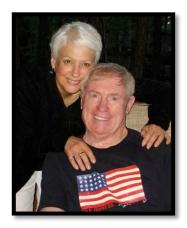


Joe Darling, President
Jdarling10@aol.com

A Chapter of FMCA
Issue #39
March 2015
www.alpinesocal.com

Patti & Jim Warren, Editors
AlpineNews2014@gmail.com

#### The President's Message: Joe Darling



After my back surgery on Nov 6, 2014, going to Lake Havasu for the Winter Blast was a great experience as this was the first time I had driven our motorhome in nearly four months, and it felt so good to be back on the road in our Alpine.

The club has had many adventures since the beginning of the year: Indio, Quartzsite, Desert Rat, Lake Havasu, including a "spot" rally in Goodyear for Spring

Training Baseball.

The Escamilla's and Guhse's performed an Oscar Winning Show making the Winter Blast one of the best ever. We had 15 coaches attend and a very special private area to watch the FIREWORKS which were absolutely magnificent. In fact both couples have volunteered to do it again for 2016. If you have never attended this incredible display of FIREWORKS be sure to mark your calendars now for next year.

We are always in need of rally masters... If you have never enjoyed the fun of volunteering, then please take the opportunity and do so. We have many experienced mentors who are willing and able to co-host with you in your first rally!

Our newly designed website is up and running! Jim Archer, as Webmaster, has created a site that is second to none. We will have a "members only" section, our own personal passwords, with everything pertaining to Alpine SoCal available in one site! Please check out the new website. I know you all will be proud and grateful for Jim's foresight and creativity. Patti Warren has earned our Alpine SoCal chapter some recognition with our newsletter; and at the Indio Rally our *Matterhorn*, under Patti's direction, was named THE BEST FMCA NEWSLETTER for smaller Western family clubs. Congratulations to Patti & Jim for their creativity and very hard work!



Safe travels, Joe Darling, President SoCal Alpine Association (520)603-7292



We are looking forward to seeing you at many of the upcoming rallies.









#### Membership Report Mary Langord, 1st V.P.



With the holidays behind us, membership recruitment will be picking up. Our most recent new members are Gene & Sheila Armstrong of Fontana, CA. They are good friends of Ed and Donna Mathews and we extend a warm welcome to them.

Our membership in Alpine SoCal has remained right at 69 members for several years. I'm optimistic that, as a new generation of Alpine owners emerge, we will be able to maintain our vitality as a chapter.

We are still a Brand Specific Chapter... meaning that only Alpine owners may join our chapter. We do, however, recognize that some Alpine owners have recently bought "some other brand" of motorhome. Once an Alpine owner and

member, you are always considered eligible to maintain your membership, regardless of which brand you may purchase in the future.

I'd like to remind you that the Alpine Coach Association is a "sister" chapter and their membership is now open to all brands. As such, their members may attend our SoCal rallies just as NorCal, NoWACA and Alpine Chapters, depending on space available.

Our Alpine SoCal status has not changed but I'm sure as our Alpines continue to age, the Chapter will continue to review the subject.

Meanwhile, keep those eyes open for Alpine owners everywhere and encourage them to become active in our fabulous chapter. Applications for membership are on our outstanding website. Pass the word: Alpinesocal.com

Check out all the new design & additions to our Website! It's much easier to navigate with added features and content for "Members Only"...

Thank you Webmaster, Jim Archer!

www.alpinesocal.com

You will find all registration forms and rally information on our Website....



## The RVers Prayer

God bless our traveling home, and guide us where ever we roam.

Help us find the roads we seek, and please don't let the plumbing leak.

Save us, please from engine trouble, and mechanics who would charge us double.

> As we travel on our way, bless us with sunshine every day.

And while you're watching over all, could you let gas prices fall?

Lead us toward good food and friends, and when at last our journey ends;

Grant our rolling home sweet rest, until the next endurance test.

#### FMCA Director Alpine SoCal FMCA Report... Carolyn Swan

Greetings to you all from a sunny and warm North Tustin neighborhood! It is Sunday evening, March 8, and Day-Light Savings is just beginning!

