

# OREGON RV CAMPERS ASSOCIATION

## December 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.”

**Check out our website: [camporca.org](http://camporca.org)**

Hello ORCA friends,

We are sending out December's Drifter a bit early, as there are several fun projects/crafts/games in here that you may need time to prepare for, if interested, before Christmas arrives.

Bill and I can't believe that we soon have one year of being Directors of ORCA under our belt already, and it's going well. We are getting new members all the time, which is encouraging. Unfortunately, our chapter, the Travel Nuts, voted to disband as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. We are saddened that the chapter's decision was made when Bill and I were traveling through Europe and were unable to attend the meeting, as we may have been able to help resolve their issues, but we wish them all well and hope that someday soon some of the members will choose to join ORCA again. Bill and I are contemplating the idea of starting a new chapter, yet to be named. We have four other couples that are ready to jump onboard with us, and we would be recruiting new members, also. If you know of anyone looking for a chapter in the Portland Metro area, please have them contact us to see if indeed ORCA has a new chapter!

Thank you so much to the 79er's for inviting us to their November meeting and luncheon at Elmer's Restaurant in Gresham. It was great to see such a good turn-out and to hear about their upcoming camping trips. Thank you also to the Spruce Runners for inviting us to their holiday luncheon at El Guajillo Mexican Restaurant in Tigard, to be held on November 28<sup>th</sup>. We really enjoy visiting other chapters and getting to know ORCA's membership better.

Don't forget to send in the State Event Survey that was in November's Drifter!! With more suggestions, and with all of our heads put together, our rallies will be more enjoyable for all.

As the holidays approach, Bill and I wish you all good health, happiness, and loving gatherings with your family. Merry Christmas, and God Bless Us, Everyone!



Barb and Bill Taylor, State Directors

## Our Team



State Directors – Barb and Bill Taylor [ORCADirector@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:ORCADirector@outlook.com) if you need to contact any of the Assistant Directors



Please mail your 2024 dues to ORCA by December 15, 2023. We would prefer one check from your chapter to cover all members, but individuals are welcome to pay on their own if this is not possible. Dues for 2024 are just \$5.00 per person.

**Mail check to:**  
**ORCA**  
**PO Box 434**  
**Estacada, OR 97023**

# **Chapter Camp-Outs & Events for 2024**

We will again be posting each chapter's 2024 camp-out/event schedules in the Drifter in the January and February issues. Please get your schedules in to [orcadirector@outlook.com](mailto:orcadirector@outlook.com) just as soon as possible. If you are interested in camping with other chapters, please contact them directly.

## **The Weekenders Tim Pierce 630-551-5029**

January - Date to be determined - Spains' home at 3362 SE Willow St, Hillsboro. Their phone number is 503-693-8149. It will be on a Saturday.

February - Date to be determined - Joan Harrison's home. Valentines Day themed.

March 9, Saturday at 1:00 - Colescotts - Lum Yuens on 3190 Portland Rd in Salem

April 26,27,28 - Tim & Louis – Armitage Park. If you haven't made your reservations yet remember these sites go fast so we suggest you do it now at [lanecounty.org](http://lanecounty.org) or call 541-682-2000 and let Tim know. They are in site 27. Jacobson in site 30.

May 9-12, 3 nights. Jacobsons - Riverbend - Sweethome. We got the group sites. We had to pay a total of \$650 in full for the sites so if you want to go please let us know and mail us a check for \$109.00. There are only 2 sites left so the sooner you let us know you want a spot and send us your check the sooner you ensure you get a spot. Once the spots are all reserved you will need to try to get a spot on your own.

June 12 - 16. Tim & Louis - ORCA Rally - Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall. It would be nice if we could get a good turnout for our group to show we support ORCA. The theme is Coastal Craze. Watch the DRIFTER for the registration form and register as soon as you can.

July 18-21 Ellisons - Stargazers RV Resort - 800 E. Simcoe Drive, Goldendale, WA 98620.

