

Volume 5, Issue 1

April, 2013

2012 - 2013

OFFICERS

President

Wilt Greenwood
229 Rainbow Drive,
PMB 12936
Livingston, TX 77399
(804) 337-7733

First Vice President

David Piper
2500 Blue Spruce
Edmond, OK 73003
Cell Phone: 405-833-8471

Second Vice President

Mitch Mitchell
6500 Hayes Street
Hollywood, FL 33024
612-747-8051

VP of Membership

JeanAnn Miller
11085 Big Canoe
Big Canoe, GA 30143
(678) 617-8855

Secretary

De Pitts
520 Highland Ave.
Prescott, AZ 86303
(928) 713-6469

Treasurer

Linda Schreiber
2040 West Main St.
Suite 210-2367
Rapid City, SD 57702-2570
(408) 318-1189

National Director

Nancy Wolfe
704 Palma Sola Blvd.
Bradenton, FL 34209
(941) 704-4455

Alternate Nat'l Director

Maxine Schremp
216 McCarty Road
Fredericksburg, VA 224057
(540) 273-1606

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1

Kent Pratt
Donna Walters

Region 2

Jackie Holt
Don Preston

Region 3

Margaret Walker
Laura Wyatt

Region 4

Betty Ehlenberg
Andrea Sponenberg

Region 5

Richard Grega
Ginny Perrone

Region 6

Jean Firl
Dick Strzyzewski

Dir. At Large Jack Brewster
Dir. At Large Jerry Jenkins

MONACO INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association



Web: <http://monacointernationalrvclub.com>

Note From the Prez



Well, it's springtime again, even if the snow hasn't melted yet for some of you - and time to get out another Monaco International Newsletter. There hasn't been a lot of activity within the Chapter since our last Newsletter, so there isn't a great deal to report, but we'll try to bring you all up to date on what we've been doing and what we have scheduled. I'll give you an overview in this note, and you can read the articles from the other Officers and Rallymasters for the details.

First, a look back at the past year. We talked about the Brewsters' Springfield Pre-Rally in some depth last time, so I won't cover it again except to say that it was an excellent event, as those of you who attended already know. The Pre-Rally was followed by the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Rally in October, hosted by the Pipers and the Arzheimers. Again, David Piper wrote this event up in the last issue, but I'll just repeat that they drew 69 coaches and 150 people, and interest in coming back next year was tremendous. The Rallymasters are already making plans and taking applications for next October. See David's 1st Vice President's article for more information on the 2013 Balloon Fiesta Rally.

Even before the Fiesta, however, will be our annual big event - the 2013 Monaco International Pre-Rally in Gillette, Wyoming. This is an exciting prospect for a number of reasons, and planning for it has been taking up most of the available hours of Rallymasters Steve and Judy Czarsty for the last several months (not to mention my own). Steve and Judy have an article telling you about the highlights of the rally later in this issue, so I won't dwell on the

entertainment and other attractions of the event, but I would like to talk a little about one unique feature of this year's rally. That feature is the fact that we are going to be located in the same place that FMCA will be using the following week for their convention - the Cam-Plex Multi-Event Facilities in Gillette. We've been talking about trying out this "co-location" concept for years now, and we've finally found a location that seems ideal to implement it. Everyone we've talked to that has signed up for the event is very enthusiastic about being able to come to MI and stay on for FMCA without having to move their coaches (in most cases), and we have high hopes for our approach being beneficial to both organizations. I won't say it's been a seamless effort - there are a number of differences in the way MI and FMCA approach the rally planning process - but good will on both sides has ironed out the bumps, we hope, and we believe the final result will be enjoyable for everyone. We'll evaluate the situation after the rally, and if it's as well received as we expect, we'll consider doing it again in the future - maybe not next year (not all venues are suited to the concept), but when conditions appear to be favorable.

