

# Discovery Express



Volume 20, Number 2

Discovery Owners Association, Inc. - Established 1998 - [www.discoveryowners.com](http://www.discoveryowners.com)

April 2018

## Is it really Spring?

The celebration of the 20th Anniversary of our Discovery Owners Association, Incorporated has started with a bang. The Consolidated Rally Schedule on the website ([www.discoveryowners.com](http://www.discoveryowners.com)) shows that April and May are teeming with chapter rally activities. Every chapter welcomes guests from other chapters to attend their rallies, just check their pages on the website to find out how to register as a guest.



Get your shopping bags ready, pack your poodle skirts, bobby socks, and saddle shoes we are going to Goshen, Indiana, September 10 to 15 for the DOAI 20th Anniversary National Homecoming rally. It's like a family reunion for our coaches as Goshen is the birthplace of our Ds. Not only will we be treated to the finest instructional seminars specifically for our Ds, but we will have coach weighing, RV safety classes and driving school available by appointment. For the rest of the story check out the Rally Master's report in this newsletter and on the website.

Spring is known for fashion statements, after all, you wouldn't be caught dead in the Easter Parade without an Easter bonnet, would you? Check out the new accessory, DOAI license plates, for our Ds. These stylish indicators of membership are available for order now. With four colorful options (see pictures inside this issue and on the web) you are guaranteed to turn heads. ❖

## Quarterly Question Contest

**What was the first bird domesticated by man?**

**Chicken    Goose    Peacock    Turkey**



**Read this issue carefully and find the answer; then read the rules on page 30. Submit your entry no later than 11:59p.m., May 15, 2018, to [nina.soltwedel@gmail.com](mailto:nina.soltwedel@gmail.com).**

Congratulations go out to Doug Smith, winner of January's contest. "Yeager" is the answer, and the film is "The Right Stuff." American hero General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager played the part of Fred, a part-time bartender. General Yeager turned 95 years old this past February. He served America from 1941-1975 and has been seen by many as the greatest military pilot in history. In 1947, he became the first pilot confirmed to have exceeded the speed of sound in level flight. In the film, 6'2" Sam Shepard played 5'10" Yeager – mis-casting, some said (in one scene, the difference in heights is noticeable). It is a fact that guys over 6' would not have been chosen to fly P-51 Mustangs; there wasn't enough leg room in the cockpit. In fact, the Mustang didn't even have a real seat; pilots sat on their parachutes. I know – my brother was a P-51 pilot in WWII. He was 5'8" ... on a "tall" day. *By Nina Soltwedel.* ❖

### In this issue...

President's report .....	2	DOAI License Plates.....	10	Region and chapter reports.....	21
Member Care report .....	2	DOAI License Plates Order Form..	12	Region and chapter reports.....	22
National Rally Master's report.....	3	Treasurer's report.....	13	Region and chapter reports.....	23
Membership Coordinator's report .....	5	Region and chapter reports .....	16	Region and chapter reports.....	24
Discovery Friends.....	6	Region and chapter reports .....	17	RV Spring preparation checks.....	27
Secretary's report .....	7	Region and chapter reports .....	18	Summary of links.....	29
DOAI website has encryption .....	8	Region and chapter reports.....	19	Quarterly question contest rules.....	30
Board/Coordinators/Chapters/Web..	9	Region and chapter reports.....	20	See you down the road.....	31



Ron Wacker

## President's report

This year is our 20th anniversary and because of the occasion our major rallies this year are special. MaryAnn Crowell has spent a great deal of time as national rally master finding and helping coordinate these major rallies. The Southeast Region rally at Lazydays in January was a testament to that. We had great food, fantastic entertainment, lots of extra activities and 19 vendors, many of them new vendors. I want to thank the Mason-Dixons for hosting such a fantastic rally. I want to thank all the people that conducted seminars: Marshall Godwin, Gary Osburn, Bill Johnson, Kerry Pinkerton, Bruce Plumb, Glenda Angus, Gloria Davis, Bob Angus, Carolyn Pinkerton and Donna Wacker. I also want to thank the Geeks on Tour for all the great seminars and help they contributed. We had lots of new and different seminars in addition to the normal Camp Discovery seminars. Next year's rally will be hosted by the Florida Discovery Sunshiners with a planned theme of "Discover the Florida Crackers". Looking forward to another great Rally.

Don't forget the National rally is September 10 – 15, 2018 in Goshen, Indiana. This rally will also be a fantastic one with lots of extras because of our 20th Anniversary. Be sure to register and attend. There are lots of things to do in this major RV industry area including visiting the RV Hall of Fame. Also included will be some of the Camp Discovery technical seminars for those people that have never attended Camp Discovery.

Thanks to a suggestion by Fred Jecks from Florida Discovery Sunshiners the DOAI board approved the creation of a license plate to easily identify our members. The order information is in this newsletter. I hope to see everyone at the National Rally in September, and until next time, safe travels to everyone and everyone stay safe. ❖



Nina Soltwedel

## Member Care report

Sadly, since the last newsletter, DOAI has lost several members:

- \* Ken Jardine's wife, Neva, died in January. She had been ill with Alzheimer's

- \* Elsie Sikes' husband, Leon, died in January from heart failure

- \* Bill Humphrey's wife, Ann, died in February from heart failure; she had been ill with Alzheimer's

DOAI members undergoing medical treatment:

- \* John Ricciardi's wife, Alice, being treated for a cancerous lung nodule (Alice adds: "I thank all of you so much for the well wishes and prayers, and to those who put me on their personal prayer list. I will be doing at least ten more sessions, so please keep the prayers coming.")

- \* Richard Money's wife, Jean, being treated for cancer

- \* Pete and Sharon Shaffer's daughter, Jessica, slowly recovering from a comatose state

- \* Jim Devine, being treated for cancer

Please keep everyone in your prayers. Let me know of any DOAI member who needs prayers for whatever reason. We, the entire club, are a virtual family and YOU are an important member. Send an email to [nina.soltwedel@gmail.com](mailto:nina.soltwedel@gmail.com). Individuals will be kept anonymous, if requested. ❖

© 2018 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 December 15, March 15, June 15, and August 15. 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.

Kristy Green, Editor  
109 Greenbriar Drive  
Greenville, NC 27834  
703.328.8810

[doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com)

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

Elaine Holley, Membership Coordinator  
2317 Fran Cir  
Clyde TX 79510-3441  
Toll-free 888.594.6818

[doaimembership@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaimembership@discoveryowners.com)

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

DOAI Yahoo! Group  
[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/discoveryownersassociation/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/discoveryownersassociation/)

Access All Issues  
[www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp](http://www.discoveryowners.com/newsletters.asp)

Newsletter published by  
Prepared Publications, Inc.



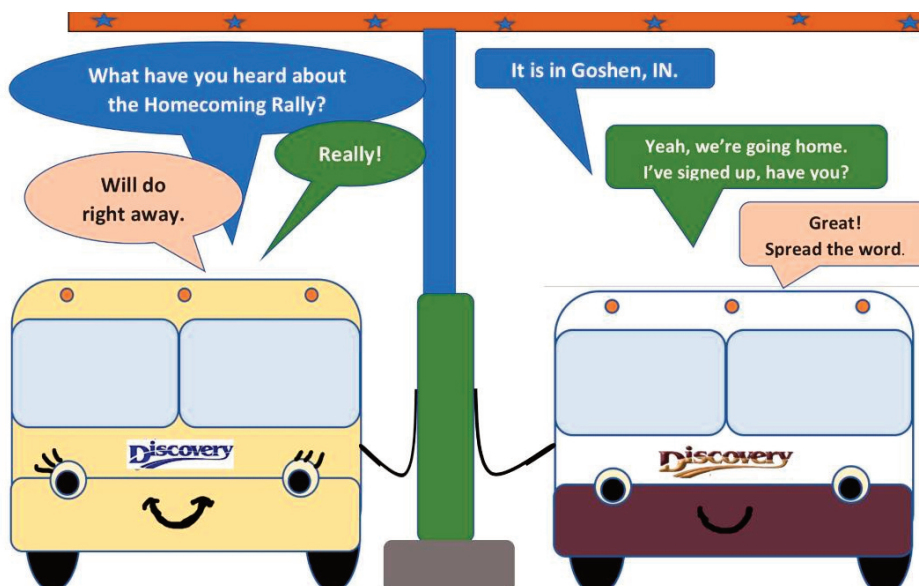
All Discovery images courtesy of  
Fleetwood RV, Inc.  
1031 E US Hwy 224  
Decatur IN 46733  
and used with permission



**ARE YOUR DUES DUE?**

Find your membership renewal date at

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



MaryAnn Crowell

## National Rally Master's report

Hello DOAI Members. As you are reading this it's April and hopefully spring has started in your area. And you are getting the Discovery ready to hit the road.

Don't forget to add our 20th Anniversary National Homecoming Rally to your trip planning calendar.

September 10 – 15, 2018 (depart 9/16)

Early Days 9/7, 9/8 and 9/9

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

East Monroe St., 17746-D County Road 34 Goshen, Indiana 46526

The rally planning is in full swing. Let me tell you a little more about the "Down the Road Tour". It's an all-day tour, but you will be back at the fairgrounds around 4:00 PM. You will be making six (6) stops at various Amish businesses and you will receive gifts from five of them for your brown bag. Here's a list of those stops; Ben's Pretzels, Heritage Ridge Cheese Haus, Lambright County Chimes, Rise'n Roll Bakery, Teaberry Wood Products and Sonshine Baskets. Remember these are retail shops with so many great items for you to purchase. You will also be stopping for a lunch at an Amish home for a Thrasher meal. Our bus only holds 56 people, so the earlier you get your registration in, the better the chance your seat will be reserved.

Happy Days – A New Musical is on Wednesday September 12, 2018 at 7:30 PM. We will car pool to this event, since it's only 18 miles away. We have reserved seating and will be seated together for this new musical. If you liked Grease you will love Happy Days. A powerhouse, rock and roll trip down memory lane. Goodbye gray skies, hello blue! Happy days are here again with Richie, Potsie, Ralph Malph and the unforgettable "king of cool" Arthur "The Fonz" Fonzarelli. One of America's best loved families, the Cunninghams - - yes, Howard, Marion and Joanie are here too. Return to the days of 1959 Milwaukee complete with varsity sweaters, hula hoops and jukebox sock-hoppin' fun. If you don't want to miss all this fun, make sure that you include your payment for tickets in your registration form.

I'm EXCITED!!!! We already have great vendors and seminars lined up.

Know your COACH WEIGHT! RV Safety and Education will be on board to weigh your coach by wheel position. I have two (2) links for you to click on for more information. <http://rvsafety.com/weighing/wheel-position-weighing>. And possibly our process and forms page. - <http://rvsafety.com/weighing-process-forms>

Coach weights will be done as you leave, on Sunday September 16, 2018. You must make appointment with RV Safety, they will have a table in the vendor area, for you to make you appointment, ask questions and receive information.

How about a DRIVING SCHOOL! My RV School will be there to help you learn to drive this big thing comfortably. Or help with just turning, backing up or normal down the road driving while teaching you how to do it safely. This is done in your own Discovery and you can have your own personal two (2) or three (3) hour session.

