

Discovery Express



Volume 17, Number 2

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. — Established 1998 — www.discoveryowners.com

April 2015

An Ode to DOAI

There once was a fellow named Harvey
Who wanted to buy a new RV.
To Fleetwood he went
And felt heaven-sent
When he decided to buy a Discov'ry.


He then heard about DOAI;
Was told it was worth a good try.
Quick as a shot
He joined on the spot,
And said, "What a happy guy am I!"



Gentlemen, start your engines! Oops, wrong activity. Let's try this again. Ladies and gentlemen, get your coaches ready! The 2015 DOAI national rally is less than six months off, and wow! do we have great things planned for you!

Rally Master **MaryAnn Crowell**, along with hubby, **Don** (DOAI's "O'Facial Pitcher Taker"), traveled around the Midwest and found Amana Colonies in

Iowa to be a superb spot in which to hold a rally. It is centrally located in the Lower 48, and we hope many of you on both coasts (along with everyone else) will wend your way to Iowa this coming September. There's lots of information inside this issue, and the registration form is inside the back cover, as well as online at the DOAI website. The rally team is waiting to say, "*Willkommen!*"

We've more good stuff inside: a wrap-up of the southeast region rally, several interesting articles including the first of a new series, "Fulltiming with the Goodalls," in addition to some humor ... we all need a chuckle now and then. Okay, turn the page and begin your journey of discovery! 

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John Baker

President's report

If you had to winterize your rig and haven't un-winterized it yet, get to it! You are missing one of the best times of the year to put miles on the D! I am glad I don't have to deal with winterizing; if you do, consider moving further south.

Speaking of further south, the Florida Discovery Sunshiners outshone themselves again as they hosted us at Camp Discovery in beautiful sunny and warm Florida. Those folks know how to put on a party! We owe them a big thank you! Of course, the same big thank you goes to **Marshall Godwin** and **Gary Osburn** for their usual top-notch instruction in the training seminars. Other presenters and event coordinators filled the remainder of every day with informative and fun-filled programs and events – thanks to each of them, as well. After 15 years in the D, I always learn something and pick up hints at Camp Discovery and this year extended that winning streak!

Our membership unanimously approved the changes proposed to our bylaws. **Jody Bruce**, **Nina Soltwedel**, and **Dick Tracy** dedicated hours of hard work to those proposals and did a terrific job. The resulting document will serve our organization well for years to come and is posted on the website.

This is DOAI election year. It is an honor and fun to serve as a board member. Most positions do not require lots of time; most business is transacted electronically. **Marshall Godwin** is leading the nominating committee (made up of our region vice presidents) to locate willing and qualified candidates for all positions. Some of our existing officers are eligible for re-election and some (including yours truly) are not. If you are interested in serving, contact your region vice president (see page 10 for name and contact information) or **Marshall**. I encourage you to consider volunteering to serve.

I wish you safe travels. ❁



Caring for our DOAI family

Please pray for these club members who have lost loved ones: **Bev Kaiser**, whose husband, **Ken**, died in December; **Bobby Williams**, whose wife, **Fay**, died last July on their 63rd wedding anniversary; **Judy Jo Bruton**, whose sister, **Jeannie Harlan**, died in December; **Nina Soltwedel**, whose sister, **Doris Konkol**, died in February; and **Faye Holloway**, whose husband, **Les**, died in February.

Please pray for healing and a return to good health for: **Justine Stewart**, hospitalized after suffering a head injury in a fall in January; **Don Crowell**, healing from a broken rib suffered in a fall in February; and **Freddie Perry's** daughter, who was diagnosed with uterine cancer in January.

Remember to send an email to **Nina Soltwedel** at doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com when a club member is ill or hospitalized, or when a death has occurred in a member's family. Many thanks. ❁

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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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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Find your membership renewal date at

www.discoveryowners.com/login.asp

Those who have served ... and who will be next?

Since the club's inception in 1998, DOAI has been blessed to have had a generous number of people serve in various positions of leadership. **Jim Devine** was the club's first president, and was also a founder of DOAI, along with his wife, **Dorothy**. **Jim** was followed by the club members shown below. Each has served as DOAI president. We extend a heartfelt "thank you" to them.



Jim Devine
1998-1999



Yolanda DeSantis
2000



Lois Patterson
2001



Bob Baugh
2002-2003



Phil Yovino
2004-2007



Marshall Godwin
2008-2011



John Baker
2012-2015

We also owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have served in supporting roles – the officers, directors, committee chairmen and assistants – since the club's establishment.

The call for candidates goes forth!

The question: **Who will be our next leaders?** If you have a desire and willingness to serve the club, now is the time to step forward and let us know.

Marshall Godwin, as immediate past president, is the chairman of the nominations committee, and will be delighted to hear from you.

All elected positions will be on the ballot for 2016-2017; however, because of term limitations, these positions must have "new" faces: President, Executive Vice President, National Rally Master, Northeast Region Vice President, and South Central Region Vice President.

A paraphrase **Charles Weller's** 1867 sentence (created to test the touch typing ability of aspiring typists) is the rallying call for candidates: *Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of DOAI!* 🌸



2015 rally master
MaryAnn Crowell

Why Amana, Iowa for our national rally?

Well, some of it is because **Don** and I were asked to roam around the north central region and see we could find a place for a national rally. We stopped at quite a few places and this was the favorite and best: excellent accommodations, centrally located in the U.S., many things to see and do in the surrounding area.

Amana Colonies RV Park is on 60 acres, with level sites, full hookups, showers, laundry, propane, free Wi-Fi and a store. There are 460 RV sites, all gravel with grass and plenty of room on the sides.

The Amana Colonies themselves are a national historical landmark. Today, the seven villages of the Amana Colonies represent an American dream come true. The Colonies attract hundreds of visitors annually, all of whom come to see and enjoy a place where the past is cherished and where hospitality is a way of life. The streets of the Colonies, with their historic brick, stone

and clapboard homes, their flower and vegetable gardens, their lanterns and walkways, recall an Amana of yesterday. A vibrant community celebrating both its past and future awaits you.

There is a large variety of shops, like the Chocolate Haus, Hahn's Hearth Oven Bakery, Amana Meat Shop & Smokehouse, the Woolen Mill, Amana Furniture & Clock Shop, and my favorite, AJ's Copper Garden, and so much more: museums, wineries, and restaurants, all in the Amana Colonies.

Other attractions in the area include the John Deere plant in Waterloo, Newton's sculpture and art throughout that village, and the Iowa Speedway just down the road. In Knoxville, there is the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame. For those of you who still need to shop, there is a Tanger Outlet one exit west on I-80. Pella is an historical Dutch village; in Cedar Rapids, you will find a Czech village called "New Bohemia."

Continued on next page...

Why Amana? continued

We are working on our seminars and hope to have a great list for you to sit in on. We have picked a superb catering company to keep you well fed. And, of course, our best cooks are **you!** Therefore, we will have a covered dish dinner on Friday night, just before you visit

the Old Creamery Theatre for the evening's entertainment.

Please join us for a great rally in the rolling hills of Iowa. For now, see the following article about other activities we have planned! ❁

2015 national rally optional activities

Special activities have been planned for you: a golf tournament (a staple at DOAI's national rallies), interesting tours, and a stage show. Both the golf and stage show are next to the park, which means you won't have to drive a long distance in order to participate. Here's the "skinny" on each:



Golf Tournament:

Wednesday, September 23: The Amana Colonies Golf Club course opened for play in 1989 and was designed to preserve the natural features of the land. This 18-hole championship course winds through 600 acres of stately white oak trees and forests. The course features meandering streams, shining ponds, and striking scenery that add to the enjoyment of the game. Fore!



Tours:

Tuesday, September 22: You are on your own to tour the area of Amana Colonies. There are seven villages representing an American dream. Each village adds its own crafts, celebrating both its past and future.

You may want to begin at the farthest end of the Amana Village, with Amana Woolen Mill. This business is an operating woolen mill, making wool and cotton blankets, plus a clothing store. Then take a walk up the street to the Amana Furniture & Clock Shop, the Broom & Basket Shop, the Heritage Quilting & Needlework Shop, for example.

There are five art galleries, three museums, five antique stores, four wineries and a brewing company, plus so much more contained within these seven villages.

