



# TREK TRAVELS



Volume 4 Number 1

January 2017

## President's Message

2016 was a successful year for the NWTFC. We continued to attract a record number of new members and pursued a successful rally schedule while meeting our rally goals. Communication among our members and the executive board was lively and diverse. Several improvements were made to our chapter procedures. We also established a financial home base for the beloved blog, Trek Tracks. Our bylaws call for an annual rotation of officers and that was successfully accomplished thanks to the efforts of our VP, Dean Bjornson, and his committee.

You can read all about this and much more on the NWTFC website. All of our officers present an annual report to the membership of their work on behalf of the chapter.

Under the direction of Helen Anderson, our 2016 rally schedule covered a big swath of Washington and Oregon. It seemed Treks were everywhere up and down the I-5 corridor, as well as points east and west. Thanks to all our wagon masters and to Ken Anderson who provided key support to Helen and at the FMCA NW Area rally in June.

The executive board conducted 5 meetings during the year (2 were at rally sites, the others were email meetings). We had an official business meeting at the Port Townsend rally. Information gatherings were held at other rallies. David Pierce, our secretary maintains the membership roll, conducts the annual election, and makes the required reports to the FMCA offices in Cincinnati.

Our webmaster, Mary Carlson, reformatted our cyber footprint so we are up-to-date with latest trends. We migrated to a new web platform. In the new year we look forward to returning to NWTFC.com. **(continued on page 2)**

## RALLY SCHEDULE

(To be Wagon Master for a rally, contact Helen Anderson, Rally Coordinator, at [helen-anderson@comcast.net](mailto:helen-anderson@comcast.net))

### 2017

June 17 – 20 Pre-rally, Kelso, WA  
Al & Virginia Zimmerman  
Mike & Lynn Ashbridge

June 22 – 25 FMCA NW Area Rally  
Cowlitz Cty Fair, Kelso

August 22 – 25 7 Feathers RV  
Canyonville, Oregon  
Irva & Gary Cooper  
Helen and Ken Anderson

September 22 – 24 Great Prosser  
Balloon Rally  
Ed & Jeanette Block  
Rodger & Colleen Wright

### Other Rallies

March 7 - 10 FMCA 95<sup>th</sup> Convention  
Chandler, AZ

July 12 – 15 FMCA 96<sup>th</sup> Convention  
Indianapolis, IN

**Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!**

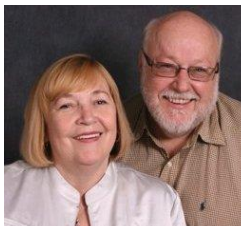
## President's Message, continued

The 2016 board is humbled by the fact that so many new members chose to join NWTFC this past year. We hope we can meet your expectations. Please feel free to contact any of your officers about matters related to the chapter. The club roster now stands at 84 plus 4 honorary members.

A fond farewell was given to outgoing officers Dean Bjornson and Ken Anderson. New officers elected were Paula Shull – vice president and Mike Ashbridge – alternate national director. Sue Bjornson retained her position as treasurer for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Thanks to all of our retiring and new officers.

Steve Webber-Plank. President, NWTFC  
donwebberplank@mac.com 360-220-4468

### MEET THE FMCA NW LEADERSHIP Kathie Balogh FMCA National VP – NW Area



Kathie and her husband Andy live on Vancouver Island, BC. Kathie was a travel agent in Portland, OR for

several years and then worked for a marketing firm in Victoria, BC. Andy served in the Royal Canadian Navy for many years. Kathie followed Andy into her position as National VP. They have been married 31 years and have two sons and three grandsons.

Baloghs are members of several FMCA chapters. She has served as national director for Vancouver Islanders since 2010.

“As National VP, my goals are to enhance FMCA benefits for our present members and identify new benefits in order to increase membership. I will ensure that an open dialogue continues between all levels of the Association.”