*(Continued on next page...)*

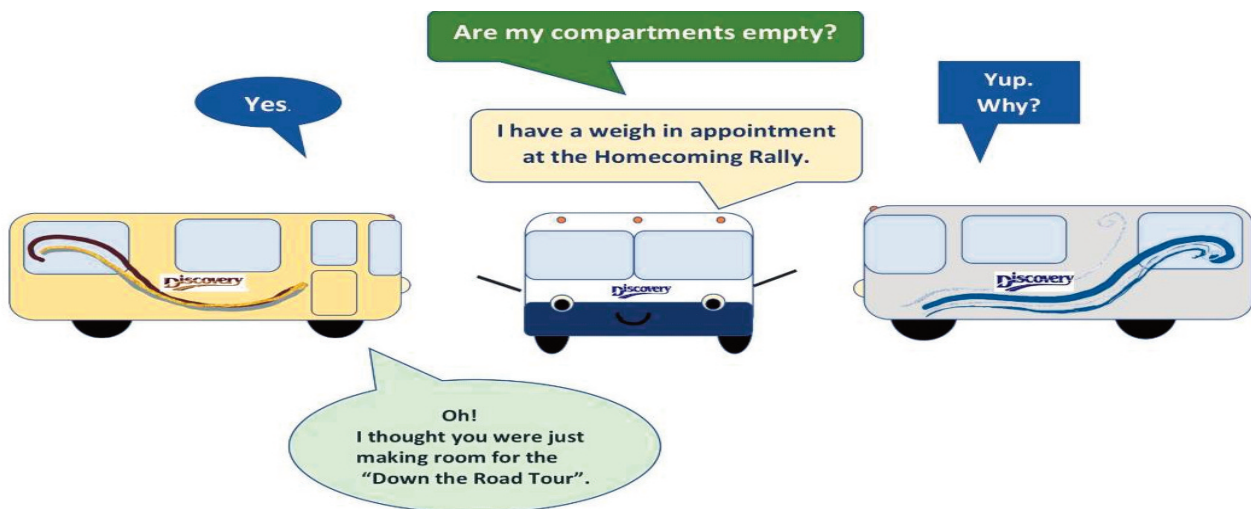
## National Rally Master's report, continued

You all know that both the pilot and copilot need to know how to drive, because that "WHAT IF" situation can happen anytime, to anyone. Here is the link for this school:  
<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=12356154&appointmentType=category:Discovery+Owners+Association>

A Fire Safety seminar with a session of actually escaping a Discovery. I'm hoping to have two (2) or three (3) members that will let us use their coach for this escape procedure. As you know each model seems to have their own fire escape windows in a different area, some of them seem impossible to escape from. But you need to hear and attend this seminar for your own safety.

Camp Discovery at a National Rally? Well, we are going to have some of our best seminars by our own Marshall, Gary and Kerry at this rally. No, I don't know what yet, but you know they will all be Great. - Thanks Guys!

We will be having a book exchange, so bring your books and get a new one to read. I will have a table set up in the vendor area.



This is from Kerry Pinkerton and I copied it from the Discovery groups website: For all of the DYI members there are some great RV salvage stores in the Goshen, Elkhart area. One of the best is Bontrager's, it has EVERYTHING. Furniture, electrical, plumbing, wiring, appliances, wallpaper, fabric, siding, paneling, you name it and they have it. THANKS KERRY.

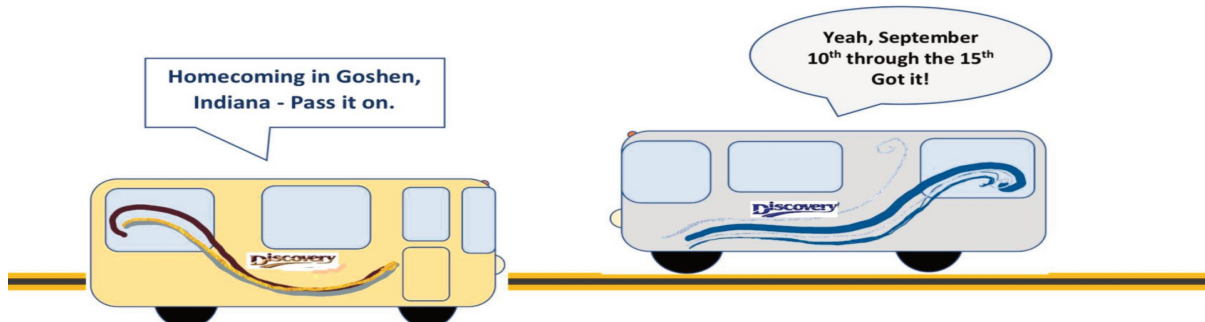
Don't forget if you need service from Fleetwood factory, you are only 90 miles away (Goshen to Decatur) so make your appointment, but NOT during the rally.

Rally registration form is on line at [www.discoveryowners.com](http://www.discoveryowners.com). Right on the front page is a link to click on which takes you right to the form. Make checks payable to DOAI and mail to Nina Soltwedel in Boulder, CO. Remember that if you want to park together you MUST come in together.

We will be in Goshen early, but registration will be on Monday September 10, 2018 starting at 9:00 AM in the ECCC Building, in the Martin Room. Yes, there will be signs for you to find us.

We have so much more in the planning stages, so keep your eyes open for more happenings on the web and group site. This will be a can't miss rally.

Can't wait to see you in Goshen! ❖





## Membership Coordinator's report

Please give a warm Hello and Welcome to our new and reinstated members who have joined DOAI since January's newsletter. Encourage them to visit and join a chapter. It is another wonderful way to meet fellow "D" owners and share information about our vehicles and travel experiences. We continue to encourage all our members to share information about DOAI in their travels and for every three referrals, you will receive a one-year free membership. The same goes for winners of the Quarterly Question Contest. ❖

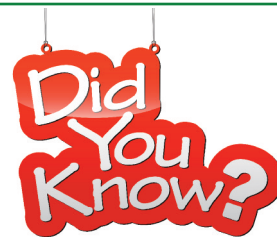
Martha Acee, Miramar Beach FL  
 Michael/Linda Anderson, Lakeland FL  
 John/Donna Anthony, Boyne City MI  
 Randy/Gwen Attuso, Port Allen LA  
 Steve/Julianna Bachmann, Springfield VA  
 Morgan Baker, Lubbock TX  
 Adrian Becerra, Gilbert AZ  
 Bill/Carol Beers, Valrico FL  
 John Blackstock, Poth TX  
 Farren/Thelma Bradshaw, Malvern AR  
 Daniel/Kimber Briggs, San Antonio TX  
 Joel Brown, Maidens VA  
 Dale/Maureen Bryan, Bakersfield CA  
 Timothy/Nancy Cahill, Box Elder SD  
 Michael Calavenzo/Patty Kelley, Lynn Haven FL  
 Barbara/Larry Chance, Arlington TX  
 Michael/Mary Ann Cressler, Frisco TX  
 Don/Dorothy Daigle, Dale IN  
 Steve/Cindy Deming, Fort Worth TX  
 Larry/Sharon Dew, Priest Lake ID  
 Tim Early, La Grange IL  
 Matt Ehlers, Buffalo WY  
 David/Tammy Floyd, North Charleston SC  
 Jack Fryant, Reddington Shores FL  
 Thomas/Ronnie Furlough, Byron GA  
 Joachim/Inger Gaethe, Pflugerville TX  
 Keith/Kathy Ginder, Flemington NJ

Jack Gramley, Las Vegas NV  
 Dawn/Michael Green, Kempner TX  
 Ted/Debbie Haguewood, Waynesville NC  
 Martin Hamel/Patricia Morrison, Drummondville QC  
 Dennis/Linda Hayes, Springfield IL  
 Bill/Vicki Head, Hilton Head SC  
 John/Christine Heenan, Statesville NC  
 Ron/Sara Hines, Prescott AZ  
 Charles/Wimonwan Hodkins, Yuma AZ  
 Brent Hoffman, Spring Hill KS  
 Scott/Rebecca Hoffman, Maryville TN  
 Gary/Mindy Holzermer, Venice FL  
 Jeremiah/Rosie Junkins, Santa Clara CA  
 Sandra Keys, Stigler OK  
 Dennis Kiser/Donna Crinklaw, Williamsburg VA  
 Stephen/Kelly Laccheo, Highland Hts OH  
 Frank/Susy Lezo, South Gate CA  
 Frank Liberty, Gun Barrel City TX  
 Jeff/Jennifer Link, Pine Mountain GA  
 Bobby/Karen Louton, Kerrville TX  
 John Lyles, Interlachen FL  
 Robert/Gail Maki, Bradenton FL  
 Pete/Susan Markle, Holyoke CO  
 Kenny/Brenda McInain, Leavenworth KS  
 Kristen/Daniel Metzdorf, Yuma AZ  
 Robert/Judy Miller, Altoona PA

Heidi Moore, Corpus Christi TX  
 Thomas/Barbara Morgan, Tolland CT  
 Dwin/Becky Ollison, Port Charlotte FL  
 Debbie/Keith Parrish, Oxford NC  
 Maynard/Ceri Pulling, Oroville CA  
 Patricia/Kevin Rainier, Little River SC  
 Billie-Jo/Gregory Roberts, New Freedom PA  
 John/Lisa Robinson, Katy TX  
 Steve/Desira Savage, Madill OK  
 David/Marilyn Shearman, Canyon Country CA  
 Rocky/Jan Smith, Vancouver WA  
 Dennis Stosky/Elaine Eaton, New Minas NS  
 Evan/Carolyn Strawbridge, Meriden KS  
 Randall/Laura Taylor, Prescott Valley AZ  
 Jeffrey/Annette Tripp, Cato NY  
 Robert Ward, Smartville CA  
 Robert/Michelle Watson, Douglasville GA  
 Arthur Weeks, Livingston TX  
 Richard Wellborn, Livingston TX  
 Barry/Kim Whitmore, Justin TX  
 Jerry/Debbie Willis, Landrum SC

## Future National Rally Regions

2019	Southwest Region		
2020	Southeast Region		
2021	Northwest Region		
2022	North Central Region	2024	South Central Region
2023	Northeast Region	2025	Southwest Region



## Discovery Friends



Kerry Pinkerton

There probably isn't a person reading this that would hesitate to take a phone call from another Discovery owner with a question about their coach...or local campgrounds...or where to take a coach for repair (or perhaps more important where NOT to take it) ...or what to do or see in the area. Some of us might be willing to help someone when they are broken down nearby. Some have tools and skills. Others may be able to offer a friendly smile or chase parts. Some might have a place to park an RV and welcome visitors. Some might want to get together and visit...or eat.

This is what Discovery Friends is all about, a group of folks with similar interests who are willing to do for others what they hope folks would do for them. Of course, "I'm tied up right now" is always an acceptable answer. The point is, there is no commitment. We all travel, we all have lives and things going on. Everyone understands that.

Discovery Friends is implemented on the DOAI website, so your contact information is behind the DOAI firewall. To join, you'll need your DOAI member number and password and click on the link on the home page for DISCOVERY FRIENDS. There is an online form you fill out and that's it. You'll need to provide contact info like cell phones, email addresses, and a general location (City).

Even if you are not a Friend yourself, any DOAI member has access to the information. There are online or downloadable spreadsheets (or PDFs) of Friends sorted by name, state, year/model of coach. In addition, there is an online map, so you can quickly identify Discovery Friends near you or near your route.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [Pinkertonk@yahoo.com](mailto:Pinkertonk@yahoo.com) or look up my cell phone on the Friends list and give me a call.

We hope YOU will join us! ❖

## DOAI'ers Gathered In Arizona

It was a sunny day in Yuma's Fortuna Foothills on January 28 when 24 Discovery owners gathered for a great Ipotluck meal, conversation, and fellowship. New friendships were formed as longtime DOAI members welcomed newbies and a couple of non-members (who later that day joined DOAI). The spread was bountiful: each couple brought delicious food to share. The bounty was augmented by a generous cash donation from RV World Yuma via their general sales manager, Greg Svalstad. Those funds were used to purchase liquid refreshments (beer, wine, sodas), along with meat, cheese, and veggie trays. RV World also donated a case of bottled water. In case you aren't aware, RV World Yuma pays for the first year's membership for anyone purchasing a Discovery by Fleetwood unit from the dealership. RV World Yuma is a longtime supporter of DOAI, and we extend thanks to Greg, the Green family, and to RV World Yuma for their support.

