

Greetings and welcome to the FMCA family! My husband, Eric, and I think FMCA is a great organization. The benefits for an RVer can't be beat. We think one of the best benefits is chapter membership. Chapters are "local fun" groups. They are a great way to:

- make new friends
- see some interesting places
- learn about RV care and safety
- exchange ideas
- network with others
- enhance your RV experience
- have fun!

Whether you have been RVing for years or have just started, you can benefit from joining one or more chapters. There are many chapters to choose from, and each one is unique, with its own personality. To "check out" chapters in your area, please go to www.FMCA.com, click on "Menu," "Chapters," and then "Find a Chapter.. You can go to https://www.fmca-ea.com/ to view information on the Eastern Area chapters. Family RVing magazine in the FMCA Events section features two month's worth of upcoming chapter rallies; a list of even more rallies is available on the FMCA website under "Events" using the Menu button.

Once a year, the Eastern Area sponsors a rally (as do the other FMCA areas). The Eastern Area Rally is referred to as "GEAR" (Great Eastern Area Rally) and is full of fun-filled activities, seminars, vendor displays, games, entertainment, an ice cream social, a ladies' tea, and more. It also gives an opportunity to meet new friends with similar interests, as well as a chance to meet chapter members and learn about chapters at the Chapter Fair. Like chapter rallies, area rallies and FMCA's international conventions and RV expos are posted on the FMCA website under "Events" using the Menu button and are featured in Family RVing magazine.

Attending one of FMCA's conventions is the next level up from the area rallies. Conventions are larger and present opportunities for some great entertainment, lots of vendors with an array of RV items, a great number of new RVs to look at and possibly buy, seminars for technical and lifestyle enrichment, RV Basics classes, RV Driving classes, and most of all a chance to meet thousands of RVers for a great time! And, yes, you can check out the chapters at the Chapter Fair!

Join in the fun! Take advantage of the wonderful opportunities chapter membership brings. I look forward to meeting you at a rally soon. Again, welcome to the family, and if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Eastern Area Vice President Phyllis Britz, F423634 pbritz@fmca.com