



Volume 3 Number 2



March 2016

President's Message

Spring is around the corner and that means our traveling Treks will be presented with opportunities to get out and have fun! We have already had NWTFC January activity in Quartzite based on a report from our Web Master, Mary Carlson who camped with two new members: Phyllis Gisler and Rod Blum. We also have 5 more new members of record this year; Jim and Linda Connell, Jerry and Karen Butler, and Linda Sutto, Welcome to the club and I hope to meet you in person at one of our great 2016 rallies.

For new and old members, be sure and check out the FMCA website for member benefits at <http://www.fmca.com/benefits.html>. There are a lot of member advantages that will save you serious money and perhaps smooth out a few speed bumps. The FMC Assist Medical Emergency and Travel Assistance Program and the Michelin Advantage Program are two good ones. I just printed out my 2015 FMCA Assist ID card. You can too!

Our Northwest Area FMCA organization is looking for Vice-Presidential Nominees. If you or someone you know in our NWTFC may be interested in a higher calling, let me know. I have the nomination papers. If you haven't had the opportunity to register for the FMCA NW Area Rally and the pre-rally in June, please do that. We do need volunteers for our club commitment at the FMCA store.

See you at a Rally,
Steve Webber-Plank
NWTFC President
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)

May 21 - 29 Traveling Rally
Lake Chelan > Grand Coulee
Dean & Sue Bjornson
Ken and Helen Anderson

June 19 – 23 Pre-rally to FMCA
NW Rally
Antique Powerland
Brooks, Oregon
Pat and Tom Wilhelm

June 23 – 26 FMCA NW Area Rally
Albany, OR

August 11 – 15 Port Townsend, WA
Ron Mahugh/Mary Burchett

September 13 - 17 Harvest Moon Rally
Joseph & Wallowa Lake, OR
Bill & Paula Shull
Richard & Nancy Harris
John & Marie Turner

2017

August 21 – 25 7 Feathers RV
Canyonville, Oregon
Gary & Irva Cooper
Ken & Helen Anderson

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

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

2016 Northwest Motor Home Association Rally



ALL ABOARD FOR ALBANY

Linn County Fair & Expo Center
June 23-26, 2016
Albany, Oregon

Join in the fun at the 2016
"ALL ABOARD FOR ALBANY"
FMCA Northwest Area Rally.
There will be Vendors, Seminars, Meals
& much much more!!!

Handicap Electric is going fast.
Register soon.

Register on-line
www.fmca.com
or call
1-800-543-3622

Bring a non FMCA member to the rally in any self contained RV & be entered into a drawing for \$200

Check the NWA website for more information.
www.fmcanw.org



NWTFC is Staffing the FMCA Store

NW Trek Fun Club has a history of supporting FMCA NW and helping with the store that sells FMCA merchandise. At times members have also driven activity (handicap) carts, collected door prizes, and distributed packets at the welcome booth.

It is fun to meet people from across the country. Selling FMCA merchandise is easy. **Let Steve Webber-Plank know of your interest in being a volunteer** (donwebberplank@mac.com).

- Register for the FMCA NW Rally
- Register for the Antique Powerland Pre-rally
- Caravan together to Albany
- Have a great time with 500 other motorhome owners.

The helpful seminars and vendor displays make every area or national rally worthwhile. These rallies are also good places to pick up a new gizmo or a useful tip.



SWAP MEET at FMCA NW Rally Albany

"All Aboard for Albany" FMCA Rally will have a swap meet. There is no charge for a spot. This is a great way to get rid of some extra RV stuff and earn some extra spending money. Not intended for those selling commercial products. Individuals or FMCA chapters can participate. Questions - contact John Pogany, captain for the FMCA swap meet at Albany rally, poganyjobe@aol.com.

Rally Planning for 2017

Just 2 more rallies and we are set! Let's fill the calendar now, so we can plan for next year. Needed are ...

- Spring rally
- Pre-rally June 16 - 19

FMCA NW Area Rally is June 22-25 in Kelso, WA.

