

# Thor Diesel Club History

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## **Background of the Thor Diesel Club**

The Mandalay Luxury Division was formed as a Division of the Four Winds International organization of the Thor Industries, Inc. In October 2003, the Mandalay Luxury Division (MLD) expressed a desire to have a "travel club" consisting of Mandalay coaches and therefore held a club-forming rally in September 2003. The first Rally was held at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds in Goshen Indiana with 48 Mandalay coaches. Coach owners present voted to name the travel club as the "Mandalay Travel Club" (MTC).

In September 2010, Four Winds International and Damon Motor Coach were merged as the Thor Motorized Services (TMS) and the Mandalay Luxury Division ceased operations. Shortly thereafter, Thor Motorized Services was renamed as Thor Motor Coach (TMC), which began producing new versions of motor coaches under the "Thor Motor Coach" name. Thor Motor Coach discontinued the Montecito introduced just at the height of the reorganization after only a short time in production. Production was also suspended on the Mandalay, Valencia, and Presidio Coaches.

The Thor motor home manufacturer once again desired a travel club that would recognize the combined coach-building strength of the Thor Motor Coach organization and in October 2010 the "Thor Diesel Club" (TDC) was formed. Initially, eligible coaches included the Astoria, Avanti, Escaper, Essence, LX400, Mandalay, Montecito, Presidio, Sahara, Serrano, Tuscany, Ultrasport and Valencia.

## **The Thor Diesel Club is born**

### **October 03 – 08, 2010 (MTC's 7th International Rally) and (TDC's 1<sup>st</sup> International Rally) held in Goshen, Indiana**

Attending members at the Mandalay Travel Club (MTC) 2010 International Rally overwhelmingly voted to form the Thor Diesel Club (TDC) as the official club of the newly formed Thor Motor Coach Company. The members voted that the initial set MTC dues would be divided. MTC would be \$5 per year and TDC would be \$20 per year with both clubs maintaining their current status with the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA). It was agreed by both clubs that Thor Diesel Club would be the official club representing the Thor Motor Coach organization, and current members of the Mandalay Travel Club would be transferred (along with their dues) from the MTC treasurer to the new Thor Diesel Club as soon as the TDC set up its Bank account and was accepted by the FMCA. This newly formed Club would accept members from any Class A THOR diesel product – thereby allowing the club to offer membership to a larger and more diverse diesel product cliental. With the formation of the Thor Diesel Club a new era of support and cooperation from Thor Motor Coach began. Now owners of Four Winds International, Damon Motor Coach and Thor Motor Coach diesel products had a Club they could join that was recognized by Thor Motor coach.

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## Thor Diesel Club held elections and members elected its first Board of Directors.

### 2010 -2011 Board of Directors Thor Diesel Club

**PRESIDENT**

Fred Barina

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Fran Watkins

**TREASURER**

Sandy Smith

**SECRETARY**

Patricia Koritta

**FMCA Nat'l Director**

Ron Rickard

**FMCA Alt. Nat'l Director**

Joe Dube

**Member At Large**

Jay Feldman

Bob Smith

Tom Burns

**Historian**

Lorna Finley

**Newsletter Editor**

Vallerie Lee

### TDC logo designed

Millie Cornthwaite, a friend of TDC member Fran Watkins, presented a sketch of a possible TDC logo to the club President to consider. The "T" stands for Thor. The broad massive base of the "T" represents the strong, solid grounding in the RV industry that Thor Motor Coach has to support the Club. The broad downward shaped top of the "T" represents a protective umbrella that Thor Motor Coach provides the Club as it continues to grow and prosper. The "D" and the "C" obviously stand for Diesel Club but more than that; they are slightly rounded to represent wheels, which take us on our travels wherever we want to go in luxury.

The President presented the logo to the membership and it was adopted as the Club logo. Those unable to attend the International Rally in Goshen missed seeing the beautiful cake with the Thor logo on top that Nancy Miles made, presenting it to the membership.

### December 4, 2010

The Thor Diesel Club was chartered as an International Chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association. All the Members who attended the 2010 International Rally in Goshen Indiana comprised the initial membership of the Thor Diesel Club. The membership was later expanded to include everyone that was a member of the MTC as of 31 December 2010. Membership dues (those paid in advance) were transferred from MTC to TDC.

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## **TDC's New Web Site**

The President of TDC found volunteer resources to build and maintain a Thor Diesel Club web site for members and non-members: [Http://www.thordieselclub.org](http://www.thordieselclub.org). Thor Diesel Club web site menu options include: "Home, About us, Club History, Contact us, News & Information, How to Join, News Archive, Rallies, Apparel, Club Calendar, FMCA Reports, and Links with help with RV information which help answer your RV question and much more." Club members have the ability to "Log-In" to view items available exclusively to Club members. Additionally, Vallerie Lee began developing the quarterly TDC newsletters, and Lorna Finley wrote the club's History document which was added to the TDC Web-Site. And TDC also created a calendar of events on the web-site.

**Thor Diesel Club Newsletter**-THE MILE MARKER is available on the web site as well as all back issues.

**Thor Diesel Club Email Address**                      thordieselclub@yahoo.com

**Thor Diesel Club on Facebook:**                      <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Thor-Diesel-Club/166239973431708>

**TDC mailing address:**                                      THOR Diesel Club,  
5715 Highway 85N # 557,  
Crestview FL 32536.

## **October 03 – 08, 2010    TDC First International Rally "Theme "Honor those who served in the Military"**

This rally is one we will all remember not only for the establishment of the Thor Diesel Club but also that it honored those who served in all branches of the military. The Rally Masters were Fran Watkins and Harriet Phillips with Bob and Christy Proost as Assistant Rally Masters. It's amazing to hear the stories our veterans had to tell us about their time in the military. There were military pictures that were shared by all. One of our club members served in World War II. It was a great time singing some military songs. All our American & Canadian veterans deserve our deepest appreciation and respect. They enlisted in times of peace and war, serving with honor under the most difficult circumstances, and making sacrifices that many of us cannot begin to imagine. They left behind their families while they went off to war. Our club wants to say "Thank You" to all those who served to keep our country free.

The Northern Harmony Blue Grass Band provided entertainment on Sunday, Will Yacey was the entertainment on Tuesday and TDC closed out the rally with Gypsy Red on Thursday. Gypsy Red graciously donated all their proceeds to cancer research. Speaking of donations, our attendees donated over \$500 plus many supplies to the Salvation Army and 2 pet shelters in the Goshen area. Excess food from catered meals were donated to a local food bank to help feed those in need. There were 66 coaches at this rally and many vendors.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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## The 2011 Rally schedule

<b>Rally</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Where</b>
Mini TDC Gathering Rally	January 12-16, 2011	Tampa, FL
Winter Pre FMCA Rally	March 10-17, 2011	Perry, GA
Spring Rally	May 18-22, 2011	Sevierville, TN
Mini pre FMCA Rally	August 10-13, 2011	Madison, WI
2nd International Rally	October 3-7, 2011	Goshen, Indiana

### **January 12-16, 2011 Mini TDC Gathering Rally**

A Thor Diesel Club Gathering was at The Florida RV Super Show in Tampa FL at the State Fairgrounds. Ron Rickard was TDC's Gathering Master. The Thor Diesel Club (TDC) gathered with thirty (30) member coaches. TDC members were visited by Mr. Bill Fenech (President of Thor Motor Coach) and Ryan Rebar (Sales). Tony Sippel of Freightliner met with TDC to discuss current and future features of the Thor Motor Coach products (XR-C Raised frame-rail).

### **March 10-17, 2011 Winter Pre FMCA Rally**

TDC members arrived on March 10, 2011 in Montezuma GA for a Pre-FMCA rally. TDC members planned on how to organize a display so the (TDC) club would have the most exposure. One great evening was spent at Yoder's restaurant in Montezuma for dinner. TDC utilized the Club's Tri-Fold foam board filled with TDC activities and colorful pictures. Copies of TDC Mile Marker Newsletter and membership forms were available for customers to review / take with them. FMCA presented TDC with a large banner with the Club's name on it and it was displayed at the FMCA Chapter Fair.

### **April 26, 2011**

- Thor Diesel Club is now on Facebook
- New Name Badges (order form) added to TDC Website

### **May 18-22, 2011 Spring Rally**

The TDC Spring Rally was held in Pigeon Forge Tennessee at the River Plantation RV Park. This was the Thor Diesel Club's first Spring Rally with 42 member coaches. The Rally Masters were Jim & Carol Gerstle and Ed & Rosemary Zepp. Pigeon Forge is Close to Dollywood in the Smoky Mountains. There were many activates, dinner shows, car museum, the Ripples' Believe-it-or-not aquarium. There was just the right blend of activities combined with down time to just enjoy each other's company. A great blending of long-standing and new members enabled us to make new friends and renew old friendships. Everyone agreed to have the rally at the same place next year. Lorna Finley made a suggestion to add a TDC Calendar of events on the TDC Web page. Additionally, Lorna suggested the Board consider a new category of membership - and that being a "Life-Time-Member" for those holding office more than four years.

### **July 20, 2011**

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Bill Fenech resigned his position as President of Thor Motor Coach and Jeff Kime accepted the position as President of Thor Motor Coach with Dana Simmon serving as Vice President.

## **August 01, 2011**

TDC President sends Ryan Rebar a letter about Total Value RV – are they supporting the TDC with \$500 donation for each coach sold at the TDC rallies.

## **August 10-13, 2011 Mini Pre-FMCA Rally**

TDC was represented at the Pre-FMCA rally in Madison WI, 10-13 August 2011. Joe Dube represented TDC as Alternate National Director. Joe and Carol set up the TDC display at the Chapter fair. The Chapter Fair is where all Chapters of FMCA set up a table displaying information about their club. It is a real fun time to meet new people and talk about our club.

## **August 19, 2011**

TDC President sends out two documents – Proposed By-Law changes and Standing rules additions. TDC grew by 84 coaches in 8 months welcoming other diesel coaches made by Thor Industries.

