

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

## Letter From The President

By Pauline Stevens, *President*

We had a great time at the Spring rally; there were 19 coaches with 37 people in attendance. Those who were unable to attend due to health problems were missed. I hope that they are now all in good health.

The Board of Directors arrived a day early to conduct club business. Under FMCA rules, any FMCA member can attend any rally sponsored by a club affiliated with FMCA. The Board passed a rule that anyone not a member of CHOC will be charged an additional \$10 per person rally fee. This will apply whether they are members of FMCA or not.

After the end of the rally several members headed for Mississippi and stopped over with Juan and Peggy Galvez, the hosts for our Fall Rally. We checked out the rally location and also looked into the possibility of adding a fishing trip as well as the trip to New Orleans. There will be lots to do, so make your reservations early. Be sure to read the article on the Fall Rally for all the information!

Also make your plans to attend the November rally for lots of fun and good food. Election of next years Board of Directors will be in November. Please consider serving on the board; for information on the duties and requirements, contact any current board member.

We left Mississippi and headed for the FMCA rally in San Antonio, Texas. We were given a spot on pavement near all the activities; took the tram most of the time to get get back and forth. We had

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## RV Rating Book Gives Platinum 232 ★★★★★

By Wes Knadle

An independent R.V. consumer association has given the Coach House® Platinum™ motorhome its highest rating.

The Platinum 232 received 5 stars in the RV Consumer Group's RV Rating Book of selected 2002 models. Among hundreds of motorhome brands evaluated, only three manufacturers earned the 5-star rating.

The RV Consumer Group, a nonprofit organization dedicated to RV safety, tested hundreds of RVs and rated them based on criteria of value, reliability and highway control, using its own evaluation of new and used models, as well as owner-satisfaction surveys. The rating book is available

for purchase from the group's Web site, [www.rv.org](http://www.rv.org).

The Platinum 232, introduced in 2000, is a 23-foot Class C motorhome featuring a patented seamless fiberglass body. The RV Consumer Group evaluated each of the four floor plans available, with both gas and diesel engines, for a total of eight individual ratings. Each of the eight configurations earned the 5-star rating.

Coach House also manufactures the similar Platinum 270 — 27 feet long — as well as the Platinum 232XL and 270XL, both of which feature slideouts. Only the Platinum 232 line was available in late 2001 for evaluation by the RV Consumer Group. All the models are built in the Coach House plant using the same techniques and materials.

## First Look at the New Platinum 270XL



This is the first published photo of the new Coach House Platinum 270XL, shown with the slideout extended during a photo shoot in May at Manatee Village Historical Park in Bradenton, Fla. The introduction of the 270XL rounds out the Platinum lineup, which now includes a 23-footer (232); a 23-footer with slideout (232XL); a 27-footer (270); and a 27-foot with slideout (270XL). Each model is available in a range of floor plans.

# RallyNews

## Deal Yourself in for Some 'Casino Magic'

**T**he CHOC Fall Rally will be in Bay St. Louis, Miss., with camping at the Casino Magic RV Park, which has 24-hour security. Our reserved sites are close to the bathrooms, on level concrete pads with 30- and 50-amp electric, cable TV and barbecue grills. Plan to arrive on Sunday, Sept. 22, and depart Thursday, Sept. 26.

**Sunday:** When you check in, you will receive a welcome packet. At 5 p.m., there will be a happy hour (BYOB) followed by a Southern hospitality welcome buffet — food and drink provided. After dinner, the casino beckons with games of chance and free entertainment.

**Monday:** Start the day with Morning Call (8 to 9 a.m.), with juice, coffee and goodies. After that, the choice is yours — casino, golf, fishing, or sightseeing. At 11 a.m., a bus will leave for historic Bay St. Louis, where you may visit art galleries, shop for antiques or meander along the beach. Then find a place to enjoy a traditional Po Boy for lunch. The bus will return

to the campground at 3 p.m., and then the evening is yours to enjoy.

**Tuesday:** After Morning Call (8 to 9 a.m.), you have another choice to make. The visit to Historic Bay St. Louis will again be available, or you may take the Grey Lines Bus Tour of historic New Orleans and the French Quarter. The bus will leave the Casino at 10 a.m. and depart New Orleans at 4:30 p.m. This tour is available at an additional cost of \$36 per person (see the rally application blank on Page 4).

**Wednesday:** After Morning Call (8 to 9 a.m.), the day is yours to enjoy. At 5 p.m., we will have Happy Hour (BYOB) with a shrimp boil; bring either a salad or desert.

**Thursday:** Final Morning Call will last from 8 a.m. until departure with coffee, etc. Safe travels, and see you in November.

**Fees and Registration:** The rally fee is \$80 per coach for two people and \$40 per coach single; there is an additional \$10 per person for non-CHOC members. All reservations must be made by Sept. 1; reservations are non-refundable.

You must make your own campground reservation by calling 1-800-562-4425; extension 482. Be sure to give them confirmation #22029 and mention Coach House Owners Club. These must also be made by Sept. 1!

**Directions:** Casino Magic RV Park From the junction of I-10 and S.R. 603 go south on 603 5.5 miles to U.S. 90. Turn east and go 2 miles to Blue Meadow Road. Turn north 0.6 miles to Casino Magic Drive, then east to the RV park entrance. The route is well marked with signs to Casino Magic.

