



GREAT AMERICAN RV CLUB

A Family Motor Coach Association Chapter



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

EDITORS: GEORGE & GLENDA PIRIE

2008

Rally Calendar & Wagon Masters

April 25 & 26, 2008

HomeComing Rally

Land Yacht Harbor, Lacey, WA

Jeff & Cheryl Whetzel

June 4 thru 7

FMCA NW Rally

Albany, OR

John & Linda Haley

June 20 & 21

Riverbend RV in Twisp, WA

Jim & Meghann Hurst

George & Glenda Pirie

August 15 & 16

North Whidbey RV

Deception Pass

Patti & Mike Bell

Cheryl & Jeff Whetzel

September 11, 12 & 13

Port Townsend Fairgrounds

Port Townsend, WA

Dave & Delee Bornander

Ray & Joanne Cowans

October 24 & 25

Land Yacht Harbor

Lacy, WA

The GARV Board

Lost Badges

If you have lost your badge, there are two things you need to do. Contact Dave & Jill Riker to order a new badge and cough up \$9.50, and secondly explain to your wife how you could lose your badge.

If you haven't paid your FMCA dues for 2008, you will be dropped from GARV Club membership in April

The Presidents Message

Hard to believe we are about to attend our second rally of 2008. How time flies when you are RVing and having fun! We look forward to warmer weather and a great line-up of rally locations for 2008. Be sure to check our garvclub.com website for all the latest details.

Our President's Day rally at Fidalgo Bay was filled with good weather, great food and super games thanks to our wonderful hosts, Dave and Mary Osborn and Kathryn and Garry Reid. Kathryn and Garry are new members mind you, and did a superb job with tutelage from Dave and Mary! Our Club really is blessed with volunteers who step up to the plate to make our outings so successful and we do appreciate their efforts.

We had three new members join us at Fidalgo Bay and expect 2 new members at our March rally. A year ago on March 25th we had 111 members and as of 3/4/08, we have 156 members. As our GARV Club grows, we hope each of you has an opportunity to attend our Homecoming rally in April where we can meet and share RV stories.

In early February, Jeff Whetzel and I met with Rich Garchow and Eric Lind, owner and manager of Great American RV in Fife and are excited to announce they will again provide sponsorship of our upcoming Homecoming rally April 25 and 26th. Great American RV will also provide techs who will perform a minor repair to your coach. Rich and Eric, we thank you for your continued support of our Club!!

Our Club polo shirts arrived and were modeled by some members at the Fidalgo Bay rally. They look great and if you haven't ordered yours yet, please contact Glenda Pirie at: gdpirie@aol.com for ordering details. For those planning to attend the FMCA Northwest Area Rally in Albany, Oregon June 4 - 7, we will wear our Club shirts for the parade and as we assist Olympic Snowbirds with food service.

If you haven't yet signed up to attend the FMCA rally in Albany, Oregon, please check our garvclub.com website for sign-up information. This is the biggest area rally FMCA sponsors in the Northwest and we are thrilled to currently have 30 members signed up to attend. John and Linda Haley; haley-jl@peoplepc.com, have put together details for those who would like to caravan. To park together, we MUST arrive together. Check with John and Linda for further information. Judie and I will attend the final planning session for this rally in April and will let you know all the details as soon as we get them. We do know the theme is "Christmas in June", there will be coach and vendor displays, a parade, bingo, daily prize drawings, seminars, a swap meet, an ice cream social, a Red Hat Society luncheon, five catered meals and a special dinner for volunteers. All reports from previous attendees are filled with fun and we are excited to be a part of this rally!

Judie and I would like to thank our Board and all of our members for your continued support and participation in our Club! Here's to safe RVing and more of our great rallies in 2008!

