

Discovery Express



July 2011

Quarterly Newsletter of Discovery Owners Association, Inc.

Volume 13, Number 3

CIRCLE THE DS IN SHAWNEE

This is it...the last issue of *Discovery Express* before DOAI's major event of the year – the national rally. Have you registered yet? Remember, this year, for the first time ever, you can register online! It's quick, it's easy, and it really is a big help to the registrar. Lots of information was included in the April 2011 issue (pages 20-22); there's more in this issue (pages 4-5), and we've repeated the registration blank on page 23 in case you want to snail-mail your registration.

The national rally's master, **John Baker**, and his crew have been hard at work to ensure that everyone will have a super time. All the news pundits are predicting that fuel prices will be dropping ... let's all keep our fingers crossed that those pundits are right on the mark.

Shawnee, Oklahoma, is an interesting town with many historical, cultural, and entertainment sites for you to visit. There are museums, art galleries, wineries, a fantastic corn maze, a lavender farm ... you name it, Shawnee has it. And then there's nearby Oklahoma City, a treasure in itself.

If you've never attended a DOAI national rally before, don't miss this one. It's located almost smack-dab in the center of the country, making it a reasonable journey from wherever you reside. The seminars are worth their weight in gold; the friendships you will form will enhance your life immensely; the food and entertainment will add enjoyment to your days; and the tours will enlighten your mind. Y'all come! ❖



COMMENTARY

The last voyage of Discovery

For me, as a space junkie, it was a bittersweet day last March 9 when Space Shuttle Discovery (OV-103) landed for the last time. Mission commander **Steve Lindsey**, interviewed on March 8, described her as follows: **DISCOVERY – A VEHICLE OF EXPLORATION.**

May that be said of our Discoverys (land shuttles, if you will) as well – vehicles of exploration as we travel the country. Explore your hemisphere and enjoy the journey.

See you in Shawnee.

– Nina Soltwedel, Editor

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President's message

President
Marshall Godwin

Fellow Discovery Owners: I hope all of you survived without incident the storms and floods that have marked 2011. It has been a year like no other. It does point out that our Discoverys can be very useful when dealing with natural disasters, either as a means to relocate and serve as a temporary residence, or function as a self-contained home base while assisting others. **Becky** and I spent a month helping in south Mississippi following Katrina. We could not have done so without our motor home.

This is a DOAI election year. A very small percentage of our members voted in the last election. The voting process is simple and fast, and all the details will be published in the October 2011 issue. When the time comes, please vote to show your support for the candidates.

The national rally is on track to be a fun filled and entertaining gathering in Shawnee, Okla. I know that much work has been done to plan an outstanding rally just for **you**. You may be one of our members who has never attended a major rally. Now is the time. This is a rally you don't want to miss.

Having said that, it looks like this will be the first major rally I will miss since joining DOAI. Last fall, we committed to go to Israel with our daughter and eight grandchildren this year. If events in the Middle East don't trump our plans, we will be there for nine weeks, helping Jewish farmers in Samaria bring in the harvest of grapes, olives and pomegranates. It is the trip of a lifetime to share with the kids, so I hope all of you understand why we will not be in Shawnee.

It is very rewarding to see new members take up the DOAI tradition of sharing information and helping other members. Our website bulletin board and egroup have many examples of fairly new members providing great advice and detailed information in response to requests for help. I am continually impressed by the breadth and depth of your knowledge and unique skills. This information sharing is a hallmark of DOAI and sets us apart from other owner associations. Keep it up.

Take care. I hope to see you soon. Blessings, Marshall



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

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Thank you for subscribing to the electronic edition! If you ever wish to return to the hard copy, contact the editor.

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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.

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2011 elections update



Past president
Phil Yovino

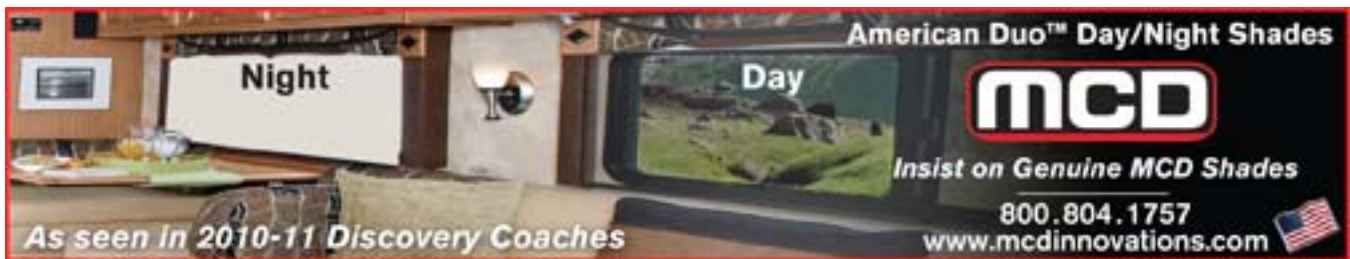
Once again I come to all Discovery Owners to seek out willing members with a brave heart.

Yes, once again our elections will have just **one** person running for each board and region vice president position, with one exception: we have no candidate at this time for the north central region vice president. The 250 DOAI members in the north central region need representation on the national board. This is the moment when all members should look at the great events and benefits DOAI has to offer, think about it, and then step up and say, "I can make a difference." Believe me, it's rewarding. Yes, some work is involved, but if you like challenges and are willing to take part in making this super RV club even better, do it now.

To those who have agreed to serve, we couldn't be here without your presence on the board or as a region vice president.

DOAI is unique in that we're all the same brand – Discovery – with a back-up support team like no other in the recreational vehicle world. So, think long and hard about this. Our club is special in many ways. For example, if you need some help with a situation, just post to the egroup and within minutes the help is there. Just this one facet of our club saves big dollars and much time. Our *Discovery Express* keeps us informed on many things that make our travels and motor home ownership more enjoyable.

It's up to you. Will you join in and be part of the board, take part in all the decisions that move the club, or will you choose a region vice president slot where you oversee the chapters in the region and offer suggestions to the board about your region? ❖



2012 southeast region rally happening next January

When December rolls around later this year, will you need a winter break? Will you be tired of looking at snow and grey skies? I have the perfect solution. Join your fellow Discovery owners for the **Sunshine Celebration** rally in Seffner, Fla., during the heart of winter, January 29-February 4, 2012. The rally will be hosted by DOAI's newest chapter, Florida Discovery Sunshiners.

We will have it all ... fun, food, entertainment, and great informative seminars. The technical seminars will be scheduled as another *Camp Discovery*. This is extremely helpful for first-time rally attendees and those looking for in-depth information about their Discoverys. In addition to the modest rally fee, a separate charge will apply to those who want a printed copy of all *Camp Discovery* presentations.

Planned technical seminars include such topics as batteries, inverter/charger, 12-volt system, battery control center, 120-volt system for 30- and 50-amp Discoverys, chassis air system, Cummins engine, Cat engine, Allison transmission, refrigerator, furnace, water heater, and air conditioner.

Perhaps you aren't interested in technical seminars. We have RV lifestyle discussions, the Lazydays RV drivers'

confidence course, and many additional activities planned, such as RV open house to show off those Discovery modifications and changes many of our members have made.

Yes, diesel prices are very high. However, you can easily save the equivalent in repair costs from the information you gain at this rally. Take the plunge and sign up for the **Sunshine Celebration** rally today. There will be a drawing for \$100 for all members who sign up before December 1, 2011. The registration is on **page 22**. It is also available on the DOAI website at www.discoveryowners.com.

For all those who have recently purchased a new or used Discovery, this rally is the ideal way to jump start your understanding of the equipment and systems on your motor home. We each have made a significant investment in these rolling condos, so we are much better off if we understand how things

work.

For those who know it all (and I mean that in the best possible way), come and hang out with friends and enjoy the company of others who have the unique shared experience of owning a Discovery.

See you in Florida. I may even contact Omar, the Tent Maker, and order a new swim suit. ❖

Report submitted by Marshall Godwin



2011 national rally rapidly approaching

If you haven't already registered to **Circle the ID's in Shawnee**, about 30 others are ahead of you! We are very excited about how many have already decided to register online. Although the registration (and payment) deadline is September 19, go to our DOAI website (www.discoveryowners.com/nextrally.htm) and do it today so that item will be off your to-do list, and you will be assured of a spot.

Traveling to Shawnee

How will you get there? Obviously, in your D! But what directions do you need? First of all, if you go to the Expo Center website (www.shawneexpo.org/) in search of their street address, **do not** be led by it. To get to that address, your GPS will likely lead you through downtown Shawnee. Then you will find that the center and campground are not there because that address is an administrative office! **GPS coordinates are 35.35 N/96.95W**. This is a little more exact than earlier reports.

Instead, do this: if you are traveling in either direction on I-40, take exit 181 and go south on US177. In 3.6 miles, the Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center will be on your left at Darrien Gordon Drive. See map, figure 1.

If you are coming from the north, travel the same 3.6 miles on US177 after crossing I-40.

From the south, just watch carefully on your right after crossing Farrall Street (Oklahoma 18). From there, it is only 2.1 miles.

Arriving in Shawnee

Regular arrival day is Monday, October 17. You may register to arrive on Sunday, October 16. Parking and welcome crews will be on location to help you find your pre-assigned space and get all your welcome goodies. See closeup map, figure 2.

