



NorthWest Country Coachers

Volume 2 Issue 11

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

Board Members

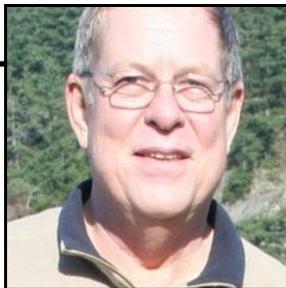
President	Fred Dent
Vice President	Russ Warren
Secretary	Lee Casebeer
Treasurer	Dana Suttell
National Director	Don Schleuse
Alt. National Director	Herb Harris
Newsletter Editor	Mary Lou Thun
Past President	David Roberts
Membership Chair	Kris Casebeer*

*denotes-non-voting position



Event Calendar

November 13-15 Long Beach Rally & Business Mtg.
 February 16, 2010 Yuma with Jim & Angela celebrating Fat Tuesday
 March 25, 2010 ODR Cathedral City Potluck
 May, 2010 CCI Rally Kerrville, Texas
 May 22-23, 2010 Hoodspport Canal Event
 August 6—10, 2010 NWCC Annual Event
 August 11-14, 2010 FMCA Rally Redmond, OR
 August 25-29, 2010 CC Reunion Albany, OR
 October 25-29, 2010 CCI Fall Party Myrtle Beach, SC



President's Corner

Fall is upon us and it's time to set our clocks back for another winter! Where did summer go? We've had a great summer this year with lots of events to get to know each other. We've had events in Cathedral City, CA; Yuma, AZ; Hoodspport, WA; Sisters, OR; Salem, OR; Albany, OR; Anacortes, WA; and this month we'll be in Long Beach, WA! That means we are a very active club! If you haven't been to one of our events yet put it on your 'must do' list for next year. You will see in the calendar elsewhere in this newsletter that we have another busy year planned for 2010. Two big events are planned for next year. We will have a club rally just before the FMCA International Rally in Redmond, OR and then those of us going to the FMCA rally will caravan together to the rally so we can park together. We also are planning a 5 day rally on Lake Coeur d'Alene, ID in July. The Roberts are also talking about graciously opening their property to the club during the Salem Quilt Festival. Space is very limited for this invitation and will occur the week before our rally in Lake Coeur d'Alene. The dates on the calendar are confirmed so start making your plans soon. There are more events in the planning stage that haven't been added to the calendar yet. We hope to have those events ready to announce by the January newsletter. In the think tank right now are perhaps Oktoberfest in Leavenworth, WA; Prosser Balloon Festival and Wine Tasting in September; a return to Anacortes. We are finding that relatively short weekend get-togethers are quite popular when they are near our members. There is no reason we can't have more of these events even if they conflict with other weekend events. We can easily have a weekend event in Washington and one in Oregon on the same weekend so, if you want to help plan a weekend event in your area.

Your Board has been busy since August. We have approved the artwork for our new name badges and we are currently obtaining bids to have them produced. We hope to have them ready for distribution early next year. Bylaw changes are being drafted to conform the bylaws to how we are operating our club and to propose some new membership categories to accommodate our dynamic membership. We have also been working hard to improve making your NWCCers event registrations easier and more consistent. Also in the works is a NWCCers guide to being a Wagon Master which will provide information on how to plan for a club event like a weekend gathering or an annual meeting. The guide will also include a list of club resources available for the Wagon Masters including the club policy for reimbursing the Wagon Master's costs.

We will have a club meeting in Long Beach on Saturday, November 14, during lunch. The meeting has been moved earlier in the day so the clammers can hit the beach in the afternoon and not miss the meeting.

I won't see all of you in the next few weeks so I will wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving now and hope to see you soon. Happy travels, Fred

Anacortes Gathering

The Anacortes Rally got off to a great start with some campers arriving Thursday afternoon. Gordons and Roberts were already there to greet early arrivals. The weather was overcast with occasional rain, but the club house was a cozy room with plenty of chairs, a big screen TV for watching games and a well equipped kitchen. We shared some light appetizers and provided our own dinner. Plans for a Friday trip to Friday Harbor got shoved aside in favor of brunch in Anacortes when we were serenaded throughout the night by rain pattering (make that thundering) on our roofs and, in the morning, a sky threatening to dump a lot more before the day finished. Lots of good stories and information on the care and feeding of a Country Coach were shared around a table at The Island Café by one group while others explored some of the town. Heavy duty “pupus” shared in the club house rounded out the day.

