

Look for Coach House's new Web site at [www.coachhousesrv.com](http://www.coachhousesrv.com)

## Letter From The President

By Bern Wolsky, *President*

First of all I'd like to thank everyone for granting me the privilege of being president of such an interesting and active club. It seems that almost everybody is a happy camper and an active traveler, ready to move out at a moment's notice. Traveling club members are happy club members. Our mission as club officers is to keep you well-informed about your Coach House vehicle and about the RV lifestyle, and to have a good time while doing so.

Marlene and I had fun this past year. We made four trips last year — to Maryland to visit relatives, to Las Vegas and back, to Tucson and back, and a long trek through Maine (FMCA Convention), Michigan, Ohio and back.

Our club's first year was successful and filled with accomplishment, even though many of us were learning on the job. FMCA membership has many advantages such as voice mail, mail forwarding, car rental discounts, etc, etc. But FMCA is a huge organization and growing larger all the time, as are the RVs that the large majority of FMCA members drive. A possible exception to this rule is a chapter such as ours, with our preference for the small Class B van camper, which I like to refer to as a sub-compact Class A motorhome. Our van was dwarfed by the rest of the RVs at the Brunswick Convention, but we were able to dry-camp in our van for six days without dumping or taking on water (but just barely).

Some administrative matters. Dues are due on 1 January - please send them in to Wyanda Mitchell, our new Treasurer. Dues for first year are \$25 (with \$15

*Continued on Page 3*

## Ingenious Owners Make A Good Thing Even Better

By Bern Wolsky

When we became a backpacking family in the late Sixties, cutting down on backpack weight became an obsession. Dehydrated foods were a must, as were lightweight tents and Ensolite pads. I even remember cutting off the long handles on toothbrushes to avoid carrying extra ounces on the hike.

In some ways van camper owners are similar to backpackers. But instead of saving weight, they are looking for storage space in all sorts of nooks and crannies. Or they seek to come up with some sort of unique device, or practical solution to a problem. It's not that they are dissatisfied with the factory outfitting of the van, but that they seek to personalize their van in some way that wins the approval and kudos of their traveling companions.

With this article I'd like to describe and

document some of these solutions, along with crediting the originator of the idea. On a recent weekend campout, CHOC officers shared some of their ideas. I'm hoping that the following article will stimulate other CHOC members to do the same. Just send me a paragraph describing your idea or solution, along with a photograph if you can, or let me know at a Rally and I'll take pictures of your idea for you.

### Pantry Space

By Bern and Marlene Wolsky

Our 192KS Coach House came with a pullout pantry right behind the driver's seat. The pantry shelves had an oak railing resembling a little banister, about 3/4 inch wide, to prevent items from falling off the shelves. But every time

*Continued on Page 2*



Strips of plastic laminate replace the railings on pantry shelves, allowing for the storage of larger items in the pantry

# Owners Adapt Their Vans

*Continued from Page 1*

we pulled out the pantry, we resented giving up that 3/4 inch slab of space to the pantry shelf, wishing instead that we had something else to hold the items on the shelf that wouldn't take up so much space.

I settled on using some scrap 1/16-inch plastic laminate, which I cut into strips 3 inches high by 12 inches long. I pried up the railing, which was stapled to the shelf from below, with a heavy screwdriver and pry bar. This task was somewhat difficult — staples imbedded in oak can be difficult to remove.

I cut the 3-inch strips to fit the outside measurements of the shelves, then drilled one-eighth-inch holes through the laminate and into the shelf edges and fastened the strips with small stainless phillips-head screws.

According to my calculations, this adaptation adds only about one-fifth of a cubic foot of storage space. But it adds that additional storage space to existing storage just where it's needed. It enables the adapted shelves to hold Tupperware containers, for example. This is an example, in our opinion, of how a small quantitative change can become a qualitative change, making the pantry shelves much more useful and capacious.



