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Contents

Presidents Corner	1
Upcoming Rally's and Events	4
Destinations	5
Talking Tech	6
Entegra Service Highlights.....	11
Member Profile.....	11
Recipes	12
South-East Region Activities.....	14
Western Region Activities	15
Secretary	18
Treasurer's Report	Error! Bookmark not defined.
From the Editors Desk.....	20

Presidents Corner

Our year ended with a bang and here we go again; Rollin Along into 2018. The last days of 2017 saw our first



New Year's Eve bash hosted by Mario and Ann LaCute. Seventy revelers attended a pre-party at their home followed by a New Year's Eve party at a very nice campground in Daytona Beach. As a beginning to 2018, ECOA just finished hosting 85 coaches at the

Entegra Coach Owners Association (ECO) Newsletter "Rollin' Along"

Volume 1 Issue 3, January 2018

Produced by: Tom Crowley crowleytj@gmail.com
and Dana Sawyer dana.sawyer350@gmail.com

Tampa Super Show. Thanks to Lazy Day's RV for again providing burgers and brats which were cooked by a six-man crew of members. As usual the covered dish affair showcased what fine cooks many of our members are. The event gave ample time for new owners to learn about their coaches with the Entegra techs providing service over the 5-day event.

Gary Jones and his wife, Dee, again hosted the January Quartzsite with 60+ coaches in attendance. This annual affair has seen growth over the years and is one of the best events in the desert. Entegra provided a meal and I know the bonfires were well stoked each evening.

The Club is hosting a pre FMCA Rally at Stone Mountain Georgia near Atlanta this year. At the conclusion many will motor down to Perry for the FMCA gathering. As of this writing we have over 48 coaches planning to share Happy Hours and help others learn about their coaches. We know Entegra will be sending techs again and we have heard that there may be one or two dealership events off site. We have even heard 2019s will be on display.

Our biggest event this year will be Summerfest '18, held at the Elkhorn Ridge Resort in Spearfish, South Dakota July 22 to July 26. The club has again assumed the role of coordinating Summerfest for Entegra members. What makes this one so special is that it is the Owners Club's 5th Birthday, so HAPPY BIRTHDAY ECOA! Hard to believe that from a simple beginning of 30 coaches we have grown to something well over 1500 rigs. This rally will also be our Annual Meeting. With registration open, mark the dates and plan to join us for great food, dancing and cake. If you want to make it a two-week event sign up for the FMCA Rally held in Gillette, Wyoming a week before. It is only a two-hour drive to get to Spearfish.

We are doing the Albuquerque Balloon Festival again October 11-16. Since contracts have not been finalized we do not have a complete price to advertise. Stay tuned and watch your email and Club website for details. Rally spots will go fast!

Another rally in the planning stage is the "Fall Color" Rally held in Traverse Bay RV Resort in northern Michigan the third week of September. Stay tuned for more information.

Many are wondering about the relationship of ECOA and FMCA. At the July FMCA meeting I voted the club results stating we are not in favor of allowing towable and 5th wheels into the FMCA. However, when the votes were counted the majority decided that the entire FMCA membership should be given the vote which ended in approving entry of towable RVs into the organization.

Another factor that could greatly impact the club concerns how the new Class C rigs that were added to the Entegra Coach Brand might affect the social dynamics of our Club. Discussion was held at our Annual Meeting '17 at the Winstar Casino in September. After thoughts were shared a motion was made to amend the bylaws to change the membership definition to read: Membership in Entegra Coach Owners Association (ECOA) is restricted to FMCA members currently owning an Entegra Coach Class A diesel pusher, members who have a signed Purchase Agreement with Entegra Coach Class A diesel pusher, and owners of Travel

Links of Interest

ECOA Web Page

<http://www.entegraowners.com/>

ECOA Apparel

<https://ecoa.logosoftware.com/>

Entegra Coach

<https://www.entegracoach.com/>

Spartan Chassis

<http://www.spartanmotors.com/rv-range/>

FMCA

<https://www.fmca.com/>

IRV2

<http://www.irv2.com/forums/f278/>

Rollin' Along

Official Publication of the Entegra Coach Owners Association

Supreme Class A motor coaches. The underlined words were added. A FINAL VOTE ON THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE TAKEN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN SPEARFISH.

Pat Bauer



Tampa Supershow Pics Pat Bauer



Upcoming Rally's and Events

For details of these rallies and events visit. <http://www.entegraowners.com/>

- ❖ Stone Mountain Park Rally, March 11 – 14, 2018, 1000 Robert E. Lee Pkwy, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
- ❖ ECOA Gathering at FMCA Perry, GA, March 14 – 18, 2018, Perry, GA State Fairgrounds
- ❖ ECOA Gathering at FMCA Gillette, WY, July 17 – 21, 2018, Cam-Plex Multi-Event Facility, 1635 Reata Dr, Gillette, WY 82718
- ❖ SummerFest 18, July 22 – 26, 2018, July 22 – 26, 2018, Spearfish, SD
- ❖ Traverse Bay Rally, September 24 – 28, 2018

Memberships & Name Tags By Patrick Bauer (President)

What a kindness it is to others to display your name as you are making new friends at our events.