Jerry and Judie Lehenbauer

Club Officers

President

Jerry & Judie Lehenbauer
425-883-6873

jlehenbauer@mac.com

1st Vice-President

Jeff & Cheryl Whetzel
360-863-6292

whetzeljl@comcast.net

2nd V.P./Rallymaster

Dave & Jill Riker
253-874-2621

driker7@comcast.net

Secretary

Larry & Sybil Marsh
360-754-7037

scmarsh@msn.com

Treasurer

Robyn & Carolyn Moore
360-866-2228

moorerlcl@comcast.net

Assistant Rallymaster

Jim & Meghann Hurst
360-438-0465

j_mhurst@msn.com

FMCA National Director

John & Linda Haley
253-874-4170

haley_jl@peoplepc.com

Alt National Director

Dave & Mary Osborn
253-838-1272

dmosborn@comcast.net

Past President

John & Linda Haley
253-874-4170

haley_jl@peoplepc.com

If you know of a member that needs some **SUNSHINE** please contact **Irma Harris**.
Email: irmajharris@peoplepc.com

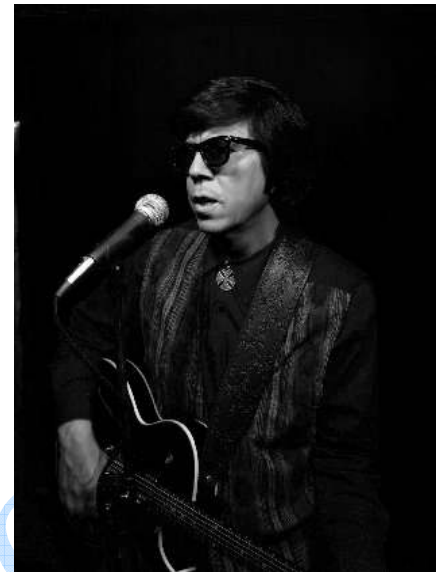
GARV Website

Our webmaster is **Jim Hurst**
j_mhurst@msn.com. The Club website is
garvclub.com. Check for the latest information.

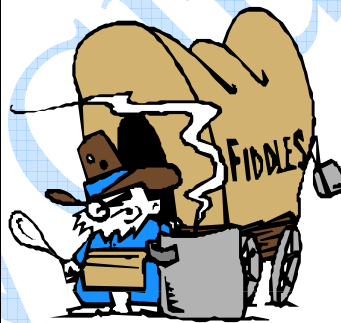
“98% of all Harley-Davidson motorcycles ever made are still on the road. The rest made it home safely.”

Homecoming 2008

Homecoming 2008 will again be at the Land Yacht Harbor in Lacey, WA. April 25 thru 27. Since Danny Vernon, the Elvis impersonator, was such a hit last year we are going to continue the trend this year with Mike Greenwoods “Tribute to Roy Orbison”. Mike was recommended to us by Danny Vernon. The Great American Dealership is providing financial and technician support to our Rally. We are going to have ladies driving classes, seminars put on by our own members and craft classes. Jeff & Cheryl Whetzel and their team of volunteers are working hard to make this an enjoyable rally. We’ll have two catered dinners, one continental breakfast and a hot breakfast before we leave on Sunday morning. We are looking forward to a relaxing, entertaining and fun weekend. It will be a time to visit with old and new friends. So plan to join us, it’s always a good rally.



Beans, Bacon and Biscuits



The Hursts and the Piries invite ya’all to a good old fashioned Chuck Wagon Rally. It’ll be in June at Riverbend RV Park in Twisp, WA. Way up in them there hills. You do remember the campfire scene in “Blazing Saddles” don’t you? So there’s just no tellin’ what we’ll come up with! We’re still a-thinkin’ up interesting things, and we’ve found lots of recipes for a Chuck Wagon Pot luck which we’ll share. We’ll let ya’all know more in the flyer, so get out your western duds, or create your own, and join us in the Old West spirit.

Dump Stations

At the Friendship Rally on Oct of 2007 I was asked at the Board Meeting Session, why I didn’t publish all of the sites where motorhome owners could dump their tanks. There is not a strong market for poop so that while there are still some State facilities that provide complementary dump stations at Rest Stops, the majority are parks that provide the service for a fee. If you go to the following website: <http://www.discoveryowners.com/cginfolinks.htm> and while on that page scroll down to “DUMP Stations-public” and then over to “dumps wk.1” and download this file. When you open it Windows will probably say “can’t find program” or something like that. Open the file with Excel, you will be the proud owner of all the public dump sites in the country. Now if we could just find a way to distill it into diesel.

