

Discovery Express



January 2019

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. - Established 1998 - www.discoveryowners.com

Volume 21, Number 1

Happy New Year!

Hope everyone has recovered from the holidays and is safe and sound as well as warm and dry. We have a busy year ahead of us starting with the Southeast Region Rally, aka Camp Discovery, in Seffner, FL at Lazydays. The rally begins January 27th and runs through February 2, 2019. The deadline to mail your registration forms is January 10th. This rally has a 2-part registration form, one for the rally and one for Lazydays. Both can be found on the DOAI website: www.discoveryowners.com/2019SERALLY.pdf and the Florida Discovery Sunshiners website: www.floridadiscoverysunshiners.com/. Readers, don't forget to read the book A Land Remembered by Patrick A. Smith so you're ready for the Book Club meeting at the rally.

There will be a DOAI General Membership meeting at this rally where two Bylaw changes will be presented to the membership for a vote. Please review these proposed Bylaw changes on in this issue and on pages 9 and 10 of the October 2018 issue of the DOAI Express. DOAI Bylaws are available on the DOAI website at: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/DOAIBylaws.pdf>

Elections have happened in some Chapters and you can find an updated DOAI officer directory in this issue and on the DOAI website.

The DOAI Website has a robust eGroup presence which has inspired several articles in this issue. If you are a member of the eGroup you know what wonderful advice and assistance you can find on the forums. If you haven't taken the time to get your personal sign-in yet, we hope these articles inspire you to hurry up! You don't want to miss anything. The articles refer back to original forum posts, so check out the forums and see what new updates have been made since this issue was put together.

Wishing you Happy Travels!

Kristy, DOAI Express Newsletter Editor ❖

Quarterly Question Contest

Bill and Laura Johnson are congratulated for correctly answering the October 2018 Quarterly Question: What is the world's biggest island? The answer, Greenland.

The question for January 2019: What was the 14th state admitted to the Union? Do your history homework, then search for the answer. The contest opens at 12:01am January 1, 2019 and closes 11:59 pm February 15, 2019. As usual, please carefully read the instructions on page 26 so that your submission will be accepted. DO NOT email your response via the DOAI eGroup; send a private email to nina.soltwedel@gmail.com. All submissions will be acknowledged. Good luck! *By Nina Soltwedel.* ❖



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Ron Wacker

President's report

Everyone, the holidays are behind us and a new year is ahead. Hopefully you were on Santa's nice list and he brought you everything on your list. I sure hope you didn't get a lump of coal.

There were several members that bought new Discoverys last year. That makes for a very nice present. They should have some nice travels in their new Discoverys. While we are discussing traveling, I am looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming Southeast Region rally. The rally starts Sunday, January 27, 2019 and leaving Saturday, February 2, 2019.

The Florida Discovery Sunshiners are working hard preparing for the rally. The theme is "Discover the Florida Crackers". Who are the Florida Crackers and how did they get that name? Come to the rally and find out. They will have camp discovery where you can learn more than you can ever imagine about your Discovery. There will be plenty of good food, entertainment, a pet parade, vendors, ice cream social, Cummins seminars and camaraderie. General RV will have the new Discoverys on display for us along with lunch and entertainment. They are planning on having more seminars for both the women and the men. Please be sure to register for this rally. This rally requires a 2-part registration form, one for DOAI and one for Lazydays. If you have not attended this rally before or if it has been a few years, this will be a very interesting rally and lots of fun. There is a link to the registration form in this newsletter. The form is available on both the DOAI and the Florida Discovery Sunshiners websites.

See you in Seffner! ❖



Nina Soltwedel

Member Care report

Fleesa Baker continues to have serious back pain. She sends thanks for your prayers.

Susanne Johnson was hospitalized in Florida in October 2019, and we pray she is improving.

Bob Cook suffered several weeks with an extremely sore arm, making his right hand useless. He's under treatment and is improving. Bob gives thanks to all for their good wishes, and especially to Robert Orr, who now serves as co-webmaster with Bob. As Bob Cook puts it, "Robert is a Godsend."

Jean Money died from cancer in November. DOAI sympathies have been sent to her husband, Richard.

Kathaleen Ross has been ill since last summer. We pray she is feeling a whole lot better.

Pete Welsh had a serious back injury in July. He's doing great now and thanks everyone for their prayers.

Jim Devine has cancer and reports that, while he's not in remission, the current treatment has resulted in containment. Jim is feeling quite well. He was so thankful to be able to be with everyone at the rally in Goshen.

Having experienced a serious heart attack last August, Harry Bruton is much improved, has a new pacemaker, and all prayers are welcomed!

As has been noted in the past, send me an email at nina.soltwedel@gmail.com whenever a member of your family is ill or has died. Our DOAI family wants you to know you and your family are in our collective prayers. ❖

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

Discovery Express is a quarterly publication (January, April, July, October). Deadlines for copy are December 1, March 1, June 1, and August 1. Members are encouraged to submit articles, tips, questions, and/or comments. *All submissions will be acknowledged. If acknowledgment is not received within a reasonable time, please call the Editor.*

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DOAI eGroup
<https://groups.io/g/discoveryowners>

Access All Issues
www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp

Newsletter published by
Prepared Publications, Inc.



All Discovery images courtesy of
Fleetwood RV, Inc.
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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Find your membership renewal date at
www.discoveryowners.com/login.asp



John Baker

Past President's report

Raise your hand if your D is tucked away with pink stuff in the water system for the winter. If so, those of us South of I-20 will try not to gloat as we enjoy Winter RVing while our weather is temperate...sometimes even in the 70's! But never fear, warm weather is just around the corner for all of our beautiful nation.

Regardless of whether you raised your hand, think about this...DOAI has provided information, fun, and friendship to Discovery owners for two decades, building a community like no other.

We all have reaped benefits from rallies, this outstanding newsletter, our website, and just plain old friendships! DOAI has no paid staff...only volunteers from our membership. The officers and directors freely give of their time to keep the wheels turning for one or two two-year terms of office, then someone else steps up. This provides for a mixture of new and experienced folks on the Board, but it means those who have not served before need to "throw their hat into the ring" for office. That time is now.

Our election will happen later this year, but we need to identify candidates in the next couple of months, so they can be introduced via this newsletter in a later edition. All offices are open to election regardless of whether the incumbent is term limited or stands for re-election. In addition to President, Executive Vice President, Rally Master, Secretary and Treasurer there are 6 regional Vice Presidents. Regional VPs must reside in the region they represent but all others have no residential restrictions.

I encourage YOU to volunteer to serve in an office. The job descriptions are posted on our website...look them up or contact me and I will be happy to provide them to you. You will not be obligated by looking into it, but we really need to fill all the leadership positions. Call or text me (281.814.0004) or email at Bakerjohn@swbell.net. I look forward to hearing from you within the next month. Don't put it off, contact me NOW.

Wishing you safe travels. ❖



MaryAnn Crowell

National Rally Master's report

Happy Winter Season. I hope you are all warm and safe where ever you are. For those of you who are still on the road – it means you are probably in one of the Southern States and hopefully getting ready to head to Camp Discovery in Seffner, FL. Camp Discovery starts on Sunday, January 27th. This is always a great rally.

The location and date of the 2019 National Rally has not been decided yet. As you know the proposals that were submitted at the Goshen Rally were all voted down. So, after a short recuperation time from that great rally, I started to check out areas in the Central part of the United States. I started with a list of 11 parks and fairgrounds to check out. Of those 11, 5 were a NO, 2 have sent in completed information, and the remaining 4 have promised to finish their information and get it to me. So, We Will See! I had hoped to get all the information out to the Board for their vote before this report, but I still would like to hear from at least 2 of the remaining 4 (they seem to have some great points to ponder).

I'm sorry I don't have a place for you to mark on your calendars. But what I do know is: There Will Be A National Rally! It will be in one of the Central States during the September – October 2019 time frame.

Once we have a site for the National, we will be working on a short time frame. Anyone who would like to help in anyway is WANTED. The jobs don't change just the great DOAI members that step-up to give a hand. Please contact me if you are one of those great members willing step forward.-- ❖

Editor's Note - MaryAnn has received much of the information she needed just before this issue went to press. The Board is reviewing the options and a decision should be made in time to announce at the Seffner rally, if not before.

Editor's Note by Kristy Green - Thank You

This newsletter is all about you, your chapters, your regions and your activities. If you have photographs of your latest rallies and chapter activities or done something special with your D, please submit them to your chapter president or secretary for possible inclusion with their quarterly report in the newsletter. Pictures should be high resolution, preferably jpeg, color and able to fit in an e-mail. Please identify people individually if the group is of 16 or fewer people. The next newsletter deadline for submissions is March 1, 2019. Questions or submissions can be sent to the editor at: doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com.

Awards are Presented at the DOAI 20th Anniversary Homecoming Rally



Kerry Pinkerton MCs at the Awards Luncheon.



Joan and Maurice Fairweather receive a certificate from Nina Soltwedel.



A presentation and a song from DOAI Secretary, Nina Soltwedel to Special Guest, DOAI Founder, and President Emeritus, Jim Devine.



DOAI President Ron Wacker Presents a plaque to Marshall Godwin.



