

EasyRVing

Spring 2016
A Publication for Coachmen RV Owners

**SUMMER FUN ON MACKINAC ISLAND
2016 COACHMEN ANNUAL RALLY
MACKINAW, MICHIGAN**

**NEW OWNER PATTI DAUGHERTY'S STORY
"BECOMING A COACHMEN OWNER"**



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Letter From The President

May 9, 2016

Dear Coachmen Owners

Greetings and I hope that this correspondence finds all well with you and yours. Spring is rolling in and bringing smiles to many faces here in the Midwest. As this spring and summer camping season gets into full swing I hope that you, your family and your friends are able to get out and enjoy the great outdoors through the RV lifestyle as much as possible.

While Sheila and I adjusted this last fall to "empty nest," we are thrilled to have our two youngest children, Nicholas and Julia, now back home from college for the summer. Our two oldest are out of college and gainfully employed ... Michael in the RV business as a factory representative for a sister Forest River product line and Cassandra an interior designer working for an Italian firm in downtown Chicago. Big news in the Terlep family is the recent engagement of our daughter Cassandra. We are so blessed with a great family. We hope to have at least a few of our children with us in Mackinac this summer for the 49th COA Rally.

The RV business is booming as more and more people from all generations are entering the RV lifestyle ... attracting the millennials and Gen Xers, as well as continued growth amongst the Boomers. In order to grow the family of Coachmen RV owners, we have been quite busy this last year within Coachmen and Coachmen Owners Association.

On the Coachmen front, we are thrilled to have recently entered the Class B market, launching the Galleria Class B Motorhome. The Galleria Class B Motorhome Division is a standalone division within Coachmen with a dedicated Class B manufacturing facility located on Coachmen's 230 acre complex in Middlebury, IN. The Galleria Class B is the ultimate touring vehicle built on a Mercedes Benz Sprinter van and offers a broad versatility of use for owners ... ranging from extensive traveling to traveling sports teams for your kids or grandkids. The attention to detail in design, quality, amenities and value are immediately evident when inspecting the Galleria.

Our Coachmen Clipper and Viking RV division expanded into a brand new 98,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility early this year, accommodating our travel trailer growth for these model lines.

And our commitment to Customer Satisfaction as our 1st Priority remains steadfast as we continue to invest in: internal customer service training, dealer technical training, electronic owner's manuals available through apps on your smart phone, additional "How To" videos for our customers, a dedicated Coachmen Facebook page, direct links and contact information to Coachmen service personnel, as well as expansion of our Owner Relations Group.

For over 52 years Coachmen has remained committed to your satisfaction and to enhancing the life of others by providing quality, reliable and user friendly products backed by service that you can trust.

Coachmen Owners Association (COA) has been busy as well enhancing our services and value. We recently launched an all new COA website that provides a broad breadth of information, conveniences and updates ranging from chapter news to events to rallies and trips.

Our 49th Annual Coachmen Rally will be held in Mackinaw City, Michigan July 24th – 29th. This is an absolutely beautiful venue for this event. Our decision to move our destination from Goshen this year was driven by the voice of many of you. We listened and are happy to report that we are tracking @20% higher attendance with this year's venue location. It appears that we will fill all 225 full hook up sites and may even roll over into a number of partial hook up sites. At the time of the composition of this letter we have only 31 full hook up sites available, so act quickly to register. Visit us on line at www.coachmenowners.com to register or learn more about this year's annual Rally or other events we have scheduled throughout the year.

Finally, I ask that you keep the Corson family in your prayers as it is with great sadness that I report to you the loss of Dot Corson this last month. Dorthy "Dot" Corson, wife of Coachmen Industries Inc. co-founder Thomas H. Corson, passed away from congestive heart failure on April 19 at her home in Naples, Fla. She was 88.

Sorry for the length of the President's letter this edition ... it seemed that there was much to share (or maybe I am just a little long winded today).

Thank you so much for being a part of the Coachmen Family. Enjoy the upcoming season of RVing as you create lasting memories with family and friends.

Safe Travels and May God Bless you and yours.

Warmest Regards



Michael R. Terlep
President
Coachmen RV



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Upcoming 2016 District and State Rallies

COA 2nd ANNUAL

MID-ATLANTIC RALLY

**New Green Acres RV Park, Walterboro, South Carolina
May 12-15, 2016**

SC State Chapter # 193 and VA Cardinals Chapter #100 invite you to come and camp with us in the "Back Porch" of South Carolina and enjoy great camping, fellowship and good food. If you like to go looking for antiques and collectables, this is the town to visit.

The campground is easy -off /easy-on at I-95 Exit 53 just ½ mile from the exit and is a Good Sam Park. Call the campground to make reservations at (843) 538-3450 or (800) 474-3450. You can also reach them through www.newgreenacres.com. Be sure to let them know that you are with the Coachmen group.

Rally Fees:

- \$49.00 per unit (2 people)
- \$25.00 per unit (1 person)
- \$25.00 per extra adult (13 and over)
- Children 12 and under are free
- Vineyards and wineries
- Skyline Drive/Blue Ridge Parkway.

Your campground cost is separate from the rally fee. Your rally fee includes Thursday night dinner, Saturday Breakfast, Saturday Dinner and Sunday continental breakfast. There will also be door prizes and a devotional service Sunday morning. Friday dinner will be a group participation dinner. We ask that you bring a covered dish to share. The meat for the dinner will be provided as part of the Rally fee. For more information and reservations please contact Kara Forward at 864-283-2026 or 864-422-5488.

34th DISTRICT 3 RALLY

Wayne County Fairgrounds

199 Vanover St., Wooster, OH 44691

May 13-15, 2016

Greetings COA Members!

A new season of rally activities is being planned. This brings opportunities to make new friends, say hello to those you already know, and enjoy the fellowship at the 2016 District 3 Rally (our 34th year!).

Rally fee includes:

- Friday night hot dogs, chili, chips and dessert
- Saturday breakfast, afternoon ice cream social and prepared dinner on Saturday night followed by entertainment, also includes a continental breakfast on Sunday, followed by a devotional service.
- Water and electric for 2 nights camping.

- In addition, there are games, award, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and entertainment.

Friday and Saturday nights camping costs:

- 1 unit/two people - \$70.00
- 1 unit/one person - \$60.00
- Additional people per unit (age 10 and over) add \$12.00 each for food cost. Add \$5.00 if not registered prior to the rally.
- For additional night(s) camping \$15.00 per night which will be collected at the rally.
- For more information and reservations call Terry Hart at 248-840-6031

Send reservations and fees to Gaylord and Gloria Barnes, 4004 Hamilton Lane, La Crescenta, CA 91214, (818) 249-4819. Deadline for reservation April 20, 2015. Make checks payable to Gloria Barnes.

ANNUAL 9th DISTRICT RALLY

Pechanga RV Resort

45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, CA 92592

(877) 99RV Fun

May 13-15, 2016

This is a beautiful resort! Pool, Spa, close to malls, shopping and many fine restaurants are just a few of the many amenities. The park is on the ground of the Pechanga Indian Casino (with shuttle). We have reserved the club house for our use. Old Town Temecula boasts many unusual sights and it also is located in the famous Temecula Wine Country.

Registration and two nights camping (Friday & Saturday) - \$99.95

Extra night camping contact wagon master one day before - \$45.00

Extra night camping contact RV office for one day after
For Reservations please contact Gaylord & Gloria Barnes, 4004 Hamilton Lane, La Crescenta, CA 91214, (818) 427-9190. Deadline for reservations is April 11, 2016.

45th PENNSYLVANIA STATE

COACHMEN RALLY

Grange Fairgrounds, Homan Lane

Centre Hall, PA 16828

May 27-30, 2016

We are happy to announce that the 45th Pennsylvania State Rally will be held this coming May 27-30, 2016 at the Grange Fairgrounds, Gate 3 # 4, Homan Lane, Centre Hall, Pennsylvania. Some local attractions include Penn State University Campus, Home of the Nittany Lions, a visit to Creamery for ice cream, Boalsburg (home of Memorial Day), Myers Dairy and PA Military Museum.

The rally will start with Friday night meeting with games following. On Saturday we will start with a craft/flea market

with homemade soup, barbeque, hot dogs, soda, cake and pie. Bring your homemade wood crafts and other crafted items. That evening we will have an optional dinner for the cost of \$12.00 which will need to be ordered by May 12. A Ham and Turkey dinner will be served by Centre Hall Grange in town. A Free Pancake breakfast will be served on Sunday morning. Bring your own table service, butter and syrup. Sunday evening bring a covered dish to share for a potluck supper and your own table service.

