



TREK TRAVELS



Volume 7 Number 3

May 2020

President's Message

To misquote Laurel and Hardy: "It's a fine mess we have gotten into now Ollie". A lot of the freedoms we appreciate, being able to travel and gather with friends, are seriously curtailed at this time. These restrictions are being put in place to help protect us from the spread of a virus that is transmitted so quickly isolation is the best tool to slow the spread. We must do our part to keep ourselves and our communities safe.

We are aware that FMCA has canceled the Northwest Area Rally planned for June in Roseburg. The NWTFC Executive Board has decided to cancel the pre-rally that was to take place in Sutherlin, OR, June 20-23. The wagon masters (Al and Elaine Zimmerman, Tom and Jolyne Selvidge) have already put in a great deal of time and energy to arrange what looked to be a very fun rally. Hopefully we can have this rally at a later date. I have not at this time cancelled the Sept. Rally in Woodburn because it is still several months away.

The Executive Board held an online meeting at the end of March. We resolved several issues unanimously. (Always a good thing.) I was glad we honored Ken and Helen Anderson as Honorary Members. This allows them all of the benefits of membership, except voting, at no cost. They were very active in the club for years but have since sold their Trek and are not RVing. Jeanette Block made up a very nice Certificate to present to them.

Our Webmaster, Mary Carlson, with the help of Trek Tracks Directors, Lowell, Gary and
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UMPQUA 2020 PRE-RALLY

June 20 – 23 ♦ Sutherlin, OR

Cancelled

because of COVID 19 restrictions

RALLY SCHEDULE

(To be Wagon Master for a rally, contact Ron Mahugh, Rally Coordinator, at Ronski16@comcast.net)

2020

June 20 – 23 Umpqua Pre-rally

CANCELLED

June 24 – 27 FMCA NW Area Rally
Roseburg, OR

CANCELLED

Summer Rally – pick a time & place
Perhaps someplace in Washington

September 24 – 28 Woodburn Rally
Portland-Woodburn RV Park
Mike & Lynn Ashbridge
plus a co-wagon master

Start thinking ahead for 2021

NWTFC's goal
is to have 3 – 4 rallies each year.

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

**COVID 19 VIRUS
BRINGS CHANGES TO 2020 RALLY SCHEDULE**

FMCA SUMMER CONVENTION
Lincoln, Nebraska
August 26 – 29, 2020
CANCELLED

Wine & Roses – Roseburg
FMCA NW Area Rally
June 24 – 27
CANCELLED

From the Jon Walker – FMCA Natl. President

From Don Schleuse – Natl. VP NW Area

None of us could have predicted that a pandemic would prevent FMCA from hosting its 101st International Convention in Tucson in March. However, we were forced to cancel the event on March 13, just a couple of weeks before it was to take place. Canceling a convention after registration began has never happened in FMCA's history.

It is with regret that I am writing to announce the cancellation of the 2020 NW Area Rally planned for Roseburg in June. Those who have registered for the rally will receive a full refund in the coming weeks.

This will have serious financial ramifications for FMCA as well. As a not-for-profit organization, FMCA devotes its resources to member benefits, including our conventions. The budget is prepared with the idea of breaking even. So, cancelling an event in this manner is difficult for FMCA from a financial standpoint. This is especially true given that FMCA's investments have taken a serious hit.

The COVID 19 pandemic has put all of us at risk, and the safety and well-being of our members was first and foremost when the NWA Board was asked to give their opinions about the continuation of the rally.

At this writing, the U.S. and Canada have not yet seen the peak of the COVID 19 outbreak. FMCA's next scheduled event was set for August 26 – 29 in Lincoln, NE. On March 20, FMCA's **Board of Directors voted to cancel that event as well.** No one knows how long this pandemic will last and when people will again feel comfortable gathering in large groups. If FMCA were to proceed with planning for the Lincoln event, it could create an even greater financial burden.

Many of us have found ourselves right in the middle of this pandemic and I imagine some of you may have friends or family who have been affected. Also, as of now, our Canadian members are not allowed to travel to the U.S.

We certainly hope and pray that the preventive measures taken over the coming weeks and month have the desired effect of halting the virus so we can return to the travel lifestyle we enjoy. We are already starting to put plans together for our 2021 NW Area rally.

Neighborhood Pizza Party

We plan to continue to serve FMCA members as best we can under these circumstances.

Note from Bret and Laura Medbury.
Last week we had a neighborhood pizza party. One neighbor purchased a pile of Papa Murphy's pizzas and then left one on each doorstep.

Be sure to do this on Tuesdays when Papa Murphy's has large pizzas for just \$10.



EXEC BOARD MEETS

NWTFC's Executive Board met by email the last week of March. A number of items were considered and acted upon.

