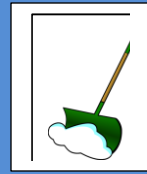




Volume 3 Number 1



# TREK TRAVELS



January 2016

## President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and are ready for an exciting year of Trek fun. Our Rally coordinator, Helen Anderson, has outlined a schedule of four stellar events for 2016.

In addition to our club schedule, the FMCA NW has a Regional Rally scheduled for June 23-26. The registration for the "ALL ABOARD FOR ALBANY" Rally is now available online @ FMCA. You can register by phone or by mail. Please note that this event will follow our Pre-Rally now scheduled for Brooks, Oregon from June 20-23.

**A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!** NWTFC will be staffing the FMCA Merchandise booth and we need members to help out with the sales effort. Please email me as soon as you can if you can help and if you are attending the pre rally.

I wish to thank all the 2015 officers and committee chairs who have made our program a special one for our members. You have accomplished quite a lot under President Al Zimmerman. Although his term is up, he will still be with us on the board.

If you haven't been on the NWTFC web site recently, please check it out as there is a wealth of info there on past/future events.

**Happy New Year and have fun Trekking,**

**Steve Webber-Plank**  
**NWTFC President**  
**donwebberplank@mac.com, 360-220-4468**



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

If you have not renewed your NW Trek Fun Club membership dues for 2016 – now is the time! Annual dues are just \$10. Make your check payable to NWTFC and mail to Sue Bjornson (treasurer) at 804 South 219th St., Des Moines, WA 98198

## 2016 RALLY SCHEDULE

(To be Wagon Master for a rally, contact Helen Anderson, Rally Coordinator, at [helen-anderson@comcast.net](mailto:helen-anderson@comcast.net))

May 21 - 28 Traveling Rally  
Lake Chelan > Grand Coulee  
Dean & Sue Bjornson  
Ken and Helen Anderson

June 20 - 23 Pre-rally to FMCA  
NW Rally  
Antique Powerland  
Brooks, Oregon  
Pat and Tom Wilhelm

June 23 – 26 FMCA NW Area Rally  
Albany, OR

August 11 – 14 Port Townsend, WA  
Ron Mahugh/Mary Burchett

Fall Joseph & Wallowa Lake, OR  
Bill & Paula Shull  
Richard & Nancy Harris  
John & Marie Turner

**Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!**



## SWAP MEET at FMCA NW Rally Albany

“All Aboard for Albany” FMCA Rally will have a swap meet. There is no charge for a spot. This is a great way to get rid of some extra RV stuff and earn some extra spending money. Not intended for those selling commercial products. Individuals or FMCA chapters can participate. Questions - contact John Pogany, captain for the FMCA swap meet at Albany rally, [poganyjobe@aol.com](mailto:poganyjobe@aol.com).

## ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED



### What would be your caption to this picture?

- Famous last words – “No problem, I can handle it.”
- As Jackie Gleason famously said, “And away we go.”
- Bungee strap everything together and I don’t see a problem.
- I think this tow trucker is a freekin genius!
- Now I understand why that roadside assistance quote was so cheap.  
(From IRV2.com forum)

## REMEMBERING ONE OF OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS



Betty Burton

with one of her spectacular dahlias  
Betty was diagnosed with cancer in November 2014 and underwent surgery followed by chemotherapy. Her cancer was malignant, stage 4 and there was nothing that anyone could do but try to slow its progression.

[This past year we enjoyed David and Betty at Quartzite and the FMCA NW Rally at Coos Bay. What a positive and strong presence in the midst of all this.]

Betty passed away on December 5, 2015 with her sisters and mine beside her. Our family was a great comfort, especially the fact that two of our sisters are nurses.

It was incredible how positive she remained throughout all this. I don’t think she ever let herself accept that she wasn’t going to somehow beat the disease.

I hope to be able to participate in some of the club outings this year.

- David Burton

# PLANNING AN EXTENDED TRIP



Many people use their motorhome for weekend trips only. Others plan a vacation trip of a week or two. But many Trekkers take off for months at a time to the south for the winter or across America exploring this great land.

Here are some tips that may be helpful. Some of these ideas may work for you and some may not – if it helps, use it, otherwise chalk it up to someone else's crazy way of doing things.

