



From the President:

Greetings from hot and dry Tennessee. We hope that everyone in the South is staying cool and that those lucky ones who were able to attend the Fly-in in Oshkosh are having fun. The trip to the U.P. will be a welcome relief from the heat. Glenda and I wish we could have attended, we miss seeing all of the Birders. After accidents foiled our plans for travel during the year of our 50th wedding anniversary and health issues, we tried for travel during our 51st year ... again foiled! This year, we are finally able to attain at least part of our travel dreams and at this writing, we are on our way to a gathering in Cody, Wyoming and then on to West Yellowstone, Montana. We hope to travel even further north with fellow Birds and enjoy not only the beautiful scenery but also some cooler weather!

We are looking forward to our fall Family of Friends Reunion in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. Joe and Susan Crocker have been working very hard to make sure everyone enjoys the rally. If you have not done so, please get your reservation sent in. The Crockers have some special plans for each of you. Also, remember the other rallies taking place this fall.

God has blessed all of us with the ability to travel and enjoy this wonderful country of ours. We thank Him for Glenda's recovery from health issues and for blessing our life together.

To God Be the Glory! Leroy Wilson

Blue Bird Family of Friends Annual Family Reunion

October 12-16, 2016

Waynesville/Maggie Valley, NC

Hosts: Joe and Susan Crocker

Location:

Pride Resorts

4394 Jonathan Creek Road, Waynesville, NC Phone: 1-800-926-8191/1-828-926-1645

The resort will hold 35 (50 AMP) sites until 9/1/16. Because this is peak season, no rally discounts will be given, however, they will honor discounts if you belong to certain clubs/organizations. You need to ask about these discounts. Mention that you are part of the Blue Bird Rally so that you can get a site close to everyone else. The following is a list of the sites available and the 2015 rates, just to give you an idea of the resort fee. A one-night deposit will be charged to your credit card when you make your reservation. If you cancel your reservation by September 1, 2016, you will receive a full refund. Sites are all gravel/grass sites.

2015 Regular Rates—per night (2016 rates not yet set)

Off Creek Site--\$44 On Creek Sites (18 available)--\$50

On Creek Premium Sites (7 available) (These have a concrete patio)--\$55

The regular on-creek sites are not right on the creek. They have a road and grassy area between the sites and the creek. The premium on-creek sites have a grassy area, but no road between the site and the creek. View the map online.

Park Models and Cabins are available for those without motorhomes.

\$225 Rally Fee Per Coach (2 people)--- \$150(One Person)

Fee includes:

Welcome Bag

4 breakfasts

4 dinners

Entertainment

Games with prizes

Door Prizes

Commemorative DVD of the Rally

Other Activities

Enjoy the beauty of the mountains/Blue Ridge Parkway

See elk in the Cataloochee Valley

Visit Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum

Explore Maggie Valley and Waynesville
Enjoy the annual Harvest Festival in Waynesville
Visit the Mast General Store

Send registration information and rally fee (checks payable to Blue Bird Chapter FMCA) to:
Carolyn Dover, Treasurer
P.O. Box 711
Marietta, SC 29661

2016 Blue Bird Family of Friends Family Reunion
October 12-16, 2016
Pride Resort
4394 Jonathan Creek Road
Waynesville, NC
Phone: 1-800-926-8191
www.pridervresort.com

Registration Form

Name/s _____

Address _____

Email
address _____

Cell phone
number _____

Money enclosed _____ How many attending? _____

Registration: 2 people--\$225

1 person--\$150

Mail (checks made payable to Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA) registration to:

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Welcome ... or Not!

By Martha Rowe Vaughn

Along the road there are posh campgrounds and ordinary campgrounds. We've all stayed in both kinds for one reason or another. Posh campgrounds aren't always welcoming nor are ordinary campgrounds always not welcoming.

Outside Naples, Florida are two elegant campgrounds where we had to send a picture of our Bird before they would consider us worthy of being a temporary resident. At one of these, we had to sign a long epistle stating all of their "DO NOT" rules and that we would abide by them. The residents were not friendly either. Not welcoming at all.

