

Office Address: 660-R George Washington Way, Richland WA 99352

Office hours are Mondays and Thursdays from noon to 2pm

Phone: 1-509-943-2277      Email: ramrovers@gmail.com

Website: ramblingroverstravel.net

Monthly general membership meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month

at 10 am at Atomic Bowl, 624 Wellsian Way, Richland

## JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

### ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Cyndi Kittson

Vice-President: Marsha Hathcox —*welcome*

Secretary: Lynne Brown—*welcome*

Treasurer: Claudia Theroff

### Directors:

Jerry Robledo

Pat Landen

Diane Beckmann—*welcome!*



### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Trip Coordinator: Pat Fuhrman, 539-3902

Trip Coordinator: Linda McCarty

Social Coordinator: Vel Wright, 521-7710

Member Connections Coordinator: Claire Schneck

Office Manager: Margaret Ault

### OTHER

Attendance: Sharon Warren

Greeter: Barbara Strait

Board Development Specialist: Dortha Backer, 539-4920

Membership Specialist: Karen Crawford

Website Specialist: Larry Smith

Newsletter Specialist: Pat Fleming, 539-5459

# **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Larry-Kleingartner-2

Dwight-Zins-2

Wanda-Briggs-3

Melanie-McCall-3

Dianne -Rugg-3

Sharon -Warren-4

Carol-Hexum-5

Raul-Sital-5

Joanne-Smith-5

Ellen-LeVee-7

Gloria-Shea-7

Dave-Beach-8

Peggy-O'Neal-9

Karen -Carpenter-10

Nancy-DeLisle-10

Connie-Slater-13

Karolyn-Wess-14

Bonnie-Suminski-15

Ellen-Tool-15

Arnold-Gerken-17

Peggy-Goss-17

Irmgard-Abodishish-18

Sandi-Sedgwick-18

James-Cutsforth-18

Sandi-Sedgwick-18

Edwina-Farooqui-19

Patti-Sans Souci-21

Barbara-Strait-22

Lori-Sportelli-24

Mary Lou-Anderson-26

Margaret-Ault-26

Beverly-Beattie-26

Vel-Wright-26

Alicia-Gallihier-27

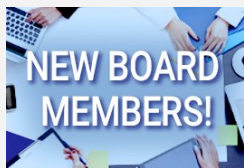
Laura-Ryan-27

Verna Bond says: Thank you Rovers for donating 222 lbs to the Food Bank and Martha's Cupboard for the month of Dec. Total donations for 2024 was an outstanding 2066 lbs. The Food Bank and Martha's Cupboard thanks you for your generous donations.

**FOR THOSE OF YOU ON THE OFFICIAL PRIVATE ROVER FACEBOOK, AND IF YOU HAVE A BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY, CHECK IT OUT ON YOUR BIRTHDAY. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A HAPPY BIRTHDAY POST. I HOPE YOU GET SOME "LIKES" AND BEST WISHES. IT FEELS GOOD TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED ON YOUR BIRTHDAY.**

## REGARDING 2025 DUES

**If you haven't paid your 2025 dues by the time you read this, your only chance to pay them is walking into the Rover Office on January 2nd. Hours are from noon to 2pm. After that date, if you haven't paid, your membership will be terminated. The last mailed dues must be postmarked by 12/31. You would then have to go to the bottom of the waitlist to rejoin. I hope that doesn't happen.**



Congratulations to the new officers and directors—Marsha Hathcox as Vice President, Lynne Brown as Secretary and Diane Beckmann as Director.

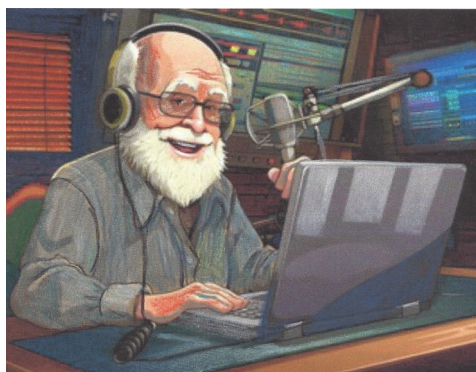
Also, thank you to Cyndi Kittson, Claudia Theroff, Jerry Robledo and Pat Landen for remaining on the Board.

On the foregoing page, ye editor referred to the Rambling Rovers' current private Facebook group page as "*the official*" Rover Facebook page. All announcements regarding trips, Rover events and trip flyers will be on that page.

