



# Safari Trails

*A News Magazine for Members of Safari International*

Spring 2026

**Celebrating 38 years of the Spirit of Safari**



**Tuscon Arizona**

Taken by Lee Buckley

# Safari International Executive Board and Appointed Positions Spring 2026

**PRESIDENT**

Ronald J. Sloan (Kathleen)  
5115 Chittenden Road  
Cultus Lake BC V2R 0K7  
Canada  
F505579  
301.580.2571 Cell  
604.824.3144 Residence  
[ronj2930@gmail.com](mailto:ronj2930@gmail.com)

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Debby McPherson (David)  
7236 South Carver's Rock Rd  
Clinton, WI 53525  
F501214  
608.354.8075 cell  
[dm2mcperson@msn.com](mailto:dm2mcperson@msn.com)

**SECRETARY /  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

Judy Reel (Mark)  
1424 Montecristo Ct.  
Denton, TX 76210  
F464702  
214.608.7553 cell  
[safari.membership@gmail.com](mailto:safari.membership@gmail.com)

**TREASURER**

Cate Easmunt (Dave)  
479 Mermie Rd  
Hardin, KY 42048  
F462833  
443.614.0668 cell  
[treasurer@safari-international.org](mailto:treasurer@safari-international.org)

**WESTERN REGION  
VICE PRESIDENT**

*Position available*

**CENTRAL REGION  
VICE PRESIDENT**

*Position available*

**EASTERN REGION  
VICE PRESIDENT**

*Position available*

**NATIONAL FMCA DIRECTOR**

Robert Anderson (Carol)  
514 Americas Way  
PMB 13960  
Box Elder SD 57719  
F437600  
615.289.6373  
[xdieselbob@msn.com](mailto:xdieselbob@msn.com)

**ALTERNATE  
NATIONAL FMCA DIRECTOR**

*Position available*

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Lee Buckley (Diana)  
PO Box 1898  
Waldport OR 97394-1898  
F431607  
541.264.0704 cell  
[lpbuckley@mac.com](mailto:lpbuckley@mac.com)

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR /  
SECRETARY**

Judy Reel (Mark)  
1424 Montecristo Ct.  
Denton, TX 76210  
F464702  
214.608.7553 cell  
[safari.membership@gmail.com](mailto:safari.membership@gmail.com)

**SAFARI TRAILS EDITOR**

Mark Reel (Judy)  
1424 Montecristo Ct.  
Denton, TX 76210  
F464702  
214.608.7562 cell  
[safari.trails.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:safari.trails.newsletter@gmail.com)

**WEBMASTER**

Lee Buckley (Diana)  
PO Box 1898  
Waldport, OR 97394  
F431607  
541.264.0704 cell  
[webmaster@safari-international.org](mailto:webmaster@safari-international.org)

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSON**

Annette Bowen  
281.332.4768  
[jimb Bowen@hal-pc.org](mailto:jimb Bowen@hal-pc.org)

## In This Issue.....

|                               |       |                                  |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Executive Board .....         | 2     | Trektraxs.com.....               | 17    |
| Events Calendar.....          | 3     | Associated Safari Clubs.....     | 18-21 |
| Leadership Reports.....       | 4-11  | Member update.....               | 22    |
| Message from the editor.....  | 12    | Membership Signup Form.....      | 23    |
| TechTalk with xdieselbob..... | 13    | Badge and Bolo Request form..... | 24    |
| Fuel Saving Programs .....    | 14-15 | Safari Logo Apparel.....         | 25    |

Information provided by Linn Crocker and Tim Keppler

## APRIL 2026

April 09 - 12, 2026

Safari of Southern California  
jointly with California Chapter of  
FRVA

Golden Village Palms RV Resort  
Hemet, California

Sandie Bee

[beeronfun@gmail.com](mailto:beeronfun@gmail.com)

April 27 - May 01, 2026

Safari International  
Spring Rally

Branson, Missouri

Watch for details in the Trails as  
we get closer to the date!

April 28 - 30, 2026

NorthWest Trek Fun Club  
No Frills Hoodsport Rally  
Rest-a-While RV Park  
Hoodsport, Washington  
Kathleen & Wojo Walczak

[mcnamka@gmail.com](mailto:mcnamka@gmail.com)

Nancy & Dick Harris

## MAY 2026

May 13 - 17, 2026

Family RV Association  
International Area Rally  
Sevierville, Tennessee

see the [INTO Area website](#)

Call FRVA (800) 543-3622

-OR-

mail the registration found in the  
March/April Family RVing  
magazine

## JUNE 2026

June 10 - 13, 2026

Family RV Association  
Great Lakes Area Rally  
Allegan, Michigan

See the FRVA website for details,  
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

