

# NEWS LETTER


## DECEMBER 1976

EDWARD A. MARTIN  
 REPORTER-EDITOR

You're in good hands  
 with **ULTRA MOTOR COACH CLUBS, INC.**

ONCE AGAIN, IN THIS WONDERFUL AND BELOVED COUNTRY OF OURS, WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR. ON THIS, THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CLUB LET US CHERISH THE MEMORIES OF PAST RALLIES AND FERVENTLY HOPE FOR MANY MORE. LET US THANKFULLY RECALL ALL THE MANY PRECIOUS FRIENDSHIPS WE HAVE MADE. AND, LET US PAUSE WITH TENDER THOUGHTS, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELED ON, TO THE GREAT BEYOND, IN THEIR SILENT ULTRAVANS.

THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE ULTRA MOTOR COACH CLUBS WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND THE STRENGTH TO FACE THE COMING NEW YEAR.

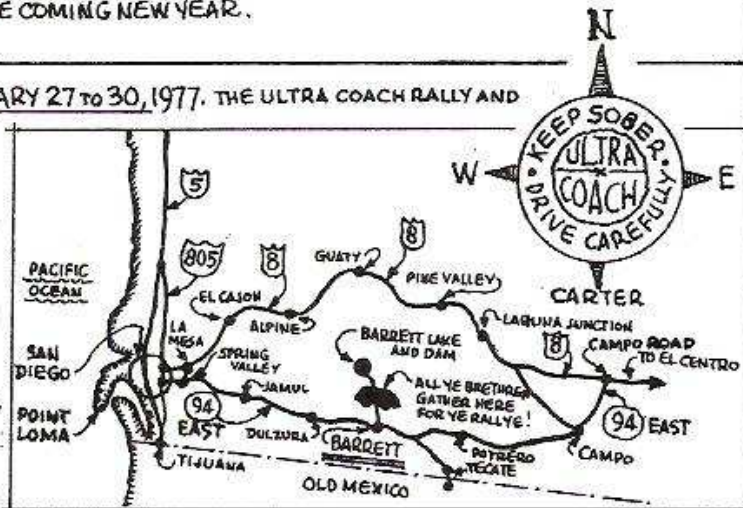
 RALLY SAN DIEGO. DATES - JANUARY 27 TO 30, 1977. THE ULTRA COACH RALLY AND FIESTA WILL BE HELD AT WADDEL'S

BARRETT LAKE TRAILER PARK.

LOCATION: 30 MILES EAST OF SAN DIEGO ON HWY 94 EAST. GO TO BARRETT CAFE, AT BARRETT JUNCTION, THEN TURN NORTH ABOUT ONE MILE TO TRAILER PARK.

IF YOU ARE COMING FROM THE EAST ON HWY 8, TURN OFF ON HWY 94 AT CAMPO ROAD.

SEE MAP. IF YOU GET LOST, GIVE US A CALL ON CB. WE'LL BE MONITORING CHANNEL 15.



FACILITIES: SOME ELECTRICAL AND WATER HOOKUPS, DUMP STATION, STORE (6 MILES), REST ROOMS, HOT SHOWERS, SWIMMING POOL, VOLLEYBALL, HORSE SHOES, RECREATION HALL, RIFLE RANGE (22 CAL. ONLY).

PRICE: \$4.00 PER COUPLE. 50¢ MORE, PER DAY, FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON. IF LESS THAN 35 COACHES, THE CHARGE WILL BE \$4.50 PER DAY. SO, ALL YOU GUYS AND GALS, SHAKE YOUR GRATES, FIRE UP YOUR COACHES, GET OFF YOUR FAT POCKETBOOKS - WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR, AT LEAST, 100 ULTRA COACHES FOR THIS RALLY. A SPECIAL INVITATION GOES OUT TO OUR EMU FRIENDS. WE PROMISE YOU GOOD WEATHER AND A WARM WELCOME. ATTRACTIONS: TECATE, IN OLD MEXICO, 6 MILES. FARMER'S MARKET AT TECATE ON SATURDAY.



