

Discovery 'ing

Jul/Aug/Sep
2006

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President's Comments

This newsletter is going to take us from summer into fall. I hope the high fuel prices did not put too big of a cramp in your traveling adventures. We were able to get one more printing out of our old printer for the last newsletter.

To bring you up to date on the printer problems, Jim Campbell has been doing our newsletter printing and has been having trouble with lines and fading on the edges of the pages. If you noticed in the last newsletter there were not too many pictures and the ones that were there were printed in the middle of the pages. Jim got some quotes for fixing the printer and they came back at the price a new printer would cost. Plus, the maintenance plan was up on the old printer.

We sent 320 brochures to FMCA for them to mail to non-chapter members in the Eastern and Great Lakes Areas prior to the Charlotte Convention. This is a service they provide to the chapters. Through this program we now have eight new members who joined our chapter. I want to welcome you folks and hope you enjoy your membership. I need to send in a report to FMCA on the results of their mailing before they will do it again next year.

On Wednesday June 14th Judy and I were in the Discovery heading south to Prizer Point Marina and Resort. It is on the east side of Lake Barkley near Cadiz, KY. It is about 12 miles west of exit 65 on Interstate 24. This is the second time we have been to this campground. I do not know of any other campground where you can camp this close to the water on Lake Barkley or Kentucky Lake. It is a very nice campground. The reason we were going there was to meet five other Discovery couples: Bill and Diana Allen, Harry and Mary Condrey, Larry and Linda Miller, Cliff and Jinny Newton and Bill and Judy Wagner. We all wanted to check

up on the progress that Bill and Judy Wagner were making on building their log home on Lake Barkley. They have a beautiful log home on one of the nicest lots on Lake Barkley. Bill and Judy were great hosts. They took us on a boat ride along the east side of Lake Barkley and we all had dinner together the last night. Larry, Cliff and I even tried our hand at Geocaching. This was also the start of the "Discovery Buzz", which has nothing to do



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with alcohol.

This is supposed to be President's Comment's, not president's travels. So, here is a comment. I think it would be a good idea to have articles in the newsletter where members send in stories of the best campgrounds that they have visited on their travels. Until we get another vice president in charge of planning pre-rallies, it would sure help the President with ideas for rallies.

OK, one more travel story. On July 26th Judy and I, with our son, daughter-in-law and their 23-month old twin boys, decided to travel seven hours to Willard, Ohio to meet some friends of our son's. I had just read some articles on traveling with kids but they were all older kids. I have never seen any articles on traveling in a motorhome with toddlers. I knew there was no way on God's green earth that those boys would ever stay in a car seat for seven hours. It was quite a trip and one we will never forget. The secret is to stop often, get out, and walk around. Do most of the traveling during the hours that the kids sleep. We visited Cedar Point, Ohio and stayed in their campground one night. We needed to move at noon the next day from our site to the parking area. I was in a little hurry to get this done and get back to the park. They use a 6 X 6 inch post about three feet high to clamp your camping permit on. On leaving the site I heard a loud crunch and saw everyone looking at the back of my motorhome. Sure enough, when I got out, there was half of my bumper laying on the ground and the post leaning quite a bit. A body shop back home got the bumper put back together and on my motorhome just in time to head for the pre-rally at Fort Mill, SC and then the next crisis...

On the day we were to leave for Fort Mill, Monday morning, Judy woke up early with so much back pain that she could not get out of bed. My son and I carried her downstairs and placed her in our Suburban and headed for the hospital. She was given an MRI and diagnosed with a herniated disk. Well, so much for the Charlotte trip. I got in touch with our Club Secretary, Karen Didich and explained the situation.

I decided that I still had time to FedEx all the door prizes, pre-rally materials, meeting agenda and brochures. Karen and I e-mailed back and forth almost every day before the meeting to get everything in order. We had an electronic meeting with all the Officers to come up with the Standing Rules to be used in an electronic meeting. We also needed to discuss the new printer and a dues increase before the Charlotte meeting. I cannot thank Karen enough for all her work during this time. I knew she was not up to full speed from the surgery that she had recently had.

I must apologize for the late meeting time at the convention. I will try and not let that happen again. We did not have enough members at the meeting to hold a Chapter Meeting, but I believe enough information was given out to let members know that we do need a new printer and that the dues may need to be raised. In order to get our required two membership meetings a year in, we needed to have an electronic e-mail meeting.

