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Generating Interest

We thought our December issue's contest was a holiday gift, since the answer was in your Tiffin-built motor home owner's manual. Most of the responses we received were correct: the generator oil and filter in a Tiffin-built motor home should be changed monthly. The winner, selected by drawing, is **Thomas Alesandro of Lebanon, N.J.** He will receive a prize package from the Allegro Club office.

Our new quiz question: *As the thousand Tiffin Motorhomes employees celebrate the production of the 50,000th Tiffin coach, we think back to 1972 and the corporation's first days. How many employees were on the payroll when the first Tiffin-built motor homes rolled off the production line?*

10 40 100 200

Mail or email your answer along with your name, address and phone number to Allegro Club, Box 1429, Red Bay, AL 35582. Please, only one entry per household. The Allegro Club is not responsible for lost entries. The winner will be selected by a drawing of correct entries received by May 7, 2005.



New Tiffin Dealers

Tiffin Motorhomes welcomes three new dealers to its network. The new dealers offer full sales and service. Tiffin now has 89 dealership locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Al's Motorhome & Trailer Sales, Inc.

120 Del Monte St.
Ft. Pierce, FL 34946
(772) 595-5922
(772) 461-0492 – fax

International RV World, Inc.

2717 E. Delta Rd.
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 667-9840
(989) 667-9843 – fax

Suncoast RV

4223 Airport Hwy.
Louisville, TN 37777
(865) 970-7080
(865) 883-6843 – fax

Become an Allegro Club member or update your address info

If you're reading this newsletter, you're enjoying one of the benefits of Allegro Club membership. Other benefits include rallies, caravans, local chapters, discounted insurance, and a 10% discount on Camper's Choice store and catalog purchases.

When you buy a new Tiffin Motorhome, the first year of Allegro Club membership is free. After that, a one-year

membership is \$25, a two-year membership is \$46, and a three-year membership is \$70, payable by check or credit card. For credit card payment, call (256) 356-8522. We want you to continue your membership and help us build our numbers by recruiting other owners of Tiffin Motorhomes.

Names: _____ Address: _____
Nicknames for Allegro Club ID badge #1: _____
Nicknames for Allegro Club ID badge #2: _____
Email: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: () _____ Alternate Phone: () _____
Serial No. of Your Tiffin Motorhome: _____ Chassis type: _____ VIN _____
Does your motorhome have slides? _____ If so, on which side or sides? _____
Name of dealer where motorhome was purchased: _____ Date of Purchase: _____

SIDE ROADS



TIFFIN MOTORHOMES

The Allegro Club Newsletter For Leisure & Living



FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE

Volume 1 Issue No. 3
March 2005

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Beloved contraption retired by chapter

12 Catfish, catfish & more catfish
That's what chapters like on the menu



Jimmy Johnson

From the driver's seat

The numbers prove how helpful, thoughtful and constructive Allegro Club members are. In our first issue of Side Roads last fall, we asked you to give us some feedback on our new format and we invited you to enter a contest in which the winner would win a prize. More Allegro Club members completed our feedback questionnaire than entered the contest. And we are very pleased to report that Side Roads is drawing overwhelmingly positive reviews. More than 90 percent of your responses say we're on the right track with this publication.

Here's a sample of your comments, pro and con:

"What happened to the paper newsletter with all the chapter news by Hotline reporters?"

"Chapter news is a complete waste. An occasional good news story like three chapters combined to build a playground, but who cares that Sally brought brownies for dessert?"

"I am disappointed with the 'new' slick-page magazine. Just another one to toss. Enjoyed reading reports of other clubs, their activities and ideas."

"The Hotline grew into a great big 'fish-wrapper' over the years... after a while it lost all dignity. The fact that a bunch of Tiffin owners had no more imagination than to git (sic) together at some Black-eyed Pea and call it a meeting of motor home owners soon became somewhat asinine, but that's what they wanted."

"Eliminate recipes."

"More recipes."

Change can be painful. New leadership can be upsetting, as we recognize the departure of folks who made sincere contributions, who became friends, who shared enjoyable experiences. New leadership can provide a catalyst for growth, renewed excitement and greater involvement.

We are heartened that so many of you enjoy the new look and content of our quarterly newsletter. We are saddened that a few of you still yearn for the newsletter that served this club for many years.

We are dedicated to earning and maintaining the trust, faith and support of Allegro Club members.

Whether you agree with all the changes we are making or not, we greatly appreciate your feedback and suggestions. It is that two-way communication that will help us chart the future of the Allegro Club, making decisions based on the wishes of the majority, the wisdom of the leadership, and the resources available.