The photo includes everyone present except photographer Angel Rodriguez: Becky Hazen and Lonnie Hodge, Helmut and Rose Kanoldt, John and Sylvia McLaughlin, Pat and Mo McClurg, David and Brenda Neumeier, Norm and Jolie Ritchie, Angel and Teresa Rogriguez, Paul and Doris Smith, Carl and Christina Straubel, and Wally and Annie Wallington, and brand-new members Chuck and Mam Hodkins. Bob and Nina Soltwedel were the hosts.

If you will be somewhere in the American Southwest next January, stay tuned for the announcement of the 2019 gathering. The annual event usually takes place in late January, after the Blythe (California) Bluegrass Festival. There'll be a notice in the October 2018 and January 2019 newsletters, postings to the DOAI eGroup, as well as emails to everyone who has attended before. As the old saying goes, "The more, the merrier"!

Report submitted by Nina Soltwedel. ❖





Nina Soltwedel

## Secretary's Report

At the 2018 Southeast Region Rally in Seffner, Fla., the Board of Directors met on January 30 and February 2 (not enough time to discuss all topics, resulting in an agreement that future board meetings at national and regional rallies would take place in two segments: one at the beginning and another at the end of the rally, and should last no more than two hours each).

A quorum was present with Ron Wacker, Marshall Godwin, Ricky Keen, MaryAnn Crowell, Jeff Daly, Bruce Plumb, Gary Osburn, Kerry Pinkerton, and Jody Bruce. Also present was non-voting Felix Jones representing Jim Sullivan. Absent were John Baker, Nina Soltwedel, Becky Hazen, Kristy Green, Elaine Holley, and Bob Cook. Later present, John Ricciardi.

President Wacker called the meeting to order at 3:00pm, January 30, and again at 11:45am, February 2.

\* President Ron announced DOAI "license plates" will be available for members to order on the DOAI website. He appointed Mike Hopkins to audit the books for 2017 (it was announced later that Mike agreed to serve on the Audit Committee for 2018-2019, and that Mark Salomon agreed to serve, as well).

\* Past President John reported on the 2017 election results. The electees were approved by the Board. A motion was made, seconded and passed that future elections will be via electronic ballot only:

\* Executive Vice President Marshall reported on the number of coaches attending, and will check with Lazydays on exact count of meals, parking, etc.

\* President Ron announced that Keith Lindholm had resigned as Vice President for Development. Motion made, seconded and passed to appoint John Ricciardi to serve the remainder of Keith's term.

\* Secretary Nina provided copies of a response from Fleetwood/REV Group re the use of the Discovery logo. The consensus that DOAI must make sure that any items the club sells or distributes must use the correct logo.

\* Treasurer Ricky announced the club is awaiting a response from the IRS vis a vis group exemption for chapters.

\* National Rally Master MaryAnn distributed a list of jobs for the 20th National Homecoming Rally, and several members stepped up to fill various positions. Motion made, seconded and passed to increase the Camp Discovery notebook fee to \$20. Still waiting for information from two RV parks re the 2019 national rally. MaryAnn has also been serving as the DOAI Historian, and a discussion of all aspects of the job ensued. A motion was made, seconded and passed to eliminate the Historian position and to continue adding information to the DOAI website. The action removed the Historian paragraph from Standing Rule #15. The revised Standing Rules, dated February 2, 2018, can be accessed at [www.discoveryowners.com/StandingRules.pdf](http://www.discoveryowners.com/StandingRules.pdf).

\* North Central Region Vice President Bruce asked about the region vice presidents' responsibility vis a vis chapters. After discussion, it was that the region vice presidents get together and come up with how they feel the job descriptions should read.

\* General discussion items:

\* Fred Jecks will be registrar for the 2019 Southeast Region Rally.

\* Nina will email the 20th National Rally logo to Jody Bruce.

\* At the 2018 National Rally, a meeting of all region vice presidents should take place, in addition to the usual chapter presidents' meeting.

\* Marshall will call Fleetwood to introduce John Ricciardi as the new Vice President for Development. A discussion of the job title resulted in the Board agreeing that the title should be changed to better reflect current times. Marshall and John will work on this and present their suggestions to the Board for discussion.

\* The role of region vice presidents was discussed in detail. Bruce Plumb and Kerry Pinkerton will begin investigating how the region vice presidents can be better utilized and will report back to the Board at a later date with suggestions.

Complete minutes are posted at <http://www.discoveryowners.com/BOD.pdf> ❖

## Blast From The Past - On Joining A Chapter

Chapters are friendship-building ..... this time of year is a great time to attend a local chapter rally. Check the rally schedule ... (a consolidated rally schedule is now kept online) ... and join in with those in your area or a chapter gathering along the route you are traveling. A nice campfire... makes for a perfect way to end a day spent with friends. By Marshall Godwin, from the President's Message, Fall 2008 Discovery Express

## DOAI Website Now Has Encryption



Bob Cook

In late February, SSL Encryption was added to the DOAI website. Depending on your browser, the address bar now displays the word Secure, a padlock or other icon indicating that the web site is secure and encrypted. This was a small but very important change.

Although there is no “high value” information on the website – we do not directly make any financial transactions – this security feature protects you from malicious software or ads being injected into our web pages by third parties and other possible attacks. Although the likelihood of malicious software is very small, with the demise of net neutrality it is very possible that ads could have been injected into our pages without our permission. The actions we have taken will prevent that.

Adding SSL to the website will also make it easier for others to find our website as most search engines de-prioritize non-encrypted web sites. More importantly, some web browsers will start blocking access to non-secure sites starting later this year. Although there will be a click-through procedure to allow access to a non-secure website, you will not have to deal with that hassle when visiting the DOAI website.

We all owe a word of thanks to Al de Haas who has assisted greatly in this transition. Al has contributed to many things in the past to make the website run smoothly, and his knowledge and many years of experience has been a real asset to DOAI. ❖



### Get Three, Earn One

The headline says it all ... get three Discovery owners to join DOAI and you will earn yourself a free year of membership. It's easy; if you're in a park or parking lot, and you see a Discovery, don't be afraid to knock on their door and ask if they are DOAI members. If they are, share how you've each found value from using your memberships. If not, share what fun you have as a goose member and the great things you have learned. Check the website for new member information materials and print some out to have on hand. A copy of this newsletter would work as well.



## 2018 DOAI Board/Coordinators/Chapters/Website

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/VOTING

#### President

Ron Wacker, 4155 Grandchamp Cir.,  
Palm Harbor, FL 34685-1094;  
813.240.6552;  
discovery@rvfunhome.com

#### Executive Vice President/Registered Agent

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

#### Past President/Nominating

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

#### Vice President for Development

John Ricciardi, 477 The Gardens Dr,  
Crossville TN 38555-0301;  
252-619-6485; 252.619.7198;  
john.l.ricciardi@gmail.com

#### Secretary/Member Care

Nina Soltwedel, 4736 Harwich St,  
Boulder CO 80301-4217; 303.530.0775;  
303.570.2736;  
doaisecretary@discoveryowners.com

#### Treasurer

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

#### National Rally Master

MaryAnn Crowell, 207 County Rd  
3000, Lott TX 76656-3828;  
254.644.6225;  
macrowell979@gmail.com

#### North Central Region Vice President - NC

(IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND,  
SD, WI, MB, ON)  
Bruce Plumb, 4384 State Hwy Y, Galena  
MO 65656-4604; 417.239.4544;  
417-619-4235;  
bruce@RanchGrandKid.com

#### Northeast Region Vice President - NE

(CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA,  
RI, VT, NB, NL, NS, PE, QC)  
Jeff Daly, 19 Glover Dr, Dix Hills NY  
11746-6517; 631.586.1327;  
516.241.3133; jrdaly48@optonline.net

#### Northwest Region Vice President- NW

(AK, CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WY,  
AB, BC, NT, SK, YT)  
Becky Hazen, 1876 Riverwood Rd,  
Twin Falls ID 83301-3084;  
208.404.9039;  
bhazen@bluelakesport.com

#### South Central Region Vice President - SC

(AR, LA, OK, TX)  
Gary Osburn, 2414 Santa Maria Ln,  
Corpus Christi TX 78415-6909;  
210.859.6185;  
garyanddebby@yahoo.com

#### Southeast Region Vice President - SE

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

#### Southwest Region Vice President - SW

(AZ, CA, HI, NV, NM)  
Jim Sullivan, 2238 Emerald Cir, Morro  
Bay CA 93442-1588; 408.623.4701;  
ssull5213@aol.com

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/NON-VOTING

#### Membership Coordinator

Elaine Holley, 2317 Fran Cir, Clyde TX  
79510-3441; toll-free 888.594.6818;  
doaimembership@discoveryowners.com

#### Merchandise Coordinator

Jody Bruce, 25340 Plum St, Brooksville  
FL 34601-4716; 813.920.1234;  
813.744.0411; bruce7073@gmail.com

#### Newsletter Editor

Kristy Green, 109 Greenbriar Dr,  
Greenville NC 27834-6634;  
703.221.0312; 703.328.8810;  
kristyann66@yahoo.com

#### Webmaster

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

### STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHERS

#### Audit Committee

Mike Hopkins, 5753 Hwy 85 N #4444,  
Crestview FL 32536-9365;  
770.459.5454; 770.363.2888;  
chindog@chin.org

Mark Salomon, 6625 Thoroughbred  
Loop, Odessa FL 33556-1814;  
813.920.5071; 813.240.9338;  
salomon.mark@gmail.com

#### Founder/President Emeritus

Jim Devine, 10321 Jacob Ct, Fairhope  
AL 36532-4534; 970.209.4757;  
f195810@gmail.com

#### Website

www.discoveryowners.com

### CHAPTERS AND PRESIDENTS

#### Blue Ridge Discoverys (SE Region)

Vice President Tom Leydic, 16  
Chapman Ave, Isle of Palms SC 29451-  
2414; 843.866.5897; 843.696.4274;  
tgleydic@gmail.com

#### Discovery California (SW Region)

Jim Sullivan, 2238 Emerald Cir, Morro  
Bay CA 93442-1588; 408.623.4701;  
ssull5213@aol.com

#### Discovery Texans (SC Region)

Judy Jo Bruton, 7212 61st St, Lubbock  
TX 79407-8224; 361.537.8986;  
harry@bruton.com

#### D'Zonas (SW Region)

Larry Hawkins, 894 W Diamond Rim  
Dr, Casa Grande AZ 85122-7894;  
209.914.0751;  
tackesailors@yahoo.com

#### Florida Discovery Sunshiners (SE Region)

Mark Salomon, 6625 Thoroughbred  
Loop, Odessa FL 33556-1814;  
813.920.5071; 813.240.9338;  
salomon.mark@gmail.com

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

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

#### Midwest Discoverers (NC Region)

John Hooper, 3916 N Potsdam Ave #  
1286, Sioux Falls SD 57104-7048;  
248.390.6895;  
jvhooper1223@gmail.com

#### Noreaster Discoverys (NE Region)

Bob Stewart, 6948 Rte 60 S, Cassadaga  
NY 14718-8991; 716.679.8991;  
zetapig@netsync.net

#### Northwest Adventurers (NW Region)

Gilbert (Wally) Wallington, 1729 S  
Fairway Dr, Pocatello ID 83201-2311;  
208.237.4655; 850.450.9016;  
gwallington@juno.com

#### Ozarks Discovery (NC Region)

Bruce Plumb, 4384 State Hwy Y,  
Galena MO 65656-4604;  
417.239.4544; 417.619.4235;  
bruce@RanchGrandKid.com

