

THE ORIGINAL COUNTRY COACH OWNERS CLUB
AN INTERNATIONAL FMCA CHAPTER
PROUDLY CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1984!

ON THE ROAD AGAIN



VOL. 16 ISSUE 4 • DECEMBER 2023

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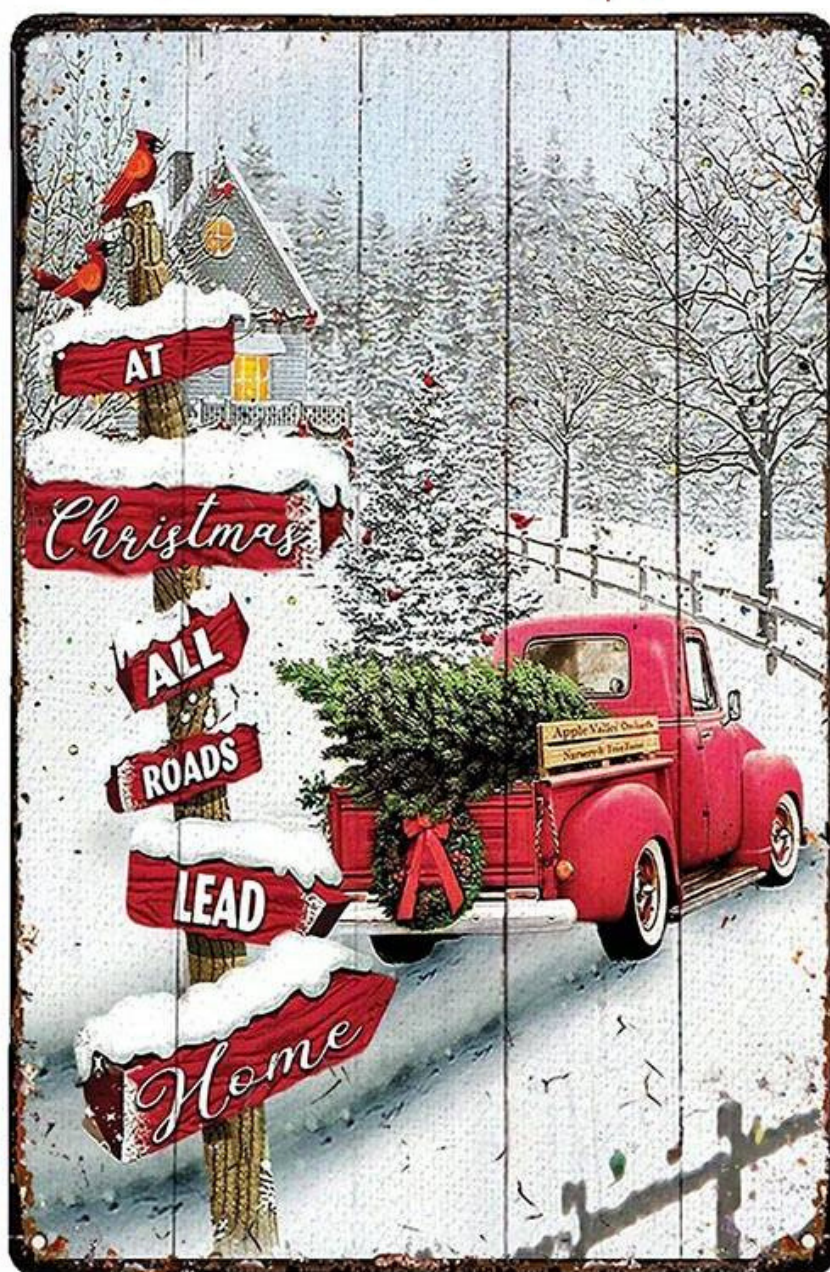
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi CCI!

What a year! Rita and I have been full-timing for more than four years and 2023 was our biggest. With a couple of CCI rallies on the east coast, visits to family and friends in the mid-west, the Alaska caravan, and the CCI Rolling Rally in the Pacific Northwest. Then throw in touring the West Coast, since we were out there anyway, swinging by the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque then back through the mid-west on our way to sunny Florida for the winter, we have travelled nearly 15,000 miles. (I do not want to look at the diesel bill.....)

But what a great time! We hung out a bunch with our CCI friends, made a lot of new friends and saw some awesome sights. Life is indeed GOOD. We even got to visit the home of Country Coach and had Premier RV give CC some much needed love. Now we are back in the holiday season once again realizing what we have to thankful for, family and friends. Take the time to enjoy everything in your life and spread the feeling.

