



**Executive Board:**

- Bob Moss, President
- Ellis Brown, Exec. V.P.
- Al Brandis, Treasurer
- Louise Birett, Secretary
- Bob Birett NE Area VP
- Kathy Rollins, NW Area
- Don Lassen, SE Area VP
- Jim Lexa, SW Area VP

**2010 Rallies:**

- 4/16-4/18—Schnecksville, PA
- 5/28-5/31—Centre Hall, PA
- 6/11-6/13—Gilbert, PA
- 7/16-7/18—Liverpool, PA
- 8/20-8/22—Bloomsburg, PA
- 9/10-9/12—Lebanon, PA
- 10/16-10/18—Pre-Rally Mt. Airy, NC
- 10/19-10/24—GEAR Rally, Winston-Salem, NC.
- 11/12-11/14—Bethel, PA

**Reflections on Schnecksville Rally:**

We had our first rally of the year for FMCA Penn Coachmen, and what a rally it was!. Lit candles in glass globes on each table surrounded with vines. **Chocolate fountains** in which to dip fresh fruit, marshmallows, pretzels and cookies. Baskets of **chocolate candy** added to the atmosphere. Needless to say, it was called the "**Chocolate Lovers Weekend.**" You might have thought we were at the Taj Mahal, but no, we were at Schnecksville Fire Hall. The meals were homemade and oh so delicious, plenty for all. Games, bingo and **chocolate** prizes were available for everyone to enjoy. Entertainment was by a magician who had white doves and many other tricks up his sleeve. It was great spending time with our camping friends and listening to how they spent their cold-cold winter. We are looking forward to the next rally, May 28-30, "Remembering America" at Centre Hall.

Lorraine Shaak

\*\*\*\*\*

**Remembering Moms and Grandmoms on Mother's Day:**

I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. Along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

**REMEMBER:** Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

*They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.*

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron - but love...**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OF YOU GREAT WOMEN OUT THERE!**



## Coming Soon: FMCA Events

Great Lakes Area Rally—May 27-30, 2010, Berrien Springs, Michigan

Midwest Area Rally—June 9-12, 2010, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Northeast Area Rally—July 2-6, 2010, Essex Junction, Vermont

FMCA's 84th International Convention—August 11-14, 2010, Redmond, OR

South Central Area Rally—September 29-October 3, 2010, Shreveport, LA

Rocky Mountain Area Rally—October 12-15, 2010, Farmington, NM

Greater Eastern Area Rally—October 19-24, 2010, Winston-Salem, NC

Western Area Rally—January 12-16, 2011, Indio, CA

Southeast Area Rally—February 2-6, 2011, Brooksville, FL

FMCA's 85th International Convention, March 14-17, 2011, Perry, GA

INTO Area Rally, May 11-15, 2011, Goshen, IN

Northwest Area Rally—June 2-5, 200-1, Puyallup, WA

FMCA's 86th International Convention, August 10-13, 2011, Madison, WI



\*\*\*\*\*

## Updated FMCA Membership Applications:

Because FMCA's membership has always grown best by word of mouth, many members keep FMCA membership applications in their motor homes for when they encounter a potential new member. Please be aware that applications will be updated on April 12th to reflect the dues increase that was recently approved by the Governing Board. An application can be found inside the April issue of Family Motor Coaching magazine or contact the Membership Department at 513-474-3622 or 800-543-3622 to have new applications sent to you. You can also pick them up at the next Area Rally or FMCA International Convention.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Dozen Does It

The "Dozen Does It" program is underway, and certificates for free FMCA memberships are already starting to be redeemed. Many chapters have already recruited new FMCA members and are accumulating memberships toward their free prize package.

You may be asking yourself, how can my chapter receive a free prize package? Well, here are the details:

- Recruit a fellow motorhomer to FMCA by having them fill out an FMCA application. Be sure they put your name on the "How did you hear about FMCA?" line so you will receive credit.
- When the application is processed, the recruiter will receive a \$10 recruitment coupon along with a postcard to give to the Chapter President of their choice.
- Once the chapter has accrued 12 postcards, the Chapter President should mail all 12 postcards, along with the name and shipping address of the person who is to receive the prize package, to the FMCA National Office.