I just wanted to take a moment to share a note about your membership in the Entegra Coach Owners Association. I know there is some confusion out there!

Requisites for membership in ECOA are that you own or have purchased an Entegra Coach or Travel Supreme Motor Coach, and that you maintain membership in the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) according to our original charter. We began as a CHAPTER of the FMCA.

This means you will receive two membership notices each year. Both must be current.

- ❖ Your FMCA (\$50) membership will come prior to your Anniversary month your original FMCA membership was started.
- ❖ Your ECOA membership (\$20) is ANNUALIZED in conjunction with the beginning of the calendar year. As a club, we do not have permanent paid staff to expedite monthly membership tracking. We are all volunteers. In order to minimize the commitment of our volunteers, your Owners Club dues will be invoiced in December and payable in January.

I know everyone will not re-up after their free first year. We're set up to carry delinquent accounts for about six months. We all make those kinds of decisions every day and we should all celebrate that! But after six months we're not going to hound anyone who has decided to step away. We'll just delete the delinquent member from the database, and that will be that. The club has grown so large, that it is difficult for us to serve all of our members at our events and at the same time open our events to non-members. Yesterday, we published the SUMMERFEST '18 Rally, and it will be sold out by tomorrow. So, I see our club Rallies excluding non-members in the near future.

I also get a LOT of questions about Name Badges. Usually because I always try to remind members what a kindness it is to others to display your name as you are making new friends at our events, besides, I'm kind of slow and need that reinforcement.



If you look on our home webpage at www.entegraowners.com, you'll see an AQUA (turquoise?) colored bar. Over on the right side are 3 short lines. If you click on them, you'll discover a whole bunch more website, so get excited about that and go exploring. Toward the bottom is a tab labeled FORMS & DOCS. If you'll click on that, you'll see an order form for your club name badges (Canadian members will see a huge difference in postage. I'm sorry, but the CA government has had a huge price increase and our vendor has to recover the expense.)

Name badges can be rather slow at times. Please allow plenty of time prior to an event to obtain name badges.

Hopefully this note clears up some of the confusion regarding Membership and Name Badges.

Medarda and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you at one of our events in the near future. I can't believe we will be celebrating our 5th Birthday as a club this summer! It seems we only started yesterday with 30 members who signed up at the first Summerfest at Hearthside Grove in Petoskey, MI. We're now pushing 1700 coaches and still growing.

It's all about fun in a motorhome! What a great way to travel.

Destinations

Tell Us Your Favorite Destination

We want to hear your stories about your favorite destination. Include the locations name, address, month and year you stayed there, ease of access from highway, size of sites and ease of access inside destination, amenities (especially those you enjoyed), nearby attractions, why did you choose the location (just passing through, attending event, other), and any other interesting information about your stay. Provide photos if possible, especially of you and your coach at the location. Provide a caption for each photo. Submit your stories as word or text files and photos as JPEGs to Tom Crowley crowleytj@gmail.com.

Talking Tech

The Big Drawer Fix by Dana Sawyer

Our Entegra Aspire 42 DEQ, like many models, has an oversized drawer under the sink. While this is great for storage it does have a disadvantage. When filled, the weight of the drawer can overcome the catch and end up on the floor creating a mess and a repair job and yes this did happen. Fortunately for us our new friends Rich and Judy Gauger, whom we met at the Entegra dealer, had already found and implemented an elegant solution in their Entegra Insignia 44 B.

Installing a second set (or replacing the original and installing a second in our case) of drawer slides provides additional support for weight and friction to keep the drawer closed during travel. The slides, screws, and wood support are available at most big box hardware stores and installation is simple.

First install an additional wooden support to fill the ledge at the back of the cabinet above the original slide. Use one piece across the entire back or one on each side as shown in the photo. Next install the cabinet mounted half of each slide just above the original slide. Finally, install the drawer half of the slides on each side of the drawer and reinstall the drawer on the slides.

What Is Your Favorite Tech Gadget?

We want to hear your stories about your favorite tech gadget. Write a short story (500 words) about your favorite tech gadget. Include a description of the product, where it is available, why you selected it, how you use it, and how well it solves the problem. Submit your stories as word or text files and photos as JPEGs to Tom Crowley crowleytj@gmail.com.



Drawer Modification



Cabinet Modification & Slide Installation

Spartan Chassis Towing Guide

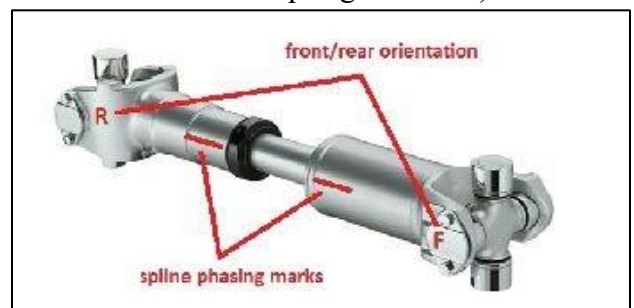
❖ Coach Information

- Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)
- Gross Axle Weight Front (GAWF)
- Overall height of vehicle at ride height (including A/C, satellite, etc.)
- Overall length of vehicle
- Front overhang measurement (center front wheel to front of coach)
- Ground to coach body measurement at front tire
- Type of front suspension (straight axle or IFS)
- Steer axle tire size
- Is coach capable of holding air?



