

THE MILEPOST

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

Fourth Quarter 2005

President's Message

by Joyce Wiechman

Greetings, Pioneers! Where has summer gone? But as the old saying goes, "time flies when you are having fun," and that's one of the requirements of Discovery Pioneers members. Seems like only yesterday we were gathering in Moab, Utah our first rally of the 2005 season. Now I am telling you about our final rally of the season.

We gathered at Elk Meadow RV Resort in Estes Park, Colorado September 2, where our hosts, Bob and Sandy Greenwell, made all the arrangements for a fun Labor Day weekend. After a patio happy hour Friday evening, we enjoyed a group dinner at Ed's Cantina. The place was packed with holiday visitors and got a little noisy (especially for those wearing hearing aids), but the food was excellent and commended our hosts on their choice.

Saturday morning we were off to the park lodge for a great breakfast. Our choices were biscuits and gravy or French toast. Following our business meeting, we were on our own for the day's entertainment. There was a host of activities going on around Estes Park, some of which included a huge craft show at Bond Park downtown, an alpaca show at the fairgrounds. The Rocky Mountain National Park entrance was right behind our RV park.

Saturday evening we met again on the patio to exchange stories of the day before going back to the lodge to enjoy a steak dinner prepared by the park staff. We were able to work off our dinner with a karaoke/DJ dance. Some went to see the male elks with their female herds at Beaver Meadow, which is just inside RMNP. If you have never spent time in Estes Park, you are in for a treat. It's a beautiful area with lots of things to do for all ages.

Sunday morning we were back on the patio for breakfast of rolls, juice, and coffee provided by our gracious hosts. Most of the group took off for their homes after breakfast, but Don and Nancy Gillam and Jerry and I attended the chapel service at the lodge. Jerry and I stayed over, taking a trip to the top of Trail Ridge Road that afternoon. One would never have guessed that fuel was \$3.00+ per gallon, judging by the bumper to bumper traffic coming and going.

At our meeting on Saturday, the price of diesel was on everyone's mind, and how it would affect attendance at our upcoming rallies. Speaking of which, Neil Elkins has been working on a schedule for the 2006 season, and you can read his report elsewhere in this issue. Jerry and I will be hosting the May 2006 rally; Neil needs hosts for the other three rallies, so please help him out by volunteering.

Our thoughts go out to those having some health problems, namely, Jim and Dorothy Devine, Bob and Ann Hixson, Ivan and Sheila Backes, and Dean and Nancy Miller. Hope you all get back to RVing soon.

An invitation is extended by us to anyone spending time in Arizona in January to have a mini-reunion. Let us know if you plan to get out of the cold about that time.

A big thank you to Bob and Sandy for putting together an enjoyable weekend.

Have a great fall wherever your travels take you!

Rallymaster's Report

by Neil Elkins

Next year's rally schedule has been set and we even have the rally for June 2007 scheduled.

At our meeting in Estes Park we decided that the portion of the Bylaws that established the time and duration of rallies would be suspended. The rallymaster and the volunteer host will determine when, where and for how long the rally will be held. We will, of course, keep in mind the spirit of trying to not interfere with other rallies and special events that would keep our members from being able to attend. Some will likely be held during the week instead of being restricted to the weekend.

President and First Lady Joyce and Jerry Wiechman have volunteered to host the May 2006 rally at the Santa Fe Skies RV Resort in Santa Fe, NM. They will notify everyone of the exact dates and duration, but plan on being in Santa Fe around the first weekend in May (May 4-6). I know that you will enjoy your time in Santa Fe and at the Santa Fe Skies RV Resort.

Marlene and I are going to arrange the June rally for the first part of June. We're planning on going to the Mesa Verde National Park area of Colorado; you should plan to spend four or five days in the area. We'll let you

know as soon as we work out the details and make reservations for the group.

The July rally will be the time for the annual business meeting, so we're planning to have it in a more central location to make it easier for most of the membership to attend. Look for it to be in the Colorado Springs area, possibly at the Colorado Springs KOA south of town. I very much need to have someone step up to the plate and volunteer to host that rally, since Marlene and I will be in Alaska for that rally and won't be able to be there, although I can help make arrangements before we leave. One or two couples who live in or near the area who would like to help should let me know and we can work out the details. Please call!

Of course, we don't have an August rally, so the next one will be in September at Antonito, Colorado, the western terminus of the Cumbres-Toltec narrow gauge railway. I would like to have someone come forward and volunteer to host that rally; I will help with the arrangements. Give me a call so I can explain what's required to host a rally. It's not a lot of work and is, in fact, a lot of fun. You get to arrange the rally *you* would like to have. and you will have a chance to get to know the other chapter members better.

