

BOCI 2014 Rally & Business Meeting Report

Astoria, Oregon
September 7-12, 2014



BOCI havin' a Whale of a time!

General

- **Attendance** was phenomenal, ≈140 people, representing 70 memberships! The campground was filled with 68 Bigfoot RVs—an amazing assortment of truck campers, trailers, and motorhomes.
- Always a tremendous hit was the **Serendipity Potluck** dinner where members showcase their culinary expertise. The preceding social hour was hosted by **Grant & Denise Bilodeau** of **Bigfoot Industries**.
- **Rig Tours** – an extremely popular feature where members tour several rigs and share ideas and best practices about upgrades and customization of their RVs.
- **Special Raffles:** Each year a group of dedicated quilters make a fabulous quilt for the raffle. This year's quilt was won by Mike & Roxann Henley. A gorgeous afghan, hand crocheted by Gayle George-Sackett, was won by Mike & Julia Laney. A fantastic donated **Pakboat** kayak was won by Gary & Liz White.
- **Other Raffles:** Many wonderful raffle items were donated by several of our vendors. Also, a favorite, are the unique raffle items that BOCI members bring from home. What fun!

Business Meeting

After hearing reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee chairs, elections were held for three open board positions. Art Dunn, Mike Henley, and Sue Stinson were re-elected for a 2-year term. We also had a lively discussion about ways to increase membership. Minutes from the meeting will be posted on the website. A special presentation of the *first Lifetime Membership* was made to **Ric & Linda Allen**, founders of BOCI.

Seminars

- **Mac Burns** from **The Clatsop Historical Society** regaled us with tales of Clatsop County's rich and exciting history and discussed the role of the historical society in preserving this history.
- **Grant Bilodeau** of **Bigfoot Industries** reviewed the history of the company and the RV's that were made in the early days. He also discussed current products and their vision for the future.
- **Robert & Barbara Henderson** of **Henderson's Line-up** from Grants Pass, OR, discussed their family-owned service center that specializes in suspension, steering, and braking in RVs.
- **Steve Gritman**, owner of **Lafayette Auto Body & RV Repair** from Lafayette, OR, hosted two lively question-and-answer sessions on various RV topics at this his fifth attendance at a BOCI rally.
- **Eric Jason** of **Roadmaster** from Vancouver, WA, spoke about the company's high-quality tow bars, supplemental braking systems, and anti-sway bars. The Roadmaster team spent time with members going over their concerns, plus giving advice on proper use and maintenance of their equipment.
- **Greg Joyce** of **Torklift** from Summer, WA, gave a hands-on presentation sharing some of their new and improved products including truck tie downs and hitches. His team spent time talking with individuals, visiting their sites, and checking their campers.

Events

- **Group History Tour – Fort Clatsop, Astoria Column, and Maritime Museum**
Like school children, we lined up and boarded yellow buses for our tour. On our way to each venue our tour guide gave us pertinent information regarding the sights we were to see.
- **Bigfoot Steak House** in Seaside, OR – this was a no-host dinner where BOCI completely filled the place. In attendance, meeting old friends and new, was BOCI's founder, Ric Allen.
- **Dog Show** – a special event for our four-legged friends included a hot dog race, costume parade, and techniques on training led by our intrepid Gayle George-Sackett.
- **Scarf making class:** learning the techniques of silk dyeing led by Carol Arndt.
- **Game night:** various games including the annual Cribbage tournament won by Mike Henley.
- **Campfire & Sing-a-long:** roasting marshmallows, singing favorite songs, and a recitation by Jack Throne of the poem "The Cremation of Sam McGee" by Robert Service.