## Should we plan ahead?

This first question can lead to a variety of answers. We have friends who are planning to travel with their RV for six months and they have no idea where they are going. Wherever fantasy leads, they will follow. Some folks prefer to travel without reservations, they stop when they feel like it. Perhaps others use the 300 miles or 3:00 pm rule for the day. And when they reach the magic mark, they find a place to stop.

However, if you plan to be at the Grand Canyon and camp near the South Rim, it may best to have a reservation. If you plan to be near Gettysburg on Independence Day, you had better have a reservation. If the road you are planning to use is under construction and motorhomes are prohibited, you had better have an alternative in mind. If the route you are considering has an 11 foot height restriction, you had better know an alternate route. If it is summer and humid – you may want to run the air conditioner. Then it is nice to have electricity at your campsite.

There are services that will plan your route with suggested stops along the way, but I prefer to do my own planning. However, realize that any plan is subject to change – things happen.

## Where to camp

The possibilities for overnight or extended stays are almost endless: Walmart, high-end resorts, state parks, private campgrounds, and more. Passport America, KOA, Thousand Trails, and other programs offer discounts and selected campgrounds. And don't forget your Senior Pass from the U.S. government. It offers discounts at federal campgrounds and admission to national parks and historic sites. As Trekkers we have even more options. We prefer state parks and government campgrounds where possible, but then go into a KOA or private campground for laundry and amenities – especially when near cities or attractions.

Here are some helpful websites:

- Good Sam Campground Guide, formerly Woodalls (<http://www.woodalls.com>)
- RV Park Reviews ([www.rvparkreviews.com](http://www.rvparkreviews.com)) See how others evaluated the camp.
- Casino Camper ([www.casinocamper.com](http://www.casinocamper.com))
- Recreation. Gov ([www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)) – all kinds of public campgrounds  
Often you can see a photo of the actual campsite.
- Reserve America ([www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)) – reservation site used by many state park systems
- Allstays ([www.allstays.com/Campgrounds](http://www.allstays.com/Campgrounds))

There are numerous blogs and forums on the web that can provide hints and ideas. IRV2 is a helpful site. There are sections where travelers exchange information on locations and routes. Hitchhitch ([www.hitchhitch.com](http://www.hitchhitch.com)) is a collection of various blogs of people who are traveling across the US in their RV.

(More tips in the next Trek Travels newsletter.)

## UPCOMING RALLIES IN 2016



# NW Trek Fun Club Traveling Rally

**May 21 - 28, 2016 (8 nights)**

Lake Chelan, Coulee City, Grand Coulee

### Rally Highlights

**(3 parts, 8 nights total)**

This rally is planned so that there is a lot of free time to explore the areas visited, spend time chatting with friends, napping, reading, comparing RV's, etc. Most of the meals are planned & prepared by you. We do think it would be fun to gather each evening for "happy hour" and eat our dinner together.

#### Saturday, May 21

\* Arrive at Lakeshore RV Park on Lake Chelan & get settled 5:00 – Dinner potluck of heavy hor d'oeuvres

#### Sunday, May 22

\*8:00 to ? — Morning coffee time together  
BYOC (Bring Your Own Coffee)

\*Free time to enjoy the area

\*5:00 Happy hour

#### Monday, May 23

\*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

\*Boat tour of Lake Chelan, wine tasting, golfing

\*5:00 Happy hour

#### Tuesday, May 24

\*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

\*Leave for Sun Lakes Resort RV Park

\*Free time to enjoy the area

\*5:00 Happy hour

#### Wednesday, May 25

\*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

\*Free time to enjoy the area; tour Dry Falls

\*5:00 Happy hour

#### Thursday, May 26

\*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

\*Leave for Spring Canyon RV Park

\*Free time to enjoy the area

\*5:00 Happy hour

#### Friday, May 27 & Saturday, May 28

\*8:00 to ? – Morning coffee time together (BYOC)

Tour Grand Coulee Dam; Laser Light Show in evening

### USEFUL WEBSITES

*Lakeshore RV Park –*

[www.lakechelan.com/what-to-doactivities/camping](http://www.lakechelan.com/what-to-doactivities/camping)

*(In first paragraph click on "city park")*

*Sun Lakes Resort RV Park –*

[www.sunlakesparkresort.com](http://www.sunlakesparkresort.com)

*Spring Canyon (NPS) –*

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) (then click "Find Places and Activities", then chose Spring Canyon

A Park Pass is required for camping at Spring Canyon.. A Park Pass includes one of the following: a single visit receipt, the Mt. Rainier Annual, Interagency Annual, Volunteer, Senior or Access passes. You can get a lifetime **Senior Pass** at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>. The lifetime pass costs \$10. With this pass your camping fees are \$9 instead of \$18.

