

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

Facebook: Search for Rambling Rovers Tri-Cities and choose the one with the above logo.

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

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

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

ELECTED OFFICERS

Marsha Hathcox: President
Lucy Budde: Vice President
Secretary: Lynne Brown
Treasurer: Claudia Theroff

DIRECTORS

Dianne Beckmann
Dortha Backer
Karen Crawford

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Trip Coordinator: Linda Petersen, 551-1700
Trip Coordinator: Lorrie Pope, 330-6779
Social Coordinator: Vel Wright, 521-7710
Member Connections Coordinator: Claire Schneck, 943-9249
Office Manager: Margaret Ault, 308-6892
OTHER
Attendance: Sharon Warren
Greeter: Barbara Strait
Membership Specialist: Karen Crawford
Website Specialist: Larry Smith, 539-1142
Newsletter Editor: Pat Fleming, 539-5459
Trip Assistant: Pat Fleming

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS -**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

GAIL COX	3
DON JOHNSTONE	4
JOLENE OLSEN	4
PATRICIA CARTWRIGHT	5
MARY SEAY	5
LINDA TUCKER	6
PATTY FERGUS	8
JO MILLER	9
LANA MURRY	10
GWEN HILL	11
CHARLES KENOYER	12

SHIRLEY BEAUDET	14
SANDRA KLIPPERT	14
KAREN RUSSELL	14
JO ROSE	15
SUSAN WALDO	18
KRISTIE MCCUNE	19
WAYNE SMITH	19
STEVAN BROWN	20
LES KING	20
JENNIER STEWART	23
JOAN LUND	26
CLAUDIA THEROFF	28

The two trip coordinators, Linda Petersen and Lorrie Pope are ramping up their trip schedules. Their first decision was to assemble a trip committee to sort through all of the wonderful suggestions coming in and deciding first priority for the coordinators to set up. As you know, we don't have any Friendly Excursion trips on the horizon but stay tuned as there will be some longer trips as the two new coordinators get their feet wet. They are doing a great job so far. Thank you for the suggestions you've made so far. Keep them coming.

Membership

Our membership specialist, Karen Crawford, has made the new list of 2026 members so far. The number who renewed is 276 (out of 400). There were 37 on the waitlist to join plus a few who got their renewal checks in after the deadline and need to rejoin. That puts us a little over 300 once they've all officially joined. Welcome back to our members renewing and a sincere welcome to the new members. We're all set for another fun year.

Welcome to these new members: Michael Bean, Kathleen & Mark Butcher, Trish Johnson, Kathleen & Les King, Dean & Jane Rux, James Sommerland, Susan Waldo, Lynn Andreasen, Mandy Chou, Becky Hall, Janell Kensler, Debra Knight, Jim & Pattie Lilly, Julie Mares, Mary Richard, Chris Rogerson, Mary Santoy, Jim & Aileen Smith, Sandi Strawn, Cynthia Taylor

New Board Director

Our Board director, Patricia Landen, unfortunately has resigned as director for medical reasons. She's still a member though, so **YAY** for that. Our president, Marsha Hathcox, named Karen Crawford to replace her as director for the rest of 2026. Karen will also continue as Membership Specialist.

These are the 2026 **appointees** made by President Hathcox: Linda Petersen, Trip Coordinator; Lorrie Pope, Trip Coordinator; Vel Wright, Social Coordinator; Claire Schneck, Member Connections Coordinator; Margaret Ault, Office Manager.

These are the 2026 **officers**: President, Marsha Hathcox, Vice President, Lucy Budde, Secretary, Lynne Brown, Treasurer, Claudia Theroff, Directors, Diane Beckmann, Dortha Backer and Karen Crawford.

Verna Bond reports: "Thank you Rovers for your 2025 donations of 2573 lbs to the Food Bank and Martha's Cupboard. You have started 2026 donations with 335 lbs to the Food Bank and 35 lbs to Martha's Cupboard for a total of 370 lbs for the new year. Your help with both groups is greatly appreciated."

OPERATING PROCEDURE CHANGE

At the January Board Meeting the Board approved a motion to change the Operating Procedures pertaining to trip cancellations. Trip coordinators want to minimize the risk of the Club losing money on nonrefundable payments they make for event tickets when a member cancels. This is true also for hotel charges (for any unused rooms due to cancellation). The change requires Trip Coordinators to include an advisement on trip flyers when a trip requires purchase of nonrefundable tickets. The advisement must say that by a date certain, there will be no refunds to members of those nonrefundable expenses if they cancel the trip.*

The motion was approved and the amended Operating Procedures will be on the website soon. Meanwhile, the new trip flyers that have the advisement will be like the one on the Tina Turner Musical flyer within this Newsletter.

