

CLUB OFFICERS

President

Melody Thompson
Cell: 630-357-1614
Email: thetees@ameritech.net

1st VP / Membership

Jan Zitzewitz
Cell: 847-520-7656
Email: djzitzewitz@comcast.net

2nd VP / Rally Coordinator

Ruth Ristow
Cell: 847-778-3421
Email: rristow@wowway.com

3rd VP / Communications

Charlie Hedstrom
Cell: 919-247-3697
Email: chochedstrom@gmail.com

Secretary

Val Baselice
Cell: 215-219-8159
Email: vabaselice@verizon.net

Treasurer

Margaret Hedstrom
Cell: 919-247-4077
Email: chocmarg@gmail.com

FMCA National Director

George Abosamra
Cell: 941-484-6082
Email: gdabo@verizon.net

Alt. FMCA National Director

Lou Heine
Cell: 708-447-5657
Email: lmheine124@gmail.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hope you all had a great summer of travel,

This summer we did a lot of traveling, at least for us. We did a six week trip out west, which included the Canadian Rockies and back, starting in July. We had a great time, saw many new things, and not one iota of trouble from our 12 year old coach! Next, came the fall rally in Dearborn, Michigan. It was a great time as well and we did some really interesting and fun things. Our tours were informative and it was pretty amazing seeing the automation and precision in the assembly line. It was huge! The food was a real winner and there was plenty, as always. Our weather wasn't the most cooperative for a couple of days but it didn't stop us from having a wonderful time and enjoying one another's company. As always, to me, the best parts of any rally are the friendships developed and nurtured.

Our club continues to evolve and with that there are always changes. Nancy Trunzo, our Rally Coordinator, has resigned her position and we will miss her as she has done a wonderful job. But in the spirit of continuing to pitch in, two couples stepped up and volunteered to organize our spring rally. Ruth and Bill Ristow and Irene and David Wedemeyer have jumped right in and organized what sounds to be another great outing. We know it will be April 24 – 28, 2017 at Cajun Palms RV Resort in Henderson, Louisiana in the middle of Cajun/Creole country. They have invited Coach House to come and who knows what they may bring with them. You will be getting information as it becomes available. Registration will be out the first of 2017.

One of the topics discussed at our business meeting this fall was an interest in having some club gear available for purchase. This was done some years ago and we are looking into the feasibility of doing this again. Al Giovanucci volunteered to be the contact so, if and when this happens, look for information from Al. We had elections for four offices. The nominating committee consisting of Martha Heine, Marion Kerns, and Ruth Ristow, presented the following nominees who were all elected unanimously: 1st Vice President - Jan Zitzewitz, Secretary - Valerie Baselice, Treasurer - Margaret Hedstrom, and Alternate National Director - Lou Heine

This is such a wonderful club with so many wonderful members and great support and my wish is that it continues to thrive and grow. In that vein, I would like all of you to consider taking on the responsibility of a board position. We need to always have a pool of potential volunteers. Maybe volunteer as a couple, or two couples, as the Ristows and Wedemeyers have done. Whatever you can do will make a huge difference!!

With the holidays just around the corner, I wish everyone peace and joy, and good health in the New Year.

I would like to end with this thought. "A gentle word, a kind look, a good-natured smile can work wonders and accomplish miracles." - William Hazlitt

Sincerely,

Melody Thompson

Coach House Owners' Club Spring Rally

Monday, April 24 – Friday, April 28, 2017

Henderson, Louisiana

Experiencing Cajun Culture, Music, Cuisine and Swamp Life

Henderson is in the middle of Cajun/Creole country and we will be experiencing some of the Cajun culture, music, and cuisine as well as a swamp tour.