This is going to be a very short article. We are consumed with preparing to move out of our home this week & placing everything into storage for 2 months, while remediation of the damage that was done on our solid oak floors in October when a pipe burst and flooded under our home while we were in NC visiting our daughter and her family. At the same time we are wrapping things up for the ACA Pre-rally in Valencia, which we are hosting with the Langords, prior to the FMCA Rally in Pomona. We are expecting 32 Alpiners (64 people) from all over the United States. The vast majority of us are Volunteering at Pomona and we were blessed with the assignment of driving carts for the physically challenged.



Tris & Carolyn Swan

This is a coveted Volunteer position and we consider ourselves lucky to get it. Last summer in Redmond we had a "blast"driving carts and really getting to know a lot of convention participants from all over.

The FMCA Summer Convention is going to be held late July in Madison Wisconsin. For the first time in 8 years, Tris and I will not be attending the Governing Board Meeting and Convention. SoCal is going to need a "stand in" representative to vote our interests at the Board meeting. So if you are planning on attending the Convention, please give me a call and we can talk about it!

We are planning a trip to Alaska this summer.

Hope to see you next week at Valencia Travel Village and if not, I wish you safe travels & God's blessings where ever you roam!

Carolyn Swan

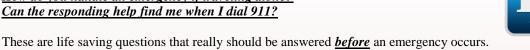


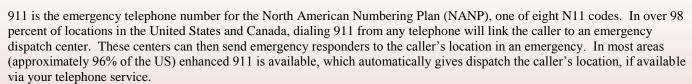




# 911 Emergency...

What would you do if faced with an emergency on the road, away from home...? How do you handle an emergency if traveling alone? Can the responding help find me when I dial 911?





In 1996 the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an order requiring wireless carriers to determine and transmit the location of callers who dial 911. The FCC set up a phased program; Phase I involved sending the location of the receiving antenna for 911 calls, while Phase II sends the location of the calling telephone. Carriers were allowed to choose to implement "handset based" location by Global Positioning System (GPS) or similar technology in each phone, or "network based" location by means of triangulation between cell towers.

Our rally groups provide that little extra bit of security in emergency situations when away from home and in unfamiliar surroundings. You can count on your fellow travelers to help in times when you might not be at your best in arranging details and transportation. Don't hesitate to ask for help...!

The time to work out what to do and who to call is BEFORE an emergency. Make a plan with those important phone numbers, health issues, medications and directions to your coach including that space number. Also, place an extra phone charger in your purse or by the door of the coach, to grab on the way out. Nothing worse than getting stuck with a dead phone in an emergency! Be safe and give some thought to planning ahead... just in case!





# Alpine Socal Board Members...

#### **Title**

President ... Joe Darling

Vice-President ... Mary Langord

Rally Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP ... Bill Figge

Treasurer ... Rick Fisher

Secretary ... Michele "Mike" Collins

National Director ... Carolyn Swan

Alternate Nat'l Director ... Joel Langord

Newsletter Editors ... Patti/Jim Warren

WebMaster ... Jim Archer

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joellangord@gmail.com
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# **Congratulations to Us!**

The Matterhorn Newsletter was chosen as the **BEST** small chapter Newsletter for Western FMCA!

It was announced at the closing ceremony for Western FMCA, at the Riverside County Fairgrounds, in Indio, CA, January 11, 2015.

Thank you, to all of us... for the articles, ads and information contained within that make this newsletter come alive. Keep up the great work!

Editors: Jim and Patti Warren



ongratulations



# WebMaster... Jim Archer

Anybody who has logged onto the alpinesocal.com website in the past month or two has probably noticed a visual change in the website. There is a change in the appearance of the website, and a big change behind the scenes! We now have a website that will allow Alpine SoCal members to log into a secure area for members only. This change will allow me, and others, to post content that we wish to only share with fellow members. Not the whole wide world as in the past.

You should be able to access the new website by using the alpinesocal.com name or <a href="http://www.alpinesocal.com/">http://www.alpinesocal.com/</a>. If you have previously set a bookmark or favorite for the website, it might have saved the home page itself, which was <a href="http://www.alpinesocal.com/index.html">http://www.alpinesocal.com/index.html</a>. This page no longer exists. If you have trouble accessing the website using alpinesocal.com, try using <a href="http://www.alpinesocal.com/index.php">http://www.alpinesocal.com/index.php</a>.

