



The calendar has declared, “Summer is here!”

And if it’s summer, that means it’s prime time for loading up the RV with clothing, supplies, the dog, the grandkids and head for the wide open spaces – the destination for many over these warm travel months. With that in mind, it is hoped articles included in this issue prove beneficial to you in your travels.

- ✿ **Mark Polk** shares his seven-step RV emergency weather plan - **page 13**
- ✿ **Jerry Brown** shares tips on battery conservation - **page 12**
- ✿ **Gary Osburn** tells how to rid the rooftop A/C of a moldy smell - **page 6**
- ✿ **Chris Bryant** tells how to deal with rooftop A/C leaks - **page 11**
- ✿ **Silvana Clark** shares fun tips to entertain your grandkids - **page 8**
- ✿ **Tanushree Bubna** tells how to create a survival ditch bag - **page 14**
- ✿ **Mike Sokol** shares more about how to prevent RV electrical damage - **page 14**
- ✿ **Bob Cook** asks, is a tablet a viable alternative for you? - **page 19**

And there’s much more, including updates about this year’s national rally (beginning on **page 3**). Like an over-packed suitcase, this issue is so full, I had trouble closing the lid! Enjoy and may all your travels be safe and full of fun and laughter. See you in Tucson. ❖

Discovery Dealers!

Here Are Three Sales Promotion Ideas for You!

- ➔ **Participate** in our DOAI *Membership Sponsor* program. Contact Membership Director Portia Williams (toll-free 888.594.6818 or doaimembership@discoveryowners.com) for details.
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This is a win/win situation for everyone!**

In this issue...

President’s message 2	Exec VP report 7	Creating a survival ditch bag 14
National rally leadership in place 3	National rally master report 7	No~Shock~Zone, part eight 14
2012 national rally update 3	Discovery modifications 8	Regions and chapters report 16
A good time planned for Tucson 4	How to be a cool grandparent 8	Computer corner 19
Membership director welcomes 5	Rally opportunities 9	Index to newsletter articles 20
Audit committee named 5	Helpful contacts 9	C’mon, baby, light my fire! 21
Congratulations! 5	Addresses of board, chapters, etc. 10	Members’ classified ads 22
Rooftop A/C moldy smell 6	Rooftop A/C leaks 11	DOAI applauds sponsors 22
Thoughts and prayers 7	Extending your stay 12	National rally registration form 23
Photos from FMA rally 7	Good for you! 12	DOAI membership application 24
	Seven-step weather plan 13	



President
John Baker

President's message

Recently, **Felesa** and I were honored to attend the founding meeting of the brand new chapter, Ozarks Discovery. President **Bruce Plumb** did a fantastic job of locating members within 180 miles of Branson, Mo., and organizing the core of this chapter. They plan to have their rallies in that beautiful part of the country and invite everyone to visit when in the area. Although their membership target area encompasses Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, they will warmly welcome any DOAI member wishing to join them. Local chapters are the lifeblood of DOAI; if you aren't a member of one, join one or start one like Bruce did!

Spring is here and summer is coming soon. Crank up the D and enjoy traveling across the USA and Canada. Plan to include the upcoming national rally at Tucson in October. Weather should be beautiful and **Gary Velasquez** and his team are busily arranging a great time for us.

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed our very first commercial member (CM), **General RV Center**, Wixom, Mich. Your board of directors felt like grandpa's old dog when she finally caught one of the cars she always chased – "Now what?" First, we determined that a dues level had not been established for commercial members. Standing Rule #2 was amended to establish CM dues at \$20 per year or \$75 for 5 years.

Next, it was determined that significant changes would be required to assure that CMs would receive full value while assuring our website would not be used improperly and your personal information would be protected. Consequently, Standing Rule #14 was adopted to define everyone's website access. It states:

"Regular Members as defined by Bylaws Article III subparagraph A2, shall have access to all pages and features of the DOAI website at all times it is online. Commercial Members as defined by Bylaws Article III subparagraph A3, shall have access to all pages and features of the DOAI website (except the membership listing) at all times it is online. Non-members who apply and are approved as Web Associates and whose fees are current shall have access to selected pages of the website as determined by the Webmaster and approved by the Board of Directors. Web Associates shall pay annual fees in the amount of \$12 to the association. Web Associates are entitled to no rights and privileges other than the specified web access. All users of the DOAI website are specifically and expressly prohibited from using or providing data from the membership listing for any commercial purpose."

The term "Web Associate" refers to those folks who are past DOAI members having remaining paid dues time, or are not past DOAI members but buy limited access to our website. There are approximately 100 or so of them. They are also excluded from the membership listing and certain other sections.

I apologize for this being so technical, but when the board of directors adopts or amends a standing rule, we must inform the membership. Further, this demonstrates the kind of issues with which your volunteer board members must deal. When you see board members be sure to tell them "Thanks." They work hard and tediously on your behalf. I wish you safe travels. ❖

Paid classified ad

The Ultimate Hub 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 you to remove hubs for cleaning and polishing. The only molded hub tool that indicates the proper direction for removal of the hubs. Contact Frank Cason, 1917 Stone Dam Rd, Chuckey, TN 37641, 423-552-5257, cason.frank@gmail.com. \$13 incl. s/h. You can order on the Internet at cgi.ebay.com/ebaymotors/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=130560631655#ht_500wt_1182

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Discovery Express is a quarterly publication (January, April, July, October). Deadlines for copy are November 20, February 20, May 20, and August 20. 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.

If you wish to access the full-color newsletter electronically instead of receiving a hard copy, contact the editor for details.

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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

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



National rally leadership in place

Organizing a national rally requires months of work up front. Assisted by National Rally Master **Joe Stewart**, Southwest Region Vice President **John Bujnovsky** has been carrying the load to establish the location and set the general framework for the upcoming national rally, *Discovery of the Saguaro*, in Tucson, October 8-14. He has identified and named the leadership team which will carry out the preparations and operation of the rally itself. Thank you, John, for getting things set up.

Gary Velasquez will serve as rally master and John will be assistant rally master. Other announced leaders are Registrar/Treasurer: **Nina Soltwedel**; Parking: **Paul Smith**; Entertainment: **Gary Velasquez**; Tours: **John and Shirley Bujnovsky, Gary and Patty Velasquez, Mike and Judy Scott**; Golf: **Mike and Judy Scott**; Vendors: **MaryAnn Crowell and Bob Soltwedel**; Food: **Wally Wallington**; Decorations: **Doris Smith**; Women's Event: **Patty Velasquez and Marie Watson**; Charity: **Mike and Judy Scott**; Photographer: **Don Crowell**; Clothing: **Dick Tracy**; Emcee: **John Baker**. Undoubtedly, this list will change as things progress. Your name might soon be added.

These folks will be looking for volunteers to help in their areas. Please contact them as soon as possible and let them know YOU are willing to help! We are looking forward to a great time in the desert and it will only be that if we attend and help where we can to make it happen. I am looking forward to seeing each of you there. ❖

Report submitted by John Baker



2012 national rally rally master
Gary Velasquez

2012 national rally update

Greetings, fellow DOAI members, from fabulous Las Vegas, home of the Desert Rats! I'm **Gary Velasquez**, chapter president, and newly-appointed rally master for the upcoming DOAI national rally scheduled for October 8-14 at Lazydays RV Campground in Tucson, Ariz.

I'm happy to announce that the plans and organizing for the rally are coming along very nicely. The rally team, in collaboration

with Lazydays' staff, is putting together what looks to be a fun-filled and entertaining rally.

Tours to the Kartchner Caverns state park and the old western town of Tombstone have been arranged, as well as a golf tournament for some of you old duffers who would like to hit the links (see details of the tours and tournament on [page 23](#), [April 2012 issue](#)).

Other events being planned include several raffles with what I'm told are some pretty fancy prizes, and, of course, the proceeds will be donated to a deserving local charity in Tucson (see article on [page 4](#)).

We plan to schedule a DOAI-members swap meet, so bring some of those old or new items you've been meaning to get rid of, or crafts you create. Remember: "One person's trash is another person's treasure."

We want to stage "A Viewing of the Ds." This will be an organized open house of various Discovery coaches with different floor plans and some that have been modified, for those of you who may be thinking of doing a little renovating. This, however, will require the cooperation of DOAI members attending the rally who have different floor plans, or

have had modifications done to their coaches, and who would be willing to host an open house for viewing for an hour or so. There will be a sign-up sheet at the rally registration desk when you arrive. Also, we hope to have some 2012 (or perhaps 2013!) Discovery models on display for those of you who may be thinking of rolling into a new or newer Discovery.

A social and fashion event – "A Stylish Affair" – is being planned by our lady committee members that should prove to be very entertaining for the fashion-minded females in attendance (see article on [page 4](#)).

And, of course, Lazydays, which maintains a complete RV maintenance and repair facility on its property, will be conducting seminars in the Learning Center throughout the week covering Annual RV Maintenance as well as the ever popular RV Drivers Confidence Course.

Vendors will be available daily as well, for those items you need for the RV. In addition, we are working on Fantasy Tours to attend and offer seminars on group travel to such places as Alaska, Mexico, etc.

The entertainment committee is working to provide opportunities for a little dancing for jitter-buggers out there.

Last but not least, the DOAI rally team is working with Lazydays to provide the best culinary experience possible for our members. There will be a welcome party the first evening, three breakfasts during the rally week, along with three featured dinner nights with such themes as Seafood Night, Mexican Night, and everybody's favorite, Prime Rib Night.

