



Columbia Basin Cruisers

FMCA NorthWest Area Chapter
Serving Members in Washington, Oregon, Idaho
British Columbia, and Alberta, Canada



Newsletter

Early May 2005 Edition



Rally Dates:

May 19 - 22, 2005

“Come to Blue Bird Country”
Bickleton, WA Hosts: Powers, Gilpin,
Slaight

June 8 - 12, 2005

“All Be in Albany” FMCA NW Area
Rally, Albany, OR Register
Individually. Want to CARAVAN to
this? Let Roger Ferrell know.

June 24 - 26, 2005

“Wenatchee Valley Getaway Rally”
Wenatchee, WA Hosts: Leonard &
Judy Singhose **Board Meeting**

July 9 - 14, 2005

“Great North American RV Rally”,
Redmond, OR

July 21 - 24, 2005

Chapter Rally, Clarkston, WA Hosts:
Tony & Doreen Russell
Membership Meeting

August 5 - 7, 2005 - Cancelled

August 15-18, 2005

FMCA Int’nl Convention Minot, ND

August 18 - 21, 2005 - Changed

“Fun in the Sun” Toppenish, WA
Hosts: Storrs & Ferrell **Membership
Meeting Note Location Change**

**September 16 - 18, 2005 Annual
Meeting & Elections Rally, Deer**

**Park, WA Hosts: Gary & Linda
Pennington Note Location Change**

October 14-16, 2005

Kick Off 10th Anniversary Year

“Meet the Charter Members/Reunion”
Rally, Chellan County Fair Grounds,
Cashmere, WA where it all started.

November/December 2005

**Holiday Gathering(s), “Hosts”
needed. Coaches not necessary.**

**2006 CBC’s 10th Anniversary
Year - Start Planning Now for a
special year celebrating 10 years of
“fun, food, and friendship”**



From the President

This edition of your CBC Newsletter is about one month earlier than originally planned for several reasons. First a message from your nominating committee.

Fellow CBC Members:

This is your club. We have almost 200 members. Election of officers is coming up in September and all positions are open. If you volunteer to run for an office this year it will be about 200 years before you need to volunteer again. The small minority of members who have been filling these positions, year after year, need a rest. New blood keeps any organization fresh. **We would really appreciate new volunteers.** The positions we need to fill are: President, 1st Vice President/Wagon Master, 2nd Vice President/Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, National Director, Alternate National Director. Anyone interested please contact one of the nominating committee members; Bob & Norma Schultz @ 509-397-3378, Morrie & Pat Sorensen @ 509-925-9436, or Duane & Donna Peterson @ 206-601-0359.

Thank you, The Nominating Committee

Having hosted a rally in our first year of membership and then serving two years as First Vice President/Wagon Master and now as your President we have reconfirmed our prior life experiences that if you want to get the most out of belonging to any organization - get involved. Attend rallies, host, recruit, serve on a committee, run for office. Although willing to serve a second term as President, the reality of it is that if elected for the maximum of three one year terms eventually there will be a vacancy and we will have to find someone to fill it. So get started now and make the transition of leadership smoother and easier for everyone. CBC is one of the most active chapters in the Northwest Area. So don't wait. Adjust some priorities and get involved now. Commit some of your “spare time” to help keep our chapter going and going and going. When you are elected to a CBC office you will have lots of willing support in accomplishing the goals of CBC. **Second, at the Toppenish Board and Membership meeting final adjustments were made to our 2005 Rally Calendar. Please note the changes to the rally calendar (left side of this page) and read the message from the Wagonmaster and the rally page for details and commit early to the rallies you are going to attend.** Park operators are nervous this year and are pressing for early bookings. **Finally,** everyone has concerns over the impact fuel prices will have on our 2005 rally season. This was all the buzz at Toppenish. The reality is that everyone's financials are different and the sticker shock when filling a 60, 80, 128 gallon or larger tank makes you want to just park it. However, if you take time to analyze the fuel price impact in comparison to the total ownership/operational costs the latter is still a small percentage. For example, if we maintain an average annual usage of 10,000 miles and using our historical mileage (including generator usage) our per mile fuel cost increases from eighteen cents per mile to twenty five cents per mile at April '05 prices. If fuel prices reach \$3 per gallon then our per mile fuel costs will increase **ONE** cent more to twenty six cents per mile. Yes a 39% to 47% increase requires adjustments but parking our coach and letting the tires, seals and batteries deteriorate is more costly in the long run. While budgets and lifestyle are adjusting to this in 2005-2006 and beyond here are some suggestions. CBC's rallies for 2005 are as evenly dispersed both geographically and demographically for our membership as we can hope for. Plan on attending rallies closer to home. Extend your days traveling to, staying at, and returning from a rally. After all this is LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE. If dry camping, keep the heavy usage electrical items turned off to reduce generator run time. Consider installing solar panel(s). Reduce the load. Weight takes fuel to move. Leave the towed behind if not needed. Follow your maintenance schedules. Optimize your tire pressure. And check with your engine and transmission manufacturer for optimum speeds for fuel savings. **GOD Bless and KEEP THOSE WHEELS ROLLINGFrank**

Remaining publication dates for 2005 are: July 25; October 30. Deadline for submissions are two weeks prior to publication date.

