



27 Years of Ramblin' & Still Pushin'



CORNER

I want to thank all of you for showing confidence in my leadership by electing me President of the Ramblin' Pushers. I will do my best to continue to earn that confidence.

In this newsletter you will find numerous columns and articles about our just completed Maintenance Session, May 4-10, in Goshen, Indiana. Many of you expressed your strong support and thanks before we left the closing dinner.

box, with HR coaches alone, we would have had 157 rigs this year. Virtually all of our growth has been in the other brands.

You can also see how our marketing plan (ably chaired by Roger Smalley, and assisted by his wife Carol chairing the membership committee) is paying off. Without all of those First-Timer coaches, we would have not met our attendance goals. You should also note the percentage of First-Timers that are a non-HR REV Recreation brand.

Year	Total Coaches	Holiday Rambler	Other REV Brands	First Timers	First Timer HR	F/T Other REV Brands
2014	260	237	23	48	34	14
2015	224	199	25	48	35	13
2016	214	156	58	61	20	41
2017	239	157	82	58	16	42

The most important news about the MS is that we turned the corner, and are now showing growth. See our attendance figures in the box below. That compares favorably to almost any other recreational vehicle club.

I am frequently asked why those numbers are important. Why couldn't we have continued the MS as a Holiday Rambler only event? When we fall below 200 coaches, it becomes much more difficult to attract quality vendors, dealers, service providers, and seminar presenters. While I was signing up seminar presenters and John Jones was finding vendors, the first question that we were asked was, "How many coaches are you expecting this year?" As you can see in that same

In addition to growing the maintenance session, your officers and Board of Directors are determined to be good stewards of your hard earned dollars. We constantly hear ... "the MS is a great bargain, how do you put it on for that price, other RV events cost much more." We work quite hard at running the event in a professional manner.

Before leaving Goshen, we checked our agreement with the Fairgrounds and realized that we had only two more years of a five year contract. We inquired about options for extending the contract past 2019. We were able

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RAMBLIN' PUSHERS NEWSLETTER

Mission

To provide information to our members and associates to help them safely and properly operate and maintain their Holiday Rambler and other REV 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.

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to negotiate an extension through 2022, with minimal increases in camping and building usage fees. Depending on other cost increases like food, we now expect to be able to offer you continued value for five more years.

Unlike other RV organizations our officers, board, and committee all serve as volunteers with no reimbursements, perks, or comps for mileage or event fees.

If you want to hear about our event from another source, read about it in the RV Business article elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

Now that the MS is behind us, Jane and I have begun to think about travel plans for the summer. We are planning to attend the HRRVC Eastern International Rally in Amana, Iowa in July. If we do not see you there, we hope to see you sometime down the road, and definitely look forward to seeing you again in Goshen in May 2018.

Happy Trails,

Jim Grossman

President, Ramblin' Pushers

Cover Photo

The title block photo for this issue is Dan and Jean Kaser's 2008 Monaco Diplomat. The photo was taken in the Shady Acres RV Park (Fort Myers, FL) in March 2016.

Cover Photos Needed

We are running short of title block photos. Now that the summer travel season is upon us, take some uncluttered campsite photos and send them to ramblinpushersnewsed@gmail.com. All REV brands are welcome. Identify the coach model and year, owners names, location, and date the photo.



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Officers and Directors

From Left: Paul Miller, Director; Paul Pronze, Director; Dick Hohorst, Treasurer; Glenna Alexander, Secretary; Ray Blush, Vice President; Matt Libby, Director; Jim Grossman, President; Hugh Skidmore, Director; John Jones, Immediate Past President

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IN THIS ISSUE

The 2017 Maintenance Session is now in the record book. We are pleased to see that both in total attendance and in First-Timers we have seen improvement compared to recent years. All of that is good news and the articles submitted by the President, MS Coordinator and several MS Committee chairpersons attest to that fact. All of them agree that the success of the MS is made possible by the efforts of our team of very capable volunteers.

Now, while it's still fresh in our minds, is the best time to start thinking about MS 2018. Some questions comes to mind. What can we do to make next year even better than this year?

How can we make our participation numbers continue to grow toward our goal of 300 coaches? How will we adapt to the changing environment in the RV industry and affiliated organizations? What can each of us do to make our event appeal to eligible coach owners who have not yet attended their first Maintenance Session?

Some of these questions are easy to answer. The best way for all of us to contribute to the success of the event is to volunteer. There are many volunteer opportunities that are neither complicated nor burdensome. More volunteers for Info/Trans spreads the load thinner for all the rest, so fewer or shorter shifts are required to help move people around the fairgrounds. Everyone appreciates a ride in bad weather and the drivers get to meet a lot of nice, friendly, grateful people.

Hospitality goes faster and smoother with volunteers to help serve, set-up, and clean up. We all enjoy the fare; why not pitch in and join the crew?

Sure, most of us are retired, but we all bring our professional skills with us to the Ramblin' Pushers organization. Trained in medical procedures? Let Mitch Butler know and joining the First Aid team. Did you work in electronics? The A/V equipment is essential for almost all of our seminar sessions, and the A/V team keeps it all working. That might be the place for you.

Are you a crafter? The Education Committee would like to offer more craft classes next year. Do you have a project that is compatible with the RV lifestyle—needle work, candle making, rug hooking, quilting, digital photography, wood carving, what else? We want to offer a variety of sessions over the next few years.

Almost every seminar should have a host to introduce the presenter, give the audience instructions, request volunteer evaluators, keep the session on time, and get help for any problems that might arise. This year this area was somewhat understaffed. If about 25 people would volunteer to serve as hosts, this job would be easy for everyone.

Serving as an MS volunteer makes you part of the team.

Volunteers are what make the MS and the Ramblin' Pushers work. But as the info-mercials always say, "just wait—there's more." Volunteering is also good for the volunteer. We work as teams. We rely on each other to do our jobs well. We get to know and like the people we work with. To be a volunteer is to be part of the organization. It's the best way to enjoy the MS.

There are no rules concerning who can volunteer in the MS organization. Everyone who owns an eligible coach is welcome to attend, or more to the point, to participate. As Jim Grossman pointed out in the President's Corner, growth of both the organization and the event is coming largely from the Monaco, Fleetwood, and American Coach and other REV brands.

As you read through this *Newsletter*, think about how you can give some of your time and talent to making the MS a better experience for everyone—especially yourself. And if you see nothing that appeals to you, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jane Grossman, and ask how you might help.

Special Note: Sandy Lindhout assisted with the photography at the MS this year. Sandy's skill in composition is evident in her photos. Many appear in this *Newsletter*. If you like a photo you see here, chances are good that it is one of Sandy's. Her work is appreciated very much.



FROM THE MS COORDINATOR

It takes a few days to decompress, relax, and reflect on the MS before I can even look at all that took place, let alone evaluate the event. And, then I have to read your evaluations through several times before I can think about it all.

The maintenance session is distinctly unique in the RV industry. Where else can you learn about every system on your coach, get answers to your questions and concerns from true experts or owners of similar rigs, get service on those items, or have your annual preventive maintenance completed? And for those of us who no longer enjoy the thrill of do-it-yourself, when we are in Elkhart County, we rest easy knowing the repair on our coach is most likely getting done right.

Yes, we know the weather in northern Indiana in late April to early May will be dicey. No, we have no plans to change the date. We purposely sandwich the MS between those returning north from playing winter visitors, snowbirds, etc., and those embarking on summer adventures. No, we will not physically relocate the event from the motor home capital of the world. We must hold our event where we receive the outstanding support of REV Recreation Group, Freightliner, all of the OEMs, service providers, dealers, and vendors.

