



Ultra Van #460 is ready for Christmas with her owners, Cyndie and Chuck Hanson.

## Whales On Wheels

a publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club

### Volume 2017

### January Issue #1

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 Ultra Van. This 22 foot, unique, motor home was designed by David Peterson and built in Kansas until 1970. About 365 units were built. For membership, please remit dues to the Treasurer, Owen Strawn (\$5 per year if your newsletter is delivered by e mail or \$15 per year if the newsletter is delivered by snail mail (Post Office). Make checks payable to Ultra Van Motor Coach Club. Send submissions to WOW by email to the Editor, Brenda Standal (Digital submissions are preferred, but even hand written are acceptable)

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### 2017 Calendar of Events

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<b>Undetermined date</b>	<b>Ultra Van National Rally in Hutchinson, KS</b>	<b>Page 6</b>

### Newly Elected Officers for 2017

<b>President – Jerry Mello</b>	<b>West Director – Ron Adams</b>
<b>Vice President – Chris Brown</b>	<b>East Director – Kevin Coykendall</b>
<b>Secretary – Kim Yocum</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor – Brenda Standal</b>
<b>Treasurer – Owen Strawn</b>	



# PREZ SEZ

Hello all.

When I wrote my last presidential letter Patty and I were still on our way back home from the National Rally in Tombstone. A lot has happened to us since then. Check out some of it in my article elsewhere in this issue.



Some of us are not up to speed when it comes to the social media experience. I've spent some time in the past reading the posts on the Yahoo group, that was several years ago. One of the last times I was on the group there was a message with a problem and I had to change my password. Now that I'm president I should be following what's going on concerning Ultra Vans on the internet. A quick search brings up our official web page on the CORSA site but I couldn't find a link to group pages. I would like to get up to date on what's going on and make it easier for new members to join in. I've

heard from members that are very active on the forums that they think there are too many different places to go. Do we need to make changes to how things are run or do we just need to educate our group, me in particular, on how to navigate to the various sites? Let me know if you have any input. My email is, [corvairjerr65@comcast.net](mailto:corvairjerr65@comcast.net).

As usual there is a long list of minor repairs and much work to complete the interior before she will be ready to hit the road next spring. Well to be honest, the interior might not be finished before she hits the road next spring but that and all of the other possible problems, won't stop us from enjoying our time on the road with MiniMo. Patty and I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We hope you had a great 2016 and are looking forward to more UVMCC adventures in 2017.

Jerry Mello



## "The Ernest Newhouse Award"

There have been questions regarding the procedures and selection of a person who should receive the Ernest Newhouse Award. The following was taken from our By-Laws Dated 2006 Appendix – J Paragraph 2 Procedures (5/93)(7/00)(8/05)

The award recognizes an Ultra Member who has contributed in an outstanding manner to the progress, enjoyment and general success of the Club and its activities, and meets the qualifications as stated in "B" below. (7/00)(8/05) Basis for selection will be the individual performance during the entire period of membership. Not limited to the previous year or any other shorter time period. To qualify for nomination of this award, the individual must have done four of the following six items:

1. Host at least one National Rally.
2. Hold a Chair position of a committee.
3. Hold at least one term as a club officer, Tech. or other Club position.
4. Be a member of the Club for a minimum of two years.
5. Host at least two regional Rallies, or a second National Rally.
6. Accomplish outstanding or superior services to the Club.



A written, qualifying report will be sent to the President for each nominee for verification. The President will forward each qualified report to the editor for inclusion on the Ballot.

Members vote by ballot, preceding or during the National Rally. Nominations will be as specified in paragraph 2B above.

Presentation of the award occurs at the National Rally. A tie vote selects the individual of longest Club membership. An individual may receive the award one time. The "Ernie Award" is the highest individual recognition that the Club offers. The Medallion will be worn at all Ultra Assemblies

A Special Note from Your Editor.....It is more economical to receive your newsletter

electronically now, so if there are some of you out there who now have e receive your Whales on Wheels very fast (It takes 2 seconds to e mail it to and I will take you off of my Snail Mail list. You can e mail me at the address

Brenda Standal

239-656-3075 [brennorm@aol.com](mailto:brennorm@aol.com)



mail & would like to you), please let me know below.



**ULTRA VAN EASTERN SPRING RALLY**  
**March 6 through 9, 2017**  
**At**  
**Standal Mansion in North Fort Myers, FL**

This year, 2016, the Standals made a trip to Idaho to visit family. While there we toured the State Capitol in Boise. Norm was invited to sit in the Governor's chair, so now we call him "Guv".



We are officially inviting all to our Eastern Spring Rally at the Guv's Mansion at 1285 Driftwood Dr. North Fort Myers, FL. We are enjoying beautiful weather. We have a water way in our back yard. Canoeing and fishing are available plus lots of places to see and EAT of course. We do have electric and water hookups and an extra lot for overflow if needed.

