



Safari Trails

A News Magazine for Members of Safari International

FALL 2025

Celebrating 37 years of the Spirit of Safari



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President's Message



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To our Safari members.

This has been an interesting experience this summer. I was to have knee replacement surgery prior to the end of April past along with cataract surgery. Come May and no surgery so we headed of to a rally in the Kootenay mountains for 4 days. Once that rally was over we meandered our way to the Gold Coast area for another rally. We arrived back home around the 15th of June to be notified to at the hospital on July 1st for knee surgery and on the 9th for cataract surgery.

We have be back on the road for 10 days where we met with a large group to celebrate both my wife Kathleen and my 80th birthdays. We are back on the road where we will be help cooking breakfast at another rally.

Two days ago while disconnecting our jeep I suffered a bad fall and so both knees look a mess. As long as they are healed up when I see the surgeon the first week of October I will be fine.

It is the journey and friendships we make and anything else are just annoyances such as the sensor for our stairs broke so it like climbing onto a horse with two bum knees.

Enjoy the rest of the fall and happy rving.

Ron Sloan

Note from the Executive Vice President



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From Wisconsin to Warmer Weather :Getting Ready for the Road

This summer looked a little different for us. Instead of hitting the highways, David and I decided to stay close to home here in Wisconsin. It turned out to be a wonderful choice-we spent plenty of time with our grandchildren, cheering them on at soccer fields and baseball diamonds. There's nothing quite like watching them play and being part of those everyday family moments.

Now, as the evenings start to cool off, our focus is shifting back to RV life. Like many of you , we're preparing to head south for the winter. Before we roll out, we've been tacking a few projects to keep our rig road-ready:

Replacing the water pump- Always nice to have good water pressure when your on the road.

New steps- It will make a big difference when you're climbing in and out every day.

Fixing the 50-amp cord- Because nobody wants surprises when it comes to power!

Each season brings its own little to do list, but there's a certain satisfaction in knowing your RV is ready to go. Once the last project is checked off, we'll be pointing our wheels south, chasing sunshine and new adventures.

To our fellow travelers- whether you're full-timing it, weekend wandering or something in between-we hope your own preparations are going smoothly . Here's to safe travels ,warm destinations, and stories waiting to be made on the road ahead.

National Director's Report



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Hello Safari family,

As I am writing this article, I would like to bring you up to date on the FRVING rally we just attended July 16/19. First the election of new board members is as follows. Paul Mitchell was elected President, with Bob Weithofer as Vice president. The new National secretary is Glenda Milner, and newly elected National treasure is Kenneth Lewis.

I was impressed with the progress that our President and vice president are doing to make the home office complex more efficient. We have two lots zoned as residential that we have been paying real estate taxes and upkeep on for a great number of years. We agreed to have these lots sold as they really have no value for FRVA. Also, FRVA has an office building called couch pike and the property we call round bottoms, where the RV lots are located. It has been authorized to do a study to consolidate operations into the round bottom location and sell the couch pike property. This would result in substantial savings in taxes and building maintenance.

This was the fourth Rally I attended at the Gillette location. 2019, 2021, and 2023 had over 1,000 member units in attendance. This year there were only 387 units in attendance. With this low attendance the 2027 locations of Perry Ga. In March and Gillette in July the vote was to eliminate Gillette. The 2026 March Rally will be in Perry Ga. March 18/21, With the July Rally in Sedalia Missouri July 1st through the fourth of JULY. Lots of fireworks.

Our trip west was a new adventure of extreme heat going on 36 in Kansas to Colorado 36. Ground temperature on pavement was 139 degrees, tire temperatures 150 degrees. The plastic condenser wheel on front roof A/C deformed from the heat and locked motor. That was on June 28th heading to Strasburg Co. From Elk Creek Nebraska to Strasburg there was a climb of over 3,000 feet. Hard keeping engine and transmission under 210 degrees. Without the roof A/C running we unhooked the Jeep and Carol followed me in the air-conditioned Jeep. New conditioner condenser wheel and new fan motor and back on road to Gillette.

