



## From the President



Dick Tracy

Once again as I start this article, we continue to be in unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic that is still disrupting all our lives and our RVing! It certainly remains a strange time to be the President of our great DOAI organization! I really look forward to having a great National Rally in 2021 so we can return DOAI to the great fun and camaraderie that we have always enjoyed.

It is with great sorrow that I must report the death of our DOAI Membership Coordinator, Elaine Holley. Elaine was a wonderful person and a truly superb Membership Coordinator. I express heartfelt condolences for her loss to her husband Bill and her entire family on behalf of all our DOAI members. As I am writing this, we are diligently working on identifying a qualified replacement for Elaine. In the interim, former DOAI President John Baker and our Webmaster, Robert Orr, are handling the duties.

Hopefully by now everyone is aware that the SE Region Rally scheduled for January 25-31, 2021, at LazyDays in Seffner, Florida, has been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is time for many of our “Snowbird” members to head South for the winter.” Unfortunately, many of those plans are being impacted by travel restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic. In planning any travel each of us must look at our own circumstances, our individual vulnerabilities to COVID-19, and to the varied restrictions on travel and quarantining requirements. We certainly want everyone to be safe and take appropriate protective actions.

Vaccines against COVID-19 appear to be on the horizon and I know we all are looking forward to anything that will give relief and bring an end to this pandemic nightmare.



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## VP of Development



John Baker

COVID has interrupted our entire scheme of life. The disease terribly disrupted the personal lives of those infected with it and the lives of their friends and families. It took the lives of yet-to-be-determined thousands both here in the US and around the world. It crashed economies without discrimination. The Board of Directors made the extremely difficult decisions to skip both our National Rally and Camp Discovery. It is my prayer that if you or your loved ones were infected by it, you or they fully recover.

It appears we will be living with this enemy for several more months but there is light at the end of the tunnel. With two and possibly three vaccines released or about to be, and several new treatments we WILL win this war. But don't let your guard down...keep doing the right things.

Many of us did not feel comfortable traveling and most or all of our chapters cancelled rallies. Our members are beginning to stir and travel some and a few chapter rallies are happening. Hopefully when our Northern members can pump the pink stuff out, it will be even safer to put some miles on the rigs.

I hope you and your family had a wonderful (virtual) Thanksgiving and Christmas. I look forward to 2021 NOT BEING 2020 ! Wishing you health and safe travels.

John



## Secretary



Cindy Welch

Due to inactivity because of COVID, there is no report for this period.



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Glenda M. Angus, Editor  
297 Tylertown Rd  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
(931) 552-7409  
[angusg@charter.net](mailto:angusg@charter.net)

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

John Baker, Membership Coordinator  
8419 Clover Leaf Dr  
Rosenberg, TX 77469-4867  
(281) 341-7177  
[doaimembership@discoveryowner.com](mailto:doaimembership@discoveryowner.com)

DOAI Website  
[www.discoveryowners.com](http://www.discoveryowners.com)

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John Baker

## Membership Coordinator

### **\*\*HELP NEEDED\*\***

Most of our members know that our beloved Membership Coordinator, Elaine Holley, passed from this life in October. Elaine will be sorely missed for her outgoing personality and quick wit. She was a wonderful lady in all respects. She had shepherded our membership for almost a decade, introducing lots of new systems to make information more useable than ever.

Strictly as a **stop-gap measure** I have agreed to pick up the mantle and try to keep this work going. However, this is a **temporary** commitment. We need someone to volunteer to serve on a more permanent basis. If you are well-versed in Excel and Word you are a candidate. Please contact me and I will be happy to discuss it with you.

John Baker  
Bakerjohn@SWBell.net  
281.814.0004



Linda Griffith

## Caring For Our DOAI Family

This year we have lost several of our DOAI members and three of those members were Discovery Texans. Clayton Trent joined in 2003 and was an active member until his death May 15, 2020. Whenever music was playing you could always find Clayton and Bert on the dance floor. He loved music and he loved to dance.

