

Oregon RVing Women at Newport
July 17-21, 2025
By Michelle Pelkey

Participants of our July rally were welcomed by beautiful weather on the scenic Oregon Coast. The event was held at the Port of Newport RV Park, located just 500 yards from Yaquina Bay. Campers enjoyed a unique coastal ambiance, enhanced by the sounds of morning reveille and evening retreat from the nearby Coast Guard station on the north side of the bay. This mid-summer gathering included 15 rigs and 24 attendees.

The rally officially commenced on Friday evening with hosts Michelle Pelkey and Marian Alder providing important safety information. Given that the Cascadia Subduction Zone lies just 70 miles off the Oregon coast, attendees were briefed on earthquake and tsunami evacuation procedures and routes. Notably, the RV park is adjacent to one of only two purpose-built vertical evacuation structures on the West Coast.

With safety information addressed, the group turned to a lighter topic: local attractions. A review of highlights in the Newport area included the Hatfield Marine Science Center, featuring interactive exhibits; the Oregon Coast Aquarium, once home to the whale from *Free Willy*; and the Yaquina Head Lighthouse—the tallest in Oregon at 93 feet. The evening concluded with finger foods, socializing, games (including Square 9 and Rummikub), pet walks, and some well-earned relaxation.

Saturday morning brought more sunshine, along with a hearty breakfast of French toast, sausage, and bacon. After cleanup and morning routines, participants were invited to join in creating a despacho in memory of member Martha Lindegren, beloved mother of member Barbara Pace and affectionately known to us all as “Mom.” Martha was 103 years young when she left us in May. A despacho (dispatch) is a sacred Andean offering, created to mark important occasions. This particular despacho honored Martha’s transition to spirit. Members contributed items such as flowers, sweets, seeds, and other symbolic offerings to form a mandala imbued with intention. The completed despacho is traditionally offered to one of the elements—fire, water, or earth—symbolizing the release of intentions to the universe.



In the afternoon, some members ventured out to explore Newport’s many attractions,

beachcombed for agates, or participated in geocaching. Others simply relaxed. Those with artistic interests enjoyed a workshop led by Tory Brokenshire on creating whimsical, artistic buttons. Saturday evening featured a potluck dinner, followed by several lively tables of games to round out the day.



Members Joan Lease and Paulette Beliveau once again contributed a beautiful quilt for our monthly fundraiser's silent auction. This month, the coveted quilt went home with Theresa Baurer.

Sunday continued the trend of sunshine and activity. After a continental breakfast and the christening of a new rig, many attendees again took time to explore the Newport area. That evening, the group dined at the world-renowned

Rogue Brewery and Restaurant, known internationally for its craft beers and talented brewmasters. The rally concluded with one final night of cards and camaraderie.





Footnote: Just nine days after our rally concluded, a major earthquake off eastern Russia prompted tsunami watches and alerts across the West Coast, including Newport. Fortunately, no significant waves reached the shore. However, the event served as an important reminder of the ongoing need for preparedness.

