





**Brendan Morraco a Northeast Area Veteran who lost both his arms and legs to roadside bomb in Iraq. He is one of the Northeast Area Vets. that we are helping with our fund raising.**



**Sgt Eddie Ryan and Bryan Purcell. See more on facebook: Sgt. Eddie Ryan Marine Marathon**

## NorthEast Veterans Outreach Fund

Brandon Morraco, Sgt. Eddie Ryan and Joseph Wilkinson are three veterans that we are trying to assist with the Northeast Area Veterans Outreach Fund. Checks can be made out to Northeast Motorhome Association and sent to PO Box 136, Tribes Hill, NY 12177. Credit cards may be used by calling **FMCA** Headquarters at 800-543-3622 and asking for Shannon. Please help this veteran. He has three small children ages 1, 9 and 12 and is in danger of losing his home. Please spread the word.

Sgt. Ryan was shot twice in the head while serving in Iraq, suffering a traumatic brain injury. True to his warrior nature, Sgt. Ryan continues his battles during recovery and competed in a wheel chair in the 2010 Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 31st. **FMCA** was a sponsor in helping him on this journey.

Tech sergeant Joseph Wilkinson is a 31 year old Air Force Veteran in need. Joe is a North Troy native and former student of Lansingburgh High School.

Joseph Wilkinson enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1997 at 18 years old. He was deployed on several occasions overseas in support of "operation enduring freedom" and "operation Iraqi freedom". He has been experiencing a variety of physical illnesses since 2006. He underwent spinal surgery in 2007 and was treated at the Walter Reed Medical Center. Joe retired medically from the United States Air Force in 2009 and is currently still waiting for his veterans disability compensation which is a long and overwhelming process.

Joe currently suffers with a compromised spinal cord and leg paralysis as well as strength loss in his upper body. Each day is a battle for Joe as he tries to cope with the severe pain caused from his disks rubbing on his spinal cord. He has very

little to no feeling in either leg at this time. Therefore, he can not stand or walk. A true diagnosis has not yet been established, although some medical experts believe that Joe had been exposed to lyme and certain other chemicals overseas that are continuously affecting his health.

Joe and his wife are facing a tough struggle to keep their house and support their 3 young children due to a lack of income. In addition, their medical bills are building up from prior family hospitalizations due to the insurance out of pocket percentage.

Any contribution you can make will help take some of the burden off of Joe and his family. A monetary donation, a gift certificate or an item to be used for raffles during the benefit would be greatly appreciated.

Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

## From the Rally Master — continued

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receiving suggestions from many of you with ways to make our rally even better. Please send in your ideas early. We need suggestions for potential vendors, seminars, entertainment and other activities. We also ask that you consider getting your chapter members to approve an ad in the program book before the end of the current season. That will help us avoid the last minute rush in the spring to meet the printer's deadline for the program. A full

page color ad is only \$125 for chapters. While you are at it, why not consider soliciting a commercial ad or two from businesses that you know. A full page color ad for a commercial advertiser is \$200. Prices for smaller ads are available upon request. Our objective is to have sufficient ads to fully cover the cost of printing and distributing the program book, the pocket schedule and any addendum.

Work on an area rally begins shortly after the previous one

ends.

Over the next few weeks & months we will be choosing a theme, deciding on whether to have a lake cruise and / or bus tours, trying to find appropriate entertainment, looking for leaders for several programs, etc. If you want to help out please contact us. My email is [four-windsbob@gmail.com](mailto:four-windsbob@gmail.com) and my US cell phone number is 813-395-3679.

Together we can organize a great rally!

## Ed Hoag — Get Involved

I would first like to thank all chapter Officers that attended the Annual Meeting of The Northeast Motorhome Association in Essex Junction, VT in July. It was through your attendance and guidance that modifications were made and passed for the proposed bylaw changes. Your confidence in myself, and the other candidates that were elected (or re-elected), is greatly appreciated. As we move forward I want you to know that this is YOUR organization and the Executive Board of NMA is here to serve and work with you, to make your **FMCA** experience an enjoyable and fulfilling one.

My wife, Lori, would like to express her sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every volunteer that worked so hard to help make **NEAR 2010**

such a HUGE success. It was because of the cooperation, dedication, and determination of each of you that made the rally such a wonderful experience for everyone that attended. Lori is looking forward to working with all the volunteers again next year and is already organizing the volunteer teams.

As Sr. Vice President, I am looking forward to attending your chapter rallies, addressing your questions and concerns, and promoting our area. I work very closely with Area President, Paul Dubois and the Executive Board. We are proud of the Northeast Area and the Chapters we serve, and will always make ourselves accessible to you, the membership.

We just attended the **Susquenango** Chapter's 30th

Anniversary Labor Day Invitational Rally in Bainbridge, NY. There were 174 family coaches present and lots of fun, friendship, and great entertainment. FMCA National President Charlie Schrenkel was in attendance.

July 2011 seems a long way off, but in reality it is just around the corner. We are working hard to sign vendors, line up entertainment, plan seminars, and make other special arrangements to make certain that **NEAR 2011** will be even bigger and better than previous Northeast Area Rallies. If you have not yet done so, please mark your calendar for July 21-25, 2011 and plan to attend the rally. It will again be held at the beautiful Champlain Valley Expo Center in Essex Junction, VT.



