



◆ All events are sponsored by NWCC, unless noted*

◆ All dates are subject to change.

(Please note the date correction for the TENTATIVE March rally

2021

Calendar



TENTATIVE: March 9-12, 2021,

Odd-Fellows RV Park,
Florence, Oregon

Hosts: Frank & Dana Suttell

September 27-30, 2021,

Casey's-on-the-River RV Park,
Westfir, Oregon

Hosts: Floyd and Joyce
Hensley



President's Corner

Happy New Year to all our members. Hope everyone had a great Christmas as we did with Laurel, Tucker and Shasta and some Facetime with Dawn and Dave in Fairbanks, Alaska. 2020 has come to an end, and for us it couldn't have come quickly enough. We don't know what the new year will bring, but hope it is better than the last one!!

To all our NWCC members and their friends, we wish you good health and safe travels wherever they may take you.

Joyce

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021



© Can Stock Photo



Officer Contact List

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

President : Joyce Hensley

president@nwccers.org

503-201-4002

Vice President: Floyd Hensley,

vicepresident@nwccers.org

503-201-4002

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Treasurer@nwccers.org,

503-399-0636

Secretary: Bev Carrick

Secretary@nwccers.org

503-508-0456

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nationaldirector@nwccers.org

360-305-8458

Alt. National FMCA Director: Bill Holmes,

AltNationaldirector@nwccers.org

619-889-2134

***Newsletter Editor: Glenda Serex,**

newsletter@nwccers.org



Chuckles

I'm having a quarantine party this weekend.

None of you are invited



Me: Alexa, what's the weather going to be this weekend?

Alexa: Why? Where do you think you're going?



Online Membership Photo Directory

Our Member's Directory is a convenient way to put faces with names of our membership. The Directory is available in the Members Only section of our website at: <https://www.nwccers.org/members-only>. Your password is your FMCA number including all capital letters (no spaces) and is case sensitive. You may also download a hard copy from the same area, or if you would like a color, hard copy mailed to you, use the Contact Us form on the web site to request a copy. Include your FMCA number in your request. (Our Directory is available only to current NWCC members.)

NWCC Website and Facebook

Website: NWCC maintains a website at nwccers.org with current chapter information, copies of the newsletters, rally information and registration as well as a Members Only section with club governing documents, a membership directory and other information. The webmaster contact is: nwccwebmaster@nwccers.org

Facebook: The FaceBook page for Northwest Country Coachers search is: **NorthWest Country Coachers Motor Coach Club**. Many of our members are already friends on this social media site. If you would like to be a part of our Facebook community, please "Like" or "Follow" us.

For more information concerning membership, contact Lee Casebeer, membership@nwccers.org, 503-459-1332

To: All Presidents, Secretaries and Volunteer Captains:

The Northwest Area Executive Board met on December, 15th via ZOOM. The topic was whether to continue the planning of the June 2021 area rally in Longview, Washington or cancel the rally.

Several items were discussed including the cost of catering and the unwillingness of the caterer to adjust pricing, the limited power available, and the unavailability of portions of the facility. Currently the Flower building is being used for COVID material storage and the main building is being used for superior court in order to maintain social distancing. In discussions with the facility manager, there are no sure dates as to when the entire facility would be available for us to use. It could be well into next year, possibly as late as May before a definite date would be known. If we continue with planning, that would mean we would have to begin member registration, vendor and show coach registrations as well as catering. If we were to have to cancel the event, all fees would have to be returned which would be a major headache for the treasurer and a paper nightmare for the registration person.

A major concern is what will happen with COVID restrictions.. Biden has made reference to having a 100 day lock down on all interstate non essential travel. Then there is the availability of the vaccine to the main populace and when will it be available. Current state and county restrictions still limit the number of people that can gather in one place and maintain social distancing. The Executive Board felt this would be a major issue to overcome. Just in our area, so far, there has been one death and one serious hospitalization of a member.

National scheduled the 2021 international convention for July 7-10, 2021. This would leave about a week to make it from Longview,WA to Gillette, WY and much less for those going as a delegate to the Governing Board. This is national officer election year and is an important one. At the present, there are two candidates for each office with the exception of national secretary which most of you know is currently held by Kathie Balogh, past president of the Northwest Area. National did the same thing back in 2013 and our area rescheduled the rally into August and we had very low attendance.

