FROM THE PRESIDENT:

May each of you have a Wonderful Thanksgiving, a Blessed Merry Christmas and the Best New Year Ever!

"Rally in the Valley" at Florida Grande

Twenty five coaches gathered at the Florida Grande R. V. Resort in Webster, FL for the annual Blue Bird "Rally in the Valley" on October 25-30, hosted by our President and wife, Leroy and Glenda Wilson.

We were sorry to hear of an accident resulting from a tire blowout on Ralph and Carolyn Thiele's coach on their way to the Rally. Fortunately they were not hurt, but the damage to the coach seemed to be significant. We are wishing them the best of luck with a speedy repair so they can be up and ready to rejoin us "on the road" again soon.

We were greeted with a light meal of "finger food" and a welcome from a Resort Representative Sunday night.

Monday was dominated by a trip through the local Flea Market. After an evening meal of spaghetti, a business meeting was held. During that meeting, President Wilson read a letter from FMCA along with a certificate of congratulations for 40 years of membership of the Blue Bird club in FMCA. After the Business Meeting, we tried our luck at BINGO.

After breakfast Tuesday morning, some of the aspiring artists pushed into creative mode and painted lovely flowers on an apron under the direction of a local artist, Marty Whitney. Meanwhile, the men held a "Tech Talk" and exchanged information regarding technical things on their Birds.

In the evening the culinary arts were in abundance as twelve of our own chefs offered up their delicious renditions of chili at the "First Annual Blue Bird Chili Cook-off." The results of the voting was announced with First Prize going to
Brenda and Jeff Horvath, Second Prize was awarded to James and Linda Weatherford and Third Prize went to Jack and Ila VanDenBerg. We were all winners, as this was a delicious event enjoyed by everyone! We all agreed that this would be an event well worth repeating! After a satisfying meal, we enjoyed another round of BINGO.

After breakfast Wednesday morning the day was free for individual pursuits of activities in the area. We gathered in the evening for a hamburger and hot dog cook out, (burgers were cooked by Joe Crocker, Gregg Peterson and Dennie James) followed by a musical treat from James Weatherford.

Thursday was a free day after breakfast in the Clubhouse. After an evening meal of barbecue, James was kind enough to treat us to an encore of his musical talents.

Friday morning we said our farewells after coffee and muffins. We all agreed that Florida Grande was grand!

The following is a list of attendees at the Rally

Bob & June Cortner
Jimmy & Jean Cox
Joe & Susan Crocker
Harney & Lois Davey
Maurice & Rozanne DeShazer
Ross & Carolyn Dover
Jeff & Brenda Horvath
Dennie & Karen James
Peter & Janet Kent
Mike & Lori Kneelan
Brad & Mary Ellen McDonald
John McPherson & Ethel Sawyer
A.J. & Carole Ann Mickler
Larry & Betty Miller
Charles & Evelyn Olsen
Gregg & Judi Peterson
Richard & Sue Ramsey
Ken & Susan Rife
Brenda Rodgers Jean Gilbert
Ron & Dorinda Ruckwald
Wayne & Ella Snead
Tommy & Shirley Vance
Jack & Ila VanDenBerg
Charles & Martha Vaughn
Leroy & Glenda Wilson
Alan Darson

Respectfully submitted by Rozanne DeShazer
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA

**Monday October 26, 2015**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Florida Grande Motor Coach Resort**

**Webster, FL**

Leroy Wilson, President, called the meeting to order. Because there were 25 coaches represented at the meeting, a quorum was met.

Susan Crocker, Secretary, read the minutes from the last meeting. Following a motion by Judi Peterson, a second by Harney Davey, and a unanimous vote by the membership, the minutes were approved.

Leroy Wilson led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Carolyn Dover, Treasurer, gave the club’s financial report. (Attached) This amount reported does not reflect costs for the rally, which have not been paid. Following a motion by Tommy Vance, second by Jimmy Cox, and a unanimous vote by the membership, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Brenda Rogers, the Sunshine Committee Chairperson, reported on members and/or loved ones of members who have passed away or are ill. She expressed appreciation for the thoughts and expressions of concern during her illness last year.

Greg Peterson, National FMCA Director, gave a report on the FMCA. He reported that the FMCA is trying to maintain/grow its membership. The Emergency Medical Insurance for FMCA members is being paid from its capital funds rather than from the money generated from membership dues. FMCA has also hired a consulting firm that specializes in clubs to help in advertising the FMCA. The magazine is now bigger and contains more articles, which is nice.

