



Volume 9 Number 4



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### President's Message

It has been a fun year for me as a member of NWTFC. We have had three great club rallies – pre-rally in Lakeside, Poulsbo, and Port Townsend. It was also good to have the FMCA NW Area Rally return after a hiatus because of Covid.

I have met some wonderful new members. I have also enjoyed some good times with some long-time members. It is the rallies that are the heart and soul of this club. We have members that are willing to spend the time and energy, so that we can come together for these gatherings. I want to thank everyone that has in the past and will in the future host a rally. They are the fun in our fun club. If you have an idea for a rally, please consider hosting. There are openings for 2023 rallies. We have experienced rally hosts that will help and provide you with the necessary information to pull it off.

As we approach another year it is election time for some of our club positions. I am sure you are all tired hearing anything to do with elections by now, but it is necessary to have people to fill these positions. The offices of **vice president** and **treasurer** are up for election this year. We need candidates. As noted in Al Zimmerman's Lincoln, NE convention notes, the FMCA Governing Board approved making the position of alternate national director optional for chapters. We will consider if we want to make this change to our bylaws.

(continued on page 2)



### Elections in October

Ballots will soon be sent by email to the membership for the 2022 elections. Each candidate will serve a two-year term.

Vice President – nominee needed  
Treasurer – nominee needed

**Contact Mike Ashbridge about these openings.** [mikeashbridge@comcast.net](mailto:mikeashbridge@comcast.net)

### RALLY SCHEDULE

**2023**

Spring	<b>Start the year with a fling! – Plan a rally.</b>
June	<b>Pre-rally – location?</b>
June 7 – 11	FMCA NW Area Rally Linn County Fairgrounds Albany
August - September	<b>Perhaps on the dry side of the mountains</b>
August 23 – 26	FMCA Intl. Convention Gillette, Wyoming

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

## President's Message continued

The club has a new **Webmaster**, John Herold of Tillamook. He has taken over from Mary Carlson. He is doing a great job and has terrific qualifications for this task. Thank you John.

Our **rally coordinator** position is open. The job description is on our website and any questions you may have would be gladly answered by members that have filled the position in the past or members of the executive board. Please consider volunteering to keep this club functioning. We try to keep the business side of the club low key so positions are not demanding a great deal of time.

I know many of you are thinking of heading south for the winter to avoid the rain of the Northwest. Quartzite is always a topic of conversation at any Trek Rally so I hope many of you are able to attend this next year. We have not decided whether to attend at this time. It will depend on family matters so hopefully we will be able to attend.

Safe Travels - Mike Ashbridge, President

## Why I like Retirement

How many days in a week?  
6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

When is a retiree's bedtime?  
Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb? Only one, but it might take all day.

What's the biggest gripe of retirees?  
There is not enough time to get everything done.

Why don't retirees mind being called seniors?  
The term comes with a 10% discount.

What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire? NUTS!

Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement? They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

## Stan Shackell Past NWTFC President Passes

Stan and Barbara Shackell were some of our Canadian members for many years. Stan served as president of the club. Those who have been in the NWTFC for many years remember this couple very fondly. Stan was jovial and outgoing, but with a little twinkle in his eye. Barbara was a little more reserved and dignified.

In July Stan was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood. It spread to his spine bringing much pain. Radiation and chemotherapy were tried. Unfortunately he experienced multiple side effects that weakened him to the point of hospitalization.



With the diagnosis quite negative, Stan elected to forego further chemotherapy. He lost the battle with cancer, but his positive outlook lives on.

A note from their daughter Jane Shackell.  
*I know that dad (and mom also) treasured the connections found in the Trek group for so many years. Dad had planned to attend this summer's meet up, and was sad the he found himself unable to be with you. I thank the group for your friendship and invite you to enjoy a hearty glass of red (or just a good cup of coffee) with your own loved ones in his honor.*



# NW TREK FUN CLUB RALLIES ARE WHERE THE FUN HAPPENS!

## PORT TOWNSEND 5.0 RALLY

### Point Hudson Marina

Port Townsend, WA

August 2 – 7, 2022

Rally Masters

Ron Mahugh & Mary Burchett

Port Townsend Trek Rally 5.0 has come and gone. Fresh air and the sounds of the waves make it the perfect place to relax and enjoy the company of old friends and



new friends. We had 22 coaches sign up, but 5 had to drop out for various reasons.

