

OREGON RV CAMPERS ASSOCIATION

March 2024 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

Hello ORCA friends,

We are excited to announce that several new campers have joined ORCA within the past month or two! We are growing at a great pace, and will welcome anyone who owns an RV, wants to make new friends to camp with, and who will enjoy participating in our rallies. Speaking of rallies, The Westerners Round Up is on the horizon, and it’s time to get those mothballs out of your RV and prepare it for the camping season. We have received wonderful interest in the Round Up this year ... in fact, we may be full at this point. John and Holly Monahan will start a wait-list, if necessary, so contact them if you’re interested in attending the rally and have not registered yet.

Also, we should have our first batch of membership cards available to be handed out at the Round Up! Do not despair if you are unable to get your cards there ... they will also be available at the ORCA Rally in Rickreall in June. In addition, chapter Presidents are welcome to pick up cards for their members at either rally. Just ask your chapter President if this is your preference.

With St. Patrick’s Day just around the corner, we wish everyone the luck of the Irish ... a good, tasty, corned beef and cabbage ... and a nice, cold, green beer! *Sláinte!* (pronounced “slawn-cha” and means “Cheers, to health” in Irish).

Barb and Bill Taylor, State Directors

~ BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~

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
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Past State Directors – John and Holly Monahan
State Historians – Don and Carol Nedrow
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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





ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Word Search



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



Rainbow
Pot of Gold
Irish Blessing
Shamrocks
Leprechaun
Saint Patrick
Lucky
Clover
March
Corned Beef
Erin Go Bragh
Green

ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CLOVER MAZE



START

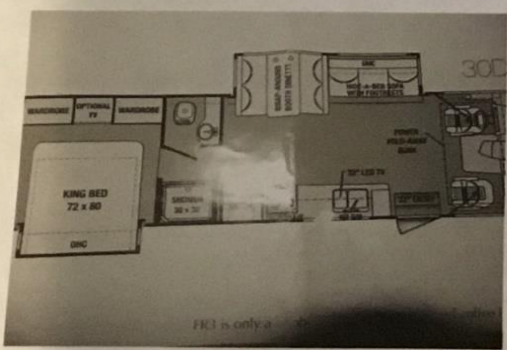
FINISH

CROWN

FOR SALE \$65,000

2015 Forrest River DS	V-10 gas engine	9,854 miles
Fully Self Contained	4,000 Watt Generator	Auto Leveling jacks
Length 30 foot	Three Televisions	HD Antenna
Walk around King bed	Power awning	Back up & side cameras
Clean/Clear Title	5,000# tow hitch	Porcelain toilet
No accidents or Damage	Living/dining slide	Bedroom slide
Senior owners	Non smokers	

CONTACT: DON @ 541 206-7500 Located in Springfield Oregon



Grilled Sausage with Potatoes and Green Beans

Prep Time: 25 mins Cook Time: 20 mins Total Time: 45 mins Servings: 4

Ingredients

- ¾ pound fresh green beans, trimmed and halved
- ½ pound red potatoes, quartered
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1 pound smoked sausage, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon butter
- ⅓ cup water



Directions

1. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat.
2. Place green beans, red potatoes, onion, and sausage on a large sheet of foil. Season with salt and pepper, sprinkle with oil, and top with butter. Tightly seal foil around the ingredients, leaving only a small opening. Pour water into the opening, and seal.
3. Place foil packet on the preheated grill. Cook 20 to 30 minutes, turning once, until sausage is browned and vegetables are tender.

Especially For RV Beginners. Do You Know Your RV's Vital Information?

Keep a list of these stats in a spot that's easy for you and your co-pilot to see when you're driving. That way, you can quickly double-check them before you drive under a low overhang or turn onto a narrow road.

Height

You can usually find your RV's specs online, but it's good to double-check them for yourself. Also, if you've added any accessories to your rig, it's especially important to measure the height yourself in the driveway at home. Low bridges and tunnels often have height restrictions posted, as do some roadways.

Width

When parking, it's helpful to know your rig's width, and this measurement is also important for driving. Some states restrict vehicles of a certain size on certain roads. You don't want to get a ticket, but more importantly, you don't want to be on roads that can't comfortably accommodate your RV.

Length

It's helpful to have your RV's length information handy, especially for parking situations. You'll also need to know your length each time you book a campsite.

