



GREAT AMERICAN RV CLUB

A Family Motor Coach Association Chapter



SPRING-2007

NEWSLETTER

Mar-May

EDITORS: GEORGE & GLENDA PIRIE

2007
Rally Calendar
& Wagonmasters

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 16-17, 2007
Cedars RV Resort
Ferndale WA
Gene & Liz Kraiter
Jeff & Cheryl Whetzel

April 27-28, 2007
HOMECOMING
Land Yacht Harbor
Lacey WA
Irma Harris & Lester O'Bryan

June 8-9, 2007
Stars & Stripes RV Park
Ephrata WA
Bill & Wiona Nesbit
Pat & Sid Hallin

August 10-11, 2007
Lake Mayfield RV Resort
Mossyrock WA
Jim & Meghann Hurst
David & Jill Riker

August 13-16, 2007
FMCA International Rally
Redmond, OR

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

HOORAY! HOORAY! George and Glenda Pirie have volunteered to be the GARV Club Newsletter Editors. Thank you George and Glenda for stepping forward to take on this important task.

Rain, Wind, Snow, again and again. It's been a tough winter. Boy, are we looking forward to spring and better RVing weather.

As we sit down to write this message, we realized that it is our last Presidents Message. Homecoming in April will bring the election of new officers. Be sure to attend and show your support for the nominees. If you are interested in holding an office in the GARV Club, contact the Nominating Committee. They are seeking nominations for President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President (Rallymaster), Secretary and Treasurer. New this year will be nominations for National Director and Assistant National Director and 3 members of the Nominating Committee for 2007-08. There are a lot of shoes to fill so please consider this opportunity to become involved in the GARV Club.

We have been very lucky to serve with a great Board this year. *Our sincere THANKS go to our Vice President; Irma Harris and Lester O'Bryan; Our Secretary, Dave and Jill Riker; Our Treasurer, Jerry and Judie Lehenbauer; and Our Rallymaster, Jeff and Cheryl Whetzel.*

It's been an interesting year. The GARV Club has been in existence for 14 years and more changes have taken place this year than ever before. Reductions in dealership support required the Board to closely manage our budget and provide continued support for our membership. We want to thank all our club members for their understanding during this time of change. After years of discussion we are excited about becoming an FMCA chapter. Upon approval of the Standing Rules, we will have the opportunity to open up membership as follows: Stay tuned for details.

Persons owning a new or used Motorhome (Motor Coach) purchased from the Great American RV Dealership or persons sponsored by a current Great American RV Club (GARV Club) member are eligible for membership in the GARV Club.

One of the GARV Clubs' major expenses is mailing costs for the Newsletter and Rally Information and Registration Flyers. You can help reduce this cost by signing up to receive this information via Email. To sign up for this service contact Dave and Jill Riker via Email driker7@comcast.net. Also, keep a close eye on the GARV Web site. Newsletters will be posted March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Rally Information and Registration Flyers will be available on the WEB six to eight weeks prior to a rally. Check the schedule in this Newsletter and mark your calendar and look at the WEB site often. www.garvclub.com

The 14th Annual Homecoming Rally is April 27-28, 2007, at the Land Yacht Harbor in Lacey. On Friday a club favorite "Beat N' Feet" will entertain you. As always, expect good food and interesting seminars. On Saturday **ELVIS WILL BE IN THE HOUSE.**
Be there!

John & Linda Haley

**CLUB
OFFICERS**

President

John & Linda Haley

Vice-President

Lester O'Bryan & Irma Harris

Secretary

Dave & Jill Riker

Treasurer

Jerry & Judie Lehenbauer

Rallymaster

Jeff & Cheryl Whetzel

Assistant Rallymaster

Vacant (but not forgotten)

Thanks Jeff & Cheryl



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 Marylin Hampton.

Email: dham101206@aol.com

Bob & Jill Preston, are our BUDDY COORIDNATORS. Volunteer to be a buddy to a new member at their first rally. Contact Prestons at

Email: justjillp@comcast.net

Want your Newsletter first and in Color. Get rally information wherever you are by email?

Contact David and Jill Riker at Driker7@comcast.net

WEBMASTER = Robyn Moore

Email: mooreLcL@comcast.net

Club Website: www.garvclub.com

TREASURERS REPORT

Jerry & Judie Lehenbauer

The deadline for 2007 dues renewal has come and gone and the numbers are in. One hundred twenty-two members have renewed at this time. If we don't hear from you by Homecoming, April 28th, your name will be dropped from our membership roster. The good news is that close to 65 % of the renewals have agreed to begin receiving the Club Newsletter and Rally information by email to help defray the increasing cost of printing and postage. WELCOME new members and those of you signed up for another year of fun rallies!"

