

Letter From The President

By Pauline Stevens
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Here we are back home, tired but happy from another great CHOC Homecoming Rally. In addition to concluding our annual business meeting, Coach House Inc. provided a wonderful program with many things to do. A special thanks to Han and Sandra Choe for bringing their karaoke equipment for our entertainment on Friday night.

Two CHOC members who had lost their home and all of their belongings in Hurricane Katrina were unable to attend at the last minute due to some appointments with repair workers at their home. We did, however, collect a nice sum of money to send them to help in their time of need. I want to thank all those who made contributions and the club for committing to a larger amount.

We had our board of director's meeting and reviewed CHOC's bylaws. An updated roster and a copy of our bylaws was provided to all club members. If you are a CHOC member and didn't receive copies of these, let us know and we can send them to you. Marlene collected 2006 dues (due by January 1, 2006) from many attendees and signed up several new members. A hardy welcome to all our new members.

The club voted in new officers for 2006. They are: Pauline Stevens, President; Jack Kinkead, First Vice President and Parliamentarian; Freeman Nevins, Second Vice President and Rally Coordinator; Paula Bailey, Third Vice President and Newsletter Editor; Bob Schneider, National Director; and Shirlee Goddard Berard, Alternate National Director. I want to welcome the new officers and thank outgoing officers, Pierre Berard (Former Second Vice President), Karin Peuhsner (Former First Vice President) and Freeman Nevins (Former Third Vice President and Newsletter Editor). They did a great job and will be missed.

Our Fall Rally in Lake George, N.Y., was a huge success. What a beautiful site

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CHOC Talk

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Rally attendees pose for a photo on the gangway of the tour boat Mohican on the shores of Lake George, N.Y., site of the Coach House Fall Rally Oct. 16-18.

Good rally, by (Lake) George!

By Chuck Noska
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On Thursday, Sept. 15, after having met Wes Knadle of Coach House at the Hershey, Pa., RV show, Libby and I drove for six hours and arrived at the Lake George Escape RV Resort late in the evening the day before the rally started. The next morning we were greeted by Pauline (I didn't see an RV in that spot last night), and later Marlene. We felt welcome from the start.

Understand that joining CHOC was a new experience for us; we have a tendency *not* to join groups at this time of our lives. We did not know what to expect, and I must say that we were genuinely pleased with the experience.

During the course of the first day, we had the opportunity to see just about every model of RV that Coach House

has ever made: the original Class Bs, and Class Cs at 23 feet and 27 feet. We discovered that everyone has a different method of storing gear. We were looking to pick up pointers – Oh, I guess I forgot to mention that we have owned our 231XL only since June.

A wine-and-cheese get-together allowed all of us the opportunity to get to know each other a bit. Somehow, and I think that Pauline is to blame, Libby and I were team captains on opposing teams – everyone enjoyed that rivalry. Dinner was not what was originally planned. Our hosts Bill and Barbara had to really hustle. It seems that the campground was sold unexpectedly, and the chef quit for greener pastures. They pulled it off by getting not just one but two great caterers for the Friday and Saturday dinners.

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TECHTalk

Michelin offers tips on RV tires

By Chuck Noska

Proper tire inflation is critical to safe driving. I contacted Michelin for guidance in inflating my tires to the proper air pressure at any given weight for my 231XL. To my surprise and delight, Michelin sent to me a "Recreational Vehicle Tire Guide." This guide is specific for the RV industry, which differs from other tire applications. The guide is filled with useful information.

In addition to the tire guide, they sent a nationwide listing for CAT Scales to obtain an accurate weight on each axle (in case you can't find a free weigh station like Bob does).

You may download the Recreational Vehicle Tire Guide from Michelin's Web site at www.michelin.com. Click the link for "Tires/USA" on the home page, then the "Recreational Vehicle" quick link. On the left side of the RV Tire page, you will find links to download the RV Tire Guide and the Load and Inflation tables. They are both PDF files that you can print out. You now have the entire item they send in the mail. To have a hard copy sent in the mail, call (800) 847-3435 or click on the "Contact" link at the top of the web page and fill out the form to request the RV Tire Guide.

I assume that any dealer would be able to obtain a copy for you. I would like to see it included in the Coach House binder now that Michelin tires are a stock item. Perhaps that will come.

