



TREK TRAVELS



Volume 8 Number 3

July 2021

President's Message

I am sitting in Oregon City writing this and the temperature today is to be 106 F and tomorrow is predicted to be 113. I think all of the snowbirds are disappointed, if they came north to escape the heat. I know I am not prepared for this kind of heat.

We came home from the rally in Kelso on Monday afternoon and our home A/C quit working Monday night. Yikes! Fortunately, the system is fairly new, and the company that installed it is close. After some serious whining on my part, they sent someone out on Thursday afternoon. He diagnosed the problem as needing a part he did not have and said they would contact me on Friday. On Friday afternoon they sent out a technician that actually knew what he was doing and it was diagnosed as no power to the condensation pump so the unit shut down to keep from overflowing. The pump had become unplugged during the new wiring I was having done. What a relief! We are now enjoying the working air and waiting out the heat wave in comfort.

We had a great Rally in Kelso, WA hosted by Al and Elaine Zimmerman and Tom and Jolene Selvidge. Thank you all for a great time. It was sure a pleasure to see members, old and new. Members were leaving the rally heading all different directions, some to the coast and others east. I hope everyone is someplace cool to survive this unusual weather.

We are still in need of a Rally Coordinator. This is a very important position for our club. We also need a new Webmaster as Mary Carlson has indicated she is resigning from the position after

many years of helping us and Trek Tracks have an internet presence. Lee Buckley has agreed to fill the position on a temporary basis until we can
(Continued on page 2)

RALLY SCHEDULE

(To be Wagon Master for a rally, contact Mike Ashbridge, President and Interim Rally Coordinator, mikeashbridge@comcast.net)

2021

Rally needed for sometime in September - October

2022

March 23 – 26 FMCA Convention
Tucson, AZ

June 18 – 21 Pre-rally to NW Area Rally
Location TBD

June 22 – 26 FMCA NW Area Rally
Mill Casino, Coos Bay

August Port Townsend Rally
See article on page 7
Ron & Mary Mahugh

**Rallies needed for 2022.
Spring and fall**

August 24 – 27 FMCA Intl. Convention
Lincoln, NE

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

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

President's Message continued

find a more permanent candidate. Mary and Lee have both stated they would help anyone that is interested in taking over the Webmasters position. Interested in either position? Contact any member of the Executive board.

Ron Mahugh is working on setting up a Port Townsend Rally for next year. That location is certainly a favorite of the club and is usually the best attended Rally of the year. I hope that works out. More information is on page.

Any ideas for another rally? This year or next year. It is the rallies that make the club and we just had a reminder of how fun they can be. If you have a favorite location or somewhere you would like to go, that is how a rally gets started. We have a lot of help available to assist anyone interested in hosting a rally.

That is enough of my rambling for now.
Safe Travels,
Mike Ashbridge, President

ANNUAL NWTFC ELECTION

NWTFC elections occur in October.

Dean Bjornson and the Nominating Committee are seeking candidates for the following offices:

- President
- Secretary
- National Director

All of these positions are for two-year terms.

- Vice President (1 year term)

Contact Mike Ashbridge (president) if you are interested in any of these positions.

mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Jack Lindhorst visited his doctor following the Rally on the Cowlitz. Because of some health concerns identified for Jack, the Lindhorsts have decided to sell their motorhome. Joann has decided to relinquish her position as vice president.

Rallies Needed for 2022

NWTFC's goal is to have 3 – 4 rallies per year. In order for NWTFC to have more rallies, people need to volunteer to be a wagon master – find a place and put a rally together. For 2020 rallies are needed in the spring, summer, and fall.

The chapter does several things to make it easy:

- Match you up with an experienced partner or mentor.
- Provide helpful planning tools.
- Provide sample flyers & registration materials.

Here are some possible rally sites as suggestions:

- Spokane - Coeur d Alene
- Poulsbo
- Bellingham
- Canon Beach
- Tacoma
- Astoria
- Tillamook

There are lots of other possibilities.

Talk with Mike Ashbridge, president, about being a wagon master for a rally.

mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Note from Stan Shackell

Stan Shackell served as NWTFC a past president of NWTFC.

It's with a very heavy heart to announce that I have lost my best friend and dear wife Barbara. She passed away July 1 at the North Shore Hospice.

She suffered excruciating pain, but now she is at peace. I miss her terribly.