(Continued on Page 15)

SIDE ROADS

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NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

The Allegro® Club, Inc., Red Bay, AL, has designed tours, caravans, and rallies for your pleasure and enjoyment and has attempted to select for you the best campgrounds, accommodations, restaurants, and transportation facilities for the prices charged. Allegro® Club, Inc., Jimmy and Gail Johnson, and the Board of Directors do not own or operate any of the campgrounds, hotels, restaurants or transportation facilities and, furthermore, assume no responsibility for delays, losses, accidents, or for damage to persons or property caused by any person, firm, corporation, or other legal entity providing the following services: campgrounds, hotels, restaurants, transportation (including but not limited to transfers and sightseeing) or any other services incident to these tours, rallies, caravans or any activities of the Allegro® Club, Inc. The right is reserved to substitute campgrounds, hotels, restaurants and alter the itinerary or reverse the places to be visited. The right is reserved to cancel the tour or caravan prior to departure. In the event of a tour or caravan cancellation, the Allegro® Club, Inc., Jimmy and Gail Johnson, and the Board of Directors' liability is limited to a refund of money received.

The Allegro® Club, Inc., Jimmy and Gail Johnson, and the Board of Directors reserve the right to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary with the understanding that there is no extra charge. After a tour, caravan or rally begins, any unused portions of fees paid are not refundable. The Allegro® Club, Inc., also reserves the right to terminate tour, caravan and rally services for any client at any time for good cause.

The mission of the Allegro Club is:

- 1) To promote friendship, fellowship and camaraderie among all owners of Tiffin-built motor homes;
- 2) To provide pertinent information and assistance regarding Tiffin-built products, their maintenance and related safety topics;
- 3) To promote brand loyalty to Tiffin-built motor homes among current owners; and
- 4) To encourage ownership of Tiffin-built motor homes among non-owners.

The Allegro Club reserves the right to edit submissions for space and clarity. Manuscripts, photographs, illustrations and other proposed content are welcomed and will be considered for publication. Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is prohibited. Content, including statements of fact and opinion, do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc. or the Allegro Club, Inc. Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc. and the Allegro Club, Inc. are not responsible for content. Privacy laws and policies prevent Side Roads from publishing memorials, illnesses and other personal information without written permission.

ON THE COVER

Tiffin Motorhomes doesn't build its coaches out of sugar, eggs and flour, but that's what works for baker Jimmy Czermak of Sugarbakers, who created this cake for the 50,000th Tiffin-built motor home. Coverage of the Feb. 24th celebration in Red Bay, which drew the Alabama Governor's attention, is on Page 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Want to share an experience you had in your Tiffin Motorhome? Have a comment or suggestion about Side Roads, the Allegro Club newsletter? Write to:

Side Roads Editor, Allegro Club
P.O. Box 1429, Red Bay, AL 35582

Please include your name, address, email and phone number so we can contact you.

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Tiffin Motorhomes produces 50,000th coach

In 1972, when Bob Tiffin built his first motor home in a cotton warehouse, he set a typically modest goal: two coaches a day.

Thirty-three years later, the 50,000th Tiffin-built motor home rolled off the production line Feb. 24, setting a milestone for the family-owned corporation. More than 38,000 Tiffin coaches are currently registered for active highway use. Eighty-nine dealership locations in the U.S. and Canada sell the shiny new gel-coat units built at the Red Bay plant. Tiffin is respected for its product quality, customer service and a strong relationship between dealer and manufacturer.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley declared "Tiffin Motorhomes Day" and more than 300 suppliers, customers and employees crowded under a tent in front of the plant to celebrate the event. In his proclamation, which drew a standing ovation from the audience, Gov. Riley noted that the Tiffins "have labored tirelessly to uphold standards of first-class manufacturing within a moral framework inspired by a devotion to their Creator." The Governor also wrote that the manufacturer "earned a reputation for exceptional product quality and customer service."

Dean Schaper, sales and marketing director for Freightliner Custom Chassis, said, "Companies come and go. Some have great ideas, others have great customer support, strong management teams or great service and distribution networks. The companies that endure have all these and Tiffin Motorhomes exemplifies these strengths and values. This milestone is the direct result of the honesty, integrity and philosophy of treating others the way you would expect to be treated."

"I never knew I'd make motor homes, but I knew I liked wheels – anything that rolls," quipped Founder and CEO Bob Tiffin.

The 50,000th coach was headed to Lazy Days RV Center in Seffner, Fla.

The early Tiffin coaches were as modest as Bob Tiffin's goal. The first model was 21 feet long, which is the length of a 2004 Ford F250 pickup truck. The second model was four feet longer. Those early models were powered by a Chevrolet 350 cubic-inch or a Dodge 318 cubic-inch gas engine. "Fancy frills, yes, but we focus on livability," promises the first sales brochure.

"Our customer demand has changed drastically," said Tiffin. "In 1972, most of our customers were World War II and Korean



Judy and Bob Tiffin pose proudly in front of their 50,000th coach, a 40-foot Allegro Bus QDP.

War veterans who were retiring. Our coaches were not very complicated. We had very few options – radio, TV antenna, air-conditioning, a generator, on par with automobiles. There was not too much challenge to keeping them running."

