

December 2009
Volume 10, Issue 4

Letter From the President

FMC Owners

Planning for a good year's use of our fine motorcoach needs to start with a good preventative maintenance schedule: Packing bearings and checking over the brake system while the drums are off as well as a good look at the belts and hoses. How old are the hoses on my coach? Too old! It is not the miles but the time.

I want to get to know all the FMC owners better and welcome an email (or regular mail) from all of you. I have met a few of you already but not most of you. I am interested in what you want for our club and what you think we can do to improve the club. I feel we are on the right track, and

have some good things in the works for the future.

Let me know if you have any ideas, and drop me a line with an FMC tidbit to share with the group in future newsletters.

Remember this is your club! We need your response and participation. The officers are on the ball and coming up with new ideas, but it is up to all of us to make this club GREAT.

Bill Sitton



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www.FMC_Owners.com

Mega Rally Date and Location Finalized

Let's get ready to hit the dusty trail in June. Rally Masters Denny Shewmake and Barney Martin have been busy!

Final dates and location have been scheduled. See page 7 for details and registration form to get the great deals.

If you'd like more info on the area, visit the Minden Visitors Bureau (www.minden.org) and Pioneer village (www.pioneervillage.org).

Membership Renewal

- Renew by end of December 2009 for 2010
- Delinquent for 2010 if not received by March 1, 2010

You MUST be an FMCA Member!

See Page 9 for
Renewal and
Membership Form

Meet the Officers of the FMC Owners Club

Read why they own a coach, keep it, why they're involved and their Club Goals

President Bill Sitton

My name is Bill Sitton. My wife, Kathleen, and I live in Ignacio Colorado with 2 daughters, Sarah (12) and Noelle (6). The best way to contact me is by email at bsitton@westernet.net. Postal mail works too. I am a Chrysler mechanic by trade. I got lucky in acquiring my first FMC, now I own 3- 2 running and one for parts. When asked why I keep it, my reply-"What? Are you kidding me? I have the fever. Just ask my wife.

My "Buddy" in Michigan got me involved with the Club and the President's position.

My goals for the Club are to get to know th members, to get more members to know the other members and to get more to join. I like to see more at the rallies too!



Secretary/Treasurer Lynn Clugston

My name is Lynn Clugston and I have been married 43 years this month to Ken (God Help Me). We have lived in Rolla, MO, on Route 66 for 31 years. Our daughter, husband and grandkids live in Augusta, GA. Our Son, wife, and grandson live in Colorado Springs, CO.

The best way to contact me is what ever works best for you, Phone numbers: Home 573-368-3208; Cell 573-465-4365 or Email clugston@fidnet.com. I check it daily except when I work.

I have been a registered nurse for 43 years, about 39 of them all in the Obstetrical area (labor & delivery, postpartum with the new moms, and nursery). My first love is labor & delivery, but due to "my advancing age", I have had to settle down to mother/baby nursing. I also taught nursing for 11 years with 2 different schools of nursing.

We started looking around at used motorhomes, thinking into the future for traveling. Ken spotted #268 on a sales lot between Rolla and Springfield, MO. He liked the looks of it and we went back 2 or 3 times to look at it, as we were researching and doing our homework on motorhomes and FMC's. We made an offer and went back and forth and then it was ours. Initially I can't say I was as excited about it as Ken, but it has sure grown on us as has the FMC Club and especially the people. I think we have been to more rallies without our FMC than with it. Its maiden voyage to Indiana in 2006 did not even get out

of Rolla, but we packed up in the van and we went anyway. Its novel, a relic, an antique, causes people to stop and look and ask questions, and it has a very distinctive look. We have put so much money into it; it's bound to run well one day

We figured we would be able to find out more about "FMC's" and the people would be good resources. Thank goodness that is the case! Also I felt that others with an FMC would understand why we bought it.

I would like to see us grow in numbers. Though we will be self-limiting because of the nature of our coaches. However, if we change our bylaws for membership to include owners and previous owners of FMC's to be regular members and perhaps have an associate member, with no voting privileges, but someone who just has an interest in the FMC. These are some things we will be discussing in the near future as we work on the bylaws revision. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions just email any one of the officers. Another area I would like to see is having more rallies every year and having them in the planning at the beginning of the year. That way a member can plan ahead and be more likely plan to attend. This is already in the works. Also I want to have more variety of activities at the rallies



National Director Gene Albers

Editors Note: At the time of this Newsletter, our buddy Gene is a bit under the weather. The Editor is using Journalistic privilege to have Gene submit his information for the March 2010 Newsletter. Hope to have you “back in the saddle” soon, Gene.