Wednesday, September 23: WindStar Tours will pick you up at 9am and head east to West Branch, Iowa. This is the location of the Herbert Hoover Library and Museum. On the museum grounds you can visit Hoover's birthplace cottage, a blacksmith shop, a Quaker meeting house, a schoolhouse, and the grave site of President and Mrs. Hoover. All of this is within an easy strolling village setting. Just across Hoover Creek is the presidential library, which

contains Hoover's papers, as well as a collection relating to both the Hoovers.

The walking museum is free; there is an entry fee to visit the presidential library (the Golden Age Passport **does not** apply). Fees are: Adults 16-61, \$10; seniors 62+, active/retired military with ID, and college students with ID, \$5; children 6-15, \$3; children 5 and under, free.

About 11:30am, you will board the bus for your lunch stop (lunch is on your own) and a delightful afternoon exploring the Kalona Historical Village. Information will be available to guide you to the various lunch restaurants, and then on to the village. Kalona is home to the largest Amish-Mennonite settlement west of the Mississippi River and is considered the quilt capitol of Iowa (as you stroll around the village, note the sidewalks: they are decorated with quilt patterns). The Quilt & Textile Museum is located in the Historical Village Welcome Center and features galleries for both Amish and English quilts which showcase the quilt history of the Midwest and beyond. The entry fee for the museum is \$6.

The self-guided tour of the village will cost you \$8; this will allow you to stroll through the 1800s village and explore pioneer life in 13 authentic buildings. Each structure has been painstakingly restored and filled with interesting and informative displays depicting the rugged years immigrating settlers spent taming the Iowa prairie.

The WindStar bus will pick you up at a central point (to be announced) around 3:30pm to return you to the park by 4pm.



Stage Show:


Friday, September 25: The Old Creamery Theatre is a professional, non-profit company founded in 1971, and has been performing in Amana since 1988. Located just across the road from the RV park, the theatre is within walking distance. We will have our covered dish dinner earlier that evening, to allow all to join in the fun of seeing "Barnum."

Based upon the life of Phineas Taylor (P. T.)

Continued on next page...

Optional activities at national rally, continued

Barnum, the show begins with Barnum introducing his circus acts as he stands in front of a tent. He loved spectacle and excitement, using hype and “humbug” to promote his exhibits and his venue: “P.

T. Barnum’s Great Traveling Museum, Menagerie, Caravan, and Hippodrome – The Greatest Show on Earth.” The play presents his exciting life with songs and laughter. 



Bob Cook

Webmaster’s report Windows 10 and USB 3.1

Sometime later this year, probably by October, a new version of Windows will be released. It will be called Windows 10. Wait, wasn’t the last version of Windows called 8.1? What happened to Windows 9? Although not official, the rumor is that Microsoft wanted to distance itself from the relative failure of Windows 8, so they skipped using the Windows 9 moniker. Windows 8 was made primarily for tablets, with a desktop mode that felt like it was added as an afterthought. Many people didn’t like Windows 8 because it initially booted to the Tiles menu and not the traditional desktop. The Start menu was gone. The Charms menu became the new way to interact with your PC. Windows 10 changes this and works equally well on the traditional computer and also the tablet. The Start Menu is back. The Charms menu is gone and replaced with a notifications menu much like you

have in iOS and Android. Probably most important, the transition to Windows 10 should be much easier for Windows 7 (and prior) users.

And, there are a couple of new features. Cortana is your new digital assistant that you talk to, much like Apple’s Siri or Google Now. A new browser is included that will support extensions (like Chrome and Firefox) and also allow you to markup and save or share a webpage. Internet Explorer will still be available, but you may need to download it if Microsoft decides to not include it by default. There will also be redesigned stock apps such as Clock, Calendar, but the new Photos app gains capabilities to help you manage your pictures automatically. It is hard to discuss much beyond this because, at this stage, the Technical Preview versions that Microsoft is releasing are very early builds and “buggy.”

Most importantly, Windows 10 will be free for consumers and small businesses currently using Windows 7 and Windows 8, but only for the first year of its release. It appears that Windows XP and Vista users won’t get the free upgrade, but they are probably due for a new computer, anyway. In addition, Microsoft promises to keep Windows 10 updated and current for the life of your computer. So, if you have a computer running Windows 7 or 8, it might be a good idea to get that free upgrade to Windows 10 within the first year of its release.

Next, we have a new USB standard and a new USB connector. The new standard, USB 3.1, brings a couple of big benefits while still maintaining compatibility with older USB 2 and USB 3 devices. First, the data speed has been doubled from USB 3’s 5Gb/s (Giga bits per second) to 10Gb/s. This bandwidth will let USB 3.1 easily daisy-chain video, hard/SSD drives, printers, and Ethernet on one cable. And, USB 3.1 can also provide up to 100 watts of power. Obviously, to take full advantage of these capabilities, a new connector and cables are required. The new connector is called a USB Type C connector and the big advantage for the consumer is that there is no right-side up. Seems like every time I plug in a USB device on my computer, the connector is always upside down!

Continued on next page...



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Webmaster's report continued

USB 3.1 and the Type C connector should be available in the coming months, along with the required adapters to connect with older devices using the familiar USB Type A connector. Personally, I am going to hold off getting any new USB devices until they are available with USB 3.1 and the new Type C plug.

There are already rumors of ultra-portable laptops that will have just one USB 3.1 Type C port. They won't even have an AC adapter port; AC power will be provided via the Type C connector and all other connections such as video and Ethernet will be handled via a hub. Happy computing! 🌿



Shawn and Amy Goodall

Fulltiming with the Goodalls

Sharing the highs and lows, joys and woes, of fulltiming in a Discovery motor home

We bought an RV! Those words still seem strange when they roll off my lips. We are a couple in our early 40's, home schooling four children ages 8 to 14.

We always dreamed that we would take our kids on an RV trip when they were old enough to remember it. But, **buy** an RV? Never!

The plan was to rent an RV for three weeks and travel up the East coast, focusing on American history. As most know, life sometimes does not go as planned. We were in a town that we thought we would retire in, and everything changed. It caused us to start thinking outside the box. **Shawn** got a new traveling job, flying to Iowa twice a month to work ER shifts. We needed to move closer to a big airport.

It was in the middle of all this that we came up with the idea of an extended RV trip. Since we were going to be packing up our home, why not put it all in storage and take our RV trip? We would have extra money if we were not making a house payment and paying utilities ... brilliant! We started looking at RVs to rent and quickly decided it would be more cost effective and smarter to just **buy** one. We spent hundreds of hours making spreadsheets of the pros and cons of used versus new, gas versus diesel, sizes of tanks, sleeping arrangements, etc.

We knew **nothing** about RVs ... talk about a steep learning curve! **Shawn** focused on the underneath parts of an RV (engine, transmission, tanks, safety), while I (**Amy**) focused on the upper stuff (beds, kitchen, bathroom, décor, storage). We decided that the Discovery 40G would best fit our needs. After we started making a calendar of all the places we wanted to go, and where we would need to be for **Shawn** to fly in and out for work, our trip grew and grew from three months to 18 months.

In September 2014 we bought our brand new RV at General RV in Huntley, Ill. From the day we started talking about possibly taking an RV trip, to actually flying to Chicago to buy one, was five months. It was quick. We asked my parents if they wanted to go on this adventure with us and they said, "Yes!" – making it a grand total of eight humans and two canines on the "Discovery Belle." We named her Belle from our love of history (Liberty Bell) and Disney (Belle). So far, we have been through 14 states, six presidential libraries, museums, multiple national parks, Duck Dynasty hometown (met "**Miss Kay**"), Disneyland, and we are currently spending three weeks at Disney World.

We are on an amazing journey, one for which we are incredibly thankful, including all the blessings that come with it. 🌿

Editor's note: Watch for future editions of "Fulltiming with the Goodalls" as **Amy and Shawn** continue their RVing adventures. If you have questions about fulltiming, email them to doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com and I will forward them to the **Goodalls**, who will use your queries as ideas for future articles.

The Ultimate Hub Tool


This tool is used to remove Freightliner's chassis hub nuts on coaches with Alcoa rims. It saves the hubs from unforgiving channel locks and pipe wrenches, plus allows you to remove hubs for cleaning and polishing. The only molded hub tool that indicates the proper direction for removal of the hubs. Contact **Frank Cason**, 1917 Stone Dam Rd, Chuckey, TN 37641, 423-552-5257, cason.frank@gmail.com. **\$13 incl. s/h**. You can order on the Internet at www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_trksid=p5197.m570.l1313&_nkw=Ultimate+Hub+Nut+Tool&_sacat=0

Paid Ad



Portia Williams

Membership Coordinator's report

It is a pleasure to welcome these new members, and welcome back reinstated members. I encourage them to join a chapter in their area. It's a great way to meet other DOAI members in smaller settings. I also encourage them to attend the 2015 national DOAI rally in Iowa in September. That will be an experience they will long remember. 

