



Volume 11 Number 2



TREK TRAVELS



March 2024

President's Message

**From 1st Trek Travels newsletter
February 2014**

Since this is NWTFC's 20th Anniversary, it is good to reflect back on the past.

The Northwest Trek Fun Club has members in 6 states as well as Canadian provinces. At various times members are traveling across the continent. Many are snowbirds and enjoy spending the winter in warm climates.

NWTFC members are a varied group. Most are retired, but not all. NWTFC is not unique among FMCA chapters, there are several clubs built around a motorhome brand or model that is no longer produced.

Communication is a key to keeping the NWTFC moving forward and reaching out to others. It is a challenge to keep members informed of club happenings. We are continually looking for ways to tell the NWTFC story on a continuing basis. We want potential members to see that good things are happening among Trek owners.

Seeking to address the communication challenge among even executive board members, the board began meeting by email during months when there is not a rally to provide a meeting place.

One result of that first meeting was the decision to start an **e-newsletter** that would be published 4-6 times a year.

The **NWTFC website** also provides up-to-date information, rally reports, and introductions. Don't forget to check it out periodically.

Trek Tracks is a wonderful source of information for Trek owners. Trek Tracks is sponsored by NWTFC.

Communication also happens when we spread the word about the benefits of FMCA and NWTFC. When you spot a Trek, introduce yourself and tell the owners about NWTFC.

RALLY SCHEDULE

(To be Wagon Master for a rally, contact Kathleen Walczak, rally coordinator, at mcnamka@gmail.com)

April 29 – May 2 Hoodsport, WA
Wojo & Kathleen Walczak
Rebecca Edens & John Herold

June 25 – 28 20th Anniversary Rally
Old Stone Village, McMinnville, OR
Mike & Lynn Ashbridge
Wojo & Kathleen Walczak

August 9 – 12 High Desert Gathering
Central Oregon KOA, Culver, OR
Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Chris & Kristi Earhart

August 14 - 18 FMCA 109th Convention
Deschutes County Fair & Expo
Redmond, OR

September 16 - 19 Rally with the Animals
Dry Camping in Southern Oregon
Roy Miller
Mike & Lynn Ashbridge

Be a Wagon Master & share the fun!



CELEBRATE RV LIFE IN REDMOND

FMCA's 109th International Convention will take place

August 14 – 17 in Redmond, Oregon at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo. The FMCA Convention was last in Redmond in 2014. This is your chance to attend an international convention close to home. It will be your chance to discover new adventures in RV living. These international conventions bring together RV enthusiasts from across North America for an extraordinary celebration of the RV lifestyle.

In a recent article, **Chris Smith, CEO of FMCA**, shared four reasons any FMCA member who loves RVing should experience an international RV convention:

1. **Camaraderie with fellow RVers.** FMCA was established on a foundation of RV enthusiasts getting together for fellowship and adventure. FMCA events allow you to connect with other members and to exchange travel stories, learn from each other, and form lasting friendships. That sense of community and support at an FMCA event is truly unparalleled.
2. **Educational seminars.** Expand your knowledge and skills through a diverse array of workshops and seminars led by industry experts. From RV maintenance and safety tips to travel planning and recreational advice, these sessions cover a wide range of topics.
3. **Explore the latest RV products.** At a FMCA convention you will have the opportunity to discover the latest RV models, accessories, and technologies. Many of the vendors extend exclusive discounts and special offers to members in attendance.

(Continued on page 3)

FMCA 109th International Convention August 14 - 18 Deschutes County Fair & Expo Redmond, OR

FMCA's annual summer convention returns to Redmond, Oregon for the first time since 2014.

What to expect at the convention:

- A good time and an opportunity to meet new friends.
- An RV marketplace with gadgets and gizmos to make your RVing journey a better experience.
- Helpful seminars and presentations by knowledgeable speakers.

