



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

May 26-28, 2007

Old Mill RV Park, Garibaldi, OR. Hosts: Jim & Mary Jacobs.

June 15-17, 2007

Scottish Highland Games, Prosser, WA. Hosts: Bob & Sandra Powers.

July 12-15, 2007

Palouse Empire Rally, Colfax, WA. Hosts: Bob & Norma Schultz.

August 9-16, 2007

FMCA National Convention, Redmond, OR. See article on page 2.

September 6-9, 2007

Hops Harvest, Grandview, WA. Hosts: Mike & Pat Stegamen.

October 5-7, 2007

Negotiating with Cascade Peaks RV Resort, between Randle and Packwood on Highway 12 (not firm yet). Hosts: Duke and Sandie Blakley.

Rally Road



Frank-ly Speaking

By Frank Ward, President

BINGO! Since the last issue of the "Cruiser," CBC has had two more very successful Chapter events: The "Cabin Fever Gathering" and the "Apple Blossom Rally." If these last events were not winners for you, it's probably because you were not there. Change that and come to one of our great upcoming rallies at Garibaldi, Prosser, Colfax, Granger, or Packwood. We are looking forward to seeing you at a rally soon.

After serving as your Wagon Master for two years, and now approaching the end of my third and final year as your President, I am constantly amazed at how little it takes to keep our Chapter successful year after year. Yes, there is some effort to coordinate and produce a quality newsletter, but that effort is shared by the Wagon Master and Rally Hosts (Rally



As of Wednesday, May 2nd, Old Mill RV Park still had ten spaces available.

May 25-28, 2007

Rally by the Sea

Old Mill RV Park Garibaldi, OR

Hosts: Jim & Mary Jacobs See the February 2007 "Cruiser" or CBC web site for details and registration form. There is still time to register for this exceptional rally opportunity. The April 1st deadline was to accommodate the RV Park and not tie up their inventory for a holiday weekend. They have been great to work with. If you missed the original registration date, call the RV Park and see if you can still reserve space. If you are successful with this first step, then send your rally registration in. Final registration deadline is May 11th. Call the hosts if it really is "in the mail" but won't arrive on time.

Schedule, Rally Details, Rally Registrations, and Rally Reports), Membership, Sunshine, Secretary, and President. Their contributions are submitted to our Newsletter Editor, along with any photographs submitted by members.

Email your digital photos to our newsletter editor blakleyd@charter.net and copy our Historian RNSchultz@colfax.com at the same time. There is a little extra effort to coordinate the dates and locations of our rallies, but every year, members keep coming up with new rally ideas and locations and are glad to host.

Let's not overlook the Immediate Past President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, National and Alternate National Directors, and committee members (Nominating Committee, Audit Committee, Membership and Sunshine Committee). Like glue holding a fine work of art together, they are seldom recognized, but without which all would fall apart. But that is it for the most part.

That is because of our members who continually contribute to our success by attending rallies, inviting friends to join in on the fun, lending a hand at rallies, and accepting an Executive Board or committee position when they are able to. The final ingredient of our continued success is the feeling of "Family." Members who enjoy having a good time, genuinely care, share generously, sometime disagree, but are always there when needed (if not in person by phone or email). It is a mix of all of this and the flexibility to adapt to a myriad of changing conditions which have made CBC a success over the last decade and will lead it to success in future decades.

I am looking forward to the remainder of this rally year and many more with this part of our expanded "Family" we call the "Columbia Basin Cruisers." And above all else, remember to keep those coaches marking their territory...Frank

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Rally Road

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June 15–17, 2007 7th Annual Scottish Fest and Highland Games

Wine Valley RV Park Prosser, WA

Hosts: Bob & Sandra Powers

MUST BE REGISTERED BY MAY 15TH (RV Park Inventory Issue Again). Come early or stay late, but be sure to make those arrangements directly with the park. The rally will formally start with a finger food

potluck Friday. Saturday morning will start with a continental breakfast followed by a day of Fest and Games (Heavy Athletic Games, Highland Dance, Anvil Launch, Pipe and Drum Bands, Clans and Societies, Parade of the Tartans and massed bands, Featured Entertainers, and Vendors). Top all of this off with a catered dinner. Other local attractions: Chukar Cherries, Wineries, Big New Motorcycle Shop, Quilt Shop, and more. Sunday morning, another continental breakfast and time to linger.

DIRECTIONS: Follow I-82 from Yakima or Tri-Cities and take Exit 80. From the West turn right then immediate left onto Merlot (Rest Area). From the East turn left, cross over the freeway and turn left on Merlot. Continue on Merlot to the RV Park on the right hand side of the road.

