

# Freightliner Chassis Owners Club

*"12 Years of Great Associations ...  
1995 - 2007"*



3rd. Quarter, 2007

# Freightliner Flyer

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

*Read All About It!*  
*The*  
*FCOC*  
*Post*  
*Rally ~*

*"Rediscovering Redmond"* as  
FCOC Caravanned with Escorts  
& parked together at ...



Highway 97 to ...



*Yakima, Washington*





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## ~ President's Message ~



To my FCOC Friends and Family

It is a great time to be writing you because many things are going on with club and with my wife Dorothy. First, Dorothy, what a week. Dorothy had her last big Chemo injection on last Wednesday. That dumped her in the dirt but it was the good news because it was the last one. Now all she gets is a weekly injection for another 34 weeks or so, but now it is all down hill from there. Hooray Ray!!! Both Dorothy and I thank you so much for your caring cards and letters and also the Prayer Power that is so necessary and has been so successful. We really appreciate you and Love all of you for all the support.

As you may know, we had a business meeting in Redmond Or. at the FMCA Convention. Because it was not in the cards for us to drive, I flew up to be involved in the business meeting election process. It was a great meeting and the election went smoothly, after I learned to do it correctly, Ha! Ha ! The candidate for President was Bill Buck, now the Executive VP and the replacement Executive VP up for election to fill Bill's term was Ron Sliger. Well the slate of officers was elected. Bill is President Elect, Ron is Executive VP elect, Chuck Belba was re-elected to VP membership and Priscilla Buck was also re-elected to Secretary. Congratulations to all the officers and the new ones elected. I know you all will do a great job. Also at the meeting we approved a change in the bylaws to have the members anniversary date be the same as the original registration date. Now this does not change any of the current members but will start from this point on for new members and takes effect immediately. Read the minutes in this newsletter.

We had about 375 FCOC members and many FCOC support manufactures as guests. The refreshments after the meeting was not pizza. Many of us were at the Cat meeting where they served great Pizza, so we needed something different. We had Bratwurst, Hot Dogs, cold slaw and plenty of beer, and wine and soft drinks. Everybody seemed to enjoy the change to dogs and Bratwurst.

The FMCA rally was good but fell short of their attendance expectations. About 1000 coaches short of the last time we were in Redmond. It was still good with great entertainment and plenty to buy before you left the vendor's buildings.

Then on to Yakima State Fair Grounds, for the FCOC Rally. We had a slight problem at first but it was due to their interpretation of Full Hook-ups. There was water and electricity and a dump station. Well we solved that by having the honey wagon come around twice while we were there. I am told that the food was absolutely the best you could get at a rally. The tour of the International Catering Company's cooking trailer was a delight in itself. No wonder the food was par-excel ante. I was told the entertainment was also the best, Willy and Co were there and as always a great job, the Rivoli's did a wonderful job with all their songs and then the Church Service. I hired a comedian for Sunday night and he was good, and then there was Elvis. I won't go there. He was on for an hour and then left the building. Oh well....

*Continued on page 4*

The seminars were good and a big Thank You to those vendors that participated. Freightliner, Larry and Rhonda, Cat, Cummins, Michelin, and Robert Schneider from Progressive Industries. Thanks to all of you for your support.

You may also have heard that I drove up to Yakima to get the rally started and then all the members wanted me to leave. So I did leave on Saturday AM to Texas. You see, it was Dorothy and my 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 17<sup>th</sup> and beside me wanting to be home, the FCOC members also pushed me to get my self back to Texas.

To all those that stepped up to help out, the Belba's, the James's, the Rash's and Pruysers, and all that helped out. I heard that the rally was a good one and I thank all involved to putting it on in my absence.

God Bless All  
*Ken Hawk*

*It's not the destination  
... it's the journey*

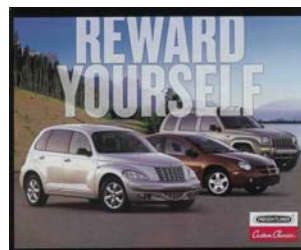


Ken,

I wanted to let you know I just took possession of my new 2007 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited 4 door which I purchased through FCOC and Diamler-Chrysler Rewards Program. I will be using it as a toad behind my Tropi-Cal motor home. I tried dealing with the salesman and the best I could do was to get the vehicle \$500 above invoice price. I left and contacted FCOC and after getting my control number went back and was able to get the same vehicle for 1% below invoice price. This saved me a total of about \$750, which is a very nice savings. The second time there was no hassling with the salesman and the purchase was completed quickly.

I want to thank you and FCOC.

Bill and Tammy Baugh  
FCOC # F266980



### **Disclaimer**

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.





THE LEADER AT EVERY TURN™

Dear Club Members,

I recently attended the FMCA rally in Redmond, Oregon, arriving with the caravan of FCOC members with my wife in a new Tiffin Phaeton. We camped with the FCOC group and participated in the daily social hours after the show. I was good to spend time with various owners and listen to their input. The social hour attracted other neighbors in the camping area as well; including an Alfa owner's club camped nearby.



