



GREAT AMERICAN RV CLUB

A Family Motor Coach Association Chapter



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

EDITORS: GEORGE & GLENDA PIRIE

2007/2008

Rally Calendar & Wagon Masters

September 14 & 15, 2007

Rest-A-While RV Park

Hoodsport WA

Jerry & Judie Lehenbauer

Jeff & Cheryl Whetzel

October 27 & 28, 2007

Land Yacht Harbor

Lacey WA

GARV Executive Board Members

February 15, 16 & 17, 2008

Fidalgo Bay RV Resort

Anacortes, WA

Wagonmasters Needed

March 14 & 15, 2008

Vancouver RV, Vancouver, WA

Wagonmasters Needed

April 25 & 26, 2008

HomeComing Rally

Land Yacht Harbor, Lacey, WA

Jeff & Cheryl Whetzel

June 20 & 21

Riverbend RV in Twisp, WA

Jim & Meghann Hurst

George & Glenda Pirie



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Call, write or e-mail us with your questions or comments.

If you know of a member that needs some *SUNSHINE* please contact **Irma Harris**.

Email: irmajharris@peoplepc.com

Presidents Message

Our August rally at Lake Mayfield was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Meghann and Jim Hurst and Jill and David Riker. The Hawaiian theme was popular and the food was DELICIOUS! The weather even held out for a great sunny week-end. We had two new members to welcome, Lonnie & Harvey Salzburg and Elizabeth & Dale Pickett. As always, it was great to see returning members.

Our next rally will be held at Rest-A-While in Hoodsport and Cheryl Whetzel has been working overtime to prepare for a 'tail gate' theme. She has some surprises for all who attend, so mark your calendar for September 14 and 15 and join us as we 'tail gate' and get ready for football season! The Husky game will be on TV Saturday and as any of you know who have been there before, the fireplace at Rest-a-While is perfect for enjoying the game on TV. For sentimental reasons, we are hoping to see our members on that side of Hood Canal, the Hamptons, Bob Berger, Fran Adler, the Sterlings, Kolars and trust that Coleen and Ralph will be there.

The Board will host the October rally in Lacey at Land Yacht Harbor and plan an 'Oktoberfest' theme again, complete with bratwurst, German potato salad and the trimmings. Meghann Hurst and her crew will put on a dinner theater style entertainment for us. It's all a mystery to me! Be sure to join us for that weekend, October 26 and 27 and this is your chance to invite your friends who have a motor home but do not belong to Great American RV Club...yet! You will be receiving information on this rally soon.

Judie and I will attend an FMCA planning meeting in September in Moses Lake for the big FMCA rally in Albany, Oregon next June. As this is new territory for us, but we will convey information to you as soon as we get it, so keep June 4-7, 2008 open! What we do know is that our Club will be asked to assist in some manner at the June 2008 Rally, such as assisting with cooking meals, or leading the parade to the rally. We currently do not know what the options are, but will convey information to you as soon as we get it.

As we motor forward as an FMCA chapter, the question has been posed as to what our 'strength' is, what sets us apart as an RV club and I am asking for your input. We have had suggestions from volunteering to help cancer patients to clearing roadways to mini garage sales at rallies and donating the monies to charity. I know as you read this, something will come to mind and our Board needs to hear your idea, no matter what. The FMCA magazine that we all get carries articles of activities other clubs engage in. We feel it is time for our Club to come up with something that we can claim as 'ours'. Please email any of us on the Board or call with your idea.

Travel safely. We look forward to hearing your idea for an activity that we may implement that will make our Great American RV Club special!

Jerry and Judie Lehenbauer

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"Middle Age is when you start showing your age around your middle."

Bob Hope

"Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternatives." [Maurice Chevalier](#)

RallyMasters Report

Stars & Stripes Rally Report June 8-10 2007

We enjoyed a dry and mostly sunny June Rally in Ephrata at the Stars and Stripes RV Park. This rally was completely booked several weeks in advance and was attended by 60 members. We officially began the festivities with happy hour Friday night followed by a delicious taco bar complete with margaritas. After dinner, many of us took turns trying to bring down a Piñata.