As you can see, this DOAI national rally, *Discovery of the Saguaro*, should have something for everyone. Spaces are going fast, so get online and reserve your space for a good time in Tucson, Ariz., in October. Hope to see you there. ❖



A good time is being planned for October in Tucson

At every national rally, the golf tournament and tours are highlights. In addition, we offer activities that enhance others' lives, give people a chance to take a chance, and enable everyone to share ideas and gain knowledge. Here's a sampling of what you can look forward to:

⇒ DOAI ASSISTS CHARITIES

Each year at our national rallies, a local charity is chosen to receive funds we raise through various efforts. This year, the chosen charity is [Casa de los Niños](#) of Tucson which is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and to the care of children already abused. We will also assist the [Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona](#). Here's how we will assist these agencies:

- ☺ **50/50** – Each day of the rally, beginning on Tuesday, you will see people selling tickets. You can purchase one ticket for \$1 or six tickets for \$5. All funds received for that day goes into the pot; at the meal that evening, a ticket is drawn and the winner receives half the funds raised; the other half is earmarked for the chosen charity.
- ☺ **Handmade quilts** – This is the third year that a group of talented quilters have joined together to create two quilts, both of which reflect the theme of the rally. **Kathy Baker** coordinated the group, which included **Hazel Allen, Donna Barker, Barbara Brady, Shelby Brown, Judy Bruton, Judy Cumbie, Jana Davis, Sarah Hallum, Della Quinn, Doris Smith, Anne Spearman, Pat Tracy, MaryAnne Weinberg, Linda Zilinski**. The photos here show the quilts in progress. The coyote quilt will be king size, the saguaro quilt will be queen size.
- ☺ **Surprise raffles** – A few other donations have been made of items to be raffled off, with the proceeds going to the chosen charity. To date, these items include fuel cards and a shawl. There may be added items by the time the rally begins.
- ☺ **Canned and non-perishable food and supplies** – An area in the event center will be set aside as a collection site for all sorts of canned and non-perishable food and other items (toilet tissue, paper towels, etc). We will collect Monday through Friday morning, and are hoping to exceed the total poundage of previous national rallies. The challenge is on!



Coyote quilt



Saguaro quilt

⇒ SWAP MEET

Do you create handcrafted items? Are you an avid reader? Do you have too much stuff? This is your opportunity to show your wares, clear out the excess, and make some money at the same time. There will be no cost to you; all you'll have to do is show up in the event center on the assigned day and time, choose a table, and get ready to sell.

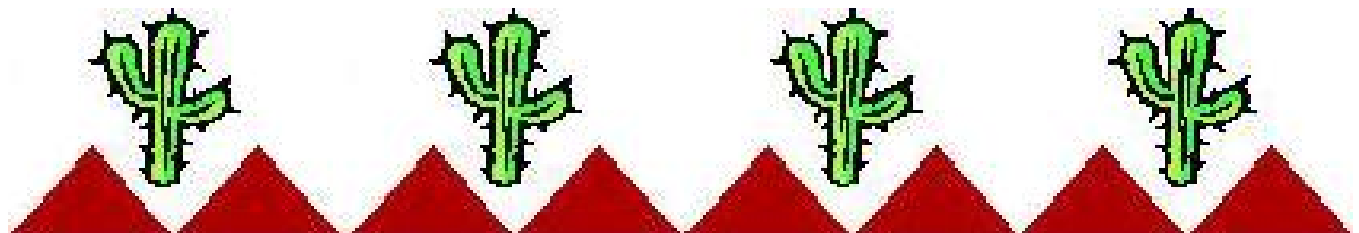
⇒ A STYLISH AFFAIR

That's the title of this year's women's event, hosted by the Desert Rats chapter, and all women are invited to attend – at no charge (just bring your own cup). Attendees will enjoy cookies and muffins, served with tea and coffee, while viewing a fashion show of clothing and accessories sold by Carol's Scarves & Things, a vendor at the rally. The models will be DOAI members! There will be a sign-up sheet at the rally registration desk – this will assist the planners if they know approximately how many women will attend.



⇒ SEMINARS, ROUNDTABLES, AND OPEN HOUSES

A variety of seminars are planned, and they will include several led by Lazydays' staff. The pilots and co-pilots usually have separate roundtable discussions, which always result in lots of ideas and valuable experiences being shared. This year, you will have an opportunity to view coaches which have had modifications made by their owners. Look for a sign-up sheet at the rally registration desk if you want to open your coach to interested DOAI members during an open house. ❖





Membership dir
Portia Williams

Membership director welcomes new members and has a request

Welcome to these new DOAI members, and welcome back to several returning members. We encourage them to join one of our many chapters where they can meet and make new friends. We also welcome another new commercial member: in addition to General RV in Wixom, Mich. (mentioned in the April 2012 issue), we welcome MCD Innovations in McKinney, Tex. Please note their ad in this newsletter and online at www.discoveryowners.com.

In the past, it has been my practice to send a reminder postcard one month prior to your dues date. For the last two months, I have been using the Internet by sending an email reminder. This method will save on postage and printing costs. Please **confirm your subscribed email address is correct** as shown when you first login to the DOAI website in the membership section (INFO>MEMBERS). If it is not correct, please send an email to me at doaimembership@discoveryowners.com. If you do not have an email address, you will continue to receive the postcard reminder. Thank you. ❖

REGULAR

Fred/Betsy Arnow, Henderson NV
 Josh/Morgan Babbitt, Tampa FL
 Michael/Karen Bakula, Sammamish WA
 Rodney/Karen Bishop, Hemphill TX
 Bob/Alice Blackmon, Fulshear TX
 Delton/Lisa Bohlman, Newport VT
 Danny/Joanne Breshears, The Woodlands TX
 Devon/Kelly Broadbelt, Zephyrhills FL
 Keith/Kerrie Brogdon, Youngsville LA
 Ron/Christine Burkett, Eads TN
 Elizabeth/Jeff Burnette, Dallas GA
 Loren/Cindy Caves, Broken Arrow OK
 Steve/Sherry Chandler, Fletcher NC
 Mavis/Marilyn Coley, Martinez GA
 Bill/Anne Devin, Yorkshire NY
 James/Bridget Durham, Herford AZ
 Chuck Emery/Marcia Balestrino, Phoenix AZ
 David/Henrietta Franklin, Yuma AZ
 Bob Guthery, Oklahoma City OK
 Craig/Janice Havel, Kansas City MO
 Richard/Merle Hutchings, Emery SD
 Danny/Linda Ingle, Jacksonville FL

Noel Jett, Knoxville TN
 Charles/Carol Kinzner, Tacoma WA
 Phil/Jeri Kosch, Santa Fe NM
 Jeffery/Lisa Lawrence, Bixby OK
 Troy/Sherri McGrew, Scott Depot WV
 Steve/Michelle Meier, Barneveld WI
 Tom/Judy Merrell, Clearwater FL
 Chris/Lori Meyer, Oak Bluffs MA
 Harry/Amy Mintzer, Williamsport PA
 Ron/Linda Nordstrom, Edmonton AB
 Oscar/Joan Norris, Carolina Beach NC
 Fred Ott, Carlsbad CA
 William/Linda Pahl, Pasadena TX
 Igor/Marina Perez, Tamarac FL
 Ray/Betty Prettyman, Diamond MO
 James Price, Donalsonville GA
 Richard/Suzanne Pryor, Adams TN
 Randy/Cherry Ragan, Newport NC
 Larry/Barbara Renegar, Nokesville VA
 Norman/Joli Ritchie, Portland OR
 Gary Ruthven, Albuquerque NM
 Jim/Carol Sampson, Austin TX
 Jeff/Mildred Self, Kingston GA

Ralph/Jacque Simmons, Graham WA
 Brian/Hazel Spencer, Las Vegas NV
 Jim/Adrienne Stevens, Richmond KY
 Scott Stevenson/John Stevenson, Oregon WI
 Chuck/Donna Tolson, Fredericksburg VA
 Daniel Tornel, Billings MT
 Marty/Carmen Veach, Booksville FL
 Gene/Anne Wallick, Strasburg OH
 John/Joan Wiseman, Springfield MO
 Anthony/Tracy Yandow, St Albans VT

COMMERCIAL

General RV-Wixom, Bob Green, Wixom MI
 MCD Innovations, Peggy Grich, McKinney TX

REINSTATED REGULAR

Kevin/Lisa Bellek, Whitehouse Sta NJ
 Buddy/Mary Burton, El Cajon CA
 Marilyn Keyser, Wasta SD
 Michael Lee/Joan O'Farrell, Rancho Cucamonga CA
 Joe/Debbie Sannutti, Baxley GA
 Mark/Marilyn Segars, Turlock CA

Audit committee members named

President **John** has named the following DOAI members to the audit committee. Beginning in 2013, one member will be named to a three-year term each year.

- 💰💰 **Ricky Keen**, treasurer of the newest chapter, Ozarks Discovery, and member of the Louisiana Mudbugs, will serve 2012-2013. Ricky is a retired CPA and will chair the committee.
- 💰💰 **Dick Tracy**, president of the Mason-Dixon Discoverys, will serve 2012-2014. Most of you know Dick as our merchandise director. He is a retired US Navy officer and served there as a certified internal auditor. (He always enjoyed being known as Dick Tracy, CIA!)
- 💰💰 **Nancy Plumb**, also a member of the Ozarks Discovery, will serve 2012. Nancy analyzes financial reports of lessees for a large commercial leasing firm. ❖

Report submitted by John Baker



Congratulations!

John and Felesa Baker have earned themselves a year's free membership because three couples they referred to DOAI have joined the club.

You, too, can earn a year's free membership if three members, when they join, put your name in the "Who recommended membership to you?" slot. Questions? Contact Membership Director **Portia Williams** for details. Call her toll-free at 888.594.6818, or send an email to doaimembership@discoveryowners.com. ❖

Yahoo! group conversation about rooftop air conditioners

The following conversation has been taken from DOAI's Yahoo! egroup. If you are not a member of the group, you can register at groups.yahoo.com/group/discoveryownersassociation, choose a username and password, and then the moderator will approve your joining. Jump in! There are many helpful conversations waiting for you.

Jeff Plakos posted this question: "We have been in Pahrump, Nev., for over a week and many evenings it has rained. The morning after a couple of overnight rains, we began smelling a strong mold odor. Has anyone else had this odor? How did you get rid of it?"



Gary Osburn

Gary Osburn responded: "Get a can of A/C-Safe® Air Conditioning Coil Foaming Cleaner by [Thermwell Products Co.](http://www.thermwell.com), sold by The Home Depot. It comes in a blue and white spray can and may be found in the aisle with the house A/C filters, usually on the bottom shelf.

"Remove the grill and filter and spray the evaporator coil. It makes a foam and will soak in after a few seconds. Spray some more and you can brush it in some, if you want, with a soft-bristle brush with a long handle. You don't need to rinse it off, just close up and turn on the A/C. The condensation will rinse off the dirt that it breaks loose. AC-Safe is just that – safe to use on an interior coil where the fumes will be coming into the house. It'll clean the coil, kill the mold, and smell like oranges.



"If you want to be more aggressive, or if the smell comes back in a few days, you need to climb on the roof and do the same thing from there. Remove the shroud, then loosen the sheet metal box housing around the evaporator coil and lay it forward. Now you can access it better to spray and brush.

