



Volume 4 Number 3



# TREK TRAVELS



May 2017

## President's Message

Camping season is just around the corner for many of us. Our first rally next month in southern Washington at Kelso is a pre-rally in advance of the FMCA's NWA rally in Longview at the Cowlitz County Event Center. Al Zimmerman has done a great job in putting this together for us. Our rally schedule takes us to southern Oregon in August at 7 Feathers Casino which is hosted by Irva and Gary Cooper. Our September event is in the Yakama wine region at Prosser for the NWTFC Balloon Rally hosted by wagon masters Ed and Jeanette Block and Rodger and Colleen Wright. See articles in this newsletter on rally registrations and wait lists. Additional info is on the NWTFC website.

We have begun planning rallies for next year but always need more destinations. If you have an idea or location that you feel would make an ideal rally site for 2018, share your thoughts with Helen Anderson, our rally coordinator. She has the where-with-all to make that dream a reality. We have a mentor program for new wagon masters and Helen can find other members who will work with you to make it happen.

Our annual election of officers occurs in the fall. Our VP, Paula Shull, will be putting together a nominating committee for this year's slate of officers. Please contact her if you are interested in serving or have an idea for an officer nominee. We will be seeking nominees for president, national director and secretary.

See you at the next rally.  
Steve Webber-Plank. President, NWTFC  
donwebberplank@mac.com 360-220-4468

## RALLY SCHEDULE

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

### 2017

June 17 – 20 Pre-rally, Kelso, WA  
Al & Virginia Zimmerman  
Mike & Lynn Ashbridge

June 22 – 25 FMCA NW Area Rally  
Cowlitz Cty Fair, Kelso

August 22 – 25 7 Feathers RV  
Canyonville, Oregon  
Irva & Gary Cooper  
Helen and Ken Anderson

September 22 – 24 Great Prosser  
Balloon Rally  
Ed & Jeanette Block  
Rodger & Colleen Wright

### Other Rallies

July 12 – 15 FMCA 96<sup>th</sup> Convention  
Indianapolis, IN

### 2018 Rallies

January 18 – 21 SW Trek Get Together  
Quartzsite, AZ

June 17 – 19 Elkton Rendezvous  
Elkton, OR Pre-rally  
Elkton RV Park  
Al & Virginia Zimmerman

June 21 – 24 FMCA NW Area Rally  
Mill Casino, North Bend, OR

July 18 – 21 FMCA National Convention  
Gillette, WY

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

## FMCA NEWS

**2017 FMCA National Convention will be July 12 – 17 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.** Al Zimmerman, national director, will be representing NWTFC at the convention.

Governing Board will consider a number of proposals at the national convention:

- Modification to the FMCA Executive Board membership rules to exclude members of the same family from representing more than one area on the executive board. (Does not apply to FMCA areas or chapters.)
- Modification of the membership requirements, especially related to the nondiscrimination clause.
- Modification of FMCA Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws to open the organization to all recreational vehicle owners.

If towable RVs are welcomed into FMCA, how will that affect individual chapters (especially NWTFC)? Chapters will still control their bylaws. Currently one must own a Trek to join NWTFC. However, if a member sells his Trek and buys a different brand, He can remain a regular member. NWTFC has accommodated those who purchase a towable or no longer own a motorhome by retaining them as “honorary members.” NWTFC will need to review its bylaws if this proposal passes.

**FMCAssist and 10-year old coaches.** One of the benefits of the FMCAssist program is the return of your motorhome in case of a medical emergency when you or your spouse cannot drive the Trek home. However, almost all Treks are more than 10 years old. If the moho is older than 10 years, professional drivers can and will refuse to drive the coach home. In that case a friend or NWTFC member may drive the coach if they are pre-approved by Seven Corners (SC) Insurance. RV owner must give name to SC. SC will contact driver and give approval. Maximum amount to paid to get coach home is \$5,000.

FMCAssist premium costs have gone up significantly because usage has been more than anticipated.



## Blast From The Past

FMCA NW Area Rally  
June 22 – 25, 2017

Cowlitz County Event Center, Longview, WA

- Seminars & Exhibits
- 2 catered dinners
- Ice cream social
- 50/50 raffle
- Swap meet

This is the first time for the NW Area rally to be held in Longview. Come to gain new ideas, tips on motorhome maintenance, and explore the lower Columbia region.

