

# ***Freightliner Chassis Owners Club***

***"10th Anniversary 1995 - 2005"***



2nd Quarter 2005

[www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org](http://www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org)

# **Freightliner Flyer**



**Join** the Chapter for the Post Rally @ Gillette, WY.  
" Home on the Range" ... See Pages 9 thru 13 ...

**Spring Time** **Myrtle Beach** **Wrap-up** ~



***Freightliner Chassis Owners Club***





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*In Memory of Irving W. Steele*

*past President of FCOC*

*1995-1999 ...*



**Irving W. Steele** passed away on April 9, 2005. He was born October 27, 1929, in Pittsford, N.Y. and lived in Cincinnati, Ohio most of his young adult life. He concluded his three-year tour in the Marine Corps at the Naval War College in Rhode Island. Irv owned and operated a Freightliner truck dealership in Syracuse, New York for many years. In 1975 Irv and Elaine bought their first motorcoach, but it was always Irv's dream to own a diesel. In 1993 that dream was realized when he purchased a Southwind coach on an Oshkosh chassis and when Freightliner acquired Oshkosh.....the journey began. Since Irv and Elaine by then lived in the North Carolina mountains, the trip to Gaffney was a breeze and Irv was, once again, "involved" with Freightliner. Irv and Dean Schaper together realized the need and importance of a chassis owners club. Irv worked diligently to organize and process the necessary requirements for the formation of an FMCA chapter and the charter for FCOC was granted in 1995. Irv was pleased and proud to serve as founding president for two terms but prouder still of the many friends he made and the growth he witnessed of the FCOC family. Irv is survived by his wife, Elaine, who lives at The Great Outdoors in Titusville, FL; daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Charles Werderman; and grandchildren Barbara and Casey. Elaine and family wish to thank the FCOC for their contribution to the Moffitt Cancer Center in Irv's memory.



*Jay Blumenthal* has been elected the new International Area Vice-President succeeding *Max Durbin*.

**Disclaimer**

***Freightliner Chassis Owners Club***

FCOC is not to be held responsible for personal statements, opinions, or representations advanced in papers, chapter newsletters, web site, in discussions at any meetings or its Internet site and Discussion Forums, or the validity of statements contained in any advertisements or printed material of the FCOC chapter of the International Area of FMCA.



Dear FCOC Partners

This time I write to you with many great things going on. And many great feelings about a lot of happenings. #1 I am doing well and feeling well with my exercise program, and yes it is working and I encourage any one of you to start a program of self-discipline with exercising regularly. In our last newsletter I promised not to talk about this any longer. So I won't be like a reformed smoker, and never shut up. If you would like to talk about health, exercise, religion, happiness and emotion, just let me know, I have experience with all the above.

I know I speak for all those who attended Myrtle Beach Rally, when I say we all had a great time. Bill & Priscilla Buck, Rally Masters, Sue Wright, Jan Benedetti Ass't Rally Masters, planned and executed a fantastic rally. **A JOB WELL DONE !!!**. There are many volunteers that help to put on a rally. Thank you to all that had any part in this affair.

All the way from the campground, the food, the seminars, was well organized. WOW!!!! We now have a few more women drivers for our coaches thanks to the safe driving seminars. These co-pilots took the coach out on the road for added experience. Great results. Then the entertainment, wonderful knee slappin' high stepping young adults kept us moving to music and rhythm. The last 2 nights had us all entertained with participants from the FCOC crowd. Karaoke was the entertainment of the evening by Ron & Kay Rivoli leading the show, and a few real surprises from FCOC that did a good job from singing to marimba playing. Lots of fun. Ron & Kay on the last night, performed songs written for Motorhomers, such as Bury me at Wal-mart and the first time I used the dump with the blue stuff, to name a few.

Then came the prizes, for all. A raffle was held and the winning tickets got the prize and the Children's Recovery Center of Myrtle Beach, got what amounted to a \$2,000.00 cash gift on behalf of the FCOC members that bought the raffle tickets. See the attached photo and story in this newsletter. You can also view the pictures on our web site from the rally.

Now for an interesting question asked me by a member. "At what point do I stop motorhoming due to high fuel prices?" I thought for a minute. And realized this was a more serious subject than could be answered in a minute. I mentioned this question at the Myrtle Beach rally closing night's dinner. Even since then it has taken on new importance. After the MB rally we went to New York for a granddaughter wedding. Fuel got my attention at \$2.49 per gallon. I kept thinking, what could I do to improve this situation for me. Again, my thoughts got more serious as to what do I do or what do we do with this price of traveling. Reality hit me and I got down to basics and decided that there was not anything except my health that would keep us from motorhoming. However there are some things that we can do to help this situation be less expensive. Most of what you read here is what we should be doing anyway, fuel price or not. So bear with me as I explore some ideas that may help us all do better. This may stimulate some ideas from you as well. Let me hear from you.

#1.. **ENGINE** It is important to have your vehicle in top running condition. Our engines for the most part are electronic, so it might be a good idea to have the engine checked for the latest flashing or update. Then the air filter and fuel filters need changing regularly. A can of additive for injector cleaning might help. Several members have noticed a difference when adding a good injector cleaner.

#2.. **LOAD** Check the load we carry. Do we need all that extra stuff? Do we need all those tools, parts, foodstuffs, clothes? (I can't believe I said that) Wow!! I think I better look at this myself eh?? Then the toad vehicle. Are we committing the cardinal sin by using our toad for a storage shed? Yes I know I am and a change must be made. Weigh the 2 vehicles before any changes and record this weight.

