



TREK TRAVELS



Volume 4 Number 4

Summer 2017

President's Message

I hope this message finds everyone in good shape for summer activities. I have completed the last three items on my to do list: generator fuel pump replaced, step rewired, and the transmission serviced. These are nagging holdovers from last year.

It appears that we are all set for Irva Cooper's summer bash and she's worked with the Anderson's to put together a great program. Don't forget to send her the Henderson's option form by the 24th. I had Henderson's work on my coach, and they fixed a lot of things.

I am also looking forward to the Wright/Block Balloon Rally in Prosser in late September. It ought to be fantastic. Everything these two couples do is always first class.

If you're a veteran or even a first timer to the NWTFC rally circuit, you will know that we put on great rallies. Please keep the ball rolling and consider being a Rally Master for 2018. If you have an idea on a venue, let's explore it. If you want to co-host, Helen Anderson, our Rally Coordinator, will find another couple to work with you.

Its time to elect three officers for the 2018 roster (president, secretary, national director). Please consider volunteering for an open position and contact our VP in charge of nominations, Paula Shull.

Steve Webber-Plank. President, NWTFC
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)

2017 Rallies

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

2018 Rallies

January 18 – 21 SW Trek Get Together
Quartzsite, AZ

June 17 – 19 Elkton Rendezvous
Elkton, OR Pre-rally
Elkton RV Park
Al & Virginia Zimmerman

June 21 – 24 FMCA NW Area Rally
Mill Casino, North Bend, OR

July 18 – 21 FMCA National Convention
Gillette, WY

August 23 - 27 Port Townsend
Ron Mahugh and Mary Burchett

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

RALLY ON THE COWLITZ

Pre-rally
June 17 – 29, 2017
Brookhollow RV Park

Wagonmasters: Al & Virginia Zimmerman
Mike & Lynn Ashbridge

14 coaches gathered in Kelso for the pre-rally to the 2017 FMCA NW Area Rally at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds. Rally attendees included: Mike and Lynn Ashbridge, Bob Beers, Dean and Sue Bjornson, Gary and Lucy Brown, David Burton, Bruce Matlack, Bret and Laura Medbury, William and Joan Quant, David and Pam Schulz, Tom and Diana Schramm, Bill and Paula Shull, Wayne Vandergriff and Janna Caughron, Steve Webber-Plank, Al and Virginia Zimmerman.

Rally attendees included several first-timers. Garry and Lucy Brown hail from Comox on Vancouver Island. They moved up from a Chinook class B to a 2003 Model 2610 Trek. David and Pam Schulz have a unique Trek – it has no magic bed and it has a rear-mounted Cummins diesel on an Oshkosh chassis. There were very few of these units made. Bruce Matlack has just purchased his Trek and it is in Florida getting some repairs done. Bruce spends much of his time sailing the Caribbean. He arrived in a 1991 Ford Class B van conversion. He liked our group so much, he joined FMCA and NWTFC before leaving the rally.

Day 1 – Saturday, June 17
Rally started with a wonderful dinner of braised pork tenderloin or chicken picatta at the Longview Country Club



Day 2 – Sunday, June 18

Sunday began with a breakfast of pancakes and sausage. This was a free day to explore, make coach improvements, or relax

The Frustrated Maestros arrived during Sunday afternoon. It was fun to share the club house with this fun-loving group. Members came from Kansas, southern California, and other states, but mostly from Oregon and Washington. One of the maestros (Russel Warren) is a former Trek owner.

The evening meal was a heavy hors d'oeuvres potluck shared with the Frustrated Maestros. It was a meal filled with variety – from cheese and crackers to the always tasty meatballs and little smokies.



Day 3
The day started with a continental breakfast. Mike Ashbridge led a caravan to Johnson Ridge Observatory on Mt. St. Helens. We enjoyed a ranger talk and a couple movies on Mt. St. Helens.



The evening meal was taco salad with beans and rice supplied by the Frustrated Maestros. Dessert was ice cream bars and cake. Following dinner, Danielle Robbins from the Cowlitz History Museum shared the history of the city of Longview. Longview was a planned community

to serve the workers of the Long Bell Lumber Company. R.A. Long and his staff laid out the design of the city. The Monticello Hotel was (and is) a feature of the city that was intended to show that the city had arrived. Many civic facilities were donated by Long. A unique feature of Longview that is celebrated are the “squirrel bridges.”

