

Rally Report - "California Dreamin'"

By Dianne Wolfe



The CAT RV Club rallied at Golden Village Palms RV Resort in Hemet, CA, February 11-15. Once again Jim and Marcy Mannan and David and Marianne Conner put on a great show as Rallymasters providing good food, fun games, friendly competition, informative seminars, and wonderful entertainment. Many said this was the best rally to date.

The rally gift for this event was the FMCA-style Club "egg" pictured above. We ordered extras, and like the Club logo shirts, these are now available for sale. In addition, Michelin and FMCA paid for RVSEF to do all-wheel-position weighing of each coach in attendance.

Meals On Wheels, La Mirada, CA was the charity selected to receive proceeds from 50/50 Raffle at this rally. This was particularly appropriate since Jim Mannan is on their Board of Directors and Marcy delivers meals five days a week. With Club Founder Don Tallman organizing ticket sales, assisted by Marcie Quarisa, \$2,570 was contributed to Meals on Wheels.

As you can see, attendees really had fun with the Valentines' Day costume competition.



How did the CAT RV Club get started?

by Don Tallman

Several members of the chapter have asked me just “how did the CAT RV Club get started?”

It was July 2003, and the FMCA convention was in Buffalo, New York. My new Caterpillar® C-12 engine (Safari Panther) was ready to roll. Earlier I lost my lady to cancer, so I decided to make the 3,000+ mile trip across the USA alone. During this trip I had a lot of time to think. Realizing there was a lot about diesel engines I don’t know, the idea came to me to start a chapter devoted to Caterpillar engines.

Going to Buffalo was a tremendous blessing for me for all kinds of reasons:

- Met with dozens of great friends I have known for decades
- Introduced to the lady of my dreams... Carolyn, now my fiancée
- Given the highest award a member can receive from FMCA’s Governing Board: “Life Membership”
- Met some of the hierarchy of Caterpillar Inc: Susie Adcock, her boss and General Manager Jim McReynolds...and received their overwhelming support and encouragement to start an “FMCA Caterpillar RV Engine Owners Club”
- Talked briefly to the attendees at the Caterpillar Inc Maintenance Seminar, telling them of my plans to start the chapter-- a vast majority expressed interest

Back in Sacramento, California I began making plans to get the chapter off the ground. Aug-Dec 2003 applications were sent to those expressing interest in the new chapter. January 2004 more applications were taken at the FMCA Western Area Rally at Indio, California. At the March 2004 FMCA Convention in Albuquerque, met with Caterpillar Inc leadership to confirm details of financial support, member qualifications, meetings, etc. Officers were elected and the CAT RV Club was off and running with 400 Charter Members.

Running an organization such as the CAT RV Club is no easy task. The Chapter was very fortunate to find a most capable couple and elected him (them) as our Vice-President in Perry, Georgia in Mar ’05. Later they ran one of our best rallies in Peoria, Illinois where we were privileged to tour the main CAT engine plant and foundry. In Minot, ND he (they) were elected Club President. It is no secret that Brett & Diane Wolfe have been a tremendous force in making the chapter the success it is today.

The Club Rally at Hemet, California February 2008 was sold out with a long waiting list. We have earned the reputation as a chapter with informative, interesting, and fun Rallies & seminars. This may be the reason we are, indeed, one of the fastest growing chapters in FMCA.

Over the last 40+ years, I have held many positions in FMCA. Of all of these, I am most proud to be the Founder & first President of the CAT RV Club’s & currently the Chapter’s National Director. As such, I am very pleased to represent the chapter at the national level and as a member of the Governing Board, and will continue to support the best interests of the Chapter.

In the most recent election for the National FMCA Nominating Committee, the five candidates receiving the most votes serve; with the one receiving the most votes elected Chairman. I am honored to Chair the FMCA National Nominating Committee for 2007-09. We are responsible for selecting most qualified candidates to fill the top four National Posts of FMCA: President, Senior Vice-President, Secretary, & Treasurer.