On Monday September 4th I started the Electronic Membership Meeting at 10:00 a.m. and it ran until 6:00 p.m. September 8th. I believe everyone had a good time who participated in this historic event. Our Club has 110 members, 96 have e-mail addresses, 34 are registered on the Club YAHOO web site and 19 of those voted in the electronic meeting. The following business was taken care of: We adopted the Standing Rules for Electronic Meetings; approved the purchase of a new color printer; increased the annual dues by \$10.00 and approved the Minutes and the Treasurers Report of the March 22, 2006 meeting in Pomona. As I informed the voters, the electronic meeting is to be used only in emergencies when we need the approval of the members for a business matter in a short time.

One of the things we need to focus our attention on is the Chapter members' YAHOO web site. Most of our members have e-mail addresses, but they are not using the Club site. For those of you who do, please keep your addresses up to date. I know a lot of people are intimidated by computers, yours truly is one, but you just need to jump in and get your feet wet. We want ALL our members involved and participating on the

internet, attending rallies, meetings, conventions, etc. We will try and address this issue in the upcoming newsletters.

When you get your October FAMILY MOTOR COACHING magazine be sure to read the article on The Discovery International Chapter. I am going to ask you a question about this article on our difmca YAHOO groups web site and the first person to answer will get a Freightliner Hub Wrench. I will also put a poll question on there about future Club events.

Plans are still being made for the Tifton, GA Rally March 13, 14, 15, and 16, 2007. Watch the Club YAHOO web site for the latest information and make your plans to be there. We still need to raise the new Club Flag.

One last item: I know someone is out there who would like to help Marlene out by trying their hand at publishing this newsletter. Don't be shy. I think you would enjoy it. Give me or Marlene a call or send an e-mail.

Hope to see you soon.

John W.

Editor's Remarks

Greetings....

As is readily apparent, we don't have a working color printer. I plan to have that remedied for the next issue now that our members have approved the purchase of a replacement. For now though, it's black and white again. Because photos are so much better in color, I decided to forgo any pictures in this issue.

I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer! It's hard to believe that almost time to get ready for all the Holidays again.

Best Regards and hope to see you down the road!

Marlene Elkins



**Mark your
Calendar**

Chapter Calendar

Mar 13-16, 2007	Tifton, GA	Perry Pre-Rally
Mar 19-22, 2007	Perry, GA	77th FMCA Convention
Aug 13-16, 2007	Redmond, OR	78th FMCA Convention
Sep 26-Oct 10, 2007	Southern Utah	See Utah! Traveling Rally
Feb 25-28, 2008	Pomona, CA	79th FMCA Convention
Jul 14-17, 2008	St. Paul, MN	80th FMCA Convention

Cooks Corner (Please send in some of your favorite recipes for sharing.)

This recipe is great with almost any variety of fish...



Broiled Fish with Tomato and Red Onion Relish

- 3 Cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 Tsp olive oil
- 1/4 Cup chopped red onion
- 1/4 Cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tsp light molasses
- 1 Tbs grated lemon zest
- 1 Tbs chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 Tsp salt
- 1/4 Tsp pepper
- 1 Tsp chopped fresh thyme
- 4 fish fillets, 5-oz each

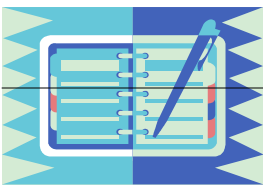


Preheat the broiler (grill). Position the rack 4 inches from the heat source. Arrange the tomatoes cut side down on a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil or parchment (baking) paper. Broil (grill) until the skins wrinkle and begin to brown, about 5 minutes. Set aside and leave the broiler on.

In a frying pan, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion and saute until soft and translucent, about 4 minutes. Add the vinegar and molasses and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium and simmer until slightly reduced, about 2 minutes. Add the broiled tomatoes, lemon zest, parsley, 1/4 tsp of the salt, and the pepper. Stir to combine. Remove from heat, set aside, and keep warm.

Lightly coat a broiler pan with olive oil cooking spray. Sprinkle the thyme and the remaining 1/4 tsp salt over the fillets and place on the prepared pan. Broil (grill) until the fish is opaque throughout when tested with the tip of a knife, about 5 minutes. Transfer to warmed individual plates and serve topped with the warm tomato relish.