❖ Towing Information

- Flat bed or Low boy: Typically, only used in heavy damage or complete air failures
 - Verify approach angle to load vehicle will not damage body throughout loading process
 - Remove rear stone guard before loading vehicle
 - Measure total height of coach once loaded onto trailer
- Tow Truck: Wheel lift is preferred but frame/cradle lift is acceptable
 - ALWAYS tow vehicle from the front.
 - Remove rear stone guard before loading vehicle
 - Verify air suspension will hold air (never tow vehicle with air springs deflated)
 - Verify front tow mounting will not damage other vehicle components
 - Drive shaft must be completely removed before towing
 - The driveshaft must be marked for spline phasing and front/rear orientation before removal.
 - Provide auxiliary air source from tow truck to vehicle being towed

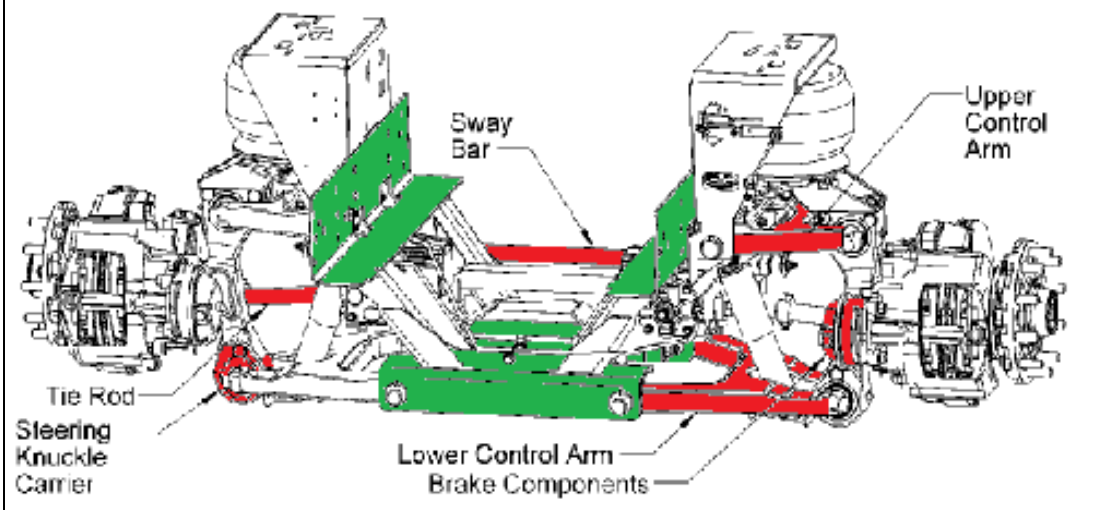


- Verify parking brakes will stay released, if not, the spring brakes will need to be caged
- Ignition switch in vehicle must be in OFF position while towing.
- Re-install drive shaft using marks made during removal, install new straps and torque bolts.

¼ -28 = 13-18 ft. lbs., 5/16 -24= 30-35 ft. lbs., 3/8 – 24=45-60 ft. lbs., ½ -20=115-135 ft. lbs.

The chassis frame and suspension cradle shown below in Green are the proper lift points for towing.

Do Not attach tow apparatus (hooks, chains, straps, etc.) to suspension upper and lower control arms, sway bar and brackets, brake components, tie rods, steering arms, or steering knuckle carrier assemblies.



Disclaimer. In no event shall Spartan Motors be responsible or liable for any claim, loss or damage of any kind whatsoever, whether or not foreseeable, suffered as a result of towing a vehicle. Nothing contained herein shall operate as an assumption of any risk on the part of Spartan Motors relating to towing of a vehicle.

Cold Air Return Modification By Patrick Bauer (President)

How to use rare earth magnets as fasteners to manage your air filtration in your coach.

Return Air filters are supposed to be cleaned frequently in your coach. Otherwise, you'll have reduced air flow and your air conditioners (heat pumps) will not cool or heat correctly. If airflow is severely reduced, you can cause premature failure of your AC units. I used magnets on each corner and put matching flat head wood screws permanently in the ceiling for each of my return air filters so I never had to mess with the screws that originally held them in the ceiling.

This modification changed a half-a-day job into a half-an-hour job in my coach.

Purchase your magnets, click on this link: <https://www.kjmagnetics.com/proddetail.asp?prod=D82>

You will need 64 magnets, but you'd best purchase 72. My experience says you'll lose one or two, and you might find a couple of cracked magnets, or the plating comes off. These are pretty cheap magnets, in this quantity, you're looking at 95¢ each at today's price (2/1/18). Or feel free to search for cheaper. I selected these because of the holding power of the magnet and the quality. Most of the cheaper ones I played around with were so bad that you'd just waste your money. These worked well for me.

