



# TREK TRAVELS



Volume 10 Number 3

June 2023

## President's Message

As I write this, we have just returned from the club pre-rally at Armitage Park near Eugene, and the FMCA Northwest Regional Rally in Albany. The weather was great and I thoroughly enjoyed both events. Al and Elaine Zimmerman and Wojo and Kathleen Walczak did a great job of putting on the Armitage Rally. Our club again managed the FMCA store at the Albany Rally. We had enough volunteers so that no one had to spend more than a couple short shifts on duty. There always seems to be technical difficulties getting the pay system working but this time we had our own IT resource, John Harold, the club webmaster, and his partner Rebecca attended their first rally. He solved all the issues that Al and I could not handle to keep the store running smoothly. Thank you, John.

We now have a rally coming up July 10-12 at Hoquiam, WA. That Rally is sold out as we have filled the Park. I am looking forward to seeing so many club members again. It feels like the club is gaining back some of the energy that we lost during the pandemic years.

We do have elections coming up at the end of the year for three positions. President, Secretary, and National Director. Kathleen has agreed to fill the Secretary Position for another two years and Al has agreed to continue as the National Director another two-year term. I will not be filling the role as president next term. I have been in this position for six years and the club needs some new leadership. Vice President, Wojo Walczak, is heading the nominating

committee so if you are willing to help him with the nominations, or are willing to put your name in the hat for the office of president, please contact him. ([wwjo52@gmail.com](mailto:wwjo52@gmail.com))

At this time we have a member that is considering the Rally Coordinator position. **(continued on page 2)**

## RALLY SCHEDULE

(To be Wagon Master for a rally, contact Mike Ashbridge, president, at [mikeashbridge@comcast.net](mailto:mikeashbridge@comcast.net))

### 2023

July 10 – 12 Hoquiam Rally  
Hoquiam River RV Park  
Wojo & Kathleen Walczak  
Mike & Lynn Ashbridge

August 23 – 26 FMCA 107<sup>th</sup> Convention  
Gillette, WY

September 5 – 9 Safari International  
35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Silverton, OR  
Lee Buckley

### 2024

August 10 – 12 Central OR Roundup  
Pre-rally to Redmond Convention  
Culver KOA

**Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!**

**President's message - continued**

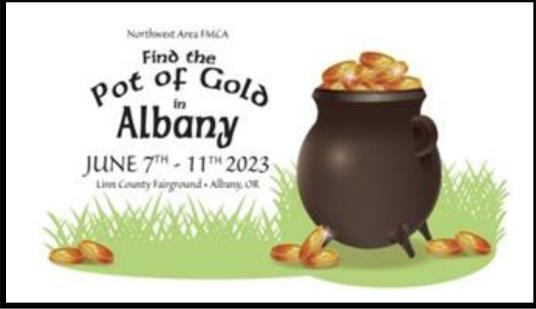
At this time we have a member that is considering the Rally Coordinator position.

Our membership is over 50 members, so there should be someone out there that would like to help keep the club being the great organization that it is.

Others will fill the gaps in my rally coverage in this newsletter, so I will wrap this up. Please consider filling the president's position for the next two-year term.

I trust you all have a great summer and safe travels.

Mike Ashbridge, President



Six RVs left Armitage Park, site of the pre-rally, and headed toward the Linn County Fairgrounds for the FMCA NW Area Rally. Those in the caravan were Al and Elaine Zimmerman, Wojo and Kathleen Walczak, Mike and Lynn Ashbridge, John Herold and Becky Edens, John and Marie Turner, and Lee Buckley. However before reaching the exit, Lee dropped out for a



different destination and Dick and Nancy Harris became the tail gunner.

The first order of business was to inventory the items for sale and set up the store booth. Many hands made light work – especially since the schedule was suddenly changed. The FMCA store opened for business. Most things went well, though store management did call on our resident tech wizard, John Herold, for assistance a couple times.