Leroy Churchill joined the club in 2005 and he served as a Greeter, Rally Master and Treasurer. Leroy and Gwen were very active members and were always ready to assist new members learn to play Jokers & Marbles. Leroy graduated from Texas Tech with his degree in Electrical Engineering and was retired from TXU. Leroy was taken by an accidental fall and passed on October 9, 2020. Memorials were given in memory of Clayton Trent and Leroy Churchill to the Alzheimer's Association.

Bill & Elaine Holley became members in 2009. Elaine served as Secretary for Discovery Texans for many years. She also served as DOAI Membership Coordinator, an enormous task that she handled with ease and grace. Elaine held a degree in Computer Science and Programming. Elaine passed away on November 2, 2020 after a courageous battle with ALS. A donation was made to the ALS Foundation in her memory.

All the members that have departed this life in 2020 and before will be remembered and missed. Please remember the spouses of the members that have left us in your prayers. During this time of uncertainty and fear, I pray each of you will remain safe and well. Please let me know of any illness in your family, or death of a family member @ [ldgriffith01@gmail.com](mailto:ldgriffith01@gmail.com) so I can reach out to our DOAI membership

## Region and Chapter Reports

### Blue Ridge Discoverys



President  
Jim Pinkerton

I hope everyone was able to have some semblance of a Thanksgiving holiday and enjoyed a day with family and friends. Since the last edition of DOAI Express, Blue Ridge Discoverys have had no in-person club activities. Through social media though we are able to keep in touch. Some of us have traveled and joined up with other club members along the way. Kathy and I started our southward trip for the winter on November 9th with an arrival date at Florida Grande RV Resort in Webster, Florida, of December 1. We are looking forward to spending the winter with a number of our Blue Ridge family.

Our Spring Rally is set for April 21 – April 26 at the Carolina Pines RV Resort in Conway South Carolina. Registration can be found soon on the [Blue Ridge Discoverys page](#) of the DOAI Web site.

Our club officer elections were held in September for a 2 year term effective Jan 1st 2021. Election results are

President – Jim Pinkerton  
Secretary – Linda Terrill  
Treasure – Don Muskopf  
Rally Master – Tim Ridgley

Vice President – Mike Hopkins  
Asst. Secretary – Laura Johnson  
Asst. Treasure – Frank Miller  
Past President – Richard Money

**Non-Voting Appointed**  
Membership Director – Chris Muskopf  
Newsletter Editor – Glenda Angus

Safe travels to all.

*Jim Pinkerton*  
Blue Ridge Discoverys

DOAI—More than “Just” A Newsletter

Discover the many ways in which your membership pays off. Click here: [www.discoveryowners.com](http://www.discoveryowners.com) and you’ll be taken to the DOAI website. There you will find links to:

Consolidated Rally Schedule  
Helpful Contacts for Discovery Owners  
DOAI Name Badge and Decal ordering information  
Classified sale ads for Discoverys and  
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Hints and Tips

DOAI Membership Sponsors  
DOAI Information/Invitation for Non-Members  
Application for DOAI Membership  
National Rally information and registration form  
Regional Rally information and registration form  
and so much more ....

## Region and Chapter Reports (Continued)

### Discovery California



Southwest Region VP-  
Chapter President  
Jim Sullivan

I hope you all had a Merry, Merry Christmas and anticipate and pray that 2021 turns out so good that we forget how horrible 2020 was.

Discovery California unfortunately had to cancel all of our planned events during 2020.

Our current plans for 2021 are:

[Chula Vista RV Resort](#)

[Black Oak Casino & RV Park](#)

[National Rally in Sevierville, TN](#)

[Pechanga RV Resort](#)

March 15 -18, 2021

April 29- May 3, 2021

September 20-26, 2021

November 7-11, 2021

There has been a suggestion we revisit the Santa Maria Elks Rodeo, June 3-6, 2021. We are also hoping that we can arrange to have another rally in the Borrego area in the fall time frame.

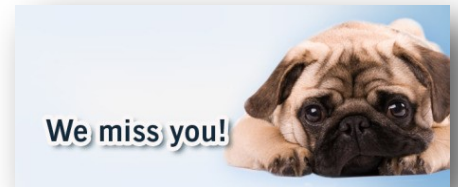
### Florida Discovery Sunshiners



Chapter prez  
Bruce Bruce

Unfortunately the Sunshiners have not had any rallies since our last report. Fortunately we have not had any illnesses. However, we have decided to keep the same officers that we had this year, for the 2021 time period.