In contrast, No. 50,000, a 2005 Tiffin Allegro Bus with quad slides is 40 feet long, pushed by a Cummins 400hp diesel. Standard equipment on the '05 Allegro Bus includes full body paint, 7.5kw generator, two 15,000 btu roof air-conditioning units with heat pump, fully automatic leveling jacks, designer interior, automatic satellite dish, color backup camera and monitor, polished solid-surface kitchen countertops, convection/microwave and a skylight in the shower.

Options include a 32-in. LCD TV, drop-in oven, dishwasher, washer/dryer, and oak, maple, walnut or cherry cabinetry.

"We're still getting judged on par with the automobile industry," said Tiffin, who, with a high school education, worked for his father in a lumber and appliance business before venturing into motor home manufacturing. "We have more, younger customers who are more demanding, but that's not a bad thing."

Why has Tiffin Motorhomes been successful?

"We all work pretty hard, but the Lord has blessed us and that's the main reason we have done so well," Tiffin said.

If Tiffin Motorhomes had met Bob Tiffin's 1972 goal, the corporation would be nearing completion of its 16,000th coach.

"I never knew I'd make motor homes, but I knew I liked wheels... anything that rolls."

—Founder and CEO Bob Tiffin

Roadside recipes

by Gail Johnson

With cool weather hanging on as days get longer and Spring approaches, a one-dish meal is a hearty dinnertime solution for busy schedules.

A time-saving suggestion for upcoming meals on the road: Double the casserole recipe you are preparing and freeze portions for future use in whatever serving size is needed.

If just two are traveling in your Tiffin-built motor home, freeze portions in the disposable freezer-to-microwave containers available in grocery stores. You can purchase these small, space-saving containers, label them for contents and cooking instructions, and freeze ahead in your home freezer. Then when you are ready to hit the road, just pop them in your RV freezer, heat in the microwave and dinner is ready.

Of course, these dishes can also be prepared from scratch while you are on the road. They may be baked in your

convection microwave. Each recipe is given with conventional oven cooking instructions listed first and microwave convection modification noted secondly.

Since all ovens, including convection ovens, cook differently, times and temperatures may vary slightly. Use your own judgment about cooking time when using convection baking. You may have to adjust it up or down depending upon the desired results.

To round out your casserole meal you might want to add a side vegetable and a quick tossed salad or fruit cup. A good fruit combination I use frequently is a 20 oz. can of pineapple chunks in its own juice, (don't drain), an 11 oz. can of mandarin oranges, (do drain), 1 or 2 sliced bananas, and sometimes I add a crisp apple chopped up. This fruit cup is a nutritious addition to any meal.

Easy Chicken Divan

Ingredients:

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 2 packages (boxes) frozen broccoli (or equivalent fresh or from larger bag frozen) | 1 can each cream of mushroom and cream of chicken soup | sherry if desired) |
| 2 cups chopped cooked chicken (approx. 3-4 breasts)(may use canned chicken) | ¾ cup mayonnaise | 1 teaspoon curry powder |
| 1 tbsp lemon juice (may use wine or cooking | | ½ to 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese |
| | | Salt and pepper as desired |

Instructions:

Cook broccoli according to package directions until fork tender. Drain. Arrange in baking dish sprayed with non-stick spray. Place cooked chicken over broccoli. Combine soups, mayo, lemon juice and curry powder in small bowl. (*A small amount of milk or water may be needed to dilute soups to stirring consistency.*) Blend ingredients and pour over broccoli and chicken. Sprinkle grated cheese over top of casserole and bake

for 30 minutes in preheated 350-degree oven until cheese is melted and mixture is hot and bubbly. You can top this casserole with buttered breadcrumbs or buttered crackers, but it is very good without any topping at all.

*Convection modification: Bake on HIGH MIX (325 degrees) for about 20-25 minutes.

Sausage Breakfast Casserole

Ingredients:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 pound sausage | 5 eggs | 1 teaspoon dry mustard |
| 6 slices white bread, crusts removed | Soft butter or margarine | |
| 1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese | 2 cups Half and Half | |

Instructions:

Cook sausage until done; drain on paper towels. Spread each bread slice with butter, cut into cubes. Place bread cubes in 13 x 9 inch casserole dish. Add sausage and cheese over bread. Combine remaining ingredients and beat well. Pour over mixture in dish. Cover and chill overnight, or for several hours.

Remove from refrigerator and bake in 350-degree pre-heated oven for about 40 to 50 minutes. Serves 6.

*Convection modification: Bake on HIGH MIX for 25-30 minutes.

Becky's Hamburger Casserole

Ingredients:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1½ pounds lean ground beef | of mushroom soup | ¾ teaspoon salt |
| ½ chopped onion | 1 cup sour cream | ¼ teaspoon pepper |
| 15 oz. can niblet corn | ¼ cup chopped pimento | |
| 1 can each cream of chicken and cream | 1 package wide noodles | |

Instructions:

Cook noodles according to package directions. Brown ground beef, onion, salt and pepper in skillet. Drain. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Place in greased casserole dish and bake in 350-degree pre-heated oven for about 30 minutes.

