

26 Years of Ramblin' & Still Pushin'



CORNER

Paulette and I returned to Florida after a short week in Tennessee with our grandson. We are now working diligently to empty our Ambassador in preparation for the arrival of our new Endeavor. It's amazing the amount of "stuff" you can amass in 8 years, much of which will NOT be finding its way back into the new coach. The new coach is scheduled to arrive in a few days to our driveway here in Lake City. Then the task of reloading the appropriate items will fall upon us.

I'm honored to have been reelected President of the Ramblin' Pushers. I'm looking forward to another productive year working with all the wonderful friends I've made in this organization.

We have just finished a great Maintenance Session. Jim Grossman and his Maintenance Session management team did an outstanding job. I want to thank each and every one of them and everyone who volunteered to make this



event come off as professionally as it did. I'll leave the individual accolades for Jim in his article.

Though the final count didn't show the growth we were hoping for, we're still holding our own. We had an abnormal number of cancellations this year (48) that contributed to our not being able to increase our numbers. However, we would not be holding our own without having our fellow REV Diesel Pusher owners in attendance. Thirty percent of our total attendees were other REV brands and 60 percent of our record making 71 First Timers were other REV brands. After the HRRVC change allowing former members with other brands to return, we had no inquiries about attending the MS from past 419 members. However, we had two individuals already



John P. Jones President, Ramblin' Pushers

registered trade their qualifying coach for Newmar coaches less than a month before the MS who asked if they could attend under the

new HRRVC rules. While our by-laws do not accommodate other than Holiday Rambler diesel coaches being voting members, I agreed to allow them to attend this session as non-voting attendees. It appears that going after attendees from

the other REV brands is far more successful in increasing our attendance numbers. If we fail to keep our attendance above 200 coaches, we will start losing vendors, service vendors, dealers and seminar presenters. Also, the fixed cost of the Maintenance Session would have to be split among fewer attendees resulting in higher costs to each individual attendee.

(Continued on page 2)

RAMBLIN' PUSHERS NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter – June, July, August 2016 Volume 26, Number 2

412 Walnut Street # 3294 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-3443

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To provide information to our members and associates to help them safely and properly operate and maintain their Holiday Rambler and other REV brands of diesel motor homes and enhance their ownership experiences.

Purpose

The purpose of this *Ramblin' Pushers Newsletter* is to inform members of recalls, new products, information about the manufacturer of HR motor homes, information concerning the next Maintenance Session., and methods other members have used to diagnose problems and maintain their motor homes.

This Newsletter does not claim to share the best way to make repairs, but shares ways other members have found to work for them. Members are encouraged to use their owner's manuals, the HR Monaco Tech Line, REV Repair Centers, other supplier information and web/phone support to diagnose and fix problems with the best information for their particular motor home.

(Continued from page 1)

With the record number of First Timers it appears our effort to reach new attendees was successful. Fran Cornwell did a great job as Membership Chair last year as these results indicate. Sadly, Fran will not be able to continue in this capacity this year. However, we have a new and dynamic husband and wife team of Roger and Carol Smalley. Roger is not only our Newsletter Editor but has also agreed to take on the job of Marketing Chair. We were able to prevail upon his wife, Carol, to take on the Membership Chair responsibilities this year and I know she will do a great job.

In his capacity as Marketing Chair, Roger redesigned our handout and has turned it into a professional instrument that I'm sure, with the help of each Ramblin' Pusher, we can use as a personalized invitation to Holiday Rambler and all other REV brand owners we encounter in our travels. We gave these out at the MS closing dinner and there was a great deal of excitement among the attendees, particularly First Timers, about using them to invite their friends and acquaintances to next year's event. Our goal for next year is to shoot for that magic 300 attendees.

See my Manufacturers Relations article for my thoughts on the Executive Session and other REV comments.

Happy Travels,

John Jones

President Ramblin' Pushers

Cover Photo

The title block photo for this issue is Larry & Suzette Kurfis' 2013 Endeavor 43 PKQ. The photo was taken in the Elkhart Campground after the 2014 MS where the Kurfises bought this attractive coach. See your coach in the Newsletter title block

Send a high resolution photo of your RV (along with model & year) in an uncluttered setting to Roger at <u>ramblinpushersnewsed@gmail.com</u>

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IN THIS ISSUE

The 2016 Ramblin' Pushers Maintenance Session ended with the closing dinner on May 4 and most participants departed the campground on May 5, Departure Day. This year's event was attended by 429 persons in 212 coaches representing all of the REV brands of diesel motor homes: American Coach (2) Beaver (6), Fleetwood (5), Holiday Rambler (157), Monaco (40), and Safari (2). That makes the 2016 MS the most broadly attended Maintenance Session ever, a

significant accomplishment in the life of our organization.

In addition, we saw an exceptionally large number of first time attendees. The First-Timer class of 2016 consisted of 138 persons in 71 coaches that also represented each of the six REV brands. There were: American Coach (1), Beaver (6), Fleetwood (5), Holiday Rambler (28), Monaco (29), and Safari (2). We

welcome them to our event and hope that they become "Every-Timers."

The focus of this issue of the Ramblin' Pushers Newsletter is a report on the 2016 Maintenance Session. Those who attended may find photos of themselves participating in the many educational, technical, and down-time activities offered throughout the week. Commercial participants assisted members in keeping their motor homes in top mechanical condition and customized with accessories that make the RV lifestyle more comfortable and convenient. Once again, our generous vendors and dealers went out of their way to provide a First-Timers reception, daily lunches and several impressive evening social events.

But every silver lining comes with a black cloud. In the case of MS 2016, it was more grey than black. Sweaters, sweatshirts, raincoats and umbrellas were often the order of the day as everyone endured several days of cold, wet weather. Ray Blush was able to use the weather report as a laugh line in his announcements each morning. The yellow "rubber ducky" that took up residence in a puddle near the ECCC building showed that the spirits of the attendees was "undamped" by the dreary weather.

But the elements notwithstanding, the MS was a huge success. So much so that when asked if they intended to return for another MS, 91.4 percent

of this year's class of First-Timers indicated that they "definitely" or "probably" would be back.

Throughout this issue of the *Newsletter*, articles that report on MS activities are marked with the image of the 2016 pin as in the heading above. I find the extent and professionalism of the work done to prepare and then execute our annual event to be very impressive. To note that it is done entirely by people who

give so generously of their time and energy is nothing less than astounding!

As you read this, the job of preparing for MS 2017 is already underway. At the end of the closing dinner, registration forms were distributed in packets to be used to invite owners of all REV diesel coach models to MS 2017. Registration forms received by June 1 will be opened in random order by the Treasurer and processed by the Data Base Manager. Thereafter, registration forms will be processed in the order received. That process will continue until the opening of the next MS on May 4. The MS leadership team is reviewing results of the evaluation report and exploring opportunities to build on the successes of the MS just past. The MS could not happen without the support of a great team of volunteers. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Jane Grossman to find out how you can become one of the MS "Corps of Volunteers."





FROM THE 2016 MS COORDINATOR

This year's event was an unqualified success. You do not need me to tell you that. Your evaluations said it all. On the overall program you rated us 4.73 out of 5, and on accomplishing the Ramblin' Pushers mission, you gave us 4.79 out of 5. Amongst First-Timers, 65 out of 68 rated the event "enjoyable", while the remaining 3 said it was okay. And perhaps the most important rating from our First Timers was 64 out of 70 will definitely or probably return. That is an estimated 90% new customer retention rating. Thanks to all of you for your enthusiastic response to all of the hard work from the MS committee, team leaders, and over 250 volunteers.

If you were unable to attend the 2016 MS, please start planning to attend the 2017 event May 5 to 10. Here is what you missed this year. During our 6 day event, we scheduled 90 technical seminars and sessions, 30 non-technical RV lifestyle seminars, 4 off-site Amish dinners, 2 REV factory tours in Decatur, Indiana, 3 Elkhart area factory tours, not to mention 3 evening socials, a decadent ice cream social, four dealer provided lunches, morning hospitality, closing dinner, and numerous vendors selling items that we need but have no room for in our coaches. Did someone say service? Our service sponsors responded to more than 600 requests, almost 100 more than the previous record set just last year.

Many of you were subject to the REV entry step recall. We arranged for Lippert technicians to be on the fairgrounds. They took care of over three pages of sign-ups for that recall. Others took advantage of Atwood's free service on any of their products, as well. Cummins technicians started work two days early to accommodate all of their advance sign-ups for annual maintenance and other service.

REV Recreation Group supported us in many ways – financial, the parts truck, several informative seminars, HR wearables (the other brands next

year!), service technicians, and the executive panel on Tuesday evening. Many of us heard a very different tone in this year's executive presentation from President Jim Jacobs. He carefully defined the product, brands, and models for all four of the REV coach lines, and he made it clear that the company will deliver what we seek – quality coaches with livable floor plans.

I would be remiss not to mention two special people, without whom none of this would happen. A huge thank you to Paulette Jones, our First Lady, who so skillfully handled the data base, program book, the new pocket schedule, and several other tasks. Another giant message of gratitude goes to my leading lady Jane Grossman. Besides capably coordinating the volunteers, she arranged many of the seminars (both technical and RV lifestyle), and helped me keep my sanity (that some say I never had) through a very long winter.

