



Discovery

BY FLEETWOOD RV

EXPRESS

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COMING UP IN 2004:

Repairing front body mounts, campground memberships, traveling with pets, Michelin tire notes, fixing a slide that marks the floor, another view on navigation, modifications by D owners, and more!

Incoming President's Message

by Phil Yovino



First let me say, it will be my pleasure to be President of Discovery Owners Association. Dot and I joined DOAI in 1998 when our found-

ers, Dorothy and Jim Devine, were getting all the ends together to develop a group of officers.

We attended our first rally, a pre-FMCA rally in Perry, Georgia, where Jim and Dorothy were looking for members to step up and take command of DOAI, the great club we have today.

At that rally my name was mentioned for National Rally Master, and to be honest, as a new member I didn't think I had a chance. To my surprise, when the votes were counted, Jim called to inform me I had the job. That was a great reward. I say that because, as Rally Master, Dot and I have met and become friends with many wonderful people.

Our president at that time was the late Yolanda DeSantis, a fine lady. Yolanda said we should have a national rally in the Midwest and asked if I would locate and secure a location. With that, I started calling members in that area that might be of some help. I came up with a member in Colorado, Ed Kennedy, who invited us to attend a FMCA chapter rally in Greeley, Colorado. After the rally, Ed and his wife, Olive, offered their help to locate a suitable site for the national rally

We visited several locations and settled on the State Fairgrounds in Pueblo, Colorado. At that same rally in Greeley, we had the pleasure of being present when Ed and other D owners put together the first DOAI chapter, Discovery Pioneers. There were eight members present, and when they elected their officers, Ed became chapter rally master.

In August 1998 in Kerrville Texas, 21 DOAI members formed the second DOAI chapter, Discovery Texans; soon after

that, another chapter was formed, Disco Roadrunners.

Since that time we have put together a total of 11 chapters.

The friendships we have made have made wonderful additions to our lives. Every rally we attend, we meet new and fine people, share our travel experiences, cooking recipes, coach improvements and more.

While I was the South Central VP, at the National Rally in Rayne, Louisiana, we formed another chapter, Louisiana Mudbugs, and what a great chapter they have; they really enjoy life and friendships.

What I'm trying to say, without DOAI, Dot and I wouldn't have the opportunity of meeting our friends and traveling this great country of ours.

I encourage all our members to invite other Discovery owners to become members of DOAI and start new chapters and to feel and experience the wonderful rewards as we do.

I promise to do my best to be a good President for all the members. ❖

Outgoing President's Message

by Bob Baugh



This is my last message as president of DOAI. It's amazing how fast two years can go by. In hindsight, it has been a very enjoyable two years. The most enjoyment has been

related to the friendships formed within the membership, and the opportunity for contact with the many people that I otherwise might not have gotten to know.

When I assumed the office of president, the association had just adopted its new bylaws and standing rules. Since these were new, I set the objective to move the association to operate within these new guidelines. In some ways, this was more challenging than I had anticipated. We

Continued on next page...

*Quarterly Publication of Discovery Owners Association, Inc.,
an organization by and for owners of Fleetwood RV Discovery Motor Homes.*

About This Newsletter

Discovery EXPRESS is published four times annually. **The deadline** for copy is the 20th of the last month in each quarter: March 20, June 20, September 20 and December 20. The editor can occasionally accommodate later submissions if notice is given ahead of time.

Member addresses/telephone numbers published in this newsletter are for members' personal use only. They are not to be used by or for other organizations, nor for special interest, business, commercial, educational, philanthropic, or political purposes.

Toll-free numbers for officers and chairmen are to be used only for DOAI business, and then wisely since it is costly to DOAI to provide the numbers.

Every member is considered a reporter and as such, is encouraged to send in articles, hints and tips, and even questions and/or comments in the form of *Letters to the Editor* (we'll make every effort to get the answers).

Material for the newsletter may be sent via e-mail or via U.S. Post Office. Photos are welcome, and if sent via e-mail should be in either .jpg or .bmp format. "Regular" photos sent by snail-mail will be scanned and returned to contributors.

Discovery Express Editor

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Please notify us when your address changes! Address changes should be sent to DOAI Membership Chairman. Newsletters cost 75¢ to mail; every returned newsletter costs us 83¢ and another 83¢ to mail it to the new address...a total of \$2.41!

Membership Chairman

MaryAnn Crowell
207 County Rd 3000
Lott, TX 76656-3828
888.594.6818
relxn1@aol.com

Outgoing President's Message, Continued

had been used to operating in a rather free-lance manner and it was difficult to change. But much progress has been made. I believe we still need to make improvements in this area, but they are minor. It has been necessary to fine tune some of the standing rules and it may be necessary to make revisions to some of the bylaws. I have appointed an *ad hoc* committee to study this issue.

We have had many outstanding rallies during the past two years. The two regional rallies at Lazydays in Tampa and the one in Tucson, Arizona were excellent. The three nationals (Rayne, Louisiana, Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Kennewick, Washington) were very successful. I believe that more members should take advantage of the benefits derived by attending a regional or national rally. Also, we have added six new chapters during the past two years and there are at least two more in the formation process.

Without doubt, our association is maturing rapidly and the best is yet to come. Although the DOAI election for the new board has not yet been completed (at this writing), all the nominees are outstanding persons and the association is in good hands. My greatest hope is that we can maintain an atmosphere of openness and friendship toward all Discovery owners and not just to those who may agree with a certain doctrine or philosophy.

I have enjoyed my tenure as president of the DOAI and I appreciate the opportunity that was given to me to serve. I now look forward to serving on the board as your past president and to continuing my relationships and the creation of many future relationships with the DOAI membership. ❖

Summary of Board of Directors Meetings

by Joyce Bednarczyk, Secretary



The meeting of the board of directors of the Discovery Owners Association, Inc. was called to order at 2:00 p.m., September 22, 2003 in Kennewick, Washing-

ton by President Bob Baugh. Board members in attendance were Bob Baugh, Don Fuller, Allen Shirley, Pete Pizzano, Tom Fields, Jim Devine, Phil Yovino, Arnie Thompson, John Baker, Neal Elkins and Joyce Bednarczyk. Minutes of the February 4, 2003

Tampa, Florida meeting were read and approved with minor spelling and wording corrections. The treasurer's report was presented by Bob Baugh in the absence of Mac McIlvaine, reflecting net worth of \$66,927.09 as of August 31, 2003, with insurance premiums and rally expenses yet to be deducted from this total. Report was accepted.

Motion was made and accepted to allocate \$550.00 revolving expense account for use by the membership chairman, for the expense of that office.

Bob Baugh read nominating committee report in the absence of Lois Patterson, chairman. This information can be noted elsewhere in the newsletter. The ballot is to be printed in the October newsletter. It is to be detached, completed, folded, secured and stamped by the voter and returned to the nominating committee chairman by December 31, 2003.

Motion was made and passed to accept the following list of future national rallies, with the regional vice president being responsible for the planning and execution of the national rally in his territory, as presented by Jim Devine:

North Central – 2004
Northeast – 2005
South Central – 2006
Southwest – 2007
Southeast – 2008
Northwest – 2009

We had discussions on committee to be sure proper recognition is given to all volunteers, rally masters and committee chairmen working on rallies. Tom Fields will be working with regional vice presidents to get a composite list of all DOAI and chapter rallies, by location and dates, printed in the newsletter.

Lengthy discussion about expanding the DOAI to include other non-Discovery Fleetwood diesel pushers. A motion was made and seconded to close the discussion with the DOAI remaining Discovery owners exclusively. The motion carried with one opposed.

It was noted that the Bylaws are to be published on the website. There was a discussion regarding shortcomings in wording in the Bylaws. It was suggested that these could be clarified in the standing rules and therefore will be studied for future discussion with no other action at this time.

Pete Pizzano questioned if the \$5,000 grant from Fleetwood was used entirely on national rallies. This money goes into the general fund and determination of where it is to be used is made

Continued on next page...

Board Minutes, cont.

on a case-by-case basis. Motion was made to open board meetings to chapter presidents. After much discussion and the lack of a second the motion was tabled. Meeting adjourned.

Second Board Meeting

A second board meeting was called to order 12:00 noon on September 25 by President Bob Baugh.

Neil Elkins was appointed to chair a committee to study the Bylaws and determine if we can clarify them in the Standing Rules and report back to the board. Don Fuller is resigning as editor of the newsletter. Bob Baugh appointed Nina Soltwedel as his replacement.

Tom Fields will be meeting with

chapter presidents to establish a council, holding meetings at each national and regional rally, to discuss and bring concerns and suggestions before the board of directors for their discussion and consideration.

It was discussed and decided to print the officers' 800 telephone numbers in the newsletter and on the website for use by members, with the understanding that it is costly to the club and suggestion that they be used wisely. Suggestion was made that the membership chairman inform the respective regional vice president when a new member application is received.

Motion was made and passed that the 2006 national rally be called the 10th Anniversary Rally and be held in

the South Central Region.

Jim Devine noted that the deposit has been made for the 2004 National at Sedalia, Missouri and that the 2005 rally deposit in the Northeast Region will go out next week.

Secretary to write letter of appreciation to the Benton County Fairgrounds. Recommended that each person attending a rally be furnished a list of attendees and site locations.

South Central Vice President Phil Yovino presented tentative budget and recommendation for the South Central Regional Rally, to be held April 21-24, 2004 at Havens Landing RV Park in Montgomery County, Texas. Motion to accept, seconded and passed. ❖

Treasurer's Report

by Mac McIlvaine



DOAI Account Balances 2003 as of 11-30-2003

Bank Accounts

First State Bank, Livingston, TX	\$17,748.15
Money Market, First State Bank	31,494.10
Total¹	<u>\$49,242.25</u>

Asset Accounts

Inventory (DOAI shirts, etc.)	\$ 2,204.00
Membership Revolving Fund ²	500.00
MotoSat DataStorm System ³	4,995.00
Sedalia Rally Receivable ⁴	520.00
Total	<u>\$ 8,210.00</u>

Liability Accounts

DOAI Rally Account ⁵	<u>\$(8,965.87)</u>
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Grand Total **\$48,495.38**

Comments

- 1 - Bank accounts have been reduced over the past 12 months by \$5,152.52.
- 2 - Membership Chairman Revolving Fund: used by the chairman to pay for paper, ink, postage and other supplies required in maintaining membership records.
- 3 - MotoSat DataStorm System: Used by our webmaster, Bob Cook, to maintain the DOAI website.
- 4 - Sedalia Rally Receivable: a deposit for the site of the 2004 national rally.
- 5 - DOAI Rally Account represents profits/losses from prior rallies, to be

used to support future rallies.

If you have questions, please contact me at macsworld@juno.com. ❖

Rally Master's Report

by Jim Devine

As the outgoing national Rally Master, I want to tell you about the position, the responsibilities, also some new policies and procedures we now have in place, and finally, some observations about what we could do to help our club and the members who volunteer to work our rallies.



The national rally master is an elected position and serves for two years. He/she answers to the president and is a member of the board. The duties of the national rally master are to locate rally sites for our national rallies and to assist with the national rally.

In 2003, the board approved a timetable or schedule for each region to hold future national rallies. Each region was assigned a specific year (see the list within the board minutes, page 2).

This advanced planning allows both regions and members an early opportunity to schedule for the rally. Chapters are able to schedule local rallies without conflicting with our annual national rally.

After serving as our national rally master, there are one or two things I think we could do that would help our club and our members:

1. Each of us actively promote chapter formation.
2. Develop a set of guidelines or a how-to manual for chapter and national

rallies and work to improve our manual for chapter formation.

The more chapters located throughout the regions, the better our members are served. Another benefit of more chapters is when a region hosts a national rally, local chapters could help.

Rallies are very important. Local, regional and national rallies are how we accomplish much of the mission of our association. That is, helping members enjoy their Discovery motor home and their RV experience.

Rally Survey Results

I thank all those who took time to help DOAI by responding to the survey in the First Quarter 2003 issue, and I thank MaryAnn Crowell for tabulating the results.

Members tell us they would be willing to travel more than 1,000 miles to a national rally, and the majority like to go in the spring or fall and stay for four days. Most responded that they would return to the same area in two years. Members like to have good local attractions, full hook-ups, factory seminars, Discovery owner-led seminars, and plenty of vendors.

One surprise result of the survey: most members voted for a potluck at the rally! Breakfast and a free day were both a wash; no clear message on either.

The top three reasons to come to the rally were 1) location of rally; 2) seeing other members, and 3) date of event.

The amount of money most were willing to spend was \$100 to #150. ❖

Jim and Dorothy Devine, the founders of DOAI, are full-timers. They have served in many capacities in DOAI over the past six years.

