

OFFICERS 2020

President

Mike Sanders
6414 Hickory Hill Road
Stanfield, NC 28163
704-654-0867
jmsblueknight@gmail.com

First Vice President

Duane Lindsey
269 Sugar Hill Road
Rexford, NY 12148
Phone: 518-365-3611
duanelin@aol.com

Second Vice President Vacant

VP of Membership

Lois Tucker
13534 Laughery Creek Rd.
Dillsboro, IN 47018
Phone: 703-362-4733
lpt1@seidata.com

Secretary

Carolyn Banks
117 Rainbow Dr. #1775
Livingston, TX 77399-1017
Phone: 903-556-2547
davis02banks@yahoo.com

Treasurer

R.O. "Dick" Wolfe
704 Palma Sola Blvd.
Bradenton, FL 34209
Phone: 941-224-9180
wolfenas@aol.com

National Director

Harry Henschel
3520 Windjammer Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
719-339-9237
hands1968@me.com

Alternate Nat'l Director

Norma Preston
210 Rainbow Dr. #11048
Livingston, TX 77399-2010
Phone: 714-458-7570
npreston77399@gmail.com

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1

Joe Bolkovatz Vacant

Region 2

Monica Buckhout Jim Crimmins

Region 3

Verda DeGerald Rick Pasetto

Region 4

Bart Mix Gordon Owenby

Region 5

Nancy Nelson Don Henderson

Region 6

Bob Tucker Vacant

Newsletter Editor

Maxine Schremp
mschremp2002@yahoo.com
540-273-1606



A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

Web: www.MIRVClub.com

President's Message

Greetings,

Let me begin by thanking Dale Johnson for serving as our MI President. He stepped up as Second Vice President when no one else would. Then, Dale stepped up to President when the position became vacant. He was committed to MI and attempted to move the Club forward. Recently, Dale resigned as President. As the MI First Vice President, I am now the President. I will work hard and will always strive to have the best interests of the Club when making decisions on behalf of the Club. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your suggestions.



As we navigate these very difficult times due to COVID-19, it was decided to cancel the MI-Pre Rally in August. We are taking things day by day and as of right now, the Balloon Fiesta is still a go! Perhaps Monaco International will be able to offer an additional rally this year, but as of now we are in a wait and see mode. We are already considering possibilities for 2021.

Your Executive Board is busy addressing many issues including updating our website, updating our bylaws, and resolving rally and membership issues.

Recently, Nancy Wolfe, the Nominating Committee Chairperson, sent out two emails announcing vacancies for Secretary, Vice President of Membership and several Regional Directors. She received ZERO responses. Now, we have a vacancy for Second Vice President! Monaco International has no purpose without member participation. We must have people to lead this club if it is to continue. Please consider stepping up so our MI RV Club can continue.

Please stay safe during these trying times. Rest assured these trying times will come to an end. Let's be prepared to let the good times roll again.

I look forward to meeting you at a future rally.

Mike Sanders, President

Meet Duane Lindsey

Our First Vice President Message

and his wife, Karen



Hello everyone,

I am Duane Lindsey your current 1st Vice President. I volunteered to fill the empty position of 2nd Vice President last year at the Rapid City summer Pre rally.

Karen and I have had a pickup camper and later a 30ft towable, which we used with our daughters. We have 4, and now 8 grandkids. In the spring of 2011, we visited one of my brothers who took us out for a weekend with his wife. They own a 2005 Knight. We were hooked! Three weeks later we were the proud owners of a 2004 Diplomat we purchased on eBay. We flew to Phoenix from upstate New York and proceeded to drive back.

Skip, one of my brothers that is a volunteer firefighter owned a 2002 Signature. He told me to join FMCA and Monaco International as well as Empire State Chapter and the Monaco Northeast Explorers. The next summer we were introduced to a MI Pre Rally in Springfield, Ohio. Skip and I went to visit Wright Patterson AIR Force Museum. That was a costly visit, our wives went shopping while we were there. We both drove back to upstate NY in new 2012 Monaco's purchased from RV Country. Skip and his wife in a Dynasty and us in a Diplomat 43DFT.

