



TREK TRAVELS



Volume 9 Number 1

January 2022

President's Message

When you are reading this newsletter, it will be 2022, and things are looking promising for the new year. We have three club rallies in process for this year (more information in the newsletter) and a Northwest Area FMCA Rally, which is great news!

Our club is still in need of persons willing to give a little time to help lead the club.

We are in need of a vice president, secretary, webmaster, and rally coordinator. Accepting one of these positions is a great way to become involved with the club and ensure that we continue to have the fun gatherings that we have had. There is always assistance available to help with anyone willing to assume a role in the club.

The club is financially okay for this year, but we are probably looking at a modest dues increase for next year to cover the expenses for our on-line presence and the PayPal costs.

I know many of you are either in or headed for warmer climates for the winter season. That ability to follow the sun is definitely an attraction of RV ownership. I want to wish you all Safe Travels and Great Adventures for the New Year.

Hope to see you this year.

Mike Ashbridge

President

2021 Annual Officer Reports In Next Newsletter

Lots of rally info needed for 2022 planning. Plan now for fun!

RALLY SCHEDULE 2022

January 20 – 23 Trek Gathering at Quartzite

May 19 – 23 Viking Fest Rally
Poulsbo, WA
Gary & Irva Cooper

June 18 – 21 Rally on the Lake
Pre-rally
Osprey Point RV Resort
Lakeside, OR
Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Scott & Carolyn Carpenter

June 23 – 26 FMCA NW Area Rally
Mill Casino
Coos By, OR

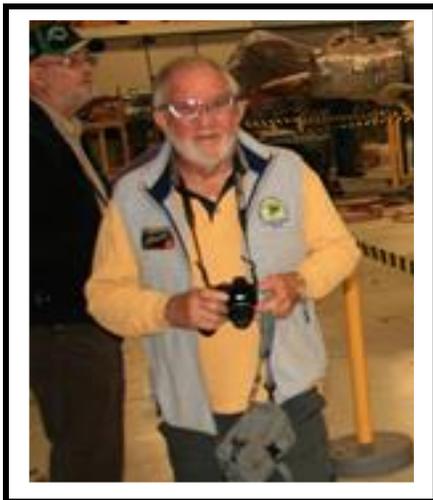
August Port Townsend Rally
Ron & Mary Mahugh

August 24 – 27 FMCA Intl. Convention
Lincoln, NE

NWTFC's goal
is to have 3 – 4 rallies each year.
Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!

Heartfelt Message From Bob Beers

Greetings North West Trek Fun Club
Friends:



Peggy and I helped found the NWTFC several years ago, and it has been one of the greatest experiences in our lives. Being Trek owners, we have a common bond that has created many long-term friendships, helped with unique Trek technical challenges, and taken us to places we might never have visited. Our first NWTFC organizational meeting was at the National Trek Rally where 30 people attended our meeting. It was all a very exciting adventure for the next 17 years where we held offices in NWTFC, Safari International, and FMCA. We are still in contact with many of those acquaintances.

The success of any organization is directly dependent on the members being active participants. Each of the NWTFC presidents, for example, have applied different organizational talents and each of them have added to the success of NWTFC.

Because of the active involvement of many NWTFC members, our club has survived the COVID challenges and is one of FMCA's largest Chapters. However, our current leaders have been officers for some time, are getting on in age, and therefore it is time for some of you younger folk to bring some new and exciting thoughts. It is not only the age thing, but the club

needs new folks with new ideas for rallies and overall club business.

NWTFC has excellent position description papers that define the tasks of each position. Any of the current and past officers are available if you would like their assistance. However, your new exciting ideas are the key to club fun and growth.

I am available to chat if you would like; 206-909-2449, beersxx@aol.com

Bob Beers
Honorary Member
Past President
Wagon Master

RALLY COORDINATOR NEEDED

A goal of NWTFC is to have 3 – 4 rallies a year – one of which may be the pre-rally to the FMCA NW Area Rally. For everyone's planning it is helpful to have an annual rally calendar established by March of each year.

The Rally Coordinator oversees rally schedules and provides guidance and support to wagon masters. He/she is to be ...

