



Flxible Owners International (FOI) Winter 2025 Newsletter

Board Chair Message

Message from Your Board Chair:

I hope this finds everyone well and ready to hit the road in their Flxible! Crystal and I took our first trip in Doloris, our '54 Visicoach this past weekend and boy, what a joy it was to be back behind the wheel of the ole girl! We made a quick 2 hour run south to Cincinnati for a Zac Brown Band Concert (cancelled due to weather L) but were able to catch the Reds/Guardians game and spend great time with friends. Two nights in the Flxible were just fantastic. I relish any chance to stay in the bus and enjoy the fruits of my labors over the winter – new blackout roller shades in the bedroom, new mattresses and bedding, new kitchen faucet and several smaller projects. In addition to our Flxible, we tow a '62 VW Ragtop Deluxe Beetle, aka Betty which similarly was a joy to hop around town in with the top open on a gorgeous weekend. We made it back home without issue and look forward to our next trip – a Midwest Coachmen Rally at the FRVA (formerly FMCA) Campground in Cincinnati July 9-13 being planned by FOI Member **John Maryo**. If you are interested in attending reach out to john.maryo46@gmail.com

Finances: No significant changes, we're in good shape – see minutes for exact #s.

2026 Loudonville Rally: Dates are set **Sept 16-20, 2026 @ Mohican Adventures in Loudonville, OH**. The Planning Committee has begun meeting and laid out a rough calendar (see later in the newsletter) to assist in keeping us on track in the planning process. Next up we will determine the Rally Theme and create the logo/t-shirt design.

History: **HUGE Thanks to Sue Myers** for sending **Dan Aldridge** a great list of past FOI officers and Board members. We will have this uploaded to the website for future reference and to give credit to those who have helped shape the organization over many years.

Winter Rally: **Hans Saier**, FOI Board member is actively planning for an exciting Flxible Rally in Pismo Beach, California in January 2026! More details to come and some preliminary information in the minutes below.

Membership: There are still several members who have not renewed their dues. **If you didn't receive your membership sticker in the mail, it means that your dues have not been paid – no fear**, we'd love to get you up to speed. It is as simple as **sending in your \$40 dues (check payable to "Flxible Owners International") and mailed to Melissa Coe 107 Park St, Lodi, Ohio 44254**.

Communications: The newly formed website committee under the leadership of **Richard Humble** has begun meeting and some fresh edits will be made to the site in the near term. Stay tuned as we continue to upgrade the site.

If you have an idea for the FOI organization or a question, reach out to me at any time, *please and thank you!* briansantin@gmail.com or my cell 614-571-8092. -Brian.

Did you miss the Flxible Centennial Summit article last month?

No worries, FOI member and Bus Conversion Magazine Publisher, **Gary Hatt** has graciously uploaded the article to the BCM website and made it available to everyone (no login/fee needed). Simply go to:

[<<BCM Link to 2024 Flxible Centennial Summit article CLICK HERE>>](#)

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Flxible

The Flxible Rally

Photos by Dick and Betty Marsan

by Larry Plachno

Dick and Betty Marsan of Methuen, Massachusetts, own a converted Flxible coach. Like many Flxible owners, they take great pride in their coach and communicate regularly with other Flxible owners. Some years back, Dick and Betty got the idea of bringing many Flxible coaches together for a rally. About two years ago Dick and Betty decided to take action and actively began contacting other Flxible owners to get them interested in such a rally. Eventually, the idea developed into the concept of bringing the coaches back to the old Flxible plant in Loudonville, Ohio, as somewhat of a pilgrimage to their birthplace.

Apparently the people of Loudonville, Ohio, also thought it was a great idea. Flxible bus manufacturing has since been transferred to Delaware, Ohio, and the Loudonville plant now does little more than manufacture component parts. Many of the older workers, however, remember those brighter days when the Loudonville plant turned out shiny new Clippers as well as VL-100's and the other larger Flxible coaches.

The rally planned by Dick and Betty took place in Loudonville from July 15-17, 1986. It turned out to be a great success in many ways. Over 25 Flxible coaches showed up to participate in the event. The oldest coach was a 1939 Clipper, and one family came all the way from Olympia, Washington, to participate. Another Flxible owner started off from California with his coach but had mechanical problems in Omaha. However, he continued on to the rally by automobile.