## MICHIGAN RALLY REPORT. THE EMU/WMU NATIONAL RALLY WAS HELD AT THE KRANTZ

HOMESTEAD ON THE LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER. THIS WAS ONE RALLY WHICH NONE OF US SHOULD HAVE MISSED. CIRCUMSTANCES AND DISTANCE STEPPED IN TO PREVENT MANY OF US WMUs FROM ATTENDING. GUS AND NEVA BRINING, AND OTHERS, WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO FILL US IN ON THE ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVITIES. A TOTAL OF 38 ULTRA COACHES WERE THERE: 7 FROM MICHIGAN, 6 CALIFORNIA, 5 OHIO, 3 EACH FROM FLORIDA, OREGON, 2 EACH FROM INDIANA, NEW YORK, WISCONSIN, ONE EACH FROM ILLINOIS, CONNECTICUT, ALABAMA, NEW MEXICO, KENTUCKY, IOWA, MINNESOTA AND CANADA. THIS WAS A PRETTY GOOD REPRESENTATION. FORMER PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF THE CLUB, ERNEST NEWHOUSE, PRESIDED AT THE DIRECTOR'S AND GENERAL MEETINGS IN THE ABSENCE PRESIDENT WILLO NIELSEN AND VICE PRESIDENT AL LYLES. ELGA AND HILDA GREEN TRAVELED THE FARTHEST DISTANCE, FROM TORRANCE, CALIF. DR. FEARING, ASHLAND, KENTUCKY WAS THE OLDEST MEMBER PRESENT AND NEW EMU MEMBERS, MARK AND STANTON, THE YOUNGEST. PAST PRESIDENTS WHO WERE PRESENT, WERE INTRODUCED, NAMELY, MECH MECHEM AND LEN RYERSON. AND HERE, WE MUST REPORT THAT OUR FIRST PRESIDENT, MERRITT WEMPLE, PASSED AWAY AT HIS HOME IN HEMET, CALIF. A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER WAS HELD IN HIS MEMORY. OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO RUTHA, HIS LIFELONG WIFE AND HELP MATE. HAPPY TRAVELS, MERRITT. WE WILL ALL MISS YOU.

EDY RYERSON, AS USUAL, BUSIED HERSELF ARRANGING THE SMORGASBORD AND AFTER THE FEAST, CHANCE FITZGERALD TREATED EVERYONE TO A VIOLIN CONCERT. MARGARET FITZGERALD GAVE A TALK ON PLANTS PECULIAR TO ALABAMA. TOM SHEPHERD GAVE A DISSERTATION ON MUSHROOMS, WHAT KIND OF A BEER IS THAT, TOM? TIME AND SPACE DOES NOT ALLOW A FULL REPORT ON ALL THE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED ENJOYED THE BEAUTIFUL FALL SCENERY, THE WEATHER, THE NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES AND THE GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY OF OUR HOSTS, GEORGE & VIOLETTE KRANTZ. THIS TENTH ANNIVERSARY RALLY OF OURS WAS VERY FITTING IN THAT IT BROUGHT MANY EMUs AND WMUs TOGETHER. IN THE WORDS OF DON RICHARDS, "WE OF THE EAST, DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND INFECTIOUS SPIRIT SHOWN US IN GETTING US STARTED AND KEEPING US GOING THROUGH OUR 'LEAN YEARS', BUT EACH OF OUR RALLIES TENDS TO GET LARGER AND AS WE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER, DEEPER IN CAMERADERIE." DON ALSO SAYS, "IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT OUR DRIVEWAY IS ALWAYS OPEN TO ANY ULTRA COACH OWNER GOING BY, TO PARK OVERNIGHT OR WHATEVER. WE LIVE SECLUDED, SO OUR YARD IS AS GOOD AS ANY CAMPGROUND YOU'D HAVE TO PAY FOR." DOCTOR DON & ESTELLA RICHARDS' ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER ARE IN THE DIRECTORY. THANKS, DON, SOME OF US MAY JUST TAKE YOU UP. WE WANT TO THANK DON RICHARDS, NEVA BRINING, DOC FEARING AND OTHERS FOR THEIR DETAILED REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR EMU PALISADES CAMP GROUND, KY. RALLY AND THE WINDSOR, ONTARIO RALLY. WE WISH THAT WE COULD PUBLISH EVERY WORD, EVERY PAGE OF THOSE SWELL REPORTS. SINCE WE CANNOT DO THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME, WE WILL PUT THESE REPORTS UP ON OUR BULLITEN BOARD DURING OUR SAN DIEGO RALLY SO THAT ALL US WMUs CAN SEE THAT EMUs CAN HAVE A GOOD TIME TOO!



