

Discovery Express



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April 2014

THE 2014 TRAVEL SEASON BEGINS

Discovery owners are getting serious right about now, making plans for summer travels, deciding upon routes and how long to stay and where, etc. (Of course, we hope one of your summer journeys will be to the 2014 national rally in Wyoming in August!)



With that in mind, several of the featured articles were chosen to assist you in preparations for the trip, things to do on the trip, and ideas for making the trip even better, such as –

- ✂ **Gary Bunzer**, the RV Doctor, offers good advice on **page 21** for those who want to do the right thing to maintain the exterior of their RV.
- ✂ A special “Car Talk” article by **Tom and Ray Magliozzi** of NPR radio appears on **page 15**, dealing with warming up an RV’s engine.
- ✂ Taking photos while we travel can be made easier by checking out the article, “Wildlife photography tips,” on **page 20**.
- ✂ **Roger Marble** has helpful information about weighing your RV on **page 15**.
- ✂ For smartphone users, icons have been added to the contact listing on **page 9** to alert you to apps that are available. The legend at the bottom indicates the OS type/s available. Some are free; some carry price tags. If you have a favorite travel app, please let the editor know so the list can be as helpful as possible.
- ✂ An update on plans for the national rally in Wyoming begins on **page 3**.

Don’t miss all the other reports included in this issue, plus a healthy helping of photos from the 2014 southeast region rally in Florida (as well as from chapter rallies), a return of **Pete Shaffer**’s column, “One Man’s Life,” and more!

Happy spring and safe travels!



Review committee formed

In order to clarify our governing documents, President **John Baker** has appointed a committee to perform a complete review and recommend changes. Most will be re-wordings only for streamlining and clarity; all will be subjected to normal approval processes. Should you have suggestions, please contact **Nina Soltwedel**, who will chair the committee. **Jody Bruce** and **Dick Tracy** will also serve.



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John Baker

Report of the president

Wow! What a busy fall and winter we had! It seems we no more than got home from the terrific national rally in Virginia, than we were again headed east on I-10 for Camp Discovery at Seffner. Somewhere in between we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas with our family. I hope you had great holiday seasons as we did.

Your board of directors hosted Camp Discovery under the leadership of **John Curtis**, who acted as rally master, and **Doc Simpson** serving as registrar. As always, many more volunteers helped to make our week in “sunny” (not!) Florida a great time. Of course, the in-depth seminars conducted by **Marshall Godwin** and **Gary Osburn** were the crown jewels of the week. Other seminars, roundtables, and Fleetwood rally support by **Randy Hendricks** and crew, added to the value of our time together.

Camp Discovery had almost 100 rigs, 26 of them being first-timers. I want to share a few comments made by those who attended:

- ☺ **Great entertainment, want to give them all a ‘best’ but survey won’t let me.**
- ☺ **Thank you very much for all your hard work. The rally was an outstanding success, and we are glad we came.**
- ☺ **It was really a great rally. This was my first, and all the tech seminars were super ... I’d like to rate them all ‘best.’**
- ☺ **Gary and Marshall have the smarts, for sure! I’ll be back and I’ll see you all in Wyoming. Money well spent in my mind!**
- ☺ **FMCA should take some notes! (I love this one! –John)**

By now, everyone has thawed out from an unbelievable winter. We are getting on the road to enjoy the highways and byways of our beautiful country. Get the ‘D’ all exercised and warmed up for a great travel season and plan to head toward 44.16 degrees north, 105.26 degrees west (Gillette, Wyo.) for an earlier-than-usual national rally August 26-31. Look for details on **pages 3 and 4** (registration on **page 23**) and register online today.

Travel safely. I hope to see you in Wyoming! ❖

Caring for our DOAI family

Keeep these members, who have experienced losses, in your prayers...
...Teri Dykman – her husband, **Carl**, died last December.

...Frank Cason – his wife, **Isabel**, died last December.

Pray for a return to good health for these members...

...Pat Runge – facing several surgeries and other medical problems.

...Larry Weinberg – had carpal tunnel procedures performed in January.

...Gail Camp – experiencing a bulged disc with severe neck pain.

...Jack Romeyk – hospitalized for several days during the southeast region rally.

...Joe Stewart – diagnosed with neuropathy and is undergoing treatment.

...John Baker – had surgery in early March to repair the placement of a retinal implant.

Please email **Nina Soltwedel** (doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com) when a club member is ill or hospitalized, or a death has occurred in a member’s family. Thank you! ❖

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

Discovery Express is a quarterly publication (January, April, July, October). Deadlines for copy are November 20, February 20, May 20, and August 20. Members are encouraged to submit articles, tips, questions, and/or comments. *All submissions will be acknowledged.* If acknowledgment is not received within a reasonable time, please call the editor.

If you wish to receive the printed b/w version of this newsletter instead of this electronic version, please email the editor.

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



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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Find your membership renewal date at

www.discoveryowners.com/login.asp



2014 rally master
Bob Williams

It's time to plan for the roundup!

We are only four months away from the 2014 DOAI national rally that will be held at the CAM-PLEX in Gillette, Wyo. The rally will start on Tuesday, August 26, with departure on Sunday, August 31, which includes five nights of camping.

Planning for the rally is continuing in preparation for a great rally. The tours to Deadwood, South Dakota, and the Durham Buffalo Ranch in Wyoming will be entertaining and informative.

Neva Jardine has been working hard to round up performers for Friday and Saturday evenings, and has corralled singers/comedians to keep us entertained.

Now is the time to sign up for the 2014 national rally and get ready to head west to Gillette, Wyo., in August. **Nina Soltwedel**, registrar, is ready and waiting for your registration form. ❖



On the left is a bird's-eye view of the CAM-PLEX campus; the arrow points to Energy Hall; campground is on the left of that building. On the right is a partial view of the front entrance. Camping spots have full hook-ups, and 100+ sites have been reserved. Lots of fun events and informative seminars are planned, so register soon and get ready for the roundup!



Testimonials from 2013 national rally first-timers

As members of Discovery for a few years, and always reading the invaluable information in the newsletters, we decided it was time we attended a rally. We were immediately greeted by members of the Blue Ridge Discoverys, and that's the chapter we joined our first day of arrival. We have met great Discovery owners from various chapters, and everyone is so pleasant.

- Jim and Brenda Fairfax

Cathy and I really enjoyed the rally. For me, the best part were the workshops offered by Marshall Godwin and Roger Marble. I learned a lot. Enjoyed the evening events also, and we felt welcomed to the DOAI.

- Greg and Cathy Forte

We feel the 2013 national rally was the best rally we've ever attended. Seminars and entertainment were awesome. This is the best group of people we have had the pleasure of meeting. We are hoping to make it out to Wyoming for the 2014 national.

- Rick and Brandy Dupuis

We had a wonderful time at the annual rally in Virginia. We highly recommend attending the DOAI rallies. The seminars with the Discovery experts are so enlightening and helpful, as well as talking to other owners about issues and problem-solving with their Discoverys. Over great meals, we made many new friends who share our interests and the love of RVing. We look forward to the rally in Wyoming and hope you will join us!

- Brad and Nancy McKittrick



Rally registrar
Nina Soltwedel

Why attend the DOAI national rally?

When the 2013 national rally information was published, a new member sent the following email to the newsletter: “We are new to Discovery Owners and would like some information about the event. We have never attended a rally.” I decided to publish my response in hopes of assuring DOAI members (especially those who have not attended a national rally previously) that the national rally is worth attending.

Here’s what I wrote: Thank you for your question! One of the best things about attending a DOAI national rally is the opportunity to make new friends. We all have the same brand of coach, so we all have something in common right from the start. There are seminars which cover a wide variety of topics that are specific to coaches, as well as presentations offered by vendors on a wider range of topics.

A feedback session is planned each year so that pilots can share concerns, tips, ideas and such about the Discovery – maintenance, travels, etc. Those who have attended report they learned a lot. Another feedback session focuses on the co-pilots, and we’ve had some very informative conversations over the years.