Alternate National Director Stephen Heinrichs

I am Stephen Heinrichs. My wife, Jane, and I live in Dixon California and have 4 children. The best way to reach me is by email at Stephen@Heinrichs.com or by cell at 916-425-7996.

I am a Farm Equipment Sales Representative specializing in the material handling sub sector of Nut Harvesting Equipment. I had been thinking of getting a motor home for some time and, having seen a number of bad handling units going down the road, knew the general characteristics of what I wanted to avoid and some characteristics of what I wanted. Then one day I was driving down the freeway and there was a stylish, nice looking, low, rear-engined coach of about the right length with a For Sale sign on it. I went back, looked at it and said, “This will work” and bought it and have been happy with it ever since.

I keep it and keep repairing and updating it because whenever I look at newer coaches, they don’t have the complete package of favorable features that the FMC has. The FMC was originally built well enough that you can do repairs and upgrades and know the basic coach is well made so you will not have a coach that falls apart on you in some other way. I will not own a coach that does not have a rear engine. I want a coach that is easy to get in and out of which means our low floor becomes a more important feature each year and each birthday that I have. I want a coach large enough for two people and small enough to go almost anywhere. I have gone down to the beach, to Mexico and turned around on a mountain road. The FMC meets my requirements better than any other coach, old or new.

Having purchased a coach that I knew little about, I later learned that the Owners Club

existed. This was a possible source of information and advice in the maintenance of the coach, in addition to commercial entities, so I joined it. Having taken that step, I began to realize that having a strong mutual interest organization to support FMC coach owners would be very helpful to all owners including myself. We are widely scattered and to have a central hub we can all connect to is a good thing. It is only by us supporting an organization that it is able to survive. Only then can we derive the benefits the organization is positioned to give to all of us owners. The Owners Club is the only organization that is focused solely on FMC coaches and if I want to draw on the benefits of that organization, it is imperative that I also put energy back into the organization.

My goal for the club is to simply see it grow to the point that virtually all FMC coach owners are members and that the club gives them a reason to be a member by providing the services that support that goal. I see the club becoming the central source or repository of FMC fact, data, conversation, fellowship and lore. An important tool that will help facilitate that happening is the expansion and improvement of the club’s website. This is evolutionary and is occurring now and will continue to occur over many years.

My request of the general member is simply to participate at a level that fits each individual, but do actively participate in some manner.



South Vice President Denny Shewmake

My name is Denny Shewmake and I live in Canton Georgia. Contact me by Email is denshew@mindspring.com or my Cell 678.525.9892.

I'm Retired US Navy (RMC, Shellback, Nam, Magellan) and Retired Telecomm/Datacomm Management and Consulting.

FMC 0890 is my third RV, second Class A. We had a teardrop camper and rented tents while in the Navy and my sons were young, sold it when they got older. When I retired we decided to travel. Bought a nice used SOB and it served us well for several years. I gave it to my son when Mary, my wife of 41 years passed away. I remarried and in the process acquired two teenage sons. A short time later was presented with my first grandchild. We decided to spend some time with Mother Nature and get a RV that was something more than a box on wheels.

Joined the FMC Yahoo forum, became somewhat educated and found FMC 0890 on eBay. A diamond in the rough, it had sat unused for many years. I was infatuated, love at first sight. It needed me.

Why do I keep it? Ahhhh . See previous.

I joined the FMC Owners Club and Yahoo forum to seek and provide advice and support. A wonderful group of friendly people from many walks of life eager to share their knowledge, opinions and experiences on projects or problems large or small regarding any piece or part of the FMC Motor Coach.

My vision or goals for the FMC Owners Club are to focus on cohesiveness, open and honest communications, family values and growth. We should encourage active participation from all members, schedule frequent local rallies or random get togethers, enthusiastically recruit owners of this fine coach and have fun doing so.

Roy (my grandson) was holding his ears in the picture because there was a bunch of Harley's going by at Wolf Creek Pass. He loves traveling and camping and is my constant companion.

My other passion is my restored and modified 1971 Chevelle Malibu. It has been in the family for 20 years. I am a Southern Baptist Deacon.



International Vice President Frank Borrmann

My Name is Frank Borrmann, Bluevale, Ontario Canada. My wife, Suzanne, and I have seven children, two are married, two in college and three at home. My E-mail is borrmann@xplornet.com.

I've owned and operated an automotive repair shop at our home in Bluevale since 1983. I saw my first FMC at the Hersey Antique Flea Market in Pennsylvania back in 1993, and I was hooked. Two years later I bought #645 at Motor Coach Restoration in Illinois. Before I had children, the plan was to get a 34 Ford 3 window coupe, now I have a hot rod we can all sleep in.

