



**THE MILEPOST**  
**Quarterly e-Newsletter of *Discovery Pioneers*,**  
**a chapter of Discovery Owners Association, Inc.**  
**Fourth Quarter 2004**



**Hello, Discovery Pioneers!**

This is the second installment of what will be our e-newsletter. It appears this is a great way to reach each of you and keep you up to date on everything happening with the chapter and among chapter members.

In the last issue I didn't list our members because all the dues weren't in. As of today (November 22) we have just one member couple to hear from...they were on an extended trip into Canada and knew they wouldn't return in time to get their dues in.

At the end of this e-newsletter you will find the current roster. Please note several changes: Codys, Everitts. and Snyders have new e-mail addresses, and four members have been dropped: Greenbaums may return after their daughter graduates from high school next May; Kaufmans have traded their D in for a Dutch Star; the Holts feel they live too far away to join our rallies; and the Kantias have decided to cease RV'ing and have sold their D. Also note our newest members: Doug and Marty Marion, who were with us at the chapter rally in Fort Collins last summer. Doug and Marty attended the national rally and paid their chapter dues at that time. Welcome, Marions!

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**Branson Rally a Success!**

We had a great time on our rolling-to-Branson trek and in Branson itself. Jerry and Joyce had us meet them in Oakley, Kansas for our first night. The next morning they led us to a very interesting museum in Oakley where we spent at least an hour looking at the most amazing collection of fossils anywhere.

We stayed the second night in Wichita, where we were joined by Jerry and Mylla O'Dell, Mesa neighbors of the Wiechmans, and also DOAI members. At the same campground were Loren and Judy Peterson, charter members of DOAI.

We arrived in Branson on a warm, sunny afternoon and settled in at America's Best Campground, a very nice RV camp in a quiet spot on the north side of Branson.

Everyone enjoyed the many shows attended, and we also helped Jerry and Joyce celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary one evening.

The Wiechmans and the Gillams traveled to Branson loaded with harvest. Jerry and Joyce had harvested a lot of wheat and milo for the table centerpieces at Sedalia, and the Gillams brought along sun flowers, more milo, pumpkins and gourds, all for Sedalia. The Ropps generously provided "toting" space in their D for all the "stuff" I was

hauling along for the national rally. I extend heartfelt thanks to the Wiechmans, the Gillams, and the Ropps.

At the national rally, First Lady Jerry proved himself an able and talented table decorator, as he joined several of us women to decorate the 50 tables in the arena. And I think Joyce must have gone through at least three cans of hairspray, used to keep the milo from falling apart so the heads could be placed on the tables easily.

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**Minutes of October 2, 2004 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Joyce Wiechman. The meeting was opened by the saluting of the flag of the United States. In attendance were Leo and Jackie Everitt, Don and Nancy Gillam, Bob and Sandy Greenwell, Ken and Libbie Hamacher, Carl and Marge Ropp, Bob and Nina Soltwedel, and Jerry and Joyce Wiechman.

President Joyce asked Sandy Greenwell to serve as acting secretary in the absence of Secretary Marlene Elkins. The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Soltwedel gave the following report: As of October 2 the balance was \$3,052.19; with \$40 in renewal fees to be deposited at a later date; there is a balance of \$187.91 in the rally fund.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Bob Soltwedel suggested we purchase name tags for new members coming into our chapter. This motion was moved, seconded, and approved. He also suggested a donut/juice fund. Discussion followed and it was agreed to continue as in the past.

Rallymasters Don and Nancy Gillam reported on the 2005 rally schedule. Upon a motion, seconded, and approved, the date for the May rally in Moab, UT, will be May 6-7-8. Other rallies being considered are: June in Albuquerque, NM; September in Estes Park, CO; and possible rally sites of Gillette, WY; Cody, WY; and Bent Fort/La Junta, CO.

The Wiechmans were thanked for setting up such an outstanding rally. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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**Greetings, Pioneer Members**

I hope those of you who joined us for the Branson/Sedalia rallies have returned home safely.

