

## Letter From the President

By Katie Mathews

As I write today, it is Hurricane Katrina – 3 years plus 1 day - and we are awaiting Hurricane Gustav. Our hope is that something will happen to divert this so-called “monster storm” away from New Orleans and the Gulf that was so devastated by both Katrina and Rita 3 short years ago. The preparations already in place speak to the fact that our Government is taking this storm very seriously, indeed. Hurricane Rita (she hit 3 weeks after Katrina) was the first Hurricane ever to come as far inland as Nacogdoches, Texas and the predictions are that Gustav may also visit us. Rita left our area without power for 10 days and, should Gustav bring the same, we will be living in our motorhome! Thank goodness for that option.

In a little more than 3 weeks, we leave for the Rally in Williamsburg and Gustav will hopefully be only a memory – not a bad dream! Williamsburg, our first 4 day Rally, has much more time set aside for camaraderie and for those of you who look forward to games and cards, remember to bring yours. Do not forget to bring and wear your new **CHOC** clothing and gear. I am looking forward to seeing each of you and renewing our friendship(s).

David Gerzeny, President of Coach House, Inc. will be with us and several of you have mentioned that you look forward to his return. LB Blanchard will also be taking photographs of our special moments - - - it just would not be a Coach House Rally without LB!

We voted to stagger the terms for our Officers and Board Members at the 2007 Annual Meeting so elections for several positions are on tap. You will notice an article about this in this  
(continued on page 3)

## Welcome to Williamsburg!



The Coach House National Rally will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia on September 30th to October 3rd. Join your fellow CHOC members, meet old friends or new ones. And enjoy the historic three cities of Williamsburg, Yorktown and Jamestown.



### Officers

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### Converting A TV to Receive Signals from a Regular Antenna Revisited

As you know, all television signals in the U.S. will convert to digital from analog signals February 17, 2008. For those of us with 2007 and earlier coaches the Zenith Z15 LCD monitors cannot process a digital signal (I don't know about the TV's in the 2008s) from a regular antenna (Non-Satellite). There are three ways to solve the problem:

1. Buy a converter box. Good old Uncle Sam will even help you pay for it. Go to the following URL and you can get a rebate coupon: <https://www.dtv2009.gov/>

The converter most often recommended is the one made by Zenith and it is the one that I have. Almost any regular TV antenna will work. The one on my 2006 works fine.

2. Buy a new TV. All TV's manufactured after March 1 2008 must have this capability. If you are looking at specifications, the TV must have an "ATSC" tuner. However, installing a new TV in most of our coaches is not easy because the new ones are not the same size and do not fit the current opening

3. If your coach has one of the newer HD satellite receivers (i.e. the DirecTV HD20) you do not have to do anything. The box has a built in ATSC tuner and you can just hook your regular antenna into it and your TV will receive the digital signal. Many coaches have the small D11 receiver because it will fit in the small space in our coaches.

It will not convert a digital signal. Incidentally, my information about the Zenith Z15 comes directly from Zenith and the information about the D11 is from DirecTV.

## RallyTalk

### 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.

### 2007 Coach for Sale

Florence Klimeck would like to sell her 2007 Coach House and she is willing to make a CHOC member a good deal. The coach is a 261XL side dinette, with Fusion interior and silver color exterior. It is well equipped with options such as: auto leveling jacks, inverter, backup camera, awning, coffeemaker, and full body paint. It is in new condition and has not been used. If you are interested, please contact Florence at 609-893-2904.



### Rally Corner

By Vicky H. Ferrari  
CHOC Rally Coordinator

After our very successful CHOC Spring Rally in Branson, MO, it's time to turn our attention to future events. Rallies belong to all CHOC members – everyone's input is valuable and valued. There is nothing quite as exciting as loading up the coach for a few days with interesting, fun-loving and diverse people. Here's what the future holds:

#### Coach House National Rally – Williamsburg, VA: September 30 – October 3, 2008

We still have spaces available. The price of gas and economy has apparently taken a bite out of our attendance, but that may be good news to some of you who have yet to sign up. We have approximately 50 coaches registered and a full plate of activities over 4 days and nights. Not only will we visit Colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown and Jamestown, but we will experience Revolutionary War era and World War II era entertainment both at the campground and at the historic Boxwood Inn in historic Lee Hall Village. Take advantage of our group rates and access that you couldn't experience traveling on your own. If you would like to attend the rally, contact Jennifer Loukota at Coach House or Vicky Ferrari. If you have already signed up and want to extend your stay at American Heritage RV Park, call them directly at (888) 530-2267 and tell them you are with the Coach House rally.

