

NORTHWESTERN BUS NUTS

May 2017



What a winter to remember!

We left our little village of Happy Valley, Oregon to travel to Eugene, Oregon on December 28th. We were welcomed, with a warm reception, by Dick and Jeanne Wright to enjoy another New Year's get together, if only the weather could have been so warm. Not a chance, it was freezing cold, of course we had to add a little snow to make it interesting. A nice gathering of friends welcomed in 2017 with plenty of food and refreshments. Thanks much to the Wrights for hosting such a great annual gathering of friends.

There was a welcomed break in the forecast on January 6th that opened a window that allowed us to leave the great Northwest and head toward blue skies and the sunshine of California. After all this was Friday and we were expected to be on the grounds of Riverside County Fairgrounds at 8:00 AM, Monday morning to reserve our parking for NWBN's annual function for the FMCA rally in Indio, Ca.

Al and Eleanor Roeske and Barb and I made it to Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, Ca. with no problem. John & Sharen Shierman were already there. We drove on dry pavement with the sun shining the whole day. The Wrights were not so lucky. They got a late start and kept getting further behind. They had to take a short sleep in Ashland, then woke to a white landscape surrounding them. Dick "jumped"!, well maybe more like made it to the driver's seat. Anyway, they were on their way south. They did alright until they got to Weed, California. That's where they encountered CHIPS (California Highway State Patrol), where they were detained for six hours due to snow. It seemed like their luck was doomed, but after this unfortunate stroke of luck, it all changed. They were able to travel to Indio with no other problems. After all of us were able to dump and fill with water, we made it to Spotlight 29 Casino. It is a very comfortable dry camp location, close to fairgrounds. We enjoyed their buffet and believe me, none of us left there hungry. We will always eat at Casinos that allow for all RV's to use their parking lots to camp in overnight.

Monday morning, we convoyed to the Riverside County Fairgrounds. It was a short drive, barely got the coach's engines warmed up, only a couple of miles. Parking could not have gone any smoother. We have to give credit to the volunteers who were assigned to get us parked. There was not expected to be a large turnout for this event as in preceding years. That gave us the space to have large spots for parking and socializing at each other's spots, and socializing we did. Mick Hansen and George McConaughy hosted a great breakfast of

bacon, biscuits and eggs. They had a great turnout. Members were allowed to sleep in a little due to a later time for serving. Mick has an onboard grill/griddle, as well as his assortment of cooking utensils and different cookers.

Some days the weather was not very compatible for having out outside dining, so we improvised. We made reservations instead of meals. We have been fortunate in being able to find restaurants that can accommodate our party size.

We were able to borrow a 100 gallon Bar-B-Q from a petroleum distributing company here in the area again. We have been able to use it for the last few years. We always return in in better condition than it was when we picked it up. Because of this, we have been able to fix our dinners and share the cost of food. I feel this has kept our group closer and we have invited many guests over the years, and many have joined our club. It has been a great recruiting tool. This year we served up hamburgers, ribs, and steak. All meals turned out wonderfully, thanks to all of our chefs and volunteers.

Thursday evening we were invited by Kathy & Andy Balough to enjoy an FMCA Northwest area gathering. Kathy is our area Vice-President. Kathy and her faithful helpers served up open faced sandwiches with all the trimmings. We had a great showing from our NWBN's members. Thanks to the Balough's and all their volunteer helpers. Kathy & Andy made this an extra special function by serving up a Canadian treat – Nanaimo – they made this at home and brought enough to the rally that all that attended our Thursday meal were able to enjoy this special treat.

Those of you who have not attended the Indio California rally held in January need to try attending. It's usually favorable weather. They always have entertainment and Bingo. Our very own Glynda McConaughy and Laura Bradbury were the big winners!

Pinal County Fairgrounds was our temporary home before we attended the FMCA National rally in Chandler Arizona. John & Sharen Shierman have a home in Casa Grande, which helped out rally hosts Al & Elenor Roeske and Dick & Jeanne Wright by doing all the leg work, or should I say driving miles(?) in locating various restaurants, and sightseeing locations, and things to see and do.

Let's hear it for "Golden Corral". They satisfied all appetites. Believe me, there were no hunger pains left in anyone's tummy upon leaving. I think even a few were running on "overfull".