Serves 4 Calories/serving: 260



Directory Updates



Welcome our new members:

Billy and Karen Barbour
152 E. Ravine Rd
Kingsport, TN 37660
Ph 423-323-3021
F256983

Fred and Sharon Barnabei
2301 Foxhall Drive
Augusta, GA 30907
Ph 706-863-1937
F369171
disdats@bellsouth.net

Bobby and Sue Bryan
315 Costner Road
Spartanburg, SC 29316
Ph 864-578-7435
F349306

Bob and Shirley Digel
916 W. King Street
Smethport, PA 16749
Ph 814-887-2236
F699S

Conrad and Phyllis Flouhouse
8 Oakmont Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
Ph 304-242-3817
F83859
Cell 304-281-2207

Arthur and Edith Grazier
128 Ole Mill Dr
Shelocta, PA 15774
Ph 724-478-5542
F363231

Walt and Dee Holliday
67 North Main Street
Windsor Locks, CT 06096-1449
Ph 860-627-7527
F375732
walterholiday@aol.com
Winter Address:
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Ph 407-944-4007

Will and Patti Jones
239 Hawks Prey Dr
Mooresville, NC 28115
Ph 704-799-9539
F284254

Leonard and Jan Murray
5282 Country Club Rd
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Ph 336-760-1503
F272406

Larry and Sandy Roper
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Ph 810-632-4182
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F272412
larryr@cac.net

Doris and Donald Schaffer
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Northampton, PA 18067
Ph 610-262-4564
F251980

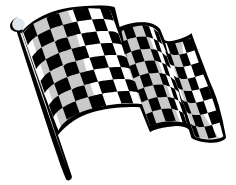
Updates and Corrections:

Bill & Judy Wagner:
907 N. Worthington Way, Eddyville, KY 42038, Ph 270-388-6132, Cell 248-444-8584, bjwagner@hughes.net

Robert & Dodie Zarse:
P.O. Box 785, Elon, NC 27244, Ph 239-641-7001



Rallies, Rallies, Rallies



Charlotte NC

Twelve members gathered at the Charlotte/Ft. Mill KOA August 9, 10 and 11 for the Checkered-Flag Pre-Rally hosted by Bill and Diana Allen and John and Karen Didich. Colorado members Denny and Lolly Kendrick and Jack and Gayelene Muckenthaler were unaccustomed to the extraordinary humidity and were relieved with a short-lived cool down. Both Jack and Denny were initiated with the newly adopted Discovery Men's haircut. Chuck and Vie Brock from Minnesota also traveled a very long way to join us. Chuck elected not to have the haircut! Bob and Carol Baugh brought her dad along and he added a new dimension to our get-together. We were lucky to have Larry and Linda Miller and her sister and brother-in-law, Jerry and Sharon Corwin in our group. Ken and Dorothy Hawk are always a lively addition to our gatherings. We celebrated Dorothy's and Sharon's birthday on Friday evening after dinner with a song and a cake. From Indiana to a wedding in Kentucky by way of North Carolina sounds unusual, but that is the route taken by Cliff and Jinny Newton to attend the pre-rally. Bob and Nancy Scull brought and cooked and shared with the group the most wonderful corn. It complemented beautifully the bar-b-que dinner on Thursday evening. Any gathering is more complete if there is a good mystery to solve. Harry and Mary Condrey provided the mystery when their shower enclosure suddenly exploded into a million pieces when nobody was home except their dog, Kato (and he wasn't talking). When you see the Condreys ask them the solution to the mystery as it was ultimately solved. John & Judy Wittenberg were expected to attend but Judy experienced a very painful and debilitating back problem and could not come. At last report, Judy was feeling much better and enjoying her newest granddaughter.

Diana Allen

(Photos of the rally can be seen on our website)

Meeting Minutes

Pomona CA

Discovery International Chapter of FMCA

General Membership

Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2006 - Pomona, CA

President John Wittenberg, having established a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. John welcomed everyone and asked Neil Elkins to give an invocation. John W. led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from two Internet officers' meetings and the last membership business meeting were read. Neil Elkins motioned the minutes be approved as read. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Karen Didich read the treasurer's report. As of December 31, 2005 a balance of \$4,706.92 was in the Chapter's account. Chuck Brock moved the report be accepted. The motion was seconded and report was approved.

National Director, John Didich, asked members to consider serving as a National Officer of FMCA. All interested persons should submit a resume to John. He will obtain the proper paper work and offer further assistance. John also reminded members to check the pages regarding member benefits in their most recent FMCA magazine.

Old Business: There wasn't any old business.

New Business: Neil Elkins made notice of an article in the Jan/Feb/Mar - Discovery'ing 2006 newsletter. The proposed amendments to the Chapter Bylaws were published in this issue in order to give at least 30 days notice to all members.