Ron also presented a plaque to Gary Osburn - these plaques expressed DOAI's thanks and recognition for all that these men have given to the organization and its members.



Membership Coordinator's report

Please **“Welcome”** our new and reinstated members listed here since our last issue of Discovery Express. Help introduce them to the many chapters we have so they can discover which is the best place to meet and make new friends.

Remember if you win the Discovery Express Quarterly Question Contest or refer three new members to DOAI, you will receive a one-year free membership. ❖

Elaine Holley

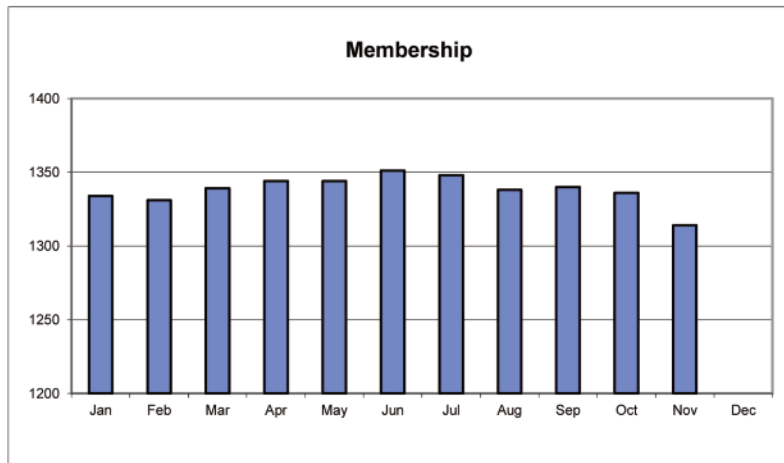
Clint/Lonneda Arnett, Caldwell TX
 Pat/Amy Ayers, Jacksonville FL
 Del/Claudine Basaraba, Kamloops BC
 Nancy Beach, Gillette WY
 Buzz/Cindy Blackwelder, North Myrtle Beach SC
 Tony/Heide Bohn, Middletown DE
 John Briscoe Jr/John Briscoe Sr, Clinton MD
 Mike/Lisa Busenbark, Newport MI
 Justin/Michelle Caldwell, Sparta NJ
 Teddy/Anne Crider, Holly Springs NC
 Gale/Linda Culbertson, Yakima WA
 Matthew/Christine Davidson, New Bern NC
 Ben/Charity DeVries, Loveland CO
 Tad Ellis, Big Spring TX
 Betty/Dave Fletcher, Maumelle AR
 Leah Flores, Redington Shores FL
 Paul/Marylou Franks, Wadsworth TX
 Charles/Judy Gilman, Carmichael CA
 Merle/Bev Gilmore, Morton IL
 Ludwig Goppenhammer, Golden CO

Donnie/Denise Greene, Conover NC
 Paul/Robin Guerra, Canton OH
 Kevin/Catherine Hampton, Boiling Springs SC
 Larry Hilgert, Rockledge FL
 Gary Hilmes, Green Cove Springs FL
 Ronald/Catherine Karpilo, Florence CO
 Steven/Jan Kibby, Peoria IL
 Matt/Stacy Lavender, Simi Valley CA
 Randy/Cheryl Maisonville, Windsor ON
 Alan/Mary Martin, Okeechobee FL
 Shaun/Jennie McCloskey, Wildwood MO
 Cary McCoy, Rydal GA
 Harry/Amy Mintzer, Williamsport PA
 Dean/Beverly Mitchell, Eagle Creek OR
 Scott/Mary Mitchell, Acton CA
 Dennis/Cindy Mudge, Northglenn CO
 Philip/Tilly Murray, Brookeville MD
 Howard/Lisa Nelson, Auburn WA
 Clifton/Isabelle Ogeary, New Bern NC
 Russell/Penny Phillippi, Hillsboro NM

Dana Pirl, Saint Petersburg FL
 Sarah Porter, Sinton TX
 Warren/Sherry Powell, Hoschton GA
 Charles/Jessica Preston, Eagle River AK
 Michael/Jennifer Randazzo, Lakeside CA
 Anthony/Deb Sarra, Herriman UT
 Doug/Lynn Schreiner, Jackson MO
 David Sloane, Fort Worth TX
 Rick/Jackie Smith, Allen TX
 Russell/Rebecca Stephens, Decatur TX
 Chasity Stewart, San Antonio TX
 Steve/Tisha Sutton, Goodyear AZ
 Michael/Terri Szczecina, Sevierville TN
 Steve/Corina Temple, Tamuning GU
 Paul/Kay Thomas, York SC
 Edwin Thompson, Northville MI
 Jack Wiebe/Judy Bieganski, Calgary AB
 Van/Janice Witthuhn, Hays KS

The chart below shows the status of our membership for the period January - November 2018.

DOAI MEMBERSHIP 2018



Month	Membership	New Members
Jan	1,334	30
Feb	1,331	24
Mar	1,339	40
Apr	1,344	28
May	1,344	20
Jun	1,351	28
Jul	1,348	24
Aug	1,338	31
Sep	1,340	18
Oct	1,336	24
Nov	1,314	16
Dec		



Nina Soltwedel

Secretary's report - Bylaws Changes

Reprinted from DOAI Express Newsletter, October 2018 issue, for review by Membership prior to the General Membership meeting to be held at the 2019 Southeast Region rally in Seffner, FL.

At the September 12-13, 2018, Board of Directors meeting in Goshen, Indiana, two Bylaw changes were proposed. These two changes will be presented to the general membership for its consideration and approval at the Southeast Region Rally in Seffner, Florida, this coming January. The affected sections follow, with the changed/added wording underlined.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

B. Specific Duties

2. There shall be a Region Vice President for each major geographical region of the contiguous United States and Canada. The region boundaries will be specified in a Standing Rule.
 - c. The Region Vice Presidents assist the President and perform other duties assigned by the President and Board of Directors. The Region Vice Presidents shall represent the best interests of the chapters and members of their respective areas.
 - d. In conjunction with the National Rally Master, plan and coordinate National and Region rallies held within the region.
 - e. Promote and encourage establishment of new chapters within the region.
 - f. Coordinate with Chapter Presidents to:
 1. Ensure chapter concerns and interests are represented before the Board of Directors.
 2. Assist to recruit and retain chapter members.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

C. Duties

7. Vice President for Development

The Vice President for Development is responsible to establish and maintain DOAI's professional relationships with primary manufacturers related to Discovery motor homes and Discovery dealers.

 - a. Relationship with major manufacturers
 1. Establish the primary contact with each major manufacturer to coordinate matters between the manufacturer and DOAI.
 2. Establish procedures and processes, approved by the Board of Directors, to communicate and/or resolve motor home related issues between manufacturers and DOAI members that have not been satisfactorily resolved by the dealer and normal manufacturer customer relations processes.
 3. Request manufacturers' support, financial or otherwise, for DOAI activities or events approved by the Board of Directors.
 4. Assist the DOAI Membership Coordinator to obtain the list of new Discovery buyers in order to aid member recruitment.
 - b. Relationship with Discovery dealers
 1. Establish and maintain the list of Discovery dealers.
 2. Communicate with dealers to encourage participation in the DOAI Membership Sponsor Program and provide annual certificate of appreciation.
 3. Assist the DOAI Rally Master to gain dealer support for Major Rallies.
 4. Encourage Discovery dealers to advertise in the Discovery Express newsletter and/or the DOAI website.

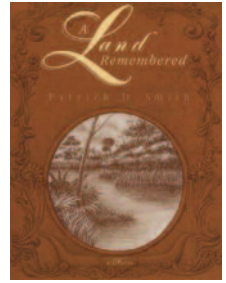
By Nina Soltwedel ❖



Jeanne Stewart

Book Club report

We are having our 2nd Book Club gathering at the Southeast Regional Rally in Seffner, Florida. We selected this book at our last meeting in Goshen due to the fact that it is about a 3 generational Florida family “who battle the hardships of the frontier to rise from a dirt-poor Cracker life to the wealth and standing of real estate tycoons.” And it also explains the theme of this rally “Discover the Florida Crackers.”



My plan is to read to the book after the holidays are over and before Seffner. At this writing, the Discovery is packed and the roads are clear as we head off to warmer weather.

Please join us at our gathering. We had a great discussion at Goshen and we plan to make this a regularly scheduled event for future rallies. Please bring suggestions of books you have enjoyed. We can make a list to share.

Good Health and a Happy New Year! ❖

Yuma Drifters will gather in late January



Nina Soltwedel

Bob and Nina Soltwedel report that plans are underway for their annual “food, fun, and conversation” gathering for all DOAI members who will find themselves in the Yuma, Arizona, area (or close enough to drive over for a day) on or around January 26 - 27, 2019. The exact date has not yet been set, but the general timing will be shortly after the conclusion of the Blythe Bluegrass Festival (January 18-20).

By the way, “Yuma Drifters” isn’t a genuine DOAI chapter; it’s simply a group of DOAI members who may find themselves in the same place at the same time each January. We hold no meetings; we take no minutes; we have no rules; we charge no dues; we just eat and have great conversations! The list of those who attend our annual non-meeting varies from year to year; the one thing we have in common is that we own a Discovery motorhome or travel with someone who does.