1. Ken and Helen Anderson were approved as Honorary Members.
2. Approved new security measures for the website.
3. Reviewed the progress raising funds for the AED unit. \$841.02 has been raised toward the goal of about \$2,000. Gifts can be made through Paypal or checks can be sent to the Treasurer, Irva Cooper.
4. Because of COVID 19 social distance and travel restrictions, Umpqua 2020 Pre-rally was cancelled.
5. Financial reports and budget were reviewed and approved.
6. Any change in dues will be considered in November as preparations are made for the year 2021.

There was good involvement and interaction by all board members.

Website Security Update Needed

The NW Trek Fun Club website and the Trek Tracks forum share a hosting server. With all of the increased internet security risks these days, the Trek Tracks webmaster, Eric Udell, and I realized it was time to upgrade the security on our sites. I started researching and Eric stepped in to help with the more technical research. He also looked for ways to reduce the costs for both sites.

When we first started researching the costs of increasing the NWTFC and Trek Tracks sites, increased security was going to cost each organization approximately \$300 over and above the basic hosting and domain costs per year. Fortunately, Eric found several ways to reduce those costs. With Eric and I doing the work ourselves it will instead run us less than half of that amount.

The NWTFC Board of Directors and the Trek Tracks Administrators have approved the security upgrade recommendations, and we plan to implement the new security measures in the near future.

Finding ways to reduce the cost means that we will not have to increase NWTFC membership dues at this time. Many of you may also remember that Trek Tracks had a fund raiser several years ago which allowed them to pay 1/2 of the server and domain fees that we had covered in the past. They have enough money in their restricted funds (which are being held by the NWTFC) to hold off on fundraising for several more years.

Mary Carlson, NWTFC Webmaster

Ken & Helen Anderson Designated Honorary Members

Ken and Helen Anderson have been long-time key members of the NW Trek Fun Club. Ken has served as secretary/membership director, and alternate national director. Helen has served as vice president and rally coordinator. Together they have served as wagon masters for many rallies.

During the last year they have moved from their home in Puyallup to Battleground to be closer to children – and they have sold their Trek. We wish them the best and want them to stay connected and involved with the chapter.



President's Message

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Eric made a proposal to provide our Website with security measures to protect all that use it. With a great deal of research and some impressive tech savvy they were able to provide this security at a reasonable cost. We appreciate their efforts and approved the costs.

Funding to purchase an Advanced Emergency Defibrillator is currently at \$841.02. We have until the end of this year, under the current resolution, to reach the estimated \$2,000 needed to make the purchase.

With a budget in place and the finances of the club clearly available to the board we voted to not raise membership dues and revisit this issue in November.

That concludes my report. As someone recently said, "these times remind me of being a teenager. Gas is cheap and I am grounded"

Be Safe Out There,
Mike Ashbridge

A Few Quarantine Smiles

- Half of us are going to come out of this as amazing cooks. The other half will come out of this with a drinking problem.
- I used spin that TP like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog ... we laughed a lot.
- My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee, it cleans the toilet.
- I'm so excited – it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?
- Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.

Our Trip South in 2020

Richard and Nancy Harris

We usually spend a couple winter months visiting our favorite places in Arizona. We usually head south about the middle of January. We have done this for about 14 years. We head home by spring vacation, so we can have fun with the grandchildren.



On the way down we usually stop in Palm Springs and begin to get warmed up from the cool and damp Oregon weather.

We often go to some of the same places each year, and then add some new spots. We spend some time in Apache Junction where we meet up with John and Marie Turner (Nancy's sister and her husband). We often go to Yuma and spend some time with high school friends. Sometimes we get together with friends from the NW Trek Fun Club.

Here are some of our favorite Arizona places: Organ Pipe National Monument, Benson, Safford (Roper Lake State Park), and Verde Valley. We like the Arizona State Parks.

We like to move around quite a bit and see new places – that is why we have a motorhome.

This year we decided to spend an additional two weeks in New Mexico. We left Benson, Arizona and toured the southern part of New Mexico.

There were some of the highlights for us:

- Las Cruces – we especially enjoyed the Farm and Ranch Museum. It had displays of Native American farming techniques and life for early settlers.

Old Mesilla village is the best-known and most visited historical community in Southern New Mexico. The village had its' beginning,

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MY GRAND ADVENTURE!

Penny Paschall



My friend, Vivian, and I started off our 4-month world cruise on New Year's Eve with great anticipation of seeing sights, and sites, we had only read about. The trip was scheduled for 117 days. The itinerary was great and included a lot of places I had always wanted to visit.

After landing in Rome and finding our hotel, we debated about attending the Pope's New Year's Day message in the Piazza San Pietro, but opted instead to explore the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. We planned on visiting the Basilica & the rest of Rome in May when we returned from the cruise.

