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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MIKE COCCI



President Mike Cocci
& 1st Lady Mo

Planning a rally is always a fun activity. Many rally goers may think it is time consuming and stressful, but it needn't be that way. We all know of great places where we like to visit and camp. So all it takes is some imagination and a few good contacts to put the plans in place. Here is a copy of the letter I wrote to get the Silver City Rally organized.

Ponderosa Bound!

Dear Ben,

It seems like yesterday when we helped you pack your wagon and watched you leave St. Louis headed toward the wild, wild west. Who would have thought that you would now have a huge ranch and 3 grown sons. It must have been quite an adventure for you and your family.

After all of these years I've finally convinced Maureen that we should visit your beautiful High Sierras and the Ponderosa Ranch. Actually, we will be traveling there with about 20 other couples on their way to Oregon. I know how hospitable you always were, but you don't have to worry about accommodations for the whole group. There is no way you could put up to 20 couples in your home

have any dance hall girls with us for entertainment, but some of the folks are known to kick up their heels when the music gets agoing good. Despite our raspy voices you can even find a sing along around the campfire at night. And we have some cooks that can stir up a mean pot of chili, too. We even have our own Entertainment Director. Although she's not like the orchestra leader that Lily Pons brought with her to the opera house, she does organize a lot of fun activities for us.

There are a couple of small favors we would ask of you. Could Little Joe show us the road to Lake Tahoe as some of the people would like to take a boat trip? Also, after living on coach food for several weeks, we were hoping that Hoss would wrestle up a steer for Hop Sing to roast up at his famous dinner. We would be happy to cover any costs that this might entail. I don't think we would be too disruptive to everyday ranching activities. We plan to stay just a couple of days. Enough to rest up before heading up to Oregon for a

or even in the bunk house. But don't worry, because we will be in coaches that are fully self contained for extended travel. No, they are not stage coaches, but more like a super sized Conestoga Wagon with all of the amenities: heat, light, water, cook stoves, and even bath and toilet facilities. Yes. It's a long way from that hole in the floor of your wagon. All we ask is that we have access to a large pasture, fresh spring water and a large hole to dump our waste water. I know that the young Tom Edison has yet to string wires to supply electricity, but we can survive with our own power generators and water systems.

You won't even have to worry about entertaining us as we tend to make our own fun. We have a couple of banjo pickers, a trumpet player and concertinas to provide the music. We don't

President. Continued page 2

RMCC web site:
<http://www.rmccusa.com>



Silver State Rally

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

BY MIKE COCCI

Big gathering with over 300 coaches like ours. This will be held at the Jay Howard spread; you know, the old Bob Lee place outside Eugene, Oregon.

If all of that is acceptable to you, we are planning to arrive in late spring as soon as the snow clears from the mountain passes.

Yes, we have heard about the famous Donner Party, but the snow should be out of the pass by the time we venture through. We are looking forward to seeing you and the boys soon.

Yours truly,

Mike Cacci and the Rocky Mountain Country Coach Gang.

If you couldn't make this trip, you missed out on a great time. We are looking forward to seeing you in the fall at Durango, CO. Remember to bring your pumpkin-carving kit and costumes for the Halloween Party contests. ☺



Rocky Mountain "HI" Rally

Get ready for another fantastic RMCC Rally at the Alpen Rose RV Park in Durango, Colorado, September 29 thru October 4, 2006. Hosts for this rally are Don & Gayle Becker and Bill & Terry Smith.

The schedule of events has been set and it looks like it'll be loads of fun with plenty of sightseeing in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. There is a jeep tour of the Durango Mountain, an optional Silverton Train ride, and a Silverton jeep tour.

Don't forget to bring your

pumpkin carving kits so you can enter the pumpkin carving contest. Since we have so many "cut-ups" in the club, this contest should be interesting, to say the least.

Also, don't forget about your spiffy costume for the Halloween costume contest. Remember, Reggie says we're all cowboys and cowgirls already, since we are from the Rocky Mountain area, so we should come as something else. The word is "be creative." (I can hardly wait to see what this brings forth! I hope we don't get kicked out of

the park for this one.) Please, no pink elephants.

