



# TREK TRAVELS

Volume 2 Number 3

September 2015

## President's Message

### IS IT YOUR TIME TO STEP UP?

One of the hallmarks of an active and growing club is that new people get involved. NW Trek Fun Club has been privileged to have new people step forward and provide leadership and bring new perspectives to the club. Now is the time for more new people to step forward.

You can do it. Others are ready to give you a hand or offer counsel. You may have never done anything like that. Perhaps you have not had the time or the interest, but now is your opportunity to shine.

#### Officers

NWTFC has six officers: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, national director, and alternate national director. Each year the club elects three of those officers. This year the nominating committee is looking for people to serve as president, secretary, and national director. Dean Bjornson (as vice president) leads the Nominating Committee. If you are willing to serve as one of these officers, contact Dean and put your hat in the ring.

Each of these offices requires certain skills, but you don't have to have the same skills or experience that the last person did. Sometimes a quiet person serves very well as a vocal person. You may have led a Girl Scout troop, and now is an opportunity to serve as president. Give some consideration to being an officer.

#### Wagon Masters

We have had some wonderful rallies this year. It has been encouraging to see new folks serve as

Wagon Masters. We have two rally spots to fill and then we will have a full calendar for 2016. Helen Anderson is Rally Coordinator, and she is looking for someone to host a spring rally and the pre-rally to the FMCA NW area rally in Albany next June.

We try to match two coaches together to serve as Wagon Masters, so they can spread the load and encourage one another. We now have a packet of resource materials and rally mentors to provide counsel and encouragement.

### 2015 - 16 RALLY SCHEDULE

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

September 17 – 21 Ohanapecosh  
Campground, Mt. Rainier  
Dean & Sue Bjornson  
Ken and Helen Anderson

#### 2016

Spring Open

June Pre-rally to FMCA NW Rally  
Willamette Valley near Albany  
Open

FMCA NW Area Rally – Albany, OR

August Port Townsend, WA  
Mayhugh/Burchett

Fall Joseph & Wallowa Lake, OR  
Bill & Paula Shull  
Richard & Nancy Harris  
John & Marie Turner

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

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

No experience needed.  
Likes to write, creative.  
Able to encourage others to contribute  
Familiar with Word or publishing  
software.

Contact Al Zimmerman (Pres)  
or Dean Bjornson (VP)



## WEB CHALLENGES

Mary Carlson serves as Webmaster for the NWTFC. She maintains the club's website, updates the website with rally reports, makes sure the membership roster is current, and adds new material as appropriate. We are so grateful to have someone like Mary watching over NWTFC's web presence.

In August Mary informed the club that some problems were looming for the club's website. The club is taking action (with Mary's leadership) to address the challenges.

There are three sections to NWTFC's web presence:

- 1) Main website
- 2) Members only section
- 3) Trek Tracks

The main website is visible by the public and helps promote NWTFC as a great group for Trek owners. The members only section contains information only appropriate to actual club members.

Trek Tracks is a nationally recognized treasure chest of knowledge for Trek owners developed and maintained by a separate oversight group. At the present time, NWTFC hosts Trek Tracks and it is beneficial for everyone to have the resource available.

The software used to develop and publish the NWTFC website is outdated and no longer supported by Microsoft. Our webmaster has been authorized to find the best new format for our website.

Watch for news about improvements to the website. Meanwhile, the website is still available to serve our needs.

Thank you Mary for your good work.



## NWTFC ACTION BY MEMBERSHIP

Two items were submitted to the membership and were approved.

- Ken Anderson was elected to serve as Alternate National Director. He will serve through the end of 2016.
- Revised bylaws were submitted to the membership and were approved. One key provision is that voting will be restored to one vote per coach or F number.



# UPCOMING RALLIES



Where in the "el" is Ohanapecosh Rally  
(Washington, near Mt. Rainier)  
Sept. 17 – 20, 2015 (3 nights)  
***Dry camping & a very low-key rally***

Camping fees: \$10/site with Senior Pass. \$20 without a Senior Pass.

Rally fee is \$28 or \$18 (Senior Pass). Includes: first night site hold (no reservations available) and Saturday pancake breakfast.