“Artificial Intelligence is no match for Natural Stupidity.”

“Always forgive your enemies, but never forget their names”.

FMCA Report



FMCA Northwest Area Rally registration form is online at www.fmca.com
Follow the prompts to NW Area Rally to register online.

Information and a registration form can also be downloaded from the FMCA Northwest Area website.
www.fmcanw.org

Register before May 15th and the cost is \$130 for coach with two people. That's not bad for 5 days including 5 meals.

So far the GARV Club has 33 coaches interested and we are working on caravans to Albany.

Contact John & Linda Haley at haley-ji@peoplepc.com 253-874-4170 for details.

It has been an honor to serve as your GARV Club National Director during our first year as a FMCA Chapter. It has been a year of change and growth and we thank those of you that supported us during this difficult year.

Just a reminder, FMCA information is always available on their WEB site at <http://www.fmca.com/> or for information about the Northwest area go to <http://www.fmcanw.org/>

If all go as planned, I will have his last Chemo treatment one week before the GARV Homecoming Rally in April. We hope to see you all there.

John Haley, Chapter National Director

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Call, write or e-mail us with your questions or comments. The GARV Board

Great Discoveries

Along the North Bank of the Rogue River, 8 miles upriver from Gold Beach, OR is Kimball Creek RV Resort. Not a resort by some standards, but a resort compared to those on the Rogue. They have 30A power, and there is no cable TV, but after all you didn't come here to watch Seinfeld reruns. The joy of Kimball Creek Resort is the location and the solitude. You are camped on the banks of the Rogue River where you can watch the jet boats go by or if you want, they'll stop and pick you up for a trip up a Government designated "Wild and Scenic River". Means no more building. In the early morning deer and flocks of wild turkeys wander by your campsite. Eagles and Ospreys soar overhead from their nests high in the old growth trees on the river bank, and while I haven't seen one, the locals swear that some of the fresh poop is from black bears. The people are friendly, the weather in the Spring and Summer is warm to hot and you can sit by the fire in the evening. The drive from HWY 101 is a little sporty, but doable. <http://www.kimballcreek.com/>

Rallymaster Report

February brought us to Fidalgo Bay at a beautiful setting on the waterfront of northern Puget Sound. This three day winter rally was well attended with 29 coaches and 58 attendees, including Great American RV dealership owners Rich & Ardyth Garchow. We enjoyed a relaxing Winter Comfort theme with delicious home style meals to warm our souls. We played games and dined in the club house that offered spectacular views of the Sound.

There were many activities to do in the area including a 10 minute drive to scenic Mount Erie with its spectacular 360 degree views, shopping in the quaint town of La Conner, taking a stroll on the bike path that stretches from the RV park all the way into Anacortes, and enjoying the fresh made donuts at The Donut House.

Saturday night we enjoyed a high-spirited round of card bingo. Prizes were awarded to the lucky winners. Sunday we had a Game Night where we rotated through a variety of games and were awarded points based on how well we performed. The persons with the most points and least points were awarded prizes.

Monday we wrapped-up the weekend with a breakfast of good old fashioned Oatmeal to send us on our way. A special thank you to our terrific Wagonmasters, Dave & Mary Osborn and Garry & Kathryn Reid that provided all the great food and entertainment for this 3-day event.

We look forward to the March rally down south at the Vancouver RV park. The theme for this rally is Saint Patrick's day so make sure you wear green! This is a very popular RV park so we've been limited to 20 sites which we've already filled. We apologize to anyone that missed the early registration and we will look for a park with more accommodations next March. There is still the April Home-Coming rally, so make sure you register for this fun filled event.