And as always, the Rocky Mountain Country Coachers will be well fed with breakfasts on three different mornings and dinners catered on two of the evenings and Happy Hours each evening.

There is some other entertainment planned as well.

So does this make your heart jump up and shout WHOOPIE!? If not, you better check your pulse; I think you may have a problem.

☺

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Rally

Just to make it easy for you Mountaineers, we have another rally planned just a bit south of Durango in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This one takes place at the Balloon Fiesta from October 11 thru October 15, 2006. Our hosts for this rally are Don & Gayle Becker of Rocky Mountain "HI" Rally fame. (Yeah, they're doing double duty with this one.)

The schedule, as you can see, (attached to this edition of your Newsletter,) is packed full of the balloon fiesta events each day.

Your rally fee of just \$225 will include 4 nights dry camping, 3 Happy Hours, 4 Breakfasts, 1 dump and water fill, and 1 dinner at the casino, plus the balloon shows each day.

Be sure you get your reservations in very soon because this rally will be limited to less than we normally get for our rallies due to the limited space in the park where we are going to be.

☺



Silver City Rally

By Reggie Knight

Many of you chose not to attend the Silver City Rally in Minden, Nevada for a variety of reasons and we were sorry not to see you there. You missed one of the most activity packed rallies in the history of RMCC, but you'll be able to read all about it here. The Silver City RV Park is located along Rt. 395 a few miles south of Carson City where we had access to Costco, Wal-Mart, large grocery stores, shopping malls, historical districts and Lake Tahoe. The Park is in the Carson Valley and is surrounded by snow capped mountain peaks.

Of the eighteen coaches that attended, more than half arrived a day or so early; this gave us time to give and receive hugs from our friends. Most of us came from temperatures of 90 -100 degrees, so we were very comfortable with sunny skies, but cool breezes. Our hosts were Shirley McKenzie, Loretta Murrey, Paul Chelaw and Joe Murrey. The registration packets were contained in sand buckets with shovels that were useful later in the rally. Not only did we receive information about the rally, Nevada and the nearby historical districts, but we also received as a souvenir a Nevada Commemorative Medallion struck on the original Carson City Mint Coin Press. Later we saw the Coin Press when we toured the Carson City Museum and Mint.

Sunday evening we car pooled to the Tahoe Ridge Winery in Genoa for dinner and wine tasting. Genoa is Nevada's non-native oldest settlement. It was established in 1851 during the California Gold Rush as a trading post called Mormon Station where travelers rested and purchased sup-

plies before tackling the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Nevada's oldest "Thirst Parlor" was built in 1863 and called Livingston's Exchange; now it is Genoa Bar & Saloon and across the street from Tahoe Ridge Winery. At the Winery we were greeted with a glass of Semillon wine by the owners/managers as we entered the premises. Then we were guided to our dining area on the back lawn, passing buffet tables of appetizers of fruit, veggies, dips, cheeses and crackers, where we were encouraged to pile our plates. Once seated, we were offered Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc for tasting. It was all so lovely - the weather was pleasantly cool, conversation and laughter were spontaneous among friends, the ambience even included neighboring barnyard animal noises and the wine mellowed us. We returned to the buffet tables for our dinner of salad with a selection of dressings, lasagna, yummy garlic bread and biscotti for dessert. While we were eating, the hosts offered a selection of red wines, including Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Syrah and a Baby Syrah, also water and soft drinks. The red wines were bottled and two were from small oak barrels. Since RMCC members are responsible drinkers, the car pool drivers switched to water or soft drinks during the meal. Before leaving the Winery, a few of us bought wines to enjoy later at home or on our travels. We all slept well that night.

