

## CLUB OFFICERS

### President

David Wedemeyer  
Cell: 847-707-5283  
President@coachhouseownersclub.com

### 1st VP / Membership

Jan Zitzewitz  
Cell: 847-520-7656  
Membership@coachhouseownersclub.com

### 2nd VP / Rally Coordinator

Ruth Ristow  
Cell: 847-778-3421  
RallyCoordinator@coachhouseownersclub.com  
Bill Ristow  
Irene Wedemeyer

### 3rd VP / Communications

Charlie Hedstrom  
Cell: 919-247-3697  
Communications@coachhouseownersclub.com

### Secretary

Val Baselice  
Cell: 215-219-8159  
Secretary@coachhouseownersclub.com

### Treasurer

Margaret Hedstrom  
Cell: 919-247-4077  
Treasurer@coachhouseownersclub.com

### FMCA National Director

Mike Thursby  
Cell: 321-591-7899  
FMCA@coachhouseownersclub.com

### Alt. FMCA National Director

Lou Heine  
Cell: 708-447-5657  
AltFMCA@coachhouseownersclub.com

## Introducing the CHOC Website



Our club now has its own website. It gives us a public presence to attract new members, as well as providing CHOC members information about their coaches and the club. We will continue our use of the private CHOC Facebook group for “members only” communication.

Here's a list of some of what you will find on our new website at: <http://www.CoachHouseOwnersClub.com>

- Information about our future rallies
- How to join the club
- History of the club: past rallies, a photo gallery, links to old CHOC newsletters, as well as Coach House brochures and newsletters
- Our Blog (still evolving) that archives valuable information submitted by members, either in Facebook posts or blog posts submitted from our website
- A link to our Facebook group (that only works for group members)
- Copies of our *By Laws* and *Member Handbook*, as well as other documents the club would like available to our members, such as the one on *Making Facebook Safe*
- Contact information for the CHOC executive board and Coach House factory
- A form for members to request a copy of our latest member roster
- Website links to: Coach House, Coach House parts, and FMCA

All of our officers now have new e-mail addresses with our domain name that you can easily remember, in case you want to contact one of them. These addresses are listed in the Contact Us page and to the left on this page.

Check it out and start contributing to our Blog. Although the form asks for your full name, we will only list your first name and last initial for privacy purposes.

*A Special Thank You to Coach House* for supporting us in this venture. Steve Gerzeny has approved Coach House covering the cost of the website, the domain name, and providing us with a knowledgeable web designer (Katrina) who has already provided professional help to Margaret and Charlie Hedstrom in the initial deployment. We expect additional help in the future with anything beyond the skills of the Communications VP.

## 2018 Spring Rally Held in Memphis, TN



Fifty people in twenty five coaches gathered at the EZ Daze RV Resort for the 2018 CHOC Spring Rally. Although the campsite was in Mississippi, we commuted by bus up to Memphis, TN for our outings.

The campground had level concrete pads and a meeting room just big enough to hold our group. Tom Molay from Coach House came to the rally to give a presentation from the company. A new couple camped with us the night before the rally but had to leave before the rally got going.



About a dozen early arrivals had dinner the night before at a local Memphis BBQ restaurant. It didn't matter to anyone that some of us had just been there for lunch. It was good!



Monday afternoon we had registration, followed by happy hour and our traditional pot luck dinner. It was great to see old friends and to meet first time rally attendees Ted & Karen Burleson, Jackye & Mike Moody, and Marylin & Burt Allaire.



Tuesday morning the bus was a little late, giving everyone some time to socialize. Once we got into Memphis, we picked up our musical tour guide who even got us singing as she introduced us to Memphis history and music. As we

drove by Beale Street her song about Mr. Crump listed all of the local vices he was pledged to abolish if elected. He won but the vices stayed. The Gibson guitar factory tour started with the gift shop where many finished guitars were offered for sale. All were beautiful pieces of art, but too pricey for me, even if I could play. Dan tried one out and had a chance to play a little with a local musician in the store.



Unfortunately, photography was not allowed during the factory tour. The ceiling of the factory was a maze of duct work and misting nozzles that kept the air fresh, humid and clear of sawdust. Our factory guide stopped at each work station and described the expertise needed for each step. After the factory tour many returned to Beale St. for lunch on our own. The last stop of the day was the Memphis Rock 'n Soul



Museum. The self-guided tour used audio headsets that played descriptions of each numbered museum exhibit. A pleasant surprise was that each jukebox in the museum had a list of 50's and 60's song numbers that could be played also. Lou and Martha were not the only ones swaying to the music.



Wednesday morning we had our business meeting, followed by two presentations. Margaret introduced our new club website,



and Tom Molay brought us video greetings from several people at Coach House and a pictorial history of the company. In the afternoon, we toured each other's coaches to see what kind of enhancements have been made. I had noticed Dan had an unusual, custom made case mounted under his trunk lid on his 241 coach. I had assumed it was a nice holder for a longer sewer connection hose. Nope! He fills the case with wooden leveling blocks that pull out on a sliding tray. As the 241 chassis does not support hydraulic leveling



systems, these blocks make leveling easy.

