# Easy Rubication for Coachmen RV Owners

Prism

June 23-28, 2015

Indiana

## Customer Satisfaction is Our #1 Priority





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## **Letter From The President**

#### Dear Coachmen Owners,

For over 50 years Coachmen has remained committed to your satisfaction and to enhancing the life of others by providing quality, reliable and user friendly products backed by service that you can trust.

This Commitment has never been more alive and in focus as it is today at Coachmen RV. Customer Satisfaction is indeed our 1st Priority. Accordingly, I thought it only appropriate to share some of the significant investments we have made toward your satisfaction over the last year, as well as additional investments planned for the year ahead.

Allow me to share some of these improvements:

- Electronic Owner's Manual (available through our website or our very own Coachmen RV App) our all-new, dynamic electronic owner's manuals provide real-time information, are
  user friendly, provide "Go To" search capabilities as well as bookmarking for historic look backs and host hundreds of assets ranging from videos to individual component brochures,
  schematics and parts lists.
- 2. Coachmen RV App access our electronic owner's manual through this free download currently available for Apple and Android smart phones and tablets. Through this app, you may now conveniently access a broad breadth of information about your Coachmen product.
- 3. Coachmen RV Website an All-New interactive website was launched early this year that is a mobile responsive website which informs and excites the visitor, provides search engine optimization, illustrates and promotes the RV lifestyle, facilitates purchase decision for prospective owners and provides owner support after the sale. Our new website is designed and formatted for desktops, tablets and smart phones.

The emphasis of our new website is "customer satisfaction". This is evident by the numerous features (tool boxes) incorporated into the site for our customers' satisfaction. Some of these features include:

- a. A "Contact Us" tool box that provides specific personalized and direct contact information for service representatives in each Coachmen RV Division.
- b. A "Customer Satisfaction" tool box that serves as a last resort contact for the satisfaction of our customers.
- c. A "Dealer Locator" tool box that assists current and prospective owners in contacting a dealer near them.
- d. A "FAQ" tool box that provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions by our customers.
- e. An "RV Finder" tool box that is designed to simplify the customers' search and help find their ideal RV.
- f. An "RV Glossary" tool box that defines frequently used RV terms along with an overview of RV weights and RV type descriptions.
- g. Plus tool boxes for "Payment Estimator"/"How-To Videos"/"Towing Guide"/"Owner's Manual"/"Road Side Assistance" & "GEICO Insurance".
- 4. "How-To" Videos incorporated with all of the aforementioned items you will find several instructional videos that we have invested in through professional filming and presentations. It is our goal to have hundreds of these videos posted in time for your convenient access and use.
- 5. Dealer Service Technician Training Schools we recently hosted 4 separate two-day classes for both basic and advanced service technician training in order that our dealer may better service your product needs.
- 6. Service Operations Training Curriculum we are now in the second year of a comprehensive training program for our Service Operations Team members. This includes outside professional training on topics such as appropriate phone and email etiquette, timely resolution work flow, improved quality by driving product issues back through the organization and our design and manufacturing process. This training program was built from a Quality Customer Service Strategy using a methodology from the Disney Institute.
- 7. Service Operations Team Expansion We are expanding our Service Operations Team in order to better service your needs as we continue to grow.
- 8. Hardware and Software Upgrades both hardware and software upgrades are underway throughout Coachmen RV. While these investments are geared toward our operational systems and processes that interact with our Dealers, this new business system will provide us with a state-of-the-art Vehicle Management System, Customer Relations Management platform and Dealer Portal that will expedite and streamline efficient service to you, our valued owners. All of this will launch later this year and throughout 2016.
- 9. Product Quality most importantly, we remain focused and committed to designing and building the best quality product in the industry. Through your input, our unique quality program, and investments in equipment and technology to enhance our products function and reliability... we continue to improve upon our product's quality. This is an endeavor that is never complete as we remain committed to continuous improvement.
- 10. Coachmen Owners' Association our valued owners group now hosts over 15,000 member families, representing every state and province in the United States and Canada. COA's MISSION STATEMENT: Promote the RV lifestyle and create customers for life. This means conveying an attractive first impression to prospective RV owner, providing a convenient and friendly means to the frequent use of the RV and enjoyment of the RV lifestyle, while generating strong brand loyalty and customer retention... creating friends for life.

Let there be no question relative to our commitment to your satisfaction. While we do make mistakes and may not always do things right, we remain committed to doing the right thing.

We will continue to build upon our success by building upon the satisfaction of your... our valued customers and friends.

Thank you for your business and your continued support.

Sincerely, Michael R. Terle

President Coachmen RV

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Web: coachmenowners.com Phone: 888-422-2582

Email: coachmenowners@forestriverinc.com Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30, Middlebury, IN 46540 Staff: Jason Brewer Executive Director Coachmen Owners Association/Owner Relations Phone: 574-825-8452 Email: jbrewer@forestriverinc.com Valerie Ballge COA Office Manager Phone: 574-825-8350 Email: vballge@forestriverinc.com Mel Williams Owner Relations Manager P: 574-825-8458 Email: mewilliams@forestriverinc.com

## Upcoming 2015 District and State Rallies

#### **2015 MID ATLANTIC RALLY**

Misty Mountain Camp Resort, Greenwood, Virginia May 14-17, 2015

The MID-ATLANTIC RALLY will be held in the beautiful mountains of Virginia, May 14-17, 2015, at Misty Mountain Camp Resort. The campground is located on US 250 about one mile off I-64 in Greenwood, Virginia. Come early to enjoy the many things the area has to offer.

#### Nearby attractions include:

- Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson
- Walton's Mountain, home of the Walton's of TV fame
- Antique shops
- Museum of American Frontier Culture
- Vineyards and wineries
- Skyline Drive/Blue Ridge Parkway.

