



TREK TRAVELS



Volume 8 Number 1

January 2021

President's Message

Happy New Year All!

I am soooo glad to be done with 2020! It was a year of personal and financial hardships for many. My condolences for any of you that lost loved ones or personal friends to the Covid virus. I consider myself lucky to be retired. Working from home was already part of my agenda (More home than work I might add).

Lynn and I have been limiting our social contacts and even having groceries delivered to the car at the store. It may be overkill but we are doing what we can to bring this pandemic to an end. I am writing this in December so the first doses of vaccine are just being administered in Oregon. There may be light at the end of the tunnel.

NWTFC is planning on some rallies for 2021. The year begins with the January Quartzite gathering which is usually well attended by club members. It is unfortunate that the FMCA NW Area Rally in Longview next June had to be cancelled. However, the Rally on the Cowlitz for NWTFC is moving forward at this time. There is also the September rally in Westport to anticipate.

Our club has had a very quiet year socially but the executive board has been meeting and keeping up with administrative duties. We passed a deficit budget this year due to some unexpected circumstances, but it appears there will be an increase in dues next year in order to cover our expenses. We have additional
(Continued on page 4)

2021 NWTFC ANNUAL DUES \$10

Send to: Irva Cooper, Treasurer
15705 Cedar Grove Road
Poulsbo, WA 98370

*** Use Paypal option if you desire**

RALLY SCHEDULE

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

2021

January 14 – 17 Trek Gathering at Quartzite

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

June 24 – 27 FMCA NW Area Rally
Cowlitz County Fairgrounds

CANCELLED

July 7 – 10 FMCA Intl. Convention
CAM-PLEX
Gillette, Wyoming

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!

ELECTION RESULTS

Following officers have been elected to two-year terms:

Vice Pres. – Joann Lindhorst
Treasurer – Irva Cooper
Alt. Natl. Dir. – Tom Selvidge

Congratulations and a thank you for your willingness to serve.



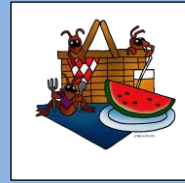
103rd FMCA
International
Convention
Gillette, Wyoming
July 7 – 10, 2021

This is a great opportunity to see the Rockies, visit Yellowstone, see the wild west in Cody, and discover this great land. It is also an opportunity to meet people from all over and gain new insights through workshops and vendor presentations. One of the optional highlights has been a tour of a buffalo ranch.

The Governing Board meets on Wednesday for elections and policy decisions. This is a very important election year as the choice of candidates could influence the direction of FMCA for years to come.

In past times NW Trek Fun Club has had a number of members make the journey to Gillette. Plan now to go to Gillette. Make reservations for Buffalo and we will caravan in together.

Pre-convention Rendezvous Point
Buffalo, WY KOA
July 3 – 4
307-684-5423
Or online thru KOA



A PICNIC
BY THE
COWLITZ

**FMCA NW AREA
RALLY
CANCELLED**

FMCA Northwest Area Executive Board met on December 15th. The topic was the 2021 area rally in Longview, Washington. Several factors were considered: difficulty in dealing with the caterer, limited power available, unavailability of portions of the facility, uncertainty of travel restrictions, and continuing COVID restrictions. Financial commitments would soon be required and registrations would need to open in the coming weeks.

Therefore, the FMCA NW Area board decided to cancel the 2021 FMCA NW Area Rally in Longview that was scheduled for June 24 – 27.

However – the NWTFC executive board has decided to move forward with the Rally on the Cowlitz for June 18 – 22 in Kelso.

RALLY COORDINATOR NEEDED

Rally Coordinator oversees rally schedule and provides guidance and support for wagon masters.

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

Honorary Members Designated

NW Trek Fun Club Honorary Members have been members of NWTFC but no longer own a recreation vehicle. The chapter recognizes those members who have rendered significant service to the chapter and have been long-term members, officers, or wagon masers. By majority vote of the Executive Board Honorary Members may be recognized.

Bob and Peggy Beers



Bob and Peggy Beers were charter members of the NW Trek Fun Club. They owned two Treks. The last one was a 2004 Trek Model 28RB. Bob almost bragged about all the work he had done at Brazel's in Centralia. He bypassed the dreaded

AutoPark parking brake system. Over the years he had made many other modifications.