The "Dozen Does It" program will run January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, and each chapter can earn up to 2 prize packages. Prize packages will include:

- 2 Umbrella Seats
- 1 Koozie Big Mouth Cooler
- 1 Lantern
- 4 Stainless Steel Mugs
- 2 Coffee Thermoses
- 1 Set of Four Tervis 16 oz. Tumblers
- 1 First Aid Kit
- 2 FMCA Road Atlases

The logo for FMCA, consisting of the letters F, M, C, and A in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

## Wanted to Purchase:

Portable braking system for towed car. Please contact George Roberts at [georgejr42@yahoo.com](mailto:georgejr42@yahoo.com).

## Food for Thought:

*Some people, no matter how old they get never loose their beauty. They merely move it from their faces into their hearts. Martin Buxbaum*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Reflections on Camping from the Heart:

Open road ahead, unknown adventures awaiting.

The Penn Coachmen are off again to locations near and far.

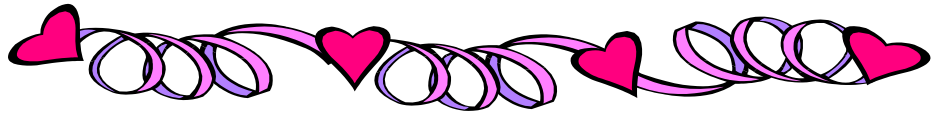
Be it Schnecksville or Centre Hall, or even GEAR or NATIONAL, just a weekend, or a month, or more.

We are family, sharing good times and good food.

Making memories that are forever etched in our minds to be treasured forever until they are sadly lost.

Never mind the loss; we know we were alive, and we enjoyed, and that can never be taken away from us.

Anonymous



\*\*\*\*\*

## Request from the Editor:

In order to make forthcoming newsletter interesting, I would like to request your help by sending me any of the following throughout the year at [lbirett@comcast.net](mailto:lbirett@comcast.net):

**Vacation tidbits or advice**

**Seeking items to purchase or items for sale**

**Family news such as births, deaths, illnesses, prayer concerns, accomplishments, etc.**

**Favorite recipes**

**Motor home repair/upkeep advice**

**Interesting stories or vignettes**

**Out of the way places you have found to be of interest**

**Members who are ill or have had surgery**

**Hobbies or craft how-tos**

**Poems, stories, vignettes**

**New camping gear/equipment you have learned about and where to purchase them**

**Special camping experiences**

**Interesting people you have met along the way**

**Nature encounters**

**Funny pet stories**

**Funny grandchildren stories or sayings**

**Life on the road**



\*\*\*\*\*

## Thoughts and Prayers:



Linda Salzman — Undergoing cancer treatment.

Ron Buckley—Recovering from heart valve replacement.

Dan Poper — Undergoing cancer treatment.

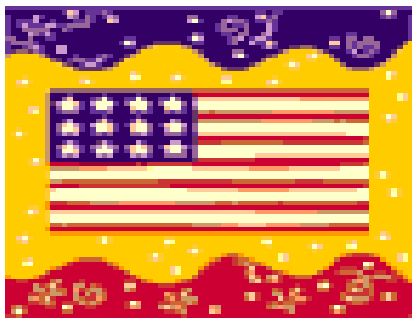
Ken Frazier —Undergoing cancer treatment.

Bill Schmidt (Barbara Arcati's brother) — Undergoing cancer treatment.

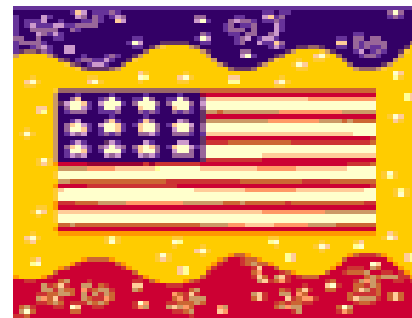
Ed Pascoe—Undergoing cancer treatment.

Carole Katz—Recovering from carpal tunnel surgery.

Barbara Zydorczyk—Recovering from back surgery.