Overall, you rated the MS quite highly. You gave us high marks for overall value, use of your time, and accomplishing our mission. Therefore, we do not intend to make wholesale changes. But besides the complaints about weather in northern Indiana, there were some genuinely sincere concerns. We are not perfect, and so we promise to address those items that need attention. Many of you were kind enough to include your name on your evaluation, and I consider that permission to contact you for additional clarification and perhaps help from you in solving your concern.

I have so many people to thank for the overall success of the Maintenance Session. My coach and mentor was our outgoing President, John Jones. My 5 Assistant Coordinators, Ray Blush and Matt Libby, Building and Grounds; Deb Isett, Administration; Roger Smalley, Education; and John Jones, Commercial Activities, truly made the MS what it was. Working under them was an entire

committee, carefully listed in Jane Grossman's column on volunteers.

Every committee performed well, but I must give special mention to a few. Working under rather adverse weather conditions were Parking (Tom Knight and Ralph Erb), Greetings (Joyce Knight and Barb Pease), and Info-Trans (Dennis Hill and Ray Cupples), and Coach Weighing (Jerry Davis and Ed Francis). We also must mention the First-Timer Guides (Doug Lindhout and Harry Hentschel) who took a new idea and turned it into reality. Also working under difficult situations of a different kind was Lynn Yeargain, who performed her usual magic with morning hospitality, two socials, the ice cream social, and closing dinner.

Besides the assistant coordinators, MS committee leads and assistants, there were more than 250 volunteers. Thanks to all of you from a very grateful MS Coordinator.

Lastly, may I offer a personal thanks to the two leading ladies of the Ramblin' Pushers. Former First Lady Paulette Jones kept the data base perfectly organized. And, thank you to incoming First Lady Jane Grossman who handled volunteers, along with major help in technical seminars, manufacturer relations, and keeping the Coordinator under control at most times.

Now I pass the reins of the MS on to Ray Blush. It has been a rewarding two years being your MS Coordinator, and more than 5 additional years in the educational arm of the MS committee. During that time I am proud of the progress we have made with Mentors and First-Timer outreach and orientation. The responses to the new nametags were also gratifying this year.

Thank you to all of you for volunteering and participating. Fulfilling our mission makes it all

Jim Grossman

2017 Maintenance Session Coordinator
President, Ramblin' Pushers



...AND WHAT A GREAT MS IT WAS!

Life is slowly settling down after a terrific MS (and just in time to begin planning MS 2018!).

All of us involved in seeing that attendees get the most out of the MS owe a lot of gratitude to the more than 200 people who volunteered to make things work as well as they did. Parkers and Greeters were working before many others even left home to get to Goshen, IN. And in those early days of parking, the weather was m-i-s-e-r-a-b-l-e!

It was a fine way to start each morning with Lynn Yeargain's Morning Hospitality which took many volunteers' time the night before and more time the morning of the hospitality to get things in order. And of course, it was a lot easier getting to that daily morning event and other places each day thanks to those Information and Transportation folks with the green caps who drove the golf carts!

About 20% of the coaches requested that our Propane Sniffers check out their systems. The three men who volunteered for this task this year accomplished their mission in grand style and found some propane leaks that could have, if not detected, resulted in some serious safety matters.

The First Aid volunteers were there each morning taking blood pressures for those who wanted to know how hard their hearts were working. And there were multiple occasions during the MS where First Aid was called to help out in medical emergencies.

Of particular note was the water emergency we faced due to a construction incident down the street. We were notified that we should not use the fairgrounds water without boiling it. Upon receiving this word, the fairgrounds promptly printed 300 warning notices and our Ramblin' Pusher volunteers quickly responded to the need to

get them distributed to every coach. The volunteers were just as prompt when asked to help get out the "all clear" notification a couple of days later.

It is such a pleasure to work with all of the various different MS committees and organizations, and I must tell you that one area that gets little notice is a group of people in what we call "Engineering." They are problem preventers and solvers. They handle tables and chairs changes daily in all of the rooms we use and the office, they insure we have adequate heating in all of our buildings, they work to see we have proper electricity and water, and they spend a lot of their time gathering all of the equipment, signs, coffee pots, banners, coach weighing equipment, and more from a couple of dozen miles away. They then see that all of that equipment is returned following our MS. They have a slogan they follow daily: "Keep Everybody Happy" and what a good job they do!

We had more First Timers this year than ever before, and it was most impressive to see how many of them volunteered to help.

I sincerely hope each of you has a wonderful year with safe travels wherever you may go, and we all are looking forward to another exciting MS next year at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds!

Ray Blush

2017 Building & Grounds Co-Coordinator
2018 Maintenance Session Coordinator



ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

The Ramblin' Pushers annual business meeting took place on Monday, 8 May 2017. President John Jones presented a brief report on the state of the chapter and turned the meeting over to Larry Hawkins, Nominating Committee Chair. Larry 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, Jim Grossman; Vice President, Ray Blush; Secretary, Glenna Alexander; and Treasurer, Dick Hohorst.

The slate included two nominees for Director, Paul Miller and Paul Pronze. Ray Cupples was nominated from the floor. Paul Miller and Paul Pronze were elected to two-year terms. Matt Libby and Hugh Skidmore 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.



Jim Grossman
President



Ray Blush
Vice-President



Dick Hohorst
Treasurer



Glenna Alexander
Secretary



Paul Pronze
Director



Paul Miller
Director



ADMINISTRATION

Another successful Maintenance Session has come to an end, and the planning for 2018 has already begun! Volunteers are what make the event. Thank you to all the chairpeople and their 60+ volunteers for the hours they worked to make the 2017 MS a success.

The Greeters were led by Joyce Knight and Barb Pease. This was a hardy team who braved the weather to make everyone welcome as they arrived. First impressions are everything, and these volunteers brightened up everyone's day.

Goodie Bags were filled by the team of Julia McKay and Pat Henderson, assisted by a production line of assistants. Everyone enjoys digging through the goody bags to see what treasures they find.

Registration was led by Judi Libby and Tonia Ahlmeyer. Together with a team of volunteers, the check-in process worked smoothly for everyone. New arrivals were met at the door and directed to their first stop at the treasurer's table. Then to the arrival packet distribution table and on to the sign up station where participants could choose among the opportunities and activities available.

The MS Office was led by Sandi Gardner. She and her office staff provided assistance with attendees' needs throughout the MS and did it with real professionalism.

Evaluations was led by Renae Butler assisted by yet another team of volunteers. They sorted through the pile of evaluation forms collected at the closing dinner and created data sheets that compiled the entries from the evaluation items. Their work made it possible for the MS leadership to get a report of the evaluation results shortly after the MS closed.

No matter if you work one or many shifts, we could not have done it without you.

We're always looking for volunteers. Why not consider volunteering in one of these areas in 2018?

A BIG thank you to all,

Deb Isett

Administrative Activities Chair





VOLUNTEERS WRAP-UP A BIG THANK YOU

The Maintenance Session for 2017 received wonderful reviews from the participants, the vendors and the dealers. And yes, it is all because of the volunteers--because there is no one in our group who is NOT a volunteer. **A HUGE THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE** to all 250+ who volunteered and made this year's event so successful. Many, many of you did more than one job, and I am sure there were more who just pitched in where needed. Again, thank you. The MS couldn't have happened without you.

The MS Coordinator is responsible for making the entire event happen. All volunteers report to him and the "buck stops there." **Jim Grossman**, as coordinator, and **Ray Blush** as assistant coordinator, were great leaders. They chose area coordinators well and then let them do their jobs. They were always there to help and guide. They stepped in when necessary and did whatever was needed in order to have the best MS ever. Thank you, gentlemen.

A special thank you to **Paulette Jones**. A partial list of what she did included keeping track of all registrations (and cancellations), what nights were paid for, sending me your volunteer requests from your registration form, printing the locator cards, printing the special name tags and packet labels, keeping track of arrival dates and how many coaches are on the fairground each night, designing and printing many forms, and keeping track of all that was going on. As data base manager, and assistant to the President, she kept EVERYTHING straight.