Make your own reservations under Ellison. Talk to Tony at [stargazersrvresort@gmail.com](mailto:stargazersrvresort@gmail.com) Then let Ellisons know you made your reservation.

August - Jacobsons - TBA. We want to go to Silver Falls Park but cannot call for reservations until February. If we can't get Silver Falls Park we will try for Silver Spur.

September 5, 6,7,8. Pow Wow Hood River. If you want info for it you can contact the Jacobsons, or watch The Drifter.

September - 19-22 Plantengas - Elkton, if available.

October - Huillets - Maybe Tillamook Elks

November – Plantengas, TBA

December - President - Christmas Party

**The 79ers Karl Kirchner 503-333-8936**

January – TBD

February – TBD

March – First meeting

April 26 to 28 – The Westerners Round Up, Wapiti RV Park, Lincoln City, OR

May – Possible meeting. Would like to camp with another chapter

June 12 to 16 - ORCA Rally, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR

July – Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort, Bend, OR

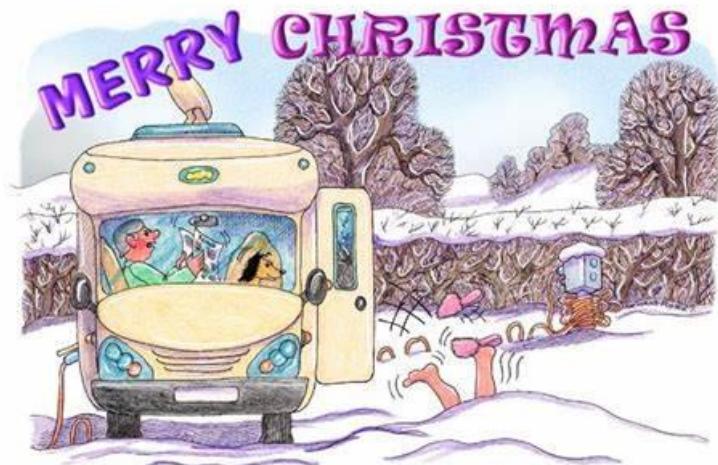
August - Would like to camp with another chapter

September 5 to 8 – Pow Wow, Hood River Fairgrounds, Odell, OR

October – Netarts Bay Garden RV Resort, Netarts, OR

November – TBD

December – Holiday dinner?



"I did remember to put the electric step down, didn't I?"

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**



Michial VanDeHey, McKenzie River Drifters

Lew and Palma Gigliotti, Layovers

Janet Siegel, McKenzie River Drifters

Tony and Korrin Petersen, Weekenders

(please let us know if we've missed anyone ... we want to recognize all new members!)

## Christmas Tree Charcuterie Board

Arrange your tree using a variety of cheeses like cheddar, brie, and gouda, cutting them into cubes. Add red and green grapes, and a meat such as sliced summer sausage. The star at the top (photo right) is carved from a hard cheese, along with the stem of the tree at the bottom. This tree has an herb used as a garnish, but using small clippings of cedar is also pretty to tuck underneath (such as the board below), which uses a variety of cheeses, grapes, blueberries, kiwi and star fruit. Don't forget the toothpicks!



## **PUFF PASTRY HOLLY LEAVES**

Prep: 30 min. Bake: 15 min. + cooling Makes 2 dozen

### **Ingredients**

1 package (17.3 ounces) frozen puff pastry, thawed  
1 large egg  
1 tablespoon water  
4 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1 cup crumbled feta cheese  
1/2 cup minced fresh parsley  
1/2 cup prepared pesto  
24 pimiento pieces



### **Directions**

Unfold pastry sheets onto a lightly floured surface. From each sheet, cut out 12 leaves with a floured 3-1/2-in. leaf-shaped cookie cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheets. With a toothpick, score veins in leaves. In a small bowl, beat egg and water, brush over pastry. Bake at 400° for 12-14 minutes or until golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

In a large bowl, combine the cheeses, parsley, and pesto. Slice each pastry leaf in half. Spread 1 tablespoon cheese mixture over bottom half; replace top. Add a pimiento piece on each for a holly berry.