The meals are very good, and the entertainment provides a nice ending to each day. Tours to places of interest near the rally site enable rally-goers to see more of the area, and a golf outing for those who love to hit that little white ball is an added attraction.

Going to a national rally gives each of us an opportunity to see another part of the country, and really get out there and enjoy our rigs. Not only that, each year we have a chance to give back to the community in which we gather, by donating non-perishable food to the local food bank, as well as raising funds for helpful programs (such as the Wounded Warrior project) through fun and games.



An important facet of each national rally is the first-timers meeting, held the first day of the rally. This helps those who are new to the rally experience gain knowledge about what will be going on during the week, as well as an opportunity to meet the rally team and officers of DOAI.

It can be a bit intimidating to attend one’s first national rally. It isn’t easy to walk into a large building filled with people, knowing no one. But think about this: **no one knows everyone ... we are all new to someone.** I can guarantee you, if you come to the rally, you’ll leave with lots of good memories and some new great friends! ❖



Joe Stewart

Report of the national rally master

The 2014 national rally is set to go, and I’m sure members are scheduling to attend. It’s in an interesting part of the country, up in northern Wyoming, and centrally located to a good number of sites to visit before or after – Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Devils Tower, Deadwood, Crazy Horse Memorial, Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, and so much more. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Plans for the 2015 national rally are under development at this time, and we will finalize them at the board meeting to be held at the national rally in August (see next article). ❖

DOAI board looks toward 2015 national rally

As plans progress on planning the 2014 national rally at Gillette, the board of directors is looking ahead to 2015. When and where will it take place? It is scheduled for the north central region during the Fall of 2015. The board is actively looking into several possibilities.

Since **MaryAnn and Don Crowell** travel that area extensively, President **John Baker** has asked them to lead the effort and has appointed them as assistant rally master. They will be reporting to the board of directors later this year. If you have location suggestions, please contact the Crowells at macrowell979@gmail.com. ❖

Report submitted by John Baker



2014-2015
Treasurer
Dick Tracy

Report of the treasurer

January 1-December 31, 2013 financial statement

In 2013, revenues increased while disbursements continued to decrease. The increase in dues revenue is a welcome change. We continued to decrease our newsletter expense as more members agreed to receive their newsletter electronically. If you are not receiving this by electronic means and have Internet access, I urge you to change by simply calling or emailing our newsletter editor (see phone number and email address on page 2). At this time, our club is in good financial condition and with your help, it will continue to be one of the best RV clubs in the country. I welcome the opportunity to serve as your new Treasurer and I thank you for your support. ❖

Financial figures submitted by Pete Palasota

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Receipts:	
Dues	\$21,171.00
Advertising income	1,004.00
Interest income	304.06
Total	<u>\$22,479.06</u>

Expense Disbursements:	
Newsletter	\$ 7,263.59
Membership expense	1,307.75
Insurance	1,968.89
Chapter support	0.00
Member care	20.13
Website expense	180.00
Rally fee reimbursements	3,703.50
Office supplies, postage, misc.	13.00
PayPal charges	559.77
Other expenses	<u>1,171.77</u>
Total ordinary disbursements	<u>\$16,188.40</u>
Ordinary receipts over ordinary disbursements	\$ 6,290.66

Other Receipts:	
Decrease in rally advances	\$ 500.00
Mdse receipts over disbursements	483.92

Other Disbursements:	
Rally disbursements over rally receipts	<u>\$ 113.17</u>
Total receipts over disbursements	<u>\$ 7,161.41</u>

Beginning cash balance 1-1-2013	\$75,119.11
Ending cash balance 12-31-2013	<u>\$82,280.52</u>
Cash increase	<u>\$ 7,161.41</u>



Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2013

Current Assets:	
Petty cash	\$ 550.00
Cash in bank	57,217.79
Certificates of deposit	24,219.31
PayPal account	<u>293.42</u>
Total current assets	<u>\$82,280.52</u>
Other Assets:	
Merchandise inventory	\$ 3,781.40
Account receivable: Fleetwood	<u>100.00</u>
Total other assets	<u>\$ 3,881.40</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 86,161.92</u>

Liabilities and Net Worth:	
Prepaid memberships	\$15,092.00
Reserve for future chapters	592.91
Net worth	<u>70,477.01</u>
Total liabilities and net worth	<u>\$86,161.92</u>



Audit chairman
Ricky Keen

Report of the audit committee

On behalf of the DOAI audit committee, this report is submitted to the Discovery Owners Association, Inc. Board of Directors.

The financial records and statements of the Discovery Owners Association, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2013, was examined.

We tested receipts and disbursements, including supporting documentation for various transactions, reviewed bank statements, reconciliations and investment activity, and reviewed the policies and procedures followed by the accounting personnel.

We found no issues or discrepancies to bring to your attention. ❖



Portia Williams

Report of the membership director

The following is the list of new and reinstated members since the last issue of Discovery Express. Please welcome them to DOAI and encourage them to join one of our many chapters where they can meet and make new friends. ❖



Bain/Jan Agee, Pine Hill AL
 Alan/Sharon Baldwin, St. Helena CA
 Mark/Trish Barrett, Edmonton AB
 Steven/Alexandra Blanton, Lakeland FL
 John Ray Breidenbach, Greensburg IN
 William Burchfield, Royston GA
 Gary Cassevah/Vicki Gentry,
 Beaufort SC
 Steven/Janice Chapman, Olathe KS
 Tom Christmas, Buckhead GA
 Jeffrey/Karen Daly, Dix Hills NY
 Sid/Gloria Dembowski, Red Lodge MT
 Shannon/Laura Galway, Fulshear TX
 Glen/Vickie Glaser, Elk Grove CA
 Robert/Janice Grabham,
 North Chesterfield VA
 Reagan Greer, Conroe TX

Albert/Carmelita Grijalva,
 Cameron Park CA
 David/Trina Guitreau, Gonzales LA
 Marc/Heather Hale, Henderson NV
 Raymond/Penny Hall, Pensacola FL
 Mike/Kay Harris, Sioux Falls SD
 Kenneth/Dorothy Holsapple,
 Mission TX
 Curt/Melinda Houdyshell, Raymore MD
 Sam/Judy Jackson, Walkersville MD
 Walt/Jackie Jewell, San Rafael CA
 Ernest/Betty Kempe, Livingston TX
 Brian/Jolanta Kostrzewski, Kingston MI
 Greg/Patti Lane, Tulsa OK
 J W/Jenny Lee, Biloxi MS
 Larry/Kay Leitch, Mattoon IL

Buddy/Annemarie Lowe,
 Niagara Falls ON
 Scott Lowery, Dickinson TX
 Guy Lyttle, Lee Vining CA
 Scott/Penny Mallery, Hollister CA
 Jim/Deb Marinus, Mesa AZ
 William/Valerie McChesney,
 Lehigh Acres FL
 James Medley, Riggins ID
 Rudy/Karen Mershon, Bakersfield CA
 Joe Mire, Husser LA
 Curt Morgan, Glendale AZ
 Jim Morris, Lancaster OH
 Brian/Nicola O'Connell, Nanaimo BC
 Alvaro/Bekki Pineda, St. Paul MN
 Jesus Ramirez, Houston TX
 Dwight/Donna Reese, Cumberland WI
 Enrique/Alejandra Resendez,
 San Antonio TX
 Joe/Victoria Robb, McConnelsville OH
 Joe/Lorraine Rouser, Salado TX
 Gary/Teri Ruse, Palatka FL
 Dwayne/Tina Sawatzky, Inman KS
 Peter/Sharon Shaffer, Winchester KY
 Dave/Gloria Smith, Spring TX
 James/Judi Squires, Morris IL
 Edward/Manuela Standridge,
 Las Cruces NM
 Robert/Jeanne Stewart, Cassadaga NY
 Donnie Sumner, Ocala FL
 Aaron/Kristin Tindall, Tucson AZ
 Dennis/Stephanie Tonge,
 Saint Petersburg FL
 Dan/Gail Upp, Republic MO
 Mark/Candy Van Frachen, Kalispell MT
 Robert/Laurie VanderBeek, Bend OR
 Gary/Jennifer Walters,
 Garden Grove CA
 Donald Watkins, Greenville SC
 Rod/Mary Wolford, Liberty KY
 Adam/Michelle Wynbrandt,
 Sacramento CA
 Thomas/Kathleen Zastrow, Oviedo FL



DOAI badges are available and are a great way to show your support of the best RV club in the country! The color is "French blue" and the size is 3 inches wide by 1.25 inches high.

