



FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates/Events

December 15th / 6:00 AM (PST)

Registration opens for Northwest Area Rally

<https://www.frva.com/>

Spring Luncheon Get-Together?

Date: To Be Determined

Location: To Be Determined

April 21st – 22nd

Final FMCA/NWA Planning Meeting

Ko-Kwel Casino and Resort (Coos Bay, OR)

*** For 2026 NWA Rally (Ko-Kwel/Coos Bay) ***

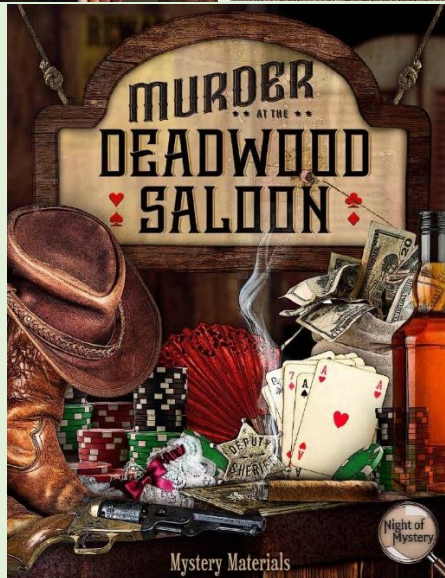


Hello Roamers!

It's hard to believe another rally season has come and gone, as our grand finale for 2025 ended just over a month ago. Since our last newsletter, we've held four rallies – Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct. We kicked off the heart of summer with a perennial favorite, *Casey's Riverside RV Park*, which saw near-record attendance by Roamer faithful. As always, Casey's was a blast and there was never a dull moment. We also held our (required) annual business meeting during the rally. Much thanks to Janice Wardan and Dave Schuck for hosting and herding all of us cats over the 7 nights. Next up was *Big Pines RV Park* in Central Oregon, near Crescent. Ruth Voltz and Rollie Seibert kindly stepped up as hosts, and those of us who made it had a wonderful time. Train Mountain exceeded most folks' expectations, and (among other things) the time spent by

many of us at Odell & Crescent Lakes was treasured. Mid-Sep took us to *Horn Rapids RV Resort* in the Tri-Cities area of SE Washington. Team Davis missed the rally due to jaw surgery and follow-on post-op issues that Traci had to deal with, but I understand the group who attended had a good time. Last, but certainly not least, was our mid Oct trip down to *Winchester Bay RV Resort*. Location and weather were incredible, and Teams Benz and Kiuttu kept us all busy with an action-packed itinerary that culminated with a murder mystery event, following potluck dinner. For everyone who got out and joined us for the 2025 rally season, we hope you enjoyed the travel and fellowship time as much as Traci & I did. Some new friendships and great memories were made along the way and we're already looking forward to next year's rally season!

2+ months into fall and we've had a fairly easy go of it so far. Looking out at the 10-day forecast, I'm not seeing any huge weather developments heading for the Pacific Northwest, although that can change rapidly, as we all know. Hoping the weather stays benign for at least a few more days, as Traci & I pull out of Redmond in less than 48 hours for lower latitudes over the next 4+ months. Our first stop 31 nights at *Desert Shadows RV Resort* in Cathedral City, CA, where we'll join fellow Roamer, Jane Marjama, who winters there every year. On New Year's Day, we break camp and hit I-10 (eastbound) en route to Gold Canyon, AZ, where we'll spend the next three months (1 Jan – 1 Apr) basking in the desert sun and relaxing with a contingent of Roamers who are also seeking winter warmth. I'm sure there will be stories to tell during nightly "fireside chats" next summer... 😊 As we prepare our Thanksgiving feasts with family & friends, I suspect we all have many blessings in our lives to be thankful for, including faith, health, and shared relationships with others. Stay warm and safe travels wherever you may be heading!



A tribute to the untamed "Wild West" during an evening of fun and mystery for all with *Murder at the Deadwood Saloon*.



