

# *In a Nutshell . . .*

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



Issue 49

We're NUTS

June 2009

## **Chapter Officers and Appointed Positions**

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

## **NUTS News**

We have changed the NUTS slogan to "We're NUTS"

Thanks to Helen Ebaugh for redoing our Banner to reflect this change.

## **President's Column, June 09**

I believe we all want to thank Dick and Barbra Higgins for all of the work and effort they have expended during the "HIGGINS DYNASTY" to make our NUTS organization work. We are all spoiled because we have been able to jump into our motorhomes and drive in for a well planned, organized and fun rally. I am already seeing that it is NOT an automatic event. A LOT of people and effort goes into getting the events to come off looking so easy. Helen and I will TRY to keep the good times going, but be assured we will be ASKING for a lot of help from everyone, and also be assured there WILL be mistakes and some things will go wrong, so keep in mind you get just what you pay for. The next two rallies were already reserved, as to the locations and parks. There are still items like meals and entertainment, as well as the daily programs to firm up before November. Please, if anyone has any suggestions or wishes to volunteer their services to present some demonstration, craft classes or something you might want to share with the members, please send me an email. At this early time I really do not have much to elaborate on in this note. I would like to be thinking about rally locations and scheduled beyond the two that are currently reserved. I know it is necessary to get reservations well into the future as parks that can handle 50 – 60 rigs are hard to find. Any of you that visit park in the FL area please take note of the facilities for possible rally sites and let me know. Ask them about use of their kitchen, exclusive use of their club house for events during the primary days of our rallies and availability during the first week of NOV, Middle of JAN or first week of APR. If possible I would like to get reservations made for at least three years ahead. Also during your summer travels when you meet other friendly RVers tell them about the NUTS and encourage them to join us for our FUN events. If anyone expresses any interest, get their name and mailing address and email the information to [secretary@rvnuts.com](mailto:secretary@rvnuts.com). Looking forward to seeing everyone at the November Rally in Eustis.

Chris

## **Past President's Observations**

(Indulge me a little here)

Sometimes it seems like an inevitable end will never come. Then when it does happen, it seems like it came to soon. It's a dilemma - - - I'm relieved in a way to not have the duties anymore, but I also know that I will miss the job come this fall. I've truthfully enjoyed my roll as president of our beloved NUTs club and after 13 years of being involved to some degree, I don't think I'll be able to not contribute something to the completion of a rally. It's always fun to be part of a skit, or game, or contest, or show of some sort. I can't help but smile when I remember the great times we had with the "Laugh In" skit, the "Fashion Show", the "Newly Wed" game, the "Doctors Office" skit, and lots of "best costume" contests.

As we all know (except for the Tauriello's, I suppose), the older we get, the more we reflect on past fun times, events, and accomplishments. The reflections I have are of alot of great times with alot of great people. That's what our club is all about. Can it get much better than that?

All of our boys still talk about their summer camping experiences as kids when we had our travel trailer. Our youngest son is now planning on getting into RVing with his wife and their 17 month old daughter. He's talking about getting a truck big enough to pull a "pop-up" trailer - - - they want to start camping. I can only hope that the next generation of RVers (including Chris & Tina Tauriello, and then Hannah and Olivia after them) will have as many great reflections about their lives in their motorhomes as we do.

I don't want anybody reading this to think that I'm (we're) all done - - - far from it. We'll still be attending NUTs rallies, we'll still be participating in whatever we can, we'll still be spending time with all our great friends, and I'm still your "Alternate National Director". So you haven't seen the last of us yet.

The future of FMCA is important to us - - - especially now. Barbara continues in her efforts for the success of our "International Area" (INTO) and I'm running for a VP position in the "Northeast Area" (NEAR). Where these endeavors take us, who knows, but we will continue to have active rolls in whatever we do. That's just part of who we are.

Again, I want to thank all the great folks I've worked with. It's been a collective effort to bring about the successful rallies we've had and we truely have alot of dedicated individuals in this NUTs club. I deeply appreciate the cooperation and hard work from these folks.

I also want to express my heart-felt thanks to all you folks who contributed to the gift card I received and wrote the kind words. It means a great deal to me that you all think that I've done a good job. I may seem to be "reflecting" alot, but I'm not done yet - - - not by a long shot!

Have a safe and fun summer in your travels. Maybe we'll see some of you in NH.

Dick Higgins

## **NUTS Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Date: April 7, 2009**

The NUTS Annual Meeting was called by President Dick Higgins to order at 10:08 am. The Pledge to Allegiance was said following opening remarks by the President. There was a quorum of fifty-four (54) coaches present at the rally.

