

Discovery

BY FLEETWOOD, RV

EXPRESS



ONLY 34 MONTHS OLD AND OVER 1500 MEMBERS



LAZYDAYS IS AGAIN INVADED BY DISCOVERYS

The Spirit of Friendship rally held at Lazydays Rally Park in Florida lived up to its slogan. Camaraderie was evident by laughter and conversation between members. The cool damp weather did not diminish any activity. Seminars were well attended and informative. As usual and expected, the Fire Safety seminar by RV Alliance America was the most popular.

Vendors at Lazydays Rally Park are limited to a small number, because to give a site to a vendor is to eliminate a site for a member. With Rally Park's cooperation, we were able to bring in one-day vendors. They set up their displays for four short hours of business, then they removed their products to make room for the evening activities.

The Rally opened with an early evening cheese and cracker social. Members walked about renewing acquaintances and welcoming new members. A social it was! There was much conversing and hand-shaking as members mingled. The seventy or so new members, who were identified by smiley faces on their name badges, blended in well. Through the courtesy of Rally Park, a magician- John Calvert, put on an amusing performance. A standing ovation spoke of the crowd's enjoyment.

The two dinners prepared by Lupton Caterers were excellent. There was plenty to eat! The presentation of the meat and vegetables on the plates was eye appealing. There was almost not enough room for dessert- strawberry shortcake. Each evening following dinner there was entertainment. One evening we had a comedian, John Roberts. He too got a standing ovation. The following evening we had a band. They played pleasant background music during the serving of dessert and the after dinner conversation.

The evenings were not complete after the scheduled entertainment. One evening a very well attended bingo game was played. All the money paid for the bingo cards was returned to the winners. There were two evenings of dance instruction and ballroom dancing. Jack and Doreen Ingle of RV Alliance America coordinated the dancing. Our own outstanding standup Texas comedian, **Peter Germannis**, filled us with laughter during moments between the evening activities. A cheerleader demonstration was put-on by two teenage daughters of one of the members.

Two new chapters were formed at the rally and more were in the making.

Each member who registered at the rally received a golf shirt. The shirt had printed on it- a Discovery logo and a pair of hands clasped in a handshake on a background of the United States.

On the final evening of the rally, a raffle was held. One raffle ticket was given to the pilot of each coach. Numerous items were raffled- an \$840 Adventures Caravan Tours trip was the prime prize. Twenty \$50 gift certificates were awarded by Lazydays, and they were valid by Lazydays at the campground, for store supplies or for coach repairs. Cracker Barrel donated two certificates for four dinners. There were five \$25 certificates from Camping World and four safety items were presented by RV Alliance America worth over \$180. Passport America donated a one-year membership worth \$40. There were also many other items included in the raffle such as earrings, perfume, Tupperware and clothing. Nearly \$2500 in awards was given to attendees.

Alice and I won nothing, but we feel we got the most. We got your friendship and your thank you. All of us developed the "Spirit of Friendship".

By **Vincent "Pete" Pizzano**, Rally Master and Region 4 Vice-President

The President's Column:

By **Lois Patterson**

Just a few quick lines to let everyone know how pleased I am to be your President. It came as quite a surprise when **Yolanda DeSantis** resigned as President. She left me with a big job to try to live up to fulfilling all the great things she had started for DOAI. With me taking over the position of President, according to the Bylaws, we had a vacancy in the Executive VP position. By actions of a quorum of the Board, and one proxy vote, a decision was made to appoint **Robert Baugh** to fill the position of Executive VP for the remainder of the term. I look forward to working with Robert. I'll just say, I'm going to give it my best with the help of the great Board of Directors we have.

I was saddened to receive the resignation of our Western Region Vice President **Ted VanWinkle**. Based on recommendations and actions by the Board, I have asked **Don Fuller** to be our Interim Western Region Vice President.

I'm hoping to see many of you at "Springtime in the Rockies" in Pueblo, Colorado. Our first chartered Chapter, the Discovery Pioneers, is hosting this Rally. They are doing a terrific job and working very hard to make this a great National Rally. So, if you haven't signed up yet, please do so and let's show the Discovery Pioneers how much we appreciate their efforts.

Our forming of Chapters is going nicely. We have five chapters to date – and would like to see at least five more formed before the year-end. Anyone interested in starting a chapter in their area, please contact me, or your Regional Vice-President.

Hoping to see you in Colorado.

Lois Patterson, President
PGENE464@aol.com

OUR GRATITUDE & THANKS

We wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Yolanda and Joe DeSantis for all of their hard work and many hours dedicated to the Discovery Owners Association. We wish them our best and good health!

We also wish Ted VanWinkle our best, our thanks for all his efforts, and a speedy recovery from his health problems.

BYLAWS REVISIONS

As reported during the Richmond Rally last September, your Board of Directors approved several changes to the bylaws while meeting at the rally. The following are those changes that became effective on September 11, 2000. According to the bylaws, the membership may vote at the next member's meeting to alter or repeal the changes adopted by the Board of Directors. The publication of these changes is notification that such a vote may take place at the Colorado Rally at Pueblo during May 2001.

All changes are to Article V- National Officers:

Section 1 Composition is amended to read-

- a. The Officers of DOAI shall be a President, Executive Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, National Rally Master, Regional Vice Presidents, Immediate Past President, and Vice President of Development. The Board of Directors shall consist of the National Officers of the DOAI.

a.2. Term of Office is amended to read-

The President, Executive Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Vice President of Development and National Rally Master shall be elected for two (2) calendar years.

Section 3 Executive Vice-president is amended as follows, to add-

- d. The Executive Vice-president shall oversee the Regional Vice-presidents.

Section 4 Secretary is amended as follows-

- b. Deleted (this verbiage removed responsibilities of the Membership Director from the Secretary's duties.)

