

Freightliner Chassis Owners Club

"13 Years of Great Associations ... 1995 - 2008"



4th Quarter, 2008

Freightliner Flyer

www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org

Be Active in FCOC ... Rallies Across the USA
Contact Your FCOC Area Coordinator for Schedules, if there
is not a Area Coordinator In your part of the country, how
about **volunteering**. Contact Bob Smith Vice Pres. of Area
Operations for Information and Join In !

"SE Area Red Train Tour of St. Augustine Florida"

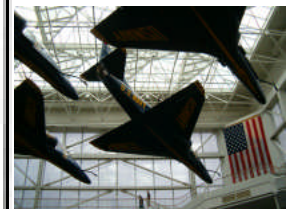
Check out the Highlights of activities of
the Southeast Area (page 23)

Touring

Eastern	Southeast	South Central	Western	Northwest
Midwest	Northeast	Rocky Mtn.	Great Lakes	



Sightseeing





Freightliner Chassis Owners Club Officers



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**FCOC Phone Number
972-322-FCOC (3262)**



~ President's Message ~



Looking back, the year 2008 has been challenging to say the least. The real estate market has gone into the tank, mortgages are being defaulted, our finances are being severely stretched, and unemployment is rising. We have watched our economy wobble and in the process are seeing large corporations, financial institutions and banks fail. Our own industry has seen a number of RV manufacturers either close their doors or reduce their work force. This economic turmoil has affected many of us and as a result some have experienced a downturn in their life style and are probably wondering where and when it will all stop. The only good news of late is that the cost of gasoline and diesel fuel has gone down. In November our country experienced a significant historical event with the election of Barrack Obama as our next President. Looking beyond 20 January 2009, it is inevitable that there will be more changes in our lives as a result of everything that has happened in the past year. As the old saying goes, "Keep the Faith."

A number of initiatives have been in the works this quarter by members of the Executive Board and I would like to give you an overview of what we have been doing: (1) We are looking to develop an "egg-shaped" plaque that would either attach to your ladder, bolt on your front license plate holder, or attach to the inside of your windshield, and is similar in shape to that used by the FMCA. (2) We have developed some new procedures to notify our members of both expiring and past-due membership dates, and are continuing the refinement of our "Keeping in Touch" database. (3) You will notice that there is a questionnaire in the middle of this newsletter that solicits your opinions and recommendations regarding the conduct of our rallies. There is also a short note in the newsletter providing information relative to handling and mailing of the questionnaire. (4) Another undertaking has been the update of our Club Bylaws and Standing Rules. The updated version of our Bylaws and Standing Rules will be presented to the membership during the next business meeting at the FMCA International Convention, Perry, Georgia, 16-19 March 2009. The revisions to our Bylaws are on our website now, and the Standing Rules will be posted in January. (5) We have been working with Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation to define the level of maintenance work that can be expected whenever the Freightliner trailer and technicians are available at one of our rallies, and you will find information relative to this matter elsewhere in this newsletter. (6) We have been working for six months to select garments that would have our Club logo on them and can be worn by our members. Unfortunately, we have had to go back to the drawing board on this issue. We are told that our logo is so intricate that it is causing the cost of embroidery to be excessive. Hopefully, we will have this problem solved in the near future and possibly have some shirts and hats available for sale at the Lazy Days rally. (7) The Nominating Committee has been charged to nominate candidates for the Chapter offices of President, Secretary, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Membership and Alternate National Director whose terms will expire on 31 December 2009. Recommendations will be presented to the membership during the July 2009 FMCA International Convention at Bowling Green, Ohio.

We are still looking for a volunteer or volunteers to replace Charlie Hoffstatter as our Caravan Leader. Charlie has already taken care of the preliminary work necessary to set up the caravan into the 2009 FMCA International Convention at Perry, Georgia. He has also agreed to work with anyone who takes on this responsibility and has developed a complete list of procedures needed to set up a caravan which will be incorporated into our Club Standing Rules. Don't sit back and think that somebody else will volunteer – step up to the plate – we really need a replacement for Charlie. Don't forget, our Club is successful because it is run by volunteers!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that over the past few months, several members of our Club have been diagnosed with a serious illness, are undergoing treatment for an illness or have experienced a life-changing situation in their home life. I personally know of a couple of members and I am certain you know of others, so for all of these people, I ask your prayers for their full recovery and return to a normal life.

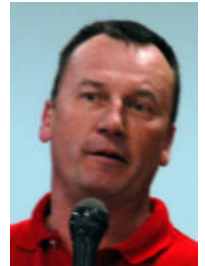
In closing, I wish you all the merriest of holidays, and look forward to seeing you and yours next year at one of our rallies.

President, Bill Buck/rs





Driven By You



Dear FCOC Members,

As we head into the winter months, the economic situation continues to be of great concern. FCCC has seen significant deterioration in our RV business, in line with what the OEMs are experiencing. We have three additional product lines, however, and that helps temper the effects of the downturn here at FCCC. As many of you know, we build chassis for pick-up and delivery vans. This business has remained very solid so far in the downturn. We also build school bus, commercial bus and tour bus chassis and those markets, while down somewhat, also help provide stability here. In addition, we are part of Daimler AG, and we have the backing and financial stability of a large, stable, profitable parent company.

