



Volume 4 Number 2

March 2017

## President's Message

As I write this note I am reminded that Daylight Savings Time has returned, the Spring Equinox is only days away, and Bellingham is rated as the #1 cloudy city in the lower 48. Yikes!

It is for these reasons that Alaska Airlines and our Treks come in handy. Time to roam and seek the sun. Many of our members have already been out and you can read about their adventures in the section on Quartzite 2017 on the NWTFC website.

Our revised website ([www.nwtfc.com](http://www.nwtfc.com)) is up and running. Thanks Mary for all your hard work. If you see any glitches, please email her. Trek Tracks ([www.trektraxs.com](http://www.trektraxs.com)) has also been moved back with new features to help you. Thanks to Eric, Mary, Gary, and Lowell. Trek Tracks has many loyal and faithful followers.

I am looking forward to our first rally of 2017 in Kelso, Washington. There are a few spaces available and I know that the Zimmermans and Ashbridges have a great program planned for us. A registration form is on page 3 of this newsletter and on the website. This is also a pre-rally to the FMCA NW Area Rally in Longview. If you would like to help staff the store, let Al know.

Are you getting your ride ready? I note that FMCA has some new benefits available for its members. Check out the Benefits tab on [www.FMCA.com](http://www.FMCA.com).

See you at the next rally.  
Steve Webber-Plank. President, NWTFC  
[donwebberplank@mac.com](mailto:donwebberplank@mac.com) 360-220-4468

## 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

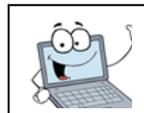
August 22 – 25 7 Feathers RV  
Canyonville, Oregon  
Irva & Gary Cooper  
Helen and Ken Anderson

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

### Other Rallies

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

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



**Northwest Trek Fun Club website is back home where it belongs!**

It can again be found at [www.nwtfc.com](http://www.nwtfc.com). Please take some time and check out the new website. In the future Mary will be highlighting some of the new features, so if you haven't yet registered for the 'Member's Only' area, please do so soon. Go to the website, click on 'Join Us' and then 'Register'.

## CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED FOR FMCA

Information was provided by FMCA President Charlie Adcock to chapter presidents and national directors that could mean dramatic changes for FMCA. These changes will be discussed at the NW Planning Meeting in April and acted upon at the Governing Board meeting in Indianapolis. NWTFC Executive Board will be making recommendations for Al Zimmerman, NWTFC's national director to bring forward.

These changes go beyond the modification of the Articles of Incorporation approved through the membership approval in December of 2016.

### Background

Adcock presented some points for consideration:

- Motorhome sales represent a much smaller piece of RV sales. In 2016 motorhomes made up only 12.7% of RV purchases.
- Of 8.9 million RV-owning households, it is estimated that 1 million of those own motorhomes.
- Average age of FMCA members has gone up, even as younger RV buyers have entered the market. Average age of FMCA members is 71 while the average age of RV owners is 48.
- FMCA's active membership has declined from 130,000 (2004) to less than 70,000 today.

Several steps have been taken by FMCA to increase the benefits offered to FMCA members to entice more people to join FMCA. The problem is that many of these programs were funded from investment funds and not current operating income.

- FMCAssist Medical Emergency program was initially funded with \$406,141 from investments.
- FMCAssist has had more claims than originally anticipated. A significant premium increase hit last year and another large increase is anticipated for 2018.
- In 2016 FMCA executive board withdrew \$250,000 from investments to help fund

**(Continued on page 3)**



## 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 (Dry camping)
- 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. Registration form is also included in the newsletter.

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).**

## FMCA Changes continued

RVillage – a social media outreach program.

- The magazine (Family Motor Coaching) historically generated significant advertising revenue. Because of changes in publishing generally, advertising revenue has fallen significantly.
- A slight increase in membership was reported for 2016.

