

OREGON RV CAMPERS ASSOCIATION

October 2023 Newsletter

"The Drifter"



"Our mission is to promote in Oregon an RV/Camping organization that creates friendships and education for members as well as goodwill and charitable experiences in our communities."

Hello ORCA friends,

Bill and I returned last week from a wonderful trip to Europe, eight countries in 24 days. However, three days later, I tested positive for Covid which I must have picked up on the plane. Now, Bill is sick, also. The joys of traveling, I guess. I was still able to publish this month's newsletter despite feeling ill, so I'm pretty proud of myself! We have never traveled to southern Europe before, and it was breathtaking. So many of our hotels were located close to churches, and each one would toll their bells every fifteen minutes. There is no better sound to remind one that they are in a foreign country. The Alps were stunning, the countryside and villages were gorgeous, and we had the opportunity to visit a classroom full of German children that looked at us as if we'd just landed from Mars. They were in an extremely small village where I'm sure they'd probably never seen an American before, and certainly didn't understand our language. Luckily, the two teachers knew some English, so we were able to communicate. When we left, the children gave us a gift of a little felt flower they'd made in a small ceramic vase. It was so incredibly sweet and heartfelt.

PLEASE NOTE: We have received some very concerned emails from several of our chapters in regard to the dues increase that was announced in last month's newsletter. This was an error on my part. Our board of directors did indeed discuss an increase to cover costs, but I was a little premature in setting this in stone. This issue will be discussed further at our October board meeting, and I'm sure a compromise will be reached that will satisfy all.

Bill and I have planned our last campout for the year on Halloween weekend at Memaloose State Park. This has become an annual event for us along with Bill's brother and sister-in-law. Some years we're sitting outside in t-shirts, and others, we're stuck indoors all weekend. But it's the 'getting out' that's important! We are Oregonians, after all, so a little rain won't melt us. As we settle in for the long winter, we look forward to seeing all of you at the Round Up next spring! Take care, and happy camping! Barb & Bill

OUR TEAM



State Directors – Barb and Bill Taylor ORCADirector@outlook.com
Barb 503-810-7585 Bill 503-740-5147

State Secretary – Steve Moist

Assistant Secretary/ State Rally Office Manager – Marion Gilkey

State Treasurer – Connie Morrill

State Photographer – Dee Veenendaal

State Newsletter Editor/Publisher – Barb Taylor

State Rally Ground Coordinator – Tom Gilkey

State Sound Director – Tom Hansen

State Chaplain – Clyde Ault

Past State Directors – John and Holly Monahan

State Historians – Don and Carol Nedrow

State Webmaster – Gene Hancock

Assistant Directors –

John and Holly Monahan ... The Westerners

Howard and Connie Morrill ... Wy'East Pioneers

Dale and Dee Veenendaal ... Southern Oregon & SW Valley Coasters

Tom and Robyn Hansen ... Central Oregon

Steve and Mabel Moist ... The Capital Gang

Randy and Loretta Wells ... Country Cuzzins

MAL (Members At Large) contact – Dee and Dale Veenendaal

Please contact State Director at ORCADirector@outlook.com if you need to contact any of the Assistant Directors

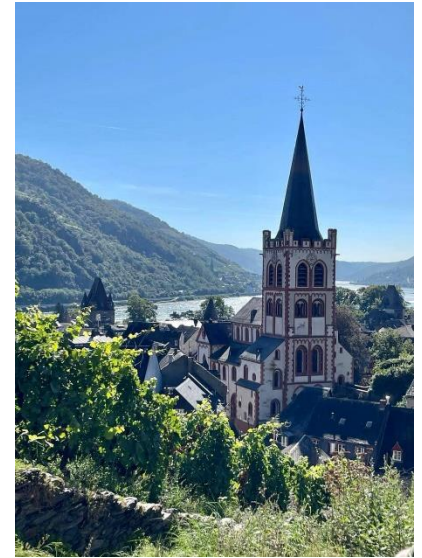
Five ORCA couples toured Europe in September: Steve and Mabel Moist (heartbreakingly, Steve contracted Covid after arrival, and he and Mabel were forced to return home), Dale and Dee Veenendaal, Howard and Connie Morrill, Karl and D'Ann Kirchner, and Bill and Barb Taylor. Here are a few highlights:



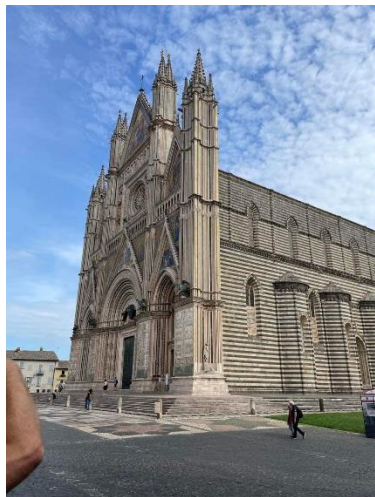
Dale and his wooden shoes.
Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Connie and Howard in the Alps.