(May be topped with buttered bread crumbs or cracker crumbs, if desired)

*Convection modification: Bake on HIGH MIX for about 20 minutes.

Grace Ann's Chicken with Rotel Tomatoes

Ingredients:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 4 large chicken breasts, cooked and cut into bite-size pieces. (Can use ready-to-serve grilled chicken strips available frozen or fresh in packaged meat section.) | 1 6-8 oz. box fettuccini or spaghetti noodles | 1 small can mushrooms, drained |
| | 1 can Rotel diced tomatoes | 1 small jar processed cheese spread |
| | 1 can each cream of chicken and cream of mushroom soup | 1 8 oz. package processed cheese, cubed |
| | | Salt and pepper, as desired |

Instructions:

Cook noodles according to package directions. In large microwave-safe bowl, mix soups, Rotel tomatoes, and cheeses. Heat carefully in microwave until cheese is melted, stirring frequently. When soup mixture is a good stirring consistency,

combine all ingredients. Place in greased casserole dish and heat thoroughly, 350 degrees for about 15-20 minutes. This may be done in the microwave oven, since you are only heating the mixture which is already warm and thoroughly cooked.

Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole

Ingredients:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 4 large chicken breasts (may use boneless) | Pepper | ½ soup can of milk |
| 1 stick butter or oleo | 1 6-ox. box long grain and wild rice | |
| Garlic salt | 1 can cream of chicken soup | |

Instructions:

Cook rice according to package directions. Sprinkle chicken with garlic salt and pepper. Melt butter in large non-stick skillet. Cook chicken very slowly in melted butter until done, being careful not to burn. Remove chicken from skillet, de-bone and chop into bite-size pieces. Add soup and milk to butter left in skillet. Heat and stir until warmed. Place cooked

rice in bottom of 2-quart casserole dish. Place chopped chicken over rice, then pour hot soup mixture over all. Bake in pre-heated 350-degree oven for about 30 minutes.

*Convection modification: Bake on HIGH MIX for about 20 - 25 minutes.



Connor's first RV ride

A Tiffin-built motor home makes a fine long-distance ambulance, David and Diane Young learned, in a story that has two happy endings.

The Youngs were having a good time at the Tiffin plant in Red Bay, Al., shopping for a 2005 model to replace their 2000 Allegro Bay. Then came the phone call no parent wants to receive. Their soon-to-be-born first grandchild had a rare and complex heart condition, revealed by ultrasound. Right after birth, the baby would require major surgery in Washington, D.C., far from home in Tennessee.

While panicky thoughts about the infant's health raced through their minds, the Youngs looked at the motor homes lined up like dominoes around the Tiffin plant. They concentrated on what they *could* do: They could make sure their grandchild had a safe, comfortable ride home from the Washington hospital.

Back home in Pickwick Lake, Tenn., the Youngs called Sherman RV, a Tiffin dealer in nearby Sherman, Miss. They learned that a 2005 Phaeton 40-ft. QDH in the sunlit sand color they had admired was headed for the dealership. With some quick decisions on options, including a washer, dryer, king-size bed and a booth table that would double as the grandbaby bed, they closed the deal.

Sherman RV delivered the Phaeton days before the Oct. 20, 2004 birth of Connor Scott to Jennifer and Barry Scott. Connor was airlifted to Washington for his successful initial surgery.

Arriving in Washington in the Phaeton, David Young remembers telling his wife,

"We're going to stay until Connor tells us we can go home."

At 11 days old, Connor was ready to roll. He slept most of the way to his parents' home in Knoxville, thanks to the smooth, comfortable ride in the Phaeton.

Connor has another, more comprehensive surgery scheduled for early summer 2005 and his prognosis is good. The Youngs are eagerly awaiting the day they can pamper their grandson on his first camping trip in their luxurious Tiffin-built motor home.

The second happy ending to the story involves Jim and Karen Davis of Blepre, Ohio, who met the Youngs at an RV park near Knoxville.

The Davises had purchased a motor home from another manufacturer 2 weeks earlier and were still on their shakedown cruise when they spotted the Youngs' Phaeton.

"Did you tell him we love his motor home?" Karen Davis asked her husband as he was visiting with David Young.

After a tour of the Phaeton, the Davises decided they wanted one too. Upon the recommendation of the Youngs, the Davises called Sherman RV for their own 2005 Phaeton.

Jimmy Carpenter, the Sherman RV sales associate who worked with the Youngs and Davises, says, "Customers are our main line of advertising." He admits, however, he was surprised how quickly this referral produced a sale. "I don't know whether the Lord blessed me or them." ■

Upcoming rallies

Upcoming Allegro Club rallies stretch the compass points to the north and west, with activities ranging from college football to a horse and buggy ride.

