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DISCOVERY EXPRESS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dick Tracy

VV ell we certainly have been, and unfortunately are continuing to be, in unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted all our lives and our RVing! It certainly has been a strange time to be the President of our great DOAI organization! As I said in the July issue, I really

look forward to having a great National Rally in 2021. I hope that many of you feel the same and we can return DOAI to all the great fun and camaraderie that we have always enjoyed!

I want to introduce our new DOAI Member Care Coordinator, Linda Griffith, from Halletsville, Texas. I know Linda will do a great job of replacing her exceptionally long serving predecessor, Nina Soltwedel. Linda has a brief introduction to herself elsewhere in this issue. Nina, I know I speak for all our DOAI members in thanking you for your long and faithful service as our Member Care Coordinator. And of course, I again commend you for the excellent job you ensured as editor of the Discovery Express Newsletter. Enjoy your well-earned "retirement."

As of the time of writing this in late August, we still know of only the one DOAI member that has contracted COVID-19. So again, kudos to all of you for practicing social distancing and keeping yourselves safe. We can be very thankful for that success and want it to continue!

Currently, the Florida Sunshine Chapter is working on plans for the SE Region Rally presently scheduled for January 25-31, 2021 at Lazydays in Seffner, FL. The Sunshiners are working with Lazyday to find ways to safely hold the Rally. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 situation remains a cloud over plans. Many folks are registered for the SE Region Rally but also many of those reservations were made at the close of the 2020, well before the COVID-19 pandemic had become a concern. Some of those folks have indicated that they will not likely attend unless an effective vaccine has been developed, approved and distributed making it available well prior to the January 25 scheduled Rally starting date. Notifications on final decisions regarding holding the 2021 SE Region Rally will be sent out by email once final decisions have been made.

Please stay healthy and safe. We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Dick Tracy President, DOAI

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Ron Wacker

L veryone, Donna and I pray for the victims of hurricane Laura. I can't imagine what some of these people affected by the Hurricane are going through. It is amazing the wrath Mother Nature can dish out. Hopefully, we all can help them in our

Past President's Report

own way, but please at least pray for them. It has been great to see how all levels of our government have worked together both before and after the storms. The good result coming out of such devastating events is that people are helping people. Strangers have risked their lives and spent their own time, money and assets to help people and animals. Donna and I want to offer our heart-felt thanks to all individuals, National guardsmen, and government employees who are helping the victims of this hurricane.

I would say 2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone. The Corona Virus is still around and rearing its ugly head in some places. I believe it will start subsiding soon, at least I hope so. It is obviously a fine line to protect people while trying to reopen our country so we don't lose any more small businesses. I really miss going out to eat and gathering with our friends as I am sure you do also. The good news is that from what I hear, there are several remedies out there as well as some in the works including vaccines. Hang in there, help is on the way! It's a shame that our rallies and lives, as well as the world, have been so challenged by this Chinese virus. As Americans, we are strong and resilient and will bounce back even stronger.

According to news, the RV industry is booming, which makes sense to me. I can't think of a safer way to travel than in your own RV. You are not cooped up in an airplane, train, taxi, or hotel room. You can fix your own meals and pretty much stay to yourself. Young families are taking to the road, home schooling their children, and with the internet can work from almost anywhere. What an experience for the children to see the USA at a young age. I was very fortunate as a teenager as my parents and I traveled all but the New England states in our 17 foot travel trailer over several different summers. I was able to see our national parks when they were at their prime. This was an experience of a lifetime.

Donna and I hope to see you at one of our future rallies when all things are safe and normal activities resume.

Until next time, safe travels to everyone and everyone stay safe.

Thanks Ron

Patriot Day—An annual observance on 11 September to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. Often referred to as 9/11.



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Contact the DOAI Membership Coordinator as soon as any of your contact information changes; i.e., mailing address, telephone number, email address, Discovery year, etc.

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VP of Development

U nless you have lived under a rock for the past several months you are aware that a pandemic has swept across the globe and it has caused us to make lots of changes in our daily lives. Among them, we might be caused to think we are living under a rock!

John Baker

Most of our chapters have cancelled rallies one by one and the Board of Directors reluctantly rescheduled the 2020 National rally to 2021. I can assure you this was an extremely difficult decision. We

discussed it several times, culminating in an extensive Zoom (how did we ever live without Zoom)? This decision had to be made by July 1 regarding a September event so lots of uncertainty was the elephant in the room. I firmly believe we made the right decision. Our members are apparently taking necessary precautions; we have not been made aware of more than a few cases so we are thankful for that.

Some of our members are beginning to venture out and travel a bit more, so that is a good sign. Necessary precautions are still needed of course . Be careful out there and stay safe.



Secretary's Report



L here is nothing to report from the DOAI Secretary this period... except to hope all members are staying safe and healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Cindy Welch



National Rally Master

A lthough the COVID-19 virus is still with us, the hope is that we will still be able to meet in January for Camp Discovery at LazyDays in Seffner, Florida. You can still register to attend by following the link on the DOAI website. The dates for Camp Discovery are January 25-31, 2021. Because most of us have been confined in our houses with limited outings, I am expecting a large turnout for this rally. The last day to reserve your camping spot at LazyDays is December 24, 2020. After this date, all remaining sites become reservable to the general public.

Fred Jecks

Since our national rally in Sevierville was cancelled this year due to COVID-19 concerns, we have new dates for the next two national rallies. Save these dates!

September 20-26, 2021 at The Ridge Outdoor Resort in Sevierville, TN September 5-11, 2022 at the CAM-PLEX in Gillette, WY

Take special care everyone. Warm regards, Cindy

Safe travels everyone.



Membership Coordinator

P lease "Welcome" our new and reinstated members listed here. Make them feel at home in DOAI, encourage them to get involved, and introduce them to our many chapters. It is still the best place to meet and make new friends. We continue to ask members to refer new members to DOAI. Remember, after three referrals, you will receive a one-year free membership. Congratulations and a free year's membership goes out this quarter to Gale & Linda Culbertson.

