

OFFICERS (elected)

President:

Mike (Fuzzy) Overbeck

1ST VP (Activities):

Cynthia Donovan

2ND VP (Food):

Allen Donahue

Secretary:

Beth Short

Treasurer:

Stephanie Binz

Wagon Master:

Keith (Red) Hable

National Director:

Mark Griffith

Alt. National Director:

Dave Short

CONTRIBUTORS

(Appointed)

Newsletter:

Lois Tucker

Membership/Roster:

Judy Overbeck

Photographer

Stacey Yingling

Chaplain:

Kay Dudding



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings to all! I am sitting here in a Cracker Barrel RV spot in Bloomington, IL, heading to Gillette, WY. for the FMCA's 103rd International Convention. We are going in a week early to join the Monaco International group for their pre-rally. Bob & Lois Tucker are a few miles behind us visiting her sister. We will meet up on the road sometime tomorrow. Lois is recuperating well from her back surgery. We do not have to be there until Monday, so we are taking our time, and giving her time to rest when needed.

I just wanted to comment on what a great time I had in Shipshewana. It was good to see everyone relaxing, playing cards and enjoying the meals. On Friday morning during the meeting, everyone seemed to enjoy the Cinnamon Rolls from the Country Lane bakery. There were also some donuts from Rise & Roll bakery & deli. It would not be Saturday morning without a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, bacon and Brenda Kinnett's famous biscuits and gravy. Thanks so much to our breakfast crew, Stephanie, Dave, Herb, Red and we cannot forget Allen.

There were several who went to the shows. I heard that Jeff Foxworthy was a hit.

Red has already made reservations for Shipshewana next year.

I also would like to thank Debbie Honeyman, who suggested to her Mom, Bev Dunnington, to go have a buggy ride. Bev had made some phone calls and finally came upon a gentleman named John who was in business. (I had called the Miller Co. from a previous year, and they were out of business). I had Bev stand up during our meeting and explain the options to everyone. As you can see from the pictures, some of us went to a farm for a tour. Some got to feed the animals and milk a cow. Jack and Bev fell in love with a kitten. The buggies took us back to our cars and we drove to an Amish home for a home cooked meal. I know there was over 20 people from our group there.

Judy and I left there and went to Glama in Allegan, MI. We had our usual sites there and it was a nice smaller venue. There were others from our Chapter there also. Our count was 22 TST members in attendance.

See you at Grand Lake St. Mary's!

Michael (Fuzzy) Overbeck, President of Tri-State Traveliers
overbeckf73@gmail.com 513-200-4349

Michael (Fuzzy) Overbeck, President



1ST VP

(ACTIVITIES) CORNER

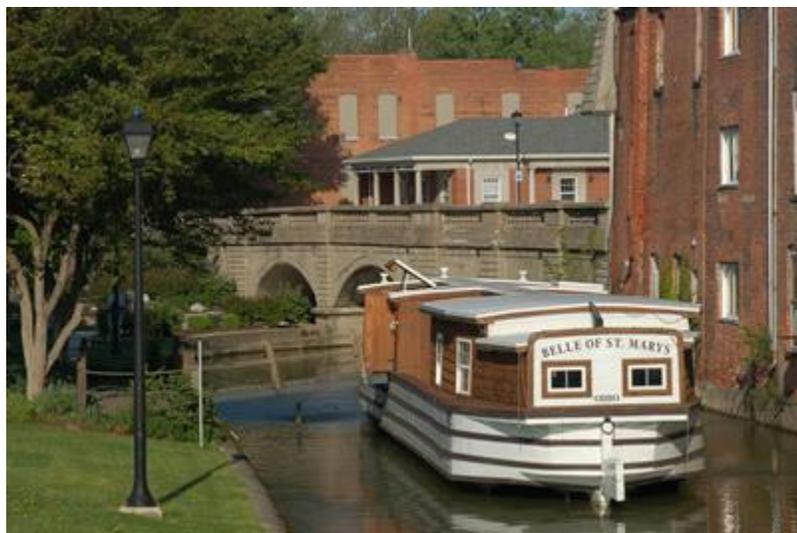
I just returned from a trip to Pigeon Forge, Cherokee, NC, Asheville, Blue Ridge GA, and Chattanooga, TN. Fantastic scenery, Dollywood, white water rafting, Biltmore, Incline Railway, Lookout Mountain and driving a good bit of the Blue Ridge; we drove 1200 miles while in these locations to see any the wonderful things God has created. It was a great time.