Bob Anderson, National Director

From your Webmaster



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From the Webmaster

Your website, <https://FRVA-TheSafariChapter.com>, is a valuable resource for you! It has an up-to-date calendar of events listing every opportunity for you to plan your travel schedule around. It has a fully functional Forum feature which provides a means for you to reach out to the rest of our membership and exchange ideas and solutions for any issues which might be challenging you with your rig or travel plans. It has a convenient online renewal form with online payment capabilities to simplify that entire process for you. Each of those features is fully accessible without having to log into the Members Only area of the website....simply go online, point your browser to OUR website, use those features and go about the rest of your day without having to concern yourself with user name or login password requirements. A login would only be needed if you wanted to post on the Forums or go into the Members Only area where EVERY past issue of the Safari Trails is archived in PDF format for easy on screen review or print out to your printer for your reading pleasure at a time of your choosing later. Also maintained in that password protected area for your exclusive use is an archive of significant depth, containing technical and marketing documentation for nearly every model and year of Safari coach ever produced. The secure Members Only area is also where you will find a complete and printable copy of the current Chapter Bylaws and Standing Rules should you ever have a need to review those guiding documents which govern our Chapter.

In my earlier Webmaster articles over the course of the past three years, I'm sure you you've heard me mention the pending need to upgrade our underlying website software....that time is NOW HERE and that process is NEARLY COMPLETE. In brief review, our website was built upon state of the art software nearly fifteen years ago, professionally designed and produced at significant expense for our specific needs. I became your webmaster in January of 2020 and in that nearly six year long period have been able to install the required incremental updates to the internal workings of the website, manage the contractual obligations that go along with owning and operating said website, renew the software licenses and subscriptions and even manage the internal migration to a new hosting service without interrupting our access to those resources listed above. As technology ages and matures, standards and capabilities change and require changes to the software that responds to those new standards and capabilities. Our fifteen year old underlying software, upon which our website was constructed, no longer meets today's requirements. Using our original data and functions, I have built an offline developmental website that now runs on modern software which meets today's standards. The process has been technically challenging (often frustratingly so!), but the end result will yield a newly constructed website that will follow the same form and function that our previous website utilized while maintaining ALL of the features that we had incorporated into our original site. The look and feel will be changed somewhat, however, as the original template upon which our current site was built was unable to come forward into the new software framework...that template was the key element for the look and feel.

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My target date for going live with the new software is now mid-October. The stress testing and cross checking continues. Once complete, the new website will be uploaded to our hosting service and become the new online face of our Chapter.

Fair winds and following seas.....

Past Presidents Article



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Please use our website more! The calendar of events alone is worth integrating into your planning tools for travel planning as it includes information on when and where events will be held over the remainder of this year...and into next year as well. This resource in conjunction with our Forums can provide the means to compare travel plans and opportunities to join other fellow Safari members with ease....no FaceBook required!

Please take a look at the recently refreshed Rallies page on our website. We have included every Family RV Association Area Rally as well as their International Conventions...these events all provide opportunities within easy range for many of our members where we can gather and participate and socialize together. With just a little prior planning and effort, we could even arrange to meet in advance at a suitable venue for either a formalized Pre-Rally or an informal overnight dry camp, then caravan into the FRVA event where we can be parked together. The Board has discussed how it would be possible to provide supplemental funding in support of such group efforts to encourage participation. You can look forward to the new website software completing its' "shakedown" process and going live in mid / early June now projecting mid-October.

I attended the FRVA NW Area Rally in Albany OR in June and the Waterloo Pre-Rally hosted by the North West Trek Fun Club just prior. In addition to MANY medical appointments affecting my travel plans, I did scurry north to attend the FRVA International Convention at the CamPlex Center in Gillette WY in July immediately after attending the Celebration of Life for my lifelong friend Bob Edwards in our hometown of Santa Rosa CA....then hurried back South and West to make my next medical appointment. I will be heading North to Prosser WA for a NWTFRC rally there during the Balloon Festival in late September, then make my way South with family stops in California along the way to the Safari of Southern California rally in mid-October in Temecula, followed immediately afterwards by a short stop in Tucson to visit fellow Trek owner friends before we both caravan over to Ajo AZ where we will join a group of enthusiastic travelers to go south into Baja Mexico for 10 days on the beach in Punta Peñasco on the Sea of Cortez. Once that adventure completes in early November, I will be back in the Pacific North West for another handful of medical appointments starting on the 10th of November.

