

# Letter From The President

**A**s I write this letter we are traveling across this great country headed for Alaska.

Our first stop was to visit the Galvezes, who lost their home in Hurricane Katrina. It was great to see them, and they are doing well. The reconstruction of their house is slowly coming along.

We left there and headed West. Driving through a dust storm in Kansas, we felt we were headed for Oz.

We then went to Reno for a short visit with our kids. As we drove through Wyoming, the sun came out and Wyoming showed us all her beauty.

We met the Lotts in Thermoplis and enjoyed the hot springs, and then went to Gillette for the INTO Rally. We had five Coach Houses there. We met the Soukups from South Dakota. This was their first rally, and they joined the club. Welcome.

The drive through Canada was beautiful, and we saw many animals. We then met my daughter and son-in-law in Alaska and spent two wonderful weeks with them. We went fishing and hiking and saw several glaciers — a time I will not soon forget.

We left Alaska and headed for FMCA's International Convention in North Carolina, which was held at the Lowe's Motor Speedway — a great place, but too big (it was hard to find your way around).

On a sad note, Bill and Joan Johnson have contacted me and told me they are selling their Coach House for health reasons. Bill was our newsletter editor for a couple of years and also vice president. Most recently, Bill has served on the nominating committee. We appreciate all the help they gave us through the years and wish them well.

We have several members who are ill or are having operations and some who have lost loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of them.

I also feel very sad about Wes Knadle leaving Coach House. He will be sorely missed as he was my backbone all the years I was president.

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# CHOC Talk

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**RV caravan crosses the Confederation Bridge from Nova Scotia to Prince Edward Island. Paula's rig (marked by arrow) is just getting on the bridge.**

## Caravan trip to the Maritimes

**By Paula Bailey**

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**T**his summer, I went on a 32-day Canadian Maritime caravan tour with 20 other coaches.

This was a trip I learned about at the FMCA Brookville Rally last February (right before the CHOC Fish Fry). The Wagon Master of this particular tour gave a seminar on RV caravans, and he was so knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the trip that I signed up on the spot!

I wasn't disappointed!

I was the only Coach House in the group and also the smallest — along with being the only single person, but from Day 1, I was made to feel very welcome. The group seemed to “gel” right away and we really had a lot of fun.

We toured New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Labrador and Prince Edward Island.

In New Brunswick, we went to the Bay of Fundy. The tide was out so we were

able to walk on the ocean floor at the “Flower Pot Rocks” (where the normal tide is 27 feet).

We also went to the Reversing Falls, where one other brave soul and I jet boated through them — we got very wet, and the water was freezing!

In Nova Scotia, we were greeted by the Town Crier in Halifax and then attended the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo featuring a wide range of performers and musical bands.

In Newfoundland, we were “Screeched In” and made honorary “Newfies” and among many other things, toured an authentic Viking settlement and then attended a Viking feast.

In Prince Edward Island, we attended a play, “Anne of Green Gables,” and then toured the Green Gables home.

To get from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland, we loaded our RVs and tow vehicles onto a huge ferry. This ferry looked like

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# RALLYTalk

## Canadian caravan

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a cruise ship — the whole front of the ferry opened up and vehicles drove into it. It was several stories high and held all of our RVs with tow vehicles, plus several 18-wheelers and many individual cars.

There was a cafeteria, lounge area with entertainment, seating area (with airline-type seats) and sleeping rooms. We saw whales, icebergs, moose, seals, bald eagles and puffins and did so many things that the normal traveler wouldn't know about.

Getting from Nova Scotia to Prince Edward Island, we traveled across the Confederation Bridge, which is nine miles long. Before it was built 10 years ago, people had to take a ferry to get to Prince Edward Island. The scenery and wildflowers were breathtaking!

We traveled two to four hours on our travel days, so the driving wasn't tiring. All of the arrangements were made for us (campground reservations, tickets to events and shows, ferry reservations to get from one island to another, and many meals were included) so all we needed to do was follow along.

There was a "Tail Ender" staff member who followed the group when we traveled. He was also a mechanic. In case anyone had problems along the way, he did repairs or found someone who could — and if a rig was delayed, he stayed with the party until they were able to join the group again.

