

ESCAPEES

Sharing The RV Lifestyle

CERAMIC COATING

Protecting Your Vehicle

PAGE 34

SOLO, SACRED AND SOVEREIGN

*Solo van life isn't just about travel,
it's about becoming.*

PAGE 39



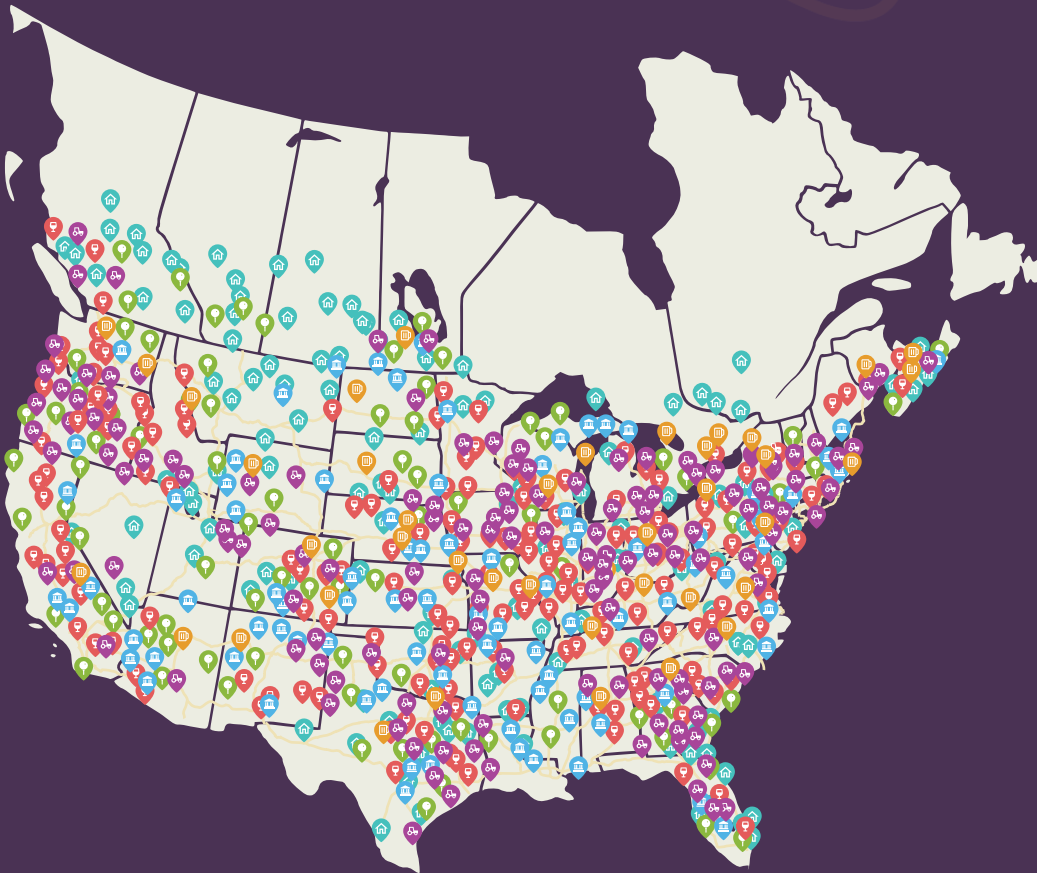
CANCER, SURVIVAL AND RVING

*"Metastatic melanoma changed
my route, not my destination."*

PAGE 48



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Most full-time RVers head south when the leaves start turning color. Stragglers getting a late start often find themselves in unexpected snow storms. In an automobile, this can pose a serious problem. We were towing a 30-foot Airstream with a three-quarter-ton pickup.

I handed the officer a cup of hot coffee, which he accepted in a sort of daze. He was shaking his head as he headed to his police car.

After a while, we got our tow, and a snowplow cleared a path for us into the roadside rest where we spent a comfortable night while a blizzard raged around us.

I wonder, after the police officer had time to think about it, if he realized RVing is a great lifestyle. Maybe the memory of us caused him to become an RVer after he retired.

Today, many of the adventures we had in our early RV pioneering days are solved with cell phones and advance weather warnings. Like the good old days when families gathered at Grandma's house for the holidays, sometimes—just sometimes—I miss those days before Grandma started RVing, too. 🚐

AN EXCERPT FROM ESCAPEES MAGAZINE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012 ESCAPEES.COM/ABOUTUS

Kay Peterson
Co-founder **ESCAPEES RV Club®**





On the Cover

PHOTO BY KEITH WADSWORTH #154166

This photo of Keith's RV was taken by his friend and fellow RVer, John Casey, USAF MSgt. retired, at Echo Canyon State Park, near Pioche, Nevada, in April 2025. Keith says, "John captured the picture as I arrived. He likes my rig and has a good eye." Read more about Keith's journey on page 48.

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I was tucked into the Idaho mountain range, nestled between pine trees on a forest service road.
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Over time, we found a quiet kinship—an unspoken understanding between those who have loved deeply and now carry that love from a distance.
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TAMMY JOHNSON #39557
Editor, *Escapees* Magazine

"The transition from a stick and brick home to an RV is a major life change."

Change is inevitable. For some people, change is a welcomed occurrence that brings excitement for a fresh start or learning experience. However, for others who like the path of least resistance, change can be an uncomfortable challenge. Since we will encounter changes throughout our lives, those who are open to it seem to be happier and more well-adjusted when the road of life throws in those curves.

As an example, *Escapees* magazine has evolved dramatically over the years. Had it not, it may have continued to be the black and white five-page newsletter as it was in its meager beginning in 1978. Personally, I have learned to adapt to change and approach it with a positive attitude. This helps to bring new knowledge and experiences as well as growth each day to avoid becoming complacent.

The transition from a stick and brick home to an RV is a major life change; however those who are brave and adventurous will take that first step into a new rewarding and fulfilling lifestyle. Within this issue, I hope you will find inspiration from those who have adjusted to a curve in their road of life and found a way to include their dream of RVing.

If you are one of those people who is on the path of least resistance and looking to make a change to a more adventurous lifestyle, I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and experience the freedom of life on the road. You'll find that you have a lot of friends to meet along the way. I wish you all a joyous holiday season and many happy travels. 🚐

ESCAPEES

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Your RV Questions

By **MARK NEMETH** #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor
Send your questions via e-mail to techquestions@escapees.com

Snow Weight on RV Roof

Q. We are new to RVing and live in Northern Michigan where we get a lot of lake effect snow. We store our fifth-wheel camper outside at a storage facility. How much snow can a 30-ft. travel trailer handle on the roof during the winter? We noticed several RV dealers in the area that store their inventory outside, but I don't know if they periodically remove the snow from the roofs.

A/

A. I ran into this when I kept my RV in Tehachapi, California. The average RV roof can probably tolerate 10–20 lbs per square foot of snow load, and that equates to about six to twelve inches of wet, heavy snow. Whenever the snow accumulation on my camper approached 12", I shoveled it off. If your RV roof feels strong when you walk around on it, you may be OK with allowing more accumulation, but it's a risk I wouldn't take. You can deal with the problem in several ways: The best answer (of course) is to find covered storage for the winter months, but not everyone can afford this

option. Some folks simply keep a heater running inside the RV, which may help melt off the snow, but that can be expensive and requires a power source. Others have used shoring inside the rig to support the roof, typically 2x4 and 2x6 lumber, but that's no guarantee that the roof won't be damaged anyway. The final option is to manually remove the snow accumulation whenever it approaches a dangerous depth. Take a look at this Equivalent Snow Load table:

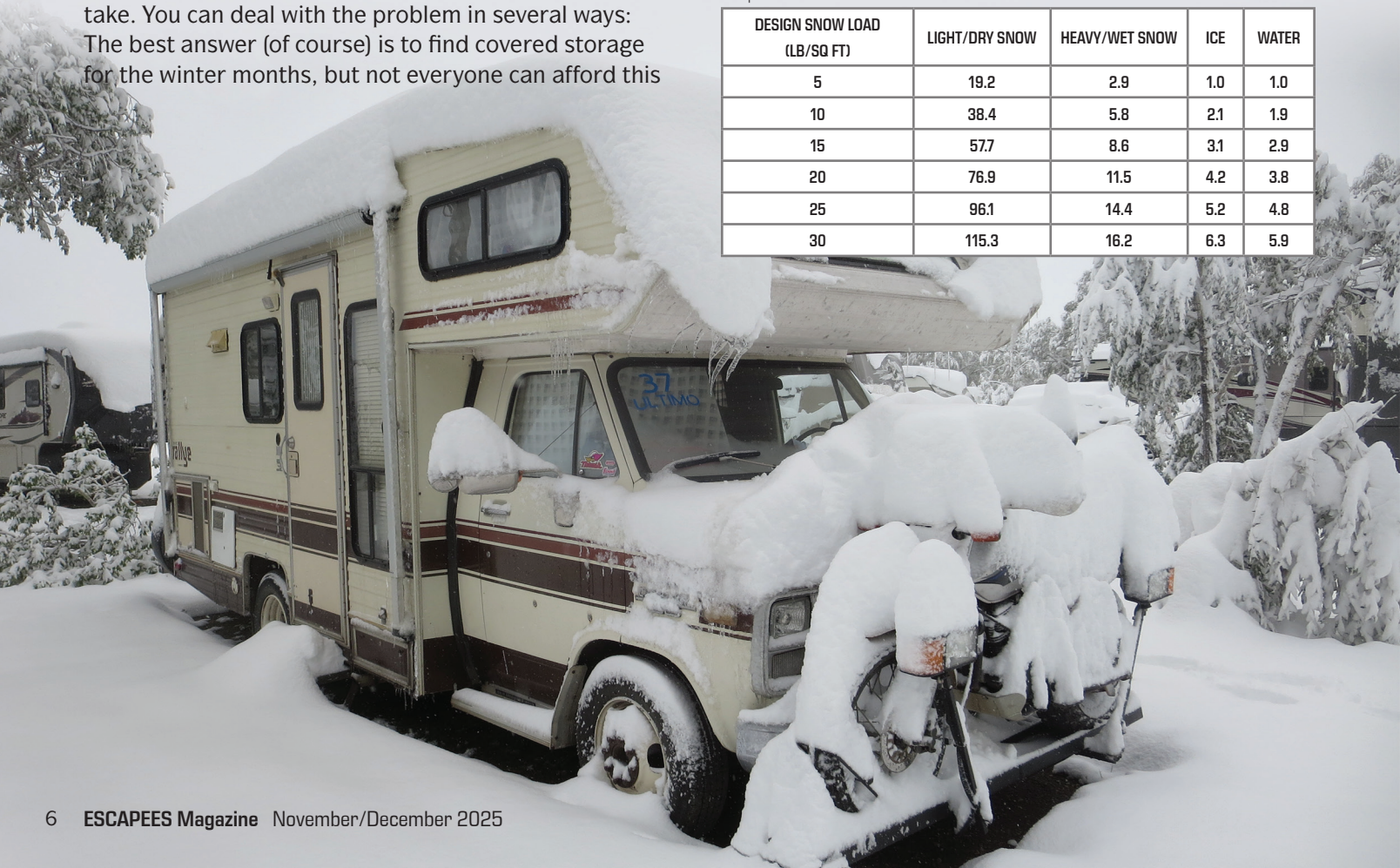
Equivalent Snow Load Table

Density Information

	LIGHT/DRY SNOW	HEAVY/WET SNOW	ICE	WATER
SNOW DENSITY (LB/CU FT)	3.12	20.81	57.25	62.43
% OF WATER WEIGHT	5%	33%	92%	100%

Equivalent Inches

DESIGN SNOW LOAD (LB/SQ FT)	LIGHT/DRY SNOW	HEAVY/WET SNOW	ICE	WATER
5	19.2	2.9	1.0	1.0
10	38.4	5.8	2.1	1.9
15	57.7	8.6	3.1	2.9
20	76.9	11.5	4.2	3.8
25	96.1	14.4	5.2	4.8
30	115.3	16.2	6.3	5.9



“Hoses don’t last forever, so replacing them every few years is common. I usually get three to four years use out of mine.”

Water Hose Storage

Q. When I was prepping to go camping the first time this year, the water hoses were severely mottled with mold or mildew or whatever.

I was concerned about what the inside might be like, so I replaced them. Another camper said he had the same problem when he (like me) stored the hose in a plastic under-the-bed storage box with a lid. He said he had no more problems after drilling air holes in the plastic tub. (several at about one inch) What are your thoughts about this, including Should I also obtain end caps and what about the filter that attaches to the filling end? Thanks so much! I look forward to all of your articles and wish they showed up more frequently.

Gene

A. Whenever I stow my freshwater hoses, I always drain them and then connect the ends together. This helps keep the inside of the hose clean and reduces the chance of mildew. I also try to keep the outside of the hose clean by wiping it down with a rag while I’m coiling it up. Dirt and dust provide a welcoming surface for mold and mildew, so keeping the outside clean will help prevent those kinds of problems. Hoses don’t last forever, so replacing them every few years is common. I usually get three to four years use out of mine. Filters don’t store well, as you can’t get the filter element completely dry, so I usually break mine down, dry the filter housing and toss the cartridge, replacing it with a new one next season. If you have a disposable in-line filter without a removable cartridge, just toss it and get a new one when you start RVing again.



Refrigerator While Traveling

Q. While traveling on a road trip, should I run my refrigerator on auto, LP or straight electricity with my generator on. I've never got a straight answer on this question when asking other RVers.

Alan

A. Your refrigerator can operate on either AC power or propane. If you are travelling in a motorhome, and you have an inverter, the refrigerator can be operated in “AC” mode and will get its AC power from the inverter. The motorhome engine alternator will usually keep up with the demand, so your house batteries will stay at full charge. This can also be done in a trailer or fifth wheel, but can be more problematic, as the charge line coming to the trailer from the tow vehicle usually isn’t big enough to keep up with the demands of the inverter. This can lead to your batteries being run down on long travel days. If you don’t have an inverter, you can run the generator to provide AC power, but that can get a little pricey, as most RV generators will consume one half to one gallon of fuel per hour. Operating the refrigerator on propane while traveling is one of those controversial issues that will always stimulate a lively discussion around the campfire. Most RV refrigerators will operate quite effectively on propane while you are rolling down the road. Most refrigerators will not have problems with the flame blowing out, and the constant motion keeps everything flowing smoothly in the cooling system, so, technically, it is no problem to run them. However, the key issues are safety-related: There is an open flame back there in the refrigerator compartment, so it is critical to shut the refrigerator off before you approach any kind of fuel-dispensing facility. In fact, before you approach a fuel station or propane fill station, all appliances that can produce a flame or a spark must be turned off. Also, the fact that the propane must be turned on at the tank to operate the refrigerator may create a hazard in case of an accident or even a tire failure. If anything happens that creates a hole, crack or leak in the propane supply piping in the RV, you have an instant fire/explosion hazard just waiting for a spark. It is safer to drive with the propane supply turned off at the tank. The other option, of course, is to travel with the refrigerator off. Most people find that, for an average trip, the refrigerator will maintain a low enough internal temperature to keep your food fresh. It is also possible to freeze some Blue Ice packs the night before and use them in the refrigerator compartment to help keep everything cold while traveling. 🚐

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR MARK? Submissions must not contain commercial advertising or consumer advocacy issues. Due to the large volume of content and correspondence submitted, we may be unable to reply or acknowledge receipt of your submission. Material will be edited. Questions and answers with the highest general interest may be repeated in subsequent issues. Questions can be sent by mail to “Mark, My Words” Column, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77399 or to techquestions@escapees.com.



Mouse Repellers

By **MARK NEMETH** #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor,
Send your questions via e-mail to techquestions@escapees.com

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I like to boondock a lot. We're talking five miles down a dirt road in the middle of nowhere boonies. And, while I truly love being out in the middle of nowhere, there's a lot of wildlife. I've suffered a number of invasions by mice and other critters over the years.

So, how do I keep mice out of the interior of my RV? Wishing to avoid the use of traps, poisons or other repellents, I chose a practical approach: I blocked all possible access. Over the course of several camping seasons, I found all of the vulnerabilities in my RV where mice could get in. Using hardware cloth and adhesives, I managed to screen off every vulnerable opening in the body and chassis of the RV.

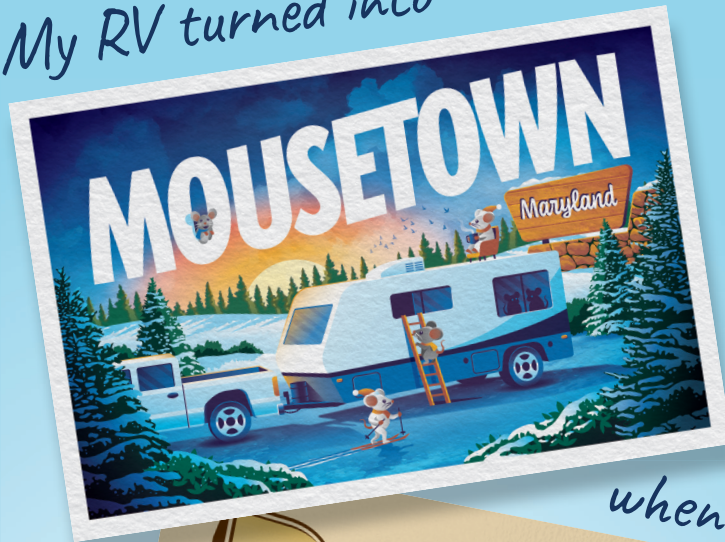
Unfortunately, there's no way to seal off the engine compartment. I'm going to go out on a limb here and recommend an electronic pest repeller. For years, I've avoided electronic repellers because when you research them, the test results and reviews are less than spectacular. Still, several fellow RVers have sent me information about successfully employing these gadgets, so, I searched online for units with favorable reviews. I settled on the Pattler Martin Repeller. It's

designed to be mounted under a vehicle hood and wired to 12vdc. I installed it in August 2024 while boondocking. It was an easy install, just requiring connections to the vehicle's 12-volt battery system. I cleaned up any traces of rodent activity under the hood and turned it on.

