

# Discovery Express



April 2016

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Volume 18, Number 2

## “SPRING” FORTH AND HIT THE ROAD!

With the coming of warmer weather, those roads are beckoning. It’s time to de-winterize the D and make plans for traveling this great country in months come.

One of the most important travel plans will be attending the 2016 national rally in Bath, New York. Spaces are limited, and we don’t want you to miss the fun, food, entertainment, and surrounding Finger Lakes District attractions. **See page 3 for important updated information;** the registration form is on **page 19**, and it’s online, too.



### “Next to last” call for a new editor

We are still seeking a volunteer to become the next editor of this newsletter. Could this be you? There is a lot of help available: an extensive Editor’s Handbook, several CDs of graphics, photos, future articles, etc., all designed to help you continue the RVing journey of *Discovery Express*.

Contact retiring Editor **Nina Soltwedel** or DOAI President **Ron Wacker** with any questions you may have (and asking questions **will not** obligate you to accept the appointment). Please give this your consideration. DOAI needs you!

### Quarterly Question contest

Would you like to win a year’s membership in DOAI? That’s a \$16 value, and all DOAI members are eligible to win! All you have to do is find the correct answer to the question. The answer is buried somewhere in this issue. You’ll need to read every page carefully in order to find it, because your submission must include the page number, along with the complete sentence in which the answer appears. The complete rules are printed on **page 5**. Happy reading/hunting!

#### This quarter’s question:

What was Thomas Dewey’s middle name?  
(a) Elliott (b) Edgar (c) Edmund (d) Emerson

Contest opens **April 1, 2016**. Entry must be received by the Editor **by 11:59 p.m., May 15, 2016**. Submit via email or USPS (address on page 2). One entry per coach.

### Lots more in this issue including...

- ☺ **Frank Cason** shares details about the 2017 southeast region rally (**page 5**), with registration form on **page 18**, as well as online
- ☺ **Chuck Woodbury** ruminates on the differences between RVing and camping (**page 15**)
- ☺ **Mark Polk** offers his list of post-winter motor home maintenance checks (**page 15**)
- ☺ Informative reports from officers, regions, chapters, and a “bunch” of photos from rallies, with extra photos for electronic subscribers!

**HAPPY SPRING!**

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Ron Wacker

## President's report

We are well into 2016, and I hope it will be an even better, healthier and happier year for everyone. I read an article that said 2015 was the best year for RV sales since 2007. It seems that more and more people are turning to the RV lifestyle, especially younger couples. It is definitely a lifestyle like no other. It is so nice to attend a rally and see old friends and make new ones.

### About rallies...

If you missed the southeast region rally at Lazydays, you sure missed a great time. We had over a hundred coaches attend. It was a very busy, educational, fun-filled adventure. **Fred Jecks** has a complete report in his chapter news article on page 7. Lazydays and General RV spent a great deal of money sponsoring our club and events. A great big thank you to both of them for all their support. The Florida Discovery Sunshiners did a fantastic job hosting the "Arrgh" rally. Thank you to them for all their hard work.

### Vacancies

I am sorry to report that **Freddie Perry** has sold her Discovery, is no longer RVing, and has resigned as DOAI Secretary. We wish Freddie well in the future. We received a nomination for and appointed **Nina Soltwedel** to serve as Secretary for the remaining term.

We are in dire need of a newsletter editor. Nina will be retiring after editing and publishing the July 2016 issue, and we need someone to fill that position. Yes, she will be wearing two hats until after the July issue of our newsletter! To make it easier, it may be possible to break her work up into two jobs: one person to collect the articles and edit them, and a second person to place them into the newsletter. If you have expertise in either one of these areas – or both, please contact Nina or me.

### 2016 national rally on the horizon

The national rally will be in Bath, N.Y., this September. It is slated to be filled with all kinds of attractions to visit, with many discount coupons available. There is limited camping available, so register early or you may miss out on another gala event.

### In closing...

I hope to keep our club a fun club to belong to, so others will want to join in on the great times and events we all enjoy. One quick story: I didn't tell very many members of Florida Discovery Sunshiners that I was running for DOAI President. When several of them attended the national rally in Amana and saw I was on the ballot, they were a little surprised and wondered. They called me and asked if I knew I was running for DOAI President! I told them, yes, I knew I was on the ballot, but thanks for the heads up. I thought it was a little humorous and I would share it with you.

Until next time, hope to see you on the road. ❖



Nina Soltwedel

## Member Care report

Please remember these DOAI members in your prayers:

**Jay Bodam**, whose wife **Wendy**, died December 2 from ALS

**Bruce Plumb**, whose father died December 24

**Jim Devine**, recovering at home from squamous cell throat cancer

**Bob Deal**, recovering from an episode in January as he continues to recover from a stroke

**Pat Tracy**, facing knee replacement surgery in April

**Tom Zwirblia**, healing from a broken ankle

**Jerry Brown**, dealing with macular degeneration, which was diagnosed in February

**Bonnie Larson**, recovering from a heart attack in January

If you or a member of your immediate family is ill or hospitalized, or if there's been a death in your family, please email the information to Member Care Coordinator **Nina Soltwedel** at [nina.soltwedel@gmail.com](mailto:nina.soltwedel@gmail.com), or call 303.570.2736. ❖

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DOAI Yahoo! Group  
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[www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp](http://www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp)

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## ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Find your membership renewal date at

[www.discoveryowners.com/login.asp](http://www.discoveryowners.com/login.asp)



MaryAnn Crowell

## National Rally Master's report

Hello, DOAI members! As I write this article, it's only mid-February 2016 and we are **already over halfway** to having the 2016 national rally in Bath, N.Y., sold out. We had a great response from the members who were attending Camp Discovery in January 2016, and thus, I am encouraging you to get your registration in early.

We are absolutely limited to 70 coaches for this rally, so your registration will be considered complete when **Nina**, our Rally Registrar, receives your check. Remember, if you need to cancel for any reason, you will get a full refund **if** you cancel by August 15, 2016. Rally Registrar Nina will be sending out monthly reminders to those who still have not completed their registration by mailing that check to her.

OK, why all the fuss about sending in your check now? We already have over half of the spaces already spoken for. Thus, the prospect of having a waiting list is a good probability. If you have completed your registration with full payment, we can say for sure that you have a site and are ready to go. If not completed, you could be asked to pass and that site will go to someone on the waiting list. **Don't wait ... complete your registration NOW.**

I certainly did not expect registrations to be arriving this quickly. It will be a great rally, with so many places to visit, things to do, and the southern tier of New York state is beautiful.

### Guests

I understand there are questions about guests, so let me try to explain this area: As always, you are allowed to have family or guest/s with you in your Discovery. As you can see from the registration form, it will cost you (or them) \$5.00 per night that they are staying with you in your Discovery (this includes early and late days). If they are staying with you during the rally (September 19 through September 24) and want to eat meals and enjoy the entertainment in the evening, it will cost an additional \$100.00 per person. We need to have those reservations in by August 15, 2016.

You can have friends that are in their own camper, but they will **NOT** be parked in the DOAI parking sites. They will be parked by the RV park staff at a location that the RV park assigns to them, **and they will be charged the park's regular camping rate**. This type of guest will need to call Hickory Hill and make their own reservations. Can they join you while you are enjoying all of the things to do in the area? **YES!** Can they eat and enjoy the entertainment provided by DOAI? **YES, if** there is room in the rally hall area. If we are sold out, the answer will probably be **NO**.

