

CHOCTALK

Volume 53

www.coachhousesrv.com

AUGUST 2013

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings everyone. I hope you are all enjoying your summer so far. It seems like so many of you are doing long term traveling right now. Many are on their way to Alaska, the west coast and the northwest. I also hope your travels are free from mechanical worries and weather related problems. Terry and I are in California right now and we have encountered both weather and mechanical problems. Fortunately most of the problems are now taken care of.

After spending a couple of extra days in Natchez after the rally we headed to Calif. for our granddaughter's high school graduation. We made several stops along the way. We just missed the tornado in Dallas visiting a friend there. We had record breaking temperatures in Big Bend National Park where it was 106 degrees. Everywhere we went we encountered record highs or lows for those days. When we finally arrived in Auburn, CA for the graduation it was 105 degrees. The ceremony was at 9:00 am the next morning. By 9:15 people were starting to pass out from the heat and by 9:30 the graduation was cancelled due to the extreme heat. About 15 people passed out and 7 had to be taken to hospitals. So we traveled 2500 miles to not see Sarah get her diploma. What a disappointment for all those kids. After a few days we moved about 2 hours south to see my daughter and family where I am now sitting outside writing this letter. The weather is finally perfect. We will soon head north to Cody, WY and to Yellowstone. In about 4 1/2 weeks we will be home and everything will just be a memory, but a very nice memory.

The rally in Natchez was a blast. We had brunch in the most beautiful and elegant Lansdowne home. We saw plantations, a city tour, an ongoing cotton farm and plantation, civil war tour and a delta music tour. We had another parade of homes and played indoor and outdoor games. The weather cooperated most of the time. The best thing though was that we found out just how true our friendships with everyone was. Over the years we have become not just friends, but family. I personally thank everyone for being the wonderful people that they are.

Safe travels to everyone. I look forward to seeing you in Mystic,

Carole Berry

FMCA News

Phyllis and I attended the 88th Family Reunion and 50th Anniversary Celebration for FMCA in Gillette, WY during the week of June 16th -23rd. I'm writing this article on Wednesday evening after the Governing Board meeting. On Friday, I will attend the International Area meeting and Saturday the General Membership meeting when the new National Officers will become official. I want to provide some of the facts and figures that were presented to us and the budget that was approved by the Governing Board for 2014.

Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) membership stands at 79,303 as of April 30, 2013. Membership in 2006 was approximately 130,000.

Commercial Membership - 1734

Family Coach Registrations for Gillette – 2276, as of Wednesday

2014 Budget as voted on and approved today...

Income - \$7,799,878

Expense- \$7,757,851

Anticipated budget surplus of \$42,027.

Current value of investments - \$7,988,439. These investments were recently transferred from the Bank of America to the Windsor Fund firm.

The Governing Board consists of the Executive Board and National or Alternate Directors. Total membership is 449. 327 members were present for today's meeting and election. The new National Officers assuming their positions on Saturday for two year terms are as follows:

President	- Charlie Adcock
Sr. Vice President	- John Walker
Treasurer	- Percy Bell
Secretary	- Vicky Ferrari

The 2014 winter 89th Family Reunion will be in Perry, GA March 17-20.

The 2014 summer 90th Family Reunion will be in Redmond, OR August 13-16.

The 2014 International Area Rally (our area) will be in Lebanon, TN May 2-6.

The Southeast Area Rally will be in Brooksville, FL January 30-February 2.

I encourage everyone to attend any or all of these gatherings.

Chuck Johnson

CHOC – National Director

Treasurer's Report

As of the deadline for my newsletter input, Carole and I are still on the road following the Natchez rally; however, I do have all the rally receipts with me so I can provide the rally cash flow report. A full treasurer's report will be available at the fall rally. Carole and I look forward to seeing all of you at Mystic in September.