Thursday was hot dogs and beans with chips. Members could hardly wait to get our dining hall cleaned up so they could start the gaming. It wasn't "Gentlemen start your engines" it was "Start rolling those dice"!! Those little dice representing "right, left and center". Once this game was introduced to our members, it was like it was contagious. They could not get enough of it. Fun was had by all. Every evening, it was "come one – come all", let the game begin. This game will go down in the history books as the NWBN's favorite game.

Friday, we were able to try out our new coffee maker that Dick Wright purchased for the club while on their trip Eastbound. It made our donut breakfast even more enjoyable than

normal. It gave everyone enough energy for the ladies to head for the Mesa Marketplace, where they were able to purchase some very special items. Meanwhile, we carpooled to the Dwarf Car Museum to enjoy touring a shop in the desert where a man builds cars 11/16 scale. They are powered by Toyota motors. They are street legal and quite unique.

Early afternoon we enjoyed a fish fry dinner at a local restaurant or you were on your own.

The delightful smell of sausage cooking filled the air on Saturday morning. Members enjoyed biscuits and sausage gravy for breakfast. Sightseeing and shopping for the day left everyone ready to enjoy a catered broasted chicken dinner with side dishes of baked beans, homemade potato salad and rolls.

Sunday was a sleep in morning. 9:00 AM serving time allowed for the start of a lad back day. A good old fashioned favorite breakfast of bacon, eggs, and hash browns and toast was enjoyed by all. Chicken Alfredo, salad, Mel's garlic bread and desert closed out our eating frenzy at our Casa Grande rally. Thanks to our hosts and all the volunteers who made this another great rally

Monday, on to Chandler, Arizona with grey and black empty and fresh water full. We are on our way to 9:00 AM. Just a short drive to "Rawhide Western Town & Event Center" to be entertained to "Rally in the Valley". What a coincidence that FMCA chose a name for his rally - it was the same name that John Shierman had come up with for NWBN's rally in Silverton, Oregon in July of 2016, or was it?!? Nevertheless, we had it in print first, thanks to our V.P North, John.

When we arrived on the grounds in Chandler, we were directed to a holding area and from there, we convoyed to our new home for the duration of the event. There was an added cost for electricity of \$175.00 for 30 amp service and about half of us decided on dry camping with generator usage. We had previously thought we would have our club separated, however, there was an area adjoining electric and non-electric that we parked at, so we were able to park together. The location for the rally was very convenient to stores, an outlet mall and most of all, a great selection of restaurants. Motor coaches and golf carts enabled us to travel to and from exhibits in comfort. This was a well- planned event. Those who took advantage of the shows said they were most entertaining.

FMCA's Rally "Blast from the Past" held in Longview, Washington at the Cowlitz County Event Center- 1900 7th Avenue SW, will run June 22 - 25, 2017. NWBN will have a staging area. Arriving from the south on I-5, take exit 36 to Highway 432 West, in about 1/2 mile cross over the bridge then take the first right to Gearhart Garden Dog Park. There is a large black-top parking lot. Arriving from the North, take exit 36B to Highway 432 West, cross over the bridge, then take the first right to Gearhart Garden Dog Park. Park in the large paved parking lot. We will convoy to the fairgrounds on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 12:30 PM. Don't be late!! We have a schedule to keep. If you have questions, call John Shierman, our caravan leader, at (360) 253-1526 or alternate Gary Chatterton at (503)816-5782. We registered for dry camping and signed up for the later dinner at 6:15 PM.

I can just about taste the shrimp cocktails that will be served Thursday, July 27, 2017 at our Newport Seafood Fest Rally, hosted by Teresa Bledsoe, Jim Dale, & Dick & Jeanne Wright. This has always been a favorite location for rallies in the past, with unnumbered things to see and do. Spaces are limited and this is a busy time at the Oregon coast. If you want to come early or stay late, contact the RV Park directly at (541) 867-3321. Tell them you are with the NWBN's. I am looking forward to seeing all friends.

With a saddened heart, I have some bad news to report. We have lost three loved members. Roger Domen has passed from cancer. He was a board member and a volunteer that was always there to lend a helping hand. His wife Lisa lost her long battle with cancer years ago. She was our membership's book editor for years.

Jim Smith's life ended due to cancer. He died shortly after he was diagnosed with this terrible disease. Our sympathy to his wife Cheryl.

Les Lessard has suffered from congested heart failure, kidney failure and was on dialysis, diabetic, the list goes on. While in the hospital in Mesa, Arizona, he died at 3:00 AM in his sleep. His wife Sherry is planning on still participating in NWBN functions. It will be good to see her back behind the wheel.

