

NW Country Coachers

Volume 2 Issue 4

June, 2009

NW Country Coachers
4205 SE Paradise Ct.
Milwaukie, OR 97267

Board Members

President David Roberts
Vice President Kris Casebeer
Secretary Lee Casebeer
Treasurer Mary Ann
..... Storey
National Director Don Schleuse
Alt. National Director Herb Harris
Newsletter Editor Barb Lowery

2009 CALENDAR

July 20-23, FMCA Bowling Green, OH
August 13-17 Salem Pre- Rally
August 19-23 CCI West Coast Reunion
September 24,25,26 Prosser, Washington
October 23-25 Anacortes, Wa Gathering
November 13-15 Long Beach Rally
February 16, 2010 Yuma with Jim & Ang
March 25, 2010 ODR Cathedral City Potluck
May 22-23, 2010 Hoodsport Canal Event
Aug. 11-14, 2010 FMCA Redmond, OR



IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR, ONLY HISTORY. LOOKING FORWARD THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

As we approach the end of June we are rapidly coming to the end of our second year of existence as a new Motor Home club. The journey thus far has been interesting to say the least.

We started life in September 2007 with high hopes and expectations, not knowing that within months our world would be shaken severely by conditions far beyond our control.

As I innocently wrote in the early newsletters our plan was to recruit one hundred plus members, put out a monthly newsletter, and have several rally events each year.

Membership would be boosted by first time Country Coach owners and word of mouth solicitations as our members traveled around the country.

Our dreams were to attract twenty plus coaches to the events, receive a stipend from Country Coach and even some factory service. We would also forge an alliance with a major dealer. It was also hoped that we could negotiate with RV Park owners for some attractive nightly rates.

We were correct to dream big and aim high. Little did we anticipate that our path to success would be strewn with obstacles, testing our ability and resolve.

At first everything seemed to be on track. Recruitment of members while slow was consistent and we did for a time exceed our 100-member goal. Our first large rally in Salem did not come with factory support but we did receive a stipend from Country Coach and our Guaranty dealer friends provided beverages and some technical help.

Our monthly newsletter became well established and over time a reasonable supply of news articles were contributed by members.

Considering the difficulties created when trying to connect with 100 members, ninety percent via the Internet, ten percent via snail mail, we made good progress.

However, all was not well in paradise! Escalating diesel prices in the summer of 2008 caused just about everyone to rethink their travel plans. There is no record of how many of our members decided not to attend an event but even one or two abstentions had an effect.

Nasty though it was the record high fuel price paled in comparison to what happened next. Housing sales stalled, defaults started, credit became difficult, the Stock Market retracted and then the unthinkable happened, house prices started a downward spiral that in some areas continues today.

Understandably one of the major casualties of the major recession created was great turmoil in the RV manufacturing world ultimately resulting in the near demise of Country Coach.

Our expectations for factory support, stipends and a steady supply of new coach owner members evaporated almost overnight.

With this bleak back drop there was a real concern that our own NWCC would have severe problems, cut back on events and maybe stagnate.

Today, I'm happy to report that notwithstanding the very difficult economic times we face NWCC is alive and well and in much better shape than some of our counterparts.

True, our membership eased a little to just below the one hundred mark and we have no factory support but that did not stop our plans to hold several events in the past few months.

The monthly newsletter has been published as promised, our annual dues remain a modest twenty-five dollars and we have seen several great people step forward to act as wagon masters.

Our recent rallies at Long Beach, WA., Yuma, Cathedral City, Newport, and Hood Canal received good grades and most of those attending have indicated their desire for a repeat event in the same location.

The wagon masters who did such a good job have agreed to take on the challenge for 2010 and in some cases have already booked an increased number of sites.

So in conclusion, I think it safe to say, albeit slower than originally hoped, our progress as a club is strong and getting stronger. Our membership is showing that 'when times get tough, the tough get going'.