## **October 3–7, 2011 TDC's Second International Rally**

TDC's Second International Rally Them was "Let's Meet in the Middle". TDC Rally Masters were Patricia Koritta, Judi McGee and Roxie Stoner. The entertainment was awesome by the Rivoli Revue, a great and favorite musical group in the RV community. Northern Harmony Blue Grass Band also had our toes tapping and smiles on our faces. There were many vendors booths to visit, and some provided seminars. Our military was also honored at the rally. Any food that was left over from our meals was given to a local food bank. The club has grown to over 340 members of which about 25% of our members attended the rally. TDC chose to support national charities as well as charities in the local Goshen area. Lois Howard made a beautiful quilt that was raffled off with all the proceeds going to the Wounded Warrior Project. There was also a silent auction on a quilt made by Christy Proost with all the proceeds going to Paws and Stripes. "Mac the Fire Guy" gave two seminars, about fire safety in our RV's and held live displays, answering member questions. He also assisted with the installation of any fire suppression system members purchased. There were 18 vendors exhibiting their wares ranging from Freightliner to Jewelry.

TDC membership elected a Nominating Committee at the 2011 General Membership Meeting. Their task was to search for candidates who will run for office at the conclusion of board members terms. The Nominating Committee members elected at that time were:

- Ron Rickard (Chairman)
- Jack Finley
- Carolyn Stocker

Board Positions to be filled at this International rally are: Vice President, Secretary, National Director, Alternate National Director and two Memberships at Large positions. This is a great opportunity to become involved in the club management and to continue being a vital part of building a dynamic travel

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club, well into the future. The elections will be held during the TDC International Rally in Goshen, IN. The TDC has been fortunate to have had great leadership since its founding. The Club is financially sound. Membership is growing daily and we have the solid support of Thor Motor Coach.

The TDC President and Board of Directors held a 2011 "General Membership Annual meeting" at 3:00 p.m. There were reports from the Treasurer, FMCA Business reports, and discussion of future rallies. The President presented and the membership voted and accepted changes to the Clubs By-Law changes.

Terms of office: The elected officers of this chapter shall serve a two year term of office, except for the *two* (2) at-large positions or until their successors are elected. The At-Large positions will have a (1) one, and (2) two year term remaining. The initial term of the President and Treasurer will be three (3) years in order to offset the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer all leaving office at the same time.

- Changes were made to item 3 – Chapter Meetings
- Changes were made to the Standing Rule document as well.
- A Nominating Committee for the 2012 elections was selected. Ron Rickard, Jack Finley and Carolyn Stocker represent the Nominating Committee.
- The following coaches are eligible to become members of the Thor Diesel Club: Astoria, Avanti, Escaper, Essence, LX400, Mandalay, Montecito, Palazzo, Presidio, Sahara, Serrano, Tuscany, Ultrasport and Valencia

Members of the TDC are among the very fortunate, enjoying the pursuit of a very unique traveling lifestyle. At rallies we share fellowship at meals, social hours, seminars, outings and entertainment. TDC members donated over \$3,500 to support the efforts of others. Through ticket sales and our 50/50 drawings, TDC donated to the following:

**October, 2011** - TDC presented donations in Goshen, Indiana from club members:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| - the "Window"                                      | \$353   |
| - The International organization "Paws and Stripes" | \$500   |
| - Goshen "Bashor Children's Home"                   | \$537   |
| - TMC technicians Christmas party                   | \$1,136 |

**December 12, 2011** -TDC presented a check for \$995 at the Headquarters of the Wounded Warrior Project in Jacksonville, Florida.

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## The TDC 2012 Rally schedule

<b>Rally</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Where</b>
Mini TDC Gathering Rally	January 10-15, 2012	Tampa, FL
Pre FMCA Rally	March 22-25, 2012	Perry, GA
Spring Rally	May 20-25, 2012	Sevierville, TN
Canada Mini Rally	September 7-9, 2012	Kingston Ontario, Canada
3 <sup>rd</sup> International Rally	September 30-October 5, 2012	Goshen, Indiana

### **January 10-15, 2012 Mini TDC Gathering Rally**

TDC Gathering at the Tampa RV Super Show. Ron Rickard was the Gathering Master. TDC members worked with the Thor Motor Coach display, talking to potential buyers about Thor and their support for our club. Our efforts resulted in several coach sales. Over 20 Thor Diesel Club member coaches were present.

### **March 8, 2012**

The Mandalay Travel Club announced that they are a separate club and will no longer be under the Thor Diesel Club, as was previously agreed. This announcement was made on the Mandalay Travel Club Yahoo Forum, on March 8, 2012 by Rick Fredrickson, Vice President of the new Mandalay Travel Club.

### **May 20-25, 2012 Spring Rally**

The TDC Spring Rally was held in Sevierville, TN at the River Plantation. Rally Masters were Bob & Sandy Smith and Marion & Mary Wright. The beautiful mountains of Tennessee are really something to see. There was plenty of time to relax, sightsee and a visit to the "Bush Baked Bean Company" with an opportunity to meet Duke, who still would not give away the Bush Baked Bean secrets. The TDC group enjoyed the Tennessee Shindig Show. Seminars included Freightliner and Custom Coach Connection. The Rally Masters set up a "Mule-Drive" where the mule (husband) was blindfolded and the partner guided the mule by reins - which had us all in stitches. TDC members donated \$535.00 to Douglas Cooperative Charity.

### **September 7-9, 2012 Canada Mini Rally**

This was the first TDC Canadian rally at Kingston, Ontario, and Nancy Miles was the host. Members had a great time shopping and sightseeing at the Farmers Market; relaxing and meeting new friends at the potluck dinners. TDC really looks forward to having more Canadian rallies.

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## September 30-October 5, 2012 Third International Rally

This was a great rally with the Theme of a "Stroll back in time". Rally masters were Jane and Kevin Conley and Tim and Sue Lawrence which did an outstanding job. Each day was filled with memories from the past 50 and 60. Daily trivia and a variety of shows to include a sock hop, poodle skirt, hula-hoop and the grand finale was dress as your favorite movie actor. We also had some great chili-cook off, from 3 of our members; chili was from spice to mild, and what a treat. The TDC membership continues to grow, as well as the assistance that TMC provides our Club. Jeff Kime, President of Thor Motor Coach, has approved a free one-year membership to our Club for all new Thor Diesel Class A coach owners. TDC members are looking forward to more exciting times with the club as places to see and visit across the country brings new experiences as well as meeting new members and enjoying old friendship at the different rallies. At the International Rally in October there is so much to learn about our Motor Homes and sometimes include a tour the factory to learn how our motor homes are made and an opportunity to see new coach designs. The TDC club members donated over \$2,500 to support the efforts of others in 2012. Donations were: Wounded Warriors project \$763; The Window \$176; Grace on Wings \$214; Brady Seizure Dog \$314; TMC Technicians Christmas Party \$501; and Douglas Coop \$535. Members voted on Board positions (off year sequence) and the new TDC Board members are:

### 2012 - 2013 Board of Directors Thor Diesel Club

**PRESIDENT**

Fred Barina

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Kevin Conley

**TREASURER**

Sandy Smith

**SECRETARY**

Patricia Koritta

**Newsletter Editor**

Vallerie Lee

**Historian**

Lorna Finley

**National Director to FMCA**

Joe Dube

**Alt. Nat'l Director to FMCA**

Sandy Sweeney

**Member At Large**

Bob Smith

Denny Johnson

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Ed Marynik

**CHAPLAIN**

Jim Camille

### The TDC 2013 Rally schedule:

**Rally**

Mini TDC Gathering Rally

Mini Pre FMCA-Rally

Spring Rally

Mini Pre FMCA Summer Rally

4th International Rally

**Dates**

January 16-20, 2013

February 6-10, 2013

May 5-9, 2013

June 18-20 2013

October 6-11, 2013

**Where**

Tampa, FL

Brooksville, FL

Eureka Springs, AR

Gillette, WY

Goshen, Indiana



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## **January 16-20, 2013 Mini TDC Gathering Rally**

TDC Gathering at the Tampa Super Show - Ron Rickard was the TDC host at the Tampa Super Show. This was a great rally with 21 member coaches. Everyone had a good time shopping thru two large building and the midway full of vendors. TDC members worked the Thor Motor Coach display, talking to potential buyers about Thor and their support for our club. Our efforts resulted in several coach sales. Friday evening we enjoyed a scrumptious Sonny's BBQ catered meal sponsored by THOR. Entertainment was provided by The Malt Shoppe Singers on Thursday evening. Rick Arnold (a one-man band) entertained members on Friday evening and The Rivoli's Revues on Saturday evening. A Gospel sing-a-long was on Sunday morning.

## **February 6-10, 2013 Mini Pre-FMCA-Rally**

TDC Mini Rally at South East Area Pre-FMCA at Brooksville, FL. There were vendors, seminars and new coaches to see. Everyone parked on the Airstrip and our group had a beautiful view. Fran Watkins gave great seminar on "Me and my RV" with lots of good tips. This was a great time getting together and sharing Potluck dinner.

## **May 5-9, 2013 Spring Rally in Eureka Springs, Arkansas**

This TDC Spring Rally was extraordinary in many ways. This was the first time in history that Eureka Springs Arkansas had snow, rain and sunshine. TDC members attended the outdoor Great Passion Play in the cold weather, bundled up in blankets and winter gear, but this show was awesome. The next day the weather was warmer so members took the trolley for Sightseeing of "Christ of the Ozarks Statue", and "Thorncrown Chapel", and "The Stair Step Town" because of its mountainous terrain and the winding, up-and-down paths of its streets and walkways. The streets wind around the town; there are no traffic lights. The Mountain Jamboree Theater had a great show with some TDC members attending. At this Spring Rally, charities selected for our 50/50 collected almost \$800. The TDC club gave Checks to the Humane Society of \$306 which provided food and medical care for many pets. The club also delivered canned good and a check to Flint Street Food Pantry and a check to Turpentine Creek.

## **June 18-20, 2013 Pre Mini Summer Rally**

TDC had Pre-FMCA mini rally with 17 coaches at the FMCA Convention held in Gillette, WY. It must be noted that we did possess 'true grit,' our social hour was held outside in the horse barns/stalls. TDC members enjoyed each other's company, passed food and drink from stall to stall and shared many laughs together with old and gratefully friends. TDC's gathering host was Vallerie Lee.

## **October 6-11, 2013 Fourth International Rally**

The Theme for the 4th TDC International Rally was "Octoberfest." Rally Master were Alice and Lance Chapman and Pete & Diana Stojanovich. Members were very creative in their "Octoberfest" costumes. There was great German food; one night's music and entertainment was the German Oomph Band. The Rally schedule included all kinds of vendors and seminars, door prizes, tours and golf outing. Two of the tours were at a Cheese Factory and Donut Bakery as well the swap meet. George Mayleben presented two "Driving your RV safety" seminars and "Why women should drive your RV", which was a very popular seminar. Members were asked to bring a blanket to donate to a local homeless shelter -

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“The Window” for those in need this winter (our goal was 100 blankets). The rally will be electing a new club President, Treasure and one Member At Large. We will also be electing a Vice President for one year the remainder of the present term and an FMCA Alternate National Director. Both positions had to be vacated for personal reasons. Chairperson of the Nominating Committee was Fran Watkins.

