

Discovery Express



Volume 14, Number 4

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

October 2012

Welcome fall and cooler temperatures!

It seems that no matter where DOAIers were this past summer, we felt the extreme heat. Well, if you were up by the Arctic Circle in Alaska or northern Canada, it may not have been too warm. Most of us, however, sweated, prayed for those affected by wildfires, mourned the dying grasses, wilting flowers, and stressed trees, and waited for cooler weather. Then the tornadoes and hurricanes hit ... but that's another story.



Fall means national rally time, and it's possible that while you are reading this, folks have gathered in Tucson, Arizona, for our club's annual hoe-down. If you *aren't* there, we miss you. If you *are* there, we know you're having a great time.

Fall also means that there's information in this issue about the annual southeast region rally in Florida next January. The registration form is on **page 23**, and there's additional information on **page 3**. Don't miss out on this fun gathering. Many DOAIers spend the cold months in the Sunshine State, so a good turn-out is almost a done deal.

Inside this edition...

DOAIers across the country have participated in this issue, from newbie **Keith Lindholm**, to not-so-newbie **Gordon Sims**, to very-much-not-so-newbie **Bob Cook**. Keith offers an excellent procedural list for utilizing the air suspension switch on **page 15**; Gordon tells it like it is when it comes to being an RV park hero on **page 8**; and Bob shares his advice about Windows 8 on **page 3**.

And there's more! Longtime experts in the RV field – **Mark Polk, Ron Jones, Mike Sokol, Gary Bunzer** and **Roger Marble** – check in with articles that will help you enjoy your Discovery while keeping you safe, contented, and knowledgeable.

If you've never attended an RV rally...

Going to one's first RV rally can be a bit intimidating. Walking into a new place, seeing unfamiliar faces, and not knowing who is who can be uncomfortable. Just remember ... no one knows everyone – we're all new to someone. Once you jump in, you'll make a lot of new friends and have a wonderful time! ❖



In this issue...

President's message	2	Rally opportunities	9	No~Shock~Zone, part nine	16
National rally master's report	2	Helpful contacts for D owners	9	The RV doctor is in!	18
2012 SE region rally set to go	3	Addresses of board, chapters, etc	10	Calling all new members!	18
Computer corner	3	Feeding the RVer	11	Camping guide to Moab, Utah	19
A hint	3	Traveling with pets	11	Offsetting RV carbon footprint	20
Membership director's report	4	Enjoy your RV	11	RV tire safety	20
Executive vice president's report	4	We're "cooking with gas"	12	Hitting a deer can save your life	21
Regions' and chapters' reports	5	Thoughts and prayers.	12	Members' classified ads	22
How to be an RV park hero – NOT	8	Silicone cookware	13	DOAI applauds sponsors	22
Are you a workamper?	8	RV education 101 - awnings	14	SE region rally registration form	23
Not all who wander are lost	8	Air suspension switch utilization	15	October is Fire Safety Month	24
		Solar RVing	15		



President
John Baker

President's message

It is always my pleasure to share thoughts and news with you in the *Discovery Express*. This issue is the hardest because of publication schedules: as I write, the national rally at Tucson is almost two months away; as you read this, it has likely passed. So, I will put on my "back to the future" glasses and report to you that I see a great time was had by all! That speculation is easy because it is always the case.

"Publication schedules" reminds me: **Nina Soltwedel** works hard and almost continuously between issues to produce our fantastic publication. Thank you, Nina. We appreciate all you do for us, but we don't thank you enough.

I reported to you last time that **Felesa** and I had the opportunity to attend the founding meeting of our newest chapter, Ozarks Discovery. Just recently we were able to visit with them again at their second rally at Mountain View, Ark. It is a quaint little mountain town a couple of hours north of Little Rock. Trust me, you have to want to go there to get there, but it is really worth the trip. **Bruce Plumb** has done a great job of establishing this chapter; look for them to make themselves known in the DOAI! They are all wonderful folks; not a surprise because they are DOAI members!

Plan to attend Camp Discovery January 27- February 1, 2013, at the original Lazydays in Seffner, Fla. This southeast region rally is always a wintertime favorite (after all, it is in Florida during winter and Parksdale Farms will be serving strawberry shortcake!). In addition to learning more about your rig than you can imagine, you will have a great time with a couple hundred of your best DOAI friends. I will be there and hope to see you. I wish you safe travels. ❖



Nat'l rally master
Joe Stewart

National rally master's report

Summer is over, kids and grandkids are back at school, and grandparents getting interested in putting their RVs to use. First, let's be sure you all have registered for the Tucson rally. This should be an outstanding gathering; I know a lot work and effort has gone into it.

Speaking of DOAI rallies, I know **John Ricciardi**, vice president of the southeast region, has already put a lot of effort into the 2013 national rally. In a discussion with him, I learned that although he had initially scheduled the rally to be in southern Alabama, after he and **Alice** made a trip to survey the area and site, he immediately canceled any plans for that location. I made one suggestion of a possible site and he was considering other sites in the Carolinas.

While on this subject, we all travel to different places around this great country of ours; we all see great parks that would be good sites for DOAI rallies. Please make a note of them and pass the information to your region vice president or to me. I can tell you from experience that this type of information can be helpful.

See you in Tucson! ❖

Paid classified ad

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

© 2012 Discovery Owners Association, Inc. (DOAI)

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

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

If you wish to receive the printed black-and-white edition instead of this electronic edition, send an email to the editor.

Newsletter Editor

Nina Soltwedel
4736 Harwich St
Boulder CO 80301-4217
303.570.2736

doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com

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

Membership Director

Portia Williams
PO Box 95
St George UT 84771-0095
Toll-free 888.594.6818

doaimembership@discoveryowners.com

DOAI Website

www.discoveryowners.com

DOAI Yahoo! Group

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/discoveryownersassociation/

Access Back Issues

www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp

2012 Discovery images courtesy of
Fleetwood RV, Inc., Decatur, Ind.



ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Find your membership renewal date at
www.discoveryowners.com/login.asp

2013 southeast region rally set to go - January 27-February 1

Ron Wacker, rally master for next year's southeast region rally, shares this first-look information:

- ✘ Camp Discovery is alive and well and living in Florida! The 2013 region rally, *Flip-Floppin' Through Florida*, will be chock-full of helpful seminars, good food, and tons of camaraderie.
- ✘ The festivities will kick off on Sunday, January 27, with a welcome party and entertainment. First-timers will have a helpful gathering preceding the party.
- ✘ Lazydays East will once again provide the breakfasts and lunches on Monday-Thursday.
- ✘ Dinners haven't been forgotten: The welcome dinner and Wednesday and Thursday dinners will be catered. Tuesday will feature the always-delicious covered dish dinner.



- ✘ Entertainment is lined up for Sunday evening (mentioned above), as well as Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.
- ✘ Monday through Thursday will feature seminars on many facets of your Discovery, from 8am to 4pm daily. These seminars will pay for themselves as you go down the road of RVing.
- ✘ Friday (check-out day) will begin with a "koffee klatsch" and one last seminar (9am-10am). Then, it'll be time to say "Adios, amigos!" and hit the road to fun times in the sun.

The registration form is on page 23 of this issue. The deadline to register is **December 27** (with Lazydays) and **January 10** (with Ron). Don't miss out! ❖



Webmaster
Bob Cook

Computer corner

Windows 8

As I write this, Windows 8 was just finalized and released to computer vendors for inclusion on new PCs available beginning October 26, according to the rumor mill. Microsoft already announced that any PC purchased after June 2 with Windows 7 can be upgraded to Windows 8 for only \$15. But, do I really **want** Windows 8? Do I really **need** Windows 8?

In case you haven't noticed, tablets are all the rage ever since Apple introduced the iPad two years ago, and there has been a recent proliferation of Android-based tablets. Microsoft has been late to this game, and Windows 8 is the first Windows OS (operating system) that is designed for tablets which require a touch interface.

But, therein lies the rub. Instead of developing a separate Windows 8 for tablets, the same version of Windows 8 will work on both a tablet or a PC. I have installed both the Consumer Preview and final versions, and both boot into the tablet (aka Tiles) interface. However, from the Tiles interface, you can switch to the desktop interface, but a lack of help or instructions causes a lot of confusion. Like any new software, it has a bit of a learning curve, but this seems a bit excessive. My conclusion: I like Windows 8 a lot better on a tablet (I have it running virtually on my iPad). This version of Windows will



definitely require the purchase of a book to learn how to use it well with minimal frustration.

Most pundits expect that Windows 8 will be a bit of a flop. It has a lot of negative reviews because it is a pretty big change. Certainly, most businesses will probably stay with Windows 7. My advice: try it for several hours and see if you like it. If you don't, you will be able to purchase a new PC with Windows 7 (although they may be business class machines). I definitely **do not recommend** upgrading an existing PC to Windows 8, since some of the beneficial features, such as increased security and native USB 3 support, will not work with your PC.

Also, Microsoft has announced that they will have two tablets available at the release of Windows 8. One tablet (may be called Surface Pro) is really a full-blown computer in the form factor of a tablet. It can run all current and future Windows programs. Their other tablet is more like an iPad or Android tablet and may be called the Surface RT. It will run a special stripped-down version of Windows 8 (called Windows 8 RT), but it will only be able to run special software developed for it and this software must be purchased from the online Microsoft store (it will not run any current Windows software). No prices or detailed specs have been released, and Microsoft says the tablets will only be available at their company stores. Several other vendors are also expected to have tablets available at or shortly after Windows 8 is launched.

Questions? Email me at cookrd1@discoveryowners.com ❖

A hint

DOAI member **Larry Ward** shares this hint: "I was looking around on Fleetwood's website and found a page that has all the years of Discovery owners' manuals as PDF files. You can download and save any or all to your computer: www.fleetwoodrv.com/partsandservice/manuals.asp." ❖



Membership dir.
Portia Williams

Membership director's report

Welcome to the following new DOAI members. We encourage our chapters to follow up in welcoming these new members where they can meet and make new friends.