Following Redmond, we drove the coach up to Yakima, and spent three days with the owners club. My wife enjoyed the exchanges with the various club members at the rally.

There was a lot of new product on display at the FMCA show, including a Mandalay on a Freightliner tag axle chassis. Over the next couple of months, you will see additional products on the road on Freightliner tag axle chassis including the Tiffin Phaeton.

Following the show, we drove back to the factory in Gaffney. We gave the coach a good test on the drive out of Washington down to Colorado. The numerous mountain climbs were handled with ease with the new Cummins 07 ISC 360. Everything worked well for us on the 3000 plus mile trip.

I also met recently with a group of owners here at FCCC for Camp Freightliner. I can not emphasize enough the value of this course for chassis owners. I met one owner that arrived at the camp very dissatisfied with the handling of his coach. By the end of the course, with the help of the instructor, Mike Cody, and the help of the service technicians, he left extremely happy with his coach. Participants in these camps are nearly unanimous in their agreement that their motor home experience improves significantly following these courses.

I look forward to seeing more of you at the rallies coming up in 2008!

*Bob Harbin*



THE LEADER AT EVERY TURN™



*From FCCC Gaffney, SC ...*



Dear FCOC Members,

It's been a wild ride since I joined FCCC in June. While I am no stranger to the transportation business and have spent the last 8 years with Freightliner in Service, Sales and Marketing, this is my first foray into the RV world. My initiation into the industry had me visiting every RV and bus manufacturer in the US with Bob Harbin, Dean Schaper, and Tony Sippel. Definitely time well spent as I tried to learn all I could from the retiring Dean, who has been extremely gracious with his knowledge of the industry.

My initiation also came with my first experience as a Class A motorhome operator. As a kid growing up in the Northeast my family would go camping in a "pup tent" trailer, but this was my first real experience with my wife and three children (ages 7, 4, and 2). We had a blast making the move from Portland, Oregon to Greenville, SC. 3,355 miles in 10 days in a FRED and we saw it all. The Pacific NW, Yellowstone, The Grand Tetons (an interesting story behind the name of these mountains, but that's for a later time), The Rockies, The Great Plains, and The Blue Ridge Mountains.

More recently I experienced the final, and what I consider to be one of the best, initiation experiences. I attended my first FCOC rally held in August in Yakima, WA following the FMCA rally in Redmond, OR. First let me say thank you to Ken Hawk, Bill Buck and the rest of the FCOC Executive Board for their hospitality. And thank you to the entire FCOC membership for your patronage. I learned more from the conversations with members who live the RV lifestyle than from any other industry source, and I hope the dialogue continues. To that end, recently you should have received an email from the Quixote Group, a firm we hired to survey owners about the RV industry. I ask that you please take time to fill out the survey to help us better meet your needs.

The future of our company relies on providing the products and support you require and I look forward to working with the FCOC membership to make sure we deliver. I still have more to learn, but with customers and ambassadors like the FCOC members, we can only continue to get better

Again, thank you and I'll see you at the next rally!

*Jonathan*

Jonathan Randall, Director of Sale/Marketing

Dear FCOC Members,

I am excited about the changes taking place with the owner's club. I think having area rallies will generate interest with club members that have not been as active with our rallies in the past. I know Marty Sherlock has already set a date for his Southeast area rally in Jan. of 2008.

I want to thank Ken Hawk for all his loyal service and dedication to the club. For the past 6 years Ken has done a great job seeing the club change and grow to over 6000 members strong. Congratulations to Bill Buck and all the other officers on your new positions. I look forward to working with you.

We see the Owner's Club as an extension of our marketing department and appreciate your support. We also value your feedback and comments so keep them coming.

Safe Travels,

*Tony*

Tony Sippel, RV Product Manager

# *A Great Time!*

## *Yakima, WA, Post Rally 2007*

There were seventy motorhomes when all arrived at Yakima WA, on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007. We then settled in for a good time and a fun rally.

Happy Hour was everyday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. And it was well attended. The International Catering Service catered the food for every meal. Everyday we enjoyed such foods as Roast Beef, Mexican Fajitas, Prime Rib and Barbequed Spare Ribs. They did an exceptional job. That night we were entertained by Willy and Company with lots of laughs.

Ken Hawk, President of FCOC introduced Bob Harbin, President of Freightliner Custom Chassis. He then introduced Tony Sippel, Jonathan Randall, Larry Dorer and the rest of the Freightliner crew.

Ken left early Saturday morning to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and to make sure Dorothy wasn't alone. Congratulations and may you have many more happy years together.

We enjoyed Saturday morning's breakfast after which the Red Hat Society held their meeting. We watched a demonstration by the Pampered Chef Representatives, and everyone had a good time.