The vision I had for the Chapter when it was founded, was to bring together members who are interested in Caterpillar diesel engines and would like to know more about how to maintain them, how to keep repair costs to a minimum and to socialize & enjoy the company of like-minded members. With the current policies & leadership in place, I am confident that the “CAT RV Club” will continue to be one of the best chapters in FMCA.

Solar Turbines—A Caterpillar Company

by Joe Hipp

At each rally Caterpillar sponsors an event that, to many, makes the rally memorable. We’ve taken factory tours; attended a minor league baseball game at Charleston, watching the Class A River Dogs slug it out with the Lexington Legends including grandstand seats and hot-dogs; a unique dining experience in Tampa’s Ybor City with flamenco entertainment; and a private tour of Newport’s Oregon Coast Aquarium, with gourmet desserts in view of the sharks.



At Hemet, Caterpillar arranged a tour of the Solar Turbines plant in San Diego, with bus stewardesses entertaining. Well, at least one bus had an entertainer. Jackie Cothren had the folks on Bus #2 coughing up personal secrets in a “two truths and a lie” contest. We were also given a video introduction to Solar Turbines starting with the company origins. And, yes, we were given a safety briefing before entering the plant.

Solar Turbines is a little known part of Caterpillar outside the corporation. It is a well-known turbine manufacturer in the pipeline industry and tours are arranged for corporate buyers and industry decision makers. The staff at Solar Turbines responded to a request from Caterpillar to give a large group of novices a tour, including special accommodation for handicapped. Groups of ten CAT rvers were escorted through the high-tech plant and at key stations were given a layman’s explanation of the operation at that site. At the end of the tour we didn’t lose a novice physically, but from some of the questions perhaps a few were “lost.” It was enlightening and special for those who are shareholders in our sponsoring corporation.

CAT® RV Club Newsletter



“Rockin the 4th of July”, June 28-July 2, 2008

The Interstate Center – Bloomington, IL (www.interstatecenter.com)

Saturday, 6/28/2008

Morning

10:00 am

1:00 – 3:30 pm

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Arrival Day

Arrival, set up, meet other club members and relax

Registration begins in the Main building

Round One - Bean Bag Tournament

Social Hour and Potluck – The Club will provide beer, wine and soft drinks.

Bring heavy hors d’oeuvres to share.

Sunday, 6/29/2008

9:30 am

10:30 am

1:00 – 3:00 pm

5:00 pm

6:00 pm

7:30 pm

Church on the River – in the Main Building

Prime Rib and Salmon Brunch

Bean Bag Baseball

Social Hour - Club provides beer, wine and soft drinks.

Light Dinner – BBQ sandwiches and salads

Entertainment

Monday, 6/30/2008

7:00 – 8:00 am

CAT Day (Wear your Cat Shirts)

Full Breakfast

Group A Schedule - Bus 1 & 2		Group B Schedule - Bus 3 & 4	
8:00 a.m.	Depart Interstate Center for Mossville BB	8:00 a.m.	Depart Interstate Center for East Peoria Bldg. SS
9:15 a.m.	Tour BB (Engine Plant)	9:00 a.m.	Tour SS (Tractor Plant)
11:00 a.m.	Tour Ends	10:30 a.m.	Tour Ends
11:00 a.m.	Shopping Diesel Depot	10:45 a.m.	Depart for Downtown Peoria Cat Store
11:30 a.m.	Depart for Edwards	11:30 a.m.	Depart for Edwards

12:00 noon

12:15 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

3:45 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Arrive Edwards Demonstration and Training Center

Buffet Lunch

“Iron Ballet” at Edwards

Walk around following demo

Depart for Bloomington

Arrive Bloomington

Cocktail buffet – Interstate Center

Tuesday, 7/1/2008

8:00 – 9:00 am

9:00 – 11:00 am

9:00 – 11:00 pm

1:00 – 3:00 pm

3:30 – 4:30 pm

5:00 pm

6:00 pm

7:30 pm

Full Breakfast

General RV Maintenance Seminar (Brett Wolfe)

Ladies RV Seminar/Roundtable Discussion

Craft Fair – if you make something, bring it for display or sale

Big Cat Bean Bag Finals. Come cheer on the finalists.

