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## President's Report



Hey there, CHOCites.....

Hope this finds you having nicer weather than our late April spring weather here in northern Illinois. Last Friday I was working in the yard in a short-sleeved shirt; you know, admiring the daffodils, smelling the blooms on some of our flowering bushes, oh yeah – and getting the water feature up and running and doing some initial weeding. Saturday we had four inches of heavy snow: the windshield wipers could not clear it. Sunny and flirting with 50 degrees on Sunday. Just strange!

Speaking of blooms: it was delightful driving from the Chicago area to the rally down in Savannah. We saw more leafing out the farther south we went, eventually blooming dogwoods tucked in amongst the roadside greens. I went from a long sleeved shirt and a light jacket to short sleeves. Don't know how you southerners survive without snow, but by this time of year I get it.

Saw quite a few new pilots/copilots at the Savannah Rally in early April, a reflection of the large number of new CHOC members. Coach House has been great in helping sign up new members. I thank Steve (and Lori) and his crew for that. It's always exciting to bring new folks into our CHOC family.

I want to thank Ruth & Bill Ristow and Irene Wedemeyer for their work in putting together the rally. These things don't happen overnight. Nor do they happen by accident. Especially when you are coordinating camping sites, a meeting hall, catered food, buses for excursions, entry fees and ... Our VPs for Rally Planning did a great job for us.

Thanks to all the Savannah Spring Rally attendees: you made the rally interesting and enjoyable.

I'd also like to thank Melody Thompson, Sherry Bayer and Randy Paul for accepting nomination and election to the Nominating Committee. They have a little work to do between the Spring rally and the Fall rally elections. Looking forward to see who is willing to volunteer their time to serve as our officers.

See you at the Gettysburg Rally in Fall ???!

Safe Travels,

.....David Wedemeyer



## 84 Meet in Savannah, Georgia for 2019 CHOC Spring Rally

CHOC members from 13 different states gathered at the CreekFire RV Resort in Savannah, GA for our 2019 Spring Rally. Four people from Coach House also attended with two Arriva models for people to explore. Coach House is always welcome at our rallies, even without all of the service work they performed while the rest of us toured Savannah. Michael Bonne, the Service Manager, even recruited repair help from Chris Corell and Jason Bottorff, the Factory Representatives.

The weather report as we were leaving home indicated rain all week in Savannah. Some how, it only rained twice. And both times it was during dinner in the big white event tent pictured above. We all stayed dry even though the strong winds wanted to lift the tent sides up.

Many people chose to arrive during the weekend before the rally, giving them time to settle in and visit with others. Some lingered to chat after registration in the shade of the campground office porch Monday afternoon.



We filled the event tent as people gathered for the social hour and our pot luck dinner. The Coach House factory team was introduced just before the pot luck. We were quite surprised when Steve Gerzeny, the Coach House VP, presented the club with a check from the 50-50 raffle held during the factory rally. THANK-YOU, Steve!

There was plenty of good food at the pot luck. I filled my plate with tiny samples of many dishes, all delicious, but was unable to try even half of them for lack of space on my plate. I was most impressed with the creativity shown by the Chappell's RV shaped cookies.



On Tuesday we boarded three trolleys for a private tour of Savannah. After the tour we were dropped off in town just in time for lunch. It was hard to remember all the places pointed out by the tour guide that we needed to revisit using the "hop-on hop-off" feature of our tour passes. Marg and I (and at least one other couple) did remember to find the Leopold's Ice Cream store. Then we walked down by the river where we joined Paul and Mary Anne Williams to find the Waving Girl statue. The tour guide had said she waved at all ships while waiting for her sailor beau to return. Research at home revealed





that she had denied that reason. But she did wave a handkerchief by day or a lantern by night to all ships from 1871 until 1931. After she passed in 1943, a Liberty ship was named in her honor—the SS Florence Martus. We left the river front area by climbing the old iron steps back to high ground in the Cotton Exchange area. Some people spent their



time visiting some of the 24 mature, park-like squares in Savannah and seeing the old homes, businesses and churches around them. We met the trolleys at 3PM for the return trip to camp. Back at camp, we assembled in the tent for our social hour and first catered dinner. Some went back to their coaches to fetch rain gear. It did



rain hard during dinner, but stopped completely afterwards so it was dry for the walk home.

During our business meeting on Wednesday, Ruth announced plans for the next three rallies. Details are later in this newsletter. After lunch Michael Bonne lead a well attended question and answer session. Everyone thought the weather was fine. But, that afternoon, the awnings on two nearby coaches were blown off by some very localized wind. No one else reported problems. It's another reminder that we all need to take our awnings down if we cannot address wind issues promptly. Thanks to Michael and helpers who removed the damaged awnings and sealed the roofs to await replacement installation. Meanwhile, many members participated in the open house tour of coaches. Before you



knew it, it was time for the social hour and another catered dinner with a pasta bar. After dinner we were entertained by Cynergy, a group of three musicians who sang and played violin, guitar, mandolin, and hammered dulcimer. After the concert, Irene and Marg chatted with the dulcimer player. He has learned all of his music by ear and does not read music. His music is beautiful.



