

Discovery Express



July 2016

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Volume 18, Number 3

“SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVIN’ IS EASY...”*

Fish are jumpin’ and the cotton is high” – and the campgrounds are filling up with travelers. As you roam the highways and byways of this great country, keep an eye out for other Discovery owners and make contact. You will most likely make new friends.

**– from “Porgy and Bess” by George and Ira Gershwin*

Have you planned to hit the road to Bath, New York, for the 2016 national rally in September? The maximum number of coaches that we can accommodate is 70, and we are so very close to that number. If you have yet to register, don’t delay. See the registration form on **page 23**, or register online at www.discoveryowners.com. National Rally Master **MaryAnn Crowell** has exciting new information on **page 3** to add to the lure of our annual gathering. Don’t miss this great annual event!

Quarterly Question contest

Twenty-one members submitted an answer to the April contest. It is hoped more of you will enter this quarter’s contest.

Congratulations to **Paul and Doris Smith!** They are the winners of a year’s free membership in DOAI. Would **you** like a chance to win a year’s membership in DOAI, too? That’s a \$16 value, and all DOAI members are eligible to win! All you have to do is find the correct answer to the question. Full contest details are on **page 6**.

QUARTERLY QUESTION FOR JULY

In what year was America’s first recreational vehicle produced?

- (a) 1898 (b) 1910 (c) 1920 (d) 1925

Contest opens **July 1, 2016**. Entry must be received by the Editor **by 11:59 p.m., August 15, 2016**. Submit via email to doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com, or via USPS (address on page 2). **Do not** submit via [DOAI eGroup](#). One entry per coach. See important details on **page 6**.

More summertime reading...

- ✧ The registration form for the 2017 southeast region rally at Lazydays in Seffner, Fla., next January is on **page 22** and online.
- ✧ Catch up on what’s been happening in the chapters.
- ✧ See the schedule of chapter rallies in the months ahead on **page 9** to which you are invited, then contact the chapter president (listed on **page 10**) for details.
- ✧ Helpful information awaits you from RV experts **Roger Marble, Gary Bunzer, Mark Polk**, plus submissions from DOAIers **Bob Cook, Jim Gravel, Kerry Pinkerton, and Al Welch**.



In this issue...

President’s report	2	The RVers Prayer	6	Membership sponsors	19
Member care report	2	Region and chapter reports	7	DOAI badge order form	19
Nat’l Rally Master’s report	3	Rally opportunities	9	Shopping at amazon.com	19
From Editor’s inbox	4	Helpful contacts for DOAIers	9	The RV doctor is in!	19
Membership Coordinator’s report	4	DOAI officers/chapters, etc.	10	HUD’s proposed rule	20
Editor’s report	5	Barbecue basics	13	RVers’ good neighbor policy	21
Past President’s report	5	Classified ads	13	In store from Fleetwood	21
Exec. Vice President’s report	5	Shade tree repair shop	14	Region rally registration form	22
Quarterly Question contest rules	6	A snake, break, and dead battery	15	National rally registration form	23
An item of interest	6	Your RV refrigerator	16	Photo of the national rally quilt	24
Webmaster’s report	6	RV maintenance tips	17	Membership application	24
		Don’t check your tire pressure	18		



Ron Wacker

President's report

Summer is here and many of us are out traveling in our D's, visiting relatives, friends and seeing the USA. There are so many beautiful sights to see in our land of freedom. Thanks to all our military people, past and present, for their service to our country.

We really need a newsletter editor because this is the last newsletter **Nina** will be publishing. The Discovery Express is a very valuable publication with all the information, including the local chapters' events. I know there must be someone(s) out there who would do a great job, and you just need to step up to the task. Nina is willing to assist with the transition.

This is **your** association, and as your president, I am hoping for **your** participation and support. So, all local chapters be prepared: future national rallies will be coming to your area and your chapter will be invited to host/spearhead these rallies with the assistance of the DOAI Board of Directors. We have put together a handbook, a guide to hosting a major rally. It does a very good job of outlining the various tasks that would be involved. Please be ready to pitch in and host the national rally when it is scheduled in your area.

The 2016 national rally in Bath, N.Y., will be September 19-24 (departing September 25). There are limited sites available; if you are interested in attending, you need to get your reservation in ASAP. This will be a great rally with lots to see and do, great food and entertainment, plus all the nice fellowship. You won't want to miss this rally.

Donna and I wish everyone safe travels and good health. Hope to see you at Bath, or at Lazydays, or at your local rally. Yes, don't be surprised to see me attend your local rally. Thanks for your support. ❖



Nina Soltwedel

Member Care report

After reading my post on the DOAI eGroup in March about **Phil and Dorothy Yovino** and **John Curtis**, member **Lynn Weatherford** wrote: "When we get news of folks entering a new chapter of their lives like this, it's a reminder that we should never take a single day for granted. We had not planned to be full-time RVers until a few years from now. But, on one trip, we met two different people who were full-timing solo because they had recently lost their partner and they wanted to fulfill the dream the two of them had. Both of them said to us, 'Don't wait. If there is any way you can do it now, do it.' And, we did. My husband still works, mostly from the RV, but we take small trips when we can. We have made so many friends that have become family. And, it has brought the two of us closer than I would have ever imagined. My prayers go out to Phil and Dorothy and to John. We count our blessings every day."

This is why DOAI Member Care is important, and why posts are made to the eGroup and listed in this newsletter when your prayers are needed:

- * **John Curtis**, slowly recovering from a stroke that occurred in mid-March
- * **Linda Zilinski**, whose husband, **Louis**, died April 2
- * **Phil Yovino**, whose wife, **Dot**, died May 26
- * **Della Quinn**, whose husband, **Jackie**, died April 20
- * **Pat Tracy**, recovering from knee surgery in April
- * **Donna Wacker**, recovering from a mini-stroke in May and tendonitis

Please remember to let me know, either via email (nina.soltwedel@gmail.com) or phone (303.570.2736) when a member of your family is ill or hospitalized, or if you've had a death in the family. Although the membership of DOAI consists of a large group of people spread across America and Canada, we're a family and we care about you and yours. ❖

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

Discovery Express is a quarterly publication (January, April, July, October). Deadlines for copy are 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 return to the b/w hard copy via USPS, please send an email to the Editor.

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

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DOAI Website
www.discoveryowners.com

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

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



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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?
Find your membership renewal date at

www.discoveryowners.com/login.asp



MaryAnn Crowell

National Rally Master's report

Hi, DOAI Family! Are you ready for a summer season of enjoying your Discovery? I am!

This is my last write-up before our great 2016 national rally. We still have some spaces left, all with full hookup, cable and wifi. Register soon!

Hickory Hill Campground is located at the foot of Keuka Lake, in a location that has loads of things to do. Go to our website – www.discoveryowners.com – and either fill out the registration form online, or print it out and mail with your check to **Nina Soltwedel**, Rally Registrar. You will not want to miss this great rally in the “Heart of the Finger Lakes”.

We come together and we help others

Our food collection is a little different this year: The beneficiary is *Milly's Pantry* – its mission statement is “So Children Won't Go Hungry” (www.millyspantry.org). We will be working on the “Weekend Backpack” program, which provides nutritious and easy-to-prepare food for students in need of meals over the weekend. Last year, they served nearly 500 students in Yates County. At least 50 percent of the children in that county receive free or reduced-priced breakfast and lunches during the week, and are in need of weekend meals.

With individual children in mind, we are looking for items that are non-perishable and can be used for one child for that weekend. Some of the suggested items are:

- ✓ Individual instant oatmeal
- ✓ Nutrition bars
- ✓ Individual cold cereals
- ✓ Small jars of peanut butter, jelly, etc.
- ✓ Cans of tuna fish
- ✓ Pasta meals, such as mac and cheese
- ✓ Individual fruit cups or pudding cups

They also have a summer lunch program for students in need. In 2015, this program served more than 5,000 lunches. Please be generous for Milly's Pantry, *so children won't go hungry*.

Places to go, things to see ... but, wait! There's more!

The Curtiss Museum recently reopened after a five-month, \$1.2 million renovation (www.glenncurtissmuseum.org – phone 607-569-2160). Glenn H. Curtiss was an aviation pioneer who flew his June Bug more than 5,000 feet on July 4, 1908. He is called the “founder of the American aircraft industry.” He was also named “Father of Naval Aviation.” The 60,000-square-foot museum is filled with planes, boats, motorcycles, cars and more. It's just a short drive from our campground – a must see!

The Gaffer District in downtown Corning (www.gafferdistrict.com/) is an historic walking area, great for a fall stroll, replete with many small boutiques, shops, plus restaurants and people watching. The shopping choices run the gamut from typical souvenirs to high end gifts and jewelry.

Your golf outing will be at the Bath Country Club (www.bathcountryclub.net/). This course is nestled in the

scenic hills surrounding Bath, with a challenging 18-hole course. Players: this event will be on Wednesday, September 22. We will have a sign-up at registration, just in case you decide to play after all.

Friday, September 23, will feature our potluck covered dish meal. This is the night of great food in a wondrous variety. Please make sure that your dish is ready to serve; we will use the club kitchen **only** for serving, not cooking. Look for the sign-up sheets at registration.

Our entertainment will include James Warren, who will do some “mingling magic” for us on Wednesday, September 22 (www.warrenmagic.com). On Saturday, September 24, we will be entertained by The Hometown Boys, a great local band.



Checking in and what to bring

Registration will be held all three (3) early days – September 16, 17, 18 – as well as on September 19, the first actual day of the rally. Come early, as we don't want you to miss out on some fantastic discounts for those early days in the Heart of the Finger Lakes. **Note:** If, when you registered, you didn't include any early days, you can still do that up to and including August 15. Contact Rally Registrar Nina Soltwedel for details.

Don't forget to bring your badge holders (first timers will be given theirs at registration). Also bring along rabies certificates for all pets. Sorry, golf carts are **not** allowed at Hickory Hill Campground.

Getting there

Hickory Hill Campground is located in the southern Finger Lakes region of Upstate New York, not far from Rochester (75 miles), Binghamton (100 miles), Buffalo (100 miles), Corning (20 miles), and Elmira (45 miles).

Hickory Hill Campground

7531 County Route 13

Bath NY 14810-7982

GPS: N 42.21915 - W 77.18621

Directions: From I-86 (old Route 17), take Exit 38, straight through two lights. At the third light, turn left onto Route 54 North. At the fork in the road, bear left (County Route 13) and follow for 1.5 miles.

Looking forward

2018 will be a special one for our club: DOAI will be 20 years old! The Board of Directors has voted to change the national rally locations a bit to allow for an anniversary celebration close to where Discovery came into being. Therefore, the national rally schedule for the next three years will be in the following DOAI regions: 2017 - South Central, 2018 - North Central (we hope for the Indiana area), and 2019 - Southwest. As soon as we have confirmed dates and locations, we will publish the information. If you have ideas on places, events, etc., please contact me.