#### Included in your rally fee:

- Thursday Welcome Social
- Friday night dinner
- Ice cream social
- Saturday breakfast and dinner
- Sunday continental breakfast
- Devotional service
- Door prizes.

#### Fee Schedule:

- Rally Fee: \$40.00 per unit (2 people)
- Rally Fee: \$20.00 per unit (1 person)
- Extra Adult: \$20.00 per unit
- Children 12 and under Free

Mail your rally registration and \$40 check payable to Virginia Cardinals Chapter 100 to: Larry Danner, 164 Fleshman St Appomattox, VA 24522 434-352-8062. Mark your rally registration to let us know if you are a first time rally attendee. Drive-ins are welcome. We urge you to register with the campground early to ensure you have a site. You should arrange your site payment with the campground and tell them you are with the Coachmen Mid-Atlantic Rally (1-888-647-8900). The campground also has sites in the woods up on the mountain for those feeling adventurous! Check them out on their website http://www.mistymountaincampresort.com

Hope to see all of you there.

#### **ANNUAL NINTH DISTRICT RALLY**

#### Pechanga RV Resort, Temecula, California May 15-17, 2015

We will be staying at the beautiful Pechanga RV Resort with a pool and spa for your enjoyment. We have a large clubhouse for our use and there are shuttle buses to take us to the casino and many restaurants.

#### **Nearby Attractions include:**

- Pechanga Indiana Casino
- Old Town Temecula
- Temecula Wine Country
- Malls and Shopping
- Many fine restaurants

#### Fee Schedule:

- Registration and two nights camping Friday and Saturday \$95.00
- Extra night camping one day before or after \$35.00 (Please contact Gaylord and Gloria )

Send reservations and fees to Gaylord and Gloria Barnes, 4004 Hamilton Lane, La Crescenta, CA 91214, (818) 249-4819. Deadline for reservation April 20, 2015. Make checks payable to Gloria Barnes.

#### **DISTRICT 3 RALLY**

#### Elkhorn Campground, Frankfort, Kentucky May 15-17, 2015

Greetings COA members! A new season of rally activities is being planned. This brings opportunities to make new friends, say hello to those you already know, and enjoy the fellowship at the 2015 District 3 Rally.

#### Included in your rally fee:

- Friday night meal
- Saturday breakfast
- Ice Cream Social
- Dinner on Saturday Night
- Entertainment
- 50/50 drawing
- Game awards
- Door prizes
- Continental Breakfast on Sunday
- Water and Electric hook up for 2 nights (full hookup or 50 amp service is extra –call campground to reserve at 502-695-9154

#### Fee Schedule:

- 1 unit/two people \$70.00 \*\* \$75
- 1 unit/one person \$60.00 \*\* \$65

#### \*\* Cost if not registered prior to event

• Each additional person (age 10 & over) per unit: add \$12.00 each (food cost).

#### Additional campground fees:

- Three, or more, people per unit: add \$2.00 per person for each night.
- Each additional night of camping: \$26.10 for 2 people (W/E only) Item 1 applies as well. This rate applies for early arrivals, or those staying beyond the rally date.

Contact Marty Hart (martyjhart@gmail.com or 248-935-6391) to request a registration form. Make check payable to Terry Hart and mail with the completed registration form to:

Terry Hart, 2165 Chancery, Troy, MI 48085-1029, Phone: 248-840-6031.

#### 44TH PENNSYLVANIA STATE COACHMEN RALLY

#### Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, PA May 22-25, 2015

Join in on the fun at the Pennsylvania State's 44th Annual Rally. Drive-ins are always welcome but no optional meal would be available. Every unit please bring a box of crackers or cookies for hospitality. Bring something of value in stapled brown bag to be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

#### Included in your rally fee:

- Friday night game night in building after meeting
- Optional Dinner on Saturday (\$11.00 for Ham and Turkey) served by Centre Hall Grange- deadline to order meals May 11, 2015.
- Free Pancake breakfast on Sunday (Bring Table Service, syrup and butter)
- Sunday Dinner Potluck . Bring covered dish to share and own table service.

#### Fee Schedule:

- Each Camping Unit \$80.00
- Extra nights \$25.00 each payable at fairground office.

Please make checks payable to PA State Coachmen Association and mail to Robert Baker, 725 W Pine St., Palmyra, PA 17078, phone 717-838-1544.

#### DISTRICT 1 RALLY

#### NEW ENGLAND RALLY

#### Pumpkin Patch RV Resort, Hermon, Maine June 5-7, 2015

Enjoy games or just relaxing and socializing on Saturday while eating those Maine Red Hot Dogs.

#### Fee Schedule:

- \$65.00 per unit with water and electric.
- The campground is happy to accommodate early arrivals or extended stays but be sure to make your own arrangements with the campground at least 3 weeks before the rally.

Deadline for reservations is May 15th, 2015. Please send your reservations and check payable to: Pam Waterhouse, 147 Eddie Kahkonen Rd., Norway, ME 04268.

#### **36th GEORGIA COACHMEN CARAVAN STATE RALLY**

#### Twin Oaks Campground, Elko, Georgia June 5-6, 2015

This year's Georgia State Rally will be held at Twin Oaks in Elko, Georgia. Come and join us for a wonderful Georgia State Rally!

#### Included in your rally fee:

- Two nights camping with water and electric hookups
- Saturday breakfast
- Saturday dinner
- Saturday afternoon ice cream social
- Saturday games
- Craft sales
- Entertainment
- Sunday morning continental breakfast

#### Fee Schedule:

- One unit, two adults \$110.00
- One unit, one adult \$95.00
- Additional person 10 and above \$20.00
- Cancellation fee of \$15.00 will apply after May 26, 2015

Mail reservations to John Newham, 2261 John Stowe Rd. NW, Monroe, GA 30656-4189 or call home phone 7710-267-6294 or cell phone 770-880-0480. Entries should be postmarked no later than May 22, 2015. After this date, call John Newham to see if space is available.

