

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

Letter From The President

By Pauline Stevens, *President*

I am writing this letter from Homer, Alaska, a great place. Bob and I went fishing for halibut yesterday, and we each caught our limit.

By now you know that we had to change our Fall Rally dates to Oct. 1-3 because the park facilities weren't available earlier. I hope that this didn't make a problem for anyone. We had hoped to have more time between this and the Homecoming rally. We want to thank Hood RV in Decatur, Ala., for sponsoring the rally.

I want to remind everyone that we need new people for the Board of Director positions. I must step down as I have done my three years. We need someone for the Secretary and Treasurer jobs. They are related and I think it would benefit the club if we could combine the two. If you are interested, contact Bill Johnson at wjohn1075@mac.com. I have enjoyed being your president and putting the rallies together. It isn't much work, just some time on the computer and telephone. The next president will have, as I have had, a BOD to work with and help so much to make the job easier. I also had great support and help from Wes Knadle and all the folks at Coach House.

I hope everyone will contribute interesting articles to the Newsletter. Please write something about a trip you have taken (with pictures) or a funny story and send it to Freeman Nevins at fjnevins@aol.com. Let us all know if you have a favorite place that we all might like to visit.

Jeanette Riley and I have been work-

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Pauline Steves in front of a glacier during her Alaskan adventure.

After the Rally, a Journey Through Canada, Alaska

By Pauline Stevens and Bob Schneider

This summer Bob and I had a great trip. We left the first week of April heading for the FMCA Rally in Claremore, Okla. After the rally, we joined some of our friends and club members for a trip out West.

Leaving the group at Lake Tahoe, we spent a month in Reno visiting family. Next was Garden Grove, Calif., to see the beautiful Crystal Cathedral. Well worth the time to visit.

We spent four days in Yellowstone fishing and sightseeing. Even though we had visited four other times, we still found it interesting. Before leaving Wyoming we went to Cody and then on to Thermopolis and the hot springs.

In Montana we went to Glacier Park and then got in more fishing at Duck Lake,

where we have a place.

We entered Canada in Alberta and drove north along Highway 2, crossed over to British Columbia and got on the Alaskan Highway.

I feel that British Columbia is the most beautiful province in Canada. We saw many wild animals along the road, including moose, bear, stone sheep and coyote. It is great to see them in the wild. There are many beautiful lakes along the way. The mountains are of varied heights, some all stone and others tree-lined. They seem to light up in different colors as the sun moves over them.

Entering the Yukon is pretty, but I still enjoy British Columbia the most. Along the way we had some exciting times. Forest fires had closed the road, so we had to wait along with miles of other motor homes.

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RallyNews

Historic Decatur Beckons CHOC

Have you registered for the CHOC Fall Rally in Decatur, Ala., Oct. 1-3?

The registration deadline is Sept. 10. Fees are \$140 for two nights of camping, entertainment, food and a tour of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. Make your check payable to CHOC and send it to Pauline Stevens, 31515 Myakka City, FL 34251.

In addition to the Space and Rocket Center, there are many more attractions to be enjoyed while in the Decatur area.

The Old Decatur Historic District contains one of the most intact Victorian-era neighborhoods in Alabama. A major point of interest is the restored Old State Bank, built in 1833, a Greek Revival structure used as a hospital and guardhouse in the Civil War. Free tours are available daily.

Cook's Natural Science Museum provides extensive collections of beautiful and exotic insects, mounted birds, animals, sea shells and coral. Admission is free.

Nearby Hartsell's Historic District has the Hartsell Military Museum and Foundation, containing military artifacts from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War and on to Vietnam. There are a variety of antique and specialty shops, perfect for treasure-hunting and finding great gifts. Depot Days celebration will be Oct 1-3. Street dancing, exhibits, car shows and craft shows will be part of the festivities.

To find out about more about attractions in Decatur and surrounding areas, including recreation facilities, contact the Decatur Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 524-6181 or go to www.decaturcvb.org.

A Tour of Canada, Alaska

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Someone on the CB said that "this had to be the granddaddy of all caravans." They took 20 motor homes through at a time. We had to turn off the propane and follow the pilot car with headlights on through heavy smoke. No passing and no stopping allowed until we were out of the fire zone.

This added a little spice to the trip. If anyone wants more info, let me know. I have pictures on my computer and they can be seen at the next rally.

I would also like to say that, at that time, we had been on the road for three months and were sure glad we had the Platinum. The shower is what we liked best. We have dry-camped many nights and never had to worry about water, fresh or otherwise. I hope everyone will take advantage of the freedom our Coach Houses' bring us and get to see the U.S. and Canada. It is wonderful.

Freddie and Ann Lott joined us in Tok, Alaska, and we all headed for Valdez on a cool day. Along the way we stopped at a glacier and took some pictures.

