

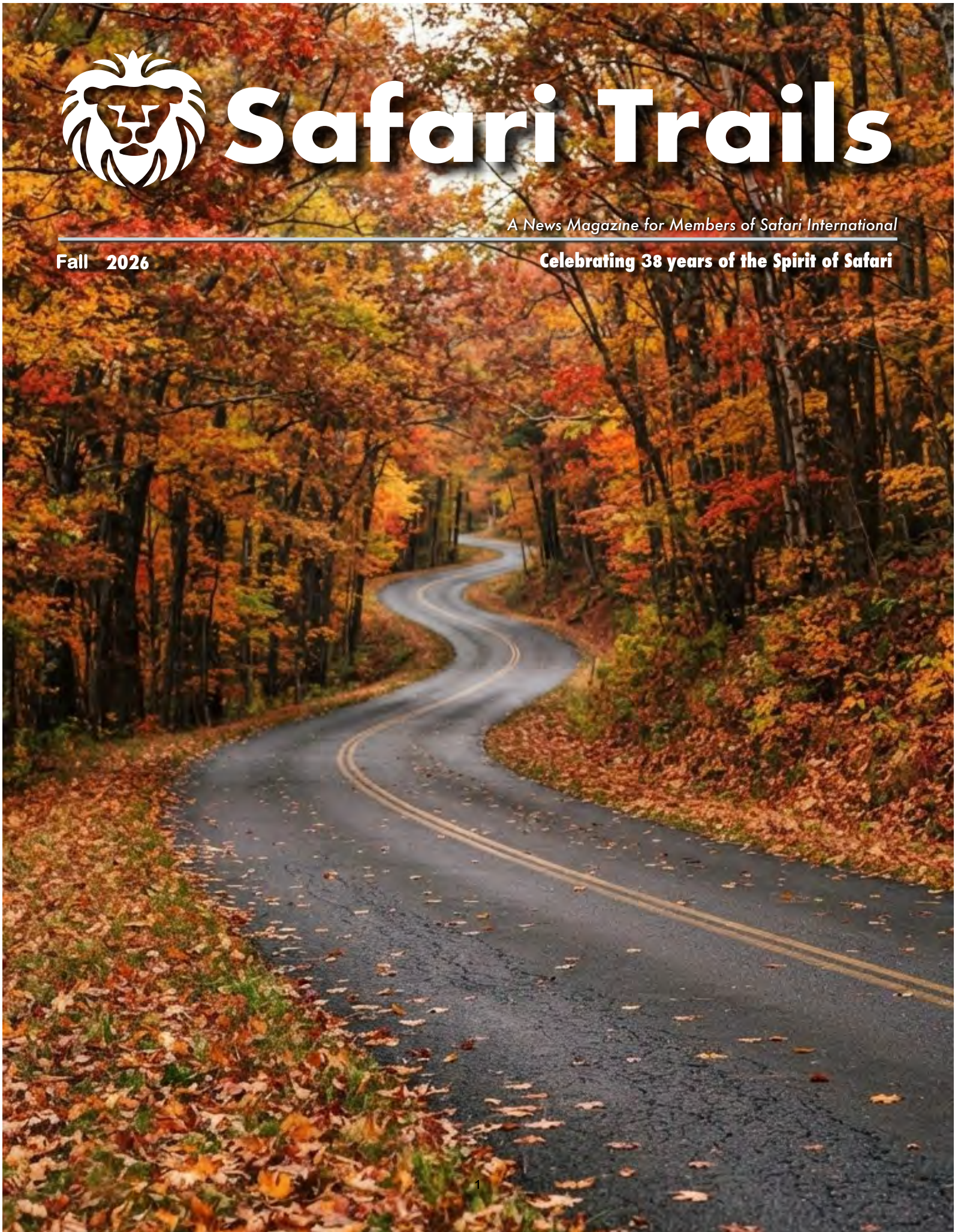


Safari Trails

A News Magazine for Members of Safari International

Fall 2026

Celebrating 38 years of the Spirit of Safari



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Summer 2026

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Position Available

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Events Calendar

OCTOBER 2026

October 07 - 11, 2026

Family RV Association
Rocky Mountain Area Rally
Farmington, New Mexico
See the [Area Rally Website](#) page for details.