East of I-95 in South Carolina is a small family campground way off the interstate. In desperation, we called late in the afternoon to ask for a place to stay. "We are full, but you come on, we'll find a place for you", was the answer. They did. The owner moved some units around until we had a fine place with complete hook-ups. They were friendly and nice and check-in was quick and easy. The

place was clean and tidy. After we were settled, the owner came to our door with a gift of smoked sausage and asked if he could do anything more to make our stay pleasant. We stop there every trip South!

Whether a campground is owned by a family or nationwide company does not make a difference in their attitude. One of the nationwide campgrounds was totally indifferent to our needs. We stopped in at the office to check in after having made reservations earlier in the day. At the time, I told them the size and electrical needs. When we arrived, the office personnel were talking to each other and ignored us. Finally when they finished their conversation they started the check-in. I asked where was our site. The woman waved her hand toward the gate and said, "Just go in and pick one". "Are they all big enough for us?" I asked.

I think so" she replied. We couldn't see the grounds from the office. Like we're going to pull into a place where we have no idea what we will find and if it is possible to get into, or stuck and have to unhook the tow, or unlock the car and go see what is available then move the coach? We left.

The same company owns a campground in Frankin, N.C. We were pleased to encounter friendly, helpful personnel and a totally welcoming attitude. It was a small, neat campground run by a couple who are coach owners themselves. We rented a cabin also and it was perfectly clean and they had turned on the air conditioner prior to our arrival.

A new motorcoach resort near Port Charlotte, Florida offers the most welcoming and positive "do not" list. Instead of "no children under the age of 12 in the pool area

without supervision”, they wrote, “... we ask that parents and grandparents enjoy the pool together with children under the age of twelve”. Instead of “all dogs must be on a leash” ... “We love our furry friends and they are welcome on a leash throughout the property”. This resort offers free breakfast once a week and a Friday night party with free drinks and appetizers. The residents were as friendly as the owners who no doubt set the tone for a welcoming place to stay.

In contrast was a campground in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The first thing I saw when I walked in the office was a sign in big red letters: “\$15.00 FINE FOR CHECKING IN EARLY”. I pointed to the sign and told the lady behind the desk, “that makes me want to turn around and leave here”. She nodded and said, “I agree, but the owner insists. We don’t do it unless he is here”. The owner needs to listen to his employees.

It is hard to know which campground will be welcoming or not by the write-ups about them. Experience at reading between the lines may help. Beware of the places that say, “Easy access to the highway”. You might find yourself wondering if you were parked in the median for all the traffic noise throughout the night. “Big rigs welcome” doesn’t always mean it. The number of stars in Woodall’s isn’t always what you might think. Perhaps the best way to avoid unpleasant places is to ask your fellow Birders. We all have favorite places we use along our trips. Happy camping and may you all find a welcoming place to stay!

After reading Martha’s article, it would be fun to have our members write in and tell about good and bad experiences at campgrounds. I welcome any and all comments! Karen4247@aol.com

The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page.

St. Augustine

Vintage Birds Emerald Coast Rally – October 23-30, 2016

Stay a week in Panama City Florida at the Emerald Coast RV Beach Resort. Enjoy a first class resort with 2 heated pools, spa and lake. Visit some local attractions and walk on the sugar sand beaches of the Gulf Of Mexico.

Vintage Birds annual meeting will be held during the rally. Join us on day trips to the resort town of Seaside and downtown Panama City. Explore some of the local attractions and dine at the famous Captain Anderson's (Dutch treat).

Local attractions: St. Andrews State Park, Panama City Pier, Pier Park shopping mall, Gulf World, Museum of Man in the Sea, Ripley's Museum, Wonder Works, Zoo World, Winery, and Harley Davidson Panama City.