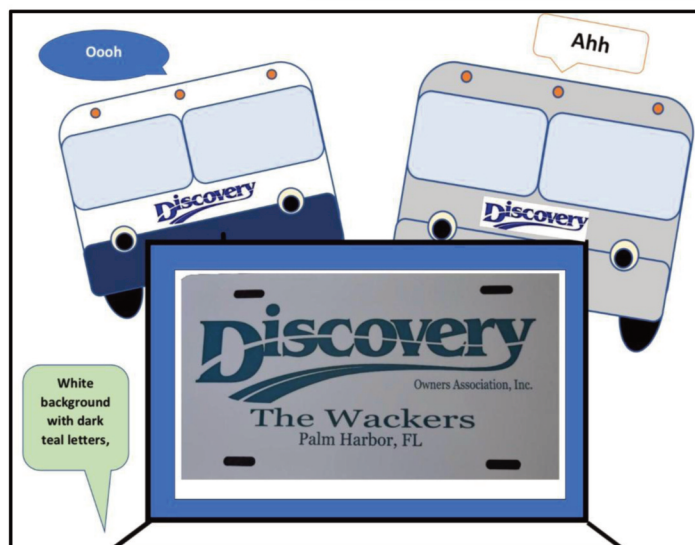
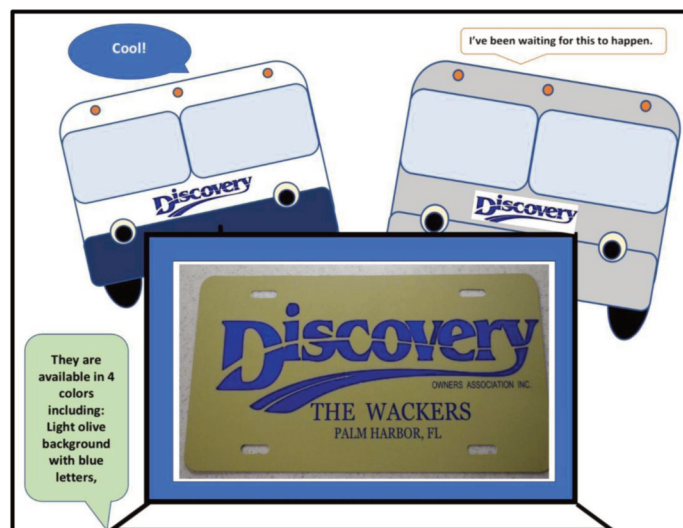
#### Texas Discovery Road Runners (SC Region)

Kathaleen Ross, 210 Lavender Ln,  
Longview TX 75605-6676;  
903.663.5889; 903.738.7162;  
landkross@att.net

# DOAI License Plate Ordering Instructions

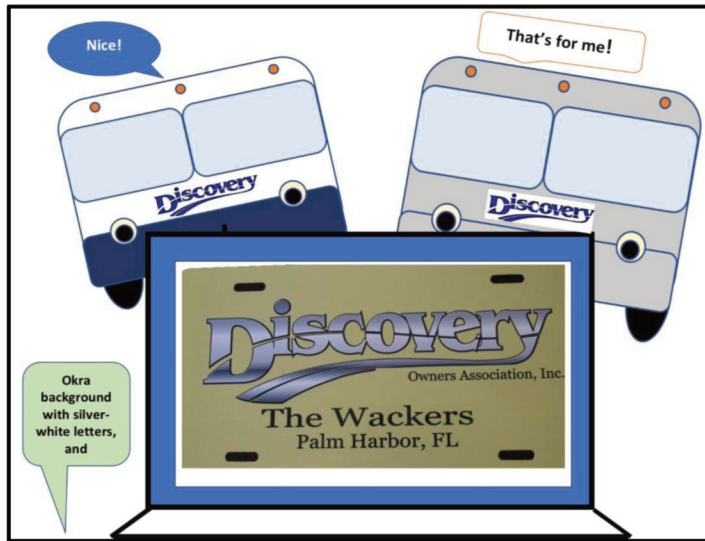


Thanks to a suggestion by Fred Jecks from Florida Discovery Sunshiners the DOAI Board approved the creation of a license plate to easily identify our members. The DOAI license plates are now available in 4 different colors. You can have them customized with your name, city and state and a picture of your state with a star about where your city is located within the state. All the customization, tax and shipping charge for your first plate are included for \$17.00. Additional plates would be \$14.00 when shipped together.

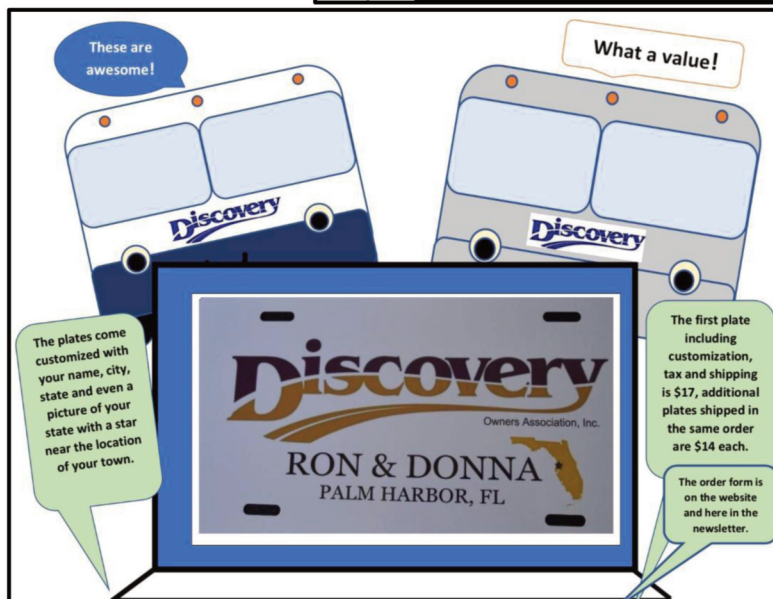
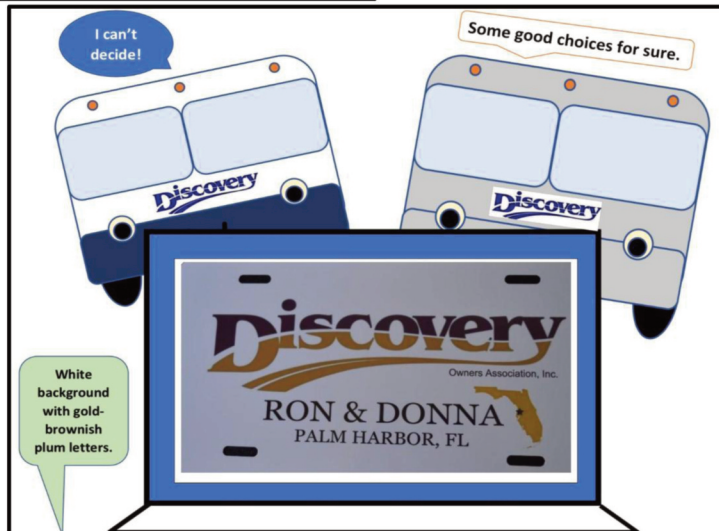


(Continued on next page...)

### DOAI License Plate Ordering Instructions, continued



So if you want to order as a club you can save shipping and order several member plates at the same time. The plates can be put on the front and back of your coach or car. The order information is on the next page and will be available on our DOAI website. Billie will accept PayPal, credit cards and checks. See the order form on the next page.



(Continued on next page...)

## DOAI License Plate Ordering Instructions, continued



Hey!  
Where ya goin'?

### **DOAI License Plate Order Information**

#### **Your Billing Shipping info**

Your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Your Plate Info**

Plate number (1 -4): \_\_\_\_\_

Line One: \_\_\_\_\_

Line Two: \_\_\_\_\_

The State picture to be put on plate: \_\_\_\_\_

The city to use as star location on state picture: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Contact Info for your order**

Email your info to: [BLPARR5151@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BLPARR5151@YAHOO.COM)

For questions: Billie Parr (727) 742-4286

#### **Prices**

1 plate \$17.00

Additional plates up to 10 are \$14.00 each.

Over 10 plates additional shipping charge



Ricky Keen

## Treasurer's Report

This is my first report to you as the new Treasurer as I begin my term of office. The first thing I want to do is thank Dick Tracy for his wonderful job, serving as the DOAI Treasurer for the last four years. He was very conscientious and thorough and left the books and records in great condition. I will quote Dick from his last report to you, "DOAI has been and remains in the very fortunate position of being in outstanding fiscal shape with a treasury that should continue to meet our ongoing fiscal needs for the foreseeable future..."

The Discovery Owners Association, Inc.'s financial statements for 2017 are being published in this newsletter. Detailed Balance Sheet and Statement of Receipts and Disbursements follow this article.

As you can see, DOAI is in excellent financial condition. Our dues receipts increased \$1,856 over the prior year, our operating expenses decreased \$2,867 and our over-all DOAI total receipts exceeded our total expenses by \$5,602. In addition, DOAI's Total Assets exceeded the \$100,000 mark in 2017, at \$101,145, an increase of \$5,151 over the prior year. ❖

**DISCOVERY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BALANCE SHEET  
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

	2017	2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash Accounts		
Petty Cash	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
Cash In Bank-General	32,593.89	29,895.44
Cash In Bank-Rally	9,941.02	6,919.94
Cash In Bank-Savings	50,137.64	50,107.57
Cash In Bank-PayPal	879.49	1,027.44
Total Cash	94,102.04	88,500.39
Merchandise Inventory-at cost	7,042.70	7,493.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 101,144.74</b>	<b>\$ 95,993.39</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		
Deferred Liabilities		
Prepaid Memberships Received	\$ 19,060.00	\$ 18,100.00
Prepaid Rally Fees Received	2,204.00	1,676.50
Deposit Set Aside for Future Chapters	0.00	592.91
Total Deferred Liabilities	21,264.00	20,369.41
Fund Balance		
Beginning Balance	75,623.98	70,909.38
Excess Cash Receipts over Disbursements	5,601.65	5,763.55
Changes from Cash Basis to Accrual Basis		
Change in Merchandise Inventory	(450.30)	1,564.55
Change in Prepaid Memberships Received	(960.00)	(937.00)
Change in Prepaid Rally Fees Received	(527.50)	(1,676.50)
Change in Deposits Set Aside	592.91	0.00
Adjusted Fund Balance	79,880.74	75,623.98
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 101,144.74</b>	<b>\$ 95,993.39</b>

*(Continued on next page...)*

## Discovery Owners Association, Inc. 20th Anniversary

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of our very own Discovery Owners Association, Incorporated and we have some partying planned for us. Time to pat ourselves on the back and celebrate our efforts in promoting and informing the wonderful RV lifestyle traditions we have created with our Discoverys.



