

Discovery Express

Volume 12, Number 2

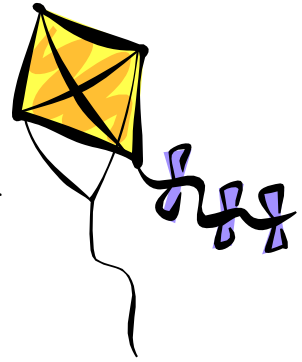
Quarterly Newsletter of Discovery Owners Association, Inc.



April 2010

Spring has arrived!

Are you tired of the cold? No, don't answer that – we know you are, especially if you live along the east coast or Florida or Texas or ... okay, wherever you live! It has been a long, cold winter for many of us, and now we await lots of sunshine, light breezes, and warm days.



Safety, security, and good advice

We are pleased to welcome The RV Doctor – **Gary Bunzer** – to this newsletter. Gary has been on the front lines of RVing for many years, and he is generous in sharing his knowledge with DOAI members. **Toni Calzone** is a student of Gary's, as have been a number of now-excellent RV technicians around the country. Gary's first article for us – on rubber RV roofs – begins on **page 15**.

We also have an in-depth article from our own **Bob Cook** on identity theft, Internet security, and Flash cookies. This should be required reading for all of us who use the Internet, especially in these days of computer hackers working overtime to steal our personal information. Read it all beginning on **page 20**.

Bill Pinchak, a claims consultant for Foremost Insurance Group, gives us great highway safety advice. His article is on **page 18**. ❖

2010 national rally right on track



Frank Cason and his intrepid crew of rally workers are charging full steam ahead with some exciting things planned for us for the 2010 national rally in Sevierville, Tenn., this coming September. See article on **page 6**.

In the July 2010 issue, we'll publish a map showing how to get to the River Plantation RV Park in Sevierville, along with Google Earth photos of the same route. If you want an early peek at those items, check out the Winter 2009 issue, **page 4** (see it online at www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp).

You can register anytime starting now – the form is online at www.discoveryowners.com and it's included in this issue, inside back cover. Check it over, read Frank's details on what has been planned, then mark your calendars. We're all in for a great time in the Great Smoky mountains.

Do you remember the call for quilters in the last issue? Enough quilters responded that **Donna Barker** has announced there will be **three** quilts available at the rally. We'll raffle them off and the funds will go to a women's shelter in the area. There will be photos of the in-progress quilts in the July 2010 issue. ❖

April issue highlights

Membership sponsors	2	In praise of the egroup	8	Camp Discovery photo	17
Camp Discovery photos	2	Rally opportunities	9	Better safe than sorry	18
President's message	3	Helpful contacts	9	Do you know the law?	19
Treasurer's report	4	Address page	10	Nat'l rally master's report	20
Member care report	4	Regions report activities	11	Webmaster's report	20
Membership report	5	Chapters tell of plans	12	Classified ads	21
Congratulations	5	Rally attendees congratulate	14	Our members fix it!	22
National rally plans	6	The RV Doctor is here	15	Nat'l rally registration form	23
Fleetwood #1 Class A ranking	7	Hints and tips	17	Membership form	24

DOAI membership sponsors

We extend thanks to these Discovery dealers who support DOAI by paying for a year’s membership for each person who purchases a **new or used** Discovery motor home.

Ancira Motorhomes, Inc., Boerne TX	800.299.1199	www.ancirarv.com
Blaine Jensen RV, Kaysville UT	888.652.9944	www.blainejensenrv.com
Hayes RV, Longview TX	888.429.3778	www.hayesrv.com
Lazydays® RV Center, Inc., Seffner FL	800.500.5299	www.lazydays.com
PPL Motor Homes, Houston TX	800.755.4775	www.pplmotorhomes.com
Tom Johnson Camping Center, Concord NC ...	888.450.1440	www.tomjohnsoncamping.com
Tom Johnson Camping Center, Marion NC	800.225.7802	www.tomjohnsoncamping.com
Tom Raper RVs, Richmond IN/Fairfield OH	800.727.3778	www.tomraper.com

If you would like to join this elite group, or have questions, please contact DOAI Membership Director **Portia Williams** toll-free at 888.594.6818. ❖

Camp Discovery photo album

The electronic version has even more photos on back cover! Check it out online. See the advantages of joining DOAI’s Green Group.



Helen Blackwell’s registration crew served superbly



The welcome party was a tasty way to start off the rally



Pizza night was a big hit with hungry folks



The Camp Discovery t-shirts were eagerly sought

Thanks for the photos!

We appreciate our rally photographers: **Frank Cason, Mary VanLandingham, John Ricciardi, Steve Masterson, Marshall Godwin, Charles Smith, and Joel Landavazo.** ❖



Jayne Fairley talked about Fleetwood’s plans for the future





President
Marshall Godwin

President's message

Although Spring is on the way, we still have snow on the ground here in Virginia. It was hard to leave the warmer Florida weather and return home after our southeast region Camp Discovery rally in Seffner, Fla.

Speaking of Camp Discovery, I do believe one thing that truly sets us apart from other clubs is the amount of information provided our members. That is done through our website, egroup, newsletter and rally seminars. Camp Discovery was a modestly-priced, seminar-focused rally. Based on the many positive comments, I believe it was a great success. Thanks again to **Toni Calzone**, training director; **John Ricciardi**, rally master; and all the Mason-Dixon Discoverys chapter members for putting on a wonderful rally.

We had perhaps the largest number ever of first-time rally attendees at the southeast rally. It was very encouraging to see all you "first-timers." We hope to see you again soon.

For all our members, just a reminder that you don't get full benefits of DOAI membership unless you attend major rallies and participate at the local chapter level.

The treasurer's report (see page 4) shows we finished 2009 with a slight gain in cash. That came about after taking prudent measures to significantly reduce the association's expenses. Much of the savings was realized by going to black and white only with the printed version of *Discovery Express* and reducing the number of printed copies. You can do your part by opting for the electronic version to allow even more savings.

In years past, a large part of our revenue came from manufacturers in the form of annual grants and specific donations to pay for rally meals or entertainment. The current economy has changed that. Except for Fleetwood, those grants and donations have stopped. We have made changes to be more self-sufficient, and will continue to monitor the budget to ensure we remain financially strong.

For those of you in colder climes, it's time to flush out the RV antifreeze and get on the road. After this strange winter weather, we all must be in for a delightful spring-summer-fall. Hit the road for that long planned-for trip. We aren't getting any younger, so now is the time. **Becky** and I put over 25,000 miles on our coach just last year. I don't think we will do that again in 2010, but we do plan to travel.

One of those trips will be to the national rally in Sevierville, Tenn. **Frank Cason** and the Blue Ridge Discoverys are busy with the final details for another great gathering in the Smokies. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Take care and God bless. ❖

© 2010 Discovery Owners Association, Inc. (DOAI)

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.

Newsletter Editor

Nina Soltwedel

4736 Harwich St.

Boulder CO 80301-4217

303.530.0775; 303.570.2736

doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com

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

If you wish to access the newsletter electronically instead of receiving a hard copy, contact the membership director for details.

Membership Director

Portia Williams

P. O. Box 95

St. George UT 84771-0095

Toll-free 888.594.6818

doaimembership@discoveryowners.com

DOAI Website

www.discoveryowners.com

DOAI Yahoo! Group

groups.yahoo.com/group/discoveryownersassociation/

Access Back Issues

www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp

Newsletter printed by

Preferred Printing,

Boulder, Colorado,

using post-consumer recycled paper and vegetable-based ink



SPECIAL OFFER FOR DOAI MEMBERS!

NEW 2009 Discovery 40K For Sale at WHOLESALE!

Here's your opportunity to trade in your present Discovery and drive off in style in the beautiful 40K: three slides, 1½ baths, residential floor plan, 350 HP Cummins engine, and more!

→ Only TWO available at this low price! ←

Check 'em out at www.tomraper.com

then contact Sales Consultant **Barry Burdette** at **937.472.8481**.

Don't hesitate – an offer this good may never happen again!

800.727.3778, ext. 1333
765.962.1572 fax

bburdette@tomraper.com



2250 Williamsburg Pike
Richmond IN 47374
I-70 Exit 149A

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



Treasurer's report

January 1-December 31, 2009 financial statement

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at petenmarthapal@aol.com. I look forward to seeing you at the national rally in Sevierville, Tenn., in September. ❖

Treasurer Pete
Palasota

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Receipts:

Dues	\$21,022.00
Fleetwood contribution	2,500.00
Sale of merchandise	4,029.50
Interest income	1,327.11
Advertising	10.00
Total	<u>\$28,888.61</u>

Expenses:

Newsletter	\$11,755.24
Membership expense	1,806.50
Insurance	2,967.00
Chapter support	3,087.40
Dues refund	47.00
Member care	51.67
Website expense	2,770.07
Rally fee reimbursements	4,962.00
Office supplies, postage, misc.	266.72
PayPal charges	394.65
Merchandise purchased for resale ..	2,901.78
Merchandise sales expense	716.52
Total	<u>\$31,726.55</u>
Expenses over receipts	<u>(\$2,837.94)</u>

Other receipts:

Rally advances collected	\$4,000.00
Rally income over expenses	4,754.11
Total	<u>\$8,754.11</u>

Other disbursements:

Rally advances	\$3,000.00
Receipts over disbursements	<u>\$5,916.17</u>
Total receipts over disbursements ..	<u>\$2,916.17</u>

Beginning cash balance 1-1-2009	\$58,110.04
Ending cash balance 12-31-2009	\$61,026.21
Cash increase	<u>\$ 2,916.17</u>

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2009

Current assets:

Petty cash	\$ 550.00
Cash in bank	37,637.73
Certificates of deposit	22,550.14
PayPal account	288.34
Total current assets	<u>\$61,026.21</u>

Other assets:

Merchandise inventory	\$ 2,565.10
Rally advance	-0-
Total other assets	<u>\$ 2,565.10</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 63,591.31</u>

Liabilities and net worth:

Prepaid memberships	\$13,045.00
Net worth	50,546.31
Total liabilities and net worth	<u>\$63,591.31</u>

Member care report

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers:

Evelyn Fuller, whose husband, **Bob (Grizz)**, died in early December.

Lonnie Johnson, whose wife, **Clara**, died in late February.

Gwen Churchill, recovering from kidney surgery in mid-December.

Del Perry, whose father died in early December at the age of 94.

Garry Shirey, recovering from shoulder surgery in February.

Justine Stewart, recovering from having a brain shunt installed to alleviate non-pressure hydrocephalus, which was causing her to fall and become disoriented.



"Grizz" Fuller

Richard Kisby, whose wife, **Linda**, died last year after a long illness.

Larry Ennis, whose mother died in mid-January.

Annie Wallington, healing well after breaking a bone above her ankle in mid-December.

Dorothy Williams, whose husband, **Charles**, died last year.