We can look forward to our big event in Salem with confidence that we have survived a difficult time and can go forward together to enjoy the years ahead as a successful and vibrant club. [Pg.2](#)

Continued from page 1 All the club officer positions are up for election in September, where a new board of directors will be seated. Some incumbents have indicated their desire to seek reelection some have not. It is anticipated that a nice orderly changeover will occur and the club will benefit by having more people actively associated with month to month operations.

Thanks to all of you who went the extra mile to keep us on the right track during the recent difficult times. Now we can look forward, the future is bright.6

Sincerely, David & Karen Roberts

September 25-27, 2009

Location: The Prosser Airport & Art Fiker Stadium in Washington

The rainbow colored balloons will take flight Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with sunrise launches scheduled for all three days, weather permitting, of course. Watch the pilots prepare the giant balloon for lift off. FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

Sunrise launches are scheduled Sept. 25, 26, 27, 2009 (weather permitting). Spectators are urged to arrive at the Prosser Airport early (about 6:15 a.m.) to watch the pilots prepare the giant Balloons at sunrise.

Some lucky spectators are even asked to assist the Balloon Pilots inflate, chase, and recover their Hot-Air Balloons.

The rally will also include a Night Glow at dusk Saturday evening. Balloons will be anchored and illuminated at Art Fiker Stadium, displaying their colors against the night sky. Free admission. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Pre-show entertainment will be family oriented.

Proposed Rally:

Mike Miller from Airfield Winery could accommodate about 15 coaches on his vineyard. It is dry camping only and about 10 miles from Prosser, WA. We don't know about the dust level in September but it can get windy in this valley. Mike Miller offered one of his buildings at his winery that could be used

for a meeting hall for the group. There is an opportunity to set up a dinner (catered or pot-luck dinner) and have entertainment in the vineyard – weather permitting, and the location is a reasonable driving distance from Prosser, WA.



Here is a summary of the rally site:

1. The vineyard is located in a rural agricultural area; access to the vineyard is on an unpaved gravel road.

2. The campsites are unimproved, some with gravel.
3. There are no hook ups or facilities available at the campsites.
4. The days can be warm in September, so running generators would be required.
5. This is also the time of year for the crush, so noise and blowing dust may be generated by mechanical grape harvesters in the area but this shouldn't be to much of a problem.
6. As this is a rural area, pets would need to be leashed and kept close to the coaches.

The best venues for watching the Festival can be crowded, Vintner's Village is very busy at this time and will not typically offer private tours, and the better restaurants will be fully booked; this would preclude our attending events as a group and would require some self-organization for daily activities. Prosser is in the Yakima valley. There are many excellent wineries in the area, which are worthwhile exploring. We had a rally in Prosser in 2008 and got to taste many wonderful wines. We need to have a count of interested coaches so we can start planning this rally. Check out www.prosserchamber.org for more information about the area.

Please contact Richard or Sibylle Beck for more information (sib@nu-tekscopy.com or 503-399-0636).

Important Announcement:

There will be an important business meeting during the Salem Rally.

The date and time will be announced. Please plan on attending. If you can't attend the Salem Rally and you live close to Salem, it would be nice if you could come to the meeting. See pg 4

Let's Do Anacortes in October

We have reservations at Pioneer Trails RV Resort near Anacortes, Washington for the weekend of October 23-25, 2009. This park is nice and very close to town with many activities available including ferries into the San Juan Islands for a day at Friday Harbor or to Port Townsend; shopping in Anacortes or La Conner (the Washington State Quilt Museum is in La Conner); site seeing boat trips to Deception Pass or the Ice Cream Run which is an evening boat trip to the ferry dock at Friday Harbor to the local ice cream shop, and crabbing in Cornet Bay on Whidbey Island. This is a beautiful part of the world and we would like you to join us at least for the weekend. In October, RV spaces should be available before and after this weekend if you wish to stay longer. We would like to have input from you as to what activities you would enjoy and what you would like to see and do while you are here. If you have some interest in helping to organize this event, please climb aboard. Let us hear from you. Therese and Jack Gordon at 206-241-6988 or email to gordon-dupl@aol.com.