A motion was made to approve minutes of the Fall Meeting held at Tropical Palms, Kissimmee, FL on November 6, 2008 as printed in the *In a Nutshell ...* newsletter, Issue 47, December 2008. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Treasurer's reports was filed as published in the *In a Nutshell ...* newsletters, Issues 47 through 49 for the period April 3, 2008 to February 10, 2009.

The following Board Officers provide verbal reports:

First Vice President, Nancy Holtman, reported that the theme for the Fall 2009 Rally will be Octoberfest. Jackie Barbic will be the decorations coordinator.

Second Vice President, Helen Ebaugh, invited everyone to a "Girls Day Out" rally to be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> with camping at Jetty Park, "Girls Gathering" at Ron Jons and a cookout at the Holtman's.

National Director, Winnie Williams, recognized and thanked all of the club members who volunteered at the FMCA International Convention held at Perry, GA in March. She also encouraged comments and recommendations on the candidates for the upcoming election of officers to be held at the FMCA convention in Bowling Green, OH in July. Willie will be our Voting Delegate and Dick Higgins will be the Alternate.

The Nominating Committee then presented the following nominations for the 2009/2010 year:

- President – Chris Ebaugh
- First VP – Nancy Holtman
- Second VP – Helen Ebaugh
- Treasurer – Les Stiles
- Secretary – Les Stiles
- National Director – Winnie Williams
- Alternate National Director – Dick Higgins
- Nominating Committee – Bettye Hatch, Jan Rankin, Leo Cornelison

Each office was opened to nominations from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were closed and each nominee was unanimously elected to office.

President Dick Higgins appointed Janie Renger, Russ McGinnis, Jackie Barbic to serve as an Audit Committee to audit the Treasurer's books for the year since April 2008. *Secretary's Note: The books were audited on April 7<sup>th</sup> and no discrepancies found. A signed Audit Report is on file in the Secretary's records.*

Under New Business, the NUTS slogan was discussed. Several suggestions had previously been submitted along with those from the floor. The choice of "We're NUTS ...." narrowly won over "We're NUTS about RVing" by a show of hands.

The following announcements were made at the end of the meeting:

- Dick Higgins thanked many of the members who have volunteered their help during his tenure as President and presented Special Gifts to them.
- The Newsletter schedule will be: Deadline for Input May 15<sup>th</sup>; Newsletter to publish June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A special thank-you to the Rally Park staff for providing for our special requests.
- Gary Rankin spoke about the Tampa RV Supershow on Jan 12 – 17, 2010 to be held at the Tampa State Fairgrounds. Rally spaces always sell out early.

A motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting was accepted by incoming President Chris Ebaugh. It was seconded and passed by voice-vote at 11:10 am.

Any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Annual Meeting should be submitted to the Secretary prior to the Fall Rally so that a corrected copy will be available at the next meeting."

Respectfully submitted,

Les Stiles

Secretary-Treasurer

### **Secretary-Treasurer's Column...**

**Date: May 2009**

First of all, as the only officer to have served the full tenure of our outgoing President (why do you keep putting up with me?), I want to extend a sincere thank-you to Dick Higgins for his service to the NUTS. Did you know that Dick is our longest serving President (4 terms) and longest serving Alternate National Director (6 terms)? I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Barb for her support of Dick as well as having served a term as Second Vice-President and two terms as President. Both are either holding or seeking important positions at the Area level of FMCA where they continue to make valuable contributions. Again, Thank You both!

Now I am privileged to extend a warm welcome to Chris Ebaugh as the seventh President of the NUTS. Chris jumped into the office with both feet looking to finalize our rallies for the 2009/10 season and is well on the way to scheduling the 2010/11 rally year. We have had many email exchanges already and I expect to be involved in many more. Welcome, Chris!

One of the first actions I did for Chris was to provide a recent financial history so that he could get an understanding of our rally expenses. I would like to share some the highlights with you. Our rally attendance has been 60+ coaches for the years from 2005 to 2008. However, this past season our average dropped to 47. I would assume a lot of that had to do with the economic conditions as the RV industry has been suffering in general. Financially, we had good years 2005 thru 2007 with 5 of the 6 rallies showing a slight profit. However, in 2007/08 we lost our major sponsor when National RV declared bankruptcy. We still tried to maintain the same level of rally as had been in the past and the result was a loss of about \$6.15 per coach per rally. This past year was one of recovery where costs and fees were adjusted. The result was basically a breakeven profit of \$80.39 for the 3 rallies. All of this may be more information than you probably wanted to know, but the important thing is that your club, the NUTS, is alive and well in spite of what has been happening around us. In fact we have contributed \$1733 to the treasury from rallies over the past 4 years (12 rallies). Now that we have made other changes to control ongoing expenses like printing and postage, I predict that it should be a long time before your Board has to ask for another dues increase.