At the RVIA show in early December, our OEMs debuted 18 new models on FCCC chassis, more than any other chassis manufacturer in the industry. Currently, there are almost 60 motorhome models built on FCCC chassis, again more than any other manufacturer. We continue to lead the market with unsurpassed chassis features and benefits.

Also at RVIA, we enjoyed a highly successful introduction of our new ecoFRED, the industry's first hybrid-electric chassis. We intend for this model to be the first step in the right direction regarding alternatively fueled RVs and green technology. Our partners Winnebago and Fleetwood introduced prototype coaches on ecoFRED at RVIA and will be in full production in the summer of 2009. We had a number RV media members test drive a finished ecoFRED unit at the show, so you should be reading about their experiences in upcoming issues of various RV magazines. Once again, FCCC is leading the industry with new, innovative chassis options.

I have said before that FCCC can and will weather any storm due to our industry-leading presence and our parent company's financial strength and global reach. You can be reassured that FCCC will always be here as a supportive and responsive partner.

We have confidence that the market will rebound mid to late 2009 and we will once again enjoy more successful times. The good news is that gas prices continue to hold steady at about half of what they were at their peak this summer. This should provide some relief to RVers and enable them to once again travel to their favorite destinations.

I look forward to seeing you at the rallies coming up this spring!

Sincerely,

Bob Harbin



FMCA'S CORNER



As I write this it is the week of Thanksgiving, and the Holiday season is fast approaching. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you the happiest and most wonderful Holidays ever.

There are two FMCA member benefit changes that will take effect January 1, 2009. The first pertains to **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**. For the first new member you recruit you will receive a new updated FMCA North American Road Atlas and Travel Guide. For all additional members recruited you will receive a \$10.00 merchandise coupon for FMCA logo products or Camping World merchandise. The FMCA merchandise is available at FMCA International Conventions and area rallies or on-line at www.fmca.com. As of January 1, 2009 the coupons earned can also be used toward payment of your FMCA dues. Details about redeeming the new coupons toward payment of your FMCA dues will be spelled out on the face of the coupon. You also will continue to be able to redeem the coupons for FMCA or Camping World merchandise. The membership rewards are based on a January through December yearly basis.

The second benefit change is to the FMCA **MAIL FORWARDING SERVICE**. Until now members only paid the postage from FMCA in Cincinnati, Ohio to their location. During the governing board meeting in St. Paul the recommendation to begin charging an amount that might cover approximately half of the cost of providing the mail forwarding service was approved. Beginning January 1, 2009 a monthly \$5.00 fee will be charged to those members using the FMCA mail forwarding service in addition to their regular postage expense. This charge applies only to members actively using the service. The monthly \$5.00 fee will be charged the first time mail is sent in a new month and postage is debited to that account or when mail is picked up at the Round Bottom Road office. The \$5.00 fee will be deducted from the mail forwarding participant's postage account. When a member notifies FMCA to close his/her mail forwarding account the account will be removed from active status. Accounts that are not active but in the process of being closed will be charged \$1.00 for each mailing, and no more than \$5.00 per month. For additional information contact Member Services Department at (800) 543-3622; membership@fmca.com; or Mail Forwarding at (800) 448-1212; mailforward@fmca.com.

Respectfully,

Roy Hopper

Roy Hopper
National Director



Disclaimer

FCOC is not to be held responsible for personal statements, opinions, or representations advanced in papers, chapter newsletters, web site, in discussions at any meetings or its Internet site and Discussion Forums, or the validity of statements contained in any advertisements or printed material of the FCOC chapter of the International Area of FMCA.



New e-mail address

Kathy Kyzer
FCCC - Receptionist
864-206-8000

kathryn.kyzer@daimler.com



Schedule 2009



Dates:	Event:	Location:
January 13-17, 2009	* Sixth SE Area Rally	Florida RV Super Show Florida State Fairgrounds Tampa, FL
March 16-19, 2009	81st FMCA Int'l Convention	Perry, GA
March 21-26, 2009	Nat'l FCOC Rally	Lazy Days, Seffner, FL
July 20-23, 2009	82nd FMCA Int'l Convention	Bowling Green, OH
July 24-29, 2009	Nat'l FCOC Rally	S & H Campground Greenfield, IN

- **The sixth SE Area Rally Registration Forms for the rally will be on the FCOC website
http://www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org/se_area.htm.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Members of the Nominating Committee have elected Gerry DeHeer as Chairperson. By 15 March 2009, the Nominating Committee will develop a slate of candidates to fill the offices of President, Secretary, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Membership and Alternate National Director, all who have terms expiring on 31 December 2009. The recommendations of the Nominating Committee will be presented for vote by the Chapter membership at the FCOC Business Meeting during the FMCA International Convention, Bowling Green, Ohio, 20-23 July 2009.

Announcement of the recommendations by the Nominating Committee will be promulgated in the 2nd Quarter 2009 Freightliner Flyer Newsletter.

