



From the Coach of “Madame President”

Hello Everyone! I have many people to thank in this note:

To begin, I want to thank **all of you** for your confidence in me to serve as your President for the next two years. I'll do my very best to keep our club as wonderful as it already is. It's due to the talents of all our past leadership teams that our club exists and thrives. Thank you to all **our past leaders** for their commitment to the Royale Coach Club.

To **Graham and Mary Catherine Ricks** for a tremendous rally last month at Apple Valley Farm in Lake Lure, North Carolina. Their hard work and planning made for a wonderful time at their beautiful mountain retreat. I just want to know how they managed to plan the weather as well as they did!

To **Dave Wall and Dave Wishnoff**, thank you for bringing two stunning coaches for us to drool over, and to **Liberty Coach** for their continued financial support of our club. We truly appreciate everything you do for our club...we cannot do it without you!!

To **Robert Jones and Prevost Car** for your financial support of our club and for building the coaches in which we all enjoy traveling.

To **Bo Reahard** for maintaining the club website and for helping all us “non-techies”—you make it possible for all of us to stay informed and keep in touch.

And last, but not least to **Dave and Dianne Brendle** for eight years of editing the “Royale Proclamation”.

You spent a great deal of time gathering articles and assembling our newsletter, and we thank you for so generously sharing your special talent with us.

I would also like to **WELCOME** four new Royale Coach Club members:

Edward & Sandra Brochman, Key West, Florida, **Jimmy & Karen Brown** from Ft. Worth, Texas, **Tom & Kay Cavanagh** from Aston, Ontario, Canada, **Whit Greenway** from Memphis, Tennessee, **Richard & Anne Gould**, Skowhegan, Maine, **Dave & Adele Harriman**, Sandy, Utah, **Richard & Tami Van Sant** from Omaha, Nebraska.

We met the Brown's and another first-time couple, Jerry & Lois Worlock from The Villages, Florida at the Lake Lure rally. We hope to meet everyone else very soon. We're glad you've joined the Royale Coach Club!

Ron and I wish you good health and safe travels as you enjoy the summer months, and we look forward to seeing you at our fall rally in Maine.

Sincerely,

Laurel Volberding

ROYALE MOUNTAIN RETREAT

Rally Recap by Kally Kitchings

The closing of part of Interstate 40 because of a rockslide did not keep people from attending Graham and Mary Catherine Ricks' Spring 2010 Royale Coach Rally titled Royale Mountain Retreat. They also proved to everyone that the Apple Valley Farm at Lake Lure, NC was truly a beautiful mountain retreat.



The rally was kicked off with a cookout hosted by Benchmark Realty with our own Roger Hatcher and Gary Brethauer grilling the burgers and dogs and cooking the blooming onions. This was a wonderful night to say hello to our fellow Royale club mates and to meet our first timers Jimmy & Karen Brown and Jerry & Lois Worlock.



Jimmy and Karen Brown



Jerry & Lois Worlock

Monday was a busy day starting with a continental breakfast. Liberty Coach had a seminar early in the day and answered many questions about their coaches. Liberty also hosted our Happy Hour that evening (Thanks, Liberty). There were two other seminars during the day (Acupuncture & Massage and Computer) that many of us attended. During one of the computer classes Bo Reahard went on-line and set up the official Royale Coach Club facebook page. The facebook page will be a wonderful way for members to communicate and stay in touch with one another. Dinner at the barn Monday night was a meal of baked brie, mini meatballs, buffalo wings, seven layer dip, carved ham and all kinds of deserts. We all really needed that big dinner after not getting enough of the subway sandwiches and ice cream sundaes that were served for lunch. This was one calorie filled day! However, we did burn off some of those calories by laughing at the game of "Who are your Friends?" Mary Catherine did a great job of putting together great statements about Royale members and then we had to guess whom she was talking about. This was such a great way to find out things we normally would never have found out about our friends.

Tuesday was a free day. A group of six couple (pictured below) headed out in the Rumbling Bald van to tour the Biltmore House and Winery.



There was so much to do in the area and people really enjoyed themselves. Tuesday night was the first of two s'mores night at the dam. Two s'mores stations were set up, one at the dam and the other at campsite. Of course, camping would not be camping without ants and you can see from the photo below we actually did have ants at the party!



