



# TREK TRAVELS



Volume 7 Number 4

September 2020

## President's Message

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well and safe in this crazy year. If 2020 were a drink it would be colonoscopy prep. (stolen from Facebook ).

Our RVing has been quite limited this year. We were at the Oregon Coast in the spring when they closed the State Parks because of COVID and we had reservations at Ft Stevens State Park, the day after Labor Day. We did go to Ft Stevens but a couple days late because we were waiting for power to be restored to our home. At that time we were on a level 2 evacuation order, and the smoke was really bad. The smoke was not a lot better at the beach on Thursday, but it rained a couple of nights while we were there and that really helped.

Fortunately, the evacuation level was lowered for our neighborhood and we came home on Wednesday to a lot of smoke but everything still standing. Many people in Oregon were not so lucky. I have not experienced such a strong dry wind in Oregon before, and I have lived here my whole life. I hope to not experience it again.

Our club has had to cancel all of our rallies for this year; however, we currently have 2 rallies scheduled for 2021 (if the conditions allow). I am keeping my fingers crossed as we would sure like to see you all.

Now would be a good time for more people to come forward with ideas, or plans for an upcoming Rally. Hint, Hint!! Ron Mahugh and Mary Burchett have expressed their wish to resign as the Rally Coordinators. They have done an admirable job and are willing to help

anyone that may consider taking the position. Please come forward if you are willing to help members put on rallies for our club.

**(Continued on page 2)**

## RALLY SCHEDULE

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

### 2020

All rallies for 2020 have been cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the rules for safeguarding groups issued by government offices. We look forward to rallies once again in 2021.

### 2021

January 14 – 17 Trek Gathering at Quartzite

June 18 – 22 Rally on Cowlitz II  
Pre-rally  
Brookhollow RV Park, Kelso, WA  
Al & Elaine Zimmerman  
Tom & Jolene Selvidge

June 24 – 27 FMCA NW Area Rally  
Cowlitz County Fairgrounds  
Longview, WA

Sept 10 – 13 Westport, WA  
Edith & Bob Carter

NWTFC's goal  
is to have 3 – 4 rallies each year.  
**Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!**

## President's Message - continued

Our membership is continually changing, so a rally is the best opportunity to meet some of our new members and renew old friendships.

This is the year we elect a vice president, treasurer, and an alternate national director. I think VP Dean Bjornson has a slate of nominees for this year's election. I want to thank all of you that are willing to step up and keep our club functioning.

Safe Travels and hope to see you all soon.

Mike Ashbridge, President NWTFC



## 2020 WILDFIRE SEASON IMPACTS PACIFIC NW

The 2020 wildfire season in Washington, Oregon, and California is one that will leave blackened hillsides and snags for many years.

By September **wildfires in Washington** had burned over 626,000 acres, 181 homes had been lost, and one death occurred. The 2020 fire season saw more individual fires than in any other recorded year. Gov. [Jay Inslee](#) declared a state of emergency for all of Washington, with fires burning on the Olympic Peninsula and in Eastern Washington.

The **2020 Oregon wildfire season** was one of the most destructive on record, killing at least 10 people, burning more than 1,000,000 acres of land, and destroying hundreds of homes. The fires were small until a devastating east wind arose the evening of Labor Day (9/7). (We left a campground in the dark at 10:30 the next morning.) Many of the scenic highways crossing the Cascades are scarred – the McKenzie (OR 126), Santiam (OR 22), Umpqua (OR138) and the upper Clackamas River were affected. Favorite campgrounds, scenic views, and rural communities have been devastated.

Let us guard the natural resources entrusted to us, pray for those who suffered loss, and seek the restoration of these beautiful areas.

## RALLY COORDINATOR NEEDED

A goal of NWTFC is to have 3 – 4 rallies a year – one of which may be the pre-rally to the FMCA NW Area Rally. For everyone's planning it is helpful to have an annual rally calendar established by March of each year.

The Rally Coordinator oversees rally schedules and provides guidance and support to wagon masters. He/she is to be ...

- Positive encourager
- Planner
- Recruiter
- Helper to wagon masters to find rally sites and provide hints for to successful rallies.

There are many helpful materials for rally planning and mentors to assist wagon masters.

Everyone appreciates the Rally Coordinator and his/her role in helping the NW Trek Fun Club have fun. This could be a great opportunity for you to help support the Trek club.

For a copy of the full job description, go the NWTFC website in the members section, about the club. If you are interested or have questions, send a note to Mike Ashbridge, president. [mikeashbridge@comcast.net](mailto:mikeashbridge@comcast.net).



## NWTFC Elections in October

Ballots will soon be sent by email to the membership for the 2020 elections. Following slate of officers has been nominated. Each will serve a two-year term.

