

CHOCTALK

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Summer Greetings from Illinois

I find it hard to believe we are well into summer already. The year is going by so quickly and it seems impossible that only a few months ago we were not sure summer would ever arrive (at least here in Illinois).

It also seems impossible that our spring rally is a few months passed. What a wonderful time we had in Nashville. As always, it is so much fun to catch up with everyone and to meet newcomers. Phyllis planned a wonderful rally as usual and we went to some very interesting and varied places. We had a chance to visit a couple of historical sites as well as see the roots of country music and a live Grand Ole Opry performance. The weather wasn't perfect but it didn't stop us from doing all the planned activities and having a lot of fun in spite of a little flooding, threat of tornadoes, and a lot of rain. After the CHOC rally a group of 10 coaches went on to the INTO Rally. It was just 18 miles down the road and we were able to camp as a group. We had a great time, learned new things, and spent a little money (on things that were pertinent to our coaches, of course). Once again, the best part was spending a little more time getting to know people better. Our own Chuck and Phyllis Johnson are both running for the position of Vice-President of the INTO area of FMCA. Go Phyllis and Chuck!

I want to remind you that we have a CHOC only group on Facebook. We encourage you to sign up if you haven't already done so. All you have to do to get started if you are unfamiliar with Facebook is to contact Phil Millonzi and he will help you get set up. The CHOC group is private and others are not allowed to access it. From the CHOC group we can share information about our coaches, ask for advice, find out where people are traveling and discuss anything else that may be of interest. This is our primary means of communication.

We are now looking forward to our fall rally in St Augustine. You should have received your registration information a while ago and I hope you have perused it thoroughly and signed up. It certainly sounds interesting and Bill and I are really looking forward to being there. Yes, we have sent in our reservation and are just waiting for all the rest of you! I am hoping that this turns out to be one of our largest rallies to date. Have a delightful summer and always safe travels.

See you in St Augustine in October!

Melody

A Memo from the Secretary

When Rick and I sold our house in Maryland and moved to Florida, we swore that we would never move again. Moving is so very stressful. But here we are, five years later, doing it again. We moved about 25 miles southwest of our previous home on Merritt Island to the town of Viera, FL. Our new house is in a "55 plus community" called The Indian River Colony Club and, so far, we love it! Our community has a lot for its residents' RV's and boats, so our rig is kept just down the road. But, at the moment, it's parked in our driveway where we have been loading it in anticipation of our departure tomorrow for Maryland, New Hampshire, and Maine.

With help from Treasurer Terry Berry and Membership Officer Karon Millonzi, I have been hard at work trying to update the roster with member's new information. It would be very helpful if everyone could try to keep me up to date on any changes to their address, email, and phone numbers. I try to update the roster as soon as I get new information from the members. Please keep in mind, though, that our CHOC Talk newsletter is published and mailed by Coach House, and while I try to keep their copies of the roster up to date, sometimes they are using a slightly older version of the roster. So please be patient with us if you have sent us your new information but your newsletter gets sent to your old address.

We have four officer positions up for election at the St Augustine rally this fall: 1st Vice President/Membership, Treasurer, Secretary, and Alternate FMCA National Director. All four of the current officers have indicated that, for personal reasons, they will not be running for reelection. In order for our club to move forward, we need energetic, enthusiastic members to step up and volunteer to serve. Serving on the board is a great way to get to know your fellow members and to help shape the direction of our club.

At the Nashville rally in April a nominating committee was elected. If you are interested in running for office, please email any of the following members of the nominating committee: Any interested members should contact, BY E-MAIL ONLY, any of the committee members: Bill Thompson (Chairperson) - thetees@ameritech.net, Karon Millonzi- kem4now@aol.com, George Abosamra- gdabo@verizon.net, Gayle Sullivan- jksullivan@rhtc.net, Karin Reilly- cbreillyjr@yahoo.com, and Cheryl Zakorchevnoy- czhz1@roadrunner

All Officers

All officers commit to attending the rallies and the board meetings and membership meetings which are held at each rally. It is understood that for family or health reasons an officer may be unable to attend one of the rallies, but this should be an exceptional circumstance. Additionally, all officers write a short article for our quarterly newsletter.

1st Vice President/Membership

The membership officer tries to recruit new members where possible. S/He contacts each new member to welcome them to the club and to answer any questions they may have about club activities. When a member has failed to pay their dues, the membership officer will follow up to remind them.

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Treasurer

The treasurer handles the club's bank account and collects and disburses the club's funds. When a member's dues remain unpaid, s/he will send a reminder to that member either by snail mail or email. S/He is also responsible for completing a short and uncomplicated tax return for the club each year.