Rally fee Includes: 3 continental breakfasts, 1 catered breakfast on Saturday, 1 lunch at a local restaurant, 1 catered BBQ dinner and a pizza night. Also plan on 1 pot luck dinner. Rally Hosts: Mark & Kathy Ragsdale and Richard & Sue Ramsey. For more information call: Kathy : 256-282-8902 or Sue : 850-447-1701,

Rally Fee: – \$ 140.00 (for two) Single : – \$70.00

We must have your Rally fee & campground reservation by June 1 to hold our sites We have 25 pull

thru's and 5 premium lake side sites reserved. After the 1st of June the campground will release these sites for general reservations and expect most of them to be full for their winter season.

On arrival, VB Members will pay the campground for their site (less the \$75.00 deposit paid by the club if you stay 7 days). Stay 7 days, and the club pays 1 day and campground gives 1 free day, you only have to pay for 5!

Pull-thru sites are \$70 per day (plus tax). Premium sites \$80 per day (plus tax). Late Registration: You must make your own campground reservation (if a site is available) and pay the rally fee of \$140.00. Campground: Emerald Coast RV Beach Resort – 1957 Allison Avenue, Panama City

Beach

FL 32407 - Phone : 800-232-2478

FMCA # _____ Name (s) : _____
VB # _____ Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ **Phone :** _____
Reservations for the week or days - (circle) S M T W T F S
Send To: Sue Ramsey (ph. 850-447-1701) Enclose Rally fee: \$140.00 for (2)
16013 State Rd. 71 S. \$ 70.00 for (1)
Blountstown FL 32424

**America is the only country where you can go on the air
and kid politicians, and where politicians go on the air and
kid the people.** *Groucho Marx*

My Family of Friends

Bird Track Editor Karen James asked if I would submit a article for Bird Tracks. I told her at the time that I would put on my thinking cap and see what I could come up with. I know the difficulty of putting out a newsletter. She does a remarkable job. It used to take an entire committee of us to get the job done. Karen always comes up with a interesting newsletter that is perhaps more simple in lay out than the one that we had in the past, but one that is appreciated and gets the news of the Blue Bird Club, Family of Friends, out to old and new friends. I am really impressed. Thank you, Karen, and all who have been and are willing to help the club.

But then again, I've always been impressed with Family of Friends. A group of people who first came together as strangers simply because they happened to buy the same brand of motor coach. A group that may not all get together in the same place these days. But just let any of us learn that one or more Blue Birders are near and it is automatically party time. It matters not that we may not have seen one another for a

lengthy period of time. It matters not that some of us have bought new rigs that are SOBs (Some Other Brands :). No, once you are in the Family of Friends group you are always going to care for one another. Jon and I are among those who bought brand X. We are still the same, regardless of what brand we drive these days. We know this is true of many others who found they wanted a new bus, but our beloved Wanderlodge was no longer in business. Many have chosen various brands. But we are still Birders at heart, we still smile when we see a Blue Bird Bus anywhere on the road. We still strike up conversations with complete strangers simply because we know if they are driving a Bird, they are family. Some of them are quite surprised to learn that. Some who do not recall all of the wonderful times all around this country that we have experienced together.

Jon and I know that we wouldn't be the people we are today had we not met our Blue Bird family. We are no longer in the club due to distances to many rallies. We hope we will always be in the family and that you all know that any place, at any time, we are near one another we'd love to see you, have a meal, reminisce about the old days, find out about your latest adventures, learn where you are traveling, how your children are, etc.

As for us, we've slowed down a bit. We are spending our summers in Colorado, traveling around the state on short trips-those that allow us to be close to our home and the family and friends here. We may be driving the other coach that replaced the much loved Blue Bird, or depending on the destination, we may be enjoying our Teton trailer or our little RoadTrek van for day trips. As I said, matters not what we drive, we are who we are.

We hope life is treating you well. we hope you remember the good times and continue to create more of the same. Stay well, stay happy, and take lots of pictures that trigger your memory banks in the future.