Lastly, we need to be grateful to our military, when we were in Southern California we visited with our eldest grandson son, Hunter, and his young wife. Some of you met him at the Boston Rally in 2019. Hunter is currently a Marine Sergeant; we spent a week with him just before he deployed with his regiment to Okinawa. Hunter and all the military make many sacrifices for us and the least we can do is show our support. One way is "Friday R.E.D." (Remember Everyone Deployed). Try to remember to wear red every Friday to support them and the loved ones that they had to leave behind.

Merry Christmas.
As always, I'll be CCing you!

Bill

“
Christmas
is not a time
nor a season,
but a state
of mind.”

Calvin Coolidge





RALLIES CALENDER

RALLIES ARE JUST ONE OF THE REASONS TO JOIN COUNTRY COACH INTERNATIONAL BUT AS CCI RALLY COORDINATOR I THINK THEY ARE THE BEST REASON!~ TAMMY TOLSON

JANUARY 2024

FMCA - Western Area Rally
Indio, CA

January 10-14

JANUARY 2024

CCI - Gathering at Lakeland Sun n Fun
Lakeland, FL

January 15-22

FEBRUARY 2024

FMCA - Southeast Area Rally
Sun N Fun Expo
Lakeland, FL

Feb 7-10

MARCH 2024

FMCA's 108TH International Convention
& RV Expo
Pima County Fairgrounds, Tuscan, AZ
March 20 -23

Register Online

APRIL 2024

CCI - Solar Eclipse 2024
Bandera, TX

April 4 - 11

(Registration Open)

MAY 2024

FMCA - International Area Rally
Hatbox Event Center
Muskagee, OK

May 17-21

JUNE 2024

FMCA -Great Lakes Area Rally
Darke County Fairgrounds
Greenville, OH

June 5-9

JULY 2024

FMCA -Northeast Area Rally
Herkimer County Fairgrounds
Frankfort, NY

July 11-14



JULY 2024

FMCA - Midwest Area Rally
Amana RV Park & Event Center
Amana, IA
July 24-27

AUGUST 2024

CCI - Northeast Rolling Rally
Aug 23 - Sept 15th
4 GREAT STOPS!
Niagara Falls, NY, Thousand Islands,
NY, Springfield, MA, and BoothBay, ME

If your Country Coach Club has a rally event that is not listed here, please contact the Club at club@countrycoachclub.com so we may include your event(s).

RALLYS

PAST YEARS OF CCI RALLIES

If you have a great possible rally site in mind, let us know.
Email Tammy Toolson (VPRallyCoordinator@countrycoachclub.com)
with information and why you think it would be a great destination

PAST EVENTS

Dec. 2023	St. Augustine, FL	Jun-2019	Live Life Well in Door County, WI
Aug-2023	Oregon Trail	Mar-2019	Tucson, AZ
Mar-2023	Springtime in Charleston, SC	Dec-2018	St Augustine, FL
Jan-2023	Margaritaville in Auburndale, FL	Oct-2018	Dandridge, TN
Jan-2023	Gathering at Lakeland Sun n Fun	Jul-2018	Living it up! in Colorado Springs, CO
Oct-2022	Cajun Palms RV Resort in Henderson, LA	Mar-2018	New Orleans, LA
Jul-2022	Spring Gulch RV in New Holland, PA	Jan-2018	Tampa Supershow
Mar-2022	Benson, AZ	Sep-2017	Virginia Historic Triangle
Jan-2022	Winterizing? just come to Florida!	Jul-2017	Vendors Galore!
Jan-2022	Lakeland SECC pre-rally	Feb-2017	Friends and Fun in the Sun - Lazydays, Tampa, FL
Oct-2021	Western Extravaganza Rally	Oct-2016	My Old Kentucky Home, KY Horse Park, Lexington, KY
Jul-2021	Welcome to the Black Hills	Apr-2016	Meet me in St Louis!
Jul-2021	Santa Fe Skies 2.0	Feb-2016	Fun in the Sun - Lazydays, Tampa, FL
Apr-2021	Cherry Blossoms	Sep-2015	Waterfalls, Wineries and Gorges - Watkins Glen, NY
Jan-2021	Sun 'n Fun	Jul-2015	A Step Back in Time - Shipshewana, IN
Oct-2020	Savannah, GA	Mar-2015	California, Here we come!
Jun-2020	Santa Fe Skies	Aug-2014	"Northwest Adventure" CCI Pre-Rally
Apr-2020	Western Extravaganza Rally	Mar-2014	14 FL Rally - "A Blast from the Past"
Jan-2020	Sun n Fun	Nov-2013	Branson, MO Rally
Sep-2019	Let's do Boston!	Jun-2013	Cody Wyoming Rally