Awards Ceremony. Social Hour - Club provides beer, wine and soft drinks

Dress in Patriotic colors for this evening! Prizes for the best outfits

Dinner – Teriyaki chicken, Veggie Lasagna

Entertainment - Elvis

Wednesday, 7/2/2008

7:00-9:00 am

10:00 am

Departure Day

Continental Breakfast

Cat RV Club Rally ends -- Post rally activities in Henry, IL for those staying over the 4th.

Secretary's Report

by Joe Hipp, Secretary

President Brett Wolfe called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m., Tuesday, February 26, 2008, in Pomona, CA. Treasurer Kathe Letulle led us in prayer. Nominating Committee member George Saam led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Other officers in attendance were: Joe Hipp, Secretary; Don Tallman, National Director; Al Vormittag, Alternate National Director; and Starr Saam, Club Parliamentarian.

FMCA National Officers were asked to come forward with their spouses. Jay Blumenthal, International Area Vice President, spoke for the group and asked all Caterpillar Club Members to attend the INTO meeting on Wednesday. He mentioned the beard he is growing is for a contest at the INTO Rally in Oshkosh, WI, this summer and urged men to compete.

President Wolfe called for a show of hands from those who attended the CAT rally at Hemet. It appeared nearly half attended the rally. He acknowledged Don Tallman, club founder, for his work in the 50/50 ticket sale raising \$2,570 for Meals on Wheels in La Mirada, CA, the designated charity for this rally. Rally Masters Jim and Marcie Mannan were recognized for their work with this charity.

The minutes of our last business meeting at the Redmond FMCA Convention were posted for all to read and published in the club newsletter and website. President Wolfe asked for additions or deletions and there were none. Rett Porter moved the minutes be accepted and there was a chorus of seconds. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

The treasurer's report was also posted at the entrance and published in the club newsletter and website. President Wolfe then asked the treasurer to speak concerning the audit and auditor's recommendations. She iterated that per the bylaws an independent audit had been accomplished February 14, 2008, by three independent club members and the books were found in order through 12/31/2007. A recommendation by the auditors to maintain the records by fiscal year ending with the calendar year was acknowledged and supported by the treasurer. She noted that the club "suffered" a \$35 loss on the Hemet rally. President Wolfe asked if there was a motion to approve the audited treasurer's report and the recommendation of the auditors. A motion for approval was made by Tom Fadale and followed by a chorus of seconds. The report was approved

by voice vote.

Other old business: there was none.

New Business: Per FMCA requirements the Club Bylaws and Standing Rules were submitted to the FMCA Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Recommended changes by Committee Chairman Judy Czarsty included that we move election procedure from Bylaws to the Standing Rules to make our Bylaws "a cleaner and more concise document." She also recommended writing job descriptions for each office not already defined in the FMCA Handbook. This has been done on the copies in the back of the room. President Wolfe asked if there was motion to approve moving the election procedure from the Bylaws to the Standing Rules? Motion was made by Vern Brown and followed by a chorus of seconds. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Our club Bylaws allow us to have multiple VP's. At Hemet the club board unanimously recommended that as the club has grown we divide club duties, creating several new VP positions. The board recommended that the current VP position be elevated to Senior VP. They also recommended the title Membership Chairman be changed to VP Membership, and the position of rally coordinator be changed to VP Rally Coordinator. The board further recommended that a position of VP Inventory be created to monitor and control the club inventory such as shirts, club "eggs," and rally and convention supplies. These new positions will be filled by appointees approved by the Executive Board until elections are held at the summer Business Meeting. President Wolfe asked if there was motion to add these positions with duties as outlined on the Standing Rules in the back of the room? A motion was made by Chuck Rendall and seconded again by a chorus of members. The motion was approved by voice vote.

