



A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

Web: www.MIRVClub.com

OFFICERS 2022-2023

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President's Message

Season's Greetings MI members,

As the year 2023 approaches, 2022 will soon be little more than a memory. Can you say you traveled to all of the planned places or completed all the items on the bucket list? Did you share wonderful times with family and friends? Did your travels afford you so many new friendships that you need not go any further? Can you dare to imagine a better view than the one afforded to you looking through the windshield as you roll down the highways and byways of this great nation? If you answered no to these questions, I'm writing this article especially for you, and you, and oh yeah, you too. Grab your favorite cup of coffee or preferred beverage and read on.

MI offers two types of rallies: pre-rallies and destination rallies. The basic difference is a pre-rally usually precedes the FMCA Convention. Destination rallies focus on a destination. All MI rallies offer the opportunity to explore the surrounding area while socializing with friends and enjoying good food.

This is a reminder to hurry and sign up for the MI Pre-Rally to the FMCA Convention in Perry, Georgia. This rally will be at the Fair Harbor RV Park located across the highway from the fairgrounds where the FMCA Convention will be taking place. The cutoff date for registering and contacting the campground for reservations is January 3, 2023. Visit the MI website (www.mirvclub.com) under Upcoming Rallies, "Eat, Drink, Be Merry in Perry" to register.

In 2023, MI has plans for two rallies to be held west of the Mississippi. We will be in Gillette, Wyoming for the MI Pre-

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Rally to the FMCA Convention in August. And in October, we will return to the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, New Mexico. MI is featuring two destination rallies in the Northeast area of the country in August and October. The 2023 MI rallies are posted on the website (www.mirvclub.com). I hope your travel itinerary includes a stop at one or more of the MI rallies.

One final note. For those of you who may have considered “hosting” a MI rally, now is the time. As a rally master, you have the opportunity to select the “destination” and plan the events. It is a bit of work but it is fun and rewarding. Warning....you may discover being the rally master is like eating chips, once is never enough. No problem, your Executive Board is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to support you.

Sharron and I wish you and all of your family a safe, happy, healthy, and joyful holiday season.

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V. P. of Membership

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and I would like to wish all of you a Happy and Joyous Holiday season.

Dues are Due,

Membership dues are due on January 1st and everyone should have received a renewal email unless you have already paid for multiple years. I still show about a third of our membership has not yet renewed their membership. Unfortunately, I have had a hand full of members notify me that they have sold their coach and are no longer traveling, although a couple have stayed on as Associate Members. Thank you all for your past membership. The good news is we have added 16 new members, bringing our membership total to 558.

Welcome New Members

Pam Amici	Cedar City, UT
Tom & Sharon Doar	Carbon, TX
John & Pam Ehlers	Ninilchik, AK
Jim & Patsy Gallaway	Owassa, OK
Jim & Maggie Grinstead	Roxboro, NC
Steve & Heather Grover	Phoenix, AZ
Wayne & Loiselle Hedgepath	Hickory, NC
Ken & Patsy Johnson	Peachland, NC
David & Tammy Kiser	Harrisburg, NC
Brian & Diane Krupicka	Yorkville, IL
Sean & Janet Phillips	Gilbert, AZ
Sterling Phillips & Sara Lee	Tustin, CA
Joseph Roland & Heather Howley	Saddle River, NJ
Don & Janet Schafer	Waretown, NJ
Everett & Debbie Simmons	Murfreesboro, TN
Wayne & Donna Thomas	Middletown, DE

Check out what's happening at mirvclub.com and join us at one of our upcoming events. I encourage everyone to be involved with our club. Membership participation is key to the continued existence of this club. Volunteer at rallies. If you're interested in being a Board Member, send a message to one of the current board members and we will forward you information to the election committee. We need members (new and seasoned) to step up and participate with fresh ideas and leadership.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at one of our future events

Gary Smith

V P of Membership

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National Director's Report

Greetings Monaco International members.