Fast forward a year to August 2025. I'm writing this sitting out in the boonies with plenty of mice around I'm sure, but no sign of any rodent activity under the hood. This has been true all year, even when the RV is parked at my home, where there are many mice around. Does the Pattler actually work? While it's hard to prove a negative result, it has definitely made a beneficial improvement! I'm going to install them on my other vehicles! 🚐



My RV turned into



when I left the



open, causing a



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“When selecting a camera for your RV, consider features such as wide-angle lenses, night vision capabilities, and motion detection.”



Cameras

By **JIM KOCA** #86367, Escapees RVers Boot Camp Instructor

As technology advances, the use of cameras in vehicles has grown beyond mere novelty and into an essential safety measure. In addition to helping monitor road conditions and driver behavior, cameras can serve as valuable evidence in the case of disputes or incidents on the road. They act as impartial witnesses, recording everything from sudden stops to unexpected events, offering both protection and accountability to RVers.

In recent years, the growing prevalence of dashcams and onboard video systems has transformed the way both individuals and organizations approach safety and liability on the road. These devices, once the domain of professional fleets, such as police departments and trucking companies, have become increasingly accessible to everyday motorists, providing peace of mind and tangible benefits that far outweigh the initial investment. Not only do cameras help in deterring theft and vandalism, but they also assist in clarifying responsibility should an incident occur, reducing uncertainty for all parties involved.

Moreover, having a reliable camera system reinforces safe driving habits, as drivers become more conscious of their actions knowing they are being recorded. For families and solo travelers alike, this added layer of transparency can make a significant difference, promoting confidence as they explore new destinations.

When selecting a camera for your RV, consider



features such as wide-angle lenses, night vision capabilities, and motion detection. A camera that automatically records when it senses movement can offer peace of mind when you're parked at a campsite or rest stop. Additionally, some models provide cloud storage options, enabling you to access footage remotely from your smartphone or computer—an invaluable tool if you need to provide evidence while away from your vehicle.

Regularly testing your equipment and ensuring it's positioned for optimal coverage will maximize its effectiveness. For those traveling in caravans or with family, cameras can also help you look back on shared experiences, capturing not just the landscape but also the moments that make your journey memorable. Ultimately, a quality camera makes for a safer and more enjoyable adventure, blending security and storytelling in every mile you travel.

I personally have a Go Pro in the RV and a Rove dual camera for the car. These can be purchased from Best Buy or Amazon. 🚚

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RVers' Sharing Tips, Opinions and Advice from the Road

Submissions sent by e-mail can be directed to departmentseditor@escapees.com.

Three Dental Experiences in Mexico

After reading "Dental Care in Mexico" in the July/August 2025 issue, I was reminded of three of the many positive experiences we have had with dental care in Mexico.

In January and February of 2024, we lived in Oaxaca. Before we left the United States, our dentist told my husband, Larry, that he needed several crowns. In Oaxaca, Larry found a dentist who had access to digital x-rays and had all the modern equipment. Larry got a second opinion from this dentist who agreed that he needed the crowns. Larry arranged to have nine teeth crowned and had his teeth cleaned. This saved over \$8,000 from what it would have cost to have it done in the U.S. We did not spend that much to live in Oaxaca for two months, including air fare.

In 2025 we were in Puerto Peñasco for a few days. The night before we were to come back to the US, a crown came off my back tooth. I got an appointment with a US dentist where we were headed next, but they required x-rays and a full mouth exam before they would cement the crown back on. It was going to cost over \$200. Luckily Larry found someone at the campground who had a good dentist in Puerto Peñasco. We drove there to see if I could get an appointment.

The receptionist asked if I had time right then. Yes! This dentist took me in and cemented the crown in less than 15 minutes. The charge was \$30. Needless to say, I cancelled the US dental appointment and my crown has stayed cemented.

We met an RV couple in La Paz, Baja, California Sur, who, for one week, parked their small camper on the main street of La Paz in front of the dentist office. This dentist had all of the modern equipment as well as a 3-D printer to make their crowns on the spot. This couple also covered all of their expenses and more, by having their dental work done in Mexico.

Joyce Space #61818

Backing into a Campsite

The article, "Backing into a Campsite" in the May/June issue is a good one. After 40 years in a truck and 20-plus with a fifth wheel, I can get the job done. However, I admit it was many years into my professional career when one important facet penetrated my consciousness.

We all know to watch that the body of the towed vehicle doesn't hit anything. It is very helpful to have a watcher for this job, one who looks at both sides, front, behind and up. Ask me how my husband learned to lower the antenna before moving. By taking out a tree branch, of course!

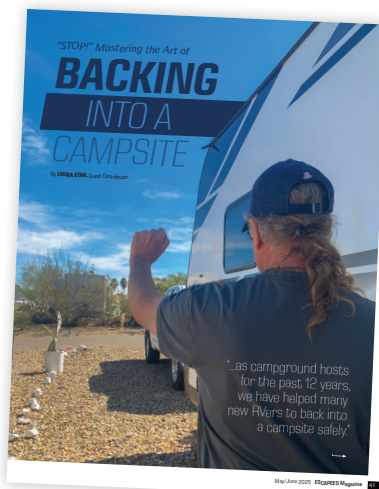
My best lesson in backing any trailer came from a fellow driver who began his career hauling livestock.

The stockyards had dirt lots, not pavement. When a truck pulled out, he would set up to back in by following the tracks of the truck that had just left. I started watching where my trailer wheels were going, and it helped me more than anything else. Yes, watch the body, but also the tires.

Like trailer owners everywhere, my mantra was to turn the steering wheel opposite of the direction you want the trailer to go. No, I don't go for my hand on the bottom of the wheel. It's not natural, and I don't

have as much control. But, after 40 years of that mantra going through my mind, now that we are in a motorhome, I can't back it! I continue to steer like I'm backing a trailer. Old habits are hard to break!

Judy Stringer #4245



"Backing into a Campsite" by
Laura Star from *Escapees*
Magazine May/June 2025.

Opinions contained in "Camping Chair Chat" are not necessarily those of the Escapees RV Club, its officers or the membership in general. This column is for *Escapees* magazine readers to share thoughts, ideas and helpful hints. Escapees RV Club accepts no responsibility for what is expressed here by any person, group or company. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting. Submissions that are sent by e-mail can be directed to editor@escapees.com.

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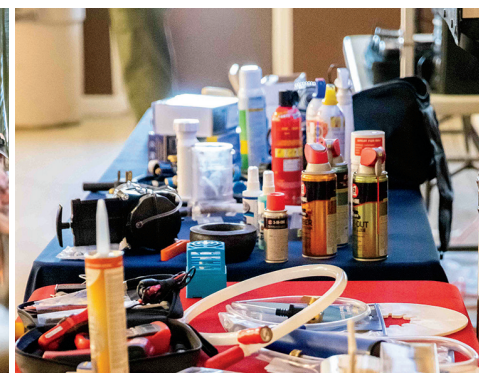


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Escapees RV Club is proud to announce a new training program called "Beyond RVers Boot Camp". This class will add more subjects to the operation, safety and maintenance repertoire.

For the new program, classes will include lithium batteries, solar, oil and coolant analysis, exterior inspections and maintenance on most RV appliances.



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Beyond RVers Boot Camp

Rainbow's End • Livingston, Texas

April 10–12, 2026

Beyond RVers Boot Camp

Rainbow's End • Livingston, Texas

June 19–21, 2026

Beyond RVers Boot Camp

Escapade • Fryeburg, Maine

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escapade



There's something special about rolling into your very first Escapade. The moment your wheels touch the fairground pavement, you know you've arrived somewhere different—somewhere where RV life is more than just travel. It's community, it's learning, it's celebration.

If you've circled your first Escapade on the calendar, here's what you can expect—and a glimpse of the “Wicked Good” adventure planned for Fryeburg, Maine, June 14–19, 2026.

Arrival: The First Wave of Welcome

On the big day, follow the signs toward the Fryeburg fairgrounds. Bright-orange-clad volunteers—the Parking Team—wave you in with a smile. They're practiced hands at guiding every size and style of rig and, before you know it, you're sliding into your spot among a park-like setting of the electric/water sites or joining the community in the grass-filled backyard boondocking area.

Arrive early or run into a last-minute hiccup? The Customer Service Team is there to smooth out the details. Once you're parked, a simple sticker on your RV marks your departure date, helping the process to flow seamlessly.

Check-In:

The Start of Something Bigger

Your Escapade experience officially begins at Check-In. Present your ticket and receive:

- A Welcome Bag packed with goodies
- Your name badge (your all-access pass)
- A gate sticker for your daily driver
- First-timers get a little extra: your badge carries a “1st” icon that sparks conversation. Veteran attendees instantly spot it and often make it their mission to welcome you into the fold.

Life at Escapade: Energy, Education and Entertainment

Once you're settled, you'll quickly find the rhythm of Escapade life. Mornings bring educational seminars on everything from RV maintenance to lifestyle hacks. Afternoons are alive with activities: pickleball matches, yoga on the lawn, line dancing lessons and even a disc golf course.

And don't miss history in the making: the first-ever Escapade Cornhole Tournament!

Evenings belong to entertainment—five full nights of it. Headliners, laughter and connection all build toward the grand finale: Pinecone Palooza. Picture roving circus acts, midway games and a festival vibe that lights up the Fryeburg summer sky.

Finding Your Place

You'll soon learn the lay of the land:

- General Assembly Hall—the heartbeat of Escapade, hosting ceremonies, evening shows and popular seminars.
- Hospitality Area—coffee, donuts and the chance to sit, chat and connect.
- Vendor Market—from gadgets to gear, find what you need (and things you didn't know you needed).
- Foodies will also find their happy place—food trucks, a beer garden, lively happy hours and fundraiser cookoffs bring flavor and fun to every corner of the fairgrounds.

Volunteering: A Shortcut to Connection

Want to go from “new face” to “part of the family”? Volunteer. From handing out popcorn to driving golf carts, just a few hours of help will earn you a Volunteer Pin, a chance at prizes and friendships that often outlast the rally itself.

Staying in the Know

Schedules change, new events pop up and Escapade keeps you in the loop with:

- The Escapade Mobile App
- Escapade Extras daily newsletters
- The Escapade Facebook Group

You'll never miss a seminar, concert or social you've been eyeing.

Looking Ahead: A Wicked Good Time in Maine

June 14–19, 2026, promises an Escapade like no other. Imagine:

- Five days of seminars to expand your knowledge
- Five nights of live entertainment, including Pinecone Palooza
- A lively vendor marketplace
- Activities from yoga to line dancing, pickleball to cornhole
- Food trucks, beer garden, cookoffs and happy hours all set against the backdrop of Fryeburg, Maine, where summer delivers stunning scenery and a warm community welcome.

Understanding Maine Speak

Traveling to Maine is a first-time experience for a lot of RVers, so we want to make sure you know the lingo. Here are a few examples: From *wicked good cornhole* tournaments to flat-out fun game nights, Maine has a way of putting extra superlatives into the conversation. *Ayuh* is the casual “yes,” and *doncha know* is that friendly little nudge like “you know what I mean?” Don't forget the *lobstah*—Maine's famous seafood, always worth mentioning. When something is next-level awesome, it's *taken up a notch*. Sprinkle these phrases into your journey, and you'll be talking like a true Mainer in no time!

Step Into Tradition

For first-timers, Escapade is more than an event—it's the start of a tradition. Arrive with an open spirit, wear your “1st” badge proudly, and let Escapade introduce you to a community you'll be glad to call your own. Because once you've had a taste of Escapade, you'll know there's always another adventure ahead, waiting to welcome you back for a wicked good time.

Veteran Escapaders, you know the drill! Keep an eye on your inbox and our social feeds—registration news is coming your way soon. There's no need to stress—it'll open early January, giving you plenty of time to grab your site and aim those RV wheels straight for Maine. 🚐

Snow Day



We were lucky enough to have our first snowfall while sharing Thanksgiving with our family at our cottage in Vermont. With the floodlights on outside and lights off inside, we enjoyed watching the snow fall while keeping warm by the fire.

PHOTO BY JOYCE SPACE #61818

We were in Rochester, New York visiting our daughter for Christmas in 2024 when we had a magical snow day so, we went for a walk in a park near her house. The icing on the cake was this one-horse sleigh that came by as we were walking.



PHOTO BY TANYA SPACE



PHOTO BY JOYCE SPACE #61818

SHARE YOUR VIEW—A NEW THEME EVERY ISSUE With each submission, include your name, Escapees membership number, a description of the photo and the name of the photographer, even if you took the photo. Only a few photos will be selected for each issue. Submissions do not qualify for payment. To submit photos for "Viewfinder," send high-resolution, unaltered digital images as e-mail attachments to viewfinder@escapees.com.

JF26 (DUE SEPT 10) HARVEST HOSTS LOCATIONS

MJ26 (DUE JAN 10) STARRY SKIES

SO26 (DUE MAY 10) SPOOKY SEASON

JF27 (DUE SEPT 10) BOONDOCKING SPOT

MA26 (DUE NOV 10) SERENDIPITY

JA26 (DUE MARCH 10) OFF-ROAD ADVENTURES

ND26 (DUE JULY 10) CITY LIGHTS

MA27 (DUE NOV 10) SPRINGTIME IN BLOOM

Day's End

Free and Low-Cost Parking Finds

Compiled by **GUY GIPSON** #84383 • Download the entire online directory at www.daysenddirectory.com.

The Day's End Directory is a valuable tool to help you save money and find safe overnight parking recommendations from fellow Escapees RVing members.

Arizona

BULLHEAD CITY: Katherine landing cg, Lake Mead NRA (nps). 173 BD sites. W&D (free). Laundry. \$25 (S/A pass 1/2) + \$25/7-day or \$45/yr vehicle entrance fee (S/A pass free). 30-day limit. From traffic light at e end of Laughlin bridge on SR 95/SR 68, go 1.5 mi n to CR 68 (sign for Davis Dam and Katherine Landing), TL, go 1 mi to Katherine Landing Rd, tr, go 3.5 mi to park entrance. 35.2227 -114.55602. Most sites ~30', some ~40'. Overlooks lake mohave.

Bruce Ratcliff #48001 and Maxine Vert #49242

LAKE HAVASU CITY: "The Steps" (State Trust Land), BD. No facilities except stone fire rings some places. Free, but permit required, \$15/yr/person, \$20/yr/family. Purchase online asld.secure.force.com/recreationalpermit (takes any credit card and any US Zip Code in address). 14-day limit. SR 95, 17.2 mi S of corner SR 95 and Swanson Ave in town, on SR 95, MM 165.5, E side, 34.333 -114.1363. Entrance is where power line crosses hwy. No size limit, mostly level, dirt rds. Room for dozens of RVs. Lg rig can make it up to 0.6 mi in on main rd (rocky areas, slow), curving to L and part-way up hill to lg open area with dispersed sites and turnaround. Verizon four bars. Graded hillsides, said to have been done decades ago for resort that was never built. Said to be old mining area. Hike to river and hills behind. A few lg cacti. Also State Trust Land on other side of SR 95. D (\$15) at Cattail Cove SP, 2 mi N on SR 95 (turnoff to W, MM 167, 34.36095 -114.1584).

Dean and Judy Sheeley #68258

LAKE HAVASU CITY: Lone Tree Rd BD (BLM). No facilities except stone fire rings some places. Free. 14-day limit. SR 95 5 mi N of town, MM 194.4, E side, 34.62728 -114.33088, Lone Tree Rd (unsigned). Many spots for RV BD. Gate, always open. Rd a little rough in a couple of spots, take it slow. Camping areas start about 0.2 mi in. Roads that lead off the lg open areas too rough for lg rigs. Most areas not level. Some hwy noise. Craggy hills (great views). Chollas, ocotillos, palo verde trees. No riv view.

Bob Arel #119654

TUCSON: TTT Truck Stop, pkg lot. RV O/N OK. I-10 x268 (Craycroft Rd), N side. Park at E end of complex next to restaurant car park. Truck pkg lot signed "Only for professional drivers." Excellent wifi outside supplied by TTT. Hwy noise.