Larry and Mimi Racer, both feeling better after dealing with some health problems.

Carl and Teri Dykman, giving thanks they and their pets weren't hurt when a drunk driver ran them off the road in Alabama, totaling their Discovery.

Charles Smith, recovering from a heart attack suffered on the way to Camp Discovery (and he didn't miss the rally!).

Please let our newsletter editor, **Nina Soltwedel**, know of any member needing a care card or sympathy card. Send an email to doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com. ❖



Membership
director Portia
Williams

Membership director's report

Welcome to our new members!

Please extend the hand of welcome to these new members. We look forward to meeting them face to face at upcoming rallies.

Robert/Micki Andrews, Mooresville NC
Tommy/Emily Bailey, Flowery Branch GA

Stephen/Patricia Bainer, Brownsville TX

James/Doris Baird, Longview TX

Stephanie Baker, Phenix City AL

George/Pat Beier, Mt Pleasant SC

Sam/Mary Benge, Sault Sainte Marie MI

Les Botham, Dronfield NR Sheffield UK

Thomas Brooks/Kathy Hirsch, Yuma AZ

Gary Buck, Athens OH

Robert/Patti Calhoun, Farmington NM

Jack/Angie Christensen, Miami FL

Brandon/Lila Clements, Pettersburg VA

M Douglas M/Nancy C Coffey, Jacksonville FL

Michael/Becky Conrad, Owens Cross Roads AL

Ed/Paula Cunningham, Pearland TX

Kevin/Jaclyn Dagon, Lutz FL

Aaron/Trudy Danos, Livingston LA

Steve/Jill Davis, Deltaville VA

Donald/Shannon Dixon, New Bern NC

Arne/Donna Ekeberg, Blairsville GA

Trever/Brenda Engler, Bad Axe MI

Larry/Lynne Ennis, Trumansburg NY

Dan Ewbank, Fairview OK

Chris/Tammy Ewing, Roseville CA

James/Brenda Fairfax, Winterville NC

Bob/RaShel Ferrin, Mesa AZ

William/Carol Foster, Crystal River FL

Mike/Marion Gibson, Princeton IL

Jim/Lucinda Greene, Cape Coral FL

Gordon/Denise Griffin, Chilliwack BC Canada

Marty/Elaine Gross, Titusville FL

Matthew Hagner, Nederland TX

Phil Hamner, San Clemente CA

Wayne/Teresa Hessong, Indianapolis IN

Gary/Nita Hollick, Delta BC Canada

Ron/Sheri Honeycutt, Edmonds WA

Ginger Isley, Wilmington NC

August/Carol Jones, Livingston TX

Kevin/Jayne Keegan, Hurricane WV

David Keith, Carson City NV

Norman/Sharon Kenagy, Aurora OR

David/Christina Kidd, Big Sandy MT

Jeff/Cindy King, Brodhead KY

Michael Lacey/Robert Brown, Las Vegas NV

John/Bridget Leppla, Pittsburgh PA

Scott Lods, West Lafayette IN

John/Maria Mahoney, Sutton MA

John/Trish Maris, Canon City CO

Tim McBride, Lake Elsinore CA

Michael/Donna McDowell, Columbus NJ

Kyle/Monica McFarland, Houston TX

Richard/Kathryn McGraw, Deland FL

Finley McMillan, Panacea FL

Danny/Cindy Mills, Ringgold GA

David/Joni Minton, Lynchburg OH

Kathy Orr, Weatherford TX

Brett/Amy Passmore, Houston TX

Jack/Darlene Peters, Waverly MO

David/Carolyn Price, Cumming GA

Jerry/Lauri Purvin, Gainesville VA

Gary/Cathy Roth, Fayetteville AR

Errol/Judy Roulstone, Phoenixville PA

Gregg/Sally Schindel, Prescott AZ

John/Debra Segura, New Cumberland PA

Tim/Cora Seiler, Dickinson ND

George/Margaret Sellers, Carrollton TX

Carter/Eloise Shepherd, Lothian MD

James/Kim Shields, Spring Branch TX

Jim/Donnita Spallitta, Henderson NV

Wilf/Jean Tisdale, Rimbey AB Canada

Jim Toner, Calera AL

Jon Washburn, Patterson CA

Tim/Colleen Weis, Hesperia CA

Joe/Bertha Wyatt, Mount Pleasant TX

John/Jennifer Yeatman, Newcastle CA



Congratulations!

We extend congratulations to **Rod Kirk and Pauline Allen** and **Marshall and Becky Godwin**, who have earned a year's free membership because they encouraged three Discovery owners to join our merry band of RVers.

You, too, have the opportunity of earning a year's free membership. When you see a Discovery in a campground, don't hesitate to knock on their door to find out if they are DOAI members. If not, hand them a complimentary copy of our newsletter, or a copy of our membership brochure. Tell them about this great club. When they fill out the application, ask them to put your name in the "who recommended membership to you" slot. This really works!



2010 national rally plans revealed




resort life. Join us for a fun-filled week, September 20-26, 2010, where the cool breezes blow and mountain views are spectacular. Don't miss out ... complete the registration form and mail your check today ... the fun starts now!

Enjoy the best of the Smokies

Entertainment and shopping abound. The Great Smoky Mountains national park is the most visited national park in the country, beating even Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon.

Straddling the border between North Carolina and Tennessee, the park offers a world-renowned natural landscape with endless forests, an awe-inspiring diversity of plants and animal life, and the quiet beauty of the ancient mountains towering above.

From the largest authentic Tanger Outlet Mall in Tennessee to world class entertainment, your choices are unlimited. With Dollywood just down the road in Pigeon Forge and Ripley's 1.4-million gallon aquarium in Gatlinburg, there is something for everyone. Other activities to enjoy include:

-  Golf
-  Mountain hiking
-  Tennessee Museum of Aviation
-  Forbidden Caverns
-  Floyd Garrett's Muscle Car Museum
-  Cades Cove
-  Flea Traders Paradise flea market



The registration fee includes six nights of camping, a welcome party on Monday evening, two continental breakfasts, evening meals on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday nights. We will have live entertainment following each evening meal. Work is being done to schedule various seminars and vendor presentations during the week. Hope to see you there!

Entertainment

We have selected to use local talent for two of the three nights of entertainment. On Monday evening, for the welcome party, we will have background music only. This gives everyone time to talk to old friends and to meet new ones.

Tuesday night, we will have the Patty Waszak Show. She has the longest running morning variety show in the Smoky Mountains. She is a dynamic singer, hilarious comedienne, an

The southeast region will be your host for the 2010 DOAI national rally. The rally will be held at River Plantation RV Park in Sevierville, Tenn. The park offers you the perfect blend of southern hospitality and first-rate facilities and services that will provide you the very best in RV



award-winning songwriter, and a fabulous entertainer. **Patty** also plays the sweetest sax this side of heaven.

Tuesday, we have set up two tours to the Bush Bean factory and a tour to the Titanic museum (\$18 per person). See comments below.

Wednesday will be golf, and arrangements have been made for the Country Tonite show for a small fee of \$13.75 per person. It is a great show, see comments below.

Thursday evening arrangements have been made for those who desire to attend The Temptations Revue. A special rate of \$22.50 per person has been set up for this evening's entertainment.

Friday night, we will have **Kenny Evans**, who will provide music of the '50s, '60s, '70s and gospel.

On Saturday night, we will be treated to a special performance of a band known as Banks and Shane. Led by **Banks Burgess** and **Paul Shane** since 1972

(an era many of us remember well), this group moves effortlessly from country to folk to oldies, beach as well as rock n' roll and back again, with something to please everyone. Their medley of rock n' roll hits is legendary. It's high-energy good-time music, spiced with a healthy dose of the good-natured wit and patter that Banks and Paul have fine tuned on their tours across the U.S. and around the world. You won't want to miss this.



Bush Bean factory

The Bush Bean factory is located at Chestnut Hills, Tenn., a short distance from Sevierville. For more than 90 years, Bush Beans have been offering delicious Bush's products to families across the country. All of Bush's great-tasting beans and vegetables are grown right here in the United States. Bush's Best products are quality made to seal in the freshest flavor possible.

For more information go to www.bushbeans.com. While there, visit Duke's dog house. This is a great tour, one that I think you will like.

Titanic museum tour

Visitors to the new Titanic Museum attraction in Pigeon Forge can expect to see Titanic in a whole new light. Unlike traveling exhibits, Titanic in the Smokies is a permanent three-story, \$25 million museum attraction shaped like Titanic herself. The signature building will be built half-scale to the original Titanic and towers 100 feet above the Parkway. The structure is anchored in water to create the illusion of the Titanic at sea.

Country Tonite

Country Tonite theater in Pigeon Forge is the best entertainment value in the Smokies! Experience this high-energy full-scale production located in a 1500-seat multi-

Continued on next page...

National rally plans, continued

million dollar theatre. You're sure to understand why this spectacular show has won so many awards including "2001 – 2007 Show of the Year," "Best Live Country Show in America," and "Best Show in the Smokies"! In its tenth year in Pigeon Forge, Country Tonite continues to provide the best in quality entertainment with singing, dancing, comedy, gospel, patriotic and more filling this two-hour show.

The Temptations Revue

In the 1960s, the Temptations gave music lovers fair warning: "Get ready, 'cause here I come." Now the music of one of Motown's iconic singing groups has indeed arrived, and it's playing live in the Smokies at the new Smoky Mountain Theater in Pigeon Forge.

The theater's headline attraction is a musical tribute to the Temptations starring **Nate Evans**, who will be performing with original vocalists **David Ruffin, Dennis Edwards and Eddie Kendricks**.

Special notes for everyone

- ✧ **Super Wal-Mart** is located on the Parkway approximately one mile from the RV park.
- ✧ Free Wi-Fi is available at the park.
- ✧ **Camping World** is located on I-40, exit 398 (Tennessee RV). It is approximately 19 miles from the RV park.

- ✧ We will have express registration and parking once you arrive. You do not have to arrive together to be parked together. We will be parking everyone by chapters.
- ✧ If you arrive prior to Sunday, September 19, you must call the RV park and make your own reservations for those nights. The park number is 800.758.5267. You will also need to call **Charles Harvell** (404.213.1639) for a site assignment. The site assignment must be given to the park, so you will not have to move to a rally site on September 19.
- ✧ Check out the beautiful River Plantation RV Park at www.riverplantationrv.com
- ✧ **Local food bank wins with DOAI members:** We will be collecting dry and canned food items during the rally to assist the local food bank. We have selected Sevier County Food Ministries to be the recipient of the food collected. There will be four meals where we all gather as a group, so all you have to do is bring one food item for each meal and place it on a table in the conference center.
- ✧ **Forbidden Caverns:** See the beauty that's hidden beneath the Great Smoky Mountains – one of America's great natural attractions.
- ✧ **Ijams Nature Center** is a member-supported nonprofit environmental education center and 160-acre sanctuary. It is located in Knoxville, which is approximately a 45-minute drive from Sevierville. ❖

Submitted by Frank Cason



Fleetwood President and COO John Draheim

Fleetwood touts 2009 No. 1 Class A ranking

By RVBusiness

Fleetwood RV, Inc. was recognized as the No. 1 manufacturer of Class A motor homes in calendar year 2009 by Statistical Surveys, Inc., a reporting service based in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Statistical Surveys, Inc. has been tracking the RV industry since 1987. In that time, Fleetwood has been recognized as the No. 1 Class A motor home brand for 22 of the past 23 years. In calendar year

2009, Fleetwood RV held 18.4 percent of the Class A motor home retail market share, according to a news release.

