

Letter From the President

By Katie Mathews
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Spring is here in the Piney Woods of Deep East Texas! Oh, not according to the calendar. The budding of the trees; camellias, daffodils, magnolia trees and wild iris in bloom; yesterday's 80 degree weather; and the thunder storms and spring rains are boldly making the announcement. This means that our Spring Rally in Branson begins next month and we are looking forward to renewing friendships as well as exploring what Branson has to offer.

Speaking of traveling in a Coach House - one of my ongoing challenges has always been packing the various items of clothing from drawers and closets and into the motor home and then organizing everything in such a way that we can easily locate what we wish to wear. After a really curvy or rough road, various items of clothing sometimes fly out when the cabinet door is opened.

Spending time with my two daughters always results in learning something new and 2007 was filled with new products and technology. While on Bainbridge Island in the State of Washington last summer, one daughter offered me the use of a piece of luggage for our cruise to Alaska. Ours had taken a real beating on the carrier in the back of our Coach House, so I gratefully accepted. When I opened her suitcase I discovered several small zippered bags of various sizes. My daughter travels a great deal connected with her work and she explained that she used them for organizing her clothing. She uses one small one for nylons, another for exercise clothes, etc. There is even one with a folding 'board' for her neatly pressed blouses. She enjoys swimming and there is a waterproof pouch that is far superior to the plastic grocery bags often are used when there isn't time to dry the suit. This is referred to as the "Pack-It system" by Eagle Creek.

CHOC Talk

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In Memory of CHOC's First President



In case you have not heard already, our first president of CHOC, Carol Blascak, died on January 9th. Carol passed away after a long battle with heart disease and complications of diabetes. But what we will remember Carol for is the devotion and the enthusiasm that she had for this club.

In 1999, Carol and Wes Knadle of Coach House contacted about 1200 Coach House owners to generate interest in forming the club and having the first rally. It was held in Nokomis, Florida, across from the Coach House factory. Approximately 60 coaches attended that first rally from which our current club was born. Officers were elected and Carol became the club's first president.

Carol will always be remembered for her kindness and her caring personality. She had a smile for everyone. And she gave her heart and soul to the start up of the club. Even though she did not know computers, she braved one finger typing to get the job done!

We will always remember Carol and she will have our thanks and prayers.

RallyTalk

Upcoming Rallies and Conventions

April 29 – May 2, 2008

CHOC “Fun for Everyone” Branson MO Rally, America’s Best Campground, Branson, MO

May 22-26, 2008

Great Lakes Area Rally, Berrien County Youth Fair, Berrien Springs, Michigan (FMCA)

June 4-7, 2008

Northwest Area Rally, Linn County Fair and Expo Center, Albany, OR (FMCA)

June 5-8, 2008

Eastern Area Rally, Richmond Raceway Complex Richmond, VA (FMCA)

June 12-15, 2008

International Area (INTO) Rally, Sunnyview Exposition Center, Oshkosh, WI (FMCA)

July 14-17, 2008

FMCA’s 80th International Convention, Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN

September 24-28, 2008

South Central Area Rally, North Shore River District, North Little Rock, AK (FMCA)

October 15-18, 2008

Rocky Mountain Area Rally, San Juan County Fairgrounds, McGee Park, Farmington, NM (FMCA)

October TBD, 2008

Coach House Homecoming Rally, Location TBD

March 16-19, 2009

FMCA’s 81st International Convention, Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter, Perry, Ga



CHOC’S “FUN FOR EVERYONE” BRANSON, MO RALLY APRIL 29 - MAY 2, 2008

*By Vicky Ferrari
Rally Coordinator*

The Coach House Owner’s Club is looking forward to our Fun for Everyone Branson, MO Rally, April 29 – May 2, 2008. Truly a remarkable vacation destination, Branson has 49 magnificent live performance theaters, three pristine lakes, 10 championship golf courses, an international award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, shopping galore, and a host of dining options... all waiting for CHOC.

The Branson/Lakes Area offers unmatched service, tremendous shows, attractions and outdoor recreational opportunities and an old-fashioned atmosphere that makes it a truly unique place for any kind of gathering. Branson has been recognized for the past five years as the number one motorcoach destination in the country by both the American Bus Association (ABA) and the National Tour Association (NTA).

We will be very busy during our rally, either in planned activities or relaxing with our CHOC friends. But America’s Best Campground would be delighted to host you before or after the Rally. Contact Michelle at 1-800-671-4399. Look for a letter in early April with rally details. In the meantime, here is a summary:

Tuesday	12-3:00 p.m.	Arrival & Registration
April 29 th	4-6:00 p.m.	Potluck & Social
	7-9:00 p.m.	Hillbilly Party
Wednesday	7:30-9:00 a.m.	Golden Corral Breakfast
April 30 th	9:15-10:00 a.m.	Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	College of the Ozarks Tour
	Noon	Shopping/Lunch at Branson Landing
	5:00 p.m.	Dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Andy Williams Show
Thursday	7:30-8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
May 1 st	8:30-10:00 a.m.	Tech Talk
	Noon	Showboat Branson Belle
	5:30 p.m.	Great American Bar-B-Que
	7-9:00 p.m.	Barbara Fairchild Show
Friday	7:30-9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
May 2 nd	11:00 a.m.	Departure

ClubTalk

TRAVELS WITH TOM AND JUDITH AND A YAPPY MUTT

By
Tom Comstock

In our former real life, I taught at Texas A&M, and Judith taught at the local high school. Consequently we had our summers free for many years. Being typical Texans, we got in the habit of getting out of hot Texas in the summer. For over thirty years we have made it a practice to go north and west of here, and we want to share with you some of our favorite places to go in the mountain states.