#### **MISSOURI STATE RALLY**

#### Arrowhead Point RV Park & Campground June 5-7, 2015

Join us in the beauty of the Missouri Ozarks for fun and companionship with fellow Coachmen friends !

#### Included in your rally fee:

- 2 Night's Camping with 30-Amp, Water & Sewer
- Most Are Shaded Pull-Thru Sites
- Heated & Air Conditioned Dining/Recreation Building
- Catch and Release Fishing Lake (No License Required)
- Modern Restrooms, Showers, Laundry
- Friday & Saturday Dinner Provided
- Saturday Potluck Breakfast Sausage Gravy & Biscuits Provided

- Sunday Continental Breakfast Provided
- Great Entertainment & Games
- Attendance Prizes
- Sunday Morning Worship Service.

#### Fee Schedule: (all fees include tax on camping and additional person charges)

- 2 Person & Unit (includes Fri & Sat camping)-\$77.00
- 1 Person & Unit (includes Fri & Sat camping)-\$67.00
- 50-amp service 5.00 extra per night
- Additional Person: Age 13 and Over \$11.00 each
- Extra nights of Camping: \$21.00 for 30 Amp/\$26.00 for 50 amp/Additional person fee-\$5.00

Postmark registration by May 16th to be eligible for a drawing for a FREE 2016 Registration to next year's Missouri State Rally. Cancellation Policy: 7 days prior to start of Rally – full refund; less that 7 days prior to start of Rally – all monies less 15% of full rally fee will be refunded; after rally starts – no refund. Send check and reservation to Jeff Thomas, 21555 Audrain Rd. 322, Mexico MO 65265. For questions and information please contact Paul and Lisa Young at (417) 353-1252.

#### **OHIO STATE RALLY**

#### Poor Farmers RV Sales Service and Campground, Inc August 21-23, 2015

Enjoy a wonderful Rally at the Poor Farmers RV Campground. Early arrivals are welcomed. Contact the camp office or store, (937) 368-2449, for rates and registration. For planning purposes, please notify the camp office that you will be arriving early. Thursday night the campground will grill hamburgers and or hot dogs for early arrivals, bring a dish to share and your dinner service. Check in and registration at 4:00 p.m. on Friday

#### Included in your rally fee:

- Two nights camping with electric and water.
- Saturday breakfast
- Games
- Saturday evening meal
- Saturday evening activity and entertainment
- Sunday worship service
- Sunday Continental Breakfast

#### Fee Schedule:

- One unit 2 people \$70.00
- One unit 1 person \$60.00
- Additional person 12 and over -\$12.00

Make check payable to and mail to: Becky Brittingham, PO Box 202, Medway, OH, 45341, phone (937) 765-0228.

#### **ANNUAL CALIFORNIA STATE**

#### RALLY

Flying Flags RV Park September 10-13, 2015

We have reserved 20 sites for this special weekend. You had better sign up now! You don't want to miss our Annual California State Coachmen Rally at this great RV Park. Lots to see! And of course, lots of fun! Wineries for your pleasure and a Casino to try your luck!

#### Included in your rally Fee:

Three nights camping

#### Fee Schedule:

- Camping unit \$150.00
- Extra night camping \$50.00 ( contact the RV office for one day before and after

Send reservations and fees to Jim and Mindy Terwilligar, 574 Mallard Ave., Lemoore, CA. 93245. (408) 314-8847. Deadline August 25, 2015. Make checks payable to California Coachmen.

#### **2015 KENTUCKY STATE RALLY**

#### Elkhorn Campground, Frankfort, Kentucky September 11-13, 2015

The Kentucky State Rally will be held on September 11, 12 and 13, 2015, at Elkhorn Campground in Frankfort, Kentucky.

#### Included in Your Rally Fee:

- Vegetable and Bean soup for Friday night, to be followed by welcoming games.
- Saturday morning a breakfast prepared by the Kentucky men known for their SOS.
- Saturday games and craft sales (if any one has any).
- Saturday evening we will have a meal and entertainment or bingo.
- Sunday, we'll have a continental breakfast
- Church Services

#### Fee Schedule:

- The rally fee is \$65.00 for two nights camping (with electric and water), two adults and the meals discussed above.
- Additional person is \$10.00 for adults and children over 13 years of age, and \$5.00 for children ages 6 thru 12 years of age.
- Also, if full hook-up is desired which includes sewer please contact Elkhorn Campground directly for reservation. The campground telephone number is 502-695-9154.

Please have your rally reservations to Nancy Y. Doty, 303 Amburgey Dr., New Albany, IN 47150 by the 6th of September. If you have further questions, please contact Nancy at 502-321-2284.

#### **2016 WINGS RETIREES**

#### **SNOWBIRD RALLY**

#### Blueberry Hill RV Resort, Bushnell, Florida January 19-27, 2016

You are invited to join us for our annual Snowbird Rally!! Invite your Friends.

Our 16th Snowbird Rally, hosted by your Coachmen Wings Retirees Chapter, will be held January 19-27, 2016 (<u>8 Nights</u>). Our Campground host again, is "Blueberry Hill RV Resort" 6233 Lowery St. Bushnell, FL. 33513. The Park is located off I75, Exit 314. CR 48 east, approximately .5 miles Phone: 888 409 2076 or 352-793-4112. <u>All</u> <u>attendees must occupy a Coachmen/Forest River Product</u>. So please come and join us!

We have *limited number of sites (40)* so sign up early. (*First come First-serve*). All sites are Full Hook up, Drive Through, Cable TV, 30/50A and paved sites, Free WiFi at Club house. Early Arrival / Late Departures: Total of TWO (2) EXTRA day at Rally rate. (Can be split). You may also request Buddy sites on your registration. (Will comply if Possible). There are NO "Handicap" Sites, Will try to locate you as close as possible.

