

On the Road Again

eNewsletter of the Original Country Coach International Club
Serving you since 1984

February, 2018

INTRODUCING THE CCI
“*TECHNICAL & DIY ARTICLES LIBRARY*”

EXPERIENCING THE INSTALLATION OF A
HYDRALIFT FOR HARLEY DAVIDSON TRIKE LIFT

Join us at the CCI Rally and Celebrate
New Orleans's 300th Anniversary!

New Orleans, LA, Rally: "Let the Good Times Roll"
Pontchartrain Landing RV Park
March 20-25, 2018

Rally Includes: > New Orleans City Tour with Lunch aboard the Steamboat Natchez
> Plantation Tour and Swamp Boat Ride/Tour/Lunch
> Meals, including a Cajun Boil
> Much more as details become available

See Your monthly CCI eNews or Club Website 'Events Tab' for Details

STEAMBOAT NACHEZ

Come aboard and let us show you hospitality...Steamboat Style!



On the Road Again

February, 2018 Issue 2, Volume 10

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All Members Please Note!

Just a reminder that we are now using an automated system to process renewal as well as new memberships. Please take the time to visit your Country Coach Club Website at www.countrycoachclub.com and login to your account. To login, simply enter your eMail address as the user name and then enter your password. If you have forgotten your password or are new to the site, you will need a new password. Use the password reset link that you will find on the login page and you will be sent a new password.

TO EMAIL THE CLUB: See table (next page), yellow box for email address.

TO MAIL DUES, ETC: TO THE CLUB. See table (next page), yellow box for CCI mailing address. When you pay on line your dues are processed immediately. Due to physical mail and handling expect it to take 20 to 30 days if you are paying by check."

TO PHONE THE CLUB: See table (next page), select the appropriate Officer and phone that person. Please help us keep your membership up to date, by logging in and checking to ensure your membership is current and that we have all of your current contact information.

COUNTRY COACH INTERNATIONAL (CCI)

WHO ARE WE?

CCI is a non-profit organization, 501(c)(7), centered on Fun and Fellowship. The Club was founded in 1984 and is a Chapter of the Family Motorcoach Association (FMCA).

WHAT WE DO

The Purpose of the Country Coach Club is to: provide a community for all Country Coach motorcoach owners to exchange information, provide opportunities for fun and fellowship, support CCI and FMCA activities such as rallies and FMCA conventions, provide a common communication and resource link for CCI members and to help our fellow Country Coachers.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The CCI eNewsletter is published monthly, online by Country Coach International. The eNewsletter Editor is Lee Zaborowski, who can be contacted by calling 515 708-3391 or online - vppublications@countrycoachclub.com. The Editor reserves the right to edit, shorten, or modify any material submitted.

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PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

Club Members and CCI Files.

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Classified Text or **Display** full color advertising submitted for publication in this eNewsletter may be subject to publisher's discretion. Only advertising of interest and/or service to CCI members/Country Coach motorcoach owners will be accepted. Ad placement in this eNewsletter does not imply endorsement by CCI of the product/service. For advertising, space availability, rates and more information email the club at club@countrycoachclub.com

Country Coach International

Officer Contact List

Our members are our priority! Contact us anytime with comments, questions or suggestions!

<p style="text-align: center;">Mike Sowers, President President@countrycoachclub.com 321-355-8563</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rita Sax, Senior VP SrVicePresident@countrycoachclub.com 618-972-9886</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pat Gauch, Secretary Secretary@countrycoachclub.com 301-481-1733</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">CCI Contact Information Email: club@countrycoachclub.com Mail to: CCI, c/o Tammy Toalson 8430 Kingswood Rd Panama City, FL 32409</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">To Order Name Tags Email: gcon3129@gmail.com Mail to: Gerry Conway 6130 Polo Club Drive Cummings, GA 30040</p>

