

# NORTHEAST AREA NEWS

December, 2008



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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

How time flies! One year of my term has already passed, and what a year it has been.

It has been most gratifying to visit as many chapters as possible and listen to your concerns and ideas. It is also most gratifying to have as many individuals and chapters step forth to volunteer at our Northeast Area Rally. And, it goes without saying - although I'm saying it - it has been such a pleasure to meet as many individuals as Pat and I have met in our travels and to be so warmly welcomed by you.

Although the final numbers are not yet in, I am deeming our 2008 Northeast Area Rally a success. Financially, I believe we will be right around the break-even point. And, more than financially, I believe the rally was a success because of the many positive aspects of the rally. Without meaning to omit anyone or anything, the Youth Program was dynamite, the Blood Drive was very successful, the Entertainment was superb, the Seminars were well attended, the Crafts were sensational, the Ice Cream Social was a hit as usual, the Chapter Fair was the best that it has ever been, the boat cruises were marvelous, and the venue was, and is, superlative. So much so that the "governing board" of the Northeast Area voted to enter into a long-term arrangement with Champlain Valley Exposition for our future rallies.

With the addition of Ed Hoag as 3rd Vice President, your Association Officers are once more complete. A



very hearty welcome to Ed Hoag. We all are pleased to have him as part of our team.

Your Officers met in October, and plans are already underway for the 2009 Northeast Area Rally. The theme for this rally is "**It's a Family A-Fair**" with emphasis on "**Family**" and "**Fair**." If any of you have any ideas you wish to suggest for this rally, please contact any one of us. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Be sure to read all of the Officer's Columns in this Newsletter to find out what is happening in their respective areas. For the 2009 Rally, Paul is the Rallymaster and Commercial Coordinator, Lou is our Volunteer Coordinator, and Ed is our Seminars and Activities Coordinator. Kathianne will once again handle the Chapter Fair as well as her secretarial duties, and Eleanor will handle the Treasurer's job. This is a well-oiled team that I am, and all of you should be, personally proud of.

Until we meet again, safe travels.

*Sam*

## NORTHEAST AREA CHAPTERS

Allo Quebec  
Bussin' Buddies  
Campers of Long Island  
Cape Codders  
Constitution Cruisers  
Country Coach Nor'Easters  
Empire State  
Fingerlakers  
Frustrated Maestros - NE,  
    Yankee Doodle Dandies  
GM Bus Owners of New England  
GMC Heritage Cruisers  
GMC Nor'Easters  
Granite Staters  
Green Mountain  
Hudson Islanders  
Jersey Gems  
Knot Fore Busses Only  
Long Islanders  
Maine Wheels  
Massachusetts Minutemen  
Metropolitan  
Mohawk Roamers  
Monaco Northeast Explorers  
Mt. Laurel Travelers  
National RV Club, Northeastern  
Near N Far  
New England Race Chasers  
New York Centrals  
Niagara Frontier Travelers  
Northeast Area Roamin'  
    Catholics (New)  
Northeast Coaches for Christ  
Northeast Pacers  
Northeast Quadrant-Croton  
Northeastern  
Paumanack  
Pen-Ny Mixers  
Perfect Circle  
Scone  
Scotian Roamers  
Susquenango  
Thousand Island Voyageurs  
Willie & Co. Fan Club  
Yankee Travelers



## E-MAIL NOTICE FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter Officers can now choose to receive chapter officer mailings (including this newsletter) electronically versus US Postal Service mail. There will be some mailings that require USPS mail, however, FMCA would like to send you as many of these mailings as possible electronically as this will be a great cost savings to FMCA. If you choose this option, you will receive an e-mail notification that contains a direct link to the information on the FMCA Web site. To take advantage of this service, you will need to do three things: 1. Make sure you have created an FMCA.com Sign In account; 2. Verify that your e-mail address in your FMCA membership record is current; and 3. Notify FMCA's Membership Department that you would like to "opt out" of receiving officer mailings by USPS. Call 513-474-3622 or 800-543-3622 or send an e-mail to membership@fmca.com.

## 1st VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Even though it is "only" early December, we are gearing up for our 2009 Northeast Area Rally, which will be held August 12-15. We had our planning session at Lou and Lucille Snow's beautiful home in Hardwick, MA, where Lucille and her friend Diane served us some wonderful meals.

We have a great group of officers to work with this year. We work very well together, and each of us has strengths that complement one another.

Despite the past year having been a difficult one for the RV industry as a whole, we had a very successful 2008 rally. We exceeded all our expectations, with nearly 600 family coaches, 104 display coaches, and 48 vendors. We had a great group of volunteers, without whom the rally would not have been possible. We handed out critique sheets at the end of the rally and received over 150 responses. We learned a lot from these forms, and they will help us in planning next year's rally.