- Positive encourager
- Planner
- Recruiter
- Helper to wagon masters to find rally sites and provide hints for to successful rallies.

There are many helpful materials for rally planning and mentors to assist wagon masters.

Everyone appreciates the Rally Coordinator and his/her role in helping the NW Trek Fun Club have fun. This could be a great opportunity for you to help support the Trek club.

For a copy of the full job description, go the NWTFC website in the members section, about the club. If you are interested or have questions, send a note to Mike Ashbridge, president.
mikeashbridge@comcast.net.



Welcome Back NW Rally



FMCA NW Area Rally

June 23 – 26, 2022

Mill Casino, North Bend, Oregon

The NW Area Rally has not been held for a couple years because of the Covid virus. Now it is back and planning is underway.

- Seminars & Exhibits
- Salmon dinner
- Ice cream social
- Entertainment
- Hot Dog Bash
- 50/50 raffle
- Wine Walk
- Swap meet

NW Trek Fun Club will be staffing the FMCA store which will be located in the vendor area. **Volunteers are needed.** It is fun to meet people from across the country. Selling FMCA merchandise is easy. Join the fun and volunteer to help staff the store. With more team members, we can do more and reduce everyone's time commitment.

- Register for the FMCA NW Rally
- Register for the Dune Country Pre-Rally
- Caravan together to the fairgrounds on June 21.
- Camp together and enjoy times of fellowship.



Another List I Can Relate To

1. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
2. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
3. It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
4. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
5. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
6. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
7. I run like the winded.
8. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
9. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
10. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
11. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
12. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.
13. The fact that my entire body cracks like a glowstick whenever I move yet refuses to actually glow is very disappointing.

From irv2.com

6 Reasons to consider a southern camping trip when weather gets cold

Matt Kirouac – KOA newsletter

1. The swamps feel less swampy.
2. The temperature is great for outdoor activity.
3. Comfy camping climate.
4. Less crowds.
5. More affordable.
6. More wildlife comes to life.