If you wish to arrive before Sunday, call the center at 405.275.7020 or 800.762.7695 and make arrangements. A large horse show will be there, but they might have a spot for you. However, you will need to relocate to your pre-assigned space on Sunday.

Nitty-gritty details

First timers: If this is your very first national rally, there are special events planned for you Monday afternoon. We want to be sure you are warmly welcomed and give you a head start on meeting some of our long-time members and leaders. As a bonus, you will get to eat first!

Welcome party: Everybody will enjoy being welcomed (and well fed with a full two-entrée dinner) on Monday evening. The mayor of Shaw-

nee will welcome us, and we will have a great time meeting both old and new friends. We have some things up our sleeve to help you meet and make new friends!

Breakfast: Begin each day, Tuesday through Saturday, with a tasty Continental breakfast. Take the time to plan your day and connect with others for the day's activities.

Ignore
the directions
and maps that
were on this page.

Routing has been
changed by
City of Shawnee.

See new page 4a
for new routing
and full directions.

Per John Baker
July 1, 2011

Continued on pages 4a and 5...

Revised approach directions to Shawnee Expo Center



Eastbound or Westbound on Interstate 40

- Exit 181 – Turn south onto US-177 and travel 4.3 miles.
- Exit right onto Kickapoo Spur. GPS N35.34 W96.94

Southbound on US 177

- From intersection with Interstate 40, travel 4.3 miles.
- Exit right onto Kickapoo Spur. GPS N35.34 W96.94

Northbound on US 177

- Exit right onto Kickapoo Spur. GPS N35.34 W96.94

All Approaches: After exiting US 177 on Kickapoo Spur

- Proceed one block to first traffic signal and **turn left** onto Kennedy Ave.
- Proceed two blocks to end of street and **turn left** onto Independence
- Follow signs and guides to Rally

2011 national rally rapidly approaching, continued

Golf and tours: Tuesday, chase the little white ball, if you like, in our tournament at the highly-rated nearby Jimmie Austin golf course. Shared golf cart and prizes are included in the \$45 fee.

Or, join others on a great tour of Shawnee (Tuesday) and/or a tour of Oklahoma City (Wednesday). *See full descriptions of these great tours (and photos) in the April 2011 issue of this newsletter, page 22.* You won't want to miss the opportunity of seeing some of the best Oklahoma has to offer.

Seminars and vendors: Thursday and Friday will be filled with outstanding seminars. Even "old heads" always learn something new about their rig or RVing in general. There is also time to visit our ever-growing list of vendors. They are sure to have lots of items you just can't be without.

Craft and white elephant sale: Take the opportunity to pay for part of your fuel by selling some of your junk ... er, "extra stuff" at the white elephant and craft sale! Or, help someone else pay their diesel bill by acquiring some of their priceless merchandise. See related article below.

Both Thursday and Friday: The days' activities will be capped with great catered dinners and entertainment.

Saturday: Attend the annual membership meeting, then meet some new vendors who weren't onsite earlier. Saturday afternoon, while the guys prepare the rigs to move out, will be a time for ladies to get to know each other and have some fun at the Mugs and Muffins event for only \$3.

Of course, Saturday's evening meal and entertainment will be outstanding! Don't miss it!

Goodbye: Sunday, visit your choice of Shawnee churches or take part in a brief worship service being arranged onsite by our rally chaplain. Then say "so long for a while" as you begin your journey back to your home or other locations.

Return to the community: DOAI members have a storied history of giving back to the communities we visit. We have partnered with the local Meals on Wheels to help provide meals for the elderly and needy in Shawnee. Be sure to buy lots of the 50-50 tickets, because the charity side of that will help in this much-needed effort.

The local food bank also partners with Meals on Wheels, so please bring non-perishable items to the food drive. Particularly in the fall their needs balloon. Let's make every effort to provide them with at least 500 pounds!

One more thing: Tom Fields served our association faithfully for several years. He made valiant effort to do so even after he really wasn't physically able to do so. If you knew Tom, you know what a stand-up guy he was – a true gentleman.

Our quilting ladies have worked diligently on two beautiful quilts for the entire year. They have decided to honor Tom this year by donating all funds raised by the raffle of the quilts to a charity he would have chosen. When they contacted **Sandy**, his wonderful wife for well over 50 years, she personally made two Christmas tree skirts which will also be raffled for this tribute. Let's honor Tom with excellent raffle ticket purchases.

Be sure to visit www.discoveryowners.com/nextrally.htm as it is often updated with further information and specifics. ❖

Report submitted by John Baker

NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER AND BE A PART OF "CIRCLE THE DS IN SHAWNEE"!

Calling all crafters, artists, and those with too much stuff!

As noted in the April issue, there will be a crafts/white elephant sale at this year's national rally. DOAI boasts a whole lotta people who are very talented with their hands, and we are hopeful they will show up with goods in tow for all of us to ooh and ahh over...and purchase, of course!



There are also many of us (like me) who simply have too much stuff, and what a great way to hawk our wares to others who may be 'under-stuffed'!

Please let me, **Nina Soltwedel**, hear from you as soon as possible so adequate arrangements can be made for you. We will supply a table and signage for you at no extra cost. All you have to do is show up, set up your wares, and make your sales.

Current plans are to have the sale on Friday, October 21, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Exact location will be announced at the beginning of the rally.

Please let me hear from you soon! You can reach me at nina.soltwedel@gmail.com, or call 303.570.2736. Your participation will make this a 'rally to remember.' ❖

Online registration: Remember to include a copy of your registration form in the envelope with your check. This is our fail-safe check to assure your registration doesn't go into the occasional "black hole" of the Internet. **Also:** If you want a rally t-shirt, you need to order it on the registration form. There's a specific spot. **Dick and Pat Tracy** will be at the rally with lots of great DOAI merchandise.

Name tag holders: We continue to reuse our name tag holders as a cost-saving measure to the association. If you have attended a national rally before, you have a holder and your name tag for this rally will fit into it. If you have extras, we can recycle them for first timers, so we appreciate your bringing them to the welcome center.



John Maris

Do you have the part to make that repair?

I own a 2005 Discovery, model 39S. Our last trip out, the rear AC smoked and stopped working. I called Action RV in Rock Port, Texas (that was where we were staying); the tech came out and told us the compressor was out and we needed a new AC unit. Knowing a little about electronics,

I knew it was not normal to have smoke when the compressor went out. That evening, in a hot coach, I went online to discover this AC unit has a high failure rate of the hard start capacitor. I located an RV parts dealer (45 miles away) who had seven on hand, and he said he sells dozens of them per year. That began my quest.

We all have had some problems while on the road. We are in a strange town, we need to go online to get information of what could be wrong, we spend time locating an RV parts house, we drive miles to get the part, wasting time, getting frustrated. Instead, we could walk out of our coach, get the part that is in the cargo bay, and complete the repair. Which method would you choose?

The 2005 39S has five known parts that will fail. Each year and model has parts that will fail. What will fail on your coach?

Fact: 80 percent of common repairs can be completed by having ten or fewer parts on hand!

Since I began this quest to stock the common parts in my cargo bay, I have requested information from Fleetwood of their top selling replacement parts. The problem with this list from Fleetwood is they sell many brands. I plan to put together a list of parts for the Discovery motor home. Would you like to know what common part would fail in your unit?

I need your help. Today, make up a list of the parts that you have had to replace. Please include your year and model information. If you have not had to replace any parts, let me know that as well. I will compile a list of the parts by year and model number and post them in the newsletter. If all 1,400-plus members supply this information, then we will all have an accurate list of parts to carry, or at least you will have information that if your AC unit goes out, check the hard start capacitor before letting a service center replace your AC unit.

Please take the time to complete this list and e-mail or mail the information to: **John Maris**, PO Box 2153, Canon City CO 81215-2153; email johnmaris@bresnan.net ❖



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News of the weird, the unexplainable, the strange

An occasional column devoted to life on the road and the unusual things that happen to D owners.

DOAI member **Del Perry** posted this note on the egroup in late April: "I have the D parked next to the house and plugged in to shore power. Yesterday morning I went out to the D to get something. To my surprise, the generator was running. I opened the door and shut the generator off. It was not raining, but had been drizzling the day before and there was some dampness in the air. I opened the front of the generator compartment and looked for any dampness anywhere inside and found none. I examined the connector to the generator and found no dampness there, either, nor was there dampness inside the D."

"I followed the past thread [on the egroup] on the 'ghost generator starting on its own' when it rains and I never did see where anyone came up with a definitive answer as to the cause. Moisture most certainly is a major factor, but 'where' is the question.

"I would hate for the generator to start on its own while I was gone for a while, so I wonder if disconnecting the connector on the cable to the generator would keep this from happening in the future. I would also add this item to my check list of things to do before leaving. It is very spooky to go out and find the generator running."

Several egroup participants shared that this had happened to them, and like Del, they were befuddled as to the cause. Other participants gave various suggestions, and then **Bob Cleary** shared his experience:

"I also had a generator start at 5:00 a.m. while plugged in

to shore power. I do not have an automatic starting system. I looked under the hood at the top and sloping area where the rocker switch is located and found paw prints from a cat in the dust. I suspected this might be the cause of the ghost start.

"About a month after that, we were dry camping and sitting outside our D with some friends who had a cat. Once again our generator started and out ran the cat from under the front of our D. When I got home, I built a cage around the outside rocker switch."

