

# CHOCTALK

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well, it's Pearl Harbor Day and we woke up to snow here in Elgin, Illinois. Somehow Hawaii and snow don't fit with my thoughts of motor homing, or maybe thoughts of another state and warmer weather prompted those thoughts. TRAVEL, Travel, travel. At any rate, here goes ...

My name is David Wedemeyer, and I was elected your new CHOC President at the Pine Mountain, GA, Fall Rally. My wife, Irene, and I were tent campers until fall of 2007. That's when we purchased our 2006 gently used 272XLS Coach House. That's like moving from a fishing shack along the river to a luxury apartment ... love our Coach House. We really enjoy using our motor home for both touring (National Park geeks) and camping (often with our kids, grandkids and other relatives).

Irene and I joined CHOC just last year. We attended our first rally, Fall 2016 in Detroit. What a kick to drive into a campground and see a half dozen Coach Houses. And then, after everyone arrived, to walk down the road between twenty coaches. It was a fun time, and we were hooked, so we became part of the team that volunteered to plan the Spring 2017 Rally in Lafayette, LA. Attended the Fall Rally, and, presto, walk away as your president. Life is good in a Coach House!

Speaking of the Pine Mountain Georgia Fall Rally: thanks to Melody Thompson for the concept and finding the campground, and to Ruth Ristow for getting all the pieces in place for another interesting and fun four days. Tuskegee, AL, Roosevelt's Little White House and Callaway Gardens were all enjoyable and thought provoking. Wednesday's tours of each others' motor homes were fun and instructive, along with our wide-ranging sharing sessions that day.

Special thanks to Melody Thompson for serving as our president for the last four years, I look forward to her mentoring me. We also need to recognize George Abosamra for four years of service to the club as our FMCA National Director.

Newly elected officers besides myself are:

Ruth & Bill Ristow and Irene Wedemeyer 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Rally Coordinators  
Mike Thursby FMCA National Director  
Charlie Hedstrom was reelected 3<sup>rd</sup> VP/Communications

Hope to see you at the Spring 2018 Rally in Memphis, TN.

Happy Motor Homing,  
David Wedemeyer, President  
dwCHOC@gmail.com



## Highlights of 2017 Fall Rally in Pine Mountain, GA

The 2017 CHOC Fall Rally was held in Pine Mountain, Georgia where the leaves were only starting to show colors as Halloween approached. If you arrived a day early, you probably saw a little frost on Monday morning.



The facilities at the Pine Mountain RV Resort were perfect for our rally. We each had a spacious site near the meeting room with few non-rally campers among our units. Forty people attended the rally although one couple had to leave early. This time we held our registration in the meeting room where people just naturally gathered to chat after registration. Many just stayed in the room for the rest of the



afternoon, only leaving briefly to bring in their pot luck dinner contribution. As usual, the pot luck dinner offered a variety of tasty dishes. Ron Johnson would like to get the recipe for the meatballs and peppers. I was surprised no one was freaked out by the black spiders around one batch of Halloween brownies. After dinner, the first-time rally attendees introduced themselves.

We were pleased to meet Ross and Pam Hendrix, Jack and Jeri Eiermann, Dan and Fran Byrne, Randy and Helen Paul, Steve and Laurel Booher and John and Avis Beitz.



Although Callaway Gardens is well known for its beautiful azaleas, rhododendron and laurels in the spring, it also worth seeing in the fall. Our bus drove through the grounds on Tuesday morning while a guide told stories about the gardens and the founders, Cason J. Callaway and Virginia Hand Callaway. Everyone one enjoyed the chapel on the lake with its stained glass windows. The highlight of the day was the butterfly



habitat with its exotic fluttering specimens. Delores Johnson had as many as five butterflies land on her at one time.

The bus drove by an 1830's pioneer cabin that was at one time home to a family of 15.

The on-site museum had very accurate models of local endangered

flowers. I found out later that each model was made of copper. After shaping each leaf, stalk and flower pedal each model was painted to look real.

As most of us had lunch, some remembered to catch the birds of prey show.



After lunch we took a very short ride to FDR's Little White House where we saw a video, toured the museum and walked or golf carted to the house. The house seemed small but comfortable and certainly not secure enough for a president, during war no less. Note the sentry station just off the back porch.



After our business meeting on Wednesday morning we had a question & answer session and an open house tour of each other's coaches. We were pleased to welcome six visitors who were interested in our Coach House experiences.



