

CUATRO ESTADOS

(Issue 4 – Apr 2017 – Cuatro Estados Newsletter)

THE PREZ SEZ ...WELCOME TO SPRING!

We're into full swing of this year's rally schedule and have just completed three wonderful rallies in southern AZ (see articles). Next, we head for Colorado and Utah for more back-to-back rallies; first Cortez/Towaoc, CO, then Moab, UT (see articles). Hope you have a rally scheduled in YOUR future! Be sure to pay attention to deadlines; most locations should have been reserved by now.

BIG changes are in the air for FMCA! We either need to change to match the times, or die a slow and painful death by lack of relevance. Up for vote at the national convention in July will be to open up membership to ALL types of RVs. Good Sam is dying because it's not getting with the times, but we are not trying to become Good Sam – we are going to evolve into an organization that will bring in the younger generations who are buying trailers, 5th wheels, and more affordable camping modes. And we need to become more ACTIVE and ADVENTUROUS! (Well, duh! **What has Cuatro Estados got that many other chapters do not? ACTIVE & ADVENTUROUS!**) Individual FMCA chapters will be able to “opt out” of this if they wish -- but I believe our membership will greatly benefit from the proposed changes!

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And another change ... “**RVillage**” is something FMCA is encouraging every member to join. Becky Coulter has taken it upon herself to set up our chapter's involvement in this interactive website for RVers to enable us to communicate with others who share our enthusiasm about the lifestyle ... and hopefully net us more members! (See her article, and sign up! Questions? Contact Becky.)

Great job on the 2017 Membership Directory, Bob Coulter! They were sent to all members via USPS. A separate list of members added since it was published was emailed to everyone; please add it to your directory. Let us know if you see

discrepancies or have corrections.

Speaking of emails ... some of you say you are not receiving our emails and/or newsletter. That could be because your email server doesn't recognize the sender and dumps the email in your “spam.” To ensure you are receiving our emails and newsletters, please add Carl Becker, cgbeck77@yahoo.com, our newsletter editor to your email address book, and me (raecyp65@gmail.com), and probably the other officers listed in the front of your directory as well. Also, any of the listed rallymasters in the schedule. **Email is our main way of communicating with you!**

Hope to see most of you at a rally in the near future – Rae, raecyp65@gmail.com, 505-899-1273, 235-5992

April 26-May 1, 2017 – Sleeping Ute RV Park, Towaoc, CO

Adjacent to Ute Mountain Casino/Hotel off Hwy 491 south of Cortez CO

Reservations accepted after April 7th -- 800-889-5072

Rallymasters: **Barry & Jann Engleman**, englemanbarry@gmail.com, 970-390-9873

Assist - Rae & Dub Phillips, raecyp65@gmail.com, 505-899-1273

We are still working out the details as we go to press, so will be emailing more info later to those who have told us they will be attending. Here's who we have on list so far: Coulter, Downs, Eckel, Engleman, McVey/Skaug, Phillips, Williamson, Zawistoski. Anyone else want to be included, contact us!



This rally is about exploring this far southwestern corner of Colorado and much of its remote sights/sites/ruins down dusty roads or via guided tours, in an arid but scenic landscape of canyons, bluffs, and mesa tops. Sleeping Ute RV Park offers grassy-lawned sites under big shade trees, with a laid-back, quiet attitude -- even though it's adjacent to a casino -- about 11 miles south of Cortez CO.

26th Wed -- arrival day with our usual 5:00 pm heavy snacks happy hour, and discuss planned activities.

27th Thurs -- St. Elmo Canyon drive and Sand Canyon hike. Hiking can be as long or as short as you like. Happy hour/tapas at Main Street Brewery in Cortez.

28th Fri -- Ute Mountain Tribal Park tours. (Separate email was sent to all about these.) Let's have a SPAM Potluck that evening! Bring something made using SPAM, plus a side dish, to share.

29th Sat -- Canyon Country drive including Montezuma Canyon (pack lunch); dirt road, AWD & high clearance. On your own for evening. (Can suggest go to casino, or out to eat at The Farm Bistro.)

30th Sun -- Breakfast at Jack & Janelle's Restaurant (buffet), then to Mesa Verde National Park (for those who want to go); otherwise lounge around at camp. Leftovers happy hour that evening.