Typical convention schedule:

- Monday** – NWTFC caravan so club parks together. NW area afternoon meeting to discuss issues and ideas.
- Tuesday** – Natl. Director's briefing on GB matters.
- Wednesday** – Governing Board meeting, election of officers. Vendors open and workshops start.
- Thursday** – official opening. Workshops. Evening entertainment.
- Friday & Saturday** – Workshops. Evening entertainment.

NW Trek Fun Club will be staffing the FMCA store. **Volunteers are needed.** It is fun to meet people from across the country. Join the fun and volunteer to help staff the store. Register for the FMCA Convention

(See FMCA magazine or register online when registration opens)

- Register for the High Desert Gathering Pre-Rally
- Caravan together to the fairgrounds on August 12.
- Camp together and enjoy times of fellowship.

NWTFC will caravan to the fairgrounds on Monday, August 12. **Contact Al Zimmerman to volunteer and join the store team.**

zimmeralz@gmail.com.

Smith – Redmond-continued

4. **Entertainment.** A wide variety of activities and entertainment options for attendees for all ages is offered. Enjoy live music performances and engaging social events.

In addition to all the things to experience during the convention, exciting opportunities await while traveling to and from the event.

Membership Update

In January two new members joined the NWTFC chapter who learned of the club at Quartzsite. Another member renewed in January. Currently there are 45 paid memberships plus 8 honorary members.

Commandments for Seniors

1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. "In style" are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop making you mad.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
6. "On time" is when you get there.
7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid – but it does muffle the sound.
8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and 3 sizes smaller.
9. Growing old should have taken longer.
10. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
11. You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.

And one more: "one for the road" means one more trip to the bathroom before you leave the house.

What happened to the RV industry? Liz Amazing – You Tube Channel

I went to the recent RV show at Quartzsite and looked at brand new RVs. Then I looked at a 10-year old 5th wheel. And the difference was unbelievable. I have been doing a series about the good and bad of the RV industry. The problems with new RVs seem endless: roof leaks, slide problems, jack issues, frame failure cracks – brand new RVs are falling apart. **It didn't use to be that way.**

I had a 2020 5th wheel. Every time I moved it, it seemed like something fell apart. I was afraid to open the door because I was afraid of what I might see.

One day I met someone with the same unit, but it was a 2018 and it was solid. He had even taken his 5th wheel to Alaska with no problems.

Somewhere along the line the RV industry stopped building quality. They went from solid wood to cheap composites – basically one-up from painted cardboard. They went from nails to staples. You can really feel the difference. Many people have told me they are hanging on to their rig because of the difference in quality construction. If you have a quality trailer, 5th wheel, or motorhome – hang on to it.

Why has this happened to the RV industry?

1. Maximize profit – many companies have been bought by larger companies. They have sacrificed quality to save money and increase profits.
2. Reduce weight so that more bells and whistles can be added.
3. COVID – the pandemic affected labor and the supply chain.

Manufacturers know how to build quality units; they just have not been doing it for whatever reason. It takes us as consumers to push for quality.

That is one reason we like our Treks and keep them on the road!

QUARTZSITE 2024

January 18 – 21

Cholla Road Location



The 2024 no host, no cost Quartzsite Gathering was a little different. Our Big Safari cousins were invited to join in the fun, and we also eliminated the "end" date. So this year the Gathering was held from Thursday January 19 thru ??? 2024. A good number arrived a bit early as Laura and I arrived on Monday to find 15 Treks already at the gathering site.



The Gathering site, oh yes, there is a story to tell the Grandchildren, but suffice to say we are back at the traditional gathering site, and this year was the 20th anniversary making the return very appropriate. By the actual "official" start date we reportedly had 41 total Safaris (28 Treks, 6 big Safaris, 8 SOBs) - 8 of the Treks were Isuzus. OBTW the SOBs just means they arrived in some other brand 😊

We kicked off our 2024 gathering with the Thursday afternoon "Welcome to Quartzsite" heavy hors-d'oeuvres social get together. Once again, we learned that about 30% of our gathering attendees were first timers at Quartzsite. There were Trekkers in attendance from every corner of the United States. Nobody went back to their Treks hungry; you can be sure of that. A few new multi-meters (voltmeters) and a few fancy headlamps found new homes as well. Thursday evening included our traditional campfire.

