

NORTHWESTERN BUS NUTS



July 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



NORTHWESTERN BUS NUTS NEWSLETTER GARY CHAFFERON PRESIDENT

Our Lives Touch One Last Time..

The weather was beautiful and the air was full of excitement as we crossed over the Cowlitz River and into the Gearheart Gardens Dog Park parking lot-- our staging area where we convoyed to the Longview-Kelso Fairgrounds to enjoy the hospitality of Kathy and Andy Belough and staff of FMCA's "Blast from the Past" rally. Not a huge rally, but for what hardships that our clubs are dealing with regarding attendance, it was pretty good; about 325 coaches. As a club, we made a sizeable number of 11 coaches and welcomed new members Jerry & Sharen Work from Kerby, OR. We look forward to enjoying their company at future rallies. Mike Spong made this his first rally since joining our club last year. He's the son of Bill Spong and Juanita, one of my favorite couples that I have enjoyed over the years. They have both passed now, but their bus "The Lady" big green machine, still looks great.

The way Longview and Kelso intertwine; I could have played the role of Forrest Gump, starring Gary Chatterton, running from town to town. That's right, I could have zig-zagged back & forth and in just a few blocks, I could have left one town and entered another in just a few strides. What a cute area.

I would like to share a real life story with you. My dad's mother (my grandmother) lived in Longview, and that's where dad grew up. He quit school at a young age to find a job in a local plywood plant, along with a few of his close friends. While working in the plant, he was given a nickname of "shrimp"; apparently he had a small structure. Dad and his buddies met an older immigrant who worked with them. He had his own place and car, so the young guys would hang out at his place. He was old enough to purchase alcohol; what a plus for the younger ones. Over the coming years, everyone grew older and went their separate ways.

I can remember at a young grade school age, we would, on occasion drive to Longview to visit with my grandmother. Dad would always leave to search for his old immigrant friend, but was never successful. It was as if he never existed. It was a sad tale for my dad, as they must have had a real connection. This took place for me in the early fifties.

Now let's fast forward to January 1983. For years, every Sunday morning I went to Sandy Barrs Flea Market here in Portland. Often, my dad and brother would drive in from St. Helens/Warren to meet up with me at the flea market. There was a small coffee snack counter at the armory where the flea market was held. Well, dad went up to have a cup of coffee and sit a spell. My whole family is very social and doesn't know a stranger. As dad sipped at his coffee, he overheard the conversation that was going on at the table he shared. Dad heard a name coming from the other end of the table that he inquired about his whole adult life that he was unable to track down. The name Santangalo rang out in dad's ears. Was this a miracle? Read on and let me know if it touches you as much as it does me every time I tell this true life story that I am connected to. Dad spoke to that little old shriveled up man and said "Do you know of an Ernesto Santangelo that lived in Longview, Washington? He replied "I am Ernesto". Dad in return said " Do you remember "Shrimp"? They spent a lifetime searching each other out. I was introduced to this man that had such an impact on my father's life.

“The Plan”: Next Sunday mom was to come with dad to the flea market, meet “the man” and share a lasting friendship. Ernesto was a regular at Sandy Barrs Flea Market, but our first meeting would be our last. He was old and feeble and weak and ill. This would be the last time the Chatterton family would see this wonderful old gentleman. Dad died January 1983 and was put to rest at Willamette National Cemetery in Happy Valley, Oregon, just blocks from my home. Every year before Memorial Day, I take my scrub brush, cleaner and grass clippers to my family and friends burial plots and clean and trim the headstones.

This next line is line is like Paul Harvey’s “The rest of the story”. After cleaning and trimming my dad’s headstone, I was walking to my car and four rows below my dad’s plot directly in line, I spotted a familiar name. Can you guess whose it might be? That’s right. Ernesto Santangalo. It was as though these two men, who had a short time of their lives as fellow workers in a plywood plant and shared a friendship, spent the rest of the lives to reunite before they met their maker. Even though I only met this man once, that had such an impact. He has been put on my “to do” list for Memorial Day cleanup.

In a way, I can relate to this story as we look forward to meeting up with our friends at upcoming rallies. Not to this degree, but all of us enjoy the camaraderie that welcomes us at each and every rally.

