

Rocky Mountain Country Coachers

NEWSLETTER



Volume IV, Issue III

Editor: Don Rau
Assistant Editor: Reggie Knight

November 2006

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MIKE COCCI

When I first heard it little did I realize that the phrase "Carpe Diem" would be the foundation of a new lifestyle. For those of you that didn't take Latin in high school, the simple translations of this phrase is: "Seize the Day".. How does this relate to our lifestyle? Just look around at all of those people settled into a disciplined daily routine of waking up every morning in the same location, opening up the local daily newspaper, reading the same old crime ridden, political rhetoric and Macy's advertisements while drinking their Maxwell House in a stained, chipped "My Favorite Dad" mug. Maybe it is the realization that age is catching up to most of us. We have all had successful lives in the corporate or public sector. Successful enough to afford the behemoth coaches that we all drive. Now after all of those years of catering to "THE MAN" or whatever boss that you reported to, we are all eager to shed the bondage of the establishment lifestyle and live freely, unrestricted and roam the country at will. Our motor coaches give us the freedom to do this.



President Mike Cocci and
First Lady Mo

As I sit here writing this message, Maureen has just asked me when do we get on the road again? We have both realized that motor coaching is now a staple in our traveling diet. We yearn to start another trek into the wilderness looking for that less traveled path and to let ourselves roam at will. During our conversations with many of you at Durango and Albuquerque it became obvious that you are doing the same. Trips to Alaska, New Brunswick, The Rockies, Florida's beaches, Texas Hill Country.....all on roads less traveled by the those living a more establishment driven lifestyle.

There is a new sitcom on TV called "20 Good Years". In this comedy, the stars John Lithgow and Jeffrey Tambor, realize that they have never really experienced life. Their commitment to their careers, a Doctor and Judge, has limited their worldly experiences. They decide that at 60 they have but 20 good years to experience all the things that they have missed throughout life. They vow to completely change their lifestyle and take a chance on life.

I don't know about you, but I don't think that 20 years is enough. If you haven't already done it,

SEIZE THE DAY!!!

Again, I ask you to look at your surroundings. Our lifestyle is limited only by our imagination; finding a flat spot to park and letting ourselves roam into the wilderness searching for whatever we may find. We don't need an agenda and a calendar is only necessary to remind us of the next Country Coach Rally. There are no bosses to wear us down or to dictate our lifestyle. We are not tethered to a foundation or slab of concrete under a wood frame dwelling. Our objective is to Seize the Day. As Robert Frost once wrote, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by." And that has made all the difference

Mike Cocci

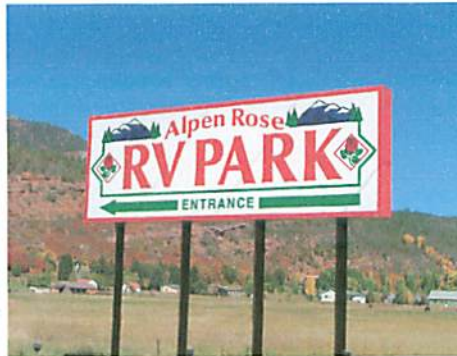
We are on the Web

WWW.rmccusa.com

Rocky Mountain "Hi" Rally



The Rocky Mountain Country Coachers just completed a really unique and fun-filled rally at The Alpine Rose RV Park in Durango, Colorado. Durango is better known as the "High Country." The weather for this rally couldn't have been much better; blue skies and lots of sunshine. This well-attended rally (33 coaches) began on September 29, with check-in all day, followed in the evening with a Happy Hour and general business meeting.



n't know. The rest of us settled into our coaches to carve our Halloween pumpkins for the big contest that evening. Not only did we have to carve pumpkins, but we had to get "dressed-up" in costumes for the big Halloween bash. There were some terrific costumes on display from witches to devils, to salt

and pepper shakers to men dressed like little old ladies, to you name it. This was a highlight of the rally, and a real fun time to let our hair down and be like our grand-kids again. The party continued with some Karaoke led by one of the managers of the park who happens to be a pro at this. This sure brought out the "true talent" of our club.



