



Welcome to the  
**2017 FROG™ International Rally!**  
Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds  
17746 County Road 34 Goshen, Goshen, IN  
August 6-12, 2017

July 25, 2017

We're almost there! We're looking forward to this year's FROG Rally, and we hope you are, too. Here are some items to help make your arrival as easy as possible and to help ensure that we all have a great week.

### Arrival

REMEMBER THAT ELKHART COUNTY IS IN THE HEART OF AMISH COUNTRY. EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER HORSE-DRAWN BUGGIES AND BICYCLES ON SOME OF OUR NARROW COUNTY ROADS. PLEASE BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS WHEN APPROACHING THE CREST OF A HILL, WHERE THERE MIGHT BE A SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE HIDDEN IN FRONT OF YOU.

The address of the fairgrounds is shown above. If you're coming into Goshen from the north or south on US 33, you want to watch for Goshen High School. If you're coming from the south, it's about a mile north of the Wal-Mart Supercenter, on your left just after the football field. From the north, it's about a mile south of downtown and the courthouse. There's a traffic light in front of the school. Turn east (the only way you can turn) and go past the railroad tracks. The fairgrounds are on the right, and you'll enter Gate 2 by the tall electronic sign.

If you're planning to come from the north through Middlebury (Exit 107 on the Indiana Toll Road), you'll come south on Highway 13 through town and continue south until you reach a "T" intersection at Highway 4 (Philip T. Warner Highway). Turn right on Highway 4 and go to the next stop sign at CR 35. Turn left on CR 35 and continue to the next stop sign at CR 34 (just past the Amish school on your right). Turn right on CR 34 and continue about a mile and a half to the fairgrounds on your left. Enter at Gate 2 by the tall electronic sign.

Be aware that the Middlebury Summer Festival is the closing weekend of the FROG Rally. **Main Street (Highway 13) will be closed for the parade starting around noon on Saturday, August 12.** You'll be better off using Highway 15 or Highway 17 to leave Goshen and go north to the Toll Road.

Most of the sites – roughly 600 out of 800 -- do not have a sewer. **Please try to arrive with empty or nearly empty holding tanks.** There are dump stations on the grounds, but most of them are not laid out well and are a mess if we've had heavy rain. **PLEASE DO NOT DUMP ANY TANKS ONTO THE GROUND.**

If you plan to arrive early, you should already have called Bev or Diane at the fairgrounds at (574) 533-3247 and let them know. If you've not done so, you need to do it right away. (The Elkhart County Fair is in progress, so they're a little busy right now. Please be patient.

They'll put you on an early arrival list for me but **they won't assign you a specific site**. We'll try to get you on a site where you can stay for the FROG Rally. Your Rally registration includes six nights of camping, from Sunday through Friday. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to stop by the fair office and settle up for extra nights while you are here. **NOTE: Early arrival does not guarantee you a full hookup site.**

## **Parking**

We'll have parking team members on hand starting about 8:00 each morning, beginning on Thursday, August 3. **Because of the time required to prepare the grounds following the fair, there will be no early arrivals prior to Thursday.** You'll enter the fairgrounds at Gate 2 (watch for the large electronic sign) and be met by a member of our parking team. You'll turn left after entering and loop around the lot so that we can keep traffic from backing up on the street. If you have a motorhome and are towing a car, please pull over as directed and drop the car rather than waiting to get to the parking area. (If you can drop it before arriving, that's even better.)

At the parking table we'll get your name and determine the area in which you've been assigned to park. You'll be escorted to the appropriate area, and a team member there will help you get parked "hobo-style," meaning in the next available site. **If you want to park next to someone specific, please make sure that you have told us in advance, and arrange to arrive at the same time as that person so that we can park you together.** Unfortunately, given the volume of units and the need to use some areas for specific purposes, we cannot honor requests to park in a particular spot or to hold a spot next to you for someone arriving later. If you've not already notified us by now, we cannot adjust spots at the parking table to honor requests that we didn't know about.

As we've repeatedly mentioned, I wish we could park all 800 units in the roughly 200 full hookup spots. We cannot. Except for a VERY small number of people with specific medical needs, I have not promised anyone a full hookup site.

Once you are been parked, we'll put an orange tag and a green tag on your RV. The orange tag will have your last name and your parking spot marked on it. Please leave this tag on the front of your unit – on the king pin of a fifth wheel, jack crank on a trailer, windshield wiper of a motorhome – so that it can be seen by service technicians and in case of emergency. If you are not on a full hookup site, we'll also put a green tag on your unit. If you want free pump-out service midweek, please leave this tag in place as well. It's the signal for the pump-out truck to stop by and empty your tanks. Please make sure the sewer compartment is unlocked **and open**. **If you have a second dump outlet, please put a note on the green tag so that the driver doesn't miss it.** If you remove the green tag, your tanks will not be pumped out.

Please note that most of our sites have 30-amp electric service. Even if you have a 50-amp unit, you might be on 30-amp service, so be sure you have an adapter. We hope to have mild weather, and generally have had the good fortune to have it.

**Here's where we need your help. Please try to conserve power.** We've not had any major power issues in the past, and the fairgrounds have added a new transformer, but we still put a load on the system. Please use only one air conditioner as much as possible. If your water heater and refrigerator can operate on propane, please do it. Your cooperation will ensure that both you and your neighbors get through the week with no issues. (BTW, Cindy and I live full-time in a Berkshire with a 50-amp

system, three A/Cs and a residential refrigerator, and we do it on 30-amp service in the campground at Coachmen.)

Note, too, that in a few of the permanent sites, there is a single spigot that provides water for two or more RVs. Having a "Y" connector in case you and your neighbor need to share the spigot is a wise idea.

