



## GREETINGS FROM GULF STREAMERS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Recently, we received an e-mail from a member asking why they do not see Gulf Stream RVs at campgrounds they visit. It made me start to wonder if our members are not aware of all the “brand” names of the Gulf Stream products, such as *Tour Master, Crescendo, B T Cruiser, Ultra, Conquest, Yellowstone, Prairie Schooner, and Innsbruck*, just to mention a few. I don’t think the “Gulf Stream” decal shows up as large as the “brand” name, so you may not realize that this is a product manufactured by Gulf Stream Coach. Also, with the price of gas, it made me wonder how many are on the roads. I usually daydream while I am driving or listen to the radio and could not even tell you what type of vehicle travels the road; on a recent trip to Indianapolis Indiana, however, I made it a point to pay attention to the traffic. Starting out on Saturday, April 26th, I filled my tank with gas (regular unleaded) at the cost of \$3.58 per gallon. I was able to see unleaded ranging from \$3.53 to \$3.59, and diesel ranging from \$4.11 to \$4.19. On the way home on Monday, diesel was up to \$4.39 at some stations and unleaded as high as \$3.65. Most of the RVs I saw while traveling were the big Class As, with a few Class Cs and Travel Trailers mixed in. There were quite a few on the road, mostly going north. I don’t think they know about lowering their speed to preserve gas yet, as they were really traveling down the road. I did notice a lot of horse trailers being pulled by trucks and other RVs. Maybe they have the right idea; if they run out of gas, at least they have an alternate way of travel. Tow cars may be in for a substitution. Keeping all this in mind, I still think RVing is the way to travel! On a vacation in January to Miami Florida, our tickets were \$400 each; the hotel room was \$119 for one night and a real disappointment. I thought I needed a shower from the hotel shower. They didn’t even supply soap or shampoo and only two towels. The taxi ride to and from the airport was \$30.00 each way. This didn’t include the cruise! For those of you coming to our BHII Rally, June 23-28, 2008, Goshen Indiana has the lowest prices on gasoline around the fairgrounds. Some stations listed gas prices for regular unleaded at \$3.46, while in Nappanee and other areas it was \$3.59. New Paris Indiana, just a few miles outside of Goshen, has two gas stations and their prices are usually five to ten cents cheaper than Goshen, so you may want to travel the few extra miles and take advantage of their lower rates. I hope all of you are using the *Flying J Travel Card* that you receive automatically by becoming a member of the club. If you have misplaced your card or never received one, contact Jennifer Shaw at 800-289-8787, ext. 3067 to receive a new one. Visit Flying J at [www.flyingj.com](http://www.flyingj.com) to get a listing of all the travel plazas listed for your area of travel. Their website shows a map with locator stars that you just click on to give you the locations and all the services they offer, along with maps and directions, making it easy for you to find them.

**Back Home in Indiana International Rally**, June 23-28, 2008, has 142 RVs and 286 people signed up. There are still full hook-up sites available if you are interested in attending. I know the traveling to the rally will be your highest cost because there will not be any place you can go on your own to receive as many

meals, activities and entertainment included in the cost of the rally. Some of this is due to the sponsorship of our dealer Hart City, and the many vendors who donate door prizes and monetary gifts to offset the cost, but mostly the generosity of the Shea family who cover any costs over what has been collected for the rally. Gulf Stream is proud of their facilities and looks forward to showing them off each year at the BHII Rally. We may not be able to get you a reservation for some of the options due to the buses and tickets being ordered, but we usually have cancellations at the last minute. By placing your name on a wait list, you would receive the reservation if it becomes available. There are a few seats available for the RV/MH Museum Tour and lunch option. The RV/MH Museum features a “Go RVing Hall,” which was created to encourage all visitors to leave with a strong desire to experience RVing. The contemporary, state-of-the-art exhibit features the latest models of five different styles of current RVs, a theater where the TV spots and consumer video air continuously, and cinema-sized murals and interactive versions of the “What Will You Discover” print ads. Visitors can search for campgrounds and other RV-related information on computer terminals in the showroom linked to [www.GoRVing.com](http://www.GoRVing.com) on the kiosks located in the hall. Even if you do not sign up to go on the option with us, this museum is a great place to spend on free time or before or after the rally and well worth the trip! Contact Jennifer Shaw at 1-800-289-8787 ext. 3067 for details on signing up for this option or visit our website for more information. For those of you who are signed up for the BHII Rally, the tentative agenda will be posted on the website and mailed to the address we have on file for you later in May. **Make sure we have your current address on file;** if you have an alternate address to send your packet to, let Jennifer know as soon as possible! You need to receive your packet in order to obtain your assigned parking site card for your windshield. *We are looking forward to the rally and appreciate all our volunteers who signed up to help with the various volunteer positions.*

**Summer Pre-Rally in Duluth Minnesota**, July 7-11, 2008 has 21 RVs and 42 people. Caravan, led by the officers of the FMCA Chapter, will be in St. Paul Minnesota, which is approximately 150 miles away. We have some fun activities, and Carl Acuff, Jr., will entertain us at the Buffalo Valley RV Campground. We still have some open sites. This pre-rally is open to owners of other brands (SOBs), so if you are attending and have friends you want to invite, ask them to call Jennifer Shaw at 1-800-289-8787, ext. 3067 to sign up.

