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March Newsletter

From our President

Gary has asked me to tell everyone that he has been busy enjoying life and living up in Florida and will have something more next month. Remember to pay your dues. And we are looking forward to another great camping season.

Hosting a rally

We now have most of our rallies scheduled for 2026! Thank you to everyone who stepped up and volunteered to host.

There may still opportunities available for hosting or co-hosting if you are interested.

We still have October and November open for 2026. It is never too soon to start looking ahead to the 2027 season either!

From our trail boss, Bob Sonessa

Hello CardinalVirginians,
Hope your new year is off to a great start. We are all looking forward to the commencement of our planned Rally's!!! Here is an update on a couple of important items for you all to be aware of

1. We still are looking for a host(s) for the October and November Rally's Please let me know if anyone is interested in planning an event or even if you would like to team with another member to host the event. If we cannot get anyone to assist we can always look to hold a "host-less" rally,, Ugg, don't even like the word.

2. Please make sure if you have planned or are thinking of planning a Rally to let me know so I can update our calendar and the wonderful board that Baynard made to keep us organize

3. I also need to get an idea of the number of coaches who are interested in joining with the Penn Coachmen for their September rally at the Pocono Race way(we will be staying in the infield where the drivers stay during nascar events with FULL hook ups) This event is scheduled for September 11 - 14 with the ability to arrive early on the 9th for those interested. We currently have 7 coaches who have expressed a desire to go.

For those of you who are interested in making it a 2 day travel TO AND FROM the event, Brent has found some space at Candy Hill Campground in Winchester so we do not have to make the journey all in one day. At this time we are looking to get a NUMBER of those interested in going so we can get a better group rate at Candy Hill. We would arrive on September 8th for 1 night and then head to the race way on the 9th. We will stay there on the way home also on September 14th. But as you all know, RV spots fill up quickly so I would hate to miss out on a great opportunity.

We will be getting additional information as to the group as soon as it becomes available

4. PLEASE let me know via, text (540)230-2431, email at ssonessa@comcast.net or just call me. We need to get a number to the host ASAP preferably early February

5. Last but not least, those that attended the Christmas dinner will remember I talked about gathering additional information about a "Group Texting System" with the hopes of making our communication easier. After several calls with the Penn Coachmen staff they have strongly recommended that we look into a "on-line Directory". For those of us that are members of Penn, it is really easy to use and has multiple uses to make group and rally communications MUCH easier than having Baynard send things out individually to each member of our group and also a place to have all of membership information easily available to the group.

So, I will be working with a small group of our members to view the system and bring back information so we can discuss Pros and Cons. I will be making a presentation and providing more information during our First Rally at Madison Vines , April 29 - May 3 so that we can decide if the on line directory is something we would like to move forward with.

That's all for now, can't wait to get together in April at Madison Vines!!!
Bob Sonessa, VP/Trail Boss

2026 Rally Schedule

Dates	Host	Location	Contact information
April 29-May 3	Lamberts and G. Fergusons	Madison Vines campground	110 Campground Ln, Madison Va 540-948-4186
May 18- 21	Kanes and Barton's	Jellystone RV Resort Natural Bridge Station	16 Recreation Ln, Natural Bridge Station Va 24579 540-291-2727
June 25-28	Compters and Handys	KOA of Wytheville, Virginia	231 KOA Rd Wytheville Va 24382 276-228-2601
July 23-26	Pitmans and Petersons	Cozy Acres Campground	2177 B Ridge Rd Powhatan Va 804-598-2470 www.cozyacres.com
August 10-14	Joined Rally with Dogwood and Penn Coachman groups	Spacious Skies Shenandoah Views Campground	3402 Kimball Rd. Luray Va 22835 540-743-7222 Spacious Skies – Luray – Penn Coachmen
September 11-15 Early arrivals Sept. 9	Joint Rally with Penn Coachman group.	Pocono Raceway	*contact Bob Sonessa 540-230-2431 ssonessa@comcast.net
October	OPEN		
November	OPEN		

May 2026 Rally 5/18/26-5/21/26

The May rally will be May 18 through the 21st at Jellystone RV resort at Natural Bridge Station, Va. This will be hosted by Kane's and Barton's. Deposits must be made by April third at 5 PM.

If anybody has trouble making reservations, they should call Eva Winther at (443) 856-4811. Leave a message and she will call you back..

June 2026 Rally 6/25/26-6/28/26

Greetings! Barbara and I are new to the Cardinal Virginians, but we have volunteered to host the June 2026 rally, along with Tim & Donna Handy.

We have confirmed dates for the June 2026 rally at Wytheville KOA (Wytheville VA):
Thursday, June 25 through Sunday, June 28

They have blocked off the entire lower (“L”) section for us. That’s way more than we’ll need, but better too many than too few sites. (I didn’t ask for that many – they volunteered it). These are all premium big-rig sites, some pull-throughs and some back-ins, but nothing that’s difficult to get in or out of. I booked Site L17 for Barbara and me, and added a day on the front end for us to setup. Tim & Donna will also come a day early, and they will be staying in L18. (see site map, attached)

Reservations are available now, and the block will be held until April 30. Rates are about \$80-82 per night (standard). They said they don’t usually discount for less than 25 RVs, but I’m negotiating with the owner about that. And of course, there’s always a 10% discount for KOA Rewards members – I don’t know how many of our group are also KOA members.