As mentioned in the July 2012 edition of *Discovery Express*, I am using the Internet and sending an email reminder approximately one month before your dues are due. Please confirm your subscribed email address is correct as shown when you first login to the DOAI website in the membership section (INFO>MEMBERS). If it is not correct, please send an email to me at doaimembership@discoveryowners.com. If you do not have an email address, you will continue to receive the postcard reminder. Thank you. ❖

James/Chris Ahern, Naples FL
 Albert/Donna Anderson, Oakley CA
 Michael/Ann Baggett, Hamburg NY
 Gloria Bangma, Kingston ON
 Ben/Doris Bowen, Lighthouse Pt FL
 Keith/Kerrie Brogdon, Youngsville LA
 Fred Buehler/Deborah Wong, Pearland TX
 Don/Judy Byers, Heath OH
 Kent/Mary Carruthers, San Marcos CA
 Stephen/Stacie Carter, Neptune Beach FL
 Russell/Debra Cathey, Hephzibah GA
 Arturo Cisneros/Marta Alonso, Dover FL
 Bill Culhane, Denton TX
 Thor Dahl-Lowe, Mchenry IL
 Rick/Marcia Delaney, Ormond Beach FL
 Dennis/Holly Donham, Reno NV
 Michael/Charmaine Enns, Agassiz BC
 Robert Fangman, Lakeside Park KY
 Daniel Fogg, Scotia NY
 Rick/Sharon Franclemont, Alexander NY
 Thomas/Paige Fraser, North Palm Beach FL
 Charles Gemar, Benton KS
 Wayne/Sherry Gerhart, Lancaster NY
 Chuck/Nancy Gerson, Peachtree City GA
 Jerry Gibbs/Eugene Gibbs, Sharpville IN
 George/Violet Gillam, Quincy FL
 Mark/Jill Green, Pine Bluff AR
 James/Susan Hanke, Churubusco IN
 Ted/Kay Heck, Canton OH

Shane/Leann Herman, Williston ND
 James/Sally Hickman, Frankfort IN
 Samuel/Sara Hifiker, Holtville CA
 Robert/Shirley Hitchcock, Portland TN
 Murray/Sandi Hunter, Wilsonville OR
 Darryl/Shirleen Jacobs, Inglewood CA
 William/Carol Johnson, Shoreline WA
 David/Corinne Kimbrough, Phoenix AZ
 Peter/Bridget Lawrence, Pound Ridge NY
 Keith/Blanca Lindholm, Miami Lakes FL
 Mike/Kay Malone, Henderson NV
 Ralph Markham, Trussville AL
 Tim/Charlotte McCarty, Wilton CA
 Thomas/Barbara Miller, El Cajon CA
 Hank/Selene Montgomery, Fuquay Varina NC
 Mark/Stella Nichols, Santa Clarita CA
 George/Patricia Nottingham, Chesapeake VA
 Rhoderick Nyack, Orlando FL
 Dennis Potten/Rosellen Bohlen, Champaign IL
 Yvon/Claire Quirion, Saint-Zotique QC
 Shannon/Kelley Raybon, Orlando FL
 James/Carol Record, Arvada CO
 David/Lynn Reed, Wylie TX
 Bill/Maxine Rhodes, Mineola TX
 Chris/Harriet Rieder, Picayune MS
 Herb/Sheri Rikelman, Lake Forest CA
 James/Candie Robertson, Louisburg NC
 Mary Rogers, Largo FL

Michael/Ellen Salonius, Redmond OR
 Ronald Skewis, Port Aransas TX
 Phil/Karen Skufca, Mayfield Hts OH
 Mark Snyder, Salina KS
 David Steinman, Los Alamos NM
 Paul/June Stracener, Midland TX
 Robin/Deborah Svalstad, El Cajon CA
 Andrew Szymela, Birmingham AL
 Jim/Carol Todd, Troy MO
 Kenneth/Sharon Tupper, St. Paul MN
 Sonny Uptmore, San Antonio TX
 Keith/Debra Voorhies, Slidell LA
 Greg Walters, Morrison CO
 Bob/Elizabeth Wasberg, Huntley IL
 Glenn/Barbara Waterkotle, Tempe AZ
 Don/Peg Watson, Pensacola FL
 Ed/Teresa Watts, Mechanicsville VA
 Barry Whitlock/Judy Gillen, Crawford GA
 John/Susan Wiener, Sarasota FL
 Jerry/Yvonne Wilson, Sunderland MD
 Don/Jill Wood, Hyannis MA
 Ronald/Nancy Woods, Santa Rosa CA
 Gerald Young, New Orleans LA
 Bob/Anita Zantos, Santa Ana CA
Reinstate:
 William Mann, Grand Forks ND
 Glen Moore, Prosperity SC
 Matthew Nicholas, Kemah TX
 Bill Nuzzo, Irwin PA



Exec vice prez
John Curtis

Executive vice president's report

Since purchasing our new Discovery at Ancira RV in Boerne, Tex., I have been talking to **Kevin Ketner** about the dealer becoming a membership sponsor. Hopefully, my efforts will produce good results.

Anticipating a hot summer in Texas, my wife, **Judy**, and I decided to go north. Joining our Discovery owner friends, **Doc and Lovetta Simpson**, we headed for the northeast, where we spent a good bit of time in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Our first stop in New Hampshire was to visit with **Hank and Mary Ellen Desmarais**. I've always said you meet the nicest people at Discovery rallies, and we met them at Lazydays East, at the southeast region rally last February. We enjoyed their company and have corresponded ever since.

With the DOAI national rally coming up in Tucson, I encourage everyone to attend. The rally master, **Gary Velasquez**, and his team (D'Zonas and Desert Rats chapters) have been working hard to plan the rally and Lazydays West should be a great experience. Not only will you have fun, you can make new friends.

On our way north, we also attended the Fleetwood Motorhome Association rally held in Goshen, Ind. As first-timers, we were impressed by the size and rally organization. As always, the Fleetwood technicians were helpful and friendly.

Unfortunately, vacations end. We missed the wide open spaces of Texas (but not the 103° temperatures), and arrived home after 5,000 miles and two months on the road. Now, we look forward to *Discovery of the Saguaros* in October. Hope to see you there. Drive safely. ❖

Regions' and chapters' reports



Region vice prez
Jay Keneson

South central region

Another year, another rally! Again it is time to join up with your Discovery friends and head to Tucson, Ariz., for the national rally. If you have not decided to attend, you will be missing a great chance to have a great time and possibly learn a little more about your D.

It has been a hot, hot summer with members traveling to the far reaches of North America in search of cooler weather. Our south central region has been hot and dry. Now we hope that everyone is safely heading home and all will remember to attend our national rally.

As I stated in a past *Discovery Express*, the Texas Disco Road Runners will hold a "Rally in the Valley" or "Discovery with Friends" in Mission, Tex., with a rolling rally back to Texas from Arizona. You are welcome to attend one or both. The "Rally in the Valley" will allow you to bring a non-Discovery owner with you for a great time. It will be held in a wonderful RV park with limitless opportunities to explore and enjoy far south Texas. During the rally, the annual butterfly festival will be going on, giving you an opportunity to see millions of butterflies at the center located next to the RV park. For more information, or to sign up, contact **Don or MaryAnn Crowell** (home 254.584.2400; cell 254.644.6225; email relxn1@aol.com).

I hope to see you down the road. ❖



Region vice prez
John Ricciardi

Southeast region

I am in the final negotiations for the 2013 national rally. By the time this newsletter is published, I will have all the "i's" dotted and the "t's" crossed ... **I hope.**

The location will be Bethpage Camp-Resort in Urbanna, Va. This is a beautiful resort on the Rappahannock river, which is a tributary to Chesapeake bay. It is close to historic Richmond, Williamsburg and Norfolk, Va., for some possible tours. We will have our usual golf outing, and we are trying to arrange for some fishing boats so our anglers can do some fishing on Chesapeake bay. For the shoppers, Williamsburg Pottery and the outlet malls are also nearby.

We still have a few other items to finalize, but progress is being made. I hope to have a budget and rally fee firmly in place and presented at the national rally in Tucson.

Safe travels to all. ❖



Chapter prez
Charlie Harvell

Blue Ridge Discoverys

The Blue Ridge Discoverys chapter held its annual fall rally in Waynesville, N.C., during September. This was also the annual business meeting. During the rally new officers were elected to serve a two year term beginning January 1, 2013. The names will be listed in the next *Discovery Express*.

Since my last report we lost two of our members due to health issues: **Marie Money** and **Robert Voss**. We ask all to remember the families in your prayers.

Several members used the summer months to do some traveling. **John and Julie Barry** visited the Dakotas and Yellowstone; **Bob and Glenda Angus** visited the Maritime Islands with **Frank and Isabel Cason**; **Hank and Eileen Haden** joined them during the trip.

Our 2013 spring rally will be in Chattanooga, Tenn., beginning April 24, 2013. The hosts are now planning a great rally. ❖



Chapter prez
Claire Weber

Discovery Texans

Our third rally for 2012 was May 16-19 at the Lazy L&L campground in New Braunfels, Tex. The weather was nice, food and fellowship with old and new friends was wonderful. There was more visiting this rally, but we did have a rousing card bingo game, too.

It was so enjoyable to walk around the campground and down by the river before the weekend crowds hit. As advertised: "The campground is situated on 25 acres with beautiful Guadalupe river frontage ... it's located in a scenic Texas hill country setting and on one of the best scenic routes in Texas." Many of us enjoyed the Clear Springs restaurant, known for their fried catfish. The building dates back to 1869 when it was mainly used as a grocery store for the locals.

Several in our chapter opted to have their rigs washed and waxed on site. There were several "shopping trips" made during our rally, which included the San Marcos Premium Outlets mall and Camping World, to name just a couple.

After one day of shopping, the ladies joined the menfolk at the Gristmill River restaurant and bar (since 1977) which consisted of unique Texas-style dining in an 1870s cotton gin beneath the water tower on the Guadalupe river in Gruene, Tex. Gruene is also known for Gruene Hall, Texas' oldest dance hall. According to their website, it was built in 1878 and is the oldest continually running dance hall in Texas, and the central Texas birthplace of many great songwriters and musicians.

Stan and Catherine Griffith provided us lunch while they spoke to those who had an interest in the Sky Med service. Sky Med is a provider of medical evacuation transportation for you and your loved ones in case of illness or injury. Stan and Catherine provided us handout materials and answered our questions. If you are curious, Sky Med's website is: www.skymed.com. The FAQs are very informative.

Our next adventure will be at the Lake Conroe KOA resort (formerly Havens Landing) in Montgomery, Tex., November 7-11. Hope to see y'all in the near future. Safe travels everyone. ❖

Report submitted by Elaine Holley

Continued on next page...

Regions' and chapters' reports, continued



Chapter prez
Robert Johnson

Dixie Travelers

Dixie Travelers met in Gulf Shores at the Island Retreat RV park, September 27-29. Full details of the rally will be reported in the next edition of *Discovery Express*.

We extend an invitation to any new DOAI members in our district to come check our chapter out. We would love to have you join us. ❖

Report submitted by Martha Wilson



Chapter prez
Mike Scott

D'Zonas

This quarter has been pretty quiet for the D'Zonas chapter. We had no rallies or events, other than working on activities for the upcoming national rally in Tucson.

Since our inception, we have held two rallies: one in Yuma and one at Picacho Peak state park. Our next event will be the national rally this month.

We are looking forward and hope to have a holiday dinner in December or January, a rally at Kartchner Caverns in February, perhaps a rally in April coinciding with the FMA rally, and something in the mountains in late spring.

To date we have 14 coaches in our chapter and hope to continue to grow as other Arizona folks join DOAI. Once the national rally is behind us, we will be talking with the Desert Rats chapter to see if we can work out a joint rally. A lot to look forward to. ❖



Chapter prez
Ron Wacker

Florida Discovery Sunshiners

We had a great rally in St Augustine, Fla, in May. The rally was hosted by **Joe and Dianna Fetro**. The first night, Joe and Dianna fixed everyone an excellent dinner. The meal was so good, we all ate too much.

The next day, we bought three-day trolley tickets and toured the town, ate and had lots of fun. We even took the night tour of the old jail. There was a full moon that night – very

beautiful.

Before the night tour, we had our covered dish dinner. There was lots of good food. I would say our group is made up of some very good cooks.

The weekend ended with our breakfast in a bag. We had a lot of fun with the breakfast event and will have to do it again. Everyone said their good-byes and off we went until next time. A big thanks to Joe and Dianna for a great rally.

We held a rally in September, and a report on that event will be in the next issue of *Discovery Express*.

Then, November 1-6, we'll gather at Blueberry Hill RV park in Bushnell, Fla. The camping fee is \$25 per night for one rig with two people, and the registration deadline is October 15.