**Meet the Baloghs at the NW Area Rally.**



## Blast From The Past

FMCA NW Area Rally  
June 22 – 25, 2017

Cowlitz County Event Center, Longview, WA

- Seminars & Exhibits
- 2 Catered dinners
- Ice cream social
- 2 nights of entertainment
- Movie night & bingo
- 50/50 raffle
- Swap meet

This is the first time for the NW Area rally to be held in Longview. Come to gain new ideas, tips on motorhome maintenance, and explore the lower Columbia region.

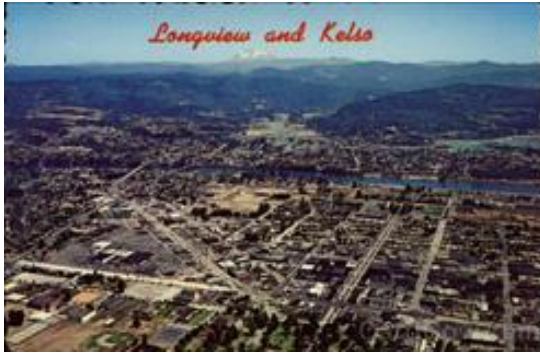
NW Trek Fun Club will be staffing the FMCA store which will be located in the vendor area. **Volunteers are needed.** It is fun to meet people from across the country. Selling FMCA merchandise is easy. Join the fun and volunteer to help staff the store. With more team members, we can do more and reduce everyone's time commitment.

- Register for the FMCA NW Rally
- Register for the Rally on the Cowlitz Pre-rally
- Caravan together to the fairgrounds
- Camp together and enjoy times of fellowship.
- Have a great time with 500 other motorhome owners.

Registration form is online at [www.fmca.org](http://www.fmca.org) under Chapter/Areas – Area Rallies. **Best option is dry camping** – very limited electricity.

NWTFC will caravan to the fairgrounds on Tuesday, June 20.

**Contact Al Zimmerman to volunteer and join the store team. [zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com).**



# RALLY ON THE COWLITZ

Kelso/Longview, WA

2017 Pre-rally to FMCA NW Area Rally  
June 17 - 20

## Location

### Brookhollow RV Park

Directions: From I-5 (exit 39) go east 1 mile on Allen Street, turn right, just past the Brookhollow Mobile Park.

Frustrated Maestros  
joining us for 2 days.  
A rousing group of  
musical entertainers.



- Opening dinner at Longview Country Club
- St. Helens Safari – see the Mt. St. Helens sights & visitor centers
- Presentation - Longview – a Planned Community by Cowlitz County Museum
- Historic downtown, Lilac Gardens-Woodland

## RALLY ON THE COWLITZ REGISTRATION

**Rally fee:** (includes 1<sup>st</sup> night camping, pancake breakfast, taco salad dinner, 2 continental breakfasts, Sat. dinner at LV Country Club,). **Attendees pay for 2 nights upon arrival.** (\$43/night)

Total Rally Fee

**\$ 135 (Couple)**

**\$89 (Single)**

**Opening dinner selection** on Saturday @ Longview Country Club

\_\_\_ Chicken Picatta

\_\_\_ Apple braised pork loin

**Make checks payable to NWTEC.** Mail completed registration and check to:  
**Al Zimmerman, 875 Seabreeze Terrace, Coos Bay, OR 97420**

**Registration and funds must be received by May 1, 2016.**

Pilot \_\_\_\_\_ Co-pilot \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA# \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact (name & phone #) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special need we should be aware of? Y or N (i.e. food allergies, etc.)

Trek Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ License# \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Are you towing a car? Y or N If yes, are you able to help transport others? Y or N

**Volunteering to help staff FMCA store at NW Area Rally** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ # Volunteers

# NW Trek Balloon Rally ♦ Sept. 22 – 24

(3 nights: Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

## Wine Country RV Resort - Prosser, Washington

**Receive rally updates . . . contact:**

Wagonmasters: Ed & Jeanette Block [ed.jnet@earthlink.net](mailto:ed.jnet@earthlink.net)

Rodger & Colleen Wright [twocats-trekn@hotmail.com](mailto:twocats-trekn@hotmail.com)