Travel safely, enjoy your D, and remember to **smile**. 😊
I hope to see you in Bath. ❖

From the Editor's Inbox...

A I Welch visited the Fleetwood Service Center in Decatur, Ind., recently and sent in this report: "I thought I'd share a picture of the progress being made on the new Fleetwood factory service visitor center in Decatur. For those who have not visited Decatur, Fleetwood provides free electric hookups on the east side of the service buildings in a lot that holds about 60-80 coaches. It is packed gravel and dirt, which can be dusty at times. Water and dump stations are down the block, on the west side of the buildings.

"A construction site supervisor told me the power poles will be removed and all electric put underground, and the western half of the parking lot will paved before July 4. Presumably, the remainder will be done shortly after the holiday. He further said the parking spaces will be striped diagonally and all will still be back-in. He knew of no plans to bring water or a dump station to this lot (but didn't seem certain, and I've seen no evidence), so apparently the old ones down the block will be retained. He said the building is scheduled to open in August.

"You can see the progress on the building in the top picture. The bottom picture is from a placard in the office. It indicates islands in the lot." ❖



Elaine Holley

Membership Coordinator's report

Please give a warm "hello and welcome" to our new and reinstated members since the last issue of *Discovery Express*. Encourage them to explore and join a chapter. It is a wonderful way to meet new friends and share information about our D's and RVing.

We continue to ask members to refer new members to DOAI. Remember, you receive one year's membership free for every three new members referred. This quarter, we congratulate **Bruce and Jody Bruce**, and **Bob and Nina Soltwedel**. Each couple has earned a year's free membership because D owners they recommended have joined DOAI. ❖

Bob/Melinda Alani, Penn Valley CA
 Bradley/Lori Ames, Skowhegan ME
 Erland/Valerie Anderson, Tucson AZ
 T W/Dixie Anderson, Wichita KS
 Tom/Cathy Bain, Glen Rose TX
 Roger/Jean Baines, Lebanon TN
 Andrew/Suzanne Barbee, Chandler AZ
 Bill Barlow, Hillsboro TX
 Glen/Beverly Bonner, Beaver Dam WI
 Kirk/Sherri Boston, Dunlap TN
 David Braskett, Marengo OH
 Ronald/Mary Ann Brobst
 Wilmington NC
 Carlos/Diane Brown, Dalton GA
 Buzz/Laurie Busby, Ocala FL
 Ron/Margie Butkovich, Southold NY
 Ron/Marilyn Butts, Leo IN
 Brian Cairns, Panama City FL
 Bobby/Rhonda Calhoun, Orange Park FL
 David/Pam Carlile, Amboy WA
 Matthew Cochran, Ennis TX
 Shannon Cone, Templeton CA
 Bill/Dawn Crites, Blythewood SC
 Rick Delaune/Malise Prieto,
 Mandeville LA
 Juan/Kimberly DePaolo, Chandler AZ

Dennis Desmond/Jeanne Buell, Worley ID
 Len/Cindy Dillinger, Mount Pleasant SC
 Paul/Darlene DiSanto, Wolcott NY
 Dewayne/Mary Dockery, Allen TX
 Roger/Mona Elliott, Rio Vista CA
 Rick/Donna Garis, Aurora OR
 Jason/Julie Gerona, Callahan FL
 Shane/Crystal Grimsley, Farmville NC
 Bill/Cynthia Hall, Baton Rouge LA
 Billy/Beverly Harwell, Trinity TX
 Norm/Sheila Hatton, Grande Prairie AB
 Frank Hoff/Linda Landers, Riverside CA
 Richard/Donna Hughes, Jacksonville FL
 Steve/Maggie Hutson, Celebration FL
 Gilbert/Sandra Johnson, Staunton VA
 Joseph/Darlene Jones, Cordova TN
 William/Karen Kastens, Saint David AZ
 Brennan Lammermann, Lakewood CO
 Pierre Lepage/Pierrette Dufour,
 Bécancour QC
 Timothy/Jan Mara, Lakewood NY
 William/Kelly McCown, Katy TX
 Eric/Julie Merrell, Whittier CA
 Harry/Charlotte Miller, Beaverton OR
 Larry/Carol Mount, Shenandoah IA
 Fred/Robyn Needel, Reisterstown MD

Preston O'Neal, Murfreesboro TN
 Debra Phelps, Sioux Falls SD
 Randy/Susan Probasco, Beaverton OR
 Larry/Barbara Renegar, Nokesville VA
 Loret J/Kathaleen Ross, Longview TX
 Michael/Karen Rumney, Milwaukee WI
 John/Tracie Savino, Lake Havasu City AZ
 David/Nancy Scigliano, Livingston TX
 Christopher Sherman, Kalispell MT
 Bruce/Michelle Smith, Clute TX
 Michael/Elizabeth Smith, Bellvue CO
 Richard Vertrees/Jan Smith,
 Oklahoma City OK
 Carl Solden, Waterford MI
 Barry Stanley, Southaven MS
 Gerald/Melissa Stephens, Houston TX
 Bill/Pam Stiles, Whitehall PA
 Phil/Debra Taylor, Conroe TX
 Edward/Susan Thompson,
 Rolling Meadows IL
 Robert/Jamie Tomasulo, Lancaster CA
 Larry/Anita VanSyckle,
 North Fort Myers FL
 Christina/Joshua Verduyssen, Tomball TX
 Charles Wade, Dolores CO
 Mark/Pat Wilson, Riverton UT



Nina Soltwedel

Editor's report

It's been fun ... really ... it has! I have so enjoyed editing and publishing this newsletter these past twelve years. Time has flown by, and it's time for me to pass the Editor's Handbook on to new talent.

Buying our first Discovery motor home in 1998, and joining DOAI a year later, are two of the smartest things my hubby, **Bob**, and I have ever done. We have been so very blessed in meeting many DOAI members, as well as many people in the RV industry, and to forge long-lasting friendships with dear people whom we would never have met had it not been for our Discovery motor home and DOAI.

When then-President **John Baker** called me to the stage at last year's national rally in Iowa, I had no idea it was to receive a lovely gift: an engraved plaque (which graces my office), and a gift card (which I had fun spending at The Home Depot for the replacement drawer/door handles for our coach). Now, when we travel, we carry with us concrete reminders of DOAI.

I extend heartfelt thanks to DOAI members who have so willingly sent in material for the 1910 newsletter when I've asked them. Each person has gone above and beyond the minimum, and it is their work that needs to be acknowledged. Without those who send in material for the newsletter, this publication would not be as good as it is. What we produce together is a prime example of the quality of concentrated group effort.

As of this writing, I have no idea who will be your next editor/publisher. I have great hopes that a DOAI member "out there" will hear the call and pick up the editor's green eyeshade and carry on.

Bob and I are not leaving DOAI. He has a term of northwest region vice president to complete, and I've been appointed to fill the unexpired term of secretary (I will be non-voting). We look forward to many more gatherings with all of you as we celebrate our RVing lifestyle and our wonderful Discovery motor homes.

God bless you, each of you, and thanks for the memories. You are a grand group! ❖



John Baker

Past President's report

As I type these words, it is raining outside my window in the central Texas Hill Country. The lakes in this area are full for the first time in years. As we traveled here yesterday, I noticed the growth is lush and green, highlighted by brilliantly colored spring flowers of every sort. I was struck by how relaxing the scenery is in stark contrast

to how harsh I remember it has seemed at other times we have been here during the drought years past; what a beautifully striking difference! These thoughts gave pause to how wonderfully varied our nation's weather, scenery, places and people are. As RVers, we have opportunity to experience those many differences! I hope you are enjoying the weather and all your surroundings wherever you are.

Especially for those of our number who live in cold

climates and aren't snowbirds, these are the best months of the year, so by now you have the D out of storage and are putting some miles behind you for the season. Travel well and enjoy all the differences you have the opportunity to experience. Most of our chapters have rallies scheduled around the country. Visit our website to find one wherever you are going or on your route. Give them shout and visit; all D owners are always welcomed by every chapter, so you can meet friends you didn't know you had.

Speaking of rallies, the 2016 national rally is just ahead at Bath, N.Y. Felesa and I can't wait; there are lots of weather, scenery, places and people between here and there that we haven't experienced yet. When we get there, we will see friends, both old and new, and have a great time. I hope you are among them. ❖



Jay Keneson

Executive Vice President's report

Another *Discovery Express* and the last of an era. I'm sure that most of you know that this is the last *Express* to be edited by **Nina Soltwedel**, who has been at the helm for a long, long time. Someone told me that she first started this task in the early days of RV travel. It may have begun as she rode westward across the plains in a covered wagon and nightly edited stories around a campfire. She may have even coined the term "rally" during these travels. I am not really sure of this, but it possibly demonstrates how long it seems she has been at it. Thank you, Nina and **Bob**, for your commitment to DOAI. No one will ever really replace you. It has been a job well done and you will be missed.



I am sure that many of you know that no one has stepped forward to take over this position. Without it, we lose a vital communication tool and a way to keep all members up to date on the happenings within the club. Please, we need you. Someone out there has the time and talent to fill the position. Now is the time to come forward and help out your club.

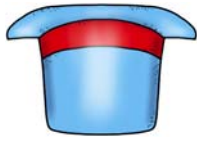
John Curtis, who last filled my position as executive vice president, had a massive stroke in March and later a second one, although not as severe. He is in rehab and slowly regaining many of his affected functions. I hope that each of you will keep him and his wife, **Judy**, in your thoughts and prayers.

Lastly, do not forget our national rally in Bath, N.Y. It is almost sold out, but we will have a standby list. This is a great chance to visit an area that you may not have traveled before.

Have a great summer of travel in your Discoverys, and I hope to see you down the road. ❖



Quarterly Question contest



The Contest Hat!

Would YOU like to win a year's free membership in DOAI? You might, if you carefully read this issue in order to find the answer to the question (see front page for question). The answer is printed somewhere within these pages. Find the answer and submit the response. All correct responses will be placed in the *Contest Hat* from which one response will be drawn. The winner will receive a year's free membership in DOAI. The details follow:

1. A box on the front page will announce the question. The answer to each quarter's question will be a word or a year. It will not be highlighted in any way except that, if the answer is a proper noun, it will be capitalized. It will be contained somewhere within the newsletter.
2. Entries must contain the member's name and contact information, the **answer**, and the **page** where the answer is found and must quote the **complete sentence** in which the answer is contained. Email the response to doaexpress@discoveryowners.com, or snail mail to Editor (see address on page 2). **Do not** post answer on the DOAI eGroup.
3. All DOAI members are eligible to participate with the exception of the Editor and the Editor's spouse. A member is a coach, thus one entry per coach per quarter. A member is limited to one win each calendar year.
5. The contest will open the **first day** of the month of that issue and close the **fifteenth day** of the succeeding month of that quarter. Entries may not be submitted until the first day of a quarter, and must be received by the editor no later than 11:59pm the fifteenth day of the second month of a quarter.
6. One winning entry will be drawn from all correct entries.
7. The succeeding issue will name the previous quarter's winner and announce the new question.
8. The Board of Directors reserves the right to terminate the contest at any time.

