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Letter From The President

By Pauline Stevens, *President*

We had a great rally in Charleston, S.C., in April. I want to thank our hosts — Goddard-Berard, the Bocks and the Cunninghams — for the good job they did.

We had a great time.

I enjoyed our guided tour of Charleston and the trip to the aircraft carrier Yorktown.

We had several new members at the rally, and I enjoyed meeting them.

We held our board of directors and business meetings at the rally.

The Howells from Lake George, N.Y., were there and told us about the plans they have made for the September Rally. I hope everyone will attend — it sounds great. Several people are planning to go early and stay late to see the many sights around the lake and in the nearby states.

I also want to thank Coach House, Inc. for the door prizes at the Charleston Rally. We had our 50-50 drawing, the winner got \$60 and charity will get the rest. We haven't decided which charity we will donate to, so if anyone has an idea, let me know.

Bob and I are headed to Tennessee for the FMCA Rally there. They have a great rally planned for us.

Country music and many seminars to attend. This will be CHOC's first time volunteering to help with the rally.

I know we will enjoy it.

Our membership is growing. I hope some of you will think about taking an office.

We do need some more people to take an active part in the club. We have a great club and I hope it will continue to go forward. ■



The Coach House plays a friendly game of dominoes at the Charleston Rally.

Charleston Spring Rally Brings Owners Together

By Albert and Lucy Spellman

At the CHOC Spring Rally outside Charleston, S.C., there were 19 coaches with 36 people and one big boat.

I think the big boat was to haul wood for the campfire that Bob and Kay Washbourne provided each night that it didn't rain. They also provided marshmallows and automatic sticks to roast them on.

The rally was quite a success because of the hard work done by our hosts and hostesses: Pierre and Shirley Berard, Dick and Pauline Bock and Dennis and Nora Cunningham.

The food was great at the carry-in on Tuesday evening. It is good that we have such good cooks in the club.

On Wednesday we had so much pizza that nine leftover boxes were used as door prizes. Then, on Thursday, we had a catered dinner of barbecue and fixings that was very good.

Pierre's "taxi service" got a good workout on Thursday taking people back and forth

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Ready to see the Manigault House.

RallyNews

Onward To Lake George

The Fall CHOC Rally will be held Sept. 16–18, 2005, at the Lake George Escape Camping Resort, (info@lakegeorgeescape.com) by the “Queen of the American Lakes,” Lake George, N.Y.

On Friday, Sept. 16, festivities will begin with registration and a welcome party with wine and cheese from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., there will be a prime rib dinner.

Games to follow!

Saturday, Sept. 17, will start with a continental breakfast. Afterward, transportation will be provided to a two-hour sightseeing boat trip on beautiful Lake George. Depending on the weather, after the boat trip you can “hit the shops” in Lake George Village, join the Jazz Festival on the grass in Shepard Park, or check out the newest in boating at the Forum Boat Show.

At 5:30 there will be a barbecue chicken dinner, followed by a business meeting. Tickets for the 50-50 drawing will be sold and door prizes will be given.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, there will be a breakfast buffet in the morning, after which you will be free to depart for home or stay and enjoy the many sights and sounds of the Adirondack Region. Lake George Escape would be more than happy to have you stay for a few days.

Reservations must be in by Saturday, Aug. 20, 2005. The fee will be \$200 double or \$150 single, which will include two nights of full-hookup camping.

Make your check payable to CHOC and send it to W.H. Howell, 110 Mesick Avenue, Cobleskill, NY 12043.

For more information call 518-234-2301 or e-mail howellbc@midtel.net or pocket mail howellbc@pocketmail.com. ■



LEFT: Rally attendees line up for a buffet dinner during the Spring Rally in Charleston, S.C.

BELOW: Visiting the aircraft carrier Yorktown was a highlight of the rally.



Food, Fun at Charleston Rally

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to Patriots Point. Thank you, Pierre, for your unselfish use of such high-priced fuel.

And thanks to Paula Bailey for introducing some of us to “Spinners.” This was great fun and lots of laughter. Some of us decided we would rather play than eat.

Activities at the rally included a short and very accurate business meeting, a Yankee Swap Meet, a 50/50 drawing and a tour of Historic Charleston on two very nice buses.

As usual, Bob Schneider found some RV problems to help people with. If Bob puts one more layer of boxes on the back of his unit, I believe that he will have to get a different kind of license plate.

We had three new members at the Rally: Han and Sandra Choe and Dr. Jim Rose. When asked for their opinion of the group, all three said it was a caring, loving, sharing bunch of people.

All of you Coach House owners who do not belong to CHOC are missing out on a lot of fun and fellowship. ■

Future CHOC Rallies

May 3-6, 2005 FMCA 6th International Area Rally. Lebanon, Tenn.

September 16–18, 2005 CHOC Fall Rally, Lake George, N.Y.