St. Mary's State Park Campground, things to do:

The "Belle of St. Mary's" Canal Boat

In April 1987, a delegation of St. Mary's traveled to our sister city, Hokudan-cho, Japan. This was the first official visit to our sister city and much time and thought was given to the official gift to be presented at that time. It was decided to build a scale model of a canal boat representing our community's early history. The craftsman who built the model was Dale F. Grimes, Sr. After completing the scale model, Mr. Grimes expressed a desire to someday build a full-size canal boat.

A set of plans was obtained from Hoge Lumber Company. Mr. Russell King, a retired Civil Engineer, came forth and offered his services in revising the plans and working on the project. Dale Grimes, Sr., Master Craftsman, and Russell King worked together throughout the project along with other citizens who donated their time to work on the boat.



its resting place in the Miami and Erie Canal in Memorial Park.

A special hot tub was built in which the boards could be heated to a certain temperature and formed or curved as needed to construct the boat. The boat was fully constructed in approximately nine months. On September 19, 1990, the boat was moved out of the building Scott Street. Rollers were placed underneath the boat with a tow motor helping to push the boat out of the building. When the boat reached the end of the graveled parking area on the lot, it was then lifted by one 50 ton and one 45-ton crane and moved farther out of the building so that a flatbed truck could then back underneath the boat. The boat was then gently lowered onto the truck. The expertise of Mid-Am Industrial Corporation of Findlay, Ohio, was greatly appreciated in accomplishing the task of moving the boat from its birthing place on Scott Street to

Moving day for the boat was September 2, 1990. The crew started at 9:00 a.m. from the Scott Street location. Many school children and citizens were lining the streets to observe history being made in our community as the "Belle of St. Mary's" was transported to the canal. The boat traveled south on Scott Street, making a turn onto Spring Street, which was the only turn in the moving route. The move went very smoothly, and the boat was in the Uptown area by 9:45 a.m. The longest wait for spectators was while Mid-Am Industrial positioned the straps which cradled the boat so the two cranes could carefully raise

the boat over the bridge and down into the canal. The process of actually placing the boat in the canal took only about 10-15 minutes. City crews were waiting on the canal bank to assist with positioning the boat as it was lowered and pulling it by ropes into its docking place.

The official dedication of the boat took place on Sunday, September 23, 1990. Like many other structures exposed to the water, the canal boat deteriorated over the years and was lifted from the canal in 2001. A new boat was built by City personnel using only a few pieces of the original boat. The reconstructed vessel was placed on a permanent concrete cradle structure in the canal in 2002.

Clock Tower



The original bell tower was built in 1902 at the site of the original high school. When the new high school was built in 1923, the old high school building became West Elementary. In 1958 the new West Elementary School was built and the old high school building, including the bell tower, was demolished. The bell and clock, however, were saved. The new clock tower resembles the original but is now located in Memorial Park. The bell weighs 850 lbs. The clock is activated by an electronic device, as well as an electronic bell ringer.

In 1988, AAP St. Mary's Corp. built a new manufacturing facility in St. Mary's. The company wanted to show their appreciation to the St. Mary's community for the kind assistance AAP received while locating their company here. When AAP heard of the Clock Tower Project, they donated the structure to house the bell and clock. The electronics were donated by Miss Marguerite Geiger, former principal of West Elementary School.

Memorial Covered Bridge



In January 1992, the St. Mary's Area Chamber of Commerce formed the Memorial Covered Bridge Committee. The project began under the direction of former Mayor Michael Lynch and was completed under the endorsement of Mayor William Sell.

This community project was the result of \$85,000 of cash donations and \$60,000 of material donations and discounts. The project construction was headed by Foreman Dale F. Grimes, Sr., Foreman/Assistant James Kite, and well over 5,000 volunteer man hours.

