

## Oregon RVW – Sutherlin Rally – April 18-21, 2014

28 Members and 1 guest converged at the Hi-Way Haven RV Park in Sutherlin for a fun-filled weekend of camaraderie. The rally began with the usual finger foods potluck followed by introductions. We learned more about our planned trip to the Winston Wildlife Park on Saturday and figured out the important stuff like who needed a ride and who could supply a ride. The evening concluded with a small group of musicians on guitars, bass guitar and ukulele serenading those playing card games and those working on a rather difficult 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle.

Saturday's breakfast of muffins, fresh fruit, coffee cake, yogurt, juice and coffee, as supplied by Dee Hamer and Dottie Allen, fortified us for our trip to the Wildlife Safari in Winston. Before the trip however, we had a presentation from Robert Henderson of Grants Pass on "White Knuckles and Windstorms." He and his company, Henderson's Line Up, evaluate motorhomes, trailers and fifth wheels and can offer suggestions on how to make your rig handle better, especially if you have a front tire blowout. He gave out some discount coupons for evaluations and did a couple of spot inspections before we had to leave for our wildlife adventure.

Becky Beckey, a long time member and past president of both our chapter and national, is a docent at the wildlife park and she arranged for us to have a bear encounter. We were introduced to two female Alaskan coastal bears and three male grizzly bears. One of the animal keepers demonstrated some of the training that has gone on with the grizzly bears, using clickers to reinforce behavior and powdered donuts for rewards. Then we were allowed to toss apple quarters to the bears. They were quite adept at catching them in their mouths but even when they missed, they were quick to find the treats in the long grass. Nothing got by them!



Following the bear encounter we loaded onto a small school bus and were driven through the park while Becky told us about the various animals and areas of the park. Among other things we learned that male peacocks shed their beautiful tail feathers by the end of December each year and that female cheetahs do the choosing of which male they will mate with, unlike most other animals in the wild.

The day's activities concluded with dinner in Roseburg. Most of the group went to the Rodeo Steakhouse, but a few headed over to the McMenamin's. Later, back at the park, we assembled for our usual nightly games but took a break around 8:30 to go out and look for the International Space Station which one of our members knew would be visible for a few minutes. About 8 of us saw it sail on by – a constant white light moving swiftly across the night sky.

Easter Sunday morning we were treated to another gourmet breakfast by Dee and Dottie with three different kinds of egg casseroles plus all the goodies from the day before. After breakfast we broke out a bottle of champagne to christen several new rigs, wishing the owners many miles of happy travels. Some folks with family commitments for Easter left after breakfast. Our guest, Betty, arrived about this time and enjoyed a chance to meet some of our members and

tour a variety of rigs as she may be in the market for one soon. The rest of the afternoon found people doing their own thing on the lovely spring day.

Our evening potluck was quite a bit smaller than usual, but no one went away hungry. Dinner was followed by gentle serenading from our musical friends and a lively game of square nine.

Monday morning we got together one last time to bid each other a fond farewell until our May rally in Newport.

