



**Introducing the new Whales on Wheels Editor  
Brenda Leighton...actually its her coach, shes inside**

# Whales On Wheels

a publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club

Volume 2007

October 2007 issue #4

The Whales on Wheels is a quarterly publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club, Inc. a CORSA Chapter and is dedicated to the preservation and use of the UltraVan. 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 annually. Please remit to the Treasurer, Diane Galli. Make checks payable to Ultra Van Motor Coach Club. Send submissions to WOW by email to the Editor, Jim Isbell (Digital submissions are preferred, but even hand written are acceptable)

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**This unit is for sale. It is in very good running condition. It has new air conditioner, rug, mattresses like the astronauts use, refrigerator with big freezer two doors. MANY OTHER ITEMS that I can't tell you about as I'm no mechanic. Asking \$15,000.00 or best offer. Ruth Harvey ,7685 64th st. Pinellas Park, Florida tel. (727)541-3433**



**#291, is located in the San Diego area. It has a 110 engine with about 58,000 original miles on it. There are many extra parts included. There are other extra's, such as a TV and a microwave. I am asking \$5,500.00 for the entirety, FOB San Diego. Frank Y. Hinkle 3918 Nereis Drive La Mesa, CA 91941 PH: 1-619-460-1920**

**#338 is for sale: Onan 2800 watt generator with less than 400 hours, 13,500 BTU A/C with heat strip, Manual rack and pinion steering (TRW re-manufactured Mustang II rack). One of only three units known to have this important safety modification. Imron paint. Stainless steel freshwater tank and replaced aluminum black and grey water tanks. For more info go to: <http://users.adelphia.net/~kwildman/Ultra/1968UltraVan.htm>**



**#408 is for sale. This coach is very heavily modified with MANY improvements I would drive it anywhere in Canada or the USA and will deliver it for the cost of the gas (Subject to an upfront \$500 non-refundable deposit). The drive train is very reliable but after 100,000 miles uses about a quart of oil every 500 miles. Contact Norm Helmkey [corvairfan@copper.net](mailto:corvairfan@copper.net)**



**#410 is for sale in San Antonio, Texas. The owner, Ron Scott Jr, can be reached at 210-494-2470. (He does not have a computer) He has the price at \$7500-OBO- 110hp/pg. I know that the van was recently at Cheek's Corvair Shop for brakes and tune up. I don't know the finer points of an ultravan, but this one appeared to be in really decent shape to me.**

**1973 #604 - 26 Feet Long - Sleeps 5 or 6 One of Four Built-This is the only one on the Road V/8 350 Oldsmobile Engine - 50,000 miles on engine-Full dash instruments 400R4 Overdrive transmission, 4.11 Gears in differential, Power steering, Power 4 wheel disk brakes -Air Bag Suspension, Solar Panels, Good tires 2.8 Microlite 2500Kw Generator-13,000 BTU Roof Air conditioner, Power Inverter, Large awning, All Tinted Glass, TV/VCR w/antenna, Microwave. Asking \$18,000.00**

**Contact: Howard Boso, home (480)288-2636, cell (480)518-4103 email [Hamboso@juno.com](mailto:Hamboso@juno.com)**



**#236. Motor was rebuilt by Jim Craig and has less than 1000 miles on it. The motor was also** lowered in the engine bay for better alignment. The paint is in fair condition on the metal parts, but shows cracking in the gelcoat areas. The brakes are in good condition. The upper spring mounts have been upgraded to I-beams. Overall this this Ultra is in excellent mechanical condition. The upholstery and carpet have been removed from the inside as well as some of the paneling. All of the original paneling is available and can be reinstalled. The cabinets are in average condition. This Ultra has not been used in many years so the condition of the plumbing is unknown. I am putting it up for sale in an as is condition for \$4800.00. I have a clear title and it is currently registered in CA. If it doesn't sell at this price I will finish the interior work and be asking a higher price. Please give me a call if you have **any questions 209-742-7469 home. 510-909-3435 cell.**

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### **FROM THE TREASURER**

Dues are now due and payable for UVMCC, they will be delinquent January 1, 2008 so get them in now and and don't miss an issue of Whales On Wheels.