FMCA Northwest Rally in Albany

The Northwest Area FMCA rally got off to a good start with the arrival of nine NWCC coaches. The Blodgetts worked with the parking crew and the Warrens were with the Maestros while the rest of us, the Casebeers, Detloffs, Gabels, Holmeses, Lowerys, Serexs had security duty. Others attendees included the Anusichs, Apples, Downs, Eckharts, Gordons, Onerheims, Storeys, Whitmans, and Herb Harris.

FMCA President, Connie Pool conducted a forum where she gave some background on FMCA and its structure. This led into a Q&A period fielding questions from the attendees. One question was why doesn't FMCA open the membership to the towable owners. That set off a lively discussion which ended with Connie saying that the idea had been brought up before and the governing board turned it down. Connie did say that the MEDEX program would go away in 2010 because it is cost prohibitive, especially when in 2008, there were only 58 members that took advantage of the program. The executive director has been tasked with finding less expensive alternatives and report back to the executive board so there might be some information at the Bowling Green convention.



Susan Graham from Guaranty RV sponsored a social hour which was well attended. Kris, Glenda and Barbara walked the parking lots handing out flyers inviting all Country Coaches to attend. We had a few stop by to join us, some of which expressed an interest in joining the club.

During the business meeting on Sunday, officer elections were held which resulted in Arvin Spofford being elected to the Senior Vice President position, Kathie Balogh as Secretary, and Bud Founts was elected Vice President. A nominating committee was also elected but I failed to record their names.

Here are some FMCA future happenings that might be of interest if you are in the area.

National Officers' Candidates Forum in Bowling Green, OH

Northwest Area Caucus, Sunday, July 19, 2009 in Bowling Green, OH

Northwest Area Gathering, Wednesday, July 22, 2009 in Bowling Green

FMCA's 83rd International Convention, March 22-25 in Albuquerque, NM

FMCA's 84th International Convention, August 11-14 in Redmond, OR

The business and planning meetings for the Redmond convention will be held September 1-4, 2009 in Lacey, WA and the final will be April 6-8, 2010 in Redmond, OR.

There will be a need for approximately 600 volunteers for this convention so if you would like to volunteer, let me know as I will be attending this meeting and pass the word on. I know this is way out there and plans change but we have to start somewhere. Travel Safe, Don

It's Time to Order a Club Shirt

During the Albany FMCA Rally, several of the clubs could be identified by the close they were wearing. During a group get together, it was decided to get shirts for our group.

Glenda Serex has volunteered to order the shirts.

The shirts are NWCCer Cotton Polo Shirts with Country Coach Logo and will be available for order by July 25th at \$20. each. (Men's with pocket in sizes small, medium, large, extra-large, and extra, extra large.)

Women's are without pockets in sizes small, medium, large, and extra-large.

To order send a check to and what you want to :

Glenda Serex

5386 Aster St. NW

Salem, Or 97304

If you are not attending the rally, you need to add a shipping and handling fee.

For more information, please contact Glenda at: glendas@speedpal.com



Notes From Herb:

We have received good RV service at a reasonable price from the following companies in the Portland area:

1 Specialty RV

Tom Dinsmore

20781 Olmstead Road NE

Aurora, Or 97002

(503) 678-6595

This company comes highly recommended by Aqua-Hot and they do other service work too. Located behind a residence, the garage is in the barn on a horse farm, hard to find but there are always a number of high end coaches in for service. Located west of I-5 at Exit 278 (the same exit as Speedco) about 4 miles, turn left on Olmstead Road, no signs at the business, you just need to know where to go.

2. Don Palen

Vancouver, Wa

(800) 767-8865

The highlight of this company is they will drive their service van to your site if you are located within 50 miles of Vancouver. Recommended by the Splendide (washer/dryer) representative in Portland, they also service HWH, audio & video, oil changes, etc. There is a \$55 fee for on your site service.

Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch

During our stay at David and Karen Robert's home, several members of the rally group went to visit this youth ranch. It was founded in 1995 by Troy and Kim Meeder. After the rescue of its first two horses, a remarkable transformation was set into motion; children began to come to the ranch. They were not coming for what they could get, as you couldn't ride the horses, they were coming for what they could give. In their efforts of making the horses better, the children themselves got better.

After witnessing a mute girl speak freely to one of the rescued horses, it became vitally clear the need to build a ranch where horses and children could help heal each other.

A safe and peaceful environment was created as the foundation where broken children, horses, and families could find hope within the healing circle of unconditional love.

What makes the program unique is that many of the 25-30 horses that live on the ranch have been rescued from violent abuse or life threatening neglect. These extraordinary horses, which each have their own stories of triumph and hope, are paired with one leader and one child for a 90 minute private lesson. The lessons are flexible, allowing that time to best serve the unique needs of the children. pg5

Northwest Country Coachers
Rally Registration Form
Summer/August 2009
Premier RV Resort, Salem, Oregon
August 14 thru 17, 2009

Name(s) _____ CCI # _____ Coach Length: _____
Address _____
Street City, State Zip
**Email Address _____ Coach #: _____
Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____
Registration Fee: _____ 1 person (@\$60) or 2 persons (@\$120) per Coach
* * * * *

Activities:

- Friday Evening: Meet & Greet Potluck Social
- Saturday Day: See accompanying suggested opportunities list
- Saturday Evening: Potluck with Meat Provided
- Sunday Morning: Brunch Sunday Day: See accompanying suggested opportunities
- Monday Day: See accompanying suggested opportunities list.

NWCCer Cotton Polo Shirts with Country Coach Logo will be available by pre-order at \$20 each. (Men's with Pocket sizes Small, Med, Lg, X-Lg, XX-Lg. And Women's without Pockets, in sizes Small, Med, Lg, & X-Lg.
* * * * *

Return this form and your registration fee to:

Glenda Serex
5386 Aster St. NW
Salem, OR 97304

**A Confirmation will be sent to you by E-mail when E-Address is provided above.

Your campsite is reserved at: Premier RV Resort, 4700 Salem-Dallas- Hwy 22 Salem, Oregon (Your Rally Masters are Vern & Glenda Serex)

Site fee is \$33.48 per day and is payable upon arrival, extra stay days are available

Deadline is July 25th

August 2009 Salem Rally

Already 16 of the 40 sites reserved for our August 14th-17th, Rally, at Salem's Premier RV Resort are filled. Our Rally masters, Vern & Glenda Serex, have many fun events planned. All of you should have received a Rally registration form and list of activity opportunities by e-message. If you need those two documents, our club secretary, Lee Casebeer (lcasebeer@gmail.com) can e-mail you those documents. Any questions regarding the event they can be address to Vern & Glenda Serex at: glendas@speedpal.com or home phone of 503-363-0826.

There are no plans for our club to volunteer as a group the following week at the **CCI** Albany Class Reunion. You are free to volunteer, as individuals, by marking the appropriate box on the CCI Albany Class Reunion event registration form. That event is Aug. 19th- 23rd. So, there will be a "float" day between our **NWCCer** event and the **CCI** function. This allows any **CCI** volunteers to move onto Albany on the 18th. Other **NWCCER/CCI** attendees are free do whatever is their pleasure that one day, which can include staying one more night at Premier at the rally rate. Early arrivals at Premier will also be offered the rally rate. There is no need to reserve sites with Premier for the 4 rally nights, our rally masters will do that. You only need to pay your site fees upon arrival.

Good Sam Club Extends Warranty Coverage

The Good Sam Club Extended Service Plan has paid millions of dollars in repairs for RV mechanical breakdowns over the years, and now that protection is more important than ever. With the increasing number of RV manufacturers closing their doors or filing for bankruptcy, the Good Sam Club, the world's largest RV owners community, has expanded the protection available from the Good Sam Extended Service Plan to include the time normally covered by the manufacturer.