And speaking of FMCA, you may have noted an e-mail blast I sent out a few days ago asking for volunteers to work early Security for them, since they're a bit short of workers for that period. Several of you have responded already, and I've passed the names on to their Overall Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Jones (if you didn't get the e-mail and would like to volunteer, you can contact Amy at ahmljones@gmail.com). In addition, I got a nice letter from Howard Dietmeyer, President

Continued on page 2

Note From the Prez

of the Rocky Mountain Monacos Chapter, commending us for trying to help out and also mentioning that his own Chapter was volunteering at FMCA. And I discovered that our own Marvin Pitts is Security Captain for the FMCA Convention – something that I probably should have known, but didn't – so if you want to help with security and can't catch up with Amy, contact Marvin at marvpitts@cableone.net.

While I'm on the subject of other Chapters and organizations, I'd like to mention an effort that our Membership VP, JeanAnn Miller, put together in conjunction with Ron Strawhacker, who has been President of our sister Chapter, Holiday Rambler International (HRI), for the past few years. Ron got in touch with JeanAnn to pass on the unpleasant news that HRI, after a long period of trying to keep their heads above water in the face of decreasing membership numbers, had finally been forced to dissolve the Chapter. JeanAnn and I, with the advice and consent of the rest of the Executive Board, decided to offer a free year's Monaco International dues to any member in good standing of HRI who wished to join our Chapter, and to refund the same amount to those HRI members who have already joined us. This action resulted in us acquiring five new memberships from the HRI rolls, plus giving a dues rebate to nine more (including Ron himself) who had already become MI members. Read JeanAnn's article for more details on this and other membership issues, and try to make a special effort to welcome any of our new members from HRI that manage to get to Gillette.

Let me put on my "Safety Officer" hat for a moment and mention the latest Norcold refrigerator recall. It sometimes seems that we've been reminded about this particular item more times than is necessary, but Norcold keeps expanding the range of serial numbers that might be affected, and also repeats their request that we check it out, just to continue to attempt to contact the entire population that might have one of these units. Here's a quote from their latest letter to us:

'In October, 2010, Norcold initiated recall #10E-049 for models 1200, 1201, 1210 and 1211 four door, gas/electric refrigerators, typically found in RV model years 1997 to 2011. Even if your refrigerator was retrofitted as part of a previous recall, it is necessary to have it retrofitted with the new HTS safety device to minimize the risk of injury or death due to fire. The installation of the High Temperature Sensor (HTS) will be at no cost to you. ***If you have one of the recalled refrigerators you should immediately:***

Set the refrigerator controls to "OFF".

Unplug the refrigerator through the service vent on the outside of the vehicle.

Disconnect from shore power. (If your vehicle is in storage)

Contact your dealer, a Norcold authorized service center or Norcold's Recall Center at 800 767-9101 as soon as possible to get assistance.

Failure to follow these instructions could result in a fire causing property damage, injury or death. If you have questions, or to locate a service center nearest you, go to www.norcoldrecall.com or call 800 767-9101."

As I said, you may feel that you've heard this too many times already, but it's better to be safe than sorry. I know personally of more than one fire that has been linked to this problem. Get it checked.

Finally, a few words about the status of Navistar RV and our relationship with them. I know that many of you have been concerned about the rumors that Monaco has been sold, or is about to be, and that we will lose their support for our organization. Well, in view of the general situation at the parent company, I think it would be irresponsible to deny that a sale is a possibility at some point in time, and perhaps sooner rather than later, but there is no reason for it to have a major negative impact on MI. Some of you may have listened in on the Internet Conference Call that Navistar RV President Bill Osborne broadcast in January, in which he made it pretty clear that if the right buyer came along, they'd be willing to listen – but that they were under no pressure to make a forced sale such as that which was imposed upon Monaco Coach Corporation after their bankruptcy. I don't see any change in that situation, and it seems to me that whoever emerges as the final corporate parent of Monaco RV would hardly want to suddenly start to ignore the largest independent organization of high-end Monaco owners (and potential future purchasers) in the country. In fact, I've been assured that support money for our Pre-Rally has already been budgeted, and that they are expecting to provide parts and service techs, as per usual. Mike Snell, Senior VP of Sales and Marketing, just sent in an upbeat article talking about the new Monaco and HR models, touting the upcoming show season, and hoping to see us all in Gillette. Both Mike and the rest of the staff at Monaco has assured me that we will be kept in the loop concerning what happens with Monaco at the corporate level, when they can legally do so, and we will certainly share that information with the membership via an e-mail blast, our website, or whatever method is appropriate, as soon as any hard information becomes available.

