



# American COACH ASSOCIATION

## SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

ARIZONA COLORADO NEW MEXICO SO. NEVADA UTAH

January-March 2008 Newsletter

Access us on our website: [www.acasw.com](http://www.acasw.com)

### Key people:

President: Roy Shelton  
Vice President: Laura Bruno  
Secretary: Sandi Shelton  
Treasurer: Shirley Bolger  
Membership Chairman: Al Bolger  
Website Manager: Al Bolger  
Merchandise Manager: Becky Hight  
Newsletter Editor: Bill Dettmer

### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

#### Happy Belated New Year 2008!

I apologize for getting this issue out late. I reported in our last issue that we returned from the Calstoga Rally to find the first floor of our home under water due to a failed solder joint. Little did we know at the time of the magnitude of the problem. Because of mold growth, the general contractor we hired had to remove most of the bottom sections of the dry wall in the first floor; in some cases he removed all of the drywall. All of the kitchen and laundry room cabinets were removed, along with carpeting and floor tiles. Kip and I have been spending our time making decisions regarding the rebuilding (we are taking this chance to upgrade.)

Because we cannot live in our house during the rebuilding, we have become full-timers in our coach. We are currently located in the FamCamp on Kirtland Air Force Base. Unfortunately, this has been (or seem to have been) the coldest January we have encountered since moving to Albuquerque thirty years ago. The nights were typically in the single digits and the days just below freezing. With the help of a portable electric heater and heat tape along the water hose, we have been able to live comfortably in our Tradition.

Enough about us — on to the ACA and the SW Chapter. Recent financial reports have shown that the national organization has been experiencing a negative cash flow. Knowing that this cannot be continued for long, Charlie Adcock and the Board of Directors have jumped on the problem. They have taken actions to decrease the cost of the Magazine and the Web Site; without reducing quality. This was accomplished by a lot of hard work by Charlie and the expediency of using the internet to hold electronic Board of Directors' meetings.

I chair the Scholarship Committee and we are planning big changes here. The ACA cannot continue to fund this important program beyond this next summer. Therefore, the Committee is taking steps to propose the establishment of a non-profit organization to take over the program. Our own Laura Bruno has taken the lead in developing the bylaws and the 501c3 application for this organization. We plan to take the proposal to the Board of Directors during the upcoming Mobile, AL, National Rally.

*Bill Dettmer*

### PAST RALLYS

#### Quartzite, AZ, (January 17-21, 2008)

The first Southwest Chapter rally of 2008 was hosted by Joseph and Laura Bruno and Ron and Suzy Zuege. A great time was had by all, with sunshine, great food and good friends in abundance. Not to mention the Big Tent and the hundreds of other vendors in Quartzsite for the months of January and February every year. If you have never been to Quartzsite, Arizona, you are missing a unique RV'ing experience. There are thousands of RV's, from Prevosts to tent trailers parked anywhere a space is available, from RV parks to the base of the mountains. The stars are bright in this part of the country, with very little light from the town to interfere. The moon became fuller every night with an almost full moon by the end of the rally.

We woke up every morning to the smell of cowboy coffee and a campfire provided by Ron Zuege. For breakfast every morning we had bakery sweet rolls and on Sunday morning, pancakes and sausage were cooked for everyone with Susie Zuege cooking the sausage and one of our favorite food experts, Al Bernardi and Al Peckham flipping the pancakes for us.



The Big Tent opened Saturday with attendance so large, you could hardly get to the vendors, but many of us managed and came back to the rally site showing off our purchases. The Big Tent has filters from Spartan, sponges for the kitchen and soups and nuts for the larder. There is something for everyone and, of course, our SW

Chapter members Major and Bonsy Wingfield had their booth at the tent but were able to join us every night for dinner and evening campfire. Major celebrated his birthday with all of us singing Happy Birthday and presenting him with a piece of cake complete with a candle. I won't say how old he is, but Medicare is now his healthcare provider!