UPCOMING RALLIES 2022



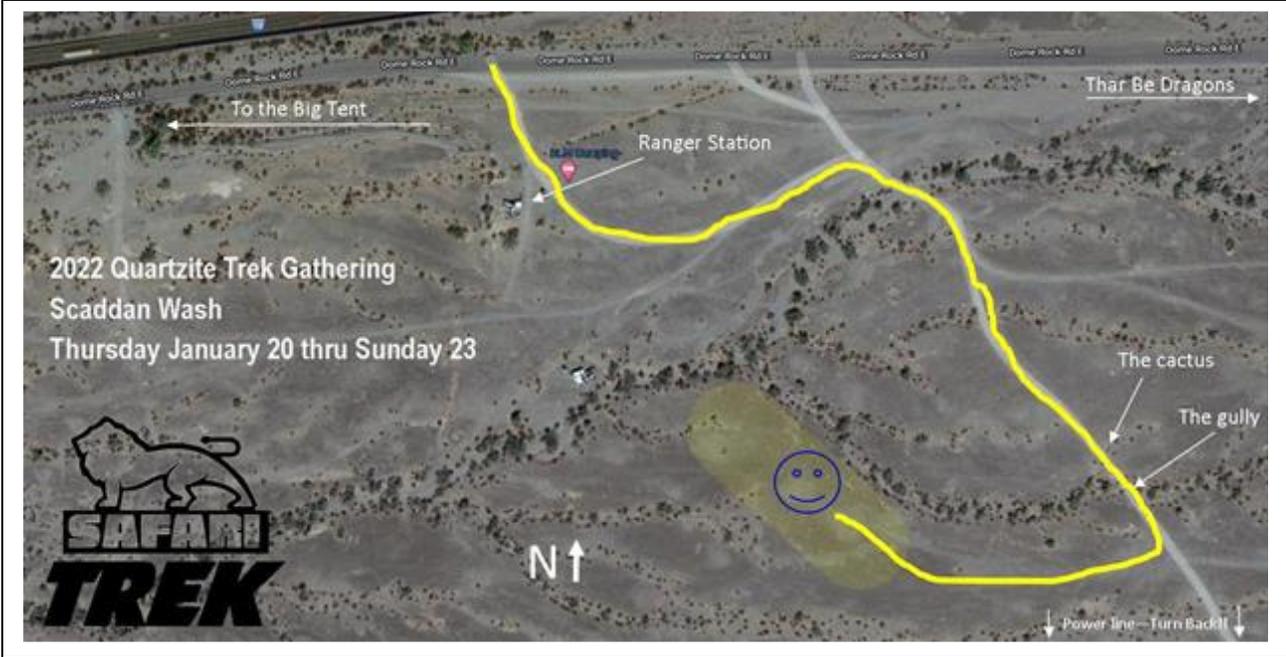
QUARTZITE • ARIZONA
January 20 – 23

Unofficial but very popular Trek gathering New Location – Scaddan Wash

The largest gathering of Treks anywhere! It is a totally free, no host, **dry camping** experience where you can share your Trek experiences, modifications, upgrades, etc. with other Trekkers. This is truly a unique experience for Trek owners. Come to the Trek gathering and enjoy evening campfires, technical presentations, fellowship with other Trekkers – and **just plain fun!**

The gathering will be in a different location for 2022. Contact Mary Carlson at hmcarlson30@gmail.com for more info.

Combine this Trek gathering with the huge RV show (which is generally referred to as the big tent) and the Tyson-Wells Sell-A-Rama – one of the largest swap meets and flea markets in the nation, and it becomes the place to be in January.



Viking Fest Rally

May 19 – 23, 2022
Poulsbo, Washington

Wagon masters
Gary & Irva Cooper
tennis4yu@msn.com

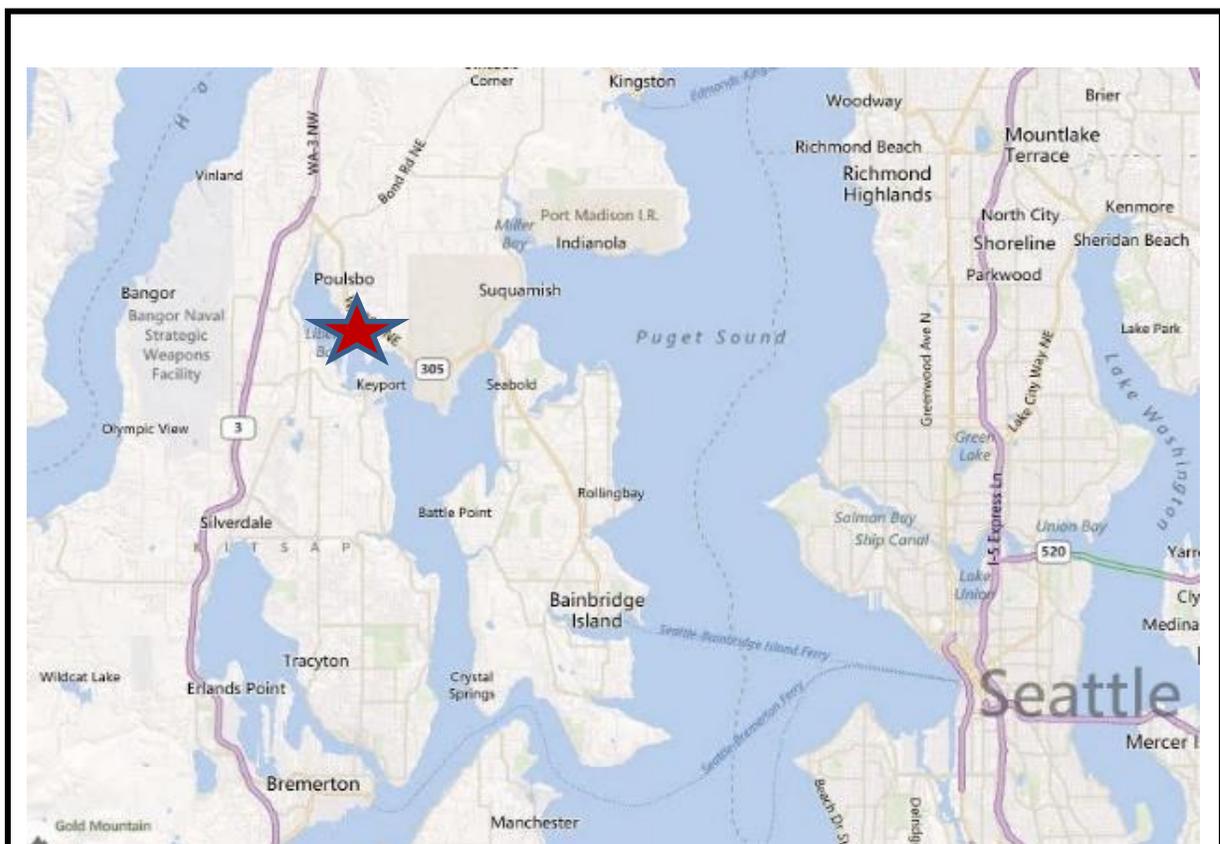
Some activities will occur at the Cooper home in Poulsbo.

