



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

October 5-7, 2007

Season End Get Together Rally at Cascade Peaks RV Park, Randle, WA

Hosts: Duke and Sandie Blakley

See details on page 3.

Rally Road

2008 Rally Plans

We still need to firm up the 2008 rally schedule. March is in Moses Lake, April in Toppenish, May at Two Rivers, June at Blewett Pass, July and August are still open, September at Hoodspport, and October in Pendleton.

If you would like to host, or have suggestions, please call Wagonmaster Jerry Searl at (509) 452-2070 or President Roy Laughton (509) 244-5449 before October 15th. More on this in the October/November issue of the "Cruiser."



Frank-ly Speaking

By Frank Ward, President

With a changing of the guard, and this being my last article in the President's column, I would like to again thank the membership of Columbia Basin Cruisers for a really good three years (five years if you count the two preceding years as VP & Wagonmaster). CBC just would not happen without an active, contributing, and involved membership. I don't like to look back, but if, in doing so, it can help give guidance to future plans, then going through the scrapbook of CBC's recent past is worth a glance.

At the end of our September 2007 rally in Grandview, CBC will have hosted or sponsored a total of 300 rally nights in eleven years (probably more than other chapters who have been around a lot longer). That is a 61% increase when comparing the first five years to the second five. In our last five rally seasons, 51 events have been hosted by 32 hosts/co-hosts of which 18 were first time hosts—many of whom were new or newer members.

I sincerely believe that it is not the number of members on our roster or the number of events we sponsor that is the mark of success. Rather, it is the involvement of our members, whether that is attending one of our rallies a year or are one hundred percenters, or whether you host one of our rallies, ever, or host one event every year. It is the new member attending a rally as soon after joining as possible. It is the 60% of our members who in any year attended one or more rallies. It is our members who take the time and effort to serve on our Executive Board, on the membership committee, as newsletter editor or web master, and as volunteers at an Area Rally or FMCA Convention. It is our members who continually recruit new members, realizing that by the very nature of our "mobile lifestyle" membership is continually changing (12-15% per year).



So where does this trivia point us? Well, keep on recruiting new members by using a variety of methods—personal recruitment seems to work the best. Keep holding a lot of high quality rallies (8 to 10 a season), or if you reduce the number of opportunities for member participations, work real hard on increasing attendance to the 80 or 90% level at each event. Keep producing an award-winning newsletter and web page (quality of communications and not quantity counts here). Keep looking for new and/or different ways to have a great CBC time together, share it with others, and get it on our rally event calendar and then host it. And above all else keep on having—pardon the pun—a "Rally" Good Time. Remember to keep those coaches marking their territory...Frank.



**Thanks for all you've done,
Frank, Della and Skittles (at Garibaldi).**

CBC Officers**President:** Roy "Bullet" Laughton**1st Vice President & Wagon Master:**
Gerald Searl**2nd Vice President & Membership:**
Roger Ferrell**Secretary:** Della Ward**Treasurer:** Pat Sorensen**National Director:**
Duke Blakley**Alternate National Director:**
Terry Scherer**Immediate Past President:**
Frank Ward**2007-2008 Nominating Committee:**Bill & Penny Kinder
Leonard & Judy Singhose
Tom & Kathy Storrs**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
sandiebee@charter.net**Web Site:**
<http://geocities.com/cbcrs/>**Cruise'n on CB Channel #14**

Rally Reports

August 6-9—Toppenish/Maryhill Convention Pre-Rally and Caravan*By Frank Ward*

This CBC event started at the Tribal RV Park in Toppenish with eight coaches (Larry & Kathy Campbell, Norm & Sonia Green, Bill & Marilyn Neavill, Duane & Donna Peterson, Terry & Linda Scherer, Gerald & Evelyne Searl, Jim & Marlene Slaughter, Frank & Della Ward).

