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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BETTY WOODS

Hope this finds everyone healthy and getting ready for the holidays.

Unfortunately, Rod and I missed the Ruidoso Rally. We were on our way and close to the Prescott turn off when I heard a noise in the back of the coach and the Inverter was beeping and out. We had to turn around and take it to Tucson (Premier) and they have now fixed it. Finally we were able to pick it up this last weekend and everything seems great. It took so long because our Extended Warranty company had to check it out and give it the okay. Wow, what a unlucky time we have had with breakdowns, some of them were our fault, as with the filter we didn't know about and, therefore, broke down 3 times because on the road, the mechanics had no idea either.

Now we are looking forward to the Christmas Campout December 6th to the 9th in Goodyear. There might be a few openings so if you are interested, please contact Jack Kelly at: jkelly@aol.com Next is the Tucson Rally February 28th to March 4th. See the web site for information about signing up and the agenda. Then, for us and other adventurers is a non-rally caravan to Rocky Point. If you haven't been to our rallies for a while, we hope you take the time and join us for lots of fun and comradeship. If you can't make any of the 2013 rallies, please stay a member of RMCC to see what the club and your friends are doing.

It is hard to believe how fast the two years of my Presidency have flown by and we have a great slate of officers who are: Vern Weldy, President,; Jack Kelly, Vice President,; Donna Tanzi, Secretary and Jim Moreland, Treasurer. Ballots will be coming out in the next month and they will start their offices in March. If we don't see you before March, I would like to wish you a very happy holiday season. Do what our motto is and "have fun, fun, fun. Best wishes, Betty

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT RALLY**Circle B RV Park – Ruidoso, NM****September 26 – 30, 2012****Hosts: Susan & Jack Frost and Betty & Lyndol Wilcox**

The weather gods threatened us a few times with thunder and lightning at the Land of Enchantment Rally in Ruidoso, NM, but that didn't stop us from seeing the historical sites in the area. One day we had two inches of rain – one drop here and one drop two inches away. For five minutes another day, we had a downpour of really big drops, but only enough to spot the cars and RV's, which had a layer of dust and grit on them.

Many of us arrived at the rally site prior to the start of the rally which gave us extra time to enjoy good food, good friendship and good fun. Some had met along the "trail" to the rally and enjoyed visiting favorite places of others who were more familiar with the areas. Not only did the humans enjoy renewing friendships, but the canines reacquainted themselves, but a few smaller ones stood their ground and wanted no sniffing of certain parts of their anatomy by any other creature.

On Wednesday, registration was held in the afternoon. We were so glad to see Jean Grabman and Snickers. Jean looks very well and Snickers is still so cute. There is a new canine member to our club – Ken and Karen Burnett are caretakers and slaves to Penny. Ken does an excellent job of walking Penny and he does it with a loving smile. Andy and Gay Wilkinson, whom we haven't seen in a coon's age, were at the rally and after five seconds it was as if they had never missed a rally. They are doing fantastic work in Africa aiding HIV positive people. In the evening, we met in the club room for pizza, but before it arrived, Reggie asked for volunteers to be reporters for four events during the rally. The Purple Pumpkin has become a tradition on the first night of our rallies and of the twelve papers randomly selected, ten had the correct answers. Reggie told the members that the answers for the Purple Pumpkin at the Tucson Rally will be found in this issue of the newsletter.

After a catered breakfast on Thursday, we left for The Spencer Theater. Most of us probably thought that the architecture would be similar to a community theater – OH NO! The architecture was very modern with glass, metal and limestone with mica to sparkle in the New Mexico brilliant sun. The theater is located on a hill and is very distinctive in the wilderness setting. In the afternoon, after a brief rain shower, we visited the Hubbard Museum of the American West near Ruidoso Downs Race Track. In the museum are early western artifacts collected by Anne C. Standling and an art exhibit of Gordon Sendow's paintings and prints. In the evening we gathered at the Inn of Mountain Gods Casino for dinner at the Nations Buffet. Ethnic foods from China, Mexico, Italy and U.S. Mom's cooking were available and then there was the dessert bar with a great variety of cakes, pastries and frozen yogurt with all the toppings; some of us ate too much. The diet begins tomorrow. We tried our luck with the "one armed bandits" which now take our money with the press of a button. Some of us came out ahead, but only by very little.