- Badge w/pin back (with or without two holes)* \$5.00
- Badge w/magnet back (with or without two holes)* \$6.75
- Bolo tie (specify black or white) \$3.50
- Job bar (for officers or chairmen) with rings \$3.50
- Shipping (up to two badges or two job bars) \$3.00

Note: When ordering, specify if you want two holes in bottom two corners for job bar(s). If you don't specify, the badge will come without corner holes. If you are ordering more than two badges or more than two job bars, call 407.365.3722 for shipping charge information (or email signman@signman.net).

To order:

1) Print order list; 2) write check for total amount of order; 3) print your name and your ship-to address. Send list, check, and your information to: *The Sign Man, PO Box 622143, Oviedo FL 32762-2143.* Allow two weeks from receipt of order to delivery of items.



**Roundup the D's
 in Wyoming
 CAM-PLEX, Gillette, Wyo.
 August 26-31, 2014**



Webmaster
Bob Cook

Computer corner

Windows 8.1 – a few important changes

I suspect some of you have abandoned Windows XP and are now using Windows 8. If you are, there are some things you need to know. First, if your computer didn't come installed with the latest release, Windows 8.1, you have or will be prompted to do the free upgrade.

Included in this update are some big changes and quite a few new capabilities. Read on for a few of the biggies that you need to know about now, and also a few links to learn about others.

Windows 8.1 gives you the option to boot to the desktop instead of the Start screen, but you have to enable it (Press the Desktop Tile to get to the Desktop, right-click any open area in the task bar, then click Properties. Click the Navigation tab, then check the box next to Go to the Desktop Instead of Start when I sign in). Note there are a lot of other options you can choose to make Windows 8.1 friendlier for desktop use. But, if you still miss having a “real” Start button on the desktop, you might want to give Classic Shell or Classic Start 8 a try.

There is a basic setting in Windows 8.1 that can cause an RV'er real problems. Microsoft OneDrive (formerly Skydrive) is deeply integrated into Windows 8. OneNote is Microsoft's excellent cloud storage solution. The problem is, your Documents are set to save to OneNote by **default** – your files are not on your hard drive (they appear to be, but these are just links to your files on OneNote). So, if you don't have an Internet connection, no documents for you! You need to enable Offline Access manually if you want to read, save or edit files locally on your hard drive. (Note Windows 7 and 8 automatically kept a true local copy on your hard drive, but not Windows 8.1). From the Modern UI screen, click on the Skydrive/OneDrive icon to open it. Click the Windows logo key + I to open the Settings Charm. Next, select Options and set the slider labeled “Access all files

offline” to On (there should only be one slider in the menu). If you had any files stored on OneDrive, they will be downloaded to your computer, so you will need an Internet connection to do this. Any files you create or modify offline will be synched up to OneDrive the next time you have an Internet connection.

Windows 8.1 will also automatically update all your Modern UI Apps. To enable this feature, click the Windows Store tile, open the Settings Charm (Windows logo key + I) and select App Updates and ensure that “Automatically Update my Apps” is set to On. Note that this does not update any of your legacy apps that you have installed from your Desktop.

In Windows 8, dragging apps down off the bottom of the screen closed them. In Windows 8.1, this action only **hides** them. If you want to close an app, drag it down until just the top half of it is peeking up from the bottom of the screen. Hold it there for a bit and the tile will spin around to show you the app's icon. Release and the app is now closed. Handy if you need to restart a Modern app.

Backing up files **and** making a system image are necessary for your sanity. Both of these necessary tasks are easy in Windows 8.1. See <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-8/what-happened-to-backup-restore>. You will thank me later, but I will say “You are welcome” now.

Finally, MS has included a great Help + Tips (Modern UI) app included in Windows 8.1. Everyone new to Win 8.1 needs to run through these tutorials before doing anything else. There are also a lot of good, free tutorials you can find using Google or your favorite Search engine. Here are two links to view once you are more familiar with Win 8.1:

- ☞ www.pcworld.com/article/2058330/windows-8-1-surprises-25-hidden-features-and-little-extras.html
- ☞ www.pcworld.com/article/2043091/deep-inside-windows-8-1s-hidden-new-features.html ❖



MaryAnn Crowell

Report of the vice president for development

I thank all who voted for me. You showed your confidence in me, and I will do my best to be your voice with the primary manufacturers of Discovery motor homes. Thanks to **John Ricciardi** for a great race.

As I try to develop the new job as Historian, I feel that these two jobs will be helpful to each other. My idea is to have a book for each year that DOAI has been established. I hope to have pictures of the

Discoverys of that year, and any photos of members, chapter, and rallies. I already have copies of all *Discovery Express* editions to date. Again, this will be a work in progress and right now, it's a slow-go as I get items gathered and sorted.

If you have any ideas for this scrapbook of history or, of course, help in the development of DOAI with our major manufacturers, please send me an email at macrowell979@gmail.com. ❖



Executive VP
John Curtis

Camp Discovery rally report

The first day, registration was a bit slow due to the bad weather north of Tampa and west on I-10. Several coaches didn't arrive until Monday, one couple checking in at 6:00 o'clock that evening. **Doc Simpson**, rally registrar, had 97 rigs registered for Camp Discovery, with only a couple having to cancel. **Jay and Lorrie Keneson, Doc Simpson, MaryAnn Crowell, and John and**

Felesa Baker did a good job manning the registration table.

Lovetta Simpson provided the table decorations and they were great. Many people wanted to know where she got the supplies, and all decorations were taken back to the rigs on the last evening.

Naturally, the meals and drinks were very good. **Demon McKinley** of Lazydays arranged for a coach display with heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks. By the way, his wife was expecting to deliver on February 4, but it happened on March 31, their fifth girl. The Fleetwood representative, **Jayne Fairley**, also attended along with a couple extra sales people to help answer questions.

We also sold 50/50 tickets during each evening dinner with 50 percent going to the American Legion Post 157, a total of \$1,147.00 on the last evening. The winners were as follows, three each evening. First night – **Bob Zumwalt, Ben Bowen, Dick Reynolds**. Second night – **Susan Sullivan, Karen Bishop, Marshall Godwin**. Third night – **Lorrie Keneson, Nancy McKitrick, Jo Ann Chandler**. Several members donated their winnings back to the charity.

The entertainment was great, but I especially enjoyed the magician **Nick Paul**. Does anyone know how he got the \$50 bill inside that orange?

Many members attended the seminars put on by **Marshall Godwin** and **Gary Osburn**. Several told me they have attended the seminars more than once or twice. **Marshall** ordered 70 Camp Discovery notebooks and I believe nearly all were sold.



Jody Bruce said that the DOAI clothing sales were good. There were 26 first-timer rigs, and these members were asked to sit at tables with other members during mealtime.

Randy Hendricks and his crew performed their coach repairs in their usual good manner. We certainly appreciate the service provided by Fleetwood.

The golf day outing provided a couple winners: Longest drive – **John Barry**; closest to the cup – **Tom Millager**. The winning team included **Sharon Nieminsky, Tom Millager** and **John Curtis**.

I thank all who helped with this rally. The Florida Discovery Sunshiners chapter will once again sponsor the southeast region rally next year, which is scheduled to follow the FMA rally, as in past years.

