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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY VERN WELDY

I would like to thank all of you for electing me as your President; I would also like to thank Betty Woods for her work to bring the Club to this stage. This is YOUR Club; please provide your suggestions to make your experience as a club member more enjoyable. Remember the function of this club is to hold Rallies for you, the members. I would like to meet some of the members who have not attended the past rallies, so come on and join us.

For those of you that did not attend the Tucson Rally, you missed a great experience. Your Rally Masters, Daren and Marie Schmaltz, planned the rally and made sure Lazy Days provided great meals. The prime rib dinner was excellent.

Duane and Vanessa Hayes, the Assistant Rally Masters, looked after the details for each event and both of these couples cooked up a Special Rib Dinner for Sat night.

Many attendees remarked that the auction with Reggie Knight to raise money for the New Life Center was a high light during the rally. Jim and Margie Moreland made sure we were served their margaritas. The auction excitement raised \$9,000 for the Center. What a great job for some 68 members attending.

Roger Herr "Willie" introduced our new banners with the motto "TOGETHER WE GO" along with guitar and singing.

Jack Kelly described the upcoming rallies at Cody and Creede. If you have not already signed up for these please consider attending.

Vern Weldy
President

Past-President's Message

by
Betty Woods

It has been an absolute honor to serve as your President for the last two and half years. Thanks to all of you for your support and, most of all, friendship.

What a wonderful club Rocky Mountain Country Coachers is and we have had so many years of terrific rallies and club activities. Everyone has gone out of their way to make the club the success that it is and I thank you so very much for that.

Rod and I are looking forward to many more years of traveling with you. You have a great new line-up of officers who will continue to assure our success.

Again, thank you and see you in Cody & Creede.

Most sincerely, Betty

OUR NEW BANNER !



Designed by Roger Herr

BUSINESS MEETING RALLY
LAZY DAYS RV RESORT – TUCSON, AZ
FEBRUARY 28 –MARCH 4, 2013
Daren & Marie Schmaltz and Duane & Vanessa Hays

The Greek North Wind God, Boreas (where Aurora Borealis got its name) visited our Tucson pre-rally and first day of our rally. It was cold and windy in the late afternoons and 30's in the early mornings. At Happy Hour, enough wine was spilled to pay homage to him and he rewarded us by departing and allowing warm sunny days for the rest of the rally.

Members began arriving at Lazy Days 3 - 4 days in advance of the rally. In the evenings we had Happy Hour followed by Pot-Luck Meals in our tented area. Those of us on diets knew that we were going to forget about diets especially when Wanda bought out her peanut butter pie. About 20 coaches drove in for the unscheduled pre-rally and 35 coaches attended the rally. Dan Durham had to cancel because of not feeling well and we missed his banter.

Registration was held Thursday afternoon when our hosts helped us scheduled tours of San Xavier Mission, tours of Kartchner Caverns and discussion at Premier Motor Coach Services. In the evening we had appetizers and a hosted bar at the Patio provided by the Lazy Days Management. Daren introduced Bob Grady, General Manager, who welcomed us to Lazy Days and wished us a Great Rally – do we have any other kind?

The next morning after a very delicious and “stick to the ribs and every place else” breakfast in the Florizona Grill, we had our Business Meeting in the Grand Canyon Room. Betty Woods, President, conducted the first part of the meeting with Committee Reports and Old Business. Vern Weldy, newly elected President, conducted the second half of the meeting with New Business. Jack Kelly discussed future rallies and introduced Kelli Hernandez from the New Life Center. Ms. Hernandez spoke to us about the New Life Center and showed us a video about the lives of a few women and their families before and after their “rebirth” at the New Life Center. In the afternoon, we took a tram tour of Sabino Canyon. Our drivers provided commentary along the trail pointing out boulders that fell from the canyon's walls years ago during an earthquake in Mexico and when we crossed the creeks, we were told that the water comes from the run-off of the snow on Mt Lemon. Later we relaxed at Happy Hour in the large tent that Lazy Days erected for us followed by another delicious meal in the Florizona Grill.