Saturday morning we enjoyed a breakfast of the famous "omelets in a bag" served with lots of fresh fruit. The breakfast was the start of a busy day for most with treks to the Sage and Sun festival in Ephrata, playing some hard-felt games of Pegs and Jokers, or hitting buckets of balls at the driving range adjacent to the park. After dinner we enjoyed the Cowboy poets that entertained with their songs and tales of the old west. It was an enjoyable rally thanks to all the efforts of our Wagon Masters Pat and Sid Hallin and Carolyn and Robyn Moore.

Lake Mayfield Rally Report Aug 10-12 2007

August found us once again back at Lake Mayfield Marina and RV Resort in Mossyrock. The 40 people in attendance were able to take in the Loggers Jubilee in Morton during the weekend. In addition many visited Mt. St. Helens or just relaxed around the park. In the evenings everyone enjoyed sitting around the campfires with their GARV friends.

Saturday night's dinner theme was Hawaiian Luau complete with lei's, genuine Hawaiian decorations, fruit punch and folks decked-out in Hawaiian attire. The Hurst's, along with us, were Wagonmasters and we had a great time producing all the many delectable meals for the group.

If you missed either of these great times we hope you will be at the September rally at Rest-A-While in Hoodspport and our October rally in Lacey.

David & Jill Riker

Ephrata Stars and Stripes RV Park, another "Great Discovery"

We hope everyone enjoyed the rally in June at the Stars and Stripes RV Park in Ephrata, as much as we did. The new owners, Yen and Gina Rhee, are fantastic, yes? They made every effort to ensure that all of us could relax and have a great time. We certainly did. On Saturday evening, after our dinner, we all were quite surprised when we were treated to ice cream and home-made cookies from the owners! It was their way of saying thank you to GARV for visiting their RV Park. Yen, the owner does not work alone, his sister, Gina, Mother, and Grandmother all help, along with his assistant. We enjoyed ourselves so much; we returned to Stars and Stripes the end of June along with the Riker's and Nelson's. Although they could only stay until Sunday, Meghann and I stayed for 5 days, and the friendliness did not decrease! We spent lots of time at the driving range, swimming and just enjoying the relaxing environment and each other. We were honored by their friendship and service, and humbled by their generosity! If you haven't been there, it's about a three hour drive (give or take) from Olympia. The sites are nice with 50 amp service, the fees are very reasonable, they provide Wi-Fi, and the people are great. Wouldn't it be wonderful, if every RV Park had the attitude and service that Yen and Gina have? For us, we will go back several times before winter! Anyone interested, let us know, maybe we can put together some dates! <http://www.starsandstripesrvresort.com/>

Happy Travels, Jim and Meghann Hurst

November Ballot

For those of us that live in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties, another \$14.5 billion dollar proposal for highways will be on the ballot in November of 2007. We just finished swallowing the last of the 2005 fuel tax increase and this proposal will be especially hard on motorhome owners. There is no fuel tax increase now proposed, instead there is an additional .1% sales tax increase and the real killer is an \$80.00 per \$10,000.00 of assessed valuation fee added to your vehicle car license. So for a \$200,000.00 motorhome your annual license fee would increase \$1600.00, this is on top of the rapid transit taxes you already pay and will be for many years to come. This is planned to be a 20 year activity with the actual cost of 6.9B in 2006 dollars and 7.6B in finance charges. The frustrating part of all these tax increases is that they continue forever. Even though all of the work proposed is complete we continue to pay taxes. Washington now has the 4th highest fuel tax rate of all 50 states, and the politicians are now proposing to raise the excise tax which was euphemistically fixed at \$30 some years ago. I am not questioning the need for the proposed projects, only the method proposed for paying for them. An increase in vehicle excise tax will fall directly on the license fees of motorhome owners. It's your choice and your future, but it appears to me to be disproportionately heavy on motorhome owners. No!! is the choice for motorhome owners.

The grace period is just about over for FMCA membership as a requirement for GARV membership. The dues renewal notices will go out in November and you MUST be an FMCA member and provide your FMCA Number for continued GARV membership.

GARV Website

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

FMCA Chapter National Directors Report

FMCA's 78th International Convention was held in Redmond Oregon at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center on August 13, 14, 15 and 16, 2007.