A cutting board and two pieces of wood can be fashioned into a sliding tray.

## Sliding Snack Tables

By Wyanda and Don Mitchell

Idea: Sliding tables to be used for eating or night stands. Don came up the idea of putting some type of sliding board under the closets at the rear of the coach in front of the sofa to use for quick lunches instead of putting up the table. We found that Wal-Mart had wooden cutting boards measuring approximately 15 inches by 21 inches that would just fit. He made wooden sliders by

notching/rabbeting a half-inch out of scrap 2-by-2, making it 16 inches long. Two sliders were made for each tray and held in place with two long screws through each slider into the cabinet above. A bit of the board extends out when cushions are in place but will go completely in when cushions are removed. They are a bit high for eating but do nicely for a quick meal or snack. Also, at night they make great night-stands to hold glasses, alarm clock, or a glass of water.



A cutting board and two pieces of wood can be fashioned into a sliding tray.

## Storage Compartments

By Bob and Pauline Schneider

The compartments at the foot of the sofa bed (in the 192KS) can be opened and converted into storage areas. We removed the cover from the curbside compartment and fastened shallow molding on the inside of the cover to make it fit snugly into the opening.

What we did on the bottom of the compartment to protect the wires can probably be best explained by examining the accompanying picture. We basically tried to separate our storage area (left) from the wires and hot air duct running inside the compartment (right). We used a piece of quarter-inch plywood and a length of 2-by-2 to create a small partition. It makes a useful storage compartment.

# Club*News*

## Friendship Corner

By **Carole W. Blascak**,  
Vice President and Rally Coordinator

**F**riendship doubles our joy and divides our grief.

I am looking forward to my new position in CHOC as rally coordinator.

It would be nice to have members of our club who would be willing to volunteer to host a future rally. I would be very happy to help you plan and organize a rally. I am sure many of you have a special location or event that you would love to share with your new friends. Please feel free to contact me so we can brainstorm together — that's the fun of it all. My goal is to set up a calendar of events for two years in advance, so everyone can make their plans in timely fashion. I would love to hear from you, even if you are not interested in hosting a rally but you have some information you would be interested in sharing.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make our club a success. Without

everyone's help it wouldn't have been possible. Everyone should be very proud of what CHOC has accomplished in just one year.

Write to me! Carole W. Blascak, 3275 26th Ave East No. 103, Bradenton, FL 34208. Telephone (941) 750-0140. E-mail: cseehorst@aol.com

### Secretary's Report

**B**y now everyone should have received a roster. If there are any corrections to your listing please either send them to me by email or snail mail. Our club has added an amendment to the bylaws which now allow us to have two additional vice presidents as elected officers.

### Membership Report

**I**t is time to remind everyone that your yearly dues of \$10.00 are now due. Please make your checks payable to Coach House Owners Club and mail them to our club Treasurer, Wyanda Mitchell, 2692 N.E. Hwy. 70, No. 660, Arcadia, FL 34266. Phone (863) 491-8339. E-mail wmitch@desoto.net.

## President's Letter

*Continued from Page 1*

going toward a name badge) and \$10 a year thereafter. Our Annual Convention at Stay-N-Play in November worked out well — we had a good turnout. I'd like to remind everyone that non-members are invited to attend the Annual Convention, but that invitation is extended only once. To attend a second time (and partake of the delicious food, excellent camaraderie and, not coincidentally, have Armando make minor repairs on your vehicle), you have to be a CHOC member.

Finally, we're trying to get our Rally act together. We're depending on Carole Blascak as Rally Coordinator to get ahead of the power curve. Our goal is to be a year ahead of ourselves, so that members can make their travel plans well in advance. Details will be found elsewhere as they become available, but so far we have a Tarpon Springs Rally scheduled for April 20–22, 2001. Tarpon Springs is a Greek ethnic seafaring community — and the FOOD! Suffice it to say that the Greeks own the

restaurant business! Also in the planning stage are rallies in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. (home of Dollywood and close to Gatlinburg), and possibly the Tropical Palms Resort in Kissimmee near Disney World. More on this later.