In Valdez we were able to fish by just walking across the road from our parking spot at Allison Point. Bob, Freddie and Ann caught about 15 fish one morning and about the same the next day. We sent home 40 pounds of salmon.

I couldn't fish, as it required climbing down some rocks that were slippery. Freddie was so devoted to landing a fish that he slipped and kicked his fish on the rocks and wound up on his knees. We didn't know it, but the fish had broken his line and was free. We had a great laugh watching his actions.

There we sadly left our traveling mates.

They headed for home and we went on to Homer by way of Anchorage.

At 10 p.m. the sun was still shining brightly. Bob went down to the bay, trying to catch some silver salmon. The RV park had a telephone hookup at our campsite next to where we plugged in for electricity and TV cable. Bob hooked us up so that I could sit at my table and use my computer, the first time I could on our trip.

Homer is a beautiful place, a great place to visit. We ate at many wonderful seafood places on the Homer Spit. This is a five-mile piece of land running out into the bay. We went fishing for halibut on a 50-foot boat. Bob and I each got our limit of two fish. They mark the fish so you know who got what, but the whole party gets the same mark. It sure is a lot of work to get one of these big fish on deck. You feel every one is a monster.

I didn't have time to really look at my fish, as I was so tired, but I wanted to get my line back in the water to get another. Bob said he caught the big one this time, but I really don't know — but I will let him have his day.

The boat ride out was great as we passed snow-covered mountains with some trees and green grass. The grass looked like someone had laid a carpet of green on the side of the mountain. I took many pictures. As we were getting ready to come back in we spotted a pod of orca whales. We watched the many whales rolling and blowing water. This was wonderful.

Bob and I feel this was one of the extra special days God has given us. They are all special, but this was extra special. I sometimes think I am dreaming. I am doing so many wonderful things and seeing so much. We left Homer and headed to Soldotna. We had a great time in Homer and sent home a lot of halibut.

On the way back to Tok, Bob fished the Kenai River for sockeye salmon. He had a ball. Caught his limit of three salmon and one rainbow trout. The snow-covered mountains and the valleys were dotted with lakes and trees. It is so beautiful.

The sad part is that we had to leave the great state of Alaska. I wish we could have stayed longer.

Future CHOC Rallies

October 1-3, 2004 CHOC Fall Rally, Decatur, Ala. Sponsored by Hood RV. Contact Secretary for registration form.

October 29-31, 2004 CHOC Homecoming Rally, Location to be announced. Rally information and registration form will be mailed.

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

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

Club News

New Members

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

- **Florida:** Bud and Joy Keziah, Bill and Gloria Lippert
- **California:** Jay and Jonid Arneson
- **Pennsylvania:** Morris and Ruth Kunkle
- **Texas:** Edward and Twyla Maxwell
- **New Mexico:** James and Valeria M. Brown
- **Massachusetts:** Paul and Dolores Sherman

President

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ing closely together to fill the vacant treasurer's job. If you haven't received your badge, or are in need any information, please contact me at srqbobs@aol.com, or call me at the number on your newsletter.

We want to send prayers and good wishes to all who are ill or lost a loved one. I also want to welcome all our new members.

From the National Director

By Bob Schneider

Not a lot of news. I will be attending the FMCA International Convention in Redmond, Ore. We have a lot of issues to vote on. I will let you know the outcome at the Fall Rally.

I enjoyed being able to present CHOC's check to Habitat for Humanity at the rally in Claremore, Okla.

From the Secretary

If any member, who has an email address, has not received email from the Club recently, please be sure the secretary has your correct address. Email it to her with the subject "CHOC Email Address."

If you need a registration form for the Decatur Rally, please contact the secretary.

Jeanette Riley, Secretary
nriley937@earthlink.net

The History of CHOC

By Marlene and Bern Wolsky

In the spring of 1999, Carole Blascak began discussions with Wes Knadle and Coach House, Inc. about forming a Coach House owners' club, with the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA).

With guidance from FMCA, a gathering of van owners met in November 1999 at Stay-N-Play RV Resort, across from Coach House's plant in Nokomis, Fla.

Having FMCA as the parent organization affords many advantages to its chapters:

- Liability insurance. If we had to buy our own policy we would not be able to have our own Coach House rallies.
- Mail forwarding. FMCA pays for the materials and service, and you pay only for the postage.
- Travel message service, via an 800 number for a modest fee.
- Emergency driver availability, in case you are incapacitated and need someone to drive your Coach House home for you.
- The opportunity to attend rallies with a multitude of interesting seminars.
- Excellent entertainment, which is included in the rally fee.
- And, of course, the Family Motor Coaching Magazine, included in the fee.

And, there are many more benefits, which can be viewed on the FMCA website (go to www.fmca.com), or in the FMC magazine.

