



Vintage Bird Words

April—June, 2017

WWW.VINTAGEBIRDS.COM

ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Presidents Report

Spring has arrived and you can tell that in Central New York by the roller coaster weather. Two weeks ago on Wednesday it was 65 degrees, on Thursday and Friday we shoveled the sidewalk in the morning and on Sunday it was 70 degrees. The second thing that happens in spring is tax season ends. I slept for over half the day yesterday and we drove to our Virginia house and I am actually awake today. It also means the Bluebird will come out of the barn next week and we will start the summer camping season. We have two local chapters having their 40th and 45th anniversaries. Then we are hosting the Oswego Harborfest Rally and the year will close out with The Vintage Birds returning to Perry, GA for the first time since the factory closed when Harney Davies hosts Return to the Valley. It will be a busy summer by the time I fit in enough fishing for the Harborfest fish fry. I think we will need about 100 pounds of filets this year.

I want to cover some FMCA and chapter news. FMCA has proposed allowing towables to join as full members. Chapters would not be required to allow them to join the chapter if they do not want to. Please let Sue Marino know your feelings on this as she will be asked to vote on this at the summer convention. FMCA has also signed a tire program with Continental Tire to add another option to the Michelin Tire program. They also have a windshield program with Guardian RV Glass. You can learn more about all these things at

WWW.FMCA.COM.

In chapter news Richard Ramsey has agreed to be nominated for president and Gregg Gesse has agreed to be nominated for Secretary. Both are long time active members and I am very happy to see them step forward. They join an experienced group of officers and I am sure we will continue to prosper as an active chapter. I will ask them to write about themselves in the next issue for those of you that do not know them.

We are getting ready to order new shirts. It was discussed in Panama City and decided to order Hunter Green shirts this time. If you want a particular size let me know soon and I will order them. We usually order medium through extra large. Tall sizes are available as well. Our chapter was chosen to be the chapter spotlight in the April FMCA magazine and Peggy Jordan at FMCA did a very nice job writing the article. We also asked FMCA to send out a mailing to Bluebird owners that belonged to FMCA but not a chapter. Between the two we have signed up 16 new members in the last month weeks and received several other requests for information on the chapter. As several Vintage Bird members retire each year we need to always be looking for new members. Several have asked for rally registrations. I am sure we will make them welcome when they attend.

We have also changed our membership fee structure to 1 year \$15.00 2 years \$30.00 3 years \$40.00 and 4 years \$60.00 with the 5th year free.

In rally news Karen and Denny James are holding a gathering from June 15-21 in Millersburg, OH which is in Amish country. You can contact Karen at Karen4247@aol.com. Sherry and I are hosting Oswego Harborfest again this year. For the first time we will have full hookups with 50 amp power. We have a salmon fishing charter on Friday and live music to start the rally on Wednesday during the fish fry. Of course the Harborfest committee has four days of live music on multiple stages as well as a car show, midway and craft show. We manage to fit in several meals ending with pizza and ice cream. After Harborfest Joe and Susan Crocker will head to Branson, Missouri from August 4-9. Contact them at 386-365-7642 for more information. Another option after Harborfest is the FMCA NEAR rally in Syracuse, NY. Go to www.FMCA.com for more info.

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Vintage Birds & Pen-NY Mixer Rally Oswego Harborfest July 26-31 2017 at Oswego Speedway



Rally Fee includes-

- 4 or 5 nights full hookup camping (Thu thru Mon)
- *Wednesday July 26 optional early arrival with fish/chicken dinner. Live music sponsored by Howie Newman*
- *Continental breakfast Thursday through Monday-Sunday full breakfast sponsored by Burdick's RV*
- *Social hour including frozen drinks, beer, wine, soft drinks, information and door prizes on Thursday July 27 at 4:30 pm. bring a hardy snack to share*
- *Trolley passes included (\$6 value) trolley comes to our lot*

Farewell pizza dinner and ice cream Sunday July 30 evening sponsored by Camping World

Harborfest highlights -

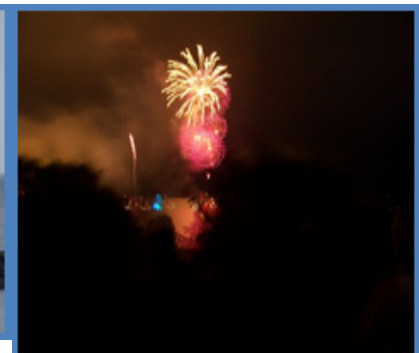
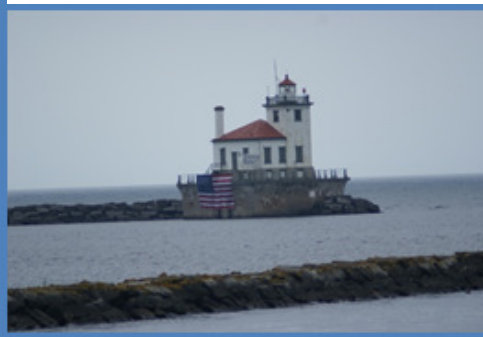
- Fort Ontario, Maritime Museum, and other attractions
- Named one of the top one hundred events for group travel by the American Bus Association
- Rated top 10 in USA fireworks show
- Juried arts and crafts
- Music and entertainment on three main stages plus other locations though town
- 30+ bands classic rock, country, blues and jazz
- Midway and street vendors
- 2017 will be Harborfest's 30th anniversary expect it to be special
- Optional Friday fishing charter call Jim Miller ASAP to reserve

North East Area Rally will follow at the NY State Fairgrounds in Syracuse NY

www.oswegoharborfest.com

Early arrivals are Wednesday after 12:00 PM.