We will be staying at:

Cajun Palms RV Resort

1055 N Barn Rd
Henderson, LA 70517

(337) 667-7772

<http://www.cajunpalms.com>

You must make and pay for your own reservation at Cajun Palms. Be sure to mention your CHOC affiliation to get the rally rate of \$38.00 + tax for a total of \$43.13 per night. If you wish to extend your stay at their weekend rate, it is suggested you make your reservation early as weekend sites fill quickly. The reception hall where we will be gathering is within walking distance from the campsites and is handicap accessible.

After you have made your reservation, please email Ruth at rristow@wowway.com or call her at (847) 778-3421 to let us know you are coming.

Rally reservation forms and schedules will be emailed to all members in early January. Reservations will include one catered breakfast, one grab 'n go breakfast, three catered dinners, entertainment and excursions.

Deadline for reservations is February 24th.

If you have questions, please contact Ruth Ristow at rristow@wowway.com or (847) 778-3421.

Planned excursions, all handicap accessible, include:



Avery Island's Tabasco Factory & Jungle Gardens



Vermilionville



Champagne's Swamp Tour



Joseph Jefferson Mansion and Rip Van Winkle Gardens

From the Treasurer



Reminder: 2017 CHOC dues deadline is Jan 1. Dues are \$25 per coach. Make checks payable to CHOC and mail to:

Margaret Hedstrom
 CHOC Treasurer
 401 Dunwoody Dr
 Raleigh, NC 27615

Have you moved? Email Margaret Hedstrom if you need a replacement badge with your correct home town (chocmarg@gmail.com)

CHARITY: The club collected enough to make a \$500 donation to Doctors Without Borders. We have \$86.50 remaining in our treasury reserved for future charitable donations.

2016 RALLY SUMMARY

FALL 2016 Dearborn Rally

INCOME **\$ 12,780.00**

EXPENSES **\$ 13,107.74**

Pavilion Rental	\$ 950.00
Dining	\$ 4,473.20
Entertainment	\$ 375.00
Snacks & Supplies	\$ 42.08
Printing	\$ 15.46
Rally Badges	\$ 132.00
Transportation	\$ 7,120.00

FALL 2016 Dearborn Rally Final Total **\$ (327.74)**

SPRING 2016 Washington DC Rally Final Total **\$ 351.64**

OVERALL RALLY TOTAL for 2016 \$ 23.90

Current Treasury Balance (11/27/16)	\$ 7,564.73
RESERVES:	
Charity	\$ 86.50
FMCA Travel Fund Balance	\$ 635.82
2017 FMCA Travel Fund Contribution	\$ 1,500.00
2017 Club Contribution to Rallies	\$ 1,000.00

CHOC Campers

Four CHOC families (Hedstrom, Heine, Thompson and Zitzewitz) toured the Canadian Rockies this summer with Fantasy RV. Double your fun by traveling with other club members. (Photo in British Columbia)



CHOC FMCA National Director



Dear CHOC Members, I just received the December issue of Family Motor Coaching and as usual, I check out the articles as soon as I can. It's always interesting to see what Charlie Adcock and company have been up to. This month he gives an account of his introduction to owning his first motor home. I think we can all relate to this adventure, it's fun reading.

I know that many of you are interested in future convention and rally dates so here's the latest posting:

Coach House Factory Open House - January 10-12, 2017, 9:AM - 5:PM. This is not a rally, but everyone is invited.

FMCA Southeast Area Rally - February 2-5, 2017, Sun 'n Fun Expo Campus, Lakeland, Florida.

FMCA'S 95th International Convention - Chandler, Arizona, March 7-10, 2017. You will find detailed registration information in the FMCA Magazine. I have requested our Alternative Director, Lou Heine, to cover this Convention due to my unavailability.

CHOC Spring Rally - April 24-28, 2017, Cajun Palms RV Resort in Henderson, Louisiana. Additional details in this newsletter or contact Ruth and Bill Ristow at 847-778-3421, or e-mail: rristow@wowway.com.

INTO Area Rally - May 1-5, 2017, Treasure Lake Resort, Branson, Missouri.

For additional Rallies, see Pages 90-94 of the December issue of FMCA Magazine.