George Saam speaking for the Nominating Committee said candidates for the positions should submit a brief resume to the committee for next summer's elections.

Dianne Wolfe was asked to speak about the upcoming rallies. Rally information can be found in the newsletter and on club website. Of the 125 spots available for the summer rally in Bloomington, IL, 6/28 - 7/2/2008, more than 80 have been taken since registration began ten days ago. She asked those interested to get their application in early. Nelson Stubbs, National Senior Vice President, spoke about the follow-on rally and

mentioned that a very good small town Fourth of July fireworks display can be expected in Henry, IL.

Suzie Adcock, our Caterpillar liaison, arrived with a Caterpillar support group for the convention: Ryan Sides, Caterpillar Call Center; Dave Schmitz, regional manager; and Scott White, account manager. She recognized the Workhorse group and Freightliners. Next she called for a show of hands from those attending the Hemet Rally. About half of the meeting attendees raised their hands and of those attending the rally over one-third were first timers. Rally masters Jim and Marcie Mannan were presented with distinctive Caterpillar watches.

A door prize drawing was held followed by a call to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Herb Humphries and seconded by many. The motion was approved unanimously.

Brett declared the meeting adjourned and "Gentlemen, start your forks!"

Membership Report

VP Membership, Vickie Shamory, reported the following membership statistics to the Board following another very successful FMCA convention.

- Total of 1800 coach members (approx 3550 individuals)
- 1200 "active" coach members
- 293 new coach members have joined since September 2007
- 179 of the new coach members have just purchased a new motorhome with a Caterpillar engine ("One-year free new members")
- Members are reminded that renewal dues are due in November of each year.
- **Your membership expiration date is printed next to your name in the address block of this newsletter.**
- Be sure to renew on time as FMCA requires that we "expire" members who are behind on their dues.
- You may renew early and you may renew for more than one year with a single check.
- Discount coupons, mailed directly from Caterpillar, are only mailed to "active" members. Coupons are good for 10% off all Caterpillar parts for your RV purchased from an authorized Caterpillar Dealer January 1—December 31, 2008.



CAT® RV Club Newsletter

"Rockin the 4th of July" Rally

June 28 – July 2, 2008

The Interstate Center

(2301 W. Market Street, Bloomington, IL 61704)

Rallymasters – Dianne & Brett Wolfe, Bobbi & Al Vormittag



Please print names as you want them to appear on rally name badges

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Guest: Last name: _____

First name: _____

Email address: _____

FMCA#: _____

Address: _____

Street Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone: Cell: _____

Home: _____

Handicapped: Yes No (circle one)

Emergency contact: _____

Name and phone #

Coach-make: _____ Length: _____

Cost: \$300 for 2 people per coach, each additional person \$175. Singles \$250

Total sent with registration: \$_____ (100% refund if cancelled by 5/31/2008)

Cost of rally includes: 4 nights camping – 30 amp electricity; 2 full breakfasts, 1 continental breakfast, 1 brunch, 3 dinners, entertainment, prizes & lots of fun.

Fill out this form, make check payable to FMCA CAT RV Club & mail to:

Dianne Wolfe
2025 Sandy Coast Circle
League City, TX 77573-6619

Direct inquiries regarding the rally to: Dianne & Brett Wolfe at 281-334-7765 (home) or e-mail: dgwolfe10@earthlink.net

The Interstate Center is NOT a campground. The Interstate Center is an event center with RV parking on asphalt with 30-amp electricity. Potable water and dump stations are on premises. Buildings where meals, entertainment and seminars will be conducted are air conditioned.

Rally limit = 125 coaches. A waiting list will be taken over 125 and satisfied on a space available basis.
Rally confirmations will be e-mailed to the e-mail address provided on this form.

No arrivals before Friday, June 27, 2008 and NO stayovers after the rally. Friday arrivals - \$20 additional, payable upon arrival.