Kindest regards, stay safe, Bruce



### Mason Dixon Discoverys



Chapter prez  
Marshall Godwin

The Mason-Dixon Chapter had a great fall gathering over Halloween weekend at Rockahock Campground in Lanexa, Virginia. There were 12 chapter coaches and one guest coach. We had four first-time chapter rally attendees. It is always fun to welcome and get to know new members.

The campground gave us unlimited access to their Club House for the entire rally. It was the perfect place for meetings and meals. We had take-out and catered meals as well as “Walking Taco” night and “Omelet in a Bag” breakfast. For the trick-or-treat evening, the chapter set all our candy on a table next to a large fire pit. We enjoyed the warm fire as children and their parents stopped by to collect goodies.

(Continued on Next Page)

## Mason Dixon Discoverys (Continued)

A number of our members plan to spend part of the winter in Florida. The 2021 DOAI SE Rally has been cancelled because of the virus. It is disappointing since this rally has been held every year since 1999. The Fleetwood Motorhome Association (FMA) rally is still on track starting January 19th at Lazydays RV Resort so some of you may still be planning to attend that rally. One nice benefit of attending is the presence of the Fleetwood's support team. They provide free labor and significantly discounted parts.

Our next chapter gathering is planned for Sevierville, Tennessee, starting June 2, 2021, at River Plantation RV Resort. This is a great destination. Planning is underway for a wonderful, fun filled rally. It is a four night rally but the campground allows up to three days early arrival and three days late departure at the discounted nightly rally rate. Because of the location I expect many of you to stay additional days. Contact the campground directly for reservations at 865-429-5267.

It time to renew our chapter membership and pay annual dues of \$12 for next year. This can be done online. Go to the DOAI website then click on the Chapters TAB along the top of the page, scroll down and click on Mason-Dixon Discoverys chapter, then click on RENEW. You may pay by PayPal or mail a check to the chapter treasurer.

Becky and I are currently in south Alabama and plan to spend about six weeks in Florida starting early January. Hope to see some of you in our travels. Stay safe..... Marshall

## Noreaster Discoverys Year End Review



Chapter prez  
Bob Stewart

Hi everyone! Wasn't this a year to remember or forget, as the case may be. Who would have ever predicted we'd have a pandemic. The word **CANCELLED** comes to mind! But, we can insert the word **ANTICIPATION** for the year to come. Hopefully, with the vaccine here shortly we'll be back to some normalcy soon.

I'm looking forward to returning to our rallies and gatherings in 2021. We should be able to start planning soon after the first of the year, maybe then we'll have a feel about what's open, what's closed and what the rules are. I know our Discovery is chomping to hit the road.

My wish is for all of you to have a great holiday season, stay safe, stay healthy! Bob

**CANCELLED**

Call off, abandon, scrap, drop,  
postpone, scrub, scratch, ax, nix

**Anticipation**

Expectation, prediction, forecast, hope, excitement, suspense, expectancy

## Region and Chapter Reports (Continued)

### Midwest Discoverers



Chapter Pres  
Chris Wooddell

First of all, I would like to introduce myself, I am Chris Wooddell and I have the honor of succeeding John Hooper as president of the Midwest Discoverers Chapter, DOAI. My wife Dianne and I have enjoyed the motorhome lifestyle for over 25 years. Starting the experience with our two children; Carly and Eric and now as empty nesters. We have enjoyed the whole experience, but especially appreciate the DOAI rally's and in particular the Midwest Discoverers gatherings, and just getting together with the great people who are members of Midwest Discoverers Chapter.

I would like to thank John for his years of hard work, service and unbridled enthusiasm in the promotion of this DOAI chapter. I look forward to leaning on John's years of experience and his help to continue growing the chapter and motorhome lifestyle in the company and fellowship of the good members of the chapter (both present and future) as we have fun meeting and exploring this great country of ours and other areas of interest.

At this time Phil Skiff is also succeeding Nancy McKitrick as our vice president. Phil and his wife Ruth are from Michigan and I look forward to working with Phil. I want to thank Nancy for her help, hard work and service to the chapter, always with a smile and a great attitude.