Campsite Location Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort

Suquamish, Washington
From Olympia or Tacoma, take WA 3 north from Bremerton to WA 305 thru Poulsbo to the casino.

- Resort features 5 restaurants, 18-hole golf course, spa, and more.
- Resort celebrates Suquamish people and Chief Seattle.

More info to come





Poulsbo, WA
 Festival Dates
 May 20 – 22, 2022

For over 50 years Poulsbo has been celebrating Viking Fest – a celebration rooted from Norway’s Constitution Day of May 17. In Norway, it is a festival of flags and colorful processions, where children walk to the music of marching bands. Traditional Norwegian costumes are a prominent and common part of the celebrations. Festivities include a parade, food & vendor booths, as well as a carnival with rides.



Viking Fest Rally • May 19 – 23, 2022
REGISTRATION

Rally fee: (includes 4 nights camping, 3 continental breakfasts, 2 dinners including catered dinner.)
 Also 1 Heavy hors d’oeuvres potluck and 1 potluck dinner.

Total Rally Fee \$ 250 (Couple) \$198 (Single)

17 Sites Reserved
 Hotel rooms may
 be available –
 contact Irva soon.
 206-295-1058

Make checks payable to NWTFC. Mark check for
 Viking Fest Rally. Mail completed registration and check to:
 Irva Cooper, 15705 Cedar Grove Road, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Registration and funds must be received by April 1, 2022.

Pilot _____ Co-pilot _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ FMCA# _____

Email _____ Home phone _____ Cell _____

Emergency contact (name & phone #) _____

Do you have any special need we should be aware of? Y or N (i.e. food allergies, etc.)

Trek Model _____ Year _____ License# _____ State _____

Are you towing a car? Y or N If yes, are you able to help transport others? Y or N



Wagon masters
 971-645-0767
 Al & Elaine Zimmerman
 Scott & Carolyn Carpenter

RALLY ON THE LAKE
 Pre-rally Gathering
 June 18 – 21, 2022

Location
 Osprey Point RV Resort
 Lakeside, Oregon
 US 101 12 miles S of Reedsport
 14 miles N of North Bend
 Go E on Airport Way into Lakeside
 Right on 8th St., Left on N Lake Road

- Presentation – Coos Bay – what it was, is, & is to come
- Secret Safari – an adventure
- Catered Asian Buffet
- Fishing, boat rental, sand dunes
- Caravan to NW Area Rally
- Help staff FMCA store

Rally on the Lake 2022 PRE-RALLY REGISTRATION

Rally fee: (includes 1st night camping, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners including catered dinner).