#### CHOC Spring Rally

We have yet to confirm the specific dates or location of the CHOC Spring Rally, but look for it to be in or near Florida in April or May. Suggestions are welcome as we finalize our plans.

#### Mini-Rallies

Strong interest has been expressed in a rally in San Antonio, TX. We are also aware that many CHOC members live west of the Mississippi and most of our rallies are on our near the East Coast. Members interested in organizing a rally are invited to make contact with other members through the CHOC roster or the CHOC web page ([www.choc-talk.com](http://www.choc-talk.com)).

#### FMCA

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)

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

### NEW MEMBERS CORNER

CHOC would like to give a warm welcome to the following new members:  
ARIZONA: Chuck and Carolyn Reed  
NORTH CAROLINA: Charlie and Margaret Hedstrom  
TENNESSEE: Don and Barbara Marinos

## ClubTalk

### 29 Days in 27 Feet

By Sandie and Joel Weiss

After nearly a decade of RV ownership, we recognize that there are two distinct categories of RVers—those who drive them and those who park them. We very much fall into the first category and this summer we took our 2005 272XLFS on our most ambitious journey yet: a 29 day, 6,200 mile trek from our home in Maryland up through Glacier Park in Montana and on to the Calgary Stampede, Banff National Park in Alberta and many other memorable stops. Obviously, we couldn't share all our experiences in one article, nor do we expect that many other couples will want to package all of this in one vacation, but the trip was especially memorable and we found that we managed rather well in the limited space.

As experienced RVers we have learned to pack efficiently, although this trip was especially challenging since we needed to pack (and did actually use) clothes ranging from bathing suits to winter fleece. We credit our ability to "survive" this long a trip (and remain happily married) to a number of additions/modifications we have made to our coach to make it more livable. Probably the most beneficial item we have purchased is a hitch receiver-mounted cargo carrier that is marketed as the Rola Adventure System. Having this handy, weather-tight additional storage has made it possible to easily pack our outdoor gear (chairs, tables, etc) without having to cram everything into the storage area in the base of the slide-out.

We've also made numerous simple indoor improvements and it's amazing how little things can make a good rig even better. For example, I'm sure we've all noticed that the Ford engine cover lacks a cup holder on the passenger side. It took only a few minutes with a drill and a couple of small bolts to mount an inexpensive, fold-up cup holder on the outside of the cover near the passenger. Similarly, a small LED gooseneck reading light clipped to the edge of the engine cover gives the passenger a handy map light since the Ford lacks that also.

One thing we did last year was add a "memory foam" topper to the rather "unyielding" mattress on plywood bed. This made the bed more to our liking but the weight of the foam made it difficult to lift the mattress to access the under bed storage. Fortunately, Armando was able to come up with greater-capacity pressure struts and now the bed lifts easily.

Another worthwhile addition this year was a large armrest/cup holder that sits on the sofa so the person sitting there has a place to put a drink when reading or watching TV. We were able to purchase it in a taupe that almost exactly matches the upholstery. We secure it to the sofa with seat belts when traveling. Since we rarely bother to take out the large table since we usually eat dinner outside, the extra cup holder makes it possible to have a quick breakfast or lunch using only the sturdy wooden "tea table" we store behind the driver's seat along with the folding footstool we bought since the arm chair is a bit high off the floor for "short people" like ourselves.

Well, we've already written a lot and haven't even begun to describe our trip. I guess we'll have to leave the travelogue for another article, assuming CHOC Talk invites us back to write another one!

(Continued from page 1) newsletter. We will also discuss the location for our Spring 2009 Rally. Plan to attend the Annual business meeting and make your voice heard!

Be safe in your travels and we will share another wonderful time together in the cradle of U.S. history.

**(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.)**

### 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)  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
ALTERNATE NATIONAL  
DIRECTOR**

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

Valerie Baslice  
Committee Chairperson  
Nominating Committee