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CAT® RV Club Newsletter



“The 4th of July Post Rally”, July 2 - 5, 2008 Marshall Putnam County Fairgrounds, Henry, IL (www.marshallputnamfair.org)

Wednesday, July 2, 2008 Arrival Day, Marshall Putnam County Fairgrounds, Henry, IL
 Morning Arrival, set up, relax
Free Day to shop, do laundry, explore Henry or Peoria, IL
 5:00 – 6:30 pm Steak cookout. Grilled steak or chicken with salads and dessert
 7:00 p.m. Bring your own plate, cutlery and drink of choice to accompany dinner
 Entertainment - Show Choir

Thursday, July 3, 2008 Free Day

Friday, July 4, 2008
 8:00 – 9:00 am Breakfast with Betty Sue’s homemade sweet rolls
 10:00 a.m. Fourth of July parade in downtown Henry
 6:00 p.m. Catered dinner. Fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, salad, green beans, spinach ravioli, lemon squares
Bring your own drink of choice. The caterer will provide plates and silverware.
 7:30 p.m. Fireworks along the River in Henry or in downtown Peoria – transportation is on your own

Saturday, July 5, 2008 Departure Day
 If you want to stay over the 4th of July weekend, please make arrangements with the Fairgrounds office.

Send in this portion with your rally fee.

Please enter names as you want them to appear on rally name badges.

If registered for the Bloomington rally, you may fill in your name and write “SAME” for remaining info.

Last Name: _____	First Name: _____
Last Name: _____	First Name: _____
Guest Last Name: _____	Guest First Name: _____
E-mail address: _____	FMCA# _____
Street address: _____	City: _____
State and Zip: _____	Phone, home: _____
Phone, cell: _____	Handicapped: <u>YES or NO</u>
Emergency contact (Name): _____	Emergency contact: _____
	(phone number): _____
Coach make: _____	Coach Length: _____

Cost: \$110 for 2 people per coach, each additional person \$35. Singles \$80
Facilities: 30-amp electricity, water every few spaces and dump station; buildings available, but un-air conditioned.

Total sent with registration \$ _____ (100% refund if cancelled by 5/31/2008)

Fill out this form, make check payable to **FMCA CAT RV Club** & mail to:
 Dianne Wolfe
 2025 Sandy Coast Circle
 League City, TX 77573

NOTE!

The “Rockin the 4th of July” Rally is almost sold out. When the last site is assigned, a waiting list will be established.

Please call 281-334-7765 to determine waiting list status before you send money.

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CAT RV Club Rally Schedule

Date	Rally Site	Rally Masters	FMCA Location and Date
June 28—July 2, 2008	The Interstate Center Bloomington, IL	Dianne & Brett Wolfe and Al & Bobbi Vormittag	St. Paul, MN July 14-17
July 2—5, 2008	Marshall Putnam County Fairgrounds Henry, IL	Dianne & Brett Wolfe and Al & Bobbi Vormittag	St. Paul, MN July 14-17
March 2-6, 2009	Stone Mountain Atlanta, GA	Thom & Karen Metcalf Gerry & Jack Conway	Perry GA March 16-19, 2009
July 6-10, 2009	TBD	TBD	Bowling Green, OH July 20-23, 2009

Rally FAQs

Q: When can I sign up for the next rally? *A: Sign up for the Atlanta rally will begin on the last day of the Bloomington Rally. That same day the Atlanta agenda and registration forms will be available on the Club website. This gives everyone an equal chance to sign up for the next rally. As always, rally agenda and registration forms will be in the newsletter which is mailed approx 6 weeks after the FMCA convention.*

Q: Can I sign up for the next rally on-line? *A: Not at this time. The Club will continue to investigate credit card options but at present, you must fill out the registration form and send in a check via mail.*

"Rockin the 4th of July" Rally



Even though we have expanded the maximum number of coaches for this rally to 125, it looks like this will be another sellout. And with good reason — this promises to be a wonderful rally.