After the famous hot dog bash on Wednesday, it was time for card bingo. For some of our group this was a first time experience. Fellow Trekker, Al Zimmerman, was the caller for the game. And Elaine was one of the lovely ladies holding up the large cards for those who did not hear the called card. When full-time RVers from California threw their cards in the center, one person won the pot even before a card was called.



On Thursday evening NW Trek played hooky and enjoyed strawberry shortcake and ice cream at the Harris home. What a special host Dick and Nancy are!

Friday's entertainment featured Jeff Martin, a magician who performed magic tricks along with some comedy.

About 210 RVs attended this area rally.



### At the Harris Home

The women are having fellowship, while the men are probably telling stories of past glories.



### Just ASKING ...

An 8-year-old girl went to her grandfather, who was working in the yard and asked him, "Grampa, what is couple sex?"

The grandfather was surprised that she would ask such a question, but decided that if she's old enough to know to ask the question, then she's old enough to get a straight answer.

Steeling himself to leave nothing out, he proceeded to tell her all about human reproduction and the joys and responsibilities of intercourse. When he finished explaining, the little girl was looking at him with her mouth hanging open, eyes wide in amazement. Seeing the look on her face, the grandfather asked her, "Why did you ask this question, honey?" The little girl replied, "Grandma says dinner will be ready in just a couple secs."



Those attending the FMCA Convention from the NW will rendezvous in Buffalo, WY before caravanning together to the CAM-PLEX in Gillette. The first item is the NW Area Caucus on Monday. Info on the issues will be shared.

This will be a very significant meeting for a number of reasons:

- President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are being elected. Gary Milner (current VP) and Curtis Coleman (RV Village founder) are running for president. VP candidates include Kathie Balogh (from NW area) and Paul Mitchell. Candidates for secretary include Don Schleuse (NW area) and Pamela Richard. Barbara Smith (current treasurer) is opposed by Ken Carpenter.
- A research firm has done a survey of RV owners who are not members of FMCA to determine their awareness of FMCA and benefits or programs that would interest them. Report will be presented during the Governing Board meeting.
- **Planning for FMCA's Future** – strategic plan developed by Long Range Planning Committee is to be adopted. Last strategic plan adopted in 2001. Last plan proposed was in 2015.
- Several amendments to **Constitution and Bylaws** proposed as result of strategic plan: new mission statement, ability to use an assumed business name for marketing.
- Several new policies being considered, some are a result of the strategic plan. Possibility of using an updated logo for marketing, while also keeping the historic emblem (goose egg).

FMCA is one of the most significant RV organizations – and each of us benefit from what happens in Gillette. Stay tuned for the results of the Governing Board meeting.



**SAFARI INTERNATIONAL  
INVITES NW TREK FUN CLUB TO  
35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION RALLY  
Silver Spur RV Resort, Silverton, Oregon  
September 5-9, 2023**

There had been some preliminary discussions regarding a joint rally with Safari International. Because it is a Safari International rally with special features, attendees are requested to join Safari International in order to attend – annual membership is \$20. Following is a special invitation from Lee Buckley, president of Safari International and a NWTFC member.

To celebrate Safari International’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, there will be two special rallies – one in Branson, MO and one in Silverton, OR. These rallies will be heavily supplemented by additional funds from the Safari International treasury in order to provide significantly increased value beyond what the rally fee could fund. Rally registration covers 4 nights camping with full hook-ups, fully catered meals, entertainment and activities, an “early bird” drawing for a \$350 fuel card and much more.

I would like to personally encourage NWTFC members to consider this as a milestone event. After all, Treks are Safari coaches, so we are all part of the same family. Attached is a rally registration form. Please follow the links to access the online resources for more information.

I realize that many NWTFC members are not currently members of Safari International as well, so my last point is this: for \$20 you can join or reinstate a past membership to take advantage of this opportunity. That \$20 membership provides well over \$200 of augmented rally discounts above the actual costs for this event.

I look forward to seeing you in Silverton.