### CHOC Fall Rally

Sept. 22–26, 2002  
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi  
Hosts: Juan & Agatha Galvez

### CHOC International Rally

Nov. 1–3, 2002  
Stay-N-Play Resort, Nokomis, FL  
Contact: Pauline Stevens

## Coach House Owners' Club — FMCA Chapter

### Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

▲PILOT'S LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ▲FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

▲CO-PILOT'S LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ▲FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

▲CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

▲PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ▲E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

▲COACH HOUSE MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ ▲YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ ▲V.I.N. \_\_\_\_\_

▲FMCA NUMBER\* \_\_\_\_\_

### Badge Order Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

▲FIRST BADGE (PILOT) \_\_\_\_\_

▲SECOND BADGE (CO-PILOT) \_\_\_\_\_

▲STREET \_\_\_\_\_ ▲PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

▲CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

▲FMCA NUMBER\* \_\_\_\_\_ CHOC NO. (ASSIGNED BY CLUB) \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter names exactly as you want them to appear on badges.

\*You must be a member of FMCA, and own a Coach House, in order to join the Coach House Owners' Club .

**Fee:** \$25 to join CHOC (of which \$15 goes to defray to cost of name tags and bolos); \$10 per year thereafter.

Please send this application and a check for \$25, payable to Coach House Owners' Club, to:

CHOC, c/o Marlene Wolsky, 160 Venus Cay, Naples, FL 34114-9616.

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

# ClubNews

## Tips for Traveling With Oxygen

By Honey Wolff

The use of oxygen should not confine you to your house. Until recently, many people who would like to travel found themselves homebound because of their need for oxygen. RVs sat idle because it wasn't convenient to travel with the equipment necessary to provide the needed oxygen. The medical need for oxygen varies by the person's ailment.

I am a lung cancer survivor of six years who has COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). I need oxygen 24 hours a day to supplement my breathing. Oxygen is available in many different forms: gas in tanks, liquid in tanks, and concentrators, which filter pure oxygen from the air. Briefly I will describe the pros and cons of each.

Gas tanks are available in various sizes. They are heavy and do not last long. Liquid oxygen comes in large storage tanks and smaller refillable portable tanks. The portable tank is lightweight and long-lasting. The concentrator provides an unlimited supply of oxygen but requires a power source of either 120 or 12 volts (with a converter). Converters vary in size and weight and there are small portable units. However, they are noisy for use in a motor home.

I have used different systems and have found a liquid oxygen system called Helios the best and easiest to use at home as well as while traveling. I use a 100-pound tank, which is about the size of a garbage can and fits in the night table between the twin beds of our Coach House. My husband had to modify the night table to accommodate the tank. It provides me with oxygen while in the coach and I also use it to fill the portable tank. The portable only weighs 3 1/2 pounds full and lasts me six to seven hours, giving me complete freedom. As a back-up we also carry small gas tanks which are stored under a bed. I also have a small (24-pound) portable stored under the bed for use if we spend the night in a motel or in someone's home.

The Helios system and refills are available from many suppliers around the country.

The 100-pound tank lasts from three to four weeks, with the actual time depending on volume prescribed and the rate of breathing. I have different length of tubing for use at home or in the RV, as well as conserving devices which pulse the oxygen while I breathe.

If you have Medicare or private insurance they will cover your oxygen needs.

So let's travel!

## Dry Camping Offers Freedom

By Joe & Barbara Kedanis

We have enjoyed dry camping with the freedom from the shore power umbilical cord in the Ozark river ways, the Tampa Boat Show, and various bluegrass fests.

We have found that well-maintained batteries are crucial. Keep the fluid levels up and the cable connections clean and tight. We like to read in bed, watch the TV and, on hot nights, run the Miracle Vent. We have had sufficient power for four days without charging the batteries. We manage this by turning off unneeded lights, fans, etc.

When dry camping, the black water can be managed to extend the time between dumps. Don't use water to flush water! We keep a spray bottle of detergent handy and if the pot begins to smell we give it a spray and a quick flush. Spray the pot before a constitutional and it will take less water to clean the bowl.

We use a Bowden coffee maker for morning and have tea and coffee bags for quick hot drinks. When cooking at home we cook extra and freeze the surplus in two serving portions. (Editor's note: Use square or rectangular containers, then transfer to plastic baggies before storing in the fridge.) The frozen meals will help keep the fridge cool. Transfer the evening meal to a lower shelf in the morning and you can enjoy a hot meal in a matter of minutes after setting up. Some quick meals ideas include soup, stew, chili and goulash.

To conserve water we use paper plates and bowls and use diaper wipes for freshening up.

On warm nights, turn on the Miracle Vent, open a window, and enjoy the cool air that will flow over you.

We enjoy the freedom of dry camping because it allows us to visit places that are unpopular due to the lack of electricity. We use propane to cook and heat and have found the lack of a generator has not been a problem. If we ever find that we need one to keep cool, we'll put it in!

## From the Editor

Once again I remind each of you that this newsletter is yours. Do you have information on a product that you find really good, have you taken a trip that you are willing to share with others, have you customized your Coach House? Then write it up and send it to me either e-mail or snail mail. Several people have responded to my earlier request and these articles will be used — two are in this issue. The articles don't have to be perfect; I'll rewrite to smooth out any rough spots and run spell check also. Let me hear from you! The target for the next issue is Aug.

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## President

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arrived early, so on Sunday we headed into town and took part in a festival along the River Walk. As usual there were a number of classes, so we went our separate ways for these. One class I took was on crime prevention; I am trying to get the instructor to come to our November rally. Bob attended some FMCA meetings and will be able to share this information at a later date.

Best wishes to all, and safe travels.

Pauline Stevens  
President

