

# 2017 National Ultra Van Rally in Hutchinson



Roll call (left to right): Howard & Bonnie Joseph, Sam & Stacy Hill, Owen & Lori Strawn, Ken Hand, Carl & Fran Jones, Jerry & Patty Mello, Chris Brown & Molly Bacon, Jerry & Mary Lou Kramer



## Whales On Wheels

a publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club

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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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Sept. ????

Unknown Ultra Van National Rally

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### PREZ SEZ

This year's National Rally was great! Gary and Olga Anderson and Owen Strawn put in a lot of work and his wife Lori allowed Owen's absence for most of the week. Kansas came through as expected with strong winds and hot weather but the RV park had an air conditioned room that we spent a lot of time in. With eight UVs and about 28 people we had a good turnout. This is Brenda's last newsletter. She has done a fantastic job for the last decade and her talents will be missed. Molly Bacon will take over the newsletter. She has a lot of experience with the Corvanatics newsletter and I know she will produce excellent ones for us. Rick Milne and Carl Jones are working on updating the website "[ultravan.club](http://ultravan.club)" (See website above on cover page). I recommend that you register on the site if you haven't yet.

Patty and I are still on the road traveling back from the rally. Luckily we are retired and can take our time when we travel. We just split from our traveling companions Carl and Fran Jones in Reno. They had commitments at home and had to head back before us. It's nice to have the added security of another vehicle when traveling long distances, and it's even better when they are very good friends! We spent some time in south west Colorado on the way back and are thinking about having the 2018 rally in that area. Looking forward to meeting some more new Ultra Van people at next year's rally.

Jerry Mello, President

### “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 has been enjoyable in putting out the newsletter with everyone’s input. An editor needs all the help available. Please welcome your new editor who will put out the next edition in January, “Molly Bacon” has her bio in this issue.

Brenda Standal

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From Doug Bell:

Belle on the eve before the eclipse at Maryhill State Park on the Columbia River in Washington State.



Absolutely. Credit goes to Meg's sister Colleen Gilronan for the photo.

## Introduction to Molly Bacon the Whales on Wheels Editor as of January 1, 2018

UVMCC's new newsletter editor, Molly Bacon

Hi all, some of you already know me, but for those who don't, here's a little about me.

I am originally from Michigan, which is where we are in the process of moving back to as I write this. I am married to Chris Brown (currently UVMCC Vice President). Both Chris and I are retired. I am a car nut. I became interested in cars before I could drive and have owned a variety of cars such as Jeeps (three of them), a Porsche, a Corvette, 1957 Chevy Nomad, Triumphs, and now a variety of Corvairs and Vegas and an El Camino. Chris is almost as car crazy as I am, but I'm the one who seems to get in trouble by finding cars, as you'll see below.

This car craziness and my love of searching, plus always being willing to do favor for people was how we ended up with Ultra Van #328, which we call Turkel. I was searching for Corvair cars and parts for a couple of people. I use a program to search all of Craigslist all over the US. I was only using the word Corvair in the For Sale section. All at once an ad for an Ultra Van popped up. It was located only about 60 miles away. NO, we were not looking for an Ultra Van; we weren't looking to buy anything! But, it looked good, was a decent price, and was fascinating. So, I emailed the seller for more information. He responded about the same time I saw some posts on a Corvair forum about people who also thought it looked good and might go look at it that weekend. Then Ken Hand posted if he hadn't just bought an Ultra, he would be interested. Though I was at work, I immediately called Chris and said take deposit money out of the bank and go look at it. Needless to say, we owned an Ultra Van a few hours later. That was just over three years ago. We probably take it to more car shows than camping, but we have had fun at vintage trailer rallies and now we've been to two national Ultra Van rallies. Here's a little more on my car life. I have been Secretary/Treasurer of Corvanatics, CORSA's specialty interest chapter for the Corvair trucks and vans for just over four years. I was also the Director of Budget, Finance and Registration for the 2014 CORSA Convention in Tacoma, Washington.

Since I'm retired now, I hope to meet more of you at Ultra Van events and also get to know even more through being the newsletter editor. Please feel free to contact me anytime about anything, [mollybacon@yahoo.com](mailto:mollybacon@yahoo.com) or 706-457-2242



## Class Ads:

**WANTED:** Interested in buying a rear (back) curved door for my Ultra Van, approximately 3 ft. x 4 ft. in size. The rear (back) window should be curved, measuring about 30" x 18" in size.

Anyone who has replaced their emergency brake and cable assembly in their Ultra Van, Also, anyone that has replaced (upgraded) their rear (back) door and window, please contact me.  
Darrell G. Woofter UV #358 [woofcorvair@aol.com](mailto:woofcorvair@aol.com) (352) 503-2434

Available: Ryerson Manual

The Ryerson is available in two forms, Printed and on a searchable CD.

Manual \$60. Plus shipping

Manual and CD \$70 Plus shipping.

CD 17 postage paid to the contiguous U. S.

Shipping is based on your choice of shipping options.

Please send me your address and I will let you know what postage will be.