July 12–15, 2007 Palouse Empire Rally

Palouse Empire Fair Grounds, Colfax, WA

Hosts: Norma and Bob Schultz

Come on Thursday, dinner on your own. Friday, join us for a bus tour of Whitman County, RR bridge over the Palouse River, Steptoe Butte State Park, pack a sack lunch to eat at Kamiak Butte County Park, WSU Grizzly Bears, Uniontown Arts and Crafts restored barn and lots of wheat, barley, pea and lentil fields. Breakfast Friday on your own. Friday night dinner will be prepared and served by the Schultz's.

Saturday and Sunday there will be a continental breakfast. Bring your own meat to BBQ on a large grill on site Saturday night and salads or dessert. Please come and have fun seeing the area, traveling to quilt shops, Colfax's gift shops which are very nice. We even have a dress shop, 18 hole golf course, or just enjoy the grassy area of the fairgrounds RV Park. There will be sheep shearing and a county team roping events at the fairgrounds over the weekend.

DIRECTIONS: From Colfax go West on SR 26 five miles. From the West (Vantage, Othello, Hwy 395 follow SR 26 to the Fair Grounds five miles West of Colfax.

August 3-5 or 6-9, 2007 Convention Pre-Rally & Caravan

Tribal RV Park Toppenish, WA

Convention attendees will start this one in Toppenish. Re-

member you must be registered with FMCA for the Convention before June 1st to get the same parking credentials as the rest of us. Come as early as you want, but officially we are there from August 6th. Early arrivals make direct arrangements with the park. To make all of this happen, we will be holding our annual nominations meeting at the July Rally in Colfax. Those not going to Redmond are welcome to join the Pre Rally in Toppenish. There is a lot going on in the Valley August 3rd through August 12th. This will be CBC's only August event. Final details and Pre Rally Registration next month.

Join the Caravan to Convention



August 9-16, 2007 FMCA's 78th International Convention

Redmond, OR at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo.

Event coordinator Gerald & Evelyne Searl (509) 452-2070 or email jerandev@charter.net

If you have thought about going to one of the FMCA Conventions, this is a very convenient opportunity. So far, 16 CBC member/coaches are planning on experiencing Redmond. If you plan on going and have not responded to our Convention Survey (enclosed in the February Newsletter and on our web site) please do so immediately. Because CBC will be one of the Convention Volunteer Service Chapters, we **MUST** know who is going to be with us (Caravan and Volunteer) by May 11th, and you must be registered with FMCA for the Convention before June 1st. (This has to do with us all getting the same caravan/parking credentials.) If you plan on going it on your own, well... you're on your own. Good Luck and remember to look us up in the Volunteer Parking Area.

Rally Reports

March 30–April 1, 2007

**Cabin Fever & Quilt'n Gathering
Sandy Heights RV Resort, Pasco, WA**

By Frank Ward

This early spring event has become an annual time for the gathering of friends, and a

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time, like spring, to start another rally season (CBC's eleventh year). Twelve coaches showed up and enjoyed a combination of our great CBC fellowship, pot luck, quilt show'n'tell, Tri-Cities Quilters Guild Annual Quilt Show, coffee and "Spud Nuts" at Spuddies, a mix of Spring weather, and trying out Jerry Searl's new Segway. This was only the third time the Chapter has held or attended an event in the Tri-Cities (1999, 2003, and 2007). It appears that many more rally opportunities wait to be developed in this part of our membership area. You might want to consider our June Rally in Prosser for another opportunity to sample what this area of the state has to offer.

April 27–29, 2007

**Apple Blossom Festival Rally
and Spring Membership Meeting**

By Penny Kinder

Today I was just sweeping the last of the pine needles off the coach step, as I realized that I already miss the woody smoke smell (in my hair) from our nightly camp fires at Blu-Shasin R.V. Park. What a great setting for a rally! Eighteen coaches gathered for camping at its finest. Not only were we surrounded by whispering pines, complete with a babbling brook, we were also treated to all the amenities—even cable T.V. and a cozy club house.

The rally food was the "best ever." just like always. Saturday night's dinner was catered by Leavenworth Catering. Thank you, Gary and Linda Phippin and Bruce and Liz Lane, for a delightful German buffet. During our daily Happy Hours we all joined in a couple of silly games (just to keep people guessing) and ended each night with a few couples around the camp fire talking about their day's activities. Some shopped in Leavenworth, some visited antique stores in Cashmere, a few enjoyed Ohme Gardens, some napped, some sampled wines, and the Searls "fiddled around" at the Old Time Fiddling Contest in East Wenatchee. But, as is typical, no one had more fun than the hosts: Kathy and Tom Storrs and Penny and Bill Kinder. In fact, we all enjoyed it so much that we're going to do it again next summer in June because by then the pool should be warm and the breezes should be gone. Hope we see you there!

April Member- ship Meeting

On April 27th, after the Potluck Dinner at our Rally at the Blu-Shastin RV Park on Blewett Pass, we held a Membership Meeting. Reported Treasury balance was \$7,558.50 with \$1,780 of it being 2007 dues from the Membership.

