

OREGON RIVER RAMBLERS
HEE HEE ILLAHEE RV RESORT
THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS RALLY
NOVEMBER 12-16, 2025

Our last rally of the year was one of our nicest! Some arrived earlier, but everyone was in place by Wednesday: Keith and Cathy Bender, Dick and Janice Burke, Bob and Kathy Davis, Mike and Glendora Dillon, George and Sally Doersch, Gary and Kathy Greenwell, Ron and Cindy Hoff, Jim and Nancy Ogborn, Lyle and Linda Palmer, Rich and Eileen Sanders, Ed Stutz, and Rich Torres and Faye Carter. The hosts were the officers.

The Benders suggested ahead of time that we go to Hops n Drops at Keizer Station in Salem for dinner on Wednesday, and almost everyone responded that they would love to do that. It was just a short drive from the RV park. Cathy B. had called ahead of time and was told they didn't take reservations, but indeed they were ready and had set aside a nice area for us. There was a good variety of delicious food and drink, and our waitress was friendly, helpful and SO efficient.

On Thursday morning we gathered for coffee and muffins in the nice clubhouse, and the sun was shining that morning. A few of us went to Bauman's up toward Woodburn to check out their fall and Christmas merchandise. For dinner we enjoyed soups—Kathy Greenwell had made THREE (tomato, chicken tortilla and potato/corn chowder), and Keith Bender made chicken noodle with thick homemade noodles. Soup was served in cups that we carried in muffin tins, and some of us were already full after we ate our four samples! Dinner was rounded out with Keith's homemade sourdough bread, salad, and desserts. The Palmers skipped the group dinner to go out on their own to celebrate their 60th anniversary (60!!), but Linda and their son David came back in time to play card bingo with us, and David won the \$20 pot. Bob Davis has always been our willing caller, even when he's asked on such short notice.

After overnight rain, we woke Friday morning for pancakes by the Benders as well as eggs and sausage. If Linda has cooked five dozen eggs at each of eight rallies, that's 40 dozen for the year, and it's probably more than that! Thank you, Linda!

On Friday the kitchen was REALLY busy as Kathy G. and her crew cooked three turkey breasts, four big turkey legs, ham, dressing, gravy, etc., etc. Our big dinner was as perfect and delicious as can be. We'd scheduled a game of Left/Right/Center with three \$1 bills for afterward, but it was clear that the round tables were not going to work for that, so instead we played three more rounds of card bingo with our dollar bills, and the \$19 pots were won by Kathy Davis, Richard Torres and Mike Dillon.

On Saturday morning we enjoyed breakfast burritos and Kathy G's cheesy potatoes. (Ed's potatoes mostly went into our burritos along with eggs, bacon and sausage.) Breakfast was followed by our annual business meeting led by George. Minutes will follow later this week, but the main news is that Kathy G. will continue as Treasurer, Ed will continue as National Director but will NOT be traveling to the international rallies, and Keith volunteered to serve as Wagonmaster for 2027. Yay, Keith!

Breakfast had been moved up a half hour so we could fit in the leftover soups for lunch, but after Kathy got it all ready, there were only a handful of participants.

The décor was switched over from Thanksgiving to Christmas, and before dinner, Kathy G. surprised everyone with shrimp cocktails served in martini glasses. What a treat! Dinner was all of the turkey and ham dinner leftovers PLUS a ton of new food. It was another delicious meal. Keith Bender had once again been busy with his 3-D printer and gifted us each a really pretty Christmas ornament (seven different designs!) with ORR, the resort, the date, and a Siletz language greeting on the back. Thank you, Keith!

Then we had our fun gift drawing where everyone won a gift and got to choose from a variety of gifts bought mostly by Kathy G. and displayed on the pool table. Once again the earliest to go were the Harbor Freight gift cards!

There's a cadre of us who love to play games, and we fit in four sessions over the weekend. Generally it's Glendora, Nancy, Sally, Eileen, Faye and me.

George has prepared the 2026 rally schedule, and all of the signup sheets were available throughout the weekend.

Linda resumed her regular role of selling 50/50 tickets, and after Sunday's continental breakfast, Lyle won \$45 in the drawing.

We express our sincere gratitude to Kathy Greenwell for planning most of this rally and doing so much of the major cooking and shopping, all while recovering from foot surgery. And a huge shoutout to her helpers in the kitchen with both preparation and cleanup—especially Cindy, Nancy, and the Benders; Keith carved all the meat. Faye spent a lot of time on her feet drying dishes. When it was time to wrap things up and restore the clubhouse to normal, Lyle and Bob spent time and effort with the broom and the vacuum. Because they know we will clean up so well, the park waived their standard room rental fee.

Have a wonderful winter, and see you next year!

Janice Burke
Newsletter writer