



## 7 Things You Need to Know About Living in an RV (Part 2)

Cont'd from the February Newsletter

By Sondra Rochelle

*I've lived full-time in various RVs over the years and have loved every minute of "living the life." Learn if doing the same is for you.*

Living the mobile life in a coach or RV can be a life-changing experience, but it does come with some drawbacks. Find out if RV living is right for you.



### 4. RV Living Is Not Ideal for Families With Children

It is probably not a good idea to live full-time with children in a motor home because RV parks are not usually the safest places for them, and they rarely offer child-friendly amenities.

Additionally, too many bodies make for major discomfort, and more than two people living in even the largest unit can definitely create problems. Children living in your coach also means you'll need to store more clothes, medications, special foods, equipment, and toys in your living space.

People do RV full-time with youngsters on board, but it is not the most enjoyable way to live. Traveling with children is one thing, but day-to-day mobile living with them is far more complicated.

### 5. Living With Pets in an RV Is Difficult

Many people enjoy keeping animals with them in their coaches, but the truth is that this can create a variety of problems. Pets require special equipment, toys, medications, and food—all of these things take up valuable space. Some parks do not allow animals or require residents who own them

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# PUGET SOUNDERS

## Ramblin's from Roxanne



Spring has sprung, all the flowers are blooming and US20 is now open over the pass. It is now time to get our RV's out and go camping. I am hoping that many of you have now had your vaccine and with the state beginning to open we will not be afraid to get together and enjoy each other's company.

Our first outing at Cedars RV in Ferndale was small, only 5 coaches, but we had a great time getting to really know each other better. The Robinson's were back with us as well as the Platz's. It was great to see Jim and Kathy Smith again. We were the 4<sup>th</sup> couple and Cameron's stepped up to host.

Friday evening saw us gathered at the grassy area by Cameron's coach for snacks and the weather held for us, it did get a little cold fairly early, but we weather thru to enjoy all the goodies and one new offering, we actually did a cheese fondue with all the accompanied.

Laurie had arranged with the staff to let us use the meeting room if it rained and Saturday morning, we awoke to a drizzle, so we were able to enjoy our breakfast casserole, fruit and juice and be dry. That evening found us once again in the meeting room for Lemon Chicken and Rice with lots of side dishes and desserts. This time the fondue was chocolate with marshmallows, fruit, and cake to dip.

Sunday morning the drizzle was still with us and so we were back inside for breakfast. Thank you to Laurie and Ken for a wonderful job of hosting. We do still need hosts for future outings. Only May and June and spoken for.

Mike was able to show off his new electric scooter which has given him a lot of new freedom, and me too.

Please check the list of outing elsewhere in this newsletter and sign up to attend and maybe even to host an outing.

### Message from your Wagon Master

Hello All, it's time to be making reservations **with the upcoming parks for the 2021 Rally season, especially for June & July. See the back page of this newsletter for all of the rally information.**

**Also I recommend that you text me at 360-402-0820, or email at bob.fite@comcast.net when you make a reservation so I can provide the hosts with an accurate headcount, so they can plan food.**

**Bob Fite**



### Secretary/Treasurer Reminder:

Dues for the 2021 Rally season are now \$20.00.

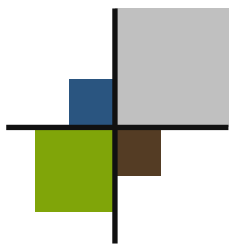


Please send your 2021 dues with a check made out to:

Puget Sounders  
4931 Scott Rd. NW  
Olympia, WA 98502

If you have any questions, please call me at 360-402-7956

Thank you,  
Elsie Fite



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## Icicle Creek Rally May 2021

### Things to do in Leavenworth

Welcome to Bavaria in the heart of the Cascade Mountains of Washington. Leavenworth, a former logging and railroad town, revitalized its relevance in the 1960s with a drastic transformation. Through community efforts and inspiration, the city converted into an authentic Bavarian Village with a craggy mountain backdrop that adds to the effect.

It's not just the city-wide storefronts that resemble a Bavarian hamlet in Leavenworth. The entire community embraces **old-world and modern German traditions**. And today, the city entices tourists with annual celebrations like a Bavarian Icefest, Maifest, and end-of-year Christkindlmarkt.

Over a million visitors flock to Leavenworth every year. And it's not only in-town things to do and places to visit that attract such a crowd. Stunning mountain backdrops and national forest surround Leavenworth, providing ample opportunity for adventure. And outdoor excursions span the entire year with a surplus of snowy endeavors nearby.

Only two hours east of the Emerald City, this unique mountain town is one of the [best weekend getaways from Seattle](#). For sightseeing ideas during your visit to "Bavaria in Washington," read our list of the top things to do in Leavenworth.