Our first scheduled event is dinner on Sunday at 5:30. **If you arrive late on Sunday afternoon**, after about 5:00, you will probably find that the parking crews have TEMPORARILY shut down to attend the welcome dinner (they are FROGS, too, after all). Just pull around as far as possible on the big parking lot where you entered at Gate 2, and come join us for dinner. We'll be in the largest building on the Fairgrounds, just across from the clock tower and park inside the gate and to the right. Following dinner, the crews will return and make sure you get escorted to your designated area and parked.

## **Registration**

Registration will be open Friday through Sunday from 10:00 to 4:00. After you've parked and gotten settled, please go to the registration building, which is also the dining hall, to register. Some of the fairgrounds maps show it as Building A, some as Building 6. Either way, it's the largest enclosed building on the fairgrounds, and you'll see it ahead and to the right from the main gate. You'll receive name tags and lanyards, an agenda, and other information in your welcome packet.

On Sunday you'll have the opportunity to sign up for factory tours in the registration area from 1:00 to 4:00. We're waiting until Sunday in order to give those who are not able to arrive early an opportunity to get on the list for factory tours. We've tried to schedule tours based on attendance by brand for the most part. We are not able to send a tour bus to all 50+ Forest River plants in the area. In some cases, you might be able to speak with a sales representative in the RV display and arrange a private tour, although I can't guarantee that it will be possible in every case.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Even though we were not able to include all of you who generously volunteered your time on the parking and registration teams, there are still a lot of volunteer opportunities available. Among the spots we need to fill are golf cart shuttle drivers throughout the week; bus volunteers to get people on the right buses for Amish area and factory tours; hydration team to deliver water to the parking team and to tour buses; Rally Office staff in the vendor area; marshals for dinner serving lines; servers to set desserts on tables prior to dinners; teams to set up chairs in the seminar areas and to set up chairs and cover tables in the dining room; and lots of other jobs that will come up during the week.

## **Service**

If you've submitted a service request, you'll need to stop by the Rally Service Center as soon as possible. It's located in the Ag Building at of Oak and Dahlia, just east of the Elkhart County Community Center. The Service Center will be open starting on Saturday morning at 9:00.

Be sure to write down your campsite from the orange tag and take it along so that the service techs can find you. You'll briefly go over your form so that the service team understands just what you need. (Some of you might already have been contacted by your division, but you still need to go over and give

them your site number.) If you're going to be off the Fairgrounds on tours on some days, please let them know.

**You may give the technicians permission to enter your unit when you're not there, but you don't have to do so. However, we will do no work inside your unit in your absence if we do not have that approval.** If you have animals that are not caged, you MUST be there for the technicians to enter. We don't want to let your pet loose by accident, and we don't want dogs biting technicians or vice versa.

Please be sure to provide a phone number where you can be reached, so that the technicians can call before arriving. We want you to be able to be out enjoying the events, attending seminars, visiting the vendors, meeting friends, and touring the RV display (by the way, yes, they are for sale), not sitting at your RV waiting for someone to show up.

### **Name Tags**

Please be sure you wear your name tag around the Fairgrounds, **and especially for meals and tours**, because that is your ticket to all events. If you have young children in your party, please write your name and phone number on the back of their nametags so that if you get lost we can help your children or grandchildren find you and keep a closer eye on you.

### **Meals**

We'll be having meals in Building "A," the large building where you go for registration. The following meals are included in the FROG Rally:

Dinner:	5:30-7:00	Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Breakfast:	7:30-9:00	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

For breakfast, you can generally go right to the serving lines once you've entered. (We'll open breakfast **for the service techs only** at 7:00 so that they can grab a bite and head out to work on your RVs

For dinner, please come in, find a seat, and relax, rather than standing outside on the pavement in the sun. PLEASE DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO THE SERVICE LINES. We will call everyone by sections so that we can minimize the amount of time you have to stand in line.

When we open the service lines, feel free to help yourself to a **single serving** of everything. Once everyone's been served, we'll invite you to go back for more.

Some people have asked about having one or more potlucks on Tuesday and Thursday. Last year there were several events all around the fairgrounds. We can make the dining room and several pavilions available. All that we ask is that they be left clean and ready for the next day's breakfast or seminars. Please let us know about any plans so that extra trash pickup can be arranged if necessary.

### **Agenda and List of Vendors Online**

We've posted a copy of the Rally agenda and a list of vendors on line at the FROG Website. You can view, download, and print them from the FROG website, [www.forestriverfrog.com](http://www.forestriverfrog.com), by going to the "EVENTS" tab and clicking on "2017 FROG International Rally." (To print the agenda, set your printer on

“Landscape Orientation, Print Both Sides, Flip on Long Side.”) You’ll also receive a copy of both documents in your registration packet. Even if you don’t print it, I encourage you to look it over in advance so that you have an idea of what to expect throughout the week.

### **And Finally, and Most Important ...**

Have fun. Come with a smile on your face, expecting to make new friendships and renew old ones, and have a great time. Be patient, especially at arrival. We currently have about 300-350 units slated for early arrival, which means we have about 500 to park on Sunday. Mike, Lou, and the entire parking team will be working hard to get you in and settled as quickly and as smoothly as possible. Cindy and her registration team will be providing a friendly welcome and providing more information. Leo and the service team will be working tirelessly to attend to your service needs.

And remember, the folks working so hard on the welcome teams are volunteers – members attending the FROG Rally just like you. Without them we could never dream of putting on an event like this. Please take a moment during the week to give them a smile and a “thank you.”

And now, **Let’s Get Ready to Rally!™**

Bob Byrne  
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