

NEWSLETTER



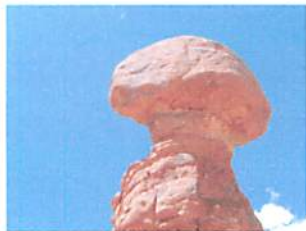
Volume II, Issue 2

Editor: Don Rau

June 2004

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Column</i>	1
<i>Red Rock Highlights</i>	1
<i>Next Rally Information</i>	2
<i>Condolences</i>	2
<i>Moab Golf</i>	3
<i>A Pleasant Campground</i>	4
<i>My Time To Heal</i>	4
<i>A Chilling Experience</i>	5
<i>Classified Ads</i>	5
<i>Heceta Head Lighthouse</i>	6
<i>Rally Schedules</i>	6
<i>On the Lighter Side</i>	7
<i>From the Editor</i>	8



Arches National Park
Balanced Rock



Spanish Trails RV Park
Red Rock Rally

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY MCEACHERN

For those who were unable to attend the "Red Rock Rally" in Moab, I would suggest that you missed a great rally! Now this, of course, is simply my opinion and you might talk to others who attended, for their take.

Let me tell you why I feel this way. First, the "Canyonlands" region is an incredibly beautiful area with it's endless red rock topography, the impressive Colorado River, and the plentiful sunshine. Second, the town of Moab offers all the typical tourist attractions with good restaurants, gift shops, and recreational activities like biking, hiking, and golf. Yet even with all of these ingredients, there is still no guarantee that everyone will truly enjoy the rally. So what does contribute to a successful rally?

I suspect the question raises more questions since an event like a rally is obviously multi-faceted. What's important to one person may not be significant to another. Is suc-



President Gary McEachern
and Sec./Treas. Gail McEachern

cess dependent upon a great location (like Moab)... is it determined by local natural resources (like 4 X 4 rides or river cruises) ...is it "make or break" based upon the RV park with issues like site size, hook-ups, amenities and ambience? These are just a few of the issues to consider when pondering the core question.

My thoughts are that we must continue to focus on offering our club members opportunities to gather at attractive locations, with quality RV park facilities and genuine possibilities to experience the regions' economic and natural re-

sources. The schedule must strike a balance of activities and open-time to allow attendees to either "kick-back" and relax or venture off as individuals or small groups. The length of a rally should likely be determined by the geographic location with more distant locations being four days and/or by the amount of activities and events available.

I must admit, I'm easier to please than most, since I simply get excited when given the chance to gather with fellow Country Coach owners and to see so many of these great coaches assembled in one location.

Write to our Newsletter Editor Don Rau with your thoughts and perspectives on what contributes to a successful rally so we can continue to plan effectively for future rallies.

Gary

Gary McEachern, President ☺

The Red Rock Rally Highlights

By Don Rau

Moab has to be one of the most scenic spots in the Rocky Mountain area to have scheduled a rally for the RMCC. With Canyonlands and Arches National Parks practically right at our doorstep, we definitely had lots of beauty for the group to behold.

Most everyone arrived at least a day early for the rally so that the Tuesday registration was already done ahead of time. Unfortunately a few folks had some trouble getting to the rally, including our co-hosts, Rick and Marsha Parks. Marsha's 93 year old Grandmother died in Seattle just

before the rally began, so Marsha had to attend the services and was planning to come in late. However, their tow vehicle broke down at the last minute and made it impossible for them to get to the rally at all. (More on Marsha's loss else-

Red Rock continued on pg 3

CHUCKWAGON RALLY, JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING

*Don't forget to mark your
calendar so you won't miss the*

Chuckwagon

Rally

At the Virginia RV Resort

Jackson Hole, WY

September 7—10, 2004

*Lots of fun, good food, another
beautiful place, and a chance to
visit with other great Country*

Coachers!

It's time to dust off your cowboy/cowgirl boots and head for Wyoming, Jackson Hole, that is!