Elaine Holley

John/Elizabeth Amann, Lewes DE Zane/Christy Anderson, Maumelle AR Charles/Jackie Arledge, Bella vista AR Mark/Cindv Ball, Thornton CO Chris/Debbie Barry, Streetsboro OH Steve/Regina Boggs, Oak Hill OH Blaine Borkowski/Janice Garrett, Kalamazoo MI Gary/Andrea Bradley, Frisco TX Le/Kim Brightman, Conroe TX Michael/Constance Byrd, Dayton TX Kelly/Sherri Cabral, Huntington Beach CA David/Jeanette Calderon, Lake Forest Park WA Tony/Pam Caro, Centennial CO Karl/Maria Carr, Tumwater WA Peter/Susan Chan, Mount Pocono PA David Chanover, Oro Valley AZ Rick/Orinda Christoph, The Villages FL Rickie/Becky Comeaux, Arnaudville LA Ray/Karen Conkin, Jonesborough TN Matt/Cindy Cullum, Corinth TX Travis/Rachel Dennison, Marengo OH John/Michelle DiVita, Scottsdale AZ Ken/Pat Docekal, Caddo Mills TX John Douma/Lisa Wensley, Phoenix AZ Tim/Teri Duniphan, Escondido CA Dennis/Lynn Durocher, Cape Coral FL Dan/Lisa Dworak, Brea CA Brent/Brooke Dykstra, Venice FL Alex/Ruth Eisman, Auburn NH JR/Sue Fowler. Fulton NY Michael/Paula Giannetta, Willcox AZ Jason/Karli Goetz, Black Diamond WA Michael/Suzanne Gruszka, Winter Garden FL Gary/Pam Guagenti, Torrance CA Mark/Christy Hansen, Cypress TX Terry/Karen Hefner, Crosby TX

Jeff/Kathy Hickman, Pleasant Valley NY Doug/Jane Howard, Crestview FL Cory Huey, Topeka KS John/Tracy Huffman, Turlock CA Jim Huntley/Garrett Robertson, San Angelo TX John/Maria Jaunese, Marysville WA JP/Shelley Jefferson, Rancho Mirage CA Craig/Melinda Jones, Ardrossan AB Douglas/Jacquelyn Jones, Salina KS Ernest/Lisa Kietzman, Englewood FL Joe/Ann Kopicki, Mesa AZ Mike/Jennifer Kraisan, Foristell MO Scott/Peggy Krenzke, Potosi MO Dave/Debbie Krobath, Houston TX Michael/RaeLynn Lail, Hampton GA Frank/Susy Lezo, South Gate CA Austin Litman/Tommy King, Dallas TX Matthew/Gina Long, Henderson NV Michael/Brittany Lopez, Plant City FL John/Daphne Lowe, Key Largo FL Michael/Ronda Machlovitz, Encino CA Chris/Ann Martin, Greenbrier AR Tom/Christine Martorano, Manorville NY Roshan Mathew/Ruthanne Dahlheimer, Seneca SC Dennis/Linda McClain, Texarkana TX Monte/Kristie McKitterick, Colorado Springs CO Joseph Mikus, Sunriver OR Duane/Claudine Miller, Raleigh NC Rich Miller/Tracey Birkenhauer, Northville MI Elvis/Jan Moody, Bentonville AR Terry Moore, Clinton NC Bruce/Karen Morehead, Erie CO Herbert/Linda Muller, East Greenwich RI David/Cynthia Murrah, Iuka MS Chris/Robin Murray, Cape Coral FL

Geremy/Madeleine Mustard, Apex NC Stan Nackdymon/Karen Reilly, Green Cove Springs FL Harold/Barbara Nelson, Cameron MO Randall Noblitt/Shannon Whitted, Venice FL John/Rayna Ortez, Vacaville CA Robert/Pam Palandrani, Silverbay NY Wayne/Linda Pearce, Saint Petersburg FL Alison/Sam Poston, Pineville LA John/Frankye Prothero, Apple Valley CA Sabrina Quihuiz, San Jose CA Thomas Reed, Fort Worth TX Mark/Trish Reilly, Mt Pleasant MI Michael/Karen Rumney, Fremont WI Steve/Janette Sanne, Livingston TX Anthony/Deb Sarra, Herriman UT Chris/Betsy Savage, Box Elder SD John/Barb Schellenberg, Fargo ND Ron/Kathy Schikevitz, Leawood KS Chris/Robin Schroeder, Champaign IL Brian/Pam Scott, Moses Lake WA Rick Sicurella/Theresa Kovacs, Livingston TX Merrill/Roberta Simon, Mound House NV Michael/Leah Slaughter, Parker TX Steve/Diane Smaldon, Lindenhurst NY Kevin/Jazmin Smith, Catasauqua PA John/Ann Sorensen, Mills River NC Mike Tobin, Lakeland FL Jana/Larry Turpin, Delton MI Steven Warthan/Rick Faulkner, Wilmington NC Lou/Danielle Wibbels, Roseau MN Robin Wilcox/Gail Alger-Wilcox, South Dennis MA Richard Winefeldt/Josie Carrillo, Boerne TX Brent/Donna Winget, St George UT Gary/Gina Yee, Sarasota FL

Remember to Register for the SE Regional Rally!

Don't forget to register for Camp Discovery at LazyDays in Seffner, Florida. <u>https://www.discoveryowners.com/home.html</u> and select the link under "2021 DOAI Southeast Region Rally "Team Discovery" Also, don't forget that those attending the rally must call Lazydays directly at (800) 905-6627 to register with the campground if you did not complete registration at last years rally.

Caring for Our DOAI Family



was asked by our President, Dick Tracy, to take over Member Care since Nina Soltwedel is retiring and enjoying life. Nina has done a wonderful job of taking care of all our DOAI members and letting us know when someone needs prayers for sickness or death in the family. She has certainly been an asset to DOAI.

Linda Griffith

There are a lot of members that do not know me as they do Nina. Here is a little about me. I am a member and President of the Discovery Texans. My husband is Don Griffith and he is Rally Master for the Discovery Texans Chapter. We have been members of DOAI since 2012 and we live in Hallettsville, Texas, on our ranch with our cows that are all pets.

If a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or has died please send me an email (ldgriffith01@gmail.com) to let me know. I look forward to working with you.



2021 National Rally Update

ell folks here we are in September and still no end in sight for the pandemic that has shut down most of our travel and activities. I suspect this challenge will resolve itself before the end of the year and we will begin to enjoy ourselves again. The Blue Ridge Chapter held a planning rally at The Ridge RV Resort in Sevierville, TN, at the end of July and first week of August in preparation for the 2021 DOAI National Rally.