Think & Grin

Submitted by Gene Harwood
Author(s) Unknown

An older Jewish gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son. "Yes Dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me ... your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife...." The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for. Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved. When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra. You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks. First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper..... It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

Columbia Basin Cruisers Officers

- President: Frank Ward
- 1st Vice President & Wagon Master: Roger Ferrell
- 2nd Vice President & Membership: Kathy Storrs
- Secretary: Cecelia Scott
- Treasurer: Linda Pennington
- National Director: Ken Kirschner
- Alt. Nat. Director: Dave Morgan
- 2004-2005 Nominating Committee: Duane & Donna Peterson
- Bob & Norma Schultz
- Morrie & Pat Sorensen
- Sheriff: Jim Slaight
- Historian: Norma Schultz
- Sunshine: Bonnie Gottschalk
- Newsletter: Della Ward
- Web Master: Dale Comstock
- <http://geocities.com/cbcers/>
- Cruise'n on CB Channel #14



From the Wagon Master

Changes are coming with the increase in fuel costs and more selective travel planning within the RV community. Please review the rally event calendar in this issue carefully and contact the host and RV park for your early registration. A large number of parks are very concerned with RV industry travel reservations and want to fill their spots early. The parks are putting added pressure on your hosts when they ask for 25 - 30 spots. They want reservation names or payment of the 1st nights fee up front. We can overcome this problem by calling and signing up early. The downside is without participants support, we could have parks selling out and a possible rally cancellation with the club responsible for the first night costs. So, please check your calendars and add the events you intend to attend and help us by registering early, and we will have a successful summer rally schedule.....**Rog**

Rally Reports:

The Cabin Fever Gathering at the River View RV Park in Moses Lake had thirteen members (twenty six CBCr's) and one guest RV. Thursday night 'Bullet' and Marlene provided a ham and scalloped potatoes which was generously supplemented by other pot luck items. Friday was a finger food pot luck. Mick & Chris Hansen provided exceptional treats with their commercial class patio grill for an egg, sausage, bacon and hash brown breakfast Saturday morning; Strawberry Crepes Sunday morning, and a commercial class BBQ for a bring your own meat cook out to go with our Saturday night pot luck.



'Bullet' Laughton helping Mick Hansen cook crepes with Kathy Storrs, Donna Peterson, Bob & Norma Schultz, Jim Slaight, and Chuck Schnell waiting, enjoying the sun, the view, and the moment on Mick & Chris's Patio.



Betty Green, Linda Pennington, 'Bullet', Sandra Powers, Brenda Hall, Donna Peterson, Linda Ferrell, Jim Slaight, Tony Russell, Milt Morgenstern, Jan Trutton, Kathy Storrs, and Marlene Slaight.

We had it all including wind, rain, a little sun and plenty of CBC fun. The Board/Membership Meeting and Spring Thaw Rally at Toppenish had nineteen members there (thirty eight CBCr's). Lunch at the Heritage Inn with a pot luck Thursday evening, Finger food feast on Friday, two for one coupon T-bone steak/prime rib buffet at Legends Casino Saturday night and what ever you felt like squeezing in on you own in between. The CBC Board and membership meetings accomplished a lot including adjusting and confirming the 2005 rallies and meetings, a solid start on the 2006 (10th CBC Anniversary Year) rally schedule, discussions on By-Law and Standing Rule adjustments, discussions about CBC Incorporating as a not-for-profit, and more which will be shared with all as the projects are refined and ready for presentation. Saturday was busy with a book/puzzle exchange, RV basement/garage sale, KINDER Egg toy give away (sorry Bill & Penny but nothing to do with you), FMCA Safe Driving Training Seminar, Digital Photography Update Seminar, and a Quilters get together which included the presentation of the CBC quilt started at the October 2004 rally at Lake Easton. Based on the actions at the membership meeting, the Board will be seeking a worthy nonprofit organization to donate this quilt to for raising money through an auction or raffle. If you know of a worthy nonprofit have their Board or Executive Director submit a proposal to our President, Frank Ward at 1601 Alamosa Ave Richland, WA 99352. Frank's e-mail address is: fward.sr@verizon.net if they have questions or would like photos of the quilt.