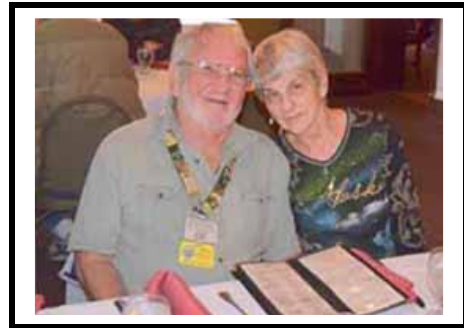
The mural on the back of their Trek that was painted by Dennis Dame featured three bears. Peggy did the basic design and then she and Dennis worked on the final design.

Bob is also a dedicated Seattle Seahawks fan. At Quartzite, he would find a way to keep his TV going so he could watch the game.

Bob also served as NWTFC president and was wagon master for several rallies. Perhaps most memorable was the 2012 Seattle rally. With several former Boeing employees as members, the emphasis on airplanes was a natural. The rally was held at the KOA in Kent with tours of



the 747/777/787 plant in Everett, Paul Allen's Flying Heritage Museum, and the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field.



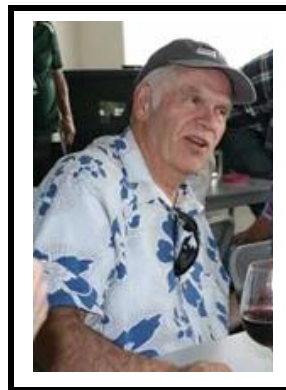
Bob did not let his hearing impairment or age slow him down. He has always been the Energizer bunny. Peggy's dementia and move into a care facility did affect him significantly. She is and was the love of his life.

Bob has also been a member of Oregon/Washington Coaches for Christ.

Dean and Sue Bjornson

Dean and Sue had one of the unique and sought-after Treks. It was a 2004 Trek Model 31 SBD. It had the living room & dining area in the rear plus two slides so that there was an extra seating area near the kitchen.

Dean served as vice president for two terms and Sue served the chapter as treasurer. Dean also was a wagon master. Dean will be remembered for thinking outside the box. We may have not done it that way before, but it is worth a try. One of the rallies that he led was a traveling rally through central Washington including Lake Chelan, Grand Coulee, and Dry Falls. 12 coaches made this memorable trip.



Our best wishes to these special friends.

President's Message continued

expenses to cover including additional security on the Website and our membership has been reduced some for various reasons.

We had two long time and very active members sell their Treks without plans to replace them. Bob and Peggy Beers sold their Trek as did Dean and Sue Bjornson. They were unanimously approved for honorary membership so hopefully we will see them at a rally in the future.

We have a new Vice President in that Joann Lindhorst stepped up to fill the position. She will be a great addition to the executive board and I look forward to working with her for the benefit of the club.

That is all from me for now. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a great New Year.

Stay Safe,
Mike Ashbridge, President



FMCA Assist is one of the key benefits of FMCA membership. It is included in your annual FMCA dues at a very low price. Most of the membership benefits consist of discounts on purchases of tires, roadside assistance, insurance, and campground discounts. However, FMCA Assist is a benefit that does not require members to purchase anything additional. It is a benefit that is available to everyone. And no other organization or company offers such a benefit for all members at no additional cost.

FMCA Assist is an **emergency medical evacuation** and repatriation coverage available to FMCA members worldwide as long as you are more than **75 miles from home**. If you are a full-time RVer, you are always considered 75 miles from home. FMCA Assist services are also available to members when traveling abroad.

Because of a high premium cost, FMCA sought a different provider for the program. As a result the dues were able to stay the same for 2021, the budget was balanced, and we have a better program.

FMCA Assist medical evacuation program is now provided by CHUBB and is known as the Chubb Travel Assistance Program. Here are some additional benefits from previous program

- 75 miles from home base vs the former 100 mile distance from home requirement
- Accidental death & dismemberment is raised to \$5,000
- Emergency cash if trip interrupted. You spend the money and get reimbursed. Up to \$250 per day, 3-day limit, \$1500 maximum in 12 months.
- Emergency room cash. \$250 per person per visit, \$500 maximum in 12 months



Other key features:

- Applies when traveling with your motorhome or without it (by car, plane, ship, etc.)
- **Applies to US and Canadian members**
- Emergency medical evacuation - up to \$500,000
- Emergency medical reunion - up to \$50,000, family member travel expenses
- Return of dependents - up to \$50,000
- **RV return to permanent residence - no age limit of coach as long it is in good driving condition, up to \$5,000**
- Automobile return (non-RV trip) - up to \$5,000
- Pet return - only dogs and cats
- Prescription medication delivery - up to \$500
- Eyeglass replacement delivery (in emergency situation) - up to \$500

You must call the CHUBB contact number before you make arrangements. Note, if you ever need to use the FMCAssist program, use your FMCA F# as your identification number.