Drive Ins are welcome, but no optional dinner will be available. Every unit is asked to bring a box of cookies or crackers for Hospitality and an item of value to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Proceeds will go to the State Treasury. Any questions, please call Ron/Kathy Fox at 610-346-7936. Make checks payable to PA State Coachmen Association and mail to Robert Baker, 725 W. Pine St., Palmyra, PA 17078.

MISSOURI STATE RALLY

Arrowhead Point RV Park & Campground

755 SW 54 Highway, Osceola, MO 64776

June 3-5, 2016

Join us in the beauty of the Missouri Ozarks for fun and companionship with fellow Coachmen friends!

Your registration fee includes:

- 2 nights camping with 30 amp , water and sewer
- Mostly shaded pull through sites
- Heated and Air conditioned Dining/Recreation building
- Catch and Release Fishing Lake (No license required)
- Modern restrooms, showers, laundry
- Friday and Saturday Dinner provided
- Saturday Potluck Breakfast – Sausage Gravy & Biscuits provided
- Sunday Continental Breakfast provided
- Great entertainment and games
- Attendance prizes
- Sunday Morning Worship Service

Rally Fees (All fees include tax on camping and additional person charges)::

2 Person & Unit (includes Fri & Sat camping) -\$77.00

1 Person & Unit (includes Fri & Sat camping) -\$67.00

50-amp service - \$5.00 extra per night

Additional Person: Age 13 and Over- \$11.00 each

Extra nights of camping: \$23.00 for 30 Amp/\$28.00 for 50 Amp/Additional person fee \$5.00

Additional person fee \$5.00

Please postmark your registration by Saturday, May 14th

to be eligible for a drawing for FREE 2017 Registration.

Cancellation Policy: 7 days prior to start of Rally - full

refund; less than 7 days prior to start of Rally - all monies

less 15% of full Rally fee will be refunded; after Rally starts -

no refund.

NEW ENGLAND STATE RALLY

Pumpkin Patch RV Resort

149 Billings Rd., Hermon, ME

207-848-2231 • www.pumpkinpatchrv.com

June 3-5, 2016

The New England Rally will be held at The Pumpkin Patch RV Resort in Hermon, Me.

Games or just relaxing & socializing on Saturday as well as Maine Red Hot Dogs.

Fee for weekend is \$65.00 per unit with water/electric. The campground is happy to accommodate early arrivals or extended stays but be sure to make your own arrangements with the campground at least 3 weeks before the rally.

Deadline for reservations is May 15th, 2016.

Please send your reservation and check payable to:

PAM WATERHOUSE, 147 EDDIE KAHKONEN RD,

NORWAY, ME 04268

37th ANNUAL GEORGIA STATE RALLY

June 3-5, 2016

You are invited to attend the 37th Annual Georgia State Rally being held at the Twin Oaks Campground in Elko, Georgia.

We are planning for a wonderful rally this year starting with Friday night Bingo, a Saturday breakfast, Saturday dinner, Saturday afternoon ice cream social, games, craft sales, entertainment and a Sunday morning continental breakfast.

We will be camping at the Twin Oaks Campground, 305 GA State Highway 26 East, Elko, GA 31025. The phone number to the campground is 478-987-9361. Your camping reservations are to be made with the campground. Make sure you let them know that you are with the Coachmen Rally. Your rates for Friday and Saturday nights are \$25.00 per night. Please make all of your arrangements with the campground by May 22, 2016. After this date please call Campground to see if space is available. If space is available contact John Newman .Your rally fee includes: Friday night Bingo, Saturday breakfast, Saturday dinner, Saturday afternoon ice cream social, Saturday games, craft sales, entertainment, and Sunday morning continental breakfast.

Friday night Bingo, Saturday breakfast, Saturday dinner, Saturday afternoon ice cream social, Saturday games, craft sales, entertainment, and Sunday morning continental breakfast.

Rally fee includes:

One unit, 2 Adults: \$60.00

One Unit, 1 Adult: \$30.00

person 11 and over : \$30.00 each

Make check payable to:

John Newham

2261 John Stowe Rd. NW

Monroe, GA 30656-4189

home phone: 770-267-6294

cell phone: 770-880-0480

2016 VIRGINIA STATE RALLY

Americamps RV Resort

11322 Air Park Drive, Ashland, VA

June 9-12, 2016

The 2016 Virginia State Rally will be held in historic

Richmond, Virginia, June 9-12, 2016 at Americamps RV

Resort. The campground is located just off Interstate 95,

exit 89. Sites have full hook ups, WIFI and cable for a cost

of \$35.00 plus tax per night. We have 25 sites for our rally

so please make your reservations early. You should arrange your site payment with the campground and tell them you are with the Coachmen Virginia State Rally. Check them out on their website at www.americamps.com

Nearby attractions include Historic Richmond, Berkeley Plantation, Richmond Raceway Complex, and Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond National Battlefield, Edgar Allen Poe Museum, Canal Walk and St. John's Church. Included in your campout fee is a Thursday Welcome Social, Friday night dinner, ice cream social, Saturday potluck dinner, Sunday continental breakfast and devotional service, door prizes, outdoor games, and Joker tournament. Please bring a covered dish to share for our Saturday pot luck dinner, meat will be provided. Mail your reservations and \$40.00 check payable to Virginia Cardinals Chapter 100 to Jeanie Miller 320 North Church Drive, Hardy, VA 24101. Mark your rally registration to let us know if you are a first time rally attendee. Drive-ions are welcome. We urge you to register with the campground early to ensure you have a site, remember we only have 25 sites. Hope to see all of you there.

DELAWARE STATE RALLY

**Delaware State Fairgrounds
Harrington, DE
August 11-14, 2016**

This rally will be held August 11-14, 2016 at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington, Delaware. The fairgrounds are located at the intersection of Delaware Rt. 14 and US Rt. 13, go south on US 13 about ½ mile to the main entrance of the Fairgrounds and Midway slots, we will be camping north of the horse barns. Pets are welcome but must have all shots up to date and kept on a leash. If you are bringing grandchildren or young guest, you should have a notarized guardianship giving you medical authority if an emergency should arise. Saturday evening each family please bring a large dish to share, your own drink and table setting. The fees are \$105.00 per unit for three nights, with water, electric, bingo and games. Extra guests are \$6.00 each. The deadline for the rally is August 1, 2016.

Checks payable to:

Delaware State Coachmen,

Mail to:

Robert L Baker

725 W Pine Street, Palmyra, PA 17078.

Home Phone: 717-838-1544,

Fern's Cell: 717-304-4930.

ALL OHIO COACHMEN STATE RALLY

**Poor Farmer's RV
Sales, Service and Campground, Inc.
7211 N. Lostcreek-Shelby Road., Fletcher, OH
August 19-21, 2016**

Come to Fletcher Ohio for our Annual Ohio State Rally. The campground is located off US Route 35, 7 miles east of I-75.

Registration Fees:

- \$70.00 per unit (2 people)
- \$60.00 per unit (1 person)
- \$12.00 for extra person 12 and over (food costs)

Your rally fee covers two nights camping with electric and water.

Friday:

Registration/check in at 4:00 pm Friday evening get acquainted activity and snacks

Saturday:

Breakfast, games, Saturday evening dinner and activity/entertainment.

Sunday:

Continental breakfast and worship service.

Call Becky Brittingham at (937) 765-0228 for reservations.

2016 KENTUCKY STATE RALLY

**Elkhorn Campground,
165 North Scruggs Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
September 9-11, 2016**

The Kentucky State Rally will be held on September 9, 10 and 11, 2016 at Elkhorn Campground in Frankfort, Kentucky. The Rally will begin with Vegetable and Bean soup for Friday night, to be followed by welcoming games. On Saturday morning we will begin a breakfast prepared by the Kentucky men – known for their SOS. Then we will have games and craft sales (if any one has any). For Saturday evening we will have a meal and entertainment or bingo. Sunday, we'll have a continental breakfast and church services.

The rally fee is \$65.00 for two nights camping (with electric and water), two adults and the meals discussed above. Additional person is \$10.00 for adults and children over 13 years of age, and \$5.00 for children ages 6 thru 12 years of age. Also, if full hook-up is desired which includes sewer please contact Elkhorn Campground directly for reservation. The campground telephone number is 502-695-9154.