As you may have noticed, all the information that was previously available without logging in is still available to the public. After all, we want to use the website to attract new members!

If you use alpinesocal.com on a mobile device, it may take you to a mobile site. At the top of this page is a link to the <a href="http://www.alpinesocal.com/index.php">http://www.alpinesocal.com/index.php</a> website.

I will be sending out login ID's and secure passwords to the members if I have not done so by the time you read this. I will be using the email addresses currently on the Alpine SoCal Roster. This is a system generated email. After you receive it, you may log into the Members Only section, and see what is there. (It is a work in progress!) If spouses want their own login ID, I will need a different email address, as the login system is tied to the email address. If there is a secondary email on the roster, I will use it.

As with most websites, if you forget your password, you can request a new password be sent to you using a link on the sign in page. Then follow the instructions on the return email. You don't need to send a request to me.

Happy travels, and we hope to see you at a rally soon!!

## **Upcoming Rally Events for Alpine SoCal... 2015**

Las Vegas Motor Coach Resort......April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>

Lake Powell.......October 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> The Springs at Borrego RV Resort.....November 4 – 9<sup>th</sup>

Please check our website for registration forms and additional information. Sign up soon! See you all there for these fun-filled rallies.

AlpineSoCal.com









#### ALPINE COACH ASSOCIATION

PRE-RALLY to FMCA POMONA, CA RALLY 2015

VALENCIA TRAVEL VILLAGE

27946 Henry Mayo Drive (Hwy 126) - Castaic - 91380 - (661)257-3333 MARCH 19-24, 2015

<u>Pre-rally fee includes</u>: 5 nights camping with full hookups, a docent guided three (3) hour tour of the Reagan Presidential Library with BBQ lunch served under the wings of Air Force I, and a guided tour of the Nethercutt Museum of treasures spanning four floors in the collection's original facility. Meals include three (3) breakfasts, one (1) lunch, two (2) dinners, one (1) pot luck dinner & one (1) dessert night.





Nethercutt Museum

Among the treasures spanning four floors in the collection's original facility is one of the world's most outstanding assortments of beautifully restored antique, classic automobiles. They are showcased in an exquisite re-creation of an opulent automotive grand salon of the 1920's and 1930's. An amazing collection of automobile mascots, antique furniture, clocks and watches, and one of the world's finest collections of Mechanical Musical Instruments are displayed in the music room.





Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

As a Presidential Library administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the Reagan Library, under the authority of the Presidential Records Act, is the repository of presidential records for President Reagan's administration. The Library's holdings include over 60 million pages of documents, over 1.6 million photographs, a half million feet of motion picture film, tens of thousands of audio and video tape, and over 40,000 artifacts.

You will find all registration forms and rally information on our Website....

www.alpinesocal.com



#### FMCA RALLY...POMONA

Remember to support the FMCA
Pomona Rally. ACA has asked Alpine
SoCal to co-host the Pre-Rally in
Valencia. Carolyn & Tris Swan and
Mary and Joel Langord volunteered as
co-hosts for Valencia. FMCA also asked
for support from our chapter to volunteer
our time at Pomona to pull
the big rally together.
Your attendance is appreciated in this
endeavor.

Remember to send in your bios, recipes, photos and funny RVing stories. We want to hear from all of you sometime during the year...

Make this YOUR

Matterhorn!









### 27th Western Area Rally in Indio, CA

Western Area President, Dick Gibbs, reported: "Our 27th Annual Western Area Rally is now history, and what a great rally it was, with a theme of OUT OF THIS WORLD. We had close to 900 family coaches, along with 1700 Day Passes & 45 Pass Ports, giving us an excellent attendance.

The 2016 theme will be "CALL OF THE WILD". Make your plans now to attend next January!

# Let's get to know... Mike and Mike Collins

1. Where did you grow up? (Hometowns)

He: Berkeley ~~~ She: Hanford

2. How did you earn your living?

He: Purchasing / oil fields ~~~ She: Teacher/Prison

3. Where and how did you acquire your Alpine Coach? Vermont... flew...drove back!

4. Children/grandchildren and/or pets? 1 kid, 5 grandchildren, 1 dog

5. Hobbies or special talents? ...(Don't be bashful!)
Rving!!

6. Bucket list for RV, or any type of travel, trips? Leaf peeping, Canadian Maritimes

7. Favorite destination in your Alpine Coach?
Beaches!

8. Add something that might surprise us all to know about you! Seriously!!

(As in... alligator wrestling, ballroom/square dancing, rubber-band collecting...etc.)