On Saturday, Jeff and DeAnn Olson, guests of the Onerheims (who spent the weekend in Eugene getting their inverter repaired) joined the Gordons, the Roberts and the Serex to make a day of it with a ferry ride to Friday Harbor, a stroll through some shops and lunch in the local eateries while some of the other campers stayed back on Whidbey to enjoy a geo-caching adventure. Dinner was pot-luck and lots of talk around the tables. Laughter seemed to be the order of the day with a lot of shared misadventures taking center stage. Sunday morning saw most everyone set out for home because of work on Monday while some wanted to miss weekday traffic through Seattle, and so ended another very pleasant NWCC adventure.

Submitted by Glenda Serex



NorthWest Country Coachers Member's Meeting Minutes

Date: Aug. 15, 2009

Location: Premier RV Resort, Salem Oregon

In Attendance:

Officers: David Roberts, President
Kris Casebeer, Vice-President
Don Schleuse, FMCA National Director
Mary Ann Storey, Treasurer
Lee Casebeer, Secretary

Members: 49 NWCCers Club Members

The meeting was called to order by David Roberts at 9:10 am David introduced the club officers in attendance. Herb Harris & Barb Lowery were absent.

David introduced Country Coach Texans, Rod Reames & Peggy Fink. And the NWCCer members attending the meeting without their Coaches, Mary Lou Thun, Mike & Bev Carrick.

A Salem Rally related announcement was made regarding the Tech Service & Carpet Cleaning.

Kris Casebeer proposed having a Club History album. Format could be Hard Copy &/or Digital.

Mary Ann Storey gave a Treasurers Report. The checking balance is \$6,889.41 plus \$370 checks to be deposited. Approximately \$3,600 will be paid out for the Salem Rally, leaving a final balance of \$3,659.41. Our club member, Mike Rowen will perform treasury account audit before the treasury is transferred to the new Treasurer in September.

Don Schleuse gave an in-depth report on his attendance of the FMCA International Rally in Bowling Green, Ohio. At least 20 NWCCer club members have indicated an interest in volunteering at next year's August FMCA Rally in Redmond, Oregon.

\$300 will be paid to Don Schleuse for his attendance the FMCA International Rally in Bowling Green, Ohio. That is the standard compensation fee we pay our FMCA National Director.

A review was given of this year's rallies. **Feb.**-Yuma Social at Gregory/Carmen's, **March**-Potluck Social in Cathedral City, **April**-Gabel's Newport, Or. Rally, **May**- Suttell's Hoodspert, Wa., **June**-Robert's Sister Rally, **August**-

Minutes continued on page 5

Below is the latest on the financial condition of FMCA as presented by Treasurer Will Young. Submitted by Don Schleuse, National Director

Combined Statement of Financial Position:

- Current cash and investments are under September 2008 by \$1.942 mil. This has greatly improved from June due to the market doing better. We are now showing a gain of \$314,376 for 2009.
- Pre-Paid Expenses are over September 2008, mainly due to the deferred tax asset which we have for Family Motor Coaching, Inc., to pay future income tax when we see a profit. Hopefully we will see that soon. On the deficit side of our Pre-Paid Expenses, we are not purchasing a lot of paper for future magazine issues due to our cash flow situation, so that Pre-Paid expense is much lower than September 2008.
- The Land, Building and Furnishings are comparable to last year with the depreciation lowering the accumulated total. We have been very conservative with any capital expenses and only doing what is absolutely needed without jeopardizing our buildings, etc. Due to the decrease in members using the mail forwarding service, we sold our large panel truck, which will reduce expenses.
- The Liabilities are in excess of September 2008, mainly due to the Intercompany account, which is FMC's, the profit corporation's, liability to FMCA, the non-profit corporation. Everything else remains pretty consistent with September 2008. Total Liabilities exceed September 2008 by \$872,200.
- Total Liabilities and Equity have increased approximately .012% or \$200,038.