A second private FB page has been started called **RAMBLING ROVERS SPEAK**. It has a different logo and the purpose of this private group page is for Rovers to create posts on a variety of different topics from sharing family pics to asking questions that other Rovers might have had experience with. The official Facebook page encourages travel related posts like trip and Rover event flyers and upcoming trip ideas. The reason we discourage other non Rover function postings (like pictures of our favorite pets) on the official page is that the trip flyers may get lost in the shuffle.

Within a few days after you've read this article, the Facebook Administrator will extend an invitation via email to everyone who is already on "the official" Rover Facebook page. If you're not interested, just ignore it. If you are not on the official FB page and do want an invite to either or both, just email me at shepatfleming@gmail.com and I will send you an invite.

**Picture for Logo at the top of soon to come "Rambling Rovers Speak" Facebook page**



A Happy New Year Gift from our Website Specialist, Larry Smith. Thanks to member Joyce Storm who asked if there was any way for the website to also show some past newsletters, Larry said he would put in a link for the last 6 months of newsletters. Not sure how long that takes him to do but check out the website to see. [Ramblingroverstravel.net](http://Ramblingroverstravel.net)

*Thank you Larry! Excellent!*

### **Rover Happenings in 2025:**

Some fabulous outings to the Yakima Capital Theater for Concerts and Plays.

A Water2Wine Brunch Cruise

A day of Antique Hopping in Walla Walla, Wa. Lunch Included.

Downtown Prosser Antique Shopping, Dinner, and a Play @ the Green Room in the Historic Princess Theater

Tip-Toeing thru the Tulips in Woodburn, Oregon w/overnight stay at the Oregon Garden Resort

Visit to LaGrande and The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Campus Tour-Guide Dog for the Blind (Oregon). Lunch Included. (limit of 34 travelers)

**Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks** in California. (JUNE 8-12<sup>th</sup>)

Crater Lake, Bend and Sisters, Oregon outing.

**ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC** at UNION STREET GRANGE-Kennewick on **JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>**. Mark your calendars.

Wallowa Lake, Oregon

Let Linda & Jim know if you're interested in an overnight Leavenworth summer outing to see THE LITTLE MERMAID at their downtown Festhalle. (*Overnight accommodations at the Icicle Inn*)

Whale Watching, Seattle Aquarium and Pikes Place Market.

**Smokey Mountains & Noah's Ark, with Churchill Downs and Dollywood** included. (SEPT 6-14<sup>th</sup>)

A couple of Fall Foliage outings.

3 separate opportunities to go Antique Shopping throughout 2025

**New York City at Christmas** time to see the Radio City Music Hall **Rockettes** Christmas Show. (DEC 8-12<sup>th</sup>)

**WATCH YOUR 2025 NEWSLETTER FOR DATES, PRICING AND SIGNUP DATES-**

## **NAME TAG WALLETS AVAILABLE AT NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

As new members join Rovers in the coming months, instead of the small name tag we've been having made at Sandy's Trophies, the Board has opted to give new members a *name tag wallet*. They are a beautiful blue and hang around your neck with a name card where a name label can be attached (nice because if there is a name change, we just print a new label for the card). On the reverse side, there is a plastic pocket big enough for a phone or passport, receipts etc. You can also work with your phone through the plastic.

These name tag wallets will also be available for \$3 each for current members. Karen Crawford, Membership Specialist, will have them at this month's General meeting. Make checks out to Rambling Rovers. Cash accepted.



## **ANNIE at the Capitol Theater in Yakima on Feb 26, '25**

Annie tells the story of a little orphan girl named Annie who believes her parents are still alive and will one day return to claim her. Despite a difficult start in a New York City orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan, Annie's pluck and positivity lead her to billionaire Oliver Warbucks, who becomes her new family.

We'll eat at the 2nd Street Grill before the play and you will receive \$10 toward that meal.