Robert J. Angus

Although we could not coordinate well with the caterer or entertainers since we are still a year away, many of the members visited available shows and restaurants. We will be able to provide you with some great recommendations on what to see and where to eat next year when we have the DOAI National Rally. I hope all of you that visited in September were as impressed with the resort facility as was Blue Ridge and you enjoyed the area. I anticipate that all of you will plan to attend next year's rally and we hope to make it a memorable event for all. With luck the Southeast Region Rally (Camp Discovery) will be a "go" and I will see many of you at that event. Until then safe travels!

DOAI—More than "Just" A Newsletter

Discover the many ways in which your membership pays off. Click here: <u>www.discoveryowners.com</u> and you'll be taken to the DOAI website. There you will find links to:

Consolidated Rally Schedule Helpful Contacts for Discovery Owners DOAI Name Badge and Decal ordering information Classified sale ads for Discoverys and Discovery-related Items Hints and Tips Forum (eGroup) and Bulletin Board How to join Discovery Friends

DOAI Membership Sponsors DOAI Information/Invitation for Non-Members Application for DOAI Membership National Rally information and registration form Regional Rally information and registration form Chapters and Chapter Rally Schedule Past issues of this newsletter and so much more

Region and Chapter Reports



President Jim Pinkerton

Blue Ridge Discoverys

▲ hope this finds everyone safe and well. Blue Ridge spent the first week of August at the Ridge RV Resort in Sevierville, TN, site of the 2021 National Rally. Seventeen coaches were in attendance. Despite restrictions brought on by COVID-19 we still had our evening happy hours, played golf, dined

out and took in some shows. The Ridge has made progress in advancing the resort, and it has developed into a first class resort. We did experience several weather events. On Friday evening

a storm developed with heavy rain and winds and it was fairly exciting for awhile. We were also rained out on our first attempt at golf. Lighting struck a tree in the park causing some GFI breakers to pop in several coaches, and necessitated a visit from the local fire department to extinguish fire in a tree. We also observed several fifth wheels attempt to navigate a low clearance. One was stopped by an observant by-stander. The other ended up short one air conditioner and a satellite dish. Guess they missed the sign that said, "RVs to the left."

Leydic coach being towed, 6 Aug 2020

Tom and Katy Leydic arrived at the rally with a leaking radiator. It was determined that a hole had developed next to the frame and could not be repaired. They were advised by the service tech not to drive the coach. When the wrecker arrived, a few Blue Ridge members attempted to give their advice on how a coach should be towed. Finally the driver stopped and informed the group that this was not his first tow job. The coach was hauled to Knoxville, the radiator replaced, and it was back on the road.



Happy Hour—The Ridge RV Resort



Randy & Karen Kemp, Randy & Mary Conklen, Chris & Don Muskopf—Sevier Distilling

(Continued on next page)

Blue Ridge Discoverys, continued

Our officer elections were held during August through online voting which closed on 1 September. Elected Officers/ Board Members for 2021/2022 are:

President – Jim Pinkerton Secretary – Linda Terrill Treasure – Don Muskopf Rally Master – Tim Ridgley Vice President – Mike Hopkins Asst. Secretary – Laura Johnson Asst. Treasure – Frank Miller

Non Voting Appointed Members: Membership Director – Chris Muskopf

Newsletter Editor - Glenda Angus

Our Spring Rally is tentatively set for April 21 to April 25, 2021 at the Carolina Pines RV Resort in Conway, SC. Rally agenda and registration are still being developed.

Blue Ridge will again be well represented at the Florida Grande Resort in Webster, Florida, this winter. We currently have 10 coaches with reservations.

Hopefully conditions will allow for a Camp Discovery next year and we hope to see many of you this winter. Travel Safe and take care.

(Photos courtesy of Jim Pinkerton, Chris Muskopf, and Glenda Angus)



Blue Ridge Discoverys, 3 August 2020, The Ridge Outdoor Resort, Sevierville, TN

Region and Chapter Reports continued



Southwest Region and Discovery California

 \mathbf{B} ecause of the pandemic, our chapter has canceled and postponed all of our activities until

Southwest Region VP Jim Sullivan

Chapter prez

Bruce Bruce



Florida Discovery Sunshiners

 Γ rom the cool and rainy mountains of North Carolina, I'm now the proud owner of two lots of land in North Carolina and am in the process of developing it into an RV lot.

Our Discovery Sunshiners are currently planning a rally for November at the Rock Crusher Resort in Crystal River, FL. However, that may be on hold as we must have ten members for our combined rally. I don't believe we have ten coaches nor do we have a confirmation at the facility from our hosts. This rally is normally used to facilitate and plan our January national get together. Although there is some great concern about meals and meetings capability we will be adaptable with necessary changes.

I have coordinated with Rebecca Proper, who is in charge of reservations, and Channing, who is in charge of the food and beverage managers at LazyDays in regards to working around the COVID-19 dilemma. We discussed having two dinner times as well as the possibility of having our meals served. We also discussed holding our meetings outside under a large event tent to facilitate proper distancing during meetings. I will be able to furnish more information after our next meeting on September 10th.

For those of you who know Richard and Dee Raymond who are members of FMCA, Richard has been diagnosed with dementia and has lost his driving privileges. He has sold his motor home and purchased a fifth wheel which he will keep in North Carolina. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Thank you all, and have safe traveling, Kindest regards, Bruce



The Discovery Texans

he Discovery Texans last rally together was January of this year. COVID has put a stop to many events including rallies we had planned for March and May. We have rebooked the same RV parks for next year so that we will not miss traveling to the great parks we had planned for our club to enjoy.

Chapter prez Linda Griffith

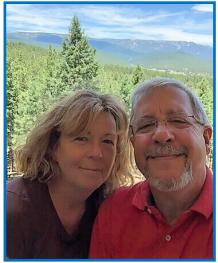
Discovery Texans are going to have our November 11-14, 2020 rally at Antique Capital RV Park located in Gladewater, TX. We were there last year and enjoyed the park so much we voted to return next November. There is a big rally hall and an outdoor pavilion with a large grill for our use. We will have some special rules established for our safety at this rally. We propose to have most activities outside. We will meet in small groups of 4-5 couples and visit outside our coaches. The plan

(Continued on next page)

The Discovery Texans Continued

is to move to a different group each afternoon so we are able to visit with everyone. Our Thursday morning Technical Discussion group and our Thursday afternoon ladies gathering will also meet outside. There will be no meals.