Don't forget to register for the national rally in Gillette, Wyo. I hope to see you down the road and remember it is all about fun-fun-fun. ❖

Reports of region vice presidents



Mike Scott

Southwest

First, I thank all of you who voted for me to take on the Southwest region vice president job. It is going to be an interesting time with new challenges.

I have set a goal to get at least one California chapter started and, hopefully, a New Mexico one as well. We have already sent out an email notice to all the DOAI members in those states, soliciting interest, but the response has not been great so far – perhaps it was too close to the holidays.

The good news is that we have two couples who are interested in California and with their help we just might make that one happen. If any of you reading this from California or New Mexico and are interested in helping get a chapter started, please contact me. Running a chapter seems like it might be a lot of work, but it's not. We help you set up everything and, for the most part, you just have to set up your chapter rallies, which is pretty easy to do.

In addition to trying to get new chapters started, I hope to help our existing chapters keep growing. See you in Gillette this summer. Happy trails! ❖



Jack Romeyk

Northeast

I am pleased to announce I now have enough names to reactivate the Nor'Easters chapter. I would like to hear from anyone else who would like to join the group, or anyone who has questions.

With the 2016 national rally slated to be held in the northeast region, we will need all the help we can get. I will be sending out an email in the near future to anyone interested in joining. ❖



Bob Deal

Southeast

I hope everyone who attended Camp Discovery enjoyed the rally and your visit to sunny Florida. Because of other commitments, **Elizabeth** and I were unable to attend, and we missed seeing everyone. We are in Florida now, however, visiting family on the east coast. It's nice to be warm.

I am looking forward to serving our club in my new position as southeast region vice president. Thank you for the opportunity. Safe travels – see you in Wyoming! ❖

Rally opportunities

You are welcome (and encouraged) to attend any of these rallies! Contact chapter president (see **page 10**). See also the consolidated rally schedule at www.discoveryowners.com.

April 2014 –

- 1-6 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Wilmington, Del.
- 11-13 D’Zonas, Parker, Ariz.
- 23-27 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Stone Mountain, Ga.
- 24-27 Ozarks Discovery, Rogersville, Ark.

May 2014 –

- 5-9 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Wichita Falls, Tex.
- 14-17 Discovery Texans, La Grange, Tex.
- 29-31 Ozarks Discovery, Mountain View, Ark.

June 2014 –

- 19-23 Midwest Discoverers, northeast Ohio

August 2014 –

- 26-30 Northwest Adventurers, Gillette, Wyo.
- T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, rolling rally
- 26-30 **National rally, Gillette, Wyo.**

September 2014 –

- 9-14 Midwest Discoverers, Gettysburg, Pa.
- 22-26 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Austin, Tex.
- 24-27 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Lewisburg, W.V.
- 26-28 D’Zonas, Fool Hollow Lake Rec Area, Ariz.

October 2014 –

- 8-12 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Whaleyville, Md.
- 16-19 Ozarks Discovery, Eureka Springs, Ark.
- T/B/A Desert Rats, location T/B/A
- T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, T/B/A

November 2014 –

- 7-9 D’Zonas, Apache Junction, Ariz.
- 12-15 Discovery Texans, location T/B/A

January 2015 –

- 25-30 **Southeast region rally, Seffner, Fla.**

Looking down the road –

- 2015 DOAI national rally, North Central region
 - 2016 DOAI national rally, Northeast region
- More information later on future national rally sites*

Helpful contacts for Discovery owners

Allison Transmission, GM Corp.	800.252.5283	Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp	800.385.4357
Atwood Mobile Products	800.825.4328	General Electric	www.geappliances.com/geac/
Camping/rest areas/dumps/fuel websites:		Goodyear Tire & Rubber	800.321.2136
..... www.accesscamping.com ✓ × ✱		Intellitec	800.251.2408
..... www.campingroadtrip.com ✓ ×		Kidde Safety products	800.880.6788
..... www.gasbuddy.com ✓ × □ ✱		Kwikee products	800.736.9961
..... www.interstaterestareas.com		Magnadyne	800.638.3600
..... www.rvdumps.com/dumpstations		MCD Innovations	800.804.1757
..... www.rvparking.com ✓		Michelin North America	800.847.3435
..... www.rvparky.com ✓ ×		Norcold, Inc.	800.543.1219
Caterpillar RV engine support	877.777.3126	Onan	800.888.6626
Carefree of Colorado	800.621.2617	Power Gear	800.334.4712
Carriage Carpets (Shaw Flooring)	877.706.3054	Riverpark	800.442.7717
CCI Controls	800.521.5228	RV Doctor	www.rvdoctor.com
Cummins, Inc.	800.343.7357	RVP (Coleman)	316.832.4357
Denso (call Fleetwood)	800.322.8216	RVP (Suburban)	423.775.2131
Discovery parts:		RV Tire Safety	www.rvtiresafety.com
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	Spartan Chassis, Inc.	517.543.6400
Sullivan RV Sales & Service	800.720.0484, Ext. 6	Splendide	800.356.0766
Walt’s RV Surplus	909.421.1107	Thetford Corp.	800.521.3032
DOAI badges: The Sign Man	407.365.3722	Trojan Battery Co.	www.trojanbattery.com
Dometic Corp.	800.544.4881	Velvac	800.783.8871
Fan-Tastic Vent	800.521.0298	Winegard	800.288.8094
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	Xantrex Technology	800.670.0707

Apps for smartphones (free or paid): ✓ Apple; × Android; □ Windows; ◇ Mobile Web; ✱ Blackberry
For other member-recommended helpful contacts, visit www.discoveryowners.com

DOAI officers/chapters/committees/website

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Roundup the D's in Wyoming
CAM-PLEX, Gillette, Wyoming
August 26-31, 2014

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Reports of the chapters



Chapter prez
Glenn Camp

Blue Ridge Discoverys

Gail and I were so disappointed that we had to cancel our annual trip to Florida and miss the rallies. First time we have missed the DOAI rally at Lazydays in 14 years. **Gail** developed a problem in her neck and shoulder in late December. After many trips to the doctors and being mis-diagnosed with various problems, a neurosurgeon made the correct diagnosis that a bulging disc in her neck was pinching a nerve to her shoulder and causing the pain. He wants her to try traction and isometric exercises prior to getting the knife out. I still believe we have the best medical services in the world, but getting an appointment with some specialist sure takes a lot of time and putting up with pain.

So much for old age problems and back to chapter news!

We had a great fall rally in Charleston, S.C., due to the great efforts to our hosts, **Paul and Cecily Hart, Mike and Ann Lecholop, and Tom and Katy Leydic**. On Wednesday, we had a welcome party which included a happy hour. It seemed to me everyone was happy when they arrived, so you can imagine the happiness that developed during the hour. Abundant appetizers were provided by the hosts, as was exciting things to do in Charleston and then it was time for a great pizza party.

After breakfast on Thursday morning, the golfers departed for Shadowmoss golf course for a great day on the links. After another great happy hour, again with appetizers provided by the hosts, it was on to Bowens Island for dinner and watching a beautiful sunset over the water.

Friday was a day for everyone to see Charleston and visit the Citadel Museum and witness a wonderful dress parade in the afternoon. Saturday was a visit to Fort Sumter via a boat and then another happy hour, followed by a business meeting and than a low country boil. We departed on Sunday, happy and full. Thanks to our hosts for a super job.

Our spring rally will be at Stone Mountain, Ga., April 23-27 at the Stone Mountain Park Campground. Our hosts will be **Bob and Barbara Zumwalt, Charlie and Elaine Harvell, Bruce and Margaret Ellen and Pat and Sue Stanton**. Lots of great activity is planned and I am sure it will be another great rally. Come join us.

