



TREK TRAVELS



Volume 10 Number 1

January 2023

President's Message

Well here we are. We successfully completed another trip around the sun and look forward to the year 2023. Hopefully Covid, or some other virus, does not rear it's ugly head and bring back social isolation.

The year 2022 has been a successful year for the club. We had three great club rallies and the Northwest Regional FMCA Rally that were attended by our club members. It was great to get together again and share some good times.

The new year is looking good for the club also. We have a new Vice President (Wojo Walczak), a new Secretary (Kathleen Walczak), and a new Treasurer (Marth Thomson). I am looking forward to working with them this year. I would like everyone to thank them when you see or meet them, for stepping forward to keep our club viable.

I would like to thank David Pierce and Irva Cooper for the terrific job they have done as Secretary and Treasurer respectfully. We are working on the transfers to have them go as smooth as possible. I will be requesting a couple of members to work with the Vice President as the nominating committee for next year. The position of President, Secretary, and National Director will be up for election next year. Hopefully Kathleen

and Al will continue in their roles, but I will not be. This will be my sixth year as President and I need to step back.

The club is still in need of a Rally Coordinator. The job description is available on the club website for anyone that is curious. What the job of rally coordinator
(Continued on page 2)

RALLY SCHEDULE

(To be Wagon Master for a rally, contact Mike Ashbridge, president, at mikeashbridge@comcast.net)

2023

January 19 – 22 Quartzite Rally, AZ
Location - off Cholla Road

June 3 – 6 Armitage Park Pre-rally,
Eugene, OR
Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Wojo & Kathleen Walczak

June 7 – 11 FMCA NW Area Rally
Linn County Expo, Albany, OR

August 23 – 26 FMCA 107th Convention
Gillette, WY

September 5 – 9 Joint Safari / NWTF
Rally in Silverton, OR
Lee Buckley

It would be good to have another rally in 2023 in Washington some place.

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

President's Message - continued

really amounts to is helping people have fun. You would be a resource for anyone wanting to hold a rally. All of the information you need to help them be a successful wagon master has been worked out by previous Rally Coordinators and would be available to you. I am sure one of you would be great at this.

Information on planned rallies for this year is included in this newsletter. I am looking forward to seeing you all at this year's gatherings.

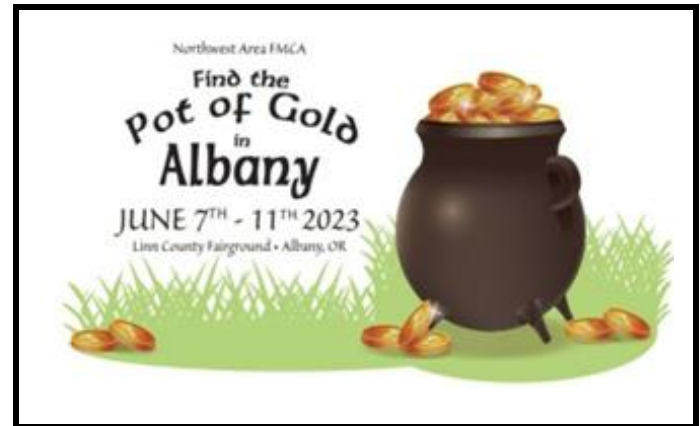
Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mike Ashbridge
President

NWTFC Executive Board Meets in December

Board met by Zoom thanks to webmaster John Herold on December 12. Some actions taken at the meeting:

- FMCA has made Alternate National Director an optional office. Bylaws updated because of this change from FMCA.
- Election results announced.
- No issues with the website. Site has superior security.
- Membership extended to person who has attended rallies as a guest and had a Trek at one time.
- Adopted budget for 2023.
- Dues for 2024 will be raised to \$15.
- Any funds remaining in the AED account are to be retained as a reserve fund to support chapter operations.



