



## OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



### Upcoming Dates/Events

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>**

Chapter Rally

Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort

67667 US-20, Bend, OR 97703

**Spring Luncheon Get-together?**

Date: Weekend of 23-24 March 2024?

Location: To Be Determined?

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

Final FMCA/NWA Planning Meeting

Linn Co. Fair & Expo Center (Albany, OR)

\* For FMCA 2024 Int'l Convention (Redmond) \*



### Greetings Roamers,

Well, here we are... Our grand finale of the 2023 rally season is just a few days away! Less than a full week into fall and you can feel it in the air. Nights are dropping into the 40's (or cooler), and we've dipped below 12 hours of sunlight each day for the first time in 6 months. As we push further into harvest season, it's only a matter of time until we're preparing Thanksgiving feasts with family & friends, before hunkering down or heading to lower latitudes for winter. The weather forecast has gradually improved over the past few days for the period of our upcoming stay at Bend/Sisters Garden, possibly giving us some dry/sunny days for group activities and to get out and enjoy the local area. Fingers crossed... 🍀



For the fourth time in as many years, Roamers recently enjoyed a week at Casey's Riverfront RV Park, near Oakridge, OR. Spirits were high, as we had incredible weather (mid 70's to low 80's) and a great time enjoying each other's company. Whether it was playing games, going to offsite attractions, or simply relaxing in camp chairs while visiting, much story-telling and laughter could be heard throughout the park! Anne & Marc Mattioda played rally hosts and did a fine job of scheduling events and somehow herding all of us cats! Everyone agreed that Casey's clubhouse is the crown jewel of RV park clubhouses, in terms of the space and what the facility offers... at least for any of the parks RRR has stayed at over recent years. Of the many highlights, the ladies held a "Red Hat" tea get-together, which they all said was a lot of fun. While the women were enjoying tea in the clubhouse, the men were out at the gazebo area telling tales and consuming adult beverages. Some of the B.S. was getting so deep, I thought I may need to break out my fishing hip waders... 😊 Other highpoints included another fine session of "Where's George" bingo, hosted once again by Jerry Adams. Winners were spread around fairly evenly, but I think the Davis coach went home \$11 heavier than when we arrived. Sunrise riverside chats in camp chairs were a daily occurrence for some of the men, as they attempted to solve all the world's problems over coffee and donuts... uh, I mean protein bars! And as always, probably the best of times were our group gatherings for happy hour, brunch, and potluck. Having everyone together and visiting over good food is hard to beat! Last, but not least, we held our annual chapter business meeting, following brunch cleanup on Sunday. Meeting minutes were emailed out chapter-wide a few days ago, but please let someone know if you didn't receive them.



**New Members:** Another major item of note is that we had the pleasure of 4 invited guest couples who attended various portions of our stay at Casey's. As of press time, we have gained 3 new chapter memberships from those invites. Apparently, we made a favorable impression and didn't scare anyone off... 😊 **A very warm RRR welcome to all!!**

David Middleton/Margie Ware: David and Margie hail from Eugene and go way back with Rollie and Ruth

David Schuck/Janice Warden: David and Janice also live in Eugene and are friends of Rollie/Ruth and David M./Margie

Ron & Linda Clark: Ron and Linda are from North Plains and are also friends of Rollie and Ruth

We also have another new couple to introduce... Paul and Kathy Rickey, from Oregon City. The Rickey's received an information invite and rally schedule from our Membership Chair, Jan Rydman, a while back, and noticed we were going to be at Casey's over most of the same dates they were already scheduled to be there, so they were hoping to meet us and check out the group. I guess we didn't scare them off either, as they have decided to join the chapter... 😊

Lastly, Eugene (Gene) and Lynda Hart (from Scio) were camping at Casey's and early on day 1 (before the main group had arrived), Gene saw our Rim Rock Roamers banner tied to the front grill of the Davis coach and stopped by to ask some questions. I went down to his and Lynda's site a bit later and chatted with them for a good 30+ minutes. They liked what they heard and mailed in their pretty much sight unseen! With the 2023 rally season quickly coming to a close, the Hart's are looking forward to next year and getting out with the group when they can.

## Member Health Updates

Near the end of the Sep rally, Rollie Seibert and Ruth Voltz departed early due to testing positive for COVID-19. Conversations with them over the past couple of weeks indicate they are on the mend and pretty much over the virus. We wish them the best in recovery and look forward to them joining us out on the trail next rally season. Wally Kundert recently underwent hip replacement surgery and early reports are that it was successful and everything pretty much went as expected. Now it's time for physical therapy appts and home exercises for the next few weeks. Also, Susan Guillory is continuing to recover from her right arm fracture, but is expected to make a full recovery over time. Has anyone spoken with Robert and Lynette Brown recently to hear how Robert's broken arm and cracked ribs are healing? Please let the group know if you have an update. We ask that you continue to send good juju and your thoughts and prayers to all of our members in need.

## Upcoming Rally Hosts

Benz coach will be hosting our upcoming rally at **Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort**, 2-9 Oct, which is located approx. 3 mi SE of Sisters along US Hwy 20, adjacent to the Sisters Rodeo grounds. Brian has sent out the host schedule to the parties who are attending (9 coaches), so please take a close look at it and send him or Mary any questions you may have. Also, don't forget the costume and pizza party (in lieu of potluck) on Friday, 10/6, for those interested. Should be a spook-tacular time... 🎃 🦇 🧛

## FMCA/Northwest Area Planning Meeting

Our National Director, Bob Guillory, and his wife, Susan, along with Traci and I, attended the first planning meeting (19-21 Sep in Albany) for next year's FMCA International Convention to be held at the Deschutes Co. Fair & Expo Center in Redmond. It was a productive meeting and gave us an early glimpse of what to expect next August. I won't rehash the entire meeting here, but will highlight two noteworthy outcomes:

- 1) Rim Rock Roamers was successfully able to negotiate for packing and distributing Welcome Bags, as we've done for several consecutive Area rallies. Our primary volunteer role (as a chapter) has been locked in, however, there will likely be additional individual opportunities to assist with other logistical needs.
- 2) Susan, Bob, and Traci all worked very hard on creating our new RRR chapter board (for Chapter Fair display), while I sat back, supervised, and provided useless input... 🤔 Here's a nice photo of the finished product!