Plans are for our usual covered dish dinner, games, happy hours, a trip to Leesburg, and time to spend at the Webster Flea

Market. Contact **Jody Bruce** (call 813.920.1234 or email bruce2@tampabay.rr.com) to register. ❖



Chapter prez
Bev Kaiser

Heartland Discoverys

The Heartland Discoverys chapter enjoyed a summer rally in Shipshewana, Ind., in June with 12 coaches present. We had a potluck dinner one night, and enjoyed going out the rest of the time. The men went to a car show and the ladies went to a play – everyone had a great time.

As a group we traveled to Goshen, Ind., for the FMA rally, where Fleetwood put on dinners, workshops, and a new coach display. They had several vendors present with great deals.



Heartland Discoverys chapter members havin' fun!

Our next rally is set for Richmond, Ind., at Tom Raper's RV complex, October 22-24. For more information on this rally, contact hosts **Ivan and Carol Manley** at manleyim@netwitz.net. The \$50 cost includes camping, steak dinner and lunch, and a reduced rate on parts and service. **Barry Burdette** and Tom Raper's RV will provide the meals.

On October 24, we will travel down to Lexington, Ky., to the Horse Park where **Elfers and Sally Marzahl** will host the rally October 24-27. I understand there is a lot to see in this area. We would like everyone who may be in the area to join us. The number to reserve a site is 859.259.4257. Discounts are offered to seniors.

Enjoy the rest of the year! ❖



Chapter prez
Fred Reid

Louisiana Mudbugs

Another Mudbugs rally has come and gone. This rally was held in Breaux Bridge, La., area at the beautiful Poche's Fish-N-Camp. Attendees included **Joe and Glenda Reed, Don and Frankie Caldwell, Ricky and Debbie Keen, Keith and Carolyn Barnes, and Fred and Donna Reid**. With Ricky and Debbie was their grandson, **Logan**, and with Keith and Carolyn were **Michael and Lauren**.

Donna and I had our grandson, **Reid**, with us. The camp's fishing was great, and those boys really had fun. They caught about 12-14 fish, and had the fish been larger, we could have had them for dinner. As it was, we dined at a local restaurant, Prejeans, known for its great cuisine.

The next day we were pleased that **Buddy and Evelyn Sykes** could join us. Buddy is recovering from radiation and

Continued on next page...

Regions' and chapters' reports, continued

chemotherapy for lung cancer. He looks great now, compared to six months ago when he was in and out of the hospital. He is to go back to Houston in a few weeks for a checkup..

Friday night, we ventured into the town of Breaux Bridge to eat at the historic dance hall of Pont Breaux's Cajun restaurant, with entertainment supplied by a live Cajun band.

Saturday was spent by many of us taking a cruise on Lake Martin just south of Breaux Bridge, to view some birds and alligators. That night, we ventured again into Lafayette to eat at a specialty pizza restaurant known as Deano's. The kids especially liked this.

Sunday morning was the final day of the rally, with everyone destined for home to hibernate for the summer. You see, we southerners hibernate in the summer and get out in the winter. ❖



Chapter prez
Bruce Plumb

Ozarks Discovery

We held our second rally in Mountain View, Ark., August 9-12. Seven coaches attended, including **John Baker**, president of DOAI, and his wife, **Felesa**. Other attendees included **Ricky and Debbie Keen, Bruce and Nancy Plumb, Wes and Altha Toomay, Ron and Joyce Champion, George and Frankie Chapman, and David and Beth Tillery**.

We enjoyed dining at a restaurant on the White River for our first evening meal (recommended by the Keens). The next morning we held an informal meeting to meet and greet and get the activities started.

Friday, most of the group toured the Blanchard Cave. The evening meal was based on barbeque brought by Ricky and Debbie. The ladies provided assorted dishes of fruits, vegetables and desserts. Mountain View is known as the "Folk Music Capital of the World" so the group went in town to listen to the many groups in the park and surrounding area.

Saturday morning we held our business meeting to discuss future rallies, work on a chapter logo, and discuss rally policies. Our membership has grown to eleven coaches with several others expressing interest. The afternoon was open to visit the town and the area. The evening meal was a potluck with Bruce and Nancy preparing the meat, with extra food from the other ladies. After dinner we attended a music show at the Ozark Folk Center. Sunday we all said our good-byes and started for home, looking forward to getting together again. ❖

Midwest Discoverers



Chapter prez
Jerald Call

Hello all from the northeast: hot and dry Indiana. The Midwest Discoverers' summer rally, with 13 rigs, in Akron, Ohio, in June was a great success. .

As I write this, we are getting ready for our fall rally in Ottawa, Canada, the first to be held outside the USA. We know that hosts **Maurice and Joan Fairweather** will have a lot for us to do and enjoy.

The 2013 spring rally will be held in Marshall, Mich., in June, and the fall rally

will be held in Port Clinton, Ohio, in September.

We had two new members at our spring rally and we welcome them to our club. For more info on our rallies, you can email me at northpond@metalink.net. ❖



Midwest Discoverers had a hot time staying cool in Ohio!

Texas Disco Road Runners



Chapter prez
Carol Sturm

Since the last newsletter was published, our group has not held any rallies (it's too warm during the summer months). Many of our members traveled, seeking cooler weather. We had the fortunate experience of taking a terminally-ill friend on a "bucket list" trip to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. The cool weather was wonderful and the scenery spectacular.

Our club's next rally is in Mission, Tex., October 21-28. This is open to all Discovery owners and SOBs. It will be at Bentsen Palms RV resort, one of the premier parks in south Texas, and coincides with the butterfly festival.

Our rally master, **Don Crowell**, has planned a rolling rally, traveling from the national in Tucson to Mission, Tex. Join us for some good Texas hospitality. Having lived near Mission for more than 20 years, I can verify that October is a wonderful time to be in south Texas.

Our rally in November will take us back to the RV park where the Texas Disco Road Runners was formed. We will gather at the Road Runner RV park in Johnson City, Tex., November 26-December 1.

We welcome new members, **Rodney and Karen Bishop** from Hemphill, Tex., and **Paul and June Stracener** from Midland, Tex. See you in Tucson. ❖



**JANUARY 2013
DISCOVERY EXPRESS
COPY DEADLINE IS
NOVEMBER 20, 2012.**



Gordon Sims,
RV park hero?

How to be an RV park hero ... NOT

In Canada in July, running on 30 amps and it's warm. Flipped the site breaker twice. Saturday, wife comes out and says front AC not blowing cold. Swear she sounded just like Marge Simpson. Go in and check ... yep, warm air. Have built-in surge protection, but also carry spare capacitors for AC units. So ... more than prepared for anything. I assume the capacitor for the compressor has gone out. Quick like a bunny ... up on the roof.

Going to impress all campers around me with my readiness in a critical menopause moment. Tool belt with impact driver, Philips drivers, ohm meters and a collection of capacitors. Roll of duct tape ... well, just because. Women instantly falling in love with the best hangman north of the border. Men lining up for autographs. I'm in the Zone ... it's my moment of glory. Life is good.

Zip-zip ... plastic cover off ... solar charger set aside. Spin the impact driver like a Colt .45. Zip-zip-zip ... all the sheet metal screws out of the tin work. Slam the driver into its holster. Fellow campers cheering me on. Man ... where's my Superman cape? What a hero I'm going to be. Working like a NASCAR pit crew.

Oh, no ... capacitors look perfect. Crap?! But both lines hot on compressor. Scratch head. Not looking so much like a hero any longer. Start to sweat. I hear muttering from the crowd below. A few walk away. Down off the roof. Drop impact driver. Battery flies off. Go inside coach and flip thermostat from high **fan** to high **cool**. Problem solved. Cold air starts pumping from AC vents.

Sheepishly climb back up on the roof and put the AC unit back together. Use the duct tape to hold broken battery in the impact driver. Crowd has dispersed. I'm betting I never get to change out a capacitor. ☹

No one comes by for autograph. Dejected. May start drinking again. ❖



Editor's Note: If this made you chuckle, you can read even more entertaining (and enlightening) postings on DOAI's Yahoo! egroup. Join in and share your problems and rejoice over solutions ... and every once in a while, have a belly laugh. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/discoveryownersassociation/>

Are you a workamper?

There have been a number of DOAI members who, over the years, have spent their summers as "workampers" at various RV campgrounds around the country. If you would like to learn more about this interesting summer lifestyle, visit www.workamper.com. Opportunities exist for service at campgrounds, state parks, national parks, marinas, theme parks, NASCAR, lodges, RV parks, and resorts.



- Workamping provides a way to escape the drudgery of your everyday lifestyle
- Workamping is a new way to live, work and play
- Workamping provides a way to travel and make money while doing so
- Workamping offers a way to experience new people, places and opportunities while still being able to support yourself and live comfortably

This is not a lifestyle to enter without considering all the facets, however. Another helpful website –

www.work-for-rvers-and-campers.com/bad-workamping-jobs.html publishes an article worth reading: "Bad Workamping Jobs: 10 Warning Signs from Negative Workamper Experiences." ❖

Not all who wander are lost....

Thus wrote **J.R.R. Tolkien** when he created those immortal books about the Hobbits. DOAI member **Doug Poad** subscribes to the same theory and he has it encribed on the rear of his Discovery, with an appropriate graphic.

Jeff and Carolyn Rogowski have a logo on the rear of their Discovery, which tells people about their RV park in Wyoming (see *Discovery Express*, Spring 2009, page 23).

What about your rig? Have you personalized it with graphics or sayings? If you've put a graphic on the rear of your Discovery, tell us about it, and don't forget to send in photos, as well. Electronic images are great, but the editor can scan regular photos, too (and return the photos to you). ❖



Rally opportunities

You are welcome (and encouraged) to attend any of these rallies! Contact chapter president (see **page 10**).

October 2012 –

- 8-14 **National rally, Tucson, Ariz.**
- 21-28 Texas Disco Road Runners, Mission, Tex.
- 22-24 Heartland Discoverys, Richmond, Ind.
- 24-27 Heartland Discoverys, Lexington, Ky.
- T/B/A D'Zonas, Tucson, Ariz.
- T/B/A Northwest Adventurers, Tucson, Ariz.
- 31-11/3 Mason-Dixon Discoverys, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

November 2012 –

- 1-6 Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Bushnell, Fla.
- 2-4 Dixie Travelers, Gulf Shores, Miss.
- 7-11 Discovery Texans, Montgomery, Tex.
- 26-12/1 Texas Disco Road Runners, Johnson City, Tex.

January 2013 –

- 27-2/1 **Southeast region rally, Seffner, Fla.**

February 2013 –

- T/B/A D'Zonas, Benson, Ariz.
- 8-13 Texas Disco Road Runners, Lafayette, La.

April 2013 –

- T/B/A D'Zonas, Tucson, Ariz.
- 10-15 Texas Disco Road Runners, Marble Falls, Tex.
- 24-? Blue Ridge Discoverys, Chattanooga, Tenn.

June 2013 –

- T/B/A Midwest Discoverers, Marshall, Mich.