*The exceptions already in the Operating Procedures re a doctor's note or death in the immediate family will still be accepted exceptions when approved by the Board.

* * *

The **other** Operating Procedure that was changed is the wording about trip buses having lavatories. The Trip Coordinators would sometimes like to take fewer members on a smaller bus (rather than cancel trips for lack of sign-ups and to also get in some places large buses can't) and the smaller buses do not have lavatories. However, all itineraries for all buses do stop at rest stops very often. New wording on the Operating Procedures says lavatories will be required on the full sized buses. PLEASE NOTE: IF A TRIP WILL BE ON A SMALLER BUS, IT WILL BE NOTED ON THE FLYER.

RAMBLING ROVERS OFFICE HOURS FOR 2026

Mondays 12pm to 2pm

Thursdays 12pm to 2pm

except for Holidays or Rover Events Shown below

Thursday, February, 12 – Rover Volunteer Lunch

Monday, February 16 – Presidents' Day

Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day

Monday, October 12 – Columbus Day

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 31 – New Year's Day

Here are your Rover Office Volunteers. Stop by and say hi

1st Mondays – Pauline Cullison & Kim Robuck

2nd Mondays – Lorrie Pope & Dortha Backer

3rd Mondays – Sharon Warren & Joyce Storm

4th Mondays – Connie Storey & Barbara Strait

5th Mondays – Margaret Ault & Diane Beckmann

1st Thursdays – Gloria Ewing & Claire Schneck

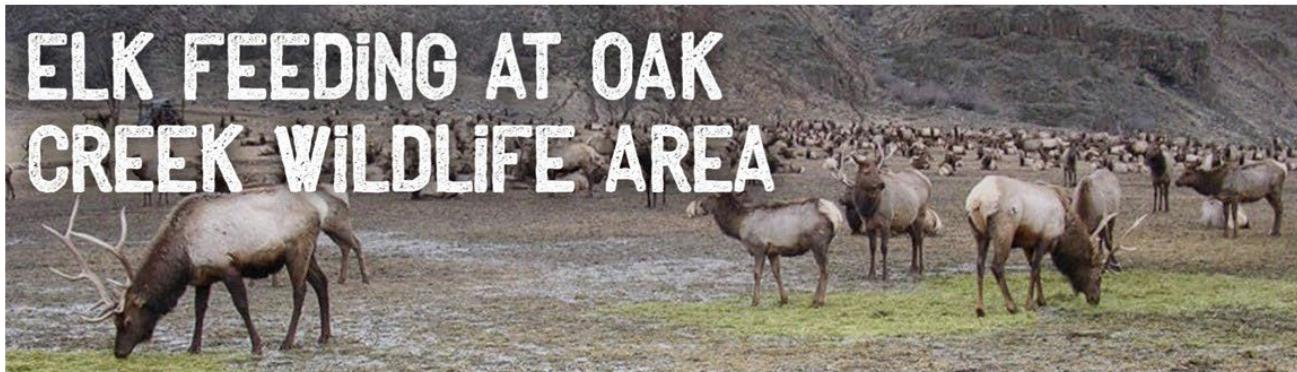
2nd Thursdays – Margaret Ault & Chris Webb

3rd Thursdays – Cheri Jones & Carolyn Grace

4th Thursdays – Margaret Ault

5th Thursdays – Barbara Strait & Jolene Olsen

Thank you, Margaret Ault, Office Manager



When snow blankets the mountains, the elk are forced to migrate to the foothills to find food. Wintering elk may eat from 3 to 10 pounds of hay per day at the feeding stations, most of which is grown and purchased from Washington farmers. Elk begin arriving at the Elk Feeding Station at Oak Creek Wildlife Area as early as mid-November, with the largest part of the herd arriving in January. There is also a Visitor's Center.

**ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE
ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH
PRICE: \$120**

Late Lunch included at Second Street Grill

Bus pick up in Kennewick at: 9:00 am

Bus pick up in Richland at: 9:30 am

If you've never been on this wonderful trip before, there will be a raised platform for you to enter a vehicle where you'll be snug and secure. You should, however, dress warmly.