The roof of the bridge is a result of donated lumber from North Carolina. It started with a drought and ended with a hurricane. The result has been a relationship of

giving between families in the New Knoxville area and North Carolina. Several years ago, farmers in the drought devastated Carolina foothills put out a call for help through the United Church of Christ, and farmers in New Knoxville responded with truckloads of hay and cash for grain. Since that first act of caring, the two groups have paid each other back in many ways, all the while developing a unique friendship. When Hurricane Hugo smashed into Charleston, South Carolina and then traveled into North Carolina, it left in its path hundreds of fallen trees. Among the trees were several large White Oaks, and knowing that Dale Grimes, Sr., was interested in building a replica covered bridge, the North Carolinians decided to contribute some shingles. An old-fashioned shingle cutting machine was found and cutting began. Over 16,000 shingles later, the task was complete. Several of the North Carolina residents made a trip to St. Mary's for the groundbreaking ceremonies. The shingles add a very authentic look to the bridge and seal up nicely during a rain.

Veteran's Memorial Walkway

Another project associated with the Memorial Covered Bridge was the "Veteran's Memorial Walkway", which was constructed in the Summer of 1993. This walkway leads to the opening of the Memorial Covered Bridge. The cement walkway is lined with 600 red bricks on each side and each brick is engraved in the honor of an area resident who has served in our armed forces. Individuals purchased the bricks and supplied the information to be engraved. Unique Awards and Signs of St. Mary's handled all the engraving services.

Grotto

In 1994 the "Grotto", a stone recess in the banks of the St. Mary's River on the Memorial Park side, received a face lift. Old stones were removed and the Grotto was rebuilt as close as possible to the original structure. The Grotto has been outfitted with a circulating waterfall and collection pool. The waterfall and the wall in each side of the Grotto is lighted.

It is unclear as to why the Grotto was located here. Local historians have not been able to find any history on the Grotto. One belief is the Grotto was used as a spillway to lower the water level of the canal between Lock 12 and Lock 13, but there are no records to verify this theory.

Flag Pole and Veteran's Walkway



Spearheaded by Mayor Freewalt, another Veteran's walkway was located around the three new flag poles that were installed in 2000. A monument engraved "We Honor Those Who Served" and engraved with each emblem of our armed forces stands in front of the flag poles. The concrete walkway around the flag poles and monument will hold an additional 400+ bricks to be engraved with the names of area residents who have served in our armed forces.

St. Mary's Miniature Golf Course

K.C. Geiger Park on Greenville Rd.

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR 2021:

Last round of golf is at 8:00 p.m. daily.

Monday-Friday 10:30 am - 9:00 pm (PLEASE PAY IN SMALL BILLS)
 Saturday 12:30 pm - 9:00 pm
 Sunday 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm

(All hours are weather permitting)
 Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Individuals from the organization CAPABILITIES will be volunteering their services at the course from 10:30 am until 1:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. During this time golf fees are waived, however, they will be accepting donations to their organization.

Adult Rate	\$2.00
Children Rate (Ages 12 and under)	\$1.00

Celina, Ohio is approximately eight (8) miles from the state park:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

229 W Anthony St, Celina, OH 45822-1608

This church was renovated in 2016 and is one of the most beautiful churches in the area. A high domed ceiling, beautiful woodworking, stained-glass windows, and artwork.

Cindy Donovan, VP Activities

Just had to share this photo of Fuzzy and Cooper with a dance gal. We stopped in Wall, South Dakota to visit their famous Wall drug store. Copper was all for it, but we had to coax Fuzzy to sit by the gal.



VP (FOOD)



Hi fellow Traveliers the fun group: I have been reviewing the Restaurants in the Saint Mary's area. I found 10 sit down restaurants within 10 miles from the campground.

Allen Donahue, VP Food



A note from: Treasa Betz

A group of us sitting around at the May campout decided that a taco night would be a fun dinner in July. Instead of asking everyone to bring either a salad or dessert, we thought, lets ask people to bring specific items. I have contacted the people I had information for and asked them to sign up. If I have been unable to contact you, I apologize, and I would like you to bring either an appetizer, a fruit or a dessert.