While I was working full time in the family farm and orchard business, we did not have a lot of time to travel. We did manage to attend all of the MI Pre Rally's in the East and Midwest. Also a Rally in Branson and the Balloon Fiesta. Last year after the destination rally in Tallahassee, we went to Perry, GA for the FMCA convention. We traded our Diplomat for a 2016 American Eagle from RV Country.

Please, if you can volunteer at one of our rally's, you won't be sorry! Karen and I have met many new friends while we were volunteering as Sheriffs. Without volunteers we can not do what we do at our rally's.

We hope to see some of you in Albuquerque this fall

Duane Lindsey

<http://MIRVClub.com>



Lois's Membership Report

May is here already. The trees and grass are growing. Farmers getting ready to plant. It's Great.....Here we are during this beautiful time, staying indoors, keeping our distance, searching for food in the stores and watching others doing their thing as usual.

Never fear, we have things in our house to catch up on. We could Spring clean, paint, move furniture around, get ready for our gardens, reading the latest books, cleaning up our computer files and organize 101 things that we have been putting off.

One thing we are doing is looking into MI's lapsed members for this year. We would like to know why they didn't renew, have they attended any of our rallies, what can we do to bring them back into the active membership of MI and just to say "hi" and listen to some of their concerns.

Various members have been able to speak to about 57 lapsed members so far. Most of the lapsed members do not return our messages, but of the 138 lapsed members that were contacted, 26 renewed their membership. This is about 19%. I know we will see more as soon as our members contact the lapsed members on their list. Is this worth it? I am not sure yet! With a lot of members helping with the calling, we just might find it very beneficial.

Here are our Monaco International new members for the months of February, March and April. If they are in your area, give them a call and welcome them.

Lois Tucker



Welcome Our New Members

February New Members		March New Members	
Danny & Teresa Sprouse	Abbeville, SC	Dale & Debra Bashaw	Box Elder, SD
John & Lisa Landy	Venice, FL	Cody & Shannon Pierce	El Paso, TX
Bonnie & Bob Patterson	Port St Lucie, FL	Dennis & Joan Daniel	Santa Maria, CA
Kerry & Debby Kliever	Albany, OR	Jeff & Elisa Stoyanowski	Yucaipa, CA
Larry & Barbara Harmon	Georgetown, TX	Joe & Cindy DiJulio	Sahuarita, AZ
David & Debbie Hauser	Lewisville, NC		
Woody & Winnie O'Brian	Wilson, NC		
Lee & Linda Perry	Pleasant Valley, MO		

April New Members	
David & Elizabeth Ledbetter	Palm Bay, FL
Ben & Linda Brocco	Modesto, CA
Mark & Teri Meyer	Puyallup, WA

HELP! HELP! HELP!

YOUR CLUB IS FALLING AND CAN'T GET UP WITHOUT YOUR HELP!!!!

- The Nominating Committee has been busy working diligently to recruit officers to fill upcoming vacancies on our Executive Board and Regional Directors positions. **This will be our third "mass appeal" to you the members of Monaco International.**
- We cannot have a club without volunteers to lead....**this lack of leadership means no rallies, no gathering of long time friends, no making new friends, NO CLUB!!!**
- Following is a list of positions that will be vacant if we don't have members step up and volunteer. **We can't have a club without volunteers!** We all have something to offer, please consider helping Monaco International survive in these trying times!

Executive Board Positions Open:

2nd Vice President

Vice President of Membership

Secretary

- One Regional Director for Regions 1 and 2 are needed.....we have at least 2 candidates for all other Regions.
- **Thank you** to those that have stepped up and placed your names on the upcoming ballot, we only need **6 more members willing to serve Monaco International. If you know of someone that we should reach out to that has the desire and ability to serve MI, please let us know!!**

• Contact:

Nancy Wolfe – 941-704-4455 or dicknancywolfe@aol.com

Laura Wyatt- 214-801-8353 or laurawyat@aol.com

Meet the Ledbetter's

We bought our first RV in 2015 after we were both retired. It was a 33' Fleetwood Diesel pusher, no pop up, no travel trailer or 5th wheel previous experience. We so enjoyed the RV lifestyle we traded for a 40' tag axle, 3 slide out RV and now want to use it at least six months out of the year. It is so much fun to travel and see new parts of the country, let alone all the friendly helpful people you meet along the way.

