

THE ORIGINAL COUNTRY COACH OWNERS CLUB  
AN INTERNATIONAL FMCA CHAPTER  
PROUDLY CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1984!

# ON THE ROAD AGAIN

VOL. 17 ISSUE 1 • MARCH 2024

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi CCI!

A new year has started, and Rita and I have been crazy busy! I thought being retired was supposed to be relaxing... Over the past couple of months, we have been discussing our exit strategy from full-time RVing. We have been full-timing for a little over 4 1/2 years now. We are really enjoying this lifestyle and don't plan on stopping soon. But maybe having a real house that we can return to every once in a while would be nice. We basically gave our house to our daughter and have been carrying everything we own in the rig except for a few furnishings.

By chance, we met some RVers and discovered a Class A RV community near Lakeland, FL. Our timing was perfect. Our realtor was able to get us into a house that just came on the market, and we were the first to look at it. It's 1100 square feet, two bedrooms, two baths, with a massive RV port. The community, Mount Olive Shores North, is incredibly active. Our offer was accepted, and we raced back to Belleville, IL, to pick up our stuff and moved in on February 1st. We are now arranging what we have and buying furnishings and incidentals to fill our new home. So, still moving in...

We plan on a couple of short RV trips this winter in Florida before heading out in May to roam the northeast and Canadian Maritimes with friends we made on our Alaska trip, once again highlighting the RV lifestyle. We have made so many friends from so many campgrounds, rallies, and events. How lucky and blessed we truly are.

The moral of this letter? Get that Country Coach on the road. Explore this great country. Attend a rally. Make new friends at every opportunity! It's a motorhome for Christ's sake. GO MOTOR!!!!

On a side note, we have a couple of awesome rallies in the works. Get on the waitlist for the solar eclipse (people cancel all the time) and check the website for updates on some rallies coming up this year.

As always, I'll be CCing you!

Bill



ON THE ROAD AGAIN



PAGE 02

Lordy, Lordy, Guess Who is 40!!



COUNTRY COACH

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The World's Finest Motorcoaches

40<sup>TH</sup>  
Anniversary

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# RALLIES CALENDER



RALLIES ARE JUST ONE OF THE REASONS TO JOIN COUNTRY COACH INTERNATIONAL BUT AS CCI RALLY COORDINATOR I THINK THEY ARE THE BEST REASON!~ TAMMY TOLSON

## MARCH 2024

FMCA's 108TH International Convention & RV Expo  
Pima County Fairgrounds, Tuscan, AZ  
March 20 -23



## APRIL 2024

CCI - Solar Eclipse 2024  
Bandera, TX  
April 4 - 11

## MAY 2024

FMCA - International Area Rally  
Hatbox Event Center  
Muskogee, OK  
May 17-21

## JUNE 2024

FMCA -Great Lakes Area Rally  
Darke County Fairgrounds  
Greenville, OH  
June 5-9

## JULY 2024

FMCA -Northeast Area Rally  
Herkimer County Fairgrounds  
Frankfort, NY  
July 10-13



## JULY 2024

FMCA - Midwest Area Rally  
Amana RV Park & Event Center  
Amana, IA  
July 24-27

## AUGUST 2024

FMCA's 109th International Convention  
Redmond, OR  
August 14-17, 2024

## AUGUST 2024

CCI - Northeast Rolling Rally  
Aug 23 - Sept 15th  
4 GREAT STOPS!  
Niagara Falls, NY, Thousand Islands, NY,  
Catskills, NY, and BoothBay, ME

## SEPTEMBER 2024

South Central Area Rally  
Shawnee, OK  
Sept. 18-21

## OCTOBER 2024

Rocky Mountain Area Rally  
Farmington, NM  
October 23-27

If your Country Coach Club has a rally event that is not listed here, please contact the Club at [club@countrycoachclub.com](mailto:club@countrycoachclub.com) so we may include your event(s).