Saturday morning we had another delicious belt-busting breakfast in the Florizona Grill. Those that signed up for the Kartchner Caverns tour left at two different times in the morning. Many you didn't do that, drove a few miles to the San Xavier Mission for a very interesting and informative tour. Happy Hour was a little earlier that evening and our mixologist and bar tender did a marvelous job delivering margaritas to the tables. The members were beginning to be very relaxed by the time the auction began. There were easily 50 items for auction; many were made by our members. Dorothy Pontsler made a white and very soft afghan; Jim Moreland turned a bowl from Myrtlewood and made a Lazy-Susan from the top lid of a wine barrel; and Bill Knight made a pen and pencil set from wood and a bowl from different kinds of wood. Other items were many bottles of wine, picnic baskets,

wine carrier, wine/cracker gift baskets and the list went on and on. The auction was a huge success!!!! Then our hosts prepared a mouth-watering dinner of ribs and all the fixin'.

The next morning, we had another pants-busting breakfast! Rod had a web-site training session. In the afternoon a few of us went over to Premier Motor coach Services to have a question/answer session with Eric Olstrom. Sara Palin's Lexa was there for sale and some of us "toured" it - nothing impressive. Later in the afternoon we attended a Melodrama at the Gaslight Theatre. We booed the villain and cheered the hero. Not only was the play good, but the piano playing was fantastic. We ate that evening at a Mexican restaurant where there was a little mix-up and the manager wasn't there, but everything worked out and we had good food and good fun.

SABINO CANYON

by

Shirley McKenzie

Sabino Canyon's history is as diverse as it is fascinating. The Santa Catalina mountain range began its formation over 12 million years ago, 7 million years before the earliest known human being walked the face of the earth. In around 5 million B.C., the mountains ceased formation around the Tucson area, setting the stage for future ecological action. Plant life first appeared between 6,000 and 8,000 years ago, and some of the earliest predominant human occupants of Sabino Canyon were the Hohokam people.

An earthquake centered in northern Mexico in 1887 dislodged an array of massive boulders lining the canyon walls, which crashed down and came to rest in the valley below. In 1905, the Forest Service was first created and began overseeing Sabino Canyon and during the Great Depression, the bridges over Sabino Creek and the Sabino Dam were constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corporation. There are nine bridges which can be covered with water.

The first trams in Sabino Canyon began operating in October, 1978. From that point on, access to 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 young and older visitors alike with the opportunity to experience the exquisite beauty of Sabino Canyon. Some of our RMCC members visited the canyon trails before cars were restricted.

Our guide told us that in the summer the Cottonwood trees will drink 200 gallons of water a day. The canyon was filled with Saguaros which can weigh up to 4,000 pounds and take 50 years to bloom, which they do at night. Some may live 150 to 200 years. There are 16 types of lizards and more varieties of rattlesnakes than any other state in the union. We had an interesting tram ride and good weather for our visit.

KARTCHNER CAVERNS

by

Russ Livingston

Less than 40 years ago, 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, moist air flowed out (fortuitously coinciding with a timely low pressure system in the region at the time), signaling the existence of a cave. After several hours of crawling through a narrow passage way, 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. During the four years of secret exploration, the discoverers realized that the cave's extraordinary variety of colors and formations must be preserved. 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.

Thanks to organizers Daren/Marie Schmaltz and Duane/Vanessa Hays, thirty (30) of those attending the Tucson Rally ventured east of the Lazy Days facility to take one of two tours offered by Kartchner Caverns. The Rotunda/Throne tour was opened 1999, is half of a mile in length, and takes approximately an hour and a half to complete. During this tour we discovered the role that water played in creating the caverns, marveled at the many strange and colorful formations, learned about new scientific research and discoveries as ongoing studies continue, and saw the remnants of the discoverers' original trail, 45,000-year-old bat guano, a variety of delicate formations including "Kubla Khan," the largest column formation in Arizona".

The Kartchner Caverns State Park is the story of an amazing discovery and the commitment of two cavers to assure their unique discovery would be preserved for the enjoyment and education of future generations. It is also one of the best examples of the beauty that can lie below us where limestone, water and the passage of time have carved and formed indescribable formations. I think all of us who visited came away with new insights into our world and greater appreciation of the power and mystery of nature.