## 2017 Greater Prosser Balloon Rally



We will email all who have 'expressed interest' in the months ahead re: any itinerary change, future dates for registration & rally fee, etc. We've had a beautiful response! Our limit is 25 full-hookup sites so we may have folks on a 'wait list' for any cancellations. Weather permitting, the balloons launch early each morning with 'night glows' every evening! The resort has a catered BBQ the 1<sup>st</sup> evening and wine-tasting parties – and between balloon events, there's so much to see and do in and around Prosser (Harvest Festival, Farmer's Mkt., wineries, etc.). We'll try to accommodate the key events, breakfast/brunch, a potluck dinner, swap meet and business meeting too. We'll have a nice clubhouse for our activities. Check out "2016 Greater Prosser Balloon Rally" or "Wine Country RV Resort" on the Internet for a wealth of information! Our official announcement will be posted on our Website soon. Ed & Jeanette Block, Rodger and Colleen Wright



## RALLY AT 7 FEATHERS RESORT

Canyonville, Oregon

August 22 – 25, 2017

Irva & Gary Cooper  
Helen and Ken Anderson

One of the premier RV resorts in Oregon





## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY PROVIDES INSIGHTS



In December 2016 a survey of the NWTFC membership was conducted. The primary purpose of this survey was to gauge the NWTFC membership's desire to be involved in FMCA activities. Since NWTFC is an FMCA chapter and is involved in the NW Area of FMCA, it was also important to gauge the interest or understanding of that relationship. The main annual event of the FMCA NW Area is an annual rally that seeks to bring together the 34 NW FMCA. NWTFC's involvement in the annual NW Area rally is one of the chapter's annual activities; therefore it was important to gauge the interest/commitment of the NWTFC membership to this event.

**There were 33 responses to the survey.** The responses represent 39.3% of the membership (33/84). The NWTFC leadership is grateful for all who participated, and it is the best gauge of interest and commitment that we have ever gathered.

### FMCA involvement

There is a strong commitment to FMCA as a national organization representing motorhome owners among NWTFC members. NWTFC members appreciate the services and benefits of FMCA membership (66.8%). The fact that FMCA is a representative organization with a structure that enables members to influence the direction of FMCA was appreciated by the membership (63.6%). Members appreciate that FMCA is a national organization that can speak for motorhome owners (72.7%).

Many NWTFC members would not have joined FMCA except for the fact that NWTFC is an FMCA chapter and FMCA membership was required before joining NWTFC (33.3%). However, most of these members also came to appreciate the role and benefits associated with FMCA membership. A very small minority of the membership saw no benefit to being associated with FMCA.

The most popular FMCA benefits were: 1) FMCA magazine, 2) Michelin Advantage tire discount program, 3) FMCAassist – medical emergency & travel assist program, 4) national conventions, and 5) campground discounts.

### FMCA NW Area Interest/Involvement

NWTFC is a member of the Northwest Area of FMCA. The main event of FMCA NW is an annual area-wide rally each June. The area rally brings together approximately 500 motorhomes and provides seminars, speakers, vendors, and entertainment for the benefit of motorhome owners. Chapters and members provide the planning and staffing for this event.

There is a strong appreciation for NWTFC's involvement in the FMCA NW Area. NWTFC has participated in the NW Area rally for many years and there is support for continuing to participate. There are a significant number of members who have not volunteered at an area rally, but are willing to consider volunteering.

The survey indicated that some members will volunteer for such involvement while others will not for a variety of reasons. Some members do not desire to be involved in large gatherings, preferring activities of the local chapter only. We appreciate all members and want everyone to feel welcome in the club. We are grateful for those who choose to volunteer for the area rally, and we also appreciate those who serve as officers, committee chairs, and wagon masters for NWTFC rallies.

