

CHOCTALK

Volume 66

www.CoachHouseOwnersClub.com

December 2018

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C H O C

C – H – O – C : What the heck can **that** be?
Some say, “Coach House Owners’ Club.” But there’s a different meaning for me.

“**C**” is **Conviviality**; come to a rally and you will see people having lots of fun.

“**H**” is **Happy** ----that’s everyone!

“**O**” is **On It**; the committee’s prepared.
They’ve planned so much; they really cared
About creating a great time.

“**C**” is **the final letter to rhyme**.
It stands for COACH ----
That’s why we’re here.
We have come from far and near.
We travel in coaches to get where we’re going.
Each trip’s different with experience growing.
We load our coaches with all kinds of stuff.
Most trips are smooth; some a bit rough.
We’ve got places to go and people to meet.
The coach gets us there, and that’s really neat!

— Jean Oaks

Coach House Owners Club (CHOC) Spring Rally
Monday, April 8 – Friday, April 12, 2019
Savannah, Georgia

We will be staying at:

CreekFire RV Motor Ranch
(Resort & Camping)
275 Fort Argyle Road
Savannah, GA 31419

Phone: (912) 897-2855
<https://www.creekfirerv.com>

You must make and pay for your own reservation at CreekFire RV Motor Ranch. Be sure to mention your CHOC affiliation to get the rally rate ranging from \$40.95 to \$55.95 per night, depending on the type of site.

Reservations must be made by January 7 to obtain the rally rate and insure that you will be with the rally group. Deposit is made by credit card with a charge for 1 night. If cancelled at least 48 hours before arrival the deposit is refunded.

After you have made your reservation, please notify Ruth at rristow@wowway.com or at (847) 778-3421 to let us know you are attending.

Our first evening will be the traditional potluck dinner. The assignments of Main Dish, Salad/Vegetable and Desserts, will be emailed to those who have registered for the rally.

Reservations will include one catered breakfast, one grab 'n go breakfast, three catered dinners, entertainment and excursions.

Deadlines:

January 7 - Call campground for reservation
February 12 - Rally registration forms due

If you have questions, please contact Ruth Ristow at rristow@wowway.com or (847) 778-3421.

Planned excursions include:



Old Town Trolley Tour of Savannah



Pin Point Heritage Museum



Lunch at the Crab Shack



Captain Derek's Dolphin Cruise

Coach House Owner's Club Spring 2019 Rally

Schedule of Activities

Monday, April 8

1:00 – 3:30 pm	Registration
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Happy Hour (BYOB)
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Pot Luck Dinner and Welcoming Remarks

Tuesday, April 9

	Breakfast on your own.
	Board trolleys
Morning activities:	Guided Tour of Savannah
Lunch on your own	
Afternoon activities:	Free use of “hop-on, hop-off “ trolley to further explore and shop Savannah
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Happy Hour (BYOB)
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Catered Dinner and Rally Updates

Wednesday, April 10

8:00 – 9:00 am	Catered Breakfast
Morning activities:	CHOC Business Meeting
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Free Time. Lunch on your own
Afternoon activities:	Discussion group – optional
	Coaches open house – optional (look for signs indicating visitors are welcome)
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Happy Hour (BYOB)
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Catered Dinner
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Entertainment

Thursday, April 11

	Breakfast on your own.
	Board charter bus
Morning Activities	Pin Point Cultural Heritage Center tour
Lunch Provided	The Crab Shack, Tybee Island
Afternoon activities:	Captain Derek's Dolphin Tour
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Happy Hour (BYOB)
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Catered Dinner
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Concluding Activities

Friday, April 12

7:30 – 9:00 am	Farewell Grab n' Go Breakfast
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CHOC Spring 2019 Rally...Savannah, GA
 Registration Form
Rally Registration form & check...due February 12, 2019

Pilot #1

Co-pilot #2

Name: _____

Address: _____

Best phone # to reach you (including at Rally): -----

Email address: _____

Emergency Contact Person* (not at Rally): _____

His/Her relationship to you: _____ & Phone #: _____

The following prices cover the activities and the meals on the accompanying
 Spring 2019 Rally Schedule.
 It does NOT cover the campground fee.

