

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

Letter From The President

By Pauline Stevens, *President*

Hello to all. What a month we had! It was great fun to travel with our club members. We started in April with 14 Coach House RVs at the FMCA International Rally in Claremore, Okla. It was a good rally with lots of fun including a "Yankee Swap Meet." We all brought something from home that we didn't need any more. Many of the things eventually wound up in the trashcan, although others were glad to keep what they received.

After Claremore, five Platinums started our trip out West. Altogether we were: Pierre and Shirlee Berard, Juan and Peggy Galvez, Karin Puehsner and Inge Waller, Wolfgang and Germaine Richter, and Bob Schneider and Pauline Stevens. The trip was planned so that we could see some of the sights together and yet have time to visit some places on our own. We met at prearranged places every three days. This gave each of us time to see what we wanted to. I am pleased to say we feel it was a great success and thank Karin Puehsner for all her hard work putting it together. I hope if we do something like this again we can have more members take part.

Our first stop was Oklahoma City, then on to Palo Duro Canyon, Texas. Four Platinums went in together and turned a lot of heads. This was a beautiful place and we also visited the local museum. From there we went on to New Mexico and met up with another Platinum. The next day we set out to see all the sights we could in the area including Santa Fe, where we spent the night. Beautiful Taos, N.M., was next. We all

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Yankee Swap Meet

CHOC members enjoy a Yankee Swap Meet at the FMCA Rally in Claremore, Okla.

New Member Describes His First FMCA Rally

By Bill Huston

I recently purchased a Coach House Platinum and became a member of the Coach House Owners Club chapter of FMCA. In April I attended my first FMCA Rally in Claremore, Okla., and met several members of the Club. As a member of the chocspeaks group (the internet discussion group for CHOC) I looked forward to meeting some of the members I had been chatting with. However, I didn't know what to expect at the FMCA Rally.

When I first arrived I was very pleased that it had been prearranged for all Coach House owners to park together. That made it easy for us to enjoy each others' company in between scheduled seminars and other activities. We had several impromptu get-togethers around our coaches. And, since the rally was being held at Will Rogers

Downs, a seasonal race track, and we were parked facing the track, we could sometimes watch riders exercising their horses. It was an extremely windy three days, even for Oklahoma, but there was no rain or other storm conditions.

After I got parked and set up, I went to the Registration Building and picked up my goody bag, which contained, among other things, a list of all the seminars being presented. I was eager to attend as many seminars as possible, but some that I was interested in were scheduled at the same time. I assumed that most of the seminars were being presented by companies that were trying to sell their products. But most of them presented a lot of general information about the subject of the seminar with just a casual comment about their products.

The entertainment was also very enjoy-

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Rally*News*

Platinum Again Earns Top Rating

The Coach House Platinum has earned 5 Stars (the highest rating) from the RV Consumer Group for the third year in a row, vice president Steve Gerzeny announced.

In 2004, the non-profit RV Consumer Group evaluated 1,369 motorhome models and gave its coveted 5-star rating to only 28 models — and 16 of them were Platinums, both 23-foot and 27-foot. In fact, the entire Platinum line earned the coveted 5-Star rating, “the greatest award we give to an RV manufacturer,” the RV Consumer Group said.

“Having 16 of 28 five-star rated motor homes is quite a feather in our cap,” Gerzeny said.

Coach House has been a builder of small luxury motor homes since 1986, appealing to quality-minded downsizing consumers. The company initially converted vans to Class B motor homes. In 2001, Coach House entered the Class C market with the 23-foot Platinum and in 2002 introduced a 27-foot version. Either comes with or without a slideout and can be powered by gas or diesel. Coach House’s manufacturing plant is located at I-75 exit 195 (Laurel Road) in Nokomis, Fla. Plant tours are available weekdays by appointment.

For further information please call Coach House Motor Homes at 800-235-0984 or visit the Coach House web site at www.coachhousesrv.com.



Coach House units parked at FMCA rally facing Will Rogers Downs Race Track.

Member Describes First FMCA Rally

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able — and luckily, none of the seminars interfered with it. I particularly enjoyed the performance of Gene McFall, a Will Rogers impersonator. Having lived in Oklahoma for the last 40 years, I thought I knew a lot about Will Rogers, but I learned a lot more that night. Sylvia Wilson, tour and event coordinator for the Will Rogers Museum (which is located on the other side of Claremore), gave us a very interesting history of

Will Rogers’ life. She then introduced Mr. McFall who gave a splendid performance. I have seen many old movies and other film clips of Will Rogers, and this guy really made you think you were watching Will himself.

Aside from the fact that I had to walk more than I would have liked, I had a great time. All in all, it was a great learning experience. And I enjoyed meeting a lot of Coach House owners.

Consider Camping with the Corps

When looking for some great destinations to camp this summer, don’t overlook the public Corps of Engineers parks.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers operates more than 2,500 recreation areas, including more than 900 campgrounds across the United States, all located on or near lakes and streams. All are open during the summer months and many are open all year. Individual sites are spacious, groomed and level, and contain electricity, picnic

tables and fire rings. Most fees range from \$5 to \$15 a night and, the best part is, that they are half-price for U. S. citizens age 62 or older.

The campgrounds are situated away from the noisy highways, in scenic locations (usually wooded), and there is good separation between the individual sites. Parks are well maintained and provide water, restrooms and showers. Many campgrounds also offer services for boaters and fishermen such as boat launches, marinas and tackle shops. In addition, some have swimming beaches, playgrounds and hiking trails.

