



THE CRUISER

JULY 2008

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

August 21-24

Toppenish, WA. Hosts: Jim and Marlene Slaughter, George and Betty Green, Ed Gottschalk, Jerry and Evelyn Searl, and Fred and Ruth Maloney.

September 12-13

Pier 4, Moses Lake, WA. Hosts: Donna and Pete Peterson and Jim and Marlene Slaughter.

October 17-19

Alderwood RV Resort, Mead, WA. Hosts: Guy and Suzi Thompson

If you would like to host, please call Wagonmaster Jerry Searl at (509) 452-2070 or President Roy Laughton (509) 244-5449 before the next issue of the newsletter.

From the President

By Roy Laughton

The last rally at Sprague Lake was a pretty awesome rally and everyone enjoyed themselves. Good food, good company, an evening campfire and a lake view, what more could you ask. Twenty coaches enjoyed a Friday night finger food potluck, followed by gathering around a campfire for a few marshmallow toasts and good conversation.

Saturday was spent visiting, sitting by the lake. There was a potluck Saturday evening, with the main course of sirloin tip roast from the barbie cooked by the President Bullet. Yummy. We were joined by guests Herschel Heimbigner, Jan Trutton, and the Gilpins for dinner. The Kirschner's granddaughter, Paige, joined our weekend as a guest as well as Tom Storrs' sister and brother-in-law, and the Cordells as guests of the Kinders. The rally was hosted by Laughtons and Penningtons. Members attending were Gottschalk, Storrs, Maloney, Searl, Groth, Powers, Phippen, Harwood, Kinder, Slaughter, Kirschner, Peterson, Ferrell, Schultz, and Blakley. There was a full moon and the moonrise over the lake was a sight to behold. Cameras were snapping. We enjoyed a bit of bird watching as pelicans and ducks swam the lake; and we also enjoyed a visit by a wise old owl. All in all a relaxing weekend.

One of our best members, Betty Green, is having some health problems, please keep your Prayers and Positive Thoughts going for her and George. Enjoy the Summer. God Bless. Bullet.

early or stay late to visit the Darigold Cheese plant in Sunnyside, wineries, fruit and vegetable stands, Heritage Museum, Hops Museum, and Train Museum. Bring your swim suits, bikes (optional), Christmas decorations for decorating your coach contest, Brown Bag Bingo gifts for each player.

DIRECTIONS:

From Junction I-82 (exit 50) and Highway 22, go 2-3/4 miles south on Hwy. 22, then 1/2 mile west on W. 1st St., then 3/4 mile northwest on Highway 97. Enter on Left.

EARLY ARRIVALS PERMITTED:

\$22.95/night. Pay at Park. Call 800-874-3087 and mention you are with CBC to arrange for extra days. Horse drawn covered wagon mural tour in Toppenish. Saturday 9:30 a.m. Adults: \$12.00; children 12 & under, \$5.00. Rally fee per person/guest : \$10.00.

RALLY FEE INCLUDES

Friday dinner, fried chicken and brown bag bingo; Saturday dinner, hamburgers, salmonburgers, and hot dogs.

COME PREPARED FOR:

Finger Food Pot Luck on Thursday, bring your own breakfast potluck Friday and Saturday, and sides or desserts for Saturday night Pot Luck.

ATTRACTIONS:

Dozens of wineries are within minutes of the resort park: Claar Cellars, Windy Point Vineyards, Sheridan Vineyard, and others. Also nearby are many antique shops, roadside fruit and vegetable stands (in season) and numerous historical landmarks throughout the valley. Adjacent to the Legends Casino and the Yakama Cultural Center, the Resort has its own restaurant, gift shop, museum, library and theater. Enjoy the exercise room with his/hers saunas next to a heated outdoor swimming pool and spa.

RALLY REGISTRATION DUE BY JULY 30, 2008.

The registration form was included with the June newsletter, but it is available on the web site, too.