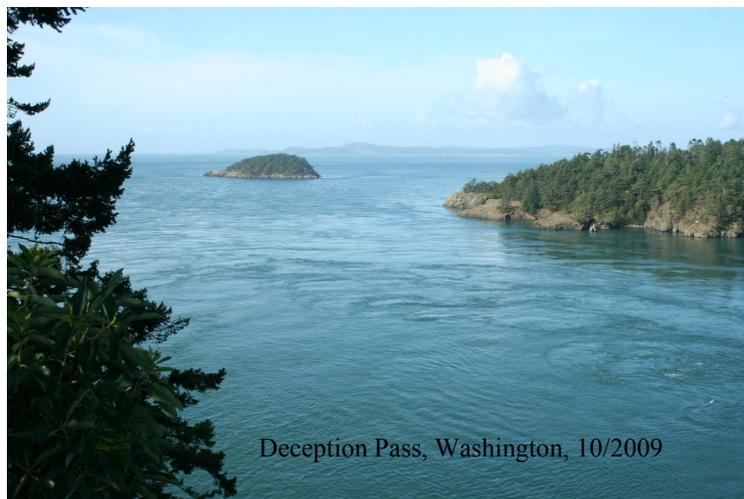
Combined Statement of Activities:

- Membership Revenue is \$84,407 over budget and \$114,003 over September 2008.
- Magazine revenue still remains very flat. The Web advertising continues to grow. I reported that the June issue hit rock bottom; well the July issue did better and the August issue actually hit rock bottom, performing under June. The September issue showed a little improvement. Total magazine revenue is 56% under September 2008, and 62% under budget.
- Most all of the expenses are in for the Bowling Green convention, and due to low attendance by families and exhibitors at both Perry and Bowling Green, we are 32% under budget on revenue and 39% under the conventions in 2008, which were Pomona, CA, and St. Paul, MN. Fortunately we were able to hold down expenses for both 2009 conventions and came under budget by \$614,465.
- We are under budget in almost all areas of operating expenses by a total of \$2.9 mil. The operating loss is a negative \$876,631 compared to a loss of negative \$746,612 in September 2009.
- As stated previously, investments seem to be on an upward trend with a net investment income of \$314,376. Our investments had a negative \$835,436 at the end of September 2008, so our actual gain for the 12 months has been \$1.15 mil. In closing, if we continue the trend with our current operating loss through September 2009, we are estimating an operating loss of \$1.17 mil. Our continued gain in the market will help substantially in the event we need to use some fixed income investments for cash flow purposes. My next report to you will be the yearend report after the financial records are exam-

ined by an Independent CPA firm. That report will not be issued until early March 2010.

Barbara and I didn't attend the Redmond convention planning session in September. That was Labor Day weekend and that is the weekend our daughter visits from CA to be fed crab. I did inform the Volunteer Coordinator of our request to work seminars so that is what we will be doing. The volunteer captains are Jim & Pat Bushling from the Rim Rock Roamers and the assistant captains are Barbara and myself. We will be attending another planning meeting in Lacy upon our return from the fun and sun of sunny CA in early April. More info will follow as it is received.

Travel safe, Don



NWCC Annual Pre-Rally and Business Meeting for 2010

Plans are under way for the pre rally to be held before the International FMCA Rally starting next August 11, 2010 at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond.

The pre-rally is scheduled for August 6, 7, 8 and 9. (tentatively Aug. 10 depending on who volunteers for the FMCA rally). We'll have full hookups at Cascade Meadows RV Park just north of LaPine.

Ken and Millie Blodgett will be wagon masters for this event. They are working with FMCA to get a volunteer job for our group. More information to follow.

Tom's Tip....If you have a sleep number bed — when changing driving elevations, deflate the pressure and re-inflate when you arrive at your destination. The air pressure expands and can cause the bladder to burst or leak.

Mary Lou's Tip about Splendide....To avoid wrinkles, push the low spin button, easy iron button and use the express wash cycle. Dry for only 30 minutes and then hang to complete drying. Might look like a Chinese laundry but it works!

Judge: RV maker still worth saving.
Country Coach gets a few extra
months to turn itself around

By Tim Christie, The Register-Guard
Appeared in print: Friday, Oct 23, 2009
Business: Home: Story

A judge decided Thursday to give Country Coach a little more time to re-organize its business plan after concluding that the company has "at least a reasonable chance" to emerge from bankruptcy as a going concern.

"If this debtor can be saved, it's in everybody's interest," U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Albert Radcliffe said near the end of a daylong hearing.

Country Coach, a privately held maker of luxury motor homes, closed its Junction City factory in November, putting about 500 employees out of work. The company filed for bankruptcy in March to re-organize its finances while getting breathing room from creditors.

The company resumed production in April, bringing back about 120 employees, with plans to turn out one coach per week. But the company has not met sales or production goals, and has been losing money at a rate of about \$1 million a month, according to court testimony and documents. The plant shut down briefly in July, and the assembly line has been shut down since the week of Sept. 11, Chief Financial Officer Mark Andersen testified.