### Reservations Period Has Passed

Since the reservation period has passed, contact the individual campgrounds to make reservations.

Let the wagon master know you are coming. (dsbjornson@gmail.com)

Wagon Masters: Dean & Sue Bjornson, Ken & Helen Anderson





## PORT TOWNSEND RALLY

August 11 – 14, 2016



Location: Port Hudson Marina & RV Park

Port Townsend is a wonderful historic town to explore:

- Fun shops & good eats
- Fort Worden
- NW Maritime Center
- Dolphin & whale watching tours
- And so much more



**ADVANCE RESERVATIONS NEEDED NOW!**

Contact Ron Mahugh soon at [ronski16@comcast.net](mailto:ronski16@comcast.net)



## ALL ABOARD FOR ALBANY

FMCA NW AREA RALLY

June 23 - 26

**Registration** form online at [www.fmca.org](http://www.fmca.org)

**NWTFC is staffing the store** & volunteers are needed.

Contact Steve Webber-Plank at [donwebberplank@mac.com](mailto:donwebberplank@mac.com)



**ANTIQUE  
POWERLAND RALLY**  
&  
PRE-RALLY TO FMCA NW RALLY  
at  
ALBANY  
**June 20-23**

Wagon Masters: Pat and Tom Wilhelm

- Three nights of camping.
- Some hookups available. However, if the ground is wet, then be prepared for dry camping on gravel.

**Antique Powerland**, which opened in 1970, was originally established by a group of enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation, restoration and operation of steam powered equipment, antique farm machinery and implements. Today, it encompasses an impressive collection of museums dedicated to preserving Oregon's rich agricultural heritage.

There are more than 15 different museums – all with some connection to horsepower or transportation.

- Antique Caterpillar Machinery Museum
- Antique Implement Society
- Branch 15 Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association
- Brooks Historical Society
- Northwest Vintage Car & Motorcycle Museum
- Oregon Electric Railway Museum
- Oregon Fire Service Museum
- Pacific Northwest Logging Museum
- Pacific Northwest Truck Museum

And it is all in one place at Antique Powerland.



**DIRECTIONS:** ¼ mile from I-5 at exit 263 in Brooks.

## Caravan to the FMCA NW Area Rally at Albany

Contact **Pat Wilhelm** soon to let her know of your interest.  
[skunkville@gmail.com](mailto:skunkville@gmail.com) or 503-400-1921



## NWTFC 2015 OFFICER REPORTS EXCERPTS

(Full reports on the NWTFC website)

President – Al  
Zimmerman

NWTFC continues to have a robust membership and an active calendar. The uniqueness of the Trek motorhome continues to give identity to the club. There is still not a premium short coach on the market that meets the needs of the motorhome public like a Trek.

Materials have developed to promote NWTFC and encourage new members to participate. The website, newsletter, and now a brochure about the club are all resources for members to use.

2015 began with some improvements to our operating procedures. Financial guidelines were adopted so standardized financial procedures and practices could give greater confidence to the membership. Revised rally guidelines were adopted to clarify rally procedures for wagon masters. A key goal was adopted: A goal of NWTFC is to have at least three rallies a year (one of which may be a pre-rally to an FMCA event). The objective is to spread rallies among spring, summer, and fall and distribute rallies among the various geographic areas served by NWTFC. An annual rally calendar is to be established and published by March.

A list of rally mentors was established. These are experienced wagon masters who can come alongside new wagon masters and provide assistance and counsel. An effort has been made to have two couples serve together as wagon masters. A rally planning packet of helpful tools was also put together. All of this was done so that the task of planning a rally could be more easily accomplished and not seem overwhelming to new wagon masters. As a club we want to see more people involved.

This is a “fun club” and our thanks are extended to Ken and Helen Anderson as rally coordinators for such a fun year.

