



Covering Post-Pandemic Tourism: the RV Life

by [Scott Bourque](#) [March 5, 2021](#)

While the pandemic has been devastating for most sectors of the economy, businesses that work with recreational vehicles saw rapid growth in 2020. While many businesses in the tourism sector aren't conducive to the public health measures required to contain COVID-19, RVing allows consumers to escape their crowded urban environments into the nation's vast national parks and outdoor recreation areas. There are a few trends to keep in mind when reporting on the RV's role in post-pandemic tourism.

Socially Distanced Vacations

For the past few decades, RVs were the province of wealthy families and nomadic retirees who followed the weather south for the winter. But for much of 2020, and likely for the next several years, international travel will remain difficult for many people. RVs both expand domestic travel opportunities *and* help travellers remain socially distant.

The [RV Industry Association](#) reported a 40% increase in year-over-year RV sales in between January 2020 and January 2021 — mostly in towable travel trailers. There was a nearly 98% increase in Class B motorhome (conversion van) sales, too.

The association also found that more than [61 million Americans](#) plan to go RVing sometime this year — up from 46 million in May of 2020.

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Happy Thanksgiving!



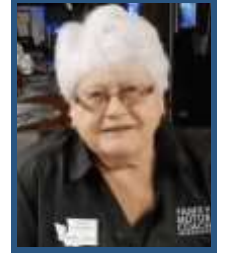
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PUGET SOUNDERS

Ramblin's From Roxanne

Hello everyone. We are home in Arizona. We left Elwha Dam and stayed in Castle Rock for 2 days and then headed through the Columbia Gorge in heavy rain. Our first stop was Madras, Oregon and winds up to 30 mph, but no rain. From there it was on to Burns, Oregon with winds of only seventeen mph. What a relief. The rest of the trip was great weather, good roads and fuel in the \$3.50 – \$3.79 range. RV parks ranged from \$25 to \$45. We will have our first guests in a few weeks, so I am getting the rig emptied and getting everything put away in the house.



Brad and Sandy Older put on a great rally at Elwha, and he has done a tremendous job getting parks booked for next year, get your reservations in early. There are some new parks and they look great. A huge thank you to the officers for last year. Bob Fite was great handling both VP and Wagon Master; Elsie did a fantastic job, as usual, as Secretary/Treasurer and she and Sandy Older, our Alternate Director, both attended their first National Rally as delegates and got to see our Governing board in action. Sandy is also continuing as Sheriff, and she is good. Keep those badges handy. (See more about badges elsewhere in this Newsletter)

Now, we welcome a few fresh faces on the board this year, Ken Cameron, as Vice President, and Brad Older as Wagon Master. Elsie, Sandy, Mike, and yes me are continuing in their same positions as last year.

It is never too early to put the NWA Rally on your schedule for next summer, June 21-25 at the Mill Casino in Coos Bay, Oregon. Registration will open in January. I will oversee Registration and Information, and I am still looking for a few more people to help. Also, for those who get tired of Washington's winter weather there is the FMCA National Convention in Tucson March 23-26. We would love to have anyone who would like to stop by and visit for a while either before or after Tucson.

Roxanne

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



Puget Sounder News

It's Puget Sounder dues renewal time!

It's time to renew your dues. See Page 7 for more information.

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

Donna Barker has volunteered to be the Sunshine Person for the club. If you know of someone who we should acknowledge with a card or note, please contact Donna. Her email is bendonnabarker@yahoo.com or her cell number is 360-201-5670.



RALLY NOTES:

Remember: Call/text/email your wagon master when you make or cancel reservations.

Brad Older: 360-359-6712

bradolder@fairpoint.net

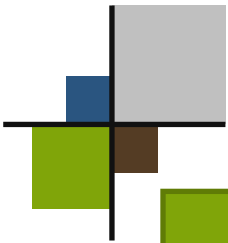
All parks require you to call individually, to make a reservation with your credit card.

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 select rally sites. More info to follow on which dates cabins are available.

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



PUGET SOUNDERS

October was Election Month

Elections were held as part of the Puget Sounder Business Meeting on October 16, 2021.

The following positions were voted in:

- President..... Roxanne Parrish
- Vice-President Ken Cameron
- Secretary/Treasurer Elsie Fite
- Alternate National Director..... Sandy Older

The following positions were appointed and/or renewed:

- Wagon Master Brad Older
- Sunshine Person..... Donna Barker
- Newsletter Laurie Cameron
- Webmaster Gene Kenney

A big shout out to all of the members who have volunteered and/or have been elected to these positions.



