you volunteers) The INTO area will be hosting this rally. The next FMCA International Convention will be in Bowling Green, Ohio July 20-23. This is the year for new National Officers to be elected. For other area rallies please refer to the FMCA website or the magazine. *Winnie Williams, National Director*

President's Column, Feb 09

We just completed our winter rally (Jan 23) at The Glades RV Resort in Moore Haven at the southern end of Lake Okeechobee. I like to think that it was another successful rally (all comments so far are positive) even though there were a couple items on the itinerary that could not be fulfilled. The tours that we were hoping to offer to our members turned out to not be available as planned. I can't help but feel that I let some folks down who were looking forward to these events - - - I'll try to make it up to you.

The successes of the rally, however, far outweigh the disappointments. With 45 coaches in attendance, the count was a little low, but we had three first-time couples, Jim & Pat Black (who generously offered a motorhome parking space to anyone who wanted it three blocks from Raymond James stadium for the SuperBowl), Joe & Pat Stroud, and Doug & Juanita Oxford (didn't make it due to coach problems). We also had three guest couples - - Jack & Sally Castro, Jim & Betty Meier, and Al & Fay Holmes, all of whom subsequently joined the NUTs ranks at the rally. These "guest" couples came to our rally because they are friends of Don & Mary Martin and Jerry & Ann Erickson, so we can thank them for doubling the number of first-time members at this rally.

The other highlights of this rally include several "firsts" for the NUTs. As a matter of fact, ever since we changed our Bylaws, we have experienced many first-time events. Due to the dedicated efforts of Kenny Blackmon, we had six Newmar display coaches from "North Trail RV" in Fort Myers for the entire time, a "North Trail" service technician for one day, two Q&A and very informative seminars, and a very helpful subsidy check, again from "North Trail RV". VP Helen Ebaugh arranged for our fabulous "chili cook-off" (with prizes) and our two nights of professional entertainment. Tina, the DJ, played music, sang, and was quite entertaining (for those who stayed). VP Nancy Holtman contributed greatly to the success of this rally by conducting a well attended (13) craft session and also supplying the door prize gift certificates (very popular). Nancy's talents are really coming out and she's excited about demonstrating her ideas at future rallies. Be sure to talk to her if you have ideas for crafts, games, skits, etc. - - - all suggestions are welcome. Our Food Service Manager George Olsson did a banner job in arranging our meals. The dinner, three breakfasts, and the ice cream social were all supplied by the staff of food service personnel at The Glades. George recognized that this was the best way to get some good meals at a reasonable overall cost. We need to be cognizant of all our expenses in an increased effort to keep

our operating budget trim and our rally fees as low as possible. Keep up the great work, George - - - he's got some good ideas for our April rally too.

As usual, there were a number of people who contributed to covering all aspects of our rally. Morris and Bud performed their "magical music" for our listening and dancing enjoyment Wed. evening. Selling 50/50 tics. we had Lana King, Jack Castro, Woody & Dodie Woodworth, Don Martin, and Roy Ray. Paul King spent a lot of time showing his expertise as our member tech - - - he and Dick Goheen worked diligently to correct a generator problem Gene Williams was having. They exemplify what it means to be an RVer - - - always willing to help out a fellow member; making sacrifices to benefit a friend. Thanks guys. And speaking of Dick Goheen, again he coordinated a successful golf outing and conducted an extremely sophisticated awards ceremony - - - well, that may be a bit of a stretch. Margaret Gault outdid her previous appearances by delivering two pieces of prose. The first she wrote for the NUTs, involving different kinds of nuts, and very cleverly created indeed. The second was her memorized A to Z rendition of lovers desires and quests. You are great, Margaret ! Also, a "thank you" goes to Jackie Barbic for volunteering to call tables for dinner. I have a feeling, with her enthusiasm, that we'll be seeing a lot more from her at future rallies. Thanks, Jackie.

Finally, on the last evening of our rally, I put out a plea for two positions we need filled within our organization. When I announced that we needed a Newsletter Editor and described the details, Russ McGinnis volunteered immediately. Russ has been stepping up and helping out a number of ways over the years, and now taking on the Editors position shows he still wants to contribute - - - thanks again, Russ. The second position, to be filled in April, is that of NUTs president. I think everyone has heard me expound on this subject at least once by now, so I won't go on about it again. But, suffice to say, someone does need to volunteer to fill this position. So folks, keep our great club alive - - - step forward and talk to the nominating committee members (Rita, Mary, & Penny).

See you all in April at Rally Park. Stay safe. *Dick*

Announcement – NUTS Tech Support

Most of the NUTS remember Kenny Blackmon, former General Manager of National RV's Service Center in Lakeland. Kenny has been a true friend during the years of National RV – providing technical and business information seminars at several of our rallies. Kenny has now joined Newmar Corporation as their Service Development Representative. Together they are offering new support avenues for the NUTS.

Kenny will be at most of the NUTS rallies to provide ongoing Q&A discussions. Here he will host questions about the RV industry and technical questions on National RV product. This all starts with the upcoming Winter Rally.

Kenny has also offered to provide another service – ongoing 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.

