

# Letter From the President

By Katie Mathews

What a great Rally in Branson, I would like to do it all over again! Thank you, Vicky, for all of your planning – especially in locating what truly is “America’s Best Campground.” Our hosts were, in fact, our hosts every step of the way. They were our very own tour guides at the campground, on the buses, on the tour of the College of the Ozarks and at every show. The shows, yes, even the breakfast show, were perfect. (*What a surprise to enjoy such a quality show over breakfast!*) The cruise on the Branson Belle, and the show on board, was outstanding. Andy Williams’ voice hasn’t changed and his show was excellent! We appreciated and enjoyed having David Gerzeny, President of Coach House, Inc. with us throughout the Rally and look forward to his return. Having so many new Coach House models to look at, dream about, and choose from was a real advantage and some of our members were able to take home a new Coach House motorhome. The new CHOC clothing and gear is a welcome new addition and we had fun trying on and making purchases. Attempting to explain the Hillbilly Party and the costumes on our first night is impossible – you would have had to be there to have an appreciation for that evening! Meeting “old” friends and making new acquaintances was for me, and I sincerely hope for each of you, the icing on the cake!

For those of you who missed this outstanding Rally, let me just say that as long as we have Vicky Ferrari as our VP – Rally Coordinator, do not miss a single Rally. Williamsburg is coming up – send in your reservation immediately upon receiving the mailing.

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# CHOC Talk

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## We Asked and CHOC Members Responded (Questionnaire Results)

CHOC members who attended the Branson Rally received questionnaires and, as usual, were extremely helpful with their feedback. Two-thirds of the rally attendees returned their questionnaires in time to include their information in this newsletter. The questions were designed not only to elicit feedback about Branson but to gain information to help CHOC plan for future rallies. Here is what we learned:

1. CHOC members were very pleased with the level of communication both before and during the rally, with 97% rating it as excellent.
2. 91% of rally attendees said the value for money at Branson was excellent.
3. It is clear that our members like time to socialize with each other and 94% considered the rally conducive to meeting new friends.
4. 100% of CHOC members want to see the wine and cheese reception continue and 97% agree that the pot luck dinner should remain a tradition.
5. Educational and technical seminars are extremely popular with 97% of the members; 93% want to see a continuation of the sale of CHOC merchandise; the 50/50 charity drawing and merchandise raffles remain popular with over 90% of CHOC members; and the first silent auction was a hit with 73% of members.

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## CHOC Merchandise Now Available



CHOC introduces our own line of logo merchandise. Sales were brisk at the Branson Rally but we still have items available at the prices below (plus shipping). Contact Vicky Ferrari via email at [vicky.ferrari@ps.net](mailto:vicky.ferrari@ps.net) or by phone at (703) 779-0797.

Sandwich Bill Cap	\$16.00	Men’s Polo Shirt (navy or gray)	\$27.00
Fleece (gray)	\$39.00	Ladies’ Polo Shirt (light green)	\$26.00
Briefcase Bag	\$20.00	Lined Nylon Jacket (navy)	\$35.00

Look for the above items and more at the Coach House National Rally in Williamsburg, VA.

# RallyTalk

## Upcoming Rallies and Conventions

July 14-17, 2008  
FMCA's 80th International Convention, Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN

August 7-10, 2008  
Northeast Area Rally, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, VT (FMCA)

September 24-28, 2008  
South Central Area Rally, North Shore River District, North Little Rock, AK (FMCA)

**September 29 – October 3, 2008**  
**Coach House National Rally, American Heritage RV Park, Williamsburg, VA**

October 15-18, 2008  
Rocky Mountain Area Rally, San Juan County Fairgrounds, McGee Park, Farmington, NM (FMCA)

March 16-19, 2009  
FMCA's 81<sup>st</sup> International Convention, Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter, Perry, Ga



Notice:  
Club members Ann and Ed Shea have a campground in Vermont and will give the club a \$5 rebate if anyone is interested in having a mini-rally there. Please contact them for more info: 801-442-2547  
campgreenwood@aol.com

## The Spring Rally in Branson A Hoe-Down Good Time

You couldn't believe that there was this much talent in our club! From the people that danced to the country music at the Hillbilly Party on Friday night to the people who actually helped supply some of the music! But it was definitely a high point to the rally.

We had an action packed rally with a Hillbilly Party, three musical shows including Andy Williams, and a paddle boat ride with its own entertainment show. All that, and we still had time to eat together, check out the new coaches, catch up on old friends and hopefully meet a few new ones.



A special event was the visitation of the anniversary fairy. Don and Estelle Crane were celebrating their 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary when a vision in purple swept down on them and read them wishes from their family on their special day!



## ClubTalk

### DTV Transition, the Coupon Program and your Motor Home

#### What is the digital television transition?

At midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

#### Will the transition affect me?

You will need to take action before February 17, 2009 if when camping, your Motor Home is not connected to cable or a satellite system and you intend to watch "Over the Air" television stations. If the television in your motor home is a "Digital" TV with a digital tuner, your system will not require anything.

