



Volume 4 Number 5



October 2017

President's Message

NWTF has completed its final 2017 rally with the Wine Country RV and balloons in Prosser, WA. I excused myself due to overlapping calendars and health concerns, and I missed a really good event. Wrights and Blocks have a long history of first class events.

Helen tells me 2018 is shaping up with some stellar events. The chapter's treasury is in good shape, and we are at peace with FMCA's policies.

Ballots will be emailed soon to elect officers for 2018. I'm excited about this new slate – plus I can assume a new position (past president). Additionally, Nancy Harris has begun serving as part of our new member care unit. Thanks Nancy! – I'm excited. See the note in the newsletter about adding someone who likes to make telephone contact with people.

I'm writing this message tonight after a real fresh cod dinner complete with a lamb salad and toasted dark rye with ice cream & rhubarb dessert in Reykjavik, Iceland. We start a 10 day tour tomorrow, and I'm ready to hit the fire and ice running. I am listening to Hi Fi of Icelandic Classical Favorites on cable TV. Better than the news.

I'll bid you a fond goodbye as president, as this may be the final newsletter for the year or not!

See you on the road,
Steve Webber-Plank. President, NWTF
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)

2018 Rallies

January 18 – 21 SW Trek Get Together
Quartzsite, AZ

Spring rally needed

June 16 – 19 Dune Country Rally
and Pre-rally
Woahink Lake RV Resort
Florence, OR
Al & Virginia Zimmerman
Dan & Debbi Maas

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

July 3 – July 16 Wyoming Traveling
Rally to the FMCA Convention
Al & Virginia Zimmerman

July 16 – 21 FMCA National Convention
Gillette, WY

August 9 - 13 Port Townsend
Ron Mahugh and Mary Burchett

Fall rally possibility

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

CHANGING FMCA GOVERNING DOCUMENTS



At the 2017 FMCA international convention, a proposal was adopted by the Governing Board to replace the term “motorhome” with “recreational vehicle.” **The decision to replace motorhome with recreation vehicle in the FMCA documents was adopted with an 85% positive vote.** The following definition of recreation vehicle was also adopted.

A recreation vehicle is a self-contained, wheeled vehicle that includes permanently-installed cooking, sleeping, and sanitary facilities.

This change will allow owners of towable RVs (trailers and 5th wheels) to join FMCA. There were questions about tent trailers and pick-up campers. It was decided that if they were self-contained and otherwise fit the definition, then we should welcome them and accept their dues.

Why is this change being made?

- Potentially increase the membership, thus increasing the amount received from annual dues.
- Average age of FMCA members is 72; an appeal needs to be made for younger members.
- Motorhomes are a smaller percentage of the RV market. Most young people are purchasing towable RVs.

Will this solve all of FMCA’s challenges? No – unless there is a concerted, strategic marketing effort a well-thought out recruitment effort.

Will this change bring about a large influx of new members? Probably not, but it is a positive move in response to identified concerns.

Will it change the nature of NWTFC as a chapter? No – each FMCA chapter will review its own bylaws and determine how it will respond to this new and more inclusive definition of membership. NWTFC’s executive board will bring a recommendation to the membership sometime in 2018

Because this change affects the legal documents of FMCA, a majority vote of the membership in favor of the change is required. A ballot is included in the September, October, and November issues of the Family Motorcoaching magazine.

The results of the vote will be announced sometime in December. If you have not voted yet, please do. FMCA is a membership organization that is dependent on your involvement.

ANNUAL NWTFC ELECTION

NWTFC elections occur in October. Respond to the email ballot from David Pierce in order to vote. Following members are running for offices:

- President – Mike Ashbridge
- Secretary – David Pierce
- Natl Dir. – Al Zimmerman

All of these positions are for two-year terms.

RALLY COORDINATOR NEEDED

Helen Anderson has done a wonderful job as rally coordinator for the past 4 years. She has been a positive encourager to wagon masters. There have been a variety of rallies – of type, place, and activity under her leadership. Thanks Helen!

Rally coordinator:

- Oversees the rally schedule & seeks to have 3-4 rallies each year.
- Recruits wagon masters.
- Provides support and encouragement to wagon masters.