Attention: Puget Sounders

We held a lengthy discussion at the Elwha rally on the use of badges; why we wear them, and do we need to wear them? How important are the badges?

Badges are used to identify an individual and also to show pride in our organization.

If everyone at a rally is known to every other person maybe it is not so necessary, but if there is a visitor then we definitely need to wear our badges so they can get to know who everyone is.

We have suggested wearing them when checking in, so the park knows we are with a group.

We have suggested wearing them if we shop at local stores, so they know that we are visiting and spending time and money in the area. They will quite often suggest things to see or do and great places to eat.

The revenue received from not wearing amounts to very little so is there a need for a fine if the badge is not worn?

I would like to receive input from the members on this topic. Please email your comments to me at roxane1017@gmail.com.

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Upcoming Rally: November 2021

Silver Cove RV Resort, Silver Lake, WA



Hosts: Bob & Elsie Fite

Puget Sounders November Rally:
Friday Nov 12 – Sunday Nov 14
Last Rally for 2021

Silver Cove RV Resort
351 Hall Rd, Silver Lake
WA 98645
(360) 967-2057

While Winter is Coming:
Let's have an end of fall BBQ

Agenda:

Thursday (early arrivals):

Meet for dinner at Parker's Steakhouse

Friday:

5:30 pm Happy Hour and Appetizer Pot Luck

Saturday:

9:00 am: Waffles & Sausage

5:30 pm: Happy Hour (½ hour)

6:00 pm: Beef Brisket & Pot Luck Side Dishes

Sunday:

9:00am: Continental Breakfast

Something smells great!



Pot Luck = All Y'all Bring something to share

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Rally Recap: October 2021

Elwha Dam RV Resort

Beautiful Fall colors, officer elections & chili cookoff!

The Elwha area was certainly dressed for Fall. Although it was raining for a good portion of the weekend, the sun did peak out a few times to give us all a good chance to walk, ride or drive around to enjoy the beautiful vistas.

The Puget Sounders RV Club Business Meeting was held on Saturday after a great breakfast provided by Brad & Sandy Older. During the meeting we discussed club dues (\$20 per year), the NW Area Rally (June 21-25 at Coos Bay, OR), No host rallies and held officer elections. (See page 6 for further information)

The 2nd annual chili cookoff was held on Saturday night. The competition this year was amazing. All of the chilis that were served were definitely in the running for the #1 spot. The end result was: Laurie Cameron #1; Andrew Austin & Bob Fite tied for #2. It was a close call all around. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Photos courtesy of Holly Platz



PUGET SOUNDERS

RV Tips & Tricks

Tips For RV Battery Storage:

If you are going to put your RV in storage, make sure that your batteries are fully charged first. Also, appliances can leech power from your batteries even when they are turned off. To prevent this, turn off your batteries disconnect switch and remove all electrical connectors before you store your RV. Additionally, you should store your RV batteries in a cool place, preferably between 40 and 60F (4 to 16C), to minimize the discharge. If you are going to store your RV for more than two months, try to boost your batteries every two months to keep them from discharging completely.

Tip to get new decals for the RV:

Amazon has a good selection of [RV Graphics/Decals available.](#)

Tips When Hitting the Road:

Do a walk around the RV to be sure everything is ready to go. For example the antenna is down and the steps are up. All storage compartments are latched and locked. Look under and above the RV.

Winterize The RV:

Winterize the RV to avoid frozen pipes and broken fixtures in freezing weather.

Surge Protectors:

Portable Surge Guard Protectors, 50 amp

Surge Protectors are cheap insurance to protect against power spikes. Plug it in at camp sites. Identifies faulty park power plus offers surge protection. Also analyzes circuits to verify pedestal power. Indicators illuminate to show power status. Tests for and indicates: open ground, open neutral and correct polarity. Easy-T-Pull handles makes unplugging from the power post easier and safer. Weather resistant.



Tip Dump Donut:

For a temporary dump donut, cut out the bottom of a Styrofoam cup. Place it in the drain opening and push the sewer hose into it.

Tip Pine-Sol:

Wipe everything down with Pin-Sol. It keeps flies & ants away.

Refrigerator Storage:

When storing the RV leave the refrigerator door ajar to allow it to dry out and avoid mold and mildew growth.

