

Discovery Express



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January 2014

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

For many of us, 2014 came in on the coattails of unusually active weather cells ... snow where snow is rare, below zero temps where the norm is closer to 50°, and dry where winter rain is usual. There's nothing like Mother Nature for keeping us on our toes!

A packed issue to begin the year

- ☞ The polls closed on November 15, 2013, and the votes have been counted. The detailed results, as reported by Nominating Chairman **Marshall Godwin**, are on **page 11**. Thanks to all who took the time to cast a ballot, and thanks to those who stepped forward to serve the club.
- ☞ **Bob Williams** shares information on **page 3** about this year's national rally in Wyoming. The registration form is on **page 23** and also online at www.discoveryowners.com. Don't miss the related article on **page 22**, especially if you are a woman and like to sing.
- ☞ **Bob Cook** shares two important messages with us regarding computers and being safe. They begin on **page 4**.
- ☞ Photos and letters of thanks are part of **John Ricciardi's** report on **page 7**, all covering the 2013 national rally in Urbanna.
- ☞ Check out our newest feature, *DOAI Shade Tree Repair Shop*, on **page 12**. Submissions for this column are encouraged!
- ☞ Chapter reports, officer and committee reports, and minutes from the board and general meetings at Urbanna await your perusal on **page 21**.

That's just a small scoop of what you find inside these pages. Dig in and you might find a shovelful of information that'll make your day!



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John Baker

President's report

DOAI has passed another great year; 2013 was our 15th! We had two successful rallies, Camp Discovery in January, and the national rally at Urbanna, Va., in October. It is so satisfying to see old friends and make new ones at our rallies. Everyone who worked to put these rallies together and execute them is to be congratulated. I am already psyched for the next Camp Discovery later this month and the 2014 national at Gillette, Wyo., in August; I can't wait!

Our membership has held pretty steady despite the downturn that the RV industry in general, and Fleetwood in particular, have experienced in recent years. YOU are the reason we weathered the storm – friendly, helpful members speak volumes to potential members.

The new ownership and management at Fleetwood have made lots of significant changes and those changes are bearing fruit. Production and sales are rebounding, although rather slowly. We can expect to see more and more D's coming off the much improved assembly lines at Decatur. We need to capture as many of those new owners as possible and make DOAI members of them.

Speaking of new owners, don't forget the new owners of used rigs! They are also potential members and we need them. Remember: if you recruit three new members, you get a free year of dues. You don't even have to keep up with this because **Portia** does it for you. She does a terrific job in all phases of membership record keeping.

I thank the members of the board for their steadfast service during the past couple of years. They have been always ready to provide expertise and opinion with regard to issues affecting DOAI. While some of them are leaving due to term limits, many are serving another term and new ones are coming on. I also thank all of those making up the new board; I am confident that they will be ready and able to provide advice and work hard so that DOAI will continue to be the best RV association on the planet.

Lastly, but certainly not least – thank you for entrusting me to serve another term as president. I am forever humbled that you did so two years ago and are allowing me to stay on for another two years. I shall continue to give you my very best efforts every day.

Wishing you safe travels, I hope to see you down the road somewhere. ❖

Caring for our DOAI family

We have sent sympathy cards and get-well wishes to the following members. Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers:

- ▶ **Gary Forte** is recovering from a severely sprained ankle
- ▶ **Don Newell's** father died in October
- ▶ **Isabel Cason** was diagnosed with cancer in mid-November
- ▶ **Judy Jo Bruton** is recovering from major surgery
- ▶ **Justine Stewart** is doing well after an elbow replacement surgery
- ▶ **Mary Cook** had her final facial surgery and is recovering well
- ▶ **Jackie Quinn** had a pacemaker replacement in November, and at this writing, is recovering from cardiac arrest
- ▶ **Marshall and Louise Mauck:** Marshall has IPF, a non-malignant and inoperable lung condition; Louise had skin cancer surgery with complications, but is recovering well
- ▶ **Sonny Blackwell** underwent radiation for colon cancer, and surgery for skin cancer
- ▶ **Alice Ricciardi** is continuing her cancer treatments
- ▶ **Dick Tracy** is recovering from having his kidney stones "blasted" to oblivion
- ▶ **Gary Livingston** underwent surgery to remove cancerous tumor from kidney; will receive further cancer treatments

Please email **Nina Soltwedel** (doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com) when a club member is ill or hospitalized, or a death has occurred in a member's family. Thank you! ❖

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DOAI is not responsible for opinions or facts presented by contributors to this newsletter.

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If you wish to receive the printed black-and-white version of this publication, instead of the electronic version, please email the editor.

Nina Soltwedel, Newsletter Editor
4736 Harwich St
Boulder CO 80301-4217
303.570.2736
doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com

Contact the DOAI membership director as soon as any of your contact information changes; i.e., mailing address, telephone number, email address, Discovery year, etc.

Portia Williams, Membership Director
PO Box 95
St George UT 84771-0095
Toll-free 888.594.6818
doaimembership@discoveryowners.com

DOAI Website
www.discoveryowners.com

DOAI Yahoo! Group
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/discoveryownersassociation/

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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Find your membership renewal date at

www.discoveryowners.com/login.asp

2014 national rally – looking forward



2014 Nat'l Rally
Rally Master
Bob Williams

This will be the last report from me as northwest region vice president, since my second two-year term is complete. I wish **Bob Soltwedel** the best as he assumes the vice president position.

My next milestone is the 2014 DOAI national rally that will be held at the Cam-Plex in Gillette, Wyo. The rally will start on Tuesday, August 26, with departure on Sunday, August 31, which includes five nights of camping.

We were very pleased to have **Jori Johnson** and **Sandra Bott** from Cam-Plex attend our 2013 national rally in Urbanna, Va. They helped promote our 2014 rally, made a presentation on the Cam-Plex facility, and answered questions. Information material was handed out about Wyoming and the surrounding areas.

The rally committee is working hard to provide an exciting 2014 national rally. **Freddie Perry** has arranged two interesting tours:

Buffalo Ranch Tour – An up-close and personal tour of the Durham Ranch, with a herd of 4,000 bison, the second largest bison ranch in America, guided by the ranch owner. Transportation and guide included. Lunch will be available (on your own). Tour will leave at 9:00am and return to Gillette around 2:00pm.



Bison cow and calf at Durham Ranch



Devils Tower National Monument

Deadwood/Devils Tower Tour – Tour includes transportation to Deadwood, then a 1½-hour bus tour of the city of Deadwood with Alkali Ike giving a running narrative of the town's colorful history and a stop at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, the final resting place of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. Lunch on your own and then off to Devils Tower. Tour will leave at 7:00am and return to Gillette around 6:00pm.



The rally registration form is on **page 23**, and online as of January 1, 2014. We hope that you are making plans to attend the 2014 DOAI national rally. Remember: August 26–31, 2014 in Gillette, Wyo.!



A long-range view of Deadwood



Bob Cook

Webmaster's report

Information you can use to safely work and surf on your computer

Rest in peace, Windows XP

On April 8, 2014, Microsoft will end support for its most popular Windows version ever, Windows XP. After this date, Microsoft will no longer issue any patches or security fixes for XP. If you use XP, what does this mean for you? Will your XP computer suddenly stop working?

The good news is that your computer will continue to function after April 8. But, the bad news is that your computer's vulnerability to malware will increase dramatically. Malware is developed in one of two ways: 1) A knowledgeable hacker may discover a new vulnerability in XP's code and develop malware to exploit it, or 2) more frequently, a hacker reviews the patches issued by Microsoft and then reverse engineers the patch to develop an exploit.

But, Microsoft is not issuing any new patches for XP, so this shouldn't be a viable avenue after April 8, right? Wrong! Although Microsoft won't be issuing any more fixes for XP after that date, they will continue to issue fixes for Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 8 – and based on history over the last year, approximately 70 percent of the vulnerabilities that Microsoft patched in Vista, Win7 or Win8 were **also** vulnerabilities in XP. Now the hackers have golden information they can use to develop malware for XP ... and Microsoft will not be providing any patches to fix it.

At this point, you are relying on sheer luck and your anti-malware software to protect you. When malware is released by a hacker on the Internet, it usually takes at least two months before the malware is detected and a fix is developed and rolled out to you. In the meantime, you are vulnerable. But, will the anti-malware vendors be devoting resources on XP? Perhaps some will, but for how long?

Consequently, you need to start thinking about migrating off of XP by next April. For most of us, this

will mean that we will also be purchasing a new computer (not a bad idea, since your computer is probably at least five years old).

If you have a substantial investment in Windows programs, you may elect to purchase another Windows computer – a desktop, laptop or tablet. Some people may find that an iPad or an Android tablet meets their needs and will also appreciate the better portability and battery life of a tablet. For most, a tablet is also simpler to use than a “real” computer. If money is an issue, running Linux on your old computer is a good alternative, but you may need just a little help making the transition. Linux will run well on your old computer, and it is free, as is most of the Linux software. You likely won't have a problem finding free Linux software to replace your Windows software, except for mapping programs such as Delorme Street Atlas.

