



Volume 8 Number 2



TREK TRAVELS



March 2021

President's Message

Spring is said to be the time of renewal – and boy am I ready for some renewal. I am glad to see 2020 over, but so far 2021 has not been so great either. I hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe.

I have received both doses of my Covid vaccine, and Lynn has received her first with the second scheduled. This won't completely change our social interactions, but it takes away some of the mortality concerns we were feeling as members of a vulnerable age group. If the states can stay on schedule, a lot of us should be vaccinated in time to participate in NWTFC rallies in June and perhaps another rally in August or September. Hooray!!

We have certainly missed our gatherings. I know the Wagon Masters are busy making plans for the June rally. We have received word that the September rally has had to be cancelled. It does appear that group gatherings will be safe by this summer so go ahead and plan that Rally you have been thinking about hosting.

The Club is still in need of a Rally Coordinator to assist with planning rallies throughout the year. **If you have any interest in the position please contact any of the club officers.**

We were hit pretty hard by an ice storm here and have been cleaning up debris for the last

couple of weeks. I am hoping to get a tree service in soon to remove several dangerous broken branches that remain. We did not suffer any damage to structures or persons, but we were without power for 5 days. The motor home provided a refuge with heat, power, and television.
(Continued on page 2)

RALLY SCHEDULE

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

2021

June 18 – 22 Rally on Cowlitz II
Brookhollow RV Park, Kelso, WA
Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Tom & Jolene Selvidge

June 24 – 27 FMCA NW Area Rally
Cowlitz County Fairgrounds

CANCELLED

July 7 – 10 FMCA Intl. Convention
CAM-PLEX
Gillette, Wyoming

Sept 10 – 13 Westport, WA
CANCELLED

**Rally needed for sometime in
August - October**

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

President's Message continued

The worst of the winter weather should be behind us for this year. We have crocus and daffodils blooming which I hope means warmer temperatures are on the way.

The charger/ inverter in the motor home is acting up so I am spending time with my head in a motor home compartment. Another sure sign of spring.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.
Mike Ashbridge
President



103rd FMCA
International
Convention
Gillette, Wyoming
July 7 – 10, 2021

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 5

This is a great opportunity to see the Rockies, visit Yellowstone, see the wild west in Cody, and discover this great land. It is also an opportunity to meet people from all over and gain new insights through workshops and vendor presentations.

The Governing Board meets on Wednesday for elections and policy decisions. This is a very important election year as the choice of candidates could influence the direction of FMCA for years to come.

In past times NW Trek Fun Club has had a number of members make the journey to Gillette. Plan now to go to Gillette. This is a good time to discover the benefits of a national rally. Make reservations for Buffalo and we will caravan in together.

Pre-convention Rendezvous Point
Buffalo, WY KOA
July 3 – 4
307-684-5423
Or online thru KOA

For more info contact Al Zimmerman, Natl. Director zimmeralz@gmail.com or 541-808-0347.

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 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



FMCA DUES ANNOUNCEMENT

FMCA Executive Board has approved a special sale on annual dues.

Regular FMCA dues price is \$75 per year. **If your membership is expiring soon, you may extend your membership for \$50** and save \$25 on a one-year renewal or save \$45 on a two-year renewal. Add one, two, or three more years at "throwback" prices. Special limited-time offer. Renew thru FMCA website - at checkout

- Use code ONEYEAR to save \$25
- Use code TWOYEAR to save \$45
- Use code THREEYEAR to save \$55

♦ No more than 3 full years of membership can be on a membership.

♦ Offer available until July 7, 2021.

Note from Bob Beers
Honorary Member



Respectfully received a very nice plaque and Honorary Membership Certificate from NWTFC. We are very appreciative of that recognition. THANK YOU ALL!!

Peggy and I founded NWTFC in 2004/5 with much help from several other original members. One of the best things we have ever done – it has provided us with many wonderful travel/rally experiences, as well as meeting thousands of wonderful people in all areas of motorhome travel.

We arranged and managed several rallies from a couple days to 65 day to Alaska. During our 17 years of motorhoming together we traveled all but 4 States, all Canadian Provinces, Yukon, Mexico. Some multi times. Served as officers in NWTFC, NW FMCA, Safari Intl, even ran for FMCA President one year. We experienced many, many super times with great people.

It is very rewarding to see NWTFC is still one of the largest FMCA Chapters. We sold the Trek so our Washington license TREKR is now available. (NWTFC member Lee Buckley purchased Bob's Trek – see Quartzite report.)

