



## Spring 2024 Newsletter



*Roamers meet up for a spring luncheon get-together at Langdon Farms Golf Club near Wilsonville, OR, on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nice turnout and a good time was had by all!*

### Upcoming Dates/Events for 2024

#### **May 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**

Chapter Rally  
Mtn. View RV Park  
2845 Hughes Ln, Baker City, OR 97814  
[Host: ??](#)

#### **Jun 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

Chapter Rally  
Devils Lake RV Park  
4041 NE West Devils Lake Rd, Lincoln City, OR  
[Host: Mark and Traci Davis](#)

### **Hello Roamers!**

Welcome to May! Here we are, midway through spring, with a new rally season rapidly approaching. Not sure if it's just me, but winters seem to drag on a bit longer each year. I have a suspicion that feeling will go away once Traci and I are snowbirding at a lower latitude during winter months... 😊 Speaking of Traci, she will be going in for abdominal surgery this coming week on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Portland VA Medical Center. The procedure will be inpatient with one overnight stay. Her estimated recovery is 2-4 weeks, so we have our fingers crossed she'll be back to 100% in time for our June rally at Devils Lake RV Park. Sadly, the timing of her surgery means we had to cancel our reservation for next week's rally at Mtn View RV Park in Baker City, but we're very confident everyone will carry on fine and enjoy themselves without us... 😊 Regarding Mtn View, our Northwest Area President, Dennis Martin, and wife Martie, are also attending... at least for the first 4-5 nights. They also hit our May rally last year at Netarts Bay Garden and really enjoyed themselves. Robert Brown, you'll have to behave yourself... 🙄 Many "westside" Roamers (and a few "eastside," too) met in late March for a spring luncheon. It was a fun couple of hours, catching up with folks on what they've been doing the past several months, since last year's rally season. It's time to bust those coaches out of their winter hibernation and brush the dust (or mildew) off them! Team Davis is really looking forward to getting out and spending time with you all as we travel and spend time at the different rally locations. Plenty of fun, laughter, and adventure on the horizon. Only 58 more days until retirement!





### Mtn View RV Park (7-14 May)

As of press time, no one has volunteered to host next week's rally in Baker City. If nobody has a desire to step up, at the very least, I highly recommend someone knock out a basic agenda/schedule that lists the usual activities we include for every rally: Happy Hour, Potluck, Brunch, and perhaps an offsite dinner? A "Who's on first – What's on second" scenario upon arrival will likely make for disjointed chaos. Volunteers? Going once? Going twice? **\*\* UPDATE \*\*** I had typed this paragraph prior to Susan's email that went out earlier this evening. Looks like you all have a plan in place now. Have fun!

A local activity to maybe consider as a group... Go Wild American Adventures offers a self-guided (1-2 hour) **Baker City Walking & Tasting Tour**. Cost is only \$9.99/adult and some of the tour stops look like a foodie and beer lover's dream. Based on the open hours of the businesses listed, it appears early afternoons may be the best time for booking a tour. See website below for more information, if y'all are interested in pursuing.

<https://www.gowildusa.com/bakercitytours>

Another highlight of Baker City, I am told, is checking out the Geiser Grand Hotel. This place has been on our bucket list for a while now, but unfortunately, it'll need to wait another time for us. Check out the Special Events site at the weblink below for reservations and tickets. The "Ghost Hunting" and "Step Back in Time Tour" may be interesting and spooky 🧛

<https://www.geisergrand.com/events>



## **\*\* Annual Chapter Dues Reminder \*\***

We've reached that time of year again. Per RRR Bylaws, chapter membership renewals are due NLT May 30<sup>th</sup> each year, with the exception being any members who joined **after** September 1<sup>st</sup> (of the prior year), in which case, initial dues paid shall be regarded as covering the next year membership. Renewal dues are \$15.

Payments can be mailed to RRR Treasurer, Anne Mattioda, at the following address:

**Anne Mattioda, PO Box 83, Powell Butte, OR 97753**

Checks made payable to: **Rim Rock Roamers**



## **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 well and shouldn't have any difficulty coming up with a list of activities or things to see. Rollie Seibert and Ruth Voltz have a getaway place 10-15 min south of Lincoln City in a development called Siletz Keys. Rollie has offered to invite us all over to their beach house for a potluck/cookout one day during the rally. Traci and I will coordinate with them as we get closer to June. We all appreciate the invite, and it should be fun for those interested!

Also, Rollie, Ruth, and Dave Schuck have offered to host our Sep rally at Casey's Riverside RV Park. Thanks folks, for stepping up!