Find the Pot of Gold In ALBANY

FMCA NW Area Rally
June 7 – 11, 2023

Lin County Fair & Expo Center, Albany, OR

- Seminars & Exhibits
- 2 Catered Dinners
- Ice cream social
- 2 nights of entertainment
- 50/50 raffle • Swap meet

NW Trek Fun Club will be staffing the FMCA store which will be located in the vendor area. **Volunteers are needed.** It is fun to meet people from across the country. Selling FMCA merchandise is easy. Join the fun and volunteer to help staff the store. With more team members, we can do more and reduce everyone's time commitment.

- Register for the FMCA NW Rally (See FMCA magazine or register online)
- Register for the Armitage Park Pre-Rally
- Caravan together to the fairgrounds on June 6.
- Camp together and enjoy times of fellowship.

NWTFC will caravan to the fairgrounds on Tuesday, June 6. **Contact Al Zimmerman to volunteer and join the store team.**
zimmeralz@gmail.com.

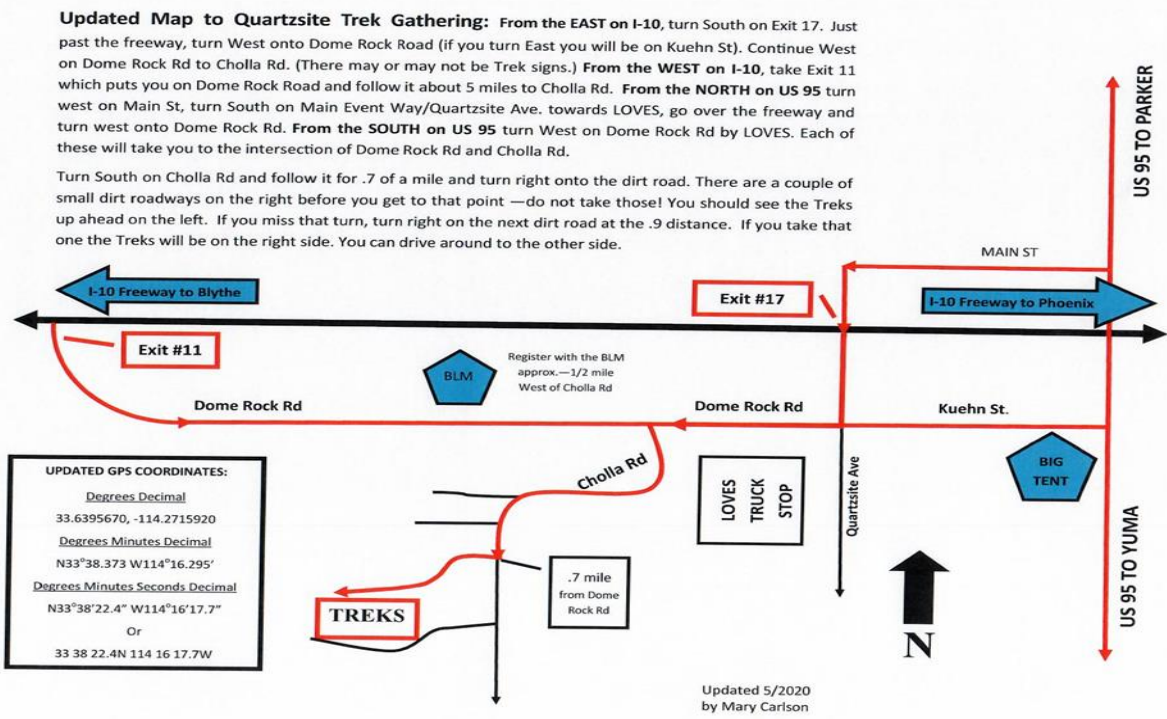
QUARTZITE 2023

January 19 – 23

Cholla Road Location

Join the Trek Circle. Enjoy fun and fellowship under the stars. It is an annual informal gathering of Treks that just seems to blossom in the desert.

- Informal potlucks
- Information shared among Trek owners
- Boondocking tips
- Bring some firewood for the evening fire



Quartzsite RV Show 2023

Don't Miss The Ultimate Event For RVers

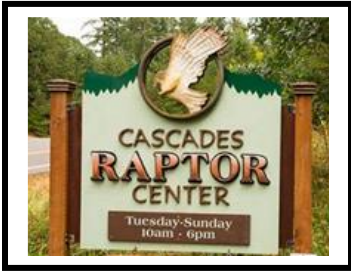


ARMITAGE PARK RALLY June 3 - 6

Location
Armitage County Park
Located on the McKenzie River. On the outskirts of Coburg, near I-5.