As soon as winter arrives, we are off and running to our winter home in Indio, CA. We have been doing this for some twenty years now and it works well for us. We love both communities that we are a part of. If you are visiting either area, please look us up and let's do get together. Neat Scott

Rallies:

July 23-August 7, 2016- Joint Rally with Bluebird Chapter at EAA Oshkosh Air Show- Join us on the grounds of the worlds largest air expo in OshKosh, WI. Spectacular Warbirds demonstrations and the world's greatest aerobatic performers are offered throughout the week as well as the opportunity to see hundreds of homebuilt aircraft from around the world. We will be dry camping at "Camp Scholler" which is part of the EAA complex. Evening concerts and movies provided with admission fee. Please contact Shane at shanefedeli@gmail.com if you think you might be interested!

The Vintage Birds will be “flying” to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for a rolling rally following the week at OshKosh. This will include sightseeing cruises, copper mine tours and a sampling of the foods and sights of the “U-P” See current Vintage Bird Words newsletter for more information and list of activities.

Sept 9th-the 11th of 2016- Pacific Northwest Rally- Hood River County, Oregon Fairgrounds- Informal rally with potluck dinners, train rides, jeep excursions and a few outings to local attractions. Contact John Alley for further details at porschenein59@gorge.net

October 12-16, 2016- Bluebird Chapter-Family of Friends rally- Maggie Valley, NC- Enjoy the beauty of the mountains/Blue Ridge Parkway , See elk in the Cataloochee Valley, Visit Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum; Explore Maggie Valley and Waynesville. Enjoy the annual Harvest Festival in Waynesville; Visit the Mast General Store.

Contact Susan Crocker for more information- swcrocker@hotmail.com

October 19-23, 2016- Wanderlodge Owners Group rally- Pine Mountain, GA. This is the largest gathering of Bluebirds anywhere and the best opportunity to see such an assortment of coaches and meet so many great owners. In addition it is the best place ever to have access to face to face technical help or any other questions. This is your opportunity to see an example of almost every model made and ask owners any question you may have. Contact Pine Mountain Campground for reservations at 706-663-4329 or visit their website at <http://www.rvcoutdoors.com/pine-mountain>

October 23-30, 2016- Vintage Birds Fall Rally at Panama City Beach, FL- Join us for our annual meeting and gather in the beautiful Florida Panhandle at Emerald Coast RV resort. We’ve reserved a block of sites together that will fill up fast. Hosted by Mark and Kathy Ragsdale along with Richard and Sue Ramsey. Contact the campground at 1-800-232-2478 to make your reservation and also sign up with Sue Ramsey at 850-447-1701. Download the reservation form at <http://www.vintagebirds.com/newsletters/Emeraldcoastrally.pdf>



In 2016, astronomers expect an outburst of Perseid meteors! The prediction is for 200 meteors per hour seen on the peak night, August 11-12 (evening of August 11, morning of August 12). That’s about double the usual rate. In 2016, the waxing gibbous moon goes down before the predawn hours. So *if* the outburst occurs before dawn for you, the moon won’t be in the way. Will *you* see the outburst? Maybe. The peak rates are predicted to last about half a day, from late August 11 to mid-August 12. But, outburst or no outburst, the Perseids are always a treat. The shower begins in the NorthEast sky, but the meteors will cover the entire night sky. Take advantage of the warm summer nights to get out and do some star gazing!

Cooking is for the Birds by Rozanne DeShazer

Since we are all trying to be health conscious, this recipe is both tasty and good for us!

Coconut Energy Bars.

1/2 cup Extra Virgin Coconut Oil

1 1/2 cups organic chocolate chips

1/2 cup unpasteurized honey

1/2 cup almond butter

1 1/4 cups nuts and/or seeds (pecans, hazelnuts, almonds, sunflower seeds, etc)

1 1/2 cups shredded unsweetened coconut

1 cup quick oats

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Grease 9 x 14 baking pan with coconut oil, set aside.

Melt the coconut oil in a medium saucepan over medium low heat

Then stir in the chocolate chips, honey and almond butter and bring to a low boil stirring constantly. (2 to 3 minutes). Remove from the heat and mix in the nuts, coconut and oats.

Turn into the prepared pan. Spread evenly and press firmly. Allow to cool and cut into bars.

Chicken Zucchini Casserole.

