

*Hilton Head, SC – Mandalay Pre-Rally*  
*Sunday – August 6, 2006 thru Saturday – August 12, 2006*

WOW!! What else can you say when you pull into the Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort in Hilton Head, SC. This park is 1<sup>st</sup> class and all the sites are beautifully landscaped and maintained. What a backdrop for the 51 coaches that attended the FMCA pre-rally. Plenty of site parking assistance was provided, as some of the sites are pretty "tight"....even for our experienced drivers and co-pilots.

Rigs started arriving on Sunday or earlier for the Sunset Dolphin Nature Cruise that evening. All who attended agreed it was an enjoyable evening. On Monday, a side trip to Hollywood Ron's Savannah Movie tour was available. Quite a few movies have been filmed in the Savannah area, and the tour bus made it's way to many of them...with "Forrest Gump" of course being the most famous. Monday evening brought the volunteers out for their organizational meeting...without them, where would we be??!!

The rally "official" start was on Tuesday, with Service Registration, the Mandalay Apparel Store, and the 2007 units on display courtesy of Mandalay and Dream RV. A golf outing was held at noontime, and the players came back in awe of the great course they played. Heather Hockert was not able to make it due to the planned arrival of a new baby girl....so Barb Knight ably took responsibility for keeping us all "happy". She did an outstanding job.

Later that evening we had a potluck dinner. It's amazing the dishes that can come out of a motorhomes' kitchen. We are blessed to have creative minds and cooks in our group. Bob Scholar of Fantasy Tours sponsored The Rivoli Revue Dance Night. Ron & Kay Rivoli put on a super show and all enjoyed their performance.....with the Mandalay Maniacs putting on their own show. Everyone enjoyed dancing til the late hours of the evening.

Wednesday began with a breakfast buffet and seminars throughout the day. Steve Niblock and Greg Smit from River Park Electronics explained to all how the electronics and entertainment systems in the coach work. A 1<sup>st</sup> time Attendees meeting was held by MTC President Jack Finley. A good orientation of how the club works...

3:00 came none too soon for the Ice Cream Social. The weather was hot and muggy all week and the ice cream sure helped cool us all down. The swimming pool at the resort was looking better with every passing hour too. Dinner at 6, then the Rivoli Revue for entertainment. This was a different show than the previous "dance" show..with Ron & Kay playing songs from their many CD's. Their new hit single..."Press 1 for English", was a real winner with all. They even have their songs being played on XM Satellite Radio now.

On Thursday, (after another full breakfast buffet.....{why does it sound like we are always eating??})...Fantasy Tours presented their Mandalay's ONLY Mexico Copper Canyon tour. This tour will be for Mandalay, Presidio, and Valencia owners only, and there were quite a few "takers" for the tour.

Bryan Greene of Onan of Indiana gave a presentation about our generators and the many features such as Automatic Generator Start (AGS) that can help us make our lives more comfortable and safer.

Pam Cryderman held a Scrapbooking seminar for all the ladies that we well attended. Pam has a lot of talent in this area and in her photography / computer talents as we all enjoyed a computer slide show of pictures taken during the weeks' activities.

Dream RV sponsored the Wine and Cheese social that afternoon, giving everyone a chance to cool down with their favorite "home-state" wine. There were quite a few empty souvenir bottles by the time 4:00 came around.

The MTC Board of Directors Election was held that evening (results are posted on the Mandalay website). After the election, bingo and games were enjoyed by all. We have a great Bingo announcer in John Landes. His deep voice resounds when he calls "B19"!

Friday arrived before we knew it.

Presentations by HWH hydraulics and Freightliner Chassis lead off the day. There is so much to learn about the slide-outs and leveling, and the chassis is another "animal" altogether. There is always a lively discussion during both seminars with lots of questions and answers time allowed.

Clare Fleming presented a Mosaic Art seminar for quite a few of the ladies. They had a choice of making a mosaic covered bird house or a mirrored tray. Everyone got to show their talents with the stones, beads, mirrors, etc that adorned their project of choice.

The beach social got underway at 4PM in the Dream RV / Mandalay Display area and before we knew it dinner time arrived.

We all ventured across the street from the resort to Prescott's Seafood Buffet. There was more than enough room in the restaurant for our 100+ group and I can honestly say that no one went away hungry. What a buffet !!

The restaurant had a band that night (sponsored by Onan) and played all of our favorite hits and some new ones. Lots of dancing and singing along went along with the evening.

Saturday morning came and after a great breakfast buffet sponsored by Young RV Sales in Charlotte, and closing ceremonies and door prize presentations, the group going to the FMCA Rally lined up for the caravan to Charlotte, NC. Everyone else went their own way...back home or elsewhere until the next get together.

That is one of the best things about RVing. We are so lucky to be able to travel when and where we want to, getting to see family and friends and the beautiful USA along the way.

Til' we get together in Goshen, IN for the 2006 International Rally.....see you there!!!!

