

Rocky Mountain Country Coachers

NEWSLETTER



Volume VII, Issue III

Editor: Reggie Knight

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The President's Message

by

Tanna Flomer

Greetings Fellow RMCC Members--- After attending the wonderful Grand Canyon Adventure Rally, Bill and I made our way north. We've just completed a visit to Junction City and the new CCI offices. There is encouraging news coming out of both the club and the company. You very well may have received your new DESTINATIONS magazine by the time you read this. CCI is averaging 5 NEW members per month!

Speaking of new members; a special welcome to Joe and Bev Smith who have replaced Larry Broadway as Rocky Mt. Area VP to CCI. Our other new members who deserve recognition include Ric and Vickie Green, Matt and Carol Cassels (who join us all the way from Alberta, Canada), Jim and Marjie Moreland and Ted and Hilda Vaughn.

Many thanks to Betty Woods who has developed a very clever letter to assist us with recruiting members. It is available on the website for all to print. Use it during your travels or whenever you see another Country Coach - it's a great icebreaker/introduction.

My final thank you to those who help keep this club on a strong footing: our rally hosts! At Williams there was the fantastic team of Rod and Betty Woods, John and Donna Tanzi and Bill and Norma Holmesley as well as our campground owners and their volunteers who went out of their way to support us.

Although we have an excellent lineup of potential locations and hosts for rallies in 2010, we are always in need for more!! Rallies are the backbone of this club and I urge you to step forward and volunteer to be hosts. Yes, it is work but it must also be a lot of FUN as we have some members who are working on their 3rd rally. Many of you probably hesitate because you don't know where to start, but we do have pamphlets to help you. Feel free to contact Bill Smith or myself for suggestions or assistance.

See you in Albany for Homecoming (we are planning a party on one of the free evenings for RMCC members and potential members) and then in Creede for our Fall Rally.

We are on the Web

www.rmccusa.com

Safe Travels Everyone!

GRAND CANYON RALLY

WILLIAMS, AZ – RAILSIDE RV RANCH

JUNE 1-5

The weather gods must really love RMCC because again we had great weather for the rally – a little windy, but great weather. The weather was especially delightful for those that drove up from the Valley where the temperature was in the triple digits. Those who drove up from the south saw snow on Mt. Humphrey. In Williams we had daytime temperatures in the high 70's and great sleeping weather at night with temps in the low 50's.

Members who arrived at the Railside RV Ranch early had the opportunity to view a train tour of period clothes, archival material of Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" and a trailer of Walt Disney Studios' new 3-D film "A Christmas Carol". The film star is Jim Carey as Ebenezer Scrooge and is directed by Robert Zemeckis. The film will be out in November.

Twenty-one coaches attended the rally. On the first evening at Happy Hour we had heavy hors d'oeuvres and followed our new policy of everyone bring their own beverages. Rod Woods welcomed us and told us what was planned for the rally. Reggie collected the short multiple-choice quiz that was handed out at registration. She randomly drew a winner, Kay Colclazier. Patrick and Tamara, owners of the park told us many places to visit in the area. Rod drew names for door prizes and there was one truly ultimate door prize won by Linda Hendel – a door, yes, an entry size door. Other door prizes included articles contributed by Cummins.

On Tuesday morning, after a blueberry pancake and sausage breakfast, we attended a Cummins diesel seminar presented by three Cummins employees from the Avondale, AZ service center. The rest of the day was free for us to explore the Williams' area or just relax. One couple took a jeep tour at the Grand Canyon down to the Colorado River. We gathered for Happy Hour and a Mexican Dinner and later listened to Country Western and oldie rock & roll music by the Pony Express.

After a Continental breakfast on Wednesday, members taking the train to the Grand Canyon were shuttled to the train station. Those who were going to drive to the Canyon left later and many stopped at the IMAX Theater to see a film of the history of the Grand Canyon. Those of us, who have been to the Canyon many times before, visited the outlooks not visited by the tour buses. A singing cowboy, who also told cowboy lore, entertained the train group on the way to the Canyon. An Indian dancer entertained them at the Grand Canyon station. On the train ride back to Williams, they fought off a train robbery, listening to Navajo singing and the children on board told really bad jokes. Deer, antelope and a coyote were the wildlife seen. The train trip took 2 hrs 15 mins each way, which left them a few hours to explore the Canyon area. We had a free evening, which was enjoyed by all of us who were tried from a full and busy day.