"You don't have to, but if you want, you can rinse it off with a hose on "trickle" and some towels in the opening, but be careful not to overflow the shallow drain pan under the coil or you'll be mopping up the floor.

"I usually just start at the top when I clean one and I use the brush first to knock off anything that's loose. Remember that those fins are sharp and will make a bloody mess of the back of your hand if given a chance.

"Here's how to remove the AC unit to hose it off without flooding the inside of the RV: First off, you will need two people on the roof to handle the air conditioner. It's not extremely heavy – a little over 100 pounds – but it's big and bulky and doesn't have any handles. You don't want it to slide at all. It will either tear a hole in the roof fabric or ruin the A/C gasket, or both.

"Turn off the breaker and remove the grill and filter. Next, remove the sheet metal plate that's right above the grill. Note the position of the vertical black fabric baffle that separates the cold air from the return air. It will probably fall to the floor as you proceed, and you'll need to get it back in place when you button up.

"At this point, I like to take a couple of the screws I just removed and use them to secure the square metal ring to the ceiling. It saves some time and some annoyance later. In each corner of that metal square, there's a long bolt that goes all the way through the roof and squeezes the upper unit down tight. Use a drill or electric screwdriver to save your arm and remove all four bolts. By the way, these bolts should be checked and tightened every two years or water will start coming in around the air conditioner.

"Up on the roof, remove the shroud then remove the sheet metal top and front (one curved/bent piece) over the evaporator coil, which is the part towards the front of the RV. The A/C junction box is attached to it with a couple of wing nuts. Remove them and unplug the harness going to the upper unit. Pull the freeze sensor out of the coil then let the whole box dangle down through the hole into the RV.

"Now you can lift the air conditioner up and move it to one side, where you can spray both coils with a hose and clean 'em really good. Just don't let water penetrate the fan motor and don't spray directly at the top of the compressor where the electrical connections are. There's also a cavity in the side of the evaporator housing where the wires go that you don't want to get wet; it houses the capacitors and maybe a relay. It's OK to lay the A/C on its side to rinse it, but not on that side.

"This would be a good time to replace or at least inspect the big gasket that the air conditioner sets on. It is about an inch thick when new and gets compressed over time. They are all the same size, 14 inches by 14 inches, and only cost about \$20. If it's really flattened out, replace it. Originally, the gasket is stuck to the bottom of the air conditioner and just smashed onto the roof. The new ones are sticky on one side and come with instructions, but I can't remember whether it says to stick it to the roof or to the air conditioner, so you'll have to read the instructions.

"This is also a good time to see that the foil tape is stuck nicely in place where the duct work begins and maybe spray some Lysol into each duct to kill off any mold.

"Once the water has quit dripping off the A/C, set it back in place as best you can, but don't expect to get it centered until you try getting those long hold-down bolts back in place. I leave my helper on the roof at this point to put those bolts back in and cinch it down. It has to be secure by not over-tight, so for this I use a nut-driver – not a wrench – and give it a hard one-hand torque. Now replace the flat metal plate and center the black fiber baffle. I like secure it in place with some foil tape to keep cold air from escaping into the return air. (Don't use the regular fabric-type duct tape; it will fall apart in a few months and make a mess.) Then, replace the filter and grill.

"Up on top, once the freeze sensor is poked back in place and the harness reattached, put the junction box back in place, put the sheet metal box back together, and reinstall the shroud. Don't forget to turn the breaker back on." ❖

Editor's Note: DOAI member Gary Osburn is a certified RV repair technician, having completed the course of instruction at the Recreational Vehicle Service Academy. He is also certified by RVIA, RVDA, EPA, and Texas Railroad Commission.

Thoughts and prayers



Please keep these DOAI members and their families in your thoughts and prayers: **Marie Money**, experiencing a recurrence of cancer, **Pete Palasota**, recovering from multiple eye surgeries; **Joe Stewart**, also recovering from eye surgery; **Barbara Graybeal**, mourning the death of husband, **Arlic**; **Lois James**, mourning the death of husband, **Grant Johnson**; **Alice Stanley**, mourning the death of husband, **Kenneth**; and **Terry Ven Roy**, mourning the death of his mother.

We also ask you to send up prayers for “one of our own” even though he’s not a DOAI member: **Randy Hendricks**, a highly regarded Fleetwood tech team leader whom many of you have met at regional and national rallies, was stricken with bacterial meningitis in late May. He is recovering at home in Decatur, Ind.

Dawn Fann Scott, a former longtime Fleetwood employee and also known by many DOAI members, is slowly recovering from major cancer surgery. After leaving Fleetwood last year, she married and entered law school in California. In December 2011, Dawn was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer which originated in her appendix. She underwent a 27-hour surgery in mid-March, has had some setbacks, but is recovering. Her motto: “Failure is not an option.” The last time many of us had an opportunity to see Dawn was at the first FMA rally in Gillette, Wyo., in 2009. Please keep Dawn in your prayers.

If you learn of a DOAI member who is ill or hospitalized, or who has lost a family member, please let the newsletter editor know by sending an email to doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com. Thank you! ❖

Photos from FMA rally at Lazydays



DOAI members had a great time at the FMA rally in mid-March, and were given the opportunity to get the “lay of the land” for the upcoming DOAI national rally. This is a great

location for a rally. Hope to see you there this October.

Top: **John and Shirley Bujnovsky, Marie and Ed Watson**. Center: **Gary and Patty Velasquez, Joe and Justine Stewart, Portia and Bob Williams**. Bottom: **Bob and Mary Cook, Annie and Wally Wallington, Bob Soltwedel**. *Photos by Nina Soltwedel* ❖



Executive vice president report

Last year, we could register for the national rally online for the first time. We can do so again this year. The rally will be held at Lazydays RV campground in Tucson, Ariz., in October.

By now, I’m sure everyone has serviced their Discovery for the travel season ahead. My wife, **Judy**, and I are planning a long trip to the northeast this summer, with stops to visit friends and relatives. We hope the cost of fuel will continue its decline in the months ahead.

See you down the road somewhere. ‘Til then, enjoy every day and God bless. ❖



National rally master report

Here we are five months from THE rally. I am really looking forward to it. There is still a lot of planning going on, and from what I know and understand, this will be an outstanding rally. According to **Nina**, several have already registered. HAVE YOU? If not, don’t keep putting it off – do it today (this advice applies to me, too).

According to my calendar, the southeast region is responsible for the 2013 national rally. I suspect they are already planning for it. Boy, how time flies when you are having fun. Hope to see you all in Tucson. ❖

Discovery modifications

In recent years, many of us have noticed a change in auto headlights with the advent of LEDs, halogen, and other very bright products. Since the original Discovery was produced in 1997, its headlights have undergone some changes. **Gordon Sims** owns a 2007 model, and decided to upgrade the headlights to provide better illumination. He knew, going into the project, that it wouldn't be a simple matter of removing the original headlights and mounting the replacements. After completion, Gordon provided an in-depth description of the



A close-up of the original headlight in Gordon's 2007 D.

project, including excellent color photos, to the DOAI egroup. Due to space limitations, the entire project cannot be included in this newsletter. However, if you go to www.discoveryowners.com/hints.asp, you'll find Gordon's entire article (with lots of great photos) listed under "H" (well, what else?). We can present here Gordon's before and after views of his D. Gordon noted that the results are "very clean and 'way more modern than the originals.'" ❖



Gordon's D after the headlight renovation. Lookin' good!



Silvana Clark

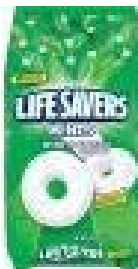
How to be a "cool" grandparent!

Want to be seen as a super-cool grandma or grandpa? Of course, your natural charm probably goes a long way in having your grandkids want to go RV camping with you! There are times, however, when you want to do something out of the ordinary, leaving your grandchildren amazed at just how cool you are. Here are two easy activities to do the next time you are on a camping trip with your grandkids.

Have a sparks party!

Nothing could be easier. Simply buy a package of Wint-O-Green® Life Savers® before your camping trip. Then, at night, find a place that is totally dark, either inside your RV or at the campground, away from outdoor lights.

Give your grandchildren a Life Saver to put between their front teeth. After a very dramatic countdown of "3-2-1," bite into the Life Saver. "Sparks" will fly!



Have a sculpture do!

If that isn't enough excitement, have your grandkids get creative with one of the easiest and weirdest craft projects of all time.

Before your camping trip, stop by an office store,



such as Office Depot or Staples, and buy a bag of biodegradable packing peanuts. They look like Styrofoam peanuts, but these are made from 100 percent cornstarch. That's where the fun starts.

Set out the biodegradable peanuts and tell your grandkids they can make any kind of free-form sculpture they want with these peanuts. They simply pick one up, lick the end and stick that piece to another peanut. It binds! All you have to do is "lick and stick" the pieces to make a sculpture. Your grandkids can even put a peanut in their mouth and have it completely dissolve.

The fun doesn't end with creating the sculptures. Kids can keep what they have made, or pour a pitcher of water over the sculpture and watch it completely disintegrate, since it is made from cornstarch! ❖



© 2012, Silvana Clark. Reprinted with permission. *Silvana Clark has full-timed for a year while home schooling her daughter, managed a 19-month RV charity tour through 45 states, and led an RV tour distributing hygiene products to tornado survivors. When not RVing, she lives in Bellingham, Wash. A professional speaker, she presents keynotes and workshops across the USA, Canada and overseas. She's shared ideas for family fun on many TV shows including The 700 Club, QVC, Fox and the Discovery Channel. In addition to writing 12 books, her biggest claim to fame is appearing on the FOX reality show Trading Spouses. Learn more about Silvana at www.silvanaclark.com.*

Rally opportunities

You are welcome (and encouraged) to attend any of these rallies! For details, contact chapter president (see **page 10**).

August 2012 –

T/B/A Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Gettysburg, Pa.

September 2012 –

16-20 Midwest Discoverers, Ottawa, Ont.

19-23 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Waynesville, N.C.

October 2012 –

8-14 [National rally, Tucson, Ariz.](#)

18-20 Heartland Discoverys, Lexington, Ky.

21-28 Texas Disco Road Runners, Mission, Tex.

T/B/A D’Zonas, Tucson, Ariz.

T/B/A Northwest Adventurers, Tucson, Ariz.