If you have attended previous years’ gatherings, you should receive an email from the Soltwedels around January 1 or so. If you have not attended in the past and will be in the Yuma/Quartzsite/El Centro/Casa Grande/etc. area around the end of January, let them know so you will receive updates and details. Contact them at nina.soltwedel@gmail.com. All are welcome! ❖



Attending the General Meeting at the DOAI 20th Anniversary Homecoming rally in Goshen, IN - September 15, 2018.

2019 DOAI Directory

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Founder/President Emeritus

Jim Devine, 10321 Jacob Ct, Fairhope
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Robert Orr

Website Committee report

I highly recommend checking out the Hints and Tips submissions on the DOAI website. This last quarter alone we received a large number of helpful and informative submissions, including:

11/30/18 Retrofit satellite dish with inexpensive long-range Wi-Fi antenna - YouTube Video Submitted by Kevin Hampton

11/25/18 Repair of Broken Full-Wall Slide Lock Motor Mount - Submitted by Rick Blaher

11/02/18 Basement Cargo Door Latch Replacement (pre-2001) - Submitted by Al & Karin De Haas

11/01/18 RV Winterization Checklist - Revision 3 - Submitted by Rick Blaher & Rob Ploutz

10/23/18 Rear View Camera and Radio Upgrades - Submitted by Doug Poad

10/07/18 Member Discovery Tips from 2018 National Rally - Goshen

09/09/18 12-volt House Battery alternative; Multi-Valve Water Inlet System; Refrigerator conversion on a slide

This issue of the DOAI Express includes a couple of articles gleaned from the pages of the website and its forums. If you like this sample, take time to request to join the forums. It is open to DOAI members only and is one of your great benefits! ❖



Thanksgiving was awesome for the TaylOrr family. We took the kids up off-roading in TN

Tips for getting Answers to your Questions on the DOAI eGroup

From a post by Frank Miller on the DOAI eGroup

When you need an answer to your question on the eGroup forum, there are things you can do to help get a quick and accurate response. Here are a few:

Be Specific: Whenever possible include make and model of the coach or device, such as "Atwood Hot Water Heater, model GE16 EXT." For appliances, this information is almost always on an identification label in or on the device.

Be Graphic: Include one or more cell phone pictures. This really helps clarify what is occurring and why it is happening.

Be Definitive: Describe specifically what you experienced that is different from what you expected. Sometimes the behavior is normal under the circumstances. Providing specific clues can help to locate what may be causing the issue.

Be Resourceful: You can often get a lot of knowledge of how something works by taking the make and model number of a device and downloading the free Owner's, Installation and Troubleshooting manuals from the web. For the coach use this link: <https://www.fleetwoodrv.com/technical-assistance>. Fill out the form and ask REV/Fleetwood for electrical and plumbing drawings/schematics. You can also call the Customer Service Number 800-322-8216 as well. Either way, you will need to include your coach VIN and the Fleetwood VIN, likely posted on the wall behind the driver's seat in your coach. They will typically send about 20 PDF format documents by email for the most common coach specifics. You can request additional drawings for anything not included in the basic set of documents.

Be Pro-Active: Some of our members have taken the time to keep a list of important information about their coach that they can easily access when an issue occurs. For example, the appliance make and model numbers (I cheat and just grab a cell phone image of each device label). Some make a list of all the common part numbers from the engine's serpentine belt to the fuel filter. Many of us carry spare parts for things that can be hard to locate when stuck on the side of the road. Having had to spend about \$150 and several hours at a Freightliner dealer to locate a brake light fuse, I now have a list of the name, location, type, and value of almost every fuse and relay in my coach. No more guessing where the fuse is!

Be Knowledgeable: There are many learning opportunities like Camp Freightliner and Camp Discovery that help you avoid expensive repairs and enhance the enjoyment of your Discovery.

Cheers, and Happy Glamping! ❖

Editor's Note - These tips and more can be found on the DOAI eGroup page at www.discoveryowners.com/login1.asp?stat=3&attemptedPage=https://www.discoveryowners.com/egroup.asp This is a restricted page but it is a simple process to become a group member if you are a DOAI member. Members of the eGroup are always welcome to post additional suggestions, check it out.

Region and Chapter reports

Noreaster Discoverys chapter



Chapter prez
Bob Stewart

Greetings everyone from the snowy Northeast. Hope you had a Merry Christmas. Snow began early for us. The holidays are already over! Where did the time go?

We sure put some miles on our Discovery (her name is Destiny) last year. It is amazing just to think of the places we've been, the people we've met, and the experiences we have had because we belong to DOAI and our own individual chapters. It's been a fantastic year and we're all looking forward to everything 2019 has to offer.

At this writing we are a little anxious to head South, can't wait to see old friends and make new friends at the Southeast Regional Rally at Lazydays in Seffner, FL.

Happy New Year everyone and safe travels. ❖



Group picture from the Homecoming rally in Goshen, IN - Sure are a lot of Noreaster members in this picture. A few others too maybe?



This, believe it or not was taken November 27th, 2018, not even December.

Region and chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez
Marshall Godwin

Mason-Dixon chapter

The Mason-Dixon Discoverys held a great rally near Richmond, VA, Oct 25-28. The Weinbergs and Blackwells hosted the rally. We had fourteen coaches attend. We have had other rallies at Americamps RV Resort in Ashland, VA, but keep returning because of the location and excellent facilities for a chapter rally.

On Friday, by pre-arrangement, we visited the nearby General RV dealership and toured their 2019 Discoverys. It was raining but that didn't stop us from seeing the Discoverys they had parked nearby for the tour. Rally guest, Tony and Heide Bohn, purchased a new Discovery. They were founding members of the chapter who later purchased another brand RV and left DOAI. Tony and Heide continued to participate in chapter gatherings as guests. Now they have returned to the fold as DOAI and Chapter members. Welcome Back!

That evening we enjoyed a wonderful catered meal at the campground sponsored by General RV. A chapter business meeting followed the meal. Part of the meeting focused on the 2020 SE Region Rally. The Mason-Dixon Chapter will host that rally. All major rally coordinator roles have been filled and planning is well underway to make sure we have an enjoyable and informative rally for all DOAI members.

On Saturday we enjoyed two excellent guided tours, the Confederate White House and Tredegar Iron Works. Virginia is a very historic area and it's good to learn more about the places and people who played a major role in the events of their day.

Al and Donna Etue, DOAI members from Washington state, attended the rally. They were in Richmond visiting their son. We all had so much fun that they joined the chapter.

Our next chapter gathering will be at the 2019 SE Region rally at Lazydays in Seffner, FL. Planning for the Spring chapter rally is ongoing. ❖



Touring the White House of The Confederacy.



Touring the White House of The Confederacy.



Waiting to start the Tredegar Iron Works Site tour in Richmond, VA.



Touring the Tredegar Iron Works Site.



Touring the Tredegar Iron Works Site.



Our President, Marshall Godwin, conducting our business meeting.

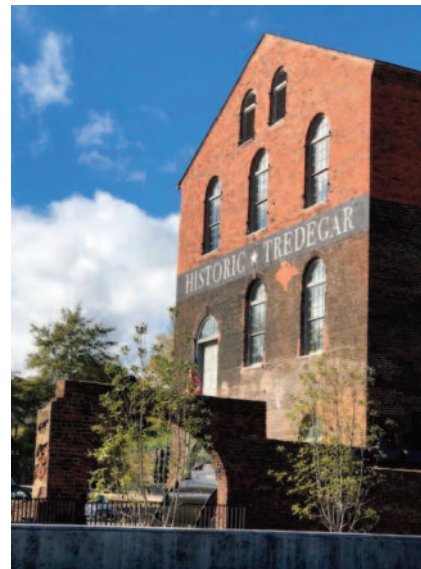
Region and chapter reports, continued



Game night- Playing "left, right, center"



Some of the group that toured the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA



Tredegar Iron Works Site.



Doing what we do best. Dining out.



Views from a great rally at the Americamps RV Resort in Ashland, VA.

Region and chapter reports, continued



Mason-Dixon Group Photo from the 20th Anniversary DOAI Homecoming Rally, September 2018 in Goshen, IN.



Chapter prez
John Hooper

Midwest Discoverers chapter

The Midwest Discoverers had a good Rally in the Great Smokey Mountains of North Carolina back in September and now look forward to a fantastic Rally in Port Clinton, Ohio, in June. All are welcome to join us. Almost all the RV sites that were booked have been taken but more can be added for anyone that wants to attend. The Rally will be June 16 – 21 at the Cedarlane RV Park in Port Clinton, Ohio. The number for reservations there is 419-797-9907. There are a ton of things to do in the area. A good time is sure to be had for all attendees. Come on and join this outstanding DOAI Chapter.

That is what twenty-one people have done so far this year; join the Midwest Discoverers Chapter that is. They are absolutely delightful folks and they bring a lot of strength to the Chapter. We are excited to have them and look forward to their participation in Chapter activities. Each has an “old” Chapter member that is helping them get involved and meet other members that might have a similar interest.