Friday morning, after a catered breakfast (we could still eat after last night's buffet) we carpoled to the community of Lincoln. A guide gave us an excellent tour of the historic city and museums. We ate (again) at the Dolan House, which had a history of its own. Then we headed to Fort Stanton for a tour of the former military installation that was built to protect the settlers from the Apache Indians. Over time the buildings have been used for many purposes including a TB hospital for Merchant Marines and an internment camp for German sailors before and during WWII. After Happy Hour, we enjoyed Lucy's Mexical Dinner – when will the food stop?

We started Saturday with a delicious catered breakfast followed by our Business Meeting. Due to Betty Wood's absence, Jack Kelly conducted the meeting. The afternoon was ours to relax, sightsee or go shopping. In the evening we moseyed over to the Flying J Chuckwagon for a Main Street shoot-out, dinner and show. The lead singers own a Country Coach. We were glad to get back to our warm

coaches since the night had turned mighty chilly.

Sunday morning most of us hit the road, mostly to go home. Our thanks to Susan & Jack Frost and Betty and Lyndol Wilcox for a much diversified rally. We toured the historic town of Lincoln and the very contemporary Spencer Theater - the Wild West with culture and sophistication.

THE SPENSER THEATER

by

Mike Cucci

Jacqueline Spenser had a dream to build a Theater for the Performing Arts that would enrich the cultural lives of the people of South-Central New Mexico. Fifteen years ago her dream came true with the opening of the modern \$22 Million Spenser Theater.

The Theater was designed by the world renowned architect, Antoine Predock. It is highlighted by both exterior and interior materials to convey a theme of mountains, streams and ponds. The docent guides lead us throughout the entire facility describing the features that contributed to the award winning design. The exterior is white limestone, quarried in Spain and finished by Italian craftsman and was used to convey a feeling of snow. The 300 panes of 1 inch thick glass that make up the roof of the Crystal Lobby are all unique in size and no two panes are the same measurement. The interior 514 seat theater compares acoustically with distinguished theaters throughout the world such as Carnegie Hall, NY, The Pantages Theater in Minnesota, the New Tempodrome in Germany and the Brighton Dome & Corn Exchange in England. Architect Predock combined the use of hard and soft materials, contoured walls and ceiling panels and a European style rectangular design to create state of the art acoustics and sight lines similar to the original opera houses in Europe. Professional performers have nothing but praise for the total facility. The 5000 square foot stage easily accommodates the largest Broadway shows or adapts simply to the individual performer, such as Dave Brubeck, who was the first performer when the Theater opened on October 3, 1997.

While Predock's design satisfies the needs of the performers, it is the interior features and artwork that captures the eye of the patrons and guests that visit the facility. Staircases and moving panels are made of a glass laminate which combines three panes of glass laminated together and then the middle pane is "clipped" which causes this sheet to fracture creating the effect that the entire pane is cracked and ready to crumble before your very eyes. However, the truly unique feature is the collection of Dale Chihuly Glass Sculptures that sets this theater apart and is the largest private collection in the Southwest open to public viewing.

There are five individual sculptures, each with innumerable pieces of blown glass and assembled to feature this amazing artist's skill. The five sculptures are unique in their own right. From the Tall Red Christmas tree-like design of "Glowing Sunset Tower" with 564 individual pieces of glass to the "Womb", which is six pieces of glass suspended within each other and each piece captivates the observer with the ornate twisting pieces. The Lobby also includes "Indian Paint Brushes", which are 117 individual flowers blossoms and stems and set in a recess along the main wall, which was inspired by the wild flowers of New Mexico. The most spectacular sculpture, to this writer, was the "Ruby Sea Garden", which are 109 rippling tentacles of translucent ruby glass, some as long as six feet long, adorning the balcony bar area. Finally "The Persians", which is a 36-piece display of bright mosaic of color reminiscent of petals or a massive burst of fireworks, hangs on the balcony wall overlooking the "Glowing Sunset Tow-

er"; each "blossom" is 2-3 feet in diameter and valued at \$30,000. In total, over \$700,000 worth of Chihuly Glass is used in the decor of the Spencer Theater "Rich in Color, Rich in Culture".