I am including the sign-up list so you can remember what you volunteered for. Please contact me at tbetz@sbcglobal.net or 714 287 1065 if you are unable to attend the campout. I will then be able to ask someone else to bring your ingredient(s). Please get in touch with me if you have any questions. There will be about 26-30 people in attendance, so keep that in mind for your quantities.

Taco Night in July (Grand Lake St Park, St Marys, OH)

Last Name	First Names	Items
Short	Beth & David	Sangria, refried beans
Binz	Stephanie & Ron	Tomatoes, Lettuce, Salad
Clifton/Gadzala	Karen & Kerry	Tortillas - hard and soft
Betz	Treasa & Bill	Meat, Spanish Rice
McNeill	Elaine	Tortilla Chips, Dessert
Ashby	Connie & Herb	Mexican Corn
Reid	Gail & Dave	Guacamole, diced onions
Morgan	Jack	Hot Sauces
Overbeck	Judy & Fuzzy	Shredded Cheese, Sour Cream
Dunningston	Bev	Dessert
Hable	Becky & Keith	Salsa
Haden	Ellie	
Donahue	Allen	
Hurst	Barb & Ron	
Kirlin/Hurst	Relative of Barb & Ron	
Larick	Ben	



SECRETARY'S CORNER

Tristate Traveliers General Meeting - 6/04/2021
Secretary's Report:

Fuzzy called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation by Kay Dudding.

President's review:

Board Members and Officers present:

President	Mike (Fuzzy) Overbeck
Wagon Master	Keith (Red) Hable
VP Food	Alan Donahue
Treasurer	Stephanie Binz
Secretary	Beth Short
Alt. Nat. Director	David Short
Newsletter	Lois Tucker
Membership	Judy Overbeck

Dues stay the same with an added \$5 for new members to cover cost of magnetic name badge.

The old website to be taken down soon. Tristatetraveliers.com (no hyphen) website to be up and running in 60 days with Paypal set up last week.

Very few changes to Bylaws or Standing Rules.

Medical Marijuana use is permitted in your own RV or at your campsite, not in any public areas. Anyone with an FMCA number may vote in any election.

Fred Dudding moved to approve the bylaws. Standing Rules approved.

Fuzzy added that the transition period for the new board members should start in September of this boards second year to make it easier for the new board to take over in January. I would like to thank Elaine McNeill (outgoing secretary) for all her help in the transition. Thank you!!

Bev Duddington got the information for members if they wanted to do a buggy ride, visit a dairy and have dinner in a private Amish home. Thank you Bev.

Judy Overbeck told us about the 11 new members representing 20% growth.

Keith Hable said there was 1 spot open for Branson due to a cancellation. 2 river spots open at Lively Lady.

Respectfully Submitted
Beth Short, Secretary

Beth Short, Secretary



TREASURER'S CORNER

The treasurer reports that all obligations have been met including rally expenditures. Upcoming obligations for future rallies are pending.

I would like to remind all that if any member sponsors AM donuts or a meal they will be reimbursed by presenting their receipts to the treasurer. You know food is our middle name and we welcome any and all culinary delights!

The new TST website is moving along. When complete you will be able to make payments using our existing PayPal account. There will not be, however, the ability to have dues paid automatically on a yearly recurring basis.

See you at Lake St. Mary's!

Stephanie Binz, Treasurer, 513-260-8246, rsbinz@fuse.net





WAGON MASTER'S CORNER

GREETINGS FROM YOUR WAGON MASTER!!

Well, Shipshewana was an incredibly good Rally as the weather cooperated and we all had a really good time. It was so good; we are booked to go there again next year.

This was our first trip to Shipshewana. Becky and I had a wonderful time. We took an Amish Buggy Ride and enjoyed the wonderful Amish dinner at the Amish home with the Tri-State Traveliers who went. The area is beautiful and we loved the shopping.

The September Rally at Lively Lady is still open with one river site available and plenty of full hookup sites available, so get your registration in for fun on the beautiful Ohio River.

