



THE MILEPOST

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



President's Message

by Roger Talich

Hello, Discovery Pioneers!
We are reporting to you from the Discovery dealer's parking lot in Boerne, Texas. With the geopolitical situation and its potential impact on diesel fuel prices, I question the wisdom of this negotiation. However, since the negotiation does not seem to be heading to any agreement, it appears that we will soon be back on the road with our present rig.



President Roger

For those of you who were unable to attend the Chama outing, you missed a wonderful trip. Pleasant conversation, some fine New Mexico food, and an interesting train ride were the main features of this outing. Before reaching its destination in Antonito, Colorado, the train crossed the New Mexico-Colorado border eleven times. The views were beautiful and the mid-stop lunch very good and more than adequate. At the mid-way stop, some of us took advantage of the opportunity to enter the cabin of the engine and view the operation of a century-old steam train engine.

If anyone is considering this trip, the only negative I would report is it is a little too long – it's an all-day affair.

Many thanks to the Soltwedels and the Ropps for organizing and planning such a wonderful rally.

Several of us then traveled to San Antonio, Texas for the national rally. The seminars were informative, the entertainment good, and the Texans and Louisianans lived up to their friendly and gracious reputation. This was our first national rally, but it definitely will not be our last. That is probably the best form of recommendation I can offer you, if you have not taken advantage of the opportunity to attend one of these rallies.

After the rally we took a trip to the Oktoberfest in Fredericksburg, Texas. What fun. While it is probably too far for a Pioneers rally, the thought does appeal to me.

We will next report to you from our winter home in Florida.

Part Two

Since both the camping season and the national rally have been concluded and the subject of previous reports, there seems to be little more to say regarding those outings. At this juncture, many of us are headed for or have arrived in our winter homes. We would hope that each member of the Discovery Pioneers will enjoy their trip or other fall adventure as much as we have enjoyed our six-day journey from Colorado to Florida.

While our activities on this trip may not appeal to everyone, it was my idea of a "good time". We danced to German music and ate German food in Fredericksburg, Texas; listened to Irish-Scottish music, and the Kingston Trio at a Celtic Nations festival in Lake Charles, Louisiana; ate Cajun food and danced to Cajun music in Lafayette, Louisiana; and tried to sing an old song about the Suwannee River on the banks of the Suwannee River. In addition, we toured a WWII Pacific War Museum and a Naval Air Museum.

On a sadder note, we went into New Orleans. The French Quarter looked about as it did before the hurricane, but there were large sections of the city next to Highway 10 that have never been repopulated. There were houses here and there that looked as if people had moved back, but the vast majority of the homes were standing empty. Hopefully, given time New Orleans will return to its glory days.

If you are still with me after my travel log, at the last campout in Chama, Neil had a rather impressive list of campouts for the coming year. I am sure he will be reporting to you on his plans for the coming season. While there is still much for us to do and enjoy here in Florida this winter, we hope you will all turn out in force for our rallies next summer. They promise to be grand. ☼

Rally Master's Report

by Neil Elkins

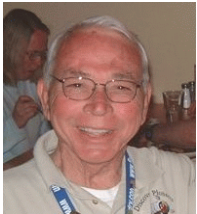
Well, we finished the year's rally schedule in fine style with Bob and Nina Soltwedel and Carl and Marge Ropp putting on a great rally in Chama, NM. Those of you who didn't make it missed a wonderful time. We really miss not having all of our friends join us for the good times. After all,

coming together to share good times, good food and good friends is the main reason for having a chapter. I hope that we will see all of you at least one of next year's rallies.

And we have the makings of a great rally schedule for next year beginning with Ken and Cody Baker

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hosting us in Roswell, NM, from Tuesday, April 24 through Saturday, April 28 (leave on Sunday, April 29). They are sure to put together a great schedule of activities for us to enjoy and I hope that I get to see a lot of you there. We decided to have it early so you'll be able to go through Roswell on your way home from wherever you take refuge from the winter's cold temperatures. More information will be forthcoming in the spring, but it's not too early to plan on coming to Roswell. Put in on your travel calendars now!



Rally Master Neil

I haven't arranged for the June rally, but hope to find a good location (and host!) in central or eastern Colorado. If you have any good suggestions or would like to host the June rally, please let me know. At our Chama rally there was some discussion of going to either Boyds Lake State Park near Denver, or to La Junta to attend the Boy Scouts perform Kiva Dances. We need someone to step up and volunteer to arrange for one of these or to come up with another location. Please help the chapter by becoming an active, participating member and volunteer for the June rally. I will help you with all the arrangements. You will enjoy the experience much more than you think!

For our July get together we will be going to Cody, WY, where Carl and Marge Ropp will team up with

Bob and Annie Hixson to host our rally. Put Cody on your calendar on July 8 through July 14.

In September we will have another "Reunion Rally" where all Discovery Pioneers alumni are invited to come and talk about old times and catch up on what's been happenin' since they left the chapter. In fact, this rally will be co-hosted by alumni Leo and Jackie Everitt with Bob and Nina Soltwedel helping them out. This rally will be held at the Mountain Views at Rivers Edge RV Park in Creede, CO.

