



## Dealers Say Inventory Replenishment Could Be 2 Years Out

By RV News Staff, September 24, 2021

Dealer inventory shortages might last longer than expected, according to the results of Thompson Research Group’s Q3’21 RV Dealer Survey.

The survey found dealers saying the inventory timeline replenishment continues to lengthen. Three months ago, the consensus was restocking sometime in mid-2022. The latest survey shows dealers expecting it will be late 2022 or even into 2023 before the inventory issue is resolved.

“I thought it could be possible,” TRG founding partner and CEO Kathryn Thompson said. “When you are either working down inventories or getting to a reasonable level, it always takes a little longer than you think.”

In a vacuum, TRG’s report from the survey stated, the third quarter was another strong demand quarter. However, there is a greater variation in sales figures, as there is a lack of uniformity in ability to get units.

“Who gets product though, the haves and have-nots, is more distinct this cycle,” Thompson said. “There is greater variation. So when we see some people report sales being down that is not necessarily a reflection of demand but more the ability to get product.”

Lead times remain long and well above historical norms, the survey found, with supply-chain bottlenecks delaying deliveries and keeping manufacturers from taking backlogs down. In addition, quality issues are a concern.

*(Continued on page 8)*



### In This Issue

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October is Election Month</li> <li>Secretary/Treasurer Reminder</li> </ul>	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramblin’s from Roxanne</li> <li>Puget Sounder News</li> <li>Rally Notes</li> </ul>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upcoming Rally - Port Angeles - Elwha Dam RV Resort</li> </ul>	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rally Recap - Westport - American Sunset RV Park</li> </ul>	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rally Recap - Kennewick - Columbia Sun</li> </ul>	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RV Tips &amp; Tricks</li> </ul>	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the Lighter Side</li> </ul>	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021 Rally Schedule</li> <li>2021 Officers &amp; Staff</li> </ul>	10



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## Ramblin's From Roxanne

Well, we have completed another Sounders rally with only 2 left in this year. Hopefully we will have more members attending next year. We did have 7 rigs this last rally in Westport, the weather was good, we were able to use the clubhouse on Saturday, and Sunday was so nice we had breakfast outside and then watched the football game on our outside TV.

Our rallies are getting longer, we officially schedule Friday, and Saturday events with departure on Sunday, but this group has been starting on Thursday and departing on Monday.

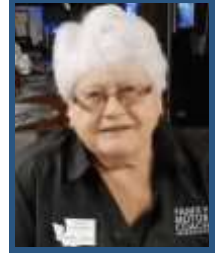
Mike and I left Westport and headed South to Albany, Oregon for the planning meeting for the Northwest Area Rally next June. Be sure to put the dates, June 21-25, on your calendar. It will be held at The Mill Casino in Coos Bay. There are a lot of fun things on the schedule. Of course, I will be handling Registration and Information and still need for bodies to help man the tables. Please let me know if you will be attending.

The Spring International Convention will be held in Tucson March 22-26. If you are going to be in Arizona this winter it would be great if we all can caravan in together and be parked together. Rick Murphy and I will be coordinating this.

After the outing at Elwha Dam, Mike and I will be headed back to Arizona and will see everyone in the Spring.

Roxanne

*"Don't make me flip my witch switch."*



## Puget Sounder News



### October is voting month!

If you will not be attending the October rally in Port Angeles, please get your votes into Roxanne prior to Saturday, October 16th. See Page 2 for positions that are up for vote.

### October is renewal time!

It's time to renew your dues. See Page 2 for more information.

**Note for June 2022:** The FMCA NW Area rally will be held in Coos Bay, OR, June 21-25.

FMCA has lowered their yearly dues to \$50 per year. You can pay your dues for up to three years at this lowered rate.

## 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

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

Keep in mind when making your reservations that most attendees arrive at the parks on Thursday and stay till Monday, if they have the availability.

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 October, and November rallies.