We are space-limited in the rally hall area, as well. I can really answer this better as time gets closer, so please keep either me or Nina aware that you may have someone/s who would like to attend if there is space available. They will not be charged anything by DOAI, **unless there is room in the rally hall**. This applies only to your friends and guests who are **NOT** in your Discovery. This would also be on a first-come basis, with meal prices determined on the first day of the rally (September 19).

### But wait, there's more!

Our 50/50 charity will be Wellness G.I.F.T.S. Inc. This 501c organization has a mission of providing educational, social, and therapeutic and respite activities for children with special needs and their family members. Over the years, they have grown from operating one weekend summer retreat to serving 100 families over three weekend retreats each season. These retreats are hosted by Hickory Hill Family Camping Resort. This allows opportunities for social interaction and integrating Hickory Hill's campers with retreat campers. Families with a developmental disabilities member are provided a whole-family camping experience, complete with supervised fun-filled activities with their companion and other campers, while the parents have the opportunity to attend educational training seminars, explore networking and have time for much needed relaxation.

How about a massage, facial or nail service and more? These are all available right at the RV park, at the Finger Lakes Wellness Center and Health Spa. This is a separate business and it is located on the edge of the RV park (within walking distance). If you would like more information, take a look at their website ([www.fingerlakeswellness.com](http://www.fingerlakeswellness.com)), or you can email them at [email@fingerlakeswellness.com](mailto:email@fingerlakeswellness.com), or call 607.776.3737. You might want to take a look and make sure to book the appointment of your choice.

Golfers, you will enjoy playing at the Bath County Club on Wednesday, September 21. This 18-hole course is well planted with pine trees; the front nine was designed by Robert Tallman, the back nine by Tom Bonner and James Hawk. If I counted right, you will find four Par 5's, ten Par 4's and four Par 3's all with rolling hills and ready for you to try your best. You can check it out at [www.bathcountryclub.net](http://www.bathcountryclub.net).

A second state park is located approximately 50 miles away in Castile, N.Y. – Letchworth State Park. Renowned as the "Grand Canyon of the East," this is one of the most scenically magnificent areas in the eastern United States. The Genesee River roars through the gorge over three major waterfalls, with cliffs as high as 600 feet, and all surrounded by lush forests. There are 66 miles of hiking trails, whitewater rafting, swimming and much more. If you want more information, check out [www.lechworthpark.com](http://www.lechworthpark.com).

### Seminars

Would you like to give a seminar? We are looking for our DOAI members to get involved and give a talk on an RV-pertaining subject. Please contact me. We have all of the projectors, screens, and sound equipment for your use.

### Looking toward the next great national rally

**Get ready, South Central Region!** The next national rally is in your area. I'm already checking out some sites that have been given to me and, again, I would like to hear from you on some more. The south central region is comprised of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. We need a park that can hold approximately 100 coaches, with a meeting room large enough to hold 200+ people. Please give me a call or send me an email with any ideas.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Bath, just six months away. ❖



Elaine Holley

## Membership Coordinator's report

Please give a warm "Hello!" and "Welcome" to our new members who have joined DOAI since January's newsletter. Encourage them to explore and join a chapter. It is a wonderful way to meet new friends. ❖



Glen/Amy Allen, Kilgore TX  
 Henry/Dawn Archer, Fort Branch IN  
 Ed Arnold, Coraopolis PA  
 Richard Barberot/Dawn Y Wilson,  
 Fort Collins CO  
 Gary/Michelle Bryant, Tallahassee FL  
 Stephen/Ann Cavender, Arlington TX  
 Tim/Rebecca Clark, San Antonio TX  
 Charles/Linda Cressman, Quakertown PA  
 Mike/Kayla Crumley, Cordele GA  
 Joe/Edie Daigle, Orlando FL  
 William Davis, Melbourne FL  
 Tim/Connie DeBerry, Tunnelton WV  
 John/Suzie Dove, Salisbury NC  
 Tim Duniphan, Escondido CA  
 Gary/Mary Dyer, Garden Grove CA  
 John/Kim Ewton, Ovilla TX  
 Charles French, Sherman TX

Ron/Pamela Greenfield, Oklahoma City OK  
 Robert/Cheryl Hawkins, Glendale AZ  
 Gerry/Carolyn Himango, Paradise CA  
 Linda/Greg Johns, Oak Harbor OH  
 Johnny/Shelley Johnson, Joshua TX  
 Michael Johnson/Tara Wydra, Portland OR  
 Pat/Mary K Key, Kerrville TX  
 Paul/Ellen Kieta, Bonita Springs FL  
 Jim/Gerri LeFave, Marana AZ  
 Louis Lepine, Farner TN  
 Frank/Susana Lezo, South Gate CA  
 Antonio Matthias, Patrick AFB FL  
 Frank/Bonnie McGilbra, Owasso OK  
 Danny/Amy Mikes, Temple TX  
 Norman/Brenda Millsaps, Hewitt TX  
 Charles/Susan Mobley,  
 Hilton Head Island SC

Robert/Cyndi Murphree, Springfield OR  
 Charles/Sonitta Peeler, Frisco TX  
 Robert/Mitzi Plocher, Alhambra IL  
 Jeff/Kristin Puckett, Franklin TN  
 Eugene Rahoi, Fairbanks AK  
 Kevin/Pat Reeves, Epsom NH  
 Mitchell Saad, Fort White FL  
 Robert/Sherri Sayer, Montgomery TX  
 Steve Shelton, Idaho Falls ID  
 Steve/Mary Simpson, Clearwater FL  
 Joe/Cindy Smith, Absecon NJ  
 Kevin/Karen Springstead, Lewisville TX  
 Scott/Dennice Stokes, Dawsonville GA  
 Thomas/Joycelyn Sykora, Punta Gorda FL  
 Stephen/Victoria Thorne, Union Bridge MD  
 Steve/Linda Tucker, Columbia SC  
 Dan Zander/Lorraine Commeret,  
 Gibsonia PA

## Membership sponsors

DOAI is grateful to these RV dealers 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 **Elaine Holley** at 888.594.6818 or [doaimembership@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaimembership@discoveryowners.com).

- Lazydays . . . . . 800.500.5299  
 . . . . . [www.lazydays.com](http://www.lazydays.com)
- PPL Motor Homes . . . . . 800.755.4775  
 . . . . . [www.pplmotorhomes.com](http://www.pplmotorhomes.com)
- RV World . . . . . 800.762.7448  
 . . . . . [www.rvworldyuma.com](http://www.rvworldyuma.com)

## Shopping at amazon.com?

DOAI is a member of the Amazon Affiliate program. If you shop at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), click on "Click to Order" 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 bookmark the page after you click the link and use it every time you shop at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). ❖



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](mailto: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.

## Quarterly Question rules



Beginning with this edition of *Discovery Express*, each issue will feature a question on the front page, and the answer will appear somewhere within. Find the answer and submit the response. A drawing from all correct responses will be made, and the winner will receive a year's free membership in DOAI.

### Contest Details

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

If you have questions about the contest, contact the Editor at [doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com). ❖



Jay Keneson

## Executive Vice President's report

A new DOAI board has been seated, along with a new president. Our outgoing president, **John Baker**, is given special thanks for the work he did on behalf of the organization. Many things that had been missed or in need of updating were accomplished under his leadership. He was the right person for the job. Thank you, John!

Also, a big "thank you" and a "job well done" to all of the Florida Discovery Sunshiners for another outstanding southeast region rally at Lazydays. Great work, all of you.