 All Registrations will go thru WINGS SNOWBIRD (Kim) and I will provide the Campground with the required information. 2) Send in your Registration OR E-Mail ASAP to reserve a Site.

#### Included in your Rally Fee:

- Registration, Opening Meeting & Ice Cream Social
- Games
- 3 Catered Dinners
- Cook out

### Calendar

May 14-17, 2015	Mid Atlantic Rally
May 15-17, 2015	Mid Atlantic Rally Ninth District Rally District 3 Rally
May 15-17, 2015	District 3 Rally
June 5-7, 2015	Georgia State Rally
June 5-7, 2015	Missouri State Rally
June 5-7, 2015	Georgia State Rally Missouri State Rally New England Rally
June 23-28, 2015	Annual 48th Coachmen Rally
July 14- August 15, 2015	Alaskan Top of The World Caravan- COA Event
August 21-23, 2015	Ohio State Rally
September 10-13, 2015	California State Bally
September 11-13, 2015	Kentucky State Rally
September 20-25, 2015	Monuments and More Washington D.CCOA Event
October 8-11, 2015	Arizona/Nevada Jamboree
November 15-20, 2015	Taste of Charleston - COA Event
January 19-27, 2016	2016 Wings Retirees Snowbird Rally
February 10, 2016	Coachmen Texan Retiree Luncheon

- Pizza
- Closing Ceremony & Awards
- Wednesday Thursday: Coffee & Donuts

#### Fee Schedule:

- TWO (2) Payments will be required.
   a) Campground FEE at \$(to be determine) per night.
   PAY at CHECK-IN To Campground.
  - b)Rally FEE will be paid to Kim Hong NO LATER than September 1, 2015.
- Rally Fee for one unit with two persons is \$ (to be determined)
- Fee for one unit with one person is \$ (to be determined)
- Per additional person \$ ( to be determined)

Mail the Signed registration and check (\$?? / \$??), payable to "Kim Hong". Rally Fee can be PAID by September 1, 2015 and mail to Kim Hong, 55 Revere Dr. Newington, CT. 06111. Phone 860-666-6595 or Cell 860-424-7768, Email: raekimh@yahoo.com

#### **COACHMEN TEXAS RETIREES**

#### LUNCHEON Mr. Gattis Pizza, McAllen, Texas

#### February 10, 2016

Coachmen Texas Retirees would like to invite all Coachmen owners to join them for an excellent luncheon. Reserve your space by calling Galen Froelich at 956-584-2924 or 330-309-0145. Dutch Treat Luncheon will be held at Mr. Gattis, 4100 N. 2nd Street, McCallen, Texas from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Games and Door prizes!

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## From The Executive Director

With the cold Indiana winter behind us, my family is itching to go camping. Tyler has been asking since January, "When are we going to go camping?" Finally, it has warmed up in our area and we are camping this weekend. He is so excited.

It has been a busy year for our family. Karis is now 16 and will be driving in the fall. She is an honor student and 3 sport varsity athlete that keeps us very busy. Tyler is now 5 and finishing up his last year of pre-school and going onto Kindergarten this fall. T-Ball and camping is on his agenda this summer. Hollie and I made it through the cold winter and all of us are ready to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather.

We are very excited here at the office on the interest that we are receiving on our 2015 Trips. Fun in the Sun in Frostproof, Florida in March had 24 units and the weather was beautiful. A special thanks to Fran Chavar from PA, who did a great job as our wagon master for this event. Also to her assistants, Glen and Toni Reed, who are always there for COA and willing to lend a hand.

The Top of the World Alaskan Caravan is full. We have 24 units going on this wonderful 33 Day Caravan through Alaska. Washington DC Trip in September has had great response, there are still openings for this event, but get your reservations in soon as I feel this event will fill up in late June. The Festival of Lights Event in Charleston, SC in November will be a wonderful event for that time of year. There are many signed up already but due to the limited sites at the campground, this event will fill up also. There are a couple other events that may pop up this fall and I am working to coordinate them with the facilities, if they are a go, the information will be available at the Rally in Goshen.

We are in 48th International Rally mode here at the office. Getting the final touches on the itinerary and coordinating all of the events. The excitement is building on another memorable rally. We already have more vendors registered than last year and we are anticipating many new and informative seminars. We still have plenty of openings, so contact Valerie at the office and sign up today.

I have had a few members send in flyers and information on locations where they would like to have COA Events. Special thanks to Mike and Becky Bledsoe, Fran Chavar and others who have sent us information. I appreciate members input and will look into these location for future rallies. If anyone has a favorite place or a location you would like to go back to, please let us know.

I hope all is well with all of you and your families. We are working hard here to make each year of the COA more memorable than the last. We hope to see you all soon.

May God bless all of our COA family

See you along the way,

#### Like Us On Facebook!



to keep in touch with each other and a great tool for us here at the office to give you updates on trips and rallies. Be one of the first to get the information by simply liking us on Facebook. You will then be able to view our posts and keep in touch with us here at the office. Presently we have a "Throw Back Photo Contest" taking place. Guess the names of all 10 pictures and send your list in to the office by June 10, 2015 and your name will be entered in a drawing for a gift card to Wal-mart. Help us keep our communication going and join us today on facebook! www.facebook.com/pages/Coachmen-Owners-Association-COA



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Two locations to service the Mid Atlantic 1580 SR 65 South Ellwood City, PA 16117 • Sales: 888-602-1763 • Service: 888-602-1799 1132 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Stafford, VA • Sales: 888-602-1836 • Service: 866-903-7098

## **Dealer Advice**

#### Keep your water heater water heatin'

#### By Joe McNamara, Giant Recreation World

Don't overlook your water heater! Most people see it as an appliance that works until it doesn't, however, like everything else there is an "ah ha moment" when maintenance could have prevented the failure. The life and performance can be greatly improved by performing a few simple maintenance items:

#### **BURNER**

- ✓ Quarterly "critter check!"
- ✓ At least every 3 months or before every trip, inspect the burner area for nests, webs or excess carbon build up
- ✓ Mud daubers, Bees, Lizards and all sorts of creatures are attracted by the smell of the L.P. gas
- ✓ You can use a wire brush or an air hose to safely clean out these areas
- ✓ Keep in mind, whatever is in there may come out angry and motivated! Beware

#### **Hot Water Tank**

- ✓ Follow the water heater instruction manual suggested interval of draining the tank
- ✓ Draining and refilling the tank helps remove calcium deposits and "gunk" that can build up and make your showers less enjoyable
- ✓ Simply remove the drain plug located near the bottom of the tank and let the tank drain naturally
- ✓ IF THE HEATER WAS RUNNING RECENTLY, THE WA-TER WILL BE HOT

- ✓ Once the tank is empty, flush it with a water heater flush tube, reinstall the plug and refill the water heater
- ✓ Just open a faucet until a steady stream of water comes out and all the air is gone
- ✓ NOTE: Do not use the brass "pop-off" valve to drain the tank as this will disturb the proper balance of air and water

#### **ANNODE ROD (if equipped)**

- ✓ An anode rod is used in steel tanks manufactured by Suburban and American Appliance
- ✓ The anode rod is designed to build a chemical balance to inhibit rust inside the tank
- ✓ Water heaters made by Atwood do NOT have an anode rod because their tanks are made of aluminum
- ✓ Simply inspect the anode rod to see if it is disintegrating...if it is, replace it
- ✓ There are different sizes for different models, consult your owner's manual for more information

If you remember to do these simple things, you will enjoy more hot showers! Remember, if momma gets a cold shower, YOU are going to hear about it. And everyone knows, "If momma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy!"



for the next







#### Coachmen Interactive Owner's Manuals Made Mobile Formatted for PC, tablet and smart phone. Accessible via our website and mobile app stores.

#### **NEW** How-To Videos

Our how-to videos provide answers to common questions amongst our RV customers:

- Water Tank Levels
- Connect City Water
- Dewinterization
- Electrical System
- Emptying Holding Tanks
- Filling Fresh Water Tank
- Heating and Cooling
- Hitching Your Fifth Wheel
- Hitching Your Trailer
- Pop Up Camper Setup
- Sanitizing the Water System
- Slide Room Operation
- TV Antenna and Cable
- Waste Water System
- Water Systems Overview
- Winterization

#### **NEW** Dynamic Owner's Manuals

Our online owner's manuals offer a unique approach for customers by providing an interactive experience. These include:

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- Downloadable Supplier Manuals
- RV How-To Videos
- Downloadable PDF Version
- Mobile Apps for Android and Apple Devices

#### Leader to the Great Outdoors! Visit www.coachmenrv.com today.





## **Stepping Up Our Service**

**By Mel Williams** 



#### www.coachmenrv.com

We at Coachmen RV are very excited with all of the new upgrades we are making to our web portal and the information we are providing through it! We have gone "ALL IN" to provide you the very best customer service experience imaginable. We listened to YOU our best customers, and created the access you asked for from us.

- We have updated the look and feel of our web-page
- We have added numerous helpful "How-To-Videos" that will be useful to new and seasoned campers alike
- We have created more product specific electronic owner's manuals and placed them on our site
- The new manuals contain PDF appliance manuals, links to supplier videos and more!
- We have worked with automotive industry suppliers to develop APPS for Iphone and Android use!
- We have completely updated our "Contact" pages to make it easier to know who to call and how!

Please take some time and check out these new features and let us know what you think. We want to continue to "Up OUR COMMITMENT" and provide the very best service imaginable!

Start by visiting us at www.coachmenrv.com and browsing around our new site:

Across the top in the black boxes you will see quick links to many areas:

- The "RV's" tab which allows you to click on the model of your choice
- "About Us" where you can learn about the company AND the Coachmen Owners Association
- "Tools" opens up a myriad of portals to help YOU our customer
- "Quality" explains our dedication to building, designing and servicing quality products
- "Downloads" leads to our exciting new Electronic Owner's Manuals and current brochures\*\*
- "Contact Us" is an e- form OR all of the correct customer service numbers and contacts
- "Dealer Locator" is an updated version of the original dealer listings-which include a map showing dealer locations
- "Videos" is the button to push to watch all of our new owner usage videos
- Product search tools and RV Finder

#### **Phone Apps Available**

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## **Vendor Corner**

#### **Lippert Components**

#### New Call Center

Along with a **change in physical location**, the Customer Service department at Lippert Components headed into 2015 with its call volume up, hold times down and a more intense emphasis on training.

Lippert Components Customer Service Operations moved into its **new location at 1902 W. Sample St., South Bend, IN** in the fall of 2014. The technical and parts call center department gained spacious new accommodations that provided the opportunity for collaboration among the teams and the implementation of creative customer service strategies.

With the jump in call volume and customer inquiries in the call center, **the staff is better prepared than ever to serve our customers.** The call volume increased 47 percent (51,602 to

75,729) from 2014 to 2015. The year-to-date call volume for **2015 is showing the same signs of growth**, according to *Director of Customer Service Nicole Short.* 

#### 60 Seconds or Less

While the call volume increased, the hold times for callers diminished.

In recent years, it wasn't unusual for a caller to experience extended hold times. "We have focused our efforts through the winter months around a single goal: to **reduce hold times to 60 seconds or less**, Short said. *"I am happy to confirm that the call center is achieving this goal."* 

One strategy for maintaining the "60 seconds or less" goal is a focus on internal training for the technical and parts call techs. The training program is focused on **"building a better tech"** and is *spearheaded by Mike Bloss*, who moved into the newly created position of call center trainer in October 2014.