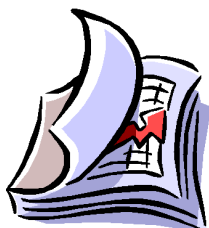
To stimulate more participation in the NW Area rallies, several suggestions were made:

- Limit volunteer involvement to a reasonable amount of time.
- Encourage chapter activity during the area rally.
- NWTFC members camp together and encourage social times during the area rally. NWTFC can be a group within the larger rally "crowd."
- Area rallies be improved to have better entertainment and more and different workshops. More emphasis on programming so that it is more enticing to see what is new at the next area rally.

Several ideas for improving the NW area rallies have been passed on to the NW area leadership.

The survey indicated it is likely there will be sufficient volunteers to staff the store at the NW Area rallies in Longview and Coos Bay. The FMCA national convention will be at Redmond in 2020. There is significantly more interest in attending the national convention in Redmond. 20 indicated a definite or willingness to consider attending the national convention in 2020.

The NWTFC leadership appreciates everyone's participation in the survey. Your responses and suggestions will help us make improvements and function more effectively. If you have further questions about the survey or plans for the year, feel free to contact Al Zimmerman (national director) [zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com) or any of the members of the executive board (listed on the back page of the newsletter or the website).



## NWTFC 2016 OFFICER REPORTS EXCERPTS

(Full reports on the NWTFC website)

President – Steve  
Webber-Plank

2016 was a successful year for the NWTFC. We continued to attract a record number of new members and pursued a successful rally schedule while meeting our rally goals.

It is always a good omen when you open up the past presidents section in the members section of our website and you can recognize all 6 players who date back to 2005. That is because they are all still attending our rallies every year. The amazing thing is they don't appear to get any older! (A benefit for volunteering?) The 2016 Board is humbled by the fact that so many new members chose to join NWTFC. We hope we can meet your expectations. Please feel free to contact any of your Officers on club issues. The club roster now stands at 84 plus 4 honorary members. Many thanks to the hard work our membership team: Mary, David, Sue and Jeanette.

### Improvements Noted

#### Procedures

Modified rally guidelines adopted in 2016 allow for more rally masters per rally and extended stay for remote locations. We approved advance funding for rallies that require a heavy down payment far in advance of rally receipts. This includes situations where a state park or other entity may require an advance payment in order to reserve campsites for a group.

#### FMCA

The national director, Al Zimmerman, conducted a broad survey on FMCA participation and member preferences. That was completed in January. A summary of the results is included in the January 2017 Trek Travels newsletter and the website.

#### Website

Both the NWTFC websites and Trek Tracks website were structurally deficient as platforms adopted many years ago are no longer viable or supported. Our Webmaster created a plan in 2015 to migrate to new lands and the plan was

implemented in the 4th quarter. Our club (with executive board approval) took on the responsibility of receiving, accounting and disbursing funds in support of Trek Tracks during this complicated conversion process. Trek Tracks is a popular blog that we have hosted for many years, but do not manage. This conversion process is almost done thanks to the generosity of its members and the vision its administrators and volunteers. We are glad we could help.

#### Treasury

A "lot of work" goes on in the back office of the NWTFC to keep the club's programs rolling along. Our "Spreadsheet Guru" is NWTFC'S treasurer, Sue Bjornson, and she has somehow managed to grow our club assets by over 25% when compared to the last two-year average of cash available for operations. We have also developed a new format for our Statement of Financial Condition. You can read all about our P&L in her annual treasure's report. Thanks, Sue

A fond farewell was given to officers Dean Bjornson and Ken Anderson. New officers were elected in November. They are vice president – Paula Shull, alternate national director - Mike Ashbridge – Sue Bjornson retained her position as Treasurer for a 2nd term. Thanks to all.

In 2017 three more Officers will rotate out: president, FMCA national director, and secretary. Please think about serving as an officer when Paula Shull comes calling.

I look forward to seeing all of you at one or more of our rallies and safe travels in 2017.

#### **Vice President – Dean Bjornson**

Paula Shull and Bret Medbury served along with me on this year's nominating committee. The following slate of potential officers and committee members was provided for elections:

Vice President:	Paula Shull
Treasurer:	Sue Bjornson
Alt. National Director	Mike Ashbridge

Elections were held and the vote was unanimous in favor of the slated names.