Meet the Board

The ballots have been counted and the results are in: we have a new DOAI Board of Directors! We are pleased to introduce them to you:

President

Phil Yovino (See photo page 1)
6307 Francis Marion Dr
Houston TX 77091-2703
877.246.4271
pdyo@pdq.net

**Executive Vice President**

Tom Fields
134 Cynthia Dr
Universal City TX 78148-3402
877.238.6955
thomfiel@earthlink.net

Secretary

Joyce Bednarczyk (See photo page 2)
137 Rainbow Dr, PMB 3769
Livingston TX 77399-1037
877.851.9874
j.bdczk@juno.com

Treasurer

Mac McIlvaine (See photo page 3)
1370 Parkside Dr
Zwolle LA 71486-4315
877.245.9661
macsworld@juno.com

National Rally Master

Pete Pizzano
4712 Coachmen Rd
New Port Richey FL
34655-1501
877.238.6953
alice.pizzano@verizon.net

**Vice President/Development**

Don Fuller
2613 Aland St
Lancaster CA 93536-5827
877.246.4516
wdfuller@aol.com

**Past President**

Bob Baugh (See photo page 1)
123 Applecreek Ln
Richmond KY 40475-9154
877.238.6952
rbaugh@zeus.chapell.com

Regional Vice Presidents:**North Central Regional Vice President**

Dick Snyder
411 Alexander Dr
Seymour IN 47274-8633
877.282.0779
rdsnyder@insightbb.com



The North Central Region is made up of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Northeast Regional Vice President

John Baker
399 Tri Hill Rd
York PA 17403-3854
877.282.0776
jpdscvry@yahoo.com



The Northeast Region incorporates the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Northwest Regional Vice President

Jerry Woods (No photo available)
PO Box 1284
Maple Valley WA 98038-1284
877.238.7095
jerry@woodsfamily.ws

The Northwest Region is comprised of the states of Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

South Central Regional Vice President

Garry Shirey (No photo available)
2450 Williams Lakeshore
Kingsland TX 78639-4077
877.245.9654
garryts2@moments.net

The South Central Region is comprised of the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

Southeast Regional Vice President

Jim Devine (See photo page 3)
102 Rainbow Dr, PMB 242
Livingston TX 77399-1002
888.594.6819
jimmd@one800.net

The Southeast Region consists of Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Southwest Regional Vice President

Ramie Lemmons
16501 El Mirage Rd, #52A
Surprise AZ 85374-3600
877.238.6954
rklmms@aol.com



The Southwest Region includes the states of Arizona,

California, Nevada and New Mexico. ❖

Chapters

If you want to join a chapter, look over this list to find one near you. If there isn't a chapter close by, consider forming one. Contact your regional vice president for assistance.

California Good Timers Don Fuller, President

661.942.1575 - wdfuller@aol.com
Southern California residents are the primary chapter members, and any DOAI member is welcome to join.

Discovery Pioneers

Bob Hixson, President
970.484.7399 - hixson1910@aol.com
Members come from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. DOAI members from other states are welcome as associate members.

Discovery Texans

Tom Fields, President
210.659.3886 - thomfiel@earthlink.net
DOAI members with Texas addresses make up the membership of Discovery Texans.

Dixie Travelers

Sam Whitaker, President
256.233.5966 - ginnysam2@juno.com
DOAI members living in Alabama and Mississippi comprise this chapter.

Florida Discovery Rolling Gators Gene Patterson, President

239.282.5857 - pgene464@aol.com
Florida residents and snowbirds are members of this chapter.

Midwest Discoverers

John Wimer, President
407.497.3854 - wimerjn@valunet.com
Open to any DOAI member, members are primarily from Ohio and surrounding states.

Louisiana Mudbugs

Carolyn Barnes, President
318.251.2568 - crb39@cox-internet.com
Louisiana D owners belong to this chapter, and they welcome other DOAI members as well.

Mid-South Roadrunners

Ray Easter, President
423.288.5274 - rayeaster@chartertn.net
Membership open to any DOAI member. Current states represented include North Carolina, South Carolina,
Continued on next page...

Welcome, New Members!

We are delighted to welcome the following D owners into the ranks of DOAI. They joined our organization during September, October and November 2003:

Ivan & Nell Alspaw, Gun Barrell City TX
 Gill & Olga Alvarez, Los Alamitos CA
 Charles & Letha Baldwin, Seymour TN
 Henry Bass, Monticello MS
 Bill & Barbara Beane, Livingston TX
 Bob & Debbie Becker, Walnutport PA
 Don & Jan Bennett, Colorado Springs CO
 Terry & Tina Blocker, Lehigh PA
 Lee & Lanell Breithaupt, Alexandria LA
 William & Patty Brewer, Jacksonville FL
 Bob & Shirlene Bruce, Birmingham AL
 Jerry & Linda Buffington, Bakersfield CA
 Timothy & Ann Marie Cahill, Key West FL
 David & Christine Chester, Albuquerque NM
 Stanley & Kristi Combs, Gillette WY
 Kevin & Nancy Cornwell, Seminole FL
 Barry & Carol Cummings, Lubbock TX
 Michael & Joan Cutler, Las Vegas NV
 Steve Davis, Port Townsend WA
 Lee & Linda Denny, Loxahatchee FL
 Don & Darlene Drew, Bluffton SC
 Jerry & Barbara Dunn, Los Osos CA
 Alan & Jeanne Endicott, Greenville PA
 Tom & Karen Evers, Fruitland ID
 Hobart & Peggy Ferrell, Lemon Grove CA
 Mark & Jeannie Finlay, Bay City TX
 Bradley & Elizabeth Finn, Tully NY
 Michael & Shirley Flanagan, Houston TX
 Jack Fritz, Atlantic Beach FL
 Chuck & Debbie Fullmer, Oakwood GA
 Skip & Robbin Gaines, Frankfort KY
 Leonard & Nancy Gaylord, Berlin Heights OH
 Larry & Karen Guille, Bolivia NC
 Oscar & Bitha Harris, Kansas City MO
 Ken & Anna Hayes, Camilla GA
 Joel & Tracey Hays, Columbiana OH
 Charlie & Polly Henry, Livingston TX
 Randy & Phyllis Holmes, Lancaster CA
 William & Peggy Hoppin, Key Largo FL
 Jim & Jackie Johnson, Kenosha WI
 Thomas & Helen Jones, Goodyear AZ
 John & Carol Kewsbury, Arvada CO
 Michael & Kathy King, Joplin MO
 James Kumm, Leesburg FL
 Wayne & Sally Lam, Covington LA
 Bob & Donna Lambert, Morganton NC
 Donald & Beth Littlefield, Farmington NH
 Gary & Sharon Lobe, Lind WA
 Richard & Christine Mahaffy, Spring TX
 Carmine & Marion Marsico, Port Orange FL
 Charles & Helga Matteson, Clarence Ctr NY
 Richard & Tammy Maurer, Lambertville NJ
 Alan & Karen Miller, Hudson OH
 Ted & Peggy Misenheimer, Stockbridge GA
 Mark & Kathy Monismith, Bloomfield Vlg MI
 Gary & Tina Munoz, Stockton CA
 Roland & Lillian Munson, Northglenn CO
 Dave & Toni Nezat, Baton Rouge LA
 Michael & Gabriele O'Connell, Bovina Ctr NY
 Joe & Marlene Parker, Tullahoma TN
 George & Carolyn Pearson, El Paso TX
 Angelo & Shirley Pedro, Dushore PA
 Bill & Pat Perkins, Smyrna GA
 Jim Phillips & Cherie Parker, Poughkeepsie NY
 Jerry & Frances Putman, Rogersville AL
 Joe & Rebecca Ramirez, Carlsbad NM
 Andrew & Peggy Renner, Greenville TN

Warren & Donna Reynolds, Mesa AZ
 Marty & Justine Ries, Las Vegas NV
 Jim & Jan Saul, St. Petersburg FL
 Jake & Mary Schenewerk, Centertown MO
 Rich & Jane Schneider, McDonald PA
 Tom & Ronna Scott, Mount Vernon OH
 Joe & Penelope Shaffer, Santa Fe NM
 Don & Suzette Sherwood, Canyon Lake TX
 John & Jeanne Silk, Rapid City SD
 Chuck Smithfield & Paula Moore, Battle Grnd WA
 Stan & Valerie Stanley, Bartlesville OK
 Eric & Marijane Syfert, Altamonte Springs FL
 Glenn & Evelyn Sykes, Abita Springs LA
 Roger & Nancy Talich, Littleton CO
 Bill & Ann Thomason, Bend OR
 Jon Toepler, Cadillac MI
 Len Troutman & Gisela Alderrou, Coarsegold CA
 Vince & Debbie Vinyard, Independence MO
 Randy & Emily Walker, Modesto CA
 Richard & Sally White, Columbia SC
 David Yarbrough, Commerce Twnshp MI
 John & Jean Zidek, Cape May Courthouse NJ

Wow...that's quite a list! Please extend the hand of welcome whenever you have a chance to meet any of these good folks! ❖

Editor's Ramblings...

by *Nina Lee Soltwedel*

I was honored to have been asked to assume the editorship of this newsletter. I will do my best to justify the appointment, and look forward to our continuing dialog about motor homes, traveling, and all the other facets of owning a D. I thank Don Fuller for answering endless questions as the transfer of records took place. He is a gentleman and a gentle man...a DOAI treasure.



When we bought our D in July '98, we hadn't yet heard about DOAI. But as soon as we did, we joined. Dorothy Devine was the membership chairman, and it was not too long after sending in our check that we received our membership cards and first issue of *Discovery Express*.

From the time that we first joined DOAI until the national rally in Pueblo, Colorado in May 2001 (the first national we attended), I corresponded with a number of DOAI members, many of whom I then met at that rally. What a "high" that was! Putting faces with names was a real kick. That's the main reason you're going to see individuals' photos in this newsletter as often as possible, so you will already have "put faces with names" before you go to a rally.

I feel strongly that we should engender a sense of community or family within DOAI. You could describe DOAI members as part of a huge, multi-talented, multi-cultural family, spread

out over a large portion of North America. When you look at the photos in this newsletter, it's like looking through a family scrapbook, and we get to know one another a little better.

Another way to nurture that sense of community is when we go to rallies and meet and interact with others, one on one.

Let me ask you this: when you go to a national or regional rally, do you stick with your own crowd, or do you go out of your way to make the acquaintance of those from other parts of the country? If you always pal around with your chapter members, you're missing out on one of the joys of being a DOAI member. You never know when you'll meet someone from another part of the country with whom you will have a great affinity and much in common.

Community...reaching out to those you don't know and finding new friends. That's a good reason to be a DOAI member. Friends helping friends...another good reason.

Reach out to others at your next rally and make new friends...tell other D owners about our wonderful organization...and welcome those who are new to DOAI. You'll be glad you did, and so will they! ❖

Chapters, Cont.

Illinois, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri and Indiana.

Nor'easters**Bob Giordano, President**

570.775.1591 - palco2rv3@yahoo.com
 Members from the New England states, plus New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

Northwest Adventurers**Jerry Woods, President**

jerry@woodsfamily.ws
 Serving the northwest states of Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, all DOAI members are welcome.

Texas Disco Road Runners**Garry Shirey, President**

325.388.4746 - garryts2@moments.net
 DOAI members living within a 125-mile radius of Austin make up this chapter, but any DOAI member is welcome to join. ❖

Letters to the Editor

A member sent this e-mail and asked that it be shared with all DOAI members:

"Everyone who owns a diesel motor home has a story to share about RV dealers and repair shops. Many have great experiences, some bad, and some really ugly. The objective of the group is to share those stories in an effort to educate and inform other owners. The group may be reached at autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/RVDealers_Repair_Good_Bad_Ugly."

Another member wrote: "When we look for an RV park, we usually like to get one with cable television facilities. We have not taken the step to get a satellite receiver yet. We are usually furnished with a listing of the cable television channels available at the park. These lists are usually in channel number sequence. It is difficult to find the stations that we want to view.

"This is not a big thing, because generally we are at an RV park long enough to memorize the channels we want to watch. It would be much easier, though, if the listing of the cable television channels could be listed in network name sequence. This is just a suggestion that I thought you might pass on to the RV parks."

Editor's Response: *DOAI has no facility to notify every RV park in the country of your wish. However, you can pass on the suggestion at every RV park you visit. If enough RVers request such a listing, it is possible that parks may begin to provide it as a matter of course.* ❖

Got a question? Have an idea for a feature article? Need help with a problem? Send the editor a note and we'll do our best! ❖

BIG THANKS

Thanks go out to the 2003 Nominating Committee: Lois Patterson, Jerry Woods, G. A. Shafer, Bobby Williams, Dick Snyder and Tony Muscarella. They came up with a superb slate of nominees, and we are grateful for their work on behalf of DOAI.

From Doug Hanson via the Internet comes this thanks: "Just a quick thank you. I changed my fuel filter and

couldn't get it started. I ran to my computer and punched up 'air bleeding Cummins.' Eventually I got to your [DOAI] site and found the bleeding instructions. I followed the instructions and she fired right up! I was close to a mild panic attack, but your site fixed my problem. God bless the Internet, and your site!"

We extend heartfelt thanks and "job well done!" to Don Fuller, who served as the *Discovery Express* editor these past four years. Don has left extremely large shoes to fill...your new editor has a challenge ahead of her!

We extend thanks to Jan McIlvaine, who serves as merchandise coordinator for DOAI. She gets the merchandise, has it delivered to the rallies, and makes sure that what we want is what we get. This unsung heroine deserves recognition for her work.

We extend thanks to the 2003 Board of Directors: Bob Baugh, President; Tom Fields, Executive Vice President; Joyce Bednarczyk, Secretary; Mac McIlvaine, Treasurer; Jim Devine, Rally Master; Allen Shirley, Vice President-Development; Lois Patterson, Past President; Pete Pizzano, Southeast Regional VP; John Baker, Northeast Regional VP; Neil Elkins, North Central Regional VP; Phil Yovino, South Central Regional VP; Don Fuller, Southwest Regional VP; and Arnie Thompson, Northwest Regional VP. That's a lot of work from a lot of people for a lot of jobs well done!

Last but not least, we say "Thanks!" to all those who shared their wisdom, humor, questions, advice, suggestions, guidance and whatnot with all of us in this issue. Without your input (especially the whatnot!), this newsletter would be dull reading indeed. ❖

DOAI Merchandise

by Jan McIlvaine

Your DOAI club has a wonderful selection of items for sale at regional and national rallies, and the sponsoring chapter receives **all the profits**. This includes the Lazydays rally in Florida in January 2004.

A new item introduced at the Kennewick rally was a denim shirt, long-sleeved and styled for men and women, sporting the Discovery logo – a wonderful shirt for the Florida weather as a shirt or jacket. These sold out and I have re-ordered for the Lazydays rally; the price is \$27 to \$29.



We will also have the nylon shell, fleece-lined jackets for men and women in royal blue – just what you need for cool Florida evenings, and these sell for \$49 to \$51.

To go with your new shirt and jacket, you must have a new denim baseball cap which sells for \$10. You know that Florida glare.

Heavyweight, dark green sweat-shirts with the Discovery logo will be for sale at \$20 to \$22, along with various smaller items such as key chains, pins and flags.