After Del read Bob's post, he went out and checked the top of his generator, and sure enough, there were fresh paw prints on top. Del remembered that there had been a big cat prowling around his yard for a while, and he suspects it had been up inside the generator compartment.

Gary Osburn responded: "Once they learn how to do it, they'll keep doing it even if it scares them. Perhaps they want to see if it still happens. We had one cat that walked on the horn button once when the D was parked but still had some air in the tanks. Scared her, but then we caught her standing on the button and blasting the air horns whenever she saw another cat in front of the D. I solved the problem by bleeding off the tanks every time we parked."

That's the posting for this issue. Have you experienced anything related to your D that you are willing to share for this feature? Email your adventurous tale to the editor at doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com and you too might see your name and strange tale in print! ❖

Problem solving via DOAI's egroup

If you are a member of the egroup, you know how helpful participants can be when you encounter a problem. All DOAI members are encouraged to join the group. Your questions will get answers; your answers will help others. Jump in!

Problem #1 – Chattering windshield wipers

Gordon Sims had just fixed his windshield blades and posted this helpful information: "I just fixed the ones on the D, and they were really bad. Usually, when the blades chatter, it's not the blades themselves, but the arms which twist over time. The flex built into the blades lets them flop back off center so they slide like a squeegee on the glass in both directions. If yours are chattering, the arms probably have a bit of twist to them. If they do, you simply tighten the thin shank of the arm up by the blade with a small crescent wrench via a small twist until the arm is straight. You can also wipe the blades with a little rubbing alcohol to strip off any oxidation. Once the blades are set 90 degrees to the glass, they should slide easily and shouldn't chatter up or back."

Problem #2 – Getting a discount with a fuel card

Larry Ward posted this comment: "You can get a gift card at

any Walmart and have any amount you wish put on the card. At the Murphy's near many Walmarts, you put the gift card in the CC slot and the gas/diesel price will drop 3¢ per gallon on the pump price. Whatever amount on your card will then be reduced by the amount you have purchased. The receipt will show your card balance, and the balance will also show on the pump when you put the card in to start the pumps. I put money on my gift card using my Discover card. I then get one percent back from Discover, plus the three-cent discount at Murphy's. I have been doing this for years for my car; this year I'm using it for the D."

Problem #3 – Only warm water (not hot) inside coach

Gordon Sims posted the problem: "On our second-ever time out in our D, the water was only warm (first time out it was hot). The same situation existed whether I used gas or electricity for the water heater. Help!" **Marshall Godwin** responded: "When this happens to me, it is always because I have left the outside 'shower' valves on. Cold and hot mix there, resulting in only warm water inside." Gordon then checked and found both outside shower taps wide open. Problem solved! ❖



Onna and Roger Ford

the 110-volt mode as you go through these troubleshooting tips.

RV refrigerator tips

Freezer versus refrigerator compartment temperatures

The purpose of this article is to provide simple procedures you can do yourself, which in turn will save you lots of money. The refrigerator should be operating in

the 110-volt mode as you go through these troubleshooting tips.



Fig. 1

Read compartment temperature

We recommend the use of a temperature probe in the refrigerator compartment (Fig. 1). This will give an accurate temperature reading while eliminating the need to open the door to the refrigerator. We prefer our refrigerator temp to be approximately 35 degrees F.

If you are using a temperature probe with a long stem or one similar to the one shown in Fig. 2, place it in a cup of water before beginning testing. That way, when you remove it from the refrigerator to read, you won't lose degrees too quickly. This enables you to get an accurate reading.

Make sure the thermostat is set in a position that calls for cooling.



Fig. 2

Determine element wattage

Check the heating element wattage. Once you know what amperage the heat element should be, you can take the next step. ("Average Joe's RV Refrigerator Troubleshooting & Repair Guide" has a wattage chart that lists this information.)

1. With a multimeter (Fig. 3) clipped around one of the 110v heat element wires (either one is okay), find the amperage reading (for example, 2.6 amps).



Fig. 3

2. Take a voltage reading in the receptacle the refrigerator is plugged into (for example, 110v).
3. Using Ohm's Law, multiply the voltage times the amps to find the wattage (for example, 110v times 2.6 amps equals 286 watts).

There is a ten percent fluctuation allowance in either direction. So, if the correct heat element wattage for your refrigerator make and model is 300 watts, 286 watts will work fine. If the

result is more than ten percent above or below the 300 watts, the element needs to be replaced.

Level refrigerator

Make sure the refrigerator is level. We recommend using a small pocket torpedo level (Fig. 4). Place the level in the freezer compartment. It should read level from side to side and from front to back. If not, adjust motor coach



Fig. 4

to accommodate freezer level. Perfectly level was critical on older models, and is still desired on today's models. However, newer units have a small amount of tolerance. If a unit is not perfectly level, it should still work as long as most of the bubble is between the lines.

Check the back side

Open the exterior access door to expose the back side of the refrigerator (Fig. 5). This area should be free of debris and enable good air flow. Air enters the lower access door, rises up the back of the refrigerator, taking the heat away from the cooling unit, and is exhausted through the roof vent on the top of the RV. Any excessive dust and lint build-up on the coils and fins can diminish the efficiency of absorption refrigerators. This is of greater significance in extremely high ambient temperature.



Fig. 5

You should be able to view daylight when looking up to the roof vent from the lower access door (Fig. 6). If daylight is not present, there is something restricting the air flow and this needs to be corrected. You may need to use an inspection mirror to view this if you cannot put your head in far enough to look upward.



Fig. 6

Some RVs have the upper and lower vent on the side of the RV, especially those with slides. If one is not already present, we recommend that a thermostat fan be installed on the back of the refrigerator to help the hot air move away from the cooling unit to the vent. Sometimes propping the access door open will increase air flow enough to improve cooling.

Prevent bugs and critters

Mud daubers and wasps like to make nests on the back side of the refrigerator. Check for these and other debris that could cause problems.

Here's a tip that will prevent critters from creating havoc around the lower vent: remove the lower access door and lay

Continued on page 11...

Rally opportunities

You are welcome (and encouraged) to attend any of these rallies! For details, contact chapter president (see next page).

September 2011 –

18-23 Midwest Discoverers, Long Island, N. Y.
T/B/A Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Location T/B/A

October 2011 –

T/B/A Desert Rats, Paso Robles, Calif.
T/B/A Blue Ridge Discoverys, Rolling Rally
15-17 Texas Disco Road Runners, Thackerville, Okla.
17-22 DOAI national rally, Shawnee, Okla.
T/B/A Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Location T/B/A

November 2011 –

2-6 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Dillard, Ga.
T/B/A Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Location T/B/A
T/B/A Dixie Travelers, Location T/B/A

December 2011 –

T/B/A Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Location T/B/A

January 2012 –

29/2-3 Southeast region rally, Seffner, Fla.

February 2012 –

T/B/A Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Location T/B/A

March 2012 –

T/B/A Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Location T/B/A

April 2012 –

T/B/A Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Location T/B/A

May 2012 –

T/B/A Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Location T/B/A

Looking down the road –

2012 DOAI national rally, Southwest region
2013 DOAI national rally, Southeast region
2014 DOAI national rally, Northwest region
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: cost calculator	www.fuelcostcalculator.com
Camping/travel/rest areas/reviews/tips websites:		Fuel: local U.S. gas prices	www.gasbuddy.com
.	www.aboutrving.com	General Electric	www.geappliances.com/geac/
.	www.accesscamping.com	Goodyear Tire & Rubber	800.321.2136
.	www.campingroadtrip.com	Intellitec	800.251.2408
.	www.findapark.mobi	Kidde Safety products	800.880.6788
.	www.interstaterestareas.com	Kwikee products	800.736.9961
.	www.roadnotes.com	Magnadyne	800.638.3600
.	www.rvdumps.com/dumpstations	MCD Innovations	www.mcdinnovations.com
.	www.rvingwithdogs.com/	Michelin North America	800.847.3435
.	www.rvparking.com	Norcold, Inc.	800.543.1219
Caterpillar RV engine support	877.777.3126	Onan	800.888.6626
Carefree of Colorado	800.621.2617	Power Gear	800.334.4712
Carriage Carpets (Shaw Flooring)	877.706.3054	Riverpark	800.442.7717
CCI Controls	800.521.5228	RV Fog Dr.	501.278.3015
Cummins, Inc.	800.343.7357	RVP (Coleman)	316.832.4357
Denso (call Fleetwood)	800.322.8216	RVP (Suburban)	423.775.2131
Discovery parts:		RV technical help	www.rvtechtips.com
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	Spartan Chassis, Inc.	517.543.6400
Sullivan RV Sales & Service	800.720.0484, Ext. 6	Splendide	800.356.0766
Walt's RV Supplies	909.823.0563	Thetford Corp.	800.521.3032
DOAI name badges:		Trojan Battery Co.	www.trojanbattery.com
The Signman	407.365.3722	Velvac	800.783.8871
Dometic Corp.	800.544.4881	Winegard	800.288.8094
Fan-Tastic Vent	800.521.0298	Xantrex Technology	800.670.0707
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216		

Additions to this list are welcomed!

DOAI board of directors, chapters and presidents, founder/president emeritus, and committee chairmen

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Position is vacant

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RV refrigerator tips, continued

it face down. Cut a piece of nylon screen a few inches larger in diameter than the actual size of the door. Apply a bead of silicone around the inside perimeter of the access door. Press the nylon screening into the silicone, attaching the screen to the access door. Allow to dry thoroughly. Cut off any excess screening and reinstall the access door.