Other Country Coach FMCA Chapters

Contact individual Clubs for more information and rally schedules

<p style="text-align: center;">Country Coach Country Cousins John Horning 408-219-5598 jrhoring@live.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Country Coach Friends Incorporated John Malabicky 951-675-6252 cruznbouz@yahoo.com www.countrycoachfriendsincorporated.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Country Coach Heartlanders Charles L. Brinkman 937-299-4109 cbrinkman@mac.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Country Coach Nor'Easters Carol Brigham 781-871-3446 brige308@yahoo.com On Facebook at CCNoreasters</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Country Coach Texans W. David Twilley 480-540-1365 jtbearaz@aol.com www.cctexans.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Northwest Country Coaches Sibylle L. Beck 503-399-0636 secretary@nwccers.org www.nwccers.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Rocky Mountain Country Coachers Vanessa Hays 719-661-8830 www.rmccoachers.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Southeast Country Coachers Janet Sanders 205-871-1302 secountrycoach@gmail.com www.southeastcountrycoachers.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Southwest Country Coachers Barney Moen 714-280-9080 President@swccers.com www.swccers.com</p>

From Your President

FROM your PRESIDENT by Mike Sowers



Hello Everyone;

The second of the twelve months we have in 2018 already! Time to celebrate your favorite Valentine (go Red), and then get ready for all the green in March with St. Patrick's Day.

I must confess that I'm a bit depressed this month with my New England Patriot's Superbowl loss, but I am also a fair and objective fan. The Eagles simply outplayed us and earned a well-deserved win. Congratulations to all our Eagles fans!

Many of you are still in warm places around America the Beautiful and may be starting to think about "moving on" this spring. Don't forget our New Orleans and upcoming Colorado Rallies!

Your new Board members have hit the

ground running and are working hard for you. One example of this is the awesome work and resource that Lee Zaborowski and Debbie Glenn have put together for Country Coach International Members. It's a compilation of over 200 technical articles on a wide range of topics. Be sure to login to your country-coachclub.com account and go to the members area and browse or search this excellent resource! Thank you, Lee and Debbie, for all the superb work on this new benefit for our members! And, if you have articles you'd like to add we'd love to have them!

Our all-volunteer Board is always looking for help, so if you'd like to lend a hand, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans in March!

Sincerely;

Mike

CCI Welcomes New January Members

Mike & Judy Davis	2000 Affinity	Polk City Fl.
Chris & Elaine Dierberger	2004 Affinity	Coloma, WI
Freddie & Dianne Hegler	2008 Allure	Williamsport, TN
Bruce & Linda Huizenza	2008 Allure	Hudsonville, MI
Janice Mason	1998 Allure	Mesa, AZ
Patrick & Cyndie Wayne	2007 Allure	Anaheim, CA
Robert Pepper & Teri Gustafson	2006 Intrigue	Woodinville, WA
Chip Wallis & Nanise Hill	2007 Inspire	Coco, FL.

FROM the TREASURER: THE CCI BALANCE SHEET

Evangeline Ott



January 31, 2017 CCI OPERATING FUNDS*			January 31, 2017 CCI RALLY ACCOUNT*		
BEG BAL		\$16,597.00	BEG BAL		\$11,358.55
END BAL		\$17,923.72	END BAL		\$13,272.58
THREE CDs		\$45,715.06	NA		NA

**If you have questions about this Club's financial information, feel free to contact Evangeline Ott, Club Treasurer via email at: CCITreasurer@countrycoachclub.com*

INTRODUCING THE CCI

“*TECHNICAL & DIY ARTICLES LIBRARY*”

Announcing a new CCI Member Benefit.

Effective immediately all current paid-up members of CCI have full access to the Club's new **Library of *Technical & Do-It-Yourself Articles***. The Library file is found by clicking on the Club Website “Member Services” tab.

What is the *Technical & DIY Articles Library*?

CCI Club members frequently seek information to help with the maintenance, repair, and upgrading of their coach; as well as performance data or troubleshooting strategies. The Club Board decided to begin collecting Articles related to Country Coach Brand specific issues covering a wide variety of topics. Thus far the Library has over 200 entries under 68 Headings. More articles are being added weekly.

How You Get Access to and Use the Library.

- You must Log into the CCI Website with your Login and Password.
- Click on the “Member Services” Tab.
- Select and click on the “Technical & DIY Articles Library” file entry.
- Review the entries of interest.
- Click on a selected item, which will download as a PDF file to your computer. Note, you must have Adobe Acrobat.
- Your Club Membership is your Library Card, and assumes you will use the Library Resources for your own personal needs.