Section 7 Regional Vice-presidents is amended as follows-

- c. The Regional Vice-presidents shall be elected every two years, for a two-year term, by their regional members. The numbers of consecutive elected two-year terms shall be limited to (2) for each Regional Vice-president.

COLORADO RALLY NEWS

Planned Events for Participants

by *Nina Soltwedel*, Rally Registrar

Colorado offers you some great sightseeing while you are visiting our wonderful state, but that isn't the end of your good times! Here are some of the events to look forward to at the rally itself:

Seminars

We are pleased to welcome **Frank Bongiorno**, who will once again present his helpful and all-encompassing *Wind Noise Reduction* seminar. While the synopsis of his presentation was published in the April-May-June 2000 issue of *Discovery Express*, you won't want to miss Frank's in-person presentation.

Also on the agenda are seminars from the good people at Cummins/Onan, Freightliner, Fleetwood, and special this year, Michelin! As always, these seminars will provide a myriad of tips and suggestions for getting the most "bang for our buck" in our Discovery motor homes.

The *DOAI Drivers' Roundtable* will be featured, with wonderful insights provided by some of our organization's most intrepid and knowledgeable D

owners. Bring your pencil and paper to take notes; you'll not regret it.

The women aren't left out: by popular request we will offer the *DOAI Co-Pilots' Roundtable*. This information-sharing seminar will be your opportunity to hear how various adaptations and additions have become reality in our coaches. (The *Parade of Homes* will be your opportunity to see firsthand the results of what you hear in the Roundtable.)

Are you interested in seeing some Colorado wildlife right "in your own rally backyard"? You're in luck: *Colorado Raptors* will present a seminar with live examples of some of the marvelous birds of prey which inhabit Colorado, and you'll learn about the struggles of these valiant creatures.

Michelin TCI has made arrangements to deliver un-mounted spare tires to those who order them before the rally, or to have them mounted in the nearby TCI Tire Center in Colorado Springs. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

Other seminars worth sitting in on include the Water Filter Store, RV Super Saver, Blue Ox, and RV Alliance.

And you won't want to miss Dave Lane, the microwave guru, and his delightful presentation – this has been one of the most-requested seminars for our rally. Dave will tell you more about things you can do with your microwave than you thought possible!

Vendors

We will also welcome a delightful variety of vendors (including *Mr. Ed Badges*) who will be plying their wares during the rally. Come prepared to be tempted by some interesting Colorado-crafted goods, including an outstanding bakery in Pueblo which has a devoted following throughout the Rocky Mountain west.

Time to Explore!

There are many close-by places to go, including sites within Pueblo and surrounding areas – the U.S.A.F. Academy in Colorado Springs, along with other Springs sites such as Garden of the

Gods, the Olympic Skating Hall of Fame, the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (one of the best in the West), and of course, Pikes Peak.

While at the rally you won't be all that far from Cripple Creek, the Royal Gorge, and a bit farther to the west, the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, and Durango, home of one of the best narrow gauge railroads ever (see the "Places to Go" article for more details). These spots are an easy drive in your tow. You'll find a 2001 Colorado Road Map in your welcome bag to help you find your way around, along with a 2001 Colorado Vacation Guide to point out the "don't miss" places.

And There's More...

Mix in fun events such as *Card Bingo* (hosted by the Good Timers Chapter out of California), after-dinner door prize drawings (you must be present to win), official D.O.A.I. merchandise for sale, great music from a group which'll have your toes tapping, and the grand prize offered by Adventure Caravans, and we can promise you a rally you'll not soon forget.

Y'All C'mon Out Here, Y'Hear?

Load up the D, say *adios* to your friends, and steer your wagon out to Colorado, pardners. We're awaitin' to give you a good, old fashioned "HOWDY!" and a handshake in our mile-high state!

Things to See and Do

by *Nina Soltwedel, Rally Registrar*

Those of us working and planning the rally are excited about welcoming Discovery owners from all over our great country to the beautiful state of Colorado in May. While you get your travel plans made, this is just a sampling of the myriad activities and adventures awaiting you:

Absorb some Rocky Mountain rays! Colorado's Front Range averages 300 days of sunshine per year. Don't forget the sunscreen, though. Colorado is the highest state in the nation with an average elevation of 6,800 feet. Suntans come quickly in Colorado!

Make time for a tour of Mesa Verde National Park, voted by *National Geographic* as one of the world's 50 greatest destinations. Mesa Verde (just east of Cortez) features an elaborate four-story city carved in the cliffs by the ancestral Pueblo people between 600 and 1300 A.D. The mystery surrounding this ancient cultural landmark is the sudden disappearance of the thousands of inhabitants who created the more than 4,000 identified structures that make up Mesa Verde.

Negotiate a bargain at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site outside La Junta. Trade flourished inside the adobe walls of Bent's Fort in the mid-1800s when North American Indians, Spaniards and Anglos flocked to barter goods and services. Today the Fort offers daily tours and special demonstrations reminiscent of the old trading days.

Cross the world's highest suspension bridge at the Royal Gorge (located near Cañon City). Walk, drive or ride the trolley across nearly a quarter-mile span while marveling at the vistas of snow-capped peaks and the dazzling view of the Arkansas River over a thousand feet below. Enjoy an eagle's-eye view of the magnificent canyon aboard its 35-passenger Aerial Tram gliding 1,200 feet above the river.

Take a train ride through the scenic San Juan Mountains on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad – voted by *National Geographic* as one of America's top ten train adventures. The D&SNGRR has been in continuous operation since 1881 and has appeared in more than a dozen movies including *How the West Was Won* (1963) and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969).

Discover the diverse heritage of Pueblo over the past 300 years at El Pueblo Museum (324 W. First St., Pueblo). You will find exhibits, living history demonstrations and a gift shop.

Explore one of the earliest settlements in the West at the little community of Beulah (located on Highway 78, 25 miles southwest of Pueblo), gateway to the San Isabel National Forest and the Greenhorn Range.