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## **CHRISTMAS SALAD**

Prep: Total Time: 15 min. Makes 12 servings

### **Ingredients**

9 cups torn red leaf lettuce  
1 medium pear, chopped  
1 medium red apple, chopped  
1 small red onion, halved and sliced  
1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese  
1/3 cup dried cranberries  
1/3 cup chopped walnuts, toasted  
1/4 cup pomegranate seeds (optional)  
Bottle of Raspberry Vinaigrette dressing



### **Directions**

Assemble salad ingredients and toss well. Add dressing to taste (a little at a time is good, so that you don't drown the salad) just prior to serving.

# Decorating your RV for Christmas

## 1. Cover Existing Throw Pillows

Place decorative camper themed Christmas throw pillow covers over existing pillows. These colorful designs provide a big punch of holiday cheer that is easily packed away and require essentially no storage space.

## 2. Use Decorative Kitchen Linens

Display camper Christmas themed towels, potholders, and oven mitts inside your RV. They are functional and decorative at the same time.

## 3. Burn Christmas Candles

It's amazing how certain scents can get you into the holiday spirit. One fragrant candle can fill an entire travel trailer with scents like fresh baked cookies, peppermint, and hot apple pie.

## 4. Hang String Lights Inside

Many full-time RVers don't have enough storage space to carry Christmas lights but they often have normal camping string lights they can use in the RV to make their interior glow like a glistening winter wonderland.

## 5. Display RV Christmas Ornaments

There are lots of ways to display fun, camping-themed RV ornaments that don't include hanging them on trees! They can be hung from drawer pulls, window cranks, key hooks, doorknobs, etc. Choose ornaments that are lightweight, non-breakable, and fit a smaller space.

## 6. Decorate Cabinetry & Doors

Decorate your cabinetry and doors with ribbons, bows, wreaths or freshly cut evergreen sprays. Tie cute ribbons around your doorknobs and drawer pulls. Artificial evergreen wreaths and sprays can take up too much storage space, but it is easy enough to create your own using a few sprigs from a fresh tree.

## 7. Decorate Windows And Mirrors

Temporary window stickers are a great way to add to your holiday theme without using any valuable living space. When you look out the window or into the mirror and see a smiling snow man, waving Santa, snowflakes falling and prancing reindeer looking back at you ... you know it's Christmas time!

## 8. Countertop Decorating Ideas

Set a cute small Christmas camper decoration on a prominent counter in your RV. If you don't have one that is decorated in a holiday theme, just attach a small string of tiny garland for the season.

## 9. Decorate A Small Tabletop Christmas Tree

Tabletop trees come in all shapes and sizes. If you don't want to haul one of these, try using another option. Rosemary plants shaped like a Christmas tree are a great option because you can cook with that fresh herb, too!

## 10. Christmas Doormats

One thing you always need while RVing in the winter is a good doormat. This is a great way to welcome visitors to your holiday celebration!

## 11. Garden Flags

Hang an outdoor Christmas camper garden flag outside your trailer. You can find Christmas-specific designs or winter themes at online sources such as Amazon.

## 12. Decorative Holiday Door Cover

Attaching a holiday door cover to the outside of your RV door is one of the fastest decorating ideas that provides a huge impact.



## Cute Christmas décor ideas for your RV



Build a little Christmas campground village!

Glue little craft trees to the tops of camper ornaments! Display in a fun manner.



# Christmas

## LEFT RIGHT GIFT EXCHANGE

Instructions: Everyone sits in a circle with a new Christmas mug they brought, and someone reads the story. Every time you hear the word "LEFT", pass the mug to your left. Every time you hear the word "RIGHT", pass the mug to your right. The mug you are holding onto at the end of the game is yours! (This works also with small, wrapped gifts). This is a fun game that adults and grandchildren enjoy!

It was the night **RIGHT** before Christmas when all through the house, not a creature was **LEFT** stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were **LEFT** hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be **RIGHT** there.