The adventure for many of us began on Wednesday caravanning to the Wilsonville, Oregon, Rest Area. In case you didn't know, there is space in the back part of the Rest Area for about 60 rigs to dry camp for the night. Linda and I plus Bob & Terri Lolcama represented our Club. We joined the Olympic Snow Birds who also had about 8 more GARV Club members. By this time there were so many rigs at Wilsonville we split in groups and drove beautiful Oregon Highway 26 to Sisters where we camped at a wonderful RV Park. By Friday morning our group had expanded to about 36 rigs when we arrived at our final destination at the county fair grounds.

As your Chapter National Directed I attended several business meetings and learned much about the structure and operation of the FMCA. Monday was the main meeting of the Governing Board. The 2008 budget was approved, policy changes were adopted, and the election of new officers was completed. I must have listened carefully because every person I voted for was elected.

At the International Convention there were about 4,000 coaches including over 600 dealer sale coaches. There were about 60 seminars and over 100 vendors. Frankly there was so much we were unable to see it all. We ran into many of our old friends and made many new friends. As always, the entertainment was fantastic. Did you know that Debbie Boones Mother-In-Law was Rosemary Clooney and her Grandfather was Red Foley. Ricky Nelson's twin sons performed a musical tribute to Ricky with video shots of the Ozzie & Harriet show. Tony Orlando blew the audience away. He had people dancing in the isles and so many standing ovations the chairs were seldom used. "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" brought tears to the eyes of many.

GARV Club Chapter is part of the Northwest Area Family Motor Coach Association which hosted this event and I am very proud to say that this convention was highly organized and a monumental success. The next large FMCA event in our area will be June 4-7, 2008 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center in Albany, Oregon. Mark your calendar now and save those dates. The GARV Club Board has adjusted our rally schedules to make the FMCA Area Rally one of our June events. Stay tuned for more new and exciting news about FMCA.

John & Linda Haley

Slow Leak

A few weeks ago I noticed that one of my coach tires was always down a few more pounds than the others when I checked them. This one tire would go down from 100 psi to 85-90 psi and seem to stay there. Each time I would fill it, it would go down to 80 psi in a week or so. I could find no obvious problem and it didn't have a valve stem extender, so that wasn't the problem. I went down to the Les Schwab Store and asked them if they would send their tire service truck to where we were parked. He showed up after a couple of hours, jacked up the axle and removed the wheel. He checked over the tire and found a screw imbedded between the treads. To fix a large tire, they completely remove the tire from the wheel, clean the inside and plug the hole. They grind off the plug on the inside and put a patch about 2 X 3 inches on the inside of the tire. The Tech remounted the tire on the wheel and aired it inside a protective cage and remounted it on the coach. It took about an hour and after watching the process I was convinced that calling Les Schwab was the right thing to do and that was \$80.00 well spent. Two things to remember, if one tire is losing more air than the others, there is a reason; so get it looked after before it becomes a bigger problem. The second is Les Schwab does good work at a reasonable price. Another thing to keep in mind if your tires are 7 or 8 years old, it is time to replace them even if they have good tread left. Motorhome tires rot out, they seldom wear out. The damage to the coach and delays caused by a blowout on the road can exceed the cost of new tires.