Beaudry RV allowed the rally to be held on their property in the middle of town so we had easy access to the Big Tent and the many good restaurants in the area. Beaudry also provided a nice evening of beef nachos and margaritas at the Desert Rat Cafe. Our thanks goes to Beaudry for both!

Our evening meals were provided by the rally committee and the minimal fee for the rally of \$35. Friday night, Ron Zuege provided a homemade grill for our steaks and what wonderful tender steaks they were! We had baked potatoes and salad and many wonderful side dishes provided by everyone. Saturday night was the first annual chili cook-off with everyone bringing a pot of chili that was then tasted and voted on by all. Al Bernardi was the first place winner with Carla Averill coming in a close second! Sunday night was pizza and salad and every night was a campfire and fellowship.



With lots of pre-planning and hard work by Laura Bruno, Vice President of the SW Chapter, and the expertise and hard work of Joseph Bruno and Ron and Suzy Zuege, all went smoothly.

*Becky Hight*

## **FUTURE RALLIES**

### **Mobile Pre-Rally (May 10-12, 2008)**

We will be having a rally prior to the National Rally in Mobile on May 10, 11 and 12th at the Hollywood Casino RV park in Bay Ste. Louis, MS. They have changed their name, but it is the same park we stayed in before the last Mobile rally. The place was completely destroyed by the hurricane but has been rebuilt.

We have reserved ten pull-through spaces. The price is \$29.00 per night (\$87.00 total). There is a full service casino within walking distance of the RV park and frequent van service. The casino has several restaurants and

there are all kinds of activities and fresh seafood available in the Bay Ste. Louis/Biloxi area. Those wishing to attend the pre-rally should call the Casino at (228)- 466-9257, ask for the RV park and tell them you are with the Southwest Chapter of the American Coach Association, reference code SCO 0510. The sooner the better.

*Roy and Sandi Shelton*

### **Albq. Balloon Fiesta Rally (October 9-12, 2008)**

We are planning another Balloon Fiesta Rally in Albuquerque, NM. It is scheduled for 9 to 12 October, which includes the second weekend of the Fiesta. Again I have reserved fifty slots in the VIP campground for our rally.

We will arrive on a Thursday and have a Mexican Buffet at a nearby restaurant. Following the dinner I will ask a balloonist to give a presentation on ballooning and the Fiesta.

On Friday morning they have scheduled a Special Shapes Rodeo and a Key Grab Competition. Saturday and Sunday mornings will be set aside for mass ascensions. Evenings will include balloon glows, and fireworks.

in order to hold our slots. I have included a signup sheet in this newsletter. The cost of the rally includes the parking, entrance into the Fiesta, and the Mexican buffet.

Now for the bad news; the Fiesta has raised the cost of the sites by \$30 per night, from \$55 to \$85. That's why the cost has gone up. To secure a slot, I recommend that you get your signup sheet to me by 31 May. After then, it may be space-available.

*Bill Dettmer*

## **NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Both Sandi and I hope you all had a joyous Christmas season and the happiest of Holidays. Our local weather "personalities" told us we would have a dusting of snow for a white Christmas. After the "dust" settled, we had over six inches on the ground with more coming and a chill factor in the single digits.

Shortly after Christmas we were left with a belated lump of coal in our stocking. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, our beloved Sake left us at the age of thirteen years and ten days. Champion Nightwinds Sandis' Saketume is now an Akita angel. She will be with us always.

The weather reminds us of this time last year when we weren't able to get on the road until mid January. With luck it will clear and we can get to Decatur and pick up the Dream. American Coach has finished replacing the right side and some other work we decided to have them do as long as the coach was there. On our way back, we will have to stop by the house here in Boulder to pick up all our creature comforts we had to unload before delivering the Dream to "Camp Decatur". Our garage is full. Other than the 2400 mile round trip to Decatur and back, we are looking forward to getting on the road again and particularly seeing all of you at the rally in Quartzite.