RALLIES HO !

June 19 – 23, 2013 – Cody, WY – Ponderosa RV Park
Duane & Vanessa Hay and Darin & Marie Schmaltz

September 9 - 13, 2013 – Creede, CO – Mountain View RV Park & Resort
Bill & Terri Smith (Theater, Dinner at Smith's & 4-wheeling)

December 12 – 14, 2013 – Christmas Campout – Cotton Lane RV Park – Goodyear, AZ

March , 2014 – Business Meeting Rally, Cotton Lane RV Park – Goodyear, AZ
Bob & Alta Daniels and Bill & Reggie Knight

MISSION SAN XAVIER del BAC

By

Susan Frost

San Xavier Mission was founded as a Catholic mission by Father Euseblo Kino of the Jesuit Order in 1692 and is referred to as "White Dove of the Desert". The Mission is situated in the centuries-old Indian settlement of the Tohono O'odham. It is located along the banks of the Santa Cruz River approximately nine miles south of downtown Tucson, Arizona. The original structure was never entirely finished and was destroyed by weather, Apache attacks, etc. Several years later, Spain banned all Jesuits from Spanish lands and it was not until 1783 when two Franciscan priests, working with the native labor, started construction at the current location and the church was completed in 1797. In 1821, when Mexico gained its independence from Spain, San Xavier became part of Mexico and the Franciscans departed. The Gadsden Purchase in 1854 put the Mission inside the United States and five years later under the dioceses of Santa Fe. Many repairs have had to be made to the Mission since 1905 due to earthquakes, lightning strikes and water damage and continue to this day. Today, the Mission is a National Historic Landmark.

The exterior of the Mission has a white, Moorish-inspired design. There are also touches of Baroque architecture with everything in balance both inside and outside including theatrical curtain displays, faux doors, marble-effect, etc. The Mission is constructed of low-fire clay brick, stone and lime mortar. The entire structure is roofed with masonry vaults making it unique among Spanish Colonial buildings within U S borders. The Church's interior is filled with marvelous original statuary and mural paintings. Not much is known about the people who decorated the interior. The statues are unique in that they were only built in "frame form" from wood and after they were put in place, the statues were dressed in clothing specially treated to look like part of the sculpture, then the wooden or mortar hands, heads and feet were added. The entire altar area is gilded with gold. There are numerous references to the Franciscans such as the cord molding on the wall to signify the cord that the Franciscans wear and there are 171 angels and 29 clam shells decorating the interior of the church.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet opened a school at the Mission in 1872. The Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity now teach at the school and reside in the convent and the Franciscan priests are back. Recently, Mission San Xavier became a separate non-profit entity under the group, Patronato San Xavier, are constantly refinishing and restoring the Mission when funds are available.

My email address is wrong in the directory, correct email address:

RegLK8168@gmail.com

History of The Gaslight Theatre

Our group has attended two performances at The Gaslight Theatre and has enjoyed both of them, but how did it all start? This time we saw the production of "The Lone Stranger".

It all started in 1977 when a 24 year old U of A student, Tony Terry, Jr, persuaded a few of his friends from the drama department to travel to Skagway, Alaska to do melodrama. They founded the "Mighty Moose Melodrama Theatre" and had only one production that long, cold, but fun summer. Even though it was FUN, they said, "The heck with this! Let's head back to the desert!" When they returned to Tucson, they opened The Gaslight Theatre in an old red barn at Trail Dust Town. There were only 100 seats in the barn and their productions became so popular that they had to build a new theater with 223 seats in 1980. Then in 1990, they moved to their current location.

One of the founding partners is still active in the productions as resident scenic designer. Other current stage technicians started in 1978. Several cast regulars have been with the production since they returned to Tucson. They are now in their 35th year of entertaining Tucson families and visitors to the area. We always have a good time there and I'm sure many others do also.