Caterpillar is always a good host. Since we will be near their headquarters, they are providing a look behind the curtain at how our engines are made and at the manufacturing process for other Caterpillar equipment as well. At this rally we will have an opportunity to see the "Iron Ballet" at Edwards Demonstration and Training Center.

Since the Peoria area can be quite hot and sticky in July, we are holding this rally at the Interstate Center in Bloomington, IL. The Interstate Center is an event center with adequate parking for our coaches, 30-amp power and potable water and dump stations on premises. While it is not a campground, it has air conditioned buildings where we will have all of our meals, seminars, happy hours, and gatherings.

Please note that this rally begins on Saturday, June 28 and ends after breakfast on Wednesday, July 2. This was done on purpose to accommodate rally dates of a large sister club. Whenever possible we try to enable members to attend our rallies and their brand pre-rally — without having to decide between the two because of overlapping schedules.

This odd ending date opened up the opportunity to schedule a "post" rally at the fairgrounds in nearby Henry, IL. Intended to be a relaxing, small town 4th of July gathering, we are taking registrations for this event separately from the primary Bloomington Rally.

Hope to see you in both Bloomington and Henry.

NOTE: *By popular request a craft fair has been added to the Bloomington rally schedule. So if you make something, bring it for show or sale.*

Rally attendance is on the rise as word has spread about the quality of our Rallies and Club membership has continued to grow. Our first Club Rally had 39 coaches—the 125 sites in Bloomington are nearly sold out! We've come a long way in just four years.

We continue to seek venues that will accommodate more and more coaches while still offering at least the basic services you have come to expect: Air conditioned meeting rooms in the summer, electricity at every site, water and dump available. And certainly, where possible, we go "upscale." It is both good and bad news that Bloomington filled up so quickly. It is great that so many find our Club Rallies rewarding, but it is a shame that we cannot accommodate all who want to attend.

Brett Wolfe, President, Cat RV Club

Wanna Job? Senda Resume!

The following positions are up for election at the FMCA Convention in Minneapolis. Each office will be elected to a two-year term.

- President VP Membership VP Rally Coordinator Secretary

The Nominating Committee has requested candidates submit a resume. To preclude a lengthy document that starts with your first grade girl friend and playing in the rhythm band, the following would be helpful to the committee in making a selection of qualified candidates.

Ideally the candidate will have a history with FMCA or service clubs and will list those and the positions held. Another helpful bit of information to the committee is CAT RV Club rally participation and availability to make those long treks across country to rallies and conventions. Spousal support is not mandatory, but helps.

Other pertinent information is job specific, for example: auditing or financial experience, secretarial skills, computer database management and leadership skills. Sometimes a good resume shows little experience, but lots of desire to volunteer and work for the club.

Those interested should submit a resume to the Nominating Committee at one of the following e-mail addresses:

Rich Shamory— amore@beanstalk.net
George Saam— gmsaam@earthlink.net
Lamar Keck— lamar4djkj@aol.com

In addition, 4 positions on the Nominating Committee will be elected. Elected Committee members are responsible for selecting a Chairman among themselves. Those interested in serving on the Nominating Committee are also asked to submit a resume to the current Nominating Committee. Members of the Nominating Committee are non-voting Board members and serve a one-year term.



CAT® RV Club Newsletter

Treasurer's Report

by Kathé Letulle

CAT RV Club Income / Expense Statement

8/14/2007 Beginning Audit Balance		GENERAL	RALLY
	\$ 57,238.43	\$ 27,685.32	\$ 29,553.11

