



# THE CRUISER

JULY 2010

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

## 2010 RALLIES

### August 11-14

FMCA Rally, Redmond, OR.

### August 19-20

Lincoln City, OR.

### September 23-26

Clarkston, Washington, Premiere RV Park.

### October 1-2

Pasco, Horn Rapids RV Resort.

## SAVE THESE DATES!

## 2011 RALLIES

### August 11-14

Logger's Jubilee. Hosts: Wayne and Barbara Johnson. Parking in Mossy Rock, with travel to Morton, Washington.

### September 23-25

Prosser Balloon Fest. Hosts: Slaights, Petersons and Stegemans.



## Thoughts from the President



By Roger Ferrell

At the meeting at the Bickleton rally, a motion passed to review the differences between a regular chapter and associate chapter. Please read and review the document with this newsletter entitled "A New Type of FMCA Chapter." You will soon be receiving your ballot to vote for 2011 officers and the ballot will include a place to vote on if the Columbia Basin Cruisers should continue to be a regular chapter or change and become an associate chapter next year.

We are not going to have a quorum at the August rally for officer nominations, but we still have business to conduct. Therefore, check your e-mail or this newsletter for details and send me your response or return the enclosed form to Roger Ferrell, 4520 E. Sumac Dr., Spokane, WA 99223 as soon as possible.

Getting back to the fun part of the Columbia Basin Cruisers—everyone had a good time at the rally in Bickleton, whether they were eating the catered Paradise Rose chuck wagon dinner and breakfast or attended all of the community activities or relaxed around their coaches. The weather was perfect, and again, Bob and Sandra Powers did a great job!

While I didn't attend the Athena rally, from Sandra's overview, it sounds like they had a good time. We are looking forward to Lincoln City and seeing you there!

We hope to see more of you in attendance this fall. There are still some great events coming up! Oh, and in September we anticipate that Andy and Kathy Balogh, the National Vice President and Secretary of the Northwest Area FMCA will attend. We also need a quorum to count the ballots for the 2011 officers.

## A New Type of FMCA Chapter

A change has been made by FMCA to allow a new type of chapter, known as an associate chapter. In the past, it has taken a minimum of 20 FMCA member families to form an FMCA chapter. Once started, a chapter needed at least 15 active FMCA memberships to continue its recognition as a chapter. A chapter has been required to have at least six chapter officers: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, national director, and alternate national director. The national director serves as the chapter's representative on the FMCA Governing Board. This is the group of members that gather each year to vote on important issues and elect national officers. The Governing Board has now authorized the opportunity to establish "associate chapters."

An associate chapter will need only 10 FMCA member families to form. Once started, the associate chapter can grow to various sizes. An associate chapter has to maintain seven active FMCA memberships to continue recognition and qualification as a chapter. An associate chapter will be required to have four (not six) chapter officers: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. It will NOT have a voice on the Governing Board or in the governance of FMCA, however, because it will not have a national director or alternate. (In talking with Andy Balogh who is the National Vice President for the Northwest Area, he indicated that if a chapter in the area decided to become an associate chapter that the president of that chapter would still be invited to any Northwest area meetings and still have a voice. Keep in mind that the associate chapter is brand new to FMCA and other changes may come down.)

Other than those differences, all will pretty much be the same. Associate chapters will benefit by having the same insurance coverage FMCA affords regular chapters.

Associate chapters can be formed by FMCA members for the same social and sharing purposes as regular

(continued on page 2)

**CBC Officers****President:** Roger Ferrell**1st Vice President & Wagon Master:**

Sandra Powers

**2nd Vice President:**  
Bob Miller**Secretary:** Penny Kinder**Treasurer:** Pat Stegeman**National Director:**  
John Njus**Alternate National Director:**  
Gary Pennington**Immediate Past President:**  
Marlene Laughton**2009-2010 Nominating Committee:**Bob Miller, Linda Pennington,  
and Mike Stegeman**Sheriff:** Jim Slaight**Deputy Sheriff:**  
Bob Powers**Historian:** Norma Schultz**Membership:**  
Marlene Laughton**Sunshine:**  
Patty Kirschner**Newsletter:**  
Sandie Blakley**Web Master:**  
Sandie Blakley  
sandie@cbcruisers.org**Web Site:**  
<http://www.cbcruisers.org>**Cruise'n on CB Channel #14**

# Rally Road

*By Sandra Powers*

## July Rally Report

On Thursday, July 8th, eight coaches arrived in Athena and parked at the elementary school to enjoy the 35th annual Athena Caledonian Games in rather hot weather! We enjoyed a wonderful dinner in Weston on Friday night, in a building that was built in 1874. The parade, concerts, dancing, Caledonian games and sheep dog trials began Saturday morning, and we were all in awe at how well the Border Collies worked in the trials on the very large field which was larger than a football field. There were many activities going on in the City Park and at the athletic field where we could watch from our shady spot. We enjoyed the concerts in the city park of Celtic music, the food vendors, horseshoe contest, the bagpipers and the games. Sixteen clans were there and some of us even found our tartans!

The Boise Highlanders played their bagpipes and drums, crossing the bridge from the City Park to the vendor area!

Saturday night was an adventure to the food booths to see what looked yummy. Should we mention that Wayne had two large root beer floats, and some of us tried the corn dogs wrapped in bacon while others ate the pies they had bought from a vendor—an interesting evening food wise. We enjoyed the Saturday evening “Tattoo” and the drummers with the Desert Thistle Pipes and Drum band, from the Tri-Cities, were most amazing with their drumming—something I won’t forget for awhile! Then Don and Bertha brought out ice cold watermelon to enjoy in the shade and a thank you to them. With a tree close by and three awnings provided by Jim and Marlene Slaight we stayed fairly cool with a light breeze blowing. The nights brought you wanting to find a blanket near morning. It was great to be in Athena to celebrate the Scottish music, heritage and games.

*A New Type of Chapter (continued from page 1)*

chapters, or a regular chapter can become an associate chapter by just indicating a desire to modify its bylaws so as to reflect the chapter’s wishes. A copy of the revised chapter bylaws and the minutes of the meeting wherein this was voted on would need to be submitted with the request to change the chapter’s status. Changing a chapter’s status from one type of chapter to another can be done only once a year when the chapter’s annual certification is submitted.

### Why the creation of associate chapters?

First, FMCA is getting older. Some of the older chapters (meaning the length of time that the chapter has been around) are having trouble maintaining the appropriate number of FMCA members required to be annually certified. While their membership numbers have decreased, these smaller groups still desire the affiliation and protection that FMCA provides for chapters. And they certainly are not ready to quit rallying with the longtime friends they have made through FMCA chapter membership.

Second, some have discovered it is difficult to find 20 member families to form a new chapter; usually, members of existing chapters are asked to join in order for the chapter to get started. With the smaller requirement, associate chapters can be formed with as few as 10 families. Then, as they grow and increase in number, they can consider the option of becoming a regular chapter with the governance structure and opportunity for representation.

Third, some existing regular chapters are not interested in being a part of the governance of FMCA and struggle (i.e., Columbia Basin Cruisers) to find members who can or will travel to attend the Governing Board meetings. They will now have the opportunity to rally and enjoy a social network and not be required to ask people to serve as national directors or alternates.

**If you missed getting the September Rally Form in the mail, you can find it on the web site (<http://cbcruisers.org/registration/10sepreg.pdf>).**

**Also on the site, don’t miss the Athena Rally Frozen Fruit Cup recipe!**