October 27-29, 2005 CHOC Homecoming Rally. Location to be announced.

Spring 2006 CHOC Rally, Casino Magic, Bay St. Louis, Miss. Dates to be announced.

Club*News*

What I Like About My Platinum

By Bill Huston

My 23-foot Coach House Platinum, built on a Ford E-450 Chassis, has a 14,050-pound overall weight limit. But it only weighs 11,660 lb loaded the way I travel.

The tires are rated to carry 80 pounds of air pressure. But, since the weight on each wheel is considerably less than its limit, I can carry as little as 55 pounds in my front tires and 65 pounds in the rear. The lower air pressure in my tires gives me a little smoother ride. But, everyone should have their Platinum weighed to determine its appropriate tire pressure.

My Platinum also has rear spring assist air bags, with adjustable air pressure. I can decrease the air pressure to give it a smoother ride, or increase the pressure to make it more stable in adverse conditions.

The V-10 engine provides enough power for the Platinum, and it could easily tow a car or trailer up to the 5,500-pound weight limit of the hitch. My Platinum handles very well on the road, even in a strong cross wind, or on winding mountainous roads. And a wind gust is barely noticeable when a big truck passes me. Therefore, it really doesn't need any aftermarket steering stabilizer bars like many motorhomes.

The size of my Platinum allows me to park it in a lot of tight places that would not be accessible to larger motorhomes. I don't have to worry as much about overhanging tree limbs in a campground, and can sometimes park in a one-car space at Wal-Mart, etc.

I like the Platinum's one piece fiberglass body. It requires less maintenance and repair than motorhomes with separate walls and roof, and it should last longer, too. Coach House used high-grade materials throughout the Platinum, and that too will make it last longer than cheaper motorhomes. The awning is easy to roll up and down, and because it's enclosed when it is rolled up, I don't have to worry about it being damaged when I'm traveling.

I like the easy access to fill the fuel, propane and fresh water tanks, to drain the

fresh water and holding tanks, and to check the house batteries.

What I like most about the interior is the open floorplan, with no walls except for the rear bath. My 23-foot Platinum is small, but because of the open floorplan, it doesn't feel so small. And, since I do a lot of boondocking in the woods or around lakes with no paved RV pads, I like the fact that the floor around the entry is tile instead of carpet.

The heating and air conditioning systems are large enough and have enough vents to properly distribute the heated or cooled air. The appliances are arranged appropriately and there are lights and electrical receptacles everywhere I need them. There is a lot of interior storage for food, clothes, bedding, tools, etc. And, of course, the beautiful solid wood cabinets and Corian countertops give the interior a feeling of luxury.

Overall, it gives new meaning to the phrase, "Camping in Style."

I have owned three different brands of motorhomes. When I contacted the manufacturers of the other brands, they treated me like I was a pest. But, when I contact Coach House, they sort of treat me like family. I am always able to talk to an appropriate person, or if that person is unavailable, they will call me back. They have provided me with a lot of information over the phone, and they have sent me some materials and supplies which go a little beyond that which would be expected under the warranty. ■

From the National Director

By Bob Schneider

We will have National elections soon. Max Durbin will not seek reelection as president of the International Area. Instead, he is running for Senior Vice President of FMCA.

I hope to have your blessings to vote for Jay Blumenthal as president of the International Area. Among the other responsible positions that he has held, he has been a team captain for the Frustrated Maestros. I think he will do a great job.

We are going to the International Rally in Tennessee in May. I am proud to say that several CHOC members have volunteered to help at the rally with Pauline and me. ■

Welcome New Members

The President and Board of Directors welcome the new members who have joined the Coach House Owner's Club since March 2005.

We invite them to come to our rallies, meet our members and take part in our rallies.

■ **Florida:** Terry and Carole Berry, Al and Pat Farnum, Martin and Lucille Guzauskas, Shirley Kelly, Russ and Sandra Powell.

■ **Georgia:** Han and Sandra Choe

■ **Kansas:** Rudy and Mildred Kuchan.

FMCA International Rally in Perry, Ga.

By Pauline Stevens

Bob and I went to the FMCA Rally in Perry, Ga. The weather was cool, a little rain and lots of Georgia mud. However, we had a good time and met some of our club members there.

We went to an interesting seminar on the Ford chassis. It was a learning experience. I hope all of you have the opportunity to do this sometime.

As board members we had to be there early. We arrived on the evening of March

18 and stayed until March 25.

Can you believe that we still had room in our holding tanks and even had a couple of drops of fresh water left? We took very quick showers. I did cook some, but used the good china and threw it away after dinner.

I also did a lot of cooking on paper plates in the microwave. Just wanted to share this with everyone. If you are careful, dry camping can be done for several days.

We used our new inverter. It worked great for making coffee and watching TV. ■