As your event coordinator, I am so blessed with the support of an outstanding committee. I am gratified that you recognized their efforts along with over 250 volunteers. Most of the committee is expected back for next year, and we are already filling positions where needed. I look forward to seeing you back in Goshen in 2017. Please consider bringing a friend who owns any of the REV brand diesel coaches.

Jim Grossman

2016 MS Event Coordinator Ramblin' Pushers Vice-President





WHAT A WEEK IT WAS!

This year's Maintenance Session goes down in history as one of the best we have ever had, despite that yukky weather! And, on behalf of every attendee, our heartfelt thanks to the nearly two hundred folks who volunteered to make the 2016 MS such a huge success.

Even the chatter on the Monacoer's Website Forum is loaded with positive comments from those who attended and the reaction is that even more are already planning to attend next year.

Full hookups were available to every registrant and those who needed propane midway through the Maintenance Session got it delivered. As a part of our mission to help members safely operate their diesel pushers, we conducted free propane leak checks. 58 units were "sniffed" this year, and five were found to have propane fuel leaks! Technicians were alerted immediately.

And to help our members drive safely with good tires and appropriate weight levels on each corner of their motor homes, our coach weighing volunteers weighed 89 coaches this year.

And speaking of weighing, there were no complaints of human body weight loss. That wonderful morning hospitality gave us plenty of options and then the dealer sponsored lunches over in Building A were a welcomed addition to our schedules!

The maintenance technicians had their hands full every day and often had to work outside in the nasty rain and wind, but they got it done.

The Tuesday night gathering with the REV RV Group executives was a reassuring time for many. The openness, frank responses to questions from the floor, and statements of what is in store over the next few years left a very positive feeling among those who attended.

All in all, it was a great learning experience and enjoyable time too. All of us are eagerly looking forward to the 2017 MS, and we'll try to make it even better for everyone!

Ray Blush

MS2016 Building & Grounds Coordinator





ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

The Ramblin' Pushers annual business meeting took place on Monday, 2 May 2016. President John Jones presented a brief report on the state of the chapter and turned the meeting over to Nominating Committee Chair, Ray Blush. Mr. Blush presented a slate of candidates for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers were elected by acclamation. Each will serve a one-year term. President, John Jones; Vice President, Jim Grossman; Secretary, Harvey Payne; and Treasurer, Robert Kiser. There was one nomination from the floor for Director, Matt Libby. He and Hugh Skidmore were elected to two-year terms. Paul Miller and Sarah Brooks have one year remaining of their two-year terms

The meeting adjourned after brief comments by John Jones. All present were invited to enjoy the ice cream social following the election.





Despite unfavorable weather, 23 volunteers of the Information and Transportation team worked approximately 300 hours to transport the 2016 maintenance session attendees to their desired location at the Elkhart County 4H fairgrounds.

The Information and Transportation team endured rain, wind, cold temperatures, and mud but it did not deter them from completing their tasks. Some of the team members even worked past their scheduled times to insure that all attendees arrived safely to their destination, and each team member is to be commended for their dedication and perseverance.

Team members included Rita Bendel, Raymond Cupples, Jr., Paul Englund, Ray Eaton, Robert Fanning, Kent Gardner, William and Pat Hayter, Dennis and Jeana Hill, Dave Keller, Doug Lindhout, Gary Peyton, Mike Peterson, Sue Rouse, George Sakmar, Larry and Clarissa Sherrow, Robert and Lois Tucker, Robert and Marilu Woodford, and Richard Quant.

Additional volunteers are needed for the 2017 maintenance session and hopefully, the weather will be more cooperative.

Dennis Hill

Chairperson

Ray Cupples

Assistant Chairperson



MS REPORT: COACH WEIGHING

Coach Weighing was again offered on the early parking and arrival days and on departure day for 2016 MS attendees. This activity highlights the goal, expressed in our mission statement, to provide information to our members [and all MS Attendees] to help them safely and properly operate and maintain their motor coaches.

With the help of our dedicated volunteers, we processed 89 coaches during the arrival and departure days. From the discussions with owners during and between sessions throughout the week, it is apparent that the messages on tire inflation, conditions, age, and loading are beginning to make everyone think and take action to be as safe as we can. Both the Coach Weighing Seminar and the Motorhome Tire Seminars were well attended and many good questions and concerns were discussed during each session.

As we have found, a few model years have been found with extremely critical limitations on either front and / or rear axles. In more detailed discussions with the specific owners, it is apparent that the loading of the coach, can't really be altered or reduced. This further indicates why it is really important to have your coach measured. Being uninformed of a potential problem or unsafe condition is something all of us should never accept.

We will again offer this service at the 2017 MS on the same days of arrival and departure. We look forward to providing this valuable service to you. If you are inclined to volunteer for the 2017 MS, Ed Francis and I would like to have you as part of our group. Mark the appropriate area on your registration form.

Safe Travels,

Jerry Davis

Coach Weighing Chair









SO MANY SEMINARS...SO LITTLE TIME

Did you look at the program book and realize that you could not get to all of the seminars that you wanted to? There is method in our madness; we want you to come back next year! Seriously, you cannot take it all in by attending the MS just once. Even then, some of the seminars have so much information they are worth hearing again. Besides, the seminar list changes from year to year. In 2016 our technical sessions covered your coach from nose to tail. We all learned from factory trained experts from Onan, Winegard, Atwood, Corian, Cummins, Allison, Agua Hot, Norcold, Dometic, Lippert Components, Blue Ox, Freightliner, and **REV Recreation Group**. In addition the expertise of our Service Sponsors provided seminars on

remodeling, leaks, slide toppers and awnings, batteries, Magnum Inverter/Charger Systems, and dozens of other topics. Where else but in Elkhart County, Indiana, could anyone put together this much technical knowledge on motor homes?

On Monday, we saw the Steve and Don show. everything you wanted to know about Cummins -

Allison drive trains that most of us have powering our coaches. We started with Steve Gregg,

Manager of **Cummins Crosspoint** in Fort Wayne, IN. We continued with two hours of questions and answers capably done by **Steve Gregg** along with

Don Bixler of Clarke Power (Allison Transmission). Then, we concluded with a solo session on Allison by **Don Bixler**. Even in the fourth hour, there were more than 30 people participating in the session. The earlier hours attracted more than 50 attendees.

Other popular seminars were given by Mark Albrecht covering all of the Atwood products. Chris Throgmartin (member and vendor) of Stone Vos conducted seminars on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday on slide toppers and various coach

maintenance topics. New vendors and service providers presenting seminars included An RVers Friend and Pro Custom RV Service.

I would also like to highlight some of our own Ramblin' Pushers members who shared their knowledge in very informative technical sessions. These include: Larry Laursen, Bob McCann, Jerry Davis, and Ed Shaw.

Our nine model specific **Roundtables** on Sunday evening were also well attended. This is a classic case of our members helping each other. Each session was facilitated by one or two members. Most challenges presented were answered by others

with a similar model coach. If you have a coach problem, someone else has probably solved that problem already. Some of the Roundtable discussions are summarized elsewhere in this newsletter.

Paulette Jones did a great job putting the entire schedule in the Program Book. After years of members asking for more information in the Pocket Schedule, she managed to

do just that, while keeping that paper close to pocket size. Thanks, Paulette!

We are already planning next year's MS. If you have any ideas for seminars send an email to Jim or Jane Grossman jim.grossman@sbcglobal.net, jane.grossman@sbcglobal.net.

Jim Grossman

2016 MS Event Coordinator Ramblin' Pushers Vice-President



WHERE DID LADIES' ACTIVITIES GO? WE RENAMED THEM

At the MS this year we renamed the Ladies Activities, Crafts, and other non-technical seminars. They are all now part of RV Lifestyle Activities. We had a record 30 seminars in this category. Many of these were presented by Ramblin' Pushers members. Although these programs are oriented more toward the less technically inclined co-pilots, they are open to everyone.

As always, **Sarah Brooks's** "Decorating Cents" was extremely popular. Everyone enjoys seeing Sarah and her ladies put on a show while teaching how to decorate your coach on a shoestring budget. There were 5 cooking classes – 2 on microwave convection oven cooking by **Janet Sadlack**, 2 on grilling, and slow cooking by **Mariann Hollopeter**, and a microwave convection forum by our own **Renae Butler**. With all of that cooking skill, it is a wonder that more of us do not cook in our coaches.

Renae Butler also conducts the "Full Time RVing seminars." Other RV Lifestyle seminars taught by our members included Carol Smalley "Finding Your Roots While Traveling the Country --Introduction to Genealogy", Jim and Jane Grossman "Planning Your Next RV Adventure," Kay Black "Writing Your Own Life Story," Glen Thompson "Paperless - How to Take All Your Files Without Overloading the Coach," and Sandy and Harry Hentschel "Co-Pilot Walk Around." Although this last seminar is oriented towards the co-pilots, it is definitely technical. This is another one of our activities that is difficult to categorize.