Ryan Akin, Edmond OK
 Eric/Kim Amstutz, Naples FL
 Tom/Pat Ball, Albuquerque NM
 Ben/Amber Beaty, Sumter SC
 Mike/Diane Blandina, Gilroy CA
 Micky Brafferd, Bloomington IN
 Jim/Linda Brothers, College Station TX
 Jack/Barbara Brown, Troy MI
 Scott/Lesli Craig, Fort Worth TX
 Jonathan/Vicky Day, Mesa AZ
 Arnold Downs, Bonita CA
 Lyle/Barbara Eliassen, American Falls ID
 Mike/Cyndy Fischer, Tuscola TX
 Timothy/Pearl Florick, Clifton Park NY
 John/Judy Gallespie, Willis TX
 Dale/Donna Hester, Canton TX
 David/Marty Hill, Ocala FL
 Mike/Retha Hopkins, Dallas GA
 John/Debbie Hughes, Plano TX
 Joseph/Margaret Hymes, Gary IN

Johnnie/Sue Johnson, Jefferson City TN
 Ernest/Lisa Kietzman, Englewood FL
 Bill/Judy Kimball, Vancouver WA
 Chris/Pam LaSalle, New Bern NC
 Ben/Lucy Lewis, Montgomery TX
 Lynette Lindia/William Gerweck,
 Middletown DE
 Eric Lindsley, Battle Creek MI
 Luis Lopez, Melbourne FL
 Dan/Pam Marsh, Maple City MI
 Raul/Christina Martinez, San Antonio TX
 John McHenry, Port Orange FL
 Mark/Melanie McKinney, San Antonio TX
 John/Magen McLean, Laurinburg NC
 William/Patricia Mielke, Myrtle Beach SC
 Ted Newman, Surprise AZ
 Ronald/Julia Ohrt, Olathe KS
 Milt/Phyllis Preston, Riverside CA
 Tomas/Nancy Prieto-Baumann, Phoenix AZ
 Arnold/Judy Pruitt, Port St. Lucie FL

Christopher Ramsey, Belleview FL
 Gregory Richardson, Raleigh NC
 Rita Robinson, Lakeland FL
 Jesus Romero, Yuma AZ
 Duncan Scarry, Punta Gorda FL
 Patrick/Stacie Shaw, Mt. Sterling OH
 Steven Shearer, Exeter CA
 Bob/Marissa Shuffield, Hiram GA
 Charisse/Shawn Smith, Ocala FL
 Orozco Socorro, Navasota TX
 Robert/Dianna Sutter, Croton OH
 Terry Todd, Baxley GA
 Mark Tucker, Saint Petersburg FL
 Sharon/John Warner, Steamboat Springs CO
 Mark/Sherrie Watkins, Fredericksburg TX
 Newt/Shelley Watson, Mineola TX
 Peter Weeks, Windsor CO
 Jasper/Josephine Witt, Pace FL
 Jay/Garnet Young, Pace FL
 Bob Zantos, Santa Ana CA



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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

Keith Lindholm shares several ideas, and invites others to share their quick fixes and helpful tips:

Changing the fuel filter/s

If you have been around diesel motor homes any length of time, you know that clean air and fuel are vital for optimal engine performance.

Changing an air filter is a relatively easy task, but replacement of both the primary and secondary fuel filter (if equipped) at each oil change interval can be a bit more challenging.



Typically, on the newer model Discovery, the primary fuel filter (10 micron), known as the fuel/water separator, is on the suction side of the fuel delivery system and is mounted to the chassis rail. The secondary filter (2 micron) is on the pressure side of the fuel delivery system, mounted directly on the engine and, arguably, plays the most important role of the two in preventing the introduction of contaminants into your engine.

Although the primary filter can be pre-filled prior to installation, Cummins recommends the secondary spin-on filter be installed dry to ensure that only adequately filtered fuel is used to fill the contents. This is accomplished by cycling the ignition switch on and off in 30-second intervals in order to activate the electronic fuel pump until the filter is full. Some Discovery owners find this procedure to be inadequate and, as a result, have a hard time starting their coaches afterward due to excessive air in the fuel lines. Therefore, they just fill the secondary filter, spin it on and hope for the best.

Unfortunately, this could be a costly mistake if the fuel you're using hasn't been filtered properly and makes its way into the fuel injection system. So, if you are one of those Discovery owners inclined to pre-fill your secondary filter prior to installation, I have a tip that just may save you a lot of money and aggravation: Purchase a nylon threaded cap nut (see photo) at your local hardware or home improvement center and screw it into the threaded (center) hole of the filter. Then, fill the filter through the surrounding holes in the baffle or thread

plate until the center tube is full. This cautionary approach will help prevent unfiltered fuel from entering the center tube prior to installation and should minimize the time and effort to get you up and running again.

Safety cable for chassis frame

My good buddy **Marv McIntosh** hit the brakes on his coach one day, and the latch holding the generator in place broke off! Thankfully, he was still driving down his long driveway when it happened ... the generator was fully extended ... and his wife, **Grace** chased after him in an effort to let him know of the situation (you can't see this when sitting in the driver's seat). Disaster was averted – **Marv** saw her and stopped the rig.



I made a safety cable, similar to what Blue Ox uses on their vehicle base plates, to secure the lower portion of the front cap assembly to the chassis frame. This is an additional safety measure and is relatively simple to make and install/remove with your fingers.



Help dash cooling work better

One of the best things my wife and I did to improve our comfort while driving was installing a privacy/barrier curtain. The thermal-backed curtains are mounted with a 3/8" bungee cord (no pole to store) that is attached at each end to a brushed nickel coat hook that matches our interior

hardware. It is simple to deploy, and equally easy to take down for storage. It does a great job of keeping the dash air up front. These heavy-weight curtains are sold at Walmart in a variety of colors, and the bungee cord and hardware can be purchased at most hardware stores. 🌿

Editor's note: Do you have a tried and true tip that other D owners could use? Send them in and you, too, could see your contribution in print!

Rally opportunities

We invite you to attend any of the following rallies. Contact chapter president for details (see **page 10**). See also the consolidated rally schedule at www.discoveryowners.com. It is updated between issues of this newsletter.

April 2015 –

- 6-10 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Port Aransas, Tex.
- 8-11 Discovery Texans, Mathis, Tex.
- 8-12 D’Zonas, Yuma, Ariz.
- 21-26 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Nashville, Tenn.
- 26 D’Zonas, Tucson, Ariz.

May 2015 –

- T/B/A Discovery California, Chowchilla, Calif.
- 11-15 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Amarillo, Tex.
- 13-16 Discovery Texans, Glen Rose, Tex.
- 28-31 Ozarks Discovery, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

June 2015 –

- 2-5 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Amarillo, Tex.
- 3-7 Heartland Discoverys, Decatur, Ind.
- 17-21 Midwest Discoverers, Delaware, Ohio

September 2015 –

- T/B/A Desert Rats, location T/B/A
- 11-13 Discovery California, Pismo Coast Village, Calif.
- 12-18 Midwest Discoverers, Butler/Shipshewana, Ind.
- 14-17 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Granbury, Tex.
- 18-20 Texas Discovery Road Runners, rolling rally to national rally in Iowa
- 21-26 **DOAI national rally, Amana Colonies, Ia.**

October 2015 –

- T/B/A Discovery California, Jackson Rancheria, Calif.
- 28-31 Discovery Texans, San Marcos, Tex.
- 29/11-2 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Canton, Tex.

November 2015 –

- T/B/A Desert Rats, location T/B/A
- T/B/A Discovery California, Borrego Springs, Calif.
- 6-8 D’Zonas, Tombstone, Ariz.



