

Look for Coach House's Web site at www.coachhousesrv.com

Letter From The President

By **Pauline Stevens**, *President*

After an exciting summer we are now winding down and headed home to Florida. We had a good summer with just a few bad times; we attended two rallies and really enjoyed them.

We headed off northwest to visit the kids and various national parks. Our first stop was the beautiful Yellowstone National Park (it was *cold* there), then on to Cody, Wyo., and Glacier National Park in Montana, where we were snow-bound for several days (see story on this page). Then we headed east through Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Canada, with beautiful lakes and miles of wheat fields. Then we turned south through Wisconsin and Ohio to visit more family. We headed home through Bay St. Louis, Miss., for a visit with Peggy and Juan Galvez and a check on plans for the September Rally. And we stopped over with Bill and Joan Johnson to work on ideas for the newsletter.

We had a great summer and hope that everyone else did also. Now we are looking forward to the September Rally and to seeing everyone there.

Coach House has really worked hard to make our November Rally special, with lots of surprises for everyone. Make your plans to be there (see "A Rally to Remember" on this page).

Remember that our elections for the Board of Directors are at this rally, and we will also vote on any changes that need to be made. We need some new people to come forward to serve on the board; some of the current officers have served for two or three years. If you are willing to serve, please contact one of the

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A Rally to Remember

By **Wes Knadle**

The Coach House Owners' Club is getting bigger and better all the time, and our fourth annual International Rally will show it. Mark your calendar now — the dates are Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, 2002.

We have terrific tours, fantastic food and great times waiting for you — and Coach House, Inc. is picking up part of the tab.

Our base of operations will be the Encore RV Park South, which will be familiar to many of you as the former Royal Coachmen

Resort, at 1070 Laurel Road, one mile west of U.S. 41, in Nokomis, Fla., just a few miles from the Coach House factory.

Although details are subject to change, here are some of the activities we have planned:

- A visit to the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, where we will tour Ca d'Zan, the magnificent home of the circus magnate and his wife, which has recently reopened after a six-year, \$15-million renovation that has restored it

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'All-Weather' Capabilities Tested



June in Montana: Bob Schneider's and Pauline Stevens' van at Glacier National Park.

By **Bob Schneider**

On the fifth of June I did some fishing on Duck Lake near Glacier National Park, Mont. Our campsite was on another lake in the park with a very steep dirt road leading to it. On the morning of June 6, we awoke to some snow on the ground. The weather man said rain, but it continued to snow all day and for the next four days! The snow piled up higher than the window, and we had to force the door open to get out. The picnic benches looked like little bumps in the snow.

We were glad that we had invested in a quality coach. We used the generator to keep the batteries charged and used the electric heater when it was running; at other times we used the propane furnace. We had plenty of food and water with us so this was not a problem. We had no trouble with the Coach House and could have stayed longer if we had to.

Finally, on the 10th of June we were plowed out and were sure glad to get up to the county road.

Best of all — Pauline and I were still friends when it was over!

Rally*News*

A Rally to Remember in November

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to its original splendor. The grounds are also the home the Ringling Museum of Art and the Circus Museum.

- A tour of Historic Spanish Point, the bayside homestead of Chicago socialite Bertha Honore Potter, one of Sarasota's early promoters. Spanish Point offers a glimpse into the history (and prehistory) of the Sarasota Bay area, including an Indian burial mound, a pioneer home, a country chapel, a packinghouse, a boatworks, and Mrs. Potter's gardens.

- A visit to St. Armand's Circle, Sarasota's world-renowned shopping destination, home to hundreds of unique shops, galleries and restaurants, all just a few blocks from the Gulf of Mexico.

- A romantic sunset cruise around Sara-

sota Bay aboard Le Barge Tropical. We will have the entire boat to ourselves, guaranteeing a memorable evening.

- Dwayne Dee will be performing one night for your listening and dancing pleasure, and *you* will provide the entertainment one evening!

So that pet owners can enjoy the tours, a pet-walking service will be offered around noon each day. Please indicate on the application how many and what type of pets you are bringing (i.e., one dog and one cat).

Your rally fee includes *everything* — three nights of camping with full hookups, three continental breakfasts, and three dinners. All local transportation and tour admission fees are also included. All you have to do is sit back and relax. Coach House will make the campsite reservations.

Coach House, Inc. and R.V. World Inc. of Nokomis are picking up the tab for the campsites, a dinner and other expenses amounting to about 25% of the total. And, by acting quickly, you can save by registering before September 30. After that, the rally fees increase.

Last Call for Fall Rally

Applications and campground reservations for the CHOC Fall Rally must be in by Sept. 1. Send your application (on Page 4) and rally fee to Agatha Galvaz. You *must* make your own campground reservations at 1-800-562-4425. The confirmation number is 22029; mention the Coach House rally.

One correction: Do *not* send your fee for the New Orleans tour; this will be paid directly to Gray Lines on departure via credit card or to the driver in exact cash (\$36). If you take the tour, there will be people available to walk your dog; there is also kennel space for rent.

There is a possibility of getting up a one-day deep sea fishing trip if six to eight people are interested; the cost would be \$120 per person. Contact Bob Schneider at srqbobs@aol.com or (941) 322-2003.

For those who wish to arrive a day early or stay over after the rally, dry camping is available in the Casino Magic parking lot.