Fun times at Train Mountain Railroad Museum – Chiloquin, OR (August 2025 / Big Pines RV Park Rally)



More fun at Train Mountain – Including the quaint & charming little mining town of Lillyville.

New Members

Joining Rim Rock Roamers during our August rally at Big Pines, please welcome Allan and Terra Comeau. Turns out the Comeau's had been "stalking" us (Allan's words – not mine... 😂) since at least the NWA Rally in Albany, back in June. They attended Big Pines as guests and, apparently, we made a favorable impression and didn't scare them off... 😊 The Comeau's hail from Vancouver, WA. Welcome aboard Allan and Terra!

Also, we had the pleasure of Andy and Denise Gonzalez joining us as guests for last month's rally at Winchester Bay to check out the group. The Gonzalez' are acquaintances of Team Benz through church in Redmond, and were excited to come along and see what we're all about. Well, they've upgraded to a new RV just since the rally, so I guess we didn't scare them off either, as they have decided to join the chapter... 😊 Welcome to our crazy bunch, Andy and Denise!

Health Updates

We recently learned that our first past president and current treasurer, Wayne Linschied, will be having a pacemaker implanted on New Year's Eve Day, to help regulate some ongoing heartbeat rhythm concerns. Please keep Wayne in your daily thoughts and prayers, and also let us know if YOU have an important health issue to pass along, so we can all send prayers and good vibes for our members in need.

General Housekeeping Items

A couple of chapter "housekeeping" things to pass along:

- 1) This first one has already been initially addressed, and relates to finding a better way to communicate and share important information among attendees during rallies. Texting and email have both proven ineffective and several folks have shared their concerns about missing out on "heads-up" notices and more. After some back & forth over email, I believe we've settled on **WhatsApp** as a smartphone tool that should do the trick. Several of us have begun playing around and testing it, and Wayne has created a small group chat for the officer board members and wagon master. We look forward to trying it out during next year's rally season.
- 2) The other issue pertains to group meals during rallies (potluck, etc.). Normally, we hold happy hours and potlucks inside a rec center or clubhouse, where pets are not allowed, so the issue of pets at mealtime is not a concern. For those few times when we're set up outdoors under the pop-up canopies, let's make it a point to leave our pets back at the rigs during mealtime. Where outdoor space is often limited, it can be quite challenging to maneuver around others (including pets) without tripping, and we certainly don't want anyone getting hurt while trying to reach the meatballs or brownies! **Service animals are, of course, always welcome.** Having pets around outdoor group gatherings afterward is fine... gaming time, fireside chats, etc.

We're Here to Help!

A quick note to all, but particularly for any recent newcomers... Becoming a member of FRVA and joining a chapter can initially be a bit overwhelming, as folks navigate how the wheels turn, what resources are available, or who to look to for asking questions. A great place to start is with your RRR board members, as well as our membership coordinator or wagon master. We've all pretty much been around the block a time or two, and should be able to assist. Please do not hesitate to reach out... We're here to serve our members and are more than happy to answer questions or point you in the right direction (see table of officers listed on final page).

Vice President's Corner

Wow!! Those of you who missed out on our last rally of 2025 at Winchester Bay truly missed the best RV park that Mary and I have been to; it was literally a cross between Netarts Bay and Casey's on steroids. I know that a number of you have already experienced the park, but if you are one of those that have never been there, I would encourage you to make the trek as there are many things to see and do at that beautiful part of the Oregon coast. Before we continue, I offer up my standard disclaimer – The opinions expressed in my corner are my own through research and should not be considered official recommendations of the Rim Rock Roamers. You should perform your own due diligence as to what works best for you and your situation.

Our topic today is going to be Part 2 of our RV Internet discussion from last time – we had a discussion on utilizing cellular internet while out on the road, and this part will include a brief discussion on satellite internet (currently only offered by Starlink which is a division of SpaceX, but Amazon is currently developing a service called Leo) and then end with the pros and cons of each type. Just a quick reminder from last time, regarding internet while out camping, there are a couple of schools of thought there – "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.