Make the check payable to UVMCC and send it to me:

Diane Galli Treasurer  
5000 Cascabel RD  
Atascadero,CA 93422-2302

Thanks,

Diane

## **Prez Sez**

Here it is, Oct 1 and I have not submitted my Presidential report for Whales on Wheels. I really did it, but can't find it on my computer. What shall I call these comments? Ron's Ultrasoundings?, Ron's rantings and ravings?

Having returned from a very nice (cozy, that is) National Rally at Ruidoso, I must first thank Howard and Marsha for hosting a very nice event. Also I must thank all of those who attended. The quantity was a little sparse, but the quality made up for that!! Thanks also to Lou Young for his past 3 years of service to the club. He engineered a very smooth and successful transition (or merger) of two clubs into one. He also worked on the bylaws. I also think he had something to do with (as did several others, incl. Bob Galli) our club becoming a chapter of CORSA!

Having said that.....my job should be easy, right? My goals for the next few years are simply to keep the club at it's present level (or higher).

To do that I feel we must stay connected. In the past, the national and regional rallies were the mainstay of our "connectedness". On the other hand, I really do not know many of you, if you haven't been to a national rally. Those of us living in the "heartland", do not easily get to California or the Pacific NW, nor to Florida or other eastern destinations. We must, of course continue to have rallies, BUT it is my aim to use the internet, email, our Yahoo user group, etc. to stay connected and to get to know each other.

Unfortunately, the same thing is happening to our members, as is happening to our coaches.....we are getting older, and fewer. The only salvation, I can see to that problem is to interest Corvair owners (who are also getting older and fewer) to buy Ultras! The demise of our coaches is paralleling our own demise....but I believe that the inevitable can be postponed by younger corvair enthusiasts taking over where we leave off. With that in mind, I hope we can (with our coaches) show up at as many Corvair events as possible!!

Please contact me if you have questions, ideas, or concerns.

Happy Ultravanning to you all,

**Ron Zoutendam**

**UVMCC NATIONAL RALLY**  
**SEPTEMBER 4-8, 2007**  
**Ruidoso Downs, NM**

**by Diane and Bob Galli**

Our trip was started with Lew ND Shelley Young going out of their way by coming West to Atascadero to pick Bob and me up to take us in their Buick to the Rally, that is going the extra mile for sure, we had a great trip.

First stop being Laughlin, NV and the riverside Casino for the night, then Sky City Casino the next day at Acoma, NM. Then Ruidoso, and the local Hospital where I had to have a blood test done and faxed to my Oncologist at home, Shelley had to get a blood test on Wednesday, and I was back by my Dr's orders for 2 more, Thursday and Saturday, as my platelets were falling due to the Cancer therapy I had been taking for the last 28 days.

Fortunately they were on the rise by Saturday and we left for home Sunday AM.

In between all this we had a very nice rally, hosted by Marsha and Howard Boso.

Howard and Marsha had a spot of trouble on the way in Tucson, and had to change transmissions, Howard went home and got another and came back and put it in and came to the Rally only one day late, so we were a day late, who cared? They got there safe and sound.

It was also Cindy Nelsons maiden voyage as an Ultra Van driver , in her Mom and Dad's Ultra, Ed and Jane Harrison, they were with her, they also had a spot of oil and transmission fluid trouble, that was related to a fresh engine, and a leaky something, ??? Female version of a Vacuum Modulator.

Through the marvel of cell phones we got Cindy, Ed and Jane to the rally ahead of us.

Also in Attendance were:

Jim and Roy Davis, Brenda Leighton and Norm Standal, Nancy and Doug Pratt, Forrest Gist, Dan and Betty Reinhardt, Ron and Martha Zoutandam, Betsy and Leo Senn, Lew and Shelley Young, Diane and Bob Galli, Howard and Marsha Boso, Cindy Nelson, and Jane and Ed Harrison, and Richard and Gayle Finch.

7 Ultra's, 1 Rialto, 1 Argosy, and 3 by car.

16 of us went to a local dinner theatre, for good dinner, and good entertainment by George and Barbara Stearkle and Bill Wells, who perform at Mountain Annie's in Ruidoso, in summer, and in Apache Junction, AZ in the Winter and Spring at their own dinner Theatre I asked Barbara if she was doing the Phantom of the Opera song and Bill if Elvis was in the building,



and told by both they would do them if possible, I was pleasantly surprised when Barbara announced a special request and she and George sang it. Then Bill did his impersonation of Elvis, it's great fun.