Gerald Searl updated us with the changes in the Rally schedule. July's Rally will be at the Whitman County Fairgrounds in Colfax (hosts Norma and Bob Schultz) and October's Rally will be at Cascade Peaks (between Packwood and Randal) on the West side of White Pass with hosts Duke and Sandie Blakley. Membership was encouraged to work on filling Rally plans for 2008. RV Parks are getting harder to reserve space for a group and needs to done nine to twelve months ahead.

A motion passed to have our nomination of officers take place at the July 2007 Rally and NOT in August (as stated in our Membership Handbook) because of the Redmond Convention.

A motion passed to allow up to \$150 a year to update the Web Site and obtain our own internet address.

Special Election to fill Alternate National Director Vacancy: FMCA does not allow both husband and wife, Duke and Sandie Blakley, to be National and Alternate National Directors in the same chapter. To correct this oversight from our September 2006 elections, a Special Election was held to fill the vacancy. Our new Alternate National Director is Terry Scherer. Congratulations, Terry, and welcome to the CBC Executive Board.

Amendment to the Members Handbook (Standing Rules): The proposed change to the Members Handbook was adopted. This was primarily a housekeeping adjustment to the existing rule on allocating surplus funds towards a subsidized rally each year. Following the adoption of this change, your CBC Board conducted a drawing to determine which of the 2007 Rallies would benefit. April was NOT drawn and that means there are five more rallies to find out which one was.



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CBC Officers

President: Frank Ward

1st Vice President & Wagon Master:
Gerald Searl

2nd Vice President & Membership:
Bill Groth

Secretary: Della Ward

Treasurer: Pat Sorensen

National Director:
Duke Blakley

Alternate National Director:
Terry Scherer

2006-2007 Nominating Committee:
Roger & Linda Ferrell
Gary & Linda Pennington
Jan Trutton

Sheriff: Jim Slaughter

Deputy Sheriff:
Bob Powers

Historian: Norma Schultz

Membership & Sunshine:
Kathy Storrs – Patty Kirschner
Penny Kinder

Newsletter:
Duke & Sandie Blakley

Web Master:
Sandie Blakley
<http://geocities.com/cbcers/>

Cruise'n on CB Channel #14

(Membership—continued from page 3)

2007 NOMINATIONS UPDATE: Members need to help out by expressing interest in serving a year or two on the CBC Executive Board. Contact a member of the Nominating Committee (see the side bar of this newsletter and your CBC roster for names and contact information) to get on the September 2007 ballot.

NOTICE: The annual nomination of CBC Executive Board Officers will be at the July Rally in Colfax. Ballots will be mailed to the members immediately following (see the report from the April Membership Meeting for details on this one time change in this process).



FINAL TRIP NOTICES

It is not often we have to see our friends and FMCA Family Members off on their final trip. They will be missed.

Bud Trutton

On Wednesday, March 21st, Columbia Basin Cruisers Charter Member Bud Trutton started his final trip. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, May 5th, in Spokane. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Spokane 121 S Arthur St, Spokane, 99202

Lavita Stoy

On Thursday, March 29th, Columbia Basin Cruiser Member Lavita Stoy also began her final trip. A Memorial Service was held Saturday, April 14th, in Spokane. Memorial donations may be made to the Women's Fellowship of Lincoln Heights Congregational Church 3527 E. 29th Ave. Spokane, WA 99223.

NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

By Duke Blakley

The Executive Board members of the Northwest Area Association held its latest meeting at the Thousand Trails Bend-Sunriver Preserve April 17-19. Your club president, Frank Ward and I attended this Executive Meeting.

Several items on the agenda were the election of Area Association officers. Arvin Spofford was elected Senior Vice President; Bud Fouts, Chuck Souter and Bob Beers, Vice Presidents; Judy Keppler, Secretary; and finally, Gwen Wright was elected Treasurer. This election begins staggered terms of office to keep continuity.

The discussions then turned to the NW FMCA Convention in Redmond August 13-16. Several volunteer activities we were interested in were eliminated, and we had to scramble to find another area to serve in. It was decided that pre-security was a great area to volunteer for. This allows us to get in early and take advantage of premier parking at the Rally. Basically the duties require us to work the early part, before the convention even starts, and leaves us free to enjoy the convention.

Remember, you must be registered by June 1st, and we must know who is going to be with us by May 11th. This has to do with us getting parking credentials. See Rally Road on page two for more details.

Finally, Frank and I both had challenges with our coaches. Frank experienced some battery problems, and mine was more severe. Those problems caused Sandie and I to miss the last rally at the Apple Blossom Festival. We now have those problems solved and we're ready for Garibaldi, Oregon.

For more information on the Northwest Area Chapter, visit the FMCA web site, www.fmcanw.com.



Above: Ladies get out the red and purple for the Red Hat Luncheon at Redmond.



More for you lexiophiles (lovers of words) from Gene Harwood:

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.