

Letter From the President

By Katie Mathews

Today is another gorgeous Fall day here in the "Piney Woods of Deep East Texas" - this has been the most beautiful Fall weather since we moved here in the Spring of 2005. And, the weather in Williamsburg was, once again, perfect for our Rally in early October.

The first **CHOC** Rally attended by my husband Max and I was in **Pigeon Forge, Tennessee**. Although it was in October, the weather was very cold and rainy, and we met in an open pavilion. In spite of that, we enjoyed meeting other **CHOC** members from around the country and the Rally was entertaining - by the end, we were hooked! On to **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania** - the weather was perfect - the planned events first-rate and it was a Rally those attending will not soon forget. **Savannah, Georgia** saw a huge attendance - we barely fit in the meeting space. The weather was fine, the Agenda was superior, and dinner at Paula Deen's was a special treat. On to **Branson, Missouri** and, once again, the events and most especially the facilities and our hosts were superb. Many of the attendees thought the apex of Rally's achieved in Branson, perhaps never to be repeated. Then came **Williamsburg, Virginia** and the upward movement of both weather and events continued - the 'draw' was all of the early history of this Nation that occurred in Yorktown, Jamestown, and Williamsburg. Dinner at the Boxwood Inn was an unexpected pleasure and added some interesting counterpoints to local history. The change from a 3 day to 4 day Rally was most welcome. Having a "free" day on Wednesday allowed enjoyment of several workshops as well as time to visit other coaches and learn from one another about various enhancements.

LB's photography and the memorabilia he sends each attendee provide us a welcome memory and most professional touch. Mike Fontana added another layer in Williamsburg with the ongoing slide show from the Rally in Branson. A very big 'Thank You' to both LB and Mike!

Traditionally, **Coach House, Inc.**
(Continued on page 3)

CHOC Talk

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You Could Say We Really Loved the Williamsburg Rally!



Our first 4 day rally was a big hit with everyone! We visited historical sites in Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown. We had plenty of time to visit with old friends and make new ones. But for most of the group, the high point of the rally was our own home-grown entertainment. Who knew we had such talented folks in our group? Victoria Ford gave us a demonstration of her trained Miniature Pinschers. She has been doing obedience and agility competition for 13 years.

We had a serenade from the Barbershop Quintet, yes, Quintet, of Tom Comstock, Don Crane, LB Blanchard, Dean Liggett, and Dick Zarfos. And we did not even had to sign along, they were wonderful.

We had the CHOC version of "What's My Line." The tricky professions of Ron Allison, Clare Glossner, Lexie Soles, Dick Stouffer, Althea Cuccio, and John Pieplow stumped most of the panel.

But last, and certainly not least, was the "Not So Newly Wed Game." Contestants Mike and Pat Dizazzo, Bob and Judy Trammell, Bill and Melody Thompson, Donna and Wayne Callahan, and Jim and Gayle Sullivan had the room rolling with laughter. The Sullivans won if you want to know!

RallyTalk

Tampa Super Show

Mark your calendars for January 9, 10, and 11 to attend the **Coach House Pre-Tampa Supershow Rally**. This Rally is sponsored by the Coach House factory and will be FREE to all participants. This Rally is for all CHOC Club members, all Coach House owners, guests of owners, and prospective Coach House owners. If you enjoy having fun, great food, meeting new friends, meaningful seminars and excellent entertainment you will want to attend this Rally. The highlight of the Rally will be the huge Hawaiian Party Pig Roast on Saturday night. Bring your Hawaiian outfit for Saturday night. We will be surrounding the Coach House Factory for this Rally. There will be no hookups for this Rally so plan to camp remote. A dump station will be available at RV World of Nokomis after the Rally. Even though the Rally is FREE you will need to RSVP to Jennifer at Coach House at 800 235-0984.