Also, at the Lazydays rally will be a specially-priced table of very nice but sporadically sized golf shirts in some beautiful colors. Please check out these bargains. ❖

Jan McIlvaine is DOAI's merchandise coordinator. She and her husband, DOAI Treasurer Mac, live in Louisiana.

Have You Visited Lately?

by Nina Lee Soltwedel

Are you aware that DOAI has a super website? Located at www.discoveryowners.com, the site offers a tremendous amount of information for all members.

The home page gives you many choices: you can learn more about upcoming rallies, find answers to problems other "D" owners have experienced and subsequently solved, and the active links take you to interesting places. Want to see what improvements members have made to their rigs? Check out the *Modifications* page for some eye-opening photos and descriptions.

Did you also know that DOAI sponsors a most helpful chat room on Tuesday evenings?

While the chat room is open at other times, Tuesday at 9 p.m. **Eastern** Time Zone has been set as a chat time for DOAI members. If you live in a time zone other than Eastern, just adjust your drop-in time accordingly; the Editor lives in Colorado, which is Mountain Time Zone, two hours behind Eastern, so she drops in at 7 p.m. Other time zones just adjust accordingly. Simple!

You can also schedule a special time with friends to chat, since the room is available 24/7.

Getting into the chat room is easy; go to www.discoveryowners.com/chat.htm and follow the instructions you will find there. It's a great forum to exchange information and get to know each other. "See" you there! ❖

Feeding the RV'er

We all have to eat, and sometimes we have to prepare food to feed more than just the immediate family. To that end, we present tried-and-true recipes from DOAI members, designed to please the palate, feed the tummy, and garner raves at rally potluck meals. **You** are invited to submit your recipes for our quarterly feature. Contact the editor at soltwedel45@hotmail.com for details.



Bacon/Egg/Potato Casserole

- 1/2 pound sliced bacon
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 12 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 16 oz. frozen hash browns, thawed
- 1 t. salt 1/4 t. dill 1/2 t. pepper
- 4 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

Cook bacon until crisp, remove, crumble, set aside. In drippings sauté onion and green pepper until tender, remove with slotted spoon. Beat eggs and milk in large bowl. Stir in potatoes, cheese, salt, pepper, dill weed, onion, green pepper and bacon. Pour into 13"x9" x12" greased baking dish. Bake uncovered 350° 35-45 minutes or until knife comes out clean. Serves 6-8 people.

Tex-Mex Casserole

- 1 pound ground beef
- 3 large onion, chopped
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 1 - #1 can tomatoes
- 2 t. salt
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- 1 t. chili powder
- 1/8 t. pepper
- Shredded jack or cheddar cheese
- Nacho cheese tortilla chips

Brown beef and drain. Add onions and bell pepper and cook until tender. Add tomatoes, rice and seasonings. Heat through. Pour into 2-qt. casserole dish and bake covered 350° 60 minutes. Just before serving, top with broken tortilla chips and top that with shredded jack or cheddar cheese. Return to oven until cheese is melted. Serve at once. Serves 6-8 people. ❖

Wireless Won't Send E-Mail

by Leo Everitt

We discussed wireless communications at the national rally in Kennewick. Time did not permit a full exploration of the subject. In particular, I did not get to cover a problem one may encounter at an RV park providing wireless connectivity via your laptop PC card or an enabled machine concerning an inability to send e-mail messages.



A "wifi" card which is inserted into your computer for wireless Internet access.

You know the system is working because it downloaded any outstanding messages and you accessed the Web successfully. What's going on? Well, in short you're being blocked by the ISP of the recipient of your message in order to try and cut down on spamming. Let me explain in more detail and then provide the solution.

When you initially installed e-mail capability on your computer, your ISP provided two addresses for e-mail service. One was an outgoing message address (SMTP); the other the incoming (POP3). The former is of interest here.

Protocols are used to enable computers to understand each other. The protocol for outgoing mail is called Simple Mail Transfer Protocol or SMTP. This address may have looked something like - mail.earthlink.net or sometimes actually uses the SMTP like smtplib.news.site.com.

ISP's can see if the message they are receiving has come directly from the senders SMTP address or has been relayed. If relayed, they assume a spammer is at work and they refuse receipt of a message.

When you go on a wireless connection and send a message via your SMTP address, the SMTP address of the RV park is used to forwarded message on to your recipient's ISP. It sees the relay and sends back a refusal. You get the red X beside the message showing it did not successfully go. What to do?

You must secure the SMTP address of the RV park and go into your e-mail program and change your SMTP address to theirs. This may or may not be a problem at the RV park. I recently stayed at several RV parks (Crown Villa/Bend, OR and Buckhorn Lake/Kerrville, TX) that knew about the issue and were instantly able to supply the address. However, I stayed at another park (Blackwell Island/Coeur d'Alene, ID) that had never heard of issue. I was able to walk them through how to find their address and they supplied it to me. Hopefully, they advised their staff of the issue and thus are able to provide the address to others who may have problem.

Two reminders: 1) Be sure to change the SMTP address on your e-mail program back to your address after finishing your stay at that park, and 2) this problem will not occur with all ISP's - only those to whom you are sending a message and whose ISP has adopted this method to cut down on spam.

By the way, all three of the parks mentioned supply wireless broadband free, two of the three directly to your RV (Buckhorn/Blackwell) and the third in their office area. ❖

Leo and Jackie Everitt are DOAI half-timers who travel with their Old English Sheepdogs, Annie and Penny, six months of the year, and live the rest of the time in Park City, UT.

Full Hook-Up by Jim Devine

Two words we all like to hear - full hook-up. To make it even better, let's say **full hook-ups** at our National Rally in Sedalia, Missouri (*Show Me the Ozarks*) October 5-9, 2004.

The only fly in the ointment is, the spaces are small and bumpy. But on the plus side, the spaces are *energy efficient*. By that I mean, there are approximately 200 sites close to the exhibition center where **all activities** take place. Yes! I said all activities - and the vendors - are in the same building where we will hold our meetings, have our dinners, and host the welcome party. The classrooms are adjacent to the exhibit center. **No long walks** to different buildings!

Did I mention 30 amp electrical service hook-up?

To sum it all up, full hook-up with 30 amp service, parking close to all activities (190 to 200 rigs), and everything takes place under one roof.

Make your reservations now! See the registration blank elsewhere in this issue. ❖

ATTENTION! Urgent Information About Towing Class Action Lawsuit

by Bob Cook

If you tow with your 1996-2000 Discovery, you may be a party in a class action lawsuit against Fleetwood that was recently settled. It is imperative that you read this as specific actions are necessary on your part.

Plaintiffs alleged that from 1994 until 2000, Fleetwood represented that their Class A and Class C motor homes could tow up to 3,500 pounds, yet failed to adequately inform consumers that some chassis manufacturers recommend the use of an auxiliary braking system for safe stopping of a 3,500-pound towed load. Fleetwood denied the allegations and, under the settlement, made no admission of liability.

The court-approved settlement, in a class action lawsuit about supplemental brakes and towing with model years 1994-2000, Fleetwood motor homes will pay \$250 toward the purchase of a supplemental braking system to Fleetwood owners who purchased their motor home new, and still own it. Those included in the settlement can send in a claim form to ask for a payment. **Claim forms are due by April 18, 2004.**

Fleetwood has already mailed safety notices to settlement class members and all registered owners of 1994-2000 model year Fleetwood Class A and Class C motor homes who are not settlement class members (such as those who purchased used vehicles) informing them that their chassis manufacturer may recommend use of a Supplemental Braking System when towing certain loads, and providing them with safety stickers to affix to their vehicles to notify any future owners as well.

You can read complete details, and download a claim form, by visiting the DOAI website at www.discoveryowners.com/toadlawsuit.htm. ❖

Yellow Discovery Group Special Notice

by Ray Easter

on behalf of Yellow Discovery Group

The Yellow Discovery Group is a group of 2000, 2001 or 2002 Discovery owners, many of whom have been communicating with Fleetwood for approximately one year in an attempt to persuade Fleetwood to correct what is an obvious and serious

flaw in the finish of the non-painted white fiberglass side panels. This problem began cropping up in 2001 with owners of 2000 models filing complaints with their dealers and directly with Fleetwood, which agreed to repaint a number of these coaches at *no charge to the owners*. Lazydays RV and Beaudry RV have repainted some coaches as well.

As the number of complaints increased dramatically, apparently Fleetwood began to change its policy. Their second offer was to repaint the bottom compartment doors that were pure white a contrasting color so the difference in the yellowing white color of the upper side panels would be less apparent. Fleetwood said the cost of repainting these compartment doors was \$7,000, \$3,500 of which the owners would have to pay. (Local paint shop estimates for this same paint job have been as low as \$1,700). A few owners accepted this offer. Most rejected it, considering the offer an insult since painting the bottom doors did not address the problem with the yellowing side panels which would certainly get worse with time.

After months of debate, Fleetwood made a third offer; a \$5,000 rebate to any owner who traded for a new Discovery within six months of receiving the notice which was mailed in September 2003. Again a few owners accepted this offer, but the majority of the remaining owners declined it for two primary reasons: First, most owners are simply not in a position to purchase a new motor home; and second, if they were, they most likely would not purchase a Fleetwood product due to the manner in which Fleetwood has responded to this problem.

The group has made every reasonable effort to establish communications with Fleetwood that would give us a forum to express our complaints, offer alternative solutions and to negotiate acceptable settlements. Fleetwood has stonewalled these efforts. The only response we have received is a policy statement from George Weart, National Owner Relations Manager, saying that the yellowing is normal and not a warranty issue.

We feel we have made every reasonable effort to reach a mutually satisfactory solution with Fleetwood. We are now considering legal action, including a class action lawsuit similar to the supplemental braking lawsuit that was recently settled out of court with Fleetwood (see previous article). If we move forward with this lawsuit, any

settlement would automatically include all owners of these Discovery models and possibly other Fleetwood models having this same condition.

The success of our efforts depends largely on the number of owners involved and the potential cost to Fleetwood. We will be seeking expert witnesses from the fiberglass fabrication industry and legal representation from the same law firm that won the supplemental braking lawsuit. In the meantime, we hope to convince Fleetwood that it would be much less expensive for them to settle this issue outside the courts, both in dollar value as well as in customer relations value.

We need your support. It costs nothing to join, but you may be asked to contribute to the legal fund, if necessary, once we commission a firm. As of now, we have over 100 active owners and with more public notices, we hope to increase this number substantially.

To learn more about the Yellow Discovery Group, please visit our website at groups.yahoo.com/group/YellowDiscovery. To send messages to the group, send an email to yellowdiscovery@yahoo.com

If you do not use a computer but wish to be a part of the group just dial 423.288.5274 and leave your name, address and telephone number.

Update

We are at a crucial point with the attorneys who are considering our lawsuit. They have to see a couple of coaches with the yellowing problem before anything further can happen.

We have identified 13 members of this group who live in California, three within 100 miles of San Francisco (there may be others). For the good of all, we need a few of you to volunteer to have your coaches looked at by the attorneys.

The attorneys did not say we have to come to them. When they mentioned this during our first conversation with them, they seemed willing to travel within California. If you choose to volunteer for this, please let us know and give your address. Also, please give us an estimate of the degree of yellowing your coach has suffered. We know this is subjective, but rate it as *Some*, *Noticeable*, or *Very Noticeable*. We will pass it on to the attorneys and ask them to select among you whom they want to visit.

If anyone is traveling near San Francisco, we can probably arrange for
Continued on next page...

Yellow Discovery, cont.

your coach to be looked at by the attorneys. This would be helpful to all of us, so let us know and include the time you will be in the area, as well as the information mentioned above.

Thanks for your support of this very important issue.

Gary Stratford – 2001.5 37U
gastratford@yahoo.com
540.868.0671

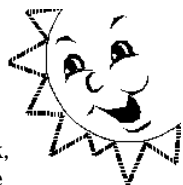
Ray Easter – 2000 37V
rayeaster@chartertn.net
423.288.5274

Editor's Note: DOAI is not taking a position for or against the preceding, but simply dispensing information to our membership.

Sunshine Corner

Good thoughts and prayers go out to Bob Cook, who continues to have eye trouble...good days and bad days...as well as to Leo Everitt, who has been having severe back problems. We hope both of you are tip-top soon!

Let us know of others who need our best wishes and prayers. Send an e-mail to the editor at soltwedel45@hotmail.com.

**Sunshine Strawberry Shindig**
by Pete Pizzano

The Lazydays winter rally is scheduled for January 30-31, February 1-3, 2004. Have you registered yet? Don't wait 'til the last minute! A certain number of sites have been reserved for the Sunshine Strawberry Shindig Discovery Rally. The directions to the rally park are quite

simple: traveling east or west on US 4, turn off the highway at Exit 10. Keep the TA terminal on your right and the Flying J on your left. Continue through the traffic control light. Two

hundred yards from that light, on the left side of the road, is the park!

Rally registrants will find all the registration paperwork completed upon their arrival. When you enter the large parking lot, park your coach in the



space provided, go into the office, identify yourself, sign the registration forms, return to your coach and be guided by park personnel to your site.

Register today! With the park's cooperation, we will accommodate everyone who registers prior to the deadline date of January 21, 2004.

Lazydays Rally Park provides all amenities. The park supervisors are progressive with a goal to be #1 in comparison to other rally parks.

Lazydays is continuously improving their facilities, adding more service bays and improving Crown Colony Park. In the immediate area of the rally park are the TA and Flying J terminals, Tom Evans, and the RV'ers #1-voted restaurant, Cracker Barrel.

Lupton, the caterer, annually requested by DOAI attendees, will cater a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. Yes, we will have strawberry shortcake for dessert! Weight watchers, calorie counters and dieters: save your count for this dinner.

On the afternoon of January 30, Lazydays' management will sponsor a welcome party for us. This is an excellent time to meet old acquaintances, the opportunity to greet new DOAI members and first-time attendees.