FCOC - Caravan into the Perry FMCA Convention
Charlie & Ruth Hoffstatter Caravan Organizers
Phone # 1-888-218-0008
E-Mail folkoak@gmail.com

On Saturday, March 14th, 2009 we will be assembling at the Perry High School grounds for our caravan into the FMCA Perry Convention. We have use of the high school parking lot between the hours of 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Understand that there is to be **NO OVERNIGHT PARKING** allowed at the school. Our entry time slot into the Convention is 1:30 PM. Arrive at the High School at least by 11:00 so we can hand out the necessary materials. If you need to pick up FMCA entry credentials from the FMCA Will Call area come early so you can go get your FMCA package and be back by 11:45. At 12:00 we will have a short meeting to go over entry and caravan details. We will be leaving the High School grounds around 12:45 for our journey into the Convention. We will monitor CB channel 7 during our caravan travels.

The High School address is 1307 North Ave., Perry, Ga. 31069

The directions to the High School are as follows:

Exit 138 off of I-75 take North Perry Pkwy (SR11) East 1/2 mile, turn South on US 41 (Macon Rd. - SR11) go 1 1/2 miles South then turn East onto North Ave., go 2/10 of a mile East on North Ave., and watch for FCOC direction signs.

We will need a volunteer to be tail gunner with a cell phone. If you would like to do that please contact Charlie Hoffstatter on or before we meet on the 14th. Also some help will be needed at the High School in order to get everyone parked in preparation for the caravan.

CONTACT US IF YOU WILL BE GOING @ 512-567-1499 OR TOLL FREE 1-888-218-0008 OR AT OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS folkoak@gmail.com

Many thanks to Darryl Albritton and the Perry High School for allowing us to use their parking lot again.

We will be looking for you there !!!

NOTE: When registering for the FMCA Convention make sure you register for General Parking Area. This will allow you to run your generator from 7:00 AM until 11:00 PM.

We need a new Caravan Leader

note!

- By now everyone should know that Charlie Hoffstatter retired following the FMCA's 80th International Convention at St. Paul MN.
- Do you enjoy going into the FMCA as a member of a caravan, parking together, sharing a few days with friends, and enjoying the social hours at the Freightliner Tent? Well, that may all be coming to an end if we don't have one or two Club members step forward and take over the invaluable job of Caravan Leader.
- Charlie has agreed to work with anyone who would like to replace him and he will provide the necessary information, points of contacts, methods, etc., to assist in the transfer of the responsibilities.

If you are interested, please contact Ron Sliger, Executive Vice President either by telephone at (321) 757-0593 or by e-mail at rsliger@cfl.rr.com.



March into Spring

Registration Form

(Registration Deadline March 10, 2009)
FCOC Florida Rally — March 21st to 26th 2009
LazyDays Rally Park
6210 County Road # 579
Seffner, Florida 33584
(800) 905-6627
Exit 10 – Route 14
Rally Includes



8 Meals

Door prizes

Full Hook-ups

Cable TV

Welcome Social

RV Displays

Student Driving Class*

Vendors

Red Hat Tea

Ice Cream Social

Entertainment

Shuttle Service

Daily Newspaper

Educational Seminars

Tennis

Hot Tub

Freightliner Tech Service and Good Fellowship

***LazyDays has a free Student Driving course available for those staying at LazyDays. You must contact LazyDays DIRECTLY. For more information or to attend this course contact Barney Alexander at (888) 500-5299 ext. 4389**

FMCA # _____ (Have you updated the FCOC Database within the last three (3) months? If not, please do so now.)

Pilot: _____

Last Name

First Name

Nickname for Badge

Co-Pilot: _____

Last Name

First Name

Nickname for Badge

Will you have a guest(s) attending the rally? If so, name(s) and age: _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip Code _____

Primary Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

E-mail Address: _____

(Registration Confirmation will be sent to the e-mail address above, otherwise it will be mailed.)

If you are arriving early or want to stay beyond the rally dates, you must contact LazyDays Rally Park by calling (800) 905-6227. The rate for early arrivals up to five (5) days and those who stay beyond the rally dates for up to five (5) days will be \$37.00 per day.

In order to recognize any special events in your life occurring during the month of March 2009 e.g., birthdays or anniversary, please indicate the event and the date: _____

Please specify any special meal requirements: _____

First time at FCOC rally? Yes ___ No ___

Handicapped Parking? Yes ___ No ___

Red Hat Tea: Yes ___ No ___

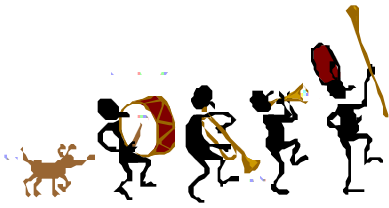
Can you help during the Rally? Yes ___ No ___

Mfg of Coach _____ Model _____ Length _____

Would you volunteer to be a Rally Master or Assistant Rally Master for future Rallies? Yes ___ No ___ Please make your check payable to FCOC for \$295.00, add \$50.00 for each guest over the age of 14, and mail to: Rick Kennedy Telephone: (410) 353-6224 158 Rainbow Dr. #5878 Livingston, TX 77399 Email: rickkennedy100@hotmail.com

Date Received: _____

Confirmation Sent: _____



FCOC – “*March into Spring*” RALLY



Our Plans for the March 2009 FCOC National Rally at Lazydays are very close to being complete. The dates are firm, the price is fixed, the meals are planned and the entertainment has been selected.

