



Summer 2025 Newsletter



RRR is presented an FMCA certificate by NWA Pres. Dennis Martin in recognition of 25 years since being formally chartered in May 1999. Mtn View RV Park, May 2024

Upcoming Dates/Events for 2025

July 9th – 16th

Chapter Rally

Casey's Riverside RV Park

46443 Westfir Rd, Westfir, OR 97492

Host: [Janice Wardan/Dave Schuck](#)

August 13th – 20th

Chapter Rally

Big Pines RV Park

135151 US-97, Crescent, OR 97733

Host: [TBD](#)

September 10th – 17th

Chapter Rally

Horn Rapids RV Resort

2640 Kingsgate Way, Richland, WA 99354

Host: [Mark and Traci Davis](#)

Summer Greetings to all Rim Rock Roamers!

Here it is, Independence Day, and your chapter president is finally getting a newsletter update out! We had a very up and down spring (weather-wise), with many highs and lows, along with an early start to wildfire season in Central Oregon. A fire broke out in NW Redmond back on June 3rd, not far from Team Linschied and Team Wilcox residences. Fortunately, crews responded quickly and had it under control and mostly extinguished by later that evening. No homes were lost but parts of north Redmond and some areas along the outskirts experienced power outages for a few hours. Team Davis had a very busy spring, including a 3-nt trip to Albany for the Northwest Area planning meeting, a relaxing 3-

nt stay at Maupin City Park along the Deschutes River (highly recommended), and a 5-nt camping trip to Honeyman State Park near Florence, with former comrades from our Oregon Air National Guard days. In addition to any RRR chapter activities, I sincerely hope you all have been getting out as well... Recreating/traveling and experiencing what the PNW has to offer this time of year. So much to do and see, and May-Oct is prime time to take advantage of it! The 2025 rally season is already off to a good start, with our first outing at Hee Hee Illahee RV Resort back in May, as well as the recent "Remember When" Northwest Area Rally in Albany, along with our pre-rally at nearby Blue Ox RV Park that preceded. We shift into high gear this month, with a much-anticipated rally at Casey's Riverside RV Park in Westfir. The rally is being spearheaded by none other than last September's incredible hosts of the same location, Janice Wardan and Dave Schuck. We're expecting a large turnout... Should be a hoot! In other news, Team Davis recently dealt with two **costly** RV expenses: Back in late winter, we were finally able to get our coach scheduled for repair/replacement of the wonky VacuFlush toilet pump. What a "crappy" thing to have to go through... Pun intended... 🤢😬 More recently, we purchased a used 2014 Jeep Wrangler to serve as our "toad," and then had the tow package installed at Roadmaster up in Vancouver. We're very happy with both the Jeep and the tow bar set up, but the pocketbook suffered a **huge** hit! 😬

Board Member Changes/New Appointment

Late last fall, well after the 2024 rally season had ended, we nominated and elected new chapter officers for key board positions.

- First past President, Wayne Linschied, offered to take over as Treasurer, as longtime Treasurer, Anne Mattioda was looking to step down after several years of serving admirably in that role and keeping our books straight. Wayne was a unanimous "Yea" vote for the position and is doing fantastic work, while keeping the President (me) out of jail! 😬
- RRR member Wally Kundert was approached regarding the possibility of assuming the board position of National Director, as incumbent Bob Guillory decided to step down following the conclusion of the 2024 rally season. Bob kept us on track for the past 3 years, ensuring RRR representation at the National Level for FRVA Governing Board meetings and elections, while also serving as an NWA and International Convention Rally Captain each of those years. Wally has stepped in and hit the ground running right away. His "Yea" vote was unanimous!
- As 2024 faded, longtime Wagonmaster, Susan Guillory, decided to step down, following approx. 5 years as our rally "Scheduler-in-Chief." Her efforts at finding (and arranging) rally locations that would work for us all, while also trying to please everyone, have been incredible! RRR Lynette Brown immediately expressed interest in stepping up into Susan's void to take on the part and has been eager to get a jump on future planning. I honestly believe the Wagonmaster role to be one of the most demanding jobs out there, so we are very grateful, Lynette! The role is appointed. It is **not** an elected officer board member position.