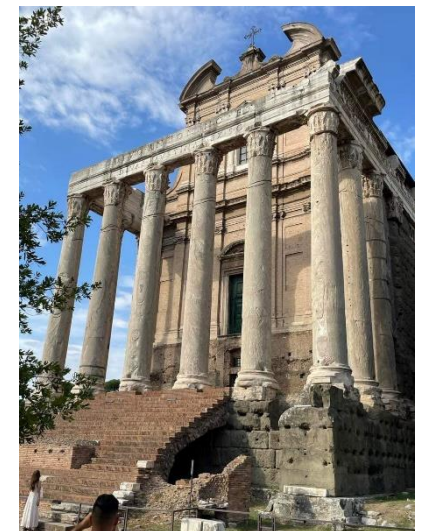
Castle in Germany



Italy



Dee in front of Eiffel Tower. Paris, France



Rome



Kirchner's and Veenendaal's taking a break!

Barb and Bill's trip:



Icy blue waterfall.
Reykjavik, Iceland



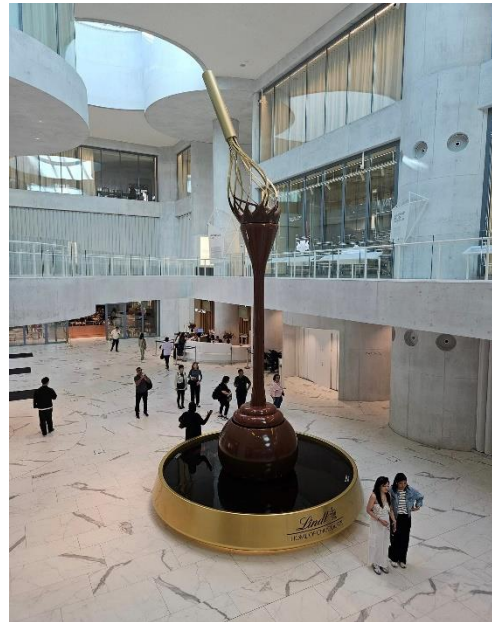
Kalmar Castle Kalmar, Sweden



Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany



Searching for Bill's ancestors in
Baden-Baden, Germany



Lindt Chocolate Factory Tour
Zurich, Switzerland



← Innsbruck, Austria and the
Alps.

→ Sound of Music bus tour,
Salzburg, Austria



Empty Pill Bottles

Over 64 percent of Americans take one or more prescription drugs. That's a lot of heavy-duty plastic to deal with. These plastics also take years to break down in the environment, and as they age, they release toxic chemicals and methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas into the environment. In some cases, you can recycle them, but not all recyclers can take these #5 plastics (#5 should appear on the bottom of your bottles, surrounded by arrows). But these bottles can also be reused after washing in hot, soapy water. Below are fifteen uses for your used pill bottles.