The bustle in a house

The morning after death

Is solemnest of industries enacted upon earth

The sweeping up the heart

And putting love away

We shall not want to use again

Until eternity

- Emily Dickenson

Stan Shackell

Send a note to Stan at Stan6782@gmail.com
7252nd Street #608, West Vancouver, BC
V7B 0B3

Rally Coordinator Needed

NWTFC's Rally Coordinator is a key position for the club. It just requires someone who says "let's have fun and have some rallies."

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, provide hints for 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

Welcome New Members

At the Rally on the Cowlitz two new couples joined NWTFC.

- Scott & Carolyn
Carpenter
West Richland, WA
- Craig & Vicki Hafliger
Seaside, OR

Others

- Amancay & Ryan Blank
Hood River, OR
- Gordon Huck & Niki
Bowen, Vancouver, WA
- Dana Luce & Cheryl
McNally, Sisters, OR
- Maria Mafe
Issaquah, WA
- Don & Lucy Reed
Nipomo, CA
- Martha Thomson
Atascadero, CA

FMCA sets annual dues at \$50 with all current benefits. See page 8

Some Things I'm Learning from You Tube and Forums

1. Watch people back in, it's great fun.
2. Don't talk to drivers when they are backing.
3. Be neighborly. But leave people alone.
4. Don't sleep at rest areas. They are for truck drivers only.
5. No, they aren't. Yes, they are.
6. Have a checklist or you're going to drive down the road with hoses flapping, awnings flying, and your family dog tied to the bumper.
7. Batteries. Probably going to need more no matter what you do. Let's see how many golf cart batteries we can fit in the basement.

8. Don't bring your dog in your RV. Or your kids. Or anything that makes noise.
9. Dogs, kids, and summer fun-noise are essential to RVing! Bring them all!
10. If your RV is over ten years old, you go to the back of the park, next to the swamp.
11. Get an RV GPS. If you don't, you'll probably end up dead under a low hanging underpass. Whatever GPS you get, it's probably going to still try to kill you when you aren't paying attention.
12. 300 miles a day or you will be sorry.

More tips to come in future issues.

Members Helping Members Dean Bjornson

I was at the end of my rope (Interstitial Lung Disease) and had been declined as a candidate by four university transplant centers. I heard about St. Joseph's in Phoenix who specializes in transplants—lung, heart, kidney and liver.

I had two large oxygen concentrators and two large compressors and six oxygen tanks plus everything we could cram into our SUV for the trip to Phoenix. Sue and I knew that it was beyond our abilities to unload the car every night, recharge the tanks for the day and load back in the car to make the trip, but we had to try.



I happened to call one of our members who had become a very good friend over the years just to let him know that I was going to Phoenix to be evaluated for a lung transplant (2 weeks of testing). He asked if there was anything he could do to help and I told him he could help us load the car the morning we leave. Later, his wife spoke up to him and suggested that they escort Sue and I to Phoenix from the Seattle area in their motorhome. We told them we'd do it under one condition, that was we pay all of their expenses coming and going.

We started out with us driving our car, following our friends in their motorhome. They recharged oxygen tanks in their motorhome using their inverter while driving and again while sleeping at night. We also recharged tanks in our hotel room at night after our friends helped unload and reload the car every day. Whenever we stopped for the night, we tried to find a hotel/RV combination so we could be somewhat close by; most nights we were able to do that.

With our friends' help it took us 5 days to reach the Phoenix area. After testing and being approved for a double lung transplant, I found out that I also need a double heart bypass which will be done at the same time as the lung transplant. My condition has deteriorated in the 6 weeks we've been in Phoenix and my place on the waiting list has been upgraded so I can now expect to be called for a transplant within a few days.

Our friends wish to be anonymous in this newsletter so I will honor that. They are humble, caring, loving fellow Northwest Trek Fun Club members helping members and have given me the gift of a chance at a longer life.

Dean is recovering from a double-lung transplant and heart surgery that occurred in Arizona.