Directions: From Interstate 5, take exit 199 for Coburg. Head west onto Pearl Street. Turn left and head south on Coburg Road. Turn right into Armitage Park approximately 2.4 miles south of Coburg.

Pre-rally to FMCA NW Area Rally
June 7 – 11
Wagon Masters: Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Wojo & Kathleen Walczak



- Progressive dinner
- Coburg Antique District
- Possible wood-fired pizza night
- Tour of Cascade Raptor Center with presentation
- Presentation by Straight Line RV Repair
- Caravan together to FMCA NW Rally

ARMITAGE PARK PRE-RALLY REGISTRATION

Rally fee: (includes 3 nights camping, 3 breakfasts, special pizza night plus 1 dinner & special tour of Cascade Raptor Center).

15 sites reserved

Total Rally Fee **\$ 211 (Couple) \$163 (Single)**

Make checks payable to NWTFC. Mail completed registration and check to:
Al Zimmerman, 875 Seabreeze Terrace, Coos Bay, OR 97420

Registration and funds must be received by April 1, 2023.

Pilot _____ Co-pilot _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ FMCA# _____
 Email _____ Home phone _____ Cell _____
 Emergency contact (name & phone #) _____
 Do you have any special need we should be aware of? Y or N (i.e. food allergies, etc.) _____
 Trek Model _____ Year _____ License# _____ State _____
 Are you towing a car? Y or N If yes, are you able to help transport others? Y or N _____

Volunteering to help staff FMCA store at NW Area Rally ___ Yes ___ No _____ # Volunteers



**2023
Rallies**

Viking Fest Rally – May 19 – 23

Wagon masters – Gary & Irva Cooper

Rally site was the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort near Poulsbo, Washington. Many meals and good fellowship were at the Cooper's nearby home. Special guest was honorary member and former treasurer – Sue Bjornson. Special events included a tour of Echoes Brewery in Poulsbo, hiking through Bloedel Reserve with beautiful gardens on Bainbridge Island, Suquamish Tribal Museum, and the Japanese-American Exclusion Memorial. Viking Fest in Poulsbo provided opportunities to experience Scandinavian culture, bakery, dances, and a parade.

Rally on the Lake – June 18 – 21

Wagon masters – Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Scott & Carolyn Carpenter

Rally site was the Osprey Point RV Resort in Lakeside, Oregon. This was also a pre-rally to the FMCA NW Area Rally in Coos Bay. Sunday provided an opportunity to attend the Oregon Chain Saw Carving Contest in nearby Reedsport. Following a dinner of chicken-a-la king, there was a presentation on the history and future of the Coos Bay area with the possibility of future container port in the area.

New for this rally was a Secret Safari. With sack lunches and a sense of curiosity, the caravan headed up the Millacoma River to Golden and Silver Falls State Park. Silver and Golden Falls

are the 2nd and 3rd largest waterfalls in the Oregon Coast Range.

Monday's dinner was an Asian buffet supplied by Sumin's restaurant in Coos Bay.

Tuesday's caravan to the FMCA NW Rally was a relatively short and easy trip.

Port Townsend 5.0 Rally – August 2 – 7

Wagon masters – Ron Mahugh & Mary Burchett

Rally site was the Point Hudson Marina in Port Townsend, Washington. Typical of Port Townsend rallies, this was a very relaxed event. Potlucks were held on Wednesday and Friday. Thursday was an opportunity to enjoy "Concert on the Dock."

Left-Center-Right was a popular game with Shannon Dennis and Jeanette Block being the special winners.

New Officers Elected

The following slate of potential officers and committee members was provided for elections:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Vice President | Wojo Walczak (2-year term) |
| Treasurer | Marth Thomson (2-year term) |
| Secretary | Kathleen Walczak (1-year term) |
| Alternate Natil Dir. | Position now optional for FMCA chapters |

Elections were held and the vote was unanimous in favor of the slated names. Thanks for stepping up to support our organization!