#3.. **WEIGHT** Now assuming that the load is somewhat reduced and the toad is now a passenger vehicle again, it is time to re-weigh your rig (both Toad and Motorhome). The most accurate way to



weight the rig is in 4 corners and toad. This type can be done at the FMCA conventions. Whenever possible we will offer this service at the FCOC rallies. Nevertheless, please get the rig weighed even at a flying J on the Cat scale. It won't be as accurate as the 4 corner weight but it still will give you an idea on the load you are dealing with, including toad.

#4.. **TIRES** Now what? Check the tire guidebook from your tire manufacturer and adjust the tire pressure for the weight you are carrying. Important warning!! Do not exceed the stamped weight maximum on the tire. After the correct pressure is known, add 10 more lbs to the tire to get a little more economical travel. Again do not exceed the stamped maximum pressure.

#5.. **ECONOMY** Take a minute to analyze at what speed your engine performs best. This evaluation is done on the open road in a safe location for adjusting speeds. For example, our discovery has a trip tech that tells instant MPG. I went from 50 MPH to 75 MPH and found that 62 MPH gave the peak performance for my rig. This takes into consideration, factors like wind resistance, or aero dynamics of the motorhome, road condition, tire pressure, weight, all of which affect the performance of the coach. Often it is the engine sound or even past MPG that could determine the peak performance for your engine. Sometimes it is hard to go slow or anything lower than the speed limit and sometimes even unsafe, so consider where you are and what the traffic will bear. I am asking any of you to let me or the newsletter editor know anything that you can add that makes your economy change for the better of course

#6.. **PLANNING.** Better planning can make a huge difference in the amount of unnecessary travel. A GPS system will help in not having to turn around at times. I sometimes turn around anyway because I don't believe the GPS. I'll have to learn to trust the thing. Many times it is easier to take the smaller highways. This could help in a safer ride by not being pushed by the trucks to go faster etc. Another tip for full timers is to try to regionalize your trips; Traveling cross-country is very expensive and sometimes unnecessary. Consider adjusting your travel plans.

#7.. **CAMPGROUND COST.** The original question asked about motorhoming (see above.) Many factors determine the cost of motorhoming. A priority cost is the campground. We belong to a major club, in an effort to try to control our cost to average out to be less than \$20.00 per night. Now FCOC has the benefit to belong to Happy Camper ½ price club, there are many others to help in reducing your camping costs. Whichever one you choose, will help with your overall campground cost.

#8.. **CHALLENGE.** As my final idea, I propose a letter writing campaign to your representative in Washington. Advising them of the impact of the high fuel prices have at all levels of our nation. We believe that we as retirees are particularly vulnerable to the heinous practice of price gouging. We feel that the profits made by the oil companies have been way out of line. It is my opinion that the real ripple effect is yet to be felt throughout the country. Goods, services air fares etc. are all being effected. Distribution of all sorts will be effected if not already. So therefore it is our obligation to inform our representatives of our concerns. It is the only way we have of making a difference.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion with this most serious problem of out of control pricing by the Oil Companies.

If anyone has any additional incite, please feel free to contact me for more detail.

I hope and pray that your travels will be safe and we will meet again at a FCOC rally or down the road.

Be Safe, **Ken Hawk**



**I t's not the destination  
... it's the journey**



**T H E   L E A D E R   A T   E V E R Y   T U R N ™**

**May 19, 2005**

## **Freightliner LLC Names Reid Bigland President of Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation**

PORTLAND, OREGON and GAFFNEY, S.C.....Freightliner LLC today named Reid Bigland President of Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation (FCCC), effective immediately. In his new role, Bigland will lead FCCC's efforts to extend its leadership position in the RV, step van and school and shuttle bus chassis markets. He reports to Jack Conlan, Senior Vice President, Customer Support, Freightliner LLC.

"Reid Bigland brings a broad management perspective including leadership experience in dealer operations, sales and human resources," said Jack Conlan, who also represents FCCC on the Freightliner LLC Executive Committee. "Bigland is highly capable of leading the FCCC organization to even greater performance in its key markets while the brand continues to deliver leading products and world class customer support."

A member of The Freightliner Group, FCCC manufactures premium chassis for the motor home, delivery walk-in van, school bus and shuttle bus markets. Established in 1995, FCCC today builds nearly two-thirds of all walk-in diesel van chassis sold in North America. The company holds more than half the market in Type A diesel motorhome chassis, and more than a quarter of the market in conventional school bus chassis. FCCC employs 900 people at its plant and headquarters in Gaffney, S.C.

Bigland most recently helped grow and strengthen the company's network of brand dealers as Freightliner LLC's General Manager of Dealer Operations. Before taking that post in December 2001, he was Director of Vocational Sales for Freightliner LLC's Sterling Trucks and Western Star Trucks brands. Prior to Freightliner LLC's acquisition of Western Star in 2000, Bigland held positions at Western Star including Director of U.S. Sales and Director of Human Resources. Earlier in his career, he worked in human resources and operations for Canadian Airlines International. Bigland holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of British Columbia.

Bigland is relocating to the Gaffney, S.C., area with his wife and family.

He succeeds Conlan, who was promoted to Freightliner LLC's Senior Vice President of Customer Support last month.