If you have ever wanted to see places, but are skeptical of doing it on your own, I highly recommend trying a caravan tour — it is a wonderful way to travel.

## Good Samaritan repaid

By Freeman Nevins

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**W**hat goes around . . .

Last fall, after the Lake George CHOC Rally, while in New Hampshire, my wife Emily and I had the opportunity to give assistance to Wally and Edna Antoine when their Platinum was disabled at a rest stop along the Kancamagus highway.

Well, this July it was our turn to get help from our fellow CHOC members at the FMCA rally in Gillette, Wyo.

On Saturday evening about 10.30 p.m., while I was starting to take a shower, the water stopped running. Emily went outside to see if everyone's water was shut off or just ours.

Our CHOC group included Pauline Stevens and Bob Schneider and Freddie and Ann Lott. We were parked together.

Bob came over to see if he could help, and discovered that my water pressure regulator had seized. He rerouted our hose directly to the spigot. As he was solving the problem, I threw on a shirt and pair of shorts and went outside to join my wife and see what was happening. About that time, our 6-month old puppy, Chica, jumped on the master doorlock lever, locking all the doors.

No, I didn't have a spare key hidden outside. All our keys, our wallets and AAA membership cards were inside.

Bob and Freddie tried the unlock to doors by using a coat hanger, but no luck. By that time, it was 11 p.m. Fortunately,



**CHOC members at the Gillette, Wyo., Rally. Top row: John Lang, Freddie Lott, Ann Lott and Bob Schneider. Bottom row: Freeman Nevins, Emily Nevins and Pauline Stevens**

Pauline Stevens, who is also an AAA member, called for help.

After she convinced the representative in Florida that we were stuck in Wyoming, and had a puppy locked inside the coach, she was told that no locksmith was available, so they would send a wrecker. After waiting outside in the chilly night air so I could direct the wrecker to our site, he finally arrived about 11:30 p.m. and was able to unlock the coach doors.

We are eternally grateful to our fellow CHOC members for their help. And, yes, now we have a key hidden outside.

## New MEMBERS

**CHOC would like to welcome the following new members:**

**Alabama**

Ron and Delores Johnson

**Florida**

Brad and Sharon Locke  
 Robert and Shirley Mahler  
 Allan and Louise Robertson

**Georgia**

Jack and Anna Mowrer

**New York**

Carl and Tina Bender

**South Carolina**

John and Kris Burke

**South Dakota**

Dick and Becky Soukup

**Texas**

Bill and Gail Hatfield

## Upcoming RALLIES

- Oct. 26–29, 2006** CHOC Homecoming Rally, Holly Haven RV Park, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. (CHOC)
- February 7–11, 2007** Southeast Area Rally, Hernando County Airport Brooksville, Fla. (FMCA)
- March 19–22, 2007** FMCA's 77th International Convention, Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter Perry, Ga. (FMCA)
- April 19–22, 2007** INTO Rally (International Area) Harrington, Del. (FMCA)
- May 4–6 2007** CHOC Spring Rally, Gettysburg, Pa. (CHOC)

# CLUBTalk

## A bear-y interesting experience

**W**e have just returned from a 10-week, 5,654-mile trip that took us into 14 states — so I am no longer a novice RV dog!!!

At first I did not like riding in the RV because I couldn't see out. I love riding in the back seat of a car, so Mom and Dad solved the problem by creating a "back seat" in the RV using a small armless folding chair. As you can see from my picture, I can watch the road or sleep. The chair is quite stable, and much more comfortable than riding on Mom's lap!

We spent several days in the Blue Ridge Mountains and had been hearing about black bear sightings. We were made very aware that it is illegal to feed or harass any park wildlife with penalties up to a \$5,000 fine and six months in prison.

One morning while out walking with Mom, a little girl (maybe 5 human years old) ran screaming back to her camper, "Mommy, Mommy! She has a baby bear on a leash!"

Well, everyone came out of their rigs to see this amazing sight, and it took several minutes to convince the little girl that I was a dog and not a bear. I was not amused. We never did see any real black bears, but we saw lots of deer.