Jim and Barney will give classroom and driving lessons. Here is an opportunity to drive a new improved Discovery motor coach. Ken Scolaro and his staff will be available to assist in sales and coach information. Bill Hazel will instruct on various appliances in motor coaches. Kathy and Eike will be in the park office to see that the park operation runs smoothly.

The Florida Discovery Rolling Gators are working hard, preparing for this winter rally. If you are tired of snow and cold weather, come on down! The temperature will be warm enough to thaw you out. Bring a swim suit, a hearty appetite, and get your fill of strawberry shortcake and shakes.

See ya now, ya hear?

Pete Pizzano is National Rally Master for DOAI. He and his wife, Alice, live in Florida.

Region Reports
Northeast Region

by John Baker, Region VP

A new chapter, Midwest Discoverers, was started in the Ohio Area in October 2003. Its officers are President John Wimer; Vice President Lenny Gaylord; Secretary Cindy Merkt; Treasurer Ed Koch; Campout Coordinator Dave

Drinkwater. This group is exceptionally friendly and enthusiastically welcomes anyone from their area or elsewhere to become a member of their club. It's really a "fun" group.

It was a pleasure working with Bob and Carol Baugh these past two years, and I wish them many happy trips in their second D. Thanks, Bob, for a job well done.

Dorie and I are looking forward to welcoming all the folks from the Northeast Region at a wine and cheese reception at the Sunshine Strawberry Shindig 2004 at Lazydays Rally Park in Seffner, Florida.

Two spring rallies are being planned in the Northeast Region in 2004. The first is the Nor'easters rally, the weekend of May 15, hosted by Dick and Joan Hopper. The second is the Midwest Discoverers rally, scheduled for the weekend of May 22, hosted by Rex and Peg Lavoie. Information about these rallies will be available at Lazydays.

While you're making plans for future trips, keep in mind that the **2005 National DOAI Rally, Dutch Treat**, is planned for Tuesday, August 9 through Saturday, August 13, 2005 at the fairgrounds in York, Pennsylvania. York is located in south central Pennsylvania, an easy drive to Amish Country in Lancaster; to Hershey, the chocolate town; to Baltimore's Inner Harbor and National Aquarium, and to the Gettysburg Battlefield, as well as to Washington, D.C., our nation's capitol, and to Philadelphia.

York is the Factory Tour Capital of the World. Harley-Davidson Motorcycles factory tops the list as the most famous tour. However, other popular tours include Pfaltzgraff Pottery, several potato chip factories (Pennsylvania boasts it has the best chips ever), pretzel factories, candy factories, wineries and dairies, to mention a few. The area's farmers' markets are a must. The area also has one of the highest number of golf courses per capita in the U.S., so if you're a golfer, be sure to bring your clubs. If you're a history buff, York is the place to come...it was the first capitol of the U.S.!

If you're headed to New England or the Maritime Provinces, we're right along your way. You can reach me via e-mail at jpdscvry@yahoo.com. Please put DOAI as the topic so I don't delete it as spam.

John is serving his second term as a regional VP. He and Dorie live in Pennsylvania.

Chapter Happenings

Discovery Texans *by Elsie Sikes*

Discovery Texans were well represented at the national rally in September in Kennewick with 14 rigs. They and the Texas Disco Road Runners did an excellent job assisting with the parking. People who attended reported they had a great time and that the Northwest Adventurers chapter did a super job hosting the rally.

Speaking of rallies, you better get ready for another great one! The South Central Region rally, Bluebonnet Bash, will be held at Havens Landing in Montgomery, Texas, April 21-24, 2004 hosted by the Discovery Texans, the Texas Disco Road Runners, and the Louisiana Mudbugs. Montgomery is an old country town on Lake Conroe,



Planning the April rally: Phil Yovino standing, Tom Fields, Bob O'Neal, Sarabeth Germenis, Sandy Fields, Julie McKinstry (partially hidden), Al McKinstry (hidden), Pete Palasota.

northwest of Houston, easy off I-45 with lots of antique shops and local charm.

November 2003 began serious planning for the rally with the two Texas chapters at Seabreeze RV Park in Portland, TX. A lot was accomplished in setting everything in motion, with much more to come. April is a fabulous time to visit Texas, while the weather is mild and the wildflowers are blooming. Havens Landing is one of the best RV parks you will ever hope to find, and there are wonderful facilities where they pull out all the stops to make everyone welcome.

All Discovery owners are welcome at our rallies, and you may let any of the officers listed know which rally you will attend. Rally costs are defrayed by a \$10 per coach fee and attendees pay their site fees at the parks.

Our chapter officers are Tom Fields, President; Bob Johnston, Vice President; Elsie Sikes, Secretary; Edna Ryan, Treasurer; and Leon Sikes, Wagon Master. ❖

Nor'easters *by Dorie Baker*

The Nor'easters fall rally was in Sandusky, Ohio over Columbus Day weekend 2003. We had gorgeous fall weather (Indian summer is probably a better description) and we were able to have all our activities outside. Diane and Dave Drinkwater, and Sally and Don Vedder co-hosted the event. They had us involved from the moment we arrived, from counting candy in jars to decorating pumpkins.

Election of officers was held, with Bob Giordano elected President; Ray Nuzzolo, vice President; Sally Vedder, Treasurer; Dorie Baker, Secretary; and Ron Peterson, Campout Coordinator.

While in the Sandusky area, several of the Discovery party were brave enough to try the roller coasters at Cedar Point Park. A larger contingency headed by boat to Put In Bay for its October Fest. Others chose to relax around the campground or tour close by.

We all must have gone home ten pounds heavier than we arrived. Beginning with an absolutely delicious potluck the first night, and progressing through a continental breakfast each morning, we ended our rally with a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Although the food was outstanding, what I'll remember most was the friendliness of the group. Everyone had a great time, and we're all

looking forward to meeting this winter at the Strawberry Shindig. ❖

Midwest Discoverers

by John Wimer

The Nor'easters had a rally in Sandusky, Ohio and invited our area to attend. This prompted us to form a chapter called Midwest Discoverers. As of now we have 13 members. We hope to have a general get-together at Lazydays in January and do more planning.

Rex and Peg Lavoie, and Lenny and Nancy Gaylord are in the planning stages for a May outing for western Ohio. More information about the outing will be forthcoming. For preliminary information, contact the Lavoies at rex@lavoies.com. Anyone interested in joining may contact Cindy Merkt, Secretary, 23710 Sneaky Ridge Ln., Lawrenceburg, IN 47025-8149; rcm23710@yahoo.com. ❖

Mid-South Roadrunners

by Ray Easter

The Mid-South Roadrunners Chapter held their last campout of 2003 at the beautiful Stone Mountain Park, Georgia, which is the number one tourist attraction in the State of Georgia – and it lives up to its reputation! The Stone Mountain Park covers 3,200 acres of some of the most beautiful country you'll ever see, and once you have been there, you will want to return for another visit. In fact, rally hosts Diane and Greg Hammond are already

Continued on next page...



Nor'easters and Midwest Discoverers Sandusky Rally 2003

Front row: Peg Lavoie, John Baker, Vince Borin, Ron Merkt, Rex Lavoie
 Row 2: Diane Drinkwater, Sally Vedder, Nancy Gaylord, Jane Wimer, Jean Runck, Angie Borin, Cindy Merkt, Barb Koch, Ruth Heimbrock.
 Row 3: Les Harold, Dave Drinkwater, Don Vedder, Lenny Gaylord, John Wimer, Fritz Runck, Bob Giordano, Jerry Heimbrock, Lora Gibson, Ed Koch.
 Back row: Karen Didich, John Didich, Jack Romeyk, Dorie Baker, Harriet Harold, Marian Giordano, Dave Gibson.

Chapter Happenings, Cont.

planning another rally at the park for the spring of 2004, so those that were not able to attend this one will be able to enjoy the beauty of the park and campground in the spring.

Diane and Greg outdid themselves once again with the planning of this rally. Although Friday evening was a very chilly evening, everyone kept warm around the magnificent fireplace that was kept burning all weekend. The weekend was highlighted with excellent food and fellowship. Eight members and two guests, who later joined the chapter, joined the gathering.

The park offers many things to see and do, and campers were not disappointed. We definitely will be returning to Stone Mountain soon and welcome all DOAI members to join us in Georgia. Remember, next time plan to stay the full week so you will have time to take it all in.

Thanks again to Diane and Greg for a great rally and to Ron Sliger and Marshall Mauck for their input into this rally report. ❖

Texas Disco Road Runners

by MaryAnn Crowell

What a great time to visit the San Antonio area's Christmas. Our December 2003 rally found us visiting Mission Espada, Mission San José, Mission San Juan de Capistrano and the Alamo. We shopped the Market and San Antonio Shoes...all the business were sorry to see us leave. We took a tour of the San Antonio River and enjoyed all the seasonal decorations. We also toured the Fredericksburg Brewing Company to see the famous Sauerkrauts. Of course, all this traveling included lots of wonderful food.

Our next rally will be in Tow, Texas, an area bald eagles populate in winter; a boat tour of the lake and nesting areas have been booked. Mark your calendars for Feb. 12-15; we'll do something special for Valentine's Day.

With the South Central Bluebonnet Bash just months away, we are working with the other area chapters to make it a great rally.

Come and join the fun and great friendship of other D owners. Check the DOAI website for updated

information. Contacts for information are:

Garry/Gayle Shirey - 325.388.4746
garryts2@moments.net

Charlie/Renee Bazar - 979.836.0561
cbazar@industryinet.com

Don Crowell - 254.584.2400
relaxn2@aol.com

Jay Kenseson - 830.885.6043
jayk@gvtc.com ❖

Florida Discovery Rolling Gators *by Georgia Shane*

Our November 2003 rally began on Halloween in Alachua, with hosts Sam and Sandy Childs. Everything went smoothly and they had some fun things lined up. Those attending, in addition to the hosts, were Arnold and Gloria Carroll, Tom and Judy Ebbert, Glen and Betty Hayes, Tony and Maureen Muscarella, Gene and Lois Patterson, Henry and Edna Pendergrass, Jeff and Carolyn Rogowsky, Ron and Georgia Shane, Wilbur and Mary Stump, and Rolf and Gloria Wilck. We had great food and a great time. Several members went for a canoe trip down the Santa Fe River. In error I left out Ray and Phyllis Easter as attending our August rally, and I apologize.

Our December rally was at Lake Placid; there were only six attendees, but we had a great time. Hosts Tom and Judy Ebbert put on another super rally. We relaxed, visited flea markets,

shops, played games, and ate wonderful food. We played 50/50 and even had a gift exchange. Thanks again, Tom and Judy! ❖

Louisiana Mudbugs *by Anne Gros*

We are having a great second year, with fun and fellowship in abundance. Our members attended the Buccaneers Blow-Out earlier in 2003. The caravan included Bert and Dee Heffner, Sam and Deezy Williams, Bobby and Dotty Houck, Joe and Glenda Reed, Alfred and Betty Miller, and Howard and Mary Campbell.

In early April we held a rally in Marksville, Louisiana, hosted by Anne and Johnny Gros, and Bob and Anita Scott. We had a wonderful time at the casino and beautiful RV park.

The dog days of summer came and we held a rally in Ruston. Our hosts were Soc and Jane Lorant, Joe and Glenda Reed, and Sam and Deezy Williams. It was hot and humid, but we still had a wonderful time.

We finished off 2003 with a rally at Jellystone Park, Lake Charles, hosted by Howard and Mary Campbell, and Alfred and Betty Miller. "Elvis" entertained us. The weather was nippy, but we didn't notice. We welcomed new members Buddy and Evelyn Sykes.

See the list for our future rallies. We are growing and looking for new members in Louisiana. Contact President Carolyn Barnes (see address in **Chapters** article) or Anita Scott at anitascott45@hotmail.com, 225.756.0945. ❖



Louisiana Mudbugs at Lake Charles

Front row: Anne Gros, Alfred Miller, Carolyn Barnes, Carol Anderson, Howard Campbell. Middle row: Geraldine Keene, Soc Lorant, Jane Lorant, Buddy Sykes, Evelyn Sykes, Betty Miller, Deezy Williams, Anita Scott. Back row: Charles Keene, Bobby Houck, Dotty Houck, Sam Williams, Keith Barnes, Bob Scott, Mary Campbell, Wayne Anderson.

Photo by Johnny Gros.

Schedule of Rallies . . .**National, Regional, Chapter****JANUARY 2004 –**

1-5 Florida Discovery Rolling Gators, The Great Outdoors, Titusville, FL

15-17 Discovery Texans, Havens Landing, Montgomery, TX

30-Feb. 3 **Southeast Region Rally, Sunshine Strawberry Shindig, Lazydays RV Park, Seffner, FL**

FEBRUARY 2004 –

12-15 Texas Disco Road Runners, Tow, TX

MARCH 2004 –

12-14 Florida Discovery Rolling Gators, Tropical Palms, Kissimmee, FL

18-20 Discovery Texans, Canyon Trails, New Braunfels, TX

T/B/A Louisiana Mudbugs, Bayou Wilderness, Lafayette, LA

APRIL 2004 –

21-24 **South Central Region Rally, Bluebonnet Bash, Havens Landing, Montgomery, TX**

30-May 7 Florida Discovery Rolling Gators, Jolly Roger RV Park, Grassy Key, FL

MAY 2004 –

14-16 Discovery Pioneers, Albuquerque, NM

14-17 Nor'easters, Codorus State Park, Hanover, PA

18-21 Texas Disco Road Runners, Baffin Bay, TX

20-22 Discovery Texans, Seabreeze, Portland, TX

21-23 Midwest Discoverers, T/B/A

JUNE 2004 –

11-13 Discovery Pioneers, Grand Junction, CO

JULY 2004 –

9-11 Discovery Pioneers, Fantasy Island, Fort Collins, CO

T/B/A Texas Disco Road Runners, T/B/A

AUGUST 2004 –

6-13 Florida Discovery Rolling Gators, Grandfather Mountain, Boone, NC

T/B/A Louisiana Mudbugs, Fontainebleau State Park, LA

SEPTEMBER 2004 –

15-19 Nor'easters, Strawberry Park, North Stonington, CT

27-29 Discovery Texans, Tres Rios, Glen Rose, TX

28-Oct. 2 Texas Disco Road Runners, Rockwell RV Park, Oklahoma City, OK

29-Oct. 2 Mid-South Roadrunners, Branson, MO

29-Oct. 3 Discovery Pioneers, Branson, MO

OCTOBER 2004 –

5-9 **National DOAI Rally, Show Me the Ozarks, Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO**

28-31 Texas Disco Road Runners, Canton First Monday Trade Days, Canton, TX

NOVEMBER 2004 –

18-20 Discovery Texans, Skyline Ranch, Bandera, TX

DECEMBER 2004 –

2-4 Texas Disco Road Runners, Brenham, TX

AUGUST 2005 –

9-13 **National DOAI Rally, Dutch Treat, Fairgrounds, York, PA**

Things You May or May Not Know...

by Dom Bollella

What the heck do you do to keep mice out? There is no such thing as a foolproof way of keeping members of rodent clan out of your motor home when it is in storage. The best we can do is listen to all the home remedies and technological claims by the professionals.

