



JANUARY 2006

THE CRUISER

A Newsletter for the Columbia Basin Cruisers, a chapter of the FMCA NorthWest Area Serving Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia, and Alberta, Canada

RALLY DATES

Note the changes to our 2006 rally schedule. See Page 2 for Rally Details.

2006 CBC's 10th Anniversary Year
Start Planning Now for a special year celebrating 10 years of "fun, food, and friendship."

March 17-19, 2006

Cabin Fever Gathering, Moses Lake, Wash. No Host.

April 20-23, 2006

Spring Thaw Board and Membership Meeting, Sage Hill at RV Park, Warden, Wash. Hosts: CBC Board of Directors.

May 12-14, 2006

Balloon Stampede Rally, Walla Walla County Fairgrounds. Hosts: Larry and Teddy Beers, Frank and Della Ward.

June 6-7, 2006

Caravan to Albany, Ore. Trail Boss(s) needed.

June 8-11, 2006

FMCA Northwest Area, Albany, Ore. Help with Chapter Fair and Parade and trams needed.

July 19-23, 2006

Oregon Trail Rally, Baker City, OR. Tony and Doreen Russell.

August 9-13, 2006

Sea Breezes Rally, Ocean City, WA. Hosts: Don & Brenda Hall. Co-Hosts are needed.

(continued in left sidebar on page 2)



From the President

By Frank Ward

Greetings, Salutations, and Happy New Year CBC'rs: As we progress into the 10th Anniversary year, having celebrated many times of great Fun, Food, and Friendships, we are challenged with many new issues. For some, it is recovering from health problems or if not having recovered, being extremely thankful it's not worse than it is. We are all facing challenges to our RV Lifestyle with continued high fuel prices and other market factors. We are at war and may have friends and family serving in an area of conflict. Like any situation in life, those who survive and seem to thrive, adapt. Strategies like budget adjustments, life assisting apparatus, mobility solutions, and the list goes on. In my time with CBC, I have witnessed plenty of this and have been encouraged by our members' responses to adversity. One small book on the issue of adaptation is "Who Moved My Cheese" by Dr. Spencer Johnson. It is a short read, loaded with perspective on these issues. Although written about work situations, it applies to all areas of life. On the collective issue of our RV Life Style, we are adapting this year by responding to requests to publish this winter issue earlier than in 2005 to allow you more time for mail forwarding and plan-



ning your rally season. I hope this helps. The Wagonmaster has worked hard to find new rally locations, while trying to provide geographic diversity to our membership. This is no easy task, and the second half of the season still requires some adjustments. Starting off the season is our "Cabin Fever" Gathering. There are no hosts for this event, just lots

of fun and fellowship and plenty of food, too. Then we have our "Spring Thaw" Rally and membership meeting. Both of these events are geographically centered to our membership. In May we move south to Walla Walla, and two and a half weeks later caravan to Albany for the Northwest Area Rally. If you can, why not linger and join the CBC Caravan enroute. Again, following Albany, take your time heading back home or side trip to the Ocean or into the Mountains. Better yet, ask some CBC/FMCA friends to join you and do the same. All that in the first half of our 2006 rally season. Don't wait to commit or plan your participation in CBC's Tenth Anniversary Rally Year. The cheese has already been moved. Get yourself moving and find a new source of Cheese (way to make it happen) because not attending our rallies just won't accomplish anything. Get the 2006 calendar out and INK our rally dates in right now. Then start planning to get the most out of those choices. Keep those coaches marking their territory....Frank



Think and Grin

Submitted by Gene Harwood - author unknown - Continued from November Issue

Understanding Engineers-Take Five.

The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?" The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?" The graduate with an Accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?" The graduate with an Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Rally News

RALLY DATES *(continued)*

September 1–4, 2006

Ellensburg Rodeo and Annual Membership Meeting Rally. Hosts: Pat & Morrie Sorensen.

September 14–17, 2006

Dutche Fest & 10th Anniversary Celebration Rally, Odessa, WA. Hosts: Bill & Sally Groth and Bud & Jan Trutton.

October 11–14, 2006

The Great Duck Race or Ho-Down Rally, Kennewick, WA or CleElum, WA. Hosts needed.