Please have your rally reservations to Nancy Y. Doty, 303 Amburgey Dr., New Albany, IN 47150 by the 4th of September. If you have further questions, please contact Nancy at 502-321-2284.

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From The Executive Director

Spring is a very exciting time here at Coachmen RV. The spring camping season is in full swing with many upcoming events and rallies. We hope that you will be able to take advantage of the ones that are convenient for you. With spring comes the great anticipation and excitement for our Annual Rally. This year's rally in Mackinaw City, Michigan will celebrate our 49th year! Plans are under way for many exciting events. We always love the Island and its beautiful surroundings. We still have room for you to sign up so give us a call or go to our new website www.coachmenowners.com. The signups on our new website are a lot easier to use and will actually take Discover and American Express! And of course no summer is complete without our devoted helpers that come and stay in the Coachmen Campground and help out before the rally. We do appreciate all of their help carrying out Rally plans and without them the Annual Rally could not take place.

As you read this letter, I will be attending the Talladega Thunder event in Talladega, Alabama for the Geico NASCAR Races. We had a sign up of 22 people for this event who will all receive tickets to all three races, a hospitality package and a garage and pit tour. After Talladega, the Service Rally will be taking place in Centreville, Michigan. We have had a great response to this event and are looking forward to a wonderful time. Service technicians will be at the St. Joseph Fairgrounds to help with minor repairs as well as suppliers there to help with questions and care of your unit. Keep a watch out for these service events as part of Coachmen RV's commitment to service and customer satisfaction. Of course one of the most exciting nights at this rally will be "Tonkin's Famous Bean Dinner" at the rally. Dick and Linda Tonkin have graciously supplied a wonder bean dinner for all of us to enjoy.

Fran Chavar will be heading up the Fall Foliage Tour taking place this September. She is excited about carrying out this trip and is looking forward to a group of RV Adventurers. This trip will encompass a large part of Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire with tours including lighthouses and Cog Railway, museums, Whale watching, and good New England Food. And no one gets away from New England with the memory of the beautiful landscapes and colorful autumn leaves. We will be repeating the Taste of Charleston trip this year as we had so many that were waiting to go last year. We had wonderful reviews from last year's event and know it will be the same this year as well. The Magic of Disney Trip is planned for October. My family and I are excited to attend this fabulous event and look forward to seeing you there.

Monthly newsletters are being sent to those with email addresses. If you are not receiving a newsletter, let us know and we will update your email address if needed. The campground directory was a great success this year with more campgrounds advertising this year. A few more Canadian campgrounds for you as you travel. We hope you are enjoying our new website and hope that it is more user

friendly for you. If you have news from your Chapter or District, email the article to us and we will get it on the website. Also join us on Facebook. We try to keep you posted daily of upcoming events, contests and changes. The Facebook page is Coachmen Owners Association – COA.

Things are exciting here at the office with many possibilities coming our way. We always appreciate your suggestions and help. We enjoy hearing from you and letting us know how we are doing. It's great to be a part of this Coachmen family and hope that you will join us along the way at one of our events. The District and State Rallies are great ways as well to get involved locally. If you are interested in starting a chapter, give us a call and we would be glad to help you with that endeavor.

I hope you will have a wonderful and memorable camping season. We always look forward to seeing you this season. May your travels be safe, adventurous and fantastic!

See you along the way,



Like Us On Facebook!



Take a look at our Facebook page and join in on comments and fun. This is a great tool for us to keep you informed on upcoming events and new products lines. Send me pictures from your campouts, new units and we will get them posted on Facebook. We even have contests from time to time so don't miss out on the fun. Simply Like us on Facebook and keep in touch with us here at Coachmen.



Better RVs
for the next
generation.



Dealer Advice

Is your generator generating?

By Joe McNamara, Giant Recreation World

It was the best of trips; it was the worst of trips... All too often this is the conversation around generators. Although they are a very dependable piece of machinery, they like a pet require attention.

How long has it been since you took your generator for a walk? What I mean by this is when is the last time you ran that generator? Like our pet a generator needs its exercise to keep it running in top shape. It is a good practice to start your generator once a month and let it run under a load for an hour. This is mainly to burn the aging fuel in the system and replace it with fresh fuel, but it also lubricates the internal engine components, keeps the oil seals working, and gives the electrical components a workout. Most of the generator repairs brought into our shop are due to lack of use and or proper maintenance.

Is your pet in a safe environment? You should make sure the area around your genset is free of debris and obstructions. This will allow proper airflow in and around your generator to help it to run cool. Most RV generators are air cooled so ventilation is critical to the lifespan of the unit. Also be sure no combustibles are stored in the same compartment to prevent the possibility of a fire. If your generator has an enclosure, make sure it is not operated without the applicable covers in place as these are also critical for the

airflow and cooling of the engine.

Can your pet breath? Just like a living creature, engines need air to breath. Every generator has an air filter that should be clean and free of lubricants. You can check this by removing the filter, holding it up to a bright light or the sun, and you should see the glow of light through the paper filter. If you can't it is time for a new one. A clean unclogged filter will give you the best performance and fuel economy from your generators engine. Also on most generators there is an altitude adjustment on the carburetor that will change the air/fuel mixture for the altitude you are operating it in.

Does your pet get enough food? Your RV generator has a dirty little secret, it has oil in it. Like any other engine, the oil level is important. Most generators have an oil level switch that will shut the genset down if it reaches the critical low level to protect the engine from damage. This is a safety feature and does not negate the need to check the oil level. The oil level should be checked daily during use. It should also be checked before that trip to insure it will work when you need it. The oil and filter should be changed every 250 hours or annually whichever comes first.

These few simple things will decide weather your generator is dog tired or will purr like a kitten when you need it. Remember like your pet, your generator needs loving too, so take it out for some exercise.

Calendar

COA 2nd Annual mid-Atlantic Rally	May 12-15, 2016
Annual 9th District Rally	May 13-15, 2016
District 3 Rally	May 13-15, 2016
Service Rally - COA Event.....	May 15-20, 2016
45th Pennsylvania State Rally	May 27-30, 2016
Georgia State Rally	June 3-5, 2016
New England 2016 Rally	June 3-5, 2016
Missouri State Rally.....	June 3-5, 2016
Virginia State Rally	June 9-12, 2016
Annual 49th Coachmen Rally	July 24-29, 2016
Delaware State Rally	August 11-14, 2016
All Ohio Coachmen State Rally	August 19-21, 2016
Kentucky State Rally	September 9-11, 2016
California State Rally.....	September 15-18, 2016
Fabulous Fall Foilage Tour (Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire).....	September 25-October 5, 2016
Magic of Disney - COA Event	October 16-21, 2016
Arizona/Nevada Jamboree.....	November 4-6, 2016
Taste of Charleston - COA Event	December 11-16, 2016

Vendor Corner



CLEANING RV ROOFS

RUDY'S TIPS

We urge RV owners to get their roofs cleaned at least twice a year. This helps prevent damaging substances from getting too embedded and creating permanent stains. It also will help you avoid mold and mildew that grow on organic matter attached to your roof. Since many people park their RVs under trees for extended periods of time, your roof can be a ripe target for bird droppings, mulberry stains, tree sap, mold, mildew, fungus and the like.

There are many RV service centers that will do roof cleaning, so you don't need to do any climbing or roof walking yourself. If you do, I advise washing it from the sides, using ladders and scaffolding (see sections on roof safety).



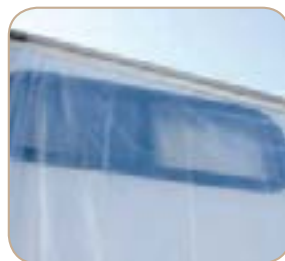
Use the right cleaner — it's important!

Use an appropriate cleaner for the type of roof and the type of stains you are trying to remove. It is crucial to follow the manufacturer's recommendations. For example, many RVs have EPDM rubber roofs that react badly with any cleaner containing petroleum distillates or citric-based chemicals. The rubber reacts to such distillates by swelling up. These chemicals may also discolor the roof. The swelling can loosen the attachment of the rubber material to the substrate and compromise the integrity of the roofing.

Dicor Products offers a specially formulated cleaner for EPDM and other kinds of roofs, such as TPO, fiberglass and aluminum. This cleaner safely loosens the dirt from the roof and works well on dirt, mold, bird droppings and all kinds of pollutants.