So, Westward Ho! Barbara and I expect to be in Gillette well before the Pre-Rally starts, as do Steve and Judy, the Rallymasters. Come on out to the area early, or plan to stay late (even after FMCA), and take in some of the almost unbelievable number of scenic and historic attractions in the area. We're all looking forward to seeing you in Gillette.

Wilt Greenwood, President

Nominating Committee Report

We need candidates for Regional Director in Region 1, Region 5 and Region 6. If you live, or spend a lot of time in any of these regions and will help us out, please contact a member of the nominating committee whose names are: Dick Wolfe at wolfenas@aol.com, Bill Miller at wfmcanoe@gmail.com, Roxanne LaChance at seasavvy@roadrunner.com, Randy Presgraves at vpirp@aol.com, or Rick Pasetto at rpasetto@yahoo.com.

We have candidates for the other officers and regional director positions but would welcome an application from anyone interested in serving the club in any position.

MONACO INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION::

MEETINGS – To be an active participant at meetings of the Board of Directors and General Membership at the rallies.

FIRST TIMER'S MEETING – To greet new members and to offer assistance to them as needed.

1.MENTOR – To serve as a Mentor in the 1st Timer/Mentor program at the rallies.

2.RALLIES – To assist the President and Vice-Presidents with identifying potential rally sites (in the states within your assigned region) for rallies held prior to FMCA's National Conventions.

3.NEW MEMBERS – To contact the new members in their region by phone or email, to welcome them.

The Vice President of Membership will provide each Regional Director with a monthly printout with all the necessary contact information for the new members in their region. The Regional Director will report to the Vice President of Membership monthly via email or USPS, the contacts they made, any changes that need to be made to the database and other comments.

The following is a list of those who have agreed to serve if elected:

President:	David Piper
First Vice President:	Dennis "Mitch" Mitchell
Second Vice President	Rich Halverson
VP of Membership:	JeanAnn Miller
Secretary:	Deanna "Dee" Pitts
Treasurer:	Jerry Jenkins
National Director:	Nancy Wolfe
Alternate National Director:	Maxine Schremp
Region One Director:	Kent Pratt
Region Two Director:	Don Preston and Jackie Holt
Region Three Director:	Laura Wyatt and Margaret Walker
Region Four Director:	Andrea Sponenberg and Betty Ehlenberg
Region Five Director:	Marcella Pasetto
Region Six Director:	Judy Sttzyzewski

Thank you,

Dick Wolfe, Chairman of Nominating Committee

A map of the Monaco International Regions is on page 4

Map of the Monaco International Regions



From the 1st VP - 2013 Update!

Greetings from James Island County Park, Charleston, SC, where Kay and I spend the winter as campground hosts.

Here it is April already, and how time flies. The next big MI event is in Gillette, Wyoming, the week before the FMCA convention in the same location, Gillette. What a great way to attend two rallies and not have to move to do so. Wilt and Barbara Greenwood and Steve and Judy Czarsty are doing a great job planning our rally. We hope to see everyone there.