### Answer

Adcock: *“It’s time to lift the equipment restriction placed on us by our founders (so that ALL our friends and family who RV – including those who own towables, which is where most of us started! – can join the FMCA fun).*

*It’s time to catch up and welcome the entire RVing community. There’s an important vote coming before your Governing Board in July. Your leadership is being asked to approve allowing FMCA to welcome RV owners - without a motorhome limitation.”*

### Action to Come

The FMCA Governing Board will meet at Indianapolis in July to consider opening FMCA membership to all RV owners. If approved, a vote of the entire FMCA membership will be required.

There are five proposals to be considered at Indianapolis. One would change the Articles of Incorporation and another would change the Constitution and Bylaws. These proposals would generally change all references to motorhomes to recreational vehicles.

The NWTFC executive board is discussing these proposals and will be making recommendations. These proposals will also be discussed at the FMCA NW Planning Meeting in April.

### Questions

1. Will chapters still control their own bylaws? Chapters will still control their own bylaws. Chapters will not be required to allow owners of towables to join their chapter if their chapter does not wish to do so. **NW Trek Fun Club will continue to be a chapter oriented to Trek motorhomes.** The question of towables will be up to the chapter to determine in 2018 if this

proposal is accepted. Currently one must own a Trek to join NWTFC, but if a member sells their Trek and purchases another motorhome, they can continue as a regular motorhome.

2. Will the organization name change? The name will simply change to “FMCA.” The association will still be the organization that stands for FAMILY and FUN (plus memories, camaraderie, adventure and so much more).

[It is proposed that FMCA will be the name as AARP or AT&T use letters for their marketing name. And yet to truly reach out to all RV owners, it would be better to adopt a new identity that is not associated with or limited to motorhomes.]

If you have further questions or thoughts on this proposal, contact Al Zimmerman, NWTFC national director ([zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com)) prior to April 5, so he can carry your ideas to the FMCA NW Planning Meeting. **FMCA is an association of members – let your thoughts be known.**

### What did you do during the winter of 2016-17?

- Were you a snowbird?
  - Did you stay home? • Where did you go?
  - What are some highlights of your winter?
- Share your experiences with Al so they can be included in the next newsletter.  
[zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com).

### The Taxi Driver

One day a passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention. The driver screamed, lost control, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped mere inches from a plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent. Then the shaking driver said, “Are you OK? I am so sorry, but you scared the daylight out of me.”

The passenger apologized and said, “I didn’t realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly.”

The driver replied, “It’s entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I had been driving a hearse for 25 years ...” From IRV2.com





## RALLY AT 7 FEATHERS RESORT

Canyonville, Oregon

Tuesday – Friday • August 22 – 25  
(3 nights)

Wagon Masters: Irva and Gary Cooper, Helen and Ken Anderson

Location: Seven Feathers RV Resort • I-5 in Canyonville, exit 99. • 25 miles south of Roseburg

**Rally fee** includes 1<sup>st</sup> night camping, 3 breakfasts, dinner on arrival night, welcome bag, & bingo prizes. Attendees pay for 2 nights upon arrival (\$36/night).

**Rally Fee                      \$75 (Couple)                      \$60 (Single)**

Be sure to submit both the rally registration and the RV park registration forms

**Registration deadline is May 22 • Only 3 sites left**

### Rally Highlights

Happy Hour every afternoon!

Tuesday, August 22

Arrival and catch up with fellow Trekkers

Wednesday, August 23

Country BBQ at the casino

Thursday, August 24

Picnic dinner provided by you & Music in the Park @ Myrtle Creek

Friday, August 25

Continental breakfast

Homeward bound – safe travels

### Activities in the Area

- Many outdoor activities on the Umpqua & Rogue Rivers
- Golf – Myrtle Creek & Cougar
- Wine tasting at local vineyards
- Covered bridges
- Wildlife Safari in Winston
- Museum in Canyonville
- Douglas County Museum in Roseburg
- Shopping in Roseburg & Winston
- Exploring Canyonville, Myrtle Creek, Riddle, and the back country roads
- Try your luck and contribute to the economic prosperity of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians

# 7 Feathers Rally Registration

(Must be received by May 22, 2017)

**RALLY FEE: \$75 (Couple) \$60 (Single)**

We will do our best to refund your money if you cancel your reservation, but once we lock in our number with the campground, no refunds will be available unless there is a wait list.