"This year's achievement is extra special for Fleetwood RV," said John Draheim, president and COO of Decatur, Ind.-based Fleetwood RV Inc. "It is a true testament to all of Fleetwood RV's dealers, customers and associates that we were able to maintain our number one market share position throughout the challenges of the past year. Market share isn't a goal. It is a reward that a company earns by developing strong relationships with its dealers and customers; as well as by building high-quality products and standing behind them.

"Ever since our change in ownership in July 2009, Fleetwood RV has stood behind all of its motor home products whether they were built by the new company or the former company – including existing dealer inventory as well as customer coaches that are still within their warranty periods," added Draheim. "This support is just one of the many examples of our ongoing commitment to doing the right thing for our dealers and customers."

2010 marks the 60th anniversary for Fleetwood, one of the most recognized brands in the RV industry. Since 1950, Fleetwood has made its mark in the industry with key innovations like the debut of basement storage on the 1985 Bouncer and full-wall slide technology on the 2004 Pace Arrow. Today, Fleetwood RV's executive team is focused on building upon this legacy, as well as leveraging the company's smaller size.

"Because Fleetwood RV is a smaller, more nimble company, we can implement dealer and customer feedback into our products more quickly and successfully," added Draheim. "This agility also allows us to produce better quality motor homes at a higher value." ❖

DOAI members praise the egroup

Do you Yahoo? This catch phrase has meaning for about 500 of our club's members. They "Yahoo" through their participation in the DOAI egroup.

We've touted the advantages of this group in previous editions of this newsletter, and perhaps some of you have jumped in as a result. We could use more members, however, because of the nature of this remarkable assemblage.

What's it all about?

Briefly, the egroup is a *valuable* help feature of your membership. Let's say you have a problem ... you need to access a particular fuse, and you just can't find it. What to do? Post a message on the egroup and include the year and model of your Discovery. The result? You will receive at least one response (and most likely many more), telling you exactly where the thing is located. And many times the response will be within minutes of your posting.

And it isn't just about finding something on your coach. The questions range from what's the best product to use in such-and-such a place, to what's your opinion on surge protectors, to how do you find paint codes, to what's the best route to so-and-so, etc. The possibilities for subjects are literally endless. The only rule: keep the questions focused on our Discoverys and related products/situations.

Simply stated, a question from one member goes to all, and a response from another member goes to all. Like tossing a pebble into a pond, what you ask and what you receive goes out and can even assist another member who may encounter the same problem.

Our members react

Presented with the question, "Has the egroup helped you?," members gave these enthusiastic responses:

Bob Cook: As a long-time D owner and egroup member, the egroup has saved me many times the cost of DOAI membership *every year*. Not only [is it] a great place for help, but also a great place for advice on roads, where to stay and what to do when you get there.

Larry Douglas: I agree 110 percent on the value of this club and the help which normally comes within minutes of one's post. No one is getting the full value of Discovery membership without these egroup tips and help available almost 24 hours a day.

Dick Snyder: I had three separate problems with my propane generator on our 1998 36T. Oil in propane regulator, dirty slip rings, and a defective voltage regulator. I was able to repair each of these myself with advice from **Rod Kirk** and the egroup. Total cost for all three, \$118. I know someone who

spent \$1,200 for oil in the propane regulator alone.

Bill Kirton: I had a problem; sent out my message, and in five minutes the phone rang! **Charlie Richardson** asked me a few questions and quickly solved my problem. Saved me money, time and peace of mind. Love this group.

Dale O'Daniel: On every question I have had about a problem with my 2003 D, I have received answers and suggestions from more than one member. To single out one person, I would say that **Toni Calzone** has been my savior on most occasions. Her knowledge of the Discovery and Fleetwood is awesome! I hope to meet her on the road some day and thank her personally.

Linda Bethane: This forum and the people on it have been a life saver for me. I talk about them all of the time. Whenever I have had a problem, there has been someone to answer it immediately and send me in the right direction for a fix. In addition, reading everyone else's problems gives me a heads up for future concerns and maintenance procedures to follow to prevent problems. Thanks to all of you.

Winston Adams: I have many times had help especially with electrical problems and, of course, **Marshall Mauck** has always had the right answer. One for sure [was] with my step. Lost power and nothing seemed to work, even after buying a new motor. He told me to look in a spot where a connector was unplugged and that fixed it.

Ed Ripper: I have only had my D for slightly more than a year and luckily haven't had a problem where I had to go to the group for help. However, if/when I do have a problem that is beyond my expertise, this group will be my first contact.

Tom Zwirblia: This egroup is great. There is so much knowledge here, it's unbelievable. The information on tires, computers, and other items is fantastic. I just say thanks to all who have given excellent advice, especially **Jim Gravel**, **Marshall Mauck**, and **Marshall Godwin**.

Here's how to join

Visit the DOAI website (www.discoveryowners.com) and click on Forums, then click on eGroup. You will be asked to login (your membership number) and provide your password (your last name, case sensitive). Then you will arrive at the eGroup page. Follow the simple instructions and join us! You'll not regret it. ❖



Rally opportunities

Jump in and meet new friends and see new places via the chapter lifestyle. Other Discovery owners are waiting to welcome you!

April 2010 –

21-25 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Charleston SC
 T/B/A Discovery Pioneers, T/B/A

May 2010 –

1-7 Florida Disco Rolling Gators, Grassy Key FL
 17-21 Texas Disco Road Runners, Riviera TX
 21-23 Discovery Texans, Bandera TX

June 2010 –

2-5 Midwest Discoverers, Erie PA
 9-13 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Bluff City TN

September 2010 –

20-26 DOAI national rally - Autumn in the Smokies, Sevierville TN

October 2010 –

14-19 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Marion NC
 19-24 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Dillard GA
 27-11/1 Texas Disco Road Runners, Tyler TX

November 2010 –

11-13 Discovery Texans, Hempstead TX

Looking toward the future –

2011 DOAI national rally, Northeast region
 2012 DOAI national rally, South central region
 2013 DOAI national rally, Southwest region
 2014 DOAI national rally, Southeast region
 2015 DOAI national rally, Northwest region
 2016 DOAI national rally, North central region

Consolidated rally schedule at www.discoveryowners.com

2908 Northfork Highway • Cody, Wyoming 82414 greencreekinn@gmail.com

Call for RESERVATIONS **1-877-587-5004**

Green Creek Inn & RV Park

Jeff and Carolyn Rogowsky, Owners

Helpful contacts for Discovery owners

Allison Transmission, GM Corp.	800.252.5283	Interstate Rest Areas	www.interstaterestareas.com
Atwood Mobile Products	574.264.2131	Kidde Safety Products	800.880.6788
Camping/Traveling in the U.S.	www.roadnotes.com	Kwikkee Products	800.736.9961
Camping on Public Lands	www.americaspubliclands.com	Magnadyne	800.638.3600
Caterpillar RV Engine Support	877.777.3126	Michelin North America	800.847.3435
Carefree of Colorado	800.621.2617	Norcold, Inc.	800.543.1219
Carriage Carpets (Shaw Flooring)	877.706.3054	Onan	800.888.6626
CCI Controls	800.521.5228	Power Gear	800.334.4712
Cummins, Inc.	800.343.7357	Riverpark	800.442.7717
Denso (call Fleetwood)	800.322.8216	RV Dump Locations	www.rvdumps.com/dumpstations
Discovery Parts:		RVP (Coleman)	316.832.4357
Sullivan RV Sales & Service	800.720.0484	RVP (Suburban)	423.775.2131
Walt's RV Supplies	909.823.0563	The Sign Man (DOAI badges)	407.365.3722
Dometic Corp.	800.544.4881	Spartan Chassis, Inc.	517.543.6400
Fantastic Vent	800.521.0298	Splendide	800.356.0766
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	Thetford Corp.	800.521.3032
Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp	800.385.4357	Trojan Battery Co.	www.trojanbattery.com
General Electric	www.geappliances.com/geac/	Velvac	800.783.8871
Goodyear Tire & Rubber	800.321.2136	Winegard	800.288.8094
Intellitec	800.251.2408	Xantrex Technology	800.670.0707

Additions to this list are welcomed!

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

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

Executive vice president

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

Vice president for development

Bob Soltwedel, 4736 Harwich St, Boulder CO 80301-4217; 303.530.0775; 303.513.8548; bob.soltwedel@gmail.com

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Pete Palasota, 8106 Knottingham Dr, Waco TX 76712-3406; 254.772.3791; 254.722.2653; petenarthapal@aol.com

Vice treasurer

David Blomstrom, 7503 Foster Creek Dr, Richmond TX 77469-9766; 281.341.6962; 713.907.5022; davidblomstrom@aol.com

National rally master

Dick Snyder, 411 Alexander Dr, Seymour IN 47274-8633; 812.522.4535; 812.521.0137; rdnyder4@gmail.com

Past president

Phil Yovino, 214 Fairfield St, Shoreacres TX 77571-7155; 281.867.1809; 713.203.3114; pdyo@sbcglobal.net

North central region vice president (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI, MB, NU, ON)

Charlie Richardson, 3219 County Road 461, Poplar Bluff MO 63901-6126; 573.785.8703; 573.429.4884; cer_ejr@yahoo.com

Northeast region vice president (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, NB, NL, NS, PE, QC)

Steve Masterson, 3590 Round Bottom Rd PMB 272580, Cincinnati OH 45244-3026; 518.526.0054; masterson100@gmail.com

Northwest region vice president (AK, CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WY, AB, BC, NT, SK, YT)

Bob Williams, 1103 W Eclipse Dr, Saint George UT 84770-8027; 435.817.3172; rgwilliams@sisna.com

South central region vice president (AR, LA, OK, TX)

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

Southeast region vice president (AL, DE, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)

John Ricciardi, 477 The Gardens Dr, Crossville TN 38555-0301; 931.707.9831; 252.619.7198; john.l.ricciardi@gmail.com

Southwest region vice president (AZ, CA, HI, NV, NM)

John Bujnovsky, 8129 Bay Colony St, Las Vegas NV 89131-6707; 702.360.9718; 702.528.2877; johnshirley1@embarqmail.com