If you have questions about the contest, contact the Editor at doaexpress@discoveryowners.com. ❖

An item of interest...

Out of the 199 coaches considered **charter members** of DOAI, we are fortunate to have 13 coaches still with us as members. That's considerable, given that RVing is not a young person's activity as such, and that our organization has been around for eighteen years. Sadly, some of our charter members have lost their spouses, but they are carrying on. Others have not been traveling as much as earlier years, but we give thanks that they are still with us.

If you cross paths with any of our charter members, be sure to shake their hands and say "Thank you!" for helping start this

great club of ours. The thirteen members are: **Jim Devine**, Fairhope, Ala. (Jim was co-founder of DOAI along with his late wife, **Dorothy**); **Bob and Carol Baugh**, Richmond, Ky. (Bob served as a president of our club); **Bob and Mary Cook**, Deltona, Fla. (Bob started our website and continues as our webmaster); **Cody Baker**, Roswell, N.M.; **Ed Doss**, Eagle River, Alaska; **Maurice and Joan Fairweather**, Uxbridge, Ont. (Maurice and Joan are regulars at our national rallies); **Farley and Linda Hicks**, Cardwell, Mont.; **Bud and Betty Miller**, Mattoon, Ill.; **Herb and Avis Petersen**, Pleasanton, Tex.; **Noe and Pat Roman**, Huntington Beach, Calif.; **Arnie and Betty Thompson**, Brigham City, Utah (Arnie served as a vice president of the northwest region); **Gilbert (Wally) and Anneliese Wallington**, Pocatello, Idaho (Wally continues to serve as president of the Northwest Adventurers chapter); and **Wes Wesselhoest**, Ruston, La.

These good folks represent a wide swath of our North American hemisphere, and I applaud them. With the club's 20th anniversary approaching in two years, it sure would be good to have all of them with us wherever the national rally will be held. I'm keeping my fingers crossed! ❖

Report submitted by Nina Soltwedel



Bob Cook

Webmaster's report

Product reviews

There is a new addition to the DOAI website – Product Reviews! It is accessible from the Hints page, or directly at www.discoveryowners.com/productreview.asp.

The purpose of this is for D owners to give an honest review of RV-related products they have used. What better source of information than fellow DOAI members!

I have kicked this off with two reviews – a tire pressure monitoring system I just purchased, and a gadget that no one should be without.

If you have a review to share with your fellow DOAI members, please write it up and email to webmaster@discoveryowners.com, along with any applicable pictures. I will then add it to the website.

So, how about it? Tell others about your experience with your toad braking system, your satellite TV, etc., and it will be available for all to read online. ❖

The RVers Prayer

(shared by Texas Discovery Road Runners chapter)

God bless our traveling home,
And guide us wherever we roam.
Help us find the roads we seek,
And please don't let the plumbing leak.
Save us, please, from engine trouble,
And mechanics who would charge us double.
As we travel on our way,
Bless us with sunshine every day.
And while you're watching over all,
Could you let fuel prices fall?
Lead us toward good food and friends,
And when, at last, our journey ends,
Grant our rolling home sweet rest,
Until the next endurance test.

Region and Chapter reports



Region VP
Bob Deal

Elizabeth and I are looking forward to our first DOAI rally since I got sick. I feel badly that I haven't been able to participate in any DOAI activities, nor chapter rallies.

Southeast region

My family and I thank you all for the support and prayers that came our way during my time in the hospital and my recuperation. I'm feeling well now, almost back to normal. According state law, I can drive six months after my last seizure, which will be July 18. We are looking forward to getting back on the road again. Have a fun and safe summer. ❖



Chapter prez
Jim Sullivan

Discovery California chapter

It was just two years ago when **Mike and Judy Scott** brought four rigs together to start Discovery California. The first year, we grew to 21 rigs and now, through the supported efforts of our new vice president/membership coordinator, **Fonda Petronzio**, we now have 31 members.

The end of February, **Frank and Fonda Petronzio** hosted a very well attended Temecula rally at Pechanga RV Resort. Pechanga Wine Festival, Chocolate Decadence and Wine Fest, Temecula wine tasting, golfing, and shopping, were some of the various activities that showed strong membership participation. One of the highlights was Frank making pancakes and omelets every morning.



Discovery California expert wine tasters at Pismo Beach rally. L to R: Susan Sullivan, Herb Rikelman, Fonda Petronzio, John Bujnovsky, Shirley Bujnovsky. Look closely; that's Frank Petronzio and his thumb behind Shirley!

The end of March, we had ten chapter coaches attend the FMA rally in Yuma, Ariz., hosted by chapter members, **Bill and Linda Johnson**. Great workshops, exhibits, games, lots of meals, and free Fleetwood service with discounted parts, made this a rally memorable. Discovery California was the largest club represented at the rally. Fonda took the opportunity to sign up three new members; she also was tasked to spearhead the 50/50 charity, which raised some \$1,100 for the Yuma Community Food Bank. The get-together also gave us the opportunity to meet with **Gary Livingston**, the recently appointed DOAI southwest region vice president. Gary shared his vision of an Arizona Camp Discovery next year. Bill and Linda will be hosting the FMA rally again next year, April 4-9, and Discovery California will be there to support them.



Mother's Day celebration. L to R: Shirley Bujnovsky, John (Smoothie) Bujnovsky, Mona Elliott, Mike Phipps, Felix Jones, Suzi Jones, Mary Lou Phipps, Bill Pardini, Roger Elliott, Donna Anderson, Al Anderson, Joan McCoy.

We had ten rigs in attendance at the Pismo Coast Village RV Park right on the beach. Saturday, it was Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show with 500 cars lined up through the downtown. Next, we had lunch down on the harbor with fresh seafood and the sounds of seals barking in the background. **John Bujnovsky** had a very special Mother's Day surprise at breakfast when he brought out champagne and roses for the mothers. John is so smooth – he made lots of points with the ladies. After the champagne and roses, it was off for a drive through the local wineries. We did stop at a few of them before heading to the Pismo Beach Pier for lunch. Discovery California will hold a fall rally in the heart of the Sacramento Delta at Sugar Barge Resort & Marina, September 30-October 2. Please join us and meet other Discovery California members. It costs just \$108 for three nights with full hookups. The resort is located at 1440 Sugar Barge Rd, Bethel Island, Calif. If you are interested, please contact **Al Anderson** at aleanderson@sbcglobal.net.

Our chapter had its first annual membership meeting at the Pismo rally. We discussed ideas for future rallies and the direction we would like to see the chapter go. One idea is a rolling rally to the DOAI national rally in 2017. There was an unveiling of our Discovery California t-shirt designed by **Mike Randazzo**. **Bill Pardini** and **Mary Lou Phipps** will be heading the nominating committee and holding officer elections before the end of the year. ❖



Chapter prez
Bev Kaiser

Heartland Discoverys chapter

We had a snow shower in May in Michigan, but the D is ready to go and we'll be in Bath, N.Y.

Several Heartland Discoverys members met in Indiana and had a great time at the FMCA rally. They enjoyed seeing the area and taking in a play in Shipshewana. Our group sure enjoys eating out and gathering with friends.

Plan ahead for the southeast rally in Seffner, Fla. The Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter is in charge this year. The dates are January 22-28, 2017. Bev will host our annual picnic on Sunday, January 22. ❖

Continued on next page...



Chapter prez
Judy Jo Bruton

Discovery Texans

From March 30 to April 2, we were in La Marque, Tex., at Ron Hoover Oasis RV Park. We had some fog, along with light and heavy rain. There was a lot of visiting, game playing, shopping, and sightseeing. Many of us had seen the area sights, but enjoyed revisiting the area; pretty old homes, Moody Gardens, and the Bishop Mansion, etc. The park management provided us with donuts and coffee Wednesday and Thursday mornings, as well as a BBQ lunch on Saturday. Sweet! As usual, the Discovery Texans enjoyed their eats, visiting, and playing games like Sequence and Jokers & Marbles.



Getting ready to eat at the La Marque rally. Photo courtesy of Al Welch

We were pleased to meet and welcome our new members: **Christina Vercruyssen** and her son, **Chanse**, and **Mike and Karen McCarten**. It was fun to teach the new folks the games. We thank our hosts, **Elliott and Susan Smith** and **Mike and Sandy Keliher**, for providing us with wonderful meals.



Photos of Discovery Texans at the feeding troughs ... er, the dining tables at Mamacita's in Fredericksburg. Photos courtesy of John Baker

May 18-21, we were in Stonewall, Tex., at the Peach

Country RV Park. It is a very nice park, with a deep, covered front porch with many rocking chairs and picnic tables. We had several days of gray, misty weather with some storms over a couple nights, but nothing to hurt our cars and rigs, or keep us from visiting the sights in the area. Of course, we visited Fredericksburg several times for shopping and the restaurants. The big event this time was Trade Days in Fredericksburg. Some of us had to do it over two days. We had 11 rigs at this rally, and then **Al and Karin de Haas** returned from their trip to Germany and joined us for the last couple days.

If you have read our rally reports, you know we enjoy our food get-togethers! **Gwen Churchill** talked everyone who came in on the early day into staying and pulling dinner together as a group effort. We enjoyed a dinner of ham, green beans with andouille sausage, salad, garlic bread, followed by cobbler and ice cream. It was a very good impromptu dinner.

We thank our hosts, **Jim and Kathy Pellow** and **Bill and Elaine Holley** (the Holley's celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary during the rally) for taking care us at this rally.

We gathered for dinner of Mexican food at Mamacita's restaurant one night, and we had another fabulous potluck the next. Of course, there was visiting and playing games like Jokers & Marbles. We had a welcomed surprise visit Saturday afternoon by **Jeff and Donna Griffith**, brother and sister-in-law of our rally master, **Don Griffith**. Jeff and Don entertained us with country and western music on their guitars and singing for us. You can learn more about Jeff here: www.jeffgriffith.net. You can also find him on YouTube.

We plan our rallies for Wednesday through Saturday, departing on Sunday. See **page 9** for the rallies we've planned for the remainder of 2016 into 2017. Hope to see y'all in the near future. Safe travels, everyone. ❖

Report submitted by Elaine Holley



Chapter prez
Larry Hawkins

D'Zonas

Summer has set in and so has the end of the rally season for the D'Zonas. The hot Arizona summer weather has sent many packing to higher and cooler ground. **Cathy** and I are slowly heading to the DOAI rally in Bath, N.Y., as are **Paul and Doris Smith**. **Gary and Patty Velasquez** are on an adventure to Alaska. Other D'Zonians have also left for cooler climates. I wish them all safe and trouble free journeys.