Jerry and I returned to Scott City about 11 o'clock Saturday morning, October 9. We learned, when we

returned to our coach after the Friday morning membership meeting, that Jerry's brother, Marvin, had passed away, so we have had house guests here for his services. This is the first opportunity I've had to catch up on chapter things.

The caravaners to Branson arrived at Oakley on Monday evening, September 27, and we enjoyed an evening meal together. We were all glad Ken and Libbie had left windows open in their coach; that made it necessary for Ken to dash back to close them when the rain poured down. Since we had all walked to the restaurant before the rain came, Ken brought his car back and shuttled all of us back to our coaches after dinner. Thanks again, Ken!

The following morning we formed our caravan of five coaches and drove into Oakley to view a new \$400,000 bronze statue of Buffalo Bill Cody firing his rifle at a buffalo. He had lived in Logan County where he was hired by the Union Pacific RR to shoot buffalo to feed the workers. From there we proceeded to the Fick Museum. The Fick family ranched in southern Logan County and had collected thousands of shark teeth and sea life vertebra from which Mrs. Fick created many works of art.

We had a lunch break in Salina before making our way to USI Campground in Wichita, where we spent the night. We enjoyed dinner at Shrouds Country Restaurant where we were joined by our guests, Jerry and Mylla O'Dell of Mesa, AZ. The O'Dells live in the same senior village in Mesa as Jerry and I, and are members of our Sunrunners RV Club.

At 8:00 a.m. we were on the road to Branson, making stops in Fredonia, Kansas, and Joplin, Missouri, for fuel. At a rest stop near Springfield, MO, Mylla treated us all to Tootsie Roll Pops. We arrived at ABC Campground in Branson at mid-afternoon, giving us an opportunity to get acquainted with our park. Woody and Marlene Woods joined us at ABC; they are also Mesa neighbors and Sunrunner members.

That evening we were treated to a fun dinner and hillbilly show. Those who brought them, came in costume. The show was provided by entertainers from Silver Dollar City. AT the dinner we met the Mid-South Road Runners Discovery chapter led by Ray Easter. There were 48 Discovery coaches with both groups.

The next three days were spent enjoying shows and getting acquainted with the Mid-South members. On Saturday morning we held a chapter business meeting. Rallies are being scheduled for June, July, and September. These will be announced as they are completed. The May rally is being moved ahead one week to avoid some of the graduation complications, with the approval of our hosts.

Following the meeting, Jerry and I invited our members and guests to attend a little wine and cheese party when we returned from the Branson

Belle Show Boat, so they could help us celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary. We were presented a card that they had all signed.

Jerry and I thank each of you for attending and making it a fun rally to host. We will be heading toward our winter home in Mesa, AZ about the middle of October, so if you're in the neighborhood, give us a call. Thanks to Nina for all her help in making the Sedalia DOAI rally a success. Welcome to our new members, Doug and Marty Marion.

Your president, Joyce Wiechman

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### What Ya Doin'?

That was the question your editor asked of all of you the other day, hoping to get some feedback to pass on to everyone. Here are the notes I've received:

**Roger and Nancy Talich:** "We are doing just fine. Our car was totaled, so we had to get a new tow car. Found a new Chrysler Sebring up at Dillon, and just this week got it all equipped for towing. It's a white convertible with a black top, and we like it real well. Now we have been busy packing the Big D – it's hard to do in this snowstorm! – and are leaving for Florida Wednesday. My office keeps wanting me to work 'just one more day.' We stay in Florida until the first of April and then head home.

"Will we be seeing any Pioneers at the Lazydays rally this year? I have sent in our reservation, but haven't heard if they have space available for us yet. We will be at the Clearwater Travel RV Park on Gulf to Bay, if anyone gets to Florida and wants to stop in."

**Jerry and Linda Molzahn:** "On our way to Livingston, Texas, Linda had to do a drive-by gall bladder removal in Denver...having a target arrival date in Texas, she only stayed the night and was on the way the next morning and still made it in time."