September 2013 –

- T/B/A Midwest Discoverers, Port Clinton, Ohio

October 2013 –

- 8-12 **National rally, Bethpage, Va. (Proposed dates)**
- T/B/A Texas Disco Road Runners, Rolling Rally

December 2013 –

- T/B/A Texas Disco Road Runners, Rolling Rally

Looking down the road –

- 2014 DOAI national rally, Northwest region
- 2015 DOAI national rally, North central region
- 2016 DOAI national rally, Northeast region

Helpful contacts for Discovery owners

Allison Transmission, GM Corp.	800.252.5283	Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp	800.385.4357
Atwood Mobile Products	800.825.4328	Fuel: local U.S. gas prices	www.gasbuddy.com
Camping/travel/rest areas/reviews websites:		General Electric	www.geappliances.com/geac/
.....	www.accesscamping.com	Goodyear Tire & Rubber	800.321.2136
.....	www.campingroadtrip.com	Intellitec	800.251.2408
.....	www.interstaterestareas.com	Kidde Safety products	800.880.6788
.....	www.roadnotes.com/info/	Kwikee products	800.736.9961
.....	www.rvdumps.com/dumpstations	Magnadyne	800.638.3600
.....	www.rvparking.com	MCD Innovations	www.mcdinnovations.com
Caterpillar RV engine support	877.777.3126	Michelin North America	800.847.3435
Carefree of Colorado	800.621.2617	Norcold, Inc.	800.543.1219
Carriage Carpets (Shaw Flooring)	877.706.3054	Onan	800.888.6626
CCI Controls	800.521.5228	Power Gear	800.334.4712
Cummins, Inc.	800.343.7357	Riverpark	800.442.7717
Denso (call Fleetwood)	800.322.8216	RVP (Coleman)	316.832.4357
Discovery parts:		RVP (Suburban)	423.775.2131
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	RV technical help	www.rvtechtips.com
Sullivan RV Sales & Service	800.720.0484, Ext. 6	Spartan Chassis, Inc.	517.543.6400
Walt's RV Supplies	909.823.0563	Splendide	800.356.0766
DOAI name badges:		Thetford Corp.	800.521.3032
The Signman	407.365.3722	Trojan Battery Co.	www.trojanbattery.com
Dometic Corp.	800.544.4881	Velvac	800.783.8871
Fan-Tastic Vent	800.521.0298	Winegard	800.288.8094
Fleetwood RV, Inc.	800.322.8216	Xantrex Technology	800.670.0707

**For other member-recommended helpful contacts,
visit www.discoveryowners.com**

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

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

Executive Vice President

John Curtis, 21350 Osage Trl, Garden Ridge, TX 78266-2935; 210.651.6818; 210.287.1496; jacurtis3@satx.rr.com

Vice President for Development

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

National Rally Master

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

Past President/Registered Agent

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

North Central Region Vice Pres. (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI, MB, NU, ON)

Ivan Manley, 2313 Meadow Ln, Centralia IL 62801-6776; 618.532.4557; 618.322.4887; manleyim@netwitz.net

Northeast Region Vice Pres. (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, NB, NL, NS, PE, QC)

Jack Romeyk, 14 Avondale Dr, Islip NY 11751-4402; 631.889.2731; captjackro@yahoo.com

Northwest Region Vice Pres. (AK, CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WY, AB, BC, NT, SK, YT)

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

South Central Region Vice Pres. (AR, LA, OK, TX)

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

Southeast Region Vice Pres. (AL, DE, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)

John Ricciardi, 477 The Gardens Dr, Crossville TN 38555-0301; 252.619.6485; 252.619.7198; john.L.ricciardi@gmail.com

Southwest Region Vice Pres. (AZ, CA, HI, NV, NM)

John Bujnovsky, 8129 Bay Colony St, Las Vegas NV 89131-6707; 702.528.2877; jjbrvng@gmail.com

CHAPTERS AND PRESIDENTS

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

Charlie Harvell, 952 Laurel Springs Ln SW, Marietta GA 30064-3961; 770.424.5439; 404.213.1639; charlesharvell@gmail.com

Desert Rats (NV)

Gary Velasquez, 8608 Grandbank Dr, Las Vegas 89145-4813; 702.255.6014; 702.205.6709; garypatti@aol.com

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

Terry Ven Roy, 2615 Lightning Way, Colorado Springs CO 80920-1412; 719.598.9238; 719.439.2743; tvenroy@msn.com

Discovery Texans (TX)

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

Dixie Travelers (AL, MS, GA, FL)

Robert Johnson, 245 Miller Ln, Lawrenceburg TN 38464-6397; 931.762.8763

D'Zonas (AZ)

Mike Scott, 7725 N Cortaro Rd, Tucson AZ 85743-8826; 520.579.9931; jamdscott@earthlink.net

Florida Discovery Sunshiners (AL, FL, GA)

Ron Wacker, 1720 Sherwood St, Clearwater FL 33755-2937; 813.240.6552; discovery@rvfunhome.com

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

Beverly Kaiser, 34801 Pheasant Rdg, Richmond MI 48062-1834; 586.727.7230; 586.615.2263; bjk601@comcast.net

Louisiana Mudbugs (LA)

Fred Reid, 311 Camille St, Alexandria LA 71301-2702; 318.448.8545; 318.446.2339; fmreid@aol.com

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

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

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

Jerald Call, 6825 County Road 16, Butler IN 46721-9417; 260.868.2580; 260.927.5397; jcallnorthpond@netzero.com

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

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

Ozarks Discovery (AR, KS, MO, OK)

Bruce Plumb, 4385 State Hwy Y, Galena MO 65656-4604; 417.272.0287; 417.239.4544; bplumb@centurytel.net

Texas Disco Road Runners (TX)

Carol Sturm, PO Box 311, Christoval TX 76935-0311; 806.438.0771; bcrvtravelers@yahoo.com

FOUNDER/PRESIDENT EMERITUS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, AND WEBSITE

Audit

Ricky Keen, 8 Beaver Creek Loop, Roland, AR 72135-9749; 501.247.2124; rkeen120@gmail.com

Founder/President Emeritus

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

Membership Director

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

Merchandise Directors

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

Newsletter Editor

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

Webmaster

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

Website

www.discoveryowners.com

Feeding the RVer

If you weren't able to be at the 2012 national rally in Tucson, you missed receiving a wonderful compilation of delicious recipes provided by the rally team, DOAI board members and committee chairmen, chapter presidents, spouses, and members. Here are a couple of teasers from the booklet:

STRIPPER STEAKS FOR SIX (John Baker)

- 2 Texas-size New York strip steaks, each 1" thick
- 2 Idaho russet potatoes
- 1 can Tennessee Bush's beans of your choice
- 6 oz. Wisconsin cheese
- 6 oz. Minnesota butter
- 1 bag California salad greens
- 2 bottles salad dressing (any two flavors)

Wrap steaks well and place in freezer. Place potatoes, cheese, butter and salad greens in refrigerator. Put beans and salad dressing in cupboard. Along with spouse and credit card, exit Discovery. Lock door. Pick up two other couples. Check with campground hosts to locate best steakhouse in the area. Set location in GPS. Follow GPS and enter restaurant. Order from menu and make a "Discovery" that dinner with friends is a great evening!



ANGEL FOOD CAKE (Dick & Pat Tracy)

This delicious fat-free moist cake requires no topping.

- 1 box angel food cake mix
- 1 regular can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 small can Mandarin oranges, drained

Preheat oven 350°F. Dump angel food cake mix into a 9"x13" ungreased pan (do not add any of the called-for ingredients listed on the cake box). **Slowly** pour in undrained crushed pineapple (slowly, or you may find your face covered with cake mix!). Add the drained Mandarin oranges. Mix thoroughly. Bake 45-60 minutes, or until top is brown.

American Duo™ Day/Night Shades

- No Strings to Break
- Superior UV, Heat and Cold Protection
- Improves Interior Decor
- Smooth, Easy Operation



www.mcdinnovations.com

800.804.1757

As seen in 2012-13 Discovery Coaches

- Excellent Outward Visibility
- 100% Light-Blocking Night Shade
- Power and Manual Options
- Easy to Clean



Made in USA

Traveling with pets

What would the RVing lifestyle be if you couldn't take the whole family along? Why shouldn't your family pets enjoy the open road with you? Of course they should, but there are some extra things to consider when traveling with pets, particularly if you have a new pet or your animal has never traveled before.

Begin with acclimating your animal to the RV. If you have a dog, spend some time with him in the coach; let him sniff everything and even start giving his evening meal in the RV. If you have a cat, do the same. Additionally, put out your cat's litter box and food and let him get used to the new surroundings.

Once your pet is comfortable, take a small trip to the end of the block and back to get the animal used to the sound of the engine and the motion. Cats tend to be much more sensitive to motion and noise, so begin with just turning the engine on and off. Always do a test drive at highway speeds; cats are especially sensitive to speed changes. Once moving, observe your pet's behavior, watching for motion sickness, which cats can get as easily as a human does. If you see profuse drooling,

lethargy or vomiting during your test drive, pay a visit to your vet, who can prescribe motion-sickness medication.



Another thing to consider is whether or not you want to constrict your pet to certain areas of the RV while traveling. If your animal is very calm and you feel confident he will not disturb the driver, letting him roam free may not be a problem. However, keep in mind cats like to curl up in laps and around feet, which can be distracting and dangerous for the driver. You don't want to step on your pet instead of the brake! If you would like to restrict your pet's wandering, a standard pet gate will usually work.

Or if your animal is crate-trained, try a travel carrier. Animal rights advocates recommend pets in moving vehicles be restrained with harnesses similar to seatbelts for humans. These can be purchased at any large pet supply retailer.

Continued on next page...

Traveling with pets, continued

Before you set off on your trip, ensure your coach is “pet proofed.” Exposed wires or power cords are tempting for dogs to chew on. Keep prescription drugs and cleaners well out of your pet’s reach. Also, if you’re concerned about preserving the quality of your upholstery, consider slip covers for your furniture while you’re traveling with your pet. These can be easily washed and will help keep the pet hair to a minimum in your RV.

Some good things to remember to bring along are favorite toys, bedding, a full-trip supply of food (switching brands mid-trip is hard on animals’ digestive systems and can have disastrous results), leash or harness, crate, plastic baggies, litter box and litter (for cats), first-aid kit including flea and tick supplies, medical records, rabies paperwork and medication if needed. Also, visit the vet to get a clean bill of health for your pet before you leave.

When planning your trip, keep your pets in mind. A trip to Disneyland may be great fun for you and your family, but not as much fun for your pet when he has to stay in the RV all day. National parks can be pet-friendly getaways, but be sure to check the rules before you go. Many parks do not allow dogs on trails or in the wilderness. For example, Mt. Rainier National park in Washington State will only allow dogs where cars can go. In contrast, Golden Gate National Recreation area in California is welcoming to dogs in all areas, only requiring they be on leash and cleaned up after. You can call the National Parks Service to find out the particular rules of your destination. You can also access www.nps.gov for full information.

If you are looking forward to a trip involving hiking with your dog, remember dogs need conditioning just like we do. “Buddy” may not be ready for that five-mile hike, so take it easy in the beginning. Also, make sure you bring plenty of water along for both of you. As a guideline, he will need 12 ounces of water before the hike and every half-hour during – more on a hot or humid day. Hiking near a water source can make this easier.

As for staying the night on your trip, campgrounds generally accept pets. However, when making a reservation



you may want to ask if there are extra fees for pets and if the campground restricts the area where animals can be walked.

If your pet does have health problems during your journey, call a local vet. If you think your pet may have been poisoned, the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center has a hotline, and the number is 888.426.4435. The cost is \$30 per case. If your pet has recurrent health problems, bring his medical file from his regular vet. If you’re a full-timer, you’ll want to personally manage your pet’s health records so that each vet along the road can treat him properly.

Finally, if your travels take you across the U.S. border, there are a few additional things you need to know. When traveling with a cat or dog to Canada, you will be required to show proof of rabies vaccination to get into and out of the country. In addition, if the animal appears sick, customs may have him inspected. When returning to the United States, the rabies certificate is only required for dogs.

