



# Flxible Owners International (FOI) Fall 2025 Newsletter

## **Board Chair Message**

Message from Your Board Chair:

I hope this finds everyone well. The summer seemed to have flown by with cooler temperatures upon us and the leaves beginning to change color already! FOI continues to do well with progress on several fronts as you will read about below including the possibility of a Winter Rally in California next February.

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

**2026 Loudonville Rally: Sept 16-20, 2026 @ Mohican Adventures in Loudonville, OH. Clipper Celebration. 80-years of Flxible Clippers.** Our Planning Committee (Tom Widney, Ken Brown, Ron Manchester, Tyler Manchester, Crystal Santin, Brian Santin) continues to meet every other month and is working to create the itinerary for the 5-day event. We are incorporating feedback from the event last year and look forward to making this the best Loudonville Rally yet!

**Winter Rally:** Hans Saier, FOI Board member is planning for the possibility of a Flxible Rally in California next February 2026. More to come in the next month or so...stay tuned!

**Membership:** 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 website committee under the leadership of Richard Humble will be meeting again next month. If you are interested in helping provide valuable input into this, please reach out to Richard rhumble1965@gmail.com

Have you done a recent project on your bus? Tell us about it! [Flxibleownersinternational@gmail.com](mailto:Flxibleownersinternational@gmail.com). -Brian.

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@BettyAndDoloris go to Kentucky!!

My wife, Crystal, and I like to take our '54 Flxible Visicoach, aka Doloris and '62 VW Ragtop Deluxe Beetle, aka Betty on as many camping trips each year as possible. Typically, we mark off two-week intervals and pick a state we haven't spent much time in yet. This year due to several of life's constraints, we were only able to get away with 'the girls' – our affectionate reference to Doloris & Betty for a little more than a week. Given the reduced length of the trip we choose to stay closer to home (Columbus, Ohio) and head just a few hours south to Kentucky.

We began in Louisville and toured the Louisville Slugger factory and museum. While it was a relatively short factory tour, it was neat to see the various steps taken to produce wood baseball bats for Major League Baseball players. We ventured around the corner to the historic Brown Hotel for an intimate dinner at their renowned restaurant. The Hot Brown was created in 1926 at the Brown Hotel and has become a legend as an entrée consisting of thick-sliced turkey and crispy bacon served on pieces of toast, then covered with a rich, creamy Mornay sauce, broiled until bubbly and garnished with more crispy bacon, tomato slices, and paprika. Had we known just how massive this meal was, we would've planned to split it! It was quite tasty though and we enjoyed the nostalgia of the hotel's restaurant.

During a bus trip last summer to Letchworth State Park in New York, we met a couple who are Boondocker's Welcome/Harvest Hosts near St Louis. They provided Crystal and I with a coupon for a free membership and we selected our first campsite in Louisville. The location was ideally located just 3 blocks from Churchill Downs, offered full hook-ups, and was in a very quiet residential neighborhood.

A trip to Louisville isn't complete with paying homage to the famous racetrack which we did in an early morning semi-private tour. We were on the racetrack watching trainers gallop just feet away with the most magnificent thoroughbred horses while learning the history of the iconic horse track.

We swung by Jim Beam Distillery to pick up a few bottles of bourbon and then headed an hour south to Mammoth Caves where we went on a remarkable 4hr cave hike. Next up was a leisurely drive west through



the middle of the state stopping to see Abraham Lincoln's birthplace (a national historic site), a great train museum and onto the Red River Gorge. We camped in the Natural Bridge State Park for a few days while going on various scenic hikes and enjoying the outdoors.

Before heading home, we visited with relatives in Lexington/Versailles and managed to stop by a few more distilleries (Makers Mark, Buffalo Trace, Bulleit, and Woodford Reserve). All in all, the state of Kentucky has a lot to offer, and we'd recommend checking it out if you haven't.







Abe Lincoln Monument



Maker's Mark



Bus and Train



Natural Bridge campsite

Hiking at Natural Bridge





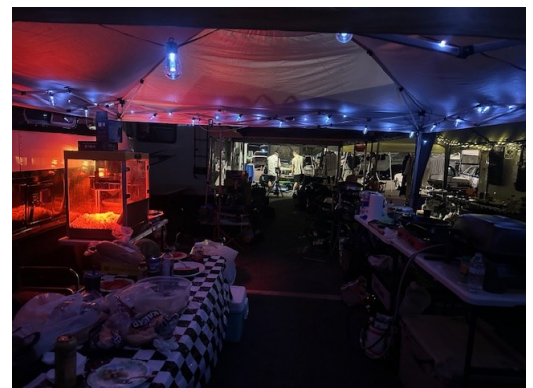
# Drakos, the 1945 Clipper Thunderhill

May 29th to June 1: Emotional Support RV for the 24 Hours of Lemons, a 25 hour (and 1 minute) overnight race!