David & Jill Riker

"The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too". ~Samuel Butler,

"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something at sometime in your life." - Winston Churchill



The Wine Country Mini Rally

Tom and Jay Baxter are planning a Wine Country Rally after the GARV Rally in Twisp in June of 2008. They have made reservations at the Wine Country RV Park in Prosser, WA <http://www.winecountryrvpark.com/> for 18 coaches and reserved the Park Club House. There is still room for 9 more coaches. If you are interested in visiting some first class Washington Wineries with some wagon masters who know their way around the cork contact Tom and Jay by phone 425-985-6092 (Cell) or e-mail jbaxter1@attglobal.net to be put on the attendee list. Dates are June 22nd thru June 26th, 2008 directly following the Twisp Rally. The plans thus far are that Sunday will be a travel day, Monday thru Thursday Tom and Jay are planning two selected winery visits a day, leaving ample free time to visit other wineries of your choice. One day we will do a brown bag lunch at a winery. What could be nicer than sitting in the sun enjoying the views of the Yakima Valley eating some bread and cheese and drinking the wine you just bought. The Wine Makers dinner will be at the Desert Winds Winery and it will be 5 courses with 5 wine pairings for \$100 a couple. There will be seminars on blending wines and barrel tasting. Just get on the list and we will keep you informed as we finalize the arrangements. Each coach will be responsible for their own costs so there are no rally fees. The end of June around Prosser, Toppenish and Zillah is also the beginning of cherry season and if you haven't tasted Washington cherries just picked from the trees you haven't enjoyed one of the real pleasures of Northwest life. So if you would like to drink a little wine, eat a few cherries, sit around and have a good time contact Tom and Jay and join us.

"Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city."
-George Burns

"You never have to apologize for something you didn't say."

"No matter how great your triumphs or how tragic your defeats, approximately one billion Chinese couldn't care less."

From the Grapevine

Well I've got a little good news; this is the last month of winter and then things start looking up. The not so good news; Bob Preston is recovering from yet another surgery. This makes 3 from Jan 2007 until Jan 2008. Jill needs to check his warranty. Bob Lowe has another aneurism and they can't operate until a new type of stent is available. Does this mean he is "on hold" for parts? He has to go to San Francisco for tests and a possible surgery. John Haley is on the final leg of his chemotherapy. It's been a tough winter, get well folks. Speaking of winter, we had a cold and icy New Years get together over on Hood Canal. Everyone was slipping and sliding and we didn't see the ground for four days. Speaking of slipping, it was verified that a human's center of gravity is just aft of center. Larry and Sybil Marsh traded in the Winnie and bought an Alfa. This is their diesel coach to start retirement. Alfa's have a 7 foot ceiling, and Larry looks like "mini-me" walking around in it. Dave and Paula Dahl are interrupting their retirement trip to Arizona with a boat trip through the Panama Canal. Ask him about the new club he belongs to. A group of GARV folks have been basking in the sun of Mexico on a tour led by Frank and Patty Schneider. I wonder how the locals are reacting to a group of "mature" ladies doing calisthenics in the morning. "All the better to drink white wine my dear". Heard a rumor about some "heifers" in Arizona that escaped from the corral and got ribald after visiting the local watering hole. Don't know what that means, but we'll keep an ear open.

The Washington Legislature is at it again, SB 6900 would have increased vehicle excise taxes based on engine displacement and CO2 emissions. Its stated "purpose" was to incentivize smaller engines and help the environment. All government vehicles, tax exempt vehicles, school buses, aircraft and boats are exempt. Silly me, I didn't realize that only private vehicles had CO2 emissions. Fortunately it didn't get out of committee. Actually this is a slightly veiled attempt from the State to get more money for roads, they've tried everything else. Suppose we all went out and bought smaller cars that only used half as much fuel and the gas tax income was cut in half, State Government couldn't exist.

Rocky and Moira Jackson bought a house in Scottsdale, AZ, and he says his coach is up for sale, and they are dropping out of the club. Imagine, he's trading fun and adventure, not to mention friends, for a pool in the sun. I'll give him 6 months of laying in the sun, turning into a prune, before we see his smiling face at a rally again.