Even without a team lead, we did conduct four different craft classes. **Mariann Hollopeter** put on a decoupage craft, while three of our own members conducted the following: **Clarissa Sherrow** taught a class in "Making Your Own Greeting Cards", **Susan Eagleton** taught how to make a wall quilt, and **Car Scott** taught "Locker Hooking Basic Hot Pad." If you have a passion for crafts, perhaps you would consider volunteering to coordinate this area for the 2017 MS, or if you have a craft that you would like to teach, let us know.

We especially appreciate our Ramblin' Pushers members who shared their knowledge, skills, and passion with the rest of us.

Jim Grossman

2016 MS Event Coordinator Ramblin' Pushers Vice-President





THE MS HAPPENS BECAUSE OF YOU -OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Maintenance Session for 2016 has come and gone. A HUGE THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE to all who volunteered and made this year so successful. More than 2/3 of those attending volunteered in some capacity! Jim and I would like to join together to thank all of the volunteers. We are sorry that we can't list all of you personally, but we would have to write a book to do that. Please know we do appreciate you! Thank you all.

Paulette Jones was invaluable to the Maintenance Session. A partial list of what she did includes mentoring me as volunteer coordinator, sending me the volunteer sign-ups from the registration forms, printing the locator cards, and designing and printing many forms. As data base manager she kept ALL the records straight.

The Administrative Area was extremely well run by Deb Isett and her capable chairs. Jan Bauspies and Sandi Gardner (office) and their 16 volunteers did a great job taking care of forms, sign ups, answering questions and doing whatever it took to make the office run smoothly. Fran Cornwell (goodie bags) used 16 volunteers in advance of the MS to stuff 250 bags. Car Scott with the help of Judy Libby (registration) and their group of 14 stuffed, labeled, and customized the registration/ welcome packets, and ran the registration table. Anita Francis and Pat Henderson (greetings) and their team gave out locator cards, put pipe cleaners on wiper blades, answered questions, and made sure everyone was welcomed with a smile, in spite of rain and cold. Renae Butler (evaluations) had 12 volunteers who collected all the evaluation forms for the event and closing dinner. They spent Thursday morning after the MS tallying the evaluations. Every comment was read and noted. Well done, all.

Ray Blush and his Building and Grounds workers were beyond compare. Under Ray's leadership **Hugh Skidmore, Dan Poythress**, and **Roger Smalley** (audio visual) made sure all the AV equipment was where it needed to be and kept everything working properly. Coach weighing and

propane sniffing are critical to our safety and the safety of our coaches. Jerry Davis and Ed Francis (coach weighing) spent three arrival days in the awful weather, and one departure day weighing a total of 89 coaches. Jim Pease and Larry Bendel (propane sniffing) checked 58 coaches for propane leaks and found 5 that had problems. Paul Miller and Frank Cornwell (engineering) took care of physical issues and arrangements. They set up, took down, and moved tables and chairs where needed. dealt with electrical problems, carted equipment, and much more. Mitch Butler (first aid) and his team did blood pressure checks every morning and were on call for all first aid issues. Jim Isett and Ray Cupples (golf carts) dealt with the golf cart company (no small feat) and took care of any issues to keep the carts running. Dennis Hill and Ray Cupples (info/trans) and 21 volunteers made sure that the golf cart transportation was available before, during, and after MS activities. Even for those of us who usually walk, it was nice to have a shuttle in the nasty weather! Matt Libby and Tom

Knight (parking) and their group also put up with the cold and rain, while doing a great job parking all of us. The amount of work and time spent by the entire building and grounds team deserves special thanks for a job well done.

The educational area includes scheduling and seminars, printer interface, mentors, seminar hosts and tours. Jim Grossman stepped in at the last minute and lined up 90 seminars put on by vendors, service providers, Ramblin' Pushers members, and more, then scheduled and assigned rooms to all. Cheryl Davis did the printer interface, running back and forth to deliver and pick up all our printing needs. Dave Mallory and Dave Ostrander had 19 coach owners (some husband/wife teams) mentor 21 requests of which 19 were first timers. John Jones arranged for the REV tours. Al Larsen set up the tours to MORryde, Precision Painting, and Dometic. Larry Hawkins and Bob Tucker made sure all seminars had a host to introduce and thank the speaker, and pass out and collect the seminar evaluation forms. (Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

We certainly can't forget our dealers, service providers, and vendors. **Dempsey Brooks** lined up all the dealers and service providers. The dealers not only brought their coaches to sell, but sponsored the lunches and many of the socials. They also helped serve at morning hospitality. The service providers were so busy repairing coaches that many had to work overtime. We had two new service providers this year. Dempsey personally visits the facilities of the service providers before he will let them sign up for the MS. We really appreciate all the work Dempsey put in to make it happen. Our vendors were all arranged by **Bill Farmer**. We sold out the booths and had a great

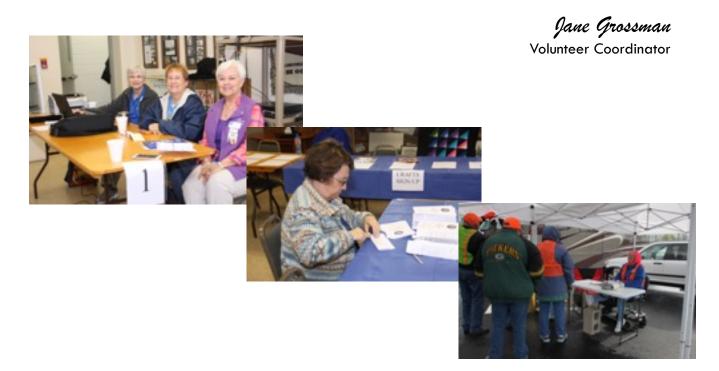
variety of things to purchase for our vehicles. Bill did a great job in keeping the vendors happy. Most are already signed up for next year.

The book exchange was successfully put together by **Joyce Miller**. The RV related flea market was handled by **Shirley Crow**. Amish dinners/theatre were well organized by **Bonnie Cupples**. Once again, **Lynn Yeargain** organized and ran Bingo. These activities were well attended and very popular. All of these jobs look easy, but have a lot of details and take a lot of organizing and planning ahead. Thank you, ladies.

Of course, without **Lynn Yeargain** heading up a huge crew in the kitchen, we would not have had such great food. She arrived at the fairgrounds more than two weeks before the MS began. She contracted with all the food suppliers, made arrangements for each day, supervised her food preparers and servers for each morning hospitality, all the socials, and made sure the rooms looked festive with beautiful decorations. She arranged for the caterer for the closing dinner. No other motorhome gathering eats half as well as we do. Big thanks go to Lynn and her volunteers.

We cannot forget a few more individuals that made us feel welcome at all times, **Larry Hawkins** our chaplain, **Roger Smalley** our official photographer, **Ray Blush** our master of ceremonies, and the Ramblin' Pushers who are also members of the HRRVC Chapter 421, the Military Retirees, who provided our Color Guard.

THANK YOU TO ALL! TOGETHER WE MADE SURE THE MAINTENANCE SESSION WAS FANTASTIC.



RAMBLIN' PUSHERS IN THE NEWS!

RVBusiness, an online news site for the RV industry, posted an article in the May 4 edition that described our 2016 Maintenance Session in very complimentary terms. You can read the article and view embedded graphics (including a slide show of sights around the MS) online here: http:// www.rvbusiness.com/2016/05/ramblin-pushers-hostmaintenance-session/.

The full text of the article is reprinted below.

May 4, 2016 by Rick Kessler.

Some 400-plus members of the Ramblin' Pushers 419, a Holiday Ramblers special interest owners club, converged on the Elkhart County Fairgrounds in Goshen, Ind., for the "2016 Maintenance Session."

The six-day event, which closes today (May 4), features more than 100 technical and educational seminars, 35 vendors staffing 57 booths and seven service writers providing onsite repair.

"We can only do this here in the RV capital of the world. I mean, where else can we have every supplier, all these service providers, all the parts and supplies, right here in one place?" said Bill Farmer, who along with Dempsey Brooks was in charge of the vendor building. He added that 48 owners had lined up waiting for service from Cummins Inc. before the vendor booths even opened. The Ramblin' Pushers 419 was founded in 1986 when Brooks and a handful of other Holiday Rambler owners decided to band together over a common interest of service and repair of their coaches. Only owners of diesel pushers can be members of the club.

Some 218 coaches from

^{sted on 04} May 2016

• Drew Acquires Italian RV Compone

Ramblin' Pushers Host 'Maintena

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across the nation were at the session, most of which were Holiday Ramblers. The event was also open to coaches built by sister divisions of Holiday Rambler's Decatur, Ind.-based parent company REV Recreation Group, including American Coach, Fleetwood RV, and Monaco Coach. Several REV executives, including Jim Jacobs, president of REV Recreation Group, were on hand Tuesday night as part of the event.

The club's vice president, Jim Grossman, said the session appeals to both kinds of coach owners, noting participants included "Those who are doit-yourselfers and want to do their own repairs, and the members like me who don't want to crawl under their coach but still want to know what's going on."

Many vendors provided breakfast and lunch for attendees, including Paul Evert's RV Country, which has nine locations in the western United States and was one of several dealers exhibiting 2017 Holiday Ramblers at the session.