You're sure to enjoy the "wranglings" at the Bar J Chuck wagon and the splendor of the Grand Teton mountains. You will also want to be there for the special night of "surprise" entertainment. As

always, there will be lots of other things available to entertain you and warm your hearts with fun.

It is always fun getting together with all of your RMCC friends.

Don't forget to get your registration form in the mail as quickly as possible so you won't miss out on all the fun.

Registration deadline is August 1, 2004.

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact Gail or Gary McEachern. Phone: 520-237-8992, or e-mail gmceachern@aol.com.

See you there? ☺

PRE CCI CLASS REUNION IDEA

BY DON & DEENA PAGE

On several occasions there has been some discussion about RMCC getting together before the CCI "Class Reunion" in Eugene, OR., so that we could "caravan" together to the River Valley Mall parking lot on August 3, in hopes that we could be parked together at the fairgrounds.

Don & Deena Page have a possible solution. They have

made reservations at the new Premier Resorts Park in Coburg prior to the August time to be at the River Valley Mall. They say the Resort is already filling up with CCs for the time before the rally.

The Pages have reserved site 133, and that row is still open (134 to 139). The Manager, Terry Mc Mullen, told the Pages that if any one wants to reserve

sites, they should call him at (541) 686-3152 and mention the Pages name. He will then put that coach on the same row.

This might be a way of getting together, but please keep in mind, the parking at the fairgrounds is strictly managed by the CCI Parking Committee. ☺

RMCC EXTENDS OUR CONDOLENCES

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the death of our RMCC member, Gordon Vickery. Gordon died on April 4, 2004 in Roseburg, Oregon. A sympathy card expressing condolences on behalf of all club members was sent to Mary Lou, Gordon's wife.

Gordon had been a Country Coacher since 1988, was former Vice-President of the

Southwest Region from 1994 to 1997. He was always active on the Parking Committee, had a wonderful sense of humor, and was just an all around kind of person. Gordon always saw what needed to be done and did it. He and his wife traveled quite a bit attending rallies when in office as well as before and after office. He will surely be missed by his many friends.

If anyone would like to send a note to Mary Lou her address is:

Mary Lou Vickery
1110 W 6th Place
Mesa, AZ 85201

At times like this friends make a world of difference to those who have lost a loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary Lou and her family at this time. ☺

We would also like to extend our sympathy to Marsha and Rick Parks on the death of Marsha's 93 year old Grandmother who passed away earlier this passed May just prior to the Red Rock Rally.

It is always something we realize is bound to happen to our elderly loved ones, but is always a time for sadness when we finally do loose them.

Marsha and Rick, our

thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Please know you can count on your RMCC friends to support you at times like this. ☺



*In loving memory of
Gordon Vickery.*

Died April 4, 2004

Moab Golf

By Mike Cocci

The winds subsided and clouds thinned in time for fourteen Rocky Mountain Country Coacher golfers to head out to the Moab Golf Course on Friday, May 21st.

While golf may have been on our mind as we warmed up on the practice tee, it quickly became an after thought as we were entranced by the beautiful views of red sand-

stone cliffs that provide the vista from everywhere on the golf course.

The Moab Course, which is rated as one of the ten best in Utah, lived up to its reputation as it challenged all of the golfers to put together the best of their game to minimize the scores. The players included five couples: The

Hess's, Pinkleton's, Chisano's, Blakemore's and Cocci's and single players Ron Williams, Bill Holmesley, Will Stewart and Jack Carlson.

The golfing on this trip was not intended to be the usual "tournament." It was just intended to let everyone go out on their own and enjoy the course. And so they did! . 0

RED ROCK RALLY

RED ROCK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

where in this Newsletter.)

Later Tuesday afternoon, we all gathered together at the park's pavilion for fun, visiting with good friends, and, of course, good food. (We never seem to lack for good food.)