There were three Wineries to be visited and three large busses to transport everyone. We kept the crowd small as the wineries were small and family owned. Everyone thought they had the best tour and many bottles were purchased to prove it. Everyone was feeling good when they returned.

Charlene Williams and Larry Carstensen sold 50/50 raffle tickets for the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Children's Foundation. Tony Sippel also tried his hand at selling some tickets. They raised \$1149.00 with 50% going to the foundation. Some of the winners turned back their winnings to the Foundation. Additional donations from club members also went to this fund. A check was presented to Alice Macias in the amount of \$908.00 for the Children's Foundation. She was very happy and all the members were pleased to be a part of it. That night a wonderful Barbeque Rib Dinner was enjoyed by all. We were entertained by our friends Ron and Kay Rivoli. What a show!



Sunday morning church service was attended by several of the members and everyone enjoyed it. Kay Rivoli gave a wonderful presentation. Later a seminar by Robert Schnieder about special electronics was enjoyed, plus he sold several units of the EMS RV protection system. What a great job!

While the men enjoyed the seminar's Connie and Ginny organized a trip to the museum and some local craft stores. In the evening a Mexican Dinner was served and the evening's entertainment was Jerry Saxton, a retired comedy writer, and David Elvis Scott did his imitation of Elvis.

Monday morning breakfast was again served. Afterwards Larry Dorer gave a presentation about "Knowing Your Chassis." Later, Larry and Ronda Rippie entertained questions at the display chassis. They did an outstanding job answering member questions. Everyone was pleasantly surprised when they were presented with a \$25.00 Gift card to be used at the FCCC parts trailer. Lunch was hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings. This was followed by Cat, Cummins and Michelin Tires Seminars. That evening we were treated to a Prime Rib dinner which was excellent! We then enjoyed entertainment by the Rivoli's and their taking requests from the audience. No one wanted the singing and dancing to end.

Tuesday we had an early Continental Breakfast and everyone had a chance to say good by to old and new friends.

We want to thank Chuck and Ginny Belba for taking over as Rally Masters in Yakima, WA. They did an outstanding job and the Rally was much better because of their untiring work. We also want to recognize anyone else who helped in any way. A Big Thank You To All! See you all down the road.

Assistant Rally Masters: Chuck and Ginny Belba & Tom and Marlyse James,



 **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 an FMCA # \_\_\_\_\_ or Applied  
for #. Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send to: **FCOC c/o Kathy Kyzer**

**552 Hyatt St. Gaffney, SC. 29341**

**(864) 487-1700**



***HAPPY WITH NORCOLD***

When we were in Perry, GA for the FMCA convention, we signed up for an icemaker repair on our 2003 Norcold refrigerator . Two people from Norcold arrived at our coach to do the repairs. They installed a new icemaker and it works great. Before they left, they mentioned if we ever had a more problems with the refrigerator to contact them online at [Thetford.com](http://Thetford.com) or call customer service at 1-800-543-1219.

Early this summer, Bob noticed that the seal was ripping on the left refrigerator door so we decided to contact Norcold customer service. Customer service reported to us that the door would have to be replaced, as it is not possible to replace the seal. After a few emails it was decided that a technician would come to our home to make this repair. He was traveling from Ann Arbor, Michigan to the Winnebago factory in Iowa and would swing by our house on a Sunday morning to make the repairs. He replaced both refrigerator doors.

So if you need any Norcold repairs and are going to a FMCA convention, contact them. We were very happy with the wonderful service we received from Norcold.

Bob & LaVerne Foerster





## WANTED - A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN!

Volunteers are needed for the positions of Rally Master and Assistant Rally Master for the FCOC Rallies following the FMCA Pomona (15-28 February 2008) and FMCA St. Paul (14-17 July 2008) events.

The location of both FCOC rallies following the FMCA events need to be determined. If you would like to volunteer for the Rally Master and Assistant Rally Master positions, or have a recommendation for a rally location, please contact Ron Sliger by telephone (321) 757-0593, cell phone (321) 543-1048, or e-mail at: [rslinger@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rslinger@cfl.rr.com) at your earliest convenience.

Previous experience as a Rally Master is not required. We are in the process of developing a Rally Planning Guide to assist you through the process. We will also make available to you as an additional resource, our past Rally Masters, so you can draw upon their experience if so desired. Remember, experience is not a prerequisite for either the Rally Master or Rally Wagon Master positions - only good common sense, attention to detail, and patience is required.

The 2009 FMCA Rally will again be held at the Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. It is not too early to start thinking about where we should hold our rally following the FMCA in 2009. Got any suggestions?

## WANTED - EXCEL EXPERT

We are in the process of developing an Excel-based financial model that will assist Rally Masters in the preparation of a budget for a rally, and need someone who can help us with mathematical coding of the model.

