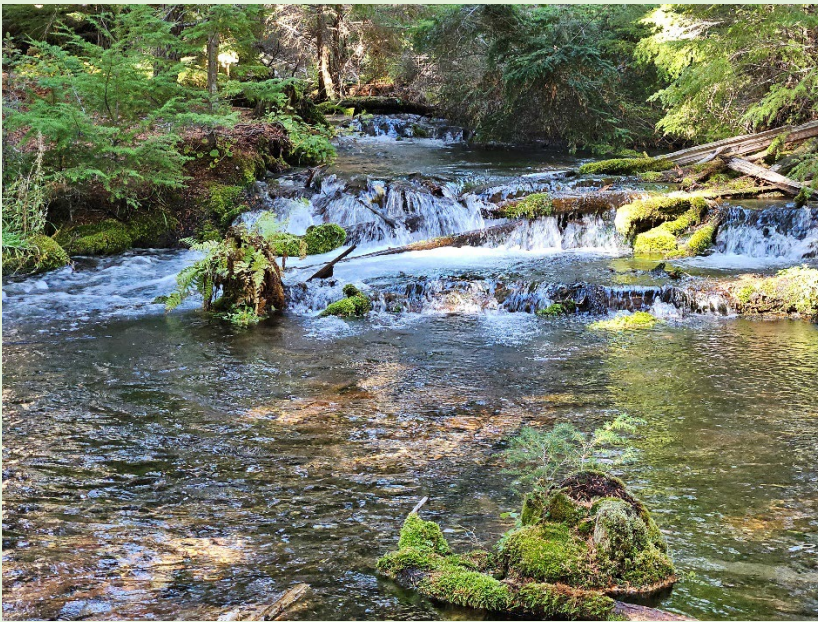




Fall/Winter 2023 Newsletter



View of Jack Creek as seen along the hiking trail to the "Head of Jack Creek," near Camp Sherman, Brian Benz/Mark Davis, 10/6/23, during Bend/Sisters Garden Rally.

Upcoming Dates/Events for 2024

Spring Luncheon Get-together

Date: Weekend of 23-24 March (Time TBD)

Location: Westside (I-5 corridor, TBD)

April 23rd – 25th

Final FMCA/NWA Planning Meeting

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

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

May 7th – 14th

Chapter Rally

Mtn. View RV Park

2845 Hughes Ln, Baker City, OR 97814

Season's Greetings Roamers!

Here we are (mid-Dec) and I'm running about a month late from when I'd hoped to have this newsletter out. Technically, it's still fall for another week, although we're already into winter for all practical purposes. Be careful not to fall out of bed next Thursday, as the earth begins tilting back the other direction (toward the sun) for those here in the northern hemisphere... 😊 Hope everyone is doing well and survived their Thanksgiving feasts last month. I assure you; no one went hungry around our place! With the bustle of Christmas season now in full swing, folks may not be thinking much about their rigs or considering any winter camping. The Davis Holiday Rambler has a few things happening this month. It goes in for an oil change and chassis lube next week, and then a trip down to RV Glass Solutions (in Coburg) between Christmas and New Year's for pilot/co-pilot side window replacements. The original windows have apparently lost their seal and are fogged up between the double panes. While there for the side-glass work, they are also going to reseal the

front windshield gasket, as we've been dealing with a small leak on the driver's side. Hey, it's only \$\$, right? We also have an early spring trip (mid-April) planned for Nehalem Bay State Park (north coast) with a group of old comrades from the Air National Guard. Expecting cool/wet/miserable conditions, but that's why we own RV's, right? Does anyone else have any outings planned between now and next rally season? Any major upgrades or repairs to take care of?



