



THE MILEPOST

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

Fourth Quarter 2007

Nina Soltwedel, Editor



President's Message

by Roger Talich

We finished the camping season this year at Fort Collins, Colorado. It was another fun and interesting outing, and it was enjoyable seeing several former Discovery owners at this rally. Special thanks to the Ropps and Hixsons for stepping in as co-hosts with Jerry and Joyce Wiechman because of Nina Soltwedel's emergency surgery. Thanks to Nina for providing valuable information on the area.

It seems like there is always something planned that I think will be okay, but that probably would not do on my own. Inevitably, these events turn out to be something special. It is like you have to be there to get the full impact. The model train in the couple's



back yard was that special something at this rally. I found fascinating the work, the design, and everything that went into this creation. The diversity of people's interests and hobbies certainly can add to our enjoyment of life.

I am somewhat concerned about the turnout that we are getting at some of our campouts. This year we had two low-number-coaches rallies (five in Ouray and four in Fort Collins). Even with those low numbers, we enjoyed the rallies and the locations where they were held. At any rate, I would like to hear any suggestions anyone has on how to increase attendance at our rallies.

The winter is fast approaching and many of us will be heading to warmer locations. For those who stay behind, we wish you warmth in the cold weather and a pleasant wintertime. For those who journey south, we wish you safe and happy travels.

Secretary's Report

by Nancy Talich

Minutes of September 8, 2007, Meeting Fort Collins, Colorado

After a group phone call to wish Nina Soltwedel a speedy recovery, President Roger Talich called the meeting of the Discovery Pioneers to order at 8:45 a.m. The meeting was held at the KOA campground in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Four member coaches were present and two honorary members. There were no visitors.



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

The treasurer's report was presented by Jerry Wiechman on behalf of Bob Soltwedel. The balance as of August 27 was \$3,215.63 including rally fees of \$120. There is a check from new members, Ken and Anna Young, to be deposited. The final treasurer's report will be e-mailed after the August bank statement and Fort Collins rally expenses are received.

Old business: Carl Ropp reported that at the Cody rally \$110 was received. Expenses for coffee, donuts, etc. were \$72.40. With the money left over, it was suggested to order pizza. The cost of the pizza was \$14.40 over the remaining rally fee funds. A motion was made to submit \$14.40 to the treasurer for

reimbursement. The motion was seconded and approved.

Carl Ropp commenced a discussion on the need for two funds for our club. He indicated that the treasury is set up to have a rally fund and a general fund, and that there should be an accounting of rally expenses from each rally. After much discussion it was concluded that this was an accounting issue rather than a separate bank fund issue. Further discussion was tabled until our treasurer, Bob Soltwedel, can be present.

Discussion was continued on how to disburse the \$50 refund per coach to those who attend the selected rally. Refunds could be issued in the form of a benefit such as a meal or, for example, a ticket for a trolley tour rather than individual checks. A motion was made that if we give a benefit from the treasury, it be given to both members and honorary members. The motion was seconded and passed.

At our last meeting, discussion was tabled on how to disburse the \$50 per coach benefit to the attendees of the rally. Today a motion was made that the \$50 benefit be in the form of payment of rally expenses such as meals, entertainment, etc. The motion was seconded and passed.

Rally master report: During the winter, there may be eight coaches in Arizona. We will set a future date

for a winter rally in that area. Jerry and Joyce will be instrumental in setting this up. In May we need a rally host for a rally somewhere in the area where those coming from Arizona can attend. In July the Kovachs and Ven Roys will host in Cañon City, Colorado. September is open.

Jerry and Joyce Wiechman were thanked for their help in hosting our rally at Fort Collins. Also the Hixsons and Ropps for their help.

Joyce Wiechman presented the membership report. We have 22 regular members; 10 honorary members; and Ken and Anna Young, new members. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Soltwedel

Balance 9-1-07	\$3,217.10
Income:		
New members (Young)	\$20.00	
KOA deposit refund	74.07	
Interest	1.47	95.54
		<u>95.54</u>
Total Income	\$3,312.64
Expenses:		
Badges (Baker)	\$20.50
Balance 9-30-07	<u>\$3,292.14</u>



On September 20 a check for \$81.00 was written to Jerry Wiechman for September rally expenses; another check for \$14.40 was written to Carl Ropp for July rally expenses. We currently have a bill pending from Mr. Ken Badges for \$20.50, representing the badges for our new members, Ken and Anna Young. These will bring our bank balance to \$3,176.24.