After Quartzite, Sandi and I will be bumming around southern Arizona for a couple of weeks before a trip to Puerto Penasco to see if we can figure out what went wrong last year. I still think a rally there at the Reef RV Park would be fun if it can be worked out.

After Puerto Penasco we will be renting a lot in Foot-hills east of Yuma for the month of March; providing it isn't sold before then.

Congratulations! To Josette and Tommy Herrell who will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Pray for good weather across the mid-west and speaking of prayers, please keep the DeNios in your prayers as Jane is still recovering from her medical problems. It doesn't look like they will be able to join us in Quartzite.

We hope to see you all down the road soon, and remember, its all about fun!

Roy Shelton

#### NOTES FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hello from Quartzsite, Arizona. Here we are basking in the warm sun (it's 11 degrees back home in Northern Nevada) and enjoying our first-ever Christmas in the desert. Warm days...good friends...relaxing times...what more can we ask?

The Quartzsite Rally was a great success! Cowboy coffee in the mornings; relaxing and exploring during the days; bonfires in the evenings; a mouth-watering rib-eye steak barbeque; and so many different and delectable types of chili to sample...my husband, Joseph, said he didn't realize there were so many variations on chili! We're looking forward to doing this rally again next year.

With a Southwest Chapter pre-rally to the Mobile Rally scheduled for early May. We've decided that having an April rally in Utah isn't practical. So, we'll be looking at a Moab, Utah rally some at a later date.

Yes, we have in the works a chapter pre-rally to this fall's national rally in Tucson. We'll have more information available in our next chapter newsletter.

Finally, we are trying to determine the level of interest in a rally this summer in Durango, Colorado. Please call (775)-790-3261 or email [joeandlaurabruno@gmail.com](mailto:joeandlaurabruno@gmail.com) and let us know if this is something you would like us to proceed with.

Joseph and I wish all of you safe travels, and look forward to seeing you.

Laura Bruno

#### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all of the 89 members of the Southwest Chapter. If you have a new phone number, or a new e-mail address, please take a few minutes to send changes to me. Use the Chapter web site, [www.acasw.com](http://www.acasw.com), or give me a call at (303)-489-5816.

Al Bolger

#### TREASURER'S LEDGER

The balance of the Southwest Chapter bank account as of January 1, 2008 is \$4056.36, with no outstanding expenses.

Shirley Bolger

#### MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Shirts, jackets and numerous other items can be ordered directly from [www.fleetwoodrvstore.com](http://www.fleetwoodrvstore.com).

American Coach decals in various styles for your tow vehicles are available from Desert Vista RV Products (602)-524-1690, for American Eagle and Tradition in silver or gold to match your coach for \$12.00 a pair. Look on page 43 of the March/April issue of the National ACA Newsletter for their ad.

Window plaques with your name and ACA number are ordered for you when you join the chapter. If you need one for your coach, please contact me: Becky Hight (505)-343-0782 or (505)-715-2688, [sbhight@msn.com](mailto:sbhight@msn.com).

Becky Hight

#### INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Becky Hight suggested that we include motorhome-related for-sale and wanted items. Good idea, and I will start with this newsletter.

If you have something you want included, send them to me at [:BillDettmer@comcast.net](mailto:BillDettmer@comcast.net).

#### FOR SALE BY MEMBERS

'03 Eagle 40W; beige, tan, and black; 43K miles; many personal upgrades; \$189K; Tommie Herrell (505)-430-7186.