On the business side of the Chapter, new Bylaws were written and approved by the Chapter membership. These revisions bring the Chapter more in line with DOAI Bylaws and clarify how the Chapter functions. The Midwest Discoverers are fortunate to have had excellent and wise leadership in the past. They set the bar very high for such an outstanding Chapter. To them, we owe a great debt of gratitude. ❖

Region and chapter reports, continued



Southwest Region VP
Jim Sullivan

Southwest Region and Discovery California chapter

As I write this article, we are just a week or so past Thanksgiving and coming up on the Christmas and the New Year season. Susan and me had a wonderful, chaotic Thanksgiving week. We hosted our six grandkids and their parents. The oldest is in third grade and the youngest at 2 is a real terrorist. They love to come to the beach and hang out. Grandma is a great cook and every morning she served a big breakfast and provided great family dinners in the evening. What a week!

In early November Bob and Anita Zantos hosted a rally in Indio at the Indian Waters RV Resort where 13 rigs attended. 8 Discoverys showed up on Wednesday including our new members Lloyd and Co Croom. We celebrated Co's 80th birthday on Thursday evening. Lloyd and Co are going to make a great addition to our group.

On Thursday, Frank put on a golf outing for 8 of our golfers. They left early and came back late with smiles on all of their faces except for Herb. What happened Herb?

Friday morning most of us took a trip on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway for a ride up the San Jacinto Mountain. The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway—the world's largest rotating tram car—travels over two-and-one-half miles along the cliffs of Chino Canyon, transporting us to Mt. San Jacinto State Park. The tram ride up the mountain lasted about ten minutes, the tram car rotates slowly, offering 360-degree vistas of the valley floor below. The Mountain Station where we got off the tram is at an elevation of 8,516 feet. Believe me when I say you could feel the altitude change. It had been 50+ years since I last rode up on the Palm Springs Tramway. I won't wait as long the next time to take the tram. What an experience!

Friday night after most of our potluck dinners, our group likes to play a game called LCR, (Left Center Right). Larry Jones was the big winner of LCR. There is a great photo of Paul Stein looking at Larry's winnings with eyes of green envy wishing it was him with the all the money.

Saturday was a fairly open day. A lot of our group went off to the Shields Date Gardens for lunch, shopping, and a tour of the gardens. You gotta love those date shakes.

Sunday morning, we held our annual membership meeting. Bill Pardini shared with the group the election results. All our officers won their spot and Felix Jones was elected as our new treasurer. We thanked the outgoing treasurer Anita Zantos for doing a great job. After the membership meeting, Frank Petronzio and Bob Zantos gave a well-attended discussion on tire maintenance. Frank had a blowout coming back from our rolling rally to Oregon and spoke from experience. Afterwards, we headed out to the Jackalope Ranch Restaurant for a mimosa brunch.

One thing that came out of this rally was another informal get together planned for New Years Eve at the same RV Park, Indian Wells. It looks like at this writing that there will be about 6 rigs that show up and share the out with the old and welcome in the new celebration.

Looking back over the past year, there is a lot for us to be thankful for, especially for the Discovery California group. We started out the year with a few of us joining together and visiting the FMCA Rally in Indio. Then some of us headed out to Quartzite to buy stuff we didn't even know we needed. It seems like Quartzite gets bigger and more crowded every year. In February, 7 rigs had the opportunity to join with the D'Zonas down Mexico way at the Reef RV Park in Puerto Peñasco. What a fun time! Thanks go out to Larry Hawkins and the D'Zonas hosting for us. The D'Zonas will be going down to Puerto Peñasco again in February, so if you are in the area and want a good time, give Larry a call. In April, Felix and Suzi Jones organized a rally in Death Valley where 18 rigs joined in the wind, heat, and fun times! In May, Frank and Fonda Petronzio with Susan and I hosted a rally at the Santa Maria Elk's Rodeo. In September, 13 Discoverys with 28 people had a great adventure with our rolling rally up the California and Oregon coast.

What I am thankful for is how Discovery California is becoming a great group of families that has members who are stepping up and are willing to host rallies and run for office when positions open up. Our membership is about 35 members. We gain one or two and lose one or two, but we have about 20+ active members.

Coming Events:

January 23-26, 2019 Quartzsite RV Show. Many members are staying at Rice Ranch. More info contact: Herb Rikelman at lakeside3333@gmail.com.

D'Zonas are going to Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point, Mexico) February 11-17. Contact Larry Hawkins at: takesailors@yahoo.com. We went last year and had a wonderful time!

(Continued on next page...)

Region and chapter reports, continued

April 4-8, 2019, Paul and Cheryl Stein will be hosting a rally at Pismo Coast Village RV Resort. Some activities include golfing, touring Luffa Farms, viewing a play from Great American Melodrama, and wine tasting with music at Kelsey Canyon Vineyards.

Nov 7-11, 2019, Frank and Fonda Petronzio are hosting a rally at Oasis RV Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. More details will be coming soon. ❖



Mimosa brunch at Jackalope Ranch Restaurant.



Frank Petronzio and Bob Zantos give a well-attended maintenance talk about Discovery motorhomes.



Paul Stein and Bill Pardini give Larry Jones and his LCR winnings an envious stare!



Jenn Randazzo, Fonda Petronzio, Suzi Jones, Lois Jones, Sheri Rikelman, and Irene Randazzo touring Shield's Date Garden.



In one of the many Brew pubs in Newport, Oregon, are Bill & Linda Johnson, Larry



Palm Springs Aerial Tramway gave us a ride to the top of the San Jacinto Mountains.



Joe and Irene Randazzo enjoying Shield's Date Garden.



Jenn and Mike Randazzo didn't know there was an oasis in the Date Garden



Paul Stein with a priceless comment, thanked us for a well done Rolling Rally. Last stop was Lewis & Clark RV Park near Astoria, Oregon.

Region and chapter reports, continued



Fonda Petronzio found a new member at Jackalope Ranch Restaurant.



Frank-n-stein Petronzio still celebrating Halloween.



President Elect
Jim Pinkerton

Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter

In late August BRD held its officer elections for two-year terms effective Jan 2019. Election results are: President – Jim Pinkerton, Vice President - Tom Leydic, Secretary – Linda Terrill, Assistant Secretary – Laura Johnson, Treasurer – Mike Hopkins, Assistant Treasurer – Stan Niemiski and Rally Master – Tim Ridgely. Rick Blaher has volunteered to be our Membership Director.

21 Blue Ridge Discoverys coaches arrived at the 20th Year DOAI national rally in Goshen, Indiana. During the rally we signed up 5 new coaches. We welcome to our BRD family Tom and Laura Davis, Dennis and Kristy Green, Scott and Rebecca Hoffman, Bill and Debbie Schiber, and Greg and Mary Yapple. Thanks to all who planned, coordinated and pulled off a great rally.

From Goshen a number of us caravanned to Bowling Green Kentucky for our fall rally which included a one-night stop in Indianapolis along the way. 23 BRD coaches attended. We had a great time which included: a tour of the corvette museum, a distillery tour, visits to a couple caves, dinners, happy hours, and of course golf. Thanks to Bob and Glenda Angus and Mike Weiher for hosting.

From Bowling Green we all went our separate ways, some to home bases, and others to their winter homes to prepare for the upcoming holidays and winter. Starting in December a few of us will begin trickling into Florida Grande in Webster, FL. Close to a dozen BRD coaches will winter at Florida Grande. Stays range from a couple weeks to 4 months. Most of us will also head from there to Seffner, FL, for the FMA/DOAI rallies.

Our 2019 spring rally will be in Sevierville, Tennessee at River Plantation RV resort from April 28 through May 5th. The location for our 2019 fall rally is still to be determined.

BRD will host the DOAI 2020 national rally in Sevierville at River Plantation RV resort. Planning is already underway. Frank Cason has done quite a bit of pre-work and will serve as coordinator between BRD and River Plantation. Bob Angus will serve as rally master. A number of committee assignments have been made and we should finalize committee chairpersons Vermont and team members at our spring rally.

Sadly, we recently lost two of our Blue Ridge family. Jean Money left us in November and Pat Stanton passed away in October. Please keep Richard Money, Sue Stanton and their families in your thoughts and prayers. I would like to thank our outgoing president Richard Money for his service to our club and wish him the best as he moves forward. Also, thanks to Tom Leydic for filling in for Richard while he cared for Jean.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and safe travels. ❖



Blue Ridge Discoverys Group photo taken at the DOAI 20th Anniversary National Homecoming rally



Chapter prez
Bruce Plumb

Ozarks Discovery chapter

The Ozarks Discovery Chapter has experienced a real growth spurt over the past two years! Our chapter was founded by Bruce Plumb in April 2012, after several of us got together at the 2011 National Rally in Shawnee, OK. By the end of 2012 we had 13 coach families mostly from the four-state area of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. We currently have 29 coach families from 9 states. This is what our membership now looks like: Arkansas 4 Illinois 5 Iowa 1 Kansas 2 Louisiana 1 Michigan 4 Missouri 2 Oklahoma 6 and Texas 4. Of the original 13 founding members, we still have 4 Charter Members: John and Felesa Baker, Ricky and Debbie Keen, Bruce and Nancy Plumb, and Martin and Beverly Travis.