Contact Helen Anderson, Rally Coordinator, helen-anderson@comcast.net

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

UPCOMING RALLIES IN 2016



NW Trek Fun Club Traveling Rally

May 21 - 29, 2016 (8 nights)

Lake Chelan, Coulee City, Grand Coulee

Rally Highlights (3 parts, 8 nights total)

This rally is planned so that there is a lot of free time to explore the areas visited, spend time chatting with friends, napping, reading, comparing RV's, etc. Most of the meals are planned & prepared by you. We do think it would be fun to gather each evening for "happy hour" and eat our dinner together.

Saturday, May 21

* Arrive at Lakeshore RV Park on Lake Chelan & get settled 5:00 – Dinner potluck of heavy hors d'oeuvres

Sunday, May 22

*8:00 to ? — Morning coffee time together
BYOC (Bring Your Own Coffee)

*Free time to enjoy the area

*5:00 Happy hour

Monday, May 23

*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

*Boat tour of Lake Chelan, wine tasting, golfing

*5:00 Happy hour

Tuesday, May 24

*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

*Leave for Sun Lakes Resort RV Park

*Free time to enjoy the area

*5:00 Happy hour

Wednesday, May 25

*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

*Free time to enjoy the area; tour Dry Falls

*5:00 Happy hour

Thursday, May 26

*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

*Leave for Spring Canyon RV Park

*Free time to enjoy the area

*5:00 Happy hour

Friday, May 27 & Saturday, May 28

*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

Tour Grand Coulee Dam; Laser Light Show in evening

USEFUL WEBSITES

Lakeshore RV Park –

www.lakechelan.com/what-to-doactivities/camping

(In first paragraph click on "city park")

Sun Lakes Resort RV Park –

www.sunlakesparkresort.com

Spring Canyon (NPS) –

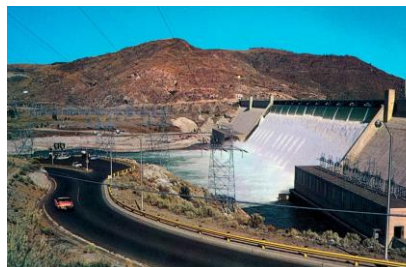
www.recreation.gov (then click "Find Places and Activities", then chose Spring Canyon)

Reservations Period Has Passed

Since the reservation period has passed, contact the individual campgrounds to make reservations.

Let the wagon master know you are coming. (dsbjornson@gmail.com)

14 Treks have signed-up so far.



Wagon Masters: Dean & Sue Bjornson, Ken & Helen Anderson



**ANTIQUE
POWERLAND RALLY
&
PRE-RALLY TO FMCA NW RALLY
at
ALBANY
June 19 - 23**

Wagon Masters

Pat and Tom Wilhelm

503-400-1921

skunkville@gmail.com

Helen and Ken Anderson

253-848-4468

helen-anderson@comcast.net

- Four nights of camping • Sunday to Wednesday.
- **Wednesday (June 22) caravan to FMCA NW Rally** at Albany for those attending and volunteering in the FMCA store.
- All sites have water and electricity ... unless there has been A LOT of rain. Then we will be dry camping on gravel. Note – only 20 amp service is available, so no AC use.

Location: Antique Powerland

(north of Salem – ¼ mile from I-5. Take exit 263

3995 Brooklake Road NE, Brooks, OR 97303

503-393-9732

More info to be posted in April on the website and in the May newsletter

Antique Powerland, which opened in 1970, was originally established by a group of enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation, restoration and operation of steam powered equipment, antique farm machinery and implements.

There are more than 15 different museums – all with some connection to horsepower or transportation.

- Antique Caterpillar Machinery Museum
- Antique Implement Society
- Brooks Historical Society
- Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum
- Oregon Electric Railway Museum
- Oregon Fire Service Museum
- Pacific Northwest Logging Museum
- Pacific Northwest Truck Museum



And it is all in one place at Antique Powerland.

Call or email Pat Wilhelm ASAP to let her know of your interest in this rally.

Activities will be planned when the number of coaches is determined.