The first order of business was to have a quality rally at the same price as it was two years ago, which was \$295.00 and we did ! Look at what you will receive while at the rally: breakfast and lunch six days a week courtesy of Lazydays, use of the recreation hall, all site amenities, the pool, spa, shuffle board courts, “temperamental” Wi-Fi and internet hookups are available to all of us. When you are not eating, playing, relaxing or just visiting with your friends, Lazydays has more than a thousand RV’s in stock and available for your inspection. Dinners are always a focal point at a rally, and based upon experience, Luptons is our caterer of choice. With Luptons, we are assured of well prepared, tasteful hot meals, pleasantly served and always enough available for seconds for those having a hearty appetite. Don’t forget, all of this will be topped off with some great evening entertainment.

After enjoying the amenities of Lazydays, the surrounding area offers many opportunities. There is always something to see and do in the Tampa area. For example, just a short distance away is Busch Gardens, Cypress Gardens, Tampa’s beaches, the free cruise of Tampa harbor and of course Parksdale Farm’s strawberry shortcakes, sundaes and shakes. Nearby Orlando offers the theme parks at Disney World, Universal Studio and Sea World. Could you ask for any more?

If you are contemplating RV Repairs, we suggest you make reservations with the Lazydays Maintenance Department ((866) 531-6820) at least three months in advance of your arrival. Those with minor chassis issues need to register at the Freightliner Trailer which will be in attendance at the rally.

FCOC members who wish to conduct a seminar while at the rally should inform the Rally Master (Pete Pizzano, telephone (727) 376-2502, email: alice.pizzano@yahoo.com) or the Rally Registrar, Rick Kennedy (rickkennedy100@hotmail.com) the nature of your seminar. We also invite club members who are vendors to contact the Rally Master if you wish to set up a table and display merchandise.

If fuel prices are limiting your travel start putting your loose change aside for this March vacation at Lazydays and renew your acquaintances with your FCOC friends that you might not have seen in a while. “The March into Spring” Freightliner Rally is scheduled to begin on March 21 through March 26, 2009. That gives you five nights and six days of food, entertainment and friendship for an affordable price of \$50.00 a day for two people. The number of sites is limited, so get your registration forms in early. Those individuals who completed pre-registration forms, must now complete the actual rally registration form located on page 7 of this newsletter.

Come Join the Activities



BACK HOME IN INDIANA

July 24th to July 29th 2009

On your mark,
get ready,
get set,

go to Greenfield Indiana, to S & H Campground !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



This is a rustic campground with down home atmosphere, built in the midst of cornfields. We will be having the usual seminars planned, plus a few surprises, (you don't want to miss this).

The Rally will have 4 full days of exciting things to do with something for everyone and tours galore. We will have breakfast, lunches, and dinners in no particular order, with dinner usually the last meal.

Greenfield is an old town with old time shops and attractions. Too much time and money can be spent in Greenfield.

The campground offers, swimming, putt-putt golf for a fun contest and even canoes or rowboats for races in the lake. For the fisherpersons, you can get a prize for the largest fish caught. No license required.

Entertainment every night with many unexpected venues. With much anticipated hilarity. There will be opportunities to win valuable?? prizes.

Now down to business. ~ From Bowling Green Oh. (FMCA) rally it is 195 miles away, along some of the most beautiful country highways in the nation.

If you want to know more about the campground and what they have to offer as extras, log on to shcampground.com.

Your Rally Planners are: Ken & Dorothy Hawk, Ed & Jackie Laughner and Ed & Lois Shinkle. We can use all the help we can get. Please join us and have some fun. Watch for more details in the next Newsletter.

The registration fee is \$295.00. Watch for the registration form after March 1, 2009 in the newsletter and on the web-site .

*Rick Kennedy Registrar,
158 Rainbow Dr #5878
Livingston, Texas 77399*



Fill out the Questionnaire and enter the drawing!
for a \$100 fuel Card ...

FCOC Membership Rally Questionnaire

Name: (Optional) _____ FMCA # _____ Date: _____

(Note: To be eligible for the \$100 Fuel Card drawing, you must provide your name and FMCA #)

Do you still own a Freightliner chassis motorhome? Yes _____ No _____

Do you normally attend the FMCA rally prior to the FCOC rally? Yes _____ No _____

How many FCOC National rallies have you attended? 1 2 3 4 5 6 or More _____

What is the maximum driving distance you prefer from home to an FCOC rally?

- 250 miles or less _____
- 500 miles or less _____
- 750 miles or less _____
- 1000 miles or less _____
- 1500 miles or less _____

No preference _____

What is the maximum driving distance you prefer from the FMCA to an FCOC rally?

- 250 miles or less _____
- 500 miles or less _____
- 750 miles or less _____

No preference _____

What is the minimum level of hookups you prefer?

- Full hookup w/50 amp service _____
- Full hookup w/30 amp service _____
- Water and electric only w/dump station _____
- Dry camping _____
- No preference _____

How long should a rally last?

- Three nights _____
- Four nights _____
- Five nights _____
- Longer (please specify) _____
- No preference _____

What is the maximum you are willing to pay for a rally including 4 nights of camping and meals?"