Marvel at wonderful vintage aircraft at the Fred E.

Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, located at the Pueblo Memorial Airport. Featuring the largest collection of vintage aircraft on the Front Range, the museum is a tribute to American military airmanship.

Enjoy original Victorian furniture and furnishings at the Rosemount Victorian House Museum (419 W. 14th St., Pueblo). There you will find intact Victorian splendor. Rosemount, the former home of a wealthy Pueblo entrepreneur, is a 37-room mansion built in 1893, and is made of pink rhyolite stone.

Try your luck in a beautiful and historic gold mining mountain town – Cripple Creek. You can spend a fun day in this famed mountain town. It's an easy drive from Pueblo in your tow.

Rejoice in the magnificence of the Colorado Rockies! The Colorado Rockies are part of the North American Cordillera, which stretches 3,000 miles from Alaska, through western Canada and the United States, into northern Mexico. The centerpieces of this dramatic uplift are the peaks over 14,000 feet, or "Fourteeners," as they are affectionately referred-to by climbers. There are 52 Fourteeners in Colorado.

Discover a unique collection of Native American art and artifacts while visiting the Koshare Indian Museum (60 miles east of Pueblo on Highway 50 in La Junta). This is the home of the Koshare Indian Dancers, composed of Troop 232 and Venturing Crew 2230 of the Rocky Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Dancers put on special shows, open to the public, on a regular basis. Members of 2230 are all Eagle Scouts, and each member of the Dancers has researched and created his own authentic Native American dance regalia. The shows, which are held in the Dancers' kiva, are quite reasonable in price. The gift shop is one of Colorado's best-kept secrets: authentic Native American goods at prices far below those of such tourist areas as Santa Fe, Durango, and Denver. The museum itself holds some of the best quillwork and beadwork seen outside major metropolitan areas, plus an impressive collection of western and Native American oil paintings.

On June 1, 2001 a special dance performance will

be offered at 7 p.m., along with an appearance by the Albuquerque Boy Choir. At just \$5 a ticket, you won't be able to beat the entertainment value anywhere. Call Koshare at 719-384-4655 and ask for information about reservations and tickets. Don't miss this one!

Get back to nature! Colorado is wildlife country with more than 960 species of animals. Year-round opportunities exist for the whole family to see, learn and enjoy the beauty of wildlife. There are literally hundreds of places to view wildlife with many easily accessible by RV, others only by car, and others requiring strenuous back country hikes.

Stop and see the unforgettable Bishop Castle - a lifelong one-man project (north of San Isabel Lake on Highway 165). Jim Bishop has built the castle out of hand-hewn stone in a dramatic medieval style. It stands three full stories high complete with buttresses and totally decorated with beautiful ornamental iron.

Visit Colorado's sandbox! The Great Sand Dunes National Park (just east of Alamosa) is a product of the wind and rain eroding the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains that ring the San Luis Valley. They have collected here because the prevailing winds cross the valley eastward and then, at the foot of one mountain range, the wind has to drop some of its load of sand in order to clear the next range of mountains. So over the course of millennia, the dunes have built up to where they are today. And tomorrow they will be different because the wind still blows and still moves and deposits more sand here. The dunes are like continually changing sculptures. Overall, they maintain a remarkably stable form because they are so moist throughout (from the rain and snow). But the surface layers of sand dry and flow with the wind in ever-changing patterns.

The Discovery Texans Chapter will take on the challenge of putting on the "First Discovery Mile High" Golf Tournament at our national rally in Pueblo, Colorado, on Friday morning, May 25, 2001. Tee time will be 9:30 AM and fees will be \$38 including green fees, cart and prizes. We

have 20 spots reserved. Want to drive farther than Tiger? Sign up through **Ben Lewis** at: bjl5055@earthlink.net.

Howdy, wow are we going to eat good! As you can see we are really working to put on a top notch Rally and the food is going to be special also with Rosario's catering.

We open at 4:00 PM Wednesday with the Welcome Party where you'll be greeted with a variety of light snacks to go with whatever drinks you would like to bring.

Thursday morning starts with a continental breakfast and ends with a delectable dinner followed by Card Bingo.

Friday is a free day for exploring.

Saturday begins with a scrumptious Continental Breakfast and finishes with a Chicken Piccata dinner with all the trimmings, followed by western entertainment and dancing to complete the evening.

Since Wednesday and Friday nights are "on your own" you might like to visit Rosario's Restaurant at 2930 North Elizabeth and experience the fresh, crisp salad, homemade breads and delicious cuisine as a preview to a fun filled Rally.

Bob Hixson, Catering Chairman

RV Driving Mini-Course Offered

The RV School will offer an RV driving mini-course during May, 2001 at the DOAI National Western Rally in Pueblo, Colorado. This course will be hands-on training in your RV on the road. The course will consist of two days of training. You will be with a qualified instructor for 2½ hours each day. It will cover use of mirrors, cornering and turns, lane control, backing, defensive driving, use of gears and brakes, and driving on hills and grades. It will be a very comprehensive RV driving program.

This course will be offered in four different time periods. The first period will be May 21 and 22, second period will be May 23 and 24, third period May 27 and 28, and the last period will be May 29 and 30. Each period will have three different start times the students may chose from: 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, or 2:30 PM. If you prefer a specific start time, be sure to let us know upon enrolling.

You will need to show your current driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance. All vehicles used for the course must pass a vehicle safety inspection. The following will be among the items checked: brakes, lights, steering, tires, mirrors, windshield, and safety equipment.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will receive a Completion Certificate, which could entitle you to an insurance premium discount with some insurance companies.

After completing the two-day course, you should be able to drive your RV with confidence in most traffic conditions. This course will give you the driving confidence needed to enjoy the RV lifestyle to the fullest extent.