Meetings and group meals: They said we could use the pavilion at the upper part of the campground, but I think that’s too far for many of our folks to walk (and it’s a slight uphill). Either folks would have to rent a golf car or we’d have to ferry people back and forth, which would be a pain. I asked if we could just do the popup shelter thing like we did at Stuarts Draft, and they were okay with that. We would set up between the back-in sites (L17 – L22) and the pond. They could even move some extra tables and a fire ring there to accommodate us. We’ll just have to pray for good weather!

Let me know your thoughts/questions/suggestions about this. Are we on the right track? If not, please let me know ASAP.

Larry & Barbara Compter

July, 2026 Cardinal Virginians Rally 7/23/26-7/26/26

Just a quick reminder that we only have 5 sites left for the July, 2026, Rally. The campground has agreed to hold the campsites until June, 2026, however, we recommend that you make your reservations as soon as possible in order to get the site that you desire. They will require one night’s deposit to hold your site. As the event gets closer, we will be sending out a schedule of the chapter’s activities, meals and local attractions to those we know are attending.

The Petersons will be on Site 117 and the Pittmans will be on Site 118. All sites have full hookups. The sites that we have secured, along with the prices and a brief description, are listed below. If the sites we blocked are no longer available, the campground may have other sites, however, we encourage you to book sooner instead of later. **Remember to mention “Cardinal Virginians” when booking your site.**

Site Number	Description	Price	Campers
37 VIP site	Pull through with Gazebo	\$90/ night	
38 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Handys
39 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	
52 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Sonnessas
53 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Bartons
54 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Bishops
55 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Kates
56 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	
115 VIP Site	Back-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/ night	
116 VIP Site	Back-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/ night	
117 VIP Site	Back-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/ night	Petersons (co-hosts) Arriving 7/22/26
118 VIP (motorhomes only)	Pull-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/ night	Pittmans (co-hosts) Arriving 7/22/26
119 VIP (motorhomes only)	Pull-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/ night	Rapps
120 VIP (motorhomes only)	Pull-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/ night	Fergusons, Brent/ Mona

We have reserved the clubhouse for the weekend to be used in the event of rain.

*****A reminder: Please let us know when you make your reservations and what site you chose. Having an accurate headcount is very helpful when planning meals and activities. You can email us at shell2is67@gmail.com (Michelle) or karilypittman@gmail.com (Karilyn)**



August and September Rallies 8/10/26-8/14/26 and 9/9/26-9/15/26

Hope all is well and you all are staying warm!!

1. August Rally - we are teaming with Dogwood and Penn Coachmen group to head to Spacious Skies Shenandoah Views Campground. Dates of the Rally are August 10 -14, 2026. Here is the link for additional information and Registration which MUST be completed by April 30,2026. Also, they have 30 sites which do fill up quickly so make your reservations ASAP if you are interested in attending. I have also included a link for this event and the registration form for those who are interested in attending. [Spacious Skies – Luray – Penn Coachmen](#)
2. September Rally - We are headed to the Pocono Speedway from August 9 - 15 and joining with the Penn Coachmen group. We have recently sent information regarding this event via email. If you have additional questions contact Bob Sonnessa, Cell 540-230-2431 or email ssonnessa@comcast.net

Bob Sonessa, VP/Trail Boss

Care an Concerns:

Let's keep Bill Brown in our prayers as he underwent left hip replacement on February 16th. Due to some complications associated with anesthesia, his outpatient therapy will not begin until the first week of March. As a result, his recovery is expected to take several months. Bill reports that he is slowly regaining mobility and tentatively is planning that he and Donna will be able to join us at our April rally at Madison Vines. Additionally, he requests that you pray for God to strengthen Donna as she cares for him during this time of healing.

We need to keep Jay Doucette in our thoughts and prayers as he is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on March 3rd. Let's pray for a successful surgery and a quick recovery. Also, remember Susan as she helps him through the recovery process.

UPDATE on Jay's surgery: Surgery went well but he had to spend an extra night in the hospital. Physical therapy will start immediately. Praying for a quick recovery, Jay!

If you know of someone I need to reach out to please contact me at fallenoakfarm@juno.com or text 540-270-7219

Betty Franklin

Your Cardinal Virginians Officers

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National Director- Bill Brown
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Editors note

If you have anything you would like included in future newsletters, please send it to the appropriate person or to me. You can email me, (bishops816@gmail.com) text me (276-613-5487) or even reach out through Facebook.

***Please ensure that anything you want included in future newsletters gets to me by the 25th of the previous month. (for example, if you want something in the April newsletter I need it by March 25) This insures that I have plenty of time to make sure I include it.**

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve the Cardinal Virginians as your newsletter editor

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Sarah Bishop, editor