Most of the credit for forming the CHOC chapter goes to Carole and Wes. Using lists of owners that Coach House provided, they sent 1,400 mailings out to invite all owners to gather and form what is now CHOC. Eighty-one owners attended the first rally in November 1999.

The very first board meeting was the next week on November 12, 1999, with Ms. Blascak as President, Bob Luby as Vice President, Pam Luby as Secretary, Wally Antoine as Treasurer, Bern Wolsky as National Director and Mary Ann Kennedy as Alternate National Director. Bern Wolsky volunteered to be Newsletter Editor. Jerry and Betty Wolff volunteered to advise and help

organize future rallies.

In February 2000, Pam Luby resigned and Marlene Wolsky was appointed Secretary. During 2000, in order to get organized and "learn the ropes," we had nine Board of Directors meetings.

Our first rally was hosted by Jerry and Betty Wolff at Sun-N-Fun in April 2000. Mary Ann Washington hosted the next rally in August 2000 at Hershey, Pa. Lex and Barbara Barnes hosted a rally in Miamisburg, Ohio, in September 2000. Again, the Wolffs hosted the first anniversary (Homecoming) Convention, along with Coach House, at Stay-N-Play in November 2000, at which time the new officers for the upcoming year were installed. Our first year was full of hard work by the board, the rally hosts and Wes Knadle.

Needless to say, we are an International Chapter and will support a rally anywhere in the USA or Canada if we have people willing to organize a rally.

In 2001, a new slate of officers was installed: President, Bern Wolsky; Vice President, Jerry Wolff; 2nd Vice President, Mary Ann Kennedy; 3rd Vice President, Carole Blascak; Secretary, Marlene Wolsky; Treasurer, Wyanda Mitchell; National Director, Bob Schneider; Alternate National Director, Don Mitchell. We all worked hard to put together the following rallies, plus eight more board meetings:

- **April 2001** — Tarpon Springs, Fla., hosted by Bern and Marlene Wolsky.
- **Sept. 2001** — Kissimmee, Fla., hosted by Carole Blascak and Dan Regan.
- **Nov. 2001** — Second Anniversary CHOC Homecoming Convention, hosted by Coach House and Carole Blascak.
- **September 2002** — Bay St Louis, La., hosted by Juan and Peggy Galvez (cut short by an approaching hurricane).

Pauline Stevens was elected President in 2002, along with Karin Peuhsner, First Vice President; Juan Galvez, Second Vice President and Rally Coordinator; Bill Johnson Third Vice President and Newsletter Editor; Marlene Wolsky, Secretary; Barbara Keda-

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CHOC*Talk*

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CHOC History

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nis, Treasurer; Bob Schneider, National Director; and Pierre Berard as Alternate National Director.

Now 2003 rolls along with new officers elected and installed at the November 2002 International Rally. Pauline Stevens, President; Mary Ann Kennedy, First Vice President; Archer Cummings, Second Vice President; Joann Cummings, Third Vice President; Marlene Wolsky, Secretary; Wyanda Mitchell, Treasurer; Bob Schneider, National Director; and Don Mitchell, Alternate National Director. Bill Johnson volunteered to be Newsletter Editor. The board decided to have its meetings in conjunction with the rallies and to communicate via the internet.

We attempted a first: we had a "Rolling Rally" in September 2003, adeptly organized by Bill Johnson. We met in Boone, N.C., and lazily traveled down the Blue Ridge Parkway to Cherokee, N.C. We even gained a new member who lived in the area.

For Homecoming 2003, 39 Coach House owners gathered in Nokomis, Fla., where the new officers for the upcoming year were elected and installed. Pauline Stevens, Presi-

dent; Karin Peuhsner, 1st V.P.; Pierre Berard, 2nd V.P.; Freeman Nevins, 3rd V.P. and Newsletter Editor; Jeanette Riley, Secretary; Barbara Kedanis, Treasurer; Bob Schneider, National Director; and Marlene Wolsky, Alternate National Director.

At this rally we were able to accumulate a sizable donation to give to Habitat for Humanity through FMCA to the Sarasota, Fla., chapter to replace some tools that were stolen earlier in the year.

The current year has rolled around and we already have been very active. We gathered for a Fish Fry at our President's home, where we all tried our hands at catching some tilapia. Some of the attendees went on to the FMCA Southeast Area Rally in Brooksville, Fla. In April, 14 coaches gathered in Claremore, Okla., for the FMCA International Rally. Afterward, five of the group traveled to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada, ending up in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., following extensive trip planning by Karin Peuhsner.

We are already looking forward to 2005 with a "Fish Fry" again in February at Pauline's and Bob's place in Myakka City, Fla., and a Spring Rally in Charleston, S.C. We hope to see all of our CHOC members and look forward to having new Coach House owners join in the camaraderie.