Our Fall Rally was held at the Creeks Golf and RV Resort in Cave Springs, AR, October 18 -21, 2018, and coincided with the War Eagle Mill Fall Arts and Craft Fair at the historic War Eagle Mill, a beautiful setting in rural Arkansas. This area offers many other attractions. Bentonville is home to the corporate headquarters of Walmart. The original Walmart, in downtown Bentonville, has been converted into the Walmart Museum. One of the most beautiful and world-renowned art museums in the country is also located in Bentonville, the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. The quaint town of Eureka Springs, AR is a great place to spend the day. It has consistently been honored as one of the Top 25 Art Destinations in the United States and is a popular resort town and vacation destination. Creeks Golf and RV Resort has an 18-hole championship golf course and the golfers in our group did not miss out! ❖



The group enjoying a family style, chicken dinner at the Monte Ne Inn in Rogers, AR. "No Menu, No Choices" but the food is good! From Left to Right: Ray and Brenda Boudreaux, Nancy and Bruce Plumb, Jerry Brown, Al and Cindy Welch, Beverly and Martin Travis.



From Left to Right: Randy and Mary Conklen, Lisa and Tony Mane, Randy and Karen Kemp, Ricky and Debbie Keen, Chris and Don Muskopf.



Ozarks Discovery group picture taken at the DOAI 20th Anniversary Homecoming rally in Goshen, IN, September 2018. Thank you for hosting this event.

Useful Links

DOAI Website Home Page: www.discoveryowners.com

DOAI Chapter Page: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/chapters.htm>

DOAI Rally Information Page: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/nextrally.htm>

DOAI Consolidated Rally Schedule: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/rallyschedule.pdf>

DOAI Calendar of Important Dates: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/DOAIImportantDates.pdf>

DOAI Express Newsletter sign in page: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/login1.asp?stat=2&attempted-Page=https://www.discoveryowners.com/news.asp>

DOAI Useful Links on website: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/links.htm>

Discovery Hints and Tips: www.discoveryowners.com/hints.asp

President Ron's Favorite Place email: discovery@rvfunhome.com

Region and chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez
Judy Jo Bruton

Discovery Texans chapter

We held our last rally for 2018 on November 7-10 at Oakdale Park in Glen Rose, the “Dinosaur Capital of Texas”. The park was full and our Rally Master, Don Griffith, was able to get all 23 coaches parked close together. Thank you Don!!!

It was a great rally ... lots of good food and fellowship. Our trio of hosts, Don & Linda Griffith, Johnny & Shelley Johnson and Elliott & Susan Smith took great care of us. We enjoyed our hosts breakfasts and dinners Friday and Saturday. We were also gifted, by our hosts, to a hot dog supper Wednesday. Thursday we enjoyed a wonderful potluck get together.

Members made trips to museums and the Dinosaur Park. There were many places to see and go in the Glen Rose area. However, many of us just relaxed and played Jokers and Marbles and visited.

We also conducted chapter business ... we held elections to fill positions with two-year terms beginning 2019 through 2020. The results are: Rally Master, Don Griffith, Secretary, Susan Smith, and Treasurer, Linda Griffith. Thanks to our great volunteers for accepting the positions.

Our next rally for the New Year (2019) will be January 9 – 12 at Stay A While RV Park in Murchison, Texas. Think about attending, as our guest, for this rally as many members plan to arrive early to attend Trade Days in Canton.

Listed below is a rundown of our planned rallies:

2019 Rallies:

Jan. 9-12	Stay A while RV Park, Murchison, Texas
Mar. 20-23	Coyote Ranch RV Resort, Wichita Falls, Texas
May 15-18	The Vineyards of Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg, Texas
Nov.	TBD

We plan our rallies for Wednesday through Saturday departing on Sunday.

During your travels, check to see where we are “rallying” (<http://www.discoveryowners.com/dtexrally.htm>). If you find yourself in our area, please get our GUEST Rally Reservation Form from the DOAI website (<http://discoveryowners.com/DTEXGUEST.pdf>) and join us.

“Welcome New Members!”

In the last few months we have added five new members to our chapter: Noel & Rhoda Montgomery, Alan & Karen Word, Doug & Cheri Sutton, Michael & Brenda Keen and Tony & Lisa Mane.

We are so thankful for the growth and interest in our chapter.

Hope to see y’all in the near future. Safe travels everyone. *Submitted by Susan Smith.* ❖



This group picture is from their November 2018 Rally in Glen Rose, Texas.



Celebrating Norman Millsap's birthday!



Group picture taken at the DOAI 20th Anniversary Homecoming rally in Goshen, IN, September 2018.

Region and chapter reports, continued



Interim President
Glenn Magnuson

Northwest Adventurers chapter

Greetings from the Northwest! We'd like everyone to know the Chapter has reorganized and will be holding elections for officers soon. We'd like to thank Wally Wallington for leading the Chapter for the past 15 years and starting the revision to the Bylaws.

Glenn Magnuson has volunteered to serve as interim President, until a vote of membership has been completed. He has also organized a rally to be held in Prosser (see details below).

Bylaws Update:

We've updated our Bylaws. On November 1, 2018 a new set of Bylaws was approved to change Article IV, section 4 and Article VII, section 5 to allow for electronic voting and communications for Chapter business. These Bylaws were then emailed to 22 voting members of the Chapter on November 5, 2018. On November 25, 2018, 13 of the 22 members voted yes to approve the Bylaws. Nine members did not cast a vote. With 60% yes votes the revised Bylaws were approved on November 25th.

Election Update:

Glenn Magnuson sent an email to all 22 members asking for volunteers for members to throw their hats in the ring for the various positions. Everyone had until December 5th to let Glenn know if they are interested in serving. To date we have the following persons who have volunteered to be put on the ballot:

President: Glenn Magnuson
Vice President: David Hinds
Secretary: Julie Chaffee
Treasurer: Becky Hazen

We'd like to thank Becky Hazen for volunteering to continue to support the Chapter as she's done for many years.

Future Rallies:

Blythe Bluegrass Festival on January 18-20 at the Colorado River Fairgrounds in Blythe, California hosted by Wally and Anne Wallington. Please let Wally know if you plan to attend as he has some campsites saved for D owners, buy your tickets, and make your campground reservations now as this event sells out fast.

(www.blythebluegrass.com)

Our second rally for 2019 will be held April 17th thru the 23rd at Wine Country RV Park in Prosser, WA (509) 786-5192 or winecountry@winecountryrvpark.com. We are looking forward to meeting each of you and hope that you can attend. We will be holding an official Chapter meeting at this rally. We are planning for the chapter to provide a catered dinner one night and to have pot luck dinners thereafter (for those that would like to participate). Other activities currently planned are a wine tasting, golf, a Chukar Cherries factory tour, and possible museum visits. We'll spend evenings around a campfire, schedule a few happy hours (BYOB), etc. This is a great opportunity to kick start the Chapter again and get to know everyone. Reservations must be made no later than March 17th directly with the campground.

Website:

Our website is functional! It is www.nwadoai.com. Dave Hinds graciously volunteered to get a Chapter website up and running. We are grateful for his hard work at setting up the hosting and formatting as well as gathering content and ensuring the links are accurate.

Here in the Montana area of the Northwest Adventurers chapter, Linda and I are surprised to find we are the only ones...currently. I am betting that there are more Discovery owners in the state. The question is how do we let them know that DOAI is alive and well? I don't have an answer yet but I was thinking what about advertising on sites like IRV2, RV Trip Wizard, etc. Don't know if it will work, but it's worth a try. So I am reaching out for suggestions from other chapters and DOAI members. By the way, if you meet a D owner from our area in your travels please point them our way. So, from Montana my goal over the next year is to double our membership and then work from there. Of course, adding new members to the chapter coming from our neighboring states like say Idaho and Wyoming would be great too. *Prepared by David and Linda Hinds.* ❖

Region and chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez
Mark Salomon

Florida Discovery Sunshiners chapter

As President I have missed several newsletter updates so as my last official act as President I will bring our DOAI members up to speed on the Florida Sunshiners for the year. We drove over 2600 miles to participate in all rallies. In 2018 we attended 9 rallies to include the Southeast Region at Lazydays and the National in Goshen, IN with 10 coaches and 20 people attending and left with two new coaches and members for a total of 28 on the active roster after the National!

Some members have retired their coaches, some have moved out of the area and unfortunately we lost two members, AJ and Esmeralda Eastman to the Lord but a 6-coach gain has kept our roster pretty stable. By the numbers, our rallies had 10 to 16 coaches attending and we ate dinners out together in excess of 40 times this year. Our size allows us to get restaurant reservations and fit into most parks easily.....a real good thing! We have held over 8 potluck dinners, generally 1 per rally. This does not count finishing the leftovers, because our members are such good cooks! Eating remains a main staple of our time together and we never fail to schedule a lunch or dinner! We maintain both a website and Facebook page and managed to add at least 700+ pictures this year documenting our fun in 2018 to FB! That does not include the 5181 pictures posted within our private FB site. We can only imagine how many donuts we have absorbed at each of our end of Rally Goodbye coffee send offs! But we are just as well known for our educational field trips and fun outings every rally! Observe below:

But first a big thanks to our rally volunteer hosts that have never ceased to amaze us with the clever agenda's in 2018!

