

NW Country Coachers

Volume 1, Issue 6

May, 2008

NW Country Coachers
4205 SE Paradise Ct.
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NW Country Coachers CALENDAR 2008

August 22-25 NWCC Pre-Rally Pre
mier RV Park in Salem

August 27-31 Country Coach West
Coast Class Reunion-

Please let Lee Casebeer know if you plan on attending the Salem Rally to make sure there are enough RV spaces. Lee's email is Lcasebeer@cs.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Sisters, in Central Oregon where this year winter will not yield and we still have cold temperatures at night and even experienced a dusting of snow last week!

Elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter I wrote about suggestions worth considering and today I wish to bring to your attention one such suggestion that I think merits serious consideration.

Basically the suggestion proposed that in addition to our organized club events we should incorporate a few "no host" rally's into the annual schedule.

The idea is to pinpoint a suitable RV Park, publish a specific date and then let members make their own site reservations. Members can decide for themselves how long they want to stay at the location.

There would be no Wagon Master or organized outings, and no support from Country Coach. However, a 'potluck' on the first night would be a good way to get the participants together and they could then decide among themselves what they would like to do on the following days.

No doubt some old friends would elect to dine out in the evenings and golfers would find a nearby venue to enjoy. Some might play Bridge or Dominos and others elect to go for a walk. No doubt there would be discussion concerning coach problems (or should we call them challenges) and maybe some owners might get on the spot help.

The concept is to bring members together and let them interact and have fun without all the work involved with a full rally event.

When establishing the 2009 schedule we will set aside some dates for 'no host' rallies and see what develops.

In the interim, we need some help. Below I have listed 7 locations in the Pacific Northwest. If you have personally visited a RV Park within a twenty-five mile radius of any location mentioned that you feel fits the needs and desires of NWCC members and could hold twenty to twenty-five coaches please write to me at dakatsrv@aol.com

If you are not full timers and live within twenty-five miles of the location mentioned and would be willing to do a little legwork to check out locations please identify yourself.

The locations are **Anacortes** and **Spokane** in Washington, **Astoria, Coos Bay, Bend, Medford,** and, **Eugene** in Oregon.

Your input is very important, as some of the above locations may be part of the 2009 event schedule.

Thanks for your help, I look forward to your contributions. Safe travels.

David Roberts

Prosser Wine Country Mini-Rally

1 April –5 April

The first club rally in the Northwest was a fun event. The nine coaches attending took up nearly a full row in the Wine Country RV Park--all in the park knew a Country Coach rally had arrived! There were four action packed days filled with good food, wine tours and tasting, local sight seeing and great camaraderie among the members. The weather was sunny and dry most of the week, it was a welcome relief for many of us from all the wet on the west side of the Cascades.

Tuesday night was Pot Luck appetizers, they were very good – it is obvious we have some terrific cooks in the group. There was also a selection of local wines to try out and pair with food. All enjoyed a good time meeting and greeting, it is evident we have a super group of people in the club.

Wednesday started with a continental breakfast in the clubhouse and we then visited Vinter's Village conveniently located close to the RV Park. This is a new concept in wine touring as there are a number of new wineries located close together connected by walk paths. It made for a fun day and we encountered some really good wines. The owners and winemakers were very gracious and gave the group complete tours of the facilities, their artistic insights into winemaking and of course, a tasting of their full line of fine wines. Favorites of the group included Airfield Winery and the Winemakers' Loft; it is rumored that there are a number of cases headed to the members cellars. We made a valiant effort to visit every winery in the village but after the cheese and wine pairings and four wineries we repaired to the coaches. Now we have a good excuse to return again in the future! That evening there was a great Wine Country Potluck in the clubhouse with some favorite wines from the day shared with the group. This again highlighted the culinary skills in the group; all agreed the dishes were terrific.