May 1-6, 2017 – Moab, UT – OK RV Park 435-259-1400

3310 Spanish Valley Dr, 84532 – okrvpark.com

Rallymasters: Rae & Dub Phillips, raecyp65@gmail.com

505-899-1273, 505-235-5992

Moab is one of those magical, dramatic places; one of the gems of the southwest. It offers a little bit of everything: dry high desert, rivers twisting deep between canyon walls, snow-covered mountain tops, slickrock basins, sand dunes ... and adventures await you in all directions. All the spaces we had reserved have been

taken, but if you wish to attend and have not booked through Rae, you might call the park directly to see if they have any space available.

This will mostly be a “driving” rally to explore the region; we will only have enough time to give you an “overview” of what the area has to offer. Make sure you keep your gas tank full, carry water & snacks, expect warm/hot afternoons, and pack a lunch for each day. Also **bring two-way radios (channel 10, sub 20)**, and suggest extra batteries for your cameras.

Dogs are allowed in vehicles on paved drives, but not on most hiking trails nor in the back country. After spending the days together, we'll leave most evenings open for you to do as you please.

There are plenty of restaurants for you to choose from if you don't want to prepare your own dinners. There are dozens of difficult 4WD trails throughout the area, but we will NOT be doing them – only a little rough/rocky dirt roads. Feel free to take on the challenges yourself. Rae will be happy to provide maps & instructions.

May 1, Mon – Arrival Day. Many of us will be arriving from Cortez/Towaoc rally so will get there early enough to drive around town, check out the visitor center for literature, and maybe do a little shopping. **5:00 pm** that evening, we'll do our usual **happy hour with hors d'oeuvres** and discuss schedule.

May 2, Tues – 9:00 am leave for **Arches National Park** for a drive through the park with stops to hike and see some of the arches up close and personal. All paved roads.



May 3, Wed – 8:30 am leave for a day's drive into the **heart of Canyonlands** that will include mostly dirt roads with bumpy/rocky sections. High clearance, AWD/4WD required. We'll head **west along the Colorado River out to Potash** and along the **White Rim Trail** about halfway down into the canyon. Then climb up **Shafer Canyon** to return to pavement, then return via **Long Canyon** (another dirt rough road) and finally back to where we started along the river.

May 4, Thurs – 9:00 am leave for a drive **east along the Colorado**, out to **Onion Creek, Castle Valley, and over the La Sal Mountains**. Again we'll mostly be on paved roads.

May 5, Fri – 9:00 am leave for **Canyonlands and Islands in the Sky** district, out to **Grand View Point Overlook**, and **Dead Horse Point State Park**, for an overview of canyon lands, with views of deep canyons between long stretches of mesa tops. All paved roads. Let's do a **final happy hour** that night to share experiences!

May 6, Sat – Departure day. Or stay longer and do more detailed exploring!

PAST RALLIES ADVENTURES ...

Feb 27-Mar 5 -- AJO, AZ – SHADOW RIDGE RV PARK

If you are on facebook and checked the Cuatro Estados group site, you've already seen **the great video that Bill Eckel made of this rally**. Even though Ajo is WAY down south of nowhere (close to WHY?)...It's a pleasant



surprise in what all it has to offer! The town itself is centered around a Spanish-style plaza with the old Railroad Station anchoring one end and two beautiful churches anchoring the other, framing the stately historic school a block away that is now home to "starving artists". As a **Phelps-Dodge town**, most the homes started out as company-built sameness bungalows, but imagination and creativity on the part of subsequent owners expresses an eclectic & surprising variety as you wander the streets.

Images of rally: Viewing the "ginormous" open copper pit... visiting the two local museums... going on a jeep ride in the countryside just west of town led by alumni CE members **Harley & Elaine Murray**, who later opened their lovely home and patio for a happy hour evening ... "name that tune" of a painting that covered the side of local newspaper building ... discovering palm fronds could be used for clothing ... "sharing" a strangers food on trip down south to **Puerto Penasco, Mexico** (thanks, Carl & Vicki, for leading this drive) ... meeting guests who rapidly became one of us and joined our chapter ... and more!



We explored **Organ Pipe National Park** on two different days, with several challenges: to find the weirdest Saguaro, and the most "cristate" cacti ... and one unplanned challenge: figuring how to tow **Pickthorns jeep** 20 miles of dirt road to highway (thanks to creative thinking on the part of David, Bill Eckel, Edith Osburn, and Rae Phillips, we



"got-er done.")