## Treasurer's report, continued

**DISCOVERY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

	December 31	
	2017	2016
<b>RECEIPTS-OPERATIONS</b>		
Dues Received	\$ 20,837.72	\$ 18,981.28
Amazon Commissions	254.03	387.94
Interest Income	30.07	239.76
Total Receipts-Operations	<u>21,121.82</u>	<u>19,608.98</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS-OPERATIONS</b>		
Newsletter Expense	2,275.00	4,739.36
Membership Expense	1,000.42	1,730.36
Insurance Expense	2,277.00	2,462.11
Advertising Expense	220.80	220.80
Member Care Expense	0.00	15.58
Website Expense	185.74	485.00
Rally Fee Reimbursements	7,673.33	7,857.00
Office Supplies, Postage, etc	0.00	36.36
PayPal Charges	641.49	553.39
DOAI Badge Holders and Flags	1,594.22	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	67.78	702.59
Total Disbursements-Operations	<u>15,935.78</u>	<u>18,802.55</u>
<b>RECEIPTS-OTHER</b>		
Rally Receipts over Disbursements-National Rally	6,074.08	4,630.36
Rally Receipts over Disbursements-SE Rally	(710.98)	938.71
Quilt Raffle Proceeds	1,925.00	1,170.00
50/50 Donations Proceeds	1,316.50	988.50
Prepaid Rally Fees	2,204.00	1,676.50
Merchandise Sales	2,746.00	3,004.00
Total Receipts-Other	<u>13,554.60</u>	<u>12,408.07</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS-OTHER</b>		
Merchandise Purchases	2,170.56	3,980.44
Quilt Raffle Donations Disbursed	1,925.00	1,170.00
50/50 Donations Disbursed	1,316.50	988.50
Net Rally Fees Paid to Chapters	2,000.00	938.71
IRS Filing Fee	3,000.00	0.00
New Chapter Start Up Assistance	592.91	0.00
Deposits Paid for Future Rallies	1,500.00	350.00
Future Rally Expenses	634.02	23.30
Total Disbursements-Other	<u>13,138.99</u>	<u>7,450.95</u>
<b>NET RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u><b>\$ 5,601.65</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 5,763.55</b></u>
<b>BEGINNING CASH BALANCE</b>	\$ 88,500.39	\$ 82,736.84
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>5,601.65</u>	<u>5,763.55</u>
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>	<u><b>\$ 94,102.04</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 88,500.39</b></u>

## DOAI Electronic Forums

DOAI has helpful online forums including the DOAI Bulletin Board and eGroup. Full instructions are on the DOAI website, choose Forums from the left menu and then either Bulletin Board or eGroup to find out more.



Judy Jo Bruton

## DOAI National Rally Quilt

Each year many DOAI members work throughout the year piecing together a quilt in time for the National Rally. This quilt receives final touches during the rally and is then raffled off at the ceremonies. The proceeds go to the DOAI sponsored local charity to be determined for the rally location.

The central piece of this quilt can be seen in the photo. It will travel all over the country to different ladies who will add the border to make this a king size quilt.

Watch with us as it travels and grows. ❖



*The quilt for The National Rally is traveling the US. Watch as it grows and changes God Bless all that have offered to work on it.*

## DOAI – More Than “Just” A Newsletter

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

Consolidated Rally Schedule  
 Helpful Contacts for Discovery Owners  
 DOAI Name Badge and Decal ordering information  
 Classified sale ads for Discoverys and  
 Discovery-related items  
 Hints and Tips  
 Forum (eGroup) and Bulletin Board  
 How to join Discovery Friends

DOAI Membership Sponsors  
 DOAI Information/Invitation for Non-Members  
 Application for DOAI Membership  
 National Rally information and registration form  
 Regional Rally information and registration form  
 Chapters and Chapter Rally Schedule  
 Past issues of this newsletter  
 and so much more...

## Region and Chapter reports



Chapter prez  
Wally Wallington

### Northwest Adventurers chapter

Chapter members Wally and Annie Wallington, Becky Hazen and Lonnie Hodge, David and Brenda Neumeier, Helmut and Rose Kanoldt, and Bob and Nina Soltwedel attended the annual Yuma gathering hosted by the Soltwedels on January 28. Following the meal, a meeting of the chapter included discussion of possible sites for future chapter rallies, along with ideas to encourage members to volunteer to serve in several offices. Nina volunteered to serve as Chapter Reporter, and Becky volunteered to continue as Treasurer. President Wally said he would contact various members to see if there are candidates for President and Vice President. After the meeting, Julie Chaffee agreed to serve as Secretary. Julie and Nina are in the process of revising the chapter's bylaws, which will be emailed to all members for approval sometime this summer. *Report submitted by Nina Soltwedel.* ❖



Regional Vice prez  
Gary Osburn

### South Central region

Our DOAI rallies are just the best. Debby and I hadn't attended an RV rally sponsored by a club other than DOAI (well, maybe one by the Fleetwood Motorcoach Association) in a long time so when our National Rally in Oklahoma last October was preceded by the Oklahoma Good Sam rally, we signed up for both. I expected differences but, well, that rally just didn't compare to ours. We had seminars, food, entertainment and even a hands-on workshop making an electrical testing device. They had ceremonies and introductions. Many people worked to make our rally a success but especially our National Rally Master. Thank you, MaryAnn. We appreciate your hard work. We even had great weather (except for one night).

Then there was the Southeast rally, Camp Discovery, in January. This rally is like no other and is a very busy time. It was expanded this year to an extra day and it was still a very busy week. The information offered specific to the Discovery model is more complete and in-depth than anything else in the industry and it's free. The only comparisons are Camp Freightliner's two-day class for a fee of several hundred dollars or Spartan's owner orientation class for several hundred more. For Camp Discovery, you only need to pay for parking at Lazydays if you want to stay there and pay a rally fee if you plan to attend the meals and evening entertainments - both are highly recommended. Indeed, every Discovery owner needs to put Camp Discovery on their agenda. It's always the last week of January and details are on the DOAI website. Make it happen but be prepared to come back. You'll learn new "stuff" every year.

The DOAI membership roster is more fluid than you might think. Our total membership remains at a pretty steady number of about 1300 – 1400 but we normally gain and lose three or four hundred members every year. This results in a shifting populace as members reach a point in age or health where they must opt out of the RV lifestyle and new members come on board. One consequence of this movement was the loss of a local chapter last year when the Louisiana Mudbugs closed shop. Like it or not, we are all ambassadors for DOAI and let's all be recruiters. There are Discovery owners out there who are not members of DOAI and many who have never even heard of us. I used to knock on the door of any Discovery I saw, take them a copy of the Discovery Express and extend a personal invitation to join in. The Express is no longer published in printed form but we all have printers and even better, we have a one-page information brochure and a membership application form on the website. Print up a few copies to have on hand. Some will join, and some won't, but you'll meet some nice folks no matter. The brochure is towards the top of the DOAI home page or you can follow this link:

[www.discoveryowners.com/DOAIMembershipBrochure](http://www.discoveryowners.com/DOAIMembershipBrochure)

Print some now while you're thinking about it. Happy Travels. ❖

## Congratulations On Our 20th Anniversary!

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of our very own Discovery Owners Association, Incorporated and we have some partying planned for us. Time to pat ourselves on the back and celebrate our efforts in promoting and informing the wonderful RV lifestyle traditions we have created with our Discoverys.





## Region and chapter reports, continued



SE Region VP  
Kerry Pinkerton

### Southeast region

The Southeast Region rally is held annually at the Lazydays campground in Seffner, FL (Tampa). The host club rotates between the three clubs in the DOAI Southeast region: Florida Discovery Sunshiners, Blue Ridge Discoverys, and the Mason Dixon Discoverys. This year a great rally was hosted by Mason Dixon and over 100 coaches attended. Marshall Godwin was the rally master.

The SE Regional has always been a ‘different’ sort of rally. Sure, there is lots of food, fellowship, and fun like any time a few Discovery owners get together, but what sets the SE regional apart is Camp Discovery, a collection of technical seminars devoted to the various systems in our coaches. Marshall Godwin developed and presented the first Discovery specific technical seminar at the 2005 National Rally in York, PA titled “What Your Daddy Never Told You About 12 Volts”. Camp Discovery began at the Southeast Region rally in 2009 when Marshall and Toni Calzone did 5 seminars and Lazydays staff did others. This aspect of the rally was very popular, in the following year, it was expanded into additional subjects. Gary Osburn, who is a Certified RV Tech, created additional subjects on things, like RV Furnaces, AC, RV refrigerators, and more. The list grew over the years and this year there were five new seminars created by various owners. These seminars are an “owner to owner” information exchange neither developed by or approved by DOAI. The following is a list of the 20.5 hours of technical seminars:

- Battery Care and Charging
- Electric Levelling Jacks – NEW Bill Johnson
- Battery Control Center
- Hydraulic Levelling Jacks
- RV Furnace and Water Heater
- 50 Amp Coach 120V Distribution
- 50 Amp Tester
- Slide-outs
- RV Refrigerators
- Air Conditioners
- Generator Operation and Maintenance
- 30 Amp Coach 120V Distribution
- Water Pump and Steps – NEW Kerry Pinkerton
- Transmission Operation and Maintenance
- Aqua Hot Operation & Maintenance–NEW Bob Angus
- Living in your Discovery–NEW Kerry & Carolyn Pinkerton
- Engine and Chassis Maintenance
- Install Residential Refrigerator – NEW Bruce Plumb

In addition, representatives from Cummins Filtration did a very interesting seminar on their oil, fuel, and air filters as well as coolant. One of their vendors, Kenworth of Tampa was on hand to provide Fleetguard filters at a 50% discount. They were very busy with orders and a LOT of folks took advantage of the discount. Filters were delivered to the campground or, in a few cases, shipped back to the owners at no charge. They indicated their interest in returning next year.

The vendor day had over 20 vendors in attendance.

On the non-technical side there were 13.5 hours of seminars and events.

-Glenda Angus and her sister Gloria Davis, did two very well attended sessions on Genealogy.

-The husband and wife team called “Geeks on Tour” were on hand all week doing seminars and one on one coaching on how to use modern technology to better our lives in the coach.

-Pampered Chef by Stacy Janoske

-Bracelets by Donna Wacker

-Fantasy Tours

-The golf folks got a good day to play although it was a bit chilly.

-Last, but not least, there was a well-attended pet parade organized by Retha Hopkins.

We ate well with four catered meals and one potluck dinner, not to mention a variety of happy hours. We had three nights of entertainment plus one movie night. Jim Devine, DOAI founder was there for the first night.

This continues to be a great rally! Make your plans now to join us at the 2019 rally hosted by the Florida Discovery Sunshiners January 27- February 1, 2019. ❖

*(Continued on next page...)*

## Editor’s Note - Thank You

This newsletter is all about you, Chapters and Regions and your activities. If you have photographs of your latest rallies and chapter activities, please submit them to your chapter president or secretary for possible inclusion with their quarterly report in the newsletter. Also, if you have done something special featuring your D that you would like to share, please send your article to me along with pictures. Pictures should be high resolution, color and able to fit in an e-mail. Please identify people individually if the group is of 16 or fewer people. The next newsletter deadline for submissions is June 15, 2018. Questions or submissions can be sent to the editor at: [doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com](mailto:doaiexpress@discoveryowners.com).

## Region and chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez  
Marshall Goodwin

### Mason-Dixon Discoverys chapter

The Maxon-Dixon Discoverys chapter hosted the recently completed SE Region Rally. Every major DOAI rally takes a lot of prior planning to execute a successful rally. The total effort can be a very rewarding experience. We had a great rally thanks to all the efforts of our chapter members. It was fun, entertaining and educational. There is nothing like a gathering of over a hundred Discovery coaches. This group knows how to have a good time!

I was elected president at the chapter meeting at Lazydays. I want to thank our Past President, Dick Tracy, for the time and energy he put into this group to sustain and grow the chapter.

Dick is helping our new Rally Master, Fred Needel, to organize and host the upcoming May chapter gathering in the Lancaster, PA, area. Rally details are on the Mason-Dixon Chapter portion of DOAI's website. If you live near or are just passing through, please consider attending the rally. All DOAI members are welcome.

We are in the early planning stage for the fall rally that may include a rolling rally to the DOAI National in Goshen, IN. A good place to start would be Candy Hill Campground in Winchester, VA. Candy Hill is where the chapter formation meeting took place 14 years ago to establish the Mason-Dixon Discoverys. DOAI founders, Jim and Dorothy Devine, were there to make sure we got off to a good start. It worked.