Wednesday morning we were served coffee, pastries and fruit compliments of Beaudry RV to start our day on a pleasant note. Then at 10:00 AM Bob Colclazier and Don Becker led us on a spectacular "4-wheeler" tour, with accompanying picnic, of the Canyonlands National Park. For the picnic we all managed to get our own "brown bag" specials to take along on the 3+ hour trip. I wish there was room in this newsletter to put many more pictures than I have, because it was truly breathtaking. We were able to stop often along the way for those special "Kodak moments." At one point we came upon a local character who was full of information about the park and some of the folk lore. Very interesting! We found just the right place with a clean Porta-Potty included, at about the right time for our lunch break. When everyone had finished their lunch and were "comfortable," we got back in various 4 wheel vehicles and headed for the final portion of the tour. I don't

know whether or not anyone but our tour guides, Bob & Don, knew what was really ahead in this part of our trip. However, there was no other way back to the RV park than to follow our fearless leaders. We began ascending the side of a mountain that seemed to go straight up for several thousand feet. We, of course, had to climb via many switchbacks with hairpin turns right on the edge of the mountain side. While the view of the valley below was spectacular, it also left a strange feeling in the pit of this reporter's stomach and an even worse feeling in the pit of his wife's tummy. But, everyone survived and returned safely to the Spanish Trails Park in time to enjoy some free time during the late afternoon.

As evening approached we all began to think of our stomachs again in a more pleasant manner than on the side of that mountain. Since dinner was on our own this evening, a large number of us got the idea of going into the town to a restaurant that looked good. Betty Woods called ahead and asked for a table to accommodate about 22 - 24 people. The restaurant

gave us a large table in a back room and even called in an off duty waitress to take care of us. The food was very good and the service was great.

Thursday morning Beaudry RV again treated us to coffee, pastries and fruit for our continental style breakfast in the pavilion. At 10:00 we began our business meeting with President Gary McEachern presiding. Please check the minutes of the meeting attached to this newsletter. RMCC member Jack Kelly was introduced and asked to talk about a trip to Rocky Point, Mexico planned for March 1 - 4, 2005. He has put a great deal of planning into this trip and it sounds like lots of fun. For further information regarding this trip please contact either Jack or Wanda Kelly or Gary or Gail McEachern.

Thursday afternoon was free time. With so much to do in the area, no one should have had trouble finding something interesting and enjoyable to do. (So what did we do? Laundry! Yuck.) On the other hand, Don Becker lead another excursion into a different part of the local canyons. According to those brave souls who went on this trip, this one made the one from the day before seem like a walk in the park. See the picture on page 4 for an idea of

Red Rock continued on pg 7



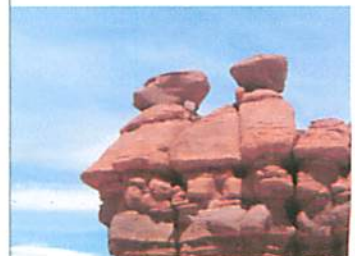
Block Party time with great food and good friends



Our regular meeting place, the pavilion



The Canyonlands 4-wheel tour group lining up to go



One of dozens of unusual rock formations found in Canyonlands Park

A Pleasant Campground

By Bill & Reggie Knight

Last year in our travels on I-5 in Northern California, we stopped at the JGW RV Park in Redding. The campground is about 5 years old and is a very modern, well maintained facility. We were parked in a pull-in site, on a concrete pad, on the bank of the Sacramento River. The site utilities included

50 amp service, water, sewer and cable TV. The owners are setting up Wi Fi Internet access and I was able to connect in the office, but not from the camp site; too far. There was also a dial-up modem access in the office area. (I think I remember a roll-top desk for my notebook while on-line.) The

park was adding more sites, some facing the river. A very pleasant stop, and the owners (a young couple) were very helpful. The JGW RV Park is on our return list when we travel I-5 again in Northern California.

Give it a try. ☺

My Time to Heal

By Don Rau



"I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you dear friends for the many Get Well wishes that have come to me via e-mail and the regular mail. They gave me a real boost!"