On Thursday morning we found ourselves at the well known Snoqualmie Winery for a tasting and then on to Desert Wind, a new destination winery on the Yakima River. We were all impressed with this beautiful facility with a fireplace in the tasting room, large outdoor courtyard, quality gift shop and upscale onsite La Mesa restaurant. The owner was very accommodating, opening their reserve wines and even a guided tour through their luxury lodging suites at the winery! Many enjoyed a nice lunch at La Mesa in the winery. A number of people did some sight seeing in the afternoon including visiting the local quilt shops and the Chukar Chocolate Cherry Factory. The evening catered dinner in the Olsen Winery was memorable. Frank Magana, executive chef at Picasso's, prepared the meal onsite, described the courses and wine pairings and greeted everyone at the table. The setting in the winery with the fireplace, music from the grand piano, excellent food and wine and the elegant service was described by many as one of the best dinners enjoyed in a long time.

Friday morning we struck out in caravan on a field trip to Co-



lumbia Crest Winery in Paterson; this is the largest winery in the NW with 6 million cases bottled annually! We were treated to a private staff tour of the winery; it is huge – saw the bottling line in action and viewed the reserve barrel aging rooms for the Walter Clore Meritage Reserve wines complete with velvet rope enclosure. The group enjoyed a private tasting of new releases in the mansion's Great Hall along with a lunch of locally smoked meats and cheeses. The staff also opened the tasting room for the members which included their reserve wines. There were a number of cases headed to member's cellars from here too!

The rally ended Saturday morning with coffee in the clubhouse and a farewell and safe travels to all our new friends in Northwest Country Coachers. All agreed this was a fun event and a great start to the club rallies ; all want to participate and several members offered to help set up rallies in the future. With this event as a start, there should be a number of great rallies coming up!

The rally masters for this outing were Herb & Pat Harris and Don and Barbara Schleuse.



A view of Country Coach Street at Prosser Rally

To Receive a Copy of the NWCC Roster-contact Lee or Kris at Lcasebeer@cs.com or phone 503-807-9936

Service Venue Recommended

My wife and I recently purchased a '95 Intrigue. After correctly operating several times, the generator refused to crank. No one at the Prosser rally could suggest a location to take it for service.

We phoned Power Technology and we were directed to take our coach to **Infinity Coach** in Sumner, Washington.

We called for an appointment and they agreed to have us show up on Wed. evening and park next to their building and hook up to 50 amp service!. Next morning, the technician, Danny Humphrey, drove our coach into one of their three double-length service bays.

Within a few minutes he had completed servicing the generator and found a defective connector at the started motor. He changed the connector and verified correct starting several times.

I then asked him to check the leveling system because the passenger side was low. He used four wheel lifts to get the coach about five feet above the floor and made the required adjustments. Total time in the shop was just over an hour.

The shop is clean and they are equipped to do any work on a coach short-of major engine and transmission work.

Because they do bus conversions, they even have sheet metal and cabinet shops.

Good price and great service. We recommend **Infinity Coach** if you need service in the Seattle-Tacoma area. Contact is Jim Lewis at 253-891-0879 or jim@infinitycoach.com.

Their web site is www.Infinitycoach.com.

Maxine & Russell Warren from Bremerton, Wa.

Northwest Area Christmas in June Rally

Is anyone planning on attending the NWA rally in Albany, OR 4-7 June? This would be a perfect time to meet up somewhere and caravan to the Fairgrounds. The price of \$130 includes 5 catered meals (catering done by the same company that catered the Homecoming), 2 nights entertainment, Red Hat Luncheon, swap meet, among a list of other events. You can find a registration form in your March, April, and May issue of the Family Motor Coaching Magazine.



Barbara and I spent 17 – 19 April in Albany helping to finalize plans for this rally. There are still a few spots open for you to volunteer and become a part and have some fun. If you would like info, just e-mail me at dons2346@yahoo.com

Don S.

SUGGESTIONS WORTH CONSIDERING

As we move through our first year of existence the members who attend our planned events are beginning to come forth and make suggestions as to how the operation of the club could be improved for the benefit of all.

Your elected Officers welcome all suggestions big or small and will give each one due consideration. Some will be accepted some may not. A lot depends on timing and practicality, and a good idea not accepted this year may be incorporated next year so please do not hold back if you have a contribution or criticism. We improve by debating issues and learning from mistakes.

As an organization we do labor with a handicap. The Internet is a marvelous tool and we could not operate this club successfully without it. However, there is no substitute for face to face meetings where in a short time each attending member can voice their opinion and a consensus can be reached expeditiously.