We want to welcome new members Denis Kiser and Donna Crinklaw from Williamsburg, VA as well as Steve and Julianna Bachmann from Springfield, VA. I invite you to join our chapter, especially if you live in the PA, NJ, DE, VA, WV, NC, KY or TN area. Lasting friendships are formed through chapter activities. ❖



*Row 1 (left to right)  
Alice Ricciardi, Pat Tracy, Donna Crinklaw, Glenda Angus, Helen Blackwell*

*Row 2:  
Dick Tracy, John Ricciardi, Zane Murphy, Sue Murphy, Jeanne Stewart, Carol Newberry,  
Mary Anne Weinberg, Dennis Kiser, Sonny Blackwell*

*Row 3:  
Susan Sincock, Craig Sincock, Marshall Godwin, Bob Stewart, Bob Angus, Larry Weinberg,  
Grant Newberry*

### Region and chapter reports, continued

#### Texas Discovery Road Runners chapter



Chapter prez  
Kathaleen Ross

“Time flies when you’re having fun”, and didn’t 2017 fly by? Reflecting on the past quarter, the Discovery Road Runners are remembering a fabulous trip to San Angelo.

Carol and Barry hosted a rally as varied as Texas! We went from Miss Hattie’s Bordello to Mt Carmel Hermitage, where we were given a fascinating private tour by one of the monks. Carol then lined up a tour of a wind farm with safety lectures and an inspection of one of many windmills that pepper the horizon for as far as one could see. The Christmas celebration was re-enacted at Fort Concho; cannon firing and all! “Neeedless” to say, nobody went hungry; we had barbecue at Cooper’s and dinner at Zero One Ale House. The “cherry on the top” was a visit to the lovely home of Carol and Barry where we spent an afternoon of relaxing in their garden surrounded by birds and butterflies, sharing each other’s company, and finishing off with a great dinner. We had a wonderful time!

The Regional Rally at Seffner, Florida is now behind us and spring is on the horizon. The Discovery Road Runners are readying for another season of RVing. Our March rally is slated for Galveston Island RV Resort, to be hosted by Pam and Terry Shoemaker. May will find us rallying at Bushman’s RV Resort in Bullard, Texas; South of Tyler, Texas. Plans are being made for a rolling rally in September to the National Rally in Goshen, Indiana. “The Christmas Capital of Texas”, Grapevine, Texas will be the site of our last rally of the year in November.

A fun year of RVing is ahead, and the Texas Discovery Road Runners are ready to roll.  
Happy traveling to all! ❖



Mount Carmel Hermitage  
L > R: Lovetta Simpson,  
Carol Sturm, Kathaleen Ross



Windmill Farm  
L>R Halley “Doc” Simpson,  
b. Engineer supervising tour, Barry  
Cummings, Malise Prieto, Carol Sturm  
Front: Loret Ross



Zero One Restaurant  
L > R: Rick Delaune, Terri  
Dykman, Judy Bruner (Guest),  
Carol Sturm, Barry Cummings,  
Right f. Noel Montgomery



Windmill Farm  
Front: Lovetta Simpson,  
L > R: Carol Sturm, Loret  
Ross, Tour Guide (Carol’s  
Friend), Barry Cummings,  
Engineer supervising tour,  
Halley “Doc” Simpson



Chapel at Mount Carmel  
Hermitage

## Region and Chapter reports

### Ozarks Discovery chapter



Bruce Plumb  
Judy Jo Bruton

The Ozarks Discovery Chapter gathered in full force for the SE Region Rally, better known as Camp Discovery, at Lazydays in Seffner, FL, January 28 – February 3, 2018. Including members who joined our chapter during the rally we set an all time attendance record for any Ozarks Discovery Rally since our inception . . . 15 members present!

As is customary for Camp Discovery, many attended technical seminars put on by various DOAI members as well as a variety of seminars, such as Cooking with a Convection Oven, presented by Lazydays.

Another highlight of the Seffner area is in Plant City, FL, Parksdale Farm, where strawberries are in season this time of year! Parksdale Market serves a huge bowl of strawberry shortcake, featuring their homemade shortcake, generous portion of strawberries and whipped cream piled high for around \$4! If you are ever in this area you DO NOT want to miss this experience.

On Thursday the local Discovery Dealer, General RV, put on a personalized RV Show of all the Discovery models for 2018. While there they fed us a great lunch and later dessert. A representative from REV (Fleetwood) spoke to us and told us what is going on at Fleetwood.

We had a Chapter Meeting and welcomed our new members, reviewed our financial status, and discussed our 2018 rallies. After the meeting we took our “official” Rally photo. See below.

Our Spring Rally, May 3-6, will be held at the Double J Campground near Springfield, IL. We plan to take in the President Abraham Lincoln home, museum, library, and tomb.

Our Fall Rally, October 18-21, will be held at the Creeks Golf and RV Resort in NW Arkansas to coincide with the War Eagle Craft Show. ❖



*From Left to Right: Ricky and Debbie Keen, Karen and Randy Kemp, Bruce and Nancy Plumb, Renee and Ken Diaz, Cindy and Al Welch, Randy and Mary Conklen, Chris and Don Muskopf, John Heinrich.*



*Ricky Keen enjoys a strawberry shortcake*

## Look Who Just Turned 20!

Can you believe it? This year marks the 20th Anniversary! Drumroll please....



## Region and chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez  
John Hooper

### Midwest Discoverers chapter

The Midwest Discoverers are excited and looking forward to a great June Rally in Millersburg, Ohio. If you have never been to the Amish area of Ohio, you have been missing one of the truly delightful areas of this great nation. If you have been to that area, you already know how warm and welcoming the Amish are. There are so many wonderful and interesting things to do and see there. The Rally will begin on June 11th and run through Saturday, June 16th with departure on the 17th. Brad and Nancy McKitrick are the Rally Hosts and as always, they fill the agenda with interesting and fun things to do and see.

The DOAI National Rally will be in Goshen, Indiana September 10 – 15 celebrating the 20th Year of the DOAI organization. What a celebration that will be! Midwest Discoverers are encouraged to attend the National Rally and then truck into the Great Smokey Mountains for the Chapter Fall Rally. The Chapter Fall Rally will be in the western mountains of North Carolina at a place call Lake Junaluska. The Rally begins on September 23 departing on September 30th. More on the Fall Rally later. ❖



Chapter prez  
Judy Jo Bruton

### Discovery Texans chapter

We want to start out by welcoming our newest chapter members: Daniel and Kimber Briggs, Mike and Mary Ann Cressler, Steve and Cindy Deming, Joachim and Inger Gaethe, Bill and Shirley Parish and James and Debbie McKinney. We are so pleased you have chosen to join the Discovery Texans chapter.

We have been so fortunate to have had such an exciting few months for our 15 new members. Our first rally of the New Year had a very cold start at KE Bushman RV Park in Bullard, Texas. This was a very nice park with friendly staff. Oh, did I mention there was a winery just three miles away.

Our rally started on Wednesday with dinner at Taco El Conquistador Mexican Restaurant in Bullard, where we enjoyed good food and wonderful fellowship.

Thursday morning our hosts provided doughnuts and coffee to get everyone up and moving. This was indeed a great treat for all our sleepy heads. Thursday night the efforts of our group brought together a wonderful potluck dinner of soups, breads and desserts to warm us up.

Friday and Saturday our hosts, Al & Cindy Welch and Tracy & Rosemary Gaulding prepared delicious breakfasts and dinners. On Friday, we had an additional guest, Jackie, Bill Holley's cousin, join us for dinner and games.

The men started a "men's coffee" in the morning to discuss???? While on Saturday the ladies headed into Tyler for a day of shopping.

As with all our rallies, playing games in the afternoons and after dinner in the rally hall is a big hit.

We are so grateful when guests join in our rallies. Please consider joining us for one of our rallies.

In January five member rigs headed to Florida for the DOAI 2018 SE Regional "Camp Discovery".

Our next rally will be May 16 – 19 at American RV Park in Corsicana, Texas. If you would like to join our rally, please fill out a guest registration form on the DOAI website or contact any member for assistance. Our last rally of the year will be November 7 - 10 at Coffee Creek RV Resort and Cabins in Santo, Texas. We plan our rallies for Wednesday through Saturday departing on Sunday.

We were extremely saddened to learn of the passing of one of our past members, Mr. Leon Sikes. Please keep Elsie and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Hope to see y'all in the near future. Safe travels everyone. *Submitted by Susan Smith, Secretary* ❖

## Blast From the Past - D's On Parade



DOAI National Rally 1999 -  
Richmond, Indiana

## Region and chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez  
Jim Sullivan

### Discovery California chapter

Larry and Cathy Hawkins invited California Discovery to join them for D'Zonas' annual trip south of the border, down in ole Mexico in Puerto Peñasco. Discovery California had 6 rigs and a couple of SOBs that trailed along with Larry's circus. We traveled with Bill & Linda Johnson, Al & Carmen Grijalva, Bill & Meg Pardini, Mike & Mary Lou Phipps, Jim & Robin Haddock, our Canadian members, and our SOB's were Tim & Deann Smith with his Uncle Bob & Aunt Mary Jane.

We met up with the Johnsons in Yuma and caravanned with them to Ajo, Arizona, where we met up with the other Discovery California folks. After a day or so exploring the sites of Ajo which included a visit to an old graveyard and a stop at the huge open pit copper mine, we headed down in our jeeps to Organ Pipe National Monument. What a gem! After a stop at the visitor center and lunch, it was off for a delightful drive through the western section of the park.

The next morning, we joined up with Larry Hawkins' entourage in the bustling town of Why, Arizona. The big entertainment in Why is the two coyotes that hang out between the gas station and the diner. After everyone assembled, we drove down to the border town of Lukeville where Paul and Doris Smith and their contingent joined us crossing the border. This is where Larry now had 15 or so RVs to lead on our journey to Puerto Peñasco, with Paul as his tail gunner.

As we began the drive through Sonoyta, Larry began to earn his new nickname "U-turn Larry". It didn't matter to old Larry if one is towing a large trailer behind a 40 foot motorhome. Missing a rare turn, Larry had the local police, Federales, holding back traffic while 15 big, large rigs made big, wide U-turns on the main highway to Mexicali. After that, we had a long, slow drive to Puerto Peñasco. Anytime you followed Larry, one had to be ready for one of his U-turns. On an outing to an oyster farm, we made 3 U-turns before we finally made to the oyster farm.

The D'Zonas were great hosts. Everyone was made to feel welcomed. It seemed like every day there was either a happy hour or pot luck dinner. There were great eating establishments, and adjunct to the park was a watering hole called the Wreck. We had a great group dinner overlooking the harbor at the Casa del Capitan Restaurant. What a view, dinner was great, and company was the best.

We had planned to take a booze cruise to watch the sunset and see the sights. The day of the cruise the weather turned and we decided to postpone the cruise until the following day, Valentine's Day. Things went downhill from there. The bus never showed up and the trip was cancelled. The person who took our money had lots of excuses from being in the hospital and having a heart attack (not). Actually, he had absconded with our money, the boat was in dry dock since September, and there was no real plans for our cruise. To the rescues comes, Larry Hawkins, Gary Velasquez, Steve Kittle, and our bilingual speaker, Al Grijalva. Tracking down the miscreant wasn't easy but the group found an ally, a local fisherman who worried that this fraud would be bad for local business. This man led our group of vigilantes to the local prosecutor and magistrate. After four hours of investigation, the culprits returned our monies. None of this would have been possible if not for Al's bilingual ability. Al was able to bridge the language barrier with the Mexican Judiciary that brought everyone's money back. The dynamic foursome of Larry, Al, Gary & Steve were our heroes that evening.

By the time you read this, we will have just had our rally in Death Valley at the Longstreet Inn and Casino RV Resort in Amargosa Valley, Nevada. Felix and Suzie Jones were the hosts and due to their great personalities and the location made this rally into our largest rally ever. At the time of this writing, we had 19 Discoveries scheduled and three weeks still to go. We have a lot of new members attending which is the life blood of any new organization such as ours.