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LOOKING FORWARD TO MS 2017 GUIDES FOR FIRST-TIMERS

We have already begun looking towards the 2017 Maintenance Session. Numerous fixes have been suggested to correct a few nagging problems, as well as some innovative ideas to improve the overall experience of our participants. Some of these changes have come from your personal comments and emails, while others appeared on the evaluation forms. Be assured that we are listening to your thoughts and concerns.

I would like to share one idea with you that our President John Jones picked up by attending the Monaco International (FMCA chapter) pre-rally prior to the Spring FMCA Convention in Perry, Georgia. John and Paulette were invited to the prerally by Sandy and Harry Hentschel who attended our MS as First-Timers this year. Because John and Paulette were "First-Timers," they were assigned what the Monacoers call a "Mentor." As mentors, Ron and Sandy Jones went to meals and other social events with John and Paulette. They made sure they were comfortable, and introduced them to new friends.

We have known for some time that First-Timers have a challenging time understanding what is going on at the MS. The pre-arrival package and the Program Book are like drinking from a fire hose, and it is a long time between registering for the MS and seeing this information. Overall, the MS is like a three ring circus with the audience sitting in the center ring.

Allow me to explain how our new First-Timer outreach will work. As you know, the Maintenance Session already has a Mentoring Group, so we will call this group the "Guides." As soon as a First-

Timer registers, they will be assigned a Guide. We will attempt to match them by geography or coach make and year. The Guides will call or email the First-Timers, introduce themselves, explain what happens at the MS and how it works, be available in the intervening months for questions, and let them know that they will not be hearing much before early April. When the pre-arrival package is distributed, they will reinforce this information, and help with travel plans to the MS. Once the First-Timers are parked on the Fairgrounds, their Guides will call on them and show them around with particular emphasis on the office location, registration, service sign-ups and seminar locations. The Guides will escort them to the First-Timers Social, first morning hospitality, and opening session. Because of our large number of First-Timers (71 in 2016), we will try to match three first time coaches to each guide coach.

We would love to hear from some of our new First-Timer friends from this year's MS. Tell us what you think about this new program.

Obviously, we need many of you old timers and even 2016 First-Timers to volunteer to be a Guide. Jane Grossman is again handling volunteers, so drop an email to jane.grossman@sbcglobal.net, and let her know that you are ready to help.

> Jim Grossman MS 2017 Coordinator

> > Jane Grossman





MS ROUNDTABLE 2: 2005-10 Endeavor/Diplomat

Larry Bendel and Larry Black moderated the roundtable that included 2005-2010 Endeavor, Diplomat, Santiam, and Gazelle coaches. The topics of discussion included residential refrigerator conversions, the hydraulic pump for the leveling jacks, Magnum inverter problems, heavy rear axles, dash gauges, and other issues experienced by owners.

Many of the participants had made the residential refrigerator conversion and none were dissatisfied with the outcome. Methods of securing the doors for travel were discussed. They included bungee cords, wooden brackets, and IKEA child safety latches.

The hydraulic pump reservoir is cantilevered off the pump body. Vibration from travel can cause the reservoir to crack. It was recommended that a support under the reservoir be crafted from wood or metal. It was also suggested that copper plumbing strapping be used to stabilize the pump and not be subject to deterioration from rust. It was also discussed that air in the hydraulic lines can cause the jacks to slip and inch or so from their stowed position.

It was reported that all AC circuit breakers must be on in order for the Intellitec system to work It must see L1 and L2 power (240 VAC across lines) for the Intellitic system to register a 50A hookup.

Several of the participants had observed that the 20,000 pound capacity rear axles of their coaches appeared to be overloaded somewhat even with

only a moderate cargo load in the coach. It appears that the axles were somewhat overweight from the factory due to GVWR restrictions. Later ('06 or '07) the axle capacity was raised to 23,000 pounds. RVs are now allowed the same axle weight ratings as interstate buses. An overload of 200-500 pounds should not be cause for concern.

A significant portion of the time was devoted to a discussion of the accuracy of the dash gauges on the '06 Endeavor. Several attendees mentioned that the gauges read high or low under normal operating conditions. Those present who use ScanGauge-D displays or SilverLeaf interface modules advised that such systems read data from the engine/transmission control module that did not use the same sensors as the dash instruments. It is likely that changing the sensors for the inaccurate gauges is a solution for this problem.

Canadian border officials require supplementary brake systems for towed vehicles. Those who are planning a trip into Canada are advised to make certain that the brakes on the towed vehicle are applied when the breakaway switch is activated.

Sluggish operation of the Carefree of Colorado patio awning was noted. Several in the group placed the blame not on the motor, but on wire of insufficient gauge to carry the necessary current for the motor. Increasing the wire size to 14 gauge or larger was suggested as a solution. Also, lubricating the awning assembly joints with a dry silicone or graphite lubricant was suggested to improve the performance of the awning.





MS ROUNDTABLE 8: NAVIGATOR/DYNASTY

Dempsey Brooks moderated this group that included owners of Navigator, Dynasty, Signature, Executive, Panther, Marquis, and Patriot Thunder coaches. Don Walder, of Pro Custom, Inc. served as a technical advisor to the group.

The session included discussions of broken or malfunctioning slide-out locks and various approaches to their repair. Some of the participants reported removing or disabling the locks when they failed. Others suggested repairs by welding or maintenance by lubrication. One slide lock may have failed as a result of a water leak under the kitchen sink. A piece of tubing was rubbing on the bottom of the sink. The hose was replaced with one about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches longer to eliminate the interference. Other discussions related to use of a saddle fitting on the roof air conditioner for service. Mr. Walder advised against that since the valve could loosen over time and leak the Freon. Also discussed was the Aqua-Hot system and making repairs to the boiler heat exchanger tubing.

Tires and window shades were also discussed, along with awnings, multiplex lighting systems, temperature control in the entertainment cabinet, and many other individual experiences. The quote of the day comes from Mr. Gary Payton (2003 Navigator), "all it takes is money to have fun and keep it going."

MAINTENANCE PLANNING AND RECORD KEEPING

Susan Sembenotti, Assistant Editor, is beginning a project to develop a generic format that our readers can use to plan regular maintenance activities and record maintenance actions as they are completed. You can help by sharing your method of managing the maintenance on your coach. Do you use a spiral bound notebook, a spreadsheet/database, a calendar, or some other device? How do you keep track of service and repairs when they are done? Do you throw receipts in a box, make handwritten notes, or some other method?

We all know that a coach is much easier to sell, and attractive to buy, if it comes with a good set of maintenance records that increase the buyer's confidence that the coach has been properly cared for.

Susan can be contacted by email at sembenotti@att.net .

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SAFETY COORDINATOR: COACH SAFETY

Being newly appointed to the Safety Information Coordinator position, the direction and information forthcoming to the members will be evolving. I will stay in contact with our 419 manufacturing representatives, who work closely with REV personnel. This line of communication is critical and perhaps the best "official" information that we can obtain. Keeping good and accurate information flow with REV is our best method of getting the proper information to our members.

You can find current and past recall information on your specific coaches via the NHTSA web site. As

a vehicle owner, you can select from drop down menus (the year, brand and model) to view the specific official safety recalls reported on your coach.

During the search process also review REV, Monaco and Navistar as well as Holiday Rambler as the manufacturer name for your specific coach searches.

Government recall / complaint website <u>http://</u> <u>www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners</u>

CURRENT KNOWN RECALLS

During the 2016 MS, Lippert personnel were reviewing and making needed repairs to coach steps at the fairgrounds. Parts should be available at local dealers for the needed repairs. Please review your steps, as there is a significant number of units involved and model years from 2007 - 2014. Make contact with a local dealer to have the step repairs performed as soon as possible.

Lippert Coachstep Electric Step Equipment Recall 15E078000

• Action Number: N/A Service Bulletin Number: 15E078000 Report Date: Sep 24, 2015

Component: Equipment Potential Units Affected: 47340 Manufacturer: Lippert Components, Inc.

• **Summary:** Lippert Components, inc. (Lippert) is recalling certain coachstep double and triple electric steps manufactured <u>May 25, 2007, to December 18, 2014</u>. The bolt that attaches the fan gear assembly to the steps may fracture allowing the fan gear to disengage from the steps. As a result, the steps may not remain in the expected position and may be unstable.

Consequence: Unstable entry and exit steps increase the risk of injury.

Remedy: Dealers will install a retainer bracket on the double step assemblies and the coachstep linkage assembly will be replaced and a retainer bracket will be installed on the trip step assemblies. The recall began on February 5, 2016. Owners may contact Lippert Customer Service number at 1-574-537-8900. Lippert's number for this recall is lci-scs-091815.

Notes: Owners may also contact the national highway traffic safety administration's vehicle safety hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (tty 1-800-424-9153), or go to *www.safercar.gov*.

Safe Travels

Jerry Davis

Safety Information Coordinator

COACH MAINTENANCE: CAULKING YOUR BELTLINE

Let me first say how honored I am to be asked to be a contributor to the Ramblin' Pushers Newsletter.