Country singer, Tommy Joe Conner, and his wife were the entertainment Wednesday night. Dan and Fran Byrne knew the lyrics to everything he sang.



On Thursday we took the bus across the time zone to Tuskegee, Alabama. The national historic site at Moton Airfield was the first stop where videos and displays brought to life the fight made by the Tuskegee airmen for a double victory during World War II. They were very effective in the air toward their first victory goal of winning the war, but less successful in winning respect and their rights as citizens that they sought as their second victory. Hanger 1 had vintage



airplanes on display. Some of the offices in the hanger were used for training. One room had dozens of model planes hanging from the ceiling to facilitate the pilots learning friend or foe silhouettes. After the airfield we went into town to tour Tuskegee University: also a part of the national historic site. The first president of the school was Booker T. Washington. George Washington Carver was a renowned professor. While these two were very instrumental in the success of the school, it was literally built by the students down to making their own bricks. That "lifting



yourself by your own bootstraps" approach instills a "can do" attitude that leads to lifetime success. The buffet lunch on campus at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center was delicious! Afterwards, we explored the George Washington Carver Museum. He was curious and creative. One display showed several pigments he was able to extract from local Alabama rocks and clays, including an incredible bright blue he pulled from a red clay.



A recent graduate led us on a campus tour. The statue we saw symbolizes education lifting the vail of ignorance. An impressive stained glass window in the school chapel that memorializes many spiritual songs prompted one of our new members, Laurel, to sing a lovely verse of Swing Low Sweet Chariot.



No one goes hungry at a CHOC rally. Waddell's Catering did an excellent job on our breakfasts and dinners.



**Coach House Owners Club (CHOC) Spring Rally**  
**Monday, April 16 – Friday, April 20, 2018**  
**Memphis, Tennessee**

We will be staying at:

EZ Daze RV Resort  
536 W E Ross Pkwy,  
Southaven, MS 38671

**Phone:** [\(662\) 342-7720](tel:(662)342-7720)

<http://ezdazervpark.com>

**You must make and pay for your own reservation at EZ Daze RV Resort.** Be sure to mention your CHOC affiliation to get the rally rate of \$44.00 per night. The activity building where we will be gathering is within easy walking distance from most of the campsites and is handicap accessible. Reservations should be made by **February 1<sup>st</sup>**, and the earliest reservations will be placed closest to the meeting room.

After you have made your reservation, please notify Ruth at [ristow@wowway.com](mailto:ristow@wowway.com) or at (847) 778-3421 to let us know you are attending.

Our first evening will be the traditional potluck dinner. Please bring enough to serve 6-8 people. If your last name begins with:

A-G bring Dessert

H-N bring Main Dish

O-Z bring Salad/Vegetable.

Reservations will include one catered breakfast, one grab 'n go breakfast, three catered dinners, entertainment and excursions.

**Deadline for reservations is**

**February 1, 2018**

If you have questions, please contact Ruth Ristow at [ristow@wowway.com](mailto:ristow@wowway.com) or (847) 778-3421.

Planned excursions, all handicap accessible include:



**Backbeat Tour – Musical Tour of Memphis**



**Graceland – the Elvis Experience**



**Memphis Riverboat Cruise**

## Coach House Owner's Club Spring 2018 Rally... Schedule of Activities

### Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

1:00 – 3:30 pm Registration  
5:00 – 6:00 pm Happy Hour (BYOB)  
6:00 – 7:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner and Welcoming Remarks

### Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast on your own.  
8:15 am Bus arrives at 8:15... **Departs at 8:30 am**  
9:00 am Mojo Bus Tour of Memphis  
11:00 am Gibson Guitar Factory Tour  
12:00 pm Lunch on your own and shopping on Beale Street  
2:00 pm Rock & Soul Museum Tour  
3:00 pm Depart for EZ Daze RV Resort  
3:30 pm Arrive back at EZ Daze RV Resort  
5:00 – 6:00 pm Happy Hour (BYOB)  
6:00 – 7:00 pm Catered Dinner and Rally Updates

### Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – 9:00 am Catered Breakfast  
9:30 – 10:30 am CHOC Business Meeting  
11:00 am – 5:00 pm Free Time. Lunch on your own  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Discussion group - optional  
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Coaches open house - optional (look for signs indicating visitors are welcome)  
5:00 – 6:00 pm Happy Hour (BYOB)  
6:00 – 7:00 pm Catered Dinner  
7:30 – 8:30 pm Entertainment

### Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast on your own.  
8:15 am Bus arrives at 8:15... **Departs at 8:30 am**  
9:30 am – 1:30 pm Tour Graceland and lunch on your own at one of the three Graceland restaurants:  
1:30 pm Board bus for Memphis Riverboat Cruise  
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm Memphis Riverboat Cruise  
4:00 pm Depart for EZ Daze RV Resort  
4:30 pm Arrive back at EZ Daze RV Resort  
5:00 – 6:00 pm Happy Hour (BYOB)  
6:00 – 7:00 pm Catered Dinner  
7:00 – 8:00 pm Concluding Activities

### Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

7:30 – 9:00 am Farewell Grab n' Go Breakfast

CHOC Spring 2018 Rally...Memphis, TN  
 Registration Form  
Rally Registration...Deadline February 1, 2018

Pilot #1

Co-pilot #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone # to reach you (including at Rally): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person\* (not at Rally): \_\_\_\_\_

His/Her relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_ & Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

The following prices cover the activities and the meals on the accompanying  
 Spring 2018 Rally Schedule.  
 It does NOT cover the campground fee.

**CHOC Members\*\***

One Coach with Two People....\$550.00	\$ _____	Do you have any food
Additional Guest .....\$275.00	\$ _____	allergies? _____
One Coach with One Person.... \$275.00	\$ _____	If yes, what are they?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Members and Guests**

One RV with Two People.....\$600.00	\$ _____
Additional Guest .....\$275.00	\$ _____
One Coach with One Person....\$325.00	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

\*Emergency Contact...this should be a family member or friend...not at the rally...whom we will contact for you should you have an emergency – health or otherwise – and cannot do it yourself.

\*\*CHOC membership requires owning or previously owning a Coach House RV, membership in FMCA and a fee of \$25.00 per year. Download the registration form here:

<http://coachhousesrv.com/owners-club.php>

IF YOU MUST CANCEL: CHOC will only refund expenses for which CHOC is able to receive a refund.

NO REFUNDS after **March 7, 2018**

**Checks should be payable to “Coach House Owners Club” and mailed, with this sheet, to Ruth Ristow at 725 N. Spring Street, Elgin, IL 60120.**

## Treasurer's Report for December 2017



**50-50 Raffle:** At the Fall Rally in Pine Mountain, the membership voted to stop collecting money for charity, but instead to contribute money collected from the 50-50 raffle to the CHOC treasury to be used to offset the costs of future rallies. This should relieve winners of the 50-50 raffle of an unspoken peer pressure to donate their winnings to the charity.

**Rally Fund:** We have established a Rally Fund to track money allocated for rallies. This money can be used to offset the cost of future rallies. It also serves as a buffer for rally planning in the event that an additional bus is needed as a result of unexpected high attendance at a rally. We want to keep a minimum of \$2,000 in the rally fund as a buffer for such unexpected expenses.

**Annual Audit:** The annual audit was conducted by a team of three new members with backgrounds in banking and finance. Thank you to Avis Beitz, Jeri Eiermann, and Helen Paul for such a thorough audit.



Fall Rally Report	
<b>Rally Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,005.60</b>
<b>Rally Expenses</b>	
Entertainment	\$ 1,835.16
Food (Catering & Restaurants)	\$ 4,064.00
Misc Expenses & Supplies	\$ 226.54
Rally Badges	\$ 132.00
Transportation	\$ 2,850.00
<b>Excess added to Rally Fund</b>	<b>\$ 897.90</b>

2018 Budget	
<b>Bank Balance as of 12/10/17</b>	<b>\$ 11,610.83</b>
<b>Projected Income for 2018</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>
Dues from 56 additional renewals (total of 85 projected renewals)	\$ 1,400.00
<b>Projected Expenses and Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 12,307.72</b>
Reserve: Money available for early rally expenses	\$ 6,000.00
Reserve: FMCA Travel Fund	\$ 2,663.82
Reserve: Rally Fund	\$ 2,890.90
Badges for new members, new officers, new home locations	\$ 423.00
Postage	\$ 30.00
New Treasurer Expenses	\$ 300.00
<b>Available for miscellaneous expenses</b>	<b>\$ 703.11</b>

Margaret Hedstrom

## New Member Corner

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Coach House Owners' Club:

John & Avis Beitz, Highland, IN  
Steve & Laurel Booher, Tipp City, OH  
Tom & Sheila Flanagan, Frisco, CO  
Bob & Vera Kiser, Marion, NC  
Florence Lee, Wilmington, NC  
Guy Mandigo, Ruskin, FL  
James Matthisen & Leslie Jones, Hood River, OR



We hope all of you will join us at our rallies next year so we can get to know each of you. Club membership now stands at 126 coaches.