- Between \$200 and \$250 _____
- Between \$251 and \$300 _____
- Between \$301 and \$350 _____
- Between \$351 and \$400 _____

No preference _____

When evaluating the campground as a rally location, what items are important to you?



More!

FCOC Membership Rally Questionnaire (continued page)

To reduce the cost of a rally, what would you be willing to eliminate/reduce? Please rank in order of preference - 1 to 5 with 1 being the first to eliminate/reduce and 5 the last to eliminate/reduce.

- Entertainment _____
- Breakfast _____
- Dinner _____
- Length of rally _____
- Campground amenities Other (Please specify) _____

Recognizing that suitable kitchen and electrical hookups would be at a minimum, are you in favor of replacing a dinner with a pot luck? Yes _____ No _____

Are you in favor of offering a 10% discount for early registration for an FCOC National Rally?
Yes _____ No _____

Should sites be assigned based upon date of registration? Yes _____ No _____

If practical, should all rally activities (e.g., meals, seminars, entertainment) be held at the rally location?
Yes _____ No _____

What types of seminars would you like to see at FCOC rallies?

- Technical _____
- Topics _____
- Travel _____
- Safety _____
- Crafts _____
- Other (please specify) _____

Should there be organized games, e.g., Chuckers, bingo, cards, etc. Yes _____ No _____

What type of entertainment should be provided? _____

Should we have entertainment every night following dinner? Yes _____ No _____

Should there be free time? Yes _____ How much? _____ No _____

If possible, should the rally include tours? Yes _____ No _____

Should breakfast be included?

- Yes _____ Start at _____ am What type of food? _____
- No _____

What time should dinner be served? _____ pm

Should arrangements be made for attendees to stay a few days after the rally if they so desire?
Yes _____ No _____

Remove from Newsletter



FCOC Membership Rally Questionnaire *(continued page*

Are you aware that FCCC provides some limited service (up to an hour) at our FCOC National rallies?

Yes _____ No _____

Should we invite vendors to FCOC Rallies? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, what types of vendors? _____

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Are there any additional services or levels of support that you believe should be provided to you by the members of the FCOC Executive Board that are not being provided?

No _____ Yes _____ (Please describe) _____

Are you satisfied with the content of the FCOC Freightliner Flyer Newsletter?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you satisfied with the frequency of the FCOC Freightliner Flyer Newsletter?

Yes _____ No _____ (Specify frequency you prefer) _____

What could be done to make the Club more interesting to you?

What could be done to encourage you to participate in more FCOC National and Area rallies?

Would it be beneficial if the FCOC Area Coordinators put out their own Newsletter by e-blast to keep you up to date on ongoing events that might not be covered in the Freightliner Flyer Newsletter because of time limitations?

Yes _____ No _____

Other Comments and or your suggestions you may have on how to improve our rallies or the operation of the club:

If you are willing to discuss you comments:Name: _____

Contact Info:

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send this questionnaire to:

Freightliner Chassis Owners Club
4100 N Wickham Rd, Unit 102, #147
Melbourne, FL 32934

All questionnaires must be received by 2 March 2009



FCOC
552 Hyatt St.
Gaffney, SC 29341

Tape, no staples please

Return Postage
Required
Post Office will
not deliver without
proper postage

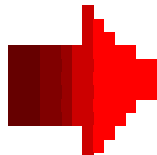
Freightliner Chassis Owners Club
4100 N Wickham Rd.
Unit 102, #147
Melbourne, FL 32934

(Fold along line)


Return the Membership Rally Questionnaire



Enter your name
and FMCA number



YES ! Enter my name into
the drawing for a *FCOC* Gas
Card!
Name: _____



FMCA #: _____

READING THE INFORMATION ON YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL

I receive a few contacts from members every month and many more contacts toward the end of the year asking, “When are my membership dues up for payment?” or, “Am I paid for this year?”

These questions are more critical now since FCOC membership expiration dates are no longer limited to December 31. Beginning in 2007, memberships were effective for a full year from the receipt of the application and dues.

To help remind individuals when their memberships were about to expire, we started a process of sending e-mails and regular mail reminder notices to members 30-60 days before their memberships are due to expire.

In addition to the notices that are sent, you can check your newsletter mailing label to determine your membership expiration date. Below is a sample address label.

F111111 Exp. 03/31/2009
JIM BOUDREAU
DONNA BOUDREAU
3402 NIAGARA RD
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403

The first thing to check is your F-number to be sure that it is correct. What follows that is the date and year your dues will expire. In this case, the Club dues are paid through March 31, 2009.

The rest of the label is the name, address and zip. Please check for proper spelling. If you find anything not quite right, correct it at the “Keeping in Touch” access point on our website, www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org, or please contact me by e-mail, letter, or telephone, and I will update the database for you. We really strive to keep the information in the database current and accurate.

I was chatting with someone recently who told me that they move around two, three or more times a year, so he was reluctant to keep “bothering” us with changes. My response was that it wasn’t a bother to correct an address, but it was a problem to get a newsletter returned with or without a new forwarding address for four reasons:

1. You didn’t get your newsletter.
2. The club has to pay \$.75 to \$2.06 when the newsletter is returned.
3. I have to enter the changes or enter that the current address is a bad address.
4. Until the address is corrected, no further newsletters will be mailed to you at that bad address.

