



## From the President

Greetings to everyone from Chester Frost Park in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Yes, Chattanooga! I have been cooped up for so long, a short trip to one of our local parks is a welcome outing. To all of our members, I hope you are having a great summer and getting in some traveling. We had a great gathering in Berlin, Ohio, wish each one could have been there. We were honored to celebrate our 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary with Blue Bird friends. Our son and his family were able to join us the last few days and we were surrounded with love and friendship. The total of twelve coaches in Berlin was fantastic! We met new folks as well as many old friends. We were invited to a Mennonite Church service which was very nice.

We are finishing the plans for our Rally in the Valley to be held in Chattanooga. The Camp Jordan Park has a new pavilion for our meeting and meals.

Get your reservation in now so we can finalize our numbers for food and tickets for the special events. We will visit the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum and take a train ride. The Tennessee Valley Railroad has been described as a moving museum, offering an interactive, historical experience that will add an extra dimension to your visit to Chattanooga's great attractions. Here you will find the only regularly scheduled, full-sized train ride in Tennessee. But it is so much more than just entertainment! We will take a trip back in time to a slower-paced era when railroad travel was a way of life. We will relive the romance of the rails when vintage trains provide an escape from the every day routine, in other words, we will ride in a rolling time machine! We plan on going as a group, Dutch Treat. Also planned is a group trip to Rock City, Ruby Falls, and the Incline. This will also be "Dutch Treat", we will have discount tickets available.

## Family of Friends Fall Rally Agenda:

Sunday October 29--Registration followed by a time of fellowship and finger foods, also there will be a presentation of the Missing Man table performed by Rolling Thunder Tennessee 2 Chapter. This is a chapter of a national organization to promote awareness of our military, the many unaccounted for/missing in action (MIA) and prisoners of war (POW).

Monday October 30--Full breakfast with eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, orange juice and coffee. Visit Rock City, the Incline and Ruby Falls, this is not included in the rally fee but we do have discount tickets. We will have a club meeting at 5:30 p.m. with a meal after.

Tuesday October 31--Full breakfast, **Chattanooga Hop On/Off Trolley Tour!** Enjoy the Scenic City on this 75 minute tour aboard classic red & green trolleys. Hop off at one of our **10+ stops** along the route to explore Chattanooga at your own pace! Trolley ride is \$20.00 per person. Meal at campground.

Wednesday November 1--Full breakfast, We will have a tour of the aquarium, and a tour of the Tennessee River gorge by aquarium boat, then dinner back at the campground.

Thursday November 2--Full breakfast, Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum and train trip.-We will purchase tickets ahead of time to get the group rate, this will be "Dutch Treat" so please let Leroy know as soon as possible if you want to take this train ride.-6 PM with meal and entertainment by well known Artist James Rogers. James was owner and performer at Music Mansion in Pigeon Forge for many years and entertains at Dollywood. He is best described as **"patriotic as old glory. The lyrics of his songs strike a powerful longing in our hearts for the days when things were simpler and all Americans stood strong, proud and together. His music sets us free to dream; knowing that dreams can come true as long as you believe. We are able to soar with his music much like his beloved eagles now soar above our great country. This is James Rogers, entertainer extraordinaire."**

Friday November 3—Continental Breakfast, fellowship then on the road again.

The cost to current members will be \$100.00, non members the cost will be \$275.00.

The campground is \$20.00 per night for each night. You can come in early and or stay later at the same price. This is a city park. We have made reservations and will be the only ones in the camp area. Campground fees can be paid after you arrive.

Continue to enjoy your summer and stay as cool as possible. Heard Colorado has temperatures in the 100's. Safe travels and hope to see you soon.

To God Be the Glory! Leroy Wilson

## **Sunshine Article – August 2017**

**Greetings from Georgia - “The Peach State”. The Georgia Peach Festival held each year in June in Fort Valley was a big success; however, due to unusual weather the peach crop in the Middle Georgia area was hit hard with an 80% crop loss. Peach trees need around 1000 hours of temperature below 45 degrees, but this year received 500 to 600. If you are traveling in our area there are peaches to purchase (shipped in from South Carolina) and the peach ice cream is still delicious!**

**We congratulate Jon and Neat Scott on the recent celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. We wish you many, many more years of happiness!**

**Belated birthday wishes to Barbara Hanke. She celebrated her birthday in February which she referred to as “The Big One”. I wasn't sure if that was her 50<sup>th</sup> or which one!**