We cannot thank these outgoing and incoming individuals enough for their level of care, dedication, and time commitment to Rim Rock Roamers. They are the ones who keep the wheels turning and the chapter moving forward!

Photo Collage from last season's adventures



Photo Collage from last season's adventures (continued)



Rim Rock Roamers - 2025 spring luncheon get-together on April 12th, Mazatlán Mexican Restaurant, Redmond, OR

Of Note

A special shout-out to Jan Rydman for (once again) putting together our latest RRR recruiting brochure handout (**See other email attachment that accompanied this newsletter**). She was able to select some photos from many of last season's rallies and then let the magic of "Insert" kick in. As with the 2023/2024 brochures, we coordinated through the Chapter Services Dept at FMCA HQ to have 250 copies made. They even include the new FRVA logo at the top. We'll do our best to get 5-6 copies out to each membership (Pilot/Co-Pilot) as we work our way through rally season.

2025 Rally Hosts (update)

Kicking off the 2025 rally season, Jan Rydman hosted our May rally at Hee Hee Illahee RV Resort in Salem. Things pretty much went off without a hitch and a fun time was had by the small number of us who participated. We experienced typical May weather for the Willamette Valley, with on & off sun and rain showers. Wayne sustained a serious injury to his shin while hooking up the Linschied toad on check-out morning, but Dee was able to get him to the ER and patched up for the drive home later that day. I'm beginning to think that May rallies are out to get Wayne... See notes from May 2023 at Netarts Bay Garden!

Team Davis oversaw our 4-night pre-rally at Blue Ox RV Park in June, heading into the Northwest Area Rally a mile up the road at Linn Co. Expo Center. Having space #79, which was about 15 steps from the rec center, made hosting a cinch! We all had a great time and the only negative outcome I'm aware of was (unfortunately) Team Gonzales/Perri sustained some major damage to one of the basement compartments on their rig while attempting a tight turn upon entering the park. They seemed optimistic for having the necessary Repair action(s) addressed following the rally.

Janice Warden and Dave Schuck graciously offered to (once again) take on hosting efforts for Casey's Riverside RV Park, coming up later this week from 9-16 July. After the amazing rally they pulled off last Sep (at Casey's), we'll see if they can outdo their own efforts this go-around... 😊 We're all looking forward to it with great anticipation!

As mentioned at least a couple of times recently, we are still in need of a host for the Aug 13-20 rally at Big Pines RV Park in Crescent, OR. Outdoor activities are likely the name of the game for this location, with all kinds of fishing, hiking, and OHV approved roads & trails nearby. As a group, we've pretty much got hosting down pat, with a cookie-cutter template that anyone can use to fill in the days & activities. Please let Lynette Brown or me know if interested. If no one steps up, a very basic (and I do mean, **BASIC**) itinerary will be floated out to everyone at some point in advance.

Annual Business Meeting



Per FRVA and RRR bylaws, we must conduct at least one business meeting per fiscal year (1 Jan – 31 Dec). For FY 2025, we will hold our meeting during this month's rally at Casey's. Please bring along any topics you would like to discuss. We'll do our best to follow Robert's Rules of Order, stick to our agenda, and stay focused and on point. This is also the best time each year to nominate and elect new chapter officers.

FRVA National Elections



You may recall a couple of email blasts sent out back at the end of May and early June from Wally Kundert and me regarding the upcoming FRVA National Election, being held during the yearly Governing Board meeting on **July 16th**, at the **111th International Convention** in Gillette, WY. This is a big deal, and, depending on outcomes, may shape FRVA in a good (or not so good) way, going forward. Wally had laid out the positions and candidates who were up for election, as well as listing proposed changes to current FRVA bylaws and Policies and Procedures. I had chimed in, encouraging folks to engage in conversation on how we (as a chapter) should consider voting on the issues and candidates. The silence was deafening, so your RRR board members took up the cause on our own during the recent NWA Rally and sat down to work through it all and (collectively) decide how our chapter would vote on the board positions and change proposals. Those selections were then handed over to our assigned **temporary delegate**, Roxanne Parish – NWA Secretary, who nicely offered to represent RRR at the Governing Board meeting in another nine days. Once the election outcomes are known, Wally or I will update everyone.