Now more details on the ongoing NUTS technical support (item 2). We all have little (hopefully) problems with our coaches and wonder where we can get advice now that National RV is no more. This is where NUTS Tech Support comes in. Now you can submit your problems/questions to NUTStech@rvnuts.com and Kenny will respond. If he can't answer the question specifically, he still networks with the techs from Lakeland. In addition, he has the resources at Newmar Corp. available. To disseminate information to the NUTS community, I have created a 'NUTS Tech' page on the website. Kenny will forward those inquires and responses that he feels will benefit many of the NUTS to me where they will be posted on the 'NUTS Tech' page.

Now we must do our part. The more coaches that we have at our rallies, the greater the support we can expect from Newmar and their dealers, like North Trail RV Center.

We all owe Kenny Blackmon a big "thank you" for the time and effort he is putting into this endeavor. And we owe Newmar Corp. for supporting Kenny to such a strong extent. And lastly, we should shake Gary Rankin's hand the next time we see him for bringing Tech Support to the NUTS. *Les Stiles, RVnuts.com Webmaster*

Secretary-Treasurer's Column...

(There was no formal meeting at the Winter Rally, so there are no minutes to publish in this newsletter.)

Have I got an opportunity for 48* of you *soon-to-lost* NUTS!! Yes, you can have another year of NUTTY fun for the extremely low cost of \$15. A Dues Renewal form is enclosed elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have not paid for 2009, please do so now. If you are not sure about your membership status, please take a moment to email me, secretary@rvnuts.com, or call 407-920-0834.

*This number represents about 32% of our membership. I know that times are tight, but we need to maintain a strong NUTS club where we can have NUTTY fun at reasonable costs.

Now that I have gotten that out of the way, here are statistics that I would rather share. Check the financial report included in this newsletter. We had a “*surplus*” at the last rally of \$567 as compared to a “*loss*” of \$1276 for the Fall Rally. It is hopeful that we will breakeven after the Spring Rally. However, our rally attendance has been down this year. Last year after the first two rallies we had 138 coaches in attendance, so far the Fall & Winter 2008/09 rallies have totaled 92 coaches. We need a BIG turnout for the Spring Rally, say about 100 motorhomes, to bring our “rally season” total close to last year’s. I look forward to processing everyone’s registration for the Lazydays rally.

This is the first newsletter issue being distributed primarily by email. Our news editor, Russ McGinnis, has been working hard to put together his first newsletter. I will distribute to the email addresses I have on file in our membership database. Right now I will be sending 131 emails containing the newsletter as an attachment and 28 newsletters will be mailed through the Postal Service to those not having email, email addresses that are no longer valid and to several of our commercial friends. If there are some of you who do receive this newsletter by USPS and could use email, please let me know. Likewise, if you would prefer a hardcopy newsletter, please also let me know so I can update the database accordingly.

As I indicated at the last rally, the distribution of the Membership Directory has become too costly to print and mail. Therefore I will be more than glad to provide you one upon request either by email (preferable) or USPS. I will not publish the Membership Directory on the NUTS website until I can provide the necessary security to limit visibility to NUTS members only. In the meantime, check for your picture (and limited info) on the Pictorial Directory on the website, www.rvnuts.com. I add more after each rally.

That’s enough rambling for this newsletter! See you *ALL* at the Spring Rally. *Les Stiles, Secretary-Treasurer*

Some Pix from the last Rally



Treasurer's Report

February 10, 2009

Winter 2009 Rally

Rally Income

Registration fees	\$ 6,620.00
50-50 Raffle	205.00
Dealer Support (North Trail RV)	<u>500.00</u>
RALLY INCOME	\$7,325.00

Rally Expenses

Campground fee (including hall rental)	\$3,903.75
Food and Catering	2,015.00
Entertainment	350.00
Decorations	64.75
Prizes	111.74
Misc. expenses	32.00
Refunds	<u>280.00</u>
RALLY EXPENSE	(\$6,757.24)
RALLY NET INCOME / (NET LOSS)	(\$567.76)

Bank Balance – November 10,2008	\$2,253.39
Income	\$8,228.00
Expenses	<u>(\$7,541.52)</u>
Bank Balance – February 10, 2009	\$2,939.87

Respectfully submitted,

Les Stiles, Secretary-Treasurer

NUTs 2009 Spring Rally

Dates : April 6 to 8, 2009 (2 nights, Mon - Wed)

Location : Lazy Days Rally Park

6210 County Rd. 579

Seffner, Fl.

800-905-6627 or 813-246-4777

Take I4 to exit 10, go north 1/2 mile, enter Rally Park on left

Check with Rally Park about rates and availabilities for early arrivals

Theme : "**We're 13 now**" - Dress as teenagers Tues. night

Plans : 2 nights camping with full hookups

Pot luck dinner Mon. night (bring what you can)

Catered dinner from Lupton's Tues. night (chicken & ribs, with all the "stuff")

1 Full breakfast ("Omelets in a bag", with all the fixins', sausage, bacon, toast)

1 Continental breakfast

Ice cream social w/ lawn games

Golf with Dick Goheen - - this will be MON. AM, so arrive early to be included

Display coaches from "Lazy Days"(Tiffin & Winnebago products)

Crafts with Nancy (\$)

Business meeting and election of officers

Professional entertainment - "Sounds of Times" duo Tues. night

Our "Nutty Band" plays Mon. night - - dance & sing the night away! !

RVSEF seminar Tues. 1pm, will weigh your coach(\$) Wed. am

Door Prizes, Best "teen outfit" prize

Games, Skits, Fun things

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 2009 Amount \$ 15.00