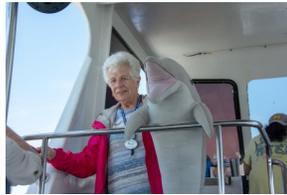
On Thursday we took two buses to the Tybee Island area. We began with a stop at the small community of Pin Point, famous as the birthplace of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. The Pin Point Heritage

Museum showed us a video explaining the history of the community and its Gullah people. They caught and processed crabs in the summer and oysters in the winter. We walked by the shucking stations where oysters, shoveled into outside bins, fed each station. The empty shells were then dropped into a hole that fed back outside and were used to reseed the oyster beds. The design was efficient, but cold in the winter and hot in the summer. After learning about oysters and crabbing it was only appropriate to have lunch at The (Original) Crab Shack. There were





several dining areas at the restaurant. We were seated in a large area with elaborate piñata-like sea life hanging in the ceiling. Some found time to visit the exotic bird room. Others had fun feeding the alligators with food on a fishing pole. We relaxed for the afternoon on two dolphin watch tour boats. Early on the cruise Helga posed with the guaranteed



dolphin sighting. Although we did eventually see real dolphins, including a mom and her calf, most of the wildlife were cormorants, brown pelicans and an occasional tern. Near the Tybee Island Lighthouse we could see people walking on the beach. The Cockspar Island Lighthouse was fully surrounded by water at high tide.



Back in camp, after dinner, we held our 50-50 raffle. Paul Shipley seemed very pleased to hold the winning ticket. It was a welcome change of luck seeing as though his coach got into a fender bender on the way to the rally. Fortunately, he and Helga were able to rent a cabin at the campground to participate in the rally while their rig was repaired.

Thanks to Ruth, Bill and Irene for another fun rally! Hopefully, these pictures convey how interesting the tours were. It is difficult to describe the smiles and stories that were shared. May you find the chance to join us next time!

Charlie Hedstrom

## New Member Corner

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

Mary Ann Brewer	Michael Burdette & Patricia Wilks	Dick & Beth Chase
Royal & Melinda Connell	David & Nancy Cutshall	Joseph & Barbara Daily
Don & Janet Deaton	Ann Evans & Ruth LeClere	Sara Duffy
Carolyne Gatesy & David Townsend		Thomas Goolsby & Pat Coker
Greg & Leslie Hahn	Pat & Pam Heye	Bill & Leslie Johnson
Ron & Brenda Karlin	Frank & Kim Kenny	David & Susie Kentner
Greg & Margaret Konrad	Rudina Kudlac & Rosanna Copeland	Phil LeFrancis
John & Joyce Lowry	Ralph & Corita McAllister	Jan Mitchell
Jeff & Tami Nielsen	Rod & Suzanne Niemann	Lee Overstreet
Mark & Debra Parrish	Steve & Colleen Patton	Phil Peters & Dusty Sutton
Pete & Marianne Raft	Bob & Lynn Ripley	Crawford & Elizabeth Rollings
William & Nancy Robinson	Steve & Camilla Roper	Steve & Sandra Salemi
Sandy Sarvey & Dave Morgan		Linda Sybrant
Gary & Deborah West	James & Ruth Woodland	

Several of the new members have joined our Facebook group, and five even made it to the Spring rally. We are looking forward to meeting all of you online and at the rallies. Club membership now stands at 149 coaches, of which 84 are members of our CHOC Facebook group.



**CHOC Detailed Cash Flow as of Spring 2019 Rally**  
10/1/2018 through 5/9/2019

Category	Non-rally Transactions	Rally - Asheville Fall 2018	Rally - Savannah Spring 2019	Category TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>				
Dues				
Dues:2019	3,625.00	0.00	0.00	3,625.00
Dues:2020	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Dues:2021	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
TOTAL Dues	3,800.00	0.00	0.00	3,800.00
Rally Income				
50-50 Raffle Proceeds		217.00	310.00	527.00
50-50 Raffle Proceeds from CH Factory Rally			380.00	380.00
Registration Fees		0.00	24,678.12	24,678.12
TOTAL Rally Income		217.00	25,368.12	25,585.12
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3,575.00</b>	<b>217.00</b>	<b>25,368.12</b>	<b>29,385.12</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Club Expenses				
Badges	822.00	0.00	0.00	822.00
Treasurer's Expenses	168.65	0.00	0.00	168.65
TOTAL Club Expenses	990.65	0.00	0.00	990.65
Rally Expenses				
Entertainment & Admissions		0.00	4,941.05	4,941.05
Food (Catering & Restaurants)		0.00	13,553.14	13,553.14
Meeting Room Expense		0.00	141.78	141.78
Misc. Expenses & Supplies		0.00	396.40	396.40
Rally Pins		0.00	279.00	279.00
Return Deposit		0.00	3,024.00	3,024.00
Transportation		0.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
TOTAL Rally Expenses		0.00	25,535.37	25,535.37
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>990.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25,535.37</b>	<b>26,526.02</b>
<b>TRANSFERS</b>				
FROM SunTrust (checking)	10,782.33	0.00	0.00	10,782.33
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>13,591.68</b>	<b>217.00</b>	<b>-167.25</b>	<b>13,641.43</b>