The Thor Diesel Club now has a new on-line support forum. TDC member, Jack Arnold has agreed to help by moderating the TDC Forum. TDC received a beautiful handmade blanket by Helen Allen who is not a member but wanted to support the Wounded Warrior Project. She donated this handmade blanket to be raffled at the TDC International Rally. TDC member, Ed Marynik is helping keep up with the Membership Directory and we now have the new 2014 calendar on the website. During the 2013 TDC International Rally, Elections were held to form a Board of Directors of the Thor Diesel Club. They are:

## The 2013 - 2014 Thor Diesel Club Board of Directors

### **PRESIDENT**

Fred Barina

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Alice Chapman

### **TREASURER**

Kay Reagin

### **SECRETARY**

Patricia Koritta

### **Newsletter Editor**

Vallerie Lee

### **Historian**

Lorna Finley

### **Chaplain**

Jim Camille

### **National DIRECTOR to FMCA**

Sandy Sweeney

### **Assistant DIRECTOR - FMCA**

Ron Rickard

### **Member At Large**

Gary Smith  
Denny Johnson

### **Membership Chairperson**

Ed Marynik

### **Nominating Committee**

Carol Stevens  
Dee Horton  
Joe Dube  
Ron Rickard

## ,The TDC 2014 Rally schedule:

### **Rally**

Mini TDC Gathering Rally  
Spring Rally  
5th International Rally

### **Dates**

January 14-19, 2014  
April 27 to May 2 2014  
October 5-10, 2014

### **Where**

Tampa, Florida  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina  
Goshen, Indiana

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## **January 14-19, 2014 Mini TDC Gathering Rally**

Rally Master for the RV Super Show held in Florida was TDC member Ron Rickard, with 18 TDC coaches. The included 5 days of dry camping and 3 days of family entertainment with many vendors present.

## **April 27 to May 2, 2014 Spring Rally in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina**

A great time was had at our Spring Rally in Myrtle Beach. Gene & Pam Turner and Jack & Karen Arnold were awesome Rally Masters. We had 52 coaches and 22 were first timers. Representatives from Thor were on hand three days and Freightliner joined us on Wednesday with an informative seminar. The local Camping World offered fantastic door prizes and sponsored a social that was a meal in itself. The Carolina Opry was absolutely great. All the rally activities, the entertainment and the beach location were nothing short of amazing. Thanks to all who chipped in to make the Rally a success. Most participating Rally coaches arrived on Sunday, as well as a few members, sans coach, who rented a property and joined in the fun. All enjoyed an outstanding assortment of pot-luck heavy hors d'oeuvres for our evening meal. We were up early Monday morning, as we were each day of the rally, exercising our pets along the beach and then heading to the community room for breakfast. Adam Gudger, Thor National Diesel Sales Manager, Davey Jones, Southeast Diesel Sales and Anson Adams, Customer Service Field Support, offered an overview of their responsibilities, current offerings and plans going forward. As always, the presentation was educational and informative. They "held up their own," as members challenged their expertise and knowledge and asked some tough questions. Golf or shopping at the outlets occupied the afternoon, followed by attitude adjustment time and dinner. Tuesday found the ladies crafting greeting cards. Dinner was scheduled early to permit travel time to the Carolina Opry. Wednesday was designated Thor Diesel Day, with a presentation by technical expert Mark Stanley, Freightliner's Jeremy Buckmeier, and Thor's Sales and Customer service team. Thursday was yet another busy day. Some learned to make sea glass votive holders, taught by our talented Tina Barina. We thank Tina, Karen Arnold and Sandy Smith for taking time to shop, prepare and present the supplies for both craft projects. With yet another awe inspiring sunset, the group danced to the sounds of Doo Wop. Ed Horton was surprised with the attention on the occasion of yet another milestone birthday. He and his bride Dee can dance! All enjoyed the energy on the dance floor. As always, our Veterans were gratefully acknowledged for their selfless service. Everyone participated in our 50/50 ritual. Most or all of the winners donated their winnings to our charities, thus doubling the initial donation. Throughout the rally, mixing and mingling and genuine camaraderie was evident everywhere. Friday morning seemed to come too soon. Breakfast was the scene of handshakes, hugs and promises to keep in touch as we travel this great land and hopefully get together again soon.

## **October 5-9, 2014 Fifth TDC International Rally**

The TDC 5th International Rally was held at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds in Goshen, Indiana. Rally Masters were Butch & Rita Roser, Lance & Alice Chapman, and Pete & Diane Stojanovich. There were 80 some coaches attending "The Wild Wild West" in Thor Country. Food service was catered by Mario's Catering with breakfast and dinner each day. There was daily social hour at 4:00 and dinner at 6:00 pm. The Fidler room was nicely decorated in western style and many members dressed in their western costumes.

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The rally began on Sunday evening with a Chuck Wagon Pot Luck dinner, followed by line dancing lessons by Ed & JoAnn Starck. On Tuesday we toured the new Wakarusa Plant. Wednesday was golf at the Black Squirrel golf course. On Thursday there was a wreath making craft. On Wednesday there was a demonstration by Pat Chapman on Skin Care from Your Pantry. The TDC group picture was taken on Thursday followed by a K-9 demonstration by the Goshen Police Department.

Each evening a charity was designated: Goshen Police K-9 Dogs, Bashor Children's Home, Love Way, Inc., Center of Healing and Hope. Over 100 blankets were donated to a downtown shelter. The entertainment for Sunday evening was a western movie, Monday a DJ and dancing, Tuesday evening the Thor Motor Coach Company, Wednesday evening the Paul Stout Band, and Thursday evening Spittin' Image. On Tuesday evening when the Thor people attended, Sheriff Pete went around and arrested some Thor people and the audience had to bail them out of jail. That money went to the Bashor Children's Home. Happy Trails Until We Meet Again!

During the 2014 TDC International Rally, Elections were held to form a Board of Directors of the Thor Diesel Club. They are:

## The 2014 - 2015 Thor Diesel Club Board of Directors

### **PRESIDENT**

Fred Barina

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Pete Stojanovich

### **TREASURER**

Kay Reagin

### **SECRETARY**

Al Kedz

### **Newsletter Editor**

Vallerie Lee

### **Historian**

Lorna Finley

### **Chaplain**

Jim Camille

### **National DIRECTOR to FMCA**

Sandy Sweeney

### **Assistant DIRECTOR - FMCA**

Ron Rickard

### **Member At Large**

Gary Smith

Jack Arnold

### **Membership Chairperson**

Ed Marynik

### **Nominating Committee**

Carol Stevens

Dee Horton

Joe Dube

Ron Rickard

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## The TDC 2015 Rally schedule:

<b>Rally</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Where</b>
Mini TDC Gathering Rally	January 14-18, 2015	Tampa, Florida
Spring Rally	May 3-8, 2015	Pine Mountain, Georgia
Rocky Mountain Mini Rally	September 9-12, 2015	Loveland, Colorado
South Central Meet & Greet	September 24-27, 2015	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
6th International Rally	October 4-9, 2015	Goshen, Indiana
Cape Hatteras Mini Rally	October 25-30, 2015	Cape Hatteras, North Carolina

## **January 14-18, 2015 Mini TDC Gathering Rally at the Florida RV Super Show**

The Florida RV Trade Association held their Florida RV Super Show on January 14-18, 2015 at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa, Florida. Advertised as the largest RV show in the country, total attendance at the Super Show was tallied at 63,264 people. Rally Master for the Thor Diesel Club gathering at the RV Super Show was Ron Rickard. Although Super Rally Camping was sold out, the Thor Diesel Club had record attendance as club members registered early enough to secure their rally spots. The group gathered at the Koritta's home one evening for a dinner catered by Hungry Harry's Family Bar-B-Que.

## **May, 2015 Regionalization of the Thor Diesel Club "Bringing the Rally to the Members"**

As the Thor Diesel Club continues to grow, the Board of Directors considers methods to reach out to our newest members as well as those seasoned Club members. By providing more convenient ways for our members to meet other members, share experiences and attend rallies, we strengthen the bond we have with each other and with Thor Motor Coach.

Our latest initiative in this area is Regionalization. We have established nine geographical regions that coincide with the FMCA regions. These regions are established to bring TDC activities to all those who want to have additional Club activities closer to their home location. By establishing these regions, members will find it much easier to schedule and attend rallies in their geographical area. This new approach allows more members to become involved in Club activities as well as creating opportunities to meet others who own similar Thor diesel coaches.

Each Region has a Regional Director who oversees the activities of that Region and assists those members in meeting each other to share experiences and enjoy the company of other TDC members. By working with their Regional Director, members will have assistance setting up a local get together, scheduling a regional Rally, or just distributing information focused on their particular Region.

The nine Regions with their initial Regional Directors are as follow:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Regional Directors</b>
Eastern	Bob & Sandy Smith
Great Lakes	Pete & Diane Stojanovich
Midwest	open
Northeast	Jack & Carol King

# Thor Diesel Club History

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Northwest	Jerry & Judie Lehenbauer
Rocky Mountain	Ed & JoAnn Starck
South Central	JR & Lou Robertson
Southeast	Ron Rickard
Western	open

## **May 3-8, 2015 Spring Rally in Pine Mountain, Georgia**

Rally Masters for the Spring Rally were Alice & Lance Chapman and Judy & Bill McGee.

The Rally was five days of amazing fun and excitement. The site, Pine Mountain RV Resort, was perfect for our needs. Our 104 attendees in 54 coaches enjoyed the pool and spa on site and the management was exceedingly gracious. Camping World brought four 2015/16 Thor coaches to the Rally site, plus hosted a hot dog cookout one afternoon and an ice cream social another afternoon. They planned games with great prizes for the winners. Ralph, from Chattanooga Camping World, used his days to teach coach driving techniques. He even held an art class for our group. The caterers were awesome and worked for us to have delicious meals. Our craft leaders, Karen Arnold and Alice Chapman, helped us make exciting crafts. We had amazing music for each and every meal and happy hour! We even had Sunday morning devotional time where Jerry Stoner opened his heart for us! We were able to contribute considerable donations to area charities. Denise, a wonderful lady who works at the campground, has a niece who was expecting a little boy named Duke and was in a car accident and in a coma in the hospital. Our attendees gave and gave to assist this mom and her precious baby! As the THOR coaches pulled out at the end of the Rally, we waved as the travelers honked their air horns and remembered fun times during the week.