I therefore ask that you be patient with us. Hopefully any suggestion via the Internet will get acknowledgement of receipt but it may take a few days or weeks before a definitive answer is created.

At the August Rally in Salem and again at the Class Reunion most if not all of your Officers will be present and available for face to face meetings and it is my expectation and hope we will address many issues facing the club during this period and develop solutions.

We will also be available to meet with you personally if you have ideas or concerns.

CASE IN POINT

We made the decision to change locations of our Salem Rally based on a good recommendation from a member who lives in the vicinity of the Premier Park. Before making such a change it seemed prudent to verify overnight rates, availability, and check the park personally. This was done by our Secretary, Lee and Vice-President, Kris based on their input and discussion with the Treasurer, Mary Ann who also happens to live in the Salem area a decision was made.

This process took time but in the end a good decision was made thanks to a suggestion from a member.

More recently I received a comment about publishing the newsletter in hard copy form. A member requested we delete his hard copy to save paper, avoid postage and print back to back to save paper. Good comments and all worthy of consideration.

In my opinion, having a great club newsletter is imperative. What we need is to refine the format, improve the content and decide on appropriate means of publication that is efficient and cost effective. We will address this issue in depth at the Salem rally where we will be able to canvas the attending members for their opinions and ideas.

BTW. The blank pages wouldn't be blank if members contributed more articles!
Dave Roberts

A CAMPGROUND REVIEW

Last week I visited the Bend/Sister KOA camp ground that is close to reopening after a major two-year renovation project. I met one of the new partners and took a brief tour of the site with the objective of determining suitability for larger class A Motor Coaches and their Toads.

The first phase of the development now includes 95 sites with 59 shown as pull through. 50 Amp service is available at all sites and WiFi is advertised as being accessible.

At the time of my visit two rest room buildings with showers were under construction but it was not possible to view the interiors. I can only assume that being brand new they will be suitable for the most discriminating visiting 'camper'.

As an owner and operator of a Class A Coach the partner I met has drawn on fifteen years of motor home experience to guide her through the renovation design process. The benefit of this experience is clear when viewing size and alignment of the sites, careful pruning of the trees to avoid contact with vehicles, and traffic patterns.

The most visible and impressive sight during my tour was the brand new asphalt that covered every access road and site throughout the park. No dust storms to worry about.

Unfortunately at this time there is no new clubroom to compliment the quality of the park but with luck this will be rectified sometime next year.

The existing convenience store and adjacent small café have a fresh look and the staff was friendly, helpful, and ready for your call at (541) 549-3021, or reservations (800) 562-0363. When the landscaping is complete this RV Park will be a quality product and one of the best in the immediate area.

The Bend/Sisters KOA Park is conveniently situated at 67667 highway 20 with easy access from either direction of travel and ample room to park while waiting to register.

I was informed that the rate per night per site is the same regardless of location within the park. The rates for this year will be \$48 per night starting in May except for holidays and special events (Rodeo and Quilt Show weekends) when the rate is \$58. The rate will drop to \$38 per night in the shoulder season.

KOA members can get their membership discount. Quantity discounts for groups were not available at the time of going to press but I'm sure NWCC could negotiate a better rate for non-holiday and special event periods.

The Bend/Sisters KOA is situated approximately 16 miles from the outskirts of Bend, 4 miles from Sisters and 20 to Redmond. The nearest major grocery outlet is Ray's Food Place six miles west as is the nearest Les Schwab tire dealership.

Bend (75000) and Redmond (25000) both have Wal-Mart, Lowe's and Home Depot Stores, but for Best-Buy and Costco you will need to go to Bend. By contrast, Sisters is a quaint little City with a Western theme. It does have many small stores, art gallery's, and a brand new library. East of town is a new movie house and a soon to be opened 'Brew Pub'.

Aspen Lakes Golf Course is about four miles north of the park and close to Redmond is the Eagle Crest Resort.

Disclaimer: As we live only five miles from the Bend/Sisters

KOA it is highly unlikely we personally will ever stay there. For those of you traveling through the area I think it is worth consideration and it is my hope we can have one of our planned NWCC events there in the near future. Prices are always subject to change and those interested should call to verify any information I have written.

Have a great summer, David, P of NWCC

Officer Contact List

Our officers are ready to help you at any time. Please contact the following:

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