

Whales On Wheels

Volume 2006

Number 4 Oct 1st 2006

What's Inside	Your UltraVan on the Cover of WOW
Prez Sez.....1	Would you like to see a picture of your UltraVan on the cover of Whales on Wheels? Then send a photo with a short..or long...story. The photo should have some artistic value...or not..showing the UltraVan in a scenic location. Send your photos and story to the Editor and have your UltraVan be a star. Your 15 minutes of fame are now available right here in WOW!!
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PREZ SEZ

Shelley and I packed up Ultra Van 497 on September 9th and headed for the International Convention in Mt. View, AR, a round trip of over 4,000 miles. I had spent the prior week doing preventive maintenance in an effort to prevent "on the road" problems. Everything went smoothly the first day, all gages were in the green and it was hitting on all cylinders. On the second day as we approached Needles, CA the outside air temp was 107°F; we had a head wind and a long steep uphill grade. The cylinder head temp. kept climbing and my speed oil pressure kept dropping. I pulled off to gas up and check fluid levels. When I restarted, in addition to vapor lock, the oil pressure barely registered and I could hear every valve lifter clicking. I had to rev. the engine to get sufficient oil pressure to silence the lifters. I rechecked the oil and it was full. I then checked the fuel pump for leaks into the oil and it was fine.

The oil had the viscosity of water. I did not think that synthetic oil would thin out like that but it did. I knew that if I could not keep good oil pressure I was going to wipe a bearing and the thought of pulling an engine in Needles, CA was a thought that I did not relish. So we waited awhile, restarted, oil pressure returned, the hill was soon behind us and the headwind disappeared. Things became relatively cool and much to my relief it appears that no permanent damage was done to the engine.

The next day while cruising through New Mexico; we kept feeling a jerk under part power at approx. 60MPH. Investigation revealed broken turn buckle on the rear suspension.

Continued on page 3

Obituary

To All,

I just received word that long time Ultra Van owner Art Eller died at his home on Thursday, July 20th. As you might remember Art gave powerglide transmission classes at his home in the past years. He would invite up to 15 of us to bring our powerglide transmissions to rebuild and he would supervise. I still am using the one I rebuilt in his back yard. Millie (his wife) will be at home at 3873 Shannon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90027-1441, her phone number is 323.660-3883. I have no information on the arrangements. Art had a large family, 5 children and many grand children.

Christy Barden, Boulder, CO

Prez Sez continued...

I pulled into Steve's Auto Repair and Weld Shop in Santa Rosa, NM. Steve was very busy but agreed to weld the turnbuckle if I removed the left rear wheel. I removed the wheel and Steve crawled under the coach with his welding equipment. He no sooner got under when he came out in a big hurry. I thought I must have a fuel leak or worse. I ask Steve what was the problem and he replied that he just realized the Ultra Van was Corvair powered and he wanted to shake the hand of someone brave enough to drive a Corvair powered vehicle across country. After Steve completed the welding, he brought out a Corvair valve cover racer and related all the valve cover races he had won. He also mentioned that his Father at one time owned a junk yard and in those days people would junk a Corvair for most any reason. So when they would get a Corvair in that would run, he and his brother would jam the accelerator pedal to the floor with a stick and take bets on how long it would take the Corvair to either blow up or run out of gas. Steve stated that most ran out of gas. Having enjoyed our stop, we were now back on the road.

The remainder of the trip was uneventful for us. However, a couple of other Ultra Vanners experienced significant problems. Nancy and Doug Pratt dropped a valve seat in North Little Rock, AR. The Pratt's coach was repaired in a Wall Mart parking lot by Doug, Bob Galli and Howard Boso. Marsha and Howard Boso were forced off the road by a reckless driver in Northern AR. Their coach sustained moderate damage but was drivable.

The convention was great and is covered elsewhere in this publication.

Lew Young
President

2006 National Ultra Rally in Mountain View, Arkansas By Brenda Leighton

The rally was held at the Ozark RV Park which was adjacent to the Ozark State Park. Besides having a beautiful music center at the State Park, there were numerous craftspeople working and demonstrating early day crafts such as: barrelmaking, silversmith, quilting, candlemaking, etc.

This is from my journal.

Sept. 18, 2006 - This is the first day of the rally and registration. A total of 12 Ultras came in with 6 non Ultras. A pizza was enjoyed by all, thanks to our hosts, Jim and Roy Davis. There were a total of 39 present. After the pizza party, all members so inclined enjoyed a pickin' session in the pickin' shed. What a great group!