Please contact either Ken Hawk ([kenhawk@airmail.net](mailto:kenhawk@airmail.net)), Bill Buck ([bill01@comcast.net](mailto:bill01@comcast.net)) or Ron Sliger ([rslinger@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rslinger@cfl.rr.com)) if you are available to help develop the model

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## TRAVELING PRAYER

*Almighty God, as we hit the road again today, please ride with us. Keep us safe, sharp, and secure. Allow us to watch out for others, leave adequate space around us, to be courteous drivers and passengers, and to handle situations wisely and skillfully. When we arrive safely, hear our praise to you. Amen.*

Hello FCOC members! One of the pleasures of my role with your club as a Spiritual Leader is to pray for those of you experiencing difficulties in your life or those of your immediate families. Those difficulties can be anything from depression, surgeries, treatment for cancer, kidney disease, or the whole range of health and welfare issues. If you want any of our members to hold you or another FCOC member in our prayers, please send me an email at [motoringmorris@att.net](mailto:motoringmorris@att.net). I also have a gift for you from the club to help remind you of our prayers and of God's comfort. Your name will only be given to those who have agreed to pray for others and you can tell us only what you want. God knows what your needs are.

Grace and Peace,  
Carolyn Morris, [motoringmorris@att.net](mailto:motoringmorris@att.net)



: *Area Coordinators* for the South Central Area (Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma), Rocky Mountain Area (New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, and Wyoming), Midwest Area (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba), Great Lakes Area (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Ontario), and Western Area (California, Mexico, all other countries).

Coordinators will plan and organize FUN events in their area. They will be their area's member representative to the FCOC Executive Board and will be a board member. For more information contact Ron Sliger at (321) 543-1048 or [rsliger@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rsliger@cfl.rr.com), Ken Hawk at (214) 244-4307 or [kenhawk@airmail.net](mailto:kenhawk@airmail.net), or Bill Buck at (603) 702-0471 or [billb01@comcast.net](mailto:billb01@comcast.net).

**FYI!**

### Meet your Area Coordinators

Four willing and enthusiastic couples have volunteered to be Area Coordinators. In addition to planning local events, they will be member representatives to the Executive Board and will also be members of the Board. If you are interested in being an Area Coordinator see the "Want Ad" elsewhere in this issue.

Bob and Dottie Horrigan are the Coordinators for the Northeast Area. Bob and Dottie may be reached at (774) 278-0589 or [bobdot.horrigan@verizon.net](mailto:bobdot.horrigan@verizon.net) if you want to volunteer to help them plan events. They are planning their first event in the spring of 2008.

Charlie and Marie Johnston represent the Eastern Area. They have many years of experience and have hosted many events in their thirty years of being FMCA'ers. They may be contacted at (423) 309-1464 or [cljohnst@aol.com](mailto:cljohnst@aol.com). They are in the process of writing a letter to all FCOC members in the Eastern Area.

Mike and Joy Krumvieda have graciously agreed to head-up the Northwest Area. Joy has just finished serving on a Home Owners Association and said that she is glad to be rid of that stress and is ready to have fun. I hope that there will be many club members who step forward to make their job fun. They may be reached at (541) 549-0748 or [jmkrmvda@msn.com](mailto:jmkrmvda@msn.com).

The Southeast Area is being well served by Martin and Joetta Sherlock. They have been active as Area Coordinators since March of this year. They have sent a letter to all of the Southeast Area members asking for assistance and two rallies are in the planning stages. The Sherlocks have been instrumental in getting this program "off the ground". They may be reached at (239) 304-2061 or [fluffymozart@aol.com](mailto:fluffymozart@aol.com).

Please support these volunteers. With your help, and their leadership, FCOC is going to have many more functions, closer to home, than ever before. Make sure to look for area rally announcements on the FCOC web site as well as in the Freightliner Flyer. "Keep your fork - there's a lot more good stuff to come."

*Seeing Things in a New Light !*



FCOC Getting together @ Redmond, OR  
Aug. 2007



Redmond  
2002



FCOC Getting together @ Redmond, OR  
Aug. 2007



Redmond  
2007





"The Best Is Yet To Come"





Year  
in  
a  
Day  
2020



# The 1st Area Rally

## *South East Area Rally Schedule*

October 21, 22, 23, & 24, 2007

Chumuckla's Farmers Opry

Pace, FL

This will be the first FCOC area rally. All area rallies are open to all FCOC members. The registration form and the rally agenda is on the chapter web site by the middle of September. *Plan on attending*

January 21, 22, 23, & 24, 2008

Central Florida Fairgrounds

Orlando, FL

The registration form and the rally agenda should be on the chapter web site by December 1, 2007. Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation will be at this rally with the chassis and trailer. It will commence the day after the RV Super show ends at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa.

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

## Take Note!

**Life Takes VISA but Flying J won't!**

by Mark Nemeth

We have received a number of reports from traveling members that Flying J truck stops are no longer accepting VISA cards for **fuel purchases at the commercial truck pumps**.