Making Library Contributions.

Any CCI Member can make article contributions. We'll accept any article that you have written or is in the public domain. Each article should have a title and author credit. We prefer pages in 8.5" X 11" size and easily legible text. WORD is most commonly used but not required. Articles can be sent as WORD or PDF, for example.

- Send your article(s) to vppublications@countrycoachclub.com.
- Also send any questions or comments to the same email.

A Few Examples from the Library -

- *Battery Maintenance Tips*
- *Greasing the Motorhome Chassis*
- *Coach Wood Care*
- *Replace Drapes or Re-Upholster?*
- *Improving your Dry Camping Q&A*
- *What do I need to do when I need my Coach Towed?*
- *The latest article addition is on the next page of this eNews.*

EXPERIENCING THE INSTALLATION OF A HYDRALIFT FOR HARLEY DAVIDSON TRIKE LIFT

by Gary Glenn

In this article I'm going to try my best to be fair and objective. Due to some of the issues we have run into at times I might have to rant a little.

When we decided to really start traveling more since retirement we had visions of taking a car, trike, golf cart, and two bicycles. That meant stacker trailer. Due to the current problem in lack of adequate RV parks across the country we decided to take another look at other available options. Not many parks can handle 75' of motor coach and trailer. We decided we could do without the golf car so it was sold. Our final decision was a lift for the trike and pull our Ram 1500 with bicycles in the truck.

I researched motorcycle lifts, read all the reviews for several options. There are not many options out there for a trike lift. It looked like The Hydra-Lift was going to be the best option.

I contacted Hydra-Lift to find a company to handle the sale and installation. Since we reside in Texas near FT. Worth, I chose United RV in Ft. Worth. The lift was ordered and when it came in I was told that it is about a three day install. Evidently there are no installation instructions that accompany the actual attachment to the frame of the coach. The receiver hitch had to be removed and they used 1/4" plate to weld to the frame. The installer stated when we picked it up that he extended the frame rails for the lift 6" so I could open our motor case doors with the lift in the ride position. We hit our first problem when we got there to pick up the coach they had installed a motorcycle lift instead of a trike lift.

They ordered the correct lift and we took the coach back for the install. When got there to pick up the coach they had cut into the 1/4" plate and extended it 45 degrees on one rail and welded a 4' piece in with a small angular brace in the extension. I questioned them about the whole installation and the installer nearly took offense to the questions "it will be on there forever." Sometimes forever comes sooner than you realize.

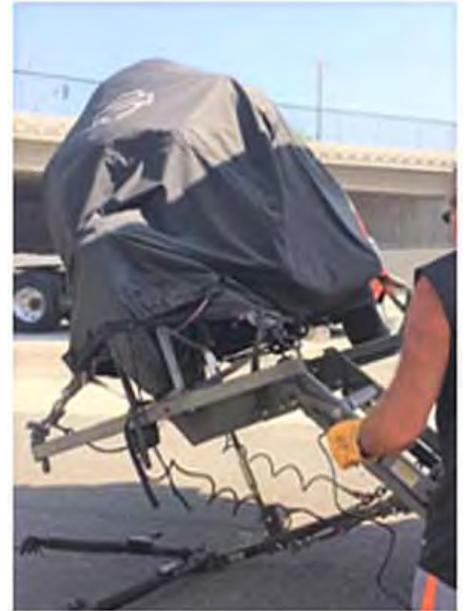
We got home and loaded the bike. The lift came with rinky dink tie downs, not net type like you use on a tow dolly, a single strap that goes around behind the tire and a ratchet that hooks onto platform, one on each rear tire. You have a chock for the front tire and we added two tie downs. We roll the bike into the chock in front and it tore off the skirt on the bottom of front fender.

We traveled June and July with that bike back on that extended lift bouncing like a basketball, the slightest bump in the road and you would think it was going to break off, lift and all. At one point it looked as if the bike was sinking as I watched in my rear camera, sure enough it was, the lift has a safety catch to hold it up since it is hydraulic, it jumped the catch with all the bouncing around.

