



TREK TRAVELS



Volume 8 Number 4

October 2021

President's Message

I hope that you have all had a great summer and have been able to enjoy this very warm and dry (for the Northwest) year. Unfortunately, due to the Covid uncertainties, the club was not able to hold as many rallies as we would like. Without the rallies new friendships are not formed and old friendships are not renewed. The rallies and the sharing of information are some of the best reasons for being part of the NW Trek Fun Club. The rest is just extraneous measures to allow for our club to exist and function. We now have at least two rallies in the works for next year and will work toward others. More information will be provided in the future as plans are firmed.

This is the time of year when we have elections to fill the positions that keep the club functioning and providing information to the membership. Because of health or personal reasons some members have agreed to extend their service to the club. However, we need some "newer" people to step up. We need volunteers for the position of Vice President, Webmaster, and Rally Coordinator.

Several of the long-time members have participated for years and provided the person-power needed to give us the opportunity to enjoy fun times and adventures. If the club is to continue its tradition of sharing wonderful adventures, it is time for members to come forward to fill these positions. The duties of all these positions are available on the NWTFC Website. The thing to remember is that, as the name implies this is a fun club and the goal of the group is to have fun. While the job descriptions
(Continued on page 2)

2022 NWTFC ANNUAL DUES \$10

Send to: Irva Cooper
NWTFC Treasurer
15705 Cedar Grove Road
Poulsbo, WA 98370

A modest dues increase will be necessary for 2023.

RALLY SCHEDULE 2022

January 20 – 23 Trek Gathering at
Quartzite

June 18 – 21 Osprey Point Landing
Pre-rally
Osprey Point RV Resort
Lakeside, OR
Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Plus additional helper(s)

June 23 – 26 FMCA NW Area Rally
Mill Casino
Coos Bay, OR

August Port Townsend Rally
Ron & Mary Mahugh

August 24 – 27 FMCA Intl. Convention
Lincoln, NE

NWTFC's goal
is to have 3 – 4 rallies each year.
Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

President's Message - continued

may seem intimidating, the actual time commitments and energy requirements are not. The Secretary position and the Webmaster positions are probably the most important to the functioning of the club and would consume the most time. David and Mary currently have the methods in place to minimize the time commitments.

Anyone accepting any position can depend on the person they are replacing to help as much as necessary in getting comfortable with the duties of the position. The commitment is only for two years at a time. If you have time and or the skills that would make it possible to fill one of the available positions, please consider volunteering to help the club.

Keep on Trekking!!
Mike Ashbridge, President



NWTFC Elections in October

Ballots will soon be sent by email to the membership for the 2021 elections. Following slate of officers has been nominated. Each will serve a two-year term.

President – Mike Ashbridge
Vice President – nominee needed
(1 year term)
Secretary – David Pierce
Natl. Dir. – Al Zimmerman

Contact John Turner, Nominating Committee, about filling the VP position. jfturner3@juno.com or Mike Ashbridge, President, mikeashbridge@comcast.net

RALLY COORDINATOR NEEDED

A goal of NWTFC is to have 3 – 4 rallies a year – one of which may be the pre-rally to the FMCA NW Area Rally. For everyone's planning it is helpful to have an annual rally calendar established by March of each year.

The Rally Coordinator oversees rally schedules and provides guidance and support to wagon masters. He/she is to be ...

- Positive encourager
- Planner
- Recruiter
- Helper to wagon masters to find rally sites and provide hints for to successful rallies.

There are many helpful materials for rally planning and mentors to assist wagon masters.

Everyone appreciates the Rally Coordinator and his/her role in helping the NW Trek Fun Club have fun. This could be a great opportunity for you to help support the Trek club.

For a copy of the full job description, go the NWTFC website in the members section, about the club. If you are interested or have questions, send a note to Mike Ashbridge, president. mikeashbridge@comcast.net.

News from FMCA Northwest

Don Schleuse is the NW Area president and his term is ending this year. Dennis Martin was elected Sr. VP at the September planning meeting. George Doersch was elected VP and Cindy Haynes was elected for another term as secretary.