## **September 9-12, 2015 Mini Rally in Loveland, Colorado**

A total of 12 coaches attended this first rally of the Rocky Mountain Region at the Riverview RV Park in Loveland, Colorado. Hosts were Carolyn & Steve Stevens and Ed & JoAnn Starcks. New members were welcomed. Daily breakfasts consisted of toasted bagels with choice of toppings, homemade breads and fresh fruit. Afternoon social hours were enjoyed by all. One cool evening was perfect for a campfire gathering. Ed & JoAnn Starcks hosted a happy hour at their home in Windsor, Colorado. Campground residents can be interesting. We met Iggy, the pot-bellied pig, weighing in at 250 pounds. He travels regularly with his owners and is well-behaved and trained. The weather was perfect for a golf day and touring the natural beauty of the area, especially Rocky Mountain National Park. Conversation topics most evenings consisted of the beauty seen and wildlife sightings. Some lucky explorers spotted an elusive moose! We toured Art Castings of Colorado. Loveland is known as sculpture city and after this tour, we all knew why. One evening dinner was at a local country western bar with live music and dancing.

## **September 24-27, 2015 South Central Region Meet and Greet**

The South Central Region hosted their first regional rally in Oklahoma City. Rally Masters JR and Lou Robertson planned a fun gathering. The weather was great and the facilities at Twin Fountains RV Park were very nice. Twelve coaches were present, of which five were attending their first Thor rally. It was great to socialize with club members. Three Texas couples realized that they lived within 15 miles of each other! Everyone got involved in meal preparation. The men stepped up to the task of preparing

# Thor Diesel Club History

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breakfasts both days including big fluffy pancakes, crispy bacon, sausage and scrambled eggs. Lou Robertson cooked a great Mexican style dinner of taquito casserole and tacos with all the toppings. One evening was Spud Night with honking big baking potatoes loaded with chili, cheese and bacon. There was an abundance of delicious potluck desserts. Another night the group ate out at Ann's Fry House, featuring wonderful chicken fried steak and meatloaf. Thanks to Malcolm and Lydia Smith for the recommendation! Although a selection of games were proposed, people were more inclined to just sit and talk, welcoming the opportunity to get to know other members of the Club. The great fellowship enjoyed there inspired the group to consider plans for future regional rallies.

## **October 4-9, 2015 Sixth TDC International Rally**

The theme for the Sixth International Rally was "We Are All Thor RVing". Our able Rally Masters were Al & Dee Kedz, Judy & Tom Copeland, and Gary & Kay Adams. A total of 94 motorcoaches were in record attendance at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds with 36 first-timers. The Elkhart County Community Center (ECCC) provided a great venue for our meals, seminar and entertainment. Large Building A was perfect for the display of new Thor coaches, courtesy of Total Value RV, an Elkhart dealer. A good selection of vendors also set up their product booths in Building A. Dining tables were decorated with a U.S. states theme and identified with state names. Members had been asked to contribute travel literature from their states; it was intriguing to browse brochures on potential new RVing destinations. We enjoyed a delicious Sunday potluck meal with fried chicken provided by the TDC. Breakfast and dinner were catered each day by Mario's Caterers. The made-to-order omelet bar was a popular breakfast. Two full busloads of TDC members arrived at the Thor plant in Wakarusa to be greeted by Adam Gudger for a fascinating tour of their busy factory. Our full rally schedule included a wide assortment of vendors and seminars, a golf outing at the Black Squirrel Golf Club and evening door prizes. The Newlywed Game was a fun evening's entertainment, with top prize to Debbie & Don Fryer. The musical/comedy performance by Spittin' Image was high-energy wonderful. Twins Blain and Brian interacted with the audience to have us laughing, roaring and dancing. TDC members donated a large supply of food and personal items to the food pantry at The Windows in Goshen. The raffle of a beautiful quilt plus proceeds from the Silent Auction generated a donation of over \$2300 to support "Homes for Our Troops". Through our 50/50 raffles, club members donated over \$2000 to four worthy non-profit organizations in Goshen: Interfaith Network, Ryan's Place, Goshen Hospice and The Window.

During the 2015 TDC International Rally, elections were held for the Thor Diesel Club Board of Directors. They are:

### **The 2015 - 2016 Thor Diesel Club Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT**

Jack Arnold

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Pete Stojanovich

**TREASURER**

Karen Laird

**SECRETARY**

Al Kedz

**Newsletter Editor**

Michele Yuskiewicz

**Historian**

Nancy Jarossy

**Chaplain**

Jim Camille

**National Director to FMCA**

Sandy Sweeney

**Alternate DIRECTOR - FMCA**

Van Melroe

# Thor Diesel Club History

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## **Member At Large**

Gary Smith  
Bud Wheatley

## **Membership Chairperson**

Jim Olson

## **Nominating Committee**

Pat Koritta  
Ed Chapman  
Gil Mullen  
Ed Starck

## **October 25-30, 2015    Camp Hatteras Mini Rally**

A total of 22 motorhomes were present for "Autumn at the Outer Banks" in windy but pleasant weather that was great for kite flying and sand castle building. Rally Masters were Al & Dee Kedz and Jim & Coby Olsen. The Camp Hatteras campground, situated between the ocean and sound, was a perfect place for rally activities. The famous annual "Bean Bag Baseball" game was held, much to the delight of all. Speakers on the Wright Brothers and the movie "Nights in Rodanthe" were even better than expected. There was free time for touring and exploring the area which is rich in history and folk lore. The annual "Egg in the Bag breakfast" was a real success, as were all the meals due to the help of members pitching in. This is what makes the TDC family special. Rally Masters are already planning a repeat performance for October 2016.

## **January 12-17, 2016    TDC Gathering at the Tampa RV Super Show**

The annual FRVTA Super Show Gathering started on a beautiful warm sunny Florida day. All 23 TDC member motorcoaches arrived at the Florida State Fairgrounds to be parked together in our designated area. The group gathered around the Arnold's rig for the first of our daily Happy Hours, where it was great to renew old acquaintances and get up to date. The RV Super Show midways were impressive with about 1700 RV's of all makes and models. Street performers/entertainers included a Bagpipe group, pirates, jugglers, an armadillo propelled covered wagon, a cowboy on stilts, a Barber Shop Quartet, clowns and mimes. We spent time at the THOR Display areas to see the new models and their innovative features. Anson Adams, the South Eastern Field Rep, was there representing THOR. Time was spent browsing the Vendor buildings for offerings and giveaways. So many new gadgets and items appear every year to enhance our RV life style. We filled bags with RV goodies and advertising materials from resorts, campgrounds and others. We met TDC members working: the Bucks in the FMCA booth and the Krausses in the Fantasy Tours booth. On Thursday through Sunday mornings, we were treated to donuts, coffee, hot chocolate and the Tampa Tribune newspaper at the Club Pavilion. Evening entertainment included the Doo-Wop group Malt Shoppe Memories and The Rivoli Revue with music and humor. Ron & Kay Rivoli also conducted Sunday morning church service. On Friday we visited Fred & Pat Koritta's lovely home for a catered barbeque dinner. It was a wonderful evening with over 60 folks including the Gathering members, day visitors and THOR representatives. Fred & Tina Barina were presented with a book of compiled "Thank You" e-mails and photos acknowledging their years of service to the club, accompanied by a decorated cake for dessert. Members enjoyed attending the Gathering and had a wonderful time.



# Thor Diesel Club History

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## **April 11-13, 2016    South Central Region Mini Rally**

A total of 20 coaches attended the South Central Spring Rally, the first TDC rally held in Louisiana. The 20 coaches present represented 5 of the club's different regions. The weather was almost perfect with all but one of the rain showers occurring overnight. Cajun Palms RV Resort in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana was the site for this rally. The resort is full service with a movie theatre, meeting/party room, workout facilities, laundry, arcade room, video poker, grocery store, Charlie's Bar and Grill, and a swim up bar at one of the 3 swimming pools. On arrival Sunday the 10th we had a meet-and-greet with a sampling of some Cajun appetizers, boudin and hog head cheese, along with the regular chips and dips. Danielle Stracener provided a home cooked chicken and sausage gumbo that was enjoyed by all. A general meeting was held on Monday and future club activities were discussed with Jack Arnold and JR Robinson. Anson Adams Thor's Customer Service Field Rep made a cursory visit to the rally and shared insights of things to come from Thor. Anson also visited coaches and discussed issues with some attendees. Activities for the rally included golfing at one of the many local courses, shopping at local areas, dining out at Pat's overlooking the water, and tours of the Tabasco Factory. Thanks to the Rally Masters Malcolm and Lydia Smith, and the support from Billy and Danielle Stracener, for a great rally.

## **April 20-24, 2016    Eastern Region Mini Rally**

A mini-rally was held in Marion, North Carolina, scheduled just prior to the TDC Spring Rally. The Eastern Region hosted 11 coaches in Marion, North Carolina at the Camping World Tom Johnson Rally Park. The rally was hosted by Bob & Sandy Smith, assisted by Pete & Diane Stojanovich. The Rally Park is part of the super accommodations available at the Camping World complex which include a wonderful service facility with a campground and lodge, a large well stocked store, a humongous inventory of new and used RV's of all types and a very friendly staff. The service manager was especially helpful in assisting us with information and correcting problems with our coaches and a tow dolly. We were conveniently parked directly across from the Pavilion with kitchen facilities. After check-in and greetings we car-pooled to the Countryside Bar-B-Que Restaurant for a wonderful meal. We returned for a campfire and a briefing about so many places to visit and things to do in the area. Marion is a place to return to for future rallies! The Smiths were praised for the home cooked breakfasts every morning, real southern traditional fare. Anson Adams, THOR's Southeast Region Customer Service Rep, spent a day and gave a lesson on burger grilling. Pete & Diane brought Wisconsin traditional Brats for one evening of burgers, dogs, Brats and all the trimmings. That evening meal was followed by a heady ball-game of "knock down the water bottles". Some were real heady swingers; others were straight forward bowlers! We had a few laughs and then shared short stories to get to know each other better. We were blessed with warm sunny weather except for one light rainy day which did nothing to dampen our activities or our spirits. On Saturday evening we enjoyed a cozy respite at the famous Boxcar Restaurant and returned to the Pavilion for happy hour and more sharing. On Sunday morning we got the coaches ready to caravan to Sevierville through the beautiful mountains.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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## **April 24-29, 2016    Spring Rally in Sevierville, Tennessee**

