

CHOCTALK

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far.

We were all so sorry to hear about Pierre Berard passing. His cheerful personality will be missed by all. All who have attended rallies will always think of Pierre when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Our prayers go out to Shirlee and we hope to see her at a rally in the near future.

We have been having a very hot summer here in Florida. Most of our traveling so far has been to the Coach House Factory. We brought our coach there in early June to have a new updated TV antenna installed. While there, we met up with John and Vicky Ferrari for dinner. They had traveled to Florida from their home base of Virginia after the Asheville rally to have some work done on their coach and to visit with John's mother. If anyone wonders about the benefits of CHOC beyond the rallies and occasional newsletter, consider the friends we make who we would not otherwise have met. We are truly enriched by our many friendships through CHOC.

It's a good thing that we enjoy Jennifer, Armando, Steve and our other friends at the factory, because after we picked up our coach a week later, a blow-out 50 miles down the road caused us to have to return to the factory to leave our coach for additional work caused by the blow-out. I am pleased to report that Good Sam came to the rescue on the side of the road to get us back on our way back to the factory. While waiting on the freeway we had a chance to check out our new antenna, and it worked great. We learned an important lesson about tires. Appearance isn't what matters. Even if your tires look good they may be ready to blow due to their age.

As you are reading this, Vicky Ferrari and Chuck Johnson and spouses are on their way to Redmond, Oregon to attend the Governing Board Meeting of FMCA in mid-August. We will look forward to hearing all of the information they learned at our next rally.

Terry and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Rally at Sun-n-Fun in Sarasota October 4-8. See you then!

RALLY TALK

FALL 2010 RALLY

CHOC is pleased to announce that CHOC's Fall rally will be held October 4-8, 2010 in Sarasota, FL at the Sun-N-Fun RV Park. Join us for 4 nights of camping and camaraderie in beautiful South Florida. Rally registration materials and more information will be sent out soon. The initial distribution will be by email to those with email and, as always, we ask that you respond to the email and advise whether or not you will attend, allowing us to save on unnecessary postage expenses. For those without email or who have not responded to the initial email blast, hard copies of the registration materials will be sent by USPS. Registration materials will only be sent to current CHOC members. If you are not a CHOC member and would like to receive rally registration materials, please email or call Vicky Ferrari, CHOC Rally Coordinator, at (703) 622-8287 (cell) or (703) 779-0797 (home), or at vicky_ferrari@dell.com.



Ringling Museum



Sea Life Encounter Cruise



Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium



Florida Flamingos

AS THE PLATINUM ROLLS

Substantial changes coming in 2011 Platinum's - To be revealed during Fall Rally

Factory Direct Sales

Pre-Tampa Show Rally at the Factory January 7-9, 2011

Website updated frequently

Pierre Berard

Pierre Berard, long time CHOC member and enthusiastic supporter of the Club died Friday, June 11, 2010. Our love and sympathy go to his wife Shirlee and the family.

Pierre was born in New Jersey, a son of the late Pierre and Frances Martin Berard. He served our country with distinction in World War II as a Air Force pilot.

We will miss his involvement with humor at all of the CHOC rallies.



COACH OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

BATTERY BASICS

The charging system in our modern Coach House motorhomes is state-of-the-art and keeps the batteries properly charged and in good operating condition. However, sometimes, such as when we are boon-docking, there is no shore power available, and the charging system is not available to do its job. The following information describes some of the capacities of a RV battery under these conditions.

A 12-volt battery is not really a 12-volt battery. Twelve volts is just a nominal, convenient term used to distinguish one battery from another. A fully-charged 12-volt battery, allowed to "rest" for a few hours (or days) with no load being drawn from it or charge going to it, will balance out its charge and measure about 12.6 volts between terminals.

When a battery reads only 12 volts under the above conditions, it's almost fully depleted. Actually, if a battery's resting voltage... after charging... is only 12.0 to 12.1 it means only 20 to 25% of its useful energy remains and it probably needs to be replaced.

12-volt batteries supply useful energy only through a limited range -- from over 14 volts (when fully charged and un-rested) down to 10.5 volts in use/under load (when lights dim, pumps groan and TV pictures get small).

No 12-volt battery will remain at over 14 volts for more than seconds unless it's being charged. The lowest limit is 10.5 volts but this is too low and unsatisfactory in practical use.

Experienced RVers try to use no more than 20% to 50% of the energy available in a battery before recharging. That means they never let resting voltage get below 12.5. They never use more than 50% before recharging (resting volts of 12.3) except in an emergency. They know that, if resting voltage ever reaches 12.1, they have deep-discharged one cycle and that a battery is good for only so many cycles (from as low as 20 in an automotive battery to 180 in a golf cart battery, with the typical RV/marine battery good for no more than 30).

Coach House Owner' Club Chapter FMCA
Coach House, Inc.
3480 Technology Drive
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NEW MEMBERS CORNER

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

FLORIDA

*Dale and Betty Betz
Sylvio and Louise Bousquin
Roger and Marlene Haviland
Walt, "Bud" and Katheryne Ronalds
Barb Wood*

GEORGIA

Allen and Blanche King

NORTH CAROLINA

Charles and Maxine McDonald

OREGON

Tim and Sharon Latta

TENNESSEE

Ron and Lois Evans