Kenny and Janet Roberts #111704

TUCSON: Pima County FG. 400+ spaces. BD \$30, \$180/wk. 30-A E/W/S \$45, \$270/wk. SKPs or Good Sam ask for discount. Many 50A E/W/S sites, may be higher. D and W \$10. W spigots. No stay limit but CG closed Mar—Aug. I-10 x275 (easy on/off). S on Houghton Rd, then E (at lg sign) on Brekke Rd, S side. Lg lighted flat/level gravel area w/ 20/50A EW, before the main CG, E side of entrance rd. Main CG: upon entering FG continue S 1/4 mi to RV Park Office (front sites are for exhibitors etc.). 32.04857N 110.78219W. Some other sm HU areas thruout FG; check their map. Can be noisy into evening depending on events. Free WiFi some areas. Good ATT and Verizon. Security on-site. Gets full, call 520-762-9100 (ask for RV Park Office). Shooting range and car race track nearby. the-rvpark.com.

Patricia Kerns #119457

TUCSON: Gilbert Ray CG (county). 130 sites with 15/30-A E. Tables. Dispersed W faucets. Flush toilets. D. Trash service. \$20, exact cash or check only, pay at office. Premium sites higher. Holiday and peak times higher. Seven-day limit, can return after seven days. Reservations (at least 72 hrs ahead of time) with card, 520-724-5000, Jan-Mar 520-403-8116 or 520-883-4200. H loop no reservations (be in line by 8:45a or not likely to get a site). Go W on Ajo Way from I-19x99 or I-10 x263, 5 or 7 mi respectively, TR on W Kinney Rd (at sign for Desert Museum), go 5.5 mi (passing the old Tucson studios), TL on W McCain Loop Rd (CG sign at turn), go 1/2 mi to CG. 32.22323 -111.14469. 8451 W McCain Loop Rd, Tucson AZ 85735. More directions: www.pima.gov/1193/Parks-Recreation 3 mi W of Tucson. Paved interior rd, gravel sites, mostly back-in. Plenty of empty sites in Jan. Pets on leash OK. Book and DVD exchange in office. Good Verizon and AT&T. Near Saguaro NP. Desert Museum has a great raptor show and a walk-in hummingbird aviary. www.pima.gov/1193/Parks-Recreation

Terry and Barb Brown #105261

TUCSON: BD (BLM), Snyder Hill. No facilities. Free. 14-day limit (not currently enforced). From I-19 x99, 7.5 mi W on Ajo Hwy (SR 86), then TR (NW) on San Joaquin Rd, go 0.2 mi, TR into BLM area. N32 9.441 W111 7.04. There are several places you can turn into this area. Only one

day's end

or two level. The pipeline right-of-way is a good corridor parallel to San Joaquin Rd—easiest to enter it from N corner of area just below Old Ajo Hwy intersection. Any size rig. This little patch of BLM with major development all around, is really nice, with desert trees and picturesque rocky hillside. Library at Mission Rd and Ajo has WiFi. Good cell service.

Terry and Barb Brown #105261

TUCSON: BD (BLM), Old Ajo Hwy. No facilities. Free. 14-day limit. N side of Old Ajo Hwy, directly across from Snyder Hill BLM location. A few rds inside, area bisected by a significant wash; 4WD/high-clearance only thru wash. Some areas along/near wash show signs of flooding, use caution during/after rain. Access to N side of wash is E off San Joaquin Rd or on N side from W Irvington Rd. Along Irvington is a power transmission line and lg areas of cleared ground from underground cable, water, and natural gas lines, easy for larger rigs. Interior best suited for sm rigs. Also access via Camino Verde at E end.

Terry and Barb Brown #105261

TUCSON: Desert Diamond Casino, pkg lot. Trash receptacles. Free. 24-hr limit, can extend with players card. Call ahead for permission. S end of town, I-19 x95, go E on Valencia Rd then S on Nogales Hwy 1 mi to Casino on R at 7350 S Nogales Hwy, across from airport. SE quad of E Los Reales Rd and S Nogales Hwy/I-19Bus. Entrance for RVs is at N32 6.9136 W110 57.6304, S of the main entrance, then take 1st R into huge pkg lot by sign "RVs & Trucks." Check for promos, especially for past/present military. Hotel, restaurant/buffet, night club. Ask for pool pass at hotel desk. Shuttle service to casino: 520-260-5408. Can be noisy.

Dana and Nu Young #111687

TOMBSTONE: Lg fairly level paved pkg lot, state hwy property next to San Pedro Riparian Natl Conservation Area (BLM). No signs prohibit O/N pkg. From SR 80 in town, go 2 blks S on S 1st St, TR on E Toughnut, go 1 blk, TL (S) on Sumner St (becomes Tombstone-Charleston Rd), continue 8 mi SW to pkg lot at San Pedro Riv crossing. Pkg area entrance is on S side of rd, on E side of bridge. N31 37.582 W110 10.434. 6.5 mi NE of Sierra Vista, MM 5. Lg rigs hard to maneuver if vehicles in lot. Favored by "telescopers." Rd and user noise but quiet at nite. Elev 3970'. Pit toilet at sm trailhead pkg area 0.2 mi E of this lot, No O/N pkg at conservation area. Gate locked at night.

Herb and Ginger Conly #110297

TOMBSTONE: Pkg areas. 3.5 mi SE of town on Fremont St/SR 80, TL on Davis Rd. 1) Long wide pullout, 0.3 mi from

SR 80. 31.67345 -110.02613. 2) Gravel pile, 2.4 mi from SR 80, across from State Trust Land marked gate for S Cowan Ranch Rd. 31.67359 -109.99781. Not much pkg space, gravel pile takes up most.

Al and Sharon Florida #86865

Texas

KERRVILLE: Kerrville-Schreiner CP. Lg park (formerly a SP) with 120 sites, showers, flush toilets. E/W \$30–40 depending on location. May still do 7th night free. F HU avail for addl cost. S edge of Kerrville on Hwy 173. Register and obtain gate codes at office on E side of hwy.

Gary Haynes #116021

TERLINGUA: Rio Grande Village (RGV) CG, Big Bend NP. 100 sites in far eastern end of park. Potable W, flush toilets, D. Park entrance fee \$30/vehicle for 7 days, free w/ America the Beautiful or S/A Pass, in addition to camp fees. BD \$16, S/A Pass 1/2. Reservations required, rec. gov. 14-day limit. 2/3 of the sites are by reservation only (recreation.gov). Lg rigs OK. RGV also has E/W/S section, \$36, no S/A discount (private concessionaire). FM 170 E from Terlingua, TR (S) on SR 118 into park, or, US 385 S from Marathon into Park. 29.18099 -102.95726. Many low-hanging trees. No generators in part of CG. Plan for plenty of time—the distances in this park are immense—45 mi from the W entrance to RGV. A wonderfully desolate area—javelina and coyotes roam the RGV CG w/ little fear of humans. You can walk right up to roadrunners—delightfully unusual. Wifi at RGV Store. No cell service. Near lovely little Mexican border town Boquillas del Carmen, sm boat ferries across riv, US border sta on way back.

Rick Schafer #81691

TERLINGUA: Terlingua Ranch Lodge. ~14 mi N of FM 170 on SR 118, look for sign "Terlingua Ranch Lodge" and rd to the east. Go ~16 mi (the last three unpaved but pretty easy). They have cabins, E/W/S RV sites, and if their tent campsites are not too busy, they will allow you to BD there for \$5. Call ahead first: 432-371-2416. Water and showers. Pool in season. Just west of the lodge is a 4-wheel drive, high-clearance dirt rd that goes into the north end of Big Bend National Park.

TERLINGUA: Wide paved shoulder pullouts. No facilities, free, suitable for O/N. On both sides of hwy, just before the sign marking the boundary of Big Bend NP, along the rd that goes into the park from SR 118 and FM 170. This is ~1/2 mi before the entrance station.

Kim and Greg Ketcher #140941

THE DAY'S END DIRECTORY is a useful tool for helping you save money and find safe overnight parking recommended by fellow Escapees members. "Day's End" listings are submitted by traveling members. Please be aware that these listings are not verified by *Escapees* magazine, and the information is subject to change without notice. Want more? Order online or write: Guy Gipson, 539 W. Commerce St. #1724, Dallas, TX 75208. Include your complete name, member number and e-mail address. Online Search and Download: \$15/year. www.daysenddirectory.com.

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Wednesday • 10:00 am • *WIN! \$100 Fuel Card* **National Parks of the West**

Go west with Fantasy RV Tours and visit those famous monuments and National Parks on your bucket list! Our National Parks of the West Caravan will explore the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone plus take in the Grand Tetons. Continue on with our Western National Parks tour to experience Zion, Arches and even camp on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. These are just samplings of the national parks and amazing sights you will see on these spectacular RV caravans.



Thursday • 2:00 pm • *WIN! \$100 Fuel Card* **America's Greatest RV Rallies**

If you love festivals, fun events, and iconic destinations without the hassle, this is a seminar you shouldn't miss! We've assembled a sampling of exciting rally destinations that celebrate bucket list events, including the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Pasadena Rose Parade, Mardi Gras, Moab Jeep Off-Roadin', Calgary Stampede, Norfolk NATO Festival, Washington DC, Branson, Abbey Road Music Festival, and more!

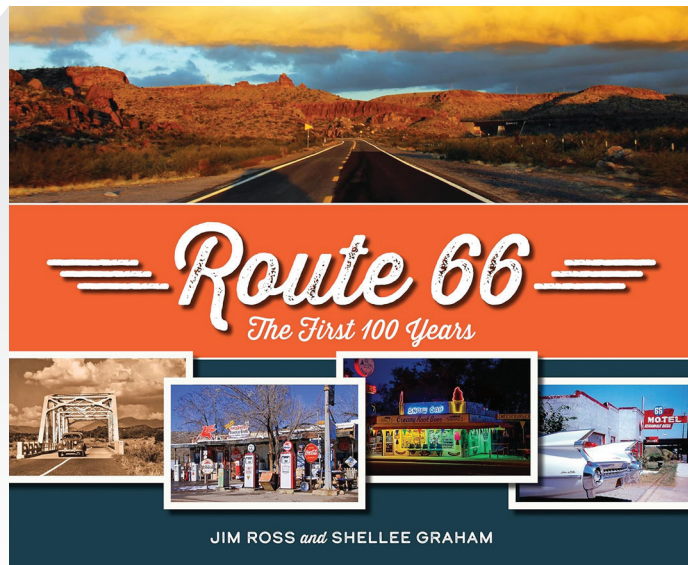
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Books for RVers

By MARCELLA GAUTHIER #12371



Route 66: The First 100 Years

JIM ROSS (AUTHOR) SHELLEE GRAHAM (PHOTOGRAPHER)

REEDY PRESS 2025, ISBN: 978-1681065823, HARDCOVER: \$37.99

The 1900s in the USA became interesting from the standpoint of travel, not only in air travel with the invention of the airplane, but in automobile travel as well.

As the popularity of the motor car increased with the introduction of Model T in 1908, the idea of crossing the nation became the dream of many. But the condition of the roads were wretched full of nearly impassable areas, fuel stops few and far between, simply finding a safe place to sleep and many other problems made it difficult. These conditions caused a public outcry for the government to do something about it. So began the planning of Route 66, the “Mother Road” or “The Main Street of America.”

Soon, on November 11, 2026, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Route 66. From Chicago, Illinois, to Los Angeles, California, this road became a much-traveled route for many adventurers—those

“This is a book that is so well-written and illustrated that it is a wonderful gift for anyone...”

escaping the Dust Bowl to start a new life, and others looking to learn about this wonderful land of ours. After a short demise with the rise of the interstate highway system which bypassed many of the small towns along the way, this route has now become a much-loved experience for those who love the history and legend of Route 66. Bits and pieces of this journey have risen and been restored from the dust of history to provide a memorable experience.

Jim Ross and Shellee Graham, often called the “Ambassadors of Route 66,” have authored multiple books on Route 66 and, through many decades of travel and diligent research have increased their knowledge and love of this route. They were assisted by many individual researchers, research libraries and lovers of travel history. They received contributions from traveling families, as well as interviews and journals of those who lived along the route and served the many travelers. All contributed to the comprehensive details of the nearly 200 pages of this book. Multiple vintage photos and colorful photos by Shellee’s talented eye, and vintage postcards from family archives are in and it shows in their dedication.

Upon opening this book, I was amazed at the contents page featuring the history of travel in the last century. From chapters on early travel, the Ozark Trails, the Bunion Derby, which was a foot race from California to New York, the difficulties encountered by African American travelers that created *The Green Book*, Native American history, trading posts and tourist traps, ladies of legend and detours of all kinds.

This is a book that is so well-written and illustrated that it is a wonderful gift for anyone cherishing memories of trips taken along some of the remaining sections of Route 66 or fans of the road and the history of American automobile travel. The number and type of books about this route is astounding and more books and articles can be expected as the Centennial comes into view. You can check out a sample of the book, including the table of contents, on the Amazon website. It is a wonderful glimpse and clear picture of the history and features of Route 66 and automotive travel in time for the November 11, 2026, Centennial. It is a collectible keeper for your bookshelf and a real joy to read. 🚗

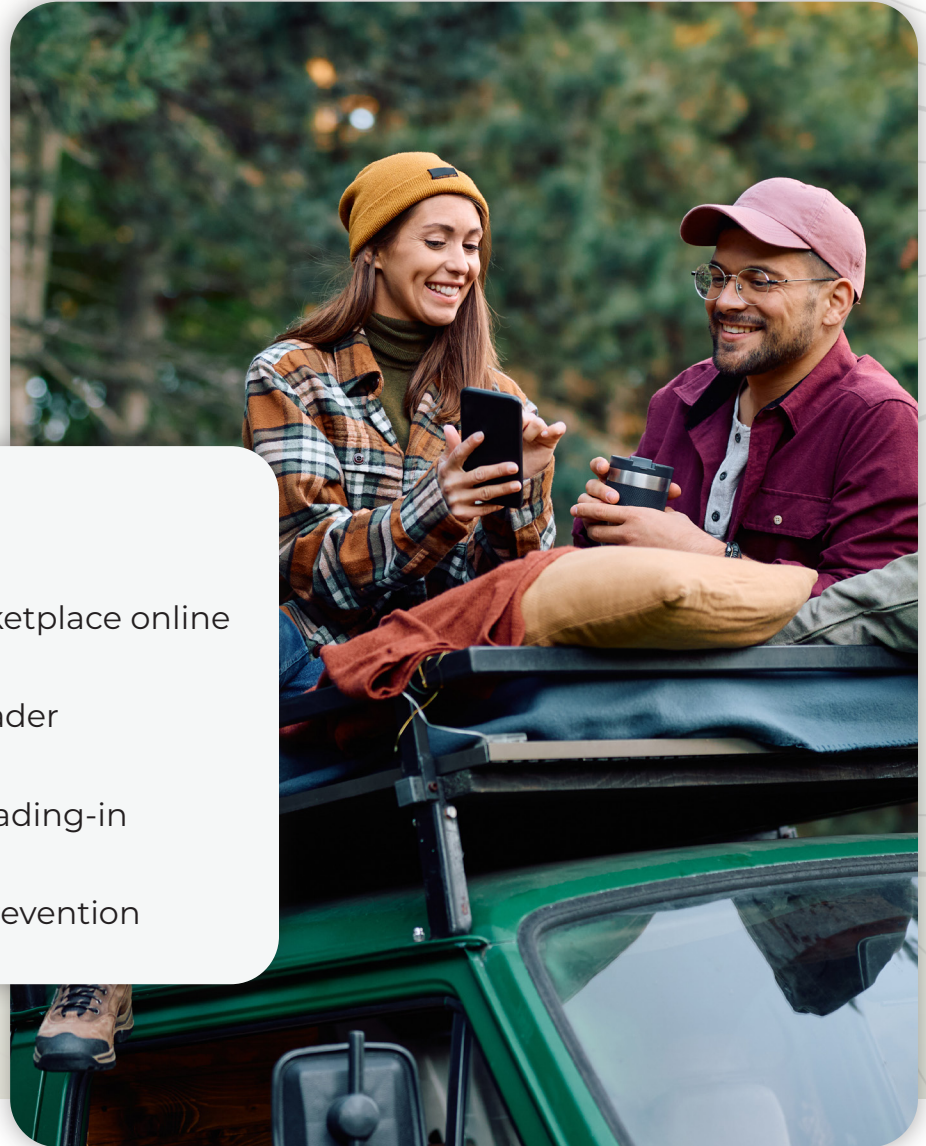


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The beauty and charm of **LAKE CHARLES LOUISIANA**



Like many travelers, I am drawn to a location to explore based on its reputation, news articles and advertisements. When I decided to visit Lake Charles, Louisiana, it was because of a tourist newsletter that popped into my email feed. It said the city is a blend of contrasts that magically work together in total harmony.

I was intrigued, so I set off for Southwestern Louisiana, where I spent a few days immersed in culture, nature and history. It was a welcoming, eclectic and offered a variety of fun and interesting things to do.

History

Mr. and Mrs. LeBleu of Bordeaux, France, were the first Europeans to settle on the Lake. They arrived in 1781.

Lake Charles is the fifth-largest incorporated city in Louisiana, located on Lake Charles, Prien Lake and the Calcasieu River. Founded in 1861, it is home to approximately 85,000.

Mr. and Mrs. LeBleu of Bordeaux, France, were the first Europeans to settle the Lake. They arrived in 1781

and secured their home six miles east of the present site of Lake Charles, living in peaceful coexistence with Native American tribes. This area, originally settled by the LeBleus is now known as LeBleu Settlement.