The visit to this theater was an ideal event for the RMCC members. We come together regularly to share experiences, enjoy friendships, the natural beauty and art around us and to get away from the hectic details of everyday life. This theater visit met all of these criteria.

Hubbard Museum of the American West

by

Vanessa Hays

On Thursday we met at the Hubbard Museum of the American West, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. (What does that mean ... "an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution"? In 2000, The Hubbard Museum became the *first* New Mexico Museum accepted into the Smithsonian Affiliate Program. In a nutshell, this means the Smithsonian can share its resources with the museum. In addition to artifact loans, being affiliated with the Smithsonian helps the museum identify other things within the Smithsonian to accompany exhibit loans such as education and performing arts programs, expert speakers, teacher workshops, and technical assistance.)

The heart of the Hubbard Museum is a collection of over 10,000 horse-related items. From one girl's love for horses, a great collection was born. Anne Schley was born on March 1, 1913 to a wealthy family in New York. (To put this into perspective, her family had 36 live-in maids.) She was less than a year old when her mother rode with her on a horse named "Sweetness". She was in her first horse show at age six and won her first hunter race at age seven. Anne's collection of horse themed objects began when the young girl hung a bit and worn out stirrup on the wall of the family's barn. Anne had little regard for the high society of her roots and at the age of 20 she married the man of her dreams - a rodeo cowboy. Between 1933 and 1960, Anne - a product of a 'blue blood' background marched to a different beat. Through two divorces and then a marriage to an Arizona rancher named Floyd Stradling, Anne's collection grew. In 1960, the Anne C. Stradling Museum of the Horse was created and for the next 30 years, the Museum of the Horse continued to expand. Due to failing health, in 1989 Anne Stradling started the process of finding a permanent home for her massive collection and in 1992 it made its journey to the Hubbard Museum in Ruidoso. Bits, spurs, bridles and saddles from around the world, an amazing collection of carriages, wagons and horse drawn vehicles ... you'll find it all at the Hubbard Museum.

While the core of the Hubbard Museum revolves around the contributions of Anne C. Stradling, there were a number of other collections and exhibits to enjoy as well:

"Authentic Memories of the American West" is an exhibit of over 80 works from world renowned western artist, Gordon Snidow. Some of the highlights of his career include exhibits at the Smithsonian and in Moscow, as well as commissioned work for the Coors Brewing Company and country music star Michael Martin Murphey.

The exhibit "*A Land So Strange*" was created to provide a unique and educational journey through nearly 400 years of New Mexico history. With hundreds of artifacts and images from the 16th century to the 20th century, the exhibit tells the story of the Native Americans, the Spanish, and the Euro-Americans who created the New Mexico we experience today.

Lastly, my favorite, *Free Spirits at Noisy Water*, is the work of Sculptor Dave McGary. His \$1.5 million work is a string of eight larger-than-life horses bounding down a hillside adjacent to the Hub-

bard Museum. Interpretive signs tell a bit about each of the breeds (American Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Thoroughbred, Arabian, Morgan, Standard bred and American Paint) represented in bronze. I loved the detail of these pieces and was amazed that five of the sculptures only have one foot of the horse on the ground; (Each horse weighs between 3,000 and 5,000 pounds!) an engineering feat indeed!

Lincoln, New Mexico

by

Margie Moreland

Friday, September 28th, was Lincoln County day for the group. Lincoln County was at one time the largest county in the U.S. and the town of Lincoln was the site of the Lincoln County Wars. The area is a National Historic Landmark and is managed by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

The first stop on the tour was the Anderson-Freeman Visitor Center and Museum. Just inside the front door is a large Peter Hurd charcoal on paper drawing titled the "Death of DeVargas", which the artist did in 1935. The museum is a collection of information and artifacts from the groups that were part of the history of the area in the 1800's. These included the Mescalero Apache Tribe, who inhabited the surrounding mountains. The Hispanic settlers came to the area after it was annexed to the U.S. in 1848 and included the Montano family whose descendants still ranch in the area. The 9th Regiment of the U.S. Cavalry and the 24th U.S. Infantry, called the Buffalo Soldiers, an all Negro regiment, came to protect the settlers from the Indians. Fort Stanton was built in 1855 and Kit Carson made an appearance in the area in 1862, when he was dispatched to the Fort to control the Apaches and the Bosque Redondo.

