

Winter 2011

Special points of interest:

- 2012 Rally
- Membership Dues
- Election Results

Officers**President:****Gene Richardson****(H) 770-995-7322**

gene940@msn.com

Vice-President:**Randy Palmer****(H) 618-993-2564**

jpalmer48@frontier.com

Treasurer:**Jeri Palmer****(C) 618-727-2564**

jpalmer48@frontier.com

Secretary:**Sue Steverson****618-593-8325**

sue58@earthlink.net

Web Manager:**Vacant****Editor & Historian:****Carol Little****(H) 410-676-6199**

soaeditor@live.com

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ClassyWheels

From the President's Desk

Fall with her beautiful colors of red, yellow, purple, orange and brown, against the many shades of evergreens, combined with cool temperatures makes this my favorite season of the year. Add the Holidays and it just doesn't get much better than this.

Who can resist watching the children prepare for Halloween. They dress in costumes of their choosing, and scurry off as darkness falls to gather their goodies, and perhaps scare a few of us.

Next is Thanksgiving, a time for gathering with family and friends. We fest on turkeys, hams, and a vast variety of great side dishes and deserts, more than we can eat. Good news, leftovers are great the next day.

We must never forget why we celebrate Thanksgiving:

I am thankful to our founding fathers, who with divine intervention wrote the Constitution of The United States of America, a foundation on which our great country was built and thrives.

I am thankful for the government leaders who put country before self, despite overwhelming odds.

I am thankful to the entrepreneurs who risk fame and fortune to pro-



duce commodities, provide services and jobs for most of us.

I am thankful to our families and friends, who stick by us during tough times and good.

I am especially thankful to our troops and veterans, who put everything on the line, that we may live free and enjoy the fruits of our labors. Unfortunately, too

many have paid the ultimate price, for you and me.

And last, but most important, I am thankful to GOD for creation, salvation, love and forgiveness.

Yes, despite our countries many faults, we are still free and the envy of most of the world, We have much to be thankful for, every single day.

“Positions to be filled during the 2012 election are President, Secretary and Member Representative.”

Web Manager is also needed.

Rally Master needed for our 2013 Rally.



From the President (Continued)

Beth and I sincerely hope each of you have enjoyed your travels this past year and have great plans for 2012. Perhaps we will see each other on the road somewhere.

Lets all help the ClassyWheels editor by giving her an article of your travels, thoughts, wishes and suggestions.

Now, about your Club.....

The President needs three volunteers for the nominating committee. Next years elections are for President, Secretary, and Member Representative. Each position is elected for a two year term. Please volunteer for the election committee and for an Officer position. Thanks to those that volunteered this year for the nominating committee and Officer positions.

This is the time of year to renew your membership. If your membership expires in December of 2011, please mail your check, along with an application to update your information to the Treasurer. Those of you that are Life Members, or have paid beyond 2011, disregard this notice, except please prepare an application to update your information, even though nothing may have changed, for the Treasurer to verify membership info. Not sure of your expiration date, email the Treasurer to determine your date. Remember, Club dues are due by January 1 each year.

We are in need for a Rally Master for 2013. Invite us to a special place you enjoy. Everyone thinks Rally preparation is a great task, but it really isn't. Any of us will be glad to help. The worst part is finding a suitable location that can accept our big rigs. From there, it is a "piece of cake".

I would like to see interest in our website. Go to www.sportchassisowners.com to

post questions or comments. This is a great tool we have and are not taking advantage of the asset. If you are having trouble navigating the site, please let me know and I will try to get you help.

Beth and I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a wonderful Christmas Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Editor's Note: My apologies to Gene and the SOAI members for not getting the newsletter out before now. As you can see from Gene's column, he had his input to me in November.



In Period Costume on the Battlefield



Couple who were staying at Gettysburg CG

Treasurer

I would like to congratulate Jeri Palmer on her election to the position of Treasurer of SOAI. I hope that the system that I have put into place will make the transition from me to her a smooth one. I also hope that Jeri finds it an easy system to work with. Both Gwen and I have had days when we wanted to pull out our hair, but we also had many days when we felt a real sense of accomplishment. The books are in order and a system is in place to make it easier for others to take over the position of Treasurer. We

both also feel good about stepping up to help our club. It is work, but it is also satisfying and enjoyable and it provides an avenue to get to know more members of our great club. I want to thank those members who stepped up and agreed to run for office. And, I want to congratulate those newly elected. Good luck to all of you. Both Gwen and I hope we get to see you down the road!

