

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

Letter From The President

By Pauline Stevens, *President*

Things have been very busy here at the Coach House Owners Club. The Fish Fry and get-together here at "Camp Stevens/Schneider" was a huge success. Many of the members caught and ate their own fish, adding to their enjoyment. Afterward many of us caravanned to Brooksville, Fla., to attend the FMCA Southeast Area Rally. Several first-time attendees said they learned a lot as well as had a good time. Bob and I are pleased that we had a good turnout. Everyone said that they would like to do it again. We will do it and hope we have even more people next time.

I would like to remind everyone, if you have forgotten to mail in your dues, please send them to Barbara Kedanis as soon as you can.

We are now getting ready for our trip out west to the FMCA International Rally at Claremore, Okla., in April. Many have signed up for this trip, and I am looking forward to it. Karin Peuh-sner, our 1st Vice President, has been working very hard to get everything in order and has a great trip planned after we leave Claremore (see itinerary on Page 3). She has scheduled the trip so that everyone has time to sightsee along the way individually and still meet together every third night. If you want to go, please contact me or Karin. If any of our Western members would like to meet with us, please contact me and I can let you know when and where you can join us.

Habitat for Humanity was grateful for our help. With our contribution they

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Group Gathering

Attendees had everything they needed — including fishing poles — at the Schneiders'.

Members Visit Schneiders For Fish and Conversation

By Pierre Berard

Aphrodisiac: What ever turns you on, baby! RV traveling does the trick — we are hooked! We all enjoy turning the key, listening to the engine roar to life. We come to life, new adventure, new land to see. This country has so many places to see.

On Feb. 2, we gathered at Bob and Pauline Schneider's home: 14 RVs, 28 people, 2 1/2 days of good conversation and terrific food. Bob had everything in order — including fishing poles for everyone. This was the main event. The fish was prepared by Bob — fried and grilled. Everyone brought a dish to pass for the meal. We

didn't run out of food, and everyone had plenty to eat. Bob and Pauline did a terrific job. They deserve our thanks!

Wednesday morning, some went on home, while seven of us went on to the FMCA Rally at Brooksville. We met at a restaurant for lunch then drove together in a caravan though the gates, then waited to be parked, same place as last year — right by the sanitary dump!

From that point we went to see the displays. We met Wes Knadle at the RV World booth, showing, of course, Platinums. The most interesting seminar Bob and I went to was the weight and load seminar. Please check on this when you go to the Rally in Oklahoma. See you all there.

Technical Tips

11 Ways to Customize Your Platinum

By Wolfgang Richter

1. 600-Watt Inverter

Anybody who likes to dry-camp will cherish this addition. I mounted my inverter (Radio Shack, about \$200) on the outside of the utility cabinet, on the right side entering the coach. It has three 110-volt outlets in easy reach for TV and kitchen utensils (like a blender). It has to be connected directly to the battery via a No. 4 welding cable. I installed a 40-amp inline fuse directly after the battery in case of a short in the cable to the chassis.

2. Ignition Chime Off

Every time you open the door with the key in the ignition, the annoying chime comes on. Your favorite Ford garage can eliminate it for about \$50. But be firm. They will give you grief and excuses. The switch in the steering column has to be disconnected from the ignition key, nothing else.

3. Turn Signal Loudness

It happens quite often on the highway that you do not hear the turn signal because of the ambient noise and, when the driver wears sunglasses, the visual signal cannot be seen. Go to www.turnalarm.com (DAECO, phone 209-772-0923) and order a louder one, relay type No. 262. When you receive it, replace the existing one and you are done.

4. Closet Hanger Bar

If you experience a "sagging" clothes hanger bar, take it out and stick a broom handle in it. This will straighten it out. Our thanks to Armando at Coach House for this suggestion.

5. Remote Thermometers

We have a remote thermometer with a sensor through the rear window. It is nice to know the temp in the morning when you get up. We have another remote thermometer in the dash to know the outside temp while we are driving. I fished the sensor wire from the dash to the front of the radiator. It only works while driving, otherwise it gives a false reading because of the engine heat. The third thermometer is wireless, with the

sensor in the refrigerator freezer compartment. All thermometers are from Radio Shack.

6. Inside Rear-View Mirror

We raised the inside rear-view mirror to have a better view to the back. Have an auto-glass shop glue a new base on the windshield and raise the mirror as high as it is allowed to be. But this is not the end. The mirror will collide with the sun visors. Have an upholstery shop shorten the visors a bit.