The Lincoln County Wars developed in the 1870's, when an Englishman, John Henry Tunstall in partnership with a gentleman named McSween established a store in Lincoln. An Irishman, Major Laurence Murphy also built a store in Lincoln. The two were competing for government contracts to supply Fort Stanton. In the same time frame, outlaws came into the county to escape the law in West Texas. These questionable characters were hired by the two merchants to protect them and their businesses. Billy the Kid was one on these and was hired by Tunstall. A five day battle began in Lincoln and Tunstall was killed in the gun fighting between the two groups. Troops arrived from the Fort with a howitzer. The McSween house was burned to the ground by the Murphy group, but Billy the Kid managed to escape the fire. President Hayes became concerned, involved and replaced the Governor of the Territory. Things quieted down after several killings.

The walking tour was great, with a very knowledgeable guide. Many of the period structures remain, the Luna-Chavez House, Torreón tower for protection from the Indians and The Tunstall Store. Today the store is a museum of articles which were available in the store in the 1880's. The Walton House was built in 1888 and the Wortley Hotel was built in 1881. The hotel was featured in this month's New Mexico Magazine as one of several unique hotels to stay in New Mexico today. Murphy's store which was a 2-story, 8,000 square foot building was restored in 1928 and the Courthouse is there now. Billy the Kid escaped from Lincoln to Fort Sumner, but Sheriff

Pat Garrett caught up with him there and killed him. Billy was only 21 years old.

After our tour we had a delicious luncheon at The Dolan House, whose owners are doing a beautiful job of restoring it.

If you like Western History, you will find New Mexico and Lincoln County are great places to find it!

FORT STANTON

by

Don Kammerer

Fort Stanton was named for Captain Henry Stanton who was killed in battle with the Apaches. It was a Calvary fort built by the Army Corp of Engineers in 1855 and its layout is in a typical quad with officers housing on one side and the enlisted on the opposite side. The Fort is unique in its use of various architectural styles i.e. Greek, Roman, French. Unlike most early forts, its foundations were made of sandstone rather than the more commonly used adobe and this provided for better preservation of the buildings that are seen today. In addition, the chapel was constructed using sandstone for its walls and therefore is exceptionally well preserved.

Fort Stanton served four major purposes during its history:

1855-1896 Operated as an Army fort to protect the ranchers and settlers from Indian raids. The fort was briefly abandoned to Confederate soldiers in 1861; they in turn were run out by the Indians. In 1862 Kit Carson and Union Troops reoccupied the Fort, campaigned against the Mescalero Apaches and forced the majority to surrender and the Indians were moved to Fort Sumner for three years, but the Indians fled back to the mountains of the Sierra Blanca. By 1865 Fort Stanton troops along with the Buffalo Soldiers were instrumental in running to ground the Warm Springs and Mescalero Apaches under Victorio and Geronimo.

Also during this time Governor Lew Wallace spent time at the Fort working on his book "Ben Hur", and in 1887 "Black Jack" Pershing began his first of two tours serving at Fort Stanton.

By 1899 Fort Stanton was no longer needed for protection and was decommissioned.

1899-1949 The Fort became "Fort Stanton Marine Hospital", the first federal hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis. To qualify for treatment one had to have served for at least three months on an American flagged Merchant Marine ship. The hospital had both open air tents on the perimeter of the Fort for ambulatory patients and an infirmary for the non-ambulatory patients. The infirmary was a two story building at the east end of the quad and it was unique because it had the first elevator to be used in a hospital. The tuberculosis survival rate was not good as attested to by the large military cemetery located southeast of the Fort.

1939-1945 Just north of the Fort was an old CCC camp where the first U.S. internment camp was established. It housed 410 German seaman prior to and during WW II. They were the crew of the SS Columbus, a German cruise ship which was scuttled just prior to the US entering WW II. The Germans built the internment camp complete with a large swimming pool. There is also evidence that they assisted in building other structures at the Fort during this period.

1949-1998 The Fort was turned over to the State of New Mexico. The state continued to operate it as a tuberculosis sanitarium until 1954 and in 1963 it was converted to a state facility for the care of the mentally disabled. Then the Fort was leased out as a correctional facility in 1998.

