



THE MILEPOST

Quarterly e-Newsletter of *Discovery Pioneers*,
a chapter of Discovery Owners Association, Inc.
Second Quarter 2006



President's Message

by Joyce Wiechman

Greetings, Pioneers!

We got our Discovery Pioneers chapter season off to a great start. Our first rally of the season took place May 4-7 at Santa Fe Skies RV Resort in Santa Fe, NM. It was hosted by your president, Joyce and first lady, Jerry. If you haven't spent time in Santa Fe, you must put it on your travel agenda. Jerry and I had not been there in about 30 years and surprisingly, it had stayed much the same.



President Joyce

Nine coaches arrived on Thursday, got themselves settled in, then gathered in the meeting room for social hour and conversation about winter experiences. A chili feed was provided by the hosts followed by more visiting and a card game.

Friday morning, a caravan formed to transport us all to downtown Santa Fe. We boarded our open trolley for a tour of the area. Our driver/commentator, Scott, gave us an excellent description of the Santa Fe history as well as his own humor. Following the tour, we visited the Loretto Chapel, home of the famous spiral staircase. The group scattered to shop or lunch in the plaza area on their own. At five o'clock we gathered for a group dinner at the Blue Corn Café & Brewery.

Saturday morning, we were back in our meeting room for coffee, pastries, etc., followed by our business meeting. We had a good meeting with reports from officers and committee chairpersons. Of particular interest was discussion of some language changes in our bylaws which will be voted on at the June meeting. Neil filled us in on upcoming rallies and their hosts. Nina reported on membership and *The Milepost* newsletter.

At 12:30pm, cars were in line for the drive to El Rancho de Las Golondrias, a living museum. There were demonstrations of bread baking in an Indian oven, weaving, blacksmithing, wheat milling with a water-powered mill, as well as the highlight of the day, a re-enactment of a Civil War battle that was originally fought in the area at nearby Glorieta Pass. This is a yearly event at the museum. The rifles cracked and the cannons boomed.

Our final dinner together took us back downtown Santa Fe to Las Mayos, which is an authentic Mexican restaurant. The dinner music was lovely, the food was delicious, and the margaritas were to die for. So they were \$8.00 apiece, so what? I promised you authentic, nothing was said about cheap. We were also pleased to have a guest join us. Dennis and Lollie

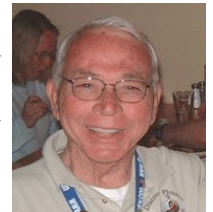
Kendrick brought her son, Matt, who is a Santa Fe resident.

Sunday morning, we were gathered again for breakfast and a chance for hugs and goodbyes until we meet again in June at Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, hosted by Neil and Marlene Elkins. Don't miss this one. ⚙

Rally Master's Report

by Neil Elkins

As I had predicted with one hundred percent certainty, Joyce and Jerry Wiechman hosted another fantastic rally in Santa Fe last week. We were few in number, with only nine coaches in attendance, but the fun and socializing was great and enjoyed by all. We all had a great time sharing our winter experiences and looking forward to our rallies scheduled for the rest of the year. Joyce and Jerry were joined by Carl and Marge Ropp, Bob and Nina Soltwedel, Roger and Nancy Talich, Chuck and Vie Brock, Denny and Lollie Kendrick, Jack and Gayelene Muckenthaler, John and Jan Kovach, and, of course, Marlene and me. Most, but not all, were making a stopover at the rally as they made the transition from their winter to summer homes.



Rally Master Neil

We started the rally on Thursday night by (what else?) eating. We all brought a can of chili and Jerry and Joyce fixed it for us on our arrival. Everyone enjoyed the evening reminiscing about their winter activities and hearing about others' exploits. On Friday, in spite of the sometimes cold and windy weather, all of us enjoyed the trolley sightseeing tour of the city. On Saturday, we were able to attend a re-enactment of a battle between the Union and the Confederacy at El Rancho de Las Golondrias (the Ranch of the Swallows). And of course, Jerry and Joyce had made reservations for us to enjoy two great dinners at two very fine local restaurants which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. Thanks, Jerry and Joyce.