Based on the above, the Executive Board voted to cancel the 2021 area rally in Longview. Not that we wanted to, but it was felt that it was the prudent thing to do considering the status of today and the unknown of the future. With the cancellation of the rally, the scheduled planning meeting to be held in April 2021 is also cancelled.

I would like to thank those that volunteered to assist with the rally. As has been said, FMCA runs on the help of volunteers and without your help, there would not be an FMCA.

Currently, I am in discussions with the Mill Casino in North Bend, Oregon to hold our 2022 rally there.. The location will have more power available with approximately 100 being full hookups and 80 plus with water and 30 amp electric. The EB felt this is a much better option than trying to return to Longview. We will try to bring in more local vendors and plan some different events to make the rally fun.

Stay safe and healthy,

**Don Schleuse
President
Northwest Area**

MEMBERS' CORNER

Last month, I wistfully showed everyone my latest dream coach that I saw at Premier RV.



Then, I saw this.....a converted pickup camper. (It was not at Premier!) Must have once been in a very long pickup. It now has a fifth-wheel hitch and two axles and probably a whole lot more....



Here are the big brands hidden behind Costco's Kirkland products

While some of these names are public knowledge, others remain a closely guarded secret.

Read in MoneyWise.com: <https://apple.news/AodXSiriwR-6UGdjz8n1qeQ>

Herb Harris shared this piece of news with the observation that it evokes the Winnebago/Country Coach takeover a few years ago. <https://tiffinmotorhomes.com/blog/tiffin-motorhomes-joins-the-thor-industries-family>

The RV Bunch Newsletter often has some articles worth checking out. This one offers some ideas for simple upgrades to make living in your rig more pleasant.

[Simple RV Upgrades That'll Change the Way You Camp | RV Living | MobileRVing Blogs](#)



Club Members on the Go

Here is a travel update that I got from Jan & John Bare, of Gig Harbor, Washington, with their membership renewal. If you have travel plans you'd like to share with the Club, please send them to Glenda Serex, our Amazing Newsletter Editor. Glenda is always looking for articles for the Newsletter. Lee Casebeer, Membership Person

Jan & John Bar have been wintering at Outdoor Resort Indio for the last 12 years, and they are ready to make a change. They have a number of Gig Harbor Friends in Mesa, Arizona, so that is their winter destination this year. They are renting a park model this year; however they are going to take their 2002, 36 ft. Country Coach down, and storing it, because they want to travel during and after their stay in Arizona.

They have 85,000 miles on their CC, and it runs like a top. They would love a third slide, but it is just fine with the 2. They bought it in '07 with 19,000 miles and it has been good for them. They were boaters before that, owning 3 different boats in the 50' category, and spent 40 years cruising the west coast between Gig Harbor and Alaska. So the RV life style experience is fairly new to them. Jan & John offer a "Be Safe!" message to all of us for 2021.

Out and About with NorthWest Country Coachers

On Saturday, December 12, the “Gig Harbor Cruisers” did a food drive for the Peninsula Fish Food bank. Dana and I are members of both the Gig Harbor Cruisers and the “Jet City Fiero Club.” Every year the Jet City Club does a food drive for the Auburn Food bank, so after participating in that food drive this year, I shared the idea with the Cruisers. Because of Covid, this year has impacted more people than ever, and this was a way to help the community. We got it set up with the Cruisers and Fish Food Bank and had 21 cars participate which was great for a December event. In addition to the food donated, there was an additional \$1250 given. In a few days, we will have a count on the number of items donated. We were pleased with the turn out and know that FISH Food Bank was, also. The club thanks them for their service to the community.

We were lucky that the December weather cooperated with us and, although it was cold, it was also blessedly dry, and we even had some sun breaks. After we dropped off the food, the cars cruised from the Food Bank drop-off location down to the harbor and to Starbucks just off Borgen Blvd where Bob McCord treated everybody to coffee. It was a nice way for the Cruisers to end the year.

Frank and Dana Suttell



“Staging” for the event

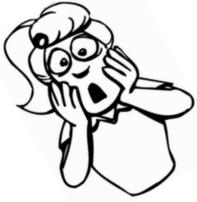


Lining up to deliver the supplies



Staying safe and following the guidelines.

The Continuing Saga of my Haunted 2008 Intrigue 520 The RVComfort.ZC 3 Thermostat Episode



Many of you have suggested over the years that my coach is likely haunted. Perhaps this tale would be best told round the campfire on a dark, spooky night!