Thursday morning after a Western breakfast, we car-pooled to Flagstaff to visit The Arboretum at Flagstaff and the Lowell Observatory. Later, back at the Ranch we got into our Western dudes. Marshal Carl Luschwitz was in attendance to maintain order, well, that was until Luscious Lulu made her appearance. Lulu, aka Betty Woods, was a dance hall girl of the Old West. Rod and Patrick somehow were able to connive the Grand Canyon Railroad to have a train engine at the intersection near the RV Ranch for a photograph of the whole group alongside the engine. The photograph will be entered into a contest to win \$1000 for an RV club. We slowed down traffic along the road especially when Luscious Lulu showed some leg.

The RV Park has a crew of retired men that cooked and served the Mexican dinner, the breakfasts and the delicious Western night dinner. Tamara and Pat were extremely hospitable and provided many extra services for us. To thank them, we presented them with a 3-4 foot craved wooden bear.

The final morning at our Continental breakfast, the discussion was if we were going to stay or drive on to our next destination because the wind was so strong. Within ½ hr many drivers changed their minds multiply times, but most sallied forth within the next hour.

Rally Ho!

August 19-23, 2009 CCI Home Coming Lane County Fairgrounds
www.CountryCoachClub.com

September 9-12, 2009 (4 nights) – Creede, CO Mountain Views RV Park
Registration is on the web at www.RMCCUSA.com

Come early and spend the Labor Day weekend.

Warning! Creede is almost at 9000 feet; anyone with a respiratory or heart condition should consult his or her medical advisor before making this trip. Everyone who is coming to this rally should stay at RV Parks at increasing altitudes prior to arriving in Creede. Always, drink plenty of water!

February 15-19, 2010 (4 nights) – Down by the Riverside Rally,
Riverside Resort RV Park, Laughlin, NV

Late April, 2010 – Camp Verde, AZ, Distant Drums RV Resort
(NEED HOSTS)

Fall 2010 – Colorado Springs

GRAND CANYON RALLY HOSTS

Bill Holmesley has spent many summers at the Railside RV Ranch and suggested it as a rally site. Bill was born in Humboldt, AZ and lived there until he was five years old. Then his family moved to Lateral 19½ and Maricopa Road, which is now 75th Ave and Thomas Rd in Phoenix, AZ. He went to Cartwright Grammar School and Glendale High School where he met Norma. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Navy. Two years later he and Norma were married. On February 13, 2009, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Bill worked for Greyhound Bus Company as a driver for 30 years and also built a few houses during that time. As he gained seniority with Greyhound he was able to pick his routes and he drove the old Route 66 from Flagstaff to Barstow. They have four children, one son and three daughters. Bill used to hunt and fish until too many people moved into Arizona and ruined those sports for him. Now he loves to play golf and travel in their RV in the Rocky Mountain area.

Rod Woods was born in California, but his family moved to Arizona when he was nine months old so he considers himself a native Arizonian. He grew up in Tucson and joined the Air Force after graduation from high school. After serving a year just south of the North Pole, he returned to Tucson where he met Betty who was engaged to his best friend. Betty and he married shortly afterwards and Rod gained a wife and lost a best friend. Betty worked full time to put Rod through Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo, CA. After he obtained his degree in Electronic Engineering, his work took him over the years to Phoenix, Minneapolis and Philadelphia. He held a variety of positions with Control Data, General Electric and Honeywell. Higher education for his community has always been important to him. He attended graduate programs at University of Minnesota and Harvard and served on the ASU Advisory Council to bring Excellence in Engineering to ASU. The purpose of the Council was to ensure that ASU engineering graduates would be fully prepared to meet the industrial needs of the Phoenix area. Betty and Rod have three beautiful children and four delightful grandchildren. During his working years, they traveled a lot, but now prefer the slower pace of RV travel that allows them to smell the roses along the way. They also enjoy their many friends that they have met at RMCC.

GOLF

Bill Holmesley organized a round of golf for seven people at Elephant Rock Golf Course. The course was level for the first 15 holes and then it was uphill for the last three holes. It seemed that some people had trouble keeping score so they were given calculators with big numbers as a prize. Everyone who played received a sleeve of golf balls. Nathan and Zach, George Anderson's grandsons played, but they didn't keep score. That is the best way to play – just for fun and the heck with the score!