Don't forget to register for the 2016 national rally in Bath, N.Y. We were up there last year, checking sites. **Lorrie** and I cannot wait to return. There are so many great things to see and do. This should be on the top of everyone's to-do list. I understand that, of the 70 spaces available, over half are already spoken for.

I don't know how many of you have taken your RV back to Freightliner in Gaffney, S. C., but if you haven't and can find a way to go, you should. They can do it all for you and do it right – not the living area, but the drive train and all frame-related parts. All service can usually be accomplished in one day. All of us have used a local Freightliner or other shop for routine power maintenance service, and may have found it lacking. At Gaffney, I have found their service exceptional and prices usually less than my local Freightliner. Additionally, I don't have to wait weeks or months for an appointment and don't have to leave the RV for weeks, only to get it back half done.

My rig was pulling to the right and no one could get it fixed correctly. At Gaffney, the service specialist suggested reversing the front tires and see if that was it. As nuts as it might sound, it fixed the problem. The people have seen it all and really do know most of the fixes. This year, they had a ten percent off special for January and February, and this, plus a five percent Freightliner club membership discount, was a real bargain. If you are anywhere in the area, think about making an appointment and going there.

I hope to see each of you down the road or at one of our next national or regional rallies. Safe travels to all. ❖

## Regions' and Chapters' reports



Region VP  
Bob Deal

### Southeast region

It is time to start preparing yourself for the DOAI southeast region rally at Lazydays in Seffner, Fla., January 22-28, 2017. The Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter members will be your hosts and they are diligently planning the activities. There will be many things going on during the six days and nights of the rally.

**Marshall Godwin** and **Gary Osburn** will be leading Camp Discovery which, for those not familiar with this event, covers in depth most of the technical, electrical

and mechanical items specific to your Discovery motor home. What a terrific place to learn about the different systems on your coach. There will be a notebook available for purchase (\$17.00), which contains documentation for all the seminars. This is great reference material to have available to you or for someone out on the road trying to help you with a problem.

There will be roundtables, crafts, and seminars for the ladies. The festivities will include happy hours, three dinners, and possibly a fourth, a covered-dish dinner, free breakfasts and lunches, and an ice cream social. We will have outside vendors and a flea market one day. We have a day planned for golfers, sign up at registration. *Continued on next page...*

## Regions' and Chapters' reports, continued

The rally also includes four nights of entertainment. Pet owners: there will be a pet parade so you can show off your pet. A BBQ lunch is planned at General RV; they will have new Discoverys on display, an Ice Cream Social and prizes. All in all, the rally promises to be educational and a lot of fun.

This rally immediately follows the Fleetwood Motorhome Association (FMA) rally at the same location. Their arrival day is Tuesday, January 17. Many DOAI members attend both. Fleetwood factory techs provide service at the FMA rally free of labor charge and at a significantly reduced parts cost.

The form to request rally service will be posted later. You can also request parts not related to a particular problem such as spare gas struts, storage bin latches, roof sealant, etc.

FMA rally sites normally sell out quickly. We estimate that well over half the sites were booked by those attending the recently-concluded FMA and DOAI rallies. If you plan to attend the FMA rally, you should call Lazydays now to reserve a site for both rallies. Please don't wait.

The rally registration form is on page 18 of this issue; it is also online at [www.discoveryowners.com](http://www.discoveryowners.com). ❖

*Report submitted by Frank Cason*



Region VP  
Gary Livingston

### Southwest region

Hello, everyone! As the new vice president of the southwest region of DOAI, I thank everyone on the board who had the confidence in me, as well as dear friends who voted for me during the elections in November. It has been a very busy year for my family and me, as we moved from Texas to Arizona. Along the way, my wife and I put over 5,000 miles on our "D", including going to Freightliner's main repair facility in Gaffney, S.C., then to the DOAI national rally in Amana, Iowa. The entire 5,000-mile move began in Texas. From there we visited Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, California, and finally made it to Arizona.

Now, I am totally dedicated to growing the number of chapters and membership of the southwest region of DOAI. I have a number of what I feel are great ideas for membership growth, as well as the potential of large regional annual rallies and the addition new chapters. As the quarterly edition of the newsletter is published around the first of April, I will be in Yuma, participating in the regional rally for FMA, and the national rally for FCOC. If anyone owning a "D" is participating in either of these rallies, please stop by and say hello. If you are unable to attend, please contact me at [gary.livingston@outlook.com](mailto:gary.livingston@outlook.com). If you are interested in helping to grow this fantastic region to potentially be as strong as all the other regions, please contact me with your ideas and comments.

We have also had a number of new members join DOAI from the region, and I welcome them and invite them to join a chapter in their area. Contact **Jim Sullivan**, president of the Discovery California chapter, or **Larry Hawkins**, president of the D'Zonas chapter in Arizona, about joining one of these two fantastic chapters. I also invite inquiries from any region members about the possibility of starting a new chapter.

Until next time, drive carefully and enjoy the journey! ❖



Chapter Prez  
Jerry Call

### Midwest Discoverers chapter

Hello from Okeechobee, Fla! **Noreta** and I are enjoying the sun and fishing in sunny (?) Florida. **Bev Kirk** and I are working on the 2016 rallies for our chapter.

**Dick and Sylvia Holmes** will be the rally masters for the June rally. It will be a two-part rally; first in Macknaw City, Mich., June 7-10 (reservations can be made at 231.436.5584 – Mill Creek Campground). We will spend a day on Mackinac Island, tour the Ice Breaker 'Mackinaw', and the old Mackinac Point lighthouse, and lots more. What a rally this will be. We thank Dick and Sylvia for all their hard work.

Part two, we will move to Sault Ste Marie, Mich., June 10, leave on June 13. You can make reservations at Aune Osborn campground at 906.632.3268. There will be a dinner cruise through the Soo Locks, potluck dinner, Taquaminum Falls, Whitefish Point Museum (Edmond Fitzgerald Museum), and a lot more. See you all there.

The fall rally will also be a two-part rally; first at Cape Cod, Mass., September 11-16. Bev and George Kirk will be the rally masters. Tentative activities include touring the Mayflower, Plymouth Rock, Plymouth Plantation, a day in Boston, J. F. Kennedy Library, Whaling Museum, and a lot more. Oh my, what a rally this will be! More info will be in the next newsletter.

I thank all the Midwest members for their support and help with all the things going on in our club. See you at the 2016 rallies! ❖



Chapter Prez  
John Ricciardi

### Mason-Dixon Discoverys chapter

How time flies! It seems like we were just reporting on the DOAI national rally in Amana, Iowa, and now we are reporting on our southeast region rally, Camp Discovery. It is hard to believe this was the seventh Camp Discovery. **Marshall Godwin, Gary Osburn**, and all the others involved in the seminars did an excellent job. The Florida Discovery Sunshiners set a new standard for rallies with the work they did. To all, thank you.

The Mason-Dixons had 13 member coaches (25 members) in attendance, and we had a great time socializing, renewing old friendships and making new ones. Making new friends at this rally was real easy with the number of first timers attending. It was very nice to see the large number of first timers at this regional rally.

At our chapter meeting, we discussed having a rally during the first two weeks of August, near Statesville, N.C., so we can have **Bob and Elizabeth Deal** attend. This was approved and we have members looking for a campground to accommodate us. I will get more information on this rally to you as it comes together.

We are having a rally May 11-14 (depart May 15) at the Americamps RV Resort, 11322 Air Park Rd., Ashland, Va.

*Continued on next page...*

## Regions' and Chapters' reports, continued

Please check the information about this rally on the DOAI website under the Mason-Dixon Chapter heading. **Sonny and Helen Blackwell** and **Larry and MaryAnne Weinberg** are our hosts for this rally, and they have a great time planned. If you can, come to this rally, we would be glad to see you.