Wednesday started out with a huge country breakfast at the barn and was followed by many different classes, the Prevost seminar, miniature golf, accessory swap and the Lake Lure cruise. Dinner Wednesday night was a surf and turf and was delicious. Once again, Mary Catherine had a great "Pillow Talk" game for our enjoyment.

Thursday was another free day and Ron and I were able to enjoy the company of Bo and Stanley Reahard on one of the Rambling Bald golf courses. Thursday night was the second of the two s'mores night and great fellowship. Our own Tom Kyle enjoyed fishing on the "dam" and the s'mores on the "dam" (see photo below.) I guess you could say he is a pretty nice "dam" man!!!



I was lucky enough to hike and climb Chimney Rock State Park not once but twice during the rally. I did NOT take the easy access of the 26-story elevator. Here I am at about three-fourths of the way up the mountain.



Edda Lail was up early Friday morning preparing a wonderful German breakfast for our enjoyment. Thank you Edda, breakfast was scrumptious. The Royale Coach Club business meeting followed breakfast. The new officers for 2010/11 term presided over the meeting. The remainder of the day could be spent attending an Herb seminar, a beanbag tournament, a tea seminar or table games. Lunch at the barn consisted of a taco station and a pizza station (I ate at both stations!) I also had the pleasure of hosting the first Royale Coach Club Pet Com"PET"ition. To find out more about this activity please be sure to read Max's rally recap.

Our rallies would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. Thanks so much to Dave Wall and Dave Wishnoff of Liberty Coach and to Robert and Susie Jones of Prevost Car. The entire club gives a huge thank you to Graham and Mary Catherine Ricks for putting on a great rally.

The final activity of the rally was a wonderful BBQ dinner at the Rumbling Bald Resort Lakeview Restaurant. Mary Catherine's names that tune game let all of us know that we do not necessarily remember the names of all those songs we have come to know and love. As the evening ended, we had the tasks of saying goodbye to our friends with hopes of seeing everyone again in Maine for the fall 2010 rally. Until then, safe travels to all.

Seminars at the Spring Rally

by *Mary Catherine Ricks*

At the Apple Valley Farm rally, we offered some interesting and unusual seminars. Here are a few highlights:

- The acupuncture and massage classes were well attended by both men and women. In fact, all of the clinic spaces quickly filled so the acupuncturist agreed to come back on Thursday, when she “needled” an additional 10 folks! Quite a few people received longer massage treatments later during the week. Both visiting teachers expressed their gratitude for all those that came and said they had a great time working on, and visiting with, our group.



- Fifteen ladies attended the Ikebana class taught by Choi. Everyone enjoyed watching and listening to Choi as she created beautiful, simple flower arrangements. Her stories of how she gathers the things she uses in her arrangements were humorous and enlightening. We learned to look at everything in nature as a possible addition to an arrangement. At the end of the class, each lady created her very own special Ikebana arrangement. Each one was unique and beautiful.





- Containers of herbs were used on the dining room tables for centerpieces. On Friday, Mary Catherine taught a class on these herbs. Approximately 30 people attended and learned how herbs are used in cooking, as medicines, and for spiritual purposes. Samples were passed around during the talk so the herbs could be identified visually and by smell. After the class, participants chose two containers of herbs to take home with them.



- On Friday afternoon we held a tea. Participants learned the history of tea, information on electric tea kettles, and about the different kinds of teas and how to prepare them. Samples were prepared and served during the class. A tea assortment was distributed after class.
- Monday afternoon, Bo Reahard, our Royale Club webmaster, presented two computer classes. Before 20 interested members, he presented all the features of the Royale web site in the first session and then, in the second session, helped several members learn how to upload photos to their computers.
- Robert Jones of Prevost and Dave Wall of Liberty Coach conducted two different "Tech Talk" discussions that were well attended and generated a lot of interest in new coach developments.



Based on attendance and on comments after the classes, folks really enjoyed the opportunity to learn new information. Many thanks to all of our instructors.