Tuition: \$150. Two people, same unit, \$175.

Please call for information & to register (enrollment limited).

RV Driving School
1512 E. 5th ST #149
Ontario, CA 91764
Phone 909-984-7746.

BETHPAGE NATIONAL RALLY NEWS

By **Pete Pizzano**, Southeast Regional VP

In February, Alica and I went to Urbanna, Virginia to check Bethpage Campground, the site of our September 19-23, 2001 national rally. When we left Florida, it was perfect weather, short sleeves in the heat of the day and sweater in the evening. When we arrived in Virginia, we needed winter jackets and a warm hat. The coach's two furnaces chewed away at the LP. Fourteen degrees above zero and a five-inch snow storm reminded us of why we moved to Florida.

We found Bethpage exactly as it was described. The recreation hall was being rebuilt and renovated. The management guaranteed all the work would be done before our September Rally.

For the fishermen, there is deep sea, shore and pond fishing. The swimmers have a pond or pool. The athletic have tennis and horseshoes, and for the young at heart- the hayride.

The campground has a well-stocked store, a game room, a laundromat, and rentals for boats and golf carts.

All sites are easy access. There are an equal number of pull-thru's or back-in's. The handicap sites are pull-thru's and are close to all facilities.

The management is extremely cooperative and will make every attempt to satisfy our rally needs.

Fleetwood Customer Service-

1-800-322-8216

Want to know where to get propane??

Go to this address on the web-

<http://www.propanegas.com/>

Freightliner Customer Service

1-800- 385-4357

YOUR 2000-2001 SLATE OF OFFICERS

President- **Lois Patterson**

Executive Vice President- **Robert Baugh**

Secretary- **Lynn Casimir**

Treasurer- **Ralph Bailey**

Rallymaster- **Phil Yovino**

VP Development- **Jim Devine**

East Regional VP- **Pete Pizzano**

Midwest Regional VP- **Bob Chinn**

Northwest Regional VP- **Arnie Thompson**

West Regional VP- **Don Fuller (Interim)**

THE DISCOVERY REGIONS DEFINED**Region 1- Northwest- Arnie Thompson VP****Phone-(435) 723-7894****arthompson@utahlinx.com**

Alaska
 Idaho
 Montana
 Nevada
 Oregon
 Washington
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
Alberta
British Columbia

Region 2- West- Don Fuller (Interim)**Phone (661) 942-1575****wdfuller@aol.com**

Arizona
 California
 Colorado
 Kansas
 Nebraska
 New Mexico
 North Dakota
 South Dakota
 Utah
 Wyoming

Region 3- Miswest- Bob Chinn VP**Phone (812) 524-8170 rcchinn@voyager.net**

Arkansas
 Illinois
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Kentucky
 Louisiana
 Michigan
 Minnesota
 Missouri
 Ohio
 Oklahoma
 Tennessee
 Texas
 Wisconsin

Region 4- Southeast- Pete Pizzano VP**Phone (727) 376-2502****vincent.pizzano@verizon.net**

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 Mississippi
 North Carolina
 Pennsylvania
 Rhode Island
 South Carolina
 Vermont
 Virginia
 West Virginia
Quebec
Ontario

WHERE TO SEND WHAT**Send all matters of general interest or for action by the President to:**

Lois Patterson, President
 4314 NW 21st Street
 Cape Coral, FL 3993-3419
 (941) 282-5857
 PGENE464@aol.com

Send changes of address, membership inquiries, checks, membership applications and renewal dues to:

Sharon Ayer, Membership Director
 91 East Donohoe
 Chula Vista, CA 91911
 1-888-594-6818
SAyer40152@aol.com

Send requests for Discovery Badges to:

'Mr. Ed' Badges n Signs
 P.O. Box 303
 Crystal Beach, FL 34681
 1-800-398-8307
 Badges \$5.50, hangers \$3, s/h \$1 each

Send your requests for caps, jackets, etc. with the Discovery Owners Association logo to:

L&M Sportswear & Embroidery
2078 Clarktown Road
Heathsville, VA 22473
(1-866-580-6401)

Send problems experienced with your Discovery, and any solutions, hints and tips to share to:

J.B. Vaughn
303 California Street
Clyde, TX 79510
1-915-893-2625

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!

Don't forget, you are all reporters and will be derelict in your duties if you don't get that article in before the deadline for the next newsletter. We can take your information handwritten, as long as it is readable, typed, by snail mail, by e-mail or disk (Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect), or by FAX. The addresses are below for your newsletter editor:

Snail mail: Don Fuller
43229 Echard Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93536-5399

E-mail: wdfuller@aol.com

FAX: 1-661-942-6692

Phone: 1-661-942-1575

Thanks to all that did a superb job for this issue!!

MEMBERS WITH DISCOVERY ITEMS FOR SALE (Key Word is DISCOVERY item)

FOR SALE: Leather love seat that opens to a small bed. Heather grey in color, A-1 condition. (From our 36T)...will sacrifice for \$125. Call Dave at (561) 595-2992.

FOR SALE: Bra for Discovery, new 1999, \$225. Call Bob Cross at (936) 856-9743.



THE SUNSHINE CORNER

This section of the newsletter is new and its purpose is to note requests by members to mention those of us, our friends or loved ones that feel that our good thoughts or prayers might bring some comfort. Any requests brought to our attention will be placed in the next issue of Discovery Express. **This month's requests for Sunshine are:**

Dorothy Devine has been in the hospital for treatment for a blood clot in her leg. She appears to be recovering AOK.

By the time you read this, **Jim Devine** will have completed a long series of radiation treatments for prostate cancer. All is looking good with Jim.



NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

DISCOVERY PIONEERS

The first chartered chapter of DOAI, the Discovery Pioneers, is alive and totally consumed in preparation for and hosting the 2001 DOAI rally in Pueblo, Colorado in May. **President Carl Ropp** (Cheyenne, Wyoming) extends an invitation to any D owners in the area to contact our **Secretary/Editor Nina Soltwedel**, 4736 Harwich St., Boulder, CO 80301-4217 (soltwedel@msn.com) for more information and a complimentary copy of our newsletter.

DISCOVERY TEXANS

The Discovery Texas are alive and growing. The current thrust is to assist the Discovery Pioneers in making the May Rally a great success and a super time for all attendees. More detail on our activities in the next issue of Discovery Express.

The Discovery Texans officers are, **Phil Yovino** President, **Don Stone** as VP, **Betty Bridwell** Secretary, **Della Quinn** Treasurer and **Joyce Bednarczyk** and **Jackie Quinn** are the rally masters. **Frank Ryan** takes charge of the Internet, web, etc. We have planned six rallies a year and

are always on the lookout for new members to share our club and fellowship.

TEXAS DISCO ROAD RUNNERS

Our 1st rally of 2001 has just ended, at the Riverview Campground, Waco, TX. We were thrilled to have 9 out of 15 members present.

Members not only spent a great deal of time getting to know one another, but many took advantage of the many area sites- The Texas Ranger Museum, Suspension Bridge, Dr Pepper Museum, and Puremco (Dominoes & accessories).

Much of the discussion was also on maintenance and personal ideas that we have done to our coaches. I saw a lot of notes and measurements being taken.

On Saturday Ancira Motorhomes of Temple arrived with the 2 newest Discovery coaches the 37U and 38D. Everyone spend a lot of time going over them and making comparisons, comments on likes and dislikes.

Ancira also gave us two LAFUMA chairs with the suggestion of a raffle to help increase our treasury. Tickets are \$5.00 per chance & you can send your money to **Gayle Shirey** or purchase at our next rally in May. The winner will be drawn on May 17th. You do not have to be present to win.

Future Rally Information:

May 14, 15, 16 leaving on the 17th
Guadalupe River RV Resort
Kerrville, TX

September 11th at 4:00 P.M. Dinner & Meeting
TX Land & Cattle Steak House
Austin, TX

December 4, 5, 6, leaving on the 7th -
Christmas Lights
Fredericksburg RV Park
Fredericksburg, TX

1st Quarter of 2002
The Big Bend Area

We want to invite any D owner to come and join us. For more information contact **Garry** and **Gayle Shirey** (915) 388-4746 email:

garryts1@moment.net, **Don and MaryAnn Crowell** (254) 584-2400 email: Relaxn2@aol.com, **Charlie Bazar** (409)836-0561 email: cbazar@pointecom.net

CALIFORNIA GOODTIMERS

Our first outing is over by the time you read this. We had six rigs join together at the Flying Flags RV Park in Buellton, CA (near the beautiful Danish town of Solvang). Although small in numbers, the park knew THE GOOD TIMERS ARE HERE!! We had a blast and much camaraderie with a Friday night hors d'oeuvres party and a super potluck on Saturday night. Poker bingo kept us going until bedtime. If you weren't with us, you missed out and we missed you. We'll have another outing soon, so stay tuned.

We chose to have our by-laws allow any DOAI member to join our chapter, so come join us! We plan to have at least two outings per year. **Ed Watson** is our President, **Don Fuller**- VP, **Artie VanWinkle**- Secretary, **Marie Watson**-Treasurer, **Karen Fuller**- Membership, **Sharon Ayer**- Rallymaster, and **Jim Devine**- Co-Rallymaster. What a team! Contact **Karen Fuller** at (661) 942-1575 or write her at 43229 Echard Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93536. Our dues are \$15 for the first year and \$12 per year thereafter. We hope to have you with us!

MID-SOUTH ROADRUNNERS

A new chapter has been chartered by DOAI. The Mid-South Roadrunners is up and running. We are the only chapter east of the Mississippi River. The Chapter invites D owners in Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama to join us. We currently have 13 charter members from the Florida rally in February at Lazydays representing the states of Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. We expect to hold quarterly meetings (most rallies) and are looking forward to hosting the DOAI 2001 Rally at Bethpage, Virginia on September 19-23, 2001.

Our officers are : President **Ray Easter**; Vice President **Marshall Mauck**; Secretary **Julie**

Yeatts, Treasurere **Bob Larkin**; Camping Coordinator **Glen Camp**.

To join you must be a member of DOAI. You may join via the DOAI website <http://discoveryowners.com>. Our dues are \$10.

Bob Larkin, Treasurer
809 Bedford Oaks
Marietta, GA 30068
(770) 998-6830
larkinb@mindspring.com

DISCOVERY TIPS & HINTS

By **Jim Pourroy**, Fleetwood Technical Service Trainer

Bringing your unit out of storage and preparing for travel.

I almost hate bringing up the subject because of the amount of work involved before the fun starts. To get to the fun part, and to make sure that the fun part is trouble free, takes a fair amount pre-travel planning and preparation. I know that it sounds like a broken record but here I go again...

Now is a good time to take a quick review of your owner's manuals...

It really is a good source of reminders. Get a pad of paper and pen ready to start a list of the honey do's that turn up and start a shopping list for parts and supplies. Take notes as you go. Some items like the LP test will need to be done at your local dealer or service center, as may some of the chassis services. Shop around- some dealers have a spring light off special. Most of the rest of the items are do-it-yourself projects.

Systems:

12V

- Check and clean all battery cable connections and make sure that they are tight. Check the electrolyte level. If the batteries are low, only add enough water to just cover the plates, and top off the level

after charging. Charging the batteries after filling the cells to the top will result in an overflow. The best charge for the house batteries is just to plug the unit in and leave it alone for three days. Everyone knows dead batteries can spoil a camping trip. If they don't seem to take a good charge, have them tested with a hydrometer and replaced if found to be defective.