June 12 - 16, 2026

NorthWest Trek Fun Club

Siuslaw Pre-Rally

Woahink Lake RV Resort

Oregon

Keri Pratt

[keripratt@icloud.com](mailto:keripratt@icloud.com)

Duane & Kathy Klophenstein

June 17 - 20, 2026

Family RV Association  
North West Area Rally  
North Bend, Oregon

See the FRVA website for details,  
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

## JULY 2026

July 01 - 04, 2026

Family RV Association  
113th International Convention  
Sedalia, Missouri

See the FRVA website for details,  
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

## JULY 2026 (cont)

July 05 - 06, 2026

Family RV Association  
Midwest Area Rally  
Sedalia, Missouri

See the FRVA website for details,  
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

## SEPTEMBER 2026

September 14 - 17, 2026

Family RV Association  
South Central Area Rally  
Crystal Beach, Texas

See the FRVA website for details,  
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

September 30 - October 03, 2026

Family RV Association  
Northeast Area Rally  
Essex Junction, Vermont

See the FRVA website for details,  
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

## OCTOBER 2026

October 07 - 11, 2026

Family RV Association  
Rocky Mountain Area Rally  
Farmington, New Mexico

See the FRVA website for details,  
click the ...[EVENTS](#) page...

October 15 - 18, 2026

NorthWest Trek Fun Club  
Harvest "SpecTrekular" Rally  
Sutherlin, Oregon

Keri & Ed Pratt

[keripratt@icloud.com](mailto:keripratt@icloud.com)

John & Marie Turner

# President's Message



## **Ron Sloan**

5115 Chittenden Road  
Cultus Lake BC V2R 0K7  
Canada  
F505579  
301.580.2571 Cell  
604.824.3144 Residence  
ronj2930@gmail.com

I am writing for the Spring issue of the Trails as I recuperate from having my left knee replaced. I had my right knee replaced last July and one soon forgets just how much pain and difficulty in sleeping for the first month or three after surgery. Our plan for the 4th time was to be at Quartzsite for the Big Tent and getting together with friends. It would be the 4th time our plans were thwarted due to health issues. In November, I managed to do a thorough service and inspection of the coach while greasing every nipple. The coach was loaded and our Jeep (toad) was ready to roll. Christmas came and we were excited to hit the road as soon as the holidays were over.

Then the call came from the surgeon. There was a cancellation and they could fit me in for knee surgery early February. If I turn it down it could be another 6 months to a year or more of waiting. If I agree to go forward, then I have to do my pre-ops in January.

We are late comers to the FRVA family. We have owned a number of RVs since the early 1970s and have travelled the country for many years not knowing about FRVA or its many local chapters. We were invited to a local chapter rally 5 years ago and had so much fun that we joined FRVA and the local chapter. My wife serves as their National Director of that Chapter and in 2003, she stepped forward and accepted a check from the FRVA at a National FRVA meeting for our local club celebrating their 35 anniversary. Since we joined FRVA we have joined 2 West Coast Chapters along with Safari International where I serve as president. On average we have been attending 5 rallies a year.

If you are not taking the time and effort to attend a rally you are missing out on fun making new and lasting friendships. The rallies don't have to be large in numbers to be fun, but you must make the effort to attend. I regret that we had not got involved 30 years ago. We are now both in our 80s and I have no intention of slowing down. This includes doing all my service work on our coach. The money I save in doing this covers much of our travel and rally expenditures. On April 2nd we will be taking the coach to Arizona to visit family. It will be 3500 miles round trip.

Safari International is a member of INTO. There is an INTO rally on May 13 in Sevierville, TN and a Northwest Rally in North Bend, Or in June which we will be attending. It is time to dust off your RV and come and join us at a rally.

Ron Sloan  
President

---

# Note from the Executive Vice President



**Debby (David) McPherson**

7236 South Carver's Rock Rd  
Clinton, WI 53525  
M: 608-354-8075  
dm2mcperson@msn.com

## Revolutionize Your Spring Travels : AI for RVers

As spring approaches and we prepare to hit the road ,there is a new "co-pilot" for RVers to use: Artificial Intelligence. AI is now a practical tool enhancing every aspect of the RV experience, from trip planning to predictive maintenance.

AI platforms like AdventureGenie or ChatGPT can take your "Travel DNA"-vehicle height, weight, and preferred travel pace-to generate personalized itineraries in minutes. AI recommends RV-friendly routes, campgrounds with specific amenities, and scenic hidden gems, saving you hours of manual research. Modern AI tools are revolutionizing maintenance by shifting from reactive to proactive care. Additionally, AI can troubleshoot mechanical problems , providing DIY steps to keep you on the road.

To get started there are three easy steps.