The full insurance policy and benefits for U.S. and Canadian policies are available on the FMCA website under "Member Benefits."

Below is a wallet card to be cut off and kept for reference. It contains the contact info. Keep it in a convenient location in case of emergency.



FMCAssist for medical referrals, evacuations, vehicle return other services, please call:
CHUBB Travel Assistance Program
1-877-352-0785 (Inside USA)
877-350-3532 (Canada)
1-202-659-7803 (Outside USA – call collect)
OPS@europassistance-usa.com

Visit www.ChubbTravelAssistance.com for access to global threat assessments and location based intelligence.

Register to access the site using the Company/Entity Name and Contact Number below:
Company/Entity Name: Chubb A&H
Contract Number: 16512020

Travel Assistance Program

Plan number: 01AH585
Organization: FMCA
Policy Number: 9908-76-26
Assistance Provider
Europ Assistance USA



WESTPORT, WASHINGTON
September 10 – 13, 2021

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

WATCH FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION
IN NEXT NEWSLETTER

COMMENTS MADE IN THE YEAR 1957

The readers of this newsletter can probably remember 1957. Perhaps these will strike a memory.

- If things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20.
- Have you seen the new cars? It won't be long before \$5,000 will only buy a used one.
- Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?
- If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help.
- When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon.
- If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it.
- Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball?
- It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet.
- I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.
- Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the government takes half our income in taxes.
- No one can afford to be sick any more; \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood.

NWTFC 2020 OFFICER REPORTS EXCERPTS

(Full reports on the NWTFC website)
<http://www.nwtfc.com/members-only/annual-reports/>



President
Mike Ashbridge

This will be a short report as there has been little club activity in 2020. I hope that changes for 2021. In 2020 we saw the FMCA NW Regional Rally cancelled and the Regional Rally for 2021 is now cancelled also. NWTFC is still planning on holding what was going to be a pre-rally, in June 2021 subject to conditions. We also have a Rally on the books for Sept. in Westport, WA. I am keeping my fingers crossed that the Covid virus is under control in time for us to hold these rallies. I am looking forward to seeing friends, old and new when we can get together again.

We have a new Vice President in Joann Lindhorst. She graciously volunteered to help keep the club functioning. The rest of the board and committee chairpersons are the same but we are still looking for a Rally Coordinator. This is a great group I work with and they all do a terrific job.

The Executive Board continued to hold meetings via e-mail during 2020. We elected to increase security for our website after several suspicious emails were circulated. We are not sure that the source of the members emails was actually the website, but we felt it best to increase security measures to insure that it would not be in the future. Mary, with the help of Eric Udell from Trek Tracks, did the research and installation of our upgrades. Thanks largely to AI we have done some house cleaning and revisions to our chapter standing rules. We now have adopted a planning calendar and revised rally guidelines.

That is the exciting highlights of the doings from your president for 2020. I am glad that year is over and I am looking forward to 2021.

Stay Safe Out There,
Mike Ashbridge
President

Vice President
Dean Bjornson

A call for nominations for offices was called. The following slate was provided for the elections:
1) Vice President – Joann Lindhorst; 2) Treasurer – Irva Cooper; 3) Alternate National Director – Tom Selvidge. The vote was positive, and these positions are filled for next two years.

Secretary
David Pierce

NW Trek Fun Club currently has 67 members. We had 12 applications, but only 9 actually joined.

National Director
Al Zimmerman

2020 was a year like no other with the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 virus. The spring and fall planning meetings for the FMCA NW area were cancelled, though some meetings were held by Zoom. The NW Area Rally scheduled for Roseburg was cancelled. The 2021 NW Area Rally in Longview, Washington has also been cancelled, primarily because of difficulties related to the facility and virus considerations.

The FMCA winter convention was scheduled for Tucson, Arizona and the summer convention was scheduled for Lincoln, Nebraska – however both were cancelled. With some added precautions and the beginning of the vaccine rollout, people are once again thinking of getting together. Plans are underway for the spring convention in Perry, Georgia in March and the summer convention in Gillette, Wyoming in July. This will be an important meeting since it is an election year and several important issues are being considered.

