



Vintage Bird Words

October—December 2017

WWW.VINTAGEBIRDS.COM

ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Presidents Report

This is my last President's report and I must admit I will not miss this part of the duties. Getting me to write my article is like pulling teeth that usually requires a prompt or two from Andrea. The next issue will be headed up by incoming President Richard Ramsey who I think is a more willing writer. I want to thank Andrea for her help and patience getting out the newsletter, without her I might have produced one per year.

We recently returned from the annual business meeting in Perry, Georgia. We were forced to attend without our coach as we had had an electrical fire on the way home from Oswego and finally finished the wiring the day before we were to leave. At that time we discovered a significant exhaust leak that would melt the new wiring so we loaded the car and rented a cabin at the campground. The rally itself was a great event attended by over 60 members and I think we could have filled 100 sites if they were available. Harney and Lois did a wonderful job with caterers, seminars and door prizes. The campground is managed by a former Blue Bird employee and they were thrilled to have us. They encouraged us to return in 2019 and would guarantee us 80 sites. Let Richard and Alan know if you would like this and if you are willing to host the 2019 rally or any other rally.

The 2018 rally will be in Williamsburg, Virginia and that is one of my favorite places to visit. It will be held October 1-6, 2018 and there are more details inside.

At the business meeting we had elections and Richard Ramsey and Gregg Gesse were elected to join current officers Alan, Steve and Shane. They are already showing that they will keep the chapter growing.

After the election Alan Darson stood and turned the meeting into a tent revival for rallies. The end result was at least five Vintage Bird Rallies on the schedule for 2018! Great job Alan.

I know a lot of attention has been paid to the bylaw proposal by FMCA to admit towables. This proposal was passed by a large margin but really has minimal effect on our chapter. No chapter has to admit towables. It is up to each chapter. In our case our bylaws state you must own or previously own a Wanderlodge or BMC.

It has come to my attention that some people who are eligible to receive a window plaque have not. If you attended a Vintage Bird rally since the rally in Athens, TN, and were a current member, you should have received a window plaque. If you did not, contact Shane.

I will end with letting you know it has been my pleasure to represent the Vintage Bird Chapter the last four years and I look forward to seeing you all at a rally in the coming years.

Jim

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2017 Vintage Birds Chapter of FMCA
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Return to the Valley Rally
Perry, GA 10/27/2017

2017 Audit Review:

Performed by Richard Ramsey and Gregg Gesse on October 25, 2017, with Treasurer Shane Fedeli.

Review Procedures:

Reviewed 2017 Quick Books generated monthly bank reconciliation and supporting documentation for receipts and disbursements from January to September. Reviewed September 2017 Balance Sheet and October 2016 to September 2017 Income and Expense summary.

Review Results:

All documentation was complete, well organized, and timely prepared. The Treasurer was able to answer all questions to our satisfaction. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Summary, both appeared complete and reasonable.

Review Not Performed:

We did not request or review the 2016 year end statements due to the mid year transition of Treasurers in 2016.

Audit Review Conclusion:

We believe the Vintage Birds 2017 financial transactions are being accounted for in such a manner that reliable financial statements will be produced and be available for audit review in 2018.

Shane Fedeli is doing a great job as Treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted, October 27, 2017
Gregg Gesse Richard Ramsey

Jim asked for a motion to accept the findings of the audit. Joe Crocker moved to accept the audit and the motion was seconded. All members present voted to accept the audit as presented.

Steve Pappas presented the membership results for year indicating we currently have 238 members with 57 of those being new members. Several of the new members joined in order to attend the Return to the Valley Rally. Sixteen new members were due to a partnership lead by Steve Pappas with FMCA working together to contact BlueBird owners in FMCA who were not already members of Vintage Birds. However, Steve states we have 85 memberships expiring at the end of December, 2017. Steve asked all members present to spread the word to help increase our membership.

Jim asked for Old Business. There being no old business, we moved on to New Business.

Alan Darson gave the new rallies report. Alan began by stating the importance of rallies to the Chapter, resulting in meeting new people, learning more about our coaches, and adding new members to promote the continuation of the Chapter. Alan asked for volunteers to host rallies in the coming year, stating there are many different types of rallies with no set formula. He suggests that hosts do what they know, such as having a rally to show others an area they like. County fairs are one option or come and see my town. The rally can be as structured as the host wants to make it.

Jan Moher and Ken Doyle volunteered to host the 2018 Annual Meeting Rally in southern Virginia next October. Jan has already talked to American Heritage RV Park in Williamsburg, VA and they can offer us 70 sites Monday October 1 through Saturday October 6, 2018. Jan will let everyone know the exact dates once she has had a little more time to work on the schedule. Jan also asked for any members with input for the rally next year to contact her.