You'll also need 64 #10 x 3/4" Flat Head Wood Screws. You can use 1/2", but they aren't easy to find. Buy a box of 100 (cheaper than buying the exact number). CAUTION: do not buy stainless steel. Get just plain old zinc coated, shiny #10's, remember elementary science, magnets are attracted to iron (primary component of steel). BTW, you can use #12's if you want a bigger flat-head on the screw, but in my book, that's overkill, 10's work just fine.

I'm so anal that I made a plastic template out of some cheap 1/8" plexiglass from Lowes, so I could drill the screw holes in just the right place, but really, you can kind of guess that I liked the idea of the template, because each grate was drilled exactly the same and was idiot proof (remember, I'm the idiot). With the template, I matched the size of the flange on the grate, then drilled the matching hole for the original screw, then drilled a 1/16" hole for the location of the center of each of the four magnets.

Screw the template to the ceiling and then drill a tiny starter hole for the center of each magnet. That way your screws are in their exact locations for the corners of each vent.

Now screw a flat head wood screw into each corner on the ceiling. Adjust how far you screw them in, so that the heads are just barely dimpling the vinyl on each corner. You'll want to adjust them later so the grate is tight to the vinyl and doesn't leak, allowing air to come in between the ceiling and the flange of the grate. You want them tight to the liner on the ceiling.



GLUING THE MAGNETS TO THE CORNERS OF THE VENTS

OK, this is probably the most critical part, because you really don't want them to come off. Nothing sticks really well to the plastic.

There really isn't a fantastic glue that sticks both to the metal of the magnets and to the grate plastic. First, I used a knife to rough up the corners of the plastic slightly. I used the point of the knife to "peck" at the plastic kind of like a woodpecker punches at a tree. 30+ pecks per corner. That helps the glue to make a better mechanical bond to the plastic. You can use an industrial grade "Super Glue", or you can use two-part (clear) epoxy. I've even heard of people using Contact Cement, but I would not recommend that.

Also, I marked the "up" pole for each magnet so they were all pointing in the same direction with a magic marker.

Slightly rough up the glue side of each magnet for a better bond with the glue. I used an old emery board. Just rub the “down” side of each magnet on the emery board to put some light scratches on it. Then a drop of Super Glue on the plastic and press and hold the magnet in place for a bit. Allow them to dry overnight before you install so the glue is fully cured.

When you install them, adjust the screws on each corner up or down so you get a good tight fit to the ceiling. You might see a very slight ‘dimple’ at each corner. That’s perfect! All the air has to go through the filters that way! Believe me, nobody will ever notice the slight dimple on the corners. That’s it! Have fun.



Changes to the Entegra Coach Service Policy By Joyce Skinner (Entegra, Director of Customer Service)

From an Entegra Coach email sent in early February.
Make sure you are registered with Entegra to receive all communications like this

Dear Friends,

I trust that 2018 is off to a great start and that as many of you as possible are enjoying some warm weather. It has been frigid here in Indiana and we are all looking forward to spring already, I can assure you of that!

In looking back at 2017, we were quite busy.
Our Entegra call center alone had a total of

32,585 incoming calls and 44,614 outgoing calls for a total of 77,199 calls. Of those incoming, only 376 were missed. These are pretty amazing facts; especially when you also take into consideration that these do not include the emergency after hours’ phone calls or business cell phone calls.

Our service shop was also very busy with servicing 598 coaches for 2017 – a pretty significant increase from 2016 with 566 coaches being serviced. As we prepared for 2018, we took a step back and discussed what our main objective was - and we all agreed that providing the best customer service experience for you was, and is, our number one priority. We are going to be adding to our call center so that we can try to ensure that more calls are answered. We added more available dates for our Entegra University this year so that we can provide as much information as possible on the proper use of your coach and, we will be working with our dealers to train them on the proper delivery of a coach. We know that if you have a great experience from the beginning, the better you will enjoy your purchase. We know you don’t have to choose an Entegra Coach to meet your RV needs but when you do, we want to make sure it’s the experience you have been looking for.

One change that will take place is the focus of our factory service center. We have broken it down in to two categories – warranty and customer pay. We definitely want to honor our commitment to warrantable issues and we will gladly take customer pay appointments as well. What we will no longer be honoring, though, are extended service contracts that you purchased from a dealer or other source. We have found that these are



getting more difficult to work with and have resulted in many days of delayed service for many of you. This starts a snowball effect for other scheduled service appointments and sets all of us up for a bad experience. In order for us to be successful in our goal of taking care of you, this change has to take place. Please be assured that if you already have a scheduled appointment using an extended service contract, we will still honor those but will not take any other appointments using this type of service. If you do want to use your service contract, we suggest that you do so with the dealer you purchased it from, as they may be better equipped in providing that service to you.

It goes without saying that you, our customers, are our best asset. We look forward to the year ahead with excitement and enthusiasm about our products, our goals and our commitment to providing you with great customer service. If you should have any questions at all, please be sure to let us know. We look forward to hearing from you!