Val Baselice

## A Word from your Alternate FMCA National Director

It was great seeing you all at our recent CHOC rally in Savannah and look forward to seeing many of you in Gettysburg this fall. As we discussed during our members meeting, visit [FMCA.com](http://FMCA.com) and learn of the many benefits included in your FMCA membership. In addition to the monthly magazine, you'll receive FMC Assist which is priceless assistance during a medical emergency, low rates on SafeRide RV Motor Club roadside assistance, discounts on tires, RV insurance, travel insurance, Internet hot spot offers, and many others. And don't forget the many RV rallies FMCA sponsors throughout the year. These rallies are open to all members and offer educational seminars, entertainment, social events, vendor displays, and coach builder displays. They're a fun way to add to your summer and fall travels. For a complete list of rallies, visit [FMCA.com](http://FMCA.com). There, you will find complete details for each event.

For added fun, should you decide to attend a rally, post an event for the rally on our CHOC Facebook page. Others may be attending the same rally and would like to join you. Simply agree on a time to meet at the rally entrance and caravan in together. That way you can park as a group. Pam and I have done this many times with our former club. As a matter of fact, we will be attending the International Rally in Minot, ND in August and would love to have you join us. I will be posting a time and place on our Facebook page later this summer so those interested can join us. Until then, safe travels.

Ross Hendrix

## Members Attend Their First Rally

We welcomed 21 first-time rally attendees in Savannah. Two were unable to join us for this photo. But they are included at the foreground table in the event tent photo at the start of the rally article.



## CHOC SAVANNAH RALLY

We were always surrounded by friendly faces.  
Trolleys and buses took us places.  
Pin Point ---a united community;  
Hard-working people with a unique history.  
Open coaches with ideas to share  
Had helpful hints everywhere.  
The food's been great; dolphins were, too.  
But best of all: ALL OF YOU !

Jean Oaks

## Greetings from your Rally Coordinators...

Thank you to all who attended the Savannah Rally for volunteering to make everything go smoothly.

As we look forward to the Fall 2019 rally in Gettysburg, please be aware that half of the 42 full service sites have already been reserved. There may be additional electric/water sites available, but we encourage you to make your reservation soon to be assured that you will be with the CHOC group. Remember to send an email to [rristow@wowway.com](mailto:rristow@wowway.com) when you have made your reservation. It is helpful if you include the site number you were assigned.

We will be emailing the registration materials as soon as all details are finalized. Information will also be posted on the CHOC Facebook page. Hope to see you in Gettysburg.

Ruth & Bill Ristow  
Irene Wedemeyer

**Coach House Owners Club (CHOC)  
Fall 2019 Rally  
September 23 - 27, 2019  
Gettysburg, PA**



We will be staying at:

**Gettysburg Campground  
2030 Fairfield Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325**

**Phone: (888) 879-2241  
(717) 334-3304**

<https://gettysburgcampground.com/attractions.html>

**Rally Rates:**

Premium sites, with full hook-ups = \$51.15 *(30 amp creekside back in or 30/50 amp back in)*

Standard sites, with full hook-ups = \$46.58 *(30 amp back in or pull through)*

When making a reservation, **you must ask for sites that have been reserved by Ruth Ristow, who is in site # 13, as well as mention that you are with Coach House Owners Club (CHOC).** Your credit card will be charged the regular rates of \$56.00 and \$51.00 plus tax, but the discount will be applied at check in. If cancelled at least 7 days before arrival the deposit is refunded, minus a \$5.00 processing fee.

**Reservations must be made by August 15 to receive the rally rate** and to insure that your assigned site will be with the rest of the group. We have 43 full hook-up sites reserved. If we exceed that number we cannot guarantee full hook-up for any additional reservations.

If you wish to extend your stay, Gettysburg Campground does offer Good Sam discount on their regular rates.

**Please email Ruth Ristow at [rristow@wowway.com](mailto:rristow@wowway.com) when you have made your reservation, so we can keep an accurate tally of those who plan on attending.**

Rally schedule and registration form will be emailed as soon as all details are finalized.

**Tentative future rally dates and locations**

Spring, 2020 – April 20 – 24, 2020 – Ponchatrain Landing, New Orleans, LA

Fall, 2020 – September 28 – October 2, 2020 - Normandy Farms, Foxborough, MA (Boston area)

# CHOC*Talk*

*Coach House Owners' Club Chapter FMCA  
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Photo Credits: Several CHOC members posted their photography on our CHOC Facebook page. CHOC members only, please join our Facebook group to post your pictures and see our photo albums from past rallies. Photos in this issue are from: Royal Connell, Charlie & Marg Hedstrom, Jackye Moody and Randy Paul. Thank you to all who posted photos or comments.