Safe travels to all. ❖



Chapter Prez  
Fred Jecks

### Florida Discovery Sunshiners chapter

The Florida Discovery Sunshiners hosted the southeast region rally again this past January. We had an outstanding turnout with just over 100 coaches attending the six-day event. We had five nights of entertainment, including two bands with dancing, and a Family Feud night, pitting the various DOAI chapters against each other to determine the best Family Feud team. The Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter proved to be unbeatable that night. Some of the comments received listed this Family Feud as their favorite entertainment of the rally.

The rally also had four catered meals, one covered-dish dinner, free breakfasts and lunches, and lots of great seminars. **Marshall Godwin** and **Gary Osburn** put on the Camp Discovery seminars, covering so much information about the Discoverys that it became brain overload. The notebook containing the seminar slides becomes a great reference manual for future problems.

The women had many classes on jewelry-making by **Jody Bruce** and **Donna Wacker**. **Jorie Salomon** put on a class, "Easy Meals for the Busy Traveler," showing how to make meals up ahead of time to freeze and later put in the slow cooker with little mess and fuss.

**Carolyn Furniss** was our photographer and she took many pictures. I think the favorite of most people were the photos she took of each couple as they came through registration. She had them printed and we laid them on a table so people could see them and take them home.

**Wendy Williams** put on another great pet parade showing off all the owners and their pets. **Karin and Jim Dykes** put on the flea market and the vendors. Lots of good comments about both and people really enjoyed all of them.

Plenty of great comments about the great decorations that **Jorie** spent so much time making.

All the committee heads did an excellent job, starting with getting the goodies for the goody bags (**Mark Salomon, Bruce Bruce and Richard Smith**). Registration went very smooth with **Lennie Williams** and **Ira Minor** at the helm and everyone jumping in to help. **Bill and Marcy Ryan** welcomed everyone with cookies; a nice little touch.

We were able to donate over \$1,400 to our charity, Metropolitan Ministries. All the proceeds came from the 50/50 drawings and Bingo, headed up by **Ira and Lee Minor** and assisted by **Greg Rogers**. The men had a great time at the golf outing, put on by **Mark Salomon**. The women's roundtable was hosted by **MaryAnn Crowell** and the men's roundtable was hosted by **Marshall Godwin**. Both roundtables were very successful.

The rally ended with the Koffee Klatch, where everyone

said their good-byes 'til next time. The rally was a fantastic success due to the great teamwork from the whole Florida Discovery Sunshiners club. As the Rally Registrar and President of the Sunshiners, I thank everyone for their hard work and a job well done. Next year's rally will be hosted by the Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter. ❖



Chapter Prez  
Bev Kaiser

### Heartland Discoverys chapter

The Heartland Discoverys met at Lazydays for a picnic at the southeast region rally on January 17. There were three coaches present: **Bev Kaiser, Bobby and Wanda Simpson,** and **Tom and Debby Schmidt. Jim and Pat Gravel** and **Don and Carlyne Krauter** came for the day, as they were in Florida for the winter. We also had guests **John and Mary Ann Hooper** from the Midwest Discoverers chapter and enjoyed their company.

We discussed plans to go to Shippshewana for a pre-rally, June 4-6, before heading to Goshen, Ind., for the FMCA rally on June 8-12; early arrival on June 7. We also planned for the national DOAI rally in Bath, N.Y., September 18-24. There are many things to do in that area of the 1000 Islands.

The winter meeting will again be at Lazydays, January 22, 2017. ❖



Chapter Prez  
Judy Jo Bruton

### Discovery Texans chapter

As usual, the Texans started the year off with a wonderful rally, February 3-6, at Whispering Pines RV Park in Tyler, Tex. The park became Jellystone Park at Whispering Pines since the last time we visited several years ago.

There is much to do in the area. During this rally, there seemed to be more "catching up" with each other rather than wanting organized group activities. Some went shopping and the guys tended the campfire. There was also much game playing: Jokers and Marbles, of course, and many took to Sequence. We were able to meet and greet our new members, **Bruce and Michelle Smith** from Clute, Tex., and guests, **Norman and Brenda Millsaps** from Hewitt, Tex. The Millsaps joined our membership, too. Welcome to both couples!

Several of us came in early, so we went to Petty's Steak and Catfish in Lindale for a group meal out. Fish and shrimp seemed to be a huge hit with this crowd. Some returned later in the week for lunch. The next day, many of us went into Tyler to Jucy's Hamburgers for their burgers and onion rings. It was as good as we had heard. Wednesday night was Stanley's Famous BBQ for dinner. It seemed to be a hit. Thursday, we had a dessert dinner, which yielded yummy leftovers for the next day's game playing. Our hosts gave us the royal treatment for breakfast and dinner on Friday and Saturday. Thank you, **Harry and Judy Jo Bruton** and **Lonnie and Nell Johnson**, for taking care of us.

Besides our shopping, eating, visiting, eating, and game playing, we did conduct chapter business. Our vice president,

*Continued on next page...*

## Regions' and Chapters' reports, continued

Judy Jo Bruton, moved up to fill the vacated president's position. After talking to some, and requesting volunteers, the board accepted **Linda Griffith** to fill the vice president position. The term for these positions cover 2016-2017.

We plan our rallies for Wednesday through Saturday, departing on Sunday. For the remainder of 2016 we have scheduled: March 30-April 2 (depart Apr. 3) at Ron Hoover Oasis RV Park, La Marque, Tex.; May 18-21 (depart May 22) at Peach Country RV Park, Stonewall, Tex.; and November 2-5 (depart Nov. 6) at American RV Park, Corsicana, Tex.

Hope to see y'all in the near future. Safe travels! ❖

*Report submitted by Elaine Holley*



Chapter Prez  
Larry Hawkins

### D'Zonas chapter

**T**ime flies when you're having fun and that's what the D'Zonas have been doing. Hard to realize springtime is here. Since the last newsletter, we have four new members. I welcome **Bernie and Judy Chuinard, James and Bridget Durham, Greg and Marlene Jolly**, and former Desert Rats **Gary and Patty Velasquez**.

**Cathy** and I, along with **Ted Newman**, met up in Lake Havasu City in late January for its annual Hot Air Balloon Festival and Fair. The event had over 80 hot air balloons, entertainment, several vendors, and a large food court. This is an event that may become a D'Zonas annual rally.

During an afternoon mass ascension (fifty or sixty balloons), several of the balloons landed in our dry camping area. Two landed not over 300 feet from our RV. The "night glow" was also quite a sight to see. After sunset, approximately 20 grounded and tethered balloons on the airfield were lit up with their burners and performed synchronized burns putting on quite a show.

In February, the D'Zonas went in two directions at the same time! After the festival, Ted, Cathy and I spent a short time in Quartzsite. Ted was there a bit longer as his newly purchased blinds were installed in his 39S. I'm looking forward to seeing the finished product. Chapter vice president **Paul Smith** and his wife, **Doris** joined up with the Northwest Adventurers chapter for the bluegrass festival that was occurring on the same date in Blythe, Calif.

The March rally was a trip to a foreign country, Mexico, complete with sunny beaches, seafood, and liquid refreshments. The weather could not have cooperated any better, with sunshine and temps in the high 70s during the daytime.

Four rigs attended the rally: Gary and Patty Velasquez, Paul and Doris Smith, their guests **Don and Karen Bork**, and Cathy and me. Two of us spent the night in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The sky was clear and we could see stars we never knew existed. This is a beautiful park. The other two rigs met us at the visitor's center in the morning. From there it was minutes to the border.