Each morning of the rally, the coach owners would meet for coffee and donuts, mixed with a liberal amount of socializing and Flxible discussion. The refreshments were graciously provided by Flxible. Since most active Flxibles are in use as converted coaches, most of the events took place in a campground in the Loudonville area.



The most exciting day of the Flxible rally came when the coaches were driven to the Flxible plant in Loudonville where they had originally been manufactured. Many photos were taken of the coaches "returning home" and lined up in front of the plant.

The rally got started on Tuesday morning with a flea market, giving participants an opportunity to show, swap, and sell parts and crafts. Expectedly, Flxible parts and Flxible items were very much in evidence. Tuesday ended with a dessert

social among the participants in the evening.

Wednesday was probably the highlight of the rally. The day started out with the buses getting lined up and then forming a parade to the Flxible plant. Appropriate-



No one could remember the last time that there had been this much activity in front of the Flxible plant in Loudonville. The coaches on the right are lined up in front of the plant while the crowd on the left is getting into position to photograph the event.



Coaches participating in the rally took turns getting lined up in front of the Flxible plant for photographs. This particular group included some of the older Clippers. The Flxible name is still evident on the right side of the building.

ly, the oldest Clippers were put in the lead, followed by the VL-100's, which in turn were followed by the newer Flxiliners.

There was quite a turn out of people at the plant for this event. In addition to current Flxible employees, the crowd that morning included retired Flxible employees, many Loudonville residents, and even some newspaper reporters. The coaches were split into groups and were lined up in front of the old plant for photographs. Activity reached a peak as people formed lines to take photos of the assembled Flxibles that had "come home for a visit," while the old timers told stories of the "good old days" when the plant was still producing intercity coaches.

Wednesday ended with a Yankee Swap among the Flxible owners. This turned into

a great time for the rally participants who had many laughs.

On Thursday, the coaches were opened to the public. In addition to Loudonville residents, many retired Flxible employees came to view the buses. The former employees remembered building the shells, but were impressed by the interior conversions to motor homes.

The rally ended on Thursday evening with a catered supper. The guest speaker was Mr. Burley Saunier, the retired fire chief of Loudonville who had worked for Flxible for over 40 years. Each coach owner was given a plaque to commemorate their participation in the event and the Flxible Corporation donated other prizes. A gift was also presented to Dick and Betty Marsan for their time and effort in planning and organizing the rally.

So many people were delighted with this Flxible rally that a similar event in the future is being discussed. If you are interested in participating in such an event you can obtain information from: Richard and Betty Marsan, 201 Forest St., Methuen, Massachusetts 01844. Phone: (617) 686-1624.

We would like to offer a special thanks to Dick and Betty Marsan who provided both the information and the photos for this article. □

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Loudonville residents and Flxible employees were delighted to have an opportunity to inspect the interiors of the converted coaches. This view shows some of the newer Flxible coaches that participated in the rally.



2026 Flxible rally planning

Sept 16-20, 2026	Loudonville, Ohio
Brian Santin, chair	Mohican adventures

Committee Members:

Project Phase	TO DO:	Mtg Mont	Project Phase	Starting En	
			REGISTRATION DISTRIBUTION	JAN 2026	
Committee formation – lead volunteer selection	April 2025		MEAL PLANNING / CONFIRM	JAN 2026	
			VOLUNTEER SIGNUP	MARCH 2026	
Theme & logo/T SHIRT crea- tion	May 2025	June 2025	PROGRAM CREATE	MARCH 2026	PRIGUS
Itinerary development	July 2025	August 2025	WELCOME BAG ITEMS COM- PILE	MAY - JULY 2026	AUG 2026
Sponsorship Packet / REGIS- TRATION CREATION	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	NAME TAGS / MISC ITEM PUR- CHASE / CATERING # CONFIR- MATIONS / BUSINESS MTG AGENDA/POWERPOINT	JUNE - JULY 2026	AUG SEP
Sponsorship outreach / event(s) secure / ENTER- TAINMENT	Dec 25/ Jan 26	Jan 2026			
Local Matters – street clo- sure, Parade plans, etc	Jan 2026	March 2026			