On a joyous note, Richard and Winifred Moravec recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Please remember Armando Gaono as he grieves the loss of his father. Also, remember the Coach House family as they mourn the loss of David's son, Michael.

Wishing you Season's Greetings filled with Holy Days of Christmas and Hanukkah

George Abosamra

New Member Corner

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to our CHOC club.

Don & Noel Alette, Covington, LA
Lloyd & Diana Ashton, Las Cruces, NM
Allen & Deborah Bennet, Bend, OR
Tom & Linda Britton, Waikoloa, HI
David & Donna Burkey, Acworth, GA
Jack & Zane Creamer, Raleigh, NC
Don & Janet Doles, Fort Myers, FL
Jerry & Harriette Floyd, Cashiers, NC
Milo & Dee Johnson, Ferndale, CA
Dwight & Molly Mathias, Lexington, KY
Bob & Minta Monchein, Grafton, OH
George & Barbara Ross, Summerfield, FL
David & Irene Wedemeyer, Elgin, IL

Mike & Gilian Curd, Fort Myers, FL
Colette Doyle, Warne, NC
Barry & Ruth Hough, Bradenton, FL
Gil & Susan LaCroix, Naples, FL
Ronald & Suzian McGaha, Heiskell, TN
Rena Peterson & Ryan Atalig, Lynnwood, WA
John & Conni Taylor, Jacksons Gap, AL
Frank & Ann Whaley, Lexington, SC



We hope all of you will join us at our spring rally so we can get to know each of you.

Jan Zitzewitz

Our Fall Rally in Dearborn ..

Our Fall Rally in Dearborn, Michigan was a fun-filled adventure. We found on arrival that our Chalet meeting room was more than a reasonable walking distance from our full street of Coach Houses. Thanks to our members with cars that volunteered, the distance was no problem.



Monday evening's Pot Luck was fun and tasty, as always. Being the first meal together, it was also filled with much catching up chatter. We have many seriously talented cooks in our group. There were several comments of "Did you taste the _?" followed by "it was delicious" and "I need the recipe".

Our other meals were skillfully prepared by Michael, The Freelance Chef, who, with his assistant Chris, kept us quite entertained as well as fed.

It was wonderful to have five couples that are new Coach House owners and members. Everyone got a chance to visit with them and they joined right in with all the meals and activities.

The Ford Factory experience was educational, starting with the introduction and laser show 'Building a Ford Truck'. The factory itself was fascinating, with the employees working on moving platforms, each performing a different task. Yes, there were robots working alongside them also. All worked together to complete the trucks that were lined up outside, ready for delivery.

The visit to Edsel and Eleanor Ford's home began with a tour of the butterfly garden, followed by a delicious lunch. After lunch we toured the Ford's lovely home on the water, stately and inviting. We saw



everything from the huge ballroom to the storage pantries where all the food and flowers were kept. Some of us enjoyed the garage filled with special vehicles (Fords, of course) and others were especially taken with the 2/3 scale playhouse he built for his daughter.



ter.

Wednesday, campground day, was filled with the CHOC meeting in the morning and free time in the afternoon. Our 'Couples Caricatures' were a fun way to end the evening.

Thursday morning we awoke to rain, not what CHOC members want when they are at a rally. But we boarded the bus to Greenfield Village and The Henry Ford Museum. Shortly after we arrived the rain became just a drizzle and the exploration began.

Historical items, beautiful colonial homes and stores, artisans of pottery, glass, and more filled our day. The steam locomotive gave us an overall view of the village. From there we scattered all over the complex, each exploring our own special interests. Several of us rode the Model Ts and the carousel, followed by lunch at The Eagle Tavern. The Museum held more treasures...special cars, huge locomotive, bicycles, life in the 30's, 40's, and 50's.



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Friday morning was our happy and sad breakfast and goodbyes. We shared how quickly the week went and our hopes to all be in good health and able to gather together for the next rally. Unfortunately I will be unable to continue as Rally Coordinator. It was a fun adventure and a great learning experience...St Augustine, Washington, and Dearborn.