PORT TOWNSEND RALLY

August 11 – 14, 2016

Location

Port Hudson Marina & RV Park
Port Townsend is a wonderful historic town to explore:

- Fun shops & good eats
- Fort Worden
- NW Maritime Center
- Dolphin & whale watching tours
- And so much more
-

Check-in 8/11 at 1:00 pm

Check-out at 8/15 Noon

RALLY UPDATE

- 26 coaches coming
- **Port Hudson RV Park is full.**
- Call Port Hudson directly to inquire 360-385-2828
- **Contact Ron to get on a waiting list.**
- Stay at Jefferson County Fairgrounds – 2.2 miles to rally site. \$25/night. No reservations. Always sites available.
- Stay at Fort Worden State Park – 1.4 miles to rally site. Reserve thru WA State Parks.

Contact Ron Mahugh for more info

ronski16@comcast.net

PORT TOWNSEND RALLY REGISTRATION

Rally fee: \$22.00

(includes campsite reservation fee)

\$15.00

(if camping at fairgrounds or Fort Worden)

Make checks payable to NWTEC. Mail completed registration and check to:

Ron Mahugh
1814 3rd Avenue NW
Puyallup, WA 98371

Registration and funds must be received by July 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 _____

____ Camping at Port Hudson ____ Camping at Fairgrounds ____ Camping at Fort Worden

(on reservation list)

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



HARVEST MOON RALLY

WALLOWA LAKE STATE PARK

NE Oregon – Near Joseph
September 13 – 17, 2016

Wagon Masters: Bill & Paula Shull, Richard & Nancy Harris, John & Marie Turner



Visit the Switzerland of Oregon

- Tour a bronze factory in Joseph
- Hiking, canoeing, kayaking on Wallowa Lake
- Interesting shops in Joseph & Enterprise
- Ride the tram to the top of Mt. Howard
360 degree view of Eagle Cap Wilderness
- Visit with friends

20 sites reserved at Wallowa Lake State Park

Interested?

Contact Bill & Paula Shull to let them know of your interest.

bpsnull@frontier.com or 503-873-5975

QUARTZITE 2016 REPORT

January 15 - 18



Another great rally in the desert with Treks from all across the country. There were new owners there who had just bought their Trek 3 days before and others who have sold their Treks, but wanted to visit with old friends. The official count on the day of the potluck was 52 treks, however, some had left and others had come late, so lets say around 55.

Info from Mary Carlson.
More on website

Redrepresenting NWTFC were Rodger & Colleen Wright, Bob & Linda Fitzgerald, David & Sue Pierce, Brett and Laura Medbury, Harry & Mary Carlson, Nick & Teri Alvanos, and Harry and Fran Salit. Redlands RV had a special pre-BBQ party for just the Trekkers. Keith and Karen again made us all feel welcome as they told us about items we may need to upgrade on our Treks.

The annual open house was a huge success, giving everyone a chance to look at what others have done in their trek. There was also a book exchange, a yard sale, and everywhere you looked, someone was asking questions or helping to figure out problems, or trying to find hidden animals in the murals.



In another article in this newsletter, trip planning tips are provided for planning your own motorhome journey. Fantasy RV Tours is another way to go. This company offers a pre-planned travel itinerary including reservations for camping, events, excursions and selected meals. RVers meet at a predetermined Rally Point and become a group – guided by professional leaders [WagonMaster & TailGunner*]. The TailGunner is behind the last traveler and offers assistance to anyone in the group needing a helping hand. At each destination a pre-selected campsite is waiting and planned events scheduled.

Fantasy RV Tours offers RV vacation tours to Alaska, Canada, Mexico, as well New Zealand and Australia. IN the U.S. itineraries include Civil War battle sites, national park tours, fall foliage tours of New England, and others. Tour prices are around \$5,300 to \$10,800 for 27 – 40 day tours.

In 2014 **John and Marie Turner**, NWTFC members and past president of the club, went on a Fantasy Tour vacation trip to the Canadian Maritime Provinces – New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. This was their third trip with Fantasy Tours. They have also traveled with the organization to the Northeast Canadian Provinces and the Calgary Stampede.

Why did you choose a planned trip with Fantasy Tours?