Weight distribution

Make sure you evenly distribute items on either side of your RV. Just like stowing carry-ons on an airplane, it's smart to secure heavy items so they aren't loose if you hit a bump in the road.

Typical mileage

If you're on a road trip, gas stations can be few and far between. Know your typical mileage to avoid running out of gas. If you're towing a trailer, make sure you know your vehicle's range while towing, whether you're cruising on the highway or in traffic.

Mirrors and blind spots

Properly adjust your mirrors so you can see the maximum amount of space on either side of your RV. Your flat mirror lets you see alongside and behind your vehicle, as well as way behind you (like the side mirror on your car). The convex mirror (if you have one) lets you see the side of the vehicle all the way to the back and up to 12 feet out to the side, but there will always be a blind spot. That's where a wireless observation camera can help. You'll find that in an RV, your blind spots are much larger than they are in a car. Regularly check the side mirrors or wireless observation camera screen to make sure no one is in your blind spot if you have to change lanes.

The driver's seat

You'll find that getting comfortable in the captain's chair is also an important part of your pre-drive routine. The driver's seat of a motorhome can be adjusted in many more ways than you're used to in a car. You also have more buttons and knobs in a motorhome that you'll need to access. Take your time, and make sure you find the perfect position that puts everything you need within reach.

Preparing your RV

Be sure to thoroughly check your vehicle before you begin driving. This includes your tires, hitch, fluids, belts, and levels. If you're not mechanically inclined, you might want to have a professional mechanic look the vehicle over for you before your first drive. Consult your service manual or talk to your dealer or mechanic for more specifics of your vehicle.

Exterior checks

Tires: Check the pressure and make sure your tires aren't over-inflated or under-inflated. Check for tread wear. Tire issues can be one of the biggest hazards in RV driving. Both over- and under-inflated tires can lead to a blowout. When you're parking the vehicle for more than a day, save tire stress by blocking and leveling your RV. Make sure you have a tire gauge in your RV toolkit.

Lights: Make sure headlights (both high and low beams), brake lights, hazard flashers, and turn signals are all working.

Fluids: Check levels for coolant, brake fluid, oil, hydraulic/power steering fluid, and washer fluid. Also, check under the vehicle for leaks.

Propane: Before leaving on a trip, make sure to fill up your propane tanks, and be sure that your burners aren't lit. Check that your vents are clear of any rubbish or nests. You can invest in a propane gas detector to prevent any mishaps.

Doors and Hatches: Check that all compartment doors are securely latched and any accessories like awnings and steps are properly stowed.

Interior checks

Make sure all roof vents are closed. If they're not, they'll bang in the wind and could break off.

Remove all items/décor from countertops and store safely.

Secure shower door to prevent banging and damage.

Do a walk-through to make sure everything is secure.

RV Driving Basics

The first place to practice is a spacious parking lot, not the open road. Here are some tips for RV driving for the first time:

1. Give yourself room

Driving an RV for the first time is a lot like driving a car for the first time. You're not really sure what you're doing, and at times you feel a little clumsy and frustrated. In an empty parking lot, you can minimize the risk of doing any major damage. Practice parking, turning, completing K-turns, and doing other maneuvers that take practice to learn. If you commit at least 1 hour per day for a week to learn how your new RV handles, you'll be more comfortable behind the wheel and improve your RV driving skills.

2. Make a plan

Know what route you plan on taking and stick to it. The last thing you need is the surprise of an unexpected low-clearance bridge.

3. Fuel up

Gas stations are a common place where RV newbies can get into trouble. The tight turns and low-hanging covers provide obstacles for larger vehicles. Until you're really comfortable in your RV, try and stick to fueling up at truck stops. Truck stops provide extra room for filling up and are built to accommodate large vehicles. They're also located right by the highway for convenience. For the first couple of fill-ups, have your traveling partner direct you. This way they can help ensure you're not too close to the pump, the roof, other cars, or any other hazards.

4. Pick the right lane

By traveling in the far-right lane, you can drive slowly without holding up traffic. Taking it slow is the key to safety and success when driving an RV. The right lane also gives you the opportunity to pull over off the highway quickly if any mechanical trouble should arise, and it provides you easy access to any exits you may need to take. Driving in the right lane also means that traffic enters the highway in your lane. You can move over one lane to let traffic in and then change back to the far-right lane, but since you're already on the highway, you have the right-of-way. Defensive driving with an RV is the best way to drive stress-free.