HOW ABOUT A LITTLE COM"PET"ITION!!!
By Maxamillion "MAX" Kitchings

I am sure you have heard by now that I won the pet competition during the 2010 Spring Royale Coach Club Rally at Apple Valley Farm in Lake Lure, NC. I was just so excited about the rally and competing in the competition so I practiced and practiced until I was able to do all the tricks that mom and dad wanted me to do. Of course, there were some tricks that my friends were able to do that I could not do but I guess I won out for overall. I sure wish I could roll over and bring dad a beer like my friend Senji Harris was able to do. Here is her photo with the beer cooler.



The Schmitz girls took the honors for best-dressed female while Beau and Belle Kyle took best-dressed male (maybe they only meant Beau since Belle is a girl).



Bonnie and Clyde are just so cute and I loved how Ms. Charmaine dressed them in pink and blue. They are just bigger versions of me!



Not all of the competition was of the canine variety. Ms. Charlotte Hatcher brought her three kids that were of the feline variety. Here is Ms. Charlotte feeding and kissing one of her kids but I am not sure which one she is!



Not all of my four-legged friends competed; some came just to observe. Here is one of the largest observers. He actually looks a little shy.



We all had such a good time in this friendly competition. Here is our group photo.



I don't know if this activity will continue for the Royale Coach Club rallies but I am sure going to continue to practice all my tricks just in case. I will be totally ready for the Maine rally!

See you soon,

Maxamillion "Max" Kitchings



DETOURS

By Laurel Volberding

Imagine this...

You are happily driving your coach on a stretch of interstate when the traffic starts to slow and then comes to a complete stop. You wonder what's happening because you see no signs to indicate why you have stopped. At this point you turn on the CB, only to learn from the truckers moving along on the other side of the highway, that there are several miles of road construction ahead. They suggest if you want to keep moving you should take the next exit and detour around the construction.

Follow the orange detour signs. More than likely, you do not have to imagine this scenario—you have been in similar situations. One minute you are making great progress, and the next minute you are changing course. You may get to your destination late. The detour will cost you time and money. You are getting annoyed with the folks in cars who like to drive on the shoulder because they are seemingly better than everyone else and are too important to wait. Admittedly, you sort of like it when truckers block their path. One good thing...you have a bathroom in your coach!

For those who attended the North Carolina rally, we know all too well about detours. Thankfully, we had a heads up about the I-40 rockslide repair so we could change our travel arrangements. Ron and I planned a totally different route getting to the rally to avoid any of the rockslide detour, but leaving Lake Lure after the rally we had no choice but to take a detour.

Because we were heading to Prevost in Nashville (the leak is fixed!!), we had to get to Interstate 40 on the other side of the rockslide. That meant driving almost 100 miles out of our way (100 miles at 6 mpg at \$3+ per gallon...you do the math!). If we had been driving the truck we probably would have taken a curvy mountain road, but there was no other way to go driving a 45-foot coach.

I have been keeping a travel log in the same atlas from the day we began full-timing over 10 years ago. I have highlighted all the roads we have driven in the coach and marked where we have stayed with self-adhesive colored Mark-It dots and the date. (Some day I want to get a large United States map, have it mounted on cork board and use push pins to indicate where we have been, but I digress.) Because we have been blessed to travel for so long, there are many times I do not need to highlight the road because we have been there before.

Do you know what I found when I checked our journal after our lengthy detour? I was surprised to find we had never before been on those stretches of I-26 and I-81! I was sure we had driven these roads on previous trips, but my journal/log indicated differently.

Want to know something else about this detour? It was an absolutely gorgeous stretch of highway! Mountainous terrain with redbuds, azaleas and dogwood all in glorious bloom. Horses laying flat on their sides sleeping blissfully in the sun and cows with their calves grazing on fresh pasture. Streams and rivers rapidly flowing with fresh, icy-cold water. Quaint little mountain towns where folks spend their entire lives...cradle to grave...and they would have it no other way! And we would have missed all of it, if it hadn't been for that detour!

I guess there's a life lesson or two in this, isn't there? Perhaps the lesson is simply to slow down, relax and appreciate the beauty around us. Maybe it's to welcome life's detours because we may be surprised what we learn along the way. Or it may just serve to remind us that we will get through the rough patches we encounter along the way. It's funny what an annoying detour can teach us.

You can draw your own conclusions, but as for me, I found we weren't the only folks on the highway...we weren't detouring alone.