See the complete job description on the NWTFC website. **Rally coordinator is a key position for NWTFC.** If interested, contact Steve Webber-Plank (president) at donwebberplank@mac.com.

MEMBER CARE UNIT ACTIVATED

In response to an identified need, the Member Care Unit has been created:

- Increase chapter efforts to integrate new members.
- Share care and concern for members.
- Encourage membership retention and reach out to non-renewing members.

Nancy Harris has volunteered to coordinate the sending of cards and reach out to members experiencing difficulties in their lives. This is one way we can extend our fellowship to those who are hurting. Thank you Nancy.

There is still a need for someone who is comfortable talking with folks on the telephone. This person can telephone new members and welcome them to NWTFC and encourage people to continue as members. There are members we have not seen at rallies for a long time. A friendly call may make a difference for them.

If this is a role you could fulfill, contact Steve Webber-Plank (president) at donwebberplank@mac.com.

Making friends without Facebook

I found I can make new friends without Facebook. Every day I walk around the campground and tell everyone I see what I ate, how I feel at the moment, what I did the night before, what I will do later, and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, of my coach, and of me working on my coach, standing in front of landmarks, having lunch, and doing things everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them.

It works just like Facebook. I already have four people following me....(a park ranger, a deputy sheriff, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist).

- Mel on IRV2

TREK TRIVIA

You may have been a NWTFC member for many years or you may have joined in the last couple years. How much do you really know about these unique motorhomes and this FMCA chapter? **(See answers on page 4)**

1. During what years were models of the Safari Trek manufactured – and by what companies?
2. What was the first year a slide-out was available on the Safari Trek?
3. How long is it generally safe to drive on a new set of RV tires?
4. At what RV rally was our NWTFC first organized – how many from the NW were in attendance?
5. When & where was our first rally held?
6. Who created our club logo?
7. How many members have served as wagon masters for one or more of our Trek rallies?
8. What were NWTFC's 'traveling' rallies?
9. Which National Parks have been destinations for our rallies?
10. Which of our Trek rallies was a featured article in FMCA's Family Motor Coaching Magazine?
11. How many Trek Fun Clubs are a chapter of FMCA?
12. What 'volunteer' jobs has our club been most involved in at NW Area rallies?
13. How many International FMCA Conventions have our members attended in the NW and where have they been held?
14. Which NWTFC members no longer own RVs and have been made 'honorary members'?
15. Name the 7 members who have served as President of NWTFC.
16. How many members do we presently have?
17. In what year did we vote to allow members to remain in the club if they no longer owned a Trek but some other brand?

Special thanks to **Jeannette Block** for putting this trivia test together.

REPORT FROM FMCA NW PLANNING MEETING

Answers to Trek Trivia

1. (19 years) 1991 – 2001 (Safari Motorhome), 2002-2008 and 2014 (Monaco Coach)
2. 2003
3. 7 years
4. 1st National Trek Rally, Pueblo, CO – 17 NW Treks present.
5. 2004, Yakama Nation RV Resort, Toppenish, WA
6. Jeanette Block
7. 21
8. Alaskan Tour (B.C.,YT,AK); Wine Trekking the Okanogan (WA,B.C.); Lake Chelan—Grand Coulee, WA
9. Crater Lake NP; Denali NP; North Cascades NP; Mt. Rainier NP
10. North Cascades Trek Rally
11. One – NWTFC
12. Prize Committee and FMCA Stores
13. Three -- Redmond, OR Deschutes County fairgrounds
14. Stan & Barb Shackell, Bob & Barb Brown
15. Beers, Block, Shackell, Braden, Turner, Zimmerman, Webber-Plank
16. 81
17. 2007

2018 NWTFC ANNUAL DUES \$10

Send to: Sue Bjornson, Treasurer
804 South. 219th Street
Des Moines, WA 98198

MILLING AROUND COOS BAY

Theme for 2018
FMCA NW Area Rally
June 19 – 24

NWTFC volunteers to staff the FMCA merchandise store at the NW area rally. Volunteers attend the pre-rally and then caravan together to the Mill Casino in Coos Bay.