Some may ask about switching to an Apple computer such as a Macbook Pro or Air. Apple users enjoy virtual immunity to the malware maladies of Windows as long as they only purchase and install software from the Apple App Store. However, one must fully evaluate the impact of making the switch, since this involves not only a learning curve but also a potentially significant outlay of cash for new hardware and software.

Whatever course you choose, mark your calendar, and make your plans now!



And if that isn't enough, check out the following article on the latest threat to computing safely ... ▼ ▼ ▼

CryptoLocker and other malware

The purpose of this article is primarily how to protect yourself from an extremely sophisticated malware attack that hijacks your files and is being actively developed to avoid detection and tracing. More on that later.

However, with the impending end of support for Windows XP and the continual problems with Windows programs making your computer vulnerable to such attacks, maybe the time has come for you to re-evaluate your computer needs. You can either continue down the

path of the Windows headache (which I will show you how to virtually eliminate if you are willing to learn a few things), or you can get an iPad (or even Android) tablet or Apple computer and leave your Windows problems behind.

Of course, I also highly recommend that you borrow a relative's or friend's iPad or tablet before you decide to purchase one, and make sure it is right for you. Replacing your Windows PC with an Apple computer is also a great

Continued on next page...

Webmaster's report, continued

alternative, but it will be expensive, as you will also need to purchase software. However, an iPad (or Android tablet) is all that most people really need – myself included, if it wasn't for needing Windows Excel and Access to maintain the DOAI website. For several hundred dollars you can purchase a tablet and save yourself a **ton** of grief plus have a more fun device.

I am not one to make such draconian recommendations lightly. However, we are in an era of very sophisticated Windows attacks. **And** there seems to be no shortage of Windows vulnerabilities for the hackers to use to make your life miserable.

A dire scenario

Imagine this, happening with greater frequency every day: You turn on your computer and there is a message on the screen: *Your files have been encrypted and you have 72 hours to pay two Bitcoins* (currently almost \$1,000 as I write this) *or your files will be lost forever*. Is this a hoax?

Well, probably not – you have the CryptoLocker malware. But what happens if you can't respond in 72 hours? "I don't know anything about Bitcoins or MoneyPaks," you say. No problem – you will receive a further message that it will take just **ten** Bitcoins to get your data back and there is no time limit. This is happening now with the CryptoLocker malware that is spreading quickly.

Before you pay your Bitcoins, just be aware that there is a chance it may require a lot more work to get your files back, and you may not have the expertise. As an example, for your files to be unencrypted, an "unlock key" is used, along with an encrypted key on your computer, and the site that provides this to you once you pay your money, may have been shut down. Or, perhaps Microsoft or your AV program might have erased the encrypted key on your computer. No problem, the hackers have this covered and will be able to help you, but the price is now ten Bitcoins (currently almost \$5,000)! Of course, if your files are securely backed up (or if you don't care if you lose your files), you don't really care ... you just reformat your drive and reinstall your image.

"But, won't my anti-virus (AV) program protect me?" Short answer: No. First, the hackers test their product against AV programs. As a result, even the most advanced consumer AV programs catch at most 30 percent of new malware. Second, malware such as CryptoLocker are extremely well done. Not only do they evade detection, but they are so well designed that they are evading authorities' capabilities to track them down. Third, the creators of CryptoLocker are actively developing their product so that it easily evades almost all attempts to detect it until it

infects your system. You may have heard of some "tricks" to protect against CryptoLocker, but all of these tricks are easily evaded by slightly modifying the way CryptoLocker works.

And, CryptoLocker is likely just the tip of the iceberg of an expected avalanche of malware.

If you are willing to become just a little more of a computer geek, there are some (relatively) simple things you can do to protect yourself. Note that "relatively simple" for some may be impossible for others. All the more reason to get an iPad. Here is what you need to do:

- Make an image backup of your C:/ drive and store offline. Keep a "known good" copy. Also, you may want to keep updated image versions as you add additional programs or update Windows and other programs. There are free programs included in Windows 7 and 8 that will make images. There are also free and pay third-party programs for making images. Some are easier to use than others.



CryptoLocker is on the prowl!

- Backup your important files, pictures, etc., to an external drive that you **do not** routinely connect to your computer. As an added measure, consider also backing up these files to a cloud provider that **does not** show up as a drive letter on your computer. (You can elect to only do this step and not the first step, making an image. However, if you get infected, you are faced with the major time-consuming task of manually installing Windows and all your programs.)

- Keep all your programs and drivers updated.

- Get rid of Java entirely unless there is a known reason why you need it. If your

financial site requires Java, consider moving your money from them, as they obviously do not have much regard for their customers' security.

- Install and learn how to use Sandboxie. I have been preaching about Sandboxie for Windows users for years. Run **all** of your programs in Sandboxie that require Internet access (at least run your Internet browser and email client in Sandboxie). Note that this requires that you learn how to get files and updates **out** of Sandboxie, lest you lose them on reboot. Sandboxie **prevents** CryptoLocker and other malware from infecting your files, potentially saving you hundreds if not thousands of dollars, and a lot of frustration and time. **I have verified that this works.** CryptoLocker will make an encrypted copy of your files and store them within Sandboxie, but your "real" files are safe on your hard drive. Just delete the CryptoLocker-encrypted files within Sandboxie like you would delete anything else you don't want within Sandboxie.

It's your choice: an iPad, or a bit of learning and preparation. Continuing to do what you are doing now **will** bite you sooner or later. ❖



2013 Nat'l Rally
Rally Master
John Ricciardi

2013 national rally recap – looking backward

It does not seem like it, but my four years as the southeast region vice president are up. I must say that it has been a pleasure. I am very proud of the achievements of the southeast region over these years. We have hosted six major rallies: two nationals (2010 and 2013) and four regional rallies, including the first Camp Discovery. Camp

Discovery has improved each year, which makes even the seasoned DOAI member want to attend. Another achievement was the creation of the Florida Sunshine Discoverys chapter, which hosted the southeast region rally the first time when they had not been in an existence for a full year.

2013 national rally recap

Our region's latest achievement was the 2013 national rally at Bethpage Camp-Resort in Virginia this past October. The rally may have been hampered by rain every day, but it did not hamper the spirit of the attendees.

Our donations were very successful. The director of the local food pantry, Hands Across Middlesex, said we donated more food than they receive in three months. DOAI was also able to donate \$2,000 to the Wounded Warriors Project through the generosity of the members: \$835 from the 50/50 raffles, \$960 from the quilt raffle, \$50 from the ladies' tea, and \$155 from the Mason-Dixon Discoverys chapter.

My thanks

The quilters made the most beautiful quilts for our rally. I don't know how they will top them for the next one. Thank you, quilters. I thank each member of the southeast region for making my job so easy. Any time I asked for help doing anything, I was never refused. In fact, when it was learned by other members that help was needed, I had people volunteer. Finally, I thank my wife, **Alice**, for putting up with me during this time. She was there in the background and also as a front runner as the registrar for the national rally. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve as the southeast region vice president.

Letters of thanks

The following letters express the appreciation of those who benefitted from the generosity of DOAI members at the 2013 national rally.

From **Hands Across Middlesex**, Locust Hill, Virginia:
"We would like to thank your organization's generous

donation of 398 pounds of food. It warms our hearts to know that a group like yours can care about perfect strangers. Your donation will go a long way helping us provide assistance to families in Middlesex County, Virginia.

"We are a faith-based, non-profit organization that provides multiple services to families in our county. There are over 1,400 households in our county that are living at or below the poverty level. Besides our Food Pantry program, we build ramps, repair houses, and provide clothing, appliances, furniture or financial assistance for electric bills. We do our best to help our residents keep a roof over their heads, food on their table, and clothes on their back.

"Thanks again for taking time to share with the families of Middlesex County."

— **Mary Sychterz**, Food Pantry Chairperson

From **Wounded Warrior Project**, Jacksonville, Florida:
"Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$2,000 on November 4, 2013 to Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP). I cannot thank you enough for your support of the thousands of truly deserving servicemen and women who have been wounded in our current military conflicts.

"Our work begins at the bedsides of injured warriors as they undergo rehabilitation and return to civilian life, but it certainly doesn't stop there. As a result of their injuries, these brave heroes will face greater challenges today finding assistance and jobs that will enable them to provide for their families. Their battle against the long-term effects of combat will continue throughout their lives.

"Only with your continued support is WWP able to reach these wounded service members. Through your generosity, WWP provides them with the assistance they need in order to regain their independence and begin rebuilding their lives. You give these injured warriors and their families hope for a brighter future.

"Wounded Warrior Project is dedicated to assisting this new generation of injured heroes. These men and women who have served with honor deserve our respect and support. Again, I cannot thank you enough for your partnership with WWP."

— **Steven Nardizzi**, Executive Director, Wounded Warrior Project

From **first-time attendees** at a DOAI national rally:
"Firstly, I thank the board of directors and all the others who made the rally happen. The hosts, the board and the members presenting the seminars were extremely welcoming and very knowledgeable. They made us feel like we were right at home and that we have known them for years.
Continued on next page...

2013 national rally recap, continued

“Secondly, the seminars and exchange of information was second to none. The members were some of the friendliest people we have had the pleasure of meeting. We are already looking forward to the next DOAI rally in Seffner, Fla.