5. Braking

Braking is different in an RV compared to a car. The average RV weighs nearly 5,200 pounds—which is more than 2 tons—that you'll need to stop safely again and again. You'll also need to consider your cargo weight, including passengers. All of this means that the vehicle you're traveling in is going to require even more room to slow down.

If you're towing, then chances are your RV's brakes are wired to your tow vehicle's braking system. Watch out for riding the brakes. This can cause your trailer's brakes to overheat and stop working. Downshifting is a great way to save your brakes from heating up and transition some of the work to the engine. Just be careful not to let your RPMs go too high.

Pay closer attention to the traffic in front of you. Keeping a safe distance is important, but so is staying alert. Don't let other drivers pressure you into moves your vehicle can't handle. If something is in your path, brake—don't swerve. Swerving in an RV can cause an accident.

6. Keep your distance

Tailgating is hazardous, and it can also unnerve the driver in front of you, which can lead to them driving dangerously. To be safe, the best plan is to leave at least 400 feet between you and the car or vehicle in front of you. If for any reason you need to brake suddenly, distance becomes your best friend.

Not sure how much space 400 feet is? There's a simple way to make sure you've got enough room to keep things safe. When the vehicle in front of you passes a point of reference (for example, a light pole by the side of the road or a mile marker), start counting to four. You should reach four before you reach the light pole.

7. Take your time turning

Since RVs tend to be long and wide, turns need to be long and wide, too. Taking right turns is even more difficult because of your proximity to the curb. Take your time and keep an eye on your rearview mirrors. Don't worry if you're holding up traffic behind you. It's better to turn correctly and slowly than to rush it and end up damaging your RV.

8. Watch out for tail swing

Tail swing is how far out the rear of your RV will go in the opposite direction of the way you're turning. It's responsible for more accidents at the gas pump or in other tight-maneuvering situations than anything else. If you're turning to your right, the rear of your RV is going to push out to your left. You need to know just how much tail swing your RV has to navigate properly. To figure this out, find a parking lot and park the left side of the RV up against a white line on the pavement, or draw a chalk line on the pavement along the side of your RV. Then, turn your steering wheel hard to the right and slowly pull forward. Have someone on the far back corner of your bumper watch how far out the tail swings, and then you'll know how much room you need to leave in your turning radius.

9. Check the weather

Weather apps can give you helpful information, including wind speed, temperature, and anticipated precipitation. The higher the wind speed, the more difficult it's going to be to operate your RV on the road. You'll want to check both the wind speed and direction. There isn't a set rule for how much wind is too much, but crosswinds cause more problems than winds that align with your vehicle's direction. If you're driving on a windy day, drive slowly and pay attention to your vehicle. If you experience trailer sway while towing, you may need to stop towing or reroute. A large, boxy motorhome may not sway, but you'll likely get fatigued quickly while dealing with wind.

Winter driving presents its complications and can depend on which type of vehicle you drive: front-wheel drive, rear-wheel drive, or all-wheel drive. While most cars are front-wheel drive, motorhomes aren't. If you find the rear end sliding and that you're losing control, pump the brakes to regain control. If weather conditions warrant, pull over. When driving in bad weather, the most important thing to remember is to slow down even more than usual. Leave at least three times as much space between yourself and the vehicle in front of you as you would normally. If you suddenly encounter bad weather that you can wait out, find a safe spot to park and use the conveniences of your RV. If the bad weather is sticking around, reroute or change your plans.

10. Don't park alone

Get a spotter and take it easy. If you must, try to find a bigger parking spot. Take your time when parking, and always make use of your mirrors. When in doubt while backing up, get out and look. A large vehicle needs more time to respond. Attentive driving will give you as much warning time as possible. With a little practice, you'll look like a pro pulling into your first RV park.

12. Driving at night

Some RVers enjoy driving at night because there's less wind, traffic, and noise from passengers. However, it can be dangerous due to a lack of visibility, roaming wildlife, and getting stuck in an unfamiliar location. Also, if you do encounter mechanical problems, you may not find repair shops or auto parts stores open. If you're driving your RV at night, make sure you adjust your headlights, clean your windshield, dim the cabin lights, and use fog lights. In conclusion, RVs are meant for recreation ... so relax, slow down, and enjoy the road ahead!