Our consumer affairs department contacted Flying J and they did confirm that **VISA can no longer be used at the truck pumps**. Most Flying J locations still accept VISA at both the auto pumps and at the RV Island, if they have one. However, many pumps will set a limit of either \$50 or \$75 on a VISA purchase, so you may have to swipe your card and restart the pump several times to fill a large RV.

Several members have pulled up to the truck pumps, filled their RV to the tune of several hundred dollars, and then discovered that their VISA card would not be accepted. In one case, members had to buy a Flying J gift card with their VISA in the gift shop in order to pay for their fuel. If you plan to fuel at Flying J, don't bring your VISA card!

editors note:

Yes, this happened to me at the Flying J @ Troutdale OR, even when the RV island was out of service and Flying J designated the #1 island as the RV slot.

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Hawk at 5:05 p.m. with approximately 300 people in attendance. Ken opened the meeting with a message from Dorothy, thanking everyone for all the prayers, cards, and Emails during her recent illness and cancer treatment. Ken went on with the meeting by requesting that all members be sure to sign in, and an invitation to any new members to join the club. Ken gave a brief explanation of the focus of the club and reminded everyone that Freightliner Corporation picks up the cost of the first year of membership for all new coach owners. (Freightliner Chassis of course).

Olen Massey gave the invocation, which was then followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. President Ken highlighted the agenda for today's meeting and then introduced the officers who were present; Executive V.P. Bill Buck, Treasurer Tom James, V.P. of Membership Chuck Belba, V.P. of Newsletter Bob Smellie, Acting Sec. (for Priscilla Buck) Ginny Belba, and our National Director for FMCA Dorothy Casada. Ken mentioned that Bob Smellie had won an award for the club's newsletter and the group thanked Bob by a round of applause.

Ken then introduced Tony Sippel, the Freightliner Corporation Product Manager for the RV market, who in turn introduced the staff from Gaffney, SC beginning with President Bob Harbin. Dean Schaper, who is retiring, was recognized and Dean introduced his replacement at FCCC- Jonathan Randall. Bob Harbin updated the group about the successes Freightliner Corporation is having in the RV market, and his personal commitment to improving our RV experience. Bob and his wife are here with their motorhome and will be going on to the FCOC Rally in Yakima, Washington. Ken presented FCOC badges to Bob and his wife Hermisia.

Jonathan Randall, the new Director of Sales/Marketing spoke to us and stated that he was looking forward to the challenge of his new job, and working with the club. Ken recognized Dean Schaper for his ongoing support. Dean in return thanked the members of FCOC for the years of friendship and took us back in time to the formation of the club in the days with Irv Steele as the first President.

Jonathan went on to thank the staff of FCCC, Missy Gray, Pat Childers, & Larry Dorer, Justin and Jeremy, the tech reps from Gaffney, and David and Meredith Fellingham, the Freightliner representatives for the West Coast. Jonathan reported that all programs in place now should continue. In addition they are looking towards finding preferential interest rates for new motorhome purchases. All those who volunteer from the club to help in the FCCC booth were thanked as well.

The next order of business was the Treasurer's report by Tom James. Tom stated that the club has Total Cash on Hand of \$175,738.71 at the present. However, this amount includes \$40,000 of future prepaid dues as well as the money to be paid out for the Yakima Rally expenses. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

Dorothy Casada gave her FMCA report and stated the newly elected FMCA officers as follows;

Connie Pool, President

Nelson Stubbs, Sr. Vice President

Doug Key, Treasurer

Joanne Durbin, Secretary

Dorothy went on with her report to state that FMCA has about an 85% rate of retention of members, and that a great deal of their discussion was spent on the budget and a big issue, the cost of pins. Upcoming Rallies are scheduled- Feb. 2008 – Pomona, CA; July 2008 St. Paul Minn., July or Aug 2009 Bowling Green, Ohio.

The next order of business was approval of the minutes from the last meeting and as published in the newsletter; motion made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Ken recognized those people in the audience from our support companies, and asked Susie Adcock, from Caterpillar to come forward. She was made an honorary member of the FCOC club.

Ken discussed the importance of the newsletter, our most important contact with our club members. It is critical that we keep our member information up to date, and he requested that everyone become familiar with "Keeping In Touch," the computer program to help us stay current. A member's zip code is the password for the first time one enters the program, and then each person needs to make the change for a password of their choice. Ken reminded us all that it is costly for us to receive the newsletters back from the post office with the incorrect address. We pay between \$.89 - \$2 on these returns. Ken asked each member to take the responsibility to make sure we keep updated on any changes. Hopefully, before long we will be able to pay dues and rally fees online.



Ginny Belba was called upon for a Nominating Committee report. Ginny first called out the names of the committee – Bud Trash, who was present at the meeting was recognized, absent members are Al Moore, Bob Tomme, Ted Lokenberg, Bob Reed, Gerry DeHeer, and Hal Croyts. A request from the committee to the membership was that anyone who is interested in serving in any leadership position, to please contact members of the Nominating Committee.