Jerry & Judie

RALLYMASTER REPORT

Jeff and Cheryl Whetzel

ICE 1 GARV 0

The 2007 rally season got off to a cold, white and slippery start. Good old Mother Nature decided to show us her power and provided a blanket of snow and ice that forced the first ever cancellation of a GARV rally. We are a hearty bunch but the 6-9" of snow on the Wednesday prior to the event stuck around and so did the ice and below freezing temperatures.

We certainly will be hoping for more seasonable weather when we convene in March at the **Cedars RV Park in Ferndale, WA. This will be over St. Patrick's Day weekend the 16th and 17th. A traditional corned beef and cabbage catered dinner will be provided by the club and of course the ever famous GARV Horse Races. If you did not receive information and a registration for this rally be certain to contact us at 360-863-6292 and we can get you registered**

Looking forward to spring, the plans for April Homecoming are well underway for another memorable gathering. Be sure to save the 27th and 28th for this yearly event.

The summer rallies will be held:

June 8th & 9th at Stars and Stripes in Ephrata, WA

August 10th & 11th at Lake Mayfield in Mossyrock, WA

September 14th & 15th at Rest A While in Hoodspport, WA

All of this leads us back to Land Yacht Harbor on ***October 27th and 28th*** for the Friendship Rally.

Hope you will be able to join us at one or many of these scheduled rallies this year.

Jeff and Cheryl Whetzel

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

In 1959 Glenda and I drove our Volkswagen Bug from Seattle to Long Beach, CA. The cost of fuel for that trip was about \$40.00. I remembered that because in 1959 \$40.00 meant a lot, but we enjoyed seeing my family and friends and that was more important. In 2006 we drove our Motorhome to the Monaco Homecoming Rally and then down the Oregon Coast. We jetboated up the Rogue River, traveled through the Redwood forest and spent a magnificent week in the Napa Valley. We enjoyed friends, new and old, ate fantastic food and drank good wine. We traveled to Monterey and Carmel and then made our way back home. I have no idea what the fuel cost. Oh, I care; but I care more about relishing the motorhome lifestyle and the company of friends. We'll probably make some adjustments to continue what we enjoy, but we won't give up the memories we have and the good times we look forward to. Nothing beats sitting around the fire, sipping a suitable beverage, and talking over life's challenges. The years between retirement and infirmity are precious and short, you've got to make the most of them. Sitting at home watching old TV reruns is a poor second to a good time with new and old acquaintances. Remember; there's more to life than the cost of fuel.

GARV TRAVELS Tom & Jay Baxter

Keep your wheels turning! Contact Tom or Jay with your 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

MARITIME PROVINCES TOUR

TOUR COMPANY: Adventure Caravan
June 23 – August 16, 2008

GARV CLUB MEMBER CONTACT:

Dave & Mary Osborn 253-838-1271 or
dmosborn@comcast.net

Contact Dave or Mary for more details. This is a very special tour and great to do with friends. Dave & Mary would love to have you join them.

Lake Chelan Caravan & Mini Rally

Post HOMECOMING 2007

Looking for the sun? Join us at beautiful Lake Chelan City Park. We will plan to leave Homecoming on Sunday and caravan over the mountains to Chelan. Plan to stay 4 nights, April 29 through May 2, or longer if you prefer!

To join the Rally:

First Call Lake Chelan City Park and make your reservations - **(509) 682 8023**. Tell them you want to be located with the GARV Club group. www.chelancityparks.com

Second Notify Haley's of your reservations.
haley-ji@peoplepc.com

Homecoming Wagonmasters Irma Harris & Lester O'Bryan

Keep the weekend of April 27th through 29th open for Home Coming Rally at Land Yacht Harbor in Lacey. A fun filled weekend is being planned with entertainment and great food from Bayview Catering.

Beat n Feet will entertain Friday night for listening and dancing pleasure. The Danny Vernon Show has been booked for Saturday night, he'll WOW you with his impersonations of Elvis.

Craig Roberts is planning a tournament on Friday for you golfers, pray for a sunny day as it'll be a go rain or shine.

Great American will have lots of rigs for us to dream about, maybe someone will find that one motor home they just have to have. If so, there'll be someone available to make that Great American Deal.

Ralph Schmitt is organizing vendors, seminars, and crafts for Saturday.

Miranda will also again be available to soothe your tired muscles with chair massages.

GARV CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

GARV Officer elections are coming up in April at the Homecoming Rally and we encourage members to think seriously about volunteering to run or be considered for an office on the Board. The term of office for each position is only one year and it is an opportunity for members to guide the direction of the club. Remember, if you are not satisfied or happy with how things are going this would be your opportunity to make a difference. Anyone interested should contact anyone on the Nominating Committee or a current GARV officer. Members of the Nominating Committee are: Ralph & Coleen Schmitt, colleen@olypen.com; Tom & Jay Baxter, jbaxter1@attglobal.net; Lee & Ruth Mundy, leeruro@msn.com; and Sid & Pat Hallin, phallin@worldnet.att.net. Positions to be filled are: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; National Director to FMCA; Alternate Director to FMCA; 2nd Vice President (Rallymaster); and Nomination Committee. Assistant Rallymaster is an appointed position...