Mothballs . . . yes, the good old-fashioned naphtha. Many RV'ers have told me that it "works like a charm." I've used it and I continue to do so, even though at least once, one of my rigs was home to genetically mutated rodents that seemed to thrive in the

naphtha atmosphere. Bounce dryer sheets . . . I'll admit they smell better than mothballs, but you need a lot of them, placed everywhere imaginable. I've lined all our drawers, cabinets and shelves with them. After a while their smell will even get to you, and maybe that's what keeps the little devils out, well most of the time . . . well, some of the time . . . once in a while. Like I said, keeping these 'bandits' out is not an exact science.

Modern technology has stepped in with ultrasonic noise blasters that you can plug into 110-volt outlets inside your coach. There are many different brands and types that make all kinds of claims as to what they will do. But if you read the fine print, you will note that while these devices will drive the pests away, it doesn't say that they will be kept out of your motor home.

Another approach is to use various traps. The drawback here is that the mice have to be inside and comfortable enough to be snooping around to get caught in a trap. Then you have to bait and reset the traps as often as once a day if they become effective. A word of caution here, from experience: those 'sticky' glue traps will catch mice if they come in contact with it, but it doesn't mean that the mouse will be held at bay. I have seen some amazing escapes, leaving behind fur, whiskers and gruesome remains like feet and even legs. I have seen rodents that were long dead in these sticky affairs, and before they passed, they managed to chew through most of the nearby wood, plastic and even some soft aluminum in trying to escape.

What it comes down to is that I have done and am currently doing all of the above as insurance against the invasion of the rodent species. I do not use, nor do I recommend the use of, poisons. Mice die in the darnedest places, and you'll discover, in the springtime as the inside temperature of your motor home climbs, an unmistakable odor. You'll know and hate the smell, and you'll have a devil of time finding the remains.

Last but not least, if a mouse were to be immune to all of the barriers I've set up, there is my last resort: Catzilla, the best mouser in the northeast quadrant. I drop him off inside the rig with plenty of water, leave all the drawers and cabinets open, and the next morning go inside and remove the remains. Sorry . . . you'll have to get

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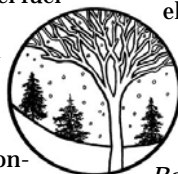


Things You May Not, Cont.

your own Catzilla . . . ours is not for rent!

Stray thoughts before putting your "D" in storage for the winter

Fuel Stabilizer: I am a believer in fuel stabilizers; I use them in my mower, snow blower, chain saw, etc. I learned the hard way, with former gasoline powered motor homes and generators, that fuel does go stale, and this can make trying to start an engine after sitting for a while a real treat – at times almost impossible. I use a diesel fuel additive that stabilizes the fuel and contains other pluses such as anti-gel and anti-fungal additives.



Ice maker: Don't forget to disconnect the water line from the icemaker valve (the blue plastic part with brass brackets found in the outside refrigerator compartment). There is a shut-off valve in the water line from your in-line water filter which needs to be turned off first.

Drains: I always pour at least a cup of potable (not automotive!) anti-freeze into each of the drains (don't forget the shower drain) to insure that they don't freeze up. I also run some through the washer/dryer by pouring a goodly amount into the washer and letting it pump out so that the pump is protected. I feel if you do this much, there will be a sufficient amount of antifreeze in the gray tank to protect it and its valves. The toilet gets its share of antifreeze, too.

Windshield: I do two very important things – well, at least I think they're important – before parking for the winter. I have two sun shield-type windshield shades that I deploy before I pull my curtain around. This keeps the curtain out of the condensation that forms on the inside of the windshield thereby preventing water staining. Secondly, I cover the wipers with a piece of foam pipe insulation and raise them off of the windshield surface with small Styrofoam blocks.

Tires: Since my "D" sits on No. 4 road material, I roll her up on small sheets of plywood with a 4mm vapor barrier between the sheet and the No. 4. I always inflate my tires to maximum at this time; Michelin's latest recommendation for my size tire is 105 psi. I clean the tires and use a tire dressing before I cover them with a sun blocking shade

material. **Note:** There are many opinions as to whether or not to elevate the coach with the leveling jacks to take the weight off of the tires. Do what you will, but I always spray my levelers with silicone spray after thoroughly wiping away any grime.

EPDM Roof: Since I cover my rig, I don't apply any sunblock to my it, but I do use a rubber roof conditioner and check for damage before storage. If you need to patch, repair or replace any sealant, be sure to use a sealant that is elastic and not silicone sealant. The elastopolymer-type sealant will expand and contract with the roof material. Also make sure all the old sealant has been thoroughly removed.

Roof A/C: If your coach is not under cover, I would recommend A/C covers. You can also get covers for your satellite dish and you can use another type of cover for your TV antenna. ❖

Dom Bollella is a former high school science/ biology teacher, and an avid RV'er. Dom and Ruth live in Rhinebeck, NY. Dom may be reached at dbtoytrain s@webjogger .net.

Along the Road by Peter Shaffer
Oh, Poo!

Being a "hip" husband and a modern-day man, I chip in and help with all the chores around here in our Fleetwood Discovery motor home called the BigD. You see, Sharon does all the driving, and all I have to do is turn the steering wheel and push on the accelerator and brake pedals. Sharon does the cooking and I clean the dishes; Sharon makes the bed and I clean the bathroom. You can see this all works out for the best . . . that is, until I cleaned the toilet the other day.



For those of you who don't know how a modern day human waste disposal system works in a motor coach, when it's time to say bye-bye to the mess in the toilet, one just depresses the foot pedal and the ball valve opens allowing gravity to take over and drop everything as far as the tank below.

Now, the other day it was time to clean the toilet and make it a fresh smelling potty. I had just finished using the toilet bowl cleaner and brush when I stepped on the flush pedal sending all the blue cleaning stuff down and into the black hole. Being a man (for some

strange reason, men do this more than women), I naturally looked down the hole to see where all the stuff goes after the pedal is pressed. It was so cool to see the cleaning water hit the stew that was down below.

I was just about to release the foot pedal when something sailed past my line of sight and torpedoed itself cleanly into the hole without touching the porcelain or the plastic valve. The last time I saw the phantom missile was when it penetrated the soup causing a ripple just as a stone does then you toss one in a smooth lake.



What was it? What on earth could it have been? The toilet bowl brush, a bath towel that was hanging above the toilet, could that be the missile? Then it hit me. My glasses! Where were my glasses?

Oh, poo! Now I know what the "missile" was. "Oh poo, oh poo, oh poo", I screamed. "Ding dong ding dong, ding dong darn it! Sharon!" I yelled. "Sharon, do you know where my glasses are?" I hoped and prayed for the right answer. "The last time I saw them they were in your shirt pocket," was her response. Not the answer I was looking for!

I was faced with a problem. What to do about the foreign object that was now lying at the bottom of the tank covered by 3 inches of "blue stuff." Although the glasses cleanly sailed into the tank without hitting a darn thing, I wouldn't be so lucky when it came time to dump the tank. A crosswise pair of glasses in a 3-inch discharge pipe would cause a real smelly problem. So now the task at hand was to figure out how to retrieve the sunken glasses, especially since I can't see, now that my specks are lying at the bottom of the cesspool.

My engineering brain started to work in fast mode. There are only three ways into the sewer tank: toilet, drain, and the vent. The drain won't work for reasons already stated, and the vent is only a 1½-inch diameter plastic pipe opening in the roof. The toilet was the way in, and it would have to be the way out.

Doctors have a credo that says "do no harm." Engineers also have a credo. It says "anything is possible; it just takes more time and more money." Since money always seems to be in short supply around here, I had to get creative. What should I use to retrieve the glasses? Here I was, camping in a national forest, 50 miles from the nearest "man store," Home Depot. I was on my own, with no one to help me.

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Along the Road, Cont.

I thought of using my hand to reach down there and grab them. But no, my hands are far too large to fit through the hole and my arms are too short to reach the bottom. Sharon's hands are small enough to fit through the opening and she could part the waters, so to speak, and retrieve them. Yeah, right, fat chance of that ever happening. Besides, she probably won't be finished laughing at me for at least another hour or two. The awning pull pole! Yes, that just may do nicely. Three feet long, manufactured out of a steel bar the thickness of a pencil, and it has a 90-degree bend or hook on one end. Yeah, that will do nicely.

Fishing for a lightweight pair of glasses with a 3-foot pole in "poo"-lutants the consistency of wet concrete was not as easy as I thought. First, I had to convince Sharon to hold the flashlight and shine it down the hole. Hard to do when you are still giggling. Then I had to learn the feel of hooking onto metal and glass versus floaters and sinkers. Several times I thought I had them only to find . . . well, something other than my wire rims.

But the Shaffer ingenuity prevailed. My spectacles were hooked and came up out of the hole. I grabbed them with my hand before they fell back into the cauldron, and gave a big whoopee! Sharon, seeing the glasses in my hand along with streamers that were still dangling from them, put her hand over her mouth, turned and ran from the room in an attempt to keep supper down. What a wimp.

I am using the glasses as I type this. Of course I washed them and soaked them in bleach for an hour or so. The smell is almost gone from them now. I use them for reading, but you won't catch me chewing on the ear piece for a long, long time! ❖

Peter and Sharon Shaffer live in Kentucky, and travel extensively throughout the U.S. Peter is a retired civil engineer; Sharon is a retired travel agent and the driving force behind the man. The Shaffers recently became first-time grandparents. Pete says, "Between Sharon and my faithful GPS, we never take the wrong road...just the road less traveled."

RV Basics

This is a column for new Discovery owners and those new to the RV experience. As we receive questions

from DOAI members, a panel of experts will be consulted and the answers supplied here, as well as via e-mail to the person who originally asked the question. Our experts this issue are Herb Peterson and John Veach.

Question: When or when not do I utilize the inverter; i.e., does one leave it on all the time or only when it is going to be used?

Herb's Answer: When to use the inverter is dependent on how you use the coach. If you are always plugged in at campgrounds and at home, you won't have much need for it and can leave it off, except when you travel. I leave mine on when we travel, as I charge the toothbrush, vacuum, etc., as well as run the computer on AC rather than the battery. Leaving it on while plugged in is not necessary.

Now, when you boondock, that's another matter. Unless you need the current at the time, I would turn off the inverter except for when you want to consume power. Leaving it on also leaves on the television sets, satellite receiver, microwave and other power robbers as well. Even though turn off, these appliances will consume at least 5 amps an hour just setting there. That's 120 amp hours a day, just setting and doing nothing.

Unless you unplug all the appliances (or install switches to disconnect their respective outlets as I have done), turn it off when you aren't in the coach. Even 5 amps adds up to a lot when added to all the power used by appliances when they are actually used.

It is not uncommon to use over 300 or more amp hours of DC in one day. That is about half the useful power of one battery, as it is best to recharge when the batteries are discharged about halfway. People who boondock as if they were plugged in can easily use 500 amp hours or more a day. It doesn't take too much to figure out how long your batteries will last at that rate.

Rule of thumb: unless you need an appliance at the time, leave the inverter off.

John's Answer: I leave my inverter on all the time except when we are plugged in at a campground. I have rewired my D so that everything in the coach runs off the inverter except the air conditioners. That means when we are traveling, the refrigerator is running on AC instead of gas. It also means that if the power goes off in a campground, we often don't know it until the

batteries go down.

Question: When the "D" is not going to be used for a few months, is it advisable to lower the jacks to take some of the load off the tires, or not?

Herb's Answer: This is a matter of preference. It used to be a common practice to lower air pressure slightly in tires during storage, to relieve "stress" on the tires. I always lower my jacks when the coach is stored, just to keep the coach level and to keep it from rocking. Modern tires, I believe, would be fine either way.

John's Answer: As full-timers, we never store our rig, but as full-timers, our jacks are down every day at some point. ❖

Editor's Note: *Are you new to RV'ing? Do you have some questions about your rig, or traveling, or stowage of items, etc.? E-mail them to the editor at soltwedel45@hotmail.com, or post your questions on the DOAI website. We'll make every effort to get answers for you.*

Tire and Wheel Talk

by Darrell Godfredson

In reading through exchanges of e-mails on DOAI's eGroup recently, I noticed a discussion concerning wheels and that various D owners have two different types of wheels. In an effort to be helpful, here's some basic layman's information about wheels. *This is not all inclusive information.*

The little mechanisms that screw on to secure the wheel to the vehicle is a **lug nut**. There are wheels made of steel and wheels made of aluminum, and different types of each wheel are available.

If what you have are called the *hub piloted* type wheel, only an outer nut on each of the ten positions retains both dual wheels. If you have the older *socket* type wheel, there will be an inner nut to retain the inner wheel, and another outer nut to retain the outer wheel.