We are very excited as we will shortly have our own Northeast Area website. 3rd VP Ed Hoag and his wife, Lori, have arranged for John Merlino, a member of the Susquenango Chapter, to set up and host a website for us. The address will be [www.nmafmc.com](http://www.nmafmc.com). We will be able to put chapter information, rally info and many other items of interest on it. In addition, we hope to be able to offer on-line registration for next year's rally. Our sincere thanks to John for volunteering for this task!

At our meeting in October, the Board decided to have each Board member responsible for a different group of chapters. By doing this we

feel that we can give each chapter more assistance when it is needed. Such an arrangement will also enable the Board to receive more input from the chapters and give the chapter members the opportunity to get to know Board members better. See Page 4 for your chapter's assigned officer. Sam and Pat Allen will continue to make their chapter visits as your Area Vice President.

Remember -- this is **your** area and we want to know what you think about the issues concerning us!

*Paul*

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It's hard to believe that the month of November is upon us and "Old Man Winter" is just around the corner. For those of you that are heading South, safe travels. The rest of us will just have to "brace up" and keep the home fires burning!

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all of the Volunteer Captains that came forward and took charge at our NEA Rally at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction, VT, last August. Your efforts did not go unnoticed and were very much appreciated. As you well know, it takes a combined group effort to make these events happen, and we could not put this together without our Captains and their Volunteer Chapter members. Job well done!

Looking forward to next year, much is in the planning stages. Your NEA Executive Board has already met to discuss and critique our '08 rally and what we need to do to make our '09 rally even more successful. Everything is on the table to discuss, and we will welcome any constructive criticism or ideas that will make our rallies bigger and better. I will again be the contact

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S  
COLUMN (Continued)

Person, and Coordinator, for all of the Volunteer Captains. Please send me your suggestions and recommendations at your earliest convenience via e-mail. As in the past, we will again have a May '09 Captains Meeting in Essex Junction, VT, on **May 29 - 31, 2009**. Please mark your calendar. It is important that you be there! It is also very important that you keep me updated with regards to the designated Captain for your Volunteer effort should there be a change of personnel and any changes of e-mail or snail mail addresses.

Please consider, and keep in mind, the Northeast Area Rally dates of August 12th - 15th, 2009, when you meet and schedule your individual Chapter events. We need ALL of our 43 Chapters to participate in this event and make this truly "A Family A-Fair."

"Best Wishes" for a wonderful Holiday Season. See you at our May meeting.

*Lou*

3rd VICE PRESIDENT'S  
COLUMN

I first would like to take this opportunity to thank all the chapter Presidents and National Directors that attended the Northeast Motorcoach Association's annual business meeting that was held in August during the Northeast Area Rally in Essex Junction, VT, that voted to elect me as your new 3rd Vice President. I am looking forward to meeting

3rd VICE PRESIDENT'S  
COLUMN (Continued)

all of you and working together with the other officers of the Northeast Area to ensure that our future rallies and activities continue to be a wonderful experience for our motorhome families.

Over the next several months, I will be focusing on securing and scheduling several educational, informational and fun seminars for the 2009 NEA Rally that will again be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT. I would truly appreciate any input and ideas that any of you may have for seminar content. The area rally is YOUR rally, and you should have a voice in helping us plan the rally. If there is something from a previous year's rally that you would like to see repeated, or if you have a new idea, or if you or someone in your chapter would like to host a seminar, please e-mail me your ideas and contact information at hoagsfarm@aol.com, and I will contact you.

My wife, Lori, and I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe winter and holiday season. We will be going to Florida for a couple of months and are looking forward to seeing many of you there. May you all have safe travels, and we hope to see a lot of you in the spring at local chapter rallies.

If there is ever anything that I can assist you or your chapters with, please do not hesitate to contact me, and I will work with the other officers in our area to resolve your questions and

3rd VICE PRESIDENT'S  
COLUMN (Continued)

concerns. Again, thank you for electing me one of your area representatives, and I am looking forward to serving you throughout the next year.

*Fd*

SECRETARY'S COLUMN

This camping season has come to a conclusion. What a perfect time for Chapters to get together either in your home state or your snowbird home to plan your next NEAR Chapter Fair table. For those Chapters that did not participate in last year's Chapter Fair, it's simple. Just design your table to reflect what your Chapter is all about. It can be just pictures you place on your table, or some chapters created life-size objects.

Since this year's rally is about families, we would like to have some games outside. Is anyone willing to volunteer to run these games? Please call me for information if you are interested at 516-318-2895.

