



Safari Trails

A News Magazine for Members of Safari International

Summer 2026

Celebrating 38 years of the Spirit of Safari



RVing New Zealand

*Location:
Queenstown,
South Island*

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SUNSHINE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Position Available

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Events Calendar

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
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 2026 (cont)

October 13 - 16, 2026

Safari of SoCal Fun Club
[Pala RV Resort](#)
Temecula, California
Paul Findley
714.348.9735
findley@sbcglobal.net

October 15 - 18, 2026

NorthWest Trek Fun Club
Harvest "SpecTrekular" Rally
Sutherlin, Oregon
Keri & Ed Pratt
keripratt@icloud.com
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!

APRIL 2027

April 07 - 11, 2027

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

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President's Message



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Summer is once again upon us and its time to prepare one's RV for family outings. Whether your travels are near or far, its the getting out to be with old friend or make new friends, that's what counts. Our year has been an upside down year. For the past four years we have made plans to attend the Quartzsite, Arizona Big Tent multi club rally. There are up to 50 or more Safari coaches generally attending. The event takes place the last week of January and we had our coach loaded and ready for the trip. A week before the travel date I received a call from the office of the Surgeon that had replaced the major components of my right knee. There was an opening for surgery mid February for my left knee. It would be only 6 months from my last surgery. I agreed to the new date and was told that I would be free to travel after six weeks of recovery.

After my 6 weeks were up we headed for Arizona. Our oldest son agreed to travel with us to share in the driving. We spend 2 wonderful days at a bird sanctuary 80 miles north of Las Vegas then on to Phoenix to spend time with our family. We had a wonderful time once again at Old Tucson State Park, Tombstone, Bisbee and Naco before heading up to Yuma and onto Lake Havasu for several days. We got to go swimming in the Colorado River and it was great. We spend a night at our friends place in Las Vegas before returning back to the bird sanctuary. Each camp site is along the water. We made it back home in time for my meeting with the surgeon.

Our Coach is now is the body shop after hitting a deer south of Portland. Our plans are to attend a rally on May 24th which is five hours from home and then on to North Bend, Oregon on June 17th for the FRVA rally. I know that it seems like a lot of travelling especially with the high cost of fuel. We are both in our eighties and one has to take advantage of one health and ability to travel. We will be doing local camping this summer within 50 miles from home. We enjoy the outdoors and especially enjoy meeting other RV'ers. What ever your plans for the summer, you don't have to drive across the country to make new friends as they can be found when camping within a few miles from home.

Support
Adventure
Friendship
Activities
Rallies
Information



Note from the Executive Vice President



Debby (David) McPherson

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Greetings from Wisconsin,

David and I spent the winter soaking up the warmth in Foley ,Alabama just a stone throw from Gulf Shores. This was our first time in the area and it completely captivated us with the endless activities, rich history and vibrant local culture. Of course the absolute highlight of the trip was the Gulf seafood. We finally tried royal red shrimp for the very first time. If you have never had them, they are a revelation- incredibly sweet and rich, tasting much more like lobster than regular shrimp. Leaving Alabama was truly bittersweet, especially as the southern weather was just starting to get absolutely beautiful. Our return to Wisconsin in April to mid May greeted us with persistent rain and a lingering chill. However , the cold weather was instantly forgotten once we reunited with our family and finally got to hug our much-missed grandchildren.

While the spring weather has been chilly , our summer calendar is already heating up! This summer is shaping up to be an absolute whirlwind of celebration and family time. We are looking forward to marking major milestones with graduations ranging from high school to college, catching plenty of summer baseball games, and gathering for a family reunion.

Wishing you all a wonderful, sun-filled season ahead. Whether you are traveling far or staying close to home, we hope your summer is filled with family, food and unforgettable memories.

In 1898, **The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company** was founded in Akron, Ohio. The company was named after Charles Goodyear, who invented vulcanized rubber in 1839, when he accidentally discovered that the addition of heat and sulphur alters the consistency of rubber. In 1900, Columbiana, Ohio, native **Harvey S. Firestone** founded the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Akron and developed a method for mass-producing tires for the rapidly growing automobile industry.

The **Firestone Tire and Rubber Company** produced the first tires with non-skid tread designs in 1908.

