



# THE CRUISER

NOVEMBER 2008

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

## 2009 Rally Dates

### April 24-26

Spring Barrel Tasting at Prosser, WA.  
Board-sponsored rally at Wine Country RV Park.

### May

Unknown

### June

Unknown

### June FMCA NW Rally

June 4-7, Albany, OR. "West is Best!"

### July

Unknown

### August 14-16

North Bend, WA, Hosts: Bob and Shirley Miller.

### September 10-13

Grandview, WA, Hosts: Mike and Pat Stegeman and Don and Phyllis Riel.

### October 3-5

Hoodsport, WA, Pete and Donna Peterson.

If you would like to host, please call Wagonmaster Sandra Powers or President Marlene Laughton (509) 244-5449 before the next issue of the newsletter.

## From the President

*By Marlene Laughton*

Just a few thoughts for the coming year. We will be looking at some modifications to our bylaws/standing rules so we can accomplish business more expeditiously, as I know how popular long meetings are for everyone including me. Look for details in the February Newsletter.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year. We have a new wagon master, Sandra Powers, and I know she has some wonderful ideas. Several months are already spoken for, so if you have a favorite spot you want to visit and host a rally there, let Sandra know.

In the coming year we will be addressing over the internet newsletter delivery for those with access. This will save on printing and postage costs which help to keep our dues low. The newsletter is one of the club's largest expenses. Members without internet access will still receive the newsletter by snail mail.

Check out the new CBC web site, it's awesome. Members can obtain an email address through the CBC web site. Drop our web master, Sandie Blakley, an email to request yours. Our last rally of the year was a memorable one. See the report by Guy and Suzi Thompson. Till we meet down the road. Marlene

## Nat'l Directors Report

*By Duke Blakley*

Things are settling down for a while as the winter comes upon us and activities start to slow down. A lot has changed since our last newsletter. Our new Area Vice President, Judy Keppler, is starting to settle in and her staff has begun their fun.

At the September Planning Meeting held in Moses Lake, both the CBC outgoing President (Bullet) and the President-Elect (Marlene) attended the meeting, along with myself. A good portion of the two-day meeting centered on where to plan for the 2010-2011 Northwest Area Conventions to be scheduled. In addition, budget items and procedures to clarify bylaws were discussed.

The next convention, June 4-7, 2009, will be held in Albany, OR, as it was this past summer. The theme was discussed and finally, three proposals were decided upon, and it was agreed that Sandie Blakley would take the three proposals and do the graphics design and submit them to Judy's board. The theme is "West is Best" and a logo has been accepted for 2009. If you have an interest in the minutes of that planning meeting, you can see those at <http://www.fmcanw.org>.

One of FMCA'S major goals for 2009 is retention of members. Along with that in mind is to have a mentoring program. The details have not been made available as yet, but I understand it is in the works.

Mentoring should also be a major consideration of our club. It may be that we want to review either the Hospitality Sunshine or the membership categories of our standing rules to incorporate this concept into one of those categories.

## Rally Road

**Hosts are still needed for  
May, June and July Rallies.**

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

### Hosts: Duane and Donna Peterson and Jim and Marlene Slaight

By Duke Blakley



Seventeen coaches attended the next to last rally, with the weather cooperating beautifully. They were John & Helen Njus, Don & Phyllis Riel, Bob & Sandra Powers, Tom & Kathy Storrs, Morrie & Pat Sorensen, Jim & Marlene Slaight, Bill & Marilyn Neavill, Mike & Pat Stegeman, Ed Gottschalk, Gene & Alice Harwood, Frank & Della Ward, Terry & Linda Sherer, Jerry & Evelyn Searl, Roger & Linda Ferrell, Duane & Donna Peterson, Duke & Sandie Blakley, and Bullet & Marlene Laughton. Many of our members arrived early to attend such activities as the Antique Car Museum and Memories are Forever. Morrie Sorensen visited his father's five antique cars there that were on display.

Friday evening the hosts prepared a dinner of Hot Dogs, Chilli, fruit and deserts. After dinner, a business meeting was called by President Bullet Laughton, for the purpose of accepting a slate of officers that were presented at the membership meeting in Toppenish. With no additional nominations from the floor, the slate was closed. Those names were forwarded to the Secretary for mailing of ballots.

Saturday morning we traveled to Papa's Sports Lounge for breakfast. John and Helen Njus' son, daughter in law and grandson joined us Saturday night at the home of Gene and Alice Harwood for a potluck. The Harwood's home looks out over Moses Lake and we enjoyed a very beautiful sunset. Many thanks go the Gene and Alice for allowing us into their beautiful home.

On Sunday morning as we were all preparing to leave, the Blakleys honored us with a parade around the RV park before they remembered to lower their 20-foot flag on the back of their coach. It was good that the rally had

closed by that time or Sheriff Jim could have added them to his "Fine Purse." Enjoy the photos on the web site taken by Linda Scherer and Sandie Blakley.



## Web Site Redesign

By Sandie Blakley, Webmaster/Editor

I would like to encourage all of our members to go to our web site [www.cbcrusers.org](http://www.cbcrusers.org) and take a look. It is our intent, and the executive board's, for you all to become familiar with our site. Not only will there be information on all the upcoming rallies, as well as the Rally Entry forms, but a lot of other exciting information.