2012 Darwin Awards

Nominee No. 1:[San Jose Mercury News]:

An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girl friend's windshield, accidentally shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

Nominee No. 2:[Kalamazoo Gazette]:

James Burns, 34, (a mechanic) of Alamo , MI , was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police describe as a "farm-type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Burns' clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns "wrapped in the drive shaft."

Nominee No. 3:[Hickory Daily Record]:

Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton , NC . Awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson 38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

Sorry for the sick humor, but how can anyone be so stupid?

HISTORY – CODY, WYOMING

Cody, Wyoming is located on the Shoshone River in the Bighorn Basin in northwest Wyoming. The east entrance to Yellowstone National Park lies 53 miles to the west, up the North Fork of the Shoshone. The Bighorn Basin was restricted from white settlement by treaties with the Indians in 1868. Ten years later those restrictions were lifted and early settlers began to come into the basin. This made the area one of the last frontiers settled in the lower 48 states.

William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was visiting Sheridan, WY in 1894 when his son-in-law took him to the top of the Bighorn Mountains for a view to the west over the Bighorn Basin. Although Cody had heard of this area from the Indians, he personally had never been to the northern basin. On learning that a group of Sheridan businessmen was already interested in founding a town there, Cody eagerly joined the effort. He saw the beauty of the region, its proximity to Yellowstone, which was already attracting tourists, the abundance of game and fish and the land available for ranching and farming. The only thing missing was enough water to allow ranchers and farmers to make a living from the arid land. The Shoshone River clearly showed irrigation potential. In 1895, Cody and other businessmen founded the Shoshone Land and Irrigation Company. In the fall of that year, construction began on the Cody Canal, which would carry water from the south fork of the Shoshone River northeast to the town. In May 1896, the site of the present town was planned.

"The Colonel", as the townspeople often referred to Cody, invested a great deal of money in the birth and growth of the town. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad was interested in building a spur to Cody from Toluca, MT. To make sure that the CB&Q built the line all the way to Cody, the Shoshone Land and Irrigation Company sold the majority of the town lots to the railroad company. The railroad thus gained a vested interest in the success of the town and the irrigation company dropped the word "Land" from its name. The railroad line to Cody opened on Nov. 11, 1901.

The "Cody Enterprise" started operating in 1899 and is still publishing today under a masthead that honors Buffalo Bill as its founder. By 1900, Cody had a population of slightly more than 300 and in 1901 the town was incorporated. That same year the CB&Q was completed from Toluca to Cody. The Irma Hotel, named for Buffalo Bill's daughter, opened November 18, 1911 and boasted that it was the most modern hotel in the Rockies.

In 1902, the Newlands Reclamation Act created the U.S. Reclamation Services which assisted in the building of dams and irrigation systems. With the passage of this act, Buffalo Bill's vision to dam the Shoshone River began to take shape. With the arrival of the railroad and the federal money for construction of the dam, the town of Cody began to grow and prosper. In 1909, the Wyoming Legislature created Park County from Big Horn County and made Cody the county seat. In 1912, oil was discovered in Oregon Basin southeast of town and other fields soon followed. After the excitement died down, the rate of town growth slowed somewhat, especially during World War I.

After the War, the nation began to travel again and the town of Cody began growing again and found ways to entice Yellowstone visitors to stop there. The Cody Stampede, a rodeo held during the Fourth of July weekend was started in 1920. In addition to tourism, Cody depends on the oil and gas industry. The Husky Oil Company opened its headquarters and refinery in 1938, but

in the mid-1980's Marathon Oil bought the Husky headquarters and remains the primary oil company in the area.

Today, Cody has 9,500 year-round residents. It's a popular stop for travelers on the way to or from Yellowstone just as Colonel Cody had envisioned, as well as a hunter's and fishermen's paradise. Irrigation has overcome the high desert climate enabling ranchers and farmer to succeed. Buffalo Bill's legacy continues today at the Irma, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center and numerous other businesses seeking to catch the eyes and wallets of the tourists. In 1946, to commemorate Buffalo Bill's 100th birthday, the dam and reservoir were renamed after him, a fitting tribute.