As always, we adhere to the KISS theory, so everyone was on their own for entertaining themselves. We did have a good turnout for breakfast. It's a nice way to start the day with good conversation and an opportunity to make plans for the day. Mike was up early to make sure the coffee was made. Fruit, yogurt, granola and a variety of breads with cream cheese and jam was provided.



The first night we had hors d'oeuvres and desserts. We had a toast in honor of our recently lost members.

Potluck on Wednesday and Friday were enjoyed by all especially the desserts.

Thursday was dinner on your own. There was an



outside music event called "Concerts on the Dock". The music was very good, and the crowd was fun to watch as they danced the night away.

Saturday several people went to the "Saturday Market". Lots of good vegetables, sweets, and beautifully made crafts. We provided Pizza and sub sandwiches for dinner. After dinner we had a short meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting was approved. Irva gave us a treasurer's report. At the end of the meeting the group voted to suspend all efforts to get an AED. Sue Bjornson was able to visit and have pizza, we were all happy to see her.

One evening guest (Erica Roberts) introduced the group to (LCR) Left, Center, Right. The big winners of all the quarters played were Shannon Dennis and Jeanette Block.



Mike Ashbridge made arrangements for eight of us to try a simulator they use to train pilots to bring in the big cargo ships. They gave us a Coast Guard Cutter to pilot our way around sail boats, a ferry, an aircraft carrier, rough seas, and snow in order to rescue somebody in the water. P.S. I think the poor guy drowned.

See you down the road,  
Ron and Mary

**Notes from NWTFC Business Meeting ♦ August 6, 2022**

Current membership is 55 members. There have been 6 new members added, and 8 resignations in 2022.

It was noted that FMCA is planning a Rally for 2023 and it will be held in Albany Oregon. Lee Buckley noted that next year will be the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Safari International and hopes an FMCA pre-rally can be organized with NWTFC and Safari International in celebration.

We have not been able to collect enough funding for an AED device. Lee Buckley motioned and Ed Block seconded that the project come to an end. The vote supported this motion. Those that contributed will be notified and asked if they want their contribution returned.

We are starting to get ready for election of new officers for 2023 and we are actively looking for a new vice president and treasurer. We already have a volunteer for the Secretarial position, Kathleen Walczak.

Mary Carlson has retired from her NWTFC Web Master position. We thank her for the wonderful accomplishments that she made for us. Mr. John Herold has now taken over this position.



## REPORT ON 105<sup>TH</sup> FMCA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

The number of RVs coming from the Northwest was less than usual. The official count of attendees was 614 RVs. Several factors contributed to this decrease in numbers: 1) this was the first summer convention since Covid, 2) the convention was held in Nebraska in the summer where it is usually hot and humid, 3) the dates were at the end of



August near Labor Day and school was starting, 4) fuel prices were considerably higher making travel costs more expensive, and 5) it is a long way to Nebraska.



Zimmermans made it to Lincoln

The Governing Board met on Wednesday, August 24.

Barbara Smith is doing a great job as treasurer. There were some unique challenges for the FMCA organization this year. There was a loss of \$400,000 associated with the Tucson convention because the attendance numbers did not produce the needed revenue. The same will be true with the Lincoln convention. One of the more successful benefit offerings from FMCA was the Tech Connect program which provided enhanced WIFI connections to those who travel. Unfortunately it was too successful. The program was initially with T-Mobile on the nonprofit side, however too many dollars were coming into the nonprofit side

of the organization. The IRS limits how much **Unrelated Business Income** The program had to be transferred to the FMCA for-profit organization and the new provider became AT&T. Because of how the issue was handled, some additional costs were incurred so that FMCA's nonprofit status was not threatened.