When traveling to Mexico, all pets will be required to have a certificate of good health issued not more than 72 hours before the border crossing. Additionally, your pet will need a vaccination certificate, verifying rabies, distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis immunizations. This certificate must be issued at least 15 days but no more than one year before your border crossing. Most licensed U.S. vets can issue both these certificates. For entry back into the United States, you will need to have a Mexican vet provide the same documentation.

Traveling with pets can be great fun for the whole family. Remember to always keep them on leashes, clean up after them, and have fun! ❖

© 2010, Aon Recreation Insurance. Reprinted with permission. With 40 years of experience insuring RVs, no one understands your vehicle like Aon. Aon has multiple carrier options and can provide you with a policy custom-designed for the special nature of your coach. Aon also offers the added benefit of umbrella coverage, which provides liability coverage that extends beyond your RV, home, and auto insurance policies to protect you from a costly lawsuit. To get a quote, call Aon at 800.521.2942, or visit www.aonrecreation.com for more information.

We’re “cooking with gas”!

Although commonplace today, gas stoves have not always been the norm. Gas stoves began to be available in the late 1800s; up to that time, wood stoves were the norm.

“Cooking with gas” was slogan that came from advertisements of that era, touting gas stoves as a way of saying, “Be up to date; be in tune with the times.”

And now you know the rest of the story. In other words, you are “cooking with gas” in your Discovery! ❖

Thoughts and prayers

Please remember these DOAI members: **Richard Money**, whose wife, **Marie**, succumbed to cancer in June; **Paul Haubner**, who has been hospitalized for several months with lymphoma and other complications; and **Gerri Voss**, whose husband, **Robert**, succumbed to cancer in June.

If you know of any DOAI member who is ill, or who has died, please send an email to doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com. Thank you. ❖

ENJOY YOUR RV

Don't give up on your dreams of exploring the country in your RV; plan to make your dreams come true. You worked hard to buy the RV, now you need to work just as hard on enjoying your RV. Plan your RV trip, load it up, hook it up, fuel it up, and "Just RV It!"

— Mark Polk



Ron Jones

Silicone cookware – an RVer’s dream product

Silicone bakeware/cookware is weird stuff. That is, it doesn’t act or feel normal, and most people don’t trust it. That makes sense to me; I didn’t trust it either, at first. Keep reading...

Silicone cookware was developed in the 1980s for commercial kitchens. It is FDA approved, inert, and safe up to various high temperatures (stamped in the bottom of each piece). Silicone will melt if heated above its safe range, but doesn’t produce toxic vapors. Silicone cookware includes muffin pans, baking pans, spatulas, molds, whisks, and more. It is considered the only non-reactive, non-stick cooking material.

Advantages of silicone for RVers

Silicone cookware is great anywhere but is considered the “answer” for RVers. It is...

- ★ **Flexible.** You can literally roll or wad it up and stuff it in a drawer, use it as a cushion to pack between other conventional pans for travel, it will fit and can be tucked in just about anywhere.
- ★ **Lightweight.** My guess is that silicone cookware counterpart is about 1/10 the weight of glass baking dishes. Regardless of the actual amount, it is significantly lighter. Leave those glass baking dishes behind.
- ★ **Cooks great.** Use silicone cookware in any appliance where it will not come in contact with direct heat (open flame or electric burner). It’s great in microwave, gas or electric ovens, and convection ovens.
- ★ **Easy to clean.** No greasing or oiling of pans required. While it’s the best non-stick material I’ve used, occasionally food sticks. Its flexible; just bend the pan and food often pops off! Wash it with the other dishes. It is dishwasher safe.
- ★ **Cheap.** Don’t pay big bucks for silicone – shop around. We paid \$19.00 (yes, nineteen dollars) for a three-piece set (loaf pan, bundt pan, and muffin pan) of silicone at a pharmacy chain. Works great!



Special care

Sharp objects like knives or forks can damage silicone cookware. I use silicone spatulas, too. If you happen to cut or puncture the surface, the pan is still usable, but food will collect and stick inside the cut.

Using silicone cookware

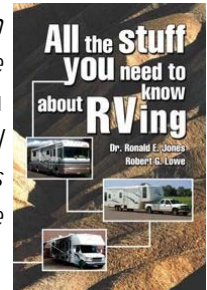
Don’t change your recipes with silicone. However, the flexibility works against you. Try filling a 9" x 13" silicone baking pan with a runny batter and then put it in the oven! It’s

hard enough with a metal or glass dish. A floppy pan brings on new challenges.

For baking, our convection oven requires a metal rack that sits in the microwave tray. I set my 9" x 13" silicone pan on the rack, pour in the batter, and lift the metal rack (with baking pan on it) up into the oven. Or, place your cookware on a cookie sheet and when filled, lift the cookie sheet and slide the cookware into the oven.

Silicone cookware is nearly the perfect product for RVers. While it won’t make your food taste better, it will make cooking a lot more fun. ❖

© 2006 Ron Jones. Reprinted with permission. This suggestion is one of more than 500 suggestions in *All the Stuff You Need to Know About RVing* (ISBN 156870514-X) by Ronald Jones (info@rvstuff.org) and Robert Lowe (bob@rv-partsplus.com).



More silicone bakeware tips

- Avoid bakeware constructed with plastic fillers, which can reduce the heat resistance and possibly leech odors into the food. If white cracks appear when you bend the silicone bakeware, it’s been constructed with fillers
- Follow manufacturer’s maximum heat ratings. Although most silicone bakeware has a temperature range of -40° to 500° F, check the label to determine the specific manufacturer’s rating
- Pans are hot to touch while in the oven, but cool down quickly; use hot pads to remove them
- Using a cookie sheet underneath will provide stability even for smaller pans. In fact, always use a metal baker’s sheet or specially-designed sled or rack underneath wider or larger silicone pans
- Wash pans thoroughly before first use
- Warranties tend to vary with bakeware brands
- Never use on an open flame or on stovetop burners
- Since silicone can go from one temperature extreme to the other, try freezing batter in the pan ahead of time, then taking it straight from the freezer to the oven when you’re ready to bake



Mark Polk

RV Education 101

Polk's seven tips for extending the life of your RV awnings

Awnings are a great feature to have on your motor home. There are several different types of RV awnings and they serve different purposes.

Window and door awnings provide shade and keep rain away from your RV windows or entry door. Slide-out awnings help to protect the top of the slideout from debris and water. And patio awnings can extend the living area of our outdoor world.

The awnings on your motor home will provide years of reliable, trouble-free operation if you take the time to do a little preventive maintenance and cleaning.

Here are my top seven tips for extending the life of your RV awnings:

1. The first step to maintaining your awnings is to **understand more about the different types of awning fabrics**. Fabric used on RV awnings is one of two types, acrylic or vinyl. Acrylic fabric is a woven cloth that lets air circulate through the fabric. This air circulation allows the fabric to dry quickly when it gets wet. Acrylic fabrics are water repellent, but not waterproof. If you have experienced tent camping, you know that you shouldn't touch the underside of the tent when it's wet. Touching the wet fabric allows water to seep through the fabric. The same applies to an acrylic awning fabric. Vinyl awning fabric is mildew resistant, but not necessarily mildew proof. Mildew can form on the dirt and dust that collects on the vinyl fabric. The mildew will be worse in high temperatures, high humidity and if the fabric is stored when it is wet.
2. When you open the awnings for the first time each year, or if an awning has been stored for a while, you will need to **inspect the awning fabric for any signs of mildew or stains**. Remember that vinyl awnings will mildew. To prevent dirt from imbedding in the woven fabric of an acrylic awning fabric, you should simply hose the fabric off on a routine basis. Avoid scrubbing acrylic awning fabric. Scrubbing can remove the water retardant finish. For stubborn stains, blot the approved cleaner on the acrylic fabric with a sponge or soft cloth.
3. For more difficult stains or mildew on a vinyl awning fabric, **use an aftermarket commercial cleaner made just for awning fabrics**. One method that seems to work well is to spray the inside and outside of the awning fabric with the appropriate cleaner and then roll it up and let it sit for several minutes. This distributes the cleaner over the entire surface of the awning fabric and allows the cleaner

time to work. Open the awning and thoroughly rinse both sides of the fabric. It may be necessary to scrub stubborn stains with a brush on a vinyl awning fabric before rinsing. You can clean the awning hardware with the same cleaner you use to wash the RV. **Note:** Never use oil-based or abrasive cleaners on awning fabrics. Clean and thoroughly rinse both sides of the awning fabric. Carefully follow all awning and cleaner manufacturer directions.

4. **Inspect the awning fabric for any tears or excessive wear**. Talk to your RV dealer about what materials to use to repair or patch the awning fabric. While the awning is out, inspect the awning hardware. The bottom awning brackets support most of the load from the awning. Check the lag screws in the awning brackets for secure mounting. Inspect the arm pivot holes for any enlarged holes or broken rivets in the handles. Check for a warped roller tube. If the roller tube is warped, it will be noticeable when you roll the awning out. Inspect the awning end caps for secure mounting and any broken or loose rivets. Make sure the awning rail is securely mounted to the side of the RV. **Caution:** Never attempt to remove the awning end caps. Spring tension can result in serious injury. Have any damaged or broken parts repaired before using the awning.



5. In addition to cleaning and inspecting your awnings, there are a few things to keep in mind when using the awnings, especially the patio awning. **Always lower one end of the awning to allow for water runoff**. The weight from water pooling on the awning fabric can cause extensive and costly damage. Any wind gusts over 20 miles per hour can also cause extensive damage to the awning and to the motor home. **Never leave the awning out unattended**. If everyone is leaving the campsite, store the awning in the travel position. When you go to bed, store the awning. Even when you are at the campsite you should **use awning tie downs to prevent any sudden damage caused by high wind gusts or a sudden storm**. You have the option to position the awning arms straight down and stake them to the ground, but you will get **better support if they're attached to the bottom awning brackets on the side of the RV**. Remember, it is much easier to prevent damage to your awning than it is to repair it.
6. **Never store the awning when the fabric is wet**. Allow enough time for the fabric to dry completely, on both sides, before storing the awning.

Continued on next page...

Awning tips, continued

7. **Check with your RV insurance provider** to make sure your RV awning is covered in the event of any damage. Some insurance companies require separate insurance coverage on the RV awnings. Now go RVing and have fun. ❖



© 2012, Mark Polk. Reprinted with permission. RV expert Mark Polk owns www.rveducation101.com, 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 boys in a 35-foot Class A motor home.

Air suspension switch utilization

New DOAI member **Keith Lindholm** has been enjoying the information shared by members on the Yahoo! egroup. Keith relates, "The topic of the air suspension switch, particularly its function, came up in a discussion. I found nothing in the Discovery owner's manual nor the Freightliner chassis operator's manual, so I put together a document that may help other DOAI members whose Discovery is equipped with the manual/auto switch." We thank Keith for sharing his research!