Lee Buckley  
President  
Safari  
International  
NWTFC member

Link to the latest Safari Trails magazine with more info:

[https://www.safari-international.org/images/Members\\_Only\\_Docs/Safari%20Trails/2023-03%20\(Spring\).pdf](https://www.safari-international.org/images/Members_Only_Docs/Safari%20Trails/2023-03%20(Spring).pdf)

Link to Safari International online (and printable) membership forms:

[https://www.safari-international.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=27&Itemid=227](https://www.safari-international.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27&Itemid=227)



# 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally West

## So Much FUN in Silverton!

**Silver Spur RV Resort**  
12262 Silverton Road NE  
Silverton OR 97381

**September 5 – 9, 2023**

*FOUR nights with FULL HOOK-UPS  
Continental breakfasts and catered dinners including one 'special' dinner\*  
Seminars, group discussions, raffles and entertainment  
General Membership Meeting  
Special movie night . . . and more surprises!*

Pilot last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Co-pilot last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email(s) (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest in recreational vehicle \_\_\_\_\_  
 FMCA # \_\_\_\_\_ First Safari rally? Yes No Safari International member Yes No  
 Recreational vehicle year \_\_\_\_\_ Make and model \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special needs (diet or other) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a veteran?	May we recognize your service to our country during the rally?	Yes	No
Pilot Yes No	Branch of service _____	Years served _____	
Co-Pilot Yes No	Branch of service _____	Years served _____	

Rally

**Fee for Safari International members includes \$200 discount!**

***Become a member to enjoy the same benefit for this event!***

Early Bird Rally Fee requires postmark on or before June 16, 2023, Early Bird registration cut-off date.

**ALL Early Bird registrations are automatically entered for a \$350 fuel card drawing!**

**EARLY BIRD RALLY FEES for SAFARI INTERNATIONAL MEMBER RVs –**

\$250 for two people per RV	\$ _____	
\$200 for one person per RV	\$ _____	
\$100 each for Safari Alumni or extra guest in RV	\$ _____	
<b>\$ 50 extra per RV if postmarked after June 16</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	
\$ 63 early arrival camping fee per day	\$ _____	Total enclosed \$ _____

**Last day to register is August 1, 2023 No refund on cancellations after August 2, 2023**

Mail check payable to **Safari International** and mail registration form to

Lee Buckley  
PO Box 1898, Waldport OR 97394

[lpbuckley@mac.co](mailto:lpbuckley@mac.co)  
541.264.0704



## ARMITAGE PARK RALLY June 3 - 6

Wagon Masters: Al & Elaine Zimmerman and  
Wojo & Kathleen Walczak

Wagon Masters Al and Elaine Zimmerman along with Wojo and Kathleen arrived at Armitage Park just north of Eugene on Coburg Road on Friday, June 2. Since there is no meeting room at Armitage, the key task was to set up canopies for shade. The other important task was to set up the camp kitchen with Coleman stoves and a prep area.

There were 13 Rvs rolled in on Saturday. There were several new people that were added to our Trek family.



Ed Pratt from Roseburg, John Herold (webmaster) and Becky Edens from Bay City, Oregon attended their first rally, and Rick and Kristine Hecks had just purchased their Trek and joined NWTFC. Tom and Lisa Maxey were guests of Glen Schweizer and Valeta Weaver. Don and Lucy Reed from Nipono, California joined us once again. We were surprised to discover that Chuck and Barbara Hasman, former NWTFC members, just happened to be camped at Armitage. They joined us for the rally. Penny Paschall had mechanical problems near Fife, so she was not able to join us.

The rally began with a progressive dinner. Attendees were divided into groups of 5 – 7. Each RV hosted a course of the dinner. Members enjoyed fellowship around the tables and visiting the different coaches. We met back together for dessert.



Sunday started with pancakes, sausage, and scrambled eggs. Mike Ashbridge faithfully started the coffee each morning. Then it was off to the Cascade Raptor Center in West Eugene. Following a program by a couple staff members and meeting Valentino, a great horned owl, the group



spread out to visit the rest of the birds that were on exhibit. These included owls, hawks, eagles, osprey, kestrels, and more.