 **Freightliner Chassis Owner's Club**  
join today!

**Freightliner Chassis Owners Club Membership *Renewal* Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Pilot \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Circle One Freightliner, Oshkosh, John Deere  
Manufacturer of Motor home \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_  
Year \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ Vin # of Chassis \_\_\_\_\_  
Purchase Date \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant must have a FMCA # \_\_\_\_\_ or  
Applied for #. \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$10.00 per Year or 5 Years for \$45.00 US Dollars

Send to: Kathy Kyzer c/o FCCC  
552 Hyatt St. Gaffney, SC. 29341  
(864) 487-1700



**Report to the Membership from the Nominating Committee**

*The following officers whose current terms expire in December 2005 are willing to serve another two-year term (2006-2008). The Nominating Committee supports their reelection and is presenting the slate of officers to the membership for the election to be held at the August meeting in Minot, N.D. Of course nominations will be opened to the floor for anyone who desires to be nominated at the meeting. Once nominations have been closed, the election will follow:*

**President: Ken Hawk, Vice-President: Membership Chuck Belba, Secretary: Priscilla Buck**

*The terms of the remaining officers who serve on the Executive Board, and the FMCA director and alternate director will expire in December 2006.*

Respectfully submitted, **Ginny Belba, Chair** Hal Croyts Gerry DeHeer Ted Lokenberg  
Albert Moore Robert Reed Bob Tomme Bud Trash.

**Note! ...**

***Nominating Committee Selection***

***There seems to be some misunderstanding about the selection of the nominating committee. First note that Art Tobin was the spokesperson (not on the committee and not wanting to be on the committee) to explain the procedure to the members.***

- Art indicated that the candidates contacted him to be considered for the committee.***
- Art meant that each candidate was contacted by an officer of FCOC. Only one candidate contacted an officer to be considered for the committee. I hope this clears up the misunderstanding. Ken Hawk***

# FCOC Get-Togethers for 2005

- FMCA's 74th. International Convention

August 15,16,17 and 18,2005 ~Minot, North Dakota ~

- FCOC ~ Post Rally ~ "Home on the Range"

August 19th. "Travel Day"

Rally ~ August 20,21,22 and 23, 2005

Windmill Campground, Gillette, Wyoming



## ~Check Out the "2006" Schedule~

- FMCA's 75th International Convention

March 20,21,22 & 23, 2006

FairPlex ~Pamona, CA.~

- FCOC Post Rally "A Desert Adventure"

March 25,26,27,28 & 29,2006

Beaudry's RV Resort

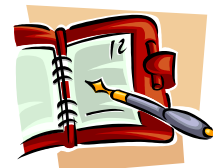
Tucson, AZ



- FMCA's 76th International Convention

August 14,15,16, & 17,2006

Lowes Motor Speedway ~Charlotte, NC.~





## *Caravan Into The Minot, ND FMCA Convention*

*Charlie & Ruth Hoffstatter Caravan Organizers*

On Sunday, August 14th, 2005, we will be assembling at the parking lot of the Minot Municipal Auditorium in Minot, N.D. for our caravan into the Minot FMCA Convention. We have use of an area in the Auditorium parking lot until 1:00 PM Sunday. Overnight parking will be permitted on the night of the 13th. There will be a charge of \$15.00 for this night of dry camping. The \$15.00 will be collected by the staff of the Minot Auditorium. Our entry time slot into the FMCA Convention is 1:00 PM. If you will be coming in on the 14th arrive at the parking lot by at least 10:30 AM so we can hand out the necessary materials. If you need to pick up FMCA entry credentials from the FMCA Will Call area come early so you can go get your FMCA package and be back by 11:45 AM. At 12:00 noon we will have a short meeting to go over entry and caravan details. We will be leaving the Auditorium grounds at 12:30 PM for our journey into the Convention parking area.

- \* We will use CB channel 7 to communicate during the caravan.
- \* We will need a volunteer to be tail gunner with a cell phone. If you would like to do that please contact Charlie Hoffstatter on or before we meet on the 14th.
- \* The Minot Municipal Auditorium address is 420 3rd Ave. SW .Minot, N.D. 58702
- \* The phone number is (701) 857-4730
- \* The directions to the Municipal Auditorium are as follows:

### *Coming from the North or South on US Hwy 83.*

1. Turn west on Business Hwy 52/2 (Burdick Expy) and go west about 3 blocks. Turn right (north) on Park St. SW and you will be at the Auditorium parking. We will have signs out directing you into the parking area.

### *Coming from the West on US Hwy 52 or US Hwy 2.*

1. Hwy 52 and Hwy 2 merge west of town, about 10 miles after (east) of the merge you will need to turn left onto Hwy 52/2 Business (Western Ave.) As it veers Northeast into town it changes to Burdick Expressway. Go until you reach Park St. SW, turn left (north) and you will be at the Auditorium parking. Park St. SW is about 2 miles from the left turn you made onto Western Ave. We will have signs out directing you into the parking area.

### *Coming from the East on US Hwy 52 or US Hwy 2.*

1. Business Hwy 2 and Business Hwy 52 join just east of Hwy 83 (Broadway) and become the Burdick Expressway. Come west on the Burdick Expressway past the intersection of Hwy 83 (Broadway) and then in about 3 blocks turn right (north) on to Park St. SW and you will be at the Auditorium parking area

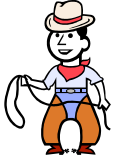
- \* We will have signs out directing you into the parking area.
- \* We will be looking for you there !!!
- \* Many thanks to Keith White at the Minot Municipal Auditorium.