Please note that we are no longer incurring service charges, and that the interest rate has been raised to .55 percent.

Also please note the rally fund (which is **not** kept in a separate checking account, but is a separate bookkeeping account) totals \$160.58 after deducting the two rally expense payments noted above.

Rally Masters Report

Joyce Wiechman

Our September and final rally of 2007 was held at Lakeside KOA Kampground in Fort Collins, Colorado. This date and place was arranged after the August Creede, Colorado, rally was scratched.



Our thanks go out to Neil Elkins for serving as rally master for 2007. Now it is time to think about 2008. Since the summer rallies run only about three weeks apart, your rally masters decided to try to spread them and maybe encourage better attendance. We have arranged the following schedule for 2008. A winter rally is being planned since a good number of the Pioneers spend time in Arizona during the winter months.

Winter: February/March in Arizona, date and place to be announced – Hosts: Jerry and Joyce Wiechman

Spring: May - first week for an on-our-way-home rally, probably in New Mexico - Hosts T/B/D

Summer: July 10-13, Cañon City, Colorado - Hosts: John and Jan Kovach, and Terry and Sandy Ven Roy

Fall: September - place and date T/B/D

We received a letter from ABC in Branson, Missouri, inviting us to return and included the new shows for the upcoming season.

Please give some serious thought to hosting one of the open rally dates. We have some suggestions as to sites, if you need help. Just contact us by phone or email and we will be glad to assist you any way we can.

Jerry and I will be leaving Scott City about October 14 to attend our first rally of the fall season of our Sunrunners RV Club, being held in Williams, Arizona. You can reach us at our Mesa numbers after October 20. Thank you to all who attended and served as hosts in 2007.

We hope to see many of you at the November national DOAI rally in El Mirage, Arizona.

Membership Report

Nina Soltwedel

As noted in the minutes, we currently have 22 members. These are DOAI members who have paid their annual dues to this chapter.

I continue to receive a list of new DOAI members from the DOAI membership director each month, and I send a solicitation letter to those who live in our

immediate chapter area (Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, New Mexico, and Utah).

I thank you for the many cards, good wishes, calls, and prayers during my journey from near death to good health. It's been an interesting experience, and now I understand why eating fiber can be one of the best things one can do for one's body!

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!

Ken and Cody Baker

by Cody



Ken was born in Amarillo, Texas, and I was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Both our families moved to Portales, New Mexico, in the late 1940s, which is only 89 miles east of Roswell.

We met in December 1954. I was a waitress in a family restaurant, and Ken was a truck driver. He came in to eat dinner – our eyes met and then we stood there, looking at each other, licking our lips. I dropped a tray with six glasses of water (broke all of them)! I knew he was the one for me. We got married March 10, 1955. Since we were both raised on a farm, we went back to farming after we were married in Portales.



Ken's new harvester

We moved to Roswell in 1967 and bought our farm here. We have two sons (Monte, age 50, and Hugh, age 47), four grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great-

granddaughter ... another great-grandchild is on the way!

We celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2005, and our great-granddaughter was born that night.



A few of Ken's nutcrackers

Both our sons and a grand-nephew work with us on the farm. We raise corn for silage, hay and barley for all the dairies around here. We also raise pecans. Altogether, we farm about 1,500 acres and do custom farming for other farmers. Ken and the boy do the farming, and I do the bookkeeping.

Ken collects nutcrackers, and we have traveled all over the country to nutcracker conventions.

Ken built a special shed just for his hobby. We are avid Cowboys fans.

We have always gone camping for years. We bought our first motor home in 1994 (Winnebago), traded it for our 1998 Discovery, then traded that one for our new 2007 Discovery.

We aren't retired, so we don't get to travel as much as we would like. But we sure do enjoy and love all our new friends we have met in the Discovery Pioneers club.



Ken in a barley field

Carl and Marge Ropp

by Marge



I was born in Iowa, raised on a farm where I had the experience of milking cows, feeding chickens,

gathering eggs, slopping the hogs, driving the tractor in the fields, and all those good things that go with the old time farm. After graduation from high school, I worked as a legal secretary and attended college where I received my teaching certificate. I became a teacher in a little one-room country school and taught all eight grades.