The web site contains two extremely instructive videos which I highly recommend for all to watch. 1) "The Critical Factor," on driving through a blowout; and 2) "Things RV Owners Should Know," education on tire care.

Make your RV life simpler

By Paula Bailey

I don't know about you, but I'm always looking for faster, easier ways to do things — especially when it comes to my RV experience. Now, most of us have been RVing for quite a while, and some of these ideas may not be new to you, but they were to me and perhaps they will be helpful to some of you also. Here are some things I've found that make setting up much faster and easier:

"Plug Dogs" For 30- Or 50-amp Electrical Cord Plugs. These nylon woven straps fit right onto your electrical cord plug. When unplugging from an electrical receptacle, simply grasp the handle and pull — it's so easy! I found mine at a company named Coil n' Wrap. Their Web site is at www.coilnwrap.com.

"Cable Caddy." This is a handy little reel that holds 25 feet of TV cable. Simply attach to the campsite cable connection, unreel to your RV and connect. The reel with unused cable inside sits on the ground under your RV. These are available at most RV equipment stores.

TV Cable Quick Connectors. By screwing these connectors onto your existing cable connectors, you will be able to simply push on and pull off your cable from the connections. How simple is that!



Plug dog makes disconnecting easier.

I purchased my connectors from Radio Shack.

Water Hose Quick Connectors. These allow you to quickly connect your water hose to your RV. I leave the male end of my connector attached to my RV and the female end is left on my water hose. This makes this task much easier for me. Available in most hardware departments.

Send us your ideas

If you have some ideas that have made your RVing experience better, easier and more enjoyable, we'd like to share them with our readers, please send them to me at onederfulife@netzero.com. Remember, the quicker we get set up, the sooner we get to "play"!

National Director's Letter

By Bob Schneider

As National Director, I have traveled many miles this year to the different FMCA rallies. Pauline and I enjoy all of them. If you haven't been to an FMCA rally, please try to attend one. They are a lot of fun, and their seminars are very informative.

We have scheduled our club President's annual Fish Fry a little later this year so that all who want to can attend the February FMCA Southeast Area Rally in Brooksville, Fla., may do so. Pauline and

I will be at the rally, as we both have jobs there.

There are many advantages to being a member of FMCA. Here are a few: FMCA insures you when you attend a rally; in case of sickness or death, FMCA helps get your rig home; and the FMCA magazine, *Family Motor Coaching*, is full of interesting information about places to go, upcoming rallies, tech tips, and many useful ideas.

I would like to thank all who voted for me to continue as your National Director, as I do enjoy it.

RALLYTalk

Home again for seventh Homecoming Rally

By Ralph and Sally Posey

Home again! The seventh Annual CHOC Homecoming Rally at the Sun-N-Fun Resort in Sarasota Oct. 27–29 was a busy, fun-filled success. Not only were events scheduled from early to late, but there was also time to establish new friendships as well as catch up with familiar friends.

Chartered buses took us to Selby Gardens, the Antique Car Museum, Myakka River State Park and lastly to the Golden Apple Dinner Theater production of I “Heart” NY. And, if that wasn’t enough, there were games and a talent show to keep us busy.

Because of back surgery, Armando Gaona, with his quick smile and “I can fix that” attitude, was not able to join us until the evening of the dinner theater, but in his absence, Coach House and R.V. World sent two very excellent technicians to make minor repairs to our coaches. We all appreciate this service so much. Thank you!

Our thanks to the folks at Coach House for once again planning a great rally — and to R.V. World for the display of new Platinums for us to purchase or dream about!

Now we look forward to next year’s rally at a new location. We know the eighth annual Homecoming Rally will be a super one!



A visit to beautiful Selby Gardens was one of the highlights of the rally.



The snack table is the place to be.



Some attendees made time for a little miniature golf.

RALLYTalk

It's Fish Fry time again!

The annual CHOC Fish Fry will be held Feb. 8-10, 2006, at Pauline and Bob's House in Myakka City, Fla.

Those who have attended in the past already know what a fun time this is. If you haven't attended before, come and find out what you have been missing.