In February, while playing pickelball, Dick Wynn had a heart attack. After open heart surgery, he is recovering in their summer home in Prescott, Arizona. Good luck Dick.

We need hosts for 2018 rallies. Step up for your club. We need new hosts and ideas.

Until next time,

Your President,

Gary



"At the Beach" rally parade, Indio, CA. Jan, 2017

Northwestern Bus Nut Members – are you paid up on your dues? October 1st started a new fiscal year for the NWBN. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Please send your dues payment payable to:

Northwestern Bus Nuts
c/o Jeanne Wright,
P.O. Box 41555
Eugene, OR 97404

Thank you!



Just a reminder to sign up for the June FMCA Northwest Area Rally on the FMCA website or Call FMCA. There is no charge or signup with the Northwest BusNuts, however we are attending as a group for our June Rally. and gathering to caravan into the rally so we can park together. The BusNuts are going to park in “dry camping” and have chosen to eat at the second seating at 6:15 pm.

The July Newport Seafood Fest is fast approaching! The sign up is enclosed. Please fill out as soon as you know you are attending. This is the busy time of the year at the coast and if you plan on going early or staying late, call the campground direct to reserve your days outside of the rally days. We are going to have to turn back the spots that we have not used in early July. We have a great rally planned for Newport!! Get your sign ups back to us as soon as possible.

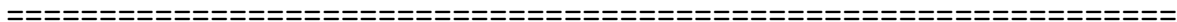
We Still Need an August Rally!!

Come up with a place and we will get you a co-host!

Dick Wright

2017 Rallies

June- Longview, Washington FMCA	June 22-25, 2017
July- Newport, Oregon	July 27-30, 2017
August-	to be announced
September- Mt. Angel, Oregon	September 15-18, 2017
October- Prosser, Washington	October 12-15, 2017



National Director - Bob Dickey
Alt. Nat. Director - Mel Wick
Newsletter Editor - Chris Hansen
Historial - Bob Cotherman
Sunshine Lady - MaryLou Dickey
Sheriff - Barb Chatterton
Membership Book - Pat Alonzo
Nominating Committee - Dick Wright,
MaryLou Dickey & Pattie Harper

Northwestern BusNuts Newport Seafood Fest Rally July 27, 28, 29, & 30th 2017

Hosted by Teresa Bledsoe, Jim Dale, and Jeanne & Dick Wright

We will return to the Newport Oregon Coast for a great fun filled time. Arrive Thursday July 27 and Sunday July 30th. Full hook-ups at the Port of Newport Marina & RV Park. Located under the end of the Newport Hwy 101 Bridge where the BusNuts have had several rallies in our early days; the 1980's. We have planned a weekend of seafood, ocean, shopping and good friends. You are on the beach, stroll on the marina docks among all the yachts and boats moored at the Marina & Park, explore old town, shop & explore Nye Beach, shop the Outlet Stores in Lincoln City and old acquaintances.

Thursday Dinner	Finger food potluck with club provided shrimp cocktails.
Friday Breakfast	Biscuits & Gravy with all the trimmings
Friday Dinner	Clam Chowder with Salad and French Bread
Saturday Breakfast	Eggs McMuessig
Saturday Dinner	Salmon BBQ, Coleslaw, Corn on the cob, Bread, & Dessert
Sunday Breakfast	Lite Breakfast for the Road

Only 30 Spaces reserved. **1st 30 registrations received will get full hook-ups!** After 30, we have only dry camping spots only. Sites will be assigned based upon date Registration is received. July is a **busy time** for the RV Park and **We Only have 30 Full Hook-up Sites. We Have Plenty of Dry Camping Spots.**

want to come early or stay late, please contact the RV Park directly at 541-867-3321. Tell them we are with the BusNuts. You may have to change spaces on Thursday. The park is located under the end of the 101 Newport Bridge on the south end.