Sept. 19, 2006 – After the usual coffee and goodies, a tech session was scheduled in the morning. Then a bus came by at 1pm for those who wished to go shopping downtown. We really enjoyed the laid back atmosphere. And the sodas at the old time pharmacy couldn't have been better. Upon arriving back at the Ultra, we immediately prepared for the park wide potluck supper. We were able to meet some of our neighbors! At 7pm it was time for the UMVCC Yankee Swap Meet where a great and boisterous time was had (and we ended up with some very fuzzy slippers)! We finished up with Clyde Stanton's home grown watermelon and Doug Pratt's gift of popcorn!

Sept. 20, 2006 – It was pickin time again in the Pickin' Shed following our usual morning coffee and goodies. The word has spread around town that there is a really good audience, so the number of pickin' musicians doubled. What great sound was heard! They really appreciated our applause. Many friends have been made. In the afternoon it is time to prepare for the UMVCC Potluck Supper. We have some really great cooks! The supper was rounded off with a visit from our own Patsy Cline (Nancy Pratt). She sang, "I've got your picture, She's got you" to Paul Piche. From her blouse, she hauled out a picture, various mementos, and finally a 24 inch heavy duty lug wrench and a full sized hacksaw, the crowd roared (how she kept the lug wrench from sliding to the floor was the question).

Sept. 21, 2006 – Again coffee and goodies started off the morning and we yet had a larger pickin' group with more variety of instruments to entertain us. These were professionals. During our rally, we have had off and on rain, but our spirits stayed up. Everyone was preparing for the evening trip to JoJo's Catfish Wharf Restaurant. Three coaches plus 2 cars filled with passengers truly enjoyed the food.

Sept. 22, 2006 – Morning coffee and goodies as usual which was followed by another Tech Session. A director's meeting was called for 12:30 pm. Between rains, another shopping trip was made downtown in a bus. While others prepared for the evening concert at Ozark Folk Center "Tribute to Jimmy Rogers". The rally gang walked up the hill for the music.

Sept. 23, 2006 – This is meeting day after coffee and goodies. The East/West Regional meeting and then the general UVMCC Business meeting were held. Then there was free time. Our annual banquet was held at the Skillet Restaurant. Ron Z received the Ernie Newhouse award for his active participation in the club. His wife, Martha, was very surprised. Jim and Roy Davis were our hosts with help from Barb and Paul Piche. Sept. 24, 2006 – A great rally but it's time to hit the road. On the down side, the Boso's and Ron Z were 81 miles from the rally headed toward Ron Z's when a green pickup cut in front of Howard and ran him off the road, but that is another story



In the pickin' barn



The Boso Incident

by Marsha Boso.

On Sunday September 24, 2006 we left Mountain Home, Arkansas heading for Iowa and traveling in a sort of caravan with Ron & Martha Zoutendam and Doug and Nancy Pratt. the Zoutendams were in the lead then the Pratts and we were bringing up the rear. We were all heading to Sheldon, Iowa so that Howard & Doug could help with Ron's sick UltraVan. We were traveling in a newly acquired UltraVan(#460) with a small one wheel trailer attached containing tools & generator. When we got 81 miles from Mountain Home on a two lane road, a green pickup truck passed us and quickly got in front of us. The driver did not make his intentions clear by signaling but he was slowing down gradually..

Howard was breaking with all his might, but realized that he could not stop and had to make a choice. He could have gone to the left with a risk of a head on collision, he could have plowed into the pickup truck or take his chances going to the right. He chose to go to the right, but then realized that the other driver was attempting to make a right turn. Howard rode along on the shoulder of the road until he was forced to go over an embankment. It seemed that we did a semi-nose-dive. Howard held on tightly to the wheel trying to keep control as we narrowly missed a culvert on one side and a big solid sign pole which could have been very disastrous had the UltraVan hit it..

As we finally came to a stop, Howard kept desperately crying out "Oh, my back" and it was apparent that he was in severe pain. Before attempting to get out of his seat he tried to let Doug know that we had wrecked, but we later found that the CB channel had been changed from the jar of the bouncing. I finally realized that our caravan was not coming back so I finally called on the cell phone to alert Doug & Nancy. They in turn called Ron and he called 911.

In an ambulance, Howard was taken to the hospital in Harrison, Ak. and he had Xrays done, was checked over and released with no apparent serious problems or broken bones. It was such a blessing to have Ron there to interject his observations & opinions to help move the process along. I feel that our stay there could have been a lot longer had he not been there.

The apparent damage done to the UltraVan was the drivers' side windshield had popped out on the upper left corner, the drivers side window was shattered but still well in tact, the entry door was ajar and would not stay latched without a bungee cord, there was quite a large ridge or wrinkle in the floor from side to side behind the front seats, there are a few wrinkles on the left fender & front. The trailer hitch brackets had been ripped loose.

