

Oregon RVing Women at Heceta Beach, Florence, OR
October 13 – 16, 2017
By Marjo Sankey



As we traveled to the last rally of the year, we were greeted by the fall colors of Oregon. Some members came across the Cascade Mountains and left the snow behind. Others traveled through the dense fog of the valleys. All were welcomed to the cold, brisk nights full of stars and sunny, warm days that the Oregon coast can provide.

At our traditional Friday night finger-food potluck, we introduced ourselves with our names and also the nicknames we were called growing up. Many of us remembered when our first, middle, and last name was called; we knew we were in trouble! Paulette shared that she and her 4 sisters always heard the litany of their names which all ended in 'ette' (Paulette, Suzette, Claudette, and Janette). When they were having fun, they called their brother Ronald, 'Ronette,' so he would not feel left out! Gayle was called Lil Red...her dad was Big Red. Jeanette was called Net. Trouble was a nickname for Doris (one of our sweetest members). My personal favorite was Beckey B. Her husband called her Hot Lips!



The post dinner events included card games, Rummikub, a big puzzle, conversation, and of course, MarJo's evening fire. MarJo hosted a fire each day/night. Members enjoyed the warmth of MarJo's washing machine fire tub.

The super breakfast of sausage, bacon, and French toast provided by our hosts (the 3 M's...Michelle, Marian, and MarJo) warmed our tummies. These gals went all-out providing

Saturday breakfast for 30-plus hungry women!



Saturday morning, we had a presentation by Lawrence Jones of Brake Guard. Brake Guard is a system to "Stop Faster, Shorter, Safer. It will save your life." About seven members opted to have this braking system installed on their rigs this weekend. One member reported she noticed shorter stopping distances on the way home from the rally.

Saturday afternoon, members fanned out. Some went to Old Town Florence to explore the shops and enjoy fish and chips at the local

restaurants; some went for a walk on the beach; some flew kites on the beach; some worked on the puzzle; some played cribbage; and some just kicked back and enjoyed the beautiful sunshine!

The highlight of the day for many of us was the Wandering Reel Traveling Film Festival we attended on Sunday afternoon. (Thank you to June and Tully for bringing us this information.) It always surprises how a brief 10-20 minute film can provoke deep discussions and feelings of joy, humor, and sometimes sadness.



The presentation regarding Brake Guard was quite timely. Two of our much-loved members encountered a reckless driver pulling out in front of them. The front end of their rig was totaled. Pam and Ann had their RV towed to the rally, so they could join in on the fun. On Monday, their RV was towed to the next largest city...hopefully for repairs. Many folks stepped up to help with their dogs and to help transfer items from their rig to the rental vehicle they would drive home. Pam and Ann travel 900 miles one way (give or take) to participate at every ORVW rally.



Two of our members who could not attend the rally (Ali and Cori), met up with Pam and Ann in Eugene to help with dropping off the RV at the repair shop, exchanging rental vehicles, and wrangling the two dogs during this whole process.

We all feel lucky to belong to our helpful, caring ORVW group. This entire episode reminds me of the 'family' our group has become.



Post Script: Pam and Ann made it home from Eugene in one long drive without stopping on the way arriving home at 4:00 a.m. on Tuesday after transferring their belongings from the U-Haul (see above) to a van. Pam then slept until 2:00PM the next afternoon! Their rig is hopefully in for repairs at RV Corral in Eugene – time will tell.