From the Grapevine

We had a nice mini rally after the Ephrata Rally for the wine and cherry aficionados. We were a week early for cherries, but the folks at Pleake Orchards handpicked 50 lbs of prime Yakima valley cherries for the group. The wineries and wines of the Yakima valley are becoming first rate. We saw two or three wineries whose facilities and products were as good as the Napa Valley. *Larry & Sybil Marsh* celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. *Sybil* says that after 40 years she prays for patience and understanding. She doesn't pray for strength, because if she did she'd kill him and she can't crochet. It's a long story, ask her. Saw *Mikie and Patti Kolar* at Marsh's soiree. They'd like everyone to know they are alive and well and still have a 2001 Monaco Diplomat for sale. *Duane Roberts* had surgery in early summer. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing his smiling face soon. *Fran Adler* also had knee surgery in June. Life after the loss of Rod is difficult, but she is moving on. Her house on the waterfront in Brinnon is for sale, but she's keeping the coach for now. *Tom & Jay Baxter* have a new grandson. *Grant Baxter* was born on 7/7/07, what a hand to draw too. Jay says that he has Tom's characteristics. I don't know what that means unless he's bald, sleeps a lot and can't hold his water. *Vic & Joy Huxtable, Dennis & Julie Winquist, Don & June Elliott and Buck & Joy Lough* are still touring eastern Canada. At last report, they were in New Foundland & Labrador. If a trip like that interests you, then look at *Mary & Dave Osborn's* Canadian Maritimes Tour. *Sharon & Don Fuqua* are up from their winter home on the Mexican Riviera. From the looks of their tans, it must be a clothing optional park. We're trying to get *Sharon* to write an article on RV living in Mexico. They've been doing it for a number of years. As I write this we are at the Mallard Creek Golf & RV Resort outside of Lebanon, OR. The temperature is in the low 80's with clear blue skies. We can watch the golfers on the 18 hole course out of our front window. Green grass, paved streets, concrete pads, 50 amps & Wi-Fi. If I find a better way to live, I'll let you know. I feel a little sorry for *John & Linda Haley* and the folks at the FMCA Rally in Redmond, OR; 95 degrees and none of the above. The heat must have gotten to some. *Bob & Terri Lolcama* bought a new coach. Seriously folks, enjoy your new coach.

The Enigmatic Inverter

An Inverter is something most of us have and we know that if you push a button on the control panel, a light comes on, and we have AC power in the coach without shore power or the generator running. If everything is working right, that's probably all you have to know, but as motorhomes go, everything does not always work right. The inverter does two basic things, it charges the house batteries when you are on shore power or the generator is running, and it provides a source of low current AC. Things like Air Conditioning, AC hot water, and sometimes the refrigerator do not operate off of the inverter. With the air conditioning and the hot water or aqua-hot, the current requirement exceeds the capability of the inverter. With some other appliances they do not operate well with the pseudo-sine wave that the inverter produces. All other AC breakers and outlets can be powered by the inverter. The inverter has a microprocessor that controls all of its logic and it also has an input relay system, that with the microprocessor can sense if shore or generator AC is present or not. If AC is present, the inverter powers the battery charger and provides AC to the coach AC circuit breakers. If the inverter is on, it will power the circuits with the inverter generated AC.

Now comes the enigmatic part. If anything goes wrong with the inverter strange things can start to happen. It may be that the inverter section won't work or the battery charger won't work, but if you start to have logic problems nothing works right. Many times you can reset the logic as outlined in the coach operating manual or the inverter manual and the inverter will work correctly. If this doesn't work you can end up with no AC in the coach even if you are plugged in or the generator is running. Remember, all the low current AC goes through the inverter. This can be very frustrating and it is guaranteed to happen when you don't want it too. You can wire around the inverter, but don't try it unless you know what you are doing. While the 12v circuits, lights ect., will still work; remember, that the battery charger is not and you will continue to drain the house batteries. The good news is that inverters are extremely reliable and don't often fail. If you do have an inverter failure, don't let anyone work on it except the inverter manufacturer. Dealer techs are not qualified to work on inverters. Fortunately for us in the Northwest; Xantrax, which is also Trace and Heart is located in Arlington, WA. You will have to remove and reinstall the inverter from the coach yourself, they will not do it. You'll have to label all the wires and if you want to use the coach 12v circuits while the inverter is removed you will have to connect the 12v neutral to the 12v ground. This is another of the mysterious services the inverter provides. You should also hook up a 12v battery charger to the house batteries if you using the coach without the inverter.

F.M.C.A. Emergency Medical Evacuation Program

The MEDEX PLUS emergency medical assistance program, first made available for FMCA family members in January 2001, it helps traveling members effectively manage the complexities and expenses of out-of-area medical and travel emergencies. Members receive this coverage with no signup required. Travel can be for business or pleasure at a distance of 100 or more miles from your primary residence. Coverage is provided while traveling within the United States, Canada, or Mexico, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. MEDEX provides members with toll-free access to travel assistance services and also coordinates and pays the approved costs associated with those services. MEDEX must approve and coordinate all services. The program includes emergency medical air and ground evacuation; repatriation of remains; return home of unattended grandchildren and dependent children; RV/automobile return home; transportation to visit a hospitalized member (for member traveling alone); and transportation home after initial evacuation. FMCA members can call toll-free (800-527-0218) or collect (410-453-6330) for emergency medical, travel, and personal assistance services. When calling, please refer to MEDEX group number 7030. For more information about this program, turn to page 181 of the January 2007 issue of Family Motorcoaching Magazine, or phone FMCA (800-543-3622) and ask for a brochure.