(continued on next page)

We took a trip from Phoenix to Anaheim, CA. On our way back to Phoenix we were on the I-215 I heard something like a shock bottoming out. We are in 5-6 lanes of traffic and this Corvette pulls up next with the fear of GOD in his eyes and signals me to get over, get off the road, RIGHT NOW. I make my way from the center to the right edge, I finally look at the camera and the trike is hanging off back at a 45-degree angle, well we knew the straps held. It didn't fall on the brand-new car we bought 3 weeks before because the lift design was so bad it came down on the hood of our truck and destroyed it. So, we bought a Fiat Abarth which fits under the lift.

This a real OH . . . CRAP moment, what do you do. Two Grade 8 bolts holding the lift on passenger side broke, the lift pushing down on the blue ox tow bar ground it down to a nub. I called Hydra-Lift and spoke with Brad, the owner, and he says "go to hardware store and buy some bolts and he would send me another set." I told him the welds were breaking and I needed some help. He says that's United RV's problem. We got the car unhooked. Deb went to Lowe's and I called a wrecker with a stinger on it to lift the thing back into ride position. Deb got the wrong bolts (my fault, poor description of what we needed). The wrecker driver had a couple of bolts so we made do. At this point no one around would work on it, we can't tow car, so trike has to stay on lift. We head for Mesa, AZ . . . and pray.



We travel the 300 miles to Cliff's Welding expecting the welds to break any minute. It turned out to be a seven-hour drive with my butt puckered the entire way . . . we made it! The man that does their installs comes out to inspect it. It is 118 degrees when we get there and my flip flops are sinking into the blacktop. I said I'm going to drive the coach over to Chandler to unload the trike at our daughter's house. The installer said "I wouldn't drive it to the end of this driveway it's about to let go." Now we have a week before they can get to the job.

Time to re-engineer this unit. They remove the entire lift, remove the 1/4" plate welded to frame, replace 1/4" with doubled 1/4." It is now 6" shorter. Where the 4" extension on the side was is now a 4"x 4" block welded in. They extended my receiver hitch to get

(continued on next page)

the towed vehicle back a couple of feet. They replaced all eight of the grade 8 bolts holding the lift to the frame rails. All is good right . . . WRONG.

It is now January 2018. We leave Texas headed back to Phoenix for warmth, sunshine, and grandkids. We stopped at a roadside park, 35 miles east of Lordsburg, NM. I went back to check everything which is something you want to do with that lift every 50-100 miles. The safety chains that go from the base of the lift to keep the tow bar steady are hanging loose. My wife walks back to see what I'm doing (I do need supervision) she says "the bolts on the other side are now broken." We call Hydra-lift again, we are still under warranty, Brad the owner says get in your car and go find some bolts. I tell him he needs to send a wrecker and some bolts to repair. He refuses, he is belligerent about the thing. I scrounge a couple of nuts and bolts and pray that I can make it to Lordsburg to the tractor supply, and we make it. I bought a couple of bolts that were a little longer so we could try to pull the lift up without a wrecker.



- Driver's side bolts broke

Back to Cliff's Welding we go. Time for my re-engineer this time. I had them replace all of the bolts again and then where this thing breaks I had them lay a piece of 1/4" plate and weld it all the way around both sides. Guess what? We emailed Brad the bill for the \$208.00 and he refused to pay because we had altered the lift therefore, voiding the warranty . . . what a crock of you know what.

"After" Photo's of work done by Cliff's Welding:



(continued on next page)

In closing I must say I feel bad for United RV because I expected them to step up and pay for the first re-engineering job and they did to the tune of \$3,000.00. Some of what happened was their fault but if this is the best lift made and it is crap, Hydra-lift certainly had some skin in the game but as you can tell he just builds and sells junk. United RV did do what was right by their customer. I highly recommend United RV for all your RV needs and supplies. They have a very nice retail store with reasonably priced supplies much better than that C--- W--- place.

Wish I could say the same for Hydra-lift. They do not care about customers, just send in your money. Also, the lifts floor is aluminum which is to keep the weight down, but it is slick so the bike continues to slide toward the back of the coach. Our fix that has been the non-slip treads we put on our steps that we get at United RV in Ft. Worth, Texas

I could not, shall not, and will not EVER recommend Hydra-lift!

END

Join us at the
CCI Rally
and celebrate
New Orleans's
300th
Anniversary!