In December registration will open for the Coos Bay rally. Volunteers should register for the convention and sign-up for 30 amp electric sites as soon registration opens. **Plan ahead to join the fun at the FMCA NW Area rally.**

Delegates from FMCA chapters throughout the northwest met in Longview, WA to discuss issues related to FMCA and to plan for the 2018 FMCA NW Area Rally in Coos Bay. NWTFC was represented by Al Zimmerman (national director) and Mike Ashbridge (alternate national director). Virginia represented the Oregon River Ramblers and Lynn represented a chapter that was unable to send a delegate.

The NW Area Rally at Coos Bay will be Kathie Balogh's last as national vice president for FMCA NW. Andy and Kathie will be celebrating not having to travel east for meetings, but will miss many dear friends representing chapters around the country. A new national vice president for the NW Area will be elected by FMCA NW delegates at the spring planning meeting.

Membership in FMCA is growing. There are now 73,003 members.

2019 FMCA NW Area Rally June 6 – 9

Linn County Expo, Albany, OR

2020 No NW Area Rally – members encouraged to attend Redmond convention

2020 FMCA Intl. Convention Summer
Redmond, OR

Some new things are planned for the FMCA NW Area Rally in Coos Bay:

- Hot dog bash on Tuesday especially for rally volunteers.
- Ice cream sundaes on two days – one with strawberries and one with syrup toppings.
- Food truck carnival along with a special band - The Young Bucks. They are a band from Oregon that plays a wide variety of music, spanning mostly from Rock to Country.
- Salmon dinner cooked specially by the Coquille tribe for the rally.
- Special entertainment for Saturday.
- Coos Bay Wine Walk – for a small fee, visit various Coos Bay businesses for wine and specials.

All camping sites will be located on the casino property. NWTFC will seek to register for 30 amp electric sites.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018 MORE RALLIES AND MORE FUN

Spring & Fall Rallies Needed

DUNE COUNTRY RALLY & PRE-RALLY TO COOS BAY

June 16 – 19

Woahink Lake RV Resort
Florence, Oregon

- Fish tacos
- Soup & chowder bar
- Old town on the bay front
- Sand dunes galore
- Heceta Head lighthouse
- Sea Lion Cave



FMCA NW AREA RALLY

June 19 – 24

Mill Casino – North Bend

Port Townsend Rally August 9 - 13

Great food and fellowship just a couple blocks from downtown.



WYOMING TRAVELING RALLY TO FMCA CONVENTION IN GILLETTE, WY

July 3 – 16

- Grand Teton Natl. Park
- Yellowstone Natl. Park
- Cody, WY
- Buffalo Bill Museum
- Cody Nite Rodeo

Meet up with the group in Buffalo,
Wyoming at the KOA July 14-15.

Caravan to Gillette for FMCA
International Convention

Contact Al Zimmerman for more info
zimmeralz@gmail.com

FMCA International Convention July 16 – 21 • Gillette, WY

- Seminars, vendors, coaches on display
- Meet moho owners from across the USA
- Volunteer and/or serve as a chapter delegate



RALLY AT 7 FEATHERS RESORT

Canyonville, Oregon

Tuesday – Friday • August 22 – 25

Wagon Masters: Irva and Gary Cooper and Helen and Ken Anderson

Members attending: Helen and Ken Anderson, Lynn and Mike Ashbridge, Sue and Dean Bjornson, David Burton and Marlene, Irva and Gary Cooper, Linda and Bob Fitzgerald, Nancy and Dick Harris, Barb and Robert Henderson, Lynda and Hoop Hooper, Kathy and Duane Klopfenstein, Mary and Ron Mahugh, Debbie and Dan Maas, Norma and Fred McDaniel, Penny Paschall, Lois and Richard Piispanen, Sandi and Bob Pinney, Joan and Bill Quant, Paul and Bill Shull, Carla and Swanee Swainston, Marie and John Turner, Jean and Jan van den Broek, Steve Webber-Plank, Rosi and Gary Wright, Vikki and Jess Wright, Virginia and Al Zimmerman plus guests Rachel and Jim Schlepp. Unfortunately the Bjornsons had to return home because of the smoke from forest fires.



7 Feathers is one of the nicest RV parks in Oregon with well-landscaped camping spots, an indoor pool and spa, and of course the nearby casino. Rally events began with a lasagna dinner on Tuesday with salads and French bread. Robert Henderson did motorhome inspections on Tuesday and Wednesday – as well as an informative seminar on Wednesday morning.

