

ALDA's AD LIBS

SEA Rally, Brooksville – The rally was attended by Tom & Linda Burke (SEA newsletter editors), Dallas Eberth, Gordon & Roseann Wiebe, Bud & Barb Dabney, John & Alda Butler, and Jerry & Nancy Harris (prospective new members). Over 1,300 coaches attended. FMCA president, Charlie Schrenkel, reported that the association is financially solid, debt-free, with \$7,900,000 in the bank. The current deficit will be \$782,000 although \$230,000 will be cut by making changes in the FMC magazine. To cut costs, many organizational changes were made including eliminating 17 office positions and cross-training those that remained. Web site income in 2008 was \$28,000; in 2009 it was \$107,000 due primarily to income from FaceBook and Twitter. All contracts are going out for re-bid with the lowest bidder receiving the contract. MEDEX is good until Jan. 1, 2011. Four companies are bidding on the contract. The Executive Director's position will be filled (vacant due to a resignation); current duties being filled by five members of the Board. Instead of meeting twice a year, the Executive Board now meets every other week (by conference call) which speeds up resolution of problems.

Current membership is 99,125 - down from a high of 129,000 a few years ago. 1,300,000 RVers do not belong to FMCA. Recruiting is the big push; talk to people in RV parks or when they are re-fueling in service stations; leave FMC magazines at tire shops, gas stations, diesel engine and generator repair shops, and drop them off at your dental/doctor offices, sporting goods stores and libraries. Five free memberships in FMCA are available to each chapter this year. Benefits of FMCA membership are Chapter, Area and National rallies which offer many excellent seminars, service technicians, vendors galore, plenty of new RVs to ponder, free coffee and donuts in the mornings, food vendors, music by the Frustrated Maestros, ice cream socials, and entertainment in the evenings. Other than making friends with RV'ing as a common interest, many folks rate free MEDEX coverage high on their list of reasons to belong to FMCA.

February Rally, Wekiva Falls Resort – Nineteen coach families enjoyed a beautiful weekend, hosted by Low's and Bradshaw's. Two guest couples joined us: Ben & Sharon DeWitt and Daryl & Nona Hogan. A short business meeting was held Saturday morning at which the treasurer reported \$2,100 in the bank and the wagonmaster discussed future rallies. Following the meeting, 24 folks hiked a couple of blocks past the springs for an educational boat trip on the Wekiva River. Fish, birds, and an otter were spotted, but a resident mama alligator and her 10" babies were hiding. The guide pointed out where the 2nd largest find in Florida of bones from extinct mastodons was discovered when the springs were diverted and the pressure built up and pushed the bones to the surface. Very interesting! Dinner on Saturday evening was "grill your own" with side dishes supplied plus ice cream sundaes, followed by roasting marshmallows around a campfire.

NEW MEMBERS – Please welcome, and add to your directory:

Bud & Barb Dabney	F227666
3206 S. Hopkins Ave., #229	PH: (321) 269-3371
Titusville, FL 32780	email: bandbdabney@aol.com
Ben & Sharon DeWitt	(F- Applied for...)
206 Oak Street	PH: (321) 952-9437
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951	email: bdewitt8@cfl.rr.com

COUPONS

Please remember to bring your coupons(cut them out please) to Brook at the rally so she can send another group to the service men and women overseas. (they can use them up to 6 months expired so bring them all)

DUES

Dues for this year are due. (they actually were due in December) so please include them in this months rally or bring them with you to the rally or send them to Judie Baldauf at 719 Brockton Way; West Melbourne, Florida 32904.

ADDITIONAL RALLY INFO

2 additional nights are available for members at \$32.00/night. **Reservations for the extra nights must be made thru Dave Low.** Individuals can cancel up to 2 days prior to arrival without a fee, afterward we will be charged a single night per cancellation. **Dave needs to know if you are coming to the rally as it must be paid for in advance, email (onemouse@cfl.rr.com) or call Dave(321-951-2984) if you have not touched base with him.**

FUTURE ORBITER RALLIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hosts</u>
April 16-18	Sunshine Travel, Vero Beach	Smith

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Please include this form with your check, made payable to Florida Space Orbiters, and mail to Dave Low at
David Low
849 Danville Cir.
W. Melbourne, Florida 32904

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$70 per coach; \$65 singles, \$5 each extra person)
Please call(321-951-2984) or email ([onemouse@cfl.rr.com])David Low with your reservations also.

FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION
FLORIDA SPACE ORBITERS CHAPTER
Linda Burke, newsletter editor
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Casselberry, Florida 32707