

## Oregon RVing Women at the Blue Ox in Albany, OR October 10-13, 2019

by Helen Bressler



Cool temps, pops of fall colors and Halloween décor reminded our smaller Oregon group that this October 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> was the final rally of the year. Many members had already begun their snowbird trips down to Arizona and California for the winter to escape the early rainy season. But the daylight hours in Albany provided enough sun to allow us to play and explore outside without hesitation.

A few of us had some RV troubles before the rally even officially started. We were able to contact a mobile RV repair service who proved to be very honest and competent despite taking on various degrees of difficulty and time commitment. We were all able to make it to our Friday night beginning potluck and our nightly card games of square nine.

Saturday morning started with the typical continental breakfast followed by our business meeting. Then it was off to explore the area with its numerous parks. Albany has many parks. They planned the city so that some type of park or historical designation is within two miles of residential areas so that everyone can enjoy the environment. Some of us ended up at the fresh farmer's market, buying ingredients to make for the evening potluck. Two of us went to Thompson's Mills, thinking it was a cider mill. It was actually a historic flour mill staffed with several docents but it did have volunteers making hand pressed cider! So that worked.



At 1:00 pm about half our group met at the historic carousel and took a tour of the museum part which is located in the basement. We learned about the history of the carousel and the making of the different animals that will eventually be added to the

carousel. It takes almost eight years for a new caricature to be added to the carousel. All the work is done by hand by volunteers. Sponsored pieces always have a touch of the sponsor, either as a time capsule encased inside, inscriptions, or special elements such as pets added to the piece. The tour ended up in the gift shop where souvenirs abounded. Two hours later we imbibed in our traditional Saturday night potluck and card games.



About half of our crew left after Sunday morning breakfast. There was a wreath making



class held in the afternoon where five participants made either a Halloween, fall/Thanksgiving or Christmas wreath out of decorative mesh. By that night our group had dwindled to half and ten of us went to Frankie's restaurant which came highly recommended by both Trip Advisor and members from the surrounding area. It was delicious and had many vegetarian and gluten free options.

Monday morning only a handful of people showed up for leftover breakfast items as we readied ourselves to continue our journeys back home. We promised to keep in touch and even garnered up commitments for hosting some of next year's events. Some of us will be going to convention and hopefully be able to meet up one last time before the new year.







Helen LOVES Halloween and had her rig all decked out. She also had a different Halloween top and different Halloween socks for each day of the rally.



Patricia wishing on a unicorn horn.



One of the volunteer carvers

There is incredible detail in the carvings.