# RALLYS



## PAST YEARS OF CCI RALLIES

If you have a great possible rally site in mind, let us know.  
 EMail Tammy Toalson (VPRallyCoordinator@countrycoachclub.com)  
 with information and why you think it would be a great destination



### PAST EVENTS

|        |  |        |  |
|--------|--|--------|--|
| Jan-24 | Galthering at Lakeland, FL             | Sep-19 | Let's do Boston!                                 |
| Dec-23 | St. Augustine, FL                      | Jun-19 | Live Life Well in Door County, WI                |
| Aug-23 | Oregon Trail                           | Mar-19 | Tucson, AZ                                       |
| Mar-23 | Springtime in Charleston, SC           | Dec-18 | St Augustine, FL                                 |
| Jan-23 | Margaritaville in Auburndale, FL       | Oct-18 | Dandridge, TN                                    |
| Jan-23 | Gathering at Lakeland Sun n Fun        | Jul-18 | Living it up! in Colorado Springs, CO            |
| Oct-22 | Cajun Palms RV Resort in Henderson, LA | Mar-18 | New Orleans, LA                                  |
| Jul-22 | Spring Gulch RV in New Holland, PA     | Jan-18 | Tampa Supershow                                  |
| Mar-22 | Benson, AZ                             | Sep-17 | Virginia Historic Triangle                       |
| Jan-22 | Winterizing? Just come to Florida!     | Jul-17 | Vendors Galore!                                  |
| Jan-22 | Lakeland SECC pre-rally                | Feb-17 | Friends and Fun in the Sun, Tampa, FL            |
| Oct-21 | Western Extravaganza Rally             | Oct-16 | My Old Kentucky Home, KY Horse Park              |
| Jul-21 | Welcome to the Black Hillls            | Apr-16 | Meet me in St Louis!                             |
| Jul-21 | Santa Fe Skies 2.0                     | Feb-16 | Fun in the Sun - Lazydays, Tampa, FL             |
| Apr-21 | Cherry Blossoms                        | Sep-15 | Waterfalls, Wineries & Gorges - Watkins Glen, NY |
| Jan-21 | Sun 'n Fun                             | Jul-15 | A Step Back in Time - Shippshewana, IN           |
| Oct-20 | Savannah, GA                           | Mar-15 | California, Here we come!                        |
| Jun-20 | Santa Fe Skies                         | Aug-14 | "Northwest Adventure" CCI Pre-Rally              |
| Apr-20 | Western Extravaganza Rally             | Mar-14 | 14 FL Rally - "A Blast from the Past"            |
| Jan-20 | Sun n Fun                              | Nov-13 | Branson, MO Rally                                |
|        |  | Jun-13 | Cody Wyoming Rally                               |



# Surge protector 101 - Why you need one.

By Marc Sobel

## What is a surge and what is a spike?

A surge may be called a high voltage condition that lasts well beyond a nano or milliseconds or a even a second. It could be a doubling of the line voltage. A number of things can cause a surge and the most common is a failure in the utility system. Auto accidents and trees that disturb power lines are the most common causes. I would also add low voltage can be just as damaging as high voltage. Both high and low voltage changes can happen when they system is abruptly loaded or unloaded. An example might be when a neighborhood is re-energized after an outage. Dimming lights when the AC starts is a sign of lower voltage.

A spike is more characterized as a very fast spark on the line that last a very short time and if it could be measured could be thousands of volts capable of jumping a air gap . A spike may also be a high frequency event not related to the standard 60 hertz on the line. Spikes are more likely to be caused by arcing of power lines and associated equipment. We can also cause an arc every time we switch on a load. Lightning is the most damaging type of spark due to its extreme high voltage and current potential. A direct strike is not necessary as static in the air can be picked up by the wires. Protection against a surge (high or low voltage) is different than against a spike and you really need to protect against both.

An RV may be more susceptible to damage than a home because it is not as grounded as well as a home. The ground is at the end of a wire and plug. A home or a couple of homes probably has 1 transformer that feeds it. That transformer provides a degree of isolation from the rest of the system. In a RV park your sharing the same circuit with a whole bunch of other RVs.

RVs have another distinct problem, they are plugged in. Plugs and sockets wear out. We also shake, vibrate and flex the whole RV causing connections to become loose. A loose connection will get hot (melt), arc (causing spikes) and the result will be low voltage. Our breaker boxes and system operate closer to limits compared to a house.

Here is what to look for when buying a protective device for your RV. First I must say I am not recommending a company and have no financial interest in the industry.

There are things to look for.

1. Protection against spikes
2. Protection from surges, aka high or low voltage.
3. Proper wiring configuration of the supply socket.
4. Automatic disconnection
5. Line voltage adjustment.



Since the public needs a simple word and marketing is... marketing, nearly every device is labeled a "surge protector". But we are smarter about this.