Arrival Procedures

1. Check site to ensure there are no obstructions that will inhibit proper leveling of the coach or impede complete slide-out room extension
2. With the ignition **on** (engine running), place the transmission in **neutral** and set the **parking brake** (air brake)

*Caution: It is **always** recommended to apply **wheel chocks** when the coach is running in **neutral** with the parking brake **engaged** to prevent unexpected front or rear motion*

3. Place the air suspension switch to **manual** position and release all the air from the suspension system (lowering the chassis to the ground)
4. Extend levelers at the control panel (per your operations manual) and ensure all the jacks are down (visually) and the coach is level for stationary use
5. Extend all slide-out rooms to the full outward position and then turn the ignition to the **off** position (engine off)

Departure Procedures

1. Complete a visual inspection of the interior and exterior of the coach to ensure there are no obstructions that will impede the retraction of slide-out rooms or leveling jacks
2. Depress the brake pedal, turn the ignition to the **on** position (start the engine) and confirm that the parking brake (air brake) is **engaged** and the transmission remains set in the **neutral** position
3. Retract slide-out rooms and visually inspect exterior to ensure they have fully retracted against the sidewalls of the coach
4. Retract the levelers at the control panel (per your operations manual) and ensure (visually) all the jacks have completely retracted to their upright position to permit safe travel
5. Place the air suspension switch to the **auto** position to re-inflate the air suspension system to restore normal chassis height/ride characteristics before departure – remove wheel chocks

Solar RVing

As more people choose to take RV trips, certain aspects of RVs, such as gas efficiency and emissions, receive more attention. Now the RV community is asking for an earth-friendly approach to taking road trips, and here's the answer: solar panels. They are an effective way to take advantage of alternative energy because they extend the life of your RV's batteries, they are user friendly, and there are many benefits for using them.

With solar panels, energy is collected from the sun and converted into electricity. This energy is then stored in the battery of your RV. In order to use this energy for your appliances, you will need an inverter that will convert the energy collected from the sun (Direct Current - DC) into the kind of energy that is used by outlets in the wall (Alternating Current - AC).

The fact that solar panels can fit on the roof of your RV



makes them a really convenient accessory. There is no real need for maintenance aside from keeping them clean. If you opt to keep them flat, you minimize your need for trips to the roof.

In October 2008, solar tax credits were extended until December 2016. This means that the addition of solar panels to your RV may qualify you for a 30 percent solar investment tax credit. Also, the additional energy generated by the solar panels allows you to boondock for longer periods of time without the need to find a place to hook up your RV as frequently.

Companies that specialize in solar panels for RVs can help you understand further the benefits of solar panels and how they work. ❖

Article by Jeanette Espinosa. © 2009, Camping Road Trip LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Mike Sokol

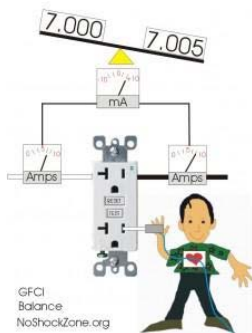
No~Shock~Zone™

Understanding and preventing RV electrical damage, part nine
GFCI testing

This series of articles is provided as a helpful educational assist in your RV travels, and is not intended to have you circumvent an electrician. The author and the HOW-TO Sound Workshops will not be held liable or responsible for any injury resulting from reader error or misuse of the information contained in these articles. If you feel you have a dangerous electrical condition in your RV or at a campground, make sure to contact a qualified, licensed electrician.

GFCI review

If you don't already know what a GFCI circuit breaker is, please read part eight (*Discovery Express*, July 2012) on basic theory and operation of this lifesaving device. GFCI devices are among the least understood of all electrical safety circuits, but their function is really pretty simple once you understand their basic operating principles.



It's all about balance

Here's the illustration we used in part eight to demonstrate what a GFCI is looking for electrically. Note that a perfectly isolated electrical appliance should have exactly the same amount of electrical current going out and coming back in. For example, if an appliance draws 7.000 amperes of current from the black/hot wire, then exactly 7.000 amperes of return

current should be coming back in the white wire. However, if there's any secondary connection to the earth/ground from something like our happy camper poking a piece of metal in a socket while standing on the ground, there will now be more current going out the black wire than is returning from the white wire.

GFCI breakers in America are designed to trip when there's any more than 5 milliamperes (5/1000 of an amp) of difference between the black and white wires. Note that a GFCI breaker doesn't really need the green/ground wire at all to function. The GFCI detector circuit only cares about what's going out of the black wire compared to what's coming back into the white wire.



Nuisance tripping

What bothers many campers and home owners about GFCI breakers is that they'll occasionally trip for no apparent reason. So if you plug your shore power to the GFCI outlet in your garage to run your RV refrigerator while you're stocking for

an extended trip next week, you may come back the following day to find the power out and your food spoiled. Nobody was in the RV and nothing looks out of place. Or you plug in a power drill to your exterior RV outlet and BAM! it trips before

you can pull the trigger on the drill. Why would that happen when the drill runs just fine in your basement workshop? Those sorts of situations are what makes home and RV owners suspicious of GFCIs and want to replace them with a non-protected outlet — which, I might add, is illegal to do.

Less than perfect?

What could cause an appliance or electrical circuit to behave badly and fool a GFCI into tripping? Glad you asked. Every appliance has at least two separate wires connecting it to the power outlet, and many will have a third "green" wire known as the safety ground. The purpose of this ground wire is to drain off any electrical leakage within the appliance itself that might occur from deteriorated insulation, a pinched wire or perhaps a failed component such as a power transformer or light bulb socket with water inside.



This deterioration or component failure often occurs in old electrical appliances. So if you're plugging in a Fender guitar amp from your teenage years, the amplifier probably has a lot of heat damage to the power transformer from those extended bar jams of "Smoke on the Water." That overheating is what causes that peculiar "burnt transformer" smell that we also associate with a bad fluorescent

light ballast.

An appliance's or amplifier's insulation breakdown doesn't always result in a complete short circuit that would trip a regular 20-amp circuit breaker. It can be like a small leak in a pipe that's dripping water just a bit. So let's assume that there's 10 milliamperes of electrical leakage from the hot/black wire of the power cord to the chassis of your amplifier. That's 'way less than the 3 or 4 amperes of current your amp is drawing from the circuit to run the tubes and power the speakers. Therefore, a 20-amp circuit breaker thinks that all is well. However, plug that same guitar amplifier into a GFCI breaker and it sees there are 4.010 amperes of current going to the black wire and only 4.000 amperes of current coming back from the white wire. Where did those extra 10 milliamperes (0.010 amps) of current go? Well, back through the green wire that ties to the white wire, 'way back at the electrical panel. But since the GFCI doesn't know or care if that extra 10 mA of current was properly disposed of via the green ground wire or your hand touching the electrified chassis of the amplifier, it trips the breaker in an attempt to save your life. Let's not call this nuisance tripping, but rather life-saving tripping.

Charting fault combinations

So here are two ways to determine which of your appliances is tripping the GFCI. The first is pretty simple. Just unplug every appliance from its own electrical outlet and begin plugging them back in one at a time and turning them on. You'll want to

Continued on next page...

No~Shock~Zone, continued

cycle the appliance on and off a few times since there can be ground fault current “spikes” when you turn on a microwave or light switch. But here’s where it gets tricky: ground fault currents are additive. So if you have two appliances that are each leaking 4 mA (milliamperes) of current to ground, turning on either one of them won’t trip your GFCI, but turning on both appliances at the same time will allow their fault currents of 4 mA and 4 mA to add up to 8 mA. And, of course, 8 mA is greater than the 5 mA limit of the GFCI breaker, so it trips.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Looking for GFCI Tripping						
2							
3		Fridge	Microwave	Coffemaker	Porch Light	Television	Stereo
4	Nothing	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Fridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Microwave	0	0	0	X	0	0
7	Coffemaker	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Porch Light	0	X	0	0	0	0
9	Television	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Stereo	0	0	0	0	0	0
11							
12							

This might require a little detective work, but I usually make a simple chart or spreadsheet of all my appliances and turn them on singly and in combination with every other possible appliance. Charting seems like an unnecessary step, but that’s when you’ll see obvious combinations that cause a problem, like in my chart above. It shows that when I turned on both the porch light and the microwave, the GFCI would trip. Now, I know there’s something electrically leaking to ground in both the porch light and microwave. The porch light might have a water leak in the wall, which is letting moisture into an unsealed electrical box, while the microwave could have a chafed wire from bouncing down the highway for the last few years. Both problems should be corrected since they’ll only get worse, not better, with age.

Measure it

There is, however, an even better method if you’re an RV tech or can borrow or buy a clamp-on ampmeter such as the Fluke shown in the picture. To do this properly you’ll need a meter that can display down to 0.001 amperes, which is 1 mA resolution. Clamp-on ampmeters have a current transformer that looks for current flowing through the wires placed inside their jaws. However, if you simply clamp them around the entire power cord of an appliance, you’ll be summing the current going out from the black wire with the currents returning from the green and white wires and you won’t know the actual ground leakage current. Because the GFCI ignores the green wire current in its own leakage calculations, we need to do the same thing with our clamp-on ampmeter to get the real current levels involved.



You can do this ground fault leakage test by sacrificing a short extension cord to make a test cable. (Don’t you feel like a scientist, now?)

With the extension cord unplugged from everything, just slit off the outer covering, being careful not to nick the insulation of the black, white or green wires. Get rid of any nylon filler and untwist the group of wires

until you get something that looks like the picture to the left below.



This is perfectly safe to use for testing, but because you’ve removed the outer protective layer of insulation, you’ll need to retire this particular extension cord from your regular hookup inventory. That why I typically do this modification to a short 6-ft extension cord which I then keep on my

test bench.

This modification allows you to plug your appliances one at a time into a non-GFCI outlet using your test cable to see how much current is leaking back to ground.

Clamp the ampmeter around the black (hot) and white (neutral) wires as shown in the picture, keeping the green (ground) wire out of the jaws.

Your ampmeter will now be registering how much current is going out the black wire minus how much is coming back the white wire. So any currents you read on the meter will be the ground leakage that can cause the GFCI to trip from that appliance.



Note that there’s going to be a certain amount of leakage to ground from anything plugged into a wall outlet. So 1 mA or so is not a problem. In this case I have 0.0008 amps which is 0.8 mA of current flow, just less than 1 mA. That by itself shouldn’t cause a GFCI to trip. But you can see that if you have five appliances plugged into a single GFCI (like a campsite 20-amp receptacle) and each one is leaking around 1 mA of current to ground, then that GFCI breaker is going to trip whenever it feels like doing so.

Troubleshooting each appliance for ground fault leakage is beyond the scope of this article, but once you’ve identified the problem, you can either replace or repair each item, checking again with your clamp-on ampmeter to confirm you’ve fixed the current leak to ground. Once your total ground leakage current is below 5 mA, then your random GFCI tripping should become a thing of the past.

Wrap-up

GFCI breakers always trip for a reason, and that reason is that they see an imbalance between how much current is going out to an appliance from the black wire compared to how much is coming back in from the white wire. If you clamp an ampmeter around the black and white wires at the same time, any current flow detected will be ground leakage within the appliance itself. Over 5 mA of leakage to ground is supposed to trip a residential GFCI, so it’s only doing its job.

Future Shock

Part Ten of this series will cover extension cord wiring and testing. See you then.

© 2010, Mike Sokol. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission. Mike is the chief instructor for the HOW-TO Sound Workshops (www.howtosound.com) and the HOW-TO Church Sound Workshops. He is also an electrical and professional sound expert with 40 years in the industry. Visit www.noshockzone.org for more electrical safety tips for both RVers and musicians. Contact him at mike@noshockzone.org.



Gary Bunzer

The RV Doctor is in!