Board Meeting Minutes

May 19th, 2025 @ 7pm EST

ATTENDANCE

Brian Santin – Chair / Rally Captain
Hans Saier
Melissa Coe - Treasurer
Brad Wallace – Newsletter Editor

Dan Aldridge
Richard Humble – Website Liaison
Dave Rosique – Social Media Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 11th, 2024

A. Motion: (Richard 1st) / (Dave 2nd)

2. 2026 Loudonville Rally

A. Dates

i. Establish Rally Planning Committee and confirm dates – Done

ii. Theme selection and Logo development up next

1. Rally Planning Calendar (attached)

3. Winter Rally 2026

A. Captain(s) – Hans as lead, Dave asst lead

B. Location / dates

i. Pismo Coast RV in Pismo Beach, CA – Nov – March is their off season, \$80/night – up to 25 RVs, have clubhouse \$50/hr for rent, beautiful fire pit and fire tables and many other amenities, walking trails, cinnamon roll place, fish-n-chips, pizza places in town – able to cater

ii. Thinking 2-3 night event, maybe hold it on front or back end of Quartzite, AZ event (Jan 17-25, 2026) ... maybe January 29-February 1st

iii. Pismo Beach State Park next door and offers tent camping, maybe cabins

C. Likely smaller event than in past in part due to attrition in west coast membership

D. No issue for our buses to come into California from an emissions standpoint

E. Next step: Solidify dates (Hans)

4. Treasurer's Report (Melissa)

A. Checking \$707.82

B. Savings \$11,484.97

C. Petty Cash \$89.80

D. FOI Tax status update

i. IRS has no report from FOI, Form 1024 would be required to obtain 501(c)7 status, form cost \$600 to gov't PLUS >\$2,000-3,000 to complete, as a 501(c)7 would only be allowed to capture 35% of revenue from dues and any revenue above that would be taxable. No guarantee we would be granted 501(c)7 status.

ii. Other option(s) discussed and will continue to pursue options



5. Membership

- A. plan to send renewal notice to FOI members who have not renewed via next newsletter by listing current members – 5 members renewed because of the newsletter.
- B. plan to add membership roster to website via password protection (*Website Committee*)
- C. Membership stickers for 2024-2026
 - i. Dan ordered \$120/tons of them >300, some lost in USPS, Dan ordered 100 more
 - ii. Dave sent out letters & stickers
- D. New Membership Card idea – one option was \$4/ea w/ magnet strip on back but imprint.com and others offer plastic business card, would require handwritten name on each card or could use transparent Avery labels w/ name printed – would rub off easily
- E. Member Badge – **Dan to draft design w/ name and 'member since ____'**

6. Communications

A. Newsletter – Brad

- i. Dan has National bus Trader magazine article on 1st Flxible Rally from 1986 - he will scan it and get to Brad
- ii. Distribution – email (Brad) + regular mail (Melissa)
- iii. Joe Cooper (FOI member since 1992) passed away recently, Dave spoke to his widow and is putting together a short piece about Joe to include – future newsletter
- iv. Begin to compile list of former FOI leadership and ask members to help fill in the gaps – Q1 '25 newsletter – Sue Myers sent list to Dan, extensive going back to 1990.
- v. List current, dues-paid members (Melissa to send to Brad), Brad to include short blurb to encourage those NOT on the list to renew their dues.
Include again? – Not at this time, plan for 1-2 times/ year.
- vi. Future articles: Stanley Tool bus (Ned/Ken Brown) BCM article,
- vii. Last newsletter of the year Thank past officers for their time and effort in making FOI what it is (*tabled*)
- viii. Honorary Members on last page doesn't include everyone (**done**)
- ix. Hans sending short blurb on their upcoming trip

B. Facebook / Social Media - Dave

- i. Admin: Ronnie Brannon, Brian Santin, Dave Rosique
 - 1. Avg 3-5 people join the Facebook group per week
 - 2. ? add pic of Board members to Facebook page and pin membership app to top of Facebook feed
 - 3. Old Yahoo Flxible group info — Dave to ask on Facebook if anyone downloaded that information so we could possibly upload to the website as archives — await feedback on Facebook
 - 4. Comment made that our members are active and helpful when others post on Facebook with ?s, ask advice, etc



C. Website – Richard

- i. 1st meeting Monday, April 7th @ 7pm EST ZOOM — Next mtg June 9th
- ii. Make Newsletters more prominent, move Board Roster and Bylaws under Join tab
- iii. Add password login to member roster page
- iv. Add Honorary members
- v. ? able to upload videos of past Rallies to the website vs post on YouTube
- vi. ? rework to add tab for Membership info
 - 1. Roster
 - 2. Board meeting minutes
 - 3. Bylaws / Constitution
- vii. Can we tell how many views the website has? i.e. how popular is the website?