If you are purchasing a spare wheel, **be sure** you check with a knowledgeable person and ask that your vehicle be checked to see which type wheel you have. The two types cannot be installed interchangeably. If you do, it will lead to failure of the wheel studs. Also, different inner and outer lug nuts are required for steel wheels and aluminum wheels. The inner nuts for the

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Tire and Wheel Talk, Cont.

the aluminum wheels have a deeper reach to accommodate the thicker aluminum wheel. The nuts for the steel wheel will not grab enough threads if used with the aluminum wheel. The inner nuts for the aluminum wheel will bottom out and not secure the steel wheel properly.

This information is **not** all inclusive. A knowledgeable person is **not** the guy on the tire truck who shows up to fix your problem. Generally, his only experience is unbolting and bolting back on. He will happily bolt your problem back on! A knowledgeable person is a supervisor at your Michelin, Goodyear (or other major brand) truck tire store...**not** a truck stop. **Wheel safety is critical to your survival.** ❖

Darrell and Fran Godfredson live in Marion, TX. Darrell is a former Winnebago rep, and currently a Master Certified RV Tech. He's a frequent contributor to the DOAI eGroup.

eGroup Hints and Tips

by Bob Cook

The purpose of this article is to acquaint users with some of the features of the eGroup. It is assumed that you have successfully logged into the *discoveryownersassociationeGroup*. To do this, go to www.groups.yahoo.com, log in, and choose the *discovery ownersassociationeGroup*

The eGroup Message Archive

The eGroup message archive is a great source to search for information. Every eGroup message from the beginning is archived, and you can search this database to find what you want.

To search the eGroup message archive, click on "Messages." When this page is displayed, scroll down to the "Search Archives" box, type in your search request, and press the "Search Archive" button.

When the search results are displayed, you will see the subject of the message as it was posted. Click on the subject title to display the message. Note that the database is searched starting at the most recent messages. To search deeper into the message database, click the "Next" button.

File Attachments

Attachments to e-mails are no longer sent. There are three major reasons for this. First, attachments can contain

viruses, and this helps to minimize the spread of viruses, since it takes special action to post an attachment. Second, this minimizes the amount of IP traffic which helps to keep costs down. Third, many folks travel and do not want to receive large attachments.

To post or view an attachment, click on "Files." On the next page that appears, click the folder "E-Mail Attachments." When the next page opens, click on the attachment that you want to view, or click on "Add File" if you want to upload an attachment. **Do not** check any of the options in the "Auto Send to Members" area. Type in the name of the attachment you want to send, or browse to its location on your hard drive, and then click "Upload File." Also, it would be helpful if you typed in a description of the file or picture. If you are uploading an attachment, be sure to reference its name in the eGroup e-mail that you send.

Managing Your eGroup E-mail Account

Do you need to stop your e-mail while you are on vacation? Want to change the way you receive eGroup e-mail? Click on "Members" and then find yourself in the member database by typing your e-mail address in the Search Box and then press the "Search" button. When your account appears, click the Down Arrow in the "Message Delivery" box and select which option you want, and then press the "Save Changes" button. If you want to discontinue your eGroup subscription entirely, click on "My Groups" and then the "Edit My Groups" button. Check the "Leave Group" box and then click the "Save Changes" button. ❖

Bob is one of DOAI's two webmasters, and was instrumental in getting the website up and running in the early years of our organization. Bob says, "I am always happy to make any changes or assist any member with the website. Just drop me an e-mail." We are most thankful for Bob and John Veach, for their valuable work on behalf of all DOAI members.

Helpful Internet Links

by Nina Lee Soltwedel

As you surf the 'Net in your leisure hours, you might want to check out the following sites. I've bookmarked them on my computer because I've found them to be informative and interesting. I have a lot more, but kept this list short and manageable. All links

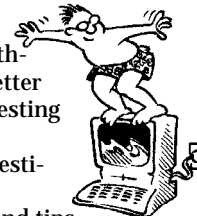
should be preceded with <http://> and not all of them include the usual www.

www.motorhome101.com

What a terrific site! It's basic, hands-on learning how to take care of your motor home, complete with large, clear photos and precise instructions. This is one link you should bookmark for easy access.

rvtraveler.com

Free twice monthly e-mail newsletter filled with interesting articles about specific travel destinations, news releases, hints and tips for successful RV'ing, gobs of helpful informative links, and those ever present ads...but these are geared toward RV'ers. By going to the website, one may read past issues and/or specific articles. The two I found very interesting were on Quartzsite, Arizona, and the Alcan Highway to Alaska.



www.reserveusa.com

National Recreation Reservation Service, a joint program of U.S.D.A. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, featuring more than 49,500 reservable campsites at over 1,700 locations (including RV reservations). One may reserve online or tollfree (there's a tollfree number for TDD calls, too).

www.roadnotes.com

Free monthly e-mail for road travelers with helpful tips on touring America, discovering public lands, exploring state parks, gadgets and gizmos, book reviews and more.

www.rvdumps.com

As the name suggests, a list of places within each state, keyed to highways, where one may find an RV dump. The site is updated often and depends upon input from many RV'ers.

www.propanegas.com

This site used to be helpful in locating on-the-road sources, but the page has disappeared. If you find an alternate info page, please let us know.

Share your favorite links! E-mail the editor at soltwedel45@hotmail.com with comments, questions, or links you've discovered and wish to share. ❖

Alaska – The Ultimate RV

Trip

by Bob Cook

Back in the late 1800s, it was gold that drew thousands to Alaska. Today, the lure may be the unparalleled scenery, unsurpassed wildlife viewing, and/or the unbelievable salmon fishing. For the RV'er, a trip to Alaska is truly the ultimate road adventure.

The typical RV'er may be a bit timid about making the trip, and may have heard horror stories. In actuality, it is no more demanding than any other trip. The key to a safe and enjoyable trip is to **take your time** – especially in the construction zones.

Many first-time RV visitors to Alaska make the trip with a caravan. However, I would urge you to instead make the trip by yourself. Caravans are extremely structured, and some of the sights you want to see are very dependent on the weather – and a caravan can't stop and wait for the weather to change or for you, if you want to stay longer at one place. You will also avoid the substantial cost of a caravan and you will be able to choose which attractions you want to see.

Planning the trip yourself is actually part of the fun. You will definitely want to get a copy of *The Milepost*, as it gives you a mile-by-mile review of all highways and attractions in Alaska.

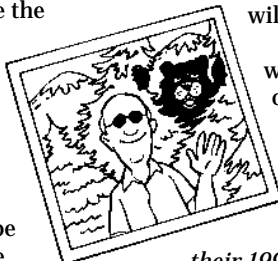
Also, I highly recommend that you download my **free Alaska Journal** from the Discovery Owners Association website at www.discoveryowners.com/Alaska.rtf. The file is a Rich Text Format file that you can view with any word processor. This was based on our initial RV trip to Alaska in 1999, and it covers vehicle preparation, a daily travel log, and many hints and tips that will save you a lot of time and money. **[Editor's Note: Bob is very generous! The book he and Mary wrote is a valuable adjunct to The Milepost, and you will gain from their insights and experiences.]**

Many folks ask about how much time they should allow for the trip. My response is always the same: The longer, the better! There is so much to see and do. We spent an unplanned month just fishing and clamming in various locations with newfound friends. This is the big advantage of having an RV and not having to adhere to a travel schedule.

You probably noticed that I have not mentioned many details about the

trip. My purpose is to encourage you to make the trip and also to make you aware of our travel journal which (along with *The Milepost*) will provide most of the information that you will need.

There are few places that we like to visit more than once, but we could make this trip every year! ❖



Bob and Mary Cook have been retired since 1998 and travel the country in their 1998 Discovery 36T. You can reach them via email at bobandmary@escapees.com. Bob is a frequent contributor to Discovery Express.

John and Libbie Veach also have gone to Alaska, and their log is available at their website, www.therollinghome.com.

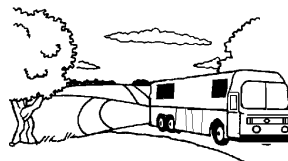
Safety and Security in Your RV and Home

by Ed Watson & Don Fuller

The following is a summary of items for any traveler, whether in an RV or just to the mall for shopping near home. The items brought to your attention are, by no means, the total extent of personal safety issues or ideas that will fit all situations. Most of the suggestions are pure common sense, and are intended to raise awareness and to get DOAI members to think about their safety and/or security in, perhaps, a different light than before reading the article. Remember, no one has the answer for all situations, but *awareness* is your most powerful tool.

RV Safety and Security

- ✓ Don't give the bad guy the edge. At night, the bad guy in the dark can see you when you can't see him! If your lights are on inside the rig, you are in the spotlight for the guy outside. Keep your drapes/curtains drawn at night.
- ✓ Use a privacy screen or sunshades for your front windows when parked. However, remember that at night, your sunshades allow those outside to see you if you have lights on inside. At night, pull the curtains or you are highlighted to the bad guy outside.
- ✓ Why not let folks see inside your rig? Because you give the guy on



the outside the edge. You can't see him, but you are advertising what you have inside and who is inside.

- ✓ When you are gone, keep all your doors and windows locked, especially the basement doors where we have all that important stuff stored. All your *stuff* below is an attractive nuisance for the curious. Don't make it easy for a thief!
- ✓ There are many opinions on whether or not to lock your entry door when on the road. When you weigh the pluses and minuses, we believe that the best policy is to keep the door locked while in transit. Besides door problems we have heard about while bouncing down the blacktop, why make it easy for a jerk to try to get in while you are stopped as signal lights or backed up in traffic, especially in some of our bigger cities

- ✓ We observed one rig at the Washington rally where the occupants had left for the day and left windows opened. Our initial concern was that it was about to start raining, but most of the rigs had departed for home. This rig was an easy target for a thief simply walking through the campground with most of the rigs already gone. Think ahead – "Have I made it easy to be ripped off by some jerk?"

- ✓ What about safety inside the rig? This is not meant as a plug for any particular product or company, but do you always have a fire extinguisher handy inside the rig? How about one available on the outside of the rig?

What kind of extinguisher is it? Have you ever seen the real mess that a powder fire extinguisher makes? The power units are great for outside fires, but we strongly suggest you consider a foam-type extinguisher for inside. They will do the same job, but boy, they sure are easier to clean up inside should you have to use one!

Safety and Security Away from the RV

- ✓ Keep your doors locked until you need to get out of your car or to

Continued on next page...

Safety and Security, Cont.

enter it. Don't make it easy for an idiot to open your door and yank you out, either to rob you, steal your auto or? Think ahead!

- ✓ Before you exit your car, look around you. Who is in the car next to you? If they look questionable, back out and find another spot, even if you have to walk a bit further. Don't step out of your car right into the grasp of a bad guy!
- ✓ When you are walking in a parking lot to or from your auto, make sure you are aware of all your surroundings. Where are you parked versus where you are going? Can you find your car in the parking lot after shopping?
- ✓ While you are walking, make obvious eye contact with any person you pass or are approaching. This makes the other person know you have identified him/her and could do so later. You don't have to look aggressive, but just observant.
- ✓ When you get into your car, don't sit there balancing your checkbook or making a list, etc. A predator could be watching you and looking for an opportunity to get into your car on the passenger side. Make sure your doors are locked and don't invite trouble. Get in, lock the doors and leave. Do your checkbook or list in a place that you have control of the environment.
- ✓ If a robber approaches you and asks for your wallet or car keys, **do not hand it to him!** Toss it away from you. Chances are he is more interested in your wallet or keys and/or purse than you, and he will go after them, giving you an opportunity to **run like crazy in the opposite direction.** Remember, you are going to, ahead of time, make sure you have made eye contact, and in so doing, you will be able to identify him. Most victims have problems remembering what the suspect looks like because they had no awareness of the person's appearance prior to being confronted. Your awareness gives you an edge. One other thing to remember is, *your keys can be used as a weapon if needed!*
- ✓ If you are ever thrown into a trunk of a car, kick out the back taillights,

stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you but everybody else will. This has saved lives!

- ✓ Ladies, don't be too proud to ask for a guard or policeman from the store to escort you to your vehicle. It is better to be paranoid than dead!
- ✓ Always take an elevator or escalator rather than stairs. Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot.
- ✓ If an assailant has a gun and you are not being physically restrained, **always run!** The predator will only hit you (a running target) four times in a hundred, and even then, most likely it will not be a vital organ. *Don't be an easy target!* Your survival chances are far better if you are not restrained.
- ✓ Women, in particular, tend to be a very sympathetic. This may get you raped, or killed. Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well-educated man, who always played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked for "help" into his vehicle or with his vehicle, and then abducted his helping victim.
- ✓ Never forget – your elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do so!

Warning about the "Crying Baby"

A woman heard a crying baby on her porch and she called the police because it was late and she thought it was strange. The police told her, "Whatever you do, *do not* open the door." The woman then said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window, and she was worried that it would crawl into the street and get run over. The policeman said, "We already have a unit on the way; whatever you do, *do not* open the door." He told her that they think a serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes when they are home alone at night.

This should be taken seriously because the "crying baby" theory was mentioned on *America's Most Wanted* TV show recently when they profiled the serial killer in Louisiana.

Please think about these ideas and,

if you do nothing else, **be aware of those around you.** Don't invite a situation by being an inviting target!

We don't have all the answers, but maybe our thoughts will keep you a more alert, safe and a bit more able to protect yourself. You may be able to add more thoughts to ours, and we invite you to share them with us all. *A safe traveler is a happy traveler!*

Remember to always keep the white rubber UP! ❖

Ed Watson lives in California, and has a law enforcement background. Don Fuller is a volunteer with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. He and his wife, Karen, live in Lancaster. Ed and Don have often handled security for our regional and national rallies, and the preceding article grew out of a conversation with them at the recently concluded national rally in Kennewick, Washington.

We invite your contributions to this topic, in an effort to make all our travels and lives safe and secure. Send your thoughts to the editor at soltwedel45@hotmail.com.