Secretary

The secretary maintains the club's records and keeps the roster up to date. S/He files the necessary paperwork for recertifying the club as a chapter of FMCA each year. S/He also takes the minutes at the membership and board meetings, types them up, and makes copies available at the next meeting.

Alternate FMCA National Director

The Alternate FMCA Director's duties are to serve as an alternate for the National Director. If the National Director is unable to attend the annual FMCA rally, (this year in Redmond, OR), the alternate attends in his place. S/He attends the FMCA board meeting at that rally and represents our club's interests. S/He reports back to the club about any FMCA business which we need to know.

Welcome New Members: The President and Board of Directors welcome our newest members: Don and Sherry Burrell from OH, John and Bette Samuli from CA, James and Carol Jaeger from MI, Jim and Chris Williams of FL, Richard and Winnie Moravec from FL, John and Ellen Brecheen of FL, Karl and Anita Rietter from FL, Dan and Pat West of GA, Tom and Sue Schleis, Gene Anderson and Maggie Berkheimer, Michael and Janet Huff of FL, Ken and Mary Ellen MacLeod from UT, Warren and Joan Hinchman from FL, Joseph and Linda Cook from NY, Jane Parody from SD. Thank you all very much for being with us. We invite every one to attend our rallies, participate in activities and meet our members.

Karon Millonzi
Membership Officer

A special note and a very special "Thank you" to Nancy Trunzo who stepped up to the plate and single handedly organized, formed and coordinated the Fall Rally to St. Augustine. I am very impressed with her talents to orchestrate such a rally. In my absence Nancy eagerly jumped in to this commitment without hesitation. Nancy, you done it gal and Thank you very much!

Phyllis Johnson
Rally Coordinator

Treasurer's Report

This time, instead of a financial report, our VP for Communications and newsletter editor, Phil Millonzi, asked me to write something about the places and points of interest CHOC has visited during our rallies. His idea was to encourage our new members, and not-so-new members who have never attended a CHOC rally, to join us. Also, we want to keep our long time members interested in continuing to attend club rallies by reminding them of the great times we have had. I know many of you have attended the factory rally but have never attended a club rally. Plan to attend one. If you do, we think you will like it.

Carole and I have been CHOC members for more than nine years - since the spring of 2005, while our coach was still being built and before we took delivery. During that time we have missed only one club rally - Lake George, NY, in the spring of 2006. We had to cancel at the last minute because I hurt my back and couldn't drive. The other locations where the club has held rallies during that time are: Sarasota, FL (twice); Pigeon Forge, TN; Gettysburg, PA; Savannah, GA; Branson, MO (twice); Williamsburg, VA; Charleston, SC; San Antonio, TX; Ashville, NC; Stone Mountain, GA; Hershey, PA; Hiawassee, GA; Natchez, MS; Mystic, CT; and, most recently, Nashville, TN.

We have had guided tours of all of the cities where we stayed and toured the local points of interest (plantations, battlefields, chocolate factory, aquarium, botanical gardens, quaint shopping areas, etc.). We have attended dinner theaters, had lunch and a show on a river boat, hors d'oeuvres on a sail boat, been to the Grand Ole Opry, and taken a boat tour along the San Antonio River Walk. We have toured the only tea plantation in the country and visited a working cotton plantation that dates back to civil war days. We have dined on everything from hot dogs to lobster.

We always have a pot luck dinner on the first evening of a rally. Most of our evening meals are catered, normally preceded by a social hour. Most breakfasts are also catered or continental. If we are at the campground, lunch is usually on your own. Often an afternoon is set aside for outdoor fun and games and visiting other coaches. Because the compact dimensions of Coach House motorhomes encourage innovative solutions to storage and decorating, we have held a "Parade of Homes" which allowed members to see how other owners personalized their coaches. A panel of judges awarded prizes for different categories. One of our members, who is probably second only to Armando in his knowledge of Coach Houses, especially the Ford chassis, has held tech sessions and answered many members questions.

Most of all, we have had great times and made lasting friendships. We typically have 25 to 35 coaches at our rallies. Unfortunately, it seems that it is always the same members who attend. I say unfortunately because that means that about two thirds of our club members are not attending the rallies. Those of us who regularly attend CHOC rallies have got to know each other and have forged lasting bonds; however, we would really like to get to know the rest of you. Find out what you have been missing - plan to attend a rally during the next year.

Terry Berry

CHOC Treasurer

We are very proud here at Coach House in announcing our 30th anniversary along with our debut of the Arriva this year:



It all began in a small warehouse in Venice, Fla., in 1985, with an entrepreneur, his sons, and a small but dedicated group of craftsmen. They had a simple idea: Build the best small motorhomes in the RV industry and back them with outstanding customer support. Their innovative designs, exceptional materials, and attention to detail made Coach House into one of the most recognized, highest-rated motorhome manufacturers in North America.