Remember, you can go into the database at our website: www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org, then go to the **Keeping in Touch** tab and at the bottom of the page click on the “Click Here” button. The first time you access your membership profile, the **password** is your five character zip code or your seven character (includes space) postal code. You should change your password once you have logged into the system.

Once logged in, **please update your information** in each of the categories across the top of the screen. Most important, is to remember to click ‘**Save & Continue**’ after you’ve made changes under any of the categories.

The bottom line is that we want to make sure the information in the database is as accurate as possible and we cannot do it unless we get an assist from you. So please, if you have a change of address, correct it in the database.

If for any reason you want us to correct the database, notify us and we will put that change in wearing a smile and we will thank you for taking the time to help us.

Any changes should be sent to:

CHARLES BELBA
624 ROYALVIEW ST.
DUARTE, CA 91010-1345
E-mail is: xmayors@msn.com
Home tell is: 626-358-2226

Remember !
Those who receive the newsletter **electronically**
~ YOU can go to the *Keep in Touch* database,
log in, and click the Membership Info Tab and
look at your Expiration date.



Alternate National Director

Hi everyone! My name is Mary Costigan, your new Alternate National Director. I have taken over Roy's remaining year. We both will do our best to keep you informed on all FMCA/FCOC related information. Roy has new information for you in his article. Be sure to read what is new for FCOC members. I will have a tough job filling his shoes. Hope to meet you at the FMCA Convention in Perry, Georgia and/or the FCOC Rally at LazyDays in Florida. My sincerest wish to you for a very safe, joyous and happy holiday season with your family and friends.



Mary

To Fellow friends and RV's of the Hawk family.

The following is a small update on the happenings in the last 6 months. Dorothy completed her Chemo treatment in August of 2008 and we started traveling again in September by going to the 6 State Rally in Little Rock Arkansas.

During this trip I noticed I was getting tired easy and did not have the strength or stamina necessary to do a lot of additional activities.

Arriving home it was a real chore to stay awake and be myself. To the Doctor we went and after blood tests they indicated that I had a form of Leukemia. Scarred to death, we did more testing to find that the kind I had was the curable kind of Leukemia. Wow!!! what a relief. I entered the hospital the next day for Chemo treatment and for them to knock me in the dirt. Wow what a plan of 5 weeks of continuous injections until the tests showed they had succeeded in killing most of the bad Leukemia cells.

I was home for Thanksgiving with lots to be thankful for. The next trip to the hospital will be maybe Friday, 5 December to continue the final Chemo treatment.

I want to thank you all for the wonderful Prayers and cards for both Dorothy and me during this trying time. We do know that Prayer Power works and will hopefully be on the road after Christmas. Hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday.

Thank You again and may GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Dorothy & Ken Hawk



DO YOU HAVE CHASSIS ISSUES?

We are always on the lookout for good technical articles that pertain to problems involving our Freightliner chassis, and would like your assistance in determining the issues we need to address. If you are having a problem with your chassis, do not completely understand the workings of a part or procedure, or just want to learn about something specific on your chassis, please send your question to Steve Batorson at sjbators@us.ibm.com. Steve will make contact with members of the FCCC technical staff and draw upon their expertise to develop answers your questions and have the information published in an upcoming newsletter.

FCCC Rally Service

The services FCCC will perform at rallies are set up to assist customers with issues they can repair quickly and easily. FCCC technicians will also diagnose issues that repair facilities have not been able to resolve.

FCCC will schedule appointments 45 minutes to 1 hour apart. This will allow their technicians to perform at least eight short appointments per day. In some instances, the repair results in a quick fix which may permit time for more appointments. It all depends on what the technician finds and if he has the required parts.

It is important to discuss the issue with the FCCC Service Administrator to determine if it is chassis related. The Service Administrator will also determine if the repair can be done onsite or sent to a nearby facility. Customers should be prepared to provide their chassis VIN and location of unit to the Service Administrator.

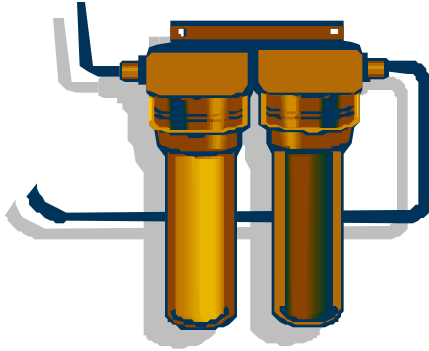
FCCC will do their best to accommodate everyone with the resources they have at the rally. If they do not have the parts necessary to complete the repair, the Service Administrator will assist the customer with ordering the parts and also with locating a repair facility.

Unfortunately, FCCC technicians will not be able to perform maintenance work or any repairs that involve fluids or filters due to environmental concerns.

Rallies are meant to create camaraderie for coach owners. They are opportunities for FCCC to assist you with issues you are facing. FCCC will listen to your needs and do their best to find a solution. Rallies also offer opportunities to learn more about your chassis and RVing in general by gathering information through workshops and presentations offered by FCCC and other vendors.