CONTACT US IF YOU WILL BE GOING @ 512-567-1499 OR TOLL FREE 888-218-0008 OR AT OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS [crvacc@yahoo.com](mailto:crvacc@yahoo.com)

*WE ESPECIALLY NEED TO KNOW IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT STAY OVER NIGHT ON THE 13TH.*

NOTE:

*When registering for the FMCA Convention make sure you register for General Parking Area. This will allow you to run your generator from 7:00 AM till 11:00 PM.*



# Home on the Range !



**Sign Up Now!**

August 20th to the 23rd, 2005

Cam-Plex Facilities, Gillette, WY.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE August 8, 2005**

**Please Sign-Up NOW! It helps with the planning!**

Registration Name:

Name Tag:

Pilot (First Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot (name tag) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Pilot (First Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Pilot (name tag ) \_\_\_\_\_

(Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

FMCA # \_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturer of MH \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_ Lic. # \_\_\_\_\_

Will Help with: Registration \_\_\_\_ Seminars \_\_\_\_ Lunch/Dinner Help \_\_\_\_ As Needed \_\_\_\_

Note: We have **125** sites reserved, so get your reservation now.

Deadline : August 8th, 2005. Make your check payable to FCOC for \$250 and send to Pete Palasota 8106 Knottingham Waco, TX 76712, or call (254) 772-3791.

Since a Bus Tour is planned, Please let us know if you will be going on the Bus, Monday August 22, 2005 ... Yes \_\_ No \_\_ .

Are You planning on doing the Craft... Yes \_\_ No \_\_ .



*Interested !* Call Katherine Henley @

214- 704-2437

**More**





# ***Home on the Range !***



***Join the FCOC Family of Friends after the FMCA 74th  
International Convention in Minot, ND***



**August 19th**

Travel Day ! (Enjoy the wide open  
ranges of the Dakotas and Wyoming)

**August 20th to August 24th**

Join the fun and excitement @ the Gillette, WY's Cam- Plex Facilities, [1635 Reata Dr.](#)

Come

[Gillette, WY 82718](#)



CAM-PLEX features a performing arts theater, a convention/exhibit hall, two large multi-purpose pavilions, rodeo grounds, RV campgrounds, a horse race track and a 21-acre park and picnic area.

***Come and Enjoy FCOC's Post Rally Summer  
2005 !***

***~ Home on the Range ! ~***

***~And More~***

More ...



# Home on the Range !



## Agenda

Facilities ~ Gillette, Wyoming ~ 1635 Reata Dr. Gillette, WY 82718

### Friday, August 20, 2005

Travel



Day Minot, ND to

Gillette, WY.



### Saturday, August 20, 2005



11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Registration at the Cam-plex

5:00 pm

Welcome Social at the Freightliner Tent

6:00 pm

Evening Meal and Introductions

### Sunday, August 21, 2005

7:30 am to 8:30 am

Coffee and Donuts

9:00 am

Devotion by (to be announced)

10:30 am

Freightliner Presentation at the Freightliner Tent

12:00 pm

Lunch on your own & Check out the Motor homes on display !

1:30 pm

Caterpillar presentation

1:30 pm

Cummins presentation

2:00 pm

Red Hat Tea Party Demo by Taylor Made Iron-On Designs

3:30 pm

Water Filter Seminar

4:30 pm

Happy Hour at the Freightliner Tent

5:45 pm

Evening meal

7:00 pm

Musical variety show with comedy,



Impressions, & a little  
Magic ...



# ***Home on the Range !***

## **Monday, August 22, 2005**

8:30 am	Breakfast—full catered
9:30 am	Seminar- Progressive Industries by Robert Schneider
10:30 am	Seminar—Brake Guard by Lawrence Jones
12:00 pm	Lunch on your own & Check out the Motorhomes on display !
1:00 pm	Tour of Coal Mine – Charter Buses
4:00 pm	Buses return from tour
4:40 pm	Happy Hour at the Freightliner Tent
5:45 pm	Evening Meal
	Free evening – On your own to visit with your friends !

## **Tuesday, August 23, 2005**

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Coffee and Donuts
10:00 am	Crafts for the ladies
10:15 am	Seminar—Computer Connections, by Carol Bradley
12:00 pm	Lunch on your own & Check out the Motorhomes on display !
2:00 pm	Chuckers game competition



4:00 pm	Happy-Hour at the Freightliner Tent
5:45 pm	Farewell Dinner
7:00 pm	Entertainment– Carl Acuff, Jr. & Band
	Great family entertainment and really 2 acts in 1

Yes, he is related to Roy Acuff ...



## **Wednesday, August 24, 2005**

Check Out !! Happy Trails ...





Fmca's 73rd. Internaltional Convention

March 21,22,23 and 24, 2005

# Happenings @ the Rally !

At the FOCUS Fest!



Always a Great time  
with the Best Friends !





## Freightliner Chassis Owners Club Business Meeting – March 22, 2005

The business meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm on March 22, 2005 by President Ken Hawk. Four hundred and twenty-six members were in attendance. President Ken asked Bobby Tomme to open the meeting with a prayer.