1998-present During this period the Fort was transitioned into a New Mexico State Monument and is supported by both private and public funding. It is operated under the control of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs which has a visitor's center and museum.

THE LINKS AT SIERRA BLANCO

by

Mike Cucci

Will Stewart, Don Kammerer, Mo and Mike Cocci ventured onto the Scottish Links designed course in Ruidoso to test their golfing skills. The Jim Colbert design features rolling fairways, large greens, and thick mounds to challenge all of our skills and patience. We all found a way to drive our score up beyond our usual playing levels. The causes of our increased scores were wet approach areas to the green that stopped several shots from reaching the green, sloping greens tended to redirect our putts away from the cup and large sand traps and grass hollows between the mounds added many strokes to our final scores. Don's consistency off the tee paid dividends and kept him out of penalty stroke trouble scoring an 87 without any mulligans. Mo's booming drives made this course play a lot shorter than the distance on the card, but her short game, chipping and putting were not up to her usual game. Mike took advantage of the high altitude crushing tape measured drives. However, his distance caused problems on a couple of the narrower holes forcing him to take an indirect route to the hole. Lastly, Will found a new calling... Sand Trap Keeper. Will spent most of his time raking the traps after succumbing to his errant drives and approach shots.

NOTICE!

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN COUNTRY COACHERS. THE RATE IS THE SAME AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN - \$25.00 AND IS DUE BY DECEMBER 31, 2012. PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO VERN WELDY.

ALSO, IF YOU WISH CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY SUCH AS PHOTOS, CHANGE OF E-MAIL, ETC., SEND THOSE REQUESTS TO DON BARR AT: dbarrz@sbcglobal.net IN ADDITION, THE WEB SITE ADDRESS HAS BEEN CHANGED TO:

rmccoachers.com

THERE ARE LOTS OF GREAT RALLIES PLANNED FOR 2013 STARTING IN TUCSON FEBRUARY 28TH, AT LAZYDAYS. PLEASE CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR INFORMATION.

RALLIES HO !

- December 6 - 9, 2012 - Christmas Campout, Cotton Lane RV Resort, Goodyear, AZ
- Feb 28 - March 4, 2013 - Business Meeting Rally, Lazydays RV Campground, Tucson, AZ
- June 19 - 23, 2013 - Buffalo Bill Rally. Ponderosa Campground, Cody, WY
- Sept 10 - 14, 2013 (Tentative Dates) - Creede, CO

CHRISTMAS CAMPOUT Cotton Lane RV Resort - Goodyear, AZ December 6 - 9, 2012

- Dec 6, Thursday**
Happy Hour
Dinner - Pork and Sauerkraut prepared by Alta & Bob Daniels
- Dec 7, Friday**
8ish - Coffee and doughnuts
9:30 - New Life Center, Bring Donations
11:30 - Lunch at Dillon's at Wildlife Zoo, Visit to Zoo
4:00 - Happy Hour
Dinner followed by White Elephant gift exchange
- Dec 8, Saturday**
8ish - Pancake breakfast provided by Park \$4.00
9ish - Litchfield Park, Christmas in the Park event, Parade at 10 am
4:00 - Happy Hour
Dinner on your own
- Dec 9, Sunday**
Coffee and doughnuts and "Move on Out!" Unless you want to stay

TIME TO VOTE, SOON

The nominating committee of Roger Herr, Donna Tanzi and Reggie Knight presented the following candidates for office:

- President - Vern Weldy
- Vice-President - Jack Kelly
- Treasurer - Jim Moreland
- Secretary - Donna Tanzi
- FMCA Director - John Tanzi
- FMCA Alternate Director - Dick Sanders

Prior to the Business Meeting Rally in February, members will be contacted via email the voting instructions. Members without Internet can vote prior to the Business Meeting Rally by sending their ballot to Bill Ponsler

17200 W Bell Rd #972
Surprise, AZ 85374

SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

February 28 to March 4, 2013

Lazydays RV Park - Tucson, AZ

Hosts: Marie & Daren Schmaltz and Vanessa & Duane Hays

February 28, 2013 (Thursday)

1 to 4pm. Registration

5:00 pm Happy Hour and Pizza

March 1, 2013 (Friday)