The registration form for our October Rally at FMCA campground is now out in this newsletter. The price is \$35.00 per night. If you choose to use your 2 free nights that is ok if you haven't already used them at the campground. Rally fee is \$10.00 per person.

I hope to see a really good turnout for Lively Lady and the FMCA Hometown Rally at Newtown Ohio.

Send in your registrations early for the Rally's.

Will see each of you Tri-State Traveliers soon!

Safe travels to all,

Keith "Red" Hable, Rally Master, 513-304-4146, Keithhable345@gmail.com



Tri-State Travelers 2021 Rally/Event Schedule

<u>Jan 13 - 17</u>	<u>RV Supper Show</u> <u>Tampa, FL</u>		
<u>Mar 10 - 13</u>	<u>FMCA's 102nd Int'l Convention</u> <u>Perry, GA</u>		<u>FMCA</u>
<u>Apr 21 - 25</u>	<u>Natural Springs</u> <u>New Paris, OH</u>	<u>Click Here for Registration</u>	<u>TST</u>
<u>May 19 - 23</u>	<u>Charlestown State Park</u> <u>Charlestown, IN</u>	Full <u>Click Here for Registration</u>	<u>TST</u>
<u>Jun 2 - 6</u>	<u>Shipshewana Campground South Park</u> <u>Shipshewana, IN</u>	Full <u>Click Here for Registration</u>	<u>TST</u>
<u>Jun 9 - 13</u>	<u>GLAMARAMA Lite 2021</u> <u>Allegan, Michigan</u>	<u>Register on FMCA</u>	<u>GLAMA</u>
<u>Jul 7 - 10</u>	<u>FMCA's 103rd Int'l Convention</u> <u>Gillette, WY</u>	<u>Register on FMCA</u>	<u>FMCA</u>
<u>Jul 21 - 25</u>	<u>Grand Lake St Park</u> <u>St Marys, OH</u>	Full <u>Click Here for Registration</u>	<u>TST</u>
<u>Aug 9 - 14</u>	<u>Americas Best Campground</u> <u>Branson, MO</u>	Full	<u>TST</u>
<u>Sep 15 - 19</u>	<u>Lively Lady Campground</u> <u>Aberdeen, OH</u>	<u>Click Here for Registration</u>	<u>TST</u>
<u>Oct 13 - 16</u>	<u>FMCA Campground</u> <u>Cincinnati, OH</u>	<u>Click Here for Registration</u>	<u>TST</u>
<u>Nov 3 - 7</u>	<u>Follow The River</u> <u>Florence, IN</u>		<u>TST</u>





National Director:

July 2021

A Happy Independence Day to everyone!

July is fast approaching and so are plans for Gillette. We plan to leave on Friday, July 2, and arrive the following Monday or Tuesday. This should be a successful national rally as everyone wants to get back out and celebrate our new Summer without strict COVID restrictions. I still urge everyone to stay safe, and if you have not been vaccinated.... please do it!

If you have not yet responded to my June 15 email regarding the upcoming election of national FMCA officers, there's still time. All active members should have received the email, but I have only received seven responses. So far, we have split the candidate field right down the middle with a 4-3 count.

There's still time to respond. I will be checking emails (markwgriffith74@gmail.com) right up to the last minute and will cast the Chapter's votes as directed by our members.

After Gillette, Linda and I will be taking our time on the return trip with stops at Devils Tower and Mt Rushmore. We will explore the Black Hills and visit Deadwood, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and many of the other area attractions. Linda has been there before, but this will be my first time. If last week in Gatlinburg is an indication, there will probably be massive crowds everywhere we go. I made camping reservations back in February.... THANK GOODNESS!

Save travels to everyone, wherever you may ramble.

Please remember, on this Independence Day, those who gave all for our freedom.

Mark Griffith, National Director

*I'M THE TYPE OF WIFE THAT WILL HELP MY HUSBAND LOOK FOR HIS
CHOCOLATE,
THAT I ATE.*



ALTERNATE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

We had a great time at Shpshewana, then on to Allegan, MI for Glamarama. It was held at the fairgrounds with water, electricity and good weather. We were guests of the Ohio Nomads, another FMCA chapter. Went visiting Holland, MI for lunch and a walk about.