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Warm Regards,

Jack and Gwen Birchall



Outgoing Treasurer Jack Birchall & Gwen

Secretary

On September 11, 2011, SOAI Members Jack and Gwen Birchall, Gene and Beth Richardson, and Steve and Joyce Bates met in Conyers Georgia. The ballots received for the election of officers for the 2012-2013 term were tallied. I am pleased to announce that the following SOAI members were elected:

Vice President - Randy Palmer

Treasurer - Jeri Palmer

Member at Large 2 - Marv Oetjen

The following SOAI members will remain on the board for the remainder of their 2010-2012 term:

President - Gene Richardson

Secretary - Sue Steverson

Member at Large 1 - Dottie Kappers

Also counted were the ballots cast concerning the proposed changes to the SOAI By-Laws. The proposed change to Article V, new section 5.2 was unanimously approved.

Both Lee and I had a rather busy year. Not busy travelling around the country like we would have liked, but rather busy with doctor appointments. We are both hopeful that our health issues are behind us and want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers. We did have some enjoyable times with our family in 2011 but we are really looking forward to doing some travelling and hopefully seeing many of you in 2012. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Safe Travels,



SOA Website



Congratulations to Joleen Hart and family on the recent marriage of her daughter. Best wishes from our ClassyWheels Family to the bride and groom on a long and happy marriage.

Due to business and family commitments, Joleen has had to resign as our Web Manager. If you would be interested in taking on this position for the club, please either phone or send an email to Gene Richardson. Your help will be appreciated by the membership.

Recommended Restaurants, Campgrounds or Service Centers

Beverly Havens came up with a terrific idea that she put into action at the Rally. In order to be eligible to win one of the Rally door prizes, each individual had to write out a paper with information on a favorite campground or restaurant. So, thanks to Beverly, I will have input for this section in the next several editions of our newsletter. However, I still encourage you to submit your input. Don't forget, you can also send input on places other members should avoid. I feel sure other SOAI members would appreciate your views. Sorry, but the information is still in our camper which remains locked and covered in our driveway. Hopefully I will get it out for the next issue! *Editor Note: It is now December. The summer hurricane ripped the cover off our camper and Bob and I replaced it with a new cover. But, I did not remember to go in the camper to get the information on campgrounds and restaurants. Sorry! Who said Hearing is the first to go? P.S. I'm also losing my hearing! I guess memory and hearing loss go together!*



Get well wishes are extended to any and all members who might be "under the weather". I know both Jim and Jo Mitchell have had some rough times over the past year and ask that you keep them in your prayers. We sure want Jim's arm and shoulder better so he can drive the rig cross country to be with us in Gettysburg! That goes for Lee and Sue Steverson as well!

View of the back of the Rec Hall and a few of the sites reserved for our rally at Gettysburg Campground.



Cottages available to rent at Gettysburg Campground.



From the Editor

It is with sincere sadness that I inform you of the recent passing of Paul Peterson. Paul and his wife Betty were two of the original members of our club and Betty was our Historian for a period of time. Louise Gibson was thoughtful enough to give me the news of Paul's passing. Louise and her husband Loren have many fond memories of Paul and Betty. They met Paul at the very first Cabriolet rally in Indiana. Betty was the historian and Paul was her sidekick. A few years later, when tragedy struck Louise and Loren at a rally in Wisconsin, Paul was right there to help them and Betty kept Louise on the track to sanity. Louise said she really did not know what they would have done without the calming effect of Paul. I'm sure many of you also have fond memories of Paul. On behalf of all SOAI members, I would like to express our most sincere condolences to Betty and her family.

Many of you will remember Bev and Stan Winters. While attending our rally in Cody, they fell in love with the area. So much so that they bought property and contracted to have a home built just south of town. Bev let me share in the process of building their new home by sending me emails with pictures of the progress on the house. I shared the photos with my son and his wife. Well, my son and his wife moved from Allentown, PA to Colstrip, Montana last June. About a week ago, they took a weekend vacation and called me from Cody. I gave them Stan and Bev's number and they were able to go visit Stan and Bev and see their lovely Wyoming home. Stan and Bev have suffered through some serious health issues over the past 3 years but they seem to be on the mend. Unfortunately, Stan's throat cancer resulted in several surgeries so he now speaks through a voice box. Keith and Kim said they did not have any problem understanding Stan and that they had a lovely visit. Keith said they plan on going back for another visit because Bev promised him that he could ride her mule! The four-legged one, not Stan!