*Kathianne*

★ ★ **THANK YOU** ★ ★

A special thank you to all of the Northeast Motorhome Association Officers. *Webster's Dictionary* defines **teamwork** as "work done by several associates with each doing a part but all subordinating personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole." This is exactly what your officers have done this year, and you should be very proud of them. I know I am.

*Sam*

**NORTHEAST AREA  
CHAPTERS AND THEIR  
ASSIGNED OFFICER**

Allo Quebec - **Eleanor**  
Bussin' Buddies - **Lou**  
Campers of Long Island -  
**Eleanor**  
Cape Codders - **Lou**  
Constitution Cruisers - **Lou**  
Country Coach Nor'Easters -  
**Paul**  
Empire State - **Ed**  
Fingerlakers - **Ed**  
Frustrated Maestros - NE,  
Yankee Doodle Dandies -  
**Paul**  
GM Bus Owners of New  
England - **Sam**  
GMC Heritage Cruisers - **Paul**  
GMC Nor'Easters - **Sam**  
Granite Staters - **Sam**  
Green Mountain - **Lou**  
Hudson Islanders - **Eleanor**  
Jersey Gems - **Eleanor**  
Knot Fore Busses Only - **Sam**  
Long Islanders - **Eleanor**  
Maine Wheels - **Sam**  
Massachusetts Minutemen - **Lou**  
Metropolitan - **Eleanor**  
Mohawk Roamers - **Ed**  
Monaco Northeast Explorers -  
**Kathianne**  
Mt. Laurel Travelers -  
**Kathianne**  
National RV Club,  
Northeastern - **Sam**  
Near N Far - **Kathianne**  
New England Race Chasers -  
**Lou**  
New York Centrals - **Paul**  
Niagara Frontier Travelers - **Ed**  
Northeast Area Roamin'  
Catholics - **Paul**  
Northeast Coaches for Christ -  
**Ed**  
Northeast Pacers - **Paul**  
Northeast Quadrant-Croton - **Ed**  
Northeastern - **Sam**  
Paumanack - **Kathianne**

**NORTHEAST AREA  
CHAPTERS AND THEIR  
ASSIGNED OFFICER  
(Continued)**

Pen-Ny Mixers - **Ed**  
Perfect Circle - **Sam**  
Scone - **Kathianne**  
Scotian Roamers - **Sam**  
Susquenango - **Ed**  
Thousand Island Voyageurs -  
**Ed**  
Willie & Co. Fan Club - **Paul**  
Yankee Travelers - **Lou**

**NMA'S RALLY HISTORY**

**1991** October 11-14, Croton-  
On-Hudson, NY  
**1992** August 18-20, Topsfield,  
MA  
**1993** July 2-5, Ottawa,  
Ontario, Canada  
**1994** July 1-4, Fryeburg, ME  
**1995** July 7-9, Hamburg, NY  
**1996** August 8-11, Essex  
Junction, VT  
**1997** August 14-17, Augusta,  
NJ  
**1998** July 16-19, West Spring-  
field, MA  
**1999** August 19-22, Romulus,  
NY  
**2000** National Convention in  
Brunswick, ME  
**2001** July 2-4, Essex  
Junction, VT  
**2002** August 8-10, Essex  
Junction, VT  
**2003** July 24-27, Prince  
Edward Island, Canada  
**2004** July 14-17, Essex  
Junction, VT  
**2005** July 13-16, West Spring-  
field, MA  
**2006** Cancelled  
**2007** July 11-14, Augusta, NJ  
**2008** August 7-10, Essex  
Junction, VT

**Newly Formed Chapter**

Northeast Area Roamin' Catho-  
lics is a newly formed chapter  
in the Northeast Area. Its  
members have a mutual inter-  
est in the Roman Catholic  
faith.

Congratulations and welcome  
to Northeast Area Roamin'  
Catholics!!!!!!

**CAPTAINS**

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS**

All volunteer Captains for the  
2009 Northeast Area Rally:  
Please mark your calendars for  
**May 29, 30 & 31, 2009**, for  
the rally planning meeting  
scheduled for Essex Junction,  
Vermont. More details will  
follow from your 2nd Vice  
President and Volunteer Coor-  
dinator, Lou Snow.

**PAT'S PLACE**

My heartfelt thanks to all of  
you that sent cards and e-mails  
to me during my recent illness.  
I cannot express how much  
these meant to me, but need-  
less to say, they all meant a  
great deal. I am happy to say  
that I am feeling much better  
and gaining strength every day.

I hope each and every one of  
you have wondrous holidays  
and a Happy New Year, and I  
look forward to visiting chap-  
ters again in the spring.

Love to All,

*Pat*