Total Rally Fee \$ 126 (Couple) \$88 (Single)

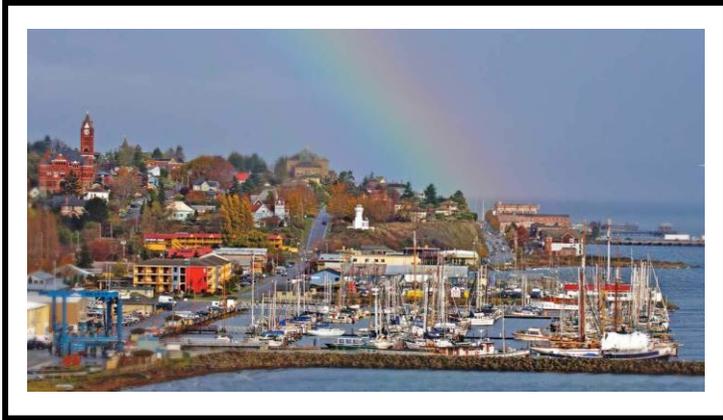
Make checks payable to NWTFC. Mail completed registration and check to:
Al Zimmerman, 875 Seabreeze Terrace, Coos Bay, OR 97420

Registration and funds must be received by April 30, 2022.

Pilot _____ Co-pilot _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ FMCA# _____
 Email _____ Home phone _____ Cell _____
 Emergency contact (name & phone #) _____
 Do you have any special need we should be aware of? Y or N (i.e. food allergies, etc.) _____

 Trek Model _____ Year _____ License# _____ State _____
 Are you towing a car? Y or N If yes, are you able to help transport others? Y or N _____

Volunteering to help staff FMCA store at NW Area Rally ___ Yes ___ No _____ # Volunteers



**PORT TOWNSEND
5.0 RALLY**

**Point Hudson Marina
Port Townsend, WA**
July 26 – 31, 2022 or
August 2 – 7, 2022

Everything is looking good for a rally at Port Townsend for 2022. I won't know the exact date until after January 3rd. As soon as I know the dates, I will let everyone know.

There is a new booking system at the Port Townsend Marina, so things are a little different. I am setting up the dates and a group of sites but it will be up to you to book and pay for your own site. The rally fee will still come to NWTFC. This is KISS rally like the last PT Rally. Rally fee will probably be \$35.

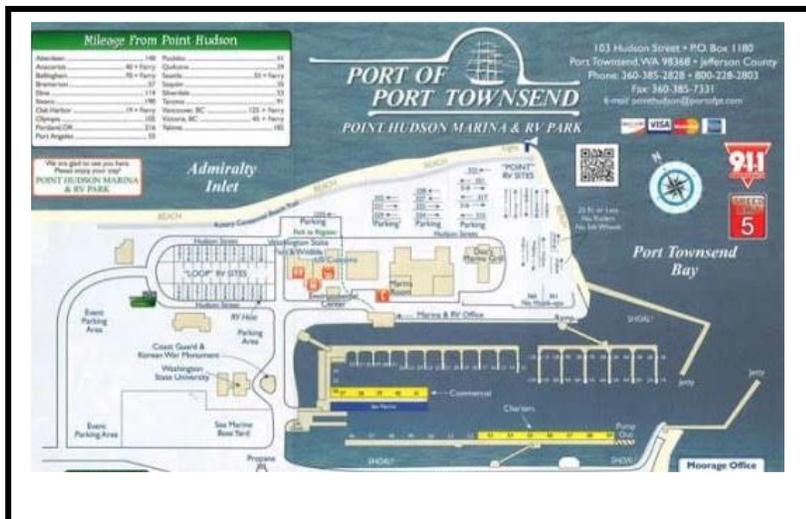
- You will receive a date and code to use for booking online.
- Once you receive the date and code you will have two weeks to book your site.
- There is a non-refundable \$11 registration fee.
- Once you get your site, please let me know your site number and pay your rally fee.

You will receive a date and a code to use for signing up.

Included is info for the **Commander's Beach House B & B**. Hopefully Sue B, Bob B, Ken & Hellen A, Jack & Joanne and Stan S might be able to come.

Commander's Beach House B & B
400 Hudson Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368

1-360-385-1778
stay@commandersbeachhouse.com
www.commandersbeachhouse.com



Wagon Masters
Ron & Mary Mahugh
ronski16@comcast.net
253-209-9739

More info to come

My Reflections as a New RV Traveler

Elaine Zimmerman



I met Al in 2018 when I moved to Oregon from Virginia. I was newly retired and I came to Oregon each year to visit with my sons who lived in Ashland. After meeting Al, I began a life of adventure and new experiences. I have met lots of wonderful people who love to travel and see the US as we do.