Radcliffe rejected arguments from Rebecca Kamitsuka, attorney for U.S. Trustee Robert Miller, that the case should be dismissed. Doing so would allow creditors to move to liquidate the company's assets "at fire sale prices," Radcliffe said.

"I fail to see who benefits from the dismissal of the case," he said. "Its loss would be devastating to Junction City."

Radcliffe set another hearing for next month and said he hopes to schedule a hearing to confirm the company's reorganization plan by late January or early February. Wells Fargo, the company's main creditor, has agreed to extend financing through Feb. 15, said David Kurzweil, an attorney for the bank.

Kamitsuka had argued that the case should be dismissed because Country Coach had missed court-imposed deadlines for filing a reorganization plan and other documents, and because the company has lost \$7.6 million since it resumed production in April and

has just \$1,000 left on its line of credit. The company has no reasonable chance to recover, and its assets will continue to diminish in value, she said.

"Everybody wants jobs, but this company is going further and further in the hole," Kamitsuka said. "This case has cratered."

Under questioning from David Lavant, one of the company's bankruptcy attorneys, CFO Andersen said he was not alarmed by the \$7.6 million in losses because that number "is a measure of accounting activity." What the company needs to do to survive is create cash flow by selling coaches, even at deeply discounted prices, he said. The company is trying to sell coaches for more than their liquidation value, he said.

At the start of the hearing, Radcliffe heard a series of statements from Junction City civic leaders, Country Coach employees and vendors on how important the company is to the community.

"This is an important business in Junction City," said Rick Kissock, executive director of the Junction City-Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce. "We need jobs. We don't need empty buildings."

Country Coach, which has been in Junction City since its founding in the 1970s, is "an integral part of the community" and a contributor to local causes and organizations, Junction City Administrator David Clyne said. The company accounts for 10 percent of the city's property tax base, which helps the city pay for services such as police and parks.

Dave Swenson of API Inc., a Eugene auto paint maker, said Country Coach helped his company grow to 25 employees and \$14 million in annual revenue. Since Country Coach fell on hard times, API is down to \$4 million in revenue and 12 employees, he said.

Eugene lawyer Douglas Schultz, representing a committee of unsecured creditors, also urged Radcliffe to allow Country Coach to continue its reorganization efforts. Unsecured creditors include suppliers, dealers and other parties who are owed money but will get paid only after the secured creditors get paid. Schultz said the company has struggled and not sold as many coaches as it intended. But he pointed to "one glaring fact": Nearly all of Country Coach's assets are encumbered by Wells Fargo Bank and investor Bryant Riley. If the case were dismissed, Wells Fargo would foreclose to get back what it is owed, and Riley would get the rest, he said.

"The unsecured creditors would end up holding an empty bag," he said.

On The Road Again

By Barb Lowery

Our journey this year has taken us over 8700 miles around this beautiful country. I am hoping to just hit the highlights (there are many). I won't bore you with the family details in Maine, but in a twenty-four hour period there was a wedding, death, and a birth. Also, it was easier to get a veterinary appointment than to get in to see a doctor.