So the next time the detour sign appears we all have a choice. Will it be "Oh no, a detour" OR will it be "Let's see where this take us"?

Liberty Coach Times

Newsletter and Informational Update

Spring 2010



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Moving Along – 2010 by Frank Konigseder

We are very pleased to have 2009 under our belt and are looking forward to great things for 2010. The Liberty Coach Open House Rally in Stuart at our dealership was very well attended this year with over 50 couples, almost double our numbers from last year. We were fortunate to sell 6 units during the rally and are very excited and appreciate each and every one of those sales and the message of confidence that this sends. We welcome those new owners to the family and hope this is just one of many rallies they will attend down the road. I would again like to thank each and every one of our coach owners for your support and encouragement during these difficult times. I continue to stress to all of our employees how lucky all of us are to still be doing what we love for a great bunch of people considering how much the market has changed in the past 18 months. We finished 2009 with total sales of 54 new/used units which was down about 40% from previous years. As of March 2010, we have sold 21 new/used units to date. Traffic has been steady at our dealership in Stuart. The service department has been busy with routine maintenance, updates and Preventative Maintenance service. We hope the positive trend continues and hope this is a sign of economic recovery across the board. If your travels take you near Stuart or North Chicago, please stop by. Hope to see you soon down the road!

Frank



Liberty Coach of Florida
635 SE Monterey Rd. – Stuart
800-554-9877

We would like to extend an invitation for you to stop by and take a look at our 8 acre sales and service facility just 2 hours southeast of Orlando and 45 minutes north of West Palm Beach. We have an on-site campground with hook-ups for your convenience. We are a factory authorized PreVost Service Center and offer service on all makes of PreVost coach and most Class-A motorhomes. We would love to show you around and see if we can help you find the coach of your dreams!

Liberty Coach utilizes new battery technology

Beginning with the Prevost Triple-slide H3-45, a “greener” battery system will now be in place.

By Frank Konigseder

The newest Liberty Coach Prevost H3-45 Triple Slide-out features brand new battery technology. By changing to the new Lithium Iron Phosphate battery technology we were able to eliminate 1150 pounds of total weight from our H3-45 Triple-Slide model. The Lithium Iron Phosphate battery is believed to be the least harmful to the environment and it is classified as non-hazardous waste for disposal purposes. While we are very happy with the performance and benefits of this “greener” system, going green doesn’t come cheap. This new system has increased the cost associated with our previous battery system by 397%, however the life expectancy of these batteries is at least 10 years or 2000 cycles, defined as the battery going from dead to fully charged as being one cycle.

Another benefit of this new system is that all the batteries communicate on a proprietary network which continuously monitors each battery cell. The status is displayed on an output monitor that enables us to utilize the generator automatic starting system more efficiently by controlling the start/stop of the generator based exclusively on amp hour usage. In addition, the history of each battery is maintained in a non-volatile log which can be retrieved at any time. This may eliminate the need to replace batteries as often on used coaches in the future since we now have an accurate way to determine the need based upon the log file history of the batteries in each coach. It is relatively easy for us to add additional batteries

for more capacity with this system but it’s not easy on the checkbook due to the significant cost associated with each battery. This technology is strictly 24 volt and utilizes DC to DC converters to produce cleaner 12 volt power as opposed to the traditional equalizer used in the past.

This system is now being installed on all Triple Slide H3-45 models. By mid-summer, we will begin installing it on the double slide models as well. The system will save 500 pounds of total weight on the double-slide coaches.

After many hours of research and testing we decided the savings in overall weight, the extended battery life and the reduction of our ecological footprint justified the additional cost of the Lithium Iron Phosphate battery system.

We continually research and test new systems, materials and components to make sure we are using the most reliable, user-friendly and technologically advanced systems available. Our biggest stumbling block sometimes is the reliability of these new technologies. We don’t rush them to production until they have been researched and tested and we feel comfortable that they will perform well in the coach. We believe this new system is a positive change for the future and we are excited to include it on our future models.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this system in more detail, please call me at 800-554-9877 or send an email to: frank@libertycoach.com



Meet the Family

Kurt Konigseder and his wife Kim are an integral part of the layout and design of each Liberty Coach.