Better than a COVID Shot

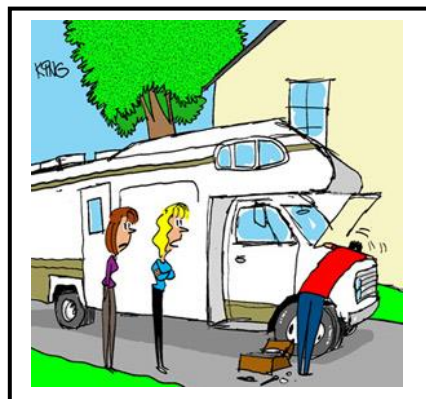
Submitted by David P

Speaking from The White House basement, President Joe Biden announced today a 100% organic, 100% effective, no needles Covid Vaccine:

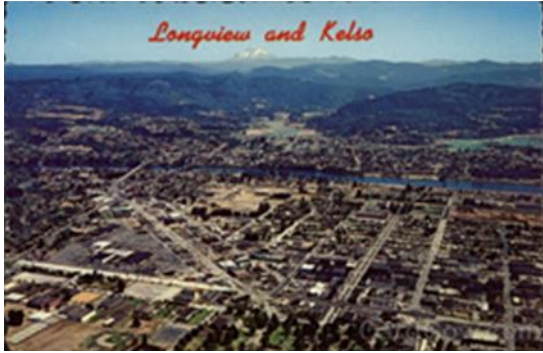
Take fresh horse manure and rub on your hands. It has the following effect:

1. It prevents you from touching your nose, eyes, mouth.
2. People will keep at least six feet away from you.
3. No one will want to shake your hand.
4. You will thoroughly wash your hands well before meals.

Thank you, Mr. President



My husband - like this RV - is a work in progress



RALLY ON THE COWLITZ

Kelso/Longview, WA

June 18 – 21, 2021

Wagon Masters

- Al & Elaine Zimmerman
- Tom & Jolene Selvidge

Thirteen coaches joined together for the Rally on the Cowlitz in June. This was the first rally for the NW Trek Fun Club since 2019 (not counting the Quartzite gathering in January of 2020). People were really looking forward to meeting and discovering how everyone survived the pandemic.



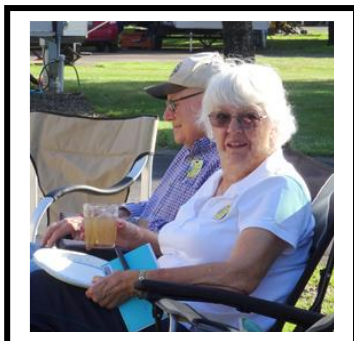
There were still some lingering COVID restrictions – we were not able to use the club house for meetings or meals. With Al's Coleman stoves, the meals were as good as ever. Friday began with the customary heavy hors d'oeuvres potluck. No one went hungry with all the goodies available to eat. The evening's activity was a "Chase the Ace" game. The cards were dealt, the cards exchanged, and those with the lowest card forked a quarter into the pot. Everyone started with three quarters. The big winner in the end was Jack Lindhorst.

Saturday began with a breakfast of scrambled eggs, hash browns, and

sausage. Morning appetites were healthy and there were few leftovers. The afternoon activity was to be a trip to the Cedar Creek Grist Mill, however the COVID restrictions did not allow the mill to open. Lots of free time meant more fellowship and side trips to Lake Sacajawea, and Mt. St. Helens.

Dinner was a catered BBQ dinner from the Hop-N-Grape in Longview. Beef brisket, pulled pork, and pulled chicken along with several salads provided good eats for all. After

dinner Dannielle Robins from the Cowlitz County Museum provided a program on the many uses of the cedar tree by the local tribes of Native Americans.



What makes this Jeep special?

On Sunday Penny Paschall joined the rally for the day. She was just in time for the first NWTFC Corn Hole tournament. Two of our newcomer couples (Craig and Vicki Hilfiger and Scott and Carolyn Carpenter) advanced to the final rounds. The winners of the tournament were Jack and Joann Lindhorst (They

cleaned up at this rally!) Dinner was Caesar salad with chicken and asparagus followed by ice cream. President Mike brought an update on NWTFC business.

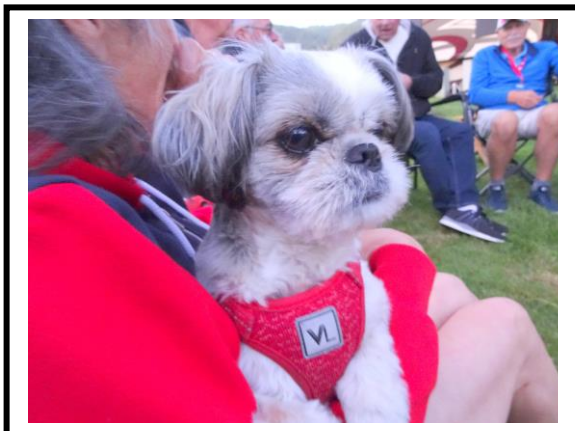
Following a continental breakfast on Monday, people leisurely left for various destinations – some to the FMCA convention in Gillette, others for home, and some to continue their journey. We all miss being together at a rally with the fellowship and good times. Step up to help plan a rally – we will all support you!