### Enjoy the Festivities

A big draw to Leavenworth is the many festivals that take place amid the Bavarian architecture. A different city celebration occurs every month, from the **Bavarian Icefest** in January to the **Christmas Lighting Festival** in December.

Festivals range from Bavarian traditions to themed celebrations of the season. **Mai-fest** is one event not to miss, typically taking place over Mother's Day weekend with dancing, music, and a parade. A similar but different celebration occurs during the **Washington State Autumn Leaf Festival** in the fall.

Leavenworth's local culinary scene is also the center of many town events. **Taste Leavenworth!** occurs in April and offers one of the best ways to sample the local flavor. One of the most well-attended events in Leavenworth, **Oktoberfest**, happens on weekends throughout October, complete with lively German music and dancehall events.



### Explore Icicle Creek

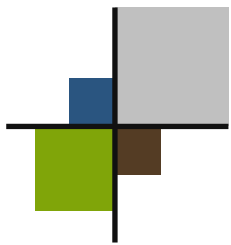


Icicle Creek begins high in the Cascade Mountains and connects to the Wenatchee River near Leavenworth. **Icicle Creek Road** follows a lengthy portion of this waterway from town. And the road is the city's gateway to magic mountain environments. If ever in the rare moment of feeling bored in Leavenworth, drive down this 20-mile partially primitive road. Stunning mountain features and landscapes line the entire route. It's also lined with hiking trails, scenic pullouts, and places to camp.

Just outside of town on Icicle Creek Road, the **Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery** offers a unique stop. Alongside the opportunity to learn about the salmon life cycle, the hatchery provides excellent views on the **Icicle Creek Nature Trail**.

The Fish Hatchery is just the tip of Icicle Creek attractions. Other notable hikes include the similarly-named **Icicle Creek Trail** and **Icicle Gorge Trail**. The route into **The Enchantments** is also accessible along Icicle Creek at the Stuart Lake Trailhead. Primitive camping is available, and the U.S. Forest Service also operates designated campgrounds.

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# PUGET SOUNDERS

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## Stand in Awe in The Enchantments



The four-million-acre **Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest** surrounds all sides of Leavenworth. This spectacular swath of mountains, rivers, and glacial remnants affords a lifetime of adventure. But visitors only need to drive 15 miles from town to arrive at the trailhead for the most jaw-droppingly beautiful area of the entire forest.

The Enchantments, within the **Alpine Lake Wilderness**, is even more stunning than it sounds. With other aptly named features like **Perfection Lake** and **Asgard Pass**, this high-alpine paradise is brimming with jagged peaks and wild mountain goats. Most hik-

ers start their journey at the **Stuart Lake Trailhead**, 13 miles down Icicle Creek Road from Leavenworth. The hike through The Enchantments is a challenging 18-mile, point-to-point trek with over 4,000 feet of elevation gain. The hike is more enjoyable as a multi-night backpacking trip, which requires scoring a competitive [permit](#). Without the permit, day hiking through The Enchantments is doable for experienced hikers.

## White Water Raft the Wenatchee River

Leavenworth is a central hub for white water rafting. Several local outfitters run memorable trips down the Wenatchee River, which flows right next to the center of town. Thanks to rip-roaring fun in the high-water season (May and June), and mellower waves in mid-summer, the Wenatchee is one of [Washington's best rivers for white-water rafting](#).



Guiding companies like **Orion River Rafting**, **Blue Sky Outfitters**, and **Osprey Rafting** all offer full-day trips. These trips start near Leavenworth, and many companies also offer express journeys for those crunched on time. During high-water season, expect consistent Class III rapids and at least 10 miles of river rafting.

More casual floats on the Wenatchee River are also popular. The section closest to downtown offers a slow pace and a wonderful way to spend the day. Other agencies like the **Leavenworth Outdoor Center** facilitate floating trips with tube rentals and shuttles.

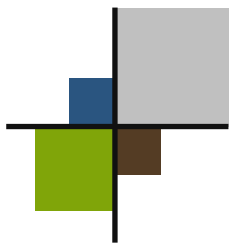
## Find Something Fresh at the Leavenworth Community Farmers Market



The Leavenworth Community Farmers Market takes place Thursdays evenings throughout summer and fall. This community event brings together local vendors, citizens, and tourists of Leavenworth. Alongside bolstering the local economy, the markets also feature a variety of engaging events.

**Makers Markets** designed for kids almost always accompany the traditional market activities. These free children's engagements offer a fun way to play and make new friends. Other special events at the Market include **Yoga at the Market** and an annual **Barter Fair**.

Official site: <https://leavenworthfarmersmarket.org/>



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## Rally Recap: Cedars RV Resort April 2021

While the weather didn't exactly cooperate with us, our group (5 coaches) had a great time. We were restricted to meal times only in the clubhouse due to the campground's COVID protocols so it was difficult to gather during the day in the rain although we enjoyed our Friday night gathering outside. Then the rain came and stayed...