The next day many of our more courageous clan took off in 4 wheel-drive vehicles for the mountain trails to see the beautiful scenery up close and personal. Other less adventure-some members did the normal sightseeing/shopping routine. In the evening we gathered at our community tent for Happy Hour and a wonderful barbeque catered dinner. (*My oh my, does this club like to eat??*) This

was followed by some super entertainment by the Bar D Wranglers, a western music and comedy foursome from the local area. Lots of laughs and western-style music came with this talented group.

On our final day some played a round of golf and were treated to a large herd of Elk grazing nearby. Others did some site-seeing and others did whatever struck their fancy. Another catered dinner of steak and all the trimmings was served that evening after our regular Happy Hour. We were treated to a demonstration of Indian dancing and songs by a local tribe of Navajo Indians who explained some of their traditions and answered our questions regarding their beautiful clothing and lifestyle. They also taught us their basic dance steps.



This ended a very well-planned and executed rally. Thanks to our hosts Gayle and Don Becker and Bill and Terri Smith for a job well done. (I might add that after this rally ended, we got lots of rain. Good planning, hosts!) ☺

On Sunday, most of us boarded a bus for an extremely scenic trip to Silverton, CO, about 50 miles north of Durango. Our driver pointed out loads of beautiful and interesting sites as he drove those winding mountain passes. In Silverton we had two hours to eat a nice lunch and poke around/spend money in the local shops. At 2 PM we boarded a historic coal-fired, steam-powered narrow gauge train which took us on a 3 hour journey through the back country wilderness of the San Juan Mountains. Spectacular!



On Monday, our fearless group took another more challenging "jeep" tour back up to Silverton. They say it was great. I would-



Rocky Mountain "Hi" Rally Pictures



Downtown Silverton.



Bound for Durango via steam engine train.



Pumpkin Contestants



Yea, they are members of RMCC .



**The
Winners!**



Reggie's Theme Song!



Durango Rally Contest Time

By Reggie Knight



Pumpkin Carving Contest

On the first day of the Durango Rally, Don Becker and Bill Smith delivered the pumpkins to our campsites and there were some complaints from some members. The main concern was that the members wouldn't have time to carve their pumpkins because of our busy schedule of "jeeping" and train riding to Silverton. This was pumpkin carving, not brain surgery, but our members took the task very seriously. Some drew sketches on paper and then modified their creations as they worked on the actual pumpkin. Others allowed the Muses to direct their creativity and went with the flow with spouses supervising and shaking their heads. The outcomes were quite varied. There was a very artistic adobe, numerous flowerpots and unusual pumpkin faces with varying expressions. The winner was a pumpkin barfing its innards out, done by Larry and Terry Beers – very creative, unusual and quite a laugh-getter. *(How do such dignified people come up with these kinds of things?)*



Halloween Costume Contest

You really had to be there to believe it! When it was first announced to the members that we were going to have a costume party, the responses were moans, groans and nays – generally what would be called SNIVELING! In spite of all the negativity, 99% of those present were in costume. There were more "doctors" than the hospital in Durango has on its staff. If Captain Jack Sparrow needed a

crew, our pirates could have joined him to pillage, rob and then burn any gold laden ship in the Caribbean. No mouse would have dared show its whiskers with our "cats" on the prowl. There was a tall lean cowboy dressed in black with a "hussy" sitting on his lap. Escaped prisoners attended the party but they were only interested in stealing Halloween candy. We were politically correct and even allowed social misfits to attend our party and this included The Cable Guy, bums and Trashy Trailer Park owners who tried to convince us to have a rally at their park, but the rules and regulations were more than questionable. We had our share of devils, but no angels— in this group, that isn't surprising. A few couples used their imagination and came as "pairs." One couple came as salt and pepper shakers and another came as a pair of dice. Even without a bubbling caldron, we had witches and a vampire. We're lucky there wasn't a full moon, but there might have been werewolves in the area because as the sky became darker and darker, the karaoke singing got worse and worse and a few members looked like they had a rough night the next morning. We even had a fun-loving Red Lady at our party who won the costume contest. "She" should have been given a gift certificate for a foundation consultation and fitting at Nordstrom's intimate apparel department because the "girl" needed an uplift. Our Red Lady was Frank "Frances" Phillips who was the belle of the ball. My thanks to everyone, we had a blast!

The hosts of this rally, Gayle and Don Becker and Terry and Bill Smith gave me two very appropriate gifts – a tee shirt imprinted "No Sniveling" and a "No Sniveling" sign. These are greatly appreciated and will be "flashed" at you members at every appropriate time!

