

OREGON RIVER RAMBLERS  
BLUE OX AND FRVA NORTHWEST RALLIES AT ALBANY  
JUNE 14-22, 2025

Thanks to Kathy Greenwell's foresight and doggedness, some of us who attended the FRVA Northwest Area Rally at Albany were able to go into the nearby Blue Ox RV Park on Saturday, relax on Sunday, and then go into the Linn County Fairgrounds as volunteer greeters on Monday, two days before most arrivals, where we got wonderful sites along the fence with both electric and water.

Those who took advantage of this opportunity were Gary and Kathy Greenwell, Dick and Janice Burke, George and Sally Doersch, Ron and Cindy Hoff, and our brand-new members, Robin and Lavonne Hamilton, from Vancouver, WA. We were joined by Bruce and Sharon Fontaine and Stan and Glenna Hagedorn from Kathy's other group, the Pacific Northwest Roamers. Also with us were Bev and Bob Amos from Boise, ID; they were in charge of the 50/50 drawing at the NW rally, and on Sunday George and Nancy Darby arrived with their daughter Kathy; the Darbys were also volunteer greeters.

On Saturday evening we shared heavy hors d'oeuvres in the park's clubhouse with the Rim Rock Roamers, who were there for their own four-day pre-rally.

On Sunday evening we went to dinner at El Palenque, a different Mexican restaurant than we usually go to, and the food was excellent. George and Sally couldn't join us because they had already moved over to the fairgrounds since George was in charge of vendors, and the executive board had their own dinner plans there.

On Monday morning our little caravan of eight rigs motored down the street to the fairgrounds and got settled in. Already there were Ed Stutz, who was in charge of activity carts, and Jerry Yoder and Karen Purvis; Jerry is always on the parking crew. On Tuesday Jerry and Jackie Brooks arrived and were parked out front in the handicapped parking area.

On Tuesday and Wednesday we did our greeting thing, sitting on various corners and making sure folks turned in the right driveway. One of the most important aspects of that job is holding up the big fluorescent green sign that asks, "Are your parking credentials in your window?" Many of those named above also served volunteer shifts as activity cart drivers during the rally.

We had an impromptu potluck with most of our group on Tuesday evening while the weather was still good, knowing we'd be busy the rest of the time. For dessert, Kathy surprised all of us with delicious iced sorbets to thank us for being greeters.

The rally got underway on Wednesday evening with the hot dog bash, followed by card bingo which was called by our friend and former ORR member, Al Zimmerman.

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Thursday brought the opening ceremonies (blessedly brief) and first-timers' meeting. After that came the Chapter Fair, which I was in charge of again. I only had eight chapters ask for tables ahead of time, but there were four more non-Northwest chapters who set up at the last minute, so we had 12. By then the vendors were open, and soon came the ice cream social with the wonderful Umpqua vanilla ice cream topped with strawberries.

There were morning pastries, food trucks, seminars, craft classes, show coaches, a corn hole tournament, service work, half-price FMCA merchandise, and trolley tours of Albany during the rally, culminating in the catered dinner on Saturday night and then very well received entertainment by lively pianist Brady Goss and his band. It's a good sign when a large portion of the crowd is still there when the entertainment ends, and we certainly were!

It's said that if you want rain, you should invite FMCA. Indeed Friday and Saturday were pretty wet, which kept folks from gathering outside (and kept the activity cart drivers busy trying to keep their seats dry!). Unfortunately attendance at these NW rallies continues to decline, but there were about 125 rigs and a lot of first-timers, and folks seemed to be having a good time.

Next up for the Oregon River Ramblers is Osprey Point in Lakeside in July, with the Ogborns as hosts. See you then!

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