**Jerry and Joyce Wiechman:** "Thanksgiving greetings to one and all. Jerry and I are in Kansas at this time, to enjoy the holiday with our kids and other family members. We plan to return to Mesa on Friday after Thanksgiving, if the weather and all allows.

"We enjoyed a month in Arizona before returning to this wet, cold country. The boys were fortunate to get all the crops harvested before the first snow of the season. Crops were good.

"We have chatted with the Ropps, but have not gotten together as yet. We will do that when we return to Arizona. Hope you all enjoy your turkey day, and give thanks for our many blessings."

**Leo and Jackie Everitt:** "Having completed our sailing adventure, we're at home enjoying the

grandkids. We went to their Bitty Basketball game the other night and it was real fun. We're awaiting our son and daughter-in-law to arrive, to join those of us already here for a total of nine for Thanksgiving."



Leo, Jackie, and Tammy sailing. Jackie's at the helm. Below are the Everitt grandsons who accompanied Leo and Jackie to several rallies last year. Wow...how they have grown!



Grandson Reece



Grandson Bubba

**Jim and Bette Kaufman:** "When the last Discovery newsletter arrived, we realized it was the last one we would be reading. We have ordered a new OB. We were debating between a new Discovery (DOAI membership being one of the big pluses for the D), and a Dutch Star. We stayed in Missoula three days deciding. In the end, we decided on the Dutch Star. We're scheduled to pick it up in Missoula the end of this month.

"This past year we haven't been able to be very active members, but had been looking forward to being more active next year. Newmar has an owner's club, but I'm sure there's no way it can be as good or as fun as DOAI and the Pioneers. I'm sure it must be

more like the Fleetwood Club, because it includes all of their products.

"Between our daughter-in-law's health problems last winter, the birth of our grandson in Windsor, moving into our new house, and now buying a new motor home, this has been a busy year. We're looking forward to returning to Texas after Christmas to resume the trip we began last winter. Hopefully, nothing bad will happen this time.

"Our very best to the Pioneers. Perhaps we'll meet on the road sometime. Take care."

**[Editor's Note: I'm sure we all wish Jim and Bette the best of everything. They'll be missed!]**

**Richard and Mary Searle:** "Happy Thanksgiving to everyone out there. We are now in Tampa, FL, for our winter stop. We just arrived here last Sunday, November 21. So far the weather here is just beautiful and mighty warm, too. We are going to have Thanksgiving dinner with the RV park here and we have been with another friend ever since Oct. 3. They have 35-foot Winnebago in their first year of full time RV'ers and we all are having a good time together.

"We've been traveling from Colorado and left August 23 and traveled to Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Virginia, and then Tennessee for almost a month, then to Georgia, and now in Florida. In March will go to Perry, GA, for the FMCA rally and then back to Colorado for the summer before leaving for San Francisco Senior Citizen Convention for the Deaf September 2005, then maybe down to Baja, Mexico with the tour group of the deaf.

"Have a wonderful happy holidays and new year to come and happy traveling also! Take care."

**Carl and Marge Ropp:** "What have we been doing? Well, while at the national rally, the Fleetwood techs documented three items that they weren't prepared to take care of. Upon arriving home from the rally, I called Earnhardt's RV in Arizona to make an appointment to have the things taken care of on our way to our winter quarters. Not possible; they were booked up for a month, so I accepted an appointment for November 9. When I made the call, they were told of the problems and that the information should be in the Fleetwood system.

"Upon arriving at Gold Canyon, I visited with Earnhardt's service adviser, discussing the three items that needed to be corrected. He said they could get them corrected in one day; that made us happy because our coach is our home in the winter. We left the coach with them at 7:30 that morning, and checked on progress after lunch. It wasn't until 4:00 p.m. that we were told while the first item was corrected, the other two would require nine hours to

fix, and Earnhardt's would have to have Fleetwood approval.

"Approval was granted by Fleetwood, and on my second trip with the coach, they worked on one of the items. We arrived back at 2:30 p.m. to check on progress; one item had been taken care of, but from that time until 4:30, nothing was done. At 4:30 we were told that since it was a Friday, we'd have to go home and bring the coach back on Monday (November 22). Please pray for us.