We still need hosts for the following rallies:

- May: Mtn. View RV Park – Baker City (as previously mentioned)
- Jul: Olde Stone Village – McMinnville
- Oct: Crater Lake RV Park – Prospect

As a group, we've pretty much got hosting down to a simple practice 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. It's super low-pressure, seriously. Also, I think we can wing it (w/o a designated host) during the 4 nights at Crook Co. RV Park, leading into the FMCA rally. It will be a quick stay and we'll all be tied up for one day (Aug 10<sup>th</sup>) with Welcome Bag duties anyway.

## **New Members**

RRR welcomes Fred and Mary Ann Steele of Redmond. The Steele's are former Roamers from about 15 years ago and look forward to being part of the chapter once again. They got in touch with us through our updated webpage. Much of their 2024 summer schedule is already booked, but they do plan on joining us at Casey's in Sep, as well as Crater Lake RV Park during the first week of Oct.

And please help welcome Michael and Diana Hardin, also of Redmond. The Hardin's are fairly new to FMCA and became interested in RRR from one of our information mailings. They are looking to attend the Int'l rally held at Deschutes Co. Fair & Expo Center, although likely just the passport option, since they live within walking distance of the venue.

## **New Chapter Secretary**

During our recent luncheon in late March, we announced (and introduced) Jan Rydman as new Chapter Secretary. Jan held the position of Secretary for several years, prior to Traci's tenure from late 2020 through 2023. We are very happy (and grateful) to her for volunteering to take on the role (again). With no one else jumping up and down on the table to take on the role, I'm going to assume everyone is okay with Jan's selection, without conducting an official chapter vote.

## **RRR Bylaws**

Looking back through my files and emails, I see it has been nearly 4 ½ years since we last reviewed, approved, and voted on our chapter bylaws. FMCA has amended and reapproved its bylaws since that time, so we are certainly overdue for



the same. Soon, I will send out our current bylaws for review, along with any changes that have been proposed. After members have had the opportunity to review and suggest additional changes, the executive board will discuss how and when we want to conduct a vote. Our two primary options are by email or in-person at a chapter business meeting, which we are looking to hold at Casey's during the September rally.

## FMCA'S 109<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & RV EXPO



### FMCA/Northwest Area Planning (second) Meeting

Our National Director, Bob Guillory, and his wife, Susan, along with Traci and I, recently attended the second planning meeting (23-25 Apr in Albany) for this summer's FMCA International Convention being held at Deschutes Co. Fair & Expo Center in Redmond. It was a continuation of last fall's meeting, and helped finalize expectations for the event, and in nailing down the logistics for our chapter volunteer responsibilities on **Welcome Bag** preparation. I won't regurgitate the meeting in this first newsletter of the year but will provide an update in the June edition. **NOTE:** I raised concern in the meeting about the exorbitant costs for 30A/50A Electric and expressed concern it doesn't bode well for recruitment!!

## Vice President's Corner

WOW!!! How can it possibly be the start of RRR camping season already??? Perhaps it's because we just returned a few weeks ago from spending our first Snowbird season down in Arizona. Mary and I trust that you are all doing well and had an enjoyable time this past winter – whether it was spent at home with family and/or friends, or even Snowbirding yourselves. We were lucky to have a few RRR members (Larry and Vicki Budd, Mark and Traci Davis, and Bill and Laurel DeWolf) come visit us this winter! I will say that we enjoyed Snowbirding quite a bit and will be doing it again next year.

In my last VP Corner, you may recall that I was changing out the stock suspension on our 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel to the Roadmaster Comfort Ride Slipper Spring Suspension with the addition of shock absorbers due to the damage we had after Netart's Bay last year. I must say that the ride did seem better – until that is – we hit Route 93 in Arizona. By the time we reached Gold Canyon that day, the light fixture on our ceiling fan had fallen off, and the living room fireplace glass had jumped out of its track. Fortunately, nothing was broken. I swore all winter that there was no way that I was ever taking Route 93 again. Guess what? We did take Route 93 again (last time – I promise) on the way home. This time, we arrived in Las Vegas to find that the microwave door broke off the hinges and scratched up the Corian countertop by the sink. Argggghhhhhhh. But I digress.