☺

RALLY HO!

Mark your calendar!

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

2007

- RMCC's Annual Business Meeting will be held in Tucson, AZ at our sponsor's (Beaudry RV) park. From March 1 to 4, 2007. Registration form for this rally is attached to your Newsletter. Rally hosts: Mike and Maureen Cocci. Registration deadline for both rallies is January 15, 2007. See page 7 for more details.

- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico rally will follow from March 5 to 8, 2007. Be sure you have a current passport with you to get into Mexico. (Let's not be illegal aliens. Registration form for this rally is attached to this Newsletter. Rally hosts: Jack and Wanda Kelly and Ray and Harriet Van Den Berg. Registration deadline for both rallies is January 15, 2007. ☺



Tucson — Old Pueblo Rally IV Reggie's Pajama Party

Since we acted like kids in Durango and had a great time, we are going to act like kids again and do something that you never would have allowed your children or grandchildren to do—we are going to have a coed pajama party. We are going to have it in the Beauty tent where there will be many heating lamps. Attire suggested is warm pajamas or nightgowns and warm robes. March nights in Tucson can be very cold. We are discouraging any attire from Fredrick's of Holly-

wood — we don't want anatomical parts to freeze and fall off. An appropriate movie will be shown with appropriate snacks. Since you all enjoyed playing Texas Hold 'Em in Minden so much, we will play it again with Magic Fingers Mike Cocci as dealer and instructor. Ladies, we can even do facials, so bring your jars of beauty magic!

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RMCC News Bites

- Reminder: RMCC Club Rally refund policy: Cancellations received 30 days prior to rally start will be refunded fully. After that **NO REFUNDS** will be issued.
- Ann Sanders is our Historian/Scrapbook Coordinator for RMCC. It would be appreciated if members could bring to a rally or send her pictures taken over the past three years. Please note that the photos will not be returned so make a copy for yourself. The Historian/Scrapbook Coordinator will be responsible for selecting the most appropriate photos for the album. For more information, please contact :

Ann Sanders
229 Rainbow Dr.
#12984

L i v i n g s t o n . T X
77399

C: 602-418-4662

- Please help us keep our records up to date! If you change your address, phone number, or e-mail address, please let our Treasurer and/or our Newsletter Editor know as soon as possible. We need to keep our records straight so you will get all correspondences on time. Thanks for your help on this!

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Special points of interest:

- Remember RMCC refund policy
- Ann Sanders' scrapbook big success
- Keep us informed of address changes

An Update on Janie Pinkleton

In our last Newsletter we reported that Janie Pinkleton has been diagnosed with lung cancer. She has been going through some rather difficult treatment to try to contain this terrible disease. Apparently there has been some success coming from all of the efforts.

Here is a synopsis of an e-mail we received from Bob and Janie on November 4, 2006: Janie had her last radiation treatment on October 16. On that same day we came back to Arizona to our motorhome at Happy Trails. During the summer we stayed with our daughter and her family in Newport Beach, CA which was near where Janie was receiving treatment. Although it was quite involved, basically she received chemo treatments at USC/Kenneth Norris Cancer Hospital in Los Angeles; and radiation treatments at the Cancer Center at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach. For the most part her treatments were all as outpatient. This completed the initial phase of her treatments. Future treatments consist of taking orally a chemo pill, anti-nausea drugs, and wearing a pain patch. We made a permanent switch to the Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center in Scottsdale, AZ as well as a

new Oncologist associated with that center. We are extremely happy with both.

As for Janie, she is doing reasonably well, actually better than she was while she was taking chemo and radiation treatments. She is very low on energy and has to lie down often.

