



TRAILER TRACKS

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What's Coming Up

Rallies and such

By Rick DeYoung

Get ready **now** for the June Rally: June 1-4 at Elkton RV Park, on the Umpqua River, in Elkton.

Kimm and Marti Cady are the wagon masters for this rally and they are looking for assistant wagon masters! (Hint! Hint!) This rally is planned to help our nearby members have a "shakeout cruise" in your motorhomes and to permit folks who no longer camp to join us for meals and other events in this very interesting town. It has two good restaurants, three good wineries, historic Fort Umpqua and the fabulous butterfly pavilion.

The August Rally is: Aug 1-5 at Seven Feathers RV Park in Canyonville (I-5 Exit 99). This is a 5 Star RV resort and park accommodations are fabulous including an indoor pool, 24-hour shuttle, security services and that neat Casino with its wonderful restaurants. A day trip to Wildlife Safari in Winston, at a significantly reduced rate, will be part of this rally as well. Wagon masters have NOT been named yet for the August Rally. Please let Betty Bush know if you are interested and willing to help!

September Rally dates are: Sept 19-24 at the Odd Fellows on the Dunes in Florence, Oregon. Last year's rally at the same venue produced lots of crab, thanks to our members who volunteered use of their boats and we hope this year will be even better. The September rally also features our annual business meeting, at which officers for next year will be elected. If you are interested in providing or manning a boat for September's rally, please contact Kimm Cady or any of this year's officers for more information.

On reason for the scheduling of our 2017 rallies is that several members of Chapter 9 - including President Rick De Young and Secretary Jackie Deal - are planning to take their RV's to Anchorage, Alaska this year, via the Alcan Highway.

This will be during June and July. They have made the Alaska trip before and plan to take their time and enjoy all that beautiful British Columbia offers along the way. If you are interested in joining them, please feel free to let them know.

There is also some interest in holding a rally at Timber Valley during July.

Chapter 9 Officers (2017)

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

Chapter 9 members meet the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m., during breakfast, at Abby's Legendary Pizza, 1011 W. Central Avenue in Sutherlin, Oregon.

A signup sheet is located in the Timber Valley SKP clubhouse, as we need to know by Tuesday how many are planning to be there.

**All Escapees
are welcome!**

*Trailer Tracks created by
Jackie Deal and friends!*

CHAPTERS, RALLIES, PARKS?

What is a Chapter Nine? For the uninitiated, chapters, rallies, parks etc. are very confusing. So let's start at the very beginning of Escapees Inc. Escapees started from something like what you now have in your hand: a newsletter! Kay Peterson wrote, on a manual typewriter, the first newsletter and sent it to her friends and RVing acquaintances. RVers receiving it wanted to get

together and thus were born rallies. At rallies folks discovered others from their area and formed groups called Chapters (there are now 57 chapters in the US).

We, the ninth chapter, were founded in Casa Grande, AZ. in 1985 with Don and Pat Kuykendall as the "driving force".

The history of Chapter Nine will be continued on page 2. Each month we'll tell you more about Chapter Nine and how they found, paid for and built Timber Valley SKP Park. But first a little history from 1981 helps explain why Chapter Nine got such a terrific buy on the Sutherlin property!

HISTORY of CHAPTER 9 & TIMBER VALLEY FIRST THERE WAS LEISURE VALLEY

By Jackie Deal

There were dreamers who coveted the valley that is now Timber Valley SKP Park. Carl Keck, former manager of SKP Park lived in Sutherlin at the time in the early 1980s when Fred Harrington was a local developer and "wheeler-dealer".

Mr. Harrington conceived of an elaborate and expensive development for the "super wealthy" to escape the dangers of the everyday world. Sutherlin's city council first heard of the proposal on March 26, 1981 when "Jerry Garner, representing Fred Harrington, showed plans for 300 condominium units, a 160 bed nursing home, a nine hole, par three golf course, four



Some of the contractors and planners!



Prepping the land! Laying the lines.

lakes and a commercial center." (From the Sun Tribune, the newspaper preceding the Douglas County News in Sutherlin, copies available in the public library).

The newspaper went on to say, "the \$28 million development would be advertised in urban areas of New York and Florida with special emphasis on the security features of the project. Leisure Valley (as they were calling it) would be entirely fenced and would employ a security force...to provide a secure retirement area for people in high crime areas. With housing units in the \$150,000 range, the project would aim to attract retirees with incomes of \$4,000



An aerial photo of the park.



Norm and “The Ditch Witch” Barbara Sherman

a month or more.” (In “purchasing power”, \$4,000 in 1981 is comparable to over \$10,000 in 2014, or the “economic power” of \$4,000 is almost \$21,000 according to measuringworth.com). In 1981 can’t you imagine the city council frothing at the mouth to get this influx of money?

Bruce Daily, Sun Tribune editor in an editorial on March 26, 1981 writes:” the project will offer safety

to seniors who have built up an estate that they have to protect with bars on the windows and multiple locks on the doors. That 460 people can be found who are willing to trade the fear of living in New York with Puerto Ricans, Miami with Cubans, or Los Angeles with Chicanos for the serenity of a secure community in peaceful Sutherlin as almost a sure bet.” (The blatant racism is in print in the Sun Tribune of March 26, 1981.)

May 28, 1981, the newspaper reported that the Sutherlin City Council gave “conceptual approval to Fred Harrington’s Leisure Valley development.” Of course, the project was outrageously expensive and Bill Moss, an SKP on the search committee, remembers that Fred Harrington borrowed from the Land Bank in Seattle. He says when Fred died he still owed money to the Land Bank (and probably others) and so the little valley slept peacefully until 1988 when the SKPs discovered its potential.

Stay tuned until next month for more History of Timber Valley