In the President’s Report, Leroy recognized members who have rallies planned. Charlie and Martha Vaughn have a rally planned for Mt. Airy, NC for April 6-10, 2016. Dennie and Karen James have a Yellowstone Gathering planned for July 30-August 9, 2016. Printed information about both of these rallies was provided.
A copy of the revised Rally Handbook and the old Rally Handbook were distributed for the membership to review. Recommendations will be made and considered at the Mt. Airy Rally where a Rally Handbook will be voted on.

Leroy announced the formation of a Rally/Revitalization Committee that will serve to help members who need assistance in hosting a rally. Members of the committee are Brenda Rodgers, Jack VanDenBerg, Rozanne DeShazer, Jimmy Cox, and Jeff Horvath.

Because next year is an election year, Leroy opened the floor for members to volunteer to serve on the nominating committee. The following members agreed to serve: Charlie Vaughn, Maurice DeShazer, and Karen James.

Charlie Vaughn reminded members of the importance of having current contact information listed with the club.

The 2016 Family of Friends Family Reunion will be held in Waynesville/Maggie Valley, NC October 12-16, 2016. Joe and Susan Crocker will host it and will provide printed information regarding the Pride RV Resort and the Registration Form.

Leroy presented and read to the membership a certificate from FMCA recognizing the Blue Bird Family of Friends on its 40th anniversary as a Chapter of FMCA.

Alan Darson discussed having a post Oshkosh rolling rally through the Upper Peninsula of Michigan following the Oshkosh Rally July 25-30.

Following a motion by Joe Crocker, a second by Judi Peterson, and a unanimous vote by the membership, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Leroy Wilson, President
Susan Crocker, Secretary

Sunshine Article – November 2015

Greetings from Fort Valley, Georgia – home of the new Miss America, Betty Cantrell. Although Warner Robins claims her since she is Miss Warner Robins and Miss Georgia, her home address is actually Fort Valley. We are so proud to claim her as our own!

Congratulations to our Chapter President and First Lady, Leroy and Glenda Wilson, on a very successful rally in October in Webster, Florida. It was so great to see so many of you Blue Birders that I had not seen in a long time. What a special “Family of Friends” we
love!

Ralph and Carolyn Thiele had an accident on I-75 on their way to the Webster Rally due to a blowout. Thankfully they were not injured seriously but their coach was damaged and prevented them from attending the rally. We missed you!

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bobbie and Dan Jensen in the loss of Bobbie's father, Mr. Gerald Bliss, on November 12 at the age of 91. He spent 30 years as an Officer and Pilot in the Air Force. Although Bobbie and Dan have recently relocated, cards can still be sent to their old address: 474 Schooner Drive, Azle TX 76020. Please keep them in your prayers.

Jeanette Bradshaw and her family need our prayers. She lost her mother, Mrs. Lavonia Wainwright on August 30 (age 90), and also lost her sister, Judith Braswell (age 69) on November 18. Address: 377 Vinson Road, Fort Valley GA 31030.

Get well wishes go to Carl Tompkins of Troutman, North Carolina. He has recently suffered from three heart attacks and serious stomach problems. He has spent many days in the last two months in the hospital, and is at home now. Please continue to lift him up in your prayers as well as Judi. Address: 136 Woodtree Lane, Troutman, NC 28166.

Our love and prayers to Carolyn and Ross Dover as Carolyn is hospitalized for three days undergoing heart related tests. We look forward to hopefully hearing a good report soon.

Congratulations to Jim and Jean Thompson on their 28th Wedding Anniversary on October 24th.

Many of us were fortunate to meet the beautiful new little great granddaughter of Jimmy and Jean Cox as their granddaughter (also beautiful) visited them at the Webster Rally. Congratulations!

It's exciting that the 93rd Family Reunion of FMCA will be held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia, on March 17-20, 2016. I do hope many of you are making plans to attend. The dates of the Macon Cherry Blossom Festival are March 17-April 3, 2016.

Please remember to send us information that we can include in the Sunshine article. My very best wishes to each one of you and all those you love for a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. May God bless all of you with good health, happiness, and safe travels.

Submitted by: Brenda Rodgers

**FUTURE RALLIES:**
Moonshine over Mayberry
April 6 to April 10, 2016
Mount Airy, NC
Mayberry Campground
Hosted by Charlie & Martha Vaughn

Have you eaten a sonker lately? Seen a real whiskey still? Created your own painting? Visited a racing museum? These and other delights await you at the Blue Bird and Friends Rally in Mount Airy, NC. You don’t want to miss this exciting, fun-filled rally!

Rated the best ice cream in the area.

You can enjoy your cone and take a stroll through a sculpture garden.

