

Newsletter of the FMCA Golden Spike Chapter.

Our interests are railroads, and our venues are riding them throughout the Western United States. We are members of Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific and other RR families; those who like model railroading; and everyone who loves riding railroads, their history and romance. All in all we are a fun filled Chapter.



The Telegraph

2011-2012 Board

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The View from the Caboose (where we've been)



As our caboose did not leave the station this time, due to the flooding and damage to the ChewChoo Railroad tracks, our view from the caboose looks back — way back to some of the fun trips we have gone on. Can you identify where we were on each of these excursions? For your help this picture is enlarged on page 7.

The Engineer's Point of View (where we're going)

**2011 EXTRA BOARD
(CALENDAR OF EVENTS)
TIMETABLE SCHEDULE**

*Sept 29—Oct 1, 2011 Virginia/Truckee RR
Rally*

Carson City, NV

January 11— 15, 2012 FMCA Western Rally

Indio, CA

The Conductor's Message to the Crew

July 26, 2011

Tom Westerfield, Conductor

Hello fellow Spikers;

I hope this newsletter finds all of you well and busy enjoying these summer months. Barbara and I are presently in Lancaster Ohio just a few miles southeast of Columbus.

As I'm sure many of you realize that due to the unusually wet weather in the Northwest these past few months the July Rally in Montana had to be postponed, so even though we didn't meet I felt it necessary to produce a newsletter to fill everyone in on future activities. Everything had been completely planned for our rally experience in Lewiston by the Steindorfs and had to be called off 3 weeks before the event. I was informed by friends of the St Johns that the bridge on our excursion route had been forced out of alignment by the river on one bank and the track banked to a dangerous degree and couldn't be repaired for a couple of months. I really want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation on behalf of the chapter for all the time and work that Jim and

Betty put in on this event and hopefully we will be able to reschedule in the next year or so.

On another note our Carson City rally in September/October is about to be put to bed and the details are in this newsletter on pages 8 & 9. A great big thank you goes out to Dan, Sami, Gracie and Patty Chance for the outstanding preparation put into this event. If it weren't for our members willing to put in the time, these events would certainly not take place. I hope you all consider attending this rally as it looks to be a real winner.

Speaking of the upcoming rally, we will be discussing some very important issues regarding the by-laws; you'll want your voice heard on this. Read the letter from FMCA on the last page of this Telegraph to be prepared for the discussion.

I also heard from Anne and Ron Slavicek letting us know about Central Coast Railroad Festival Oct 6-10 in San Luis Obispo. Information on this can be found at <http://ccnf.com>

You might think about this fun activity on your way home from Carson City.

"express my appreciation on behalf of the chapter..."



**NEWSLETTER
EDITOR**
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Tom's Talking Train Again

FISHTAIL—Semaphore blade, so called from its peculiar shape.

BRASS POUNDER—Telegraph operator

HUMP—Artificial knoll at end of classification yard over which cars are pushed so that they can roll on their own momentum to separate tracks. Also the summit of a hill division or the top of a prominent grade. Boomers generally referred to the Continental Divide as the Hump

This under the heading, "Can you believe the logic here?": This is from an early 1900 newspaper we found while visiting the Frankfort Historical Library last week: "It appears, says the Railway and Engineering Review, that in the state of Colorado it is not a crime to forge a railroad pass. The court rendering the decision held that because a railroad pass is a gift and may be recalled with or without notice, it has no value, and for that reason its transfer to other than the party intended to be benefited constituted no injury to a railroad.

Help Wanted

A Special thanks to all who responded to the Help Wanted ad and contributed to this issue. Your articles are greatly appreciated by your editor as well as everyone reading the Telegraph.



Chief Clerk's Notebook

FMCA Golden Spike Minutes—May 6, 2011

** See Special Note below*

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Westerfield at 7:40 p.m. The flag salute was given, and a moment of silence was observed for our troops and special personal needs. A quorum was present and advance publication of proposed changes in the By-Laws has been given to the membership. Major changes include a term of office as two years and allowing the National Director and Alternate to be the same person. The changes will be sent to National by Bill Strong. The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter and the treasurer's report showed a balance of \$6442.00. The motion to accept the By-Laws was approved and they will be reviewed every two years. Dues are now due at \$15.00 a year. Barbara Westerfield will send a notice to those who have not paid. Bob Poole, treasurer, stated that Bank of America has new guidelines for organizations. New offi-

cers must appear together to sign the signature card. Also, a copy of club minutes must be presented on letterhead paper. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the president, V.P., and treasurer be listed as elected officers on the bank card. Also, Tom Westerfield will act as our National Delegate in Madison, Wisconsin, and Dave Cross will be Alternate.