Vice President's Corner

I cannot believe that this month marks the mid-point of our Roamer camping season already! It sure seems like this year has been a blur and here we are already thinking about next winter down in Arizona. Let's slow it down a bit and think about the great trips that we have left this season – including the ever-popular Casey's coming up this week. What a great park to just relax and enjoy each other's company and nature. We are really looking forward to another fun-filled week hosted by Janice and Dave! Before we continue, I offer this disclaimer – This is to clarify that the opinions expressed in this discussion are my own through research and should not be considered official recommendations of Rim Rock Roamers. You should perform your own due diligence as to what works best for you and your situation.

Before we get into our "internet on the road" topic, I do want to update you on Part 2 of our battery/solar discussion from last time. While I feel that there was enough information provided in both Parts 1 and 2 to make an informed decision as to your specific needs, I have since rethought our needs. As you may recall, I ended up putting two (2) Group 31 Renogy 100AH AGM Hybrid Gel batteries in our bottom battery tray. You can go back and reread Part 1 as to why I went this route, but unfortunately, Renogy has discontinued these batteries (word to the wise – once you have settled on a choice – go ahead and fill up your battery bank) so I cannot get the two (2) additional batteries for my top tray to complete my battery bank. As a result, I have now determined that the best route to take (and I know that a lot of Class A's use them) is to install four (4) 6V AGM golf cart (or 8D batteries for those of you traveling in land yachts that can house them) in a series/parallel arrangement.

Why AGM instead of standard flooded batteries? The biggest reason is that of not needing the constant maintenance. Most of these batteries are not installed in a good location, so ending up with "cooked" batteries from not filling them becomes a common issue. Another reason for AGM is that they are not as likely to spill or suffer from sulfation. While they are more expensive than standard flooded batteries, AGM batteries can have a life up to 2x as long, or about 6-7 years. Lastly, AGM batteries can charge up to five (5) times faster than flooded batteries, and they can provide a depth-of-discharge of almost 80% which is very close to that of lithium for a lot less money. So, what batteries would I go with? If I were to buy them today, I would go with Duracell Ultra 225AH 6V AGM batteries, which in my research, are

higher rated (and cheaper) than the Trojan T-105 batteries, although I did find some articles that rated the Trojan higher.

Our topic of discussion in this issue is that of getting internet while out on the road, and specifically, what we are currently using in our rig. It should be noted that, for the purposes of this discussion, that we always camp in developed areas that have cellular networks available. I held a brief discussion last year in Baker City about this topic and had a few discussions last month in Albany during our NW Area Rally swap meet where I once again tried to sell our Dish Tailgater Pro with tripod stand and Wally receiver. It seems that more and more RVers are moving toward streaming and getting away from satellite TV, but I digress. We all know that RV Park Wi-Fi is not all that reliable, and most parks – if their system is sophisticated enough to sense that you are streaming video – can shut your service off. I can only recall 1 or 2 parks while camping with Roamers where we had good enough Wi-Fi (and the park allowed it) to stream video.

Like with our battery discussion, our discussion on RV Internet is going to be broken into two (2) parts – with this being Part 1 and will be a discussion on cellular internet. Part 2 will include a brief discussion on satellite internet and end with the pros and cons of each type. Before I get into what we use and why, let's go ahead and discuss the concept of accessing the internet while camping. There are a couple of schools of thought here – “if out camping I want to totally disconnect from the outside world” – or, if you are like me – “I want to have access to everything that I have in our sticks and bricks.” If you are in the former category, then you can stop reading here as this discussion is for folks that want to be able to access reliable internet while out on the road. One thing this discussion will not focus on is that of folks that are fulltime and/or still working while on the road and have the need for both cellular and satellite, and like with batteries and solar, the sky is the limit as to the cost. Most of us are not fulltime or working while camping and also do not require internet in locations that are beyond the reaches of cellular service.

For our first couple of years of RV camping (we are currently in year 4) we used Dish Network for TV – along with our off-air antenna for local channels, and our phones for emails. After moving to all streaming at home and wanting to have the same streaming services out on the road that we watched at home, plus having onboard Wi-Fi for various items to connect, I started researching the various ways to have cellular internet and through extensive research, eventually went with a company called TravlFi. When we first started with them, we were utilizing their Journey1 LTE Hotspot which is a portable (like a mobile hotspot) device and offers speeds up to 150Mbps and connections for up to ten (10) devices.