David and Elizabeth Ledbetter



Monaco International Destination Rally
April 5, 2020 - April 9, 2020

CANCELLED

March 17, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 disaster yesterday afternoon I had to make a decision that I really did not want to. For everyone's safety, I decided to cancel the "Springtime in Savannah Rally". As soon as we get back the deposits paid to the campground and dinner cruise, we will send out refunds to all who have registered.

Possibly in the spring of 2021 we will try to do this rally again

Duane R Lindsey, Rally Master
2nd 1st Vice President

Hopefully everyone has been refunded their rally fees by now. If not, please contact our Treasurer, Dick Wolfe, 941-224-9180
wolfenas@aol.com

A New Piece of Software!

I have to tell you, download the "GypsyGuide.com" app onto your phone.

When you go to the national parks and some other places, start the application and it is like having a tour guide sitting in the car with you!!

We had downloaded an app for Arches and Canyon Land. We left the campsite and right away, the man started talking. Telling us which lane to get into if we were going to Canyon Land. We pulled in and he (the software) told us to stop at the visitor center for maps and information. He told us he would be waiting in the car for us. We started along the trail and he told us to pull off on this small space but it was big enough for us. Now look up high to your left and see the three penguins. We would never had looked up that high, but we did see the three penguins there. It is a great program that runs off your GPS. Try it!

Lois Tucker

UPCOMING RALLIES YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

Unfortunately almost all FMCA Conventions and Area Rallies for the rest of 2020 have been cancelled with one possible exception, the Rocky Mountain Ramble.

October 22 - 25, 2020

MI's renowned Balloon Fiesta Rally in Albuquerque, NM. (mirvclub.com)

October 20 - 24, 2020

RMMA Ramble (Rocky Mountain Area Rally) - Pima County Fairgrounds Tucson, AZ.
(jerickson@fmca.com)

2021 Rallies and Conventions:

December 28, 2020 - January 2, 2021

SOI Rose Parade Rally - Pasadena, CA,
paul@soiclub.com

January 6—10, 2021

Monaco Romer's Pre Rally at Riverside Fairgrounds Indio, CA

January 13—17, 2021

Western Area Rally at Riverside Fairgrounds, Indio, CA

January 13—17, 2021

Monaco Travelers—Tampa RV SuperShow, Tampa Florida
ron@vikingmarina.com, 358-242-4480

March

Monaco International Pre-Rally - Location TBD, close to Perry, GA in

March 10 - 13, 2021

FMCA Winter/Spring Convention & Expo - Perry, Georgia

Late June/Early July

Monaco International Pre-Rally - Location TBD, in or close to Gillette

July 7 - 10, 2021

FMCA Summer Convention & Expo - Gillette, WY

October 6 - 10, 2021

MI Balloon Fiesta Rally - Albuquerque, NM

*If you know of any rallies that you would like to see added to this list,
please send them to our Newsletter Editor, Maxine Schremp,
mschremp2002@yahoo.com*

TIPS & tricks

Are you having trouble finding paper towels in these crazy times? Ever thought about using large coffee filters? These can be purchased at the Dollar Tree and can be

used for many things. They can soak up grease from bacon, fries, etc.; you can use them to cover dishes when reheating in the microwave and use them to clean windows, mirrors and chrome since they are lint free. Think outside the box and make a game of finding how many things you can use coffee filters for.

Splendide does not recommend that we use detergent pods in our washers, but how much detergent should you use? It is recommended to use only 2-3 teaspoons. What about other washers? Did you know that detergent lids have markings on the inside to let you know how much detergent to use? The lids are marked for small, medium and large loads. So the next time you do laundry, use the recommended amount indicated on the lid. This will help you get closer to the 32 loads of laundry out of the 50 ounce bottle that it says on the label!

