



GREETINGS FROM GULF STREAMERS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Happy New Year! It looks to be a GREAT 2008! The Gulf Streamers started the year off in Tampa Florida, where 36 RVs and 70 people attended our Buddy Rally, January 15-20, 2008. We also had 24 people attending the Alaskan Caravan Reunion, on Saturday, January 19, 2008. A recap is posted on the website and in your spring issue of the Main Stream. I think Les & Suzanne are already making plans for another reunion in 2010, so hopefully the attendees who missed out on this reunion will be able to attend the next one! If you don't remember, we had two caravans, one which included our wagonmasters, Les & Jean Potteiger, and the second, which included Don & Suzanne Palczynski, as the Gulf Streamers representatives. The caravan was planned and organized through Adventure Caravans, which provided experienced wagonmasters and tailgunners from their company. Adventure Caravans will also be organizing our Rose Parade Rally in 2009-2010 and have many years of experience with this particular rally. When I researched the Rose Parade on my own, I could not find camping sites or good parade seats; I think the reason for these results is that the caravan clubs and other clubs have reserved the camping sites and other facilities years in advance for each parade. If you want to have a great time and enjoy the Rose Parade, check out the form and application on our website (www.gulfstreamrv.com) or in the Main Stream magazine. Adventure Caravans has held the pricing to 2008 prices based upon our relationship with them, so I don't think you will be able to find the Rose Parade cheaper with another agency, not to mention a great campground, with private tent, charter bus, and reserved seating for the parade!

Due to low sign up the **Pomona Pre-Rally** (February 17-22, 2008) was cancelled. If you have made a payment on this pre-rally, all monies will be refunded in the form received. Contact Jennifer Shaw at 1-800-289-8787, extension 3067 to confirm your refund. If you are interested in going to the FMCA Show in Pomona, visit the website at www.fmca.com, click on conventions and then Pomona or contact Ted & Helene Ford, who have camping sites reserved at the FMCA Show complex. They may be reached by calling 303-916-8285. The FMCA rallies for 2009 have been changed back to the March (in Perry Georgia) and August (location to be announced) months that they have been for so many years. I am not sure the reason they were changed in 2008 but am glad they will be in March and August, as I think our members will be more interested in attending in these months.

Las Vegas Rally, April 21-25, 2008, currently has twelve RVs signed up. Deadline for sign up is February 15, 2008. If we don't meet the 25 RV minimum sign up, we will have to cancel! If we have not met the minimum after the cut-off date, we will open up to our "buddies," so if you have friends or relatives who might be interested in attending, get their names in to Jennifer Shaw to put them on a list to contact in case we need them to fill our minimum. I am really looking forward to this rally, so I hope we get enough sign ups that we don't have to cancel. I am saving my pennies and hope you are too, so you can join us for a fun-filled rally!

Back Home in Indiana International Rally, June 23-28, 2008, is in the final stages of planning. Application and flyer will be posted on the website soon and printed in the spring issue of the Main Stream magazine. We are anticipating many of our members signing up for this rally, as it is where you receive the three (3) free minor service repairs, and meet Gulf Stream personnel and many other members of the International Club. We also invite vendors to participate in this rally offering seminars and service on their components. We currently have 40 RVs signed up to attend; these members will be contacted once the forms are completed to select their sites and amperage. Sites are limited, especially 50AMP and 30AMP. We will be assigning sites based upon your deposit received date, so don't delay if you are interested in this rally! We will also be offering 50AMP and 30AMP sites with no sewer at discounted rates in order to accommodate as many of our members as we can. The 30AMP discounted sites will be offered first to the handicap reservations and then filled based upon sign ups for the discounted 30AMP with no sewer. These sites are a short distance from Commercial Building A, which contains clean restrooms and showers. A paved road runs in front of the 30AMP temporary sites for easy travel by scooters and wheelchairs. The 50AMP discounted sites are located in the grassy section near Commercial Building A. The fairgrounds have 10 dump sites at their facilities. If you have been to the Back Home in Indiana International Rally before and occupied a site that you would like to occupy again this year, note that on your application and if it has not been assigned, you will be assigned that site and charged the appropriate rally fee based upon the amperage. If you want to park by someone, you will need to request at time of reservation and the person you want to park by needs to have their reservation in and deposit paid. We are not parking chapters together this year unless you turn in a list of names requesting sites side by side. All deposits for each member must be received before they are assured of their requested site. You may request site numbers for a group or another person as a HOLD, but if someone else requests the site on hold and pays the deposit, it will go to the first deposit received. Make sure you record the date you mailed your application as all site assignments will be based upon date of deposit received. Each reservation will be charged for the type of site, i.e., 50AMP or 30AMP or W/E only camping. We are also charging a higher fee for 50AMP sites, so if you feel you must have 50AMP, you will be charged the higher price, no matter what type of RV you have. Remember to check which amperage you need for your RV and you will be assigned the site based upon availability. Visit the website of the fairgrounds at www.4hFair.org to view the site map of the facilities. It does not detail the site numbers but does give you the location of the camping areas, Ring Road, Northwest Camping, South Camping and along the area by the Home & Family Arts building. Our main events are held in Commercial Building A, E & F, with our meals and entertainment located in the ECCC Building, as you enter the fairgrounds. You may also e-mail info@4hfair.org or call 574-533-3247 to ask specific questions about sites, such as