After one (1) month of usage, we moved up to their Journey XTR 4G Router as it can support more (32) connected devices and offer speeds up to 300Mbps plus which allows all the devices inside and outside our RV to have Wi-Fi. For areas we travel to that cellular service reception is low (1 or 2 bars) we have a weBoost antenna to amplify the signal. It probably does not need to be stated, but if you have no bars, then you will not have any internet. TravlFi devices contains eSIMS for accessing multiple major (think like AT&T and T-Mobile, for example) cellular networks to connect to the nearest cell towers to provide internet access. This coverage is available across the US, Canada, and Mexico. So why not simply just use your phone as a mobile hotspot? Well, if you are in an area where your cell phone provider does not have service, you also would have no internet. Since the TravlFi devices access most cellular networks – it's like having multiple hotspots. As you move to different locations, your device will automatically switch to the strongest network in your area. When we were in Albany, for example, while at Blue Ox our router locked onto AT&T, and after the long drive (LOL) to the fairgrounds, it locked onto T-Mobile. I must admit that most of the times that our router has locked onto T-Mobile, that our download speeds were below 15Mbps, but at the NWA Rally, our download speeds were routinely in the range of 150Mbps. Our signal was so strong, that I offered up our Wi-Fi password to a certain president whose coach was close by... 😊

TravlFi service is pay-as-you-go without any contracts. There is a one-time activation fee, and you can pause your service at any time and start it back up without paying a reactivation fee. When camping season ended last fall, we paused our service until we made our yearly trip down to Arizona, paused it again in April when we returned home, then

reactivated it again in June when we traveled to Albany. Their data plans start as low as \$19/month for 2 GB and goes up to unlimited data for \$129/month, although they are currently running a special for unlimited at \$99/month which is only \$10/month more than their 100 GB/month plan. I will link to their website below and their site also includes a data estimator so that you can determine how much data that you should purchase. Please understand that unused data cannot be rolled over until the next month, but if you find that you are reaching the end of your data, you can simply ask them for more.

So how much download speed do you really need? Those of you already utilizing Starlink may see my statement above about sometimes being under 15Mbps and think that is too slow. The number one video streaming service is Netflix, and you only need 5Mbps to stream their full HD content and 25Mbps for full 4K Ultra HD content. Obviously, the more devices you have connected to your Wi-Fi network the more download speed that you will need to avoid buffering or dropping down to SD. We have three (3) TV's, two (2) phones, a tablet, Alexa, thermostat, and microwave attached to our RV router, and for the most part, have never run out of bandwidth. To me, since we rarely, if ever, travel to areas that are outside of cellular service range, our TravlFi was an easy choice.

[TravlFi Unlimited RV Internet](#)

Please note that the devices I referenced in this discussion are 4G LTE capable with a typical download speed of 15-50Mbps, but they also offer a new 5G router that has a typical download speed of 100-200Mbps. It should be noted that their 5G data plans (and device) cost more money, and you may not have 5G service available to you where you are camping. I'm going to end this here as it is already long, but I would encourage you to visit their website to see if TravlFi might be a good fit for you. See you out on the road and next time for Part 2!

Rim Rock Roamers – RV Placards (Update)

This is old news, but for anyone who has STILL not received a member placard to place on your windshield (or towable), Wayne Linschied will create you a personal laminated 8 ½ x 11 placard, like the one shown below for Team Davis. Another form of advertising and displaying who we are! Yours Truly has clip-on suction cups for mounting. I keep them in the Davis coach, so just hit me up if you need a pair.



Members Come – Members Go

Last Sept during our annual chapter meeting, we discussed membership and whether we should temporarily pause with “active” recruiting. Around that time, we (as a chapter) were bursting at the seams with new membership and (collectively) were having a bit of a challenge keeping up with the rapid growth. During the meeting, we unanimously agreed that we should slow down and back off a bit on actively recruiting... Namely, for Jan to discontinue sending out her recruitment welcome letters each month to new FRVA members. We also agreed to continue “passively” recruiting, i.e., folks reaching out to us on their own, via whatever means. Fast forward ten months, and we’ve lost 8 memberships (yes, 8) since that discussion, while only gaining around half that number. Without drilling down into the details of each RRR departure, I’m realizing that this whole business of recreating and being affiliated with a group of people through FRVA is a continual merry-go-round, and likely always will be to some degree. Folks age out, have major health issues, their priorities can change, and lastly, I’m learning that retirement is a continuous journey (not a destination), and for some, traveling around in an RV was only intended to be a temporary part of their retirement plan. My point in bringing all of this up is that I think we should have a discussion at our upcoming annual meeting (to be held at Casey’s this week) about possibly reverting to having Jan to send out her monthly welcome letters, and let the chips fall where they may.