Marilee and I arrived Thursday May 29th with our two-year old granddaughter Liara after a 171-mile journey north to ThunderHill Raceway just outside of Willows, CA. It was unusually warm for May, but we'd planned ahead and brought extra portable quiet generators to keep our AC and cooking going for the team, who'd dubbed themselves Emotional Support Vehicle. We quickly scoped out our open spot and set up base camp for the team's arrival the next day, which they quickly put to use putting the final touches on the car.

Saturday as the race began, we walked up and down the pit area, with Liara in a wagon and appropriate race costume handing out Lemon Heads candies. Unfortunately for Team Emotional Support Vehicle, the car had a catastrophic engine failure 18 hours in that ended the race for them in the very early morning.

With the Lemons race wrapping up Sunday at noon, we said goodbye to our race friends and made our way back south to home, fortunately without any mechanical issues of our own.







# Drakos, the 1945 Clipper Thunderhill cont





# Drakos, the 1945 Clipper Monterey

August 12th to 17th: Monterey Car Week

Our camping spot was in a Carmel Valley vineyard about an hour away from Monterey, with vintage car rally group Overcrest. I left Redwood City about noon for the expected three hour drive, only to notice about an hour in that my transmission temperature was climbing and my fan indicator light wasn't on. I pulled over in a safe place for some diagnosis, and it turned out to be a blown fuse, or more properly a melted fuse holder. I ended up using a circuit breaker as a stand-in for the fuse to get the fan going again. A hairy drive over a steep pass and some very twisty roads later, I made it to my designated camping spot under the shade of some old oak trees, with Marilee driving down to join me after work.

Our son Scott joined us the next day in his E28 BMW, along with a couple of his friends. This was the first time Overcrest had sponsored something like this gathering, so we took the time to check out the vintage cars people brought down. Folks were camping next to Porsches, BMWs, VW Combies, Mercedes, even a couple of Airstreams and RVs.

Thursday they hosted a "Cars in Art" show at the winery, complete with food and beer trucks, and as it got dark an inflatable movie screen with hay bale seats for some car-themed movies.



On Friday many of us drove down into Monterey for car week, enjoyed food from some of the many restaurants, and watched cars be sold for maybe a bit too much money at Barrett Jackson's Auction. Still fun to watch!

Saturday we broke camp in Carmel Valley and drove to the Monterey Community College parking lot for the night, before taking the shuttle to Pebble Beach Concourse de Elegance on Sunday morning. We spent the day on California's rugged coast, looking at fabulous cars, picnicking on the lawn, meeting up with many of Scott's friends, and watched the winner of the 2025 show be announced. One shuttle ride back to the bus later,

and we were packed up and on our way home again, this time with no new blown fuses or issues. Overall, a very successful trip!





Your Board is asking for a little help. We have been trying to compile a list of past officers, and this is what we've come up with so far. If any members can help fill in the gaps or correct any mistakes, we would appreciate it immensely! Please email Dan Aldridge at [dan@dadesigns4u.com](mailto:dan@dadesigns4u.com) with any additions/corrections. Thank you, and thanks to all our current and previous officers for their dedication and help in keeping our group rolling forward!

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Board Members</b>
1990	Bob Cole	Dick Lender	Diane Cole	Bertha Showman	
1992	Richard Dutton	Dick Lodge	Irene Dutton	Bertha Shoman	
1994	Gerald Myers	Tom Scherzer	Sue Myers	Pat Shill	Richard/Irene Dutton, Marvin/Betty Carter, Dick/Pam Lender, Ken/Joanne Utterback
1996	Dick Marsan	Bob Cole	Betty Marsen	Joanne Cline	Gerald/Sue Myers, Dave Glass, Tom Scherzer, Ken/Joanne Utterback
1998-00	Louis Thurin	Bob Moreland	Mary Jane Thurin	Joanne Cline	Dick/Betty Marsen, Dave Glass, Tom Scherzer, Mike Mueller, Marvin/Betty Carter, Ken/Joanne Utterback
2002	Bob Moreland	Ed Eyre	Patsy Moreland	Dale Keil	Lou/Mary Ann Thevin, Gerald/Sue Myers, Bud/Judy Hoover, Ken/Joanne Utterback
2004	Ed Eyre	Bruce Lemke	Ann Eyre	Jeri Nowell	Bob/Patsy Moreland, Gerald/Sue Myers, Bud/Judy Hoover, John/Lisa Showman - Honorary: Ken/Joanne Utterback
2006-08	Jere Brannon	John Showman	Ronnie Brannon	Peggy Peterson	Bill/Barb Hosteter, Dick/Lu Lodge, Bill/Beverly Kling, Doug/Susan Ferrin - Honorary: Ken/Joanne Utterback, Dick/Betty Marsen
2010-12	John Showman	Rick Hindman	Sue Myers	Arlene Lemke	Jere/Ronnie Brannon, Charlie Lamar, Harry/June Lewis, Ron/Sharon Mead
2016	David Crowe	Karl Foy	Paulette Henderson	Ronnie Brannon	John Showman, Bill/Teri Jo Mashu????, Ed/Anne Eyre, Bill/Barb Hosteter, Bruce/Arlene Lemke, John/Ruth Maryo - Honorary: Ken/Joanne Utterback, Dick/Betty Marsen
2018-20	John Showman	John Maryo	George Showman	Paulette Lingafelter	Brian Santin, Mike Middaugh, Ned Brown, Dave Mueller - Honorary: Ken/Joanne Utterback, Dick/Betty Marsen, Ron/Judy Fonte
2022	Brian Santin	Mike Middaugh	Brad Wallace	Melissa Coe	Dave Rosique, Michele Hulet, Richard Humble, Dan Aldridge - Honorary: Ken/Joanne Utterback, Dick/Betty Marsen, Ron/Judy Fonte
2024	Brian Santin		Newsletter-Brad Wallace	Melissa Coe	Dan Aldridge, Hans Saier, Richard Humble, Dave Rosique Chair Brad Wallace - Honorary: Ken/Joanne Utterback, Dick/Betty Marsen, Ron/Judy Fonte