Many thanks are extended to Paula Shull and Bret Medbury for serving on the 2016 nominating committee. I would also express appreciation to those people who volunteered their time to be officers and committee members to further the success of the Northwest Trek Fun Club.

#### **Secretary – David & Sue Pierce**

This past year has been exciting. NWTFC has 30 new members, but has lost 12 members. Our membership now stands at 84. Further, our web site has gone through a complete rebuild (thank you Mary Carlson) which now even recognizes those of us that have moved to SOME OTHER BRAND. Our Webmaster has also contributed to the rebuild of Trek Tracks, which we as an organization continue to support.

Our newsletter continues on a quarterly basis and has gotten many compliments across the various chapters, thank you Al Zimmerman.

Further growth and excitement continues, the RV Industry is growing supported by low interest rates, low fuel costs and an expected future employment market (Boeing Forecast).

#### **Webmaster – Mary Carlson**

So far 46 members have set up a member account on the new NWTFC website. If you haven't, please do so. In the future you will be getting an email notice each time I post anything on the website – rally notices, new members, etc. If you need help, just email me and I'll be glad to help you. I will also be sending out instructions once the site is finalized.

And while looking through the website, let me know if you have suggestions or see things I may have overlooked!

Some of the features of the new NWTFC website are:

- A secure Member's Only Section, only viewable to members who are logged in. It includes:
  - a. Administrative Information, i.e., Bylaws, Minutes, etc.

- A Member Directory. Logged in members can view member's information. Each member can also view and edit their profile. Members can even upload pictures and include links to personal websites, blogs, Linked-In pages, etc.
- Connect page, where members can post travel plans, places they will be, opportunities to meet up, etc.
- Club Newsletters and a brochure that members can print out to give to prospective members.
- A list of current and future rallies.
- An index of past rallies.
- A history of the Trek and brochures for each Trek year.
- The Isuzu InfoLetters page. (This is another membership group) that we partner with. Bret Medbury is the current editor of the InfoLetter. He submits it to me and I upload it to our website. There are currently 39 issues online and although focused on the Isuzu, there is information there that could apply to any year.

#### Treasurer – Sue Bjornson

Beginning Balance 1 Jan 2016		\$4,481
Income		
Member dues	\$930	
Rally registration fees	\$5,714	
Fundraising & gifts	\$20	
Member pins, etc.	\$56	
Other inc/adjustments	\$981	
Total Income	\$7,711	\$12,192
Expenses		
Member dues refund	\$30	
Rally payments	\$7,291	
Wagon Master sites	\$535	
Website expenses	\$400	
FMCA program ad	\$40	
Misc – bank charges	\$3	
Other – Historian, etc.	\$169	
Total Expenses	\$8,467	\$8,467
Ending Balance 31 Dec 2016		<u>\$3,725</u>

Because NWTFC did not have to pay an advanced campground reservation fee, the chapter's financial condition is actually improved over 2015 by almost \$1,000.

#### Rally Coordinator – Helen Anderson

What a great year 2016 has been for rallies. We had 4 rallies and FUN was the operative word at each of these rallies!!

Traveling Rally to Lake Chelan, Sun Lakes, and Grand Coulee Dam – May 21 – 28 ♦ 12 coaches. A very informal rally that was designed so attendees could participate in activities, leave and rejoin the group at any time. Some took the boat trip to Stehekin on Lake Chelan. Spring Canyon USFS campground was the final stopping place. Watching the first laser-light show of 2016 at Grand Coulee Dam was especially enjoyable. Wagon masters were Sue and Dean Bjornson.

Antique Powerland Pre-rally in Brooks, OR – June 19 – 22 ♦ 10 coaches. An opportunity to look through a collection of museums dedicated to old farm equipment, trucks, trains, construction equipment, etc. A treat on the first day was a ride on an electric trolley. A tour of the Covanta Waste to Energy Plant was most interesting. A treat was the delicious breakfast at Wilhelm's beautiful home. Wagon masters were Pat and Tom Wilhelm.