**Our Chapter President Leroy Wilson has been having some difficult health problems and it was so good to hear that he and First Lady Glenda recently attended a rally. Our best wishes to you as you continue to improve.**

**Harney Davey has recently undergone heart surgery. Please remember him and Lois as he recuperates. They look forward to seeing you at their Perry Rally.**

**Larry and Betty Miller have both recently undergone back surgeries. Our get well wishes are with both of you.**

**Carolyn Dover recently had a heart procedure and is recuperating.**

**Jeff Horvath has also had some recent back problems and we also wish him well. I understand his wife, Brenda, is a wonderful nurse.**

**We send our condolences to Andrea Dixon in the loss of her Dad, Doug Dixon. Doug and**

**Wilna were very active in the Blue Bird Chapter and the Vintage Birds. Andrea does a wonderful job as the editor of “Vintage Bird Words”. Andrea, we love and appreciate you for all that you do.**

**We send our sympathy to Harry Perpich and family of Michigan in the recent loss of his wife, Marge. They have been a part of the Blue Bird Family for many years.**

**Deepest sympathy to Brenda Fondessey and family in the recent loss of her husband, Rich. At one time Rich and his two brothers all were Wanderlodge owners.**

**Our love and prayers to Tobie Houchin in the recent loss of her husband, Sam. Sam was a vital part of Buddy Gregg Motor Homes and sold many Blue Birds over the years.**

**Best wishes to all of you for a wonderful summer with lots of fun and safe travels. If you travel to our area – please don't forget to bring your gnat and mosquito spray!**

**Warm regards,  
Brenda**

2017 Blue Bird Family of Friends Family Reunion  
October 29 to November 3, 2017  
Camp Jordan  
East Ridge, Tennessee  
Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell hone: \_\_\_\_\_

Money enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ How many attending? \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: \$100 per coach if member of Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA  
\$275.00 per coach if not a current member of the Club.

***Campground fee is \$20.00 per night,***

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

Carolyn Dover, Treasurer

P.O. Box 711

Marietta, SC 29661

We will gather for our fall rally at Camp Jordan, in East Ridge, Tennessee. This is Exit 1 on I-75, go to Camp Jordan Road

Registration and Welcome will be Sunday afternoon at the Pavilion at Camp Jordan. The Chattanooga Chapter of Rolling Thunder will present a "Missing Man Table" in the evening.

Planned events include Three Full Breakfasts, a Farewell Continental Breakfast, and Four Meals, an Aquarium adventure, a River Boat dinner cruise and other activities. Discount tickets will be available for Ruby Falls, the Incline and Rock City.

# **Cooking is for The Birds** by Rozanne DeShazer

## **LEMON BERRY POKE CAKE**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 white cake mix, prepared according to package directions
- **Lemon Curd, canned**
- 3/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
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- **Topping**
- 1 container Cool Whip
- 2 cups strawberry slices
- 2 x 4 ounce containers blueberries
- 2 x 4ounce containers raspberries

### **Directions**

Bake cake according to package directions and allow to completely cool once baked.

Once cooled make lemon curd and wash all of the berries.

#### **Lemon Curd**

In a saucepan, combine lemon juice, lemon zest, sugar, eggs, and butter. Cook over medium-low heat until thick enough to hold marks from whisk or spoon. When the first bubble appears you know you need to cook for another 6-7 minutes. Constantly stir to make sure it does not cook to the bottom.

Cool curd and then poke holes into your cake. Pour the curd into the holes evenly, then top with Cool Whip. Cover and place in refrigerator for 2-3 hours.

Right before serving top with berries and enjoy!

## Ham 'n' Cheese Squares

1 1/2 c. cubed fully cooked ham  
1 carton (6 oz.) plain yogurt  
1/4 c. crushed saltines (about 6)  
1/4 c. shredded Swiss cheese  
2 tbsp. butter, melted  
2 tsp. caraway seeds  
6 eggs

In a large bowl, combine the first six  
Ingredients. In a small bowl, beat eggs  
Until thickened & lemon-colored; fold  
Into ham mixture. Transfer to a  
Greased baking dish. Bake at 375°  
For 20-25 min. or until a knife  
Inserted near the center comes out  
Clean. Let stand for 5 min. before cutting.  
Makes 9 servings.

