

Look for Coach House's new Web site at www.coachhousesrv.com

Letter From The President

It's that time again for the snowbirds to return and an opportunity for you to get to know fellow Coach House owners and meet your present board of directors and our candidates for election to serve in 2001.

I cordially invite all members and non-members to be part of our second annual Coach House Owners' Club International Rally, to be held in Nokomis, Fla., Nov. 2 through Nov. 5, 2000.

Non-members, you will have an opportunity to join if you wish at the Rally.

Election Time

If you are interested in holding a position as officer — President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Director or Alternate National Director — contact our Nominating Committee as soon as possible. Since CHOC is based in Florida, and most CHOC meetings take place in Florida, residence in Florida, or willingness to travel to Florida for regular meetings, is a necessary consideration for prospective officers.

The Nominating Committee consists of the following:

CH #044 Bob Schneider and Pauline Stevens, 31515 Betts Road, Myakka City, FL 34251-9407. Phone: (941) 322-2003. E-mail: srqbobs@aol.com

CH #037 Donald and Wyanda Mitchell, 2692 N.E. Hwy. 70, No. 413, Arcadia, FL 34266. Phone: (863) 491-8339. E-mail: wmitch@desoto.net

Rally Hosts

If anyone is interested in being a Host for a rally, please contact our Rally Coordinator, Jerry Wolff, or myself (phone numbers and e-mail addresses are

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Attendees enjoy happy hour at the CHOC Region 9 Rally in Ohio Sept. 1-3.

Weather Fails to Dampen Spirits of Rally Attendees

By Lex & Barbara Barnes, Rally Hosts

Eight Coach House motorhomes, 14 CHOC members and six dogs attended the first Great Lakes Region 9 Rally Sept. 1-3 at South Charleston, Ohio, and a good time was had by all. Especially the K-9 participants.

The Fair at New Boston near Springfield, Ohio, and the U.S. Air Force Museum in Fairborn were the main attractions for the weekend. Both are worthy destinations, and in spite of some nasty weather, were enjoyed by our hardy lot of travelers from Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

As first-time Rally hosts, we learned that it's really the people that make any event successful, and this group did just that. All contributed with great stories, shared tips and camping expertise, told hilarious jokes (old and new), demonstrated hidden talents, and most of all made us all proud to be a part of such a responsible camping family.

We were in awe of our local Coach House dealers in Springfield, Jim and Jennifer

Weiss of Weiss RV Center. They provided us with the loan of a beautiful Platinum Coach House for use as our shuttle to and from the Fair, a huge tent shelter, tables and chairs, coffee urn, and all that goes with it. They also picked up all camping site fees for all participants for the entire weekend. We will never forget them and will be forever grateful.

And a personal note to rally attendees Bill and Mixie Heckelman, Joe and Sue Henry, Mary Ann Kennedy, Don and Wyanda Mitchell, Bob Schneider and Pauline Stevens, Mary Ann Washington and Bern and Marlene Wolsky:

I wish there were better words to thank you for coming and making this rally special. Both your support and encouragement were so very much appreciated. The conversations and jokes were the best.

As I look back I realize that it really is the people that make the event and this was a great group of good sports. So what do sweltering heat, humidity, wind and rain matter anyway?

E-mail for the RVer

By **Bern Wolsky**, *National Director*

When we leave home on an extended trip in our Coach House van, one of my main concerns is: How are we going to access our e-mail? These are the primary options:

- Regular Internet Service Provider (ISP)
- national on-line services such as AOL, Compuserve, Earthlink, Mindspring, etc.
- Web-based e-mail, usually free, such as Microsoft Hotmail, Juno.com, Yahoo!.com, Mac.com, etc.
- "free" ISP connections such as Kmart's Blue Light and Altavista Free Access.

Let's take a look at each option.

The Regular ISP

Perhaps the simplest, most reliable and workable technique is making a long distance call to your regular ISP on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. In the long run it's probably also the cheapest. Our ISP costs \$15 a month for unlimited service. Hooking up to one of our children's telephone connections, and reimbursing them for the call at 10¢, 7¢ or 5¢ a minute or even their usual undiscounted cost, is rather economical. But there are times when this just doesn't work — finding a telephone connection while you're on the road can be difficult (see below).

Online Services

AOL, or another on-line service like it, is the best solution for the Snowbird who lives in the North for six months and in the South for six months. You can maintain the same e-mail address both North and South and switch access phone numbers when you move. Many feel it's worth the higher \$22.95 AOL monthly fee for the simplicity and convenience. I personally don't care for AOL. It's more expensive, and restrictive on messages and attachments incoming from other ISPs. But AOL has over 22 million subscribers, so they must be doing something right.