Our first trip began two days after our wedding in January of 2019. We spent the winter months in California and Arizona. Karchner Caverns and Lake Havasu were favorites of mine from this first trip. We returned along the southern California coast with stops in Santa Barbara, Monterey, and Petaluma. It was fun to take the ferry from Sausalito to San Francisco where we visited Fisherman's Wharf and Chinatown.

Al has shown me the beautiful Oregon Coast with views of rocky cliffs, lighthouses, and sea lions basking in the sun. Near our home in Coos Bay, we have enjoyed Bastendorf Beach, Sunset Beach, and Shore Acres with the many flowers and ocean views. I have been to the state of Washington and saw Snoqualmie Falls and the San Juan Islands. I also attended my first rodeo – the Pendleton Roundup.

In 2019 we attended the FMCA meetings in Minot, ND. We then came back through Canada with stops in Calgary, Banff, Jasper and other places along the way. I was stunned to see Lake Louise. Another trip brought us to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Park where I saw many geysers, hot springs, and of course, Old Faithful.

I enjoy riding in the motorhome because you ride higher than when you sit in a car. The view through the front windshield is like a front row seat to the world. You are able to enjoy the panoramic view and see elk, sheep and lots of cattle on the fields that we pass. If Al wants a drink or a snack, I can get it as he stops the RV on the side of the road. Also, if we are stuck in a traffic jam, we have a bathroom. I enjoy seeing other RVs on the road. We meet lots of nice people in the campgrounds where we stay. I am still a little fearful about driving the motorhome, especially driving across bridges or through tunnels.

I enjoy helping Al with the toad and placing the cover over the windshield so rocks do not damage it. I like helping with dumping the black and gray tanks. I am often the one who connects the electric cord and the faucet end of the fresh water hose when we set up camp.

I am so thankful Al likes driving long distances when we travel. He does stop for stretch breaks and lunch. He tries not to drive at night, but there are times when he pushes to get to our next destination. I have had to learn to not be fearful of deer running onto the highway. Fortunately, we have seen deer on the side of the road, and they have not tried to cross in front of us.

I have enjoyed the rallies that we have attended. We are members of two FMCA chapters: Northwest Trek Fun Club and OR/WA Coaches for Christ. There are a lot of nice folks who participate in cooking food for the group and doing fun things around the area we are visiting. The women enjoy crafts, and the men talk about their travels and repairs they have made to their rigs. Al has encouraged me to be more open to meeting new folks and interacting with others. Even though I get very nervous and unsure of myself; I find that others are just as insecure. As I listen, I realize everyone has stories to share and like to talk about themselves.

Being retired with my husband of 3 years has been so enjoyable and restful. I am so thankful that I found a husband who shows me so many beautiful sights and wonders in this wonderful United States of America.



Can You Still Go Camping Without Reservations?

Rene Agredano

COVID has made the nomadic lifestyle more popular than ever before. As a result, many long-time RVers believe that it's now impossible to go RVing without camping reservations ahead of time. But is it really? If you're willing to think outside the box, I believe that you can still travel spontaneously around North America.

The line between "peak season" and "off-season" no longer exists at RV parks and campgrounds thanks to the pandemic. With so many people working and roadschooling remotely, the endless summer vibe blurs into winter. Most RV parks still shut down in cold northern climates. But when new full-time RVers chase warmer winter weather, expect crowds wherever you roam. You can still enjoy a spontaneous RVing lifestyle without camping reservations. Just follow some common-sense travel tips.

Be flexible about your destination

North America has plenty of bucket list RV destinations wherever you roam. But most people still gravitate to the most popular camping areas like national parks or sunny Florida in January. The key to avoiding insane crowds and going RVing without camping reservations is to stop thinking like everyone else. Don't have your heart set on camping inside places like national parks, or near a popular theme park, and you won't be disappointed. For the most choices of places to stay, focus your search on scenic camping spots on the fringe of popular destinations. You can often stay within easy driving distance of popular destinations, for a lower price with fewer crowds and more hospitality.