DeMontrond at Bluebonnet

Bash by Phil Yovino

The Fleetwood RV dealer in our area, DeMontrond, is preparing for the South Central Regional Rally, *Bluebonnet Bash*, at Havens Landing. What a great combo this will make: a fabulous RV park with all the bells and whistles, **and** DeMontrond will provide a selection of Discovery coaches ready for delivery. Sales and finance personnel will be available on site. In addition, DeMontrond is planning to have a service tech on hand to perform minor adjustments and repair. DeMontrond is a large RV dealer with the equipment and personnel to handle our RV needs.

Address: 14101 North Freeway, Houston, TX 77090; telephone 281-872-7200

Sales Department: 281.872.3845, Sales Manager Lanny Langford.

Service Department: 281.872.3898, Service Manager Dennis Cotton

See the full registration form and more information on page 22 in this issue. Fill it out, send it in, then get ready to come to Texas for this great regional rally in April 2004. The "Welcome" mat is waiting! ❖

Bluebonnet Bash News

by Elsie Sikes

Events for the first South Central Regional Rally, *Bluebonnet Bash*, in Montgomery, Texas April 21-24, are shaping up nicely. The location is in the heart of Texas wildflower country and the bluebonnets are very likely to be in full bloom (bring your cameras!).

Havens Landing is just northwest of Houston, off I-45 on Texas highway 105. The folks who designed and built the resort had to have had Discovery owners in mind, since it provides cement pads, phone and cable hook-ups, 30/50 amp electricity, water/sewer connections, and great facilities for rallies. There is an indoor swimming pool, hot tub, game room, outdoor courts for games, such as shuffleboard, horseshoes, and more.

It is hard to imagine all that is being planned for those who will get together for this fun time in a little country town full of antique and unique shopping spots and a Super Wal-Mart. Nearby Conroe, Texas has many stores, a huge Prime discount shopping mall, and the Conroe library hosts one of the best genealogy libraries this writer has ever seen. Lake Conroe is just down the street for boating and fishing, if that is your desire.

Arrangements have been made for Fred and Sandy Laird to entertain us with their singing, as they did in Rayne at the national DOAI rally, *Kickin' Cajun Celebration*, in 2001. In addition to the Lairds, the wonderful Panorama Pep Band, a group known for their great ballads and swing dance music of the 40s and 50s, will be on hand for your dancing and listening enjoyment.

Discovery Texans chapter's very own breakfast chef, Jim Fisher, and his able staff will preside over the breakfasts. Anyone who has had the privilege of experiencing that service knows it to be worth getting up for. Top quality, sumptuous home-style meals are in the works for the dinners. Lone Star catering has a great reputation in the Montgomery County/Conroe area of providing the best for rallies, and has been booked year after year by the same groups of people because of the quality of the food and service.

Continuing the theme from last fall's national rally in Washington, the *Red Hat Society* will be in session at *Bluebonnet Bash*. Gals, you had best 'gussie up' in your red hats and purple outfits for the tea and style show on April 22. The price for a fun afternoon

is a mere \$1.00. Bring your own tea cup and enjoy the show, presented by Janie White from her Discount Designer Dress shop in Arlington, Texas, where prices fit our budgets. Isn't it time for a new outfit? Janie always carries a good quantity of styles and sizes at her shows.

A golf tournament is set up, with all costs included in one great price, at a nearby championship course. A chartered bus trip, not to be missed, has been arranged to the George Herbert Walker Bush library/museum. If you have visited other presidential museums, you know how interesting and informative they are.

This one is particularly good, and is located on the campus of Texas A&M. Included in the price for the trip is a great lunch.

Non-golfers needn't worry: the "Senior Olympics" will keep everyone at their competitive best, so hone up on shuffleboard, horseshoes, jokers/marbles and other games in order to take home the gold medals.

People who call Oklahoma and Arkansas home *especially* are urged to attend, since they are part of the South Central Region, but don't have chapters going for them.

Just because the *Bluebonnet Bash* is a regional rally, it doesn't mean it is limited to those who live in the South Central Region, however. *Any* Discovery owner who makes a reservation may attend, and if not a member of DOAI, come and join at the rally! We promise . . . you will have a wonderful time. ❖

An Easy Way to Navigate

by Bob Cook

Imagine having a navigator that always knows precisely where you are, how many miles and how long it will take to get to your next stop, and verbally advises you of your next turn . . . even tells you if you are off track, and does all of this without the stack of maps and anxiety of having to watch for and read all the roadway signs. What a relief this is for your co-pilot, not to mention possibly saved marriages!

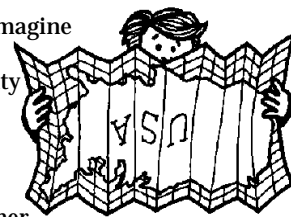
Assuming that you have a computer, the only things you need are a map software program and a GPS receiver, which is just a little box that receives information from satellites orbiting high overhead, which allows the software to precisely determine your location. Note: knowing your exact

location could be extremely beneficial in the event of an emergency.

I highly recommend the *Delorme Street Atlas* software for travel within the U.S., and *Microsoft Streets and Trips* for travel in Canada. Expect to spend \$40 to \$60 for the software, although you can often find the *MS Streets and Trips* for less than \$15 on sale.

You will also need a GPS receiver. Although these are generally available in the \$90 to \$1,000 price range, you really only need an inexpensive one that will interface to your computer. You can purchase the *Delorme Street Atlas* program bundled with a Delorme GPS receiver for around \$130, and this makes an excellent package unless you need a GPS receiver that can operate without being hooked up to a computer.

Now, imagine also having the capability of knowing if there is a *Passport, Coast to Coast* or other



member campground in the area as you travel. How about a Moose Lodge, Wal-Mart or Flying J, or any of 20 other categories pertinent to the RV'er? All of this information is available for free download at the Discovery Owners Association website at www.discoveryowners.com/cginfo.htm. Complete instructions are also available on the webpage.

The main attraction for the *Delorme Street Atlas* software is that it allows the user to input data points into separate Draw Layers. This allows the user to select which Draw Layer(s) will be displayed on the screen. As an example, you can elect to display only Flying J and Passport campgrounds, and temporarily hide all the other data categories. This feature is not available in other mapping programs.

While you are at the Discovery Owners Association website, browse over to the *Hints* page where you will find additional articles on GPS and also a lot of other information pertinent to general RV'ing. ❖

Bob often conducts seminars on GPS and various other topics. Bob and Mary retired in 1998 and travel the country in their 1998 Discovery 36T. Bob will be conducting a GPS seminar at the National Rally in Sedalia, Missouri, this coming October. See you there!

Motor Home Becomes "Soupmobile" by Dan Fletcher

As I write this story, our 38-foot Discovery motor home is being transformed into a giant soup-mobile as it is "wrapped" in bright fleet graphics for a 10-day, 10-city tour to promote a 15-year old nationwide, youth led movement, the Souper Bowl of Caring. The graphics feature the Souper Bowl of Caring logo, a route map, a list of cities and dates for our "Service Blitzathon." The wrap also features a photo of 2004 Souper Bowl poster kids holding a soup pot.

I am the driver for this youth-centered tour beginning January 21, 2004 in Philadelphia, PA. We then travel to Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD, Raleigh and Charlotte, NC, Columbia, SC, Jacksonville, FL, Mobile, AL, New Orleans, LA, and then Houston, TX for a huge Service Blitz finale. Houston is the home of the 2004 Super Bowl.

In each city where we stop, we will work with local youth who will be serving at a local food bank or pantry. Local and national media are being invited to cover the event, and special fun-filled events for the youth are scheduled at each food bank location where they will be working.

Almost 15 years ago, when the Rev. Dr. Brad Smith was an associate minister at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, he, along with the church's young people, began a special offering called the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. The offering was the result of a prayer on Super Bowl Sunday, "Lord, even as we enjoy the game today, let us remember those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that time, the ministry has grown to be a nationwide, youth-led effort, generating a total of \$20 million for charity. In 2003, over 12,000 churches participated in the Souper Bowl offering. In 2004, the goal is 15,000 churches participating with \$4 million going to charity.

The way the Souper Bowl of Caring works is simple, yet so significant. Young people stand at church doors holding soup pots on Super Bowl Sunday to collect a dollar or more from each member of the congregation as worshipers leave the service.

The young people decide what local charity will receive every penny of the money that is collected. Among the recipients of the offering are food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and hundreds of other helping organizations.

After they count their offerings on Super Bowl Sunday, the young people report their totals via the internet to www.souperbowl.org or they call 800.358.SOUP. That way, national totals are announced to the media, and the young people get to see that they are making a real difference in the lives of others.

My wife, Anne, and I, along with our children, have been involved in the Souper Bowl of Caring since its inception and feel that its growth is truly amazing. That's why we were so glad to offer our Discovery as the "Official 2004 Soupmobile."

Dan Fletcher and his wife, Anne, are DOAI members. Dan will send a follow-up report for our next issue.

DOAI eGroup Conversations

DOAI has an active and extremely helpful online eGroup. Each issue we will share with all of you some of the helpful conversations taking place. While complete solutions may not be involved, some of the conversations may help D owners in the maintenance and enjoyment of their rigs.

Darrell Godfredson wrote:

You may be familiar with the folding arms that carry the electrical cords for the living area slideout. I have kept the hinges on mine lubricated, and today I was underneath lubing again.

Today I noticed that both hinges were binding and flexing their mounts. Continued use would have broken them, and the possibilities of serious extraneous damage certainly existed.

I removed the arms and with the slide extended, I secured the electrical cables to the metal wall directly above the frame rail, leaving about a 2" droop in the cables for slack.

With the slide retracted, the cables hang down about a foot between the frame rail and the slideout compartments, well protected and out of harm's way.

John Veach responded:

I had a brace come off on the passenger side. This is a diagonal brace that runs from the chassis rail to a side mount, and

appears to help stabilize the sidewall fiberglass. The welds broke and the only thing that kept it from falling off (and maybe puncturing one of my new tires) was the coaxial cable I had tie-wrapped to it. I will have it re-welded before we go anywhere this winter.

We thank Darrell and John for granting permission to reprint their conversation. If you want to become part of the eGroup and benefit from the ongoing sharing of information, follow the instructions within Bob Cook's informative article found on page 15 in this issue.

"Show Me the Ozarks" Next October!

The Fall 2004 National Rally has been set for October 5-8 in Sedalia, Missouri, at the state fairgrounds.

Some of the activities in the proposal/working stage are a seminar on GPS, headed by Bob Cook; another Red Hat Social, headed by Teri Dykman; a combination parade of homes/swap meet/craft sale; and a possible craft class. Other seminars are being discussed, and Jim Devine has been contacting a number of people to participate in various facets of the rally. If you've ever wanted to be in on the ground floor in planning such an event, give Jim a call as soon as possible (888.594.6819) or send him an e-mail (jimd@one800.net).

The Sedalia area is quite attractive, abounding with many activities and possibilities. The map below shows the location of the fairgrounds (the light gray section) and its proximity to the historic district of Sedalia.

Situated at the northern edge of the famed Ozarks, Sedalia is the beginning of the Katy Trail State Park, a "Rails to

Continued on next page...



“Show Me the Ozarks”, Cont.
Trails” linear park where you can hike, bike and study nature. A majority of the trail closely follows the route of the Missouri River, so hikers and bicyclists often find themselves with the river on one side and towering bluffs on the other. The trail begins in downtown Sedalia, and passes along the southern edge of the fairgrounds (see map).

Plan to pack your bikes, as you will find the Katy Trail interesting, easy to navigate, and a great outdoors experience.

Another site is the Bothwell Lodge State Park, anchored by the John Horner Bothwell country estate, Stonyridge, a massive stone structure built in sections between 1897 and 1928.

Sedalia has two attractive public golf courses, great shopping within easy access of the fairgrounds, and more. If you want an advance look at the town and its environs, there are three websites you may find interesting:

☞ Missouri Tourism Board
www.missouritourism.org

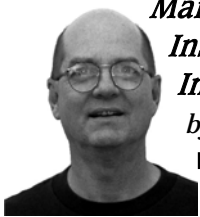
☞ Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce
www.sedaliachamber.com

☞ Historic Sedalia
www.visitsedaliamo.com

See the registration form on page 23, and start planning now. In the Spring 2004 issue we'll have more concrete information for you. If you have questions about any of the plans, please contact Jim Devine (e-mail address shown on previous page). ❖

Manual Satellite Installation Instructions

by Gene Hamelman



This article is a how-to guide on where to locate and how to install a manual crank-up satellite dish. I know many people these days are purchasing the automatic locating and tracking versions. I would have loved to have one of these units, but after years of setting up a tripod, running cable and fidgeting and fudging around with this method, the manual roof top version is a dramatic improvement. I can now hit the satellite in about two to three minutes as opposed to 20-30 minutes. This project is not very hard and should only take a couple of hours to complete. Probably the hardest part of the install, which took

me a long time to do, was to drill the big 1 3/4" hole in a roof that was perfect and didn't leak. The results will turn out just like the factory, especially if you take the time and care to do it right.

Before you start the install, you will need to obtain from Fleetwood Customer Support (800-322-8216) the 12VDC electrical drawing (example drawing no. 770-18-00018 is for a 1999 36T built Aug 98), see Figure 1. When you get the drawing, you will only need to look at the roof section. Now this is where the fun begins. To locate where the satellite backing/mount plate is, hold the drawing in your hands in the following manner: With the drawing in hand, place your left hand on the side of the paper marked roadside. Place your right hand on the doorside of the drawing. You are almost done. (I failed to mention it is best to do this while inside the motorhome.) Next, face the front of the coach – I know this will sound silly

– and place the drawing over your head and look at the drawing. You now know the orientation of where the backing plate is located and where to mount the satellite dish. Note: the backing plate consists of two 3/4" pieces of plywood glued back to back to make a 1 1/2" piece of wood. The backing/mounting plate is about 18" by 22". Figure 2 (see next page) shows the distance, 43 1/2" from the front cabinet to the satellite elevation handle. Figure 3 (see next page) shows the distance, 20 1/4" from the driver's speaker cabinet to the satellite elevation handle. Your actual mounting location may be slightly different, your actual mileage may vary and batteries are not included.