The Administrative Area was extremely well run by **Deb Isett** and her capable chairs. **Sandi Gardner** (office) and her volunteers did a great job taking care of forms, sign ups, answering questions and doing whatever it took to make the office run smoothly. **Julia McKay** and **Pat Henderson** (goodie bags) and crew arrived early to stuff 250 bags to give out at registration. **Judi Libby** and **Tonia Ahlmeyer** (registration), with the help of a terrific team, stuffed, labeled, and customized the registration/welcome packets, and ran the registration table. **Joyce Knight** and **Barb Pease** (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) and staff of 12 collected all the evaluation forms for the event and closing dinner. The entire evaluations committee stayed an extra day and spent Thursday morning after the MS tallying. Every comment was read and noted. Well done, all.

Under **Ray Blush**, with help from **Matt Libby**, the Building and Grounds workers were again the best! Under their leadership, **Dan Poythress**, and **George Sakmar** (audio visual), **Jerry Davis** and **Ed Francis** (coach weighing), **Paul Miller** and **Paul Pronze** (engineering), **Mitch Butler**, **Linda Blush**, and **Bart Mix** (first aid), **Jim Isett** and **Ray Cupples** (golf carts), **Dennis Hill** and **Ray Cupples** (info-trans), **Tom Knight** and **Ralph Erb** (parking), **Gordon Owenby**, **Don Whitehead**, and **Rod Ahlmeyer** (propane sniffing), all did a job beyond compare. I can't tell you how much they are needed and appreciated.

An extra special mention and kudos go to **Tom Knight** and **Ralph Erb** and their parking crew, and well as **Joyce Knight**, **Barb Pease** and the greeters. As everyone knows, on the the early parking and arrival days the weather was as cold and rainy as any of us can remember during an MS. The parking system worked great, and everything went so smoothly in spite of the circumstances. Thank you all!

The educational area includes scheduling and seminars, printer interface, mentors, seminar hosts and tours. **Roger Smalley** did a great job as Educational Coordinator. He made sure everything got done (and on schedule). For the second year in a row, due to illness, **Jim Grossman** had to step up at the last minute and take over seminars and scheduling. With the help of **Beth Pankoski**, they lined up almost 100 seminars put on by vendors, service providers, Ramblin' Pushers members, and more, then scheduled and assigned rooms to all. **Julia Nicholas** then put the program book together. **Roger Smalley** did the printer interface, running

back and forth to deliver and pick up all our printing needs. **Dave Mallory** and **Dave Malcom** and their mentoring volunteers (some husband/wife teams) answered questions to help other coach owners. **John Jones** arranged for the REV tours to be held after the MS. **Roger Smalley** set up the tours to MORryde, and Precision Painting. **Larry Hawkins** and **Carol Smalley** made sure all seminars had a host to introduce and thank the speaker, and pass out and collect the seminar evaluation forms.

New this year were the First-Timer Guides under **Doug Lindhout** and **Harry Hentschel**. What an outstanding job they did to organize, recruit, train, and supervise 37 couples who volunteered to help orient all the first timers. This new program got rave reviews. Well done, Doug and Harry!

The book exchange was again successfully put together by **Joyce Miller**. The RV related flea market was handled by **JoAnne Wiery**. Amish dinners/theatre were well organized by **Bonnie** and **Ray 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, all.

We certainly can't forget our dealers, service providers, and vendors, all of whom were lined up, and signed up, by **John Jones** and **Hugh Skidmore**. The dealers not only brought their coaches to sell, but sponsored lunches, and many helped serve at morning hospitality.

Of course, without **Lynn Yeargain** heading up a huge crew in the kitchen, we would not have had such great food. In spite of a hail storm at her home that did damage to her house and totaled her coach and car, she managed to arrive 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, put together the socials, including the outstanding ice cream social, 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. And many thanks go to **Judi Libby** and **Joyce Knight** for organizing the collection to help Lynn with the extra expense it took for her to get to Goshen this year. And we can't forget **Harvey Payne** who arranges for Holy Smokes to be our outside food vendor.

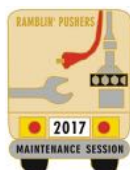
We cannot forget a few more individuals that made us feel welcome at all times, **Larry Hawkins** our chaplain, **Roger Smalley** and **Sandy Lindhout** our official photographers, **Ray Blush** our master of ceremonies, and the Ramblin' Pushers who are also members of the HRRVC Chapter 421, the Military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

Jane Grossman
Volunteer Chair

THANK YOU TO ALL.

TOGETHER WE MADE THE 2017 MAINTENANCE SESSION ONE FANTASTIC EVENT.
NEXT YEAR WE'LL DO IT AGAIN....SEE YOU THEN.





EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee is responsible for the areas of Seminars & Scheduling, RV & Family Lifestyle, the Program Book and Pocket Schedule, Printer Interface, Seminar Hosts, Off-Site Tours, Roundtables, First-Timer Guides, and Mentors. It must be emphasized once again, that all of these efforts are performed by volunteers who are willing to give of their knowledge, skill, and time to make the annual event run smoothly. These volunteers performed their tasks flawlessly and their work was essential to the overall success of the MS.

The mission of the Ramblin' Pushers is to provide information to our members to help them operate and maintain their motor homes in a safe and proper manner. To that end we scheduled 104 seminars that addressed the technical, safety, and maintenance aspects of diesel motor home ownership. We also scheduled 14 non-technical sessions that addressed health and wellness, personal care, and topics of general interest such as craft projects, genealogy, and RV-specific cooking skills.

It is no mean feat to contact the long list of suppliers, service providers, technical representatives, and Ramblin' Pushers members and persuade them to present a seminar in their fields of expertise at times and in places not always of their preference—all at their own expense. To do that requires long hours and countless phone calls. This year that work was done by the team of **Jim Grossman, Jane Grossman, Beth Pankoski, and Bob Tucker**.

The completed schedule, a long and complicated spreadsheet of event details, was sent to **Julia Nicholas** in time for her to make it into the clear presentation that appeared as part of the Program Book and Pocket Schedule. **Carol Smalley** and I worked with a local printing firm in Goshen to print and assemble the multitude of books, forms, information sheets, and other materials used throughout the week.

Dave Mallory led the Mentors who provided technical and operational information to participants who might not have arrived with a clear understanding of all of the equipment that makes up a diesel motor home.

The Seminar Hosts are the folks who make presenters feel comfortable, address their technical

needs, introduce the speaker to the audience and remind everyone to silence their electronic devices for the duration of the session. **Larry Hawkins** and **Carol Smalley** coordinated this effort and a team of fewer than 20 hosts fulfilled this need.

The First-Timer Guides were ably led by **Doug Lindhout** whose report of the program's success may be found elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. But I want to underscore the importance of this new function as First-Time registrants begin to understand the nature of our event and prepare for it.

Participants form their impression of the event in the first 24 hours or so. The Guides did much to make that period a positive time and to help their first-timers form a favorable impression.

The evidence of the Guides' success is found in the fact that 41 out of 49 (84%) first-timers who marked this item in the evaluation said that they intend to return to the MS in the future, and 52 out of 72 (72%) intend to return next year. That should be exciting news to the entire Ramblin' Pushers organization.

While the MS Evaluations collected at the closing dinner presented overwhelmingly favorable results, there was one area that needs attention: that area is RV Lifestyle on-site activities. Several respondents expressed their disappointment at the small number of activities such as craft classes and other non-technical topics that were presented. I want everyone to know that the MS leadership team is aware of your disappointment and shares it with you.

There were too many last minute cancellations by presenters throughout the week of the MS. The loss of one presenter resulted in the cancellation of all craft activities, and the loss of two others did further damage to this aspect of the program. I want to assure you that next year we will offer a much more robust program of non-technical topics and events. Some of you will be contacted to help in this area. We want everyone who attends the MS to be thoroughly involved and have a completely satisfying experience.