“In closing, Brandy and I have attended many rallies – FMCA national, area and chapter rallies, as well as Good Sam rallies. The DOAI national rally, was by far,

the **best** we’ve ever attended. The entertainment, meals, and gatherings were all delightful. We certainly have never received daily updates via e-mail; thank you, **John**. We received a warm welcome wherever we went.

“Winning the beautiful Liberty Bell quilt was just the icing on the cake. The history of the quilt will assure many years of use with **great** memories. A big **thank you** to the quilting ladies of DOAI.”

— **Rick and Brandy Dupuis**

National rally photo album



Sue Stanton and Helen Blackwell graciously welcomed everyone at the registration table. Gwen Churchill was eager to sign in.



Gwen was also captured on record at the sale table, ably assisted by Pat Tracy.



Marshall Godwin gave a series of helpful seminars on “all things Discovery coach” – a mini-Camp Discovery.



DOAI welcomed Roger Marble, the Tire Guy, who gave several excellent seminars to help RVers travel safely.



Pat Tracy taught her popular bow-making class



Amidst all the fun, the business of the club was ably handled by the board at the general meeting.

Continued on next page...

National rally photo album, continued



Alice Ricciardi and Helen Blackwell enjoyed a delightful afternoon at the ladies' tea.



Keith Packard, District Sales Manager for Fleetwood, led a free-spirited feedback session on our Discovery coaches.



The Discovery Texans were well represented at the rally.



Say "tea"! The ladies gathered to get to know each other better, and to enjoy fine tea and cookies and play card bingo.



The Mason-Dixon Discoverys were well represented, too.



Marshall and Louise Mauck were able to join us for a day ... a real treat!

Quilt winners, L to R: Brandy and Rick Dupuis, Marshall Godwin, Shelby and Jerry Brown



Rally opportunities

You are welcome (and encouraged) to attend any of these rallies! Contact chapter president (see **page 10**). See also the consolidated rally schedule at www.discoveryowners.com.

January 2014 –

- 15-18 Discovery Texans, Corsicana, Tex.
- 17-19 Northwest Adventurers, Blythe, Calif.
- 17-19 Desert Rats, Blythe, Calif./Quartzsite, Ariz.
- 26-30 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Seffner, Fla.
- 26-30 **Southeast region rally, Seffner, Fla.**

February 2014 –

- 21-23 D’Zonas, Safford, Ariz.

March 2014 –

- 26-29 Discovery Texans, Johnson City, Tex.
- T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, location T/B/A

April 2014 –

- 1-6 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Wilmington, Del.
- 18-20 D’Zonas, Parker, Ariz.
- 24-27 Ozarks Discovery, Rogersville, Ark.

May 2014 –

- 14-17 Discovery Texans, La Grange, Tex.
- 29-31 Ozarks Discovery, Mountain View, Ark.
- T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, location T/B/A

June 2014 –

- 19-23 Midwest Discoverers, northeast Ohio

August 2014 –

- 26-30 Northwest Adventurers, Gillette, Wyo.
- T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, rolling rally
- 26-30 **National rally, Gillette, Wyo.**

September 2014 –

- 9-14 Midwest Discoverers, Gettysburg, Pa.
- 26-28 D’Zonas, Fool Hollow Lake Rec Area, Ariz.
- T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, T/B/A

October 2014 –

- 8-12 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Whaleyville, Md.
- 16-19 Ozarks Discovery, Eureka Springs, Ark.
- T/B/A Desert Rats, location T/B/A
- T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, T/B/A

November 2014 –

- 7-9 D’Zonas, Apache Junction, Ariz.
- 12-15 Discovery Texans, location T/B/A

Looking down the road –

- 2015 DOAI national rally, North central region
- 2016 DOAI national rally, Northeast region

Helpful contacts for Discovery owners

Allison Transmission, GM Corp.	800.252.5283	Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp	800.385.4357
Atwood Mobile Products	800.825.4328	Fuel: local U.S. gas prices	www.gasbuddy.com
Camping/travel/rest areas/reviews websites:		General Electric	www.geappliances.com/geac/
.	www.accesscamping.com	Goodyear Tire & Rubber	800.321.2136
.	www.campingroadtrip.com	Intellitec	800.251.2408
.	www.interstaterestareas.com	Kidde Safety products	800.880.6788
.	www.campsitephotos.com/campground-directory/	Kwikee products	800.736.9961
.	www.rvdumps.com/dumpstations	Magnadyne	800.638.3600
.	www.rvparking.com	MCD Innovations	www.mcdinnovations.com
Caterpillar RV engine support	877.777.3126	Michelin North America	800.847.3435
Carefree of Colorado	800.621.2617	Norcold, Inc.	800.543.1219
Carriage Carpets (Shaw Flooring)	877.706.3054	Onan	800.888.6626
CCI Controls	800.521.5228	Power Gear	800.334.4712
Cummins, Inc.	800.343.7357	Riverpark	800.442.7717
Denso (call Fleetwood)	800.322.8216	RVP (Coleman)	316.832.4357
Discovery parts:		RVP (Suburban)	423.775.2131
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	RV technical help	www.rvtechtips.com
Sullivan RV Sales & Service	800.720.0484, Ext. 6	Spartan Chassis, Inc.	517.543.6400
Walt’s RV Supplies	909.823.0563	Splendide	800.356.0766
DOAI name badges:		Theftord Corp.	800.521.3032
The Signman	407.365.3722	Trojan Battery Co.	www.trojanbattery.com
Dometic Corp.	800.544.4881	Velvac	800.783.8871
Fan-Tastic Vent	800.521.0298	Winegard	800.288.8094
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	Xantrex Technology	800.670.0707

**For other member-recommended helpful contacts,
visit www.discoveryowners.com/links.htm**

DOAI officers/chapters/committees/website

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

John Baker, 8419 Clover Leaf Dr, Richmond TX 77469-4867; 281.341.7177; 281.814.0004; bakerjohn@swbell.net

Executive Vice President

John Curtis, 21350 Osage Trl, Garden Ridge, TX 78266-2035; 210.651.6818; 210.287.1496; jacurtis3@satx.rr.com

Vice President for Development

MaryAnn Crowell, 207 County Rd 3000, Lott TX 76656-3828; 254.584.2400; 254.644.6225; relxn1@aol.com

Secretary

Freddie Perry, 9732 Pyramid Way #338, Sparks NV 89441-6258; 530.249.1842; fperry3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Ct, Fleetwood PA 19522-1018; 610.207.2016; dtracy@ptd.net

Vice Treasurer

Larry Weinberg, 10005 Altamont Cir, Fredericksburg VA 22408-9535; 540.710.6555; 540.226.5722; lw9966@verizon.net

National Rally Master

Joe Stewart, PO Box 9100-176, Bandera TX 78003-9100; 830.535.6633; 830.460.0683; retafx@aol.com

Past President/Registered Agent

Marshall Godwin, 8071 Windsor Dr, King George VA 22485-5210; 540.663.3725; 540.379.6767; marshall@megodwin.com

North Central Region Vice President - NC

(IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI, MB, ON)
Bev Kaiser, 34801 Pheasant Rdg, Richmond MI 48062-1834; 586.727.7230; 586.615.2263; bjk601@comcast.net

Northeast Region Vice President - NE

(CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, NB, NL, NS, PE, QC)
Jack Romeyk, 14 Avondale Dr, Islip NY 11751-4402; 631.889.2731; captjackro@yahoo.com

Northwest Region Vice President - NW

(AK, CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WY, AB, BC, NT, SK, YT)
Bob Soltwedel, 4736 Harwich St, Boulder CO 80301-4217; 303.530.0775; 303.513.8548; bob.soltwedel@gmail.com

South Central Region Vice President - SC

(AR, LA, OK, TX)
Jay Keneson, 404 Cypress Springs Dr, Spring Branch TX 78070-4640; 830.885.6043; 210.827.1855; jayk@gvtc.com

Southeast Region Vice President - SE

(AL, DE, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)
Bob Deal, 200 Baymount Dr, Statesville NC 28625-9547; 704.876.3218; 704.682.0345; bdeal49@gmail.com

Southwest Region Vice President - SW

(AZ, CA, HI, NV, NM)
Mike Scott, 7725 N Cortaro Rd, Tucson AZ 85743-8826; 520.579.9931; jamdscott@earthlink.net

CHAPTERS

Blue Ridge Discoverys (SE Region)

Glenn Camp, 33 Castle Dr, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986-2205; 304.536.4249; 304.667.7249; campglenn006@gmail.com

Desert Rats (SW Region)

Gary Velasquez, 8608 Grandbank Dr, Las Vegas NV 89145-4813; 702.255.6014; 702.205.6709; garypatti@aol.com

Discovery Texans (SC Region)

Jim Pellow, 610 Camino Cielo, Marble Falls TX 78654-5941; 830.385.1006; jkpellow71@gmail.com

D'Zonas (SW Region)

Mike Scott, 7725 N Cortaro Rd, Tucson AZ 85743-8826; 520.579.9931; jamdscott@earthlink.net

Florida Discovery Sunshiners (SE Region)

Ron Wacker, 1720 Sherwood St, Clearwater FL 33755-2937; 813.240.6552; discovery@rvfunhome.com