Any DOAI member is always welcome to join the Discovery Texans as a guest. Just complete a Guest Registration Form that can be found on the DOAI website in the Chapters section. Also you may contact any of the Discovery Texans officers for more information on attending or joining our club. Everyone is welcome. Our Chapter has continued to grow and we book 25-30 sites at the parks we visit on our rallies. We are a large Chapter so there are many friends to be made. If you are anywhere close come join us.



Becky and Mel Pless Pendaries RV Park, New Mexico



Becky Pless with her boys



Don and Linda Griffith at Blue Brothers Show, Branson, MO



Mel and Becky Pless parked next to a big rig their RV looks pretty small!

(Continued on next page)

The Discovery Texans Continued



The park at St Peters, MO, where Noel and Rhoda camped



Noel and Rhoda Montgomery in their 05 Discovery trailering their son's car from college in St Peters, MO



Mary Ann Cressler Santa Fe, NM



Mike Cressler Santa Fe, NM



Mel and Clara Price at Creede, CO



Randy and Cheryl Langley Top of Engineer Pass, CO



Randy Langley at Lake Oachits



Randy at Lake City, CO

The Discovery Texans Continued



Gwen Churchill stacking rocks Buena Vista, CO



Leroy heading up the mountain Buena Vista, CO



Leroy Churchill—Catch of the Day Buena Vista, CO



View Creede, CO Mel and Clara Price



Region and Chapter Reports Continued



Chapter prez John Hooper

Midwest Discoverers

b y the time you read this, the Midwest Discoverer's Fall Rally, near Bedford, PA., will be complete. Fourteen coaches and 27 people will have had a great time. But then again, the Midwest Discoverers always have a great time together, even when there is no Rally - Just send out an invitation and let others know a group is getting together and others join in. DOAI may not be having a National Rally in Tennessee this year, but that did not stop a group of Midwest'ers from meeting there anyway. The Campground offered the rates and other amenities during what was

the National Rally dates and several folks took them up on their offer. This is the second Non-Rally the group has had this year. Ain't it great we just like to get together!!!!

With this report, it will be my last as President of the Midwest Discoverers Chapter. A new President and Vice President will be elected during the Fall Rally. They will assume their Office at the end of the Rally. The Chapter has so many outstanding members and leaders it makes the job of Officer an easy task. I have been so fortunate that the previous President, Jerry Call, provided such an excellent model of Chapter organization and example of dedicated leadership.

I cannot leave without thanking Nancy McKitrick (Vice President) and Joan Fairweather (Secretary/Treasurer). Both have done their job in such a wonderful, great, exceptional, super, ... you get the idea (and I really mean it) manner. You might not know this, but Joan and Maurice Fairweather are Charter members of DOAI. You will never find other members more devoted to the organization than these two. With twenty plus years of DOAI history, you know the value of their membership to the Chapter. I think Joan knows more about how the IRS works than most IRS employees (and she is Canadian!). Joan is the reason the Midwest Chapter is financially sound and the books are so well kept. Not only is she highly qualified, she is a true delight to work with. She and Maurice are wonderful people and I count it as an honor the call them friends.

God Bless Nancy and Brad. Nancy quietly goes along behind me cleaning up my messes. She very calmly corrects my errors like a kindergarten teacher corrects a wayward student, all the while being the true lady and friend she is. Over the years, she has supported the Chapter in so many ways. Other members recognize her as an example of outstanding membership. I know I do.

I leave this note by thanking the Chapter for the opportunity to serve the membership in this capacity and all the support that has been showered upon me. It has been truly an honor to serve as President of the Midwest Discoverers Chapter of DOAI.



Chapter prez Bob Stewart

Noreaster Discoverys

This has sure been a year that none of us expected. With many of our rallies canceled this year, it's been like getting all dressed up with no place to go. We have ventured out a few times in small groups, but large groups are still out of the question. A few of us Noreasters will be attending the Midwest Chapter's Rally in Bedford, PA in a couple of weeks and we want to thank them for having

us. We look forward to seeing fellow Discovery folks we haven't seen in a while, even with a lot of new social rules we have to abide by. I wish I had more news to convey, but that's about it. I know 2021 will be more fun as our travels get back to normal. Stay safe and healthy everyone.

Region and Chapter Reports Continued



Chapter prez Randy Conklen

Ozarks Discovery Chapter

We had a rally planned for this fall in Hutchinson, Kansas, hosted by Bruce and Nancy Plumb, and Terry and Connie Constant. The Kansas state fair was cancelled, and since the fairgrounds were to be our destination, our rally hosts felt it prudent to cancel the rally due to the COVID virus. We are hoping to reschedule the rally in fall of 2021.

The Ozarks have scheduled a spring rally at 370 Lakeside Park, in St. Peter's, MO, June 3-6, 2021. Chapter members are encouraged to call and make reservations and request sites with the Muskopf group.

Ozarks Discovery chapter currently has 24 members, representing 10 states. We welcome new members and often try to recruit any Discovery coach family that we meet in our travels. It is our understanding that plans for the Seffner, Florida, rally in January 2021 will be finalized in October, and we are hopeful that we can gather at that time, as we miss seeing and traveling with friends!



Chapter prez

Marshall Godwin

Mason Dixon Discoverys

year. Chapters are like individual families that make up the DOAI community. It is where you have the ability to make close friends and form lifelong relationships. But then again, we have many members who are not interested in the in-person social aspect of our owner's association. For those folks, they are satisfied with the online experience and value added by the e-groups. The technical and lifestyle e-groups are reason enough to be a part of DOAI.

Lt seems very odd to have folks join our chapter during this unique COVID-19 year. I think about what you have missed by not being able to attend chapter rallies or the DOAI National Rally so far this

I want to welcome our newest chapter members:

Roddy and Julie Reynolds, Trenton, GA. John and Elizabeth Amann, Lewes DE Peter and Susan Chan, Mount Pocono, PA Brian and Linda Costello, Warrenton, VA Marius and Claire Mello, Alexandria, VA Kevin and Jazmin Smith, Catasauqua, PA

We now have a total of 70 members in the chapter. Virginia has the most members with 24 followed by PA with 13.