As many of you already know by now, I have spent a good bit of the month of June recovering from prostate surgery, which was performed on June 11. Well, I guess I didn't really know what to expect in terms of getting back to "normal." I am now finding out. It is a very slow process, and causes one to spend a lot more time just resting than anything else. I expected to get this Newsletter done much sooner, but my body that needed to do it said "Oh no you don't! Go and rest." But now, finally, I am getting to the point where I can spend enough time on it to bring it into being. I have to apologize

for skimping a little on the articles and the format, but I feel that I need to get it in print and out to all of you dear friends before it becomes too old to matter. You especially need to get the Jackson Hole Rally Registration form so you can get registered for that before time runs out. Yvonne and I are still wondering if we can do that one. I just got the good word from my doctor this morning (6/28/04) that he thinks we should be okay to go to the CCI Class Reunion in August, but he's not the one to get it together. We shall see.

So please overlook some of the extra white space in this issue.

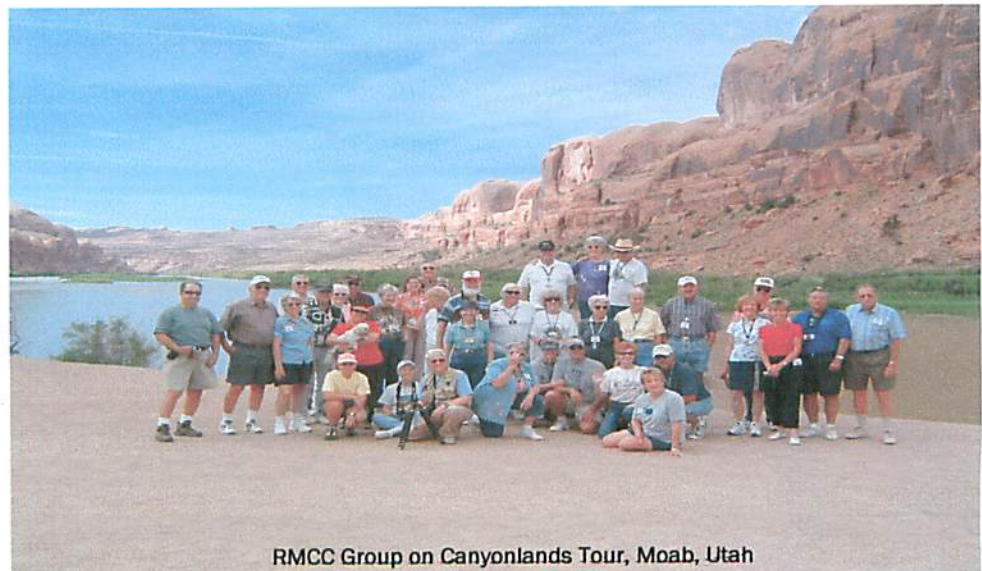
I promise I'll be able to do a better job for the next issue.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you dear folks for the many get-well wishes that have come via e-mail, and regular mail. It has been a real boost to hear from all of you. In case you weren't aware, I received a really special, neat Get-Well card from the RMCC Club sent by our Secretary, Gail McEachern on behalf of the club. So, thank you for that one, too.

I still have several weeks of recovery ahead of me, but with the help of my Head Nurse, Yvonne, I'll get there in good shape for the shape I'm in. ☺



This was some heavy 4 wheelin'!
Picture by Rod Wood



RMCC Group on Canyonlands Tour, Moab, Utah

A CHILLING EXPERIENCE

By Don Rau

It all began on the weekend of Mother's Day, 2004. Yvonne and I were at a nice park in Newton, Iowa (Rolling Hills Park), where my son and his family live. We were getting breakfast on that Sunday morning when I opened the freezer. Much to my dismay, everything was thawed out and beginning to get warm. Not good news for a Sunday morning, especially since it was Mother's Day. The only thing we could do was to borrow a couple of ice chests from my son and ice down as much stuff as possible.