Other pioneers ventured to Lake Charles. Among them was Charles Sallier, who married LeBleu's daughter, Catherine. The Salliers built their home on the Lake.

Settlers from England, France, Spain and Holland arrived soon after and purchased land from Native Americans. On March 7, 1861, Lake Charles, known as Charleston at the time, was incorporated.

In 1855, Captain Daniel Goos established a lumber mill and boat dock. Soon he branched out into building schooners, tugboats and steamboats. He promoted a profitable business with Texas and Mexican ports by sending his schooner to the Gulf.

Six years after the city was incorporated, the community became Lake Charles.

Fun in the Sun

Like many travelers, I am drawn to a location to explore based on its reputation, news articles and advertisements. When I decided to visit Lake Charles, Louisiana, it was because of a tourist newsletter that popped into my e-mail feed. It said the city is a blend of



skp stops

contrasts that magically work together in total harmony. I was intrigued, so I set off for Southwestern Louisiana, where I spent a few days immersed in culture, nature and history. It was a welcoming, eclectic and offered a variety of fun and interesting things to do.

My family and I took a ferry across a narrow stretch of water and stopped at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Pintail Drive and Boardwalk.

It was incredibly quiet, with only the hum of insects and the occasional bird song. I glimpsed colorful birds among the cattails and saw several alligators basking in the water. It was a glorious day of beauty.

The next day, I took a boat trip with Lake Area Adventures. The boat captain was Jerry "Sarge" Antoine, co-owner of Lake Area Adventures. He picked me up along the Lake Charles promenade. Before traveling along the Calcasieu River, we first viewed some city neighborhoods from the water. On our way from the Lake to the river, we went under

He picked us up along the Lake Charles promenade. Before traveling along the Calcasieu River, we first viewed some city neighborhoods from the water.

To my surprise, we docked at Loggerheads Bar for a delicious lunch. Afterwards, we returned to Lake Charles, enjoying the breeze and memories of another great day.

I continued, taking a ferry across a narrow stretch of water, and stopped at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Pintail Drive, and Boardwalk.

Attractions

In addition to its unprecedented Louisiana natural beauty, be sure to make time to visit its museums.

The 1911 Historic City Hall Arts & Cultural Center was my first stroll stop along Ryan Street downtown. A friendly and knowledgeable security guard gave me an overview of what I would see.

Local and regional artists create the art ranging from baskets to sculptures and paintings. The museum also offers traveling exhibitions from around the world, including Pablo Picasso, Norman Rockwell and Tasha Tudor, to name a few.

It is home to Black Heritage Gallery and Gallery by the Lake. Both galleries give the spotlight to dozens of artists. The Center features three floors of gallery space.

A friendly docent also offered me excellent background information about one of the featured artists as I slowly moved from one beautiful piece to the next.



skp stops

From there, I headed to the Imperial Calcasieu Museum, where local history comes to light, especially when a delightful young docent explains the area's early history.

The museum has a permanent art collection, including works by John James Audubon, Boyd Cruise, Angel Gregory and Lynda Benglis.

In addition to permanent displays, they have special exhibits that change every few months.

Their crowning glory is the Sallier Oak, thought to be around 375 years old. Its massive branches and glorious shade have sheltered many generations of Louisiana residents and visitors.

The city also attracts visitors to its casinos which feature golf courses, spas and entertainment.

Lake Charles has 31 parks, including playground equipment, athletic facilities and walking paths. Adventure Cove, a state-of-the-art park, was built by volun-

teers and is specifically designed for disabled children.

I saw this beautiful area of The Pelican State by car, ferry, boat, and on foot and I enjoyed every moment!

If you go:

A great place to stay, whether you are camping or want to stay in a cabin, is Sam Houston Jones State Park, named in honor of the state's 46th governor, who was instrumental in setting aside this tract of land for the public to enjoy for both day-use and overnight visitors.

The 1,087-acre park features excellent hiking and birding. There are tent sites, premium campsites and cabins which I stayed in. The cabins resemble houses with a fireplace, full kitchen and two bedrooms.

For more information, www.visitlakecharles.org, 1205 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, Phone: (337) 436-9588. 🚐

Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor



Finding appreciation of desert plants, wildlife, and ecosystems through education, research and conservation.

BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM



Friends told us about a hidden gem, the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, about 30 miles east of Apache Junction, Arizona. William Boyce Thompson made his fortune in the copper mining industry. However, as a member of the American Red Cross relief mission, he visited Russia before the Russian Revolution and again in 1918. This changed his life. After seeing rampant crop failure, starvation and the suffering of the people, he was convinced that agriculture, food supply and social justice are linked. With his faith in science, he created many philanthropic projects around plants and plant science. For example, he founded the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research in Yonkers, New York, which is now Cornell University.

As well as his conviction about the relationship between agriculture, food supply and social justice, he deeply regretted the damage to the local area caused by mining, timbering and overgrazing. He bought and traded land to create a sustainable ecosystem, which is now the arboretum. There are over five miles of mostly easy walking trails throughout the arboretum. The 1.5-mile ring trail is handicapped accessible, as are many of the side trails, but not all. I was glad to have my free Organic maps app on my phone to follow the trails because the paper map we were given was not always easy to follow for some of the side trails.

In 2014 the Arboretum was asked if they would like to acquire the Wallace Desert Garden Collection in Scottsdale, 75 miles away. Henry B. Wallace had died, and the foundation could no longer maintain the collection. At the arboretum, the plants would get the same amount of rain as at the Scottsdale location and would have the same dew point and elevation. It took five years for the arboretum to design a new garden and transplant 5,870 plants by truck, car and semi-truck.

Many birds and other animals call this arboretum home. We saw two coatimundi in a tree, eating the berries, and saw several kinds of birds including hummingbirds eating from small holes in a tree.



In addition to the flora and fauna, we enjoyed three historic buildings, the Thompson house built in 1924, which we could see from a distance, the early 1900's Clevenger House, where a family of five homesteaded in four small rooms and the recreated Drover's Wool Shed and surrounding outbuildings, farm equipment and furnished house.

We were glad we had snacks and warm clothing in our backpacks because once on the trail, we would not have wanted to backtrack to the car. Plan for at least three hours or more if you want to check out all the side trails and climb the few steeper spots for a view.

Dogs are allowed on the trails if they are on a six-foot or shorter leash and well-controlled.

There are five pull-through RV spots and a huge parking lot for cars and short vans. (We are 22-feet long and fit in a regular spot.)

The arboretum is located at 37615 East Arboretum Way, Superior, Arizona, just off U.S. Highway 60 (33.280152 -111.16017).

Check out their website for latest information on hours which change, depending on the time of year. btarboretum.org

After enjoying the beauty and variety of scenery and trails, we thought the \$24.95 admission price was well-worth it. 🚗

Joyce Space #61818



*A wildlife park in Arizona,
specializing in North American animals*

BEARIZONA

You might be among the millions of people who travel along Interstate 40 or historic Route 66 in northern Arizona, perhaps on your way to the Grand Canyon or Flagstaff, or just “passing through” on your way further west or east. Whatever the reason, be sure to exit in Williams, Arizona, to see Bearizona.

As you might guess, it is a wildlife park, specializing in North American animals. And as you also might guess from its name, many of those animals are bears.

Bearizona was the brainchild of the Casey family who envisioned the park with its convenient location for travelers along I-40. At the cost of \$15 million, Bearizona opened to visitors on May 22, 2010. Located on a parcel of land just shy of 160 acres, the park has two opportunities for visitors eager to meet the animal “residents.”

The first section is a three-mile paved road through various open stretches of land so that the animals have room to range freely and yet be separated from the other species when appropriate. Good fencing and “cattle guard”-style, in-road separators keep the animals in their individual living areas. The route ranges through enclosures for mountain goats, reindeer, mule deer,

coues deer, donkeys, northern leopard frogs, Arctic wolves, tundra wolves, juvenile bears, bison, antelope, bighorn sheep and adult bears. The drive-through takes about 30 minutes to one hour, depending on how often you want to pull to the right side to watch and take photos for a while. Only the bear exhibits ask that you “keep moving,” at the five-mph speed limit. Some areas of the drive-through (wolves and bears) require that doors, windows and sunroofs are securely closed for obvious reasons!

The second opportunity for enjoying smaller North American animals is to visit the walk-through zoo that features such animals as porcupine, beaver, red fox, Arctic fox, bobcats, badgers, javelina, turkeys and river otters. A special exhibit area recently became the home for three orphaned grizzly cubs, Crockett and his sisters Sky and Hannah. The three were found in Montana and were brought to Bearizona for their “forever” home. Of course, they have now grown from little cubs to much larger juveniles and, because they will soon be at adult height and weight, a new and much larger enclosure is being constructed to give them ample room for playing, eating and climbing among the tall Ponderosa pines so prevalent at Bearizona.

About half of Bearizona’s “residents” were rescues and the park also rehabilitates and provides habitat for animals that wildlife agencies deem cannot be released back into the wild.



Open year-round, the admission fee to the park is good for a full day so you can repeat your drive- or walk-through experiences as often as you like. Be careful to follow the signs and not the exit signs, basically keeping to the left when coming back to the entrance to the drive-through, not to the right to the exit.

Although the walkways and entrances/exits for the gift shop and restaurant are all ADA-compliant, no pet animals are allowed in the walk-through zoo, including service animals. Wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No motorcycles, ATVs or open-top cars or convertibles are allowed in the drive-through section. Picnic lunches are allowed in designated picnic areas in the walk-through zoo. No smoking or alcohol is allowed anywhere on the premises.

Bearizona has a snack bar, but also the newly opened and beautifully built Canyonlands dine-in restaurant with its wide variety of delicious creations including gluten-free, vegetarian and other options. Dining on the second floor of the restaurant gives you windows that look out on the enclosure for the male and female jaguars. A path from the restaurant and gift store also leads to the jaguar enclosure and the elk exhibit.

And, when you've finished your visit, you can visit the huge gift shop that features all sorts of clothing, jewelry, toys, kits, houseware, decorative items, childrens' clothing and souvenirs, etc. Within the gift shop is a beautiful Burmese python enjoying its climate-controlled enclosure and, to the rear of the store you'll find a few taxidermy remembrances of former famous "residents" of Bearizona.

Birds, such as Harris hawks, Livingstone's turaco, black vulture, red-legged seriema and mammals, including fennec fox, crested porcupine, striped skunk, Argentine tegu, milk snake, mountain coati and three-banded armadillo are featured in shows and presentations during the day. In winter, 400,000 Christmas lights bedeck the trees in the walk-through portion of the park.

A 90-minute behind-the-scenes bus ride is available for an extra charge should you prefer to have a guide for the drive-through portion of the park, a backstage experience and viewing of the wolf-training sessions.

For more information, or updates about events and hours, visit bearizona.com, e-mail info@bearizona.com, follow the park's social media pages or call 928-635-2289. On the webpage, you can register for the Bearizona newsletter.

Stephanie Slahor, Ph.D., Guest Contributor



Give Yourself The Gift Of Care

Offering a safe haven to those whose journeys have been disrupted by age or health-related challenges, and ensuring their well-being and peace of mind.



Left to right: Elsie Gilnack, #12009 Shirley Sinclair, Nina Dobyns #17877 and CB Williams #237096 PHOTO BY GLENDA ALEXANDER #92538

I hope this message finds you enjoying the beauty, freedom and friendships that make RV life such a fulfilling and adventurous journey. I am writing today with something a little different in mind, not a new route on the road, but a new chapter in your life.

My name is Dave Condit, and I am the current Director of Escapees CARE Inc, a non-profit independent living facility committed to providing an affordable, community-focused home for individuals who value independence, dignity and connection. Our doors are open to those like you who have lived boldly, chosen the open road over the predictable path and who may potentially be looking for a place to belong, a place to rest, simply a new base to call home, or a temporary home to recuperate from a medical procedure.

I am reaching out to you for the following heartfelt reasons. We are **actively seeking new residents** from the Escapees RV Club to join our unique community, and **we urgently need financial support** in the form of tax-deductible donations to continue our non-profit mission. As always, we are also **seeking Escapees RV Club members to volunteer** with us for a month, or more, to help with a few of the light-duty tasks at our facility. This allows us to keep residents costs affordable. Volunteers help us with our services. In return, they receive an RV site with full hookups and three meals daily.

If you are a current or former RVer seeking a lifestyle that balances freedom with belonging, I invite you to read on. If you are not ready to make a move but want to help others find safety, stability and community, your gift or coming to volunteer can make that possible.

Why Escapees Members Are a Perfect Fit

Kay Peterson, co-founder of Escapees RV Club, had a dream for an independent living facility for full-time RVers who were ready to settle down in one spot, keeping their RV, be provided with some services and yet continue to be able to live around RV-minded folks.

She made her dream come alive in 1993 when Escapees CARE, Inc. was formed. Kay was a champion at raising funds/donations for CARE and did so successfully up to the time of her passing. Today, we have no one like Kay who campaigns to that degree.

We at CARE have long admired the Escapees RV Club and its vibrant community of self-reliant, adventurous individuals. Your ethos aligns perfectly with the heart of our mission: living life on your own terms while connecting meaningfully with others.

In fact, many of our current residents are former full-time RVers. After years of life on the road, they decided they wanted something different but not restrictive. What they found here was a supportive,



independent living environment where they could keep their autonomy, live affordably, be a part of a like-minded community and enjoy optional social, creative and wellness activities as well as contribute to a mission that supports others.

We believe our facility is uniquely positioned to serve Escapees members. Whether you are ready to settle down, want a seasonal home base or are looking ahead to the future, you will find yourself welcomed here, not with limitations, but with open arms and shared values.

About Our Facility

Escapees CARE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit independent living facility located in Livingston, Texas, amid the Piney Woods of Southeast Texas. Our goal is to offer secure, accessible housing and a vibrant, autonomous lifestyle to seniors and adults seeking community without giving up their independence.

What sets us apart: We are not a nursing home nor an assisted-living center. Our residents live in their RV with full control over their daily lives.

We foster community without pressure. Social events, meals and activities are available, but always optional.

We serve people, not profits. As a non-profit, every dollar we raise goes directly into improving lives, not into shareholders' pockets.

“Our goal is to offer secure, accessible housing and a vibrant, autonomous lifestyle to seniors and adults seeking community without giving up their independence.”

We are affordable. We work hard to keep costs low, especially for those on fixed incomes.

Our campus includes a dining area, garden, shared lounges, 56 RV pads with water, sewer, electric and LPG. We also support aging-in-place by coordinating with nearby healthcare providers, offering laundry and housekeeping assistance, and making sure every resident feels safe and respected. We also offer shuttle service to doctors, pharmacies, hospitals, churches and local shopping facilities.

Why We Need New Residents

Simply put, our ability to operate and serve others depends on keeping a healthy, engaged community of residents. We know there are Escapees who are ready to trade the open road for a new kind of freedom: one rooted in stability, peace of mind and community. Others who may be looking for a short-term place to stay while rehabilitating from a medical procedure can find a welcome place at CARE as we help you recover.

This past year at CARE has been a tough time for those of us who live and work here. Several of our long-time residents are no longer with us. This has left us with 12 of our 56 sites vacant. We would love to be able to fill at least eight of those sites in this coming year.

What we offer

- Month-to-month leases with no long-term commitment required.
- Pet-friendly accommodations.
- A natural, peaceful environment where you can stay active, involved and independent.
- Three meals per day 365 days a year.
- Water and sewer connections, 50-amp service and LPG (Electric & LPG added cost).



PHOTO BY KIRSTY HALLIDAY #115499



PHOTO BY GLENDA ALEXANDER #92538

- Light RV housekeeping and free laundry service.
- We will empty your black water tanks each week.
- A 24-hour call number with emergency response.

You have lived life on your terms—why not continue doing that with others who understand where you have been and where you are going?

If you are not ready to move in yet, pass this message along to someone who might benefit from what we offer.

Why We Need Donations

We are a non-profit organization and rely heavily on the generosity of donors to sustain our operations and keep our services affordable. With this philosophy of operating, not only do we keep the cost of our services low, but it also helps ensure that we will always have a place for future Escapes RV Club members to be able to move in either permanently or temporarily.

Consequently, CARE's list of donors has steadily decreased over the past few years. Our staff, Board of Directors and residents are reaching out to our family at Escapes to help us out. We want to be here and available to you when your need arrives for long-term care or if you need a short-term place to stay.

Every year, we provide affordable priced services to individuals who may not have family, no support system and nowhere else to go. Many of our residents are or were full-time RVers, veterans, caregivers or simply retirees looking for an uncomplicated way of life to enjoy with like-minded friends.

Your tax-deductible donation(s) will help us:

- Subsidize the cost of running the CARE program
- Maintain and improve our aging facilities
- Offer wellness programs and social activities
- Provide safety and accessibility upgrades
- Hire compassionate staff to help with basic daily tasks

Even a modest donation can make a world of difference. Whether it is a one-time gift or a recurring monthly donation, every dollar helps us serve people with dignity and care.

Why we need volunteers

We are currently looking for caring and compassionate volunteers to support the mission of Escapes CARE. We invite you to join us in Livingston, Texas, for a one-month volunteer stay, providing essential support and companionship to our residents. Volunteers aid with daily tasks, help with transportation, share meals and brighten the lives of those who call CARE home.