When marriage came, my husband and I became parents of five children: Sherry, Jerry (Buzz), Marilyn, Nancy, and Becky. In the early '60s we moved to Greeley, Colorado, where I took a job with a CPA firm, and later became the bookkeeper for the Dodge dealership in Greeley. In 1968 I took a clerical position in the purchasing office at the University of Northern Colorado, and remained in that office, advancing to the position of director of purchasing, which I held until I retired in 1994 after serving the State of Colorado for 28 years.

In 1970 my marriage fell apart, but life seems to continue on. In 1973 I married Dick Louthan. We took up traveling the state in our motor home, and in 1992 were invited to join in a meeting to establish a new FMCA chapter. That came to fruition and the chapter was named High Plains Drifters. It was at this first meeting that we met Carl and Voris Ropp. Dick passed away suddenly of a massive heart attack at a rally in 1999.

Carl was born in Indiana, raised on a farm in Pike County where he went to a one-room country school. He became involved in 4-H and FFA with beef cattle, hogs, and sheep, and excelled in all three. He attended Mt. Olympus high school and was senior class president. After graduation he worked for Orville Redenbacher, supervising his purebred Angus herd. He met and married Voris Lusk and soon thereafter the Korean conflict arrived. Rather than be drafted, he joined the Air Force. He was based at Harmon AFB in Newfoundland, Pease AFB in New Hampshire, and Warren AFB in Cheyenne. He retired from the Air Force in 1977 and went to work for an RV dealer in Cheyenne until his final retirement in 1990. He and Voris became parents of four children: C.J., Teresa, Ed, and Sara. Carl lost his wife to cancer in 1999.

During our days of volunteering for the High Plains Drifters chapter, Carl became president and I was treasurer for a two-year period, and our two families became very close friends. After the deaths of our

spouses, something just told the two of us that we should pick up the pieces and move forward together.

We decided to trade in our two motor homes for one, and bought our first Discovery, a 2000. Carl was HPD national FMCA director, so our first long trip was to the FMCA national rally at Brunswick, Maine, at the Naval Air Base where more than 7,000 coaches attended. In June 2000 we attended the FMCA Rocky Mountain Ramble at Island Grove Park in Greeley and were invited to a Discovery meeting by Ed Kennedy and Phil Yovino for the purpose of forming a Discovery chapter. It was at that meeting that ten couples decided to form the chapter. Carl was named president, Jack McPhee was vice president, Sandy Greenwell was treasurer, and Ed and Olive Kennedy were to be the rally masters. That was the beginning of our Discovery Pioneers. We have enjoyed so much being members of the Pioneers, and it is such a wonderful group.

We have spent every winter since we have been married in Gold Canyon, Arizona, and have been in the same resort. Carl took up woodworking and leaves the coach every morning while we are there, just like he is going to work. He enjoys visiting with the other fellows in the wood shop, and I must admit that he has made some mighty nice things with his scroll saw. He has now taken up wood turning and has spent every spare moment in his big garage in Cheyenne, turning out some pretty darned nice bowls. I spend some time crocheting, counted cross stitch, needlepoint, and even made deer handle baskets at Gold Canyon. While we were in Cody, I purchased a set of deer horns, so back to making two more baskets this winter.

This has become the story of two little farm kids from the Midwest, who met later on in life because of their love of motor homes, became friends, each enduring their own sadness and then experiencing happiness once again, this time together. We still love our motor home life and our Discovery.

***Editor's Note:** Watch your e-mail inbox...I may be writing to you, asking you to share your life information with us in the next issue. I already have promise from Roger and Nancy Talich, but need at least one more couple. This is a warning! ☺*

Roster Changes

Be sure to add our newest members to your chapter roster:

YOUNG, Kenneth/Anna
335 E 600 S
Brigham City, UT 84302-2942
435.723.2654
kcyou1@brigham.net
#3982 – 1998 36T

Also, I just got a call today (October 5) from Cody Baker. Effective October 7, the **area code** for southern New Mexico will be changed to 575. Therefore, please note this in your roster, and anywhere else you may have the Bakers' phone number recorded – 575.622.1616 (home) and 575.626.7970 (cell).