

CHOCTALK

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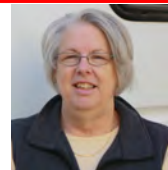
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fall/Winter Greetings from Illinois

Our travels for 2014 are over. We have met many new friends, traveled to some interesting and fun places and reluctantly put our Coach to bed for the winter. It is always a little sad to pack up everything, winterize, and try to critter proof our home on wheels. The exciting part is looking forward to next spring and thinking about where our travels may take us in 2015.

I can hardly believe that my first year as President has passed so quickly. Everyone has been so kind, helpful, and understanding. It has been a lot of fun and I am looking forward to next year and our new club adventures.

Please note that under club officers you will find names of some newly elected officers. I would like you to take a moment and send an email to each of the retired board members thanking them for all they have done for our CHOC club. You may also notice that under 2nd vice president, rally coordinator, there is a blank. That is because Phyllis Johnson has resigned and at this time we have no one to fill the last year of her term. So, please take a moment to send an email to thank Phyllis as well.

This year we were in Nashville, Tennessee in the spring and had a lot of fun touring, and going to the Grand Ole Opry. This fall we were in St. Augustine, Florida and had a lot of fun touring and wishing the Fountain of Youth would work its magic. I would like to thank Coach House for their participation at St. Augustine. Our fall rally was one of the best attended in a while. We want to continue that trend to see more members at each rally. Every rally offers a great time and a chance to get to know new members and connect with friends we don't see very often.

We need someone to coordinate the spring rally. A final destination or date for the spring rally has not yet been chosen so keep an eye out in your email for that information. Some locations that have been mentioned are New Orleans, Washington DC, Chattanooga, and Savannah but it would be up to the coordinator. There is no defined way to handle the coordination. It could be a single person, a couple, a couple of couples or a committee. Please consider it and if you have questions let me know as we need someone by the first of the year.

It is getting close to the holidays so I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you the best in life. I hope you will be spending time with friends and family and cherishing each and every moment. Also, please keep in mind those less fortunate and perhaps when you are buying groceries you could put a little something in your basket for someone else and give it to a food pantry or someone in need.

Never forget - "And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

- Abraham Lincoln

We'll be talking again soon,
Melody

A Memo from the Secretary

When Carl and I bought our Coach House (CH) Motor Home in 2012, we really had no ideas about how to get started. We've been boating and taking trips by water for more than 30 years—this RVing was all brand new!

We knew we wanted to “head west” and see some National Parks...and what? Knowing we would miss the Spring 2012 Coach House Owners Club (CHOC) Rally, we turned to the Internet.

I Googled “best apps for RVers” and discovered a whole new world. After traveling for only a couple of years, we still have much to learn, but here are some of our favorite tools.

“Next Exit”: This is one of our RV Bibles. (And we now take it on long car trips). As we crisscross the US, we always wonder where to stop, for various reasons. This book covers every exit on every interstate in the US! Where's the next rest area? Where's the closest Walmart? If we stop for the night, is there somewhere nearby to eat? (I rarely cook aboard—my favorite saying is “my stove is for resale”). Any place that is large enough for RVs is listed in red. We've discovered that the cheapest fuel is usually at an exit with a lot of competition, which leads to a favorite app...

Gas Buddy: By checking fuel prices at nearby stations, we can save \$\$\$. This app also allows you to check prices at an area far from your present location—we've saved 50¢/gal near some state lines. This app also let you update prices of station that you see.

RVParkReviews.com: This is a terrific app. There are many books, sites and other ways to find campgrounds. This app has a collection of reviews by campers that have recently stayed at the campground. Let's face it—websites for a campground only say positive things. This site has current information, and there's enough information on this site to be really helpful.

Cracker Barrel: While Walmart is a favorite “campground” when we are trying to make time getting to a location, Cracker Barrel is also high on our list. (They even have a map of the US with all locations, including addresses and phone #'s) they welcome overnights, and have reasonably priced and good meals. And, they start serving breakfast at 6AM for those that want an early start.