Joan Fairweather continues in the role of Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you, Joan, for your hard and diligent work, it is very much appreciated and you play a vital role in the Midwest Discoverers.

Rick and Carol Parton (and all who helped) deserve a big thanks for hosting a great fall rally. We visited several museums and historic sites around the Bedford, Pennsylvania area, including the Flight 93 National Memorial, a humbling place that recognizes true American Heroes. There were 16 coaches and 30 members in attendance. I would like to thank all of those attending and welcome first-time attendees John Riccardi, Ron and Becky Hoblit and Gerry and Pam Mask.

The spring 2021 rally will be in the Dayton Ohio area June 6 to 11th with [Dayton KOA Resort](#) as the host camp. There are several attractions that we will visit, but the main one will be the National Museum of the US Air Force. The spring rally is being hosted by the Slagles, Monnins and Wooddells. More details will be coming and will be on the DOAI website. COVID is playing havoc with scheduling some of the venues. We will try to abide by all recommendations to provide a safe rally.

John Hooper and Phil Skiff are going to be our hosts for the fall 2021 rally and it will be in the Detroit area September 12-18. John and Phil had a great rally planned for the spring of 2020 that had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

I would also like to welcome new members Jim and Tamara Miller, and Bill and Harriett Gatti to the Midwest Discoverers family and look forward to seeing you in Dayton at the spring rally.

If anyone has any ideas, questions, or just want to talk about the Midwest Discoverers, please feel free to call.

Safe Travels, Chris

## Region and Chapter Reports (Continued)



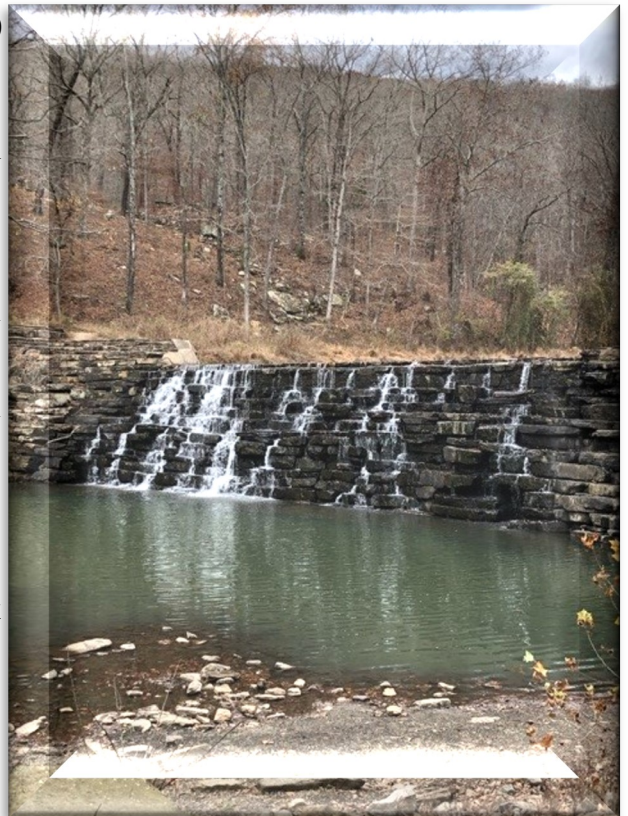
Chapter prez  
Randy Conklen

### Ozarks Discovery (Submitted by Bruce Plum, Founder and Former Chapter President)

The Ozarks Chapter has been in existence since April 2012. We typically have two rallies per year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. For those who are not aware, 2020 has been inflicted with the COVID virus and, like the National Rallies, we decided to cancel both of our Chapter Rallies. However, one of our members, Steve Wilson, decided to schedule a “camping trip” and let others know. So the Ozarks Chapter just had their first ever “Non-rally,” Fall Rally! Is there a pent up demand for rallies or what??

