



TREK TRAVELS



Volume 3 Number 4

July 2016

President's Message

A mid-year progress report

Welcome to all our new members! We've had a great start on our 2016 program. The latest count on member coaches is now 76 - which includes 22 new coaches, 17 this year and 5 from late 2015. Our thanks go to Mary Carlson, Sue Bjornson, Penny Braden, Jeanette Block and David Pierce for processing a record number of Membership requests with support documents on a timely basis. New members, Frank & Linda Accardo, and Bill & Joan Quant each attended a 2016 rally.

As scheduled, NWTFC members have participated in three rallies beginning with the "Epic Traveling Rally" in Eastern WA; the Brooks, OR "Antique Powerland Pre-Rally" culminating with our club's volunteer effort at the FMCA, NWA Rally. My thanks to Rally Masters Sue and Dean Bjornson, Helen and Ken Anderson, Pat and Tom Wilhelm respectively for leading such great rallies. FMCA store volunteers were Mike and Lynn Ashbridge, Joann and Jack Lindhorst, Bob and Peggy Beers, Ken Anderson, and Dan Mass.

Please refer to our 2016 Rallies page on the NWTFC website for updated rally reports, pictures and for additional information/availabilities on the upcoming Port Townsend and Wallowa Lake Rallies.

We are pleased that we met our rally goal for this year. We have some good rallies planned for 2017, but still need to schedule a spring rally. We can use more input from you, our members,

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RALLY SCHEDULE

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

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

Spring Rally **Open**

June 16 – 19 Pre-rally, Kelso, WA

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

August 21 – 25 7 Feathers RV
Canyonville, Oregon

September 22 – 24 Great Prosser
Balloon Rally

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

Why seniors still need newspapers

I was visiting my daughter when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21st century" she said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here... use my iPad."

I can tell you this..... That friggin fly never knew what hit him..

President's Message, continued

on rally themes and locations. Please contact Coordinator Helen Anderson. Rally Mentors are available to help you fulfill your plan.

Our Treasurer, Sue Bjornson has been working to improve our financial reporting formats. She has also taken on the responsibility to implement the Trek Tracks fundraising accounting for their Web-Site-Mitigation-Program. We are excited that NWTFC can help our venerated TT cousins on whom we all depend.

Mary Carlson, our web master has lent her organizational expertise to the TT effort, as well as providing our club with a new improved IT platform to be unveiled by year end. Stay tuned!

A leadership opportunity in the NWTFC is coming up! Thanks to VP Dean Bjornson for leading the search process with his committee. Interested in helping the club out by being an officer, contact Dean for available positions.

Your Board, hosted by Helen and Ken Anderson, is having an afternoon leadership retreat to discuss current and future Club topics. Additionally we've had three Email meetings so far this year that provide solutions for our club. General Business meetings will be held at the next two rallies. Al Zimmerman and I attended the FMCA/NWA planning meeting at the Linn Co fairgrounds in April.

See you at the rallies,

Steve Webber-Plank
President, NWTFC



Update on NWTFC Website

The NWTFC web site is having some serious difficulties as the software being used is older and no longer supported. The problems are not only affecting us but also Trek Tracks. Mary Carlson, NWTFC Webmaster, has been working on solutions for several months. Trek Tracks is an independent but related site that serves as an interchange for Trek owners. NWTFC has hosted the Trek Tracks website.

In the coming months the Trek Tracks administrators and the new TT webmaster will decide on a new program for the forum. Our partnership with Trek Tracks will continue and as such, once they have decided on the program they want, both sites will then move to a new Linux server.

Our new website is ready to go with some new features, but still retains much of which is familiar to you as members. We have a new, secure, Member's Only Area which I am excited to have you try out. You can register on the site as a new member and can add your own profile picture and even a description and picture of your mural if you would like. You can also share your Facebook, Linked In, Twitter or Blog with the club members. There is even a Directory of Members, simply called 'Members'.

Feel free to test out the draft site and let me know of suggestions, edits, and thoughts. Remember - this is your website! I welcome any and all suggestions, updates and editing to wording, etc.