Features:

- Wednesday – **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Dog Bash**
- Thursday – Movie Night
- Friday night – **Bernie & Red** - a husband & wife team who present a show filled with great music, (much of it their own originals), liberally interspersed with cheeky comedy, all delivered in an English accent.
- Saturday night – **Brady Goss** – phenomenal piano player who also includes some truly remarkable vocals in his presentation. He is a rare talent, so hang on and enjoy the ride.

Registration form is online at [www.fmca.org](http://www.fmca.org) under Chapter/Areas – Area Rallies. **Best option is dry camping** – very limited electricity. Registration form is also included in the newsletter.

NWTFC will caravan to the fairgrounds on Tuesday, June 20.

**Contact Al Zimmerman for more info on the FMCA NW Area Rally. [zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com).**

## **National Trek Get Together Or National Pre-rally to Wyoming?**

### **Informal Trek Rally and Crawl-Thru**

A Trek Tracks participant is proposing an informal gathering for Trek owners to share modifications to improve Treks and keep them going. He is looking to host such an event in southwestern Louisiana where he has a shop conducive to enabling Trek owners to get up close and personal with mechanical stuff.

A date and suggested RV park has not been identified. Follow this idea on Trek Tracks.

### **National Trek Pre-rally**

In 2013 a pre-rally to the FMCA national convention in Gillette, Wyoming was held in Hardin, MT. It was billed as a joint rally of Safari International and NWTFC. There was a good representation of NWTFC members and Treks from other parts of the country.

2018 FMCA national convention will be in Gillette July 18 – 21. **Is there interest in having a “national” Trek gathering within 100 miles or so of Gillette –Buffalo, Sheridan, or Casper, or some other location?**

Perhaps we would have 20 – 40 Treks together from various parts of the country. Those going to the FMCA convention could caravan together. It is also a great opportunity to tour Yellowstone or the Black Hills. We may also be able to have a couple Trek-oriented vendors sponsor or help with the rally. It could be a very informal affair with a meet-up place.

If you are interested in participating or would consider being wagon master, contact Helen Anderson (rally coordinator) **[helen-anderson@comcast.net](mailto:helen-anderson@comcast.net)** or Al Zimmerman (national director) **[zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com)**.

## **Member Care Unit Members to be Appointed by President**

During the March NWTFC executive board meeting, a job description was approved for one or more members to be appointed by the president. Their role will be to help integrate new members into NWTFC, share care and concern for current members, encourage membership retention, and reach out to non-renewing members. Those involved will be able to develop positive means and ways of encouraging members and saying “we are glad you are part of our chapter.” For more information or to be involved, contact Steve Webber-Plank (president) **[donwebberplank@mac.com](mailto:donwebberplank@mac.com)**.

## **How is NW Trek Fun Club Doing?**

In the February 2017 issue of Family Motorcoaching (magazine of FMCA) the Treasure Coasters Chapter considered some changes to increase membership and boost attendance at chapter rallies.

Here are some things they did:

- A team of three couples hosts each rally doing it their way and having fun.
- New ideas were tried for rally formats. Potluck meals, picnic meals, costume parties, storytelling nights, rally themes, games, seminars, guest speakers – all evolved from the freedom of the “do it your way” approach.
- A website was developed and is updated with chapter information, including photographs, rally schedule, officer contact info, and more.
- A key factor in the growth of the chapter was the attention paid to rally guests by members. No one is a stranger at a Treasure Coasters rally. Guests are met with a smile, a guest name badge, and a printed rally agenda.

So how is the NW Trek Fun Club doing?  
**(continued on page 4)**

## How is NW Trek Fun Club Doing?

(Continued from page 3)

NWTFC is one of the fastest growing and largest chapters in the FMCA NW Area. NWTFC currently has 78 members – mostly from Oregon and Washington, but also from Arizona, Florida, and other states. At the end of 2013 we had 57 members.

What are some things that are helping us acquire and keep members, especially for a club centered on a Trek motor home that is no longer manufactured?

