



# NorthWest Country Coachers

NorthWest Country Coachers Chapter of FMCA— contact: Dana Suttell, 3163 S. E. Tucci Place, Port Orchard, WA 98367

Volume 3, Issue 2

February, 2010

## Event Calendar

All events sponsored by NWCCers unless noted otherwise by \*

**February 16, 2010**, Fat Tuesday in Yuma, AZ  
With Jim and Angela  
jimgregory3@comcast.net or 360-600-8621

**March 18, 2010** ODR Potluck at Cathedral City,  
Mary Ann & George Storey, Rally Masters,  
mastorey726@yahoo.com

**\*March 22—25, 2010** FMCA Albuquerque  
Balloon Festival and Int'l Convention

**\*May, 2010** CCI Texas Roundup Rally Kerrville,  
Texas, 800-537-0622

**May 21-23, 2010** Hoodspout Canal Event,  
Dana & Frank Suttell, Rally Masters,  
fdsutt@wavecable.com or 360-876-1197

**July 13—18, 2010** Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
@ Blackwell Island RV Park, Fred Dent, Rally  
Master, dent@u.washington.edu or 206-282-  
6798

**August 5—10, 2010** NWCC Pre FMCA Event,  
LaPine, OR, Millie and Ken Blodgett, Rally Mas-  
ters, rvredmill@web4mix.com or cell # 503-701-  
7525 or home 541-447-7838

**\*August 11-14, 2010** FMCA Rally Redmond

**\*August 25-29, 2010** CCI Reunion Albany, OR

**September 24—26, 2010** Prosser Balloon  
Festival, Richard & Sibylie Beck, Rally Masters,  
sib@nu-teksupply.com or 503-399-0636

**October 8—10, 2010**—Leavenworth, WA Octo-  
ber Fest

**\*October 25-29, 2010** CCI Fall Party Myrtle  
Beach, South Carolina

**November 5—7, 2010** Long Beach, WA @ Ander-  
sen's RV Park, Fred Dent, Rally Master,  
dent@u.washington.edu or 206-282-6798

\*sponsored by FMCA, CCI or others as  
noted



## *President's Corner*

Yes, I'm still stuck in the Northwest this winter for a while longer. That's the bad news. The good news is that we have had several days in Seattle that were drier and warmer than Palm Springs this January! It has truly been an unusually warm winter for us! (Okay, November was a bit chilly with seven days in a row below freezing and December was, let's just say 'moist').

Even though we haven't had any club functions, I have been busy keeping track of all of you, working on our 2010 calendar and getting my Motorhome ready for a trek to Palm Springs pretty soon. Just a heads up for those of you planning to go to Fat Tuesday in Yuma, AZ, please remember that space is limited and that Jim Gregory needs an RSVP from you ASAP to confirm space and plan the event.

It's looking less and less likely that an eleventh hour investor is going to come to the rescue of Country Coach as they continue to move through bankruptcy. Last week I received a notice from the Bankruptcy Court that the Prevost Owner's group has filed a bid to purchase the design documents for all Country Coach Prevost conversions and that CCI is planning a similar bid for all Country Coach built coaches. You will find more information about the upcoming bankruptcy auction elsewhere in this Newsletter.

On a somewhat brighter note, Oregon Motorcoach Center (OMC), founded by Bob Lee, NWCCers Lifetime Member, <http://www.oregonmotorcoachcenter.com>, has been featured in this month's Family Motorcoach Magazine on page 56. The Center provides complete motorhome service, is doing well and building a good reputation. Ask around our club! I hear good things from our members about the service they had done at OMC.

This issue of the Newsletter is your last reminder to renew your membership before we mail final renewal notices. If you've been intending to get that check in the mail to NWCCers and it has just slipped your mind, now is the time to mail it in. You will find a renewal report from our Treasurer, Dana Suttell, and a renewal form in this Newsletter. On the fence about renewing? Just look at the 'Event Calendar' on the sidebar of this Newsletter and you will see how active your club is becoming. Don't see something you'd like to do? Send us a suggestion and we'll try to make it happen. This club is about all of you and providing opportunities to share the Country Coach experience with each other. If you haven't joined us for a rally yet, then give us another year, pick at least one event this year to join us and I know you will become convinced that, even in this tight economy, your dues in NWCCers is a good value.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon at a NWCCers function!