The next event after that is the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, October 9-13. We still have some spaces available. If anyone is interested, please go to the MI website to sign up. If someone you know wants to attend and owns some other brand of motor home, there are spaces available for them as well. The MI website has a description of the Fiesta; however, if you need more information, or have any questions, please contact me at dfpiperok@gmail.com or 405-833-8471 or Marvin and De Pitts at depittsaz@gmail.com, or 928-713-6469.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy season and look forward to seeing everyone in Gillette.

Dave Piper, 1st VP



A Message from Monaco RV



Members of Monaco International:

Hello again! I'm happy to report that I survived my first Chicago winter. I don't think I've ever looked forward to spring as much as I did this year. Though the snow did get a late start here in The Windy City, the cold temperatures certainly hung around long enough to make up for it. I hope you all outlasted the winter and that the spring thaw has started wherever you find yourself.

Since we last met, everyone at Navistar RV has been working hard to produce new models, as well as make sure that we're bringing you the products that you want. The high value we place on your input is what prompts us to survey current owners of Monaco Coach products when we have something new to introduce. Just last month we received over 1,100 responses from owners to our latest survey, regarding the styling and appearance of the 2014 Dynasty. We received valuable feedback, and key players at Navistar were blown away when they realized how eager our owners are to tell us what is on their minds. If you did not receive a copy of this survey, and would like to be included in the future, please submit your name, email address and coach number to theresa.jacobson@navistarrv.com, so we can add you to our database for forthcoming surveys.

If you're in the market for a new coach, I urge you to take advantage of The Big Payback Sales Event. The dates of the program have been extended but only until May 15. Specific details of the program and a list of participating dealers can be found on-line at www.navistarrv.com.

In addition to debuting the 2014 Dynasty this past season, we also introduced two new floor plans in the Diplomat and Endeavor lines, as well as two new entry level gas products that we're proud of; the Monaco Monarch SE and the Holiday Rambler Vacationer SE. These products were designed with first time buyers in mind, allowing us to compete in this growing segment of the market, and consequently, expanding Monaco International's membership role.

As show season swiftly approaches, I hope you've made plans to join us at an event or two, to see our new models, voice your opinions and catch up with good friends. I look forward to bringing you more good news in the months to come and hope to see you all in Gillette this summer.

Happy Travels,

Mike Snell

Sr VP Sales and Marketing



Michelin Tire Program

The Monaco International National Account with Michelin continues to serve our members well. We are revising our pricing currently, but the “word” so far is that no prices will increase and some will decrease.

Two issues for new tire buyers to be alerted to:

Be sure that the dealer uses your Monaco International “ship to” number on your membership card. We have had several dealers assume they know best for us and have switched to the FMCA Advantage program only to cost our member more for their tires.

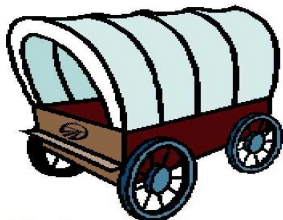
Be sure to check on the build date of your tires before accepting them. “Fresh” tires are apparently scarce at this time, and several members report being offered tires 12-14 months old. You do not have to accept the older tires. However, you also may have to wait until newer ones are available. In the event you get caught with an older tire, be sure to have the dealer write the complete DOT numbers on your Delivery Receipt (DR) prior to leaving the dealership in the event that you experience an early failure. If you do have trouble, please contact Mike Jekel or your club representative.

To contact someone regarding the Michelin program, go to our web site MIRVClub.com. Once you have signed into the site with your user ID and password, go to the Members Only section and click on the Michelin Program tab. You will be able to contact either Mike Jekel (our Michelin representative) or your club representative via email.

Michelin@monacointernationalrvclub.com
Jerry Jenkins, Michelin Program Coordinator

Are You Ready?

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the rally



Westward Ho Rally
June 11—15th, 2013
Cam-Plex
Gillette, Wyoming
See you there!

Monaco International Website

You're in charge of your personal data!