For various reasons several NW chapters are struggling to recruit new members. New ways are being sought to attract younger members to join chapters.

The 2023 NW Area Rally will be in Albany May 29 – June 2, 2023. This is earlier than usual, because the rally had to be squeezed in between two graduations and those were the only dates available.

UPCOMING RALLIES 2022



QUARTZITE • ARIZONA
January 20 – 23

Unofficial but very popular Trek gathering

The largest gathering of Treks anywhere! It is a totally free, no host, **dry camping** experience where you can share your Trek experiences, modifications, upgrades, etc. with other Trekkers. This is truly a unique experience for Trek owners. Come to the Trek gathering and enjoy evening campfires, technical presentations, fellowship with other Trekkers – and **just plain fun!**

The gathering will be in a different location for 2022. Contact Mary Carlson at hmcarlson30@gmail.com for more info. Agenda and details are usually distributed in November.

Combine this Trek gathering with the huge RV show (which is generally referred to as the big tent) and the Tyson-Wells Sell-A-Rama – one of the largest swap meets and flea markets in the nation, and it becomes the place to be in January.



RALLY ON THE LAKE
Pre-rally Gathering
June 18 – 21

Location
Osprey Point RV Resort
Lakeside, Oregon

Fun, food, and fellowship

Wagon masters
Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Plus others TBD

FMCA NW AREA RALLY
June 22 -26, 2021

Location
Mill Casino
Coos Bay / North Bend, Oregon

NWTFC will staff the FMCA store
Volunteers caravan into fairgrounds on
Tuesday & camp together.

Contact Al Zimmerman for more info

- Meet new people
 - Renew friendships
 - Good food
 - Gain new insights
 - Enjoy the fun of rallies

Watch for registration forms and more info in the next newsletter.



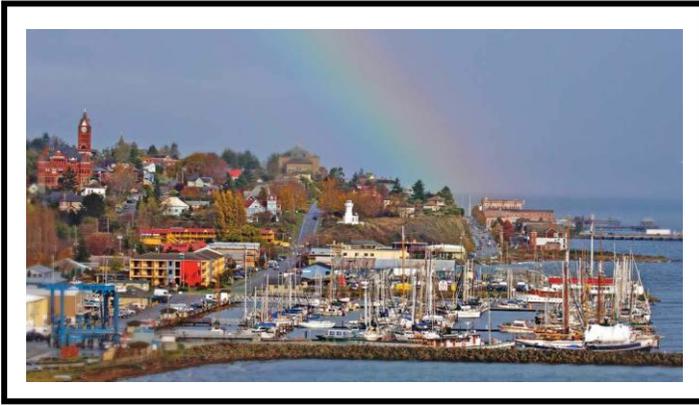
**OSPREY POINT
RV RESORT**

**BEST of the
SOUTH COAST FAVORITE
2020**

Thank You South Coast
for voting us your
Favorite Business in Lakeside



RV Park • Cabins • Pub • Pizza • Coffee House



**PORT TOWNSEND
5.0 RALLY**

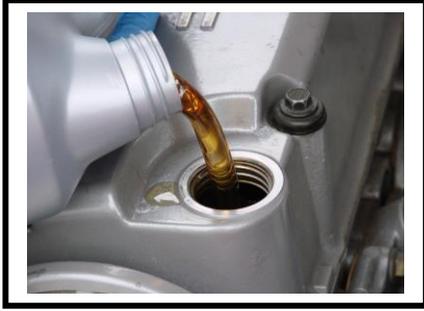
**Point Hudson Marina
Port Townsend, WA**

The good news is Port Hudson Marina and RV Park have changed their registration policy in a good way. We are looking at a rally the **last week of July or the first two weeks of August**. We cannot make any reservations until the 2nd of January, that's when I'll know the exact dates. Once again this is going to be a K.I.S.S. rally, very similar to the last rally at Port Townsend. The first part of January I'll get a code of some kind and reserve an X number of sites for the dates we want. Then in February members will have to call in and reserve their own sites using the code that we received earlier. There will be \$11 reservation fee when you call in and reserve your site.