Heartland Discoverys (NC Region)

Beverly Kaiser, 34801 Pheasant Rdg, Richmond MI 48062-1834; 586.727.7230; 586.615.2263; bjk601@comcast.net

Louisiana Mudbugs (SC Region)

Fred Reid, 311 Camille St, Alexandria LA 71301-2702; 318.448.8545; 318.446.2339; fmreid@aol.com

Mason-Dixon Discoverys (SE Region)

Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Ct, Fleetwood PA 19522-1018; 610.207.2016; dtracy@ptd.net

Midwest Discoverers (NC Region)

Jerald Call, 6825 County Road 16, Butler IN 46721-9417; 260.868.2580; 260.927.5397; jcallnorthpond@netzero.com

Northwest Adventurers (NW Region)

Gilbert (Wally) Wallington, 1729 S Fairway Dr, Pocatello ID 83201-2311; 208.237.4655; gwallington@juno.com

Ozarks Discovery (NC Region)

Bruce Plumb, 4384 State Hwy Y, Galena MO 65656-4604; 417.239.4544; 417.239.4502; bplumb@centurytel.net

Texas Discovery Road Runners (SC Region)

Halley (Doc) Simpson, 8910 Cowset Ln, San Antonio TX 78266; 830.980.7309; 210.867.0750 winsamsa@aol.com

COMMITTEES AND WEBSITE

Audit

Ricky Keen, 8 Beaver Creek Loop, Roland, AR 72135-9749; 501.247.2124; rkeen120@gmail.com

Founder/President Emeritus

Jim Devine, 10321 Jacob Ct, Fairhope AL 36532-4534; 970.209.4757; f195810@gmail.com

Historian

MaryAnn Crowell, 207 County Rd 3000, Lott TX 76656-3828; 254.584.2400; 254.644.6225; relxn1@aol.com

Membership Director

Portia Williams, P O Box 95, Saint George UT 84771-0095; toll-free 888.594.6818; doaimembership@discoveryowners.com

Merchandise Director

Jody Bruce, 25340 Plum St, Brooksville FL 34601-4716; 813-744-0411; bruce7073@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor/Publisher

Nina Soltwedel, 4736 Harwich St, Boulder CO 80301-4217; 303.570.2736; doaexpress@discoveryowners.com

Nominating

Marshall Godwin, 8071 Windsor Dr, King George VA 22485-5210; 540.663.3725; 540.379.6767; marshall@megodwin.com

Webmaster

Bob Cook, 876 Higgins Ave, Deltona FL 32738-7971; 386.860.8274; webmaster@discoveryowners.com

Website

www.discoveryowners.com





Nominating chair
Marshall Godwin

Official 2013 election results

Below are the official results of the 2013 DOAI elections. There were three paper ballots that were invalid due to lack of DOAI member number and region. In other cases, no votes were recorded for specific candidates, either because the name was not checked or the write-in box was checked but no name was entered. All voting material will be mailed to the DOAI secretary. ❖

Starred votes (*) = write-in votes.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Votes Cast</u>
President	John Baker	180
	Bob Cook	1*
Executive VP	John Curtis	180
VP for Development	MaryAnn Crowell	113
	John Ricciardi	69
Secretary	Freddie Perry	182
Treasurer	Dick Tracy	182
	Bernard St. Cloud	1*
Vice Treasurer	Larry Weinberg	182
	Warren Leith	1*
Rally Master	Joe Stewart	182
	John Curtis	1*
South Central VP	Jay Keneson	35
Southeast VP	Bob Deal	53
Southwest VP	Mike Scott	27
North Central VP	Bev Kaiser	22
Northeast VP	Jack Romeyk	24
Northwest VP	Bob Soltwedel	19



John Curtis

Executive vice president's report

We have returned home from the national rally at Bethpage, Va., and finally dried out (five days of rain). Being from south Texas where we are in a three-year drought, we appreciated the rain at first. The event was well planned and executed. We particularly enjoyed the entertainment provided by **Kenny Evans**. The meals were delicious and plentiful.

We did learn that there are some bugs (stink) in Virginia, and we tried to not bring any back to Texas. Sad to say, however, some made the trip. Now it is time to get serious with a bug bomb.

We also attended the Good Sam rally held at the Atlanta Motor Speedway (a very good event), and then stopped by the Coushatta gambling casino in Louisiana.

Our next trip will be to the FMA rally in January at Lazydays, and then DOAI's Camp Discovery January 26-30 also at Lazydays. There are just 100 sites reserved for Camp Discovery, so if you wish to attend, please register as soon as possible; the deadline is January 11, or when 100 have registered. If you have registered with Lazydays, but have not sent your reservation and check to the rally registrar (**Doc Simpson**), please do so today.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Lazydays. It's all about enjoying life and fun-fun-fun! ❖

Feeding the RVer

Want a light, delicious salad that can also double as a dessert? Try this recipe, shared by **Elaine Holley**. The recipe was given an "official" taste test by this newsletter's editor at the Discovery Texans rally in Bandera, giving it a AAA rating. We hope you enjoy it.

Cottage Cheese Salad

- 12 oz. container Creamy Cool Whip®
- 8 oz. container small curd cottage cheese
- 3 oz box Jello®, your choice – strawberry, orange, cherry, etc.
- 1 small can mandarin oranges, drained
- 6 oz. can crushed pineapple, drained

Set aside Cool Whip to thaw. Put the cottage cheese in a mixing bowl and add the dry Jello. Mix well. Stir in the drained mandarin oranges (I break up the orange slices in half or into thirds), and the drained pineapple (get as much liquid out of the pineapple as possible). Mix well. Fold in the thawed Cool Whip until all is mixed into the cottage cheese/Jello/fruit mixture (until clumps of Cool Whip are gone). Refrigerate until ready to serve, and refrigerate any leftovers. ❖

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Are you a shade tree mechanic?

Shade tree mechanic: *noun*, a person willing to learn and perform scheduled maintenance or simple repairs on their own vehicle rather than being completely reliant on technicians who may be unavailable, dishonest, careless, ignorant, or over-priced. – Urban Dictionary

Gordon Sims posted on the DOAI egroup in late September: "Thought this might be an interesting topic: *What hillbilly*

repair have you done that, in the end, turned out not too badly?" His post sparked the idea for this feature. **Marshall Mauck** suggested the title of "Gordon's Shade Tree Repair Shop," because, as Marshall said, "Most of us have been in the shade tree repair business for years on our motor homes." Since several DOAIers chimed in with their solutions to a problem, the title shown in the graphic seems to fit.

Gordon shared: "Had a bad bit of paint on the dark green strip that ran across the rear of the D – looked like crap and kept me awake at night. Had gotten a quote to repaint it but was \$500, which would have kept me awake more. Also, didn't have the paint code (yet), so couldn't get touch-up spray can. So, one day this summer, in a small town hardware store, I see this half-pint can of green paint. Looks about the same color, I think. I buy it and test a bit on the motor home. Would have been perfect if I owned a John Deere, but too light for the D. Back to store and bought a second can of black. Now I'm into this RV park hillbilly repair for almost \$10! I could drive 100 feet down the I-35 for that sort of money.

"Back at the park at picnic table. I start mixing black into the green and keep testing. Got it darn near perfect. Now the real hillbilly part: I mask off the stripe, hand sand it a bit and roll on the green/black mix with a small foam roller. Had a cut line at each side just where the stripe transitions to the sides. Next morning, pull off the masking tape, wet sand out the mosquitos stuck to the paint and give it a quick buff. It looks not bad. The color at the transition cut lines is almost identical. Good from afar ... but far from good, although 'way better than I thought. A subsequent Blue Beacon RV wash en route home and it stayed stuck – bonus!

"So, any other bad ideas that turned out good ... omitting marriage, of course?"

Pat Stanton posted: "On this summer's trip to Alaska, I had problem with toilet. Flap was sticking open. I cleaned and lubricated it. Didn't want to use petroleum-based lube, didn't have Vaseline, so I used Preparation H. Worked 'til I got home and replaced seal."

Ross Murphy responded: "The drain line on our fridge had deteriorated on the end that exits the D, making it too short to stay outside the wall. I knew that, left as it was, water would end up inside the coach. Since we were preparing to leave, I did not have time to source and replace the bad line. I took a ball point pen barrel, cut the taper off, creating a tube. I glued this in the drain line with RTV and extended this out through the hole in the fridge cover. Worked so well that it is still in service!"

Thor Dahl-Lowe related: "Metal bolt broke on our driver's side slide when we were dry camping and getting ready to close it. Shear pins were fine. I had a bolt in my tool kit but no nut. Placed the bolt in the hole and then secured it with good old duct tape, so was able to close the slide and get on our way!"

Editor's Note: *I firmly believe that no one should leave home without duct tape! There are those who claim that if it can't be fixed with duct tape, the reason is you're not using enough of it.*

Bruce Plumb posted: "On the 2003 39S, Fleetwood had the bright idea to locate the circuit board for the rear furnace directly beneath the bathroom sink. Any leakage or sweating drips water on the circuit board. I had to have mine rebuilt due to water damage (new ones are \$200+, but can be rebuilt for \$75).