I had rented a cabin at the RV park that had 2 bedrooms, a nice bathroom, kitchen and living room , so Lew and Shelley and Bob and I shared the cabin.

All we had to bring were our own bedding and towels. It was a nice cozy cabin, no A/C but the weather cooperated.

As Ron and Martha had to leave on Friday for Georgia, Lew installed him President Friday AM after coffee, then we had the East/West meetings so Ron could participate, and before he and Martha had to leave.



Marsha had the banquet catered to the RV Park on Saturday and it was very nice, Beef, chicken, green beans , twice baked potato, and salad, and peach cobbler and chocolate cake for dessert.

We had a dinner provided by our hosts, Marsha and Howard on Wednesday, and

a pot luck dinner on Thursday. We did not go hungry. LOL

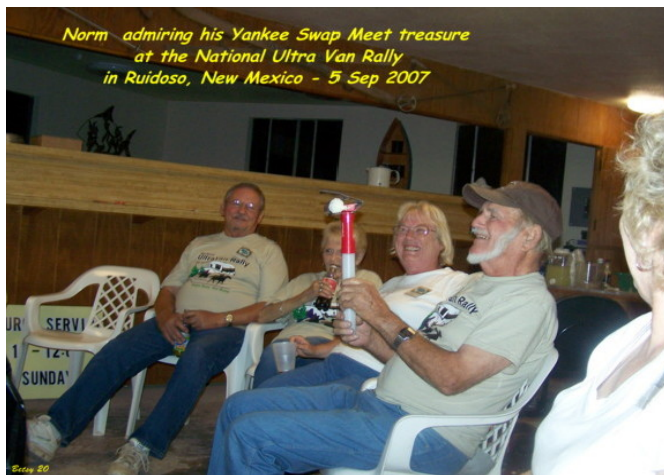
Brenda Leighton made a quilt of old rally t-shirt logo's and it was won by Roy Davis.

There were tech sessions led by Jim Davis, our esteemed Tech Editor.



This is my version and I am sticking to it, LOL

PS if I left anything out am sure someone will let me know. LOL



# What I Did On My Summer Vacation

by Cindy Nelson

In 1976, my parents, Jane and Ed Harrison bought UltraVan 324, built in 1967, from its original owner. I thought the coach resembled a loaf of Wonder Bread, and looked on in tolerant amusement as they proceeded to jaunt across the country for the next 28 years. They participated in many, many Ultra Van Rallies, put over 100,000 miles on the van and made enduring friendships with other owners of what I called "those weird little motor homes".

Their last major trip was to Pipestone in 2003. Shortly after that, Dad had a series of strokes that resulted in aphasia, which means he understands and comprehends quite well, just not able to verbally express his thoughts.

The coach wasn't driven much after that, which was upsetting to Dad. He never believed that Ultras should be just parked in the back yard and left to rot. At one point they considered selling it, but after a fiasco with a potential buyer, we decided that wasn't the answer.

I realized how truly important the ultra was to him, and decided we would attempt to attend at least one more National Rally.

The logistics of getting the coach in shape didn't pose a problem, I just said "call Howard Boso!!". He made two trips to Custer, SD....towed the coach back to Apache Junction and went to work. In the meantime, I paid my UVMCC dues, arranged for licensing, insurance, roadside assistance and looked forward to the Rally in Ruidoso.

What I hadn't thought about was actually driving the darn thing. Dad wouldn't let anyone else ever, ever drive his precious UltraVan, and there were a handful of people he trusted with the mechanicals....Art Eller, Jim Craig, Bob Galli, Howard, Len Ryerson., Dan Reinhardt. I certainly was not on that short list.

I drive a vehicle that allows me to be a kindred spirit to drug dealers, rappers and pimps... never worry about getting lost because I can push the blue OnStar button, have a backup camera, cooled seats, etc. Yes, I'm spoiled.

My brother drove the folks down to Mesquite, NV in late August and shortly after they arrived we left for Apache Junction. After getting to Howard and Marsha's, we had a nice dinner with them, and settled in to the air-conditioned coach for the night. I'd forgotten how awful it was to sleep on that stupid, narrow little couch. Last time I'd slept on it, I was 20 years younger.

