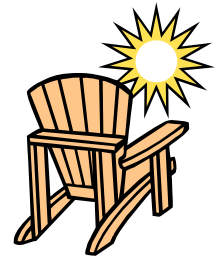




**THE MILEPOST**  
Quarterly e-Newsletter of  
*Discovery Pioneers,*  
a chapter of Discovery Owners Association, Inc.  
Third Quarter 2007



**President's Message**

by Roger Talich

We just completed another successful rally; this one at Cody, Wyoming. It was one of our larger outings with 11 rigs pre-registered, one member showing up on his own, and some guests appearing for part of our activities.

The activities included the nightly happy hour (get together), sightseeing, and musical entertainment and dancing at one of the venues in Cody. Of course, we also had shopping excursions with the women shopping and the men watching. We again enjoyed the camaraderie and diverse interest and experiences among the group.

Although I am a westerner, my interest in the wild west seemed to vanish once I became too old to play cowboy and Indian scout. The Buffalo Bill Historical



Center in Cody brought back nostalgic memories for me and, I am sure, other members of our group. One of the highlights was a man named Bill Mooney with a one-person stage show playing Buffalo Bill himself. Then again, maybe all members did not enjoy it as much as I did.

The museum was fascinating with the cultural exhibition of the Plains Indians, firearms display, memorabilia from Buffalo Bill's wild west shows, ecology of the region, and western art.

Of course, we all toured Yellowstone and one group was lucky enough to spot and take a picture of a bear. For the rest of us, we can quote from a popular t-shirt sold in the local establishments; "Where the %#@! are the bears?"

Many thanks to Carl and Marge Ropp and Bob and Annie Hixson for organizing a wonderful and much enjoyed rally.

**Secretary's Report**

by Marlene Elkins

**Minutes of Chapter Meeting  
Cody, Wyoming, July 9, 2007**

President Roger Talich called the meeting of the Discovery Pioneers to order at 8:50 a.m. at Ponderosa Campground, Cody, Wyoming. Nine member coaches were represented which is enough for a quorum. Two honorary member coaches were also present. There were no visitors to be introduced. A hearty welcome was extended to new members, Al and Jan Price.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as read, with one addition: July 9, 2007 is the effective date for the changes to the bank account regarding interest and transaction fees.

Treasurer Bob Soltwedel reported a balance of \$3,084.44 in the Chapter account as of June 30, 2007. This balance reflects a refund of the advance for the cancelled Creede rally among other items. The report was accepted as submitted.

There were two action items under Old Business. The first item concerned using chapter funds to subsidize a rally cost next year. It was moved and seconded that the chapter pick up part of the rally fee for one rally next year. During the discussion of the motion, it was pointed out that refunding part of the rally costs last year at the July rally did not entice



more member participation. Basically, the same members that usually attend rallies were the only ones who attended. There was also an opinion expressed that we should use chapter funds for such a purpose since there are plenty of funds in the account that are not being used. The motion passed with a 6-2 margin. A motion was made to allocate \$100 per coach refund at a rally next year. There was no second. A motion was made and seconded to allocate \$20 per coach refund at a rally next year. During discussion the consensus was that it was too small an amount. Treasurer Bob Soltwedel suggested we not draw the chapter account balance below \$1500 in order to cover possible requirements for rally advances. Also discussed was lumping the refund money together and using it for a dinner or tour, rather than giving each member coach a separate check. The motion did not pass. A suggestion was made that the Treasurer should determine the refund amount. Treasurer Bob stated that he did not believe that fit within his office authority. A motion was made and seconded to allocate \$50 per coach refund at a rally next year. The motion passed 7-1. A motion was made to disperse the refund to the rally hosts for rally expenses. There was no second. President Roger tabled further discussion on how to disperse funds to the next meeting. The second item of old business is

a possible winter rally in Arizona. There are usually five member coaches who have an informal get-together in the Mesa, Arizona area at some time during the first three months of the year. It was suggested that if we held an official chapter rally in the February/March time frame, we may get more member coaches to attend. This could be an extra rally or supplant one of our summer rallies. After several ideas were suggested and discussed, President Roger tabled further action until the next meeting.

Under New Business, the slate of nominations for officers in the coming year was presented: Roger Talich, President; Chuck Brock, Vice President; Nancy Talich, Secretary; Bob Soltwedel, Treasurer; Jerry and Joyce Wiechman, Rally Masters; Joyce Wiechman, Carl Ropp, and Bob Hixson, Nominating Committee. There being no other nominations from the members present, it was moved and seconded

that nominations be closed. The motion passed. It was moved and seconded that the slate of officers be voted *en bloc* rather than individually. The motion passed. The slate was elected unanimously.