As your new National Director, I have been asked to introduce myself to you all. My name is John Shields I have been married for 37 years to my wife Sheri, who is also the editor of this newsletter. Sheri and I have four children, Daniel, Andrew, Jeremiah, and Hannah. We also have three grandchildren, Ithaca, Max and Jameson.

I retired in July of 2020 after 31 years with the Riverside County Sheriff's Office in Southern California. I had a varied career to include: patrol; motors; bike patrol; homicide detective; court security; traffic accident reconstructionist; and even taught traffic collision investigations for our community college.

Sheri and I have been camping for 39 years. We started off in a tent, then a tent trailer, followed by a fifth-wheel toy hauler, and now we have our Monaco motorhome called "Mona". In June of 2021, we sold our home and have been living full-time in our motorhome with our dog Ruger. We joined Monaco International shortly after buying our motorhome in August of 2020. Prior to being the National Director, I was a regional director. We have really enjoyed being part of the MI family.

We wish everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas,

John and Sheri Shields

Alternate National Director's Report

My name is Gordon Owenby, my wife is Nancy. We were married this past July of 2022. She is originally from central New York in the Finger Lakes area and has been a resident of West Seneca (Buffalo), NY for the last 26 years. Nancy retired from the New York State Court System. She has 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren, and still owns a home there where we live part-time. I am originally from North Carolina and have been a resident of Jacksonville, FL for the last 55 years. I have 2 sons and 7 grandchildren. I have had several various careers, last being retired from Teamster Union car haul.

I have been a member of MI for 10 years and a Regional Director for about 6 years, as well as a member of 3 other clubs under FMCA. I have been a co-rally master, and now, with my wife Nancy, your rally masters for the upcoming rally in Perry, GA. We have held numerous positions volunteering for MI and FMCA.

In closing, we would like to thank all members for your participation, volunteering and input to help make your MIRV Club better for all. Hope to see you in Perry.

Gordon and Nancy Owenby.

SAVE THE DATES

"Eat, Drink and Be Merry in Perry"

Pre-Rally in Perry, GA

Fair Harbor RV Park

March 6 (arrival) - 10 (departure), 2023

Rally Masters: Gordon and Nancy Owenby (904-424-7485)

Registration is now open.

Destination Rally, August 10 -13, 2023

Ives Run Campground, Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes

Tioga, PA

**Rally Masters: Walter and Nancy Nelson, 846-878-3232,
to register and for details.**

"Roaming to Wyoming"

Pre-Rally in Gillette, WY

Cam-Plex Multi-Event Center

August, 15 (arrive) - 19 (departure), 2023

More details coming soon.

Destination Rally, October 10 - 14, 2023

Lake George Riverview RV Park, NY

Rally Masters: Duane and Karen Lindsey, 515-365-3611

"Balloon Fiesta"

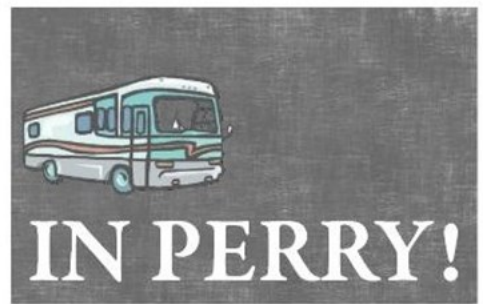
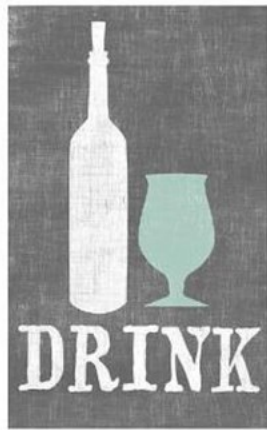
Albuquerque, NM

October 11-15, 2023

Rally Masters: Denise and David Hillemann

mirvclubballoonfiestarallymasters@gmail.com

More details coming soon.