Much thanks to Brian and Mary Benz for a phenomenal job in hosting our final outing of the year – October's rally at Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort. This was RRR second trip there in as many years, and it felt like everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves. The weather cooperated nicely (and warmly) except for check-in day and check-out day (go figure), and folks partook in a mix of onsite and offsite activities. SEVERAL bundles of firewood, plus some partially burned wood scraps we commandeered were used up as we joined in around the flame each night to share stories and solve the world's problems... 😊 The highlight of the week had to be our Friday evening Halloween party, held under the twin 10 x 10 pop-up canopies we tied together to serve as our "clubhouse." Everyone came in costumes and the chapter ordered take-out pizza from Cibelli's in Sisters, keeping dinner plans simple rather than holding a traditional potluck. We even decorated the inside of the canopies with Halloween ornaments. Several photos were taken of our impressive set up, but I don't recall whose camera was used. Whoever has the canopy decoration pics, please share them with the group when you have a chance. Other highpoints included another fine session of Jerry Adams' "Where's George" bingo, and folks also had fun playing various card and dice games... often late into the evening with the help of lanterns and flashlights! College football games could be found playing on nearly every outdoor TV, as folks rooted for their teams!

Of Note

- A special shout-out to Jan Rydman for putting together our new 2024 RRR chapter brochure handout (See other email attachment that accompanied this newsletter). She was able to select some recent photos from many of this year's rallies, and then let the magic of copy & paste take over. As with the 2023 brochures, we are coordinating through the Chapter Services Dept at FMCA HQ to have a few hundred copies made. We'll do our best to get 10-12 copies out to each membership (Pilot/Co-Pilot) as we work our way into next rally season.

- The eastside Roamers in Central Oregon met up for lunch last month, a couple of days after Thanksgiving. Traci & I, as well as Bob & Susan, happened to be there in Redmond over the holiday weekend, so we joined the mix. A fun time was had by all, and much food, beverage and laughter were shared. Likewise, we're looking to hold a westside luncheon in late March, preferably on **Saturday, 3/23.**, at a location along I-5 corridor. Off the cuff, I'm thinking Wilsonville/Tualatin, as that area is centrally located to most of us living west of the Cascades – sorry Bill and Laurel! Rich & Diane or Rollie & Ruth... since you all live just across the river from Wilsonville, maybe you have some ideas for a meet-up spot? Hope to pull in as many folks as we can – look for an update over late winter.

More Halloween Fun at Bend/Sisters Garden



2024 Rally Hosts

Davis coach has volunteered to host the **5-12 June** rally at Devils Lake RV Park, in Lincoln City. We're looking forward to it since we know the area very well and shouldn't have any difficulty coming up with a list of activities or things to see. Rollie, is your place south of town in Siletz Keys still going to be open as PARTY CENTRAL for the week? Just kidding... 😏 Also, if anyone who's planning to attend the **7-14 May** rally at Mtn. View RV Park in Baker City feels they'd like to step in and play host that week, don't hesitate to speak up. This section of eastern Oregon has some neat things to offer, including a rich history and incredible scenery. I believe the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and Geiser Grand Hotel will likely be two of the top highlights, not to mention all the museums in the local area. As a group, we've pretty much got hosting down to a simple science now, with a cookie-cutter itinerary template that anyone can use to fill in the blanks. Please let me or Susan Guillory know if interested. I swear it's a no-pressure gig... 😊

Vice President's Corner

As I write this, the Benz Rig is getting ready to head over the pass to Sutherlin, OR for a much-needed new suspension system to help smooth out the upcoming jarring ride south to Arizona at the end of the month. Many of you that traveled to Netarts Bay for our first rally this year will recall how terrible the roads were. On the way home from that trip, our rig suffered a fanned-out spring and one of the glass valences in our dining area came out and shattered. On top of new springs, we are also changing to a slipper spring suspension (will make it perform similar to an independent suspension) and adding shock absorbers. For my topic this edition, I will briefly touch on RV batteries.

Many of you are very familiar with lead-acid batteries as they are what's used to start your car and RV. But what about your RV "house" batteries? Well, those can also be lead-acid, but many RVers are also utilizing AGM's, Gel, or lithium-ion for the house batteries. For RVers that are always going to have electrical hookups at RV parks, and will not be doing any type of boondocking, they can simply stay with lead-acid batteries as those are the most cost effective – or are they???