For those of you that plan to attend the Tampa Supershow, the Show will be Jan 14th-18th. Coach House will have a large display at Booth #450 on the South Midway. If you would like to attend the Florida RV Super Rally after our Rally you can do so by calling FRVTA (813) 741-0488 or by going to their website: www.frvta.org and downloading and filling out their registration form. This Rally costs \$130.00 per rig, \$10 each additional person.

If you would like to have any repairs done while you are here make sure you contact Armando and schedule a date and time. Call your friends who might like to come then call Coach House to register. We will then send you more information and directions to the factory.



CHOC Spring Rally

CHOC is pleased to announce that, by popular demand, the CHOC Spring Rally will be held at The Campground at James Island County Park in Charleston, South Carolina, from Monday, May 4th until Friday, May 8th, 2009. Details and registration materials will follow after the first of the year. Additionally, we hope to have registration materials available at the Coach House Tampa Super Show Pre-Rally in January.

Check-in for the Spring Rally will begin at 1:00 PM on May 4th. We will conclude the rally on the morning of May 8th with a pancake breakfast hosted by the campground staff. Wednesday will once again be a day set aside for our membership meeting, seminars and lots of fun, all at the campground. We are still working out the specifics of the itinerary, but we promise it will be every bit as special as our recent rallies. Suggestions are always welcome. What a great group we have!

In the meantime, check out the campground at <http://www.ccprc.com/index.asp?nid=909>

Season's Greetings

CHOC's New Officers

The Fall meeting is the time to elect about half of the CHOC officers. Jack Mowrer, Bill Ellis and Pauline Bock declined to run again and we thank them to all of there help and support to the club.

The new and current officers are shown as Jim Sullivan, Phyllis Johnson, Mike Dizazzo, Vickie Ferrari, Tom Comstock, Katie Mathews, Valerie Baselice, Shirlee Goddard-Berard. We wish them all the best in the coming year(s).



We wish you a **Merry Christmas**
and a **Happy New Year!**

ClubTalk

Trip to Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Our trip started on September 9th. We went to Rocky Mts. National Park where it was very cold at night. It was elk rutting season where the bucks bugle most of the night. We came south and visited the Air Force Academy; it was Sunday so very quiet there, no tours. The next day we had a tour of Coors Brewery and a few samples. The Zima tangerine was really good.

We continued south to the Great Sand Dunes National Park in southeast Colorado, we were there a few years ago and found we could not hike as much as on our previous visit.

The next stop was for a train ride on the narrow track Cumbre & Toltec RR. The train went through the mountains where the quaking aspens were in full color. The train crossed the Colorado New Mexico border 13 times and reached an elevation of 10378 ft. A buffet lunch was served at the top of the mountain.

Then it was on to Bandolier National Monument in NM. This is a small park near Los Alamos, was home to Indians a long time ago and they mostly lived in caves. It was National Park appreciation weekend so admission was free. Since we have Golden Age Passports we would not have had to pay. There were many Native craft people there also dance demonstrations. The campground was very quiet, on Sunday night there was only the hosts and us.

We continued south to Sante Fe and walked around the Plaza. There were many Native vendors; the jewelry was more expensive than two years ago. We visited the Loretto Chapel. This is the Chapel with the spiral staircase built without nails or screws, amazing!

At last it was on to Albuquerque. We stayed at the American RV Park where we were able to get ready to go to balloon park, we did laundry etc. this was a very nice park with swimming pool and a free breakfast. We then went to Balloon Park (this is dry camping), we had a nice site away from the big rigs nothing in front of us except a fence. We were about ½ mile from the launch sites, a free shuttle went to the park starting at 5.30 AM the shuttle also ran in the evening for the activities, it was also within walking distance. Saturday morning was the start of the fiesta, with a mass ascension of about 500-600 balloons this took 2 hours. It was a sight that has to be seen in person to really appreciate it. We were able to walk around the balloons while they are being prepared for launch.