120V

- Inspect the shore cord and have replaced if damaged. Check all extension cords and adapters as well. Shore cords can wear out and the bond between the insulation of the cord and the plug end can come loose exposing the wires. The plug itself can become damaged when used at a high amp load for a long period of time or in a loose receptacle. If the prongs are not brass colored, and look copper or black colored, or the plug is melted at the base of the prongs, the cord will need to be replaced.

Fresh Water System

- Super chlorinate the fresh water tank to sanitize it, flush the chlorinated water through all lines, drain the tanks and rinse. Details on this procedure are in the plumbing section of your owner's manual. Be sure to have your water filter bypassed and out of the line until the tank and lines have been rinsed. If the coach has been winterized there may be additional steps involved.

LP gas

- LP gas pressure test and regulator adjust, LP leak check. Have a service center or dealer perform this service

Interior

- General spring cleaning, air the unit out if the weather is permitting. Clean windows and wipe down paneling and counter tops.

Vacuum carpeting and wax the vinyl or wood flooring.

Exterior

- Start at the roof and work your way down. Check the condition of the roof seal and have the sealant touched up or the roof resealed. Wash and wax the exterior. Check all compartment doors and seals.

Chassis

- Read the chassis owner's manual. Oil change, check all fluid levels, inspect tire condition and check tire pressure.

Generator

- Read the owners manual and have the generator serviced as necessary. Have the oil changed and get a new air filter if needed. Run with the A/C's on (or space heaters if it is too cold for the A/C's) to test the operation under load. Regular operation and exercise is an important form of maintenance.

Air Conditioners

- Clean the return air filters. The filters are accessed by removing the return air grill's four screws. The front one will likely have the solar panel LED. Disconnect it at the plug. While the grills are down, check that the mounting bolts are snug. If possible use a flashlight and check the thickness of the gasket between the air conditioner and the roof. If thinner than 1/4-inch, it will need to be replaced.

Water Heater

- Drain the water heater tank by removing the drain plug and opening the temperature and pressure (T&P) relief valve. The T&P valve has a lever you should flip straight

up to open. Take a garden hose and put water in the tank through the T&P valve until all of the sediment is rinsed out of the tank. Let all water drain out when done and snap the T&P valve shut when done. This helps remove any built up scale at the valves seat if it had been leaking. Don't forget to put the drain plug back in when done. When the appliance is test fired, observe the flame. If the flame reverses out of the burner area or looks different than normal, the burner may need to be cleaned and adjusted. Turn it off right away and have it inspected. Spiders may have made webs or other insects may have made nests, these will need to be removed before it is ready to be used.

Furnaces

- Test operation. It is normal for the first light off of the season to smell bad, have the windows and entry door open the air out. If it doesn't work right or makes funny sounds, have a dealer or service center check it out. Most furnace repairs are not do-it-yourself projects.

Other appliances

- Read individual appliance owners manuals. Test operation.

Who ever said that RV'ing was easy never did all of the work getting the rig ready for travel. Whatever I missed I hope you found in your owners manuals. When you are all done, go have fun! You earned it.

(Editor's Note: Thanks again Jim, for an excellent and very timely article. Your continued support is appreciated by all

Nominating Committee Has Been Formed

Jim Devine, Ed Kennedy, Ray Easter and Leo Everitt were asked and agreed to serve as a Nominating Committee for selecting members as election candidates for the officers who will begin a two- year term beginning on January 1, 2002. The Committee is responsible to develop multiple choices for all positions if possible. We have over a 1500 members chock full of talent, which could be put to good use for the betterment of our club, as an officer. Your help is earnestly solicited to make known to this committee, members qualified to fill these important positions. The Committee members will solicit these members for determining their willingness to serve. Of course, volunteers are extremely welcome as well. The committee is hoping to have a face- to- face meeting at the DOA national rally in Colorado in May. Please e-mail, call or write with your proposed names. Thanks. Here's how to contact the committee members: **Jim Devine** jimd@one800.net, **Ray Easter** rayeaster@chartertn.net, **Leo Everitt** jeveritt@earthlink.net, **Ed Kennedy** erkennedy@aol.com.

Founder's forum- Jim & Dorothy Devine

Value of Membership

Last week while attending the CA Goodtimers Rally We had the opportunity to observe a couple with a new motor home. It was obvious their first time out. This caused me to recall how lost I felt when we started out .in our motor home I thought I sure would hate to buy a motor home and not have a club to turn to for help. It occurred to me just how valuable our club is to its members! Take just a moment and think back to all those questions you needed answers to when you started out. Now think about when you discovered all the questions you did not know to ask!

Remember your first rally And all those coaches just like yours all over the place! The seminars were a real revelation. Boy did we find out a lot! They talked only about the Discovery! How about all the neat things you were able to see during the parade of homes. The storage tips & drivers roundtable were great! Members had come up with all kinds ideas on just about everything you could think of.

I, was struck by how friendly everyone was at the rally we all were excited with our new found knowledge and new friends. It made me realize the world is full of fun and interesting people and we all shared so much in common. Rember how Discovery owners were just as anxious to hear you talk about your ideas and experiences as you were of theirs.

As a member of the Discovery Owners Association, we can communicate directly among

ourselves and with Fleetwood experts via the Discovery Owners chat room each Tuesday, to get answers to our personal questions about our specific problem.

Banded together under the banner of the Discovery Owners Association Each of us individually make this club what it is today, and it is it's membership who collectively offer to each other their friendship, support and experiences. This, my friends, is the advantage of belonging to our club.

A Message from Membership

We had around 150 members who did not receive the newsletter on time or have not received the newsletter because we don't have a good address for them. Our mailing service uses a special software program to screen for improper addresses BEFORE we spend the money to try to send to a bad address. We are making every attempt to correct the addresses on this "dump list", but some folks still have not received their newsletter because we can't get proper addresses. You can't believe the hours we have spent since the last mailing to fix these problems. Some of the problems were errors on the address in the membership application as received by us. A few were database errors, but the majority were caused by members not giving us changes of address. If I don't have a current address for you, the newsletter will not be mailed to you. So, if you use "summer-winter", send me your new address each time you move. We want you to receive the "Discovery Express."