Honorary members were adopted as a new membership category by the club. These are members who no longer own a motorhome, but desire to continue to enjoy the club’s fellowship. They are nominated by the membership and approved by the executive board. Current honorary members are: Stan and Barb Shackell, Bob and Barb Brown, Doug and Vera Clark, and Rich and Lois Piispanen.

NWTFC was involved with the FMCA Area Rally held at the Mill Casino in North Bend, Oregon. Led by Steve Webber-Plank, NWTFC took on responsibility for the FMCA store and registration. With the involvement of members plus additions from California, Oregon Trail Drivers, and the Oregon River Ramblers we fulfilled our assignment. Special thanks to Bobbi Radford for making the registration process succeed. In 2016 NWTFC will only be responsible for the store at the Albany FMCA NW Rally.

There is a special love for Treks built on the Isuzu chassis. In 2015 action was taken to include an Isuzu Trekkers Newsletter on the NWTFC website.

As the departing president, I want to extend my personal appreciation to all those who served NWTFC during this past year. Throughout the year there was a sense that we were all working together and seeking to improve the club in any way we could.

2015 will bring new leadership as Steve Webber-Plank begins his service as president. We look forward to great year in 2016. A great slate of rallies is planned for 2016 with a traveling rally to Lake Chelan and Grand Coulee, pre-rally, Port Townsend, Wallowa Lake, the Antique Powerland in Brooks.

Happy Trekkin to one and all.

### Vice President – Dean Bjornson

Ken and Helen Anderson served along with me on this year's Nominating Committee.

The following slate of potential officers and committee members was provided for elections:

President: Steve Webber-Plank

Secretary: David and Sue Pierce

National FMCA Director: Al Zimmerman

2016 Nominating committee members:

Paula Shull and Bret Medbury

Elections were held and the vote was unanimous in favor of the slated names.

Many thanks to Ken and Helen Anderson for serving on the 2015 Nominating Committee. Also, I extend appreciation to those people who volunteered their time to be officers and committee members to further the success of the Northwest Trek Fun Club.

### Secretary – David & Sue Pierce

Another busy year: Electronic Meetings, Newsletters, ByLaw Changes, Club Officer Elections and many well attended Rallies. Low fuel prices continue providing many miles of adventurous exploring.

Our membership currently is 64, having lost 5 members and gaining 7 new ones last year. There are also four Honorary Members on record. Most of our new members are attracted by the information and experience to be exchanged with other Trek owners, but are usually retained as members by the excellent rallies and friendships that ensue.

### Webmaster – Mary Carlson

2015 has been a very busy year for this webmaster! Harry and I are now traveling five months out of the year and spend a good part of that time in the beautiful Pacific Northwest – away from the heat of Nevada summers. The big challenge is having internet service.

This year saw a major website issue rearing its head. We have known for a while that our

(Webmaster continued)

website needed to be updated but wanted to wait until it was necessary. This was made very clear when the Trek Tracks portion of our website went down this summer and then soon after we lost the Member's Only area. And now our hosting company will no longer support those programs either.

I was able to meet with the Executive Board at the Bremerton Rally and explain our options to them and then to the membership. I received approval to do what needed to be done for a short-term solution and to then work on the ultimate issue of updating our website to a supported platform. We now have access to everything but the membership directory piece.

I am currently writing a Request for Proposal to submit to several website developers after the first of the year. We will work together to update the website to a newer, supported platform and restore the functionality of those areas we lost. I will keep you posted on the progress.

Happy Travels to you all!

### Treasurer – Sue Bjornson

Beginning Balance 1 Jan 2015	\$4,047
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#### Income

Member dues	\$650
Rally registration fees	\$9,734
Fundraising & gifts	\$188
Member pins	\$18

Total Income	\$10,590	\$14,637
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#### Expenses

Rally payments	\$9,640
Wagon Master sites	\$210
Website expenses	\$153
FMCA program ad	\$40
Misc – bank charges	\$65
Other – Historian, etc.	\$48

Total Expenses	\$10,156	\$4,481
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Ending Balance 31 Dec 2015	<u>\$4,481</u>
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## Rally Coordinator – Helen Anderson

The goal for 2015 was to have four rallies...and we did!!! The first rally of the year was “Spring in the Yamhill Valley” and 35 people (19 coaches) attended it at McMinnville, OR at the Olde Stone Village RV Park in April. Visiting the Evergreen Air and Space Museum, where the Spruce Goose is on display, was the highlight of this rally. The wagon masters were Steve Webber-Plank and Helen and Ken Anderson.