Puerto Penasco, Mexico (Rocky Point), is about 90 minutes across the border and a great place to kick back. We explored the shopping and restaurants of old town. Paul Smith

found his "Avocado Surprise" dinner, which is four halves of large avocados stuffed (overflowing) with fresh shrimp and a coleslaw concoction. I think the "surprise" was if anyone could eat the whole thing... but we did! Fishmongers were abundant, so our nightly happy hours and potlucks were never without grilled shrimp and oysters. Gary Velasquez proved himself to be an excellent grill master with his bacon wrapped stuffed peppers, sausages, and other nightly grilled treats. Paul Smith was the oyster chef and prepared the only oysters I have ever been able to get down. To pat Cathy and myself on the back, we did prepare some halibut bites (from halibut we caught in Alaska) that did not last long on the community table. While there, everyone had their D's hand washed and hard waxed for \$1.50 a foot and \$10 to wash the roof. One D owner had a sun-faded rear upper cap sanded down and painted for \$350; turned out looking good. The rally was a great time in good company. We made a lot of new friends while there, and spent some quality time on the groomed beach watching sunsets. A couple of us even stayed longer for an unplanned two days.

The D'Zonas will be on the road for two more rallies, then summer in Arizona will be upon us. Time to head north! Maybe we will see you on the road. ❖



Chapter Prez  
Melissa Plowman

### Texas Discovery Road Runners chapter

**I** hope everyone has their coaches dusted off and de-winterized by this time of year when RVing gets really fun. The Road Runners are in full swing and by the time this newsletter reaches your inbox, our Bandera rally, the Cowboy Capital of Texas, will be in the sunset.

Our fast approaching April rally, April 18-22 is set in Graham, Tex., in the pretty area of Western Cross Timbers in north Texas and the western portion of the Palo Pinto Mountains. This scenic area is a short drive from the Metroplex and will be tons of fun. Rally Master **John Curtis** will be sending out details on this rally, so don't miss it.

Hope to see you down the road! ❖



Chapter prez  
Jim Sullivan

### Discovery California chapter

**T**here has been a great deal of activity with Discovery California since the last newsletter. One of the most important enhancements to the chapter was during our board of directors meeting. The board appointed **Fonda Petronzio** as vice president. Fonda will also head the membership committee. We will be making a push to pick up more DOAI members in California who have not yet joined us. We also welcome any DOAI members who were part of the recently folded Desert Rats chapter.

The weekend before Thanksgiving, Discovery California saw a fun-filled active outing down in the southern California desert near Anza Borrego. In January, we met up with **Wally Wallington** of the Northwest Adventurers and his friends at the FMCA rally in Indio. We later met up with Wally's group, as well as **Paul and Doris Smith** of the D'Zonas, along

*Continued on page 11...*



## 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](http://www.discoveryowners.com). It is updated periodically.

### April 2016 –

- 18-22 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Graham, Tex.
- 26/5-1 Blue Ridge Discoverys, Dillard, Ga.

### May 2016 –

- 6-9 Discovery California, Pismo Beach, Calif.
- 11-14 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Ashland, Va.
- 12-15 Ozarks Discovery, Mountain View, Ark.
- 18-21 Discovery Texans, Stonewall, Tex.

### June 2016 –

- 4-6 Heartland Discoverys, Shipshewana, Ind.
- 6-10 Texas Discovery Road Runners, Grapevine, Tex.
- 7-9 Midwest Discoverers, Mackinaw, Mich.
- 10-13 Midwest Discoverers, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

### September 2016 –

- 11-16 Midwest Discoverers, Cape Cod, Mass.
- 19-24 DOAI national rally, Bath, N.Y.
- 30/10-2 Discovery California, Bethel Island, Calif.

### November 2016 –

- 2-5 Discovery Texans, Corsicana, Tex.
- T/B/A Texas Discovery Road Runners, Alpine, Tex.

### January 2017 –

- 22-27 Southeast region rally, Seffner, Fla.

### Later in 2017 –

- 2017 national rally – South Central region



## Helpful contacts for Discovery owners

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

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

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## Regions' and Chapters' reports, continued

with **Bill and Linda Johnson**, and **Frank and Fonda Petronzio** from our chapter at the Blythe Bluegrass Festival.

The end of February, Frank and Fonda hosted a fabulous extravaganza/ rally down at the Pechanga Casino in Temecula. The weather gods were good to us; El Niño left us alone. There was something for everybody. It started out with a golf tournament on a championship golf course on Thursday with a hosted dinner afterwards. Friday's highlights were lunch in Old Town Temecula at the Blackbird Tavern, then we were on our own to taste olive oil, shop for antiques, wine taste, or just shop at all of the many wonderful shops. Friday evening, Fonda led a number of hardy souls over to the Chocolate Decadence event at the casino. Saturday was a bit anticlimactic after Friday's day, but we had lunch up at the Mt. Palomar Winery, enjoyed a spectacular view and great wine. Saturday afternoon, some of us participated at the casino's Pechanga 8th Annual Wine Festival, which featured not only wines from the area, but also wines from all over California. Sunday, we had lunch at the Old Town Pub & Grub. All I can say is, this was an outstanding rally. In March, chapter members Bill and Linda Johnson hosted the FMA rally down in Yuma. There

were a number of Discovery California members who joined in and helped out the Johnsons. Yours truly was put in charge of parking. We had a number of DOAI members from the D'Zonas and the former Desert Rats show up. We were able to take advantage of Fleetwood's RV service team that provided repairs and parts at a substantial discount. Camp Freightliner followed the rally, but we needed to get home for visitors.

Discovery California is heading to the beach! May 6-8, we will be hosting a rally at the Pismo Coast Village RV Resort in Pismo Beach. We will be having our annual membership meeting on Saturday evening. During this rally, we will be grilling sausages and cooking up s'mores. Come join us if you are in the area. This same weekend, there will be Cruisin' Morro Bay 20th Annual Car Show, which is only a few miles away.

Sugar Barge RV Resort and Marina, located in the heart of the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta on Bethel Island, is the location for September 30-October 2 Discovery California rally. **Al and Donna Anderson** will be our hosts. This is considered one of the best recreation areas in the Delta. Information for this rally will be coming soon. ❖

## Classified advertising

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

### Discoverys FOR SALE

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

2001.5 38D: 59k mi, exc. cond., recently serviced, more. Dave Smith; 281.379.6337; [davesmithrio@att.net](mailto:davesmithrio@att.net) . . . . . **\$46,000 OBO**

2002 37U: 54k mi, clean, with Roadmaster Blackhawk tow package. Sam Hatcher; 850. 387.0105; [samhatcher@cs.com](mailto:samhatcher@cs.com) . . . . . **\$49,950**

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

2007 40X: New roof/radials; trans. maint. plan. Herman Jones; 703.909.3998; [mail2charlottejones@yahoo.com](mailto:mail2charlottejones@yahoo.com) . . . . . **\$99,900**

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

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



### RV-related items FOR SALE

50 amp extension cord. John Didich; 419.281.2814; [jdidich@frontier.com](mailto:jdidich@frontier.com) . . . . . **Best offer + shpg.**

Pressure Pro Monitor w/org. ant. and addn'l Di-Pole ant. (no sensors). Bob Angus; 931.624.3816; [angusr@charter.net](mailto:angusr@charter.net) . . . . . **\$200 + shpg.**

Shades, 2 windshields, 1 entry door, like new. John Didich; 419.281.2814; [jdidich@frontier.com](mailto:jdidich@frontier.com) . . . . . **\$350 + shpg. OBO**

Xantrex Freedom inverter/charger. Dlvr DOAI rally or ship. Bob Angus; 931.624.3816; [angusr@charter.net](mailto:angusr@charter.net) . . . . . **\$400 + shpg.**

### 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](mailto:cason.frank@gmail.com). **\$13 incl. s/h.** You can order on the Internet at [www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?\\_trksid=p5197.m570.11313&\\_nkw=Ultimate+Hub+Nut+Tool+\\_sacat=0](http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_trksid=p5197.m570.11313&_nkw=Ultimate+Hub+Nut+Tool+_sacat=0)

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## DOAI Photo Album



Ahoy, me mateys! The SE region rally was all about pirates, and it was fun! Above: The registration gals donned their costumes. Center: **Wendy** and **Lennie Williams** dressed the part. Far right upper: A taste of the delightful decorations.