7. New Business

A. Flxible trademark – *pending*

B. Dave to investigate possible old FOI Rally videos from long-time members, Bud Hoover & Judy Nobles – Dave has them now but need to convert electronically, then? upload to website LegacyBox \$8/tape

8. Other opportunities / plans of FOI Board members for upcoming travel

A. Dan at Georgia State Campground for FMCA Rally — “We had a Ball!” despite being of the smallest FMCA Rallies only 1,600 RVs

B. Dave Rosique still looking for ambition to put an engine in his Flxible

C. Dave suggestion for QR Code on Rally Badge linking to Rally Schedule Webpage

D. Melissa & Eric Coe taking Clark to Rock-n-Race at Dragway 42 in West Salem, OH July 9th—13th.

E. Brian & Crystal going to Midwest Coachmen FRVA (Formerly FMCA) Campground Rally July 9-13

i. John Maryo is planning it john.maryo46@gmail.com

9. Next Mtg Monday, July 14th @ 7pm EST / 4pm PT

10. Adjournment (Richard 1st /Dan 2nd)

DIY Projects by Brad Wallace

If you are working on your bus and would like to share your experience, please take some photos and a small write up.

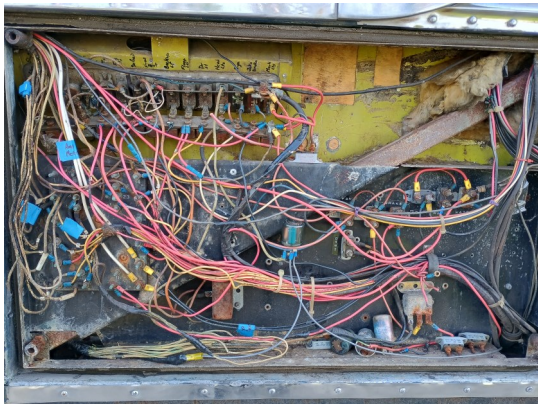
Here's mine, Newsletter Editor in Chief:

I started to work on a simple audio problem on my bus radio. Wanted to be able to listen to music while going down the highway. So, I purchased one of those fancy radios with 7" screen, so I can have a back up camera, maps, and more. I put the radio in and connected to the wires of the old radio, big mistake, or god send. There were circuit or continuity problems to speakers, worked at first, when to try a second time, no go. As any curious person, I started tracing wires, as you can see in the photos, no rhyme or reason to the wires, no documentation, no schematic, and wires go into a bundle and no clue as to where it went (was it head light, defrost, whatever).

I proceeded taking the dash apart, to my surprise, wires were bare, broken, and some didn't do anything. Once I traced the different wires, mostly through process of elimination, I got all of the instrument gauges working again. Some hadn't work since we got the bus.

