

Oregon Chapter RVW - July 2024 by Michelle Pelkey

Our July rally was held at Casey's Riverside RV Park near the small town of Westfir, Oregon. It is one of our favorite parks as it is nestled in the woods right next to a portion of the Upper Middle Fork of the Willamette River. With temperatures in the high 80's and occasionally the 90's, being next to the river was a delight. There were 19 rigs and 26 campers who made the journey.

The rally kicked off Friday evening with a brief presentation about river rafting, (more about that later), an introduction of new members, and the consumption of various and delightful finger foods and desserts. Friday afternoon and evening, the weather provided us a little show with a short storm which included thunder and lightning. While there was no direct threat to us or our camping area, we learned the next morning that 3 separate forest fires had been started by lightning strikes to the north, east and south of us.



This area of Oregon is well known for its many biking trails, hiking trails and numerous waterfalls. A special area, Silver Falls State Park, hosts the Trail of Ten Falls a 7.2-mile loop trail that takes hikers to the foot of 10 waterfalls (several of which are 100 feet or taller), behind four, and into the heart of a lush, forested canyon that's accessible to all. For those that were interested in some river action, there were also kayaking and rafting opportunities, and after the continental breakfast Saturday morning, arrangements having been made for a rafting trip down the river, 10 brave souls participated in this adventure, traversing 2+ rapids, getting a little wet, a lot of sun and having a great time.

Saturday evening was the full-on potluck and there was a wonderful selection of dishes to delight the palate. Once again Square 9, our favorite card game, closed out the evening. As we slowly trundled off to our rigs, we were serenaded by the gentle sounds of the flowing river.



Still enjoying the sunny weather, after a delightful breakfast, the drawing for the quilt made by Joan Lase and Paulette Beliveau was held, and Helen Bressler was the lucky winner this month. This was followed by the christening of 1 new rig. Folks then took the opportunity to once again explore the surrounding forest lands and the communities of Westfir and Oakridge. While we

had considered a hot dog roast for the Sunday evening meal, with the fire danger levels in Oregon (including the local area) being mostly at high to extreme and always considering safety first, it was decided to split into smaller groups and support the local businesses by ordering take out or visiting a restaurant. And, we got to enjoy an impromptu birthday party during the evening card games including enjoying cake and ice cream when it was discovered that we had birthday the girl in our midst, Shelly Skelton. After all the excitement of the games and the birthday party, it was that time again to meander back to our rigs and let the sounds of the river lull us to sleep.