One of the annual DOAI highlights is the SE Region Rally (Camp Discovery), held in late January at Lazydays, Seffner, FL. Everyone should attend Camp Discovery at least once. It is a great opportunity to learn about your Discovery. This type of training is not available anywhere else. If it was, it would be very expensive. You get all the Camp Discovery seminars along with all the activities of a normal major rally for just the Rally Fee. The rally is still on track for now. I'm sure it will depend on how well we get the virus under control. The SE Region Rally has been held every year since 1999 so I hope we can continue that unbroken string.

I hope you are able to use your Discovery coaches. We haven't done any traveling since returning from Alabama in March so we are looking forward to fall camping and a trip south for the winter.

Take care and stay safe!



Jeanne Stewart

Book Club

Well, since there hasn't been much entertaining, or traveling this 2020 season so far, I hope you have all spent some time reading and getting to know the person you reside with a little better. I've learned enough! Anxious to get on the road, and see Discovery people.

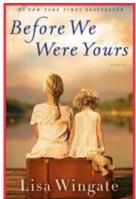
I had chosen for the National Rally later this month the book - <u>Before We Were Yours by Lisa</u> <u>Wingate</u>

I am not sure whether there will be a Book Club gathering at the SouthEast Regional Rally in Florida. If you would like one, perhaps you could pass that on to the planning committee. If not, we could do <u>Before We Were Yours</u> at the 2021 National meeting.

There are a number of good books out there, and I would love to share some and receive input from you readers. There is a lot of technical information, and reporting of get togethers by Discovery members, but it would be great to share what we've been reading. Maybe in the forum – but I'm not sure how that is done, anyone familiar?

Any suggestions or comments are welcome, and you can text or email me at: <u>zetapig@netsync.net</u>

Hope all of you are well, and will be able to make use of our Discoverys this Fall - I think we may have lots of competition out there, people are 'discovering' the positives of our RV lifestyle.



Calendar of Important Dates — 2020

AUGUST 2020

1—President and BOD appoint two DOAI Members To serve as Auditors of DOAI books during 2020 National Rally

1—President and Treasurer develop 2021 DOAI budget for approval by BOD

SEPTEMBER 2020

1—**Deadline** for officer and chapter reports for October Issue to Editor

28 September 2020 National Rally Sevierville, TN. CANCELLED

TBA—President and Treasurer present 2021 DOAI Budget for approval at National Rally general Membership meeting

20-26 September 2021 National Rally, Sevierville, TN

OCTOBER 2020

1-October Discovery Express published

6—DOAI insurance policy and surety bond expires **DECEMBER 2020**

1—Rally Master of 2020 National Rally submits final financial report to National Rally Master, who submits it to Treasurer, who submits it to BOD

- CANCELLED

1—**Deadline** for approved DOAI 2021 budget to Editor

- CANCELLED

Updated June 26, 2020

Staying entertained in the coach with no internet



Kerry Pinkerton SE Region VP

L eah, yeah, none of us are teenagers anymore, get over yourself!

Let's face it, campground WIFI sucks and is very rarely acceptable for anything more than email. Streaming video is pretty much out of the question. And how many Andy Griffin reruns can we watch anyway. It seems that the campgrounds we like the best have pitiful over the air reception and similar or non-existent WIFI.

So what can you do? We bought motorhomes so we could have all the comforts of home and if you watch TV at home, like we do, you probably want to watch it in the coach. That means Internet which simply is not usually available on the road. There are some pretty good options to consider.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but simply what we have learned and what we do.

Streaming from Cellular:

We've been streaming for years but it really eats up contract bandwidth. We have Verizon 'Get More Unlimited' plan which is currently their top of the line. We pay about \$200/month for 2 phones and 1 tablet. The only time we come close to using our limit is when we are in the RV. In my travels over the past 20 years, Verizon usually has a good signal anywhere there is ANY carrier available. I will admit that we drove through northwest Nebraska for two hours without a single bar. That said, there were no telephone lines either, although we did see 20 or 30 cows and passed a total of three oncoming vehicles (all pickup trucks) in two hours.

The 'Get More Unlimited' includes 75GB (GB=Gigabyte...a typical movie takes ABOUT 2.5 GB) of cellular data before a POSSIBLE slowdown over the Verizon network. In addition, our two cell phones have 30GB of hotspot data each with a definite throttle down after 30GB.

A few folks have other carriers with true unlimited data but those are rare and frequently not fast enough for streaming. The ATT Mobley was a good program but it is no longer available and a bit of a pain. If you have something and it works for you, consider yourself lucky and don't cancel your contract.

If you don't understand cellular phones, have a smartphone, etc, ask a grandchild. They know this stuff cold. Ok, so you can stream a LOT of stuff from Netflix, Prime, Hulu, Disney Plus (one year free if you have Verizon), etc. But who wants to watch movies on a phone or even a tablet? There is a simple solution.

Screen Mirroring or Casting:

What this does is display on your smart TV whatever is on your phone. On my Android, this is wirelessly via a Bluetooth connection although that aspect is hidden and your phone's Bluetooth is not turned on. It just works. It's not quite an HD quality signal but definitely better than Standard Definition.

Every phone is different but on Samsung G10, screen mirroring is called "Smart View." To get to it, swipe down from the top of the home screen and tap "Smart View." It finds the smart TV and then displays what is on the phone full screen. Works great.

If you don't have a smart TV you can buy a ROKU or FIRE STICK and it will turn your dumb TV into a smart TV, or you can get a micro USB to regular USB cable. The charging port is multifunction and also is a USB output. If you plug it into the phone and the other end into your USB port on your TV, your TV will ask you if you want to use the USB. Reply yes and it will display perfectly. Sometimes it takes several times to get it to display. You will need to have the phone plugged into a charger because all this will run your battery down quickly.

An iPhone and an Apple TV work wirelessly but I can't tell you how. If you have a smart TV with the iPhone, you will need a cable that is available from Amazon. I'm not an Apple guy and can't tell you what cable it is but I do know that not all cables will work. My cousin Jim Pinkerton uses his iphone and a cable to work with the smart TV that came in his 2018 motor home.

Remember this uses your mobile data.