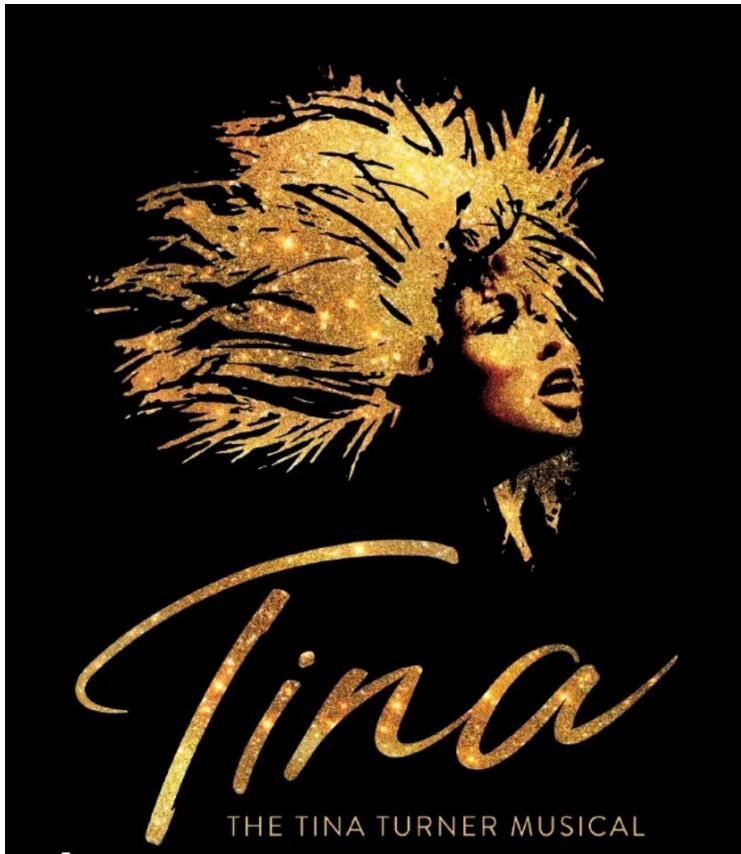
Estimated time getting home: Richland—5:00pm, Kennewick 5:30 pm

Led by Linda Petersen & Pat Fleming

If you have an old flyer that says the date is 2/20, it is wrong. The date is 2/27.

551-1700

539-5459



**THE TINA
TURNER
MUSICAL**

At the First Interstate
Arts Center in
Spokane

APRIL 11, 2026

PRICE: \$235

Dinner included.

Home around: 9pm

Tina - The Tina Turner Musical is the inspiring journey of a woman who broke barriers and became the Queen of Rock n' Roll. Set to the pulse-pounding soundtrack of her most beloved hits, this electrifying sensation will send you soaring to the rafters.

Once tickets are purchased on 2/26/26, there will be no refunds for them if you cancel the trip unless someone on the standby list takes your place

OR

Unless other exceptions in the Rover Operating Procedures apply.

Kennewick Pick-up: 7:45 a.m.

Richland Pick-up : 8:30 a.m.

Led by: Linda Petersen and Pat Fleming

551-1700

539-5459

TRIP TO THE REACH MUSEUM

Thank you to Rover member Chris Webb who was our docent at the Reach Museum on January 29th. She made a wonderful presentation (and ye editor is in awe of her being to remember all that without notes). She said it was her first time as docent and she did a great job and very deserving of the applause she got.

Here are some shots of Chris in action.



Check Your Medicare and Supplemental Health Insurance Summaries, PLEASE

A New Year has started and maybe you've already broken some of your New Year's Resolutions. Dortha Backer and I would like to encourage each Rambling Rover to adopt the following New Year's Resolution which is easy to keep: Each time you receive a MEDICARE SUMMARY NOTICE FOR Part B (Medical Insurance) or your supplemental insurance summary statement please take the time to make sure that the charges listed are really YOUR charges and not a scam.

I know sometimes it is hard to figure out if they are really your charges when you went some place locally and the address given is not a local address. But did you really travel to Florida one day a month for six months for "gel wound care" at \$2,022.72 per visit? Check and see if these claims are actually being charged to your CURRENT Medicare Number. There was one number different in my Medicare number they were charging these scam charges to. I'm pretty sure I would have remembered traveling to Florida for a total of ten months for medical appointments at Sunshine Senior Solutions in Del Ray Beach, FL, but I've never been to Florida in my entire life. After submitting six claims for "gel wound care" for a total of \$12,136.32, this outfit submitted four more claims for "300 intermittent urinary catheter with insertion supplies" at \$2,116.80 each month. That comes to a total of \$20,603.52 that they are trying to collect. Dortha's fraud charges are more than double what my scam claims amount to—over \$50,000! This is your tax money and my tax money they are claiming they are owed. WE pay enough in taxes without supporting these scammers.

If you do find claims on your statements that are not yours, call the Fraud Hotline number 1-800- MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and say you want to report a Fraud claim on your statement and tell them to BE SURE AND FORWARD YOUR INFORMATION TO THE FRAUD DEPARTMENT. Sometimes they took all my information and still did not forward it to the Fraud Department. Notify your supplemental health insurance company as well. I also contacted HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL 1-800-447-8477 and asked to speak directly to the FRAUD DEPARTMENT. The people you talk to at these numbers are very nice

Please DO NOT just toss your summary notices in the trash without first looking at them to determine if the charges listed are really services you received. Thank You.

Claire Schneck

Dortha Backer