CBC Officers

President: Frank Ward

1st Vice President & Wagon Master:
Tony Russell

2nd Vice President & Membership:
Leonard Greenwalt

Secretary: Della Ward

Treasurer: Pat Sorensen

National Director:
Ken Kirschner

Alternate National Director:
Duke Blakley

2005-2006 Nominating Committee:
Jim & Marlene Slaight
Bud & Verna O'Dell
Norm & Sonia Green

Sheriff: Jim Slaight

Deputy Sheriff: Bob Powers

Historian: Norma Schultz

Membership & Sunshine:
Kathy Storrs – Patty Kirschner

Newsletter:
Duke & Sandie Blakley

Web Master:
Sandie Blakley
<http://geocities.com/cbcers/>
Cruise'n on CB Channel #14



Note the changes to our 2006 rally schedule. In order to concentrate our volunteer efforts in June, the Post Albany Gathering on the June 16th–18th has been removed from our schedule. Plan on joining the Caravan and enjoy the fun before, at, and after the Northwest Area Rally

FMCA has also announced International Convention location and date changes for 2007:

FMCA's 77th International Convention:
March 19-22, 2007 Perry, Georgia

FMCA's 78th International Convention:
August 13-16, 2007 Redmond, Oregon.

FMCA's Convention will make a return visit to the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond, Oregon. The convention location was moved from Gillette, Wyoming, to Redmond, Oregon, for 2007 due to construction delays at the Cam-Plex, as well as sales issues in the state of Wyoming. The Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center is also making improvements to their facility by adding WiFi capability and an additional structure that may be used for events.

Action Item for CBC Members: Because the Northwest Area will be hosting, expect that there will be NO area rally in June of 2007. Consider this opportunity to attend an International Convention close to home. In 2004 Columbia Basin Cruisers volunteered our services in the information booth. Other areas of service are available if we plan now. This could include a caravan to a pre-rally and post convention gatherings. Call or e-mail Wagonmaster Tony Russell with your interests and sign up to go with CBC now.

March Gathering

CBC Theme: "Cabin Fever" Gathering

March 17 – 19, 2006
Pier 4 Resort
3400 Sage Rd.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509)765-6319

Call and make individual reservations. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of Columbia Basin Cruisers to receive the Group/Spring rate of \$20 per night or use your Coast to Coast or RPI memberships.

For CBC'rs who are not full-timing or wintering down south and have a case of "Cabin Fever," this is for you—a chance to have a 'shake down' weekend to get your coach ready for the upcoming rally season. This is a NO HOST GATHERING. There is no registration or rally fee. Just show up and come prepared for potlucks of any variety or spontaneous group dinners out and lots of fun.

DIRECTIONS: From all directions, head to Moses Lake. From Westbound I-90, take exit 174 to MaeValley/State Patrol. Turn left at N Hansen Rd. Turn left at Sage Rd. Continue straight toward W Sage Rd. Continue on W Sage Rd and bear right at Sage Rd. You have arrived.

From Eastbound I-90, take exit 174 to Mae Valley Rd. Bear immediately left onto the S. Pritchard Rd. ramp. Turn right at S. Laguna Dr. Turn left and head toward Sage Rd. on W. Sage Rd. Bear right at Sage Rd. and You have arrived.



April Rally

CBC Theme: "Spring Thaw" Board & Membership Meeting

April 20 – 23, 2006

Sage Hill RV Park and Golf Course, Warden, WA

Thursday night be prepared to present some "Hearty hors d'oeuvres under a clear blue sky (or awnings if otherwise). Friday night will be a catered prime rib dinner. Meals on Saturday are open for spontaneous results. and Sunday is a catered breakfast buffet. Those wishing to play golf can reserve for Friday or Saturday at a group rate of \$30 for eighteen holes including cart (2 people per cart). Call (509) 349-2603 and be sure to mention you are with Columbia Basin Cruisers. The Board Meeting will be Friday at 1 p.m. and the membership meeting will be Saturday evening at 7 p.m. Other activities include attractions in Moses Lake and the Pot Holes area (fishing in season and wild life observation areas).

DIRECTIONS: From I-90 at Moses Lake, follow WA 17 south about 14 miles. Go past the RV Park and Golf Course on your right and turn right onto Road 11 SE. Then immedi-

ately turn right onto Sage Hill Rd SE. From the south take US 395 north to WA 17 follow that about 28 mile and turn left onto Road 11 SE then immediately right onto Sage Hill Rd SE.



May Rally

CBC Theme: "Up, Up and Away in Their Flying Machines"

May 12-14, 2006

Walla Walla County Fairgrounds

32nd Annual Hot Air Balloon Stampede

The excitement of hot air ballooning in the Northwest returns to the Walla Walla Valley—the place it all began—for the 32nd Annual celebration of the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede. The Pacific Northwest's first and most prestigious hot air balloon rally of the season brings up to 40 of the finest pilots to Walla Walla. The weekend features breath-taking flights and Saturday's "Nite Glow Show."

Spend a fun-filled weekend at the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede. Kick up your heels, get your face painted, and shop to your heart's content. The 32nd annual Balloon Stampede promises to offer fun, games and entertainment that will delight both the young and "young-at-heart."

Sunrise Launches

Balloons are scheduled to launch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 6:00 a.m., weather permitting. All flights will originate from Garrison Middle School, adjacent to the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds. Jump out of bed early, grab a cup of joe and a camera and enjoy the spectacular view.