ALASKA

Before I discuss other states I would like to point out that the best month long, or more, trip is to Alaska. The scenery is magnificent, the people wonderful, and the roads are not that bad.

ESTES PARK COLORADO

Our favorite place to go is this beautiful little mountain village at the entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. It also has sentimental value to us because we spent our honeymoon there. The National Park has several large campgrounds and there are commercial parks in the town. We like the Glacier campground in the park and Elk Meadow RV Park in the town. Reservations are necessary well ahead of time in both places.

RIDGWAY, COLORADO

We have discovered that western Colorado is just as beautiful as the east side of the mountains, and it has many fewer people. Our favorite place in this area is around Ridgway. It is located about twenty miles south of Montrose on the road to Ouray. Just north of Ridgway is the best place to camp in the whole area. It is the Co-Chu Puk State Park. The park is on a rushing river with mountains on all sides. The True Grit cafe (so named because the John Wayne movie "True Grit" was filmed there) has the best soups that we have ever eaten. Ouray, Telluride, and Silverton are fairly short drives from Ridgway.

ANGEL FIRE, NEW MEXICO

Angel Fire is a small town located about eighty miles east of Raton. Nestled in a valley surrounded by mountains, this is a serene, cool, and peaceful place to stay a few days. We really like the Monte Verde RV Park, which is owned by a neat couple who understand RVers. It is a short drive to Taos, and one could get to Santa Fe and back a day.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA

Glacier is a must see. It is one of the "Seven Wonders of the World." The "Going to the Sun" road is one of the most spectacular drives in the entire world. There are National Park and commercial campgrounds at both the east and west entrances to the park.

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

This park is located just south of Yellowstone National Park and a few miles east of Jackson, Wyoming. Our favorite place to stay is the Coulter Bay area. There is a huge national park campground there and one can camp with a beautiful view of the gorgeous glaciers from the windshield of the motorhome. There is also a commercial campground in the area. It is common to see all kinds of large animals such as moose, elk, bison, and even bears.

CODY, WYOMING

Cody is in the middle of some beautiful mountain scenery. It is a must see because of its wonderful museum. The museum has five separate sections, including, of course, an area dedicated to Bill Cody, one of the best western art displays that I have seen, an Indian section, and a firearms display. There are several nice campgrounds in the city.

ZION NATIONAL PARK, UTAH

Zion is the "crown jewel" of the national parks. Nestled in the mountains, this small park has some of the most beautiful views in the world. It is a neat place for the

President's Letter *Continued from page 1*

We used the collection of bags on the cruise and I soon realized that they were the answer to packing our clothing in the motor home and I invested in several. Leaving a Laundromat with your clothing neatly packed in the small bags is another added benefit. There is also a "compressor." A bonus came when we finally arrived home after 11 weeks of travel and unloaded the motor home. I simply put all of the bags into a clothes basket and took them into the house. No socks became separated – nothing fell – it was the easiest job unpacking the motor home that I've ever experienced.

The company has a website – www.eaglecreek.com that allows you to locate a dealer nearest you.

I also learned about the "shuffle" – about 1" square – that you can use in numerous ways. My daughters' favorite is to load a book and pin the "Shuffle" on her lapel. What a marvelous bit of technology!

Finally, there is the "kindle" – an electronic book! If you're interested, you can learn more on www.amazon.com - although they are currently on back-order.

Retirement is wonderful, although one of the challenges is staying current given the vast changes in our world. Please share whatever you have discovered to be particularly useful.

See you in Branson!



CHOC**Talk**

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Travels With Tom and Judith and a Yappy Mut



*Continued from
page 3*

driver in the family because one cannot drive in the scenic areas of the park so you can see something besides the asphalt in front of you. The NPS provides a shuttle service to all of the major areas. The “Watchman” campground in the park even has electricity and there are several commercial parks in the area. The above is a listing of just a few of the places that we like to visit. I am sure that many of you have had wonderful experiences that you could share by writing a similar article for the newsletter.

Tech Tips

Weigh your rig!!!! It is SOOO easy to overload an RV!!!! You really need to weigh each corner separately so you can balance your load.

Measure the height!!!! Don't guess!!! You WILL get into situations where a building canopy is too low for you to fit...also remember when parking at a curb that the top of the vehicle may be hanging over the curb due to slope of the street...this can be very embarrassing if you tag a light pole or tree too close to the street.

Get a pair of small CB radios to communicate with each other during parking/backing of the RV, or get on the same page with hand signals. I suggest the CB radio method as most reliable...and if you get separated in Walmart they work too!