Roger Smalley

Educational Program Committee



SEMINARS

A funny thing happened on the way to the MS. For the second year in a row, the person working on seminars had to drop out due to his own or family health issues. So, once again, Jane and I picked up the slack and organized the technical seminars.

You already know that there were too many seminars and too little time to attend them all. We had our usual favorites from most of the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) who make the devices that REV assembles into and onto our coaches. Many of you took advantage of 5 hours of sessions by Cummins and Allison on Monday to get answers to every question you could think of about your power train. We are sorry that we could not support the MaxxForce engine owners again this year. Their representative was lined up, but cancelled at the last minute. We are looking for another source of support in that area for 2018.

If you read the articles on manufacturer relations, you will see more about our outstanding seminar support from Atwood and LCI (Lippert), as well as REV Recreation Group and Freightliner. By the way, we are talking about conducting Freightliner Boot Camp at the MS next year.

I want to highlight a couple of new seminars this year. Craig French and Van Williams shared their hard earned knowledge about Roadmaster Chassis handling issues in two seminars that each drew over 100 participants. Georgiann Voissem of Inspired Rep gave informative seminars about Roadmaster towbars and supplemental braking systems and also provided routine maintenance to Roadmaster towbar owners. This is the first time that we have had support from them. We also had new participation from Coach-Net roadside assistance, who presented a seminar this year.

We constantly hear that our vendors made their seminars too much of an infomercial rather than an informative, educational presentation. Rest assured that we do provide guidelines and information about that very aspect of our seminars. And, in some cases, we have had to tell them that they were no longer welcome at the MS. Please, keep providing your feedback to us on this very important matter.

You continue to tell us how much you appreciate the help and information that you receive at your

roundtable. Thank you to all of the roundtable facilitators. Some even want us to expand the roundtables in the schedule. You are not limited to Sunday evening. We encourage you to continue the discussions and friendships that begin in roundtables to the next day and beyond.

I would be remiss not to mention the great work done by Julia Nicholas on her rookie year of producing the Program Book and Pocket Schedule, with guidance and coaching from Paulette Jones. Yes, we know the type font size in the Pocket Schedule is small. Please, remember, that at your request we packed more information into the Pocket Schedules, and they still have to fit in your pocket. I am also grateful to Paulette Jones for posting schedule updates on the website, as well as Carol Smalley for producing the room signs with each day's schedule.

As always, we welcome your suggestions for future seminars, vendors, and service providers.

Jim Grossman

Seminars & Scheduling





FIRST-TIMER GUIDES PROGRAM INAUGURAL A SUCCESS!

Each of us attends the MS for our own reasons and each of us has our own expectations for what we will derive from it. For those of us who have been to multiple MSs, we have honed our list through experience. Perhaps it's the yearly maintenance on our engine or a wash & wax job or maybe getting a new set of tires, or perhaps we can set the stage for an interior remodeling project, etc. And of course, the seminars!

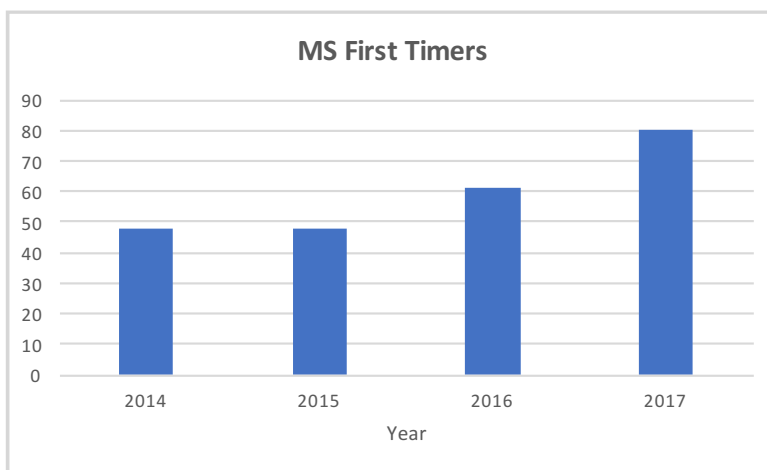
But what about those who have no experience, who are coming to the event for the very first time? While some First Timers may know someone who has attended and has some notion of what takes place at the MS, most know little more than that it exists and that someone claimed that it was probably worth their time.

How can the organization help those First Timers wring the most out of their week? This is not a new question and the concern has been growing, especially with the increased numbers of First Timers since we opened the MS to our sister REV brand coaches. The chart above shows how First Timer attendance has jumped since 2015.

The First Timer Program started with an idea based on a similar program that the Monaco International group had been using for new rally attendees. From there, the idea grew to accommodate what the leadership of Ramblin' Pushers wanted as their own goals and objectives. By the time it got to me, there was a pretty clear outline of what the program should accomplish, so away I went to figure out how to make it happen.

The overall objective is straightforward – provide an effective orientation to the first time registrants before they arrive at the Maintenance Session and then assure they get off to a good start. The challenge then was two-fold - what to share with the First Timers, and how best to communicate it.

We wanted to share a clear message about what the MS was, and just as importantly, what it was not. We communicated that education and coach service were the primary elements, with a nice side of cameraderie for some fun. In order to effectively communicate all that, 38 First Timer Guides (mostly husband/wife teams) were recruited. This allowed a much more personalized experience for everyone involved.



We wanted to begin our contact with the First Timers early. Emails went out to each of the First Timers as their registrations came in. We introduced them to the First Timer Program and let them know that a First Timer Guide would be in contact.

The 2017 Maintenance Session had 80 First Timer coaches in attendance. This means there were approximately 160 First Timer people. I assigned each Guide a couple of First Timer coaches and they picked up the conversation through a series of phone calls and emails.

From every piece of feedback I received, the program was a success. The First Timers I spoke to thought the information we shared prepared them to make the most of what the MS had to offer. The Guides were very pleased that they could provide help to others in a meaningful way. And everyone was happy because it was a great way to meet new people!

The Ramblin' Pushers leadership believes the First Timer Program will be a key part of maintaining the health of the organization. We know that not everyone can attend the MS every year – work, health, budget, etc. all shape our activities.

However, we certainly do not want to lose a future attendee because of a bad first experience. It is easy to believe that a positive first MS experience will more likely lead to a second MS attendance next year or down the road and that is what we want!

The First Timer Program is off to a great start. The volunteer Guides get the credit for how well this program worked. I am very grateful for your efforts and my heartfelt thanks goes to those who volunteered to be a Guide this year.

If the First Timer attendance grows as much next year as it did this year, we could have well over 100 First Timer coaches. What a great challenge to have!

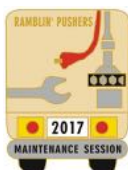
It's not too early to volunteer your time as a Guide for next year!!! Contact Paul Pronze, 2018 First Timer Program Coordinator -

pcpronze@yahoo.com

Doug Lindhout

First-Timer Guides Coordinator





1ST-TIMER RECEPTION

Carrie Buisman and the Cummins Sales & Service crew deserve our thanks. Each year Cummins Sales & Service, Fort Wayne, hosts a reception for our First-Timers.

This is the event in which our president and others welcome our newest participants to the MS and make announcements of interest to all. Cummins provides a selection of delicious hors d'oeuvres and beverages served by hospitality volunteers. First-Timers have an opportunity to meet their

Guides face-to-face, often for the first time. Also in attendance are MS Mentors and members of the Ramblin' Pushers board.

The 2017 First-Timers reception was attended by approximately 200 people all of whom were able to enjoy a very pleasant evening.

We extend our thanks to Cummins Sales & Service, Fort Wayne, for their generous support.