Web-Based E-mail

HotMail, Yahoo!, Juno.com, Apple, and many others allow individuals to register on their sites and set up Web-based e-mail accounts. These are called "free" e-mail accounts, but this isn't exactly correct. It doesn't cost you money to register for these sites, but you do give up a good

deal of privacy and are subjected to banner advertising as a captive audience.

Unfortunately, with such Web-based e-mail services, your incoming e-mail messages are not available to you when you are offline (unless you copy and paste them into a word-processor while you are online), and, similarly, you must be online to compose e-mail messages, unless you compose offline and copy and paste.

But these sites have one great feature which make them worth enduring the inconvenience. They allow you to designate up to four other e-mail addresses that will be checked when you log in. You can also structure the account options to download only copies of e-mail messages and leave the original messages at the other ISPs.

Free ISP Connections

I am aware of two. The first is called Blue Light and is provided by Kmart and Yahoo. The last time I checked, this service was available only for Windows-based PCs and not for the Mac. Free CDs with instructions and software are available at Kmart photo electronics departments.

Altavista Free Access (AFA) is available for both PC and the Mac. Instructions and software can be downloaded at www.altavista.com, or a CD can be requested by calling the 800 number provided.

In my opinion, AFA is the best available free ISP. I've been using it for about five months and have been able to connect in a number of geographical areas. AFA has thousands of phone numbers across the country.

Once you have installed the program, you add access numbers by typing in the area code where you are located, and selecting from the list of phone numbers that comes on the screen. I generally dial the access number from the phone I will be using as a test before selecting it in the software.

I've been trying this AFA system up and down the East Coast with good results. If a phone connection is available in a friend's or relative's house, I can usually hookup. Big cities or metropolitan areas are usually the easiest. I found numbers available and was able to connect in Naples, Fla.; Sykesville, Md.; Germantown, Md.; Freeport, Maine (a half-dozen numbers were available and I connected from the campground's office). I was unable to connect from a friend's house in Highlands, N.C.

Platinum Shines On Road Trip

By **Wes Knadle**, *Coach House Factory Representative*

There has been a tremendous amount of anticipation at the factory about the new 23-foot Class C motorhome, the Platinum, which we've been developing for over a year. It's so new that as of this article, only eight have been manufactured . . . but seven have already been sold.

My wife and I had the privilege of delivering the first Platinum out of state to our dealership in Ohio, Weiss RV. Along the way we stopped to show existing and prospective dealers this new entry to the sleek and upscale Class C market. The response was fantastic! Not only from dealers, but from people all along the way. It turned heads everywhere we went, and phone calls started coming in to the factory inquiring about the "beautiful new motor home" they'd just seen along the highway.

Our trip took us through flat land in Georgia and Virginia and through mountains in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. We drove 2,200 miles before arriving in Ohio. It was one of the most enjoyable road trips we've ever taken. The vehicle handled extremely well in every type of situation: wet or dry, mountains or flat. It was simply a joy to drive. It provided all the power and stability needed in each situation. On at least one occasion, when passing a slower tractor-trailer rig ahead of approaching traffic, I had the vehicle comfortably up to 85 mph (don't tell the Highway Patrol.)

One of my coincidental responsibilities was to evaluate the new Platinum for equipment functioning and any possible road noises. I'm happy to report to you as I did to the company, that all systems worked flawlessly and there was virtually no road noise. It was truly a pleasurable trip made so by the handling and performance of the newest Coach House family member, the Platinum 232.

And as if on cue, on the final leg of the trip, I was met by a final test: a nasty storm system; ugly, dark skies, big bolts of lightning, heavy sleet. *Continued on Page 3*

Club*News*

Rally Chair Appointed

By **Bern Wolsky**, *National Director*

There were two items from the Minutes of the last Board Meeting that should be noted here.

Appointment of Board Member

It was suggested that we add another Board member, to fill the office of Vice President, whose job would be Rally Chairman. We would have to change the by-laws at the November convention for the entire membership vote. This would have to put into the Newsletter so that the membership will have 30 days notice of the impending change of by-laws.

Mr. Wolsky moved that we recommend to the general membership that we increase the Board membership by one to elect a second Vice President who will be the official Rally Master as a full Board officer. Ms. Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Blascak will submit the list of willing candidates to the nominating committee. Nomination will also be taken from the

floor at the November International Rally. At the rally the candidates will introduce themselves to the membership.