Since we have not drunk the Starlink Kool-Aid (yet), we are still utilizing the TravlFi cellular internet service from our last discussion. 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 find yourself in an area with no bars, then you will not have any internet (or cell service) for that matter, and that brings us to today’s topic of utilizing satellite internet while camping.


Starlink is currently the worlds most advanced satellite constellation using low Earth orbit to deliver internet cable of supporting streaming, video calls, gaming, etc. Since it is a division of SpaceX, they can launch their own satellites as needed, and are constantly being updated as the newest technology is developed; as I write this, there are currently over 6,750 Starlink satellites in orbit. Production and operation of Starlink is based in Redmond, Washington, and the Starlink kits are produced in Bastrop, Texas. Most satellites are in a geosynchronous (meaning the satellite completes one orbit in the same time it takes Earth to make one rotation) orbit, which is approximately 22,236 miles up, whereas Starlink operates about 342 miles up. This allows for a much lower latency, which is defined as the delay between a user’s action and the response that they receive. Not to get too far into the weeds, but we are talking 0.025 seconds versus 0.6 seconds, or about 24 times faster.

Starlink has two (2) types of service – Residential and Roam. Since we are discussing RV internet here, this discussion will only focus on Roam. Roam has two (2) levels of service – Roam 50 GB and Unlimited. Roam 50 GB, as its name implies, includes 50 GB of data per month with the option to purchase additional data by the GB. Roam Unlimited has no data caps. The current pricing for Roam 50 GB is \$50 per month, and Roam Unlimited is \$165 per month. Both plans can be paused at any time (for a \$5 per month fee) and Starlink also offers a 30-day Trial to see if you like it. Current pricing for equipment is \$229 for the Mini, and \$279 for the Standard which does not include shipping & handling, or any applicable taxes. Please note that these equipment prices also do not include applicable adapters or mounts. The Mini is best for portable (think back packing in the wilderness) and low power applications, so most folks will want to opt for the Standard. Maximum download speed for the Mini is over 100 Mbps and the Standard is up to 300+ Mbps. Size of the Mini is approximately 10” x 12”, weighs 2.7 pounds, and has an integrated Wi-Fi router. The Standard is approximately 15” x 23”, weighs 6.4 pounds, and the Wi-Fi router is a separate unit.

Something to keep in mind is that 50GB is roughly equivalent to approximately 20 hours of high-definition video streaming, or 50 hours of video calls, which may be enough for an occasional weekend travel or a once-a-month weekly trip. As long as you opt into “Roam on” for data usage, you will be billed \$1 per each additional GB of data that you use in a month. Just like with cellular service, during times of high internet traffic, speeds will be lower than advertised. PC Magazine, through their extensive testing, determined that the Mini had an average download speed of 16.5 Mbps, whereas, the Standard had an average download speed of 148 Mbps. With the current \$50 price difference between the two antennas, I would opt for the Standard.

Since I am a firm believer of utilizing technology for (just about) everything that I do, I utilized Copilot to complete my research, and the following comparison between cellular versus satellite internet was created by ChatGPT.

Here’s a breakdown comparing TravlFi vs Starlink — which works better depends a lot on **how you travel and where you plan to get internet**.

 **How each works — different technologies**

- **TravlFi uses cellular networks** — it hops onto existing cell-towers from major carriers.

- **Starlink** uses **satellites** (low-Earth orbit constellation) — so it provides internet from space, needing a clear view of sky rather than cell towers.

Because of that, each has very different coverage and performance tradeoffs.

Pros & Cons — When TravlFi or Starlink shine (and when they struggle)

TravlFi — best when near cell coverage

Pros

- Portable and easy to set up — plug-and-play style, no big dish or roof mounting required.
- Affordable upfront and monthly cost. E.g. there are lower-investment plans, and pay-as-you-go or pause-when-not-in-use options.
- Great for urban, suburban, highways, or RV-parks and campgrounds with good cell service.