Check door gaskets

Check the freezer and refrigerator compartment door gaskets for signs of wear. Often, the lower part of the door gasket is the trouble spot. If the gasket visually looks good, check the seal by using a dollar bill. This is done by opening the door and inserting a



Fig. 7

dollar bill between the gasket and the cabinet (Fig. 7). Close the door and pull the bill away from the gasket. There should be some resistance, showing a good seal. If there is little or no resistance, this indicates a poor door seal in this area. Repeat this step around the entire door gasket. Replace the door gasket if necessary.



Fig. 8

Check condensation drain

All refrigerators have a condensation drain. This consists of a tray located in the refrigerator compartment under the evaporator fins. When condensation forms on these fins, it drips into the tray. This is transferred to a drain hose

attached near the bottom of the tray that passes through the back wall of the cabinet and down to the lower access door (Fig 8).

The back side of the cabinet, where the hose passes through the refrigerator cabinet, should be sealed with putty or caulking. If this seal is poor, replace with a new one. Some have a drain hose that the end is pinched together so the water is just able to slowly drip out. Some newer models have the drain hose protruding through the access door with a small cap inserted into the end of the drain hose. This cap has many small holes.

This drain tube needs to have a P trap before exiting the lower access panel. Condensation drains are designed to allow condensation to escape and prevent ambient air from reaching

the cooling fins.

Troubleshooting results

Any one of the aforementioned conditions can change the refrigerator temperature up to nine degrees. A combination of these conditions can raise the temperature 20 degrees or more.

During troubleshooting, after changes have been made using any of the above procedures, do not open the refrigerator door for a period of at least six hours. Then check the refrigerator temperature. If possible, let the refrigerator run overnight before checking.

Note: when spending long periods of time in temperatures of 90° F plus, it's a good idea to install a 12v fan behind the refrigerator. It will help move air across the cooling unit core.

Chalky residue

If you see yellow chalky residue around the burner, or if you smell ammonia, the cooling unit has a leak. Contrary to what you may be told, the cooling unit can be successfully repaired and recharged. We have RV Refrigeration Network (RVRN) associates across the U.S. who are specialists in this area. Having your cooling unit reconditioned by an RVRN member will cost approximately one-half the amount of a new replacement cooling unit. Plus, instead of the limited warranty that comes with new units, you will receive a 100 percent warranty. To find the RVRN specialist nearest you, go to www.rvrefrigeration.com

Refrigerator recall thoughts

Because of leaks in the boiler tube above the burner, both RV refrigerator manufacturers have recalls on many of their refrigerators. If you have not checked to see if yours is under recall, you should do so immediately as it could be a fire hazard. **For those who have checked, check again.** Both manufacturers periodically have updates. Therefore, if you were told in the past that yours is not under recall, it's possible that it is now or will be in the future. Please share this information with every RV owner you talk to. ❖

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Since 1984, Roger and Onna have owned and operated Ford RV Service & Refrigerator Training Center in Benton, Ky. They are the authors and publishers of "Average Joe's RV Refrigerator Troubleshooting & Repair Guide" which is available through their website at www.rvrefrigeration.com.

A farewell note

Chris Coats sent this note when he sold his Discovery in March 2011: "It looks like I am about to lose my membership and thus will be gone from this egroup. I have entered into an agreement to sell my 2006 39S and it should be transferred shortly. I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed reading about peoples' travels, getting useful and desperately needed advice, and just generally being amazed at how smart, wise and helpful so many on this site have been to me, and are to others. I can't tell you how many times during the past two

weeks, when I have been working with the couple who are purchasing my D, that I have referenced this site and how advantageous it has been to me, and how I have encouraged them that the first thing they need to do after taking possession is to join. The DOAI is without a doubt the most generous, helpful and resourceful group of people I have found, and not just RVers. Good luck in your future endeavors and thanks for all you have done for me. God bless and happy trails, or should I say, roads and campgrounds, to you all." ❖

DOAI regions and chapters send news



Chapter president
John Bujnovsky

Desert Rats chapter

The Desert Rats chapter held its second rally of the year in April in Laughlin, Nev., at the Laughlin Riverside RV resort. Four coaches attended and new members were signed up.

The group enjoyed an outing to the old western town of Oatman, Ariz., for lunch, and regular evening happy hours and group dinners were held, as well as participating in some of the other activities offered by the town of Laughlin. Needless to say, fun was had by all.



The Desert Rats enjoyed visiting a part of old Route 66.

The chapter will not meet during the summer months, due to intense desert heat. We will resume our rallies with the next one tentatively set for October, possibly to a wine festival in Paso Robles, Calif. ❖

Report submitted by Gary Velasquez



Chapter president
Terry Ven Roy

Discovery Pioneers chapter

The Pioneers held their going-home rally in Roswell, N. M., in April, hosted by **Ken and Cody Baker**, assisted by former members **Carl and Marge Ropp**. We all had a great time and the little green people are still predominating in Roswell. Big thanks to our hosts.

We are working on a summer rally in the Cripple Creek/Victor area of Colorado.

Thanks to the members, we all are having fun in our twilight years. We are looking forward to the national rally where we can meet up with many DOAI members. ❖

Midwest Discoverers chapter

Hello from cold and wet northeast Indiana. **Noreta** and I spent an enjoyable winter in Florida. We attended the southeast region rally at Lazydays with five other motor homes

from Midwest Discoverers. All had a great time and three members came to our home in Okeechobee, Fla., to visit us.

We held our summer rally in early June at Wapakonetta, Ohio, with **Bob and Joann Wilkins** as rally masters. They worked very hard planning all the great things to do: Airstream tour, Neil Armstrong museum, Versailles Winery tour and, as always, a lot to eat, with dinners both Friday and Saturday nights. All members thank Bob and Joann for their hard work



Chapter president
Jerald Call

We are in the midst of planning our fall rally at Suffolk County's Smith Point county park on Long Island, N.Y., Sunday, September 18 through Friday, September 23 (note date change). You must purchase a green card before you can make reservations at the park. The number to call for your green card is 631.854.4949. Reservations can be made for Smith Point county park, an oceanfront campground, by calling 631.244.7275. The cost of the rally will be \$150.00. "**Captain Jack**" **Romeyk** is the rally master; send your money to him at 14 Avondale Dr., Islip, NY 11751-4402. We had to change the date because of the number of people who want to camp on Long Island. Please make your reservations as soon as possible to ensure a site at the park. Jack has been working hard to make this once-in-a-lifetime rally. More information about the rally will be posted on the DOAI website.

We welcome our the new members to Midwest Discoverers and we hope to see and get acquainted with them at the next rally. ❖

South central region

Well, another quarter gone and time to write a paragraph or two regarding south central region news, so here goes.

The three chapters have had several rallies since January. The Discos and the Texans had separate rallies in May. I think the Mudbugs have one coming soon.

In June, **Justine** and I attended an Air Force reunion with members of the weather squadron formerly stationed at Tinker AFB.

From there we traveled to Abilene, Tex., to attend a rally with the Discos. At its conclusion, several of us headed to Shawnee, Okla., for the FMA rally. There we were joined by members of the Texans and Mudbugs. We checked out the facility, determined what we should or shouldn't do at the national rally in October.

In April, I mentioned that elections were coming up for national offices. **Phil Yovino** called me in May and we discussed the fact that he was not receiving any nominations of people to run for offices in the upcoming election. This is your organization, not just for a few, but for all the members. You need to participate, to give the club new ideas. In other words, give us some new blood and new ideas.

Continued on next page...



Region vice president
Joe Stewart

DOAI regions and chapters send news, continued

Speaking of that, in the past members have approached me and other officers asking why don't you do this or when are we going to do that? Right now my answer is: run for office and be on the board and activate your ideas. It has been my experience that the same people run for office each election year because no one else will volunteer. I checked the April issue; **Portia Williams** listed around 70 new members of DOAI. Surely some of you will volunteer to run for office. If you will consider, call Phil Yovino at 281.867.1809 or 713.203.3114. If you wish, call me at 830.535.6633 or 830.460.0686 or email me at retafwx@aol.com. **Remember, this is your club.** The board needs new blood. ❖



Chapter president
Claire Weber

Discovery Texans chapter

The Texans have been busy, busy, busy working with the Disco Road Runners and Louisiana Mudbugs to host the DOAI 2011 national rally in Shawnee, Okla., this coming October. We're expecting a great turnout, and we've planned lots of activities (fun). Don't miss it. Registrations and checks must be received by Monday, September 19, 2011, so don't delay.



Discovery Texans putting the finishing touches on welcome bags for national rally in Shawnee, Okla.



Discovery Texans had a blast at Canyon Lake Gorge.

Our March rally was at Canyon Lake, where we were treated to a super tour by the Gorge Preservation Society. The Canyon Lake Gorge was created by the 2002 flood event. The gorge was eroded to depths up to 40 feet below the pre-flood

terrain, exposing fossils. We had a fine time trekking through the gorge and finding those fossils.

Our May rally was in real cowboy country, where we grilled our own steaks when we weren't dancing the Texas two-step.