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce

The NWTFC is currently reporting membership at 52 rigs. The chapter also has 7 honorary members. During the year we had 7 withdrawals and 6 new additions.

Geographic breakdown of the membership is interesting.

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Washington | 22 |
| Oregon | 21 |
| California | 5 |
| Arizona | 1 |
| Florida | 1 |
| Nevada | 1 |
| Massachusetts | 1 |
| Missouri | 1 |
| Ohio | 1 |
| Oklahoma | 1 |
| Ontario | 1 |

* It is realized that the numbers do not exactly match the total membership.

National Director
Al Zimmerman

The spring planning meeting for the FMCA NW Area was held in April at The Mill Hotel and Casino in North Bend.

The key focus of this meeting was planning for the FMCA NW Area Rally at The Mill in June. NW Trek Fun Club (along with volunteers from other chapters) staffed the FMCA store as the club has done for several years.

2022 NW Area Rally at the Mill in Coos Bay was a success though numbers were less. It was the first area rally after a two-year hiatus because of COVID.

Al Zimmerman represented the NWTFC at the national convention in Lincoln, NE. There were 614 RVs at the convention. There were several factors contributing to this decrease in numbers. 1) this was the first summer convention since Covid, 2) the convention was held in Nebraska in the summer where it is usually hot and humid, 3) the dates were at the end of August near Labor Day and school was starting, 4) fuel prices were

considerably higher making travel costs more expensive, and 5) it is a long way to Nebraska.

As of August FMCA has 73,757 members. The number of motorhomes is decreasing and the number towables is increasing slowly. The average age of FMCA members is 71. Without the increase in towable members, the average age would be higher. Through the first seven months of fiscal year 2022, non-motorhome membership has experienced a gain of 1,196 members. Motorhome membership saw a loss of 1,435 members during the same period.

Al Zimmerman, on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee, made a report of recommendations to be adopted by the GB. FMCA has an identity crisis and is not recognized in the RV community. FMCA must be revamped to better relate to a primary target market of RV owners who 55 – 65 who do not travel long distances or use their RV for more than 30 days a year.

A redefinition of the mission of FMCA was suggested – “to educate and empower RV owners so they can enjoy the RV lifestyle.”

Nine goals were identified by the LRPC’s strategic planning process:

1. Create a new identity and brand that orients the organization to a different demographic.
2. Preserve and enhance the membership benefits oriented to the current membership while researching benefits that would appeal to the target market.
3. Consider and adopt new venues for gathering, educating, serving and enabling RV owners to enhance the enjoyment of their RVs.
4. Expand FMCA rallies and conventions through greater involvement of vendors and an emphasis on a more entertaining and fun atmosphere.
5. Expand the role and number of chapters by expanding current chapters and establishing new chapters.
6. Strengthen the organization’s marketing efforts based on ways and methods that will reach the target market while not neglecting the current membership.
7. Enhance the organization’s role as an advocate for RV owners in dealings with

manufacturers and with government bodies having oversight over RVs.

8. Build a stronger network of vendors and campgrounds based upon a mutually beneficial relationship linking members to those providing needed services.
9. FMCA's leadership should reflect its target markets, while retaining the best of its current structure.

The recommendations of the LRPC were adopted almost unanimously by the GB. Work continues on completing the strategic plan and implementing elements of the plan that should be addressed in the coming year.

The September planning meeting was held in Albany, the location of the 2023 NW Area Rally next June. Dennis Martin, new NW Area president, led the meeting. NW Area is in need of a new webmaster. It is important for chapters to update the information on the NW website.

NW Trek Fun Club will be staffing the FMCA merchandise booth for the Albany rally.

FMCA rally dates:
 June 7 – 11 FMCA NW Area Rally
 Linn County Expo Center, Albany
 August 23 – 26 FMCA National Conv.
 Gillette, WY

Webmaster – John Herold

First, a big THANK YOU to Mary Carlson, our previous webmaster, for patiently showing me the ropes of our club's website. I took over the webmaster role in May and eagerly look forward to any feedback, contributions, suggestions or questions.