Ken spoke of the personal loss of Chris Patterson, the Freightliner Vice President of Service and Parts in Portland, Oregon, and his family. The Pattersons tragically lost their fourteen year old son Scott. The club contributed to a scholarship fund in Scott's name.

President Ken then thanked everyone for their support when he suffered a severe heart attack. Ken said that he was overwhelmed with all of the cards he received and the prayers for his recovery. He said "Prayer definitely works."

President Ken introduced the club officers present: Katherine Henley - Executive Vice President, Priscilla Buck - Secretary, Chuck Belba - Membership Vice President, Pete Palasota - Treasurer, Dorothy Casada - National Director, and Roy Hopper - Alternate National Director.

Katherine Henley asked for a show of hands by "first timers". It appeared as though nearly half of the attendees were there for the first time. Katherine then spoke about FCOC rallies. She asked for a show of hands for those going to the rally at Myrtle Beach. Then she talked about the up-coming rally in Gillette, WY scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. The rally will be held at the Cam-Plex Facility in Gillette and the cost is \$250 per coach. Katherine and her husband Larry are the Rally Masters. Pete and Martha Palasota are the Assistant Rally Masters.

Ken introduced Dean Schaper, the FCCC Sales and Marketing Manager. Dean encouraged club members to "work" at the Freightliner booth. He stated that 12,700 chassis were produced in 2004 which represents 58% of the diesel pusher chassis market. Dean also talked about the management change at Fleetwood and the recent negotiations regarding the use of Freightliner chassis to again be under Excursions and Providences for 2006 models. There are also on-going negotiations regarding the Revolution as well as other Fleetwood products.

Dean spoke about changes at the Gaffney service center. The new center will be adjacent to I85, six service bays, and parking for twelve coaches. It is planned to be operational early next year. Dean also spoke about Camp Freightliner, a two day seminar that teaches owners important information about their chassis. The cost of the seminar is \$100. If interested in attending call Mike Cody at (864) 206-8738 to make reservations. Mike is also the instructor for the seminar. Lastly, Dean introduced Gary Poole.

Gary is the FCCC Product Manager for RV Products. Gary spoke about some of the up-coming product changes. A new solid front axle with a wheel cut of 55 degrees, instead of 50 degrees, will soon be available. In addition to the improved wheel cut, front disc brakes will be an option. An electrically controlled fan clutch has been field tested and will enter production on rear radiator chassis. The fan will only operate at full speed when the engine temperature reaches a pre-set limit. This will result in reduced noise and, depending on driving conditions and habits, improved fuel economy. Gary also talked about the introduction of the Mercedes diesel engine into FCCC chassis. Gary closed by stating that FCOC is high on his list of priorities and he appreciates how hard all of the members work to improve the club.

President Ken asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the last business meeting as those minutes had been published in the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

There was a discussion regarding the length of time from when new member registrations or renewals are sent and membership cards are received. Ken talked about the fact that since all renewals are due on January first of each year the workload is very high at that time. Changes are being discussed, such as Pay-Pal and online renewals, to reduce the high workload and long delays.

Ken then spoke about a new link on the club's web site to the Happy Camping web site ([www.camphalfprice.com](http://www.camphalfprice.com)). Happy Camping provides half-price camping at about 1,000 campgrounds. As an FCOC member you will receive a ten dollar discount when you join Happy Camping.

More ! See page 16



## FCOC Business Meeting -March 22,2005, *continued from page 15*

President Ken recognized that there are a number of club members who go out of their way to promote FCOC. He has designated these members as Ambassadors. Every Ambassador will receive business cards and tri-folds to pass out to prospective members. If any member would like to nominate someone for their extra effort, please give their name to any of the club's officers.

The Nominating Committee was discussed next. Currently there are six names on the list for election at the business meeting to be held at Minot, ND. The six are Bob Tomme, Ginny Belba, Jerry DeHeer, Ted Lokenberg, Al Moore, and Hal Croyts. Ken asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Ken asked for a motion that the six names be accepted. A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

A discussion to change the membership eligibility section of the club's by-laws was lead by President Ken. The current eligibility requirement is "an RV on a Freightliner chassis". Ken discussed the fact that this "loose" requirement would allow, for example, owners of Class B RV's built on a Freightliner Sprinter Van platform or owners of Class C's built on a Freightliner Columbia truck chassis to join FCOC. Since there is a lack of commonality among these the various chassis, it would be difficult to provide across the board support and programs to support members with chassis other than those manufactured by FCCC in Gaffney, SC. It was discussed that the proposed change should also state that motor homes on chassis manufactured by Oskosh and John Deere are also eligible as is the case today. After further discussion it was decided that the proposed by-law changes will be published in the FCOC Newsletter and voted upon at the next business meeting which will be held at the FMCA Convention in Minot, ND.

Jay Blumenthal, standing in for Max Durbin who is the FMCA International Area Vice President, presented the club with our ten year anniversary award. Jay congratulated the club for doing such a great job. He also invited everyone to attend the upcoming FMCA International Rally.

The Treasurer, Pete Palasota, gave his report for the period from August 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005. Pete presented the balance sheet and finished by saying that the club is doing well financially. Ken asked for a motion to accept the report. A gentleman made a comment from the audience that he belonged to many organizations, had heard many treasurer's reports, and that Pete's report was the most professional report he had ever heard. A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Chuck Belba, Membership Vice President, gave a report. He said that the club had about 5,200 (coach) members and about 4,000 members have paid through December of 2005. Chuck stated that he spent a week at Gaffney working with Kathy Kyzer to process membership dues. While the backlog was significantly reduced, there were still almost 700 members to process. Roy Hopper spoke about the success at the FMCA Chapter Fair. He said that there were many visitors. A number of former club members stopped by to renew their membership.