"To avoid this in the future, I fashioned an 'umbrella' above the furnace controls, using half of a Prestone anti-freeze jug. No more problems and is totally out of sight, so no one would have known if I had not just disclosed my hillbilly repair." ❖

You are invited to send in your "shade tree mechanic" repairs for future editions of this newsletter. Don't be shy ... coming up with a creative solution to a problem is a sign of high intelligence and stick-to-it-tiveness!

Points to ponder

Fuel pricing

While being a little disgruntled at the fuel pump as I was filling up the D, I tried to rationalize the expense for diesel fuel. It seems as though the price seems to fluctuate by about 30¢ per gallon during the course of the year, and I feel as though I'm always having to pay the higher price.



I started thinking about the last trip I took – it was about 2,400 miles – and I was gone about three weeks. Most of our Discoverys will average at least 8 miles per gallon. Using that figure, I would have used 300 gallons of fuel. At the higher price, that means I would have paid \$90 more than if I had gotten the lower-priced fuel.

Instead of fretting about the extra \$90 as a lump sum, I look at it a less than \$4.30 a day that I was gone. That made me feel a little better; I figure I can eat from the dollar menu at McDonald's instead of getting a combo meal and it will even itself out.
— An anonymous DOAI member

Campground change for 2014

On our trip west after the national rally, we spent a night at Lazydays RV Campground in Tucson, Arizona (site of the 2012 national rally). We've stayed there quite a few times over

the past ten years, and have always appreciated the quality of the campground and its proximity to recreational and shopping venues.

We were quite surprised to be told that the campground has been bought by KOA, and will be one of 29 KOA corporate-owned campgrounds in the country (all the rest are franchises). The changeover took place January 1, 2014.



The campground employee who told us, shared that she did not know if she would still have a job, nor what management changes KOA will make. She did say that reservations for several group rallies have been made for the early months of 2014, and that KOA has expressed its welcome for group rallies. As for the excellent dining and superb kitchen staff, the employee could only say she hoped it wouldn't change or be eliminated.

If you stay at the campground in coming months, let us know of your experience. My personal hope is that this excellent campground will continue to be a gracious destination for RVers in Tucson.

It is worth noting that she had no knowledge about Lazydays RV Campground in Seffner, Florida; this information only applies to the Tucson location.
— Nina Soltwedel



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Reports of chapter activities across the country



Chapter prez
Gary Velasquez

Desert Rats

The Desert Rats hosted their November co-rally with southwest sister chapter, the D'Zonas, at AVI Resort KOA in Laughlin, Nev., November 1-3. Four coaches representing the Desert Rats and one coach from the D'Zonas were in attendance. Activities began on Friday, with both group members attending a barbecue cook-off contest at the Riverside Hotel in downtown Laughlin, sampling contest entrees and various beverages and enjoying the performing bands. An extended happy hour with heavy hors d'oeuvres followed, finishing off the evening.

On Saturday, six of the ten attendees participated in a golf outing at the Los Lagos Golf Club in Fort Mojave, Ariz.. That evening, fun was had by all at the Desert Rats-sponsored dinner. Sunday morning, D'Zonas members **Paul and Doris Smith** sponsored and provided a great breakfast of biscuits and gravy, fresh fruits and mimosas prior to departure by some. Those remaining toured the riverwalk and tried their luck at various casinos.

A good time was had by all, with both Desert Rats and D'Zonas members agreeing to further co-rallies in the future. Thanks again to **Paul and Doris** for attending and representing the D'Zonas. The Desert Rats currently have tentative plans to attend the Blue Grass Festival in Blythe, Calif., and a proposed pow-wow in Quartzsite, Ariz., both in January 2014. See you on the road. ❖



Chapter prez
Jim Pellow

Discovery Texans

Our last rally for 2013 was held November 13-16 at Skyline Ranch RV Park, Bandera, Tex. Between our May and November rallies, we welcomed two new members to our chapter: **Barry and Lynn Chapman** and **Mike and Sandy Keliher**.

It was nice getting together again with everyone who could make the rally. Our hosts, **Jim and Kathy Pellow** and **Bill and Elaine Holley**, as well as our rally master, **Pete and Martha Palasota**, took great care of us once again. They fed us very well and pointed out the nice attractions in the area. We had 15 coaches in attendance, of which four were guests. Welcome! We enjoyed visiting with long-time friends **Leon and Elsie Sikes**, who retired from RVing, as well as **Bob and Nina Soltwedel**, who were passing through the area. We also enjoyed meeting **Becky Hazen and Lonnie Hodge**, and **Al and Cindy Welch**, who said this

was their very first rally.

We enjoyed playing games and visiting with each other. As for the card bingo game, **Nina** reported that **Warren Leith** lamented his record is still intact ... "he has **not** won a card game since 1967!" The "girls" won the beanbag toss baseball game and took the Traveling Trophy Tournament.

We held elections for positions to be held the next two years 2014-2015. The results are: President, **Jim Pellow** and Vice President, **Judy Jo Bruton**. **Nell Johnson** graciously agreed to assume Judy Jo's Sunshine report.

Our next rally will be at American RV Park in Corsicana, Tex., January 15-18, 2014. Hope to see y'all in the near future. Safe travels everyone. ❖

Report submitted by Elaine Holley



Chapter prez
Mike Scott

D'Zonas

Hello, all DOAI members from the D'Zonas chapter. The fall season was good to us. We had two rallies: one to Cottonwood, Ariz., and the other a joint rally with the Desert Rats chapter at the AVI Casino near Laughlin, Nev.

The Cottonwood rally was attended by a total of five rigs, but we still had a great time. We stayed at Dead Horse Ranch State Park – a very nice campground that I would recommend to anyone traveling through the area. We had a nice arrival dinner provided by **Judy Scott**, went out for a barbecue dinner on Saturday, followed by a nice hit-the-road breakfast on Sunday. We had a couple from California sign up for our rally on their way to the Balloon Festival in New Mexico – **Phil and Anne Seaman**. They must have liked us because they signed up as members before they left; welcome aboard!

The joint rally with the Desert Rats was a success even though our D'Zonas turnout was small. We will do this again soon; that group is fun to be around.

Our next rally is in February, when we do an Arizona Salsa trail trip. We will camp at Roper Lake State Park near Safford, Ariz., and plan to visit several of the eateries in the area and sample Hispanic foods. This trail was featured in *Arizona Highways* this past year in the March/April issue.

In April, we will head to the Colorado River and stay at Buckskin Mountain State Park near Parker, Ariz. Everyone is invited to our outings, so if you are in the area and want to attend, just let us know. Happy trails!

Continued on next page...

Reports of chapter activities, continued



Chapter prez
Fred Reid

Louisiana Mudbugs

June found the Mudbugs in Natchitoches, La., for a rally at Nakatosh Campground just off I-49. Coaches began arriving on June 12, and by the end of the day, a total of five coaches had arrived. On June 13, I arrived in time to enjoy some leftover roast that had been prepared earlier during the day. The evening was spent in the ER at the local hospital, because one of the club members stepped in a hole and broke a bone in her foot. One hour to register, one hour to triage, and one hour to get treatment. Thanks goodness, they were not busy. By 9pm we were back to the coaches.

Friday morning began with a breakfast prepared by **Joe Reed**, whom I will nominate as chief cook at the next election of officers. Of course, we would have to modify the standing rules in order to create that office. For lunch on Friday, most of those present went to Lasyone Meat Pie Kitchen for lunch which is famous for their meat pies. They also had crawfish pies, which was different for a change from the usual meat pies for which Nachitoches is famous.

Saturday morning, after the **Joe Reed** breakfast and usual business meeting of the club, some of those in attendance went to the Fort Saint Jean Baptiste Museum located on the banks of the Cane River. Since it was Saturday, there was no crowd that is usually present during the week with school kids. Other members went to the downtown historical district, which is located along the banks of the Cane River. There are many antique shops and especially my favorite is the old fashioned hardware store. Saturday night, the group enjoyed the usual potluck dinner which is customary for the rallies. As usual the food was excellent and more than we could consume.

Sunday morning, the group had its usual continental breakfast and a word of prayer before the umbilical cords were disconnected from the park utility post and each went their different way.

September 5 found the five Mudbugs coaches at a Corps of Engineers Park, Colfax RV Park, in Colfax, Louisiana. The setting is on the banks of the Red River. In proximity to the park is Lock and Dam Number 3 on the river. Thursday evening found the group going to a local restaurant, Fonseca's Restaurant, small but very accommodating for our group and plenty of local atmosphere.

Friday began with the typical Mudbugs breakfast, thanks to **Alfred Miller** and **Howard Campbell**. After breakfast, the ladies headed to town for shopping at the mall. We men thought we would have to send a squad

out to retrieve the wives, because it was getting late and time to leave for the evening meal, which was planned for Tunk's Cypress Inn on beautiful Kincade Lake. Saturday started with breakfast at 8am, and the typical business meeting after the meal. The rest of the day was spent being lazy, with most of us staying at the campsite and visiting in the meeting room. Most of the women prepared for the potluck dinner that evening, which is the usual best part of the gathering. I always look forward to the potluck dinners, because the women in our group surely can cook!