The Allegro Club's Summer Lake Escape is at Mackinaw Mill Creek Camping in Mackinaw, Mich., Aug. 22-26, followed by the Allegro Club Fall Mountain Fest at the Garden of the Gods Campground in Colorado Springs, Col., Oct. 11-15.

Both rallies will feature displays of new Tiffin-built motor homes, complimentary minor coach repairs performed by Tiffin technicians and supplier/partner seminars.

The registration deadline for Mackinaw, Mich., is July 12 for the 130 spaces available. The cost is \$545 for two people in a Tiffin-built motor home. Each additional guest is \$165. For one person in a Tiffin coach, the price is \$395. An application is in this newsletter. Registration includes five nights of camping fee, full 30-amp hookups, nine meals, shuttle and ferry to Mackinac Island and entertainment.

The Colorado Springs outing will include a tour of the Air Force Academy and the Garden of the Gods, lunch at the Air Force Academy Officer's Club, plus dinner and entertainment at the Flying W Ranch. The registration deadline for Colorado Springs is Aug. 16 for the 120 spaces available. The cost is \$450 for two people in a Tiffin-built motor home. Each additional guest is \$195.

For one person in a Tiffin coach, the price is \$325. An application is in this newsletter. Registration includes five nights of camping fee, full 30-amp hookups and nine meals. ■

Mount Hood rally

Want to see Mount Hood in the morning from your Tiffin-built motor home? Join the Northwest Regional Rally in July.

The July 25-28 rally will be at the Mt. Hood Village Resort in Welches, Ore., nestled in the foothills of Mt. Hood, 45 minutes from Portland. Mt. Hood Village Resort is bordered by the gorgeous Salmon River and by the 600-acre Wildwood Recreational Area. The village has more than 100 heavily wooded acres. The average summer temperature is in the 70s.

The \$179 registration (one Tiffin-built motor home with two adults) includes a coach site, two full breakfasts, three dinners, a continental breakfast on checkout morning, entertainment, seminars, technicians making complimentary minor repairs, various tournaments, bingo and a casino night for cash and prizes. A golf tournament is optional, at additional cost.

Fred's RV World in Sandy, Ore., a Tiffin dealer since 1997, is co-sponsoring the rally, providing a display of coaches and defraying some rally costs. Mt. Hood Village Resort offers many amenities: all full hook-ups including cable TV, indoor heated pool, spa, sauna, fitness center, golf, hiking, bike trails, tennis and fishing.

The rally is limited to 120 Tiffin-built motor homes on a first-come basis (postmarked completed applications).

Tom Kirk, Tiffin Motorhomes northwest regional sales manager, says the rally is returning to Mt. Hood Village Resort by popular demand. He is mailing rally information to registered owners of Tiffin-built motor homes in western states.

For a rally application or additional information, contact Kirk at: captpt@comcast.net or (800) 485-0630.

Western rally

Even though the Tiffin Motorhomes Western Rally is still months away, few spaces remain available, reports Dan Blanke, Tiffin Motorhomes sales for Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah.

The rally is May 16-18 at Rancho California RV Resort in Aguanga, Cal., near the

We thawed you'd want to de-winterize

The robins are pecking in your yard, you had a brief glimpse of blue sky, and the rally/campout schedule is glaring at you from the refrigerator door.

Winter may not be gone, but it is time to think about de-winterizing your Tiffin-built motor home – unless you've been snowbirding somewhere warm for the past three months.

In the December issue of Side Roads, Tiffin service technicians warned that failing to winterize properly can result in a stiff repair bill. The de-winterizing process is vital to your budget and coach, too.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connect water hose to city water connection. | <input type="checkbox"/> Close drain valves and place water valve to city water. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close holding tank gate valves. | <input type="checkbox"/> Close faucets and allow water to fill heater. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place water valve to tank fill and put some water in the tank. | <input type="checkbox"/> Open faucets to allow air to escape. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> With low-point drain valves and pump drain open turn on water pump and flush out antifreeze. | <input type="checkbox"/> Turn on water heater switch and 110 breaker at breaker box. |

Temecula wine country. Amenities include golf, tennis, fishing and trails.

"We will take the first 150 postmarked, complete registrations," Blanke says. "Last year, we had to turn people away, and we sure didn't like to do that."

Registration for two adults is \$179 per coach. That fee also includes three dinners, two breakfasts, entertainment and seminars. LaMesa RV Centers Inc. is the dealer co-sponsor for the rally, offering financial support and displays.

Blanke is hoping to offer the Dick Reed Driving School from Applegate, Cal., and Janet Sadlack, a microwave-convection cooking expert from Burnsville, Minn., but he emphasizes that those attractions are not confirmed.

For a rally application or additional information, contact Blanke at: allegroclub@adelphia.net or call (760) 942-6741.