Fuel Water Separator (FWS)



Hopefully, you will never fall victim to the problem of your engine cranking but not starting. Many people have experienced this problem after “draining the fuel” from the fuel water separator as instructed by the manual. The engine ran after doing this, but soon died. Some basic pointers about the FWS can help you avoid this issue.

The FWS removes water and solid contaminants from diesel fuel. Installed between the fuel tank and fuel transfer pump, the separator comes with either a spin-on filter element with sight bowl or a water-in fuel (WIF) sensor. Sight bowls allow operators to see contaminants collected in the bowl. WIF sensors illuminate a lamp in the dash when water in the fuel is sensed. These types of filters promote draining only when necessary.

If your unit came equipped with either of these two types of filters they should be replaced with the same type filter. The FWS filter should be changed at each oil change.

Only drain a small amount out of the bowl at a time. A quarter cup or less should be adequate. Typically, air will replace fuel when drained out and diesel engines do not like air. Air in fuel lines can cause the engine to not run. Remember to do the following when draining the fuel water separator:

- Drain only if contamination is found (sight bowl needed or WIF Lamps is lighted)
- Drain only bare minimum amounts
- Elevate engine RPM when restarting after draining

If air has entered the fuel lines during draining of the fuel water separator, bringing the engine rpm to or above 1000rpm will help carry the engine through any stumble when re-started.

Diesel engines need clean, moisture-free fuel and there is no guarantee that you receive this quality of fuel at the pump. Moisture can also develop in fuel systems during normal vehicle operation. The FWS is the item that gives your engine a quality fuel source, keeping the pointers above in mind.

Camp Freightliner Schedule for

2009

contact
campfccc@freightliner.com

March

Class 1 16th and 17th
 Class 2 19th and 20th

August

Class 9 17th and 18th
 Class 10 20th and 21st

April

Class 13th and 14th
 Class 4* 16th and 17th

* April 16th and 17th for FRED owners only

September

Class 11 14th and 15th
 Class 12 17th and 18th

May

Class 5 11th and 12th
 Class 6 14th and 15th

October

Class 13 12th and 13th
 Class 14 15th and 16th

June

Class 7 8th and 9th
 Class 8 11th and 12th



Driven By You

FCOC Membership Rally Questionnaire (see pages 11-15)

How would you like to win a \$100.00 fuel card, and help improve the quality of our rallies? Well, you now have an opportunity to accomplish both of these goals. In the middle of the Newsletter you will find a four-page questionnaire asking you to provide answers to a number of questions that all relate to the scheduling, management and conduct of our rallies.

All you need to do is complete the questionnaire, affix a 42 cent stamp, fold the questionnaire in half, tape it together at the bottom (**do not staple**) and mail it to the address printed on the form. We will tabulate the responses, provide the membership with an overview of the responses, and use this information to help us develop better rallies in the future.

Please note: *If you STAPLE the questionnaire together at the bottom, it will cost you 62 cents postage, but if you TAPE it together at the bottom, the postage is only 42 cents.*

We will put the name of each responder in a hat and have a volunteer from the audience of the March 2009 FCOC business meeting in Perry, Georgia draw the name of the winner, who does not need to be present.

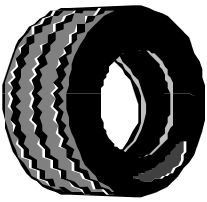
We are updating our Bylaws

A review of our existing Bylaws was directed last July by President Bill Buck to ensure that all aspects of the rules governing our club were current and relevant. A select committee was established to conduct the review and several changes were proposed for consideration. The Executive Board has reviewed the changes and recommends they be presented to the membership during the FMCA International Convention in Perry, Georgia, 16-19 March 2009.

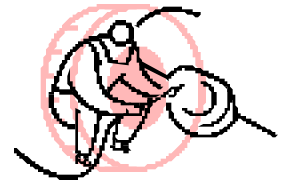
The current Bylaws (Revision 11 of 15 August 2007) are listed on the FCOC website (<http://www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org/>), together with the version being proposed for adoption. You can access the Bylaws by clicking on Business Matters and scrolling down to the bottom of the page. Proposed changes are highlighted in yellow for ease of review, or you can download both versions if preferred.

As stated in Article VIII of our current Bylaws, the proposed Bylaws may be amended by a 66 2/3 percent affirmative vote of the members present and voting at a business meeting, providing that prior notice of at least thirty (30) days has been given of the proposition(s) to amend. As stated above, the next FCOC business meeting will be conducted during the FMCA International Convention in Perry, Georgia, 16-19 March 2009.