Steve chose Devil’s Den State Park in Arkansas, about 40 miles north of Ft. Smith because he had been there with his family at age 10 (a LONG time ago!). An absolutely beautiful, oak tree setting nestled along Lee Creek in the Boston Mountains of NW Arkansas. This park was built by the CCC in the early 1930’s and has many of the original stone and timber structures built almost 100 years ago. In modern days, they have about 30 sparsely spaced, paved, 50 amp full hookup sites in a wooded meadow setting.

We ended up with only 5 coaches because two had to cancel at the last minute. In attendance: Gale and Linda Culbertson, Mike and Brenda Keen, Randy and Karen Kemp, Bruce and Nancy Plumb, and Steve and Liz Wilson. Our chapter does not do “heavily structured” rallies but we did plan on two group meals; a “bring your own meat to grille” pot luck around the campfire on Friday evening, and a “chili cook off” where everyone brought their favorite chili to share on Saturday evening in the park pavilion. Gale Culbertson brought his guitars and he and Steve Wilson played some music. Nothing is better than a great meal with friends that includes a jamb session!



Dam across Lee Creek constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933



One of many stone culverts under the 17 mile old road built in 1933 that winds from I-49 down into the valley surrounded by the Boston Mountains

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## Ozarks Discovery (Continued)

Devil's Den is a VERY remote park with no towns close by and a winding drive off the Interstate. Reminds me of Moe Bandy's song, "Americana" (which Gale played in the jamb session). And no internet in the canyon! However, the Plumbs discovered that a short drive up the mountain to the CCC Overlook yielded 4G service with about 2 - 3 bars! Plumbs call this location a "phone tree." In 2003, during a previous life, Mrs. Plumb and I were working on a Forest Service contract in very remote areas of National Forests in California and from time to time would observe plastic ribbons, lots of them, hanging from the limbs of a tree in the woods usually close to a logging road. We learned the locals call this a "phone tree." Seems someone discovered a cell signal in this area, usually with a distant view of the valley below! Living for months in very isolated areas, every few days we would drive a few miles from our campsite to a phone tree and call our friends and family.

We are all hoping that the vaccines and the grace of God will allow 2021 to get back to normal!



Bruce and Nancy Plumb standing in front of the "Devil's Den". These fissures are hundreds of feet long and get even deeper as they go into the side of the mountain



L to R: Randy Kemp, Karen Kemp, Bruce Plumb, (empty chair is Nancy Plumb, aka Mrs. Plumb), Steve Wilson, Liz Wilson



Steve Wilson, Liz Wilson, Brenda Keen, (Mike Keen is behind the camera!), Gale Culbertson (Linda Culbertson must have been in the D preparing food)

## Region and Chapter Reports (Continued)

### Discovery Texans



Chapter Prez  
Linda Griffith

Hope everyone had Happy Holidays. Discovery Texans missed our March and May 2020 rallies, but we did have our November rally at Longhorn RV Resort in Niederwald, Texas. We had 17 coaches attending. Most arrived on Tuesday to get a head start on visiting our friends we had not seen in months. On Wednesday afternoon we had a Meet & Greet/Social Hour at the covered pavilion on the lake so we could greet our new members and visitors.

Discovery Texans have lost two members. Longtime member Leroy Churchill passed away in October due to an accidental fall. Another longtime member, Elaine Holley departed this life in November due to a lengthy battle with ALS. Elaine served as Membership Coordinator for DOAI. They will both be missed terribly as they were very active and helpful with all the club activities. They both served on the Discovery Texans Board of Directors in recent years.

On Thursday morning Don Griffith, our rally master, held a Technical Discussion and everyone enjoyed



Ladies Gathering

and everyone enjoyed talking about their rigs. This is always a well-attended meeting. Afterwards, several members assisted in solving problems on other rigs. In the afternoon the ladies attended the “Ladies Gathering” in the rally hall. We had hot chocolate and made Kitchen Angels as our craft. We all enjoyed getting to know new members and guests. It was so much fun for the ladies.

Friday was a free day to go out and explore the area. The hill country of Texas has so much to see and do. In the afternoon, we met for a social hour and a hot dog supper. Our chef, Randy Langley did a great job roasting the hot dogs. We enjoyed meeting every afternoon for social hour under the huge pavilion where we could see the Longhorn cattle.