**PRICE: \$157**

***Kennewick: 2:30pm***

***Richland: 3:00pm***

***Prosser: 3:45pm***

**Led by Pat Fuhrman & Sherrie Pickard**

**539-3902**

**396-8780**

# Yosemite & Sequoia National Parks



June 8 – 12, 2025

5 Days & 4 Nights

\$2,799 Per person Double Occupancy

\$3,359 Single Person Occupancy

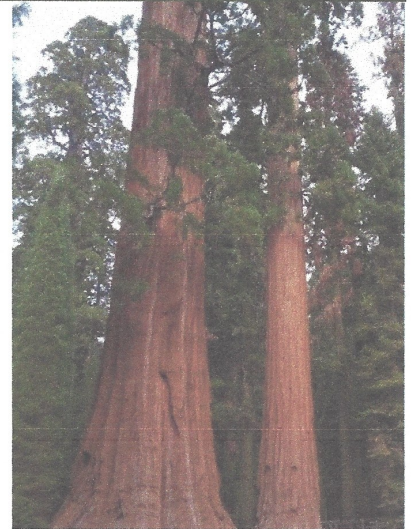
## Sightseeing Highlights:

- Yosemite National Park
  - Yosemite Valley Floor Tour (2 Hours)
- Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
- Chukchansi Gold Resort Casino
- San Francisco
  - Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39

## Itinerary

**Day 1:** Begin your adventure by flying to the California Bay Area. Enjoy a visit to the iconic **Fisherman's Wharf** and **Pier 39** in **San Francisco**, where you can see sea lions, shop at waterfront stores, and dine at various restaurants. Spend the evening on the waterfront at the Embassy Suites south of San Francisco.

**Day 2:** Today we head towards the Sierra Mountains, stopping at the **Hilmar Cheese Factory** in the Central Valley along the way. See some of the historic sierra mountain mining towns founded during the height of the 1850's California Gold Rush. In the evening, stay at the world-class **Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino**, a four-diamond hotel. Enjoy the nightlife with 1,800 slot machines, 46 table games, and a variety of restaurants. B



## Tour Price Includes:

- Round Trip Airfare
- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- Hotel Accommodations
- 1 Night Embassy Suites South San Francisco
- 2 Nights in Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino
- 1 Night in Clovis—Courtyard by Marriott Fresno Clovis
- Luggage Handling
- Meals included:
  - 4 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch,

Tour ID T453



**Day 3:** Travel to **Yosemite National Park**, a stunning landscape shaped by glaciers. Designated as the nation's first state park by Abraham Lincoln on June 30, 1864, Yosemite offers incredible sights. Take a two-hour **Valley Tram Tour** led by a park ranger, providing fascinating information about **El Capitan**, **Tunnel View**, **Yosemite Falls**, and more. Spend some leisure time exploring Yosemite Village, visiting its restaurants and shops. B

**Day 4:** On our final day, visit **Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks** to see some of the world's largest trees. Marvel at the groves of giant sequoias, including the **General Grant Tree**, the second largest sequoia in the world. B, L

**Day 5:** Today, we leave the beautiful Sierra Mountains behind and return home.

**GENERAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY** - Friendly Excursions, authorized agents, or tour leaders for groups act solely as agents of the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, or any tour related services and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident, or delay to person or property due to an act of default of any hotel, carrier, or company or person rendering any of the services included in the tour. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government, restraints, weather or other causes beyond the control of Friendly Excursions. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omissions, delays, re-routing, or acts of government. Friendly Excursions cannot be held responsible for baggage damage, loss of personal property, possessions, or money. The right is reserved to refuse to retain any member of the group should circumstances so demand, and if such actions is for benefit of the tour. The airlines or transportation companies involved are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passengers contract in use by the carrier concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the passenger. Friendly Excursions, Inc. reserves the right to take photographs, videos or audio/visual recordings during the operation of any program or part thereof and to use them, whether taken by a representative of Friendly Excursions or by other participants, for promotional purposes. By enrolling in a Friendly Excursions program, participants agree to allow their images or recordings to be used for such purposes. Participants who prefer that their images or recordings not be used are asked to identify themselves to program staff and the photographer at the commencement of their program. Tour members are held responsible for being in sufficient good health to undertake the tour. Friendly Excursions is not responsible for any expenses associated with Covid 19.

**INSURANCE PACKAGE** is available for Trip Cancellation, Accident, Life, and Luggage coverage during the tour, and is strongly recommended. NTA Travel Protection Plan Coverage can be directly purchased by visiting our Website, **FriendlyExcursions.net**. You will be asked for the **Tour Operator Location Number: #058539** and your credit card for payment. If you need additional information please contact Friendly Excursions or your group leader.

