



# Granite Staters

A chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

The Granite Staters chapter of Family Motorcoach Association (FMCA) was organized during an FMCA Northeast Area rally at Hamburg, New York, July 7, 1995. Of the 40 recognized Charter Members from all six of the New England states at that organizational meeting, six are still active. Later, following the first rally of the new chapter, more new members were reported, which, with additional chanter members who did not attend the Hamburg rally, brought the



Social Hour at the Birthday Bash

total chapter membership to more than 100 member coaches. That first Granite Staters rally took place at the Sandwich, New Hampshire, Fairgrounds in September, 1995. Now known as the "Birthday Bash," the September rally is the annual meeting for the chapter.

Rallies are the Chapter's main focus of activity. A rally is a get together where members arrive with their motorhomes for three or more days of socializing, games, and meals, A rally always includes an afternoon Social Hour with members bringing their own

beverage and an appetizer to share with others. (Alcoholic beverages are not required, but are most defiantly not prohibited!) Early on, a rally planner defined a rally thusly:

A typical Rally includes:

Saturday and Sunday morning coffee, tea, cocoa, and pastries (bring your own beverage cup)

Friday and Saturday 4pm Social Hour with shared snacks (bring a beverage and a chair and something to share)

Occasional Saturday evening dinner. This could be a potluck, a catered meal or a restaurant dinner

There is usually an event or sightseeing in the area of a rally

The most important part of the weekend is FRIENDSHIP and FELLOWSHIP

Volunteer hosts pick a rally site, oftentimes a local campground, but just as likely another venue such as a balloon festival, a fraternal club or lodge, or even a restaurant's parking lot. A host, representing one member-coach, may share responsibilities with a co-host, and may enlist volunteer help for parking, food preparation, serving, and other duties. The paragraph above pretty much defines host and co-host duties.

We typically have one rally per month from May to October with a Florida "Granite Gators" rally in April, and we would love to have you attend one. Come spend a weekend with us to see if our rally "life" is appealing. We feel that our warm, comfortable, and relaxed style of gathering with a "take a little time to enjoy" theme, is just what a lot of RVer's want - - - a weekend break with friends and fellowship. We also have a winter gathering in January at a local restaurant for those members who brave the New England weather and don't migrate south. Contact the Chapter's membership chairman, listed below, or any member. We will then send you all information necessary for joining or attending. If you are an RVer, but not a motorhome owner, we welcome you to attend a Chapter Rally with a member of the Granite Staters. We look forward to extending membership invitations to towable RV owners in the future.

John Violette, a past president of the Granite Staters and current membership chairman, recently offered this testimonial to explain what his membership means to him"

"Several years ago Don Eversman, who was then the FMCA executive director, wrote in his column in the Family Motor Coaching magazine that if you were an FMCA member who did not belong to a chapter you were missing out on a lot of things. He encouraged people to join a chapter, go to rallies, and get involved with other FMCA members at the local level.

"I took his advice and joined the N.H. Granite Staters which was one of the best decisions I have made. Today some of my best friends are members of this chapter simply because we share the same interest which is motorhoming. We have been to rallies together, enjoyed each others company at happy hour, dinner and game time. Many have been on extended trips together. We have also shared tips in the care and maintenance of our motorhomes and in many instances have helped each other work through problems."

John Violette can be contacted at (603) 512-4292 or [johninbow@gmail.com](mailto:johninbow@gmail.com).

Please use the "Back" button to return to the home page where you will find links to Chapter information, officer/appointee positions, a list of upcoming rallies, and a membership application form.

"Wherever We Go, We Have Fun!"