The children were nestled **RIGHT** snug in their beds, while visions of sugar plums danced **RIGHT** around in their heads. And Mama **LEFT** in her kerchief, and I **LEFT** in my cap, we had just settled **RIGHT** down for a long winter's nap. When **RIGHT** out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang **RIGHT** from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I **LEFT** like a flash; tore open the **LEFT** shutters and threw up the **RIGHT** sash.

The moon **RIGHT** on the crest of the new-fallen snow, **LEFT** the luster of midday to objects **RIGHT** below. When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer. With a little old driver **LEFT** lively and quick, I knew **RIGHT** in that moment it must be St. Nick! More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, and he whistled and shouted, and called them **RIGHT** by name: "Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen! On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen! To the **LEFT** top of the porch! To the **RIGHT** top of the wall! Now dash away, dash away, dash **RIGHT** away all!"



As Oregon RV Campers Association, we should all pride ourselves with helping the less fortunate. This is an idea we presented in last December's Drifter, and we challenge you to participate again! Bill and I actually just shopped all at once last December for convenience (although, this is a fun idea) and dropped our box off a week prior to Christmas to the Portland Police Sunshine Division, who distributed the food to those in need.

## GIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day add an item to a box.

On Christmas Eve, donate the contents to a Food Bank or to an individual family you know of that could use the help.

- December 1 – Box of cereal
- December 2 – Peanut butter and jelly
- December 3 – Stuffing mix
- December 4 – Turkey Gravy packets
- December 5 – Macaroni and cheese
- December 6 – Canned fruit
- December 7 – Box of Jell-O
- December 8 – Canned chicken and/or tuna
- December 9 – Cake mix and frosting or brownie mix
- December 10 – Jar of applesauce
- December 11 – Canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 – Canned cranberry sauce
- December 13 – Canned chili
- December 14 – Box of crackers
- December 15 – Package of brown rice
- December 16 – Package of oatmeal
- December 17 – Package of spaghetti
- December 18 – Jar of spaghetti sauce
- December 19 – Chicken noodle soup
- December 20 – Instant mashed potatoes
- December 21 – Powdered milk
- December 22 – Canned corn
- December 23 – Condiments
- December 24 – Canned green beans



And if you're feeling exceptionally generous, throw in a few more non-perishable items of your choice, or even a coupon for a turkey!

Email us a photo of you and your box; we'll choose a few to print in The Drifter!