Above: The pet parade. Right: The Family Feud game. Lower right: The Marlinaires. Just a taste of the fun enjoyed by everyone in Seffner last January. Don't miss the 2017 event. The theme is **Beach Party!** and the registration form is on **page 18**. Register early!



The Discovery Texans had another good rally recently. Above: Coffee klatch, Discovery Texans style! L to R, **Norman Millsaps, Leroy Churchill, Don Griffith, Clayton Trent, Al Welch, Bill Holley, Pete Palasota, Bruce Smith**. Bruce and Norman are new members. The chapter rally was, as always, well attended. Right: Hosts *par excellence*, L to R, **Lonnie Johnson, Judy Jo Bruton, Nell Johnson, Harry Bruton**.



DOAI Photo Album, continued



Above: **Bruce and Nancy Plumb** share this quarter's *On the Road Connections*: "One of the things we enjoy doing is meeting up with other members while traveling. We recently met **Al and Cindy Welch** at the Blue Bell Creameries in Brenham, Tex. They were heading southwest, and we were heading northeast, so we met in Brenham. Al said he always wanted to visit the 'Biggest Little Creamery in Texas.' We ate ice cream and visited before continuing our travels." L to R, Nancy Plumb, Bruce Plumb, Cindy Welch, Al Welch.

If you connect with other DOAI members while on the road, take a photo and send it in. Tell us where, who, when, and why, and we'll publish your 'photo report' in the next issue of *Discovery Express*.



Above: This is the in-progress 2016 DOAI quilt which will be raffled off at the rally in Bath. The center motif was created by **Freddie Perry** before she sold her Discovery. Two borders have been added, and the quilt is on its way around the country, getting larger and larger as more borders are designed and affixed. The quilt will be displayed in all its glory at the 2016 national rally in Bath, where you will be able to purchase raffle tickets and perhaps win the to-be-king-sized quilt.



These four photos are from the D'Zonas chapter's adventures. Top left: the 'night glow' at the Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair. Middle left: Camping in Mexico. L to R, **Patty Velasquez, Paul Smith, Don Bork, Karen Bork, Doris Smith, Gary Velasquez, Cathy Hawkins**. Bottom left: The restaurant with Paul's 'Avocado Surprise.' L to R, Paul Smith, Doris Smith, Karen Bork, Don Bork, Patty Velasquez, Gary Velasquez, Cathy Hawkins, **Larry Hawkins**. Bottom right: Sunset at The Reef restaurant in Mexico. What a view!





## Treasurer's report

We experienced a small decline in our dues receipts; however, we have seen a nice increase in our receipts from members' Amazon Affiliate purchases from only \$162 in 2014, to \$618 in 2015. The gain from our 2015 national rally was substantially less than in 2014, due to improved accuracy in budgeting. Once again, we are in excellent financial condition and, with your help, DOAI will remain the best RV club in the country. ❖

Dick Tracy

### Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

#### Receipts:

Dues .....	\$19,866.37
Advertising income .....	170.00
Interest income:	
CD .....	221.44
Bank account interest .....	16.00
Amazon sales commissions .....	618.06
<b>Total ordinary receipts .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$20,891.87</u></u></b>

#### Expense Disbursements:

Newsletter .....	\$ 6,527.42
Membership expense .....	1,872.83
Insurance .....	2,414.21
Advertising expense .....	220.80
Member care .....	92.93
Website expense .....	425.40
Rally fee reimbursements .....	9,019.63
Office supplies, postage, misc. ....	27.11
Historian expense .....	286.25
Memorial expense .....	150.00
Donations of 50/50 raffles .....	1,828.00
Speaker system .....	1,081.64
PayPal charges .....	550.87
Other expenses .....	551.19
<b>Total ordinary disbursements .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$25,048.28</u></u></b>

#### Other Receipts:

Rally receipts over disbursements - nat'l ...	\$ 1,396.28
50/50 raffle proceeds .....	1,828.00
Vendor reimbursement - prior year rally ...	180.00
Merchandise receipts over disbursements ..	(290.23)
<b>Total other receipts .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 3,114.05</u></u></b>

#### Other Disbursements:

2014 nat'l excess to D'Zonas .....	\$ 250.00
2014 nat'l excess to Northwest Adventurers .....	750.00
Deposit for 2016 nat'l campground .....	3,500.00
<b>Total other disbursements .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 4,500.00</u></u></b>
<b>Total receipts over disbursements ...</b>	<b><u><u>\$ (5,542.36)</u></u></b>
Beginning cash balance 1-1-2015 .....	\$88,279.13
Ending cash balance 12-31-2015 .....	<u>\$82,736.77</u>
<b>Cash increase (decrease) .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$ (5,542.36)</u></u></b>

### Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015

#### Current Assets:

Petty cash .....	\$ 550.00
National rally account .....	618.48
Cash in bank .....	56,769.03
Certificates of deposit .....	24,684.02
PayPal account .....	115.24
<b>Total current assets .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$82,736.77</u></u></b>

#### Other Assets:

Merchandise inventory .....	\$ 5,928.45
Account receivable .....	0.00
<b>Total other assets .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 5,928.45</u></u></b>
<b>Total assets .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$88,665.22</u></u></b>

#### Liabilities and Net Worth:

Prepaid memberships .....	\$17,163.00
Reserve for future chapters .....	592.91
Net worth:	
Beginning balance .....	\$75,317.62
Excess receipts over disbursements .....	(5,542.36)
Change in merchandise inventory .....	933.05
Increase in receivables .....	(180.00)
Change in prepaid memberships .....	381.00
<b>Total net worth .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$70,909.31</u></u></b>
<b>Total liabilities and net worth .....</b>	<b><u><u>\$88,665.22</u></u></b>

## 41<sup>st</sup> National Old Time Music Festival, Le Mars, Iowa August 29 - September 4, 2016

Seven days and ten stages with over 450 performers of old-time country, bluegrass, folk, gospel, Cajun, polka, ragtime, blues, cowboy, honky-tonk, and more, including celebrities.

Special RV camping \$15 daily with 50/30/20 amp hook-ups,  
first come/first serve.

Admission \$15-\$20 daily, 7-day pass \$75.

712.249.5989 - [www.ntcma.net](http://www.ntcma.net) - [bobeverhart@yahoo.com](mailto:bobeverhart@yahoo.com)

Paid Ad



## RVing? Camping? Getting to the difference

I think I am finally able to define the lifestyle called RVing, which some people criticize because it's not really "camping." What they don't understand is that RVing and camping are not the same, although sometimes they overlap.