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Hot Dog Chef—Randy Langley

### Discovery Texans (Continued)

On Saturday most of our group went to Black’s BBQ in Lockhart, Texas, for lunch together. Black’s has great BBQ and it is a huge restaurant with lots of room for social distancing. After lunch, several individuals walked to the town square to see the beautiful courthouse built in the 1800’s. They were also having a street flea market sale.

We played several games of Jokers & Marbles in the rally hall. Our new members really enjoyed learning and they look forward to playing again at the next rally. We are happy to report that all five visitor couples joined and became Discovery Texans during our rally.

We welcome our new members, Chris and Betsy Savage, Ken & Pat Docekal, Matt & Suzan Cullen, Dave & Deb Kroboth, Gary & Linda Forest, Gary & Andrea Bradley, Dan & Pam Amon, and Ray Shelton. Our club membership continues to grow every year.



Courthouse—Lockhart, Texas



Dan & Pam Amon



Gary & Linda Forest



New Members, Discovery Texans

(Continued on next page)

## Discovery Texans (Continued)

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our next rally on January 13, 2021 at [American RV Park](#) in Corsicana, Texas. If someone needs a registration form, reach out to anyone on the board and we will send you the form. We also have Guest Registrations on the DOAI website under “Chapters.” We welcome anyone that is a member of DOAI.

Our rallies for 2021 are:

Jan.13-16	<a href="#">American RV Park</a>	Corsicana, Texas
March 17-20	<a href="#">Coffee Creek RV</a>	Santo, Texas
April 28- May 1	<a href="#">The Vineyards RV Park</a>	Fredericksburg, Texas
Sept. 20-26	<a href="#">The Ridge Outdoor Resort</a>	Sevierville, Tennessee
Nov.	TBA	



Discovery Texan Officers

Sandy Keliher; Treasurer Linda Griffith; President;

Don Griffith, Rally Master



Dave & Deb Krobath; Ken & Pat Docekal; Tony & Lisa Maine—Waiting in line for BBQ

## Ramblings from Nina

### Life is Full of Goodbyes



Nina Soltwedel

This may seem like a strange subject for the beginning of a new year. However, beginnings remind us of endings. If we are fortunate, we can look at endings the way A.A. Milne, the creator of Winnie-the-Pooh, put it, “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

Having to say goodbye happens to each of us. We can only participate in activities just so many years; then it becomes necessary to cut back, to remove oneself from a group or a scene, and say farewell.

Over the years, Bob and I have said goodbye to DOAI members whom we are fortunate to know. We would see these good people at rallies ... many with whom we still correspond, and about whom we often think, and for whom we often pray. Some dropped their membership because of health issues; others, because it was no longer feasible to be RVers; still others, because they chose to change brands of coach. Whatever the reason for leaving, we miss them. We keep in touch with them and always look forward to the time when we may see them again.

Other departures from the club are friends who have gone Home. For us, these have been the difficult goodbyes. These are the folks whom we miss the most, simply because we cannot keep in touch; we cannot enjoy their presence at rallies; we cannot exchange emails with them; we cannot visit them at their home grounds. We mourn their passing. We hold them in our memories, and we give thanks that they were part of our lives, although for far too short a time.

My point is simply this: Take time today – right now, before it is too late – to reach out to those whom you treasure and tell them how you feel. Let them know that you appreciate their **friendship**, and that you want to keep in touch with them for as long as possible. That way, you will not have to live with regrets later.



An idea for a New Year's Resolution, perhaps?

## Calendar of Important Dates — 2021

### JANUARY 2021

FMA Rally  
LazyDays, Seffner, FL  
19-24 Jan 2021

### SEPTEMBER 2021

DOAI National Rally  
The Ridge, Sevierville, TN  
20-26 Sep 2021

## 2021 DOAI Directory

### Board of Directors, Chapters, Standing Committees, Others

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/VOTING President

Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Ct, Fleetwood  
PA 19522-1018; 610.207.2016;  
[dtracy@ptd.net](mailto:dtracy@ptd.net)

#### Executive Vice President

John Ricciardi, 477 The Gardens  
Dr, Crossville TN 38555-0301; 252-  
6196485; 252.619.7198;  
[john.l.ricciardi@gmail.com](mailto:john.l.ricciardi@gmail.com)