As an HR owner and member of the Ramblin' Pushers family I am excited to be able to extend some of my knowledge to the members. Much of what I will write about in the ensuing year will be based on my own observations and from

conducting over 1,000 coach inspections on Monaco and HR brand coaches.

In this publication I want to address an issue that I constantly find on many coaches when conducting inspections at rallies. This issue is so prevalent that I find at least 20 percent of the coaches at rallies have this problem—popped, or better described as separated, upper belt lines (also known as coach rails). They are the

trim strips that run the length of the coach to cover and seal the joint between the sidewalls and the roof or chassis. What occurs is the pop rivet which secures the belt line to the roof overhang breaks and the belt line which covers the seam where the roof meets the side wall opens up. I have seen the opening so wide I could stick my hand between the side wall and roof cap. The vast majority are not this pronounced.

They are very easy to spot for coach owners and because the problem is so prevalent it should be a part of your routine inspection. I recommend checking these belt lines once a month. To look for a separated belt line simply walk around your coach and look for a bulge in the belt line itself. If you see a bulge then it is time to get on the roof and do a closer inspection of the caulking on top of the belt line. You should be aware that this separation can occur right next to a slide topper



and can be hidden from view while on the ground.

If you see the belt line has separated then you will need to address the issue as soon as possible. A separated belt line with an open caulking seam will allow water into the side wall and if left unattended will delaminate your outside wall.

> Many DIY coach owners have repaired this problem themselves. There are files and help with instructions available on the many internet forums including the Yahoo Ramblin' Pushers E-Group forum. For those of you who cannot work off ladders then I suggest having the repair done at a reputable service center or shop.

A separated belt line is an ongoing problem affecting all models and years from 2000

onward. Take the time once a month and inspect yours.

Chris Throgmartin

Ramblin' Pushers Member Contributing Author

(Ed. Note: Chris Throgmartin is the proprietor of Stone VOS, a manufacturer of replacement slide awnings and related items. He has graciously agreed to serve as a Newsletter contributor for the next year. Watch for his column in future issues of the Ramblin' Pushers Newsletter.)



MS REPORT: Amish Dinners & Theater

Off-site event coordinator, Bonnie Cupples, reports that the Amish dinners were once again a popular event for MS participants. The homestyle food and service are enjoyed the many who look forward to this opportunity to dine in a genuine rural setting. The rolling landscape, horse drawn carriages, and unhurried lifestyle of the Amish community are a welcome change from the hustle and bustle of the modern lifestyle. The Carriage House farm served generous portions of "comfort food" in a community table style that left patrons satisfied at the end of the meal. This year 142 MS attendees took advantage of this annual opportunity.

Also celebrating the Amish tradition is the Sunday musical theater production of "Forever Plaid." An additional 186 MS participants enjoyed the show at the Amish Acres Dinner Theater in nearby Nappanee, Indiana.

If you haven't yet sampled this local cuisine and entertainment opportunity you might want to make it a point to do so at the next MS.





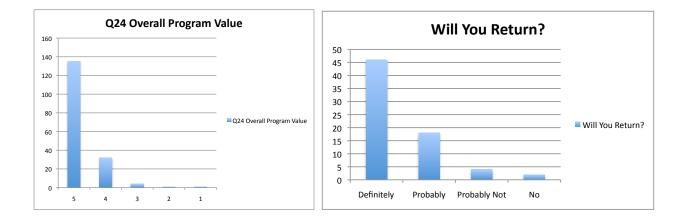
ATTENDEES GIVE MS 2016 HIGH MARKS

As in years past, participants in this year's Maintenance Session were asked to evaluate their experience using a questionnaire provided in the goody bags distributed during the registration process. The questionnaire asked attendees to rate their satisfaction with the MS in a number of aspects on a 5-point scale. Specific questions pertained to Registration, Parking, Coach Safety programs (weighing and propane sniffing), Hospitality, Seminars, among others. The vast majority of those who responded gave nearly all of the questions the top score of 5 (excellent) and 4 (good). The score for all items from 179 respondents was 4.579. This high score indicates a great deal of approval of the various areas of the MS organization's performance.

Perhaps the most revealing single question on the survey was a measurement of the program's value. That item received an overall score of 4.79. MS attendees generally felt that the MS was worth more than they paid to attend.

Many attendees made suggestions of ways that the MS might be made even better. The Board and MS leadership have expressed their appreciation for the thoughtful suggestions offered by the participants.

The MS Evaluation results will be discussed in detail in the mid-year planning meeting next January. The Board and leadership thank all the respondents for their cooperation in completing the evaluation.



(5) Excellent	135
(4) Good	32
(3) OK	4
(2) Poor	1
(1) Very Poor	1
Total	173

Definitely	46
Probably	18
Probably Not	4
No	2
Total	70



NEW MS INVITATION FLYER AVAILABLE NOW

At the mid-year meeting of the board and MS leadership, the subject of producing a new flyer to introduce potential MS participants to the event was discussed. The new flyer which replaces the "hang-tags" used previously, is a single page, 2sided color document that describes the Ramblin' Pushers and the Maintenance Session. It is directed toward all REV brands of eligible coaches.

The flyer and a registration form for the 2017 MS were packaged with a copy of the pocket-size schedule in an envelope printed with an invitation to join us at the MS. These packets were distributed after the closing dinner.

These packets are useful as conversation starters in campgrounds as we travel during the year. A number of MS attendees first learned of the event from a fellow camper who had information available and shared it. This three-item package simplifies and condenses the introductory information and expands on the description of just what is done at the MS. If each of us speaks with 10 owners of eligible coaches and only one chooses to register for the MS, then we will achieve that magic number of 300 that John Jones mentioned in his President's Corner message.

One final note: there is a space in the registration form for the name of the person who referred the new registrant to attend. You should print your name in that space in every packet you give out. You might become that new person's first Ramblin' friend.

Anyone who was not in attendance at the closing dinner and needs a batch (10) of the packets may obtain them by contacting the membership chair, Carol Smalley. Carol's email is

rpmembershipchair@gmail.com

Let's all help John reach that magic number!





IMPORTANT INFORMATION 2017 REGISTRATION

Just like last year, we are officially opening registration on June 1, 2016 for ALL attendees. The registration form was made available to everyone at the end of the 2016 MS. The registration sequence will be determined in a random drawing from the pool of all registrations postmarked by 1 June 2016. Registrations postmarked after 1 June will be processed in the order received.

Since our mail is forwarded from our Florida address to the Treasurer, this process will not actually begin until mid-June when he has received those registrations with a June 1 postmark. Due to the number of registration forms that must be processed from this initial receipt of registrations, do not expect to see your check clear the bank before the end of August.

Please, don't make this a "No good deed goes unpunished" situation. The Treasurer and

Database Manager are working now to finish their 2016 MS responsibilities. In years past, the registration form wasn't even published until July 1 giving those two functions a little break before being overwhelmed by registrations for the next year's MS. In our effort to make the registration available at the earliest possible date, we don't want to put unreasonable expectations on our volunteers.

Most if us are traveling during these summer months to get the enjoyment we all deserve from our motorhomes. This may result in the process starting slowly but we will handle registrations as quickly as we can. Please, be patient with us and have a wonderful summer enjoying your travels as well.



MEMBERSHIP

Wasn't MS 2016 great?! There was so much to learn and see and enjoy. This is such an incredible learning opportunity that we need YOU to help share the news. Too many eligible coach owners are unaware of the Ramblin' Pushers and this annual event.

Invitation packets (described on p. 22) are ready for distribution. If you missed getting yours at the MS closing dinner or need additional packets to handout, please contact me at

<u>rpmembershipchair@gmail.com</u>. I'll be happy to send them to you. The continued growth of the MS and the club depends on YOU to help spread the word. Please use the materials to invite eligible coach owners you know or may meet in your travels to join us for MS 2017.

As always, full membership in the Ramblin' Pushers is available to Holiday Rambler brand coaches, but owners of all other REV brand diesel motor homes are welcome to attend the MS and serve on those essential volunteer committees.