The next day we contacted an RV repair service in Des Moines, just 35 miles west of Newton. He was too busy to be able to fit us into his schedule. He did, however, agree to take a look at the refrigerator after his normal business hours that evening if we would drive over to a Wal Mart parking lot right off the highway in Des Moines. He took one look at the back of the refrigerator and determined that the cooling unit had totally leaked its contents. He could not get a new one for several days, which would have made us very late for the Red Rock

Rally in Moab. He suggested that I call Midwest Products, Inc. located about 150 miles away in Corning, IA. I made the call early the next morning and found out that they had a rebuilt cooling unit for my refrigerator in stock and that they could replace it at their facility the following day. We arrived on Tuesday evening before they closed and were greeted by Doug, the tech who would be replacing the unit the next day.

The next day Doug started in early and worked all day getting the refrigerator out of its place in the coach, and laying it face down on our floor. It actually took 4 guys to break the refer loose from the cabinet. It seems Country Coach uses lots of silicon to "glue" these refers in. By 6:00 that evening the refrigerator was back in its cabinet. The next morning we were on our way, having saved a great deal of money in the bargain. To replace the refrigerator totally would have cost about \$3400, and would not have been done for about a week or more. To replace the cool-

ing unit with a new unit would have cost about \$1400. Our bill for the rebuilt unit including installation was \$850. We found out while we were there that this is the only company in the US that rebuilds cooling units for RVs as completely as they do. Midwest Products cuts the old rusted tubing off from the non-rusted portion and replaces it with new tubing. Other companies just patch the rusted spots.

They have about every cooling unit ever made in their stock and will ship to anyone, anywhere in the US. All you need do is return your old unit and they will refund a portion of the cost for the rebuilt unit.

Our experience with this company was very pleasant, and we highly recommend them to you. Please make note of the Midwest Products ad I have placed in the "Classified" section of this Newsletter. You never know when you might need it. If you'd like more information about Midwest Products, let me know. I have brochures. ☺

I am relaying this story in hopes that our recent experience might help you solve a similar problem at some future time.

"Classified Advertisements"

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HECETA HEAD LIGHTHOUSE ON THE OREGON COAST

BY SHIRLEY & JIM O'BRIEN

Greetings from the Heceta Lighthouse and Washburne State Park on the Oregon Coast!

We arrived in Florence, OR, Saturday, June 12 and stayed in a nice RV Park. After getting settled we jumped in our tow car and headed north to the Heceta Lighthouse where we will work for the next six weeks. As we rounded the bend and saw it again, it was just breath-taking. The keepers house is the one you see first. It is a 6 room Bed and Breakfast now, managed by a concessionaire for the Forest Service.

We looked at several campground sites where we would be lodged for the next 6 weeks and picked one where we thought we might get our satellite dish to work. No such luck.

The trees are huge and make a heavy canopy. There is no cell phone service either, but there is free internet access in the shed and free washer and dryer in the locked bath house. The electrical service is only 20 amp, which causes problems trying to make coffee, toast, etc. Only one at a time can be done. The other volunteers say you get into a routine and after a while you don't notice it.

We went to the lighthouse on Sunday afternoon and took the tour we will be giving, from 2 different people and another 2 on Monday and again on Tuesday. This is how we are getting our spiel down. Our first work began on Wednesday, and we did pretty well for the first time. They are working us in slowly.

The sound of the ocean is fairly loud here in the camp. This is a first come first served camp, and they are never full because they are about ½ mile from the beach and there isn't a lot for kids to do there.

Sunday night, 5 other volunteer couples had a party to welcome us. They are all volunteers like we are, and they told us wonderful stories about what to expect. There is a couple from Phoenix, one from California, and two are full-timers just floating from volunteer job to job. What terrific experiences these people are having!

This is such an incredible opportunity. Why don't you come and visit? It is quite a beautiful place. 0

"This is such an incredible opportunity! Why don't you come and visit us?"

It is quite a beautiful place!"

RALLY HOO!

Mark your Calendar

Mark your calendar!