**May 28-31, 2010**  
**The Grange Fairgrounds**  
**Centre Hall, PA**  
**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**  
**TOURING CENTRE COUNTY**



**RALLY MASTERS:** Bill & Kathleen Rollins 717-264-7099 & 717-729-1233 (Cell)  
Bob & Norma Moss 717-249-2194 & 717-574-0097 (Cell)

**HOSTS:** Bill & Marilyn McLaughlin, Jim Lexa, Barbara Arcati, Fred & Nancy Warshel, Dick & Roberta Smiley, Bob & Louise Birett, Ken & Sara Frazier, Don & Barb Zydorczyk, Fred & Barbara Thum

**PLACE:** Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, PA 16828

**DIRECTIONS:** From the junction of Rts. 144 and 45, turn west onto Route 45. Proceed 1/4 mile to Homan Lane. Enter Fairground Gate 4 (just past & opposite the John Deere dealer).

**PROGRAM**

**FRIDAY**

11:00 a.m-5:00 p.m.	Registration & sign up for tours
2:30 p.m.	Depart for the special Early Bird tour of Beaver Stadium.
6:00 p.m.	Pot Luck "Salad" Supper (1)
7:00 p.m.	A special visit by American first President, George Washington as portrayed by Dr. Gregg Fero.
8:00 p.m.	Friday night at the movies with popcorn at "Big Blue"

**SATURDAY**

8:30 a.m.	Continental breakfast at "Big Blue"
10:00 a.m.	Semi-annual Business Meeting
12:30 p.m.	Depart for tours to Boal Mansion and Museum and Centre Furnace Mansion. Travel by Carpool.
1:00-4:00 p.m.	Tours of Boal and Centre Furnace Mansions. Tour groups will flip flop.
5:30 p.m.	Catered Turkey Dinner at Grange Hall in Centre Hall.
7:00-8:15 p.m.	Entertainment co-sponsored by the Coachmen Club at The Youth Building.

**SUNDAY**

8:30 a.m.	Coffee and Tea
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service-Led by Louise Birett
9:45 a.m.	Depart by carpool for Mt. Nittany Inn.
10:00-11:30 a.m.	Buffet breakfast with a "Great View" at Mt. Nittany Inn
12:30 p.m.	Depart for Penn State Campus by carpool.

1:00-4:00 p.m. Visit All Sports Museum, Medlar Field and the Arboretum  
 4:00 p.m. Visit Berkey Creamery ("A Must")  
 6:30 p.m. Cook-out –Hot dogs and condiments provided. Bring something to share.  
 7:30-8:00 p.m. Prepare for a fun day Monday in Boalsburg with a Presentation on Modern Day Boalsburg and the Annual Festival by John Wainwright of the Boalsburg Village Conservancy.

**MONDAY**

8:00-9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
 10:00 ----- Spend the day at Boalsburg for the Festival and the Military Museum (ON YOUR OWN)..

**REGISTRATION:**

Send \$50.00 rally fee deposit. Indicate # of dinners and buffet breakfast. If reservation is postmarked after May 15, 2010, there will be an additional \$10 charge.

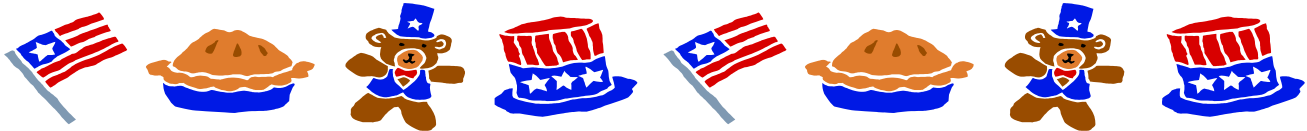
**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:** Penn Coachmen

**MAIL TO:**

Harold Amos, 13 Hemlock Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
 ☎ 717-766-2640 Cell 717-856-3472 Email: [halmos@pa.net](mailto:halmos@pa.net)

**NOTES:**

- (1) This is Potluck so any salad of your choice will be appreciated...i.e. chicken, tuna, ham, garden, pasta or fruit. Bread, butter and dessert supplied.
- (2) Water and electric hook-ups.
- (3) Dump station opens on Monday.
- (4) Extra day(s) at extra cost.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Celebrating May Birthdays:**

May 1	Clark Van Buskirk	May 13	Maryanna Hall
May 4	Larry Troutman	May 16	Jim Strunk
May 8	Bob Birett	May ?	George Moyer
May 9	Carol Becker	May 22	Ron Lee
May 10	Bob Moss	May 26	Jim Lexa





## History of Penn Coachmen:

The year 1969 marked the end of the turbulent 60s which were topped off by the war in Vietnam. The civil rights of the country's citizens had been questioned. Some women had decided to burn their bras. Richard Nixon had been elected President with a promise to get us out of Vietnam.