We hope to see you all at the national in Shawnee – Circle the D's in Shawnee! ❖

Report submitted by Shirleen Smith



Chapter president
Jay Keneson

Texas Disco Road Runners chapter

The Road Runners are into another exciting year of travel fellowship and just good fun, as we take our RVs to the far corners of the state of Texas.

Our February rally found us in Schulenburg, visiting the painted churches. Later we spent time in Shiner, home to the Spoetzl Brewery and Shiner beer. We also visited LaGrange, made famous by the musical, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." No, I never visited, but I know many who claim they did, but only to observe.

Our May rally was held in Alpine in west Texas, near the Big Bend, historic Fort Davis and the McDonalds observatory. Between star watching, great vistas, outstanding food and exciting time visiting with each other, the days were too short. In June, we got together in Abilene and enjoyed the cowboy ways.

October will find all of us traveling to Thackerville, Okla., for a short rally and then on to the national in Shawnee. We hope to see all of you there. Join us and help make this a great rally. ❖



Region vice president
John Ricciardi

Southeast region

Summer is here. The spring started out with the Florida Discovery Sunshiners having their first rally, held at Lazydays, and it was a huge success. Fun was had by all. There was a pizza party, they went out for dinner and they just had a great time. They have already put together a schedule for more rallies this year. It is great to see them starting off so well.

This spring saw the Blue Ridge Discoverys and Mason-Dixon Discoverys also hosting successful rallies. This is great considering the price of fuel during the time these rallies were held.

As long as we are talking about rallies, the southeast region will again host a rally at Lazydays this coming January. There was a lengthy discussion about not having this rally put on by the southeast region because of the number of recent rallies hosted by the region. Reluctantly, I agreed to this rally again due to the large number of first timers who attend this rally to learn about their D. The rally master will be **Marshall Godwin**. The Florida Discovery Sunshiners will be the host chapter with the Mason-Dixon Discoverys supporting them

Continued on next page...

DOAI regions and chapters send news, continued

where needed. The dates are January 29-February 3, 2012. This will be the week following the Fleetwood Motorhome Association rally. It was designed that way so that our members could attend the FMA rally to get some repairs completed by the Fleetwood technicians. ❖



Chapter
president
Ron Wacker

Florida Discovery Sunshiners chapter

Florida Discovery Sunshiners had its first rally earlier this year, and it was great; everyone seemed to have loads of fun. We had great meals, terrific fellowship, and enjoyed getting to know one another. Our trek to Plant City to enjoy strawberry shortcake was especially good.

Our business meetings allowed for the adoption of chapter bylaws, choosing badges, and discussing future rallies. **Scott Sanderson** presented an emergency response seminar. Scott suggested the chapter could become an emergency response team for chapter members, with the possibility of expanding it a little bit beyond the chapter. Scott will work up a plan to present at our next rally.



Florida Discovery Sunshiners enjoyed strawberry shortcake at Parkesdale Farm Market in Plant City, Fla.

The fellowship was so great at the rally that everyone decided to try holding rallies every month from September through May. Our next rally will be in September. It was decided that people would sign up for a month, and host a rally in their area. The months with hosts (as of this writing) are: November 2011, **Ron and Donna Wacker**; December 2011, **Lennie Williams**; February 2012, **Rich and Joan Dumont**; and April 2012, **Scotty and Leta Sanderson**. We still need hosts for September and October 2011, and January, March and May 2012.

I am pleased everyone had so much fun at the rally. I thank **Jody Bruce** for all the hard work making badges, sign-in sheets and all the other things needed to have a successful rally. ❖

Mason-Dixon Discoverys chapter

The Mason-Dixon Discoverys had a very successful rally at Old Mill Stream campground in Lancaster, Pa. I thank **Ron and Alice Kiebler** and **Sonny and Helen Blackwell** for all their hard work putting this all together. The gatherings, the meals and the golf outing were enjoyed by all.

A few other rallies are being considered at this time, so keep checking the DOAI website and our newsletter for info on

upcoming events.

The Mason-Dixons will also be involved with next year's southeast region rally at Lazydays as a supporting chapter to the Florida Discovery Sunshiners, the host chapter.

This is an election year for the Mason-Dixons. We have a lot of talent in our organization and I want everyone to consider what needs to be done and consider holding an office. It is not a lot of work. ❖



Chapter
president
John Ricciardi

Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter



Chapter
president
Charlie Harvell

We completed a most successful spring rally at Mayberry campground, Mount Airy, N. C. The hosts were **Eileen and Hank Haden, Marie and Richard Money and Bob and Glenda Angus**. We had 22 coaches. Attendees were able to visit the home and museum of Andy Griffith, ride the trolley car around Mount Airy, and visit and sample wine at a local winery. The winners of the annual spring golf tournament were **Frances Sullivan, John Barry and Frank Cason**. We welcomed back our member **Sara Wallace** after health issues.

We have added four new members: **Joe and Sandy Easterwood, Bob and Barbara Zumwalt, George and Nancy Bender and Don and Judy Cumbie**.

We are making plans for a rolling rally to the national rally in Oklahoma. We are looking at meeting in Nashville, Tenn., with stops at Memphis, Tenn., and Hot Springs, Ark. We are planning on visiting Branson, Mo., after the national rally and will end the rolling rally at Dillard, Ga., for the chapter's fall rally, which is also our business meeting rally. Our hosts have planned a great week in the mountains of Georgia.

We ask all to remember our members **Marie Money, Isabel Cason and Charles Smith**, as they deal with health issues. ❖

Heartland Discoverys chapter



Chapter
president
Bobby Simpson

I recently had bypass surgery and I am not on top of things the way I should be. However, I am recovering and should be my old self in a few weeks. But enough about me!

The rolling rally around the northern tip of Lake Michigan that was to have been hosted by **Jim and Pat Gravel** has been canceled. Not enough participants. They are trying to replace it with a rally at Madison, Wis., in August, in conjunction with the FMCA rally. So far, not much interest in that rally, either. I suspect the high cost of diesel fuel might be the culprit.

The Branson, Mo., rally is still on, but no date has been set at the present time. It will precede or follow the national DOAI rally in Shawnee. ❖

Dry camping tips



Jerry Brown

As a matter of semantics, dry camping refers to living in your rig without hookups, regardless of location. You can dry camp in a Walmart lot or in a forest in the middle of nowhere. Either way, you are going to be relying on the onboard systems that make for comfortable, self-contained living. To get the most out of your stay, start with conservation. When you dry camp, you need to mentally shift gears; think about your power, fresh water, and gray and black tanks as limited resources.

Battery conservation

If you are dry camping, it's just not practical to run your generator all of the time you are camping. Deep cycle batteries used in RVs are designed to cycle hundreds of times, but their lifetime will be considerably shortened if they are allowed to discharge much beyond half of their rated capacity. So it pays to conserve.

Rule number one: avoid using your battery power to produce heat, whether that heat is for hot water, coffee or other 12-volt appliances. It takes a lot of watts to make a little heat. So make sure that you use the LP switch for your water heater.

Turn off the electrical switch if you have one. And while your furnace uses propane for heat, its blower draws a substantial amount of current. So if you're going to need heat, consider a catalytic heater instead. These units burn propane very efficiently and use no power at all. You will need to crack a window though, to provide some fresh air. And never use your oven or stove top for the purpose of heating your RV. Finally, don't forget to set your refrigerator to run on LP.

Your 12-volt lighting doesn't draw a lot of power, but it makes sense to turn on only the lights you will need. For reading it might be better to use a small portable reading lamp.

If your RV is equipped with an inverter for producing 120 volt AC from battery power, here are a few more pointers.

Inverters are only about 80 percent efficient, so try to minimize your use of AC and turn off the inverter when you are not using any AC appliances. The first rule still applies, so instead of using a regular coffee maker, use a tea kettle on the stove to heat water for coffee or tea. A French press makes great coffee or just use a cone filter. Although convenient, microwave ovens need quite a bit of current, so use very sparingly. Hair dryers are another heat producing appliance whose use should be minimized.

Don't even think about running your air conditioner on inverter power. It will drain a large bank of batteries in a very short time. A generator is the only option if you need air conditioning.

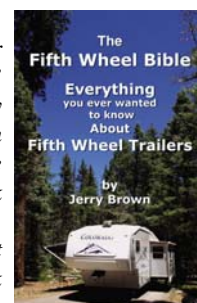
Water conservation

Water should never go down the drain unused. Collect water from sink or shower when waiting for it to get hot. Catch it in a pitcher, then use it to brush your teeth, make coffee, cook or even to flush the commode.

Adopt "Navy showers:" get wet, turn off the water while soaping, rinse, turn off again to shampoo, rinse again. Use only as much water as you need. If your shower doesn't have a quick shutoff, you can find one at your home improvement store. Capture the rinse water from dish washing in a plastic tub. Dishwater should not be dumped on the ground, but rinse water is fine. ❖

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Former full-timer Jerry Brown is a summer Oregon resident and a winter "snowmad," spending most of the colder months dry camping in the deserts of the southwest with his wife and their two small dogs. He is the author of The Fifth Wheel Bible, the first book devoted to fifth wheel travel trailers: buying, towing, operating and enjoying them. Contact him at jerryriverguy@yahoo.com for book information.



Keep DOAI members in your prayers



Since the last issue, we have had several members experiencing health issues. Please keep **Isabel Cason** and **Marie Money** in your prayers, that they may return to good health. **Bobby Simpson** had open heart surgery (a triple bypass) and is slowly recovering. Pray for strength for Bobby. **Charles Smith** continues his journey as he regains his strength from a heart transplant. Pray for renewed vigor for Charles. **Ellen Heasley** was hospitalized in April. Pray for recovery.