## Amish Breakfast Casserole

1 lb. sliced bacon, diced (save some for top)  
1 medium sweet onion, chopped  
6 eggs, lightly beaten  
4 c. frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed  
2. c. (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese  
1 1/2 c. (12 oz.) 4% cottage cheese  
1 1/4 c. shredded Swiss cheese

In a large skillet, cook bacon & onion until bacon is  
Crisp; drain. In a large bowl, combine the remaining  
Ingredients; stir in bacon mixture. Transfer to a  
Greased 13X9 in. baking dish. Bake, uncovered at

350° for 35-40 min. or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Let stand for 10 min. before cutting.

### Amish Country Gathering

**Berlin, Ohio saw a gathering of Birds in June. Those attending were Tom & Sandi Bay, Jimmy & Jean Cox, Ross & Carolyn Dover, Dan and Liz Harris, Dennie & Karen James, Harold & Linda Mason, Larry & Betty Miller, Jim & Lynn Olds, Way & Ella Snead, Tommy & Shirley Vance, Leroy & Glenda Wilson and granddaughter, Splendor. Everyone took advantage of the many Amish stores and definitely the food! We saw “The Home Game” at the Ohio Star Theater and took a Canal boat ride in historic Roscoe Village. A trip to Canton left us enjoying the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The hand carved locomotives and ships at the Warther Museums were worth seeing.**

**Following is an excerpt from a blog written by Dan Harris concerning the gathering.**

**We spent our first week in Amish Country, which reminds us exactly why we are choosing to travel around the USA in the manner we are. You would NEVER choose to visit ANY of the places we have been lately if you were looking at a tourist map or planning a 2-week vacation from work. That kind of travel makes a minimalist, abstract line-drawing of the target. Our travels now are like an impressionist painting...more and more dots of color and eventually the full picture is apparent in all its glory!**

**So, how to describe our time in Amish Country. What a spectacular and culturally unique place to visit. For a couple of weeks, max. A little too wholesome for long exposure (you'll soon see what that means). Our week in Berlin, OH was as part of a small rally of folks with Bluebirds. We met some really nice folks whom I am sure we will run into again as we and they travel.**

**Compared to Ohio Amish Country, The SOUND of MUSIC is a bawdy cabaret show!**

**We had some organized events such as a dinner-theatre evening and a couple of Amish meals. The theatre featured a play about an Amish kid looking for his way. He was a baseball phenom (think the Natural) with a 100mph fastball and a magnificent swing (developed hitting horse apples with a fence-rail). Well, a fancy NY Agent signed him up for the fictional Las Vegas Vipers team, who ultimately played the Yankees in the World Series. Along the way, the protagonist found the evils of drink, gambling and fast women. After hitting bottom (spent the night of game 7 in jail!), he was encouraged to go back home by a Cuban rookie, where everything he ever needed was before him,**

including Hannah...the girl who waited for him. The plot was *SO SWEET* you could get *diabetes*, but fun!

We also attended “Berlin Moo Days,” A celebration of all things dairy. Including home-made Ice Cream created in a thumping, one-cylinder piece of farm equipment.

While in Berlin, we had a wood sign created for our campsites. An Amish guy had a wood-carvery and claimed he could make anything into a sign. We asked if he could do a one showing a depiction of the bus, with our names... My imagination had a picture of a guy carving by candlelight for 24 hours straight to get us a sign before we left Berlin. His response was unexpected...

He said of course! If you can give me a file (.EPS or .JPG) of the bus...he would put it into his laser-cutter. Now my wood-carving vision was replaced with one of steam or diesel powered Amish lasers... So I did a file...but he was out of wood blanks. He offered us one that he had done for someone else that had an error...would do our sign on the back. For almost \$0. Needless to say, we took him up on the offer and after I helped him (a little) to import the file into his software (he said his son is much better with computers and was not there), we have a great sign – for the “Harris” on the front and for the “Millers” on the back! The latter could be useful if we need to travel incognito

Also in Berlin, Liz visited a fabric and quilting outlet store. She bought some basic equipment, a book and some fabric remnants...she plans to start quilting! I have no doubt she will be creating masterpieces before long...and if she needs help or consulting, we know to just swing back through Berlin, Ohio.

While in the Berlin area, we found some attractions that you would not pick out of a guide book that were nothing short of SPECTACULAR. How about the William McKinley Library and Museum? This is in Canton, Ohio, and frankly sounded a little more interesting (and quirky) than the Pro Football Hall of Fame. And it was both! More of a museum of artifacts than a library, but fascinating stuff. Including an animatronic McKinley and Wife who narrated their story.