Unfortunately, Peggy's dementia has her in a care facility in Oregon. I am blessed that she still recognizes me when I call but verbal communications are very minimal, so please keep her in your prayers. Her address is:

1115 NW 158th Ave
Beaverton, OR 97006.

KEEP ON TREKKING

Bob & Peggy Beers

Bob's address:

1390 158th Place #331
Bellevue, WA 98008



**PLAN A TREK RALLY
FOR THE FALL**
Be a Wagon Master

Only one rally is planned for 2021. With most of us being vaccinated, we are looking forward to meeting again. Help make that happen by planning a fall rally.

Even if you haven't planned a rally before, we have people that can help you make it happen. We can help ...

- Find a place
- Plan a rally schedule
- Create menu choices

We like to have two couples work together on a rally – usually one of the couples is an experienced wagon master.

Here are some suggestions of past rally sites or places we would like to visit – these may be good places to consider for a fall rally.

- Redmond/Bend/ Sisters, OR
- Newport, OR
- Astoria, OR
- Hood River, OR
- Centralia, WA (Brazel's)
- Tacoma / Gig Harbor, WA

Contact Ron Mahugh or Mike Ashbridge to express your willingness to plan a fall rally.
mikeashbridge@comcast.net -or-
ronski16@comcast.net



Have you got your COVID-19
vaccination yet?

Fire Destroys House

Lowell & Gail Linde
Zionsville, PA

Lowell has been one of the key people associated with Trek Tracks. He has also designed the bed stops that many of us use.

On March 19th they had been away from their home. When they returned, they found the house totally enveloped in flames. They lost the house and all its contents, including their dog. All their clothes, personal effects and cherished family belongings are gone.

A GoFundMe page to help Lowell and Gail has been established to help the Linde family. The GoFundMe page is at this LINK or you can also cut and paste into your address field of your browser. It is a secure site.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/linde-farm-fire>

As one of our Trek members stated "Lowell has always been a huge help to all of us on this forum and is known by almost all of us. He has never refused anyone any assistance and has even volunteered to work with people on their coach at his farm. This is our time to give back to Lowell in his time of need. Please help out as much as you can."



**ENCOUNTERING
WILD ANIMALS
ON YOUR
JOURNEY**
Al Zimmerman

Wild animals – we are all fascinated by them. We stop to watch them beside the road. We shout when we see a deer. We watch the birds or chipmunks that come close to our picnic tables.

It is always fun to discover wild animals on a Trek Journey – deer, elk, bears, chipmunks, birds. And then there is the occasional mouse that finds its way into your Trek.

Some of these animal encounters are amusing, some fascinating, some are startling, and some are frightening. Some we capture on "film" and others remain just a memory.



If you have visited Yellowstone National Park or Custer State Park in South Dakota, you

have probably met some buffalo (it is actually a bison). You may have been driving one of the park roads and encountered a roving herd. You then realized this was really their land, and you were merely visiting.



Sometimes these animals are even willing to share the campground with you. They like to go where

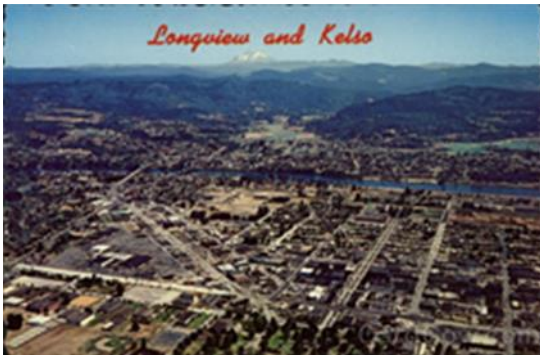
the grass is greener and the leftovers are enticing. We have shared the campground with elk at Yellowstone and at the Grand Canyon.

Some of these animals are smaller, but cuter. Who has not stopped to watch the antics of a chipmunk or a prairie dog?



And then there was the time we were camping at Ohanapecosh in Mt. Rainier National Park. We were sitting in the motorhome reading while the river was rushing beside the motorhome. Suddenly a brown furry animal ran across the floor. At the NWTFC rally at Ohanapecosh it was almost a contest to see how many mice were trapped the night before.