We even have a Member Photo Page. Go to the Members page and click on "Photo Roster." Currently, we have members who have allowed us to take their pictures at rallies in 2008, but eventually, we hope to have all of our CBC family members' photos as well their identity. Putting faces on our members would be extremely helpful to the new members we hope to entice to our club.

In addition, we hope to be able to feature such interests as quilting, fishing, golfing and other hobbies, and we already have a classified page for selling as well as for listing items wanted. Now we just need members to use it.

Also, as some of you know already, with this new site, we also have the capability to have our own e-mail boxes, such as [Duke@cbcrusers.org](mailto:Duke@cbcrusers.org). Each member will have the ability to have his or her own name to add to "xxxx@cbcrusers.org." That becomes your new or added e-mail address. If you would like a cbcrusers e-mail address, just email me at [sandie@cbcrusers.org](mailto:sandie@cbcrusers.org). I'll be happy to set you up.



If any of our members go South for the winter, and would like to share that information with others, we could have a "Winter Destination Page." In case others might be in the area, they might stop by to break bread with you or just to visit. All that would be required would be for you to notify the webmaster to add that information to our site. If you can think of other ways to use this fun and informative tool, please let us know.

### Minutes of August 8, 2008 Member Meeting

Toppenish, WA. Second Vice President, Roger Ferrell called the meeting of the Columbia Basin Cruisers to order at 7 p.m.

New Business: a nominations committee presented the following slate of officers for 2009: President, Marlene Laughton; First Vice President, Sandra Powers; Second Vice President, Roger Ferrell; Secretary, Penny Kinder; Treasurer, Pat Stegeman; National Director, Duke Blakley; Alternate National Director, Terry Scherer. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate of officers as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Rules House Cleaning: It was moved and seconded that Duke Blakley correct the outline numbering/lettering of the CBC Standing Rules. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit Committee: Standing Rules require that the CBC Treasurer's books be audited in September 2008. Linda Phippen and Pat Stegeman volunteered, and Penny Kinder was nominated as the third member of the auditing team.

2009 Northwest Area Rally in Albany, Oregon. There was an indication that four coaches from CBC plan to attend the 2009 Northwest Area Rally in Albany, Oregon. Duke Blakley was appointed to coordinate attendance of CBC members and any volunteer positions.

CBC Hats. Several members are interested in purchasing CBC hats. Sandie Blakley volunteered to research the cost of buying new hats as they exist and alternatives.

For the Good of the Order. Sandie Blakley has created a new CBC web site that can be accessed at [www.cbcrusers.org](http://www.cbcrusers.org). It includes pictures of members, rally dates and corresponding registration forms, membership applications, a list of current officers, the capability for e-mail addresses for members, a classified area and other information pertinent to RVing. An area for suggestions is being added. This is the members' web site, so members should contact Sandie Blakley at [sandie@cbcrusers.org](mailto:sandie@cbcrusers.org) with anything else they would like to see included.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

**CBC Officers****President:** Marlene Laughton**1st Vice President & Wagon Master:**  
Sandra Powers**2nd Vice President & Membership:**  
Roger Ferrell**Secretary:** Penny Kinder**Treasurer:** Pat Stegeman**National Director:**  
Duke Blakley**Alternate National Director:**  
Terry Scherer**Immediate Past President:**  
Roy Laughton**2008-2009 Nominating Committee:**  
Duke Blakley**Sheriff:** Jim Slaughter**Deputy Sheriff:**  
Bob Powers**Historian:** Norma Schultz**Membership & Sunshine:**  
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**

## October 17-19 Alderwood RV Resort, Mead, WA A Spook-tacular Rally

"And the laughter could be heard from afar" describes the entire weekend spent among the glory of turning trees and being grateful to feel the warmth of the sunshine in October.

Friday and Saturday saw visits by members to CatTails, Green Bluff Orchards (where eagle eye Tom Storrs won two pies with a cannon shot), the WSQ quilt show, Cabelas, and RV businesses, with a lot of chatting and "catching up" being done.



Saturday evening brought smoked turkey with all the fixin's to honor and celebrate the close friendships we are privileged to have with each other.

The highlight was when everyone put on their altered ego balloon hats and roared with laughter. Oh, the tales that came out! Ask how these hats improved Roger Ferrell's and Don Riel's reputations! Speaking of altered ego—Gary Pennington graced our presence with Halloween Horror

as he turned into a monster. Following dinner, games, prizes, and apple bobbing were in order, proving that many members really do know how to swim!

Sunday breakfast nourished us prior to heading out, just in case any coach needed a copilot pushing it the last mile or two. As we look back on the weekend, we are filled with warm memories and smiles. As fall progresses, we are so looking forward to continuing all this fun next spring.

Members who enjoyed all this fun were Jerry and Evelyn Searl; Bill and Penny Kinder; Don and Phyllis Riel; Bullet and Marlene Laughton; Mike and Pat Stegeman; Gary and Linda Pennington; Tom and Kathy Storrs; Roger and Linda Ferrell; Jim and Marlene Slaughter; Guy and Suzi Thompson and Jan Trutton.



*Photos above: (top) Marlene Slaughter and friend, a.k.a. Gary Pennington. Having fun at dinner are (left to right) Linda Pennington, Penny Kinder, Bill Kinder, Roger Ferrell, Linda Ferrell, and Jan Trutton.*