Our website has a lot to offer and is a rich resource for both current and prospective club members, as well as for anyone interested in purchasing or maintaining a Trek. It is also a terrific way for members to stay up to date on upcoming events, pay dues, download brochures, leave comments and connect with one another.

This year I have posted newsletters, rally reports with pictures, and some new technical documents in the TrekDocs Repository section.

I recently gave the website a visual makeover with an updated look and feel. It should work better on mobile phones. Traffic to the website is down this year compared to last. Next, I'll be giving some thought as to how to attract more visitors. **Check out our website at www.nwtfc.com.**

Our website continues to partner with **Trek Tracks (www.trektraxs.com)**, which is hands down the best place to visit if you have a question about your Trek and want to tap into the wisdom of generous experts. Highly recommended.

Feel free to email me at NWTFCwebmaster@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Treasurer – Irva Cooper

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Beginning Balance 1 Jan 2022 | | \$5,737 |
| Income | | |
| Member dues | \$510 | |
| Rally registration inc | \$4,151 | |
| Fundraising & gifts | \$00 | |
| Misc. income | \$194 | |
| Other inc/adjustments | \$0 | |
| Total Income | \$4,855 | \$10,592 |
| Expenses | | |
| Membership expenses | \$19 | |
| Rally payments | \$3817 | |
| Wagon Master sites | \$580 | |
| Website expenses | \$324 | |
| FMCA program ad | \$70 | |
| Misc – bank chg, Paypal | \$66 | |
| Other – Historian, etc. | \$8 | |
| Total Expenses | \$4,884 | \$4,884 |
| Prepaid 2023 rally site res | \$1,805 | \$1,805 |
| Ending Balance 31 Dec 2022 | | <u>\$3,580</u> |

TRAVEL PLANNING TIPS & TRICKS

BY Matt Wastradowski

(This article originally appeared in the Via magazine, published by AAA, January 2023. Excerpts are included here. For the full article contact the original issue.)

If you've tried planning a road trip, booking a campsite at your favorite state park, or visiting a national park in recent years, you've likely noticed the process has been more cumbersome than it might have been a few years ago.

And it's true. While many of our public lands experienced dips in visitation in 2020, they rebounded in the years since. In 2021, the National Park Service reported roughly 287 million visits to its more than 400 sites across the country. That was down from the prepandemic total of 328 million visits in 2019 – but a massive increase from 237 million visits in 2020. Overwhelming visitorship has inspired parks across the West to implement timed entry permits and take other steps to stop overcrowding – a trend that shows no signs of slowing.

The reasons for these high visitation numbers are many – and complex. The rise of remote work has allowed employees across the country to relocate to mountain towns and smaller communities. The nomadic van life remains an alluring option for some, and many people are still safer with outdoor experiences than cramped indoor get togethers. Whatever the case, the sheer volume of visitors competing for the same views can make it maddening to plan an excursion and see some of our nation's public lands.

So as you hit the road and plan for outdoor adventure in 2023, here's a guide to planning your next epic outing – from how to understand passes and permits, when to make reservations to how to make the most of a last-minute trip.

Understanding Passes, Permits, and Admission Fees

Once you've settled on a destination and have some dates in mind, you'll want to know which passes or permits may be required for visiting public lands, when they're available and how to obtain them. Here's how to navigate the different systems.

Understand the Land Manager. Every public land in the U.S. falls under the purview of a particular land manager – whether it's a national forest (overseen by the U.S. Forest Service), national park or monument (run by the U.S. National Park Service), or even city and county parks (managed by local governments). Beyond funding clues in a park's name (Smith Rock

Senior Pass – Best Pass to Have

America the Beautiful Senior Pass increased in price from \$10 to \$80 in 2017. **It is still a bargain!**

U.S. Citizens 62 years or older are eligible.

Lifetime senior pass provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by 6 federal agencies.

- National Park Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Forest Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers

Passes cover entrance & standard recreation fees. Provides 50% discount on camping. Traveling companions can also enter for free. Senior Passes can be purchased at any federal recreation site that charges an entrance or activity fee. Proof of age & residency is required.