There are times when events dictate that the Chapter make decisions in a timely manner between the two routinely scheduled business meetings at the FMCA International Conventions. The Executive Board may also need to identify other unforeseen events requiring action, thus "electronic means" before a business meeting might need to be held.

Question: Dorothy Hawk asked if members would be notified of certain Internet meetings? John W. said that members would be notified of certain meetings so that they could participate.

Neil Elkins made a motion that the amendments to the Bylaws, as written in the Jan/Feb/March Discovery'ing 2006 newsletter, be accepted. The motion was seconded and approved.

Neil Elkins made a motion that the Executive Board develop specific procedures as Standing Rules for these alternative voting methods for approval by the members as provided by the Bylaws. The motion was seconded and approved.

President John W. shared the new Discovery International brochures. He asked members to share the brochures with owners of Discovery motor homes.

John W. had seen and approved of the new Discovery Chapter flag that Jim Campbell secured. The Chapter will have a dedication at the August/Charlotte DI rally.

John W. reminded the members that there are Chapter advertisements in the FMCA magazine.

John W. also reminded members that Marlene Elkins, newsletter editor, and Jim Campbell, newsletter publisher, would like to relinquish their positions. Please consider serving in one of these positions.

John W. introduced Jay Blumenthal, our National Vice President for the FMCA International Area. Jay invited us to attend the June 30 - July 3, 2006 International Area Rally held in Gillette, WY. Attendees will have full hookups. Anyone wishing to stay after July 3rd can make arrangements to camp through July 7th for \$18.00 per night. The Gillette rally will have a parade, games, and fireworks.

Jay shared information about Med-X Emergency Evacuation Coverage through FMCA membership. He suggested the Med-X card be kept with our insurance cards and our F# be written on the card. The coverage is good in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Members are covered up to 100 miles from homes, even when traveling in their cars.

Jay introduced Gerald Dickie, one of the Vice Presidents of the International Organization - INTO Officers, to the Chapter members.

Rallies: John W. shared rally information. Some of our members were on a Mexican tour. He invited members to attend the Gillette, WY, Bearing Springs, and Charlotte rallies.

Karen Didich, on behalf of the other co-hosts, Diana and Bill Allen and John Didich, invited members to attend the August 9 - 11, 2006 Discovery International rally held at Ft. Mills/Charlotte KOA. 25 sites are being reserved. Please check the newsletter for information.

President John Wittenberg asked for a motion to close the meeting. Ken Hawk moved the meeting be closed. A second was heard and the meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary

Karen Didich

[Is a commercial RV caravan for you?](#)

Four Discovery International couples decided that we wanted to go to Alaska, but we didn't want to plan and arrange the trip ourselves. Knowing that one of our former DI couples worked for Adventure Caravans, we investigated their caravan offerings for an Alaska trip and settled on their 58-day Canadian Rockies and Alaska tour. So for more than two months (we had to get to the caravan start point and get home from the end point) the four of us traveled together as a group within the larger group of 23 RVs. And we are happy with our decision to let someone else do all the planning and make all the arrangements. (And we're all *still* the best of friends, too!)

While the caravan fee was slightly over \$100 per day, we still believe that the caravan trip was worth the cost. There are, of course, pros and cons to any endeavor and that is true of traveling by caravan as well. We'll give you our view of the pros and cons as we experienced them.

First for the positives.

A major advantage, at least from our viewpoint, is that the caravan company does all the planning and makes all the arrangements for RV parks and a large number of group activities. These arrangements are made based on repeated travel in the area by caravan personnel. We found that the Wagonmaster for any Adventure Caravan tour must have participated in the specific tour at least one time before being offered the job of Wagonmaster for that tour. In our case, both the Wagonmaster (Jerry and Claudia Barber) and the Tailgunner (Larry and Linda Slycord) had been to all the itinerary locations at least once and were familiar with the area and activities available.

The Wagonmaster and Tailgunner provided all of us with a variety of suggestions, which we accepted, on preparing our coaches for the trip by adding protective devices. Vice President Junior Mertz has described those in a separate article that will appear in the next newsletter. We all implemented their suggestions and helped others in the caravan.

Traveling with the caravan gave all of us a good feeling since we knew that the Tailgunner, a well trained and experienced RV technician and full-time RVer, was coming along behind us to help if we experienced any problems. And the Wagonmaster was going ahead to smooth the way for us.