THE BIG THINGS

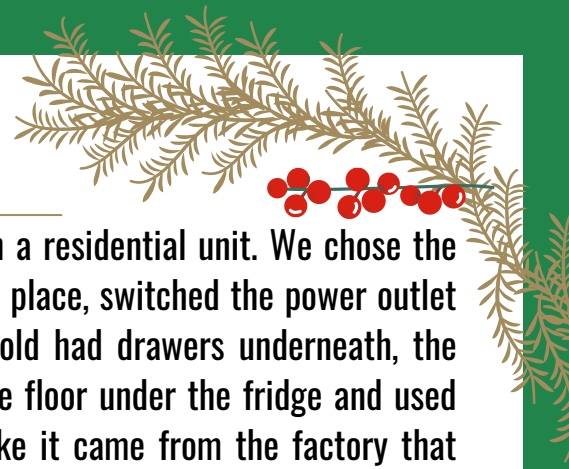
BY MAX HEGLER

Several months ago, I wrote a two-part article for the newsletter about many of the upgrades and changes I had made to our 2008 Country Coach Allure Sunset Bay that we affectionately refer to as “Hazel”. In those articles I wrote about the “Little Things”... those things that didn’t cost that much but made life on the road just a little bit easier. Well, as we travelled the roads, we noticed that there were some things that needed to be fixed or upgraded to make things better or just to bring them up to more modern standards. In this article, I will tell you about the “Big Things” that we have done and mention some of the things that we plan to do in the next few years.

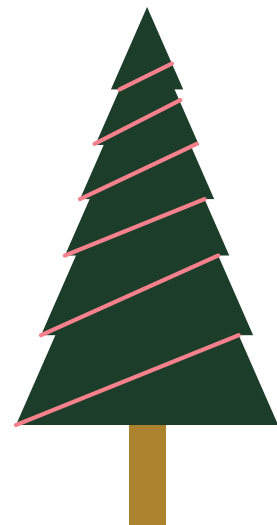
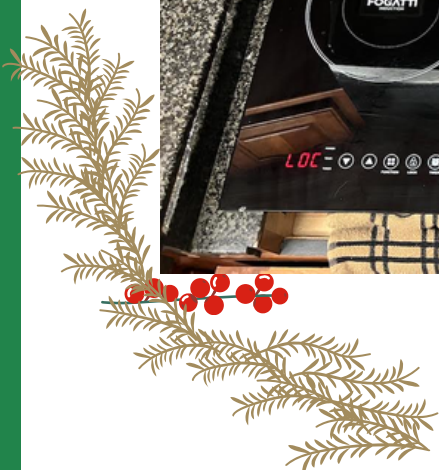
So, from the beginning, when we purchased our coach in 2017, we knew that we would need to upgrade the main TV in the front of the coach. What made it obvious was the 3-inch-wide blue streak that went from top to bottom when the TV was on. The rest of the picture was fine, but I couldn’t convince my better half that that was acceptable. Since I wanted to enjoy my relaxing time in the coach, I saw the light. So, our first big item was a 43” Sony Bravia 4K TV that almost fit in the space that our original Sharp 37” TV was in. It was a fairly simple upgrade the only required a wall mount for the new TV and a converter for the HDMI, and minor trimming on the cabinet. Well, the TV worked great, however, the stereo system needed upgrading, so I switched the receiver and DVD player to a more modern Sony system... did I mention that I like Sony? Well, the system worked well the spouse was happy. We also upgraded our Satellite dish from the original unit with the RV Mogul for Dish Network. Well, I don’t recommend RV Mogul satellite antennae, because it has never worked for more than a couple of months without replacing the controller (twice) and the GPS receiver and it still doesn’t work. The good thing is we now have a high-speed internet receiver, and we just stream the shows we want. The cost was about \$1200.