Topping that was our visit to the Warther museum in Dover, OH. Ernest (Mooney) Warther was a WORLD FAMOUS carver of wood and ivory. His particular focus was WORKING steam train scale models – his life’s goal was to present the history of steam-powered trains in his carvings. *Absolutely astonishing in the detail and craftsmanship.* I have some pics and some movies of the models...they do not do them justice. Mooney did not make a DIME from selling carvings...he gave them away or put them away. Many

are in the museum, some were given to Presidents! Mooney made his actual living making and selling Knives...which he was forced to manufacture to make unavailable, specialized tools for his carving hobby... and kitchen knives for neighbors. We bought a spectacular and very unique Cheese Knife.

Mooney's grandson David also carves...in his case the history of sailing ships from the ancient Phoenicians and Egyptians to the Clipper Ships of the 1800s. The detail in these models were as astonishing as his Grandfather's Trains.

Almost all were carved from antique Ivory; a few from wood and a few other materials such as abalone and bone. Antique ivory is certified (with appropriate paperwork) to have been acquired from before the world ban on ivory. So it is found mainly at estate sales, but also garage sales, flea markets, etc. David ONLY buys and carves ivory with known origin, and sometimes the story of origin is as interesting as the piece produced.

David himself was working at his shop/museum. He showed us how he creates ropes for the rigging on his models from ivory. Who knew that Ivory in a thin strand (the diameter of a cat's whisker) becomes flexible like rope? David said that ivory is a unique material...with properties of both wood and metal. And apparently rope as well.

David, too, does not sell his models. He ONLY creates them for display in his museum. 85 sailing ships made (each taking 6-8 months). 85 on display. He makes his living creating raw materials and parts for musical instruments from ivory, bone, abalone etc. His sculpting with these materials has made him one of the world's experts on the properties of these esoteric materials, and probably the only source for specialized pins, gears, frets, inlays, etc. for high-end instruments.

We left Amish Berlin in a sort of Bluebird Wanderlodge Caravan...several of us were heading onwards to Dayton, OH. There we stayed in a KOA for a few days with the intention of visiting the Air Force Museum. We also continued our new tradition of eating with friends and sitting around after dinner with a glass of sumthin. Everyone brings their own, and we select a picnic table next to one of the buses.

The KOA was perfectly situated and very nice. Off in one corner, on an isolated loop was a group of ladies (they call themselves "Sisters on the Fly" – and their membership is in the THOUSANDS) who meet every so often for a rally of their vintage Trailers (some as old as the '50s.). LADIES ONLY, though...Liz was welcome to sit in, but Dan, not so much. I know most of you can agree with that...but maybe were perhaps a little reluctant to say so to us directly. The Sisters were NOT RELUCTANT...but in a friendly way (there may have been adult beverages involved)!

In Dayton, we experienced TORRENTIAL Rain. All the better for museum-ing! The Airforce museum was ABSOLUTELY ASTONISHING and SPECTACULAR. I have been to the Smithsonian Air and Space on the Mall, and to the Dulles facility...the Dayton museum is BETTER and BIGGER and has WAY MORE STUFF. Now, it is of course Air Force and military-oriented, but MY GOODNESS the stuff they have.

What I found particularly interesting are the representative specimens of all the “failures” that happened along the way. The crazy planes that seemed like a good idea, but needed a more powerful engine, or better flite controls, or whatever...things that were just plain ahead of their time or an evolutionary dead-end. Like the flying pogo stick – a jet that took off vertical and landed horizontal. Needed a more powerful engine and computer-controlled stability. So relegated to the museum. Eventually, the Harrier, with vectored thrust, was the engineering concept that actually WAS practical...and is still in use today.

There were several attempts at “Parasite Fighters” that dropped out of a bomber to provide protection and then were supposed to connect back up — in flight! All failed due to turbulence from the bomber making reconnection extremely hazardous — and the advent of long-range fighters and mid-air refueling made the whole idea as obsolete as it was absurd.

Perhaps the best example: the sole remaining XB-70 Valkyrie. This was to be a Mach 3 strategic bomber, and was groundbreaking in all sorts of aeronautical ways. Hardly a “failure, “ indeed an engineering marvel. But, as the prototypes were rolling out, the world changed ... airplanes, no matter how high and fast and just plain AWESOME, were simply more vulnerable and WAY MORE EXPENSIVE than Missiles.