I and your fellow board members are working hard to keep our club strong and enjoyable. We invite people to join and enjoy, have fun and eat well. You know it gets harder every day and we all need help to accomplish these tasks. We need members to step and help out putting on rallies. The last few years, it has been the same few that are hosting our rallies. We need new blood. Please contact my (503) 816-5782 or one of your other board members to help your club. Thanks to all that volunteered and helped out in the past and in the future. Check out our rally schedule and plan on participating.

In September, we will be at Mt. Angel to join in the celebration of Oktoberfest. We, as a club have enjoyed this location many times in the past. Everyone has had a great experience over the years; some have even participated in dance and song. (After visiting the beer garden they danced a lot better!) Many eating establishments serve up everything from cantaloupe filled with strawberries and ice cream to cabbage rolls. Margaret, the property owner died last year and her

estate has been divided, so we will have only ½ of the area to park in. It's most important to sign up early so we can confirm our parking space.

Our October rally will be held in Prosser Washington. We will be there for the "Crush" festival and wine show. Tours and sampling will be close at hand and mouth. More about this rally in upcoming newsletters. Mark your calendars – October 12-15th.

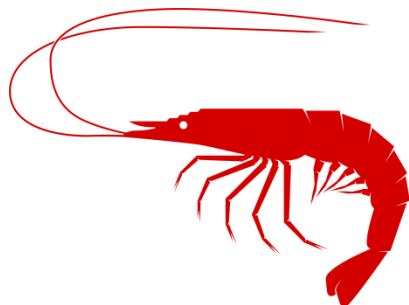
We don't have any plans for August. If you would like to put something together, call your vice-presidents Al Roeske (541) 954-0676 or John Shierman (360)253-1526.

Next year (2018) is wide open. Grab a friend and use the skills of your fellow Nuts to bring us all together. It takes us all to make the club. "Join in the fun". That's a quote from our membership directory.

One last thing about our FMCA rally in Longview, Wa.-- we were escorted to a large green parking area close to all the activities. Luck was with the NWBN's. Keith & Nancy Arionus won first prize; a cabinet for their bus. Wright's and Chatterton's numbers were also picked. The ladies social choice of winners were Pat Alonzo and Linda Jones.

Till next time,

Pres. Gary Chatterton





495 W Church
Mt Angel, OR

MT ANGEL OKTOBERFEST
(DRY CAMPING)

September 14, 15, 16, 17, 2017

Sept 14	Thursday	6:00 Bring Finger Food
Sept 15	Friday	9:00 Continental Breakfast & 4:00 Light Snacks-Provided
Sept 16	Saturday	9:00 Continental Breakfast & 4:00 Light Snacks-Provided
Sept 17	Sunday	7:00 Doughnuts-Provided

*****Enjoy dinner out on your own!!!**

COACH 2 PERSON	\$85.00
COACH 1 PERSON	\$72.50
GUEST	\$20.00

Come join in for a fun filled RALLY!!!
Gary Chatterton 503-816-5782

Questions ??? Contact
John Shierman 360-253-1526



Make checks payable to **NWBN** and mail to:

Barb Chatterton
13836 SE Clatsop
Happy Valley, OR 97086

DEADLINE AUGUST 20, 2017

NAME	SPOUSE	F#
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ADDRESS		
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PHONE/CELL		
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COACH TYPE	COACH LENGTH	
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2017 Rallies

July- Newport, Oregon (Sold Out

July 27-30, 2017

August-

to be announced

September- Mt. Angel, Oregon

September 15-18, 2017

October- Prosser, Washington

October 12-15, 2017

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National Director - Bob Dickey

Alt. Nat. Director - Mel Wick

Newsletter Editor - Chris Hansen

Historical - Bob Cotherman

Sunshine Lady - MaryLou Dickey

Sheriff - Barb Chatterton

Membership Book - Pat Alonzo

Nominating Committee - Dick Wright,

MaryLou Dickey & Pattie Harper

Northwestern Bus Nuts

c/o Chris Hansen

2017 Westshore Dr. NE

Moses Lake, WA 98837