National Directors Report



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National Director, Bob Anderson

Hello from our summer stopover in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Last March we attended the Safari FRVA pre rally in Perry Ga. We just had a great time with our host group from Florida. We enjoyed all the time spent renewing our friendships and meeting new members. Already have another pre-really planned for next March. We had ten coaches present but only three Safari's. As the old units age out, several upgrades are taking place. That is the reason we updated our By Laws have changed. It's not the coach it's the people we enjoy spending our rallies with. After Perry back to Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, until driving to Branson for our Safari rally. What a great time was had by all. This time we had ten coaches and all Safari. Even new members are attending. Special thanks to Linn and Avon for a job well done. Every part of the event was masterfully planned and executed. As Carol and I will not be attending the Sedalia MO FRVA rally I really appreciate our past president Lee filling in for me.

RV Tips

Insurance check: Always double-check your policy. Some insurance companies will invalidate claims if the rig was loaded over its maximum weight capacity during an accident.

Cargo Capacity: Every rig has a specific Information Sticker that details its exact Cargo Carrying Capacity. It is vital to know this limit to avoid dangerous, illegal, and insurance-compromising overweight situations.

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.

Fair winds and following seas.....

Added by Mark Reel



Past Presidents Article



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Well, it's going to be more travelogue tails picking up from where I was in Loxahatchee FL (near West Palm Beach) when I discovered that I had another RH lower control arm failure! That makes THREE total....two which had metal fatigue cracks and one which bent due to a BIG Texas pothole. Repairs completed timely, I continued from my friends' home and went to Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland Florida...another air show, Lee? YES!!! A REALLY big one with LOTS of action, noise and neat stuff to drool over! (see the photos!)

Following Sun 'n Fun, I made my way up into Missouri, first to visit with an old childhood friend who lived in West Plains MO, and then onward to Branson MO for our first Safari International rally in a really long time. Orv Neisingh and I grew up together in Santa Rosa CA (along with our lifelong friend, Bob Edwards, who many of you have had the privilege of meeting before his untimely passing in November 2024). While in West Plains, Orv and I went flying together in two different helicopters flown from his grass strip on his 30 acre plot of land. I was so excited that I completely forgot to take any photos while there!

A few days later I joined our Safari International friends for the Branson Blast....which, although we did NOT get enough participants to become an official rally with our host venue, Americas Best Campground, still turned into an awesome "non-rally" as every one of those who had signed up to attend showed up anyway! We had food and outside entertainment provided by the club, and all the details for a great time smoothly handled by Linn & Avon Crocker who ably hosted the event.

Leaving Branson, I traveled East into Kentucky to spend some time with Dave & Cate Easmunt (recall that Cate is our Chapter Treasurer) at their home in Hardin, KY. They introduced me to the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Core of Engineers campgrounds that came about when dams and locks were constructed during the TVA projects....and Dave took me flying from their sky-park community private airfield adjacent to their house while I was there! So now, in addition to Elks, Passport America, Harvest Hosts and military Fam Camps, I can add CoE facilities to my shopping list of potential future stays!

Next stop was the FRVA INTO Area Rally in Sevierville TN held at The Ridge Outdoor Resort in the heart of the Smokey Mountains in mid-May....lot's of great information provided by the FRVA folks in attendance! I even got to spend some quality time with our FRVA President, Paul Mitchel and his lovely wife, Lisa, during one of our included event entertainment outings to a dinner show at the Dolly Parton Stampede. The Redneck Comedy Bus tour that was also included was especially memorable in providing Redneck language lessons....and Moonshine tasting!

My goal was to attend the FRVA International Convention in Sedalia MO in early July, then finish with the EAA Air Venture airshow and aviation gathering in Oshkosh Wisconsin in late July before pointing back toward the Pacific North West to arrive in time for planned medical appointments and events prior to joining the North West Trek Fun Club for their last scheduled Rally in Sutherlin Oregon in October...so with that in mind, I headed West to Wichita KS for an extended visit with family.

I got to spend Memorial Day weekend with my eldest son and my three adult grandkids, and EIGHT great grandkids, then camp at another CoE facility near Wichita, the El Dorado State recreation area encompassing El Dorado Lake.

...and then, reality intervened. At the end of the first week of June, I had a health scare which turned my projected travels toward home sooner than intended. I'm writing this from curbside at my son's house in Wichita on the 14th of June, but tomorrow I will point West in order to be back home by the 3rd of July. I'm doing fine following a thorough evaluation at the ER, but having been traveling now since late December, I realize that clearly it's time to go back.

I'll be moving my planned medical appointments forward from late August as originally planned.

I guess my message to all would simply be this...take full advantage of the travel opportunities that your RV provides you at every turn. You never know when reality might intrude with an event which might change everything!

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.....