After boarding the MSC Magnifica, we soon settled into a routine of attending educational lectures, doing craft projects, reading, walking, etc. during sea days. If you got bored, it was your own fault, as there was plenty to keep you

occupied.

Days in port, we usually took an excursion to some interesting places, or walked around on our own. We met lots of helpful people who were more than happy to share their home town with us. Among the more memorable port stops was Puerto Arenas, Chile, where we went searching for Andean condors. We found them perched in small cave openings on a high cliff face, which we promptly dubbed "The Condor Social Club", as this spot was where they visited, but not where they breed. They are as huge as you might expect. Granted, they are scavenger birds, like vultures, but very majestic when they are soaring around.



Another great stop was Hanga Roa, Easter Island. This was definitely on my "bucket list" and didn't disappoint. I have seen pictures of the moai sculptures all my life, but the actuality was awesome.

Our cruise started January 4, 2020, so we had been following the increasingly grim news of the COVID-19 virus and its impact on the world, while feeling safe and healthy on board. By the time we reached Hobart, Tasmania, we had already been turned away by Aitutake, Cook Islands. The virus pandemic was beginning to affect our cruise.

We were not allowed to get off in Hobart and continued on to Sydney, our next scheduled port of call. At that point, it was announced that anyone who chose to disembark in Sydney would not be allowed back on, as our ship was virus-free and the captain wanted to keep it that way. A number of passengers opted to cancel their cruise and make their own way home from Sydney. After they had permanently disembarked, our ship left the dock, as there were two other cruise ships waiting for the space and there was only room for one ship at a time. We were supposed to continue up the west coast of Australia to continue the cruise.

That afternoon, the captain announced that our world cruise was officially cancelled and we had a choice of either being flown home by the cruise company from Melbourne, or continuing (via Fremantle) to the next port of Dubai in two weeks and being flown home from there. Vivian and I chose to leave from Melbourne.

From the March 17 cancellation to March 20 (when we arrived home), the MSC cruise line made all the arrangements - at their expense – to send about 240 of us home. They bussed us to a nice airport hotel, fed us, put us up at the hotel, made our flight arrangements for the next day, and got us home safely and healthy. *At no time in this process of getting home, did anyone, at any stop, at any airport ever ask us any questions about our health or check our temperatures or suggest self-isolation!*

We are so glad we took that option, as the rest of the passengers who chose to stay on board (about 1700) are still on board and trying to find a port at which to disembark – 3 weeks later! It will probably end up being in Europe.

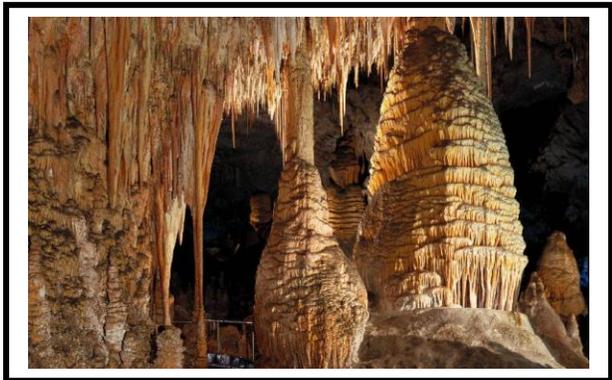
It was GRAND. It was an ADVENTURE. I'm glad I went, but I'm doubly glad I made it home healthy! And, yes, I would do it again, but under different circumstances.

(If anyone wants to follow my ship, go to www.VesselFinder.com and enter the ship name MSC MAGNIFICA.

Our Trip South in 2020 continued from page 4

around
1848. The heart of the village of Mesilla (plaza) is much the same as it was one hundred years ago.

- White Sands National Monument – unlike the Washington and Oregon sand dunes, the sand here is pure white gypsum ... really fine and soft.
- White Sands Missile Ranch has all kinds of manly stuff to see like planes, missiles, and bombs. We were even able to see a missile launched while we were there.
- Roswell is known for quirky things. It is the home of the International UFO Museum and Research Center. The town even has streetlights decorated like alien heads.
- Carlsbad Caverns National Park – oh my this is really something to see. It is truly amazing! We spent the major part of a day here. The Big Room and Natural Entrance trails, as well as several ranger-guided tours, are available year-round.



- El Paso – I know this is in Texas. We dropped down there on our way back to Deming, Arizona. The El Paso Zoo was a treat ... spent all day there.

On our return north we stopped in Death Valley for a few days. We were fortunate to be traveling before all the restrictions had been put in place. The restaurants were still open. There was talk about the Coronavirus, but things weren't closed as they are now.

We returned home about March 13. We are staying close to home and hope all of our Trek friends are staying healthy.

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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.