Rally Road

August 21-24

**Yakama Nation RV Park, Toppenish, WA
CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST**

Bring one or more grandchildren to fun-filled days with activities for all ages. If you don't have grandchildren, or choose not to rent-a-kid, you will enjoy the events planned around the Christmas theme. Come



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 Slaight**Deputy Sheriff:**
Bob Powers**Historian:** Norma Schultz**Membership & Sunshine:**
Kathy Storrs – Patty Kirschner
Penny Kinder**Newsletter:**
Duke & Sandie Blakley**Web Master:**
Sandie Blakley
sandie@cbcruisers.org**Web Site:**
<http://www.cbcruisers.org>**Cruise'n on CB Channel #14**

Nat'l Directors Report

By Duke Blakley

I will take this opportunity to talk about several items on the horizon for our club. These are items that sort of fall through the cracks of responsibility.

First of all, We, Sandie and I encourage all of you to continually check the web site to see the latest items of interest. For example, we are publishing all rally registrations as soon as we get them, so they can be used for planning purposes prior to the newsletter being published. That way we can get a jump on getting information to the Rally Host. The rally forms will also be included in the mailings because not all members have access to the web.

Speaking of the web site, the Board commissioned us to find a web site that has a high degree of security, is easily accessible, and has a large storage capacity. The one we will use includes a free domain name (cbcruisers.org), 7500 GB bandwidth (speed), 750 GB web space (storage), and unlimited e-mail addresses. The Board authorized up to \$150.00 per year, and this site we have chosen will cost \$6.95 per month or about \$84.00 annually. The site will be up and running by the time you read this. We will set up email addresses for all members in good standing in the club, and will email you your address and how to access it. An example of an e-mail address would be duke@cbcruisers.org. Each husband and wife may have an address. If a second Duke joins the club, his email address would be duke2@cbcruisers.org. We decided not to use last names for security reasons.

We need to be very timely on getting out the Ballots for new officers, and getting them returned so they can be tabulated. Also, there is the consideration of the dues for year 2009. Members can save postage by including their dues in the same envelopes with the ballots. And speaking of dues, it appears the club is doing well enough that the dues can remain the same for 2009. We are still in need of a Nomination/Volunteer for President 2009.

While I was in the process of writing this article Sandie and I had the opportunity to make the 1st rally at the Four Seasons Resort at Sprague Lake. What a turn out!

One of the discussions at the rally center around "what was FMCA doing for us when they were going to increase our dues again." Well, good news! The attending National Directors and Alternate Nat. Directors voted down the Dues increase so they will remain the same as the last three years.

The attending members are standing up to the "professionals" back at FMCA Headquarters. These are items that needed to take place for FMCA to continue to be a service to members.

Other Good News that has come from the convention that has helped to keep membership costs down: • Promotion/Marketing reduced \$106,000 eliminating the "free" atlas to new members. • Convention-Entertainment-Winter reduced \$30,000. • Convention-Entertainment-Summer reduced \$32,000. • Travel & Living-Incoming/Outgoing EB deleted \$25,000. • Travel & Living-VP's-Area visits deleted \$24,000. • Travel & Living-Staff reduced \$30,000.

Administrative: The following are being reduced because of retirements or other voluntary staff reductions: • Employee Benefits-Insurance reduced \$24,000. • Employee 401K reduced \$5,800. • Payroll Taxes reduced \$14,400. • Salaries reduced \$180,000. The total of the last four items is \$224,200 or about half of the original budget deficit.

Don't Miss These Upcoming Rallies

August 21-24, Yakama Nations RV Resort

The registration form is on the web site, and the deadline is July 30th. See the activities and directions on Page 1 of the newsletter.

September 11-14, Pier 4 RV Resort, Moses Lake

The registration form is on the web site, and the deadline is August 21st. Hosts are Duane and Donna Peterson.

October 17-19, Alderwood RV Resort

This will be a fun-filled October Fest so don't miss it. The registration form is on the web site, and the hosts, Guy and Suzi Thompson. They're planning a spook-tacular good time for all.