T/B/A Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

November 2012 –

2-4 Dixie Travelers, Gulf Shores, Miss. (pending)

7-11 Discovery Texans, Montgomery, Tex.

26-12/1 Texas Disco Road Runners, Johnson City, Tex.

January 2013 –

27-2/1 **Southeast region rally, Seffner, Fla.**

Looking down the road –

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

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Helpful contacts for Discovery owners

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Atwood Mobile Products	800.825.4328	Fuel: local U.S. gas prices	www.gasbuddy.com
Camping/travel/rest areas/reviews websites:		General Electric	www.geappliances.com/geac/
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.....	www.rvparking.com	MCD Innovations	www.mcdinnovations.com
Caterpillar RV engine support	877.777.3126	Michelin North America	800.847.3435
Carefree of Colorado	800.621.2617	Norcold, Inc.	800.543.1219
Carriage Carpets (Shaw Flooring)	877.706.3054	Onan	800.888.6626
CCI Controls	800.521.5228	Power Gear	800.334.4712
Cummins, Inc.	800.343.7357	Riverpark	800.442.7717
Denso (call Fleetwood)	800.322.8216	RVP (Coleman)	316.832.4357
Discovery parts:		RVP (Suburban)	423.775.2131
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	RV technical help	www.rvtechtips.com
Sullivan RV Sales & Service	800.720.0484, Ext. 6	Spartan Chassis, Inc.	517.543.6400
Walt’s RV Supplies	909.823.0563	Splendide	800.356.0766
DOAI name badges:		Theftord Corp.	800.521.3032
The Signman	407.365.3722	Trojan Battery Co.	www.trojanbattery.com
Dometic Corp.	800.544.4881	Velvac	800.783.8871
Fan-Tastic Vent	800.521.0298	Winegard	800.288.8094
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**For other member-recommended helpful contacts,
visit www.discoveryowners.com**

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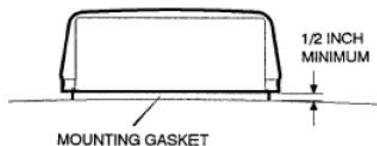
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Roof air conditioner water leaks

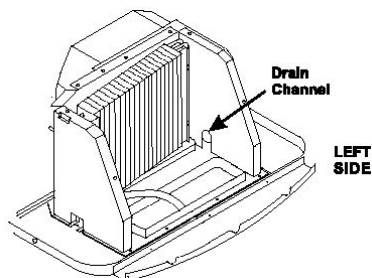
by Chris Bryant, RVIA Master Technician

A fairly common complaint is that of water leaks from the rooftop air conditioner. These do not have to be nearly as hard to find or fix as people often make them; they simply need to be dealt with in a systematic method.

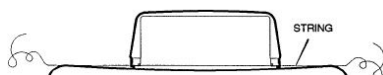
The first question when dealing with this type of leak is, does it leak when it's raining or when the air conditioner is running (or, more rarely, both)? To deal with either, we need to look closely at how the air conditioner is mounted, and how it deals with the condensation generated while running.



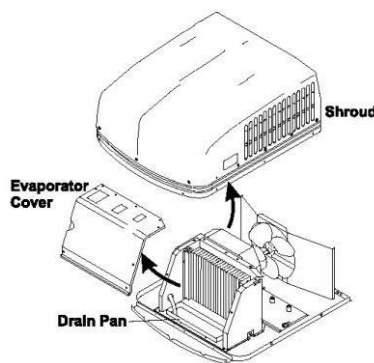
The main thing to keep in mind, is that the air conditioner is sealed to the roof using a sponge rubber gasket; this gasket is compressible, and really is a long-term maintenance item (they can last years, but not forever). This gasket is compressed by three or four bolts running from the inside assembly up to the top. For either "rain only" or "while A/C is running" leaks, first make certain there is at least 1/2 inch of gasket left (it is not tightened right down to the roof), then check the bolt for tightness; just make sure they are all snug, but don't over tighten – there must be the gap between the bottom of the A/C and the roof.



The reason for this gap is that on most roof top A/C units, the condensation drains out the bottom of the unit, between the base of the air conditioner and the roof. For this reason, never, ever seal around the perimeter of the air conditioner. I cannot say how many times I have had to deal with a unit where someone slopped goop around the base of the air conditioner, trapping water in where it has to leak inside. The "inside" coils of the air conditioner sit in a drain pan, to collect the condensation, which then runs out a small hole in the side, and out the bottom.



If the leak is both while raining and while running, and the gasket is still thick enough and tight, odds are there is some roof deterioration underneath the air conditioner, as long as the roof isn't sagging, causing water to puddle up around the air conditioner, which can be checked by pulling a string across the roof, from side to side. If there is significant sag, the air conditioner needs to be raised, either by installing two gaskets or by removing the air conditioner and putting shims between the roof material and roof frame. This is the method I usually use, building up with strips of 1/4-inch plywood, until the air conditioner is high enough that water cannot run in. Of course, roof sag may be an indication of a larger problem, but quite often it is just age, and other than a bit of sag, there are really no structural problems.



If the leak is only while the unit is operating, first check all of the above. If everything checks out, odds are that the drain holes are simply plugged up, or that the evaporator coil is very dirty, which will cause enough suction to keep the water from draining properly. To deal with

this, we have to get up on the roof and do some disassembly. You have to remove the plastic shroud, and then the front evaporator cover, which is usually held on by a number of screws. This will get you into the evaporator and drain pan. It is usually fairly obvious if the drains are clogged, and they are easily cleaned, but if you are going this far, it is a good time to check the evaporator coils for dirt, and clean them if needed (if they haven't been cleaned in a while, it really wouldn't hurt to clean them). Coleman recommends *Formula 409® Cleaner/Degreaser*, which works well. I use *Voom! RV Cleaner & Degreaser™*, but most mild degreaser-type cleaners should do fine. I don't like to use the standard coil cleaner products for this, as most of them are acidic, and while they would be fine in a large house air conditioner, I don't like the idea of these products running down the outside of an RV. Another great cleaner that I don't like for this application is *Simple Green®* – it has some issues with aluminum. The hardest part of cleaning the coils is rinsing them off without flooding the inside of the RV. Being very careful with the water, putting rags in the opening from the top, and putting down a protective cover inside should keep everything A-OK. While you are up there with all these items, cleaning the outside condenser coils is a great idea. On air conditioners only a few years old, I can usually lower the amperage draw by one to two amps, simply by cleaning these coils (which enables them get rid of the heat more easily).

So, understanding what kind of leak you have, and where the water is supposed to go in a properly operating system, we can see that solving roof air conditioner leaks really isn't a hard job, as long as you have a bit of knowledge. ❖

© 2011, Christopher D. Bryant, Bryant RV Services, DeLand, Fla. Reprinted with permission. [Bryant RV Services](#), owned and operated by Chris and Patti Bryant, was established in 1991. Chris earned his RVIA Master Technician certification in 1998, and has maintained the certification, as well as attending factory training by Dometic, Norcold, Carefree of Colorado, Winegard, KVH, and many others. They continue to offer the best, honest and fairly-priced service, with many customers driving hundreds of miles for service. By specializing in coach systems and appliances, and doing no chassis work, they are able to keep the quality of work at a very high standard, though not wanting to hire helpers keeps the couple busy nearly around the clock.



Jerry Brown

Extending your stay with these battery conservation tips

Whether you're stopping for the night at a Walmart or dry camping for a week in the outback, you will at some time need to rely on your RV's 12-volt batteries for lights and some electrical needs. Even if you have a generator, it's just not practical to run it all of the time you are camping. Our purpose in this article is to suggest some ways to help you get the most out of your batteries. 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 stovetop for the purpose of heating your RV. Finally, don't forget to set your refrigerator to run on LP.



Use the LP switch for your water heater



Set refrigerator to run on gas

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 coffeemaker, 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, so its use should be minimized.
- ✎ Don't even think about running your air conditioner on inverted 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. ❖



Catalytic heater uses no electricity

© 2009, Jerry Brown. Reprinted with permission. *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 American 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 trailers – buying, towing, operating and enjoying them.*

Good for you!

Have you had occasion to interact with a dealer or service technician that resulted in a good or even excellent experience? If so, this is the place to tell everyone about it.

Garry Shirey writes: "Before our last trip to Branson, Mo., I dumped the water in the fresh water tank to clean and get it ready for the journey. At the same time, I drained the water heater and cleaned it, too. I filled as I should have and left home.



Garry Shirey

"On our way, we stopped for a break, and noticed weak water pressure. The pump ran, but eventually no water at all. When we got to Branson, I was put in touch with Steve's Mobile RV Service and he came out to the campground (America's Best Campground). After we looked at the way our pump is in the coach, I told him I could hear the pump running but no water. He smiled and turned off the shore water, opened the outside shower and before long the pump picked up and (praise the Lord) we had water running out at a good flow. While he was there, **Carl and Teri Dykman** needed a leak fixed on their potty, and other friends needed a new frig. Steve fixed our problems at a reasonable price.

"On Sunday morning, when we were ready to leave for Searcy, Ark., to have the windows defogged, our driver's side sounded like it broke something. Again, I called Steve. I'd

called FMCA and squared it with them to pay Steve for a service call. He was able to get the room in where I couldn't.

"When we arrived at Searcy and found the shop of RV Fog Dr., we plugged into power and got set for the night. The next morning, Mike and his crew started work on not only my D, but two other Fleetwood motor homes. That day and the next they'd finished one on an American Eagle, two of my windows out and cleaned, three of another's American Dream. We had power, water and sewer if we needed. No extra charge. I thought the cost was well below what I'd been told by others who'd had their windows repaired elsewhere. They stay busy and I can see why. They are good. I can see out of my windows! A whole new world is out there. Unbelievable, too, how clear they are and RV Fog Dr. places a two-year warranty on their work!

"Now the coach is in San Antonio to have the slide motor replaced as well as the board on the new Norcold refrigerator replaced because it won't switch from electric to gas on auto.

"Isn't owning an RV fun?" ❖



Mark Polk

RV Education 101

Polk's seven-step RV emergency weather plan

Motor homes are terrific, but they are not safe in severe weather such as thunderstorms, high winds, tornadoes or hurricanes. And when you travel several hundred miles a day, the weather can change quickly and frequently.