Mike Sparkman stated he will work on hosting a rally in New Mexico in 2019.

Ann Kehler volunteered to do a rally in the St. Louis vicinity.

Patricia Gureasko said she would like hold a Cajun Country rally in 2018.

Alan went on to encourage volunteers by pledging to host a rally himself for each rally members volunteered to host. Consequently, he will be hosting a rally in Detroit around July, 2018 for all who are interested.

And he will be hosting a rally on Cape Cod in September just prior to the 2018 Annual Meeting Rally.

John McPherson, Regional VP with FMCA International Chapter gave an update on the most recent FMCA meeting in Indianapolis. At that meeting it was approved to have the entire membership vote to determine whether to allow towables into FMCA. Ballots are in the FMCA magazine and everyone is encouraged to vote. The ballots will be counted the first part of December.

Other FMCA items to look out for are the changing of the mail forwarding, better rates for the road side assistance program, and Verizon to offer members a data program at a reduced price.

Jim thanked John for the FMCA update and proceeded to the next order of business, election of officers. Jim reminded everyone that Vintage Birds has a two term limit for all offices but Treasurer and for the chapter to continue as viable chapter we need members to be willing to hold office. He then turned the floor over to the nominating committee, Barry Grim, Richard Ramsey, Melvin Wilcox and Gregg Gesse, chairman.

Gregg stated the four members of the nominating committee were tasked with finding members to serve as officers beginning 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2019. Current officers agreeing to accept nomination for office were:

Steve Pappas – 1st VP

Alan Darson – 2nd VP

Shane Fedeli – Treasurer

Sue Marino – National Director

Melvin (Trip) Wilcox – Alternate National Director

After approaching multiple members for the office of President and being turned down, Richard Ramsey agreed to accept the nomination for President. With Richard accepting the nomination, Sue Ramsey could no longer hold the office of Secretary. Gregg Gesse agreed to accept the nomination for Secretary.

Jim thanked the nominating committee for their work and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Harney Davey moved the nominations be closed.

Sherry Miller moved the nominating committee slate of officers be accepted as presented. Jan Moher seconded and all members voted to elect the slate of officers as presented.

The new officers are:

Richard Ramsey – President

Steve Pappas – 1st VP

Alan Darson – 2nd VP

Shane Fedeli – Treasurer

Gregg Gesse – Secretary

Sue Marino – National Director

Melvin Wilcox – Alternate National Director

Jim asked if there was any more new business to be addressed.

Shane asked if anyone is interested in ordering a Vintage Birds feather flag to please get in touch with him. If we have an order of 5 flags the cost is \$200 for the flag.

There were 40 members present for the meeting and Leah Dippold and Ed Badeau were the lucky winners of the drawing for a Vintage Birds feather flag.

All business being completed, Jim asked for a motion to adjourn. Butch Charpentier moved the meeting be adjourned. Joe Crocker seconded the motion. All members voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted, October 27, 2017

Jane Gesse, substituting for Sue Ramsey, Secretary

Vintage Bird and Bluebird group 2018 Rallies (and already one for 2019)

January 13-28: Quartzsite, AZ Birds of a Feather has planned another after Q Rally. After dry camping in the desert they are moving to Las Vegas at the Sams Town Las Vegas KOA 5 nights/\$187 Contact Curt Sprenger for more info curtsprenger@gmail.com.

March 15-18: Perry, GA FMCA International Convention Contact Richard Ramsey to park together.

April 6-8: Burro Creek, AZ Arizona Hot Birds Bluebird rally in a Sonoran Desert canyon. Space is limited so contact Mike Putz at mike.putz@cox.net

April 15 – 22: Ponchatoula, LA. Patti and Steve are Hosting the “*Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler*” “Let The Good Times Roll” Rally. You know it’s gonna be a wild week in the Bayou. See rally form in this issue.

May 16-20: See You in Saint Louie, Louie. Come Visit The Gateway To The West - St Louis, MO

The Rally *before* Shippshewanna Hosted by Ann and Larry Kehler

We have so much to see! The Arch, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St Louis Zoo #1 in the nation, Cardinals baseball game, Wine country, Old St Charles shopping, St Louis style ribs, Ted Drewes famous Rte 66 frozen custard ... breathing, breathing ... Italian on the Hill where Yogi Bera and Joe Garagiola grew up, Ferguson Farmers Market (of course it's safe. I wouldn't take you there if it wasn't), music in the park, food trucks, downtown trolley tour... whew! That's a lot to choose to do. More information in the next newsletter. Plan your travels thru St Louis, MO ... Gateway to the West!