"We still repair or replace any of the thousands of parts of your RV we have covered for years, but now that coverage starts even during the original manufacturer's warranty term, in the event the manufacturer is unable to honor their warranty," according to a news release.

This benefit is now available exclusively through participating Good Sam Authorized Dealers for anyone in the market for a new or used RV.

The new program was launched in May.

This is yet another new wrinkle from the Good Sam Club which has been providing extended service coverage for more than 12 years, noted Scott Blanc, vice president and general manager of the Good Sam Extended Service Plan Division, part of Affinity Ventures.

"Heretofore, typical coverage excluded the time the vehicle was under the manufacturer's warranty," he explained. "We have closed that gap and provide coverage back to Day 1 for vehicles that no longer have protection from the manufacturer."

There is no additional cost to the consumer, Blanc noted. RV buyers need not be Good Sam Club members to take advantage of this new protection plan.

Circle The Wagons-

What a sight! Eight coaches of all sizes & colors parked in and around the driveway of Karen and David Robert's 10 acre estate near Sisters, Oregon in early June. The tow vehicles of all sorts have their own parking "Corral". Everyone had a wonderful time and agreed we'd like to do it again. All of the coaches had electrical power of some sort.

Among the guests were 6 dogs, 4 cats, and a few deer.

Some of the activities were: golfing, hiking, a trip to the High Desert Museum, a trip to the Crystal Peaks Youth Camp, a tour of the newly remodeled Sisters Fire House, a picnic at the Headwaters of the Metolius River in Camp Sherman with a visit to the Fish Hatchery, shopping, gallery browsing, and a lot of fun.

We had a potluck each night, and the evening concluded in the British Style Pub in the Robert's Guest Facilities. A great time was had by all.



Crystal Peaks-continued from page 3

Instead of being lost in a group, each child is nurtured by a leader who shares in his or her individual tears and victories. All of this is done free of charge. It is the hope that through hands-on experience, kids will learn the values of life, family, faith, and trust. They in turn, teach us true resilience and the remarkable wonder of life.

To find out more about the Youth Ranch, you can email: crystalpeaks@cpyr.org

FMCA Rally 2010- Redmond, Oregon

The FMCA Rally will be held in Oregon next year. The dates are August 11-14. That is really close to the tentatively scheduled West Coast Class Reunion.

Central Oregon is really beautiful at that time of year and it would be nice to have a pre or post rally for our club members to get together. If someone is interested in being the Rally master, please contact Lee Casebeer or Barb Lowery and we'll brain storm and set a plan in motion. Now would be the best time to get a location for the event.

2010 Officer Elections By Lee Casebeer

It is time to start thinking of officer elections. If you are interested in holding a club officer position, please contact one of the nomination committee members. We would like to have profiles for the newsletter of those wishing to run for office.

They are: **Dick Winn**, Nominating Committee Chairperson

The other nominating committee members:

Don Perry, Chuck Priddy, Chris Konczey, Dennis McCarthy.

Club Officer Candidate Status for 2010 year is:

President: 1 Candidate - Fred Dent

Vice President: Need Candidates

Treasurer: 1 Candidate - Dana Suttell

Secretary: 1 Candidate - Lee Casebeer

Newsletter Editor: Mary Lou Thun, Terry Apple

National FMCA Director: 1 Candidate - Don Schleuse

Alternate FMCA Director: 1 Candidate - Herb Harris

Officer Contact List

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

Dave Roberts, President

541-549-6815 email dakatsrv@aol.com

Kris Casebeer V. Pres. 503-807-9936 kacasebeer@gmail.com

Lee Casebeer Sec 503-459-1332

email lcasebeer@gmail.com

Mary Ann Storey treasurer 503-949-1147

Email mastorey726@yahoo.com

Don Schleuse N. Director 949-230-0390

email dons2346@yahoo.com

Herb Harris Alt. N. Director 360-430-3697

email pat98686@gmail.com

Barb Lowery Newsletter 541-593-6614

email barbl@chamberscable.com