Dinner on Saturday evening was spaghetti with salad and garlic French bread. We discovered what a baker Kathleen Walczak is. Three different kinds of homemade pie and ice cream were featured – but that wasn't all – she also had fresh muffins each mornings. Following dinner there was a scavenger hunt – the last item was a riddle to solve. Elaine Zimmerman was the judge and she was stickler on what items qualified. Lee Buckley was the winner, followed by Valeta Weaver and Glenn Schweizer, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to John and Marie Turner.



Following breakfast on Monday, everyone had free time to explore the area or just relax. Dinner was pizza from the Coburg Pizza Company. There were seven different kinds of pizza, so everyone got to try their favorite or something new, perhaps one made with chevre (goat cheese). Straightline RV and Boat Repair of Springfield provided an informative presentation on exterior maintenance and repairs. With the age of our Treks things begin to

happen – cracks, chips, dings, and corrosion take their toll. A brief business meeting provided an update on club and FMCA happenings.



Tuesday morning, after a final continental breakfast, it was time to travel to the next destination. 6 of us assembled for a caravan to the FMCA NW Area Rally in Albany. As we passed OR 34, Dick and Nancy Harris became the tail gunner.



Bob Edwards  
"adopted" Trek



## A STEP IN TIME MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

During our last trip with our motorhome the propane (LP) leak detector was going off periodically. Once the reset button was hit it would stop. But then it would go off again. This indicated it was time to replace the LP alarm. Then I thought of the last time I replaced the propane detector and the carbon monoxide detector. It had been a while. **These alarms are supposed to be replaced every five years.**



On our Trek the propane and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are separate alarms. Many the newer units are a combined LP and CO alarm. Like most of us, we would prefer to replace one model with a similar one so there are less holes in the cabinetry. The most popular alarms are under the brand "Safe-T-Alert."

Most of us with older RVs use propane appliances and enjoy the convenience. Stoves, refrigerators, and hot water heaters all have the option of running on propane. Propane can be compressed to a liquid, can be stored easily, and is relatively safe, making it the perfect fuel for use in a motorhome. The newer RVs with all residential electric appliances have limitations – going off the grid and boondocking is not always feasible.

Propane gas is odorless and colorless in its natural state, so in order to alert users to a leak, an odorant called ethyl mercaptan is added during the distilling process. This sulfur compound gives the gas a rotten egg or skunk oil odor.

Carbon monoxide is a stealthy killer. You can't see, smell, or taste this poisonous gas. As an RVer, it's vital that you are able to detect its presence and prevent it from infiltrating your motorhome, because it doesn't take long to succumb to its deadly effects.

CO is produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels such as gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), fuel oil, kerosene, coal, charcoal, or wood. CO restricts the amount of oxygen absorbed from your lungs into your bloodstream. Lack of oxygen in the blood can lead to organ, brain, and central nervous system damage.

Similar to a smoke alarm, a carbon monoxide alarm acts as an early warning system, alerting anyone within earshot to a potentially dangerous situation. Unlike a fire, which eventually will show itself in the form of smoke or flames, a CO problem may not be realized until it is too late.

CO alarms use a chemical to detect carbon monoxide. This chemical reaction closes a circuit, which causes the alarm to sound. In time, this chemical can degrade and lose its effectiveness. It takes approximately six to seven years for this chemical to degrade sufficiently to be ineffective.

Replacing the CO and LP detectors is relatively easy. The detectors run off the 12 volt battery system. Unscrew the detector from the wall. Clip the wires. Connect the new wires and you are done.



This is a friendly reminder - as an RV owner you are responsible for your health and safety. Good maintenance of your RV is one of the keys to many years of enjoying your Trek.

## NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Mike Ashbridge  
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Vice President – Wojo Walczak  
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Feel free to contact  
NWTFC officers or  
committee chairs with  
questions or suggestions.

NWTFC Website  
[www.nwtfc.com](http://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.

**Trek Travels is the official newsletter of the NW Trek Fun Club. If you would no longer like to receive this newsletter or email messages from NWTFC, please send an email to Al Zimmerman (newsletter editor) at [zimmeralz@gmail.com](mailto:zimmeralz@gmail.com) stating your preference.**