Sunday started with a continental breakfast, sad farewells, and parting prayer. Each was off to the coaches to detach the umbilical cords to wrap up another successful rally. ❖



Chapter prez
Dick Tracy

Mason-Dixon Discoverys

2013 was another fine year for the Mason-Dixon chapter and we are now looking forward to a great 2014. We welcome any and all DOAI members who may be in the area to join us at any of our chapter rallies.

As is our custom, we will start off the year with our meeting during Camp Discovery at Lazydays, where we enjoy sharing the fellowship with so many other DOAI friends.

Our next meeting will be held in Wilmington, N.C., tentatively at the KOA, April 2-6. **Bob and Elizabeth Deal** and **Tom and Martha Hundley** will be hosting that rally.

We have been considering a June 2014 rally; however, we will discuss this at our business meeting at Lazydays in January. The 2014 national DOAI rally will be at the Cam-Plex in Gillette, Wyo. The rally is scheduled to start on August 26, and depart on August 31, and includes five nights of camping. We're hoping to have a good showing of Mason-Dixons at Gillette.

Our last 2014 rally will be in October at Fort Whaley Campground in Whaleyville, Md., October 8-12, hosted by **Marilyn and Jim Brown**. ❖



Chapter prez
Jerald Call

Midwest Discoverers

Hello from the Midwest Discoverers! We had a great year with three rallies, and all were well attended. The last one was in Port Clinton, Ohio, with 13 coaches. **Jim and Sharol Mill** were the rally hosts, and they did an outstanding job. We held election of officers at this rally; **Bev Kirk** was elected secretary/treasurer, and I was

Continued on next page...

Reports of chapter activities, continued

elected president for the third time. Thanks to all. There were tall ships docked at Port Clinton, Put-in-Bay, Catawba Island. We all had a good time visiting with the people on the tall ships.

Jim and Sharon went out of their way with all the food for the week. We had breakfast each day with scrambled eggs and hash browns. One day was waffles, sausage and a lot more. Some of us went fishing on Lake Erie, others played golf. Dinners each night. We also had a fun auction at the campground. New members **Nancy and Brad McKitrick** and their three dogs attended. Welcome to our club!

The club is growing and we have had good turnouts for all our rallies. If you did not attend the 2013 rallies, you missed a really good time.

The 2014 spring rally will be in northeast Ohio, June 19-23. For our fall rally, we were able to confirm reservations for 15 sites at Drummer Boy Camping Resort, Gettysburg, Pa., and the deposit was waived. The rally begins on September 9, and ends on September 14. The cost for five nights will be \$258.50. Members need to make their own reservations and state they are part of the Discovery motor home rally. The campground manager has arranged to have everyone together; however, reservations must be made by August 9 to guarantee availability and that our group is not separated. We will be setting up a group-rate narrated bus tour through Gettysburg Battlefield (if we have enough interest, otherwise the campground offers the bus tours); more details to follow.

See you all at Lazydays later this month! ❖



Chapter prez
Bruce Plumb

Ozarks Discovery

Ozarks Discovery chapter is alive and well in Branson, Mo., with 14 member coaches. We had our Branson Christmas rally the first weekend in November hosted by **Ricky and Debbie Keen** and **Bruce and Nancy Plumb**. We had five coaches present. The Keens are members of Treasure Lake RV Resort in Branson, so this makes a convenient (and economical) place to hold a rally.

We enjoyed a potluck dinner Thursday evening and relaxed, shopped, and jawboned all day Friday. Friday evening, we made the trek to Green Forest, Ark., to Cattleman's Restaurant to be fed and entertained by owner **Loree Blackburn** and friends. **Loree** is an excellent musician (keyboard), singer, and comedian, and loves to have her guests perform with her. Our very own **Martin Travis** performed three numbers on a borrowed guitar and earned himself a homemade coconut cream pie! If anyone is ever in north central Arkansas, you will

do yourself a favor by stopping in on any Friday or Saturday evening to hear country, bluegrass, gospel, or whatever kind of music you request. Note: **Bruce and Nancy** live near Branson and enjoy the shows, but more often than not, find themselves at Cattleman's instead.

On Saturday, we all went to Silver Dollar City for two Broadway-style shows: Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and "It's a Wonderful Life." Both were excellent shows in the beautiful venue of the Ozark Mountains at the peak of the fall color change. Silver Dollar City opens its Christmas season the first weekend in November, decorated with four-million-plus Christmas lights. Sunday morning, several attended church with rally hosts **Bruce and Nancy** before heading our D's toward home. Branson is a Christmas destination known nationwide and we will do it again next year. We invite our fellow DOAI members to join us if your schedule allows you to be in the area. ❖



Chapter prez
Carol Sturm

Texas Discovery Road Runners

Our third rally of 2013 was at K. E. Bushman's Camp RV Park in Bullard, Tex., prior to the national in Urbanna, Va. As always, the rally master, **Robert Martin**, had many activities planned, including a tour of the Kiepersol Winery, Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge, Tyler Aviation Museum and Brookshire's Museum and Country Store. Each one had its own uniqueness and interesting history. During the rally, we lunched at Loggin's Restaurant in Tyler, Tex. The restaurant is owned by "Johnny Footballs" family and was filled with memorabilia from his high school days.

The last rally was in November at Hill Country RV Resort in New Braunfels, Tex. Due to family obligations, I was unable to attend the entire rally; **Robert** had good tours and activities planned. The group enjoyed good eats, beer and music at the annual Wurstfest Festival.

Our group has always elected a rally master and assistant rally master to plan rallies for the coming year. Due to illnesses or other responsibilities, however, one person had to take on the responsibility of planning all the rallies this year. So, next year, we have a committee of four who will plan all the rallies. At this time, we have no dates set for the planned rallies in the months of March, April/May, August, September and October. The August rally will be a rolling rally, traveling to Gillette, Wyo., for the national DOAI rally.

We wish you all a well-traveled New Year! ❖

See the next page for the chapter events photo album!

Chapter events photo album



Texas Discovery Road Runners snapshot: Carol and Robert Martin, Judy Curtis, Lovetta and Doc Simpson, Carol Sturm and Barry Cummings. Identity of polar bear not known.



Desert Rats snapshot: Becky Guilliams, Jerry Timberlake, Gary Velasquez, Herb and Sheri Rikelman



Discovery Texans snapshot: The "gals" won the Traveling Trophy Tournament, beating the "guys" in Bandera.



Midwest Discoverers snapshot: Enjoying the day on Lake Erie!



Ozarks Discovery snapshot: Back row - Martin Travis, Beth and David Tillery, Debbie and Ricky Keen, Gary Denning, Kenny the bass player with Loree, Bruce Plumb. Front row - Bev Travis, Nancy Plumb, Rita Denning, Loree Blackburn



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Portia Williams

Membership director's report

The accompanying chart shows the status of our membership numbers for the period January-October 2013. We continue to ask members to refer new members to DOAI. Remember, you receive one year's membership free for every three new members referred.

As always, we welcome to DOAI the following new members and reinstates since the October issue of the *Discovery Express*. Please welcome them and encourage their membership in our various chapters. ❖

DOAI MEMBERSHIP 2013



Russ/Pat Baldwin, Tewksbury MA
 Ronald/Lynda Bell, Miami FL
 Richard/Sally Bennett, Parrish FL
 Thomas/Lisa Bentele, Huntington Beach CA
 Jim/Lynn Biggs, Jackson OH
 Scott Birthisel, Savannah GA
 Brian/Judith Bohne, Collins NY
 Dan/Brenda Boswell, Visalia CA
 Mike/Lila Brewington, Vancouver WA
 Rex/Sandra Burleson, Albemarle NC
 Richard/Barbara Carman, Marietta GA
 David/Susan Cogburn, Box Elder SD
 Susan Cooper, Dublin OH
 John Cox, Marion SC
 David/Julie Daniel, Lakewood CO
 Tom/Donna Dargewich, Tyler TX
 Howard/Deborah Eisenhut, Chimney Rock NC
 Roger/Mona Elliott, Rio Vista CA
 Bob Estephan, Penfield NY
 Bill/Chrissy Evans, Charleston WV
 Bill/Joyce Fedewa, Las Vegas NV
 Brian/Robin Feldmann, West Palm Beach FL
 Don/Gerry Felgate, Hot Springs AR
 Greg/Cathy Forte, Avon OH
 Paul/Glenda Franks, Kosciusko MS
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 Charles/Paula Gleckler, Council Bluffs IA
 Tony Goddard, Valley Lee MD
 Wayne/Carol Grace, New Whiteland IN
 Kenneth Griffith, Polson MT