Vice President – nominee needed

Treasurer – Irva Cooper

Alternate Natl. Dir. – Tom Selvidge

**Contact Dean Bjornson about VP  
candidates [dsbjornson@gmail.com](mailto:dsbjornson@gmail.com)**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE NATIONAL FMCA SCENE? PART II



## What happened in Part I?

When last reported – the FMCA national Executive Board was embroiled in some heavy financial discussions. President Jon Walked called for the board to eliminate the FMCAssist medical evacuation program save the \$900,000 in premium expense. He also called for the annual membership dues to be rolled back to \$50 – the same as it was before the dues increase was instituted to cover the FMCAssist premiums. The Executive Board rejected these recommendations and called for a further review of the budget figures. Board members saw FMCAssist as a valuable member benefit that was overwhelmingly approved by the Governing Board in 2019.

## Report on recent happenings

On September 9<sup>th</sup> President Walker reported that the Risk Management Committee, headed by Ned Boston was able to negotiate a reduced premium for the FMCAssist program through another company. The reduced premium meant that the deficit in the proposed budget was eliminated. The 2021 budget (effective October 1) will have a positive surplus, will keep the FMCAssist program, and will keep the dues at the current \$75 per year.

A marketing consultant has been hired to look at everything that FMCA is doing from a marketing perspective. The consultant's report will be presented to the Executive Board and then filtered down to the chapters.

## Other related news

Camping World Holdings Inc. and Good Sam, announced on September 9<sup>th</sup> that the print publications Trailer Life and MotorHome would cease publication after the December 2020 issue. A new website (RV.com) will be launched and supported by a new publication, RV Magazine. It was reported that RV.com and RV Magazine will offer readers exclusive product reveals and reviews for all RV types, top travel destinations, recipes, money saving ideas and trending products. New product innovations and solutions that are driving the industry will be spotlighted, along with safety tips for the outdoors.

Others have noted that these publications have seemed to have become not much more than a marketing tool for Camping World, packed with ads from RV manufacturers and Camping World. Any new efforts are likely to be aimed at promoting RVs and services sold by Camping World or Gander RV and products in their stores.

FMCA's magazine, **Family RVing**, is nationally recognized for its content. It is the official publication of FMCA. Surveys indicate that the magazine is one of the key reasons new members join FMCA. FMCA continues to be the world's largest non-profit RV group. It is an association of RV owners that is governed by the members through chapters and the Governing Board. Each chapter is represented through a national director elected by the chapter.



# UPCOMING RALLIES 2021



QUARTZITE • ARIZONA  
January 14 – 17

## Unofficial but very popular Trek gathering

The largest gathering of Treks anywhere! It is a totally free, no host, **dry camping** experience where you can share your Trek experiences, modifications, upgrades, etc. with other Trekkers. This is truly a unique experience for Trek owners.

Combine this Trek gathering with the huge RV show (which is generally referred to as the big tent) and the Tyson-Wells Sell-A-Rama – one of the largest swap meets and flea markets in the nation, and it becomes the place to be in January. The RV show runs for two weeks from January 16 – 24. It is scheduled for 2021 with wider aisles, one-way traffic patterns, and required masks.



Come to the Trek gathering for meal sharing (potlucks?), evening campfires, technical presentations, fellowship with other Trekkers – and **just plain fun!** For the report on the 2020 gathering go to the NWTFC website ([https://www.nwtfc.com/rallies/rally-reports/good\\_time](https://www.nwtfc.com/rallies/rally-reports/good_time)).

**Interested in attending or planning to go – contact Mary Carlson at [hmcarlson30@gmail.com](mailto:hmcarlson30@gmail.com)** Agenda and details will be distributed in November.

## RALLY ON THE COWLITZ II

Pre-rally Gathering  
June 18 – 22

### Location

Brookhollow RV Park  
Kelso, Washington

Fun, food, and fellowship

Wagon masters

Tom & Jolene Selvidge  
Al & Elaine Zimmerman

## FMCA NW AREA RALLY

June 24 -27, 2021

### Location

Cowlitz County Fairgrounds  
Longview, Washington

NWTFC will staff the FMCA store  
Volunteers caravan into fairgrounds on  
Tuesday & camp together.

Contact Al Zimmerman for more info

- Meet new people
  - Renew friendships
    - Good food
    - Gain new insights
    - Enjoy the fun of rallies once again

Watch for registration forms and more info in the next newsletter.



## WESTPORT, WASHINGTON

September 10 – 13, 2021

Wagon masters: Edith & Bob Carter  
Lots of surprises & fun ♦ Details in the spring



# Our Most Embarrassing RV Experience

## (That One Time We Flashed Our Neighbors)

by Alyssa Padgett  
from Heath & Alyssa website

This is truly the most embarrassing moment we've had in the RV. It's one of those stories that's easier to tell in person, because I feel awkward typing the words "completely naked" so many times. Let's just start from the beginning.

On this one day we drove the RV back to the RV park after a long day of work, all we wanted to do was shower and go to sleep. This RV had a tiny shower that felt like being stuffed in a tic tac carton with shampoo in your eyes.

When I got out of shower and wrapped myself in a hot pink towel, I didn't have that refreshed and relaxed after a long day of work feeling I was going for. It didn't help that in order to get out of the shower, I had to climb over our laundry basket, which could only fit right outside the shower door, and then had to squeeze past Heath in the tiny "walkway" around our bed.

We scooted past each other so Heath could hop in the shower. I dried off my skin while Heath undressed and turned on the showerhead to see if I left him any warm water (hint: I didn't).