Why would you want to volunteer? You will be part of a warm, supportive community and make a real difference in the lives of fellow RVers who need a helping hand. Full hookups and other amenities are provided during your stay.

If you are ready to give back and experience the rewards of service, we would love to have you join us. To learn more, schedule a visit, or donate, please contact us: 936-327-4256 or e-mail carefd@escapeescare.org.

Dave Condit, Escapes CARE Director

Escapes CARE Needs Volunteers and Donations!

Volunteers receive a free site, three meals per day, free WiFi in our center and more. Volunteers give 24/32 hours per week for four weeks, driving residents and taking phone calls. Donations, via www.escapeescare.org/donate/ or through a bequest in your will, all help support Escapes CARE. For further details, call 936-327-4256, e-mail: carefd@escapeescare.org, 155 Care Center Dr, Livingston, TX 77351 or visit www.escapeescare.org.



Protecting Your Vehicle With

CERAMIC COATING

Article and photos by **EMILY FAGAN** #99408

“While wax makes the exterior shiny for a while, it doesn’t hold up to UV rays for long. In contrast, ceramic coating blocks UV rays and reduces oxidation and chalking over time.”

We are part-time RVers based out of Arizona, and our sunny state is bathed in UV rays all day every day. This wreaks havoc on vehicles that sit outside, so over the past five years we’ve had two trucks, a car and a truck camper professionally ceramic coated, and we’ve been really impressed with the results. When we bought a new Alpha Wolf travel trailer last year, we took it straight to the same installer to get it professionally ceramic coated, too. After all, even though our RV is not a financial “investment” that will increase in value, it’s an investment in our quality of life, and we want to maintain it as best we can.

Ceramic coating sounds suspiciously like snake oil, but the professional products not only produce outstanding results but are backed by a lot of scientific research. Ceramic coatings are made up of nano particles that create an impenetrable and highly water-repellent chemical bond, preventing contaminants and water from adhering to the exterior surface of a vehicle. While wax makes the exterior shiny for a while, it doesn’t hold up to UV rays for long. In contrast, ceramic coating blocks UV rays and reduces oxidation and chalking over time. Also, wax can be removed with a degreaser while ceramic coating cannot.

In casual terms, applying a coat of wax is like throwing a sheet over a vehicle whereas a professionally installed ceramic coating forms a hard and durable shell that protects against minor abrasions, reduces

dirt and grime from building up and makes cleaning easier. One of the great advantages of professional ceramic coating is you never have to wax your vehicle again...a huge plus with a big RV! Just wash it with a pH balanced soap on a regular basis. (Meguiar’s Gold is a good choice)

We weren’t sure what to expect when we first had our car and truck ceramic coated five years ago, but we were blown away by the slipperiness of the coating and its longevity.

DIY Ceramic Coatings vs. Professional Ceramic Coatings

There are many ceramic coating products available online and at auto parts stores and big box stores, but there is a huge difference between these DIY products and products the professional installers use. Of course, anything polymerized is better than wax, but there’s no comparison between the DIY ceramic coatings and the professional products.

Last Spring we had SystemX MaxG+ ceramic coating installed on our new travel trailer by All in the Polish in Camp Verde, Arizona. This product is specifically designed to protect against salt, bird droppings, fuels and cleaning chemicals and reduce staining and etching. The film thickness rating for SystemX MaxG+ is 0.9 mils and it has a five-year warranty. The only requirement for this warranty is that the exterior of the vehicle be deep cleaned by a professional ceramic coating installer once a year to remove iron particles (from brakes) and road grime. Although the initial application is expensive, the annual professional cleaning is not. In contrast, DIY retail ceramic coatings are not rated for film thickness and are generally only about 0.01 mils thick. Worse, they don’t come with a warranty.



We learned that professional ceramic coatings protect either the clearcoat on a painted surface, like a motorhome, car or a painted fifth wheel exterior, or they protect the gelcoat on a fiberglass surface like that of a travel trailer, some Class C RVs and unpainted fifth wheels. Of course, painted surfaces are more durable and less porous than fiberglass surfaces, so the effect of a ceramic coating is even more dramatic on painted surfaces than on fiberglass RV exteriors. In technical terms, gelcoat on fiberglass tends to oxidize and stain from water exposure and that's why it needs ceramic coating protection. Over time, of course, rain, wind and sun wear down even the best ceramic coatings which is why these products have specific longevity ratings and warranties. To continue the protection, the ceramic coating can be reapplied when the warranty period ends.

There's a lot of variation in the quality of fiberglass gelcoat surfaces depending on the manufacturer and price point of the RV. But, in our experience, the silky-smooth mirror-like surface we ended up with on the exterior of our lower end trailer's Filon fiberglass exterior has been astonishing, not only on Day One, but throughout our months of off-grid summertime travels in the West.

"Rob explained that ceramic coatings are most effective on new or nearly new vehicles, especially RVs with fiberglass exteriors."

Installation Technique

We were surprised to learn that professional ceramic coating installers must be trained by the manufacturer to learn the proper application technique. There are many ways installers can make mistakes, so this training is critical. If you mess up the initial application and apply it too thickly or unevenly, you can't fix it. Indeed, professional coatings are not sold in retail stores because the manufacturers could be liable for DIY installers ruining the exteriors of their vehicles due to poor application technique.

SystemX MaxG+ Ceramic Coating

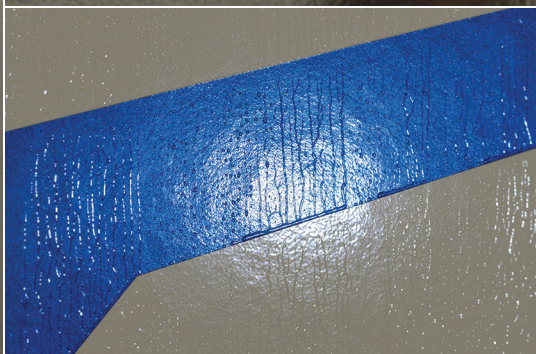
Rob Fafrowicz, owner of All in the Polish, explained the process as his crew prepped our trailer and applied the ceramic coating. When he brought out the SystemX MaxG+, we were shocked that it was in a small bottle that held just a few ounces, yet it would coat our entire trailer. Crazy still, it was worth well over \$1,000! As he held it up, I couldn't help but wonder if he'd ever knocked over an open bottle by accident. He laughed and said one of his employees had done it, but luckily it was nearly empty!

Rob explained that all SystemX products are Boeing approved and are heat resistant to 1400 degrees. He has worked with many different pro level ceramic coatings, and has tested each one on his own vehicles and also asked friends who own fleets of cars to pay for the product so he could test them on their vehicles as well. He says Max G+ is the glossiest coating he's ever worked with. It lasts the full five years it's guaranteed for, and he's never had someone come back with a failure unless they didn't wash their vehicle.

Rob doesn't advise coating the windows. In the arid southwest he considers it a waste of money because the dust in the air is so abrasive it will wear down the coating. However, he does recommend coating the wheels.

Vehicles Best for Ceramic Coating

Rob explained that ceramic coatings are most effective on new or nearly new vehicles, especially RVs with fiberglass exteriors. He prefers to work with a vehicle that is less than two-years old, depending on the manufacturer and quality of materials in the exterior and whether the vehicle was kept inside or outside. Our trailer had left the factory 14 months prior, but it had sat in the Arizona sun the entire time. He felt this was okay, though, and mentioned he'd just coated a 2.5-year-old Attitude toy hauler and it turned out great. Our 2006 Buick was kept in a garage for most of its life, but even with that antique age, we were (and continue to be) thrilled with the ceramic coating five years ago. Right before our trailer, Rob's team coated a Piper airplane with MaxG+ and it turned out beautifully.



Photos: In the Leveling step, the ceramic coating is buffed out in three stages, each using a brand new microfiber towel (Left). We were surprised that our entire trailer's ceramic coating required just a few ounces of product (Upper Right). In the Flash Process step, the ceramic coating beads up (Lower Right).

Step-by-Step Installation

- **Preparation:** The trailer was washed and then rubbed down with a 50–50 solution of 70% isopropyl alcohol and deionized water. Rob likes to do this step twice.
- **Application:** Working in small sections of about 2 square feet, the installers dabbed a tiny bit of the product in an X formation on the exterior of the trailer and then rubbed it out evenly.
- **Flash Process:** After three minutes the coating began to sweat and bead up. The length of time before this happens varies with the surface of the vehicle, environment, humidity, temperature, etc.
- **Level:** Using three brand new towels and Nitrile gloves, the installers first swiped across the section from side to side, then, with a new towel, swiped from up to down, and finally, with another new towel, swiped around the edges and did a quick wipe across the entire area.

At this point, Rob had me put on a Nitrile glove and run my hand over the surface. There was a dramatic transition from sticky to super slick as my hand

brushed across the ceramic coated area.

These three steps: Application, Flash and Level were then repeated in small sections around the entire exterior of the trailer.

- **Cure:** The trailer then cured for 48 hours, and he advised us not to wash it for at least one week. Of course, it was so sparkling clean at that point, washing was out of the question. We couldn't do anything but admire it!
- **Results:** The gloss on the exterior of the trailer is like a mirror and it is still silky to the touch after three months on the road and a ton of rain and dust in our travels. We had a little bit of streaking on the top of the front cap, but that washed off easily when we got home. 🚐



EMILY AND MARK FAGAN #99408 traveled full-time by RV and sailboat for 13 years and now enjoy RVing part-time. Their website RoadsLessTraveled.us is a treasure trove of RV and sailing lifestyle tips and tech tips, and they've also contributed hundreds of articles to magazines. Their photography has appeared on magazine covers, wall calendars, on a plaque at Bryce Canyon National Park and in a museum!

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MAIL REVIEW

Our in-house staff will review your mail with you by phone.

ONLINE MANAGEMENT

Set forwarding instructions, view your postage balance, view and manage your mail scans, and more from your mail service dashboard.

ESCAPEES MAIL SERVICE

MAIL SCANNING & VIRTUAL MAILBOX

An optional service that lets you view and manage your received First Class envelopes and mail contents online.

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Choose to receive only certain types of mail, or specify only particular senders or items to forward.





*What I've
Learned as a
Solo Female
Van Lifer*

By VICTORIA LEE STARR

SOLO SACRED & SOVEREIGN

I remember the first night I slept alone in my van, a 2022 Ram Promaster. It was brand new, and still had that fresh, out-of-the-builder's-lot smell. Everything was clean, untouched, and perfectly in place—except for one thing: me.

I was tucked into the Idaho mountain range, nestled between pine trees on a forest service road. I always get to my “planned” overnight spot no later than 4:00 pm, definitely before sunset. I had cell service, which, as a solo female traveler is an absolute must because, in truth, I just spent my entire savings on my new home on wheels, and I needed to save up again for Starlink. This gave me just enough sense of safety. But still, I was alone. Just me, the stillness, the wildness of the land and the quiet hum of my own thoughts, but in reality, my mind was on a swirl of anxious “what ifs”!

This dream, living on the road, was born from the ashes of something I had to walk away from. I had just left an emotionally abusive relationship. My spirit was non-existent, and my confidence cracked. I didn't just want freedom, I needed to remember who I was.

In my home on wheels, I wanted to learn how to trust myself again, to hear my own voice without someone else drowning it out, and to finally take care of my needs first, without guilt and without apology.

No one talks about the mix of liberation and vulnerability that hits you when the sun goes down and you're alone on the edge of everything you've ever known.

That night, I began to learn that solo van life isn't just about travel. It's about becoming.

There's a curated version of van life floating around out there: sunset views from the bed overlooking a crisp alpine lake, hair perfectly tousled and not a mosquito or fly in sight. However, solo female van life is an entirely different kind of initiation.

Sometimes I'm parked on sacred forest land with a mountain view, and other nights, I'm in a Cracker Barrel parking lot with one eye open, keys under my pillow, every window covered and praying my dog is on full alert to bark “stranger danger.”

If I must walk her after dark, I'll be out there in my hoodie whispering “go potty” like a spy on a mission.

Sometimes the spot I researched for hours ends up being a dead end—literally. Because Google Maps decided my 2022 Promaster should take a road better suited for goats. (And honestly, what did we do when there were only paper maps and no GPS voice to yell “recalculating?”)

This isn't a highlight reel. This is real life on the road. Real vulnerability. And when you're alone, there's no one else to navigate. No one to reassure you and no one to tell you you're okay. Which is exactly why this lifestyle has become one of my greatest teachers.

It's in the wrong turns, the unexpected overnights, the stealth parking in neighborhoods where you pray your blackout curtains actually work that I've had to rise into my own authority. To listen when my gut says, “Oh hell, NO,” and not question it. To stay calm when plans unravel because the nervous system can go into full-blown fight or flight really quick, and I've had to learn how to bring myself back. To remember that I am really freaking capable, and ultimately resourceful, because my daddy raised me to believe there's always a way.

And above all... sacred. That's the truth of solo van life. It's not just a journey through landscapes. It's a devotion to listening to yourself, backing yourself and trusting your own inner voice—those tingling-skin instincts, those inner-belly flops—even in the well-lit parking lots. I used to think safety meant being parked near people, having full bars of cell service and locking every door twice before bed.

And yes—those things matter. But the deeper I traveled into this lifestyle, the more I realized that true safety begins inside the body. Because even with all the doors locked and good lighting, I could still lie awake with my heart pounding. Still feel that spiral of fear, or overwhelm, or what the hell am I doing? That's where the nervous system comes in. Solo van life has taught me to care for my nervous system like it's sacred. Because it is.

Now, before I even open my door in the morning, I place my hand on my heart and take three slow breaths. I breathe in safety.

I exhale permission. Sometimes I hum out loud to calm my nerves and overthinking mind. Sometimes I stretch my arms up to the ceiling and notice my bare feet on the floor and whisper, “We’re okay.” These aren’t big, dramatic rituals. They’re tiny acts of inner re-parenting. Tiny ways I say to myself: “You’re safe in your body. You’ve got you.”

I don’t always get it right. Some nights I still freeze or get caught in a loop of overthinking. But I come back to the tools I know that work: guided nighttime meditations, sleep frequency music and a soft hand on my heart to feel my heartbeat. And that’s the sacred part—learning to return to yourself without judgment. Out here on the road, safety isn’t just something I set up. It’s something I practice.

People often ask me if I’m scared of living on the road alone. And my answer is honest: Sometimes, yes, but being scared doesn’t mean I’m not strong. It just means I’m human.

What I’ve learned is this experience: self-trust isn’t about never feeling fear, it’s about knowing how to meet fear with presence, listening to the rhythm of my breath and anchoring into what I can control right now. It’s about trusting myself enough to pay attention to things around me. To notice when someone has followed me too many turns. To choose a different overnight spot when something inside of me feels off, even if it took me hours to find it.

There’s a myth that once you go solo van life, once you make the leap, once you park in the wild and breathe in that freedom—you’re suddenly fearless.

But the truth? Confidence is built in the doing. And self-trust is earned by showing up for yourself again and again. It’s choosing to stay mindful of your surroundings with reverence. It’s creating boundaries for devotion to self. It’s breathing yourself back to calm with love and compassion.

I don’t always get it right. However, every time I choose to honor what I feel over what I think I should do, I come home to myself just a little more.

I think back to that first night in the Idaho mountains; how unsure I felt, how loud the “what ifs” were. I didn’t realize then that fear wasn’t something I had to override. I just needed to tune in.



To my breath. To the way my shoulders tensed. To that quiet voice inside saying, “Trust me—I’ve got you.” Over time, that voice got clearer. Not because the road got easier, but because I got more present. With every breath, every boundary and every moment, choosing my well-being over external pressure was a reclamation.

Van life hasn’t just shown me the country. It’s given me the space to become the woman I always needed. One rooted in awareness, one led by self-care and one who listens and follows through because she knows she’s worth protecting. And that’s the kind of safety no campsite or parking lot can give you. That’s the kind you carry inside. 🚐



VICTORIA LEE STARR is a full-time van lifer, master breathwork facilitator and holistic life coach with 25+ years in the wellness industry. Her work blends somatic healing, nervous system regulation and transformational mindset practices to support women in reclaiming their power. When she’s not

guiding breathwork or hiking wild trails with her chocolate lab, Olivia Grace, you’ll find her parked under the stars somewhere sacred. Follow her journey:

Instagram: @victorialeestarr_breathwork

Facebook: Victoria Lee Starr

RVers Boondocking Policy

Dear Fellow RVers,

As thousands of new RV enthusiasts join us on the road, it is more important than ever to be good stewards of our environment. Protecting and preserving our public lands should be our honor and must be our pledge. Whether we choose a national park, national forest, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) site, or other public lands, these practices always apply. Remember, camping on public lands is a privilege, not a right. Abuse can create tighter regulations, raise maintenance fees, and have an overall negative impact on public lands and our ability to use them in the spirit in which they were intended. With the help and support of our advocates, the Escapees RV Club has created a condensed list of "Best RVing Practices" to ensure that our public lands will remain beautiful treasures that we can retreat to as we travel.