CCI 2018 Rally Work Plan

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

(Pronunciation - Lay-zEh leh bAwn taw rOO-leh or lazay lay bon tom roular)

“Let the good times roll!”

New Orleans, LA

March 20-25, 2018

Pontchartrain Landing RV Park, New Orleans, LA

“Let the Good Times Roll!”

Your rally fee includes:

- 1) New Orleans city tour with lunch aboard the Steamboat Natchez.
- 2) Plantation tour and swamp boat ride/tour including lunch.
- 3) Two catered dinner (one is a Cajun boil).
- 4) Plus much more, as more details become available soon.

Use the PDF fillable Registration Form on the page after the next to register, or go to the Events Tab at the Web Page to register online.

Your Rally Fee for this rally will be \$160.00 per person.

Spaces are Limited!

Your Rally Fee covers rally expenses except the campground site fees, which you pay directly to the campground. Once you register for the rally please contact the campground directly to arrange for your site. Spaces are \$58.61 including tax. Be sure to tell them you are with Country Coach International!

Pontchartrain Landing; 6001 France Rd; New Orleans, LA 70126

Toll free - 877-376-7850

Local - 504-286-8157

Website: www.pontchartrainlanding.com

(See Next 2 Pages for more Details and Registration Form)

Details Coming Soon on Three More 2018 Rallies under Development

July 25-30, 2018
Country Coach International
KOA
Colorado Springs, CO

Fall
TBD

December 9-14
Country Coach International
St. Augustine, FL



Welcome to Pontchartrain Landing - New Orleans' unique gated Marina Resort featuring a restaurant, bar, boat launch & RV sites. Perfect for an RV Rally and activities in their Special Event Room.

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Laissez les bon temps rouler!

(Pronunciation - Lay-zEh leh bAwn tau rOO-leh or lazay lay bon tom roular)

“Let the good times roll!”

New Orleans, LA

Pontchartrain Landing RV Park, March 20-25, 2018

RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

Pilot: _____ Co-Pilot: _____
 Guest(s)/Child(rens) Name(s): _____ Check here if a child
 Mailing Address: _____ City, St, Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 FMCA # _____ CCI # _____ Coach Model _____ # Slides _____ Model/Year _____ Coach length _____
 Pilot shirt size S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ Other _____ Tall _____
 Co-Pilot shirt size XS _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ Other _____
 Emergency information - Name: _____ Phone: _____
 How did you hear about this rally? _____
 Is this your first CCI rally? Yes ___ or No ___ Are you a CCI member? Yes _____ or No _____
 Any special meal requirements (we will do our best to accommodate) _____

Important Campground Fee Information

Your Rally Fee covers rally expenses except the campground site fees, which you pay directly to the campground. Once you register for the rally please contact the campground directly to arrange for your site. Spaces are \$58.61 per night including tax. Be sure to tell them you are with Country Coach International!

Pontchartrain Landing
 6001 France Rd.
 New Orleans, LA 70126

Website: www.pontchartrainlanding.com
 Toll free: 877-376-7850
 Local: 504-286-8157

Your Rally Fee for this rally is \$160.00 per person. Your rally fee includes: Two days of bus tours:
 1) New Orleans city tour with lunch aboard the Steamboat Natchez. 2) Plantation tour and swamp boat ride/tour including lunch. Two catered dinner (one is Cajun boil).

# of registrants, (including guests & children)	\$160.00 for each registrant	I have CCI Bucks I would like to use. Insert amount	Total of Check Enclosed
#	\$	\$	\$

Call Tammy to see if any spaces are available

***Registration is limited, don't wait, most have been taken.** Registration will be by date on form and/or online and payment received. Additional registrations will be placed on a waiting list for any cancellations that may occur.

***Rally registrations cancelled after Deadline** may not be eligible for refund due to prepaid costs for the rally. Rally reservations cancelled before Deadline will incur deductions for non-refundable items (ie. credit card fees, prepaid fees).

***Payment options.** To use a credit card please register online at www.CountryCoachClub.com. For Checks, make payable to Country Coach International. Mail form and check to: Tammy Toalson, 8430 Kingswood Rd, Panama City, FL 32409. **Questions or comments** call Tammy at 850-866-5758.