The next morning at the literal crack of dawn, after I barely had one cup of coffee, Howard was leading us out onto the highway. Mom doing her best Jackie Gleason imitation, proclaiming "And awaaaaaay we gooooooo", Dad sitting in the passenger seat grinning while I'm thinking "this is gonna be interesting....no power steering....no power brakes....no air conditioning while we're running.....and I've never driven this thing one inch in my life, but oh well....Howard and Marsha are with us."

At least they were with us to Tucson, where they disappeared in a cloud of smoke and a puddle of oil on the highway. From there, we were on our own. Gulp. The day got hotter and hotter. And hotter. In the middle of the desert, the engine noise changed, and we stopped at a rest area to check it out. Oh my...even I know white smoke coming out of one exhaust isn't a good thing. Got into the back compartments and went on a rant and rave when I discovered that we had no oil, no transmission fluid and the only tools were 3 combination wrenches and a rusty screwdriver. Cursing that I hadn't checked any of that because Dad always carried enough parts and tools to build another coach, but lots of stuff got unloaded before it was towed to Howard's house.

Took a deep breath and gave Mom her marching orders....."okay, Mom, go ask that guy in the pickup truck if he has a quart of oil, and if he doesn't find someone who does - do NOT come back until you have a quart of oil." Her mission accomplished, we limped into Lordsburg and bought lots of



oil and transmission fluid. From then on, we stopped ever 50 miles to check the levels - figured if we kept the fluids up at least we might have a chance. Many calls to Bob and Diane Galli later, we got into Las Cruces. There was no doubt in my mind the proper course of action when I saw a Comfort Inn right off the interstate.

The next morning we tackled the last part of the trip - the long, long, LONG grade out of Las Cruces toward Ruidoso. Diane Galli had already given me strict instructions on when to shift into low, and to pull over at the top. We made it to the turnout, and I felt like we'd climbed Mount Everest. Another quart of oil and quart of transmission fluid and we toodled into Ruidoso and to the campground. Whereupon we were met by about 6 of the club mechanic- types, who were shaking their heads about the clouds of white smoke coming out the exhaust. I didn't care - parked the ultra, got my lawn chair out and collapsed.

The next day I learned how to fix the coach when the threads on a stud are wonky so the nut backs off and a rocker arm twists down . Experienced ultra van owners know that bit of knowledge is useless since that problem will never happen again.

We had a marvelous week at the Rally, and my arms and legs recovered from driving without power brakes or power steering and the gazillion times I leaped to the engine compartment, flipped up the bed cushions and opened the engine doors. Who needs to go to the gym - my new motto is "Need to get in shape? Drive an Ultra Van ".

With a sweet sounding engine, we said goodbye and left cool Ruidoso and headed back to Apache Junction.

Having had plenty of coffee that morning, I was confidently driving the Ultra Van and stopped to get gas in Las Cruces, and let Howard catch up. Started the engine after getting gas, and discovered Mom call yell "fire...FIRE!!" loud enough to evacuate a 500 seat theater, much less alert people in a small motor home. All I could think about was getting away from the pumps. Drove about 10 ft., shut everything down, grabbed the fire extinguisher , drew on my previous experience of leaping from the driver's seat in to the engine in 3 strides, decided I didn't want to lift the doors to the engine compartment, so blasted away at the flames coming out the heater hole. Calm prevailed once again as the fire was quickly put out. Cranked the steering wheel over, put Mom behind the driver's seat and told her to just hold the wheel while I pushed the coach to get it out of the way of other cars in the gas station. I was pushing from the doorway, and looked back to see Dad at the back of the coach...cane in one hand, pushing with the other.

Howard found us and in short order discovered the problem was with the wires shorting out from the cruise control - I looked at Dad and asked what possessed him to think we ever needed cruise on the coach. He just grinned and shrugged. We don't need no stinkin' cruise control - Howard cut the wires, taped them up and put "remove cruise control" on his list of things to do with #324.

The heat hadn't abated during the week we were in the mountains of NM, and once again, it got hotter and hotter. And hotter. We took a different route back, and I was enjoying the 2 lane roads and lack of huge trucks roaring past me. Until we started the 7% grade down out of Globe with the west sun glaring through the windshield. That was the only time I was truly frightened - couldn't see the center line, couldn't see oncoming cars, couldn't see the darn road. Later, Howard said I had gotten pretty close to the guard rail at one point and I asked him "what guard rail?"