RV waste system plumbing odors under one sink only

Gary received this query: "I have two bathroom sinks in my coach; one with the commode and one next to the shower. The one in the hallway of the coach has a terrible smell. It is not all the time, but I cannot pinpoint what is causing it. This has been going on for a few years now. I have poured the stuff that takes away smell down there and even used apple cider vinegar. Nothing seems to work. It is just that one drain. Any suggestions?" – A "Patient"

The doctor's diagnosis

Chances are, you have a faulty anti-siphon trap vent device (ASTVD) under that sink. It's a small ABS plastic fitting found near the P-traps under most RV sinks. Its purpose is to allow air into the drain system to help drain the sink; at the same time, it prohibits gases and odors from coming in from the holding tank and drain piping. It is constructed with a spring-loaded rubber diaphragm. Oftentimes, this rubber membrane will dry out and not fully seal against the rising odors out of the waste system. Other times, the spring simply wears out.

If you look under your sink and follow the horizontal ABS piping as it leaves the P-trap, you'll likely find the ASTVD situated a few inches above this horizontal arm. It's a simple, screw-on fitting. It's a relatively inexpensive component and is easily replaced by any RV handyperson, since it does not require any sealant and is only hand-tightened in place. They can be purchased or ordered through any RV parts department or even online.

In some cases, the rubber membrane can be renewed by applying a lubricating grease. I recommend Dow Corning 111 valve lube sealant.



Another thing to consider, especially if you need a little more room under those sinks, is to replace all the P-traps with a HepvO® waterless sanitary valve. When using a HepvO valve, an ASTVD is not needed at all. Plus, there is zero maintenance (no winterizing, cleaning, etc.) when using a HepvO valve. But one of the biggest benefits is the

added storage space under the sinks. This is the route I highly recommend.

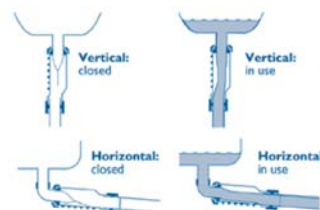
A waterless drain waste valve

HepvO is an innovative hygienic self-sealing waste valve. It replaces the traditional water-seal trap and prevents the escape of foul sewer air from waste discharge systems. Unlike conventional waste traps, HepvO does not rely on trapped water to create a seal. Water seals are prone to failure by evaporation, siphonage and other mechanisms. Instead, HepvO uses a self-sealing membrane which performs the same function as a water-seal trap, but without the risk of depletion or freezing.



HepvO actively eliminates negative pressure within the waste system by opening and allowing in fresh air until a state of equilibrium with atmosphere is reached. This means that secondary venting of the waste system via the inclusion of air admittance valves in the waste system is no longer necessary. The HepvO valve means enhanced plumbing design and system efficiency, without compromising performance or risking the escape of foul air into the living space from the drain or sewer.

The HepvO valve can be installed vertically or horizontally (with an adaptor) and is available in 1½" and 1¼", and retails for \$22.75 each. Check out the details at www.hepvo.com ❖



© 2011, Gary Bunzer. Reprinted with permission. The RV Doctor column recently celebrated 35 years of continuous monthly publication, making it one of the longest running Q&A technical advice columns in the RV industry (if not THE longest!).

Calling All New Members!

Now that you have made the wise decision to plunk down your dollars to join DOAI (or have been given a year's membership by the dealer where you purchased your Discovery), you can take advantage of one of the best things going: the DOAI Yahoo! group. The group has around 450 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. 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) and ask for an invite (this is the simplest way to join). Bob will send the invitation to you, which will include easy 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.

Welcome to DOAI, and give the Yahoo! group a try. See you on the 'Net! ❖

Camping guide to Moab, Utah

Utah is famous for its beauty, wide-open vistas, and archeological treasures. Moab, Utah, especially is a great place for RVers: there are two national parks, water trips, shopping, photo ops galore, and more. Read on...

Park your RV, put out the bedroom slide, and enjoy one of the quietest nights of sleep to be had.

If you arrive late in Moab, however, you will want to consider reserving a place to stay. The campsites operated by local business people have flushing toilets, showers, drinking water spigots and hook-ups at your disposal. The developed camping in Moab provides 771 RV sites with hook ups, plus hundreds of tent sites and camp cabins. Reservations with the campgrounds in Moab, especially during weekends or late arrivals, will decrease your anxiety for finding a place to rest for your adventure in Moab, Utah.

Arches National Park has 53 campsites available seasonally in the Devil's Garden campground. Half are closed in the winter. The camping in Arches is now reserved online at www.recreation.gov website. The campground has flushing toilets in the restrooms and an occasional spigot for filling drinking water containers is interposed throughout the campground. There are no hookups for RVs. The reserved national park campsites fill up two months ahead, so plan accordingly. Backpacking, on the other hand, is not often sought after in Arches. A free back country permit to backpack and camp is readily available. Inquire in person at the visitor center. It is open 7:30am to 6:30pm April through October. Hours shorten to 8:00am to 4:30pm. November through March.

Back country use in Canyonlands national park requires a fee and permits. In Canyonlands, visitors may camp by river rafting or canoeing, 4WD or mountain bike trails, or backpacking. Reservations for back country permits can be made the second Monday of July for the following year, if you like to plan well in advance. Reservations cannot be made within two weeks of a date. In this situation, apply in person at the applicable visitor center. The Maze district camping is only available by back country permit. The Island in the Sky and Needles visitor centers are open 9:00am to 4:30pm; Maze's Hans Flat ranger station is open 8:00am to 4:30pm.

For front country camping use, the Island in the Sky district has 12 primitive campsites at Willows Flat. Bring your own water. A pit toilet is erected in the Willows Flat campground. The 26 sites in the Needles district of Canyonlands are divided between two loops. Squaw Flat campground has drinking water. Some of the sites are adequate for shorter RVs willing to park with no hook ups. Pit toilets are located in the campgrounds. Flushing toilets are housed at the Needles visitor center. The visitor center is not immediately close to the campgrounds. Both districts have fire rings in the sites. Collection of wood is forbidden in the parks. The front

country of Canyonlands National Park camping is on a first-come, first-served process. No reservations are taken, except for the group sites. Plan to arrive around 3pm for the best chances of acquiring one of these park campsites. If you arrive too late, understand that there are reasonable alternatives nearby.

The Bureau of Land Management has 432 campsites located within 24 additional campgrounds dotting the surrounding canyons of Moab. Pay attention to informational signs for more campgrounds as you drive to the national parks of Moab. Decide to nab one of these en route, or plan to back track if the park campground is full.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites will have pit toilets, picnic tables, and fire rings. There is no firewood collection allowed. The BLM has 87 additional designated camping spots marked with a brown post and a tent symbol. These require the user to have a toilet. Bring your own or sometimes the Moab stores have portable toilets for sale in the camping aisle. Dump stations are available at Dead Horse Point state park, most of the commercial campgrounds and a store in Moab. The 87 BLM sites are located in the Picture Frame Arch area, along the



Landscape Arch, Arches National Park.
Photo and article courtesy of Moab Area Travel Council

Gemini Bridges Road in Bride Canyon, near the Kane Creek crossing on Kane Creek Road, near Ten Mile Wash and in the area of Dubinky Road.

Dead Horse Point State Park can be reserved online, too. The 21 RV sites have hook ups; there are also tent sites, flushing toilets, picnic tables, drinking water spigots and fire rings. Bring your own firewood. Bundles of firewood are for sale at the grocery and convenient stores of Moab for around \$5 a bundle. Bring plenty of water, as there will be no water available at BLM campgrounds. Moab's gas stations are amenable to filling water containers. Arches National Park's visitor center has a complimentary water station row of spigots available to fill water containers, too.

Camping in the Moab area conjures azure skies, serene landscapes and a gateway to discovery. Find out more about pet friendly camping, shower options, appropriate RV lengths per campsite and contact information on www.discovermoab.com. The council will mail a travel planner to you, if you wish. Go to www.discovermoab.com/brochures.htm and fill out the form. The planner will describe the points of interest in Moab and will include a list of campground contacts. ❖

Offsetting your RV carbon footprint

Anyone who loves the outdoors certainly does not want to hear that their voyages can cause damage to Mother Nature. There's no need to hide from the fact that we all have a carbon footprint. Here's how you can do something about it – educate yourself about effects of greenhouse gas emissions, calculate your carbon footprint, and take a few easy steps towards offsetting it.

Your carbon footprint is defined as the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, that are released while you perform an activity, such as a road trip, and is usually expressed in terms of tons. Greenhouse gases cause the temperature of the planet to be warmer than it would be if they were not present, hence the term global warming. There are a number of greenhouse gases, but carbon dioxide is by far the most prominent. This is why it's especially important to calculate how much CO₂ your activities are emitting and do something about it.

Most people are surprised to realize how much CO₂ they emit on road trips or even during their daily routine. There are numerous ways to calculate your carbon footprint and this can be very helpful when you want to figure out ways to offset your carbon footprint. The RVIA recently released a report that assessed the amount of carbon dioxide that is released while on road trips. In their Carbon Footprint of RV Vacations (www.gorving.com/upload/file/rv_vacation_carbon_footprint_analysis_2008.pdf) they introduced a formula that can help you calculate the carbon footprint of your RV. Once you have this information, you can determine how to offset it.

Offsetting your carbon footprint is easy. CarbonFootprint.com (www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx) and CarbonFund.org (www.carbonfund.org) allow you to do-

nate to a program that invests in reforestation, renewable energy, environmental cleanup, etc. It would cost you anywhere between \$26 to \$53 to offset the amount of emissions released on a ten-day trip across 638 miles, depending on the program that you invest in – a pretty low price to pay for such a great benefit.

Remember that greenhouse gases are not only emitted by vehicles. The Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator) has an online calculator that allows you to calculate the greenhouse gases that are emitted by your entire family, taking into account how much you recycle to the foods that you eat. But you don't have to wait until those greenhouse gases have been emitted. Take a proactive role to reduce your carbon footprint (www.carbonfund.org/site/pages/save_energy) – invest in solar panels, choose the right fuels, ensure you maintain your vehicle and run the generator less often.

It's important to understand the impact that greenhouse gases have on our planet. We want our future generations to be able to experience this planet the way that we have been able to. Perhaps our commitment to being responsible for our impact on the planet will provide younger generations with an appreciation of Mother Nature and our connection to her. This is why everyone should take the time to understand the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, calculate your carbon footprint, and take a few easy steps towards getting back on the right foot with our planet. ❖

Article by Jeanette Espinosa. © 2009 Camping Road Trip LLC. Reprinted with permission.



Tire expert
Roger Marble

RV tire safety

Be careful when you do research or before you buy

Recently I was asked to clarify some information an RV owner discovered as he did some research. What we see here is an error that is easy to make, even for the more experienced RV owner.

The RV owner asked about a Michelin XTA 215/75R17.5 LR-J tire that came on a fifth wheel trailer. He had confirmed the load capacity of the tires at their max rated inflation and said they could handle the load on his 8,000 lb. axles when inflated to the placard inflation of 120 psi. His question was about the max speed rating of the tires.

He consulted the Michelin Truck Tire Data book and found that the subject tires were intended for low platform trailer application. In fact, the brochure for his tires even identified the maximum speed rating for his tires as 62 mph.

He wanted to know if the maximum speed rating had been

waived for RV application, and if it had, what was the new speed limit. He found a statement from the Tire & Rim Association that specifically stated that when a tire had a speed rating below 65 mph, it could not be manipulated (increased) with adjustments in inflation and load. He also found a Michelin truck tire service manual specifically saying that low bed trailer tires like the XTA cannot have their speed increased.

Despite all this information, he wanted to know how to work out the adjustments needed to allow a higher speed limit for the RV and could I please help him understand what he felt was confusing information given that the RV manufacturer had selected these tires for his trailer.