1. Start Simple : Use free tools such as Google Gemini or ChatGPT. Ask questions like "Plan a 10 day trip through Wisconsin with 50 amp full-hookup sites"
2. Be Specific: Provide AI with the rigs height and length and must have amenities to get tailored results.
3. Cross-Reference: Always verify AI- suggested campgrounds via sites such as RV life.

This season, AI can handle the planning so the focus can remain on the adventure. Go ahead and give it a try.

Debby McPherson



**Bob Anderson**

514 Americas Way  
PMB 13960  
Box Elder SD 57719  
F437600  
615.289.6373  
xdieselbob@msn.com

Where has 2025 gone? Here we are already jumping into 2026. 2025 was a flash, New years in Gulf Shores Al. area with jaunts into Mississippi and Louisiana. Moving on to Wisconsin in May to attend Midwest FRVA Rally in Elkhorn Wi. Before heading to Colorado for forth of July with great people we met on our RV travels. Then on to Gillette for FRVA rally. Returning to Wi we stayed a couple days to explore Sioux Falls South Dakota.

Hard to believe the travels we have made exploring this great country we live in. Our journey started in June of 2014 leaving Nashville Tennessee for Alaska. Enjoying 49 drivable states, a few Canadian providences, two weeks flying to Hawaii. Eleven years living in all fifty states. Now time to slow down and be just Wisconsin SNOWBIRDS. Gulf Coast six months Wisconsin six months. Looking forward to our pre-rally in Perry Ga. and spring Safari rally in Branson Missouri. Always great times with our Safari family. You all stay safe in your travels and slow down to enjoy the RV life, it's great.

Your National Director, Bob Anderson.

# From your Webmaster



**Lee Buckley**

PO Box 1898  
Waldport OR 97394  
F431607  
541.264.0704  
webmaster@safari-  
international.org

From the Webmaster

Your website, <https://FRVA-TheSafariChapter.com> , remains a valuable resource for you, with an up-to-date calendar of events, a fully functional Forum providing a way to reach out to the rest of our membership, and a convenient online renewal form with online payment capabilities to simplify that entire process for you.

Sadly, I must now report that my ongoing efforts to move our underlying website software forward with a major upgrade has hit a major setback. The work in-progress which I have been nurturing for the past year has crashed and refuses to resurrect! The live website, still running on the legacy software is still functional and should allow us to maintain a presence for now.

I hate that I have to start over from scratch now!!!

Fair winds and following seas.....

# Past Presidents Article



**Lee Buckley**

PO Box 1898  
Waldport OR 97394  
F431607  
541.264.0704  
webmaster@safari-  
international.org

Well, here we are again....time for another release of our freshly revived Safari Trails quarterly publication! Our editor, Mark Reel, has done a fabulous job pulling together the elements required to make each release a memorable and useful resource for all of you to use in your travels. As you may recall from my last article, I had been strongly advocating that you **“Please use our website more!”** - no need for me to repeat that entreaty at this time, I am sure.

Following completion of my last scheduled medical appointments in late December, I embarked on a lengthy journey using the events listed at our Rallies page on our website as a framework for my travels. I traveled in company initially with my good friends and “adopted” family departing from Vancouver, Washington on the 28th of December to make our way south to Indio, California for the FRVA Western Area Rally, followed by the Safari of Southern California 29 Palms rally and then onward to Quartzsite Arizona for the Cholla Road annual gathering of Treks (and all interested Safari International members). Josh and Christine Letts, my “adopted” family (the daughter and son-in-law of my lifetime friend, Bob Edwards, then headed west, returning home to Vancouver Washington by following the scenic coast highway all the way north from San Diego into Washington while I remained in Quartzsite for a couple additional weeks. My next stop was in Buckeye Arizona where I dry camped on the airport for four days of amazing air show events hosted by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) at their annual Fly-In.

On my way east from that event, I stopped along the way to visit with Safari and Trek community friends in Tucson Arizona (Mike & Jamie Shippione, and Mike’s sister Deborah who had a VERY scenic RV hookup pad at her house overlooking the North Tucson skyline), Las Cruces New Mexico (Juliet Whitfield, whose late model Trek had been upgraded with new brake calipers / rotors / pads by myself and Bob Edwards during her last visit to my house in Waldport about two years prior), Houston Texas (Andrews & Carol Callihoo, who had been in Branson with us for the 35th East Anniversary Rally in 2023...and who plan to join us in Branson again later this month!), and Deridder Louisiana (Ike & Erin Stewart, another Trek owner with whom I had spent time together in Gillette WY at the FRVA convention last July). Getting to enjoy quality time with friends in transit is just priceless!

There were lots of stops between Oregon and Perry Georgia using Passport America, Harvest Hosts and my military access to FamCamps, but spending a week in Pensacola Florida at the Blue Angels RV Park at the Naval Air Station was simply spectacular and put me in easy range of Perry.