We will meet again on June 9 at the A&A Mesa Verde RV Park at the entrance to Mesa Verde National Park. While the cutoff date for giving the park a firm and final number has passed, if you haven't signed up for that rally and want to go, call me on my cell phone (913.259.2909 – don't try me at home because I may not be home yet!), and I will try to get you in. Marlene and I don't have a lot of activities scheduled, but we have provided for a light meal on the evening of your arrival so you won't have to cook

after setting up your Discovery. Dessert will be provided as well. Also, we will provide the fixin's for your *Breakfast in a Bag* on Saturday morning, and afterward you will have an opportunity to explore the park and the surrounding area. Mesa Verde National Park, by the way, is on US Highway 160 between Mancos and Cortez in southwest Colorado. The campground web site is at <http://mesaverdecamping.com/> so you can find out a little more about the park and the activities available in the surrounding area.

In July, Jack and Gayelene Muckenthaler and Denny and Lollie Kendrick will be hosting the Pioneers at the Garden of the Gods Campground (www.coloradocampground.com/) in Colorado Springs, on July 13-15 (depart on July 16). They have a great rally planned and you all have received a rally notice with registration instructions and much more information. In addition to having a chance to have a great time in a very beautiful location, this will be our annual business meeting, so we need you to come and help with the chapter's planning for next year. Don't wait – send your reservations in to Jack and Gayelene and Denny and Lollie now.

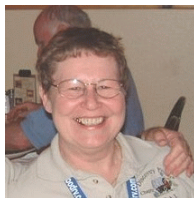
For the September rally, I have made arrangements for 12-15 coaches at the Conejos River Campground in Antonito, CO, for September 15-17. Bob and Nina Soltwedel and Carl and Marge Ropp have graciously volunteered to host this fall rally and I know that they will put together a great rally for us. Please plan on attending this final 2006 rally. The hosts will provide you with all the information later, but it will probably include a trip on the eastern half of the Cumbres-Toltec scenic narrow-gauge railroad.

I'll close this by wishing you all a grand and glorious spring, and may you travel safely until we see you again – soon, I hope. And please give me your input and assistance in arranging our future rallies. They are only as much fun and enjoyment as the people who attend! ✨

Secretary's Report

by Marlene Elkins

President Joyce Wiechman called the meeting of the Discovery Pioneers to order at 9:15 a.m. at Santa Fe Skies RV Park in Santa Fe, NM, on May 6. Nine member coaches were represented, which is enough for a quorum. John and Jan Kovach, new members, were attending their first Pioneers rally. All present gave a hearty thank-you to Jerry and Joyce Wiechman for hosting this great rally.



Secretary Marlene

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer Bob Soltwedel reported a March 31, 2006 balance of \$2,912.20 in the chapter account. He reported that activity occurring since that date

includes member renewals and an advance to Jack Muckenthaler for the July Pioneers rally.

President Joyce reported that she had received information from a campground in Poplar Bluffs, MO, about their rally facilities. She has also received correspondence from some DOAI officers on internal political matters that do not affect our chapter. Bob Soltwedel reminded everyone that \$500 of chapter funds will be distributed to those members who attend the Pioneers election meeting in July at Colorado Springs. The amount of the individual rebate will depend on how many members attend.

Under Old Business, President Joyce reported that she did not have any further information from Bob Greenwell on a potential Copper Canyon, Mexico caravan next year. He was not present to give further details. President Joyce briefed those present on the various events in Santa Fe and the plans for the rest of this rally.

Under New Business, Nina Soltwedel reported that the Chapter bylaws were not up to date and that she had sent a proposed update to all members on April 17, 2006. This is sufficient time to allow a vote from the members at the June chapter meeting, provided a quorum is present there. Nina briefed those present on each of the proposed bylaw changes and the rationale for each. A copy of the proposed changes and rationale is attached to these minutes. A motion was made and seconded to amend the proposed change to Article II-Purpose to remove all restrictions on member residence. The motion passed unanimously. The Article II-Purpose now reads "The purpose of the chapter shall be to plan and conduct rallies, enhance common interests, and promote social contact among Discovery owners." With this amendment, there will no longer be Associate Members, therefore the proposed change to Article III, Section 1c is no longer necessary and Section 1d as presently worded will no longer be applicable. There were no recommendations to change the proposed rewrite of Article VII, Section 1-Meetings and Rallies. A motion was made and seconded for Nina to review all the bylaws again and propose a change to all sections that will remove the words "active" and "associate" wherever they appear to define a member. The motion was passed unanimously.