The link to the draft site is:

www.enfusiastic.com

Remember this is a draft site, and is not operating yet.

Mary



**WE HAVE LOTS OF
NEW MEMBERS -
ISN'T THAT GRAND!!**

- Jim and Linda Connell
Myrtle Creek, OR
Linda Sutton
Torrance, CA
Gary and Karen Butler
Kingston, WA
Phyllis Gisler and Rodney Blum
Palisade, CO
Max and Diane Ganser
Issaquah, WA
Wayne and Cheryl Burchett
Washougal, WA
Jess and Vikki Wright
Oroville, WA
Jim Weishaup
Bend, OR
Steve Ward and Sue Chidester
Freeland, WA
Jim and Peggy Hill
Fort Bragg, CA
Dana Hilden and Sylvia Waltens
Eugene, OR
Jim and Lisa Duggan
Nowata, OK
Michael & Christie Stark
McMinnville, OR
Dave and Katrina Miller
Renton, WA
Andrew Wills and Ellie Howell
Livingston, TX
Roxanne Etherton & Laura Blankenship
Greenbank, WA
Michael Tesmacher
Box Elder, SD



Tips For Handling RV Repair & Maintenance On The Road

(Many of you are aware that the Zimmermans are on a cross-country trip with their Trek. Yes, we have had a couple issues – relatively minor in the perspective of things that could happen. I came across a blog that I read sometimes and these insights may prove helpful.)

Motorhomes need constant maintenance and there seem to be repairs that must be made. But you may not know how to do it. Where do you go? How do you find a reliable mechanic? How do you figure out what needs to be done? What do you do with the paws while the rig is in the shop? What if the repairs take multiple days?

All these are valid questions, and like many RV (and life-related) items it just takes a bit of planning and know-how to figure it all out.

#1 The Basics = What Every RVer Should Have

First of all the basic basics. There are 2 critical repair/maintenance planning items I think every single RVer should have whether they're fulltime or not: roadside assistance – Coach-net or some similar plan and a repair/maintenance budget. The amount you need can vary a ton based on how much maintenance you plan to do yourself, how big your rig is and how old it is.

What About Buying A Warranty? Buying an RV warranty can (potentially) be a good “safeguard” against major repair items, but it can also (potentially) be a waste of money depending on your RV and the terms of the contract. Lots of debate on this one and no easy/clear-cut answer IMHO.

#2 The Details = Figuring Out What You Need Done

So you've got your roadside assistance and you've got your \$\$ set aside. Now what?

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UPCOMING RALLIES IN 2016



PORT TOWNSEND RALLY
August 11-14

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

- 26 coaches coming
- **Port Hudson RV Park is full.**

Contact Ron Mahugh for more info
ronski16@comcast.net



HARVEST MOON RALLY
WALLOWA LAKE STATE PARK
NE Oregon – Near Joseph
September 13 – 17, 2016

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



13 coaches coming – Registration Closed

RALLY REPORTS

NW Trek Fun Club Traveling Rally

May 21 - 29, 2016 (8 nights)

Lake Chelan, Coulee City, Grand Coulee

12 coaches arrived at Lakeshore RV Park in Chelan on a beautiful sunny day typical of Eastern Washington. The happy hour went as planned and the hors d'oeuvres were delicious. The next day was a day for optional activities and some relaxed and read a book, some took a bicycle ride and some did wine tasting at several of the numerous wineries in the area. The next morning 12 carpooled to Fields Point Landing for an all day trip by boat to Stehekin on the Lady of the Lake. On the way we saw such beautiful sights including mountain goats and black bear along the shores of Lake Chelan. At Stehekin most of us boarded a tour bus for a 45 minute tour of Stehekin which included time at a 312 foot waterfall, a stop at the bakery and a tour of the one-room schoolhouse. A few of us visited the gift shop and walked around town.

The next day it was off to Sun Lakes RV resort (about an hour and a half away) where we mainly chilled. There some of us bicycled, some golfed and walked around. The second day included a trip to Dry Falls (only minutes away) where the Ice Age glacial ice dams up in Montana created 300-foot deep walls of water traveling at an estimated 65 mph carving out huge areas of Eastern Washington. These floods kept occurring over and over. The Interpretive Center there was very interesting; the view of the carved out falls were breathtaking and the ice cream shop had great ice cream.