Speaking of FRVA International Conventions, I was able to join the Pre-Rally which Florida on Safari sponsored and held within the Georgia State Fairgrounds & AgriCenter in Perry Georgia with full hookups and no need to change sites once the Convention kicked off. There were about 10 rigs present and we were all VERY well fed! In addition to our Safari members in attendance, we were right next door to Robert & Barbara Henderson who were out from Grants Pass Oregon as vendors conducting educational seminars, safety inspections while representing the Super Steer products that they developed through their Henderson’s Line Up facility.

# Memo To Membership



**Judy Reel**  
Membership Director/Secretary  
1424 Montecristo Ct., Denton, TX 76210  
214.608.7553  
safari.membership@gmail.com

Spring is here and I hope some of you are out enjoying some time on the road! We have just finished our annual renewal for 2026. All memberships now expire on December 31st each year (unless you have paid for a multi-year renewal). We finished 2025 strong with 107 rigs, but unfortunately about 25% of our members have not responded with their 2026 renewal. I greatly appreciate those members who took the time to reach out with their decision. The most common reason given is life events such as health and leaving the road. Some members have chosen to renew as Alumni members which we welcome. This puts our current membership at 79 including some new members who have joined us for 2026.

If you have not yet renewed, it is not too late!!! To renew your membership at <https://FRVA-TheSafariChapter.com> using the MEMBERS -> MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION path. You can selection the option for renewal in the pulldown in the form highlighted in green:

**Membership Application**

The online payment form has been returned to its' normal configuration and supports our transition to a calendar year renewal p issue with the ReCaptcha paywall stalling has been resolved (FINALLY!) and should no longer prevent using the online membersh application....I will be reviewing this form for continued relevance with an eye to making it more intuitive and "user-friendly" goir but in the meantime please note that any fields on the form MARKED WITH AN (\*) will require an entry or the damned form will you!

To pay online, please fill out the form displayed on this page -OR- click [HERE](#) for a fillable PDF application form that you can prin with your check (if you prefer).

**Membership Application Form**

Select your option. (\*)

- Pull down to choose -
- Pull down to choose -
- 20 - New membership - 1 year, w/o name badge - 20.00 USD
- 40 - New membership - 2 years, w/name badge - 40.00 USD
- Renewal Options -
- 20 - 1 Year membership renewal - 20.00 USD
- 40 - 2 Year membership renewal - 40.00 USD
- 60 - 3 Year membership renewal - 60.00 USD
- 20 - Reinstatement of membership - 20.00 USD
- 20 - Safari Alumni (continuing now without a coach) - 20.00 USD

FRVA membership # F: (\*)  
Pilot's first and last name (\*)  
Copilot's first and last name (optional)  
Street (\*)  
City (\*)

\* Membership Requireme  
Current FRVA member an  
a qualifying recreational v  
reinstatement of member  
previous member of Safa  
International, current FRV  
and owner of a qualifying  
recreational vehicle.

If you would rather mail me a check, you can print the form by clicking on the word **HERE** in white. The address on the form is the same the one under my picture above.

Please send me any updates to any pilot/copilot names, mailing addresses, cell/land lines, emails, or the current rig you are using. It helps us keep in touch with you.

Mark and I will be staying close to home this year as we have some aging family members who are depending on us. We are using the opportunity to do some home improvement, gardening and RV repairs.

Be safe and be well on the road,

Judy

Welcome our new members:

F558761. . . . Dale Pelz Jr  
Gardnerville, NV

F558919. . . . Dione Chanslor  
Cloquet, MN

Welcome our returning members!

F479958. . . . Hagen & Mary Lou Streckel  
Gilbert, AZ

F559925. . . . Mike & Colette Fluharty  
Clifton, CO

## From the Editor's Desk



### **Mark Reel (& Judy)**

Safari Trails Newsletter Editor  
1424 Montecristo Ct., Denton, TX 76210  
214.608.7562  
safari.trails.newsletter@gmail.com

The cost of gas is certainly affecting our appetite for travel these days. Our Trek only gets 7 miles a gallon. I know many of the larger diesels get as poor a mpg as our gasser. Since a trip to anywhere but the adjacent states from Texas is likely to cost \$500 to \$1000 one way it certainly makes advanced planning a necessity.

Our plans this year were to stay close to home due to elderly parents who need more oversight and direct interaction. As a result I am focused on house projects like rebuilding our property line fence, I replaced the clutch in my Nissan Frontier pickup. (learned why mechanics charge so much for that repair) I am planning to build a 10X20 foot shed this spring. I need to paint the exterior of the house. Lots of other projects we had paused due to travel plans over the last 5 years. For all those free to travel this spring and summer I wish you well on your adventures.

Happy Trails to you until we meet again...