**DEPOSIT: \$200 due** now to hold your place. Final payment is due on **April 4, 2025**.

**CANCELLATION:** Deposit is fully refundable up to **April 4, 2025**. No refund will be given after **April 4, 2025**.



**Friendly Excursions Inc**  
P.O. Box 69,  
Sunland, CA 91041-9998  
Phone (818) 353-7726  
www.FriendlyExcursions.net

WA Seller of Travel Registration - 604239199



**Tour ID T453**

**For Information & Reservations Contact**

Linda McCarty 509-948-0545

Rambling Rovers Vintage Travel

634 S Idaho Street

Kennewick, WA 99336

Linda McCarty 509-948-0545

# Great Smoky Mountains, Nashville & Kentucky

September 6 – 14, 2025

9 Days & 8 Nights

## Sightseeing Highlights

Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
Over Mountain Aerial Tram  
Dollywood  
Louisville's Slugger  
Churchill Downs  
International Museum of the Horse  
Ark Encounter  
County Music Hall of Fame & Studio B  
Bourbon Distillery Tour  
Nashville  
Grand Ole Opry

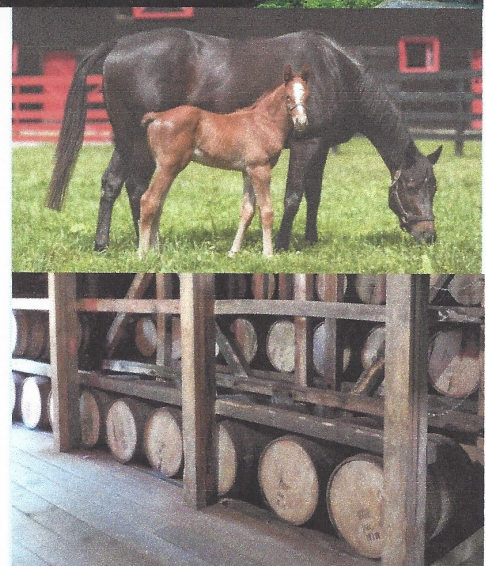
## Itinerary

**Day 1** (Sept 6) Fly into in **Louisville, Kentucky**. Upon landing, you'll be greeted by your Friendly Excursions tour director and transported to your hotel in the vibrant **Nulu Arts District**, known for its lively nightlife and local charm. Enjoy your evening exploring the area. 1 night stay in Louisville, KY.

**Day 2** (Sept 7) Start out tour at **Churchill Downs**, home of the **Kentucky Derby Museum**. Next stop is the **Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory** where the famous bats were made. Lexington, KY 3 Nights. B

**Day 3** (Sept 8) Experience the **Ark Encounter**, a life size version of Noah's Ark. This structure is 1.5 football fields in length (510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 57 feet high) and built with all wood craftsmanship. Our next visit is to the iconic **Bourbon Distillery**, that showcases the Kentucky tradition of bourbon making. Enjoy a tasting and tour which complete our day. B

**Day 4** (Sept 9) We will spend an amazing day at the **International Museum of the Horse**. This Kentucky Park is 1,200 acres working horse farm that features 50 horse breeds. Attractions are: Horse drawn trolley to tour the park, a Hall of Champions, a Museum of the Horse, and farrier and harness shops. Their local guide will take us to one of the Thoroughbred horse farms and through the rolling countryside and back roads of the Bluegrass area. B



**\$4,599.00 Per Person, Double Occupancy**  
**\$5,999.00 Single Occupancy**

## Tour Price Includes:

Round Trip Airfare   
Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation  
Professional Tour Director  
Admissions  
Hotel Luggage Handling  
Meals: 8 Breakfasts  
2 Dinners

T468





**Day 5** (Sept 10) Begin the day heading to **Gatlinburg, Tennessee**, the gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. With a variety of restaurant, unique shops with an enjoyable small-town feel. Visit the Sugarland's Visitors Center at the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** with its interesting and informative museum. Then take in the stunning view of **Newfound Gap**, a part of the Appalachian trail and border with North Carolina. 2 Nights in Gatlinburg, TN. B,D

**Day 6** (Sept 11) Today we explore **Dollywood**, which has been voted one of best theme parks. Here you will find Country music everywhere with live entertainment indoor and out. There's authentic mountain craft demonstration, museums, shopping and delicious food. Take a relaxing ride on the Dollywood Express Train an authentic 110-ton coal-fired steam engine takes you on a breathtaking five-mile journey through the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. B

**Day 7** (Sept 12) Today we travel to **Nashville, TN**. the "Country Music Capitol of the World." Afterwards you can spend time exploring our hotel, the **Gaylord Opryland Hotel Resort** which features nine acres of indoor botanical gardens under a climate-controlled glass atrium, complete with rivers, pathways, and waterfalls. This evening we will attend the **Grand Ole Opry**. This is the country's longest running live radio show, and has not missed a broadcast since the beginning of 1925. The shows can offer bluegrass, comedy and gospel artists as well as many well-known country music stars. 2 Nights at Grand Ole Opry Hotel Nashville TN. B