IN THE NEWS

The following article appeared in the March 8, 2017 edition of *RV Business*, an online daily report of news about the RV industry, the companies that it comprises, and events that affect the industry

overall. According to the report, the RV segment of REV has shown impressive growth in its financial performance compared to the same quarter a year ago.

REV Reports 18.8% Gain in First Quarter Sales*

REV Group Inc. (REVG) reported results for its fiscal first quarter, ended Jan. 31, representing the company's first issuance of earnings since being listed on NASDAQ. Through its RV division, REV Group builds motorhomes under the Fleetwood, Holiday Rambler, Monaco, American Coach and Renegade RV brands.

Consolidated net sales in the first quarter of 2017 were \$442.9 million, growing 18.8% over the first quarter 2016. The increase was driven predominately by strong growth in its Fire & Emergency and Recreation segments. REV Group also had strong growth in first quarter 2017 in aftermarket parts sales, which grew 10.4% over first quarter 2016 as the company continues to execute on its growth strategies.

The Milwaukee-based company's first quarter 2017 net loss was \$13.3 million, or 26 cents per diluted share. The net loss was negatively impacted by a number of one-time items which included a \$25.5 million before-tax stock compensation charge, due to its initial public offering (IPO) for stock options awarded prior to the IPO. REV Group's IPO took place on Jan. 27 and closed on Feb. 1. Adjusted net income for the first quarter was \$5.7 million, or 11 cents per diluted share, compared to \$3.9 million, or 7 cents per diluted share in the first quarter of fiscal 2016.

Adjusted EBITDA in the first quarter 2017 was \$21.1 million, representing growth of 40.4% over adjusted EBITDA of \$15 million in the first quarter 2016. The increase in Adjusted EBITDA was driven by a number of factors including higher vehicle sales, strong aftermarket parts sales, lower discounts for certain vehicle categories, and ongoing procurement and production cost optimization efforts.

REV Group President and CEO, Tim Sullivan said, "We are pleased to report strong results for our initial quarter as a public company. Our first quarter 2017 results demonstrate solid execution of the ongoing plan to scale our 27 market-leading specialty vehicle brands and meet our long-term target of generating company-wide Adjusted EBITDA margins of 10%. Our strategic efforts to increase profitability were evident in our results. Sales growth was driven by strong end-market demand, gains in market share and our new product initiatives. Our strong results serve as a testament to the hard work of our employees who are executing our strategies on a daily basis."

*Posted on *RV Business*, March 8, 2017, (no byline). Emphasis added. Used with permission.

RAMBLIN' PUSHERS IN THE NEWS!

REV Pushers Rally Draws 300 Fairgrounds Coaches

Expanding from its core membership base, Ramblin' Pushers Chapter 419 welcomed over 300 coaches to its national rally at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds in Goshen which, for the first time, included the entire stable of brands produced by Holiday Rambler parent REV Group Inc.

"The Ramblin' Pushers opened it up to all of our brands," said Jim Jacobs, president of REV Recreation Group, noting that a contingent of American Coach, Fleetwood, Monaco, Beaver and Safari coach owners joined this year's event. "They have always been very supportive of us as a company. It's a lot of fun for the members but it's also extremely educational and there is a lot of value in this annual rally. We will support it for many years to come."



The weeklong event, which kicked off May 4 and closes out Thursday, offers attendees a chance to socialize with fellow coach owners while also providing a service oriented platform with a full slate of technical seminars.

"Many of our owners call it the maintenance rally," offered Don Gephart, marketing manager for REV Recreation Group. "Sure it's about gathering, but for the most part it's how to work on your coach yourself or where to get it fixed. It's all about routine maintenance and how to keep your coach in premier operating condition. It's a good five days of seminars."

"REV is happy to support the 419 Club and do all we can for them," he said. "The other rallies around the country are more regional. The 419 is a national rally and they bring people from all over the country."

Among those in attendance were Wayne and Laura Watson who have been in the Holiday Rambler family since 1971. "We had two travel trailers and then a fifth wheel and finally took the plunge into a diesel pusher motorhome in 1998," said Laura Watson. Her husband added, "It was used and we liked it so much we went and bought a 40 foot 2000 Imperial — a beautiful coach that gave us years of pleasure."

Like many aging owners at the rally, the Watsons downsized to a smaller 36 foot Holiday Rambler Ambassador in 2013. "We were thinking about giving up the lifestyle, but we came to the rally and my wife fell in love with the unit we have now," said Wayne Watson. "We still believe in the club, we still believe in the product," he added. "The one thing that made Holiday Rambler so successful is that their engineers took it into the woods and camped for 30 days so they could find out what works right and what doesn't. I think they could benefit from more of that today."

Donald and Phyllis Pomroy, who hail from Rockport, Ill., just outside of Chicago, are fulltimers that traveled to the rally in their 2012 Holiday Rambler Endeavor after wintering down south. They stay at KOAs, while also working for the KOA system, and change campsites every four to six months.



"The number one thing about the rally is the camaraderie, particularly with folks that have the same kind of coach you have," Donald Pomroy said. "The seminars certainly are very informative. If you have questions, the folks putting on the seminars are quite knowledgeable. The sales and service that you can get for your rig right here is nice. Some of the suppliers change your oil, filters, make any adjustments including updating the computer programs in the transmission."

Phyllis Pomroy added, "They even wash your coach, change your tires, do inspections on your roof and slide toppers to make sure they are all OK, and offer propane tank checks. It's kind of like onestop shopping."

Bill Kasko and his wife, Shirley, who reside in Venice, Fla., travel about half the year in their 2008 Holiday Rambler Imperial. They are the original owners and have logged 110,000 miles.

"We like these rallies because we get to see a lot of old friends," said Bill Kasko. "We learn a lot here and enjoy the vendor support. It's where I buy more stuff and get stuff done on the coach. So far they fixed a door, the door seal, serviced the Aqua Hot, and did a repair on one of the roof trim pieces."

"It's a great rally" he concluded. "The owners get a lot of benefits, learning at the seminars and learning from the various suppliers. This rally is an all business rally where our other rallies tend to be more social."

*Posted on *RV Business*, May 9, 2017, (no byline). Used with permission.



NHTSA RECALL NOTICE

11 March 2017

NHTSA Campaign Number: 17V139000
Manufacturer REV Recreation Group
Components EQUIPMENT
Potential Number of Units Affected 525

Summary

REV Recreation Group (REV) is recalling certain 2015-2016 American Coach American Heritage and American Tradition motorhomes, 2015-2017 American Coach American Revolution and American Coach American Eagle motorhomes, 2016 American Coach American Allegiance motorhomes, 2016-2017 American Coach American Dream motorhomes and 2017 Holiday Rambler Diplomat and Holiday Rambler Scepter motorhomes. The support for the interior steps may have been inadequately secured, possibly resulting in the solid-surface step tread being unstable.

Remedy

REV will notify owners, and dealers will install new screws to properly secure the support for the interior steps, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin April 21, 2017. Owners may contact REV customer service at 1-800-509-3417. REV's number for the recall is 170228REV.

Notes

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.





MANUFACTURER RELATIONS

Once again we had superior support this year for our Maintenance Session from all our manufacturers with a strong commitment for future support. Everything from step recalls being performed on site to having your furnace repaired for free and providing educational seminars, our component manufacturers were there in strength to demonstrate their strong support once again. I know that there were over 20 furnaces repaired at the MS.

Of course, it would have been hard to miss the presence of REV and the support they provided again this year. The service/parts trailer not only provided us with valuable parts but performed 84 free service orders on site. In the vendor area, they once more had their large booth where they sold not only all miscellaneous REV attire but coordinated getting sorely needed parts from the factory for our attendees. The REV executives were there in strength starting with my round table for all RVs on Freightliner chassis for which they provided support. During that session as well as the various scheduled events with the attending REV executives, they answered a lot of very hard questions directly and honestly, making no excuses but taking many notes of our suggestions of things that could be corrected in the future. Jim Jacobs shared with us their manufacturing plans for the future and, while that may have been hard for some

of our attendees to hear, we appreciate his forthright discussion of these plans in this forum.