Thomas/Jeanne Hamm, Tampa FL
 Craig/Debbie Hanson, Huntley IL
 Michael Harris/Timothy Flight, Palm Harbor FL
 Jerome/Pam Hetrick, Pensacola FL
 Howard/Susan Holinger, Belgrade ME
 Robert Hollingsworth, Garland NC
 Eddie/Margie Hopkins, Hot Springs AR
 Charlie House/Ann Colvard, Hamilton GA
 Wayne Hughes, Guntersville AL
 Robert/Elizabeth Humple, Plantation FL
 Ronald James, Altus OK
 David/Pam Jennings, Havelock NC
 Herman/Charlotte Jones, Fredericksburg VA
 Patric Keene, Bradenton FL
 James Kidd, Longs SC
 Tracy Lance/Donald Webb, Duncan SC
 Michael Law, Sioux City IA
 Mark/Cynthia Lecours, Edmond OK
 Keith Lindstrom/Alison Martin, Hayward CA
 Robert Lockman, Goose Creek SC
 Kim/Betty Lofquist, Destin FL
 Richard/Andrea Lowry, Akron OH
 Charles/Cheryl Martin, Oklahoma City OK
 Shawn/Andrea Mason, Hazelton IN
 Robert/Jessica McAfee, West Palm Beach FL
 Norm/Rhonda McNee, Sun City West AZ
 Vern/Heather Moore, Jonesboro AK
 Robert Murray, Jacksonville FL
 Gail Naimo, Port Saint Lucie FL

Wylan Newberry, Orlando FL
 James Newman, Giddings TX
 Steve Ochs, Oklahoma City OK
 Phil/Linda Osterli, Poulosbo WA
 Thomas/Cathleen Palmer, Riverview FL
 Robert Paris, Ashtabula OH
 Hilda/Gyorgy Pecszenka, Leesburg FL
 John Pettijohn, Houston TX
 Robert/Lori Ploutz-Snyder, League City TX
 Donald Pontious, Houston TX
 Willie/Wanda Pope, Killeen TX
 Ed/Joyce Portko, Auburn PA
 Ted Rabens, Little Egg Harbor Twp NJ
 Randy/Rose Ray, Kennett MO
 Patrick/Lindsay Riley, Valrico FL
 April/Michael Rosen, Tampa FL
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 Brad Sanders, Lehigh Acres FL
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 Michael/Ruth Sawicki, Albany NY
 Edward/Jennifer Schroeder, Metamora IL
 Terry/Shari Shick, Kelseyville CA
 Steve Sims, Houston TX
 Donald/Lynn Solie, Sioux Falls SD
 Rick Stayner, Conroe TX
 Tim/Sandy Swanson, Canton OH
 Brian Ward, Powder Springs GA
 Jon/Patti Wells, Vashon WA
 Scottie/Didi Womack, Acworth GA
 Anthony Wood/Stephen Goddard, Leesburg FL



Congratulations!

John and Alice Ricciardi and Dick and Pat Tracy have earned a year's membership because each couple referred three new members to DOAI! ❖

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Start the New Year with a new Tom Raper Discovery! Buying a motorhome from me will be an enjoyably different experience. Let's talk!

Barry Burdette — 800.727.3778, ext. 1333

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 765.962.1572 fax
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 I-70 Exit 149A

TOM RAPER RVs: A membership sponsor of Discovery Owners Association, Inc.

Free classified advertising

Detailed information about these sale items (including photos) may be found at www.discoveryowners.com/classifieds.htm

Discoveries **FOR SALE**

- 2002 37U:** 54k mi, clean, with Roadmaster Blackhawk tow package. Sam Hatcher; 850.387.0105; samhatcher@cs.com **\$55,000**
- 2002 38P:** Low miles, mint condition, always garaged. Ray Martin; 513.800.7784; rmartin395@tampabay.rr.com **\$68,500**
- 2003 39S:** 24k mi, 330HP Cat, clean, no smoke, W/D, UltraLeather sleeper sofa and J-lounge. Paul Haubner; 859.620.9927; chaubner@zoomtown.com **\$74,900**
- 2004 39J:** 60k mi, 6 new tires/batts, clean, **must sell.** (John Zidek) Ray Wittschen; 609.408.9320; vetdream@comcast.net **Reduced for quick sale - \$65,000**
- 2004 39S:** 43k mi, always garaged, no pets/smoke, excellent condition, front bra. Max Beidler; 731.431.3126; maxbeidler@charter.net **\$89,999**
- 2005 39L:** 55k mi, new tires/batts, no smoke/kids, very good condition. Sue Garten; 847.366.8888; srgarten@netscape.net **\$98,000**
- 2005 39S:** 119k mi, 300 hp Cat, three slides, tire monitoring system, SMI toad brake. Dave Mercer; 503.926.4773; davidrmercerc@comcast.net **\$59,900**
- 2006 39L:** 47k mi, new tires/batts, W/D, no smoke, all maint. records, remainder ext. warr. David Soderberg; 970.209.8692; dsoderberg@frontier.net **\$89,000 OBO**
- 2007 39L:** 29k mi, new front tires/batts, eng. and gen. maint. up to date, exc. cond., located in Texas. Billy Layton; 936.443.5036; laytonbilly@mac.com **\$91,500**
- 2007 39S:** 49k mi, many upgrades incl new batts/tires/HDTVs, repaired/tinted windows, more. Gary Livingston; 936.718.1421. littlebit1031@comcast.net **\$120,000**
- 2007 39V:** New flooring/residential refrig, no pets/smoke, ext. enter. center, transferable warranty. Mike Lucht; 714.476.6483; mslucht@live.com **\$129,000**
- 2007 40X:** New roof/radial tires; no pets/smoke; transferable Good Sam ext. maint. plan. Herman Jones; 703.909.3998; hhjones1@hotmail.com **\$116,900**
- 2009 40G:** 42k mi, four HDTVs, no smoke/pets, exc. cond., office, 17 mo. remain on ext. warr. Ed Ripper; 910.540.9021; eds767@yahoo.com **\$145,500**
- 2009 40X:** 33k mi, always garaged, no smoke/pets, mint condition, ext. TV, pass-thru storage bays. Steve VanErmen; 616.485.9072; steve@hexarmor.com **\$139,999**
- 2010 40X:** 13k mi, exc. cond., toad air-brake connect, no smoke/no pets, pass-thru storage. Steve Lynch; 832.588.1282; slynchster@gmail.com **\$154,900**

RV-related items **FOR SALE**

- Bendix® Washer/Dryer,** model WDS1043M, never used (removed from D when new). Henry Casey; 863.644.8503; hcasey@juno.com **\$400**
- Rear wheel cover:** 2001 D, 47¾" wide, 31¾" high. Robert Wilkins; 419.753.2502; nkvet@yahoo.com **\$200 + shpg**
- Roadmaster® Braking System,** five years old, all parts included. Price plus shipping or pick up in Pennsylvania. Bill Stiles; 610.799.3978; pirate40@gmail.com **\$450**
- Ultraleather Sleeper Sofa,** turns into a queen-size bed, cream color, excellent condition. Freddie Perry; fperry3@gmail.com **\$350**

DOAI applauds membership sponsors

DOAI is grateful to these fine dealers for supporting our club by paying for a year's membership for each purchaser of a **new or used** Discovery motor home:

Lazydays

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www.pplmotorhomes.com

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www.rvworladyuma.com

Tom Raper RVs

800.727.3778
www.tomraper.com

If you would like to join this elite group or have questions, details are available from DOAI Membership Director **Portia Williams.** Call toll-free 888.594.6818 or send an email to doaimembership@discoveryowners.com

Discovery Owners Association and Discovery dealers ...



... a cooperative venture with two-way benefits!



Joe Stewart

National rally master report

It has been quite hectic since the Bethpage rally. In spite of the rain, the rally was a success. The seminars were excellent and the entertainment and meals were outstanding. I say thanks to the southeast region members for their hard work.

Regarding future rallies: the northwest region members have been working hard on the 2014 national rally. From what I've been reading, they have almost completed their plans for it. It looks as if it will be an outstanding rally. I hope all DOAI members have put attending this one on their calendars.

According to reports I've been hearing, the north central region members have begun the procedure of finding a good location and the planning for the 2015 national rally. The northeast region is scheduled to host the 2016 national rally.

I've mentioned this before in this publication and at various rallies: we all travel across this great country of ours and we have seen some outstanding parks. If you have visited a park that you believe would be a good rally site, let me know, or contact the vice president of the appropriate region. ❖

Editor
Nina Soltwedel

Have you visited Freightliner in Gaffney, S.C.?

Bob and I have been there four times over the past ten years – each time to have work done on the chassis, and one time Bob took the Camp Freightliner class (along with John and Felesa Baker). Each time we've visited, we've been impressed with the quality of the work, the care and consideration of the service center office staff and technicians, and the

very good free RV parking area. The town is pleasant, and we've taken the time to do a bit of sight-seeing around the area.



Djuna Hunt, receptionist/supervisor Walden Security. **DJ** graciously welcomes visitors to the plant with a warm smile.

knowing what it is, but that's about it, that says a lot). It's not a "ho-hum" tour by any means.

Several snap impressions: **Clean!** The floors are clean, the work stations are clean, and each work station is organized for efficient access to equipment and supplies. **Friendly!** Whenever our eyes would catch the eyes of a worker, we were greeted with smiles. **Impressive!** Watching a huge RV chassis being lifted up, rotated, and gently laid down again (all by mechanical assembly – wide belts on rollers with a hoist, etc.) is a sight to behold and I never tired of watching it.