Ed's Electrician's Cart Making a "House Call"

## Eleanor Rizzi — Past Rally Master

The theme of **NEAR 2010** was "**Two Nations, One Family... FMCA**". It was a huge success thanks to the effort of the Executive Board headed by the Area VP Paul Dubois, your Rally Host. The rally had to be moved from its original date to the July 4th weekend. It did not deter too many people from attending and participating in the many activities. The facilities are the greatest of any rally with water and electric at every site and air conditioning in all of the venues. The highlights were many headed by the dinner cruise on Lake Champlain. Over 350 people were sailors and diners for the evening. The Red Cross met their quota in the Blood Drive thanks to the generosity of the members. Seminars were well attended and informative. The entertainment was well received with new and different acts. The youth program was well attended. The vendors in

attendance were varied even though we had several vendor cancellations at the last minute. The coach display saw an increase in dealers and many of them were happy with the amount of units sold. Many of the attendees were from out of the area and first time attendees. They were happy with the rally, meeting and / or exceeding their expectations. The **FMCA** membership in attendance was very positive about their experiences and indicated they would not hesitate attending in the future. The experience of being Rally Masters was both exciting and rewarding. We would like to thank the Executive Board for their trust in us and most of all for their coordinated efforts ensuring a successful rally. They managed the securing of the much needed volunteers without whom the rally would not be as successful as it was.

THANK YOU All!!

## Volunteering — continued

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standing plans for that weekend, but many new volunteers came forward and saved the day.

Our Parking Captain George Lewis and his Co-Captain Kenny Smith did an outstanding job working with a Parking crew which included many new members. Bill and Carol Elkins and their Security staff worked hand in hand with the Parking crew, and we did not receive a single complaint about Parking and Security. In fact, the evaluation forms and emails that Board members received had high praise for both teams and stated that **NEAR 2010** offered the best parking experience that they had ever had.

Our sincere thanks to all our dedicated volunteers! Without them we would be lost. We received compliments about all of our volunteers and the terrific job that they did.

With regard to next year's

Northeast Area Rally -- your Executive Board started planning even before we left Essex Junction in July. We wanted to get as early a start as possible on as many aspects of the rally as possible. In particular, we need your cooperation in getting chapter ads, commercial ads, and sponsorships in early. We have already begun recruiting vendors and RV dealers.

Our aim is to make **NEAR 2011** our best rally ever. We sincerely hope that all of you will want to join us.

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I want to extend my thanks to everyone who stepped up and volunteered their time and energies to help in the completion of what has been called by many "one of our most successful rallies ever". **NEAR 2010** at the Champlain Valley Expo Center in Essex Junction, VT. was a resounding success, based on the overwhelming positive feedback. This comes from not only good planning / implementation and a dedication to all the details that go into a successful event, but also from the efforts of the incredible people that make up the Volunteer Staff.

We are all very fortunate people. We own motorhomes so we can live this wonderful RVing lifestyle; we are all members of this fantastic organization called "**FMCA**"; we are all members of this "Northeast Area"; and most of us belong to at least one "Chapter" within the Area. The various Chapters provide some measure of "common interest" to all of their members when reuniting for a Chapter Rally. Many times, this "common interest" is merely a desire to gather with friends and enjoy a few days. We are all very much aware of what it takes to create a National Convention, an Area Rally, or a Chapter Rally - **VOLUNTEERS**. We hear about it all the time, over and over, there's always a need for volunteers, and the

plea goes out incessantly for more.

Why do we always see a lot of the same people volunteering their services at the chapter, area, and even national level? Why do the "**Maine Wheels**" come back every year to serve coffee & donuts, or the "**Granite Staters**" always return to provide Security and Day Gate services, or the Northeast chapter of the "**Frustrated Maestros**" always gather to entertain us with voice & instrumental music, or the many "at-large" volunteers who always show up to do whatever. Is it for the \$5 "volunteer thank-you coupon" or the occasional pat-on-the-back "Nice Job"? No, not really. If you asked anyone of these folks "why", they would most certainly say "they enjoy it". There's a certain sense of accomplishment and pride when you [or you along with your group of friends] can provide a service that gives joy or a level of comfort to many others. It is a great feeling when a rally is over and you can say that you contributed to its completion (and, hopefully, its success).

I've told this story many times, but it has an appropriate meaning to it. I attended a seminar, at an area rally, given by our then Executive Director, Don Eversman. He explained how he and his wife joined a Chapter and went to their first rally. They

were recognized as "first-timers" at the evening festivities and were then told to report to the kitchen the next morning because they had just been "volunteered" to help with breakfast. Don somewhat reluctantly arrived at the kitchen at 5:30 AM to help prepare breakfast for the membership. He was given the job of being a "server" and quickly realized what had happened. He got to meet / greet and exchange a few pleasantries with every member of the chapter. He said he would never forget that experience. That seemingly simple event brought home to him the true meaning of being a volunteer. At the time, I was the president of our chapter in Florida and I decided that I wanted to try this out. We would always have between 45 to 65 coaches at our rallies and we always had 3 to 6 first-time couples. It worked just the way Don had