David Short, Alternate National Director



An eblast about the commemorative brick sale just went out to all family and commercial membership!

Anne Baumgartner

Marketing Director, www.fmca.com

513-474-3622 x303 • 800-543-3622

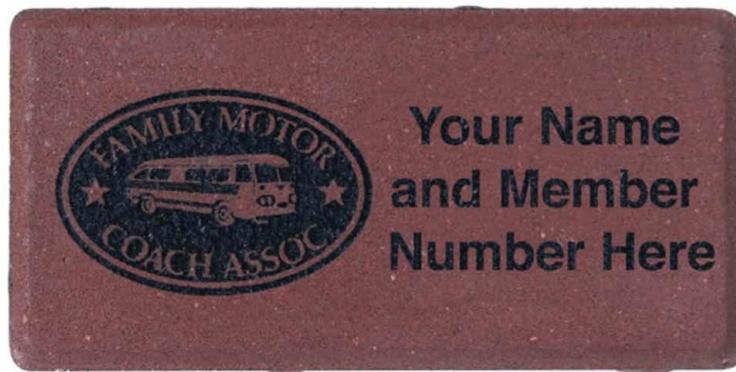
abaumgartner@fmca.com

Be A Part Of FMCA History For Years To Come!
Purchase Your Commemorative Brick 🧱 Today!

[Manage your FMCA email preferences](#)

FMCA
Your RVing Family

Don't Miss Your Chance to Be a Part of
FMCA HISTORY!



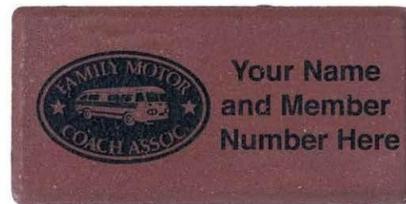
As a valued FMCA member, here's your chance to purchase a personalized commemorative brick. Your purchased brick will be placed either in the gated entrance of the FMCA dog park or used to create a walkway from the FMCA campground to Lake Barber.

- Follow these easy steps below to order yours today!
- Click the red "**Pre-Order Now**" button below.
- Enter your **Family Name** in the way you would like it displayed.
- Enter your **FMCA Member Number**.

**There is a maximum limit of 45 characters*

[PRE-ORDER NOW](#)

Your name and
member number
here!



FMCA
Your RVing Family





EDITOR'S CORNER

I am taking it easy and being lazy this month. Hope you enjoy the following.

You might find this entertaining! ALTHOUGH, this could be now, and we just don't know it yet...

CALLER: Is this Gordon's Pizza?

GOOGLE: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

CALLER: I must have dialed a wrong number. Sorry.

GOOGLE: No sir, Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month.

CALLER: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

GOOGLE: Do you want your usual, sir?

CALLER: My usual? You know me?

GOOGLE: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

CALLER: OK! That's what I want ...

GOOGLE: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?

CALLER: What? I detest vegetable!

GOOGLE: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

CALLER: How the hell do you know!

GOOGLE: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

CALLER: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

GOOGLE: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased only a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, 4 months ago.

CALLER: I bought more from another drugstore.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

CALLER: I paid in cash.

GOOGLE: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

CALLER: I have other sources of cash.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.

CALLER: WHAT THE HECK!

GOOGLE: I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

CALLER: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

GOOGLE: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...

Lois Tucker, Editor



MEMBERSHIP'S CORNER

Please let [us](#) know if your birthdays or anniversaries are incorrect.

I would like to welcome our newest members, Debbie and Dave Honeyman. Glad that you became a part of our family.

Michael (Mick) & Kerry Ely

Gregory & Marion Oswalt

Ed & Malissa Lux

Bill Settles & Sara Leikin

Donald & Pat Royalty

Chris & Aly Manning

Mark and Nicole Haake

Debbie & Dave Honeyman

We did get to meet the Ely's at Natural Springs and hope to see each new member at our upcoming rallies.

Thanks to our members hard work in getting our membership up by 10%.