Go remote camping on weekends and holidays

More people are working remotely than ever before, but their need to escape somewhere on weekends and holidays still exists. Most RVers have the same idea. Don't try to head to popular destinations at those times or you are guaranteed to be annoyed. Save America's best RV camping areas for Monday through Thursday and use popular camping apps to find an off-the-beaten-path place to stay from Friday through Sunday.



Look for alternative places to stay

Campground memberships can give you many options for places to stay. But not all places to stay are campgrounds. The last few years have seen an abundance of out-of-the-box camping directories for RVers with a more adventurous spirit. Membership-based clubs like [Boondockers Welcome](#) give you more options to go RVing without reservations.



These clubs connect camper members with private and commercial property hosts like wineries, farms, and museums that don't mind self-contained RV owners to stay overnight, sometimes for many nights. You'll sleep better too; their safety factor is much better than asphalt camping in a big box store parking lot!

Outfit your RV for dry camping

Is staying in RV parks is your preferred way to go RVing? Then be prepared to practice extreme patience when looking for places to stay. New RVers often stick to full-hookup campgrounds when learning the ropes. But with so many on the road during the pandemic, camping reservations in many places will be harder to obtain.

If you're more adventurous, enjoy getting away from asphalt campsites, and have extra money to spare, outfitting your RV with solar power opens up an entirely new world of camping possibilities. Solar power systems aren't required to dry camp. But having a robust system makes camping more enjoyable. For instance, you don't have to run your generator all the time. You also won't pollute the air with gasoline or generator noise when you do camp.

Great RV camping memories happen in quirky places

Many years ago, in 2007 when I was new to full-time RVing, I couldn't imagine staying anywhere but a nicely landscaped RV park or public campground with picnic tables and barbecues. But even back then, going RVing without camping reservations in popular areas proved difficult during peak season months. With more miles under our wheels, we became less tolerant of sticking to itineraries for the sake of a reservation. Today, we know that our fondest memories often happen when we are more accepting of quirky, unconventional, and available places to stay at a moment's notice.



The Boondocking Experience

To boldly camp away from the crowds. It is where the adventures truly begin.

But not everyone desires such adventures – that is why there are camping resorts! \$\$\$



NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Vice President - **Vacant**

Secretary – David & Sue Pierce
suedavidpierce@gmail.com

Treasurer – Irva Cooper
tennis4yu@msn.com

Natl. Dir – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Alt Natl. Dir – Tom Selvidge
tselvidge@msn.com

Past President – Steve Webber-
Plank
donwebberplank@mac.com

Rally Coordinator – **Vacant**

Webmaster – Mary Carlson
NWTFCwebmaster@gmail.com

Historian – Jeannette Block
ed.jnet@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor
Al Zimmerman

Member Care – Nancy Harris
nmharris47@gmail.com

Feel free to contact
NWTFC officers or
committee chairs with
questions or suggestions.

NWTFC Website
www.nwtfc.com



The Northwest Trek Fun Club (NWTFC) was formed with the idea that Trek owners are people who are unique because the Trek design is quite unique. They are people who like to get out and visit the very beautiful sites and history of North America. However, they do not want to do it in a huge motor home. The Trek design gives us the comforts of home but still is small enough to get into those off-the-beaten-track sites.

NWTFC was established in 2004 and currently has about 80 coach members, including Treks spanning the 1991 Isuzu to the 2008 28RB2 and the 2016 Trek. We pride ourselves in fostering new friendships and knowledge of the Trek. We stress that our club's middle name is F-U-N.

We plan several rallies each year in several states and communicate with our members by email, newsletter, and through the club website. NWTFC territory covers WA, ID, OR, AK, MT, BC, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. All Trek owners, regardless of their home state, are welcome to join or to attend our rallies as guests.

Membership dues are \$10 per calendar year. See the website for a membership application.

When your membership is processed, you will be given a password access to the secure Members Only page of the NWTFC website.

NWTFC is a chapter of FMCA and very closely associated with SAFARI International.