I keep the coach because I have so much money into it I'll only get it back by using the coach.

I figure in another 43 years I can sell it! I've since bought two more (#766 and 574), so you know I've got the bug bad.

We went to our first FMC rally back in 1995- all 9 of us. Although we could only get to rallies infrequently, we enjoy getting together with people that share the interest in this coach. FMC people are different!

I would like to see our numbers grow in rally attendance. It's great to see all the interest on the web sites and read about new people coming into FMC ownership.



Midwest Vice President Barney Martin

I live in paradise (close to Traverse City, Michigan in Kingsley) with my wife Connie.

You can get hold of me via email at barney4u@usa.com

Spent most of my career working with machinery, starting in Detroit in 1970 with my first machine shop and 1975 in Chicago until 2000. Moved to the great north of Michigan and in a Semi-Retired condition- other than working on the FMC and with machine shops up here. Managed to acquire my 100 ton Master (Captains) license while in Chicago and worked on the tour boats in the Chicago river and Lake Michigan.

My son Ken is presently finishing his engineering degree at Western Michigan and Connie's son Mike just finished his BS in Psychology in Mississippi and son Garrett is in the Navy in Virginia Beach.

My father bought #801 in 1990 to have a place to stay out here in the country while he worked on his house. I dug the machine out in 2000 and let it sit until

2003 when my dear wife insisted we try to make it run again. It started with fresh gas and we drove it thru a field with flat tires---but it rode good so she pushed for me to make it into a camping machine---complete with microwave, multisource stereo, new kitchen and satellite TV and Doggy window. Poor girl!

Why did I keep it?? It wouldn't go away-----

Found the FMC club in 2006 and went to our first rally in Auburn, Indiana where we meet some very great people!

I would like to see this Club organized and grow as we find and attract members with their machines. Becoming more involved with other groups of vintage coaches might be part of the answer as well as doing more rallies across this great country!

Witty comment???---If it follows you home, don't let the family fall in love with it! If it is hiding behind your home----get an exterminator!!



West Vice President Greg Miller

My name is Greg Miller. My wife, Liza and I have 2 kids Ruth and Gage (11 and 9). We live in Boulder Creek CA.

The best way to contact me is by email at gregmiller@pobox.com.

I presently work in Architecture and Internet Development.

I remembered how cool the FMCs were when I was a teenager in the 70's (my family would go RV'ing in a Winnebago every other weekend). So, when my wife and I decided we were done with traveling in a pickup truck (and 5th wheel) with kids cramped in the back seat, I got a wacky idea...

We love it. That's why we keep it!! We love how unique it is and how it's not just another McMotorhome.

I was "volunteered" (long story) to get involved with the Club.

I'd like to see regular rallies with good participation.

My only other comment-- What if the Hokey-Pokey IS what it's all about?



Greg submitted this picture of "Reflection"

Mountain Vice President Jim Evans

My name is Jim Evans, and I live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, about 20 miles from Pikes Peak and the Garden of the Gods. My wife, Jill, and I have two boys, Matthew, 12, and John Christopher, 8.

Reach me at jim.evans@yahoo.com or via our website.

I am once again a programmer with the company I worked for ten years ago.

When I was growing up in rural New Jersey, my parents and four older brothers went on a motor home adventure 'out west' (1967), but they thought I was too young to go and left me with my cousins. They went to the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone, and I was always bitter about that.

My wife and I went on many RV trips when we lived in Virginia in the '80s, and we rented about a dozen different motor homes in as many years. We moved to Colorado in 1990, and went on more RV trips. To this day I am the only one of the five boys to live 'out west'.

In 2000 I saw an FMC for sale on the side of the road in Sedalia, Colorado, and fell in love. I toured the coach, which was a modified "M", but it was not to be. My wife was pregnant and refused to even entertain the idea of buying a motor home at that time.

In 2001, my father sold his house and distributed the proceeds to his five sons, and the time was right. I searched the

internet no less than twelve FMCs for sale. I found the one I wanted in Lubbock, TX. (#110) I spoke with the salesman there, and three days later he called me back and slashed \$5k off the price, I told him I'd be there the following Monday. My best friend and I drove from Colorado to Texas, spent the night in the coach, and I bought it the next day and drove back to Colorado. The rest is history.

I have driven a lot of RVs, and a lot of trucks, and the FMC motor coach is one of the best-engineered motor homes ever made. It is comfortable; a real treat to drive, and it is a real head turner. I love to drive something that makes a statement, and it is a rare afternoon that I do not pull into a campground (or GAS STATION) and have someone approach me to ask me about it.