Discovery California is heading to the 75th Annual Santa Maria Elks Rodeo & Parade. Frank and Fonda Petronzio with the help of Susan and I are hosting this rally May 31- June 3. For a Campout Registration fee of \$220 per rig, you get 3 BBQ dinners, 2 hot breakfasts, 4 days of dry camping, activities, and 2 admission tickets to the rodeo. Additional rodeo tickets can also be purchased. Hee-haw!

Our rolling rally to Astoria has gained a lot of interest. We now have 12 Discoverys signed up. It is starting up in the Humboldt Redwoods. For those of you on the other side of the continent, this is where we have some big, old redwood trees, some of which have been around since before the birth of Christ. 12 days later we will end up in Astoria, Oregon, at the mouth of the Columbia River. Some of our travel companions will be heading north up into Washington while others will meander around Oregon. Since we will be in the area, Frank Petronzio is attempting to coordinate a "fix it day" at the Fleetwood repair facility in Coburg, Oregon. From Astoria some of our travel

*(Continued on next page...)*

### Region and chapter reports, continued

companions will be heading north up into Washington State while others will meander around Oregon.

Susan and I are in the planning stages for a long-delayed visit to Florida. Hopefully, we will be home for the grandkids at Christmas.

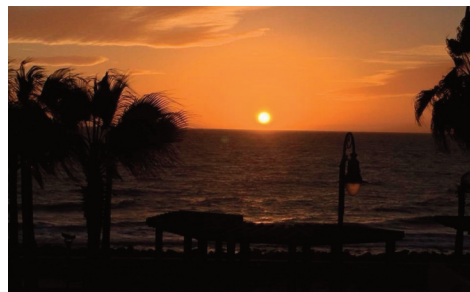
We have no plans at this time for a fall rally, but there are a couple of members that have expressed interest in hosting a fall rally. As soon as we have any information, it will be posted on the DOAI website thanks to Bob Cook.



*Breakfast in Puerto Peñasco: Al & Carmen Grijalva, Barb & Gary, Robin & Jim Hadcock, and Linda & Bill Johnson*



*Group photo from Al Grijalva's drone*



*Sunset at The Reef RV Campground*



*Linda & Bill Johnson, Jim & Susan Sullivan, Al & Carmen Grijalva, Deann & Tim Smith at Organ Pipe National Monument*



*Dinner at La Casa del Capitan on top of the hill of Puerto Peñasco Old Port  
Meg West, Bill Pardini, Mary Lou & Mike Phipps*

*(Continued on next page...)*

Region and chapter reports, continued



Chapter prez  
Bob Stewart

Noreaster Discoverys chapter

What a great time was had again at the Camp Discovery Southeast Regional Rally at Lazydays in Seffner, Florida. It was very well done - there was great fellowship, great meals and entertainment, some great vendors, and the seminars were awesome. Rally Master Marshall Godwin and the Mason-Dixon chapter that hosted are to be commended. When all tallies were in, 110 coaches were present during the week, including over 40 first time attendee coaches. It was exciting, and if you didn't come away knowing more about your coach, or meet some new friends, or renew with old friends – you weren't at the Rally!

Many of our members were in attendance, including: the Daly's, the McKitrick's, the Raphael's, the Riccardi's, the Tracy's, the Stewart's, and of course Capt' Jack Romeyk. It was great seeing and hanging out with you all. Being with friends, old and making new, is what we enjoy most about being DOAI members.

As we all know our twenty-year anniversary National rally will be in Indiana this fall starting Sept. 10th. This has lead us to having a stopover Rally in Niagara Falls the week before starting Tuesday, September 4th and checking out Saturday, September 8th. We will be staying at the Branches of Niagara campground and Resort on Grand Island, New York. We'll have more information in the weeks to come, as to price and agenda. Many of the attractions don't open until April so we'll get more info then.

If you're interested in joining us on this rolling rally with a stop to see the Falls and a place to park on the way to the National Rally, check our website and contact us. Even if you're not going to Indiana you can still come see all the new and exciting attractions in Niagara Falls State Park. So, add these dates to your "save the date" calendar. Have safe and fun times traveling in your Discovery this spring. See you all at the next gathering. ❖



Chapter prez  
Larry Hawkins

D'Zonas chapter

The beautiful Spring weather has arrived, and travelers are making plans. As for the D'Zonas this winter we adventured to Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. Several California Chapter members along with friends, family and various SOBs joined us, what a great trip.

A total of 18 rigs made the journey with a total of 36+ participants. What a crowd :)

On our way to the Lukeville, AZ crossing we journeyed thru Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, a beautiful scenic place.

We gathered at Granny's Kitchen and headed for the Beaches of The Sea of Cortez.

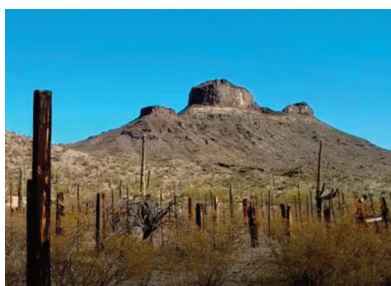
Everyone enjoyed the beach. Some kayaked, many enjoyed beach combing; some came for the quiet and the sun. Many traveled the backroads to explore scenery.

There are many great restaurants in Puerto Peñasco aka Rocky Point. People went their own way to discover their "best place". We all gathered for dinner on top of the hill one night for an especially great meal at Casa del Capitan.

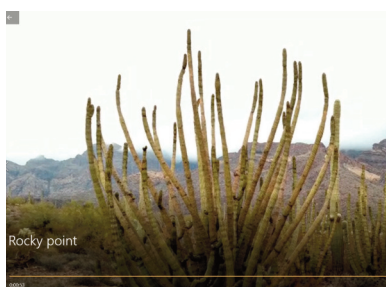
No matter what, there was always good friends, good food, and not many worries.

We enjoy putting on this event each year. Come join the D'Zonas next February... many already have reservations. I want to thank everyone for their help. I apologize for not mentioning names, but there were so many of you and I didn't want to leave anyone out.

If you are interested in joining the D'Zonas, please give us a call... 209-914-0751. ❖



Organ Pipe National Monument  
Ajo, AZ



Organ Pipe National Monument  
Ajo, AZ



Gathering at Granny's Kitchen  
in Why, AZ Susan

(Continued on next page...)



Region and chapter reports, continued



*Lining up to cross the border at Lukeville, AZ*



*Lining up to cross the border at Lukeville, AZ*



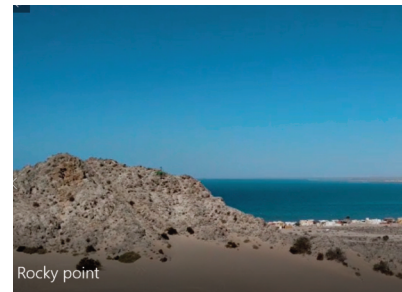
*Lining up to cross the border at Lukeville, AZ*



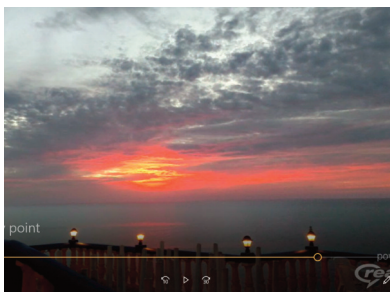
*Seeing the sights in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico*



*Seeing the sights in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico*



*Seeing the sights in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico*



*Seeing the sights in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*

*(Continued on next page...)*

Region and chapter reports, continued



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Oyster Feast*



*Oyster Feast*



*Dinner at Casa del Capitan*



*Dinner at Casa del Capitan*



*Dinner at Casa del Capitan*



*Dinner at Casa del Capitan*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*



*Happy Hours and Pot Luck dinners at the Reef RV Park*

## RV Spring Preparation Checks



Mark Polk

Is your RV ready for the upcoming camping season? When I park our RV after the last trip of the season I look forward to this time of year rolling around again, time to go camping. Last winter I was a little lazy and put the RV in storage knowing there were some maintenance related issues that would need to be addressed this spring. When you combine those items with routine spring preparation checks you need to dedicate some time to get the RV ready to go camping again.

If you follow my work you have more-than-likely heard me use the term preventive maintenance. I spent an entire career in the Army teaching young soldiers the value of preventive maintenance, and a second career passing the same valuable lessons on to RV owners. For those of you not familiar with the term, preventive maintenance is maintenance you perform on your RV, automobile, house or anything else before a problem exists. Preventive maintenance checks are designed to prevent or identify potential problems that could lead to mechanical breakdown, malfunction, or failure of a component or system on your RV. It consists of cleaning, inspecting, lubricating, adjusting and servicing your RV.

To go one step further with my explanation I like to explain that a lack of preventive maintenance and/or scheduled maintenance will eventually result in emergency maintenance. For example, if you don't check the air pressure in your tires (preventive maintenance) the under-inflated tire over heats and prematurely fails resulting in (emergency maintenance). Emergency maintenance usually leaves you stranded alongside the road, not exactly how you want to start the first RV trip of the season!

Preventive maintenance is really nothing more than common sense maintenance. If you're going to take a thousand mile trip in your automobile common sense tells us at a minimum to check all of the fluid levels, the tires and lights on the vehicle. Unfortunately, lots of folks assume all of the fluid levels are okay, and the tires look like they are inflated properly so why check them. These assumptions are why we have unexpected breakdowns.

Now consider an RV. It is larger and heavier than your automobile and it's not just the chassis you need to be concerned with, it's the entire house sitting on top of the chassis. The good news is the average RV owner can perform the required preventive maintenance and prevent untimely breakdowns and costly repairs. To assist with your RV spring preparation this is a checklist from my best-selling e-book, Checklists for RVer's:

- If your RV was winterized it will need to be de-winterized. If you used non-toxic RV antifreeze to protect the water system you need to run fresh water through the entire system until all traces of the antifreeze are removed. Hopefully no antifreeze was added to the fresh water holding tank. If it was, the first step is to drain any remnants from the tank. Add potable water to the fresh water holding tank, turn the water pump on and open all of the water faucets. When clear water is running through the system turn the pump off and close the faucets. Take the water heater out of the by-pass mode (if applicable). If the water heater wasn't bypassed the antifreeze needs to be drained from the water heater tank.

- Next, I recommend sanitizing the RV water system. Watch Sanitizing Video on You Tube.

- With the water system sanitized turn the water pump on to pressurize the system and inspect the plumbing for any water leaks.

- Check the operation of the toilet.

- Remove any protective covering that were put over exterior vents to keep insects or rodents out.

- Check any mousetraps you put in the RV. Open all the doors, drawers and compartments and check for rodent intrusion.

- Inspect the interior and exterior and all seams and sealants for any signs of water damage. Caution: When working on the RV roof be extremely careful. A fall can result in serious injury or death. Every seam on your RV and anywhere the RV manufacturer cut a hole in your RV has the potential to leak. It's important you take your time and thoroughly inspect all of these seams and sealants on the RV. I recommend inspecting and resealing the seams and sealants on the RV at least twice a year and possibly more often, depending on storage conditions. Inspecting the seams and sealants as part of your spring checks will help identify any damage that occurred during winter storage and help prepare the RV for this year's camping season. During your inspection of the RV roof seams and sealants look for signs of cracking or lifted sealants. It's important you consult your RV owner's manual, or your local RV dealer for sealants compatible with the different types of materials you are attempting to seal. Watch How to Apply Lap Sealants video.