Through the years Coach House has evolved and now offers motorhomes in many different layouts and sizes ranging from 23 to 27 feet long. The Platinum (Ford) and Platinum II (Mercedes) lines feature an exclusive one-piece hand-laid fiberglass body that is reinforced with carbon fiber.

Coach House kicked off its 30th year by introducing the Arriva, an all-new Class B Sprinter motorhome. Built to the same high standards as the Platinum line, the Arriva will keep Coach House at the forefront of the small motorhome market for some time to come.

All vehicles manufactured during the anniversary observation will bear a custom-manufactured metallic shield with the "Coach House 30 Years" logo. Special 30th Anniversary letterhead has also been introduced in the corporate office and the 30th Anniversary logo will appear in all Coach House marketing through 2015.

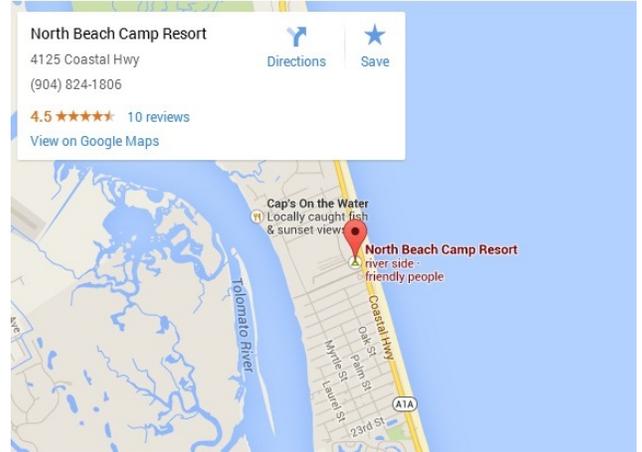
CHOC St Augustine Rally

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Monday, October 27th to Friday, October 31st

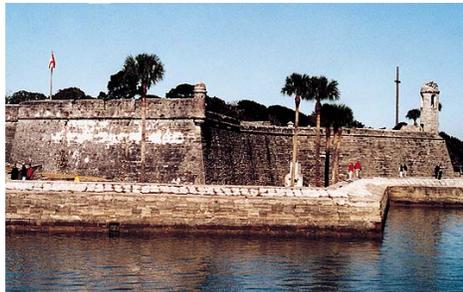
St. Augustine Rally goes back to the days of Ponce de Leon in 1513, and in planning this Rally, I found that the city has certainly grown. The places to go and things to do are numerous. We tried to balance planned tours and stops with free time so everyone can pick and choose according to their interests.

The North Beach Camp Resort is where we will be staying and it is on a strip of land with a river on the west side and the Atlantic Ocean across the street. The campground includes a fishing pier, so be sure to bring your poles if you would like to try your luck. The individual sites are filled with trees and shrubs and they have a large meeting room, but no kitchen facilities.



Your rally fee includes:

A Scenic Cruise of historic and natural landmarks of the area-



Flagler College– built by Henry Flagler and filled with Tiffany stained glass windows.



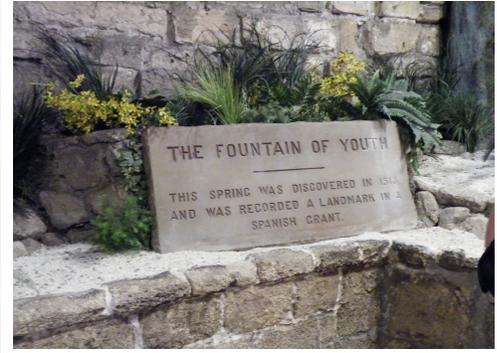
Pirate and Treasure Museum



An afternoon of shopping on St. George Street



The Fountain of Youth commemorating the first successful European settlement



St. Augustine Distillery created inside a former 1919 Ice Making Plant



San Sebastian Winery



The Whitstone Chocolate Factory



Three catered breakfasts, Two catered dinners, one with entertainment

We hope you can attend. It should be a fun rally. If you need to reach me for any reason, my email is:

nancypatrunzo@gmail.com and my cellphone is 302-745-8144. **Very Important: If you wish to come to the rally early, please let Nancy know when you are arriving or leaving and please be sure to note that on the registration form. You will pay for the extra nights when you arrive at the campground. Your rally fee covers Monday-Thursday night. If you are not bringing your coach and wish to stay at their cabins, make cabin reservations directly with Debbie at the campground. For rally activities and meals use the "additional persons" fee. Cabin space is limited. Campground sites are \$57/night, \$62 for 50 amp.**

Nancy Trunzo

CHOCTalk

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