He: Ham Radio and seeking perfect IPA ~~~ She: Loves to bake











## Let's get to know... Jerry and Toni Smith

1. Where did you grow up? (Hometowns)

He: Sun Valley, CA ~~~ She: Honolulu, HI & Sacramento

2. How did you earn your living?

He: Banker ~~~ She: AT&T employee

3. Where and how did you acquire your Alpine Coach?

At a FMCA rolly in Pomona in 2006. Jerry was in 1

At a FMCA rally in Pomona in 2006. Jerry was in lust for it. We actually ended up picking it up in Gilroy from Guarantee 2 weeks before they closed and left California...

4. Children/grandchildren and/or pets?

5. Hobbies or special talents? ...(Don't be bashful!) Waxing and washing the RV. Karaoke singing!

6. Bucket list for RV, or any type of travel, trips? Want to go to Alaska.

7. Favorite destination in your Alpine Coach? Eastern Sierra and mountain lakes

8. Add something that might surprise us all to know about you! Seriously!!

(As in... alligator wrestling, ballroom/square dancing, rubber-band collecting...etc.)

Toni lived in West Berlin for a year before the Wall came down. My family's first RV was a Webber's Bread Truck.





# A Death Valley Trip... By Mikey Collins



Six couples camped in Death Valley this January. Dave Guhse took this photo when he and Nicole, the Archers and the Collins visited Rhyolite Ghost Town just outside Death Valley. The Smiths and Lisecs were also in on all the fun!



Temperature Guide				
°C	°F	Human		
-20	-4	Extreme Cold		
-10	14	Very Cold		
0	32	Cold		
10	50	Cool		
20	68	Brisk		
30	86	Warm		
35	95	Hot		
40	104	Very Hot		
50	122	Exteme Heat		



Share your Newsletter...

Let some of our Alpine friends in on all the fun...

Share your Matterhorn by sending it on...
to any Alpine Coach owners that may not
be members of Alpine SoCal. You may join
as many other Alpine Chapters as you like
and get their rally news first hand! They
might want to join SoCal and take
advantage of our many fantastic rallys.
Pass the word to your Alpine Friends!



### Sharing your Selfies...

Next time out on the road, take a Selfie and show us where you are traveling! We will post the selfies every quarter in the Matterhorn. These are typically silly pics, so share in the fun! This will give us a good idea of how many are out there enjoying the good life in our Alpines!

Mary Ann Ratliff & Orville McGee In the Quartzsite Rally area...!





Mary & Joel Langord...
Good Times!







Jim & Patti Warren
We spent the month of January
at home...!

#### **ANYONE ON FACEBOOK?**

Don't forget to check out these interesting FB & internet pages:

#### **ALPINE OWNERS PAGE**

https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlpineOwners/?fref=ts

#### **RV ROAD TRIPPERS**

https://www.facebook.com/DriveFCCC?hc\_location=stam

...And our very own Website...

Alpine SoCal Website...Webmaster: Jim Archer <a href="https://www.alpinesocal.com">https://www.alpinesocal.com</a>



facebook

#### So Cal Alpine Rally Committee (SARC) update

...by Ramona Escamilla



Another very successful rally was enjoyed at the Lake Havasu Winter Blast in February. Bravo to the Co-Wagon Master team of Nick & Ramona Escamilla, Dave & Nicole Guhse and Joe & Micki Darling. They did such a great job that our 3<sup>rd</sup> Winter Blast Rally has already been reserved for February, 2016.

We have a lot more going on with Rally Plans for 2015 and 2016. Remember to regularly check our website for the latest rally schedule information.

<u>2015</u>- Watch for Rally Registrations forms, on the website, in up-coming months for: <u>Las Vegas, Lake Powell</u> and <u>The Springs at Borrego Rallies</u>.

Due to the success and fun of The Winter Blast rally, Dave & Nicole Guhse caught <u>Alpineitis</u> and volunteered as Wagon Masters for Lake Powell. Co-Wagon Masters are still needed, so please consider calling the Guhses' to partner with them for this great rally.