- 3-4 fun rallies a year in various locations.
- Wagon masters are able to come up with a rally idea and run with their plan. Rally coordinator and mentors are available to assist, but not demand that wagon masters do things only one way. Some rallies are low-key, and others more structured. Often group activities, tours, and special meals are part of the schedule.
- Experienced members are willing to serve as mentors or co-lead a rally to encourage new wagon masters.
- Website (**[www.nwtfc.com](http://www.nwtfc.com)**) provides information, history, rally reports and more for members and interested lookers. Special thanks to Mary Carlson for being our webmaster.
- Partnering with others to see that Track Tracks is a resource for all Trek owners.
- Newsletter keeps members up-to-date on activities, rallies, and news from FMCA and the NWTFC executive board.
- Officers and committee chairs are willing to try new ideas and keep the club fresh and inviting.
- Historian (Jeanette Block) reminds us of the good times we have had over the years.
- New member care unit shows we care about new and long-time members.
- Members are willing to help Trek owners make repairs and modifications.

**Yes – we can be pleased with the NWTFC! And we can continue working together make it even better. Remember it is a FUN club!**

## Top 10 Traveling Tips Mike Wendland

February issue of Family Motorcoaching (FMCA magazine) had an article by Mike Wendland describing some rules that you may find interesting.

We all develop certain preferences for almost every aspect of life, especially our motor home travel style. These are our “rules for the road.”

**1. Stay off the interstates.** Driving two-lane or divided state highways is more interesting and yields more fun places to explore. Interstates may provide the fastest and most direct ways to get somewhere, but they are often boring and more stressful.

**2. Follow our 330 plan.** Stop for the day when you either have traveled 330 miles or the time reaches 3:30 pm. This will prevent you from becoming exhausted from too much driving. You may still have some time in the day to explore the local area.

**3. Stop and see.** Rarely do we travel long distances without finding somewhere to stop and see something interesting or bizarre.

**4. Change drivers every two hours.** It is amazing how refreshing even a short break can be. *(Not going to happen with some of us who have only one driver for the Trek.)*

**5. Time your travels around big-city rush hours.**

**6. Explore big cities.** Find a nearby campground. Try using tour services. See the sights, museums, and attractions offered by cities across the land.

**7. Overnight where you can sleep well.** We are not fans of overnighting at Walmarts – too bright and too noisy.

**8. Listen to audiobooks and podcasts.** Check out free offerings from your local library. Download audiobooks.

**9. Be prepared for emergencies and bad weather.** Know what’s happening along your route.

**10. Don’t be afraid to splurge from time-to-time.** Find a nice restaurant or a concert venue. Variety is the spice of life.



## 2017 RALLY UPDATE

### Rally on the Cowlitz

Kelso/Longview, WA

2017 Pre-rally to FMCA NW Area Rally  
June 17 - 20

#### 13 coaches attending the rally.

Remember – 1<sup>st</sup> night camping included in rally fee - need to pay for 2 nights camping on arrival.

#### Rally registration closed.

Wagon masters: Al & Virginia Zimmerman ([zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com)) 971-645-0767  
Mike & Lynn Ashbridge ([mikeashbridge@comcast.net](mailto:mikeashbridge@comcast.net))

#### Location

##### Brookhollow RV Park

Directions: From I-5 (exit 39) go east 1 mile on Allen Street, turn right, just past the Brookhollow Mobile Park.

Frustrated Maestros  
joining us for 2 days.  
A rousing group of  
musical entertainers.



- Opening dinner at Longview Country Club
- St. Helens Safari – see the Mt. St. Helens sights & visitor centers
- Presentation - Longview – a Planned Community by Cowlitz County Museum
- Historic downtown, Lilac Gardens-Woodland



### RALLY AT 7 FEATHERS RESORT

Canyonville, Oregon

Tuesday – Friday • August 22 – 25  
(3 nights)

Wagon Masters: Irva and Gary Cooper ([tennis4yu@msn.com](mailto:tennis4yu@msn.com)) , Helen and Ken Anderson  
Location: Seven Feathers RV Resort • I-5 in Canyonville, exit 99. • 25 miles south of Roseburg

**Rally fee** includes 1<sup>st</sup> night camping, 3 breakfasts, dinner on arrival night, welcome bag, & bingo prizes.  
Attendees pay for 2 nights upon arrival (\$36/night).