Rallies: We missed the first one in 2012 so we were determined to attend the Fall 2012 Rally in Hiawassee, GA. Boy, was that a great idea! There was a “Parade of Coaches” for owners to show off their modifications, and we learned a lot. It was amazing to see how other CH owners solved “problems”, and made their lives easier while traveling. It was also great to meet other CH owners. We've really enjoyed going to all the Rallies since then. Renewing acquaintances is always fun and the planned activities have been super. If you haven't attended a rally, you should because you're missing a lot

The CHOC Rallies, CH Factory Rallies and campgrounds are a valuable source of information. We often ask other campers for their favorite parks and apps. People are so willing to share tips and information, and all of this has added to our great experiences. Information about “Safety Plus” steering arm for Ford—standard for 2014 forward—(thanks, Mike DiZazzo), and tire monitors has helped us feel more secure. Scan Gauge II (thanks, Jay Arneson) has also been a lot of help with the information it supplies. (Want to hear our deer whistle? It did stop a doe in her tracks). Another great place for help is the CHOC Facebook page. The whole CHOC Community will see your questions and comments and are willing to help.

There are also sites that list all dump sites in the US, both public and private. (turns out my hometown in MA has a water treatment plant that welcomes RVers, and the workers won't even take tips!)

This is a beautiful country, and we are so happy to be able to explore it in our home on wheels.

Karin



Coach House Owners' Club Fall Rally

The St. Augustine Rally was held in late October this Fall

With 93 in attendance it was fun for all

North Beach Camp Resort was willing and handy.

Our sites were just perfect, shady and sandy.

Both pot luck dinners were really delish

With all our wonderful cooks how could you miss.

Tom of Coach House Factory showed us 30 years of quality

Each year with new improvements, their latest models. He brought three.



Flagler College was inspiring, Tiffany windows galore.

And history St. Augustine brought sights even more

The cruise was relaxing as we toured the coastline

We saw history from the water, with lunch and sunshine.

Thanks to the trolley our tour stops were many

And Café Eleven's cooking...our food was a-plenty.

Our visiting Magician delighted and confused us.

With all of his tricks our laughter was contagious.



The Pirate and Treasure Museum had our education in store

We learned eye patches helped pirates loot even more

St. George Street shops were enticing for many.

The most popular items were ice cream and candy.

Our Owner's Club meeting had reports to tell

New officers Karin, Margaret, Jan, and George will serve our Club well.

Our Coach House Owners' Club is active and strong

With new members pitching in, eager to belong.

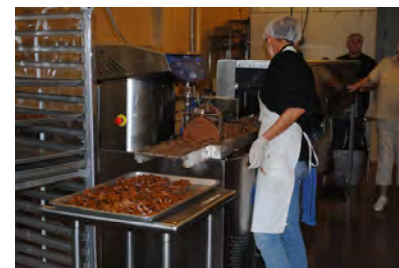


The Fountain of Youth had star-gazing and rifles

The Distillery and winery had huge vats and barrels

Tasting was a treat at the Whitstone Chocolate Factory

And taking pictures with Lucy was more than satisfactory.



Friday's parting breakfast was both happy and sad

Leaving old and new friends for all directions GPS had

But more rallies are coming, there's more of America to see.

So jump in your Coach House....It's time to RV.

Thank you all who helped me put this Rally together. Good health and happy traveling to you all,

Nancy Trunzo

Special Thanks from Coach House Motorhomes

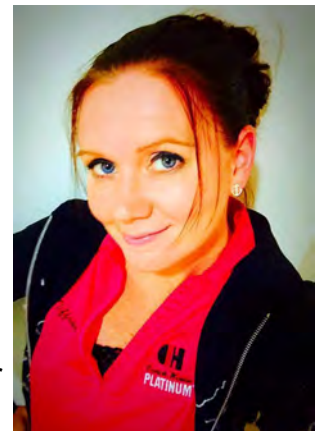
*Thank
You*

Speaking on behalf of Coach House we'd like to thank everyone for the warm welcome we received during the recent October rally in St. Augustine. Nancy did an amazing job and should be commended for her hard

work, time and attention to detail to make this event so successful. We had a great time participating in the events and enjoyed connecting again with our extended family. St. Augustine was so interesting that I'm already planning a trip back with my kids to do some more exploring. We hope that all of you enjoyed the CHOC St. Augustine rally and we look forward to seeing your smiling faces at our 7th annual Coach House factory rally on January 9th-11th, 2015.