Jim & Sherry Miller	Tom & Sharon Roule	Fred & Alice Sprout	Butch & Marty Charpentier 607-
898-4626	585-346-6567	315-587-9533	315-415-7223
Jem590@aol.com	Troule@aol.com	Afsprout2@gmail.com	charpe3@yahoo.com
	George & Millie Worden	Harold Wollaber	
	585-243-2951	716-662-4118	
		hwollaber@aol.com	



Rallies, Rallies Rallies!!!

If you ever wanted to get out and meet other owners- these are the best places to do it! We have several rallies planned over the next several months. Here are just a few to whet your appetite! More will be posted as they become known. If you are interested in hosting a rally near your hometown or at a special event, contact me at 717-645-4912 or via email at shanefedeli@gmail.com

April 26-30, 2017- **Myrtle Beach, SC**- Annual WOG Birds at the Beach Rally- come early and stay late as the rally rates are good for the week before and the week after the actual rally week. Call Ocean Lakes 877-510-1413 and be sure to tell them "BIRDS AT THE BEACH" when making your reservations. Contact Bryan or Karen Altier at Altierb@bellsouth.net with other questions.

May 26-29, 2017- **Kaibab Lake Rally, AZ**- Arizona Hot Birds rally- The reservations for the 2007 Memorial day rally just opened up so we need to grab spots **RIGHT NOW!** These always go fast so do not procrastinate! Contact Mike Putz for more details at mike.putz@cox.net

June 7-11, 2017- **Shipshewana, IN**- The "not-so-mini" rally at Shipshewana North Campground includes trips to local Amish stores, RV/MH Hall of Fame in Elkhart, as well as surplus stores within striking distance. We all come back with cars full of RV trinkets and parts. Some spend thousands, others spend some. The girls, if they trust us to be alone with credit cards, go to town with their own credit cards and shop in all of the quaint little Amish shops. Contact Shipshewana North campground for reservations at (260) 768-7770. Ask for Sam or Uma- and mention that you are with the Bluebird group. Direct other questions to David Styf at dstyf@gmail.com

June 15-21, 2017- **Millersburg, OH**- Scenic Hills RV Park gathering beginning June 15 and leaving on the 21st. We plan on enjoying cheese, chocolate, great food and everything the Amish have to offer in the area. Make your own campground reservations at 330-893-3607 or visit their web site at <http://www.scenichillsrv.com> This is open to everyone, you don't have to have a Blue Bird! For more information, contact Karen James at karen4247@aol.com

July 26-31, 2017- **Oswego Harborfest Rally, NY**- Vintage Birds/Pen-NY chapter mixer. Attractions include Fort Ontario, Maritime Museum, Named one of the top one hundred events for group travel by the American Bus Association, Rated top 10 in USA fireworks show, Juried arts and crafts, Music and entertainment on three main stages plus other locations though town, 30+ bands classic rock, country, blues and jazz. Camping with Full Hookups- \$135. Contact Jim Miller at 607-898-4626 or via email at Jem590@aol.com

NOTICE

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Review the mailing label on this newsletter to find the expiration dates of your dues. Please send the remittance sheet when sending payment to ensure accurate credit for payment. If there are any changes contact Shane Fedeli.

August 4-9, 2017- **Branson Bound Blue Birds**- Join Joe and Susan Crocker for a Gathering in Branson, Missouri from August 4-9, 2017. There is no registration cost; however, you will need to contact Branson Lakeside RV Park to make your reservations. Mention that you are with the Blue Bird Gathering Group. Also, please be sure you contact us so that we know you plan to attend. Some of the planned activities include touring the campus of College of the Ozarks, visiting historic downtown Branson, and going to some shows. This gathering will be one where you can do the planned activities or go out on your own. It will be pretty laid back. Contact us at swcrocker@hotmail.com or 386-365-7642. If you email us, please put Branson Gathering in the Subject Line.