4 cups cooked chicken, cubed

4 cups zucchini cubed

2 cups crushed tomatoes

2 cups cheddar cheese

1 cup chopped onion

$\frac{3}{4}$ cups sour cream

1 (10 oz) can cream of chicken soup

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon garlic powder

$\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon red pepper flakes

Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 and lightly grease a large baking pan with non stick spray.

Heat olive oil in large skillet over medium heat, add onion and zucchini until tender. Season with salt and pepper.

In a large bowl combine chicken, zucchini and onion, mix in crushed tomatoes, sour cream and chicken.

Fold in cheddar cheese and season with garlic powder, chili flakes and salt and pepper.,

Mix everything together and transfer mixture to casserole dish.

Place in oven and bake for 40 to 50 minutes or until golden brown.

From Brenda Rogers. I do not have much to report at this time. I

guess this means everyone is hale and hearty! I have had visits from

a few of you as you pass through the Fort Valley Area. John and

Norma McCullers were the last ones to drop by on their way to Illinois. I do appreciate all of you who take the time to come and see me. Fort Valley is much the same but lonely without our Blue Bird friends! If you have news, please drop me a quick note. I know everyone will have fun in Maggie Valley, wish I could join you! I pray for safe travels for each and every one of you! Much Love, Brenda

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, Birthstone Colors

The birthstones we associate with certain months now are not necessarily the same ones as in ancient times. Birthstone colors were once the most important feature of a stone. Ancients did not distinguish between a ruby and a garnet, for example. The names used in history may not relate to the stone we think of with that name today.

- For example, a sapphire in the Bible was probably what we know today as lapis.
- Diamonds were probably a white sapphire or white topaz.
- The stones originally assigned to each month related to the stones appearing on the breastplate of a Jewish high priest.

The wearing of birthstones is thought to bring good luck and good health. Astrologers long ago attributed supernatural powers to certain gemstones

January: garnet, is thought to keep the wearer safe during travel.

February: amethyst, is said to strengthen relationships and give its wearer courage. At one time, only royalty could wear the gem. Ancient Greeks thought that the amethyst guarded against intoxication. In fact, amethyst comes from amethystos, a Greek word meaning "sober."

March: aquamarine, was thought to cure heart, liver, and stomach diseases—all one had to do was drink the water in which the gem had been soaking. Early sailors believed that

aquamarine talismans, etched with the likeness of the sea god Neptune, protected them against ocean dangers

April: diamond, in addition to being a symbol of everlasting love, was once thought to bring courage. In Sanskrit, the diamond is called “vajra,” which also means lightning; in Hindu mythology, vajra was the weapon of Indra, the king of gods.

May: emerald, was one of Cleopatra’s favorite gems. It has long been associated with fertility, rebirth, and love. Ancient Romans went so far as to dedicate this stone to Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. Today, it is thought that emeralds signify wisdom, growth, and patience.

June: pearl, has long been a symbol of purity. The ancient Greeks believed that pearls were the hardened tears of joy from Aphrodite, the goddess of love.

July ruby, was regarded by ancient Hindus as the “king of gems.” It was believed to protect its wearer from evil. Today, the ruby’s deep-red color signifies love and passion.

August birthstone: peridot, symbolizes strength. It is sometimes called the evening emerald for its light green color. It was once believed that the green peridot crystals found in volcanic ashes were the tears of the volcano goddess, Pele. When set in gold, this gem was said to protect the wearer from nightmares.

September birthstone: sapphire, was once thought to guard against evil and poisoning. It was believed that a venomous snake would die if placed in a vessel made of sapphire. Traditionally a favorite stone of priests and kings, the sapphire symbolizes purity and wisdom.

October: opal, symbolizes faithfulness and confidence. The word comes from the Latin opalus, meaning “precious jewel.” Necklaces with opals set in them were worn to repel evil and to protect eyesight.

November: topaz, symbolizes love and affection. It is believed to give the wearer increased strength and intellect.

December turquoise, is regarded as a love charm. It is also a symbol of good fortune and success, and it is believed to relax the mind and to protect its wearer from harm. Turquoise rings, in particular, are thought to keep away evil spirits.