CHOC Members**

One Coach with Two People....\$504.00	\$ _____	Do you have any food
Additional Guest\$252.00	\$ _____	allergies? _____
One Coach with One Person.... \$252.00	\$ _____	If yes, who & what are they?

Non-Members and Guests

One RV with Two People.....\$554.00	\$ _____
Additional Guest\$252.00	\$ _____
One Coach with One Person....\$302.00	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

*Emergency Contact...this should be a family member or friend...not at the rally...who we will contact for you should you have an emergency – health or otherwise – and cannot do it yourself.

**CHOC membership requires owning or previously owning a Coach House RV, membership in FMCA and a fee of \$25.00 per year. Download the registration form here:

<http://coachhousesrv.com/owners-club.php>

FOR CANCELLATIONS **BEFORE March 1**, CHOC will issue a full refund.

IF YOU MUST CANCEL **AFTER March 1**: CHOC will only refund expenses for which CHOC is able to receive a refund.

Checks should be payable to “Coach House Owners Club” and mailed, with this sheet, to Ruth Ristow at 725 N. Spring Street, Elgin, IL 60120.

2018 Fall Rally Returned to Asheville, NC



Everyone enjoyed the pleasant weather and the beginning of fall colors as the club returned to Bear Creek RV Park in Asheville, NC for our Fall 2018 rally. It has been more than eight years since we were there in 2010. This time, the campground owners opened their garage to showcase their collection of 1955 Chevy Nomad 2-door station wagons.

Coach House drove up an Arriva and the new Platinum III model built on the Ford Transit chassis. Perhaps more important to the rally attendees, they brought Mike Bonne from their service department to fix minor issues with our coaches. Mike also led an excellent question and answer session on Wednesday afternoon.

By Monday afternoon everyone had pulled into their level concrete platform, although a few learned some new tricks on how to back into a steep incline by coming in at an angle.

The Monday evening pot luck dinner and socialization was so good I forgot to take pictures.

We began our Tuesday excursions with a trip to the Blue Ridge National Park Visitors' Center to see a



park video. Some of us got our National Park passport book stamped before getting back on the bus. From there we went to the North Carolina Folk Art Center. Its drab entrance might discourage one from entering, but the artwork on display and for sale in the gift shop was incredible. Signs everywhere said “No Photography”, so there are no photos to share here. For lunch, we rode to the Flat Rock Wood Room that was open just for us. The food was excellent and the portions generous. I will return the next time I am in Flat Rock, NC.



We spent Tuesday afternoon at Carl Sandburg’s home, a National Historic Site. Carl Sandburg was a poet, editor and writer. He received three Pulitzer Prizes for his poetry and for his biography of Abraham Lincoln. The park service is trying to keep his home as it was when he died, However, it was in the middle of a restoration project that had many artifacts in boxes, I was surprised that he did much of his writing on a typewriter propped up on a wood crate next to a wood stove. His wife, Lilian “Paula” Sandburg,



began raising goats upon his suggestion. She proceeded to win many awards and became known around the world. Her farm continues to be run by volunteers on site. They raise three breeds of goats today. We were invited to enter the field they were grazing in. Most were happy to pose for pictures and seemed to enjoy being petted. One goat in a smaller pen had plenty to say. You can find a short video on our CHOC Facebook



page. Winnie tried to make friends with the farm cat who was more interested in finding lunch.



Back at camp we were treated to a colorful sunset at dinner time.



“Stay-in-camp” Wednesday started with made-to-order omelets before our business meeting. In the afternoon we held an open house to see the enhancements people



have come up with. I was impressed with the foldout table and custom cup holder that the Pooles added to their Arriva. We finished Wednesday with a fine catered dinner and mountain music by the all woman band, Honey Holler. (Videos on our Facebook page.)