PLEASE CALL BRENDA OR NORM AT 239-656-3075 IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING COMING. Thanks!



**ULTRA VAN MINI RALLY IN SHAWNEE, OK**  
**March 24-30, 2017**  
**In Conjunction With**  
**2017 GMCMI Spring Convention**  
**Spring Fling**  
**“A Celebration of Vintage Front-Wheel Drive Motorhomes”**  
**Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center | Shawnee, Oklahoma**

This Convention will be a celebration of our vintage GMC Motorhomes, and ALSO other classic front-wheel drive motorhomes such as the Revcon, Cortez, Travoy, Tiara, Ultra Van, and Silver Motor Coach. Plans are being made to share information and have some fun with the owners of these classics. This facility has been selected to enhance the opportunity for seminars, meetings and fellowship involving all these diverse and yet similar vehicles and their owners. Make your plans to join us. **Info contact: Owen Strawn, 316-208-4885**



**Ultras in the Route 66 Fun Run**  
**Kingman, Arizona**  
**May 5 through 7, 2017**

The “2017 Route 66 Fun Run” is a 3-day celebration of the namesake’s famous American Roadway with hundreds of Show Cars cruising along the longest unbroken stretch of Route 66.

The “Route 66 Fun Run” rolls into Kingman on Saturday for a stop in Historic Downtown Kingman. Events center around the Kingman Visitor Center (120 W. Andy Devine Ave.), with a huge car show, entertainment, food with a carnival atmosphere. Fun for the whole family!

For more information call the “Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona” at 928-753-5001 or go to [www.azrt66.com/](http://www.azrt66.com/)

**Info contact: Betsy Senn, 928-565-1298**



## **ULTRA VAN WESTERN RALLY AT YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

**May 18 through 21, 2017**

**Sponsors: Bonnie and Howard Joseph & Rosie Walker and Larry Forman**

The Western Rally will be at May 18 through 21 at Thousand Trails in Groveland which is YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. Thousand Trails offers a shuttle service to Yosemite. Limited number of sites are available at some of the park's best sites near the lake at reduced prices to our members which will be known after the first of the year. Everyone must make their own reservation and pay for first night when doing so.

Everyone will be pretty much on their own to experience Yosemite in the manner in which they want. However, some fabulous breakfasts and dinners are planned, one being a pot luck. We'll squeeze in the necessary meeting, probably right after or before a meal, or at an evening campfire gathering. No time for games if you want to experience Yosemite.

The TT park officials are extremely busy now, and promise to get back to us with the dollar amount after the first of the year. So, hang in there, and stay tuned more info coming soon. In the meantime take a look at their website, Thousand Trails in Groveland, CA.

This is going to be a fabulous rally that promises to raise the bar.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP now to [2rosalene@gmail.com](mailto:2rosalene@gmail.com), because Bonnie may have to try to arrange to reserve more site spaces. Bonnie was being conservative when reserving sites with her TT relative.

Rosie & Bonnie



My wife and I will host a vintage trailer and motorhome rally in Brooks, Oregon over the July 4th weekend and we would like to extend an invitation to Ultra Van owners who would like to attend. All the information is at the web site [www.all-american-rally.com](http://www.all-american-rally.com) including a video from the most recent event. It would be great to have an UV Pod there, and we will be bringing ours. We have been busy with the holidays, but I will be extending the invitation publicly on the Ultra Van Facebook page soon. Bob & Jacyn Gallagher #215

All American Vintage Trailer Rally  
Antique Powerland Heritage Park  
Brooks, Oregon  
June 30-July 5, 2017 (July 4th weekend)  
[www.all-american-rally.com](http://www.all-american-rally.com)



**2017 ULTRA VAN NATIONAL RALLY AT HUTCHINSON, KANSAS  
DATES ARE UNDETERMINED AT PRESENT  
PLEASE CHECK THE NEXT ISSUE OF WHALES ON WHEELS**

**Co-Hosts are the Strawns and the Andersons**

## ULTRA MERCHANDISE

Available at rallies or by ordering from: Merchandise Chairman

Miniature Cloisonné Ultra pins \$5.00 each  
Cloisonné Ultra earring set \$7.00  
Cloisonné Ultra pendants (chain not included) \$3.50  
Ultra Coffee Mugs \$8.00  
Club badges – 1st one free at rally or \$5.00 replacement  
"Corvair Powered" bumper stickers \$3 or 2 for \$5  
DVD of Ultra Archives \$5.00  
DVD Ultra Coach Owners Manual by Len & Edy Ryerson \$5.00  
VIN # plates (blank – you provide coach #) \$3.00  
Booklet "From Covered Wagon to Ultra Van" \$5.00  
3 ½" X 4 ½" Stitched patches w/ Ultra on US map & flag \$3.00  
Tech tips, sets 1 or 2 (\$13 + shipping each mailed)  
Window decals: UVMCC with Ultra \$1.00  
Postcards and note cards @ various prices



Available while supply lasts: Tombstone Rally t-shirts \$15 and Tombstone Rally magnets \$3.00

Patty Mello (541)926-2631 or [nanapatty1951@hotmail.com](mailto:nanapatty1951@hotmail.com)  
Call or e-mail me to shop or better yet come join us at one of our *rallies*!