Sharon A. Ayer - Membership Director

LAZYDAYS RALLY PROOF!

**DISCOVERY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Welcome to an organization open to all owners of Discovery Motorhomes by Fleetwood, intended to foster social opportunities and information exchange among members.

Dues are **\$20** for the first year, and **\$16** each year thereafter, due in the initial month joined.

Mail with checks, payable to: Discovery Owners Association, Inc., to Sharon Ayer, Membership Director, 91 East Donahoe, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ CO-PILOT _____

Street _____ CITY _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Discovery : Year ____ Length _____ Slide? Yes ___ No ___ Full Time _____ Part Time _____

Discovery VIN # _____ FIN# _____

Travel/Motorhome Memberships: _____

Hobbies/Interests*: _____

Areas of Expertise/Background*: _____

Positions in Discovery Owners Association, Inc. of possible interest to you* _____

Indicate willingness to participate as a volunteer if called upon*: Yes ____ No ____ Activities of

Particular Interest _____

What are you looking for from this organization? _____

Comments: _____

*Indicate which family member if appropriate



NATIONAL RALLY OF 2001



Springtime in the Rockies
Colorado State Fairgrounds, Pueblo, Colorado
May 23-26, 2001 (Four Nights of Camping)
First 330 sites with electric and water (dump nearby)

Vendor Displays – Classes – Fun Activities – Parade of Homes – Book Swap – Fellowship!
Seminars by Fleetwood – Freightliner – Cummins
Two Breakfasts – Two Dinners – Last Evening Surprise
FLEETWOOD FACTORY SERVICE
Onan – Blue Ox – Reliance RV Insurance Will Be There

Rally Master – Carl Ropp, President, Discovery Pioneers Chapter #1
Gateway to the Rocky Mountains - United States Air Force Academy - Western Museums
Royal Gorge – Garden of the Gods – Rocky Mountain National Park – Mesa Verde National Park
Great Sand Dunes National Park – Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Cut along this line

Costs:

\$140 per rig with two adults*..... \$ _____
\$40 each additional person per rig: \$40x_____ \$ _____
\$10 per day early arrival/late departure:** \$10x_____ \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

➔ No Refunds After May 9 ➔

*\$155 per rig with two adults **late** registration (received after May 9)
*\$155 per rig with two adults at gate with no prior registration
**Early arrival is May 20 - Late departure is after May 26

Make checks payable to:

Discovery Owners Association, Inc.

Mail form and check to:

Nina Soltwedel, Registrar
4736 Harwich St.

Boulder, CO 80301-4217

QUESTIONS? Call Nina at:

1-877-282-0779 or e-mail to
soltwedel@msn.com

We Need Volunteers!

Yes, we need your help with (please check as many as you wish!):

Parking crew _____ Vendor Aides _____ Rally Reporter _____ Amateur Entertainment _____
Set-Up Crew _____ Seminar Aides _____ Rally Photographer _____ Activity Leader _____
Clean-Up Crew _____ Registration Desk _____ Door Prize/Raffle _____ Wherever Needed _____

All Information is Important – Please Fill Out Completely – Please Type or Print

Last Name _____ First _____ Co-Pilot _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____ Telephone _____

DOAI Membership # _____ Discovery VIN # _____ Fleetwood FIN # _____

Handicap Parking Needed? Yes _____ No _____ No sites will be reserved except for handicap sites. If you wish to park with friends, you must all arrive together.

Emergency Contact _____ Telephone _____

'VIRGINIA in the FALL' RALLY OF 2001



NATIONAL RALLY

Bethpage Camp Resort at Urbanna, Virginia

ALL GRASS COVERED SITES ARE WITH ELECTRIC, WATER AND DUMP

Sites will not be assigned.
Come together & park together
(No reservations)

September 19-23, 2001
(5 Days & 4 Nights of Camping)

FLEETWOOD FACTORY SERVICE

VENDOR DISPLAYS & SEMINARS – NEW COACHES – TECHNICAL SUPPORT – GAMES –
SWIMMING – CATCH & RELEASE DEEP SEA FISHING – BOATING
2 DINNERS – THUR & SAT
FACTORY SEMINARS BY FLEETWOOD – FREIGHTLINER – CUMMINS

Make checks payable to Discovery Owners Association, Inc
Mail to: Ron Shane P.O. Box 1205, Weleka, FL 32193 1-904-467-3017

Return this portion of form with your check.

Please help us plan –register by Sept. 4.

\$130 per rig with two adults

\$ _____

\$115 with one adult

\$ _____

\$18 per day early arrival on _____ \$18 x _____

\$ _____

Those wishing to stay beyond the rally must pay Bethpage direct at \$25 per night.

All early arrival registrations must be made by DOAI. Bethpage will refuse members who try to register through them. Applications must be received by September 4, 2001. No refunds after September 4, 2001. No show, no refund. Registration received after September 4, 2001 postmark:

\$145 per rig with two adults

\$ _____

\$150 per rig with two adults at the gate w/o registration

\$ _____

TOTAL

\$ _____

Last Name _____ First _____ Co-Pilot _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tele/Cell _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone No. _____

DOAI Member # _____ Discovery VIN # _____ Fleetwood FIN # _____

Handicap Parking Needed _____ YES _____ NO There will be a handicap area.