**Day 8** (Sept 13) **Country Hall of Fame and Museum** contains exhibits, films, interactive displays and costumes as well as instruments and lyric sheets. This museum identifies and preserves the evolving history and traditions of country music. Then enjoy a tour of the Historic **RCA Studio B** which is a one of a kind experience where you can walk in the footsteps of famous performers and songwriters alike. B

**Day 9** (Sept 14) Our flight home will be from Nashville Airport. On the flight home you can reminisce wonderful experiences, memories and new friends. B

**Hotel Accommodations:**

- Louisville, KY-1 Night
- Gatlinburg TN- 2 Nights
- Gaylord Opryland Resort
- Lexington, KY -3 Nights
- Nashville, TN- 2 Nights

3 star or better

**GENERAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY** - Friendly Excursions, authorized agents, or tour leaders for groups act solely as agents of the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, or any tour related services and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident, or delay to person or property due to an act of default of any hotel, carrier, or company or person rendering any of the services included in the tour. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government, restraints, weather or other causes beyond the control of Friendly Excursions. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omissions, delays, re-routing, or acts of government. Friendly Excursions cannot be held responsible for baggage damage, loss of personal property, possessions, or money. The right is reserved to refuse to retain any member of the group should circumstances so demand, and if such actions is for benefit of the tour. The airlines or transportation companies involved are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passengers contract in use by the carrier concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the passenger. Friendly Excursions, Inc. reserves the right to take photographs, videos or audio/visual recordings during the operation of any program or part thereof and to use them, whether taken by a representative of Friendly Excursions or by other participants, for promotional purposes. By enrolling in a Friendly Excursions program, participants agree to allow their images or recordings to be used for such purposes. Participants who prefer that their images or recordings not be used are asked to identify themselves to program staff and the photographer at the commencement of their program. Tour members are held responsible for being in sufficient good health to undertake the tour. Friendly Excursions is not responsible for any expenses associated with Covid 19.

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**DEPOSIT: \$200 due** now to hold your place. Final payment is due on **July 5, 2025**.

**CANCELLATION:** No refund will be given after **July 5, 2025**.

**Tour ID: T468**



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**For Information & Reservations Contact**

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 634 S Idaho Street  
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 509-948-0545

**HEALTH ADVISORY:** To ensure the safety and well-being of all members, we strongly encourage everyone to take necessary precautions to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 and other diseases. This includes not traveling or coming to a meeting when you are ill; wearing masks, and following all guidelines and regulations set forth by the relevant authorities.

**TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Any member needing assistance on a trip (i.e. caretaker) must provide the name of that person to the travel coordinator and their trip cost is to be paid by either the member or the caretaker. If a wheelchair/walker will be needed, the member will provide that. Caretaker will fill out and sign liability and medical information page required to travel.

**WHEN CAN I SIGN UP FOR A TRIP?** *The first time you can sign up for a trip is either at a meeting or after a trip appears in the newsletter — WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. You can sign up in the Rover office, you can mail your check in or you can sign up at general meetings.* Keep in mind the trip can fill up at any of those times. When you write a check for a trip, make it payable to Rambling Rovers and please include your phone number on the check and also the name of the trip in the memo line. Re Rover trips and not those arranged by a travel company like Friendly Excursions: If you ever cancel a trip and get a refund, you must cash it within 90 days or it is voided. When are refunds made? If you cancel a trip in less than twenty (20) days but more than three (3) days before departure and are not replaced by someone else, the prepaid expenses will be deducted from the total cost of the trip and the balance refunded. If you cancel within three (3) days of departure, there will be NO refund UNLESS the member is replaced by someone else, OR a letter is presented from the member's physician within thirty (30) days of the trip's departure date, verifying member's medical reason for canceling, OR there is a death in the member's immediate family (a person's immediate family is their smallest family unit). Refunds for ALL circumstances may be reviewed by the Board, if requested by the member or by the trip coordinator on behalf of the member.

Tipping the driver: A gratuity for coach drivers is included in the total price of the trip (\$2 per person) but if you feel generous, you can give him/her more as you leave the bus at the end of the trip. When bringing luggage to be loaded under the bus, please color code it with the school colors for your city which are: Kennewick - black/orange ; Richland - green/gold.