October 13 - 16, 2026

Safari of SoCal Fun Club
[Pala RV Resort](#)
Temecula, California
Paul Findley

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October 15 - 18, 2026

NorthWest Trek Fun Club
Harvest "SpecTrekular" Rally
Sutherlin, Oregon
Keri & Ed Pratt
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John & Marie Turner

JANUARY 2027

January 14 - 21, 2027

No-Host Quartzsite Gathering
Dry Camping at its' Finest!
BLM Lands adjacent to
Quartzsite, Arizona
Watch for details in the Trails as we get closer to the date!

MARCH 2027

March 17- 20, 2027

Family RV Association
114th International Convention
Perry, Georgia
See the [FRVA Convention Website](#) for details

APRIL 2027

April 07 - 11, 2027

Family RV Association
Western Area Rally
Tulare, California
See the [Area Rally Website](#) for details

NOTE: As FRVA continues to build out the capabilities and content on their new website, the information for the Area Rallies will be found on the individual FRVA Area websites. For now, I have linked to the appropriate source websites for ease of planning in 2027....

President's Message



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Safari International has had the good fortune to have had Mark Reel as our publication editor. Mark retires from the position after the December publication. This leaves an opportunity for someone to step into Mark's shoes and join the team. Lee Buckley, former President of Safari will carry on the publication until someone steps forward.

With the summer of 2026 now in our rearview mirror, for some it will mean in a few weekend jaunts before winterizing the RV. For those that are retired it means a time to travel and spend quieter times at RV parks that are less crowded. My wife and I happen to love to hear the chatter and laughter of young children and often in the summer we have the opportunity of having our grand kids along with us. For those of us that have the ability to travel with our RVs throughout the rest of the year, enjoy your quieter times with friends and the making of new friends.

My wife and I had planned to be at the Big Tent event in Quartzite, Arizona this past January, but I was placed on the short list for my second knee replacement in December. I was advised that I would have to be available throughout the month of January for Pre Ops. The surgery took place in February and I was given the green light to travel in April. We made our way down to Arizona for the month of April when most folks are returning home. We had a great time with family and friends. We rushed home to get ready to attend a rally in the first week of May. Since then our RV has been in a body shop as we had an encounter with a deer on I-5 south of Portland. The body work had been completed for some time but with four different paint colors schemes on the front end, it ties up their large paint booth for better part of a week so our coach keep being put aside for easier paint jobs at the truck body shop. We are hoping to have it back by September 10th as we have a trip planned on the 14th.

Safari International is exploring avenues to generate smaller rallies with financial support from the chapter. We are exploring insurance coverage form FRVA as long as the rally has a scheduled date and is open to all chapter members. A rally could be as small as 6 to 8 coaches to qualify. Should you be willing to host a small rally in your area, reach out to us so that we can post it and assist in expenses. We are fortunate to have the finances to support such event. We look forward to having feed back on this matter.

Enjoy your travels and may the wind be always be at your back.

Ron Sloan
President



Plumbing Layout

Do you know where your RV plumbing is routed throughout your rig? Study the schematics of your RV to prepare for potential trouble spots where water can collect and freeze. Any exposed lines, elbow connectors, or drafty places can mean frozen pipes in winter. You may want to add a remote temperature sensor to learn which parts of your RV are coldest and may need extra winter TLC.

Don't let your water hose freeze.

If you're parked with full-hookups and a cold snap suddenly hits your area, a standard RV water hose will be one of the first things to freeze. **Although it's a far better idea to disconnect your hose in the first place**, if you don't disconnect you can purchase some RV water line heat tape to keep fresh water flowing during mildly cold weather. (assuming you have the appropriate electrical connection available, remember - water and electricity don't mix)

Keep valves closed: Leave gray and black tank valves closed in freezing weather to prevent ice blockages or sewer hose cracks, but open them only when actively dumping.

Manage condensation: Run a dehumidifier to stop mold and moisture buildup.