Flooded lead-acid batteries will require regular maintenance – including, but not limited to, monitoring water levels. Other required maintenance will be keeping the terminals clean and corrosion-free. These types of batteries need to be vented, and they can also spill or leak acid and are not as efficient as AGM or lithium-ion. Typical life for these batteries is 3-5 years, and they may have a life of 300-700 cycles. Please note that a battery completes a cycle when it is charged and then discharged. Utilizing only 20-30% of your battery's capacity prior to recharging with greatly improved battery life.

Absorbed glass mat (AGM) batteries are very similar to flooded lead-acid except that they are sealed and maintenance-free. They also can store more energy, have a longer lifespan, but are more expensive than lead-acid batteries. While you do not have to add distilled water to these, it's still good practice to keep the terminals clean. AGM batteries can last 6-10 years, and like lead-acid, they may have a life of 300-700 cycles.

Gel batteries are very similar to AGM batteries except that instead of having a glass mat substance for the electrolyte, the batteries are filled with silica to coagulate the electrolyte. Because of their structure, they also can essentially be mounted in any position. Gel batteries, like AGM, can also last 6-10 years, but have a life of up to 5,500 cycles.

Lithium-Ion batteries are great options for RVers who will be doing any type of boondocking, or those that simply wish to have a high-performance, lightweight, or long-lasting battery. These batteries have the highest maximum depth of discharge (approximately 80-90% instead of 50% for flooded-acid) and require no maintenance. Lithium-Ion batteries can last 10-15 years and have a life of upwards of 15,000 cycles.

So, what type of battery should you be utilizing as your house batteries? For that, I will steer you to a YouTube video put out by National RV Training Academy where Todd Henson, a master certified RV technician, discusses one of the most important components of our RV's electrical system – the battery:

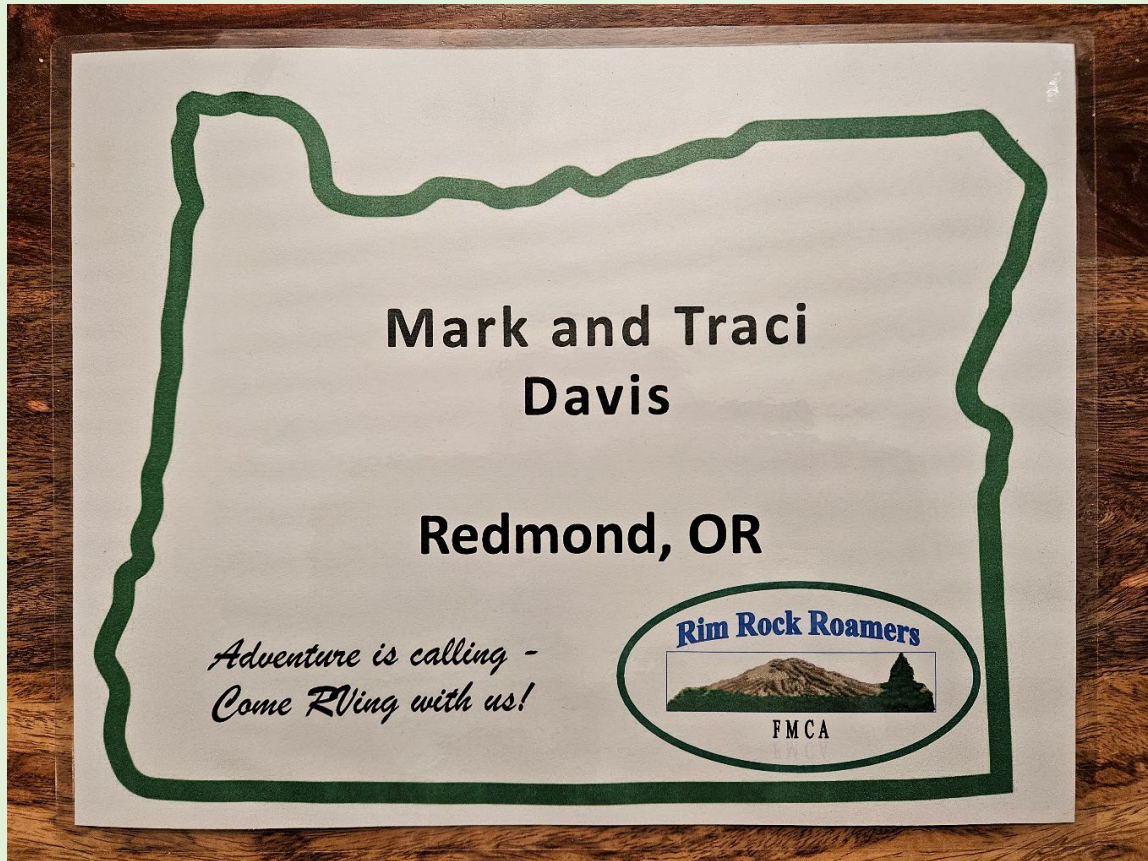
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9HMiTz-00g>

