

CHOCTALK

Volume 48

www.coachhouserv.com

December 2011

CLUB OFFICERS

President

Carole Berry
Cell 904-291-8084
Email – cberry43@yahoo.com

1st Vice President Membership

Jim Sullivan
Cell 803-329-4611
Email jksullivan@comporium.com

2nd Vice President Secretary / Rally Coordinator

Phyllis Johnson
Cell 850-866-8735
Email Paj0414@yahoo.com

3rd Vice President Communications

Phil Millonzi
Cell 843-446-5648
Email-kar154@aol.com

Treasurer

Mike Dizazzo
Cell 203-740-2101
Email madizazzo@yahoo.com

FMCA National Director

Charles Johnson
Cell 850-866-3417
Email cmj3417@yahoo.com

Alt. National Director

Joe Lowman
Cell 276-676-3874
Email lowman724@gmail.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Another great rally has come and gone. We had about 36 coaches arrive in beautiful Stone Mountain. The weather was very cooperative most of the time. The only rainy day was the evening of the potluck, unfortunately many of our members got caught in it on their way to the pavilion. As usual we had more than enough delicious food and ate more than we should have, but its always hard to pass up.

We got to ride "The Duck" again. It was a lovely on the lake. The water was calm and the scenery was beautiful.

Since this was Vicky Ferrari's last planned rally we had a "CHOC" bracelet to present to her for all her hard and dedicated work but unfortunately personal matters kept her from attending. We all missed her and wanted to thank her personally for everything she has done. Because she had all ready planned the rally out so carefully, our secretary Phyllis Johnson was able to step in Vicky's shoes and take over all the details. She did a great job of keeping us on schedule and organizing all the events. We want to thank Vicky for all the fantastic past rallies she had planned for us but now she has taken on the responsibility of being the new national secretary for FMCA. All of our best to you Vicky.

Some of the highlights of the trip were seeing the CNN studio. We got to see some of the "behind the scene" aspects of their programming. Then it was off the Atlanta Aquarium where we saw all kinds of exquisite sea life there.

We had a lot of down time which allowed us to stay and relax at the campsite, explore Stone Mountain, shop, eat, or whatever. In the evening we all went to see the laser show that is projected onto the face of the mountain. It was a beautiful show. Unfortunately at the end of the show, Vera Burk, mother and guest of Marilyn Matasick became ill and passed away shortly after. Immediately, Phyllis put on her invisible nurses hat and took over and stayed with Marilyn the whole time. We were all saddened by this news but I think Marilyn comforted us more than we comforted her. Vera was a beautiful woman who really enjoyed coming to our rallies. she walked all over and always had a smile on her face. Did I mention that she was 97 years old? (continued onto page 2)

(continued from page 1) We had a special treat on Sunday evening. Melody Nephew made her musical debut with us as her audience. She sang and played her guitar. Little did we know we had such talent among us. She played and sang all evening and it was enjoyed by all.

We also had election of officers this year. President and National Director remain the same (thank you for your votes). Phil Millonzi was kind enough to take over the position of 3rd Vice President/ Communications. Thank you Tom Comstock for all your work on the newsletter and website and welcome Phil. Phyllis Johnson was elected to be 2nd VP/Rally Coordinator for a 12 month period to replace Vicky. She also remains our Secretary. I want to take this opportunity to urge everyone to volunteer as much as possible. There are so many things that need to be done from serving food to running for office. We can't remain a club if we don't have people running it. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered at Stone Mountain.

Our thanks go to Steve Gerzeny, Rita Beauregard, Jennifer Loukota and Armando Gaona who took time off from the factory to be with us. Thank you Armando for fixing our coaches. We always look forward to seeing you. We really appreciate how much you do for us.

I want to offer a special thank you to Phyllis to taking on the responsibility of the rally at the last minute. You did a fantastic job!

Happy Holidays and safe travels to everyone. See you at the factory rally in January of 2012.

NEW MEMBERS CORNER

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

FLORIDA

John and Sandy Grouten

Allen McGlone and Marge Knight

Paul and Dot Emmick

NORTH CAROLINA

Dick and Chris Cooper

WISCONSON

Stan and Sandy Johnson



CHOC RALLY NEWS.....

A big THANK YOU goes out to Vicky Ferrari for all of the wonderful rallies she coordinated over the last several years. The rally format she developed has been enjoyed by all, and I value the assistance she continues to provide. I appreciate the confidence you all expressed in me by electing me to fill those very big shoes. I am thankful so many of you stepped forward and offered to help organize and facilitate at the rallies. You will be called on to help.

To date I have received 34 completed rally questionnaires. If you have not returned your survey, I encourage you to do so. Let me know if you need another copy of the questionnaire by emailing me at paj0414@yahoo.com or calling me at 850-866-8735. These surveys will be used to plan the future rallies, and your input is very valuable.

Planning is underway for our Spring and Fall rallies for both 2012 and 2013. I am hoping to publish rally sites in advance so you can plan your travels. Dates may vary slightly, but the Spring rallies will be held in early May and the Fall rallies in early October. Specific dates will be dependent on the availability of campgrounds, activities, etc.