Cons / Limitations

- Relies entirely on cell-tower coverage. In remote wilderness, deep forest, or very rural areas with weak or no cell signal — TravlFi may perform poorly or not at all.
- Speed and reliability can degrade if you're on the fringe of coverage or cell towers are congested.

Starlink — best for off-grid / remote areas

Pros

- Provides internet even where there are **no cell towers** — as long as you have a clear view of the sky, satellite connection works. Good for remote camping, boondocking, off-grid travel.
- Speeds tend to be higher when properly set up and unobstructed — better for heavy data use, streaming, video calls in remote areas.

Cons / Limitations

- Requires mounting a dish (or at least placing the satellite antenna), and you need a pretty clear, unobstructed view of the sky — less ideal in dense forests, canyons, or urban settings with tall buildings.
- More expensive upfront (hardware costs) compared to simple cellular routers/hotspots.
- Sometimes less convenient for frequent moves or quick stop-overs (setup time, aligning dish, relocating).

Which to pick — depends on your travel style

Your situation / travel style	Better choice
Mostly staying in towns, RV parks, highways — lots of cell coverage	TravlFi
Budget-conscious, want flexibility, maybe pause service some months	TravlFi
Frequently traveling in remote/off-grid areas with no cell signal	Starlink
Need reliable data for heavy usage (streaming, work, calls) in remote areas	Starlink
Want to combine simplicity and occasional off-grid access (as backup)	Maybe both — TravlFi + Starlink hybrid

Many digital-nomads, RVers or van-lifers even use **both** — TravlFi when traveling around populated or semi-rural areas, and Starlink when boondocking or going deep into wilderness.

My take (for you, in Bend-area / PNW context if you roam)

Given that Bend and much of Oregon has mixed terrain — some towns, forests, rural stretches — the hybrid approach tends to make sense.

- Use **TravlFi** around town or when on the road. Reliable, inexpensive, flexible.
- Use **Starlink** when you venture into very remote spots (mountains, forests, national parks) — where cell coverage often fails.

For those wishing to do further research, and signing up for receiving additional information as it becomes available, following are the links to Starlink and Leo:

[Starlink](#)

[Amazon Leo: High-speed Internet Wherever You Call Home](#)

Lastly, for those of you possibly interested in having Starlink for your home, here in Redmond, for example, you can get the hardware (minus mounting hardware) for free right now. As with Roam, Starlink offers two (2) levels of service with unlimited data per month – Residential (\$120 per month) with typical download speeds of 135-305 Mbps, and Residential (\$80 per month) with typical download speeds of 80-200 Mbps.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2026 at our Rim Rock Roamer rallies!!

- Brian Benz



A good time was had by all as we explored the *Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area* with our Sandland Adventures tour guide

Turkey Day in a Tiny Kitchen? You've Got This!

- Think your RV kitchen can't handle Thanksgiving? Oh, it can. Here's how to pull off a full feast without losing your mind. See web link below:

https://www.doityourselfrv.com/thanksgiving-cooking-in-an-rv/?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_15762479

59 Recipes For The Best Small Thanksgiving Ever



You can still have all the foods and flavors of a traditional Thanksgiving feast, even if there's only two of you.

See web link below:

https://www.delish.com/holiday-recipes/thanksgiving/g1312/thanksgiving-for-two/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=mgu_ga_del_md_pmx_hybd_mix_us_21189416331&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21199993666&gbraid=0AAAAACq-IPxvXQL4T9MsfNREjn7HjhvA0&gclid=Cj0KCQiAxJXBhD_ARlSAH_JGjivHt-Gmrxm6OyifsizCDhjExi3Zpxr3VsF_KXTUxTnHgL-2Ko-ZRcaALCOEALw_wcB



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- Membership Chair: Jan Rydman will retain this position for 2026. This is an appointed position.
- Wagon Master: Lynette Brown will retain this position for 2026. This is an appointed position.