Caution when using cleaners

When cleaning an RV roof, as you rinse it off, the cleaner and dirt will run down the sides and caps of the RV. The rinse can also create dirt streaks down the sides of the RV and, if not quickly addressed, the dirt can start to permanently embed into the RV (see Black Streaks, Page 5).



Plastic sheeting protects the sidewalls.

For these reasons, I recommend masking off the sidewalls and caps from the roof edge down to prevent the rinse runoff from touching them. It's a bit more work at the beginning, but saves time in the actual cleaning process overall and you can ensure the protection of your expensive wall graphics.

What about tough stains?

Specialized roof cleaners can do a good job of cleaning tough stuff like mold and mulberries, but these substances can still leave a stain on the roofing material. Bleach or a bleach-based cleaner like Tilex® can remove these stains, but you will have the same issue with the rinse-off affecting your graphics. Furthermore, the overuse of such cleaners can damage the rubber. So use only what's needed to get the stain out. A diluted

solution of three percent Hydrogen Peroxide is another tough cleaning agent, but more concentrated amounts also risk damaging a rubber roof. You can't be too careful using these specialized cleaners. This cleaning method runs the risk of damaging graphics.



Tree sap a special pain

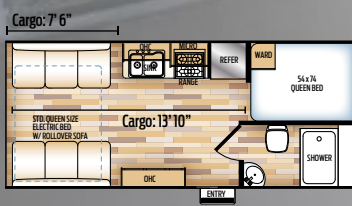
Tree sap can be another difficult substance to completely get off your roof. The first thing to try is putting ice on it so the sap gets cold and loosens from its bond with the roof enough to enable you to actually peel it off.

If you have little success with this tactic, I would next try mineral spirits, but with a **BIG CAUTION: Do NOT use mineral spirits unless you carefully follow these directions.** Mineral

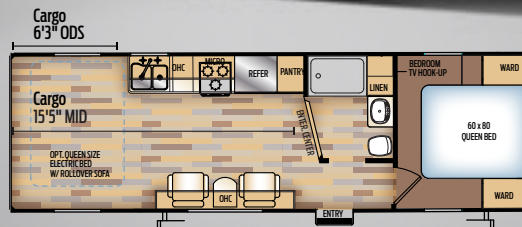
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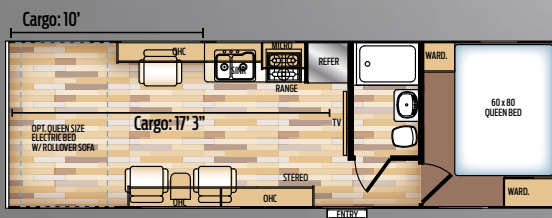
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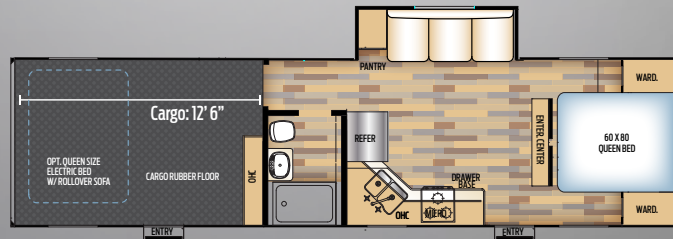
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4 Meals
Optional Side Tours
Pete's Market Store
Display Yard
Fun and Fellowship
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Rally Fees:

Bridgeview – 30 Amp 25-30' Wide - \$520.00
50 Amp - 40-50' Wide - \$470.00
30 Amp - 40-50' Wide - \$445.00
30 Amp - 25-30' Wide - \$375.00

Nearby Attractions
Mackinac Bridge
Old Mackinac Point
Historic Mill Creek
McGulpin Point
Straights State Park
Lake Michigan—
Mackinac Island

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-Huron - USCGC Mackinaw

Summer Fun on the Island!

Take a day and visit the infamous Mackinac Island. Bring a bicycle, take a carriage ride, or sit and watch the trail of tourists as they hustle through the main street and marvel at the gorgeous landscaping and scenery that encompasses this magical place. There are plenty of restaurants and things to do and your day will certainly be one that you will never forget.

Mackinac Island, located at the eastern end of the Straits of Mackinac, has been a favorite vacation location since after the Civil War. Inhabited by the Native Americans, instrumental in the Great Lakes Fur Trade during the 17th Century, a British fort during the America Revolutionary War, and a battleground during the War of 1812, this island lacks nothing if you are a history fan. During the late 19th Century Mackinac Island became a popular tourist attraction and the entire island is now listed as a National Historic Landmark. It is well known for its delicious fudge, the Victorian Grand Hotel and no use of motor vehicles on the Island.

The downtown streets are lined with souvenir shops, candy stores and restaurants. Some of the confectioners selling Mackinac Island fudge have been in business for more than a century. The commodity of fudge has led to sales and marketing not only on the island but throughout the state of Michigan. If you are one of the tourists buying fudge you may be referred to as a "fudgie."

The Island inhabits many types of migratory birds as they travel between summer and winter habitats. Keep a watch for Eagles, Hawks, Yellow Warblers, Owls, Cardinals, Blue Jays and Woodpeckers. These are just a few of the birds that you birdwatchers will see. And for the flower lovers, many beautiful flowering plants and wildflowers are found everywhere.

Ferries run back and forth to the Island daily with a free shuttle leaving the Mackinaw Mill Creek Campground and taking you to the docks where you can catch a ride to this majestic place that will take you "Back In Time" and create a memory of a lifetime.

Member Profile

Becoming A Coachmen Owner

Patti and Dale Daugherty's quest for Coachmen ownership

By: Patti Daugherty



Dale & Patti Daugherty 2015-329MKS Coachmen Chaparral 50th Anniversary Edition

Our story with Coachmen began sometime around April 2015. My husband (Dale) and I received a call from my dad (Wayne Mathews) and asked us if we were interested in taking a long journey across the country with him. He told us about an Alaskan Caravan through the Coachmen Owners Association that would last 33 days and would begin in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada. He gave us the cost and we quickly worked out a budget for the possibility of a trip of a lifetime. Dale and I are in our mid 50's and not yet retired, so getting time off work could have compromised this upcoming trip. Throughout the past several years, we had met my dad at various local club campsites and met many of his Coachmen friends, through the Coachmen Crackers #107 Club. They are so friendly and welcomed us in all their activities. They gave us advice on our upcoming purchase and seemed to be happy about our plans. They all welcomed us with open arms. It was actually ironic when my dad called because about three weeks prior to that call, Dale and I had spent that weekend looking at various RV dealerships dreaming of "one day" owning our own RV. We both decided that we loved the look and value of a 5th wheel. But we couldn't put the cart before the horse since we didn't have a truck. We would need to purchase a truck strong enough to pull the load. Uncertain of



what brand or length we could afford, Dale already had his eye on a RAM 2500. Needless to say, by the end of April we had the horse and now needed "the cart".

Now it was time to get serious about looking for a 5th wheel.

So...between our truck purchase, my dad's call about the Coachmen Caravan, and our recent interest in RV's,

we began a "more serious search". Then...

we decided that a Coachmen Alaskan Caravan would be a dream come true. Dale's manager agreed to let him take his full 6 weeks of vacation at one time, which overcame the biggest hurdle. His manager had experienced a similar trip with his own brother and family a few years ago, and said that this was indeed a trip that we could not afford to pass up.

My dad's journey would begin on June 22, 2015. He explained that he wanted to go to the Coachmen Annual Rally, which was in Goshen, Indiana. We worked out a schedule so that Dale could fly in and meet us in Rapid City, South Dakota before we headed into Canada to begin this Coachmen Caravan. But... in the meantime, my dad & I went to the Coachmen Rally for the week. I had never been to an RV Rally and as soon as we arrived, the fun began. I had signed up prior to our arrival for a few extra tours that were made available through the Rally. The Rally was amazing! I've never seen so many Coachmen owners in one area in my life. The rally hosted special events, dinners, various entertainment and a list of resources for Coachmen owners. I met so many new friends, like Joanne Lignugaris and Linda and Wes Bull. The Rally also had many types of RV's on display. Well.....that was it.....I walked into my 1st Coachmen Chaparral and... "I was in love". I think I took pictures of every inch of that unit. I called Dale and told him that as soon as we returned from our Alaska trip that we needed to consider purchasing our own Coachmen as soon as we could. This may sound silly or simple, but at that Rally I met so many friendly people. It's like all the Coachmen owners are part of one large happy family. Don't get me wrong....no one is perfect nor is any RV perfect. We all have our likes and dislikes, our own personal preferences and do's and don'ts, but somehow this group from Coachmen Owners seemed RELAXED and HAPPY. So...although it rained almost every day that week, the Rally was a GREAT experience and a huge success!