Happily travels and Gute Fahrt, as the Germans say.

### Comfort Bath

Richard and Reba Pedigo wrote: "Bern, here's something for the newsletter if you'd care to put it in: Comfort Bath, much better to use than Baby Wipes etc. You can get more info by calling 1-877-926-6367, or get info on-line at: [www.comfortbath.com](http://www.comfortbath.com). We use them and recommend them — so does Paul Harvey."

We called the number for more info. Comfort Bath is a package of eight wash cloths that can be heated in the microwave. It's available in many drugstores (Eckerds, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, among many others) for \$3 to \$5 (prices quoted on the phone). We're going to give them a try.

## Rally to Have Greek Flavor

**A**ll CHOC members are invited to attend a Greek experience April 20–22, 2001!

That's our Spring Rally, to be hosted by Bern and Marlene Wolsky, with the assistance of Carole Blascak. We will visit the town of Tarpon Springs, which is primarily a seafaring ethnic Greek community noted for their expertise in sponge diving. The waterfront area hosts many stores, bakeries

### Registration Form See Page 4

and restaurants featuring shopping and ethnic Greek specialties such as souvlaki, spanokopita, borek, dolmades, etc.

Rally attendees will stay at the Cypress Pointe RV Resort, 37969 U.S. 19 North, Palm Harbor, FL 34684. Cypress Pointe is about six miles from the sponge docks at Tarpon Springs, on the east side of U.S. 19 North, just south of Klosterman Road. We are planning to provide transportation from the campground to Tarpon Springs and back on Saturday.

Plan on arriving at the campground on Friday afternoon. Camp sites are large, grassy, shaded from the afternoon sun and close to the bath house. The club house is farther away but can be reached after a short walk. We are assured that we will be parked relatively close together.

Every coach should bring an inexpensive gift (between \$5 and \$10) to participate in a Yankee Swap Meet.

On Friday afternoon we'll gather and renew friendships (BYOB). On Friday evening we will serve an evening meal of Belly Busters and sauerkraut. Saturday morning, after coffee and donuts, a bus will take us to the sponge docks for a day of shopping, eating, and paid tour on a sponge-diving boat to show how sponges are gathered, graded and sold. We are arranging for a catered Greek-style meal on Saturday evening, provided and served in the Clubhouse by Mr. Souvlaki's Restaurant. We are trying to get some sort of Greek entertainment for Saturday evening but nothing definite yet. Sunday morning we will serve omelets for breakfast and then break for home.

The rally fee is \$75 per coach (with two persons) or \$50 per coach (singles). Pre-registration deadline is April 10, 2001.



# CHOC*Talk*

Coach House Owners' Club Chapter FMCA  
Marlene Wolsky, Secretary  
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## Officers

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**Don Mitchell, Alt. National Director**  
(863) 491-8339 wmitch@desoto.net

## Coach House Owners' Club Spring Rally April 20–22, 2001 • Tarpon Springs, Florida

**Cypress Pointe RV Resort**, 37969 U.S. 19 North, Palm Harbor, FL 34684. Please make your own reservations by calling the resort at (727) 938-1966. Identify yourself as part of the CHOC Rally to qualify for the lower camping fee of \$20 per day for full hookups. Cypress Pointe is about six miles from the sponge docks at Tarpon Springs, on the east side of U.S. 19 North, just south of Klosterman Road.

**Rally Fee:** \$75 for two persons per coach; \$50 for one person per coach.

**Pre-Registration Deadline:** April 10, 2001

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Marlene Wolsky, 160 Venus Cay, Naples, FL 34114. Phone (941) 642-0905.  
E-mail bwolsky@gulfaccess.net.

If you would rather not cut out this form, please write the information on a plain piece of paper.