Are you a new member? _____ YES _____ NO. Is this your first rally? _____ YES _____ NO

Volunteers ---We Need Your Help!!! YES, I WILL HELP WITH:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| PARKING CREW * | _____ | SEMINAR HELPERS | _____ | RALLY REPORTER | _____ |
| REGISTRATION-INFO* | _____ | DOOR PRIZE-RAFFLE | _____ | WELCOME BAGS | _____ |
| CLEANUP CREW | _____ | VENDORS | _____ | BREAKFAST HELP | _____ |
| WHERE EVER NEEDED | _____ | ENTERTAINMENT | _____ | OTHER | _____ |

WHAT'S AHEAD??**WESTERN NATIONAL RALLY- 2001**

Colorado State Fair and Exposition Center, May 23-26, 2001. For more important information, check the Internet and the registration form in this issue.

EASTERN NATIONAL RALLY- 2001

Bethpage Camp Resort, September 19-23 in Urbanna, Virginia. The location is in historic Virginia and on the Rappahannock River. Plan for it and don't miss it.

EASTERN REGION RALLY- 2002

Lazydays in Tampa, FL., February 3,4,5,& 6

WESTERN REGION RALLY- 2002

Beaudry RV in Tucson, AZ., February 16,18,19 & 20 (tentative)

EASTERN NATIONAL RALLY- 2002

May 8,9,10 & 11- Rayne, Louisiana (On Interstate 10 about 10 miles west of Lafayette)

BITS & PIECES**From Ed Kennedy-**

Bob Gillis of TCI in Colorado Springs is going to attend the Colorado rally on May 24th to support our efforts. TCI is willing to pre-sell unmounted spare tires and have them available at the rally.

Here are their prices:

235.80R22.5XRV 14 Ply

\$215.00

6.33 (F.E.T)

\$218.66

13.12 (6% Sales Tax)

\$231.78

255/80R22.5XRV 14 Ply

\$255.00

1.21 (F.E.T.)

\$265.21

15.91 (6% Sales Tax)

\$281.12

People can telephone to preorder un-mounted spares for delivery at the rally as follows:

1. Mention that you are ordering tires for the Discovery Rally.
2. Contact TCI at (800) 535-8973 and ask for Bob Gillis, Rob Ranson, or Erik Headle.

TCI will also be scheduling work at their shop for those who would like to come to Colorado Springs before or after the rally.

Tire Centers LLC

127 Wahsatch Avenue

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Mounting/Balancing of tires at TCI will be \$18/wheel position.

Our thanks to **Ed Kennedy** for putting this together for us D owners.

On the sidewall of your tires are the letters DOT. There are a series of numbers after these letters. The last three or four depending on the year, tell you the manufacture date of your tires. If your tires were made in 2000 or later, they will have a four digit code. I.E. 3200 which means they were made in the 32nd week of 2000. If they have a three digit number I.E. 169, followed by a triangle, they were manufactured in the 16th week of 1999, etc. If they do not have a triangle, you are in trouble because they were manufactured before 1990 and shouldn't have been on your D in the first place!

John Veach

99 37V

Apache Junction, AZ

Glenn and Gail Camp decided, while attending the February Lazydays Rally, to take the Caravan Adventure trip to the Copper Canyon. This is a piggy-back train trip to Mexico that crosses 35 bridges and goes through 86 tunnels. It takes you through uninterrupted views of some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. The Copper Canyon is four times larger and 280 feet deeper than the Grand Canyon. The railway took 90 years to build and was completed in 1961.

Glenn & Gail think it would be nice if the caravan was made up of Discovery Owners Association members only. So Glenn talked to the Adventure Caravan representative about discounts if we could get 20 coaches (eleven have already signed up). The regular price for the Copper Canyon trip is \$3,180 and the prices are slated to increase soon. The price includes coach, tow vehicle and two persons. Many meals and tours are included. If we get 20 coaches, we will get a \$200 discount per coach or we can extend the 15 day trip to a 20 day trip. Extra days will be spent along the coast. Current prices will be valid for 1 year.

If a deposit of \$250 is made 8 months prior to departure, an additional \$100 discount will be offered. If a \$250 deposit is made 4 months prior to departure, a \$50 discount will be offered. Full refund will be made if requested 60 day prior to departure. If cancelled less than 60 days before departure, a full credit slip for a later trip will be offered.

When is the trip? The trip will be scheduled for us and is flexible at this time. However, a tentative plan is to start the trip seven (7) days following the early February rally in Tampa next year (2002). To get further info or to make plans to go on the trip, contact:

Glenn Camp
33 Castle Drive
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
(304) 536-4249

+++++

(Editor's Note- this is not a DOAI sponsored trip- we are just passing along the info for the benefit of our members)

WE HAVE A PROBLEM!!

Our Membership Director, **Sharon Ayer**, says we have almost 350 members who are delinquent with their dues. Sharon says that several folks have paid their dues in one year, thinking that their payment is for that year, when, in fact, the payment was for the previous year.

We don't want to lose your membership and we certainly don't want to drop you for being delinquent. We have our mailing service purposely print your dues renewal date on the mailing label. Please do yourselves and DOAI a favor by checking that date, and if you are overdue, please send Sharon your payment, or if you have questions or feel you have paid, please contact Sharon so that we can get you up to date and our records straight.

For you convenience, here's how to contact Sharon:

Sharon Ayer, Membership Director
91 East Donohoe
Chula Vista, CA 91911
1-888-594-6818
SAyer40152@aol.com

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN CO. & VA.!!

Y'ALL COME NOW, YA HEA!!



DISCOVERY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

**DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR DUES ARE DUE?
REMEMBER- RENEWAL FEE IS \$16 NOT \$20.**

CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL BELOW AND WE TELL YOU YOUR RENEWAL DATE-

DON'T BE DELINQUENT – BE ELOQUENT - BE ON-TIME

**So please review if you are past the renewal date in the label below, as we
Discovery Owners should stick together, and we really want you with us!**

**DISCOVERY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
SHARON AYER, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
91 EAST DONOHOE
CHULA VISTA, CA 91911**

**PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
EZ MAILER**

Address Service Requested