This fall we have rallies planed for Lake Havasu, Ariz.; Tubac, Ariz.; Puerto Penasco, Mex.; and Sedona, Ariz. D'Zonians are welcome to bring guests, and any DOAI member is always welcome. The schedule of our upcoming rallies can be found on **page 9** of this newsletter.

Our membership has stayed strong at 14 rigs, with the hardest part being able to schedule events for maximum participation. I am sure this is a common problem for most chapters.

Before closing I would like to acknowledge **Nina Soltwedel** for her volunteering to produce this newsletter over the years. This newsletter is an essential part of holding DOAI together. Thank you, Nina.

Well, that's about it for now. Everyone, enjoy your summer and travel safely. ❖

Continued on page 11...

Rally opportunities

You are invited to attend the following rallies. Contact chapter president for details (see **page 10**). See also the consolidated rally schedule at www.discoveryowners.com. It is updated periodically.

August 2016 –

10-14 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Denver, N.C.

September 2016 –

10-17 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Petoskey, Mich.

11-19 Midwest Discoverers, Boston/Plymouth/Cape Cod, Mass.

19-24 DOAI national rally, Bath, N.Y.

30/10-2 Discovery California, Bethel Island, Calif.

November 2016 –

4-6 D’Zonas, Tubac, Ariz.

9-12 Discovery Texans, Corsicana, Tex.

T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, Alpine, Tex.

January 2017 –

11-14 Discovery Texans, Montgomery, Tex.

12-14 D’Zonas, Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

22-27 Southeast region rally, Seffner, Fla.

February 2017 –

8-12 D’Zonas, Tubac, Ariz.

15-22 D’Zonas, Puerto Penasco, Mex.

March 2017 –

15-18 Discovery Texans, location T/B/A

April 2017 –

5-10 D’Zonas, Sedona/Jerome, Ariz.

May, 2017 –

17-20 Discovery Texans, Ingram, Tex.

November 2017 –

8-11 Discovery Texans, location T/B/A

2017 - DOAI national rally in South Central region

2018 - DOAI national rally in North Central region

2019 - DOAI national rally in Southwest region

Helpful contacts for Discovery owners

Allison Transmission, GM Corp.	800.252.5283	Onan	800.888.6626
Atwood Mobile Products	800.825.4328	Power Gear	800.334.4712
Caterpillar RV engine support	877.777.3126	Riverpark	800.442.7717
Carefree of Colorado	800.621.2617	RV Doctor	www.rvdoctor.com
Carriage Carpets (Shaw Flooring)	877.706.3054	RV Education 101	www.rveducation101.com
CCI Controls	800.521.5228	RVP (Coleman)	316.832.4357
Cummins, Inc.	800.343.7357	RVP (Suburban)	423.775.2131
Denso (call Fleetwood)	800.322.8216	RV Tire Safety	www.rvtiresafety.com
Discovery parts:		Spartan Chassis	517.543.6400
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	Splendide	800.356.0766
Sullivan RV Sales & Service	800.720.0484, Ext. 6	Thetford Corp.	800.521.3032
Walt’s RV Surplus	909.421.1107	Trojan Battery Co.	www.trojanbattery.com
DOAI badges: The Sign Man	407.365.3722	Velvac	800.783.8871
Dometic Corp.	800.544.4881	Winegard	800.288.8094
Fan-Tastic Vent	800.521.0298	Xantrex Technology	800.670.0707
Fleetwood RV, Inc..	800.322.8216	Apps and websites:	
Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp	800.385.4357	www.accesscamping.com ✓ ✕ ✨	
General Electric	www.geappliances.com/geac/	www.campingroadtrip.com ✓ ✕	
Goodyear Tire & Rubber	800.321.2136	www.gasbuddy.com ✓ ✕ ◻ ✨	
Intellitec	800.251.2408	www.interstaterestareas.com - no app	
Kidde Safety products	800.880.6788	www.rvdumps.com/dumpstations - no app	
Kwikkee products	800.736.9961	www.rvparking.com ✓	
Magnadyne	800.638.3600	www.rvparky.com ✓ ✕	
Michelin North America	800.847.3435	www.truckertools.com ✓ ✕	
Norcold, Inc.	800.543.1219	www.usarestops.com ✓ ✕	

Apps for smartphones (free or paid): ✓ Apple; ✕ Android; ◻ Windows; ✧ Mobile Web; ✨ Blackberry
For other member-recommended helpful contacts/apps/websites, visit www.discoveryowners.com

DOAI officers/chapters/committees/website

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Region and Chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez
Fred Jecks

Florida Discovery Sunshiners

The Sunshiners met April 8 at the Manatee Hammock Campground in Titusville, Fla. The rally was hosted by **Lennie and Wendy Williams**. We had a 13-coach turnout for the four-day event. Lennie coordinated with his contacts so that the rally would be the same weekend as the Space X launch, and we were not disappointed. We gathered on the coast for a perfect view of the launch, and it happened on schedule.

After the launch, we met at a local Mexican restaurant for dinner, where some of our members couldn't get enough margaritas to celebrate the Space X launch!

On Saturday, our group took a tour of the Warbird Museum in Titusville. The museum has many older military aircraft and memorabilia on display. The museum relies on donations to maintain the facilities, and are blessed with military veterans who volunteer their time and expertise to restore the older aircraft and keep a lot of the aircraft flyable.

After the museum, it was time for the ice cream social back at the campground. Many hands pitched in to help set up the ice cream and condiments.



Left: The launch of Space X. Above: Bruce Bruce, Mark Saloman, Donna Wacker share their third margarita.



An F-14 Tomcat at the Warbird Museum.

On Monday, we went to the Air Force Space and Missile History Center. The tour is normally a self-guided one, but since our group was large, an 88-year-old attendant offered to provide a guided tour. What a wealth of knowledge this person possesses! He began working with the space program in the 1950s, and has been with them through each iteration (and accidents) of the program until it was privatized a few years ago. What a super tour of the history of our country's space program.

After the museum tour, we went to the port area to watch the cruise ships sail, and we got ready for dinner. On Tuesday, we said our goodbyes for the summer. Most of our chapter members will be heading north during the summer months, to

avoid the Florida heat. Many of them are planning to incorporate the DOAI national rally in New York in their summer travels. I hope to see many of you there! ❖



At the Air Force Space and Missile History Center.



The Disney Magic Kingdom cruise ship.

Mason-Dixon Discoverys



Chapter prez
John Ricciardi

I need to start my report on a sad note: our Wagon Master, **Lou Zilinski**, passed away April 2. Lou was a good friend who will be missed.

On a lighter note, the Mason-Dixons have been busy planning and having rallies. **Zane and Sue Ann Murphy** agreed to take over for **Lou and Linda Zilinski** as the Wagon Masters at our recent rally in Ashland, Va. We had ten member coaches

and one SOB attend. That was a great turnout for our chapter.



A good turnout of Mason-Dixon members at their Virginia rally.

While there, we visited and toured the 1771-1778 Scotchtown home of Patrick Henry. The tour was very interesting to all. We also did some independent touring and, of course, shopping.

As usual with all of our rallies, we had a good time socializing and telling about our "experiences", which made some of us laugh and others wanting to cry.

We are planning another rally – August 10-14 – at Cross Country Campground, Denver, N.C. Come join us! All the information is on the DOAI website and will be updated with more information soon. ❖

Continued on next page...

Region and Chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez
Jerry Call

Midwest Discoverers

As I write this, we at Midwest are getting ready for our spring rally in Mackinaw City and Sault Ste Marie, Mich. We will have 14 rigs at this rally and a great time will be had by all.

The fall rally will be in Massachusetts.

Bev and George Kirk, along with **Fred and Peg Raphael**, will be the rally masters for this rally. The rally

will start September 11, departing September 19. Our campground will be the KOA Middleboro, 438 Plymouth St., Middleboro, Mass.; telephone 508-947-6435. Everyone will need to make their own reservations. Don't forget to mention you are part of the Midwest Discoverers. Location of your site will determine cost. Ten percent discount is our group rate; the cost is \$155 per person for the rally, and a continental breakfast will be provided Monday through Saturday mornings at 7:30. The week's agenda will be:



Plimoth Plantation

- * Sunday: 5pm - Welcome dinner of spaghetti and meatballs.
- * Monday: 10am - Plimoth Plantation, lunch on your own; 1:30pm - Mayflower replica then Plymouth Rock (included in rally fee); 4:30pm - dinner at the Chateau in Norton.
- * Tuesday: Cape Cod Canal three-hour cruise (included in rally fee).
- * Wednesday: Day on your own. Suggestions include many golf courses nearby, whale watching cruise, deep sea fishing, ferry over to Martha's Vineyard, Wrentham outlets (over 100 shops), visit some or all the eleven lighthouses. There are too many things to mention everything.
- * Thursday: Narrated 90-minute Duck boat tour of Boston (we will carpool into Boston with as few cars as possible). There are many things to see and do. It is included in rally fee.
- * Friday: 10am - Whaling Museum in New Bedford, lunch on your own., then go to Battleship Cove in Fall River.
- * Saturday - Day on your own.
- * Sunday - Newport, Rhode Island: Drive along Ocean Drive, Bellevue Ave.; perhaps tour a mansion.
- * Monday - Depart for home or your next adventure.

The rally fee will include Plimoth Plantation (a 17th century village with costumed role players), replica of the Mayflower and Plymouth Rock, narrated Duck tour of Boston, Cape Cod Canal cruise, Battleship Cove in Fall River, where you can tour the USS Massachusetts, a submarine, and PT boats, and more.

These places of interest were chosen as part of rally fee because we are able to get a group discount. We hope this spurs everyone to make their reservations and send their rally checks early. Other events are planned, so be sure to attend this exciting rally. ❖



Chapter prez
Bruce Plumb

Ozarks Discovery

Just for the fun of it, here's a photo I took when **Cindy** and I dropped in on an Ozarks Discovery chapter rally in Mountain View, Ark., last May. Informal bands gather on the square every weekend, and the music was great. Shown in the photo below are **Bruce and Nancy Plumb**, **Beth and David Tillery**, **Ricky and Debbie Keen**, **Cindy Welch**, and **Sonia and Gary Livingston**. Cindy and I, along with the Livingstons,

were guests. ❖

Report and photo submitted by Al Welch



Blue Ridge Discoveries

We recently completed our spring rally at the River Vista RV Park in Dillard, Ga. Dillard is located in the mountains near North Carolina. We had 23 coaches, 47 members and one guest in attendance. We also picked up a new member while at the rally. We asked members to bring nonperishable food for the local food bank. They responded with over 120 pounds of food.