That's right; the Monaco International Web site allows you to change your data yourself. No one can change it but you and our site administrators. Many of our members change their email addresses often for many reasons. To change your email address, simply sign in to our website with your old email address, edit your profile and change your email address to your new one. It's as simple as that. You can change any of your personal data to keep it up to date so others will be able to reach you and you can receive any notices from the club. Monaco International **does not share your email address with anyone** and is committed to not sending out a lot of emails to overload you email in-box.

Jerry Jenkins, Webmaster

Monacointernationalrvclub.com

VP of Membership Report

I'm happy to report that our club is maintaining a healthy membership - our membership numbers are about 50 less than the same time last year, but thanks to all of you members, Monaco/Navistar, Paul Evert's, and Alliance Coach, we are adding about one new member each day and also reactivating old members. Each year we purge our membership after our delinquent period and archive our members that have dropped out due to illness, death, or sale of their coach. We have gained some new members from Holiday Rambler International since they have closed their FMCA Chapter. Your Board of Directors voted to extend one year free membership to those HRI members that were active on January 1, 2012 and to extend the membership for one year for those that had already joined us. This offer is available only until May first of this year. Our offer only extends to the membership fee and they will have to pay for their badges and plaque. So far about fifteen have accepted this offer, and hopefully, they will encourage their friends to join before the deadline.

Jerry Jenkins, our club webmaster, keeps track of various numbers for us that are interesting. Only 4 members have incorrect email addresses! This is extremely good and Brenda Reigh helps track down our bad addresses. Please update your email addresses on the Monaco website whenever you change yours – or contact us for help. Only 124 members do not have email. 1500 of our members have logged on to the site but 304 have never logged on. If you are one of these members or have a friend in this group – do log in – just use your email address and click the box to get a temporary password – then enter a password of your choice. Doing this will open up a great channel of communication for you to keep abreast of activities at Monaco International.

Going to Gillette? I will need mentors and would love to have some of you who have never done this before volunteer. I will still need our members that enjoy doing this each year and in both cases please email me at vpmbship@gmail.com by May 10th so I can start assigning our first time attendees their mentors. You will be expected to attend the mentors meeting, to receive the names of your first timers, first thing on Wednesday morning - and then following that meeting, to attend the First Time Attendees meeting. That evening you will be expected to sit with your first timers at dinner and I will have reserved seats for you. Hopefully some meaningful and long lasting friendships will be started as has happened so frequently in the past.

Brenda Reigh, the wonderful lady (in Oregon) who maintains our database and who has helped many of you with membership questions and changes, will be joining us in Gillette. Stop by and meet her if you get the chance, and thank her for all her help.

JeanAnn Miller
VP of Membership



National Directors Report

It is not too late to register for the 88th FMCA Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase to be held June 19-22, 2013 at the CAM-PLEX in Gillette, Wyoming. You can register on line thru FMCA.com, or complete the registration form found in the latest FMC magazine. FMCA is celebrating their 50th anniversary with the promise of great entertainment and special activities that you definitely will not want to miss, including a Nostalgia Room.

The Governing Board will meet on June 19, to vote on three by-law amendments as well as the following candidates for National Offices for the 2013-2015 term:

National President:	Charlie Adcock Allen Rein
National Senior Vice President:	Andy Balogh Bobby Donald Ralph Marino Jon Walker
National Secretary:	Vicky Ferrari
National Treasurer:	Percy Bell



Resumes for the candidates listed above have been published in the April issue of the FMC magazine. If you have input that you would like to be considered when I am voting on the above candidates, please get in touch with me prior to the Governing Board meeting. I welcome all input when making the decisions and voting on behalf of Monaco International.

The 89th Family Reunion & Motorhome Showcase will be held in Perry, GA, March 17-20, 2014.

The 2014 location will be voted on during the Governing Board meeting in Gillette.

If you are interested in being nominated to serve on the FMCA Review Council, please contact me prior to April 15 as all nominations must be submitted no later than April 30, 2013.