-Terry Berry

Natchez, MS Rally Cash Flow

Income

Attendance Fees (net after refunds)	12,294.00
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Badge Fines	3.00
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Total Rally Income:	\$ 12,297.00
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Expenses

Campground	3,432.00
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Catering	1,771.00
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Pizza Party	136.64
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Fruit, Snacks, Beverages & Related Supplies	400.47
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Tour Agency (Tours, Tour Guide, Transportation)	6,670.00
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Games (Bean Bag Toss & Ladder Toss)	139.05
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Parade of Homes Prizes	100.00
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Total Rally Costs	\$ 12,649.16
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OVERALL TOTAL (deficit - covered by treasury)	(\$ 352.16)
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Note: The 50/50 raffle netted \$120.00 for charity.

What to Do Before and After the Mystic Rally

Late September and October is a wonderful time to be in New England. The fall colors are in full bloom. All through New England the trees are decorated in brilliant shades of red, gold, and orange. Take some time before or after the Mystic rally to explore this beautiful and fascinating region of our country.

In the rally information that Rally Coordinator Phyllis Johnson sent to everyone there was an invitation from CHOC members Ed and Ann Shea. The Sheas have invited all rally attendees to camp at their RV park, Greenwood Lodge and Campsites, in Woodford, VT at a discounted rate. Within a few miles of Woodford, there are many fun and interesting attractions. If you're a fan of the catalog, don't miss the Vermont Country Store in Weston, VT. Other fun Vermont attractions include the Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory tour and the Shelburne Museum.

The White Mountains of New Hampshire are gorgeous in the fall. You can drive up Mt . Washington in your tow car (Don't take your Platinum up there!) or you can take a ride to the top on the historic Cog Railroad. The shopping in nearby North Conway is legendary...and there's no sales tax!

Are you interested in the history of the American Revolution? Boston is a great place to visit...just don't take your coach into the city! There's a really nice campground about 30 miles outside of the city called Boston Minute Man Campground in Littleton, MA. If you tow a car, you can drive a short distance to the Boston subway station and take the train into the city. From there you can use one of the trolley services to get around to all the sights. And if you don't tow, there are Boston tour companies that will pick you up right at the campground.

Boston Minute Man is just down the road from the battlefields of Lexington and Concord, site of the "shot heard round the world" where the revolutionary war began. And there's plenty more history in Boston itself. From the Bunker Hill site and museum, to the North Church of "one if by land, two if by sea" fame, to Paul Revere's home, there's plenty to see and do. The homes of President John Adams and his son, President John Quincy Adams have been beautifully preserved and restored in the town of Quincy, MA, a suburb of Boston. And don't miss the wonderful John F. Kennedy presidential library. Rick and I have visited quite a few of the presidential libraries, but we found this one to be the most interesting and moving of all of them.

And if you want to continue a few more miles up the road, Maine is beautiful this time of year and most of the crowds are gone. Consider a visit to the coast of Maine where you can eat lobster every night, visit the beautiful Acadia National Park, go whale watching, and shop at the flagship LL Bean store. If you'll be bringing the "fur kids," we found Acadia to be the most "dog-friendly" of all the national parks that we have visited. And the nearby town of Bar Harbor welcomes dogs almost everywhere, including the patios of many restaurants. Try Narrows II, an Encore resort, in Trenton, ME, just outside of Bar Harbor. If you're Passport America members, you can stay for half price on weekdays.

I'm sure our members have plenty of other ideas for things to see and do in New England. If you want to share, please post your suggestions on our CHOC Facebook page. See you all in Mystic!

Secretary,

Sally Grissom

Why Dry Camp?

There are beautiful areas available in the USA and Canada that are only to enjoy when one enters them. The wilderness, wild animals, great fishing and spectacular views and hiking are there for your enjoyment. Equipment needed: Your capable CH RV filled to the brim with a handy shovel, axes, fire starting equipment, kettle for tea / coffee and some type of portable stove for outside cooking, small table and a couple of chairs and a bucket to refill your water supply. And of course some insect repellent. Consider a tow vehicle that can be used on back country roads. It takes research and the love of the outdoors to enjoy dry-camping, many books and DVD's are available to get you started. The many rewards of dry camping are too many to list.