Great conversations, good food and wonderful company!

See you at the next rally in Leavenworth!



### Puget Sounder News

Jim and Cathy Matthew - long time members.

"We are hoping to join in at a rally that has cabins sometime this season as we are selling our RV. However, we have a trailer on our getaway property in Yelm allowing us to remain members. Our year has been doubly challenging with some health issues for me with my leg and three surgeries in four months. So don't be surprised to see me using a walker or my beloved scooter but it will take more than that to slow me down. A big Hello to all those we know and miss and to all you new members we are excited to meet." Cathy and Jim



If you have any news you'd like to share with the group, i.e. new address, places you spent the winter, upcoming trips, etc., please email Laurie at [lauriecmrn@aol.com](mailto:lauriecmrn@aol.com) so that we can share your news

### RALLY NOTES:

Remember: Call/text/email your wagon master when you make or cancel reservations  
Bob Fite: 360-402-0820 or [bob.fite@comcast.net](mailto:bob.fite@comcast.net)

All parks require you to call individually, to make a reservation with your credit card.

Generally sites will not be held past 30 days prior to the rally. We recommend that you make reservations early.

For members no longer traveling with an RV there are cabins available at the May, June, July, September, October, and November rallies.

Expect rallies to be open air (without clubhouse) weather permitting.



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## *RV Tips & Tricks - Part 2*

- **Turning on Propane:**  
After turning on the propane, turn on the stove burner to bleed out any air in the lines.
- **Extend Wiper Blade Life:**  
Those big RV wiper blades are expensive and a hassle to have to replace. When storing the RV place a tennis ball between the windshield and the wiper blade arm. This raises the wiper off the window and keeps it from deforming.
- **Tip For The Furnace:**  
If there is soot around the outside vent this could mean there is a problem.
- **Fresh Water Tank:**  
Clean the fresh water tank and plumbing lines with 1 cup bleach and half a tank of fresh water. Run the water through the plumbing lines and drive the RV a few miles to slosh the water around in the tank. Let it sit for a few hours or overnight. Then drain the tank and flush the lines.
- **Tips On The Best Kids Toys For Camping:**  
Coloring books, activity books, Crayons, colored pencils, Play-Doh; Card games: Go Fish, Old Maid; Busy books: Thomas the Train, Cars, Planes, Strawberry Shortcake, and My Little Pony; Bubbles, Chalk, Pitch and catch ball sets, Frisbees, Bat and Wiffle ball set, Plastic cars, Rubber balls, Kites.
- **Motorhome Tips and Tricks To Get Rid Of Ants:**  
Use a glass cleaner with ammonia. It kills the ants and wipes out their smell trail so they stay away.
- **Best Time To Buy an RV:**  
The best prices are usually at RV shows. It is important to go to the show on the first day or two as they do sell. Also, a good time to buy is in the fall of the year. When the new models come out dealerships want to unload the last year's models.
- **Tip To Check Your RV Tires Age:**  
To know the tires age there is a DOT number shown on the side wall of the tire. The last four numbers are when the tire was manufactured and is required on all tires. Of the last four DOT numbers, the first two show the week of the year the tire was manufactured, and the last two numbers show the year.
- **Tip To Conserve Water:**  
Military shower, to conserve hot water and gray water holding tank space, turn water off when shampooing and soaping up in the shower. Don't run water while you are brushing your teeth.
- **Making The Most Of Cabinet Space:**  
Most RV's have a lot of cabinet space, which is great, but it still leaves a lot of wasted space. By installing wire baskets in strategic places, such as behind cabinet doors and in the tops of cabinets, a lot of that wasted cabinet space can be utilized.

**To be continued in the next newsletter, June 2021.**

# PUGET SOUNDERS

(Continued from page 1)

to camp in special areas and pay extra fees. There are usually pet size and type restrictions as well, so additional research is necessary when deciding where to stay.



Furthermore, pets can wreak havoc on an RV. They create odors and messes, damage upholstery and cabinetry, and leave hair, ticks, and fleas everywhere. If they annoy other campers in any way or their masters do not pick up their waste matter, most parks will terminate the lot rental, eject the perpetrators, and refuse to give refunds.

The most successful pet situations I have seen are those where people keep very small dogs, wash and groom them regularly, and take them out only to do their business. People who travel with multiple animals, large dogs, pigs (yes, pigs!), and horses cannot possibly hope to do well with full-timing.

While some people do successfully live full-time with small, docile dogs, in nine cases out of ten, pets are not congruent with RV living.