Friday included a new event, a meeting and Tech Talk for the owners of Treks built on the Isuzu chassis for Safari Model year 1991 thru 1994. We were forced to restrain ourselves though because the meeting was infiltrated by Wojo. We did not want to make him feel inadequate with his P-30 gas Chevy. Later that afternoon was our usual Tech Talk which was more of a group Q and A session. This proved very productive and covered a wider number of topics chosen by the group. The technical stuff was appropriately followed by our afternoon social/cocktail gathering.



Old Fashioned Trek Power



Keeping 'em on the road

Saturday a group organized to caravan to The Desert Bar. The Desert Bar is totally off grid, a fair ways from any civilization, and a very unique experience. Nellie E Saloon (thedesertbar.com). For the first time,



Laura and I were privileged to join this group. Let me tell you, this is something not to be missed. Totally not what we expected based on past rumors. Absolutely awesome food, awesome and unique experience. Be sure you do it next year. Saturday is also the day the Quartzsite RV Sports & Vacation Show (AKA The Big Tent) opens. Many took advantage of the big tent and also prowled the flea markets etc. available in the area. That afternoon was our traditional Pot Luck. I say it every year, but it is just amazing the fantastic food Trekkers can prepare out in the desert. The food was wonderful, the

socializing fantastic, just all around a great Trekker experience.

Sunday morning was our traditional Flea Market where a number of Trek related and non-Trek related items found new and exciting homes. Many attendees offered tours of their Trek or Big Safari; many spent the rest of the day getting to know their new found friends a bit better. Sunday and Monday were the days when, at least some would move on down the road, however this year many more stayed multiple days extra, enjoying the continued evening campfires, fixing things, helping others to fix things, etc. By January ???? there were still XX Treks left with no Big Safaris and no SOB either. The cost remains the same if you stay an extra day or five.

If you did have to leave you are most likely now loaded down with new friends, new information, new ideas, something fixed (maybe) and fresh lies to tell around campfires. Many lifetime friendships sparked here – priceless.

We had absolutely wonderful weather for the entire gathering, I want you to know your volunteer team paid big bucks for that. We should thank Lee Buckley and Big Al and Marcia for their help in making Quartzsite happen. Vic and Cathy for storing and delivering our PA last year and Larry and Barbara for storing it from now until the next gathering.



The 2025 Quartzsite Gathering will happen in the traditional location with the traditional start date, however based on suggestions from 2024 two "official" days will be added next year, the beloved Sunday Morning breakfast will be back along with suggested new, interesting and informative activities. We look forward to seeing you all next year for a new and improved Quartzsite Gathering.



Early Bird 'No Frills' Rain or Shine Hoodsport Rally

Monday April 29-Thursday May 2

Things to Do

- 12 Waterfront & 10 Parkside camping
- Walking trails along beach
- Dig for Clams & Oysters on Park Beach
- Your Kayaks or canoes etc. ok
- Clubhouse: Pool Table, games, & meals
- Lucky Dog Casino – 15 mins.
- Rock Brook Falls – 35 mins.

Schedule

- Mon 4/29: Group Hors d'oeuvres Potluck
- Tues 4/30: Cooked Breakfast & Group Potluck dinner
- Weds 5/1: Continental Breakfast & Grilled Salmon w/ group potluck side dishes dinner.
- Thurs 5/2: Checkout (no breakfast)

Wagon Masters

Wojo & Kathleen Walczak
Rebecca Edens & John Harold

CAMPING

Rest-a-While RV Park
<https://restawhile.com/>
27001 US Hwy 101 N
Hoodsport, WA 98548
360-877-9474

Register directly with Park.
\$50 (water) or \$45 (park) x 3 nights.
Mention NW Trek Fun Club!

Mile Post 329 on Highway 101
2.5 miles North of Hoodsport

HOODSPORT RALLY REGISTRATION

24 sites reserved

Rally fee: (includes 2 breakfasts & Entrée with dessert on Wednesday night).