A total of 70 motorcoaches attended the Spring Rally, the largest Spring Rally in the club's history. We had 19 coaches that were either new members or first time attendees at a Spring Rally. The spring weather was perfect, with scattered showers just one day. The River Plantation RV Resort in Sevierville was well equipped to host our rally. It is a full service campground with an outdoor pavilion that could seat 80-90 people with an adjacent lawn and fire ring. The resort's convention center, with in-house catering, is capable of seating 300 people. The convention center had a stage and audio visual equipment available. On arrival day, Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>, we had a pot luck dinner with the club providing the entrée, fried chicken. Breakfasts and dinners were provided by the resort's in-house caterer, "Chef's Catering". A group of 45 members toured Bush's Baked Bean Factory. The Sevierville Shooting Range welcomed 42 attendees. A group of 20 golfers scrambled at the Sevierville Golf Club with prizes awarded to the winning teams. A private performance "Tribute to Red Skelton" was enjoyed by 85 attendees. A highlight of the week was the play "A Murdered Mystery" presented by the TDC Players on Thursday night. We had three well attended campfires with laser light shows provided by our "Firestarter/Laser Guy", Bill Troendle. Adam Gudger and Anson Adams of Thor Motor Coach presented a company overview. Megan Hiland of Freightliner provided a business overview. Anson Adams and Jeff Cox (Thor Technician) spent 1 ½ days working on member coaches, an unplanned surprise. Our members gave generously to designated charities, donating almost \$1200 to Big Brothers and Sisters of Knoxville Tennessee, Homes for our Troops, Sevier County Food Ministries Food Bank and Wilderwood Service Dogs. On each of three nights, bountiful baskets of locally purchased items were raffled. A 50/50 raffle was held on the last night. In addition, Tina Barina sold many tickets for the handmade quilt that will be raffled at the International Rally, benefitting Homes for Our Troops. The campground was just up the road from Dollywood, Gatlinburg, and Smoky Mt. National Forest. Many members toured the National Forest to observe the spring beauty and wildlife, bears, deer, and tons of turkeys. Thanks to our Rally Masters Jack & Karen Arnold and Jim & Coby Olson for managing a great week of fun and fellowship in Tennessee.

## **August 9-13, 2016    Northeast Region Mini Rally**

The North East Region hosted their first mini rally at The Villages at the Turning Stone Casino Campground in Verona, New York with 5 coaches attending. We enjoyed getting to know each other and sharing experiences. We toured the Erie Canal Boat Museum at Chittenango Landing where we learned the history of the Erie Canal and how the locks worked. Next we toured the Saranac Brewery in Utica, NY (the home of Utica Club Beer). We enjoyed sampling a few of the many craft beers. In addition to enjoying breakfasts (Brant made pancakes one morning), cocktail hours and a delicious potluck, we had dinner at the Canal View Restaurant at Sylvan Beach on Oneida Lake. After dinner, we enjoyed a concert at the Sylvan Beach Bandstand in the park. The next day we toured the Oneida Community Mansion House in Sherrill, New York. The members of this community founded Oneida Silverware, the leading silverware maker in the US in the early 1900's. The Season's Harvest Buffet lunch at the Turning Stone Casino was a hit as we enjoyed music from the 50's to the 80's. Everyone was fascinated with Brant's railcar which he tows behind his motorhome. He and Eileen had just been to a railcar event in Massachusetts where they rode the tracks for many miles. We look forward to seeing each other at another rally soon.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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## **August 11-15, 2016 Rocky Mountain Region Mini Rally**

The Rocky Mountain Region's "Rush to the Rockies Rally" was held at the Mountain Views RV Park in Creede, Colorado. This beautiful setting at about 8800 feet elevation is surrounded by the San Juan Mountains in the Rocky Mountain Range in southwestern Colorado. Rally Masters were Gisela and Ken Koplín and Jo Ann and Ed Starck. Gathering in the Bear Lodge on Thursday, we had a meet-and-greet with substantial hors d'oeuvres. Regional Director Ed Starck introduced new members Dave and Nancy Moser and guests Griffin and Katy Pickard. Katy had stopped to visit with Jo Ann Starck as Jo Ann was walking her dachshunds and also saw Ed's Thor Diesel Club cap. The ladies soon discovered that Katy and Griff also had a Thor motor coach and long story short they came to have dinner with us, participated in the activities and ended up joining the TDC! Breakfast every morning included fresh Colorado peaches and Colorado grown cantaloupe. Dinner included wine tasting and potluck one evening and dinner at local restaurants other evenings. Friday we went on a scavenger hunt to explore and learn about the local area and view the sculptures in the RV Park. That evening we attended the Creede Repertory Theater. We went to the Underground Mining Museum where our guide, a former miner, explained about the mining process and function of the tools. As an added bonus he also let us tour the only underground fire station in the U.S. which was located next to the museum. Sunday was more relaxed with some attendees playing bean bag toss and others betting on their favorite stick horse. We said our goodbyes on Monday and wished safe travels to old and new friends. There were a total of 12 coaches in attendance with most coming from outside of the Rocky Mountain Region for this fun and successful rally.

## **September 18-21, 2016 South Central Mini Rally**

The South Central Region had it's mini rally in Fredericksburg RV Park in Fredericksburg Texas. Gary & Sindy Smith were Rally Masters. 9 coaches participated which began with a potluck on Sunday evening. Following a bagel breakfast on Monday morning, the group toured the Museum of the Pacific War which was very interesting and informative. Lunch followed at Andy's Diner. A sandwich dinner was followed by an evening of Bingo. Tuesday featured Sindy's Mexican and Italian breakfast casseroles which were a hit. Many members visited some of the 40 wineries in the area or shopped in downtown Fredericksburg. Tuesday evening featured another culinary delight from Sindy, her Pasta Bolognese. A great time was had by all with new friendships formed.

## **October 2-7, 2016 Seventh TDC International Rally**

"The Pirates of Thor" was the theme of our Seventh International Rally held at the Elkhart County 4H Fairgrounds in Goshen, IN. A record-breaking 133 coaches were present with 57 first-time attendees. Rally Masters were Trudy & Nick Greco, Diane & Pete Stojanovich and Nancy & Jay Jarossy. Pirate dress was encouraged along with pirate-themed coach decorations. Wonderful decorations in the rooms and halls set the mood. Sunday kicked off the rally with a pot luck with fried chicken provided by the Thor Diesel Club. Breakfasts and dinners were catered for the rest of the week by Mario's Catering. Happy hour in the Pirate Pub each evening with songs and games kept everyone in the pirate spirit. A pirate parade & costume contest along with a pet parade & costume contest were hits. Door prizes were awarded after each evening meal -- cookbooks and Thor blankets were popular! With three pirate chest raffles along

# Thor Diesel Club History

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with a 50/50 raffle, our generous members donated over \$2,900 to four deserving organizations: Fisher House Foundation, Samaritan's Purse, America's VetDogs and the Salvation Army. This included the South Central region's \$200 donation to Samaritan's Purse. Non-perishable food items, baby goods and toiletries were donated to The Window of Goshen as well.

Steve Reed and his motley crew of technicians were kept busy all week doing minor repairs on our coaches. They were rewarded with generous contributions for their Christmas Employee party. Thor Motor Coach chartered 2 buses for the factory tour in Wakarusa. Many members gave up their seats so that the new members could go on the tour as there was limited seating.

There were several seminars on a variety of topics presented along with vendors offering their finest wares to attendees. Several new Thor motor coaches were on display to tempt the crowd. Regional meetings were held prior to happy hour on Wednesday, followed by dinner then entertainment by the duo, Spittin' Image.

New this year was a member Motor Coach Open House to show custom additions or alterations to their interiors and exteriors. Monday evening included round-table discussions divided by coach models. A golf outing to the Black Squirrel Golf Club, an Indoor Yard Sale along with a coach decorating contest rounded out the week.

During the business meeting held on Thursday, the following members were elected/selected to the Board of Directors:

## The 2016-17 Thor Diesel Club Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Jack Arnold	<b>Vice President</b> Pete Stojanovich	<b>Treasurer</b> Karen Laird
<b>Secretary</b> Al Kedz	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Michele Yuskiewicz	<b>Historian</b> Barbara Troendle
<b>Chaplain</b> Jim Camille	<b>National Director to FMCA</b> Nancy Jarossy	<b>Alternate Director to FMCA</b> Van Melroe
<b>Member at Large</b> Charlie Ray Gary Smith	<b>Membership Chairman</b> Jim Olson	<b>Nominating Committee</b> John Kaye Gil Mullen Ed Starck
<b>Audit Committee</b> Gary Smith Carol King	<b>Past-President</b> Fred Barina	

## October 5-9, 2016 Western Region Mini Rally

The first ever Western Region rally was held at the KOA Campground in San Diego, CA. 14 coaches were in attendance with Thor Diesel reps Mark Stanley and Jimmy greeting the attendees as they arrived. Rally Masters were Dennis & Margo Lehmann. A happy hour started the evening off with a wonderful meal of Margo's Sloppy Joe's with all the fixings. A commemorative 1<sup>st</sup> Thor Diesel Club Western Rally

# Thor Diesel Club History

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cake finished the meal. Many thanks to Terri Berth for the beautiful wreaths & centerpieces. The evening concluded with door prizes for the lucky winners. On Thursday, a cruise of San Diego Bay on the Hornblower was enjoyed by all with happy hour and a fried chicken potluck finishing a great day. Friday included a personal tour of the USS Midway with member Aidan Barrett which was attended by 14 members. Saturday was a French Toast breakfast and then free time to explore the area. Rick Mitchell was the grill master for the burger bash that evening. Sunday was coffee and donuts with farewells to all but not before Chris & Pam Lind, Rick & Kathy Mitchell and Greg and Judi LaSalle agreed to be Rally Masters for the 2<sup>nd</sup> TDC Rally at the Wine Country RV Resort in Monterrey, CA from April 10 – 14, 2017. It was a great start for the Western Region with much more to come.

## **October 23-28, 2016      Camp Hatteras Mini-Rally**

After Hurricane Matthew struck the Eastern coast, the Pirate themed mini-rally was able to be held at Camp Hatteras on Hatteras Island and drew 20 brave coaches. Rally Masters were Al & Dee Kedz. Anson Adams from Thor Motor Coaches added to the festivities. Windy weather began the rally but settled down to become a beautiful week. Treasure hunting on the beach as well as kite-flying kept attendees busy and enjoying the summer-like conditions. Bean bag baseball with Pirates versus Wenches was a hit, with the gals winning 2 out of 3 games. A guest speaker educated this motley crew on the history of Blackbeard in the area. The Wenches won again in a game of Family Feud against the Pirates. Food was fantastic, especially the seafood dinner. As usual, time flew and good-byes were short but sweet. Next year's rally masters will be Tom & Judy Copeland and Bill & Rebecca Wright in charge of the October 22 through 27, 2017 rally to be held again at Camp Hatteras.