The report of the nominating committee was given by Jerry Wiechman. He encouraged more participation by members in volunteering for chapter offices. Carl Ropp has asked some of the current officers to run again for next year. A slate of nominees will be presented later.

Neil Elkins presented the rally master's report. He reiterated thanks to the Wiechmans for a great May rally. In June we will meet in Mesa Verde, CO, hosted by the Elkins; in July we will meet in Colorado Springs, hosted by the Kendricks and Muckenthalers;

and in September we will meet in Antonito, CO, hosted by the Soltwedels and Ropps. A rally in South Dakota hosted by the Gillams is no longer on schedule. The Gillams have recently purchased a non-Discovery coach. Creede, CO, is a good possibility for a rally next year. Neil asked those present how far and for how long would they be willing to travel for a rally. The consensus was that a two-day travel time and a four-night rally was OK. Neil presented an overview of how to host a rally.

Jack Muckenthaler gave an overview of the July rally. Arrival is July 13, and departure is July 16. Rally fee includes first night's dinner. He will be sending the invitation to the rally to all members in a week or so.

Nina Soltwedel gave a report on membership. Molzahns, Everitts, and Gillams are no longer members, since they have purchased non-Discovery coaches. Member dues are due by June 30 for next year's membership. Nina has a good supply of membership brochures. Nina also reported as newsletter editor that she will be putting out the next edition soon and needs input by May 13. All those present gave Nina a round of applause for the great job that she does.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. ✪

Treasurer's Report

by Bob Soltwedel

Balance March 1, 2006	\$2,911.58
Income:	
3/31 Interest	\$.62
Balance March 31, 2006	<u>\$2,912.20</u>

May 5, 2006 update: Currently, there is a July 2006 rally advance of \$375 that has been provided to Jack Muckenthaler. I also have dues from the Hamachers (for 2005-2006) and the Kovachs (for 2006-2007) to deposit when I arrive home. The Discovery Pioneers chapter, therefore, currently has assets of \$2,912.20 plus \$395 = \$3,307.20. ✪



Treasurer Bob

Membership Update

by Nina Soltwedel

As reported in the minutes of the May meeting, we recently lost three members. However, we still consider them good friends and hope that they will be able to attend a future chapter rally with us. A Texas chapter holds a "Reunion" rally each year, and they invite all former members to attend. Sounds to me like an idea we Pioneers may want to copy.



Membership and Editor Nina

At the May meeting I was hitting up everyone

present to renew their membership for 2006-2007. The Kovachs got a gold star for being the first to renew, and I thank them for being so prompt. They renewed their chapter membership at the same time they renewed their DOAI membership.

Listed below are those who have renewed for the coming year's term. If **your** name isn't listed, that means we haven't received your dues. If you plan to renew, but want to wait until the next rally, just let me know via an e-mail that you indeed are renewing.

Members Renewed 2006-2007

- Chuck & Vie Brock
- Neil & Marlene Elkins
- Dennis & Lollie Kendrick
- John & Jan Kovach
- Jack & Gayelene Muckenthaler
- Carl & Marge Ropp
- Bob & Nina Soltwedel
- Roger & Nancy Talich
- Jerry & Joyce Wiechman

If you need more sample DOAI newsletters and/or more DOAI promotional brochures to hand out to Discovery owners you may meet on your travels, please let me know and I'll get them to you pronto. I can also give you a supply of chapter membership forms, if you wish. ✪

Rally Hosting 101

by Neil Elkins

During our meeting at Santa Fe, I was asked to talk about the process of planning and holding a Discovery Pioneers Chapter rally.

