

ORVW Rally at Elkton RV Park May 2022
By Mo Swerdlik, Marybeth Howell and June Willoughby

The ORVW Elkton RV Rally was May 19-22, 2022. We had 30 rigs and around 40 wonderful women. Thanks to Elkton RV for reserving so many spaces for our group. The spaces either backed right up to the bluff over the banks of the beautiful Umpqua River or were just across the park road overlooking it. The water was high, so we were lulled to sleep each night by the sound of the rushing river.



This park provides a large fire pit surrounded by benches across from the pavilion and overlooking the river. Members of our group often gathered around the fire pit to visit and watch the river and the nesting Osprey family nearby. By Sunday breakfast, we realized a morning fire was the answer to the chilly pavilion. The weather this visit was cool mornings, a warm afternoon, and pretty darn chilly at night. Classic Oregon Spring! Several creative women got together for some crafts and made paper stars and flowers. Our intrepid card-players (one evening there were 20) wore sweatshirts, fleeces, jackets, hats, and Helen even wore a nose-warmer to play cards in the pavilion.



We still had a great time playing Square 9.

During the day, members enjoyed the sun and comfortable temperature playing corn-hole and ladder golf, preparing for our September rally tournaments. Thanks to Kathy and Joan for hosting this activity. The Elkton Community Education Center was another sunny afternoon activity. It is just a mile west of the RV park. The 30-acre grounds are organized around education and restoration of native plants across Oregon and hosts a dedicated Monarch butterfly pavilion.

We had a birds-eye view of the Umpqua River all along our RV park and beyond. Bird watchers, or not, the presence of Spring with so many land and water species was delightful. There were some fishing boats braving the chill, but it proved too cold for our kayaks.



At the Saturday morning meeting, we discussed the challenges of scheduling the 2023 rallies. There is more competition for spaces since Covid dramatically increased the number of people hitting the road in RVs. Some parks that people love have restrictive policies or don't have facilities for our breakfasts, evening meals and card playing. Members were invited to make suggestions of their favorite RV parks to the Site Committee and look at the ORVW website for questions to ask park managers.

Elkton is a beautiful, welcoming small town with three eating establishments within several blocks of the RV park. Tomaseli's Café & Bakery provided pizza, lasagna, salads and oh-so-amazing baked goods for about 20 of us on Saturday night. Many walked to Guerrero's Mexican Food Truck for multiple meals over the weekend. Others enjoyed good food and amazing pies at Arlene's Cafe.

Sunday morning we welcomed two new members and Christened their rigs. Shawnita Zimmer from Reedsport and Jeanne Gatlin from Meridian, Idaho. That evening we enjoyed each other's company and contributions to our potluck dinner. Emogene Hanvey was the lucky winner of the drawing for the beautiful Bee-themed quilt lovingly created and donated by Joan Lease and Paulette Beliveau.