We are pleased to welcome our newest members, **Hank and Selene Montgomery** from Montevallo, Ala. ❖



Chapter prez
Gary Velasquez

Desert Rats

The Desert Rats chapter staged two rallies in January. First we traveled to Blythe, Calif., for the Blythe bluegrass festival. Besides members of the Desert Rats, we also met up with members of the D'Zonas and the Northwest Adventurers. The festival ran for three days, after which the Desert Rats group and members of the Northwest Adventurers moved down the road and met up in Quartzsite, Ariz., where we were joined by still more Desert Rats members, and spent several days attending the RV show and swap meet and just enjoying some

camaraderie.

The Desert Rats held elections for chapter officers in January, and I'm happy to report that I, **Gary Velasquez**, was re-elected as chapter president, with **Ed Watson** remaining as vice president. **Marie Watson** is treasurer, **Patty Velasquez** is secretary and past chapter president **John Bujnovsky** is our rally master.

Due to travel and family obligations on the part of our members, the Desert Rats will suspend staging rallies until the fall. Here's wishing all DOAI members good health and happy travels. See ya on the road. ❖



Chapter prez
Jim Pellow

Discovery Texans

Our first rally for 2014 was held January 15-18 at American RV Park, Corsicana, Tex. It was a great rally ... lots of good food and fellowship. Our hosts, **Don and Linda Griffith and Leroy and Gwen Churchill**, as well as our rally masters, **Pete and Martha Palasota**, took great care of us once again! We had 10 coaches in attendance.

In the last couple of months, we added two new members to our chapter: **Al and Cindy Welch and Kenneth and Dottie Holsapple**. Welcome!

As you may have noticed, we enjoy seeing the area's "sights," playing games, visiting with old and new friends, and love to eat. We enjoyed a game of Bunco. The "guys" won the first beanbag toss baseball game in 2014, and played many games of Jokers and Marbles. As for the meals: Wednesday, **Pete and Martha** fed us pork loin and gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, tea and root beer floats. Thursday night,



The triumphant Discovery Texans men!

we caravanned to Sam's restaurant (buffet) in Fairfield, Tex. Friday breakfast was pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee; dinner was brisket, baked beans, potato salad, tea, and peach cobbler and ice cream. Saturday breakfast was scrambled eggs, sausage gravy, biscuits, fruit, and coffee; dinner was stuffed baked potato with cheese, ham, bacon, sautéed mushrooms, onions, and sour cream for potato toppings, salad, tea, and chocolate sheet cake and ice cream. This may be "too much detail," however, we must thank and congratulate our hosts and rally master just one more time!

Continued on next page...

Reports of the chapters, continued

There were many places to go and visit in Corsicana and here are just a few ... Collin Street Bakery, Russell Stover Candies, and the Pearce Museum Civil War Collection. Also, some went to The Pioneer Village, Lefty Frizzell museum, and nearby cemetery.

During your travels, check to see where we are rallying (www.discoveryowners.com/dtexrally.htm). If you find yourself in our area, please get our guest rally reservation form from the DOAI website and join us. Hope to see y'all in the near future. Safe travels everyone. ❖

Report submitted by Elaine Holley



Chapter prez
Doc Simpson

Texas Discovery Road Runners

Camp Discovery was attended by five coaches from TDRR. Attending were **John and Judy Curtis, Doc and Lovetta Simpson, Don and MaryAnn Crowell, Jay and Lorrie Keneson, and Greg and Cheryl Behn. Barry Cummings and Carol Sturm** had planned on coming, but got caught by the weather.

John Curtis was rally master and did an excellent job. **Lovetta** did the table centerpiece decorations and they caused quite a stir. Most everybody wanted one, so they were awarded to the person at the table whose birthday was closest to that day. **MaryAnn** assisted in the vendor setup and **Don** was the *O'facial Pitcher Taker* (not misspelled). **Jay and Lorrie** took care of registration and goodie bags. The food was good and the entertainment was superb. Lucky **Lorrie** won one of the 50/50 drawings.

We had one new member join TDRR, but while there, they traded coaches and became SOB's. Overall, an outstanding rally.

After the rally, **Barry and Carol** caught up with **Lovetta and Doc and John and Judy**, all of whom went on an eleven-day cruise to Aruba, Columbia, Panama Canal, Costa Rica and Grand Cayman. After that, it's hard to get used to having to wait on yourself.

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have had a rally at Oak Creek RV Park, Weatherford, Tex., in March. Future rallies are May 5-9 at Coyote Ranch Resort in Wichita Falls, Tex., and September 22-26 at Austin Lone Star RV, Austin, Tex.

Doc Simpson is planning a rolling rally from Texas to Wyoming for the **great** national rally. If you are interested in joining the fun of traveling together, please give **Doc** a call (210.867.0750 cell; 830.980.7309 home) or send an email (winsamsa@aol.com). A route and parks has not yet been determined. ❖



Don Crowell, the O'facial
Pitcher Taker!



Chapter prez
Mike Scott

D'Zonas

Hope everyone across the country is staying warm with all of the significant storms this winter. Just this morning I had to go out and shovel six inches of sunshine off the driveway before heading out to the golf course (sorry... had to rub in our Arizona weather).

It's been quiet in the D'Zonas camp since November and our joint rally with the Desert Rats, but we had a great time at the Arizona salsa trail rally in March. We had five rigs and enjoyed everyone's company. We had great food; how many Mexican food meals can you eat in a weekend? We drove up to see the biggest open pit mine in North America, and hiked around the lake area. Can't wait 'til the next one. Oh yeah, it's just around the corner – our Colorado River trip at Buckhorn State Park near Parker, Ariz. We are looking forward to a relaxing weekend on the river.



D'Zonas enjoyed dining together (above) and also enjoyed the vistas of Arizona (below).



Everyone is welcome at our events, so all you summer visitors to Arizona consider joining us. Later this year we will be in Showlow, Ariz., and Apache Junction. Happy trails! ❖



Chapter prez
Bev Kaiser

Heartland Discoverys

Twelve members enjoyed a picnic at Lazydays in January, hosted by **Elfers and Sally Marzahl**, our chapter's vice president. Thank you, **Elfers**. The members discussed two rallies – touring Vermont and then on to Nova Scotia in July, and touring Indiana's covered bridges this coming fall.

Continued on next page...

Reports of the chapters, continued

More information will be coming later. Club members who attended the rally at Lazydays were **Chuck and Ginnie Burton, Jim and Pat Gravel, Elfers and Sally Marzahl, Bobby and Wanda Simpson, Tom and Debbie Schmidt** and her mom, **Vicky**, and **Steve and Tracy Sellers**. ❖



Chapter prez
Wally Wallington

Northwest Adventurers

The chapter held its annual January rally at the Blythe Bluegrass Festival in California, January 13-19. We had the usual runs to Sizzler and Mexican restaurants. In attendance were **Wally and Annie Wallington, Bob and Portia Williams, Ken and Neva Jardine, Becky Hazen and Lonnie Hodge, Ken and Sylvia Swain and Arnie and Betty Thompson**. The motley crew expanded to include **Bob and Nina Soltwedel, Del and Freddie Perry, Bill and Linda Johnson, Chuck and Tica Sances, and Paul and Doris Smith** for the annual potluck lunch on January 18. Chapter business was conducted, with updates on the national rally in August. As usual, the actual bluegrass festival was up to par.



Northwest Adventurers at a restaurant (above) and the potluck on Saturday (top right).

On January 20, the group moved over to the desert south of Quartzsite, where we were joined by **Bill and Joyce Fedewa, John and Jan Kovach, Terry and Sherry Klungseth, Chuck and Vie Brock, Terry and Sandy Ven Roy, and Mark and Brenda Sanders**. Good times were enjoyed by all, highlighted by a huge supply of oranges, and a weenie roast. Next scheduled rally will be at the national rally in Gillette, Wyo., in August. ❖



The Northwest Adventurers journeyed to Quartzsite and were joined by other DOAI members for good meals (above). **Terry Ven Roy** took this shot, as well as the panoramic photo of all the D's (below). Should we call **Terry** "The Shadow" and does he know "what evil lurks in the hearts of men"?