- Glacier National Park– This is often called the “Crown of the Continent” for its staggeringly rugged skyline. We went on a drive of the 50-mile-long Going-to-the-Sun Road. It has spectacular scenery and lots of waterfalls, and wildflowers along the way.
- The plains of Montana and North Dakota– not much to see except US 2 was a good highway to drive on all the way from Montana to Wisconsin. We went to a State Fair in Minot, North Dakota. It was fun to see the animals, 4-H exhibits, and sample fair food.
- A stop at Warroad, Minnesota– Marvin Windows are made here and there is a new fabulous visitors center. Tom took a tour of the plant and found out what was new in the window industry. We had dinner with former business acquaintances. Warroad is on the shores of Lake of the Woods separating the US and Canada. You must eat walleye.
- Mackinaw City, Michigan– On our way to this stop we drove along Lake Superior, Michigan, and Huron in one day. The bridge connecting the upper and lower peninsula of Michigan is 5 miles long. Our campground was right along Lake Huron. You can swim and boat, too. While in Michigan, you must sample a pastie, a meat filled pastry.
- Mackinac Island– The island boasts a rich history-American Indian summer grounds, the center of the North American fur-trading business, and a colonial fortress. It's best known for the gilded Victorian Era. You reach the island by boat or ferry and once on the island, transportation is by horse-drawn carriage, bicycle, saddle horse or walking. It was fascinating to watch the carriages take provisions to the shops and take visitors luggage to their hotels. There are tours to go on to tell you about the historical areas. They have lots of shops.
- Maine– We spent three weeks at various campgrounds here. No trip to this state is complete without a trip to LL Bean. Tom was able to go to the famous Cabbage Island Clambake. You go on a boat tour out of Booth Bay Harbor to an island. It's actually a Lobster bake. Tom said it was the best lobster he has had in a very long time. We also spent several days at Sebago Lake, the second largest lake in the state. Whoopie Pies began in Maine and they come in 30 different flavors.
- Bar Harbor, Maine-This was the most scenic stop in Maine. It was the hottest, driest week of the season and there were a lot of tourists. Our party took a Whale-Watching Cruise. We saw five humpback whales (which was unusual). We had dinner at the Poor Man's Gourmet Restaurant and it was fabulous. The next day we took a National Park Tour of the town and Acadia National Park. That was the best way to see the park without the hassle of driving and finding a parking place. We learned a lot of the history of the area and how the park lands were donated. John D. Rockefeller created a lot of the carriage roads which is one of the things that makes Acadia Unique.
- Lake Champlain, Vermont– This was our favorite stop along the way. Our campground was on an island in the lake. While there, we went on a tour of the Shelburne Museum, a boat trip of Lake Champlain, a rural fair, and a drive up the road on the islands where there were lots of farms and country stores. We had Macintosh apples and sweet corn. Look for an article on the Shelburne Museum in another article.
- Lake George, New York- Lake George is not as large as Lake Champlain, we have friends here and went to an apple orchard to sample the new crop. Rachel Ray did a spot about this orchard on a recent TV show.

- Watkins Glen, New York– In the late 60's we attended a US Gran Prix and wanted to go back to see where we had been. This is in the Finger Lakes Region of New York and there are rolling hills, lakes, and lots of trees. They produce salt. The race track is way up on a hill. The Koa where we stayed has paver patios with a lantern with hanging flower basket. It has won several KOA awards. It is very close to race track. We drove to Ithaca which is home to Cornell University.
- Bowling Green, Kentucky– The highlights here are The National Corvette Museum, A GM plant that makes them and Camping World Headquarters. It is also close to caves and Kentucky distilleries.
- Paducah, Kentucky– Home of the National Quilt Museum. The museum had an exhibit titled “Wood or Fabric”- some of the quilts were actually made of wood and it was very hard to tell that they were. The city is at the confluence of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers and is very close to where they flow into the Mississippi River. We do not recommend taking secondary bridges to cross these rivers into Missouri.
- Branson, Missouri– It was a surprise to see all the hills and curvy roads. We enjoyed a boat trip, show, and dinner on Table Rock Lake. In fact, when we go there again, we will try to stay at a Corps of Engineer Park. Tom and I went to two shows. It is hard to pick out which ones to go to but we liked them. There are many restaurants too.
- FMCA Six-State Rally Shawnee, Oklahoma– The timing worked for us to attend this rally. There were over 500 coaches and almost everyone had electricity. Nearby, Oklahoma City has the National Memorial for the Bombing and the Cowboy and Indian Museum. We were impressed with the area. Of course, rally attendees were very nice and we attended some different seminars.
- Balloon Fiesta Albuquerque, New Mexico-We attended as Friends of Beavers (FOB). The best part was our RV space was on a knoll overlooking the balloon park and we could see everything that was going on. We visited the Balloon Museum, too. If you ever get a chance, go.
- The Grand Canyon– The canyon is one of the 7 Natural Wonders of the world. We visited the South Rim. Trailer Village accommodates motor homes this size(45') and has full hook-ups including cable TV. Our cell phones and internet worked fine. We took a bus tour to the Watch Tower and to watch the Sunset. The park has recently stopped the one day mule trip down to the canyon floor. They have a new tour that goes to the Abyss.
- All in all we had a wonderful time. We are so blessed to be able to go on a trip like this. We have a dependable coach. The tools for traveling such as GPS, cell phones, maps, books on fueling stops, and of course visitor information make it easy. We do think guided tours of some of the places we visited are helpful. You learn a lot more than you could by a self-tour. Even though we have been on a long trip, we did not go to see the sights in every area. We really like to catch a glimpse of the people and communities we are in. We enjoy telling our GPS– other so we can enjoy the area rather than the fastest way.
- As the song goes, “Just can't wait to get on the road again”