The election of officers followed - Nominations opened for each office, the candidate nominated by the committee, nominations opened to the floor for any additional nominations, nominations were closed and the vote taken. There were no nominations from the floor and each officer was elected by unanimous vote. The results of that election process are;

President	Bill Buck
Executive Vice-Pres.	Ron Sliger (vacated seat by Bill Buck-1 year)
Vice-Pres. Membership	Chuck Belba
Secretary	Priscilla Buck

Congratulations to those elected – a two-year term beginning January 1, 2008, with the exception of Ron Sliger who is finishing the 1 year remaining term. Ginny concluded her report by thanking those individuals for serving the club, and also requesting that the Executive Board consider the suggestion made by the Nominating Committee – to add additional members to the Board by way of additional Vice-Presidents.

The next item of business was the by-laws change which was proposed and printed in the newsletter. This is simply a change **that will affect new members only- to make the anniversary date correspond with the date a member's payment of dues is received.** This will ease the job of renewals by spreading them over the calendar year. **Additionally, there were other proposed changes to the by-laws to correct grammar and spelling errors, and to provide additional clarification of a family unit.** A motion was made to approve these by-laws changes, the motion was seconded, and approved by acclamation.

At this time, President Ken introduced our International V.P., Jay Blumenthal. Jay spoke to the group and mentioned the upcoming convention in June 2008 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He thanked Bill Buck for the great job in security for the last FMCA International Rally. Jay stressed the importance of clubs to step up and assist the International Group in their rallies.

The Yakima Rally was discussed; there are still openings at this time. A map with directions will be shown on the overhead projector during the refreshment time following this meeting.

Additional new business consisted of the area coordinator for the South/East region, Marty Sherlock, a Past President of FCOC. volunteered, and Ken appointed him to fill this position. Ken discussed the role of the areas and stressed to the membership that we are not breaking up the club; FCOC will still be one big club, and hopefully the areas will help in hosting rallies for the main club.

Ken concluded this meeting with a thank you to the membership for the last six years as President. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ginny Belba*

Ginny Belba,

Acting Sec. For Priscilla Buck





### Important Note

This note is to help you get to know what your club is doing with the setting up of FCOC Areas. As you may have read in this newsletter, there will be 9 areas within FCOC and the purpose is to give more of our members a chance to get to FCOC rallies. So far there are 4 areas with area coordinators now in place. Their names are also in this newsletter and I ask you to consider helping these folks with the necessary duties for the success of an area. We are aligning the areas to coincide with the FMCA area by states. Please understand, that the larger body of FCOC is not going anywhere. We will still function as a club and have National Rallies after each National FMCA Convention. The important thing to do from this point on, is to understand that we can put much of the area events and rallies results in the newsletter as the space allows. Adding to that please get used to the fact that information on these area rallies and happenings will be on the web site. So put the FCOC web address in your bookmark or favorite and watch as we grow even at a faster pace of having more fun, more education, more events to help us become safer, more knowledgeable, better informed motor home drivers.

Thanks for your continued support.



## Audio Books on the Road

On long trips, especially on the Interstate roads, tends to become rather boring and road hypnosis can occur easily. This reduces your safety margin as well as causing excessive tiredness at the end of the day.

One thing has proven very effective for countering these effects is to listen to audio books while driving. How this occurs is not completely understood but experience has shown that the book allows your mind to process something other than the ribbon of road stretching before you.



# Dealer Rating

Dealer Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Dealer: \_\_\_\_\_ ( Frtlrr, RV, Cat, Cummins, other )

Dealer City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Category Rating ( 1 = low, 10 = high)

#1 Courtesy / First Impression \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Cleanliness of Facility \_\_\_\_\_

#3 Diagnostic Ability \_\_\_\_\_

#4 Promptness of Service \_\_\_\_\_

#5 Obtained Estimate (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

#6 Within Estimate (Y?N) \_\_\_\_\_

#7 Reasonable cost (Y?N) \_\_\_\_\_

#8 Functional Waiting Room, ( i.e. Restrooms, TV, Internet, coffee, Soda etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

#9 Cleanliness of Waiting Room \_\_\_\_\_

#10 Overall Rating \_\_\_\_\_

#11 Hourly Rate: Truck \$ \_\_\_\_\_ MH \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#12 Would you return to this Dealer? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

#13 Should this Dealer (if Frtlrr) be considered for An Oasis Rating? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments:

*Thanks for taking time to share your Experience.*

## Explanation of the rating sheet:

It is our goal to make known the quality in RV service anywhere in the country: either Freightliner dealers or non Freightliner dealers. This can be any dealer or repair shop that offers RV service. Especially a shop that We as FCOC members would visit or send other FCOC members to visit. The list of Oasis dealers is on the web with no rating at all, so now it is up to us to give all dealers that we choose a chance to be rated for our system.