Each was unique and special. Thank you to all the officers and members for their advice, suggestions and help along the way. We have a wonderful set of club members.....caring, sharing, and entertaining. Thanks to each and every one of you. Pat and I hope to see you at future rallies. I know Ruth and Irene, Bill and David will do a wonderful job. The Spring Rally looks like so much fun.

Sincerely, Nancy Trunzo

Dearborn Rally—Damp But Delightful

Nineteen coaches made the drive to Dearborn Michigan for the 2016 CHOC Fall Rally. We took up most of one row in the Dearborn city campground that actually resides in Milford, MI. The sites were level but so deep that many backed off of the asphalt pad so they could reach the power post. The meeting room was a perfect size for our group, but was far enough away from our sites that we ran shuttles to get people there. The shuttles gave us another way to get to know each other.



I particularly enjoyed the entertainment—both the caricature artist and the catering staff.

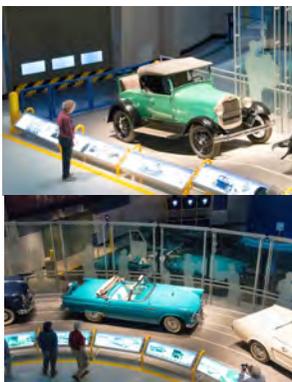
Robert Powell, the caricature artist, made sketches of each couple. It was great fun to watch him capture a complimentary image of each of us.

The chefs were a surprise source of entertainment, too. They really seemed glad to see us at each meal and their made-to-order omelets and pasta bar entrees were delicious.



We had a great turnout of first-time rally attendees: Joe and Linda Cook, Mike and Darcy Thursby, David and Irene Wedemeyer,

Renee and Brian Rodeck, and Ruth and Bob Papapanu.



On Tuesday, we took a comfortable bus ride into the Ford assembly plant producing F-150 pickup trucks.

It was fascinating, but we had to limit picture taking to the lobby exhibits. Afterwards, we had a buffet lunch on the grounds of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House just beside their butterfly garden.





We toured the house and grounds. There were at least two close encounters—David with the ceiling of the play house, and Renee with the fawn on the lawn.

Wednesday was spent with our business meeting and visiting other coaches.



On Thursday we went by bus to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum on adjacent property. There was so much to see at both venues, we could easily have saved one of the tickets to come back another day. Once we got off the bus, everyone split up in smaller groups to see as much as they could. The ones that started with Greenfield Village hopped on the steam locomotive pulled cars for a quick tour around the village. With maps in hand and prepared for a little drizzle, we all made our way through the various exhibit buildings. The glass blowing demonstration was fascinating. All of the workers were quite skilled and worked well as a team. The pottery craft women gave a closer view of their skills while explaining the process. The print shop let you operate their press to make a souvenir print. I was surprised how little effort was needed to pull the monster lever on the press. Some CHOC members came home with miniature brass candlesticks that they made themselves on a metal lathe at another shop. As the rain got a little heavier, some of us jumped on the 1931 bus. It really felt like we had gone back in time. Several of us took a ride in the Model Ts. I was surprised to learn that they were very expensive cars. Ford rebuilt the original assembly line to build exact replicas. Since the cars being produced could not meet current safety or emissions standards they could not sell the cars to the public. Many got a ride on the carousel. I was bewildered that anyone would move a stone cottage from England complete with its beautiful garden.

Back at the Henry Ford Museum, there were more cars, trucks and trains than you could count. Several presidential limos were on display.

Back at camp, a pair of Sandhill Cranes strolled through our campsite before we left. A couple of coaches stayed an extra day and the sun came out. Many thanks go to Nancy Trunzo for a great rally!
— Charlie Hedstrom

CHOCTalk

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



YOU ARE INVITED!
Please join us and see the
progress on our factory expansion
January 10 – 12, 2017 • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.