

Oregon Chapter RVW at Newport Marina RV Park
March 16-18, 2018
by Michelle Pelkey



The first rally of 2018 was held in Newport, Oregon at the Newport Marina and RV Park. Being a few weeks short of spring, the 24 women attending the rally were treated to some Oregon sunshine (normally referred to as rain), wind and occasionally a glimpse of the real sun. Friday evening we enjoyed a tempting assortment of finger foods and desserts, including cupcakes provided by Coit, whose birthday was Friday. The evening was

capped off with a rousing game of square nine.

Saturday morning started with a pancake and sausage breakfast provided by our host with much needed help from Gail, Sandy and June. Two prospective members from Corvallis joined us and no one went away hungry. Breakfast was followed by a short business meeting.



As the central Oregon coast is fast becoming the premier location for the study and research into all things marine and ocean related, there was ample opportunity for visiting the Oregon Coast Aquarium,



(former home of Willy the whale), the Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) and various museums and aquatic related shops along Newport's famous Bayfront. It so happened that the thrice weekly feeding of the new octopus at the HMSC was occurring at 1:00 o'clock on Saturday, so many of the rally participants made the short walk over to the center and enjoyed watching the octopus during this feeding time, followed by playtime with his caretaker.

Also located in Newport is the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Operations Center –Pacific, where two of NOAA's research vessels are home ported. Michelle Pelkey, our host this month, is

currently assigned to the facility and was able to arrange a tour of the NOAA Ship *Rainier*. ENS McAcly, the navigation officer of the vessel was the tour guide and provided both an entertaining and

enlightening tour of the vessel. This is the vessels 50th anniversary of commissioning, so it was a special treat for all participants.

Saturday night was another great full dinner potluck. Card games, including square nine and cribbage rounded out the evening.

Sunday was a bit more laid back, with the opportunity for members willing to brave the weather, to visit Newport's two, yes two, famous light houses. The Yaquina Bay lighthouse, which sits right above the north jetty, is rumored to be haunted, (no it never made it on Ghost Hunters), and is no longer a working lighthouse, but has some great historical artifacts. The Lighthouse at Yaquina Head,



just north of Newport is still a fully functioning light, warning ships off the rocks and guiding them safely home.

Sunday evening, we all enjoyed a meal at the Rouge Brewery on the Bayfront, followed by our final night of cards.

Monday morning it was back on the road and heading home for most folks, with our host having what is most likely the shortest distance ever traveled from a rally, as the NOAA facility is literally about 500 yards from the RV park.



Photos contributed by Paulette Beliveau, Gail Taylor, Linda Waterman and June Willoughby