*HAPPY TRAILS TO ALL - Bill Dettmer*

### ACA Balloon Fiesta Rally

Hosted by: Bill & Kip Dettmer (505)-294-0564, Cell-(505)-238-2025

October 9-12, 2008

At Balloon Fiesta Park: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

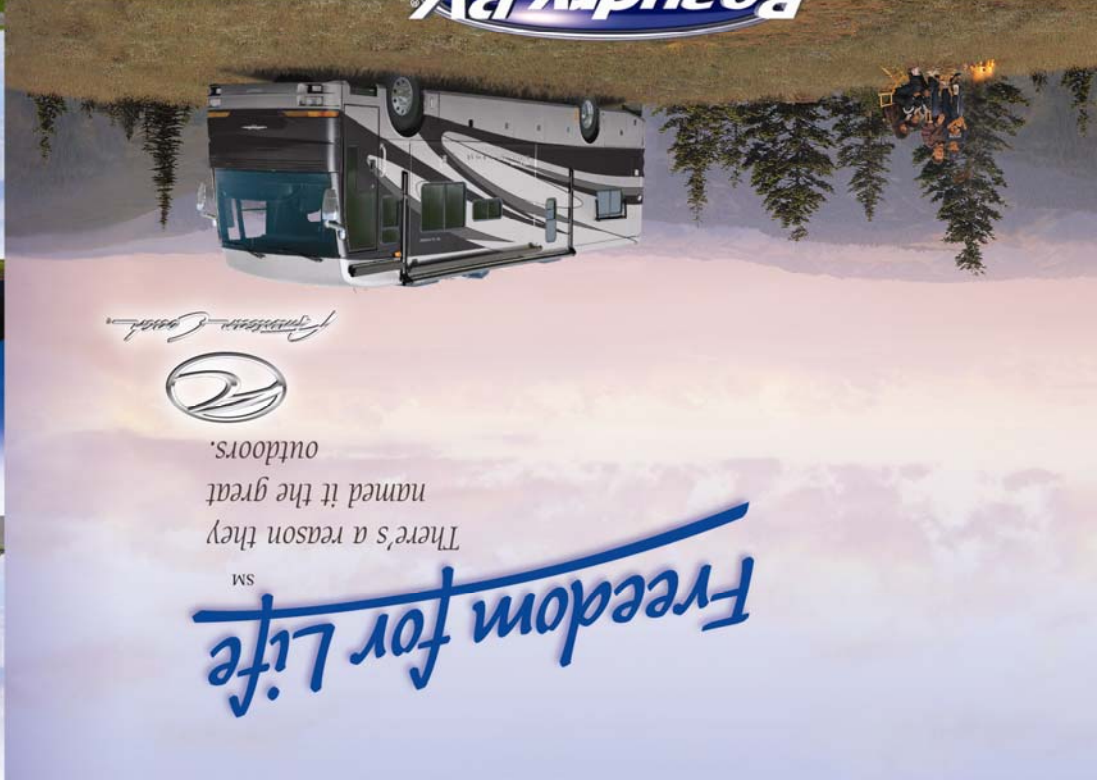
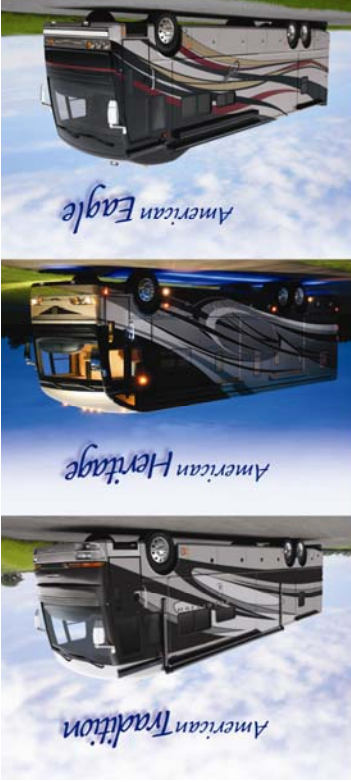
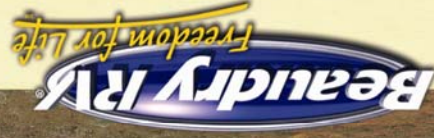
Rally cost—2 people \$370  
—1 person \$330  
—Additional person \$40 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to ACA Balloon Fiesta Rally.

Mail with form to:  
Bill Dettmer  
1509 Tejana Mesa Pl., NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

800-284-4878  
beadryrv.com

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named it the great  
outdoors.

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