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

# PUGET SOUNDERS

Upcoming Rally: October 2021

## Elwha Dam RV

From Brad & Sandy Older (Rally Hosts)

We are looking forward to a great weekend at Elwha Dam RV Park just outside of Port Angeles, October 15 – 17. From the Website, [elwhadamrvpark.com](http://elwhadamrvpark.com), it looks like a great park. We currently have 7 coaches signed up, some coming a day early, and there is room for more. You can call to reserve at **(360) 452-7054**.

This is an important rally for 3 reasons. It's a Business Meeting, Election of 2022 Officers and further, this is to be our annual Chili Cook-off.

We need chefs to challenge the Fite Dynasty who dominated last year's cook-off. Other sides are also needed, but if you are up to challenging Bob, please reply with a simple "yes" to this email.

- We'll be gathering **Friday** evening at 5:30 pm. for happy hour. Please bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverage.
- **Saturday** morning we'll gather at 9:00 am. for a breakfast. Menu includes waffles, fruit, muffins & juice. Please bring your own coffee or tea.
- **Saturday** evening we'll gather at 5:30 pm. for dinner. Chili and corn bread will be the main dish. Please bring competitive Chili or something to share.
- **Saturday, after dinner**, will be our Business Meeting and Election of Officers for 2022.
- We'll serve **Sunday** breakfast at little earlier (8:30 am.) in case there are some who are needing to check out by noon (several of us are staying till **Monday**).
- **Sunday** breakfast will be leftovers, muffins, fruit & juice. Please bring your own coffee or tea.

For information on what to do in Port Angeles, try this website:

<https://www.visitportangeles.com/things-to-do-port-angeles/>



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## Rally Recap: September 2021

### American Sunset RV Resort - Westport, WA

What do you usually think of when you think of the Washington coast? Cloudy skies and gray weather, right? Well, that was not the case the weekend of September 10-12 in Westport. We had beautiful weather after just a little bit of rain on Thursday night. (Wouldn't have been right if we hadn't had some rain.)



There were seven rigs at the rally (Parrish, Older, Allen, Austin, Robinson, Cameron, Greywolf). Since we didn't have the pre-requisite ten coaches, the clubhouse was not available to us at no charge, so we decided to rent it for the day on Saturday so that we could have our breakfast and dinner inside.

Attendees explored the area during the days and we had great fun gathering each morning and evening. Several people went to the sausage factory to buy some yummy carnivore snacks. The Austin's made great use of their bikes exploring Westport.

Cribbage grudge matches were played by Brad and Ken. Ask Ken who's crying now! Several of us went out to dinner on Thursday at a local fish and chips shop. Great food! We explored the beach and waterfront areas too.



Since we didn't have the clubhouse for Sunday breakfast, we set up shop outside the Parrish RV outdoor TV for a Seahawk's brunch. Notice the amazing blue skies.



On Sunday, Roxanne asked for some help in moving two tv's in her RV.

How many guys does it take to move a tv? It took some time, but I have to say that they did finally get the job done. Thanks for the help, guys.



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## Rally Recap: August 2021

### Columbia Sun RV Resort - Kennewick, WA

Well, we might not have been mighty in numbers but we were mighty in adventures and fun. Only 3 couples ventured across the state to Kennewick and the Columbia Sun RV Resort. The Cameron's, Older's, and Parish's braved the August weather that everyone was so afraid of. As it turned out we had perfect weather in the low 80's and a nice breeze each day. There were a few mix ups with reservations. We were in the system but no reservation, even though I had called. Older's had given the park the wrong dates and Cameron's were nowhere in their system at all. They did however manage to find us spots and all turned out for the best.

Since it was just the 6 of us, we opted for sandwiches for dinner Friday night, so the girls headed off to the store for supplies, deli meat, croissants, and cream cheese puffs. The guys gathered at the Parish's for a gab fest.

Saturday was just pancakes and bacon for breakfast and then we headed out to the REACH Museum in Richland. (see additional article) We had a light dinner and watched the Sounders.

Sunday Laurie fixed eggs to order, hash browns and sausage for breakfast. Lazy afternoon and headed out to Applebee's for dinner and then back for cribbage (Ken and Brad) and pie. Ask Brad who won.