I would hope to see many of you at some of the events upcoming this year! And remember, Quartzsite is coming in January!

Fair winds and following seas.

Memo To Membership



Judy Reel

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Hello Fellow Safarians!

I am happy to report that our Safari International Chapter Membership is at 102 RV's. We are seeing some folks who are converting to Alumni membership as they are changing RVs or need to move off the road due to life events. If you do not renew your FRVA (formerly FMCA) membership then this Alumni membership way to remain with in communication with our chapter during those transitions. You may receive a reminder from me to check on your FRVA membership as I get monthly notices from FRVA. Sometimes the monthly FRVA reports have an error, so I may ask for your help in getting it sorted.

I encourage you to renew your FRVA membership when it is time as there are many good benefits for being part of FRVA for our Safari International members including:

Medical & Travel Assist – our medical emergency and travel assistance program. You will have emergency medical help if you need it, wherever you are (75 miles or more from your home), and they'll get you, your rig and your pets back home. This benefit is peace of mind and is included in FRVA membership fee.

Advocacy—FRVA has a Governmental and Legislative Affairs Committee that assists members who face local parking rights restrictions and other regulations affecting the use of their RVs.

Family RVing Magazine (your choice of hard copy or digital) for technical information and DIY know-how

Rallies – national conventions and area rallies where you'll meet great people who have the same interests you have

Members-only Discounts—FRVA Road-side Rescue, FRVA Tire Savings, Campgrounds & Insurance, RV Travel Services etc.

Lee continues to improve our Safari International Chapter website and bring it up to supported software levels. The PayPal™ linkage has been a big help for doing your renewals online and avoiding the threat of mail fraud for our members. 90% of our members have been migrated to the 12/31 annual renewal date with the remainder of our multi-year renewals being converted in 2026.

Note: You are always welcome to process your renewals early if it is more convenient for you. I hope you have been out and about this summer having adventures and doing fun things!

On a personal front, we knew that our TREK would be parked this summer as I was to have cataract surgery in May. There would be many subsequent optical appointments that are part of that process. I was recommended for new lens technology called Light Adjustable Lens (LAL) due to my prior LASIK surgery that had been done some 30 years ago. The LAL technology is wonderful.

They remove your cloudy natural lens and insert the new lenses which are set with your distance vision prescription. After your eyes have healed, they can use UV light to further shape the lens to dial-in your midrange and near vision. Once you and the doctor are satisfied with the vision results, they LOCK the lens prescription permanently. It is a miraculous technology which will test your patience to get those final excellent results. For me, this was a series of weekly appointments and treatments lasting over 3 months. I do appreciate your patience while I was undergoing treatments as my computer time was more limited. I finished up in August and I am grateful for my new eyes.

Be safe and be well,

Judy

From the Editor's Desk



Mark Reel (& Judy)

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Hello to all who Wander,
Not all travel is by RV. Last year we spent 2 weeks cruising the Norwegian Fjords and Iceland. Then we spent a week in London visiting museums, landmark tourist traps, experiencing live theater, the tube (mind the gap) and of course English pubs. We were fortunate to share this trip with like minded friends.

Our travel this year has been restricted to 2 weeks in early spring for the Safari International pre-rally adjacent to the FRVAs Rally in Perry Ga. As Judy indicated we have been close to home this year for personal medical appointments as well as providing assistance to family members recovering from significant injuries.

I have taken this opportunity to begin making wheel chair accessible changes to our bathrooms beginning with our guest bath. Replacing a 24" door with a 32" door, removing a vanity and installing an accessible wall mounted sink and medicine cabinet plus an over the toilet cabinet to replace the storage lost with the removal of the vanity. I also installed a fold down safety bar next to the toilet. All with the intention of providing full use for someone in a wheel chair. We currently have a family member who is wheel chair restricted (not the one that was injured this year) and this allows them to enter the bathroom, close the door and make full use of the bathroom without assistance.

We never take our health for granted. It is a gift that should be cherished by taking every opportunity to travel when time, budget, family, social and/or work obligations allow.

Follow your Wanderlust
Keep the Safari spirit alive
Happy Trails to you, until we meet again....