Even after the parade of coaches, many spent the afternoon visiting and enjoying the weather.



After dinner on Wednesday as the sun set, we had an outdoor musical evening with Eric Hughes including his fishing song, *You cook 'em, I caught 'em*

Thursday brought us back to Memphis for a tour of Graceland and a cruise on the Mississippi. Our Graceland crowd was big enough that we toured Elvis' home in two groups. It was fun to see décor choices that Elvis made. I liked the stained glass panels in his living room. The stairway to the basement was very disorienting as the ceiling and walls were covered in mirrors. The pleated fabric ceiling of the billiards room was also a surprise. After seeing the house and the grave site, we wandered through the various museum sections. Many of his vehicles were on display. I would have guessed he had a pink Cadillac, but I was amused that he also had a purple one. There were old Cadillacs everywhere, even in the guest parking. We each found lunch at Graceland in one of the several eateries.



The river cruise was pleasant, although many stayed seated inside on the first deck as it was a little cool outside on the river. A guide on the boat provided a running narration describing the sights and Memphis history. I found the river barges impressive in terms of both their size and the speed while navigating the river and its obstacles.



Everyone seemed to enjoy the rally. Thanks go to Ruth and her rally team of Bill and Irene. I'm sure David had some part of the planning, too. It was fun to see new things and learn a little about Memphis. For me, the best part was seeing old friends and meeting a few new ones. And that is easy to do when rally planning entices a good turn out like we had. We hope to see you all at a future rally.

Charlie Hedstrom

## 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 October 26, 2018. As the campground reservation time has passed, you may contact the rally coordinator to be added to the waiting list. Email: [RallyCoordinator@CoachHouseOwnersClub.com](mailto:RallyCoordinator@CoachHouseOwnersClub.com)

Check our new website for up-to-date rally information

<http://coachhouseownersclub.com/our-next-rally/>

## Treasurer's Report for June 2018

The Spring Rally completed with a surplus of \$209.97. We collected \$300.00 from the 50-50 raffle. These monies have been added to our Rally Fund which will be used to defray the cost of future rallies.



Here is the status of our funds:

June 2018 Update	
Bank Balance as of 6/1/2018	\$25,612.06
Money Allocations for Remainder of 2018	
RESERVES	
Our minimum: Money available for early rally expenses	\$6,000.00
Rally Fund	\$3,400.87
Money for Future FMCA travel	\$2,663.82
ANTICIPATED EXPENSES	
Money to be spent on fall rally	\$11,958.00
New member badges & new officer badges	\$318.00
Money needed to set up a new Treasurer	\$300.00
Officer reimbursements for expenses	\$101.99
<b>Total of reserves &amp; anticipated expenses</b>	<b>\$24,742.68</b>
<b>Remaining Funds</b>	<b>\$869.38</b>

Margaret Hedstrom

## New Member Corner

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

Jerry & Karen Appledoorn, Farlbault, MN  
Steve Bloom & Judy Aleman, University Park, FL  
Tom & Pud Francis, Horseshoe Bay, TX  
Mark & Wanda Helm, West Chester, PA  
Bob & Jill Hiatt, Cape Coral, FL  
David & Joan Kintzele, Collierville, TN  
Jack & Cathy Laudet, Nokomis, FL  
Marjorie Meyer, Lakewood Ranch, FL  
Bob & Beth Robertson, Columbia, MS  
Riley & Christine Spoon, Winston-Salem, NC  
Tim & Todd Towell, Erie, CO  
Dewey & Doris Walker, Beatrice, NE  
Bernie & Donna Gareau, Homer, AK  
Alan Hess & Sherry Bayer, N. Canton, OH  
Mark & Kim Kenny, Port St. Lucie, FL  
Martha Kuehling, Abbeville, LA  
Mark Maxwell, Lansdale, PA  
Chuck Pemberton & Dolly Oliva, Hillsville, VA  
Ted & Angela Soriano, Lakeside, CA  
Eric & Brenda Stanley, Champion, PA  
Jim & Karen Tucker, Farmington, MO



We hope all of you will join us soon at our rallies or in our Facebook group. Club membership now stands at 124 coaches.

Jan Zitzewitz

## Please Submit Nominations

We will be electing half of our officers at the business meeting of the fall rally. The positions to be filled include: 1st VP (Membership), Secretary, Treasurer, and Alternate FMCA Director.

Descriptions of these positions can be found on our new website:

<http://coachhouseownersclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CHOC-Member-and-Volunteer-Handbook.pdf>

Please send your nominations to [Nominations@CoachHouseOwnersClub.com](mailto:Nominations@CoachHouseOwnersClub.com) It is OK to nominate yourself, especially if you enjoy working with others to keep the fun in our club.