After enjoying some local attractions, a pot luck, visiting, two continental breakfasts, a group dinner at a downtown restaurant, we concluded with a Caravan/Convention preparation meeting. Wednesday morning, the caravan organized and headed South and rendezvoused with three other coaches (Duke Blakley, Bill & Sally Groth, Morrie & Pat Sorensen) at Peach Beach RV Park for the night.

Thursday morning, the Caravan again headed south picking up two more coaches (George & Betty Green, Tom & Mary Mosher) at Biggs Jct. and our 14th and final coach (Dean & Carol Iholts) at Peter Skene State Park. By 11 a.m., all 14 coaches were parked at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Grounds in Redmond.

August 9-17—FMCA's 78th International Convention, "Rediscover Redmond," and CBC Early Security Volunteer Service*By Frank Ward*

Our first volunteer event was attending an orientation. Our second was a pot luck with the HMC Chapter who helped us fill out the Early Security roster.

Friday morning at 7 a.m., we started providing security for the gates in the fence surrounding the Coach Displays. After some minor debugging of the exceptions to the "rules" we were given at the orientation, the rest of Friday and all of Saturday went very well. A great big "THANK YOU" to our CBC volunteers who did a flawless job. By taking the Early Security assignment, we were left to enjoy the rest of the Convention without the usual schedule conflicts.

Gerald & Evelyn Searl and Dean & Carol Iholts took some

extra time to move into their new and newer coaches, respectively—congratulations.

Other CBC members attending, or involved in other volunteer service, that we know of were—Jim & Jo Barach, Larry and Laura Hougen, Jim Jacobs, Doug & Judy Justus, Fred & Ruth Maloney, Kent & Karen Pratt, Al & Carrie Ward, Roque & Patti Ybarra. That totals 22 coaches from our roster attending this event.

For the weather sensitive, we are sorry to report that Wednesday and Thursday got a little warm, in the low to mid 90's. The rest of the time, it was in the mid 80's with mid to low 50's at night.

September 6-9—Hop Harvest Rally, Grandview, WA*By Pat Stegeman*

Eighteen coaches arrived at the Country Park in Grandview where the field of green grass was enjoyed by everyone. At Friday's potluck there was lots of very good food as always. After dinner entertainment was provided by "The Welds" of Prosser with plenty of good laughs and some neat old songs.

Saturday we car pooled to Puterbaugh Farms where we saw hop harvested in the field, then moved to the picking machine and kiln where the hop are processed, and the finished bales in cold storage. Lunch was enjoyed in the picnic area next to their main office.

Saturday evening, the hosts provided a wonderful steak bar-b-q dinner followed by our annual meeting (see membership section report). As previously announced, we would have a subsidized rally this year and this was it. Sunday morning ended with eggs in a bag for breakfast and lots of good-bye hugs. For the weather sensitive, this weekend was as good as it gets.

Photos Below and on page 3 from the Hop Harvest Rally in Grandview.



Season End Get Together

October 5-7, 2007

Cascade Peaks Golf & RV Resort

As a busy rally season comes to a close, it's time for a final 2007 "Season End Get Together." Although the notice is rather late in the planning, we made arrangements for you to get your registrations in at least a week before your arrival at Cascade Peaks Golf and RV resort.

However, you may mail back your reservation to Duke and Sandie, email us (Blakleyd@charter.net) or even call us by telephone (509 627-1012). Payments can be made at the time of registration or at the rally. Checks should be made to Columbia Basin Cruisers and given to us at the rally.

Cascade Peaks is located on Hwy. 12, 80 miles west of Yakima (7 miles west of Packwood; or if you're coming from the west side, it's 58 miles east of Hwy. 5, exit 68 (8 miles east

of Randle, WA). Friday night is cocktail hour at 5 p.m. and dinner is own your own. Saturday will be a continental breakfast, and dinner will be a potluck.

The golf course is still open for those who are interested. I am still making arrangement to have the Pool and Spa open for our use. Other attractions include Mt. Rainier or Mt. St. Helens. Fumes are still coming out, and it is gorgeous for picture taking. All roads are still open to both mountains. There are several half-day trips, and an all-day forest trip to those mountains mentioned.