1. Spike - Nearly all so called surge protection devices advertised protects against spikes. The protection part is called a MOV (Metal Oxide Varistor). Look it up to learn more. It works by shorting out the line to limit the spike energy from affecting your devices. The MOV absorbs the energy and has a very limited ability to do this. A spike of a very high voltage example 10,000 volts that last a nano second can be stopped. But if you exceed the rating it will simply blow out and allow that spike into your system. They may pop so fast a fuse or breaker will fail to pop. The other problem with these parts are they wear out and you will not know it unless there is a monitoring circuit. MOV's are rated in Joules, the more the better. A better unit will tell you they protect line to line and line to ground so they have several MOVs. MOVs will protect all spikes that are created by your neighbors, the utility and your own devices within limits. Beware a lightning spike will exceed the MOV rating so this is not a perfect and does not solve all problems.

2. Surges - Our electronic devices operate on a range of voltages more typically 108 - 127 volts with a preferred range of 114 to 126 volts. A good protection device will monitor the voltage and disconnect when this range is exceeded. Some will allow you to adjust the range. Some will delay the initial connection and provide a reconnect delay to make sure the voltage is stable. If your having issues the most likely problem is a loose connection causing a low voltage.

3. Because we are plugged in and we wear out the socket and because the local untrained maintenance guy at the RV park replaced the socket last, there is a chance wiring can be miss wired or broken. A good protection device will have indicators that show you the circuit is good before you plug in the RV.

4. Some devices will monitor the voltage and when it falls outside specifications will automatically disconnect the RV.

Most people think about a protection device that plugs into the RV power pedestal and that is the simplest and easiest to use but we do have one more issue to address, the generator can also provide low and high voltage and can also fail to provide exactly 60 hertz frequency. There are a number of hard wired devices that can protect the entire RV even when using the generator.

For your most sensitive electronic devices like computers and TV's consider buying a UPS (uninterruptible power supply). They can be found at computer stores and they do a great job of disconnecting you anytime the power falls outside set limits.

Power spikes and especially lightning can also affect 12 volt DC devices as these spikes can soak through everything. The very best protection is to disconnect from the grid during a storm, actually unplug. Once you see a blackened breaker box you realize that having the switch off was not enough. Its time to exercise your battery system and enjoy.

There is one other type of protection device. This one actually adjusts the line voltage when it is low. I am only aware of one such product made for RV's. It contains a transformer and has spike protection.

# ADVERTISER OF THE MONTH

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED GREAT SERVICE OR ASSISTANCE FROM ANY CC RELATED ISSUES,  
PLEASE SEND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO: [CLUB@COUNTRYCOACHCLUB.COM](mailto:CLUB@COUNTRYCOACHCLUB.COM)



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# BENEFITS OF CCI MEMBERSHIP

## INFORMATION AND ACCESS

- Dedicated Club website
- Member's Directory online
- Library of Technical & DIY Articles
- Member's Facebook Forum
- Country Coach Brochures & Specs
- Breaking news through the CCI Facebook Page
- Regional Clubs' news
- Forms available for download online
- Services & Parts Resources
- One FREE Ad for your CCI/RV or product/service

## QUALITY ENEWSLETTER

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## ACCESS TO CLUB OFFICERS

Phone: Call the specific Officer to address your need

Email CCI: [club@countrycoachclub.com](mailto:club@countrycoachclub.com)

Club Website: [www.countrycoachclub.com](http://www.countrycoachclub.com)

## TRAVEL PLANS HELP

Use the Member's FaceBook page for advice on routing, sights, and trouble spots, real-time, on-the-road help with mechanical problems.

Post a problem to the member's Internet Forum for quick replies

## COUNTRY COACH RALLIES

- Enjoy camaraderie with fellow owners of The World's Finest Motor Coaches at rallies around the country.
- CCI offers multiple rallies per year.
- Independent Regional Country Coach Clubs across the nation also rally several times per year in their particular geographic regions.
- CCI will some times partner and do joint rallies with these Regional Clubs

## SERVICES AND PARTS RESOURCES

- Member Discounts & Special Offers from over 40 Partners of CCI. Many are listed here in the News.
- Place one FREE classified ad per year in the classified section of the Club website. Visit the website for details.

