

Heceta Beach, Florence
Up March 14-16, 2014

The 2014 ORVW rally schedule began where 2013 ended, at Heceta Beach RV Park in Florence, OR. Plans were made, reservations called in, and emails were flying back and forth weeks before the event. A palpable "hitch itch" was in the air. About half the attendees couldn't wait until Friday, the official start of the rally, they trickled in all day Thursday. By Saturday, 23 rigs had registered with 35 members attending plus 1 registered camping guest and 1 day visitor guest.

Friday began as usual with pot luck "Finger Food Friday" dinner and introductions. Conversation was lively, loud and wonderful! Winter's back had finally been broken; ORVW was in rally mode once again. At some point during a decent lull in the noise as everyone was enjoying the myriad of finger food choices, some business was conducted. Our President gave a report of the most recent CAC meeting, the direction of RVW and plans for the York convention. The Site Committee updated the group on their progress for 2015, asking members to help with finding potential RV parks for group rallies. The Secretary led a discussion about opening the ORVW pages on the RVW website to the membership at large, mentioned RVW on Facebook, asked for volunteers to form a small committee to review the Chapter Rules and By-Laws and told the group "Weigh-In", a RV weighing company, would be at the July rally.



The ingredients for a Friday Night Ice Cream Social were provided by the hosts, Marjo, Jeanette, Deb and Patti. While we were all engrossed in our sundaes, Marjo began an exercise in "getting to know you". Paper bags were handed out to everyone; scissors, glue sticks and magazines were poured onto a table. We were instructed to decorate our bags to reflect who we are or what we like. At first the activity seemed a bit ? (you fill in the blank). The activity was to run through Saturday and then after our pot luck dinner we were to present our bags to the group. What happened was remarkable. A craft activity turned very personal for many. During the bag presentation

s there were tears of joy, as well as tears of sadness! There was laughter! There was camaraderie! There was a feeling of "ya, been there, done that"! There was the excitement of overcoming all odds! There were shared "likes!" The bag presentation was going so long that a break had to be called so legs could be stretched, doggies taken on their evening walk and ...out came the leftovers of Friday's Ice Cream Social!



Sunday the rains held off long enough to name 6 "new to me/us" rigs, one new car and sadly, to say goodbye forever to a rig, her owner being unable to maintain and travel. Some members had to check out, a few goodbyes were hugged. For others it was a day to relax, work on the community puzzle, play games, or visit the local casino. A local hang-out, within walking distance of the park, was able to accommodate our group for dinner. Though the menu consisted of mostly of pizza, fried foods and hamburgers –it was very good! The fish and chips (or jojos) were crunchy (not greasy), fried gizzards were tasty and moist, pizza was hot and fresh baked, hamburgers were sized for a meal and the bar drinks weren't bad either!

Throughout the weekend rain poured, stopped, drizzled, and poured again. Wind howled, trees bent over straining to stay upright. Luckily the brunt of the storms passed through during the nights so we weren't drenched going back and forth to the clubhouse or while walking the dogs but our March weather did curtail outside activities. A few dared to visit the ocean but didn't stay long. Each night the full moon and the distant sound of the crashing waves bid everyone goodnight.

Paulette Beliveau