I believe that God gives each person in life some kind of talent.



Some are artists, singers, actors, business professionals, home makers or dog walkers. There are so many types of talents and many people are blessed with more than one, yet others are still searching for their own talent. And He gave me the talent of writing poetry. When I'm inspired as I was at the 2015 Coachmen Rally, the words came to me easily. So, I sat down at the picnic area at the fairgrounds and began writing this poem. These words explain just how special this Coachmen group really was and I'd like to share it with you:

A Coachmen Ride

**This Coachmen Rally...in Indiana State,
A campers delight...opening...a new gate.**

**As we enter the fairgrounds...where all the activities will be,
As the Coachmen staff...take care of you and me.**

**A tag along...a motorhome...or a fifth wheel you'll pull,
No matter...your class...the adventures are full.**

**A "welcome" dinner...where we all will meet,
An overview of sort...this gathering...a "Coachmen" greet.**

**Whether you're standing around...or sitting in a chair to rest,
No matter what you do...a happy camper at best.**

**It's all about your travels...and the memories you make,
Always...an adventure...through the roads that you take.**

**Just hang out by your camper...or take a tour bus,
Sightseeing with others...no worries...no fuss.**

**See the pedal car museum...then on to military things,
Then handcrafts from the Amish...their happiness...it brings.**

**Campers are a group...yes, one of a kind,
They're friendly and nice...keeping nature in mind.**

**Being a camper is a privilege...so...choose your Coachmen
ride,
And remember to have fun...on any destination you decide.**

Happy Camping

After I wrote this poem, I shared it with my dad and a few of his close Coachmen friends, like Joanne and others. They encouraged me to show it to Jason Brewer with Coachmen/Forest River Inc. After meeting Jason and his family, he quietly read my poem and smiled and asked if I would read it at the farewell dinner. He then asked me to show it to Valerie Ballge and get her thoughts and approval on it. She agreed that she would love for me to read it so that I could share my experience with

others. This was a true honor! Even though we weren't Coachmen owners at that time, being part of this celebration and this poetry reading, really made me feel as though I was already a part of this Coachmen group.

The following week we had to stay in Indiana for an extra day due to my dad needing some service work on his Class A. The service department met us first thing Monday morning and began the work immediately. My dad has been part of this Coachmen family for many, many years. The work was completed before lunch and then we were off in his Class A and headed west. Little did I know, that while my dad and I were driving west, Dale had been home searching the internet far and wide for our future 5th wheel. We finally made it to Rapid City, South Dakota later that week, where Dale had flown in to meet us. After that, the three of us met up with three other coaches. We met Noel and Brenda Roper from Georgia, Fran Chavar from Pennsylvania and Linda and Wes Bull from Maryland. Although my dad and I knew the Roper's for over 40 years, everyone in all four coaches soon became close friends. We all stayed in Gardiner, Montana for 4 days as we visited Yellowstone National Park. Throughout this part of our journey, we had seen many different brands and styles of 5th wheels. Some we liked and others, well.... let's just say we "pretended" to like. At various campgrounds, people would show us their 5th wheels and share their stories with us. So...as gracious guests, we "always" thanked them and told them that they had a beautiful unit. We saw many brands and styles. We asked a lot of questions, and again (when we had internet), we would search for various units. But something continued to lead us back to the Coachmen Chaparral.



Canadian Border

Dawson Creek, British Columbia Mile Post 0 on the Alaskan Hwy

After that, we soon crossed the Canadian border headed through Alberta, Canada and finally made our way north to Dawson Creek, British Columbia. This is where the Coachmen Alaskan Caravan would begin. At mile Post 0 on the Alaskan Highway, our journey would begin here and we were all so excited! We arrived a few days early. While relaxing one evening, Dale began to show me some of the 5th wheels he had researched on the internet. There were many that we liked and a few that we absolutely loved! Needless to say, by far...our favorite was the Coachmen Chaparral. Unfortunately...we found the Coachmen Chaparral QSMB which was a little big for a "starter" unit and a little over our budget (although still responsibly priced), we just knew our limitations with our finances. The next day, we met some new friends from the Coachmen Caravan who had a brand new 2015 Coachmen Chaparral. They invited us in and again, we fell in love with the layout and quality of craftsmanship. Jerrie & Beau Bledsoe were the proud owners of this unit. Their daughter Lynn and her children Sara and Capper had also joined them for this amazing trip. As an adult, I was already excited about this trip, but seeing the true joy of excitement in those two young children's eyes, simply set the tone for our upcoming travels. As our Coachmen Caravan began, Dale & I became friends with Beau and Jerrie (and the kids)...and found out that we only lived a few hours apart in our home state of Georgia.

As we continued to travel north on the Alaskan Highway, we met up with other caravans. While Dale and I thought that some of those coaches were nice, we really hadn't seen the fellowship or family type bonding within those Caravans as we had in our Coachmen Caravan. With our Coachmen group we felt as though we were one big unit instead of 24 separate units. We all had time alone, we had the flexibility of doing our own thing, but we had a nice schedule that allowed us to bond as a family group. Our Wagon Master, Jens & Gayle Pedersen would head out first and lead the way and let us know if there were any problems along the way. Then...the rest of us would follow, usually



heading out around 8:00 or 9:00 am. Our Caboose for the Caravan was Glenn & Tony Reed. They would always leave last to make sure everyone was okay and ready to go. Some...had family or friends they wanted to see along the way or stop by a historical marker that was off the Caravan's route. So...although we had a schedule, we were not bound to attend all events. But through this group we felt at ease because we all kept an eye out for each other across this vast countryside. We were able to stop and take photos and site see at our own discretion.

At this point, Dale and I are thinking..."did we just get lucky" with these people or... is this a true part of the Coachmen family? Well...we decided that it was both! Dale ended up being Sheriff (collecting fines) for various camping infractions and missing name tags, so he was "always" in the middle of the group. Dale...a social butterfly, sometimes popular and other times, not so much. The fines were only voluntary and each quarter earned, would go toward our "ice cream social" in Palmer, Alaska toward the end of our trip. Most of the people took this in good stride and often times, added laughter and a few jokes at various fines. There was never a dull moment. It was yet again, a perfect plan on COA's behalf. There were a few bumps in the road, but we all managed to make our repairs and set any minor differences aside while we continued to enjoy this Coachmen Alaskan journey.

Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada

Coachmen RV's on a Ferry across the river

This was also a memorable stop. This town had all dirt roads. You could drive to the top of the Dome (a tall mountain) and look down from above to see the town, river and parts of the Klondike Loop. One night just before midnight, Dale and I drove up to see the sun and moon almost side by side. As you stand by the edge and look out, you could still see the light of day, and you can see for miles. As a southern, it's hard to believe that these areas in the Yukon and also in Alaska, rarely see dark in the summer months. We saw our friends from the Coachmen Group, Terry and Marty Hart standing at the top of the mountain as well. They had driven up the mountain, to celebrate their wedding anniversary at midnight. So...Dale and I graciously took their picture when the clock struck twelve. What a nice way to celebrate!



Once you reach Dawson City, you only have two choices. You can turn back and take the route you came in on, which was south, back towards the Alaskan Highway or you could continue north and cross over the Yukon River Ferry that would carry our RV's over the water. So...we all woke up early to get in line for the river crossing. Some were a bit apprehensive, but others like myself, thought it was fun and exciting. A normal load



for the Ferry was approximately two RV's and four other vehicles. This Ferry was definitely packed full. The current of the river was rather swift, so...it was a bit nerve racking as all of our precious Coachmen's made it safely across. But before you cross, you MUST make sure you have plenty of GAS & WATER and

keep a close eye on the sides of the mountains. We were headed straight to the Alaskan Border and then to a small town called Chicken, Alaska. When you make it to Chicken...you've made it to "the top of the world". Although these roads were a bit rough, this part of our journey was a real TREAT. You can NOT imagine the breathtaking scenery as you cross this long stretch of old dirt roads. Well...it isn't that long, you just have to go slow so it takes a while to cross. This highway to Chicken, Alaska may have been challenging on some, but this was definitely a "memory maker".

Anchorage, Alaska

Modern and Fun!