40<sup>TH</sup>

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**LOGIN INFORMATION:** Just a reminder that we are now using an automated system to process renewal as well as new memberships. Please take the time to visit your Country Coach Club Website at [www.countrycoachclub.com](http://www.countrycoachclub.com) and login to your account.

- To login, simply enter your email address as the user name and then enter your password.
- If you have forgotten your password or are new to the site, you will need a new password and then use the password reset link that you will find on the login page and you will be sent a new password.

**TO EMAIL THE CLUB:** See Officer Contact List (page 24) for email address.

**TO MAIL DUES, ETC, TO THE CLUB:** See Officer Contact List (page 24) for CCI mailing address. When you pay online your dues are processed immediately. Due to physical mail and handling expect it to take 20 to 30 days if you are paying by check.

**TO PHONE THE CLUB:** See Officer Contact List (page 24), select the appropriate Officer and phone that person.

Please help us keep your membership up to date, by logging in and checking to ensure your membership is current and that we have all of your current contact information.

**WHO ARE WE?** CCI is a non-profit organization, 501(c)(7), centered on Fun and Fellowship. The Club was founded in 1984 and is a Chapter of the Family Motorcoach Association (FMCA).

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**WHAT WE DO:** The Purpose of the Country Coach Club is to provide a community for all Country Coach motorcoach owners to exchange information, provide opportunities for fun and fellowship, support CCI and FMCA activities such as rallies and FMCA conventions, provide a common communication and resource link for CCI members and to help our fellow Country Coachers.



**EDITORIAL POLICY:** The CCI eNewsletter is published monthly, online by Country Coach International. The eNewsletter Editor is Bonnie Data, who can be contacted by calling 440-341-3454 or online - [VPPublications@countrycoachclub.com](mailto:VPPublications@countrycoachclub.com) The Editor reserves the right to edit, shorten, or modify any material submitted.

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# REPORTS TO MEMBERSHIP

## MEMBERSHIP

FROM BUDDY BORDES, VP MEMBERSHIP



## TREASURY

February 29, 2024 CCI GENERAL ACCT

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| BEG Balance  | \$17,078.03 |
| END Balance  | \$6,011.43  |
| Money Market | \$41,439.28 |

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

**David and Cheryl Price**  
Hotchkiss, CO

**Penny and Glenn Norrie**  
Melbourne, FL

**Sean and Cherie Chase**  
White City, OR

**Glenn and Penny Norrie**  
Full Time RVers

**Chris and Amber Benson**  
Friendswood, TX

**Dick Bigler**  
Marble Falls, TX

**Mike Muchmore and Ann Walko**  
Westport Island, ME

**Richard Bigler**  
Hotchkiss, CO

**Ken and Yonghee Schaeffer**  
Crossville, TN

**Charlie Smith**  
Charlottesville, VA

**Dennison Dolato and Jana Brody**  
Salt Lake City, UT

**Douglass Dillard and Colin Livett**  
Polk City, FL

**Charles and Virginia Smith**  
Charlottesville, VA



February 29, 2024 CCI RALLY ACCT

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| BEG Balance | \$23,441.62 |
| END Balance | \$22,823.93 |

If you have questions about this Club's financial information, feel free to contact

**Club Treasurer, Dianne Hegler,**  
via email at: [CCITreasurer@CountryCoachClub.com](mailto:CCITreasurer@CountryCoachClub.com)





FMCA Bylaws Amendments passed during the Governing Board meeting are now in effect for Bylaws Article I, FMCA Mission and Purpose. You can review the updated document at FMCA.com: <https://www.fmca.com/pdfs/Document-FMCABylaws.pdf>

**FMCA CORNER**  
By CCI FMCA National Director  
RITA SAX

**FMCA's 108th International Convention and RV Expo.** Please mark your calendars for FMCA's 108th International Convention and RV Expo, "Fiesta Del Sol," scheduled to take place March 20-23, 2024, in Tucson, Arizona.



Looks like FMCA is moving away from AT&T hotspots and going back to T-Mobile. There will be two parts of the T-Mobile contract. The hotspot plan is as follows:  
Unlimited data, with network management in congested areas after 100 GB of usage. There are two options for devices. Members may pay the one-time rental fee for a 5G hotspot or bring their own device without the rental fee. It comes with 5 GB of data per month in Mexico or Canada. Wireless priority service provides top access to carrier towers in congested areas with high level connection. It was stated the pricing is like the AT&T plan, with a one-time \$39.99 rental fee and the monthly service fee of \$59.99.ctly from the carrier. It will take 4-6 weeks to get the T-Mobile program up and running.