## **November 2, 2016    Regional Directors announced**

President Jack Arnold announced that all Regional Directors positions have been filled as follows:

### **2016-17 TDC Regional Directors**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Directors</b>
Eastern	Bob & Sandy Smith
Great Lakes	Pete & Diane Stojanovich
Northwest	Ron & Diane Stoner
Rocky Mountain	Ed & JoAnn Starck
South Central	J.R. & Lou Robertson
Southeast	Joe & Sharon Kuebler
Northeast	John & Carol King
Midwest	Kirk & Susan Kuwitzky
Western	Dennis & Margo Lehmann

## **December 24, 2016**

President Jack Arnold announced that club membership has risen to 633 coaches.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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## The TDC 2017 Rally Schedule

<b>Rally</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
RV Super Show Mini-Rally	January 17-22, 2017	Tampa, FL
Western Region Rally	April 10-14, 2017	Paso Robles, CA
Eastern Region Mini-Rally	April 26-30, 2017	Mt. Airy, NC
Pre-Spring Mini-Rally	May 1-5, 2017	Branson, MO
Spring Rally	May 7-12, 2017	Claremore, OK
Midwest Region Rally	June 11-15, 2017	St. Helena, NE
Northeast Region Rally	June 11-16, 2017	North Stonington, CT
Northwest Region Rally	July 17-21, 2017	Oak Harbor, WA
Western Region Rally	September 10-15, 2017	Plymouth, CA
Rocky Mtn Region Rally	September 14-19, 2017	Farmington, NM
Great Lakes Region Rally	September 20-23, 2017	Empire, MI
8 <sup>th</sup> Fall International Rally	October 1-6, 2017	Goshen, IN
Eastern Region Rally – Outer Banks	October 22-27, 2017	Waves, NC

## January 3, 2017

President Jack Arnold announced that Jon Krider of Thor Motor Coach has released the names of the Thor Motor Coach Diesel Ambassadors who will kick off this new program. The following couples were chosen from numerous applications based on survey answers and travel plans.

Please congratulate:

Ray & Sharon McClellan	Avon Park, FL
Boyd & Gwen Gray	St. Petersburg, FL
Mike & Sue Bradley	Silver Springs, FL & Jackson, MI
John & Anita Gavagnini	Lancaster, CA

These four couples will be representing the proud and enthusiastic owners of Thor Motor Coach diesel motorhomes.

Thor Motor Coach also looks forward to input from current owners regarding resources and insight to what buyers desire in future models.

## January 17-22, 2017 Tampa Super RV Rally

The Southeast Region hosted a rally at the FRVTA Super Show 2017. Rally Masters Joe & Sharon Kuebler along with Jack & Karen Arnold did a wonderful job in making this rally the place to be. The Southeast Region had 16 coaches with 5 day visitors while all other Regions had 15 coaches and 12 day visitors. There was a lot of demand this year, early registration will be the key next year to secure space for all. With 48 coaches participating, this was the largest showing in the 4 years of attending this event.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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Many of our members spent time in and around the Thor Motor Coach diesel displays at General RV and Camping World. They were answering questions and promoting TMC products, using their first-hand experiences. Being good Ambassadors, over 200 TDC promotional post cards were handed out to prospective buyers. Members enjoyed walking through the vendor/supplier buildings and bringing back their treasures before daily happy hours.

We held our annual dinner at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds due to the wonderful increase in the number of attendees. Pat & Fred Koritta's home has officially been out-grown! This proved to be a great facility with a wonderful staff. Dinner was catered by Hungry Harry's Bar-B-Que who served up fabulous barbecue chicken and pulled pork with all the trimmings. Anson Adams and 2 other TMC salesmen joined us.

Tom Umiker, President of the Hillsborough County Fair gave a talk on the future of this fairground regarding expansion and making improvements to accommodate coaches for future Tampa Super Show rallies. Loss of power at the Tampa Fairgrounds proved to be challenging to many members and this site may be an option. Expanding to 50/30amp power with sewer hook-ups for 50 sites is on the table. They currently have 2 dump sites with possible plans to install temporary facilities to allow additional coaches to have dump service without moving their coaches. Our Southeast Regional Director, Joe Kuebler, will be working with this fairground to define these facilities and report back to the Board of Directors.

Friday morning was a touch of New Orleans, with Dee Horton and Karen Arnold frying up beignets for breakfast.

Due to the forecast of inclement weather, many members left on Saturday to dodge potential problems. Otherwise, all in attendance had a great time, renewing friendships and planning future meetings.

## **March 7-10, 2017 FMCA 95<sup>th</sup> International Convention**

FMCA's 95<sup>th</sup> International Convention, held in Chandler, AZ, was a rousing good time. Official attendance at the "Rally in the Valley" was 2,273 family coaches and 354 commercial coaches for a total of 2,627 – the largest convention since 2011. Thor Diesel Club was represented by 7 couples, with our TDC National Director for FMCA, Nancy Jarossy, attending a gathering of the International Organization (INTO) Area for a Q&A moderated by INTO President David Kessler. Nancy also attended a Candidates' Forum to meet those running for FMCA Officer positions. Elections will be held in July.

Thor Diesel Club members gathered on afternoon along the Riverwalk for happy hour with great food, drink and fellowship. Members also volunteered to work at the rally – Nancy handed out Welcome Bags in the parking lot, Jay Jarossy manned the coffee & donut station, Sue Cutter assisted with seminars while Greg & Judy LaSalle worked security. Other members attending included Mark & Joan McGahey, Bruce & Jean Totten, DuWyne & Holly Geist and day visitors Margo & Dennis Lehmann.

## **March 18, 2017**

President Jack Arnold announced that DuWyne & Holly Geist will assume the position of Regional Director for the Northwest Region.

## **April 10 -14, 2017 Western Region Rally Paso Robles, CA**

This year's Western Region Rally was held at the Wine Country RV Resort in Paso Robles, CA. 20 coaches attended with Rally Masters Rick & Kathy Mitchell, Chris & Pam Lind and Greg & Judi LaSalle managing

# Thor Diesel Club History

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the fun. Games were played to break the ice at the Happy Hours. Many thanks to the Thor Diesel Club for providing wine, beer, soda and water for the Monday Happy Hour which were stretched for most of the week.

Chef Rick whipped up special meals for the group; instead of a pot luck members were assigned either an appetizer or a dessert to compliment his creations. Monday was a pasta bar which included four sauces, three pastas, chicken, sausage or shrimp as well as salad & garlic bread. Tuesday breakfast was scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon & toast with dinner on your own. Wednesday breakfast was pancakes & sausage with dinner consisting of burgers and chips. Friday's farewell breakfast was coffee and donuts.

Activities included a trip to the iconic Hearst Castle on Tuesday. Wednesday consisted of two winery tours, Eberle Winery and the Vina Robles Winery. Each were very different and very interesting. A visit to the Estrella Warbirds Museum kept folks busy on Thursday, with either golf or exploring the area for others. Decorating a wine bottle along with a wine tasting rounded out the day.

Three Thor Diesel owners who members discovered in the campground joined in on the fun.

## **April 18, 2017**

President Jack Arnold announced that Pat Korrita will be assuming the position of Chaplain for the Thor Diesel Club.

## **April 26-30, 2017**

### **Eastern Region Rally**

### **Mt. Airy, NC**

Rally Masters Bob & Sandy Smith hosted an Eastern Region rally at the Mayberry Campground in Mt. Airy, NC. 17 coaches participated. First night was a potluck with fun meeting old friends and new. The next morning was a country breakfast followed by exploration of the area which was the home of Andy Griffith and the model for Mayberry in his TV shows. An excellent, atmospheric dinner was held at The Depot restaurant on Thursday night. Friday was more area sight-seeing with a hamburger/hot dog dinner that evening. Games and cards concluded the evening, with Majong being the most challenging. Saturday the group carpooled to the world's largest flat quarry. After a Sunday breakfast of biscuits and coffee, good-byes and hugs concluded this rally with plans to meet at the next one.

## **May 1 – 5, 2017 Pre-Spring Mini-Rally Branson, MO**

A mini-rally was held in conjunction with the FMCA INTO Rally in Branson, MO. TDC members convened at the America's Best Campground with Jack & Carol King at the Treasure Lake Campground where the rally was held. Rally Masters Bill & Barb Troendle were unable to attend due to the death of Bill's mother so John & Tammy Kaye along with Frank & Lexie Buell took the reins to insure that everyone had a good time. 13 coaches participated. Some members attended the FMCA events while others explored the Branson area then met for happy hours. A Thursday lunch at the Texas Land & Cattle Steakhouse had 20 in attendance and Friday breakfast at the Farmhouse had 18. Many members then went on to the TDC Spring Rally held in Claremore, OK.

## **May 7-12, 2017**

### **TDC Spring Rally**

### **Claremore, OK**

Rally Masters J.R. & Lou Robertson and Pete & Diane Stojanovich hosted a truly successful Spring Rally at the Will Rogers KOA Campground in Claremore, OK. 42 coaches from 20 states attended with many



# Thor Diesel Club History

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being first timers to Oklahoma. Several members had to cancel due to health or family issues or the attendance would have been even higher.

Some members arrived early to participate in the Derby Day on May 6. A hat contest was held with Pat Koritta creating the winning entry for the women and Jack Arnold won for the men.

Sunday evening started off with the Honorable Mayor Bill Flanagan and his wife, Lou, joining the group for dinner. Mayor Flanagan gave a summary about the Claremore area and the reasons folks live here. A 50/50 raffle was held to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center.

Week-long activities included Will Rogers impersonator Andy Hogan giving members a humorous history lesson followed by a scheduled tour of the Will Rogers Memorial. A business meeting was held at Monday's dinner. Breakfasts & dinners were catered in the Casino with beautiful centerpieces designed by Diane Stojanovich and assembled by her team.

On Tuesday, a golf tournament at the Heritage Hills Golf Club kept 20 members busy while many of the ladies created unique beaded windchimes under the tutelage of Tina Barina & Pat Koritta. Anson Adams from TMC golfed then entertained the group after dinner with his comedic speech which we never get tired of hearing! Freightliner provided a speaker for a "Fireside Chat" which was well attended.