*(Continued on next page...)*

## RV Spring Preparation Checks, continued

- Inspect the operation of the awning and inspect the awning fabric. Clean the awning if necessary and let the fabric dry thoroughly before stowing. Read my RV Awning Care & Maintenance article

- Inspect the tires for signs of wear and any cracking in the sidewalls. If there are cracks in the tire sidewalls have the tires inspected by a professional prior to using the RV. Tires lose a percentage of air pressure sitting in storage. Your RV tires can lose 2-3 psi a month, this means they could be dangerously low on air pressure. Check the tire pressure in all tires with a good tire inflation gauge and adjust the inflation pressure to the manufacturer's recommendation based on the load. Don't forget the spare tire! Remember, failing to maintain correct tire pressure based on the load can result in fast tread wear, uneven wear, poor handling, and excessive heat build-up which can lead to tire failure. Tire manufacturers publish load and inflation tables that should be followed for proper inflation pressure.

- Lubricate all hinges and locks with a spray lubricant. Use a dry graphite type lubricant that does not attract dust and dirt.

- Inspect and clean the RV's interior.

- Plug any appliances in that you unplugged for storage.

- Test the operation of the carbon monoxide detector, LP gas leak detector and smoke alarm. When your RV sits in storage it's quite common for dry cell batteries in safety devices to die. Replace the batteries in all safety devices and test the operation of the carbon monoxide detector, the LP gas leak detector and the smoke alarm. Lots of RV owners are not aware that safety devices in RVs have expiration dates. I recommend you write the expiration date on the front cover so you remember to replace it when it reaches the expiration date. Inspect all fire extinguishers to make sure they are fully charged. If you have a dry chemical fire extinguisher turn it upside down and tap the bottom several times to release any powder that settled to the bottom. Review how to properly use a fire extinguisher in the event you need to use it.

- Reset any breakers that were turned off. If you removed any fuses for storage re-install them now.

- Clean or replace air conditioner filters if it wasn't done prior to storage and remove any covers that were put over the rooftop air conditioners.

- Open vents and windows and air the unit out.

- Inspect the RV batteries. The condition of your batteries depends on how well they were cared for when they were in storage. If the battery was removed for storage reinstall the battery and make sure it is connected properly. Clean the terminals and clamps. A battery in storage can lose up to 10% of its charge every month. If you checked and re-charged the battery periodically during storage the battery should be ready to go. If you did not check the battery while in storage check the state-of-charge now and re-charge as required. Note: Water should only be added to lead acid batteries after fully charging the battery, unless the water level is already below the plates. The plates need to be covered at all times. After the battery is fully charged check and add distilled water as required. If you are not comfortable working on or around batteries have the battery maintenance done by a qualified service facility.

- Check the operation of the steps. Lubricate the step hinge points. Watch our RV lubrication video.

- Test the operation of the hydraulic jacks if applicable. Check hydraulic fluid level.

- If your RV has a generator and you didn't change the oil and filters prior to storage this is a good time to do it. Inspect the generator exhaust system for damage prior to starting. Start and run the generator for an hour or two with at least a half-rated load on it. Consult the generator's owner manual for load ratings. Caution: Do not operate a generator in an enclosed space, Carbon monoxide is deadly. Read my Generator Maintenance article.

- Turn the generator off and plug the unit into shore power. Turn the refrigerator on in the electric mode. Allow sufficient time for it to cool and check for proper operation.

- Check all 12-volt interior lights and accessories.

- Test the monitor panel for proper operation.

- Check the operation of slide-outs if applicable.

- Check the remaining 120-volt appliances for proper operation.

- Test the Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) for proper operation.

- Turn the refrigerator off, leave the doors open and allow sufficient time for it to get to room temperature so it can be checked in the LP gas mode. Note: The LP gas system should have a leak and gas operating pressure test performed by an authorized RV repair facility annually.

*(Continued on next page...)*

## RV Spring Preparation Checks, continued

- Turn the LP gas valve on at the cylinders or tank and check the operation of all LP gas appliances. Make sure the water heater is full of water before testing the water heater. If an LP gas appliance is not operating properly have it inspected by a RV repair facility.

- If it is a motorized RV and you didn't change the engine oil and filter prior to storage this would be a good time to do it.

- Check all fluid levels in the transmission, power steering, engine coolant, engine oil, windshield washer and brakes. Consult the vehicle owner's manual for proper levels and types of fluids.

- Start the engine and check for proper readings on all gauges.

- Check the condition of the windshield wiper blades and replace if necessary.

- Check the operation of all lights.

This checklist is not all-inclusive, but it's a good start. You can add or delete from the checks on this list and tailor it to your specific needs. Now for the fun part, load your clothes, food, and personal belongings, hit the road and have fun exploring this wonderful country we live in.

For more information on maintaining your RV check out our RV Care & maintenance DVD.

Happy RV Learning.

RV Education 101

mark@rveducation101.com

dawn@rveducation101.com

This article was originally posted by: Mark Polk in the April 2017 issue of the RV Education 101 electronic monthly newsletter. © Reprinted with permission.

RV expert Mark Polk owns RV Education 101, a North Carolina-based company that produces and sells education videos, DVDs and ebooks on how to use RVs. Mark has more than 30 years' 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 3 dogs in a 35-foot Class A motor home.

For more tips on preparing your RV after winter storage, head over to RV Education 101 and take a look at their newsletter for April 2018. <http://rveducation101.com>. ❖

## Summary Of Links

### Useful Links:

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

DOAI Chapter Page: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/chapters.htm>

DOAI Rally Information Page: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/nextrally.htm>

DOAI Consolidated Rally Schedule: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/rallyschedule.pdf>

DOAI Express Newsletter sign in page: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/login1.asp?stat=2&attempted-Page=https://www.discoveryowners.com/news.asp>

DOAI Useful Links on website: <https://www.discoveryowners.com/links.htm>

### Summary of Links found in this issue of Discovery Express:

Coach Weighing Information from National Rally Article:

<http://rvsafety.com/weighing/wheel-position-weighing> And <http://rvsafety.com/weighing-process-forms>

To schedule a Driving School Appointment from National Rally Article:

<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=12356154&appointmentType=category:Discovery+Owners+Association>

RV Education 101: <http://rveducation101.com>

reminder

## Quarterly Question Contest Rules

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

### Contest Details

1. The quarterly question will appear on the front page of Discovery Express. The answer to each quarter's question will be a word or a year. It will not be highlighted in any way except that, if the answer is a proper noun, it will be capitalized. It will be contained somewhere within the newsletter.
2. Entries are to be emailed to Nina Soltwedel ([nina.soltwedel@gmail.com](mailto:nina.soltwedel@gmail.com)) and must contain:
  - a. The member's name and contact information
  - b. The page number where the answer is found
  - c. The complete sentence in which the answer is contained.
3. All DOAI members are eligible to participate. A member is a coach, thus one entry per coach per quarter. A member is limited to one win each calendar year.
5. The contest will open the first day of the month of that issue and close the fifteenth day of the succeeding month of that quarter. Entries may not be submitted until the first day of a quarter (January, April, July, October), and must be received by Nina no later than 11:59pm the fifteenth day of the second month of a quarter (February, May, August, November). Responses received before the opening date will be disqualified.
6. The receipt of an entry will be acknowledged via email. One winning entry will be drawn from all correct entries.
7. The succeeding issue will name the previous quarter's winner and announce the new question.
8. The DOAI Board of Directors reserves the right to terminate the contest at any time.



If you have any questions about the contest, please contact Nina ([nina.soltwedel@gmail.com](mailto:nina.soltwedel@gmail.com)). ❖

## Blast From The Past – Rally Quilts A Tradition Of Joy & Service

For many years DOAI quilters have gathered and conspired to craft beautiful quilts to raffle for charity at the National rallies. Many thanks go out to this generous and talented group. The size of this group grows and shrinks, depending on availability, and new members are always welcome. Quilting classes have been a feature at past rallies, attend one and I am sure they will keep you in stitches. ❖



*The quilting ladies at the rally, left to right: MaryAnne Weinberg, Barbara Brady, Kathy Baker, Judy Jo Bruton, Doris Smith, Louise Mauck, Sarah Hallum, Nina Soltwedel, Roberta Trent, Freddie Perry*



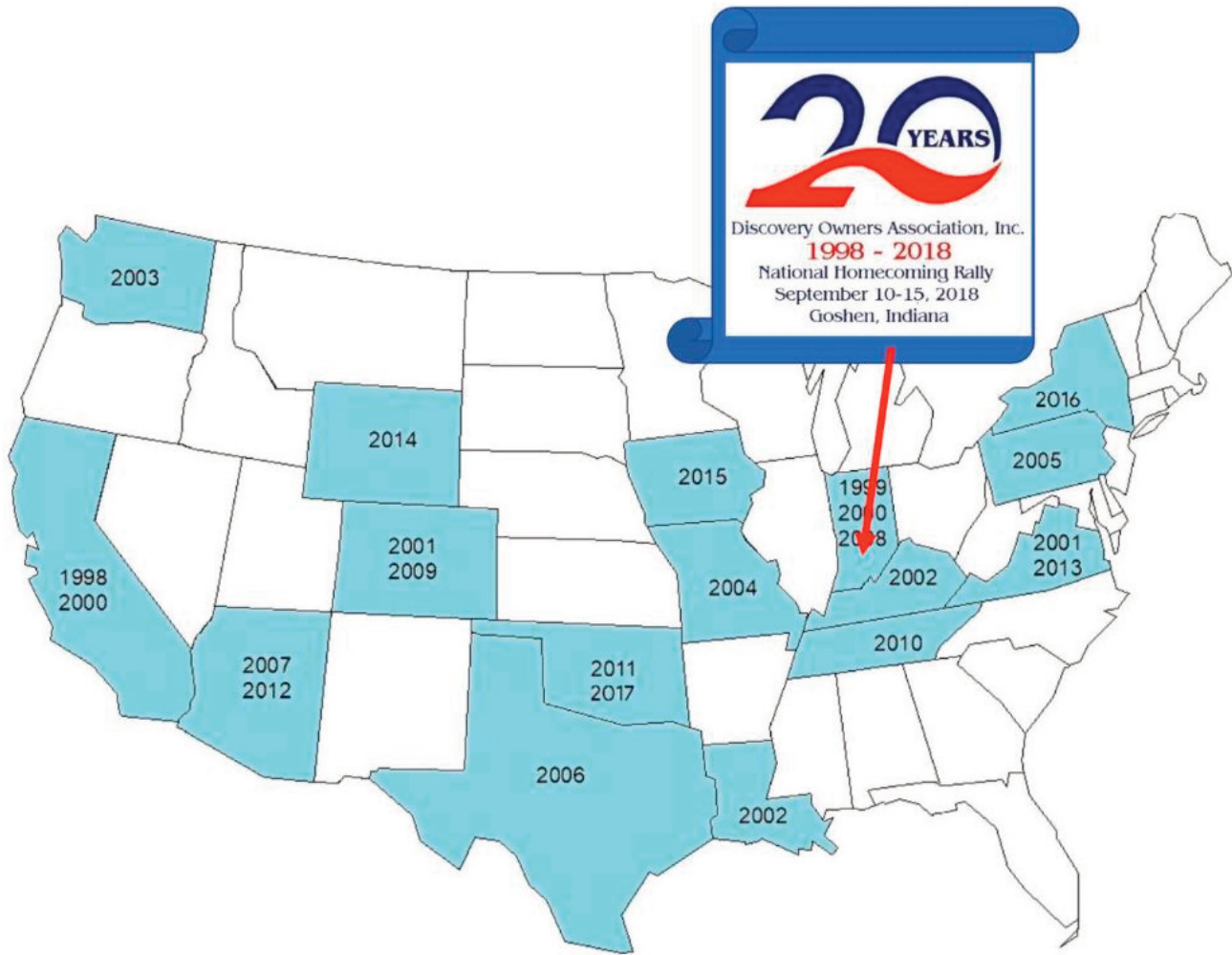
*2012 Quilt Winner  
Nina Soltwedel*



*2012 Quilt Winner  
Doris Smith*



*2014 Quilt Winner  
Jody Bruce*



**Safe Travels...**  
**See you down the road!**