***Fred Dent, President***

P.S. No one has asked me about the ghost in my motorhome! I guess I'll have to save that one for late night story telling 'round the campfire' when I see you.

## Country Coach Asset Auction Feb. 4-5 to be Webcast

January 28, 2010 by [RV Business](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

Luxury motorcoach manufacturer Country Coach Holdings LLC has employed auction experts Hilco Industrial LLC to offer for sale the inventory, intellectual property, machinery and equipment from its Junction City, Ore., plant.

Hilco will host a worldwide webcast auction Feb. 4-5 at which buyers will have the opportunity to purchase completed 2009 and incomplete 2010 recreational vehicles, among many other items from the complete motorcoach assembly plant, according to a news release.

This auction event will feature 10 2009 new finished Country Coach motorcoaches from the Magna, Inspire, Veranda and Infinity product lines. Eight coaches in various stages of completion, from frames to nearly road-ready, are also available. The company's intellectual property will also be offered, including drawings, blueprints, logos, website, customer lists, molds and other intangible assets.

Huge quantities of inventory will be sold, including engines, transmissions, power generators, axle assemblies, chassis, body and interior components.

Machinery and equipment used in the manufacture of the vehicles, such as metal fabrication, woodworking, material handling, and auto assembly equipment, will be offered, along with the company's fleet vehicles and office furniture and equipment.

The auction will comprise nearly 2000 lots in all, and will attract bidders from many industries both locally and nationally. Buyers will be able to bid using the phone and Internet at [www.hilcoind.com](http://www.hilcoind.com), or attend in person and bid on site at the manufacturing facility located in Junction City.

### ***In a related article forwarded by Herb Harris and Ted Wright:***

*The following is a rather lengthy letter drafted by two coach owners..one an Attorney and the other an Engineer. I offer this as information only as to their extensive research in obtaining records of coaches built over the last 3 decades by Country Coach. The information in the subject files contains minimal information and may not even be as complete as the manuals and information orders provided with each coach. Other records that were stored in computers are virtually non-retrievable due to obsolete programs and lack of specific computer knowledge. I hope this investigation answers those owners who wished to secure these production records. Respectively, Ted Wright, CCI President L041*

COUNTRY COACH WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION February 4, 2010.

Country Coach filed bankruptcy in the Spring of 2009, seeking to reorganize and continue (commonly referred to as

a Chapter 11 Reorganization). This can be viewed as an effort by the owners, managers and creditors, under the direction of the Court, to restructure the company in such a way that it can pay off its debts in some fashion and operate profitable in time. Due, in large part to the economy, a plan of reorganization could not be put together. The Country Coach matter was then converted from a reorganization to a liquidation (commonly referred to as a Chapter 7, or Straight bankruptcy) and, as the name implies, all of the assets of the company are sold and the proceeds, after all expenses and fees, are allocated among the creditors. The Country Coach auction is set for February 4, 2010. Country Coach, as we have known it through the manufacture of our coaches and annual homecomings and rallies, will be no more.

During the reorganization proceedings, we as Country Coach owners, could only wait and hope that the company would restructure and continue in business. However, when the proceeding was converted to a Chapter 7 and all of the assets were going to be sold at auction, several coach owners began to express concern, principally along the lines of servicing, maintaining and repairing our sizeable investment. More specifically, it narrowed to the question of parts lists, vendor sources, Build Sheets on each and every coach etc, etc. Unlike automobiles, coach's do not all have the same parts, and are not built alike. The question was raised as to how can one obtain this very important information on ones coach for future service, maintenance and repair.