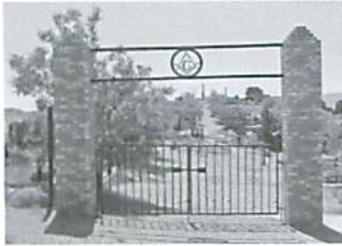
On Monday morning, we gathered at the clubhouse for breakfast of fruit, huge muffins and orange juice. Those of us who were interested signed up for the trolley and railroad tours in Virginia City and the Lake Tahoe Cruise. The golfers departed to hit the little ball over and over and over again. In the afternoon we had a docent-guided tour of the Nevada

State Museum and Mint in Carson City. We were divided into four groups and were lead by our docents to different parts of the Museum. The areas we visited included an underground tour of a duplicated silver mine, views of fossil replicates found within Nevada, household furnishings of early settlers in the Carson City area, early Indian basketry and other artifacts found during construction in and around downtown Carson City. They have marked sites where there still are artifacts, but they don't have the money or time to excavate them. The docents told us about the people and their lives during the years of the silver boom. At first the people who came to this area were not looking for silver, but for gold and they were throwing away the bluish grey rocks they were finding until someone took one to an assayer and found out that it was valuable. The people who did come to work the mines were the Irish who had been to the California Gold Rush or those who never physically got to California, Americans from the East Coast and miners from Cornwall, England. The average age of a miner was in his 30's, his average height was 5'9 1/2" and his average weight was 165 lbs. The silver miners were the highest paid miners in the world at that time because working conditions were extremely hazardous to their health - the temperature in the mines was over 110 degrees. There was a Chinese community in the mining area, but they were not allowed to work in the mines. They had vegetable gardens that provided fresh vegetables that the miners needed for good health. Also, they did provide services for the miners such as laundry, cooking, and other "domestic" services since the miners and those who had families lived in tents. The saloons were the community's social centers even for the families. The



Silver City Rally Continued page 4

Photo Gallery



saloons didn't have swinging doors or butterfly door because too much cold air would enter during the cold season, but they had two full doors with the upper half fitted with glass to keep the cold out, but allow light in since the saloons didn't have any windows. After the silver boom, the state of Nevada had an economic bust and the state government decided to legalize what other states had criminalized as sinful to enrich the state's coffers. That is why gambling, sports betting and prostitution, in some counties, are legal in Nevada. The Mint was established in 1861, but didn't begin pressing until 1869 when Abe Curry, from Nevada, became the U.S. Secretary of Treasury. He encouraged the federal government to put a mint where the silver was, not ship the silver to other areas of the country to be pressed into coins. This press is no longer used to press coins, but our Rally souvenir was minted on this press. Everyone enjoyed this tour and left knowing more about Nevada and the Carson City area.

Monday evening we dined at the Genoa Lake Golf Club. The

ambience was superb! The dining room was large and overlooked the rolling knolls of the golf course. While we were relaxing with a pre-dinner drink and watching the sun's rays play on the tree leaves, we saw a mule deer amble across the nearest fairway. Shirley had devised an excellent method for us to mingle and get to know each other better by assigning us different tables for each of the courses. Dinner consisted of a salad, main entrée of shrimp scampi and filet mignon with vegetables and potatoes, and dessert was apple tart with coffee. Good idea, Shirley! Again, we had a good night's sleep.

We left early on Tuesday to car pool to Virginia City. We met our docent at the gate of the Silver Terrace Cemetery. The Cemetery consists of 11 cemeteries of various groups - Masons, West Coast Pioneers, Knights of Pythias, Oddfellows, Silver Terrace, West End, Firemen, Redmen, County and Catholic. The site of the cemetery wasn't selected for its beauty, abundant water supply or colorful plant life, but for the absence of silver beneath it. Many of the grave stones and

markers have been vandalized and have been seen in the front yards of current Nevada residents. Now it is a criminal offense to take or vandalize grave stones and markers. According to the docent, life in Virginia City was extremely hard. Death was caused not only by the cold weather, poor living conditions and mining accidents, but by polluted water from sewage seepage and chemicals used in the mining and processing of silver, poor nutrition, fires, illness and a large number were caused by transportation accidents. After walking most of the morning, we had built up an appetite for lunch. At various times during the afternoon members of our group took the trolley ride tour of Virginia City and heard the history and gossip of its glory years. Also we took a short train ride to Gold Hill and back on the V & T Railroad passing a few deserted mines that were part of the Comstock Mining Company. The Comstock owned mines in Virginia City, Silver City and Gold Hill; and

Silver City Rally

Continued on page 5

RALLY HO!