[\\*\\*I'm working on a new order of Ultra Van Coffee Mugs. Orders come in a case of 24. Hoping to find them in turquoise, cobalt, and red.](#)





Santa Claus?



No It is Ron Adams!



Chuck in #460







Seasons  
Greetings



Turkel enjoying the holidays with Molly and Chris!





Anderson's 420 in its winter home.



## ULTRA VAN ADVENTURES by Jerry and Patty Mello

On our way back home from the National Rally in Tombstone we were having a wonderful time site seeing our way through southern Utah and had worked our way into California. The Ultra Van was running great, even going up 14 percent grades on hwy12 between Capitol Reef National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park. This is an extremely beautiful drive with thrilling views, but I don't think I'll drive a Corvair powered Ultra Van on it anytime soon. We were in southern California heading towards the San Francisco Bay Area to visit relatives when things took a very bad turn for the worse. We were on hwy58, heading towards Bakersfield coming down a long grade out of Tehachapi. When I rolled back into the throttle things did not sound right. Patty and I looked at each other and Patty said, "That doesn't sound right". We pulled off at the next exit and into a gravel lot. A quick inspection told me that I did not want to go any further. Oil was dripping from the main seal and there was loud knocking emanating from the center of the block. After a 3 hour wait, our tow truck arrived and hauled us 30 miles to the Orange Grove RV Park where we spent the night. I had called my brother who owns an Auto Body Shop in Fremont California. When we made our first cross country trip in 2009 with our then just mechanically refurbished Ultra Van, he said he would be expecting my call to come rescue us when we broke down. After seven years the call was finally made. He quickly volunteered to drive his tow truck down to retrieve us. The next morning when we positioned his roll back for pulling the Ultra Van onto it, we noticed that his light duty truck was too narrow. I quickly came up with the idea of using space saver spare tires on the front to narrow the front. All we had to do was make a quick trip to a local wrecking yard and pick up a couple. Three hours and 12 yards later we found two that would work from mid 90s Chevy Astro vans. With my wallet \$80 lighter we were quickly loaded and on our way. Because my brother's truck would only seat two, he carried a car for us to drive back to his place. Patty was sure the Ultra Van was destined to fall off the rollback with every bump in the road. We made it to my brother's place in the San Jose foothills east of Milpitas without incident.

We sleep in the Ultra Van that night because we are more comfortable with our own mattress and after all it is our home away from home. A quick inspection the next morning revealed that I could turn the torque converter about 1" before any resistance. After 40,500 miles in the motor home, the crankshaft had broken!!!! Everything I needed to build a replacement engine was only 600 miles north in my shop. My brother loaned us one of his pickups so I dropped the drive train out, onto a pallet and into the pickup. On the trip from San Jose to Albany Oregon, I discovered that my Ultra Van uses less fuel than a 2003 Ford F250. When I got home I spent 14 hours a day assembling a new engine. I was in a hurry to get my brother's truck back to him and get the Ultra Van out of his backyard. On hind sight this was NOT a good plan! I always test run engines before installing them. Over the years I have come to hate points! When vehicles are new they aren't too bad. The points needed to be adjusted periodically and replaced every now and then. With age they can be a real pain! I have seen problems with three other Ultra Vans using points in recent years. The points cams get rougher with age and wear the pad on the points changing the dwell and the timing. For the initial firing I use point because it is easier to get the timing set and then I switch over to a pertronix. With the points installed the engine would not fire. No spark. I cleaned the points, changed points, cleaned all connections, changed the coil, no luck. After a good night's rest, I pulled out the points plate and put the pertronix from my pickup and it started right away. Hooray. But what is that noise? Just as I was about to stop the engine, it came to an abrupt stop! Now what? With tears in my eyes I went into the house to tell Patty that my plans to drive the new engine back to San Jose had been postponed. I gathered my composure and went out to the shop to conduct an autopsy. In my exhausted state I neglected to torque the rod bolts on 1, 3 and 5. I still can't believe I did that! I guess that's why I run all my engines before I put them into a vehicle. New plan. Take my time and make sure everything is done correctly. My blunder had caused more damage than a broken crankshaft! Let's see, another block, crankshaft, 3 sets of rods, pistons and cylinders. Carefully inspect any reused parts and double check everything. Success, the Ultra Van with a rebuilt engine is now snug in its place in the shop where it belongs. Another lesson learned the hard way.





## Winter Wonderland

Jerry and MaryLou trying to keep warm



Gary & Olga's home in  
Minnesota



Doug and Nancy Pratt's home in the  
Winter in Pennsylvania.