We stayed in many state parks, and were pleasantly surprised to find that some in Ohio participate in the Passport America plan. Our favorite parks, however, were the Corps of Engineers parks that are located all over the country. Mom's favorite was Cole Creek in Illinois because she found a ruby throated hummingbird's nest and was able to take pictures of the tiny bird sitting on the nest. If you are interested in Corps parks, you can check them out at [corpsslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/camping.cfm](http://corpsslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/camping.cfm) or in the book "Camping with the Corps of Engineers." If you have a Golden Age Passport (lifetime membership costs \$10 and is available at any national park) all of the camping fees are reduced by 50%.

Mom and Dad used to live in Michigan and made a big deal about this one ice cream shop in the Upper Peninsula. They

make something called a Jersey Mud Sunday (1 scoop vanilla ice cream topped with hot fudge; 1 scoop chocolate ice cream topped with marshmallow cream; sprinkle generously with malt powder and top with a cherry). After licking the bowl, I understand why they wanted one!

Wishing you smooth roads and level campsites.

 Belle



This is me on my riding seat.

## Make your RV life simpler

By Paula Bailey

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**Wall mounted hair dryer** — Most of us need a hair dryer in our travels. Instead of packing one away in the closet, why not hang it on the wall in the bathroom? I've found this to be very convenient and it's always there when I need it. Mine happens to be a Sunbeam model, but there are several others available.



Wall-mounted hair dryer.



Soap and lotion dispenser.

**Shower soap and lotion dispenser** — Here's an easy way to eliminate all of those bottles of shampoo, conditioner and soap in your shower. This handy push-button dispenser hangs on your shower wall and has containers for your shampoo, conditioner and liquid soap or lotion. It's a real space-saver and everything is right where you need it. You can

find these at Wal-Mart, Camping World or any discount department store.

If you have some ideas that have made your RV experience better, easier and more enjoyable, we'd like to share them with our readers, please send them to me at [1derfulife@comcast.net](mailto:1derfulife@comcast.net).

### Ford Recall Notice

**F**ord Motor Co. is notifying owners of certain 1994–2002 F-250, 350, 450, 550 and E-150, 250 and 350 models that there could be a problem with the cruise control switch, which could over-heat, even if the engine is not running. If your coach falls in this category, and you haven't received a recall notice from Ford, contact the Ford dealer in your area.

### President's Letter

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In closing, this will be my last letter. I will not take office again. I have enjoyed every minute of my five years as your president, but feel it is time for someone else to take over this position in your club. I will stay an active member and will see you at the rallies. I feel sad as I think of handing my office over to someone else, but it is time. I hope to see you all at the Homecoming Rally.

Drive safely, and we'll see you down the road.

# CHOC Talk

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## National Director's Letter

By Bob Schneider

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**T**his letter comes from the FMCA INTO rally at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte, N.C.

On Sunday, Pauline and I attended two very informative caucuses about the meetings we would be attending and what we would be voting on.

The first bylaw change proposed taking the past-president off the Board — this failed. Among the proposed changes in Policy and Procedures — some passed and some failed. (I will bring a copy of the meeting to the Homecoming Rally so those interested can read it.)

A major proposal was that the the Board wanted to add a "Bar" consisting of five people from each area who would vote on most issues. The National Directors would still be in office, but would have little to say about what was going on. This would give 71 people the power to run FMCA. This proposal failed (3 votes for, and more than 400 against).

The next issue was to eliminate the Alternate National Director office — this also failed.

The next voting meeting will be in August 2007 in Redmond, Ore. Pauline loves this place. It is beautiful but a long way away. Since the National Director or Alternate must attend this meeting to have a say for our club, I would like to see the members vote him or her some kind of allotment for traveling expenses.

In closing, I will not run for office again. I have been in office for six years and feel that this is enough. Please step forward and help our club. As National Director, I have traveled to many places I had never heard of before and have seen much of this beautiful country.

### Something to Think About

"Dance as if no one were watching, sing as if no one were listening, and live every day as if it were your last."

*Irish Proverb*