Activities will start on Feb. 8 with a wine-and-cheese get-together at 4:30 p.m., followed by a pot-luck dinner. Please bring something to share. Last names starting with A-G should bring a meat dish. H-N should bring a vegetable dish, and O-Z should bring a dessert. We will be dry camping. Breakfast on Feb. 9 will be provided, followed by fishing, games, etc. in the afternoon and the fish fry that evening. Prior to departure on the morning of the Feb 10, we will have a continental breakfast.

The location will be Pauline and Bob's house, 31515 Betts Road, Myakka City, Fla. From the west: Take I-75 to S.R. 70; go east on 70 to Betts Road (about 3 miles before Myakka City). Turn right on Betts Road; second house on the right. From the east: Take I-95 to S.R. 70; go west on 70 through Arcadia and through Myakka City. Turn left on Betts Road, which is about 3 miles past Myakka City; second house on the right. For more information: Call 941-322-2003 or e-mail Pauline at srqbobs@aol.com.



Rally attendees enjoy a meal by the shore of Lake George

A good rally, by (Lake) George!

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During both the wine-and-cheese gathering and dinners, we learned that the CHOC members are a very interesting group of people — eclectic, intelligent, appreciative of quality and simplicity, interesting and with no pretense. Somehow it seems fitting that they should all own a Coach House product.

Saturday we took a campground shuttle to Lake George for sightseeing and a (safe) cruise on the Lake aboard the Mohican. We attended a very interesting lecture on the French and Indian War, and saw the re-enactors preparing for the battle. The highlight of the very informative cruise was when the captain turned the ship around in a small cove only a few feet longer than the length of the ship.

Sunday morning many of us met for

breakfast before taking off and scattering to the winds. We left looking forward to seeing many of the CHOC members at the Homecoming Rally in October.

President's Letter

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for a rally! There were approximately 20 coaches attending, and our rally hosts, Barbara and Bill Howell, did a great job coordinating the rally. The food was delicious, the activities were great and a good time was had by all. Several new members attended and it was good to have them participate. Kudos to Barbara and Bill for a job well done!

Hope everyone has had a great summer. Bob and I did. We traveled 16,663 miles in our Platinum and loved every minute of it! We met some old friends and made some new friends along the way. Once again, we fished in Alaska and caught our limit on halibut. Bob also fished for salmon. It is great to travel in our Platinum. We find it very comfortable.

We are always interested in new ideas for rallies. If you have some ideas about places to go, please send them to Freeman Nevins or me. We need hosts for rallies and will assist you in planning a rally in your area.

A prayer goes out to all in need, and please drive safely out there.

Upcoming RALLIES

- Feb. 1-5** FMCA Southeast Area Rally, Hernando County Airport, Brooksville, Fla.
- Feb. 8-10** CHOC President's Annual Fish Fry, Pauline and Bob's House, 31515 Betts Road, Myakka City, Fla.
- March 20-23** FMCA's 75th International Convention, Fairplex, Pomona, Calif.
- April 19-20** CHOC Spring Rally, Clarks Hill Lake, Elijah Clark State Park, Lincolnton, Ga.
- June 30-July 3** FMCA International Area Rally, CAM-PLEX, Gillette, Wyo.
- Aug. 14-17** FMCA 76th International Convention, Lowe's Motor Speedway, Charlotte, N.C.
- October** CHOC Homecoming Rally, Nashville, Tenn. (Dates and place TBA)

CLUBTalk

Mississippi members lose all to Hurricane Katrina

As many of you are aware, two CHOC members who live in Bay St. Louis, Miss., were dramatically affected by Hurricane Katrina. In fact, their home was completely destroyed, along with all of their furniture and belongings. They escaped the hurricane in their Platinum with not much more than the clothes on their back. In the future, we plan to have an article in CHOC Talk telling their story in their own words.

At each of our rallies, one of the activities is a 50-50 drawing. The winner of the drawing receives 50 percent of the total money collected and the remainder of the money goes into a fund that is donated at the end of the year to a charitable organization. Our board of directors suggested that instead of having a 50-50 drawing at each of our rallies, our secretary/trea-

surer contact by mail or e-mail all CHOC members and ask that they make a donation to one of our own members who was in need of help. A sum of \$2,200 was collected from club members. This was reported at our annual business meeting at the Homecoming Rally, and it was enthusiastically received and suggested that the club increase the donation amount to \$3,000 with the difference supplemented from the CHOC treasury. This was voted on and passed. Pauline Stevens, our president, instructed our treasurer to write a check to our stricken members and to send it to them right away.

