

Oregon RVing Women - October Rally by Helen Bressler

Our last rally of the season was held at Hiway Haven RV Park in Sutherlin. The fall colors were plentiful in the park and the some of the surrounding areas. The nights were chilly and it rained one night, but most of the days were perfect autumnal weather.



We kicked our weekend off by meeting in the decorated clubhouse on Friday evening. Our hosts, Beckey Beckey and Helen Bressler, started by explaining the agenda, including the announcement of our first annual Halloween event. Pumpkin decorating, rig decorating, a costume contest and trick or treating were all included.



In addition, the park used to be an old drive-in movie theater. It still is operational so a Halloween themed movie ran each night. Friday night's movie was 'The Adams Family'. We could sit in the comfort of our rigs and listen to the soundtrack on a radio station, or sit outside in big Adirondack chairs around propane fire pits at the grassy area down in front of the movie screen.



Activities started off on Saturday with a trip to Wildlife Safari Park in the nearby town of Winston. It is well known because of its drive through experience which has made it a popular destination during the pandemic. We were lucky because Beckey Beckey is a docent there and was able to arrange for a private encounter with an African elephant named Moja. We were educated about elephants in general, the African (vs. Asian) elephant, and Moja in particular. We also learned of the conservation efforts and the role the park plays in this. All the while, Moja delighted us in demonstrating her skills including painting Christmas ornaments. Many of us just had to have one!



After our encounter with Moja, Beckey Beckey gave us her own private tour of the village part of the park where guests are allowed to walk around enclosures that are home to over 100 animals. Did you know that maned wolves smell very much like skunk?? It was also in this area of

the park that many of us got to experience an encounter with the park's only badger. This was even a first for our docent host.

We got back in time for a quick round of cards before our costume contest and trick or treating began down by the movie screen. There were so many cute and clever costumes that we ended up having two winners. Sharon came as a bottle of ketchup and Lynne was dressed up as the Grinch. Deb, a member of the Ohio chapter, came in full make-up as a clown and wowed us with her juggling skills winning her a specialty prize. We also had witches, scarecrows, pumpkins, cats, and an inflatable tube dancer. Saturday night's movie was 'The Mummy'. Helen Bressler excluded herself from the rig decorating contest, but did allow those who wanted, to 'tour' her highly decorated rig as an incentive for next year. 🎃



Sunday morning we christened three newly owned rigs and announced the winners for the rig and pumpkin decorating contest. In the afternoon we made solar lanterns. Sunday evening was our last nightly session of cards for the year. We all wished each other happy holidays and safe travels until we meet again in the new year.