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arizona Discovery Owners (AZ)

Wanda May, 5545 N 83rd Ave, Glendale AZ 85303-5001; 602.872.1306; may4774301@aol.com

Blue Ridge Discoverys (GA, NC, SC, TN)

Frank Cason, 1917 Stone Dam Rd, Chuckey TN 37641-4876; 423.639.4079; 423.552.5257; cason.frank@gmail.com

California Goodtimers (CA)

John Bujnovsky, 8129 Bay Colony St, Las Vegas NV 89131-6708; 702.360.9718; 702.528.2877; johnshirley1@embarqmail.com

Desert Rats (NV)

John Bujnovsky, 8129 Bay Colony St, Las Vegas NV 89131-6707; 702.360.9718; 702.528.2877; johnshirley1@embarqmail.com

Discovery Pioneers (AZ, CO, KS, NM, UT, WY)

Chuck Brock, 759 S Arrowwood Way, Mesa AZ 85208-6311; 218.330.4632; bass640770@aol.com

Discovery Texans (TX)

Claire Weber, 15814 Pebble Bend Dr, Houston TX 77068-1210; 281.537.0804; 281.772.3630; ec.weber@att.net

Dixie Travelers (AL, MS, GA, FL)

Ted Misenheimer, 5160 Rockford Ln, Stockbridge GA 30281-5239; 770.507.1615; 770.827.4601; tedm66@bellsouth.net

Florida Discovery Rolling Gators (FL)

Bill Katterhenry, 10319 Waterbird Way, Bradenton FL 34209-3029; 865.408.9103; 941.504.1662; w.katterhenry@hotmail.com

Heartland Discoverys (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI)

Bobby Simpson, 129 Ivy Ct, New Tazewell TN 37825-5399; 423.626.8038; 765.860.3591; simv36@aol.com

Louisiana Mudbugs (LA)

Anthony Verdin, 2100 Suwannee Dr, Marrero LA 70072-4822; 504.341.7673; 504.416.5348; anverdin@aol.com

Mason-Dixon Discoverys (DE, MD, NJ, NC, PA, VA, WV)

John Ricciardi, 477 The Gardens Dr, Crossville TN 38555-0301; 252.619.7198; john.l.ricciardi@gmail.com

Midwest Discoverers (IN, KY, MI, OH, PA)

Jerry Call, 6825 County Road 16, Butler IN 46721-9417; 260.868.2580; 269.927.5397; jcallnorthpond@netzero.net

Nor'easters (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, NB, NL, QC, ON)

Dorie Baker, Cypress Woods RV Resort Lot B-99, 5551 Luckett Rd, Fort Myers FL 33905-5509; 717.487.8879; dorieann@aol.com

Northwest Adventurers (AK, ID, OR, MT, WA, AB, BC, NT, SK, YT)

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

Texas Disco Road Runners (TX)

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND FOUNDER

Founder/President emeritus

Jim Devine, 102 Rainbow Dr #242, Livingston TX 77399-1002; 970.209.4757; f195810@gmail.com

Membership director

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

Merchandise director

Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Ct, Fleetwood PA 19522-1018; 610.944.9675; 610.207.2016; dtracy@ptd.net

Newsletter editor

Nina Soltwedel, 4736 Harwich St, Boulder CO 80301-4217; 303.530.0775; 303.570.2736; doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com

Webmaster

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

Assistant webmaster

Toni Calzone, 118 Monroe Dr, Apt 404, Rockville MD 28050-2549; 301.424.3118; 240.422.9189; antonia.calzone@verizon.net

The regions report their activities and plans



Southeast region vice president
John Ricciardi

Southeast region

Camp Discovery is over and it was a huge success. The seminars were informative and even seasoned Discovery owners said they learned something new.

Camp Discovery was attended by 110 owners and four guests. Of the 110, there were 44 first timers. We also gained a new member to DOAI and a former DOAI member re-joined.

Jayne Fairley, Fleetwood representative at Lazydays, gave us an update on Fleetwood and it was all good news for Discovery. She told us Discovery is here to stay, but some of the other diesel pushers, such as Excursion, Expedition, and Providence probably will not remain in the production lineup.

Marshall Godwin gave a wonderful presentation on Alaska that kept all of us entertained one evening. On the last night, we all enjoyed the four couples who volunteered to participate in the "Not So Newlywed Game." There were many laughs at their expense. **Barbara Brady** and **Alan Richie** conducted line dancing lessons and this was a real big hit.

On a more serious note, **Charles Smith** and **Marion Davis** had a harrowing experience on their way to Camp Discovery. Charles had a heart attack while driving, and Marion was able to bring the motor home to a safe stop, then drive to a safe area and get the help needed. With the help of five "angels" she got Charles to a hospital in Hendersonville, N.C. When Charles saw the doctors, he told them he was on his way to Camp Discovery and gave the doctors till a certain time to get him well enough to travel. The doctors did their part and Charles and Marion arrived at Camp Discovery safely.

Last but certainly not least, I thank the Mason-Dixon Discoverys and everyone else who made Camp Discovery a huge success. A special thanks to the moderators, **Steve Masterson**, **Helen Blackwell**, **Ron Kiebler**, and **Toni Calzone**.

Toni Calzone must be recognized by herself for all the work she did before and during Camp Discovery. She did all the programming of a database that will make future rally registrations easier, made the files for the flash drives that were given out, did printing and had printing done, moderated the co-pilots seminars and much more. *Thank you, Toni!* I also thank our registrar, **Helen Blackwell**, again and tell her *registration is over!*

The Florida Rolling Gators had eight coaches attend Camp Discovery and they are now busy planning rallies for this year; they have eight planned so far.

The Blue Ridge Discoverys had the best showing at Camp Discovery and are now busy with their own rallies as well as the DOAI national rally in Sevierville in September.

The Mason-Dixons had 14 coaches attend Camp Discovery and have several rallies planned for this year, as well as helping at the DOAI national rally.

As everyone can see, the southeast region chapters are really busy. ❖



South central region vice president
Joe Stewart

South central region

As most of you may be aware, the south central region has been getting more than its share of bad weather this winter – temperatures in the low to mid-teens as far south as San Antonio and 14 inches of snow in 24 hours in Dallas. Needless to say a common phrase to be heard is "when is spring going to get here?" Temperatures have been below average for some time.

The various chapters have been having their normal rallies, although **Justine** and I have been unavailable for them. I have talked to two of the chapter presidents about getting together to discuss the 2012 national rally, especially the when and where. I'll contact the other president when I get back home.

At the Discovery Texans rally in November, one of our members and I discussed the possibility of forming a new chapter in the panhandle and south plains areas of Texas. I know of two or three DOAI members in the area. Hopefully, others can be found. If there are members of DOAI who would like to help form a chapter in the area, please contact me by phone (830.460.0686) or by email (retafwx@aol.com) and I'll have the people up there get in touch with you. We already have two or three in that area and I believe five are needed to form a new chapter.

If there are DOAI members in the south central region (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas) who would like to be members of a chapter, please let me know. The Discovery Texans had new members join at Camp Discovery.

Justine and I thank those of you who have praying or thinking of her during and after her surgery. She recently had a Cat scan and checkup and her doctor said the picture of her brain was beautiful. She has another checkup in March. In the meantime, he has released her to normal activities. Thanks again for your prayers and thoughts. ❖



Northeast region vice president
Steve Masterson
area.

Northeast region

Each year DOAI holds two rallies; the southeast region rally is held early in the year, and the national rally typically takes place in September on a rotating basis among DOAI's six regions. The 2009 national was held in Colorado (northwest region); the 2010 national will be in Tennessee (southeast region); and the 2011 national will be hosted by the northeast region, with a tentative location in the Hershey/Lancaster, Penn.

Continued on next page...

Region reports, continued

For the rally to be successful, we need volunteers to serve on teams or be a team leader. I will serve as rally master unless someone else is interested in that job. Other roles include registrar (person in charge of the registration process), treasurer, vendor coordinator, seminar coordinator, golf, Red Hat, entertainment/tours, meals, parking, and set up/take down. Traditionally, DOAI members outside the host region volunteer as well. While several people have committed to help us with the 2011 rally, we need **your** help, too. Please contact me to discuss how we can work together to plan and conduct this rally.

The chapters of the northeast region

We have two chapters in the northeast region: Midwest Discoverers and Nor'easters. **Jerry Call** (jcallnorthpond@netzero.com) is the president of the Midwest Discoverers, and **Dorie Baker** (dorieann@aol.com) is the president of the Nor'easters. If you want to be more involved in chapter activities, each of these good people urge you to contact them for more information.



Nor'easters

Dorie and her husband, **John**, former Pennsylvania residents, have moved permanently to Florida, and are in the process of selling their Discovery. In addition, other members of the chapter have retired and moved to warmer climates. Therefore, we need new members to help rebuild and reinvigorate the chapter. Please let me know if you are interested.



Chapter president
Jay Keneson

Texas Disco Road Runners

Our lively Disco Road Runners chapter sends greetings to all and welcomes this opportunity to inform you on what has been going on this part of Texas.

We enjoyed our last rally in October at the outstanding Whispering Pines RV Resort in east Texas. There, we decided that almost everyone had just too many commitments to justify planning a rally during November-December-January; at least one-third of our members would be traveling; over another third were having one or more medical or surgical procedures; and several were planning to attend the southeast region rally in Florida.

We have just completed our first chapter rally of the new year in Fredericksburg, Tex., this past January. Fifteen registered to attend, but only 13 made it. One member had a death in the family immediately before departing home. Another experienced a major RV accident. **Carl and Teri Dykman**, while returning from the Florida rally, were forced off the road in Alabama, just short of the Mississippi line. They

The office of northeast region vice president

In March 2008, **John Zidek**, a friend and then-vice president of the northeast region, passed away. I volunteered to fill the remainder of John's term. At that time, I had been a full-time RVer since 2005, a lifelong resident of New York, and a member of the Nor'easters. Over the past five years I have followed the path of many retirees and now spend my time in warmer climates: four to six months in Florida, two months in Texas, and the remainder of the time west of the Mississippi and north. My vehicles are registered in Florida, my mailing address is Texas, and I am a member of the Discovery Texans.



It is time for someone Northeast region who resides in the northeast

to be region vice president. Please contact me (masterson100@gmail.com) or **Marshall Godwin** (marshall@megodwin.com) if you are willing to serve in this position. We need someone from the U.S. or Canada who spends at least part of the year in the great northeast. I will continue to work on the 2011 national rally.