Nina Soltwedel reported that the chapter has 24 member coaches, of which six have not yet renewed their membership. There are seven honorary member coaches. She stated that the next newsletter will be published by the end of July. She would like inputs by July 25. Starting with this next issue there will be a new feature introducing one or two of our members in each issue.

Neil Elkins reported as Rally Master. He expressed appreciation for the support he has received in scheduling and hosting rallies. He especially thanked Nina Soltwedel for her behind-the-scenes assistance in arranging rallies. The next rally will be at Fort Collins in September. Details will be in the next newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

## Getting to Know You

*We are resurrecting a feature from the early days of the chapter, in an effort to help you get to know more of the chapter members. We are indebted to John Kovach for taking photos of many of our members. If you haven't been "shot" yet, we'll catch you at a rally sometime! In the meantime, think about writing something for this newsletter, so we can get to know you better!*

### Jerry and Joyce Wiechman

by Joyce



Jerry and I were introduced by a mutual friend at a high school football dance following the home game. This was in the fall of 1945. We went together until 1949 when we were married. We lived four miles north of Scott City, Kansas, which was Jerry's parents' home where Jerry was raised. His parents bought a home in town so his dad could start slowing

down a bit.



*Joyce in the tall corn*

As was his father, Jerry was a very aggressive farmer. He started a small cow herd, as well as milking cows and irrigating crops. We raised chickens for eggs that were sent to a hatchery in Garden City, as well as bucket-feeding baby calves and tending to hogs. We were very busy people. In the summer there was always a big garden to tend.

Our first son, Gordon, was born July 23, 1953, our second son, Jay, was born September 10, 1954, and son number three, Norman, came March 20, 1959.

Jerry made good farm help out of these three sons. In fact, they all returned to the farm and feed yard. During our busy years, we built a 5,000-head feed yard where we finished cattle. We were fortunate to be able to buy land around us



*Jerry in the milo field*

and developed it for irrigation. We raised corn, milo, wheat, alfalfa, and most of the products were put through the cattle. He also introduced high moisture corn for feeding to the state of Kansas. He received many awards for his farming practices, as well as serving on many boards. Our place was a frequent stopping place for foreign visitors, as well as governors and congressmen of Kansas.



*Son Norman holding corn;  
grandson Erik on harvester*

We became interested in camping when our boys were growing up, and we started with a small slip-in pickup camper. Our boys all liked to fish. We went through a number of RVs over the years before getting the 2001 Discovery.

My interests, aside from being Jerry's right hand helper, and raising three sons, included my church: I

served on local, zone and district positions of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. I was on the organizational committees of the hospital auxiliary, the Scott County Health Care Foundation and entertaining the residents at the nursing home.

Since retiring from the farm activities, we have enjoyed living in Mesa, Arizona in the winter months, traveling in the D, and watching our grandchildren become fine citizens. Now we get to play with our great grand daughters – they are great fun.

We thank God for giving us the health to be able to travel around this great country and enjoy the many friends we have gained for it.

**Bob and Nina Soltwedel**

*by Nina*



**B**ob and I were born in Richland Center, a small dairy community in southwestern Wisconsin. We actually met each other when we were about two years old. The sparks didn't fly, however, until we reached 16; we finally hooked up and went "steady" during the summer of 1953, and it was a wonderful summer...which unfortunately didn't continue on into Bob's senior and my junior year...his folks moved to Harvard, Illinois in August. We kept in touch, but with

decreasing frequency as Bob's senior year ended and he went off to the University of Illinois on a dairy scholarship.

Bob really didn't want to become a dairyman, and ever watchful for a good thing, decided to join the Navy in time to get eligibility for a GI Loan when he was discharged. That began a four-year stint and some remarkable travels; he ended up on a carrier, the USS Antietam, the first angle-deck carrier in the US Navy.

Meanwhile, I finished high school in 1955 and went down to Madison, Wisconsin, to work for the state DNR, while taking night classes. In the summer of 1956, Bob and I got together when he made a special trip to Richland Center to see me. It was that weekend that I realized I wanted to spend the rest of my life with this guy, so I popped the question. Thankfully, he said yes. We were wed June 1, 1957.