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 ✓ ✕ ◻ ✨		Kwikkee products	800.736.9961
..... www.interstaterestareas.com		Magnadyne	800.638.3600
..... www.rvdumps.com/dumpstations		Michelin North America	800.847.3435
..... www.rvparking.com ✓		Norcold, Inc.	800.543.1219
..... www.rvparky.com ✓ ✕		Onan	800.888.6626
Caterpillar RV engine support	877.777.3126	Power Gear	800.334.4712
Carefree of Colorado	800.621.2617	Riverpark	800.442.7717
Carriage Carpets (Shaw Flooring)	877.706.3054	RV Doctor	www.rvdoctor.com
CCI Controls	800.521.5228	RV Education 101	www.rveducation101.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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Website

www.discoveryowners.com

Free classified advertising

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

Discoverys **FOR SALE**

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

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

2007 40X: New roof/radials; transferable maint. plan. **Herman Jones**; 703.909.3998; hjones1@hotmail.com . . . **\$106,000**

2008 40X: Ext. warr., Brake Buddy. **Eric McBride**; 305.807.3358; eric@mcbriedesign.com . . . **\$129,000 OBO**

2009 40G: 48k mi, no smoke/pets, ext. warr. to Nov. 2015. **Ed Ripper**; 910.540.9021; eds767@yahoo.com **\$129,900**

2010 40X: 32k mi, no DEF required., braking system. **Freddie Perry**; 530.249.1842; fperry3@gmail.com **\$125,000**

RV-related items **FOR SALE**

Falcon 2 tow bar, 6000# capacity, with safety cables. **Robert Martin**; 936.559.0301; rbrmartiniv@gmail.com **\$250 + shpg.**

Roadmaster Guardian rock guard, 5 yrs old, exc. cond. **Robert Martin**; 936.559.0301; rbrmartiniv@gmail.com **\$200 + shpg.**

Shades, 2 windshield, 1 entry door, like new. **John Didich**; 419.281.2814; jdidich@frontier.com . . . **\$350 + shpg. OBO**

Xantrex Freedom inverter/charger. Dlv'r nat'l rally or ship. **Bob Angus**; 931.624.3816; angusr@charter.net **\$600 + shpg.**

RV-related items **WANTED**

Bra for 2000 Discovery. **John Loescher**; 608.354.8112; johndandcolleen@charter.net.

Membership sponsors

DOAI thanks these organizations for supporting our club by paying for a year's membership for each purchaser of a **new or used** Discovery motor home: Sponsorship details are available from DOAI Membership Coordinator **Portia Williams** at 888.594.6818 or doaimembership@discoveryowners.com.

- Lazydays** 800.500.5299
www.lazydays.com
- PPL Motor Homes** 800.755.4775
www.pplmotorhomes.com
- RV World** 800.762.7448
www.rvworldyuma.com
- Tom Raper RVs** 800.727.3778
www.tomraper.com

Shopping at amazon.com?



DOAI is a member of the Amazon Affiliate program. If you shop at amazon.com, click on this icon that you will find on

the DOAI homepage. DOAI will receive a small commission on your purchase. The price you pay will be the same, and you pay Amazon just as you always have. Your credit card's bonus points or cash-back status will not be affected. DOAI will not know what you purchased, and you can help defray DOAI's expenses associated with the club's website and this newsletter. Please consider bookmarking the page after you click the link and use it every time you shop at amazon.com. Thank you!



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.



Keith Lindholm

One Man's Life Getting Sauced!

Okay, okay ... I know what you're already thinking: a tale about some drunken Discovery owner who took advantage of the "adult refreshments" offered at a national rally and made a fool of himself at the expense, or perhaps amusement, of all those other jovial and well-mannered rally goers in attendance. You probably even envisioned DOAI President John Baker disavowing any personal knowledge of my affiliation with the organization, while reassuring everyone that this is a common occurrence ... oops! ... I mean, isolated incident.

Although I will admit to overextending my invitation with Mr. George Dickel a time or two (all right, maybe three) in the past, let me assure you, this story has nothing to do with the overindulgence of my favorite Tennessee beverage, but everything to do with *Identified Flying Objects*. That's right ... IFO's.

Let me step back a moment and tell you how this all started. My wife and I met DOAI members **Marv and Grace McIntosh** previously on their trip to Key West, and we all made plans to attend Camp Discovery 2014 at Lazydays in Seffner, Fla. There, **Marv** asked if we'd be interested in a trip out west in May, and without so much as a pause, we began planning our route, length of stays, historical landmarks, points of interest and of course, a stop at the Fleetwood factory in Decatur, Ind., for a tour. **Marv's** brother and his wife, **John and Becky**, who were overdue for a road trip as well, decided to come along, too, and I coined our trio the infamous "McIntosh Gang".

Well, we were on the third week of our trip when we left Cody, Wyo., where we enjoyed the nightly rodeo, Buffalo Bill Museum, Buffalo Bill Dam, Buffalo Bill Reservoir, Buffalo Bill Outhouse (just kidding), and everything else Buffalo Bill had his name attached to in the town. I was real excited about our next leg of the journey because this was the main destination for our trip and the first time my wife and I had ever visited Yellowstone National Park. So, on an early Sunday morning, we departed from the Ponderosa Campground west on the North Fork Highway for a hundred miles or so to the east entrance of the park. Little did we know, this is where the real excitement would begin.

Now, after nearly 3,200 miles under our belt with only a small dent in a compartment door, a crack in the lower left corner of our windshield, and an adventure over the Big Horn mountain range, the trip was unremarkable up to this point. Oh, yes, there was one other tiny little incident I might have conveniently failed to mention, but instead of boring you with the details, let

me just give you some personal advice instead: When you see storm chasers converging in the direction your caravan is heading, please turn your rig around and get the heck out of Dodge. Trust me, it does not fare well with the copilot, and she is certain to tell the tale of the life-threatening tornados to as many people who will listen. Of course, she will embellish her near-death experience while constantly reiterating the seriousness of having your head thoroughly examined! Like I was saying, we were all having a great time so far and were looking forward to our arrival in Yellowstone unscathed.

We arrived at the east entrance to the park and after exchanging pleasantries with the park ranger and paying our taxes ... excuse me, fees ... for the week, our trio proceeded slowly along the main road, taking in the breathtaking scenery and wildlife, including a black bear who wandered straight into our path. We were mesmerized by the beauty of it all that truly must be experienced in person to really appreciate. We continued through Sylvan Pass at a leisurely pace heading toward Lake Butte.

As the road approached the outskirts of Grizzly Peak, we began a descent of sharp left- and right-hand switchbacks ... all right, I knew you were going to ask ... so sharp you could stick your head out the driver's window and kiss the taillights of your coach as you were turning ... one after another ... until suddenly, it sounded like a Fourth of July celebration commenced inside our coach. All the cabinets, along with the refrigerator, opened at once, hurling everything out and across to the opposing side and vice versa when we turned in the other direction. We had an assortment of food, produce, canned goods, dishes, cups, and snacks flying through the air, i.e., IFO's! I watched in horror as my favorite M&M trail mix made its way onto the floor of the cockpit, knowing it would probably exceed the 30-second rule.

With nowhere to pull off and a long line of traffic behind us, we continued down the mountain as the commotion continued with an encore performance. First, thud number one, then an explosion of glass breaking. Then, thud number two and the sound of additional glass shattering, reminiscent of mortar shells being fired in succession and striking their intended target. Those thuds

Continued on next page...



Getting sauced, continued

turned out to be two large 45-ounce jars of Prego spaghetti sauce which were now affectionately covering the majority of the floor, carpet, couches, blinds, valances, ceiling – I think you get the picture. Realize that I couldn't take my eyes off the road while all this was going on, and each time I glanced over at my wife, she was speechless and getting paler as we continued. I was now beginning to worry ... about those M&M's melting on my custom cockpit carpet.

When we got to the bottom of the descent and onto a straightaway, I looked over at my co-pilot again. Recall that scene in the movie, "Jaws," when **Chief Brody** got his first glance at the Great White Shark and stumbled backwards into the pilot house of the vessel stating, "We're gonna need a bigger boat"? She looked at me with that same sort of stoic, motionless, expressionless stare and uttered, "We're gonna need a new motor home" three times in a row, nothing more. With a small pull-off up ahead at Fishing Bridge, I notified the other members of our gang that we had to stop because of some "household chores" that needed attending to right away. There, when we stopped, I got my first real glimpse of the turmoil that had unfolded.

Now, understand something right here: my wife and I are both experienced RVers and are considered "clean freaks" by most standards. We always strive to maintain our coach inside and out, along with the toad, to absolute perfection to the extent it could be considered compulsive obsessive behavior (sounds like someone else I know, right, **Marv**?). Well, you could imagine what my initial response was when I rose up from my captain's chair and turned to face the music. I was extremely upset at myself, because I knew better than to travel in mountainous terrain without adequately securing the cabinets. But, we are Florida flatlanders and with the uneventful trek over the Big Horn mountains earlier, complacency had set in and provided us with a false sense of security.