After nearly 10 years of owning my 2008 Intrigue 530 I'm still learning about it. The most recent has been through a frustrating learning odyssey with my air conditioning controls. Couldn't be all that complicated, right? Au contraire mes amis, au contraire.

If you're struggling with your thermostat right now you may want to cut to the last paragraph of this article, "The Short of It."

My Intrigue has three Coleman, rooftop, air conditioning/heat pumps. One is above the living area, one over the galley and one in the bedroom area in the rear. They are all individually controlled from one thermostat mounted in the bathroom area. The thermostat is an RVComfort.ZC and controls all three heat pumps as well as the zones for the Aquahot hydronic heat system (that's another story for another time). The thermostat is switched between heating mode and cooling mode with a slide switch that also turns the systems (but not the thermostat) off. In either the heating or cooling mode you can cycle the display between the three zones, read the current temperature at the sensor for that zone, control the fan speed and the temperature set point. Once set the thermostat should control the temperature that you set. At least that is the theory.

The system in my coach has always been temperamental at best requiring constant adjustment of the temperature set point. I assumed the variance was because of the placement of the sensors. The living area sensor is mounted under the stereo cabinet near the small window by the front door where the cooling fan for the entertainment system blows down over the window. The galley sensor is mounted on the wall across from the refrigerator (thus an interior wall) while the third is mounted under a bedroom cabinet again under the stereo equipment in front of a window. The mid unit would short cycle constantly. I've had it serviced several times and have been assured it operates correctly. I figured it was probably because the vent in the ceiling above it was blowing on it, so I closed it. Helped a little but certainly didn't solve the problem (neither did shielding the sensor with cardboard). Then as soon as I had the system balanced and heating or cooling properly the coach would either get too hot or too cold! When I'd check the thermostat, it looked like the set points were different! No weird sounds - no rattling chains, no doors opening or closing by themselves, nothing floating through the air, no chilly breezes just the set points changed. I'd gotten used to the bedroom TV turning on all by itself by now so thought nothing of it.

Occasionally the thermostat would not show zone 2 (the galley area). If the Zone 2 unit had been operating before the Zone 2 display was lost, the unit would run continually until I shut off the breaker. This hadn't been a major issue since it didn't happen very often. I've had the whole system checked three or four times. Since my coach has always had the reputation of being haunted, I assigned blame to the resident poltergeist.

Then things started deteriorating over the last few months. The zone 2 display started disappearing more regularly, the temperatures displayed seemed way off until one day it just quit working altogether. The display for Zone 1 was all it would report, Zone 2 stayed running continually and Zone 3 would not operate. Clearly the work of poltergeists!

I tried searching the web for advice about just what the heck is wrong with my thermostat. While I found many helpful articles for other thermostats, I found only a couple specific to my model, but they were not much help. Lots of advice to hold two buttons down while pressing a third, various other routines involving turning the thermostat off and on several times (my thermostat doesn't have an on/off switch) - nothing about poltergeist infested motorhomes.

So of course, I decided I needed a new thermostat. Not as easy as it sounds to control three heat pumps, three a/c units and two Aquahot zones all from one unit. Everything seemed to point back to the RVComfort.ZC as the only viable alternative unless I wanted to do a major rewire of the coach. But before I was willing to spend \$150 to \$200 for a new unit (if I could find one), I decided to try my own skills to slay the beast. Not that I'm cheap, mind you, I'm retired. There's a difference, not much I'll admit but a difference, nonetheless. Besides it's hot in July and August and I didn't want to wait the many days or weeks it would take to replace the thermostat.

Slightly intimidated after all the button pushing, I decided to tackle it myself. After a rather long internet search I found the service manual for the thermostat (Country Coach gave me the Operator Manual which is useless for troubleshooting) which is great for installing the unit but the troubleshooting section is pretty lame. I didn't have much hope. There was nothing that described my particular dilemma or how to reset the unit. No mention of a reset button. So.....

(Continued on page 7)

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First, I tried to do a long overdue exorcism which didn't work - perhaps because I'm not ordained or because my holy water came from the bathroom sink. I'm pretty sure my cross was adequate (small, but adequate). In any event it seemed I was on my own.

Bolstered by "I can't make it any worse," I removed the front cover and discovered a glass bus fuse inside. I removed the fuse for a couple minutes and replaced it. Things went from bad to worse. All that displayed was Zone 1 temperature which clearly wasn't 62 degrees. None of the buttons or selectors did a thing. Great, I busted it.