Coach House strives to provide a wonderful RV experience to our customers. We are very grateful for all of your unwavering support and we will continue building our motorhomes with our "build-it-right, build-it-to-last" philosophy. As 2014 winds down, we want to take the opportunity to thank all of you for being a part of our Coach House family, and we hope all of you have a very happy holiday season.

*Sincerely,
Tiffany Lindner*



Treasurer's Report

Understanding the CHOC Treasury

It is easiest to understand the state of the CHOC Treasury if you consider these three parts: Rally Expenses, Charity Fund, and everything else. Let's look at each of these parts.

Rally Expenses:

The rally coordinator makes every effort to cover the rally expenses with the rally fees. If the rally fees don't cover the expenses, then the overage is covered by the CHOC Treasury. The St. Augustine rally cost the club 5 cents.

Charity:

All the money we collect for charity is held in the CHOC treasury until we collect enough for a \$500 donation.

Other Money (non-rally and non-charity)

Income

- Membership Dues and Donations to Club

- Badge fines (not designated for charity)

Expenses

- Board Member reimbursement for FMCA convention travel

- Board Member expenses

- Member badges

- Rally overage expenses, if any

Current Treasury Details

Now that you know what to look for, where do we stand in each of these categories?

St. Augustine Rally Status

The St. Augustine rally cost the club \$.05. See the detailed report below.

(Cont. on Pg. 6)

Charity Status

The CHOC board decided that the proceeds from both the silent auction as well as the 50/50 raffle at the St. Augustine rally would go towards charity. We collected \$571.00 for charity at the rally, enough to cover our next \$500 donation to go to the Araba Shriners. Dennis Durfee will make that presentation on behalf of CHOC. We still have \$486.75 available for our next \$500 contribution.

As a club, we need to identify more worthy causes for our charitable donations. If you have suggestions, please send those ideas to *Melody Thompson, CHOC President*. We will vote on the next set of charities at the Spring rally.

Details of CHOC Charity Fund

\$415.75 Balance in charity fund from prior rallies
\$376.00 Proceeds from 50/50 raffle at St. Augustine rally
\$195.00 Proceeds from silent auction at St. Augustine rally

\$986.75 Total available for Charity after St. Augustine rally

\$500.00 CHOC donation to Araba Shriners

\$486.75 Current balance in treasury designated for charity

Status of Other Money (Non-Rally and Non-Charity), Sept 2013 – Nov 18, 2014

Income

\$3,288.00 Membership Dues and Donations to Club

Expenses

\$2,640.94 Board Member reimbursement for FMCA convention travel
\$ 194.02 Board Member printing, shipping, new checks & endorsement stamp
\$ 633.50 Member badges
\$.05 Rally overage (St. Augustine)

\$3,468.46 Total Expenses (exclusive of Rally and Charity expenses)

What's in the Bank?

Lastly, we want to look at what money we actually have in the bank. We like to keep a fairly hefty balance in the bank to cover major operating expenses, such as rally expenses that must be paid up-front or FMCA travel expenses.

Final Bank Balance as of Nov 18, 2014

\$7,377.93	Member funds available for club use
\$ 486.75	Funds designated for charity

\$7,864.68	Total Bank Balance

St. Augustine Rally Report

Income

Attendance Fees (net after refunds)	28,708.65
Coach House Contribution	500.00

Total Rally Income: \$ 29,208.65

Expenses

Campground (after refund)	11,533.17
Catering	8,534.25
Transportation / Tours	8,160.50
Magic Show & Door Prize	529.00
Supplies / Snacks	90.90
Printing	53.26
Raffle Tickets	11.12
Rally Pins	296.50

Total Rally Costs \$ 29,208.70

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OVERALL TOTAL (deficit covered by treasury) (\$ 0.05)

CHOC**Talk**

*Coach House Owner's Club Chapter FMCA
Coach House, Inc.
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CHOC 2015 Dues Notice

CHOC membership dues for 2015 (January thru December) are due on January 1st. Dues are \$25 per coach and, in accordance with club bylaws, must be paid by April 15th in order to maintain membership. Because of mail delays, you may have already mailed your check and I have not yet received it. If so, please disregard this reminder. If not, and you wish to continue your membership, please mail your check (payable to CHOC) to:

CHOC
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