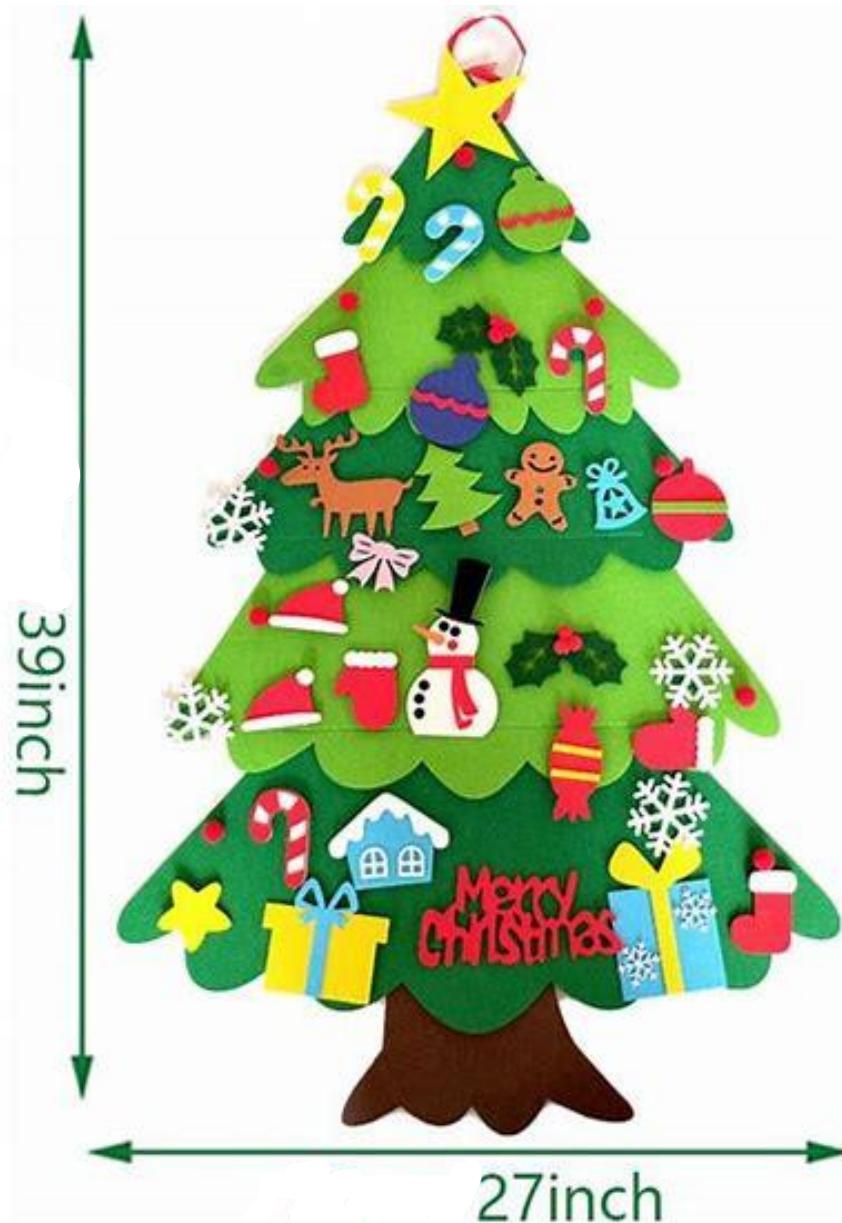
## Christmas project to do with younger grandchildren

1. Purchase large felt piece in either solid green, or variation, like in the graphic below, approximately 39 inches by 27 inches (doesn't have to be exact). Cut out the tree, and glue pieces together, if necessary.
2. Purchase or use felt that you have on hand for the ornaments, preferably in different colors. Patterns for ornaments can be found on the internet, or have your grandchildren hand-draw their own. Cookie cutters can also be used as a pattern. Cut ornaments (let grandchildren do it if old enough to handle scissors) and glue on other colored pieces, if needed. Ornaments can be as elaborate, or as simple, as you'd like.
3. Felt will stick to felt, but for added stability, you can also use small pieces of velcro attached randomly to tree and on the back of the ornaments to secure them.
4. Attach tree to a backing such as a large piece of cardboard, thin plywood, etc. Set up against a wall for playtime. As an alternative, you could sew a simple rod pocket at the top to fit a lightweight dowel and hang tree on the wall by string attached to dowel.
5. Grandchildren will love to decorate their own tree, year after year.

### Ornament suggestions:

Presents with bows  
Round balls  
Stockings  
Reindeer  
Candy canes  
Snowflakes  
Candy / Lollipops  
Mittens  
Holly  
Bells  
Santa hats  
Snowmen  
Christmas candles  
Gingerbread houses  
Christmas cookies  
Santa faces  
Bows  
Angels  
Rocking horses  
Stars  
Penguins with scarves  
Dolls  
Trains  
Santa's sleigh  
Gingerbread men

The list is endless, use  
your imagination!



## Reflections from Bill Taylor

As the new year approaches and we reflect on our world events and on ourselves, we must continue to ask, "what can I do?" Being a member of ORCA can assist in answering that question. You belong to a strong, charitable organization which gives hundreds of dollars in support back to several communities throughout Oregon. Your generous donations made through your chapters and our state events have helped both animals and humans alike. I'm proud to be a part of our organization, where I can give a little here and there, knowing someone will be very thankful for ORCA's efforts and for making their lives a little brighter. We have an outstanding base of folks who feel the same way and continue to support those less fortunate than ourselves. Barb and I have attended many chapter luncheons throughout 2023 and know in our hearts that we are all blessed to be able to camp and socialize together, in addition to thinking of others and giving back. We have already started the growth process to become a much larger group of friends and fellow campers. Plans this coming year are to include obtaining discounts at all popular campgrounds and RV repair shops, creating a digital directory of those that are participating, and producing quality membership cards. We're excited for these upcoming changes!