Only one segment of RVers are exclusively "campers" — those who "camp" for a week or two a year. These people generally camp in the summer, often on family vacations. They typically spend their days sightseeing or hiking and their evenings by the campfire. Their RVs, if they have one, are pretty basic and are often rented.

After Labor Day and before Memorial Day, the RVers you see on the road are more often "travelers" than "campers," using their RVs for both transportation and lodging. Their rigs are larger and better equipped than the vacation campers — sort of "homes away from home."

Sometimes, however, these well-equipped RVers end up in the same national park or national forest campgrounds as more traditional campers and this is where their lifestyles get misinterpreted.

These avid RVers, in their bigger rigs, are simply living in a portable way. They are essentially living in self-contained, mobile condos rather than in fixed-based houses.

Many of these RVers have simplified their lives. I'm especially referring to the hundreds of thousands of retirees

who have sold their homes and moved into a trailer or motor home. At some point, they had to get rid of a lifetime of possessions. They retained what they considered important — fishing rods, a sewing machine, favorite books, a TV, pictures of the kids and grandkids, and nowadays, a computer.

These full-timers and serious part-timers would never be traveling America in the first place if RVs didn't exist. They would not set off in their cars month after month, staying in a different Holiday Inn each night. To do so would be too much trouble and even exhausting. They might fly off to Europe on occasion, but by and large, they would spend their lives at home.

After climbing on Wyoming's Independence Rock for more than an hour and doing battle with a blustery wind, it was a wonderful feeling to return to my comfy porta-house. When I closed the door behind me, I felt truly at home, even though my street address is a thousand miles away.

I understand the concept of the portable house. It's not the same as camping. ❖

**Chuck Woodbury** has explored America by RV for nearly three decades. He is the editor of RVTravel.com, a free weekly e-newsletter about all things RV (just about the best e-newsletter there is on RVing, and comes to your mailbox every Saturday), and is host of the Better Business Bureau DVD, "Buying a Recreational Vehicle," the definitive guide to purchasing an RV the right way.



Mark Polk

## Post's "post-winter" motor home maintenance checks

When our son headed off for his freshman year of college, he was not allowed to have a vehicle on campus. So, we changed the oil in his Ford Ranger, added a fuel preservative to the gas tank, removed the battery and parked it in the garage.

After a year of sitting idle, the truck needed some preventive maintenance before I considered it safe for him to travel in.

Now, if you had put your house-on-wheels in storage over the winter, consider what needs to be checked in order for it to be safe and ready for another camping season. Here are my top seven post-winter checks for your RV.

### 1. Battery(ies)

Let's start our checks with the batteries, since it's possible you removed them for winter storage.

The condition of the batteries is dependent on how well they were cared for over the winter. Batteries in storage will lose a percentage of current through internal leakage. It's not uncommon for a battery to discharge up to 10 percent a month when it is in storage.

If you checked and recharged the batteries periodically while in storage, they should be ready to go. If not, the first step is to fully charge them. Water should only be added to lead acid batteries after fully charging them — unless the water level is already below the plates. The plates need to be covered at all times.

After the battery is fully charged, check and add distilled water as required. If the batteries were removed for storage, reinstall them and make absolutely sure they are connected properly.

### 2. RV water system (de-winterize/check for leaks/sanitize)

Depending on how the unit was winterized, it needs to be de-winterized. If you used non-toxic RV antifreeze to protect the water system, run fresh water through the entire system until all traces of the antifreeze are removed.

Hopefully, no antifreeze was added to the fresh-water holding tank. If it was, the first step is to drain any remnants from the tank. Add potable water Edmund to the fresh water holding tank, turn on the water pump and open all of the water faucets. When clear water is running through the system, turn off the pump and close the faucets. Take the water heater out of the bypass mode (if applicable). If the water heater wasn't bypassed, the antifreeze needs to be drained from the water heater tank. Replace any water filter cartridges you removed for storage.

This is a good time to check the plumbing for leaks. With water in the fresh water holding tank, turn on the 12-volt water pump and pressurize the water system until the pump shuts off. If the water pump cycles back on, even for a short period of time, there is a leak somewhere. Locate the leak and repair it or take it to an authorized RV service facility to be repaired.

At this point, I like to sanitize the water system. Make sure all of the drains are closed and the drain plugs are installed.

*Continued on next page...*

## Post's "post-winter" maintenance checks, continued

Take a quarter-cup of household bleach for every 15 gallons of water your fresh-water tank holds. Mix the bleach with water into a 1-gallon container and pour it into the fresh-water holding tank. Fill the fresh-water holding tank completely full of water. Turn on the water pump and run water through all hot and cold faucets until you smell the bleach. Close the faucets and let the tank sit for 12 hours.

Drain all of the water and refill the tank with potable water. Turn on the water pump and open all faucets, running the water until you no longer smell any bleach. It may be necessary to repeat this process to eliminate all signs of bleach.

### 3. Appliance checks

Open the LP-gas valve and check the operation of all LP-gas fired appliances. Make sure the water heater tank is full of water before testing the water heater. If an LP-gas appliance is not operating properly, have it inspected by an authorized RV service facility.

Insects are attracted to the odorant added to LP-gas, and nests can prevent the appliance from operating properly.

The LP-gas system should have a leak test and gas operating pressure test performed annually. These tests should be performed by an authorized RV repair facility.

Plug in the unit and test 120-volt appliances and accessories for proper operation. Note: Make sure you have an adequate electrical source (30 to 50 amps, depending on your unit), before testing items such as the microwave and roof air conditioner(s). After checking the refrigerator in the LP-gas mode, turn it off and, with the doors open, allow sufficient time for it to return to room temperature before checking it in the electric mode.

### 4. Tire check

Just like a battery loses a percentage of its charge in storage, tires lose a percentage of air pressure. Your tires can lose two to three psi a month while sitting in storage. Check the tire pressure with a quality tire inflation gauge and adjust the inflation pressure to the manufacturer's recommendation based on the load.

Remember: Failing to maintain correct tire pressure, based on the load, can result in fast tread wear, uneven wear, poor handling, and excessive heat buildup, all of which can lead to tire failure. Tire manufacturers publish load and inflation tables that should be followed for proper inflation pressure.

### 5. Vehicle engine and generator

Check all fluid levels. Check the transmission, power steering, engine coolant, engine oil, and windshield washer and brake fluid. Consult your vehicle owner's manual for proper levels. If a fluid level is low, try to determine why and correct the problem. Service the engine and engine fluid levels according to specified intervals found in the owner's manual.

Start the engine and check for proper readings on all gauges. Check the operation of all lights. Make sure the vehicle

emissions/inspection sticker is up to date.

Check the oil level in the generator. Service the generator according to specified intervals found in the owner's manual. Inspect the generator exhaust system for any damage prior to starting. Never run a generator with a damaged exhaust system.

If you didn't run the generator during storage, start it and run it for about two hours with at least a half-rated load. Check your generator owner's manual for load ratings.

If you didn't use a fuel stabilizer and the generator won't start, or continues to surge after starting, have it checked out and repaired by an authorized service facility.

### 6. Sealants and seams

If you didn't inspect the seams and sealants for potential leaks prior to storage or if the RV was stored outdoors, this is a good time to do it. I recommend inspecting and resealing seams and sealants at least twice a year and possibly more depending on conditions.

Inspect all roof and body seams and around any openings cut into the RV for signs of cracking or damage. Reseal any seams or sealants that show signs of cracking or separation.

