



Jack's October Update



In case you're wondering if you missed an Update in late September, wonder no more. You did not. For the past month the Trustees have been wrestling with the dates, venue and reimbursement availability for the 2012 winter board meeting. I wanted to have all the specifics agreed to before communicating with you. Please refer to the **Winter Board** meeting section for all the latest information. You may now start to make firm plans for attendance.

Executive Board Updates

The Trustees are pleased to announce the appointment, effective January 1, 2012 of Kenneth & Velma Willis as Utah State Director. Kenneth and Velma have been members of Family Campers and RVers since 2006 and they have held several chapter positions and also served as Ass't. State Director for Utah since 2007. Their contact information is as follows:

Kenneth & Velma Willis

ken.willis@mtctrains.com

Marilyn Shealy: Marilyn has been diagnosed (by one doctor) as having a pinched nerve in her neck that will require surgery. She is currently seeking a second opinion. She is still in pain but continues to camp (with a recliner in the motor home). Please keep Marilyn in your prayers.

Sue Fromholzer's, FCRV Office Manager in Depew, brother passed away unexpectedly on Sunday. Barb Turner provided the following obituary in her Update. "William F. Miller, 49, of Crafton, died unexpectedly Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011. He was the beloved son of Rose and Mel Ruble and the late William Miller; dear brother of Susan Fromholzer, Cecelia Volk, Karen Workinger, Joseph and Thomas Miller; also survived by many nieces and nephews." We extend our sympathy to Sue and her family and will keep them in our prayers. Cards may be sent to their mother Rose Ruble at 10 Northridge Circle, Carnegie, PA 15106. Cards may be sent to Sue at the national office - 4804 Transit Rd - Bldg 2, Depew, NY 14043-4906. The national office email address is fcrvnat@verizon.net.

From Shari Weber, National Director, "I realized recently that we haven't updated our camping family on Craig's progress. He is doing well. Still some limitations based on strength and stamina (to be expected). He has started doing a few things around the campground, nothing heavy duty. We really appreciate everyone's support and prayers. They really do help! Hope to see people in upcoming gatherings". You can contact them at fcrvnd@yahoo.com.

Winter Board Meeting Dates and Venue: In my last Update, I mentioned the venue would be Orlando and the meeting would be mid-week (requiring executive board members that are employed to take 4 days of vacation). We thought the site of Orlando would be conducive to perhaps taking more vacation time, in order to capitalize on less expensive airline flights. Two things have happened since that Update. Firstly we have heard from a few of our members that requiring 4 days vacation was an unreasonable imposition. We have listened. We have changed the meeting to Friday and Saturday (as normal) –arriving Thursday and departing Sunday. For most members that will entail only two days of vacation requirement.

Secondly, Pete and Jane Brown who were doing the leg work for us in the Orlando area reported that we were in competition for hotel space with attendees of the Daytona 500 and that hotel prices were exorbitant. Jan Cushing suggested we look at the Tampa area which also has an international airport. We did so, and thanks to more digging by Shari Weber and Sue Carlsen we are pleased to announce that the venue will be Lazydays RV Campground and Country Inns & Suites (basically all in the same complex -something like our Las Vegas arrangement). All the detail information is outlined below. Also, immediately below I've included an excerpt from Sue Carlsen's report on the facilities.

“We went to Lazydays on Wednesday and were given the grand tour. Not having been there before, I was totally impressed. Everyone I spoke with was very grateful that our group has chosen to come there and anxious to make our stay a pleasurable experience. The meeting room that we may need to share is huge. They have 8ft dividers that will help reduce distractions from any other function that may be going on. That room has large round tables. Breakfast and lunch will be served there. The learning center is a large classroom with auditorium seating. There is a large podium electronically set up to an overhead projector. It's a bit of a distance from the campground and hotel; but the shuttle runs back and forth. We will need to request a shuttle stop at the hotel, but it should be no problem. The Country Inn and Suites is very new and amazingly plush. The room with two queens is very large, so those who may be sharing a room should not feel cramped. The hotel also includes a complimentary breakfast which varies from day to day. The menu looked scrumptious! Only 10% of the rooms at the hotel are pet friendly. None of those rooms are currently reserved for us. However, should someone want one, they can request it for the same rate plus \$10 pet fee per night (reduced from their standard fee of \$25). The manager stressed that anyone wanting a pet-friendly room should reserve quickly due to the low number available. The hotel has an outdoor pool and the activity building at the campground has a covered pool. While we are there, our group is welcome to participate in any of their services and programs Lazydays offers. There's an RV driving course in the morning; service can be scheduled on the unit; parts can be purchased; etc. Camping World has a store on the site. Places for dinner on site include their own Exit 10 diner, Cracker Barrel, and Bob Evans. Ybor City - which boasts America's oldest Cuban restaurant, Columbia -- is 7 miles away. There is much to do in central Florida that time of year for those staying for the retiree rally. The Strawberry Festival is the first week in March in Plant City, 13 miles from Lazydays. They always have big-name entertainers (no schedule yet). Also, spring training games begin in March. The Yankees' stadium is 16 miles and the Tigers' is 24 miles. Neither schedule is available yet, but tickets can be ordered online. There's a weekend flea market about 5 miles from the site. The Hard Rock Casino is 5 miles away; Busch Gardens is 11 miles; and Disneyworld is 60 miles; and a lovely place, Bok Tower and Gardens, is also within an hour's drive. I believe we have found a great place to hold the 2012 winter board meeting!” ----- Sue