October 18-21, 2017- **Pine Mountain, GA**. Annual WOG rally -this is the largest gathering of Bluebirds anywhere and the best opportunity to see such an assortment of coaches and meet so many great owners. In addition it is the best place ever to have access to face to face technical help or any other questions. This is your opportunity to see an example of almost every model made and ask owners any question you may have. Contact Pine Mountain Campground for reservations at 706-663-4329 or visit their website at <http://www.rvcoutdoors.com/pine-mountain>

October 23-28, 2017- **Fort Valley, GA**- Mark your calendars!! Vintage Birds “**Return to the Valley**”. Contact Fair Harbor Campground for reservations at 877-988-8844. Fair Harbor is holding sites for the Rally. Make your reservations directly with the campground at 877-988-8844 or 478-988-8844. Special Rally Rates are: 5 Nights \$189.00 with Full Hook-up. 7 Nights \$249.00 with Full Hook-ups. **Rally fee is \$160 per coach (2 pp) or \$80 for one person.** Fee and Activities include: A Mark Ballard Creativity Session; Technical seminars; Owners’ Flea Market / Craft Fair; a Meet & Greet Session with former Wanderlodge Staff. **Catered meals include: 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch,** and 2 coffee and delicacies. Familiar Wanderlodge personalities invited to participate include Brenda Rogers, Dean Woodruff, Earl Davis, and numerous other Wanderlodge Managers, Service, Assembly line and Support staff. A special engine and transmission technical session will be conducted by David Coulter, a respected Rally in the Valley presenter and General Service Manager at W. W. Williams Company, Atlanta GA. Local Attractions to Explore: Blue Bird School Bus Factory & Parts Store, Andersonville Prisoner of War Museum & Cemetery - a National Historic Site, Museum of Aviation – Warner Robbins Air Force Base, Plains, GA – Home of President Jimmy Carter, Lane Packing Company – Peaches / Pecans and Café,

Vintage Birds would like to send condolence to the family Of Doug Dixon who passed away March 19. Doug has been a member of Vintage Birds since 1987 and was President in 1991.

Return to the Valley Rally, October 23 – 28, 2017

Fair Harbor is holding sites for the Rally. Make your reservations directly with the campground at 877-988-8844 or 478-988-8844. Special Rally Rates are: 5 Nights \$189.00 with Full Hook-up. 7 Nights \$249.00 with Full Hook-up.

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Local Attractions to Explore: Blue Bird School Bus Factory & Parts Store, Andersonville Prisoner of War Museum & Cemetery - a National Historic Site, Museum of Aviation – Robins Air Force Base, GA National Fairgrounds, Plains, GA – Home of President Jimmy Carter, Lane Packing Company – Peaches / Pecans and Café, Galleria Mall / Peach Outlet Mall / Macon Mall / Smiley's Flea Market

REGISTRATION

Return to the Valley Rally, October 23 – 28, 2017

FMCA # _____ Vintage Bird # _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Costs: Rally Fee

\$160.00 (2 People)\$ _____

\$80.00 (1 Person and/or each additional person) ...\$ _____

Amount Enclosed:\$ _____

RSVP by 9/1/2017

Make Checks Payable To and Mail To:

W. Harney Davey
76 Water Edge Rd.
Keeseville, NY 12944
Cell: 518-569-7740

APPLICATION FOR VINTAGE BIRDS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

In December 1984, the Vintage Birds Chapter of FMCA was chartered for owners of Blue Bird Wanderlodge coaches. To be eligible for membership, you must first be a member in good standing of FMCA. Then you must own a Blue Bird Wanderlodge or BMC Motor Coach.

The purpose of the chapter is to promote fellowship among owners, to conduct interesting and affordable rallies, and to provide a forum for exchange of ideas regarding maintenance and modification of our coaches. The chapter also maintains a web site for posting information and listing coaches for sale. The chapter publishes a newsletter four times a year providing members with social and technical information. The initial fee is \$30. This fee covers name badges and your first year's dues of \$15. Subsequent year dues are \$15 ... OR you can take advantage of our promotional rate of \$40 for 3 years or \$60 for 5 years! Please complete and send your \$30 check payable to Vintage Birds to: Shane Fedeli, 311 Robin Road Hershey, PA 17033

Your first and last name: _____

Partner/Spouse first & last name: _____

First names on badges, You _____ Partner/Spouse _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____

Coach model and year: _____ FMCA# _____

I am a paid up member of FMCA and wish to become a member of the Vintage Birds Chapter.

Signed: _____

Please indicate if you would like your newsletter
via EMAIL or US POSTAL MAIL (circle one)

VINTAGE BIRDS

Andrea Dixon, Editor
P.O. Box 1000
Paintsville, KY 41240

The Vintage Birds rally season will end in Perry GA for The Return to the Valley. There will be catered meals, a social hour and Mark Ballard will do a show. One of the highlights of Rally in the Valley was watching the women stampede the first morning to sign up for Mark. We will also have some seminars from former Wanderlodge factory people. We expect Brenda Rodgers, Earl Davis and other factory friends to visit. Personally I am looking forward to swapping hunting stories with Earl, something I always enjoyed at Rally in the Valley. Something the newer owners don't realize is the factory staff always treated us like family. The chapter is paying for Mark Ballard as well as incidentals. We will also raffle off 1-3 rally fees depending on attendance. Over forty have already made campground reservations so it is going to be a popular rally. You should make your reservation soon. Available rally registration forms and information are included in this newsletter.

I hope you can make it to a rally this year.

Jim