Until then, take care, travel safely and enjoy this beautiful country of ours from the magnificent view of your Entegra Coach!



Joyce

903 South Main Street | P.O. Box 460 | Middlebury, IN 46540 | 800-517-9137 | www.entegracoach.com

Entegra Service Highlights

Do you have a story of great service?

We want to hear your stories about great service. Describe what led to the need for service, the service you received, how your expectation was met, and why it was exceptional. Identify the dealer or service center and any specific personnel that should be highlighted. Photos of your coach before, during, and after would be great. Provide a caption for each photo. Submit your stories as word or text files and photos as JPEGs to Tom Crowley crowleytj@gmail.com.

Member Profile

Share your story

How do you use your coach (full time, vacation, work camper)? How and when did you get into the RV life? What is one place or event special to you? What do you like most about their coach? What events have you attended.? Background summary of non-RV life. Provide a caption for each photo. Submit your stories as word or text files and photos as JPEGs to Tom Crowley crowleytj@gmail.com.

Recipes

My goodness can you believe the wacky weather we've had all across the United States this year? One thing for sure as an Entegra owner, I'm glad our RV was built with those extra thick walls, heated floors and that toasty fireplace. I've heard some people call their coach a "SWEET" ride! So, to honor all our "sweet" rides; I decided to do a couple of my favorite sweet treats! I have to tell you, once you've made these, they'll be on your list as a favorite for an all occasion "go-to recipe." They are easy to make and the hardest part is sharing them! Enjoy and safe travels!!!

Sweet Treats

by Linda Hanson (VP Midwest Region)

RICE KRISPIE COOKIES

1 pkg. Butterscotch Chips

1/2 cup Peanut Butter (you can substitute sunflower, almond or cashew butter, etc.)

3 cups Rice Krispies Cereal (you can add a little more if you want your cookies a little crunchier...don't be afraid to experiment)

Melt butterscotch chips and peanut butter either in microwave safe bowl or over double boiler; whichever you feel comfortable with. Stir frequently until completely melted together and smooth. Remove from heat source; add cereal and stir until cereal is coated. Don't forget you can add more if you so choose. I like mine a little crunchier so I add an extra cup. Using either waxed paper or parchment paper; cover your island or an area (approx. 2 ft long) on your table, etc. Drop small rounded spoonfuls of cereal mixture on paper and leave until set. Put in airtight container after set. Enjoy!!

CHOCOLATE-MALLOW-PEANUT-CANDY

1 pkg. Chocolate Chips

1 pkg. Butterscotch Chips

1 cup Creamy Peanut Butter

1 pkg. (10-1/2 oz) mini marshmallows

1-3/4 cup Salted Peanuts

1 cup Rice Krispie Cereal

In a large microwave safe bowl, melt both bags of Chips and Peanut Butter. Stir until smooth. Add Marshmallows, Peanuts, and Cereal; mix well. Transfer to a greased 9x13x2" baking dish. Chill for 2 hours till firm. Cut in desired pieces. Put in airtight container. Enjoy!!

Decadent Strawberries and Cream by Linda Sawyer

The perfect desert for Valentine's day or just a cold Winter evening and easily made in your RV.

Strawberries in a red wine pepper sauce with vanilla ice cream. The combination of the red wine and black pepper gives this sauce a spicy, tart, sweet flavor.

- 1 ¼ cups Cabernet, Merlot, or Pinot Noir wine
- 7 Tablespoons sugar
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- The perfect 1 Tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 Tablespoon vanilla
- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 4 cups strawberries hulled, and quartered
- Pinch of black pepper
- Vanilla Ice cream
- Mint sprigs

Combine 1 cup of wine, the sugar, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper in a heavy saucepan. Stir over medium heat until the sugar dissolves. Whisk remaining wine with cornstarch in a small bowl until blended. Add cornstarch mixture to wine and whisk constantly until sauce mixture boils and thickens, about 2 minutes. Add vanilla, stir and remove from heat. (Sauce can be prepared one day ahead. Cool and refrigerate.) Melt butter in a large skillet over high heat. Add berries and sauté 1 minute. Add sauce and pinch of pepper, bring to a boil. Divide berries into six glasses (Martini glasses are pretty) and top with a scoop of Vanilla ice cream. Garnish with sprig of mint if desired.



The Finished Product



Sautéing Berries



Thickening the Sauce



Adding Sauce to Berries

South-East Region Activities

On The Road Again

By Bonnie & Tommy Townsend

Travel is good for the soul

We're on the road again. Those are our very favorite words these days. It seemed like forever since we had been with our RV friends. The Tampa Supershow was our destination. We started out by meeting Tresa and Bill Kirton at Quail Run RV Park in Wesley Chapel, FL. Then it was so great to visit with so many friends as we lined up inside Brady's Entrance waiting to be escorted to our parking spaces for the week. We were just a little crowded and had no room to even put our awnings out, but not to worry, we all know how to have a good time even under crowded conditions. And a good time is

what we had. We shared happy hours a couple of nights and Lazy Days RV furnished hamburgers and brats and all the trimmings on Saturday night for all of us. A group of our guys did all the cooking and they did a superb job.

