

Letter From The President

Hello again. We just finished a great rally in Georgia. Ann and Freddie Lott were great hosts. They worked hard to make us all feel welcome and happy. There were games, door prizes and, as always, great food. We have some great cooks — pot luck night made me happy (there were several chocolate cakes). We had some bad weather the first day but later the sun came out to brighten our spirits. Thanks to the Corys for providing everyone with a wonderful boat ride around the lake on their pontoon boat.

I would like to remind everyone that the Homecoming Rally is coming up in October. We will be electing new officers at this meeting and we need candidates for these positions. If you are interested in serving your club or know of a member who you feel would make a good officer, please contact Bob Schneider, Bill Johnson, Emily Nevins, or Wally Antoine. They are listed in your roster. This is your club and we feel everyone should take an active part in it — even if it is just for a year or two.

Bob and I will be heading West soon. We both have jobs to do at the International Area Rally in Gillette Wyo. We would like to see some Coach Houses there. Dates are June 30 to July 3. All will have a full hook-up, and the Cam-Plex is a beautiful place. We have made some great friendships at these rallies and have met people from all over the country and all walks of life. The classes we attend give us a lot of information about RVing. Also, the FMCA August convention will be in Charlotte, N.C. We hope to see you there.

We will have the fish fry next February, as we have had many people ask us to do this and we enjoy having everyone at our house. We haven't set the dates yet, but it will be in the next newsletter. Emily Nevins has volunteered to do one of her great dishes so we can all look forward to that in addition to the fish.

I want to send our prayers and best

Continued on page 4

CHOC Talk

JUNE 2006 • NUMBER 27



Rally attendees share a snack during Spring Rally in Lincolnton, Ga.

First-timers' view of a rally

By Tom and Judith Comstock

We have owned our Coach House Platinum since January, and everywhere that we have camped we have been dwarfed by the coaches around us. It was quite a different sensation to arrive at the CHOC Spring Rally and be in one of the biggest coaches.

We are always impressed by the beauty of Georgia, and this state park is absolutely gorgeous. One of the reasons that we traveled 1,100 miles to attend the rally is the beauty of the country between Texas and Georgia.

All of the Club members were most friendly and welcomed us with open arms. We rapidly made some good new friends. As with any RV club rally, the food was outstanding and probably more than plentiful! Our thanks to Freddie and Ann Lott, who live on the lake, for an outstanding rally.

One of the outstanding events of the rally was the boat ride at sunset on the lake provided by Frank Cory. He and his wife Stacey are also fortunate enough to live on the lake.

Our hope is that we will see each of you in October at the Homecoming Rally in Tennessee.



Ann Lott wins a game of Spinners.

RALLYTalk

Club plans fun, frolic in Pigeon Forge

Mark your calendars for Oct. 26-29 and set aside the time for some real festivities in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. We're moving our biggest event of the year, our Homecoming Rally, out of Florida and up into the beautiful foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains.

It is the time of the changing of the leaves. A great time of forested beauty, moderate temperatures and mountain vistas.

We are expecting this to be our largest rally ever. We have reserved 75 sites at the Holly Haven RV Park, a beautiful campground with many accommodations and just minutes from many of the local attractions and shopping areas. Space is limited to these 75 sites, so be ready when we send out our final details and invitations to get your reservations in early.

We hope that the more central, eastern U.S. location will allow more of our members to attend from the north and central parts of the country.

We are putting the final touches on the plans now. There will be plenty to do, plenty of good food to eat and plenty of time to visit with old and new friends. It promises to be a fantastic rally. We'll be mailing out initial invitations in six to eight weeks. Be ready.

E-photo album for rallies

By Wolfgang and Germaine Richter

The time of sending paper prints of your favorite photos to your friends is over! And believe it or not, so is sending e-mails with photos attached! The time of the e-photo albums has arrived. We have set up the first album with a few pictures of ours from the Lincolnton, Ga., rally and we invite everybody to upload their favorite pictures into the same album, which will give all of us a fairly comprehensive idea of what happened during the rally. The album for the next rally can be set up by anybody. Just feed pictures into the appropriate album in the future.

To view photos:

Go to www.ofoto.com. Sign in using this ID: 3dhome@bellsouth.net. Password: *coachhouse*. Click "Remember my password" — this is for easier sign-in later.

Click on "Lincolnton, GA Rally."

View the pictures by double-clicking.

They will appear enlarged with text.
To contribute your own digital photos into the album, click on "upload photos."

Choose "add photos to existing album."

Click on the album of your choice.

On this page, scroll down and use "single photos upload" (this allows you to choose specific photos to upload).

Check "browse" and navigate to the folder where your pictures are. It is easiest to select photos when you have the "thumbnail" feature checked on the view tab on top of your screen.

It is more cumbersome to write this down than actually doing it. Once you get the hang of it, it is really easy. And everybody is free to edit or even delete pictures. Did somebody upload a picture of you which you really do not like? Just click "option" and hit delete — bingo!

Have fun! We look forward to seeing some more pix in this album.

Editor's note: I tried this and it's really easy to view the pictures. However, I had a little trouble uploading my pictures, so I downloaded Kodak Easy Share (it's FREE!) and it made it so much easier. I have added pictures I took at the '06 Homecoming Rally — hope you enjoy them, too. Thank you, Wolfgang, for setting this up for us!