Pauline indicated that she talked with them on Nov. 5. They still hadn't received any help from anyone as of that date. She said they were sad that they missed the Homecoming Rally and are now hoping to attend the fish fry in February.

They called her on November 10. Our check had just arrived and they were in tears and so very, very thankful. Again, a personal thanks to everyone for helping them in their time of need.



New Officers

Front, from left: Marlene Wolsky, Shirlee Goddard Berard, Jack Kinkead, Second row, from left: Freeman Nevins, Paula Bailey, Pauline Stevens, Bob Schneider.

New MEMBERS

CHOC would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since our last newsletter:

Arizona

Greg and Liz Ames

Florida

Ron and Mary Ann Allison
Wayne and Donna Callahan
Fay Coffman and Ray Lester
Paul and Kathy Lautenschlegar
Fred and Jean Panasuk

Georgia

John Lang

Kentucky

Dean and Karen Liggett

New Jersey

Marilyn Fread and Tommie O'Connor

Pennsylvania

Clifford Pierce

Texas

Joan Johnson and Carol Darbyshire

Washington

Alan and Marcella Schurman

NewsBRIEFS

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee member will be contacting you to discuss becoming more active in your club and possibly serving as a member of the Board of Directors.

Dues Notice

Please note that CHOC membership dues are due January 1, 2006. Please send your check for \$10 (made payable to CHOC), to Marlene Wolsky, Treasurer, 3480 Worth Circle, The Villages, FL 32162.

New Look Newsletter

This is the first of our new larger, full-color newsletters. We hope you like the new CHOCTalk!

Members to the rescue

By Freeman Nevins

After the Lake George Rally, while driving through northern New Hampshire on the Kancamagus Highway, we spotted a Coach House Platinum at one of the rest stops. Wondering if it was one of our CHOC members, we turned around and went back. Sure enough, it was Wally and Edna Antoine. Their coach was disabled with an electrical problem. When a jump start didn't help, we gave them a ride into Conway, N.H., where they were able to contact their son and get the services of a mechanic.

So, in your travels you come across a Coach House motor home that appears to be in trouble, stop and find out if you can assist them. Next time you may be the one who is "stuck" and in need of assistance.

Note: CHOC members should monitor channel 12 on their CBs. If you see another Coach House vehicle in your travels, hail them on channel 12 to say hello. If they seem to be having problems, offer help.

CHOC Talk

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

Officers

Pauline Stevens

President

941-322-2003; Cell 941-321-2363

E-mail: srqbobs@aol.com

Jack Kinkead

1st Vice President

239-481-2101

E-mail: fmjack@att.net

Freeman Nevins

2nd Vice President & Rally Coordinator

305-223-9076

E-mail: fjnevins@aol.com

Paula Bailey

3rd Vice President and Newsletter Editor

772-567-0598

E-mail: onederfulife@netzero.com

Marlene Wolsky

Secretary and Treasurer

352-259-1516

3480 Worth Circle

The Villages, FL 32162

E-mail: marl327@mac.com

Robert Schneider

National Director

941-322-2003

E-mail: srqbobs@aol.com

Shirlee Goddard Berard

Alternate National Director

803-534-6428

E-mail: shirleegodda6428@aol.com

Fish Fry • Feb. 8–10, 2006 • Myakka City, Fla.

Rally Fees: Includes wine-and-cheese reception, one full breakfast, fish fry, and continental breakfast on departure day. Note, dinner Friday is pot luck (for more information, please see story on page 4). Registration deadline is Feb. 1. Please check appropriate box:

2 People \$20

1 Person \$15

▲ LAST NAME

▲ FIRST NAME

▲ SPOUSE'S NAME

▲ STREET ADDRESS

▲ CITY, STATE, ZIP

▲ CHOC NUMBER

▲ FMCA NUMBER

▲ ADDITIONAL PERSON(S)

Are you a CHOC member? Yes No

Total number attending _____ Total amount enclosed _____

Directions and More Information: Please see story on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Return this form ASAP, with check made payable to Coach House Inc., to: Pauline Stevens, 31515 Betts Road, Myakka City, FL 34251