25 spaces available, full hook ups. prices include rally discount.

Pull through “Premium”: \$40.42/night

Regular Pull Through: \$36.12/night

Back in: \$31.82

June 6-10: Shippshewanna, IN. Hosted by Dave and Tina Styf. (Actually, their dog Murph is the host). Dave calls this long running rally his, “Just sit around and do nothing” rally. It’s a winner, sells out every year plus you are in the middle of the RV manufacturing world where you can find all any number of parts for your favorite Wanderlodge.
www.shipshewannacampgroundnorth.com

July 15 – 22: Detroit, MI. Alan and Debi Darson will be hosting the “Motor City Shake-down”. Alright, alright, we’ve all heard about the bad places in Detroit so let’s see the good. You know there ain’t no town like Motown. Let’s visit the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, Ford’s F-150 assembly plant and possibly Detroit Diesel assembly, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Belle Isle, Detroit Aquarium (the oldest in the nation) Detroit Conservatory, take a few laps on the Michigan International Speedway, Downtown Detroit (The Belly of the Beast), and Ann Arbor just for starters.

Wayne County Fairgrounds

10871 Quirk Road

Belleville, MI 48111

734-697-7002

continued next page

20 Premium Sites – Full 50 amp hookup - \$35.10/day

20 Sites with water and 50 amp electric - \$24.10/day (Dump station in the middle of fairgrounds is very user friendly). When making reservations tell them that you are part of the Vintage Birds Rally.

More info alan.darson@gmail.com or 774-212-5487

September 23-29: You're Gonna Fall in Love with Old Cape Cod. Crit Bliss is already making plans for a clam bake and lobster boil. We'll visit Nantucket, Provincetown, Whale Watching, JF Kennedy Museum, kayaking on freshwater ponds, miles and miles of Cape beaches, bike trails and much, much more.

Cape Cod Campground (North Truro Campground) Sites are 30 Amp full hookup. (Hey, it's September on Cape Cod, you're on the ocean, and won't need air conditioning).

46 Highland Road

North Truro, MA 02652

508-487-1847

Price TBD after the New Year

www.abcamping.com Click on "Cape Cod".

More info alan.darson@gmail.com or 774-212-5487

October 1-6: Annual Vintage Birds Rally. Jane Moher and Ken Doyle will show us around the magnificent Williamsburg, VA. Area. We'll be staying at the American Heritage RV Park, a 10/10/10 rated park. This is a great historical area with Jamestown and Yorktown nearby, the Mariners Museum in Newport where you can view parts of the Monitor and Merrimack. Richmond is only an hour away with several Museums and water activities at Hampton Roads. For the real adventurous head to Virginia Beach or Nags Head, North Carolina or 4 mast sailing in Yorktown. And let's not forget about all those great local restaurants.

American Heritage RV Park

146 Maxton Lane,

Williamsburg, VA 23188

888-530-2267 or 757-566-2133

www.americanheritage@gmail.com

www.americanheritagervpark.com

October 17-21: Pine Mountain, GA Annual WOG rally Largest Bluebird rally anywhere with seminars technical support and onsite service. Contact Pine Mountain Campground for reservations 706-663-4329 or <http://www.rvcoutdoors.com/pine-mountain>. Updates about the rally on the Wanderlodge Owners Group web site.

Early October 2019: Yes 2019! Mike Sparkman will host a rally in Red River, CO. A great chance for that special "Western" species of the Vintage Birds to have a nearby rally. This will be the week before the Albuquerque Balloon Festival so perhaps we can do both.

The Vintage Birds would like to thank everyone who has volunteered to host a rally. Rallies are the lifeblood of our group. It's a great time to see old friends, meet new friends, learn about your bus and keep the Wanderlodge dream alive.

If you think you would like to be a rally host or have ideas for locations please give me a call at 774-212-5487 or email me at alan.darson@gmail.com. Hosting a rally is much easier than you think. Just think of it as showing fellow Blue Birder's all the interesting things around your hometown.

Watch for more information as we will be posting rally updates as soon as they become available.

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)

**Let the Good Times Roll Rally
Reunion RV Resort Ponchatoula, LA
April 15 – 22, 2018**

Monday, April 16	Get acquainted gathering. Bring Hors d'oeuvres and drinks of your choice.
Tuesday, April 17	Visit local Point of Interest(Strawberry Farm). Dinner provided this evening.
Wednesday, April 18	Coffee and Pastries. Tours to New Orleans. Dinner on your own.
Thursday, April 19	Coffee and Pastries. Ponchatoula Shopping in Antique City. Pot Luck Dinner.
Friday, April 20	Coffee and Pastries. Baton Rouge Tour Day. Dinner on your own.
Saturday, April 21	Coffee and Pastries. Dutch Treat Dinner at Middendorf's Restaurant.
Sunday, April 22	Farewell!

