

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

Letter From The President

By Bern Wolsky, *President*

After the Tarpon Springs Rally, a number of us stayed around for another day of conversation and relaxation. Everyone commented favorably about the just-ended rally and wondered how our Club might follow up with similar successful events. One couple spoke tentatively of hosting a rally in the Biloxi, Miss., area. Several members had recommended a Casino-centered tour because they and a number of other members enjoy gambling. Such a rally would be of interest to non-gambling members also, because of the availability of shows and entertainment in such areas. A second couple spoke, also tentatively, of hosting a rally at or near Lake George N.Y., in the Adirondacks. Marlene and I spoke of our plans for a rally in the Washington, D.C., area (see below).

All of the above are interesting ideas and will be followed up. We will send packets of material on the nitty-gritty details of running rallies to the above couples, but we also solicit the ideas of all members. Many of us live near areas that would be perfect for rallies, but we often overlook the possibilities such areas offer.

A case in point is Washington, D.C. Marlene was born there and I've lived most of my adult life in and out of the D.C. area. Yet it wasn't until just recently that we considered the possibility of hosting a rally there. And yet, after spending three days visiting the Cherry Hill Campground (CHC), it looks like a great place to host a rally. City bus service runs from CHC to the nearest Metro station, which connects to every-

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Rally attendees participate in a "Pocketbook Scavenger Quest" after dinner Saturday.

66 Enjoy a Taste of Greece At Our Tarpon Springs Rally

By Marlene Wolsky

With the weather cooperating, there were 34 Coach House Vans and 66 people attending the Tarpon Springs Rally April 20-21.

The festivities began with a "Belly Buster" dinner on Friday night, followed by a "Yankee Swap Meet."

Saturday morning, after doughnuts, juice and coffee, we all boarded a lovely purple bus to take us down to the sponge docks, where we went on a 40-minute sponge diving exhibition aboard the St. Nicholas.

At 3 p.m. we all returned to the campground, relaxed, and then gathered in the club house for a delicious dinner catered by the Mr. Souvlaki Restaurant from Tarpon Springs. We dined on "Greek Chow Mein," a specialty of the restaurant, Greek salad,

green beans, dolmades, and Greek chicken, finishing with baklava, coffee, ice tea or punch. Door prizes were given out to all attendees after dinner.

Much to the Wolskys disappointment, the planned entertainment for the night never showed up. But the ingenious members of CHOC, Wyanda and Don Mitchell, Pauline Stevens and Bob Schneider, came to the rescue with a hilarious adventure, "Pocketbook Scavenger Quest." From the kitchen all I could hear was laughter. I'm sorry I didn't get to observe the hilarity.

[Note from Bern Wolsky: "I *did* observe the hilarity, and it was something to behold. Members rushing the score-keepers with false teeth in their hands, or waving their wife's bra over their head, etc. What a competitive bunch of people! I had no

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ClubNews

'Arabian Nights' On Tap in Sept.

By **Carole Blascak**
Rally Coordinator

Hello, everyone! Dan and I are looking forward to seeing you at the Arabian Nights Rally Sept. 28–30 at the Tropical Palms Resort in Kissimmee, Fla. We have a great rally planned and are looking forward to a good turnout.

Arrive on Friday. Check in at the office. Campground fee is \$19 per night. Be sure to tell them at registration you are with the CHOC group — your name will already be in the office.

A happy hour is planned Friday afternoon. Bring heavy hors d'oeuvres (and your own drinks) to share with friends. After Happy Hour you might want to visit "Old Town" Kissimmee and the Classic Car Show. There are 75 shops, dining and rides, all within walking distance from the camp-

ground. Or just socialize with friends at the campground.

After Saturday breakfast, time is your own. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., there will be Happy Hour at the Veranda. At 6:30 p.m. we will depart for the Arabian Night Prime Rib Dinner and show (transportation back and forth will be provided).

Sunday from 7 to 11:30 a.m., a gigantic breakfast will be served at Ponderosa on Route 192 across from Old Town. You must provide your own transportation.