“Come to Blue Bird Country”

May 19 - 21, 2005 - Bickleton, WA

Hosted by: Bob & Sandra Powers, Eldred & Beverly Gilpin, Jim & Marlene Slaight

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION (by mail) EXTENDED TO MAY 14 2005 IF YOU CALL Sandra Powers at (509)896-2351 BY MAY 10th to confirm. **DRY CAMPING - BICKLETON GRANGE HALL;** Rally Fees \$45.00 per person; Thursday night dinner - furnished; Friday breakfast - on your own; Friday 8:00–3:00 - Chartered bus tour of the Bickleton area - bring your own sack lunch; Friday night - catered dinner furnished; Saturday breakfast - furnished; Saturday 10:00 CBC QUILTERS MEET THE BICKLETON QUILTERS **PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE QUILT OR TWO TO SHARE;** Saturday lunch - on your own; Saturday dinner - Potluck with Ham furnished; Sunday breakfast - furnished. **GETTING THERE:** Coming from eastern WA. on I-82 Exit 82 (Prosser) follow highway 22 to Mabton and turn south (four way stop) on Glade Road continue on this road for approximately twenty-five miles to Bickleton. The Bickleton Grange Hall is on the south side of the road in downtown Bickleton (population 90). Coming from the west on I-82 Exit 67 (Sunnyside) turn right and follow directions to Mabton. At highway 22 turn east and go to four way stop and follow above directions. **REMEMBER all roads leading into Bickleton are 35-40 mph in your motorhome once you start up the hill out of Mabton or coming from Goldendale or Roosevelt ...many curves and sharp corners!**



FMCA Northwest Area Rally

June 8 - 12, 2005

Linn County Fair Grounds - Albany, OR

Register before May 13 by mail or online at www.fmca.com CBC Volunteers will be helping with the TRAMS this year. Let Wagonmaster Roger Ferrell (509) 448-1481 know if you are going and will Caravan/Rendezvous and park together. Rendezvous Tuesday Night in the BACK Parking area of the Baldock Rest Area on I-5 SB just South of Willsonville (Camping World). Volunteer groups will have reserved space held for them but must be parked by NOON Wednesday.



“Wenatchee Valley Getaway Rally”

June 24 - 26, 2005 - Monitor, WA

Hosted by: Leonard & Judy Singhose, Bud & Verna O'Dell

Make Reservations and Payment Directly to the Wenatchee River County Park (509)667-7503 or FAX (509)667-9514 ASAP. **Site with Full Hook Ups \$22 per night.** Rally Fee \$12 each. Includes Friday BBQ and Sunday Breakfast. Optional Activities: Half day Wenatchee River Raft Trip on Friday (See January Newsletter or CBC Web Site for Registration form); Rocky Reach Dam fish viewing and museum (Free); Ohme Gardens (\$6); Aplets & Cotlets candy factory tour (free); Leavenworth; North Central Washington Museum (\$3); Columbia Cascade Wineries Tour; US Forest Service NW Interpretive Station (free); Golfing; Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail (free); Blue Grass Music Jam Sessions - Chellan County Fair Grounds-Cashmere; and recreational boating(BYOB).

Special event opportunities: If interested find some friends to go with. CBC will NOT be organizing for these events. **June 30-July 5, 2005 “Tall Ships Festival” Tacoma, WA** Visit www.tallshipstacoma.com or (253)682-1446 Thank you to Bob & Shirley Miller for this. Sounds fun. **July 9-14, 2005 Great North American RV Rally-Redmond, OR**



“Hell's Canyon Jet'n”

July 21 - 24, 2005 Clarkston, WA

Hosted by: Tony & Doreen Russell
Granite Lake RV Resort (509)751-1635

Camp on the river, walk a short distance to board a jet boat and ride up the Snake River into Hells Canyon. Rally Fee includes Thursday night pizza dinner; Friday continental breakfast; Friday Bar-B-Q potluck (bring your own meat & side dish or dessert to share); Saturday pancake & sausage breakfast, Sunday continental breakfast. Saturday Boat Trip & Dinner (**Optional**) - This is a jet boat trip up the Snake River to Beamer's Heller Bar Lodge for buffet dinner with smoked salmon and prime rib. Children under six free. Six to Twelve half price. **Directions: From the South or West, follow SR 12 to 5th Street in Clarkston, WA. Turn Left & go to the Dead End (Past Costco), and turn right into the RV Park (Behind Costco). From the North, follow SR 95 or 195, take SR 128 over to SR 12, turn left on Bridge Street, go to 5th Street, Turn left and go to Dead End (Past Costco) and turn right into RV Park (Behind Costco) No early arrivals before 1 pm check in. No holding area at RV Park.** **NOTE: It is real important to register early for this one and keep the Host informed of any change in plans or cancellations in order to keep from forfeiting a first night fee with the park. Cancellation deadline is JULY 5th.**