INCOME

2006 DUES		30.00	30.00	
2007 DUES		405.00	405.00	
2007 Oregon Rally				
CAT RV Center Contributions	(3,000.00)			
Reimbursement	3,000.00			
TOTAL 2007 Oregon Rally		0.00		0.00
2007 Redmond OR FMCA				
Business Meeting	750.00			
TOTAL 2007 Redmond OR FMCA		750.00	750.00	
2008 DUES		9,540.00	9,540.00	
2008 Hemet CA Rally				
Registration Fees	18,925.00			
TOTAL 2008 Hemet CA Rally		18,925.00		18,925.00
2008 Membership Fee		3,030.00	3,030.00	
2009 DUES		720.00	720.00	
2009 Summer Rally				
CAT RV Center Contributions	3,000.00			
TOTAL 2009 Summer Rally		3,000.00		3,000.00
2010 DUES		120.00	120.00	
2011 DUES		60.00	60.00	
Certificates - Rally				
Dues Accrual	(15.00)			
Rally Accrual	(700.00)			
TOTAL Certificates - Rally		(715.00)	(715.00)	
Club logo shirts income		1,100.00	1,100.00	
Misc Income		30.00	30.00	

TOTAL INCOME	36,995.00	15,070.00	21,925.00
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12/31/2007 Ending Audited Balance	86,333.34	39,693.20	46,640.14
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GENERAL	RALLY
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EXPENSES

2007 Redmond OR - FMCA				
Wrap-up	630.94			
TOTAL 2007 Redmond OR - FMCA		630.94	630.94	
2008 Bloomington Rally				
Camping Fees	1,000.00			
Decorations	56.00			
Entertainment	100.00			
TOTAL 2008 Bloomington Rally		1,156.00		1,156.00
2008 Hemet CA Rally				
Cancellation	275.00			
Catering	3,056.97			
Entertainment	1,350.00			
TOTAL 2008 Hemet CA Rally		4,681.97		4,681.97
2010 Albuquerque Rally				
Camping Fee	(1,000.00)			
TOTAL 2010 Albuquerque Rally		(1,000.00)		(1,000.00)
Certificates Awarded		(150.00)	(150.00)	
General Rally Supplies		22.30	22.30	
Mailing Fee		118.48	118.48	
Newsletter		2,132.63	2,132.63	
Office Supplies		307.77	307.77	

TOTAL EXPENSES	7,900.09	3,062.12	4,837.97
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Cooling System 101

I just changed my coolant to Caterpillar ELC and replaced all water hoses, belts, and thermostat. Thought I would share the experience.

To my knowledge no chassis/coach maker is using ELC—so all are “low silicate coolant for diesels” with included or added SCA. Coolant needs to be changed per manufacturer’s instructions (usually every 2-3 years). Additionally the SCA, pH and freeze point need to be checked on regular intervals using SCA test strips and SCA added as needed. The test strips are inexpensive and easy to use (we check the SCA concentration in all coaches at Cat RV Club Rallies). When either the time lapses (time starts when coolant installed in cooling system, NOT when purchased) or testing reveals an out-of-line conditions like pH or freeze point, it is time to change it. You can avoid all the testing and SCA adding, and go to 6 year change intervals by going to Caterpillar ELC and get better cooling system protection as well. Whichever coolant you choose, most of the steps are the same. The job is reasonably time consuming TO DO RIGHT, but low-tech.

Turn dash heater to full hot for the rest of the procedure—fan off. With the engine cold or at least cool, drain coolant. On some, there is a drain cock. On others, pull the lower radiator hose. I catch it in 2 Rubbermaid 10 gallon storage bin lined with black trash sacks so I do not even get them dirty. At the end of the whole process, use a coffee can and funnel to pour old coolant into new coolant/water containers for recycling. Our city maintenance shop recycles coolant for free.

Refill cooling system with tap water. **IMPORTANT:** Be sure to remove any air lock from the thermostat housing. Some systems have a hose set up for this—on ours I just loosen the coolant line to the air pump and bleed the air out. Allow engine to warm up (using the cruise control to select idle speed of 1,000-1,100 speeds this up). Run for about 10 minutes at normal operating temp. If the temp gauge does not rise normally, you likely have an air block and need to bleed the thermostat housing. Allow the engine to cool 20-30 minutes and drain again. Repeat until the color is clear.