For dinner on Wednesday we went to the casino and enjoyed a country BBQ buffet with lots of entrees and so many desserts it was almost sinful. And if that wasn't enough, there was an ice cream social in the clubhouse hosted by Barb and Robert Henderson. The bingo game got underway with Gary Cooper as the caller.



Thursday's breakfast was very special. Per Gary Cooper's request the breakfast menu included peach, strawberry, and blue berry waffles with a special batter recipe. There were several waffle irons making waffles for everyone. The business meeting followed breakfast. It included an explanation of the issues related to the bylaw change to allow towable RVs to join FMCA. Everyone was encouraged to vote. A raffle of donated items was held and it seems that Ken Anderson was the big winner, though he had asked Helen to merely hold his tickets while he left the meeting.

Thursday evening several of the group went to a concert in the park in downtown Myrtle Creek. A band from Washington provided the music. Someone should have mentioned to the park crew not to water the grass with a concert in the evening.

Following a continental breakfast on Friday everyone departed for home or the next port on their moho journey.



NW Trek Balloon Rally ♦ Sept. 21 – 25

Wine Country RV Resort - Prosser, Washington

Wagon masters: Ed and Jeanette Block and Rodger and Colleen Wright

22 coaches made their way to Prosser in the southern part of the Yakima Valley. This is a farming community and the balloon rally is the highlight of the year. Those attending were: Ken and Helen Anderson, Bob and Sandi Pinney, David Burton and Marlene, David and Sue Pierce, Al and Virginia Zimmerman, Ten and Diana Schramm, Mike and Lynn Ashbridge, Bob Beers, Ken and Judy Schindler, Dick and Nancy Harris, Jim and Marie Turner, Steve Webber-Plank, Bob and Linda Fitzgerald, Gary and Irva Cooper, Ron and Mary Mahugh, Dean and Sue Bjornson, Rodger and Colleen Wright, Ed and Jeanette Block, Bill and Paula Shull, Jack and Joann Lindhorst, Richard and Lois Piispanen, and Jan and Jean Van den Broek.



Festivities got underway on Thursday with the customary appetizer potluck. Each attendee received a festive rally mug that matched the occasion. Things were a little more festive during the rally because of the wine tasting available in the office during the weekend. Purchase of a wine glass allowed one to enjoy tastings all weekend.

Friday morning was to begin bright and early with the balloon launch. Unfortunately the wind and weather was deemed unsafe, so no balloons were launched that morning. After rising very early for the non-launch, it was discovered that a bulletin was sent out each morning announcing to the community whether a launch was possible. Dinner that evening was catered by the Country Gentlemen for everyone at the RV park. There was plenty of food for everyone.

Saturday morning was bright and fair, so there was a successful balloon launch. 21 hot air balloons sailed into the skies above Prosser and then returned to the airport. Some of the attendees were able to get very close to the balloons, and even assist some of the balloon crews.



This is wine country, so many of the attendees brought a picnic lunch and went on a wine tasting tour. The first stop was at the Vineyard and Winery Technology Center where a presentation was made explaining the wine making process and the various grapes grown in the area. Barrel Springs Winery was the chosen site for lunch.



Saturday Morning Lift-off



A smaller group made their way to the Art Fiker Stadium (high school) to witness the Balloon Night Glow. The balloons don't fly, but they are inflated and the glow comes from the burners heating the balloons.

Sunday morning's balloon launch was also successful with 15 balloons rising into the sky. The number observing the Sunday launch was smaller. (It is understood that several Treks contained sleepy RVers.) Dinner on Sunday was another potluck plus a hot grill to cook the meat of one's choosing.

Monday morning just about everyone got underway for home. The Turners were having ignition problems, but after some creative mechanic work, they too got started and made their way home.

NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Steve Webber-Plank
donwebberplank@mac.com

Vice President – Paula Shull
bpshull@frontier.com

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce
suedavidpierce@gmail.com

Treasurer – Sue Bjornson
skbjornson@gmail.com

Natl. Dir – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Alt Natl. Dir – Mike Ashbridge
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Past President – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Rally Coordinator – Helen
Anderson
helen-anderson@comcast.net

Webmaster – Mary Carlson
webmaster@nwtfc.com

Historian – Jeannette Block
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



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.