We made another trip up to Gettysburg on November 18th to finalize the dates for our rally and to pick out the campsites. I cannot finalize the total cost of the rally until sometime in January or February. Neither the campground nor the tour bus

companies will have their prices and 2012 contracts finalized before then. I think you will be very happy with the campground that we selected. However, you must realize that this area of the country is a very popular tourist area. There are several campgrounds in the southern PA area but many of them are old, not well maintained, and small or tight making it hard to maneuver a big rig. They all charge what many of you will feel are very high rates and a lot of them stay booked for the entire summer season. I reserved 20 sites for our rally. The 19 sites (minus one for me and Bob) will be assigned on a first-come and paid basis. This is not a rally where you will be able to wait until the last minute to make up your mind about attending. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to get more sites at a later date. If you would like to come early, or stay beyond our reservation dates, you will have to make your reservations directly with the campground. I strongly recommend that you call and make reservations as soon as possible. If you get a recording, leave a message and someone will return your call. The campground will offer a 10% discount for the portion of your stay outside the dates of the rally if you are a AAA or Good Sam Member. Also, if for some reason you cannot drive your rig, cabins are available to rent.

I will put out a newsletter with the final cost and more details of what will be included in the rally once I sign contracts with the campground and bus companies. We are looking forward to seeing old friends once again and also hope we see some new faces.

The campground website is:
www.gettysburgcampground.com

I would like to say a special thank you to Rob Canet for the article he wrote for this edition!

Bob and I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Fondly, Carol



View of some of our reserved sites.

SPORTCHASSIS OWNER'S ASSOCIATION, International

10th ANNUAL RALLY

September 24th - September 27th 2012

Rally Masters: Carol and Bob Little

Carol's Cell Phones: AT&T: 443-910-3131 Verizon: 443-987-1774

Location:

Gettysburg Campground

2030 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Phone: 717-334-3304

Reservations Only Phone: 888-879-2241

RESERVATION DEADLINE: To Be Determined

COST: To Be Determined

Rig & 2 People -

Rig & 1 Person -

Extra Person -

Arrive on 24 Sep and Depart on 28 Sep 2012. Make reservations directly with the campground if you want to come early or stay late. Campground will offer a 10% discount to AAA or Good Sam Members.

Fee Includes: Four nights camping with full hook-ups. Bus trip through the Gettysburg National Battlefield. Bus trip to our Nation's capitol, Washington, D.C. with a stop for a smorgasbord dinner on the way back to the campground.

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

SportChassis Owner's Association International

Attn: Rally Registration

C/O Jeri Palmer

113 N. 5th

Marion, IL 62959-4708

SportChassis Owners Association International, Inc **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

ALL APPLICANTS:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Spouse Name: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

RENEWALS:

- One Calendar Year \$25.00 USD
- Three Calendar Years \$70.00 USD

Note: All renewals expire on December 31. No Prorating
Remember that all renewals must be paid on or before January 31.

NEW APPLICANTS ONLY:

Membership in the *SportChassis Owners Association International, Inc.*, is limited to owners of tow vehicles manufactured by Freightliner Specialty Vehicles, Inc., Clinton, OK, or by Cabriolet, Constantine, MI. I am the owner of the following SportChassis/Cabriolet tow vehicle.

Year: _____ Model: _____ VIN: _____

- January-May \$35.00 USD Expires December 31 of Current Year
- June-September \$30.00 USD Expires December 31 of Current Year
- October-December \$40.00 USD Expires December 31 of Following Year

Note: All first year dues include \$10.00 USD one time processing fee.

Please make checks or money orders payable in USD to SOAI.

Please send checks/money orders and completed forms to: SOAI
C/O: Jeri Palmer
113 N. 5th
Marion, IL 62959-4708

2012 RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

PRINT OR TYPE

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

TRUCK VIN # _____ MODEL _____ YEAR _____

(For SportChassis Information)

OTHER ATTENDEES:

NAME: _____ NAME: _____

NAME: _____ NAME: _____

NUMBER IN PARTY: ADULTS _____ CHILDREN _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ CHECK # _____

**Volunteer to Help _____ Please call Gene Richardson —770-995-7322 or 404-272-1197 or Email him:
gene940@msn.com

Handicap Consideration Required _____ (Yes or No)

I understand that neither Freightliner Specialty Vehicles, Inc., The SportChassis Owners Association International, or its Club Officers assumes responsibility directly or indirectly for use or operation of vehicle or RV going to, or from, or during the rally; for losses involving personal belongings, vehicle or RV due to any cause whatsoever, or for injury to persons within or without the rally; or for damage of any kind.

NOTE: *All adult members & their guests must sign and in doing so, assume ALL responsibility for all minors in their care.*

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Mail Completed Form to:

SOA

C/O Jeri Palmer

113 N. 5th

Marion, IL 62959-4708

HOW TO REPAIR THE REAR STORAGE BOXES ON A SPORTCHASSIS (FREIGHTLINER)

Rob Canet

Some of you have a truck with rear storage boxes either exactly the same or similar to mine. I kept noticing that the rags in the right rear storage box on my 2007 SportChassis seemed to stay damp for some reason, and blamed the door seal as the problem. One day I finally removed the rags, heavy-duty jack, heavy-duty hitch, and all of the other stuff in the box. I could then see the pavement below the box on either corner. It seems that the aluminum used in the construction of these boxes is too thin to carry heavy articles while encountering the rough road we travel without damage, and had broken the thin weld on either side.