Mark your calendar!

The following is a listing of rallies that RMCC is involved in. For a list of other CCI Rallies look in the Destinations Magazine published by Country Coach.

2006

- September 29 to October 4, 2006: Durango Rally at Alpen Rose RV Park located 2 miles north of Durango on Highway 550. 27847 Highway 550N Durango, Colorado.
- This rally is nearly filled.

Only 50 sites were available and will be taken quickly. If you have questions, please contact Don or Gail Becker at (505) 327-1313.

- October 11 to October 15, 2006: Balloon Fiesta at Marlene's RV Park in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This park is located on the corner of Alameda and Washington St. This will be a dry camping situation, so come with full fresh water tanks and empty holding tanks. This popular rally is

also nearly fully booked because only 33 sites are available. Again, contact the Beckers if you have questions.

- Information sheets will be sent to you soon regarding these 2 rallies.

☺



Mark your
Calendar

Silver City Rally

Continued from page 4

the Hurst family fortune originated with a partnership in this Mining Company. Tuesday night we gathered in the clubhouse for hors d'oeuvres and a Poker game. The hors d'oeuvre buffet table was laden with plates of everything from sushi to Swedish meatballs and strawberries dipped in white chocolate for dessert. After dinner, we played Texas Hold 'Em.

For our catered breakfast on Wednesday morning, we had asparagus quiche or bacon quiche that were hearty and delicious. A short business meeting followed. President Mike Cocci and Secretary Bill Knight were present. (Please see enclosed minutes of the meeting.) At noon we left to drive to Zephyr Cove to

board M.S. Dixie II for a paddleboat cruise. We cruised from Zephyr Cove to Emerald Bay and back watching the water color turn from blue to green near Emerald Bay, thus the name. At Emerald Bay, Mrs. Knight (no relation) built a mansion along the lake, but there was no mention of Mr. Knight. Lake Tahoe is very deep, very cold and very clear. It is fed by melting snow from the surrounding mountains and has no outlet so the only loss of water is by evaporation. Shortly after getting back to the RV Park, we gathered at the clubhouse for a hearty salad dinner and later we panned for "silver".

Muffins and fruit were available for our farewell breakfast and it was an excellent opportunity to

again give and receive hugs and say our "Good-byes" and "See you in Durango." Some of our members were going on to Eugene for the Class Reunion, some were going home and some were continuing on their summer travels.

Kudos to Shirley, Loretta, Paul and Joe for a super-duper rally! See you in Durango, Colorado on September 29 to October 4, 2006.



RMCC News Bites

- Reminder: RMCC Club Rally refund policy: Cancellations received 30 days prior to rally start will be refunded fully. After that **NO REFUNDS** will be issued.
- Ann Sanders is our Historian/Scrapbook Coordinator for RMCC. It would be appreciated if members could bring to a rally or send her pictures taken over the past three years. Please note that the photos will not be returned so

make a copy for yourself. The Historian/Scrapbook Coordinator will be responsible for selecting the most appropriate photos for the album. For more information, please contact:

Ann Sanders
229 Rainbow Dr.
#12984
Livingston, TX 77399
C:602-418-4662

Thank you, Ann, for taking on this job!

- Many members have been asking about the new CCI badges with the new CCI logo inscribed on them. They can be ordered through CCI at a cost of \$7.50 each. Please contact Katrina Damon at CCI Club Office by calling 1-800-537-0622. She will be glad to help you with this.

Ω

Special points of interest:

- Remember RMCC refund policy
- Ann Sanders' scrapbook big success
- New CCI badges available
- **Keep us informed of address changes**

Get Well Soon

We recently heard from the Pinkletons regarding a health issue that Janie is dealing with. It seems that Janie was recently diagnosed with lung cancer that has spread into other areas of her body.

Basically Janie is feeling

pretty good and is reasonably active, though she is on a pain medication that causes some discomfort and makes her sleepy. There are some encouraging clinical treatments that she has gone through, so that is good to hear.