Public Lands Parking Etiquette

RVers Boondocking Policy

RESPECT THE RULES OF THE LAND. Observe posted signs, obtain permits when necessary, follow usage limits, and camp only in designated areas and pre-established campsites, which vary depending on agency and state regulations. Bear in mind, some of these lands fall under federal laws, not state laws.

TREASURE THE TERRAIN. Camp on durable surfaces. Avoid damaging surfaces or modifying terrain by digging, moving large rocks, cutting plants, etc. Stick to predesignated paths without widening them or creating new ones. Remember, there are native plants, organisms, and ecosystems that interplay here and can be easily damaged.

RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBORS. Avoid overcrowding an area or blocking your neighbors' view. Orient your RV so that your generator isn't directed at them and respect quiet hours. Rules vary but are generally between 10pm-8am. Maintain a tidy campsite. Keep noise to a minimum so everyone has a peaceful experience. Drive at a campground speed and be aware of kids, wildlife, pets, and your dust trails.

RESPECT NATURE AND WILDLIFE. Keep pets under control and clean up after them, even in the wild. Don't entice, feed, or approach wildlife. Limit or eliminate use of pesticides. Check for burn bans; be mindful of firewood rules and make sure your fire is fully extinguished. (Remember, exhaust pipes on vehicles and generators can trigger fires.) Consider a propane fire pit that you can carry with you and snub out easily.

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT. Keep your holding tanks closed! Secure fresh water from approved sources and dispose of trash respectfully in public trash receptacles. Lower your impact with bio-degradable products.

Always leave the area cleaner than you found it!

Take only memories, leave only footprints.

As RVers, we should be good stewards of the land to protect this privilege for future generations. Not following these practices can have serious consequences and could be detrimental to all RVers. Public lands can be closed to camping because of overcrowding, damage to the land, and guests overstaying the time limits. Following the best practices will help ensure that we all remain good neighbors to each other and the land. If you feel that someone is unaware of these practices, share these resources with them in a positive way.

We wish you safe and happy travels,

ESCAPEES RV Club®

For more information and resources on boondocking best practices, please visit: www.escapees.com/rvers-boondocking-policy





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Finding Wellness, Meaning, and Connection on the American Road



THE GOLD IN THE MARGINS

Article and photos by **LYNETTE RITCHIE** #167515



One step at a time. Mountains don't just build strength—they reveal it. This is where courage grows quietly.

We sat together beneath the awning, boots dusty, drinks cool. A summer storm had just rolled through—one of those south-western squalls that rattles your bones and rearranges the sand. Sage hung in the air, sharp and holy. Across from me was someone I'd met months earlier on a hike in the Eastern U.S., both of us strangers, drawn together by a shared rhythm of silence and grit.

Over time, we found a quiet kinship—an unspoken understanding between those who have loved deeply and now carry that love from a distance. We seldom named it out loud. But in the way we remembered one another's milestones, checked in after parting ways and extended small acts of kindness, we began to rebuild something many long-haul travelers quietly lose: connection.

This wasn't what I came out here looking for, but it's what I came to need.

"...here's what I've come to understand: loneliness doesn't just ache—it corrodes. It's not a matter of being alone—it's being unseen, unconnected."

The Hidden Cost of Freedom

At first, RV life feels like freedom unleashed. Big skies, open roads, mountain passes and boondocking in wild silence. We trade houses for horizons. And in that first rush of motion and beauty, we rarely notice what's quietly slipping through the cracks.

We meet dozens of people—smiling faces around campfires, helpful neighbors with socket sets—but unless we're deliberate, many of those moments stay surface-level. We drift, waving warmly but rarely rooting.



And here's what I've come to understand: loneliness doesn't just ache—it corrodes. It's not a matter of being alone—it's being unseen, unconnected.

And that's not just poetic—it's biological. As Blair Harrison writes in *The Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community*, "Lacking connection can increase the risk of premature death to levels comparable to daily smoking."

For RVers—many of whom are aging, reinventing themselves, or recovering from grief—this matters...deeply!

From Bucket List to Backroads

We started as bucket-list travelers. We chased sunrises, museums and monuments, scenic drives, parks and waterfalls. And there's nothing wrong with that—wonder is worth pursuing. But eventually, our pace slowed. Not just from fatigue, but from a growing sense that we were skimming something deeper.

That shift started with conversations. A neighboring camper, also held up at a repair facility, offered genuine, present kindness. Volunteers on a preservation project in Nevada who taught us how shared labor for the land also heals something in the soul.

"I've learned that wellness isn't just what you eat, how much you lift or how far you hike. It's how deeply you're seen. How generously you see others. That's what connection does."

We began staying longer. Returning to places not for novelty, but for meaning. We began to see that the real beauty of this life wasn't just in the landmarks—but in the margins.

We began to notice the gold—the quiet, glowing truths hidden in everyday moments.

Nature as Mirror, Teacher and Healer

Nature has been one of our most consistent teachers. It doesn't preach. It doesn't flatter. It simply is—unapologetic, instructive and honest.

Storms in the desert taught me that violence and beauty coexist—and that everything leaves a mark.

The wobble of newborn goslings, the first buzz of bees in spring—those moments speak of fragility and renewal.

Deserts, once dismissed as barren, turned out to be teeming with life. I just hadn't looked closely enough.

Mountains taught me courage and humility with every ascent—and the relief of descent.

Still streams and crashing waterfalls reminded me that life moves in cycles: quiet, chaos and back again.

Thoreau wrote in *Walden*, "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately... and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." That's the invitation the natural world keeps extending. Not just to live—but to live awake.

The Quiet Depth of Community

"The only way to have a friend is to be one," as Emerson penned in *Friendship, is especially true out here*.

We keep track of the people we meet. We follow up. We reroute our path to reconnect. We text, e-mail or call—to say, I see you. You matter.

This isn't the loud, social-media version of community. It's the kind of friendship that's built on sweat, silence and soul.

I've learned that wellness isn't just what you eat, how much you lift or how far you hike. It's how deeply you're seen. How generously you see others. That's what connection does. It strengthens not just the heart—but the body, the mind and the will to keep going.

As Brené Brown said in her TED Talk *The Power of Vulnerability*, "Connection is why we're here. It is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives." RV life gives us the opportunity to reforge community—not by default, but by intention.

The Invitation: Read the Whole Book

Augustine wrote, "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page."

But even among travelers, there's a temptation to flip too fast. To skim. To seek the scenic and skip the sacred.

Connection Practices for the Road

- 1. VOLUNTEER:** Join efforts: trail work, wildlife restoration, community gardens. Nothing builds community like working side by side.
- 2. TRACK YOUR PEOPLE:** Keep a notebook or digital contact list with names, places met and details worth remembering. Reach out.
- 3. START THE CONVERSATION:** Be the one who speaks first—in a laundromat, on a trail or at the dump station. Connection starts with courage.
- 4. CIRCLE BACK:** Revisit places and people. Growth takes root when watered more than once.
- 5. SHARE SMALL GIFTS:** Leave behind books, notes, dried herbs, even a kind text. Simple gestures become anchors.
- 6. JOURNAL PEOPLE, NOT JUST PLACES:** Log stories, names, what was said, what moved you. These are the real landmarks.



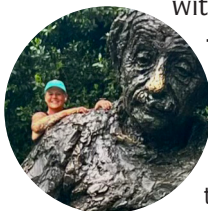
If you're just starting out, enjoy the chase. But know this: the gold isn't always on the main trail. Sometimes it's found in a wind-blown conversation. A shared labor. A moment of quiet that calls you to stay a little longer.

Epicurus once wrote, "Not what we have, but what we enjoy, constitutes our abundance." For us, abundance has come not from the miles, but from the margins, the people, the moments, the stillness and the tenderness.

This isn't theme-park travel. It's not entertainment. It's not about being pampered or princessed or endlessly pleased. This is pilgrimage. This is soul travel. And, if you're willing to read past the first page, to linger,

to listen, to let it change you—you'll find what we did.

You didn't come for this. But once you find it, you'll know: You can't live well without it. 



LYNETTE RITCHIE and her husband have been full-time RVers for five years, traveling the U.S. with a spirit of grit, service and soulful curiosity. After decades of a traditional life, they traded excess for simplicity and now volunteer on public lands, hike and 4x4 on remote trails and seek out meaningful connections with both people and place. Lynette writes about the deeper layers of road life—where wellness, nature and human stories intersect. She believes joy can be found in sweat, silence and showing up.

No cell signal, no spectators—just hands in the dirt, sweat in the silence and the quiet knowing that water will flow because we showed up.

CANCER SURVIVAL AND RVING

By **MURRAY KEITH
WADSWORTH** #154166

"Metastatic melanoma changed
my route, not my destination!"



An allure—perhaps illusion—of the RV lifestyle is its perceived freedom from routines. Although seasons change with varying degrees of ambiguity, nature imposes strict rhythms: 29.5-day lunar cycles come to mind. Camping limits, waste tank capacities and the need for water impose their own schedules, often at the worst moments, like mid-storm or during forgotten holidays.

Nine years ago, I was new to RVing. Though traveling solo, I followed my longtime friends John and Pattie. We left the Hill Country west of Austin, Texas, and camped in New Mexico's higher elevations, waiting for the snowmelt to open northern routes. By October, we reached Glacier National Park, our most northern destination. Along the way, John and Pattie shared insights from 13 years on the road. But as I've learned firsthand, this lifestyle always brings new lessons and unexpected challenges.

The most personal challenge of that first season was managing persistent prostate cancer after an unsuccessful surgery—it hadn't removed all the cancer. Mapping our 2,600-mile trek to Montana, I devised a plan for self-directed monthly blood tests. With decent cell service, I could order and schedule labs at the nearest phlebotomy clinic. One of the longest trips was from Utah's remote San Rafael Swell to Grand Junction, Colorado, a full-day affair that included laundry and grocery runs. Over the years, I grew confident in managing my health on the road, even after three more curative treatment attempts and the onset of hemochromatosis (a liver disease).

Last April, I was due for another "routine" liver MRI. While the MRI itself was standard, getting it wasn't: you need a doctor willing to write orders for outside of their usual network, and a facility willing to accept an out-of-state walk-in. Fortunately, Intermountain Health, based in Salt Lake City and serving six mountain states, fits that bill. Their mission to "reimagine



"Thanks to Starlink and a supportive doctor who sends all necessary orders and paperwork, my immunotherapy RV road trip became reality."

healthcare" aligned perfectly with my nomadic needs. Thankfully, the MRI results were normal.

In July, with my trailer safely stationed at a Harvest Host site in Idaho, I drove to Salt Lake City for a flight to Houston. It was my grandson's eighth birthday and time for another round of primary care visits. After that joyful family time, I returned to my RV in Idaho's Frank Church Wilderness.

One beautiful hiking day, my cell phone rang. I recognized the number—it was my oncologist's office. The short version of that fateful call: a concerning growth appeared in my liver. It hadn't been there in April. The rapid development triggered urgent imaging and a biopsy. With support from the PAs at Challis Area Health Center, Challis, ID, I





quickly scheduled appointments in Idaho Falls. Soon after came the diagnosis: metastatic melanoma.

Like evacuating ahead of a forest fire, I broke camp and left for Houston—my medical and family base. On the way, I lined up appointments and reserved an extended stay at a concrete RV park. As I braced for the road ahead, I wondered if, or when, I'd travel again.

In September, I began a two-year course of immunotherapy (think chemotherapy, but via your immune system). The treatment plan involves three fixed schedules: a round of blood tests two to three days before each infusion, which occur on a rolling 28-day cycle. Then every 90 days, I undergo extensive imaging and liquid blood biopsy testing.

As the months rolled into the new year, I grew more comfortable with the treatment routine. I appreciated the unexpected time near family, and the convenience of walking to the lab for bloodwork and infusions; however, my wanderlust kept tugging. So, I began planning my return to the road.

After years of practice, I was confident arranging the lab work ahead of each infusion. But coordinating walk-in immunotherapy treatments and 90-day scans from remote campsites? It was surprisingly doable! Thanks to Starlink and a supportive doctor who sends all necessary orders and paperwork, my immunotherapy RV road trip became reality. I usually make two separate all-day trips from the woods, combining them with nice meals, a 28-day haircut, and errands like laundry, groceries and the occasional Costco run. Fellow RVers are my support system. Having a friend and co-driver for these long hauls makes the trips not just manageable—but fun.

Metastatic melanoma changed my route, not my destination. The road still calls and I still answer. The moon cycles every 29.5 days, my treatments every 28 and somewhere in between, I find my rhythm. 🚐

MURRAY KEITH WADSWORTH #154166 began RVing in 2016 then sold his home in 2019. His website, SheepOrWolfCancer.com, features his book *Prostate Cancer: Sheep or Wolf—Navigating Systemic Misinformation* and links to his podcast *Prostate Cancer Lessons*. Murray has written for numerous publications and has been interviewed for both print and podcast media.

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By **EVANNE SCHMARDER** #65409

THE GRATEFUL TRAVELER

*A Guide To
Collecting
Moments
And Creating
Lasting Joy*



“When we’re on the road, we naturally become collectors of moments rather than things.”

One of the best gifts I ever received cost exactly \$3.47. It was a handmade bookmark crafted from pressed wildflowers by my campground neighbor in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, who’d noticed me reading every night by my RV’s awning light. Years later, that bookmark still lingers in my memory, while the expensive gadgets from that same period have long since broken or been forgotten.

This small revelation captures something profound about travel and gratitude: when we’re on the road, we naturally become collectors of moments rather than things. Science suggests that this shift not only makes us better travelers, but it also makes us fundamentally happier people.

The Psychology Behind Travel’s Gratitude Effect

There’s a reason seasoned travelers often seem more content and appreciative than those who stay at home. Travel creates what psychologists call “hedonic adaptation disruption.” It breaks our brain’s tendency to take good things for granted by constantly presenting us with novel experiences and perspectives.

When you’re navigating winding mountain roads in your rig with nothing but a paper atlas and intuition or sharing campfire stories with strangers from three different states, your brain stays alert and engaged. This heightened state of awareness naturally cultivates gratitude for small victories: successfully backing into a tight campsite,

discovering a hidden waterfall on a hiking trail, or finding that kindness exists in every small town across America.

The gratitude-curiosity connection runs even deeper. Research from the University of California shows that curious people report higher levels of life satisfaction and are more likely to experience positive emotions. Travel feeds this cycle beautifully. Curiosity leads us to explore, exploration creates memorable experiences, and those experiences generate lasting gratitude.

Why Experiences Outlast Everything Else

Dr. Thomas Gilovich’s groundbreaking research at Cornell University reveals why that pressed flower bookmark meant more to me than any material gift from that year. His studies demonstrate that experiential purchases provide more lasting happiness than material ones for three key reasons:

Experiences become part of our identity. That roadside diner in Georgia where you tried chicken-fried steak for the first time doesn’t just create a memory, it makes you someone willing to step outside their comfort zone and embrace local flavors. In contrast, material purchases remain external to our identity.

Experiences improve with time. Unlike physical objects that wear out or become outdated, road-trip memories appreciate in value. That unexpected detour to see Oregon Trail ruts that added a white-knuckle two hours to your drive transforms from a stressful situation into an adventure story that becomes better with each telling.

Experiences resist unfavorable comparisons. It’s impossible to experience buyer’s remorse about watching the sunrise from the rim of the Grand Canyon, even if your friend got a “better” campsite. Each experience is uniquely yours in a way that possessions can never be. ➞

FIVE WAYS

Travel Experiences Create Lasting Joy

1 **They connect us to something greater.** Standing beneath the towering redwoods in Northern California or watching a thunderstorm roll across the Great Plains creates a sense of awe that researchers link to increased life satisfaction and decreased materialism.

2 **They build social bonds.** Shared experiences, whether planned or spontaneous, create deeper connections than shared purchases ever could. The friends you make while helping push someone's RV out of mud in a Pennsylvania campground become lifelong bonds.

3 **They increase our anticipation and reflection time.** Unlike buying an object, planning a road trip extends the happiness both forward (anticipation) and backward (reminiscence), creating what economists call “consumption utility.”

4 **They make us more interesting people.** Experiences give us stories to tell and perspectives to share, enriching our relationships long after the experience.

5 **They can't be lost, stolen, or broken.** Your memories of line dancing at a honky-tonk in Austin will outlast any cowboy hat you could have purchased there.

Creating Your Memory Vault

The most successful experience collectors I know have developed what I call a “memory vault”, a systematic way of processing and preserving their road trip moments. Here are four ideas to help you discover what works for your style:

THE PHOTO STORY METHOD: Each evening, scroll through your phone's photos from the day and choose three that spark a strong memory. Voice-record a 30-second story about each one while the details are fresh. These audio memories become richer than any written journal.

THE COLLECTION RITUAL: Gather one small, meaningful item from each place you visit—a smooth stone from Lake Tahoe's shore, a pressed leaf from Acadia's trails, a ticket stub from that quirky roadside attraction in Kansas. Create a small travel box to store these items, telling your story through meaningful objects.

THE MAP MARKING TRADITION: Keep a physical road atlas and mark each special moment with a different colored pen: red for stunning views, blue for great meals, green for interesting people met. Over time, your atlas becomes a colorful record of joy.

MILESTONE MARKERS: Celebrate personal milestones (birthdays, anniversaries, achievements) by doing something that represents growth, such as learning a new skill, trying a local food, or having a conversation with a stranger.