The cost of the rally is \$120 for two persons per coach; \$60 one person per coach. Spaces are limited, so make your reservations as soon as possible. Deadline is Sept 1, 2001.

Please send reservation and check to Carole W. Blascak, c/o 3275 26th Ave. East #103, Bradenton, FL 34208.

Rally hosts: Carole W. Blascak and Dan Regan. Telephone 941-750-0140. E-mail: cseehorst@aol.com .

From The Nominating Committee

First, we would like to thank all who came to the Spring Rally. We all had a wonderful time.

Next we would like to remind all that we would like volunteers to help and fill offices.

If you or someone you know would like to have your name put on the ballot at the November International Convention, please e-mail or write to any one of us.

It does not take a lot of time, but some hard work is required. We usually have about four BOD meetings a year, and you must attend. Also we hope all BOD members will attend all rallies if possible.

Come and join the fun. We would love to have you.

Pauline Stevens
Bob Schneider
Wyanda Mitchell
Don Mitchell

Welcome New Members

- CH 111** Jim & Margaret Wilde
- CH 112** Ellen Hayes
- CH 113** Bev Russell & Justin Houston
- CH 114** Bill & Joan Johnson
- CH 115** Bob & Dolores Bique
- CH 116** Freddie & Ann Lott
- CH 117** Wolf & Inga Knappe
- CH 118** Jim & Gail Stewart
- CH 119** Ralph & Ethel Osterhoudt
- CH 120** Robert & Kay Adams
- CH 121** Dick & Shirley Purdy
- CH 122** Jerry & Barbara Killam

Rally Report

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idea."]

Sunday morning we were treated to the fabulous made-to-order omelets from the "Omelet Man", along with juice and coffee.

Bern and I learned a valuable lesson with this adventure. We learned to follow up any telephone or spoken arrangements that are made for any activity with a written confirmation! Since I failed to do this, we ran into a lot of obstacles that would have been avoided if I had followed this advice.

But as things go, all turned out wonderfully for everyone and everyone had a great time.

We hope to see you all at the

next rally in September in Kissimmee, Fla., which is near Walt Disney World. Carole Blascak has more information about the



President's Letter

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thing worth seeing in the D.C. area. Gray Line Tours will pick us up at CHC and bring us back. CHC is a super well-organized campground that would serve well as a starting point for anyone wishing to visit the tourist sites of our nation's capital. So stay tuned and don't make any other plans for late September 2002.

Membership Dues

Some of you continue to neglect to pay your CHOC and/or FMCA yearly Dues. Failure to do so will place you in a delinquent status and force us to drop you from the list of active CHOC members. If this is what you want, please continue to ignore these notices. Otherwise, please pay your dues.

Technical *Tips*

Carrying Gun May Not Increase Safety

By Robert E. Luby

Many choose to carry some sort of weapon on board when traveling away from home. Unfortunately, statistics overwhelmingly prove that weapons generally injure or kill a much larger percentage of innocent people than would-be criminals do.

Concealed weapons (handguns) pose a larger risk than rifles or shotguns, and in most states cannot be carried without a permit issued specifically by that state. Many states also require a license to carry a rifle or shotgun. Because you have a valid license to carry a gun in one state does not give you an automatic right to carry it or use it in another state.

Too many times, concealed weapons are discovered by children or used against the gun owner by a criminal. Let's also face the fact that our reflexes are not what they were when we were in the service.

Unless van owners are thoroughly trained and are up-to-date in weapon usage, it's a very poor idea to have any weapon on board. In real life, according to police departments throughout the country, weapons do not pose a real serious threat to most criminals — thugs realize that if you haven't shot them prior to them seeing the weapon, the probability is that you won't use the weapon. The first rule of thumb should always be that, if you don't intend to use the weapon, don't show it. While you're thinking about your possibilities, the thug will overpower you and use your own weapon on you, shoot you with his/her weapon, attack you with a knife, etc.