This is actually supposed to be Part 2 of my discussion on batteries for our coaches, so I apologize for getting off topic. For a quick refresher on what type of battery you should think about utilizing as your RV house battery, here is the YouTube video that I shared last time:

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

For Part 2, we are going to briefly discuss how to keep your RV house batteries charged while you are traveling, and possibly boondocking. But we need to back up a little first as we need to figure out what you will be expecting out of your house batteries. Are you looking to just keep the refrigerator running while you travel from home to the RV Park and have electrical hookups? Or, are you looking to spend a night or two (2) out in the wilderness? Or, are you wanting to travel to Quartzite and spend weeks out on BLM land with no hookups? For the later, especially if you want to run your air conditioners, prepare to fork out tens of thousands of dollars to accomplish that system.

After you decide how you wish to camp, then the next thing to accomplish is that of figuring out how much battery capacity that you will need. This will involve you adding up how many watts of power that your devices (and they can be both 12V items and 120V items run by your inverter(s) will require to run per day. There are handy spreadsheets out on the internet that will help you determine how many amp hours (Ah) of battery capacity that you will need to handle the calculated load. To help with the discussion as to how many batteries that you are going to need to provide your power requirement, I will point you to the following video that was put out by Todd Henson and the National RV Training Academy.

[\(72\) How Many RV Batteries Do I Need? - YouTube](#)

We are going to keep this discussion simple by utilizing basic 12V, 100Ah batteries. So, what does this mean? A battery with 100Ah capacity will be able to provide 100 amps of power for one (1) hour, or 10 amps for 10 hours. You will also hear people discussing their power requirement need in watt-hours. Watts are simply calculated as volts times amps. Therefore, using our example above, we would multiply our 100Ah battery times 12 volts, which would give us 1200 watt-hours. If you had an appliance that consumes 300 watts, a single 100Ah battery would be able to power that appliance for four (4) hours.

Most battery banks in our RV's are connected in parallel. Our 5<sup>th</sup> wheel has two (2) slide trays that can hold a total of four (4) batteries, and as mentioned last time, we currently have two (2) 100Ah hybrid gel batteries, and they are

connected in parallel. Simply put, we have a total of 200Ah, or 2400 watt-hours of battery capacity, and wish to double that to 400Ah, or 4800 watt-hours. But, if you watched Todd's videos, you know that since we do not have lithium batteries, we can only draw our batteries down to 50% and not cause any damage and reduce battery life. (Lithium's, on the other hand, can theoretically be drawn down by 80%.) So, realistically, we currently only have 100Ah, or 1200 watt-hours of battery capacity. When running our load calculations, I determined that our total amp-hours needed per day was 264.6 and given our battery type means that we actually need 529Ah of battery capacity. We cannot get there with what we have, so we will need to find ways to either cut back on our power needs or find places in our basement that can hold larger capacity batteries.

So, now that we have figured out how many amp hours our battery bank needs to be, how are we going to charge it when not hooked up to shore power? That is where solar power comes into play. The solar panel system is going to consist of solar panels and a solar charge controller. The purpose of the charge controller is to maintain the charge of the batteries and keep them in good condition. Your RV solar panels are simply acting as a battery charger since the power to run your coach is actually coming from the battery bank. As a general rule of thumb, you will need enough solar panels that can provide 1.5 to 2 times the size of the battery bank in watts. Using our 100Ah battery as an example, you would need a solar panel that can provide 150 to 200 watts of power. We currently have three (3) 170-watt solar panels on our roof (that is our maximum without adding additional solar controllers) for a total of 510 watts of solar power. From a practical standpoint, we currently have enough solar panel capacity to charge 255Ah to 340Ah of batteries. Depending on whether it is the middle of summer, or a cloudy day, it will take about 5-8 hours for the solar panels to charge your batteries.

I mentioned this last time, but want to stress that 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 with solar panels) 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 get internet out on the road. Most of you know that RV park Wi-Fi is a joke which is why many use Starlink, but during our winter in Arizona, we used something different. Stay tuned until next time, and we look forward to catching up soon around a pot-luck or fire chat.

## **Tech Talk**

### **Dewinterizing AN RV's Plumbing (see weblink below):**

[https://rvlife.com/dewinterizing-an-rvs-plumbing/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=campaign\\_9121148](https://rvlife.com/dewinterizing-an-rvs-plumbing/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_9121148)

### **How To Dewinterize An RV Hot Water Heater (see weblink below):**

<https://rvlife.com/how-to-dewinterize-an-rv-hot-water-heater/>

### **Safety Corner – What Are Safe RV Towing Speeds? (see weblink below):**

<https://rvlife.com/safe-rv-towing-speeds/>



### RRR OFFICERS

	2023		2024	
President:	Mark Davis	pedeeland@gmail.com	Mark Davis	pedeeland@gmail.com
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Membership Chair: Jan Rydman holds this position for 2024. This is an appointed position.