You really can't plan on only using your cellular network all month unless you don't watch much TV. At some point, you may want to use your hotspot data and that works by turning on your hotspot and selecting your TV when it comes up. You won't have much hotspot data and you use it pretty dang quick. This is especially true if you don't shut down streaming when you aren't watching it. The first time we streamed, I just turned off the TV not realizing that the phone/Netflix was still streaming. It streamed all night even though the TV that was off. By the next evening I was out of data.

If you're really out in the boonies and the signal is too weak to stream try taking your phone outside and 'casting' through the wall of the coach which will work. Another option is to 'download' content to your phone (or tablet) when you have a good signal and then cast (mirror) when you want to watch. Some sites content expires after a period of time...Netflix for instance. However, you can log on to Netflix using your credentials and 'renew' it unlimited times. Obviously, this uses memory on your device so there is a limit to how many things you can have downloaded. *(continued on next page)*

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Staying entertained Continued

Assuming you have some place where you have a strong internet such as your home base, there is another option:

Recording via PLAYON.TV

Remember VCR's and recording over the air shows on blank cartridges.

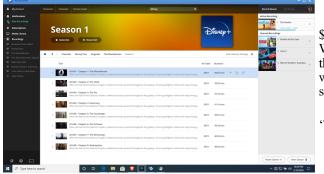
The world has moved on but the concept has not. Today, streaming services allow you to watch content until the cows come home. I believe you could watch 24x7x365 and never run out of things you WANTED to watch. Monthly fees are quite reasonable. Netflix is the gold standard and starts at \$9 a month. HULU is another option...there are dozens available, Verizon provides 12 months free. Disney is about \$6 and has some great content...it's a lot more than cartoons.

called User Manager - A x 3 Hammer Build - A x et Medmail - Main x at 16:07 urread) - p x & & Medmail - Main x at 16:07 urread) - p x & & Medmail - Main x & & Medmail - Me Ι discovered an application PLAYON.TV which turns your laptop or desktop into a VCR...actually a DVR. In conjunction with an inexpensive external disk drive, you have something that you can use to record when you are at home or somewhere with a good WIFI and then play while you are on the road. Most of us have a home base with good internet. If you don't you will have to find somewhere and pay for internet long enough to record your content. Simply plug the USB cable from the external disk drive into your TV and select what you want to watch from the table of contents that shows up on your TV.

External disk drives are quite inexpensive



\$65. Walmart has these drives as does many other stores. You'll want two, one as primary and one for a backup. I lost a Western Digital drive and with it a several weeks of recordings. Now I copy new content from the primary drive to the backup drive every couple days.



A lifetime license for PLAYON.TV is usually on sale for less than \$30 and often on sale for \$20. I paid about \$50. PLAYON has a WONDERFUL user interface. These guys did it right which is a rare thing in this day and age. This is the channel screen where you pick which streaming service you have credentials for. Credentials are simply your username and password.

For this example, I selected Disney+ and then originals and then 'The Mandalorian' (great series by the way...it's a western)



(Continued on next Page)

Staying entertained Continued

Several things to notice.

1.Since this is a series, notice under Season 1 there is a 'record all' button. This makes it really easy to record entire seasons with one click. When you click on it, they individual episodes are added to the record queue on the right side. 2.The record queue shows the progress of the current recording and below that are the other items waiting their turn. Recordings happen in real time. If it is a 45 minute episode, it takes 45 minutes to record.

The record queue is automatic, it will run until they are all finished. I have had over 100 items in the queue that took several days to complete. This happens completely unattended. If it's a movie you want to record it's just two clicks and it's in the queue. As I'm writing this, I have about 4 days of data in the queue. If your internet drops, you'll have to re-record but that's not a big deal.

One issue is that a medium speed computer is required. My cheap HP kept failing the recordings. I investigated using the windows performance monitor and discovered the CPU was at 100%. It just couldn't keep up. I found someone on EBAY with 100% satisfaction rating that sells refurbished Dell Intel I7 computers with Windows 10, 8GB memory, a 128GB solid state disk drive, a docking station, etc., for \$200 delivered. It worked great! I later purchased another system which is even faster. It is a quad core Intel I7, 2.60 Gigahertz processor with 16GB memory and a 256GB solid state internal disk for \$240 delivered! Email me at <u>Pinkertonk@yahoo.com</u> if you want his contact information. These computers have plenty of power and only use about 30% of the CPU while recording with PLAYON. My old HP is now gathering dust, and I'm currently recording and have been for several days. PLAYON runs in the background and I don't even know its there other than the light on the external drive blinks.

Solid state disk drives are more reliable but cost about three or four times than the standard disk drive. Again, being pure memory with no mechanical rotating media, they have considerably more reliability. I haven't made the move to them yet even though I did lose a 2TB Western Digital drive I had purchased at Wal-Mart. I returned the drive but lost the time I'd invested in recording.

A 'typical' High Definition movie is about 2.5 Gigabyte, depending on video quality. Ultra High Definition definitely takes more space and memory. Since there is 1000 GB in a Terabyte, you can save about 400 movies on a 2TB drive. A 'One Hour' TV episode is actually about 40-45 minutes without commercials and is about 1GB....2000 hours of content to watch. The long and short of it is you can put a LOT of information on a 2TB drive and watch offline at your leisure.

I started recording using this procedure last fall before we left for Florida about Christmas, I filled a 2TB drive. Florida Grande in Webster, FL where we usually spend several months each winter is about 60 miles from Tampa and from Orlando. Over the air TV is OK but tiling is common and there really isn't many shows available. We have Dish Satellite in the RV and reception is no problem. The challenge is that in spite of having 8 bajillion channels, there is usually nothing we care to watch when we want to watch it. This was the reason for recording, it worked great, and we really enjoyed the shows. The first thing we watched was the entire Longmire series. Binge watching at its finest.

Recording from live TV to a DVR

Remember what I said earlier about VCR's and blank tapes. Well, the modern equivalent is called a DVR for Digital Video Recorder. Most everyone with cable or satellite has some type of DVR that comes with the service. The problem is you can't really take them with you. Well, you can but your home TV will not work without the DVR because it is also the decoder for the broadband signal from the Cable Company. Some DVR's like TIVO allow you to plug a USB disk drive for additional recording storage. Perfect you might be thinking, we'll just record on that and take it to the coach. Great idea but it won't work. The video is encoded so they will only play on the TIVO or whatever.