Have a great Summer! If you are in the Rochester, NY area and want to play golf, stop by Parkview Fairways, Victor, NY to say hi to Mary and me (had to add a commercial!).

Les Stiles  
Secretary-Treasurer

### **Treasurer's Report**

**May 12, 2009**

#### **Spring 2009 Rally**

##### Rally Income

Registration fees	\$ 5,765.00
50-50 Raffle	<u>222.00</u>
<b>RALLY INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,987.00</b>

##### Rally Expenses

Campground fee	\$2,830.93
Food and Catering	1,883.83
Entertainment	300.00
Decorations	26.49
Prizes	128.52
Misc. expenses	18.00
Refunds	<u>210.00</u>
<b>RALLY EXPENSE</b>	<b>(\$5,397.77)</b>

Accounts Receivable (Lazydays – dealer support) 300.00

**RALLY NET INCOME (NET LOSS) \$889.23**

#### **BANK BALANCE**

<b>Beginning – February 1, 2009</b>	<b>\$2,939.87</b>
Income	\$6,173.46
Expenses	<u>(\$6,115.43)</u>
<b>Ending – May 1, 2009</b>	<b>\$2,997.90</b>
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>\$58.03</b>

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Les Stiles, Secretary-Treasurer*

## **Nuts Rally Schedule for 2009 -2010**

- **Fall Rally, November 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Southern Palms, Eustis** – Registration Deadline Oct 16, 2009.  
(A registration form will be available shortly after Labor Day)
- **Winter Rally, January 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Tropical Palms, Kissimmee** – Registration Deadline Dec. 28, 2009.  
(Registration form with the Fall News Letter)
- **Spring Rally April 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Grand Lake, Orange Lake** – Registration Deadline March 10, 2010.  
(Registration form with the Winter News Letter)

Members will need to make their own reservations at each park for any days they want to arrive early or stay late.

Those planning on attending the **January 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 RV SuperShow and Informal NUTS gathering** in Tampa at the State Fairgrounds will need to make their own reservations with the Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA) EARLY. Their website is [www.frvta.org](http://www.frvta.org).

## **From the National Director**

Time is approaching for the Summer Convention to be held July 20--23 in Bowling Green, Ohio. National Officers are elected every 2 years and this is a voting year. Information about the candidates will be in the FMCA magazine. Please read and give me your input. This voting is important and involves all our members.

FMCA needs our support. We need to encourage our friends to join and then bring them into our club. (FMCA membership is a requirement for chapter members)

Several of our members are going to Ohio for this Convention, so keep in touch so we will know who is going and we can get together there.

Thank You

Winnie Williams, National Director

## **Rally Assignment Seating**

At the Tampa rally the assigned seating was an experiment. Our goal is to make sure that all members, especially new attendees are made to feel welcome and meet new people. This also applies to our "older Members". Hopefully we didn't inconvenience anyone.

Our plan for the future is to have assigned seating the first night of the rally and free seating on the next night. We realize that some of you will bring new friends for possible membership. We just want everyone to get to know one another. Hope this works for everyone. We had many positive comments. We are always open for your suggestions. Thank you,

Winnie

**For Sale:**

2004 Dolphin, 34 feet long, 40 k miles. White exterior with gold and brown trim. Earth tones and light oak interior. Lots of storage in basement and inside. Excellent condition with A++ maintenance record. Includes many features. Kitchen booth, Direct TV self finding antenna, CD player, Two TV's, outside cable hook up, topline audio system, Two large slideouts, Jacks and much much more. It's a must see at \$50,000, (Blue Book value is \$65,000. Call Sue at 813-367-78



**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](mailto:jacvig@aol.com) or 843.238.0977

**Hints and Tips:**

Lets make this and useful area of our News Letter. Any thing that you have found to help your travels

1. If you get a sulfur smell in you coach, you may want to check and change your water filter if you have one.

**NUTS Girls Day OUT**

Lots of fun and laughs were had by “all” at the luncheon at BucDePeppo at the FI Mall in Orlando the end of Feb. Then our next gathering was held at Jetty Park with the husbands joining for the 3, 4, 5, 6, of May. The gang was entertained by Carl and Nancy Holtman on Monday for a picnic and cookout at their home. On Tues the women had a lunch at RonJon’s resort next to Jetty Park.

Hope to see lots of the NUTS GIRLS at the future gatherings.

Helen Ebaugh, 2ndVP



## **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](mailto:ncapple10@aol.com).

## **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](mailto:NUTStech@rvnuts.com) and he will be checking his e-mailbox frequently.

*Les Stiles, Secretary-Treasurer*

## **Some Pix from the last Rally**