To start the installation you will need a 1/4" drill bit and a 1 3/4" hole saw. The unit I installed was the Winegard RM-46DE (newer model RM-DM46) with the Digital Magic Electronic
Continued on next page...

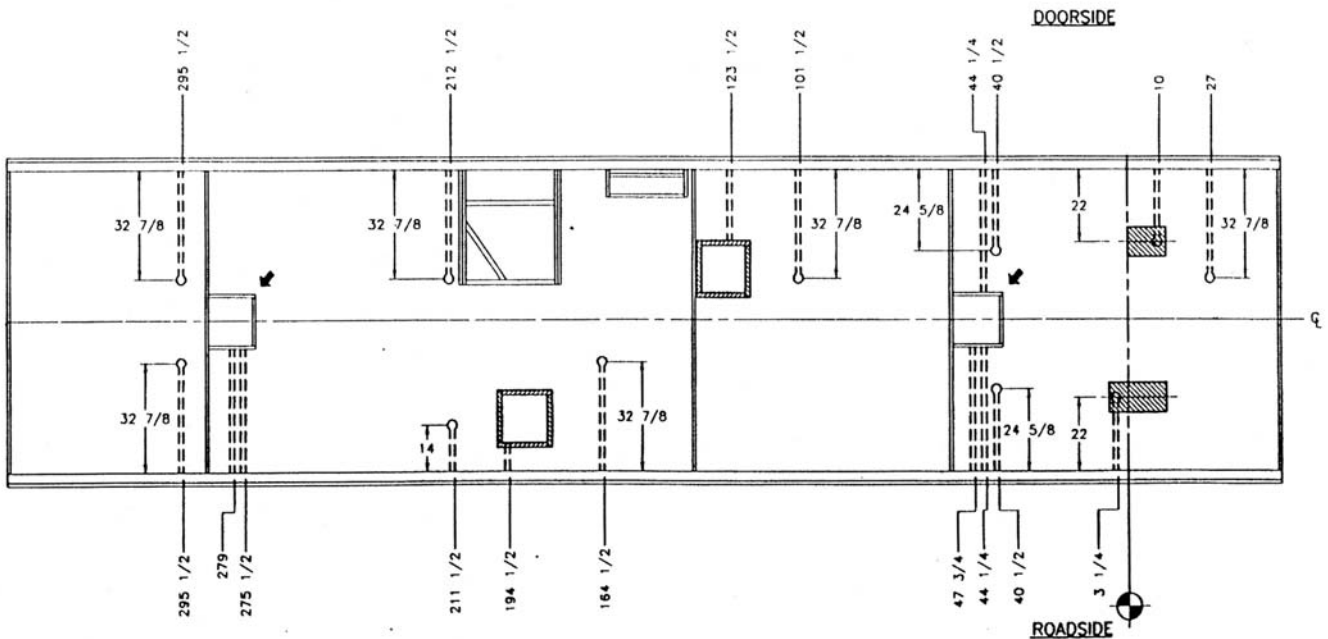


Figure 1

Satellite Instructions, Cont.

Elevation Sensor. The Digital Magic, in my opinion, is not an option but a requirement, especially since the Discovery and other Fleetwood products use sloped or crowned roofs. If you wish, you can also purchase the RW-5000 Roof Wedge to help set the satellite dish closer to level mounting. However, with the crowned ceiling, you might have alignment problems with some of the satellite mounting parts. I purchased it, but didn't use it. If you have a level ceiling, you might want to consider the RW-5000. Since Fleetwood, however, does not use the roof wedge on their factory installs, you may decide to not use it.

Using the 1/4" drill bit, drill all the way through the roof so that you can locate the mount hole on the ceiling. Next, with the 1 3/4" hole saw, drill the hole on the outside. From the inside, finish drilling the hole to complete creating the mounting hole. Note: the hole may not be completely through the roof, but all you need to do is just dig out the Styrofoam insulation. Remember to consult the installation instructions for exact procedures.

Next you will need to locate where the antenna cable is located so that you

can run the antenna cable from the LNB to the DSS receiver. Normally (and hope-fully), there will be a label on the roof marking the location of the antenna cable. This is where one end of the antenna cable will be. The other end will be located only a short distance away. From the inside, remove the speaker and cover from the driver's side. In this area you should find the other end of the antenna cable. You may ask why did they make this cable so short. I believe that this short cable is only a *locator* cable. You should run a new piece of antenna cable from the LNB over to where you will be locating the DSS receiver. This DSS receiver will either be in the overhead passenger side cabinet, as in our case, or in the overhead driver's side cabinet. You can add connectors to the short piece of antenna cable, but it is highly recommended that you do not. The more connectors you add, the more noise and problems you will encounter. While running the new antenna cable, it's a good time to run the data cable for the Digital Magic elevation sensor. I mounted the Digital Magic indicator in the right side of the overhead driver side cabinet.

Now that all the cables have been run, you are ready to mount the

satellite dish. To install the satellite dish you need to **read, review and follow** the manufacturer's installation instructions. Remember, when mounting anything to the roof, whether it be the satellite dish, cable clamps or anything else, use the approved self-leveling sealant specifically for your rig's roof material. Also, be generous with the sealant, but don't put it all over everything in sight.

I hope you find this article helpful and that you will enjoy satellite viewing with your new roof-mounted dish. It's not the fancy auto-locating, tracking model, but at about \$250, it's a bargain and it has made my life a little easier. Maybe the next article will be on when I install the new 2 1/2" high phased array solid state auto-everything antenna from MotoSat. Special thanks to John Veach for providing information to me so that I could start and finish this project. ❖

Gene Hamelman is a technical consultant with his own business, G-Man Products, designing and manufacturing custom RV products for Discovery and other Fleetwood motor homes. Gene and his wife, Jean, live in Garland, Texas and drive a 1999 Discovery 36T. You can contact Gene at g-mann@comcast.net.

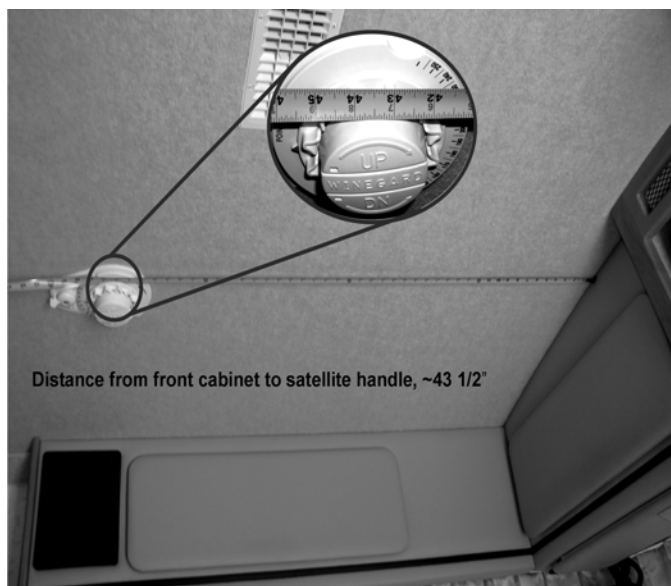


Figure 2: Distance from front cabinet to satellite handle is approximately 43 1/2 inches. Note enlarged inset.

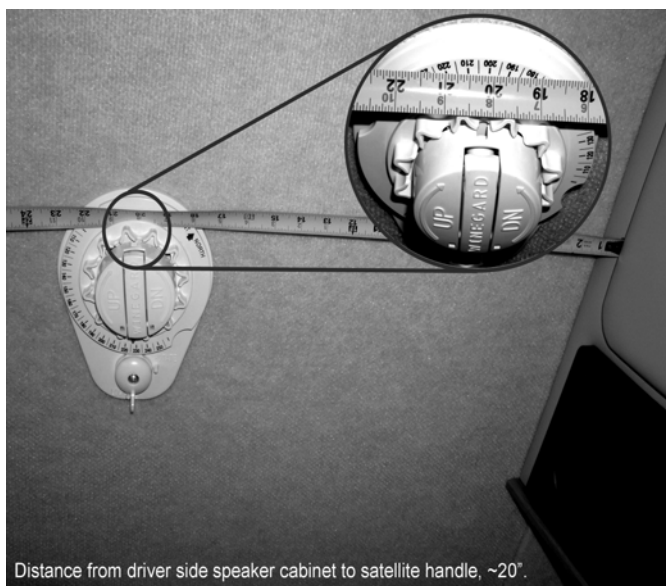


Figure 3: Distance from driver's side speaker cabinet to satellite handle is approximately 20 inches. Note enlarged inset.

Upcoming Rallies

Strawberry Sunshine Shindig Regional – January 30-February 4
 Bluebonnet Bash Regional – April 21-24
 Show Me the Ozarks National – October 5-9



**South Central Regional Rally – Bluebonnet Bash
 Havens Landing RV Resort, Montgomery, Texas
 April 21-24, 2004**



Havens Landing offers 239 level concrete sites, full hook-ups, 20/30/50 amp service, and SATV to full hook-ups, as well as a 15,600-square-foot wood-floor pavilion, an enclosed large heated pool, spa and wading pool, an exercise room, camp store, billiard room, game room, gift shop and boutique, lending library, stocked lakes, shuffleboard, dog walk and more! Check it out at www.havenslanding.com or call 800.535.8351 to arrange extra nights' reservation. **Directions to Havens Landing RV Park:** On I-45 south of Dallas, and 40 miles north of Houston, take Exit 87; go west on state highway 105. Travel 13 miles to resort, entrance on the left.

Make checks payable to:
 Discovery Owners Association, Inc.

Mail check and registration form (below) to:
 Claire Weber, Registrar
 15814 Pebble Bend Dr
 Houston TX 77068-1210

E-mail: cweber@houston.rr.com
 Telephone: 281.537.0804



**South Central Regional Rally – Bluebonnet Bash
 → REGISTRATION FORM ←**

Please PRINT or TYPE all information – You may photocopy as needed

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Co-Pilot _____
 Street _____ City, State, ZIP+4 Code _____
 DOAI # _____ Telephone _____ E-Mail Address _____
 Children/Guest Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Emergency Contact Name _____ Emergency Telephone _____

Check all applicable:

- Need handicap parking DOAI officer Vendor First regional rally

	<u>Cost before 4-1-04</u>	<u>Cost after 4-2-04</u>	<u>Total</u>
Coach w/two people (4 nights – 21-24)	\$120.00	\$140.00	_____
Coach w/one person	85.00	95.00	_____
Extra person/s each	45.00	55.00	_____
Golf and prizes each	32.00	32.00	_____
Museum Tour each (includes lunch)	30.00	30.00	_____

Check Enclosed

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Yes, I/we will help:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Seminars | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Tours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Door Prizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reporter | <input type="checkbox"/> 50/50 Game | <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor Helper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up Crew | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Other or Where Needed |

National DOAI Rally 2004 – Show Me the Ozarks

Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, Missouri
October 5-9, 2004 (Four nights' camping)

Grassy sites, 30 amp service, water and sewer hook-ups
You may arrive up to two nights early for \$13/night (as early as October 3)

Vendor Displays – Seminars – Fun Activities – Parade of Homes – Swap Meet – Craft Sale
Great Food – Fellowship! More details in Spring 2004 issue!

HELP US PLAN – REGISTER EARLY! NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004.

Make checks payable to:
Discovery Owners Association, Inc.

Mail check and registration form to:
Nina Soltwedel, Registrar
DOAI National Rally 2004
4736 Harwich Street
Boulder, CO 80301-4217

Fill out form below completely
and attach check.

If you want to park together, you must arrive together.
QUESTIONS? Call Nina (888.786.2962) or send e-mail (soltwedel45@hotmail.com)
NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 20. NO SHOW, NO REFUND.



National DOAI Rally 2004 – Show Me the Ozarks
REGISTRATION FORM

Please PRINT or TYPE all information – You may photocopy as needed

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Co-Pilot _____
Street _____ City, State, ZIP+4 Code _____
DOAI # _____ Telephone _____ E-Mail Address _____
Extra Person/s Last Name/s _____ First Name/s _____
Emergency Contact Name _____ Emergency Telephone _____

Check all applicable:

- Need handicap parking DOAI officer Vendor First national rally

Costs:

\$125 per coach with two adults \$ _____
\$83 per coach with one adult \$ _____
\$42 each additional adult per coach: \$42 x _____ \$ _____
\$13 per night early arrival: *\$13 x _____ \$ _____
*Maximum two nights – Oct. 3 and 4

Check Enclosed \$ _____

Keep a copy of this registration form for your records.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Yes, I/we will help:

- Parking Seminars Golf Tours
Registration Door Prizes Entertainment Vendor Helper
Reporter 50/50 Game Meal Helper Merchandise Sales
Photographer Clean-up Crew First Aid Where Needed

Yes, I/we would like to participate in: (Check all that apply)

- Book Exchange Parade of Homes Craft Sale/Swap Meet Red Hat Social

DISCOVERY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Welcome to an organization open to all owners of Discovery motor homes by Fleetwood RV. DOAI is an organization intended to foster social opportunities and information exchange among members.

Dues are **\$20.00** for the first year, and **\$16.00** each year thereafter, due in the month joined.

PLEASE...PAYABLE IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY!
Questions? Call 888.594.6818

Mail the form below with your check payable to *Discovery Owners Association, Inc.* to:
MaryAnn Crowell, Membership Chairman
207 County Road 3000
Lott, TX 76656-3828

Pilot Last Name _____ First _____ Co-Pilot _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP+4 Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell Telephone _____

Discovery Year _____ Length and Model _____ E-Mail Address _____

Is this your first RV? Yes No Are you a full-time or part-time RV'er? _____

Discovery Owners Association, Inc.
MaryAnn Crowell, Membership Chairman
207 County Road 3000
Lott, TX 76656-3828

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