We really appreciate you praying for her healing. Although she's receiving wonderful treatment, lung cancer does not have a great survival rate. Thanks for your past prayers', we are fully satisfied that they've made an important difference. Janie has helped me (Bob) write this e-mail, so feel free to contact her directly any way you care to. Our address is:

PMB 1381
17200 West Bell Road
Surprise, AZ 85374

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DURANGO GOLF

BY MIKE COCCI



This has nothing to do with the golf game, but I couldn't resist showing our Casanova and friend

For those of us that grew up as public links golfers, the chance to tee up on a tournament style course was always a dream. Our RMCC Rallies have given us the opportunity to test our abilities in the environment that the pros play everyday. Dalton Ranch Country Club in Durango was such a course. Surrounded by the La Plata mountains and bordered by the Animas River, this course enthralled you with its beauty while crippling you with its difficulty. Heavily sloped lightning fast greens with water on one side of more than half of the fairways made accuracy a necessity. Seven of us ventured forth to see how well we could stand up to this chal-

lenge. Suffice it to say that we all made it home with a full set of clubs, several with less golf balls and very bruised egos.

However, not all of the excitement was restricted to our golf game. The highlight of the day occurred near the 16th green. Had any of us had the foresight to pack a 15th club, one loaded with ammunition, we might have been able to feed the entire club with fresh elk venison steaks. A herd of close to 200 elk descended upon us in their annual migration down the Animas River into an area where they spend the winter. The bellowing bull elk confused us at first as we weren't sure if it was screeching hawks, howling children or something from the great beyond. When we reached the green, we found the herd less than 100 feet away. The entire herd took almost ten minutes to work their way past us onto an adjoining meadow

The participants in this golf adventure were: Jim Blakemore, Jack Carlson, Tom Conner, Dick Bain, Mike and Maureen Cocci.

□

DURANGO JEEP TRIPS

BY BILL KNIGHT

A visitor to our rallies may be curious about the number of jeep (and SUVs and other assorted 4-wheel vehicles) tow vehicles behind our Country Coaches. The Rocky Mountains in our home states are laced with a network of dirt road trails negotiable only by high clearance, short wheel based vehicles, such as jeeps (and ATVs). The trails are called "Jeep Trails" by aficionados. In search of information, knowledge and wisdom your intrepid writer "volunteered" as a passenger on the Jeep Trips at the Rocky Mountain Hi Rally in Durango, CO.

Saturday morning eleven "jeeps" gathered after 9 am and headed north on US 550, led by Bill and Terri Smith, and their chocolate lab, "Molly." Along the way, the cottonwood trees along the Animas River were in full color. At the Durango Mountain Resort the caravan turned onto a dirt mountain road. Soon, if you weren't the lead vehicle, the scenery was a big cloud of dust. After a short stop for some "ohs" and "ahs" at the Aspen tree scenery, the trip continued and gathered in the parking lot at the Dante's Café de los Pino, a convenient watering hole at the top of a ski lift in the Purgatory Ski Area. Pictures were taken all around and Molly romped in a patch of snow. The tour continued through clouds of dust to higher elevations. At 9,900'

there were Aspen and Spruce trees and patches of snow. At 10,000' there were no Aspen trees and at 10,300' there was more snow. At a fence line the jeeps reversed direction and followed another road to a grove for lunch break. Elsie, the cow and friends (cows at 10,000'?) had previously visited the area and left their distinguishing trademarks, which required careful treading (but I found one!). After lunch the jeeps headed home on their own. A wonderful time and many digital images were recorded by all.

Tuesday morning 9 "Jeeps," again led by Bill and Terri Smith, and Molly the chocolate lab, drove to Silverton. After a health stop the jeeps headed east out of Silverton on CO 110, a dirt road not nearly as dusty as the Durango Mountain roads. The route was along the Animas River, past several old mining constructions and through the towns of Howardsville, Middleton and Eureka. The group stopped and walked around the ghost mining town of Animas Fork Township, at 11,270'. The tour continued along the increasingly uneven and bumpy dirt roadway. At 11,700' there were patches of snow and no trees. The plan was to traverse California Gulch and return to US 550 south of Ouray, but a snow storm the previous evening had made the road nearly impassable. The tour reversed direction, at 12,900' in a

See Jeeps on page 7

Special congratulations to Rod and Betty Woods on the birth of a new baby granddaughter!

JEEPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

mountain bowl coated with snow, and returned to Animas Fork Township for a lunch break. With lunch over, the jeeps returned home after a short detour to a small lake, through Silverton. The weather in the morning had been sunny and clear, but by the start of the return trip, the sky had darkened and there were some light sprinkles of rain and decidedly lower temperatures.

A good time was had by all!

☺



Wanted:
New inexperienced
Rally hosts!
Contact the President.

CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Morrie Broekema on the death of his loving wife, Angi. Angi finally lost her eight year battle with cancer on Saturday night, October 21, 2006.

If you would like to send Morrie a note or a card his

address is as follows:

Morrie Broekema
60 Quiet Water Way
Manhattan, MT 59741

DETAILS OF THE 2007 OLD PUEBLO RALLY

EARLY ARRIVALS:

Coaches wishing to arrive at Beaudry prior to the start of the rally will be extended the Rally Rate of \$27.25 per night for up to 5 days before the rally begins. This same rate is available for 5 days following the completion of our rally. However, you **MUST** contact Beaudry RV Park at 877-694-9176 and identify yourselves as a Rocky Mountain Country Coach Rally attendee. You will be asked to provide a credit card number to hold your space for your desired time before or after the rally. Your card will not be charged but will be kept on file to insure the site within the RMCC area.

COSTS:

Yes, the prices have increased for our rally. So what else is new? However, I am sure that you will be satisfied with the activities and entertainment planned for this rally. Without giving away all of the surprises, you will have two evenings of entertainment away from the park.

MEALS:

Included in your rally fee are 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners! This should make your



taste buds jump up and shout Whooppee!

ACTIVITIES:

Other than walking, laughing, eating, business discussion and coach talk, no athletic activities are planned. Save your energy for Rocky Point. However, remember to bring your finest PJs!!!

TECH SUPPORT:

Provided we get the required 50 coaches, we will request that Country Coach provide Tech Support during the rally for Country Coaches only. ☺

- Election of officers will be held at the 2007 Old Pueblo Rally.

New rally sites being considered for the future.

1. Lake Powell considered for Spring of 2007.
2. Helena, Montana considered for June of 2008.
3. Alamogordo, New Mexico considered for first weekend in October 2008.
4. Your idea considered here!

This will be an important election rally and some major decisions will be discussed pertaining to the future of the club. Please don't miss it!



Recommended RV Park – Chalk Creek Park – Northop, CO

By Frank & Darlene Phillips

Chalk Creek Campground and RV Park is located on Route 285, eight miles south of Buena Vista, in central Colorado. It is an ideal location for hiking, fishing, rafting and jeeping to say nothing about just being lazy. Ghost towns and hot springs are all close by. This park is big rig friendly with thirteen pull-thrus: of these eight sites not only have 30 and 50 amp service, but 100 amps also. The scenery is exceptional with mountains in the back-

ground. Space 31A (back-in) provides the best view.

Editors Note:

Thanks Frank and Darlene for your very welcome article. This is the kind of information I would like to include in every issue of our RMCC Newsletter. Certainly there are other parks out there that you have visited that you would like to share with us. Please send them to me! ☺

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Although the weather had gone crazy after our Durango Rally, it had begun to settle down a bit when the RMCC Balloon Fiesta Rally began on October 11 and finished on Sunday the 15th.



As we all came into the park the Beckers and Smiths had chosen for our Balloon Fiesta Rally, we were given a Welcome bag with information and goodies inside. Betty Woods was ever present to make this presentation to each RMCC Coach at the gate. We were

led to our respective sites by one of the park managers and helped line up with our neighbors. While we weren't all together, the park wasn't so big we couldn't visit one another easily. The Beckers and Smiths had carved out a nice spot for us to gather each evening for Happy Hour with lots of tasty snacks and drinks for our collective enjoyment. Most of us made the snacks our evening meal. During one of the evening Happy Hour times we were treated to a talk by one of the officials of the Balloon Fiesta for the last 18 years, Harry Season. He gave us some very interesting information about the balloons and the fiesta, and, it just so happens he and his wife are now new members of Rocky Mountain Country Coachers! Welcome to the club, Harry and Delores.

Early each morning there was a mass ascension of the over 700 balloons, many of which were shaped like an animal, flower, comic character, stage coach, locomotive, famous landmark, bees, can of dog food, etc, etc. The colors were rather spectacular and brought smiles to everyone's face. You really have to be there to truly get the full effect.

The grounds around the balloon take-off field were surrounded with stands selling just about anything you could imagine including souvenirs, art work, food, and then more food and more souvenirs. You could walk for miles just to get around the grounds, and we did.