HURRY, HURRY, HURRY! A limited number of sites are still available for the Monaco International Pre-Rally which will take place immediately preceding the FMCA Convention in Perry, GA. The rally fee of \$330 for two people includes a Welcome Social with adult beverages and hamburgers with fixings, 3 dinners w/social hours, 3 breakfasts, entertainment, ice cream social, a guided tour of the Aviation Museum of Warner Robbins w/lunch and a guided tour of the Masse Lane Gardens which is an International Camelia Society "Garden of Excellence". *A special feature of the garden tour is the Boehm Porcelain Collection. Masse Lane Gardens is home to one of three Boehm Eagles. The Smithsonian Museum and the White House display the other two eagles.*

This rally will take place at Fair Harbor RV Park which is located at the same exit as the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter which is where the FMCA Convention will take place. Fair Harbor requires each attendee make reservations directly with them by calling 478-988-8844. Site costs range in price from \$48 - \$50 per night depending on site location. You may have to change sites if you remain at the Fair Harbor after the MI rally due to another rally taking place. The deadline to make a reservation is January 3, 2023.

Other rally highlights include seminars, cash giveaways, a 50-50 raffle, door prizes, card bingo, a book and puzzle exchange, crafts, a men's and a ladies' luncheon (\$) and a general membership meeting. Aqua Hot service and coach weighing will be available for an additional fee.

With the focus on having fun, spending time with friends and making new friends, we hope you will Eat Drink Be Merry In Perry!

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For additional information, please contact either Gordon Owenby at 904-424-7485 or Sharron Riley at ser211@bellsouth.net.

To register, please visit mirvclub.com.

REGISTRATION FOR THIS RALLY IS A TWO STEP PROCESS. YOU MUST REGISTER FOR CAMPING THROUGH FAIR HARBOR RV PARK AND YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND THE RALLY AT mirvclub.com.

We look forward to seeing you in Perry,

Gordon and Nancy Owenby

Rally Masters

Fair Harbor RV Perry, GA



MONACO INTERNATIONAL and JERSEY GEMS

Start planning your August rallies NOW

August 3-6, 2023 is the Northeast Area Rally, Herkimer, NY. The rally will have entertainment at night and many places to go and things to do in the area. On August 6th, head down to IVES RUN Campground, Tioga, PA. for the MI destination rally and the Jersey Gems rally. Anyone who has not been to Ives Run before, it is a beautiful National Park Campground. It has all paved sites with full hookups at over 50 of the sites. All the sites are beautiful and spacious. Members from each club who have to leave early to go to the MI pre rally and the International Convention Rally, Ives Run is still a good place to stop.

The Ives Run Destination Rally and Gems Rally will be August 9th - 13th. Wednesday after, the 9th, go to the Rusted Nut Restaurant for lunch. Wednesday evening will be a meet and greet. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday we will have breakfast and dinner meals. Sunday morning, breakfast brunch.

Ives Run Campground is about 25 miles from Elmira, NY. There a number of places to go and things to do also in this area. Remember, if you have a National Park Pass, the full hook-up sites cost \$20 a night.

REMEMBER!!! TO CALL 6 MONTHS TO THE DAY YOU WANT TO COME INTO THE CAMPGROUND TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET A RESERVATION. Make your reservation at

<http://www.recreation.gov> or by calling 877-444-6777.

You want to get into the Hawthorn Loop, that is where we, your host, will be.

We will give more specifics for the rally in the May newsletter.

Once you have your reservation, please send us an E-mail, Nancy 2 quilt@aol.com, or call 609-476-4367'

Your hosts, Nancy and Walter Nelson

76th Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

October 11 (arrive)-15 (depart), 2023

Dave and I are excited to join the Monaco International team as the Rally Master for the 76th Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. We are excited and scared of the new venture. Harry & Sandy have big shoes to fill!