Don and Nancy Gillam have already volunteered to host the June 2007 rally in the Black Hills area near Rapid City, South Dakota. I know that they will put together a great rally that will be worth the extra travel time. Keep that one on your long-range calendar.

That's all the official rallies that we have on the schedule. However, several of us are expecting to be in the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona, area just after the first of the year and are planning to arrange an "off-season" get-together. If you're going to be in that area, let Marlene and me, Joyce and Jerry Wiechman, Carl and Marge Ropp, Chuck and Vie Brock, or Bob and Nina Soltwedel know so we can include you in the planning. We'll have a great time in the warm desert air thinking about everyone who's stuck in the cold northern climes!

Have a great winter and I'm looking forward to some great times next year. May God watch over you as you travel.

Secretary's Report

by Marlene Elkins

Minutes - Estes Park, CO - September 3, 2005

President Joyce Wiechman called the meeting of the Discovery Pioneers to order at 9:40 a.m. at Elk Meadow RV Park in Estes Park, Colorado. Seven member coaches were represented which is enough for

a quorum. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests were former members, Ross and Alice Peery, who have recently purchased a non-Discovery motorhome. All present gave a hearty thank-you to Bob and Sandy Greenwell for hosting this rally.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as read with one correction: Nina will mail a hard copy of the newsletter only to members without Adobe reader capability. All others will receive the newsletter via e-mail.

Treasurer Bob Soltwedel reported a July 31, 2005 balance of \$3,439.6 in the chapter account. He reported that activity occurring since that date includes some member renewals and reimbursements for new member badges, newsletter costs and non-refundable campground deposit for this rally. Bob also reported that all members have renewed for another year.

Some news of members not present followed: Dean and Nancy Miller are moving to Boerne, Texas. They still have their house for sale in Nathrop. They hope to come to our next Spring rally. Bob and Annie Hixson are not in the best of health, so they could not attend this rally. We agreed to send a card expressing our best wishes. Ivan and Sheila Backes planned to attend our rally, but when they arrived last week, Ivan developed altitude sickness as a complication from asthma, so they had to depart for lower altitudes. Honorary members Jim and Dorothy Devine were near Hurricane Katrina, but had little damage to their property. Dorothy's health continues to improve. We agreed to send a card expressing our best wishes.

Bob and Sandy Greenwell presented information on the activities in the area that are available during this rally. Bob also reported that they had recently attended a rally at Creede, Colorado, that would be a great location for one of our future rallies.

Nina and Bob Soltwedel reported on the York, Pennsylvania DOAI national rally. There were approximately 140 coaches in attendance. The weather was hot and humid, but the tours provided were interesting and informative. The CAT representative had up-to-date information on recommended oil capacity and oil change intervals. A \$1200 donation was made to a local shelter for abused women.

A question was raised on our chapter perhaps donating to a charity, especially in view of the recent Hurricane Katrina disaster. A discussion ensued about the advisability of selecting charities since not all members may agree on a specific charity to receive our

contribution. A motion was made and seconded to send \$100 to the American Red Cross. A discussion ensued on other charities that may be worthy recipients. The motion passed with four members for and three members against.

Bob Greenwell reported on the proposed Copper Canyon, Mexico Piggyback Tour for 2007. He stated that Fantasy Tours requires 16 coaches to form a group exclusive for our chapter; otherwise, we could join another group. He said he would look at other commercial businesses offering "piggyback" tours, since we have not settled on a tour guide. It was noted that the next DOAI national rally is scheduled for San Antonio, Texas, October 2-9, 2006 so we would want to avoid scheduling our "piggyback" tour during the same time frame.

Sandy Greenwell reported that she bought tablecloths for our chapter as approved during the last meeting.

Under New Business, the Rallymaster gave the following report: Jerry and Joyce Wiechman will host the May 2006 rally in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the Santa Fe Skies RV Park. In June 2006, Neil and Marlene Elkins will host our rally in Mesa Verde, Colorado. In July 2006, we had planned to meet in Creede, Colorado, but a motion was made and seconded to have the July 2006 rally at Colorado Springs. The motion passed with a vote of six for and one against. Don and Nancy Gillam volunteered to host a rally in the Black Hills area of South Dakota for June 2007. A motion was made and seconded to suspend the bylaws that limit our rallies to the second weekend that includes a Friday. Discussion centered on the idea that we needed more flexibility to have longer rallies, or rallies during the week, depending on how far rally locations may be or the attractions in the area. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was then made and seconded that the rallymaster and the rally host determine dates for rallies. The motion passed unanimously.