Wednesday's breakfast speaker, Jason Schubert, educated members on the JM Davis Arms & Historical Museum and encouraged everyone to visit this historic wealth of artifacts dating back to the Revolutionary War. The afternoon's entertainment was Dulcimer music by Terry & Barbara McCafferty. The evening held a 50/50 raffle benefiting the Blue Star Mothers.

Thursday was a free day for members to explore the wonders of the Claremore area. Members were given a handout of local restaurants (no chains) and were encouraged to patronize them while in Claremore. Many purchased raffle tickets for the Homes for Troops Quilt as well as donated hundreds of dollars of non-perishable items for the Food Bank in Claremore.

## **May 24, 2017**

President Jack Arnold announced that the TDC will be accepting credit card payments using a Square account for membership dues, Spring and Fall International Rally fees as well as TDC merchandise. The club had been using Wells Fargo since November but fees became excessive. Keyed-in card numbers will be charged 3.5% + .15 of the total transaction, swiped cards will be charged 2.75% of the total transaction, while Invoices and Online Store purchases will be charged 2.9% + .30 of the total transaction.

## **June 11-15, 2017**

### **Midwest Region Mini-Rally**

### **St. Helena, NE**

Rally Masters Kirk & Susan Kuwitzky hosted the first Midwest Regional Mini-Rally at the Meridian Bridge RV Resort in St. Helena, Nebraska. Four couples participated and a great time was had by all. Pete & Diane Stojanovich, Ray & Susan McClellan and new members Jay & Debbie Rolls appreciated Kirk & Susan's efforts in planning this inaugural rally. Susan arranged or prepared great breakfasts and dinners that were served in the new resort pavilion, with happy hours and after-dinner relaxation held in the outdoor patio.

Days were spent exploring the Yankton, SD and St. Helena, NE areas. Additional activities included golf and decorating solar-powered outdoor table lights. Susan arranged a tour of the Hutterite settlement which is not normally open to the public.

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Thursday morning after breakfast, good-byes were said. As our Thor Diesel Club grows, so will the attendance of the Midwest Regional Rallies.

## **June 11-16, 2017      Northeast Regional Rally      North Stonington, CT**

Rally Masters Jack & Carol King hosted this rally at the Mystic KOA. 10 coaches with 22 attendees enjoyed exploring the area, including a tour of the USS Nautilus, the first atomic submarine. Museum tours, shopping, wineries, lighthouses, historic vessels and great seafood restaurants kept the participants busy. Anson Adams joined the group for Happy Hour on Wednesday night and Brian Minkin showed them RVillage and how it works.

Friday morning over coffee and breakfast goodies, good-byes and hugs sent the participants on the road, looking forward to next year's rally.

## **June 26, 2017      Membership announcement**

President Jack Arnold announced that as of June, membership has grown to 607 members.

## **July 17-21, 2017      Northwest Regional Rally      Oak Harbor, WA**

Rally Masters DuWyne & Holly Geist hosted the first Northwest Region Rally at the North Whidby Island RV Resort. 5 NW Region members attended with 1 attendee coming from Colorado. It was a 1.5 mile stroll to the beach from the RV park. Unfortunately, they were in the flight path of a Naval base which held flight practices in the evenings until 2:00AM! Those with keen ears had more difficulty sleeping than others but, in spite of this, a great time was had by all. Breakfast time was adjusted accordingly. Chef DuWyne kept everyone fed and happy. Evenings were spent sharing experiences of the day. Exploring the area with a 6-hour boat cruise of the San Juan Islands was a hit, even though only 1 Minke whale was sighted. They did see bald eagles, seals and other wildlife. Mount Rainer and other snow-capped mountains were stunning. Friday morning saw good-byes with thoughts of plans for the next NW Regional rally.

## **July 19, 2017      TDC Insurance clarification**

President Jack Arnold sent a memo that members as well as board members had questioned if TDC was bonded against financial loss or theft by members who handle club money and manage the club's bank accounts. After Jack's review of the FMCA Chapter Presidents Handbook and Risk Management Guide with confirmation by the FMCA Chapter Services, he found that the club is covered under FMCA's "Crime/Fidelity Coverage" insurance policy.

The policy states:

"This coverage is provided for any non-compensated person while performing services as a volunteer worker for the chapter, area, association or cooperative. This acts the same as a bonding for chapter or area officers who handle money."

In other words, the TDC President, Treasurer (both of which have full access to the club's bank accounts), and our Membership Chairperson(s) (who handle deposits only) are covered.

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## **July 26, 2017 Rally Title Clarification**

President Jack Arnold announced that we need to establish a naming convention to avoid confusion between all of our rallies as there are now 9 regions with rallies being held almost monthly. He stated that from now on, only “Rally” will be used and to refrain from using “mini-rally” or “gathering.”

Therefore, the following shall be used:

TDC Fall International Rally                      TDC Spring Rally – East                      TDC Spring Rally – West

TDC (Name of Region) Region Rally i.e. TDC Western Region Rally

Pre-FMCA Rally (Name of Region – FMCA Rally)

Pre- TDC Fall/Spring Rally (Name of Region – TDC Rally)

## **August 11, 2017 New Directors – South-Central Region**

President Jack Arnold announced that Billy and Danielle Stracener from Youngsville, LA will be replacing JR and Lou Robertson as the South-Central Region Directors. We wish to thank JR and Lou for their hard work and dedication as directors.

## **August 26, 2017 Rally Packet Clarification**

President Jack Arnold made the following post regarding the multiple member requests of when they would receive rally packets for national rallies:

“Those that are new to the Thor Diesel Club (TDC) must understand that we are a small, non-profit RV club that operates on a limited budget. All club business is communicated via e-mail, therefore you need to make sure that TDC e-mails are not directed to your junk (spam) box, check it often. When we have rallies we do not mail out any information to save on postage and we distribute rally related information, name tags, etc. after you arrive at registration time. Other larger RV clubs, i.e. FMCA, Good Sam, etc. will mail registration packages but we do not.”

## **September 10-15, 2017 TDC Western Region Fall Rally Plymouth, CA**

This year’s Western Region Fall Rally was held at the Far Horizons 49er RV Village in Plymouth, CA. 24 coaches were in attendance with 51 members from the states of Washington, California, Nevada, Texas and Arizona participating in multiple activities. Rally Master Patrick Stiltner organized a very successful rally.

Highlights included the presence of Thor Motor Coach Representative Jimmy Mackey, the California Highway Patrol’s safety presentation on topics including alcohol and weapons in the coach, a Michelin Tire Company presentation with on-site tire inspections as well as a coach detailing service. Fire and safety discussions were also held along with “tips and tricks” and emergency equipment overviews.

Games and raffles along with a white elephant gift exchange added to the fun. Remaining raffle funds will be donated to a local non-profit charity.

Off-site activities included winery tours as well as an underground cave tour. Free time provided members the opportunity to explore all the area had to offer, including golfing and gambling.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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9 meals were enjoyed by all with everyone pitching in with appetizers and desserts as well as helping with set up and clean up duties.

Good-byes were said over pastries with thoughts of looking forward to the next rally.

## **September 14-19, 2017 Pre-FMCA Rocky Mountain Region Rally Albuquerque, NM**

Rally Masters Ed and Jo Ann Starck and Ken and Gisela Koplin hosted a TDC rally prior to the FMCA Rocky Mountain Area Ramble in Albuquerque, NM. This rally was held at the American RV Park with 3 coaches in attendance. Activities enjoyed included visiting the National Museum of Nuclear Science & Industry, riding the Rail Runner Express train for a day trip to Santa Fe, riding the Sandia Tramway and having lunch at the historic Mineshaft Tavern in Madrid. Following the conclusion of the rally, members headed off to the FMCA rally.

## **September 20-23, 2017 Great Lakes Region Fall Rally Empire, MI**

Rally Masters Iggy and Cindy Konrad hosted the Great Lakes Fall Rally at the Indigo Bluffs RV Resort in Empire, MI. Four coaches participated with 2 coaches being new members and experiencing their first TDC rally. Iggy & Cindy provided delicious breakfasts and dinners as the group explored the natural beauty of the area, the center piece being Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Everyone enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere, making new friends and looking forward to the next rally.

## **October 1-6, 2017 8th TDC International Rally Goshen, IN**

The 8<sup>th</sup> TDC International Rally was held at the Elkhart 4H Fairgrounds in Goshen, IN. This year we had 3 rally masters, John & Anita Gavagini, Bill & Donna Weisiger and Bud & Cyndi Wheatley. The theme was Hawaii and the 132 coaches who participated were transported to this beautiful tropical island chain via wonderful decorations and Hawaiian garb. The schedule was jam packed with activities, outings and activities.

A wonderful tribute to our veterans kicked off by Pat Koritta followed by a commentary by Fred Barina. We raised \$2,000 for Disabled American Vets "Rides for Vets" program which entitled our TDC logo to be on the side of their new van as a major donor. This van will be at next year's Fall Rally. We had special guests from "The Window" and we raised \$951 for their cause as well as a large supply of food and personal items for their pantry. \$3,500 was raised from the raffle for a beautiful quilt which went to support "Homes for Our Troops." Raffles each night included RV furniture as well as great door prizes to make our members happy.

New Thor coaches were displayed in Building A courtesy of Total Value RV to tempt the attendees along with vendors selling their wares and seminars to keep members current in all things RV.

FMCA's International Area Vice President David Kessler was our guest and spoke to the participants about the many benefits of being an FMCA member. Steve Reed and his skilled technicians were kept busy all week providing repairs on our coaches. They were rewarded with generous contributions to their employee fund.

The Pet Parade was a hit as well as the Coach Open House showcasing member improvements and personal touches to their coaches. The "island dress" costume contest was a Happy Hour festival and the intrepid Hula Boys left everyone in stitches.

Spittin' Image rocked the house and they included our Hawaiian them in their act.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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As of September 2017, there were 669 members.