John Tanzi's parents arrived from Italy in 1929. He was born in late 1943 and the North Beach area of San Francisco was his home for many years. He has fond memories of produce, ice, milk and bakery goods being delivered by trucks to their street corner. He attended grammar school and part of high school in San Francisco and then moved down the peninsula to San Mateo where he graduated from high school and attended the College of San Mateo majoring in Computer Sciences. He had the opportunity to join SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute) where he spent the next 32 years of his life. Most of his work was for DOD with about 5% in the geophysics world. The geophysics work was extremely interesting since they were able to apply modern sensing technology to Archaeology and Treasure hunting. As a result they were able to spend three summers working on the Giza pyramids and the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. Most of his work required him to spend much of his time in overseas deployments. SRI was a unique place to work since they had the theoretical people who came up with how one could monitor certain assets and they had to build electronic collection systems to collect the data. In the late 60's SRI installed a computer in a 40-foot trailer along with other electronic equipment and now had a portable system that had less computational power than an Apple 1. This system was flown around the world via a C-133 spending several months at various locations. Later several systems were built in RV's and that was John's exposure to the RV world. SRI selected a REVCON motor home that could be C-130 (smaller plane) transportable. Somehow the mafia must have had a stake in the operation because during one of their inspection visit to a plant, they heard that the CFO had one of his hands cut off for missing funds! SRI was a place to work where one never knew what was next in the research world. He would never give up that experience for anything, but after 32 years he retired in 1997 as a Program Director. He met Donna 28 years ago and they have seen and done many things. They are having a very interesting life together. The RV will allow them to see the best part of the world, the U.S.!

INFORMAL MEETING

Tanna lead an informal meeting on Thursday morning.

*We have a "slush fund" from past rallies of about \$2500, so the next five rallies will receive \$500 each for rally expenses. We no longer receive any funds from Beaudry or Country Coach.

*A new PA system is needed. Our current system was donated and has a few flaws. Types and costs of new PA systems will be researched.

*CCI will have a Home Coming Rally at the Lane County Fairgrounds August 19-23. Jane Jordan is secretary of CCI and a new office is located at 4th Ave and Hwy 99, Ivy Plaza in Junction City, OR. Her email is jjordan@countrycoachclub.com and there is a new website www.countrycoachclub.com

*It is still a "wait and see" situation concerning our CCI affiliation or becoming a FMCA affiliate. We need affiliation with an RV organization for liability insurance purposes.

*Beaudry sponsorship isn't possible anymore since they are in bankruptcy. We need to be totally self-sufficient. Members were asked to inquire around if any businesses would like to be our sponsors.

CUMMINS – ROCKY MOUNTAIN
651 North 101st Ave
Avondale, AZ 1-800-800-2345

Terry Porter, Service Manager from Cummins Rocky Mountain, held a seminar for us, provided door prizes and gave us \$400 toward rally expenses. Guy and Bill, also from Cummins, provided useful information when Terry called upon them or when they had something to add to what Terry said.

A few of the main point of the seminar:

*There is a Federal mandate to remove particulate matter in diesel fuel to put out a cleaner exhaust. This has been accomplished by internal engine changes, diesel particulate filters and Ultra-Low sulfur fuel (ULSD). Diesel fuel in 1994 had 500 parts (sulfur)/million, now there are 15 parts (sulfur)/million.

*Cummins recommends the new CJ-4 (CES20081) Lube Oil. **Oil should be changed every 15,000 miles or once a year.**

*Read your extended warranty very carefully and ask questions! Many warranty companies initially tell a service facility and customer that the service is included in the warranty, but then refuse to pay. It is always worth a try for the customer to call the warranty company and argue with them – many times it works!

*Biodiesel fuel is made from vegetable oil, cooking oil and animal fats, but in this country most biodiesel fuel comes from soybean oil. It is okay to use, but the pump must be certified by the American Petroleum Institute and have a seal **DQ9000 Certified**. There might be “green” benefits to using biodiesel, but there are some faults. Biodiesel decomposes rapidly, has lower energy output =less miles/gal, gels at low temperatures and has higher NO emissions.

*Want higher MPG? Here are some facts that were presented, diesel engines (DE) are more efficient at a lower engine speed (RPM), maximum use of top gear, maintain proper tire pressure, high speed = high fuel usage = lower MPG and limit unnecessary idling.

Other FYI:

DE uses more fuel in cold weather.

Do not use any after market performance enhancement kits not approved by Cummins or you will negate Cummins’ warranty.

Fill fuel tank with #2 diesel fuel when storing for extended period.

Change oil when returning to traveling. Synthetic oils are fine, but continue to use, don’t switch back and forth with multi-grade oil.

Purchase fuel at respected busy truck stops.

Cummins doesn’t recommend fuel additives, but fungicides are okay when storing for long period.

After servicing, ask mechanic if he test-strip the cooling system.