And DOGS ... we had DOGS in attendance! I think there were only two of us who did NOT have a dog. Attending: **Becker, Coulter, Eckel, McVey/Skaug, Osburn, Manchester, Phillips, Pickthorn, and guests (who joined Catalana and Redman.**

Mar 5-11 – Chandler, AZ – FMCA International Convention

Only a few hardy – and VERY patient folks – hung in there with Rae & Dub Phillips in getting in position (camp spot) at this large international gathering (2500 rigs!), and were rewarded with "waterfront property!" In true



helpful Cuatro Estados style, most of our members worked a variety of volunteer positions; some requiring MUCH more patience (way to go, Herrs, working the parking crew!) than others. Bill Eckel became a one-man welcome committee at coffee hour each morning – which a few others of us helped at (being on site at 6:15 each morning!)... Several were driving trams, or working security, or helping with seminars, or entertaining us each morning singing with the Frustrated Maestros.



At our happy hour that first evening, it became grand central station as people came and went ... several we didn't even know! Turned out there were more members attending than "we" (I, Rae) originally had on the list, so that just added to the fun (and confusion). Those we saw at one time or another: **Kology, Dorsey, Soto, Nelson (joined at rally), Coulter, Halasz, Erickson, Herr, Becker, Redman, Catalana, Eckel, Brenner/Rodilsky, Obermiller, Kohler/Moore (guests), Phillips ...** and I'm sure I probably left someone out (sorry). Then we had various RMMA & other officers stopping by too. In typical Cuatro Estados style, we welcomed any and all!

I think some of us learned a lot at the seminars, some enjoyed really great food at food booths as well as off-campus at local restaurants, some bought stuff they didn't need until they saw it at vendor booths ... and some heard not-so-great entertainment at the main stage in evening (the next 2 nights made up for the 1st one). Many enjoyed the "Riverwalk" that went right by our rigs, and the Rawhide Western Town that was the stage for all our events. And of course we were all tempted looking at the new motorhomes on display, but as far as I know, no one took the bait. We were disappointed at the chapter horse race when our "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy" entry didn't win... but it was obvious we were a big hit. All in all – in spite of some frustrations – I think everyone had a good time being part of such a big gathering. (But we like our small chapter rallies better ...)

Mar 11-15 – Page Springs, AZ (Sedona) – Sunrise Resorts

For those of us arriving here from the Chandler gathering, the peace and quiet along Oak Creek was a blessing. Even if we were parked really close together ... and the power kept going out (& management kept blaming our "big rigs"). We were small in numbers: **Becker, Eckel, McVey/Skaug, Phillips, Varley, and Bill Williams (who lives in Sedona and led our drives & hikes)**. But we all thoroughly enjoyed pleasant evening gatherings Creekside.



What's not to like about the Sedona Red Rock Country? Many drives and hikes provided a variety of views. Within that superb backdrop,

Sedona offers quaint shopping and eating establishments. We just had to fight the crowds everywhere, as it turned out to be spring break! Meant that more creativity was required by Bill Williams to find hikes where we could even get a parking spot. Diana, Bob & Rae enjoyed the Verde Canyon Railroad ride to/from Perkinsville, and browsing re-crafted downtown Cottonwood. Weather was delightful (a little warmer than expected), and we discovered a great dining place overlooking Oak Creek within walking distance of the campground.

We finished up the rally with a celebration of St. Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef & cabbage. A pleasant, laid back ending to three busy weeks spent with Cuatro Estados friends!

THE REST OF THE 2017 RALLIES

(Dates are arrival and departure dates)

June 3-7 Creede, CO. Chapter **Pre-rally** to the Region 1 Rally; book at same location listed below (specify with Region 1 to get the discount pricing). Please contact Rae Phillips if attending, raecyp65@gmail.com 505-899-1273. Separate schedule will be sent to you. We'll be exploring some back country roads in the area.

June 7-11 Creede, CO. The 16th Region I Rally. Contact- Jamie Erickson: larryerickson9935@comcast.net, 505-330-1380, or Connie Jones: 719-499-9740, cljllj@aol.com. Reserve a site at Mtn Views at Rivers Edge RV Resort, 719-658-2710 (Helen). Full hookups a bargain at \$31-33! Specify you're with RMMA Region 1 Rally.