By the way - Howard lies - he promised me we would not make the journey in one day. Hrumph. We got into Apache Junction just as the sun was setting, and I gratefully turned into his yard and started to pull alongside one of his buildings. Guess I got a bit close, because the passengers both did the "gasp...EEEEK!!" thing. That was it - I shut off the engine, glared at them both and said the coach was just going to sit right where it was unless either they or Howard wanted to move it.

The ultra van stayed at Howard's for a little more work...well, maybe a lot more work.

**And now I have my own UltraVan war stories to tell when we're all sitting around one of Jim Craig's infamous bonfires.**

# Winter Western Regional Meet 2008

*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](mailto:Hamboso@juno.com)*

***Dates February 11 - February 15, 2008***

**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 barbeque will be given on the second night (Feb. 12th at 5:30PM).**

**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.**

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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Please Note: Popularity of this event has nearly outgrown the space available. Preferences will be given to the earliest registrations (by postmark). Some functions (Swap & RV Space) may sell out early.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print your name & all others that are attending): \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_, CITY: \_\_\_\_\_, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_, E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLUB AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_ CORSA NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

	BEFORE OCT. 9	AFTER OCT. 9	QUANTITY	AMOUNT Circle One \$7 or \$10
Family or Individual Registration for Weekend. Includes Friday Night Welcome Party No Charge. Number Attending _____	\$7.00	\$10.00	1	
Saturday Night Banquet <b>GUEST SPEAKER IS CAL CLARK OF CLARK'S CORVAIR PARTS</b>				
(per adult) Vegetarian (Pasta)	\$29.00	\$31.00	_____	\$
Salmon	\$29.00	\$31.00	_____	\$
Chicken Breast	\$29.00	\$31.00	_____	\$
Saturday Night Banquet (per child) Vegetarian (Pasta)	\$15.00	\$17.00	_____	\$
Salmon	\$15.00	\$17.00	_____	\$
Chicken Breast	\$15.00	\$17.00	_____	\$
Swap Meet Space (20 x20) Entire Weekend	\$15.00	\$20.00 (if available)	_____	\$
People's Choice Car Show (per vehicle)	\$10.00	\$15.00	_____	\$
Model Car Contest	\$5.00	\$5.00	_____	\$
Creative Parts Contest	\$5.00	\$5.00	_____	\$
Ultra Van & RV Space (Friday & Saturday Nights Only) (Cost is per night)	\$20.00	\$20.00	_____ (# of nights)	\$
GWFBT&SM T- SHIRTS (Note: Shirts are available ONLY through Pre-Registration)				
SIZES: MEDIUM (M)	\$15.00	\$15.00	_____	\$
LARGE (L)	\$15.00	\$15.00	_____	\$
EXTRA-LARGE (XL)	\$15.00	\$15.00	_____	\$
EXTRA, EXTRA-LARGE (XXL)	\$18.00	\$18.00	_____	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>				\$

NO HOOK-UPS ARE AVAILABLE AND NO OVERNIGHT STREET PARKING IS PERMITTED FOR MOTORHOMES.

FRIDAY NIGHT WELCOME PARTY WILL BE HELD AT THE QUALITY INN AT 5:00pm.

THE BANQUET IS AT THE ELKS LODGE, 67491 E. PALM CANYON DR., CATHEDRAL CITY, 92234, (760) 328-2554.

NOTE: VEHICLE AND/OR TRAILER PARKING MUST BE WITHIN PURCHASED SPACE AND MOVEMENT ON AND OFF THE FIELD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED DURING REGULAR HOURS.

**NOTE: PALM SPRINGS CITY ORDINANCE 11.44.100 PROHIBITS DOGS ON THE FIELD.**

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 9, 2007**

Make all checks payable to: "CWLA" Mail to: Corsa West, Los Angeles, P.O. Box: 950023, Mission Hills, CA 91395

Hotels: Host Hotel: Quality Inn, 1269 E. Palm Canyon Drive, (760) 323-2775 (Mention Corvair Club for special rate of \$79).

Other Hotels: Palm Garden (760) 323-1328; Palm Springs Travel Lodge (760) 327-1211

[www.corvair.org/chapters/corsawest](http://www.corvair.org/chapters/corsawest)