DOAI Southeast Region Rally Jan 28th- Feb 2nd Hosts: Mason-Dixon Chapter- was the kick off of our clubs "**20th Year DOAI Anniversary**" and what a rocking time! Good seminars, great food, great events and great entertainment. We had 12 coaches attend. We congratulate the Mason-Dixon Chapter on a wonderful rally and happily accepted the challenge of hosting in 2019.

Feb 15th to 19th Florida Sunshiners' Rally at Central Park in Haines City, Fl. Hosts: Ron & Donna Wacker - We built our rally around the "**Silver Spurs Rodeo**" in Kissimmee so the club could get its cowboy on....and we sure did! Tours of Davidson's Candy Factory, Orange Groves and a police lecture on elderly scams and how to defend ourselves filled out the agenda!



(Continued on next page...)

Region and chapter reports, continued

March 15th – 18th Florida Sunshiners' Rally at FMCA Rally Perry GA. Hosts: Bruce & Jody Bruce – We attended with a caravan 10 coaches strong and had a total of 12 coaches when we arrived. “**Southern Hospitality**” was the theme. We enjoyed the Macon, GA Cherry Blossoms and the humor of Jeanne Robertson. Other entertainment included: exhibits, seminars, campfires, dinners out, coach repairs, coach maintenance, new gismos for our coaches and just a whole lot of fun! The Bruce's upgraded to a new Discovery LXE 44H!



April 13th – 17th Florida Sunshiners at Alligator RV Park Punta Gorda, Fl Hosts: Ira and Lee Minor/ Tom and Eileen Mills - was a busy rally full of “**good home-cooked food**” including a breakfast, lunch and dinner cooked by our hosts and a whole bunch of field trips for “**Exploring Southwest Florida**” including: a Harbor Cruise of Charlotte Estuary, Tour of the Pinta and Santa Maria, the Iconic Shell Factory, Peace River Botanical Garden and more!



May 1st – 6th Florida Sunshiners' Rally at Alafia River State Park and Hillsborough River State Park Hosts: Don and Bet Eldred our “**State Parks Rally**” meant having to use dump stations, but all the water and 50amp electrical service for an average \$14 a night, Florida Senior rate, was great! Our Field trips to the Tampa Historical Museum, Insider Tour of the Florida Aquarium, and a “No Walking Required” tram ride view of nature in Florida's first state park combined with campfires and cards every night made rallying so much fun!



(Continued on next page...)

Region and chapter reports, continued

May 10th- End of Summer Florida Sunshiners' Rolling Rally to Linville Land Harbor Newland, NC. Hosts 6 Coach Members with Summer homes in NC. Salomons, Wackers, Smiths, Furniss's, Rogers and Eldreds - Every summer we lead a group of Florida Sunshiners to our "Linville Land Harbor Community" and we explore the whole way up and then host our club members at various times in their "Rolling Summer Travels Extended Rally" at Pineola Inn Campground. Our longest rally for sure...all summer! This year we had another 5 members join the LLH regulars.....escaping the Florida heat at nearly 4000 ft. and having more fun!



Sept 4th- Sept 15th DOAI National Rally Goshen, IN. Hosts: Mark and Jorie Salomon for mini rolling rally to National - On our "Mini Rally on the way to the DOAI National Rally" we discovered the significance of the Cumberland Gap opening the west, ate at the birthplace of Kentucky Fried Chicken in Corbin, KY., explored Daniel Boone's Wilderness trail and the fort, that anchored this safe haven for western immigration, at Fort Boonesborough, and ended with a tour of the Toyota Camry factory in Georgetown, KY. Not before we ate at several good restaurants on our way to national!



(Continued on next page...)

Region and chapter reports, continued

Nov 2nd – Nov 5th Florida Sunshiners’ Rally Clearwater RV Resort Hosts: Richard and Penny Smith - This “Rally focused on the past and future of the Tampa Bay area” and included a tour of the Heritage Village the covering the history of the development of Clearwater. We also had an insider tour of the Tampa FBI Bureau. Of course the superb eating selections never ended!!!! Help!!!!



Nov 30th – Dec 5th Florida Sunshiners’ Christmas Rally Sanlan RV and Golf Resort Lakeland, Fl. Hosts: Mark and Jorie Salomon – One of our most popular rallies is our “Christmas Rally” where we captured a classic Florida Iconic Christmas at the beautiful Bok Tower Gardens with its classically decorated Christmas at Pinewood Estate, this was accompanied with Christmas music by the Orlando Symphony. Our Gift exchange was held during a murder mystery potluck dinner with club sponsored turkey and ham, along with the knowledge of Who Did the Murder!, this made for a special evening. We toured Florida’s newest University Polytechnic, enjoyed a Publix Aprons Demonstration of grilling meat with wine pairing, visited the Circle B Wildlife Conservation Ranch and heard a presentation on “Oh Florida, Weird and Wacky Things About Florida and How it Influences the Rest of the Nation” from the author Craig Pittman....now that was wacky and funny! Too much food and fun nearly killed us!



We still had time to plan for the 2019 DOAI Southeast Rally at Lazydays and elect new officers with all this fun! Congratulations Bruce Bruce our new president and his fellow officers; Richard Smith - VP, Don Eldred - Treasurer, Greg Rogers- Secretary and Dottie Rogers is our VIP Sunshine Lady along with Directors Mark Salomon- Past President, Donna Wacker- Past VP and Carolyn Furniss. We have strong leadership heading into 2019. If there is a moral to this year, don’t get a new coach if you don’t want to be President Bruce! **Till we see you again AJ and Esmeralda Eastman!** Our Club is in great financial shape, our membership roster is right sized and as you can see our passion for fun is working overtime!



Hope to see you all at Lazydays for the DOAI Southeast Region Rally! ❖

DOAI 20th Anniversary National Homecoming Rally - Memories of Goshen, IN



First Timers.



All of us together.



BAT played.



We ate.



We gave.



Ozarks Discovery breakfasted.



We learned.



So many of our members have registered in more than one chapter, that we are not sure who is who here.



But we sure did enjoy ourselves and are ready to do it again!!!!!!

DOAI – More Than “Just” A Newsletter

Discover the many ways in which your membership pays off. Click here: www.discoveryowners.com and you'll be taken to the DOAI website. There you will find links to:

- Consolidated Rally Schedule
- Helpful Contacts for Discovery Owners
- DOAI Name Badge and Decal ordering information
- Classified sale ads for Discoverys and Discovery-related items
- Hints and Tips
- Forum (eGroup) and Bulletin Board
- How to join Discovery Friends

- DOAI Membership Sponsors
- DOAI Information/Invitation for Non-Members
- Application for DOAI Membership
- National Rally information and registration form
- Regional Rally information and registration form
- Chapters and Chapter Rally Schedule
- Past issues of this newsletter
- and so much more...

Southeast Region Rally 2019 – New Experiences and Familiar Comforts

The Southeast Region rally is coming up starting Sunday January 27, 2019 leaving Saturday February 2, 2019. This has always been an exciting venue for a DOAI Regional Winter Rally and every chapter that has sponsored this rally has made it better every year! This year's hosts, the Florida Discovery Sunshiners, are working hard preparing for the 2019 rally to continue that legacy. The theme is "Discover the Florida Crackers". Who are the Florida Crackers and how did they get that name? Prepare to be educated on Florida's & America's first cowboys & cattle ranching heritage in an entertaining way.

Besides the wonderful camaraderie of fellow Discovery Owners, there are plenty of reasons you don't want to miss the DOAI Camp Discovery:

New! Optional Tampa Bay Tours- we are trying something new with a new emphasis on outside tours. We are arranging optional tours based on sight-seeing options in the Tampa Bay Area. You can sign up for these tours at registration or better yet, do early sign-up via email. Because these tours will be subject to the # of people and availability keep an eye on your email!

New! Golf Course Outing- We heard you and will be changing our golf course venue this year for the golfers in the crowd. Don't forget to sign up at registration.

Latest! Camp Discovery- Plans include the always popular "Camp Discovery" where you can learn more than you can ever imagine about operating, maintaining and understanding your Discovery, updated to include 2019 systems!

New! Co-Pilot Women's Educational Track- A new big tent venue allows for a separate informational & educational track outside of "Camp Discovery" open to all but was highly request by our Co-Pilots.

New! Cummings Seminar- Nothing like understanding the operation & maintenance schedule for your engine. - Popular Vendor for Coach Filter & Supplies Orders - A chance to order discounted maintenance parts for your Discovery for your DIY owners or to save money on supplies for the rest of us.

New! Entertainment- Opening night includes a dinner play "Over the River & through the Woods" playwright Joe DiPietro, a compelling play of the bond between a grandchild and grandparents. Featured educational speakers and crowd favorites like the "Gary Todd New Odyssey Band" and at least one night of dance music for our dancers. Educational speakers on "Florida Cracker" life & legend. It won't just be bands every night!!!!

New! 2019 Discovery's on Display at General RV- Lunch & Entertainment & Transportation to see the latest models of our favorite Motorhome.

Focus on Food!- No shortage of food with free breakfasts 8:00am-9:30am & lunches 11:00am -1:30pm (except for Sunday) & trolley transportation to Lazydays Back Porch included with your Lazydays discounted special rally site fee and special rally planned dinners.