Carol Smalley

Membership Chair

Ramblin' Pushers 2017 Maintenance Session May 4 – May 10, 2017 If you own a Holiday Your Parking Area will be based on the date (Arrival Day May 4th included in Registration) Rambler, American Coach, your registration is postmarked. Early Parking May 3rd an extra \$22 Fleetwood, Beaver, Monaco So Register Early! To park together, you MUST register Goshen, Indiana – GPS: N41.5807 W85.8007 or Safari Diesel Motorhome, together and arrive together... **General Information** you're invited. You will leave better educated about the Use, Handicap Parking - Facilities -Care, Safety and Maintenance of your coach Only 19 handicap parking spaces 7 nights parking starting 5/4/2017 are available and will be assigned Location: Elkhart County 4H Fairgrounds 30 & 50 amp sites w/water, sewer or one based on when the registration is free septic truck dump 17746-D CR 34. Goshen. Indiana 46528 postmarked. **Coach Weighing & Propane Leak testing** Please don't arrive earlier than Early Parking Day -May 3rd available Arriving earlier than May 3 may result *Need more information?* Food vendor on site in having to move to your assigned Visit our Website at www.ramblinpushers.org location on that date!!!!!! or call 866-208-7411 - Planned Activities -Limited activities 5/3-5/4– MS starts HRRVC assumes no responsibility or liability, nor is any Officer, National Director, or any other with Opening Session at 9:15 AM on person authorized to assume any responsibility or liability for any personal injury or property damage suffered by its members and/or their family or guest in attendance at or on the road to or Friday 5/5 from this Maintenance Session or other HRRVC event. • 6 Days of Seminars/Sessions by **REV RV Group, Vendors, Suppliers** You should receive an e-mail about three weeks Mail registration & check or and 419 members. Ladies Events after mailing your registration confirming receipt. Money Order to: Round Table discussions Pre-arrival packets will be distributed via email to Ramblin' Pushers Chapter 419 registered attendees in early April 2017. **REV Executives Session** • 413 Walnut St., #5294 Service Technicians Available • Cancellations only accepted before MS Early Green Cove Springs, FL Coach Displays, Vendors, & • Parking Day and will be subject to an 32043-3443 Suppliers administration fee of \$20. Call 866-208-7411 or Morning Hospitality, Socials & • Return Entire Form with Check or Money email to jpjscuba@bellsouth.net to cancel. Closing Dinner Order (MO) to this address HRRVC or XX# Names For Office Use ID No Address City_____State____Zip____ Amount Paid Check # Phone: Home Cell Date Postmarked Email Coach Make Coach Model Year Length Engine Mfg. **REGISTRATION FEES:** Check or MO payable to *Ramblin' Pushers* Vehicle ID Number (17 Digit No.) **Coach with 2 persons** \$235.00 190.00 _____ Coach with 1 person Attach a copy of Extra Person in Coach, Add 65.00 vour current Check, if applicable: Non-Ramblin' Pusher Member, Add handicapped parking 20.00 Handicapped (Limit 19)* permit to your 22.00 Early Parking Day – May 3rd, Add First Timer ** registration. **TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (US Funds Only)\$** Where did you hear about the MS? 419 Member Ramblings Other Publication Other Volunteers: Indicate your willingness to help at the Maintenance Session with a "Him", "Her" or "Both" below: (NO CHECK MARKS PLEASE) First Aid Audio/Visual Engineering Parking Info/Trans Coach Weigh

Round Table Mode	erators	Seminar Host	_Mentors _		Ladies Activities	_ Tours Table
Office	Registration	Goody Bags Prep _		Greetings _	Evaluations	
Book Exchange	Hospitality <u>Si</u>	gnup Sheets Available at R	egistration	As Need	ed MSN 2	2017 MS Registration 160423

RAMBLIN' PUSHERS E-GROUP

The Ramblin' Pushers chapter and the Ramblin' Pushers E-Group (<u>https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/</u> groups/ramblin_pushers/info) are separate and independent entities. The 419 Ramblin' Pushers organization is a special interest chapter of the Holiday Rambler RV Club. The Ramblin' Pushers E-Group is an email group hosted on the Yahoo! website. It is a moderated group, meaning that membership is granted qualified persons, those who own a diesel motor coach. Most participants own either a coach manufactured by Holiday Rambler or a subsequent owner of the brand or a closely related brand, e.g., Monaco.

The group consists of RV owners who seek help with a technical problem they are experiencing or offer technical advice to other participants who are experiencing difficulties with their coach.

The Rules of Operation presented here specify the purpose of the group and the kinds of messages that are appropriate for posting on the site.

RULES OF OPERATION

The following rules are intended to keep this group focused on our purpose. They provide structure for content and format of messages so that members feel free to participate and at the same time provide information that is useful to the members and helps others help you.

Please do not use the forum for discussing politics, jokes, arguing religious matters, sending one liners, advertising or chain letters.

Use it for:

Discussing things you like about your RV and problems with your RV Looking for a camping place in Podunk Hollow Have something for sale related to RVing No commercial / Dealer selling

When you post a message, please use the following format as a courtesy to other members:

Owners should include at least your first name and the year/model of your coach in the signature part of your message, i.e. John, 08 END. Many issues are model and year specific so this information helps others help you.

Provide as much information on the nature of your issue as you can to help others; your location, make and model of appliance, symptoms of the issue and what things you may have already tried.

Please include the original message in your replies so that members may follow the issue easier. Your response should be at the top of the previous message

If the topic evolves into another subject, please change the subject line of the message in your reply to the previous message.

You may include no more than one line of a non-political quote in your signature line

Eliminate any unnecessary information or spaces in your replies; this can be especially true when responding to a digest note. Since many use cell phones with limited connectivity, long messages with unnecessary info can create a lot of frustration.

Keep responses constructive; no personal attacks or criticism.

The moderators will enforce these rules!. Members do not need to respond to messages that do not comply as that only adds a lot of unnecessary emails to the group. The moderators often deal with these situations offline since members do make mistakes or may have had their email accounts hijacked.

Have fun! We look forward to your input and participation.

Your friendly moderators,

Larry, Ed and Bob

E-GROUP THREAD JACK PADS

I'm fairly new, but I've had an issue with the hydraulic jacks leaving imprints on the asphalt driveway and 2 x 10 blocks splitting on dirt. What does anyone recommend to put under the jacks to avoid this?

We have a 2009 Ambassador 41SQK. 33,000 GVW

Wayne

We have "blocks" made out of 12" x 12" of B/C 3/4" exterior plywood, saturated with epoxy. We also have several 2 x 8 x 24 to spread out the load if necessary. Once we had to use these to get the rig out of some soft sand. Good to carry extra blocks!

Bob Austin 2007 HR Ambassador 40 PDQ

Try Googling "RV jack pads" and you will find many possibilities. And you can choose from different materials and weight-bearing capacity.

Billy 01 End

Someone suggested taking the 2x12 pads (I also have some long ones cut on the ends at 45 deg for the wheels) and glue or screw 3/4 in plywood on top of them. This ends the splitting problem.

Ed '05 Ambassador

Have tried and observed several different styles including:

1. plastic commercial 10"x10" pads that can be built up from to 4 layers thick.

2. Straight 12x12" plywood

3. 2x10" planks 3' long with a screwed on plywood base - use under front wheels

4. 3"X12" rough sawn lumber with 3/4" top and bottom plywood 2' long for under jacks. These also have hooks so I can reach them with a pole and

pull out from under center of coach (3 point jack system). We use these in sand or wet/soft clay/ grassy areas or when we need the extra height.

Ray 06 Scepter

I carry six 1-1/2" thick 12" X 12" jack pads.... made with 2 pieces of 3/4" thick treated plywood glued and screwed together.

Mel '96 Safari

Plywood works good due to cross grain layers. Glue several layers to reach desired size. Mine are 2x12x12, corners cut 45 degrees and one has a eye screw and rope.

I've read that 3/4" horse mats are cheap and work well. Cut to any size.

Bob S 09 42' Scepter

There of course many designs. I use two 16 X 16 inch pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch outdoor plywood to make it 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. I glued and screwed the pieces together. I drilled 1 inch holes at each of the corners. This allows me to push them under and retrieve them with the awning rod. This way they are flat and stack easy.

Larry L, Win 10 Mail 05 End, RV760 Co-moderator

Cutting the sharp corners off helps with tight storage. The eye hook and rope loop made them easy to carry. Larry's suggested holes are helpful. We also use them to secure mats, etc in the wind.

Bob S 09 42' Scepter

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

I have used 2x12 treated lumber cut so that I can put two pieces together cross grain. I then use water proof glue and deck screws to put these together to make $12x12x3 \frac{1}{2}$ jack pads. Lastly I drill a $\frac{1}{2}$ in hole on one side so that I can grab them with the awning hook. I replaced the original set I made in 2009 last year. It cost me \$20 for the lumber (I had the glue & screws) and Home Depot cut the board to make the blocks for free.

Bob - 2008 Endeavor

If you elect to buy rather than build pads, you might take a look at these. I have used 4 of these since around 1998, and they were not nearly this expensive back then! I can assure you these will

not break and can withstand anything you can throw at them. They weigh only 6 pounds each as well.

Just a suggestion if you want to consider some quality pads.

Billy 01 End

http://tweetys.com/superjackbuspads2pk.aspx

Thank you Billy and all who have replied. Y'all have given me some good advice. I just have to weigh the cost/benefit.

Thanks again, Wayne



MANUFACTURER RELATIONS

As you can see by my purchase of a new 2016 Endeavor, I am pleased with the quality of the new REV offerings. Since Monaco was sold to Navistar I had not seen a coach that tempted me to trade in the one I had. That has changed with the latest REV products. **They have the look and feel of a Holiday Rambler.** It was really nice to hear all the positive comments about the new coaches in the coach display area at this year's Maintenance Session.

Like everyone else, I was sad to see the Roadmaster chassis disappear. But, having driven the new Scepter and Endeavor, I found both to ride better than the old Roadmaster. And with the support from Freightliner's extensive nation wide maintenance network, including 24/7 phone support and their own smartphone app, I have great expectations for a very high satisfaction level with my Freightliner chassis in my new Endeavor DP.