The rally will probably start on Tuesday leaving on Sunday. As soon as we have a date, we'll send out a memo with the code and when NWTFC members can call in. You will only have 10 days to call in. It is up to you to pick your site.

Check out their registration system - <https://portofpt.com/molo-faq/>





Funny Thing About an Oil Change

From
FMCA Forum

Needing an oil change for my motorhome, I called several places for pricing. One of the ones I contacted was EconoLube, as we had driven by it and had seen an ad in their window saying they offered this service. We looked at each other and said, "I don't think EconoLube would be very experienced in this?" Then we thought, well, maybe they could be as they are right behind Camping World and there are a ton of RVs in that area, so what the heck? You can't lose anything with a call. Here's how it went ...

"EconoLube, May I help you?"

"Yes, I would like to know the price of an oil change for a National RV TropiCal class A diesel motorhome that is 36' long, please."

"Oh, that would be \$42.99"

"Are you sure? That does not seem right."

"I'm new here. Let me ask my manager..." yelling goes on... "Hey, Joe, how much is an oil change for a motorhome?"

"Excuse me, sir? Tell him it is a class A Diesel ..."

"Hang on, Joe, Mam? I don't think that makes a difference? It's just a standard motorhome, right?"

By now, of course I know that I am not taking it here, but I am amused so I keep on.

"Just tell him please? It might make a difference."

"I don't think so but ok ..." Hey, Joe, it's a Class A diesel 36'.

"Ohhhhh," said Joe, that's way different, "\$75.

Then I said, "It is very tall like a bus. Can it fit in the bay?"

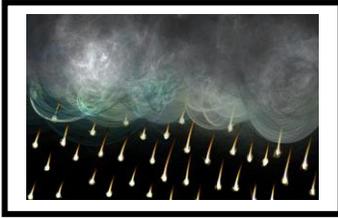
"No problem. We can go as high as 9.5 or 10' we are well set up here.

"Will you be over today?"

"I will let you know, but actually you guys better check your facts and your setup. You can't handle RVs at all."

Then we went to someplace else for the oil change.

Always ask a bunch of questions. You never know what response you will get, and by the way ... what exactly is just a standard motorhome?



PLANNING FOR A WARMER WINTER



It is always interesting to talk with people and discover new places to visit or places to stay longer. There are those who enjoy winter in the Pacific Northwest – some like to play in the snow and others are storm watchers. Then there are those who flee to the south. Why do they leave the best place on God’s green earth? To find out, I interviewed some of these “snowbirds.”

DS – Don Schleuse, NW Area President for FMCA.

BF – Bob Fitzgerald, long-time resident of Tillamook Oregon.

BM – Bret and Laura Medbury of Whidbey Island, Washington.

JT – John Turner of Salem, Oregon.

What motivated you to travel south for the winter months?

DS – The wet weather. Our daughter lives in the LA area.

BF – The weather – plain and simple. I’ve had 60 years of rain and it is nice to go south for the sunshine.

JT – We were tired of the dreary days when we couldn’t do things outdoors as we usually do.

BM - It is warmer and drier than where we live on Whidbey Island. Winters are mild, but still overcast and dreary.

How many years have you been traveling south?

DS – We have been going south since 2005.

BF – We have gone south for about 22 years. I used to take my dad down south prior to that.

JT – 2005 was our first year. For the first seven years we went south and wandered around. Since then, we have stayed at the same place during the winter.

BD – The first year we attended Quartzite was 2012. The Quartzite gathering motivated us to go south for the first time. Our primary mistake was what we were told about the gathering. We showed up on the stated day and the circle was already formed. We learned to show up a little early. We were thrilled at the Trekkers that gathered and how many people we met.

What is your usual travel schedule?

DS – We usually leave the first part of November and then to Coos Bay to look over the NW rally site and then on down to Yuma.

BF – We normally leave around the 1st of October and head north around the first of May.

JT – We leave the first of January and come home the first of April. The wife likes to enjoy the holidays with the grandchildren. I like getting back when it warms up and the taxes are due.