Please also keep **George Lumpton** in your prayers. His wife, **Carol**, died suddenly just before Thanksgiving. Also pray for **Freddie Perry**. Her mother died in early May. Pray for comfort and strength.

When you learn of a DOAI member who is ill, or hospitalized, or who has had a death in the family, please let **Nina Soltwedel** know so that a card can be sent from the club. Send your notices to doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com. ❖

Paid classified advertisement

The Ultimate Hub Nut Tool: This tool is used to remove Freightliner's chassis hub nuts on coaches with Alcoa rims. It saves the hubs from unforgiving channel locks and pipe wrenches, plus allows the user to remove hubs for cleaning and polishing. This is the only molded hub nut tool that indicates proper direction for removal of the hubs. Contact Frank Cason, 1917 Stone Dam Rd, Chuckey TN 37641-4876; 423.552.5257; cason.frank@gmail.com \$10 plus \$2.50 shipping/handling.

An e-reader is a camper's best friend

Leave those heavy books at home and take an e-reader on your next trip



Reading is one of life's greatest pleasures. It brings you to many different worlds, keeps you informed and entertains. As busy schedules and the frantic pace of city life compete for our time, at no other time has the need to return to nature and slow ourselves down with a good book been so great. So, people resort to nature, to the outdoors: quiet and peaceful. But even that poses an important challenge: space limitations in tents and RVs reduce the number of books you can bring with you. What then is an avid reader to do on a camping or RVing trip? Well, modern times provide modern solutions and for all you book-loving campers and RVers, heed the wonders of the e-reader.

An e-reader, or electronic reader, is a device that stores reading materials for easy and convenient reading. They are typically the size of a paperback book, yet thinner and lighter. Most e-readers are equipped with a wireless Internet function that enables them to download materials straight from the web to the device. Users can download books, newspapers, journals and other documents.

Benefits of an e-reader

- **An e-reader is compact, light and portable.** The size and weight of paper books limit the reader from moving to and from places with their books. Most RVs do not have big enough space for lots of books, but with an e-reader, you won't even need a book shelf in your RV. The average e-reader doesn't exceed 12 inches in length, weighs around 10 ounces and can be carried anywhere you go. Depending on the memory of your e-reader, you can store up to thousands of books in one powerful device.
- **E-books are cheaper to purchase.** With printing costs out of the equation, e-books are cheaper to purchase. For example, you'll see that the ebook version of "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's: The Complete Sherlock Holmes" costs \$3.50, while a paperback costs \$10 and a hardcover, \$23.10.
- **An e-reader is a great help to visually-challenged bookworms.** Paper books have an average font size of 11, which can be tough for people with eye problems. An e-reader has font size change and zoom in functions so that font size can be increased and parts of the book such as photos and diagrams can be zoomed in to.
- **E-readers secure your privacy, especially when you're reading sensitive materials.** Not all people are happy to let other people know that they're reading books on marital problems, health disorders or financial advice. These are regarded as sensitive topics and are kept private from other people. E-readers do not have book flaps that announce the title and subject of the book; they also have settings so that only you can read from your monitor and the person next to you can see only a gray screen.

Here are CampingRoadTrip.com's top picks for e-readers:

Amazon's Kindle

America's largest online retailer, Amazon.com, started the revolution for electronic reading. Kindle was introduced to the market in 2007 and was sold out in a little more than five hours on its first release. There are now three versions of the Kindle in the market. It is Wi-Fi capable, can hold more than 3,500 e-books and other reading materials, has an archiving function, and can display real page numbers so users can read along with other paper book readers. Unfamiliar words can be defined in an instant with its built-in dictionary with instant lookup; drag the cursor to the word and the definition will automatically appear at the bottom of the page. Unlike the next two e-readers, the Kindle is not back-lit and can be easily read in bright sunlight. The regular sized Kindle with WiFi measures 7.5" x 4.8" x 0.335", weighs 8.7 ounces and costs \$139. Kindle with WiFi + 3G has the same size and weight, and costs \$189. The larger Kindle DX measures 10.4" x 7.2" x 0.38" and weighs 18.9 ounces and costs \$379. *[Ed note: Amazon sells Kindles with ads for screensavers for \$25 less than the \$189 and \$139 prices. A competitor for iPad2, called K-Tab, is expected to release this summer, priced between \$400 and \$700.]*



Barnes & Noble's Nook

One of America's largest book retailers, Barnes & Noble, released their version of an e-reader called the Nook in the latter part of 2009. It combines the function of e-book reading with Wi-Fi and AT&T 3G. Nook eBook Reader WiFi only measures 7.7" x 4.9" x 0.50", weighs 11.6 ounces, and retails at \$139. Nook ebook reader WiFi + 3G measures 7.7" x 4.9" x 0.50", weighs 12.1 ounces, and retails at \$199. Nook Color eBook Tablet, the latest from Barnes & Noble, has an internal memory of 8 GB, which can translate to up to 6,000 books. Its memory can be expanded further to up to 32 GB – download books to your heart's content! It measures 8.1" x 5.0" x 0.48" and weighs 15.8 ounces and retails at \$249.



Apple's iPad

The iPad has functions and capabilities of a touch-screen personal computer; the latter may even be more powerful, with all its features and applications. It has Wi-Fi and 3G connectivity functions so downloading ebooks (more specifically iBooks) is a breeze. The iPad has a built in memory of 16GB, 32GB or 64GB so you can allot space for your reading while allowing space for your games, has ten font sizes and five font types available so users can customize according to what suits them best. There are two main models – First Generation and iPad2. The iPad size and



Continued on next page...

An e-reader is a camper's best friend, continued

weight varies depending on the exact model and specification you choose, but is bigger and heavier than the Nook and Kindle. The cost of the first generation ranges from \$399 to \$799 (and has now been discontinued) and the iPad 2 from \$499 to \$829.

E-readers mean you can ditch the paperbacks and hardbacks on your next camping road trip. It takes less space,

weighs less and enables you to have many more books to choose from. Happy reading! ❖

Article written by Jan Carla
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Mike Sokol

No~Shock~Zone™

Electrical safety training for everyone

Understanding and preventing RV electrical damage, part four

This series of articles is provided as a helpful educational assist in your RV travels, and is not intended to have you circumvent an electrician. The author and the HOW-TO Sound Workshops will not be held liable or responsible for any injury resulting from reader error or misuse of the information contained in these articles. If you feel you have a dangerous electrical condition in your RV or at a campground, make sure to contact a qualified, licensed electrician.

The big picture

If you've been diligently reading this series, you should, at this juncture, understand the basic concepts of what voltage is, how to read it with a meter, and how to check the polarity of a campsite power outlet. If not, then go back and review the first three parts on RV electrical safety (*Discovery Express*, October 2010, January 2011, April 2011).

But why is this concept of voltage and polarity so important? Well, one of the greatest dangers of RVing, perhaps second only to a fire (which is really terrifying), is getting shocked and possibly electrocuted when touching the skin of your RV. And while some campers may have been injured by a bare wire on an extension cord or while poking their fingers in a power panel without proper precautions, the majority of RV shocks come when you least expect them, from the skin of your RV while simply opening the door.



Hot-skin condition

An RV hot-skin condition occurs when the frame of the vehicle is no longer at the same voltage potential as the earth around it. This is usually due to an improper power plug connection at a campsite or garage AC outlet. Now to be honest, I think the majority of campgrounds have properly

wired and maintained power pedestals, but certainly there are instances where a campsite has outlets with reversed polarity or without proper grounding at all. But I've seen enough rewiring jobs to know that RV owners are also to blame for improper wiring of their own extension cords and 30-amp adapters.

The scenario could go something like this: You plug your RV plug into a loose or worn campsite power outlet. Everything seems fine until you crank up your air conditioner and turn on your coffee maker. That's when you notice the smell of burning plastic and find that the male plug on your RV extension cord has melted down due to all that current going through a loose connection. Rather than throw that expensive extension cord away, you go to your local big box store and buy a new power plug. However, when you take the wires off of the old plug there's no diagram to show you how to connect the new plug properly. If you guess right while putting on a new plug, then all is well. If you guess wrong, then you've reversed the polarity of your incoming AC power. After that it just takes the right combination of circumstances such as a rainstorm to wet the ground in front of your RV, and you touching the screen door with a damp hand while standing outside. That's when you can get shocked or even electrocuted.

The severity of the shock can vary from a mild tingle to stopping your heart, depending on how wet you and the ground are and the voltage of your RV skin. But make no mistake, rather than the 30 or 40 volts of a high-resistance tingle, it's possible to have the skin of your RV go to 120 volts with full current of the campsite pedestal with 20, 30 or even 50 amps available.

Insulation

The reason we don't notice this hot-skin condition until it's too late is that an RV is basically a big metal frame sitting on rubber tires. And those tires act as electrical insulators just like the rubber surrounding the metal wire of your extension cord. That means that the skin of your RV can be electrically charged with 30, 60 or even 120 Volts with no visual indication of the problem until you complete the connection to the earth with your hand. Then, because your own body provides a low resistance path to earth (remember the pipes between the water tanks in Part One of this series), current will flow through you to the ground. How much current is really the subject of another article, but if your hands and feet are wet your body becomes a 1,000-Ohm resistor connected from your hand on



Continued on next page...