THE BIG THINGS



The next big item was to replace the Norcold 1210 refrigerator with a residential unit. We chose the Samsung RF18. The width was perfect, and I could have just sat it in place, switched the power outlet to the inverter side and used it in that manner. Because the Norcold had drawers underneath, the fridge would have been too high. I removed the drawers, lowered the floor under the fridge and used the drawer fronts as doors for new cabinets above. Now it looks like it came from the factory that way... happy wife, happy life. Cost was about \$1500. So, now there was only the stove top that used propane. I decided to go all electric... I replaced the gas cooktop with an induction cooktop and my wife loves it. All I had to do was replace the single electric outlet the subwoofer was plugged into and then I had an outlet for the cooktop. I also had the surface the cooktop sat on replaced since the induction cooktop took up slightly less space. That can be handled by most cabinet shop or Corian countertop service. Since I no longer needed the propane tank, I removed it, put a new plywood floor in the bay and have additional storage. Cost was about \$250 for the cooktop and about \$180 for the counter top insert.



THE BIG THINGS



In our bricks and sticks home we always sleep on a queen size bed. In our coach there was a RV or “short” queen bed. It wasn’t too bad, but we finally decided to upgrade to an articulating foundation and mattress. The full queen size articulating foundation raises the foot enough that we were able to go with a full size queen mattress. The slides will come in without an issue, just remember to raise the foot before you bring the slides in! Cost was about \$1200.



Kenwood radio upgrade. The old Kenwood radio was beginning to have issues so I decided to replace it with a newer model. This was one of the easiest upgrades because it was mostly plug and play. The only thing I was not able to use was the CD changer. That was not a big loss since we seldom used it. The GPS, Sirius XM and radio antennae worked fine. The cameras also worked with the new radio and the picture was crystal clear and did not wash out in the sunlight. Cost was about \$900.

We are now looking at the cracked and broken tile and faded carpet as our next project. We have under floor heating, so we want to keep that. The company that made our original underfloor heat strips is still in business and can provide new heat strips when we do the replacement. The carpet will also get replaced at that time.

What’s after that? We don’t know, but with the age of our coaches, I’m sure there will be something the little lady will want done and as I mentioned earlier... Happy Wife, Happy Life!



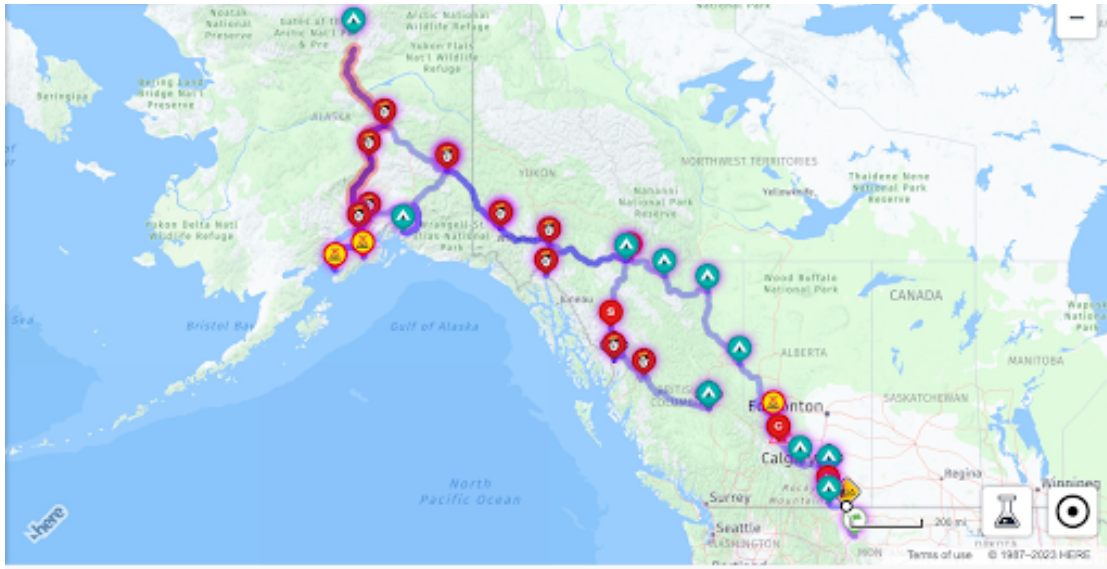
ALASKA - Not the Final Frontier! Part 2 by

BY RITA SAX

A couple of months ago, I started part 1 of our Alaska Adventure. This is the last half; I hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

Alaska was a bucket list trip for my husband, Bill, my granddaughter Mica, and myself.