1. **Child-proof container:** One great thing about pill bottles is that they were specifically designed to keep little kids out. That means you can fill them with things you want to make it difficult for grandchildren to get to – razor blades, thumb tacks, supplements, or even your secret glove compartment stash of M&M's!
2. **Seed storage:** If you're a gardener, these containers make great, moisture-proof containers for dried seeds overwinter in a place where they won't be likely to rot.
3. **Hair accessory storage:** Bobby pins, barrettes and hair ties are things that usually get scattered around the house. Pill bottles make great organized storage.
4. **Cash stash holder:** U.S. quarters are the perfect diameter to fit into a normal prescription bottle (great for card bingo!) This would work for parking meter money, a vending machine, or the laundromat. Rolled up cash works in here, also.
5. **Hide-a-key:** A key to your front door will fit in a pill bottle. Glue a small rock to the lid of the bottle and bury it in the landscaping somewhere inconspicuous. No need to buy a key hiding rock.
6. **Travel toiletry bottles:** In your airplane carry-on, a standard prescription pill bottle will usually hold enough shampoo or moisturizer to get you through TSA and your vacation.
7. **Survival kit:** Nobody plans to get lost in the woods, but thinking ahead with a pill bottle in your backpack could come in handy. Stuff it with a button compass, needle and thread, some band-aids, a few matches, and a razor blade. Wind three-stranded twine around the bottle to use to start a fire.
8. **Q-tip holder:** Cotton swabs fit perfectly into a prescription pill bottle. Easy to carry in luggage or a purse.
9. **Mini first aid kit:** Just like the survival kit above, a first aid kit can be popped in a purse, car glove compartment, backpack, or jacket pocket. Fill it with band-aids, alcohol wipes, a few ibuprofens, antibiotic ointment, and some clean gauze. Or, they can be used as mini ice packs.
10. **Travel jewelry holder:** Prescription bottles keep track of all your earrings, necklaces and rings on your vacation.
11. **Workbench containers:** Pill bottles make great containers for your workbench or crafts, such as sewing or beading. Fill them with screws, nails, pins, needles, or anything else you need to keep organized.
12. **Chip bag clip:** Simply fold the opening of the bag vertically in thirds, then fold the top down a few inches. Cover the opening of the pill bottle with the folded top of the bag and press the cap down over the bag, matching the bottle opening and cap together. Twist the cap until it locks closed. May look weird, but it does work.
13. **Trash can for your purse:** Stuff unneeded receipts or trash in a pill bottle and empty it when you're near a proper trash can.
14. **Musical instrument:** Put some beans, lentils, ball bearings, or other little noisemakers in a child-proof pill bottle and it turns into a musical shaker instrument for your young grandchildren.
15. **Earbud container:** Whether they're wireless or have a cord that will inevitably get tangled, a pill bottle helps to keep them dry, organized and together.

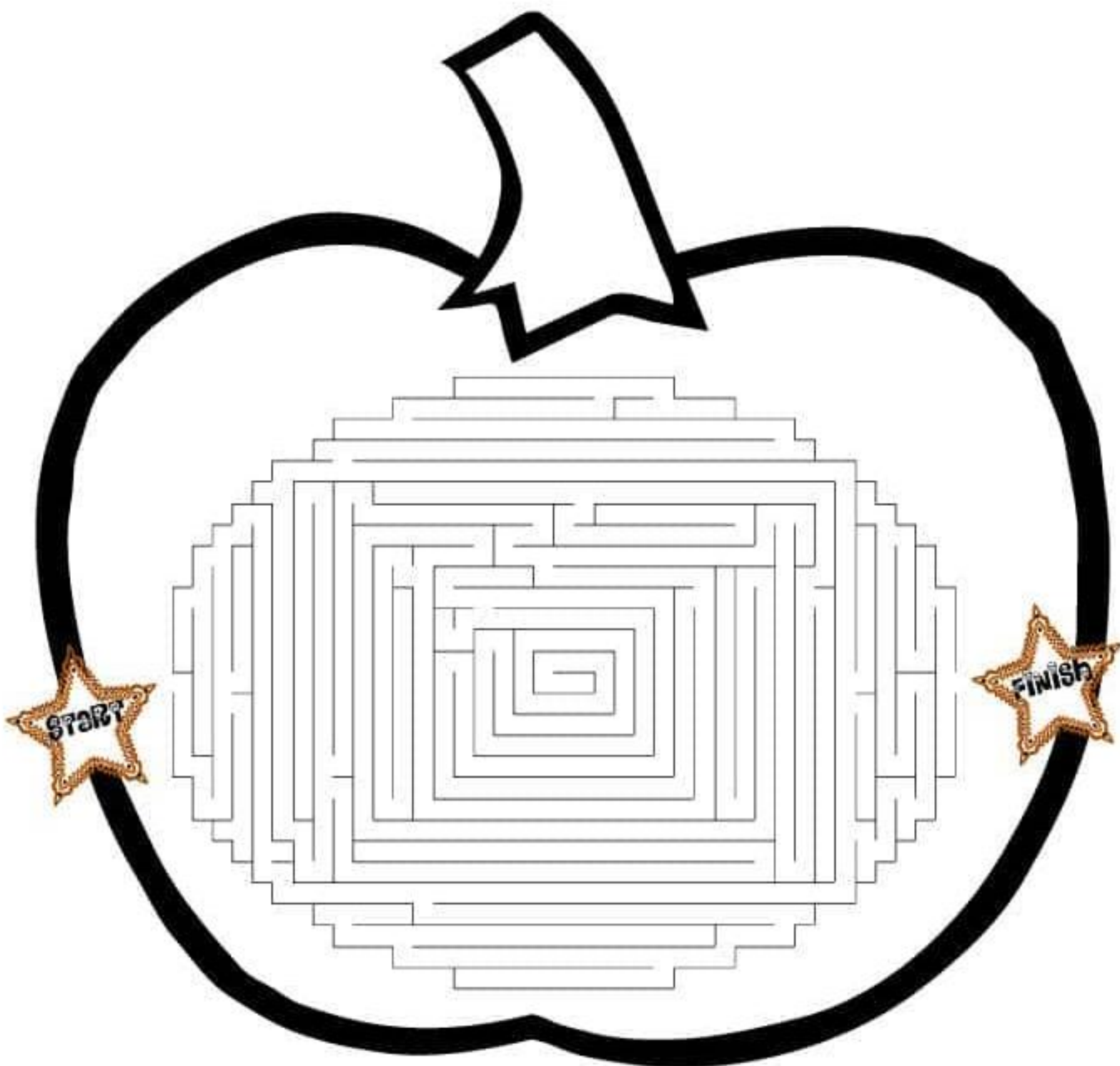
Great craft to do with your grandchildren ... Pumpkin Bowling. Use clean, dry cans with labels removed to paint ghosts and monsters with acrylic paints. Gauze or old muslin can be used for the mummy. A tennis ball or other small ball can be used as a bowling ball.