At home, newspapers, radio, television and the Internet keep you up to date on the weather forecasts. In the motor home, you don't always know what the weather will be at your destination or where you might be spending the night. Severe weather can occur without much warning, and if you're caught in it, it can be disastrous.

RVers should have an emergency weather plan in the event of a severe storm. Let's take a look at my seven-step RV emergency weather plan.

1. Access weather information and alerts

With today's mobile devices, it's easy to get apps for current weather information or severe weather alerts. This works especially well when you are traveling in your motor home.

For those who don't have a smartphone, or for times when you don't have a strong signal, I suggest purchasing a weather radio receiver.

Receivers are available at most retail stores that sell electronic equipment. Prices range from \$25 to \$200 depending on the quality of the receiver and its features. It is well worth the investment to know what type of weather to expect when traveling or camping in your RV. At home, you can use the weather radio receiver in your house. For more information on the NOAA Weather Radio, visit www.nws.noaa.gov.

2. Monitor weather information and alerts

When you arrive at the campground, tune the receiver to a local channel that broadcasts continuous weather information directly from a nearby National Weather Service office. Emergency weather watches and warnings are for counties and towns, so always check and know what county or town you are staying in.

If you are using a phone or other device to receive weather alerts, make sure you have a strong signal where you are staying. It's possible to receive phone calls and text messages but not be able to send or receive data. If you cannot receive data, you cannot receive weather alerts.

3. Develop an emergency evacuation plan

When you arrive at a campground, ask at the check-in desk about an emergency plan in case of a severe storm such as a tornado, or a thunderstorm with high winds. If the campground doesn't have a plan, make your own. Locate a structure that is

safer than your RV, such as a bathhouse or the campground office. Always stay on the lowest level possible and away from doors and windows.

4. Brief everybody on the emergency plan

Explain to children how to respond to different disasters and the dangers of severe weather, fires, and other emergencies. Instruct children on emergency exits and on how and when to call 911.

5. Know what your job is during an emergency

Make sure everybody traveling in the RV knows exactly what his or her job is in case of severe weather or other emergencies. Adults need to know how to use a fire extinguisher, but children should never attempt to put a fire out. Make sure everybody knows what to do and where to go in the event of an emergency.

6. Have an emergency supply kit

Your emergency kit should be prepared and easily accessible. Some items to consider adding to the kit: flashlights, batteries, blankets, bottled water, rain ponchos, first-aid kit, pet supplies, portable weather radio, manual can opener, non-perishable packaged

or canned food, prescription and non-prescription drugs, and any special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

7. Get educated on emergency preparedness

Educate yourself on how to prepare and react to different types of severe weather you might encounter when you are camping in your RV. To learn more about emergency weather preparedness, visit www.nws.noaa.gov.

Remember, RVs are not safe in severe weather. Learn about the different types of weather hazards, get a weather radio if you don't have one, create a plan with your family, and practice and maintain the plan.

Now go RVing and have fun. ❖

© 2012, Mark Polk. Reprinted with permission. RV expert Mark Polk owns [RV Education 101](#), a North Carolina-based company that produces and sells educational videos, DVDs and ebooks on how to use RVs. Mark has more than 30 years of experience in RV maintenance. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1996 as a Chief Warrant Officer Three, specializing in wheeled and track vehicle fleet maintenance operations. He and his wife, Dawn, started [RV Education 101](#) in 1999. They travel with their two boys in a 35-foot Class A motor home.



Check out the article on the next page - it's how to make a survival ditch bag!

How to create a survival ditch bag

You have been on the road in your RV many times during the years. Luckily, things have always gone right and no major emergency has ensued. But what if you were to get caught in a sudden emergency situation, such as a fire, and had to abandon the RV immediately? Are you prepared for such an eventuality? Do you have a few basic items necessary for survival ready at your hands? You should consider a survival ditch bag, just in case.

Disasters unfortunately do not announce themselves and have a way of sneaking up on us when we least expect them. As an RVer, the most common risks you may face are emergency breakdowns. However, sometimes worse things can happen, like your RV catches fire. When your vehicle is on fire, you have barely any time to get yourself out of there, much less gather a few important things – important documents that, if left behind, will prove quite a headache in the months following the disaster. The good news, however, is that if you have a survival ditch bag prepared and at the ready, these important documents and items can be saved, even when you literally have to abandon your RV.

What is a survival ditch bag? A ditch bag is an essential component on a ship. It is a waterproof, floating bag that contains crucial survival items that boaters must take with them when they jump off a ship in case of emergency. We suggest every RVer arm themselves with a survival ditch bag and know where it is stored at all times.

It should contain the few vital things you need in an emergency situation. Some items we suggest you store in it are:

- ✘ Copies of your insurance policy
- ✘ Copies of your driver's license
- ✘ Copies of car/RV keys
- ✘ Energy bars
- ✘ Water
- ✘ LED Flashlight
- ✘ Extra cash
- ✘ Cell phone with emergency numbers fed in
- ✘ Ponchos
- ✘ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ✘ Small first aid kit
- ✘ Something that can be used as a signal mirror, such as a CD

Keeping a ditch bag accessible is key. You should put it in a place that's easy to grab on your way out of the RV during an emergency. Think close to doors, and not in the back bedroom, and make sure it's not in a towed vehicle, but rather with you. The bag should be small, compact and bright so that it's hard to miss. You can grab one at any mariner's store or create your own.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It is better to err on the side of caution, than to pick up the pieces after an emergency has struck. ❖



CampingRoadTrip.com

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Mike Sokol

No~Shock~Zone™

Understanding and preventing RV electrical damage, part eight GFCI theory

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.

GFCI?

No, it's not the name of an insurance company or a European sports car. GFCI is an abbreviation for ground fault circuit interrupter or G-F-C-I. They've been required in many localities for electrical outlets located near sinks or the outside of your house for the last 10 years or more. The two types of GFCIs you'll encounter are either built into the power outlet itself (left in the



GFCI Outlet

NoShockZone.org



GFCI Breaker

illustration) or inside the circuit breaker at the power panel (right in the illustration). Both do exactly the same thing: they watch for electricity that's going someplace it shouldn't in an electrical **circuit** by way of a **fault** to **ground** and then **interrupt** the flow by tripping the circuit breaker. Rearrange the letters and you get G-F-C-I for ground fault circuit interrupter. That's how the name is derived.

Why do we need a GFCI?

Well, if you've been reading along from part one of this series, you'll know that your heart muscle is very sensitive to electrical shock. While it takes around 8/10ths of an amp (800 milliamperes) of current to power a 100-watt light bulb, it takes less than one percent of that same current (5 milliamperes) to send your heart into fibrillation, causing death by electrocution. That's why the NEC (National Electrical Code) now requires a special type of circuit breaker for damp locations that can tell the difference between the normal currents feeding an electrical appliance and the currents accidentally flowing through you to ground. And while a GFCI sometimes trips unexpectedly, it's really there to save your life and the life of your appliances and other electrical components.

Continued on next page...

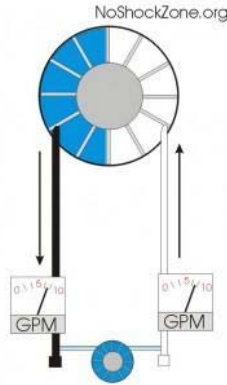
No~Shock~Zone, continued

How does a GFCI work?

It's a pretty ingenious system that uses a small current transformer to detect an imbalanced current flow, so let's use our water pump analogy to review the typical current path in a standard electrical circuit.

As you can see from the illustration, we have our pump and turbine system again. And let's imagine the pump at the top is pushing 7 gallons per minute (GPM) of water current around in a circle that our little turbine at the bottom is happily using to spin and do some work.

I've added flow meters at the bottom left and right of the illustration so we can keep track of these currents. Now, since our pipes have no leaks, the current going out of the pump from the black pipe will exactly equal the return current coming back in the white pipe. And this will be an exact balance, since no water is lost in this closed loop. That is, if 7.000 GPM (gallons per minute) of water are flowing out of the black pipe, then 7.000 GPM will be returning to the pump via the white pipe. There are no water losses in this perfect system.

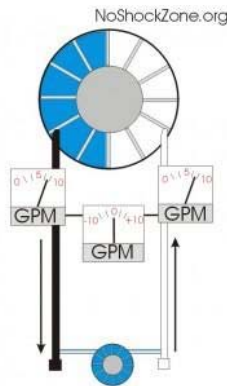


Keeping in balance

Let's add an extra meter in this system so we can keep track of the water flow a little easier. Notice there's now a center meter that will show you the difference in flow between the other two meters. If the left and right meters show exactly the same water flow, the center meter will show zero GPM of flow by centering its needle.

This is exactly what should happen in an electrical circuit that's working properly. That is, if a light bulb has exactly 1 amp of current flowing out from the black (hot) wire, then exactly 1 amp of current should be flowing back in the white (neutral) wire. And an electric griddle that has 10 amps of current flowing out the black wire should have exactly 10 amps of current flowing back in the white wire.

If there's nothing wrong in the light bulb or griddle circuit, this electrical current balance will be pretty close to perfect, out to at least three decimal places. That is, 10.000 amps of current flow going out will equal 10.000 amps of current flow coming back in.



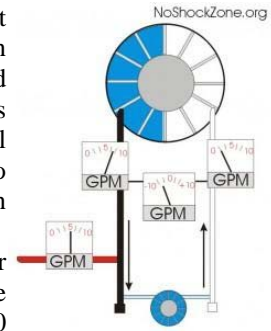
Out of balance

Now I've added a leak in the black outgoing pipe via the red pipe sticking out to the left. You can see from the red pipe's meter that 5 GPM of water is flowing out onto the ground. And since only 7 GPM of water is coming out of the black pipe on the pump, there can be only 2 GPM of water returning into the white pipe on the right.

Those 5 GPM of imbalance show up in our center balance

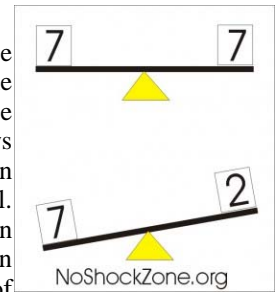
meter, which alerts us to the fact that there's a leak somewhere in the system. Now, we really would like to know about small leaks as well, so that center meter will tell us about an imbalance down to very small drips, say less than 1/1000 of a GPM.