Many workshops provided good info

As of August FMCA has 73,757 members. The number of motorhomes is decreasing and the number towables is increasing slowly. The average age of FMCA members is

71. Without the increase in towable members, the average age would be higher. Through the first seven months of fiscal year 2022, non-motorhome membership has experienced a gain of 1,196 members. Motorhome membership saw a loss of 1,435 members during the same period.

Family RVing (FMCA's magazine) is highly rated and a much-appreciated membership benefit. However, the production costs for the magazine are going up significantly.

**A proposal was adopted to allow chapters to have the option of not having an alternate national director as a chapter officer. This reduces the required number of chapter officers from six to five, and if some officers were elected to combined positions (secretary/treasurer), the actual number of elected persons could be further reduced to three.**

**Al Zimmerman, on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee,** made a report of recommendations to be adopted by the GB. FMCA

has an identity crisis and is not recognized in the RV community. FMCA must be revamped to better relate to a primary target market of RV owners who 55 – 65 who do not travel long distances or use their RV for more than 30 days a year.

A redefinition of the mission of FMCA was suggested – “to educate and empower RV owners so they can enjoy the RV lifestyle.”

**Nine goals were identified by the LRPC's strategic planning process:**

1. Create a new identity and brand that orients the organization to a different demographic.
2. Preserve and enhance the membership benefits oriented to the current membership while researching benefits that would appeal to the target market.
3. Consider and adopt new venues for gathering, educating, serving and enabling RV owners to enhance the enjoyment of their RVs.
4. Expand FMCA rallies and conventions through greater involvement of vendors and an emphasis on a more entertaining and fun atmosphere.
5. Expand the role and number of chapters by expanding current chapters and establishing new chapters.
6. Strengthen the organization's marketing efforts based on ways and methods that will reach the target market while not neglecting the current membership.
7. Enhance the organization's role as an advocate for RV owners in dealings with manufacturers and with government bodies having oversight over RVs.
8. Build a stronger network of vendors and campgrounds based upon a mutually beneficial relationship linking members to those providing needed services.
9. FMCA's leadership should reflect its target markets, while retaining the best of its current structure.

The recommendations of the LRPC were adopted almost unanimously by the GB. Work continues on completing the strategic plan and implementing elements of the plan that should be addressed in the coming year.

The claims associated with FMCAssist (medical emergency evacuation program) have remained within the loss-ratio outlined in the contract, so a rate increase was not needed.



Evening Entertainment

Thursday and Friday were filled with workshops during the day and bands playing as entertainment during the evening.

FMCA is an association and the annual membership meeting was held on Saturday morning.

- Dennis Martin was installed as the Northwest Area National Vice President, replacing Don Schleuse who had fulfilled his term of office.
- **Al Zimmerman, NW Trek Fun Club, was awarded the Robert L. Richter Award which recognizes excellence in chapter communications and newsletters. Only one Richter award is presented each year.**
- A tradition for the membership meeting is for ten cash awards of \$250 to be drawn from coupons placed in a raffle drum during the convention. Winners must be present to win. Ed Doern, NW Alpine Coach Association, and Gary Smith, NW Trek Fun Club via Florida, were both winners.



Future convention sites

March 15 – 18, 2023	Perry, Georgia
August 23 – 26, 2023	Gillette, Wyoming
Spring 2024	Tucson, Arizona
Summer 2024	Gillette, Wyoming

**Six Little Stories with Lots of Meanings**

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. **That is faith.**
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. **That is trust.**
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarm to wake up. **That is hope.**
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. **That is confidence.**
5. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. **That is love.**
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old. I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. **That is attitude.**

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember – **good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!**

Consideration is being given to having an international convention in Redmond, Oregon again.



Staffing the store – look familiar?

**Plan Now for a 2023 Rally**

- Spring Rally
- Pre-rally near Albany
- Summer Rally
- Fall Rally

Look at some new rally sites – on the coast or on the dry side of the mountains. Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!!

## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge  
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Vice President - **Vacant**

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce  
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Past President – Steve Webber-  
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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 55 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.