#### What is the TV Converter Box Coupon Program?

Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009. The Program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, which can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes.

A TV connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV service does not require a TV converter box from this program.

Consumers have a variety of options. Options to explore include:  
Keep your existing analog TV and purchase a TV converter box. A converter box plugs into your TV and will keep it working after Feb. 17, 2009, or

Connect to cable, satellite or other pay service, or  
Purchase a television with a digital tuner.

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#### How do I request a coupon?

Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, you can request a coupon while supplies last in one of four ways:

- [Apply online](https://www.dtv2009.gov/ApplyCoupon.aspx) at <https://www.dtv2009.gov/ApplyCoupon.aspx>
- Call the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline **1-888-DTV-2009** (1-888-388-2009).
- Mail a coupon application to: PO BOX 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000.
- Fax a coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)
- Deaf or hard of hearing callers may dial 1-877-530-2634 (English/TTY) or 1-866-495-1161 (Spanish/TTY). TTY Service is available from 9 AM - 9 PM Eastern Time Monday through Friday.

### President's Letter (continued)

**DAMASCUS, Arkansas (CNN)** -- At least seven people, including three members of the same family, were killed Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and at least 13 people were injured as severe weather swept through Arkansas, emergency officials said.

Max and I drove right through the devastation that included a church, a dozen or so homes and three or four businesses. The twister had crossed the highway and looked to be nearly a mile wide. Cars filled with local folks kept arriving and parking to check the wreckage and offer their help. Even the several law enforcement people there seemed to be in awe, observing the tragedy. We felt great anguish, helplessness and sorrow for all the folks involved and also realized just how fortunate we were to have missed any of the over 25 twisters that hit Arkansas that day.

Finally, I will end this on a sad note. One of our members, Barney Klimeck, passed away just days before they were to leave for the Branson Rally. We will miss Barney!

***(Just a reminder - please copy this information and keep it handy: 800-527-0218 and Group #7030 and your FMCA member number. Should you have a serious medical emergency while traveling, this is your lifeline.)***





### Thanks Times Two Ken and Lesley Trinkley's Harrowing Accident and Aftermath

It was April 23, 2008 and Ken and Lesley Trinkley were on their way to the CHOC Branson Rally. Lesley was at the wheel, travelling at 65 mph on I-40 in Tennessee, when the unthinkable happened. Suddenly and without warning, their Coach House Class B unit was out of control. The resulting impact with an embankment left Lesley with a broken sternum from the seatbelt and an unreparable vehicle. The Trinkleys subsequently learned that the tread separated from left rear tire causing the imbalance and loss of control. Under the circumstances, they were thankful that the consequences weren't worse.

With investigation and perseverance, the Trinkleys have determined that a defect in the tire was the cause of the separation and are considering their next steps. While the Trinkleys believe that their tires were purchased as new, ABC's 20/20 Investigation ran a story on May 9, 2008 regarding the death of a teenager stemming from an accident caused by the sudden tread separation of a tire which had been sold to the family years earlier as new. The Firestone tire, in that case, was actually nearly four-years-old at the time of purchase.

The Trinkleys have also learned that the VIN# on the Class B Coach House only reflects four wheels, the engine and the shell that was delivered to Coach House, not the true value of the total vehicle package as a completed motor home. Therefore, insurance companies may need convincing regarding the true total value of the motor home. They also strongly recommend that CHOC members check insurance policies with respect to car rental and travel expense coverage.

When CHOC members attending the Branson Rally learned of the  
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### In Memory of Barney Klimeck

Those who attended the Branson rally already know that Barney Klimeck passed away on April 20<sup>th</sup>. He and his wife Florence were planning on attending the rally before his death. When Florence received the \$460 refund, she returned the check plus an additional \$40 with the wish that the club start a fund for a PA system so all could be heard, or for something the friends of CHOC can enjoy. We all would like to thank Florence and remember Barney in our prayers.

If you did not know Barney, here is a brief history. He was raised on his grandparent's farm in Kunkle, Pa. He joined the Army at 16 and served during the Korean War. He worked construction and helped build the PA turnpike. After he retired, he traveled with his RV throughout most of the US. He owned a plane and loved flying. Barney had a wonderful sense of humor, was very kind and caring, and was loved by everyone. He will be missed by all.

## The Lonely CHOC WebSite

[www.choc-talk.com](http://www.choc-talk.com)

In late 2006 we introduced the Coach House Owners' Club website, **CHOCTalk on-line** ([www.choc-talk.com](http://www.choc-talk.com)). The website is a very valuable tool but under-utilized by CHOC members. We invite you to log on to **CHOCTalk on-line** for the latest CHOC and FMCA news. Look for (1) a member forum where CHOC members are able to share information and ideas; (2) a photo gallery for sharing pictures from rallies, trips and other adventures; (3) CHOC Shop, a classified section for CHOC members desiring to buy or sell coaches and related items; (4) a repair forum for answers to your technical questions; (5) CHOC merchandise for sale; (6) a CHOC membership application; and (7) much, much more!