Kurt has a degree in business but has always had a talent for design. He began working on our CAD/CAM design equipment in the late 80’s and has advanced the design of the coach layout with the introduction of the 3D CAD/CAM system. He is extremely creative with space utilization and incorporating the most useable amount of storage into every floorplan while still using unique design components. His wife, Kim, has a degree in design. She works closely with Kurt to plan the entire interior and helps to design the elements that will be used in each coach to create a unique look. Close attention is paid to every detail from the fabrics, furniture and flooring to the unique handles selected for the cabinetry and purchase of decorative pieces to complete the look.

Kurt and Kim have three children, 2 boys and a girl. Nicholas, their oldest son, is 13, and plays hockey and lacrosse. Riley is almost 10 and also plays hockey and lacrosse. Their daughter, Paige, is 6 and loves ice skating, dressing up and anything pink and sparkly.

Their busy family schedule keeps them close to home most of the year but they try to get away in a coach with the family at least a couple times per year. This past summer they traveled out west to Yellowstone National Park and also took a trip to Disneyworld in Orlando, FL where they stayed at the Ft. Wilderness campground.



Rally Wrap-up by Carolyn Konigseder

Great weather, good friends and a bunch of beautiful coaches all came together Feb. 4-7 for the 9th Annual Open House Rally. We were thrilled to have 52 coaches join us this year on-site at our dealership in Stuart, FL. The coaches were parked on the 8 acre property with electric provided for everyone. Our 16,000 s.f. showroom was home base for breakfasts, dinners, seminars and entertainment for the weekend that culminated in a Super Bowl Party on Sunday. We were joined by Robert & Susie Jones of Prevost Car who generously helped sponsor the rally and provided our courtesy coach transportation for off-site activities. The ladies visited the upscale Gardens Mall for an accessory and wardrobe event hosted by Bloomingdales. We kept the men busy with an emergency breakdown towing seminar organized by coach owners John & Karen Hawkins. John arranged for Kauff's Towing to bring one of their large wreckers on-site to demonstrate the proper care that needs to be taken should your Prevost ever have to be towed. Participants walked away knowing what questions to ask and what to look for to keep their coach from being damaged. The group traveled to the Mansion at Tuckahoe on the Indian River for a group dinner event on Friday evening. The restoration of this Art Deco-era mansion was just completed this January. It was originally built by Ann Bates Leach, an heiress to the Coca-Cola fortune and her husband, as a winter home in 1939 and is

now owned by Martin County Parks Dept. The party theme Saturday evening was King of the Road, a mardi-gras style extravaganza complete with parade participants dressed to impress and claim the title of King of the Road. We were happy to be able to keep the cost of the rally the same as the previous year through the generous help of Prevost Car, Hearthside Grove Motorcoach Resort, River Landings RV Resort, and STI Technologies who all contributed to the fun. Liberty Coach and Liberty Coach of Florida both helped sponsor this event and I would like to acknowledge all of our employees in Stuart who do so much to make sure everyone has a good time. One of the best comments I heard after the rally was from someone who likened it to a four day wedding! Hope you will join us next year! Happy Travels!

Carolyn

Bud, Carolyn, Neal & Kit with Rusty



Randall whittles away

Snapshots from Stuart



Michael, Denise and Dianne with Jerry



King of the Road party



Dinner at The Leach Mansion



Gentlemen, start your engines.....

Bristol Nascar Race – Food City 500 – Bristol, TN

Great weather and good friends that share a passion for racing, were the perfect combination for fun at Bristol Motor Speedway March 19-21. Several of our Liberty Coach owners and their friends got together to enjoy the racing action and tailgating in the Medallion Camping Area.



View of Bristol Motor Speedway from the camping area.

New & Used Coach Inventory – Liberty Coach of Florida

Be sure to stop by Liberty Coach in Stuart for a personal look at our ever-changing new and used coach inventory. You can also view detailed pictures on our website at: www.libertycoach.com. For more information, call 800-554-9877

Prevost Prouds Spring Rally – Savannah, Georgia – May 5-8, 2010

For all the latest information and registration form for this rally at Skidaway Park, go to: www.prevostprouds.com. Membership is open to all Prevost owners.

Photos from Bristol Race



Medallion Camping Area Coach line-up



Race Fans in the Suite



Good Life Leisure Tour



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