"Well behaved women are seldom memorable". Dorothy Parker

"Bone Appetit"

Oatmeal-Apple Dog Cookies

4 cups whole-wheat flour
2 cups old fashioned oatmeal
1 ¼ cups water
¼ cup minced apple
3 tbsp ground cinnamon
2 tbsp vegetable oil
2 tbsp honey
1 tbsp ground cloves

Heat oven to 325 degees F. Place all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix thoroughly until combined in a dough.

Roll out dough on a floured surface to ¼ inch thick. Using a cookie cutter, cut into bone shapes.

Place cookies on an ungreased foil lined baking sheet and bake for 30 to 35 minutes.

Makes a whole lot of dog cookies

"Growing old is no more than a bad habit which a busy person has no time to form."

-Andre Maurois

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

"Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."

-Mark Twain

GARV Travels by Tom and Jay Baxter

Keep your wheels turning! Contact Tom or Jay with travel plans or your request to travel with someone. We will get it published in the next GARV newsletter.

Tom and Jay Baxter

jbaxter1@attglobal.net or 425-746-2894 H, 425-985-6092 C.

Upcoming Caravan:

The Canadian Maritimes is a very special trip to consider in your RV travels. Tom and I did this trip with a group of GARV friends in 2000 and it will always be one of our favorites. If you have ever wanted a great adventure, do the Canadian Maritimes, especially with a fellow club member.

MARITIME PROVINCES TOUR COMPANY:

Adventure Caravan

June 23-August 16, 2008

GARV CLUB MEMBER CONTACT:

Dave and Mary Osborn

253-838-1272 or dmosborn@comcast.net

Contact Dave or Mary for more details. They would love to have you join them.

Chili Dogs With Creamy Coleslaw

Ingredients

Extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
1 pound lean ground beef
1 cup ketchup
1 teaspoon chili powder
2 teaspoons prepared yellow mustard
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 all-beef hot dogs
4 hot dog rolls
Creamy Coleslaw:
1/2 head of Savoy cabbage, washed and shredded
1/2 red onion, sliced
1/4 cup sour cream
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1 lemon, juiced
Extra virgin olive oil
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cooking Instructions

Put a skillet over medium heat and drizzle in 2 tablespoons of olive oil. When the oil gets hazy, add 1 medium onion (chopped) and cook, stirring until soft and translucent, about 5 minutes. Add 1 pound of lean ground beef, breaking it up with the back of a spoon, and cook until nicely browned, about 10 more minutes. Stir in 1 cup ketchup, 1 teaspoon chili powder, and 2 teaspoons prepared yellow mustard and simmer for 15 minutes until thickened. Season with salt and pepper. Make the coleslaw. Combine 1/2 head of Savoy cabbage (washed and shredded), 1/2 red onion (sliced), 1/2 cup mayo, juice of 1 lemon, some extra virgin olive oil and toss together. Season with salt and pepper and toss again. Cover and set aside in the refrigerator until you're ready to use. Heat the grill to medium heat. Add a couple of garlic cloves to a pot of water and heat to a simmer. Dunk hot dogs in the water for about 5 minutes, until they are plump and juicy. Take them out of the water, pat dry, and throw them on the grill -- just long enough to leave a nice grill mark. Brush the insides of hot dog rolls with olive oil and lay them face down on the grill, and cook until toasty. To serve, put a dog in each roll and top with chili and a big scoop of creamy coleslaw.

Remainder of the 2008 Rally Schedule

June 4-7, 2008
NW FMCA Rally
Albany Fairgrounds
Albany, OR

August 15 & 16, 2008
North Whidbey RV, Deception Pass
Patti & Mike Bell
Cheryl & Jeff Whetzel

September 11, 12, & 13
Port Townsend Fairgrounds
Wagonmaster needed

October 24 & 25, 2008
Land Yacht Harbor
Lacey, WA
The GARV Board

GARVClub.com