After a tirade of language that is typically reserved for a 2am "choir practice" at the Brass Monkey Bar, we handed our toy poodle off to **Marv and Grace** to babysit while we began cleaning up the worst of it until we could get to the campground. We used several of our large bath towels to get most of the spaghetti sauce up and ended up throwing out our hall runner which saved the ceramic floor from the impact. If there was any consolation, nothing was apparently damaged and we were praying the complete fabric treatment we paid for when we bought the coach was going to be a good return on our

investment. After nearly an hour and several trips to the dumpster, we saddled up our posse once again and headed westward as we basked in the aroma of our favorite store-bought tomato sauce, snacking on what was left of our M&M trail mix. For some apparent reason, an overwhelming sense of hunger had fallen upon us.

We finally arrived at the Grizzly Campground about 90 minutes later. After registering and setting up at our site, we immediately quarantined our motor home and, like a forensic crime scene, began the arduous and tedious task of cleaning our interior, one square inch at a time. Armed with buckets of soapy water, rags, and an array of cleaning tools and products, we worked non-stop throughout the afternoon and early evening, having more fun than riding a bike with the seat missing. We scrubbed from floor to ceiling like two Tasmanian Devils walking on hot coals, and I can only imagine what our neighbors on each side of us were thinking as they discreetly peered through the open windows occasionally. We were certainly too embarrassed to quell their curiosity.

Thankfully, by the time we finished, the interior looked as good as the day we purchased the coach and you would never know anything had happened ... until, of course, my good buddy **Marv** had to let the proverbial cat out of the bag on the DOAI eGroup (thanks, **Marv**!). My wife, who progressively came back to life as the day wore on and the mess diminished, was extremely pleased that our fabric protection worked perfectly, and she put on her happy face once she realized our motor home was going to be just fine. She celebrated her elation

with **Grace and Becky** over a delightful bottle of wine just as dusk began to settle upon Yellowstone.

Needless to say, it was a very eventful day and we both learned a valuable lesson from this mishap that we are glad to share with our fellow Discovery owners. We have resigned ourselves to the fact that from this point forward, despite the terrain, the cabinets will always be secured as part of our pre-departure checklist ... period.

As for me, well, I have a confession to make: After the day I had, I didn't just over extend my visit with Mr. George Dickel that evening – I spent the night and took my other buddy, Jack Daniels, along with me! ❁

*Editor's note: Once the "property" of DOAI member **Pete Shaffer**, the main title of this series is now open to anyone who has a hilarious disaster (is that an oxymoron?) to share. If requested, donors will remain anonymous to protect the innocent ... or the foolhardy.*





Chapter prez
Ron Wacker

Southeast region rally wrap-up

The Florida Discovery Sunshiners hosted a very successful 2015 southeast region rally. A total of 94 families attended with about a quarter of them being first timers. The three catered dinners with free beer, wine and soda, and four nights of entertainment were big hits.

The opening ceremonies were very special. **Bruce Bruce** had all the veterans come up front and face toward the audience. He had them stand at attention, do an about face, then salute the flag as we all said the Pledge of Allegiance. It was very moving to all of us. We owe so much to our veterans. If it weren't for them, we would not be able to own our Discoverys, freely travel the country, own our homes, have freedom of speech and start our own businesses. A very heartfelt thanks goes out to all our veterans and we pray to keep our current ones safe and out of harm's way.

Marshall Godwin and **Gary Osburn** put on a fantastic Camp Discovery. The rally was packed with seminars and events, including many fun-filled activities for the women. **MaryAnn Crowell** conducted the women's roundtable, **Wendy Williams** held the pet parade, **Debbie Osburn** talked about traveling with pets, **Jorie Salomon** held a cooking class and the ladies took away a meal to freeze and cook at a later time. **Jody Bruce**, **Donna Wacker** and **Margaret Schwalen** held jewelry classes. **Ron Wacker** put together a presentation on the phone and tablet apps everyone sent in. **Don Crowell**

talked about how to escape the RV. Everyone in the Florida Discovery Sunshiners, plus many from the other clubs, chipped in and helped make the rally successful.

Monday included new Discoverys on display, along with free heavy hors d'oeuvres for Happy Hour with free beer, wine and sodas donated by **Demond McKinley**, sales manager of Lazydays.

Tuesday, we had about 17 vendors, a flea market and ice cream social. For the men, **Mark Salomon** arranged a great golf outing. The day ended with a covered dish dinner and entertainment.

Thursday evening, **Toni Calzone** held a memorial remembrance for those members who have passed.

The group, through 50/50 proceeds, was extremely generous donating \$1,800 to our charity, Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home, which means there were also three grateful 50/50 winners.

Thanks to **Mark, Bruce**, and our vendors, there were lots of door prizes, enough so everyone could win one. We had chairs, gift certificates, coupons, products and more.

Jody Bruce arranged for two nurses to talk about medical safety on the road and traveling safely with children and grandchildren in the motor home. Both presentations were very interesting and informative.

The rally was wrapped up with a nice Koffee Klatch breakfast on Friday for saying good-byes to all our new and old friends. ❁



Marshall Godwin

Praise and promotion for southeast rally

The recently completed 2015 southeast region rally ranks as one of the best planned and executed rallies I have attended. The host chapter, Florida Discovery Sunshiners, did a wonderful job for every aspect of the rally – decorations, rally registration, activities, vendors, events, golf outing, potluck dinner, seminars, 50/50 charity fundraiser, food and entertainment. I know that every rally attendee appreciated the work of the host chapter members and others who chipped in to make this a very successful rally.

Camp Discovery was well attended. These technical seminars are geared to those new to Discovery motor homes, but even the most seasoned owners find the information very helpful. This was the sixth consecutive Camp Discovery; based on seminar attendance and feedback, we plan to do it again next year. The Camp Discovery seminars are 13½ hours spread out over the rally with the following topics: Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Water Heaters, Propane Furnaces, Battery Care and Charging, Battery Control Center and 12 Volt Systems, 120 Volt System for 30 Amp Coaches, 120 Volt System for 50 Amp Coaches, and Owner's Roundtable – Focus on Chassis Maintenance.

However, it is incorrect to think of the southeast rally as "just" technical seminars. There was a full schedule of varied activities and presentations geared to all rally attendees. The

good news is that the Florida Discovery Sunshiners have agreed to host next year's rally! It will be hard to match what was done this year, but I know they are up to the task – they will do their part. **Your** part is to register early and attend!

That having been said, the dates for next year's southeast region rally at Lazydays Campground in Seffner, Fla., have been set. Arrival is Sunday, January 24, and departure is Saturday, January 30. This will be a six-night rally, and will include the seventh consecutive Camp Discovery along with all other activities

of a major DOAI rally. Because of the advance planning, you can call Lazydays **now** (800.905.6627) to register! There is no charge if you cancel 30 days before arrival. Lazydays will collect most rally costs, but a small per coach fee will be sent to the rally registrar. Those instructions will be provided later in this newsletter.

If the 2016 DOAI southeast region rally is anything like this year's, we are all in for a treat. Plan now to join a hundred other Discovery owners for another great rally. ❁



Southeast region rally photos and first-timers' feedback



"The seminars were very informative and helpful. We enjoyed meeting so many friendly people. We are looking forward to the next rally."

-Greg and Dotti Rogers

Excellent seminars presented by **Marshall Godwin** and **Gary Osburn** were well attended by new and experienced D owners alike.

"This is our third coach, but first diesel, so the classes were invaluable – we learned a lot. The instructors were very knowledgeable; the food was tasty; entertainment was good, and the people were friendly and fun. You can't beat the value. We'll be back!"

-Eric and Kim Amstutz



The women's roundtable, led by **MaryAnn Crowell**, was filled with questions and ideas by attendees.



The vets lined up and saluted our flag ... a great showing by great people!

"It more than met our expectations, and we have shared our experience with others as we continue our travels. We are already registered for the FMA and DOAI rallies in Florida next year. Thanks to all who made us feel welcome."

-Jim and Kathy Pinkerton

"Everyone was so friendly and helpful. The binder will be useful in the future when needed for repairs and such. The highlights were meeting all our new friends and knowing that we will see some of them again in our travels, and knowing that all seminars were specific to our brand of coach. We have already made our reservations for next year's Camp Discovery!"