Monday we all headed out, some to go home, some to visit family in the area.

#### **Hanford REACH National Monument**

The 169,000-acre monument was formed in 2000 to protect rare plants, wildlife and remnants of human history. This area was allowed to remain wild to serve as a security buffer for the top-secret Manhattan Project during World War II.

The 51-mile-long Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing, non-tidally influenced stretch of the Columbia River. This area has never been dammed or dredged. The river borders the U.S. Dept. of Energy Hanford Site that was established to produce materials for nuclear weapons during WWII and later the Cold War.

#### **REACH Museum**

The Museum not only shows the build-up and tear-down of the Hanford Nuclear site but also chronicles the geologic changes of the area from the Ice Age Floods to the present. Here you will learn about the early types of mammals that lived here and how the landscape was changed by floods.

You can explore drawers of petrified wood and fossils and try your hand at an electronic fossil dig to piece together mammoth bones. View Native American artifacts on display. Learn how the Manhattan Project and Hanford Engineering Works played a crucial role in ending WWII



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## *RV Tips & Tricks*

### **Tires When RV is Stored:**

When storing the RV for a longer period of time it is good to keep the tires off the dirt. Park on boards, or use those plastic leveling squares, or park on gravel. There are contaminants in the soil that will degrade the rubber reducing tire life. Also cover with vinyl tire covers.

### **Free Camping At Wildlife Refuges:**

Be on the lookout for Fish and Wildlife refuges, both national and state, for good boon-docking and cheap camping opportunities. When there is no hunting season active, these refuges can be deserted. At some of these wildlife resources you can camp either free or very cheap.

### **Create A Personalized Photo Map To Hang In Your RV:**

Purchase a map and add photos in the shapes of each state you visit. The pictures will help you remember the activities you did in each state.

### **Keep A Stocked First Aid Kit:**

Being in an RV can usually mean that you are miles from the nearest medical facility. In the event of a medical emergency, you need to make sure you have anything you might need to hold things over until help arrives. A first aid kit that has a variety of different things in it is invaluable to the RV traveler.

### **Motorhome Tips and Tricks for Water Pressure Control:**

Use an adjustable water regulator with sight gage to protect your RVs plumbing system. Camco adjustable brass water pressure Regulator helps to protect plumbing and hoses from damage caused by high-pressure water. Regulator may be set to desired pressure using adjustment screw in cap. Protects equipment and prevents hose failure, helping to prolong equipment life. Constructed of durable lead free brass.



### **Dumping the Tanks:**

Always dump the black water tank first then open the grey water to drain. The grey water helps to clean out any black water debris. When drained, close both tank valves.

### **Transmission Retarder:**

Use the transmission as a braking system. Press the tow/haul button to automatically shift the transmission to a lower gear as a brake. Works good when going down long or steep grades.

### **Exercise The RV:**

When not using a Motorhome or when stored during the off season. It is a good idea at least once a month to start the engine and run the generator under a load. After three months it's good to drive the RV a few miles.

### **Tip To Align Your Hitch And Tow Bar:**

The 2-in-1 magnetic trailer alignment kit features bright yellow foam balls for day use, and red flashing LEDs for night. Dual telescoping rods magnetically attach to the hitch and coupler. Just back up and align the foam balls and the hitch is in-line with the tow coupler.





# PUGET SOUNDERS

*(Continued from page 1)*

“While not the same quality issues as the previous RV boom saw, it is still quality control challenges that work their way through the supply chain and are addressed at the OEM or dealer level,” the report stated. “Many dealers reported dealing with these issues on the lot as the units come in or by educating customers that if you want a unit faster you might need to be a little flexible on certain items.”

Among the parts issues encountered are substitute items such as different colored cabinets than originally ordered or alternative furniture pieces. However, Thompson said the challenges are not RV manufacturers’ alone.

“I don’t know that I would beat up the RV industry more than any other industry,” she said, “but we are seeing where someone orders one color cabinet and you are getting another color in. Those small product issues we are seeing in a wide variety of industries, not just RV.”