Total Rally Fee (camp fee separate): **\$30 (Couple)** **\$15 (Single)**

Make checks payable to NWTFC & mail completed registration with check to Kathleen:

Kathleen Walczak, 2608 142nd Ave SW, Lakebay, WA 98349

Registration and funds must be received by March 15, 2024

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 N

NWTFC'S 20th Anniversary Celebration

June 25 – 28, 2024

Old Stone Village RV Park

McMinnville, Oregon



Wagon Masters

Mike & Lynn Ashbridge
Wojo & Kathleen Walczak

Celebrating 20 years of Trekking across America!

Celebrating a 20-year milestone for an RV club is really quite special. The 10th Anniversary was held on Mt. Hood following the 2014 FMCA convention in Redmond.

To make this year's event even more special, the Executive Board has authorized funds to offset some of the cost of the catered meal on Thursday.

The anniversary rally committee is still working on activities for the rally. Adjacent to the Olde Stone RV Resort is the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum. The most famous exhibit is the Spruce Goose – a huge wooden amphibious plane designed by Howard Hughes. This is the largest wooden aircraft ever built. The plane flew once, and that was enough to fulfil the contract.

There are lots of things to do in the area:

- Lots of wineries.
- Unique and fun downtown Mac.
- Yamhill Valley Heritage Center.
- Hoover-Minthorn House – boyhood home of Herbert Hoover, Newberg

Experience what it means to celebrate 20 years of RVing fun!

Old Stone Village RV Park

This is a five-star RV resort with unparalleled amenities, in the heart of Oregon Wine Country.

Location

4155 NE Three Mile Lane
McMinnville, OR 97128
(503) 472-4315

Right on north side of OR 18 just before McMinnville. 11.2 miles SW of Newberg.

\$64.35 /night – Good Sam rate

Book your reservation directly **NOW** with Old Stone Village.

No longer have an RV – lodging options recommended include Comfort Inn & Red Lion Inn

<https://www.choicehotels.com/oregon/mcminnville/comfort-inn-hotels/or177?mc=llgoxpx>

<https://www.redlion.com/red-lion-inn-suites/or/mcminnville/red-lion-inn-suites-mcminnville>



20th Anniversary Rally McMinnville, OR

Tuesday June 25th – Friday June 28th

Schedule (Subject to Change)

- Tues 6/25: Check in after 1pm
 - Potluck heavy hors d'oeuvres
- Weds 6/26: Continental Breakfast
 - Museums tours
 - Potluck dinner
- Thurs 6/27: Continental Breakfast
 - Free day
 - Catered Anniversary Buffet Dinner
- Fri 6/28: Continental Breakfast
 - Check out 11am

Olde Stone RV Resort

4155 NE Three Mile Lane,
McMinnville, OR 97128
503-472-4315

Register directly with Park
\$64.35 x 3 nights
Mention NW Trek Fun Club!



Evergreen Aviation Museum

MCMINNVILLE RALLY REGISTRATION

22 sites reserved

Rally fee: (includes 3 Breakfasts & Entrée with dessert on Thursday night).

Thurs entrée choice: Brisket _____, Marsala Chicken _____, Vegetarian Lasagna _____

Total Rally Fee (camp fee separate): **\$ 56 (Couple)** **\$ 28 (Single)**

Make checks payable to NWTEC & mail completed registration with check to Kathleen:

Kathleen Walczak 2608 142nd Ave SW, Lakebay, WA 98349

Registration and funds must be received by May 1, 2024

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 N

20th Anniversary Tee-shirt orders now being accepted!



Pictures are of the men's shirt on the left and the women's on the right. These are 90% cotton/10% polyester and true to size. (Having gained a bit of weight, Wojo & I both got XL.) He has been wearing his for a month now and I've washed it at least 5 times and it's still in great shape. They are soft and nice, no rubber stickers like the 10-year anniversary shirts.