Practical Gratitude

Exercises for the Road

THE 5-4-3-2-1 TECHNIQUE: When overwhelmed or homesick, ground yourself by noticing your surroundings. Identify 5 things you can see, 4 you can touch, 3 you can hear, 2 you can smell, and 1 you can taste. This mindfulness exercise often reveals small wonders hiding in plain sight.

THE COMPARISON FLIP: When dealing with road trip challenges, ask yourself, “What would the past me think of this situation?” Often, the stressed traveler dealing with a flat tire in Arizona is living an adventure that the past you would have envied.

THE LOCAL EXPERT GAME: Pretend you're a guidebook writer discovering your current location. What would you tell future RV

My Favorite DIY Gift

Sentimental do-it-yourself gifts capture something store-bought items simply can't, they hold pieces of actual experiences within them. As an amateur digital photographer who's always searching for ways to preserve memories, discovering Judee Stalmack's article "Migital Photo Albums" in the November/December 2003 *Escapees* Magazine felt like finding treasure.

After practicing and perfecting the layout process, this concept became one of my most meaningful gifts to give. These photo albums work well for any occasion: spanning an entire year of travels or tastes, focusing on a specific region like the Southwest, or celebrating a particular theme like "Roadside America." The beauty lies not just in the photographs, but in how they transform moments into lasting treasures.

Whether shared in person or sent across the miles to connect with friends and family, each album carries the power to transport viewers to special places and moments, letting them experience the adventure, whether reliving shared memories or discovering new places through my personal journey.



travelers to notice or appreciate? This mental shift transforms ordinary moments into noteworthy experiences.

The Compound Interest of Gratitude

The most remarkable thing about becoming a moment-collector isn't just the immediate joy it brings, it's how this practice compounds over time. Each experience builds upon the last, creating a rich internal landscape that no economic downturn or life change can touch.

Travel teaches us that the best gifts can't be wrapped, the most valuable treasures fit in no RV storage compartment, and the richest people are often those who own the least but have experienced the most. Ultimately, gratitude isn't about your physical location, it's about how deeply you're willing to appreciate the moment you're in.

The pressed flower bookmark from the Great Smoky Mountains is a powerful reminder that the most precious things in life aren't things at all. They're

"In a world obsessed with acquiring more, travel offers a radical alternative..."

the moments that take our breath away, the connections that touch our hearts, and the memories that grow more beautiful with time.

In a world obsessed with acquiring more, travel offers a radical alternative: the revolutionary act of having enough, being present, and collecting experiences that will outlast any gift at any price point. 🚐



EVANNE SCHMARDER is sure she got the wanderlust bug from her grandparents. In 2000, she and her husband, Ray, set off on their own adventure. Eighteen-plus years later, they're still roaming the country, sharing interesting destinations and cooking up delicious RV kitchen recipes in their popular RV TV series, RVCookingShow.com.

*Michelle and Brian Dimayuga: How Parenthood,
Travel Nursing, and a Pandemic Inspired*

A LIFESTYLE

TRANSFORMATION

By **ALLISON SMITH**
Harvest Hosts Content Writer





In the modern age, fresh off a pandemic, rising inflation and massive corporate layoffs, many Americans are finding themselves reconsidering the American dream that they were always fed. To work hard, hustle, pull yourself up by your bootstraps, and just maybe you could thrive.

In this political landscape, the classic American dream is harder to achieve. As people reconsider making work the primary focus of their lives, people find themselves craving adventure and longing for the privilege of working as little as possible without having to worry about paying the bills. They dream of having the privilege to prioritize adventures, spending time with loved ones and getting to live and enjoy the present instead of hustling so that they might enjoy the future.

Nurses Michelle and Brian Dimayuga often speak to patients as they reach the end of their lives. They frequently hear many of their regrets. Most wish they'd spent more time with their family, gone on more adventures and spent more time outside.

If you find yourself wanting to prioritize travel and adventure, the allure of van life is incredibly intoxicating. Michelle always considered herself an adventurous and spontaneous person, and when she found van life content on Youtube, she was immediately sold. All she had to do was convince her husband Brian that they should buy an RV and become part-time RVers—and the rest was history. I sat down with Brian and Michelle to hear how their story and how they make van life work as a family of four.

Q. How do you balance all of those things, build your schedules to balance your work, road travel, family time and running your Instagram account @hapalyadventuring?

BRIAN: We are blessed that we are nurses because there's a lot of flexibility that comes with the nurse schedule. The whole night-shift thing sounds daunting, but it actually allows for us to parent together most of the days. It takes practice and there's a little bit of nuance with figuring everything out.



MICHELLE: When I went part-time, I honestly had some time to myself that I wasn't used to having. I'm not at the hospital or recovering from night shift, so I needed an outlet. I've always been very interested in documenting our life, I used to make short YouTube videos to share with our family about our travels and, I loved having a creative outlet. What started as an account to share with our family, to share what we're doing, has grown into this really cool travel community interested in this alternative travel style. Don't get me wrong, "we" like nice things. So, for us to suddenly be in a van with close quarters all the time, that's an adjustment. So we have this kind of "hybrid travel" where we're able to do both. We're able to prioritize nice hotel stays along our routes because we're in our van all the other times.

Q. You mentioned how living together during Covid-19 really inspired you to get out on the road and become van lifers. How did the pandemic also impact your relationship with nursing?

BRIAN: I can answer this. Working through Covid-19, obviously, everyone knows what it entails, there's a lot of trauma, and it's very sad. I worked in the Covid-19 ICU for the majority of the pandemic. Really, what I pulled from that experience is our mentality of living in the moment. That's when we stopped living for the future and started living for the moment. You don't know what six months to a year from now looks like. So really, the mentality changed: we live for today. We try to enjoy every moment. We try not to worry and, we really try to embrace the moment for what it is.

MICHELLE: And it's not just something as extreme as Covid-19. The more you're in it, the more patients that you've helped... I've worked with a lot of cancer patients with chronic issues and a lot of them work so hard just to retire, and then get sick shortly after. That always resonated with me in such a way that if you can, if you have that ability, you need to have that balance from the beginning.

BRIAN: There's a lot of reflection going on in hospitals, as Michelle said, and there are a lot of regrets that you hear when talking with these people. The common theme is "I wish I did more," "I wish I traveled more," "I wish I was outside more," "I wish I wasn't committed to a nine-to-five life."

MICHELLE: There's value in that some people are just hard workers, but it's also important to find a balance. Now more than ever, this world is just a little bit crazy. And if you don't prioritize yourself and your family, if you're not going to do it now, when are you ever going to do it?

BRIAN: I don't think my kids are going to want to travel with me in a van when they're 20, 22, or even 12. The work-life balance aspect is what Covid-19 really put into perspective for us.

Q. Do you have any advice for young couples or young families looking to get into the RV lifestyle?

BRIAN: It started with camping. You need to be comfortable with being outside first. Once you get through that, just keep stepping it up, step by step, longer and longer, and once you develop that level of comfort, take that leap.

MICHELLE: Say a family wants to rent a van for the first time. Make sure there's a toilet, a bed and a fridge. Everything from there will sort itself out. It's ok if you want to plan ahead or be spontaneous, just know that it's accessible. And if you're on the fence, maybe you're like Brian and you love a good hotel stay but van life seems really cool...we travel more than we ever did before getting the van. You don't have to be on BLM land in the middle of nowhere every single time. Van life isn't just for super outdoorsy people, it's for everyone. Anyone can do it, and they can do it anywhere. 🚐



ALLISON SMITH is a content writer for Harvest Hosts. She also serves as the brand copywriter, crafting the message of Harvest Hosts in all of their marketing. When Allison is not writing content for Harvest Hosts, you can find her with her cat, Ash, or spending time outdoors.

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Cripple Creek Hangout 2025 attendees with
Rita the Rock Planter near Victor, Colorado.

PHOTO BY KIRSTY HALLIDAY #115499



MEMBER SECTION



Message From the Team

Rooted in Community, Growing in Opportunity: Escapees Parks, Co-ops, and New Membership Benefits

By **CHRIS SMITH**, Senior Director of Community and Events, Harvest Hosts

When Joe and Kay Peterson founded Escapees RV Club nearly five decades ago, they dreamed of creating a community where RVers could find connection, support, and affordable places to park their rigs. That dream grew into something remarkable: a network of Escapees-owned parks and member-driven co-ops that today remain at the heart of the Escapees experience.

As the RV lifestyle has expanded and changed, so too has the club. With the acquisition of Escapees by Harvest Hosts, members now enjoy access to a much larger campground discount network, on top of the continuing presence of Rainbow's End in Livingston, Texas, and the strong tradition of Escapees SKP Co-Ops. Together, these programs ensure that wherever your travels take you, your membership card unlocks both community and value.

THE TRANSITION OF ESCAPEES-OWNED PARKS

For decades, Escapees has operated eight Escapees RV Parks—formerly known as Rainbow Parks—affordable, club-owned campgrounds designed with members in mind. These parks became beloved stopovers and seasonal destinations, offering not just hookups but also activity centers, shared meals and a sense of community. However, with the Harvest Hosts acquisition, came a major change: Escapees-owned parks were not part of the deal. At the time of this writing, all but one park, Rainbow's End in Livingston, Texas, is under new ownership. Out of the seven being sold, only one will continue using the Escapees name, while the others will shift to new branding and management. Importantly, all seven parks under new ownership are contractually required to offer Escapees member-only discounted rates for one year after the sale date. One of the parks, Turkey Creek in Branson, Missouri, will remain Escapees branded.

While it's bittersweet to see this chapter close, Rainbow's End remains as a member-friendly park and continues to serve as home to the mail forwarding service.

THE ENDURING VALUE OF SKP CO-OPS

Separate from the Rainbow Parks, Escapees also has 11 co-op parks, and these remain unchanged. Co-ops are unique in the RVing world: nonprofit cooperatives created and managed entirely by Escapees members. By buying a share, members secure long-term rights to a site while also contributing to the upkeep and governance of the park. Each co-op has its own culture and are built on affordability, self-governance and strong community ties.

For many Escapees, co-ops are a dream come true: an affordable home base with the freedom to hit the road whenever they choose. They remain a powerful expression of the club's founding values of community, independence and shared responsibility.

A MAJOR NEW BENEFIT: EXPANDED CAMPGROUND DISCOUNTS

The acquisition by Harvest Hosts introduced a significant new value for members: a consolidated campground discount program. Escapees previously managed its own smaller discount network, while Harvest Hosts ran a separate, larger one. After the acquisition, the two were combined into a single, unified program that has nearly 1,300 partner campgrounds, RV parks, and resorts nationwide. Escapees members, Harvest Hosts members and those with a combined Harvest Hosts All Access plan all have access to the combined campground discount program. Best of all, these campground discounts are included with membership at no additional cost.

"The acquisition by Harvest Hosts introduced a significant new value for members: a consolidated campground discount program."



CAMPGROUND PARTNERS

Presented By **HARVEST HOSTS**

“With the changes to Rainbow Parks and the addition of new benefits, Escapees members now have access to a multi-layered system of camping opportunities.”



Pecan Park RV Community, Jacksonville, Florida

HOW IT ALL FITS TOGETHER

With the changes to Rainbow Parks and the addition of new benefits, Escapees members now have access to a multi-layered system of camping opportunities:

- Rainbow’s End (TX): Remains an Escapees park and is home to the mail forwarding service.
- Sold Rainbow Parks: Seven parks under new ownership, all honoring Escapees member discounted rates for one year after the sale date. One park, Turkey Creek, will remain Escapees branded.
- Escapees Co-ops: Member-owned, nonprofit cooperatives that remain unaffected and self-governed.
- Campground Discount Network: Nearly 1,300 partner campgrounds now included with membership.
- Harvest Hosts Locations: Unique overnight stays at wineries, farms, and attractions, a part of the All-Access membership.

Together, these options create flexibility for travelers, ensuring members can find both community and affordability on the road.

WHY IT MATTERS

The RV lifestyle has grown rapidly but so have campground prices and demand. For many, finding affordable, reliable places to stay is a challenge. Escapees’ combina-

tion of co-ops, discounts and continued support at Rainbow’s End provides reassurance and savings at a time when both are badly needed. By maintaining Rainbow’s End, supporting its co-ops and expanding the discount program, Escapees offers members multiple avenues to stretch their budgets and connect with community. And, by working alongside Harvest Hosts, the club has positioned itself to keep adding value in the years ahead.

LOOKING AHEAD

Though the sale of most Rainbow Parks marks the end of an era, it also signals a new chapter. Escapees’ roots in community, through co-ops and member gatherings, remain strong. The expanded campground discount network makes travel more affordable than ever. And Rainbow’s End continues to serve members with essential services like mail forwarding, even as headquarters operations transition under Harvest Hosts.

Nearly 50 years after Joe and Kay Peterson founded Escapees, the mission remains the same: to support RVers with community, affordability and resources that make life on the road better. Whether you’re pulling into a co-op, staying at Rainbow’s End, or flashing your membership card at a partner park, you’re part of a tradition that has always been, and will always be, about people helping people. 🚐



Memorable Moments

By **KIRSTY HALLIDAY** #115499, Hangouts Manager



It's been an action-packed couple of months with four amazing Hangouts taking place across Michigan, Colorado, New Mexico and Louisiana in September and October. These gatherings provided a fantastic opportunity for both new and seasoned members to connect, share experiences and enjoy some one-of-a-kind adventures.

We all know we need to watch the weather as part of our RV travels and sometimes the best laid plans need to be amended due to a changing forecast. While the weather didn't always cooperate in Michigan at the Sleeping Bear Dunes (Body, Mind & Spirits) Hangout, the flexibility of our RVing yogi community turned every challenge into a positive. The hosts adapted, and attendees continued to enjoy the local environment with hikes, kayaking, a nature journaling workshop and plenty Michigan wine, cherries and ice cream!

"I love the BMS Hangouts and learning new things about yoga and practicing with friends. They also gave me a great start to being a solo RVer with the sessions at big rallies."

Norma Sunne #174571



Again, the temperatures we planned for in Cripple Creek, Colorado, dipped lower than anticipated so, woolly hats and warm layers were dug out of RV closets. However, the warm-hearted hospitality and entertainment kept everyone's spirits high, while we camped at 10,000 feet among beautiful aspens and Colorado peaks! We were grateful for a bluebird day at the top of Pikes Peak, survived a Bigfoot sighting along the way and learnt a lot about the gold mining towns of Cripple Creek and Victor.

"Being new to the Escapees community, we were hesitant to commit to a week-long event—don't be us! This Escapees Hangout far exceeded our expectations, bringing together like-minded people in a fun, energetic atmosphere. We felt welcomed, connected and truly part of something special."

Barbara Olson #159238



The Carlsbad Caverns Restoration Hangout attendees in New Mexico spent their Fall Equinox descending into the Caverns to help the National Park Service clean the caves. Escapees Hangouts continue to be the largest volunteer group that visits to collect lint from these caves. We brought the date of this years' Carlsbad Caverns Restoration Hangout forward to both enable attendees to travel on to the Balloon Fiesta, and also to witness even more bats leaving the caves at night. Although this also led to some higher temperatures, we had a rewarding hike in Guadalupe Mountains National Park ahead of the 56 degree days inside the cave.

"This was our first Escapees Hangout and we loved it! This Hangout was very special because it was a volunteer effort for the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns, NM. I think the whole group of amazing volunteers felt enriched by this experience! Thanks for making this happen, Escapees!"

Tricia Brubaker SKP# 194841



Winter Blast Hangout

February 10–16, Lake Havasu City, Arizona

Enjoy the loudest, biggest and brightest fireworks as the skies above Lake Havasu light up during the 2026 Western Winter Blast. This six-night dry-camping Hangout falls over Valentine's Day and Presidents Day Weekend, offering a front-row seat to the fireworks! Hosted this year by Hangouts Manager Kirsty Halliday and Escapees stalwarts, Mark Nemeth and Sky Renfro.

Activities include an island scavenger hunt, a walk across the iconic London Bridge, a scenic paddle-wheeler cruise around Thompson Island, hiking a nearby slot canyon and biking to town for lunch. There will be a potluck dinner and entertainment at the rodeo grounds and the opportunity to view the fireworks closeup at the Speedway Race Track. Please don't miss this pyrotechnic magic and everything else that makes this Hangout a club favorite! **Registration is Open!**

See www.escapees.com/hangouts for more details.

ESCAPEES *Hangouts!*

Looking ahead, Hangouts will take a brief winter break as snowbirds enjoy their winter journeys, but we're preparing exciting new events for the coming year. I'm personally looking forward to hosting the Winter Blast Hangout in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, in February for another unforgettable pyrotechnic adventure. Get your ticket while spots last! This is one of our most popular Hangouts!



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At Bash '26***

Xscapers Annual Bash
January 10-18 2026
Lake Havasu, AZ



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XSCAPERS CONVERGENCES

By Katie Wilcoxon, Convergence Manager



Community campfire at the Taos
Summerween Convergence.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL CRUZ # 160938

The goal of every Xscapers Convergence is to foster connection and build lasting relationships; and that's exactly what we accomplished at the Taos Summerween Weekend Convergence. With a smaller, tight-knit group in attendance, the weekend provided the perfect opportunity to really connect on a personal level, share stories and create memories that will last long after the final goodbye.