Bob and Janie have asked me

to ask you to pray that they will choose the correct course of treatment, for Janie's well being, and, of course, that they can beat this terrible thing that threatens her very life. God doesn't care how difficult the problem is. He is still in control! Ω



Janie at the Old Pueblo Rally III



Durango Rally Contests



By Reggie Knight

Reggie Says:
Come to Balloon Fiesta with appropriate Halloween costume!

Reggie's Motto:
"NO SNIVELING"!!

The theme for the Durango Rally will be Halloween. A pumpkin carving contest and a costume party are planned. To avoid littering the campground with pumpkin seeds and pulp, all carving will be done inside our coaches and the waste will be presented in a plastic bag when you present your carved pumpkin. (Not my rule.)

For the costume party, costumes are **mandatory** and

let's keep it light and happy. Try to be creative; remember when you weren't as affluent as you are now and you had to provide Halloween costumes for your children? You were creative then and you can be creative now. Also, because we are all Rocky Mountain residents and automatically cowboys and cowgirls, don't think that by wearing a cowboy hat and boots you are in costume - that is daily wear for some of us.

Remember my motto? **"NO SNIVELING"!!** The rally attendees will vote for the best pumpkin carved and best costume.



Poker Night in Silver City

By Reggie Knight

On Tuesday night after our hors d' oeuvre meal, we played Texas Hold 'Em. In our registration packets were two different colored paper strips. There were five different colors and holders of the same color played together, so eight players were at the gaming table for each game. No one had to know anything about poker because "Fast

Fingers Mike Cocci" was not only the dealer, but he explained the game to the players and told them if they had a winning hand and why. Everyone who participated really got into the game and some even had to sit in certain chairs because they were "lucky chairs." The winners of each table played against

each other for the grand prize - and the winner was none other than Mini Michigan Mo Cocci. Her prize was an appropriate T-shirt of Nevada-The Silver State. It was an evening of lots of fun and laughter.



PANNING FOR SILVER

By Reggie Knight

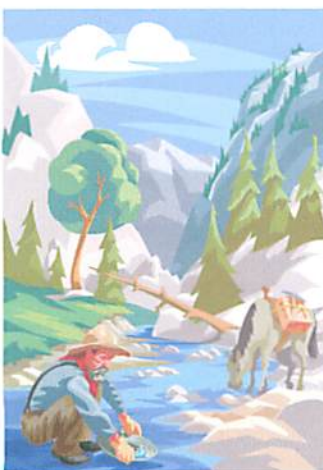
Fifty pounds of pea gravel was the basis of our Panning for Silver Contest on Wednesday night. Five pounds of the gravel was painted silver weeks in advance and became the "silver." The silver was mixed back with the gravel and water. Now this is where the sand buckets came in handy. Each coach was given an amount of the gravel mixture and was allowed to get more after they dumped the last

amount into their sifting container. Then the real work began, the "Miners" had to then separate the "silver" from the gravel and count their valuable nuggets. It was amazing how determined the participants were to win. One couple, who will remain unnamed, placed rocks in the bottom of their cup and placed their "silver" on top to give the appearance of a large amount of treasured "silver." Naughty,

naughty!

The couple with the best strategy was Sam and Pat Estok with over 400 "silver nuggets." Their prizes were matching T-shirts of Nevada-The Silver State.

Again, we laughed a lot and that is a very good sound to hear!



Shoot Out at The Ponderosa

By Mike Cocci

The four challengers arrived at the Eagle Valley Golf Club to compete in the first annual RMCC Shootout. Maureen "Annika" Cocci, Will "Arnie" Stewart, Bill "Chi Chi" Holmesley and Mike "John Daly" Cocci brought their best golfing skills to take on the High Sierra's Course in Carson City, NV. Maureen kept the pressure on the three men by keeping herself in play on every hole. Straight drives and shots toward the green never left the fairway, but she found it difficult to muster her short game to put herself in contention. Will Stewart couldn't keep up with Mike's booming drives, but his iron play kept him in the game. However, like Maureen, Will's putting and chipping failed