This is the map of our Alaskan trip through Canada and Alaska. Approximately one month in each country.



We finished our story at Watson Lake, YT. So, after Watson Lake, we proceeded to Whitehorse, YT, where we learned and saw the Klondike riverboat, the world's largest weathervane, and all about the Innuits. This was all new information for us. We never knew about any of the information about these people and found it very interesting.

Then onward to Destruction Bay, YT, then TOK, AK and Fairbanks, AK. Destruction Bay was named appropriately. The roads especially. Not a lot of paved roads, but when we were on paved roads there were a lot of frost heaves. A frost heave is when the ice under about one foot of soil thaws and freezes, moving the pavement on top. The pavement doesn't stay even or firm. The roads are constantly in repair. It's like riding a roller coaster, just not as tall of a drop, but it will move things in your coach. You need to drive slowly, so everything stays where it needs to be. It made for an interesting drive.

And then we were finally in Alaska! Tok, AK to be sure, where we had dinner at a restaurant, spent some time with our new friends and then early to bed, because we will start early in the morning to Fairbanks, AK.

ALASKA - Not the Final Frontier! Part 2 by

Fairbanks, AK was an interesting area. In Fairbanks, we saw the end of the AlCan Highway, we visited Santa Claus at the North Pole and saw some reindeer. .



Mica had a talk with Santa, and he left a message for her two brothers, Saxton and Kolton. Telling them he's been watching them and they should start to treat her better, and then maybe they can make it back on the nice list



The next day, we went to the Ice Museum and looked at some amazing Ice Sculptures, then we took the Riverboat Discovery Cruise. Bill and Mica got to meet a couple of new mushing pups.



ALASKA - Not the Final Frontier! Part 2 by

We cruised down the Chenoa river and stopped at Susan Butcher's kennel. Susan Butcher was an Iditarod four-time champion. Unfortunately, she passed several years ago of cancer, and it is now run by her husband, who demonstrated a dog sled run around the house. He later met up with us down the river at an Athabascan Village. Where he autographed a book, that he and his wife, Susan, wrote for their daughters, about Granite, her lead dog. We also learned how the Athabascan people lived. How they prepared their salmon and other foods to last during the winter, how they dressed, etc.

Finally, we saw the Alaskan Pipeline, what an amazing story. And we panned for gold. We found \$52 worth of gold flakes, and had it put into a bracelet for Mica as a souvenir.



The next day, we took a small plane trip up to the Arctic Circle. My stomach didn't care for the ride so much, especially since it was a small prop plane that rode 8 of us plus the pilot. Mica and I were relieved when we finally touched down.



We did lunch at a snack bar in the metropolis of Coldfoot population 34. After lunch we got a tour of the town and then southward to the Arctic Circle. It was just a sign that said we were at the Arctic Circle, no pomp and circumstance.



There we boarded the bus for the drive home, with many stops. Stopped and saw the Alaskan Pipeline, felt the permafrost, did dinner at a place where the Ice Road Truckers go to eat.

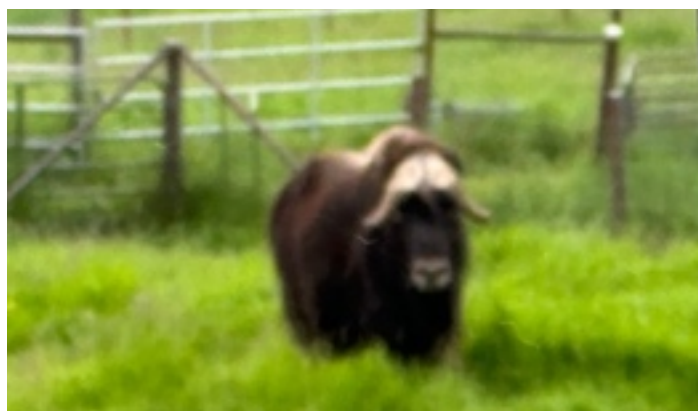


ALASKA - Not the Final Frontier! Part 2 by

We saw the largest mountain in North America. Denali, previously known as Mt. McKinley. Mica saw it more clearly when the group when on their E-Bike ride. We saw so many animals on this trip, moose, deer, elk, caribou, geese, ducks, seals, sea lions, etc. and I even saw a miniature Sasquatch while on a train ride in Skagway.