Our final planning meeting for the International Convention will take place 23-25 Apr (also in Albany – not Redmond).



## Vice President's Corner

Welcome to all of our new Roamers! Wow – what a year that we have had together exploring various areas of our beautiful state, and enjoying each other's company. I am certainly proud to be one of your officers and happy to start having my very own corner within the newsletter. As many of you know, I am a retired mechanical engineer, and I like to tinker on things. So, my focus while I'm sitting in my corner will be to educate our members on things that are important to me, and hopefully, you as well after reading. With so many new FMCA members joining our chapter this year, perhaps a good start for my writing would be to have a discussion on the benefits (included in your yearly dues) and discounts that FMCA has negotiated for the members.

The hyperlink to the benefits page is [FMCA Family Member Benefits | FMCA](#) and include FMCAssist, Tech Connect, Family RVing Magazine, FMCA University, Advocacy, Anti-Theft Decal, Membership Plates, and the Mobile App. I will not go into detail on all of these as you can read about each benefit on the FMCA website, but will briefly discuss the FMCAssist and FMCA University benefits.

FMCAssist is emergency medical evacuation and repatriation coverage that is available to members worldwide as long as you are more than 75 miles from home; for those members that are full-time, you are also considered more than 75 miles from home. So what services are provided as part of the FMCAssist program?

- Medical Evacuation and Repatriation
- Return Home
- Family Travel Expense
- Return of Mortal Remains
- Return of Dependent Children
- Recreational Vehicle/RV Return (limited to trips in North America only)
- Return of Private Passenger Automobile (limited to trips in North America only)
- Pet Return
- Prescription Medication and Glasses Replacement
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits
- Emergency Cash and Emergency Room Cash Benefits

Hyperlink to the FMCAssist frequently asked questions (FAQ) is [FMCAssist-FAQs-1020.indd](#)

Chubb is the insurance company that underwrites FMCAssist, and the hyperlink to the policy document should you wish to read and understand it is [FMCAssist Policy 09 30 22.pdf](#)

As you will learn by attending an FMCA Rally, is that besides having fun and fellowship with more FMCA chapters, is that FMCA is big on educating its members via the numerous seminars that they offer. To that end, the FMCA University is an online hub of RVing resources that members can access 24/7 – anytime, and from anywhere. Having RV problems on the Road? Need to consult an RVing how-to article? Want a guide about winterizing your RV or best times for RV repairs? All of this and more are available at [FMCA University Library - Family Motor Coach Association](#)

The hyperlink to the discounts pages is [Top Choice for RV Discount Clubs | FMCA](#) and include the FMCA Tire Savings Program, FMCA Roadside Rescue, Insurances (RV, Auto, Home, Travel, Pet and Health), Camping Fee Discount Programs, and RV Travel Services including RV Tours, Windshield Replacement, Battle Born Batteries, Mail Forwarding, Fuel Discounts, etc. Personally, for me, we initially joined FMCA just to take advantage of the tire discount for my truck. When we joined in 2021, I took advantage of the Michelin Advantage Program, as Michelin is the only tire manufacturer that has the size tire that my truck utilizes, which are Michelin XRV 255/80 R22.5. As I write this, the program savings per tire is \$114.27, so if we had joined this year, our initial FMCA membership would have generated \$685.62 in savings to us – which is a nice return on our “investment” in joining!

We are already members of Harvest Host and this year also took advantage of SoftStart which enables our air conditioners to start up on up to 70% less electricity – which is essential on those hot summer days when only 30amp

service is available for our 50amp 5<sup>th</sup> wheel which enables us to run two (2) of our air conditioners. Another discount we took advantage of this year is that of the FMCA Roadside Assistance Program. Benefits of this discount program are:

- Towing to the nearest qualified repair center
- Fuel delivery
- Lockout service
- Tire change
- Battery boost
- Tech assistance

The yearly cost for towable RVs is \$129 which also includes your towing vehicle (up to, and including a Class 5 truck like we have), and \$159 for motorized RV's and your Toad. You can read more about this service here [RV Roadside Assistance - RV Service | FMCA](#), which also compares itself to other similar programs that are available.

Back to my tinkering until next time! What subject(s) would you like to hear about? Send an email to [mrb94@aol.com](mailto:mrb94@aol.com) and tell me what you want me to write about.

- Brian Benz

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### 13 Hilarious Camping Halloween Costumes for Adults:



See link below...

<https://rvlifestyle.com/camping-halloween-costumes/>

### Safety Corner: Is it illegal to have propane on while driving an RV? (Is it Safe?!)

See web link below:

<https://rvlifestyle.com/propane-on-while-driving-an-rv-is-it-safe/>





## RRR OFFICERS

	2023		2024	
President:	Mark Davis	pedeeland@gmail.com	Mark Davis	pedeeland@gmail.com
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2nd Vice President	Vacant		Vacant	
Secretary	Traci Davis	316tldavis@gmail.com	Traci Davis	316tldavis@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 2024. This is an appointed position.