Skirt your rig: Install custom vinyl or foam board RV skirting to block cold wind from pulling heat out from beneath your floorboards



Note from the Executive Vice President



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Our Summer Adventures

It's hard to believe how quickly the summer has gone by! It seems like we've been on the go most of the time, enjoying family, grandkids, and a few RV adventures along the way. Our summer started out with 3 graduations. We took a RV trip to Oxford Ohio to attend our Granddaughter's graduation from Miami of Ohio. We stayed at Hueston Woods State Park which is just 5 miles north of the University. It was a perfect spot with close proximities to all the university activities and a quiet state to park to come home to at night. Our second graduation took us on a plane trip to Miami, Florida where we attended our Grandsons graduation from high school. The 3rd graduation was close to home so we were able to drive and attend another Grandson graduating from high school.

We made another RV trip to Hocking Hills State Park in Logan, Ohio, for a McPherson family reunion. The accommodations were perfect for a large family gathering. We were the only ones who traveled in an RV, while everyone else rented cabins at the park.

Our days were filled with hiking, swimming, and evenings around the bonfire, enjoying good food, lots of laughs, and time catching up with family. Four cabins were rented by our relatives, and they were all right next to each other, making it easy for everyone to gather and spend time together. It was a wonderful setup for a large group and made the reunion extra special. We made some great memories together!

We had hoped to squeeze in a few more RV trips this summer, but our busy schedule just seemed to take over. Between baseball games, dance recitals, grandkids spending the night, and visits from our daughter's family from the UK, the time simply got away from us. We may not have gotten as much camping in as we had hoped, but we certainly enjoyed plenty of special family time.

Now the grandchildren are getting ready to head back to school, and we are taking advantage of the time to complete some maintenance on the RV and get her ready to head south. We're looking forward to another adventure, some warmer weather, and hopefully plenty of time to relax, explore, and make a few more memories along the way!

Fun & Historical Facts

First RV (1904): Built by hand atop a car, it could sleep four adults and had a radio, icebox, and incandescent lighting

1915 "Gypsy Van": Roland Conklin's custom motorhome inspired the RV boom, featuring a kitchen, generator, phonograph, and even a roof garden

National Directors Report



Bob Anderson

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Where has summer gone? I cannot believe it's after Labor Day, kids back to school and us snow birds getting ready to head south for the winter. Looking back on our summer we are about to leave on our second trip to Rice Lake Wi. We leave on the 15th of September until Oct 4th.

We will be very busy seeing our friends and extended family before heading to the Gulf. As we like to say when you are shoveling snow we will be in the sandy beaches. Of course, we will have to be on the lookout for the heavy deer population in northern Wi. On our last visit in June, we hit a deer in a almost brand new rental Jeep. 12,000 dollars damage. And the deer didn't survive. That was coming home from our trip to the Apostol Islands on Lake Superior. Most people have no idea just how much freshwater Lake Superior holds. In plane language if you took the water from Lake Superior it would cover all of North America with over two feet.

Looking forward to our next Safari pre-rally in March at The Perry FRVA spring rally.

See you down the road,

Bob



From your Webmaster



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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. The live website, running on the legacy software is still functional and should allow us to maintain a presence for now.

My intent is to keep our website running as-is in order to explore rebuilding it under a new content management system (CMS) hosted through FRVA with their assistance later this year once they complete their in-house computer system migration. It has become painfully clear to me that updating our present website to the later version of our existing CMS is just out of reach for my skills and experience level. The number of ways that it has gone sideways for me over the past two years (plus) as I have tried to bring each of the added sub-components forward has made that point for me too many times.

The bits and pieces cobbled together over the years will not cohesively migrate to the new CMS, so starting over is in our future....and I can't do it without outside help.

UPDATE: I've had another go at reviving the offline website development tools and am have some measured successes for now...no promises, but it's just as well that the FRVA web hosting resource hasn't yet come to fruition. For planning purposes in the coming months, our original domain name lease will expire in November, so anticipate that there will be some updated email addresses using our current domain "soon".

Fair winds and following seas.....



Past Presidents Article



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Once again it's time to resume my odyssey....we left off with me departing Wichita KS pointed toward home in mid-June. My path was as direct as possible due to pending medical appointments, but taking the straight line gave me some additional wiggle room to visit family once in California. Let me just say that the straight path from Wichita takes one over some mighty high terrain! Did you know that I-70 has the highest pass on any US Interstate highway? Not too far West of Denver the road climbs to the Eisenhower Tunnel which is the highest tunnel in the US and bores beneath the Continental Divide at 11,158 feet MSL. There's a really good write up on Wikipedia with much more detail. I made it all the way across Colorado, a portion of Utah and then across Northern Nevada before I had an interesting challenge to deal with....my transmission failed in Wellington NV as I was visiting an old high school friend there. Reverse quit working, and first gear only worked for acceleration, but free-wheeled when trying to decelerate. So, I found a good transmission remanufacturing outfit that could put me back in business much more timely than the 4 to 6 weeks that the normal reman shops quoted...unfortunately, my new-to-me transmission had to come from Florida! I also found a quality repair business in Carson City that could do the swap – shout out to Carson Auto & Truck Repair – they did me right.