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

- August 4-8 Country Coach International Class Reunion and Pre Rally to the FMCA Summer Convention at Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR
- August 17-19 FMCA International Summer Convention at Deschutes County Fair and Expo, Redmond, OR
- September 7-10 RMCC Chuckwagon Rally at Virginia RV Resort, Jack-

son Hole, Wyoming

- October 3-8 Pre Rally to the Fall Fun Rally (Combined rally with several area clubs) at Buckhorn Lake RV, Kerrville, Texas
- October 12-15 Country Coach International Fall Fun Rally at University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

2005

- February 26-28 "Old Pueblo Rally, Tucson, AZ RMCC's annual business meeting at Beaudry RV
- March 1-5 "Mexico Ole Rally" at the Playa Bonita RV Park, Rocky Point, Mex.

- March 15-18 CCI Pre Rally to the FMCA Winter Convention at Spencer Field/Community Center, Moultrie, Georgia
- March 22-24 FMCA International Winter Convention at Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agri-Center, Perry, Georgia
- May ? RMCC Rally; Las Vegas or Pahrump, NV
- August 8-12 CCI Pre Rally to the FMCA Summer Convention at Red River Valley Fairgrounds, West Fargo, North Dakota
- August 16 - 18 FMCA International Convention at North Dakota State Fairgrounds, Minot, North Dakota. 0

RED ROCK RALLY

RED ROCK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

why.

Will and Pat Stewart treated us to an impromptu sing along accompanied with their banjos during the happy hour time up on the pavilion this evening before we took off for the Canyonlands evening dinner and tour. Everyone seemed to enjoy this time together and it got us in a nice party spirit.

In the evening we had our Canyonlands By Night tour with "lights, sights and sounds." This included a real nice Dutch Oven Buffet Dinner along side the beautiful Colorado River. To quote from the brochure explaining the tour, "Every evening when the sunset and shadows begin to cast a sense of serenity and quiet beauty on the mighty Colorado River, the Moab Queen begins its ascent upstream. An informative narration given by our host helps to put the scenes of the Colorado River canyon in proper perspective, emphasizing that the canyon itself is virtually unchanged since the living drama took place.

"As the first sounds of the

formal portion of the show begin, and the instant flashes of light bathe the magnificent cliffs ahead, one cannot help but feel the impact of the unfolding history to follow.

"The contrast of light and shadow forms undulating, silhouettes, which help tell the story. Melodious voices and music combine to present a drama never to be forgotten."

Needless to say this was truly an inspirational tour of the Canyonlands. Seemed like it was over much too soon even though it was 10:00 PM. Sorry, pictures were not permitted so I can't share any with you.

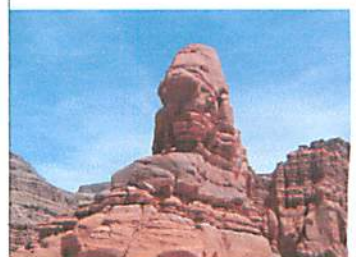
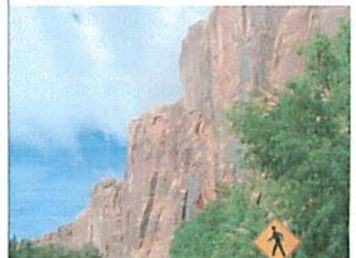
Friday morning included Beauty's coffee, pastry and fruit spread starting at 8:00 AM. As breakfast concluded about 14 of our members slipped away to play golf. Mike Cocci, who put this outing together, has provided a write up on it which you can find elsewhere in this newsletter.

For the rest of us, another free time. Judging from the vacant appearance of the RV

park, everyone must have found something worthwhile to do for the afternoon.

At about 6:00 we all gathered at the entrance to the park and went enmass across the highway to the Branding Iron restaurant for our final dinner together at the Red Rock Rally. As we were all seated, Bob Colclazier presented Gail with a t-shirt depicting a nerve-frazzled lady in a jeep that had just finished a jaunt in the Canyonlands. It seems Bob and Don Becker got a kick out of Gail's *opinion* of our "jeep tour" on Wednesday.