Price is \$25 each if we have a minimum order of 25. If you pick yours up at the 20th anniversary rally, there won't be a shipping charge, but we can ship to you for an additional cost of @\$5 each (to be determined by USPS!) Once we have the actual number of orders, I will send another email with final price and address to mail you check to. (If we don't have 25 orders, I will send info to those interested of the revised cost.)

April 1st – Pre-order Deadline: Send Kathleen an email [mcnamka@gmail.com] stating the quantity of men's and/or women's shirts you want and the sizes needed.

April 20th – Payment Deadline: Payment by check made payable to NWTF and mailed to Kathleen Walczak. (Address will be provided once shirt pre-order has been received.)

SPECIAL THANKS TO KATHLEEN FOR THE WORK ON THE TEE-SHIRTS.

HIGH DESERT GATHERING

August 9 – 12, 2024

Rally Schedule

Friday, August 9

Arrive and get settled

6:00 pm Potluck dinner

Introductions – Road Tales

Saturday, August 10

9:00 am Breakfast – hash browns
scrambled eggs,
sausage/bacon

Tour Crescent Moon Alpaca
Farm & Petersen's Rock
Garden Lunch in Redmond

6:00 pm Dinner Taco salad, beans,
& rice

Special presentation

Sunday, August 11

9:00 am Continental Breakfast

Free time

6:00 pm Dinner – Pulled pork,
Baked beans, corn, potato
salad, dessert

Business meeting

Monday, August 12

9:00 am Continental breakfast

10:45 am Caravan to Expo for
FMCA Convention

Petersen's Rock Garden Redmond, Oregon

Petersen Rock Gardens were started in 1935 by Rasmus Petersen. Mr. Petersen was born in Denmark in 1893, and came to Central Oregon in 1906. He built a home, began farming, eventually cultivating nearly 300 acres. By 1935, he finally had time to devote to his yard where he started with a small rock feature near his house. He eventually covered four acres with ponds, bridges, and castles built of rocks he acquired within an 85 mile radius of his home. The rocks include agate, jasper, thundereggs, petrified wood, lava, and obsidian. Petersen died in 1952, but the Gardens are owned by family members. They have recently been refurbished and reopened to the public. There is also a museum and gift shop.





HIGH DESERT GATHERING August 9 - 12

Pre-rally to FMCA Convention
Redmond ♦ August 14 - 18

Wagon Masters: Al & Elaine Zimmerman
Chris & Kristi Earhart

Location

Central Oregon KOA Culver, Oregon

Located 32 miles north of Bend (16 miles north of Redmond) or 7 miles south of Madras on US 97.

Directions: At MP 105, turn east on Jericho Lane. CG is ½ mile on Jericho. approximately 2.4 miles south of Coburg.



- Crescent Moon Alpaca Farm
- Taco salad dinner
- Possible Les Schwab Company Store

- Petersen's Rock Garden
- Catered pulled pork dinner
- Caravan together to FMCA Convention

HIGH DESERT GATHERING ♦ PRE-RALLY REGISTRATION

Rally fee: (includes 1st night camping, 3 breakfasts, Taco salad dinner plus 1 catered dinner). **Pay for addl. 2 nights camping on arrival.**

15 sites
reserved

Total Rally Fee

\$ 148 (Couple)

\$112 (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 July 1 , 2024.

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 Redmond Convention ____ Yes ____ No ____ # Volunteers

NWTFC OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

President – Rebecca Edens
trekbecky@gmail.com

Vice President – Wojo Walczak
wwjo52@gmail.com

Secretary – Kathleen Walczak
mcnamka@gmail.com

Treasurer – Jo Ruby
yakimavalk@yahoo.com

Natl. Dir – Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

Past President – Mike Ashbridge
mikeashbridge@comcast.net

Rally Coordinator – Kathleen
Walczak
mcnamka@gmail.com

Webmaster – John Herold
NWTFCwebmaster@gmail.com

Historian – Jeannette Block
ed.jnet@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor
Al Zimmerman
zimmeralz@gmail.com

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 45 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 \$15 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 stating your preference.