Our next stop found us visiting Wade RV getting a new front mat and step mats for our coach just like the Bauers have. It sure dresses up the front of the coach and no more worries of messing up the pretty beige carpet with our sometimes-muddy feet.

Next it was a week in Lakeland, FL meeting new friends and visiting relatives. Tommy was born in St Petersburg, FL and still has lots of family in the area. Medarda and Pat Bauer met us for lunch one day in their "new" 1991 Toyota MR2 Turbo. It is a duplicate of the car Pat owned when he and Medarda first met.

Then it was on to Daytona Beach. We spent a wonderful afternoon and evening with Ann and Mario LaCute at their amazing home along the "river". They both are such talented people. Mario and Dan did most of the renovations to the house themselves and Ann did an outstanding decorating job. They both are excellent cooks and hosts. We enjoyed an outstanding meal, but more important than the meal was the quality time getting to know them both more.

Up next was the International Dirt Car Races at the Volusia Speedway Park with Matt Crafton. We were able to spend the evening with he and his family. He and his dad actually built the "dirt" car he was racing this week. It and he both performed very well. The night we were able to attend he came in 5th out of about 30 cars racing.

Then we were off again to Brunswick, GA. We spent 2 days of quality time with Judy and Charlie Owens doing some sight-seeing on Jekyll Island and St Simons Island. We decided St Simons was our favorite and had lunch at Barbara Jean's on the island. If you are ever there, be sure and try her Chocolate "Stuff". If you like chocolate, this was the ultimate chocolate dessert.

On the road again – next up was Raleigh RV Resort in Four Oaks, North Carolina. The weather was great for us and we met new friends Kay and Ken Ennis there. Ken had a similar career to Tommy, so they hit it off immediately. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year, so we also shared that in common. Leaving after only 2 days of meeting these friends was hard, but we had a time line to complete.

Now we find ourselves in Shawboro, NC. Bonnie's favorite part of the trip is a 5-day quilting retreat with a bunch of girls in a huge house on the beach in Corolla, NC. This writing finds her anxiously awaiting this part

of our trip. I am sure she will return with an amazing new quilting project that she will work on during the remainder of our trip.

After Bonnie's retreat, we are planning to head to southern North Carolina and meet up with friends Cheryl and Emerson Dickey at their Beach House near Wilmington, North Carolina we will be staying at the KOA in Wilmington.

After the beach house with the Emersons, we will meander towards Stone Mountain, GA for our ECOA pre-rally, then on to the FMCA Rally in Perry, GA. We are meeting up with several good friends at both rallies and I am sure we will meet a few new ones along the way. After the FMCA rally we plan to leave our coach at NIRVC in Lawrenceville, GA for servicing, then we will drive the tow car back to Houston for a few weeks and, of course, some medical stuff. (Isn't that why most of us have to go home for periods of time?)

We hope to see all of you at the first AIM rally in Hilton Head, SC April 29th – May 3rd. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so soon. It is just around the corner and it is filling up.

Hope to see you all down the road,

Western Region Activities

2018 Entegra@Quartzsite Gathering By Gary Jones

A great adventure where friends with \$300,000 to \$700,000 coaches spend up to 14 days dry camping in the desert.

A high class Bohemian group?

We recently completed the third annual ENTEGRA@QUARTZSITE GATHERING in January 2018. Again, it was a success and 53 coaches ended up gathering with us. The supposed reason for the Gathering is the Quartzsite Sports, Home, and RV Show which is held in late January in the town of Quartzsite, AZ. Quartzsite is a little SW Arizona town of maybe 3500 locals and sits beside I-10 about 25 miles east of California. Like most southern Arizona towns, Quartzsite

has a small general population and lots of nice and not so nice RV parks for snow-birds who winter there. What makes Quartzsite unique is that from October to February or March, the town is host to a continuous series of rock, gem, tools, and "strange" merchandise for sale by hundreds of semi-permanent and itinerant vendors with tents and tables and a large array of stuff for sale. Here at "Tyson Wash", you can buy antique jewelry, tools, hats for cats, yard art, etc. etc. etc. What makes Quartzsite of interest is that it is the host of an RV show in late January. I have been told that the RV show used to be much bigger and more RV oriented, but frankly, my opinion is that it is not the greatest RV show. Sadly, Quartzsite is scheduled almost directly on top of the Tampa SuperShow every year, and I have attended both, and the Tampa SuperShow is where you will find display coaches from all major dealers, and reps and displays from virtually every major RV OEM equipment manufacturer (such as Blue Ox, Demco, AquaHot, SMI), etc. etc. If you are looking for a jam-packed show of coach related products, the Tampa SuperShow is the place to go. Quartzsite, on the other hand, in its recent iterations, is a show that calls itself a home and sport and RV show. At the show you will find an amazing array of stuff generally related to RVing such as some OEM manufacturers (AquaHot and Roadmaster and Demco)