I look forward to hearing from you. ❖

DOAI chapters reporting on activities, rallies, and plans

were on a two-lane road en route to our rally. Three drunks in a pickup truck made contact with the Discovery's driver's side front wheel, forcing the Dykmans off the road through several ditches and contact with a tree or two. The front and driver's side of the RV was essentially destroyed. Teri and Carl survived, but sustained many cuts and bruises. Their dogs also made it through with only emotional trauma. The Dykmans were able to collect most of their belongings into a U-Haul truck. Their PT Cruiser came through okay. However, the Discovery appears to have been totaled. They are now attempting to get some of Carl's extensive internal modifications before they depart for home. If you know of a good 1999 37V Discovery that is for sale, do let them know as they are already looking for a replacement.

Though we missed our absent members, our rally was a great success. Everyone agreed we have very much missed being with one another! The tours, sightseeing and meals along with our nightly parties have been outstanding.

We plan our next event for March 22-26 in Bracketville, Tex., at the Fort Clark Springs RV Park. We would enjoy having you come and join us! ❖

Chapter reports, continued

Arizona Discovery Owners



Chapter president
Wanda May

The chapter met at Budget RV Park, Apache Junction, Ariz., December 30-January 2. The first activity was to gather for happy hour. The members enjoyed the food, drink, and the sharing of stories of their individual activities since the last meeting before retiring for the night.

A business meeting the next day included discussion on future rallies and rally masters chosen for same. While exact dates and places are pending, some suggestions included Lake Havasu in March, Death Valley in the fall, and perhaps another in Munds Park.

After the meeting, some of the group went to a nearby jumbo swap meet while others returned to their coaches for rest and relaxation.

The biggest event for the rally was the supper and show at the Arizona Opry. The Barleen family put on a good meal and a great show with a wide variety of music and humor. The band includes many talented musicians and a wide range of instruments. Among the special numbers were a huge saxophone and tuba duet and a Swiss horn duet! Several of the band members did impersonations including Elvis, John Denver, Freddie Fender, Sunny & Cher and Willie Nelson.

Before we broke camp on January 2, we enjoyed a Belgian waffle breakfast prepared by **Geri and Ed Cozens**. A few of the coaches stayed a day or two extra and were treated to breakfast by **Valerie and Andy Anderson**.

Submitted by Art Boglio

Mason-Dixon Discoverys



Chapter president
John Ricciardi

The Mason Dixons hosted Camp Discovery and they did an excellent job. There was a lot of hard work by all and it showed. I had people from Lazydays tell me this was one of the most organized rallies they had seen and it had one of the fullest schedules also. I am extremely proud of this group.

Now that Camp Discovery is over, we have to start looking at the DOAI national rally in Sevierville, Tenn., in September. We will be helping the Blue Ridge Discoverys for that one.

The Mason Dixons are busy planning some rallies of our own. The first one is scheduled for Charleston, S.C., April 21-25 at The Campground at James Island County Park, Charleston. We are also planning rallies in Boone, N.C., Pennsylvania, and possibly in Delaware and/or Virginia.

Elizabeth Dole, our historian, brought our photo album to Camp Discovery and all who took time to look at it enjoyed it very much. This brought a lot of good memories back. Thanks, Elizabeth, for all your hard work.

Midwest Discoverers



Chapter president
Jerry Call

Noreta and I attended the southeast rally in Seffner, Fla. There were five rigs from our chapter and all had a good time.

We will hold our spring rally in Erie, Penn., June 2-5, hosted by **Virgil and Donna Diver**. This should be a great rally on the lake. More information will be sent to all at a later date. The chapter thanks Virgil Diver and **Cindy Merkt** for doing a great job on behalf of all the Midwest Discoverers members.

Blue Ridge Discoverys



Chapter president
Frank Cason

It's February in Florida with a bit of rain and cold, but much nicer than eastern Tennessee. On the bright side, we are much better off than our children, with their 30 plus inches of snow in Washington, D.C.

The state of the Blue Ridge Discoverys is strong. Our membership continues to grow and we continue to have more and more members attending the chapter rallies. At Camp Discovery we had a great showing of 34 coaches. Our wagon master, **Walt and Jan Hare**, made the big leap and purchased a 2010 40X. It is a beautiful coach. Congratulations to the two of them.

Our next chapter rally will be at Lakeview RV Park in Bluff City, Tenn. The rally dates are June 8 early arrival, rally starts June 9, departing June 13. The registration form has been sent to all chapter members. If you have not received your copy, let me know; I will resend. We have 25 spaces on hold for the rally, so let's fill them and maybe get more. There is still plenty of time for you to register and join us for a great fun-filled week in eastern Tennessee.



Jan and Walt Hare, owners of new 2010 40X

In October we will do something different. We will have an 11-day rally in two different locations. As soon as the registration forms are available, they will be sent to chapter members. More will be published on this later in the year. The dates and locations of all our chapter rallies for 2010 have been put on the DOAI website. For chapter members to really get to know other members and to enjoy their DOAI and chapter membership, they are urged to attend the chapter rallies. A great time is had at each rally by all.

Thanks for all the support I have received from the chapter officers and members. Let's continue to improve our chapter and have fun. See you at the next rally.

Southeast region rally attendees sing praises

Camp Discovery big hit with DOAI members

In addition to comments made in other articles in this edition of *Discovery Express*, these members sent in their notes of appreciation for those who presented a smashing southeast region rally in Florida:



Lazydays refrigeration seminar

John Baker: Certainly, I won't be the only one giving well-deserved kudos to all the folks who worked so hard to make Camp Discovery an enjoyable success. The Mason-Dixon Discoverys arranged the always-excellent facilities at Lazydays and smoothly moved all the support functions along to get us into place, provide registration materials, meals, and entertainment. **John Ricciardi** skillfully acted as rally master and emcee for the week.

Toni Calzone and **Marshall Godwin** prepared and presented by far the lion's share of interesting and informative seminars. Without their tireless efforts, Camp Discovery certainly would have failed; instead, it was indeed a great success. They conceived this style of meeting, shepherded it through its formulation, and completed the process in grand style. Kudos and special thanks to the two of you.



Donna rolled her eyes at some of Claude's answers.

Several others presented informative seminars in their areas of expertise, and many folks attended numerous presentations given by the Lazydays staff. We owe thanks to each who stepped up to the challenge and shared their knowledge with us.

One of the most interesting and optimistic facts of the week was that almost 40 percent of all attendees were first-timers to a national or regional rally! This demonstrates that we have new folks among us and they are interested in learning all they can about their Ds. I want to give them a special welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon and hope to get to know you on a personal level. Enjoy your D! ❖

Claude Eichenour: To all who worked on putting on a great rally, **Donna** and I say thanks! We both enjoyed the seminars and learned some things specific to our coaches. Everyone at the closing night's entertainment made our 25th anniversary very special and we enjoyed it! I caught heck over a couple of my answers, but Donna got over it in a hurry, so all is well on the home front. Again, thanks for a great rally and a good time. ❖



Steve Roddy, Lazydays service training manager. See his postings at <http://forums.betterrving.com/>



Marshall Godwin led a general session and several presentations



Rally attendees could get outfitted in the latest DOAI goods.



Marshall Godwin, Jim and Frances Sullivan learned how to line dance under Barbara Brady's expert tutelage



Available were assorted displays for the edification of all attendees



And then others, like Joel Landavazo, took time to clean their windshields.

The RV Doctor is here!



RV Doctor Gary Bunzer

RVs, rubber roofing, and you

Few innovations in the RV industry can boast of steady interest over an extended period of time and at many levels of the industry. But along with other leading-edge design concepts such as basement model floor plans and slide-out rooms, the advent of EPDM rubber roofing has generated a lot of interest and a box full of questions regarding its wear, its care and its benefits. Equipped on RVs since the '80s, EPDM rubber (ethylene propylene dienemonomer) has now enjoyed industry-wide acceptance on many recreation vehicles and many decades of successful use in other industries. So popular now, most RV manufacturers offer at least some of their product line, if not all, equipped with an EPDM rubber membrane as the finished roof surface.

As EPDM membrane increased in popularity and RVers became more in tune with it, aftermarket products began to appear including a vast assortment of treatments, cleaners and protectants. And that's where the contention began. Confusion seeped its way into the fabric of discussions from campfire conversations among RV owners to professional technical presentations by the so-called experts. Even knowledgeable professional shops were a bit vague when asked about specific precautions concerning EPDM membrane. The facts will be revealed here, but first, a little EPDM background.

Background

According to a published polymer selection guide spec sheet, EPDM membrane is ideal for outdoor applications, such as the roofs of RVs because it has an excellent resistance to ultraviolet light (UV), ozone, oxidants and can withstand severe weather conditions. Such characteristics allow many EPDM manufacturers to guarantee their membrane for long periods – 10 to 12 years. Realistically, EPDM membrane could last closer to 20! Additionally, it has excellent resistance to heat which makes it extremely well suited for recreation vehicles in any climate. It is capable of enduring temperature variations from -50 degrees F. to 240 degrees F. without cracking or deteriorating. Its sunlight aging rating is excellent. Compression set, abrasion resistance and its resilience factors have all been rated good. On the downside though, tear resistance only came in at fair, and the solvent and oil resistance rating is poor. Many RVers have experienced tears

or rips in the rubber caused primarily by low hanging tree limbs while pulling into campsites. Happily though, repairs are likewise easy, thanks to the aforementioned aftermarket. Other inherent negative characteristics include a susceptibility to absorb oils, fats and waxes from solvents having a low polarity. An example would be the resultant bubbling or wrinkling that can occur if an oil-based roof coating, commonly used on aluminum RV roofs, is mistakenly applied to EPDM membrane.

By nature, EPDM rubber requires no protection from UV

rays or ozone bombardment, though it is prone to oxidize. Normal oxidation is a condition due to the disintegration of surface binders or elastomers simply by weathering. Other destructive environmental conditions can also add to the degree of chalking. The result is that surface chalking actually removes a portion of the rubber. This is a normal occurrence and the RVer should not be concerned about the direct effect on the rubber. Oxidation will, however, usually

manifest itself as long, unsightly streaks running down the sides of the RV. We've all seen it. The streaks are usually caused by dirt, road grime and air-borne pollutants that settle

and adhere to the roof and are washed over the side along with the loosened powdery surface elastomer. The simple solution is to keep the roof clean. The degree of chalking associated with EPDM may vary from coach to coach. And according to the makers, tighter controls during the copolymerizing procedure leads to a slower rate of oxidation though most will surrender up to 10 percent of the overall thickness during the life of the roof. Since EPDM

is itself an elastomer used generally in conjunction with other elastomers, copolymerizing the EPDM with other modifiers can substantially improve the quality. But that's for the manufacturers to worry about.