CHOC International Rally Oct. 31–Nov. 3, 2002 • Nokomis, Florida

Rally Fees. REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

CHOC Members

	By 9/30	By 10/18		By 9/30	By 10/18
1 Unit, 2 People	\$260	\$312	1 Unit, 2 People	\$280	\$332
1 Unit, 1 Person	\$149	\$179	1 Unit, 1 Person	\$159	\$179
Additional Person	\$100	\$120	Additional Person	\$110	\$130

Non-Club Members

Registration Deadline: October 18, 2002

PLEASE PRINT:

▲LAST NAME

▲FIRST NAME

▲COMPANION'S LAST NAME

▲COMPANION'S FIRST NAME

▲STREET ADDRESS

▲CITY, STATE, ZIP

▲CHOC NUMBER

▲FMCA NUMBER

Rally fee(s) enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to Coach House, Inc. and mail to:

Coach House Inc, 3480 Technology Drive, Nokomis, FL 34275.

If you would rather not cut out this form, please write the information on a plain piece of paper.

CHOC Fall Rally

Sept. 22–26, 2002

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

Hosts: Juan & Agatha Galvez

CHOC International Rally

Oct. 31–Nov. 3, 2002

Encore Super Park, Nokomis, Fla.

Contact: Pauline Stevens

FMCA South East Area Rally

Feb. 5-8, 2003, Brooksville, Fla.

CHOC Spring Rally

2003, Decatur, Ala.

CHOC Fall Rally

September 2003, Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

TechTips

Maximizing Storage

As storage compartments and closets vary from model to model, several different ideas have been put forward to better utilize the limited storage. Hanging closets have been converted to shelves, plastic storage boxes are prevalent under beds, in closets and even in the outside storage compartment.

Your editor bought one of the water hoses that coils up to only about 16 inches but stretches out to 20 feet; so far I am very pleased with it. I also bought one of the compact heavy-duty drain hoses that stretches out to 20 feet. I have been using this for almost four years without any leaks. It collapses to 5 feet with the fittings attached. I carry this in a bumper-mounted storage tube.

Richard Smith added a hitch-mounted cargo carrier and a waterproof cargo box that he obtained from Cabela's. He also made up a quick disconnect by using an 8-inch piece of hose permanently attached to the coach with a quick-disconnect fitting on the other end.

Plastic storage boxes of various sizes can be used in the closet for easier access to items. A large box can also be placed between the twin beds for clothing.

Cleaning Tank Sensors

Bob Schneider has come up with a cleaning wand for the sensors in the black water tank.

Items needed: one male coupling adapter 1/2-inch male pipe thread to 3/8-inch CTS tubing; 2 1/2 feet of 1/2-inch diameter CTS plastic tubing; and one 3/8-inch copper street ell and one cap, or one 3/8-inch standard ell and plug.

Assemble with super glue and drill a 1/8-inch hole in the cap (or plug).

Directions for use: Unscrew the shower head from the shower hose; attach the wand to the shower hose; open the toilet flush valve with pump off; insert the wand just below the valve; face it toward the front of the tank; turn on the water pump; turn on the water supply to the hose; rotate the wand slowly left and right while lowering it into the tank; *turn off the water*; remove the wand; clean and store it in the corner of the bathroom.

ClubNews

60-Day Mexican Caravan Lets Coach House Shine

By Richard and Paula Bock

On January 14, 2001, we left McAllen, Texas, with 13 other RVs for a 60-day caravan to Mexico and the Yucatan. Our Coach House was the only one, and we felt a little out of place among the 35- to 40-foot RVs towing a car.

We traveled down the Gulf coast, visiting many of the Mayan ruins; many of them had a light show at night, which was quite spectacular. We were also able to visit many churches and cathedrals with their beautiful mahogany carvings and a lot of gold leaf. The best of the daily tours had guides, most of whom spoke English, although a few did not.

Some of the roads en route to the Yucatan were very bad. While there, we visited a very beautiful park with many shows including very colorful pole dancers. This park is also a natural aquarium and a great place to snorkel.

Our return trip was through colonial Mexico — very mountainous country, and the roads had no guard rails or shoulders; we really appreciated the Coach House then. We camped near Mexico City and had a bus and guide for our trips while there.

The city was exceptionally clean the five days we were there. One of the highlights for us was the wonderful museum of anthropology; we would like to have had more time there. We stopped at a number of towns along the way as we returned to Texas.

We enjoyed the trip very much. The weather was good, warm along the coast

and cold in the mountains, with only two rain nights the entire trip. We bought water in 5-gallon bottles, which was a little inconvenient in our smaller vehicle. Some campgrounds were OK, others were substandard and electricity was minimal if available at all. We had several nights of dry camping, where we used our generator. There were some large grocery stores and occasionally even a Wal-Mart; our laundry always went to a wash-and-fold business as we did not see any laundromats.

Our Coach House was very good on the trip, especially in the mountains. And on the toll roads, we would pay around \$15 U.S. while the larger rigs were paying \$60 to \$70. Our total toll cost was \$128. Gasoline was always available at \$2.30 a gallon.

We traveled around 4,100 miles in Mexico, and it was an enjoyable trip. The culture in Mexico is very different from the States, and we saw the extremes of poverty and wealth.

President

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members of the nominating committee:

Juan or Peggy Galvez (papapeggy@msn.com)

Don Mitchell (wmitch@desoto.net)

Bill Johnson (wjohn1075@mchsi.com).

Thanks, and I hope to see everyone in Mississippi. Travel safely!

Coach House Web Site Revamped

The Coach House, Inc. Web site has been revamped. Because of changes in the Coach House product line, it was necessary to reorganize the site.

The URL remains the same: www.coachhousesrv.com. However, the graphics and organizational structure have been streamlined to make the site easier to

navigate. If you haven't visited the site in a while, you ought to check it out.

More improvements are on the way. New photos will be added, and in response to popular demand, we are going to add a section for CHOCTalk activities, where we will include club news, rally schedules, and past issues of the CHOCTalk newsletter.