-Randy and Karen Kemp



And everyone went to the dogs – parade, that is.



Lots of rugs were cut on the dance floor, and the musicians helped!

"We had a great time. We came so we could learn more about our RV; that was a success, except now I need to learn much more. I'm working on that because of all the info I gained at the rally. Thanks again for everything!"

-Mike and Karen McCarten

"As a new RV owner, I didn't know what to expect. I had a lot of questions, and was a bit overwhelmed by all the material presented in the seminars, but found the discussions very helpful and the notebook a great place to write notes. Even better, I met a lot of great people who are a pleasure to be with and who are willing to share their knowledge. In fact, I enjoyed it so much, I decided to join a couple of chapters so I can spend more time with them! I encourage new D owners to attend."

-Mike Weiher



The food was terrific!

DOAI Officers' reports



Dick Tracy

Treasurer – January 1-December 31, 2014

In 2014, normal revenues decreased by \$660 from 2013, due to decreased dues revenue. Disbursements increased by \$4,900 due to one-time expenditures for name badge holders and flags, and for chapter development costs associated with starting up the new California chapter. For the first four months of our DOAI participation in the Amazon Affiliate program, we realized \$162. Due to savings in expenses for the 2014 national rally and the 2014 southeast region rally disbursements, we had a gain of \$5,900 in net receipts for the year. At this time, our club is in very good financial condition and, with your help, it will continue to be one of the best RV clubs in the country. 🌿

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Receipts:

Dues	\$22,413.45
Advertising income	300.00
Interest income:	
CD	243.27
Checking account	21.62
Amazon sales commissions	161.87
Total ordinary receipts	<u>\$23,140.21</u>

Expense Disbursements:

Newsletter	\$ 7,095.61
Membership expense	1,446.23
Insurance	2,414.89
Advertising expense	220.80
Member care	27.29
Website expense	320.91
Rally fee reimbursements	4,408.74
Office supplies, postage, misc.	162.46
PayPal charges	612.50
Chapter development	1,224.59
Name badge holders and flags	2,507.50
Other expenses	686.95
Total ordinary disbursements	<u>\$21,128.47</u>

Other Receipts:

Rally receipts over disbursements - national	\$ 3,542.20
Rally receipts over disbursements - regional	1,269.00
Merchandise receipts over disbursements	(824.33)
Total other receipts	<u>\$ 3,986.87</u>
Total receipts over disbursements	<u>\$ 5,998.61</u>

Beginning cash balance 1-1-2014	\$82,280.52
Ending cash balance 12-31-2014	<u>\$88,279.13</u>
Cash increase	<u>\$ 5,998.61</u>

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014

Current Assets:

Petty cash	\$ 550.00
National rally account	3,542.20
Cash in bank	58,571.56
Certificates of deposit	24,462.58
PayPal account	1,152.79
Total current assets	<u>\$88,279.13</u>

Other Assets:

Merchandise inventory	\$ 4,995.40
Account receivable	180.00
Total other assets	<u>\$ 5,175.40</u>
Total assets	<u>\$93,454.53</u>

Liabilities and Net Worth:

Prepaid memberships	\$17,544.00
Reserve for future chapters	592.91
Net worth:	
Beginning balance	\$70,477.01
Excess receipts over disbursements	5,998.61
Change in merchandise inventory	1,214.00
Increase in receivables	80.00
Change in prepaid memberships	(2,452.00)
Total net worth	<u>\$75,317.62</u>
Total liabilities and net worth	<u>\$93,454.53</u>



Officers' reports continued on next page...

Grateful thanks

I am writing to express our deepest thanks for your recent donation to Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home. Generous gifts from donors like you provide the financial support in your generous \$1,800 check and \$45 cash donation to our facility. We appreciate support like this from the community, as it plays a key role in our success by providing the best care and morale to our residents. We are so grateful for your generosity!

Thank you so much again for your thoughtfulness in remembering and caring about our veterans. - **Marlies Sarrett, Administrator** (shown here with **Bruce Bruce**)



Officers' reports, continued

Southeast Region Vice President



Bob Deal

Elizabeth and I really enjoyed the southeast region rally. **Ron Wacker** and his team did a fantastic job, and **Bruce Bruce** was MC. Everyone we talked to had only positive things to say about the rally.

I commend **Toni Calzone** for her work on the memorial program, honoring those DOAI members who passed during the last five years: 2010- **Tom Fields**; 2011-**Dick Snyder**; 2012-**Marie Money**; 2013-**Emroy Bitler**, **Isabel Cason**, **Carl Dykman**, and **Donna Reid**; 2014-**Shelby Brown**, **Pat Cahill**, **Don Cumbie**, **Jean Doss**, **Hank Haden**, **Larry Kaiser**, **Lollie Kendrick**, **Angel Marien**, **Marshall Mauck**, **Del Perry**, and **Fay Williams**. **Toni** prepared a memorial folder for each member that included a little history of their service with DOAI, and a certificate signed by DOAI President **John Baker**. She will send the folders to the families who were not represented at the memorial.



Toni Calzone and **John Baker** during the memorial event at the southeast region rally. Top photo, the memorial table.

We are planning to be in Florida until March 2, enjoying the warm weather. Around the end of April we will repack the D and head west. It will be our first westward trip in our motor home.

I hope everyone is well, and looking forward to a great year. ❁

Executive Vice President



John Curtis

Greetings from south Texas. With the weather being what it is, I'm glad I live here. We have been able to play golf and ride our Goldwing motorcycle most weeks, weather permitting.

I hear that the southeast region rally was a great success, with many attendees and everyone having a good time. Sorry to have missed it. DOAI national rally will be in September in Amana, Iowa, and we plan on being there. Please look for information in this issue of *Discovery Express* to learn more about Amana, a great destination. And sign up early. There will be plenty to see with all the Amana Colonies located nearby. Arrival day is Monday, September 21, with departure on Sunday, September 27, which gives us six nights of camping and five days to explore. Hopefully, fuel prices will remain lower. Until then, remember RVing is all about fun-fun-fun. ❁

Southwest Region Vice President



Mike Scott

Just spent the weekend in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., with temps in the high 80's and watching the news with all the cold weather back east. I know a lot of DOAI members travel south for the winter, and we would like to invite all of you to consider attending one of our chapter events while you are in the area. We would love to have you. Check out the calendar of events for the California

Discovery (California), Desert Rats (Nevada), or the D'Zonas (Arizona) to see if anything aligns with your travel plans.

Also, if you are in our area of the country, give one of us a call and maybe we can get together or give some ideas of places to visit while here.

I talked about having a southwest region rally in the last newsletter, and this idea is gaining more traction; not a typical full-up rally like a national, but more along the lines of a large chapter rally. We are going to target this for early 2016 and we are looking for ideas as to where to have this event. Ideas on the table so far are:

- ❁ During Balloon Festival, Albuquerque, N. M.
- ❁ Bluegrass Festival, Blythe, Calif.
- ❁ Carson City, Nev.
- ❁ Pahrump, Nev.
- ❁ Las Vegas, Nev.

I would appreciate some feedback on this idea to see if I can stir up enough interest and also more ideas on possible locations. Happy trails! ❁

DOAI Chapters' reports



Chapter prez
Mike Scott

D'Zonas

We kicked off the new year with our first rally at Lake Havasu State Park. What a great location and very nice park right on the shore of the lake. The state park hosted the 7th Annual Rockabilly Reunion with a car and motorcycle show, lots of rockabilly music, good food, and great people-watching. Also in town was an annual pyrotechnic show, so fireworks Thursday through Sunday. Add in the great company and you have a pretty good weekend.

Next up is the FMA rally in Yuma, Ariz., April 8-12 where we will piggyback a D'Zonas get-together. Hope to see many of you there.

We are having to revise our schedule of rallies for 2015 due to some issues with a lot of our travel schedules. Here is our revised schedule for the remainder of the year:

April 26 - D'Zonas Dinner: We have thought about trying this for a long time and here it is. For those of you in the local area, or those who might want to come down to Tucson for the weekend, we will have a dinner (paid for by the chapter) on Sunday, April 26 at 5pm. Location is Taste of Texas. Be sure to add this one to your schedule.

Nov. 6-8 Tombstone, Ariz.: Tombstone RV Park and Campground, \$35/night. Come visit the town too tough to die. We will also plan a day trip down to Bisbee for sightseeing.