"Now you know what we've been doing since mid-October."

**Neil and Marlene Elkins:** "Since Marlene and I last saw you folks, we went to Oregon for the FMCA convention and to visit kids and grandkids west of Portland. On the way home, we came through California to visit more family. Then, last month we went to Hermann, MO, for an Oktoberfest in the German wine and sausage country.

"Now we're staying in St. George for the winter, still settling in, and won't go out again until January when we go to south Texas. After a brief visit there, we're going to join Adventure Caravans for a three-week trip to colonial Mexico and the emerald (east) coast. We'll tell you all about it when we see everyone in Moab!

"We hope that everyone has a very happy and merry Thanksgiving and Christmas. May God continue to bless and watch over every one."

**Don and Nancy Gillam:** "Nancy and I have both had surgeries in recent weeks...we're helping pay for our doctor's vacation! We are mending well and looking forward to next year's rallies and seeing everyone again."

**Bob and Nina Soltwedel:** "After the national rally, we traveled to North Carolina to visit one of Bob's sisters, who lives south of Asheville in the western part of the state. We were there ten days and were fortunate to see the trees turn gorgeous colors along the Blue Ridge Parkway and into the Great Smoky National Park. Bob enjoyed a tour of the Freightliner factory in Gaffney, SC, while in Hendersonville.

"From there we traveled to Louisville, KY, to visit an old friend, and then on up to Decatur, IN, to have some warranty work done at Sullivan's RV. We toured the Fleetwood plant, where they build our D's, and Rich Howard allowed me to take several photos which will appear in the DOAI newsletter coming out in January. Bob and I were amazed at the amount of human hands-on labor is involved in building a motor home. We had had visions of roboticized assembly lines, *a la* Detroit car-building factories. Not so! Fleetwood is built **by hand**.

"We had a treat while staying at Sullivan's: it was

Halloween week, and we were invited to ride with them in a Class C in the annual Decatur Halloween parade. Joining us were two other couples: Revolution owners from British Columbia, and Bounder owners from Maine. The Sullivan's crew supplied the food; we supplied beer and wine and had a grand time.

"From Decatur we went to northern Illinois to visit Bob's other sister. After a lovely, relaxed visit we headed home to Colorado, arriving here November 5. Our new D performed beautifully and we like it more and more as we put more miles on her. About the only thing we don't like is the high price for diesel fuel! Oh well..."

"The D is winterized and parked at the farm, awaiting our next trip: we'll leave Boulder in mid-January and head to Arizona and California for a few months. We plan to be in Gold Canyon for a while, then down to Tucson to see Doug and Marty Marion (our newest Pioneers members!), and over to Yuma to visit Ken and Scotty Sutherlin and Harvey and Marian Becker. From there, we plan to head to Black Elk Landing, south of Lake Havasu, to visit Ron and Betty Dierlam, former DOAI members.

"We extend our wishes to each of you for a most wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving and holiday season. You are, each of you, in our daily prayers!"

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**In Closing**

Last week Bob and I had the pleasure of visiting with founding members, Ed and Olive Kennedy. Olive's sister, Midge, had died and the Kennedys were in Pennsylvania for the memorial service. Since they were on the mainland, a visit to Colorado was in order.

Friends held an open house for them on Sunday, and then we four enjoyed breakfast together on Monday morning, followed by a tour of our new Discovery. Olive shared that Ed really misses the RV life, and those of us who love to hit the road can certainly understand that sentiment.

Ed and Olive are feeling well, and enjoying Maui. Their home is located near the ocean and Olive has a view of Haleakala from her kitchen window. They send their best wishes to all the Pioneers and would love to hear from any of you caring to contact them: [erkennedy@aol.com](mailto:erkennedy@aol.com).

'Til next time, may your roads always be smooth, and your camping sites wide and level!

Your editor, Nina Soltwedel

P.S. Here's another funny bumper sticker for ya:

***The early bird gets the worm,  
but the second mouse gets the cheese.***