8 to 9 am. Buffet Breakfast at the Florizona Grill

9 to 12 pm. Business meeting in the Grand Canyon Room

1:30 pm. Leave for Sabino Canyon

5:00 pm. Happy Hour

6:00 pm. Prime Rib dinner at Florizona Grill

March 2, 2013 (Saturday)

8 to 9 am. Buffet Breakfast at the Florizona Grill

9:30 am. Kartchner Caverns for those who signed up

4:30 pm. Happy Hour and Auction at the Event Center

6:30 pm. Rib Dinner Cookout at the Event Center

March 3, 2013 (Sunday)

8 to 9 am. Continental Breakfast at the Patio or Grill

? Open House and round table discussion Premier Motorcoach Service

2:15 pm. Leave for Gas Light Theatre for a Musical Melodrama

6:00 pm. Mexican Dinner at El Molinito's Restaurant

March 4, 2013 (Monday)

8 to 9 am. Continental Breakfast Farwell

THOSE SIGNED UP FOR ROCKY POINT START THEIR TRAVELS TO MEXICO

Ruidoso Co-Host : Susan Frost

Susan Frost is a fourth generation ranch owner. The ranch was established in approximately 1889 as the Carrizo Land and Cattle Company. Susan is the great-granddaughter of William C. McDonald, owner of Carrizo Land and Cattle Company and the first governor of New Mexico in Statehood 1912. She was born in Portland, Oregon while her father was training pilots in Canada for World War II. There are two younger brothers. The family settled on the Ranch in Carrizozo in 1950. Susan earned a BS and Master of Science degrees from University of Texas at El Paso. She married Jack Frost in 1974 and helped run his business of Jack Frost Trucking for 15 years hauling refrigerated products in 11 Western States and Canada. The business was sold in 1988 and they retired to San Carlos, Sonora Mexico. Her hobbies are deep sea fishing and golf.

Sabino Canyon

Sabino Canyon is located in the Santa Catalina Mountains and the Coronado National Forest north of Tucson, AZ. It is a popular recreation area for residents and visitors of Southern Arizona providing a place to walk, hike or ride. Minutes away from the desert are large waterfalls with minor bridges constructed over them. Wildlife in the canyon includes deer, javelin, skunks, tortoises, rattlesnakes and mountain lion.

The history of Sabino Canyon began with the formation of the Santa Catalina Mountains over 12 million years ago. Around 5 million B.C. the mountains ceased formation around the Tucson valley. Present-day varieties of plant life first appeared between 6,000 and 8,000 years ago. Some of the earliest human occupants of the Canyon were the Native American Hohokam people.

An earthquake centered in northern Mexico in 1887 dislodged massive boulders lining the canyon walls, which came to rest in the valley below. In 1905 the U.S. Forest Service began administering Sabino Canyon. During the Great Depression, WPA and ERA built Sabino Dam and nine bridges over Sabino Creek in an attempt to build a road to the top of Mount Lemmon. Today the road travels 4.5 miles into the canyon, but was not completed due to the steep terrain at the end of the canyon.

The first tram in Sabino Canyon began operating in October, 1978. From that point forward, access by cars was restricted to allow visitors to reach Upper Sabino Canyon by foot, bicycle or tram. Sabino Canyon Tours was founded in May, 1985 and provides visitors the opportunity to experience the noted beauty of Sabino Canyon. During a thunderstorm, flooding washed out the bridge at Rattlesnake Creek and many portions of the road were also washed out. Today all areas have been repaired, debris removed and the tram is able to complete all nine stops.

KARTCHNER CAVERNS

Kartchner Caverns State Park is a stunning limestone cave in Southeastern Arizona. This "live" cave, discovered in 1974, is host to a wide variety of unique minerals and formations. Water percolates from the surface and calcite formations continue to grow, including stalactites dripping down like icicles and giant stalagmites reaching up from the ground.

In November 1974, two young cavers, Gary Tenen and Randy Tufts were exploring the limestone hills at the base of the Whetstone Mountains. In the bottom of a sinkhole they found a narrow crack leading into the hillside. Warm and moist air flowed out, signaling the existence of a cave. After several hours of crawling, they entered a pristine cavern. It wasn't until February 1978 that Tenen and Tufts told the property owners, James and Lois Kartchner about their amazing discovery. The cave's existence became public knowledge in 1988 when its purchase was approved as an Arizona State Park. Extraordinary precautions have been taken during its development to conserve the cave's near-pristine condition.