Even though the Governing Board did not meet, there were several important issues discussed during the year.

- Annual budget and FMCAssist. The FMCAssist medical evacuation program was adopted as a member benefit in 2014. Originally the premiums were funded from invested funds. At the 2018 convention it was reported that FMCA had lost some \$3 million and FMCAssist was really an operational expense. A poll of Governing Board members indicated that about 80 – 90% of members wanted to keep FMCAssist. So now the premiums come from current dollars, and the dues were raised to reflect this. The dues increase of \$25 was to ensure the cost of premiums was covered, even with a percentage of members having memberships that continue over a number of years.

Because of a projected premium increase, there was a proposal to eliminate the program and reduce the dues to \$50 per year.

However, a proposal from Chubb Insurance Company with a lower premium proposal enabled FMCA to keep the FMCAssist program and maintain a balanced budget at the same annual dues of \$75 per year.

- COVID liability concerns. Because of concerns related to the coronavirus, a liability form was proposed. There were issues associated with the suggested liability form. The form was discussed in a Zoom meeting by the NW Area and Zimmerman addressed several items directly. As a result the COVID liability form was revised and will be used for 2021 meetings.
- A marketing consultant submitted a proposal that sought to present some ideas for growing the membership. Zimmerman was involved in analyzing the presentation. The difficulty is that FMCA has historically been oriented to motorhome owners of means who like to travel far from home. Purchasers of most new RVs may reflect a different market with different interests and needs. In the future FMCA will need to address these changes in the marketplace.
- FMCA is a unique RV owner's organization in that it is an association with a Governing Board composed of representatives of nearly 400 chapters from 10 areas. Policies are approved and officers are elected by this representative body. An executive board composed of 10 area vice presidents and 4 officers functions during the year. Questions have been raised about this organizational structure, however each member is assured that the Governing Board reflects the

membership's interests and perspective. On the other hand, a majority of members are not associated with a chapter.

- The 2021 elections to be held during the Governing Board meeting will elect a new slate of officers and may have a significant impact on the future direction of FMCA.

Future national convention sites and dates

In an effort to secure convention sites and reduce costs, this the convention schedule:

Winter 2021	Perry, Georgia
Summer 2021	Gillette, Wyoming
Winter 2022	Tucson, Arizona
Summer 2022	Lincoln, Nebraska or Sedalia, Missouri
Winter 2023	Perry, Georgia
Summer 2023	Lincoln, Nebraska or Sedalia, Missouri

Treasurer
Irva Cooper

Beginning Balance 1/1/2020	\$5,134		
Income		Expenses	
Member dues	\$680	Membership exp	\$217
Website income	\$00	Website expense	\$398
Rally registration	\$595	Marketing	\$00
Fundraising -gifts	\$50	FMCA expense	\$00
Transfer from invest.	\$458	Rally exp. - refunds	\$595
FMCA income	\$00	Wagon master rally fee	\$00
Miscellaneous income	\$00	Financial charges	\$31
		Misc. exp. – adjust.	\$161
		Transfer to invest.	50
Total Income	\$1,783	Total Expenses	\$1,452
Total Expenses	\$1,452		
Ending Balance 12/31/2019	\$5,465	* AED fund account balance is \$841	

Webmaster
Mary Carlson

NWTFC's website continues to be a resource of great value for members. Information on the chapter, rally reports, Trek brochures, member directory, and NWTFC chapter brochure are all available to members. It is a good idea to print off some copies of the chapter brochure to give to prospective members when you meet them.

During this past year there were some instances of suspicious activity associated with the website. This triggered the need to increase the security measures for the website. Additional security packages were purchased for the website and implemented.

NWTFC continues to partner with Trek Tracks on that website – a treasure trove of information for Trek owners. If you have questions or need help with the NWTFC or Trek Tracks website, please send me an email at NWTFCwebmaster@gmail.com.

FUNNY RV SHORT STORIES

From IRV2.com

A recent thread on IRV2.com included a request for humorous RV stories without commentary – just the facts. Here are a few good ones.



My sister, husband and three daughters had an old Fireball Class C in the 80's. At the time we had a Lance camper. We were stopped for the first night in a COE campground when I heard a knock on our door at 2:00am. It was my sister dragging her three daughters, yelling there was a poisonous gas in their motor home.