7. Shorten Bathroom Door

We cut the bottom of the bathroom door about a half inch, which improves circulation in the bathroom with the fan on and does not crumble the towel you may use to stand on.

8. Dots for Locks

I never knew on my go-around inspection before take-off whether the outside locks were in the closed or open position. I marked the "closed" position with a black dot using a heavy felt-tip marker.

9. Cabinet Doors Beside TV

During our last visit to Nokomis, we had Coach House install cabinet doors on the left and right sides of the TV. Note: Leave the door open when you use your video player or DVD player for good ventilation.

10. TV Antenna Cable Dish

We hooked up our TV for three different ways of receiving signals: the regular

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Invisible Threat: Carbon Monoxide

By Freeman Nevins

A recent personal experience brought this issue to our attention. Not long ago, we were dry-camped at a Travel Plaza in freezing weather, among a number of RVs that kept their generators running all night. We turned our generator off about 10 p.m., opened a window for ventilation, switched to propane for the night and turned in.

A few hours later I awoke because we were cold and the carbon monoxide (CO) alarm was flashing red and chirping. Apparently the exhaust gasses coming from the other RVs were affecting us. We were fortunate, because our CO monitor worked as advertised and we suffered no ill effects.

Without adequate ventilation, carbon monoxide gas can accumulate to lethal levels in as little as 10 minutes. CO is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas produced by the incomplete burning of any material containing carbon, such as propane or gasoline.

The most common source of CO is the internal combustion engine, such as that of an RV or a generator. Improperly vented

propane-fueled appliances are also common sources of CO.

The first symptom of CO poisoning is usually a headache with throbbing temples. Other initial symptoms are tiredness and shortness of breath, flushed skin and impaired motor skills. As exposure increases, symptoms become more severe, including dizziness and dimming of vision. If exposure continues, convulsion and death can result.

A few simple measures can significantly reduce the risk of CO poisoning:

- Have the heating and hot water systems checked annually.
- Regularly tune and maintain all engines to reduce incomplete combustion.
- Regularly test your CO monitor. (See instructions in the owner's manual)
- Insure adequate ventilation for any machine or appliance capable of producing CO gas.
- Finally, be careful about parking too close to other vehicles whose engines or generators are running.

Club News

New CHOC Members

President Pauline Stevens and the officers of CHOC would like to welcome back charter members Jerry and Betty Wolf, in addition to 32 new members from 14 States who have recently joined our Club.

Jerry Wolf was a Vice President of the Club, and he and Betty together hosted our first rally and helped set up our by-laws.

Here are the rest of our new members, listed by state:

From Florida: Liza Cooper, Bill and Kitty Ellis, Stark and Joan Ferriss, John and Sioux Forsing, Albert and Michele Larcher, Mr. Patterson, Bill and Nancy 'Jeanette' Riley, Derek and Caroline Scorer, David and Sondra Title Smith, Dale and Lexie Soles, Dick and Liz Wilson.

California: Sam Goldstein, Dan and Robyn Harnel, Michael and Ellen Larkin, Dan and Gretchen Varner.

North Carolina: Wolfgang and Germaine Richter, Dowe and Frances Smith, Charles Smith.

New York: Bill and Clair Glossner, Herb and Clair Pinson.

Pennsylvania: Paul Risk Shirley, James and Mary Ann Tarpey.

Oklahoma: Bill Huston, Paul and JoAnne Wilmes.

Idaho: Ray and Maxine Johannsen.

Illinois: Norman Kogen Bernie.

Missouri: Clarence and Laura Mabec.

Ohio: John and Helen Williams.

Oregon: Dick and Lois Pischel.

Texas: Emile and Frances Larochele

Vermont: John and Betty Gray.

Washington: Anita Danson.

Beat the FMCA Dues Increase

Until March 31, 2004, FMCA members will be permitted to purchase advance years' dues at the old discounted rate schedule of two years for \$47.50, three years for \$67.50 or five years for \$100, before rates go up.

Call FMCA Membership Services at 800-543-3622 or by using the internet to renew your membership at www.fmca.com.

Stick Around 'Green Country'

After the FMCA Rally in Claremore, Okla., why not stick around this "Green Country" section of Oklahoma and visit some of the interesting places the area has to offer?