"The weekly training provides a broader knowledge base and makes more techs available per inquiry," said Technical Call Center Manager Martin Parrish.

All call techs receive 1.5 hours of training per week on LCI products, which includes parts nomenclature and identification, operation and troubleshooting.

"We regularly test the technicians' knowledge to make sure they are retaining the training given," Parrish said.

The training programs at Lippert aren't only about the staff. Customer Service is also committed to nurturing relationships with both OEMs and dealerships.

"We are experiencing very positive feedback from the training conducted so far," Bloss said. "The internal training



Mike Bloss leads Lippert Customer Service call techs in a weekly training session.

mimics what is being offered to dealers around the country by the Technical Training Department at LCI. Offering this same program to our OEM call centers gives us the ability to be consistent in our responses, and provide a better customer service experience to all."

The Technical Training department trained 735 dealers and 2,059 technicians in 2014. To date in 2015 they have trained 227 dealers and 749 technicians.

#### Technology

Technology is a large part of Customer Service at Lippert Components. **The Call Center is continuously improving available software and hardware resources.** The call techs employ wireless headsets, which allows for an innovative method of helping customers.

The headsets allow techs to get up and move around, granting them access to the call center training *"lab" that was created by Bloss shortly after transitioning into the trainer position. The call center "lab" offers techs access to working models of systems and full-sized products all while on the phone with customers.* 

"They can go and touch the systems the customers are dealing with and replicate the concerns while on the phone," Parrish said. Along with the lab, the techs have access to frames with fully functional systems in the Technical Training area.

#### Collaboration

Yet another improvement initiative centered on communication and collaboration and was made possible with the move to South Bend. In the former location, call center techs were



Join in on the fun as the Coachmen Owners Association visits Washington, DC this coming September. We will spend 5 nights at Cherry Hill RV Resort while enjoying the wonderful sites of our Nation's Capital. A Welcome dinner and orientation will kick off our event on Sunday, September 20, 2015.

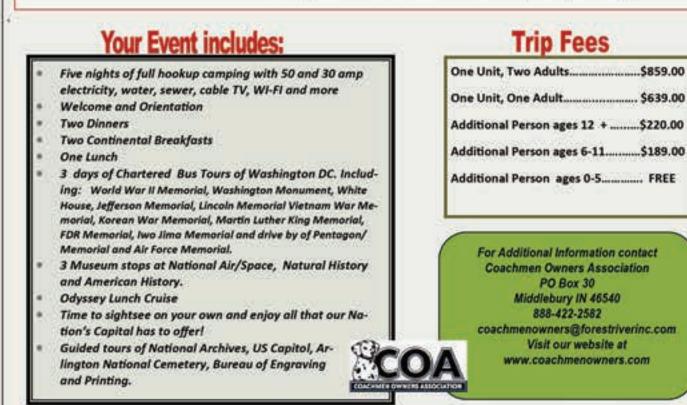
During the week enjoy chartered tours that will stop at many of the historic sites in Washington DC, which include, but not limited to:

\* World War II Memorial \* FDR Memorial\* Iwo Jima Memorial \* Washington Monument\* White House \*Jefferson Memorial\* Lincoln Memorial \* Vietnam War Memorial\* Korean War Memorial \* Martin Luther King Memorial \* Air and Space Museum \* American and Natural History Museums \* Guided tours of The National Archives \* Arlington National Cemetery \* Bureau of Engraving and Printing \* and the US Capitol are also planned.\*\*\*



A NEW addition to this year's event is a lunch cruise aboard the all glass ship, The Odyssey. While experiencing a wonderful luncheon, this narrated cruise will allow you to enjoy breathtaking views of the monuments as you cruise along the Potomac River. This attraction is sure to create lasting memories of our Nation's Capital. To round out this event, a wonderful dining experience is planned for you on our final evening at the Sir Walter Raleigh Restaurant, known for its award winning meals and fabulous salad bar.

This event will fill up fast. Give us a call to reserve your spot today.





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### Vendor Corner continued

located on different levels and separate spaces. The new space has permitted technical call techs and parts call techs to move into a single room, allowing them to more effectively serve customers.

"We strategically placed techs together across different skill sets to share information, reduce time on the phone and the amount of call bounces," Short said. *"It has been encouraging to see how teams pull together to solve a customer concern.* They can now share in brainstorming and everyone celebrates the wins, including our customers."

2015 was also ushered in with a new website with many resources available for customers. Web users can find component and troubleshooting information at LCI1.com. Under the Customer Service tab on the home page are support center videos, the online parts store, technical sheets and manuals, among other resources.

For more information, call Customer Service at 574-537-8900 or email warranty@lci1.com.



Call tech John McCambridge, left, and Call Center Trainer Mike Bloss use working systems in the call center lab to help a customer.

## Past Events Highlights COA Florida Fun In The Sun

What a great time we had in Sunny Florida this March as the Coachmen Owners Association visited Rainbow RV Resort in Frostproof Florida where we enjoyed many nice amenities. 24 units and 46 people spent the week playing games and enjoying everything the area had to offer.

The event started with an orientation meeting and ice cream social. In the morning games started with Ladder golf. Our first place winners for the Ladder Golf games were # 5 Team with Marvin Miller and Arthur Andrade. Second place winners were #9 Team, Helda Andrade and Louis Bauer-lein and then third place winners were # 2 team with Craig Housel and John Stevenson. The evening ended with a wonderful catered BBQ Dinner held at the main clubhouse.