Rollin' Along

Official Publication of the Entegra Coach Owners Association

but also vendors hawking induction and regular cookware, steam mops for tile floors, and RV and insurance vendors. You also find Passport America, Good Sams, FMCA, and Escapees club. There are also reps from every big western RV park who are willing to give first time visitors free 3 or 4 day passes to their parks as a way to show off their offerings and attract repeat visitors. All in all, it is an OK show. What makes Quartzsite unique is that virtually every piece of bare land on the two main streets are leased by RV dealers who bring in hundreds of RVs of all shapes and sizes to hopefully sell during the show. There are dealers for used Prevost and Newell coaches, small trailers, used coaches and units for sale by owners everywhere there isn't a building. These dealers come in only for the show. A dealer from California, Paul Evert RV, brings in 15-20 new Entegra coaches for sale along with 20-30 other brands. Redlands Truck and RV is an RV repair operation that brings in 10 repair bays complete with lifts to lift 45-foot diesel pushers off the ground and do chassis and frame repairs. The RV show runs for 10 days and usually begins on a Saturday.



Two rows of Entegra coaches at Quartzsite

What also makes Quartzsite unique is that the town is surrounded by

thousands of acres of Bureau of Land Management public land. It is said that the town population grows from ~ 3,500 to over 300,000 people in thousands of RVs camped on BLM land. There are thousands of acres which are free and open to anyone who wants to spend some time, and other areas called Long Term Visitor Areas, where BLM charges a small fee to use their facilities. For example, one can spend 9 months for \$180.00 and have access to their fresh potable water, dump stations, and dumpsters or spend \$40 for two weeks of access to the same facilities. Where one camps is to "squat" on some desert land made up of rocks and sand (not much sand) and you claim the space you think is good, and enjoy the SW Arizona weather which is usually nice, but can be cold and windy.

The ENTEGRA@QUARTZSITE GATHERING began in 2016 because before my Anthem, Dee and I owned a Monaco Dynasty. Since I was new to motor-coaching, I hung out on the Monaco Owners forum of www.irv2.com, which by the way, is a great place to find other owners who can probably answer the questions that you have that can't be answered by anyone else. On the Monaco forum, there was always a discussion of how 50 to 100 Monaco coach owners would gather during the RV show and "boondock" on BLM desert land. It sounded fun and we were going to try SW Arizona as a wintering place. However, before we could attend the Monaco group, we impulsively decided to buy our 2015 Anthem, and I started to hang out on the Entegra

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owner's forum of iRV2. I posted a thread asking if there was an Entegra group that got together at Quartzsite, and found out that if I wanted to have one, I needed to organize one. So, Dee and I became the "Wagonmasters" of the first Gathering (loosely sponsored by ECOA). We announced that we would try to get together with other Entegra owners to boondock on BLM land during the show. That first year, 2016, a total of 16 intrepid Entegra owners showed-up for the first annual ENTEGRA@QUARTZSITE GATHERING on BLM La Posa South LTVA land. There are no RV pads and no parks on BLM land. You claim it by occupying the land. So, Dee and I arrived 5 or 6 days early and were joined by some "local" Entegra owners from Las Vegas, Salome, and Phoenix who served as the parking committee and we collectively squatted on enough land for maybe 15 to 20 coaches. The cost to each coach was \$20 which paid for enough wood for bonfires every night. The only other cost was \$40 to the BLM for a permit to be on their land for up to 14 days and use their services (dump station, potable water, garbage containers).

So, a total of 16 Entegra coach owners made the first Gathering. I insisted that it be called a Gathering to distinguish it from a Rally. At a rally, you usually expect catered meals, organized events, entertainment, and full hookups. At the QUARTZSITE GATHERING, you get promised none of that, you simply paid for wood and were told where we were going to gather. In some ways, a "high class Bohemian group" showed up in their



Evening gathering at Quartzsite

\$300,000 to \$700,000 coaches to boondock for a week in the desert. People amused themselves at the show, in the town, off-roading in the desert and hills, or visiting Yuma, Parker, Lake Havasu, Blythe and other local attractions. What the ENTEGRA@QUARTZSITE gathering offered was 7-10 days of social interaction with other coach owners, evening bonfires, and camaraderie. It was so much fun, we decided to do it again in 2017 with 49 Entegra coaches finding their way to La Posa South, and that led to the January 2018 running of the Gathering where we had 53 coaches gathered together.

The Gathering has gotten a little more sophisticated and formal each year, but should never become a "rally". In addition to a bunch of nice people arriving with their nice coaches, this past 2018 Gathering offered nightly bonfires and BYOs and lots of interaction of owners as usual. However, we also had arranged for a very skilled

