

ORVW at Lakeview, OR

June 15 – 18, 2018

by Beckey Beckey



Back row: Sandy Brown, Kelsie Marea, Jeanette Haller, Lark Keenan, Linda Waterman, Susan McMudie, Karee Edwards, Marjo Sankey, Dorothy Pasch, Beckey Beckey
Front row: Marty Vielma, Linda Smith, Karin Batis, Jean Ella, Kathy Okay, Helen Bressler, Laura Alpert

The women who try to attend all the Oregon chapter outings each year, which means March through October, decided to go to the east side of the Cascades for their June rally. The rallies officially start on Friday evening and end on Monday morning each month, however, as usual, at least 75% of the attendees arrived on Thursday. Several participants started out on Wednesday and spent a night on the road after crossing the Cascades. Several more got together, crossed the Cascades and camped at Summer Lake, where they found a great campground for a future outing and checked out the natural hot springs.

The campground at Junipers Reservoir RV Park is located one mile off the highway via a gravel road through a ranch and sits down next to Junipers Reservoir with a great view of open range and mountains and is completely silent except for the sound of the wind through the junipers, the call of the swallows and red winged black birds and the occasional call of an angus cow looking for her calf. We did not see pronghorns at the ranch but they were observed on the trip into the town of Lakeview, Oregon.

The rally consisted of the usual hearty hors d' oeuvres on Friday evening with an introduction of each attendee letting everyone know their full name, including a middle name, where their home base is as well as the name of their favorite musician, which ran the gamut from Beethoven to Nash and Oakes and the Monkeys.

Saturday morning after a hot breakfast by the hosts, Candy Woods, a member of the National Committee on Volunteerism & Leadership presented Exercise 1 on the RVW culture. There was a great deal of give and take on what is expected in other chapters as well as the Oregon Chapter with good feedback to be discussed at the next get together in July.

That afternoon we were given a rare opportunity to walk up into the hills of the ranch on which the RV resort is located to a gravel pit and Karin, a geomorphologist prior to retiring told us about the volcanic activity in the area and what the layers of rock, ash and sand indicated in the development of the ranch lands around us. We had hoped to see some song birds in our hike up to the gravel pit, but since it was the middle of the day they all seemed to be taking a nap. On the walk back it started to sprinkle just before our return. That evening some of the gals walked out around the campground and looked for birds. After our usual tasty potluck that evening a number of them sat down and played some serious card games.





On Sunday we were given pancakes with fresh strawberries and whipped cream, sausage and coffee prepared by the camp hosts in appreciation of the twenty five women who

gathered to camp out in the middle of nowhere. Since many of the restaurants in town were either closed on Sunday or closed before 5:00 PM a group drove the 12 miles into Lakeview and ate at two restaurants and then drove a mile north of town to observe a geyser that goes off every 90 seconds. A little later in the day the camp host came by to let us know that there were a couple of 'Whoopers' near the office. A bunch of us climbed into a vehicle and drove over and concluded that first of all Whooping Cranes are not usually found in Oregon and that it was a pair of Sandhill Cranes. We could not tell if they had a chick with them as they were walking in the sagebrush and were wary of us getting too close.

After that great observation we continued on to a ranch road around the reservoir and saw six white pelicans, a merganser, mallards, gadwalls and several other species of waterfowl as well as a mature bald eagle and either an immature bald eagle, it takes up to five years for them to develop their white heads, or a golden eagle so we all felt that our search for birds in eastern Oregon was a success and agreed that we should camp again on the east side of the Cascades.