The “Oregon Coast Rally”, was held at the Winchester Bay RV Resort in June. It was the Pre-Rally to the FMCA NW Area Rally. Twenty-one (11 coaches) Trekkers attended this rally. The attendees enjoyed a presentation on the history of the south coast as well as an RV workshop presented by Gib’s RV Service. Many of the attendees continued on to the FMCA rally in Coos Bay. Virginia and Al Zimmerman were the wagon masters.

The third rally, “Shining Waters”, was held at the Bremerton Elks Club in August. Forty one (21 coaches) Trekkers participated in this rally. Many activities kept us occupied. Russell Warren (a member) gave us the history of Bremerton. Irva and Gary Cooper and Helen and Ken Anderson were wagon masters.

The fourth rally, “Where in the ‘el is Ohanapecosh?”, was at the Ohanapecosh campground in the Mt Rainier National Park near Packwood, WA in September. The weather was on the cool side and rainy, but Zimmermans were kind enough to bring tents to protect us from the elements. We even had a few campfires! There were no hookups for this rally nor any planned activities—just time to be together. Sixteen (8 coaches) Trekkers attended this rally and 2 guests attended. Sue and Dean Bjornson and Helen and Ken Anderson were wagon masters.

For 2016 four rallies are planned already planned. We can always do more if there are people who want to take on the planning! Just get in contact with me.

## National Director Steve Webber-Plank

1. FMCA NW Area Planning Meeting at Bonney Lake, Washington. April 21 – 23, 2015  
Representing NWTFC were Al Zimmerman (president) and Judy Schindler (temporary delegate).

FMCAssist and Michelin tire program are helping add new members, though FMCA is continuing to lose members. Past FMCA members who no longer own motorhomes can continue as Associate Members and benefit from FMCAssist program.

One proposal to be considered at the national rally affecting NWTFC was a policy change allowing each chapter to decide if voting on chapter matters will be one vote per adult member or one vote per coach (F number). This is a reversal from the proposal adopted last January. The proposal to let chapters decide on the appropriate voting process was adopted at Madison.

Much of the time at the meeting was spent planning for the Coos Bay rally in June. NWTFC agreed to work with Oregon Trail Drivers club on staffing the store and the registration/information booth.

2. The second FMCA NW meeting was also scheduled in Bonney Lake for September 22 -24, 2015. The NWTFC was represented by Al Zimmerman (president) and Ken Anderson (alternate national director). The main thrust of the meeting was planning for the FMCA NW rally at Albany to be held in June of 2016. At the Albany rally the NWTFC will be responsible for the FMCA Store:

FMCA member benefits – discount program with Office Depot has now been extended to Staples because of company acquisitions. FMCA Road Assist is a road service program similar to Coach Net and is available for purchase through FMCA.

Some chapters provide the chapter’s delegate to the national rally some funds to partially cover travel expenses.

## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Steve Webber-Plank  
[donwebberplank@mac.com](mailto:donwebberplank@mac.com)

Vice President – Dean Bjornson  
[dsbjornson@gmail.com](mailto:dsbjornson@gmail.com)

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce  
[suedavidpierce@gmail.com](mailto:suedavidpierce@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Sue Bjornson  
[skbjornson@gmail.com](mailto:skbjornson@gmail.com)

NW FMCA Dir – Al Zimmerman  
[zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com)

Alt FMCA Dir – Ken Anderson  
[kenand2@comcast.net](mailto:kenand2@comcast.net)

Past President – John Turner  
[jfturner3@juno.com](mailto:jfturner3@juno.com)

Rally Coordinator – Helen  
Anderson  
[helen-anderson@comcast.net](mailto:helen-anderson@comcast.net)

Webmaster – Mary Carlson  
[webmaster@nwtfc.com](mailto:webmaster@nwtfc.com)

Newsletter Editor  
Al Zimmerman

Feel free to contact  
NWTFC officers or  
committee chairs with  
questions or suggestions.

NWTFC Website  
[www.nwtfc.com](http://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 59 coach members, including Treks spanning the 1991 Isuzu to the 2008 28RB2. We look forward to welcoming owners of 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.