EXPLODED ULTRA VAN! SOMEONE HAS WRITTEN A VERY TASTLESS GUEST EDITORIAL CALLED "EXPLODING THE ULTRA VAN LEGEND". IT APPEARS ON PAGE 31 OF THE JANUARY, 1977 ISSUE OF MOTORHOME LIFE & CAMPER COACHMAN MAGAZINE. YOUR REPORTER HAS ALREADY SENT IN HIS REPLY, SO HAVE MANY OTHERS. WE URGE ALL CLUB MEMBERS TO WRITE TO THE EDITOR, BILL ESTES, OF MHL/CC EXPRESSING THEIR OPINIONS - PRO OR CON!

SAN DIEGO ATTRACTIONS: SEA WORLD, ZOO, WILD ANIMAL PARK, BALBOA PARK EXHIBITS, MUSEUMS, BAY CROISES, POINT LOMA LIGHTHOUSE (SEE GRAY WHALE MIGRATION), MISSION BAY, SHELTER ISLAND, OLD TOWN, PLUS MANY MORE, ALL IN THE SAN DIEGO AREA. SPECIAL ATTRACTION: FRED (CORVAIR) LEARY HAS PROMISED THAT HE WILL BE THERE TO SHOW US HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF OUR ENGINES AND COACHES. NIGHT OUT: FRIDAY, JAN. 28<sup>TH</sup>. DINNER AT THE BARRETT CAFE. TIME: 5:30 PM. FAMOUS FISH FRY SERVED FAMILY STYLE - ALL YOU CAN EAT! ICELANDIC COD, HUSH PUPPIES, SALAD, REFRIED BEANS, WHOLE GRAIN RICE. PRICE OF DINNER: \$4.50, TAX AND TIP INCLUDED. LARGE SELECTION FROM THE MENU, FOR YOU MEAT EATERS, IF FISH IS NOT YOUR DISH. WHAT TO BRING: FOR GOODNESS SAKE, DON'T FORGET TO BRING PLENTY OF "REINFORCEMENTS" FOR THE HAPPY HOURS. YOUR REPORTER IS PARTIAL TO SCOTCH, BUT HE WILL STOOD DOWN TO VODKA IF NOTHING ELSE IS AVAILABLE. OH YES, ALSO BRING FOOD FOR THE SATURDAY NIGHT BARBECUE. BRING YOUR MEAT, A SALAD OR DESERT FOR POT LUCK. THE CLUB WILL FURNISH BREAD, BUTTER AND COFFEE. ALSO, BRING CHARCOAL AND A COUPLE OF STICKS TO RUB TOGETHER FOR A FIRE. IMPORTANT NOTICE. ACT ON THIS BEFORE YOU FORGET: PLEASE SEND A CARD (A 9¢ POSTAL CARD WILL DO) IF YOU PLAN TO COME. ALSO STATE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE DINNER ON FRIDAY NIGHT. STATE HOW MANY DINNERS. MAIL CARD TO: P. W. DONALDSON, ESQ.



6730 NORTH ELMAN STREET

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 92111 DO IT NOW!