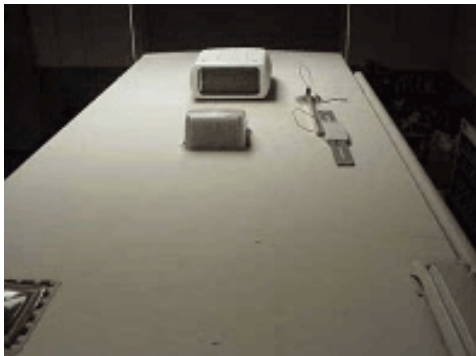
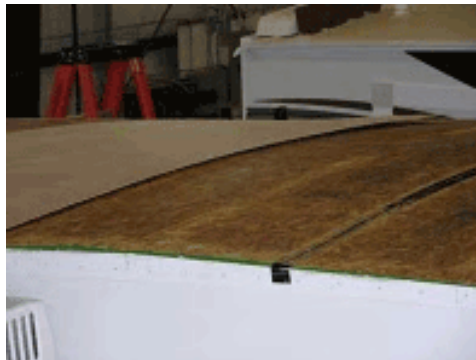
Cleaning

Cleaning your rubber roof should be a regularly scheduled maintenance task performed often enough to keep the EPDM surface white. Usually four to six times per year will suffice, depending on your climate and its propensity to gather and distribute dirt, and how pure the copolymerizing process was performed during manufacture.

Product contents

One confusing aspect of EPDM care, alluded to earlier, involves the use of products that contain petroleum distillates.

Continued on next page...



RV doctor, continued

It appears the very words, “petroleum distillates” invoke confusion and controversy. EPDM, as designed and formulated by the chemists and engineers, has a poor resistance to oils and solvents – derivatives of petroleum. But many, if not most, of the aftermarket cleaners and protectants are forever branded with the words, “Contains: Petroleum Distillates” right on the container. So what gives? When asked about the apparent contradiction, many product manufacturers were quick to respond and ready to defend. Read on.

According to most, the term “petroleum distillates” is a very broad category which usually refers to all aliphatic hydrocarbons. Further, aliphatic hydrocarbons can be divided into two distinct groups: petroleum distillates and synthetic paraffinic hydrocarbons. Not that it will impact your RV life immensely, but the three general classes of compounds found in petroleum distillates include naphthenic, aromatic and paraffinic hydrocarbons. All petroleum distillates and paraffinic hydrocarbons are good cleaners and spot removers, though the paraffinic hydrocarbons have a lower flammability level, a narrower boiling range and a higher solvency rate. They all are very good at removing light grease and grime common to the roofs of RVs. Further purified, some distillates eventually become oils used in medicines and cooking aids.

Proponents say trying to define the term petroleum distillates is akin to explaining the term, “liquids.” Liquids come in many varieties; water, milk, battery electrolyte, gasoline, cough medicine, and even nail polish can all be described as liquids, and each has a beneficial use when used correctly. However, nail polish used as battery electrolyte or milk poured in your RVs fuel tank will indeed have disastrous results. Fact is, all petroleum distillates begin their refined life as a petroleum distillate, but

their end use can be radically different. This is not to trivialize the concern about some petroleum-based products with respect to EPDM membrane, but broad-brush tactics condemning all petroleum distillate products as the death knell to EPDM rubber roofing is like throwing the baby out with the bath water. One EPDM manufacturer even recommends the use of unleaded gasoline as a cleaning solvent though admonishing, “Use cleaning solvent sparingly. Do not saturate sheet. Noticeable swelling of sheet indicates that too much cleaning solvent is being used.” Makes sense. Additionally, industrial splice cleaners used by some makers, including Carlisle SynTec and Anjon, contain petroleum distillates. Immersion tests have revealed that petroleum distillates indeed cause EPDM to swell, wrinkle and bubble, but in the case of volatile solvents, the swelling can recover as the solvent evaporates. In other words, take care and know what you are doing if you use petroleum distillate products on EPDM membrane. Your rubber roof material will bubble and loosen if it is saturated or soaked with a product that contains petroleum distillates.

...broad-brush tactics condemning all petroleum distillate products as the death knell to EPDM rubber roofing is like throwing the baby out with the bath water.

But, this harkens back to a common theme among those EPDM product manufacturers who use petroleum distillates in their mix; they say in essence, look, we have done our research, spent big bucks to formulate a product that will do what it says if you simply follow the directions properly. We have to put the words “petroleum distillates” on the label as a notification for physicians and emergency medical specialists in the unlikely event of ingestion of our product. Prominence in labeling is a requirement of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Code of Federal Regulations, Commercial Practices, Section Sixteen. (Copies of the regulations are available by contacting Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.)

So the call went out to product manufacturers and EPDM suppliers and distributors for information, product samples and maintenance recommendations. Samples, when provided, were tested from a user’s perspective in various climates over the course of many months. What follows is a list of the products that were effective on EPDM rubber membrane displaying variable degrees of oxidation and sporting an assortment of stains and dirt. What mattered? Just this – did the product do what it said it would do.

An interesting note is that other factors also contributed to a product’s effectiveness including the time of year and how well the roof had been previously maintained. But the type of stain, the indigenous climate and how much oxidation was present were the three main determining factors. Application directions were followed to the “T” though none were compared head to head for ease of use since that comparison would be purely subjective. Interestingly, there were no reports of swelling, bubbling or damage caused by the use of a rubber roof cleaner or protectant that contained petroleum distillates.

One cleaning tactic that continues to work on tough stains, previously endorsed by virtually all EPDM suppliers, is to dampen a clean cloth with mineral spirits (a petroleum distillate) for spot applications. However, do not pour mineral spirits directly onto the roof; remember the saturation factor. Another product evaluator had success simply with Tile-X mildew cleaner, a bleach-type product, though it remains unclear exactly what type of stain was on the roof. Simple household bleach worked well in other instances. Dicor, a major distributor of Carlisle SynTec membrane recommends their own cleaner or a mild laundry detergent for general cleaning and mineral spirits for the tougher stains. Ironically, Alpha Systems, Incorporated, another major EPDM supplier, chose not to respond to two separate requests for information and their recommendations.

Yet a dichotomy still exists. **Fact:** warranties can be voided by using products that contain petroleum distillates if damage is incurred by its use. **Fact:** when used as directed, EPDM products containing petroleum distillates do work. So just where does that leave the RV owner? It beckons the RVer to try an assortment of care products and make a personal observation and decision based on his/her climate and type of

Continued on next page...

RV doctor, continued

grime. In other words, use what works best in your situation, taking care to follow the directions explicitly. Be also advised that your warranty may be affected by using products that contain petroleum distillates. It just may come down to how well you want the roof to look, how easy it is to clean, and if the risk of voiding the warranty means less to you than keeping your EPDM rubber roof membrane spotless.

Other companies contributing to this article include:

- ☞ All-Rite, 1500 Shelton Dr, Hollister CA 95023
- ☞ Patrick Industries, Inc., PO Box 638, Elkhart IN 46515

- ☞ Pro Guard Coatings, PO Box 2056, Sinking Springs PA 19608



Gary's RV Doctor column has been published somewhere every month for over 33 consecutive years. Visit his website, www.rvdoctor.com, for additional RV articles, technical information and video tips. We extend thanks to Gary for allowing us to reprint his sage advice on RV matters.

Hints and tips

Coffee filters good for more than just filtering coffee!

If you use a coffee maker, then you probably purchase coffee filters. This list of other uses for coffee filters begs to be tried. If there are other uses not mentioned here, let us know and we'll publish updates.

1. Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave. Coffee filters make excellent covers.
2. Clean windows, mirrors, and chrome. Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.
3. Protect china by separating your good dishes with a coffee filter between each dish.
4. Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.
5. Protect a cast iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.
6. Apply shoe polish.. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter.
7. Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.
8. Weigh chopped foods. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.
9. Hold tacos. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.
10. Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.



Filters are great for holding chopped onions

11. Prevent a Popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter.
12. Put a few in a plate and put your fried bacon, French fries, chicken fingers, etc., on them. It soaks out all the grease.
13. Keep in the bathroom. They make great razor nick "fixers."
14. As a sewing backing. Use a filter as an easy-to-tear backing for embroidering or appliquéing soft fabrics.
15. Put baking soda into a coffee filter and insert into shoes or a closet to absorb or prevent odors.
16. Use them to strain soup stock and to tie fresh herbs in to put in soups and stews.
17. Use a coffee filter to prevent spilling when you add fluids to your car.
18. Use them as a spoon rest while cooking and clean up small counter spills.
19. Can use to hold dry ingredients when baking or when cutting a piece of fruit or veggies. Saves on having extra bowls to wash.
20. Use them to wrap Christmas ornaments for storage.
21. Use them to remove fingernail polish when out of cotton balls.
22. Use them to sprout seeds. Simply dampen the coffee filter, place seeds inside, fold it and place it into a plastic bag until they sprout.
23. Use coffee filters as blotting paper for pressed flowers. Place the flowers between two coffee filters and put the coffee filters in phone book.
24. Use as a disposable snack bowl for popcorn, chips, etc.❖

Another photo from Camp Discovery

DOAI members are good sports. Four couples participated in the "Not So Newlywed" game, and everyone had a good laugh. Pictured left to right: **Glenn Camp, Claude and Donna Eichenour, Frank Cason, Larry and Judy Thorneycroft, Richard Money, Jim Sullivan, Hank and Eileen Haden** (winners), **Carl and Cheryl Rosner, and Dick Snyder**. DOAI rallies are a whole lotta fun! ❖



Better safe than sorry

By Bill Pinchak

No matter how long you've been RVing, you still need to plan ahead for a safe, trouble-free and enjoyable trip. When something goes wrong, it can happen far from home, in unfamiliar territory, and it can turn your journey into a nightmare. That's why the more you know about proper load distribution, vehicle preparation and other safety concerns, the better. It's well worth your time to reduce the potential risks you and your RV may face on the road. All you have to do is take a few RV safety precautions before you leave.

Reduce the dangers of overloading, equipment failure, and other RV pitfalls

Understanding simple, but important, RV safety practices can help you move toward safer traveling. For example, did you know that driving or towing an overloaded rig is a leading cause of RV accidents? It's true that even a slight overload or unequal weight distribution can seriously restrict braking and steering. It can also result in sudden blowouts or breakdowns. An overweight RV often creates the danger of early failure in tires, brakes, wheels, the drivetrain and other components. As if that's not bad enough, higher fuel consumption and driver fatigue are also common side effects of taking to the road in a heavy, overloaded and poor-handling RV.

Do these RV weight problems sound familiar? If so, you're not alone. Disturbing statistics, compiled by RV safety expert John Anderson during rally weighing exercises, show that nearly two-thirds of all the RVs weighed exceed one or more of their load ratings. Simply put, your RV is overloaded if it exceeds any of the manufacturer's established limitations for total load, axle load, or tire loading. The gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) is the maximum amount your RV can safely carry. It includes both the wet weight and the cargo weight. Be sure to check your owner's manual for weight limitations.

Recent Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) weight-labeling requirements make it easier for new RV buyers to judge weight and carrying capacity. If you're in the market for a new motor home, you'll find this information very helpful. In the meantime, there are important steps you can take toward safer weight distribution.

Does your rig need to go on a diet?