Eric Kirven, 3585 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807

[Ultravan345@Yahoo.com](mailto:Ultravan345@Yahoo.com)



## ULTRA MERCHANDISE

Call or e-mail me to shop or better yet come join us at the next rally!  
Patty Mello (541)926-2631  
nanapatty1951@hotmail.com

Club badges – 1st one **free** at rally or \$5.00 for a replacement  
Miniature Cloisonné Ultra pins \$5.00 each  
Cloisonné Ultra earring set \$7.00  
Cloisonné Ultra pendants (chain not included) \$3.50  
“NEW colors” Ultra Van Coffee Mugs \$10.00  
Ultra Van ball caps \$10.00  
"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) \$3.00  
100,000 Miles Club plaque (Awarded at rally) **FREE**  
Booklet “From Covered Wagon to Ultra Van” \$5.00 while supplies last  
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



The Whale, Ultra Van 460, with Pilot Chuck Hanson showing off the Ladies Choice Award and \$100 prize, won by voting of spectators and participants over the three days of the show, and the two second place awards in the slow drags both days.

This show was put on by the same people who bring Mesquite Motor Mania to Mesquite every January. Worthy of note here is a bit of a rivalry between myself and my wife Cyndie, Who won this same award and cash prize in the 2013 Motor Mania show here with her '64 Corvair Monza convertible. In ten years the Whale has not won a cash award in Mesquite, as she has often pointed out to me. But the ladies do love their Corvair powered machines, and this year it was the Whale 460 they could not resist.





## Report on 2017 Ultra Van National Rally at Hutchinson, KS

Hosted by Gary & Olga Anderson and Owen & Lori Strawn

### Sunday, September 17

We arrived to find the Kramers the only coach there. Gary and Olga Anderson were there in their pop-up camper. Later, the entourage from the West arrived.



### Monday, September 18

We awoke to raindrop on the windshield. Fortunately, this was the only rain we had.

Owen joined us in the morning.



Host dinner



Tuesday, September 19

Jerry conducted the general business meeting. The directors and the divisions meetings were held before the general meeting.



Lunch was at the Amish restaurant in Yoder, Kansas



This is the current building on the property where the Ultras were built. The original building burned years ago.

The Wizard of Oz was the movie that night. Sorry, no one took any pictures.





**Wednesday, September 20**

Tech sessions all day. Some of the presentations were presented on the “big” screen. There were also some former plant workers that were present and talked about their time building Ultras.



The RV park owners went all out for us and hung the banner on the second story.



Those who attended





**Thursday, September 21**

The RV Park catered the awards luncheon (Oops, again no pictures). The food was fabulous.

Awards, thanks to Rick Milne for making them, were for the oldest coach (#328 – Chris & Molly), longest distance (Carl & Fran Jones – over 1500 miles), hard luck (Carl & Fran Jones), oldest “geezer” driving a coach (Jerry Kramer)



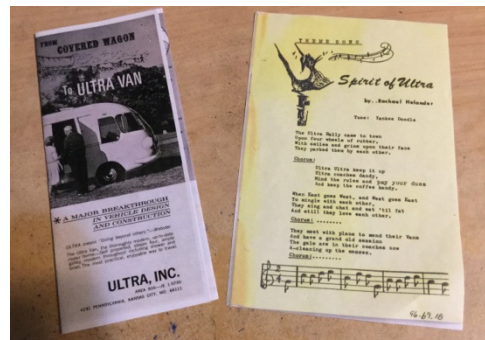
Owen presented Ultra history at the Reno County Museum. Owen's audience of owners, others who were interested, and more plant workers



Some of the Ultra Van literature from Owen's collection on display.



Handouts courtesy of the museum





The museum has a remote controlled Ultra Van that was made by Jean McMaster and given to them at the previous Hutchinson Homecoming 21 years ago.

The museum also gave kids paper Ultra Vans for them to color and decorate.



The Ultras were invited to display at Hutchinson's Third Thursday event. Lots of people visited even though the normal Kansas wind decided to put on a greatly magnified show. You can see the antenna flag on Chris and Molly's coach standing straight out.



A cute period looking couple stopped and posed at the Mello's coach.







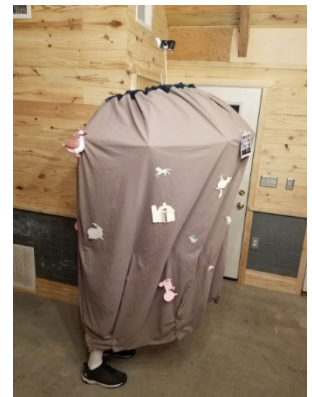
## Friday, September 22

Most everyone went out exploring on their own in the morning and afternoon.

### Wizard of Oz Costume Party.

Cast credits: Tin Man (Gary Anderson), Scarecrow (Olga Anderson), Yellow Brick (Molly Bacon), Scarecrow (Chris Brown), Auntie Em (Ron 'Doc' Zoutendam), Tornado (Jerry Kramer), Good and Bad Witch (Mary Lou Kramer), Cowardly Lion (Jerry Mello)

Olga, the Scarecrow. Mary Lou's bad witch side. Jerry, the tornado, was the winner. Voting came from grandchildren who had the pictures texted to them to ensure there was no bias on anyone's part.



Olga conducted the Wizard of Oz trivia quiz.

Morgan, Chris' son was the winner.



Finally, the sun set on a fun filled week. Looking forward to next year's rally.



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