

Foretravel Northwest Chapter Newsletter

Hello fellow Northwest Chapter members. The Northwest Chapter had a very nice year with two rallies being held. The spring rally was June 3 - 7/2007 in Walla Walla, WA (many people worked on getting this rally together) and the fall rally was Sept 13 - 17/2007 in Coeur D'Alene, ID.

There were 9 coaches in attendance at the fall rally which got off to a roaring start with a tasty BarBQue supper provided by the hosts, Sheila and Orville Kellmer #16252. These guys really know how to put on a meal!! Well done, you two!!

The next day included a bus trip to Wallace, ID which was a large silver producing area (some mines are still in production). On the way there we stopped at the Cataldo Mission which had been hand built by a Jesuit priest and the Indians in his parish. They packed in everything needed to build, on foot!!! The terrain is quite hilly so it must have been an incredible burden.



Our next stop was the "Snake Pit" which was a rustic log place which had been a thriving bordello until 1956. It is now a tourist stop and resort but still has many of the old furnishings and pictures. We enjoyed a lovely buffet there for lunch.



On to Wallace for a tour of the old Sierra Silver Mine. A narrated trolley trip from downtown Wallace took us to the mine. After being outfitted with hard hats, we spent over an hour with an experienced miner who took us on a tour through the main drift of an actual underground mine while explaining the operations and demonstrating the equipment that was used. We learned about historical and modern-day techniques used to mine silver, gold, lead, zinc, and copper. The mine is kept at a constant, chilly 48° F!

Returning to Wallace we toured the Oasis Bordello which operated until 1988 and is now a museum!! The rooms are exactly as they were when the girls left suddenly after hearing that the FBI were on the way. This was a most interesting tour as our guide had grown up in the town when many of the brothels were still in business and had met some of the working girls, who later returned to visit and tell their stories. To this day, the kitchen remains just as the new owners found it. It was interesting to see a box of Kraft Dinner on the shelf and dishes in the sink. Apparently Wallace had several brothels, gambling places etc. and was considered a "bad" town. [Pictured to the right is the front entrance.]



Supper was on our own that night and several people tried out some of the local restaurants. The huckleberry ice cream was a favorite.

Saturday morning we awoke to the smell of huckleberry pancakes being cooked, along with a couple of breakfast casseroles. Mmmm, good! Following breakfast we had our chapter meeting with Kris Lanning being voted in as president and all other positions staying the same. Lunch was leftovers for those who wanted them and then a free afternoon.

After happy hour at Norm and Bev Ellingson's coach, we all fancied up and headed for Beverly's, a restaurant in the Coeur D'Alene Resort. Wow!! We had tables looking over the lake and the food was wonderful. I had the scallops and crab...so much for the diet!! Leaving the restaurant at dusk, we had a group picture taken with a mass of red geraniums behind us; it turned out great.

Sunday was a free day, some people went church, and others worked on their coaches or went sightseeing. Sunday evening was a dinner cruise on the lake. The food was good and there was an accordion player to entertain us.

Monday morning after a continental breakfast, we reluctantly said good bye and headed home. Looking forward to the next rally.

The spring rally will be held June 9 - 16/2008 at Lincoln Rock State Park near Wenatchee and will be hosted by our new president Kris Lanning and his wife, Shannon. This is the first rally they have done and it looks fantastic.



Some of the highlights planned include a tour of the Alcoa Aluminum Plant, Ohme Gardens, Rocky Reach Dam, Orondo Cider Works, Aplets & Cotlets Factory Tour, a dinner cruise on the Columbia River aboard the Entiat Princess, and a presentation on some aspect of your Foretravel coach by Keith Woodruff from RnR RV Center in Liberty Lake, WA. The RnR RV service department has 40 bays with 12 Master Certified Techs, backed up by 17 support personnel. This is the largest service department in the Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana areas. Get those registrations in as this one will fill up fast!! Be sure to check out RnR's website at <http://www.nrrv.com/ServiceCenter/tabid/5624/Default.aspx>.



The fall rally is scheduled for Sept 17 - 22/2008 in Anacortes, WA and will be hosted by Dave and Diane Crawford. Keep watching for more information.

See you down the road.....

Eydie Smith, Secretary