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Pro Body Works repaired my Fiberglass & Paint/Clear Coat damage perfectly, I recommend them! *Lee Zaborowski*

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eMail - probodyworks@sbcglobal.net

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Click here for a FREE quote and more information!



All Rallies Calender

2018 UPCOMING RALLIES

MARCH

March 11-14
Rocky Mountain Country Coachers
Distant Drums RV Resort
Camp Verde, AZ

March 15-18
FMCA 97th International Convention
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Perry, GA

March 20-25
Country Coach International
Pontchartrain Landing RV Park
New Orleans, LA

APRIL

April 2-7
Country Coach Friends Int'l
Pioneer Beach Resort
Port Aransas, TX

April 17-22,
Country Coach Friends Int'l
Buckhorn Lake Resort
Kerrville, TX

April 23-27,
Country Coach Texans
Cajun Palms RV Park
Breau Bridge, LA

MAY

May 3-6
Northwest Country Coachers
Silver Spurs RV Park
Silverton, OR

May 16-20
Country Coach Nor'Easters
Village at Turning Stone
Verona, NY

May 18-23
Country Coach Heartlanders
Western Indiana

JUNE

June 4-7
Rocky Mountain Country Coachers
Pismo Beach California Area

June 6-10
FMCA Great Lakes Area Rally
Allegan County Fairgrounds
Allegan, MI

June 7-10
Northwest Country Coachers
Wine Country RV Park
Prosser, WA

June 21-24
FMCA Northwest Area Rally
The Mill RV Park
North Bend, OR

JULY

July 18-21
FMCA 98th International Convention
Cam-Plex Event Center
Gillette, WY

July 25-30
Country Coach International
KOA
Colorado Springs, CO

AUGUST

August 8-11
FMCA Midwest Area Rally
Amana Colonies RV Park
Amana, IA

August 13-18
Country Coach Friends Int'l
Mills Casino
Coo's Bay, OR

SEPTEMBER

September 5-9
Country Coach Nor'Easters
Lone Pine Campground
Burlington, VT

September 19-22
FMCA South Central Area Rally
Heart of Oklahoma Fairgrounds
Shawnee, OK

Fall
Country Coach International
TBD

OCTOBER

October 3-7
FMCA Eastern Area Rally
York Expo Center
York, PA

October 9-14
Rocky Mountain Country Coach
Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
Albuquerque, NM

October 15-19
Country Coach Texans Fall Rally
Antler Oaks RV Park
Bandera, TX

DECEMBER

December 9-14
Country Coach International
St. Augustine, FL

If your Country Coach Club has a rally event that is not listed here, please contact the Club at club@countrycoachclub.com so we may include your event(s)."

"See Page 4 for all Country Coach Club websites and Club contact information.

Membership



Benefits of Membership

INFORMATION AND ACCESS

- Dedicated Club website
- Member's Directory online
- Library of Technical & DIY Articles
- Member's Facebook forum
- Online breaking news through the CCI Facebook Page
- Regional Clubs' news
- Forms available for download online
- Services & Parts Resources
- One FREE Ad for your CCI/RV or Product/Service

QUALITY MONTHLY eNEWSLETTER

- Professionally designed monthly eNewsletter -
ON the ROAD AGAIN,
- Sent via email only to members in good standing, or for a limited time to members with dues payment in arrears.

ACCESS TO all CLUB OFFICERS

- Phone: Call the specific Officer to address your need
- Email CCI:
club@countrycoachclub.com
- Club Website:
www.countrycoachclub.com

TRAVEL PLANS HELP

- Use the Member's FaceBook Page for advice on routing, sights, and trouble spots
- Real-time, on-the-road help with mechanical problems, post a problem to the member's Internet Forum for quick replies

COUNTRY COACH RALLIES

- Enjoy camaraderie with fellow owners of The World's Finest Motor Coaches at rallies around the country.
- CCI offers multiple rallies per year.
- Independent Regional Country Coach Clubs across the nation also rally several times per year in their particular geographic regions.
- CCI will often partner and do joint rallies with these Regional Clubs

SERVICES AND PARTS RESOURCES

- Member Discounts & Special Offers from over 40 Partners of CCI. Many are listed here in the News.
- Place one FREE classified ad per year in the classified section of the Club website. Visit the website for details.