Again, Freightliner was there supporting our efforts with great seminars, parts for those of us who have Freightliner chassis, and, with the number of us with their chassis growing, their role is ever expanding. We're hoping next year to have a full day class on the Freightliner chassis. Having Freightliner Boot Camp at the Maintenance Session will be a great draw.

I want to express our extreme thanks to both REV and Freightliner for their direct financial support to the Maintenance Session. Without this support, we would not be able to continue keeping the cost of this great educational event so low.

I don't want to forget Cummins Sales and Service who sponsored our First Timers social and provided annual service on site for 164 of our attendees. They have even stepped forward and provided service to attendees with Caterpillar engines.

I hope everyone enjoys their summer travels as I am planning to do.

John Jones

Manufacturer Relations Chair
Immediate Past President





FROM JIM JACOBS, PRESIDENT REV RECREATION GROUP

First off, let me begin by once again saying Thank You for the warm reception and hospitality shown to me and my staff, at the 419 Rally! It was so nice to see so many familiar faces, and meet many of you for the first time at the Maintenance Session in Goshen. I personally always find this rally to be the most informative, and constructive for generating real and valuable product feedback. I promise you, the REV RV team is eager to take that feedback and get to work to provide you with motor homes that you are proud to own.

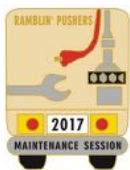
We obviously received some great feedback, and wise counsel from those attending the maintenance sessions. Many of you had some good things to say about your coaches, and of course there were some that had some not so good things to say about their coaches. Believe me, when I say, we take both the good and tough criticism to heart. We know that you are all passionate about this journey and we are thankful and proud that you have chosen to travel with REV. We are already diligently working on an owner feedback program that will include focus groups, as well as some other unique approaches to generating great product ideas.

As I mentioned in Goshen, this year marks the 50 year anniversary of Monaco Coach! And we intend to celebrate that milestone! We are diligently working on an all new line-up of unique products that will once again return Monaco Coach to a position of prominence in the diesel motorhome market. Later this year we will be introducing the all-new Marquis. This well-equipped pusher will set a new standard for years to come for future Monaco Coach products. We will also be introducing the Signature, a high end luxury motor coach that will be offered in multiple floorplan sizes and configurations. The Signature Executive Edition will be our flag ship coach. The Executive Edition will command the road, and lead Monaco Coach into the next 50 years of setting the standard in the luxury coach market – think 600 ponies under the hood, and a list of standard features so long, that even John Jones will be overwhelmed trying to read through them all!

The next few months are going to be very exciting as we prepare all of the new products for the 2018 season. By the time you read this many of the REV RV dealers will have new 2018 products on the lots for you to explore. Please be sure to stop by and check them out.

Again, it was great to meet many of you in Goshen and I look forward to seeing you again next year!

Jim Jacobs
President, REV Recreation Group



REGISTRATION INFORMATION MS 2018

As was announced during the MS, we are officially opening MS 2018 registration for ALL attendees on 1 July 2017. The registration form was distributed at the 2017 MS and is available on the Ramblin' Pushers website and in this *Newsletter*. The registration sequence will be determined by a random drawing from the pool of all registrations postmarked by 1 July 2017. Registrations postmarked after 1 July 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-July when he has received those registrations with a July 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 September.

We have established this schedule so that the Treasurer and Database Manager can enjoy a few weeks off from the duties of their office before beginning to process MS 2018 registrations. They are presently working to finish their 2017 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 hard working volunteers.

Let's all enjoy a few weeks of down time after a very successful 2017 Ramblin' Pushers Maintenance Session.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: 9 NEW COACH OWNERS ATTEND MS 2017

MS 2017 is now a part of our history and the leadership team is already working on next year's event. We want to get out the word about Ramblin' Pushers' Maintenance Session 2018.

John Jones has worked with REV to obtain monthly lists of all new REV diesel pusher owners. In the first two months of this calendar year we sent over 200 letters to those new coach owners and were pleased that of those new owners, nine were with us as First-Timers this year.

About 1/3 of this year's attendees were First-Timers. Credit for this goes to all of you who shared details about our event and registration materials for MS 2017. Informational packets with an updated flyer, a 2017 pocket schedule, and a registration form for MS 2018 were distributed at the closing dinner again this year with the hope

that as you travel the country you will greet others who own REV brand diesel pushers – Holiday Rambler, Monaco, Fleetwood, American Coach, Beaver, and Safari – and speak with them about MS 2018. If you didn't pick up enough packets or if you weren't able to attend this year and would be willing to distribute some, email your address and the number of packets you request to me at rpmembershipchair@gmail.com. I will be happy to forward packets to you. We're counting on you to help spread the word about the the Ramblin' Pushers and the MS.

Carol Smalley

Membership Chair

YOU'RE INVITED if you own a Holiday Rambler, American Coach, Beaver, Fleetwood, Monaco or Safari Diesel Coach

Ramblin' Pushers 2018 Maintenance Session

May 3 – May 9, 2018

You will leave better educated about Use, Care, Safety & Maintenance of your

REGISTRATION

Return this Form with Check or Money
Order made payable to **Ramblin Pushers**:

Ramblin' Pushers Chapter 419
413 Walnut Street #5294
Green Cove Springs, FL
32043-3443

You should receive a confirmation email
about 3 weeks after mailing in your
registration. In early April 2018 pre-arrival
packets will be distributed via email to
registered attendees.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations will only be accepted PRIOR
to MS Early Parking Day and are subject to
a \$20 administration fee.

To cancel you must call 866-208-7411 or
email jim.grossman@sbcglobal.net prior to
5/2/18.

Facilities

Elkhart County 4H Fairgrounds
17746-D CR 34
Goshen, Indiana 46528
GPS: N41.5807 W85.8007

- 7 nights parking starting 5/3/2017
- 30 & 50 Amp sites
- Water, sewer or one free septic truck pump
- Coach weighing/propane leak testing available
- Food vendor on site

Planned Activities

- Opening Session for MS - Friday, May 4 - 9:15 a.m.
- Limited activities 5/2 and 5/3
 - 6 Days of Seminars by Vendors, Suppliers, Club Members and REV Group.
 - RV Lifestyle and Family Sessions
 - Roundtable Discussions
 - Service Technicians available
 - REV Executives Session
 - Coach Displays, Vendors, & Suppliers
 - Socials, Daily Morning Hospitality, and Closing Dinner

Visit our WEBSITE www.ramblinpushers.org
or call 866-208-7411 for more information!

PARKING

Your parking area will be based on the
date your registration is postmarked.

Register EARLY!

To park together, you MUST register together AND arrive together.

Arrival Day parking (5/3) included.
Early parking on 5/2 is an extra \$25.

Please do NOT arrive before May 2 (Early
Parking Day) unless authorized. Arriving
earlier could result in your having to pay
the full fairground camping fee for those
days and then have to move to your
assigned location on Arrival Day.

HANDICAPPED SPACES

Only 19 handicapped spaces are available
and will be assigned based on when
registration is postmarked.

HRRVC assumes no responsibility or liability, nor is any Officer, National Director, or any other 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 from this Maintenance Session or other HRRVC event.

HRRVC or XX#

Vehicle ID # (17 digit VIN)

Names _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Coach Make _____ Model _____ Yr. _____ Length _____ Engine Mfr. _____

Registration Fees: (Payable to Ramblin' Pushers)

Volunteer! Indicate Him or Her or Both if you could help: (No check marks!)