I had noticed in the service manual that the unit had to be programmed for the application. "Ah Ha," I thought, "When I took out the fuse, I erased the program memory." Undaunted I returned to the thermostat armed with the programming instructions in hand. (The famous line "How hard can it be!" from the movie Point Break came to mind). I removed the cover once again and started with step one. "Turn the selector to Cool, then Off, then Heat and back to Off." "Easy enough" thought I. "The display should now show Zone 1." It didn't show anything, but all three heat pumps and the Aquahot came on!

In exasperation I removed the glass fuse again and within a couple minutes all the units shut down. At this point I decided to calm down, regroup, enjoy a glass of wine, and see if I could find something on the internet I may have missed. Sure enough, I found a post that said if your battery voltage goes too low for too long the thermostat may lose all or part of its programming but nothing about how to correct it yourself. The advice was to take it to the dealer for reprogramming. Then I thought back through the years I've had this coach and recall that there have been several occasions where the battery voltage was way low starting at the factory when I picked it up (the house batteries were dead). Since then, I've gone through three or four inverters each time draining my house batteries before I noticed a problem. Last year the batteries were beyond hope and were replaced with the help of my good friends, Rod and Teresa Robbins. After all that torture, I figured the thermostat deserved a reset and reprogramming. However, nowhere could I find how to reset the thermostat to factory settings so it could be reprogrammed. And of course (this won't come as a surprise to most of you) there isn't a Country Coach dealer in my area or anywhere else!

I decided to try to program the unit again using the instructions in the Service Manual. It had been 30 or 40 minutes since I last removed the fuse. I replaced it and the thermostat came to life and started to work just fine, in fact better than it ever did. Zone 2 didn't cycle anymore! The temperatures for the three zones all made sense and I didn't have to fiddle with the set points as much as I did before! Apparently reprogramming was not necessary.

However, the system isn't 100% cured. It still seems to be voltage sensitive so if I turn the 12 volt system off or let the battery voltage drop, I need to reset the thermostat which I learned is not that difficult (see "The Short of It" below) I'd like to tell you that this was the end of my poltergeists, but I seem to others in my Aquahot system, my cooktop, and my bedroom TV! More on those another day.

So that's the long of it. Here is the short of it:

The Short of It: If your RVComfort.ZC is acting strange, remove the cover by grasping the sides and gently, but firmly pull the cover straight off. Remove the fuse, turn the selector to "Off," wait 5 minutes or so, replace the fuse by putting one end of the fuse in the holder first then press it firmly and quickly into place. Replace the cover by lining it up and gently pressing it back on. Wait five minutes then turn the system on. It should start working normally again, if not try it again. It's worth a try before you spend a few hundred dollars to replace it.

Fred Dent
Past President



NorthWest Country Coachers

An FMCA Chapter, Chartered September 29, 2007 As a Local Northwest area Country Coach Owner's Club.

Membership Application

Date: _____ Referred By: _____

Driver Name _____ Co-Pilot Name _____

Date of Birth: (MM/DD) _____ Date of Birth: (MM/DD) _____ Anniversary: (MM/DD) _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phones: Home () _____ Driver Cell () _____ Co-Pilot Cell: () _____

Residence Address, if different than mailing:

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

More information:

FMCA # (Enter 'Applied' if applying concurrently) _____ Email Address: _____

Your Country Coach Information:

Year: _____ Length: _____ Model: _____ Coach # _____

NWCC Directory for CC Service and Parts

The following companies have been submitted to this directory by our club members. They have been found to be knowledgeable and