Your board of directors are 100% committed to giving you the best opportunity to enjoy your chapter activities and campouts, as well as the three state events. The future is bright for ORCA and it all continues in 2024.

Merry Christmas from Barb and myself.

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### RV storage hack for cords, cables, and hoses

#### What can you easily organize and store?

- Electrical cords
- Hoses
- Cables
- Wires
- Cords
- Anything else you can think of

#### Materials you will need:

- Screws or Self drilling screws
- D-Rings
- Velcro straps (aka hook and loop)
- Carabiners



#### What kind of structure is your RV made of?

Is your RV structure or interior framing made of aluminum, wood, or any other material? For aluminum, a go-to is self-drilling screws. However, if your frame is made of wood, you can use normal wood screws. Just make sure you are completely aware of how long your screws need to be. How thick is the material you are putting screws into? Is there flooring, plumbing or electrical right above? You wouldn't want to use a 2.5 inch screw for a 1 inch thick material right under your main living area. Just always be aware and be cautious. \* Wood tends to crack. You may want to pre-drill your holes before drilling in your screws. If your screw measures a 1/8", don't use a drill bit bigger than 1/8". If your pre-drilled hole is bigger than your screw, the screw won't have anything to grab onto.

#### Where to mount?

For this kind of organization hack, it is important for this to be creative, yet super functional. For that reason, you may want to install all of these hooks on one side of the camper. The side you typically back in and hook up all of your lines to is practical to keep all of the hoses and electrical cords. Back in, open the compartment, and there lies all of your important stuff! On one side, install 4 hooks in total, two towards the front and two towards the back. Install hooks pretty close together. Doing this still allows plenty of room in the center to grab out anything else that is stored there.

- Pick the locations that best suit your needs.
- Screw in your D-ring to any super strong structure on your RV. Use plain screws or self-drilling screws.
- Neatly roll up your cords, wires, or hoses.
- Wrap the Velcro strap around whatever you just rolled up.
- Hook the carabiner through the plastic binder on the velcro strap.
- Hook your carabiner onto the D-ring.
- Step back and admire your work!



State Rally dates for next year. Please add to your calendar!

Westerner's Roundup – Wapiti RV Park, Lincoln City, Oregon

April 25 through April 28, 2024

(limit is 42 campers, so get your registration mailed as soon as you see it in the Drifter!)



ORCA Rally – Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon

June 12 through June 16, 2024

THEME: "Coastal Craze"

(early birds welcome sooner)



Wy'East PowWow – Hood River Fairgrounds, Odell, Oregon

September 6 through September 8, 2024

THEME: "Sailing The Seas"

(early birds welcome sooner)



**DISCOUNT TO ALL ORCA MEMBERS !!**



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36401 Industrial Way  
Sandy, OR 97055  
503-754-3416  
Jerimie Meade, Owner  
[www.rvreadyusa.com](http://www.rvreadyusa.com)**

When the moon is just a sliver in the sky, Jerimie Meade enjoys getting lost in the millions of stars. No matter where he travels to, he always seeks the peaceful starry night. Jerimie is an Oregon native and has lived in Clackamas County for all of his life. He says that he is so blessed to have grown up in the beautiful northwest, which he has explored a great deal. Along with his family, they have traveled on many road trips, Yellowstone being one of his top favorites. Jerimie has learned the importance of having their RV ready so that their memories are not filled with mishaps, but with joy and comfort. Throughout his personal and career journey, he has learned that he treasures the ability to maintain and transform RV's to meet individuals' needs. It is important to Jerimie that others are prepared so that they can start shaping their special memories just as he has been able to do in his life.