Coach with 2 persons \$250 _____

First Aid _____ Audio/Visual _____ Engineering _____ Parking _____

Coach with 1 person \$200 _____

Info/Trans _____ Coach Weigh _____ Round Table Moderator _____

Extra Person in Coach, add \$70 _____

Seminar Host _____ Mentor _____ Tours Table _____

Non-Ramblin Pushers Member, add \$20 _____

Book Exchange _____ Office _____ Registration _____

Early Parking Day – May 2, add \$25 _____

Goody Bag Prep _____ Greeters _____ Evaluations _____

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (US \$ only) _____

First-Timer Guides _____ As Needed _____

Check if applicable:

Handicapped _____
(Limit of 19)

**ATTACH COPY OF CURRENT
HANDICAPPED PERMIT TO THIS
REGISTRATION.**

Are you a First Timer? _____

If so, how did you hear about the MS?

Club Member _____ Ramblings _____

Other _____

For Office Use ID No _____

Amt Paid _____

Check # _____

Postmarked _____

RAMBLIN' PUSHERS E-GROUP

The Ramblin' Pushers chapter and the Ramblin' Pushers E-Group (https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/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 forum hosted on the Yahoo! website. It is a moderated group, meaning that membership is granted only to qualified persons, those who own a diesel motor coach. Most

participants own either a Holiday Rambler or another brand produced by REV, 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

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.

DEALER SPONSORS

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

2016

DAY BROS. AUTO & RV SALES, LLC

3054 Laurel Road
London, KY 40744
606-877-1530

Website: www.daybrosrvsales.com
Email: ken.day@hotmail.com
Contact: Kenny Day 606-877-1530
Sales: Jerry Lowe 606-877-1530
Service: George Day 606-877-1530
Services: **1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

DEALER SPONSORS (CONT.)

GENERAL RV

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

Website: www.generalrv.com
Contact: Jason Cohen 813-305-2500
jcohen@generalrv.com
Sales: Steve Ratcliff 813-305-2500
Service: Steve Scrape 813-305-2500
Services: **1, 2, 3**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

GENERAL RV

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

Website: www.generalrv.com
Contact: Tim Mann 847-669-5570
tmann@generalrv.com
Sales: Chris Stevens 847-669-5570
cstevens@generalrv.com
Service: Scott Rosselein 847-669-5570
srosselein@generalrv.com
Services: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

GENERAL RV

25000 Assembly Park Drive
Wixom, MI 48393
248-349-0900

Website: www.generalrv.com
Contact: Jason Quillen 248-349-0900
jquillen@generalrv.com
Sales: Chris Cole 248-349-0900
ccole@generalrv.com
Service: Dave Carlisle 248-349-0900
dcarlisle@generalrv.com
Services: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

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
rjensen@generalrv.com
Zac Anderson 801-307-1070
zanderson@generalrv.com
Service: Bret Folkman 801-307-1070
bfolkman@generalrv.com
Services: **1, 2, 3, 5, 8**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

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
Service: Paul Nunez 888-646-1732
Services: **1, 2, 3**
Models: Ambassador

2016

MOTOR HOME SPECIALIST

100 O'Banion Way*
Alvarado, TX 76009
817-790-7771
800-335-6054

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 prefer 5411 South I-35W

2016

DEALER SPONSORS (CONT.)

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

2155 Highway 95
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
928-704-5080

Website: **www.rvcountry.com**
Email: **sales@rvcountry.com**
Sales: Bill Coverdale 928-704-5080
bcovderdale@rvcountry.com
Service: Krystal Leslie 928-704-5080
kleslie@rvcountry.com
Services: **1**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

3633 South Maple
Fresno, CA 93725
559-486-1000

Website: **www.rvcountry.com**
Email: **sales@rvcountry.com**
Contact: Curt Curtis 559-779-1725
curt@rvcountry.com
Sales: Shawn Williams 559-486-1000
Service: Hank Dudley 559-486-1000
Services: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

83407 Highway 111
Indio, CA 92201
760-972-4122

Website: **www.rvcountry.com**
Email: **sales@rvcountry.com**
Contact: Kevin True 760-972-4122
ktrue@rvcountry.com
Sales: Kevin True 760-972-4122
Service: Kevin True 760-972-4122
Services: **1, 2, 7, 10**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

90915 Roberts Road
Coburg, OR 97408
541-686-6044

Website: **www.rvcountry.com**
Email: **sales@rvcountry.com**
Contact: Jim Hardy
gentlemanjimhardy@gmail.com
Sales: Winnie Anderson 541-686-6044
Service: Randy Fergusson 541-686-6044
Services: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

PAUL EVERT'S RV COUNTRY

5111 20th Street E
Fife, WA 98424
253-926-6000

Website: **www.rvcountry.com**
Email: **sales@rvcountry.com**
Sales: Gary Fisher 253-926-6000
gfisher@rvcountry.com
Service: jeffg@rvcountry.com 541-636-6041
Services: **1, 3, 6, 7**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

PREMIER MOTOR COACH SERVICES

4340 East Tennessee Street
Tucson, AZ 85714
520-624-2024
877-624-2024

Website: **premiermcs.com**
Email: **eolstrom@premiermcs.com**
Sales: Joe Cartwright 520-624-2024
jcartwright@premiermcs.com
Service: Eric Olstrom 520-624-2024
eolstrom@premiermcs.com
Other: Debbie Watts 520-624-2024
dwatts@premiermcs.com
Services: **1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

DEALER SPONSORS (CONT.)

SICARD RV

7526 Regional Road #20
West Lincoln, ON, LOR 2A0 CANADA
905-957-3344
800-688-2210

Website: **www.sicardrv.com**
Email: Gary Sicard 905-957-3344
gsicard@sicardrv.com
Contact: Blair Sicard 905-957-3344
bsicard@sicardrv.com
Sales: Roger Sicard 905-957-3344
rsicard@sicardrv.com
Service: Terry Sicard 905-957-3344
service@sicardrv.com
Services: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

VEURINKS' RV CENTER

7144 Division Ave. S
Grand Rapids, MI 49348
800-822-5292

Website: **www.veurinksrv.com**
Email: rvsales@veurinksrv.com
Contact: Tim Veurink 616-965-9608
tveurink@veurinksrv.com
Sales: Matt Veurink 616-965-9606
matt@veurinksrv.com
Service: Tom Woods 616-965-9631
tom@veurinksrv.com
Services: **1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2016

SERVICE SPONSORS

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

APALACHEE RV CENTER

1364 Duncan Lane
Auburn, GA 30011
770-868-0999

Website: **www.myarv.com**
Email: service@myarv.com
Contact: Joe Morillo ext. 309
service@myarv.com
Service: Tracy Fulkerson ext. 301
tracy@myarv.com
Other: Dave Kobos
dave@myarv.com
Services: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10**

2017

COACH SUPPLY DIRECT

69039 Elkhart Road
Edwardsburg, MI 49120
800-589-7251

Website: **www.coachsupplydirect.com**
Email: info@coachsupplydirect.com
Contact: Joshua Leach 800-589-7251
josh@coachsupplydirect.com
Services: **1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9**

2017

SERVICE SPONSORS (CONT.)

CUMMINS ONAN OF ELKHART

5125 Beck Drive
Elkhart, IN 46516
574-361-1060

Website: **www.cummins.com**
Email: Kent.A.Hollopeter@cummins.com
Contact: Kent Hollopeter 574-361-1068

Services: **1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**

2017

CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE

3415 W. Coliseum Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
260-482-3691

Website: **www.salesandservice.cummins.com**
Email: cd575@cummins.com
Contact: Carrie Buisman 260-482-3691
Sales: Steve Gregg 260-918-2422
bell3@cummins.com
Service: Eric Schott 260-918-2409
di144@cummins.com
Services: **1, 3, 6, 7, 8**

2017

DUNCAN RV REPAIR

29393 Old US 33 West
Elkhart, IN 46516
574-296-7555

Website: **www.duncanrvrepair.com**
Email: pam@duncanrvrepair.com
Contact: Pam Duncan ext. 2134
pam@duncanrvrepair.com
Service: Joe Rose 574-296-7555
Services: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10**

2017

EAGLE'S PRIDE RV, INC.