BM – We usually leave soon after Christmas. The departure date is somewhat determined by whether we will attend the FMCA Western Area Rally in Indio. Normally we go straight down I-5, unless the weather indicates it is better to take US 101 down the coast. We usually get home by the 2nd week of March.

Where do like to stay?

DS – Yuma is our preferred place. We used to jump around, but last year we bought a site in the Foothills. We used to go to Winterhaven, Quartzite, and Indio for the FMCA Western Area Rally. We usually head north by mid-April because of planning meetings for the NW area.

BF – We like Yuma, and we purchased a place there several years ago. We were familiar with the area because it was where my folks used to go. All the major services are there. It's a very friendly area, especially in the Foothills where we live.

JT – We have a park model in a park with 1,100 spaces and a 9-hole golf course in Apache Junction.

BM – We like to stay anywhere it is free – Quartzite, Borrego Springs, Fortuna Pond south of Quartzite. We stay away from the cities and we prefer low-cost sites – free is a very good price. One winter we spent a total of \$35 on campsites.

What do like to do?

DS – We geocache. Barbara sews. It is most enjoyable just to do nothing sometimes.

BF – For many years we had dune buggies and rode in the desert. Now we just enjoy the weather.

JT – I enjoy playing golf and working in the wood shop at the park where we stay. There is a tremendous wood shop there. I used to make bowls, now I make a lot of jewelry boxes.

Whatever suits my fancy, I work on as a project.



10 Things Arizonans Hate About Snowbirds

From Phoenix News Times

10. Restaurants – How can snowbirds possibly clog restaurants when they eat at 4:00 pm?
9. Sporting events - Here's how attendance gets up at Coyotes games — bring a Canadian or Midwestern team to town. Show up to see a game against the Canucks, and there are dozens of older people in jean jackets and drunk as skunks on a Tuesday.
8. Pharmacies – Snowbirds are lined up 8 deep and they all think they need to have a discussion with the pharmacist.
7. Grocery store - Not only can snowbirds not drive cars, they can't operate grocery carts, either.
6. Old people stories – None of us really care about how awful the Great Depression was.
5. Just standing around - No matter where you go in the winter, there are snowbirds there, just . . . hangin' out.
4. Saying Anything That Begins With "Back in..." - Nobody cares! There's a reason you're in Arizona right now.
3. Ugly, obnoxious dogs – Snowbirds have the most hideous dogs. They all make the same noise – Yap, Yap, Yap!!!
2. Anything involving an RV – Anything involving snowbirds and an RV is a disaster!
1. Driving - They have nowhere to go, really, but they always manage to get on a highway at 5 p.m. on the dot. It's rush hour!

NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge
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Vice President – Dean Bjornson
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Webmaster – Mary Carlson
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Newsletter Editor
Al Zimmerman

Member Care – Nancy Harris
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Feel free to contact
NWTFC officers or
committee chairs with
questions or suggestions.

NWTFC Website
www.nwtfc.com



The Northwest Trek Fun Club (NWTFC) was formed with the idea that Trek owners are people who are unique because the Trek design is quite unique. They are people who like to get out and visit the very beautiful sites and history of North America. However, they do not want to do it in a huge motor home. The Trek design gives us the comforts of home but still is small enough to get into those off-the-beaten-track sites.

NWTFC was established in 2004 and currently has about 80 coach members, including Treks spanning the 1991 Isuzu to the 2008 28RB2 and the 2016 Trek. We pride ourselves in fostering new friendships and knowledge of the Trek. We stress that our club's middle name is F-U-N.

We plan several rallies each year in several states and communicate with our members by email, newsletter, and through the club website. NWTFC territory covers WA, ID, OR, AK, MT, BC, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. All Trek owners, regardless of their home state, are welcome to join or to attend our rallies as guests.

Membership dues are \$10 per calendar year. See the website for a membership application.

When your membership is processed, you will be given a password access to the secure Members Only page of the NWTFC website.

NWTFC is a chapter of FMCA and very closely associated with SAFARI International.