Jerimie Meade has been in the automotive field for 20 years, with mechanical repair being the focus for the first 15 years. Over 5 years ago, he began primarily working on RV's. In 2017, Jerimie seized the opportunity to attend a certification program through Recreational Vehicle Service Academy in Florida, where he received his RVSA (Recreational Vehicle Service Academy) Certification. He advanced to RVSA Certified Master R.V. Technician. Since then, Jerimie has worked extensively and exclusively in the repair, customization, and maintenance of all RV's, including motorhomes, fifth wheels, trailers, and campers. He embraces challenges and really enjoys helping people get the best experience in their RV's. Jerimie is highly recommended; his rating with the Chamber of Commerce is 4.9/5, and he has a rating of A+ with the Better Business Bureau. If interested in seeing what Jerimie can do for you, give him a call at the number above. **Jerimie has generously offered all members of ORCA a discount of 20% on labor**, and we hope that you'll try RV Ready the next time your rig needs a repair! \* Note: Does not perform mechanical repairs.

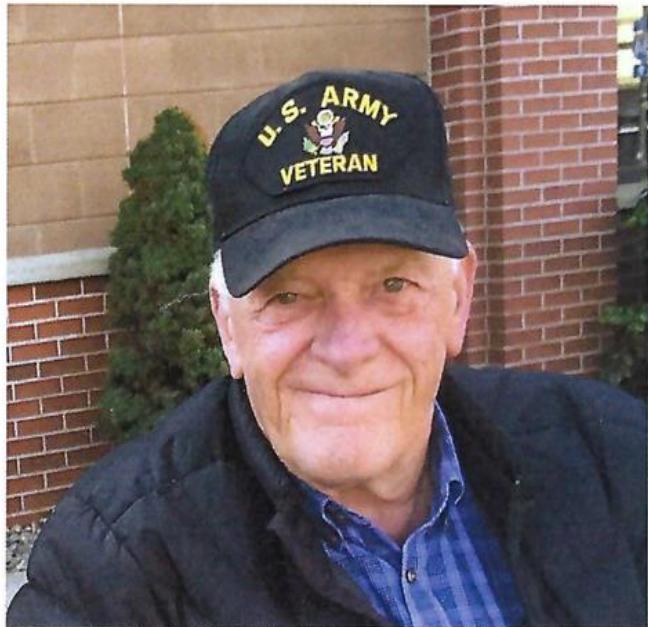
**~ TESTIMONIALS ~**

“During the winter of 2022, we had a lot of wind and rain, causing a rather large tree limb to fall and cut through our RV cover, damaging the roof. Jerimie went the extra mile to peel back most of the roof to discover a water leak that was not just in one spot. Our entire roof was replaced, and the job Jerimie did was exceptional. We were very pleased with the whole process. Jerimie has done several repairs to our motorhome over the years, including stabilizing our steps, repairing a cabinet and tv shelf that sustained water damage, and installed a new kitchen sink faucet that we didn't want to have to deal with. We'll continue to use Jerimie's services exclusively!”

Bill & Barb Taylor

“We picked up our RV after storing it for the winter and soon discovered that mice had made their way into our travel trailer. They caused a significant amount of damage in the ceiling of the bunkhouse area. Jerimie was recommended to us, and we couldn't be more pleased that we had him complete the job. He was efficient, timely, and performed quality work. Subsequently, Jerimie also installed a new roof on our trailer (after a bad job done elsewhere ... roof eventually was flapping traveling down I-5). The new roof turned out fantastic and we've had no problems since then. Jerimie goes above and beyond, which you don't see much of these days”.

Larry & Melissa Sheller



## **LARRY WAYNE GARTON**

Born: August 27, 1943 Hobart, Oklahoma

Died: October 25, 2023 Richland, Washington

Spouse: Joan Garton

CHAPTER: Blue Mt. Country Cuzzins



**~ 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 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Articles/news/pictures received after this date will be included  
in the following months' newsletter. Thank you !!

Don't Miss the  
**DEADLINE!**