Have Coleman stove will cook



Wagon Masters Tom & Jolene point the way.



Dogs were scene stealers

Pix thanks to Jeannette Block



PORT TOWNSEND RALLY

August 2022

Point Hudson Marina

Port Townsend, WA

Wagon Master: Ron & Mary Mahugh
Ronski16@comcast.net

Hello Northwest Trek fun club members:

We are in the beginning stages of putting together another Port Townsend rally. Port Townsend has changed how they register sites for large groups. This really makes it much easier for us to have a large rally.

We're in the very early stages of planning right now. We are thinking of a 5-day rally probably starting Monday August 1st and departing Saturday August 6th. It might turn out to be the week before or the week after. This is August 2022.

Their new system requires you to register for your own site. The new system allows me to reserve as many sites as I want and YOU will have two weeks to pick your site. You'll have to sign in on the port's website, pick your own site, and register yourself. Registration fee is \$11 plus tax and it is nonrefundable. Registration will take place the first two weeks of the new year (2022). When you register, you will have a special code to use to reserve your site.

Also I'm looking for nine volunteers to help with this rally. They will take a very active part in the planning and making this a rally to remember. You will be involved in all parts of the rally. If you're interested in helping to put on what I hope will be a rally for the ages, please let me know of your interest. Part of your reward will be first crack at the front row in the loop.



Also let me know if you have a propane fire pit.





The FMCA Convention experience began with a meet-up in Buffalo, Wyoming for 11 coaches July 3 - 4. Gary and Irva Cooper had planned to bring their SOB "Trek" but they had a plumbing valve issue and had to return to Poulsbo. Most were camped at the Buffalo KOA and the owners treated us very well.

On July 4 the group gathered for a hot dog roast and potluck. Information was shared about the convention, issues, and the caravan to Gillette on Monday morning. The only problem with the caravan that was led by Al Zimmerman was that he missed the first turn for the campground exit and had to unhook to backup. How embarrassing for the leader of the caravan. Oh well!

Tuesday was a briefing for Governing Board delegates on the issues to be decided on Wednesday. Al Zimmerman represented NW Trek Fun Club as a national director. Elaine Zimmerman was a temporary delegate for the Southern Alberta Drifters (Canadian members were not able to cross the border to attend the convention.) A candidate's forum provided an opportunity to ask questions of those running for office.

Governing Board Meeting – Wednesday, July 7

Outgoing president, Jon Walker, reported there two achievements from his administration: 1) FMCA is sound financially and 2) membership is once again growing.

Most of the issues brought before the GB were to make minor changes to the bylaws and policies. Here were some significant actions:

- **Annual dues were set at \$50 per year** and members may renew for up to three years. Each year the GB sets the amount of the annual dues. The main reason annual dues could be set at \$50 was the reasonable proposal from Chubb Insurance for the FMC Assist medical evacuation coverage.
- Dues for commercial members (vendors, manufacturers, campgrounds were also set at \$50 to encourage more commercial members.
- One proposal was to discourage Executive Board members from having meetings among themselves to discuss issues coming before the board. This was roundly defeated. It was felt that board members should discuss issues prior to formal meetings.
- Two proposals came from the Membership Engagement Committee regarding marketing and a revamped governing structure. These proposals were disliked by the majority present. Zimmerman proposed a replacement that called for marketing research on prospective membership groups and that study may have implications for a modification of the governing structure. This proposal passed unanimously.

Officer Elections were held at the end of the meeting.

President – Rett Porter

Vice President – Gary Milner

Secretary – Kathie Balogh

Treasurer – Barbara Smith

Approximately 1,342 coaches were present for the convention. Next year's spring convention will be in Tucson, Arizona. The summer convention and GB meeting will be in Lincoln, Nebraska.

NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Vice Pres. – vacant

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce
suedavidpierce@gmail.com

Treasurer – Irva Cooper
tennis4yu@msn.com

Natl. Dir – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Alt Natl. Dir – Tom Selvidge
tselvidge@msn.com

Past President – Steve Webber-
Plank
donwebberplank@mac.com

Rally Coordinator – vacant

Webmaster – Mary Carlson
NWTFCwebmaster@gmail.com

Historian – Jeannette Block
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.