Dorothy Casada, our FMCA National Director, gave a brief report. The slate of FMCA National Officers has not yet been finalized. Dorothy encouraged club members to contact her when the slate of officers is published in the Family Motor Coaching magazine if they have strong opinions about any of the candidates. The National Directors will vote for National Officers in Minot, ND. Convention revenues are up 6.4%. The MEDEX PLUS program is still a member benefit despite rumors to the contrary.

Bill Buck, one of the Myrtle Beach Rally Masters, spoke briefly about the upcoming rally. He gave directions to the campground and asked for volunteers for greeters, parkers, and social hours.

President Ken asked if there was any other business to discuss. As there was none, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and seconded. Without any discussion the motion carried and the meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted      **Priscilla Buck**      FCOC Secretary

**FCV**  
**Notes of thanks!**

A New Web site to Evaluate a RV park ... [www.rvparkreviews.com](http://www.rvparkreviews.com)

- **Patterson Family** for our donation to the Scott Patterson Scholarship Fund.
- **Irv Steele Family** for our donation to the Cancer fund.
- Special note from **John Diddich** on his great experience when buying a PT Cruiser using the Award Program.

## Myrtle Beach Rally Wrap-up ...



A few weeks have passed since the FCOC rally at Myrtle Beach. And, it seems as if a few years have passed since we started planning that rally. As with any large event, planning, participation, and perseverance are the key to success. Our task was made much easier, and a lot of fun too, because of our Assistant Rally Masters – Jan Benedetti and Sue Wright. I know that I will forget to acknowledge and thank some folks who worked to make this rally a great success. I also know that there were many people I am not even aware of who worked to make the rally successful. Please accept my apology, but also my heart-felt thanks if this is the case.

Sue worked with Jack Cahill, the caterer, to plan the menus. I think that everyone who attended the rally will agree that the two of them did a fabulous job. The food was superb and no one left the table hungry. Jan spent countless hours assigning sites and assuring that those who wanted to park together did. She also spent two days greeting folks as they arrived and assured that they were assigned the correct sites. Even at the last minute, Jan was still juggling sites in order to accommodate a few unusable sites or to park folks together. The parking crew, headed by Bobby Tomme did a great job of leading coaches to their sites. Thanks to all who helped Bobby.

Pat Tomme assembled a great team of greeters. Pat and her team spent hours filling and distributing 225 goodie bags. Their work made clear how many vendors supported the rally. I hope that people took time to read the literature in the goodie bags and also took time to drop a thank you note to those generous vendors.

Ed and Jackie Laugher once again procured the rally pins. They worked with a vendor in Canada on price and design. Then they delivered the pins to Myrtle Beach. There were also the folks who delivered the door prizes to the rally. John and Paula Corbett, Peter and Carol Plumb, and Bob and Dottie Horrigan loaded their cars and coaches with door prizes. Without their help we would not have been able to give out so many wonderful door and raffle prizes.

Ted and Kathy Lokenberg and George (Smitty) and Patsy Smith, and their volunteers made our social hours a success. Even before the rally started, Ted and Kathy scouted around for the best prices for adult beverages. It's a good thing too because we were a thirsty bunch. Smitty and crew erected the FCOC tent and also packed it up at the end of the rally. Smitty and Patsy, and their crew made daily trips to purchase wine, beer, and ice. Every afternoon they setup the bar and then tore it down and cleaned up. They also arranged for snack to go with the beverages. I also need to thank Jack Cahill, the caterer, for "lending" us his liquor license so that we could have our social hours at the Lakewood Conference Center. Ted also found the location that was used for the Women's Driving Course.

Many memorable pictures were taken at the rally. Ron and Arlene Griffith and Bob Horrigan, though, were the official rally photographers. Speaking of pictures, if you have any that you think are worthy of posting on the FCOC website, please send them to Rudy Morris at [morrisrc@att.net](mailto:morrisrc@att.net). Please see the FCOC website for additional information.

Following the rally, there was a two day golf tournament. Ron Sliger, Art Tobin, and Ted Lokenberg worked to make this a memorable time for the golfers.

Freightliner Custom Chassis, as usual, brought a great group of folks from Gaffney. We should all be thankful for their support for our club. In addition to the great seminar that FCCC always presents, I want to thank all of the other seminar presenters. It's always good to learn something new and I'm sure that everyone who attended a seminar learned something new.

As I said at the beginning, there were many who worked to make this rally a success. Two people who typify this were Bruce and Barbara Gibson. Bruce and Barbara made it clear that whatever needed to be done, they were there to do it. And they did. Thank you to Bruce and Barbara, and to everyone else who worked just as willingly and tirelessly.

A thank you is in order for all who attended the rally. For without you there would have been no "Spring Time at Myrtle Beach". The Children's Recovery Center also thanks you for the \$2,000.00 donation as a result of the raffle on the last evening. Everyone was a winner in this raffle.

And finally a colossal thanks to my wife Priscilla. She wrote over a hundred letters which resulted in the door and raffle prizes. She took care of all of the banking so that we could pay the bills. She arranged for the wonderful entertainment. She took care of many of the details that made the Myrtle Beach rally a great success. And, most of all, she kept me sane during this time.