We had a great Executive Session this year. I want to personally thank Jim Jacobs, President, REV Recreation Group, and all the executives who were there with him: Matt Buckman, Vice President of Sales, Holiday Rambler and Monaco; Steve Heim, Vice President/General Manager After Market Parts and Service; Jamie Buckmeier, Director of Product Development and Manufacturing; Giff Akins, Director of National Service Operations; Don Gephart, Marketing Manager REV Recreation; Craig Biazo, After Markets Parts National Sales Manager; Mick Friedt, Warranty Manager. Jim did the best job of handling the Executive Session of anyone since I've been attending the Maintenance Session. His nononsense approach and his willingness to admit they had made mistakes was refreshing. He answered all questions professionally and in a manner that, even if you did not like the answer, you felt you were being told the truth. I think everyone left the session feeling good about where REV is going and with a high level of confidence in their leadership. I also want to thank our attendees for the manner in which their questions were presented and their willingness to relinquish the floor for others to ask their questions. This was the best Executive Session I've ever attended.

We could not have received any better support from the manufacturer than we did this year from REV. They provided seminars, service, the parts truck, and the After Market folks ordered any part that our attendees needed at the special MS price. The financial support they provide to the MS helps keep our attendees costs down. (Continued on page 29)



(Continued from page 28)

I want to thank some of their folks who were working in the background to make positive things happen. Natalie Vining and Deb Marbaugh who staffed parts ordering did an outstanding job delighting those requiring parts. Suzy Fletcher who coordinated many things for us and either handled or steered me to the right place to get anything done I requested. Denise Tucker who worked with our Database Manager to make sure the Coach Data Sheets were available for everyone. I know I've missed some names of REV folks who were there or were working in the background and I want to extend my gratitude to all who had a hand in helping us make the MS a success.

I also want to thank Jason Rumschlag from Freightliner for both their financial support and his great seminars. His assistance in co-moderating the round table for coaches on the Freightliner chassis was a big help. The information he provided regarding Freightliner's quality and service was the final little push I needed to take the step to trade.

In addition, let me thank our other component manufacturers: Atwood Mobile Products, Cummins, Dometic Group, Lippert Components, Thetford/Norcold, who helped make the MS a success by providing seminars, service and/or financial support. I particularly want to thank Carrie Buisman, Cummins Sales & Service, for sponsoring the First Timers social.

John Jones

President Ramblin' Pushers



MS Report: Dealer & Service Sponsors

If you did not attend the 2016 MS you missed a great one. We were honored to have three of our Sales Sponsors, Day Brothers, Paul Evert's, and Veurink's on site. These dealers financially supported our Hospitality events, and actually their group "dished grits" every morning. A fourth sponsor dealer General RV, who did not attend. sponsored the Ice Cream Social, and one lunch.

The three dealers brought 18 new 2016 units, and 16 very attractive pre-owned units. The new Endeavor, Scepter, and the new "entry level" Navigator were well received. Actual sold units were 5 on site, but many other deals were in the working stage as we closed the session.

Our Service Sponsors in attendance had a lot of action. Even with the weather not cooperating with us, 637 Work-Orders were performed on site, and many appointments made for before and after the session to be continued at their shops in the area. Our members and directors thank these sponsors, for both their attendance at the Maintenance Session and their many years of support to our group. The success of our Chapter is based on support from sales and service sponsors who understand the importance of education for diesel motor home owners.

Now is the time for everyone to plan on attending the 2017 Maintenance Session. These registrations are now available on line and will be in the newsletter. Have a safe year of travels and hope to see you next May.

Dempsey Brooks

Dealer Sponsor/Service Sponsor Coordinator

Sponsor Members

Sponsor members are companies who are members of the Ramblin' Pushers and serve the RV market, either as dealers of new coaches with or without service facilities, or are companies who provide a range of maintenance and repair services. These companies have locations across the US and one in Canada.

In the course of our RV travels, Ramblin' Pushers members may have occasion to call upon one or more of these Sponsor Members for routine maintenance or repairs.

Sponsor memberships are renewed annually, and include a donation to the Ramblin' Pushers organization. In addition, some sponsor members support our annual Maintenance Session by providing a display in the dealer or vendor area.

We thank the Sponsor Members for their support of our club and offer the following information about them as a convenience to our members. The information provided does not constitute an endorsement of any product or firm by the Ramblin' Pushers organization.



Service Codes

1. Service & Repairs 2. Collision Repair 3. Supplies/Accessories 4. Disposal Station 5. LP Gas 6. Chassis/Engine Service 7. Overnight Parking 8. 10% Discount on Store Items 9. RV Storage 10. RV Wash Service

ALLIANCE COACH, INC.

4505 Monaco Way Wildwood, FL 34785 352-330-3800

Website:	www.alliancecoach.	сот
Sales:	Tom Peterson	352-330-3800
	tom.peterson@allianc	cecoach.com
Service:	Mike Hawkins	352-330-3800
	mike.hawkins@alliand	cecoach.com
Services:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	
Models:	All HR Diesel Models	

DAY BROS. AUTO & RV SALES, LLC 3054 Laurel Road

www.daybrosrvsales.com

Email:	ken.day@hotmail.com
Contact:	Kenny Day
Sales:	Jerry Lowe
Service:	George Day
Services:	1, 2, 3, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10
Models:	All HR Diesel Models

Website:

606-877-1530 606-877-1530 606-877-1530

2016

2016

DEALER SPONSORS (CONT.)

GENERAL RV

13396 E. US Hwy 92 Dover, FL 33527 813-305-2500

Website: Contact:

Sales: Service: Services: Models:

Services:

Models:

www.generalrv.com Jason Cohen JCohen@generalrv.com Steve Ratcliff Steve Scrape 1, 2, 3 All HR Diesel Models

813-305-2500 813-305-2500 813-305-2500

2Q16

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GENERAL RV

14000 Automall Drive Huntley, IL 60142 847-669-5570

Website:	www.generalrv.com	
Contact:	Jim Lyon	847-669-5570
	JLyon@generalrv.com	
Sales:	Chris Stevens	847-669-5570
	CStevens@generalrv.com_	
Service:	Scott Rosselein	847-669-5570
	SRosselein@generalrv.cor	т
Services:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10	
Models:	All HR Diesel Models	
		2Q16

	GENERAL RV 25000 Assembly Park Drive Wixom, MI 48393 248-349-0900	•
Website:	www.generalrv.com	
Contact:	Jason Quillen JQuillen@generalrv.com	248-349-0900
Sales:	Chris Cole CCole@generalrv.com	248-349-0900
Service:	Dave Carlisle	248-349-0900

Dave Carlisle DCarlisle@generalrv.com 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10

All HR Diesel Models

GENERAL RV

14295 Minuteman Road Draper, UT 84020 801-307-1070

Website:	www.generalrv.com		
Contact:	Paxton Jensen	801-307-1070	
	pjensen@generalrv.com		
Sales:	Robbie Jensen	801-307-1070	
	<u>rbjensen@generalrv.com</u>		
	Zac Andersen	801-307-1070	
	zandersen@generalrv.com		
Service:	Bret Folkman	801-307-1070	
	<u>bfolkman@generalrv.com</u>		
Services:	1, 2, 3, 5, 8		
Models:	All HR Diesel Models	2Q16	

GIANT RV-MONTCLAIR, CA 9150 Benson Ave. Montclair, CA 91763 888-636-1732 Website: www.giantrv.com Email: sales@giantrv.com Contact: Dick Torres 888-646-1732 dicktorres@giant.com Paul Nunez Service: 888-646-1732 Services: 1, 2, 3 Models: Ambassador

Мото	R HOME SPE 100 O'Banion Way* Alvarado, TX 76009 817-790-7771 800-335-6054	CIALIST
Website:	www.mhsrv.com	
Sales:	Mark Griffith	817-790-7771
	markg@mhsrv.com	
Service:	Terry Humphries	817-790-7771
	service@mhsrv.com	
Services:	1, 2, 3	
Models:	All HR Diesel Models	
	*GPS may pre	fer 5411 South I-35W

DEALER SPONSORS (CONT.)