Jan Zitzewitz

## CHOC 2018 Fall Rally to be in Asheville, NC

The rally coordinators have announced that the 2018 Fall rally will be held in Asheville, NC from October 22 through 26, 2018. A schedule and registration form will be emailed when details are finalized. However, **you must make your own campground reservations by April 1, 2018.**

Asheville Bear Creek RV Park & Campground  
81 S Bear Creek Road  
Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 253-0798

<https://ashevillebearcreek.com>

Be sure to mention that you are part of the CHOC group to get the rally rate of approximately \$45 a night. Deposit is made by credit card which is not charged until arrival. There is no charge for the campsite if cancelled at least 5 days before your planned arrival.



2017 Fall Rally participants pose, some with Coach House supplied souvenirs won in our raffle.

## The Wagons Are Cirled

A view of some of our Fall 2017 rally coaches lined up in our spacious sites at the Pine Mountain RV Resort.



## School of Hard Knocks Tip on Bathroom Ventilator Leaks

We began to notice water showing on the bathroom floor after rain in our 2008 Coach House 241XLFS. Further exploration found water around the ventilator cowl in the bathroom ceiling.

Removing the ventilator cap on the roof (held on by 2 Phillips screws) revealed that the ring of foam insulation that seals the ventilator when you pull the handle from below had deteriorated and come loose. This fix was easy, requiring only a new adhesive backed 3/8 inch by 5/16 inch high foam strip, scissors, a Phillips screw driver and oh, yes, a ladder to reach the roof. I actually climbed onto the roof. You may be able to work from a straight ladder or a telescoping ladder if you have a long reach. Either way, please be safe on the ladder and on your roof.

Months later after another rain, more water forced a revisit to the ventilator. That was when I noticed cracks in the caulking between it and the roof. Fixing this leak was not complicated but I would have saved time if I had looked for this problem the first time.

Rather than caulking over the old caulk, I thought it best to remove the ventilator from the roof and reinstall it. For this task you will need the same ladder, a Phillips screw driver, a plastic razor blade, 3/4 inch putty tape and a good indoor/outdoor silicone caulk. After you remove the ventilator cap, you will see 8 more Phillips screws that attach the ventilator to the roof. Before removing these screws, note the location of the small drain hole, hopefully along the edge at the lowest point. You will want to make sure to maintain that position when reattaching the ventilator. Remove the 8 screws. I use any empty medicine bottle to hold the loose screws for later. Use the plastic razor blade to free the caulk seal without harming the roof or ventilator paint finish. Behind the caulk seal you should find

putty tape providing a seal around the hole in the roof and around each of the eight screw holes in the roof. After you have pried the ventilator off of the putty seal, use the plastic razor blade or another soft scraper to remove any remaining putty or caulk from the roof and the ventilator. You should be able to leave the fan wires connected.

Re-assembly is straight forward. Place a continuous strip of putty tape around the base of the ventilator, covering the 8 screw holes. Keep the putty near the inside edge of the ventilator. The outside edge needs to remain clean for the silicone caulking. Be sure the putty tape ends meet for a good seal without overlap. Press the putty onto the ventilator. Remove the putty tape paper backing if it is still in place. Push one of the screws through the putty blocking its hole in the ventilator. Now align the drain hole of the ventilator in its original position and guide the screw to its matching hole in the roof. Just start to thread the first screw. Then, beginning with a screw on the far side of the first one, get the remaining screws threaded. Tighten all of the 8 screws enough to seal the putty tape, but not so much as to strip the threads in your fiberglass roof. Now you can lay a bead of caulking around the base of the ventilator and remount the ventilator cap.

I got the caulk and foam strip at Home Depot and the putty tape at Ace Hardware which has it on their web site if your store does not have it in stock. — Charlie Hedstrom



# CHOCTalk

*Coach House Owners' Club Chapter FMCA  
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Rally photo credits: Laurel Booher, Charlie Hedstrom, Randy Paul and Bill Thompson  
Thanks to all who posted photos on our Facebook page!