



Volume 6 Number 4



# TREK TRAVELS



September 2019

## President's Message

I have just returned from a great rally in British Columbia on Vancouver Island.. The hosts, Peter and Beth Sanderson did a super job of putting together this Rally, There was a lot of help from the other islanders as well to make everything happen. Those Canadians are always fun to be with.

I know that several of our members take their motor homes on the ferry regularly, however it was a first for me. We took the Black Ball Ferry from Port Angeles, WA to Victoria, BC. It was really quite easy as the crews deal with trucks and RV's everyday. Other than the expense it was painless. Passing through customs was not an issue either. We read the regulations before going to Canada, but they did not check for compliance.

I will let Ron & Mary talk about our rally schedule for the coming year but I will say that we need at least a couple more rallies to fill out next season. We have a spring rally in the works by Al Zimmerman. This will be the pre rally to the FMCA Rally in Roseburg, OR. I think that is all that is on the schedule at this time. Any Ideas?

Al Zimmerman, NWTFC's national director, attended the FMCA International Convention in Minot, ND. It sounds like it was an eventful time so I am looking forward to hearing about that.

Al has also tossed his hat in the ring for the Northwest Area first vice presidents job. Elections will be held at the September planning meeting. Good Luck Al.

Our club membership continues to grow and expand. I met three young couples at the Comox Rally that are interested in joining our group. One of those couples, Rodger and Mona Leischner, from Bellingham, WA did sign up at the rally. Welcome to NWTFC Rodger and Mona.

**(Continued on page 2)**

## RALLY SCHEDULE

(To be Wagon Master for a rally, contact Ron Mahugh, Rally Coordinator, at [Ronski16@comcast.net](mailto:Ronski16@comcast.net))

### 2020

March 26 – 29 FMCA 101<sup>st</sup> Convention  
Tucson, AZ

Spring Rally – pick a date & place

June 20 – 23 Umpqua Pre-rally  
Hi-Way Haven RV Park  
Al & Elaine Zimmerman  
Plus additional wagon masters

June 25 – 28 FMCA NW Area Rally  
Douglas County Fairgrounds  
Roseburg, OR

Summer Rally – pick a time & place

Fall Rally – pick a time & place

NWTFC's goal is to have 3 – 4 rallies each year.

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

## President's Message from page 1

The club is still working to obtain an AED with voluntary donations. It has been suggested that we put a small additional fee on rally registration to go toward obtaining a device. That way the members that do attend the rallies and would have access to the AED would be helping to finance the purchase. Any thoughts? See the website for a page on discussion and to make a donation.

Lynn and I are packing up for a month in Europe. We are going to visit her best friend who is living in Norway and our granddaughter in Italy. Our granddaughter just had a baby in June so we get to visit our new great grandson. We had the trip planned before she knew she was having a baby but the timing is perfect.

I think that is it for now so I can go figure out how to get what I need for a month in a little suitcase.

Safe Travels - Mike Ashbridge

## Rallies Needed for 2020

NWTFC's goal is to have 3 – 4 rallies per year. In order for NWTFC to have more rallies, people need to volunteer to be a wagon master – find a place and put a rally together. For 2020 rallies are needed in the spring, summer, and fall.

The chapter does several things to make it easy:

- Match you up with an experienced partner or mentor.
- Provide helpful planning tools.
- Provide sample flyers & registration materials.

Here are some possible rally sites as suggestions:

- Spokane - Coeur d Alene
- Poulsobo
- Bellingham
- Canon Beach
- Hood River
- Tacoma
- Westport
- Tillamook
- Silverton

There are lots of other possibilities.

Talk with Ron Mahugh about being a wagon master for a rally. [ronski16@comcast.net](mailto:ronski16@comcast.net)

## Kathie Balogh Elected National Secretary

Andy and Kathie Balogh have served the FMCA NW Area in many capacities for many years. They have truly given of themselves to FMCA. They live on Vancouver Island, so it is a significant cost for them to travel throughout the northwest and visit chapters.

Some of Kathie's accomplishments:

- Secretary, NW Area 2008 – 2014
- Rally Master, NW Area 2015 – 2018
- National VP, NW Area 2014 – 2018

After overcoming two opponents, she was elected National Secretary on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot during the Governing Board meeting in Minot. Kathie's election means the Northwest Area has two strong voices on the executive board – Kathie and Don Schleuse.