Port Townsend, WA Rally – August 11 – 14 ♦ 24 coaches. NWTFC members seem to swarm to this rally. Downtown is a short walk from Pt. Townsend Marina RV Park so attendees were on their own for exploration. The weather was perfect and the view over the water to the Cascades and Mt. Baker couldn't be beat. Several honorary members rented a motel and some members dropped in for the potluck dinner. Wagon masters were Mary Burchett and Ron Mahugh.

Harvest Moon Rally at Wallowa Lake State Park – September 13 17 ♦ 12 coaches. A tour of the Valley Bronze Foundry in nearby Joseph, OR included all facets of the bronze process. The foundry produced all the extensive bronze work that is part of the WWII Memorial in Washington,



DC. Some rode the rails on human-powered cars on the Joseph Branch rail line – 12 mile round trip to Enterprise (1/2 downhill and ½ uphill on the return)! Tram trip to the top of Mt. Howard provided spectacular scenic views. Wagon masters were Paula and Bill Shull, Nancy and Dick Harris.

2017 has 3 rallies scheduled. Others can be planned if people want to be wagon masters.

- Rally on the Cowlitz, Kelso WA  
June 17 – 20
- Rally at 7 Feathers Resort, Canyonville, OR  
August 21 – 25
- Great Prosser Balloon Rally, Prosser, WA  
September 22 -24

As with all our rallies, we had FUN, and enjoyed spending time together whether it was sharing a meal, sightseeing, or relaxing at the campground. Here's to more companionship in 2017!

<p>National Director Al Zimmerman</p>
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#### **FMCA national items from area meetings and national convention**

- FMCA executive director resigned and Chris Smith is the new executive director/CFO.
- FMCA store is now being outsourced and this should lead to better inventory for sale at area rallies..
- FMCA is acquiring new members – the challenge is retaining members. A call center is being used to follow-up of membership renewals. For 2016 FMCA nationally had an increase in membership numbers for the first time in several years.
- FMCAssist has been a positive factor in acquiring new members. New FMCA membership card has FMCAssist info on the back of the card. FMCAssist claims are exceeding anticipated figures resulting in losses. Premiums will be increasing to cover these losses. At the present time, FMCAssist premiums are being paid from investment earnings. There were 73 claims last year.
- In an effort to amplify FMCA's membership marketing effort and utilize social media venues, FMCA invested \$250,000 from investment reserves in RVillage, an online social network website. In return, the FMCA logo is displayed

on the RVillage website as a means of encouraging the recruitment of new members.

- A dues increase of \$10 per year was implemented effective October 2016.
- In an effort to reach younger people and new groups, it was proposed that FMCA alter its Articles of Incorporation so that FMCA as an organization is not strictly limited to motorhome owners. A vote by the FMCA membership was conducted through the FMCA magazine with ballots due by December 31. The result may be a division or separate company associated with FMCA that may include towable RV owners.

#### **Upcoming FMCA national convention dates**

March 2017	Chandler, AZ
July 2017	Indianapolis, IN
2018 Summer	Gillette, WY
2019 Winter	Chandler, AZ
2019 Summer	St. Paul, MN
2020 Winter	Perry, GA
2020 Summer	Redmond, OR

**Spring FMCA NW Area Planning Meeting** was held at the Linn County Expo in Albany. NWTFCA was represented by Al Zimmerman (national director) and Steve Webber-Plank (president).

A new incentive program was announced to increase attendance at area rallies. If a member brings a friend to an area rally in a self-contained RV and that person has never been a member of FMCA, that member's name will be placed in a drawing for \$200. The member must be present at the end of the rally to claim the prize.

#### **Upcoming FMCA NW Area rally dates:**

June 22 – 25, 2017	Cowlitz Fair, Kelso, WA
June 21 – 14, 2018	Mill Casino, Coos Bay, OR
June 20 – 23, 2019	Linn County Expo, Albany
2020	No NW Area Rally

because national convention in Redmond

NWTFCA held a pre-rally at Antique Powerland in Brooks. Members staffed the store at the FMCA NW area rally at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany.