This was a fairly large modern coastal town and had all the amenities to restock & tour many sites. I believe Joe Gugliotta even tried his hand in fishing here. I remember that he had a lot of fun, but can't remember his "fisherman" tell about his catch. The Ice Museum was my personal favorite. This is where we had our group picture made. Which Dale and I will always proudly display in our home of all our new Coachmen friends.

Homer, Alaska

Charter Halibut Fishing

I can honestly say, that the drive south down to Homer was breathtaking. Just before you get in to town, you can see the Gulf of Alaska to the west with beautiful coastlines. The beaches have a darker colored sand and a lot of stone pebbles along its shore. There had been a rather large earthquake a few days prior to our arrival and you could see small volcano's across the water's edge. A few of us arrived a day early so that we could go Halibut Fishing. Brenda and Noel had planned their excursion first and was telling others what a rare opportunity this would be. Joe Gugliotta had planned his fishing trip as well and so did Pat Guterding. They all knew how exciting this would be. So, again, after giving it about a "minute's discussion" Dale and I

asked if we could join the group if there was any availability on the Charter. We were in luck. According to Dale, Brenda, Joe & Pat...I believe this Halibut Fishing Excursion was the "highlight of this trip. And the rest of us had a great time as well. You just couldn't wipe the smiles off their faces for about a week afterwards. And YES...we all caught our limit. If you're not a fisherman you still can't help but love this small fishing village. Once you drive or walk down the "spit" you will find small gift shops, beautiful views and AMAZING restaurants. Or... take a walk on the beach and see a beautiful Eagle's Nest. As you look up, you will see the proud mom feeding her babies and the dad flying around the nest to keep his family safe. This again...was Alaska at its best!



Skagway, Alaska

Once we arrived here, we were all excited to take the train up the mountain and to hear the stories of how the tracks were built, then learning the hardship of getting up and now down the mountain as they would dredge for gold. These hills were steep and narrow.

On our last night we had a farewell dinner, and as we all said "good-bye" to one another it was obvious that this Coachmen group had made an impact on our life. Dale and I were truly moved by the events in this journey will hold these special memories in our hearts forever. A few of us decided to extend our stay for a day and took a catamaran to Juneau, Alaska (that's where Dale's flight departed). Then our tour took us to the Mendenhall Glacier where we saw a breath taking site...this... was another great memory maker. Just a few of our group that attended this Juneau trip with us, was Wayne Mathews, Fran Chavar, Terry and Marty Hart and a few others. We saw whales and more sea life than we ever thought we'd see. Dale flew back home to Georgia and since I was still on the road with my dad, Dale continued to search the internet for our future 5th wheel. As we traveled from town to town through the Yukon Territory and then into Alaska, Dale and I saw even more Coachmen units. I found myself making notes as we traveled down the road. Although some of these roads were extremely bumpy, somehow I continued to write a poem about our journey as we made each stop. Because this journey was 33 days, my poem turned into a short story. I was so inspired about this trip and this Coachmen group, that this was easy for me to write about, as well. This poem lists all of our stops in order, and certain events that made that part of this trip even more memorable. I'd like to share this poem with you...

2015 Coachmen Alaskan Caravan Remembering Alaska

July 14th – August 15th 2015

We begin in Dawson Creek...at the zero...mile post,
Traveling as a Coachmen Caravan...this group is our host.

Our Wagon Master Jens & his beautiful wife Gayle,
Our Caboose... Glen & Tony as they bring up our tail.

Fort Nelson was our first stop...just an overnight stay,
Some visited an old museum...before being on their way.

This crystal blue water...planes land on Muncho Lake,
A buffet dinner here...more food than we can take.

Now on to Watson Lake...the campground was simply flat,
Some watched a film of the Northern Lights...that wasn't... all of that.

This is where we hung our sign post...a handcrafted sign was made,
Marking our Coachmen Caravan...all of our signatures we displayed.

Then to Teslin Lake...down by the lake shore,
Simple...yet nice...and hook-up's galore.

We're only here one night...just an overnight camp,
A salmon dinner for us all...this café...a bit cramped.

Still in the Yukon Territory...to this Whitehorse town,
This Alaskan Highway...has turned our vehicles...all brown.

A good steak dinner...for we're all ready to eat,
Then... some played games...having fun as they meet.

While our sheriff went away...on an overnight trip,
No one left in charge...for funding our ice cream dip.

The "Frantic Follies Show"...they picked someone from our crowd,
As Wes Bull becomes "Pookie"...we support him so loud.

The shopping was so good...there's places to restock,
Preparing our RV's...for the upcoming dirt and rock.

Now we've moved on up...to this Dawson City town,
No paved roads here...only dirt roads can be found.

A dance hall show...that "Diamond Tooth Gerties" place,
The dancer's and the singing...will make your heart race.

Then...on to the top of the dome...what a sight to behold,
The midnight sun forever...great memories to be told.

A ferry now to cross...some nervous about their ride,
As the barge carry's our RV's...so close...side by side.

We're on the Klondike Loop..."Top of the World" we will be,
No railings on this road...through the dirt... you couldn't see.

And on this ride to Chicken...more dust than you would think,
Keeping your eyes on the road...there's no time to blink.

From the Yukon Territory...we make the Alaskan border,
Although some paved roads we found...soon...become shorter.

These roads were all rough...like 'ole logging roads,
From the permafrost...not suitable for our RV loads.

No water...no sewage...then it starts to rain,
As it calms the dust...and eases our pain.

A meeting we have...for what lies ahead,
Most of the dirt roads behind us...getting paved roads instead.

Ice cream and blueberries...was our treat for the night,
The friendships we've made...makes "everything" alright.

Now...back on the Alaskan Highway...what a "welcomed" sight,
As we travel this road...no longer holding on tight.

We see the Alaskan Pipeline...and read the history behind it,
Over eight hundred miles it travels...this pipeline will fit.

At the Delta Junction...where the Alaskan Highway ends,
The memories we've all made...through its roughness and its bends.

Seeing...moose and elk...then the North Pole we find,
This Christmas shop so grand...it's one of a kind.

In Fairbanks you'll find...so many things to do,
Five nights here...great memories for us too.

A gold dredge tour...and panning for gold,
So many things here...so many...things sold.

Then on to the Pioneer Park...a salmon bake we get,
A show first...then dinner...the best food yet.

A trip down the river...on the Discovery Riverboat,
A tour through time...a history lesson... afloat.
The Ice Museum...what a talented guide,
Showing us sculptures...leading some... down the ice slide.

For little did we know...for what lies ahead,
This campground in Healy...no good we all said.

The mosquitoes were huge...about ten feet tall,
As we looked for diamond willow...through the thick of it all.

An eight hour bus tour...through the Denali Park,

There's no reason for flash....cause it never gets dark.
We all saw Mt. McKinley...but only a small part of it,
Four thousand feet up high...blocking clouds as they sit.

On to the next campground...a "Golden Nugget" to us,
Anchorage is so beautiful...no reason for anyone to fuss.

Dinner and a show...or so we all thought,
No shows on Monday...so...the gift shop we bought.

This city so modern...bigger than we've seen in a while,
These happy Coachmen...with a grin and a smile.

On our way down to Homer...the best pics of all,
The rivers and valleys...the glaciers so tall.

More mountains to see...as we drive down the coast,
On our way to the spit...its beauty...to boast.

Some of us went fishing...on a chartered boat,
Catching Halibut and more...the fishermen will dote.

Now back through Anchorage...to a place called Palmer,
An ice cream social...one night to be calmer.

All the fines that were collected...went toward this ice cream
bash,
No more sheriffs law...no name tags...will he lash.

No stress on this trip...but there were challenges that were
made,
Overcoming each one...as the days start to fade.

As we enter into Valdez...this crude oil town they are,
Awaiting to see the glaciers...a beautiful sight by far.

When we pass through the narrows...on this glacier and wildlife
day,
From this vessel you can see...its beauty...all the way.

Taking sight of the oceans wonders...even though it's raining
outside,
The Prince William Sound we tour...listening to story's from our
guide.

A hump back whale...a bald eagle in its nest...
This state in all its beauty...Alaska...at its best.

Then on to Meares Glacier...it has ascending formation changers,
Only a hundred feet away...touring this glacier with no dangers.

No sight of the Columbia Glacier...but its icebergs do unfold,
As our captain brings us closer...its beauty can be told.

The colors in these glaciers...bright whites and crystal blue,
As they slide off their caps...sounding a boom or two.

Now... on to Tok we travel...free singing for us all,
As the young man plays his guitar...old melodies some recall.