During the last few weeks, we began to look for answers. We turned to the Court records (which are voluminous). We entered into discussions with the Bankruptcy Court Trustee appointed to conduct the auction, Mr. Kenneth Eisler. We reviewed the public information on the sale which listed the assets, one of which was designated as Intellectual Property. Unlike the hard assets of Country Coach such as molds, carpentry tools, (even several coaches in various stages of being built), the Technical Manuals, Build Sheets, engineering drawings, parts lists, vendor lists; everything you might want to know about your coach, all fell as an asset of the company within the category of Intellectual Property. Interestingly, that includes the name "Country Coach" and the various trademarks any patents.

Focusing on this asset we endeavored to determine specifically what was included in the Intellectual Property asset that would be of greatest value to coach owners and in what format. Gary Obermeier, former Senior Vice President of Operations, and a 30 year employee of Country Coach was most helpful and accommodating in this regard. He identified 17 pallets containing boxes of paper all sealed in shrink wrap. Although voluminous he described these records as raw data, largely unorganized, certainly nothing that would provide anything of real value to a coach owner. It was his judgment that the kinds of data that would be both complete and organized were stored electronically. This data would include, for each coach, the drawings, parts numbers, vendor of parts etc. The impossible task was to secure the hardware and software and the knowledge of former CC employees who could still pull from this data. The program no longer exists for extracting the data except as is presently on site in the company's computer room.

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(Continued from Page 2. It was only last week that we had a full understanding of the nature of information which we thought would be helpful to coach owners and most importantly, its format. Faced with this description of the Intellectual Property, the 17 pallets were deemed to be of no value. Turning to the electronic data base it should be noted that the Trustee, in his responsibility to sell assets, did not maintain a staff that might download electronically stored information. We would have had to hire several key former employees of the company for this work.

A few Prevost owners took it upon themselves to send a person to Eugene for an on-site look. Over the years Country Coach had manufactured maybe 300 buses while manufacturing thousands of fiberglass coaches. Thus the paper on pallets and the electronic data on Country Coach Prevost was minute compared to the Intellectual Property pertaining to fiberglass coaches. They identified some Technical Manuals and engaged a computer person to pull some of the electronic data. The Trustee can accept a pre auction bid for assets. He agreed to selling whatever data the Prevost owners wanted for \$5,000 (subject to an upset bid at the auction). The Trustee extended the same offer to fiberglass owners as well. Gary Obermeier estimated that the Prevost data identified for purchase included maybe 10,000 drawings. Since each coach may have roughly 4000 drawings, multiplying this by 300 Prevost and you have some idea of how massive the data base is and how little 10,000 drawings represent in the universe of the data base. The same calculation, based on 30 years and several thousand fiberglass coaches, gives you some idea of how difficult it would have been to try and secure, organize and distribute the kinds of data each coach owner would like to have on his coach.

The forgoing represented our best efforts to see if, as part of the liquidation of Country Coach, we could acquire, for Country Coach owners, the kinds of data they would like to have on each of their coaches in anticipation of service, maintenance and repair in a future when, the Country Coach we had all relied upon, no longer existed. The Trustee, the Prevost people, certainly Gary Obermeier, all did everything they could to facilitate the evaluation and purchase of this asset for coach owners. Given the shortness of time take action and the inability to have any assurance that useful data could be obtained, preserved and made available for individual coach units, it was our judgment to let the asset go to auction.

It is our understanding that several potential bidders have expressed an interest in the Intellectual Property asset. They may be interested in acquiring the company name, the trademarks, any patents etc. Bidders may fully intend to amass the data which owners want and go to the expense and effort to organize it and make it available for purchase. We will know more after the February 4, 2010 sale on that score.

We would like to thank those noted herein plus those Country Coach Texans that assisted us with their ideas and strategy, they are Ted Wright, Nick Caruso, Sonny Broome, Jerry McMennamy, Ron Rang and Dave Miller – President of Texas Custom Coach.

Regards,  
Stu Entz & Mike Carnes

## ***NWCC Membership Renewal Update***

### ***From our treasurer, Dana Suttell***

As of January 30th we have 51 of our members renewed. That leaves many of you that have not sent in your 2 \$25.00 and information for your new name badges. There is a copy of the renewal notice in this newsletter. (Page 6)

On February 22, we will be contacting non-renewed members by snail mail one last time. If you are planning to join us this year but simply have not taken care of it, take a moment to print the renewal, complete the name badge information and send it to me.