It's important to consult your RV owner's manual, or RV dealer, for sealants compatible with different types of materials you are attempting to seal. If you don't feel comfortable performing the inspections or repairing seams and sealants, have the maintenance performed by an authorized service facility. Be extremely careful working on the RV roof. A fall can cause serious injury or death.

### 7. RV safety checks

Re-install any dry-cell batteries or fuses that were removed for storage. If batteries were not removed from safety devices, replace them with new batteries now. Test the operation of the carbon monoxide detector, LP-gas leak detector and smoke alarm. Inspect all fire extinguishers to make sure they are fully charged. If you have dry powder fire extinguishers, shake and tap on the bottom to release the powder from the bottom.

These are what I consider to be essential post-winter checks so your RV is ready to roll when you are. You can add to this list and tailor it to your specific needs. Be safe and have a great camping season. ❖

© Reprinted with permission. RV expert **Mark Polk** owns RV Education 101, a North Carolina-based company that produces and sells educational videos, DVDs and ebooks on how to use RVs. Mark has more than 30 years of experience in RV maintenance. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1996 as a chief warrant officer three, specializing in wheeled and track vehicle fleet maintenance operations. He and his wife, **Dawn**, started RV Education 101 in 1999. They travel with their two sons in a 35-foot Class A motor home. Follow them on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/RV-Education-101/77344605305.0](http://www.facebook.com/pages/RV-Education-101/77344605305.0)





## Summary of meetings held at southeast region rally

These are brief summaries of the meetings held at the 2016 southeast region rally in Florida. Should you wish to read the entire official minutes, please contact the DOAI Secretary **Nina Soltwedel**.

### Board of Directors meeting, January 25

✘ Board members present: **Ron Wacker, Jay Keneson, Marshall Godwin, Dick Tracy, MaryAnn Crowell, John Baker, Beverly Kaiser, Gary Osburn**. Also present: **Elaine Holley, Jody Bruce, Frank Cason, Charlie Harvell**.

✘ Old business: Discussion held on replacement of current newsletter editor. Various methods of producing the newsletter discussed. This will also be discussed at the general meeting.

✘ New business:

✓ The budget for the 2017 southeast region rally was discussed and fees will be the same as the 2016 event. Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter will host. Discussion on the future of Camp Discovery after the 2017 southeast region rally. Ron Wacker and Marshall Godwin will talk with Lazydays about DOAI continuing to follow the FMA rally in the future.

✓ An overview of the 2016 national rally was presented, along with details on some of the individuals' responsibilities, as well as other activities. Motion made, seconded and passed that DOAI will pay for four coaches of those who are working at the rally: Crowell, Soltwedel, Keneson, and Bruce.

✓ Future possible locations for DOAI national rallies was discussed. Board members were asked to keep in mind that the 2018 national rally will celebrate DOAI's twentieth anniversary, and perhaps the location could be close to Discovery's birthplace, Decatur, Ind.

✘ Announcements: John Baker has Discovery badge holders. First one given is free; lose one then pay \$5. Jody will hold the with the flags, etc.

Meeting adjourned.

*Report submitted by Elaine Holley, secretary pro tem*

### General Membership meeting, January 28

✘ Board members were introduced, and chapter presidents were recognized. A total of 105 coaches were at the rally.

✘ DOAI President Wacker urged participation in the eGroup, and gave kudos to the website and newsletter. He stressed the need for a replacement editor. He reminded all present that DOAI would save money if everyone who had an email address would opt to receive the newsletter electronically.

✘ DOAI Treasurer Dick Tracy shared the 2015 year-end financial report and stressed DOAI has a strong balance.

✘ DOAI Rally Master MaryAnn Crowell discussed the 2016 national rally and stressed the limit on camping sites, and cautioned pet owners to have the pets' rabies certificates with them in the coach. She urged everyone to register early.

✘ Frank Cason reported on early plans for the 2017 southeast region rally at Lazydays, to be hosted by the Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter. General RV will be involved, and prices will be held at the 2016 level.

✘ Additional general announcements were made concerning the collection of non-perishable food; the Sky Med pizza lunch; the suggestion forms so future rallies can be even better; and DOAI business cards.

Meeting adjourned.

*Report submitted by Elaine Holley, secretary pro tem*

## Attention, New Members!

Now that you've made the wise decision to plunk down your dollars to join DOAI (or have been given a year's membership by the dealer from whom you purchased your Discovery), you can take advantage of one of the best things going: the DOAI Yahoo! group. The group has around 740 members, most of them actively involved.

If you have a question, a problem, or a suggestion relating to your Discovery, simply post your comments via an email to the group. Include your name and your coach model/year, so your post can be answered specific to your coach, if necessary. Some like to include their toad info, as well as where they live. Each participant receives your post, and any responses also go to the entire group. Some very helpful "conversations" have ensued over the weeks and months, and many DOAI members have benefitted from the helpful advice of other D owners.

How to join, you ask? It's simple – send an email to the DOAI Webmaster **Bob Cook** ([webmaster@discoveryowners.com](mailto:webmaster@discoveryowners.com)) and ask for an invite (this is the easiest way to join). Bob will send the invitation to you, which will include simple instructions to register with Yahoo! and begin your participation in the group.

Bob is also available to answer other computer- or Web-based questions you may have.



# DOAI 2017 Southeast Region Rally

## Beach Party!



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

Complete both parts of this registration form.

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

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

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

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

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

Camping/Food/Entertainment Fee:  
**\$400.00** for coach with **two** people / **\$338.36** for coach with **one** person ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of additional nights → **Call Lazydays for rates** ← ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of guests at **\$62.91 per guest** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** ..... **Make check payable to LAZYDAYS RV CAMPGROUND** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

DOAI # \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_  
First DOAI **region** rally? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ Nat'l officer? Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ Discovery Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Member Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_ Officer Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- If not already a DOAI member, contact Elaine Holley at [doaimembership@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaimembership@discoveryowners.com). ←
- If you are a golfer, you will be able to sign up and pay upon arrival at Lazydays. ←
- Wear your best beach boy (or girl) gear! ←



# 2016 DOAI National Rally Heart of the Finger Lakes

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

## REGISTRATION FORM

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

Pilot's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Co-Pilot's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ City, State/Prov., ZIP+4/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone/s \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email/s \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact/s \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone/s \_\_\_\_\_  
 DOAI # \_\_\_\_\_ DOAI Region \_\_\_\_\_ **ALL PARKING FIRST COME, FIRST PARKED**  
 Need handicap parking?  Yes  No First DOAI national rally?  Yes  No  
 Guest/s Name, City, State \_\_\_\_\_

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

**REGISTRATION:**

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

**OPTIONAL EARLY/LATE DAYS:**

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

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

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO DOAI** ..... Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail check and registration form to:**

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

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

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

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

You will receive a confirmation of your registration via email.

## DOAI Photo Album EXTRA!



A fine looking group of Discovery Texans, but who is that strange man in the background! He must have crashed the rally.

Photo on right: The vendor/flea market sale table at the southeast region rally was adorned with lots of good stuff to buy.

Be sure to email your rally photos for the next issue!



Another fine looking group of D owners – this time, it's the Mason-Dixon Discoverys. Looks like Larry Weinberg got into the photo at the last moment.



## Discovery Owners Association, Inc. Membership Application

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

### Membership classifications:

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

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

**Questions?** Call DOAI Membership Coordinator toll-free 888.594.6818

**Mail** the form below with your check payable to *Discovery Owners Association, Inc.* to: **Elaine Holley, Membership Coordinator, 2317 Fran Cir, Clyde TX 79510-3441.** You may also join/renew online at [www.discoveryowners.com](http://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? \_\_\_\_\_

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