The same is true of our electrical circuit where we're interested in currents in the 1/1000 of an ampere range (1 mA or 1 milliamper). That's because just a few milliamperes of misdirected current flow is close to the danger level for stopping your heart.



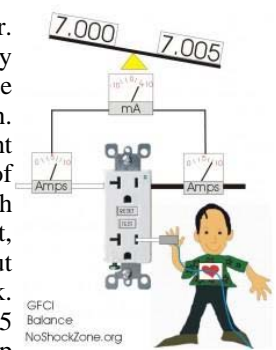
Teeter-totter

In an electrical system, a similar type of detector is used at the center of the circuit which is acting like a balance beam. So if 7 amps of current shows up on both sides of the balance, then the beam will be exactly level. However, put 7 amps of current on the left side and 2 amps of current on the right side, and that 5 amps of imbalance will tip the scales, just like the teeter-totter ride you took with your dad when you were maybe 50 years younger and a 150 pounds lighter. In our GFCI circuit this is a much more sensitive balance beam that only needs 5 mA (5 milliamperes or 0.005 amps) of current imbalance to tip over rather than the 5 GPM we've shown in the water pump illustration. The reason for needing this much sensitivity is that our hearts can go into fibrillation from just 5 mA of AC current flow, so we would like to detect and stop that flow before it stops your heart.



Putting it all together

So here's where it all comes together. Notice that our guy is unwisely touching a hot wire with a hand while his foot is in contact with the earth. And while the electrical outlet might have been supplying 7.000 amps of outgoing current to an appliance with exactly 7.000 amps of return current, there are now 7.005 amps going out and only 7.000 amps coming back. Those extra 0.005 amps of current (5 milliamperes) are taking a side trip from his hand to his foot via the heart. And the current balance circuit inside the GFCI is sensitive enough to recognize that imbalance and trip the circuit open with as little as 5 or 6 milliamperes of current flowing someplace it shouldn't be going.



The click you hear when a GFCI trips is its spring loaded contact opening up and interrupting the current flow in the circuit before it causes electrocution. That's the entire GFCI's reason for existence; to save you from electrocution and keep your RV's electrical system safe from damage. Pretty cool, eh?

Continued on next page...

No~Shock~Zone, continued

Also note that the GFCI doesn't really need a direct ground connection via the ground wire to do its job. Yes, one is required to properly "earth" the entire circuit, but the current balancing act is only between the black and white wires going to the outlet. If the current flow in the white wire exactly matches the current flow in the black wire to within 5 mA (milliamperes), the circuit stays activated. If the current flow is unmatched by any more than 5 mA, say by someone touching a live wire and the earth at the same time, then the trigger circuit inside trips a little switch and the current flow is stopped. It's that simple.

All this means you should install GFCI breakers where required, and don't remove or bypass them if there's false "nuisance" tripping. That so-called false tripping hints there's something else wrong in your RV electrical system that's leaking out current to someplace it doesn't belong. And fixing that electrical leak is important since, if you get your body in the middle of the current leak, it can shock or even electrocute you.

Future shock

Part nine of this series will cover why false GFCI tripping occurs and how to troubleshoot for it, so watch for the October 2012 edition of this newsletter. See you then.

Feedback

After you've read this article, take a trip over to www.noshockzone.org and send us your comments and suggestions. We'd love to know how we're doing with this important project. ❖

© 2010, Mike Sokol. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission. Mike 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.

Regions and chapters report to the membership



Region vice prez
John Bujnovsky

Southwest region

We still have two chapters in the southwest region. Both chapters, the D'Zonas and the Desert Rats, have had a couple of rallies this year. Because of the heat in the summer in Arizona and Nevada, there won't be much happening for the next few months.

Both chapters are busy working on the Tucson national rally, *Discovery of the Saguaros*, which will be a great rally. Things are coming together, so mark your calendar for the week of October 8, 2012 to be at Lazydays in Tucson. There will be plenty to do, good food, golf, tours, and most of all, renewing friendships from the past rallies. Registration is open; see you all there. ❖



Chapter prez
Gary Velasquez

Desert Rats

The Desert Rats chapter took the opportunity to hold its second rally of 2012 at Lazydays RV campground in Tucson, Ariz., in March, in conjunction with the Fleetwood Motorhome Association rally. We had four coaches attend and this gave us, and more specifically, our past president and current DOAI southwest region vice president, **John Bujnovsky**, a.k.a., Nevada John, the opportunity to meet with the Lazydays staff and begin laying the groundwork for the upcoming DOAI national rally set for October 8-14 at Lazydays.

John was able to enlist the help of **Nina Soltwedel** for the rally's registration duties, and **MaryAnn Crowell** for recruitment of the vendors and scheduling of the seminars. The D'Zonas chapter president, **Mike Scott** and wife, **Judy**, also came on board to help organize rally activities such as golf and

other things.

While a lot of business was discussed, we did find time to attend a few seminars, play some golf with Mike and Judy, and we were able to take a day trip to visit the old western town of Tombstone, a trip I would recommend to anyone attending the October rally.

As the Desert Rats are helping to stage the October rally, our third rally for 2012 will again be held in conjunction with the national rally, *Discovery of the Saguaros*. Hope to see many of you there. Happy travels. ❖



Region vice prez
John Ricciardi

Southeast region

The southeast region has been very active this spring, with all of the chapters having very successful rallies. There were rallies in Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina. It's great to see everyone enjoying themselves.

The region is also actively working on the 2013 national DOAI rally and has narrowed the location to either Alabama, South Carolina, or Virginia. There are fantastic sites in these areas and we are trying to get the most for your rally fee. We should have everything finalized by this year's national in Tucson.

On a personal note, **Alice** and I thank all of you for your prayers during Alice's bout with lymphoma. She has completed her chemotherapy treatments and she is waiting for PET scan results. The doctor has indicated the last CAT scan results were very good and just wants the PET scan results before he places Alice on a two-year maintenance program.

Although our prayers were answered for Alice, we need prayers for another of our southeast region family, **Marie Money**. Her cancer has returned, so, please keep her in your prayers. Hope to see you in Tucson. ❖

Region and chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez
Charlie Harvell

Blue Ridge Discoverys

We just completed our annual spring rally at the Lakewood camping resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C. We had 21 Discoverys at the rally. Our hosts, **Hank and Eileen Haden, Pat and Sue Stanton and Richard and Marie Money** put on a great rally.

While at the rally, we picked up **Ron and Kristen Burkat** as new members. BRD members **George and Pat Beir** and **Robert and Mary Clark** attended their first rally. The golf winners were **Bill Humphrey, Glenn Camp** and **Charlie Harvell**. Again, **Bob Angus** presented the awards.

Our next rally will be this fall at the Creekwood Farm RV park in Waynesville, N.C. beginning September 19. Waynesville is located about 20 miles northwest of Asheville. The hosts are putting the agenda together and it should be a great rally. During the rally, elections for new officers will be held. **Frank Cason** is the chairman for the elections and has talked with several members about serving on the board. ❖



Chapter prez
Robert Johnson

Dixie Travelers

The past year has taken a toll on the Dixie Travelers chapter because of deaths and serious illness of several members. Our spring meeting was canceled, and our fall meeting is pending.

We extend our condolences to **Alice Stanley** on the death of her husband, **Kenneth**, on May 20. ❖

Report submitted by Martha Wilson



Chapter prez
Dick Tracy

Mason-Dixon Discoverys

Following a great showing of 21 coaches at the southeast region rally at Lazydays in Seffner, Fla., in January, the Mason-Dixons gathered in April at the Rutledge Lake RV park in Fletcher, N.C. for another great rally. We had six Discoverys there from our chapter and when we arrived we found two more Discoverys parked right near our rigs!

One couple is already a member of DOAI from Michigan, but the other is now a prospective member! We are all expecting to see their application for DOAI and the Mason-Dixon chapter membership very soon. They joined us for meals and games and would be a great addition to our group.

Those in attendance included **Alice and John Ricciardi, Martha and Tom Hundley, Elizabeth and Bob Deal, Helen and Sonny Blackwell, Alan Ritchie and Barbara Brady, Pat and Dick Tracy**. Also **BT and Ellen Simpson** were there as SOBs. While the weather stayed a bit cool, the facilities were great and the food was tremendous with too much to eat at all of our breakfasts and potlucks. Adding to that, we all went out to a local restaurant, the Moose Café, where the order of the day was again too much great food on everyone's plate. My side of fries was large enough to feed everyone! The golf course was challenging but also very wet, due to recent heavy rains, but everyone had a good time.



No rally would be complete without a great group photo. Say "cheese"!

Our second rally, at Lake Norman Motor Coach resort in Sherrill's Ford, N.C. was June 6–10. This article has to be written before it happened, but we will have a good turn out once again. We are planning two more chapter rallies. The third rally will be in Gettysburg, Pa., in August, and our fourth rally in Myrtle Beach, S.C. in October. ❖



Region vice prez
Jay Keneson

South central region

The south central area is experiencing a really great spring, and it looks like the summer should turn out just as good. Everyone here has had great weather to travel and attend local chapter rallies.

I am sure that you have noted the drop in fuel prices over the last month or so. If the people who are supposed to know are correct, it will hopefully continue for several more months. If that is true, if you haven't planned to attend the national rally in Tucson, maybe now is the time to put "October in Tucson" on your calendar! The camping is outstanding and the facilities provide a great place to hold a rally. The things to do in the area offer something for everyone. A number of us visited there in March and had a great time. If you have never been to the area or just want to revisit, this is your chance. We hope that everyone, especially those in our south central area, will try and attend.

Now more exciting travel news: the Texas Disco Road Runners chapter is planning a rally following the national and you are invited! **Don and MaryAnn Crowell** are planning a rolling rally, leaving from Tucson after the national, and progressing back to Texas. There will be three travel days of about 300 miles each, and stops along the way, with great scenery and chances to visit historic sites. After a week on the road, you will end up in Mission, Tex., for a "Rally in the Valley" or "Discovery with Friends." A great park has been selected, and it will include catered meals and it will take place during Mission's annual butterfly festival. There are many things to do and see in the area.

If you do not wish to take part in the rolling rally, but just attend the one in Mission, come on down. If you have a friend who hasn't purchased a Discovery, that's OK! Bring them

Continued on next page...

Region and chapter reports, continued

along and maybe they will have so much fun, they will buy one and join us full time. All are welcome! Please contact Don and MaryAnn for more information.