During the business meeting held on Thursday, the following members were elected/selected to the Board of Directors:

## The 2017-18 Thor Diesel Club Board of Directors

### **President**

Jack Arnold

### **Vice President**

Pete Stojanovich

### **Treasurer**

Karen Laird

### **Secretary**

John Gavagnini

### **Newsletter Editor**

Michele Yuskiewicz

### **Historian**

Barbara Troendle

### **Chaplain**

Pat Koritta

### **National Director to FMCA**

Nancy Jarossy

### **Alternate Director to FMCA**

Van Melroe

### **Member at Large**

Gary Smith  
Charlie Ray

### **Membership Chairman**

Jim Olson

### **Nominating Committee**

Malcolm Smith - Chair  
Frank Buell  
Jay Jarossy

### **Audit Committee**

Gary Smith  
Carol King

### **Past-President**

Fred Barina

## **October 22-27, 2017**

## **Outer Banks Eastern Rally**

## **Waves, NC**

A fun time was had at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Outer Banks East Rally at Camp Hatteras in Waves, NC. Rally Masters Tom & Judy Copeland and Bill & Rebecca Wright hosted 22 coaches from 11 states and 4 U.S. regions. This year's theme was "One Road – Four Lights" which showcased 4 historical lighthouses on the North Carolina Outer Banks. National Seashore Ranger, Tom Avery, shared facts of the importance and significance of each lighthouse as well as the lore.

Anson Adams, our Thor Customer Service Representative, patiently endured 2 days of owner input. Meals included a catered seafood feast by Catering by Wanda, along with breakfasts and dinners whipped up by the culinary members.

Beanbag Baseball, Mahjong, a skin care seminar presented by member Kay Ruben, sightseeing and a surprise birthday party for Sue Jones kept everyone entertained.

Next year's rally has already been booked in anticipation of an even bigger turnout.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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## The TDC 2018 Rally Schedule

<b>Rally</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Southeast Region Rally	January 16 – 21, 2018	Tampa, FL
Western Region Rally	April 8 - 12, 2018	Buellton, CA
Spring Rally East	April 22 – 27, 2018	Stone Mountain, GA
South Central Region Rally	April 30 – May 3, 2018	Grapevine, TX
Spring Rally West	May 6 – 11, 2018	Santa Fe, NM
North East Region Rally	June 3 – 7, 2018	Holly, NY
Western Region Rally	September 9 – 14, 2018	Pala, CA
9 <sup>th</sup> Fall International Rally	September 30 – October 5, 2018	Goshen, IN
Eastern Region Rally – Outer Banks	October 21 – 26, 2018	Waves, NC

### **January 16-21, 2018                      Super RV Show Southeast Regional Rally                      Tampa, FL**

Rally Masters Joe & Sharon Kuebler reported that 43 coaches were represented as either direct campers on the Tampa State Fairgrounds or as day visitors. Fairground campers arrived on January 16 which started 3 days of “happy hours” sponsored by our club. The weather was chilly but that did not stop members from socializing.

Two local vendors had Thor Motor Coach displays. This show is said to have become the largest RV show in the country. Several buildings of vendors as well as outdoor displays kept members busy looking, dreaming and buying.

Friday evening participants had dinner at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds and were joined by Adam Gudger, Anson Adams and others from the Thor Motor Coach Team.

### **January 25, 2018                      TDC Change of Mailing Address**

President Jack Arnold announced that the Thor Diesel Club mailing address has been changed to:

Thor Diesel Club  
5753 Highway 85N  
#557  
Crestview, FL 32536

### **January 26, 2018                      “Homes for Our Troops” & DAV Recognition**

President Jack Arnold announced that the Thor Diesel Club was recognized by the “Homes for Our Troops” organization for our club’s generosity in supporting their cause. The club was presented with a certificate of appreciation. Also, the Elkhart DAV will be displaying a copy of our logo on their new van made possible with the help of over \$3,000 donated by our members.

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## **January 28, 2018      Rocky Mountain Regional Director Change**

President Jack Arnold announced that Ed & Jo Ann Starck have stepped down from the Rocky Mountain Region Directorship due to issues that prevent them from fully participating in club activities. We all thank the Starks for their hard work as Regional Directors and wish them well. Ken & Gisela Koplin will take the reins as Regional Directors. We look forward to their energy and talent in their new positions.

## **February 8, 2018      Membership Update**

President Jack Arnold announced that the current membership of the Thor Diesel Club is 709 coaches. We continue to grow!

## **March 26, 2018      Regional Vice President Announcement**

President Jack Arnold announced the creation of Regional Vice President positions due to the growth of our club. After discussion with Vice President Pete Stojanovich, they decided to elevate two of the existing Regional Directors to Regional Vice Presidents. These Regional VP positions will be appointed just as the Regional Director positions are. They will continue to oversee their assigned regions as well as being the direct line to the President and Vice President for the Eastern & Western Regions. By adding these positions, the intention is to push more of the regional decision-making out to the regions via the Regional VPs. Maintaining standards between East & West, coordinating Spring rally dates, etc. will be coordinated between the Regional VPs.

### **Eastern Regions Regional VP – Joe Kuebler**

North East – John & Carol King  
Eastern – Bob & Sandy Smith  
Great Lakes -- Pete & Diane Stojanovich  
South East – Joe & Sharon Kuebler

### **Western Regions Regional VP – Rick Mitchell**

Western – Rick & Kathy Mitchell  
North West – DuWyne & Holly Geist  
Rocky Mountain – Ken & Gisela Koplin  
South Central – Billy & Danielle Stracener

## **April 7 – 12, 2018      West Region Spring Rally      Buellton, CA**

23 coaches attended the West Region Spring Rally hosted by Ed & Deanna Fischermann, Carl Kimon & Diane Watern and Dave & Maggie Smith. Flying Flags RV Resort was the perfect setting for the fun-filled rally. Kicking off the week was a Happy Hour with a brief presentation by a representative from the Buellton Visitors Center. Activities included a best ball golf tournament, a bocce ball tournament, a Segway tour of Buellton, a Wine Tour at Fess Parker Winery, Bunco Night, an Olive Oil Tasting, with antique shopping as well. Plenty of free time to explore the area kept everyone busy. Jimmy Mackin from Thor Motor Coach joined the group and held meetings with owners to discuss issues and concerns. A White Elephant gift exchange with a game of "Left-Center-Right" on the last night concluded the rally. Good-byes were said over a donut breakfast.

# Thor Diesel Club History

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**April 22 – 27, 2018**

**Spring Rally – East**

**Stone Mountain, GA**

The inaugural Spring Rally – East was held at Stone Mountain Park Campground with 63 coaches and 1 day visitor participating. Rally Masters Joe & Sharon Kuebler, Bob & Sandy Smith and Matt & Kathy Lazar greeted attendees in rain gear as they arrived. A potluck dinner with fried chicken provided by the club kept everyone happy in spite of the rain.

National Indoor RV in Lawrenceville, GA partnered with the TDC at this rally. Brett Davis, CEO of NIRVC, graciously provided technicians to preform minor repairs and adjustments to members coaches while at the campground with a zero-labor charge.

Mornings started with catered breakfasts. Monday was a day of relaxation and rest ending with a 5pm social hour followed by a catered dinner. Tuesday had 29 members having fun at Master Gunman, a local gun range arranged by Charlie Ray. 5pm social hour with a catered dinner completed the evening. Wednesday 17 members hit the links in a best ball competition at Southland Country Club organized by Butch Roser. 5pm social hour, a catered dinner followed by awards to the 5 golf teams provided by the club and Freightliner based on their team scores. Thursday consisted of free time until the provided buses arrived to whisk members to the Lawrenceville NIRV facility for a tour, dinner and entertainment provided by Kenny Evans with a special appearance of song writer and singer Chuck Day. Members arrived by at the campground around 10pm. To-go breakfasts were provided to members on Friday as the NIRV techs finished up the repairs. The club is looking forward to partnering once again with NIRVC at Stone Mountain at a future rally.

**April 30 – May 3, 2018**

**South Central Region Rally**

**Grapevine, TX**

Rally Masters Billy & Danielle Stracener hosted 23 coaches, with 7 being first-time attendees at the Vineyards Campground & Cabins. Events were held at the outdoor pavilion with daily happy hours and evening meals together. A day trip was offered to Waco to visit Magnolia Market & Silos. The Grapevine Visitors Commission provided goody bags with local restaurant and area event information. A fun time was had by all.

**May 6 – 11, 2018**

**Spring Rally – West**

**Santa Fe, NM**

The first Spring Rally – West was held at the Santa Fe Skies RV Resort. Rally Masters Kirk & Susan Kuwitzky, Greg & Judi LaSalle and Ken & Gisela Koplín greeted the 23 coaches and 45 attendees with a full schedule of fun-filled activities. Early arrivals on Saturday enjoyed a Cinco de Mayo party followed by a Kentucky Derby event. Six teams were formed and they decorated their horses. A race then ensued that evening with the pace set by the roll of a die. The winnings were donated to Horses for Heroes. Derby hats were judged as well. A golf outing, a presentation of the History of Santa Fe as well as a Q&A by TMC Diesel District Manager, Colin Sekal, kept participants busy. A Thor Aria was on display to tempt attendees and a gift exchange with items from each home state was enjoyed by all. Catered breakfasts & dinners kept everyone well fed with daily happy hours to keep spirits up. With a local coach-washing service, everyone looked great as they departed.



# Thor Diesel Club History

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## **May 17, 2018      New Eastern Region Directors**

President Jack Arnold announced the retirement of Bob & Sandy Smith as Eastern Region Directors. The club appreciates all their hard work and dedication while serving as this region's directors. Jay and Nancy Jarossy have accepted this position. They have served as Rally Masters for our Fall International Rally, are members of our Nominating Committee as well as representing the Thor Diesel Club as our FMCA National Directors. We look forward to our club's continued success due in large part to volunteers like Jay and Nancy!

## **June 3 – 8, 2018                      Northeast Region Rally                      Holley, NY**

Rally Masters Jack & Carol King hosted the Northeast Region Rally at the Red Rock Ponds RV Resort with the assistance of Linda & Dan Duwe. 15 coaches and 30 attendees from nine different regions had a fun-filled time in spite starting out with heavy rains on Sunday. The rest of the week was a combination of cloudy and sunny days with temperatures in the high 60's to the mid 70's.

Colton RV from North Tonawanda, NY displayed 7 coaches – the temptation was too great for one couple who purchased a new coach at the rally. Exploration of the area kept attendees busy, visiting Niagara Falls, Maid of the Mist, Old Fort Niagara, Niagara Aquarium, Point Light House and George Eastman House to name a few. Happy hours, a pot luck, a superb buffet luncheon at the Lockport Locks Restaurant followed by a 2-hour cruise through two locks on the Erie Canal were enjoyed by all. Wineries were visited afterwards. Thursday's dinner was at the Tillman's Historic Village Inn which was built in 1824. All in all, it was a wonderful rally and as Judy Copeland said: "This rally ROCKS!"