Cummins has a "White Paper" on the Internet, "Secrets of Better Fuel Economy, the Physics of MPG" at www.everytime.cummins.com/every/misc/mpg.jsp#

Down by the Riverside

Laughlin, NV

February 15-19, 2010

Laughlin means gambling! Hold on there, Partner, that isn't necessarily so. Jack Kelly and Ray Van der Berg have planned so much for us to do that you may not have time to try the one arm bandits and green tables. We will be staying at the Riverside Resort RV Park on flat and level sites near the main RV office, not up the hill. A whole section will be reserved just for our use and the management is providing two large tents for Happy Hour and early morning coffee. There will be a shuttle from our section to the West Casino where there is a walkover to the main hotel and casino along the Colorado River. At the hotel there is a boat shuttle service to other hotels and casinos.

The tentative plans are on Monday we register and in late afternoon have a Happy Hour, bring your own beverages. We will go on a narrative river cruise and then dinner is on your own. Tuesday morning there will coffee at the tents where each morning you will receive a number as part of a contest. Many of the hotels have great breakfast buffets for a reasonable price and you may want to taste test a different buffet each morning. Then we will have a car-pooling trip to Christmas Tree Pass and Grapevine Canyon, which is an oasis in the desert. Then back to the hotel for fun bowling. Fun bowling is not bowling to score 300, but just to have fun and prizes will be awarded throughout the event. After Happy Hour, we will have a buffet dinner in the Mirror Room of the Riverside Hotel and then on to a show, which tentatively is The Oakridge Boys.

Wednesday morning after coffee and getting your new number, you will be on your own to take a London Bridge jet boat trip, golf, Outlet Mall, sightseeing, jeep trips, fishing, Colorado River Museum in Bullhead City (just across the river), Automobile Museum or just relax. We will meet for Happy Hour and dinner will be own your own. Many of the hotels have excellent restaurants.

Thursday morning we will have a breakfast buffet and Annual Business Meeting in the Harbor Room of the Riverside Hotel. Then we will car-pool to Oatman to see the many "wild burros" – we have seen one there with blue eyes. Clark Gable and Carol Lombard supposedly spent their honeymoon at the Oatman Hotel. After Happy Hour, dinner is on your own.

Before we leave on Friday, we will have a Continental Breakfast at the tent area before we depart. For those that wanted to visit the casinos, but didn't have the time, you may want to stay over.

It is going to be a fun time and you'll no longer think of Laughlin only as a gambling town. The cost of this rally will be about \$275.

HELP WANTED / NEEDED

WHAT? - RALLY HOSTS

WHERE? - THE COUNTRY'S MOST BEAUTIFUL RV AREAS

WHEN? - 2010 AND 2011

WHO? - ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SHARE A FAVORITE DESTINATION AREA WITH THEIR FRIENDS

WHY? - SILLY QUESTION - IF YOU HAVE BEEN TO AN RMCC RALLY!!!

If you want to continue to have RMCC club rallies, we need members to volunteer to be Rally Hosts. Without such volunteers there will be no rallies and, eventually, there will be no RMCC. So, PLEASE recognize the need and take advantage of this opportunity to share your love of a specific area or resort with your fellow CCers. Take us all to someplace new and exciting!

The hosting process can be great fun as you plan details for sharing your favorite area. It does require some advance planning to tie down the right RV facility, so do not think that 2011 (or even 2010) is too far out to start the process. You will not have to do it alone, either. Your club's Rally Coordinator is available to help and other members always offer to help.

Want more information? Visit the website at www.rmccusa.com and click on Rallies - then on one of the listed links. Or, contact our Rally Coordinator, Bill Smith, at Bill@rmccusa.com or by telephone at 719-658-0717.

A comment or two about Bill Smith's article entitled, "Help Wanted!" There are about 151 members of RMCC and 47 of these members have been hosts of rallies once or more. What about the other 104 members? Many of you come to the rallies and just sit and want to be fed and entertained and then some have the nerve to complain. Don't you think it is time for you to step-up and host a rally? I don't want to hear your excuses. Yes, being a rally host is a lot of work, but if 2 - 3 of you get together, select a site, do some research about the area and put together a rally with Bill Smith's guidance, you can do it! What else so you have to do? You'll feel good when people comment what a good time they had at your rally. Think about it and better yet, do something about it!