**Comments & Suggestions Please...**

Mail Rating sheet to Ken Hawk  
218 High Brook Dr.  
Richardson, TX  
75080

These will be posted on the  
FCOC Web site.

Name and F number Please

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

# *Tec-knowledge Revisited !*

By Martin H. Sherlock

Ken Hawk wrote a letter in the last newsletter that explained that a small air leak could cost a lot of money. Ron Anders provided this air test to me a few years ago. I have modified it to make it easier to understand and provided information as to what parts of the system are being tested in each step of the test. I originally published it in the Freightliner Flyer in 2000 and included it in an article I wrote for Family Motor Coaching Magazine, which was published in September 2005. Place it in your motor home and run the test once in a while to determine the operability of your air system.

The following steps can be performed to test the proper operation of the air system and to verify that the system is not leaking.

The air governor test will verify that the air governor is maintaining the air tanks charged to the proper pressure  
**AIR GOVERNOR TEST**

Start engine and build air up the air pressure until compressor governor cuts out. This will be evident when the pressure gage needles stop rising. Depress the service brake treadle slowly and then release. Observe that for each depression of the brake treadle that the service air pressure decreases by observing the gage. Continue depressing and releasing the brake treadle until the governor cuts in and the air pressure begins to increase. When this occurs, the air pressure in the tank as read on the gage should not be less than 85 psi. Let the air pressure build up until the governor cuts out as indicated by a steady air pressure. The air pressure in the tank should not exceed 130 psi. These listed air pressures are federal standards and the actual cut out and cut in pressures may be different on your coach

The static brake test will verify that the vehicle air system that is normally charged as you travel is not leaking.  
**STATIC BRAKE TEST**

If your coach is equipped with a standard transmission, turn the engine off and place coach in gear to prevent it from rolling. Observe the air pressure gage reading and release the parking brake. Do not touch the service brake treadle or any other component connected with the air system. If the coach is equipped with an air ride system, do not move around in the coach or enter or leave the coach during this phase of testing. The air pressure in the tanks should not decrease by more than 2 psi in one minute.

If your coach is equipped with an automatic transmission ensure the coach is placed on a level location, or block a wheel to keep from rolling. Place the gear shift selector in neutral and turn the engine off. Observe the air pressure gage reading and release the parking brake. If the coach is equipped with an air ride system, do not move around in the coach or enter or leave the coach during this phase of testing. The air pressure in the tanks should not decrease by more than 2 psi in one minute.

The applied brake test will verify that the vehicle air system that is normally charged as the service brakes are applied is not leaking.

## **APPLIED BRAKE TEST**

Depress the service brake treadle and keep it fully depressed for the duration of this test. After the air pressure has stabilized, observe the pressure gage. The air loss should not exceed 3 psi in one (1) minute (tap gauge occasionally). Any movement of the service brake treadle will vent or pressurize the service brake chambers and consume air pressure, causing the failure of this test.

The low air warning device test will verify that the low air pressure alarm goes off as designed  
**LOW AIR WARNING DEVICE**

Turn the ignition on (key switch) but do not start the engine. Observe the air pressure gauge and pump the service brake treadle until you can see the low air pressure warning light come on and/or hear the warning buzzer. The low air pressure warning should come on at about 60 psi.

The Emergency brake system test will verify that the vehicle emergency brake system functions as designed.  
**EMERGENCY BRAKE SYSTEM TEST**

Turn off the ignition and then reduce the air pressure by depressing and releasing the service brake treadle until the emergency (parking) brake handle pops up. By observing the pressure gage this should occur when the tank pressure falls below 45 psi.

Start the engine and immediately place the transmission in gear and try to move coach slowly against the emergency brake with low air pressure. At this pressure the emergency brakes should be applied by the large springs in the rear brake chambers. As soon as the engine is started the air pressure will start to build up but it will not be routed to the emergency brake chamber because the handle has popped out. Caution should be used so as not to apply too much pressure against the brakes and drive train.

The emergency brake test will verify that the vehicle emergency brakes can be applied, as the vehicle is moving. When applying the emergency brakes on a moving coach, all passengers and driver should have seat belts fastened and the vehicle speed should not exceed 5 to 7 mph.

### **EMERGENCY BRAKE TEST**

Allow the air pressure to build up until it cuts out. Put the coach in gear, release the parking brake and allow the coach to move forward slowly. Apply the emergency (parking) brake by pulling up on the button. Do not operate the service brake treadle. The vehicle should come to a complete and sudden stop.

The check service brake test will verify that the service brakes are adjusted so they do not cause a pull in either direction when applied

### **CHECK SERVICE BRAKES**

Set coach in motion slowly and apply the service (foot) brake firmly to see if the steering wheel pulls to the left or right.