poles, size, etc., as sometimes these obstacles make it hard for some units to get into them. **The fairgrounds will not be able to reserve a site for the rally for you;** you can only do this through the Gulf Streamers office. To make sure you have the site you want reserved, please make sure you are e-mailing jshaw@gulfstreamcoach.com, or calling 800-289-8787, ext. 3067 ONLY. If you leave your parking site request on any other extension or e-mail, you may not be listed as first in line to receive the site. We are only using this e-mail and number for the sites to assure that all site information is handled by one person and no confusion will arise due to people calling and talking to several of our staff. Your e-mail or voice mail will be returned to let you know if that site is already taken or if you are confirmed in that site. Camping information listed on the website for the fairgrounds, as far as how many sites are available, does not pertain to rallies, as they limit the amount allocated due to their monthly, weekly or sites that are not offered to rally clubs. Their regular camping sites range \$19-\$25 per night, \$140 weekly or \$350 monthly. If you are in the area and looking for a nice clean facility for camping, this fairgrounds is one of the best around and the staff is very accommodating!

Summer Pre-Rally in Duluth Minnesota, July 7-11, 2008 currently has ten RVs signed up. Caravan will be into St. Paul Minnesota, which is approximately 150 miles away. To view the FMCA Show in Minnesota, visit www.fmca.com and click on conventions then St. Paul Minnesota. Here you will be able to see all the vendors and seminars, not to mention the great entertainment that will be offered free with your admittance to the FMCA Show. This is a great place to visit vendors who supply components in your RV (engine, generators, satellite, microwave, leveling jacks, slides, GPS, etc.), as some of these vendors offer free service and can tell you of any recalls or updates for your components, along with showing you how to operate them if you are having problems. The Gulf Stream Chapter of FMCA will have sites available. You will need to contact the Chapter Officers direct to sign up for the sites at the FMCA Show, or you may obtain a site on your own through the website of www.fmca.com. If you sign up on your own, you would not be parked with the group from the Gulf Stream International Chapter of FMCA.

New York Rally October 6-13, 2008 currently has fourteen RVs signed up, with three on a "hold" status; deadline for sign up is June 6, 2008. If you have called in and placed your name on hold, but have not sent in your application and deposit, please let us know if you are still planning to attend. The hold only reserves your name until the application is available for sign up. If you are still interested, please complete the application and mail in with deposit. The campground in New Jersey is one of the most difficult to work with, so the earlier we meet our quota the better, as there is a penalty of \$300.00 just to cancel with this campground. The manager of the campground is very strict in what they require for rally groups, and being the only camping facility near New York, they tend to take advantage of their position. Once I pay the deposit due September 7, 2008, there are no refunds from the camping portion. It is at this time that I can release sites without penalty. If we have not met our 25 RV minimum by our cut off date of June 6th, we will open up this rally to our "buddies," so if you have relatives or friends with another brand that may like to attend, please ask them to submit

their name in to Jennifer Shaw to put on a list to contact them if we open up to "buddies."

2009 rallies scheduled so far are the Natchez Mississippi rally that was submitted by our Florida Gator Chapter and will be held October 19-25, 2009. Information should be posted on the website in the near future to sign up for this rally. The Gators did a great job in researching the area and it should offer a lot of fun for everyone, not to mention the history of the area is amazing! We also have the Rose Parade posted on the website and printed in the Main Stream magazine for you to sign up through Adventure Caravans.

Remember, if you or your chapter have locations that you would like the International office to research for a rally, please submit the information to (gulfstreamers@gulfstreamcoach.com or 800-289-8787 ext. 3664), so we can research it for a future international rally.

Campground Directory – Based upon the response from our members, we will discontinue offering the Campground Directory.

Contests for 2008!!!

Don't forget to check out and participate in the Recipe Contest and Chapter Contest "Exceptional Service Award."

Information is available on the website and in your Main Stream. **Did you know...** when at some campgrounds, internet connection rates are given a discount if you switch over to AOL and use an AOL credit card. You build up points with the AOL credit card, which allows for the "free" internet connection. Check this out if you travel a lot and use campground internet connections. Another way is to register your internet connection with A.A.R.P. They give a discount if you are a member.

Woodall's 2008 North American Campground Directory offers best "One-Tank Trips" for travelers. Directory may be purchased online at www.woodalls.com for \$25.90. You get two directories, which have over 15,000 campground listings and can tell you if the campgrounds are equipped for Big Rigs.

For a free Indiana RV & Campground Guide, visit www.indianarvlifestyle.com, where you can sign up for the free newsletter and view past issues of the Indiana Online Magazine. This is a great source of information if you are planning to attend the 2008 Back Home in Indiana International Rally, as you would be able to plan before and after activities and routes of interest to and from your home or other destinations.

RV owners typically spend much of their free time enjoying life. RVAct (<http://www.rvact.com>) offers RV owners and enthusiasts direct access to lawmakers with a minimal investment of time and effort. By clicking on an ACTION ALERT, RVers can quickly and easily identify and contact government officials in order to express their views and defend their interests as RV enthusiasts. Visit this website to get updates on the energy bill (CAFÉ).

***"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."* (Bill Cosby, Comedian)**

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