I'm never lonely because I have four men in my life!

I get up with **CHARLIE HORSE**.

I spend the day with **ARTHUR ITIS**.

I dine with **WILL POWER**.

And ... I go to bed each night with **BEN GAY!**

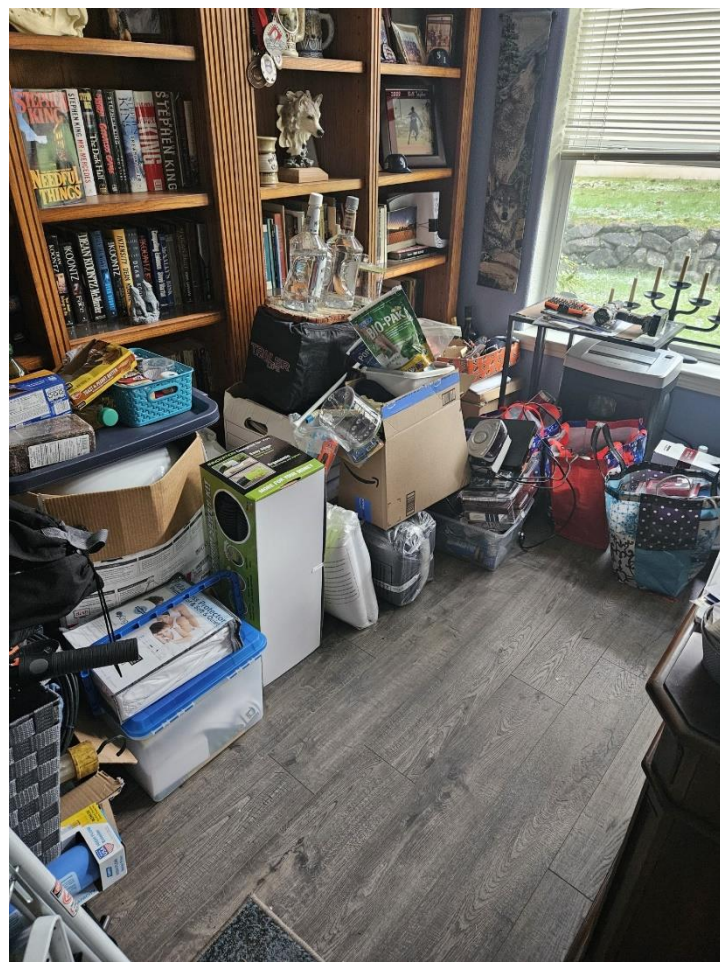


I see people my age out there climbing mountains and zip lining, and here I am feeling good about myself because I got my leg through my underwear without losing my balance!



DO YOU REALLY NEED ALL THIS STUFF?

Bill and Barb Taylor recently bought a “new” RV. While emptying out the “old” RV to prepare it for sale, it dawned on us just how much “stuff” we never used. We piled everything into what was once our spotless office/library in the house, and really started to look at the pile. We had eight flashlights, seven blankets, several toys stored under the bed for when our granddaughter was two years old (she’s now 10), numerous kitchen utensils we never touched, enough drinking glasses for 24 people, four bags of toilet deodorizer, tarps in five different sizes, two collapsible hampers, enough toilet paper to supply all the campers currently at Fort Stevens State Park, six disposable oven lighters (only one worked!), nine puzzles which we’ve completed several times and have never traded out for new ones, eight decks of cards (and who needs four pinochle decks?), three cribbage boards, eight reuseable shopping bags, two sets of horseshoes, two jugs of Costco lemonade that expired in 2021, and enough extension cords to reach 3 miles down the road. This is just a small example of what we pulled out and need to sort through. Do we really need all this stuff? When the weather gets nicer, it may not be a bad idea to totally empty out your RV to determine what you’re hauling each trip that you didn’t realize you have or that you’ll never use. Things you never use are taking up valuable space, and unnecessary “stuff” is just increasing your weight. We plan on paring down the “stuff” we put back into our new rig, and if we find we’re missing anything, we’ll just borrow it from you!



MAY BE FULL!

CONTACT JOHN MONAHAN TO CONFIRM.
WILL HAVE WAITLIST, IF NEEDED.