Dual Tires

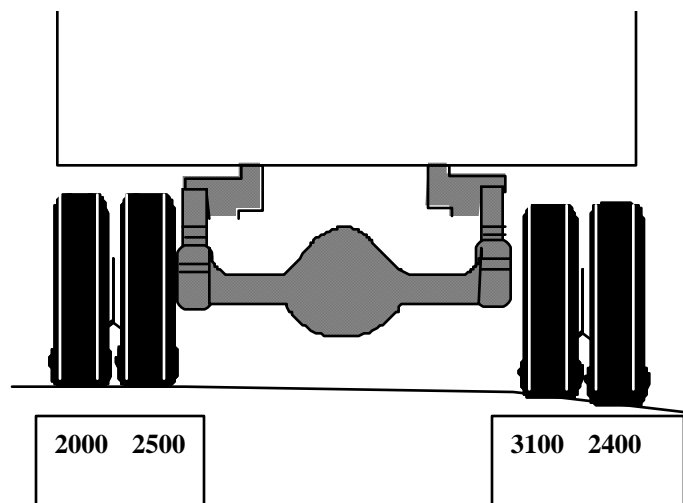


In the early 1900s, in response to a need to carry greater loads on the “horseless carriages” of the day, Michelin pioneered the use of dual tires to allow higher loads to be carried by single vehicles. Four tires across an axle should carry twice the load of the two single tires previously used. The immediate challenge was how to assemble the two tires, so that they were turning concentrically, sharing the load equally, and not rubbing against each other.

Today, tires are mounted on wheels with a center section off-set to one side, so that two wheels bolted back-to-back will leave space between the two tires. This space avoids the heat buildup or chafing resulting from running in constant contact, and affords room for snow chains when necessary. Tire manufacturers publish a recommendation on the Minimum Dual Spacing (MDS) for each tire size, so wheel manufacturers can design in the proper off-set. If dual tires are in constant contact, then either the tires are overloaded, under-inflated, or the wheels have inadequate off-set.

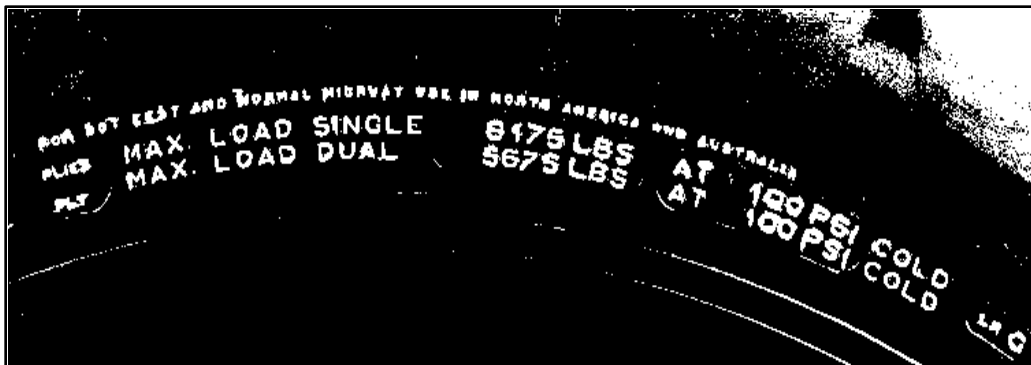
Now, how would we insure equal sharing of the load between a pair of tires in dual? A straight axle on a flat level surface will have all dual tires sharing the load equally if the tires are the same size, tread, and ply rating, and the unloaded diameters are the same. The unloaded diameters will be the same, if they all have the same tread depth, and are inflated to the same pressure. Tire manufacturers have determined that tires with no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ” difference in diameter will perform acceptably in dual mounting. A difference of $\frac{4}{32}$ ” in tread depth would result in a diameter difference of $\frac{1}{4}$ ”, so it is necessary to measure tread depth before rotating tires on a vehicle, so a dual tire diameter difference greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ ” does not result from the rotation scheme.

Of course, axles are not perfectly straight, and roads are not perfectly level, so equal loading of the pair of tires is not likely. When a beam (the axle) is loaded inside the wheel ends by the suspension, the axle will “bow” (negative camber) causing the inner dual tires to carry more load than the outer ones. For proper water drainage, two lane roads, as well as many interstate highways, are “crowned”, so the inner dual tires will carry more load than the outer tires.



How much pressure difference would cause the effective diameters to vary by more than 1/4"? If you are into the math, you can approximate this by dividing the sidewall pressure by the tire deflection ($\text{dia}/2 - \text{SLR}$) and dividing that number by 8. This will tell you how much pressure will cause a 1/8" change of the rolling radius (1/4" in rolling diameter). It should be about 10 psi. Thus, you should never allow dual tires to differ in pressure by that much, so 5 psi max differential is a good target. Of course, that pressure thing can be particularly annoying since the inner dual is really hard to get to for checking air pressure. In addition, removing and replacing the valve cap can be quite challenging, and, as everyone knows the valve cap (not the valve core) is the primary air seal for the tire. Right?

Due to potential differences in tread depth, pressure, axle straightness, and road crown, the two tires may carry loads differing by as much as 10-15%. It would then be imprudent to rate the dual tired axle at four times the rating of the single tire. Tire manufacturers and the Tire and Rim Association have determined that tires in dual mounting should not be rated for more that about 90% of the rating in single mounting to account for this.



Dualing (like War??) Good-God y'all, what is it good for?.....absolutely nothing! OK, maybe I went a bit too far there. Dual tires on an axle carry more load than two of the same tires in single mounting, and if one experiences a rapid air loss, you can "limp-in" on the other one. Right? By "limp-in" do you mean running the tire with air at twice the legal load, to get to a place, so you can replace the failed tire, and continue to run the recently "double overloaded" one.....until it fails from the abuse endured during the "limp-in"? You wouldn't do that, would you?

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