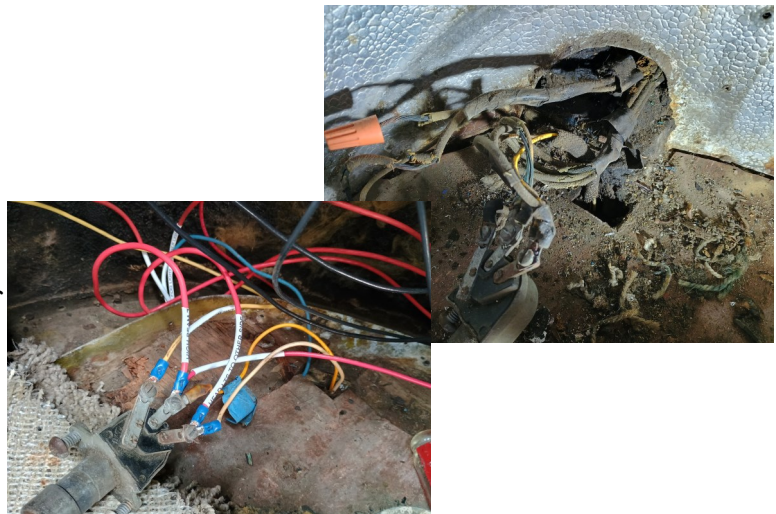


First, I started tagging wires with blue tape as to what I thought it was, for example; wire from the headlight switch was a great start. In many, OK all cases, I couldn't trace it to it's final place. Wirers were broken, work arounds, some of it was just plain Hokus Pokus.



This is what I started with, had to do a lot of tracing, note taking, and just figuring out what the wires were connecting.

To the right is the floor high beam switch, before and after.



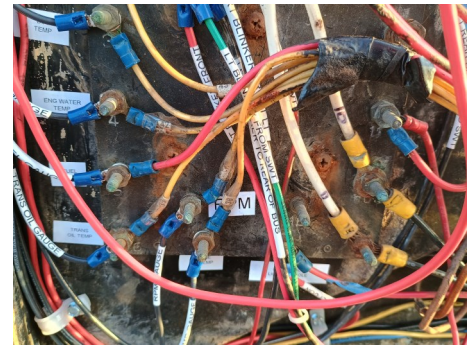
DIY Projects (cont) by Brad Wallace

Once I got all of the wiring out of the front of the bus, I was able to make one small wire harness that took care of the right side of the front of the bus, defrost, and radio. The other wire harness had to be made by pulling each wire through the holes and trays individually. The best part was labeling each end of the wire with much more than a number. The printer I have can print onto head shrink tube with a more descriptive notation, "To right headlight", "From relay in panel A", you get the idea.

I also used some color coding of wire, but not a lot, mostly red and black.



The front panel has all of the switches and terminal post labeled, much easier to trouble shoot. It took longer than expected, mostly because I didn't expect to go this deep. Maybe later in the summer I'll be able to tackle the rear panel and all of the lights on the back of the bus. Then, sometime in the future, wires connecting the 2 panels from the front to the back.



If anyone has a fun or interesting DIY bus project, please submit your story with photos. Other bus nuts or FOI members love the stories.



Some trips in our buses!

Dan Aldridge, John Showman, and George Showman with their buese at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak, Florida this last March. If you go on an adventure in your bus, send us some photos and tell about the trip. If we have room in the newsletter we'll add it for everyone to enjoy. Thanks





Flxible Owners International

Membership Application Form

To Join or Renew Your Membership, please fill in this form
and return it to Melissa at the address below.

Check One: ☐ New Membership Application Newsletter (select one):
☐ Renewal of Membership No. _____ ☐ Email Newsletter
☐ Address Change or Correction ☐ USPS/ Regular Mail

or email "info@flxibleowners.org" with information you want updated

Name: _____
LAST NAME FIRST NAME SPOUSE

Address: _____
STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP/POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Coaches (YEAR, MODEL AND SERIAL NO.): _____

- Membership is open to any Flxible owner or enthusiast. Ownership of a Flxible is not required.
- Dues are \$40.00 for two years, pro-rated at \$1.67 per month or \$5.00 a quarter until July of the next EVEN year.
- To join or renew your FOI membership, please print this page, fill it in and include it with your check for \$40.00 USD (payable to "FOI") for dues until July 2024 and mail them to:

FOI c/o Melissa Coe
107 Park Street, Lodi, OH 44254 USA
Phone: 330-461-3023
Email: dctbymelissa@gmail.com

OFFICE USE ONLY: DATE RECEIVED: _____ MEMBER NO.: _____



Executive Officers and Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Newsletter Editor—Brad Wallace	brad@cappyscaramelcorn.com	859-466-4335
Treasurer—Melissa Coe	dctbymelissa@gmail.com	330-461-3023

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West Coast Coordinator — Hans Saier		616-795-1190
Webmaster Liaison — Richard Humble	rhumble1965@gmail.com	731-435-6106
Social Media Coordinator — Dave Rosique	rosique58@gmail.com	714-240-6839

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