That's when it happened. ♦ The biggest, most terrifying spider of all time stood directly in between me and my clothes.

Okay, in reality, the spider was maybe the size of a nickel and it was on the window shade next to my underwear drawer, but by the way I screamed and pointed, I'm sure Heath thought I spotted a tarantula in our bed.

In case you're wondering, we were at a quaint RV park and people were outside laughing and roasting s'mores over campfires and enjoying summer camping trips with their families.

All the while, I'm shrieking, "Kill it! Kill it!" Heath has a panic-stricken look on his face as he looks around for something to annihilate the spider with, but he's halfway in the shower and a towel or his dirty t-shirt wouldn't do the trick on this beast.

"Get me a shoe!"

I open the closet door next to me, pick up a flip-flop with two fingers, as if it were somehow contaminated by the spider, and toss it to Heath. Heath swings that flip flop with all his might, presumably killing the spider instantly. But in that moment, the spider was the least of our worries.

He hit the window shade where the spider was hanging out with so much force that it immediately retracted. It just rolled right on up to the top of the window.

Now, most RVs don't have a lot of windows in the bedrooms. And nowadays all of the windows are tinted. Probably for good reason. But our older model had spacious windows that started at knee height and went to the ceiling, and trust me when I say they were not tinted. They were not tinted AT ALL.

So, when the shade rolled up, there we were.

Completely naked.

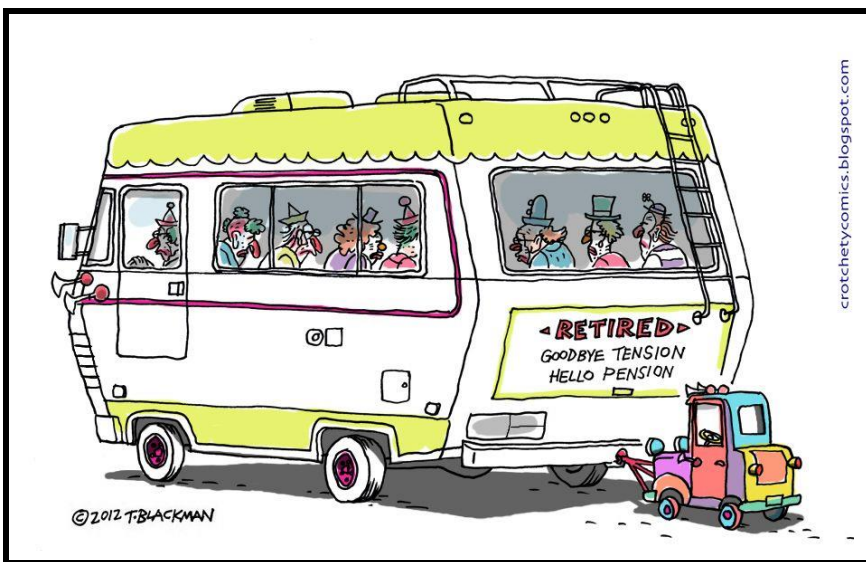
For all our neighbors to see.

Standing in shock in front of a very open window.

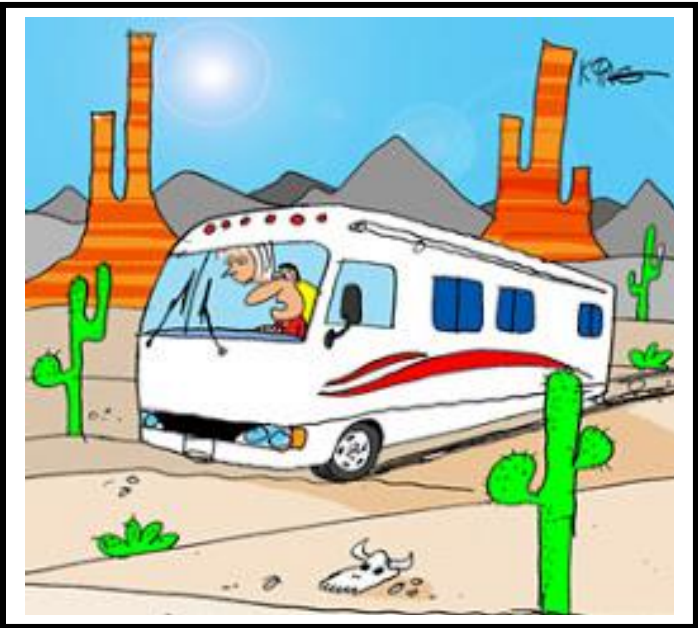
It's dark outside. We have every light in the bedroom on. It's not like a normal house where there's furniture to hide behind in this sort of situation. There's no way people can't see us, and there is no conceivable way of reaching over to close the window without giving everyone a really good show.

It was like an uncensored episode of Naked and Afraid. Except our fear wasn't dying in the wilderness, just dying of embarrassment.

Oh, and we used a bunch of packing tape to make sure that window shade NEVER rolled up again. Ever.



You were right. Maybe I should've checked to see if the GPS was working before we left, because this doesn't look like the Florida Keys.



## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge  
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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 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.