Each participant will be provided with an extensive list of all activities and information of activities for daily things to do. We are a gateway to New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Each city is about 45 minutes away. The RV Resort is right off I-12. New Orleans points of interest include the World War II Museum, French Quarter, Mardi Gras World Old Mint and on and on. Baton Rouge points of interest include USS Kid Ship, LSU Rural Museum, Plantations on River Road and on and on. Ponchatoula points of interest include Swamp Walk, Alligator Farm, Shelby Stanga Treasures, Antique City and more. There will be many more activities to chose from and free time to just visit, kick tires, and games.

**You must make your own campground reservation. Reunion RV Resort 43234
Highway 445 Ponchatoula, LA 70454.
985-520-6600**

**Weekly rates are: Premium pull through \$436.80 Pull through \$369.60 Back
In369.60**

REGISTRATION

Let the Good Times Roll Rally, April 15 – 22, 2018

FMCA # _____ **Vintage Bird #** _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Costs: Rally Fee
\$125.00 per coach Non Refundable\$ _____

Make Checks Payable To and Mail To:
RSVP by 4/1/2018

Pat Gureasko
42181 South Range Rd
Ponchatoula, LA 70454
985-320-8100 patgureasko@gmail.com

RETURN TO THE RALLY IN THE VALLY
PERRY, GA
OCTOBER, 2017

My trips to Rally in the Valley hold a special spot in my heart and have left only positive memories. The location was wonderful because it was large and open and we were actually able to go to the factory and see a Bluebird Wanderlodge on its way down the production line. The many activities and sessions on the schedule were varied and fulfilling. Women got to do crafts, enjoy cooking classes, and get beauty hints to name a few. The men had their sessions with the experts about all sorts of things pertaining to a Bluebird and its upkeep. The food was never ending and phenomenal, morning, noon and night. The hosts of Return to the Rally in the Valley, Harney Davey and Lois Lynch, did an excellent job of coming as close to the real thing as possible!

Our campground, Fair Haven, was located basically across the street from the Perry Fairgrounds. We had over 60 reservations of Vintage Bird members attending. It was a lovely sight, seeing all those Birds scattered throughout the campground. Although the factory is no longer operating, those interested were given the opportunity to go inside, look around, and talk about what it used to be. The men met during three sessions with people who once worked for Bluebird like George Morris, Glen McCormack, Glen Rodgers, and John Boy to discuss problems they were having, location of necessary parts, and general maintenance procedures. We also had a tire seminar by the local Michelin dealer who was a veteran Rally in the Valley presenter although I don't remember a purple Mohawk hairdo then. The ladies were entertained at a luncheon by Mark Ballard, a long time Rally in the Valley presenter. He also held a craft for those who were interested. The food was also phenomenal. We had only a few meals to deal with on our own. The rest were prepared by a local caterer or the campground staff. During the evening meals we were able to visit with many of the Bluebird workers who built our vehicles. Brenda Rodgers gave a presentation about the Luce family and her memories about her years with Bluebird and her participation in planning for the yearly rally. Our last evening, before dinner, we had a chorus of the musical horns. After the horns we had a dish to pass dinner with the meat provided by the chapter and slow cooked by Shane Fedeli and friends

Saturday morning, our last day, people started pulling out for their next destination after breakfast. It was a sad sight watching them go, but it was wonderful to have so many Vintage Bird members together again in Perry.

Thank you so much, Harney and Lois. Job well done!

Sherry Miller

The current officers have done a great job of making the Vintage Bird Club an elite RV club.

Harney and Lois Davey with assistance from Jim and Sherry did a magnificent job hosting our annual meeting in Perry, Georgia. A great great rally that has set the standard for all future rallies.

I hope to continue the successful policies that the current officers implemented that have proven to be a service to Vintage Bird members and our sister clubs.

With the guidance of the officers and members, I am confident that Vintage Birds will continue to grow and prosper. Vintage Birds is your club and our only goal is to meet your needs.

The out pouring of support from everyone has me excited and ready to lead with the current and new officers showing me the way.

Richard Ramsey
iPhone 850-447-1700
16013 State Road 71 S.
Blountstown, Florida 32424

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

FMCA International Convention March 15-18, 2018

Perry, Georgia

Richard Ramsey wants to know if Vintage Bird members would be interested in parking together at the FMCA rally. He plans on parking in the electric section. Please contact Richard for details

850-447-1700

RRSR68@gmail.com