Wednesday was a free day for everyone to explore the area, visit the Strawberry Festival or do whatever they wanted. A delicious breakfast buffet took place on Thursday to get us energized for more games. Friday we enjoyed a game of Bean Bag Baseball with a Joker night in the evening. Our first place team for the Bean Bag Baseball was Team # 4, Kathy Miller, Janet Lance, Christy Travis, Vallery McKeehan, Bonnie Housel, Gary McGinnis and Ken Kelley. Second place winners were Team # 1, Judy McGinnis, Diane Mazurek, Bob Vehring, Marvin Miller, Gary McKeehan, Anita Kelley and Mike Lance. Team # 3 took third place with Joyce Stevenson, Lowell Hightower, Arthur Andrade,

Ramona Swiger, Stephanie Ackey, Craig Housel and Tony Mazurek. And then in 4th place, team # 2 with Caryl Vehring, Louis Bauerlein, Rick Swiger, Betty Sue Hightower, Hilda Andrade, Sam Travis and John Stevenson. Saturday we enjoyed a game of Washer Toss with Joyce Stevenson and Mike Lance taking first place. Lowell Hightower and Janet Lance came in second and Diane Mazurek and Gary McGinnis took third place. That night we enjoyed a farewell dinner together and said our goodbyes.



A special thanks to Fran Chavar for doing a wonderful job hosting this event. And thanks are given to Glenn and Tony Reed for helping with this event. Thank you to all who attended and hope to see you next year at our Florida Fun In The Sun Event.

#### Wings Retirees Chapter 2015 Snowbird Report By Kim Hong, Chapter President & Wagon Master

This year we WELCOMED Eleven "First timers" at our Snowbird rally, which was again hosted by "Blueberry Hill RV Resort" at Bushnell, Florida. Blueberry Hill's Staff were a very great host and we enjoyed their hospitality. We were a Noisy group because we enjoyed our self and the campground enjoyed our enthusiastic Rally. There were forty one units from FL. MD. DE. MA. SC. PA. NC. VA. MI. GA. TN. Canada, CT. LA. OH. MT., MS. & NJ.



The Rally ran from Wednesday to Thursday (Eight nights). Monday was an OPEN day because the Webster Flea Market was open ONLY on Monday so most of the members went to it.

Most members arrived on Tuesday one day ahead of the "Official" rally to get settled and chat with old friends since we last met. The Wagon master had some errands to do such as shopping for Bowls, Napkins, Donuts, and other forgotten stuff while others went checking out the area.

**Wednesday:** The Rally formally started under COOL but sunny skies. Wagon Master **Kim** presented the Welcome ceremonies and reviewed the weeks' agenda. He also introduced the first time snowbirds. **Jens Pedersen** COA Rep. kept us updated on the various future COA Caravans and Rallies. **Wayne Dilliplaine** took photos of members, along with our group photo, which was printed by Wal-Mart and given to all members Afterward; Rainbow Cater provided a Roast Beef dinner, which was great as usually. We had to vacate the hall at 6PM as the campground had a Musical entertainment group.

**Thursday:** Morning was a bit COOL and Windy. **Bruce Mylles,** our VP in charge of Games was a bit under the weather so we now have individual Game Coordinators (Linda Harrison & Marguerite Habel) did a great job of setting up the courts and assigning the teams, which our hardy members enjoy.

#### BOCCE

Winners were: FIRST PLACE: Stan Wildermuth, Audrey Hayden, Sue Vaughn & Barbara Elias. SECOND PLACE: Linda Harrison, Kathy Miller,



Johnny Reed & Barry Youngs.

Dinner was on your own so members can choose their favorite eating places. Beef O' Brady restaurant was one of the favorites.

**Friday:** Under a slight wind and cloudy skies temp was in the low 60s. We played Ladder Golf. (Game Coordinator, John Stevenson). The score keeping was a little chaotic at the beginning but we finally got the hang of it. Winners were: FIRST PLACE: Fred Tipton & Ann Chartrand. SECOND PLACE: Chris Medici & Marc Loibl. For dinner our catered dinner was Spaghetti W/meat sauce, Salad, Bread, and dessert. After dinner it was free time and everyone started playing Jokers.

**Saturday:** Fran Chavar & Linda Harrison (Game Coordinators), set up the Bean Bag Baseball Court outside at the open pavilion. Winners were: FIRST PLACE: Joe Callahan, Roy Byle, Connie Byle, Wes Bull, Mel Fetty, Kim Wickman, Ann Chartrand & Barbara Elias. SECOND PLACE: Joyce Stevenson, Chris Medici, Linda Harrison, Lloyd Legendre, Bob Horvath, Johnny Reed, Marv Miller & Linda Bull. Today was Dinner on your own. Some people went to Beef O'Brady restaurant and others went for some BBQ food.

**Sunday:** We played a game of **Washer Boards Dou**bles today. (Game Coordinators. George & Barbara Elias). Washer Board was on "Hold" because we didn't have enough boards in the past. Today we were short of Washer Board, and being RV'ers, did our best with what we had. Winners were: FIRST PLACE: Bob Horvath & Barbara Elias. SEC-OND PLACE: Fern Habel & Joyce Stevenson. Thanks to Lloyd Legendre, who organized the Hamburger cookout with MANY Volunteers and John Stevenson who is a "Re-

#### **Past Event Highlights**

tired Navy man" volunteered to obtain a LARGE cooker from the Naval base. (I saw two cooks and six admirals supervising the burgers). It was a GROUP

effort and was WELL done. **SUPER BOWL GAME SUNDAY:** After our activities, most member stay in their RV to watch the game.

**Monday:** Was an **OPEN DAY:** Temperatures was in the upper 70s (Weather and Temperature was slowly improving). Some members ventured out to explore the local area attractions such as the "Webster Flea Market. Others stayed in and just Relaxed in their Large RV Sites and some did their Laundry chores.

**Tuesday:** It was a COOL/COLD Morning. But we played on. Washer Board Singles today, (Game Coordi nator. Dave Jacobs). Once again we had limited Washer Boards, But we had FUN. Winners were: **FIRST PLACE: Jens Pedersen. SECOND PLACE: Marv Miller.** For dinner, we had another delicious catered Roast chicken dinner. After dinner, we played more Jokers.