Claremore has the world-class Will Rogers Museum containing fine art and artifacts depicting the life and times of America's beloved humorist-philosopher.

Close by is the J.M. Davis Arms and Historical Museum, housing more than 20,000 unique firearms. It also contains Western memorabilia, musical instruments and 1,200 steins from all over the world.

Nearby Tulsa is a major metropolitan center including a wealth of rich cultural venues as well as fine dining, many attractions and scenic opportunities. To name just a few, there is an Air and Space Museum, museums of Western art, and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame.

Northeast Oklahoma has a number of lakes, state parks, Corps of Engineers parks, historic sites and golf courses.

To find out more, call the Oklahoma Tourism Department 800-652-6552 or visit the Web sites at www.travelok.com or www.greencountryok.com.

'On the Road 2004' Itinerary

Date	Leave	Arrive	Miles	Minutes
April 19	Claremore, Okla.	Oklahoma City	134	142
April 20	Oklahoma City	Amarillo, Texas	259	270
April 22	Amarillo, Texas	Albuquerque, N.M.*	288	300
April 25	Albuquerque, N.M.	Williams, Ariz.	355	370
April 29	Williams, Ariz.	Laughlin, Nev.*	146	170
May 2	Laughlin, Nev.	Bakersfield, Calif.	306	385
May 3	Bakersfield, Calif.	Fresno, Calif.	110	114
May 6	Fresno, Calif.**	Midpines Calif	80	134
May 8	Midpines, Calif	Placerville, Calif.	76	139
May 9	Placerville, Calif.	S. Lake Tahoe*	60	120

*MEETING PLACES: Albuquerque: Enchanted Trail (www.enchantedtrails.com). Laughlin: AVI Casino (www.avicasino.com/rv.htm). Good Sam, book two nights, third night free.

South Lake Tahoe: Encore (www.rvonthego.com/Encore-SuperPark-Tahoe--8.htm).

\$10 discount for first night if arriving Sunday through Thursday.

** With sidetrip to Sequoia National Park.

NOTE: All reservations are to be made by the traveler.

Customize

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antenna, the cable (installed by Coach House) and by installing another selector switch (Radio Shack) which we can switch to the satellite receiver and receive satellite signals if nothing else is available.

11. Rattling Stove Tops

We made some inexpensive wooden wedges to wedge between the top plates of the stove. This eliminates at least some of the rattles in the coach.

President's Letter

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bought a big air compressor and some nail guns. This is equipment they needed badly.

I would like to invite all new Coach House owners to join our club. We have a great membership with fun-loving people. We all enjoy traveling and meeting new people. We have great rallies for all to enjoy.

I hope to meet all Coach Owners some where in our travels.

Travel safe.

CHOC*Talk*

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Coach House Revises Nomenclature

To help alleviate some customers' confusion, Coach House, Inc., has developed a new naming system for its Platinum motor homes.

According to the company vice president Steve Gerzeny, the goal was to establish a logical, easy-to-understand system.

From now on, the first two digits of the model name will indicate the length. The third digit will indicate how many slideouts the vehicle contains. Slideout models will continue to bear the "XL" designation.

Furthermore, the 282 model designator has been retired. The coach formerly called

the 282XL is actually the same length, bumper-to-bumper, as the 27-foot models (although the coach body hangs farther over the bumper). That model is now called the 272XL, indicating that it is 27 feet long with two slideouts.

With the name changes, here is the current Coach House Platinum lineup:

- **Platinum 230** — 23 feet, no slideout.
- **Platinum 231XL** — 23 feet, one slideout.
- **Platinum 270** — 27 feet, no slideout.
- **Platinum 271XL** — 27 feet, one slideout.
- **Platinum 272XL** — 27 feet, two slideouts.

Future CHOC Rallies

April 15–18, 2004 FMCA International Rally, Claremore, Okla.

April 19–May 5, 2004 CHOC On the Road Again Caravan Westward. See Itinerary on Page 3. Contact Pauline Stevens or Karin Peuhsner for more details.

September 2004 CHOC Fall Rally, Decatur, Ala. Dates to be announced later.

October 29–November 1, 2004 CHOC Homecoming Rally. Location TBA.

February 2005 CHOC Social, Myakka, Fla. Dates to be announced later.

September 2005 CHOC Fall Rally, Charleston, S.C. Dates to be announced later.