July Birthdays	July Birthdays continued
Renee Watkins 7/1	Carl Carey 7/20
Bill Betz 7/3	Estelle Bush. (w/Thatcher) 7/29
Bill Settles 7/3	
Mike Solon 7/6	July Anniversaries
Debbie Adams 7/7	Mike & Diana Solon 7/12
Linda Lewis 7/11	Chris & Aly Manning 7/13
Della Dixon 7/14	Brian & Mary Ellen Dwyer 7/16
Sara Leikin. (w/Settles) 7/14	DJ & Kris Jackson 7/20
Aly Manning 7/15	Ron & Stephanie Binz 7/20
Dave Honeyman 7/19	Stacey & Dale Yingling 7/28
Mary Ellen Dwyer 7/19	

Overbeck, Membership

joverbeck54@gmail.com

513-619-0081

Please take a few minutes to login to the web site to review and update your information.

On your first attempt to login, click on forgot password. Enter the pilot's e-mail and code as shown. Wait for an e-mail to arrive at the provided e-mail address and follow the instructions. Once you create your new password, you should be able to login to the member's only area. From there, click on your underlined name to get to your details. If you need to change anything, click on the *Edit* button at the top and save when you are done.

Visit us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/tri-stateTraveliersCampingGroup

Don't Forget: Tri-State Traveliers has a great *members-only* Facebook page and is being followed by many members. If you are a Facebook user, and would like to stay connected with other TST members, please click on the icon to the left and request to join. Or contact Judy Overbeck (joverbeck54@gmail.com) for help.



Facts Are Part of History:

***I have changes to this month's answer to the Facts Are Part of History.
The July 4th is a federal holiday and I think something should be said about it.***

Independence Day, the Fourth of July or July 4) is a *federal holiday* in the *United States* commemorating the *Declaration of Independence* of the United States, on July 4, 1776. The *Continental Congress* declared that the *thirteen American colonies* were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the *monarch of Britain, King George III*, and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress had voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2, but it was not declared until July 4.

During the *American Revolution*, the legal separation of the *thirteen colonies* from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the *Second Continental Congress* voted to approve a *resolution of independence* that had been proposed in June by *Richard Henry Lee* of *Virginia* declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the *Declaration of Independence*, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a *Committee of Five*, with *Thomas Jefferson* as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration to remove its vigorous denunciation of the *slave trade*, finally approving it two days later on July 4. Jefferson had written the following indictment against King George III:

He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation hither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. **Determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold**, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce **determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold**; and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he had deprived them, by murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.

A day earlier, *John Adams* had written to his wife *Abigail*:

The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be olemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though *Thomas Jefferson*, *John Adams*, and *Benjamin Franklin* all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

By a remarkable coincidence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as *presidents of the United States*, both died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration, Jefferson even mentioning the fact. Although not a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, *James Monroe*, another *Founding Father* who was elected as president, also died on July 4, 1831, making him the third President who died on the anniversary of independence. The only U.S. president to have been born on Independence Day was *Calvin Coolidge*, who was born on July 4, 1872.

In 1777, thirteen gunshots were fired in salute, once at morning and once again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. An article in the July 18, 1777 issue of *The Virginia Gazette* noted a celebration in Philadelphia in a manner a modern American would find familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships in port were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.

- *In 1778, from his headquarters at Ross Hall, near New Brunswick, New Jersey, General George Washington marked July 4 with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute (feu de joie). Across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.*

In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5.

- *In 1781, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize July 4 as a state celebration.*
- *In 1783, Salem, North Carolina, held a celebration with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich Peter entitled *The Psalm of Joy*. The town claims it to be the first public July 4 event, as it was carefully documented by the Moravian Church, and there are no government records of any earlier celebrations.*
- *In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.*
- *In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.*
- *A salute of one gun for each state in the United States, called a "salute to the union," is fired on Independence Day at noon by any capable military base. **I could not prove this.***

This information was obtained from: [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)

Facts Are Part of History:

Which Of These Office Supplies Was Invented Decades Before It Saw Practical Use?

A) Correction Fluid B) Paperclips C) Rubber Bands D) Staples

The answer to this riddle will be in the August Newsletter.