No hookups at this rustic national park campground. Campsites are available on a first come basis. Advance party will seek to secure campsites.

Activities: visiting Paradise Lodge, day hiking, exploring old hot spring site, exploring the visitor center.



**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE  
September 7**

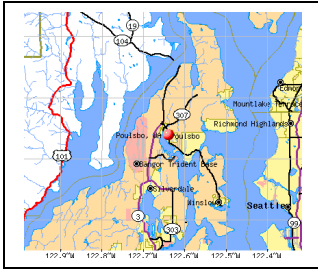
Interested? Email Dean  
[dsbjornson@gmail.com](mailto:dsbjornson@gmail.com)  
or Ken  
[kenand2@comcast.net](mailto:kenand2@comcast.net)



This rally is planned so that there is a lot of free time to explore the area, spend time chatting with friends, napping, reading, comparing RV's, and discovering new ways to relax in the woods. Most of the meals are planned and prepared by you. This will be an opportunity to enjoy dry camping, though there are water, flush toilets, and a dump station available.







# SHINING WATERS RALLY

Bremerton, Washington  
August 23 – 26

Wagon Masters  
Gary and Irva Cooper  
Ken and Helen Anderson



What a great turnout for the Shining Waters Rally – 22 coaches plus honorary members Stan and Barbara Shackell. Coaches attending: Alvanos, Anderson, Beers, Block, Carlson, Cooper, Fitzgerald, Harris, Lindhorst, Mayhugh, Paschall/Braden, Pierce, Piispanen, Schindler, Shull, van den Broek, Webber-Plank, Wilhelm, Wright, Zimmerman plus guests Harry and Fran Salit from Tempe, Arizona and Kathy and Aln Kampen from Port Orchard.

Sunday saw coaches arriving at the Bremerton Elks Lodge RV Park. This was a wonderful rally spot with a private meeting room, space for all, and a view from the hilltop of the water. It seemed like one was surrounded by water everywhere on the Kitsap peninsula.

Monday began with a tour of a coffee roaster followed by breakfast at the Coopers. Then a tour of the Bainbridge Organic Distillery. Lunch was a buffet at the Squamish Casino with so many different kinds of food to sample. Following lunch many enjoyed a walking tour of Poulsbo with its Scandanavian heritage. Dinner was grill your own meat. The bingo game was a challenge to figure out those designs that need to line-up.

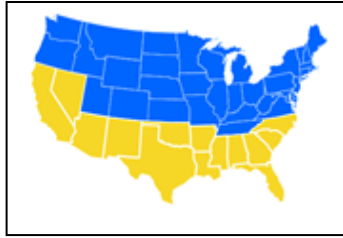
Tuesday breakfast consisted of some tasty breakfast casserole dishes. Russel Warren shared pictures and tales of old Bremerton. Then it was on to the Naval Undersea Warfare Museum in Keyport. Gary Cooper shared some personal knowledge as he worked at the Keyport torpedo shop for many years. Many then toured and sampled the Silver City Brewery. Following a dinner of chicken and ribs was the customary business meeting. A raffle of prizes and a 50/50 drawing generated some funds for the club treasury.

Wednesday saw Treks disperse to many different places. Heard was the call – On to Ohanapecosh!





# BECOMING A SNOWBIRD



Autumn in the Pacific Northwest provides some of the best weather of the year. The fall season is also the time when many start to think about the dreariness of the many dark and wet days of winter that lie in the future. Thousands of snowbirds begin preparing now for their annual migration from the Northwest (or snowy areas of the upper Midwest and Canada) to the sunnier and warmer climates of Texas, Arizona, and California. Generally, 41 percent of winter visitors to the Sunbelt areas spend eight weeks or more each year away from home and nearly 30 percent at least 12 weeks. One of the advantages of having a motorhome is the ability to change locations - if you don't like the weather, move ... if you don't like the neighbors, go somewhere else.

Last year was our first time to venture south for at least part of the winter season. Perhaps some insights will stimulate your daydreaming or motivate you to start planning. I have also asked some of our veteran travelers to share some of their winter traveling experiences.