We went to a Muskox farm and saw these animals that shed their coat and provide the softest material to make yarn. The clothing made from this Muskox yarn is the softest material I've touched.



We took a boat ride to Juneau. The only way there was by boat. We had a nice lunch and then walked around a bit. We stopped at the Red Dog Saloon and Bill got a Duck Fart. A Duck Fart is a shot of Kahlua Coffee Liquor Baileys Irish Cream and Crown Royal Canadian Whiskey. You have to say "Quack, Quack Throw It Back", and then shoot it down. It was pretty good!



ALASKA - Not the Final Frontier! Part 2 by

We got back on the boat and headed back to Skagway. On the way back is when we found out about whales and “bubble netting”. There was a small pod of hungry humpback whales. What they do is take deep breaths and dive down deep. They swim in circles slowly releasing air bubbles. The bubble start to get so dense, it traps the fish. Then the whales come up the middle with mouths open getting a big mouthful of fish. After watching them for a while we headed home. There was a group of Dahl Dolphins. The boat driver was going to get them to run alongside the boat, but they showed no interest. Then the driver saw a pod of Killer Whales, and they were chasing the Dahl Dolphins. I think they were hungry too. We learned that Dahl Dolphins travel at 30 mph and Killer Whales travel at 25 mph. But the Dolphins are like sprinters and the Killer Whales are like marathoners. The Killer Whales just keep going until the Dahl Dolphins tire out. And that is what exactly happened. All of a sudden the boat driver screamed “Oh My God!” We all turned to the right and saw a Killer Whale soar 100% out of the water with a Dahl Dolphin in its mouth. Pink water was flying everywhere. He then came down and four other Killer Whales joined in the banquet. The boat driver had been doing this for 17 year and he had never seen anything like it. No one on the boat got a picture of it. Everyone had their camera out. There were plenty of pictures of shoes and flooring, but no one got a picture, except for me. I got a picture of the ending splash as the Killer Whale and Dahl Dolphin returned to the water.

The highlight of my trip!



ADVERTISER OF THE MONTH

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED GREAT SERVICE OR ASSISTANCE FROM ANY CC RELATED ISSUES,
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35

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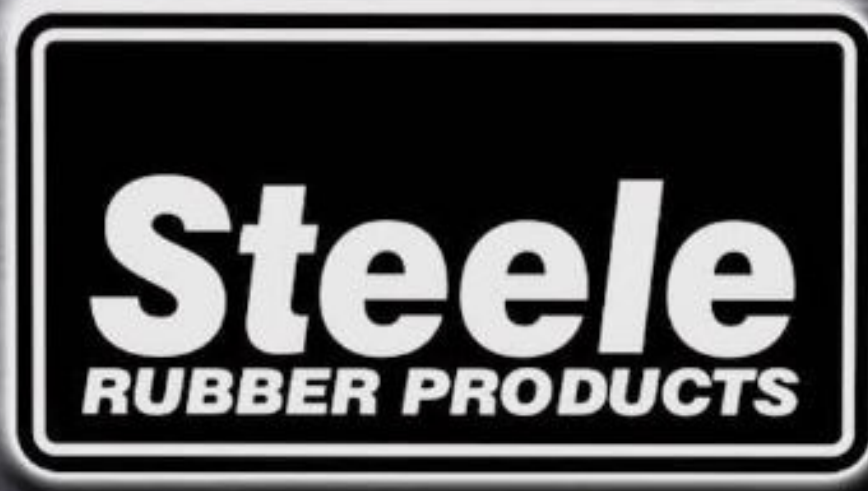


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A BLAST FROM CHRISTMAS PAST...

“Livability” Tips from 1989



Hail, Hail...

The Gang's All Here At Dodger '89...celebrating the Fifth Anniversary of the International Country Coach Country Club.

A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT AND THANK YOU TO THE FORMER NEWSLETTER EDITOR: CAROL TAYLOR CLAY



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BENEFITS OF CCI MEMBERSHIP



INFORMATION AND ACCESS

- Dedicated Club website
- Member's Directory online
- Library of Technical & DIY Articles
- Member's Facebook Forum
- Country Coach Brochures & Specs
- Breaking news through the CCI Facebook Page
- Regional Clubs' news
- Forms available for download online
- Services & Parts Resources
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ACCESS TO CLUB OFFICERS

Phone: Call the specific Officer to address your need

Email CCI: club@countrycoachclub.com

Club Website: www.countrycoachclub.com

TRAVEL PLANS HELP

Use the Member's FaceBook page for advice on routing, sights, and trouble spots, real-time, on-the-road help with mechanical problems.