The solution is a little box by AVERMEDIA... EZRecorder 310 ER310 HDMI Recorder DVR \$163 ebay. It is a stand alone DVR that fits between the cable company (or satellite) TV box and your TV. Using a cheap HDMI splitter (1 input into 2 outputs) it passes through the video signal on the HDMI cable incoming to another HDMI cable that goes through the TV. Everything works as normal unless you want to record.

Couple interesting things. Many shows from premium channels have copyright protection. There is a really interesting statement in several places in the EZRecorder manual. It says, "PLEASE DO NOT USE HDMI SPLITTERS TO BYPASS COPYRIGHT PROTECTIONS!" Yep, the splitter strips off the stuff so it can be recorded. Is this illegal? I don't know. I paid for the service and am not selling the recordings. I don't really see a difference in watching it in real time or recording it on my cable company DVR and recording it on a portable DVR. You decide.

Staying entertained Continued

The other thing the splitter does is strip off the title so all recordings are time stamps. This is a bit of a pain because you will need to keep a manual log of each recording with the time you recorded it and manually change the name to the actual title. This is not a showstopper but it's not anywhere near as good an interface as PLAYON. In fact, the interface is clunky...just clunky. You can dismount your USB disk drive and carry it to your computer or tablet and rename there and return to the recorder. This is not as tedious as the one character abc selection that is part of the EZRecorder interface. PLAYON won't record normal cable shows or premium channel shows. So if you want to record from cable or premium channels than this is about the only show in town.

You can schedule recordings with start and stop times and the guide on your cable or satellite tells you that info. Some satellite companies require you to respond to a 'are you still there' question that can be a pain to deal with. Recording from cable doesn't have that issue.

The other issue is that there is only one tuner so you can only watch one channel at a time. If you want to record overnight, you have to leave it on one channel. When I was doing it, I just selected shows on HBO for a few days and them switched to Showtime, or whatever. Premium channels have a lot of repetition. Sometimes I'd record 2-3 shows back to back then have a few I didn't care about followed by another I recorded, etc.

Some content is only available on these sources because it has not been picked up by a streaming service for whatever reason. Sports or NASCAR for instance. If you can watch it, you can record it and watch it at your leisure wherever you have the DVR. I've got a friend who records any college football that is on so he can have something to watch in the off season.

Once you set up the schedule, it's an unattended process. I did it on a TV in a room of the house we rarely go in much less watch the TV in it. It's not even a good TV but the recording is whatever quality the cable signal is, regardless if the TV can't display it. As long as the TV has an HDMI input it will work and it will record with the quality of the signal.

ANOTHER WAY - BIT TORRENT

Torrent is the seedy underbelly of internet streaming. It is petty much illegal and prosecutable. ALL kinds of stuff is available free. Folks will buy DVDs and post them free on Torrent servers. Some first run stuff is actually recorded by some goober sitting in the back recording with a hand held camera. Weirdness! There is lots of porn and it can be in your face when you go to the server. I don't do Torrent but I wanted to tell you about it. There are ways to ensure privacy like VPNs (Virtual Packet Networks) that hide who you are from the Internet.

But what if I have internet at my coach!

A lot of folks who spend considerable time in a few campgrounds, can sign up for internet from an ISP (Internet Service Provider) that services the campground. At Florida Grande you can sign up for AIRMAX. It's not cheap but works great. For folks who own their lots and spent months there, it makes sense.

YouTube TV

IF you have internet YouTube TV is pretty interesting. For about 50 bucks a month, you get over the air TV, all major networks and a lot more. A LOT more. You can google it for more info. A fellow DOAI member and full timer owns a lot at Florida Grande. This is what he does and is very happy with it. Because he can stream over his AirMax connection, he can watch NetFlix, Hulu...anything he has memberships for plus the free streaming channels (which frequently have commercials).

Finally, Elon Musk's STARLINK

Elon Musk's SpaceX has been launching satellites at a rapid pace. We watched 3 launches while we were in Central Florida early this year. His plan is by MID 2020. Yep, that's pretty soon, to have satellite internet over the US and Canada. Worldwide in 2021. Details here: https://www.starlink.com/

This will cost about \$80 a month with a \$100-300 hardware charge. It's not clear if this is a stationary only setup or if it can work in the RV world. Performance is supposed to be on a par with cable internet.

Musk has a history of delivering what he says and he's continuing to launch satellites so all signs are positive. What that means to the RV world remains to be seen but at home, I'll be glad to ditch the cable IF their system works when it's raining or storming.

Summary

Again, I'm not saying there are not other ways. I can say that these approaches work and work well, at least in my experience. Your mileage may vary but I doubt it will. We have truly enjoyed having a large and appealing library of video content that we could watch without Internet. It has made our time in the coach MUCH more pleasant.

One word of caution, I saw on the internet that I could get a 2TB USB flash drive for less than \$10 each. I ordered some. A bit slower than the Disk Drives but were able to keep up with the recording. Unfortunately, they are junk. Most the recordings have a data error and won't play. I spent a good bit of time trying to make them work before I wrote it off. Don't waste your money. They are not ready for prime time.

Coping During the Pandemic © 2020 Nina Lee Soltwedel

Former Discovery Express editor, Nina Soltwedel, has embarked on a writing voyage, crafting articles about things that interest her (a wide variety of topics). If you would like to receive her occasional "ramblings," simply email her at <u>nina.soltwedel@gmail.com</u>. She shares these freely, without charge.

Nina Soltwedel

L ife for all of us has been quite different these past six months .We've been living in a pandemic since February. To say it has been a lifestyle changer is putting it mildly: a return to what we consider normal life any time soon is not probable.

I believe the last time the world experienced such a monumental situation was during World War II - a time that called for extreme willingness to conserve, to be wary, and to be strong in spirit. Now, as then, we are asked to come together and work together, for the betterment of all. Back then, it was "Loose lips sink ships." Now, it could be "Naked lips may kill folks."

On my Facebook page in late March, I posted my observation on the flexibility of the human spirit: "We are beset, at times, with situations that appear drastic, and we are told (by experts) what to do and what not to do. If the situation starts to control my mood or outlook, I try (with great difficulty, at times) to resist the temptation to give up. Then, that little kernel of hope I carry inside my brain awakens and shouts (quite loudly): "Hey! You've been through worse times! Give it a rest. Think happier thoughts. Say a prayer; ask for help; stay in contact with family and friends. NEVER GIVE UP!"