NEWSY NEWS

New members :

Russ & Anita Livingston, Russ wrote the article on Kartchner Caverns in this issue.

Hjalmer (Junior) & Karen Carlson, they arrived during the auction, they laughed at our craziness.

Returning members :

Jean Grabman has purchased a Class C and missed our craziness so she is back and Snickers is still so cute.

John & Juanita Malabicky are very active in Friends of Country Coach.

Rod Woods gave an explanation and training sessions of the new interactive website. New members can register there, all can pay dues, register for rallies and leave messages that might be of importance to the other members.

Secretary Minutes of the Business Meeting will be found on the new website.

Membership Committee consists of Betty Woods, Chairperson, Vanessa Hays, Marge Moreland and Marie Schmaltz.

Audit Committee consists of Ken Burnett, Roger Herr and Darren Schmaltz. They conducted a financial audit in accordance with FMCA regulations and all financial reports were satisfactory.

New RMCC Banners were presented and designed by Willie Nelson, aka, Roger Herr. We were all impressed, Roger is more than just a pretty face.

BUFFALO BILL RALLY
Cody, Wyoming –Ponderosa Campground
 June 19 – June 23, 2013

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

Agenda

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

12pm – 4pm Registration

5pm Happy Hour and hors d'oeuvres (bring enough to share)
 Welcome and Orientation to Cody – Everything you wanted to know about Cody
 Provided by “Buffalo Bill Cody”*

Thursday, June 20, 2013

7:30 am Breakfast – Sunset House (located next to RV Park)

9:00 am Trolley Tour of Cody – See the sights and hear the history

10:00 am Buffalo Bill Historical Center – This is actually five museums in one: Buffalo Bill Museum, Plains Indian Museum, Greater Yellowstone Natural History Museum and (Duane’s favorite) Firearms Museum. There is so much to see that it takes two days.

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 and The Cody Rodeo

Saturday, June 22, 2013

9:00 am Breakfast – Sunset House

10:00 am Business Meeting (?)

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 – We have front row seating reserved.

6:00 pm Prime Rib dinner at the Irma Hotel (Chicken and other eats available for Tenderfeet.)

Sunday, June 23, 2013

8:00 Continental Breakfast and departure

*Don't believe everything you hear!

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

PRESENTATION OF "CHECK" TO NEW LIFE CENTER

Congratulations to the attendees of the annual meeting of Rocky Mountain Country Coachers for the tremendous donations to the New Life Center at the annual meeting held March 2, 2013. A total of \$9,000.00 was raised and given to the New Life Center. A special thanks goes to Reggie Knight who did an excellent job of being the auctioneer for this event. Also to Jim and Margie Moreland who provided the Margaritas to the members during the auction.

Vern Weldy
President RMCC





Rocky Mountain Country Coachers Organized March 2003

The main purposes of the Rocky Mountain Country Coachers 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 Coachers area includes: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Montana and Wyoming.

FROM THE EDITOR

Great Fun, Delicious Food and Awesome Generosity!

Our hosts provided us with an over-the-top rally, in spite of all the hoops and hurdles they had to jump through and over. The staff at Lazy Days was extremely helpful in providing a large tent for our various functions, a room for meetings, delicious food and they were extremely friendly. When I mean they were friendly, that included everyone from Bob Grady, the General Manager, to busboys and maintenance personnel – I was impressed. Kudos to Bob for running a smoothly running operation.

A simple Thank You is not enough to all of the members who had the winning bids at the auction and to those who contributed checks. A check for \$9000.00 was presented to the New Life Center on April 2. Next year at the Business Meeting Rally in Goodyear, a light dinner will be served during the auction. Hopefully, Jim and Marge will continue to be our server and “mixologist” to keep the vocal cords lubricated.

Many thanks to our Past-President, Betty Woods, for her motto for the club, “FUN, FUN, FUN”. We had an abundance of fun during her term in office. She formed committees, not only to get the work done, but to allow members to become more involved in THEIR club. Betty, thank you for the fun, laughter and relaxed atmosphere of the rallies. Let the fun and laughter continue!