The details for all these rallies will be published in the spring in time to make firm plans. In the meantime, mark your calendars.

I'm always interested in your views on what the chapter can do to get members to come to our rallies and join in the fun. Please e-mail me (arnie1938@aol.com) or call me (775.727.8924 or 913.259.2909) and let me know what it would take for you to come out and enjoy the fun at rallies. I think that the best part of having a Discovery and belonging to a chapter is getting to share experiences with like-minded RVers. Help me make your membership in the DOAI and the Discovery Pioneers be a fun, exciting experience by telling me what you would like to have in the way of a rally.

In the meantime, have a wonderful and safe winter no matter what your "wintering over" plans are. May God bless you and may you enjoy fair winds and following seas. ☼

Minutes

by Marlene Elkins

Chama, New Mexico, September 15, 2006

President Roger Talich called the meeting of the Discovery Pioneers to order at 9:30 a.m. at Rio Chama RV Park in Chama, New Mexico. Seven member coaches were represented which is enough for a quorum. President Roger welcomed guests Leo and Jackie Everitt, former members, from South Carolina, and guests Joe and Penelope Shaffer from Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Secretary Marlene

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

Treasurer Bob Soltwedel reported an August 1, 2006 balance of \$4,382.83 and a \$4,051.55 balance as of August 31, 2006 in the chapter account. He reported that activity occurring since that date has decreased the balance to \$3,188.55. The report was accepted as submitted. Bob reported that the bank branch in Niwot is closing, so he will use the branch at Boulder in the future for our account.

There were no action items under Old or New Business.

Neil Elkins presented the Rallymaster report. He thanked all who hosted and participated in the rally. The schedule for next year's rallies is: May - Ken and Cody Baker, Roswell, New Mexico, 2nd week; June - nothing scheduled yet; July - Carl and Marge Ropp (Bob and Annie Hixson, co-hosts), Cody, Wyoming, 8th-14th; September (Reunion Rally) - Leo and Jackie Everitt (Bob and Nina Soltwedel co-hosts), Creede, Colorado. There was discussion on possibly having the June rally in La Junta to coincide with the Boy Scouts performance of Native American dances in a kiva at the Koshare museum. There is a KOA in La Junta as well as RV parking at Boyd Lake State Park near Denver.

Nina Soltwedel reported on Membership. Betty and Arnie Thompson are new members and Joe and Penelope Shaffer have decided to join. Nina will send an updated roster with the next newsletter to be sent after the DOAI convention in San Antonio. Dean and Nancy Miller have sold their house in Colorado and are moving into a new house in Boerne, Texas. Chuck Brock reported that Jerry Wiechman recovery from knee surgery is excellent. The Wiechmans sent regrets for not being able to attend this rally, but they

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have mailed the President and First Lady badges to the new officers.

There was discussion on forming a chapter auxiliary membership to include past members who are no longer Discovery owners. The DOAI bylaws state that chapter members must be members of

DOAI; therefore they must own a Discovery. Guests are always welcome at our rallies, but former members who are not Discovery owners cannot legally be members of the chapter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. ☼

Membership

by Nina Soltwedel

It's a real pleasure to welcome our newest members since the last newsletter:

Arnie and Betty Thompson
Joe and Penelope Shaffer
Ken and Sylvia Swain

All three couples have their chapter badges, bylaws, and rosters, and we look forward to having them attend our 2007 rallies.

After the last meeting, held in Chama, I made up an e-mail address list of as many of our former members as possible. I will let them know the details of our reunion rally as those details become available.

There's a separate attachment to this e-newsletter - the updated roster. If your address, phone, or e-mail address changes, please let me know so I can let all the chapters members know about it. ☼

Out and About with Our Members

John and Jan Kovach attended their first national rally at San Antonio, and wrote: "We had such a great time in San Antonio at the rally. We look forward to attending many more. Everyone was so friendly and Texas is beautiful.

"After the rally, we left San Antonio, headed east on I-10 and just picked a town on the coast and turned southeast and ended up in Palacios, Texas. It was a great place to spend a couple of days enjoying the warm and sunny weather.

"We watched the shrimp boats coming and going. John and I stayed in a nice campground right on the Gulf - parked on the seawall.

"On our way back, we stopped in Amarillo. John and I were in the Air Force there, so we wandered around looking for the old airbase. Many of the people in town are too young to remember that there was an airbase, but we managed to find it. Many of the buildings were gone; the town has turned it into an annex of a college there. I brought back memories of younger days.

"We plan to leave Colorado Springs in December to wander southwest - Arizona and Texas. Quartzsite comes to mind in January, and then we plan to spend some time on the Gulf Coast around the Padre Island and Corpus Christi area."

Joe and Penelope are currently in Hawaii! I bet they didn't drive the Discovery there . . .

