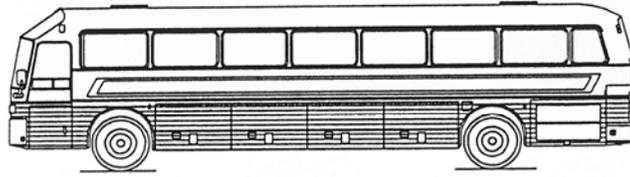


EAGLES INTERNATIONAL

A CHAPTER OF
FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER SPRING OF 2021



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Newsletter Editor – Marty Golden
432-638-9015 | goldenspecialties@gmail.com
5101 East County Rd 120 | Midland, TX 79706

Jim Shepherd – Network Administrator
www.eaglesinternational.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Eagles International members. Hope everyone is doing well as we return to normal. Ever what that is.

Elaine and I were unable to make our Quartsite rally but the report was it was a success. Anne Willis was kind enough to write an article about the Quartsite rally from the lady's point of view which I am including. Thank you, Anne.

To take up space I'll take this chance to tell you how I'm coming on mine and Elaine's coach we're building. It's a 1987 model 15 that I put a 60 series motor and 4060 Allison trans in. I then reskinned with one 6' x 35' piece of 1/8" aluminum on both sides. On the floor I put EHP roll board and 3/4" tongue and groove plywood over the original 1/2". While I had the engine out I put some leveling jacks. We built the cabinets out of mesquite wood. This required having a sawmill cut the wood, then I epoxied the cracks, planed it to 3/4", then finished. Does not sound as bad as it is. We put tile on the floor throughout. Currently I'm putting in an Intellitac electric system, Webasto heat, and AC in. Hope to be on the road by fall. The Grandkids would put some kind of emoji here.

We will have a rally in San Angelo, Texas, October 6, 7, 8 & 9 at the San Angelo State Park. There is an article in the March issue of FMAC about the park. Will include a page that tells more.

Hope to see y'all in Texas
Safe travels,
Marty Golden F299092

Eagles International Quartzsite rally

By Anne Willis

The only rally the Eagles organization can always plan ahead for year after year is Quartzsite, which we've come to describe as a non-rally. There is no rally master, no rally fee and no hookups. What you can count on, though, is good fellowship among friends and always, always good food. This year was no exception. In 2021, the Eagles gathered in the desert just off of Plomosa Rd from January 13 to 17. For a lot of reasons, numbers were down this year. There were 9 rigs in all, 5 Eagles, two Prevosts, a fifth wheel and a motorhome. We still consider it a worthwhile use of our time, because the same activities take place no matter the numbers.

Campfire talks are usually pretty predictable. Bus owners never tire of talking about their favorite topic, their buses. The men discuss the relative merits of every possible combination of engines and transmissions and who needs help with their generator this year. It happens every time they get

The women have a slightly different agenda. First things first, we catch up on the other members' travels since we last saw each other and decide when we need to bring snacks for happy hour and which night to have a potluck. It's important to be prepared! Covid 19 steered us away from restaurants this year, so one couple provided a sourdough pancake and sausage breakfast and another grilled hamburgers for an evening meal, in addition to a happy hour and Saturday's potluck. Any who wanted to learned how to make flowers out of aluminum cans. Talk about recycle and reuse! (picture A)



All that brings me to what I really want to report on, our conversations about bus conversions from a woman's perspective. A standard RV comes with a set amount of options and floor plans, newer ones more than older, but none with the options of a bus conversion. No two are exactly alike and each owner tweaks theirs to their own preferences. Some have twin beds, some have queens, for instance. I was curious, so my question was this: If you were going to build a new Silver Eagle conversion, what would you have to include?

When the men were asked that question, it's not surprising that their list included things like:

which model (01, 05, 15, etc)

dash heat/AC or not

insulation type and amount

disc brakes

lifting tag axle

raised roof

retractable steps

easy access to engine from inside

The first answer from the women was something like "Heaven forbid!" So I changed the line of questioning a little. What is your favorite thing in your bus? The answers were pretty quick and mostly fairly similar, with a few exceptions. The following list is not in order of importance by any means. What is important to one may not matter to another.

1. Footrest for the co-pilot's seat. Since some of the passengers sit above the steps at the door, it is important to have a place for your feet.



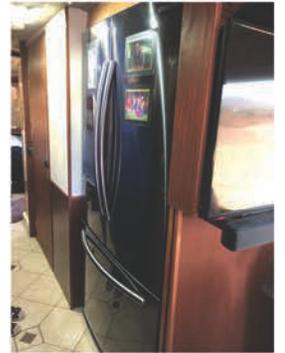
2. Large shower. No one wants to squeeze into a dinky little plastic shower where you can't turn around. Every builder/owner has a different concept, some rounded, some rectangular. Some are a residential shower purchased from a home improvement store while others are hand built and tiled. One thing we all agreed on was the importance of a footrest to shave your legs. Hey, we may be camped in the desert, but we're still civilized!