## ANNUAL NWTFC ELECTION

NWTFC elections occur in October.

Dean Bjornson and the Nominating Committee are seeking candidates for the following offices:

- President
- Secretary
- National Director

All of these positions are for two-year terms.

Contact Dean Bjornson (VP) if you are interested in any of these positions.

[dsbjornson@gmail.com](mailto:dsbjornson@gmail.com)

## COMOX VALLEY RALLY

Comox Valley / Vancouver Island / British  
Columbia / Canada  
August 2 – 6, 2019



Wagon Masters: Peter & Beth Sanderson

The rally dates included BC DAY in British Columbia and the whole weekend is a celebration. This rally was a mix of part rally fun and part joining in with the valley as we celebrated another year of living and working in a very special part of our country. Our valley is part rural and part urban with a strong rural farm fresh agricultural component, a forestry component, a military component, a retirement community and a 4-season vacation destination.

Cumberland is our inland neighbor and historically famous for coal mining. Courtenay is in the center as a business hub and regional supply center. Comox has the military (maritime patrol and search and rescue center) and a marine center.

The wagon masters wanted to take the weekend to visit it all in small amounts and give the attendees some exposure to their larger community.



14 rigs gathered at Cape Lazo RV Park. 8 came to the island from south of the border, 1 from Victoria, and 5 from our local region. The long-distance award went to a Trek from Pueblo, Colorado and the closest away was a former Trek owner from a block away. Nobody wanted to miss the fun.



Attendees:

Peter/Beth Sanderson, Courtenay, BC  
Garry/Lucy Brown, Comox, BC  
Jay/Lindy Oddleifson, Courtenay, BC  
Mike/Lynn Ashbridge, Oregon City, Or  
Bob/Sandi Pinney, Woodinville, WA  
Ken/Judy Schindler, Forks, WA  
Ron Morehouse/Julie Mortimer, Bellingham, WA  
Judy/Doug Gremmel, Clinton, WA  
Keith/Laura Kovacs, Denman Island, BC  
Carl Kallonsrud/Lois Weaver, Pueblo, Colorado  
Bill/Barbara McKechnie, Victoria, BC  
Ron Mahugh/Mary Burchett, Puyallup, WA  
Roger/Mona Leischner, Bellingham, WA  
Gerry/Anner VanderJagt, Black Creek, BC

We shared food, stories and laughter. We toured the rigs and saw renovations and ideas, we got to fix a few problems and we got to bring some new people into the Trek family. Away from the park we ...

- visited the farmer's market
- toured an old underground coal mining museum
- sampled the product of a fruit winery (not grape)
- hung out at a summer festival
- watched the antics of the nautical days.



At the park we competed in a Bocce Ball tournament put on by the park, and I am proud to say we had 3 advance to the semifinals. Ron Morehouse was eventually crowned the champion for 2019. To do that he beat out the returning champion from 2018 and 2017.



Life is pretty simple at a Trek Rally. I think we all appreciated that for a short time the world disappeared, and we could just sit around a fire and feel comfortable in each other's company. Beth and I enjoyed organizing the rally. After all the conversation we are already thinking ahead to the next one. A different idea but the thought of a travelling rally through the wine/orchard country of BC and Washington could be fun.

#### Business stuff:

1. Each Trek booked their own space in the park and were responsible for their own charges.
2. Scheduled program and local information was given out as each unit registered in the park.
1. Meals were prepared by the hosts as scheduled and the cost of that was shared equally by the participants. The amount each person owed was posted on the bulletin board.
2. Mike shared some things about the FMC Assist program. The "get home" policy is modified for older rigs. The insurance program will cover the cost, but may not supply a driver for older rigs. Since we are all beyond the direct limits of that program I think we should be actively promoting a buddy list with our club to help whoever is in trouble get home...an action item from the weekend conversation.

Submitted by:  
Peter Sanderson



# Northwest Travels to Minot

for the 100<sup>th</sup> FMCA International Convention

August 14 - 17, 2019

Al Zimmerman, National Director, NW Trek Fun Club

We will pick up our journey in North Dakota, a few days before the convention. We camped at a nice Corps of Engineers campground at the base of Garrison Dam on the Missouri River. The federal senior pass works great - \$11 per night with 50 amp electric power. If you haven't camped at a COE campground, they are usually found near hydro-electric projects and the campgrounds are associated with dams or rivers.