At this point, if this is the first coolant change on a 2-3 year old coach and

Tech Tips from Brett Wolfe

you are not changing coolant brands/types, skip right to “Last rinse”. For older systems or for switching types of coolant, add a Cooling System Cleaner such as Cat Fast Acting Cooling System Cleaner 4C4611. Follow directions. Run, allow engine to cool, drain and again flush until effluent is clear. The flushing is markedly sped up by pulling off the heater hose (usually 5/8 to 3/4” lines going to dash heater/motor-aid water heater, etc from the water pump. Put a hose nozzle in the hose and let it run until what comes out is clear. Run the engine to temperature at least once with tap water.

If your hoses are over 3-4 years old, this is a good time to change them as well (before last rinse). Same for thermostat(s).

Last Rinse is with distilled water. At \$.62/gal at Wal-Mart, it is silly to skip this step and leave your system full of high-mineral content water (there will be several gallons of residual water that you can not easily remove). Run engine for 10 minutes after getting to operating temperature. Cool and drain. Also drain and flush your coolant overflow container and refill with new coolant/distilled water.

Add the proper amount of Coolant CONCENTRATE (NOT PRE-DILUTE) to make 50% of cooling system capacity. My cooling system is 18 gallons, so I added 9 gallons of Caterpillar ELC CONCENTRATE (119-5150) (plus one for overflow container). Top off with distilled water to achieve your 50/50 mixture.

This is also a good time to clean the OUTSIDE of the radiator/after-cooler whether you have rear or side radiator. On rear radiator, most if the debris will be on the FRONT of the after-cooler (accessed from under the bed). On side radiators, most debris is on the outside of the after-cooler (side of coach). If it is just dirt, a hose and regular nozzle is all you need. If greasy or oily, use a degreaser such as Dawn detergent, but be SURE to rinse it off completely.

Check belts while you are in there.

CAT RV Club Merchandise For Sale



SHIP TO:

All orders must be prepaid

Checks payable to: FMCA CAT RV Club

Send check to:

FMCA CAT RV Club
Dick Jones—VP Inventory
5128 Country Meadows Lane
Bartonville, IL 61607

E-mail: jones5128@sbcglobal.net
309-697-9343 (home) 309-453-8817 (cell)

Shipping charges

1 item	\$5.25
2-4 items	\$8.00
5 + items	\$12.00

<u>Item</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Price each</u>	<u>Total</u>
Club “egg”		\$15.00	
Ladder bracket		\$10.00	
“Egg” & bracket combo		\$20.00	
Logo shirt (SM)		\$20.00	
Logo shirt (M)		\$20.00	
Logo shirt (L)		\$20.00	
Logo shirt (XL)		\$20.00	
Logo shirt (2X)		\$20.00	
Logo shirt (3X)		\$20.00	

Total # of items		Sub-total
		Shipping charges
		Order Total



CAT® RV Club Newsletter

Rallymasters Needed

Thanks to all of the Volunteers who have helped with parking, food service, bartending, games, SCA testing and clean-up at past rallies.

Now that you've gotten your feet wet, how about taking the next step and working as a Co-Rallymaster for one of the upcoming CAT RV Club rallies? You'll get plenty of help and support from Club Officers. This Club is very good about pitching in to help with just about any task.

If you are interested, please contact Dianne Wolfe at dgwolfe10@earthlink.net

Thanks CAT RV Centers!

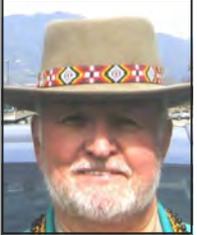
Thanks to each of the CAT RV Centers for your continued support. Word is definitely getting out about the network of Caterpillar Service Centers specializing in motorhome service across the US and Canada.

Members, remember to thank CAT RV Center employees personally for their support when you visit for service or parts. It is their financial support that keeps Club Rally costs reasonable.

Newsletter Editors



Dianne Wolfe



Joe Hipp

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Vandalia, MI 49095

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