We invite all to any of our events. We would love to have you. Happy trails! 🌿



Chapter prez
Gary Velasquez

Desert Rats

The Rats recently completed their rolling rally, beginning with the attendance of three coaches at the Blythe Bluegrass Festival at the Colorado River Fairgrounds in Blythe, Calif., this past January. With beautiful weather, Rat members **Dave and Joan McCoy, Herb and Sheri Rikelman, and Gary and Patty Velasquez** enjoyed a weekend of live bluegrass music, a golf outing, nightly dinners complete with bonfires and good company.

The rolling rally continued on to Quartzsite, Ariz., where Rat members **Jerry Timberlake and Becky Guilliams** met up with the group. Four coaches dry camped at Rice Ranch for three days and enjoyed the annual swap meet, RV, and gem shows. Nightly socials complete with potluck dinners and fires continued.

The chapter's next rally will be to the FMA rally in Yuma, Ariz., in April. The Rats are looking forward to seeing many of our DOAI friends at that rally.

The Rats' 2015 schedule includes planning of a fourth rally to Pismo Beach, Calif., in September, sometime after Labor Day, and possibly one additional rally in November before the Thanksgiving holidays. Currently, all dates for our

final two rallies are yet to be decided. 🌿



Chapter prez
Bev Kaiser

Heartland Discoverys

Our chapter members had a great time at the southeast region rally. Three coaches spent two weeks in Seffner for both the FMA and DOAI rallies. There were nine coaches represented at our annual picnic in Seffner, as several of our group winter in Florida. Good company, good food was had by all.

A rally will be held in Shippshewana, Ind., on June 1, then we'll travel to Decatur, Ind., for the FMA national rally. More information will be available once we reserve the site in Shippshewana, where we will be going to the flea market on Tuesday. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. Please contact me at bjk601@comcast.net and I will see that you get information. 🌿



Chapter prez
Jerald Call

Midwest Discoverers

Hello from Okeechobee, Fla. As of this writing (February), **Noreta** and I are wintering in Okeechobee for the last time; we have sold our place and will move back to Indiana.

Our chapter has two rallies planned for the next few months and we invite DOAI'ers to join us. The first rally will take place June 17-21 at Cross Creek Camping Resort in Delaware, Ohio. Planned activities include visiting the Columbus Zoo, touring the Ohio Statehouse, as well as Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum and Franklin Park Conservatory. There will even be a pie baking contest! **Brad and Nancy McKitrick** will be the hosts, and you can register with them at murphym1235@aol.com and also be provided with full details. Registration fee is \$60 and covers meals and related supplies. Contact the park at 740.549.2267/800.988.2267 by June 3 to reserve your camping spot (tell them you are with the Midwest Discoverers group).

The second rally will be a two-parter September 12-18. Part one will be at **Jerald and Noreta Call's** farm, 6825 CR 16, Butler, Ind. (260.868.2580/Cell 260.927.5397), and will include a welcome party, fish fry, as well as carpooling to Decatur for a private, no-charge tour of the Fleetwood factory. Part two will be in Shippshewana, Ind., camping at Shippshewana Campground (206.768.4669) with a camping fee of \$42/day – please make your own reservations. Also included will be a dinner theater and show, visiting the largest flea market and antique auction in the Midwest, touring the RV museum at the old Studebaker mansion (cost included in rally fee), and a sumptuous dinner at the Tippecanoe House.

Dry camping at the farm will be no charge, and breakfast each day is included in the rally fee. Diesel is lower this year, the weather will be great, the fellowship will be outstanding, and you will have the time of your life. 🌿

Continued on next page ...

DOAI Chapters' reports, continued



Chapter prez
Glenn Camp

Blue Ridge Discoverys

Gail and I sure enjoyed the southeast region rally at Lazydays; good food, fellowship and entertainment. Thanks to the Florida Sunshiners for another great job. There were many first timers in attendance and, once again, great seminars presented by **Marshall Godwin** and **Gary Osburn**; I thank them for doing a super job.

Our chapter was very well represented at this rally. We are thrilled to have had seven new members join our chapter since my last report. They are **Rick and Diana Blaher** (Madison, Ala.), **Ray and Susan Guitierrez** (Buchanan, Ga.), **Bob and Kathy Johnson** (Ozawkie, Kan.), **Vernon (Gene) McBryar** (Wildwood, Ga.), **Jim and Kathy Pinkerton** (Murphysboro, Ill.), **Henry and Linda Terrill** (Harriman, Tenn.), and **Mike Weiher** (Rochester, Ind.).

Our next rally will be held in Nashville, April 21-26, with early days April 19-20. Hosts will be **Bob and Glenda Angus**, **Frank Cason**, **Richard and Jean Money**, and **Dick and Suzanne Pryor**. This promises to be another great rally. Contact me at grcamper@gmail.com for an application, or go to DOAI website. 🌸



Chapter prez
Jim Pellow

Discovery Texans

We held our first rally for 2015 February 4-7 at Riverview Campground, Waco, Tex. Since the last newsletter, we welcomed to our chapter **Marshall and Marcie Williams** (Arlington, Tex.), along with our rally attendees, **Wanda Berry** (Tulsa, Okla.), **Freddie Perry** (Sparks, Nev.), and **Mark and Sherrie Watkins** (Fredericksburg, Tex.) **Mark and Sherrie**

are new to RVing and have only been out a couple times, so far. They seem to enjoy the information sharing and eGroup aspects. Our rally hosts were **Pete and Martha Palasota**, **Gwen Churchill**, and **Della Quinn**.

Our first night, we went to Logan's Roadhouse and had a potluck dinner the next. We enjoyed our hosts' breakfasts and dinners Friday and Saturday. We enjoyed checking out Waco, visiting, playing card bingo, and toss baseball. We thank and congratulate our hosts and rally master for a very good rally!

Most of our group took an early morning tour of Baylor's new \$266-million, 45,000-seat McLane Stadium. The stadium is a state-of-the-art multi-functional facility that will host world class music, family and sporting events throughout the year, in addition to Baylor University football. Of course, there was shopping at the various stores. Others checked out the Dr Pepper Museum (via self-guided tour), which includes the original 1906 bottling plant, a newly renovated courtyard and parking lot, and the historic Kellum-Rotan building which was built in the 1880s, making it one of the oldest buildings remaining in downtown Waco. The museum holds one of the finest collections of soft drink memorabilia in the world and it is not limited to Dr Pepper. It was fun to see the bottling room,

the well, all the different bottles and slogans used over the years, and the soda fountain! Dr Pepper is a native of Waco and the oldest major soft drink in America. It was created by **Dr. Charles Alderton** at the Old Corner Drug Store in 1885, predating Coca-Cola by one year. We also conducted chapter business with board and general membership meetings.

Discovery Texans' rallies are Wednesday through Saturday, departing on Sunday. Our next rallies are: April 8-11 at Wilderness Lakes RV Resort, Mathis, Tex., and May 13-16 at Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Tex. We hope to see y'all in the near future. Safe travels, everyone. 🌸

Report submitted by Elaine Holley



Chapter prez
Jim Sullivan

Discovery California

Winter has been a slow period for the Discovery California members. However, exciting news for our chapter was the change in officers. We now have **Jim Sullivan**, President; **Terry Shick**, Vice President; **Susan Sullivan**, Secretary; **Shari Shick**, Treasurer; and **Al Anderson**, Event Master.

Discovery California has already planned two events for 2015. The first event was at Cachuma Lake, March 6-8. Cachuma Lake is midway between the beaches and bustle of Santa Barbara and the Danish Community of Solvang. Our second event will be at Pismo Coast Village, September 11-13. This is a unique RV camping paradise on the ocean midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Three other events are in the planning stages. One in May at The Lakes in Chowchilla, another in October at Jackson Rancheria, and in November at Borrego Springs. More information will follow once the dates are set.



A group of Discovery California members, hosted by **Al Anderson**, met at Quartzsite, Ariz., in January to enjoy the big tent events, four-wheeling in the desert, and the nightly gatherings around the campfires. Since everyone had such a great time, we are hoping to have **Al** host another Quartzsite event for club members and any other Discovery

owners in January 2016.

The Discovery California board had a meeting on February 21 at Jackson Rancheria RV Resort in Jackson. Lots of exciting things were discussed, particularly what new events would be interesting for all of our members. We are trying to have two events in northern California, and three events in the southern part of the state. The idea of meeting at Quartzsite was explored and should be lots of fun.