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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

**Amount enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration form enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**7 Feathers RV Park form enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_



**Make checks payable to NWTFC.**

**Send to: Irva Cooper  
776 Madison Ave.  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110**



For staff use only

Confirmation # \_\_\_\_\_

Processed by \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Site: # \_\_\_\_\_

## Seven Feathers RV Resort Group Member Reservation

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group's Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Nights outside of your Group's dates will  
be charged at our regular rates.

Site Length you will need: 60' \_\_\_\_\_ 45' \_\_\_\_\_ 23' \_\_\_\_\_ Your Total Length \_\_\_\_\_

*Special Requests:*

Your Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Names \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Staying outside the group's dates? Discounts that can lower your rate:

Good Sam \_\_\_\_\_ AAA \_\_\_\_\_ AARP \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Seven Feathers Casino *Players Club* Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Do not send this form directly to Seven Feathers.

\*\*\*All reservations are made through your wagon master.

Check-in time is 2pm or later

# NW Trek Balloon Rally ♦ Sept. 21 – 25

(4 nights: Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday – departing Monday morning)

## Wine Country RV Resort - Prosser, Washington

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

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

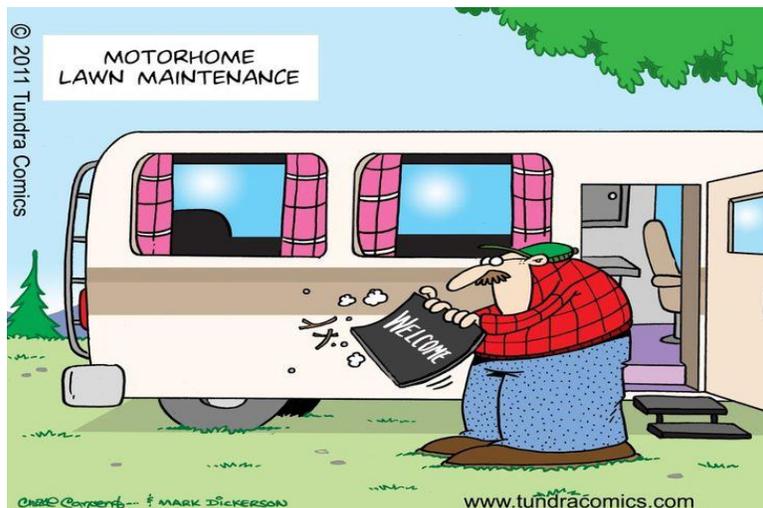
Rodger & Colleen Wright [twocats-trekn@hotmail.com](mailto:twocats-trekn@hotmail.com)



## 2017 Greater Prosser Balloon Rally



**We will email all who have 'expressed interest' in April with registration information.** Our limit is 25 full-hookup sites. A limited number may also be accommodated in a dry camping area. 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





# PLANNING AN EXTENDED TRIP

## Part III

Al Zimmerman

This is the third article on extended trip planning. These are some tips that may be helpful that come from my personal experience and perspective. Some of these ideas may work for you and some may not – if it helps, use it; otherwise chalk it up to someone else's crazy way of doing things.

### How much is it going to cost?

The simple answer to that question is: "That all depends." On an extended trip the choices are limitless and everyone will do it differently. Expenses are a huge question for anyone who is considering an extended trip. Can we afford this trip? How long can we afford to be on the road? How can we formulate a budget, so we can do some planning?

This discussion assumes that you have a home base – a house or dwelling that you call home. When you have completed the trip, you expect to resume your place in your community. There are numerous articles on the internet that discuss expenses for those who living full-time in their recreational vehicle.