New! RV Resort Lazydays- Lazydays has enhanced their brand and changed the name to Lazydays RV Resort for the first-class campground experience, unique free Lazydays seminars Monday thru Friday in the Lazydays store, unique RV shopping experience in their new RV store even delivered newspapers every morning and a lounge & restaurant, EXIT 10, on premises for your week-long enjoyment except Monday. Complimentary Wi-Fi, Cable & Coffee. Screened & heated pool & hot Tub. Pickle Ball & Tennis. Laundry. Pet Friendly clean up bags with a Dog Park.

(Continued on next page...)

Southeast Region Rally 2019, continued

There's more!:

Pet Parade- A chance to show off all of our "best friends" with rewards for our pet friends!

Ice Cream Social- Back again the always popular ice cream to satisfy your sweet tooth!

Vendors Exhibit- Some of your favorites are back and some new ones so make sure you leave time!

50-50 Charity Raffle & RV Prizes- Supporting a local charity has been the hallmark of this rally and this year is no different. Expect some door prizes, a chance to win some money and gifts along the way!

Please be sure to register for this rally (a 2-part registration form, one for DOAI and one for Lazydays). There is a link to the registration form on the DOAI website and Florida Discovery Sunshiners' website. If you have not attended this rally or it has been a few years expect something different. We have learned from experience and we heard & acted on comments for different venues & ideas to enhance this meeting. And just like our recent National DOAI Rally in Goshen, IN this summer, we have applied your ideas to maximize your fun! We are working hard in our local Florida Discovery Sunshiners chapter to assure you the excitement of seeing old friends while meeting new ones and enjoying our Winter Southeastern Regional Rally agenda and the beautiful Tampa area! ❖

Quarterly Question Contest Rules

Each issue of Discovery Express will feature a question on the front page, and the answer will appear somewhere within. Find the answer and submit the response. A drawing from all correct responses will be made, and the winner will receive a year's free membership in DOAI.

Contest Details

1. The quarterly question will appear on the front page of Discovery Express. The answer to each quarter's question will be a word or a year. It will not be highlighted in any way except that, if the answer is a proper noun, it will be capitalized. It will be contained somewhere within the newsletter.



2. Entries are to be emailed to Nina Soltwedel (nina.soltwedel@gmail.com) and must contain:

- a. The member's name and contact information
- b. The page number where the answer is found
- c. The complete sentence in which the answer is contained.

3. All DOAI members are eligible to participate. A member is a coach, thus one entry per coach per quarter. A member is limited to one win each calendar year.

5. The contest will open the first day of the month of that issue and close the fifteenth day of the succeeding month of that quarter. Entries may not be submitted until the first day of a quarter (January, April, July, October), and must be received by Nina no later than 11:59pm the fifteenth day of the second month of a quarter (February, May, August, November). Responses received before the opening date will be disqualified.

6. The receipt of an entry will be acknowledged via email. One winning entry will be drawn from all correct entries.

7. The succeeding issue will name the previous quarter's winner and announce the new question.

8. The DOAI Board of Directors reserves the right to terminate the contest at any time.

If you have any questions about the contest, please contact Nina (nina.soltwedel@gmail.com). ❖

Living Better In Your Discovery

A group discussion from the DOAI Goshen Rally, 2018

Moderated by Kerry and Carolyn Pinkerton

Phil Skip, first timer - Installed rubber bumpers behind his toilet lid to prevent wear against the wall – several other folks did the same.

Mike Kessler – Needed assistance with an electrical problem regarding a charge to the battery. Everyone was willing to help. Thanks for all the help in resolving his problem.

Brenda Allen – Had trouble with bottles and other small items falling out of their medicine cabinet when on the road. Her husband installed a towel bar to the right side of the sink to hold the larger items. The bar is fastened to the wall about 2 inches up from the counter top and the items are slipped between the wall and the bar.

A full timer who travels with two children and works full time in the coach, has a 2012 Discovery. He had problems with TV and internet. To solve the problem he purchased an in-motion antenna; however that did not work. He removed it and purchased the Winegard Travel System. He took his Direct TV with wireless Genie system from home. He was using Verizon internet (25GB). He purchased a Cradle Point Wireless IVR1400 data bridge and took his SIM card out of the Genie and inserted it in the IVR1400. This amplified the system's ability with the 2 antennas and 12V system. He also joined the Mobile Wireless Internet Resource Group (about \$25 a year) Techno Mod offers a data break to unlock the SIM Card (This was about \$300) but not necessarily legal. Uses SSID from his cellular for security. The new LTE is coming out and will be available down the road.

Warning: Al or Don? - Changing a SIM card is illegal. Some vendors are taking legal steps for those who abuse the system.

Kerry - Discussed removing the table in his 2006 Discovery when installing carpet. On the '06 there are four thumbscrews that, when removed, allow the table to be moved around for better seating.

Consider replacement for power bay hatch. Purchased (\$60) roller & managed to feed the cord through. Requires grinding the area some. "Fairlead" (winch type) allows line to roll smoothly.

Teresa – Use Snap Pads for leveler about \$200 a pair. Increases surface area. Just use a little soap on the beads and snap them on to the jacks. (Amazon costs \$180 for 4)

Kerry – Note Jack Seminar. The further the jack goes down, the less stability.

Teresa – Uses springy curtain rods to put across pantry and medicine cabinet to hold items from falling. Additionally they can be used in the refrigerator to support shifting food items.

Diana – Keeps a wireless printer in the bedroom which kept sliding off the cubby where it sits. They used a curtain rod to keep it from moving. Also Bed, Bath & Beyond has a spice rack that holds 36 spices and they can move it in and out of the cabinet with no problem.

Kerry – Shared that he carries gallon water jugs as they don't use onboard water to drink. He found that wire baskets rubbed holes in the gallon water jugs. He fabricated a metal tray the perfect size for holding the jug and he can store four-gallon jugs in his coach to prevent them from moving.

- Purchased a "Berkey Water Filter" to have pure water. Sits on the counter. Can be purchased on the internet for \$292.

Burnett – Has a 1999, 38-foot Discovery. His windows have fogged over. Several suggestions were offered for Florida and Arkansas for someone to fix them. Also, YouTube has video for "Do it yourself." The RV Fog Doctor has been featured in the FMCA Magazine.

- Had some fogged windows fixed in Mesa. He hits the FMA rally where there is always a vendor.

- Also recommended making a list for "Closing" and "Opening" the coach and laminating it so you don't forget such things as closing the toilet lid, etc.

- For Foggy Windows Lazydays in Seffner, Florida, does a good job. They may come to your coach or you can take to the shop. Should make an appointment before you go to Seffner.

- If you retired at an early age, explore converting your IRA to a ROTH. Requirement varies by state. Will save on tax and cost is usually minimal.

Kerry – Made his own electric shades by purchasing an aluminum motor and shade fabric on the internet. He made two sets and used drapery lining which is available in several colors. It was about \$250 for both shades.

Kerry – Hose reel for black tank. Splitters are difficult to line up. Washing machine hose works well. Don't forget to close off!

- A 6-inch hose, at a 45-degree angle with multiple cut offs can be purchased at Lowes or a hardware store.

(Continued on next page...)

Living Better In Your Discovery, continued

Kristy - Another option for storage is to purchase an ottoman (Big Lots) and add non-slip feet. Use near driver area to hold cups, etc.

- Might also purchase a console box that swings out when mounted. Will hold 2 cup holders.

Rick B. – He is a new full timer. Toad brakes: You may have a flat tire, a blow out or lose tow bar without realizing it. The cable to the brake-away pulls the switch out. Hook up 1st to safety cables, back up till cables are tight and 6-8 inches from bumper, then pull vehicle forward to hook up. Brake is not functional if not hooked correctly.

Do you stop the tow vehicle, or does it stop you? If you have Brake Buddy, be sure you pump your vehicle's brake 3 times. Shut the engine off and put foot on the brake – you lose the vacuum. Newer Brake Buddy has a button to push. Pumping brakes on Air Force One does not apply. Air Force One systems requires you to pump the RV three times to charge the auxiliary cylinder in the tow vehicle.

Tires age out- they do not wear out. Don't accept tires if delivered and installed. They may be as old as 2-6 years. Check and see how old the tires are that you are buying

Chris – Watch where your jacks go down. He backed in to a concrete pad and didn't realize until he was read to leave that the center of the hydraulic jack was on the edge of the concrete.

Kerry – Parking brake only engages the back wheels. Without weight on the rear tires you have no parking brake.

Kerry – After new washer was installed, all the clothes had a smell. Water in the fresh tank had turned skunky. Don't forget to flush water heater and tanks.

Gary Osborne - 42M Discovery closet came with wire clothes baskets. He removed them and purchased wooden dowels to use as a clothing rod. He purchased 2 rods for stability and installed one of them vertically in the middle of the closet for stability. He moved the clothes bar up about 2 inches to keep them from jumping or falling off.

Al – Has 40X Discovery and finds his cabinet is hard to close when humidity is bad. He purchased a de-humidifier which helps. It has about a 6-quart container.