In the evening after sundown the balloonists put on a "Glowdeo" rather than a rodeo, which meant the balloons were tied down and inflated and, as best as they could, they would blast their propane torches into their balloons simultaneously to give a colorful *glowing* picture in the dark.

Besides the balloons there was the town of Albuquerque to explore, with lots of shopping and site seeing to pass the time.

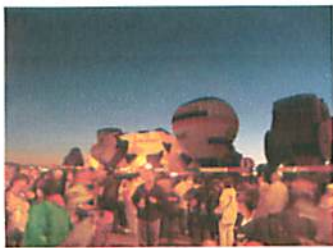
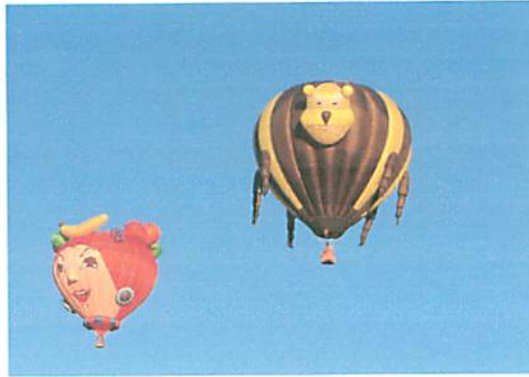
Thanks Beckers and Smiths for taking sure good



Harry Season

Balloon Fiesta Photos

By Don Rau



Emerson & Kathy Marsh found out that we can order a VHS or a DVD for \$30 from the folks at the Balloon Fiesta Museum. There is also a \$5.00 shipping and handling charge.

Credit card orders by phone call: 505-899-3005.

On line orders and information:

Balloonfiestavideo.com

Rocky Point Decorative Hat Contest

By Reggie Knight

You have all heard of Margaritaville. Well, we are going to visit there during a Jimmy Buffet Happy Hour complete with music by Jimmy Buffet. Where is Margaritaville? According to the "Meet Me In Margaritaville" CD cover, "it is in the tropics somewhere between the Port of Indecision and Southwest of Disorder, but no parallels of latitude or longitude mark the spot exactly. You don't have to be a navigator to get there. Palm trees provide the camouflage. Ocean breezes bring the seaplanes and sailboats, tourists and travelers. Passports are not required. Island music rules. No waiting lines for anything. There is a beach and a thatched roof bar perched on the edge of

the turquoise sea where you can always find a barstool. There are lots of lies and loads of stories."

There is one requirement to visit Margaritaville. You have to wear a decorated hat as the fans of Jimmy Buffet wear to his concerts. These people are known as "Parrotheads" — got the idea? Use your imagination and creativity and the more outrageous, the better. So get your parrothead on and party! If you have any questions, my e-mail address is RegLK@LizardAcres.net. ☺



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Don Rau
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 motorhomeing, and to represent ourselves as good, careful and responsible motorhome owners and operators.

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

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

For further information you may contact RMCC President Mike Cocci at 5318 N. Fairway Heights Drive, Tucson, AZ 85749, or Treasurer Gail McEachern at 236 Rainbow Drive #13670, Livingston, TX 77399, or Vice President Dee Cundy at 2113 Boundary Oak Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89134, or Secretary Bill Knight at 13940 W. Meeker Blvd #115-60 Sun City West, AZ 85375 or feel free to phone or e-mail them.

We are proud to be sponsored by Beaudry RV in Tucson, AZ!

We are on the Web!

Our address is:

WWW.rmccusa.com



Web Master: Rod Wood

FROM THE EDITOR

So, did you figure out what is new about your RMCC Newsletter? Remember, whoever figures out all of the changes gets a 1 year subscription free! (But then again, so does everyone else in the club.) The reason I made the changes is due to my getting a critique from a retired newspaper Managing Editor who made these suggestions. And, yes, you guys asked for bigger, better, and more pictures so you could see them better and so did he. "A picture is worth a thousand words."

I do agree with the increase in numbers of pictures, and was planning that change, but his suggestion regarding column width took me by surprise. Let's hear from you readers to see if this is an improvement or just a change for the sake of making a change. Any other changes you can think of that would help will certainly be considered by the editorial staff. I still wish this Newsletter could be printed in color. It is so much more interesting looking, but it is so much more expensive. Compare \$.08 per page for black & white, \$.80 per page for color. ☺