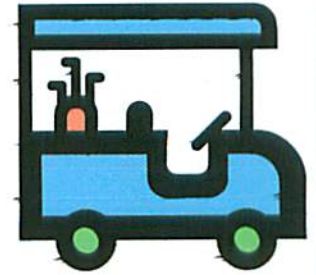
him when it counted. Bill Holmesley found a way to cure his hooking problems of the past and kept his drives in play. He also had the most success on and around the green as he had the only birdie of the day, a 45 foot snaking putt on a back nine par 4. While this putt helped him record the best nine hole score of the day, a 43, it wasn't enough to catch up with Mike who continually put himself in prime position with booming drives, usually 50 yards beyond his nearest competitor. However, his iron play didn't match his metal woods and he was unable to put the field away early. Like some of the others, the undulating greens proved difficult for Mike to master. Had he made some putts, he would have been un-

reachable. Bill Holmesley put the pressure on Mike by beating him by one stroke on the back nine when Mike missed a 4 foot putt to tie. Mike graciously conceded a 4 foot putt to Bill on the last hole. However, Mike held on with a total score of 90 to take the medalist honors.

Following the trophy presentation, challenges were made for a rematch and plans were set for the "Dual At Durango" in the fall.

Final Scores:

Maureen 104,
Will 95,
Bill 93, and
Mike 90.



On the Lighter Side

Three contractors are bidding to fix the White House fence; one from Chicago, another from Kentucky, and the third from Arizona.

They go to the White House to examine the fence.

The Arizona contractor takes out his tape measure and does some measuring, then works up some figures with his pencil. "Well," he says, "I figure the job will run about \$900. \$400 for materials,

\$400 for my crew and \$100 profit for me."

The Kentucky contractor also does some measuring and figuring, then says, "I can do the job for \$700. \$300 for the materials, \$300 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me.

The Chicago contractor doesn't measure or figure, but leans over to the White House official and whispers: "\$2,700."

The official, incredulous, says, "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?"

"Easy," the Chicagoan explains, "\$1,000 for you, \$1,000 for me and we hire the guy from Kentucky to do the work."



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Don Rau
Editor

The main purposes of the Rocky Mountain Country Coachers Club are to promote the aims and objectives of CCI and FMCA and, through creative activities, to further the fellowship and enjoyment in the Club, to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas and experiences of motorbom- ing, and to represent ourselves as good, careful and responsible motorhome owners and operators.

The specific purposes shall be to: Promote and further good fellowship and cooperation among our Club members, promote periodic rallies that will effectively provide for the exchange of information for the common good, and carry on such business activities as deemed necessary on behalf of mem- bers at periodic meetings.

Rocky Mountain Country Coachers area includes: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming.

For further information you may contact RMCC President Mike Cocci at 5318 N. Fairway Heights Drive, Tucson, AZ 85749, or Treasurer Gail McEachern at 236 Rainbow Drive #13670, Livingston, TX 77399 , or Vice President Dee Cundy at 2113 Boundary Oak Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89134, or Secretary Bill Knight at 13940 W. Meeker Blvd #115-60 Sun City West, AZ 85375 or feel free to phone or e-mail them.

We are proud to be sponsored by Beaudry RV in Tucson, AZ!

We are on the Web!

Our address is:

WWW.rmccusa.com



Web Master: Rod Wood

FROM THE EDITOR

Darn, we were one of the coaches that did not make it to the Silver City Rally. We were having trouble with the coach and thought we should just head home to get it taken care of. However, things worked out better than we thought, but too late. From all accounts we heard from folks we met at the CCI Class Reunion, the Silver City Rally, though small in number, was great for fun time activities.

Those who were there got a better opportunity to get to know everyone else, since the crowd was down to just 18 coaches.

Sure happy to hear the rally was a big success even though smaller than usual. Thanks to the hosts, Shirley McKenzie, Loretta Murrey, Paul Chelew, and Joe Murrey. They did a great job with this rally.

Since I wasn't there, the articles for this Newsletter were left to Assistant Editor, Reggie Knight, who did a very fine job. Thanks Reggie for such a good job. (Hope I don't get fired though!)

As for the next two rallies; they look like a couple of well planned times to get together with good friends and new acquaintances and have a few laughs and some good food. Heaven knows this club does like to eat, and have fun. ☺