We choose to travel with Fantasy Tours because they were going someplace we wanted to go, they had taken wonderful care of us when we went to Mexico in 2006, and their planning for the trip is very complete. As far as advantages I would say that they save a person an awful lot of planning, know some of the best places to visit, and have access to tickets that as an individual you cannot get unless you do your planning a long time ahead. They make campground reservations well ahead, in locations close to places of interest, that are located a reasonable distance apart so you always have time to visit attractions along the route.

Would you do it again?

Yes! A trip planned and organized by a “for profit” company is expensive, but their trips are well planned and they have experienced people that are leading the trip. They take you places you may not go on your own. For example, there is a show in Halifax, NS called the International Tattoo. This is a show highlighting the traditions of Nova Scotia with bagpipes, highland dancers and military traditions. This event only occurs during one week of the summer, and we went to it. The trip is planned around being in Halifax at the correct time.

Did you have any trials on your cross-country trip?

We had a great trip to the northeast and while on our trip into Canada. The smaller size of our Trek allowed us to easily fit into all of the campground and to stop at some of the attractions where space was limited.

On our trip home we did need to have our transmission rebuilt. We were lucky to end up at a transmission shop that rebuilt the equivalent transmission in pickups on a regular basis because they get burned up clearing snow in the winter. Our second mechanical issue is something that all Trek owners can expect to experience at some time. The ignition switch provided on our chassis carries a significant current and is subject to failure. We started having trouble getting the engine to start and the burned contact finally fully failed while we were driving down the road. Engine stopped and we coasted to the side of the road. The switch is actually a block of switches low on the back of the steering wheel post. Difficult to get to but fairly easy to replace.



PLANNING AN EXTENDED TRIP

Part II

Al Zimmerman

This is the second 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.

What shall we do?

Now that is a question for motorhome travelers! We will do whatever we want to do – and we get to decide. For some people a motorhome provides the means to find a quiet place to park and enjoy the solitude. For Trekkers that may be a peaceful spot beside a river like the USFS campground we found in the Bighorn Mountains above Buffalo, Wyoming at 8,600 feet. What a peaceful night we had beside the meadow with a rippling river running through it. For others the motorhome is the means to travel to where the action is: fishing, golfing, hunting, hiking, etc.

However, for people traveling across this great land, they probably want to see, do, and experience things that are different than back home. Three are four written sources that I find provide helpful insights, suggested itineraries, and information on historic sites and attractions: AAA Tour Books, Fodor's, Frommer's, and Moon travel books. If I am planning a long trip, my first stop is the local AAA office for tour books and maps. The AAA books provide basic information on cities with information on the major attractions. These books even indicate where the AAA membership card may provide a discount.

However, the other travel books provide more helpful and detailed information. Often a walking tour is suggested with maps to indicate the best way to see the key attractions. If a site has a star to indicate it is a choice or "best bet" then you know it is a worthwhile stop.

Perhaps one of the **best online helps is "TripAdvisor.com."** This site has information on just about any travel destination throughout the world. In the "Things to Do" section the attractions are ranked as to which are the best places to visit. The site provides a 1-5 ranking and reviews of each attraction by people who been there.

Where shall we eat?

What a question, we own a Trek so of course we are going to save money by eating in our motorhome. Besides, our own cooking always tastes best. We have heard of some people who own those big fancy 45 ft. motorhomes that say the only reason their motorhome has a kitchen is because it came with one. There are times when it is nice to eat out for variety and give the cook a break.

Choices abound – national chains provide consistency and a familiar menu, but if that is what you want, why leave home? We like to sample the local cuisine and discover new tastes. Local festivals sometimes provide interesting foods to sample. Ask locals when checking into a campground about the good places to eat. The tour books mentioned above also provide interesting restaurants to try. Thanks to Frommer's and Fodor's we found The Salt Lick – our favorite Texas BBQ place near Austin. It is 12 miles outside of town in Driftwood and directions are needed. In Boise we discovered a Basque restaurant that was delightful and very authentic.

Every trip is an adventure. It is what you make it. Make yours special!



NOW WHAT DID I FORGET?

Content suggested courtesy of from IRV2.com

Have you ever had the experience while sitting outside your motorhome in the morning while those who must get on the road are revving their engines?