Buck Shot Betty's for our dinner...staying at this Beaver Creek
camp site,

No buffet dinner here...no flavor in each spaghetti bite.

The evening ends with a campfire...a little rain...still roasting a
s'more,
As Wayne Mathews plays his harmonica...we sing our hearts
galore.

Another one night over...Haines Junction is in the middle of
nowhere,
At least this place has beautiful scenery...snow covered moun-
tains we can stare.

As the fireweed blooms come to an end...the seasons begin to
change,
A light dusting of snow...snowing...atop the mountains range.

As we make our final run...Skagway is where we'll be,
One last night together...a train ride for you and me.

Remembering our caravan to Alaska...all those memories that
we've made,
May this journey to "The Top of the World"...may these memo-
ries never fade.

The good...the bad...the ugly...even though some things went
wrong,
Remember the best in our travels...for it... was very long.

Remember the new friends you made...remember the very best,
Remember to be "thankful"...and let God take care of the rest.

May each camper be happy...and thankful for each day,
As we bid "farewell" to Alaska... and we're well... on our way.

I dedicate this poem to all those who traveled on the 2015 Coachmen Alaskan Caravan. Let those "special memories" remain in your hearts and minds forever and let the bad ones fade away. May your journey to "The Top of the World", always hold a special place in your heart and you all continue to have fun camping. It has been a pleasure to meet and travel with each of you and I hope this story poem will help you to remember this 2015 Coachmen Alaskan Caravan for the rest of your lives.



Back to Georgia

A New Journey Begins...



Dale & Patti Daugherty at home with new Chaparral

By the time September rolled around, Dale and I visited my dad on a camping trip in Alabama, sponsored by the Forest River Owners Group. He called us and invited us to come out and look at these units. We saw several styles and were impressed with one model they had displayed. At this point, we were anxious to look at other options but knew Forest River was still part of the same group, as Coachmen. But a little reluctant to see that brand. The owner of that dealership, graciously opened his lot, just for us to view his products later that Sunday evening. Now... this was a great unit by Forest River. Our finances were in place and the dealership made us an offer but it just didn't seem to be a good fit for us. I was so disappointed but knew there was more to this than "just buying" any 5th wheel. The days turned in to months, then the holiday's would come & go. By the beginning of 2016, I had become numb to looking at 5th wheels on line or on dealer lots. By the time March rolled around, I asked Dale if we could drive down to Tampa and visit a rather large dealership. We did and it was great! More types and brands than you could ever imagine on one lot. We found a particular unit that we liked (we won't mention the brand) but I wanted a 5th wheel and was ready to camp... so, we gave them a deposit. The salesman told us that this unit would not be ready for pickup for another two weeks, so we would return then. On our long ride home, I told Dale that I thought we had made a huge mistake. That unit did not compare to any of the Coachmen products that we had looked at previously. Needless to say, we're glad that purchase didn't work out and they refunded 100% of our deposit (not just because we changed our minds, but there had been serious damage to the undercarriage that we didn't know about). The week after that, I was determined to find our 5th wheel. So... online....I went searching again. About 90 miles north of us was a dealership in Tennessee. I found a "perfect match"...a 2015 Coachmen Chaparral. We drove up to look at it and as soon as we both walked inside, we both knew that this 5th wheel was "the one" we had been waiting for.

I can only imagine that as you read this, you're thinking....are those two crazy? Why in the world would the process of buying their first RV be so difficult? Sometimes....we just have to be patient and wait on the "right" moment. Is that being picky, cheap, or even selfish? You have to know that through our long search, all of our new friends from our Coachmen Alaskan Caravan told us that they would camp with us no matter what brand we chose. During our Alaska trip they had all given us advice on why they loved their Coachmen RV's so much, but none of them ever pressured us into choosing Coachmen. This is yet another reason why we love the Coachmen family so much. A salesman can sell you anything, but for those of you who are interested in finding out more about a Coachmen RV, simply ask a Coachmen owner. They will love to tell you their story. I certainly believe that this is the main reason that we chose our Coachmen Chaparral as our first RV. We purchased our 2015 USED Chaparral on Saturday March 12, 2016 and showed up in our red "COACHMEN" t-shirts (that I had purchased from Pete's Market at the 2015 COA Rally in Goshen). When we walked into that dealership, several people asked us where we got our shirts. I guess we looked like we had been camping for years or a part of the Coachmen family. Sometimes....it's hard to see the forest for the trees, but our tree (our Coachmen) had been right there in front of us the whole time. Our new (USED) 5th wheel is perfect for us! The style and layout will fit our camping needs perfectly. The size of this unit and the price were also why we chose our Coachmen Chaparral. But long before we made our purchase, we knew we wanted to be a part of such a wonderful company who treat their customer's right. By the beginning of May 2016, we should have at least four camping trips under our belt and look forward to many more. There will be challenges and mistakes we will make during our learning process, but we're certain that our Coachmen family will advise us and hopefully teach us to become seasoned RVers like themselves. And hopefully, the mistakes that we make won't be too expensive. I think this is also another reason why the Coachmen group is so good, because they know that camping should be relaxing and enjoyable. So many times they will lend a hand to a camper in distress, even if they're strangers. After all, camping is a luxury and not a necessity (for most people) and a Happy Coachmen Camper is the BEST in the World. We are proud and honored that we are now Coachmen owners and look forward to being part of this wonderful family.

With Great Appreciation
Sincerely,

Dale & Patti Daugherty
Euharlee, Georgia USA

Fabulous Fall Foliage Tour

September 25 - October 5, 2016

Vermont * *New Hampshire* * *Maine* *



Enjoy beautiful colorful landscapes and historic sites as Coachmen Owners Association travels through New England for our Fabulous Fall Foliage Tour. We will start our Caravan when we meet at the Lone Pine Campground in Vermont. Guided bus tours are planned as we visit Rock of Ages (Barre, Vermont), Hope Cemetery and Montpelier, Vermont. A wonderful buffet dinner at the Capital Plaza in downtown Montpelier will complete a memorable day. After traveling through some



of the most beautiful scenic areas, we will arrive at Beech Hill RV Resort in Twin Mountain, New Hampshire. The Ammonoosuc River is located only 100 yards from the camp entrance. Outstanding views of Mount Washington can also be seen from several

points throughout the campground. Experience a sense of adventure and history on the Mount Washington Cog Railway's 3-hour guided train tour to the highest peak in the Northeast. Here you will be able to take in the spectacular panoramic view, spanning the mountains and valleys of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, north into Canada, and east to the Atlantic Ocean. Then on to more adventures as we visit Bar Harbor, Maine, one of the best places to visit in Maine & New England located at the edge of the sea with



soaring granite cliffs. We will be camping at the Bar Harbor KOA Campground which is encompassed by 3,500 feet of Atlantic shoreline and not far from the entrance to **Acadia National Park**. You will also be able to enjoy nature's beauty from the private, rocky beach. While in Bar Harbor we will enjoy the

"Improv Acadia" comedy show where comedians improvise on your suggestions! To complete our fabulous tour to Maine, we have planned a Whale Watching Tour and a Lighthouse Tour. Our farewell Lobster bake dinner will be held at the Bar Harbor KOA on the last night of our adventure. Come with us as we explore a great part of the United States and create memories that will last a lifetime! Our limit is 50 people so get your reservations in soon.