Ten coaches continued on to the Grand Coulee Dam area where we stayed in a National Forest campground called Spring Canyon (dry camping) which was located three miles out of the town of Grand Coulee. The campground overlooked Lake Roosevelt which was created by Grand Coulee dam and many of us had beautiful views from the front windows of our motorhomes. The second day there most of us went on the Dam Tour. That evening we watched the laser light show projected onto the face of the falling water from the dam. We were told that the water only flows over the dam for testing or the laser light show. Every evening we had happy hour and some sort of potluck dinner. The theme of the last two evenings seemed to be Mexican and we had some great Mexican food.

All in all, this rally was very relaxed with time to spend visiting and getting to know each other in a meaningful and deeper way. It was a time to travel together, meet together and share together. There was time to do your own thing and time to spend enjoying each other as the beautiful community of trekkers that we are.

Dean and Sue Bjornson • Ken and Helen Anderson





ANTIQUE POWERLAND RALLY June 19 - 23

Ten Treks rallied at Brooks, OR at Antique Powerland. Those attending the rally were: Mike and Lynn Ashbridge, Bob and Peggy Beers, Penny and Ben Pascal, Jack and Joann Lindhorst, Dan and Debbie Maas, Bill and Joan Quant, Bill and Paula Shull, Steve Webber-Plank, Tom and Pat Wilhelm, and Ken and Helen Anderson.

Soon after our arrival we got a ride on the electric trolley and a visit to the trolley warehouse where trollies were being restored. Then we gathered to enjoy our traditional potluck of heavy hors d'oeuvres, renew old friendships, and meet Bill and Joan Quant who were attending their first NWTFC rally.

Antique Powerland is a collection of museums for power equipment, such as farm machinery, commercial trucks, trains, construction equipment, and the engines which power them. Who knew this unique site existed. How lucky we were to explore it.

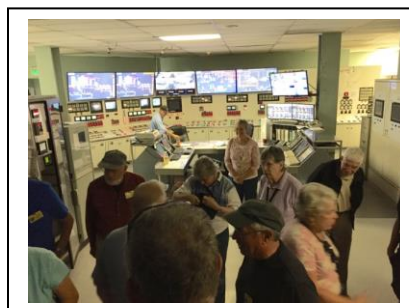
Wilhelms set up a tour for us of the Covanta Waste to Energy Plant just minutes from where we were camping. Covanta is one of the world's largest providers of Energy-from-Waste solutions and has over 50 facilities around the world making them a leader in sustainable waste and energy solutions. This tour was most interesting and enjoyed by all of us.

The "treat" of the rally was a delicious breakfast that we enjoyed at the Wilhelm's home in the beautiful countryside again just minutes from the campground. Wilhelms went all out with a yummy French toast casserole, pancakes and syrup, brats, yogurt, fresh fruit, juices, coffee. We ate outside and enjoyed the wonderful breakfast, sunny day, and each other. You can't ask for more than that.

We had two potlucks and one evening we enjoyed good, generous portions of Chinese food at a restaurant nearby. At one of the potlucks, Marie and John Turner joined us.

The morning the rally ended the rain came in so we stood on a covered porch for breakfast and to say our good byes. Four rigs headed to Albany for the FMCA rally and the rest headed their separate ways. As we headed out of town for our various destinations, the Wilhelms invited us over to their home for the "big dump"—aren't they generous?!

Wagonmasters: Tom & Pat Wilhelm and Ken and Helen Anderson





NWA FMCA Regional Rally Report

Linn Co Fair & Expo Center
Albany, Oregon
Report by Steve Webber-Plank

By most measurements the FMCA Regional rally was a great success. The NWTFC fulfilled our volunteer obligations with FMCA through staffing the merchandise store. Participating members enjoyed the nightly entertainment, sit down buffet dinners, morning coffee and treats, attended worthwhile seminars, shopped for interesting items and received expert solutions to our pesky maintenance items.