At this point in time, I am tentatively planning the following:

Spring 2012	Hershey / Lancaster, PA
Fall 2012	Hiawassee, GA
Spring 2013	Natchez, MS
Fall 2013	Mystic, CT

Hope you all can join us for the fun and camaraderie. See you at the next rally!!!!

Phyllis Johnson

FROM YOUR FMCA NATIONAL DIRECTOR....

At the September rally in Stone Mountain, GA., I reported the results of the election of National FMCA officers. It gives me much pride and pleasure to announce that our own Vicky Ferrari has been elected as the National Secretary of FMCA. I know you all join with me in congratulating her on this accomplishment.

The newly elected National FMCA officers are:

President	Charlie Schrenkel
Vice President	Allen Rein
Treasurer	Wil Young
Secretary	Vicky Ferrari

Next year's National Convention will be held in late August in Indianapolis, IN. Everyone should consider attending and taking in this wonderful experience.

Chuck Johnson

Holiday Thoughts

George & Diane Abosamra

Greetings from Venice, Florida, where it's beginning to look like Christmas at the end of October. No kidding!



Just check out Home Depot, Lowes, CVS, Walgreen and Walmart for starters. A friend reminded me that a few outlets in our area began displaying their Christmas wares on the Fourth of July (quite a stretch I think). All of this smacks of hyper-commercialism for the sake of capitalizing the market while we recuperate from our summer camping trips, the Fourth of July celebrations and the indigestion of too much Halloween candy.

I suppose the business world is convinced this tactic works because mass advertisements in anticipation of the holidays is getting earlier. It use to be that some of us would seek out the Christmas Tree Shops throughout New England, or stores specializing in holiday supplies in just about every major city across the land. I wonder why the big box stores just don't maintain Christmas aisles year round, like they do for electrical or plumbing supplies.

During October we received our coveted L.L. Bean winter catalogue, just loaded with ideas on how to buy that very special (and expensive) gift for family and friends. This was followed in early November by delivery of our all-time favorite Down East magazine, chuck full of advertisements and nostalgic photography and stories of holidays in the beautiful state of Maine. Like you, we feel saturated by the commercialism of what supposed to be a time for the gathering of families and friends, the sharing of stories and memories, laughter and tears, renewed relations and bright hopes for the future. Like you, we will return to the ancient texts of our faith, the synagogue, church and house of worship where our spiritual roots are nourished. By doing so, we will be blessed and fed beyond measure as we contemplate what really matters to us most.

This brings me right to the place I want to be. Diane and I have come to believe that all of you are part of our extended family. We enjoy being with you and miss you when you are unable to come to the CHOC Factory Rally or the Spring or Fall gatherings. It's been our joy to get to know you, drop in on you as we travel, run into a Coach House family along the way, So, know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as we approach the high holy days of Christmas and Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and every season of the year.

Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition

Sue Coulson



As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down the Benjamins on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre.

Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of light, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. THIS is the new American Christmas tradition.

CHOC 2012 Dues Reminder

Your CHOC dues are annual, on a calendar year basis. That is, from January 1st through December 31st.

Yes, it's early, but I need your help. I'm asking everyone to mail their dues by December 10th. That will allow time for the slower holiday mail. I'll be traveling from December 26th until mid January, Then I'll be in Tampa till the end of March.

I have my mail held, then forwarded to me once I'm in Tampa, but over the last two years some members had to deal with checks that got lost in the mail. I tried priority forwarding last year, but a few checks were still lost. My experience is that the forwarding process seems to increase the chances of this. Plus, your checks are mailed back to Connecticut to deposit in my bank.

Avoid possible lost checks, and the long deposit delays forwarding causes. Please send your dues of \$25 **per coach** to me at my home address. Make your checks payable to CHOC.

Mail your checks to:

Mike DiZazzo
14 Cawdor Burn Rd.
Brookfield, CT 06804

The club is working on our 2012 rallies and we hope to see all of you there. The date and location of our Spring rally will be announced soon. We will be offering a \$60 discount per rally for club members.

Just think, if you attend both 2012 rallies, you'll save \$120 as a member. That's a 380% tax free return on your \$25 membership! Sure beats your bank's CD rate.

Have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and get your CHOC dues check in the mail.

Thanks,
Mike DiZazzo, Treasurer

Stone Mountain Rally Cash Flow Report

Mike Dizazzo Treasurer

Cash Flow In

Rally Attendance Fees (see note 1)	20,128.00
Coach House Paid for 4 people at 2 dinners	283.80
Badge fines @\$1 ea.	3.00

Total Cash In	20,414.80
---------------	-----------

Cash Flow Out

Dining (includes the optional seafood buffet)	6,761.44
Entertainment	7,622.71
Food, Beverages & Related Supplies	290.93
Give-a-way Items (see note 2)	1,108.07
Transportation	481.50
Campground site rental fees	4,148.00
Misc Supplies & Other Expenses	164.91

Total Cash Out	20,576.06
----------------	-----------

Overall Total (see note 3)	-161.26
----------------------------	---------

Note 1: Includes basic rally fee plus payments for the optional Seafood buffet.

Note 2: Tee shirts, raffle prizes and rally badges

Note 3: The deficit of \$161.26 was paid out as a spend down on the checking account.

CHOCTalk

*Coach House Owner' Club Chapter FMCA
Coach House, Inc.
3480 Technology Drive
Nokomis, FL 34275*