The best defense, in just about every case, is to just scare the intruder or attacker off without trying to pull a John Wayne. Pepper spray works well, but you have to be basically in the intruder's face to effectively use it — it's not a good idea to get that close if you can avoid it. A fire extinguisher will work to some degree, but by the time you have it detached from the wall, it's often too late. Making verbal threats, using recordings of dogs or other Mickey Mouse arrangements generally do not work. Vehicle alarms were effective once, but most people now don't even react any more when

they hear one go off — there are too many false alarms.

The best method of repelling any would-be attacker is to make a loud noise that can be heard as far away from the van as possible. Aerosol, hand-held foghorns (size of a large can of shaving cream) are extremely effective for scaring off all but deaf intruders (they cost between \$10 and \$20). They are readily available at marine stores and are very easy to use — just press the button. I would suggest having a couple on board in convenient places like under the driver's seat, near the bed, inside the john, etc. These inexpensive devices can be heard throughout most campgrounds. The sound is unusual enough that it WILL draw attention and scare off most two- and four-legged intruders immediately.

Other Hints

- Always lock yourself into the van at night.
- Stay close to other RVs at night (strength in numbers).
- Never confront or argue with a would-be criminal.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- Don't act like a stranger to an area (frequent u-turns, taking a picture of everything, etc.)
- Be careful of whom and where you ask for directions.
- Use credit cards instead of cash.
- Always lock your van and leave a light on when you're not in it.
- Never respond to visits at night unless you're absolutely sure of who you're talking to. If you must, bring your foghorn device with you. Some thugs pretend that they have RV trouble and need a tool, or are looking to borrow some food item, etc.
- Never leave keys in the ignition.
- Never leave a window opened near a door lock.
- If possible carry a cellular telephone and make a habit of writing down the campground office number and your site number. The problem with phones that you plug in is that the lines can be easily disconnected or cut.

Club ID Plaque Now Available For Your Vehicle

CHOC has arranged with "Mr. Ed"

Badges 'N Signs to provide a 3½-inch

by 5½-inch oval plaque bearing the

inscription "Coach House Owners'

Club" and an outline drawing of the

Coach House Van Camper with your

individual CHOC ID number inside. The

plaque comes with two-sided adhesive

tape and is designed to be mounted on

your van's spare tire cover. These

plaques are available for \$8, plus

7-percent sales tax and \$1 shipping and

handling. Please contact Mr. Ed directly

at 1-800-398-8307 if you are interested

in ordering one for your Coach House.

Summer Travel Plans

Despite high gas prices, more than half

of all RVers surveyed (59 percent) say

they will travel more this summer than

last, according to the R.V. Industry Asso-

ciation. An additional 29 percent said

they would travel the same amount as

last year.

FOR SALE

Two Michelin tires LT 225/75 R16 LTX M/S (5/16" tread remaining) mounted on 8-Lug Dodge wheels, Load range E. Bob Schneider: (941) 322-2003 (or) srqbobs@aol.com

CHOC*Talk*

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Calendar

September 28-30, 2001

CHOC Fall Rally
Hosts: Carole Blascak and Dan Regan
Tropical Palms Resort
Kissimmee, Florida

November 2-4, 2001

CHOC Annual Convention
Host: Carole Blascak
Stay-N-Play Resort
Nokomis, Florida

First week in February, 2002

**FMCA Southeast Regional
(SEA) Rally**
Brooksville, Florida (see FMCA
Magazine for details)
Hosts: SEA
Dry-camping (some hookups available
for handicapped)

April 2002 (dates TBA)

CHOC Spring Rally
Hosts: Bob Schneider and Pauline
Stevens
Suwanee, Florida

September 26-29, 2002

CHOC Fall Rally
Hosts: Bern and Marlene Wolsky
Cherry Hill Campground
Near Washington, D.C.

November 2002 (dates TBA)

CHOC Annual Convention
Host: Carole Blascak
Stay-N-Play Resort
Nokomis, Florida