## 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 1<sup>st</sup>) / (Hans 2<sup>nd</sup>)

### 2. 2026 Loudonville Rally

#### A. Dates

- i. Theme selection and Logo development – DONE
- ii Itinerary coming together taking into account the feedback from 2024 Rally...more to come

### 3. Winter Rally 2026

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

B. Location / dates

- i Considering two options not at a campground but would have option for a large 20x30tent, on site generator to provide power to multiple buses, looking into water and other hookup options.
- ii Dates considering Feb 13-15, 2026
- iii Former locations years ago were Wickenburg and Casa Grande per Dave

C. Next step: working through logistics of the two sites, create budget and present to FOI Board

### 4. Treasurer's Report (*Melissa*)

- A. Checking \$1240.42
- B. Savings \$10,985.83
- C. Petty Cash \$87.49

### 5. Membership

- A. 1 recent membership renewals received
- B. Plan to add membership roster to website via password protection (*Website Committee*)
- C. Member Badge – Dan to draft design w/ name and 'member since \_\_\_\_' (tabled — need pricing from Dan)





## 6. Communications

### A. Newsletter – Brad

- i. Distribution – email (Brad) + regular mail (Melissa)
- ii. 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— Dave
- iii. 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 — **Dan to send list of former FOI Leadership to Brad for newsletter.**
- iv. Future articles: \_\_\_\_? Goodyear Bus/ ? Krispy Kreme \_\_\_\_\_,
- v. **Hans sending short blurb on their recent racing trip.**
- vi. Brian will write-up their Kentucky 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**

### C. Website – Richard

- i. **Next meeting Monday, Oct 20th @ 7pm EST**
- ii. Evan Muller joined the committee and excited to work on history items of FOI
- iii. Make Newsletters more prominent, move Board Roster and Bylaws under Join tab — **Done**
- iv. Add password login to member roster page
- v. Add Honorary members—**Done**
- vi. ? able to upload videos of past Rallies to the website vs post on YouTube
- vii. ? rework to add tab for Membership info
  1. Roster
  2. Board meeting minutes
  3. Bylaws / Constitution
- viii. Can we tell how many views the website has? i.e. how popular is the website?



**7. New Business**

- A. 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. Dave Rosique still looking for ambition to put an engine in his Flxible
- B. Richard painting his bus while he waits to have a new front end put in.
- C. Brian leveling his bus and new brakes/ lines/etc
- D. Random Acts of Camping this coming weekend....

**9. Next Mtg Monday, November 20th @ 7pm EST / 4pm PT**

**10. Adjournment (Richard 1<sup>st</sup> /Hans 2<sup>nd</sup>)**



**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](mailto:dctbymelissa@gmail.com)

OFFICE USE ONLY: DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER NO.: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Executive Officers and Board**

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Chair/Rally Captain—Brian Santin	briansantin@gmail.com	614-571-8092
Newsletter Editor—Brad Wallace	brad@cappyscaramelcorn.com	859-466-4335
Treasurer—Melissa Coe	dctbymelissa@gmail.com	330-461-3023

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

T-Shirt Master — Dan Aldridge	dan@dadesigns4u.com	231-651-0669
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

### **PROGRAM MASTERS**


### **HONORARY LIFETIME BOARD MEMBERS**

Kenny Utterback, Loudenville, OH 44842 Email: kwutterback@gmail.com Phone: 419-991-3869	Dick and Betty Marsen, Methuen, MA 01844 Email: rimar69@gmail.com Phone: 407-843-3603	Ron and Judy Fonte, McMurray, PA 15317 Email: ronfonte@yahoo.com Phone: 724-941-8527
	Des and Patsy Feary, Morphett Vale, S.A. 05162 Email: cool47@bigpond.com Phone: 08-618-382-4809	