Submitted by: Sandy Hentschel

More Tips and Tricks in the next newsletter

Sandy Hentschel

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.” — *Helen Keller*

2020 MI BALLOON FIESTA RALLY

October 7-10, 2020

It's not too late to sign up, but don't procrastinate as the rally is two-thirds full as of February 1st. The rally will open up to non-members sponsored by an MI member attending the rally in mid-April. In 2019, we had a significant "Waiting List" at the end of the day on April 15th.

If you have not been to this event with MI in recent years, you can review the Recap of the 2019 Rally in the December Newsletter. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact the Hentschel's at (hands1969@me.com or hhsh1968@gmail.com, 719-339-9237; or 719-237-5412) or the Smaley's at rogersmalley@ymail.com; or carolgriffinsmalley@yahoo.com; 618-593-5352 or 618-537-999.



MONACO INTERNATIONAL 2020 BALLOON FIESTA RALLY

Hosted By --- Harry & Sandy Hentschel & Roger & Carol Smalley

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wednesday, October 7 – Saturday, October 10, 2020

Departure on Sunday October 11, 2020 after morning ballooning events



The Balloon Fiesta is the most photographed event in the world.

600 balloons come from around the world to participate in the greatest spectacle of its kind. You won't believe your eyes as 100 or more special shaped balloons take off to create a menagerie in the sky. See Mass Ascensions, Night Glows, Special Shapes Glows, Races, Key Grab Competition, Fireworks, and more. Nearby for your entertainment – Golf, Casinos, Shopping, Fine Restaurants, etc.

There will be NO REFUNDS unless your cancellation request is received by e-mail (prior to July 15th) or mailed and post-marked by July 15th or your space can be filled from the wait list. Registration confirmations will be emailed. If you want a confirmation mailed, please enclose a stamped, return addressed envelope.



Sign up online
(Preferred)
at

WWW.MIRVCLUB.COM

We will be parked in the VIP West area which is immediately adjacent to the launch site.

This will be Dry Camping and no hook-ups. However, water and honey wagon are available for a fee.

Rally Contacts:

Harry & Sandy Hentschel
719-339-9237 or 719-237-5412
email: hands1968@me.com

Roger & Carol Smalley
618-593-5352 or 618-537-9999
email: rogersmalley@gmail.com
carolgriffinsmalley@yahoo.com

Registrar: Sandy Hentschel
719-237-5412
Email: hhsh1968@gmail.com

The rally fee includes

Parking, admission to all ballooning events, welcome dinner, one luncheon, two breakfasts and the Bring Your Own Beverage social hour with appetizers provided each afternoon before the evening Fiesta activities.

Sign up Information Required:

- MI Member? YES _____ NO _____ FMCA # _____
- Non-MI members must have a MI sponsor attending Rally. MI Sponsor's name: _____

Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone# _____ Cell# _____

E-Mail Address: _____

All Rally related correspondence will be sent to this e-mail address

Coach Make _____ Coach Length _____

Names of Guests: _____
(all guests must be preregistered regardless of age)

Please make checks payable to:
Monaco International Balloon Fiesta Rally

Mail to: **Monaco International**
c/o Sandy Hentschel
3520 Windjammer Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

[] Please check if this will be your first time at the Balloon Fiesta with Monaco international.

MI Member Coach	2 persons	\$550
MI Member Coach	1 person	\$500
Non-MI Coach	Additional	\$150
Extra person (13 & Above)	each	\$150
Extra person 6-12	each	\$ 90
Extra person under 6 free (but must be registered)		
TOTAL		

Recipes for You & Yours

by Carolyn Banks

These are two of my favorite recipes. The Chicken Piccata I've used for a good while, but the Quick and Easy Guacamole Salad is a recent discovery. I probably have 10 different Guacamole recipes, but this is so "quick and easy" that it's my new favorite.