Send your animal stories to me for publication in the next Trek Travels newsletter. Pictures are welcome.
zimmeralz@gmail.com



RALLY ON THE COWLITZ

Kelso/Longview, WA

June 18 – 22, 2021

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.

- Catered BBQ dinner from Hop-N-Grape
- Historic downtown, Lilac Gardens-Woodland
- Tour of historic Cedar Creek Grist Mill
- Presentation on history of timber and Longview area planned.

RALLY ON THE COWLITZ REGISTRATION

Rally fee: (includes 1st night camping, pancake breakfast, grilled chicken Caesar salad dinner, 2 continental breakfasts, catered BBQ dinner). **Attendees pay for 2 nights upon arrival.** (\$47/night)

Total Rally Fee

\$ 130 (Couple)

\$90 (Single)

Make checks payable to NWTEC. Mail completed registration and check to:
Al Zimmerman, 875 Seabreeze Terrace, Coos Bay, OR 97420

Registration and funds must be received by May 1, 2021.

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.)

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

Since the FMCA NW Area Rally has been cancelled there will be no need for store volunteers this year.

WESTPORT RALLY

September 10 – 13, 2021

CANCELLED

Because of some unfortunate mix-ups involving the campground, this rally had to be cancelled. We truly appreciate the efforts of the wagon masters, and look forward to more fun rallies in the future.

QUARTZITE RALLY 2021

Bret and Laura Medbury

The 2021 Trek no cost – no host annual gathering in Quartzsite Az. was about as different from previous gatherings as one could get due to the ongoing pandemic. As a pandemic safety precaution all events that

would have generated a group or gathering of folks were cancelled, masks were required all times others were present and we used two evening fires to keep the groups small. The big question is though, who won the highly contested, highly dynamic, favorite mask contest??? The suspense is palpable; however, the answer will be below.

Treks gathered in their traditional circle on Thursday January 14, however the circle was much smaller than previous years. At peak attendance we had 19 Treks plus four RVs of other brands.

Still, it made a

nice compact and but socially distanced group. There were four coaches of “younger” people in their 40s. At least half the crowd consisted of first timers, we had a number of full timers and multiple very high-tech Treks which came equipped with VERY knowledgeable owners.



The weather was absolutely fantastic, full sun, nice and warm, dark nights with just a sliver of a moon and spectacular stars, and NO WIND.

To promote social distancing and keep groups small all social and technical discussions were done in small informal groups which really worked very well. We all dearly missed our traditional afternoon snacks and cocktail gatherings, pot lucks, technical talks, etc. But we fully intended for everyone to go home healthy, to come back next year and enjoy those things then.





After some discussion and with such a small crowd, we did decide that we could do a socially distanced meet and greet, abbreviated tech talk, general discussion meeting which we held on Saturday morning. A good part of the discussion was focused on the poor connectivity at our Dome Rock Site area, especially Verizon. Another item repeatedly expressed was praise for the Trek Tracks Forum, multiple attendees expressed appreciation for help provided by forum members on a wide variety of subjects.

Now, who won the Favorite Mask contest????? Drum roll please..... Wow we know there a lot of votes because the box is wicked heavy..... Oh dang, there

is a rock in here,,,,,,,,,,,,, Al Z drew the short straw and dutifully read the votes and the winner is,,,,,,,,,,,, Fran Zaft. I want all to know this is a contest we intend to never have to repeat so Fran has bragging rights forever.

Many new friendships were generated, much technical information was passed, much fun was had even though the smiles were hidden behind masks, a whole bunch of lies were told around campfires (some were believed).

Sunday was a day for sad goodbyes for some, Travel arrangements that had been combined among new friends made here, and many promises to be back next year.

May we see you all happy, healthy, and pandemic free next year.

Bret and Laura



Bob Beers' Trek made it to Quartzsite with its new owner - Lee Buckley



NEW – YOUNGER – TREK OWNERS BRING NEW DIRECTIONS

At the 2021 Quartzsite Rally there were some new, younger Trek owners that had remodeled their Treks to better suit their needs. These folks work from their Trek, so some of the changes were to enable them to be more productive in their businesses. Some of the changes involved the electronics, batteries, and furniture. One of the changes was shocking – they painted the beautiful, solid wood cabinets white! Here is a description of some of the changes they made to their Trek.

We acquired our 2002 model 2830 Trek in January of 2020. We had been looking for a Trek motorhome for months, and based on a tip from a neighbor, we were able to find one in our little town of Polson, Montana. It was in good shape and mechanically sound. The original owner had done pretty much all the engine and chassis upgrades that were available.