Chapter prez
Charlie Harvell

Our chapter will host for the 2017 DOAI southeast region rally and Camp Discovery at Lazydays RV Campground beginning January 24, 2017. If you are planning to attend, please mail your registration to **Bob Zumwalt** as soon as possible. The registration form is located on the DOAI website and on **page 22** of this newsletter.

Beach Party!
2017 Southeast Region Rally
Lazydays, Seffner, Florida



We have completed plans for our fall rally to be held at the Heartside Grove RV Resort, Petoskey, Mich., beginning September 10. This will also be our chapter business meeting at which we will announce the election results for the new board of directors who will serve a two-year term. We are planning to have a rolling rally from Petoskey to Bath, N.Y., to attend the national rally. We are expecting more than 15 coaches. ❖

Barbecue Basics: Tips to prevent foodborne illness

It's the season for picnics, cookouts, and other outdoor parties. But eating outdoors in warm weather presents a food safety challenge. Bacteria in food multiply faster at temperatures between 40°F and 140°F, so late spring and full summer heat makes the basics of food safety especially important. "Fortunately, there are a lot of steps consumers can take to keep family and friends from becoming ill," says **Marjorie Davidson**, Ph.D., education team leader in FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

Wash hands

It seems basic, but not everyone does it. Wash hands well and often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom and before cooking or eating. If you're in an outdoor setting with no bathroom, use a water jug, some soap, and paper towels. Consider carrying moist disposable towelettes for cleaning your hands.

Keep raw food separate from cooked food

Don't use a plate that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood for anything else unless the plate has first been washed in hot, soapy water. Keep utensils and surfaces clean. Marinate food in the refrigerator, not out on the counter. And if you want to use some of the marinade as a sauce on the cooked food, reserve a separate portion. Don't reuse marinade that contained raw meat.

Cook food thoroughly

To kill any harmful bacteria that may be present, use a food thermometer. Hamburgers should be cooked to 160°F. If a thermometer is not available, make sure hamburgers are brown

all the way through, not pink. Chicken should be cooked to at least 165°F. If you partially cook food in the microwave, oven or stove to reduce grilling time, do so immediately before the food goes on the hot grill.

Refrigerate and freeze food promptly

It can be hard to remember while a party is going on, but food should not be left out of the cooler or off the grill for more than two hours. Never leave food out for more than one hour when the temperature is above 90°F.

Keep hot food hot

Hot food should be kept at or above 140°F. Hot food should be wrapped well and placed in an insulated container. If bringing hot take-out food such as fried chicken or barbecue to an outdoor party, eat it within two hours of purchase. In addition to bringing a grill and fuel for cooking to an outdoor location, remember to pack a food thermometer to check that your meat and poultry reach a safe internal temperature. When re-heating food at the outing, be sure it reaches 165°F.

Keep cold food cold

Cold food should be held at or below 40°F. Foods like chicken salad and desserts that are in individual serving dishes can be placed directly on ice or in a shallow container set in a deep pan filled with ice. Drain off water as ice melts and replace ice frequently.

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Classified advertising

Detailed information about these sale items (including photos) can be found at www.discoveryowners.com/classifieds.htm. Sale ads for Discoverys and RV-related items are free to paid-up members of DOAI. For details, contact Editor at doaexpress@discoveryowners.com or call 303.570.2736.

Discoverys FOR SALE

1999 36T: 84k mi, new tires/batts/curtains/water heater; all records. Al Macklin; 519.336.6514; al.mack@sympatico.ca **\$30,000**

1999 37V: 59k mi, new tires, coach/house batts., no pets/kids. Don Thuma; 706.340.5058; dfthuma@bellsouth.net **\$27,000**

2001.5 38D: 59k mi, exc. cond., recently serviced, more. Dave Smith; 281.379.6337; davesmithrio@att.net **\$42,000 OBO**

2002 37U: 54k mi, clean, with Roadmaster Blackhawk tow package. Sam Hatcher; 850.387.0105; samhatcher@cs.com **\$49,950**

2004 39J: 60k mi, 6 new tires/batts, clean. Ray Wittschen; 609.408.9320; vetdream@comcast.net **\$50,000**

2007 40X: New roof/radials; trans. maint. plan. Herman Jones; 703.909.3998; mail2charlottejones@yahoo.com **\$99,000**

2008 40X: Ext. warr., ext. enter. cntr, Brake Buddy. Eric McBride; 305.807.3358; eric@mcbridedesign.com **\$120,000 OBO**

2011 42C: 19k mi, tag axle, res. refrig., enter. cntr. w/kitchen. Jeff Eberlein; 513.404.4164; jecincy@fuse.net **\$159,900**



RV-related items FOR SALE

50 amp extension cord. John Didich; 419.281.2814; jdidich@frontier.com **Best offer + shpg.**

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DOA shade tree repair shop

A column saluting those who, through stubbornness and innate intelligence, concoct solutions to repair problems connected with their Discoverys, or who come up with creative solutions to challenging situations to make life better.

Engine Cooling System Repair, by Jim Gravel

In April 2016, Pat and I traveled from Florida back to Minnesota. While we were unloading our 2000 37V, I noticed there was a wet spot on the asphalt under the D's radiator. At first, I thought it was from some other vehicle, but when I moved the coach onto the concrete driveway, another spot appeared under the radiator. I figured the lower radiator hose was leaking, and I tightened the hose clamp, flushed the area with water and dried the area with compressed air. Next, I put a piece of cardboard under the radiator area and ran the coach at high-idle until operating temperature was reached. I then checked for a leak; none was observed. Later, I crawled under the coach and the same lower corner of the radiator was wet with antifreeze.

The radiator and CAC "looked" clean; however, the clamp that attaches the plastic end-tank to the core was rusty on the lower section of the radiator where the anti-freeze was gathering. If I had known where the leak was, then I could have applied a repair or fix. However, I couldn't find exactly where it was leaking.

The next step was to remove the radiator and determine the cause of the leak. There is scant information on how to remove/replace the radiator, other than it is a big job and it will cost you a lot of dollars. It was a lot of work but doable. Here's what I did:

- ✗ Removed coach end cap
- ✗ Unscrewed the rubber fairings from radiator
- ✗ Drained antifreeze
- ✗ Removed eight screws from fan cowling
- ✗ Removed eight bolts from CAC
- ✗ Removed upper and lower radiator hose
- ✗ Removed coolant tank from radiator frame
- ✗ Drained power steering tank and removed two hoses
- ✗ Removed two radiator frame side support bolts and two bottom bolts
- ✗ Enlisted a helper to lift and remove radiator

With the radiator out and on a piece of plywood, supported on a pair of sawhorses, I was surprised to find that the inner side of the radiator was 60 percent completely blocked by crud. Next, I removed the radiator steel frame and found behind the

corner braces that all the cooling fins had rotted away and that the tank to core clamps had also rotted away.

Next, I removed the CAC two hoses and removed the CAC and carefully put it on a bench. It was 75 percent plugged with baked-on crud. (From under the bed access or the rear of the coach, the rad and CAC appeared clean, even though both were washed twice a year, and the oil breather tube was extended at 27,000 miles to 120,000 miles.) I cleaned the CAC using three cans of GUNK Degreaser, a power washer, compressed air and a thin/narrow six-inch ruler on stubborn areas. I low-pressure tested the CAC by applying soap and water and blocking one port and wrapping a rag around an air nozzle and looked for bubbles on both sides; both sides passed. Of the eight bolts that mount the CAC to the radiator frame and fiberglass shroud, five busted off. Two came out with PB Blaster and heat; the other three were drilled and tapped.

Since I was this far, I removed the cooling fan and found a lot of corrosion on the steel mounting plate that you can't see unless the rad/CAC is removed. I removed corrosion by scrapping and acid, applied two coats of paint. The belts and tensioner were replaced last year, but the water pump was original along with the three large cooling hoses. I replaced hoses and water pump with OEM parts (the fourth large diameter straight hose was replaced five years ago). I removed the steel turbo pipe to CAC and acid cleaned corrosion then repainted.

Summing Up

- ✓ OEM radiator \$2,283 + tax + shipping. I replaced it with an after-market aluminum \$650 + tax.
- ✓ Water pump had corrosion forming between pump and block that showed some degradation of the pump sealing surface. I cleaned the mounting surface and used Permatex Silicon Form-a-Gasket to mount new pump.
- ✓ I power-washed front of engine, frame and painted all metal surfaces.
- ✓ I flushed cooling system and replaced with five-year coolant.
- ✓ I took the coach for a 50-mile test run – no leaks and better power! ❖

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A snake ... a break ... and a dead battery, too

by Kerry Pinkerton

I had an interesting 24 hours on the way to the Blue Ridge Rally in Dillard, Ga., few weeks ago.

Carolyn and I drove over to Chattanooga and met up with my cousin, **Jim Pinkerton**, and his wife, **Kathy**. We had just gotten set up in our pull-through site when they drove up. Four hours later, I realized I had not turned off the key in our toad, a 2005 Envoy. The battery was totally flat. Jim had a small charger and we put it on the battery and closed the hood. The moral of that story is to carry a small battery charger and be sure to have an extension cord.

The next morning, I went to verify the battery was okay and to return the charger to Jim. As soon as I opened the door, I could tell it was fully charged by the door chime. The dash lit up as soon as I inserted the key. I popped the hood to get Jim's charger.



Walking around front, I touched the safety release and lifted the hood. I noticed something and looked down at an 18" copperhead stretched out on the radiator core support. Did I mention I was holding the hood up? A couple salient

points here:

→ Carolyn is **deathly** afraid of snakes; she won't even watch TV if one is on.

→ The snake's head was at the far end of the radiator support and he was stretched out.

I wasn't concerned about being bit, because he was all stretched out and just laying there. As I was holding up the hood and thinking about what I should do, he started to crawl down into a hole beside the radiator support. Flashing through my mind, I saw him wrapping himself around something and riding along, only to show up when Carolyn was around. She would never have driven her car again.

This won't fly, I thought, as he got about 6" down the hole. I grabbed his body and flung (good Southern word) him backward against the back of the D. My adrenalin must have been up when I flung him, because when he hit the ground he just laid on the gravel like a rubber snake. I stepped on his body and cut off his head with my pocketknife. He didn't seem to like that very much.

I figured things would be pretty tame after that. Boy! Was I wrong!

We headed out to Dillard with Jim in the lead. Somewhere along the line, I became lead. Pretty drive down US 76. A few curvy and hilly sections, but a very scenic road.