AquaHot tech to do annual and emergency service. This year, he did about 15 coaches which kept him busy for a day and a half. Also, we learned that a company that did 4-corner weighing of coaches was going to visit another group and arranged for them to visit our location the first weekend to do 4-corner weighing, plus give a talk on general tire safety and coach weight issues. He weighed about 15 coaches to give owners this important data. Also, we had a presentation by the owner of Redlands Truck and RV repair which does major frame and chassis repairs at the show. And for the second year in a row, we had the pleasure of hosting Pat Carroll, the head of the design team at Entegra, who conducted one of his “owner feedback sessions” where he listens to owners’ feedback and suggestions for design changes for a couple of hours. Also, this year Entegra Coach and Ken Walters (the Vice-President of Sales and Development, Entegra Coach) were nice enough to bankroll a very nice Bar-B-Que meal done at our Gathering site (prepared by a vendor, bought in by us). Pat had dinner with us and during his talk, Paul Everett RV brought out two display coaches for everyone to examine. In addition, owners organized two pot-luck dinners in addition to the one formal “catered” dinner, which came off great and there was a lot of food for everyone. Coaches came and went but we usually had 45 coaches parked in a big ellipse for the Gathering all the time (53 coaches total). Five coaches have been at all three Gatherings (Jim and Natalie Dixon, Sune and Maggie Brodin, the Brown/Cromptons, the Silcocks, and Dee and I) but quite a few coaches were there for their second time. Boondocking is not for everyone, and some realize that during the Gathering, but for those that are adventurous and flexible in their rituals (remember camping before luxury coaches?), find they can live without 50-amp power, daily showers, and city water easily for 7 to 10 days. If you want to meet nice owners in a relaxing venue and are in Arizona in the winter, consider Gathering with us at the 4th Annual ENTEGRA@QUARTZSITE GATHERING.

For a short video clip by **Denise Barlock**:

https://www.facebook.com/denisebarlock/videos/vb.674922277/10155928377737278/?type=2&video_source=user_video_tab

Secretary

Games People Play By Medarda Bauer (Secretary)

Get out, meet new people, and play a game or two

As we travel we are often able to stay at a resort or campground for more than one night. During check in the host will share resort information which includes the various events occurring for the week or month. The variety of offerings will often showcase the interests of those who tend to stay for “months” or “seasons” and usually include the “come and join us” phrase. Since the majority of us like to learn new things and are gregarious by nature I encourage you to take up the offer to join and learn something new. Who knows you might find an activity you enjoy and one to share as you move down the road.

Pickleball and Lawn Bowling (Duck Pins)

These are played during the day and outside. Both involve movement and the rules are straightforward. Resorts often have the equipment for your use and inevitably there will be someone to help you learn the rudiments of the game. Dress is simple with tennis shoes being the best form of footwear.

Golf

If a course is nearby there is usually a group that will go and play at least 9 holes during the week. While you usually must have your own equipment and shoes it is a great way to see the beauty of the area and talk to the locals.

Mah Jong

This is not the game on your computer, instead, it is a game of skill and luck. Using a Mah Jong set of 144 tiles four players attempt to be the first to complete a prescribed pattern of tiles. In visiting different places, I have found that most players are anxious to have new people play and are very willing to teach newcomers. In fact, at several of the ECOA Rallies Mah Jong has been played and taught. If you enjoy the game the small and portable Mah Jong set is easy to purchase from Amazon with the cards available from the Mah Jong Society.

Hand and Foot

While regional idiosyncrasies do exist, this is a fast-paced card game with four to six players. There are four rounds in a single game and the winning pair has the most points at the end. You attempt to create “books” of cards to amass points and (at least in Michigan) do not wish to be holding any three cards at the end of a round. This game is easy to learn and you only need four decks of cards and a card shuffler to play. Rules can be downloaded from the internet if you wish to review.

Euchre

This appears to be a predominately midwestern card game for four players. It might remind you a bit of bridge at times since the goal is to create 3 to 5 books in order to win the hand. You play with a shortened deck of face cards, aces, nines, and tens. The “jacks” of each suit are the most powerful cards taking books if played correctly. Playing with your spouse should be taken under advisement.

Poker

The name of the game depends on the region and the interest of the players. Some groups play for chips, others will play for \$.05/.10/.25.

Mexican Train and Chicken Foot

These are two domino games often played with several configurations of players. The object is to be the first to use all your dominoes in your possession. While you may talk among the players there is a strategy to block others from using their dominoes if needed.

Pegs and Jokers

A fast-paced game for two to six players. The object is to move your 5 pegs around the circular board to your home base. The casting of a die determines whether you move forward or back. The rules are simple and easily learned. I have only found the game for purchase on amazon or eBay.

These are just a sampling of available things to do. So, I encourage you to get out, meet some new people and learn a new game or two.



From the Editors Desk

Rollin' along has a new format thanks to Dana Sawyer. Dana has offered to help with the newsletter and personally I'm delighted. We hope you enjoy the new format.

Lynn and I are currently at our winter home in Chiefland, FL where I have lots of big antennas for ham radio, radio and optical telescope for viewing. So far, it's been a great year down here. The weather in the past week has warmed up into the 80's F during the day and stays in the 60°F at night. The Tampa super show was an absolute delight. Lots of new coaches to see and old and new friends to enjoy.

We have started a new motorhome club in conjunction with National Indoor RV Centers. This Club is for class A, B and C motorhomes. We have five rallies planned for 2018. Come take a look at what we have been up to at: aimclub.org

Lynn and I will be traveling all summer starting in June and ending in early November. Hope to see many of you along the way.

Slainte,

Tom Crowley