Directions: Traveling South on HWY 101, go South over Newport Bridge. Take 1st Right Turn and go on road under bridge heading east to the RV Park. ***Follow the RV Park Signs.***

Address: Port of Newport Marina & RV Park, 2120 S.E. O.S.U. Drive, Newport, OR. 97365

If you get lost, Call 541-953-4655

Registration

Name _____ Coach Length _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Cell Phone _____ FMCA # _____
 Coach & 2 Persons 3 nights camping \$ 200.00 Date Arriving _____
 Coach & 1 Person 3 nights camping \$ 175.00
 Extra Persons in coach \$ 40.00

Checks Payable to Northwestern BusNuts. Please send registration to: Jeanne Wright, PO Box 100, Eugene, Or. 97404. PH. 541-953-4655

Leslie Lessard(1935-2017)



Leslie Wilbur Lessard was born in Grafton, North Dakota on June 28, 1935 to Homer and Simone (Samson) Lessard. He was born prematurely and doctors at the time used new technology and placed him in an incubator where the optic nerve of his eyes was damaged by the high concentration of oxygen. This left him with very limited vision. While he was a young child, his parents relocated to Yakima and later moved to Seattle, Washington. With his limited eye sight his parents sought out the best schools for his learning and ultimate success. For most of his elementary and secondary school years, he attended the Washington State School for the Blind. A boarding school located in Vancouver, Washington. While there, he learned many skills that allowed him to accommodate his disability. This included learning how to read and write Braille. He also attended vocational classes in which he found his love for woodworking. This later became a lifelong hobby. He was active in sports and during high school he lettered in wrestling. Leslie developed many lifelong friendships at Washington State School for the Blind and graduated from Vancouver High School in 1955. He went on to attend college at Seattle Pacific University where he studied psychology for 2 years until he was hired by Boeing. In July of 1959, he married Nancy Ann Leggett and together they had five children: Leslie Ann (Hodson), Sally Jean Lessard, Kenneth Allen Lessard, Jody Elaine (Molenda), Russell Anthony Lessard.

Leslie cherished his time spent with his family. In his early years he was very active in Ham Radio. His call letters were WA7BFE. During this time he worked for the City of Seattle Engineering Department for almost 20 years. He also became an owner/operator of Queen City Vending. All of his children worked in the family business where he taught the value of working hard together and overcoming any challenge life might present you. On May 28, 1984 Leslie married Sherry May Martin and they shared nearly 33 years of marriage together before his passing. Leslie retired from the City of Seattle in 1985 and subsequently expanded his vending business, Queen City Vending, until he and Sherry retired in 1997 and moved to Springfield, Oregon. Retirement activities included enjoying cruises, traveling Europe and Hawaii, playing Mexican Train Dominos with friends and attending family gatherings. Leslie especially enjoyed RV travels in the 40' Marathon they owned. Sherry was the driver and took care of the "inside" jobs while Leslie took care of hook-ups and "outside" jobs. One of his most memorable trips he would share about was the RV rally to Washington, DC as a member of the Northwestern Bus Nuts where they enjoyed dinner with U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas and his wife, Virginia. Sherry and Les have made many lifelong friends through the Motor Home Club they belonged to. As snowbirds they spent time between their homes in Springfield, Oregon and Mesa, Arizona. Leslie passed away in Mesa, Arizona on April 19, 2017 at the age of 81.

Leslie was known for his love of woodworking and ceramics and created many beautiful items that he enjoyed giving as gifts. He loved life, his family and friends old and new and never allowed his visual disability to interfere with enjoying life to the fullest! In his life he touched so many with his quick wit and his warm welcome presence. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed. Anyone who knew Leslie was blessed. "God's Speed", Honey, Dad/Grandpa/Great-Grandpa/Brother/Friend

He is survived by his wife, Sherry May Lessard; his children: Leslie Hodson (Tim); Jody Molenda; Russell Lessard (Leah); Grandchildren, Sarah Phillips (Gabe); Beth Fautt (Jared); David Hodson; Ashley Brooker (John); Cassandra Molenda; Courtney Molenda-Cook; Kyle Lessard; Jeremy Lessard and Gavin Lessard. 3 Great-Grandchildren and his sister, Arliss Burns of Tacoma, Washington. He was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Simone Lessard and his children, Sally and Kenneth.

Funeral Service Mass will be held May 11th at 12:30 pm at St. Alice Catholic Church located at 1520 F. St. in Springfield, Oregon. A reception with refreshments and a time of sharing will immediately follow the mass.

Recitation of the Rosary will take place earlier that day at 11 am. Viewing is scheduled for 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Washington State School for the Blind in Vancouver, Washington or a charity of your choice. Arrangements entrusted to Springfield Memorial Funeral Home. Please access the obituary and you are invited to sign the guestbook at msg-oves.com.

Funeral Home

Springfield Memorial Gardens/Springfield Memorial Funeral Home
7305 Main St Springfield, OR 97478
(541) 746-5311

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Northwestern Bus Nuts
c/o Chris Hansen
2107 Westshore Drive NE
Moses Lake, WA 98837