Jerome Salyers wrote: (Thumbs UP)

Ken, I just finished filling out a dealer service survey on my recent visit to an Oasis dealer, Las Vegas Freightliner. We live in Las Vegas (usually) so this a convenient location. This is my third annual visit for routine maintenance and minor service. Gilles Gagne, the RV service manager, is a pleasure to deal with. For persons needing service while in the Las Vegas area, I recommend him and his dealership highly...

On this same subject, I read with interest your article in the recent FCOC newsletter regarding repair facilities, especially the part concerning paying for work with a credit card in case of a dispute. In the future, this may become a two-edged sword. While at the Freightliner dealer on my most recent visit, I noticed a stamped notice on a blank work order in the office which read "All repairs over \$1000.00 must be paid in cash or cashier's check". I asked Mr. Gagne about this (especially since my bill exceeded \$1000 by a small amount) and he said that only applied to truckers because they (and other dealers)

have had so much trouble with truckers who run up thousands of dollars in repairs and then call the credit card company to dispute. I would advise RV owners to use the dispute mechanism cautiously and absolutely only when necessary and in good faith, or at some point they may find themselves having to shell out hundreds or thousands of cash dollars for repairs. This could be especially painful if they are far from home. Hope this input is useful. We wish the best, and prayers, for your wife's recovery. We remember her from the

2004 Hood River, OR rally. Sincerely,

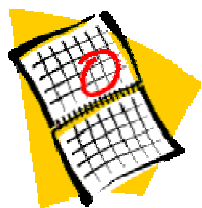
Jerome Salyers,

F299762

new 'legalese terms'...you don't 'burn' the soot from your  
muffler...you 'oxidize the carbon particles from your Diesel  
Particulate Filter'! (DPF)

## *Let's Plan for the Rally in 2008*

Caravan Into The Pomona, CA. - 2008 FMCA Convention



Charlie & Ruth Hoffstatter

Caravan Organizers

Phone # 512-567-1499 or 888-218-0008

E-Mail [crvacc@yahoo.com](mailto:crvacc@yahoo.com)

For many of you who have attended a FMCA convention and caravanned into the convention grounds with the FCOC in the past, Pomona will be a little different. We have negotiated with FMCA officials to rendezvous in an area of the main FMCA parking lot. Our caravan will be a SHORT trip across the parking lot to our final destination on Saturday, the 23rd of February. For those that want to come in on Friday evening you will need to stay overnight in the FMCA Holding Area. A \$15.00 charge is required by FMCA and payable to the FMCA people at the Will Call office in the FMCA Holding Area that evening. When coming in on Saturday morning the 23rd please be at the parking area (Gate 23) at least by 11:00 AM, so we can go over information pertinent to our parking and to hand out the caravan placards for the windshields. We will hold a short meeting about 11:45 AM prior to our moving across the parking lot to our final parking area. We have been scheduled with the FMCA parking personnel to be parked at our final spot at 12:30 PM on Saturday the 23rd.

The FCOC will have personnel there at (Gate 23) on Saturday morning to help our group get together prior to our final move on Saturday afternoon. There will also be FMCA parking attendants in the area to assist if needed.

Directions to the FMCA / Fairplex Parking area are as follows:

Coming north or south on I-210 / SR57 (Orange Fwy.) take Exit 24B Arrow Highway (although it may not be numbered). Head east on Arrow Highway and proceed approximately 3.8 miles. Watch for Fairplex signs along the way. Go past Fairplex Drive and White Avenue. Turn right in to Gate 23 off Arrow Highway. There will be a very large parking lot in front of you and in there will be our staging area.

If you are going to stay overnight, in the FMCA Holding Area, prior to coming in on Saturday morning, that turn will also be off of Arrow Highway before you get to Gate 23, watch for the FMCA Holding Area signs. When you leave the FMCA Holding area on Saturday morning you will go back out to Arrow Highway and turn right and proceed southeast to Gate 23.

***We will be looking for you !!!***

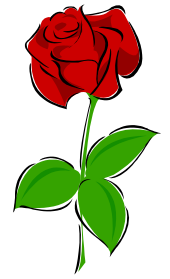
CONTACT US IF YOU WILL BE GOING @ 512-567-1499 OR TOLL FREE 888-218-0008 OR AT OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS [crvacc@yahoo.com](mailto:crvacc@yahoo.com)

When you contact us please give us either an e-mail address or cell phone number so we can contact you if necessary. No matter how hard we try there are times when information changes.

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.

# Red Hat Society



On Saturday August 18, 2007 while attending the Yakima FCOC rally, the ladies of the Red Hat Society enjoyed a demonstration from Pampered Chef. We learned some Helpful hints in the kitchen and learned how to decorate the Ultimate Banana Split Cake, YUMMY!

Afterwards, we enjoyed a very delightful lunch and Kate Rivoli sang us a song from her CD about the Red Hat Society. We all had a great time!!

## Ladies of FCOC



Enjoyable Time for  
All !





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