I had to tell him that, in my opinion, there was no way the speed limit could be adjusted. I pointed out that his error was in looking for information in data books and manuals of different type tires such as truck tires, RV tires and low plat-

Continued on next page...

RV tire safety, continued

form trailer tires, and assuming that since his tires were sort of like truck trailer tires and looked like tires he has seen on other large fifth wheel trailers, he could pick and choose which information applied to his specific tires.

Lessons

The lessons to learn here are:

1. Not all RV manufacturers pay a lot of attention to proper tire selection for the application.
2. When doing research on tire type and specific operation limitations, you need to look only at the literature for your specific tire if such literature is available from your tire manufacturer.
3. You cannot depend on the RV dealership to warn you about the real quality or limits of some components of your RV. You need to take responsibility for what you purchase; i.e., let the buyer be aware.

Important note

Speed ratings are like the “red line” for your car, truck or motor home engine. While it is possible to exceed the max speed rating of a tire, just as it is possible to exceed the rev

limit and run your engine in the red zone, I think we all understand that if we do run our engine that fast, we are pushing the odds.

In the same manner, if your tires are rated for 65 mph max, you might be able to run faster for a short time, but you are consuming the finite limit of the tire structure. Simply slowing down does not repair the microscopic damage you have done to the internal structure of the tire. You should not be surprised if you blow your tire, just as you would not be surprised if you blow your engine after running in the red zone for engine speed. ❖

© 2011, Roger Marble. Reprinted with permission. Before retiring, Roger Marble spent 40 years in the tire industry, working for a major manufacturer, developing tires for applications in North, Central and South America. During his career he worked on many kinds of tires – heavy truck, passenger, light truck and Indy-car types. Roger's blog, “RV Tire Safety with Roger Marble” is a top-notch informative posting found at www.rvtiresafety.com. You can sign up to receive his blog postings right in your email inbox at no charge. The website carries all his previous blog postings which make very interesting reading to anyone concerned with the tires on their RV, car, truck, or trailer.



Hitting a deer can save your life – know what to do

Each year there are approximately 500,000 deer-vehicle collisions, averaging more than 100 deaths and 10,000 injuries nationwide, according to the National Safety Council. In 2002 alone, more than 1.5 million deer-vehicle crashes occurred nationwide, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The crashes resulted in \$1.1 billion in vehicle damage and killed about 150 people. The most serious crashes occurred when motorists swerved to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or a fixed object, or when their vehicle rolled over.

In many states the continuing explosion in the deer population has led to a corresponding increase in deer-related collisions. And there does not appear to be an end in sight because the deer population continues to grow and urban habitats continue to spread to previously rural environments.

The late fall is peak deer breeding season and consequently deer are more active. One-half to two-thirds of all deer-vehicle collisions occur in October, November and December. Accidents most frequently occur in rural areas, on high-speed roads, where forest cover is close to the roadway, and during darkness, dusk or dawn.

When a deer appears on a roadway, drivers only have a brief moment to react. According to a survey cited by the Michigan State Police, one out of three drivers would not know what to do or would take the wrong action when confronted with an unavoidable car-deer crash.

While there is often little you can do to prevent deer from sprinting onto the roadway in front of your vehicle, there are defensive moves you can make to minimize damage:

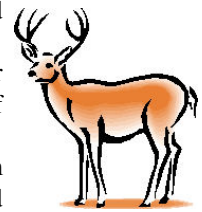
- ✓ **Wear your safety belts;** they are your best defense in any

collision.

- ✓ **When driving, particularly at dusk and dawn, slow down and be attentive.** Deer are herd animals; if you see one deer, likely there will be others.
- ✓ **Use caution** when you see deer-crossing and speed-limit signs as deer habitually travel in the same areas. States are giving you warnings; heed them! Slow down and scan the sides of the road and ditches for animals – watch for movement or reflection from their eyes.
- ✓ **Don't rely** on gimmicks like flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn to deter deer.
- ✓ **Never swerve** out of your lane to miss a deer. A collision with another vehicle, tree or other object is likely to be more serious than hitting a deer.

If a crash is unavoidable, here are some tips:

- **Don't swerve!** Brake firmly, hold onto the steering wheel and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
- **Pull off the road,** turn on your emergency flashers and be cautious of other traffic if you leave your vehicle.
- **Don't attempt to remove a deer** from the roadway unless you are convinced it is dead. An injured deer's sharp hooves can easily hurt you.
- **Report the crash** to the police and your insurance company. ❖



© 2010, Aon Recreation Insurance. Reprinted with permission.

DOAI free-to-members classified advertising

Detailed information about these Discoverys for sale (including photos) may be found at www.discoveryowners.com/classifieds.htm

Discoverys **FOR SALE**

2000 37G: 38k mi, clean, no pets/no smoke, fully equipped, W/D, one owner. Chic Rideout; 352.598.6248 **\$32,300**

2001 36T: 47k mi, front mask, two slides, very clean, no smoke. Charles Matteson; 716.741.2145; hcmatteson@aol.com **\$49,900 OBO**

2002 37U: 54k mi, clean, with Roadmaster Blackhawk tow package. Sam Hatcher; 850.387.0105; samhatcher@cs.com **\$58,500**

2002 38P: Low miles, mint condition, always garaged. Ray Martin; 513.777.7507; franraymartin@cinci.rr.com **\$70,000**

2003 38U: 51k mi, excellent condition, new paint/repairs, six new Michelin tires. Tom Jones; 918.691.5339; tajfish@hotmail.com **\$73,500**

2003 39L: 48k mi, new tires/batteries; full tile throughout. Sandy Fields; 830.632.9326; thomfiel@earthlink.net **\$80,000 OBO**

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

2005 39L: 55k mi, new tires/batteries, no smoke/kids. Sue Garten; 847.366.8888; srgarten@netscape.net **\$100,000**

2006 39L: 34k mi, new front tires, custom shades, no smoke/pets, all maint. records. Sarah Wallace; 601.467.2933; wall4481@bellsouth.net **\$110,000**

2007 39L: 25k mi, ext. TV, Good Sam extended warranty, range w/oven, no smoke/kids. Richard Rehmer; 660.988.0299; barehmer@yahoo.com **\$123,900 OBO**

2008 40X: 19k mi, front kitchen, LCD-TV, many options. Gary Hayes; 605.321.0237; garyhys@yahoo.com **\$140,000**

2008 40X: 22k mi, ext. TV, gas range, front-wheel dolly w/hitch, all manuals. Gerri Voss; 803.983.7739; gerri310@yahoo.com **\$165,000 OBO**

2009 40X: 26k mi, 4 awnings, ext. TV, in-motion sat., W/D. John Lott; 559.431.6644; jlott55@comcast.net **\$160,000**

2010 40X: 20k mi, W/D, ext. TV, ceramic floor, remainder factory warranty. Henk Dekker; 740.358.2242; hdekker@columbus.rr.com **\$169,950**

RV-related items **FOR SALE**

Rear wheel cover: 2001 D, 47¾" wide, 31⅝" high. Robert Wilkins; 419.753.2502; nkvet@nktelco.net **\$250** + shpg

Washer/Dryer: Bendix model WDS1043M, never used. Henry Casey; 863.644.8503; hcasey@juno.com **\$400**

RV-related items **WANTED**

Fold-Out Hide-a-Bed: Light tan leather for 2003 D. Jamie McCann; 559.469.3096; mccannik@wildblue.net

DOAI applauds membership sponsors

DOAI is grateful to these fine dealers for supporting our club by paying for a year's membership for each purchaser of a **new or used** Discovery motor home:

DeMartini RV Sales
..... 800.576.1921
..... www.demartinirv.com

Lazydays
..... 800.500.5299
..... www.lazydays.com

PPL Motor Homes
..... 800.755.4775
..... www.pplmotorhomes.com

RV World
..... 800.762.7448
..... www.rvworldyuma.com

Tom Raper RVs
..... 800.727.3778
..... www.tomraper.com

If you would like to join this elite group or have questions, details are available from DOAI Membership Director **Portia Williams**. Call toll-free 888.594.6818 or send an email to doaimembership@discoveryowners.com.

Discovery Owners Association
and Discovery dealers ...



... a cooperative venture
with two-way benefits!



Discovery Owners Association, Inc.
2013 Southeast Region Rally
Flip-Floppin' Through Florida

Lazydays RV Campground, Seffner, Florida (800.905.6627)
 ARRIVE SUNDAY, JANUARY 27; DEPART FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Please complete **both parts** of this registration form.

Send Part 1 to Lazydays RV Campground and Part 2 to the DOAI rally registrar

Part 1. Cut here and mail this portion to Lazydays RV Campground, or call 800.905.6627

Discovery Owners Association Rally — January 27-February 1, 2013

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:

\$343.31 for coach with **two** people / **\$286.43** for coach with **one** person \$ _____
 _____ Number of additional nights at **\$48.15 per night** \$ _____
 _____ Number of guests at **\$56.88 per guest** \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Make check payable to **Lazydays RV Campground** and mail to
 Lazydays RV Campground, 6210 County Road 579, Seffner FL 33584-3004

Deadline to register with Lazydays RV Campground is December 27, 2012. 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 DOAI Rally Registrar Ron Wacker

Pilot Name _____ Co-Pilot Name _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email/s _____

Street/City/State/Zip+4 _____

DOAI # _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

First DOAI major rally Y___ N___ Discovery Year _____ Model _____

Chapter Member Y___ N___ Chapter Name _____ Officer Position _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Rally Fee:

\$15.00 per coach for **two** people / **\$7.50** for **one** person \$ _____
\$22.00 for notebook with printed copy of all technical seminars \$ _____
\$7.50 for each additional guest \$ _____

Guest Name/s & Address _____

\$20.00 DOAI new member fee (if not already a DOAI member) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to **Florida Discovery Sunshiners** and mail to
 Ron Wacker, 1720 Sherwood St, Clearwater FL 33755-2937

(C) 813.240.6552 — discovery@rvfunhome.com

Deadline to mail form is January 10, 2013. After that date, contact Ron by phone.

October is Fire Safety Month

What better way to observe it than to define the different classes of fire extinguishers, courtesy of Mac McCoy, the Fire Guy (who will be at the DOAI national rally in Tucson this month). Fire extinguishers may have one or more of the following letters on the label, A, B, C, D, or K, and a number from 1 to 120. The letters A,B,C,D and K represent the types of fire the extinguisher can extinguish:



- ⚙ **Class A** is effective for fighting fires involving common combustibles like paper, Fibreglass, wood, 12-volt wiring, and many other items commonly found in a home, car, RV, or boat.
- ⚙ **Class B** is effective for fighting fires involving flammable and combustible liquids like gasoline and diesel fuel, and flammable gases such as propane, etc.
- ⚙ **Class C** is used on fires involving energized 120v electrical equipment, including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery and appliances. **Remember:** the only way to extinguish a Class C fire is to turn the power OFF. The C means that the material in the extinguisher is non-conductive.
- ⚙ **Class D** is effective fighting fires involving combustible metals like magnesium, sodium, potassium, sodium-potassium alloy uranium, and powdered aluminum.
- ⚙ **Class K** is effective fighting fires involving restaurant grease.

Learn more about Mac McCoy at www.macthefireguy.com ❖

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. membership application

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. is a premier non-profit organization intended 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 Director toll-free 888.594.6818

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

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Partner Name _____

Business Name, if joining as Commercial Member _____

Address _____

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

Home Telephone _____ Cell Telephone _____

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

Discovery Year/Model, if joining as Regular Member _____

Who recommended DOAI membership to you? _____