CHICKEN PICCATA

Ingredients

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
3 tablespoons lemon juice from concentrate
1/8 teaspoon each garlic powder and paprika
1/4 cup margarine or butter (I use unsalted butter)
2 teaspoons chicken-flavor instant bouillon (or 2 chicken-flavor bouillon cubes)
1/2 cup boiling water
1 egg
1/4 cup unsifted flour

Beat egg with 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Combine flour, garlic powder, and paprika. Dip chicken in egg mixture, then in flour mixture. In skillet, brown chicken on both sides in butter (3 to 5 min, depending on size). Dissolve bouillon in water; add with remaining lemon juice to skillet. Cover; simmer 20 minutes or until tender. Serve topped with pan sauce. Garnish as desired. Refrigerate leftovers.



QUICK AND EASY GUACAMOLE SALAD

Ingredients

3 avocados
1 container (about 6 oz) prepared pico de gallo (mild or hot), drained
Juice of 1 lime
Tortilla chips, pretzels or celery sticks for serving

-Cut avocados in half. Remove seeds (reserve 1 seed). Use a spoon to scoop avocados from peels and rough chop.

-Mix with next two ingredients in a bowl.

-Place reserved seed in the bowl with salad and top with plastic wrap flush with surface. (The seed and plastic wrap, along with lime juice, will protect avocados from turning brown over time.)

-Refrigerate for 1 hour to allow flavors to develop.

-Serve with chips, pretzels, or celery sticks as desired. Refrigerate leftovers, if any.

****Recipe can be easily increased depending on number to be served. Great for a spontaneous (or even planned) potluck. Of course, you can also make your own fresh pico de gallo, but I don't, since it takes me a while to use all the ingredients that are left over from making enough just for us. And besides, I gave away my food processor a while back, since I wasn't using it often enough to justify carrying it around in our full-time RV. (makes about 1.5 cups)**

Enjoy

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BOARD - APRIL 2020

Hello, Governing Board Members:

I received my April issue of *Family RVing* in the mail last week. My president's message to our membership started out with the title "APRIL FOOLS'S DAY JOKE? NOPE!"

When these words were written toward the end of February, I never would have imagined what has happened to all of us since. I still am in shock how everything in the world, including FMCA, has been turned upside down.

The Governor of Ohio has shut down all nonessential businesses in the state. That means FMCA had to close its two Cincinnati offices. We saw this coming, and FMCA's IT department worked diligently to set up essential staff so that they could work from home. We have our computer and phone systems working, so even though staff are not at the national offices, services are still provided to keep your association running.

Both of FMCA's international conventions scheduled for 2020 have been canceled. The Tucson convention, canceled just two weeks before it was set to begin, has resulted in a huge financial loss for your association. We estimate that we will end up losing over \$700,000 from the cancellation of these two events. Being the nonprofit that we are, we simply do not have the money to refund the convention registration fees to the members who were looking forward to going to Tucson. Your Board of Directors made the difficult decision to issue convention certificates to each registrant. These certificates are good for over three years, and they are transferrable, which means they can be given to or sold to others. The added value to these certificates is that the services purchased for the Tucson event will be good at future events...with NO additional fees required. That means even though the registration fees may increase for future events, certificate holders will not have to pay any additional fee for the equivalent service. If you hold a certificate and because of your age or situation you feel you may not be able to attend a future convention, you can sell your certificate to others who would like to use it.

The Governing Board voted to increase FMCA dues by \$25 at the Minot meeting last summer. Since then, we have seen a steep drop in the membership growth FMCA had been experiencing for two-plus years. From September 2019 through March 2020, we have lost a net of 1,930 members. In the same time period a year ago, we gained a net of 1,731 members. In the same time period two years ago, we gained a net of 2,176 members. Our dues renewal rate is down 3.5% from a year ago, and down 5.5% from two years ago (during the same time periods). What is even more disturbing is the fact that our new member acquisition is down 24.3% from last year and down 25.4% from two years ago (same time periods).

The current pandemic has also hit our membership numbers as it has hit our finances. We lost a net of 787 members in the month of March 2020—the most we have lost in a single month since 2015. The trend for this month, April, is that we may experience a loss of more than 1,000 members. That is disheartening. I have not seen anything like this during my 30-year membership in FMCA.