#### Past President

Ron Wacker, 5753 Hwy 85N #5175,  
Crestview FL 32536-9365;  
813.240.6552;  
[discovery@rvfunhome.com](mailto:discovery@rvfunhome.com)

#### Vice President for Development

John Baker, 8419 Clover Leaf Dr,  
Richmond TX 77469-4867;  
281.814.0004; [bakerjohn@swbell.net](mailto:bakerjohn@swbell.net)

#### Secretary

Cindy Welch, 2887 Goat Creek Rd.,  
#6206, Kerrville, TX. 78028-9466;  
214.717.3985;  
[doaisecretary@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaisecretary@discoveryowners.com)

#### Treasurer

Ricky Keen, 8 Beaver Creek Loop,  
Roland, AR 72135-9749; 501.247.2124;  
[doaitreasurer@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaitreasurer@discoveryowners.com)

#### National Rally Master

Fred Jecks, 840 N Atmore Cir, Deltona  
FL 32725-3341; 386.801.1256;  
[fred.jecks@gmail.com](mailto:fred.jecks@gmail.com)

#### North Central Region Vice President - NC

(IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND,  
SD, WI, MB, ON)

Bruce Plumb, 4384 State Hwy Y,  
Galena MO 65656-4604; 417.239.4544;  
417-619-4235;  
[bruce@ranchgrandkid.com](mailto:bruce@ranchgrandkid.com)

#### Northeast Region Vice President - NE

(CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA,  
RI, VT, NB, NL, NS, PE, QC) Russ  
Baldwin, 12 Bruce St, Tewksbury MA  
01876-3702; 978.851.5115;  
508.572.4418;  
[russbaldwin2@gmail.com](mailto:russbaldwin2@gmail.com)

#### Northwest Region Vice President- NW

(AK, CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA,  
WY, AB, BC, NT, SK, YT)  
Glenn Magnuson, 4530 110th P1 NE,  
Marysville WA 98271-8351; 425-  
330-8851;  
[dungeness12@gmail.com](mailto:dungeness12@gmail.com)

#### South Central Region Vice President - SC

(AR, LA, OK, TX)  
Harry Bruton, 7212 61st St, Lubbock  
TX 79407-8224; 361.537.8985;  
[harry@bruton.com](mailto:harry@bruton.com)

#### Southeast Region Vice President - SE

(AL, DE, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS,  
NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)  
Kerry Pinkerton, 284 N Dayhill Rd,  
Harvest AL 35749-9569; 256.679.4488;  
[pinkertonk@mchsi.com](mailto:pinkertonk@mchsi.com)

#### Southwest Region Vice President - SW

(AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, NM, UT) Jim  
Sullivan, 2238 Emerald Cir, Morro Bay  
CA 93442-1588; 408.623.4701;  
[jsull5213@aol.com](mailto:jsull5213@aol.com)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/NON-VOTING Membership Coordinator

John Baker, 8419 Clover Leaf Dr,  
Richmond, TX 77469-4867;  
281.814.0004  
[doaimembership@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaimembership@discoveryowners.com)

#### Merchandise Coordinator

Jody Bruce, 25340 Plum St, Brooksville  
FL 34601-4716; 813.920.1234;  
813.744.0411; [bruce7073@gmail.com](mailto:bruce7073@gmail.com)

#### Newsletter Editor

Glenda Angus, 297 Tylertown Rd,  
Clarksville TN 37040-5514;  
931.552.7409; 931.624.3816;  
[angusg@charter.net](mailto:angusg@charter.net)

#### Webmaster

Robert Orr, 127 Greatwood Dr, White  
GA 30184-4805; 770.354.3090;  
[webmaster@discoveryowners.com](mailto:webmaster@discoveryowners.com)  
Website: [www.discoveryowners.com](http://www.discoveryowners.com)

#### CHAPTERS AND PRESIDENTS Blue

##### Ridge Discoverys (SE Region)

Jim Pinkerton, 801 Maple Spring Rd,  
Murphysboro IL 62966-6201;  
618.977.6703;  
[jepinker@wisperhome.com](mailto:jepinker@wisperhome.com)