It was also suggested that when the nominating committee seeks candidates for office, to ask that the people who will be running for office be located in or near Florida, or be willing to travel to Florida for Board meetings, because logistically it would be better to have people who can get together more readily throughout the year.

Policies

It was suggested and discussed that policies were needed to set a level of excellence for the members of the Board to follow to maintain an efficient organization. The following policies were initiated.

Ms. Kennedy moved to adopt a policy to maintain the health and welfare of the organization that in order to maintain Board membership, Board members shall not miss more than two Board meetings annually without reasonable cause, as determined by the Board. If this policy is not adhered to, said Board member could be asked to resign. Ms. Wolsky seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kennedy moved to adopt a policy to maintain the health and welfare of the organization each Board member is required to have full attendance at two rallies annually. Mr. Wolsky seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Platinum Road Trip

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rain; and 50-60 mph cross winds causing traffic to slow to 30-40 mph and tractor trailers to pull off the road for safety. Once again this aerodynamic vehicle handled better than expected! I slowed down and, though feeling the buffeting of the wind, it tracked true and straight. Not once did I become concerned about my safety or that of the vehicle.

This new Platinum is a jewel! Performance coupled with fantastic curb appeal makes for the promise of many years of proud and enjoyable ownership. I encourage everyone to see one soon. You'll be glad you did.

President's Letter

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on the back page). We would like to hear from the members.

We are looking for a host for the Spring Rally and future rallies for this season. Anyone with suggestions, please feel free to speak up at the Rally. We are always open to suggestions. Remember, this is also your club.

If you would be interested in volunteering to help assist in assorted ways at this or future rallies, please contact Jerry or me.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Rally. The more, the merrier.

Carole W. Blascak, President

International Rally Slated For Nov. 2-5

It's Rally time! Our annual Coach House Owners' Club International Rally is scheduled for November 2-5, 2000 at the Stay-N-Play RV Resort in Nokomis, Fla. This is the same place we were at last November. They have a new management team at Stay-N-Play, and they have been

Registration Form
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very cooperative and helpful. They have promised to set aside at least 75 of the closest sites to the clubhouse for our use, so the earlier that you register with them, the better the site.

This rally is about food-food-food.

Thursday is check-in with a wine and cheese party at 4 p.m. Dinner is on your own, and at 7:30, let's play cash Bingo.

Friday morning after coffee and donuts you'll have time to tour the local sites and attractions on your own until lunch. We'll furnish the lunch. Again in the afternoon you can tour on your own or socialize until dinner time. It's the famous All-You-Can-Eat Pizza Party. We've even got dessert pizzas. Friday evening is live music for your dancing or listening pleasure.

Saturday after coffee and donuts we'll tour the Coach House factory and see the new Class C Platinum 232. Lunch at noon will again be on us. Our Official Chapter Meeting will be held after lunch and will include the election of officers for the coming year. The nominating committee will present a slate of candidates, and nominations will be accepted from the floor, so be prepared to nominate or vote for your favorite candidate.

Saturday afternoon will be devoted to Regional Meetings and workshops, so you will have a chance to discuss and plan our future rallies. Saturday night it's Sonny's BBQ courtesy of Coach House, followed by the music of "The Traveler," who is back by popular request from our spring rally.

Sunday morning it's omelet time, with omelets made to order. We'll also be giving away all the door prizes. After breakfast we will take a group picture of Rally attendees. It's going to be a busy weekend, and we look forward to seeing everybody in Noko-

CHOC*Talk*

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Coach House Owners' Club Second Annual International Convention November 2-5, 2000 • Nokomis, Florida

Stay-N-Play, 899 Knight's Trail Road, Nokomis, FL 34275. (Exit 35-A off I-75, east on Laurel Road to Knight's Trail Road. Follow sign to Stay-N-Play.) You must reserve your own campsite. For reservations call 1-800-437-9397 and mention that you are with the Coach House Owners' Club. Special rate is \$22.00 per night with full hookups.

Rally Fee: \$40 for two persons per coach; \$30 for one person per coach.

Pre-registration Deadline: Oct. 22, 2000

LAST NAME FIRST NAME SPOUSE'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE (INCLUDE AREA CODE) NUMBER OF PERSONS IN COACH

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Are you a Coach House Owners' Club Member? Yes No

Return this form along with payment to: Coach House Owners' Club, c/o Jerry Wolff, 9015 41st Way N., Pinellas Park, FL 33782. Phone (727) 217-0740. E-mail: jbwolff@juno.com