It was a real comfort to be able to leave the UltraVan to go to the hospital to check on Howard despite the inability to secure it from openness. Doug & Nancy were there to watch over it and rather than just sit there doing nothing, they cleaned up the terrible messes inside that occurred from all the bumping and banging. We truly were in the company of Angels that day.

The damage to the UltraVan seemed really bad until Ron & Doug spent time looking it over and assessing the situation. They decided that they thought that it could be driven up from the hole that it was in and they were right. They looked it over more extensively and felt sure that it could be driven 3 miles to an RV Park which they decided that we could spend the night and then decide whether Howard was up to driving and whether they thought that the UltraVan was up to a long trip. Later that evening Ron & Doug worked hard to fix the trailer hitch to make it road worthy again and Nancy was busy fixing a great evening meal for all of us.

Howard wanted to get home at that point so he abandoned the idea of going to Sheldon, Iowa. Our first night after leaving Ron, Martha, Doug & Nancy, we caught up with The Gallis & the Reinhardts to spend the night and enjoy a meal together. We said goodbye and Howard left them early Tuesday morning. He proceeded without them despite their offer to wait for us and to accompany us on our trek home. He was in a hurry to get home and he drives more miles per day than most people want to. Lew & Shelly had offered to wait for us if we needed them to help and they were ahead of us. The following morning Howard woke Lew & Shelly up and requested to have breakfast with them. After a great breakfast we proceeded without them and arrived home about 12:30PM Wednesday afternoon.

Howard is still having a lot of pain from his back, but I feel optimistic about his recovery. He has abused it somewhat by driving many hours to get home as quickly as possible. And since he has been home he has been trying to work on the Ultra to try to undo some of the damage done in the accident. He is still taking some strong pain pills quite frequently.



Howard on the way to Hospital



At rest after being pulled out



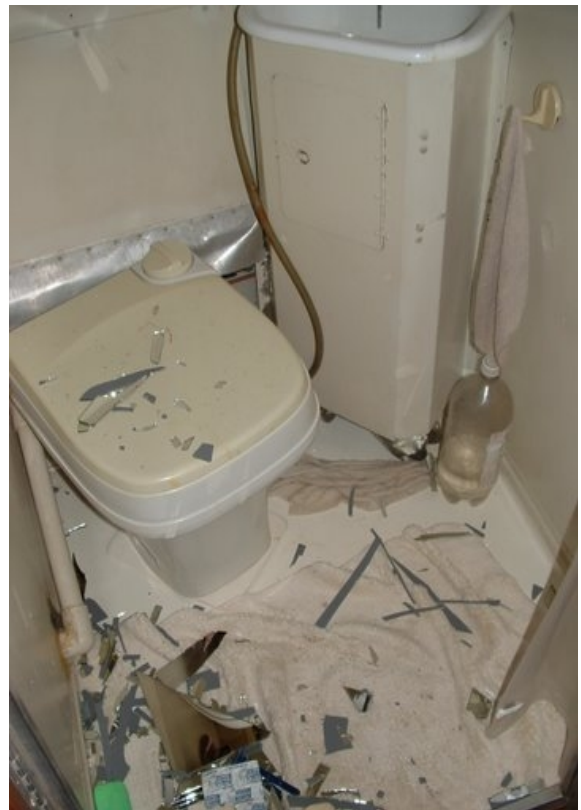
The hard way to remove a windshield



A tough front end



The Path to destruction



Someone left a mess in the head



The Pole I almost hit!!!!

Winter Western Regional Meet 2007

*Hosts: Howard & Marsha Boso
1536 West Roundup Street
Apache Junction, Arizona 85220
Phone (480)288-2636
Cell Phone (480)518-4103
E-Mail Hamboso@juno.com*

Dates February 12 - February 17, 2006

Come join us for fun in the sun. Enjoy good fellowship, fun & food. Plenty of parking, electricity & water available. No sewage dump(come with empty tanks). Local interests include shopping, great restaurants, dinner theater & old western town. Welcome barbecue will be given on the second night(Feb. 13th at 6:00PM).

Directions: Exit Freeway I-10 going east on I-60. Exit I-60 at Ironwood exit and head north going past Southern, Broadway & Superstition Boulevard. Still heading north turn right on second street on east side(Ironwood). We are the second house on the north side of the street. Watch for signs.

2007 EASTERN SPRING RALLY
MARCH 19-23, 2007
WILL BE AT
HILLSBOROUGH RIVER STATE PARK
LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF ZYPHERHILLS, FL

Driving Directions

Hillsborough River State Park is located 9 miles north of Tampa and 6 miles south of Zephyrhills on US Highway 301. From I-75, Southbound from Ocala take the SR 54. Exit #279 east to Hwy 301, travel South for 6 miles, and the park will be on your right-hand side. From I-75, Northbound from Tampa take the Fowler Ave. Exit #265 east to Hwy 301, travel North for 9 miles, and the park will be on your left-hand side. From I-4, West bound take Exit 10 go north on CR 579 to US 301, follow the signs and go North 7 miles the park will be on your left-hand side. From I-4, East bound take Exit 7 (be careful of the merges) and go North on US 301 for 14 miles, the park will be on your left-hand side.