This type of Rally is usually a three day event, Thursday-Saturday, leaving Sunday. As volunteers, NWTFC members usually come and camp, (for free with preferred parking), one-three days in advance depending on the specific volunteer responsibility. I have been to three, however many NWTFC members have been to dozens all over the US and West Coast and have the pins to prove it. NWTFC will have its Pre-Rally over the preceding weekend and then

the group will caravan to the big rally. For many years NWTFC has helped staff the store at regional (Albany, Coos Bay, etc.) and national rallies (Redmond in 2014). At some conventions, we have had enough volunteers to staff the store, so other members helped in other areas (activity carts, welcome centers, trams, etc.). It is fun to be involved and meet people from the various FMCA chapters. At least four coaches took the opportunity to have their window snakes addressed by an Arizona Company.

Four coaches caravanned to Albany where they (along with Ken Anderson) volunteered to staff the store. All volunteers went to set up store on Tuesday. We were able to staff the store with our members plus some "walk-on" staff.

The new Point of Sale iPad system went very well. Ken Anderson, Mike Ashbridge and I trained and took turns managing the cash/credit sales. Most of the items were sold on Thursday as cold Californians came to buy sweatshirts and jackets.



Tips for Handling RV Repair and Maintenance on the Road

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How do you figure out what needs to be done to keep your rig happy?

- Read Your Manual – You knew I'd say this, right? But honestly unless you have a vintage RV you should be able to find and download the manual for your rig. **Then READ it.**
- Check Out YouTube For Basic Stuff – If you want to do some basic service items yourself but don't exactly know how, YouTube is a fabulous resource. My fav channel (by far) for this is RV Geeks. They have tons of useful videos on basic items such as generator maintenance, roof maintenance, repairing door locks, sanitizing your water tank and more. Lots of other great RV-related videos & video channels out there.
- Keep Track Of What You Get Done – No matter whether you do the work yourself or get it done at a shop you'll want to keep track of what gets done. This will not only help to ensure you stay on top of everything, but it'll establish a record for yourself and anyone else who might need it in the future (e.g. when/if you sell). We keep a binder with all our service records.

#3 The Place = Figuring Out Where To Go

Potentially one of the most difficult aspects of RV repair/service, especially when you travel fulltime is figuring out where to go.

Now if you're in an emergency situation where you're stuck dead and need to be towed, you may not get too much choice in the matter since most roadside assistance programs will only pay towing to "the nearest repair facility". However, if you find yourself in this situation I still recommend doing some research (while you're waiting for the tow truck, say) since you can sometimes negotiate a tow to your own preference if you have a good reason for it (e.g. this is the only repair shop that works on my kind of diesel engine, say) or it's not too far off track. Don't just take whatever the tow company throws at you.

If you're not in an emergency situation you have the pick of the litter, but how do you narrow down the choice? There are many great shops out there, but there are also shady ones who don't do great work. How do you find out which is which?

- Talk to other RVers.
- Check online reviews.
- Seek out specialists for the big stuff.
- Mobile techs can be a great option for minor repairs.

[For Trekkers, we know the best shops on the west coast are Brazel's in Centrailia, Henderson's in Grants Pass, and Redlands Truck and RV in Redlands, CA.]

#4 The Practical Aspects = Dealing w/ Pets & Home

Once you've figured out your needs and where you're going to get work done, how do you handle pets and the fact that you're locked out of your home while work is being done? And what if your work takes several days to complete?

- Hang At The Shop During The Day – Most repair/maintenance spots have some kind of "waiting room" where you can hang out while your rig is in the shop, and they're typically OK with you bringing in the pets too.
- Hang In The Rig At Night – some shops have even offered electrical hookups or access to a power cord.

Pro Tip -> Stay On-Site The Night Before Service: Many shops will allow you to stay on-site the night before you need service, even if it's just parking in their lot. We always ask about this and if they offer it we always take advantage of that option. Not only does it save us a night in a random RV park, but most of our shop-work starts EARLY, so it's just much easier to be right there on-site when they open.

Excerpted from the blog – Wheeling It

NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

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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 76 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.