Reports of future rallies were given. Betty Steindorf asked for the optimum date for the Montana Rally. This will include a 56 mile dinner train ride, RV parking and a dinner and tour at a Hitterite Farm commune. The date established will be July 14-17, 2011. Betty asked for an approximate count of those who would attend. Details will be in the next newsletter.

Dan Chance reported the Carson City Nevada Rally will be Sept. 29-Oct 1, 2011. It will include a tour of the RR Museum and the narrow gage train at Mills

Park. The 14 mile steam train will be on Saturday. Registration forms will be in the next newsletter. Anita and Ed Price will host the ground-breaking ceremony for the Arizona State RR Museum in Williams as soon as information is available.

There was a decision on making a donation to the Nevada State RR Museum. A motion was moved, seconded and passed to allow the president and treasurer to donate monies to the museum in an amount not to exceed \$500.00. The exact amount will be left to their discretion.

Announcements were made: Barbara Westerfield stated that shirts are available and may be picked up from her. Hats are also available. See her for order blanks. Bill Strong announced that he has brought grapefruit for all.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita Price, Secretary

“Reports of future rallies were given.”



WEBMASTER
Bob Poole
Webmaster
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** Special Note: As the minutes have not been approved yet, they are being republished.*

Treasurers' Report will be updated at the Sept meeting

Chapter Website

If you haven't checked the website lately, be sure to look at the new information on the site.

Lost your newsletter? Can't find the registration to the next rally? Forget what happened or who was at the last rally? Need to order a shirt-vest-hat?

You can find all this and more at: www.fmcagoldenspike.com.

Crew Traveling Reports

By Undercover Roving Reporter

July 17, 2011 from Bill & 'D' Hall



Because the Montana rally was cancelled, we made a slight change of plans. We have never been to Montana, so we decided to head that way anyway.

Left July 2 and stayed at Boomtown the first night. Next night in Wells, NV. Third night in Fort Hall, ID. Stayed at the new RV park behind their casino. Apparently there are no rules about fireworks on reservation land. We had fireworks until 1:30 AM.

The next stop was Moran, WY. at an RV park called Grand Teton RV Park and Resort. I use the terms very loosely. Have never seen more rodents or mosquitoes. Squirrels drove the dogs nuts.

Bill had temporary caps put on his front teeth just before we left home. Of course, they came off. He actually spit them out on the side of the road by accident. They landed in the gravel on the side of the road--all the same color. Talk about an Easter egg hunt! We found them! Had to go into Jackson to find some "tooth glue".

Drove on to West Yellowstone, MT. While there, we took a side trip to Bozeman to a dentist to replace his caps. Stayed at a nice park and did the Yellowstone loops. Good trip.

Next stop Missoula, MT. Stayed at Jellystone RV Park. Seemed to have had quite a few thunderstorms during the last week.

Drove on up to West Glacier and stayed at a KOA. Did the 'drive to the sun'. Saw some beautiful territory and a few wild animals. From here, we are heading to Everett, WA to see Bill's oldest son, Randy. Then home. Gone for 3 weeks.

July 19, 2011 from Dave & Lynn Cross



Greetings from the Hawkeye state of Iowa, my birthplace.

We arrived in the state late afternoon on Sunday, July 10, en route from Rapid City, SD, to Spirit Lake, IA. We heard a lot about the CORN PALACE in Mitchell, SD, so we drove to downtown Mitchell. Interesting building. We walked around inside and then listened to a 15-minute video. Then it was on to Spirit Lake.

Highlights included:

- Walked around their OLD TOWNE LAKE SPIRIT SHOPS.
- Drove around the lakes & saw beautiful and luxury homes of all sizes. Homes on the lakes can start around a million and go up to 12 plus million dollars. Lakefront property goes for \$1000.00 an inch. Most of the homes mentioned are occupied only as summer homes.
- Took a cruise around the Iowa Great Lakes on the Queen II.
- Attended the play SUNSHINE BOYS at the Okoboji Summer Theatre. We went on opening night. As "First Timers" we were given local items of a small bottle of wine, cookies, hand-made candies and a corsage. During intermission we were interviewed. Then two days later Lynn picked up the Spirit Lake DISCOVER ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE (a throw away newspaper) and found us in the newspaper with a picture and a caption. WHAT A SURPRISE. And by the way, Lynn wore the corsage on Wednesday. The Maritime Museum
- Went to the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association Museum
- Saw the fish hatchery
- Went to the Abbie Gardner Historic Museum
- The week's finale was a 2-hour concert at the Rock 'n Roll pavilion (attached to the museum). Oldies from the 1950s and 1960s; admission was \$2/person; and a crowd of over 400 people!!!

In Austin, Minnesota when we took a self-guided tour of the SPAM Museum and watched a 15-minute film on SPAM. Do you know how the word SPAM got its name? SP from the word 'spiced' and AM from the word 'ham'. There are 10 varieties of SPAM and two of them can only be ordered on-line in this country. By mid-morning we were on our way to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch, Iowa. We walked to the buildings outside that surrounded his childhood home and a walk to the grave sites and then to the library and museum. I learned a lot about Hoover that was very positive. I had always heard he got the blame for the great depression, but he did a lot of philanthropy throughout the world, before and after his presidency.

On Monday we left for Elgin, Illinois where we will stay a week and visiting with Lynn's brother and immediate family members.

"They landed in the gravel..."

Editor's Note (and apologies): I heavily edited our Crew's travel log. If you would like to receive the full version as well as all of the travel logs, please let me know and I will email you the full versions

Crew Traveling Reports, cont.

By Undercover Roving Reporter

July 17, 2011 from Dan & Betsy StJohn



We joined a Tiger Motor homes Rally in Woodland Park, CO, June 16-19; then decided to stay on the road

between then and the Montana Golden Spikes Rally.

When the Rally was cancelled we continued our travels turning around at Glacier National Park. When we get home at the end of July we will have traveled 5,000 miles visiting: Ely, NV; Colorado National Monument, Woodland Park, CO; Longmont to visit nephew; Estes National Park, Dinosaur National Park, Lewiston, ID; Lewis and Clark trail along Hwy 12 to Missoula, MT; Flathead lake, MT and then 6 nights in Glacier (took free shuttle ride over Going to the Sun Road).

Heading home we visited friends near Spokane, WA; drove the historic road along the Columbia River Gorge, Mt St Helens; Oregon Beaches, cousin in Eureka, CA, Mendocino, CA then back to Nevada City along Hwy 20 from Ft Bragg to Willits to Colusa, Yuba City and Grass Valley, CA.

Cat found a nice place to hide in the RV and the dog enjoyed sniffing all the new smells along the way.

July 20, 2011 from Betty & Jim Steindorf



Still feeling bad about the cancellation of the Montana Rally. We were looking forward to that weekend with all the activities that were planned. Just proves you can't mess with Mother Nature.

We had a cool, rainy spring but summer finally arrived. The garden is doing well but everything is about 2 weeks late. The Flathead cherries are much later than normal too.

We took a couple of trips after getting back to Montana. Went to Boston to our Granddaughters' graduation from Boston University in May and the first part of June we took Amtrak and went to our friends' 50th wedding anniversary party near Sacramento. With that trip I said it was time to quit traveling because somehow my suitcase got left at home on the bed. Don't laugh--we didn't know it was missing until we got to Portland. We drove that far and stayed with Jim's cousin. Fortunately, my cosmetics and pills were in a carry-on bag that I did have along. Mary Lou, Jim's cousin, lives near a Ross store so did some mad dash shopping before getting on the train that afternoon. Jim called it just an excuse to shop.

We are staying busy. On Monday afternoons we volunteer at a museum in Polson. Twice a week we go to a senior exercise session and go to the Charlo Senior Citizens for lunch afterwards. Jim always stays and plays cards with some of his old high school buddies.

Jim is having cataract surgery tomorrow morning in Missoula. The surgery is so much easier than it used to be. He will be in and out in about an hour and they can even do the follow up exam the same day. The summer is turning out to be pretty normal with visitors, reunions, etc.

Doubt that we will make it to the next rally but will be thinking about you.

“Still feeling bad about the cancellation...”

July 19, 2011 Ed & Anita Price



If you wondered why the Prices missed the first day of the Boulder City Rally (they rarely miss a rally), it was because Anita's plane

from Norway hadn't landed yet. She reports a beautiful country with friendly people and great hospitality. Photos and details available at the Carson City event.

She will also get back from India just a few days before they leave for Nevada.

July 17, 2011 from Ron and Anne Slavicek



We are spending the summer driving across Canada. We left San Diego on June 20 and had made it to Edmonton, Alberta by July 15 after stays in Vancouver and Banff National Park. Our train-related stops have included rides on: an electric streetcar at the Oregon Electric Railway Museum, a 15-inch gauge train in Bear Park in Surrey, BC, & an open car on the Kamloops Heritage Railway steam train, complete with a robbery by cowboys on horses. We also visited the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish, BC which has the beautifully restored Royal Hudson Steam Train #2860 in the amazing new roundhouse.

We also stopped at Craigellachie, the location of the ceremonial last spike driven in 1885, to mark completion of the Canadian Pacific RR into B.C. and the Pacific Ocean from the rest of Canada. Near Revelstoke we visited a new roundhouse at Three Valley Gap which has a 100-foot turntable in a completely round building. Ron returned to the Revelstoke Railway Museum we had visited two years ago. While he was there he met an engineer who had driven steam engines over most of the Canadian Pacific lines in the Revelstoke area. When we learned that our Montana Rally was cancelled, we signed up for an FMCA rally hosted by the Alberta Wild Rose Chapter on the same weekend. It was held in a member's 4-acre backyard and out-building and had catered meals featuring Alberta beef. We visited the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village with role playing guides portraying immigrants in the early 20th century; we had a great time at the rally.

Fabulous Food For RV'ers

There is a great travel blog by Lauri & Odel Brown, Fulltime Escapee Boomers, who also include some easy recipes. Check it out at <http://laurieandodel.blogspot.com>, Semi-True Tales of our Life on the Road. Another blog they publish is a terrific resource for RV parks that Lauri has compiled over several years, <http://wecallithome.blogspot.com>.

French Split Pea Soup in the Slow Cooker Serves 4-6

When I made this *incredibly* easy - and inexpensive - soup, Odel proclaimed it to be "*The Best Soup You Have Ever Made*". Some of the credit goes to the smoked turkey wings I used in place of a smoked pork chop (which the original recipe calls for). I've replaced smoked pork with smoked turkey ever since I discovered smoked turkey legs and wings a couple of years ago, and every dish is better with smoked turkey.

2 cups green split peas
6 cups water or chicken stock
½ yellow onion, finely chopped
2 carrots, peeled and finely chopped
2 celery stalks, finely chopped
Smoked turkey parts (I used two large wings) or 1 smoked pork chop

Rinse and sort through the split peas. Place the peas in

the slow cooker and add the water, onion, carrots, celery and smoked meat.

Cover and cook on low for 8 to 10 hours, until the peas are tender and the meat is pulling away from the bone (or half the time on high). Remove the meat from the crock pot and let it cool, then strip the meat from the bone. Cut or breakup any large chunks of meat, then return it to the pot. Season with salt to taste, if necessary (I usually find that smoked meat adds sufficient saltiness) and serve.

We like it accompanied by Jiffy cornbread muffins.

"you can start a crock pot at the beginning of your day's travels, set the crock pot in the sink, by the end of the day your dinner is ready"



Bourbon Cherry Seltzers

For those of you who follow the Westerfield's travels, you know we went on the Bourbon Trail in Bardstown, KY, last week. We visited Maker's Mark.

Ingredients

- 1 cup bourbon, such as Maker's Mark
- ¾ cup packed dark brown sugar
- 2 cups whole fresh cherries, stems left on
- 16 ounces (2 cups) seltzer water

Preparation

1. Microwave bourbon and brown sugar in a microwave-safe dish until hot, about 1 minute. (Alternatively, heat in a small saucepan over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until hot.) Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Pack cherries into a small jar and pour the hot liquid over them; gently press on the cherries to make sure they are submerged. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 week or up to 1 month.
2. To prepare seltzers: Fill four 12-ounce rocks glasses with ice, add 1½ ounces (3 tablespoons) cherry-infused bourbon to each glass and top with about 4 ounces (½ cup) seltzer each. Garnish with 2 or 3 whole Bourbon Cherries. (Refrigerate the remaining Bourbon Cherries for up to 1 month.)

This is the enlargement of the picture on page 1. Your guesses?



Send guesses to your editor

Answers to Sites from the Siding



A

Boron, CA



B

Promontory Summit



C

Paris, CA



Rail Bulletins (blogging websites)

Dan Chance:

<http://travelbychance.blogspot.com>

Anne & Ron Slavicek:

<http://mooserv.com>

Bill Strong:

<http://travellingstrongs.blogspot.com>

Tom & Barbara Westerfield

<http://cachingontheroad.blogspot.com>

Carson City, Nevada Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2011



Carson City Rally Information

FMCA Golden Spike Virginia City & Truckee R.R. Rally
Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2011 in Carson City, NV

Thursday, September 29

Check in at the Gold Dust West Casino RV Park

- 5 pm Happy Hour at the RV's
- 6 pm Light dinner of snacks and hors d'oeuvres
- 7 pm Chapter meeting

Friday, September 30

- 8 am Light breakfast offerings — BYO Coffee — at the RV's
- 10:15 am Carpool to Mills Park in Carson City
- 10:30 am Ride on the Mills Park Railroad
- Noon Lunch in Carson City (TBA), order from menu, or OYO
- 2 pm Nevada State RR Museum group tour & ride on a 1926 Edwards Streetcar
- 6 pm Dinner at Reds Old 395 Grill in Carson City (see choices on Reg. Form. Includes tax, tip & non-alcoholic drink)

Saturday, October 1

- 8 am Light breakfast offerings — BYO Coffee — at the RV's
- 9:15 am Carpool to V&T East Gate RR Depot
- 10 am Virginia & Truckee RR Steam Train to Virginia City
- 11:30 am Trolley transportation to the Red Dog Saloon
- Noon World famous outhouse races on Main Street
- 1 pm BBQ luncheon at the Red Dog Saloon (see choices on Reg. Form. Served with Belizean Stew, Beans, Cole Slaw & Tortillas. Includes tax, tip & non-alcoholic drink)
- 2:30 pm Trolley back to the Virginia City RR Depot
- 3 pm Virginia & Truckee RR Steam Train to Carson City
- 5 pm V & T Steam Train into Carson River Cyn, Incl. appetizers & wine
- 6:30 pm Dinner at Ole Ole Mexican restaurant in Gold Dust West Casino
Order from menu, or OYO

Sunday, October 2

- 8 am Light breakfast offerings — BYO Coffee — at the RV's
Farewell — Safe Travels

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 31, 2011

Registration
Schedule &
Information

Registration Form

FMCA Golden Spike Carson City Rally

September 29, 30, October 1

Gold Dust West Casino RV Park Group Rate \$33 per night
 2171 Highway 50 East, Carson City, NV 89701 www.gdwcasino.com
 Southwest corner of Hwy 50 and Hwy 395 freeway

Make your own reservation under Golden Spike at - Toll FREE 877 519 5567

15 pull through, full hookup sites are reserved for us until 8/31 **775 885 9000**

Registration Fee: \$10 per person \$ _____

Round trip V&T Steam Train (1.5 hrs ea. way) \$38 per person \$ _____

Round trip V&T Canyon Train (30-45 min.) \$10 per person \$ _____
Includes appetizers & wine at the depot

NV RR Museum tour & streetcar ride \$10 per person \$ _____

Mills Park 24" Gauge RR \$ 2 per person \$ _____

BBQ Lunch at Red Dog Saloon \$14 per person \$ _____

Please choose one Chicken _____
Includes non-alcoholic Tri Tip _____
drink Combo _____

Dinner at Reds Old 395 Grill \$20 per person \$ _____

Please choose one 8 oz. flat iron steak _____
Includes non-alcoholic Petite wood fired salmon _____
drink Chicken Picata full breast _____
 1/2 rack baby back ribs _____

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Arrival Date/Time _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Make checks payable to **FMCA Golden Spike**

Mail to: **Robert Poole, 619 Brocton Ct. #101, Long Beach, CA 90803-7115**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **AUGUST 31, 2011**

**Registration
Form**

Rafting the Colorado River in Grand Canyon

by Roving Reporter Bill Strong

On June 7 I flew from Moline to Mesa on Allegiant Airlines, spent the night at our home there, and on June 8 I drove the convertible to Page AZ to join a group of 27 others for an adventure – 7 days of rafting down 187 miles of the Colorado River in the bottom of the Grand Canyon! (Jo preferred to stay in the Quad Cities to visit her many relatives there.) Friend Jerry Grout last March told me about the trip he had booked and invited me to join his group. If I had a “bucket list”, and I don’t, this trip would have been on it!

One author has described rafting the Colorado as an hour of tranquil floating punctuated by 60 seconds of pure terror. Going down a large rapid certainly raises the adrenalin level! Some thrill-seeking passengers relished the big bumps and spray by riding the “bathtub” seats across the front of the boat. On the less dramatic rapids others liked riding the pontoons which bucked like a horse. Many approached the rapids with the eagerness of a youngster going on a challenging ride in a water park.

Our fellow passengers were friendly, outgoing and cooperative in every way in attending to camp chores. We had a great bunch of people from many walks of life, ranging in age from about 14 to 65 years. Many were Bonanza airplane pilots. We were all friends by the end of the trip.

Each day we went down many rapids, varying from little more than riffles to very difficult. The last was even called Lava Falls, not Lava Rapid! No passenger involuntarily went into the river. We pulled up on a sandy beach for lunch every day except the last, and on most days we took one or two hikes to water features up a side canyon. One walk was up the Little Colorado for floating down its turquoise colored waters and another was up Havasu Creek on the Havasupai reservation.

Our two inflatable boats were 37 ft long by 14 ft. wide, including the extra pontoon on each side. They were powered by a 30 hp 4 cycle Mercury outboards. Each boat carried a spare motor and 80 gal. of gasoline. With the current of 6 mph and the motor running about 1/3 throttle we could do 8 to 9 mph! The load in each boat was considerable – each of the 14 passengers had on board two large waterproof bags and two smaller waterproof day bags, a cot and folding chair, and tents, which we never saw! There was also cooking equipment, food for 7 days, canned sodas, and drinking water. All was provided by the company, Wilderness River Adventures. Each passenger provided their own alcoholic beverages which also were carried in the boat.

Each boat had a boatman as the driver and a “swamper” assistant. They (Nate, Zack, Shawn and Billy) looked after the welfare of all of the passengers, did all of the cooking and handling the equipment for

cooking, etc. Every morning passengers formed a line to pass the gear on shore to the boat for stowing for the day, with the process reversed every night.

The food was great. We had hot breakfasts most days. I cooked the pancakes one morning. We also had French toast and biscuits and gravy with eggs other mornings. Snacks were provided – apples, oranges, candy bars and trail mix. Lunches were sandwiches and salad wraps. Evening meals included pork chops, steak and shrimp, chicken, prime rib, stir fry and pasta. Two cakes were baked in the dutch ovens!

Passengers could bathe standing in the river, with water temperatures ranging from 50 to 60, depending on how far you were from Glen Canyon Dam. Needless to say sponge baths were quick! The crew provided three stations for washing hands and insisted passengers use one before each meal.

No rain fell during the trip, so we all slept on our cots under the stars every night. Most went to bed by 9 PM and were waked up by the cry of COFFEE at 5:30 AM. The sleeping bags provided were just the right weight. We got back on the river by about 8 every morning.

Daytime temperatures had highs in the 90s, but with the dry air and splashing from rapids, we had natural evaporative cooling to keep us comfortable despite our life jackets worn every moment in the boat. We were told to bring heavy duty rain suits with us. It turns out that we wore them mainly in the mornings when heavy rapids were encountered early in the day and we would be traveling in canyons with little sunlight. I used lots of SPF 30 sun blocker to avoid sunburn.

Animals we saw on the trip included several small herds of bighorn sheep (one was a bachelor herd), one mule deer, and California Condors near Navajo Bridge. I also saw a non-poisonous snake but did not mention it to anyone.

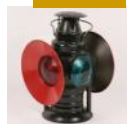
On the last night of the trip awards were announced. Each winner given a pull on a bottle of tequila. There were enough awards to drain the bottle! I was given an award for the best new beard, as I had not shaved on the trip. All of us were given a pin showing that we were royal river rats!

The last night we also transferred our personal gear from the large waterproof bags to our duffle bags. The next AM after loading the boats we went a few miles farther downstream, beached the boats and carried our duffle to a helicopter pad for extraction from the inner gorge. It took 6 trips of the chopper to transfer all of us to the Bar 10 Ranch on the north rim where we had a sandwich, a welcome shower with hot water, and a plane ride back to Las Vegas or Page. I drove back to Mesa that day, June 15 and flew back to Moline the next. It was a great trip!!!!



F R E D Flashing Rear End Device

Letter received from FMCA regarding our By-Laws



Dear Bill:

Thank you for submitting the Golden Spike chapter bylaws for review. The FMCA National Bylaws require this committee to review all chapter bylaws revisions and new chapter bylaws. This assigned task is to ensure conformance with the FMCA National Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures of FMCA contained in the *Member and Volunteer Handbook*.

We have reviewed your chapter bylaws and offer the following required changes. These changes are to bring your bylaws into conformance with FMCA Bylaws and Policies and Procedures contained in the *Member and Volunteer Handbook*.

Article II – Object. You have not clearly identified either a geographic or International area as required by the enclosed FMCA Policy and Procedure #3011/A, paragraph 2. The enclosed FMCA Policy and Procedure #3011/B has the suggested wording. Your chapter was chartered in the Western Area.

Article III, paragraph 2. Your definition of Member does not meet the definitions of the enclosed Policy and Procedure #3011/A, Article III. Suggest you refer to the enclosed Policy and Procedure #3011/B, Article III, paragraphs 2 through 6 for the current definitions.

Article IV, paragraph 2, D. A quorum for a chapter meeting is 25% of the chapter family unit memberships or 15 family unit members, whichever is less. Reference Policy and Procedure #3011/A, Article VI.

Article V, paragraph 1, A. The attached Policy and Procedure #3017, PROCEDURE, Paragraph 1, requires that every year or every other year the chapter members shall nominate and elect a Chapter Nominating Committee. In that you have chosen to have your officers serve 2-year terms, you should specify, “elected every other year by the chapter membership.” Paragraph 2, A should specify “slate of officers for the new term.”

Article VI, Officers. You have not designated an Executive Board as required by Policy and Procedure #3011/A, paragraph 4.

Article VI, paragraph 1. The duties of officers are now found in the *Member and Volunteer Handbook* and are no longer in the FMCA Bylaws. Reference Policy and Procedure #3011/B, Article IV, paragraph 1.

Article VII, paragraph 2. This sentence should read: All committees shall function within the policies of this chapter and (except Nominating Committee) under the direction of the President.

In addition to the above required changes, your chapter may want to consider the following. The 2009 Governing Board, at their meeting in Bowling Green in July 2009, approved a change to the Family Motor Coach Association Bylaws regarding the “required” number of business meetings a chapter must hold each year. Article XVII, (4) now states *a chapter shall hold at least 1 business meeting at which a quorum is present*. Previously FMCA’s Bylaws “required” 2 business meetings per year.

Your chapter has two options as a result of this change:

- (1) You may elect to do nothing. Your current bylaws require at least 2 business meetings and that meets the criteria of *at least one business meeting*.
- (2) You may elect to change your bylaws to require at least 1 business meeting as now specified in

Upon making the required changes and submitting the revised pages of your bylaws to FMCA, your bylaws will be accepted for file.

We recognize that your bylaws were originally drafted a number of years ago and the required changes we are asking you to accomplish are extensive. An alternative would be to complete the Chapter Bylaws Format in Policy and Procedure #3011/B. Filling in the blanks would assure you that you had covered the required items and you could insert chapter unique items where needed.

This committee stands ready to assist you should you have any related questions in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you need assistance. My cell phone number is 801-698-0816 and my e-mail address is rwestcott77@gmail.com.

We wish your chapter fun-filled days and peaceful nights in pursuit of your chapter activities.

Sincerely,

Russ Westcott

Russ Westcott, Chairman

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

RW/ba

Enclosures

cc: Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Bobby Donald, Western Area Vice President