No~Shock~Zone, continued

the doorknob to your feet on the ground. This will allow over 100 mA (milliamperes) of electrical current to flow through your heart. Tests have shown that as little as 5 mA of a 60-Hz current (what comes out of your electrical outlet) can cause your heart to go into fibrillation (essentially a heart attack). So, you can easily get 20 times the current needed to kill yourself from a 120-volt outlet. Note that 100 milliamps of current isn't enough to trip a standard 20- or 30-amp circuit breaker, but it's supposed to trip a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupt) as long as it's been properly connected. But don't risk your life on untested technology – check for hot-skin conditions before you get shocked.

Making a list, checking it twice

What follows are two ways to determine if the skin of your RV has been electrified. One method involves using a voltmeter just like we learned about in Part Two of this series, while the second method uses a non-contact AC tester like you see electricians use to check for live outlets. Both methods are described below. But be aware that even if you tested your RV when you made camp and found it safe from a hot-skin condition, that could change at any time if something happens to the campsite power after you've plugged in. If you feel even the slightest tingle from your RV, that's the time to shut off the circuit breaker from the campsite power and get an electrician to double-check the outlet ground and polarity. Don't bet your life on a faulty connection.

Using a meter

After you've tested the campsite outlet for proper polarity (Part Three of this series), powered off the circuit breaker and connected your RV power plug, then it's time to turn the circuit breaker back on and confirm that your RV is safe from hot-skin voltage.

To use a standard digital voltmeter such as the one we learned about in Part Two of this series, you'll need to set it to measure AC voltage. Note that since a hot-skin condition will typically be less than 120 volts, the 200 volt or 750 volt AC setting (as pictured) will be fine.

Just like before, plug the black probe into the black COM connection on the meter and the red probe into the **red volts** connection on the meter. Remember, never plug into the 10 amp connection, and never set the meter dial to amps or ohms. That's for advanced testing only, and you'll only blow out the meter's fuse if you try to test for voltage that way.

Ready ... set ... test

If you're close enough to any metal going into the earth, such as the exterior of the pedestal power box or a metal water pipe, poke it firmly with the sharp tip of the black probe. You'll need to punch through any rust or paint, so an exterior bolt or machine



screw is usually a good choice. Now, without touching the body of your RV with your hand, poke the skin of your RV with the sharp tip of the red probe. Again, this needs to make connection to the metal skin of your RV, so if you want to avoid making little holes in your paint job, pick a spot like the trailer hitch or a chrome door knob.

Next, while both probes are making contact, you should read very close to 0 (zero) volts. The National Electrical Code allows up to 2 volts on the ground, so 1 to 2 volts is safe. If, however, you read 10 volts, 50 volts or 120 volts, that's the time to back away from the RV, turn off the circuit breaker, pull the power plug and immediately get the campsite electrician to find out what's wrong. If he tells you that 50 volts on the skin of your RV is fine, demand your money back, break camp and get out of there. Do not let your family or pets enter an RV with a hot-skin condition. Also, it's a good idea to alert your local RV association that a campground has a dangerous power condition. That way you help the next RVer, too.

Using a non-contact tester

While a digital voltmeter is the gold standard method for testing hot-skin conditions, it must be used exactly right or it can give you a false sense of security. Therefore, perhaps the easiest and best way to check for an RV hot-skin is by using a \$30 non-contact AC tester such as a Fluke VoltAlert. These testers look like a fat pen with a plastic tip and are available at hardware stores such as Sears or Lowe's. Most have a blinking light and beeper that makes noise when the tip is held near an energized circuit. How do I know these things work? Well, I built a hot-skin simulator that can energize the body of an RV with any voltage from zero to 120 volts at the twist of a dial. I've energized everything from a microphone to an Airstream to find the best hot-skin testing methods. Yes, it's a bit like Frankenstein, but this gear allows me to see how well the various test methods work. And the Fluke VoltAlert seems to work very well for hot-skin conditions as low as 40 volts.

To test for an RV hot-skin, just turn on the non-contact tester by pushing the power button quickly, which will begin to blink once every few seconds to show you it's on. Then confirm the tester is working properly by poking it into a hot blade of the power outlet on the pedestal. It should beep at you and blink if all is well. Now, gripping the tester firmly in one hand while standing on the ground, move the plastic tip until it's touching anything metal around your RV. This could be an aluminum screen door, the exterior of an Airstream or the steel of the trailer hitch. With a non-contact tester, you do not have to punch through the layer of paint, rust or plastic. If your RV has more than 40 volts on the skin, the VoltAlert will light up and start beeping at you, even from an inch or more away from the surface of the RV.

Continued on next page...



No~Shock~Zone, continued

Caveats

Here are a couple of warnings about using non-contact testers to check for hot-skin conditions.

- ❶ These testers need to have your hand wrapped around them to sense the earth ground; so if you hold them with just the tips of your fingers it's possible to get a false-safe reading.
- ❷ Non-contact testers need your feet to be near the ground to know the actual earth potential, so if you're standing on a Fibreglass ladder, they won't read properly. Additionally, since non-contact testers are looking for the voltage difference between the your hand and the plastic tip of the probe, if you're standing inside an RV with a hot-skin and you test your galley sink, they won't indicate trouble when indeed there is. Therefore, always grip the non-contact tester firmly in your hand while standing on the ground outside your RV. And if your vehicle has as little as 40 volts of hot-skin potential, the tester should alert you of the danger even without physically touching your RV. You can just slip your VoltAlert pen in your pocket and use it to quickly test any RV in the campground you might be visiting. It only takes a few seconds to test for a hot-skin problem this way, and you may save another RV owner's life.

Outlets re-visited

Since these non-contact testers are designed to check outlets for electrical power, they're also a great way to confirm outlet polarity. If you remember what a typical AC outlet looks like, you can poke the VoltAlert into the tall neutral slot (no blink or beep), then a ground hole (no blink or beep) and



finally the shorter hot slot (should blink and beep). It won't tell you the exact voltage of the outlet like a voltmeter, but it will confirm if the polarity is correct and tell you if the ground connection has been floated and electrified by another RV with a short in its own wiring. This is pretty cheap insurance since you can never be too safe around electricity.

Quick tips

- ❶ Do the hot-skin test after you've checked campsite outlet polarity and voltages with a volt meter.
- ❷ Perform a hot-skin test every time you plug into a new campsite or home power outlet.
- ❸ If you ever feel the slightest tingle or shock from your RV, avoid all contact, shut off the AC power at the pedestal, and get professional help to determine the cause of the shock.
- ❹ Even if you've stopped getting shocked from your RV because the ground is dry, the hot-skin problem has not fixed itself.
- ❺ Be sure to properly maintain your RV electrical system and test all RV interior outlets for proper polarity and grounding.

Future shock

Part Five of this series will cover amperage and ways to calculate how much your RV needs **before** you plug into a power pedestal, so stay tuned. ❖

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Mike Sokol is the chief instructor for the HOW-TO Sound Workshops (www.howtosound.com) and the HOW-TO Church Sound Workshops. He is also an electrical and professional sound expert with 40 years in the industry. Visit www.noshockzone.org for more electrical safety tips for both RVers and musicians. Contact him at mike@noshockzone.org.

Serving picnic food: Keep it cold – keep it hot

Keeping food at proper temperatures, indoors and out, is critical in preventing the growth of foodborne bacteria. The key is to never let your picnic food remain in the danger zone – between 40° F and 140° F – for more than two hours, or one hour if outdoor temperatures are above 90° F. This is when bacteria in food can multiply rapidly, and lead to foodborne illness. Instead, follow these simple rules for keeping cold foods cold and hot foods hot.

Cold food

Cold perishable food should be kept in the cooler at 40° F or below until serving time. Once you've served it, it should not sit out for longer than two hours, or one hour if the outdoor temperature is above 90° F. If it does, discard it.

Foods like chicken salad and desserts in individual serving

dishes can be placed directly on ice, or in a shallow container set in a deep pan filled with ice. Drain off water as ice melts and replace ice frequently.

Hot food

Hot food should be kept hot, at or above 140° F. Wrap it well and place it in an insulated container until serving. Just as with cold food, these foods should not sit out for more than two hours, or one hour in temperatures above 90° F. If food is left out longer, throw it away to be safe. ❖

Submitted by State of Colorado Extension Service.





Welcome
to Discovery Owners Assn., Inc.

DOAI's membership rolls were increased when these good people joined our club. This report is as of May 20, 2011. Please watch for them at chapter and national rallies, and be sure to extend the hand of welcome!



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Feeding the RVer

This heart-healthy recipe comes from **Wanda Beall**. Since her hubby, **Gus**, had a heart attack in 2010, Wanda has focused on foods that will help Gus in his recovery. Gus is doing great; he feels a lot better and he's lost weight. At the Yuma gathering in January, this dish was a big hit with everyone.

Broccoli, Rice and Cheese

4 cups (approx.) fresh broccoli
2 cups chicken broth
2 cups instant white rice
1 large can of chicken (optional)

½ jar Mission Cheddar cheese dip
or 8 oz. Velveeta cheese cut up in squares
1½ tablespoons butter
10 Ritz crackers, crumbled
2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, grated

In a large pan, place broccoli and chicken broth. Bring to a boil and boil for three minutes. Immediately stir in the instant rice, cover and let stand for five minutes. Stir in cheese and chicken. Cover and let stand five more minutes. If you are using Velveeta or other types of soft cheese, this should be enough time for it to melt. While waiting, melt butter in a skillet. When melted, stir in Ritz crackers and Parmesan cheese. Pour rice mixture into a microwaveable bowl and top with seasoned crackers. Microwave for two to three minutes to warm the entire mixture before serving.