There is no one way to allocate expenses and determine costs on the road, however there are some guidelines and considerations that will help you prepare. **The largest expenses are camping, fuel, food, and the cost of fun.** Get those figured out and you have it made.

Another question to consider – what does it cost you to live when you are not traveling? Look back at your living expenses for the past six months. Look at your check register to see where your funds have gone. How you spend money at home will often influence how you spend money on the road. You may discover ways in which you can save some money if you change your lifestyle while traveling.

Last year we took a cross-country trip in our motorhome. We traveled 12,546 miles over 4 ½ months. We crossed hills and desserts, traveled through cities and small towns, and experienced monsoon rains and the heat of summer. Often we camped in the same place for a week, and other times we stopped briefly as we traveled great distances.

### Fixed vs. Flexible Costs

Fixed costs are standard items that you pay each month. Some of those are monthly expenses associated with your home: utilities, property taxes, car payments, insurance, landscaping, etc. How will you handle the maintenance and security of your home while you are gone? Some regular expenses you may have at home can be eliminated while you are on the road: newspaper, cable TV service, etc. Other fixed costs such as health insurance, cell phone / internet service, roadside assistance, etc. will continue as you travel.

Flexible costs are costs that are entirely within your control. This is where the discussion can vary widely from rig to rig.

### How much does it cost to camp?

Think about where you like to stay on a short trip – that is probably where you will likely stay on a long trip. Some people prefer to always stay at a "resort" with all of the amenities. Some must have electricity every night, while others consider that their motorhome was built with all the features that enable them to dry-

camp. Many campgrounds come with all the amenities (swimming pools, on-site restaurants, game rooms, spa and exercise rooms, entertainment, and children's programs). All of these features make your stay more expensive.

We like to camp in state parks, COE parks, USFS campgrounds, national parks (NPS), and county parks. Some of these settings provide hook-ups and basic services, while others are quite primitive. The scenic beauty and peaceful settings are a plus. Private campgrounds can range from simple to luxurious. KOA has adopted a three level grading system: journey (basic), holiday (some premium sites), and destination (resorts with onsite attractions and staff-led activities).

The cost of a place to stay will depend on the area of the country, time of the year, and the proximity to metropolitan areas. Camping near large east coast cities, coastal areas, and vacation destinations is more expensive. However, we also found wonderful county parks in South Carolina and Virginia that were relatively close to the places we wanted to visit. Discount programs (Federal Senior Pass, KOA, Passport America, etc.) can also help lower the cost of camping.

When we set out on our cross-country trip we knew that we would be visiting relatives and friends along the way. Parking in a friend's drive-way is convenient and the price is right.

On our trip we spent 134 nights on the road and our average camping cost was \$29.20. The highest we paid was \$60 (our KOA membership saved a little).

### **What are food costs going to be?**

Your typical meal habits at home will likely be the same when you are on the road. Some people eat out a lot and others dine out only once-in-a while. On our trip we averaged about \$25 a day in food costs. That included food we prepared in the motorhome, nice restaurant meals, lunches while touring, and times we hosted friends and relatives. That cost could be decreased by more closely monitoring our food budget. At home our food costs average about \$13 per day. Your food costs will depend on the choices you make, but may be a little higher than when at home.

### **Unexpected expenses**

A critical part of any trip planning budget is unexpected expenses. No matter how confident you feel with your budget you should always keep an emergency fund for unexpected expenses because things will happen. For us it was a windshield wiper motor, for other friends it was a new transmission. Be sure that you have a roadside assistance plan in place. Some people carry an extended warranty to cover the replacement of major items.

### **Bottom line – can we afford to take a trip?**

Yes, you can. But don't try to live the way the Jones and the Smiths do – live the way that fits your lifestyle. Live the way you choose. Above all – have fun. Live within your means – whatever that means to you. You can't take it with you, so enjoy the days that you have.