## 6. A Mail-Forwarding Service Is Usually Necessary

Keeping in touch with the outside world for personal and business matters is important. Luckily, staying connected is an easier feat than it used to be—one only needs a cell phone, a laptop with wireless capabilities, and a mail forwarding service.

Mail forwarding services are inexpensive (as little as \$10 per month plus postage), safe, and convenient. When you use them, you automatically become a legal resident of the state where the service is located. Therefore, it is important to choose one such as Florida or Texas where fees and taxes are much less costly than places like New York or California.

Signing up is very easy:

1. Choose the service you wish to use. Submit a formal change-of-address request to your local post office.

Once you're set up with a mail-forwarding service, the post office will send all of your incoming mail to the service instead of to your old address. The forwarding service will keep your mail until you call to tell them where to send it.

Mail forwarding services can generally be started or

stopped as needed, but each company has its own rules, so it is wise to find out what they are prior to signing up. The best and most reasonable one I know of is offered by [the Good Sam Club](#). There is always a delay when using this method, and it costs a bit to do because you must pay postage fees in addition to the monthly cost. However, if you have no home base or have not made arrangements with someone you trust to handle your post for you, it is the safest and most reliable way to access your mail.



## 7. You'll Need to Get the Right Insurance

Arranging for insurance coverage is much the same for full-timers as it is for everybody else. However, people without home bases must make sure that they carry health insurance policies that will cover them completely no matter their location. HMOs and other limited service-area policies will not provide coverage unless you happen to be in the same state as your mail forwarding service.

For those who travel a great deal, it is a good idea to purchase emergency coverage that will not pay medical costs but will, under the appropriate circumstances, provide regional medical referrals and oversight as well as a means of getting you and your vehicle back to your home base at no cost. Good Sam Club sells one that costs around \$110 per year and covers all travelers. Auto insurance policies generally cover travel units, but not all do, so ask before you buy.

## Full-Time RVers: Unstoppable!

### Making a Major Lifestyle Change Can Be Difficult

Not everybody adapts well to living in a travel unit because, just like anything else, the RV lifestyle has both advantages and drawbacks. For some full-timers, the negatives of the motor home lifestyle begin to outweigh the positives and they chose to [stop living full-time in their RVs](#).

Once you've examined how all of the considerations on this page apply to your situation, you will have the information necessary to make an informed decision about whether or not to look into RV living.

Good Luck!

# PUGET SOUNDERS

## 2021 Rally Schedule

### **Icicle River RV Park**

Friday, May 21 — Sunday, May 323  
7305 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth, WA 98826  
509-548-5420  
Host: Roxanne & Mike Parish  
Co-Host: Volunteer requested

### **Riverbend RV Park**

Friday, June 18 — Sunday, June 220  
19961 Hwy 20, Twisp, WA 98856  
800-686-4498, 509-997-3500  
Host: Ben & Donna Barker  
Co-Host: Volunteer requested

### **North Whidbey RV Park**

Friday, July 23 — Sunday, July 125  
565 Cornet Bay Rd, Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
360-675-9597  
Host: Volunteer requested  
Co-Host: Volunteer requested

### **Columbia Sun RV Resort**

Friday, August 20—Sunday August 22  
103907 Wiser Pkwy, Kennewick, WA 99338  
509-420-4880  
Host: Volunteer requested  
Co-Host: Volunteer requested

### **American Sunset RV & Tent Resort**

Friday, September 17 — Sunday, September 19  
1209 N Montesano St, Westport, WA 98595-1878  
800-569-2267. 360-268-0207  
Host: Volunteer requested  
Co-Host: Volunteer requested

### **Elwha Dam RV Park**

Friday, October 15 — Sunday, October 17  
47 Lower Dam Rd, Port Angeles, WA 98363  
360-452-7054  
Host: Volunteer requested  
Co-Host: Volunteer requested

### **Silver Cove RV Resort**

Friday, November 12 — Sunday, November 14  
351 Hall Rd, Silverlake, WA 98645  
877-380-7278, 360-967-2057  
Host: Volunteer requested  
Co-Host: Volunteer requested



### **FMCA NW Area Rally**

Cancelled

### **FMCA's 103rd International Convention**

Wednesday, July 7—Saturday, July 10  
CAM-PLEX Multi Event Facilities

## **2021 Officers and Staff**

**President: Roxanne Parish**  
**Vice President: Bob Fite**  
**Secretary/Treasurer: Elsie Fite**  
**National Director: Mike Parish**  
**Alt. National Director: Sandra Older**  
**Wagon Master: Bob Fite**  
**Asst. Wagon Master: TBD**  
**Sheriff: Sandra Older**  
**Sunshine Person: Sandi Hersh**  
**Newsletter/Historian: Laurie Cameron**  
**Merchandise: Elsie Fite**  
**Webmaster: Gene Kenney**



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