A question was raised concerning installation of our new officers. A motion was made and seconded that we consider the installation as already accomplished. The motion passed unanimously.

Nina Soltwedel reported on membership. She stated that she sends out "invitation to join" letters to potential members based on input from the DOAI membership director. As a result we have two new members who have recently joined our chapter.

There being no more new business, the meeting was

adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

What Ya Doin'?

Those traveling **Molzahns** have been on the road and over the sea since we saw them last. IN early September Jerry and Linda took their D and a new ATV carrying rig into the San Juans, camping in a ghost town called Eureka. They rode their ATVs over Engineer, Cinnamon, Minnie, and Arrastra passes to high alpine lakes and even did some glacier riding. The photos here show how beautiful Colorado is in the fall (as if we didn't already know that!).

In late September the Molzahns traveled to merrie olde England, and motored up to Warwick Castle near Shakespeare's birthplace (Stratford-upon-Avon) for a special evening, the Highwayman's Supper. Since the event recreates the period of King George III, fancy dress was required. The photo here shows Jerry as Commodore Wallace and Linda as Lady Paysmore meeting the Highwayman and enjoying the feast.

The **Everitts** attended the FMCA rally in Minot, North Dakota, and traveled around the northern tier of states. Their travels took them north of Yellowstone, and spotted two buffalo. They ate lunch at Mammoth, and the elk were back. One large male with his harem were on the same side as the hotel. Leo relates, "While we were eating, he herded the females across the street, bringing all traffic, which was heavy, to a stop. He then bellowed a few times and crossed back across the road alone, and then turned and recrossed the road to a spot near the females, but where he was alone. Just as we finished lunch, he decided to join the harem. He was walking parallel to us. Since we were moving, I gave the camera to Jackie and asked her to photograph him. She did a great job."

The **Harps** were sorry to miss our rallies in Utah and Colorado. They write: "We were in Four Seasons RV Park near Salida, Colorado for most of July and August. We always enjoy our time there. Then we journeyed on to Utah, drove through a corner of Idaho to Oregon, then to Washington. Lots of beautiful scenery and delicious apples. Came home by way of Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska. We had wanted to do this for some time, and had begun that way when 9/11 happened. We saw a lot of beautiful country, but it is good to be home. We're looking forward to meeting you."

The **Snyders** went down to Slidell, Louisiana (just north of New Orleans) with other church members, to lend assistance to those who have lost so much. Dick writes: “During the ten days we were there, we cut a lot of trees around the church and around the homes of members of the church. One of the houses we worked on had a big oak tree in front and the house had six feet of water, along with three inches of mud. The mud was sucked up out of the marsh during the hurricane and mixed with the water. When the water drained away, the mud remained. We removed everything in the house, including the drywall, so that it could dry out.

“I think the 100-degree days were the hardest part. We would work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a lot of water breaks. The church had breakfast and supper for us, and we would eat military meals (MRE) at noon. The Red Cross was giving those out, along with a bag of ice and a cooler. One day, a guy from church came and cooked jambalaya in an iron kettle, in the church parking lot, and served 1,500 people for free. There was a sign along the highway saying “free jambalaya”. I wish the news media would show the generosity of American, with all the donations in the Gulf Coast area, instead of trying to find out who screwed up. I will have memories of this trip for as long as I live.”

On a sad note, we must report that Dick and Brenda’s son, David, died suddenly on September 30 from a massive heart attack. David was 34 years old. Please keep Dick and Brenda in your prayers.

The **Muckenthalers** are enjoying their new Discovery! Jack writes: “OK, I asked you [the Elkins and the Soltwedels] to not let Gayelene see your 2005 Discoverys. As a result of her visiting your D’s up in Grand Lake, we are now the owners of a 2005 39L. You guys are sure expensive friends! Oh, well, it’s only money, and you can’t take it with you. Did I mention that I sort of wanted one, too?”

The **Soltwedels** had a great time at the national rally in York, Pennsylvania, and from there visited Washington, D.C. It was hot and humid, but that didn’t deter them from seeing many wonderful things. Bob spent one whole day at the Air & Space Museum on the Mall and at Dulles; Nina spent the same day at the new National Museum of the American Indian.

Of special interest was the FDR Memorial. Both Bob and Nina were very impressed with this site, which is much larger than either imagined. Having lived through WWII and the tail end of the Depression, much of what they saw and read there had great meaning for both of them.