"I watched fellow RV'ers head out on another day's journey. Without intervention some of them might not have a great day.

A neighbor, two sites down from us, pulled out and my wife noticed his satellite dish was still up. I quickly got up and a quick blast of the horn got his attention. He glanced out the window to see me step out and point up at his roof. He came to a stop and a minute or two later his dish was on its way down into its correct travel position.

Not 10 minutes later, another coach pulled down the driveway with his TV antenna still reaching into the sky. Once again it was a blast of the horn.

I continued to watch other coaches depart and thought I'd post this as a reminder for each of us to watch out for fellow RV'ers and their preparedness as they leave the campground."

These experiences are only funny because we can also laugh at ourselves - or else lie and never admit to doing such things. When you do it once, you tend to not forget so easily.

Yes, I have a checklist and I go over everything in my mind as I do my walk around and hook-up the dinghy.

Still - I have ...

- left the steps up - luckily they go in automatically when I shift into gear.
- failed to turn the antenna so it faces forward - luckily the Jack antenna does not go up so it doesn't matter.
- failed to secure the pocket bathroom door or shower door - wait - that was the wife's fault. She checks inside. No - it is up to both us to make sure everything is ready for the road.
- failed to make sure all the drawers were shut tight - see above, drawer is now repaired. Still remember the crashing sound.
- left the gas cap at the service station - we are from Oregon we don't pump our own. Replaced the gas cap at the next auto parts store, same cap as a Chevy pickup.

Traveling in a motorhome is just one learning experience after another. Our only hope is that we learn and help our fellow travelers from suffering too much. Yes - I have stopped those leaving a park with toad brakes on, antennas up, and numerous other things. Since I am not infallible, I hope fellow RVers do the same for me.





The **FMCAssist** Medical Emergency and Travel Assistance Program is an association-paid member benefit. No sign-up required. If you are a NW Trek Fun Club member, you have also joined FMCA and you are covered. FMCAssist is included as a portion of the annual dues for all FMCA members.

If you have not done so already, go to the FMCA website (www.fmca.com).

- **Print FMCAssist member I.D. card** — member sign-in required
- **Print FMCAssist Brochure** — includes plan description and clipable Discount Drug Card; member sign-in required

Highlights of FMCAssist include:

- emergency evacuation/repatriation
- emergency medical reunion
- return of mortal remains
- return of dependents
- RV/vehicle return (limited to North America)
- pet return.

FMCAssist coverage is available to members worldwide as long as you are more than 100 miles from home. You can be traveling in a motorhome, car, plane, ship, or motorcycle to be eligible for this benefit. If you are a full-time RVer, you are always considered 100 miles from home. Some exclusions and limitation amounts pertain to this benefit.

FMCAssist coverage is provided by Seven Corners and is underwritten by Lloyd's of London. What do you need to do to enroll in this program? Absolutely nothing! As long as you continue to keep your FMCA dues current, you will be covered.

When should I call FMCAssist?

- Always call 911 first in any emergency.
- Anytime a physician has advised that you or your covered family member is in need of emergency medical transportation.



- Anytime you or your covered family member has been admitted as an inpatient at a hospital, or anytime you feel you may need future assistance with transportation due to a medical situation.
- Anytime you have general questions about your coverage and the services available through FMCAssist.

What happens when I call FMCAssist?

- If immediate assistance is required, you will provide your name and FMCA member number in order to take the next necessary actions.
- Details of your current situation will be requested.
- We will answer any questions you have about your coverage and benefits.
- We cannot discuss your medical condition or transportation arrangements with your family members (unless specifically authorized by you) or with any other member of FMCA.

► **Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week** ◀
 • 877-202-4176 •



NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Steve Webber-Plank
donwebberplank@mac.com

Vice President – Dean Bjornson
dsbjornson@gmail.com

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce
suedavidpierce@gmail.com

Treasurer – Sue Bjornson
skbjornson@gmail.com

NW FMCA Dir – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Alt FMCA Dir – Ken Anderson
kenand2@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 commit-
tee 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 approximately 65 coach members, including Treks spanning the 1991 Isuzu to the 2008 28RB2. We look forward to welcoming owners of 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.