Russ – Was frozen in Asheville, NC. He had the jacks down and the slide out for 3 days. Didn't realize that snow melts and then refreezes. He couldn't close slides when they were ready to leave. If you know there is going to be prolonged snow, close your slide(s) until the snow stops.

Dick Tracy – Has '99 vintage coach. Wants to remove his shade. Kerry – says there are 2 screws inside of shade and also 1 outside of shade.

Tip: Trying to save propane? – Be careful about using space heaters as they use a 15-amp circuit. After using one, tip two outlets went dead. Melted wires were found when cabinets, etc., were taken apart to locate the problem.

Check for hint and tips on the DOAI Website (check Summary of Links for the web address) ❖



Jim Mullen

Getting Away From None of It

“Hi! We're Bob and Ellen Yeller, and this is Joe and Patty Screamer. We love camping! We're here almost every weekend! This is our spot! Wait! Look who just pulled in -- the Drinkers! We didn't know if they were going to show up this weekend! Sometimes things happen to them and they're not able to make it but -- whoops! That nutty Donny Drinker, he just backed his camper into a tree. He'll be sorry about that tomorrow morning. He loves nature! Wouldn't hurt a fly, but after a few six packs, watch out! He's like a buzz saw in a forest!”

Donny Drinker comes over, beer in hand, to introduce himself. It's 9:30 in the morning. Sue and I were just going to park here while we spent the day hiking on the trails.

“Here come the Selfies,” Donny says as a humongous camper pulls into the site. “Well, it's just Tom now. Too bad about Karen, but that picture she took as she fell off Super Dangerous Falls was really spectacular. A classic. It was in all the newspapers. She'd be so happy that somebody finally recognized her work. It's a wonder she had the presence of mind to take it.

“We all felt bad for Tom, but at least he's got the hundreds of thousands of photos of Karen eating dinner with friends and standing in front of shops to remember her by. And since no one can figure out how to cancel her Facebook account, they're going to be in the cloud for thousands of years. Sometimes I wonder when she found the time to eat that food she was always photographing. People in the future will be amazed at how many places one person could take a picture.”

(Continued on next page...)

Getting Away From None of It, continued

We could hear a television inside of the Yellers' camper. Is there really a signal out here in the middle of nowhere? "Hey, turn that down in there!" Bob Yeller screams at the top of his lungs. The phrase echoes throughout Peaceful Canyon.

"There's something about being in the middle of nature that just fills my soul!" he says, in his outdoor voice. "I don't know if it's the first sniff of pine needles, the smell of a campfire or the odor of a National Park toilet, but it just makes me love getting away from all the junk in the city! Am I right or am I right? Or maybe it's the sound of the helicopters rescuing us from the top of old Don't Climb Me Mountain. That's always refreshing, and the flight is so scenic!"

A blast of "Ride of the Valkyries" starts blaring from the middle of nowhere. It's Patty Screamer's cellphone. "WHAAAT?" she screams into it while we put on our backpacks and get ready to leave this woodland haven of peace and quiet. After all, aside from all the other campers, and all the birds and animals, who are they bothering?

"I don't know why, but we never see any animals here, except the bears! They say we shouldn't feed them, but they're just so darn cute!" screams Joe. "The one that mauled Billy had to be put down, but nothing could have prevented that. Billy was just playing with that cub's tail, he wasn't hurting it. Besides, the face transplant took, and he's good as new! Except for the beard. That looks a little weird on a 7-year-old. But there's so much money left in his GoFundMe account, he won't even have to go to college! He can just live off the interest!"

Patty Screamer slams down her phone and says, "KIDS! WHY DID WE HAVE THEM? WHAT WAS I THINKING??" Apparently, that was the Screamer's teenage daughter, Chardonnay, on the phone. She was calling from the camper 20 feet away, wanting to know when they were going back home. After all, they'd been here for two hours already.

We were about a mile up the trail before we stopped hearing campground noises.

"How can you get away from it all if you bring it all with you?" Sue asked. I, for once, kept quiet.

*Reprinted with permission from Jim Mullen ❖

DOAI's Past President, John Baker, first viewed this article as a column in the Fort Bend (Texas) Herald. This article can also be found on www.uexpress.com in Mr. Mullen's column titled The Village Idiot where it was published on October 5, 2018: <https://www.uexpress.com/village-idiot/2018/10/5/getting-away-from-none-of-it>.

Advice On RV Service – Communication Is Key

Dear DOAI Express Readers, the following is from a post that caught the attention of a reader, in good standing, of the eGroup forum pages. The reader brought it to my attention and described the response post written by Al Welch, as "the most comprehensive and clear communication vis a vis Decatur (and all RV repair places, most likely) that I've read" and also indicated that what was said in the post is "important, timely, and helpful to everyone in understanding WHY things are the way they are in Decatur...and likely elsewhere." I am delighted to bring it to the broader DOAI Express audience, with many thanks to Al for his permission to do so. – the Editor

Back ground:

A Discovery owner checked in to Decatur for some planned repairs but had to add a few last-minute issues that came up between the date he made the appointment and the actual appointment. The service advisor did not supply a projected completion date at that time. The owner needed to return to his home and left his D there. The owner had no further communication from Decatur. He began calling the advisor asking for progress updates and estimated completion dates and the advisor would not follow up with responses to his inquiries. In frustration and wanting to know if this has happened to others this Discovery owner sought out advise from the DOAI eGroup. Several responses indicated that the best service is done when you stay with your rig. Also, the date the owner tried to set in stone was 3 weeks off and one response suggested that this gives them 2+ weeks to work on other customer's units instead of his.

Al's response:

I sympathize with your frustration—I hate poor communication! While I wish Decatur was different, the best I can do is perhaps explain why communication is a problem for any of their service advisors...and nearly everyone there.

(Continued on next page...)

Advice On RV Service, continued

Your initial service order is handwritten, showing all your requested issues to be addressed. That handwritten paperwork is given to the tech who will actually do the work (it used to always be a pair, but a few weeks ago when I was there, I saw only one tech per rig). That tech writes on your paperwork what he has done. (You and I know they should have computer terminals at each work station for the tech to enter info as work is completed, but they do not.)

The tech does not, to my knowledge, keep the advisor updated on his progress, and there is no computer file maintained that would be easily accessible by the advisor. That advisor would need to go out into the shop (now about a block away from the new reception and office area) and talk to the tech or get hold of his paperwork. He would have to leave the paperwork with the tech, so it would be necessary for him to write notes so as to call or email you.

Keep in mind that the advisor has people standing there asking for progress reports on their rigs, as when I was there 3 weeks ago. I had him take me out to the rig so we could both see what the status was. As you can imagine, those folks in front of him will have a higher priority to those on the phone or in an email.

What really throws a kink into the works is that, when the work is complete on each rig, the service advisor is the one who must transfer all the handwritten notes of the tech into the computer, along with the appropriate coding and pricing. This, for me, has been the most frustrating part of every visit to Decatur. It usually takes about 2 hours after the work is completed before the final invoice is ready.

Of course, it doesn't take him that long to put my work in, he must also deal with the other customers, phones and emails, not to mention the multitude of invoices needing to be completed every day. There is no process in place whereby portions of the work on any given rig can be entered into the computer as they are completed.

I don't know how many service advisors there are now, but I suspect it is fewer than the 4 I remember from 3 or 4 years ago. If I recall correctly, the service building usually has about 25 coaches inside at any given time. So it is understandable how each advisor can be backed up.

All this being said, I agree there is no excuse for poor communication. REV is encumbered with old corporate attitudes and, I believe, inadequate communication and paperwork technology. The service advisors and everyone else there seem to be really good people trying to do their best for us. Not only are they slowed down by being technologically out of date, but we have evolved in our expectations. We expect to know things now, and we know it is possible. That is why the old system, whereby we were permitted to go to our rigs in the shop whenever we wanted, worked so well.

When I had my retail stores, the #1 thing I pounded into my employees (389 of them over nearly 30 years) was communication with customers, fellow staff members and myself. In fact, that was the first principle I spoke of upon hiring (and at staff meetings): communicate! I could rant on about that, but this is not the place.

Again, none of this can excuse poor communication. But I hope you will have a better understanding of what is transpiring. I agree with Marshall that you should demand an estimated completion date "in view of my need to book a flight to come in for pickup". I'm confident that will elicit an appropriate response.

Cheers,

Al Welch ❖

Summary Of Links

Summary of Links found in this issue of Discovery Express:

Discovery Texas Rally page: <http://www.discoveryowners.com/dtexrally.htm>

Discovery Texas GUEST Rally Reservation Form: <http://discoveryowners.com/DTEXGUEST.pdf>

Fleetwood RV Technical Assistance: <https://www.fleetwoodrv.com/technical-assistance>

www.uexpress.com, The Village Idiot column by Jim Mullen:

<https://www.uexpress.com/village-idiot/2018/10/5/getting-away-from-none-of-it>

DOAI Bylaws: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/DOAIBylaws.pdf>

Florida Discovery Sunshiners website: <http://www.floridadiscoverysunshiners.com/>

DOAI eGroups sign in page:

<https://www.discoveryowners.com/login1.asp?stat=3&attemptedPage=https://www.discoveryowners.com/egroup.asp>