Roundup the D's in Wyoming CAM-PLEX, Gillette, Wyoming August 26-31, 2014



TWO SIMPLE GUIDELINES TO MAKE YOUR RV LIFE EASIER

1. You need but two tools in life: WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.



2. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you have an electrical problem.

If these two simple guidelines have made you smile, my job is done.





Pete Shaffer

The return of "One Man's Life"

Pete and Sharon Shaffer's first Discovery, the 1997 BigD, burned to the ground in 2009. Thus ended the more-or-less regular series, "One Man's Life," where Pete shared with us his often hilarious adventures on the road. The Shaffers recently purchased a 2006 Discovery, promptly christened it BigDII, and rejoined DOAI. Thus, we are pleased to resurrect this column, and crafty Pete shows how the first BigD lives on!

While traveling with our first Discovery, we towed a Chrysler Town and Country minivan. This van required a Remco transmission pump to keep the gears lubricated while following the Discovery around this beautiful country of ours. We traded in the minivan for a Honda CRV, and before I handed over the keys to the minivan to the dealer, I removed the tow bar and Remco pump. The Honda doesn't need a pump, so this removed pump just sat around my basement taking up space.

Along came another assignment posting me far away



from home for several months during the summer, working with FEMA on major natural disasters. One of the complaints I heard from my dear wife was how hard it was filling the mowing tractor's (John Deere 2320 compact tractor) diesel tank. She had to lift a five-gallon (35 pound) container up to her shoulder height and pour the fuel into the tractor without spilling any and getting my tractor dirty! Besides that, I found scratches in the tractor's hood where the fuel can rested while the tank was being filled. C'mon now, that is like keying a car or scraping the paint with car keys for no reason at all!

So, an idea popped into my fertile mind. I made an SDFFW or *Sharon's Diesel Fuel Filler Wagon*. The SDFFW was built using the Remco lubrication pump, a child's discarded Flexible Flyer wagon, some fuel hose left

over from the Discovery, blind slats from our first Discovery window blinds when I rebuilt those, 1/2-inch copper water pipe scraps, leftover deck lumber scraps and the curlicue or curled red wire that used to electrically connect the Discovery tail lights to the minivan tail lights.

The wagon was sanded and painted using John Deere green/yellow (what else?). I used the copper water pipe scraps to make a handle, and the window slats for the wagon sides. The deck boards were used to hold the pump and hose high enough so **Sharon** wouldn't have to bend over to get them.

Now, all **Sharon** has to do is pull the wagon over to the tractor, place the hose into the tank, plug in the coiled/curlicue wire and turn on the pump. The pump sucks diesel fuel from one of the two five-gallon tanks on the wagon and pumps it directly into the tractor tank. When that five-gallon tank is empty, all she has to do is switch tanks on the wagon. Later she easily hauls the empty five-gallon tanks to the gas station for refilling. No muss, no fuss, and the best part is my tractor stays nice and diesel fuel clean. Plus, no more hood scratches!



Additionally, just before the burnt-out coach was hauled out in 2009, I removed the high output Shurflo's fresh water pump from the wet bay and used that to build **Sharon** an SPFWS. For you non-government types, that stands for *Sharon's Portable Flower Watering Station*. I used a 55-gallon blue plastic drum and mounted the Shurflo water pump to the drum platform and attached a 50-foot garden hose. The entire platform either slides into the trailer or mounts onto a "carryall" that is attached to the rear of the tractor. Now for those far away flower garden areas, all she has to do is fill up the 55-gallon drum and drive the tractor to the garden, turn on the pump and water the flowers. That is **Sharon** in the picture.

The first BigD lives on in other useful purposes. ❖



Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Car Talk with Click and Clack, the Tappet Brothers

If you listen to NPR, you may be familiar with “Car Talk,” the weekly offering by **Tom and Ray Magliozzi**. In the radio format, people call in with their vehicle questions, and the guys try to help them solve the problem (with quite a few laughs along the way). Their articles (the same question/answer format) appear in newspapers across the country, and the following caught the eye of the editor as a worthwhile addition to this newsletter.

The question

Dear Tom and Ray: I manage an RV park but know nothing about diesel engines. Why does everyone who has a diesel start and idle it for 30 minutes before leaving? Even people towing nothing but a small trailer do that every morning before they leave. Why? – John

The response

Tom: Because they’re inconsiderate knuckleheads, John.

Ray: There’s no reason to idle a diesel engine in an RV for 30 minutes before hitting the road.

Tom: In all weather but extreme cold, most diesel-engine manufacturers recommend idling the engine for 10 to 15 seconds before driving away gently. That’s **seconds!**

Ray: Now, some RVs have air brakes and need to build up pressure in the braking system before driving away. But that also takes no more than about five minutes. Not half an hour.

Tom: And lots of those RVs have (or should have) what’s called an “auxiliary air compressor” on board, which instantly gives the brake system enough pressure and eliminates the need for idling.

Ray: Even if someone left his or her lights on, or otherwise drained the battery, it’s still better for the engine to drive the vehicle for an hour than to let it idle for an hour.

Tom: Cummins, for instance (one of the major diesel engine manufacturers), warns in its owner’s manuals that excessive idling of the engine can cause carbon to build up on the pistons, piston rings, injector tips, valves and more. Which leads to expensive repairs and shortens the life of the engine.

Ray: So, not only is it not necessary, it’s actually harmful!

Tom: So if early risers at the RV park don’t care that they’re throwing away \$4-a-gallon diesel fuel, polluting the pristine nature they’ve driven a long way to enjoy and annoying their formerly sleeping neighbors, perhaps they’ll be motivated to stop this dumb practice by being alerted to the fact that they’re actually harming their engines, not helping them. Pass the word, John. ❖

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Tire expert
Roger Marble

RV tire safety

Walter Cannon, executive director of RV Safety Education Foundation, sent some information to me that will impact all RV owners who want to weigh their RVs to learn the individual loads on each end of each axle.

If the RV owner does not attend a large RV rally or convention where individual corner or tire loads are measured by RVSEF (www.rvsafety.com/) or similar companies, he faces the challenge of finding a large scale that will allow him to measure not just individual axle loads, but also allow the tires on just one side to be weighed, while keeping the RV level side to side, as outlined in worksheets such as found in the guide found at www.cruiserlift.com/Literature/RVTIREGUIDE1.pdf, or the worksheet found at www.bridgestonetrucktires.com/us_eng/rv/index.asp, or at www.fifthwheelst.com/.

In the past, I and others have provided links to CAT scales and suggested that it might be possible to get the weight readings needed to allow calculation of individual RV corner loads. While I know that some CAT scales had guard rails installed to prevent trucks from driving off-center on the scales

(and this may prevent RV owners from learning the weight of one side of their RV), we believed that there were many scales that could still be used. However, what I learned from **Walter** is that CAT actively discourages people from using any of their scales to learn the side to side load variation.

From CatScale website we read, “Our scales can give you axle weights and a total gross weight, however, they cannot weigh each corner of the vehicle. We cannot provide individual wheel weights and, to prevent damage to your vehicle as well as our scales, do not allow that type of weighing.”

It seems they do not want to allow RVs to measure one side of their units. There are probably a number of reasons for CAT taking this position, but the bottom line appears to be that you should not try and get any weights other than total axle loads if using CAT scales. This is probably okay if you are just confirming your total weight, but certainly should not be used to try and get individual tire loads. This means you cannot use CAT weights to set your tire inflations.

Continued on next page...



RV tire safety, continued

Based on this information from CATScale, I can no longer suggest or recommend you consider using their scales to weigh your RV to calculate tire loading so you can then look up your inflation needs.

This presents a serious problem for RV owners who want to know the real tire loads. CAT seems to be the 8,000-pound gorilla in the truck stop scale market, as it is quite hard to find a truck stop that does not use CATScales.