At Press Time, the Valencia rally still had a few open spaces, call Mary Langord to check.

The prospective Disneyland Rally remains in the planning stage and may occur if ACA wishes to participate this year.

2016- If we are to continue the caravan into the FMCA Indio Fairgrounds Rally, in order to remain parked together in a group, we need a member to organize the caravan.

Gail Stacy will gladly advise on procedure.

3<sup>rd</sup> Havasu Winter Blast Rally added for February 8-15, Co-Wagon Masters are still needed.

Dates have been confirmed for our Summer Rally in Paso Robles. A beautiful, newer RV Park (The Vines) has been selected.

During the last Member Meeting in Havasu, it was decided to take the East Shore LA County Fair Rally off the schedule due to low member interest. Please let us know if there is a rally location in September you would like to substitute and/or even volunteer as Co-Wagon Master.

**An appeal!** Elections for our 2016/2017 Board Officers will be here soon. Please give serious thought to running for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Rally Director position. Or provide assistance by joining the SARC committee! Let us know of your questions or interest about this position or SARC.

Your Loyal SARC members: Anne McDougal, Ramona Escamilla, & Bill Figge



Happy, Safe Travels & also... Happy St. Patrick's Day

Happy April Fool's Day
Happy Easter
Happy Tax Day

Happy Earth Day

Happy Mother's Day Happy Memorial Day Happy Flag Day

\*



Happy Everything, until we meet again!

## Winter Blast....Lake Havasu City, AZ by Dave Hobden & Ramona Escamilla

Friday, February 13, was the official start of our Alpine group rally, Winter Blast! It was held at the SARA(Special Activities and Recreation Area) Park in Lake Havasu City, AZ. Among our 17 Alpine coaches attending were over 350 other RV's of all shape and sizes enjoying the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Winter Blast Pyrotechnics Show.

We gathered each morning for coffee and conversation in our Alpine "center" between coaches. Several mornings we were treated with goodies in a continental breakfast. One evening we enjoyed a nice BBQ dinner at the Rodeo grounds with live music! Other wonderful meals included pizza and salads and rotisserie chicken and three salads. One evening we had "make your own" ice cream Sundaes! This was met with rave reviews!

The fireworks display each evening was awesome! I'm afraid the pics don't do them justice. They just got bigger and louder each night with the culmination on Sunday. By the end of this extravagaanza we had seen enough fireworks to last until next years' rally. Be sure and consider this rally if you've not attended before... Very impressive!

A huge, big THANK YOU to our fantastic hosts for an exceptional rally and such good meals... Thank you to Nick and Ramona Escamilla (stepping in to be Wagon Masters for the Darlings when Joe required back surgery) and thank you to Dave and Nicole Guhse for volunteering to be co-Wagon Masters at the last moment! You all did a great job and we are all grateful for your expertise!

A big THANK YOU to all attending. Without you, we couldn't have shared in such a wonderful experience! Thank you from your Wagon Masters: Ramona and Nick Escamilla & Nicole and Dave Guhse

Hope to see you all back next year for the 27th Annual Western Winter Blast Pyrotechnics Show!





**The Desert Rat ACA Rally in Quartzsite** was, once again, a roaring success! There were 73 Alpines at the rally. Very impressive when seen all in a line! There was a huge tent where most of the activities took place. The annual ACA meeting was on the schedule along with Gear Head sessions and many wonderful meals. As usual, Engineer Mike Fleming (The Fleming's & Foster's were Wagon Masters) was kept very busy along with others who had expert knowledge on our Alpines. The big campfire is an annual tradition and was enjoyed each evening!

There were many off road groups exploring the surrounding desert in their ATV's, including Tom Polk and Dave and Stilla Hobden. This area is an off roader paradise with trails going everywhere...

The BIG Tent in town was, as usual, very BIG. Dave Hobden reported that there were even more vendors than last year, much to the ladies delight! Good times!

Pizza in town with friends is always a great treat, especially after playing and relaxing hard all day!

Hope we see you next year at the Desert Rat ACA Quartzsite Rally! Thank you to all the Wagon Masters involved in making Desert Rat another big success!

(This article was a compilation of many. Thank you Dave Hobden, Wilma Egg, Mary Langord and others...)