Pat Hallin, Chairperson

Be sure to check the GARV website www.garvclub.com for the updated GARV Club Rules and By-Laws. *Coming Soon*

Technical Musings

If you are looking for a part for your coach and can't find it and don't want to pay the manufacturers cost, you might want to try "Northwest RV Supply" in Eugene, OR. They deal primarily in new, used and obsolete manufacturers surplus from Monaco, Country Coach, Beaver, Holiday Rambler and Safari. They have many hard to find items from furniture to micro-convection ovens, awnings, windows, televisions, cabinet handles, nuts & bolts, switches, furnaces, inverters/chargers, hot water heaters and even some aqua-hot units. They have merchandise stacked from floor to ceiling in their warehouse. Their website is www.nwrvsupply.com and their address is 86325 College View Rd. Eugene, OR 97405. Their toll free number is 1-866-6 RV SHOP. I found lots of goodies. Editor

Fuel Prices

Even as Crude Oil Prices have dropped to their lowest level in 19 months. Diesel prices on the West Coast are higher than other regions of the country, partly because of taxes, but mainly because of supply issues. The State of California assesses a combined State and local sales and use tax of 7.25 percent on top of the 24.4 cents per gallon Federal excise tax and an 18.0 cents per gallon State tax. **Washington State's tax of 34 cents per gallon is one of the highest in the country. This 34 cents is in addition to the 24.4 cent Federal excise tax. (Senator Eide from Federal Way is now sponsoring an additional local option gas tax increase for King county(SB 5414)).** Besides taxes, West Coast retail prices are more variable than others because there are relatively few supply sources: 21 of the 36 refineries located in West Coast States are in California. California refineries need to be running at near full capacity just to meet in-state demand. The recent change to Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel has also added about 7 cents a gallon to the price. Since Diesel fuel and home heating oil are about the same level distillate, any significant drop in U.S. temperatures will shift refinery capacity to home heating and reduce the road Diesel supply. You may have noticed that since the recent cold snap on the East Coast, Diesel prices have started increasing again. **Washington will add another 2 cents to fuel tax on 7/1/07 from the 2005 tax increase.** Oh well, as I said before; there's more to life than the cost of fuel.

"Things from the Kitchen"

George and I thought a column of recipes, hints, lost recipes, anything that will help us to make meal and kitchen duties run smooth. ***So for future newsletters send me your favorite recipes that you would like to share, and any hints that are helpful gdpirie@aol.com.*** Also; if you have questions about past recipes that we have had at potlucks. We'll be checking at potlucks for new ideas. I will start with my recipe for:

"Melt in Your Mouth Chicken"

Ingredients:

Four chicken breasts,
Flour for dredging,
4 pieces bacon or prosciutto,
2 sweet onions,
Chicken stock, I like the kind in the box(less sodium)
and your favorite sauce.

Cut the bacon or prosciutto into small pieces and render it in a skillet When crisp put onto a paper towel to drain.

Cut chicken into bite size pieces and dredge in the flour, Put a little bit of olive oil into pan and sauté the chicken for about 10 minutes until brown.

Cover with sliced onion rings and let simmer for about 3 minutes

Add about 1 cup of chicken stock and continue to simmer for additional 3 minutes

You can use a can of cheese soup or any of the cream soups to make a sauce or make your favorite sauce for chicken.

This can be served on rice, noodles, potatoes or just plain.

This is quick and tasty

Ed. Note: Microsoft Word spellcheck suggested that I replace prosciutto with prostitute. Must be a male thing.

***A Message from your F.M.C.A. National Director
John Haley***

In October our Club voted in favor of the GARV Club becoming a FMCA Chapter. It meant that a new position would be added to the GARV Executive Board. Each FMCA chapter elects a member as National Director to serve on the Governing Board of FMCA. National Directors keep their chapters informed of items pertaining to the National Organization and of the FMCA Areas, as well as keeping the National Organization apprised of items happening on the chapter level. Another important duty is participation in and voting during Governing Board meetings. I will be attending that meeting in Bend, Oregon, April 17 thru 19. Of special interest: FMCA's 78th International Convention will be held August 13-16, 2007, at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo in Redmond, Ore. All GARV Club members who are FMCA members are invited to the convention. This convention may be attended by 4000 coaches from all over the world. There will be interesting and informative seminars, great entertainment, and just a lot of fun. Some GARV Club members will be leaving from the Lake Mayfield rally and going directly to Redmond. Check the GARV website (www.garvclub.com) and the FMCA website (<http://www.fmca.com/conventions/2007redmond/>)