At this time, all I can suggest to the conscientious RV owner is to check the RVSEF website for their schedule and location for offering weighing. If that is not convenient, then you will need to search for a local gravel yard or large farm supply company or grain elevator and see if it is possible to get the weights needed to complete one of the above worksheets.

The one bit of good news is that once you learn the real weights of your fully-loaded RV and identify the proper mini-

mum inflation and add your 5 to 10 psi safety factor, you should not need to re-weigh the RV corners unless you make some significant change, such as adding a battery bank or changing furniture, or maybe a residential refrigerator to replace the original fridge, or adding new storage for your bowling ball collection. ❖

© Roger Marble, 2013. Reprinted with permission. Before retiring, Roger Marble spent 40 years in the tire industry, working for a major manufacturer developing tires for applications in North, Central, and South America. During his career, he worked on many kinds of tires – heavy truck, passenger, light truck and Indy-car types. Roger's blog, "RV Tire Safety with Roger Marble," is a top-notch informative posting found at www.rvtiresafety.com. You can sign up to receive his blog postings right in your email inbox at no charge. The website carries all his previous blog postings which make very interesting reading to anyone concerned with the tires on their RV, car, truck, or trailer.



Newsletter editor
Nina Soltwedel

No more fog, no more frayed and broken strings

On Thursday evening, February 20, **Bob** and I began preparing to have our 2005 39L's windows de-fogged the next day. He unscrewed the sofa and pulled it into the center of the room, and then removed the bookcase from the wall. The table followed, and then we put the under-sofa storage containers on the seats. He removed the valance from a small side window and removed the old shade unit, and then installed the first of the seven shade units we had received from MCD Innovations earlier in the week. We were pleasantly surprised at how easy it was to remove the old shade and install the new unit. Within minutes of that action, he had the valance back up and we could stand back and appreciate the new look.



First shade mounted Thursday evening

Early Friday morning, **Bob** pulled out two of the three major valance/shade units from the front and began working on them outside (the weather was cooperating beautifully).



At 8:30 am, **Dan** and **Nathan** with Dave Root RV Glass Repair showed up with their 30-foot toy hauler workshop. Within a short while, they had the remaining three major valance/shade units removed, along with the chair and desk on the galley slide, and then removed the five windows (three in the front, two in the bedroom). These were taken into the workshop for de-fogging.

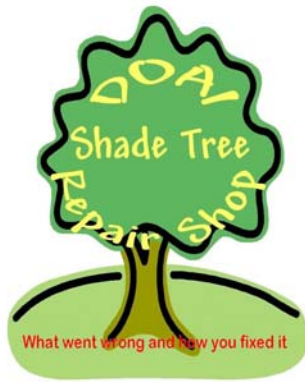
Bob finished installing all the shade units into the valances while the windows were in process. **Dan** and **Nathan** are courteous, hard working, and diligent young men, and excellent representatives for **Dave Root**. They did a superb job and everything was complete by 4:30 pm. As they pulled away, preparing for the next job in the Yuma area, we stood inside the coach and marveled at being able to see out the windows once again, all the while being able to raise and lower the new shades so very easily. Then we joyfully carried those old "stringy" shades to the garbage can!

This venture was worth every penny. The quality of the work by the Root crew is top notch, and MCD shades are without peer. **Bob** had carefully measured each window, and he was impressed with the perfect fit of each shade unit ... MCD's manufacturing process is to be congratulated. We highly recommend Dave Root RV Glass Repair and MCD Innovations.

Would we do it again? You betcha ... in a New York minute. ❖

Photos: L, windows out; R, windows in and new shades.





The case of the cat that locked the door

DOAI shade tree repair shop: A column saluting those who, through stubbornness and innate intelligence, concoct solutions to repair problems connected with their Discoverys, or who come up with creative solutions to challenging situations to make life better. **– DOAI Dictionary**

MaryAnn Crowell writes: “On most of the newer coaches, there are two rocker switches under the co-pilot’s window. One operates the co-pilot’s windshield fan, and the other locks the door. Now, this wouldn’t be a problem, except that our big cat likes to look out that window. Many an evening we have had the fan on and off, and of course, the door locked and unlocked, etc. The fan isn’t a big worry, but the lock is.

“**Don** took a small thin piece of wood that would cover both switches and attached a narrow strip of wood in the center. He glued a strip of Velcro® to the bottom of the narrow strip and its partner was attached between the two rocker switches.

“Now, the wood does not rock, and the cat doesn’t turn the fan on and off, nor lock and unlock the door any longer. We know we’ll be safe with the coach locked, especially when we’re away during the day or asleep at night.” ❖



Southeast region rally photo album

All photos were taken by **Don Crowell**, who was crowned the *O’facial Pitcher Taker* for the rally. He will have that same title at the upcoming 2014 national rally in Wyoming. More photos next page!



The three photos above are of the very smart first-timers who attended the rally. I bet they will attend future DOAI rallies when possible.



Happy hour first night was well attended.



Randy Hendricks (center) of Fleetwood had his team in attendance. Bob Everett is on the left, with Shaun Funk on the right.



Good food was ample, and everyone was most satisfied.

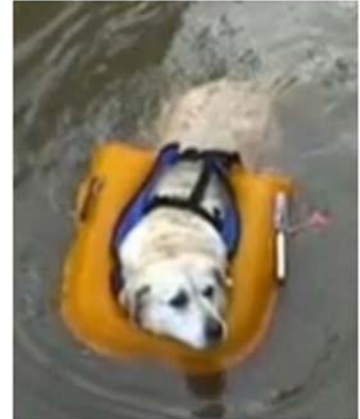
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SE region rally photo album, continued



Dick Tracy and Bruce Bruce worked on merchandise.



Lovetta Simpson created very clever centerpieces.



Just a "taste" of the many things that found their way into the goodie bags.



The American Legion benefitted!



Some had fun posing!



John and Judy Curtis, right, cut a rug along with lots of other dancers.



SE region rally photo album, continued



Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter came out in force!



Texas Discovery Road Runners enjoyed the rally.



Mason-Dixon Discoverys had a whole lotta fun.

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Humorous photos from members' travels

John and Alice Ricciardi took a trip to Alaska in 2011, and spotted several rather funny signs. Thanks for sharing these! And don't forget to email your "finds" to the editor for future editions of this newsletter. ❖



← Watch out, **John!** It's a bear!



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10.00

Alice commented that most likely you will not find this menu at Denny's locations in the Lower 48 or Hawaii.

Wildlife photography tips

Great patience leads to great photos

One of the great joys of going on an RV road trip is seeing different wildlife in its environment. But, for the novice photographer, capturing incredible images of wildlife is about as easy as navigating a Class A motor home through New York City. So, where does the inexperienced photographer begin? We've consulted experts on the subject and have created a list of nine wildlife photography tips. Follow these and you'll be well on your way to being considered the next **Ansel Adams**:

Get to know your camera

Modern digital cameras have an astonishing amount of features. But to take advantage of these features, you need to be familiar with their functions. What does this mean for you? You need to read the manual to understand the functions, practice using them, then read it again, practice again and so on.

Does the idea of reading a camera manual practically put you to sleep? While there is no substitute for reading the manual, there are some ways around it. You can enroll yourself in a photography course or teach yourself with online courses. To find courses, you can Google "photography course." Another option is to go to your local library or community college – both facilities should have information on local photography courses.

Practice at home

Before you set out on your big trip, spend some time around the house taking pictures and practicing. For example, if you're interested in photographing birds, photographer **Cristina Mittermei** suggests setting up a bird feeder in your back yard. This will allow you to observe the birds as they're coming in and the ability to shoot the birds as they arrive at the feeder. Since the birds are flying toward you, there will be ample opportunities to practice with your flash and get pictures of birds flying in motion. As you improve, you can take these skills out into the field.