Coming out of Hiwassee, heading into Clayton, we went through one of those curvy and hilly sections, going slow and

easy. I felt a bump and thought I'd hit a pothole. We were doing about 30-35 mph and cresting a hill. A few seconds later, I felt a wiggle, Carolyn's cell phone rang, and I looked at the backup camera, all within a second or two. I heard Kathy saying to Carolyn that something was wrong with our toad. By the time she finished the sentence, I had seen in the camera that one of the tow bar arms had collapsed and the toad was off to one side. As luck would have it, I spotted a pull-off ahead and was able to get slowed down and pull off the road. Jim couldn't get stopped in time to get in the pull-off, so he went down the road and found another pull-off.

When we got stopped and out of the coach, it was obvious that the lock had failed on our older model Blue Ox, letting one arm move in and out. Since we were only about 20 miles from the campground, we dropped the toad and Carolyn followed me in.

Once we were all set up, I began investigating the failure. This particular hitch has a ring that one pulls back, and some balls that are pressed down into a groove in the extension arms. All six of my balls (no jokes, please) were gone, as well as the retaining ring. If you are having trouble visualizing this, it's very similar to a Power Take-Off shaft on a tractor accessory like a bush hog.

I ended up ordering a new Blue Ox Aladdin on Amazon Prime and it was delivered to the campground two days later. I'm talking to Blue Ox about getting this one repaired. I understand they do that at FMCA rallies and such. When I called Blue Ox, they were unfamiliar with what I described so I sent them some photos. They responded that it was a very early "Aventa", probably made in the early 1990's. It came with a 1993 Saturn that we bought for a toad on our GMC motor home. I'm guessing it was new in 1993. Regardless, it's lived a good life and has now been retired to the "Hey, y'all - bet you've never seen anything like this" pile.

I guess the moral of this story is that we should probably not take our tow bars for granted as I did. They probably need to be checked and serviced on some regular basis. At least that is what I'll be doing from now on.

All in all, perhaps the most exciting 24 hours in our motor home history. ❖

Kerry and Carolyn Pinkerton live near Huntsville, Ala., where Kerry is a fabricator and metal shaper with his own small business. After purchasing and restoring a 1977 GMC motor home about five years ago, Kerry has it up for sale (reluctantly) and they have migrated to a Discovery. They and the "other" Pinkertons will be attending the 2016 national rally in Bath, N.Y.

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Mark Polk

Getting the most from your RV refrigerator

I receive a lot of emails with questions about how to make your RV refrigerator work more efficiently. RV refrigerators, for the most part, are efficient. In many cases, it is something the owner does that makes the refrigerator less efficient. Before we talk about how to improve your RV refrigerators efficiency, we need to have a basic understanding of how an RV refrigerator works.

For starters, keep in mind that your RV refrigerator is different from the one in your house. Your RV refrigerator doesn't use a compressor or any moving parts, for that matter. It works off of the principle of *absorption*. Instead of applying cold directly, the heat is drawn out, or absorbed. The theory is, when there is an absence of heat, there is cold. Basically, your RV refrigerator uses heat, either from an electric heating element or LP gas flame. The heat starts a chemical reaction and then, through evaporation and condensation, causes it to cool. It also works off of gravity, freezing the freezer compartment first and then dropping down to the refrigerator compartment.

There are several things we can do to help the refrigerator do its job more efficiently. First and foremost, the RV must be fairly level for the refrigerator to operate properly. Older RV refrigerators required more precise leveling, but even the newer models need to be close to level for optimum performance. Over time, a cooling unit operated out of level will be permanently damaged. Traveling with the refrigerator on will not cause problems because the liquids and gases in the cooling unit are constantly moving around. They don't collect and stay in areas of the cooling unit like they can in a stationary, out of level refrigerator.

The initial cool down process can take four to six hours. You should turn the refrigerator on the day before you plan to leave, and before you put any food in it. When you do load the refrigerator, the food you put in should already be cold, and the food put in the freezer should already be frozen. Putting cold food in the refrigerator, rather than adding warm food, lets the refrigerator work less to cool down.

One common mistake made is to over pack the refrigerator. There has to be space between the foods to allow for air to circulate throughout the compartment. In most situations, you will have access to a store where you can buy food. A two- to three-day supply should be enough.

To assist with air circulation, you can purchase an inexpensive, battery operated refrigerator fan. Put the batteries in and place the fan in the front of the refrigerator compartment blowing up. Cold air drops and warm air rises. The fan will improve the efficiency by circulating the air and it will reduce the initial cool down time by 50 percent.

The heat created by the cooling process is vented behind the refrigerator. Air enters through the outside lower refrigerator vent and helps to draft the hot air out through the roof vent. Periodically inspect the back of the refrigerator and the roof vent for any obstructions like bird nests, leaves or other debris that might prevent the heat from escaping.

To keep the refrigerator operating efficiently in the LP gas mode, there is some routine maintenance you can perform. Remove the outside lower vent cover to access the back of the refrigerator. With the refrigerator turned off, ensure all

connections are clean and tight. Turn the refrigerator on in the LP gas mode and take a look at the flame. If the flame is burning poorly, a yellow colored flame, or if the refrigerator isn't operating properly in the gas mode, it's possible that the baffle inside the flue is covered with soot. Soot, rust and other debris can fall down and obstruct the burner assembly. When this happens, it will be necessary to clean the flue and the burner assembly.

Turn the refrigerator off again and locate the burner. Directly above the burner is the flue. The baffle is inside the flue. Wear a pair of safety glasses and use an air compressor to blow air up into the flue. After the flue is clean, use the compressed air to remove any debris from the outside refrigerator compartment. Now, turn the refrigerator on in the LP gas mode to make sure it is working properly. Look for the bright blue flame. For a thorough cleaning of the flue and baffle it will be necessary to have your RV dealer do it for you. While it's there, have them to do an LP gas pressure test, too.

Another good idea is to install a 12 volt, thermostatically controlled refrigerator vent fan at the back of the refrigerator, or at the top of the roof vent, to assist with drafting the hot air away from the refrigerator. If you are mechanically inclined, these fans are fairly easy to install, or you can have your RV dealer install one for you. Either way, it's worth it. The fan removes the heat built up behind the refrigerator improving the refrigerator's performance by up to 40 percent.

The outside temperature also affects the operation and efficiency of your RV refrigerator. When it's cold out, you can lower the temperature setting and when it's hot out, you can raise the setting. Some refrigerators are preset by the manufacturer. Extremely hot weather will directly affect the refrigerator's efficiency. When it's really hot outside, try parking your RV with the side the refrigerator is on in the shade.

Periodically inspect and clean the refrigerator door gaskets. Check them for a good seal. Place a dollar bill behind the seal and close the door. It should stay there and not drop. When you try to pull it out, there should be some resistance felt. Do this in several different places and have any damaged seals replaced.

Try to limit the amount of times you open the refrigerator or freezer doors and the length of time you leave the doors open. Every time the door is opened, it loses a few degrees of heat. On a hot summer day it won't take long to lose all of its cooling capacity. Last, but not least, you should always have a thermostat in the food compartment. Food will begin to spoil at temperatures above 40 degrees.

RV absorption refrigerators do a great job for RVers. They will do an even better job, and last longer, if we apply these simple tips to make their job easier and less demanding. ❖

© 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 sons in a 35-foot Class A motor home. Follow them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/RV-Education-101/77344605305.0

RV maintenance tips

Maintenance of our Discovery motor homes is most likely never far from your thoughts. Occasionally we will reprint articles that have important messages for us as Discovery owners. This reprint is shared with us by the good folks who make our chassis – Freightliner.

Radiator and charge air cooler maintenance

On chassis equipped with a rear radiator, it is very important that the radiator and charge air cooler be inspected at regular intervals. Cummins recommends inspecting the charge air cooler every 7,500 miles. This should also apply to chassis with Caterpillar engines. This is because air and dust are being blown through the radiator and charge air cooler and can build up and reduce the airflow through the cooling system. This is considered part of normal maintenance.

From the engine side of the radiator, use a flashlight to look into the fan shroud at the face of the charge air cooler. If

there is any dirt buildup, this should be cleaned using a water hose and a mild solvent. If this is not done, the system can become clogged and can result in engine overheating.

Engine compartment maintenance

When camping in remote areas, check the engine compartment for small animals that may have taken refuge for the night before starting your engine. They like the warmth of the engine compartment but will make a real mess if you start the engine while they are nestled in the fan shroud.

Preparation for and removal from storage

When storing your motor home for an extended period of time (60 days or more), and when removing your motor home from storage, the following steps should be taken to give it maximum protection.

Date placed in storage: _____ Mileage on vehicle: _____

PLACING IN STORAGE

- ___ Fill fuel tank and add a high-quality fuel stabilizer to the fuel. **Never** store with a partially full tank of fuel.
- ___ Change the engine oil and filter (used oil does not give adequate protection).
- ___ Cooling system was originally protected with antifreeze to -34° F. If colder temperatures are expected, adjust the mixture. If coolant has been in the vehicle for five years or 100,000 miles, flush the cooling system and fill with an appropriate mixture of antifreeze and softened water, and be sure that the coolant contains a rust inhibitor.
- ___ If it has been more than 18 months or 24,000 miles since the transmission has been serviced, change the fluid and filter.
- ___ Service the fuel filters.
- ___ Run the engine until fully warmed up.
- ___ Operate the air conditioning.
- ___ If possible, store the vehicle in a dry, well-ventilated area, protected from sunlight.
- ___ Check tires for damage and set tire pressure to maximum as indicated on the sidewall of the tire. Clean the tires using the normal, mild soap that you would use to clean your RV.
- ___ If possible, raise the vehicle onto safety stands. **Do not** store the vehicle on the hydraulic leveling jacks. Hydraulic jacks will "bleed" pressure over time, lowering the coach back onto the tires.
- ___ Cover tires to protect from heat and sunlight.
- ___ If possible, release the parking brake.
- ___ Remove and clean the battery. **Always disconnect the negative (-) cable first.** Store the battery in a cool, dry place and **keep it charged.**
- ___ Lubricate all grease fittings on the chassis and drivetrain.
- ___ Cover all engine and transmission openings with moisture-resistant tape.

REMOVAL FROM STORAGE

- ___ Remove covers from tires and thoroughly inspect the tires for damage. Inflate them to the correct pressure for the actual weight on the tires. Consult the Michelin Tire Guide for correct tire pressure. Weigh your coach if you don't know the coach weight.
- ___ Check for fluid leaks. Repair as necessary.
- ___ Check engine oil level. Add oil if needed.
- ___ Check coolant level in reservoir and radiator (**do not** open radiator cap on hot engine).
- ___ Check hydraulic fluid level in reservoir. Add fluid if needed.
- ___ Check engine belts for wear, damage or cracking.
- ___ Check engine fan for damage.
- ___ Check fuel/water separator. If empty, prime fuel system per instructions in your operator's manual.
- ___ Check engine compartment for nesting animals.
- ___ Check for leaks and damage to hoses and wiring.
- ___ Check rear axle lubricant level.
- ___ Lubricate chassis and drivetrain.
- ___ Check the charge level of the battery. Clean ends of battery cables. If batteries need to be removed or replaced, install a clean and fully charged battery. **Always connect the positive (+) cable first** and then the negative (-) cable. Coat the battery terminals and connectors with a protective sealant.
- ___ Turn the ignition to the RUN position. Verify that the fuel gauge and voltmeter are operating properly.
- ___ If stored on safety stands, lower vehicle at this time and set the parking brake.
- ___ Run engine until warm. Re-check for fluid leaks.
- ___ Check transmission fluid level using the Cold Check method in the Allison transmission operator's manual. Add fluid if necessary.
- ___ Check all exterior lights, and replace as necessary.