Wednesday: Temperature was in the 50s waiting for 80's?? Jokers was the game this morning: (Game Coordinator: Shirley Mylles). Winners were: FIRST PLACE: Marguerite Habel & Johnny Reed. SECOND PLACE: Bruce Mylles & Kim Hong. We had the award ceremony before dinner because we had to vacate the hall due to a musical entertainment by the campground. For dinner, we had Pizza and everyone must have enjoyed it because we had very little left.

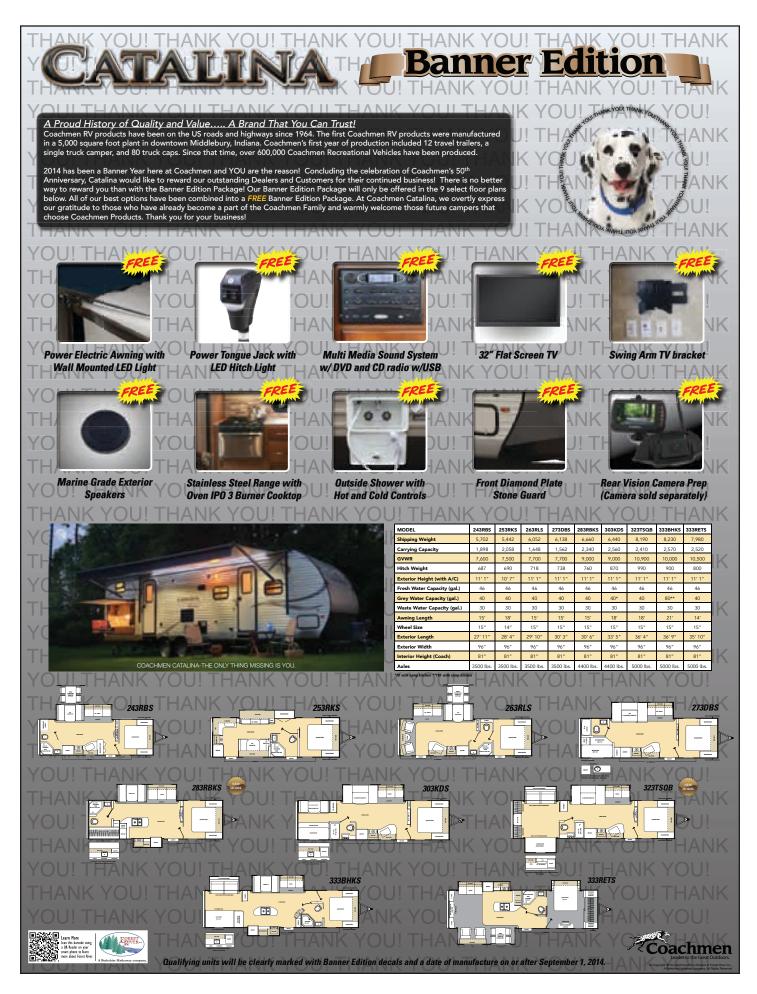
**Thursday:** Donuts and coffee was provided at the Clubhouse as we bid each other good-bys and a SAFE journey until we meet again.

#### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Shirley Mylles for Food Coordinator/Etc. Bruce Mylles for all Games Coordinator. And BIG THANKS to all of the game coordinators. Lloyd Legendre & ALL Volunteers for Cook Out. Wayne Dilliplane for Photo duties. All the members, that helped in setting up, Refereeing and cleaning after the games.

**SEE YOU IN 2016.** 









Come discover Southern hospitality, history, plantations, antiques and fine dining as the Coachmen Owners Association visits the unforgettable historic city of *Charleston in South Carolina*. James Island County Park Campground, featuring six miles of paved hiking/biking rails, beautiful scenery and more will be our home site for this event. Take a bus tour of historic downtown, a boat tour of the Charleston Harbor and a tour of Fort Sumter where the Civil War began in April of 1861. A visit to Boone *Hall Plantation* is planned where we will experience a working

tablished in 1681. A beautiful towering live oak canopy over the estate's entry lane provides a gracious welcome to this property.

We will visit the Confederate Navy's H. L. Hunley which is undergoing restoration and learn about its ill-fated mission. We will be staying right in the middle of the Holiday Festival of Lights. This spectacu lar festival brings in the winter season with scenes of Santa's Village, Winter Wonderland, carousels and trains. Over 3 million shimmering lights are used to create this 3 mile long festival of lights. Dine at one

of the Southeast's most renowned seafood restaurants. Hyman's Seafood House, a family owned restaurant, in historic downtown Charleston started in 1894 as a wholesale dry goods store and changed to a restaurant in 1987. Take time to visit Charleston on your own. Beautiful sandy beaches, native wildlife, marshes and forests are just some of the wonderful sites to behold in Charleston. We hope that you will join COA for this little

plantation which was es-

"Taste of Charleston" and experience a week full of history, fun and fellowship not to mention meeting new friends along the way!

#### Your Trip Includes:

- Five nights of camping
- Welcome Orientation Dinner
- Bus Tour of Historic Downtown Charleston
- Four Breakfasts \*
- Dinner at famous Hyman's Seafood House \*
- Boat tour of Charleston Harbor and visit to Fort Sumter
- Tour of Historic Boone Hall Plantation \*
- Tour of H.L Hunley Confederate submarine restoration \* and museum
- Unlimited access to the Holiday Festival of Lights, located right in the campground. \*
- Free entry and parking at all Charleston County Parks and Recreation locations, including Folly Beach and Folly Pier on the Atlantic Ocean, only minutes away
- Free time to explore this great city!
- Trip Patch, fun and fellowship!



Your Trip fees:

One Unit, two people ......\$879.00 One Unit, one person ......\$659.00 Additional Adult 12 and over...\$220.00

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