I contacted Robbye Brown at the SportChassis factory in Clinton, Oklahoma, and found out they already had a solution for the problem. It is four heavy-gauge aluminum "L" brackets cut to the exact length of bottom sides of each box. You use two for each box, and receive the needed bolts, washers, and locknuts for the repair.

NOTE: Even if you have not had this problem occur, I would highly recommend that you do this procedure as "preventative maintenance". It's much easier to work with straight rather than bowed aluminum.

Following are the needed tools/supplies to repair the boxes:

- Safety gloves (I did better without them, but they can keep your hands safe)
- Safety glasses
- 90-degree drill adaptor
- 7/16" socket with 3/8" drive
- 7/16" combination drive
- 1/2" electric or battery-driven drill
- 5/32" pilot drill bit
- 1/4" main drill bit
- Extension cord for electric drill
- Metal file (may be needed to dress sharp edges on the aluminum brackets)
- Wet/dry vacuum, or broom and dustpan for cleaning up the shavings
- Silicon for the inside or outside of the storage boxes (your choice)
- Hydraulic jack (I used a 12-ton, but a much smaller tonnage jack should suffice)
- Two 1-foot pieces of 4"x4" wood for a solid base
- Two 1-foot pieces of 2"x4" wood for the support between the base and jack

Please note that the support pieces may change according to your particular needs, the main thing to remember is **SAFETY!**

Do one box at a time. I like to do the harder part first, so I did the repair on the front part of the box. Also, left-handers may prefer to do the procedure on one box versus the other first. **Caution: These bolts are stainless steel, I believe, but you can twist the bolt and break it if you use too much pressure on it. I know because I did it.**

Following is the procedure to repair the boxes:

Unload all items from the boxes.

Clean the interior of the boxes, and you might clean the exterior where the repairs will be made.

Move the wood blocks into position, with the bigger one being the base

Carefully place the jack of top of the blocks. It is heavy, and will hurt your hand if it falls off the blocks and hits it.

Square off the bracket with the box by touch.

Pump up the jack very carefully until the bracket just touches the box, and then check for alignment.

Some of you may choose to put some silicon between the storage box and bracket to prevent leaks. I believe I ran a bead inside the boxes after the repairs, and I don't recall having any leak problems since I made these repairs.

Pump up the jack where the aluminum bracket will not move. Otherwise, the force of the drill may move the bracket from its position, thus giving a poor alignment for the bolt to pass through.

Drill rear hole in the cabinet first (farthest away from you), and work back toward you (it's easier). This is where a small drill and the 90-degree drill adaptor work great.

I vacuum each hole as I drill it. That way you don't have a bunch of metal shavings poking your hands as your work.

Put a washer on a bolt and insert it through the storage box wall.

Place a washer on the bolt end protruding through the aluminum bracket, and then place a locknut on the bolt end.

Use your 3/8" ratchet with 7/16" socket inside the box, while holding the locknut with the 7/16" combination wrench. **(REMEMBER TO NOT OVERTIGHTEN THE BOLT)** Also, this may require a second person if you have short arms.

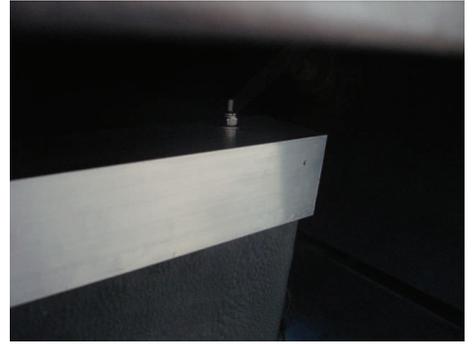
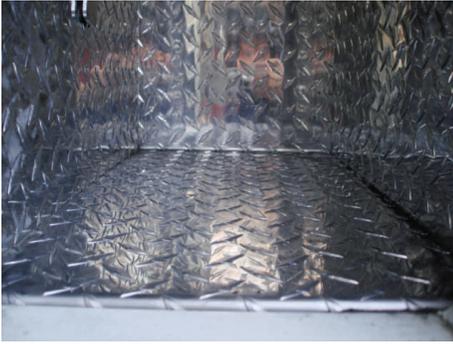
Repeat the procedure for the remaining holes.

Repeat the entire procedure for the remaining storage box.

Clean up and admire your work.

Reload your items into each box.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Rob for taking the time to write up these instructions and providing them to me for inclusion on our newsletter. I'm sure many of you will appreciate his efforts.



The pictures shown above were submitted by Rob Canet. He provided them to help you better understand what he was talking about in the previous article.



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