

3-1-10 NW Newsletter

I have some bad news. Stuart (Stu) Merlich passed away unexpectedly on February 1, 2010 in Yuma, AZ. Stu & Karen own Sagebrush Printing in Bend, Ore. They spend their time in Bend and Osprey Point, Oregon and Yuma, Ariz. Stu & Karen have been involved in both the ACA & ACC for many years. Karen is a past Northwest President and continues to serve as a director.

I have a saddened heart about the loss of a good friend. I have a happy heart for having had the friendship with Stu. Please keep Karen in your positive thoughts and prayers.

Carita and I were invited to a luncheon in the Reno area to be held early in December. Our response was that we would try to make it depending on the weather over the Siskiyou & Sierra Mountains. The weather was perfect and the trip was fantastic. Monday morning, December 7th, we woke up and every thing was as white as a blank sheet of copier paper. The luncheon was postponed. However, I, at my advanced age learned a lot about RVing in the winter. The slide awnings were frozen to the top of the slides, a water pipe burst near the water pump and the engine wouldn't start. I learned that you don't put your slides out in snowy or icy weather. Put a sponge in the sink and let the water drip and for heavens sake plug in the engine block heater. You can tell I'm a California boy... er, old geezer. I have pictures of the "Eagle in the Snow"; I can e-mail them to you if you like. Stop laughing!!

We met at the Orange Grove RV Park in Bakersfield, Calif. and we all picked bags of large delicious oranges to enjoy the next few days. We were on our way to the New Year's rally in Hemet, Calif. Terry & Truman Bennett, Richard & Ann Forward, CJ & Mary King, Paul & Judy Lazetera, Leslie & Mike Pettinger and Carita & myself caravanned down together. Willie & Marylyn Morris and Ray & Joanne Lamb put on a great rally and the Northwest, Northern California and Southern California Chapters all had a fun time. It was a pleasant trip with Truman as tail gunner and CJ even behaved himself. One of the things I did at the rally was participate with Jerry Lihou in doing a 50/50 drawing to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. Roy Nichols drew the winning ticket for the \$211.00 prize and, and, and he drew Carita's ticket. Carita said "Thank you" and donated \$50.00 of it back to the fund for a total of \$261.00. YEA! A good time was had by all, A GREAT rally. Thank you.

The NW Chapter is a moving and a shaking! Yes, we have six new members; please welcome Gary & Pat Adams, Rick & Lamoyne Bibbero, Chris & Pat Emanuel, Richard & Ann Forward, Charlie & Sharon Miller and Sal & Leslie Speziale. Yeah, I say and welcome!

The last issue of this magazine was received a little late by many people, so I am using that as the reason that I haven't received any comments or answers to my last column. No it's not too late to make a suggestion about up-coming candidates, or scheduling a rally, or about the NW Chapter hosting a National Rally. It's not even too late to make suggestions about where to stop on our way to and from Gillette, or about caravanning to Gillette, or even if you are going to Gillette. Thanks in advance for your future input and participation. I'll be waiting for your call or e-mail.

There is much dialog going on about RVers being so vulnerable during this difficult economic period. There are classes and seminars on self defense and how to acquire interstate gun permits. I ran across an article about how difficult or awkward it is to have Mace or Pepper Spray available for your protection in your RV. They suggested you use Wasp and Hornet Spray instead. The article stated that it's readily available and less controversial to keep near the front door of your RV. It has a stream that will shoot twenty to thirty feet and is much more accurate. Although I can't recommend or endorse this, I thought it was informative and might be of interest to some people.

Dear Lord, please give all of the men and women in service to our country your safety and guidance. Please give our elected leaders the strength and wisdom to bring stability to the economy and peace to the world. Amen.

Merritt Mosby,

President of the Great Northwest Chapter