It was also stated that this is the first time FMCA has been able to offer voice plans. The voice plan includes unlimited talk and text in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Data network management occurs in congested areas after 50 GB of usage. Chris mentioned that this is a "bring your own device" plan, and no phones currently are offered with it. However, phones and accessories will be available for purchase. T-Mobile will be handling the entire shipping process for SIM cards. Members will receive the SIM card in the mail to activate service, and clear instructions will be provided. The plan will include 2 GB of data in Mexico and Canada and 5 GB of mobile hotspot data. Wireless priority service applies to the voice plans as well.

Please note that FMCA has a new partner on the Tech Connect side. Hyperion will handle hosting, the order portal, can bill members, will pay the carrier bills on behalf of FMCA, and can accept ACH payment. This will decrease credit card fees. Chris stated this will take the burden off FMCA, for both hotspot and voice plans. There is no monthly device management fee. It was noted the Hyperion is compensated on SPIFF money directly from the carrier. It will take 4-6 weeks to get the T-Mobile program up and running.



**Country Coach International will be receiving a certificate from FMCA acknowledging 40 years as an FMCA Chapter in 2024!**

Dates and Location for upcoming Conventions:  
FMCA 108th International Convention  
March 20-23, 2024  
Tucson, AZ

FMCA 109th International Convention  
August 14-17, 2024  
Redmond, OR



# OFFICER CONTACT LIST

Our members are our priority!

Contact us anytime with comments, questions or suggestions.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Bill Sax</b><br/>President<br/>President@countrycoachclub.com<br/>618-304-2604</p> | <p><b>Gene Harrington</b><br/>Senior VP<br/>SrVicePresident@countrycoachclub.com</p>                     | <p><b>Pat Gauch</b><br/>Secretary<br/>Secretary@countrycoachclub.com<br/>240-925-5687</p>                         |
| <p><b>Mike Sowers</b><br/>VP Website Design<br/>VPWebmaster@countrycoachclub.com</p>     | <p><b>Buddy Bordes</b><br/>VP Membership<br/>VPMembership@countrycoachclub.com<br/>504-982-1635</p>      | <p><b>Tammy Toalson</b><br/>VP Rally Coordinator<br/>VPRallyCoordinator@countrycoachclub.com<br/>850-866-5758</p> |
| <p><b>Rita Sax</b><br/>FMCA Nat'l Dir.<br/>FMCARep@countrycoachclub.com</p>              | <p><b>Bonnie Data</b><br/>VP Communications<br/>VPPublications@countrycoachclub.com<br/>440-341-3454</p> | <p><b>Dianne Hegler</b><br/>Treasurer<br/>Treasurer@countrycoachclub.com<br/>931-797-5181</p>                     |

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|---|--|---|
| <p><b>CCI Contact Information</b><br/>club@countrycoachclub.com<br/>CCI - c/o Tammy Toalson<br/>8430 Kingswood Rd<br/>Panama City, FL 32409</p> |  <p>40<sup>TH</sup></p> | <p><b>NEED CCI NAME TAGS?</b><br/>Contact:<br/>vprallycoordinator@countrycoachclub.com<br/>Tammy Toalson<br/>850-866-5758</p> |
|---|--|---|

## Other Country Coach FMCA Chapters

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Southeast Country Coachers</b><br/>Max Hegler<br/>931-466-7856<br/>secountrycoach@gmail.com<br/>www.southeastcountrycoachers.com</p> | <p><b>Country Coach Friends Incorporated</b><br/>Jack Scogman<br/>949-439-0717<br/>www.countrycoachfriendsincorporated.com</p> | <p><b>Rocky Mountain County Coachers</b><br/>Rob Woods<br/>480-570-9740<br/>azrod444@gmail.com<br/>www.rmccoachers.com</p>  |
| <p><b>Country Coach Nor'Easters</b><br/>John Penzanhagen<br/>johnpanzsr@gmail.com<br/>Facebook: CCNoreasters</p>                           |    | <p><b>Northwest Country Coachers</b><br/>Sibylle L. Beck<br/>503-399-0636<br/>secretary@nwccers.org<br/>www.nwccers.org</p> |