Post a problem to the member's Internet Forum for quick replies

COUNTRY COACH RALLIES

- Enjoy camaraderie with fellow owners of The World's Finest Motor Coaches at rallies around the country.
- CCI offers multiple rallies per year.
- Independent Regional Country Coach Clubs across the nation also rally several times per year in their particular geographic regions.
- CCI will some times partner and do joint rallies with these Regional Clubs

SERVICES AND PARTS RESOURCES

- Member Discounts & Special Offers from over 40 Partners of CCI. Many are listed here in the News.
- Place one FREE classified ad per year in the classified section of the Club website. Visit the website for details.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



LOGIN INFORMATION: Just a reminder that we are now using an automated system to process renewal as well as new memberships. Please take the time to visit your Country Coach Club Website at www.countrycoachclub.com and login to your account.

- To login, simply enter your email address as the user name and then enter your password.
- If you have forgotten your password or are new to the site, you will need a new password and then use the password reset link that you will find on the login page and you will be sent a new password.

TO EMAIL THE CLUB: See Officer Contact List (page 24) for email address.

TO MAIL DUES, ETC, TO THE CLUB: See Officer Contact List (page 24) for CCI mailing address. When you pay online your dues are processed immediately. Due to physical mail and handling expect it to take 20 to 30 days if you are paying by check.

TO PHONE THE CLUB: See Officer Contact List (page 24), select the appropriate Officer and phone that person.

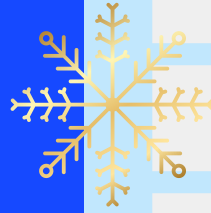
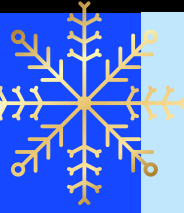
Please help us keep your membership up to date, by logging in and checking to ensure your membership is current and that we have all of your current contact information.

<p>WHO ARE WE? CCI is a non-profit organization, 501(c)(7), centered on Fun and Fellowship. The Club was founded in 1984 and is a Chapter of the Family Motorcoach Association (FMCA).</p>	<p>Reproduction of ON the ROAD AGAIN in whole or in part, including photocopy, except for personal use, is prohibited without the expressed written permission of the Publisher. CCI is not responsible for any liability arising from errors, omissions, mistakes or products/service found in the eNewsletter. Readers should proceed cautiously, especially with respect to technical information.</p>
<p>WHAT WE DO: The Purpose of the Country Coach Club is to: provide a community for all Country Coach motorcoach owners to exchange information, provide opportunities for fun and fellowship, support CCI and FMCA activities such as rallies and FMCA conventions, provide a common communication and resource link for CCI members and to help our fellow Country Coachers.</p>	<p>PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS Club Members and CCI Files.</p>
<p>EDITORIAL POLICY: The CCI eNewsletter is published monthly, online by Country Coach International. The eNewsletter Editor is Bonnie Data, who can be contacted by calling 440-341-3454 or online - VPPublications@countrycoachclub.com The Editor reserves the right to edit, shorten, or modify any material submitted.</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED AD POLICY: Classified Text or Display full color advertising submitted for publication in this eNewsletter may be subject to publisher's discretion. Only advertising of interest and/ or service to CCI members/Country Coach motorcoach owners will be accepted. Ad placement in this eNewsletter does not imply endorsement by CCCI of the product/ service. For advertising, space availability, rates and more information email the club at: club@countrycoachclub.com</p>

REPORTS TO MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

FROM BUDDY BORDES, VP MEMBERSHIP



A WARM WELCOME to our new members:



Frank and Amelia Havlovic
Lyons, IL

Darren and Marlo Verette
Phoenix, AZ

Ron and Tricia Cunningham
Salado, TX

Jeff and Donna Marcotte
Colchester, VT

Guy and David Palilla
Fort Myers, FL

Roger and Beverly Taylor
Hopkinsville, KY

Stuart and Trisha Malin
West Hills, CA

Mathew and Judy Dondero
Eliot, ME

Fred and Allyson Thomson
Delano, MN

Jim and Terry Godwin
Bellville, TX

Randy Benz
Sullivan, MO

Kevin Franz and Laquetta
Livingston, TX

TREASURY

November 30, 2023 CCI GENERAL ACCT

BEG Balance

\$7,151.24

END Balance

\$5,659.78

Money Market

\$41,305.09

November 30, 2023 CCI RALLY ACCT

BEG Balance

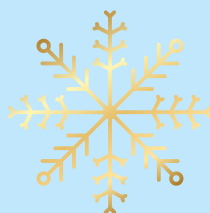
\$38,749.85

END Balance

\$38,913.49

If you have questions about this Club's
financial information,
feel free to contact

Club Treasurer, Dianne Hegler,
via email at: CCITreasurer@CountryCoachClub.com



CCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS - NEWS

THANK YOU!

Thank You to everyone who participated in our latest round of elections

Election results are as follows:

Senior Vice President - Gene Harrington

Secretary - Patricia Gauch

Publications/Newsletter - Bonnie Data

Webmaster - Mike Sowers

And extra shout out to our newest Board Member - Gene Harrington - Welcome!

And we would like to give some extra appreciation to Roger Foxhall for his years of dedication to the Board as he steps down.

Thank you!

FMCA

**Country Coach International will be receiving a certificate from FMCA
acknowledging 40 years as an FMCA Chapter in 2024!**

Dates and Location for upcoming Conventions:

FMCA 108th International Convention

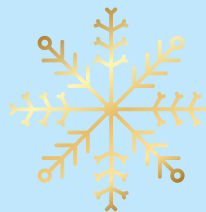
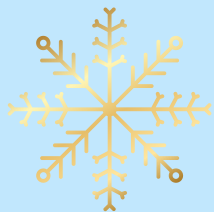
March 20-23, 2024

Tucson, AZ

FMCA 109th International Convention

August 14-17, 2024

Redmond, OR



FMCA CORNER

BY CCI FMCA National Director
Rita Sax



OFFICER CONTACT LIST

Our members are our priority!

Contact us anytime with comments, questions or suggestions.

Bill Sax President President@countrycoachclub.com 618-304-2604	Gene Harrington Senior VP SrVicePresident@countrycoachclub.com	Pat Gauch Secretary Secretary@countrycoachclub.com 240-925-5687
Mike Sowers VP Website Design VPWebmaster@countrycoachclub.com	Buddy Bordes VP Membership VPMembership@countrycoachclub.com 504-982-1635	Tammy Toalson VP Rally Coordinator VPRallyCoordinator@countrycoachclub.com 850-866-5758
Rita Sax FMCA Nat'l Dir. FMCARep@countrycoachclub.com	Bonnie Data VP Communications VPPublications@countrycoachclub.com 440-341-3454	Dianne Hegler Treasurer Treasurer@countrycoachclub.com 931-797-5181
CCI Contact Information club@countrycoachclub.com CCI - c/o Tammy Toalson 8430 Kingswood Rd Panama City, FL 32409		NEED CCI NAME TAGS? Contact: vprallycoordinator@countrycoachclub.com Tammy Toalson 850-866-5758

Other Country Coach FMCA Chapters

Southeast Country Coachers Max Hegler 931-466-7856 secountrycoach@gmail.com www.southeastcountrycoachers.com	Country Coach Friends Incorporated Jack Scogman 949-439-0717 www.countrycoachfriendsincorporated.com	Rocky Mountain County Coachers Rob Woods 480-570-9740 azrod444@gmail.com www.rmccoachers.com
Country Coach Nor'Easters John Penzanhangen johnpanzsr@gmail.com Facebook: CCNoreasters		Northwest Country Coachers Sibylle L. Beck 503-399-0636 secretary@nwccers.org www.nwccers.org

New Rally Teaser



NIAGARA FALLS



ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY -
ALEXANDRIA BAY



HISTORIC
MASSACHUSETTS



BOOTHBAY, ME

JOIN US FOR CCI'S NORTHERN ROLLING RALLY

FOUR GREAT STOPS

AUG. 23 - SEPT 15

JOIN US FOR ONE OR ALL

- MARK YOUR CALENDARS
- PLAN TO JOIN US AS WE TAKE A TOUR OF SOME ICONIC LOCATIONS ALONG THE NORTHERN EDGES OF THE US
- YOU MAY WANT TO UPDATE YOUR PASSPORT
- STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION



Wishing you and yours a very

Happy New Year

2024