Day 4

The final day began with a continental breakfast. As usual, a group of guys were engaged in helping a member with some mechanical issues.



A group diagnosed and then helped Steve Webber-Plank install a new alternator. Unfortunately, Wayne Vandergriff and Janna Caughron had to be towed to the campground and exited the same way. Trust they are back on the road.



David & Pam Shultz have a most unusual Trek. It is a model 3430 on an Oshkosh chassis with a 5.9 Cummins diesel and Allison 4 speed. The coach is 34' 11" and has a rear queen bed. It only has 43,000 miles on the odometer and they are the 2nd owner.



Area Rally Report

It has been a tradition for the NWTFC to staff the store at the FMCA NW Area Rally for many years. As a FMCA chapter, it is volunteers who help make the area rallies a success. This year the following NWTFC members helped staff the store.

Mike and Lynn Ashbridge, Gary and Lucy Brown David Burton, Steve Webber-Plank, Al and Virginia Zimmerman, Nyla and Carla Swainston.

Also helping as volunteers were:

Bill and Jackie Johnson (Oregon River Ramblers (and OR WA Coaches for Christ)

Mike and Renae Thurman (OR WA Coaches for Christ)

Judy Jackson and Lucinda Haynes



NWTFC was one of the first groups to enter the fairgrounds, so we were parked fairly close to the expo center where most of the events occurred.

This year the store was located in the vendor area which helped to bring traffic to the store. Another boost to sales was all new merchandise with fresh colors.

On Wednesday morning the store was set up, and a store meeting took place in the afternoon. Special thanks to Mike and Lynn Ashbridge, Gary

(Area Rally Report continued)

and Lucy Brown, Al and Virginia Zimmerman for helping set up the store.



The other highlight of the day was the 5th Annual Hot Dog Bash featuring Costco dogs this year. Bingo was the game of the evening on Wednesday – Zimmermans won a \$50 pot.

The store schedule worked well and there was plenty of help. Thursday evening was unscheduled so rally attendees could visit local restaurants and visit friends. Zimmermans and Ashbridges coordinated a BBQ dinner for store volunteers. Brisket, pulled pork and chicken came from the Hop n Grape in Longview.

The featured dinner on Friday was stroganoff. The entertainment was Bernie and Red. A husband and wife team who bring comedy and music in a program that has become a crowd pleaser.

The store closed at 2:00 pm on Saturday. Thanks to all those who helped pack up the excess inventory for return shipment to Cincinnati. Kathie and Andy Balogh thanked all store volunteers for their good work.

Next year’s NW Area Rally will be at the Mill Casino in Coos Bay. We look forward to seeing you on the beautiful southern Oregon coast.



**ANNUAL NWTFC
ELECTION
COMING
CANDIDATES NEEDED**

Paula Shull, vice president, is assembling the nominating committee and looking for candidates. Following offices are open:

- President
- Secretary
- National Director

Election takes place in October. If you are interested in any of these offices or have questions – contact
Paula Shull
bpushull@frontier.com
503-873-5975



**REPORT FROM FMCA
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
Indianapolis, IN**

A number of coaches from the Northwest congregated at the S&H Campground in Greenfield, IN on Friday, July 7. This allowed some time for Indiana sightseeing and fellowship. On Monday, July 10, nine coaches caravanned to the Indiana State Fairgrounds.



(International Convention Report continued)

A Northwest Area strategy session was held Monday afternoon. The purpose was to discuss the issues that would be presented during the Governing Board meeting. Kathie Balogh, National Vice President, represents FMCA NW on the Executive Board. The Northwest Area was well-represented for the meetings.

The unofficial count of family coaches in attendance was 1,560 family coaches.



Tuesday was an informal briefing and work session led by FMCA president Charlie Adcock. One of the key issues was creating a definition of recreational vehicles that would be considered by the Governing Board on Wednesday. The definition agreed upon was succinct and simple:

A recreation vehicle is a self-contained, wheeled vehicle that includes permanently-installed cooking, sleeping, and sanitary facilities.

There were questions about tent trailers and pick-up campers. It was decided that if they were self-contained and otherwise fit the definition, then we should welcome them and accept their dues.

Membership in FMCA is up to approximately 73,000; which reflects a sizeable positive increase this year with one quarter to go.

Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board is composed of a delegate from each FMCA chapter in attendance, plus those appointed as temporary delegates because no members from a chapter were able to attend. Delegates are grouped according to membership area. A quorum of delegates is needed for any action to occur. The meeting was held on Wednesday morning. The meeting lasts until the agenda items are covered. (There is a tradition

among Northwest Area delegates of a pool based on when the meeting will end.)

Finances

The budget for 2018 was adopted. With the dues increase approved last year, some expenses that were taken from investments were now reflected as operating expenses (example – \$660,000 related to the FMC Assist premiums, though this may not be the total premium cost).

Proposals considered

1. Members sharing an F number are not to serve concurrently on the Executive Board. In discussion it was discovered that there had not been an instance where this had occurred. In rare instances when it might occur, it was not seen to be a problem. **The proposal was defeated.**

2. Changing the non-discrimination clause in the bylaws. The proposal was to add language reflecting sexual orientation, gender identity, and political beliefs. Zimmerman spoke of the need to defeat the measure and maintain the existing non-discrimination language. The sentiment of the members was to keep such language simple. **The proposal was defeated overwhelmingly.**

Later in the meeting, two additional items were addressed:

- A proposal to require the new non-discrimination language in chapter bylaws was removed from consideration because the bylaw proposal was defeated.
- The Executive Board action to include the new non-discrimination language in the suggested chapter bylaws was rescinded.

3. Including the ownership of recreational vehicles in place of motorhomes as a qualifier for membership in FMCA in the articles of incorporation, constitution, and bylaws.

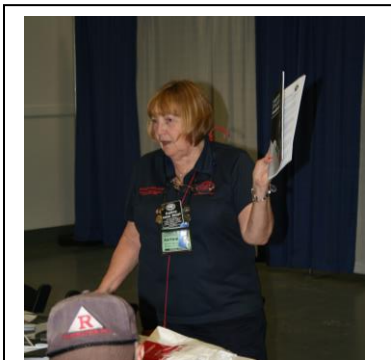
The decision to replace motorhome with recreation vehicle in the FMCA documents was adopted with an 85% positive vote. The proposed definition of recreation vehicle was adopted.

Because this change affects the legal documents of FMCA, a vote of the membership is required.

(International Convention Report continued)

A ballot will be included in the September, October, and November issues of the Family Motorcoaching magazine. (It has been suggested that ballot be copied, presented at a fall rally, signed individually by members, and the ballots sent together in an envelope. The number of ballots returned from the action last year was abysmal.) The results of the vote will be announced sometime in December.

Each chapter will need to consider how the potential inclusion of recreational vehicles (in addition to motorhomes) will be handled by individual chapter bylaws.



Kathie Balogh, NW Area President

4. Future convention sites.

A suggestion was made to move the 2020 Redmond convention to Rock Springs, WY. Concerns were expressed about the facilities and the altitude affecting some people (6,388 ft.). The decision to hold the 2020 national convention in Redmond, Oregon was re-affirmed.

Elections - The following officers were elected to two-year terms:

- President – Jon Walker, Great Lakes Area
- Vice President – Rett Porter, Beaver Ambassador Club
- Treasurer – John Reynolds, Eastern Area
- Secretary – Gaye Young, Eastern Area

Additional activities at the FMCA National Convention:

- Nightly Entertainment:
- Numerous seminars on motorhome maintenance, travel, consumer items.
- Vendor booths and new coach displays.
- Times of fellowship with friends and new friends.

WHAT IS CELIBACY?

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, Frank and his wife Ann listened to the instructor declare, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."

He then addressed the men.

"Can you name and describe your wife's favorite flower?"

Frank leaned over, touched Ann's arm gently, and whispered, "Gold Medal All-Purpose, right?"

And thus began Frank's life of celibacy.

DESIGNING AN RV

Workshop at FMCA Convention by
Jamie Buckmeier
Director of Product Development
REV Recreation Group

REV Group manufactures Monaco, Holiday Rambler, Fleetwood, American Coach, etc.

Factors that decide what product to build:

- Internal discussions
- Dealer/customer discussions & ideas
- Product performance

Dealer meetings are important because it is the dealers that order the units to be sold. REV Group is moving to include more focus groups of customers in the planning process. Comments received at shows are important.

More Millennials and Generation Xers are buying RVs now. Those in age group 30 – 50 are buying expensive motorhomes.