While all but two couples at the meeting had already hosted at least one rally, or were in the final phase of preparing for one. I went ahead and explained my philosophy or approach to planning and executing a rally. Since only about a third of the members were there, I decided to ask Nina to include this in the newsletter for everyone else's benefit.

First, when you decide to host a rally, or are asked to do so, the first thing you must do is remember that there is no such activity as "competitive rally-hosting"! In other words, you don't need to try to out-do the last rally you attended!

The second thing you need to do is decide where you would like to go for a rally. It doesn't need to be in an exotic location, nor does there need to be a lot of esoteric activities in the area. A lot of activities or locations that may appear to be mundane and/or boring will probably be more interesting than you initially think. After all, a very interesting rally that we attended was one Bob and Ann Hixson hosted that included a tour of a Lafarge rock quarry. We all learned a lot about a subject/activity that had been completely foreign to us. Another very interesting and enjoyable rally we attended was at a Discovery

owner's former dairy farm (we parked in his former feedlot!), and we visited a nearby truck farm where the host worked part time. We all enjoyed picking our own fresh vegetables and ended up roasting enough corn to feed us all several times over! So, again, just pick a place and activity that you would enjoy.

While it's always nice to find a place for us to park our Discoverys that provides full hookups and a place for a meeting room, it certainly isn't a necessity. For one thing, that's why they put fresh water and holding tanks and generators on our coaches. And we've had many a meeting under the awnings, sometimes in the rain and, I think, even in the snow at one time. That was a shorter meeting than most, though! And a catered meal or reservations at a nice restaurant are always nice and enjoyable but, again, these types of amenities are absolutely not necessary for a successful rally. In fact, I always contend that the attendees make the rally, not the activities.

Some of our rallies have included a lot of scheduled activities. Some have included very few scheduled activities, leaving the attendees plenty of opportunities for spontaneous activities such as local tours, shopping, lunch/dinner arrangements, and so forth. All of them have been great rallies where folks came together and visited and enjoyed each other's company.

And it's not even necessary that you have been to the place you chose to host the rally. We have never been to the site of our June rally nor to Antonito, where we will have our September rally. Most RV parks, especially here in the West, are very, very easy to work with and will help you out with many arrangements. Usually they will allow you to block out a group of sites well in advance and ask only that you give them a firm and final count about thirty days before the beginning of the rally. A few will require a deposit when you make the initial reservations, many will not. If they do, our treasurer will cover the deposit, either with a check to the park or to reimburse you.

Now for determining the rally fee. It's a matter of personal choice most of the time, but I prefer to calculate a total cost for the rally – RV sites, food, coffee, pastries, any group activities – and collect in advance from the attendees. (It has never happened to us, but I understand that some RV parks, a very few, prefer that each individual attendee make their own reservations [out of the group "pool"] and pay for their site individually.) Anyway, add in the costs for any organized activity or group meal, plus a few dollars per coach for coffee/juice/pastries (usually \$5-\$10 per coach). I always base my estimate on 15 coaches, especially when there are charges for the group, such as a fixed fee for a meeting room (rarely required). Add the RV site fee, coffee/juice/pastry cost, and special group activities costs, and you have a rally fee. (Don't forget that you have two meals or

special activity tickets per coach!) And don't flinch when that ends up to be a pretty large number, because the cost of a rally isn't as important as what that dollar figure buys in the way of a socially enjoyable rally!

Now for the cardinal rule of rally hosting: **Never, never, never let your own pocketbook pay for any rally expenses!** The chapter has a treasury which exists for the benefit of the members and will cover any shortages, within reason, of course. And never, never hesitate to consult with the rally master or any of the other, perhaps more experienced chapter members rally-hosting-wise, as to whether your numbers look realistic.

Now, if you go back to the beginning of this article and read it again, you will discover that not once have I suggested that you need to try to find out or figure out what the rest of the chapter members would like to have you arrange. That's because there's absolutely no need to do that. If you arrange a rally that you will enjoy, believe me, the rest of the members will enjoy it as well! And just ask anyone who has ever hosted a rally and you will find that instead of the trauma they expected to go through as they took on their first rally, they ended up having more fun than they had ever imagined! Go ahead – ask them. I dare you. ☼

Sunshine Corner

Some of our members need our thoughts and prayers:

...**Ken and Cody Baker**, planning to attend the May rally, had to cancel because of some health problems Cody is experiencing. They will be unable to attend the June and July rallies.