Look for other easy Halloween ghost and ghoulish faces on the internet such as these:



Variation: Turn it into a math game by adding numbers on the back that children must compute as they are knocked down. Or, cans can contain small candies or prizes.

PUMPKIN MAZE



HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH



B H F I G E A N S A M O I C P L J E K D
R S T A B F R A N K E N S T E I N V S U
S W E S P O O K Y A E Y K E B C N O P B
P E G N D A O R N T S L A E F O P H A L
I R A Z O M B I E B A A E A G A G A O A
D A S P A I E N A O H A B T H O G H P C
E S F T G B F O P A O E A W O W D A C K
R I V T C A N D Y U C C H A S N C A I C
O A A S P O T I O N M T W I T C H M B A
E A M F T A S A E R A P A N A M A U S T
N E P U A B A T S A E T K A D A U M M A
B A I T S A F E U A K E V I L L N M A A
A B R O O M A O N M A T O E N A T P M A
T I E H A L L O W E E N B L W C E C T Y
A T Z H A Y L L A X O W E E N A D C R T

Ghost

Costume

Broom

Spider

Spooky

Boo

Frankenstein

Bat

Black Cat

Potion

Witch

Skeleton

Mummy

Halloween

Haunted

Pumpkin

Candy

Vampire

Fall

Zombie

Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Bread

Prep: 15 min. Bake: 1 hour + cooling Makes 2 loaves

Ingredients:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups canned pumpkin
- 1 ½ cups canola oil
- 1 ½ cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the flour, cinnamon, salt, and baking soda. In another bowl, beat the eggs, sugar, pumpkin, and oil. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in chocolate chips.
2. Pour into 2 greased 8x4-in. loaf pans. Bake at 350° for 60-70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks.



RV Camping In The Fall

1. Make Sure Your RV Is Ready

By researching the expected weather conditions in advance can help you safely and adequately prepare for your journey, and this includes making sure your RV is ready for lower temperatures and inclement weather. Helpful tips include:

Make sure your RV's heating system works

Keep an eye on tire pressure

Patch up holes, cracks, or broken seals in your RV

Protect your RV awning

2. Check RV Park Availability

Many RV parks are open year-round, but some close down once the weather turns chilly in late October or early November. The same sentiment applies to national and state parks. To save yourself a headache and/or a long drive, always do your research to make sure staying at the campsite in question is a reality. Recent years have seen record numbers of new RVers hit the road. To play it safe, make a reservation.