It wasn't long after that posting when I began to be curious about what others were doing to cope. I emailed my Ramblings readers, asked what activities they've adopted physically, or continued via Internet instead of by personal contact. I was not surprised at the similarity in some of the responses.

Gardening was high on several readers' lists. The physical action of digging into the dirt, creating a new home for a living thing, or pulling out those dratted weeds, was reported to be cathartic for them. One reader specifically kept track of the time she had spent on the task and reported 65 hours of weeding, pruning, and feeding, with an estimated ten-plus hours to go. Several readers simply replied, "Lots of gardening."

There were comments about drawers and desks and closets and even attics having been thoroughly cleaned. A myriad of items that had been forgotten, or never known to exist, or the original reason for purchase lost to memory had been discovered. That rang a bell with me: Earlier this month, I wrote about my foray into the darkest corners of our closets and the basement. I acknowledge that there remains the other half of the basement to clean (it's very cobwebby, jammed with many items); however, I have made an initial stab at finishing that task, as well as the garage clean-up.

Teleconferencing in various forms has also been an activity. One reader was specific in noting teleconferencing with their individual doctors was an educational experience; each doctor was different in the "how" and "when" and the "why."

Several reported participating in their congregation worship services via Zoom, which have been instrumental in feeding their souls. Others report they've been enjoying PBS shows they had missed previously, along with videos of their grandchildren or great-grandchildren, from whom they are separated. Making masks to wear when going out among people was also a pastime.

Playing games one had abandoned long ago was another helpful activity. I received comments along the lines of, "we have completed seven picture puzzles, and while it took a lot of time, it was soothing." There were reports of board games being dug out and played after languishing for many years in closets. Walking has also been popular, and provided needed outdoor exercise. Indoor exercise included homebound physical therapy, as well as "riding" stationary bicycles.

Perhaps one benefit to many through all of this is the resurgence of home cooking. The grocery stores have been accommodating in allowing senior folks to shop earlier in the day; but the better thing is that they now offer "order ahead/ drive up/we'll put it in your trunk" shopping. Many grocery stores, along with big box stores that have pharmacies, have long offered drive-up meds pick-up.

This comment by a reader is worth repeating: "Sometimes I dream about life as it used to be. I know we will never return to the way things were. It's like Winston Churchill said, 'Never let a good crisis go to waste.' With this pandemic, much innovation will occur; things will evolve."

Stay the course; wear your mask; keep the faith! We will come out of this pandemic, having learned much, accommodated more, and having become a stronger, kinder human race as a result. **Discovery Express**

Nina's Ramblings

By Nina Soltwedel



Nina Soltwedel

A have discovered an inherent danger in being quarantined ... a tendency to do deep cleaning, sorting, and ultimate tossing of a variety of things. Has this been your experience, too? I have probably, at times, driven my hubby nuts with my incessant digging into closets and storage bins and files, muttering to myself about all the "stuff" I have found ... detritus that really needs to be shredded and tossed away. There have been a few benefits to all this activity, however. I found interesting (to me) pieces of information I thought had disappeared long ago. I found documentation of this purchase or

that donation from years back. That gave me the enjoyment of reliving the time when we had those items and how they enriched our lives, and thinking that now they enrich other lives. I found snapshots of several events that I was sure had been tossed long ago, and was able to give thanks that, somehow, they avoided my clearing out back then.

Today, I made a fun discovery (notice the use of that word "discovery"): I found a file in which were lyrics I had written to a number of familiar tunes. These lyrics were sung at several DOAI national rallies by the women's singing group known as The Discoveryettes. I am sorry that the group no longer gets together at our national rallies to regale everyone with their RV-specific lyrics.

Back in 2001, at the first national rally Bob and I attended, we had the great pleasure of meeting Jim and Dorothy Devine, the founders of DOAI. They made us feel so very welcome and appreciated for being there and our efforts in working on the rally. Dorothy invited me to become the ninth member of The Discoveryettes, and we sang two fun songs, much to the audience's enjoyment. Thus, the idea was born within me to write lyrics for other well-known songs that we could sing for everyone in the following years. I did this several times for the group.



The Discoveryettes in May 2001: L to R - Sylvia Swain, Mary Ann Cook, Fran Woods, Edna Ryan, Neva Jardine, Karen Lloyd, Dorothy Devine, June DeVries, Nina Soltwedel. Since that time, the individual participants changed, but the focus was the same: have a lot of fun singing. The last appearance of the Discoveryettes was at the 2012 national rally in Tucson (see photo in January 2013 Discovery Express, page 18).

Each song's lyrics were revised to reflect a Discovery point of view. I share these with you so that you can, as you quarantine, sing to yourself about our wonderful Discovery motorhomes and remember the fun times when we were all able to be together for a week of friendship, food, and fun. I added the year by each title, indicating the rally at which each song had its debut. Two standards for rallies from 2001 forward were "Children, Children" (sung to "Daisy, Daisy"), and "Come Away With Me, Henry" (sung to "Come Away With Me, Lucille") – familiar tunes from long ago. In 2008 for the club's tenth anniversary celebration in Goshen, I concocted new words for the very old song, "Indiana", and re-titled it "Back Home Again in Indiana" (where the Discovery was born....). In 2009, in Pueblo, Colorado, the Discoveryettes sang "Got A Lotta RVin' to Do" (sung to "Got a Lotta Livin' to Do). 2012 was the last time the gals got together, and we did two special songs for that Tucson rally: "Back in the Wild West Again" (sung to "Back in the Saddle Again") and "Discovery, the Wonderful" (sung to "America, the Beautiful"). That rally was extra special because we had a total of thirteen Discoveryettes. Singing were Judy Jo Bruton, MaryAnn Crowell, Felesa Baker, Peggy Gwillam, Justine Stewart, Dawn Mastrorilli, Joan McCoy, Pat Tracy, Kathy Pellow, Lorrie Kenneson, Gwen Churchill, and Nina Soltwedel. Discoveryette Portia Williams was on the keyboard, with Les Holloway on electronic drums, and Bud Emmert on trumpet. It was a grand way to end our run as a group: the Discoveryettes have not made an appearance at a DOAI national rally since that time. It was fun while it lasted. If you would like the lyrics to these songs, please contact Nina Soltwedel at nina.soltwedel@gmail.com

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