Hope to see all of you down the road. ❖



Chapter prez
Carol Sturm

Texas Disco Road Runners

So far this year, we have had two rallies. The first in February was in Rockport, Tex. We enjoyed good seafood and an opportunity to see whooping cranes which winter at the Aransas national wildlife refuge.

Our second rally was in May in Carthage, Tex. We enjoyed learning about the vibrant farming, mining and oil drilling history of the area. There is a restored plantation, Monti Verde, that is a must see if you are ever in that area. It is privately owned, so appointments must be made in advance. It is well worth the visit.

Our next outing will be to the national rally in Tucson and then onto a rolling rally from Tucson to Mission, Tex. There will be stops in Deming, N. M., Alpine, Tex., and Bracketville, Tex. Our rally master has many interesting activities planned at each stop. We invite all of you to join us on a fun-filled journey through Texas. If you are interested in attending the rolling rally, you can contact the rally master, **Don Crowell**. Please read **Jay Keneson's** south central region report for more information about the rolling rally.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Tuscon. Safe travels to all. ❖



Chapter prez
Claire Weber

Discovery Texans

Since the last DOAI newsletter, the Discovery Texans had yet another successful rally, March 28-April 1 at Miller Creek RV resort, south of Johnson City, Tex. Our first night coincided with the park's Wednesday night dinner. They furnished pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, apple pie, and ice cream at a very reasonable price. Yum! We enjoyed the park management and facilities so well that another Miller Creek rally is scheduled for 2013.

The "Hill Country" benefitted from highly welcome rains and the bluebonnets were spectacular. Many of our members made car trips through the surrounding areas, and to Fredericksburg in particular, for sightseeing and shopping. Our rally hosts outdid themselves providing us with scrumptious meals. Our hosts for this rally were **Pete and Martha Palasota** and **Brad and Rose Mudgett**. Rose added to the ambiance ... she hand-made their chef hats.

We held our third rally for 2012 in New Braunfels, Tex., at the Lazy L&L campground, May 16-19. We always have a good time at our rallies whether they include tours, dancing, or just games and fellowship with old and new friends.

In October, many of us will be attending the national rally in Tucson, Ariz. The Discovery Texans are usually well represented. November 7-11, we'll be at the Lake Conroe KOA



The Discovery Texans make a might fine group of RVers!

resort in Montgomery, Tex. Hope to see y'all in the near future. Safe travels everyone. ❖

Report submitted by Elaine Holley



Chapter prez
Jerald Call

Midwest Discoverers

Hello from northeast Indiana! The Midwest Discoverers had our spring rally in Dundee, Ohio, in the heart of Amish country. We had great food and entertainment. **Bob and Linda Halle**, along with **Dick and Sylvia Homes**, were the wagon masters for this rally. This is what makes the Midwest D's such a great club – these people did a wonderful job, so all the rest could enjoy our time at the rally.

Thanks, guys and gals!

Midwest's next rally will be in Ottawa, Canada, September 16-20, 2012. **Joan and Maurice Fairweather** will be the wagon masters for this rally. We will gather at the Ottawa municipal campground, 411 Corkstown Road, Nepean, Ontario, Canada. This will be the first time we have held a rally outside the U.S., and we are all looking forward to a great rally. Cut-off date for reservations is August 15, so get your reservations in now. For more information, please email Maurice and Joan at narovers@gmail.com or **Cindy Merkt** at rcm23710@yahoo.com. We hope to see all of you in Nepean in September. ❖

Northwest region



Region vice prez
Bob Williams

The 2012 national rally will be held in Tucson, Ariz., October 8-14 at Lazydays RV Campground (formerly Beaudry RV). We attended Fleetwood and Freightliner rallies there in March and were impressed with their campground and other facilities to host a rally.

Tucson is around 550 miles from St George, Utah, which makes it much closer than most of the other national rallies. I hope that everyone from the northwest region will put this rally on their schedule and plan to attend. See you in Tucson come October. ❖

Region and chapter reports, continued

Ozarks Discovery



Chapter prez
Bruce Plumb

We held our organization meeting April 14 in Branson, Mo. Present were **Harry and Loretta Spencer, Bruce and Nancy Plumb, David Tillery, Chris and Kathy Hunt, Wesley and Altha Toomay, Rodger and Paula Corfield, and Ricky and Debbie Keen**, all of whom became charter members. Honored guests were **John and Felesa Baker**. Elected officers are Bruce Plumb, president; Wesley Toomay, vice president; Paula Corfield, secretary; Ricky Keen, treasurer; and Harry Spencer, rally master.

We held our first rally in Branson May 11-13 at Treasure Lake campground. A report of that rally will be in the next issue of *Discovery Express*. ❖



Back row, l to r: Rodger Corfield, Bruce Plumb, Wesley Toomay, David Tillery (Beth unable to attend); Middle row, l to r: Paula Corfield, Nancy Plumb, Altha Toomay, Debbie Keen, Ricky Keen; Front row, l to r: Chris Hunt, Kathy Hunt, Loretta Spencer, Harry Spencer



DOAI webmaster
Bob Cook

Computer corner

Most RVers use laptops for their computing needs. But tablets are increasingly replacing laptops in the professional and personal fields. Why? Mainly because they are lighter, more secure, and easier to use. Is a tablet a viable alternative for you?

Tablets have taken the world by storm ever since Apple introduced the first iPad two years ago. These devices are different than the prior “tablets” that were really Windows laptop computers with a touch screen and a clunky interface.

The current generation of tablets is much more compact and lighter, making them easily portable. They offer instant-on and are very user friendly – something that cannot be said about laptops. Almost all tablets are either based on Google’s Android or Apple’s iOS operating system. Don’t get concerned; I’m not going to get all geeky. You just need to know that there is a choice of two tablet flavors. But wait! Microsoft and familiar-name PC vendors will be introducing Windows-based tablets by late 2012. More on that later.

I think that a tablet is an excellent choice and can easily meet the needs of most people. I hardly bother with my laptop except for managing the DOAI website and accompanying map POI database. I use an external Bluetooth keyboard (or voice dictation) since the on-screen (a.k.a. virtual) keyboard is not conducive to extended typing sessions. My parents are deathly afraid of a computer, but



Apple iPad

they can easily use my iPad. When I am using my laptop, my iPad serves as a second monitor – very handy and saves space and weight compared to a second desktop monitor. Software (on the tablet they are called “Apps”) is also very inexpensive.

Apple’s equivalent to MS Office Word/Excel/PowerPoint is only \$30 (or \$10 each if you don’t need all three). And, there are many free or much less expensive alternatives available and also some very excellent photo and video editing apps.

Just a little more info on the currently-available tablets: Apple’s iPad is available only in one size – 9.7" screen. There are many vendors that make Android tablets – as small as 3.5" all the way up to a 13" screen. The Apple iPad is a first rate tablet, and there are several first rate Android tablets. But there are also “junk” Android tablets made by vendors you never heard of. You probably are wondering how much a quality tablet will cost. I will only address the quality tablets, so with that in mind, generally \$250 - \$600 plus the cost of accessories, such as a carrying case and Bluetooth keyboard.

Having both Apple and Android devices, I usually recommend the Apple iPad for the following reasons: First, there are over 200,000 apps available for the iPad, and finding these apps in the Apple App store is very easy.



Asus Eee tablet w/Android OS

Apple and Google have an app store for both their phone and tablet devices, but only Apple allows you to search for apps that have been optimized to run on the iPad. Not so in the Google App store. In addition, due to the many different screen sizes available on Android tablets, many of the apps look terrible on a tablet of any given screen size. However, if there are suitable apps available for your chosen Android tablet, Android tablets generally have more features and cost less than the iPad. *Continued on next page...*

Computer corner, continued

A closer look

Let's look at those features and costs in more detail. I will be discussing current options for the iPad and 10" Android tablets as of late spring 2012:

- ★ The iPad and Android tablets are available in WiFi only or WiFi+3G/LTE models, the latter meaning that you can buy a monthly data plan from the cellular carrier of your choice (generally \$20-\$30/month). Most people can easily get by with the WiFi model since many campgrounds, restaurants, etc., have free WiFi. I have several smartphones that also allow me to connect my iPad to the Internet, so my tablets are WiFi only. Adding the cellular data capability also increases the basic price of a tablet from \$100-\$130.
- ★ Tablets can also be great navigation devices. If you don't have a cell connection, you will need a navigation app that stores the map data on your tablet. Note that most Android tablets have a GPS receiver built in. The Apple iPad does not have a GPS receiver unless you spend the extra \$130 for the version with the cellular access. However, you can buy a special stand-alone Bluetooth GPS receiver for about \$90. Already have a Bluetooth GPS, or a smartphone with Bluetooth and GPS? In all probability, it won't work with the iPad, since Apple crippled the Bluetooth stack.
- ★ In addition to usually having a built-in GPS receiver, some Android tablets also come equipped with a micro USB port for memory expansion, an HDMI port to connect to your TV to show your pictures or movies, and also the ability to connect to your computer and allow you to use it like an external drive or to connect your digital camera. The iPad has no ability to expand its memory. HDMI (or DVI or VGA) output for video or the ability to connect your digital camera is another \$30 gadget, each.
- ★ There are several limitations of a tablet. Printing a picture or a document can present a challenge. It is easily accomplished if your printer supports ePrint. If not, there are printing apps that will allow you to print, but some of them require a laptop. Also, printing some documents may be a bit convoluted, requiring you to copy the document to another app to print. The other big limitation may be the inability to send things to another app. This is generally less of a consideration with Android compared to the iPad. As an example, I do a lot of research on my iPad and I need the ability to easily clip notes and images from websites and send them to Evernote, which is an app I use to store all this info – this is easily done in Android.
- ★ There is a good way to get a recent top-notch tablet on a

budget. For Android, there are several really good refurbished tablets for around \$275. For Apple, you can buy a refurbished iPad 2, last generation but still a great tablet, for \$320. However, you usually can't return a refurbished tablet if you don't like it. Best Buy allows you 30 days to determine if your new gadget is right for you. Return it in as-new condition for a full refund, no restocking fees, if you are not happy.

- ★ Many tablet users are eager to "escape" from the security issues of PC's. But, is that really true? For the most part, yes, with a couple caveats. Apple tests all the apps for the iPad to ensure they don't contain malware (although very rarely one may slip through). Currently, Google does not test any of the apps on their store, but Google (and Apple) have the ability to remotely delete a bad app from your tablet. Also, you are still just as vulnerable to phishing and hijacking due to weak passwords, no matter what type of computing device you are using.