Westerners' Annual Roundup

Join Us At The Beach



Where: Wapiti RV Park, 2118 S. Drift Creek Road, Lincoln City, OR 97367;
(541) 996-2240 www.wapitirvpark.com

When: April 25-27, 2024

Directions: Travel Hwy 101 south of Lincoln City to milepost 119 (1/2 mile south of Schooner Creek). Left on South Drift Creek Road - 1 1/2 miles follow the signs, the park will be on your right. **(Don't rely on your GPS!)**

Costs: **Camping fees:** \$43 per rig per night; *New this year:* If you want to come early or stay late, reservations must be made directly through the park, be sure to tell them you are with the Westerners.
Rally fees: \$35 per attendee. Meals included, Thursday evening ice cream social; breakfast on Friday and Saturday, donuts and coffee on Sunday, Dinner on Friday and Saturday. Meals will be prepared by chapter members/ volunteers. Campers will be asked to provide salad or dessert - last names A-M for Friday and N-Z for Saturday dinners. Saturday lunch a potato bar will be available for \$2 each.

Please bring an item for the oral auction - all monies will be donated to a local charity.

Activities: We will be having a Pinochle, Hand and Foot, and Cribbage tournament. Also card bingo - don't forget your 10 quarters per participant. To help fund the Roundup, we will be having a Raffle and 50/50 drawings.

-----Detach and mail registration and fees-----

Make checks payable and mail to: John Monahan, 21717 NE 22nd Ave, Ridgefield, WA 98642-2500.
Phone (360) 984-4620; Email: jmonahan4620@gmail.com

Name: _____ Chapter: _____
Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone () _____ Email: _____

Handicap: Y / N? We'll do our best to accommodate. All sites first come, first serve.

Length of RV _____ Trailer, Motor Home, 5th Wheel, Tent Trailer, other

All sites are 30 amp/water, no cable, wifi or TV reception. Two dump stations on site.

Your canceled check will be your confirmation. All cancellations must be made by April 15 for refund, notify John Monahan. 360 984 2620

Camping fees: \$43 per night. Thursday, Friday and Saturday (\$129) \$ _____

Rally fees: \$35 per attendee \$ _____

Circle day of arrival: Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Total amount \$ _____

Office Use: Date received: ____/____/____ Registration #. _____

ORCA Rallies 2024 ~ Please add to your calendar and keep watching upcoming Drifter newsletters for registration forms!

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)

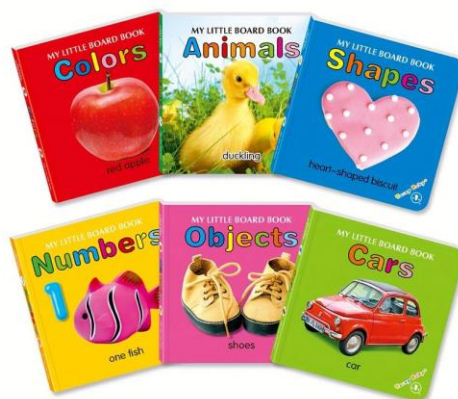




As a charitable organization, ORCA prides itself on supporting those in the communities where our rallies are held. The State Directors of ORCA have selected a new project to help those in need in Polk County. CASA of Polk County, Inc., works to recruit, train, guide, and support well-trained volunteer advocates to be a voice in court for abused and neglected children and youth in the judicial dependency system of Polk County, Oregon. These children have been removed from dangerous situations at home and are in foster care.

CASA holds a holiday toy drive for these children each year, and we feel this would be a worthwhile, heartwarming opportunity to support children in crisis. Nothing is better than seeing the joy and excitement on a child's face who otherwise may not receive a gift at Christmas. CASA is requesting new, unwrapped toys for the little ones and/or gift cards for their youth ... ages newborn to 18 years ... boys and girls.

We hope that our membership remembered to catch some holiday sales this past Christmas, as this charitable project will commence at our ORCA Rally in June 2024. We are confident that our ORCA membership will embrace this new project and have a lot of fun with it. Please watch the video at www.casaofpolk.com to learn more about CASA and to inspire you to want to make a difference in a child's life. If each one of our male members purchased a gift for a boy, and each female member purchased a gift for a girl, we'd have a tremendous number of gifts to donate, and a fairly even distribution of boy/girl gifts.



~ 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!