Tiffin coaches join Natchez Trace celebration

When the Natchez Trace Parkway is completed in May, Tiffin-built motor homes will be there to celebrate, and your coach could be among them.

Allegro Club President Jimmy Johnson

will lead a 90-mile caravan of 5-10 Tiffin coaches from Clinton to Natchez, Miss., representing the "tremendous RV traffic" on the parkway, according to Stennis Young, one of the planners of the National Park Service event, scheduled for May 21.

The 444-mile Natchez Trace Parkway honors the ancient trail used by Choctaw, Chickasaw and other American Indian tribes between the Mississippi River and salt licks in what is now central Tennessee. According to the National Park Service, the trace experienced its heaviest use from 1785 to 1820 as boatmen floated the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to markets in Natchez and New Orleans, sold their boats and returned north on foot to Nashville and points north.

"We are honored to have been invited to participate in such a historic event," says Johnson, who will lead the Tiffin delegation. In addition to the Tiffin coaches, the caravan will include automobiles manufactured since the Natchez Trace Parkway project began in 1938.

If you would like to join the Tiffin caravan, contact Johnson at: allegroclub@tiffinmotorhomes.com or call (256) 356-8522. ■



Chapter Chatter: Next time you pass this way

Restaurants

The **Mid-Tennessee Allegros** recommend calling for reservations before you venture to **Demo's Restaurant**, 1115 NW Broad St. in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The prices, selections and quality of food and service, we are told, are great. The chapter visited **Demo's** in January.

Catfish, everyone? **The Catfish**

with interesting names. In Broadus, Tex., the chapter likes **Catfish Junction** and **The Stump**. We don't have much information on the restaurants, but we can make an educated guess what's on the menu at Catfish Junction. The **Allegro Roadrunners** also favor **Ma Ma's Country Cooking** in Orange, Tex., where the specialty is (what else?) all-you-can-eat catfish.



Members of the **Tennessee Valley Allegros** from Huntsville, Ala., represent the **Allegro Club** at an RV show in Huntsville Jan. 7. They are, from left, Tom Chaffee, Doug Alexander, Kay Alexander, Miriam Chaffee, Yvonne Davis and Hank Davis.

Country Restaurant in South Lakeland, Fla., is the place, according to the **Space Coast Allegros** in Melbourne, Fla. The chapter visited in November, but Catfish Country is on the chapter's permanent favorites list. It's a casual restaurant specializing in (you guessed it) catfish. The meal starts with bowls of coleslaw and fresh onions on the table.

The **Allegro Roadrunners of Southeastern Texas** and Southwest Louisiana has a thing for restaurants

Not too far from Catfish Country in South Lakeland, the **Citrus Allegros of Central Florida** in Orlando tout two restaurants owned or named for Pauls. **Paul's Harbor Side Restaurant** at Adelaide Shores in Avon Park, Fla., captured the chapter's vote in November, then **Paul's Smokehouse** on the Indian River in the Titusville area – described as a lovely eatery at a beautiful location – was a December destination. Let's hope catfish is on the Pauls' menus.

Campgrounds, RV parks & resorts

Would you feel safe at a campground in Cut & Shoot, Tex.? The **Allegro Roadrunners of Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana** recommend the **Country Place RV Park** there as a very nice place to get together, surrounded by shopping malls, flea markets and good eating places. No casualties were reported during the October visit.

If Cut & Shoot sounds risky, perhaps you would prefer Gun Barrel, Tex., where the **Comanche Allegros of Granbury, Tex.**, visited **Lakeridge RV Park** in October. The chapter reports the park was neat as usual and beautifully decorated for Halloween. The Canton Flea Market is within striking distance.

The **Space Coast Allegros** chapter (Melbourne, Fla.) likes **Tropical Palms RV Resort** in Kissimmee, Fla., and **SanLan Ranch RV Resort** in South Lakeland, Fla. Tropical Palms is adjacent to Disney's Celebration Village and the Old Town attraction. The campground has full hookup sites even in the rally area. A recreation room and internet connection are offered, and many nice restaurants are within walking distance in Old Town.

SanLan Ranch has a camping area shaped like a wagon wheel for rallies. The **Space Coast Allegros** backed their coaches into the circle with a shelter and campfire in the center.

Midway RV Park in Centralia, Wash., is an "average size park with a lot of class," say the **Puget Sound Allegros** after an October campout. Centralia is midway between Portland and Seattle. The RV park is a mile west of I-5

near Exit 82. The landscaped park offers concrete pull-through sites with many amenities including a "small but very good" restaurant with prime rib Friday and Saturday nights.

The **Mississippi Allegros** claim **Lake Tiak O'Khata** in Louisville, Miss., as one of the chapter's favorite campout sites because it gives members a break from cooking. The chapter partook of the on-site restaurant's buffet lunch two days and the seafood buffet one evening. A conference room is made available without charge as long as the group has at least one meal a day in the restaurant.