The natural scenic beauty of the park is astounding. Many trails offer the visitor the opportunity to experience this first hand. A popular trail is the Rapids Nature Trail. It meanders through oak hammocks to the edge of the Hillsborough River at the point where an outcropping of limestone rocks has created rapids. This area is a popular spot for photographers, and outdoor enthusiasts. For enjoying the river by being on it, the park has canoe rentals for visitor's convenience.

Hillsborough River State Park also offers 111 campsites, picnic areas, pavilions, and the Spirit of the Woods Pool Side Café and Gift Shop. A swimming pool with a capacity of 216 swimmers is also within the park. All of these amenities are made available for our visitor's enjoyment.

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/hillsboroughriver/default.cfm>

Please reserve your own site. This can be done at 1 800-326-3521
Sponsors – Norm Standal & Brenda Leighton
Phone: 239 656-3075 Cell: 239 233-9029
We have reserved site #36 if you want to be in the same area.

UVMCC Financial Statement
May 31, 2006

Opening Balance 10-07-2005	\$4,856.36
Transfer from GUV 01-06-2006	\$ 815.03
	<u>\$5,671.39</u>
Receipts	
Dues \$1620.00	
Merchandise \$ 101.25	
	<u>\$ 1721.25</u>
	<u>\$1721.25</u>
	<u>\$7392.64</u>
Expenses	
Printing \$1085.55	
Postage \$ 291.93	
Misc/Supplies \$ 47.19	
	<u>\$1424.67</u>
	<u>\$1424.67</u>
	<u>\$5967.97</u>
May 31, 2006 closing balance	\$5967.97
CD Maturing 1-07-07	\$2659.06
	<u>\$8627.03</u>
Club Financial Position May 31, 2006	<u>\$8627.03</u>
Respectively submitted	
Diane Galli UVMCC Treasurer	
Emergency Fund	\$2560.15

UltraVans for sale:

UltraVan #340 Contact Jerry Hayns at 727-862-4668. with the white interior with a Toronado drive train mounted in the rear. He used the whole front chassis with the toro suspension and brakes and all. Has a rebuilt 3.8 buick engine. He lives in Port Richey Florida.

UltraVan #601. This was Dave Peterson's personal coach and the fist one of five the were built. Only three of the five ever made it to the road. This is the same coach that Dave contracted with FMC to study for one year. Dave was the designer of the original series of Ultravans as well as the 600 and 700 series. The 600 series have a V8 (in this case olds 350) mounted on the drivers side rather than the middle. This is mated to a turbo 350 three speed automatic transmission. #601 is in need of a full restoration. \$7400.00. If your interested or have questions please send me an e-mail or give me a call 510-909-3435 or 209-742-7469. It is located in Mariposa, CA

UltraVan #324 Harrison's Custer, South Dakota Owned since 1976 140 H P engine 143,000 miles. roller rockers large capacity oil pan oil and transmission coolers 389 rear end pos. traction disk brakes finned rear with dual reservoir cylinder air bags on front air shocks on rear. emergency brake in center...full set of gages including cylinder temp trans, vacuum tachometer, air pressure etc. set of wind shields white interior Our rig has been loved and used clean but could use some new ideas Ryerson Manual Ed and Jane Harrison 12050 Woodford Road Custer, South Dakota 57730 tel.. 605 673 3969 or 11022 W. Waikiki Drive Sun City, Az. tel. 623 974 6373

Editors note: If you will send a picture of your UV when it goes up for sale I can put it in too. None of these ads had a picture!! A picture is worth a thousand words.

UltraVan Motor Coach Club



**Jean McMasters
and his well
traveled
UltraVan #330
at the National
Rally**

**This coach has
been recently
restored after a
major accident in
which it was hit
from behind.
With damage most
of us would have
considered total**

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Atascadero, CA 93422**

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WHALES ON WHEELS is a quarterly publication of the UltraVan Motor Coach Club, a CORSA chapter. It is dedicated to the preservation and use of the ULTRA VAN. This 22 foot unique motor home was designed by David Peterson and built in Kansas until 1970. About 365 units were built. Dues are \$15.00 annually, please remit to the Treasurer, Diane Galli. Make checks payable to UltraVan Motor Coach Club. Send submissions to WOW by Email to the Editor, Jim Isbell (digital submissions are preferred but handwritten are acceptable, just more work)

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