For more information please contact us:
Toll free: 888-422-2582
Email: coachmenowners@forestriverinc.com
PO Box 30, Middlebury, IN 46540
www.coachmenowners.com

Fall Foliage Tour Includes:

10 Nights Camping

- 3 nights Lone Pine Campground, Burlington (Colchester), VT
- 2 nights Beech Hill RV Resort, Twin Mountain, NH
- 5 nights Bar Harbor KOA, Bar Harbor ME

5 Meals

- Pizza Party
- Lunch Millstone Hill Bed & Breakfast
- Box Lunch for Railway tour
- Buffet Dinner Capital Plaza Montpelier
- Whole Lobster Bake at Campground

7 Tours

- Rock of Ages Tour
- Hope Cemetery Tour
- Montpelier Tour
- Cog Railway Tour
- Bar Harbor Whale Watching Tour
- Bar Harbor Lighthouse Tour

Comedy Show "Improv Acadia"

Trip Patch, Fun and Fellowship

Your Trip Fees

One Unit, Two People.....\$1249.00
One Unit, One Person.....\$ 950.00
Extra Person.....\$ 299.00
Maximum people - 50
Minimum people -25
Registration deadline August 1, 2016





October 16-21, 2016

Magic of Disney

Fort Wilderness, Orlando, Florida

Come to Orlando, Florida where you will feel like a kid again as we visit “the happiest place on earth”. We will be staying at Disney World’s premier campground where you will have many great amenities plus unlimited shuttle service to and from the park. With easy access to the Magic Kingdom and bus transportation to the other parks, *Fort Wilderness* is the ideal location! Our first night at the campground we will take a bus ride to the Epcot Center, we will enjoy a beautiful waterfront setting for our welcome dinner and orientation at the *Eau de Paris in France*. Also included in your stay at Disney is the fantastic *Hoop De Doo Musical Revue*, a Vaudeville Western type show while eating a wonderful dinner including wonderful Spare Ribs and Fried Chicken. Trick or Treat through the Park as we party at the *Not So Scary Mickey’s Halloween Party* enjoying a parade and fireworks while seeing many of the Disney characters in costumes. To top off our Disney experience, take part in traditions of Polynesia with Hula dancing, Fire dancing and a family style feast as we visit the *Spirit of Aloha*, a Polynesian Luau. Top off the evening with spectacular *Beach Fireworks* at the Polynesian Resort Beach. We hope you will join us for this magical event. Bring the whole family and make lifetime memories in Orlando Florida. Call us today at 888-422-2582 or visit our website www.coachmenowners.com.

Join us for a great time!

- 5 nights camping at Disney’s Fort Wilderness
- Welcome Dinner and Orientation at the Eau de Paris France
- Hoop De Doo Musical Revue
- Spirit of Aloha - Polynesian Luau
- Beach Fireworks
- Mickey’s Halloween Party Tickets
- Trip Patch, Fun and Fellowship

Contact Us

PO Box 30
 Middlebury, IN 46540
 888-422-2582
 Email:
coachmenowners@forestriverinc.com
 Website: www.coachmenowners.com



Your Trip Fees

One Unit, Two People.....	\$1350.00
One Unit, One Person.....	\$ 975.00
Extra Person.....	\$ 375.00
Children.....	\$ 200.00

Theme park tickets not included in this trip package. Must be purchased on your own.

Maximum Units-30

Minimum Units-10

Deadline September 15, 2016



Taste of Charleston

South Carolina

December 11-16, 2016



Come discover Southern hospitality, history, plantations, antiques and fine dining as the Coachmen Owners Association visits the unforgettable historic city of *Charleston in South Carolina*. *James Island County Park Campground*, featuring six miles of paved hiking/biking rails, beautiful scenery and more will be our home site for this event. Take a bus tour of historic downtown, a *boat tour of the Charleston Harbor* and a *tour of Fort Sumter* where the Civil War began in April of 1861. A visit to *Boone Hall Plantation* is planned where we will experience a working plantation which was established in 1681. A

beautiful towering live oak canopy over the estate's entry lane provides a gracious welcome to this property.

We will visit the *Confederate Navy's H. L. Hunley* which is undergoing restoration and learn about its ill-fated mission. We will be staying right in the middle of the *Holiday Festival of Lights*.

This spectacular festival brings in the winter season with scenes of Santa's Village, Winter Wonderland, carousels and trains. Over 3 million shimmering lights are used to create this 3 mile long festival of lights. Dine at one of the Southeast's most renowned seafood restaurants. *Hyman's Seafood House*, a family owned restaurant, in historic downtown Charleston started in 1894 as a wholesale dry goods store and changed to a restaurant in 1987. Take time to visit Charleston on your own. Beautiful sandy beaches, native wildlife, marshes and forests are just some of the wonderful sites to behold in Charleston. We hope that you will join COA for this little "*Taste of Charleston*" and experience a week full of history, fun and fellowship not to mention meeting new friends along the way!



YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- * Five nights of camping
- * Welcome Orientation Dinner
- * Bus Tour of Historic Downtown Charleston
- * Four Breakfasts
- * Dinner at famous Hyman's Seafood House
- * Boat tour of Charleston Harbor and visit to Fort Sumter
- * Tour of Historic Boone Hall Plantation
- * Tour of H.L Hunley Confederate submarine restoration and museum
- * Unlimited access to the Holiday Festival of Lights, located right in the campground.
- * Free entry and parking at all Charleston County Parks and Recreation locations, including Folly Beach and Folly Pier on the Atlantic Ocean, only minutes away
- * Free time to explore this great city!
- * Trip Patch, fun and fellowship!

Your Trip fees:

One Unit, two people\$879.00
 One Unit, one person\$659.00
 Additional Adult 12 and over...\$220.00

For Additional Information contact

Coachmen Owners

Association

PO Box 30

Middlebury IN 46540

888-422-2582

coachmenowners@forestriverinc.com

Galleria

By Coachmen



There's a lot to be said for traveling light without sacrificing luxuries and comfort. Easy-to-drive Galleria motorhomes offer the ultimate in agility, convenience and fuel economy.



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GALLERIA DELIVERS ALL AROUND LUXURY – Across Town, or the Country

Experience the freedom, unrivaled fuel economy and maneuverability of the Galleria. This new Class B Motorhome was nominated "Best of Show" by RV Pro at the Louisville RVIA Trade Show. Attention to engineering detail, craftsmanship and value are striking. Galleria delivers plush, versatile, contemporary design, with more standard upgraded appointments and the latest amenities.

Galleria is built on a 170" Extended Mercedes Benz Sprinter platform, powered by a 3.0L V6 turbo diesel engine with a five-speed automatic transmission. Clean, automotive exterior lines are carefully integrated with:

- ◆ An armless power awning with LED lighting and wind sensor
- ◆ Fiberglass running boards with integrated steps
- ◆ Two exterior color choices: Brilliant Silver or Arctic White

Comfort and convenience amenities include:

- ◆ 100W solar panel with a dual controller
- ◆ Truma combination furnace/hot water heating system
- ◆ Onan 2.5KW generator
- ◆ 12V macerator waste water disposal system
- ◆ 13,500 BTU A/C
- ◆ A backup camera
- ◆ Blind spot monitoring
- ◆ Collision avoidance
- ◆ ESP® (Electronic Stability Programme)

Galleria's interior is styled like a private jet with custom cabinetry, plush appointments, high end appliances and six space-conscious floor plans. Choose Graphite or Dove decor.

Traveling with friends?

The NEW 24SQ debuted at RVIA, features front quad chair seating along with a power sofa and opposing seats in the rear.

The cab features luxuriously upholstered, heated captains seats that swivel easily to face companion seats and a removable pedestal table, providing a perfect place for conversation and dining. Custom hardwood maple cabinetry with radius doors and soft close hinges complement Corian countertops, a euro-style sink and an induction or LP cooktop.

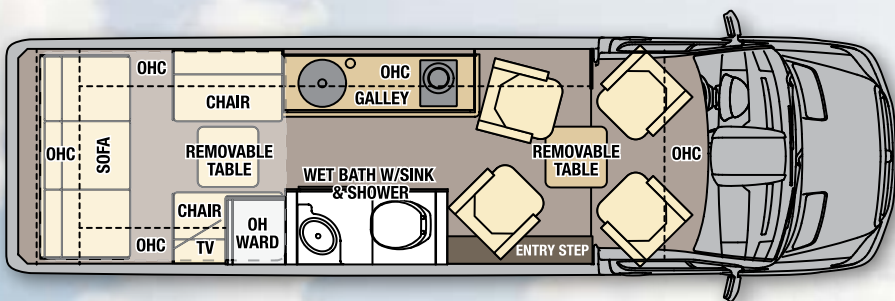
The entire Galleria entertainment system runs on 12VDC while parked or on the go, and comes complete with:

- ◆ 24" and 22" LED TVs with Smart Blu-ray DVD player
- ◆ Kenwood in-dash stereo with 7" back-up monitor display, Bluetooth compatibility, GPS, AM/FM/CD/DVD, HD radio and Sirius/XM radio.

Galleria offers six floorplans:

24TT, 24ST, 24SQ, 24TQ, 24SD and 24TD.

Mark Steele, General Manager of Coachmen's Galleria Division, stated "Dealer reaction to the product has been extremely positive. As the Class B market continues to post sizable growth, we are confident that the Galleria will capture a significant share of the market as it offers tremendous value."



Galleria
By Coachmen

For more information contact Mark Steele: 574-825-8628
or visit www.coachmenrv.com/galleria





Coachmen Owners Association
PO Box 30, Middlebury, IN 46540



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