Spring Training 'Spot' Rally...

Eight Alpine Coaches spent almost two weeks in Goodyear, AZ attending Baseball Spring Training and enjoying the beautiful "spring-like" weather. We all had our different "favorite" teams and visited many of the team games & stadiums in the Phoenix area.

There were many other activities to keep us busy including: The Mystery Castle, the Good Sam Rally at the Phoenix International Raceway, Organ Stop Pizza and the Desert Botanical Garden. A special highlight was a "happy hour" get together at Bob & Connie Bowers new home, in Surprise. Great food, beautiful new home with attached RV garage, and great friends enjoying each others' company! Thanks you Bowers!

Jack Giddens & Noel Peck treated the Warrens to a Flag and Banner Pole! The Archers provided a solar light for night display! Thank you everyone. . . We love it!



Good Sam Rally at PIR

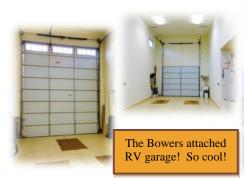
















# RALLY SCHEDULE—2015 & 2016 (Revised March 4, 2015)

2015			C33		
Jan. 6 – 11*	Riverside County Fairgrounds Indio, CA	FMCA* WMHA	Gail Stacy (Caravan only) gjstacy@cox.net		
Jan. 14 - 20	Desert Rat Rally Quartzsite, AZ	ACA	Mike & Ann Fleming meflemin@pacbell.net John & Lorraine Foster fostfreez@aol.com		
Feb. 11 - 16	Winter Blast, Lake Havasu City, AZ	SoCal	Nick & Ramona Escamilla ramona324@hotmail.com		
March 19 - 24	Pre-Rally for Pomona Valencia RV Park	ACA	Joel & Mary Langord <u>landgord@mac.com</u> Tris & Carolyn Swan <u>Swansnest2@verizon.com</u>		
March 26 - 29	Fairplex in Pomona, CA	FMCA* Conv.			
April 30 - May 4	Las Vegas—LV Motor Resort	SoCal	John & Gail Stacy <u>gistacy@cox.net</u> Mike & Donna Hambarian <u>grbgmike@aol.com</u>		
Oct. 7 - 13	Lake Powell	SoCal	David & Nicole Guhse <u>daguhse@yahoo.com</u> <u>Co-Wagon Masters NEEDED</u> **		
Nov. 4 - 9	The Springs at Borrego BorregoSprings, CA	SoCal	Bob & Helena Mazzocco bobnhelena@roadrunner.com Rick & Judy Fisher judyrfisher@gmail.com		
2016					
Jan. 6 - 10	Riverside County Fairgrounds Indio, CA	FMCA*	Need volunteer to lead Caravan & coordinate volunteers. <b>Gail Stacy will mentor</b> .		
Jan. TBD	Desert Rat	ACA			
Feb. 8 - 15	Winter Blast, Lake Havasu	SoCal	Escamilla's ramona324@hotmail.com Need Co-Wagon Master		
March 4 - 11	Baseball Spring Training Cotton Lane RV Park Goodyear, AZ	SoCal	Bob & Connie Bowers <a href="mailto:rhb1106@gmail.com">rhb1106@gmail.com</a>		
April 22 - 25	Newport Dunes RV Park Newport, CA	SoCal	Guhse's dagushe@yahoo.com Warren's jimwarren@prodigy.net ***		
June 1 - 8	Wine Country RV Paso Robles, CA	SoCal	McDougal's mcdanne2@gmail.com Johnson's firecapt98@hotmail.com		
Sept. 29 - Oct. 3	Pahrump, Nevada Wine Crush	SoCal	Stacy's gistacy42@gmail.com Escamilla's ramon324@hotmail.com		
Spot Rally Suggestions	Monterey County Fairgrounds 49er Village, Plymouth, CA Silver Strand State Beach, Coronado, CA	\$50. \$70 – 90 \$65	End of Sept. through early Nov. (Best Times) Mid May Fair, rodeo, frog jump, wineries  Oct – Dec., Apr.– (early) May		
*Must register directly with FMCA **McDougal's will Mentor ***Figge's will Mentor					
With the state of					

\* Last day listed on dates is date of departure.





April