Thursday took us by bus to the Cherokee Museum and to the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad. The museum walked you through the history of the Cherokee people with exhibits of many artifacts. The train ran from Bryson City to Dillsboro where there were many shops and very good hot chocolate.





After to ride back to Bryson City, we were told they would retire the engine for some maintenance work. They needed volunteers to push the engine around on the turntable. Renee managed to get selected for this impressive manual task. (Look for the video on Facebook.)



We had so many first time rally attendees, it took two pictures to get everyone. Below are Carole &



Bill Poole, To the right are Bob & Beth Robertson, David & Joan Kintzele, Steve Bloom & Judy Aleman, Bob & Jill Hiatt, Alan Hess & Sherry Bayer and Pud & Tom

Francis.

Thanks to Ruth, Bill and Irene for another fun rally!

Charlie Hedstrom



Treasurer's Report for December 2018

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

Please remember that the 2019 dues are to be paid by January 1st. Thank you to the many people who have already paid. If you still need to pay, please send a \$25 check payable to CHOC to:

Valerie Baselice
9 Timber Ln
Thornton, PA 19373

And please don't forget to pay your FMCA dues as well; we need to do both.

Thanks,

Valerie Baselice

New Member Corner

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Coach House Owners' Club:

Bob & Sherry Bechtold, Punta Gorda, FL
John & Ellen Chappell, Oriental, NC
Mike & Barbara Gerling, Etna, NH
Bill & Leslie Johnson, Belle Isle, FL
Jack & Cathy Laudet, Nokomis, FL
John & Erin Mikell, Goose Creek, SC
Mickey & Cindy Pagan, Vincennes, IN
Bill & Carol Poole, Phoenix, AZ
Ariff Rose & Pat Cleveland, Downingtown, PA
Bob & Claudia Silverman, Sarasota, FL

Bill & Marsha Brockman, Ridgeland, MS
Ralph Davino, Hobe Sound, FL
Roger & Marlene Haviland, N. Venice, FL
Michael Johnson, Clarksville, TN
Ken & Anne Megan, Oakdale, CT
Yogi & Betsy Miller, Salida, CO
Tommy & Mamie Polk, Spring, TX
Dick & Maura Quirk, Ebeemee TWP, ME
Rich & Jan Rosier, Port Orange, FL

Several of the new members have joined our Facebook group, and one couple even made it to the Fall rally. We are looking forward to meeting all of you online and at the rallies. Club membership now stands at 137 coaches, of which 91 are members of our CHOC Facebook group.

CHOCTalk

*Coach House Owners' Club Chapter FMCA
Coach House, Inc.
3480 Technology Drive
Nokomis, FL 34275*

A Big Thank you to Our Retiring and Newly Elected Officers

We elect half of our club officers at every fall rally for two year terms. These are the people that keep the club running. between our rallies. Although these jobs do take time (for some more than others), I've never heard a complaint. Most even seem to enjoy it.

Jan Zitzewitz has been our Membership VP for four years, greeting new club members with packets of club information and answering questions from prospective members. Renee Rodeck was elected to fill this position.

Margaret Hedstrom has been the treasurer for four years, depositing dues and rally payments, ordering badges and paying rally vendors. Val Baselice, our previous Secretary for two years, has been elected to be the Treasurer. As Secretary, Val not only was responsible for meeting minutes, but she worked with FMCA and our membership roster. Val also was the Communications VP several years ago. Helen Paul has been elected as our new Secretary.

Ross Hendrix has been elected Alternate FMCA Director, taking over from Lou Heine who has attended several FMCA conventions to represent our chapter of FMCA.

Our club is also grateful for the officer spouses that help in innumerable ways.

The officers meet at each rally and attend to club business via email and phone calls. Holding a club office is a rewarding job that brings you closer to all club members. We will form a nomination committee at the spring rally. Please consider running for an office or participating in the nominating committee.