...**Jim and Dorothy Devine**, currently living in Alabama, and planning to move to Tennessee to be near Dorothy's son in mid-June. Dorothy is on oxygen constantly now, and cannot do any physical activity. Dorothy would love to have a card or a call!

...**Bob and Ann Hixson**, also had planned to attend the May rally, but Bob wasn't feeling well enough to attend. We hope to see them in June.

If you know of any other chapter member who needs our thoughts and prayers, please let the newsletter editor know, so it can be shared with everyone. ☼

July Rally Reminder

Don't forget that the chapter has allocated \$500 to be shared by all members who attend the July annual meeting rally, to help defray their rally costs. If ten members attend, that's \$50 per coach; if 15 members attend, that's \$33.33 per coach. The Muckenthalers and Kendricks have a great time planned; the Flying W Ranch dinner promises to

be very satisfying, and the Kovachs report that the rally park is very nice. There are "tons" of things to see and do in the Colorado Springs area: it's close to Manitou Springs and Pikes Peak, there's the United State Air Force Academy (that chapel is worth a visit just by itself!), there's one of the three U.S. Olympic Training Centers, a museum specializing in rock art (petroglyphs and pictographs), the national Rodeo Museum, and so much more. Don't miss the opportunity to sightsee in the Springs, enjoy fellowship with other chapter members, and vote for new officers in July! ✨

Possible Future Rally Locations

At the May meeting, several possibilities for future rallies were mentioned (and you are invited to add to this list!):

- La Junta, Colorado
- Cody, Wyoming
- Park City, Utah
- Black Hills/Rapid City, South Dakota
- Red River/Taos, New Mexico
- Creede, Colorado

If you have suggestions for this list, be sure to send them to our rally master. Remember, just because you suggest a location doesn't mean you are obligating yourself to host it...although, if you want to, we certainly won't turn you down! ✨

Bylaw Change Proposal

by Bob and Nina Soltwedel

Each Discovery Pioneers member received our memo dated April 17. As reported in the minutes of the May 6 meeting, here is the amended motion that will be presented for approval at the June business meeting in Mesa Verde (depending upon a quorum being present). Please consult your copy of the current bylaws (original approval date May 2001, amended July 2002) if you have questions about the changes:

We move the following changed wording to the bylaws of Discovery Pioneers be approved:

Article II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the chapter shall be to plan and conduct rallies, enhance common interests, and promote social contact among Discovery owners.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

Section 1. *(no changes to first paragraph. Items a., c., and d. are removed entirely. All other items in this section are reorganized and re-lettered as follows.)*

a. Membership in Discovery Pioneers is contingent upon (1) owning a Discovery motor home, (2) continuing membership in DOAI, and (3) paying such dues in a timely manner, as set forth by the chapter governing board.

b. Charter members are those who organized and joined the chapter prior to January 1, 2001.

c. Honorary members are those who have performed exceptional and noteworthy service to the chapter. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members is required in order to extend honorary membership. Honorary members are not required to pay dues, nor may they vote or hold elective office.

Article VII - MEETINGS AND RALLIES

Section 1. *Regular meetings or rallies of the chapter shall be held at least four (4) times a year. The dates, day, hour, and locations shall be fixed by the Rally Master and the Rally Hosts, with approval of the President, and shall be published in the chapter newsletter.*

Article VIII - BYLAWS

Section 1. *Proposed changes/amendments to the bylaws will be mailed to each member in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The bylaws may then be amended with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at the meeting.*

Section 3. *Upon final approval of these bylaws, the Secretary shall provide a copy to each current member of the chapter, and shall ensure that a copy is furnished to new members as they join. The Secretary shall provide access to a copy of the bylaws at meetings for all members who do not bring their own copy.* ✨