Nearby was a replica of Fort Mandan where Lewis and Clark spent their first winter on their "journey of discovery." The Mandan and Hidasta Indians were very friendly. This was also where Sacajewea joined them along with her husband, Charbonneau. The replica was similar to Fort Clatsop near Astoria, Oregon.



Jim and Linda deBorg Wally and Pam Kundert, and Ray and Sandy Baker joined us at the Downstream Campground. We then journeyed to the South Prairie School, south of Minot where a total of 16 coaches from the Northwest formed a caravan to the fairgrounds on Monday, August 12. A Northwest Area strategy session was to be held on Monday afternoon, however the parking process was not very efficient. By the time we were parked, any thought of a meeting was forgotten.



Glen Schweizer and Valeta Weaver attended their first FMCA international convention. Also attending were fellow Trekkers Gary and Karen Smith and Sam and his wife from Massachusetts. Sam might be considering a trade of his Isuzu Trek – after all it only has about 400,000 miles.



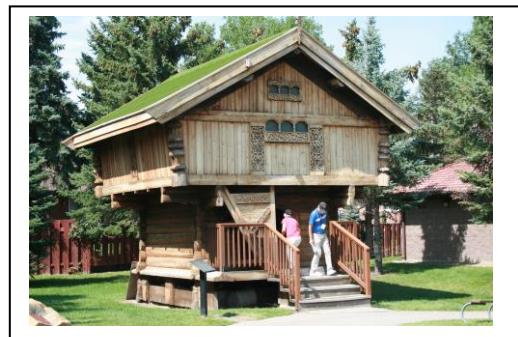
Others from the northwest were parked in other areas of the fairgrounds. There was a good representation of Northwest Area chapters by national directors or temporary delegates. Some of the interest was created because Kathie Balogh, former NW area president, was running for national secretary of FMCA. Kathie is one who speaks up for the Northwest Area. There was some definite “politicking” going on this year, so it was important to show our support for Kathie.

The official count of attendees was 1,688 family RVs/coaches with 489 first-time attendees.

The convention was filled with workshops and vendors hawking their wares. Many of the vendors were familiar to those who have attended previous FMCA conventions.



Minot is a heavily Scandinavian area, so one place we visited was the Scandinavian Heritage Center. Since Al is ½ Danish on his mother’s side, this was especially meaningful.



On Sunday we left the United States and crossed the border into Canada. Just a few questions at the border and we were on our way.

## Report on the Governing Board Meeting FMCA Convention – August 14, 2019

Tuesday was an informal briefing and work session led by FMCA president Jon Walker. It was thought that this year's meeting would be relatively uneventful, but it did not turn out that way. One of the key issues was FMCAssist – the emergency medical assistance program that is a benefit for all FMCA members. An informal poll was taken of delegates indicating that about 90% definitely wanted to keep the program.

Two problems have arisen regarding the FMCAssist program:

- 1) When the program was adopted in 2014, the program premiums were funded from FMCA reserves (investments). Since 2015 over \$2.1 million have been taken from reserve funds to cover the premiums. As a membership benefit (the only actual member benefit that is not a discount) FMCAssist is an operating expense and should be funded from current operating funds, not reserves. Northwest Area representatives tried to make this point in 2014, but were overridden.
- 2) Seven Corners, the insurance company administering the FMCAssist program, has announced a significant premium increase for the next fiscal year. The company indicated that premium payments (based on a per member per month charges) are not covering the costs of administering the program.

Efforts will be made to seek competitors who can provide an alternative to the current insurance company. However, a way had to be found to cover the premium cost from current operating revenue, reimburse the reserve fund withdrawals, and cover the additional premium cost.

Tuesday afternoon also provided a candidate's forum so that candidates for each national office could make an appeal for votes and take audience questions.

### Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board is composed of a delegate from each FMCA chapter in attendance, plus those appointed as temporary delegates because no members from a chapter were able to attend. Elaine Zimmerman represented the Oregon/Washington Coaches for Christ chapter as a temporary delegate. Delegates are grouped according to membership area. A quorum of delegates is needed for any action to occur. The meeting was held on Wednesday morning. The meeting lasts until the agenda items are covered. Sometimes these meetings end before noon, however it was about 6:15 when this year's meeting ended.