P. W. & EVELYN DONALDSON AND HENRY & DOROTHY YAKEL WORKED VERY HARD TO OBTAIN THIS RALLY SITE FOR US. IT WAS NOT EASY. THEY CONTACTED DOZENS OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS BUT NONE OF THEM WANTED TO ENTERTAIN GROUPS. DUE TO THE FACT, NO DOUBT, THAT MANY GROUPS CAUSE MORE DAMAGE AND UPDRAR THAN THEY ARE WORTH. WE KNOW THAT OUR CLUB DOES NOT COME UNDER THIS HEADING. THANKS TO OUR HOSTS, THE DONALDSONS AND THE YAKELS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. LET'S SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS BY COMING TO THE FAIR, THE SHINDIG, THE RALLY, WITH BELLS ON.



GUERNEVILLE RALLY REPORT. THE RUSSIAN RIVER WAS THE SCENE OF OUR GUERNEVILLE RALLY, HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND HOSTED BY DOC FRANZ AND MORY SNYDER. VICE PRESIDENT

AL LYLES OFFICIATED, AS PRESIDENT WILL O. NIELSEN AND HIS WIFE IMA WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND, DUE TO AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT THEY HAD ON THEIR WAY TO THE RALLY. PRESIDENT NIELSEN HAD JUST BOUGHT A "BRAND NEW/USED" TIARA MOTORHOME - ONLY 4000 MILES ON IT! THE TIARA, AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, WAS MADE BY HUTCHINSON SHORTLY BEFORE THEY CLOSED SHOP. IT IS POWERED BY A FRONT-MOUNTED, OLDS TORONADO ENGINE. THE NIELSEN COACH WAS REAR-ENDED BY A TEN-WHEEL TRUCK AS IT WAS STOPPED, IN HEAVY TRAFFIC, ON A LOS ANGELES FREEWAY. THE COACH WAS EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED, BOTH FRONT AND REAR. WILL AND IMA WERE SHAKEN UP AND BRUISED, BUT ARE OK NOW. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS RALLY, AT WHICH ABOUT 28 ULTRA FAMILIES WERE PRESENT, WAS THE PAGEANT, THE LEGEND OF FIRE MOUNTAIN, A MEMORABLE EVENT FOR ALL WHO WERE THERE. THE USUAL POT LUCKS, BARBECUE, BONFIRES, HAPPY HOURS, COACH HOPPING AND MEETINGS TOOK PLACE. AFTER THE RALLY, MANY ULTRA COACHERS HEADED EAST FOR THE MICHIGAN RALLY, VISITING FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND TAKING IN THE HISTORICAL SIGHTS ALONG THE WAY. THIS IS NOT AN ACCIDENT REPORT, BUT ALONG ABOUT THIS TIME, MORY SNYDER'S COACH WAS SIDE-SWIPED BY A BUNCH OF HIPPIES IN A "VAN", AND HARRY SONNEBORN ADMITS HE GOOFED AND WRECKED HIS COACH #301. IN FACT, HARRY'S COACH WAS SO BADLY WRECKED THAT IT HAD TO BE SCRAPPED. NO INJURIES.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS AND OTHER ITEMS. WE HAVE A CARD FROM HANS AND MYA KRAEPELIEN WHO ARE ON A CIRCLE PACIFIC TOUR. HANS SAYS THAT NEW ZEALAND HAS 3 MILLION PEOPLE AND 60 MILLION SHEEP. SAYS HE COUNTED THEM ALL. HELEN CONNOLLY, HOW ARE YOU DOING? WE'D ALL LOVE TO SEE YOU AT THE SAN DIEGO RALLY. CHRISTY BARDEN IS STILL IN SAUDI ARABIA, LIVING IT UP AND FLYING FOR SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES. HE SENDS HIS BEST TO EVERYONE. OUR REID KNIGHT, IN A WEAK MOMENT, SOLD HIS ULTRA COACH. HE BOUGHT ANOTHER MAKE AND NOW WISHES THAT HE HAD HUNG ON TO HIS GOOD, OLD ULTRA COACH. OUR SONG BIRD, RACHAEL HELANDER, HAS WRITTEN A LITTLE DITTY, "THE ULTRA COACH SONG." IT WAS INTRODUCED, WITH GREAT SUCCESS,