and from Shari

Folks,

I received the information from the hotel. Prices are for 2 adults. King bed \$95 per night, 2 queens \$95 per night (each plus tax). Additional adults are \$10. They require confirmation 14 days ahead of the arrival date. The hotel does not have a shuttle (from airport) but I received information on a service in the area called Kingdom Transportation (813)433.3745. She

indicated a price of \$35 for 2 people with the price negotiable if there are more people in one load.
NOTE PLEASE SEE BELOW. WE WILL ARRANGE RIDES FROM AND TO AIRPORT (JACK)

I called Lazydays today to make my reservation. It went without flaw and they have the correct price when I gave them Family Campers & RVers as our group name” ---Shari

Winter Board Meeting 2012 Tampa Instructions

Date: Friday and Saturday, March 2 & 3 with arrival (for e-board members) on Thursday March 1, and departure Sunday March 4

Venue: Lazydays RV Campgrounds and Country Inns & Suites (all in same complex)

Accommodations:

Hotel: As per above we have 25 (13 kings, 12 queens) rooms on hold @\$95 plus tax. (12%) We must book by **January 29th** to hold the rooms but can cancel to within 14 days w/o penalty after which the penalty is one night. We also have 5 rooms set aside one day earlier for the Trustees – who meet in advance of the WBM.

Contact Information for hotel reservations

Country Inns & Suites –Tampa East, 11551 Discovery Lane, Seffner, Fl 33584

813 675 8600 or fax 813 675 8601

contact person: Kenny Dhana (General Mgr)

kenny.dhana@countryinns.com

web --- www.countryinns.com/seffnerfl

Campground: 30 sites reserved @ \$40/night plus 12%tax (includes breakfast and morning paper)

Reservations to be made by January 29th. We can cancel up to the 29th w/o penalty after which the penalty is one night (up to one week prior) then we pay for the individual bookings (full).Early camping days are possible but you must request those on your own and you’ll pay \$2 more per night.

Contact Information For Campground Reservations

6210 County Road 579, Seffner, Fl 33584

800 905 6627 local 813 246 4777

fax 813 246 5504

LazydaysRVcampground.com

Kimberly Perez-Rolon, Registration Office Supervisor

Hub Airport: Tampa International

Driving time from airport, about 30 minutes

Rides to and from airport: being coordinated by Dave Ludwig (Dave will need to know your flight arrangements including airline and arrival and departure times and the number in your party.

Dave’s e-mail is FCRV2ndVP@earthlink.net

If you can assist Dave with the shuttling, please contact him per above (mileage @51cents per will be paid.)

Driving Distance from Lazy Days to Retiree Rally site in Tallahassee about 270 miles (6-7 hours) Note those attending the Retiree Rally will have a full week to camp or travel around the Florida area prior to the start of the rally.

Banquet: Lazy Days has wonderful facilities and something will be coordinated. We could end up having a BBQ. Details will follow in a couple of months.

Information Center (for check in etc.) will be advised later. It will be either the campground or hotel.

Reimbursement:

To and from air and ground transportation to Winter Board Site. Up to a maximum of \$375 per executive board position –one person only-

In addition, those traveling by airline will be reimbursed for parking, tolls and travel distance to and from your local airport.

Mileage for land travel will be reimbursed at **51** cents per mile (up to the max. of \$375).

Accommodation: One night's accommodation will be paid (hotel or camping) per position

Early booking is preferred.

Campvention 2012: The full all chairman's team will be meeting next week to continue planning an eventful Campvention. Registrations at present are over 40 but don't forget if you register prior to January 1 each registrant has a chance on a drawing for a free registration.