**New York Rally** October 6-13, 2008 currently has fifteen RVs signed up. **Deadline for sign up is June 6, 2008.** If you are interested in visiting New York and seeing the sites with us, please sign up soon! **This rally is also open to owners of other brands**, so if you have a friend or relative who might want to sign up, please pass the information along. You may also call 1-800-289-8787, ext. 3067 to sign up. This will be the last year that the campground will be open. Future rallies to New York

will involve a longer trip into New York, causing the costs to be higher, not to mention more travel time spent. Liberty Harbor RV Campground is located just a short distance from New York, with a view of the Statue of Liberty.

**Rose Parade Rally**, December 28, 2009-January 3, 2010, organized through Adventure Caravans, is offering discounts to members who sign up. You will receive a \$100 discount if you sign up by August 1, 2008 or a \$50 discount if you sign up by February 1, 2009. Anyone who has already signed up will automatically receive the \$100 discount. Application and flyer information are posted on our website [www.gulfstreamrv.com](http://www.gulfstreamrv.com). In last year's parade, employees of Trader Joe's stores put together a very spectacular float made with cut strawflower and ground white rice, with stripes of silver leaf, carnation petals, clover seed, and trimmed yellow chrysanthemums. The final float consisted of a flying auto/train towing a colorful travel trailer. The float crew relaxed onboard the trailer with a barbecue, volleyball game, sunbathing, and even parasailing. The float was awarded the Craftsman Trophy for exceptional showmanship and dramatic impact. Hopefully, they will create another float for you to view in the 2009 Rose Parade.

**Winners of our Recipe Contest** deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup>, so hurry and send your favorite recipe in so we have enough recipes to print a cookbook of our members' recipes for distribution in 2009.

**Winners of the Chapter Contest "Exceptional Service Award."** Information is available on the website and in your Main Stream. Deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup>; we hope you have a member in your chapter whom you nominated for this award. I know it takes a lot of work and effort to put a good rally together and all of this is at a volunteer's pay, which are thank yous and smiles!

**New contest** coming out soon will be "**Offbeat Attractions.**" Any of you that have traveled Route 66 know that it offers a lot of "unusual" displays along the highways. North Dakota is another state that has an array of displays made from scrap metal along one of its major highways. Les, Jean and I had the pleasure of visiting this beautiful state and seeing first hand these remarkable displays during one of our pre-rallies. The contest will ask you to submit a picture of any unusual sign, site or building that you may run across in your travels. Details will be posted on the website and in a future issue of the Main Stream. Gas Gift Cards will be awarded to winners from a drawing held at the end of the contest. Visit [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org) or [www.nps.gov/history/rt66](http://www.nps.gov/history/rt66) to see some of the strange, quaint and spectacular sights awaiting you during your next trip!

If you have suggestions for contests you would like to participate in, send the details to the International Office. Please send the information to [gulfstreamers@gulfstreamcoach.com](mailto:gulfstreamers@gulfstreamcoach.com), or call 800-289-8787, ext. 3664. Don't forget to enter the photo contest detailed in Main Stream and Website! Winners receive great prizes and their photos may show up as cover pages of the Main Stream magazine. To see last year's photo winners, prize details and rules for submission visit our website at [www.gulfstreamrv.com](http://www.gulfstreamrv.com).

There are only two months left for members to express their opinions to the Federal Highway Administration about the

proposed approval of the **RV Friendly** program. More information is available on the RVAct website, <http://www.regulations.gov>. Visit this site to see what other travelers have posted and to post your opinions.

For those of you who are wondering what to do with your analog TV to digital switch in February 2009, visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov). The Government is offering information and a free \$40 gift certificate towards the purchase of a converter box. You may also visit the website of one of our vendors at [www.winegard.com](http://www.winegard.com) to obtain information and discounts on ordering.

RVMCA Mail Service has reduced the sign-up fee from \$40.00 to \$15.00. Since the introduction of Mail Scan Pro, it has taken off and they want to pass the savings along to our members. For more information of the services RVMCA offers, e-mail Scott at [sbi@sbimailservice.com](mailto:sbi@sbimailservice.com). Information for sign up is also posted in each Main Stream magazine.

Visit [www.queenmotorhome.com](http://www.queenmotorhome.com) for information and to order Patt Fero's book on her adventures traveling in an RV. Pat graciously donated four autographed books to our BHII Rally for door prizes.

**Did you know...** New Jersey, with 96, is the US state with the greatest number of hazardous waste sites.

Free pet injury coverage for RVers, beginning in March 31<sup>st</sup> in most states, **Progressive Pet Injury Coverage**, free with Collision and Comprehensive, pays up to \$500 if your dog or cat is hurt or dies because of a crash, fire or flood.

*"The only people you should ever want to get "even" with are those who have helped you."*

--John Honeyfeld

**Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:**

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- Take naps.
- Stretch before rising.
- Run, romp and play daily.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- Delight in the simple joy of a walk.
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.
- Be loyal
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
- Being always grateful for each new day and for the blessing you have.

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