# Sail through New England with CCI

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY -  
ALEXANDRIA BAY



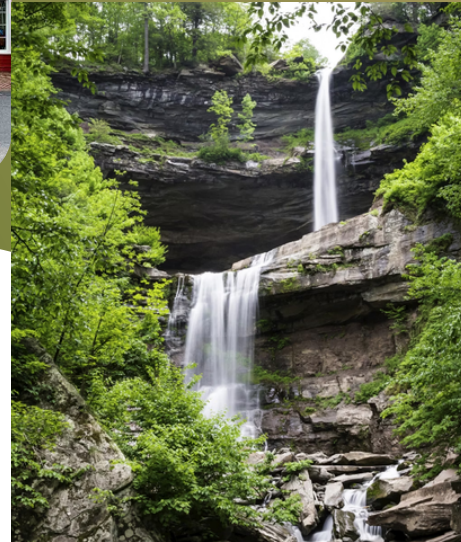
NIAGARA FALLS



CATSKILLS, NY



BOOTHBAY, ME



## JOIN US FOR CCI'S NORTHERN ROLLING RALLY

### FOUR GREAT STOPS

**AUG. 23 - SEPT 15**

JOIN US FOR ONE OR ALL

- MARK YOUR CALENDARS
- PLAN TO JOIN US AS WE TAKE A TOUR OF SOME ICONIC LOCATIONS ALONG THE NORTHERN EDGES OF THE US
- YOU MAY WANT TO UPDATE YOUR PASSPORT

# FOUR GREAT STOPS

**AUG. 23 - SEPT 15**

**JOIN US FOR ONE OR ALL**

**Come join Country Coach International as our rolling rally sails through the North East. This rally will include 4 spectacular stops spanning over 22 nights with a wide range of exciting things to do in each of the four different areas.**

## **Rally Details**

### **Stop 1 (Niagara Falls, NY):**

We are starting off in Niagara/Grand Island, NY at HTR Niagara RV Resort. We will arrive on Aug 23 and will have 5 days to see the sites of the area. While there will be plenty of adventure at the Falls, We will be heading to a little lesser known but interesting area as a group. Taking a ride back in time with an informative cruise will take you past five of the original 1800's locks. Three million gallons of water will fill Locks 34 & 35, the only double set on the Erie Canal, and raise the boat 50 feet. You'll pass under Lockport's "Upside Down Bridge," Lockport's "Big Bridge" (the widest bridge in the U.S. at 399 feet wide), through the "deep rock cut" and under lift bridges. The lively narration by the Coast Guard Licensed Captains is also accompanied by crowd-pleasing canal music, popular during the 1800's. Lunch will be provided with this ride. If you don't have a passport or passport card, this might be a great time to get one, as there are plenty of experiences to discover both on the US and Canadian side of the Falls. And in order to cross the border, you will need a valid passport. 6 nights

### **Stop 2 (Alexandria Bay, NY):**

We depart Niagara Falls on Aug 29 and travel 243 miles up to Swan Bay Resort in Alexandria Bay, NY where we will stay through the Labor Day weekend. You are in for a 4-day excursion along shores of the breathtaking St Lawrence River in what is known as the Thousand Islands. There are so many different experiences in the area from Wineries to Castles, to Antique boats, to Blues in the Bay. Our group will embark together for the "Two Nation" boat tour on the St Lawrence River including a lunch cruise and castle tour. 5 nights

### **Stop 3 (Catskills, NY)**

Departing and arriving on Sept 3, our next stop is 253 miles away at the KOA Catskills, in Gilboa, NY for 4 days. Be ready for the beautiful outdoors with petrified forest, waterfalls and wineries top the list in the famous Catskill Mountains. Or how about a gondola ride to the top of Hunter Mountain? 5 nights

### **Stop 4 (Booth Bay, ME)**

Departing the Catskills KOA on Sept 8, you will have one night/day to travel on your own the 328 miles to Boothbay, ME. We will come together again on Sept 9 at Shore Hills RV Resort in for 5 days of fun on the Maine coast. Amazing lobster, lighthouses and the coast line are the highlights of this trip. We have some fun surprises in the works for this stop. 5 nights departing on Sept 14

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

**Click [HERE](#) to get more information and to REGISTER to join us!**



# Easter

## EGG HUNT

Can you find all

40

Easter Eggs  
in the Newsletter?



EGG  
HUNT