“Fun in the Sun” Rally
August 18 - 21, 2005
Toppenish, WA



Hosted by: Tom & Kathy Storrs and Roger & Linda Ferrell

There are lots of things going on in the Yakima Valley this weekend; Toppenish is having a Western Art Show Fri-Sun featuring over 30 top western artists. Admission is free for this outdoor show. Union Gap is hosting the 24th annual Antique Farm Exposition. Admission is \$4. Yakima is having a Jazz and Blues Festival. In a nutshell, there is lots to see and do besides the normal Mural tour, Museums, wine tasting, Legends Casino, swimming pool, etc. Our group rate for full hookups is \$20.40 per night payable to the park. Friday and Saturday nights are reserved for you but **for additional nights call the park at 800-856-2000 to reserve**. There will be a seafood dinner at the Legends Casino Friday night. Potluck Saturday night and Sunday morning breakfast will be potluck. Saturday morning breakfast is provided. Please bring a potluck dish for Saturday evening and a breakfast dish Sunday morning. **Directions:** From Yakima head East on Interstate 82. From Tri-Cities go West on Interstate 82. Both directions take Exit 50 and turn South towards Toppenish/Buena. The road will angle right after a railroad crossing. At US 97 turn right. (Alternate Scenic Route take US 97 East from Union Gap/Yakima or West from Prosser) At SR 220 light turn left towards White Swan. Follow this just past the Casino (on the left) and turn right onto Buster Rd (at the Yakima Indian Health Center). Park entrance will be on the left.



Membership

Welcome to our new members **Duke & Sandie Blakley, F358622** from Richland. We look forward to seeing you soon at our rallies. Discussions on items mentioned in the January '05 newsletter have concluded, in part, that the size of membership is not as important as how we manage our membership. For example, having more or less frequent rallies, limit the size of the rallies, and keeping in contact. To address membership specifically, a proposal to place “Membership” responsibility with the 2nd Vice President is being worked on. The 2nd VP would chair the membership committee which would work on recruiting and retention. The conclusion about “Cliques” in CBC is YES and NO. Yes, we have special interest “cliques” but a very beneficial kind. There are the Wine Lovers, Golfers, Quilters, Antique, and Garage Sale/Swap Meet cliques to name a few. Beneficial because they are INCLUSIVE. Everyone who wants to participate is welcome. And no, we do not have detrimental cliques which are selective or exclude. Health and a speedy recovery to CBC’s Gary Phippen, Florence Kirchner, and Alice & Gene Harwood. Sorry if we missed anyone. We care about our members and as noted above are working hard to be the best.



CBC Web Site

Web Master still needed. If you have experience or would like to learn the “tricks” of being a web master e-mail, call, or contact CBC President Frank Ward (listed in your roster, and on the web site). Training and assistance are available.



Some Sunshine to warm you:

Submitted by Gene Harwood - Author Unknown

Thomas Edison's laboratory was virtually destroyed by fire in December, 1914. Although the damage exceeded \$2 million, the buildings were only insured for \$238,000 because they were made of concrete and thought to be fireproof. Much of Edison's life's work went up in spectacular flames that December night. At the height of the fire, Edison's 24-year old son, Charles, frantically searched for his father among the smoke and debris. He finally found him, calmly watching the scene, his face glowing in the reflection, his white hair blowing in the wind. "My heart ached for him," said Charles. "He was 67 - no longer a young man - and everything was going up in flames. When he saw me, he shouted, "Charles, where's your mother?" When I told him I didn't know, he said, "Find her. Bring her here. She will never see anything like this as long as she lives." The next morning, Edison looked at the ruins and said, "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew." Three weeks after the fire, Edison managed to deliver his first phonograph. *I hope all CBC'rs will have the same resilient attitude as we continue to experience social, ECONOMIC, and political changes.- Frank*

Submitted by Gene Harwood - Author Unknown

Dusting "A house becomes a home when you can write 'I love you' on the furniture." I can't tell you how many countless hours that I have spent CLEANING! I used to spend at least 8 hours every weekend making sure things were just perfect-"in case someone came over". Then I realized one day that no one came over; they were all out living life and having fun! Now, when people visit, I find no need to explain the "condition" of my home. They are more interested in hearing about the things I've been doing while I was away living life and having fun. If you haven't figured this out yet, please heed this advice. Life is short. Enjoy it! Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better to paint a picture or write a letter, bake a cake or plant a seed, ponder the difference between want and need? Dust if you must, but there's not much time, with rivers to swim and mountains to climb, music to hear and books to read, friends to cherish and life to lead. Dust if you must, but the world's out there with the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair, a flutter of snow, a shower of rain. This day will not come around again. Dust if you must, but bear in mind, old age will come and it's not kind. And when you go - and go you must - you, yourself will make more dust! It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.