The price of crude oil is up again. Anytime anything in the world hiccups, the price goes up. Going to the New Years Rally and the Rally at Fidalgo Bay, I spent more on rally costs than I did on diesel. Fortunately higher priced fuel is better than the lines we had in the 70's. So while your emotion may say stay home, that's no way to spend the rest of your life. Get out and enjoy life and smell the roses. Remember more people die in bed at home than in motorhomes.

DEAR LORD...

So far today, God, I've done all right... I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been grumpy, greedy, nasty, selfish or self-indulgent.

I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed.....and from then on, I'm going to need a lot of help.

AMEN

Funky Monkey Chocolate Banana Martini



You'll be swingin' from the trees when you taste this most excellent chocolate martini.

Ingredients

- 2 ounces of Score Banana vodka
- 1 ounce of Creme de Cacao
- 1 tablespoon of chocolate syrup
- 1 tablespoon of chocolate milk
- 2 tablespoon of chocolate ice cream
- 2 freezing martini glasses

The mix

- Add your Score Banana vodka and Creme de Cacao to a shaker half full of ice.
- Shake, shake, shake for a full minute.
- Let your shaker rest while you prep your glasses, and give him a little taste.
- Add 1 tablespoon of ice cream to each glass.
- Drizzle the chocolate syrup over the ice cream.
- Add the chocolate milk to your shaker, and give another ten shakes.
- Strain your chocolate martini into the glasses.
- Sip and enjoy!

Washington State Legislature

A few members wrote me about Washington State Senate Bill 6900, which proposed increasing vehicle excise taxes based on engine displacement and CO2 emissions. The bill, if enacted into law, would have increased vehicle excise taxes from \$70 to \$600 based on engine displacement and \$70 to \$600 based on CO2 emissions. The tax would be additive so that with a large engine vehicle you could be paying up to \$1200 additional excise tax yearly per vehicle. Motorhomes were proposed to be exempted, but as soon as the howl and cry of the pickup truck and Mercedes owners surfaced, the sponsors, "to be fair", would have redlined the motorhome section. This tax would have established a new taxing precedent and once approved into law it would grow like gas taxes. SB6900 did not make it out of the Senate Transportation committee because the chairman thought it was bad legislation and wouldn't bring it up for discussion. So the proposal is dead for this year, but the desire for "new money" will be ongoing and come up again in future sessions.

The point that I would like to make with this article is that while I followed the bill and wrote to my senator and my two legislators and expressed my opposition to the bill, I only represent one vote. A vocal vote to be sure, but still only one. The interest that a few of you have shown does indicate that you care, but it should not end with an e-mail to me. You each represent a vote, the same as mine and each and all of you should become involved and write your elected representatives and state your opposition to this type of legislation. If you don't know who represents you, shame on you, you elected them. You can get the information at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature>. On this website you can search for bills, find out who your representatives are, and it provides a means to e-mail your representatives. It also shows committees and who are members and chairmen of committees. You can e-mail all of these as well if a bill is in their committee. It's the way I keep up on things and it's the way you should too. If you are concerned, tell your representatives first with a well thought out e-mail and then tell me. Don't expect a newsletter to solve your problems, by the time I publish something it's too late. GET INVOLVED!

Lake Chelan Caravan & Mini Rally Post Homecoming 2008

For the third year in a row, we plan to leave Homecoming on Sunday and caravan to beautiful Lake Chelan City Park. Plan to stay 4 nights, April 27th through May 1st or longer if you like!

First – Call Lake Chelan and make your reservations at 509-682-8023 or www.chelancityparks.com. Ask for a site in Area "E" at the lake end and mention the GARV Club and the Riker's.

Second – Notify the Riker's of your reservations driker7@comcast.net or 253-874-2621

LOST

Husband and Dog are missing. Reward for Dog. Call 253-839-2563

A Friend

"If you're alone, I'll be your shadow. If you want to cry, I'll be your shoulder. If you want a hug, I'll be your pillow. If you need to be happy, I'll be your smile. But anytime you need a friend, I'll just be me."