## Do It Yourself Window Covers

Our requirements for coach window covers have changed during our ten years of ownership. After buying two different window covers we decided to make our own. I am happy with our do-it-yourself covers because of their of their functionality, ease of use and inexpensive cost.

Our first window cover was made of light weight canvas that hung from the top back corner of the two cab doors and went across the windshield and door windows. The lower edge of the cover was held in place by the windshield wipers and by a magnet sewn into the corner near each door handle. This cover was not expensive and worked most of the time. It was very private and since it is on the outside, it did well to keep out solar energy. However, it does not handle well in the wind. One time near the beach, it blew off completely. Luckily, we found it before it left the campground. It also was not fun to pack up after a rain shower. I also worried that the strong magnets were beginning to scratch the paint where they snapped onto the doors.



Our second window cover was ordered over the Internet. It intrigued us because our cab tended to heat up in the sun and this cover was made of reflective sheets of plastic bubbles. It installed inside the cab so it was totally safe from weather events. It consisted of five separate panels for the five windows in the cab. The side window panels were each held onto their window by 2 or 3 suction cups. The front windshield cover unrolled and tucked under the mirror and sun shades. I was disappointed that the front panel was not as wide as I would like, leaving about 2 inches open on each side. But we put up with it by drawing our inside cab curtain when we did not feel private enough. The suction cups turned out to be another problem. They left rings on the windows and one of them destroyed a decal we had posted. And occasionally they would self release.

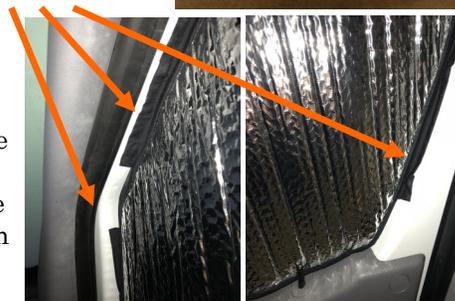
When we found the same reflective bubble material in Home Depot called Reflectix®, we decided to make our own window covers. In the meantime we had had tinting added to the cab windows. Suction cups were not recommended to be used on the tinting film. So, we decided to try the very small (about 1/4 inch in diameter), but powerful, rare-earth magnets you can find on the Internet or in some hardware stores.

We made a template out of heavy paper (old campaign signs) for the door windows, going with a single panel to cover both windows of each door. The same template fit both doors. We arranged the template so that the roll creases would be close to vertical in the window. Margaret made a bias tape for the edging. Additional cloth tabs were cut to hold the magnets along each edge of the panel except for the bottom where our Sprinter cab is not magnetic. Once one side of the tab was sewn on, we hot-glued separate magnets about 2 inches apart before sewing the other edge of the tab to the plastic. The glue is mostly to keep the magnets from jumping onto the sewing machine while sewing. Note the magnets hold best in your RV if they lie flat on the nearby metal window frame. So glue the magnets with their edge close to the fold of the tab material. After sewing the tabs closed, it is good to sew around each magnet so if it becomes unglued it will not change location inside the tab next to its neighbor magnet. We finished each side window panel with a two-sided Velcro® strap to roll it up for storage.



To install the side window covers, tuck the bottom of the panel just over the door lock button and lean the panel into the window frame. The magnets should pop the panel into place.

We cheated on the front panel by just cutting a strip of Reflectix® to widen our previous purchase. But you will have plenty of material left from the 4x10 foot roll of Reflectix® to shape a panel for your front window.



We have not tried to make additional panels for the coach windows. It should be possible, but any magnets would have to be placed around each panel edge to match precisely with the iron screw heads around the aluminum window frames. And slots would need to be cut in the panels for the louver knobs.

We hope you find this helpful to keep your RV comfortable regardless of the outside conditions. See us at the next rally to get an up close look at our covers.

Charlie & Margaret Hedstrom

# CHOCTalk

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

## **Did You Get Your Takata Airbags Replaced?**

I assume that airbag recall notices were sent to the owners of all affected vehicles. Our 2007 Sprinter chassis was one of the recalled vehicles, first for the passenger side, then later for the driver side. You can look for recalls on your vehicle by VIN number at:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>

While we were waiting over a year for the passenger side parts , we got the other recall for the driver side. But parts were not available for either one. After much pestering and phone calls, we were able to replace the driver side airbag. Several months later we were told we could now replace the passenger side airbag corresponding to the now 2 year old recall. We had that work done just before the spring rally.

One would think the story is over. However, as Margaret was organizing all of our repair records, she noticed our last receipt said the driver side airbag was replaced (again). So, tomorrow morning were are going back to the dealer to hopefully have the passenger side airbag really replaced before our summer travels.

Stay alert, and safe travels!

Charlie Hedstrom