

Vegas Blackjacks RV Club

President's Annual Report – October 2023

The Vegas Blackjacks RV Club is continuing to be active and healthy. We have 42 current coaches as of October 2023. We continue to generate new member interest by word of mouth, from FMCA HQ forwarded member inquires, FMCA & RMMA Rally Chapter Fairs, and even from our Facebook page! If you haven't viewed our Facebook page, search under "Vegas Blackjacks RV Club", and please post photos and comments from our rallies there, since this is the replacement for our Chapter newsletter. I am posting my semi-regular Presidents Corners there, in addition to the email distribution.

The Blackjacks have held 6 chapter rallies this year, with one more scheduled for November at Silver View RV in Bullhead City AZ, and our annual Christmas Party at Los Prados Golf Club on December 3rd. The chapter rallies were held at Riverside Casino RV in Laughlin NV, Temple View RV in St George UT, Grand Plateau RV in Kanab UT, Zion River Resort in Virgin UT, Ruby's Inn RV in Bryce UT, and the Chapter Meeting Rally at Wine Ridge RV in Pahrump NV.

The FMCA International Convention was held Aug 23-26 at CAM-Plex in Gillette WY. The Blackjacks had 3 coaches representing our chapter at the rally, and the overall attendance for the event was down to 892 family and display coaches. We participated in the Chapter Fair held after the Tuesday First Timer's meeting and while we had fun, we were unsuccessful in signing up any new member families at this event.

For 2023, we moved our annual meeting forward in the calendar to mid-October, separate from the Christmas Party. This is desirable to enable us to plan and publicize the first half of the 2024 rally calendar with sufficient lead time for our members and prospective members to plan and make reservations to attend.

While our membership levels are healthy, participation in chapter rallies has been somewhat disappointing this year, with attendance levels in the 5-10 RVs for most of our rallies. While fuel and RV park prices have increased this year, and other family priorities can interfere, letting your RV sit in storage is also not productive. For the continuing success of our chapter, I encourage all members to both participate in our rallies, and become part of the leadership of our activities, both as Rally Hosts for individual rallies and as chapter officers. We need our members to step up to leadership positions in the chapter. I have been President for the past 7 years, and Marsha Hill has held an officer position almost uninterrupted since the inception of the chapter. With the unfortunate accidental loss of their RV, Deb Leatham is having to step down as Vice President. Without members stepping up to volunteer for these necessary roles, our Chapter may wither and collapse due to apathy and neglect.

Both 2024 FMCA International Conventions will be held in western area of the US, March 20-23 at the Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson AZ, and August 14-17 at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond OR. Marsha & I hope to organize a pre-rally and group arrival for the Vegas Blackjacks at Redmond if there is enough interest among the chapter member to attend, like we did in 2014 the last time the FMCA Convention was in Redmond.

John H. Hill

President