



Vintage Bird Words

July—September, 2017

WWW.VINTAGEBIRDS.COM

ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

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It is the peak of summer and many of the Vintage Bird community are headed for their summer adventures. We have heard from those headed to Alaska, Oswego and the eclipse. With fuel prices so low it's a great year to travel. Sherry and I are getting ready to host the Oswego Rally and are gradually filling the trailer. Today we are playing electricians as the 30 year old cables connecting the chargers to the batteries melted down and ended the first trip of the year a day early. There are several new Vintage Bird members coming to Oswego and we look forward to meeting them.

Harney and Lois have been working hard on the fall rally and it is really coming together to be special for our return to Perry, Georgia. There will be a number of catered meals, a social hour, seminars by factory technicians and the highlight, according to my wife, a Mark Ballard seminar. Mark is going to do a 2 part presentation. The first part is a demonstration open to everyone that is paid for by the chapter. The second part will be a hands on wreath craft class that is optional with a fee. Inside is a page on this class and sign up information. We need a minimum number to sign up to have the class so get this sent in soon. Brenda Rodgers has been helping with many of the rally preparations. For those of you that don't know Brenda from the factory she was the face of Rally in the Valley. She was always good for a joke or two when given the microphone so hopefully we will get her in front of the group. I believe there are still a few openings for Perry so contact the campground soon if you want to go and also send your rally fee into Harney

We need to send our best wishes to Harney Davey, he called me Wednesday and he will be undergoing bypass surgery in a couple of weeks. He promised to get back on his feet in time to host the Perry rally.

We need to talk about rally hosts. Rallies are the backbone of our group and this year was a slow year. We need members to sign up to host rallies in 2018. It would be good to have at least four rallies spread through the year and country. One email mentioned the neglected western members but the truth is someone from the west need to give Alan or me a call and say "I want to host a rally". The chapter will support you and you will find others will pitch in. Those of us that have hosted multiple rallies all had a first rally and found out it is OK. Make this year your first time.

We need to get someone to say they will host the annual fall business meeting rally for 2018. It is traditionally in the Southeast and in October. If you are willing to host but don't know where give Alan or I a call and we can make some suggestions. It would be nice if we had a location before we got to Perry.

At Perry we will be holding elections. As I said in the last newsletter Richard Ramsey and Gregg Gesse have agreed to be nominated for the openings of President and Secretary. They have each written a short bio and those are inside.

For all the new members and those that have forgotten when you attend a rally for the first time you get a plaque to display in your window. It has your name, hometown, VB number and of course Buzzy on it. It is a fine addition to any coach so make it to a rally.

Jim

Gregg Gesse Secretary Bio

We purchased our 1994 mid-door WBWL in late 2007 and have traveled almost sixty thousand miles seeing some of our great country. We have also attended many Bluebird rallies and even hosted a couple. Over the years we have replaced all the carpet with tile, the refrigerator with a Samsung, the Microwave Convection oven, the TVs and the sound system along with all the other items which eventually wear out in a 23 year old coach. We would not have been able to do this ourselves without the help and support of all the great friends we have made being part of the Bluebird families.

Currently, we are transitioning from our Tennessee Valley home to Lady Lake, Florida where we are completing a coach house to complement the Bird as our winter home. In the summer we take the coach to Door County, Wisconsin to fish for Lake Michigan salmon. In between, we try to find time to travel and explore the US.

I follow my wife Jane into the Vintage Birds Secretary office, which she held prior to Sue Ramsey. Also, I have recently served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and several years ago served as Chairman of the Financial Position Committee. We have attended six of the last eight annual meetings. The primary goal I would like to accomplish being an officer in Vintage Birds is to encourage more members to become involved in the Chapter activities. I hope to achieve this goal by focusing on the Chapter's communications, member's interests and supporting the other Chapter officers.

Written by Richard

Edited by Gregg

Sue and I began traveling in a motor home to go to football games only in 1994. We currently own our third Blue Bird and our sixth motor home. Four of my football buddies owned Blue Birds and after 10 years and three SOB motor homes, they convinced me to buy a Blue Bird. Never occurred to me to travel to anything but a football game. Then I finally attended my first rally and have been hooked every since. Blue Birders introduced me to a world of travel and friendship I had never known, especially during my active working years. Kind of hard to travel when you get one week paid vacation per year. Then that one week vacation was spent going to grocery conversions with the family.

We now travel with friends in the summer to parts unknown to us and winter at The Great Outdoors in Titusville, Florida with about 10 present and past Blue Bird owners. We spent 6 months living in our Bird barn in Blountstown, Florida, so we can be near our kids, home town friends, as well as the river and beach.

The primary goal I would like to accomplish being an officer in Vintage Birds is to continue the chapters membership growth which has been fostered by Jim, Shane, Steve, Allen, and Sue.

I plan and I encourage all Vintage Birds Members to attend as many Blue Bird Rallies as is possible. While at Vintage and other Blue Bird Rallies, I hope to make them fun and social. If I am outside my coach, you are requested to stop and visit. Every evening at any rally, I hope spontaneous socials will occur at my coach or your coach. All Bird owners are here by INVITED and expected to drop by.

We are all members of the Blue Bird Families. As such, I hope to assist and enhance all Blue Bird rallies. We have rallies of over 100 coached and rallies with as few as 8 or 10. I like all the rallies, but personally prefer smaller rallies, because I get to know you better. I encourage anyone who wants to have a rally to contact Vintage Birds and let us help.

By attending rallies, having fun, building relationships, and working a little, we will attract new members and ensure our chapter's future.

From Richard or maybe Sue

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

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

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 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,

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.

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

Create a Beautiful Fall Wreath
with
MARK BALLARD



On Wednesday, October 25 at 2:00 PM, The Vintage Birds at Fair Harbor RV Camp-ground, are bringing television personality, humorist, author, designer and artist **Mark Ballard** back! For those of you who attended past Blue Bird events, you'll remember that Mark's classes were among some of the most popular offered. If you've never seen Mark or had one of his classes, this is one of the most delightful occasions that you'll ever experience.

Mark will be leading a class in which you'll make a small, beautiful fall wreath for your coach or home. The grapevine wreath will feature leaves, florals and other elements in the rich colors of the season. For the \$25.00 fee, all supplies and materials will be provided. Your artistic muscles will be stretched! You'll leave entertained and refreshed! Demand for this class will be high so sign up now!

Contact Sherry Miller at 607-898-4626, or jem590@aol.com by September 10 to reserve your spot.

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)

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

Hello to everyone,

Richard and I are in North Dakota headed for Shelby, MT. We are going to the solar eclipse rally in Casper, WY by way of Alaska. That is if all goes well. We've had a few hindrances so we are getting a later start than previously planned.

We sure missed Shishewana this year, but hope to be there next summer. Sounds like everyone had a great time.

A few places we were able to visit and I recommend are: The Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend, Iowa, The Runestone Museum in Alexandria, MN, and The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn, ND. There is also an excellent buffalo museum in Jamestown, ND.

Looking forward to seeing you at Casper, WY in August. In the meantime safe travels and Godspeed.

Sue Ramsey
Secretary of Vintagebirds