### Finances

A budget for 2020 was presented that did not include FMCAssist. Some means of increasing revenue to address the cost of the FMCAssist program needed to be found. John Reynolds, treasurer, suggested that a dues increase was the only logical way to do this. An added assessment on every member was not possible because of the mechanics of the adoption process that would take at least a year to implement.

Based upon recommendations from the treasurer, Al Zimmerman moved to amend the budget by increasing the annual dues by \$25 per year effective September 1, 2019. Jim deBorg of the Northwest



Area seconded the motion to amend the budget. After significant discussion, the 2020 budget was adopted.

Dues will increase to \$75 per year. Though this was a significant dues increase, it was realized that the cost of a similar program (FMCAssist) would cost significantly more on the open market. Members overwhelmingly wanted to keep FMCAssist as a member benefit. That dues increase was also necessary because of the number of members who have prepaid their dues in advance for a number of years.

Another financial item was the purchase of an improved computer software program for membership, event tracking, and accounting. The treasurer recommended purchasing this software through a short-term loan. This plan was supported by the delegates.

President Jon Walker reported that 24 of the past 25 months have shown positive increases in FMCA membership. Several delegates indicated that FMCAssist was a key factor in the recruitment of new members and the retention of current members.

#### Future convention sites

March 26 – 29, 2020	Tucson, Arizona
July 28 – August 2, 2020	Syracuse, New York
Winter 2021	Perry, Georgia
Summer 2021	Gillette, Wyoming
Winter 2022	Tucson, Arizona
Summer 2022	Lincoln, Nebraska or Sedalia, Missouri
Winter 2023	Perry, Georgia
Summer 2023	Lincoln, Nebraska or Sedalia, Missouri
Summer 2024	Gillette, Wyoming
Summer 2027	Gillette, Wyoming

Redmond, Oregon became too expensive. It is hoped that by concentrating of a few sites that multi-year contracts can save money and lock-in dates for the conventions.

#### Actions Related to Policies and Procedures

- The combination of the offices of secretary and treasurer was allowed. For some chapters a single position of secretary/treasurer may be more workable.
- Revised model bylaws were adopted. (No significant changes were made requiring existing bylaws to be changed.)
- Area VPs are encouraged to visit chapters and steps were taken to emphasis that budgeted funds are available to cover some of their costs.
- Because of insurance and reporting requirements, copies of each FMCA area's tax filings are to be provided to the national office.
- Campaign policies were updated to stress that candidates are not to use official FMCA logos or identities in campaign materials.

#### Elections

The following officers were elected to two-year terms:

President – Jon Walker, Great Lakes Area, reelected by acclamation

Vice President – Rett Porter, Beaver Ambassador Club, reelected

Percy Bell decided not to run.

Rett Porter 152, Jack Mayberry 92

Secretary – Kathie Balogh, Vancouver Islanders

Three candidates were on the ballot.

2<sup>nd</sup> round results: Kathie Balogh 135, Ken Carpenter 103

Treasurer – John Reynolds, Eastern Area, reelected by acclamation

Northwest Area now has two representatives on the FMCA executive board: Kathie Balogh as secretary and Don Schleusse as area vice president.

This was Elaine's first time attending a national convention and being a delegate representing an FMCA chapter. Here are some of her impressions:

*I felt like being a substitute delegate for an FMCA chapter was a great honor and responsibility. Everyone had to follow Robert's Rules of Order and there were a lot of opinions, strong feelings about policies and procedures. Al would motion on certain policies and another would second the motion, and then there would be more discussion and finally a vote for or against. Al was thanked by the treasurer for his action in helping pass the annual budget. The most exciting was voting for the National Secretary and the National Vice-president. I enjoyed observing the many members of FMCA sharing their thoughts and feelings about many issues.*

An elderly couple who'd recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary were sitting on the sofa in their Airstream when the wife asked, "Dear, do you remember how you used to sit close to me?" He moved over and sat close to her. "Dear," she continued, "do you remember how you used to hold me tight?" He reached over and held her tight.

"And," she went on, "do you remember how you used to hug me and kiss me and nibble on my ear?" With that, her husband got up and started to walk toward the rear of the trailer.

"Where are you going?" she asked. "Well," he answered, "I have to get my teeth."

Andy Balogh is all business in the FMCA store – even with Kathie having been just elected National Secretary for the FMCA.



## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge  
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Vice President – Dean Bjornson  
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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.