**Fall FMCA NW Area Planning Meeting** was held at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds in Kelso. Much of the time was spent on reviewing plans for the 2017 rally since the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds is a new venue for FMCA.

(National director report continued)

NW Area officer elections were held and the following were elected:

- Barbara Schleuse, Treasurer,  
NW Country Coachers
- Dennis Martin, Vice President,  
Pacers Northwest
- Bill Chambers, Vice President  
Puget Sounders

NWTFC will staff the store at the NW Area rally in Longview (June 22 – 25, 2017). A NWTFC Pre-rally will be held at Brookhollow RV Park, Kelso (June 17 – 20). Frustrated Maestros will share the clubhouse for some of the pre-rally days.

A survey was submitted to the NWTFC membership to gauge the interest in FMCA activities and volunteering at area rallies. **(See the survey report on pages 5 and 6.)**

## SHOP TOOLS AND THE REAL REASONS THEY WERE MADE



**Skill saw** – a portable cutting tools used to make boards short.

**Belt sander** – an electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

**Drill press** – a tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

**Channel locks** – used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood blisters.

**Hacksaw** – One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion; and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**Table saw** – a large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity. Very effective for digit removal.

**Phillips screwdriver** – normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper and tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt, but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

**Straight screwdriver** – a tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

**Hammer** – originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of diving rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent to the object you are trying to hit. Also - very effective at fingernail removal.

**SOB tool** – any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling “son of a b\_\_\_h” at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

- Contributed by a reader to a forum on IRV2.com

## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Steve Webber-Plank  
[donwebberplank@mac.com](mailto:donwebberplank@mac.com)

Vice President – Paula Shull  
[bpshull@frontier.com](mailto:bpshull@frontier.com)

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce  
[suedavidpierce@gmail.com](mailto:suedavidpierce@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Sue Bjornson  
[skbjornson@gmail.com](mailto:skbjornson@gmail.com)

Natl. Dir – Al Zimmerman  
[zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com)

Alt Natl. Dir – Mike Ashbridge  
[mikeashbridge@comcast.net](mailto:mikeashbridge@comcast.net)

Past President – Al Zimmerman  
[zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com)

Rally Coordinator – Helen  
Anderson  
[helen-anderson@comcast.net](mailto:helen-anderson@comcast.net)

Webmaster – Mary Carlson  
[webmaster@nwtfc.com](mailto:webmaster@nwtfc.com)

Historian – Jeannette Block  
[ed.jnet@earthlink.net](mailto:ed.jnet@earthlink.net)

Newsletter Editor  
Al Zimmerman

Feel free to contact  
NWTFC officers or  
committee chairs with  
questions or suggestions.

NWTFC Website  
[www.nwtfc.com](http://www.nwtfc.com)



The Northwest Trek Fun Club (NWTFC) was formed with the idea that Trek owners are people who are unique because the Trek design is quite unique. They are people who like to get out and visit the very beautiful sites and history of North America. However, they do not want to do it in a huge motor home. The Trek design gives us the comforts of home but still is small enough to get into those off-the-beaten-track sites.

NWTFC was established in 2004 and currently has about 80 coach members, including Treks spanning the 1991 Isuzu to the 2008 28RB2 and the 2016 Trek. We pride ourselves in fostering new friendships and knowledge of the Trek. We stress that our club's middle name is F-U-N.

We plan several rallies each year in several states and communicate with our members by email, newsletter, and through the club website. NWTFC territory covers WA, ID, OR, AK, MT, BC, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. All Trek owners, regardless of their home state, are welcome to join or to attend our rallies as guests.

Membership dues are \$10 per calendar year. See the website for a membership application.

When your membership is processed, you will be given a password access to the secure Members Only page of the NWTFC website.

NWTFC is a chapter of FMCA and very closely associated with SAFARI International.