President's Letter

Continued from Page 1

wishes to those who are not well. Remember to drive safely wherever your Coach House takes you (sure hope the cost of fuel comes down). We hope to see everyone again soon. — *Pauline*

New MEMBERS

CHOC would like to welcome the following new members:

Alabama

Glen and Betty Yancey

Florida

Michael and Maureen Fontana
Frank and Roberta Helsom
David and Madelon Hittle
Sidney and Carolyn Wheeler

Georgia

Lloyd and Susie Fields

Louisiana

Archie and Marilyn Hall

Maryland

John and Donna Lynch

New York

Bill and Kathy Colucci

South Carolina

John and Nona Mattson

Virginia

Ralph and Barbara Etherington

Upcoming RALLIES

- June 30–July 3, 2006** FMCA International Area Rally, CAM-PLEX, Gillette, Wyo. (FMCA)
- Aug. 14-17, 2006** FMCA 76th International Convention, Lowe's Motor Speedway, Charlotte, N.C. (FMCA)
- Oct. 26–29, 2006** CHOC Homecoming Rally, Holly Haven RV Park, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. (CHOC)
- April 2007** CHOC Spring Rally, York County, Penn. (exact dates and place to be announced) (CHOC)

CLUBTalk

Belle discovers Florida's parks

My adventures as an RV dog have continued at a fast pace. After the February Fish Fry, we stopped for two nights at nearby Lake Manatee State Park. The great news about Florida State Parks is that effective March 1, 2006, all of them now allow pets. This is a big change as just a few years ago, none of them allowed pets. Needless to say, Mom and Dad keep me on a leash and pick up after me on my walks. Lots of other people must be doing the same thing or they would not have changed the rules.

If you are planning a visit to the Coach House factory in Nokomis, Fla., check out Oscar Scherer State Park, as it is just a few miles away in Osprey.

Mom and Dad like the state parks in Florida because senior citizens who are Florida residents receive a 50 percent discount on campsite fees. Since I just celebrated my 13th birthday April 1, I qualify, as I am at least 65 in human years. The formula is: 10.5 dog years per human year for the first 2 years, then 4 dog years per human year for each year after.

After one night at Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area, the folks decided they needed to do a little wild-life management before going to bed. At least 20 mosquitoes had accompanied me in after my 9 p.m. walk. I had great fun barking every time they swatted one in the coach. Mom had to clean lots of spots off those pretty white walls! The solution to the mosquito problem was to purchase two citronella candles in small buckets and set them on either side of the door. Dad lights them at dusk and puts the lids on the buckets when we finish our evening walk. We have not had a problem since. Mom likes the Cutter brand candle which she found at Wal-Mart.

Highlands Hammock is going to be one of my favorite parks. There are lots of nature trails and I can hike with the humans. Every night about six o'clock the armadillos come out of the woods to hunt for their dinner. My friend Kahlua chased

one under her coach and we had a great time barking.

We also visited Kissimmee Prairie Preserve and Okaloocoochee Slough, which are both fairly isolated. Great for star gazing or just being lazy! Next month we will head North for our first extended "cruise".

See you along the roads.

 Belle



This is me with the citronella candles

Make your RV life simpler

By Paula Bailey

Recent issues have featured things to make your RV experience easier. Here are a couple more things that have made my trips more enjoyable.

Expandable Clothes-Drying Rack — At our Spring Rally, I noticed a couple of our members had one of the most useful things I've seen in a long time mounted to the side of their Coach House van. It was an expandable clothes-drying rack. It attaches to the outside of your motor home with brackets and whenever it is not in use, the rack portion folds up and can be removed and stored. The RuckZuck (don't laugh — that's really the name) comes in several different sizes and is available from NatureDry, 724-947-9163, or on the Internet at www.naturedry.com.



Expandable drying rack.

Storage Bin Containers — Here's an easy way to organize things in your outside storage compartment. I purchased some 30-quart under-bed storage containers (measuring 23 1/4 inches by 17 inches by 5 7/8 inches) from K-Mart, and organized my things in these containers. I have all of my campsite items in one container, set-up items in another, sewer items in another and miscellaneous items in the last one. My storage bay holds four of these containers perfectly, and there's still additional room left for anything too big to go into a container. This works really well for me and keeps my things organized and easy to find.

If you have some ideas that have made your RV experience better, easier and more enjoyable, we'd like to share them with our readers. Please send them to me at 1derfulife@comcast.net.



Storage bin containers.

CHOC Talk

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National Director's Letter

By Bob Schneider

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At this time, I am receiving letters from people who are running for offices in the FMCA organization. We will be voting soon, and it is a big decision deciding which candidate will be best for our club and for FMCA.

Pauline and I hope some of CHOC members will attend the Gillette, Wyo., International Area Rally. We have found the rallies to be fun and informative and we meet some very nice people.

At every rally we see old friends and make new ones. It is great to be traveling and stop at a rest area or Wal-Mart and see people we know. Also, if you have trouble, FMCA members are right there to help you.

We have traveled to many places we might never have seen if it were not for having a meeting in that particular location—it is always interesting.

We are looking forward to the FMCA International Convention in Charlotte,

N.C., in August. We haven't been to the Lowe's Motor Speedway and are looking forward to seeing it. I will be meeting with the FMCA board of directors for a couple of days while we are there.

I hope you are taking advantage of the many things that are offered to you as a member of FMCA — many of these things are listed in your FMCA magazine, *Family Motor Coaching*.

Drive safely.

Name badge alert

Be sure to wear your name badge when attending a CHOC function. It is important for new members to know who everyone is at our rallies.

It was, therefore, decided that any member not wearing a name badge will be fined 25 cents a day. The proceeds from these "fines" will go into our CHOC Charity Fund.

You've been warned!