Deadline: April 25th! Please also let Rae Phillips know if you'll be attending.

June 11-17 Post-rally in **Golden, CO**, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, CO. \$30/day w/e (dump & other amenities on site). Make reservations after Apr 11, in sites 19-40 for that rate. Jeffco.us/fairgrounds. Phillips will overnight on 11th at Lathrop State Park (site #37, Loop A), then on to Golden on Monday, 6/12. Contact Rae Phillips, raecyp65@gmail.com.

June 12-16 Jemez Springs, NM. Jemez Falls campground (Santa Fe Natl Forest). Looks like they aren't going to go with online reservations yet, so it will be first come first served. Best sites for group camping are in loop 1. Rallymasters – Becky & Bob **Coulter**, 505-814-1293, coulter06@comcast.net. Separate email about this rally was sent to membership.

July 2-8 Divide/Woodland Park, CO. Mueller State Park. 800-678-CAMP or online at cpw.state.co.us. Rallymasters -- **Varleys**, 801-641-4416, sndyvarley@yahoo.com -- are in site 44 Conifer Ridge Campground. Alternative if can't get space at Mueller: Diamond Campground & RV Park, Woodland Park (10 miles from Mueller) 800-410-0377. Can try 2nd-4th at Diamond, then move to Mueller for 4th-8th. An amazing area for exploring!

Aug 9-14 Prescott AZ. Point of Rocks RV Park, 928-445-9018. At Watson Lake, The Dells area. Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Prescott 8/10-12. Opportunity to explore local lakes in kayaks. Rallymasters – **Coulter**, 505-814-1293, coulter06@comcast.net. Should have made reservations by **NOW**. Separate email about this rally was sent to membership.

Aug 14-19 Williams AZ. Canyon Motel & RV Park; 928-635-9371. Full hook-ups. More adventures await us at this central location for exploring back country roads; and of course there's always Grand Canyon! Rallymasters -- Diane **McVey** & Bob **Skaug**, 951-850-1566, dondiana@verizon.net. Should have this reserved by now!

Sept 21-24 Farmington, NM. FMCA Rocky Mountain Area "Ramble" regional rally, McGee Park & San Juan County Fairgrounds. More info will be forthcoming in FMC Magazine and RMMA's website. **Need chapter coordinator.** These regional rallies are always educational and fun!

Oct 18-23 Ruidoso, NM. Little Creek Park, Alto, NM. 575-336-4044. Celebrate Oktoberfest in Ruidoso! Please reserve by **Sept 15th**. Rallymasters – **Obermillers**, 575-258-4084, johnsanna@trailnet.com.

Nov 9-13 Elephant Butte Lake State Park, NM. Water & elec only; dump station available. **Need rallymasters!**

WHAT IS RVILLAGE?

I went to a seminar at the FMCA National Rally. It was about the new **RVillage** (sounds like Our Village) social networking site. It was developed by Curtis Coleman a full time RVer. He had an idea to connect people RVing that have similar tastes, hobbies and interests. He said Face Book is global but RVillage is for a niche audience. People in the audience asked about safety and security and he said no personal info is on your profile other than your email. Some were concerned about putting their vacation location down while being away from home. He said someone seeing that info would have to know where you lived and would have to be on RVillage which wasn't likely since it was not global like Face Book. He also said you don't have to put your real name or photo down if you don't want to. He explained that every day 11 thousand Baby boomers turn 65. Every 11 minutes a new person joins RVillage.

Currently there are three thousand fulltime RVers on the site. The site allow you to show when you are on the road and when you get to your destination. You can put the RV park you are in and others in the park that are on the network will be alerted to your arrival and will welcome you, share info with you (things to do in the area) or might invite you to happy hour or another activity.

I am interested in using this site to get prospective members to join us in our activities and hope to get new members. The internet is the future and lots of people are using social networks. I don't know if this will catch on but I think if I was a full timer it would be a great resource. I forgot to mention you can join other clubs on the site. I have joined these clubs: American Military, Free Camping or Boondocking & Camping on Public Lands, National Park Fans, Workamper News and FMCA.

I am managing our website "FMCA-Cuatro-Estados" hoping to increase our membership.