In spite of all of the above or maybe because of the turmoil, many Americans had taken to try and find ways to bring their families back together again. And so, with their friends and neighbors, they began to once again camp out on weekends and during their vacations.

No longer content with the old canvas tents that leaked and were extremely heavy, most turned to small campers that were pulled behind their cars.

A smaller group, however, decided that to have a vehicle that not only got you to your campsite but also housed you while you were there was the ultimate in camping out! In 1963, a national organization was formed called The Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA). Its members all shared that same thought. Here in Pennsylvania and the surrounding states, there were those who saw the advantage of belonging to such a national organization, and thus the Penn Coachmen was founded. The formation took place in June 1969, and the acceptance of its application to the FMCA is believed to have been in October or November of that same year. It was the first such organization in Pennsylvania, and one of only 16 in the nation that is still in existence today.

The early members of the Penn Coachmen were from all over the state and included several associate members from Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. The first by-laws gave the right to vote only to those who resided in Pennsylvania.

Forrest Means (F795) from Valier, PA was the first president. Forrest was not only an avid traveler in the United States, but also traveled to Africa after his term in office was over—some say to rest from the arduous work he had done for the organization! Others who helped found Penn Coachmen were Bob Wagner (an earlier founder of the Twentieth Century Wagontrainers in New Jersey); David Stroehmann (F2218) from Williamsport; Bob and Teresa Smith (F995) from Turtle Creek; Jack and Naomi Connolly (F1752) from Indiana, PA; and Don and Margaret Hoffman (F2494) from Clarendon. Don, as you may know, founded Hoffman Coach Company and was hired by Prevost Car to assist them to convert their bus shells into the magnificent coaches they are today. Don went on to be Penn Coachmen's representative to FMCA. It was his wife Margaret's good works that got her elected as the National Secretary for FMCA. There are many others associated with our founding and early years, but they are too many to mention here.

The early days saw rallies in which mini-bikes and trail rides were popular events. In an early newsletter, there is a warning to those who took the bikes of others without permission (the warning was to children, of course). Pot luck dinners, weenie and marshmallow roasts were always popular as was the gathering around the camp fire.

As for where the rally's were held, some are still familiar today, but many are not. The first was at Park View Trailer Court in Beaver Valley, PA. Subsequently, they were held at the Sportsman Club in Blanchard, PA; Wapakoneta, OH; Salt Springs, FL; Buckmiller Park in Lancaster, PA; Indiana, PA; and Bloomsburg, PA. Other places included Indiana, New Alexandria, Hershey, Roaring Springs, and East Stroudsburg, PA. Interestingly, the rallies at Centre Hall always included a dinner at the Grange Hall put on by the ladies of the Grange. Sound familiar?

Attendance at FMCA National Conventions was encouraged, and Penn Coachmen always made up a good percentage of those from other chapters who attended.

Ralph Frost (F3638) was the third president, and his wife Barbara, was the second secretary. They have attended 33 National Conventions, and Don Hoffman has attended between 40-50.

Because there were so few chapters of the FMCA in the Mid-Atlantic area, six of them held joint rallies—The TCW from New Jersey; Northeast from New England States; Capital from Maryland, Delaware and Virginia; Empire State from New York; Long Islanders from Long Island, New York; and of course the Penn Coachmen from Pennsylvania. One can only imagine where these various rallies were held! Yes our founders set a course for those who followed that was exciting, family oriented and fun.

For our part, the Penn Coachmen have carried on many of the necessities for a good rally—pot luck dinners, visits to interesting places, family fun, and always a hearty welcome to newcomers and guests.

Barbara Frost, who was mentioned above, commented recently that she was delighted to see that we still conduct a worship service. It was, she said, "a tradition of the early Penn Coachmen."