We’ll visit the Earle and listen to old time music at the broadcast of the Merry-GO-Round, the second oldest radio show in the USA.

No red-blooded Southerner can resist the roar of a NASCAR engine. Come to his museum and see how Richard Childress made his fame.

Gene and Latonna at Mud Duck Pottery create beautiful horsehair and Raku pottery. We’ll visit their shop on a tour of the arts including Scenic Gifts and their unique furniture.

You can create your own masterpiece at the Blue Rabbit Painting Party.

Mayberry Spirits welcomes us with a tour of their distillery and a tasting of their wares. A cigar rolling demonstration is included on the tour.

Don’t miss this rally! More information in a later newsletter.

Blue Bird Family of Friends Annual Reunion
October 12 – 16, 2016
Waynesville/Maggie Valley, North Carolina
Pride Resorts, 4394 Jonathan Creek Road, Waynesville, N.C.
Phone 1-800-926-8191
Hosted by Joe & Susan Crocker

$225.00 rally fee per coach  $$150.00 per single person

Rally Fee includes Welcome bag, four breakfasts, 4 dinners, Entertainment, games with prizes, Door Prizes, and Commemorative DVD of rally.

Enjoy the beauty of the mountains, Blue Ridge parkway, see elk in the Cataloochee Valley, Visit “Wheels through Time” Motorcycle Museum, Explore Maggie Valley and
Waynesville. Enjoy the annual harvest Festival in Waynesville. Send registration and rally fee payable to Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA in care of Carolyn Dover, PO Box 711, Marietta, S.C., 29661

January 9-24, 2016 - Annual Birds of a Feather rally in Quartzsite, AZ. “Birds of a Feather” 2016 Quartzsite Blue Bird Rally information is available for viewing. Click on https://birdsofafeather1.shutterfly.com/ the password is flocktogether. The documents are fluid in that they will be revised some as time moves forward. The Q Participant List and the Q Reminders will be published later in the year, about October. Nesting area is the same as all prior years. Google Maps: http://goo.gl/maps/6Grhe Takes a few seconds to load. Instructions are on the left. Information about the AFTER Q road trip to Mexico can be found on this Thread "So you want to visit Mexico in your Bluebird?" or click on http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.co...ad.php?t=22405 Planning is still underway...

July 25-31, 2016 - Joint Rally with Bluebird Chapter at EAA Oshkosh Air Show- details are still in the works, but please contact Shane at shanefedeli@gmail.com if you think you might be interested - Pacific Northwest Rally- Hood River County, Oregon Fairgrounds- Informal rally with potluck dinners, train rides, jeep excursions and a few outings to local attractions. Contact John Alley for further details at porschenein59@gorge.net List updated 9-1-2015

Earth Moon by Martha Rowe Vaughn

I hope you could see the eclipse. We were too cloudy to enjoy it. I was fortunate to see one some years ago. The Maya from the Yucatan believe that during an eclipse the earth captures the moon, thus the red color. They believe that they must make lots of noise and scare the earth off the moon and return the moon to its rightful place in the sky. They beat drums and anything that will make noise to accomplish this. Here is an account that I witnessed far in the jungle of the Yucatan. My friend and I were the only non-Mayan people for miles around. It was scary and amazing.
EARTH MOON

Lunar Eclipse

Punta Laguna, Yucatán

Black night shrouds us,
The jungle teems with dark sounds
Of secret, hairy, scaly lives.

Nerves edgy from strange surrounds,
Voices tight, we speak in whispers
Dislocated English on Maya land.

Up pops the halogen moon
Above the towering jungle trees.
Flooding us in its singular light
Craters, ridges, mountains clear
Through the Yucatán night.

Silence, we are stunned in wonder
Watching silver turn red-brown,
The color of ancient Maya soil,
Dark with the ooze from sacrificial wounds
Pierced by priests, centuries past.
Drums split the silence,
Metal beating on metal,
Blown conch shells wailing,
Fill the jungle with human sounds.
Fill us with the fear of things unknown

Urgently the din continues
Coaxing earth’s return to ground.
Seeking to appease the gods,
Pleading for the natural order.

Slowly moon releases earth.
Gods have heard the noisy plea,
Return the world to rightful order,
Replace the earth at our feet.

Breathing slows as din is silenced,
Relief replaces fear,
Silence surrounds us in the night.
Peace and wonder make us humble
Awed by the majesty of God’s light show
Did you know that perchlorates could be the reason that you have a thyroid problem?

I just read an article in our local paper by Suzy Cohen, pharmacist, who stated that this toxin attacks thyroid function.