Bill & Priscilla Buck, Rally Masters " Spring Time at Myrtle Beach March, 2005"







# Children's Recovery Ctr. gets Gift from FCOC!

FCOC Wagon Masters Bill and Priscilla Buck present a check for \$2,000 to Carol Rahtec, the Medical Director of the Children's Recovery Center in Myrtle Beach. FCOC received two nice cash grants of \$300 from Flying J and T/A Truck Stops. Rather than just give them to a member by a ticket, we decided to raffle the larger gifts off for a fee of \$5.00 per person. The amount collected was an even \$2,000.00, which was presented to the Children's Recovery center. This center was suggested by the Chaplain of Lakewood Camping.



## Something New !      RV AWNING TRAVEL LOCK

Wind is the major factor in the loss of an awning. Keeping the awning mechanisms in top shape may offer some help to protect the awning from billowing in the wind. However, putting bungee cords, Velcro straps, or plastic ties on the arms will give a false sense of security since the roller can still turn.

Remember, if the awning roller tube can turn, the awning can billow out and be lost.

- Installing an Awning travel lock involves fastening the mounting plate to the rafter arm using three screws and drilling a hole in the rim of the awning roller cap to accept the lock pin.
- Installation time is only about 30 minutes using common tools and the supplies provided with each lock. It only takes a few seconds to lock and unlock travel lock from the ground using the awning rod that came with the awning



### REASONS TO OWN AN AWNING TRAVEL

**LOCK:** The awning travel lock is made of durable long lasting material.

The cost is very little (\$39.95) compared to the costs involved in losing the entire awning (\$300 - \$1100).

### ORDERING YOUR AWNING TRAVEL LOCK

The RV Awning Travel Lock may be purchased by mailing an order to:  
Loess Hills Innovations Inc. P.O. Box 416, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51502.

MasterCard, Visa (Include exp. Date), money orders or personal checks for \$39.95 plus \$3.95 S&H are accepted for payment. **Note: you may also call in your order to 1-712-310-7187 or 1-712-310-6001 for faster delivery.** For additional information log on to our website [www.hometown.aol.com/goldenwgf](http://www.hometown.aol.com/goldenwgf)





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## DON'S RV HUB NUT WRENCH

*If you don't want the tire technician that is changing your tire to use pliers and a rag on your chrome decorative retainer nut of your rear Duals. This wrench can be used on most coaches on Freightliner Chassis with aluminum wheels and the screw in decorative nut. It is also easier to polish the rims with the rear axle can off.*

### TO ORDER:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Wrench \$9.95 each S & H \$3.00 Ohio Residents 7.25% tax

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Checks Only

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**43082**

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A Better Way To  
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 System

## Exhaust Brake Management System

The Brake switch is said to automate exhaust brakes in diesel-powered motor homes to a full-time "on" position. Since some exhaust brake systems do not work when the cruise control is activated, the increased stopping ability provided by the exhaust brake is not available when an emergency stopping situation occurs.

According to product literature, the Brake switch works only when needed, allowing you to coast when you want to coast and to activate the exhaust brake when you desire, thus providing the protection of the exhaust brake 100 percent of the time. Once installed, all that's required to activate the exhaust brake is a tap on the brake pedal. To deactivate the exhaust brake, simply push on the throttle and return to normal driving. The Brake switch is available for \$79.95 plus shipping and handling. Be sure and identify yourself as a FMCA/FCOC member and receive a 25% discount! For more information, contact:

BrakeSwitch P.O. Box 3713 Mooresville, NC 28117

Phone: (888) 349-5414

www.brakeswitch.com Remember ... FCOC members ask for a Club discount !

### 29-Day Tour

Oct 13-Nov 10, 2005  
AND  
Feb 9-Mar 9, 2006

Minimum: 16 rigs  
Maximum: 20 rigs

#### Piggyback Train & Copper Canyon Top & Bottom (see catalog page 52)

- Rendezvous: Presidio, Texas
- Return: Nogales, AZ
- Three days/two nights hotel stay at Batopilas in the bottom of the Copper Canyon
- Mazatlan
- Mexico West Coast



Catalog: \$5,295  
FCOC: \$5,695  
Plus additional possible quantity discounts (see below)

### 58-Day Tour

Jan 6-Mar 4, 2006

Minimum: 16 rigs  
Maximum: 22 rigs

#### Yucatan - Colonial Mexico (see catalog page 67)

- Rendezvous and Return: Pharr, Texas
- Paamul
- Belize
- Oaxaca
- Mexico City



Catalog: \$5,590  
FCOC: \$5,390  
Plus additional possible quantity discounts (see below)

### 58-Day Tour

Jun 2-Jul 29, 2006

Minimum: 16 rigs  
Maximum: 22 rigs

#### Alaska and The Canadian Rockies (see catalog page 32)

- Rendezvous: Ephrata, WA
- Return: Prince George, BC
- Juneau & Denali
- Yukon Territory
- Kenai Peninsula
- Boat Cruises/Stage Shows



Catalog: \$5,795  
FCOC: \$5,595  
Plus additional possible quantity discounts (see below)

### 47-Day Tour

Jun 17-Aug 2, 2006

Minimum: 16 rigs  
Maximum: 22 rigs

#### Canadian Maritime Provinces (see catalog page 38)

- Rendezvous: Houlton, ME
- Return: Bangor, ME
- Viking Trail
- PEI
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Newfoundland
- Labrador