-Ron Allison



6th Annual Coach House Factory Rally

Coach House owners, it is time to mark your calendars for the sixth annual Coach House Factory Rally, Jan. 10-12, 2014.

The Factory Rally gets bigger and better every year. We have limited space and this event sells out quickly. Last year, 74 coaches and 150 people attended.

For those who have not attended before, here is what to expect:

On Friday afternoon, Jan. 10, a steady stream of motorhomes will arrive at the Coach House factory in Nokomis, Fla., and be guided into their assigned spots. While people are getting settled, Coach House technicians will fan out to begin handling service requests (made with registration).

After everyone has a chance to settle in, we will gather for a wine-and-cheese reception in the lobby, followed by dinner on the factory floor, where tables and a stage will be set up for the duration of the rally.

Breakfast will be served Saturday morning, followed by a full day of plant tours, informational seminars, a display of the 2014 Coach House motorhomes — or sightseeing in the Sarasota-Venice area, if you desire.

The highlight of the rally will come Saturday night, with dinner and a fun filled evening of entertainment for all.

Breakfast will be provided Sunday morning, and a good time to say goodbye to your new and old friends before going your separate ways.

One of the fun aspects of the Rally is that it exposes the campers to “dry camping” (i.e., no hookups). If you have never done this before, don't worry. Coach House employees (and fellow campers) will be available to help you operate your generator (and provide moral support) if needed.

If you want to get in on the fun, mark your calendars now for the sixth annual Factory Rally and look for registration materials in the mail.

CHOC Officer Election

Ladies and Gentlemen CHOC members,

During our Mystic, CT Fall Rally on Sept 30 – October 4, 2013 officer elections will take place. In order for our club to continue, we need energetic dedicated members to step up and assume leadership roles for the club. Please consider running for election for one of these positions.

Four positions will be open. Several of our current officers cannot run for re-election because of term limits. Those officers are President Carole Berry and National Director Chuck Johnson.

The following positions will be open. A brief description of each position is given here. A full description is available from the chapter secretary upon the request of any interested candidate.

A. President

The President is the leader of the chapter. He or she presides at board and members meetings and oversees the execution of day to day club business.

B. Third Vice President / Communications

The Communications Vice President edits the newsletter, administers the CHOC Facebook page, and writes the bi-weekly emails.

C. FMCA National Director

The FMCA National Director is responsible for attending the annual FMCA governing board meeting to represent our chapter on the FMCA governing board. Fuel costs to attend the meeting are reimbursed by the club. He or she keeps the membership informed about issues pertaining to the national organization and keeps FMCA informed about issues pertaining to our chapter. He or she will participate and vote during governing board meetings.

D. 2nd Vice President/Rally Coordinator

The rally coordinator is responsible for planning and executing our bi-annual rallies with help from volunteers and other board members.

All positions are 2 year terms. There is one vote per coach, and you must be present to vote. No proxies will be accepted. The candidates need not be present at the rally.

Any members who are interested in running for these positions should contact any member of the nominating committee whose contact information follows below.

Nominating Committee members: Sally Grissom, (scgrissom@yahoo.com 410-274-0423), Melody Thompson (thetees@ameritech.net (630-357-1614), and Cheryl Zakorchevnoy (czhz1@roadrunner.com 315-392-6538)

Coach House Owner' Club Chapter FMCA
Coach House, Inc.
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Welcome New Members

The President and Board of Directors would like to welcome the new members who have recently joined the Coach House Owner's Club: Shirley Alvin and Laurie Colman from Duluth, GA, George and Pat Anderson from Chandler, AZ, Wayne and Susan Bachenberg from Pittstown, NJ, Ron and Chris Forney from Bradenton, FL, Anthony Gula and Susan Fair from Vale, NC, Ann McKay and Pete Wiley from Minnetrista, MN, Bill and Ruth Ristow from Elgin, IL, Donald and Leslie Titzel from Venice, FL, and Ed and Judith Valley from Van Buren, AR.

