

NorCal ACA Chapter News

January / February 2006

As Santa would say.....Ho! Ho! Ho! Tis the season to be jolly. Truman and I hope that you and your family had a wonderful Christmas holiday and Happy New Year to each of you. At this time of the year I usually reflect on what we've accomplished this past year, places we have traveled, friends we were lucky enough to see, and those we missed seeing. I realize how lucky we are to live in this country and I give thanks to our military who make that happen, especially now. And yes, I cry when I watch most of the Hallmark card commercials this time of year. This is also the month when Truman walks around waiting to cry out "Drivers.....start your engine" because by now we have stayed too long in one place and he is ready to travel. He always was a sensitive kind of guy!!!!

1. Our fall rally was hosted by the Farrells, Hermances, and McBrooms and what a great party it was. The rally was in Benbow, home of the ancient Redwoods, the Avenue of the Giants, the Victorian Village of Ferndale, the Benbow golf and RV resort, and the beautiful coastline of Northern California. Our first night we were greeted with marvelous food, libations, and an endless supply of chocolate flowing from a fountain for our fresh strawberries and other delicious desserts. I'm still thinking about it!!! And it only got better.....The Benbow Inn, which is on the register of National Historic Places, catered one breakfast and one dinner. The golf course was in great shape and the men took advantage of that on a daily basis. There were 22 coaches in attendance and everyone had a great time. And if that wasn't enough, we all received t-shirts to remember the occasion. Our thanks go out to our rally masters for a great time!!!

Our next rally at San Juan Bautista should be a festive occasion as well where we will celebrate the New Year and can hopefully stay awake til midnight. The Hibels and the Hills have been planning and shopping and getting everything ready for our celebration. It is always great to see everyone and share holiday stories with the group. The white elephant exchange is always a fun event for those memorable gifts we'd like to soon forget.

On another note, I love stories with a happy ending. For those of you who know Ann and Van Van Hook they have sold their business and are officially retired. They are planning to relax a lot and do some long awaited traveling. If you thought Van smiled a lot before.....wait til you see him now. They are yet another example of why we joined the ACA because you meet great people like them who you then one day call "friends". I told Annie this morning that I would put out the good word-----they are retired, send money!!!! Just kidding.....So..... the next time you see them, be sure to congratulate them.

On the subject of rallies, I would like to remind everyone about the "Mardi Gras on the Bayou" rally that we have been invited to by the South Central Chapter down in Louisiana. You should have either received an email or a hardcopy from me. We met Bugs and Mary Grace at Camp Decatur this past September and they kept us smiling on a regular basis. I told Bugs he should have been a stand-up comedian. There is never a dull moment when he's around. Louisiana has had their share of problems this year but Patterson, Louisiana is ready to welcome us with Cajun hospitality. If you are able, come join in on the fun.

The spring months are filled with rallies by FMCA, ACC, and ACA so Nor-Cal will host our spring rally in the month of May and I hope you can join us. The dates are May 17 thru May 21 in Lone Pine, California. Bring your off-road vehicle and a fishing pole for starters. We will have a guided trip thru the Alabama hills of the Eastern Sierras along with a local historian, the film commissioner. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Alabama Hills, Hollywood has used this area of the country for years to film all types of movies, 100's of movies. Merritt Medows, who has fished this area since childhood, has promised to show us some good fishing holes as well.

With the cold weather coming to Northern California lots of our members will be migrating down to Arizona so be on the lookout. So far I know that the Branches, Mosbys, Kings, Warburtons, Van Hooks, Eatons, Bennetts, Battistellas, and the Annans will be down there. So remember to wave when you see those beautiful coaches going down the road.

Once again I want to wish you all a VERY MERRY holiday season and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. Remember that old cliché "Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda"don't let that happen to you. Get out there in that RV, make memories, travel lots, see more, stay safe, and let's hope that diesel prices keep going down. To steal a phrase from Merritt Mosby "this is not a club for it's members rather a club of it's members". So, when you plan your 2006 trips try and make one of them to a Nor-Cal rally. We'd love to see ya.....

Terry Bennett, President