Catalog: \$5,595  
FCOC: \$5,395  
Plus additional possible quantity discounts (see below)

These FCOC prices reflect a \$200 discount from Adventure Caravans' 2005 catalog prices and a \$400 discount from the pending 2006 catalog for these tours. Additional discounts will be provided for the above FCOC group tours as follows:  
For 18-19 rigs, an extra \$100 off; for 20-21 rigs, an extra \$150 off; for 22+ rigs, an extra \$200 off.  
Info and Reservations (only \$250 deposit to hold a space): 1-800-872-7897



*If anyone want to go on any one of the Adverture trips, Call Adventure Direct.*

**Post Rally  
March 2006 !**

# **A Desert Adventure**

**FCOC Tucson Rally - March 25 - 29, 2006**



## **Saturday 3/25/06**

6:00 PM - Opening Reception sponsored by Beaudry's with Hor's D' Oeuvres and cocktail.

7:00 PM - Opening comments by FCOC President, Rally Masters, Representative from Visitors and Convention Bureau, and Beaudry Representative.

7:30 PM - Entertainment by the Tucson Chorus and Barbershop Quartets.

## **Sunday 3/26/06**

8:00 AM Coffee and Donuts a Freightliner Tent.

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Motor Coach Trip to Tombstone, AZ. Lunch and Activities on our own.

6:00 PM - Dinner at the Beaudry Convention Center.

7:30 PM - Entertainment by Shawn Wilson "DJ" 50's and 60's music.

## **Monday 3/27/06**

8:00 AM Coffee and Donuts a Freightliner Tent.

Through out the day - Tours of Pima Air and Space museum and Davis Monthan AMARC facility.

5:00 PM - Dinner at the Pima Air and Space Museum. (Car pool to the Museum for tours and Dinner)

## **Tuesday 3/28/06**

8:00 AM Coffee and Donuts a Freightliner Tent.

All Day - Seminars, time on your own for self-guided tours, etc.

10:00 AM - Seminar - Cheri's Desert Harvest - Prickly-Pear Cactus, From Field to Store (1 hr)

10:00 AM - Seminar - Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp.

Red Hat Society Meeting.

2:00 PM Caterpillar and Cummins engine seminars

6:00 PM - Dinner and Closing Ceremonies at the Beaudry Convention Center.

7:30 PM Entertainment - Dancing to the Sounds of The Tom Patrick Band. (Big Band Music)

## **Wednesday 3/29/06**

Departure - Arrangements can be made to stay on to participate in the many activities in the Tucson Area.

- *Watch for More Information in following Newsletters!!*



# Take Note!

Proposed By-Laws Changes for Review & Presentation for Voting at the Chapter Business Meeting, FMCA Convention, Minot, ND. August, 2006  
Strikeouts indicate deleted verbiage, *italics*, underlined & larger type are added verbiage.

## 2. SCOPE

This Chapter shall be authorized to function in the International Area with a mutual interest that all members must own a FMCA approved **class A** motor coach built in Gaffney, SC. on a John Deere, Oshkosh or Freightliner **Custom** Chassis.

## 1. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for and to maintain membership in the Chapter, a person must own at least one-third (1/3) of an FMCA approved **class A** coach built in Gaffney, SC. on a John Deere, Oshkosh or Freightliner **Custom** Chassis. They must also be in good standing with FMCA, and meet the dues requirement and provisions set forth in the Bylaws of this Chapter.

## C. ELECTION

One of the business meetings must be a meeting at which the membership is to elect officers. The Chapter ~~President, one or more Vice Presidents a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected for a two (2) year term. A National Director, and an Alternate National Director,~~ **officers** shall be elected for a ~~one (1)~~ **two (2)** year term.

## 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE DUTIES

To select one of its members as Nominating Committee Chairman.

To nominate candidates for the Chapter Offices of President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, National Director, and an Alternate National Director.

To select a slate of officers for the new year ~~year~~ **term** to be presented for voting by the Chapter membership.

## 2. TERMS OF OFFICE

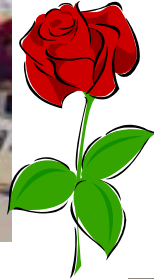
A. In the year 2004 elections, the President, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President of Membership, whose terms commence in 2005, shall serve a one (1) year term or until their successors are elected.

**D. The election for President, Secretary and Vice President of Membership shall occur on odd numbered years. The election for the remaining elected officers shall be on even numbered years. The term of office shall commence on January 1 of the year following the election. Any officer elected to fill a vacancy will assume that office at once and serve the unexpired term.**

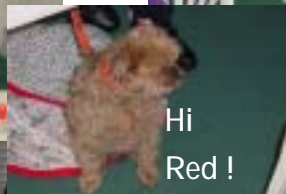




# Red Hat Society



Red Hatting @ Myrtle Beach ~  
Check Out the Hats!



Hi  
Red !



Lets See ... Put Your Left Foot Out !!



# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

To those that

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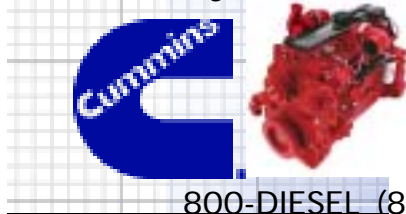
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