In the next couple of months we will be keeping everyone informed as to when reservations can be made. Please reserve EARLY!

We will also communicate with further information as needed.

We will be trying a few new concepts for Happy Hour get togethers.

To contact us please use the email address below.

David & Denise Hillemann

Mirvclubballoonfestrallymaster@gmail.com

We look forward to a great Rally with friends and new friends in Albuquerque in October 11-15, 2023.

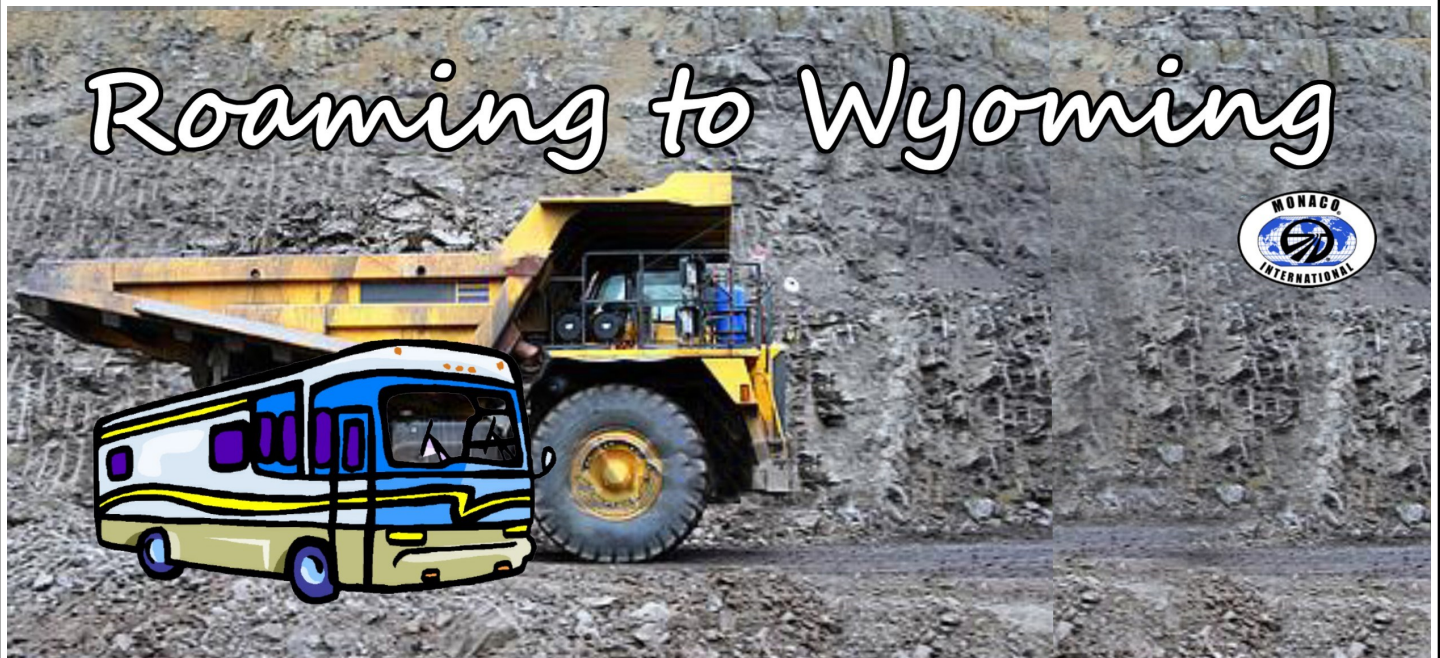


Notifications

Greetings Monaco International Members,

The new Monaco International RV Club website (mirvclub.com) is now live and public. To logon to the new website a two step verification process is required, which is a password and a picture (I'm not a robot). This two step verification process will increase our website's security and prevent Phishing schemes.

Mike Sanders
President Monaco International



Closing Thoughts