If you've been gradually accumulating more and more "stuff" over the years, it's probably time to put your RV on a weight reduction program. But, first you need to take a trip to the scales. Don't guess at your load weight because it's easy to underestimate by hundreds of pounds. You can have your rig weighed at a public weigh station for a minimal fee. Look in the Yellow Pages under "Scales, Public" to find the location of scales nearest you. Be sure to weigh your rig when it's fully

loaded. It's also important to weigh each axle separately. After the weigh-in you might be surprised at how quickly the combined weight of your passengers and all your stuff adds up to more than you expected.

Look your RV over from top to bottom and consider what's necessary and what's not. Just because your rig has a lot of shelves, drawers and other storage space doesn't mean you have to fill it up. It would be helpful to remove all your stuff then put back only the items you really need. When you reload, remember to store heavy items low and forward, lightweight articles high. Be sure heavy items can't slide into the water pump or other fixed equipment. Try to balance the load between the two sides of the RV. A simple measurement of clearances on both sides can aid in proper balance. You can minimize swing, sway or wobble if you keep the vehicle's center of gravity low.

When loading your motor home, make sure everything has a place and is easy to get at when needed. Experienced RVers prepare a packing map of luggage and storage areas for easy access. Secure all cargo inside and outside the vehicle. Anything rattling around loose is a potential hazard, as well as noisy.

Get ready, get set, go!

Check over all your RV's equipment and systems at least a week before you take to the open road. That way you'll have time to make necessary repairs. If you leave it until the last minute, it could cancel or postpone your travels. Inspect tires, brakes, jacks, lights, oil, radiator, belts, horn, shocks, steering, windshield wipers and washers, lubrication and other vital equipment.

Tires are one of the most critical factors in safe RVing. Since most tire failures are caused by overload or underinflation, be sure your tires are inflated in accordance with proper inflation pressures for the load you're carrying. Overloaded tires are more prone to blow out. Keep tires of similar tread patterns and similar construction on the same axles.

Along with safe tires, properly adjusted brakes are essential. Don't forget the parking brake, because a slipping brake can drop the RV off its jack while you're changing tires. If you're towing anything, give the hitch and safety chains a going-over. Check the luggage racks. Are the mountings secure and tie downs strong enough to keep cargo in place?

Be sure to check LP tanks. All tanks by law must have a 10 percent valve. The valve releases and lets off gas in case of over-filling. If your tank doesn't have the safety valve, get a new tank. Also, make sure you fill your LP tanks to only 80 or 90 percent of their volume, depending on the temperature.

Inspect and test all connections to every appliance. In order to check lines for leaks, just dab soapy water on fittings

Continued on next page...



Better safe than sorry, continued

and watch for bubbles. Also, look at appliance vents for obstructions since it's not uncommon for squirrels and birds to build nests in vents.

Check your fire extinguishers, smoke detector and carbon monoxide (CO) detector to make sure they are in proper working order. Some fire extinguishers have a gauge that indicates their condition, others have a test button and instructions for making a condition test. You should have two 2.5 lb. fire extinguishers with a rating of 5BC – one located in the galley and the other in the cockpit of your motor home or tow vehicle. Test the smoke detector's battery, as well as your CO detector according to manufacturer's instructions.

Be careful out there

More accidents are due to the failure of the driver to be comfortable with the RV, than a failure of the rig itself. Be conscious at all times of the RV's height, width, length and weight, and be aware of blind spots and other limitations. Physically measure the dimensions of your RV, jot the figures down and tape them to your dashboard. Those dimensions must be respected to avoid overhead collisions or clipping other vehicles and objects. Always check clearances. When in doubt, get out and take a look.

Left and right outside mirrors are your most valuable equipment when you're on the road. Use them. Set them so you

get a proper view by simply turning your head or glancing out of the corner of your eye. Properly set, they should show the rear wheels in the bottom corner, as well as a distance of at least 30 feet behind the vehicle.

Make routine checks during every gasoline stop. Check tires, oil, water, wiper blades, battery, etc. If you are towing something, inspect the trailer hitch and safety chains. Tug at any gear strapped to the outside of the vehicle.

When you're on a busy highway, stay away from the pack if possible. The more vehicles around you, the greater the chances of encountering trouble. If you're traveling with others, don't travel in a caravan because this often causes a traffic hazard.

Finally, remember that a properly balanced RV, safe equipment and good driving can tame almost any road. These safety tips can help make your RV trip turn out exactly the way you want: worry-free and full of fun. ❖

The author is an RV claims consultant with Foremost Insurance Group. This article is reprinted with permission from Foremost Insurance Group, 5600 Beech Tree Lane, Caledonia, MI 49316. Foremost has been a national leader in insurance products for more than 55 years. To learn more, contact your local agent, call Foremost at 800.237.2060, or visit <http://www.foremost.com>

Do you know the law?



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information

If you are one of the millions of Americans with a service animal, you are aware of what the federal government has in place to protect your rights. For

the rest of us, here's a brief list of what the ADA says about service animals.

The introduction to the information sheet states: Service animals are animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities – such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets.

The preamble to the act states: Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), businesses and organizations that serve the public must allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility where customers are normally allowed to go. This federal law applies to all businesses open to the public, including restaurants, hotels, taxis and shuttles, grocery and department stores, hospitals and medical offices, theaters, health clubs, parks, and zoos.

The act includes bulleted statements as follows:

Businesses may ask if an animal is a service animal or ask what tasks the animal has been trained to perform, but

cannot require special ID cards for the animal or ask about the person's disability.

- ✎ People with disabilities who use service animals cannot be charged extra fees, isolated from other patrons, or treated less favorably than other patrons. However, if a business such as a hotel normally charges guests for damage that they cause, a customer with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal.
- ✎ A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless: (1) the animal is out of control and the animal's owner does not take effective action to control it (for example, a dog that barks repeatedly during a movie), or (2) the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- ✎ In these cases, the business should give the person with the disability the option to obtain goods and services without having the animal on the premises.
- ✎ Businesses that sell or prepare food must allow service animals in public areas even if state or local health codes prohibit animals on the premises.
- ✎ A business is not required to provide care or food for a service animal or provide a special location for it to relieve itself.
- ✎ Allergies and fear of animals are generally not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people with service animals.
- ✎ Violators of the ADA can be required to pay money damages and penalties. ❖



National rally master Dick Snyder

National rally master's report

Camp Discovery a big success

Brenda and I enjoyed our time at Camp Discovery at Lazydays in Seffner, Fla. It was everything and more when it comes to putting on a rally. The training seminars were very well attended. I just wish I could remember everything. Of course, we can always look back at our manual when there is trouble.

I think just seeing everyone is the most rewarding time of the rally for me, although the seminars and training were very good.

The dinners were enjoyable and the evening entertainment was great. The "Not So Newlywed" game was a huge hit. Thanks to the four couples for their participation and giving everyone a laugh at their expense.

I say "Well done and thanks" to **John, Toni, Marshall, Helen, Steve, Ron**, the Mason-Dixon Discoverys, and everyone who played a part in this informational and fun rally. We all appreciate your hard work and will not forget what you have done for us.

We hope to see you all in Sevierville, Tenn., next September. ❖



Webmaster Bob Cook

Webmaster's report

Identity theft

In today's environment, everyone is vulnerable to identity theft. I will briefly discuss how you can protect this from happening to you.

With just some basic information, someone can claim to be you and open lines of credit in your name. And, you face a lot of grief and wasted time gaining back your good name. Even if you don't own a computer and burn all your receipts, someone can still steal your identity. How? Many businesses (large, small, doctors, banks, etc.) and government agencies have everything a crook needs. You may recall hearing about how a big business or a government agency's records were compromised, exposing their clients to identity theft.

You may also have noticed many advertisements for identity protection services, usually with a \$10 - \$20 monthly fee. However, you can "freeze" your credit – for free or a small one-time fee – and avoid the monthly fees. Freezing your credit means that no one can access your credit report. This blocks anyone from applying for credit in your name. If you need a loan, you will simply "thaw" your credit and then "freeze" again after your credit report is checked.

You will need to freeze your credit at all three of the national credit reporting agencies - Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. The procedure is beyond the scope of this short article, but <http://www.consumersunion.org> has an excellent article that provides all the necessary details. With over eight million Americans becoming identity theft victims every year, it is important that you protect your identity.

Computer security

Last year, there were over 20 million new versions of malware

introduced – more than all prior years combined! Virtually all of this malware is aimed at computers running Windows. Even the best antivirus programs are able to detect, at best, 60 percent of zero-day malware. And, they offer no protection to other types of threats.

Recently, the computers of the chief technical officers of several very high-profile technical companies were compromised and used to attack their company. If these folks can get malware, anyone can!

So, what should we do? We need to keep Windows and our software updated. Secunia offers a free tool (SecuniaPSI) that will help identify software that needs to be updated. You also shouldn't click on links in email – good advice – but did you also know that you can get malware just by *visiting* a website, even a "good" website?

I have long recommended Sandboxie as the best way to keep yourself safe. The newest version works excellent if you are using any version of Windows 32 bit, but still better than anything else if you are using a 64 bit version of Windows. It takes just a little learning to use it effectively.

However, note that Sandboxie will guard your computer, but not necessarily your privacy. You will want to empty the sandbox often to ensure that there is no confidential information in your sandbox should you encounter any malware.

Everyone, whether you use Sandboxie or not, should also use Firefox web browser with the NoScript plugin. This will block Flash scripting which is one of the major sources of attack, including the only defense against ClickJacking. This will help protect your privacy.

Another alternative is to use Linux for email and web browsing. You don't need to install Linux on your computer. You don't even need to know anything about it. Just download the LiveCD version of Ubuntu (Google). Burn Ubuntu to a CD

Continued on next page...

Definitions

Malware - anything bad that you don't want on your computer.

Zero-day attack - a newly discovered virus for which there is no security fix available. Security fixes are generally not available for 30-60 days, leaving your computer vulnerable to infection (some security fixes are not available for *years!*).