AT THE MICHIGAN RALLY. WE'LL TRY IT AGAIN ON EVERYONE AT THE SAN DIEGO RALLY. AND, OUR SNOW BIRDS, GUS AND NEVA BRINING ARE SPENDING THE WINTER IN ROCKPORT, TEXAS. WE ARE GLAD TO ANNOUNCE THAT ETHEL DARWIN, AFTER SURVIVING A SERIES OF HEART ATTACKS, IS NOW WELL ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY. HANG IN THERE, ETHEL! OUR DEAR LITTLE MARY HOLLOWAY TELLS THAT HER HUSBAND, HOMER HAD TO GO TO A REST HOME. SHE STILL DRIVES THEIR ULTRA COACH AND WE EXPECT TO SEE HER IN SAN DIEGO. OUR FRIEND EMIL MILLER HAS A 110 H.P. CORVAIR ENGINE FOR SALE. HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO PICK UP THAT SPARE ENGINE YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR. CONTACT EMIL. FOR ULTRA COACH BODY PARTS, BODY REPAIR, SUSPENSION WORK, CABINET AND FIBERGLASS WORK BUT NO ENGINE OR TRANSMISSION OVERHAULING, CONTACT: BOB SHELL, %ZEPHYR MARINE CO., 25 EIGHTEENTH ST., RICHMOND, CALIF. 94801. PHONES: (415) 237-7566 AND (415) 339-1293. BOB HAS FOAM BUMPERS, \$35 PER PAIR, PLUS ABOUT \$2 UPS. CALIF. RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX.

RENEW YOUR ULTRA CLUB MEMBERSHIP. DUES ARE \$10 FOR THE 1977 YEAR. IF YOU HAVE MISPLACED APPLICATION BLANK, SEND CHECK TO THE CLUB AT 15239 ELSONETO DRIVE, WHITTIER, CALIF. 90605.

YOUR REPORTER WANTS TO THANK THE GREENS, THE MATTHEWS, THE HELANDERS, THE RYERSONS, THE BRININGS AND OTHERS FOR ALL THE CARDS AND GOOD WISHES, AND FOR THE SAMPLES OF MICHIGAN SOD. BILL HELANDER HAS INSTALLED A FORD BRONCO ENGINE IN HIS COACH AND REPORTS GOOD RESULTS. THE GREENS, OF TORRANCE, CALIF LEFT THEIR HOME ON JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> AND THEY ARE STILL ON THE ROAD, VISITING FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND SEEING THE COUNTRY. A CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SUGGESTION: INSTEAD OF SENDING CARDS OR GIFTS TO FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS, PICK UP THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AND CALL SOME MEMBER YOU HAVE NEVER MET OR CALL SOMEONE YOU MET, JUST ONCE, AT SOME RALLY. MUST NOT FORGET TO MENTION THE DINESONS, MEL AND MILLIE OF BAKERSFIELD, CA. THEY BOUGHT AN OLD, USED ULTRA COACH, #200. YOUR REPORTER THOUGHT THAT THEY'D NEVER BRING IT BACK TO LIFE, BUT THEY DID. YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT A BEAUTIFUL JOB THEY DID, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE, AT THE SAN DIEGO RALLY. BE SURE TO LOOK INTO COACH #200. AGAIN, DONT FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A NEW CLUB DIRECTORY IS BEING WORKED UP FOR 1977. THE SOONER ALL THE INFORMATION IS RECEIVED, THE BETTER. PRINT CLEARLY, GIVE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER - INCLUDING AREA CODE AND YOUR CB RADIO CALL AND HANDLE. A FINAL WORD OF CAUTION: OUR COACHES ARE FAST APPROACHING, OR HAVE PASSED THE TEN YEAR MARK. WE SUGGEST YOU CHECK THE RUNNING GEAR, SUSPENSION, STEERING FOR SIGNS OF FATIGUE OR WEAR. HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

*Edward A. Martin*  
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