Jerry and Joyce Wiechman wrote: "Jerry and I arrived in Mesa on Sunday, October 22, a week delayed from our original plan. I lost a sister-in-law in Norton, Kansas, so we got a later start. We got along fine with the driving. We traded off often so Jerry didn't tire out. The new knee is doing fine; just a process of rebuilding muscles.

"We will be in Mesa until mid-December when we return to Kansas for our grandson's wedding. We will celebrate Christmas with our family before returning to the Valley.

"We are indebted to Vie and Chuck Brock who volunteered to help us unload the coach upon our arrival. What a big help they were!"

Dean and Nancy Miller are staying at the Alamo Fiesta RV Park in Boerne, Texas, while their new home on Prado Crossing is being built. The Soltwedels had lunch with them, and were impressed by the plans the Millers have. Their new home is being built of limestone, which is found in great quantity around the area.

Bob and Nina Soltwedel did some traveling around Texas after the San Antonio rally. They stayed at Blazing Star an extra night in order to go to Caterpillar on Monday morning to have their ECM flashed. (Holt Caterpillar in San Antonio are great people to deal!)

Later on Monday they went over to Houston (about 200 miles) and visited DOAI President Phil Yovino and his wife, Dotty. The Yovinos live on the bay south of Houston and Bob and Nina camped in their driveway for a few nights before driving down to Kemah, Texas to stay at an RV camp until the next Wednesday. Their visit included driving over to Galveston on one of the non-rainy days (it rained a lot...so much so that Bob and Nina began checking their toes to see if they had begun to be webbed!). The highlight of the trip, however, was the Level Nine tour of the Johnson Space Center. This extensive 5-hour tour is limited to 12 people daily, and takes visitors behind the scenes of the space program. Beginning with lunch in the astronaut's dining room,

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the tour progressed to the Bouyancy Training Facility (a huge space-station size pool!), and other areas of the center where the regular visitors don't get a chance to spend any time.

Imagine having the opportunity to actually walk into the original Mission Control Center...the place where all the engineers and directors sat during the Apollo missions. What a thrill! The history was almost palpable in the air. We also went to the current Mission Control Center, and one of the members of the mission staff came by and answered all the questions we peppered him with.

This is a tour not to be missed if you find you'll be going to Houston. You can order the tickets online, and the tour is well worth the \$70 per person price.

After Houston, the Soltwedels left for Yuma, Arizona, where they are at this writing. They will drive their car home to Colorado for the holidays and then return to Yuma for a couple more months before joining Carl and Marge Ropp at Gold Canyon for a time.

Neil and Marlene Elkins write: "As most of you know, we have been moving – again! It seems that we just can't let well enough alone and stay in one place! Maybe it's because after spending our adult lifetimes moving when and wherever we were told to by the Navy, we just can't stand being in one place very long. Or maybe we're just curious about what lies around the next corner in our lives.

"Whatever the reason, we have bought a new house in Pahrump, NV, and have moved. At least we have all of our possessions in our new house and are now trying to figure out what to put where, where to hang the pictures, and find our way around a new town. And, of course, we are in the process of selling a house back in St. George.

"Anyway, we're settled in enough to have had company four times already, beginning the day we moved out of our D into the house! The latest of our

visitors were Portia and Bob Williams and Betty and Arnie Thompson. It was great to have our DOAI and Discovery Pioneers friends come by and share their afternoon and evening with us. But it's always great to have family and friends come by to visit. And you are always welcome to come and give us a break (an excuse, actually!) from the routine of sorting out things we don't need anymore and discarding or donating them to someone who can put them to good use.

"So come on to Pahrump and let us show you around. Pahrump is about 50 miles west of Las Vegas on Nevada Highway 160. The best RV park around is Terrible's Lakeside Casino and RV Park (great prime rib buffet on Saturday night); second best is probably Pahrump Station RV Park at the Best Western motel. If you do decide to come out, you should plan well ahead as the RV parks fill up early and sometimes it is impossible to find a vacant RV site in town.

"Enough about what we've been doing – on to the next few months. Over the winter we're planning on going to Gold Canyon, AZ, after the first of the year to enjoy the warm weather there and visit with Joyce and Jerry, Carl and Marge, and Chuck and Vie, and whoever else ends up in the area. Of course, if the weather gets too cold here before then, we might just head on south until it clears!

"In February we plan to go with Chuck and Vie to Presidio, TX, to join the Adventure Caravans Copper Canyon Piggy Back Caravan. We're really looking forward to it and have been trying to learn some Spanish before we go. After our wonderful Adventure Caravans tour to Canada and Alaska last summer, we have high expectations for a wonderful trip. If any of you would like to go along, get in touch and we'll let you know the specifics so you can try to join us.

"Other than that, we're just trying to get settled and by the time April rolls around we'll be more than ready to go to Roswell and share our memories with all of you. Come on out!" ☺

Photo Gallery



Discovery Pioneers in Manitou Springs in July



Rally hosts Jack and Gayelene, and Lollie and Denny



From the
Chama
Rally