In the article she says The National Institutes of Health describes perchlorate as a natural and man-made colorless, odorless chemical commonly used to make pool chlorination chemicals, matches, batteries, fertilizers, chewing tobacco, aluminum refining, and more. As a result, it has contaminated our groundwater supply and our food supply if those food items are grown in perchlorate-contaminated water. Perchlorates are also sometimes injected intravenously into people in order to test them for Hashimoto’s thyroiditis. Whether you drink it or eat it, or get exposed during a test, perchlorates can lead to hypothyroidism, which is associated with weight gain, fatigue and infertility.

So if you are having thyroid problems maybe you should be tested to check your perchlorates levels. Suzy Cohen also stated that iodine and selenium supplementation may help.

If you are interested in reaching Suzy Cohen, her information is as follows: info@dearpharmacist.com and www.SuzyCohen.com

Happy Trails, Happy Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas!!!

Sharon Kirby
Cooking is for the Birds by Rozanne DeShazer

{Baked Fried Chicken}
I am pretty sure someone has discovered the KFC secret recipe! It is DEAD ON! It is also baked...not fried and there isn't any skin! So you get to enjoy the taste of the seasoning, instead of pulling it off because of the slimy skin!

This is super easy and you are TOTALLY going to love it!

Place thawed chicken breast tenderloin strips in a bowl of milk. Let soak for 20-30 min.

Mix in a Gallon Size Ziploc or Large Bowl:
1/2 tsp. Salt
1 T Season All
3/4 tsp Pepper
1 c. Flour
2 tsp. Paprika

Season all: http://www.amazon.com/Morton-Season-All-Season.../.../B002SRAU80

Other ingredients:
***you will also need a stick of butter and milk.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut 1/2 stick of butter into a few pieces and place in a 9x13 pan. Melt butter in pre-heated oven.

Spread melted butter around the bottom of the pan. Lightly spray the pan, if needed, to make sure that there are no dry spots.

Shake excess milk off of chicken and completely coat each piece with the seasoning mix. You can either shake the chicken in the bag, until coated, or dip each piece in the bowl until coated.
Place each piece of chicken in the pan.

Cook for 20 min. Turn each piece of chicken and continue cooking for 20 more minutes, or until cooked through.
ENJOY!

Chicken Artichoke Dip

1 can chicken breast (12 oz.0), drained
1 1/2 c. Artichoke Hearts, chopped ad drained
1 c. Mayonnaise
1 c. Shredded Parmesan Cheese
1 Garlic Clove, minced
2 Green Onions, chopped

Combine all ingredients and mix well.
Place in an oven-safe dish and microwave on high for 5 min. or bake at 350° for 20 min. or until cheese is melted.
Serve with tortilla chips, crackers or sliced baguette.

A Yellowstone Gathering! August 2016

Make your own reservations. This is a “gathering” with no real organized activities other than to get together and enjoy the wonders of Wyoming and Montana and spend time with friends.

**Cody, Wyoming.** Ponderosa Campground *July 30 to August 3, 2015*.  
[www.codyponderosa.com](http://www.codyponderosa.com) 307-587-9203

Within walking distance to shops, restaurants, Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Trolley stop to rodeo and other events.

**West Yellowstone, Montana.** Grizzly RV Park

*Aug. 3 to Aug. 9, 2015*  [www.grizzlyrv.com](http://www.grizzlyrv.com) 406-646-4466

Drive into Yellowstone by car and enjoy the natural wonders of Yellowstone National Park.

For More Information, Contact Karen James at [karen4247@aol.com](mailto:karen4247@aol.com) or 303-859-3822

*Thank you from Bobbie and Dan Jensen for all of the cards, thoughts and prayers in the loss of Bobbie’s father, Gerald Bliss.*

From Bobbie Jensen:

On Thursday, November 12, we said our final goodbyes to my dear Dad, Gerald Bliss. He was born and raised in Great Falls, Montana and on the family farm in the surrounding area. He had lots of adventures in Sun River Canyon and had an amazing
91 years! He survived the great depression, World War II, two missions in Viet Nam, and 30 years as an officer and pilot in the Air Force. While honorably serving his country he received many commendations, among them the Distinguished Flying Cross & the Bronze Star for his courage and airmanship in Vietnam. He loved music, dancing, travel, fishing, hunting, the Montana mountains, friends, family and fun! He was so bright, had a quick wit, and I miss him already. I am grateful for his wisdom, his humor, for the many times we shared, especially recently as his health was declining, and for taking advantage of every teachable moment while I was growing up. He loved his country, was a conservative, a patriot, my very favorite Veteran, and most importantly ... my Dad! He will live on in my heart forever.
Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together.