At the rally in Auburn, 2006, I was being pestered by the then-secretary that I should join. I did not see the benefit of the FMCA magazine or roadside assistance, but I did pick up on the benefit of joining a group of friends who can sit around the campfire and talk about our mutual passion, an antique that made news when it rolled off the line, and continues to be the one motor coach and a walkout basement, you have to appreciate the geometry and basic lines of this vehicle.

As one of the officers elected in 2006, I feel there is very little wrong with this club. We will continue to schedule and promote rallies where our membership



can come together in fellowship, and we will continue to improve our communication via the intranet and our newly improved newsletter.

When I bought my coach, it had no seat belts, no fire extinguishers, and a scratchy '84 FM/cassette stereo. The first enhancements I made when I got home were 1) I installed belts on all five forward facing seats, 2) I mounted fire extinguishers at both the driver and passenger doors, (I've actually used one but that is a different story) and 3) and I bought and installed an XM radio and CD player... As you can see, I have my priorities.

Editors Note: Jim is also the Web Site designer and "guru". Thanks Jim!!

2010 Calendar

Keep the Following Dates and Locations in mind---

Winter --March or April 2010

South

contact Denny Shewmake

Memorial Weekend G.L.A.S.S. Rally

Berrien Springs MI

contact Barney Martin

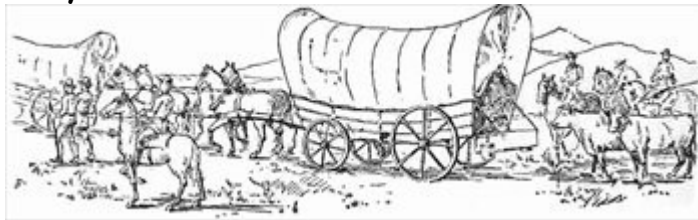
1st Annual MEGA Rally

Minden NE

contact Barney Martin or Denny Shewmake

The First Annual FMC Mega Rally

Days of June 15th to the 19th, 2010



Back to the Pioneer days—when they was only the FMC ---the pioneers came in search of a better motor home! And now---we will relive the past in the center of this country at Pioneer Village, Minden, Nebraska (Just south of Kearney off of I- 80)

Your Wagon Masters are Trail Boss Denny Shewmake and Injun Guide Barney Martin. We are going to have a real great campground complete with water and 30 amp service and dump station at the Pioneer Village (www.pioneervillage.com). We will tour the world class private museum with over 50,000 irreplaceable items all within less than a one mile walk on Friday. Outside of the compound there is a great little town of Minden that hosts golf courses, a Historic active play house, supplies, saloons and eateries.

Stake your claim for 4 nights of camping (come earlier or stay longer if you wish) with water and 30 amp service for your horse (with a dump station in the camp), one catered lunch and dinner, a trip to the great past of the museum, limited yarns on health, safety and coach operation, games, prizes and rewards!

Names: _____ FMC Coach # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Member with 2 Adults Early bird \$130 After May 5th \$140 _____

Extra Campers each \$35 Children each \$28 Non members \$10/coach _____

Total \$ _____



Make you check payable and send via pony express, snail mail, pigeon or USPO to; Denny Shewmake 346 Pineview Dr
Canton, GA 30114-8154

denshew@mindspring.com

678-525-9892

FELTON RALLY 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

By Friday evening, eight FMC's had arrived and two SOB's. On Saturday two more FMC's arrived and a tent dweller (One of the SOB owners and the tent dweller have FMC's that were not up to the trip). I am going to say that the most original coach was #400 owned by Harry and Sandra Day of Oregon and the most modified was #002 owned by Cliff Cappos of Southern California. The rest of us fell somewhere in between. The members that have owned their coach, #059, the longest are Frank "Paco" and Mary Lou Ruiz of Southern California who have owned their coach 24 years with this being the first FMC coach rally they have attended. The most recently purchased coach was #509 which was purchased just two weeks prior by Dale and Carolyn Maggio of Santa Cruz.

Highlight of the rally was the arrival of the guest speaker, Earl Anderson, followed by Wayne and Nancy Biondi of Santa Cruz. Wayne also worked for FMC in the marketing department and it was great to have them attend as well. Earl, Assistant Sales Manager, had a great time touring the coaches and seeing what they look like today. He told me later that he particularly enjoyed visiting with Harry Day in his virtually original coach. The Blacks, Jim and Jackie, owners of RVS and a former FMC employee also joined us.