The formations that decorate caves are called "speleothems". Usually formations are composed of layers of calcite called travertine deposited by water. The form of speleothem takes is determined by whether the water drips, flows, seeps, condenses or pools.

Kartchner Caverns is home to:

- One of the world longest soda straw stalactites: 21 feet 3 inches (Throne Room)

- The tallest and most massive column in Arizona, Kubla Khan: 58 feet (Throne Room)

- The world's most extensive formation of brushite moonmilk (Big Room)

- The first reported occurrence of "turnip" shields (Big Room)

- The first cave occurrence of "birdsnest" needle quartz formations

Many of unusual formations such as shields, totems, helictites and rimstone dams

Many of the formations have been continuously growing for thousands of years and all are asked not to touch them unless instructed to do so by the guide.

BUFFALO BILL RALLY

Cody, Wyoming –Ponderosa Campground

June 19 – June 23, 2013

Hosts: Vanessa Hays & Duane Hays and Marie & Daren Schmaltz

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

12pm – 4pm Registration
5pm Happy Hour and hors d'oeuvres

Thursday, June 20, 2013

7:30 am Breakfast – Sunset House
9:00 am Trolley Tour of Cody
10:00 am Buffalo Bill Historical Center
4:00 pm Happy Hour
6:00 pm Dinner at Sunset House

Friday, June 21, 2013

8:00 am Breakfast – Sunset House
9:00 am Buffalo Bill Historical Center
4:00 pm Happy Hour
5:30 pm Dinner/Show/Rodeo – The Cody Cattle Company
The Cody Rodeo

Saturday, June 22, 2013

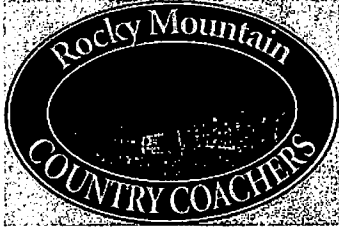
9:00 am Breakfast – Sunset House
10:00 am –
4:00 pm Other activities around town:
Options include: Heart Mountain Internment Center (WWII – Japanese Internment Camp), Buffalo Bill Reservoir, White Water Rafting, Exploring Art Galleries in Town, etc., etc., etc.
5:30 pm Gunfight in front of the Irma Hotel
6:00 pm Prime Rib dinner at the Irma Hotel (Chicken and Salmon available for Tenderfeet J)

Sunday, June 23, 2013

8:00 Continental Breakfast and departure

Internet References:

Ponderosa Campground: www.codyponderosa.com
Buffalo Bill Historical Center: www.bbhc.org
The Cody Cattle Company: www.thecodycattlecompany.com
Gunfighters: www.codygunfighters.com
The Irma Hotel: www.irmahotel.com
Heart Mountain Internment Camp: www.heartmountain.org
Cody Trolley Tours: www.codytrolleytours.com



Rocky Mountain Country Coaches Organized March 2003

The main purposes of the Rocky Mountain Country Coaches Club are to promote the aims and objectives of 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 motorhoming, 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 Coaches area includes: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Montana and Wyoming.

FROM THE EDITOR

Kudos to Jack & Susan Frost and Lyndol & Betty Wilcox! The full impact of their rally in Ruidoso didn't hit me until I got home. They planned so much for us to see in a few days that we couldn't help but absorb the historical information presented to us. The tours of the museums and historic sites were very informative without being boring. Who would have thought that a modern theater would be located on a hill in the middle of no-where in southern New Mexico. I do wonder what came first - the theater or the airport close to the theater? Its proximity to the Theater is very convenient for the more affluent patrons to fly in for a performance or for the more successful performers to fly in. The food was good, the comradery was high and we had fun, fun, fun.

My own personal thanks to Don Kammerer, Mike Cucci, Vanessa Hays and Margie Moreland for writing articles about the places we visited. They did a great job and it is refreshing to read about a place from another member's point of view. I hope more people will volunteer to assist me writing articles for this newsletter.