Destination attractions

If you can't make it to Bethlehem or the North Pole, **Fort Christmas**, just 15 minutes from Titusville, Fla., offers a "**Cracker Christmas**" festival in December, the **Citrus Allegros of Central Florida** report. Fort Christmas was established on Dec. 25, 1837 under the command of Brig. Gen. Abraham Eustis during the Second Seminole War. Fort Christmas now has seven vintage buildings, demonstrations of cross saw cutting, blacksmithing, plus old-fashioned home-made apple cider and ice cream. The Cracker Christmas included Native American dancing, food booths, local arts and crafts, fiddle music and face painting.

Cheesemakers, Inc., in Cleveland, Tex., offers tours, and the **Allegro Roadrunners** visited during a campout in nearby Cut & Shoot, Tex., in October. The roasted garlic cilantro was a crowd pleaser. The tour was described as "very interesting."

The **Space Coast Allegros** enjoyed the **Old Town** in Kissimmee, Fla., near the **Tropical Palms RV Resort** where the chapter's October campout was based. Old Town offers small shops, rides and other attractions, including an old car show and parade each weekend. It's a popular place with a constant crowd.

The **Shoreline RV Park** in Long Beach, Calif., as its name suggests, is on

the water. The **Allegro Classy Chassies** visited there in December and report that the park is within walking distance of the Aquarium of the Pacific, Shoreline Village, many fine restaurants and a ride to the Queen Mary.

The **Pipestone RV Campground** in Pipestone, Minn., is within walking distance of the Pipestone National Monument and Parks plus two good historical museums downtown, according



Jerry Dixon uses his vacuum cleaner as a blower for a **Space Coast Allegros** campfire, as Richard Murray watches.

to the **Allegro Adventurers in Southern Minnesota**. Pipestone is a good jumping off place for a visit to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is about 14 miles from **Okefenokee RV Campground**, where the **Florida-Georgia Allegro Ramblers** (Jacksonville area) visited in January. The wildlife refuge has boat tours, a 15-minute movie about the swamp and its history, plus an old homestead. Nearby Folkston has a train tunnel.

Next time you're in the **Garlic Farm RV Park** in Gilroy, Calif., look for the two 8-year-old Native American boys who danced for the **California Allegro Roadrunners** in November.

The **Fall Leaf Cruise on the Southern Belle Riverboat** was a winner in October, reports the **Tennessee Valley Allegros**, Huntsville, Ala. The chapter campout was at **Raccoon RV Park & Campground** in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Coach, travel & camping tips from members

□ A clothespin at the end of gutters helps channel rain away from the motor home.

□ Stick a piece of hook and loop material (commercially known as Velcro) on the top of your gas cap and inside the fuel filler door so that you don't lose your gas cap while fueling.

□ If your generator kicks off, check the reset switch before going for help.

Quirky occurrences

The holiday spirit moved the **Allegro Roadrunners** in December. At the conclusion of a campout at **Double Heart RV Park** in Jasper, Tex., three members left for Red Bay to pick up new motor homes they had ordered.

Jerry Dixon, a member of the **Space Coast Allegros**, wouldn't give up when the campfire he and **Dave Smith** built wouldn't light. During a November chapter campout at **SanLan Ranch RV Resort** in South Lakeland, the guys carefully selected dry logs provided by the resort. Dixon pulled a vacuum cleaner from his coach, hooked it up as a blower and voila. Dixon and his huff-and-puff machine worked so well the fire burned all night.

Jean Parsons of the **Southern Minnesota Allegro Adventurers** has a wonderful observation about her chapter's holiday party: "We dressed up for this event but we still recognized each other even if we weren't in our camping attire."

"Small but chummy" is how the **Citrus Allegros of Central Florida** describe the chapter's November campout at a park in **Adelaide Shores** in Avon Park, Fla. In the wake of considerable hurricane damage, the park arranged for the group to have a covered dish supper at a small, old post office trailer. At least for the campout, the weather was great.

(Continued on page 15)

RVDA Dealer Satisfaction Index

Tiffin Motorhomes dealers like the quality, service, warranties, policies and accessibility of management. Their votes of confidence have given Tiffin a coveted Quality Circle Award from the Recreational Vehicle Dealers Association (RVDA).

The 2004 Quality Circle Award is the sixth in the eight years the RVDA has provided the recognition, based on the RVDA's Dealer Satisfaction Index.

The Dealer Quality Index measures dealer satisfaction in 21 criteria, including innovative product design, competitive product quality, aggressive sales promotions, understanding of dealer operations, quality parts ordering/tracking/delivery and product valuable to dealer success. The RVDA recognized 36 manufacturers that were rated in the top 50 percent of each category. Only

“Quality of product, accessibility of management and the ability to listen to dealers instead of fight them makes all the difference...”

eight manufacturers were honored with Quality Circle Awards for overall ratings of 80 percent or higher. Manufacturers must receive at least 15 ratings from dealers to be considered. The 2004 survey represented 1,818 evaluations from 503 dealers.