Retiree Rally 2012: Is scheduled for **Tallahassee FL, March 13 to 18** under the chairmanship of Pam & Richard Likens, Florida State Directors. Information on this rally is available in Camping Today and the website. Please continue to mention this to your members in your states and provinces. Pam advises we have **89** registrations to date. We need a couple hundred more. Please continue to push this rally.

FICC Rally: This is just a repeat. We are still trying to get the "official registration form".

We will also explore the possibility of having somebody from their organization speak to us at the WBM. The Federation of Camping Caravans (the world wide camping organization of which Family Campers and RVers are associate members) is holding their North American Rally (every 10 years) next year July 25 to August 5th in Montmagny, Quebec. The site is on the eastern side of the St. Lawrence, about 25 miles north of Quebec City. This is a week after Campvention and already several of our members are planning to attend this international event. Ten years ago, it was held in St Jean Richelieu PQ (south East of Montreal) and we had about 60 FCRV families attend. Overall there were about 2000 units at this rally 10 years ago. We are trying to get registration forms and more information on next year's event and will make available via my Updates or Camping Today. We are making progress. A registration form now exists but it's in the French language and we also have an indication of costs but, in my opinion, they're too confusing to publish with any sense of accuracy. Hopefully, within the next month, we'll have all the correct information in English.

National Election Nominating Committee.

From Barb Turner

Check out <http://www.fcrv.org/membership/election/trusteeinfo.php> for information to help you decide if you'd like to 'put your name in the hat' for a Trustee position or if you would like to recommend someone. We, as a volunteer-run organization, have to rely on members to step forward to leadership positions. The nominating committee is actively working to find such individuals. You all would make our task so much easier if you would volunteer or recommend. Vickie has placed important info at the site above to help our members understand our needs. Check it out. We'd love to hear from you. The **members are: Eldon Sellers –chairman (ed23seller@aol.com), Bill Eckman (weckman@msn.com),**

Dave Hennie (RPalace1170@aol.com), Lloyd Humphrey (lhumphre@localnet.com), Jim Stobbart (richard.stobbart@hotmail.com), Barb Turner, Ivalee Vanderhoff (evanderhoff@juno.com).

As we are approaching November, I did want to remind you that the nominating committee is still looking for candidates to run for the Trustee positions. We have some members willing to run for office, but we'd like to have two candidates for each position to give you a choice in your voting. So, if you are willing to run for one of these positions or know of someone you'd like to recommend, please let me know. I'll pass the info along to the rest of the committee. Go to www.fcrv.org to review the info on the restructuring and the job descriptions of the various positions.

Cadet Membership: I don't have any update; however, I can report that the Cadet member we are mentoring has already joined a chapter. Hugh Hicks supplied the following and while it's not specifically about Cadet memberships it, does point out the value and potential of using our "Come Camp With Us Banner".

"We returned to a Provincial park near Toronto this past weekend for a free weekend which we earned in return for a weekend we spent cleaning up the park in the spring, prior to the official opening of the park for the season. This is a program which we have established approximately 30 years ago and it works out well for both the Parks system and our members. It's a quiet time at the parks this time of the year but still there were at least 50 units there for some part of the weekend, as its only 30 miles from the City of Toronto.

I had our "Come Camp With Us" banner up next to our MH and over the 2 days of the weekend, 5 couples approached us to ask for a packet (yellow bag filled with FCRV info) and three couples actually joined us for our evening campfire. We are sure that we will have some new members out of this weekend and it shows the advertising potential of 1. Camping in actual campgrounds (as opposed to fair grounds) and 2. The visibility of the "Come Camp With Us" banners."

Correction on ad for electronic balloting: As you are aware, the Trustees are exploring the possibility of using electronic balloting for next year's election. No firm decision has been made in this regard; however, we won't even be able to proceed at all if we don't get a few thousand e-mail addresses into our office data bank. We placed an ad to the membership on the web and in November's issue of Camping Today soliciting e-mail addresses. Unfortunately, the address we advised to send the addresses to is incorrect. It should be fcrvnat@verizon.net (not.com). That could be why Sue is not being overwhelmed with addresses. Please advise your local membership. The ad will be corrected for ensuing issues.

Rand McNally as a Commercial member: We are currently having on going discussions with this corporation about future involvement with them and us. Paul Parsley has signed them up as a commercial member and two of their products, a 5" and a 7" GPS designed specifically for RV use (low bridges, etc) are being made available to FCRV members at a 10% discount (this is a savings of \$30 to \$40 dollars depending on model. Their ad and link to their site should be available within the next couple of weeks. If you're looking for gift ideas you may wish to check out this link.

Membership: As of Oct. 3, 2011 our membership was 4905

Until next time, Jack