Roger Marble
The Tire Guy

Don't check your tire air pressure

Really ... stop it ...

No, I haven't gone off my rocker, as there is some logic behind the title and advice of this article.

For years, the advice has been to check the air on your tires every month, and on the RV every morning of every travel day. The primary reason for this decade-old advice has been based on the fact that most RVs have at least one tire in overload or under-inflation, or both. Also, it is a fact that all tires lose pressure over time and since it is the air pressure that carries the load, not the tire, this makes having sufficient air pressure more important on RV application than with your regular car.

Why is it more important with your RV? One major reason is that your car probably has a significant margin in the +12 percent to +25 percent range, while RVs have more like -5 percent to +5 percent, with the plus signifying excess air pressure above the minimum needed to support the load.

But this doesn't explain why I am suggesting you stop checking your air pressure with your hand gauge each morning. The reason for making this surprising suggestion is the fact that the very act of checking your air pressure can, in a small percentage of the times, result in a slow leak through the tire valve core. In some earlier posts on "valves," I showed the sealing surfaces of the valve core and why they can leak. In my experience, valves generally do not develop leaks and are pretty reliable, but the act of checking your air pressure does open the core and there is a possibility that a small piece of grit can be introduced into the core air seal and this grit can cause a slow leak.

Ever wonder why so many people who have a tire sidewall flex failure or "blowout" make the statement, "I just checked the air a couple hours prior to the failure"? Well, this is one of the possible reasons for the small, slow leak.

Now, having made the suggestion that the act of checking your air pressure might possibly cause a tire failure so you might consider not checking your air pressure, is only a reasonable suggestion **if** you have another method of knowing that your tires are properly inflated. We have that method and it is a Tire Pressure Monitor System.

To me that is the **only** alternative to checking your air pressure every morning, also every rest stop, also every fuel stop; and even all those checks will miss a majority of the exposure time when a leak can occur. **Plus**, the more times you check your air pressure, the greater the opportunity there is for the very act of checking if you have a leak resulting in a leak.

Bottom line

If you have a TPMS, you really only need to check its accuracy maybe once a season, unless you are getting erratic readings and signals. Using a TPMS will not only make life easier in that you don't have to check the tire pressure multiple times a

day, but it will also decrease the likelihood of your actions causing an air leak.

If you don't have a TPMS, then you probably should be checking your air pressure frequently. Just remember that each time you open the valve with your pressure gauge, it may not completely seal shut with a resultant slow leak.

If this article gets you to finally make the decision to get a TPMS, you might read my post on best TPMS to help you make a good purchasing decision. Find it at www.rvtiresafety.com/2014/05/what-is-best-tpms.html.

While we're on the subject...

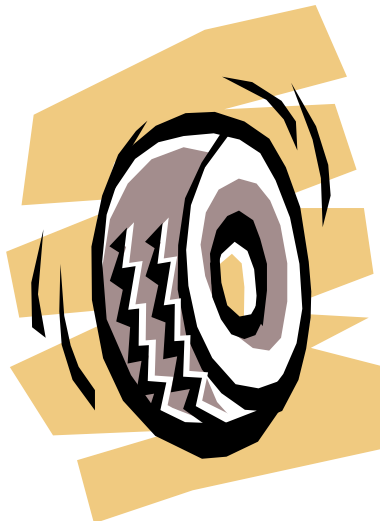
I recently read a question from a Class A motor home owner about the need for carrying your own air compressor. My thoughts and reply to the question:

If you run the 10 percent extra pressure (above the minimum required to support the actual tire load) I and others suggest, and if you keep an eye on your pressure every travel day with your TPMS, you should get plenty of warning on when you will need to add air. While +/- a couple PSI is normal for temperature variation, if you see a 5 percent loss one day and another couple the next, etc., that should be a warning that you have a leak which indicates some problem that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Once you see -5 percent, simply stop at the next fuel stop and use the high pressure that is available at truck stops.

People need to remember that it is normal for tires to lose between 1 and 2 percent of their inflation pressure each month (adjusting for temperature and barometric pressure variation). This is the result of the molecules of air moving out between the spaces between rubber molecules. I also note the concern about most small compressors not being able to inflate a large tire that has lost a lot of air.

If you have lost sufficient air to be more than 10 percent below what is needed to support the load, you really do have a problem that more than likely needs professional service, not simply a "top off" of air. If you have lost 20 percent or more, you **should not** be driving on that tire and also **should not** be inflating your tire outside a service center tire safety cage, as running a tire very low may have damaged the steel body cords to the point that the tire might explode when being inflated and result in injury. ❖

© Roger Marble, 2016. Reprinted with permission. Before retiring, Roger Marble spent 40 years in the tire industry, working for a major manufacturer developing tires for applications in North, Central, and South America. During his career, he worked on many kinds of tires – heavy truck, passenger, light truck and Indy-car types. Roger's blog, "RV Tire Safety with Roger Marble," is a top-notch informative posting found at www.rvtiresafety.com.



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Gary Bunzer, the RV Doctor

The RV doctor is in!

How to install a new RV toilet

The toilet in an RV differs from a typical house toilet in that it doesn't have a back tank (that's back tank, not "black tank"). As you know, coach owners must conserve all resources, so RV toilets are designed without a back tank to

use very little water compared to a home toilet.

The good news is that RV toilets all mount to the floor flange in the same manner as a home toilet with a couple of exceptions. Some RV toilets utilize four mounting bolts instead of the usual two. And some two-bolt installations have the bolts positioned at 11 and 5 o'clock instead of 9 and 3 o'clock. Adapter kits are available that make RV toilet installations simple for most handymen.

There are many RV toilets on the market: Camping World sells many sizes and styles. I personally favor those made from

porcelain instead of the usual plastic. They have the look and feel of a standard house toilet, sans the back tank. As a suggestion, check out the Magnum Opus RV toilet, developed by Dometic. It is constructed of 100 percent vitreous china.



RV floor flanges are identical to most modern homes but rather than a wax ring, I recommend a rubber seal to eliminate the possibility of heat softening and distorting the wax ring, thereby, loosening the toilet. This situation isn't common with houses, but could be with recreational vehicles. ❖

© 2012, **Gary Bunzer**. Reprinted with permission. The RV Doctor column recently celebrated 40 years of continuous monthly publication, making it one of the longest running Q&A technical advice columns in the RV industry (if not THE longest!). He hosts RV Roadtrips, the DIY Network cable television show. He is one of the RV industry's most sought after speakers and the host of the popular DVD titled Do It Yourself RV Care.

Why HUD's proposed rule redefining RVs is critical to the RV industry and RV enthusiasts (A joint statement from RVIA, RVDA and ARVC)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced a proposed rule that redefines the RV exemption from manufactured housing standards. This announcement and the proposed rule itself are great news for the RV industry and RV enthusiasts.

That's because this proposed rule provides a critical solution to the regulatory uncertainty that has plagued RV manufacturers, dealers and campgrounds for decades. Without it, the entire RV lifestyle could be regulated out of existence. With it, RV manufacturers, dealers, campgrounds and RV owners get regulatory certainty that the RV lifestyle will remain the most attractive way to recreate in America.

To understand why this proposed rule is so critical, start by picturing in your mind a transportable structure which is three hundred twenty or more square feet, built on a permanent chassis and includes plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems.

What are you picturing? Is it a travel trailer? A fifth-wheel trailer?

Actually, that is the federal housing law's definition of a manufactured home. And manufactured homes are required to be built to comprehensive housing standards set by HUD.

But the confusion is understandable. After all, manufactured housing and RVs share common DNA: they are both descendants of the so-called 'mobile homes' of the 1960s and 1970s. But starting in the mid-1970s the two products evolved along different paths. Manufactured housing became larger and more like a stick-built house. RVs became more mobile and more like a vehicle than a house.

So, given the language of the HUD law, why are travel trailers, fifth-wheels and park model RVs not required to be built to HUD's housing standards (motor homes, by the way, are not part of this discussion because they are specifically exempted from HUD regulation in the HUD law)?

The simple answer is because, due to the distinct evolutionary paths of the products, in 1982 RVs were specifically exempted from manufactured housing standards so long as they meet HUD's definition of an RV which has been: *A recreational vehicle is a vehicle which is:*

- (1) Built on a single chassis;
- (2) 400 Square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections;
- (3) Self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- (4) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

The fundamental difference between manufactured housing and RVs **was, is and always will be** their design intent: RVs are designed for recreational, camping, travel or seasonal use. Manufactured homes are designed to be permanent dwellings. This was the case in 1982, it is the case today and it will be the case in the future.

But as RVs continued to evolve down the vehicle path, the 1982 definition RVs became less clear and eventually unworkable. Undefined terms such as "towable by a light duty

truck," and other technical issues around size limits given the advent of RV slide-out rooms were problematic for the industry, for regulators, and for consumers. Meanwhile, the RV industry implemented a stringent standards, inspection and self-certification process around the NFPA 1192 standard for RVs and ANSI A119.5 for Park Model RVs.

To respond to the inapplicability of the 1982 definition to modern RVs, RV manufacturers, dealers and campgrounds put their heads together with the manufactured housing industry to propose new language to clarify that modern RVs are not manufactured homes. All parties agreed that RVs should be built in accordance with NFPA and ANSI RV standards, not HUD manufactured home standards. All parties agreed that the key distinction continues to be that manufactured homes are designed and built for permanent residency while RVs are designed and built to be used by families as a recreational, camping, or seasonal accommodation.

Eventually an advisory panel to HUD came up with a consensus proposal to define and exempt RVs from manufactured housing standards based on the objective fact that they are built to the standards for RVs:

A recreational vehicle is a factory built vehicular structure designed only for recreational use and not as a primary residence or for permanent occupancy, built and certified in accordance with NFPA 1192-15 or ANSI A119.5-09 consensus standards for recreational vehicles and not certified as a manufactured home.

In the newly proposed rule, HUD accepted this consensus proposal with the additional requirement that park model RVs contain a consumer-facing notice that the manufacturer certifies that the structure is a recreational vehicle designed only for recreational use. The RVIA PMRV seal applied to every PMRV already contains this notice, so it is not an additional burden to industry.