Tiffin Motorhomes, which has 89 dealers in North America, led all other RV manufacturers in four Dealer Satisfaction Index criteria and ranked second or third in 14 other criteria. Tiffin's average dealer



Bob and Tim Tiffin proudly display the 2004 RVDA Quality Circle Award which recognizes superior dealer satisfaction.

rating for all 21 criteria was 87.9 percent.

Bob Tiffin, CEO and president of the operation he founded in 1972, wasted no time after receiving the RVDA recognition to set another goal.

“I just talked with sales, product, service and parts managers and told them we have a year to do it again, exactly the same,” Tiffin said. “This award means that we are continuing our good relations with dealers.”

Asked about Tiffin's lowest rating in the Dealer Satisfaction Index, measuring “aggressive sales promotions,” Tiffin chuckled.

“I wish we'd fallen plumb off the scale on that one,” he said. “One of our top ratings was for ‘product valuable for dealership's success.’ When you have a quality product and exceptional service after the sale, you don't need to offer discounts to sell motor homes.”

Dealers are quick to explain why Tiffin Motorhomes receives such high marks. “They do what they say they will do, they take care of customers no matter

what, and they build absolutely the best coach out there for the money,” said Bob Upton, senior vice president of sales for LaMesa RV, which has locations in five western states. LaMesa, which carries an inventory of 1,800 new and used RVs, making it one of the largest RV companies in the world, opened in San Diego in 1972.

John Gajewski, sales manager of Kings Campers in Wausau, Wis., said, “Access to upper management is the best thing they have going for them. People know it's going to be taken care of if there is a problem.”

The Gajewski family has been in the RV business since 1969. Kings Campers opened in 1990 and became a Tiffin dealership in 1995.

“Quality of product, accessibility of management and the ability to listen to dealers instead of fight them makes all the difference,” Gajewski said. ■

From the driver's seat

(Continued from Page 2)

That may sound a bit cold, but that is certainly not my intent. The Allegro Club exists, as our Notice of Responsibility on the right side of page 2 notes, “for your pleasure and enjoyment.” While the Allegro Club is a business, it is a business dedicated to good times, maximizing your substantial investments in Tiffin-built motor homes.

And speaking of good times and member input, your comments are leading us toward continuing improvements in your club and newsletter.

Several of you requested coverage of after-market products, a question-and-answer feature and/or a technical information column from the plant. We are working on those great ideas as well as some feature story suggestions and clever tips for happy coaching.

A member noted the discontinuation of listings of ill or deceased Allegro Club members. As a child, I remember hearing the local radio station broadcast the daily list of who was admitted to the hospital. The newspaper ran the same list. At a recent meeting with my counterparts from other motor home manufacturers, we discussed how times – and policies – have changed. Privacy regulations impact newsletters like ours. Even obituary notices in newspapers require specific family approval.

Another member expressed disappointment that a golf rally has not been offered. We tentatively scheduled golf rallies for fall 2004 and early spring 2005, but both were cancelled – the first for extremely low registration; the second for schedule and cost issues. Maybe our golfers can make those connections individually or we can list golf as an option at rallies.

We will keep inviting you to provide feedback and look for ways to implement your suggestions. Thanks again for telling us what's on your mind.

Let me close with one more comment from a couple on the verge of not renewing their membership.

“After reading online about a change of guard and learning that new and exciting things were about to take place, we decided to take a wait and see attitude. Now, we have a wonderful newsletter in a much nicer format. The 2005 rallies sound very nice and affordable. The overall atmosphere surrounding the club seems to be fresh and new. We are hoping for some improved benefits to membership beyond the deals offered now. Pleased with what we now see, we intend to renew our membership.”

Again, thanks for your confidence. Keep the feedback flowing.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Johnson".

Jimmy Johnson
Allegro Club President
Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc.

Chapter Chatter

(Continued from page 13)

A foghorn, coyotes howling, geese honking, crows cawing and laughter. No, this is not a sound effects convention. The **California Allegro Roadrunners** tell us this is what they heard during their December campout. Funny... The chapter doesn't tell us where it was.

Margie Ann Hoffman's report of the November dinner meeting of the **Allegros in the Heart of Georgia** (Macon) needs no embellishment. “**The Red Lobster** in Perry, Ga., was not very convenient for us to conduct a meeting. The men were at one table and the ladies were at another. So, we voted to dispense with a meeting.”

Members of the **Chesapeake Allegros** proudly report that they “caused a sensation” in December at a hotel in Grantville, Pa., when they sported their new holiday fashion statements – reindeer sweatshirts. One of the surprised hotel guests was **Brig. Gen. Paul Tibbets**, USAF-Retired, pilot of the Enola Gay, the B-29 that dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945. ■

Interested in starting an Allegro Club chapter in your area?

Contact us for help at:
allegroclub@tiffinmotorhomes.com
or 256-356-8522.