Continued on next page

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BOARD - APRIL 2020

Continued from page 10

Your association consists of three main functions: CONVENTIONS/RALLIES, COMMUNICATION/PUBLICATIONS, AND MEMBER BENEFITS. If FMCA is to survive, we must continue to provide our membership with these three essential services.

The good news is that you have elected good national officers to represent your association between your Governing Board meetings. You also have a very skilled and seasoned Finance Committee. This committee is made up of members who have spent their whole working lives (most of them) in the financial world, and they have many, many years of experience as involved FMCA members.

Please pray for your association leadership. Please let our staff know of any members suffering from this dreaded virus. And please know that as the world's largest nonprofit RV association, we will weather this storm...and come out on top, better for it.

Until next time,



President of FMCA

Treasurers Report

Monaco International made a gift to the FMCA of \$10,000.00 to help offset the \$700,000.00 to \$800,000.00 loss they will incur as a result of the Covid-19 cancellations of the winter and summer conventions. In addition to this direct loss the investment account is down about \$1,500,000.00 due the Covid-19 shutdown. This has led to layoffs in the FMCA office of several longtime employees who have served us diligently in the past. Hopefully the investment account will recover in time. If FMCA does not receive additional donations or earned income, funds will have to be withdrawn from the investment account to offset the aforementioned losses. This will lead to a real loss in the investment account and FMCA balance sheet will go down.

FMCA is important to MI and the entire RV Industry therefore we as your Executive Board made this decision. We have donated many times to various charities and this time thought charity should begin at home, and would urge all of you to help in this effort to keep FMCA a strong and viable organization.

Dick Wolfe, Treasurer



Harry's TECK TIPS for Spring

I'm sure that the vast majority of us are anxious for the Country and the World to return to some semblance of normalcy. Spring has sprung and we're anxious to get our coaches out of storage and travel down the road, or for some of us to head back north to our home base before it gets too hot where we're at.

Regardless, we all need to pay attention to some critical issues before we hit the road in coming weeks, hopefully days.

Here are some basic Spring issues to work on while we are isolated:

Outside - Visually inspect tires to make sure there are no major cracks, tears or bruises. Ensure proper inflation. Check the DOT date code. If more than 5 years old, you should begin to consider replacing. RV tires age out before they wear out. More tire information can be found at: <https://rvsafety.com/rveducation/rv-tires>.

Best Surprise is No Surprise - You do not want to start the coach up to take off and nothing, or little happens when you turn the ignition key. If you have lead acid batteries, check first to ensure the plates in each cell are covered with water. Then fully charge the batteries. Then fill each cell to the recommend level - usually a ring. While you are in the battery compartment(s), clean the batteries, remove any corrosion and treat with a battery terminal protector. CDC products are available for this task.

If you have the dexterity, crawl under your coach to look for leaks, kinked or loose hoses and cables, exposed wires, etc. Be sure to block your coach up with fixed stands - and not with levelers! It's a good time to check all of your running lights, turn signals and brake lights. I know you probably do this every time you hook up to depart on a trip, but that is not a good time to find out your brake lights are not working.

If you are having trouble with others entering your social space, wash and wax the coach. I have yet in over eighteen years of owning a larger coach had someone come offer to help me with these chores.

Inside - Air out the interior, especially if in storage, and give it a good cleaning. You know, the kind you kept telling yourself you would do when you had time.

Inspect and test all appliances.

Inspect and replace batteries in all smoke and CO2 detectors. Its also a good time to replace batteries in all remotes and thermometers.

Check for water leaks and replace water and HAVC filters. Good time to dust the roof vent screens.

Inventory RV supplies - You may need TP if you raided the coach while it was in storage.

Flush out your fresh water system and sanitize the plumbing. This is good even if you have been living in the coach this winter.

Harry Hentschel



The First Computer:

The oldest computer can be traced to Adam and Eve. Yes, it was an Apple. But with an extremely limited memory —, just one byte. Then everything crashed.