Wait-wait! There's more!

As mentioned in the beginning, there will be a new kid on the block soon – Windows 8 tablets. What is that? Windows 8 is the next version of Windows, and it is the first version of Windows that will operate natively on tablets. (Windows 8 will also work on your laptop or desktop, even if it does not have a touch screen.) These tablets will be available in two versions: One version will be a full-fledged tablet computer that uses Windows 8 and is able to run any Windows program that can run on XP, Vista or Windows 7, in addition to the new Windows 8 Metro apps. The other tablet version runs Windows 8 RT and only runs new Windows 8 Metro apps that are tested by Microsoft and only available through them. Obviously, the Windows 8 RT tablet will be more secure, but you are still vulnerable to phishing attacks and hijacking due to weak passwords. As of now, it is unknown what screen sizes will be available, other than 10" and above.

In closing

Is a tablet right for you? Should you wait for a Windows tablet? Or, maybe an Ultrabook (\$700 and up) or a MacBook Air (\$1,000 and up) will better suit your needs? Both are very lightweight and compact and excellent choices. Only you can make this decision. Personally, I will probably sell my iPad and get a Windows 8 (not RT) tablet when they come out. But, that is only because I need to manage the DOAI website and the map database. If it wasn't for these responsibilities, I would just keep my iPad. Questions? Contact me at bobandmary@escapees.com. ❖

Index to newsletter articles

Did you know that all major articles in this newsletter, from the very first issue in 1999, are listed in one place for easy access? Did you know that this index is always available to you online?

Several years ago, a spreadsheet index was created that includes all pertinent articles published in *Discovery Express*.

The index is updated after each issue, and it is available to you 24/7 at www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp.

This index is just one example of the many benefits you can enjoy as a member of DOAI. ❖



C'mon, baby, light my (eco-friendly) fire!

Imagine you're in the following situation: You return to your campsite from a day of hiking as the daylight is dwindling, everybody is hungry and tired, and the temperature is dropping as night approaches. Being the wise outdoorsman (or woman) that you are, you know priority number one is to get a fire going. Here's how to build a roaring campfire that's perfect for cooking, and is a friend to the environment, too.

First things first: You need a clear space for your campfire. A five-by-five swath of ground with no overhanging foliage should be sufficient. Dig a small pit if you can, and set up a ring of large stones to contain your fire. Fetch a bucket of water and keep it handy in case of an emergency. You won't want to have to bother about this after you accidentally light your eyebrows on fire.

Seeing as there are plenty of trees around, wood is certainly not in short supply, right? Wrong. Not just any wood will do. Green leaves and branches from live trees contain too much moisture, which means you'll get white smoke in your face while you're heating up the beanie-weenies, and you'll smell all night. Collect dry, dead wood off the ground. Alternatively, if you are at an RV park or campground, buy a bundle of firewood, perfect for crispy dry burning. By doing this, you're preserving the campsite for future campers. Furthermore, by using local wood, you will not risk introducing strange insects into a fragile, foreign ecosystem.

You'll need tinder, kindling, and fuel. Tinder can be crispy, brown leaves, paper-thin strips of bark, wood shavings, brittle twigs, or even lint from your pocket. The idea is to get materials that will light easily. Loosely pile a large handful of tinder in the center of your fire pit.

Next, you need small sticks to prop up over the tinder like a teepee. Gather as much as you can carry in both hands. Quality kindling is generally no thicker than a pencil or your thumb, and it will snap cleanly when you bend it. If it doesn't, set it aside.

Finally, pile up fuel of varying thicknesses. Fallen branches and dry logs in your firewood bundle are sufficient.



Again, these should break easily under your feet or across your knee. Grow your fire with small, wrist-thick branches that will burn easily without snuffing out your flame. As the fire heats up, you can use larger pieces of wood, but exercise some patience until the blaze is really roaring.

Sure there's more to building a warm, long-burning fire than you might expect. A well-built, eco-friendly fire requires planning, focus, and persistence. But a campfire is comfort. Without it, your dinner will be raw, your clothes wet, and your body cold. Resist the urge to take shortcuts when igniting your campfire. When possible, eat and cook with lightweight reusable dishes. This will cut down on waste and the temptation to burn your trash. Though they are flammable, items such as plastic ware, Styrofoam products, and chemicals release toxins into the environment and may contaminate any food you plan to cook. We suggest you go *au naturale*.

When you are ready to leave, make sure your fire has died out. Pour water over the ashes and smother them with dirt. Soak the ring of stones, if you had one. Finally, leave any unused wood behind, spreading it out to leave the area as neat as you found it.

Top eco-friendly campfire tips

- * Use local wood – collect or buy locally, never transport wood
- * Prepare your space – contain the fire, check for low hanging branches
- * Avoid white smoke – stick to dry wood, not fresh greenery
- * Don't burn plastics – resist the temptation to burn your trash, including paper with plastic coating
- * Make sure your fire is out – when you are finished, pour water over your ashes



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DOAI free-to-members classified advertising

More information about Discoverys for sale (including photos) may be found at www.discoveryowners.com/classifieds.htm

Discoverys FOR SALE

2000 37G: 38k mi, clean, no pets/no smoke, fully equipped, W/D, one owner. Chic Rideout; 352.598.6248 **\$39,500**

2002 37U: 54k mi, clean, with Roadmaster Blackhawk tow package. Sam Hatcher; 850.387.0105; samhatcher@cs.com **\$61,500**

2002 38P: Low miles, mint condition, always garaged. Ray Martin; 513.777.7507; franraymartin@cinci.rr.com **\$70,000**

2003 38U: 47k mi, excellent condition, new paint/repairs six new Michelin tires. Tom Jones; 918.691.5339; tajfish@hotmail.com **\$69,500**

2003 39L: 48k mi, new tires/batteries; full tile throughout. Sandy Fields; 830.632.9326; thomfiel@earthlink.net **\$80,000 OBO**

2003 39S: 23k mi, new Toyo tires, new batteries, tow system. Paul Haubner; 859.620.9927; chaubner@zoomtown.com **\$79,500**

2003 39S: 69k mi, no smoke/pets, new tires at 60k mi, always garaged. Terry Blocker; 484.695.0873; tbrv@ptd.net **\$69,900**

2004 39S: 43k mi, always garaged, no pets/smoke, excellent condition, front bra. Max Beidler; 731.431.3126; maxbeidler@charter.net **\$89,999**

2005 38U: 32k mi, renovated throughout, HD TVs, upgraded sofa/recliner. Dave Price; 850.591.4246; hoosierdaveprice@yahoo.com **\$69,900**

2005 39L: 55k mi, new tires/batteries, no smoke/kids. Sue Garten; 847.366.8888; sgarten@netscape.net **\$100,000**

2006 39S: 43k mi, new tires, new batteries, DW, WD, loaded and excellent condition. Bill Burns; 417.827.3962; bill.burns@sbcglobal.net **\$124,995**

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

2008 40X: 19k mi, front kitchen, LCD-TV, many options. Gary Hayes; 605.321.0237; garyhys@yahoo.com **\$148,000**

RV-related items FOR SALE

Rear wheel cover: 2001 D, 47¾" wide, 31⅝" high. Robert Wilkins; 419.753.2502; nkvet@nktelco.net **\$250 + shpg**

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

Washer/Dryer: Bendix model WDS1043M, never used. Henry Casey; 863.644.8503; hcasey@juno.com **\$400**

RV-related items WANTED

Fold-Out Hide-a-Bed: Light tan leather for 2003 D. Jamie McCann; 559.469.3096; mccannik@wildblue.net

DOAI thanks our membership sponsors

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

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

Discovery Owners Association
and Discovery dealers ...



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DOAI 2012 National Rally Discovery of the Saguaros

October 8 through October 13, 2012 (Depart October 14)
 Lazydays RV Campground, 5150 S Country Club Rd., Tucson, Arizona
 Latitude: 32.158864 — Longitude: -110.923433

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 affiliation _____
 Need handicap parking? (Yes or No) _____ First national rally? (Yes or No) _____
 Guest/s name, city, state _____

REGISTRATION:

\$315.00 per coach with two adults (October 8 through 13) \$ _____
\$235.00 per coach with one adult (October 8 through 13) \$ _____
\$80.00 each additional person/child (October 8 through 13) × _____ person/s = \$ _____
\$15.14 pre-rally (up to three nights beginning October 5) × _____ night/s = \$ _____
 Arrival date _____ *Check-in time 1 p.m.*
\$15.14 post-rally (up to three nights beginning October 14) × _____ night/s = \$ _____
 Departure date _____ *Check-out time 11 a.m.*
\$20.00 DOAI membership (if not already a DOAI member) \$ _____

OPTIONAL TOURS AND GOLF:

Tuesday, October 9, Tour 1 – **Kartchner Caverns State Park** \$85.00 × _____ person/s = . . . \$ _____
 Tuesday, October 9 – **Golf Tournament** (includes golf cart) \$60.00 × _____ person/s = . . . \$ _____
 Wednesday, October 10, Tour 2 – **Tombstone, Arizona** \$75.00 × _____ person/s = . . . \$ _____

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

MAIL CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Nina Soltwedel, Registrar, 4736 Harwich St, Boulder CO 80301-4217

Questions? Contact Nina – 303.530.0775 (H); 303.570.2736 (C); nina.soltwedel@gmail.com

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Full refund cancellation may be made up to Sept. 21, 2012 – **AFTER SEPTEMBER 21 – NO REFUND**

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

You will receive a confirmation of your registration via email from Registrar and a packet of important parking information from Lazydays Tucson.

Snapshots from the DOAI photo album



Top left: **Pete and Martha Palasota, Rose and Brad Mudgett** wearing the chef's hats Rose made. Top right: **Bruce Plumb** leading the organizing meeting of Ozarks Discovery. Bottom left: A view of the lovely campground in Missouri where the new chapter was organized.

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. membership application

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

Membership classifications:

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

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

Questions? Call DOAI Membership Director toll-free 888.594.6818

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

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Partner Name _____

Business Name, if joining as Commercial Member _____

Address _____

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

Home Telephone _____ Cell Telephone _____

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

Discovery Year/Model, if joining as Regular Member _____

Who recommended DOAI membership to you? _____