Classified advertising

For classified and display advertising guidelines and rates, contact editor at doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com

Discoverys FOR SALE

1997 36R: 11,000m on Jasper engine rebuild, excellent cond., all manuals. Joe Robb; jrobb@zemar.com **\$30,000 FIRM**

1999 36T: 72,000m, great condition, tire allowance. David Chestnut; 407.228.6613; dchestnut54@earthlink.net **\$45,000**

2000 37G: 25,000m, very good condition, more. Ron Busenbark; 734.479.0321; ronbusenbark@gmail.com **\$73,000**

2002 38P: Low miles, mint condition. Raymon Martin; 813.642.9248; franray1@verzion.net **\$81,400**

2003 39L: 48,000m, new tires/batteries; full tile throughout. Tom Fields; 830-632-9326; thomfiel@earthlink.net **\$95,000**

2006 39S: 16,672m, many upgrades, outdoor kitchenette, more. Chris Coats; 770-537-8324; ccoats@silvey.com **\$127,500**

Other RV items FOR SALE

Rear wheel cover: 2001 D, 47¾" wide, 31⅝" high. Robert Wilkins; 419.753.2502; nkvet@nktelco.net **\$300** + shpg

Stove: From '98 D, excellent condition. Jimmy Williams; 580-380-0000; jpw3840@westok.net **\$200 OBO**

Sunguard windshield cover: Like new, fits '97-'99 D. Paula House; 903.810.0076; office@horsecreekbranch.us **\$100** + shpg

110 amp auto-reset 12V circuit breaker: Surface mount, new. Steve Bainer; 956.831.2363; ba5online@yahoo.com **\$15** incl shpg

PAID classified advertising

Hub nut tool: Frank Cason, 1917 Stone Dam Rd, Chuckey TN 37641; 423.552.5257; cason.frank@gmail.com **\$10 + \$2.50** s/h



Webmaster's report, continued

and then start your computer with this CD in your CD drive (be sure your BIOS is set to boot first from the CD/DVD). Now you can browse the Internet and click on links in email to your heart's content without fear of getting infected. Since nothing will be saved to your computer when you turn it off, you will want to use cloud-based services for things such as email.

If you use your computer to monitor your financial life, always turn off and restart your computer before doing any of this. Also, keep your financial and confidential records on a removable drive that is *not* connected to the Internet if you don't need it.

Email me privately at webmaster@discoveryowners.com if you would like to discuss in more detail.

Flash cookies

You may already be familiar with website cookies. These small snippets of code (4 KB) are placed on your computer to ease your browsing experience. As an example, the DOAI website uses cookies that contain your login status so that you only need to login once to view multiple members-only pages. And, you can easily block third-party cookies (which you should do) or delete cookies from your browser settings.

However, do you know about Flash cookies? Flash was developed by Adobe primarily to add animation to web pages and distribute video (YouTube is a good example). Websites can use Flash applets embedded on their sites to write information into a preference file stored on the computer that visits the site – that's the Flash cookie.

Although the Flash cookie cannot be shared across domains, there are several huge security and privacy concerns:

- ◆ The Flash cookie can be used to turn on your web camera and microphone.
- ◆ The Flash cookie can contain lots of info (100 KB).
- ◆ The Flash cookie can recreate regular cookies you have deleted.
- ◆ You can't control or delete Flash cookies in your browser. In fact, Flash cookies may be stored in multiple locations on your computer and are not easily found.

So, how can you see which sites have placed Flash cookies on your machine, and how do you control this behavior? You must use the Adobe Flash Player Settings Manager which you must access through a Flash element on Adobe's Flash Player support website – http://www.macromedia.com/support/documentation/en/flashplayer/help/settings_manager02.html

From this page, you can manage the settings of the Flash Player install on your machine. For example, from the Global Privacy Settings panel, you can prevent websites from accessing, or even asking permission to access, your camera and microphone.

If you want to see which websites have placed Flash cookies on your machine, check out the Website Storage Settings panel. Here you can see the name of the website, the amount of disk space each site uses to store information on your machine, the maximum amount of disk space a website can use before asking for more space, and the privacy setting you have specified for each site. From this panel you can also delete the Flash cookies stored by specific sites or all sites.

If you want to prevent Flash cookies from being stored at all, switch to the Global Storage Settings panel and remove the check next to "Allow third-party Flash content to store data on your computer."

For better privacy and security, I use Firefox with the FlashBlock and BetterPrivacy add-ons. FlashBlock replaces all Flash objects with a symbol that can be clicked to activate the Flash object (important since Flash objects can be used to load malware on your computer). BetterPrivacy erases all Flash cookies when you quit Firefox. ❖

Our members fix it!

Bay door latch repair



Photo 1

A bay door latch broke on our 2000 D. After hearing that it is a bit of a hassle to remove the end of the door trim, I tried a different approach. I decided to cut a small access window in the back (inside) of the door so I would have access to the lock nuts and be able to remove the latch.

Using a heavy razor knife and small hammer, I cut a window 3¼ inches (distance between the screws holding the latch) by 2¼ inches. The material is thin and fairly easy to cut. I made the cut 1¼ inch from the frame edge so as to not

interfere with the door gasket. (Photo 1)



Photo 3



Photo 2

On this particular latch, the gasket was not along the door edge, but I wanted to see if this procedure would work on doors where the gasket was near the edge. Applying masking tape to the area and marking out the cut first helps to keep the razor knife from slipping. Propping the door open with a board and having a friend steady it also helps.

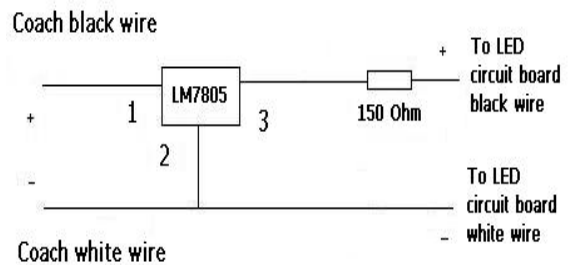
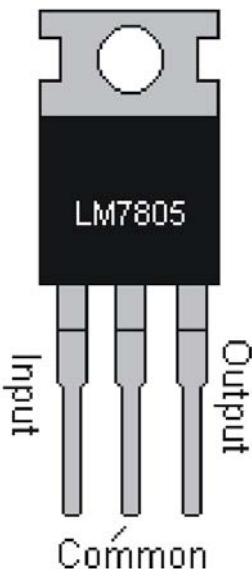
Using a small knife to remove any Styrofoam in the way of the lock nuts, I was able to reach in with a pair of long nose vise grips and grab the nuts, while unscrewing the bolt with a Philips. The latch came out easily. I glued the nuts in place on the new latch with Goop so it would be easy to line up the bolt when put back in place. (Photo 2)

Putting the new latch in place, I started the bolts and was able to hold the nuts with a nut driver while tightening the Philips head bolt. I made a cover from thin white plastic and screwed it in place. Next time, it will be a piece of cake to replace. (Photo 3)

Submitted by Larry Lucas

LED handle – repair and prevention

LEDs are supposed to last “forever,” so why do my LED door handle lights fail? The problem is with the design of the LED driver circuitry. LEDs can easily last 10,000 hours if they are driven at their rated current, which for white LEDs is 25 milliamps (ma). The manufacturer of the D’s lighted handles “controls” the current by using a 150 ohm resistor. With a 3.6 volt drop across the LED and assuming a 13.6 volt battery voltage, this gives $((13.6-3.6)/150) = 66.7$ milliamps) current to drive the LED – ‘way above the recommended 25 ma. This gives a brighter light at the expense of a drastically reduced LED life.



We can greatly increase the life of the LED by adding a LM7805 voltage regulator which limits the voltage to 12 volts. By limiting the voltage to 12 volts and adding another 150 ohm resistor in series with the existing 150 ohm resistor, we have limited the current to $((12 - 3.6)\text{volts}/(150 + 150 \text{ ohms}) = 28$ milliamps). There is adequate room to fit the voltage regulator and resistor in the handle, but you will want to use electrical tape to wrap it up well to prevent shorts.

The downside is that the light is not as bright. If you want to keep the light as bright as it was originally, but still save money, you could just replace the LED for under \$6 at Radio Shack. If you go this route, just carefully unsolder the burned-out LED from the circuit board and carefully solder in the new one. Be careful to observe the same polarity on the LED leads. Use a small soldering iron, as heat will destroy the LED.

Submitted by Bob Cook



DOAI 2010 National Rally *Autumn in the Smokies*

September 20-26, 2010
River Plantation RV Park
1004 Parkway, Sevierville, Tennessee

REGISTRATION FORM

Please PRINT legibly or TYPE all information as you want it to appear on your name badge

Pilot's Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Co-Pilot's Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Street _____ City, State, ZIP+4 Code _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone/s _____
 Email/s _____
 Emergency Contact/s _____ Emergency Phone/s _____
 DOAI # _____ DOAI Region Affiliation _____ Chapter _____
 Need handicap parking? Yes _____ No _____ First national rally? Yes _____ No _____
 Are You? DOAI Officer/Chairman _____ Chapter Officer _____
 Guest/s Name, City, State _____

REGISTRATION:

\$395.00 per coach with two adults (September 20 to 26)	\$ _____
\$317.00 per coach with one adult (September 20 to 26)	\$ _____
\$78.00 each additional person/child (September 20 to 26) × __ person/s =	\$ _____
\$32.00 early arrival Sunday, September 19	\$ _____
\$20.00 DOAI membership (if not already a DOAI member)	\$ _____

OPTIONAL TOURS AND GOLF:

Bush Bean Factory Tour 1: Tuesday morning, September 21 FREE × __ person/s =	CARPOOL
Bush Bean Factory Tour 2: Tuesday afternoon, September 21 FREE × __ person/s =	CARPOOL
Titanic Museum Tour: Tuesday afternoon, September 21 \$18.00 × __ person/s =	\$ _____
Golf: Eagle's Landing - Wednesday, September 22 \$40.00 × __ person/s =	\$ _____
Country Tonite: Wednesday evening, September 22 \$13.75 × __ person/s =	\$ _____
Temptations Revue: Thursday evening, September 23 \$22.50 × __ person/s =	\$ _____
Red Hat Tea: Saturday afternoon, September 25 \$3.00 × __ person/s =	\$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: *Blue Ridge Discoverys* **Check Enclosed/Total** \$

MAIL CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Buddy Reynolds, Registrar, 205 Morgan Ct, Greer SC 29650-2828
 Questions? Contact Buddy – 864.268.2052 (H); 864.979.9202 (C); 2blreynolds@bellsouth.net

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 20, 2010

Full refund cancellation may be made up to August 20, 2010 – **AFTER AUGUST 20 – NO REFUND**

➔ ➔ ➔ **COPY FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS** ← ← ←

You will receive a confirmation of your registration via email

Chapter photos from Camp Discovery



Mason-Dixon Discoveries: Too many to list, but looking good!



Discovery Pioneers: l to r – Sherry and Terry Ven Roy, Jan and John Kovach, Judi and Jim Scott.



Mason-Dixon officers: Toni Calzone, Helen Blackwell, John Ricciardi, Bob Deal, and Marshall Godwin.



Discovery Texans: Always well represented at rallies!

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. membership application

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

Dues are \$20 for the first year (includes one-time \$4 administrative fee); \$16 for one-year renewal; \$45 (\$49 new members) for three years; \$75 (\$79 new members) for five years.

PLEASE...PAYABLE IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY!

Questions? Call toll-free 888.594.6818

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

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

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

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Partner Name _____

Address _____

City, State/Province, ZIP+4 Code/Postal Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell Telephone _____

Discovery Year and Model _____ Email Address _____

Who recommended DOAI membership to you? _____

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