As with any new organization, we had some growing pains and glitches. With the extra help and support from **Mike Scott**, **Nina Soltwedel**, and **Bob Cook**, we feel that Discovery California is headed in the right direction. 🌸



Tire expert
Roger Marble

Soften the blow to the wallet when buying tires

I recently read a blog post about the sticker shock of the cost of truck-type tires for the large RV. I offer a suggestion on how to soften the financial hit. This strategy can work for all RVs, be they trailers, Class C, Class B, or Class A units. It's a simple plan and will only take a few minutes to lay out. With the planning behind us, we will be prepared to take advantage of any special deals or short-term sales we might come across.

Now, to follow this plan, there are a few bits of information you need to have: You need to know the exact size, Load Range and DOT serial date for your current tires. Sorry, but just thinking you have 235-16 size tires that you bought in 2009 doesn't cut the mustard. If you are not sure how to get this information, I suggest a quick refresher is in order: you might read "Reading a Tire" which follows this article. So, let's assume you have collected the details on your tires, so you know exactly what you will be looking for over the next few months.

Here's how my suggestion works: If all your tires are the same size, I suggest you plan on replacing the two oldest tires first. The new tires would go on the front positions and the others in dual positions in the back. Next year, buy two more new tires, place them on the front and move the tires that were on the front back to one pair of duals. Then, the third year, buy two more tires, place them on the front position and move the older fronts back to the rear. This schedule serves a few purposes:

1. It spreads out the purchase over a three-year period.

2. It has you running on the newest tires in your front position.
3. With this plan, you can spend months shopping for the best deal and avoid the need to accept tires that may be years old before you even buy them. Since you have a plan, you now have over a six- to ten-month time period to do your shopping.
4. When you are done, you know your oldest tires are three years old. If you plan on changing tires when they get to seven or eight years, you now have a four-year period to set aside some cash for when you begin the cycle over again. You can continue this schedule for as long as you own your RV and never be confronted with having to buy more than two tires in any one year.



Now, if your front tires are different size than your rear tires, as seen on some large Class A units, you can't do the front tire rotation, but you can still limit the purchase of the rears to just two a year.

With a little planning, no one should have to buy more than two tires in any one year. It just takes some thought and planning. ❁

© Roger Marble, 2015. 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.*

Roger Marble's "Reading a tire"

Have you read a tire lately? Have you read the information provided to you by the tire manufacturer? If you have, did you bother to record the important numbers in your log book so you only need to do this job once in the life of a tire?

There is a lot of information molded into the sidewall of your tires. Most of this is required by law. Most of this is important for you to know so you can look up the correct inflation for your tires, or, if buying new tires be sure to get replacements that can carry at least the same as the original tires. Here is some information from one tire.

The size



This tire is a "Passenger" type, as it starts with the letter "P." Other types might be "LT" for Light Truck, or

"ST" for Special Trailer. Small tires intended for passenger cars might not have the "P" if made to European specs. Large tires like 19.5 or 22.5 rim diameter have no letter and are "TBR" of Truck Bus radials and are found on Class-A RV. The "114S" is the Service Description which is a Load Index (from a published table but using the actual Max Load is better). The "S" is the Speed Rating or max operating speed. Like the red

line on your engine. Not all tires have this description.

The DOT serial



This has important information used in determining the tire age. Other information such as the location of the tire plant that made the tire is part of this code (first two characters "8X" in this example). If there is a recall, this code is used to identify which tires are covered by the recall. **Note:** the last portion, the 4 digit date code, 3908 in this example, is only molded on one side of most tires. Every tire sold for use on the highway in the U.S. must have a full DOT serial, including the date code molded on at least one side. This tire was made the 39th week of 2008.

The load and inflation information



This is the maximum load capacity for the tire when the cold inflation is set to this pressure. In

Cont. on next page...

Reading a fire, continued

this example (2601 lbs) when the inflation is set to (44 psi max press) when the tire is at ambient temperature. **Note:** for LT and TBR type tires, there is a second lower load limit for dual application (tires side by side on the same axle as on the rears). If you have two axles and ST type tires, I personally suggest you not exceed the “dual” tire load, as you need a safety factor in your tire loading due to extreme side loading unique to tandem axle trailers.

Tire materials



This is really just FYI and is more like truth in advertising to let you know the materials used in the sidewall and center of the tread of your tires. In this case, there are two ply of polyester in the sidewall; in the tread, there are two ply of polyester plus two ply of steel plus two ply of nylon. Most TBR tires will only have one ply of steel in the sidewall.

Safety warning



This is for the person mounting and inflating the tires for the first time. Do not confuse the inflation number here

(40 psi) with the inflation number associated with the load (44 psi). This is the max inflation to seat the bead. If you have ever watched a tire being inflated, it is the “pop” or “bang” first heard. If the tire doesn’t seat by this inflation, then it should be deflated, re-lubed, re-centered and re-inflated. People can die if they ignore this warning.

Bottom line

If you get new tires and they match the size and load and inflation information, you are good to go. If **any** of these numbers are different, you need to be sure you completely understand why and that you are not getting a tire with lower load capacity.

Chapters’ photo album



Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter was well represented at the southeast rally.



← The D'Zonas proudly displayed their chapter banner at Lake Havasu’s Rockabilly Reunion. Above, **Judy Scott** enjoyed browsing through the old vehicles on display.

Southeast region rally photo album



DOAI'ers gathered in the rally hall and had good times, ate good food, and enjoyed getting to make new friends. Can you find yourself? Thanks to everyone who took photos at the rally and sent them in for publication.



On the left are a few of the intrepid members of Florida Discovery Sunshiners. Thanks for the great rally, everyone!



Here's a scoop: the ice cream social was a big hit.



2015 DOAI National Rally

The Handcrafted Escape

September 21 through 26 (depart September 27)
 Amana Colonies RV Park, 3890 C St, Amana, Iowa 52203-8228
 Latitude 41.810555000 - Longitude -91.881452000

REGISTRATION FORM

Enter information as you want it to appear on your rally name badge

Pilot's Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Co-Pilot's Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Street _____ City, State/Prov., ZIP+4/Postal Code _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone/s _____
 Email/s _____
 Emergency Contact/s _____ Emergency Phone/s _____
 DOAI # _____ DOAI Region _____ Chapter to be parked with _____
 Need handicap parking? Yes No First DOAI national rally? Yes No
 Guest/s Name, City, State _____

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the campground being fully booked before our rally, NO EARLY ARRIVALS will be accepted. If late departure is desired (some spaces may be available with departure no later than September 30), contact the park for availability (319.622.7630 or 800.471.7616).

REGISTRATION:

\$375.00 per coach with two adults \$ _____
 \$315.00 per coach with one adult \$ _____
 \$75.00 each additional person/child × ____ person/s = \$ _____
 \$20.00 DOAI membership (if not already a DOAI member) \$ _____

OPTIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, TOUR, THEATRE:

Wednesday, Sept. 23 – **Golf Tournament** (includes golf cart) \$55.00 × ____ person/s = \$ _____
 Wednesday, Sept. 23 – **Hoover Site/Kalona Tour** (transportation only) .. \$22.00 × ____ person/s = \$ _____
 Friday, Sept. 25 – **Old Creamery Theatre - "Barnum"** (ticket) \$22.00 × ____ person/s = \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **DOAI** Total \$ _____

MAIL CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Freddie Perry, Registrar, 9732 Pyramid Way #338, Sparks NV 89441-6258
 Questions? Contact Freddie Perry; 530.249.1842; rallyregistrar@discoveryowners.com or
 MaryAnn Crowell, Rally Master; 254.644.6225; macrowell979@gmail.com

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2015

Full refund cancellation may be made up to August 31, 2015 – AFTER AUGUST 31 – NO REFUND

➔ ➔ ➔ **KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS** ← ← ←

You will receive a confirmation of your registration via email.

A few more photos from the southeast region rally



Upper left, the easy meals for travelers seminar; upper right, 50/50 sales; lower left, staving off hunger pangs; lower right, **Donna's** jewelry class.



Discovery Owners Association, Inc. Membership Application

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

Membership classifications:

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

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

Questions? Call DOAI Membership Coordinator toll-free 888.594.6818

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

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Partner Name _____

Business Name, if joining as Commercial Member _____

Address _____

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

Home Telephone _____ Cell Telephone _____

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

Discovery Year/Model, if joining as Regular Member _____

Who recommended DOAI membership to you? _____