Portable Laundry:

Portable laundry machines are great for the RV. They're smaller and work great. It uses 110 volt from the inverter with minimal water consumption. This portable washing machine and spin cycle is constructed of durable plastic material. Overall Dimensions: 23"(L) x 13.5"(W) x 26"(H) Best Choice Products Portable Compact Mini Twin Tub Washing Machine and Spin Cycle w/ Hose, 13lbs. Capacity



Tip To Save Money On RV Toilet Paper:

Use Scott brand one-ply instead of the more expensive RV brands. It breaks down quickly to prevent black tank clogs.

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You can easily localize this story: most towns have an RV dealer, and chances are they're having a hard time keeping any of their vehicles on the lot for long. Or, if you live near a major tourist attraction, investigate any potential increases in RV traffic or crowding at RV campsites.

Commodifying #VanLife

What started out as a nomadic lifestyle for solitary introverts is now a major trend: #vanlife has more than 9.3 million tagged posts on Instagram. Photos abound of crafty self-built camper vans in scenic locations; owners make decent money running blogs about the lifestyle. Vanlife influencers fund their nomadic lifestyles through promotional posts and digital work.

The business world is catching on, too. The owners of Tempe Arizona-based Boho Camper Vans appeared on ABC's *Shark Tank* in early 2020. They left with the backing of shark Barbara Corcoran and a valuation of more than \$1.5 million. As of March, 2021, they have a year-long waiting list for new builds, and a full rental calendar on their ever-growing fleet of rental vans.

It's still an expensive lifestyle to attain: buyers can expect to pay between \$70,000 and \$100,000 for a camper van. The average Ram ProMaster or Ford Transit vans can run anywhere from \$38,000 to well over \$50,000, depending on options. And the Boho buildout – which makes your van Instagrammable – starts at about \$35,000.

Democratizing RV Rental

Lots of people offset the cost of owning a vacation home by renting it out on platforms like AirBnb or VRBO when they're not using it. Did you know that a platform like this exists for RV owners, too?

Outdoorsy – essentially an AirBnb for RVs – saw a nearly 4,500% increase in bookings during 2020. This democratizes RV life: some people might be more inclined to buy an RV knowing they can make the payments by renting it out; others might have the opportunity to rent something they might not have been able to afford with a traditional rental service.

Some entrepreneurs see this as the future of tourism and are buying up small fleets of RVs to rent out in the marketplace. A savvy business reporter could easily identify one of these entrepreneurs in their area simply by checking listings: much like an AirBnb Superhost, owners on Outdoorsy list the vehicles they own on their profile pages.

This is surely cutting into the business of traditional RV rental companies like CruiseAmerica. What are they having to do to adapt – or is the larger surge of interest in RV rental lifting their boat too?

Secretary/Treasurer Reminder

Dues for the 2022 Rally season are \$20.00.

Please send your 2022 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



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On the Lighter Side



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2021 Rally Schedule

North Whidbey RV Park

Friday, April 15 — Sunday, April 17
565 Cornet Bay Rd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360-675-9597
northwhidbeyrvpark.com
Hosts: TBD

Stargazer (Reserve no later than April 20)

Friday, May 20 — Sunday, May 22
800 E Simcoe Dr., Goldendale, WA 98620
509-773-7827
Stargazersrvresort.com
Hosts: TBD

Olde Stone Village (Reserve by April 15)

Friday, June 17 — Sunday, June 19
4155 NE Three Mile Lane, McMinnville, OR 97128
503-472-4315
Oldestonevillage.com
Hosts: TBD

NW Regional Rally

Tuesday, June 21 — Friday, June 25
Coos Bay, OR
Registration opens in January

Howard Miller Steelhead Park—Tentative

Friday, July 22 — Sunday, July 24
52804 Rockport Park Rd., Rockport, WA 98283
360-853-8808
Hosts: TBD

Icicle River RV Park

Friday, August 19 — Sunday, August 21
7305 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth, WA 98826
509-548-5420
https://icicleriverrv.com/
Host: TBD

Columbia Riverfront RV Park

Friday, September 16 — Sunday, September 18
1881 Dike Rd, Woodland, WA 98674
360-225-2227
Host: TBD

Toutle River RV Resort—Tentative

Friday, October 21 — Sunday, October 23
150 Happy Trails, Castle Rock WA 98611
360-274-8373
www.greatrvresort.com/
Host: TBD

Midway RV

Friday, November 11 — Sunday, November 13
3200 Galvin Rd., Centralia, WA 98531
360-736-3200
Midwayrvparkwa.com

2022 Officers and Staff

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



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www.pugetsoundersrv.net




Christmas
LOADING...