The evening dinner and program went very well with all of us getting to hear about some of the goings on at FMC while the coaches were being built. The origin of the rear suspension was also explained. Earl once had the bright idea to eliminate the driver's door as a cost savings move, but the division manager told him to call a few owners and report back. Well, that killed that idea very quickly! As the gas shortage affected sales and the inventory of unsold coaches built up, FMC headquarters wanted to know what the inventory was. Earl got a different number every time a count was made. One time he sent seven different people out to count the coaches and got seven different numbers! He had to fess up to headquarters that he didn't know what they had in inventory. He said that he has always wondered what would have been, if he had not killed the mid-engine (off set, under the kitchen), 4 wheel drive, off road version. He and other management completely missed the coming off road, SUV type trend in auto sales. It had good ground clearance and the sharp front and back angles necessary to allow true off road capability. The engineers saw it, but the management didn't. Lynn Clugston invited some old friends from the area for the dinner program. The father had also worked for FMC but in the Ordinance Division for twenty years before the coach division was formed. He gave some interesting insights into FMC and the Motor Coach Division from another division's viewpoint. We learned that Ron Herbert had sold the new division a wire stripping machine when it was just starting up. So if you have an improperly stripped wire, take it up with Ron!

Attendees by coach number were: Cliff Cappos - #002, Vivian Terry - #027, Frank Ruiz - #059, Ken Clugston - #268, Harry Day - #400, Dale Maggio - #509, Eric Whedon - #587, Jim Woestman - #617, Ron Herbert - #621, Greg Miller - #708, Carlton Camyre - #888, Stephen Heinrichs - #1046. A special thanks goes to Greg Miller who did most of the actual rally preparation and organization. Out of this group there were nine that indicated that they either were or may be attending the rally next June in Nebraska. Come and join us!

Thanks to Stephen Heinrichs for these highlights. Go to the website at www.fmcowners.com to see the "complete" story and pictures.

Owners Club Meeting-Felton Rally-Submitted by Lynn Clugston

The Club currently has a balance of \$2595.84. A tidy sum to be used wisely. While sifting through all of the information I received when I took office, I have found several holes in the cheese! First, there are quite a few members who do not have their dues paid up for 2009 and a few for 2008. Just \$10 this year and probably next year if you pay up. Second, I am finding several members who are not current with their FMCA dues. According to the bylaws, you must be a member of FMCA to be a member with the FMC Owners Club. So please check your records and help fill the holes.

Bylaw changes will be coming in the near future for voting. Areas that we will be looking at include change of membership guidelines, to include previous FMC owners, and change in dues. If there is an area of concern that you would like addressed in regard to the bylaws please speak with or email a club officer in the near future.

We hope you enjoyed the last newsletter. Connie Kubiak did a fantastic job. If you are looking at and keeping up with the Web Site, Jim Evans and Stephen Heinrichs have up-dated and upgraded; many changes are taking place. This comes to another hole in the cheese, we need to keep our database current and there are numerous ones that seem to have had email changes or address changes. Please, we plead and beg send any new snail mail addresses or email addresses to me so you will get all the current information in a timely manner. Great Rallies are planned for 2010 and you sure don't want to miss those.

If you have any questions or to send changes call or email, Lynn Clugston, Secretary/Treasurer, home phone 573-368-3208 or clugston@fidnet.com.

FMC MOTOR COACH OWNERS CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

**Membership held EXCLUSIVE to
FMC Motor Coach Owners_
(Must be an active member of FMCA)**

Date _____

FMC MOTOR COACH NO. _____ FMCA MEMBER NO. _____

NAME ON BADGE #1 _____

NAME ON BADGE #2 _____

NUMBER of CHILDREN _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

To save postage, correspondence will be sent via email.

Initial membership fee is \$ 25.00. This includes first year dues and badges.

Chapter renewal dues are \$ 10.00 per year, payable January 2 of each year. If not received by March 1, dues are delinquent and the initiation fee of \$25.00 must be paid. Make check payable to "FMC MOTOR COACH OWNERS CLUB"

Mail to:

Lynn Clugston-
FMC Owners Club Secretary/Treasurer
900 Halifax Drive
Rolla, MO 65401-3976

clugston@fidnet.com Home phone 573-368-3208



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Hope you and yours have a great Holiday Season!

FMC Owners Club

Our objectives are to develop camaraderie, pride in owning a unique and wonderful coach, and sharing knowledge in an open exchange of technical information on maintaining, upgrading parts and service. We need to be passionate about owning, driving and working on our FMC Motor Coach.

A high priority is to keep fun in FMC Motor Coach ownership. We are a fun-loving, family-oriented group and will produce and promote events that will include the entire family.

