



**“I’m Cherry, I love people, I love travel and I’m living MY fantasy.” So says Cherry Stokes of South Carolina. She and her husband Leonard are indeed living their dream as they travel in their 40’ motorhome, working as Ambassadors for Fantasy.**

## **AMBASSADOR PROFILE LEONARD & CHERRY STOKES**

Cherry taught at every level from kindergarten through college for 36 years. Leonard was a professional mechanical engineer who retired at age 50 but went back to work teaching college courses and as a traveling technical instructor. Later he was a consulting engineer with a civil engineering firm, specializing in safety analyses of hydro-electric dams in the northeast states, particularly after September 11, 2001.

The Stokes’ estimate they’ve been RVing for more than 40 years – in everything from a pop up trailer to a truck camper, a class C motorhome, and two 5th wheel trailers – and traveled all over the United States. When Leonard finally persuaded Cherry to retire, he started planning a trip to the one state they hadn’t visited – Alaska. In the process, he saw a Fantasy ad in a magazine for an Alaskan tour. “They were going to all the same places I was planning, and so I thought why am I doing all the work?” says Leonard. “We

signed up, had a wonderful time, and never looked back.”

In 2013, they started working for Fantasy. Since then, they’ve completed tours of the Grand West Coast, Lewis & Clark –Rivers West, the Cajun Heartland, the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Rally, Mardi Gras, the Civil War Tour and have returned to Alaska two more times – once as TailGunners and then as WagonMmasters. They’ve indeed been busy – since their first tour to Alaska the Stokes’ (who have a home in South Carolina) have put more than 60,000 miles on their coach.

“Our last tour to Alaska was a charmed trip,” says Cherry. “We saw major calving of the Mears Glacier and Denali (Mt. McKinley) was totally clear for three days in a row. Later in Valdez around 3 a.m., we were all standing outside our rigs in our pajamas viewing the northern lights – all our inhibitions were gone, and we were just comfortable enough with each other to come out and enjoy the

sights together. Our group even presented us a book about the northern lights.”

Leonard and Cherry have a busy year ahead. When we spoke, they were packing the rig to head for the Kentucky Derby, having just returned from the American Civil War Tour and the Charleston Reunion Rally. This fall, they’ll be working the New York City Rally plus TailGunners both the 49 day Canadian Maritimes Provinces and the Autumn in New England Caravans.

“We find that the people who join us on Fantasy tours are just great quality folks,” says Cherry. “When the trip begins, we find we all have something in common – we want to travel in our RVs and have a taste for adventure. Along the way, we become lifelong friends. Leonard and I call our lifestyle- ‘running away from home and joining the circus’ to have the time of our lives.” Adds Leonard, “And it’s definitely a fantasy circus.”

# stokes