

FMCA Chapter Build Report

Name and Dates of Build – FMCA Cass County, MI, May 30 through June 10, 2005

Team Leaders – Don and Marilyn McBain

There were no **assistants** as such, but Bill and Rosemary McLaughlin, at their request, took total responsibility for food and drinks for breaks. This was a great help to the leaders, who then had more time to oversee the job.

There were **16 team members**, 8 coaches.
One coach cancelled.

There were 4 **first-timers** (2 coaches).

Estimated **hours worked** by the team: 1008.

Number of Builders on the team: 18 Non-builders: 0

Non-building **group activities**:

- Meeting on the day prior to the build to update participants, orient first-timers, and review safety guidelines. Guidelines were distributed.
- Barbecue/pot-luck following the orientation meeting
- Dinner hosted by the affiliate with homeowner and affiliate board attending
- Saturday breakfast (omelet in a bag)
- Sunday brunch at a restaurant in lake country north of Dowagiac
- “Snow on the Mountain” chicken dinner, each couple contributed a topping
- Hamburger and hot dog barbecue
- Wind-up dinner at a restaurant, two of the affiliate directors were our guests
- Happy hour every day at 5:30
- Buffalo wing night at one of the Happy Hours
- Because of the heat, and because we were so far ahead of schedule, and because there was concern that there would not be enough work left for the group following ours, we took a day off. Three couples went to Shippshewanna, one couple went to tour a motorhome factory, one couple took their coach to Elkhart for repairs

All participants attended all functions, except one who was ill for a few days, and one couple who left early because of illness.

Work Performed: When we arrived, the foundation was poured and the floor joists and subflooring were installed. The garage structure was built and closed in. When we left, the house and garage were sided and shingled and the front and back porches were completed except for half of the railing spindles and the steps on the back porch.

Coach parking was at the Cass County Fairgrounds. The wiring had been updated to 50 amp with outlets for 10 coaches. There was a new dump station on site. The manager was

most cooperative and provided us with a key to a building which we could use to gather together if there were inclement weather. He also brought picnic tables to the building and to an outdoor area to accommodate our activities.

The **construction supervision** was excellent. The president of the affiliate visited the site several times each day, and one of the directors, Clint Roach, came several times a day and brought materials from the lumber yard where he worked. Both were available by cell phone.

The affiliate could not have done anything better. Their response to our needs was excellent. The lunches were all organized in advance, and were excellent. Many were provided by volunteer groups in the community and they are good cooks, particularly of brownies!

The only **concern expressed by the team members** was the heat. The weather was very hot and humid during the build. This was a major reason for taking a day off in the middle of the second week.

There were no accidents or injuries except for minor purple thumbs and fingers!

Every day was a **highlight** on this build because all of the team members were cooperative, keen, and very pleasant to work with. The homeowner, Lindsay Merrill, was so excited to be getting a new house and came to the site to work every day, adding to the team's excitement and positive attitude. The dinner provided by the affiliate at the Woodfire Restaurant was an excellent opportunity to get to know members of the community. A reporter from the Dowagiac News, John Eby, visited the restaurant to interview Lindsay and members of the team, and published an excellent article on the front page of the paper. He also came to the site and took a picture of the team members in front of the house on the last day of our build.

Tony and Mary Campbell may be **candidates as leaders** for future builds. They have a lot of experience on Caravanners builds, and this was their first FMCA build. Many of the other team members have been build leaders and all would be excellent leaders for future builds. Both of the new couples, McDade's and Irwin's, are good potentials, but we think they should be given a chance to do another build or two first, simply because no one should jump into leadership after only one build. We both found this build to be one of the best we have experienced!

Attachments:

Financial Report

Audit

Roster of Team Members with Updated Information