Ladies, if you find yourself in Gaffney 'cause your hubby needs to have work done on the coach, don't miss the factory tour. It can increase your appreciation for our Discovery motor homes. ❖

Prime among the experiences, however, has been the tours of the factory. The first two times, back in 2005 and 2008, the plant was a virtual beehive of activity; the second time, in 2010, the plant was showing the effects of the recession; this past October, the plant was much more active and appeared to be on the road back to full recovery.

The focus of this article is excellence of those who welcome visitors to the Hyatt Street plant, those who lead the tours of the plant, and the physical plant itself. Each individual who has been a guide over the years has been gracious, informative, and entertaining (and for someone whose knowledge of chassis encompasses



Our 2013 guide **Mike Stark**, technical sales manager, commercial division. With **Mike**, there are no "dumb" questions, and always thoughtful answers.



2014-15 Secretary
Freddie Perry

Synopsis of October board and general meetings

Board of directors meeting - October 10, 2013

- * Quorum present, along with six guests.
- * Minutes of previous meeting had been approved via electronic vote.
- * Treasurer reported finances in good shape. Newsletter biggest expense, followed by insurance.
- * Membership still strong at slightly less than 1400. New dealer signed up to become membership sponsor.
- * Printing 1100 newsletters quarterly; 665 reading electronic version. Printed copies also sent to various manufacturers and others.
- * Merchandise sales slow; new director needed.
- * President's Council results: agenda of rally (with vendors list) in newsletter before rally could help with attendance; study needed to determine if first timers return to subsequent rallies, and if not, why not. Spreadsheet to be created to list first timers at previous rallies to determine if any attended further national rallies. Survey will be sent to all first timers at this rally, asking what was liked and not liked.
- * Financial requirements of IRS for organizations discussed. Each chapter needs its own EIN.
- * Discussion on merchandise and vendor sales vis-a-vis collecting sales tax.
- * Seventy-six coaches at rally; initial budget based on 100. Slightly in the red at time of meeting.
- * Plans shared for 2014 national rally.
- * Webmaster requested videos of rally for website.
- * Details about Camp Discovery shared.
- * North central region will be site of 2015 national rally. President will contact region vice president.
- * Meeting adjourned.

General meeting of membership - October 12, 2013

- * Quorum present.
- * Nominees for 2013 election introduced.
- * Minutes of previous meeting approved as read.
- * Financial report approved as read.
- * Membership holding steady. New dealer signed up to be member sponsor.
- * Printing 1100 newsletters; 665 taking electronic version.
- * Seventy-six coaches present at rally
- * DOAI merchandise sale going well; new director taking over at Camp Discovery.
- * Presentation given about 2014 national rally.
- * Meeting adjourned.

Report submitted by MaryAnn Crowell

Editor's note: Complete, detailed minutes of the board and general meetings will be published on the DOAI website as of January 1, 2014.



2014-15
Merchandise Dir.
Jody Bruce

Merchandise director's report

Jody Bruce will be taking over this responsibility after the southeast region rally in Florida at the end of January. She is a great choice for the job and will approach it with enthusiasm. **Dick Tracy** will work with her to ensure a smooth transition.

There will be a few new items for sale, along with a re-supply of the chambray DOAI ball caps due to popular request (unlike the illustration on the right, the caps will sport the club logo). Be sure to stop by the DOAI merchandise display at the Camp Discovery at Lazydays later this month!



Report submitted by Dick Tracy

DOAI extends heartfelt thanks to **Dick and Pat Tracy** for their leadership of the merchandise sales "department" of our club!



The Discoveryettes plan appearance at 2014 national rally

Calling all gals who like to sing! The Discoveryettes, an informal (and always changing) group of female DOAI members who enjoy singing, will once again make an appearance at a national rally ... the one taking place in Gillette, Wyo., this coming August.

The idea for the group was born back in the late 1990s at the first national rally in Newport Beach, Calif. The group appeared again in 2001 at Pueblo, Colo., and has made appearances at various rallies in the years since.

The aim of the group is to have fun, sing a few “funny” songs, and entertain rally attendees. We usually sing old, familiar tunes to which new, RV-specific words have been written.

Would you like to participate this year? We’ll be singing a “new” song in addition to some of our “golden oldies.” The words and musical scores can be emailed to you, making it easy for you to practice a bit prior to coming to the rally. Once you get to the rally, a rehearsal should give us time to pull it all together before entertaining the “troops” at the welcome party.

Want more information? Want to know what songs we’ll sing? Send an email to **Nina Soltwedel** at nina.soltwedel@gmail.com. Questions will be answered, along with more details.

By the way, we have a **desperate** need to borrow a karaoke machine and an “oogah” horn (we can even use a regular ol’ bicycle horn, if no “oogah” horn is available). Can you help? ❖



The Discoveryettes at 2012 national rally in Tucson

DOAI member immortalized in print!

At a Family Motor Coach Association rally a while back, a DOAI member picked up a Freightliner brochure, and noticed the page shown on the left – a testimonial from **Don Crowell**.

When asked how this came about, **Don** responded that shortly after he and **MaryAnn** had purchased their 2012 40X Discovery, Freightliner contacted them and asked why they chose that particular RV – was it because of the Freightliner chassis or because it was a Discovery. **Don** responded that it was both.

Don's attributed comment in the brochure is: “I see the Freightliner name all over the highways and I know these trucks go millions of miles, so that says they are pretty dependable. That’s why I can rely on my motorhome on a Freightliner chassis.”

If you happen to pick up one of those brochures, perhaps **Don** will autograph it for you. You could have a collectible! ❖

REMINDER

Chapters – please email a current roster to DOAI Membership Director by January 15, 2014.
Questions? Contact **Portia Williams** at doaimembership@discoveryowners.com



DOAI 2014 National Rally

Roundup the D's in Wyoming

August 26-30, 2014 (Depart August 31)
 Cam-Plex, 1635 Reata Drive, Gillette, Wyoming
 Latitude 44.278877 — Longitude -105.443306

REGISTRATION FORM

Enter information as you want it to appear on your rally name badge

Pilot's Last Name _____ First Name _____

Co-Pilot's Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street _____ City, State/Prov., ZIP+4/Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone/s _____

Email/s _____

Emergency Contact/s _____ Emergency Phone/s _____

DOAI # _____ DOAI Region _____ Chapter to be parked with _____

Need handicap parking? Yes No First national rally? Yes No

Guest/s Name, City, State _____

REGISTRATION:

\$350.00 per coach with two adults (August 26 through 30) \$ _____

\$275.00 per coach with one adult (August 26 through 30) \$ _____

\$75.00 each additional person/child (August 26 through 30) × ____ person/s = \$ _____

\$28.00 pre-rally (up to two nights beginning August 24) × ____ night/s = \$ _____

Arrival date _____

28.00 post-rally (up to three nights beginning August 31) × ____ nights = \$ _____

Departure date _____

\$20.00 DOAI membership (if not already a DOAI member) \$ _____

OPTIONAL GOLF AND TOURS:

Wed., Aug. 27 – **Golf Tournament** (includes golf cart) **\$55.00** × ____ person/s = \$ _____

Wed., Aug. 27 – **Durham Bison Ranch Tour** (includes transp.) **\$30.00** × ____ person/s = \$ _____

Thurs., Aug. 28 – **Deadwood and Devils Tower Tour** (includes transp.) .. **\$45.00** × ____ person/s = \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO DOAI Total \$ _____

MAIL CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM TO:
 Nina Soltwedel, Registrar, 4736 Harwich St, Boulder CO 80301-4217

Questions? Contact Nina Soltwedel; 303.570.2736; rallyregistrar@discoveryowners.com or
 Bob Williams, Rally Master; 435.817.3172; rallymaster@discoveryowners.com
REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014
 Full refund cancellation may be made up to Aug. 4, 2014 – **AFTER AUGUST 4 – NO REFUND**

➔ ➔ ➔ **KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS** ← ← ←

You will receive a confirmation of your registration via email.

Discovery Owners Association, Inc.
PORTIA WILLIAMS, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
PO BOX 95
ST. GEORGE UT 84771-0095

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ARE YOUR DUES DUE?
Please renew now!

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. Membership Application

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization, established to foster social opportunities and information exchange among all members.

Membership classifications:

Regular - a private individual owning a Discovery motor home. **Dues** (payable in U.S. funds only): **\$20** for the first year (includes one-time **\$4** administrative fee); **\$16** for one-year renewal; **\$45** (**\$49** new members) for three years; **\$75** (**\$79** new members) for five years.

Commercial - Discovery dealer, RV campground/resort, or an RV-related for-profit business. **Dues** (payable in U.S. funds only): **\$20** per year, or **\$75** for five years.

Questions? Call DOAI Membership Director toll-free 888.594.6818

Mail the form below with your check payable to *Discovery Owners Association, Inc.* to: **Portia Williams, Membership Director, PO Box 95, St. George UT 84771-0095.** You may also join/renew online at www.discoveryowners.com

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Partner Name _____

Business Name, if joining as Commercial Member _____

Address _____

City, State/Prov., ZIP+4/Postal Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell Telephone _____

Email Address (*check box on right for electronic newsletter*) _____

Discovery Year/Model, if joining as Regular Member _____

Who recommended DOAI membership to you? _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ representing (*check one*): One year Three years Five years