##### Discovery California (SW Region)

Jim Sullivan, 2238 Emerald Cir, Morro  
Bay CA 93442-1588; 408.623.4701;  
[jsull5213@aol.com](mailto:jsull5213@aol.com)

##### Discovery Texans (SC Region)

Linda Griffith, PO Box 321,  
Hallettsville TX 77964-0321;  
903.363.6121;  
[ldgriffith01@gmail.com](mailto:ldgriffith01@gmail.com)

##### D'Zonas (SW Region)

Larry Hawkins, 894 W Diamond Rim  
Dr, Casa Grande AZ 85122-7894;  
209.914.0751; [tackesailors@yahoo.com](mailto:tackesailors@yahoo.com)

##### Florida Discovery Sunshiners (SE

Region) Bruce Bruce, 25340 Plum St,  
Brooksville FL 34601-4716;  
813.744.0411; [bruce7073@gmail.com](mailto:bruce7073@gmail.com)

##### Mason-Dixon Discoverys (SE Region)

Marshall Godwin, 8071 Windsor Dr,  
King George VA 22485-5210;  
540.663.3725; 540.379.6767;  
[marshall@megodwin.com](mailto:marshall@megodwin.com)

##### Midwest Discoverers (NC Region)

Chris Wooddell, 2121 Riverside Dr;  
Sidney, OH 45365-8584  
937.638.4301;  
[cwmidwestdiscoverers@gmail.com](mailto:cwmidwestdiscoverers@gmail.com)

##### Noreaster Discoverys (NE Region)

Bob Stewart, 6948 Rte 60 S, Cassadaga NY  
14718-8991; 716.679.8991;  
[zetapig@netsync.net](mailto:zetapig@netsync.net)

##### Northwest Adventurers (NW Region)

Glenn Magnuson, 4530 110th P1 NE,  
Marysville WA 98271-8351;  
425.330.8851;  
[president@nwadoai.com](mailto:president@nwadoai.com)

##### Ozarks Discovery (NC Region)

Randy Conklen, 1753 100th  
Avenue New Holland, IL 62671  
217.737.6718  
[rmconklen@frontier.com](mailto:rmconklen@frontier.com)

#### STANDING COMMITTEES AND OTHERS

##### Audit Committee

Mike Hopkins, 5753 Hwy 85 N #4444,  
Crestview FL 32536-9365;  
770.459.5454; 770.363.2888;  
[chindog@chin.org](mailto:chindog@chin.org)

— and —

Mark Salomon, 6625 Thoroughbred  
Loop, Odessa FL 33556-1814;  
813.920.5071; 813.240.9338;  
[salomon.mark@gmail.com](mailto:salomon.mark@gmail.com)

##### Founder/President Emeritus

Jim Devine, 10321 Jacob Ct, Fairhope AL  
36532-4534; 970.209.4757;  
[f195810@gmail.com](mailto:f195810@gmail.com)

##### Caring for Our Family

Linda Griffith, PO Box 321,  
Hallettsville TX 77964-0321;  
903.363.6121;  
[ldgriffith01@gmail.com](mailto:ldgriffith01@gmail.com)

##### Membership Committee

Marshall Godwin, 8071 Windsor Dr,  
King George VA 22485-5210;  
540.663.3725; 540.379.6767;  
[marshall@megodwin.com](mailto:marshall@megodwin.com)

##### Nominating Committee

Ron Wacker, 5753 Hwy 85N #5175,  
Crestview FL 32536-9365;  
813.240.6552;  
[discovery@rvfunhome.com](mailto:discovery@rvfunhome.com)

##### Registered Agent

Marshall Godwin, 8071 Windsor Dr,  
King George VA 22485-5210;  
540.663.3725; 540.379.6767;  
[marshall@megodwin.com](mailto:marshall@megodwin.com)

##### Website Committee

Robert Orr, 127 Greatwood Dr, White  
GA 30184-4805; 770.354.3090;  
[robertjorr@outlook.com](mailto:robertjorr@outlook.com)

— and —

Bob Cook, 876 Higgins Ave, Deltona  
FL 32738-7971; 386.860.8274;  
[bobandmarycook@gmail.com](mailto:bobandmarycook@gmail.com)