Saturday "Nite Glow Show"

The night time skies will come alive in every color of the spectrum at the highly popular, crowd-pleasing favorite "Nite Glow Show." Don't miss this highlight event.

Other Activities

Antiques and Collectibles Show and Sale; Juried Arts & Crafts Show; "Kid's Zone" Entertainment Area; Food & Vendor Booths; "Hot Air Classic" Golf Tournament; Champagne

Reception at Fairgrounds (Pre-sale tickets); "Balloonsday" Walla Walla Swim Team Fun Run/Walk (For Fun Run application, please go to www.wyyswim.org; Entertainment; Hot Air Volleyball-oon Tournament; Columbia Basin Mounted Shooter Demonstrations; Spring Parimutuel Horse Races; Mother of the Year Award Presentation; and Concert.

The area also has many attractions such as Fort Walla Walla Park, Pioneer Park and Aviary, Historic Street Tree self-guided Tour, Historic House self-guided Tour, Whitman Mission, Down Town Walla Walla with many restored buildings and unique collection of business, and the many Valley Wineries.

DIRECTIONS: From all directions head to Walla Walla. From the North or East, the scenic routes lead to Washington State Route 12 westbound through Dayton, Waitsburg (turn right at the flashing light), and Dixie. Once on the four lane section in Walla Walla, follow the signs to SR 125/South 9th towards Milton-Freewater, OR. Go Past McDonalds on the right and a Steam Train on left at the light, then immediately turn left onto Tietan. Go past the fair grounds. Turn left onto 4th. Follow CBC signs left into the parking area. From all other directions follow I-82 (From the South or West) or SR 395 from the North to I-182/12 and follow to Walla Walla. Then SR 125 to Orchard Street same as above.



Final Trip

It is our sad duty to inform you that CBC member Darwin Townsend F309515 died at his home in E. Wenatchee on Thursday Dec. 29, 2005. Our best to his surviving family and co-pilot, Kathrine Murdock.

10th Anniversary Photos



Two photos above, September 1998, Clinton, MT, at the "Testicle Festival"



Ken Kirschner with the CBC Bird House September 1997 at the Ben-Franklin County Fair Ground in Kennewick. To Whom does the extra arm belong?



Membership

By Ken Kirschner & Duke Blakley

The following are summaries of items approved by the Executive Board of FMCA at their November 2005 meeting. These changes could affect chapter and area operations. Keep in mind these still have to be acted on by Chapters National Directors in the Governing Board Meeting in August at the summer convention in Charlotte, NC and would not take effect until 2007 or as otherwise specified. If you have questions or comments on these, contact Ken Kirschner, CBC's National Director, or Duke Blakley, our Alternate National Director. We will also have a chance to discuss these at our April Membership Meeting.

- Action continues to place lifetime term limits on National Offices.
- In order to properly certify Temporary Delegates to the Governing Board Meetings, if a Chapter's National or Alternate National Director cannot attend, it will require sixty days advance notice of changes.
- Currently chapters have liability insurance through FMCA with a \$5000 deductible the chapter is responsible for. This would be reduced to \$1000 and include our Web Site.
- What started as National Director Training would be expanded to Basic Training for all chapter officers and interested chapter members.
- A position statement on the number of seat belts in coaches (including pilot & co-pilot seats) to equal the number of sleeping positions.
- Eliminate the Alternate National Director's position because so few serve when the National Director cannot and chapters have to send Temporary Delegates instead. Chapters also have great difficulties finding members to fill this position.
- Because the National Director is a National Office, establish lifetime term limits of six years including time served as a Temporary Delegate.
- Establish a Board of Area Representatives (BAR) which would include four key area officers from each area (44) to include National Area Vice President, Area Senior Vice President, Area Secretary, and Area Treasurer. The BAR would meet at the annual summer convention. This would allow the Governing Board (mostly made up of National Directors) to conduct their changed responsibilities by mail (instead of convening at the annual Summer convention). Allow the BAR to vote by absentee ballot under certain conditions.
- The Area Senior Vice President would be allowed to attend National Executive Board Meetings in the absence of the National Area Vice President and vote in his/her behalf.
- That Area Association Officers have lifetime term limits of not more than four years per office.
- That FMCA investigate or establish a process for our members to provide assistance in disaster areas.

Keep in mind these changes have been proposed to and not passed by the National Governing Board.



From the Wagonmaster

By Tony Russell

Hello from "balmy Arizona"!! We still need hosts or co-hosts on some of the rallies this year, so hope to hear from some of you newer members to "jump in and get your feet wet"! We're also always looking for new places to hold rallies, so if you have a favorite RV park, give me a call at (702) 672-4111. Looking forward to another fun season of rallies with the CBC's. ...Tony