HISTORY LESSON

Williams, AZ

RMCC is a fun group, but we appreciate the historical significances of the locales that we visit for rallies. Williams in Northern Arizona is in the land of the pine-covered hills and inactive volcanic mountains and has been home to many Native American tribes for over a thousand years. Around 1540, the Spanish passed through this area looking for the Seven Cities of Cibola. After the Civil War sheep and cattle ranchers were drawn to the area because of the valleys and meadows. In the early 1880's fur trading extended into Arizona by trappers known as "Mountain Men". One of the more famous trappers was William Sherley Williams for whom the town and a mountain are named. In 1881 there was a sizable population to warrant its own post office. The Santa Fe Line railroad came through town in 1882 and it quickly became a center for the railroad, ranching and lumber industries. By the turn of the century, Williams had a reputation as a rough and rowdy frontier town. Its saloons, brothels, opium dens and gambling houses catered to the cowboy, logger, Chinese laborer and railroad worker seeking entertainment. In 1901, a great fire swept through Williams burning 36 business buildings, 2 hotels and 10 homes in less than an hour. Also in 1901, the 60-mile Santa Fe Railway spur line to the Grand Canyon established Williams as the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon". In 1926, US Highway 66 was established through Williams and in 1984, Williams was the last "Route 66" town to be by-passed by Interstate 40.

Note: Bill Williams and his "Mountain Men" would annually ride from Williams to Phoenix. They would start in February, when snow was still on the ground in Williams and arrive in Phoenix in April to participate in a parade. One of our members, Ray Van der Berg, rode with the group twice, until his mule died.

Grrreat News!

Pat Anderson has obtained new software for the directory and there is a darn good chance that our next directory will be alphabetized. That will make it so much easier looking up our RV friends. Thank you, Pat!!!!

ROUTE 66

US Route 66 was also known as the Will Rogers Highway, "Main Street of America", and "Mother Road". The famous highway originally ran from Chicago through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California before ending in Los Angeles. The highway encompassed 2,448 miles in 1926, but was not completely paved until 1938. It was a major path for the migrants who went west, especially during the Dust Bowl of the 1930's and later during WWII many used the highway to the war related industries in California. Much of the highway was flat and paved and this made it a popular truck route and was one of the main routes for moving military equipment. Tourism to the West became more popular and it marked the birth of the fast-food industry. The first drive-through restaurant was in Springfield, MO and the first McDonald's was in San Bernardino, CA, all on Route 66. Parts of the highway were dangerous, especially one section just outside Oatman, AZ. It was fraught with hairpin turns and the early travelers hired locals to navigate the winding grade and this section is still open to traffic today as the Oatman Highway. Many communities along Route 66 became very prosperous due to the growing popularity of the highway and these same communities fell on hard times when the new Interstate Highway System bypassed them.

Note: Bill Knight had a relative who in the early 1930's drove from Maine to Chicago and took Route 66 to the end in California. She and three other young schoolteachers drove her convertible through rainstorms when the roof leaked and the car slid off the road many times because of the mud. She wrote a journal that has passed around the family.

Route 66 Music and TV Series

In 1946, songwriter, Bobby Troup, composed "(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66". Nat King Cole was the first to record it and Perry Como is the only artist who recorded the version with the complete lyrics of the introductory verse and the seldom-heard second verse. A minimum of 37 artists has recorded the song, including The Rolling Stones. The producers of the television show "Route 66" commissioned a new theme song because they wanted to avoid making royalty payments for Troup's song. The theme song was composed and performed by Nelson Riddle. The TV show was about two young men, Buz and Tod, traveling across America in their Corvette getting caught up in the struggles of the people they met along the way. There was no permanent set location; the whole series was filmed entirely on the road from a California winery to a Maine lobster boat. The show actually had little real connection with the US highway providing the title of the series.

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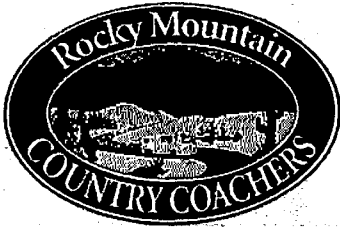
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Rocky Mountain Country Coaches Organized March 2003

The main purposes of the Rocky Mountain Country Coaches 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 motorhoming, 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 members at periodic meetings.

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

FROM THE EDITOR

It seems that a new member has commented that RMCC isn't a friendly group. The Board has suggested a plan that should help new members feel more comfortable within the club. An old member couple will accompany a new member couple to various activities and events at their first rally and introduce them to other members. RMCC is a social club and new members will find that they have many common interests with other members. We all love our spouses very much and we've all had our good times and bad times in life when our spouse has been our security blanket, but we're not joined at the hip. When this club first formed, only two couples knew each other, but we became friends by working together at the rallies. We car-pooled with different people, we sat with different people at Happy Hour and dinner and we learned so many interesting things about each other. Even my silly contests caused us to laugh at ourselves and with others and we got closer. Over the years we have rejoiced together for happy news and cried together over sad news. We have opened up to each other and have become good friends. Friendship is a two-way street; you have to be a friend before you can have a friend.

Note: I wrote this newsletter while on the road, so I could have missed typos and other errors, please overlook them and enjoy the content.

NO SNIVELING !