PAUL I	EVERT'S RV C 2155 Highway 95 Bullhead City, AZ 86442 928-704-5080	OUNTRY
Website:	www.rvcountry.com	
Email:	sales@rvcountry.com	
Sales:	Terry Wolfe twolfe@rvcountry.com	928-704-5080
Service:	Krystal Leslie kleslie@rvcountry.com	928-704-5080
Services:	1	
Models:	All HR Diesel Models	
		2Q16

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

Fresno, CA 93725 559-486-1000

www.rvcountry.com

Curt Curtis

Website: Email: Contact. Sales:

Shawn Williams Hank Dudley Service: Services: Models: All HR Diesel Models

sales@rvcountry.com 559-779-1725 curt@rvcountry.com 559-486-1000 559-486-1000 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

83407 Highway 111 Indio, CA 92201

Website: Email: Contact:

Sales: Service: Services: Models:

www.rvcountry.com sales@rvcountry.com Kevin True ktrue@rvcountry.com Kevin True Kevin True 1, 2, 7, 10 All HR Diesel Models

760-972-4122 760-972-4122 760-972-4122

2016

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

90915 Roberts Road

Website: Email: Contact: Sales: Service: Services: Models:

www.rvcountry.com sales@rvcountry.com Jim Hardy gentlemanjimhardy@gmail.com 541-636-6041 Winnie Anderson Randy Fergurson 541-636-6041 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 All HR Diesel Models

2016

2016

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

5111 20th Street E

Fife, WA 98424

WW	w.rvcountry.com
sale	s@rvcountry.com

All HR Diesel Models

Kevin Knowles

Kevin Knowles

1, 3, 6, 7

Website: Email: Contact:

Sales: Service: Services: Models:

253-926-6000 kknowles@rvcountry.com jeffg@rvcountry.com

541-636-6041 541-636-6041

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PREMIER MOTOR COACH SERVICES 4340 East Tennessee Street Tucson, AZ 85714 Website: premiermcs.com Email: eolstrom@premiermcs.com Joe Cartwright 520-624-2024 Sales: jcartwright@premiermcs.com 520-624-2024 Service: Eric Olstrom eolstrom@premiermcs.com Debbie Watts 520-624-2024 Other dwatts@premiermcs.com 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10 Services: All HR Diesel Models Models: 2016

2016

DEALER SPONSORS (CONT.)

West	SICARD RV 7526 Regional Road #20 Lincoln, Ontario CANADA L 905-957-3344 800-688-2210	
Website:	www.sicardrv.com	***************************************
Email:	Gary Sicard	905-957-3344
	gsicard@sikardrv.com rsicard@sikardrv.com	
Contact:	Blair Sicard	905-957-3344
Sales:	Roger Sicard	905-957-3344
Service:	Terry Sicard service@sicardrv.com	905-957-3344
Services:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10	
Models:	All HR Diesel Models	

VEURINKS' RV CENTER 7144 S. Division Grand Rapids, MI 49348 800-822-5272 Website: www.veurinksrv.com Email: rvsales@veurinksrv.com Tim Veurink 616-965-9608 Contact: Matt Veurink 616-965-9606 Sales: Service: Tom Woods 616-965-9631 Services: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10

All HR Diesel Models

SERVICE SPONSORS

Service Codes

Models:

 Service & Repairs 2. Collision Repair 3. Supplies/Accessories 4. Disposal Station 5. LP Gas
Chassis/Engine Service 7. Overnight Parking 8. 10% Discount on Store Items 9. RV Storage 10. RV Wash Service

APA	LACHEE RV CH 1364 Duncan Lane Auburn, GA 30011 770-868-0999	ENTER	
Website:	www.myarv.com		
Email:	service@myarv.com		
Contact:	Joe Morillo service@myarv.com	ext. 309	
Service:	Tracy Fulkerson tracy@myarv.com	ext. 301	
Other:	Dave Kobos dave@myarv.com		
Services:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10	2Q16	



CUI

SERVICE SPONSORS (CONT.)

CUMMI	INS ONAN OF 5125 Beck Drive Elkhart, IN 46516 574-361-1060	Elkhart	C	UMM	INS SALES & S 3415 W. Coliseum Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46808 260-482-3691	Service
Website:	www.cummins.com		N	/ebsite:	www.salesandservice.c	ummins.com
Email:	Kent.A.Hollopeter@cu	nmins.com	E	mail:	cd575@cummins.com	
Contact:	Kent Hollopeter	574-361-1068		ontact: ervice:	Carrie Buisman Carrie Buisman	260-482-3691 260-482-3691
Services:	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		S	ervices:	1, 6, 7, 8	
						2016
		2016				

CUSTOM COACH CONNECTION 236 East Main Street No. 216 Sevierville, TN 37862 619-571-3393				
Website:	www.customcoachco	onnection.com		
Email:	Geoff@customcoachc	onnection.com		
Contact: Sales:	Geoff Matthews g.matt@me.com	619-571-3393		
Other:	Johana Matthews johana@me.com	619-571-3592		
Services:	1			
		2016		

DUNCAN RV REPAIR

Elkhart, IN 46516 574-296-7555

Pam Duncan

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10

Joe Rose

Website: Email: Contact: Service: Services:

www.duncanrvrepair.com pam@duncanrvrepair.com 574-296-7555 ext. 2134 pam@duncanrvrepair.com

574-296-7555

2Q16

EAGLE'S PRIDE RV, INC. Website: www.eaglespride.com Email: eaglespride@yahoo.com Contact: Mike & Joshua Thibeau 321-383-0288 321-383-4495 Sales: Carrie Wilmer Service: Joshua Thibeau 321-383-0288 1, 2, 3, 6 Services: 2016



SERVICE SPONSORS (CONT.)



V	Vebsite:	www.integrityrvservice.co	om
C	Contact:	Dean Woodruff	770-693-1186
		dean.irvsc@gmail.com	
S	Service:	Dean Woodruff	770-693-1186
		dean.irvsc@gmail.com	
F	arts:	Eddie Adams	770-693-1186
		irvsc.parts@gmail.com	770-693-1186
S	Services:	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	



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Contact:

Lloyd DeGerald 501-258-8426

Services: 1 (AquaHot)

Website: Email: Contact: Service:

Services:

www.lee-smith.com dkissinger@lee-smith.com Taylor Vinson 423-622-4161 Mike Suggs 423-648-6404

1, 2, 6

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 M&N	A RV ELECT (RV ELECTRICA 205 North Main Str Ohio City, OH 458 419-965-2662	L) eet
Website: Email:	www.mmrvelectror mmrvelectronics@ya	
Contact:	Mark Bayus	419-965-2662
Services:	1	
		2016

SERVICE SPONSORS (CONT.)



R	AQUAHOT) (AQUAHOT) 537 Sandy Creek Dr. Brandon, FL 33511 813-770-7590	īC.
Email: Contact: Service:	<i>plancy2001@yahoo.com</i> Paul Lancy Paul Lancy	813–770-7590 813–770-7590
Services:	1 (AquaHot)	

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THE LAST WORD

Now that MS 2016 is behind us, I would like to take the opportunity to point out one group without whom the Maintenance Session could not have been the overwhelming success that we all agree it was. That group, unrecognized but certainly not silent in this issue is the MS Leadership Team itself. In article after article they have heaped accolades on the volunteers who did the work every day to care for our participants' needs. They, too, deserve some well-earned words of appreciation.

The corps of volunteers withstood unpleasant weather to get coaches parked, weighed, sniffed, and serviced. They arranged and rearranged furniture, and made sure the A/V equipment was in place and working. They prepared and served sumptuous hospitality fare and stood before rooms of participants in search of knowledge.

But our dedicated volunteers could not have been successful in their endeavors without the work of the Leadership Team. These "super-volunteers" devoted countless hours and boundless amounts of energy to plan, organize, and put in place everything that the rest of us needed to fulfill our responsibilities.

The MS Leadership Team began in earnest its work for MS 2016 in Webster, Florida last January and continued through the end of the MS. And after most of us went home with pleasant memories of the MS and the people we met there, the Leadership Team will begin the preparations for next year's Maintenance Session. They will study the Evaluation Report and take note of the areas in which we excelled; and they will also pay attention to the aspects of the event that might be made better. And in January the Board of Directors and the MS Leadership Team will meet and officially begin the preparations for MS 2017.

This year was my first opportunity to observe this group at work, and I can assure you that they take their responsibilities seriously.

All of these people deserve our thanks for giving so much of themselves for such a long time so that we could have one week to immerse ourselves in seminars, RV service, accessory purchases, and enjoy the camaraderie of the event. We owe much of the success of this MS to **John Jones**, President; **Jim Grossman**, Vice President & MS Coordinator; **Paulette Jones**, Database Manager; **Robert Kiser**, Treasurer; **Jane Grossman**, Volunteer Coordinator; **Ray Blush**, Building & Grounds Coordinator; **Deb Isett**, Administrative Coordinator; **Lynn Yeargain**, Food Service Coordinator; **Dempsey Brooks**, Commercial Liaison; and **Bill Farmer**, Vendor Liaison.

To my mind, all of these leaders have earned the Navy's traditional compliment for exceptional performance of duty.



Roger Smalley

Ramblin' Pushers Newsletter Editor & Publisher

WE REMEMBER...

We are saddened to note the passing in the last year of these members of Chapter 419, The Ramblin' Pushers. We carry them in our memories of past Maintenance Sessions. May they rest in peace.

Bob Brinkley Norma Blair Terry Bootle Maddie Boucher Ben Brock Elwood Burger Lynn Cannon Sue DeBoer John "Jack" Duke Charles Edge Lorraine Gangai Larry Gannon Bud Gardiner Donna Gerner Bert Gobber JB Hamlet Nancy Kast Glenn MacMillan Bill Osterhoudt George Mitchell Carlene Pengree Susan Peterson Duncan Scott Patsy Stone Ken Simpson JoAnn Thatcher Bobby Todd Ray Velasquez Ed Willis

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MS 2017 Things To Do:

 Come back next year.
Serve your fellow participants as a volunteer.
Meet fellow REV diesel coach owners and invite them to attend the MS.

Let's make MS 2017 the best yet!



Ramblin' Pushers 412 Walnut Street # 3294 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-3443