## Where do we start? – or – What is our first stop?

For many Trekkers heading south the first stop is the Quartzite Rally sponsored by the Southwest Trek Fun Club. Treks from all over park in a circle in the desert and enjoy the fellowship. The RV show provides an array of RV products and information. Redlands Truck & RV brings a mobile shop – and sells Michelin tires too. Last year the NWTFC had 15 coaches at the Quartzite rally. **The 2016 Quartzite rally dates are January 15 – 18.**

“For four years we have joined with the Safari folks at the Indio FMCA rally and then went on to the SW Trek Quartzite

rally, and both have been great experiences. There are usually several Palm Springs area campsites that give out three-day passes at the Indio rally.” Bob and Peggy Beers.

## Where are we going to go?

Many first time snowbirds spend their first year of freedom visiting several different areas. There are so many places to explore in the southwest part of the U.S. – Palm Springs, Valley of the Sun (Phoenix metro area), Yuma, Lake Havasu, and other out of the way places. Find those places that offer the services and amenities that you enjoy.

Before long though, many snowbirds tend to go back to the same places year after year; often making their reservations at the end of the season for next year. Some even decide to purchase a second home or a place to park their Trek. We have long-term NW Trek members residing in Yuma and Mesa. Other friends of ours spend a couple months in the Desert Hot Springs area of California.

“We spend a great deal of time in Yuma, but consider this a base for other adventures.” David and Sue Pierce.



### Where are we going to park?

You get to decide where and how long you want to stay in one place. For those with an RV there is everything from plush parks to spartan spaces for desert squatters. You can park in the desert for free for up to two weeks before needing to move. Arizona has some wonderful state parks, and they are popular destinations. We stayed at Catalina, Lost Dutchman, and Karchner Caverns to name a few. Some of these state parks fill up fast, so making a reservation is important.



Some RV parks are very reasonable, but may want you to commit to a week or a month as a minimum. Other parks are quite expensive, but offer entertainment, organized activities, and all the amenities imaginable.

“We hole up in Mesa for several weeks visiting the CalAm parks with our Passport America discounts. Then we head to Tucson and Yuma to visit friends. By early April we head home.” Bob and Peggy Beers.



### What are we going to do?

What do you like to do while you are at home? That is probably what you will do in the desert.

If you like to be active and engage in sports, then you can find new friends and play golf, tennis, or swim. If you like to explore, there are numerous ghost towns, museums, art galleries, towns, and festivals to discover. When you spread the word that you are going south, you can meet up with more friends than you can imagine – it is amazing how many people go south.

### How much is it going to cost?

Your expenses will depend on your preferences. How much does it cost you to live at home? Do you cook or enjoy dining at fine restaurants? Do you have hobbies? Do you like to explore and do tourist things? You can be a snowbird and live on a budget. Your main costs are for food and parking – and those depend on the choices you make.

### Where do we start?

If you are thinking about spending part of the winter in the Sunbelt, now is not too early to start planning. Start talking to your friends and fellow Trekkies. Find out where they like to go. Start checking out parks and destinations. If you know parks where you want to stay, advance reservations may be a good idea.

As the fall season winds down, give your motorhome a thorough check-up. Tires, belts, batteries, engine operations – look for all the possible things that can go wrong. And there will always be surprises along the way. Those surprises become tales to tell around the campfire.

Plan to slow down and smell the roses. The trip to and from your sunny destination should be as much fun as the time you spend where you are going. Try going a different route – see what else is out there in this big country of ours.

“We love the trips going south and north and enjoy visiting family and friends along the way. We are Elks members, so make use of their camping facilities.” David and Sue Pierce

## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

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

Vice President – Dean Bjornson  
[dsbjornson@gmail.com](mailto:dsbjornson@gmail.com)

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

Treasurer – Sue Bjornson  
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NW FMCA Dir – Steve Webber-  
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Alt FMCA Dir – Ken Anderson  
[kenand2@comcast.net](mailto:kenand2@comcast.net)

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

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

Newsletter Editor – **Vacant**

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 59 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 part of the National Trek Fun Club. We are a Chapter of FMCA and very closely associated with SAFARI International.