So this proposed rule gives RV manufacturers the critical regulatory clarity and certainty they have long sought: so long as they build to the nationally-recognized RV standards, the modern RVs they are building do not and will not fall under HUD's jurisdiction.

The proposed rule gives RV dealers additional critical regulatory clarity they have long sought: the proper paperwork, forms, and disclosures the RV dealer needs to provide during a sales transaction are based on the design intent of the recreational vehicle.

The proposed rule also gives RV campgrounds the critical regulatory clarity and certainty that they have long sought: in many cases the business license for RV parks and campgrounds only allows them to accommodate recreational vehicles, not manufactured homes, so under the proposed rule they would be able to accommodate any unit that is certified to an RV standard without running afoul of local regulations.

Under this proposed rule, the modern RV lifestyle cannot be regulated out of existence. Great news for anyone involved with it.

Continued on next page...

HUD's proposed rule, continued

But what else does this mean for RV owners specifically?

From the consumer's day-to-day perspective, the **proposed rule changes nothing**. HUD sets standards and regulates what happens to manufactured housing. This regulation makes it perfectly clear that RVs designed as RVs and built to modern RV standards are, in fact, RVs.

The laws and regulations governing the use of RVs are set at the state and especially at the local municipal and county levels, not by HUD. So **the new rule does not affect full-time recreational RVing in any way**.

At the same time, localities that set 6, 8, 10 or 12-month limits for an RV stay in a campground will continue to have

those regulations. Finally, although RVs have always been specifically designed for recreational purposes, some states and localities do nevertheless permit people to live in RVs as a permanent residence and will continue to do so. HUD's proposed rule will not change that.

Anyone who cares about RVing and the RV lifestyle should be rejoicing at the publication of this proposed rule and advocating for its adoption as proposed. It will keep our RVs rolling for the foreseeable future.

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RVer's Good Neighbor Policy

Overnight parking etiquette

During the September 12, 2008, DOAI Board of Directors meeting, the industry-sanctioned Code of Conduct, a.k.a. *RVer's Good Neighbor Policy*, was adopted. DOAI has joined with many other RV groups (listed at end of this article) to support your right park on private businesses' parking lots overnight [under this code of conduct](#):

1. Stay one night only.
2. Obtain permission from a qualified individual.
3. Obey posted regulations.
4. No awnings, chairs, or barbecue grills.
5. Do not use hydraulic jacks on soft surfaces (including asphalt).
6. Always leave an area cleaner than you found it.
7. Purchase gas, food, or supplies as a form of thank you, when feasible.
8. Be safe! Always be aware of your surroundings and leave if you feel unsafe.

If your plans include touring the area, staying for more than one night, or necessitate conduct not within the code, please relocate to a local campground. It's the right thing to do.

Most of the complaints lodged regarding RV parking on business parking lots have to do with aesthetics and perceived abuse of the privilege. There are a variety of competing interests that were balanced to arrive at this industry-sanctioned code of conduct. As you can see, the Code of Conduct is nothing more than an RVer's "Good Neighbor" policy.

Not following the code has serious consequences and is detrimental to the rights of all RVers. Already, some municipalities have passed ordinances to prohibit parking on private business property overnight.

Please do not take offense to this article; it is only provided as a reminder that RVers must be perceived as good neighbors, or there will be more pressure to institute state, county, and local ordinances to prohibit parking on private business property. We wish you safe and happy travels. ❖

Discovery Owners Association, Inc.
 Bounders United, Inc.
 Escapes RV Club
 Family Motor Coach Association
 Gulfstreamers International RV Club
 Wally Byam Caravan Club International
 Born Free Leap'n Lions RV Club
 Loners on Wheels
 RVing Women

What's in store for you at Fleetwood?

If you have a few moments, power up your computer and head to the Fleetwood RV website. There is a wealth of information for you on all the different models of motor homes the company produces.

Of special interest to D owners, of course, is the opportunity to take a sneak peek at what the company will offer as the 2017 Discovery. Go to: <http://www.fleetwoodrv.com/sneakpeek/sp2017.asp> – and get ready to absorb the very nice extras that are available. Of interest: the top features include induction cooktop, dishwasher, residential refrigerator, polished porcelain tile throughout, and (in the 39- and 40-foot models) a third air conditioner.

As usual, the choices of woods and fabrics are varied, and the 2017 external graphics are well done. A major difference for 2017 is the division of the Discovery into two types with a different set of graphics for each: **Discovery** (three models, one each 37, 38, and 39 feet long) and **Discovery LXE** (three models, each 40 feet long). There are other differences, of course, including layouts, engine horsepower, etc.

Download the brochure, browse, and then plan your new Discovery! ❖

Report submitted by Nina Soltwedel





DOAI 2017 Southeast Region Rally

Beach Party!



Lazydays RV Campground, Seffner, Florida (800.905.6627)
JANUARY 22-27; DEPART JANUARY 28

Complete both parts of this registration form.

Send Part 1 to Lazydays RV Campground – Send Part 2 to Rally Registrar Bob Zumwalt

PART 1. CUT HERE ↑ AND MAIL THIS PORTION TO LAZYDAYS RV CAMPGROUND, OR CALL 800.905.6627

Discovery Owners Association Rally — January 22-27, 2017 (Depart January 28)

Pilot Name: Last _____ First _____
Co-Pilot Name: Last _____ First _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____
Street/City/State/Zip+4 _____

Discovery Year _____ Model _____ Length _____ Handicap Parking? Yes _____ No _____
Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Camping/Food/Entertainment Fee:

\$400.00 for coach with **two** people / **\$338.36** for coach with **one** person \$ _____
_____ Number of additional nights → **Call Lazydays for rates** ← \$ _____
_____ Number of guests at **\$62.91 per guest** \$ _____
Total **Make check payable to LAZYDAYS RV CAMPGROUND** \$ =====

Mail this form and your check to Lazydays RV Campground, 6210 County Road 579, Seffner FL 33584-3004.
Deadline to register with Lazydays RV Campground is December 22, 2016. *Lazydays RV Campground cancellation policy: Prior to 72 hours, no charge; 72 to 24 hours, one-day charge; less than 24 hours or no show, no refund.*

PART 2: CUT HERE ↑ AND MAIL THIS PORTION TO RALLY REGISTRAR BOB ZUMWALT

Pilot Name: Last _____ First _____
Co-Pilot Name: Last _____ First _____
Phone _____ Cell _____ Email/s _____
Street/City/State/Zip+4 _____

DOAI # _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

First DOAI **region** rally? Y___ N___ Nat'l officer? Y___ N___ Discovery Year _____ Model _____

Chapter Member Y___ N___ Chapter Name _____ Officer Position _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Rally Fees: **\$15.00** per coach for **two** people / **\$7.50** for **one** person \$ _____
\$17.00 for notebook with printed copy of all technical seminars \$ _____
\$7.50 for each additional guest \$ _____
Guest Name/s and Address _____
Total **Make check payable to DOAI** \$ =====

Mail form and your check to Bob Zumwalt, 2969 Gavin Pl, Duluth GA 30096-5847. **Registration must be received by January 7, 2017.** After that date, contact Bob at 770.595.3886 or bz2@me.com.

→ If not already a DOAI member, contact Elaine Holley at doaimembership@discoveryowners.com. ←

→ If you are a golfer, you will be able to sign up and pay upon arrival at Lazydays. ←

→ Wear your best beach boy (or girl) gear! ←



2016 DOAI National Rally Heart of the Finger Lakes

September 19 through 24 (depart September 25)
Hickory Hill Family Camping Resort, 7531 County Route 13, Bath N.Y. 14810-7982

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 _____ **ALL PARKING FIRST COME, FIRST PARKED**
 Need handicap parking? Yes No First DOAI national rally? Yes No
 Guest/s Name, City, State _____

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NO refunds on dates of camping, guest attendance, meals after AUGUST 15, 2016
 because ALL sites and meals must be paid to the campground by DOAI on August 15, 2016.
 ALL pets required to have copy of current rabies vaccination paperwork for the park.

REGISTRATION:

\$399.00 per coach with two adults (6 nights - includes meals) \$ _____
\$335.00 per coach with one adult (6 nights - includes meals) \$ _____
\$5.00 each additional person/child per night (does not include meals): __ person/s × \$5 × __ nights = \$ _____
\$20.00 DOAI membership (if not already a DOAI member) \$ _____

OPTIONAL EARLY/LATE DAYS:

EARLY: September 16 through 18: \$42/night × __ nights = \$ _____
 Dates Early (list dates) _____
LATE: September 25 through 27 (depart September 28): \$42/night × __ nights = \$ _____
 Dates Late (list dates) _____

GUEST MEALS: 3 breakfasts, 2 evening meals, welcome party: \$100 × __ person/s = \$ _____
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, GOLF AT BATH COUNTRY CLUB: \$55 × __ person/s = \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO DOAI Total \$ _____

Mail check and registration form to:

Nina Soltwedel, Registrar, 4736 Harwich St, Boulder CO 80301-4217
 Questions? Contact Nina Soltwedel; 303.570.2736; rallyregistrar@discoveryowners.com or
 MaryAnn Crowell, Rally Master; 254.644.6225; macrowell1979@gmail.com

REGISTRATION/PAYMENT IN FULL MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016

Full refund cancellation may be made up to August 15, 2016 – AFTER AUGUST 15 – NO REFUND

→ → → **Keep a copy for your records** ← ← ←

You will receive a confirmation of your registration via email.

Planning on attending the 2016 national rally?

If so, bring some extra dollars for the annual quilt raffle. This worthy cause happens each year because of the dedication of a group of quilters across the country, and the desire to make a significant contribution to benefit a charitable organization in the rally location's area.

Led by **Freddie Perry**, this year's group – "The Waterfall Quilters" – includes **Judy Jo Bruton, Gwen Churchill, Barbara Eliassen, Linda Griffith, Pat Pequignot, Melissa Plowman, Loretta Simpson, Doris Smith, Nina Soltwedel, Carol Sturm, and Joyce Tanner.**

The photo does not reflect the completed quilt; more borders will be added and the final size will be "King." The quilt will be displayed at the national rally in Bath, and it will be a "feast for the eyes." Raffle tickets are \$1 each, and for \$5, you get six. Who knows ... this work of art could be yours! ❖



Discovery Owners Association, Inc. Membership Application

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

Membership classifications:

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

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

Questions? Call DOAI Membership Coordinator toll-free 888.594.6818

Mail the form below with your check payable to *Discovery Owners Association, Inc.* to: **Elaine Holley, Membership Coordinator, 2317 Fran Cir, Clyde TX 79510-3441.** 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 (for newsletter notifications) _____

Discovery Year/Model, if joining as Regular Member _____

Who recommended DOAI membership to you? _____

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