Since the RV Parks had been reserved by the caravan, all we had to do was arrive and the Wagonmaster, always arriving before the first "caravaner", directed us to our site for the night. No bother registering and finding your site. And at the travel briefing the night before, we had all been given very detailed and specific directions on finding the park, as well as things to look for and special interest points along the way. In our case, the entrance was always clearly marked by the Wagonmaster (except when someone stole their orange cone!).

Again, since many activities had been arranged by the Wagonmaster, we didn't have to try to immediately decide what activities to participate in at the various stops. The Wagonmaster and Tailgunner made arrangements for transportation to the activity or we formed car-pools and followed the Wagonmaster—who already knew the route to take. In addition, we were briefed on many optional, additional activities in the area and tickets were taken care of for those who opted to go to those. Thus we had the advantage of group rates and often were given special attention not normally available to people "off the street". On more than one occasion we were treated to informative presentations and "behind the scenes" glimpses that we were provided only because we were a large group and the organizers knew how to get special treatment and access. As a result, we believe that we were able to learn a lot about the area that we otherwise would not have.

In addition to the many commercial activities—tours, dinners, shows, etc.—we were treated to several

staff (Wagonmaster and Tailgunner) prepared meals. We were perhaps fortunate that our staff were superb cooks and their meals were always outstanding! If we had not been on the caravan, we would have had to do our own cooking! Not that we didn't often have our own impromptu potlucks and cookouts from time to time. (Ask about making sure we didn't lose our Canadian beef before going into Alaska from the Yukon Territories! What a breakfast!)

Last, but by no means least, we had the opportunity to meet and make many new friends among the 23 coaches (21 customers and 2 staff). Bob Foerster, much to LaVerne's chagrin, brought along his fire-pit and a load of firewood. The four Discovery couples (we became known collectively as "The Discovery Group") managed to get most of the other caravaners involved around the campfires and fostered a spirit of camaraderie that endured throughout the tour. In the process, we may well have induced one couple to trade their fifth-wheel for a Discovery and join our Discovery International chapter!

Now for the negatives, although as you might expect from the foregoing, in our opinion these are few in number.

First, while all the RV park reservations were made for us and we didn't have to worry about that aspect of the trip, some of them were a little tight for larger rigs like the Discovery. While at times those were about the only thing available (there aren't many parks in Chicken, for example) at other times better parks were reportedly available. In discussing this with the staff, we found that often the choice of park is limited because some parks refuse to deal with caravans since the caravans need to make group reservations years in advance.

We sometimes felt that we were way too busy, with not enough free time to pursue our own desires or just "veg out" for a day to catch up. This usually happened after we had two or three "one-nighters", especially when we had to unhitch our toads for the night and hitch up the next morning.

Finally, we know that we would have had more flexibility to modify our schedule if we were on our own. Although we were free to leave the caravan's itinerary at any time (as some did on occasion) we felt that in order to enjoy what we'd contracted and paid for we should continue with the larger group.

So that's it. A commercial caravan may not be for everyone, but for the four of us—it fit the bill almost perfectly. We had a wonderful, entertaining, informative trip and are glad we chose the Adventure Caravan tour. Would we do it again? Not to Alaska (we know where to go and what to do there!) but definitely "YES". In fact, an Adventure Caravan to Mexico with our Wagonmaster and Tailgunner is certainly looking attractive and is a definite possibility...

(a consensus from Neil & Marlene Elkins, Bob & LaVerne Foerster, Steve & Leland Kokinos, and Junior & Betty Mertz)

INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN!

Many of you encounter other Discovery owners who may not be a member of Discovery International (FMCA). So, here is our membership application form. Keep it handy and pass it along. More Discoverys means more DISCOVER'ING!

FMCA NUMBER _____ **Today's Date** _____

Pilot Last Name (Please Print) _____ First Name _____

Co-Pilot Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street and/or Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone, including Area Code (____) ____ - _____ E-Mail _____ Web Site _____

Winter Address

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone, including Area Code (____) ____ - _____

Discovery Coach Information

Year _____ Length _____ Model _____ Engine _____

Membership Fees:

Initiation Fee (one time) \$15.00
Annual Dues \$20.00
Total Amount Due First Year \$35.00

Send completed application and check to: **Linda Miller**
Membership Secretary
10066 E. 600 S.
Lafayette, IN 47905

Make Check Payable to: **Discovery International**



Marlene Elkins
5740 Al Fresco Ave.
Pahrump, NV 89061