A 200-page guide, *Camping with the Corps of Engineers*, available at most bookstores or on the internet for \$13.95, features each campground by state and describes all the amenities available at each. Or, if you prefer, go to www.ReserveUSA.com to find a campground, select a site and make a reservation on-line. More information can be found at www.Lakeside Recreation.com.

Future CHOC Rallys

September 9–12, 2004 (dates tentative) CHOC Fall Rally, Decatur, Ala. More information to follow.

October 29–November 1, 2004 CHOC Homecoming Rally, Encore RV Park, Nokomis, Fla.

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

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

Club*News*

New Members

Welcome to the eleven new members who have joined the Coach House Owners Club since March 2004. We hope they will come to our rallies, meet our members and take part in our activities.

- **Florida:** James and Eloise Buzbee, Carlos Hernandez, Beckie Merideth, Larry and Lois Walker.
- **California:** Wayne L. and Joy Johnson
- **Illinois:** Norman and Bernie Koglin
- **Montana:** Neil and Rosemary Isto
- **Ohio:** Bert and Jane Pattie May
- **Pennsylvania:** Paul and Shirley Risk
- **Tennessee:** Jackie and Shirely Peak Calvert
- **Vermont:** Ed and Ann Shea

Things to think about

Submitted by Karin Peuhsner

- 1) You spend the first two years of your children's life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
- 2) Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing our children.
- 3) Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
- 4) You child proof your home, but they are still getting in.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY — Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home someday.

Be Careful with E-mail

When sending email to CHOC officers or to other members, please insert the letters "CHOC" some place on the subject line. Most of us will no longer open our email if we cannot recognize the source. We don't want to miss any legitimate email but, on the other hand, neither do we want to risk getting a computer virus.



A mini-caravan of Coach House Platinums makes its way along the interstate out West.

Letter from the President

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met in Williams, Ariz., and got together for a sightseeing trip. Our group went down to Sedona, Ariz., and spent the night. Next day we went four-wheeling in a Jeep through the back country. What fun! We had dinner on a terrace restaurant and watched the sun set over the rocks. Beautiful! We then headed out to Laughlin, Nev., not much to see there but all eight people got in one Platinum for a little sight seeing. That was fun. Finally, we went down to Lake Havasu City, Ariz., to see the London Bridge. We separated there to go on our various ways and felt we all had a great time.

We have to say "so long" to our treasurer, Barbara Kedanis. She and her husband Joe have decided to discontinue their membership with FMCA and, by extension, cannot be part of our subchapter. We are sorry to see them go. This leaves us shopping for a new treasurer. If you are interested, please contact me at srqbobs@aol.com. Thanks.

We are trying to get the September Rally, which will be in Decatur, Ala., in order now. We expect to have a good turnout. The October Homecoming Rally will be at the Encore Park in Nokomis. The Fall Rally in 2005 will be in Charleston, S.C., and will be hosted by the Brocks and Berards. We are looking forward to all of these. More information will be sent to you at a later date.

In February 2005 we will have a new version of the "Fish Fry." New members are

encouraged to come and are especially welcome. Again, it will be dry camping, but we will have three electric hookups for the handicapped or people needing them for some reason.

We are hearing from a lot of the new Coach House owners and many are signing up for the club. Welcome, all. We are looking forward to meeting you at one of our rallies.

Those of you who are officer material and inclined to be club leaders need to think about running for an office. I must step down as President this year. Our by-laws say we can only serve for three years. I have served mine and, I must say, I have enjoyed every day. I will miss being President, but I intend to stay active in some capacity.

I want to send my prayers to all of our members who are sick or have lost loved ones.

Happy camping and safe travels to all.



National Director's Message

Bob Schneider, our National Director, advises that he had a productive and enjoyable time at the Claremore Rally. He and Pauline, who are presently on a trip to Alaska, will be attending the FMCA International Convention in Redmond, Oregon in August on their way home to Florida. He reminds all to be careful when out on the road.

CHOC*Talk*

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16 Ways to Save Gas and Money

1. Regularly follow a preventative maintenance schedule. Lubrication and fluid levels are the most important items that you should be aware of.
2. Buy the grade of gasoline recommended for your engine. If octane is too low, it can contribute to "ping," which can wear pistons, rings and valves prematurely.
3. Keep the gas tank full when parked for a long period of time to prevent condensation and water buildup in the gas tank.
4. Obey the speed limits — slower speed, better gas mileage.
5. Use cruise control on flat terrain. It can keep a steadier throttle than you can.
6. *Don't* use cruise control in mountainous conditions. Switch it off, anticipate the climb, pick up a little momentum and be willing to slow down while climbing.
7. Pass wisely. Don't floor the accelerator. If you can't pass by keeping a steady pace, don't pass.
8. Don't idle excessively — a minute of idling uses more gas than restarting.
9. Minimize use of air conditioning. A/C uses horsepower, reduces gas mileage.
10. Check tire inflation regularly. Underinflated tires increase tire wear and reduce fuel economy.
11. Avoid stop-and-go driving. City driving is less efficient than highway driving.
12. Reduce the weight you carry. Every unnecessary pound costs extra fuel when accelerating or climbing. Travel with empty black and gray water holding tanks, and your freshwater tank only 1/3 to 1/2 full.
13. Get a bicycle. An inexpensive and healthful way to run the little errands around the camping area and see sights in the local area.
14. Rotate tires regularly. Every 7,000 miles or sooner if you notice abnormal wear.
15. Plan your trip wisely. Plan a shorter trip and stay longer. Select a destination that has everything you want and need in one place. Plan a route that avoids congested traffic areas. Avoid mountainous routes.
16. Plan your fuel purchases. Look for highway locations where there are multiple, competitive gas stations. Take advantage of fuel discount programs such as Flying J's and Loves Travel Center's