The report stated OEMs are left with a conundrum of waiting for the right parts or using alternative parts that get the job done. Survey feedback pointed to the issue as a factor more with smaller OEMs and suppliers rather than the larger companies able to manage around challenges.

One dealer in the South explained a situation involving alternative furniture.

“One of our RVs came with electric recliners but with no plug behind to plug into,” the dealer said. “What happened was the OEM putting it together could not get a regular couch so they just used the electric furniture they had in stock.”

“It’s hit or miss,” another dealer said. “One unit could be perfect and the next might have a bad fridge.”

Dealers often respond with empathy toward manufacturers, especially when they are happy to receive RVs to display.

“Manufacturers are rushed due to lack of people to work, so we’ve noticed the quality isn’t quite as high coming onto the lot,” a Midwest dealer said. “But that’s mostly small stuff that can be fixed at the dealership.”

The survey found that domestic product sourcing is faring better in supply chains than international imports. However, challenges remain domestically in managing available labor.

Higher freight costs also are weighing on product pricing. Although inflation is apparent in all supply-chain aspects, from materials to labor to freight the survey found, freight is most notable. Freight costs continued to rise since the second quarter.

Dealers responded that lead times remain long, with some saying wait times were to three months and others citing seven- to nine-month waits for high-end products or motorhomes.

Still, at least a few dealers sounded positive tones about waits.

“Lead times and the supply chain is getting better,” a Southern dealer said. “Still nowhere near it used to be, but definitely somewhat better.”

Demand levels, meanwhile, remain strong. Dealers in the survey were optimistic the demand for RVs post-Covid is higher than pre-Covid even after slowing sequentially from the rapid spike in mid-2020.

“No dealers reported concerns (yet) that the industry is approaching the over-supply scenario that played out in 2017/18 given 1) we are a long way from meeting current demand with backlogs and lead times where they are, and 2) demand is expected to remain a level above historical trends,” the report stated.



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## On the Lighter Side

### Things I'm Super Good At



1. Forgetting someone's name 10 seconds after they tell me.
2. Buying produce...and throwing it away two weeks later.
3. Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions. 🤔
4. Making plans. And then immediately regretting making plans.
5. Leaving laundry in the dryer until it wrinkles. Then turning on the dryer to dewrinkle. Then forgetting it again.
6. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".



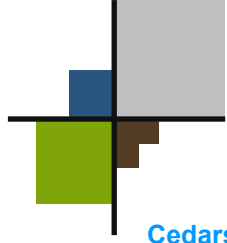
## Attention: Puget Sounders



We need members to volunteer as officers for the next year

We need members to share their favorite RV parks for rallies

We need members to volunteer to host or co-host at upcoming rallies, especially for the 2022 rally season



# PUGET SOUNDERS

## 2021 Rally Schedule

### **Cedars RV Resort**

Friday, April 23 — Sunday, April 25  
6335 Portal Way, Ferndale, WA 98248  
360-384-2622  
Host: Ken & Laurie Cameron

### **Icicle River RV Park**

Friday, May 21 — Sunday, May 23  
7305 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth, WA 98826  
509-548-5420  
Host: Mike & Roxanne Parish

### **Riverbend RV Park**

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

### **North Whidbey RV Park**

Friday, July 23 — Sunday, July 25  
565 Cornet Bay Rd, Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
360-675-9597  
Host: Mike & Roxanne Parish  
Co-Host: Volunteer needed

### **Columbia Sun RV Resort**

Friday, August 20—Sunday August 22  
103907 Wiser Pkwy, Kennewick, WA 99338  
509-420-4880  
Host: No Host

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

Friday, September 10— Sunday, September 12  
1209 N Montesano St, Westport, WA 98595-1878  
800-569-2267. 360-268-0207  
Host: Ken & Laurie Cameron  
Co-Host: Bernard & Becky Robinson

### **Elwha Dam RV Park**

Friday, October 15 — Sunday, October 17  
47 Lower Dam Rd, Port Angeles, WA 98363  
360-452-7054  
Host: Brad & Sandra Older  
Co-Host: Volunteer needed

### **Silver Cove RV Resort**

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

## 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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