State Park), the easiest way to tell what entity manages that land is by visiting a park's official website.

Get the Skinny on What to Expect. Once you know which public land manager oversees a park you'd like to visit, call or check with the land's manager's website as soon as possible to get the lowdown on fees, possible permits, on-sale dates and other helpful details with as much advance notice as possible.



State Park Reservation Requirements

Oregon (stateparks.oregon.gov)

Reservations accepted at most campgrounds. Recommended because sites fill quickly.

- New reservations accepted up to 6 months in advance.
- Sites come online at 6:00 am daily.
- \$8 reservation fee charged for each site reserved – online or phone.
- Confirmation email sent within 1 hour.
- Final payment required at time of reservation – online must use credit card.

Washington (parks.wa.gov)

- Reservations can be made up to 9 months in advance.
- Reservations open at 7:00 am.
- Reservations may be made up to 8:00 pm on the day prior to arrival.

Also available annual Oregon State Park pass and annual Washington State Park Discover Pass for admission to state parks.

National Park Permits. Some national parks have long-required advance registration for specific attractions. In recent years, several have instituted timed-entry reservation systems (on top of admission fees) for particularly busy areas and during peak visitation times. So if national parks appear on your bucket list, make sure to research whether you'll have to make a reservation and when those windows open up – usually six months out.

Camping and Lodging Reservations

All those national parks that require timed-entry permits, they made that change because of heavy visitation – and those travelers need somewhere to spend the night.

Start Looking Early. It may sound shocking, but the **time to start planning overnight stays is now.** To give yourself the best possible chance at an in-park lodging, start looking one year in advance.

Nearby Stays. Cities near national parks and your favorite destination are popular base camps, especially mid-summer. These outposts typically offer easy access to services (such as gas), cheaper overnight

stays, and more restaurant options than what you'd find inside a park. Try making reservations 6 months out at choice lodgings to insure your stay.

Campground Considerations. Tent campers and RV enthusiasts alike have plenty of options for overnight stays across the West. When researching campgrounds, look at when the reservation window opens, which can vary wildly.

First-come, First-served. If your desired campground is full, it can't hurt to do a bit more research to see whether it also has some sites that are available exclusively on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bureau of Land Management Camping. If you are looking for an off-the-beaten track overnight option, consider a campground managed by the BLM. These developed campgrounds, where amenities may include restrooms, drinking water, and hookups, don't typically accept reservations but are rarely top-of-mind for travelers.

Making the Most of Last-minute Adventures

Even if travel plans come together at the last minute, there are opportunities to explore.

Arrive Early to Campgrounds. Many campgrounds within national parks and national monuments are available exclusively on a first-come, first-served basis – can fill to capacity by midmorning – so try to arrive as early in the day as possible. If your plans don't allow for that, consider a private campground nearby (such as KOA), many of which don't fill up nearly as fast, and which may offer swimming pools, on-site eateries and other amenities.

Last-minute Permits. If you're visiting some of the Pacific Northwest's most popular sites but didn't secure permits or reservations when (or if) they went on sale months ago, don't fret: last-minute options are more common than you might think.

Visit Nearby National Monuments. National parks are created due to their stunning scenery and natural phenomena, and typically are higher profile in guidebooks and travel blogs. However, national monuments showcase objects that have historic, prehistoric, or scientific value – helping connect with a region's broader history and geology. National monuments can be just as beautiful – and when crowds well, a quick shift to national monuments often have fewer visitors and more space to spread out. The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Eastern Oregon, for instance, showcases colorful hillsides from roadside viewpoints.



Stay calm ...it's obvious he is looking for food.



NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Vice President – Wojo Walczak
wwjo52@gmail.com

Secretary – Kathleen Walczak
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Treasurer – Marth Thomson
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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.

Trek Travels is the official newsletter of the NW Trek Fun Club. If you would no longer like to receive this newsletter or email messages from NWTFC, please send an email to Al Zimmerman (newsletter editor) at zimmeralz@gmail.com stating your preference.