Our desire was to set up our motorhome up for 2 people to live in full-time. We needed to be able to work from the road, and we wanted to have the ability to boondock for extended periods of time.

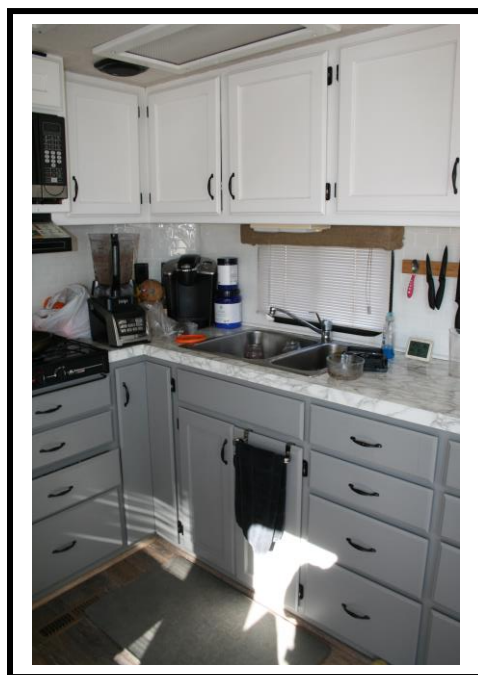
We started by redoing the inside. We painted all the walls and cabinets and put new fabric on the valances. We took out the desk, sofa and dining areas and put in a standing desk, build a custom day bed/couch with storage for the lithium battery underneath. We had a table built that can be set up or

taken down and stored underneath the couch when not needed. We removed the tv cabinet. We put in new flooring and changed the lights to LED.

Some of the not so visible things that we did are the electrical upgrades. Darrel installed a new inverter, built the space for a lithium battery, installed 800 watts of solar on the roof and put in a solar charge controller. He also added quite a bit of communications equipment so he could work from the road. He installed a roof-top cellular antenna, a mobile router, as well as a cell booster with an exterior antenna.

Another fun feature we added was changing out the sewer hose holder and installing a vinyl fence post behind the door. In that compartment we are able to store our collapsible 7-foot step ladder hidden out of view. When the door says “sewer hose” no one bothers it!

We set up our Jeep Cherokee so it could be flat-towed. We enjoy having a towed vehicle because it makes trips to the grocery store or around town very convenient. We also enjoy leaving the motorhome for a few days at a time to head out with our tent and go for an overland adventure.



We have lived in our motorhome for over 8 months now and we feel it has met our needs very well. We have used it in a variety of circumstances from RV parks, to rallies, to extended stays boondocking on BLM land. We have found that the solar has been adequate and the communication equipment has made it easy to work from the road.

Sara and Darrel Stone



Plan on gathering in the desert
For Quartzsite 2022 next January



The official mascot of 2020:



Always wears a mask

Compulsively washes hands.

Letters of racoon rearranged
spell corona.

MASK REQUIRED FOR SERVICE

Do not pout. Do not whine. Do not argue. Do not harass the employees. Do not spout conspiracy theories or regurgitate misinformation you got from your dumb uncle on Facebook. This isn't political; it is basic health and safety.

- "I forgot it in my car." Well, go get it.
- "This is unconstitutional!" No – it's not.
- "This is a hoax." You are an idiot.

You know in Jaws where everyone is mad because the beaches are closed because the shark keeps killing people, and they know it keeps killing people. And they go the beach anyway?

That's what this pandemic is like!



Hooray for 2021!

- Vaccines for everyone
 - Family get togethers
 - School is back in session.
 - More Trek rallies can happen!
- See you in 2021 & stay healthy!

NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Vice Pres. – Joann Lindhorst
joanlindhorst@gmail.com

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce
suedavidpierce@gmail.com

Treasurer – Irva Cooper
tennis4yu@msn.com

Natl. Dir – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Alt Natl. Dir – Tom Selvidge
tselvidge@msn.com

Past President – Steve Webber-
Plank
donwebberplank@mac.com

Rally Coordinator – Ron Mahugh
ronski16@comcast.net

Webmaster – Mary Carlson
NWTFCwebmaster@gmail.com

Historian – Jeannette Block
ed.jnet@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor
Al Zimmerman

Member Care – Nancy Harris
nmharris47@gmail.com

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.