This address goes directly to our site, check it out and become a member.

<https://www.rvillage.com/group/1141/fmca-cuatro-estados>

Becky Coulter

motorhomes gather from around the country to attend seminars, buy the latest in RV gadgetry and “stuff,” and enjoy some wonderful entertainment. Of course there’s also lots of new motorhomes on display just in case you are thinking of trading up/down. If wanting to park with us, meet at noon on Sun, 5th, in NW corner of Holding Area. We will have “meet & greet happy hour” at our rig at 5 pm that evening by our coach. Call to get exact location: Rae 505-235-5992.



**MARCH 11-16, 2017 - SUNRISE RESORTS
AT PAGE SPRINGS 928-634-4309**

Cornville, AZ (Sedona-Oak Creek area)

Rallymasters: Phillips 505-235-5992, Williams 505-615-8229

Mar 11, Sat - Arrival Day. **4:00 pm** Happy Hour at Phillips; bring heavy snacks to share, your chairs, own drinks & mess kit.

Mar 12, Sun - Depart **9:00 am** for **overview drive of the Red Rock region of Sedona**. Even if you’ve been there many times before, we promise to show you places you’ve never been, including a short informative hike. Pack a picnic lunch. **Dinner out at El Rincon, Tlaquepaque; or back at camp if you prefer.**

Mar 13, Mon - Depart **9:00 am** for a **very nice hike at Fay Canyon**; this has all the iconic features Sedona is known for. **Lunch at Wildflower Bread Company. 5:00 pm another happy hour**, and then dinner on your own.

Mar 14, Tues - **10 am departure** for those going on the **Verde Canyon Railroad Tour** (should already have booked! If not, call me, Rae immediately!). For those NOT going, Bill Williams will offer several choice drives/hikes into the back country. Otherwise, it’s a day and evening on your own to explore. And enjoy dinner out at any one of dozens of choice restaurants.

Mar 15, Wed - Depart **9:00 am** for **Soldier Pass** to hike that exceptional trail (4 mi RT). Or whatever else you’d like to do. **5:00 pm St Patrick’s Day celebration**. The corned beef & cabbage provided, bring side dishes.

Mar 16, Thurs - Departure Day. Happy Trails to you! Or, stay longer and take in more of the sights and sounds of Red Rock Country and surrounding area.

TOWOAC RALLY

April 26-May 1, 2017 - Sleeping Ute RV Park, Towaoc (Cortez), CO
Reserve at: 800-889-5072. Rallymasters - Barry & Jann Engleman, 970-390-9873, englemanbarry@gmail.com

Activities for the rally at the Ute Casino in Towaoc, Colorado are in the planning stages. We have four days after arrival to see the area. We have sent some ideas out to those who have signed up so far and we are waiting for those replies. We would appreciate it if those who received an email would get back to us as soon as possible.

If you haven't signed up yet and you might still be interested in doing so, the following activities are being considered right now.

The Ute Indian Tribe gives tours into the Ute Tribal Park just south of Mesa Verde. They have 1/2 day, full day and special remote tours. We already have four people for a remote area tour which is the minimum number to reserve. I am trying to get this special remote tour booked right now, hoping we can reserve it and add more people if more end up wanting to go. I am still waiting to see who might be interested in any of the tours.

Sand Canyon is area inside Canyon of the Ancients National Monument with a trail to some remote archeological sites. We are considering a group hike into this area. The trail can be approached from two sides. Basically, there is a short hike version and a long hike version. We want to settle on one hike for all participants. Right now, I think we are looking at the short hike version (2-3 miles round trip) which would include the most prominent ruins along the trail.

The area north and west of Towaoc is very remote canyon country. We are making plans to do a driving tour to this area. We are thinking about including Montezuma Canyon south of Monticello, Utah in the tour. Among other interests in the canyon, you will see some expensive Cave homes along the route.

Depending on the weather, we will plan for Heavy Snacks the late afternoon of arrival and a pot luck on the last night, also may include a restaurant dinner during the week.

Please contact Barry as soon as possible with your preferences if you wish to go on the Tribal tours so we can book them. englemanbarry@gmail.com

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

Olene Robinson 4/4

Jeff Sirota 4/9

Gene Dorsey 4/18

Jim Glasman 4/26

ANNIVERSARIES

Ed & Edith Osborn 4/30