If for any reason you plan not to renew it would be helpful if you would send me note and let me know so I do not continue to send renewal information to you. You can be placed on our interested list to continue to stay in touch with our club to renew in the future.

### **Here is a quick treasurer's report;**

Renewal Income \$503.50  
Event Deposits \$-275.00  
Current Balance \$5729.56

## **Officer Contact List**

Our Board of Directors is ready to help you at any time.

**Fred Dent**, President

[dent@u.washington.edu](mailto:dent@u.washington.edu) 206-282-6798

**Russell Warren** Vice President

[Wrussell6@msn.com](mailto:Wrussell6@msn.com) 360-479-7012

**Lee Casebeer** Secretary

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**Dana Suttell** Treasurer

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**Kris Casebeer\***, Membership Chair

[kacasebeer@gmail.com](mailto:kacasebeer@gmail.com) 503-807-9936

\*denotes non-voting member



# Rest A While RV Park Hoodsport, Washington May 21-23rd, 2010

Join us for a weekend of fun on the Hood Canal in Western Washington. Our sites are on the canal and depending on the tides we will have the beach open to harvest oysters. Depending on our final count of coaches we may again have the oyster Bar B Q which we all enjoyed last year. We are not dealing with a bridge closure this year so Poulsbo, Bremerton & Port Gamble, as well as great sites on the Olympic Peninsula are available to us. We hope you will join us for a fun relaxed weekend. As is our custom we will share great food and fun.

Rest A While requests that when you check in you pay your bill. I will be collecting a one night deposit of \$34.78 to reserve your site. Your deposit will be refunded at the event. Last minute cancellations will result in your deposit going to the club to cover costs.

Rest A While welcomes members staying before and after our event, although I have been told there are groups booked around us, so let me know as soon as possible if you want additional days.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Pilot: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates you wish to reserve: \_\_\_\_\_  
Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ \$34.78  
We will have full hook up's with water, power, sewer, cable TV and WI FI

Contact: Dana and/or Frank Suttell, 3163 S.E. Tucci Place, Port Orchard, WA 98367 — or  
fdsutt@wavecable.com or 360-876-1197

*"March is fast approaching for 2010. Please plan to attend the "Potluck" luncheon at Outdoor Resort Palm Springs in Cathedral City on March 18 if you will be in the Coachella Valley during that time. It is not a rally where you can secure a site for the event — just a social gathering. So if you are staying somewhere in the valley, plan to join us at LaPalma Clubhouse from 11:30 to 3:00. Casebeers' have taken a cruise around South America recently and will give us a short synopsis of their wonderful adventure.*

*Please RSVP to Mary Ann Storey, mastorey726@yahoo.com or phone 503-949-1147 so she can plan on the number attending. Thanks."*





# NorthWest Country Coachers

## Invoice for Membership Dues Renewal & Badge Order Information

**For:** January 1 through December 31, 2010 **Amount Due:** \$25.00

**Please send your payment to:**

Dana Suttell

**NorthWest Country Coachers**

3163 SE Tucci Place  
Port Orchard, WA 98367

The Board of Directors of **NorthWest Country Coachers** has approved the purchase & distribution of unique **NWCCer Club Name Badges** at no cost to Club Members. (Except for the Optional Magnet Attachment &/or Mailing fees)

### Order Information for NorthWest Country Coacher Name Badges

**Your Registered Club Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Information as you want it to appear on your NWCCer Name Badges:**

**Your Names**

(As you want them)

on your Badges) **No Charge**

**Optional Magnet Attachment at \$1.50 each**

**Driver:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pin n/c** \_\_\_ **or Magnet** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-Pilot:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pin n/c** \_\_\_ **or Magnet** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Badge Delivery Choice: (Expect Badge delivery in April 2010)**

**You'll pick-up your Badges at a 2010 Rally: at No Charge Yes \_\_\_ or No \_\_\_**

**OR: Mail our Badges to us at a \$2 per address fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Dues Renewal Payment: \$ \_\_\_ 25.00 \_\_\_**

**Total Enclosed Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**