Also, in Chehalis on Saturday night, Revolution—A Tribute to the Beatles is at the Corbet Theater as well as the 37th Annual Octoberfest in Swiff Park is available,

We hope you can make this final trip of the season. Thanks, Duke and Sandie.

Rally Road





Membership

Convention Report

By Duke Blakley, National Director

As you have read in the president's report, our trip to Redmond by caravan went extremely smooth. Everyone got there without getting left behind at some stoplight or getting lost. Our thanks go to Frank for coordinating the caravan so well.

As part of my National Director responsibilities, I was permitted to park in a location in the Governing Board area, closer to the main meetings, but away from the group that caravanned to the convention. I missed a lot of the fellowship that goes along with a rally. I will seriously have to think about parking away from the group in the future.

The convention business was extremely long and, at times, very boring. A new set of officers were elected for 2008 and '09. If you have read your recent copy of your FMCA magazine, you probably read the President's (Don Moore) message. His statement was prepared prior to the convention.

For your information, the new National President elect is Connie Pool. The National Sr. Vice President elect is Nelson Stubbs, National Secretary is Joanne Durbin, and the National Treasurer is Doug Keys. Their bios will be published in the next issue of the FMCA magazine, so I will not expound on that. Their terms started at the end of the convention.

The rest of the main executive meeting concentrated on the budget, policies and procedures, and volunteer benefits. Volunteers are extremely important to an event such as a national convention. I'm proud to say that a lot of the benefits that were to be eliminated because of budget issues and problems, were reinstated. The Board was directed to find other ways to balance the budgets. So we, the National Directors did our job.

Speaking of that, I learned a lot more about the importance of a National Director for each club. I would like to encourage each of you to discover the importance of this office and what our vote for the rest of the club can mean. Thank you for having the confidence to elect me to this club office.

This was my first convention since I am a fairly new member to CBCers and the FMCA organization. I truly enjoyed all the activities, the seminars, the exhibitions and looking at new coaches. Much to Sandie's delight, I didn't come home with a new coach. Also, the volunteer committee that we signed up for was also fun and interesting. For those who have never gone to a convention, I would highly recommend the experience.

Annual Meeting & Election Report

By Frank Ward, Immediate Past President

The results are in. Your new CBC President is Roy 'Bullet' Laughton. Gerald Searl will be serving a second year as First Vice President and Wagonmaster and Roger Ferrell will be returning to the Executive Board as Second Vice President. Della Ward, Secretary and Pat Sorensen, Treasurer will both be returning for a third and final year (term limitations). Duke Blakley, National Director, and Terry Scherer, Alternate National Director, will both be returning for a second year in those positions. Our new nominating committee is Leonard and Judy Singhose, Bill and Penny Kinder, and Tom and Kathy Storrs. Congratulations all.

Members were updated on changes in FMCA which affect chapter operation, the solid status of our treasury, the 2008 Rally schedule (see page 1), and the status of projects in progress, but yet unfinished, including the following:

The name tag survey results were also announced. Option #1 "Keep the Original Name Tag Design" had 16 favorable responses. Option #2 "Keep the Original Name Tag Design but update it (i.e. Add Color, Better Rings, Smaller Size)" received the majority of favorable responses at 43. Option #3 "Do a complete redesign but keep our original logo (i.e., smaller, one piece, color, etc.)" had 22 respondents. It was reported that we currently have enough "rounds" for one to two years, depending on how successful our recruiting efforts are. This gives us time to consider the redesign, vendor/suppliers, and costs and bring final proposal(s) to the membership for a vote.

Dues are Due for Club Year 2008

Dues are due October 1st for 2008. Because of reporting deadlines, please pay ASAP. Send your check made out to Columbia Basin Cruisers for \$20 to Pat Sorensen, Treasurer, 160 Berry Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926.