It is very important to note that, no matter which battery you ultimately choose for your RV house battery, your converter (and solar charger – if equipped) needs to be able to properly charge them, and this is the most important – every house battery needs to be the same type as each will have different voltage and charging rates, and have the same AH rating. Please also follow your manufacturer's instructions to ensure long life and avoiding warranty issues.

Next time we will discuss how to keep your battery bank charged while traveling by utilizing solar panels. What's the Benz coach have for house batteries? We currently have two (2) 100AH hybrid gel batteries and will be adding two (2) more to extend our boondocking time; more about that next time.

Rim Rock Roamers – RV Placards

We now have 8 ½ x 11 member placards to place on our coach windshields or towables... Another form of advertising and displaying who we are! Much thanks to Wayne Linschied for creating the template, printing, and then laminating the placards for each RRR membership. Folks who attended the eastside gathering in Redmond after Thanksgiving received theirs during our meet-up. Wayne plans to distribute the rest of them as we come back into rally season this spring & summer. He is also open to ideas for improving the design, so feel free to send him your suggestions.



Roamers on the Move

With winter fully closing in, several roamers are planning RV trips to lower latitudes over the coming weeks and months, while some have already escaped to sunnier and warmer destinations. As of mid Oct, the Wesley's pointed their coach south and are now hunkered down at an RV Resort near Brenda, AZ. Prior to Thanksgiving, the Budd's returned to Gold Canyon, AZ, where they are once again workamping (yes, it's a real word!) at Canyon Vistas RV Resort through March. Jan Rydman is currently overseas in Africa on an extended guided tour of Egypt. Looking forward to stories of her river-boat experience on the Nile! Team Benz is currently preparing for their 3-mo journey south, where they will be set up within a stone's throw of the Budds's at an adjacent RV Resort. The DeWolf's plan to point their coach towards Yuma sometime in February; around the same time Team Moyer/Pinkney look to land in Tucson for an extended stay. I'm noticing a central theme here – are you? 😊 On a serious note, we wish all our Roamer family safe travels and fun-enjoyable stays wherever they may be heading.



As many of you know, I've gained quite a reputation as a firebug during our evening gatherings around the campfire flame on rallies. I'm often the one prepping the kindling, splitting wood, "building" the fire, lighting it, and then constantly stirring, poking, and playing with it the entire time we're sitting there visiting... 😊

Now for the first time ever, a glimpse into my past for all to know how I became the superstar pyromaniac I am today. As you can see from my toy set in the picture to the left, my fascination with 🔥🔥 began at a very young age, and from that point forward, I've never looked back. Now it all makes perfect sense, right? 😊

RV Snowbirding: 10 Tips for Driving South This Winter

See web link below:
<https://rvlifestyle.com/rv-snowbirding-driving-tips/>



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Membership Chair: Jan Rydman will retain this position for 2024. This is an appointed position.



Jesus IS THE ***Reason*** FOR THE ***Season***