**Rally Fee                      \$75 (Couple)                      \$60 (Single)**

**Registration deadline is May 22 • Only 2 sites left  
Contact Irva Cooper ASAP 206-295-1058**

- Seminar and ice cream social by Henderson's Line-up.
- Let Irva know if you have items for the silent auction/raffle.

## 7 Feathers Rally Registration

(Must be received by May 22, 2017)

**RALLY FEE:**    \$75 (Couple)            \$60 (Single)

We will do our best to refund your money if you cancel your reservation, but once we lock in our number with the campground, no refunds will be available unless there is a wait list.

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Pilot \_\_\_\_\_ Co-pilot \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA# \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact (name & phone #) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special need we should be aware of? Y or N (i.e. food allergies, etc.)

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Trek Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ License# \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Are you towing a car? Y or N If yes, are you able to help transport others? Y or N

Amount enclosed                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration form enclosed                      \_\_\_\_\_

7 Feathers RV Park form enclosed                      \_\_\_\_\_



**Make checks payable to NWTFC.**

**Send to: Irva Cooper**  
**776 Madison Ave.**  
**Bainbridge Island, WA 98110**



For staff use only

Confirmation # \_\_\_\_\_

Processed by \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Site: # \_\_\_\_\_

## Seven Feathers RV Resort Group Member Reservation

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group's Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Nights outside of your Group's dates will  
be charged at our regular rates.

Site Length you will need: 60' \_\_\_\_\_ 45' \_\_\_\_\_ 23' \_\_\_\_\_ Your Total Length \_\_\_\_\_

*Special Requests:*

Your Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Names \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Staying outside the group's dates? Discounts that can lower your rate:

Good Sam \_\_\_\_\_ AAA \_\_\_\_\_ AARP \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Seven Feathers Casino *Players Club* Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Do not send this form directly to Seven Feathers.

\*\*\*All reservations are made through your wagon master.

Check-in time is 2pm or later

# NW Trek Balloon Rally ♦ Sept. 21 – 25

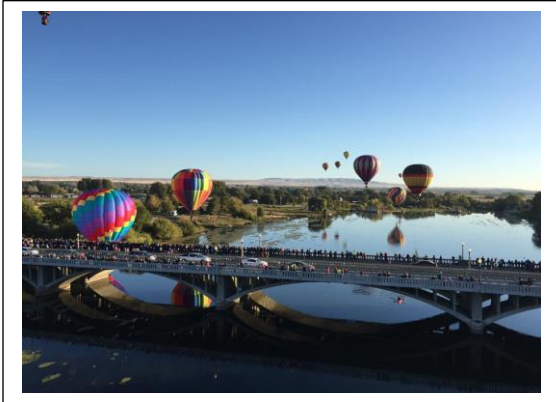
(4 nights: Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday – departing Monday morning)

## Wine Country RV Resort - Prosser, Washington

### Receive rally updates . . . contact:

Wagon masters: Ed & Jeanette Block [ed.jnet@earthlink.net](mailto:ed.jnet@earthlink.net)

Rodger & Colleen Wright [twocats-trekn@hotmail.com](mailto:twocats-trekn@hotmail.com)



## 2017 Greater Prosser Balloon Rally



- Wine tastings
- Harvest Fair in Prosser
- Shuttle service to airport for balloon launch
- BBQ dinner catered by “Country Gentlemen”
- Balloon Rally Night Glow

24 coaches registered for the NW Trek Balloon Rally.



1 full hook-up site and 5 dry camping spots remain.

Contact Ed Block ASAP for one of the remaining spots.

[ed.jnet@earthlink.net](mailto:ed.jnet@earthlink.net) 206 463-3263

**REGISTRATION CLOSSES MAY 26**

### ALL THE HELP I NEED

Jim – Are you visiting us tomorrow? Do you need directions?

Andy – I’m all set. I have the address, a GPS, and a GPS override.

Jim – What’s a GPS override?

Andy – My wife.

From IRV2.com



Kathie Balogh, FMCA National VP — Northwest Area  
Invites ALL RV Friends and Families to . . .