I may be contacted by e-mail or cell: dicknancywolfe@aol.com or by cell – 941-704-4455 INTO – The INTO Area Rally was held March 20-24 in Tucson, Arizona and a report is not available at this time.

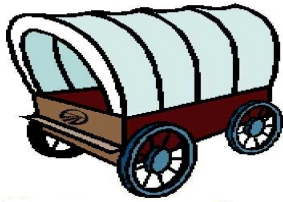
Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Wolfe, National Director

Monaco Dynasty Styling Survey Top-Line

Of the 1,132 owners taking the survey, 78% were members of an owners club, with 36% indicating they owned a Dynasty or Diplomat that were 2007 or older models. When thinking of a high-end RV, quality, luxury and expensive (between \$350,000 and \$450,000) came to mind with Monaco, Prevost and Newell being the three top mentioned RVs. The most important features to owners were floorplan layout, type of chassis and brand of engine. They indicate that these same three features are what differentiate a high-end RV from other motorized RVs.

As far as Navistar products, the Dynasty, Executive and Signature were the top three they considered as the high-end models. When it came to identifying a Monaco product at campgrounds; paint and graphics was mentioned as what owners looked for first. They also indicated 5-color paint quality and graphics should be distinguishing on all high-end RVs. The Cushion Air Glide suspension was the most popular and the Roadmaster chassis provided the most luxurious and reliable ride. Owners preferred a more traditional interior décor that was both comfortable and durable, along with high-quality appliances that were the appropriate size and color for the model.

When it came to the new styling, the front cap received the lowest marks with the side graphics receiving the highest marks. Quite a few owners would like to see Navistar go back to the older more traditional front cap and felt Navistar might be getting a little too aggressive with their styling.



Westward HO!

Westward HO! That is what those of you going to Gillette for the rally may be thinking. The rally is already a success, if you consider the response we have gotten - we



have filled our entire 250 full hook up sites and several more members have signed up for the few electric-only spaces we were able to get.

Everything is centrally located, and you will not have to walk far between the vendors and show coaches - they will be co-located in the same building (that's right, they will both be inside). Our meals will be provided by the locally owned Chophouse, an excellent high-end restaurant and caterer.

While our format is pretty much the same as prior MI pre-rallies, you will also have the opportunity to learn something about pioneering days in the Old West, as well as modern eastern Wyoming, from some interesting seminars on the local area. If you just want to shop, we have more than two dozen vendors registered at this point. And if you really want to shop, show coach exhibitors are working to get their rigs ready for us to view. There will be more than enough choices available to make it hard to select the one you want to take home.

We think you will enjoy the diversity of your entertainment. We start off with Kenny Miller who sings the songs we like and can dance to - it will be a walk down memory lane with all the artists we enjoyed. Kenny will be followed by the Chugwater Band, singing and playing a mix of classic rock and country and western music - dust off your boots and get ready to move on the dance floor. The final night's entertainers, Hands in Harmony, are a non-profit group of young people who perform throughout the Midwest to standing ovations at each of their performances. This group will sing a variety of music for all ages and use choreographed sign language to enhance the sound presentation for all.

Your President Wilt and wife, Barbara Greenwood, and your Rally Masters, Steve and Judy Czarsty, are looking forward to seeing ya'll in Gillette. Westward HO!

Steve and Judy

Maxine Schremp
Alternate National Director
Newsletter Editor

Thanks,

If you would rather receive your Monaco International Newsletter via email, please send JeanAnn Miller an email at vpmb@ship@gmail.com. JeanAnn will place you on our email list. You will receive your **color** newsletter weeks before everyone else! And it will save our chapter on stamps and printing; plus think of all those trees that you will be saving!



Monaco International RV Club

514 Americas Way #2367
Box Elder, SD 57719-7600

president@monacointernationalRVClub.com
Web: <http://monacointernationalrvclub.com>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED