

# Southwest Sun Chasers

March  
2021



On the morning of March 18, 2021, we hit the road for Tucson. The Linville's departed first. The Masseys and the Parmans caravanned. The Mendez', Jill, and the Juarez' drove on their own. The Fogarty's, our only members from AZ, were already waiting for us at the Lazy Days KOA as they had arrived a few days earlier with other RMMA regional members. The Massey's and Parmans took a lunch break at the Double S Steakhouse in Wilcox. The Mendez' stopped for a lunch break as well. After getting back on the road, Jill caught up with the three in Benson, AZ. The Linville's had lunch and fueled up their coach just outside of Tucson. The trip was not without incident; Linda's pineapple upside-down cake decided to become right-side up on the floor of her coach. We will have to wait for another outing to try her cake.

On Friday March 20, 2021, the morning started with most taking care of their pets. Lazy Days KOA is a wonderful place for pets. It was a telephone and computer workday for Wilson. The Massey's, Parmans and Linville's travelled to Elgin, AZ and visited several wineries and one distillery. The Elgin Distillery placed 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the World International Bourbon Competition in England this year. They stopped at a beer brewery and restaurant for lunch. The home-brewed beer was wonderful and enjoyed by all. The Fogarty's joined Some of the RMMA folks for a late lunch at Silver Saddle Steakhouse. That evening, we gathered at Jamie and Galina's coach for happy hour and a dinner.

Saturday morning some of us listened to Errett "Rett" Porter who is running for the position of FMCA President. Others relaxed at their coaches, and others went to look at new RVs. We were surprised to learn the Lopez's were in town. Later that afternoon, several of us gathered at the Masseys coach for a little socializing. Some took the time to visit the pool! During the evening, many in the group took part in the KOA-sponsored Luau. The music and fire dancers were very entertaining. We even met "Da Mayor" of the park.

Sunday brought the weekend to an end, and it was time to pack up and return home. Those returning to El Paso made it home safely. The Masseys and Parmans had breakfast at Bobo's before the Parmans returned home. Those traveling to northern New Mexico drove to Hatch, NM to spend the evening there.

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Lunch break



Elgin Distillery



Mendez' home sweet home



Roadrunners on the loose



How much is that doggie in the window?



Luau party



Tucson KOA Luau 2021







- April 8-11, 2021 ..... Lajitas, TX (Host: Massey's)
- April 21, 2021 ..... Monthly Meeting (location TBD)
- April 30 – May 2, 2021 ..... Timberon, NM (Host: XXXXXX)
- May 19, 2021 ..... Monthly Meeting (location TBD)
- May 27-31, 2021 ..... Silver City, NM (Host: Telford's)
- June 9-13, 2021 ..... Albuquerque, NM
- June 16, 2021 ..... Monthly meeting (Location TBD)
- July 1-5, 2021 ..... Mayhill, NM (Host: Beaulieu's)
- July 21, 2021 ..... Monthly Meeting (location TBD)

## Upcoming Outings (click on the links for more information):

- **April 8-11, 2021** (THU-SUN): [Maverick Ranch RV Park](#) – 21701 FM 170, Lajitas, TX 1-877-LAJITAS or (432) 424-500 (front desk). Reservations are being taken at this time. (315 miles)
- **April 30 – May 2** (FRI-SUN): [Circle Cross RV Park](#) – 1282 Sacramento River Rd, Timberon, NM. Reservations are being taken at this time (913) 200-5670. (137 miles)
- **May 27-31, 2021** (THU-MON): [Rose Valley RV Ranch](#) – 2040 Memory Lane, Silver City, NM. This outing is scheduled to coincide with the Blues Festival. Reservations are being taken at this time (575) 534-4277.
- **June 9-13, 2021** (WED-SUN): [Enchanted Trails RV Park & Trading Post](#) – 14305 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM. (505) 831-4244. (269 miles). This is the Rocky Mountain Motorhome Association Region 1 Rally. Reservations must be made directly with the campground; however, an agenda and information is available on the [RMMA chapter newsletters](#).
- **July 1-5, 2021** (THU-MON): [Deer Springs RV Resort](#) – 2112 Rio Penasco Rd, Mayhill, NM (127 miles). Reservations are being taken at this time (575-687-3464). Just a reminder – this park fills up quickly.

\*\*\*Don't forget to let Bill (Wagon Master) know if you are attending these events.\*\*\*

## Did You Know...

Although St. Patrick is considered the “Patron Saint of Ireland,” he wasn’t Irish and was never officially canonized by the Catholic Church as there was no formal process in the first millennium. ! He was born in Britain (under Roman rule at the time), and at the age of 16, was captured by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland. He spent six years in captivity where he converted to Christianity. He escaped captivity but eventually returned to Ireland as a missionary. He established monasteries, churches, and schools. Two famous legends surrounding St. Patrick are: he drove all the snakes from Ireland and he used the three leaves of the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. There are no native species of snakes in Ireland. There is no one “true” species of shamrock. Various clover species are accepted as the shamrock. He died on March 17, 461. He was celebrated by the Irish with feasts and religious services. Irish people started wearing a shamrock in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to signify their Irish Christian pride. The tradition of celebrating March 17<sup>th</sup> with parades started in America. The first St. Patrick’s Day parade was held in New York City in 1762. Following the potato famine in Ireland, many Irish immigrated to the United States, and the St. Patrick’s Day celebration became widespread.



# Maverick RV Ranch Rally

## Itinerary

# Circle Cross RV Rally

## Itinerary

### **April 7**

Early birds leave for Marfa Lights viewing area

### **April 8**

Happy Hour

Soup & Sandwich potluck

Fire pit/Clubhouse gathering

### **April 9**

Burrito breakfast

Individual morning golf

Cornhole tournament

lunch on your own

individual afternoon golf

Five-mile horseback ride

Individual drive to Big Bend

Movie

Dinner @ Lajitas restaurant

Fire pit/Clubhouse gathering

### **April 10**

Clubhouse breakfast

Individual morning golf or drive to Big Bend

Clay Henry Zipline

Lunch – Candelilla Restaurant

Individual afternoon golf or drive to Big Bend

Longhorn Museum tour

Movie

Potluck dinner

Fire pit/Clubhouse gathering

**Unavailable  
at this  
time**

## Outing Hosts

Silver City, NM (May)	Telford's	Alamogordo, NM (September)	
Albuquerque, NM (June)		Fredericksburg, TX (October)	
Mayhill, NM (July)	Beaulieu's	Tucson, AZ (October)	
Fort Davis, TX (August)	Linville's	Rodeo, NM (November)	
Lake Lyman, AZ (September)		Carlsbad, NM (December)	4



# Time to Celebrate



- Barbara L. 3/2
- Eddie 3/17
- Ginny 3/20
- Sandy 3/30



No March  
Anniversaries

## Just for Giggles:

Three of the nastiest outlaw bikers you've ever seen pull into a roadside cafe. They're all riding big, shiny motorcycles - their long, wild hair and beards blowing in the wind.

There's no one in the cafe except a man whose RV is parked in the lot and the waitress.

The first biker walks up to the man's table. He dips a finger into the man's coffee, stirs it a bit, puts the finger in his mouth and pronounces, "This is lousy coffee."

The next one picks up the RV owner's soup bowl, sniffs it, spits into it and says, "This is lousy soup."

The last one picks up the man's hamburger, squeezes it to a pulp and announces, "This is a lousy hamburger."

The RVer quietly gets up, pays his bill, and walks out.

The first biker laughs and sneers as he turns to the waitress and says, "That guy ain't much of a man, is he?"

The waitress pauses as she looks out the window, then says, "He ain't much of a driver either ... he just backed over three motorcycles on his way out of here."



Have we turned the corner with Covid-19, or are we still running an up-hill battle? Are you confused by the many expert opinions about the vaccine, wearing a mask, and social distancing? Are you concerned about traveling in your coach? I wanted to provide you with a little information regarding the several states our chapter will travel to in the coming months with links to find the most up-to-date restrictions.

For Arizona go to: [COVID-19 Updates | Visit Arizona](#). As of 03/15/2021, there were no travel restrictions in the State of AZ. Most municipalities and businesses have implemented face mask requirements. Tribal Lands have implemented their own restrictions.

Up to date information for New Mexico can be found at: [New Mexico Covid-19 Traveler Information](#). New Mexico uses a multi-color tiered threat map. It is updated every two weeks. As of 03/15/2021, face masks were required and there were no mandatory self-quarantine requirements.

For updated Texas Covid-19 restrictions visit: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx>. Texas is fully open with continued recommendation to wear face masks. Individual counties retain the right to implement restrictions as deemed necessary.

Colorado uses a color system similar to New Mexico: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial-dashboard>. Colorado is open for travel with face mask wearing as required. There are no quarantine requirements for traveling in Colorado.

The chapter will continue to require that all members and visitors read/sign a Covid-19 Waiver. We will follow the guidelines of the state/municipality we are visiting and always be considerate of our fellow campers. We are slowly seeing that outdoor venues are going to open for events and festivals. As more and more of us are immunized against the virus, I hope we become comfortable with traveling as a group and plan many fun and interesting outings during 2021.

At the Tucson rally this month, we had the opportunity to meet the RMMA officers. RMMA Region President, Jamie Erickson, hosted a happy hour and potluck dinner. It was also the first time many of our chapter members had the chance to meet the Fogarty's (they joined our chapter last month). Vallarie Erickson-Smith did an outstanding job coordinating the potluck dinner, and as expected, the food was wonderful.

While in Tucson, the RMMA Officers visited the Pima County Fairgrounds and RV Park in preparation for the RMMA Ramble which will be held there later this year. Jamie is looking for volunteers to help at the outing (helping rigs to park, registration, and other jobs). Please let me know if you are interested in helping at the ramble. Registration will open on the FMCA website around April 20, 2021.



# Our Newest Members

**Steve and Renate:** We started Rv-ing over 15 years ago, and it was only "hit and miss" until this past July when Renate finally retired.

Now we are able to take long trips whenever we want. We went to Michigan this past summer, and then we went to West Memphis, Arkansas. In Memphis, Tennessee, we visited the National Civil Rights Museum and Elvis Presley's Graceland Manor. We toured all over that beautiful town. Then we went down to Tarpon Springs, Florida for Christmas and New Year's and spent a month there before returning home. While in Florida, we spent an entire day by the sponge diver boats in Greek Town. Our favorite trip was to Michigan, where I had the opportunity to take Renate to Mackinac Island and up into the Upper Peninsula where we went to the Maritime Museum. Renate fell in love with it.

Our bucket list trip would be to travel around Alaska. Renate has never been to Alaska, and I would love to take her having been up there in multiple locations.

**Jay and Annette:** Both of our parents are retired Army and I also retired from the Army in 2003. We have traveled around the world so in 1999, after returning states side from an assignment to Japan, we purchased our first RV which was a 27' Mallard travel trailer. We have two daughters, and we traveled all over the east coast to include Niagara Falls, The Smokey Mountains, and Myrtle Beach. When I got stationed at the White Sands Missile Range, we continued camping, mainly at Elephant Butte State Park. After our kids left home, we upgraded to a Winnebago Journey we purchased at the El Paso Camping World. We traded this in a few years ago for our current Fleetwood Discovery LXE we got at La Mesa RV in Tucson, AZ.

Our favorite trip so far has been one we took to Florida and stayed at the Oak Grove RV Park on Naval Air Station Pensacola. The beaches, the Air Museum, local restaurants, and being treated to air shows as the Blue Angels trained on a daily basis during our stay, were some of the highlights.

Annette and I meet in Fairbanks, Alaska as our dads were both stationed at Ft. Wainwright. We left in 1979 and have never been back, so our bucket list trip is to return to Alaska via the ALCAN highway someday.



**Dan and Grace:** Dan and I have belonged to FMCA and the Arizona Chapter since 2009 and have enjoyed the friendship and fellowship. We have both held offices, Dan as Treasurer and National Director, and I as Secretary and President. We have been rally masters, and served as committee members numerous times, what a great way to get to know chapter members. We have four children, nine grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren who we love and enjoy. We have attended six National rallies and five RMMA rallies, volunteering at each one in security, parking, seminars and signs.

We both worked for National Missile Defense contractors during our careers and have lived all over the world with our jobs, which has been a wonderful experience for us both, some questionable and some exciting and educational.

My goal is to continue supporting FMCA and RMMA, helping to enhance the RV experience and to meet and make new friends along the way.

## Our Newest Members (cont.)

**Joe and Sandy:** I have loved the Great Outdoors Since childhood. I grew up living just a few hundred feet from the exit tube of the Holland Tunnel in Jersey City, New Jersey. A few hundred more feet was the Holland Tunnel entrance tube going into New York City. There were no parks with grass, trees, and ponds in lower Jersey City in our neighborhood. The tidal waters of the Hudson River were just a few hundred feet too.

As time passed having been to Woods and lakes on Day trips as I got older into my teen age years, I visited parks and rough camped, I loved the outdoors. Moving along so as not to bore you I actually expressed my feelings and wrote about them in poems. To this day I remember the very first written at age 12. A chill caressed and awakened me at 2:20 in the morning while the city slept. I walked to the window and saw no movement on the city streets embracing silence I wrote these words sharing my feelings of natural things that cloudy cold quiet night as I stared at the night sky - it goes:

Beneath the Dark and cloudy skies  
A touch of beauty to peaceful eyes  
A blanket for the heaven's Day  
Yet like the past just withers away

This night was born  
This Night Shall die  
This night is dying yet pleads a cry

The winds are howling  
The dark drifts past  
Yet God and his heavens  
Shall forever last

Since childhood nature has touched my very soul. I could never get enough although sights and sounds are existential, I felt nature, existential and spiritual as well. Oddly enough being a combat soldier in Vietnam I at times felt the beauty of the Central Highlands Jungle and huge yellow moon behind the Mountains. After serving two tours being a paratrooper and later discharged, I was 21 years old.

I have spent tremendous times in nature initially rough camping, camping in a conversion van, and eventually buying a 25' travel trailer. I travelled with my family and over the years to many national parks both East and West of the mighty Mississippi. One summer we visited 18 major National Parks in that little camper. Eventually we graduated to a fifth wheel and spent many days, and weeks touring and enjoying the wonders of nature. About a decade ago we bought a 41' Fleetwood Excursion 40E. we enjoyed many trips in our bus and most notably one year driving the bus from N.M. to N.J., it took us 55 days to get there. As was usually the case Sandy & me toured and stayed at many places along the way.

Sandy and I both have passion for the Great outdoors, and RVing. Sandy is the photographer while traveling in our bus. Another of the many excursions we enjoyed was visiting Watertown Lakes / Glacier International Peace Park. Sandy took 1,900 photos on that memorable exploration. We stayed at the Prince of Wales Lodge in Alberta overnight and returned to our rig the following day.



## Tires

- Check tire pressure before every outing
- Make sure pressure sensor and valve stem extensions are in good shape
- In some models (Freightliners), make sure the valve stem extensions are firmly secured so they do not rub the rim
- Make sure tires are properly inflated
- Check tires for dry rot or damage; you will rarely “wear out” your tires before these occur.
- You will usually need to replace tires due to age versus mileage



\*\*click on “Tires” for a video link on how to inspect your tires\*\*

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## Petrified Forest National Park and Painted Desert

[\(click here for more information – just scroll down past Grand Canyon National Park\)](#)

This national treasure, located in Navajo and Apache counties, became a national park in 1962. Known for its petrified wood, painted deserts, fossils, and fallen trees from the late Triassic Period, it’s definitely a site worth seeing. Those wishing to visit this national park rather than just driving through the area, have a few options. Two gift shops allow overnight parking in their lots (no hook-ups). You can also stay in nearby communities (Holbrook, Sun Valley, Saint Johns, and Joseph City). Activities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and guided tours.



Photo by [James Marvin Phelps](#), courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons



# Host an Outing!!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

We're looking for volunteers to host our outings/rallies. When we volunteer to host, we share the responsibility of planning what the group does during the outing. Each of us has unique ideas and experiences for activities and events that we can share with one another.

As a host, you can plan as much (or as little) as you feel comfortable with. You can recruit other members to help you if needed. Things to consider when hosting:

- What historical locations are in the area the group might be interested (the local Chamber of Commerce is a great source)?
- What outdoor activities are there in the area (hiking, 4-wheeling, scenic drives)
- Is there a special event happening in which members might have an interest (EG. Festivals, markets, tours, concerts)
- Are there parks or lakes nearby for outdoor activities
- Meal plans (restaurants, potluck, continental)
  - Friday evening (upon arrival)
  - Saturday breakfast
  - Saturday lunch
  - Saturday dinner
  - Sunday breakfast
- Activities
  - Games (indoor/outdoor)
  - Karaoke

## Sample Itinerary

- Friday 6:30 PM: soup & sandwiches
- Saturday 9:00 AM: breakfast at camp
- Saturday activities:
  - Historical outing
  - Zipline adventure
- Saturday lunch: on your own
- Saturday 5:00 PM: Happy Hour
- Saturday 6:30: Potluck dinner
- Saturday (after dinner): game night
- Sunday 8:30: Continental breakfast

- Create an itinerary of events/activities going on during that outing (general schedule and no personal information)
- Keep in contact with the wagon master and secretary. The secretary would like to include plans in the newsletter the month prior to the outing, so members have an idea of what to expect at the outing. Remember, nothing is "set in stone," and plans are subject to change. We understand that.
- Remember, we host to help and have fun, and NOT to be overwhelmed by it. Never hesitate to ask for help when you are the host.

## Mexican Taco Meatloaf

★★★★★

My Mexican grandmother would use leftover corn tortilla chips in our meatloaf and everyone loved it! They all wanted seconds along with the recipe. A delicious Mexican-American comfort food.

**Prep:** 15 mins**Cook:** 45 mins**Total:** 1 hr**Servings:** 8**Yield:** 1 loaf

### Ingredients

1 ½ pounds lean ground beef  
1 cup crushed tortilla chips  
¾ cup shredded pepper Jack cheese  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 (1 ounce) packet taco seasoning mix  
2 eggs, beaten  
½ cup milk  
¼ cup mild red taco sauce, or more to taste

### Directions

**Step 1**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

**Step 2**

Thoroughly combine beef, tortilla chips, pepper Jack cheese, onion, and taco seasoning in a bowl.

**Step 3**

Whisk eggs, milk, and taco sauce together in a separate bowl. Add to meat mixture and stir until well combined.

**Step 4**

Press mixture into a 9x5-inch loaf pan and top with a strip of taco sauce down the center.

**Step 5**

Bake in the preheated oven until cooked through and browned on top, 45 to 60 minutes.

### Nutrition Facts

**Per Serving:** 272 calories; protein 21.6g; carbohydrates 7.1g; fat 16.6g; cholesterol 120.2mg; sodium 468.4mg.

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Submitted by Grace

Member  
Favorites



### Cake Shots (Mardi Gras King Cake Shots – Spec's)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Ingredients

1 oz RumChata Liqueur  
1 oz Fireball Whiskey  
Vanilla Frosting (or buttercream)  
Sanding sugar (various colors)  
Whipped Cream



#### Directions

Rim the top of each 2 oz. shot glass with frosting. Then, dip in the sanding sugars. Combine equal parts RumChata and Fireball into each shot glass. Top with whipped cream and serve.

**Note:** It is easier to mix the RumChata and Fireball in a larger container and then pour the mixture into the shot glasses. Make sure to use 1 oz each of the RumChata and Fireball for each drink made.

# March Monthly Meeting

Meeting was held at Landry's Seafood House. The meeting opened (7:02 PM) with a prayer and the Pledge. Ginny led us in an object-story icebreaker. Noel was installed as an honorary member of the chapter. The minutes were read and accepted. The treasurer's report was presented. Birthdays and anniversaries were announced. Joe and Sandy volunteered to be our chapter historian and Sunshine & Care respectively. The Wagon Master covered upcoming outings. There was some discussion in reference to a better way to "reserve" sites as a group. A suggestion was to collect reservation monies from members and then the Wagon Master could reserve the number of sites at one time, so we could all be together and at least get a site. Members need to understand that commitments would need to be made several months in advance, and any cancellation fees would be the responsibility of the individual member. There will be more discussion and information at April's meeting. Ginny presented restaurants she visited in an attempt to secure other meeting locations. With a group our size, it is very difficult to find a location without fees and restrictions (EG. minimum number of participants, room rental fees, one check only, specific menu, advance ordering). It was decided we would meet again at Landry's Seafood House in April. A 50/50 ticket fundraiser was introduced. It was stated that any funds received by the chapter would need to be reported to the Texas Comptroller and might incur a tax liability. At this time, we voted to use funds as a donation to a non-profit at the end of the year. Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.





## A message from your secretary:

After our meeting, it was brought to my attention that some individuals had trouble hearing what was being said as too many people were speaking at one time and/or carrying on sidebar conversations. I myself find it very easy to be in a conversation with the person next to me while someone else is speaking, especially if I haven't seen them in awhile. With that being said, there is a reason to start with dinner at 6:00. It's so we can visit and socialize prior to the business meeting. During the meeting portion of our evening, let's be cognizant of the following in order to ensure a smooth, productive, enjoyable meeting.

- Start on time
- Listen attentively and avoid side conversations
- Contribute to meeting goals
- Let everyone participate
- Listen with an open mind
- Stay on point and on time
- End on time

I love our meetings with this group. I too need to be aware of the above points. As always, if you think I need to add something, please let me know. I just searched the Internet and pulled a few items, and of course, I tried to remember some of the "norms" we used at teacher meetings. ~ Ginny



Please submit items to Ginny: [virginia.beaulieu@att.net](mailto:virginia.beaulieu@att.net). What would you like to see in future newsletters? Member happenings? Outing itineraries?

**Your Officers:** Don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything.

William (Bill) Massey: President & Wagon Master . . . . .	915-497-6255
Wilson Mendez: Vice-President . . . . .	915-850-3774
Kathy Linville: Treasurer . . . . .	915-644-3465
Ginny Beaulieu: Secretary . . . . .	915-217-6962
Joe Sweeney: Historian: . . . . .	575-644-9986
Sandy Sweeney: Sunshine & Care: . . . . .	505-862-6254

**Websites:** click on the title to access the site

[Southwest Sun Chasers](#)  
[Rocky Mountain Motorhome Association \(RMMA\)](#)  
[Family Motor Coach Association \(FMCA\)](#)