108C Plantation Drive
Titusville, FL 32780
800-552-3555
321-383-0288

Website: **www.eaglespriderv.com**
Email: eaglespride@yahoo.com
Contact: Mike & Joshua Thibeau 321-383-0288
Sales: Carrie Wilmer 321-383-4495
Service: Joshua Thibeau 321-383-0288
Services: **1, 2, 3, 6**

201

ELKHART SALES & SERVICE, INC.

27895 CR 10, Ste. B
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-262-9499

Website: **www.elkhartssi.com**
Email: mmiller@elkhartssi.com
Contact: Marvin Miller, Pres. 574-238-1124
Tom Bumpus, GM 574-215-1441
tom@elkhartssi.com
Service: Eric Bumpus 574-215-1441
Services: **1, 2, 3**

2017

GLEN'S TIRE INC.

609 E. Waterford St.
Wakarusa, IN 46573
574-862-1159

Website: **www.glenstire.net**
Email: pitstop@glenstire.net
Contact: Glen Zimmerman 574-862-1159
glen@glenstire.net
Services: **1**

2016

SERVICE SPONSORS (CONT.)

HYDRONIC HEATING SPECIALISTS

(Aqua Hot)

23624 Greenwood Blvd.
Elkhart, IN 46516
574-612-4826

Website: www.hydronicheatingspecialist.com
Contact: Darin Hathaway 574-612-4826
dhathaway77@gmail.com

Services: **1 (Aqua Hot, Hydro Hot, Webasto)**

2017

INTEGRITY RV SERVICE CENTER

4411 Bankhead Hwy
Douglasville, GA 30134
770-693-1186

Website: www.integrityrvservice.com
Contact: Dean Woodruff 770-693-1186
dean.irvsc@gmail.com
Service: Dean Woodruff 770-693-1186
dean.irvsc@gmail.com
Parts: Eddie Adams 770-693-1186
irvsc.parts@gmail.com 770-693-1186
Services: **1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**

2017

LEE SMITH, INC.

2600 8th Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37407-1156
432-622-4161

Website: www.lee-smith.com
Email: dkissinger@lee-smith.com
Contact: Taylor Vinson 423-622-4161
Service: Mike Suggs 423-648-6404

Services: **1, 2, 6**

2017

LLOYD DEGERALD SERVICES

(AQUAHOT)

16754 Smithers Road
Paron, AR 72122
501-258-8426

Email: lloyd.degerald@gmail.com
Contact: Lloyd DeGerald 501-258-8426
Services: **1 (AquaHot)**

2017

M&M RV ELECTRONICS

(RV ELECTRICAL)

205 North Main Street
Ohio City, OH 45874
419-965-2662

Website: www.mmrvelectronics.com
Email: mmrvelectronics@yahoo.com
Contact: Mark Bayus 419-965-2662

Services: **1**

2017

PGA AUTO, RV, BOAT COLLISION

32393 Lakepoint Street
New Baltimore, MI 48047
586-725-1863
888-773-9387

Website: www.pgacollision.com
Email: pgacollision@comcast.net
Contact: Gary Patchak 586-725-1863
Sales: Jesse Krasnicki 586-718-4726
Service:
Services: **2, 10**
Models: All HR Diesel Models

2017

SERVICE SPONSORS (CONT.)

PRO CUSTOM INC.

29079 CR 20 (Mishawaka Road)
Elkhart, IN 46517
574-217-0399

Website: **www.procustominc.com**
Email: service@procustom.com
Contact: Don Walder 574-217-0399
Sales: PJ McGann 574-217-0399
pjmcgann@procustominc.com
Service: Don Walder 574-217-0399
dwalder@procustominc.com
Services: **1, 2, 3, 2, 7, 10**

2017

RV SATELLITE & ENTERTAINMENT SOLUTIONS

236 East Main Street No. 216
Sevierville, TN 37862
619-571-3393

Website: **rvsatelliteentertainmentsolutions.com**
Email: johanam@me.com
Contact: Geoff Matthews 619-571-3393
Other: Johana Matthews 619-571-3592
johana@me.com
Services: **1**

202017

RV SYSTEMS, INC.

537 Sandy Creek Dr.
Brandon, FL 33511
813-770-7590

Email: plancy2001@yahoo.com
Contact: Paul Lancy 813-770-7590
Service: Paul Lancy 813-770-7590
Services: **1 (AquaHot)**

2017

THE LAST WORD

Congratulations, once again, to the dedicated team of volunteers who worked for much of the last year to make MS 2017 the success that it was. The amount of effort that the MS requires is daunting if considered all at once, but taken bit by bit, day by day, and shared among a team, it is manageable.

You have read reports in this *Newsletter* that recognize both individual and group efforts in planning, organizing and presenting the MS. And you have read multiple invitations to join in the fun as a volunteer next year.

When we consider what it takes to make the MS happen each spring, the list is impressive. We need a large enough venue to accommodate as many as 300 coaches comfortably and a suite of facilities in which to hold a full schedule of seminars and activities. Vendors need booth space in which to offer their wares, and dealers need display and selling space. Everyone likes to eat, so kitchen equipment and a serving area are a must. People have to get from one place to another and that requires a fleet of golf carts. But all of those infrastructure requirements are useless without a large staff of volunteers to provide the services that make the MS succeed.

Earlier in this edition, it was mentioned that the RV industry is changing and with it RV clubs like ours. We have all visited new coach displays at RV shows and found many of them not to be to our taste. There is a reason for that.

The largest segment of US population and the growth market for all RVs today is younger people—mainly the Millennials, born between 1981 and 1997—and they are flocking to travel trailers and fifth-wheels. RV manufacturers respond to this demographic shift by offering products that appeal to younger persons and lifestyles.

One element of that changing lifestyle is a disinterest in joining organizations of any kind, be it fraternal orders, civic organizations, churches, and common interest clubs.

Presently, most of the people who read this *Newsletter* are Baby Boomers, born between 1945

and 1964. For most of our lives we were the largest segment of the US population. Can you remember the spate of school construction that took place in the 1950s and 60s? That was to accommodate us. In recent years many disused school buildings have been sold and repurposed as condominiums, I suppose also largely for us. The RV clubs cannot escape the change. And there is a dark side of the demographics.

Most of us are retired. Every year we lose members, including active members of the MS organization, to illness and infirmity. That is why we need an ever expanding corps of volunteers. As one of our members put it not long ago, the greatest threat to any organization today is not just a loss of members, it is the loss of leaders, those people who are willing to accept leadership roles in both the MS and the club.

The significance of this clash of demographics and organizational need makes our First-Timers vitally important to the organization. They are the major source of our next generation of MS leaders. If you were a First-Timer this year, you know we want you to return, but we also want to invite you to take your place as an active participant in the MS, and not just as a passive attendee.

The Ramblin' Pushers leadership is working on ways to continue our organization's growth and to present an attractive educational experience for diesel motor home owners. Whatever direction they might take, it will only succeed if there are among us members who are willing to lead.

Enjoy a leisurely summer travel schedule. And as you encounter owners of REV brand coaches, tell them about the MS and give them an invitation packet. Let's see how close we can get to 300 next year.

As always,

Safe Travels!

**This year's
First-Timers
are a major
source of our
future
leadership.**

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Things To Do Before MS 2018 :

1. Tell other REV diesel coach owners about the MS and invite them to attend.
2. Send in your registration form early.
2. Serve your fellow participants as a volunteer.

Let's make 2018 the best MS yet!

Ramblin' Pushers
413 Walnut Street # 5294
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-3443

MS 2017