#### **RAMBLINGS OF A RETIREE**

- The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- Ageing: eventually you will reach a point where you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
- Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.
- You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.
- Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

From IRV2.com

Kathie Balogh, FMCA National VP — Northwest Area  
Invites ALL RV Friends and Families to . . .

# Blast From The Past

June 22-25, 2017



Seminars & Exhibits  
Display Coaches  
Coffee & Pastries  
2 Catered Dinners  
Ice Cream Social  
Hot Dog Bash  
Dry Camping  
Two Nights Entertainment  
50/50 Raffle • Ladies' Tea  
Swap Meet • Bingo  
Movie Night

Optional Tours  
Available on site

**Cowlitz County Event Center** • 1900 7th Avenue SW • Longview, WA 98362 | **PARKING** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Interstate 5 Exit 36B when arriving from North • Interstate 5 Exit 36 when arriving from South | June 20 & 21, 2017 • No Early Arrivals

## Northwest Area Rally Registration Form

Permanent changes to membership files cannot be made from this form.

FMCA Member Number:		Last Name:		Pilot:		Co-Pilot:	
Address: (if this address differs from your billing address, please call)				City:		State/Province:	
E-mail:				Telephone:		Cell Phone:	
Coach Make:		Coach License:		Length:		<input type="checkbox"/> First Time at a Northwest Area Rally	
Hold At Will Card? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Are You Parking With a Chapter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Which Chapter:		Handicap? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

1. Guest/Child's Name/Age:		2. Guest/Child's Name/Age:	
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Registration Category	By 5/26*	After 5/26*	Qty	Total	Would You Like To Be A Volunteer?
Coach with 2 — Dry Camping	\$185	\$200		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I'd like to volunteer More Info: Don Schleuse (949) 230-0390 dons2346@yahoo.com
Coach with 2 — Handicap Dry Camping	\$185	\$200		\$	
Coach with 2 — 24 HR Generator	\$185	\$200		\$	<b>Select Meal Seating Time</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Early Meal - 4:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Late Meal - 6:15
Coach with 1 — Deduct \$40	-\$40	-\$40		\$	
Adult Guest or Member w/o coach	\$90	\$90		\$	<b>Check for updates and latest details on the rally</b> <a href="http://www.fmcanw.org">www.fmcanw.org</a>
Children 12 and under	FREE	FREE		FREE	

<b>Payment Information</b>	Total Amount Enclosed \$
Prices include meals, exhibits, ice cream social and entertainment. Tours and some seminars are extra cost.	* Registrar must be postmarked or made online by this deadline.

Make checks payable in U.S. funds to FMC, Inc. Please Charge:	<b>Confirmations &amp; Cancellations</b> Confirmation credentials will be mailed if registration is received by May 26, 2017. After May 26, 2017, the rally credentials will be held at will call at the rally site. Enter information carefully since name tags, etc. are created from this information. <b>Cancellation Policy:</b> Refunds will be made, minus \$25.00, if written notice with credentials returned, are received on or before May 26, 2017. NO EXCEPTIONS. If groups want to park together they MUST arrive together. <b>EMERGENCY CONTACT:</b> Cowlitz County Events Center (360) 577-3122. Send general mail to: Cowlitz County Events Center, ATTN: FMCA, 1900 7th Ave, Longview, WA 98632.	<b>Rally Master</b> Andy & Kathie Balogh (503) 530-0166 skcbalogh@gmail.com
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____		<b>Assistant Rally Master</b> Don & Barbara Schleuse (949) 230-0390 dons2346@yahoo.com
Return Completed Form & Payment To: Northwest Area Rally c/o FMCA • 6291 Clough Pike • Cincinnati, OH 45244-2796 Place your credit card registration: Online • By Phone or By Fax		<b>Commercial Exhibits</b> Jerry & Judie Lehenbauer (425) 999-6503 jerrylehenbauer@ms.com

[www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com) | Phone (513) 474-3622 • (800) 543-3622 | Fax (513) 474-2332 • (800) 543-4717

## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

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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.