Bob had two years left in the Navy and the carrier was based at Mayport, Florida, so we lived in Jacksonville until his discharge. Returning to Wisconsin, Bob enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, majoring in electronics. Two years later, we moved to Oak Park, Illinois, where Bob attended another



*Bob and Nina with Leah and Eric on 50th anniversary day*

school. After graduation, he went to work at a small electronic engineering firm, and I worked as national credit manager for an international fire extinguisher manufacturer. Leah was born in July 1970, and I began a second career as a stay-at-home mom. Bob left the engineering firm and went to work at the University of Chicago, in the cloud physics lab, designing the packaging of a probe which now rests on the surface of the planet Venus. In April 1974, we moved to Boulder, and Bob began working for Particle Measuring Systems. Our second child, Eric, was born in Boulder in February 1976. Bob retired from PMS in January 2002.

In 1978 I began a career as a professional needlework designer and teacher, and I taught across the USA and Canada. During that time I also served as editor of a national magazine. Both Bob and I have been active in our congregation during the past 27 years. In 2000 we became grandparents with the birth of Leah's son, Conner. I retired from teaching at the end of 2005, but continue my work in fiber arts.

After purchasing our first Discovery in July 1998, we took many trips, including a two-month-long journey to Alaska with chapter members Al and Jan

Price (they got us interested in RVing initially). In 2004 we sold the 1998 D to Al and Jan, we bought our 2005 D and began the custom of spending our winters in Arizona, dividing our time between Yuma

and Gold Canyon.

Like the Wiechmans, we give thanks to God for the ability to continue RVing and being able to meet so many great people and make new friends.

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## September Rally News

The final rally of 2007 has been scheduled for September 6-9 (three nights' camping) at Lakeside KOA Kampground, Fort Collins, Colorado. Your hosts, the Soltwedels and the Wiechmans, are looking forward to welcoming you to a weekend of camaraderie, train and trolley riding and viewing, good fun, and good food!

### Where

Even though our chapter has had rallies in Fort Collins before, we haven't exhausted all the sightseeing possibilities. See the copy on the next page for ideas.

The KOA Kampground is an improved version of Heron Lake, and we are guaranteed to be parked all together. We have access to the upstairs meeting room during our stay.

No need to schlep your computer to the office to get your e-mail; the campground has WiFi that is supposed to be accessible no matter where you are parked.

### Extra Added Attractions

A real treat will be in store for us on Friday morning; a trip to a private homeowner's backyard to see and wonder at an extensive model railroad layout complete with town, people, mountains, a river, etc. Quite delightful, we will have a good time, thanks to Annie Hixson who has arranged the tour.

Another treat will be courtesy of K&C RV in Longmont. On Friday afternoon, K&C manager Rod Andersen will be bringing a new Discovery for us to ooh and ahh over, and will also provide a steak or BBQ ribs dinner Friday evening!

### And Speaking of Food...

Remember the delicious chili we enjoyed at the Santa Fe rally in May 2006? Well, even if you don't, we're going to do it again. Jerry and Joyce will provide the pot and the secret ingredient; we ask each coach to bring a can (any brand) of chili. We'll combine it all and have a chili meal on Thursday evening, complete with cheese and crackers. Bring your own liquid refreshments; table service will be provided.

### And Now the Nitty-Gritty

1. We **must** give a final reservation count to the campground on August 23. Therefore, we need your reservation in Soltwedels' mailbox no later than August 22. If you find out **by** August 22 that you can come to the rally, call Bob and Nina (303-530-07750) or send them an e-mail ([bob.soltwedel@gmail.com](mailto:bob.soltwedel@gmail.com)) and you will be included in the final count. Your check can follow.

2. Fill out the form below; send it to the Soltwedels along with your check for \$15 (rally fee) made payable to *Discovery Pioneers*. You will receive more Fort Collins information by e-mail, which will include a detailed agenda including day and time of our regular chapter meeting.
3. **Warning:** Any cancellation after August 23 will cost the cancelling person \$25!
4. You can arrive as early as 10:30 a.m. to check in; however, if you arrive **before** 10:30 a.m., it will cost you an additional \$25.
5. **You must make your reservation with us**, not with the campground. But you will pay the campground when you arrive. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE CAMPGROUND.**
6. The campground will honor the group rate of \$31.11 per night for two nights before and two nights after our three-night stay, for those wishing to come in early and/or stay late. Note your dates below, please.
7. All sites are full hookup with 30 **and** 50 amp service. The campground host requests: if you can only use 30 amps, **do not** hook into the 50 amp outlet; it messes up the unit.

### September 6-9, 2007 Rally Lakeside KOA Kampground, Fort Collins

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Arrive \_\_\_\_\_ Leave \_\_\_\_\_

*Fill out, cut out, mail with your check to:*

**Bob & Nina Soltwedel**

**4736 Harwich St**

**Boulder CO 80301-4217**

*Registration must arrive by August 22, 2007.*