We have free choc-talk.com email addresses available for those CHOC Members who would like to keep their CHOC email traffic separate from their work or personal email traffic, or for those Members who have no other email address. If you are interested in a free email address, please contact John Ferrari at [john.ferrari@choc-talk.com](mailto:john.ferrari@choc-talk.com) or at (703) 779-0797.

Be sure to attend the Coach House National Rally, September 29 – October 3, 2008 at the American Heritage RV Park in Williamsburg, VA where John will provide instruction about using **CHOCTalk on-line**, or contact John anytime.

## ClubTalk

### It's Nomination Time Again

The Williamsburg Rally will be the time for the election of new officers for CHOC for the upcoming year. Here are the offices that will be open for willing candidates:

- VICE PRESIDENT (MEMBERSHIP)**
- VICE PRESIDENT (RALLY COORDINATOR)**
- SECRETARY**
- TREASURER**
- NATIONAL DIRECTOR**
- ALTERNATE NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

If you have anybody in mind who would be willing to fill either of those positions, including yourself, please let me or a nominating committee member know.

Valerie Baselice  
Committee Chairperson

Nominating Committee  
Dick Bock  
Pat Dizazzo

#### Trinkleys' Accident (continued)

Trinkleys' plight, they voted unanimously to send the 50/50 raffle proceeds to the Trinkleys along with a card signed by the attendees. Additionally, the winners of the 50/50 drawing, Albert and Lucy Spellman contributed a portion of their winnings.

Ken and Lesley want the CHOC members to know that they were deeply touched by this showing of thoughtfulness and kindness. "We will put the money in a safe place to purchase something for our new camper which will remind us of the CHOC family. Please pass on our sincere thanks for both the well wishes and the 50/50."

### Coach House and CHOC Announce the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Rally in America's Historic Triangle

The Historic Triangle gave birth to the United States, and a huge nation grew from a tiny place in Virginia. The first permanent English settlers sent by the Virginia Company of London were at Jamestown. The ideas of revolution were fanned at Williamsburg. Independence was won in the final victory at Yorktown.

Join Coach House and CHOC at American Heritage RV Park in Williamsburg, VA for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National (formerly Homecoming) Rally to be held September 29 – October 3, 2008. Join us for visits to Jamestown, Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg as well as wonderful food, informative seminars, games and colonial era entertainment. You will not be disappointed!

The members spoke and CHOC and Coach House listened. As a result, the National Rally will be one day longer this year, to allow for a less hectic pace and more time for meeting new friends and sharing new experiences. Invitations and registration forms are in the mail. If you have any questions, contact LB or Jennifer at Coach House or Vicky Ferrari, CHOC Rally Coordinator (contact information on the last page of this Newsletter). Sign up now as spaces are limited. Contact American Heritage directly at (888) 530-2267 to arrive early or stay after the rally ends.

[www.americanheritagervpark.com](http://www.americanheritagervpark.com)

#### Questionnaire (continued)

6. When asked about time for shopping, 87% responded that they like to have time for shopping.
7. 100% of CHOC members agreed that the rally atmosphere was friendly and that they had FUN at the rally; 94% said they would attend future rallies, with those who weren't sure citing advancing age and distance to travel as possible deterrents to future participation.

Those in attendance at the rally will remember an overwhelmingly positive response to the suggestion of extending our rallies by one night. The questionnaires supported that vote with 76% of the members in favor, including 32% who not only want the rallies to be extended by one night, but for us to have three rallies per year rather than the traditional two; 15% prefer the current two rallies per year, each three nights in duration.

There is a great diversity of opinion regarding how many meals should be included in a four-day rally. It is clear that the majority want 3-4 dinners included and two or less lunches provided.

Our members apparently aren't bothered by unpaved sites or absent picnic tables. Seventy-five percent or the respondents consider a lighted campground to be important or very important; 83% feel the same about full hook-up sites.

As for the location for future rallies, we are all across the map. Perhaps surprisingly, west of the Mississippi, and San Antonio in particular, remain popular with our primarily East Coast members.

Watch for your preferences to be taken into consideration at the upcoming National Rally in Williamsburg, VA. CHOC is all about making our members happy.

# CHOC**Talk**

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## NEW MEMBERS CORNER

CHOC would like to give a warm welcome to the following new members:

ALABAMA: Wolf

and Gail Ayres

ARIZONA: Clint

and Betty Smith

CALIFORNIA:

Jack and Carol Randle

COLORADO: Bruce and Rosalind Jackson

FLORIDA: Alan and Mary Rida, Phil and Dot Schneider, Charles and Linda Flannigan, Harry and Jan Hoyle, John and Jane Buzzelli, George and Diane Abosamra, Victoria Ford, Herb and Denise Sweeney

MARYLAND: Colby and Carol Munger

MONTANA: Bob and Jane Gersack

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Ken and Sandi Ritter

NEW JERSEY: Sal and Loretta DeBruno, Jeff and Kathy Beyer

OHIO: Greg and Bev Lange

OREGON: Verna Pooler

TEXAS: Marti Redman

VIRGINIA: Ron and Linda Card

WASHINGTON: Derry and Marilyn Bowles