Everyone enjoyed the dinner time together. As the evening faded we felt a little sorry that our time in Moab was about to end. We had a really great time, as we always seem to do when the Rocky Mountain Country Coachers get together! Thanks! Rick & Marsha Parks and Gary and Gail McEachern for putting together another great rally. 0



On the Lighter Side—The Sign

Some people should have to wear a sign that just says, "I'm stupid." That way you wouldn't rely on them, would you? You wouldn't ask them anything. It would be like, "Excuse me ... oops ... never mind, didn't see your sign."

It's like before my wife and I moved. Our house was full of boxes and there was a U-Haul truck in the driveway. My neighbor comes over and asks, "Hey, you moving?" "Nope, we just like to pack our stuff up once or twice a week to see how many boxes it takes. Here's your sign!"

The last time I had a flat tire I

pulled my truck into one those side-of-the-road gas stations. The attendant walks out, looks at my truck, looks at me, and I swear he said, "Tire go flat?" I couldn't resist. I said, "Nope. I was driving around and those other three tire just swelled up on me. Here's your sign!"

We were trying to sell our car about a year or so ago. A guy came over to the house and drove the car around for about 45 minutes. We get back to the house, he gets out of the car, reaches down and grabs the exhaust pipe, then says, "Darn, that's hot!" See if he'd been wearing his

sign I could have warned him.

I learned to drive an 18 wheeler in my days of adventure. Wouldn't you know, I misjudged the height of a bridge. The truck got stuck and I couldn't get it out no matter how hard I tried. I radioed for help and a local cop showed up to take the report. After going through the basic questions, I thought he was clear of needing the sign until he asked, "So, is your truck stuck?" I looked at him, looked back at the rig, and said, "No, I'm delivering a bridge. Here's your sign." 0

RMCC Newsletter Editor:
Don Rau
Winter Address:
10950 W. Union Hills Drive #1407
Sun City, Arizona 85373
623-977-1789

Summer Address:
2246 Cedar Place
Longview, Washington 98632
360-423-1460

Cell phone: 623-640-1794
E-mail: dcybrau@aol.com



Officers—2004—2005

President:

Gary McEachern
520-237-8992
E-mail: ggmceachern@aol.com

Vice-President:

Mike Cocci
520-749-2940
E-mail: NOMAD24@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer:

Gail McEachern
520-275-0501
E-mail: ggmceachern@aol.com



Don Rau,
Newsletter Editor

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

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

For further information you may contact the RMCC President, Gary McEachern or the Secretary-Treasurer, Gail McEachern at 236 Rainbow Drive #13670, Livingston, TX 77399, or Vice President Mike Cocci at 5318 N. Fairway Heights Drive, Tucson, AZ 85749, or feel free to phone or e-mail them.

FROM THE EDITOR

Here's the latest news about the best RV club in the Rocky Mountain region. Well, yes I am definitely prejudiced, but then again why wouldn't I be. We do have a great RV club!

Don't know if any of you have noticed the few little differences in this issue of the Newsletter. The main reason for several of these differences is the fact that it is being prepared on a brand new Dell Computer that I had to order when I got home after the Red Rock Rally in late

May. Seems the old one just gave up the ghost before we left AZ in April. The new computer doesn't have a few of the fonts that the old had, so I can't use the same symbol at the end of each article, for example.

I also lost a little of the "stuff" that was stored on the old computer. I thought I had everything pretty well backed up, but I soon found out that that wasn't quite the case. I will try to get the old computer to cough up some of that

stuff when I return to AZ this fall.

Again, I am sorry for the delay in the production of this issue of the Newsletter. I hope I don't have any similar delays in the production of future issues.

As always, I hope you like what you finally see. If you don't like something, please let me know. If you have some suggestions for something you'd like to see in your Newsletter, please let me know. I'll try to accommodate you. 0