13 Most Common Things to Break in an RV

See web link below:

<https://rvlifestyle.com/common-things-to-break-in-an-rv/>

15 Fun Camping Party Games for the Grownups

See web link below:

<https://rvlifestyle.com/camping-party-games-for-adults/>



RRR OFFICERS

	2024		2025	
President:	Mark Davis	pedeeland@gmail.com	Mark Davis	pedeeland@gmail.com
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Alt. National Director	Traci Davis	316tldavis@gmail.com	Traci Davis	316tldavis@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Jan Rydman will retain this position for 2025. This is an appointed position.



Wildfire & Laughter: A Bonfire Tale at Netarts Bay Garden

It was mid-May at Netarts Bay Garden, the kind of evening where the salt air clung to your jacket and the sky was painted in watercolor—hazy purples and molten orange, melting into the bay like warm wax. The sun had already kissed the water goodnight, and now the shadows stretched long and lazy.

They'd dragged four bundles of firewood out near the pit earlier in the afternoon, right beside an axe that had already split a few stubborn rounds with a satisfying thwack. The fire started with a hiss—the snap of a propane torch flaring to life—and caught quickly. Smoke rose in a twisting column, caught in the soft sea breeze, turning gold in the fading light.

Mark was the first to claim fire duty. Always pacing, always poking, he stirred the logs with rhythmic purpose. "Pyro priest," someone mumbled. Probably Brian. Mark danced around the flames at one point, tipsy on the fresh ocean air—or maybe Bob's potent rum and Coke, which was making generous rounds in a travel mug the size of a small cooler.

Brian, watching from his post with a glass of his favorite beverage, chuckled but kept his eyes sharp. Mark had a habit of getting too close to fire, and Brian wasn't about to scrape him off a flaming log tonight.

Susan huddled under a thick Pendleton blanket, her boots barely poking out. Her cheeks were flushed from the heat, or the sheer contentment of it all. A few feet behind her, Mary leaned comfortably under the patio heater at the table, sipping slowly, half-lost in the crackling of the flames and occasional bursts of laughter. Traci was nervously watching and wondering if Brian would be able to prevent Mark from doing something careless and stupid with the fire!

Then came Robert.

The stories started like they always did—half-believable, quarter-true, and entirely wild.

"...So, I'm in the Sierra foothills, right? This Harley's barely hanging on, and the sun's baking the leather right into my damn skin—"

Lynette burst out laughing, interrupting him. "You said last time it was raining in the Sierra foothills!"

Robert didn't skip a beat. "That was the next day. The monsoon rolled in like a DEA bust. I'm telling you—"

Mark whooped and waved a log in the air, sparks flying dangerously close to the case of beer someone had strategically cooled in a bucket. Brian reached out and grabbed the dancing madman by the collar, gently but firmly, and eased him back from the flames.

Dennis and Martie, cuddled next to their space heater, laughed so hard they choked on their drinks. "You Roamers are nuts," Dennis grinned, raising a plastic cup toward Robert. "You're not right, man."

"Nope," Robert grinned wide, teeth gleaming in the firelight. "That's why you love me."

Bob passed the rum again, muttering something about warming the soul. Dee and Wayne sat off to the side, wrapped in disbelief at the cast of characters before them, like they'd stumbled into a campfire sitcom. The smoke swirled around them, carrying laughter and the sharp scent of driftwood.

The night got deep. The cold snuck in, just a little. But no one moved. No one even wanted to. Every crackle from the fire seemed to hold another memory, another ridiculous story waiting to be told. The embers faded slow, glowing red and lazy.

By the time the last log collapsed into ash and the stars were sharp in the night sky, no one was ready to say goodbye. They just sat there—drunk on stories, sea air, and each other.

Another Netarts night burned into legend.