They piled into our Lance and I ran over to their motor home in just a pair of gym shorts . My brother-in-law was standing outside saying there was a terrible gas smell in the coach and their dog woke them up, saving their lives. We both ran in and out of the coach, with face coverings, looking for the source. We finally found it. The water pump, in a cabinet, had overheated and melted a bottle of Thetford liquid tank chemical. It created a gas which could have been deadly.

We got the bottle out, turned on all the lights and opened all the windows. We then began waving pillows in the coach to air it out.

If anyone was watching, after the commotion, all they would have seen was two men having a pillow fight at 2:30am with all the windows open and lights on.



My motorhome earned her name during this eye opening trek. I am a newbie, solo, full-time gal. I'd been on the road for about a week, learning to drive and maneuver this 40 foot beast with a toad. After crossing the little bridge on the Colorado River at Glen Canyon, I pulled over in a large turnout to take in the view. As I started to ease back onto the road, I noticed a small "canyon" where the dirt turnout meets the pavement. Well, it can't be that deep, can it? So slowly, very slowly, I proceeded to cross said "canyon." Apparently, speed was not the issue. The angle I was approaching was the issue. The motorhome rocked to the left, then to the right.... that was the front..... then she rocked HEAVY to the left and even HARDER to the right. I heard horrific crashing sounds as the upper cabinet doors flew open and expelled the contents onto the tile floor.

I couldn't stop! I was in the middle of the road with cars coming. I was mortified when I finally got to my destination and perused the mangled mess. I literally had to wade through several inches of glass, pans, batteries, books, the sink cover; even the glass microwave plate flew out of the microwave and shattered on the floor.

Just so happens, I was reading John Steinbeck's book, Travels with Charley (not while driving) and John had named his rv Rocinante. I changed the pronunciation a bit and named her **Rockinante**. Lesson learned: Don't ever do that again. Oh, and Corelle dishes may be chip resistant, but they can't survive propelling to the floor at that velocity.

We live in a rural community with curvy country roads and lots of hills. Coming home from work one afternoon I went around a tight corner and found a friend of ours headed the other direction pulled over on the road shoulder with his MH. I stopped to see if I could be of assistance. I couldn't help but notice he had all the storage compartments open as well as the hood and doors.

I found him with his feet sticking out from under the MH. Now I'm really curious, so I gave him a shout out. As he crawled out from under the MH he managed to hit his head and opened up a gash on his forehead and was bleeding. To make matters worse, he was covered in mud from laying the puddles on the road shoulder.

Seeing his distress, I asked if there was anything I could do to help. He asked if I had a fire extinguisher in my truck. I said yes, but why did he need it?

He said he was driving down to dump his holding tanks when he smelled something burning. So he immediately pulled over and tried to find the source. Having gone over the MH from top to bottom he was beyond frustrated and obviously distraught.

It was then I realized what had happened and laughed out loud. He didn't find my sense of humor funny until I explained my response to his distress. While trying to catch my breath between laughing, I explained that just about a 1/4 mile before I came around the corner and found him, I had passed a roofing truck pulling a hot tar kettle trailer that stunk to high heaven.

To this day when we're camping together we still get the giggles .



Pulled in to a dump station and there was a rental RV already there. The fellow was using the hose to wash everything, the ground, his shoes, his pants etc.

The rental RV finally moved forward, and my friend pulled in and got out his stinky slinky. The woman in the rental points and exclaims to her husband, "They have a hose!!"

Give the guy a break!

Rental Company probably didn't replace the lost sewer hose from previous renter and the guy did what he could to dump the tanks....cause if you bring it back full the rental company will charge you \$\$\$\$\$\$ At least he was out camping and got 'r done



THEY are all around us!

Did you know that an awning will work as a safety net if you fall off your roof? One of the guys we often camp with was doing something on his roof, and fell off onto the awning. Lucky for him it held him up, and didn't break.

He did have his awning arms snap and bend from too much rain a couple of times later! Still not fixed from the second time this year.

I could go on and on about his exploits with flooding, blow-outs and flats, windshields popping out, black tank draining, etc, etc. He's just one of those guys. **THEY are out there!**

NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Vice Pres. – Joann Lindhorst
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Secretary – David & Sue Pierce
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Treasurer – Irva Cooper
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Natl. Dir – Al Zimmerman
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Alt Natl. Dir – Tom Selvidge
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Webmaster – Mary Carlson
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ed.jnet@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor
Al Zimmerman

Member Care – Nancy Harris
nmharris47@gmail.com

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.