# Blast From The Past

June 22-25, 2017



**Seminars & Exhibits**  
Display Coaches  
Coffee & Pastries  
2 Catered Dinners  
Ice Cream Social  
Hot Dog Bash  
Dry Camping  
Two Nights Entertainment  
50/50 Raffle • Ladies' Tea  
Swap Meet • Bingo  
Movie Night

**Optional Tours**  
Available on site

**Cowlitz County Event Center** • 1900 7th Avenue SW • Longview, WA 98362  
Interstate 5 Exit 36B when arriving from North • Interstate 5 Exit 36 when arriving from South

**PARKING** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
June 20 & 21, 2017 • No Early Arrivals

## Northwest Area Rally Registration Form

Permanent changes to membership files cannot be made from this form.

FMCA Member Number:		Last Name:		Pilot:		Co-Pilot:	
Address: (If this address differs from your billing address, please call)				City:		State/Province:	
E-mail:				Telephone:		Cell Phone:	
Coach Make:		Coach License:		Length:		<input type="checkbox"/> First Time at a Northwest Area Rally	
Hold At Will Call? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Are You Parking With a Chapter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Which Chapter:		Handicap? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

1. Guest/Child's Name/Age:

2. Guest/Child's Name/Age:

Registration Category	By 5/26*	After 5/26*	Qty	Total	Would You Like To Be A Volunteer?
Coach with 2 — Dry Camping	\$195	\$200		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I'd like to volunteer More Info: Don Schleuse (949) 230-0390 dons2346@yahoo.com
Coach with 2 — Handicap Dry Camping	\$195	\$200		\$	
Coach with 2 — 24 HR Generator	\$195	\$200		\$	
Coach with 1 — Deduct \$40	-\$40	-\$40		\$	<b>Select Meal Seating Time</b>
Adult Guest or Member w/o coach	\$90	\$90		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Meal - 4:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Late Meal - 6:15
Children 12 and under	FREE	FREE		FREE	

### Payment Information

Prices include meals, exhibits, ice cream social and entertainment.  
Tours and some seminars are extra cost.

Make checks payable in U.S. funds to FMCA, Inc.

Please Charge:

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Return Completed Form & Payment To: Northwest Area Rally  
c/o FMCA • 6291 Clough Pike • Cincinnati, OH 45244-2796  
Place your credit card registration: Online • By Phone or By Fax

Total Amount Enclosed \$

\*Registration must be postmarked or made online  
by this deadline.

### Confirmations & Cancellations

Confirmation credentials will be mailed if registration is received by May 26, 2017. After May 26, 2017, the rally credentials will be held at will call at the rally site. Enter information carefully since name tags, etc. are created from this information. Cancellation Policy: Refunds will be made, minus \$25.00, if written notice with credentials returned, are received on or before May 26, 2017. No refunds if cancelled after May 26, 2017. NO EXCEPTIONS. If groups want to park together they MUST arrive together. EMERGENCY CONTACT: Cowlitz County Events Center (360) 677-3122. Send general mail to: Cowlitz County Events Center, ATTN: FMCA, 1900 7th Ave, Longview, WA 98632.

Check for updates and  
latest details on the rally  
**www.fmcanw.org**

### Rally Master

Andy & Kathie Balogh  
(503) 530-0166  
akcbalogh@gmail.com

### Assistant Rally Master

Don & Barbara Schleuse  
(949) 230-0390  
dons2346@yahoo.com

### Commercial Exhibits

Jerry & Judie Lehenbauer  
(425) 999-6503  
jerrylehenbauer@ms.com

**www.fmca.com | Phone (513) 474-3622 • (800) 543-3622 | Fax (513) 474-2332 • (800) 543-4717**

## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

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

Vice President – Paula Shull  
[bpshull@frontier.com](mailto:bpshull@frontier.com)

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

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

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

Alt Natl. Dir – Mike Ashbridge  
[mikeashbridge@comcast.net](mailto:mikeashbridge@comcast.net)

Past President – Al Zimmerman  
[zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com)

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

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

Historian – Jeannette Block  
[ed.jnet@earthlink.net](mailto:ed.jnet@earthlink.net)

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 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.