Monaco is moving to emphasize more quality in motorhomes 36 feet and larger. Motorhomes below 36 feet are considered entry-level coaches. In a comment to Buckmeier, it was

(Designing an RV continued)

explained that a Trek would qualify under this definition. Add nine feet to a Trek for a bedroom and presto – there is a 38 ft. coach.

Every motorhome is designed to a price point.

Another person attending the workshop indicated that he had a 12 year-old coach and could not find a replacement of like quality. I asked him what kind of motor home he had. It was Norvel from Florida who also owns a Trek.

Those are some of the factors facing the building of a new Trek. Jamie did express at least an interest in attending a NWTFC rally or the Quartzite rally. Perhaps Jamie was impressed by the call for a new premium short coach – a real Trek.

**SAYING GOOD-BYE TO A SPECIAL FRIEND
Ben Paschall**

One of our dearest, sweetest, and intelligent members has departed from our midst. Ben Paschall died on Saturday, May 27, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with Penny at this time.



Dr. Benjamin Stuart Paschall, M.D. (his father) founded Pascal Company in 1935 in Seattle. It became a leader in the worldwide dental health care industry. Dr. Paschall, with dedication, innovation, integrity, and a genuine concern for his employees, established the company's goal

of providing the best product and service possible.

Ben took over the leadership of the company and demonstrated a concern for his employees – following his father's example. He encouraged all members of the Pascal Company family to regard the company as their own.

We remember his sweet smile and gentle spirit.

**Member Care Unit Members
to be Appointed by President**

During the March NWTFC executive board meeting, a job description was approved for one or more members to be appointed by the president. Their role will be to help integrate new members into NWTFC, share care and concern for current members, encourage membership retention, and reach out to non-renewing members. Those involved will be able to develop positive means and ways of encouraging members and saying “we are glad you are part of our chapter.” For more information or to be involved, contact Steve Webber-Plank (president) donwebberplank@mac.com.

**Trek Tracks & NWTFC Featured
In FMCA magazine**

Gary Bunzer edits the monthly column, “House Calls.” On page 20 of the July issue of Family Motor Coaching, a correspondent writes that he has a Trek 2430 and can't seem to find the water pump.

One of Bunzer's first suggestions is to turn the pump on and listen for it.

Then Bunzer suggests that he visit and join Trek Tracks (trektraxs.com), an online community forum that is dedicated to all things Trek. It can be a vital resource for any Trek owner.

He also suggests trying the NW Trek Fun Club, an FMCA chapter whose members own Trek motorhomes. Visit the website: www.nwtfc.com.

WOW – National Recognition!



RALLY AT 7 FEATHERS RESORT

Canyonville, Oregon

Tuesday – Friday • August 22 – 25

(3 nights)

Wagon Masters: Irva and Gary Cooper (tennis4yu@msn.com) , Helen and Ken Anderson
Location: Seven Feathers RV Resort • I-5 in Canyonville, exit 99. • 25 miles south of Roseburg

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

**Registration Closed – All sites reserved
26 Coaches Registered**

- Seminar and ice cream social by Henderson’s Line-up.
- Picnic in the park with music in Myrtle Creek.
- **Let Irva Cooper know if you have items for the silent auction/raffle. 206-295-1058
tennis4yu@msn.com**

NW Trek Balloon Rally ♦ Sept. 21 – 25

Registration Closed – 25 Coaches Coming

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

Wine Country RV Resort - Prosser, Washington

Wagon masters: Ed & Jeanette Block ed.jnet@earthlink.net

Rodger & Colleen Wright twocats-trekn@hotmail.com



2017 Greater Prosser Balloon Rally



- Wine tastings
- Harvest Fair in Prosser
- Shuttle service to airport for balloon launch
- BBQ dinner catered by “Country Gentlemen”
- Balloon Rally Night Glow

NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Steve Webber-Plank
donwebberplank@mac.com

Vice President – Paula Shull
bpshull@frontier.com

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce
suedavidpierce@gmail.com

Treasurer – Sue Bjornson
skbjornson@gmail.com

Natl. Dir – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Alt Natl. Dir – Mike Ashbridge
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Past President – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Rally Coordinator – Helen
Anderson
helen-anderson@comcast.net

Webmaster – Mary Carlson
webmaster@nwtfc.com

Historian – Jeannette Block
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



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.