Now is when things get interesting. With my RV left behind in Carson City, I popped over the hill (Sierras) at Donner Pass in my trusty Geo Tracker toad, visited my brother in Elk Grove, had lunch with my favorite Aunt in Palo Alto, and spent some quality time with my son and grandkids in Lemoore for a few days. While there, my 19 year old grandson, Isaac, asked if he could move up to Waldport with Diana and me as he was going to seek new employment up in Oregon (in order to support the BIG car and insurance payments that he had taken on just before he lost his high paying job in Lemoore). Isaac and I packed his car full of his stuff, caravanned together back over the hill to drop my toad with friends in Reno, then headed up the East side of the Sierras, crossing over through Lassen National Park to pick up the I-5 in Weed for the rest of the trip home.

Isaac did not find the grass to be nearly as green as he had thought it might be, so his job search took longer and went further afield than was going to work out for using Waldport as his new base of operations. In fact, he took a job 2 hours away in Salem...and was planning to commute two hours each way daily. Did I mention that things were getting interesting? To provide a bridge solution to Isaac's housing need, I started reaching out to a couple prospective Trek owners who were selling....found one right away in Indiana and committed to fly out right after my doctor appointments in early July. Unfortunately that timing would be too late to put Isaac's mobile bedroom in place before he started his new job in Salem....so bear with me for a few. My rig was still in Carson City, the 2003 rig that I had committed to buy was in Indiana 2,500 miles away and not available in time, so I found ANOTHER Trek, available just in-time, in Las Vegas NV, a 2005 29RB....and I bought it, flew to Las Vegas and drove it back to Waldport just in time to find out that Isaac had worked his new job for ONE DAY, had quit, packed all his stuff back into his car and left the morning of my return from Las Vegas! He's back home now, still looking for work, and it's all OK because now I have THREE TREKS! My narration is gonna end here with a short summary:

The naming convention for my new armada is as follows – “My Rig”, the '04 28RB with the brand new transmission on a P32 chassis; RV II, the '05 29RB on a W20 chassis; and RV III, the '03 26RB2 Trek equivalent Holiday Rambler Traveler on a Ford chassis.

Now I will turn it over to my good friend, Mike Shippione, to bring it to a close....he wrote up an after action report that we posted to TrekTraxs upon our return from Indiana.

My heartfelt thanks to Mike Shipione for "volunteering" (in a moment of weakness) to fly into Indianapolis to help me with this return transit! Here is a transcript of his lengthy summary of our travels over the six days it took us to team drive 2,500 miles together - it was kinda fun.

AFTER ACTION REPORT:
OPERATION BUFLO TREK (equivalent) III DELIVERY
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED / RELEASE AUTHORIZED

MISSION

RV Expeditionary Force personnel deployed to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the purpose of assuming custody of newly acquired motorized command asset and conducting a transcontinental repositioning operation to Portland, Oregon.

Primary objective: Deliver coach and crew to PDX AO without loss of vehicle, personnel, or major componentry.

MISSION STATUS: ACCOMPLISHED.

ROUTE / OPERATIONS

Command element departed Indianapolis and proceeded west under Ford Triton V-10 propulsion, conducting extended highway operations across multiple states and terrain environments.

The powerplant demonstrated a preference for sustained high-RPM operations, apparently considering 2,800 RPM to be a perfectly reasonable conversational tone.

Average fuel consumption during portions of the campaign was approximately 7.5 MPG, confirming that the Triton V-10 converts gasoline into forward motion, noise, and heat with admirable enthusiasm.

HOSTILE CONTACT — GREENUP, ILLINOIS

During an attempted pneumatic support operation at the Love's facility near Greenup, Illinois, expeditionary forces encountered unexpected resistance from local service personnel.