Company	Contact	Service
Amazing Creations https://www.amazingcreationsrv.com	Scott Adams 1220 Ivy Street Junction City, OR 541-998-1126	Custom cabinets, flooring and general remodeling/upgrades Amazingcreations1@yahoo.com
Bend RV Repair https://bendrvrepair.com/	Jeff Spear 62980 Boyd Acres Rd. Unit A-2 Bend, Oregon 97701, 541-388-5448	Complete RV Repair Referred: Lee Casebeer & Tom Lowery
Brazel's Performance https://brazelsrv.com	Alan Sanders 3912 Harrison Avenue, Centralia, WA 98531 877-786-1576 Referred by Russell Warren	Alignment, suspension, maintenance, dynamometer, electrical & mechanical repairs shop—50-amp sites and dump
Carrier & Son's RV Service Center Facebook: @Carrier RV Service	Tom & Teresa Carrier 29525 Airport Rd., Eugene, OR 97402 Off: 541-461-1673; Fax 541-461-1674 Referred by: Terry and Les Apple	Skilled service craftsmen are able to handle most of your RV service needs from the smallest job to a major structural rebuild job.
Coach Masters of Bend	Blake 20472 Brandis Ct., Bend, OR 97701 541-330-6863 Coachmasters@bendcable.com	Parts, Service, Repair coachmasters@bendcable.com
Coach Solutions	3451 Kendra St, Eugene, OR 97404 541-514-9000 Brian Van de Walker	House and Chassis Electrical; Audio/Video, including RTI Remotes. Local service & Fly-in Anywhere USA
Dave Root RV Glass Repair www.daverootrvglassrepair.com/	Dave Root, Bend, OR 541-280-3612	Reseals, Thermo-Pane windows, all RV side windows
Davis Cabinets www.daviscabinets.com	150 E 10 th Ave., Junction City, OR 97448 541-998-8778, Shaun Davis	Interior upgrades, cabinetry, window shades
Guaranty RV Center ** www.guarantyrv.com	So Hwy 99, Junction City, OR 877-463-0067 NWCC exclusive sales dealer NWCC \$25 discount on retail service	Service, Parts, Body Shop and RV Sales
Kaiser Brake and Alignment kaiserbrakealignment.com	265 Taylor St., Eugene, OR 97402 541-344-5887	Alignment, brakes, tires
K&M Mobile R.V. Repair LLC https://www.facebook.com/kmmobilervrepair	Kevin Waite (Former Country Coach Service Tech. & Owner) 95430 Noraton Rd., Junction City, OR 97448	Mobile Repairs, Technical Support Country Coach Parts kvn.wt.7629@gmail.com
Kustom Coach Works	Bobby Vodden	Custom audio/video installations

Company	Contact	Service
Olstrom Custom Coach LLC NEW	Eric @ 1-520-485-3750 Www.olstromcc.com	Based out of Tucson is mobile to anywhere for repairs
Oregon Motorcoach Center **	29417 Airport Rd, Eugene, OR 97402 541-762-1505 Effective 01/03/2012: Current NWCC Badge gets 10% discount on Parts.* Bob Lee, Founder of OMC and NWCC Honorary Lifetime Member	*Present your NWCC badge for discount. You will need verification that your club dues are current. Interior restoration, modifications, remodel, service and parts Fax: 541-762-1509 www.oregonmotorcoachcenter.com
Premier RV Services	Gary - 541-554-3997 Office: 541-998-2640 325 E First Ave, Junction City, OR 97448	Sales - Service - Storage premierrvstorage@gmail.com Referred by: Brian & Kay Case, Bend
RV Glass Solutions	Eugene, OR 888-777-6778 Doug Rutherford - former CC Service Manager www.RVGlassExperts.com	Windshield replacement, glass and windows. Many CC windshields in stock. Call for a referral in your area.
RV Service Pro In the Puget Sound area	Mobile RV Service from Seattle to Olympia. Certified RV service and repair professionals for all your RV service and repairs 253-229-6209 www.rvservicepro.com	They do good work at fair prices. They overhauled my Aquahot for me. Recommended by Fred Dent
Hitch Pro & Tow	4701 West 11th Avenue Eugene, OR 97402 (541) 434-2403 Ken Banyard, Sales Manager	Complete service for towed vehicles: base plate installation, wiring, tow bars, braking systems and advice. Recommended by Denny Huffman
Silverleaf Electronics	2472 SW Ferry St., Albany, OR 97322. 888-741-0259, 541-220-5494	Total Coach Monitoring System, Vehicle Monitoring System www.silverleafelectronics.com
Specialty Crate, Inc Logistics Division	41 North Danebo Ave. Eugene, OR 97402 Randy Stout 541-689-8840	Country Coach parts - chassis, body and house.
Splendide (Westland Sales)	15650 SE 102 nd Ave., Clackamas, OR 97015 503-655-2563	Washing machine repairs
Specialty Marine and RV 503-678-6501	Tom Dinsmore 20781 Olmstead Road NE Aurora, OR 97002	Diesel-powered coaches only Custom Accessories, Installations, Repairs and Services
Washington Auto Carriage	Terry Fout, General Manager 5301 E. Broadway, Spokane Valley, WA 99211	24 Hour Emergency Mobile Service: (509) 534-9358