

## May 2023 ORVW Rally at Elkton RV Park Hosted by Anne Mansavage and Mo Swerdlik

The annual Elkton Rally is one of our group's favorites. This year 36 women in 24 RVs, 1 Motel, and 1 rental RV came together to enjoy each other in this beautiful location. The weather was perfect: cool mornings and evenings, warm afternoons and gorgeous blue skies. We enjoyed gathering around the fire and in the pavilion.

This Elkton Rally was "for the birds". Anne Mansavage and Mo Swerdlik brought binoculars and bird books and shared information on both the Audubon app and the Merlin Bird ID app. The Audubon app has a visual field guide and will play the calls of the birds you are identifying. The Merlin Bird ID app allows you to record the bird calls and it identifies the birds you are hearing. The Elkton RV Park is located on a bluff above the Umpqua River, providing the opportunity to observe herons, ducks, and osprey on and near the water, and grosbeaks and orioles in the trees. Each year we delight in watching the adult osprey caring for their chicks in a nest high above the RV park.



Our group is blessed with musically talented women. We spent multiple afternoons being serenaded by members playing ukeleles, a banjo, a guitar, and egg-shaped maracas. Some of us just delighted in singing along.

Saturday's Subway lunch was provided by Greg Gersbach who provided an interesting presentation of SkyMed services and anecdotes to illustrate its benefits. Several of us enrolled after lunch.

We enjoyed delicious potlucks on Friday and Saturday evenings and breakfasts of coffee, hard-boiled eggs, bagels and English muffins on Saturday and Sunday. This is our opportunity to catch up with friends and get to know new ones. No rally would be complete without 5 to 12 people playing our group's favorite card game, Square 9, each evening.



A morning campfire and hot coffee greeted everyone for Sunday's communal breakfast. Afterwards, everyone strolled to new member Steph Trotter's rig for the christening, then lingered to visit, chat about equipment, and share travel information. Later, 24 of us headed up the hill into town for a delightful lunch at Tomaselli's Bakery and Deli. We had the drawing for the beautiful camping gnomes-themed quilt generously provided by members Joan Lease and Paulette Beliveau. Barb Pace won the quilt which she then

gave to her mother, our oldest member at 103 – "Mom" Martha Lindegren.

This weekend's rally was a great time of connecting and celebrating friendship!