3. Conveniently arranged kitchen counter space. In our 01 Eagle, I had an 8' countertop, as big as the one in our last house. We lived in Liberty for more than 8 years and it was very functional, if not fancy. Some, like ours, are formica. Others are Corian or quartz, marble or granite, another advantage of converting a bus. The gross vehicle weight is much higher and allows for heavier finishes.



4. Residential refrigerator, as large as you can fit in if you plan to live in your bus. This was pretty much a universal choice. A refrigerator which can be used without AC power hookups is handy if you boondock a lot and don't have a large battery bank and an inverter or run a generator, but RV refrigerators, especially older ones, are very limited on inside space due to the thicker walls. I'm not an expert on the way they work, just experienced in using them! Women want room for more food!



5. All of us want lots of storage! We want room for clothes and shoes, towels and sheets, kitchen utensils. It's something you only think about when there isn't enough! Convenience is important. We don't want to have to dig in the back of a cabinet or under something to retrieve what we need. The beauty of these bus conversions is all the available storage.

6. Laundry facilities are debatable. If you have room and want one, it's a nice addition, but many of us would rather have the extra storage space. If you have one, you can be free of finding a laundromat on the road and lugging clothes to and from that laundromat, which may or may not live up to your cleanliness standards. Some bus conversions have full sized washers and dryers, while others use a combination like a Splendide.



7. Jewelry holders are nice, but definitely a personal taste. Especially for full time occupants of a bus, earrings are often an inconvenient accessory. They get lost in a drawer and you may or may not be able to find a pair. Something like this wall unit is perfect in a bus, which rides much more smoothly than a trailer or fifth wheel. Nothing ever jumps off in the journey.



8. The last item I'm going to mention has less to do with the conversion of a bus and everything to do with the occupants. Traveling with a pet is a way of life to so many that it deserves mention. There has to be a way to accommodate a furry friend and their accessories if they are important to you. Dogfood may go in a bay, but if your dog sleeps in a crate or a dogbed, it has to have its own space. We have bus friends who have a built in place for their babies that match the woodwork in the bus. Every pet is just what its family wants, but this one is for those of us who don't want to travel with a pet. It looks very realistic and even "breathes". Something for everyone!

At any rally, with any group of bus owners, there are as many opinions as there are people. The Quartzsite rally may be over for 2021, but everyone got new ideas and maybe a new skill. Recycling aluminum flowers is something that doesn't require a lot of equipment, just creativity!



LONE STAR STATE RALLY
OCTOBER 6-9
SAN ANGELO STATE PARK
Hosted by Marty and Elaine Golden

This will be a 4 day rally at the San Angelo State Park in San Angelo, Texas. We have reserved the sites and you will pay when you get there. It costs \$20 a day for rig and \$4 per person. There is electric and water. There is Fort Concho, a river walk, rose gardens and some good eating places.

We will also hold our annual business meeting at this time.

Please let me know if you plan on coming by the end of June

Marty Golden
5101 E.C.R. 120
Midland, Texas 79706
432-638-9015
goldenspecialties@gmail.com

John "Jack" Carl Bernritter died at home surrounded by family on February 20, 2021; he was 87 years old. He was born to John Charles and Lillian Fogel Bernritter on February 5, 1934 and lived near Maple Hill, Ks on the "Daddy" Layman Place until 1942 when the family moved to rural Havensville. He graduated from Havensville High School in 1952. Jack served 2 years in the army stationed in Korea 1954-1955 in the 3rd Combat Engineers, 24th Division as an Engineer Equipment Mechanic.

He was united in marriage to Betty Mae Area on December 29, 1957. They shared over 63 years of marriage; she survives of the home in rural Havensville. Other survivors include his daughter Robin and her husband Dan Kolterman, rural Havensville and their two daughters, Keely and Katelynn of Kansas City, Mo. One son, John Von Bernritter and wife Suzanne and their two sons Keegan Von and Kyler John of Havensville, Ks. One sister, Shirley and her husband Jim Barnes of Auburn, Kansas.

Jack's lifelong career was working as a Soil Contractor, forming the Bernritter Construction Company with his dad after returning from service in Korea. They built numerous dams and many miles of local roads through the years. He was a charter member of the Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association (KLICA) and served a term as president of the organization. He was honored to be Contractor of the Year in 1985. He retired in 1996.

Jack and his wife Betty spent many winters in Arizona after his retirement for they loved traveling the country. His passion for genealogy led them to travel to Germany two different times to find Bernritter relatives and kin folk enabling them to trace the Bernritter lineage back to the 1700's.

He was a past Master Mason of the Havensville and Onaga Lodge and a member of the American Legion and the VFW. He was a Buck's Grove cemetery trustee for many years, contributing many hours on improvements of the grounds including the steps (ramp), fence and prayer park.

Jack will lie in state Tuesday February 23, 2021 thru Thursday, February 25, 2021 until 6:00 p.m. at Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. A Private Family Funeral will be Friday with a public Burial with Military Honors at Bucks Grove Cemetery at 12:00 p.m. February 26, 2021. Memorials may be given to the Havensville Rural High School Association c/o Mercer Funeral Home P.O. Box 270 Holton, KS 66436. To leave a special message for the family please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

In Loving Memory Of
John Carl "Jack" Bernritter

February 5, 1934

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February 20, 2021