I have to admit, we got a little bit more from our visit than most museum visitors...*one of our fellow Wanderlodge pilots was an engineer on the XB-70 program.* (Jim Olds) We learned about the structure and uniqueness of the plane from an inside point-of-view. Also some details about the circumstances around the crash of the sole other prototype.

**CLEARLY**, progress consists of two steps forward and one back. We tend to remember the successes that change our lives and the world. But someone had to dream up those successes, and some of those dreams were failures, too.

A serious recommendation ... This museum is worth a visit to Dayton...and you will need 2-3 days to explore all the halls and exhibits. In addition to AWESOME, it will help YOU fill in the rich color and detail between the “main” tourist destinations.

## **2017 Fall Rallies**

August 4-9, 2017- Branson Bound Blue Birds- Join Joe and Susan Crocker for a Gathering in Branson, Missouri from August 4-9, 2017. There is no registration cost; however, you will need to contact Branson Lakeside RV Park to make your reservations. Mention that you are with the Blue Bird Gathering Group. Also, please be sure you contact us so that we know you plan to attend. Some of the planned activities include touring the campus of College of the Ozarks, visiting historic downtown Branson, and going to some shows. This gathering will be one where you can do the planned activities or go out on your own. It will be pretty laid back. Contact us at [swcrocker@hotmail.com](mailto:swcrocker@hotmail.com) or 386-365-7642. If you email us, please put Branson Gathering in the Subject Line.

October 23-28, 2017- Fort Valley, GA- Mark your calendars!! Vintage Birds “**Return to the Valley**”. Contact Fair Harbor Campground for reservations at 877-988-8844. Fair Harbor is holding sites for the Rally. Make your reservations directly with the campground at 877-988-8844 or 478-988-8844. Special Rally Rates are: 5 Nights \$189.00 with Full Hook-up. 7 Nights \$249.00 with Full Hook-ups. **Rally fee is \$160 per coach (2 pp) or \$80 for one person.** Fee and Activities include: A Mark Ballard Creativity Session; Technical seminars; Owners’ Flea Market / Craft Fair; a Meet & Greet Session with former Wanderlodge Staff. **Catered meals include: 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch,** and 2 coffee and delicacies. Familiar Wanderlodge Personalities invited to participate include Brenda Rogers, Dean Woodruff, Earl Davis, and numerous other Wanderlodge Managers, Service, Assembly line and Support staff. A special engine and transmission technical session will be conducted by David Coulter, a respected Rally in the Valley presenter and General Service Manager at W. W. Williams Company, Atlanta GA. Local Attractions to Explore: Blue Bird School Bus Factory & Parts Store, Andersonville Prisoner of War Museum & Cemetery - a National Historic Site, Museum of Aviation – Warner Robbins Air Force Base, Plains, GA – Home of President Jimmy Carter, Lane Packing Company – Peaches / Pecans and Café.

October 29 to November 3. **Blue Bird Chapter of FMCA Fall Rally in Chattanooga.** Planned events include Three Full Breakfasts, a Farewell Continental Breakfast, Four Meals, an Aquarium adventure, a River Boat dinner cruise and other activities. Discount tickets will be available for Ruby Falls, the Incline and Rock City.

**.Wanderlodge Owners Group Eclipse Rally.** On August 21, 2017 there will be a total eclipse of the sun visible in the USA, the first this century. The next eclipse is 7 years after that in April, 2024. The last total solar eclipse visible in the USA was in 1991. .

If you have never seen a total solar eclipse it should be on your bucket list, if you have seen one you know you want to see another! Contact [www.centralwyomingfair.com/campgrounds](http://www.centralwyomingfair.com/campgrounds)

### **FMCA Rallies:**

#### **Northeast Area Rally**

Aug. 3 through 6, 2017

New York State Fairgrounds

Syracuse, NY

#### **Midwest Area Rally**

Aug. 9 through 12, 2017

Amana Colonies Rv Park & Event Ctr

Amana, IA

**Rocky Mountain Area Rally**

Sep. 20 through 24, 2017

Mcgee Park

Farmington, NM

**Eastern Area Rally**

Oct. 4 through 8, 2017

West Virginia State Fairgrounds

Lewisburg, WV

**South Central Area Rally**

Oct. 25 through 28, 2017

Four States Fairgrounds

Texarkana, AR