Patience + knowledge = great photos

If you want to be a great wildlife shooter, you have to be willing to spend a lot of time with the animals you're photographing and learn their behavior. For example, if you are familiar with swans, you know that after a swan "preens" itself, it will typically stretch its feathers. With this knowledge, you will increase your chances of snapping a dramatic picture.

Follow the subject

Following doesn't mean stalking! Whatever you're trying to capture, stay with your subject until it has exhausted any photo opportunities or gone out of sight. Many professional photographers note that some of their best pictures have come when they were about to give up on the subject. Source:

www.all-things-photography.com/follow-the-subject.html

Keep both eyes open

When taking photos, keep both of your eyes open. Why, you ask? If you have one eye closed when shooting, you are limiting your field of vision, and are therefore more likely to miss any action. Conversely, when you have both eyes open, you increase the chances of picking up on any action – and getting the perfect shot.



A buffalo grazes in the Gallatin national forest in southwest Montana

Shoot in the best light

The best time to photograph animals is during the hours immediately after sunrise and just before sunset. These are known as the "golden hours" and the light that is given off during these hours enhance the beauty of your image.

Conceive the image before you shoot

If you are photographing still images, take a picture in your mind's eye of what you want to include in your photo. This will

give you a visual frame for which to focus your camera.

Get low

Try to keep (physically) low. A shot can be much more effective if it's from a similar eye level to the subject you're shooting, rather than at a downwards angle. Source: www.wildlife-photography-tips.com/

Get as close to your subject as possible

Birds and other animals are not easy to get close to, however there are ways of getting close without disrupting them. To get close, approach slowly and quietly with your camera and lens in the ready-to-shoot mode. Many photographers note that the best way to get close to a bird is to lie on the ground and scoot yourself toward the bird. When you have a good shot, fill your frame (with the bird) as much as possible.

Photography is an art that requires time, patience, dedication, and a willingness to learn. As any road tripper knows, opportunities abound for wonderful pictures on every trip. And it is for this reason that it is so vital to take the time to learn how to operate your camera to create wonderful photos – through these photos you'll be able to re-live the greatest moments of your trip for years. So, get out into your backyard, get that bird feeder, and start snapping away! You won't regret it. ❖



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Gary Bunzer

The RV doctor is in!

Advice about maintaining RV exterior

The question

Dear RV Doctor: I recently bought an older motor home. It's in excellent condition, but is beginning to show a little oxidation in the paint. I want to do whatever is needed to preserve both the beauty and the value of the coach. I am in a dilemma as to the best procedure for cleaning the exterior. Is it okay to take it through a truck wash? Or will that be too hard on the window seals, antennas, satellite, etc? Or, is it better to hand wash the coach? Does it need to be hand buffed or just waxed? Are there any special products that absolutely need to be used and also products I should not use? – Vicki

The response

Dear Vicki: It would be fine to consider a truck wash center to clean the motorhome as long as you skip the "pre-rinse." The U.S. and several other countries are working to halt the use of HF or ABF (Acid) "pre-rinse" products. So, if you are asked about a "pre-rinse," decline it.

Though a line wash is done by someone else (and saves you the elbow grease), I personally favor hand washing. It puts you face to face with the finish of the coach and allows you to actually see the things that require your attention before they become a major issue. Frankly, it is your coach and you will do a far better job than any line wash employee. This is especially true if you invest in some good quality brushes. There are many available, but typically the softer the brush, the easier it will be on the finish of the rig.

As far as buffing or waxing products, let me share my philosophy with you about exterior RV care maintenance procedures. Start with a monthly sweep of the roof to help minimize dust, pollution and chalk buildup. This will also help to eliminate those dreaded black streaks. Use a soft-bristle broom and a dustpan to remove the accumulation from the roof. If the roof is Fibreglass or painted aluminum, consider waxing it. If the roof is rubber or vinyl, treat it only with products designed to leave a dry finish. Waxing or treating will minimize the amount of dust and dirt that sticks, making future sweeping and regular care easier.

Wash and wax the coach regularly; I recommend once every three to four months for the best, longer-lasting results. Make the task easier by working only one side each month, then the front and rear in succeeding months. Using this schedule will reduce your time at the task, making the overall process more manageable.

Product selection can be critical, so I suggest sticking with brand names from within the RV marketplace. Be very familiar with your vehicle and its many surfaces prior to making your selections. Know the make-up of every exterior surface on your rig. Most products will list acceptable surface applications, so always read the label carefully. Be sure to read and understand the directions (so many of us do not). If you have a question about any product, call the supplier directly. Have them convince you **why** you should be using their product. Company contact information is usually found on the product label. Most suppliers will have toll-free help lines, and many have websites that can be helpful. Look for a UPC bar code on the label. Bar codes are an indication of the manufacturer's commitment to the retail marketplace. Avoid homebrews and so-called backyard chemistry products; they rarely work and may even cause surface damage. Avoid any product that does not list a phone number, address and UPC code on the container. The good manufacturers are proud of their products and will always welcome feedback and communication.

Once a product is selected, be sure to choose a small inconspicuous area on the coach to test it first. Evaluate it for a few weeks or longer, if necessary. This will keep missteps manageable and you'll find the best product match. If the result of testing is acceptable, complete the coach and maintain it regularly. Lastly, consider a total coach cover for those brief periods of non-use. Avoiding UV and ozone damage is very beneficial. ❖

© 2011, Gary Bunzer. Reprinted with permission. The RV Doctor column recently celebrated 37 years of continuous monthly publication, making it one of the longest running Q&A technical advice columns in the RV industry (if not THE longest!). He hosts RV Roadtrips, the DIY Network cable television show. He is one of the RV industry's most sought after speakers and the host of the popular DVD titled Do It Yourself RV Care.

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2002 37U: 54k mi, clean, with Roadmaster Blackhawk tow package. Sam Hatcher; 850. 387.0105; samhatcher@cs.com **\$55,000**

2002 38P: Low miles, mint condition, always garaged. Ray Martin; 513.800.7784; rmartin395@tampabay.rr.com **\$68,500**

2003 39S: 24k mi, clean, no smoke, W/D. Paul Haubner; 859.620.9927; chaubner@zoomtown.com **\$69,700**

2004 39J: 60k mi, 6 new tires/batts, clean. Ray Wittschen; 609.408.9320; vetdream@comcast.net . **Reduced for quick sale - \$65,000**

2004 39J: Low miles, new batts/tires, MCD shades. John Robertson; robertsonjp@shaw.ca; 760.898.9268 **\$72,000**

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

2005 39S: 119k mi, 300hp Cat, three slides, tire monitoring system. Dave Mercer; 503.926.4773; davidrmerc@comcast.net . **\$59,900**

2007 39L: 29k mi, new front tires/batts, maint. up to date, exc. cond. Billy Layton; 936.443.5036; laytonbilly@mac.com **\$91,000**

2007 39S: 49k mi, new batts/tires/HDTVs, repaired windows. Gary Livingston; 936.718.1421. littlebit1031@comcast.net . . . **\$120,000**

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2009 40G: 42k mi, four HDTVs, no smoke/pets, ext. warr. Ed Ripper; 910.540.9021; eds767@yahoo.com **\$138,000**

2009 40X: 33k mi, always garaged, no smoke/pets, mint condition, Steve VanErmen; 616.485.9072; steve@hexarmor.com . **\$139,999**

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Co-Pilot's Last Name _____ First Name _____

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DOAI # _____ DOAI Region _____ Chapter to be parked with _____

Need handicap parking? Yes No First national rally? Yes No

Guest/s Name, City, State _____

REGISTRATION:

\$350.00 per coach with two adults (August 26 through 30) \$ _____

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\$28.00 pre-rally (up to two nights beginning August 24) × ____ night/s = \$ _____

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Questions? Contact Nina Soltwedel; 303.570.2736; rallyregistrar@discoveryowners.com or
 Bob Williams, Rally Master; 435.817.3172; rallymaster@discoveryowners.com
REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014
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