It rained Saturday afternoon and night, the night glow and Sunday morning ascension were cancelled. Sunday night the rain had stopped the glow was held, this is when the balloons are tethered and lit up inside, spectacular! Walking among the balloon was great and quite warm. Pictures do not do it justice. Monday night the gas balloons (hydrogen & nitrogen) were prepared for launch, they were all white and took off after dark, when launched they looked like huge jellyfish. These balloons will be in the air for up to 80 hours and travel to various destinations, so we were told by the pilots who came from many different countries.

Tuesday morning many balloons came over the campground and landed between the RV's they were playing a game which was trying to pick items up from the ground. There were balloons all over the campground, amazing. We then started on our trek home; we met with our CHOC friends Freddie and Ann Lott in Augusta for lunch then continued home. We had traveled 4980 miles.



(Continued from page 1)

sponsors the Fall Rally, and there were several new **Coach House** models on display. David Gerzeny, President of Coach House, Inc., spoke about the challenges as well as the opportunities offered during these difficult economic times. David extended an invitation to all CHOC members and guests to the Coach House Pre-Tampa Supershow Rally scheduled at the Coach House factory January 9 to 11, 2009. We plan to be there and we want to check out the 2009 Platinum II model.

Every October marks the election of half of the officers of **CHOC** and we are blessed with some excellent new officers: 1st V.P. / Membership - **Jim Sullivan**; Secretary - **Phyllis Johnson**; Treasurer - **Mike Dizazzo**; FMCA National Director, **Tom Comstock**; and **Shirlee Goddard-Berard** - Alternate FMCA National Director.

Our Outgoing officers certainly earned our appreciation and thanks and they are: **Bill Ellis** – V.P. Membership; **Jack Mowrer** – Secretary-Treasurer; **Shirlee Goddard** – FMCA National Director, and **Pauline Bock** – Alternate FMCA National Director. **Jack** served for two years and the Secretary-Treasurer job was combined. He (and Anna) deserve a HUGE Thank You!

These last five CHOC Rally's just kept building in terms of surpassing all of our expectations. Vicky Ferrari, 2nd V.P. / Rally Coordinator, appears to have the 'magic touch' for planning and executing topnotch Rally's. The downside for Vicky is that she works continually to stay on



CHOC**Talk**

Coach House Owner' Club Chapter FMCA

Coach House, Inc.

3480 Technology Drive

Nokomis, FL 34275

Officers

Katie Mathews

President

936-564-1077; Cell 936-615-7119

Email – texaskatie34@aol.com

Jim Sullivan

1st Vice President - Membership

803-329.4611

jksullivan@rhrc.net

Vicky Ferrari

2nd Vice President – Rally Coordinator

703-779-0797; Cell 703-622-8287

vicky.ferrari@ps.net

Valerie Baselice

3rd Vice President – Communications

610-358-2249; Work 610-859-1529

vabaselice@sunocoinc.com

Phyllis Johnson

Secretary

Cell 850-866-8735

Paj0414@yahoo.com

Mike Dizazzo

Treasurer

203-740-2101

madizazzo@yahoo.com

Tom Comstock

National Director

254-947-8155

n5tc@embargmail.com

Shirlee Goddard-Berard

Alternate National Director

803-534-6428; Cell 803-515-4959

shirleegodda6428@aol.com

NEW MEMBERS CORNER

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

ARIZONA: Chuck and Carolyn Reed

FLORIDA: Norm and Ginger Chester, Skip and Linda Disbrow, Bill and Bonnie Tench

MASSACHUSETTS: Anne Donovan

NORTH CAROLINA: Charlie and Margaret Hedstrom

SOUTH CAROLINA: Will and Sue Byrd

TENNESEE: Don and Barbara Marin

TEXAS: Dave and Kathleen Fulenwider

Pierre and Shirlee Berard won a microwave oven at the Williamsburg Rally. They wanted you to know that they donated it to the Edisto Island Community Church, who were very happy to receive the donation.



Merry Christmas
to All and to All a
Good Night...