When using a crock pot to keep the mixture warm (for example, if taking the dish to a potluck meal), pour ½ cup chicken broth into the pot and heat on high until it gets very warm. Carefully spoon in the rice mixture. The extra liquid will be absorbed by the time you serve the food; otherwise, the rice becomes dry.



DOAI free-to-members classified advertising

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2002 38P: Low miles, mint condition, garaged. Ray Martin; 813.642.9248; franray1@verizon.net **\$75,000**

2003 39L: 48k mi, new tires/batteries; full tile throughout. Sandy Fields; 830.632.9326; thomfiel@earthlink.net **\$86,000 OBO**

2002 38P: 36k mi, new Norcold fridge, new spare tire, clean. Jackie Quinn; 936.931.2130; della.quinn@gmail.com **\$72,000**

2010 40G: King and bunk beds, residential refrig, low miles. Jack Siart; 714.454.5781; jacksart@yahoo.com **\$179,900**

2002 37U: 54k mi, clean, with Roadmaster Blackhawk tow package. Sam Hatcher; 850.387.0105; samhatcher@cs.com **\$72,500**

2006 39L: 25k mi, garage kept, W/D, full awnings. Randy Smith; 423.956.4249; dlhsmith@hotmail.com **\$124,900**

2004 39S: 50k mi, garaged, convec/MW, range/oven. Mike Armijo; 505.822.8743; armijomichael@msn.com **\$97,000**

2004 39S: 43k mi, garaged, no pets/smoke, front bra. Max Beidler; 731.431.3126; maxbeidler@charter.net **\$99,000**

2007 39L: 24k mi, outside enter. center, no smoke/kids. Richard Rehmer; 660.988.0299; barehmer@yahoo.com **\$127,900 OBO**

2004 39S: 79k mi, upgraded electronics, always garaged. Bob Andrews; 704.953.1310; bandr65@aol.com **\$96,900**

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2008 40X: 19k mi, front kitchen, LCD-TV, many options. Gary Hayes; 605.321.0237; garyhys@yahoo.com **\$158,500**

2006 39L: 17k mi, excel. cond., no smoke/pets. Larry Lane; 402.455.7625; spudman2010@hotmail.com **\$122,500**

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1997 36RS: Awnings, power lev. sys., new TVs, always garaged. Barry McMillion; bearjillmc@hotmail.com **\$45,000**

2004 39L: Fully maintained, new batts/alt., range/oven. Gary Kisling; 503.805.0268; gary@garykislingcpa.com **\$109,950**

2001 38U: 85k mi, new TVs, tow pkg., range/oven. Gene Thornburg; 406.431.7125; gndthorn@phreego.com **\$54,900**

RV-related items FOR SALE

Rear wheel cover: 2001 D, 47³/₄" wide, 31³/₈" high. Robert Wilkins; 419.753.2502; nkvet@nktelco.net **\$250** + shpg

Oven: From 1998 D, excellent condition. Jimmy Williams; 580.380.0000; jpw3840@westok.net **\$100 OBO**

J lounge: 2002 38D, lt. grey, 72" long, near perfect condition. Harry Spencer; hws2lms@yahoo.com **\$300**

Stabilus gas spring lifters for 2006 inside cab over door, w/brackets, new. Ron Hines; ronhines@juno.com **\$25** incl priority shpg.

RV-related items WANTED

Right hand (larger) refrigerator door, Dometic RM 7732 for 1998 D. Alex Keller; 218.525.1385; amk_lnk@q.com

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Lazydays RV Campground, Seffner, Florida (800.905.6627)
ARRIVE SUNDAY, JANUARY 29; DEPART FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Please complete **both parts** of this registration form.
Send Part 1 to Lazydays RV Campground and Part 2 to the DOAI rally registrar

Part 1. Cut here and mail this portion to Lazydays RV Campground, or call 800.905.6627
Discovery Owners Association Rally — January 29-February 3, 2012

Pilot Name: Last _____ First _____
 Co-Pilot Name: Last _____ First _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email _____
 Street/City/State/Zip+4 _____
 Discovery Year _____ Model _____ Length _____ Handicap Parking? Yes _____ No _____
 Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____
 Camping/Food/Entertainment Fee:
\$265.33 for coach with **two** people / **\$216.64** for coach with **one** person \$ _____
 _____ Number of additional nights at **\$39.16 per night** \$ _____
 _____ Number of guests at **\$48.69 per guest** \$ _____
Total \$

Make check payable to Lazydays RV Campground and mail to
Lazydays RV Campground, 6210 County Road 579, Seffner FL 33584-3004
Deadline to register with Lazydays RV Campground is December 29. Lazydays RV Campground
cancellation policy: Prior to 72 hours, no charge; 72 to 24 hours, one-day charge; less than 24
hours or no show, no refund.

Part 2: Cut here and mail this portion to DOAI Rally Registrar Ron Wacker

Pilot Name _____ Co-Pilot Name _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____ Email/s _____
 Street/City/State/Zip+4 _____
 DOAI # _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____
 First DOAI major rally Y___ N___ Discovery Year _____ Model _____
 Chapter Member Y___ N___ Chapter Name _____ Officer Position _____
 Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____
 Rally Fee:
\$15.00 per coach for **two** people / **\$7.50** for **one** person \$ _____
\$22.00 for notebook with printed copy of all technical seminars \$ _____
\$7.50 for each additional guest \$ _____
 Guest Name/s & Address _____
\$20.00 DOAI new member fee (if not already a DOAI member) \$ _____
Total \$

Make check payable to Florida Discovery Sunshiners and mail to
Ron Wacker, 1720 Sherwood St, Clearwater FL 33755-2937
(C) 813.240.6552 — discovery@rvfunhome.com
Deadline to mail form is January 16. After that date, contact Ron by phone.



DOAI 2011 National Rally

CIRCLE THE DS IN SHAWNEE

October 17 through 22, 2011
Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center, 1700 West Independence Street
Shawnee, Oklahoma

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 Affiliation _____ Chapter to be parked with _____

Need handicap parking? (No sewer) Yes _____ No _____ First national rally? Yes _____ No _____

Guest/s Name, City, State _____

REGISTRATION:

\$315.00 per coach with two adults (October 17 through 22)	\$ _____
\$250.00 per coach with one adult (October 17 through 22)	\$ _____
\$65.00 each additional person/child (October 17 through 22) × ___ person/s =	\$ _____
\$15.00 early arrival (Sunday, October 16)	\$ _____
\$20.00 DOAI membership (if not already a DOAI member)	\$ _____
\$38.00 per day golf cart for rally site (3-day minimum) Start date _____ x ___ days =	\$ _____
\$10.00 rally t-shirt/s x ___ shirts ordered =	\$ _____
Size: Medium ____ Large ____ XLarge ____ XXLarge ____ XXXLarge ____	
Note: T-shirts are 50/50 pre-shrunk. No small available (youth size)	

OPTIONAL TOURS, ACTIVITIES, AND GOLF:

Tuesday, October 18, Tour 1 – Shawnee Tour	\$18.00 × ___ person/s = \$ _____
Tuesday, October 18 – Golf Tournament (includes golf cart)	\$45.00 × ___ person/s = \$ _____
Wednesday, October 19, Tour 2 – Oklahoma City Tour	\$49.00 × ___ person/s = \$ _____
Saturday, October 22, Mugs and Muffins for Ladies	\$ 3.00 × ___ person/s = \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: DOAI Check Enclosed/Total \$

MAIL CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Sarah Hallum, Registrar, PO Box 130, Lexington TX 78947-0130

Questions? Contact Sarah – 979.773.0696 (H); 512.422.8526 (C); dashallum@verizon.net

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Full refund cancellation may be made up to Sept. 19, 2011 – **AFTER SEPTEMBER 19 – NO REFUND**

→ → → KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS ← ← ←

You will receive a confirmation of your registration via email

More photos from here and there



Florida Discovery Sunshiners pizza party



Florida Discovery Sunshiners spaghetti dinner



Desert Rats in Laughlin, sharing stories



Desert Rats in Laughlin, ready for dinner

👉 Whom to contact with questions about ... 👈

Membership number and renewal date: doaimembership@discoveryowners.com

Newsletter and electronic edition: doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com

egroup and bulletin board: webmaster@discoveryowners.com

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. membership application

Welcome to the premier non-profit organization for owners of Discovery motor homes by Fleetwood RV, Inc. DOAI is an organization intended to foster social opportunities and information exchange among all members.

Dues are \$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.

PLEASE...PAYABLE IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY!
Questions? Call toll-free 888.594.6818

Mail the form below with your check payable to *Discovery Owners Association, Inc.* to:

Portia Williams, Membership Director
P. O. Box 95
St. George, UT 84771-0095

Join/renew online at <http://www.discoveryowners.com>

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Partner Name _____

Address _____

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

Home Telephone _____ Cell Telephone _____

Discovery Year and Model _____ Email Address _____

Who recommended DOAI membership to you? _____

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