Initial intelligence indicated free compressed air was available in the truck service area.

Upon attempting to locate said air source, friendly forces were subjected to an immediate and disproportionate escalation involving:

- Raised voices
- Threatened towing action
- Law-enforcement deployment
- General tactical hysteria

No enemy equipment was damaged. No friendly casualties were sustained.

Command withdrew from the AO under its own power.

LESSON LEARNED: At certain Love's facilities, obtaining 100 PSI of compressed air may require a combined-arms operation.

GREAT SALT LAKE BIOLOGICAL WARFARE INCIDENT

While operating in the Great Salt Lake / Antelope Island sector, the coach suffered a massive airborne infiltration by indigenous hostile forces identified as NO-SEE-UMS.

Enemy strength: Indeterminate, but assessed somewhere between "a lot" and "every damn one in Utah."

The hostile force exploited microscopic gaps in the coach perimeter and successfully penetrated the command compartment.

Immediate countermeasures were initiated.

Close-quarters extermination operations continued until the invading swarm was neutralized.

Final enemy casualty count: TOO NUMEROUS TO CONFIRM.

Friendly casualties: Multiple bites, substantial annoyance, and temporary degradation of crew morale.

Coach subsequently declared BIOLOGICALLY SECURE.

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE

Despite sustained interstate operations, mountain grades, high ambient temperatures, repeated fuel stops, and prolonged exposure to expeditionary personnel, the newly acquired coach performed admirably.

No catastrophic propulsion, transmission, cooling, electrical, suspension, or structural failures occurred. (Even the dash air worked 4.0!)

The Ford V-10 continued to operate under the apparent doctrine:

"RPM IS FREE. USE ALL OF IT."

CREW PERFORMANCE

Two-man flight/ground crew maintained operational tempo across the continent with suitable application of:

- Navigation
- Fuel
- Coffee
- Improvisation
- Questionable judgment
- Appropriate profanity
- More Coffee



BUFLO demonstrated satisfactory command presence and retained ownership of the asset throughout the operation.

FINAL DISPOSITION

Coach successfully delivered to Pacific Northwest AO.

BUFLO and command asset arrived intact.

Supporting expeditionary personnel subsequently detached and redeployed via PDX for return to home station, TUS.

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FINAL ASSESSMENT:

COACH — OPERATIONAL

CREW — OPERATIONAL

NO-SEE-UMS — DESTROYED

LOVE'S GREENUP — PENDING MANAGEMENT INTERVENTION, AVOID

MISSION — COMPLETE

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize stand-down, beer issuance, and commencement of unrestricted war-story embellishment.

BRAVO ZULU.

RV EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

WESTERN TRANSIT COMMAND SENDS

For now, safe travels to all and enjoy the journey (and remember, Quartzsite is coming next January...DON'T miss it)!

I plan to see you all there,

Fair Winds and Following Seas.





Memo To Membership



Judy Reel

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Memo To Membership

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Our current Safari International membership is 83 rigs including 10 Alumni rigs. Since our last issue, we have added 1 new member rig and had 1 alumni return to active status with their FRVA renewal. Please welcome our newest members: Wade & Debbra Anderson from Junction City, Oregon.

The long overdue member badges and officer hang tags were mailed out to our membership. I apologize for the delayed order and any inconvenience I may have caused to our PMB members with their mail forwarding service. I still have a couple badges that need do-overs that have been requested from our supplier. Almost all of our active members now have Safari International name badges.

Kolin Kattleson responded to my newsletter plea for a backfill for the Secretary / Membership positions for 2027. Thank You, Kolin!!! Kolin has been an active SI member since 2023. I had the pleasure of getting to know Kolin and his wife Deb at the 35th celebration in Branson. They are based in Saint George, Utah and drive a 2005 Safari Cheetah. Kolin's energy and enthusiasm will be a great addition to our leadership team!

The end of the year is a busy time for both the membership and the secretary jobs. I asked the Executive Board to approve Kolin as my backfill so I could get his training started to avoid disruption to our membership. The board approved Kolin as my successor on August 14th. Over the next few months, you will see Kolin's increased involvement with the target for full handoff date to be 1/1/2027. I ask Kolin to tell you a little about himself for this issue and he graciously responded while traveling in Alaska.

As always be well and be safe on the road!

Judy