3. Inform Yourself of Nearby Wildlife Activity

Autumn is mating season for deer and moose, so be extra aware of your surroundings when visiting locations where they are present. Moose can be aggressive if approached. Keep your distance if you see one in the wild, and always keep your dog on a leash when walking in areas where moose are known to live. It's also hunting season, so be cautious when camping in areas that also attract hunters. Wearing bright colors and staying on walking trails can help prevent any stressful incidents from occurring. Putting a hunter's orange vest on your dog is also a good idea during hunting season. During this time of year, bears are preparing to hibernate, which means they are looking to consume as much food as possible. Because of this, they may be especially tempted to walk through campsites looking for food. Packing some bear spray, ensuring your food is properly secured away, keeping your windows closed, and locking your RV at night can help prevent any dangerous interactions. It's also important to take precautions when driving to your destination. More wildlife will be out on the roads, so keep an eye out when you are behind the wheel. Animals are most likely to be active during dusk and dawn, but they can wander out on the roads at any time of the day. Drive carefully, especially in areas with low visibility, and remember that deer travel in groups. If you see one cross the road, wait a few moments to see if any others are trailing behind.

4. Get Creative with Entertainment

Taking a fall day hike is a great way to take in the beautiful color changes in foliage. Cooler weather means you don't have to wake up at the crack of dawn to avoid temperatures that leave you sweaty and irritable. As an added bonus, there will be fewer bugs and pesky insects putting a damper on your time outside.

Continued ...

Staying warm by the campfire is a great way to spend the day. The nice part about RVing when the weather is cool is that you can enjoy campfires during any time of the day. Sipping a warm drink while enjoying the scenery is a great way to stay cozy and leisurely soak up the great outdoors. Additionally, while every place will be different, there tends to be fewer open fire bans in place as summer fades from view. Cook a comforting meal and schedule a game night if you're with others. If the weather is a bit too chilly to comfortably sit outside, you can enjoy the coziness of connecting with friends or family over games and a heartwarming meal. If you tend to avoid cooking inside of your RV during the summer months, fall camping allows you to enjoy the benefits of cooking in your home-on-wheels without risking turning your RV into a sauna. A meal out on the picnic table, with a cup of hot chocolate, is one of the best ways to experience fall camping.

RVing in the autumn is a great way to take in the majestic scenery of the changing seasons, benefit from lower travel rates, and enjoy access to a wider variety of RV attractions without summer crowds. That being said, the changes in temperatures do bring about their own set of special considerations for travelers to keep in mind. By planning ahead, doing your research, and keeping fall safety tips in mind, you should be well on your way to enjoying a unique RV trek that is heavy in fun and light on stress.





William (Bill) Danforth

Born May 6, 1940

Died September 23, 2023

We are saddened by the death of our good friend, Bill Danforth. Bill was born May 6, 1940 and passed on September 23, 2023 at 83 years old.

Bill married Kathy on April 21, 1989 and had been a member of the Layovers since 2005. Bill loved to travel, and along with Kathy, they spent the first ten years of retirement traveling and snow-birding in Arizona. In recent years, Bill's memory was fading, but he never failed to attend our state events and participate in activities. Bill's favorite discussion subject was his time spent in the service and visiting Germany and Austria. While Bill had no hobbies, he did love running around with his RV friends.

Bill was preceded in death by his son Tom in 2020. Survivors include his daughters, Christine Danforth and Sarah Danforth Hunt, and step-children, Traci Kelly and Mike Arronson.



~ MEMORIAL NOTIFICATION FORM ~

NAME OF DECEASED: _____

SPOUSE: _____

CHAPTER: _____

DATE OF BIRTH (if known): _____

DATE OF DEATH: _____

* We welcome a solo photo of the deceased and a short obituary for The Drifter

SEND FORM TO: DEE VEENENDAAL, OREGON RV CAMPERS ASSOCIATION

38452 JASPER-LOWELL RD., FALL CREEK, OR 97438 541-913-6994

Or email: ORCADirector@outlook.com

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~ NEW CHAPTER MEMBER FORM ~

CHAPTER: _____

NEW MEMBER NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL (member 1): _____

CELL (member 2): _____

REFERRED TO CHAPTER BY: _____

SEND FORM TO: DEE VEENENDAAL, OREGON RV CAMPERS ASSOCIATION

38452 JASPER-LOWELL RD., FALL CREEK, OR 97438 541-913-6994

Or email: ORCADirector@outlook.com

If there is anything your chapter would like to include in
The Drifter, our cut-off day each month is the 25th.
Articles/news/pictures received after this date will be included
in the following months' newsletter. Thank you !!

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN !!!