We kicked things off with a campfire gathering under the high desert sky, where new friends met, familiar faces reunited and conversations flowed easily. Tales of travel, adventure, and the roads that brought us to Xscapers set the tone for a weekend of camaraderie and fun.

As is often the case in Taos, the weather decided to add its own twist—bringing threats of strong winds and heavy rain. But in true Xscapers spirit, we rolled with it. The planned lot crawl was transformed into a warm and lively potluck in the main office, where couches became gathering spots, homemade dishes were shared and everyone donned their best Summerween costumes.

One of the highlights of the weekend was spooky craft night, where creativity took center stage. The potion bar came alive here, glowing and glittering with colorful concoctions that added a little magic to the evening. Tables were spread with craft supplies for eerie and whimsical creations, and laughter echoed as members

compared their works-in-progress. The “anything-but-a-pumpkin” carving challenge stole the show—one participant even fired up a Dremel tool to carve their unconventional creation, proving that with a bit of ingenuity, almost anything can become a jack-o'-lantern!

The fun continued with a spooky scavenger hunt through town, encouraging us to explore Taos together and discover its quirky corners while working as a team. These little adventures added an extra layer of connection and playful competition to the weekend.

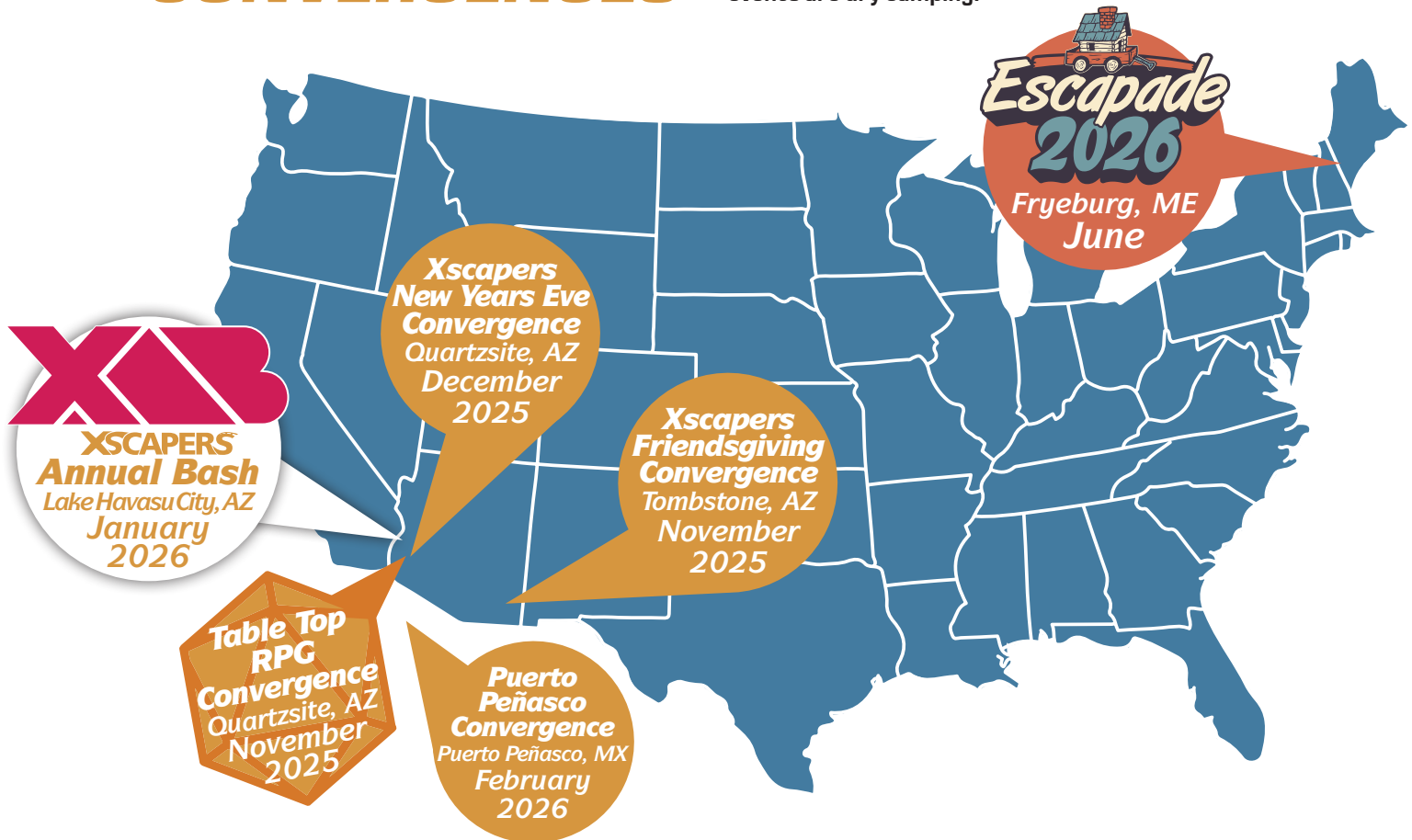
Beyond the crafts, costumes and shared meals, what made this weekend truly special was the sense of belonging it fostered. Life on the road can sometimes feel a little untethered, but gatherings like these remind us that there's a vibrant, welcoming community ready to share the journey with us. Whether it's swapping tips by the campfire, lending a hand when the weather turns or simply laughing over a glowing potion, these are the moments that turn fellow travelers into lifelong friends.

If you've been thinking about attending a Convergence, consider this your sign to take the leap. There's a spot by the fire waiting for you, a story to share and a circle of like-minded adventurers ready to welcome you in. Come for the events and stay for the people. You never know what connections you'll make until you show up. 🚚

UPCOMING CONVERGENCES

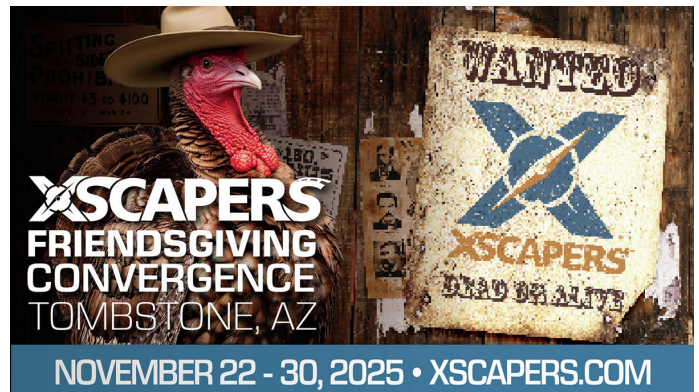
Xscapers Convergences cater to working age RVers.

Activities happen later in the day after the work is over and tend to go late into the night. Most Xscapers events are dry camping.



FORGE YOUR LEGEND AT D&D ODYSSEY—A CONVERGENCE OF QUESTS, CAMARADERIE, AND CRITICAL ROLLS

The D&D Odyssey Convergence is a vibrant gathering of adventurers, storytellers and dice-slingers. Players dive into fantastical realms, forging epic quests, battling fearsome foes and unraveling rich narratives crafted along with imaginative Dungeon Masters. Whether you're a seasoned hero or a curious newcomer, the convergence offers a welcoming space to roll initiative, share laughs and build unforgettable campaigns with fellow enthusiasts.



XSCAPERS FRIENDSGIVING 2025

This Friendsgiving, the Xscapers are coming together in the storied town of Tombstone, Arizona, for a week filled with connection, laughter and plenty of good food. We'll share a festive potluck feast, swap stories around the campfire and tap into our creative side with a cozy arts and crafts night. Between spontaneous hangouts, games and exploring the quirky charm of our Old West surroundings, it's all about slowing down and enjoying time with your chosen family on the road. There'll even be a group outing to nearby Bisbee for those who want a little adventure on the side, but the heart of this convergence is all about being together.

**Rose
Parade HOP**
Pasadena, CA
December
2025

**Hawaii
Cruise HOP**
San Diego, CA
November
2025

**ESCAPEES
HOPs**
HEAD OUT PROGRAM

**Switzerland
Alpine Lakes
and Train HOP**
Zürich
April
2026



Rose Parade HOP
Pasadena, California
December 27–January 3, 2026

ESCAPEES HOPs



HEAD OUT PROGRAM

Unforgettable Adventures

At the HOPs department, we specialize in creating unforgettable adventures for RVers by bringing you to unique locations, special events and themed experiences. From planning your itinerary and making reservations to arranging delicious meals and exciting excursions, we take care of all the details so you can focus on having fun!

EXCITING NEW HOPS AWAIT!

We're beyond thrilled to bring you these incredible HOPs, including both land and cruise adventures!

Love trains? Experience breathtaking scenery on the Switzerland/Italy Alpine Lakes and Scenic Train HOP.

Cruise Lovers, Take Note! With more people cruising than ever, cabins are filling up fast—so don't wait to sign up! Cruises offer an amazing way to immerse yourself in different cultures, customs, cuisines and history.

Upcoming HOPs Events

Escapees HOPs offer incredible experiences designed to fuel your adventurous spirit. Here's your chance to register for some of our upcoming adventures.

HAWAII CRUISE HOP

November 19—December 6, 2025

\$2,089—\$2,689—per person double occupancy

\$3,452—\$4,532—Single rate

ROSE PARADE HOP

December 27—January 3, 2026 • Pasadena, California

Two-person rig—\$3,000

One-person rig—\$1,900

Each additional person—\$1,100

SWITZERLAND AND ITALY— ALPINE LAKES AND SCENIC TRAINS HOP

April 19–29, 2026 • Zurich, Switzerland

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You may register online or by phone for land HOPs.

Register for cruises by calling 936-329-6499.

For current information on all the HOPs, visit: www.escapees.com/hops.

*The prices you see are calculated from the mid-west. Your flight cost may change based on your location.

Events Calendar

Join us at one of these rallies or National events!

DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	REGISTRATION
NOVEMBER 2025			
03-07	FL Lake Wales, Escapees Resort Getaway	National	www.escapees.com
07-09	TX Livingston, RVers Boot Camp	RVers Boot Camp	www.escapees.com
08-16	AZ Quartzsite, D&D Odyssey Convergence	Xscapers/National	www.xscapers.com
14-16	TX Livingston, Beyond RVers Boot Camp	Beyond RVers Boot Camp	www.escapees.com
19-Dec 6	HI Kailua/Kona, Hawaii Cruise HOP	HOP/National	www.escapees.com
23-Dec 1	AZ Tombstone, Friendsgiving Convergence	Xscapers/National	www.xscapers.com
DECEMBER 2025			
08-13	CA Oroville, Feather Falls RV Park	24	916-671-2236
27-Jan 1	CA Pasadena, Rose Parade HOP	HOP/National	www.escapees.com
29-Jan 1	AZ Quartzsite, New Years Eve Convergence	Xscapers/National	www.xscapers.com
JANUARY 2026			
10-18	AZ Lake Havasu City, Xscapers Annual Bash	Xscapers/National	www.xscapers.com
15-18	TX Comfort, Comfort RV Resort	11	210-683-4924
FEBRUARY 2026			
10-16	AZ Lake Havasu City, Winter Blast Hangout	Hangouts/National	www.escapees.com
APRIL 2026			
03-05	TX Livingston, RVers Boot Camp	RVers Boot Camp	www.escapees.com
10-12	TX Livingston, Beyond RVers Boot Camp	BeyondRVers Boot Camp	www.escapees.com
12-19	TX Port Aransas, Pioneer RV Resort	11	210-683-4924
19-29	CH Zurich, S-Italy Alpine Lakes/Scenic Trains HOP	HOP/National	www.escapees.com
20-27	SC Hollywood, Lake Aire RV Park	29	803-372-2998
MAY 2026			
27-June 1	CO Westcliffe, Grape Creek RV Park	02	404-428-3063
JUNE 2026			
June 14-19	ME Fryeburg, 65th Escapade	National	www.escapees.com

THE EVENTS CALENDAR is reserved for chapter, certified BoF groups and National events. All submissions must be in writing. Deadline for submissions for the January/February issue is November 10. Submissions should be sent on an official *Escapees* Magazine Chapter/BoF report form to editor@escapees.com.

Chapter 8 Mexican Connection ¡Why Copper Canyon! 2026 Rally

February 16th March 5th 2026

The destination for 2026 Chapter 8 Mexican Connection rally is Copper Canyon on mainland Mexico. If you have not heard of Copper Canyon, it is worth doing some research, but here is the short version: Copper Canyon, or Barrancas del Cobre in Spanish, is a group of six distinct canyons in the Sierra Madre Occidental, in the southwestern part of the state of Chihuahua, in northwestern Mexico that is 65,000 square kilometers (25,000 sq mi) in size. The canyons were formed by six rivers that drain the western side of the Sierra Tarahumara (a part of the Sierra Madre Occidental). All six rivers merge into the Rio Fuerte and empty into the Sea of Cortez. The walls of the canyon are a copper/green color, which is the origin of the name. The canyon is more than three times the size of the Grand Canyon.

We will start our rally on the American side of the border at Why, Arizona, on February 16th. From there we will make our Lukeville border crossing on February 18th and make our way to Puerto Peñasco where we will spend four nights overlooking the Sea of Cortez. From there, we will make the trip to Guaymas where we will spend another four nights before we get back in our rigs and make our trek inland to El Fuerte in the Mexican state of Sinaloa. El Fuerte, meaning “The Fort,” was given a Pueblo Magico (“Magical Town”) touristic label in 2009, due to its many attractions, its historical importance and its appealing small-town colonial aura.

This is where this rally differs from the normal Chapter 8 rallies. You cannot drive your motorhome up to the canyon and if you did there are no parking facilities once you arrive. Some might have heard about the adventures years ago when they would load the RVs onto flatcars on the train and you would ride and stay in your RV. As great as it sounds, it ceased years ago because of safety concerns. We will be leaving our rigs in El Fuerte and boarding the Chepe train for what promises to be a memorable and picturesque ride through the beautiful landscape traveling through tunnels and over countless train trestles on our way to Divisadero. This brings us to another oddity about this rally. Pets are not allowed on the Chepe trains, so we will be leaving our pets with our rigs in the hands of a pet sitter for the three nights we will be spending in the canyon.



When our stay in the canyon is complete, we will take the train back to El Fuerte for three more nights where we will end our adventures with our farewell dinner on March 5th at the Hotel Posada del Hidalgo, which is believed to have been the original birthplace of young Diego de la Vega, also known as “El Zorro.”

Note: The map above shows the route that we will be taking in our RVs. Please remember that we will be leaving our rigs in El Fuerte while we are in Copper Canyon and then returning to our rigs in El Fuerte where we will end our rally. Afterwards many will travel to other places in Mexico on what we call “Add-on- Trips”. These trips are less formal and activities and routes are decided upon by the individual groups, but provide you the opportunity to explore more of what Mexico has to offer at your own pace.

Limited space is available please check us out on our Facebook Page or if you have questions, feel free to e-mail with any specific questions that you might have.

Sign up for this rally scheduled to begin on October 1st and we are expecting spots to fill up quickly for this rally to this bucket list destination. Make your plan and hope to see you in Why!

Wagonmaster: Wayne Klindworth • wagonmasterch8@gmail.com

Assistant Wagonmaster: Bill Michael

SKP Dine-outs

ARIZONA

Tonopah: Taco Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., *moving meal meeting place*. Call or text to confirm, Mike: 602-325-3171, Ajo: 602-380-7932, ajo@thecatdragdinn.org

Wickenburg: Visit the Chapter 32 website or contact one of the officers for date and location. Wayne Huckelberry: 805-266-8390, wayneh16@juno.com

Yuma: 2nd Wed, 10 a.m., *AmVets Post 2*, 8889 S Frontage Rd. Bob Harnish: 936-933-4049, Nov-April

CALIFORNIA

Clovis: 1st Thurs, 11:15 a.m., *Denny's Restaurant*, 710 W Shaw Ave. 936-612-3216. Wayne Zimmerman: 559-638-1631

Redding: 2nd Tues, 11:00 a.m., *Vittles Restaurant*, 2385 North St., Anderson. Jim Rogers: 530-347-1878 jrogers5@sbcglobal.net

Sacramento: 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Brookfield's Restaurant*, 4343 Madison Ave. Exception: 1st Wednesday in July, August, September, October and December due to campouts the second week. Kathy Honig: 916-366-1436, pkhonig@sbcglobal.net or www.goldnugget24.org

Southern California area: 4th Sat, 9 a.m. breakfast, *Marie Callender's*, 6950 Alvarado Rd, San Diego. Meeting follows at 10 a.m., also available on Zoom. Larry Rice: 619-368-5295 larrydrice@aol.com

COLORADO

Englewood: 2nd Tues, 12 p.m., *Golden Corral*, 4000 River Point Pkwy. Linda Gilmore: 303-349-8845 president@skpschapter2.org

FLORIDA

Zephyrhills: 1st Thurs, 11 a.m., *Golden Corral*, 6855 Gall Blvd., Russell Sens: 941-730-3755 rsens2672per@yahoo.com, Oct-April

MISSOURI

Springfield: 2nd Fri, 12.30 p.m., *Golden Corral (off Glenstone)*, 2020 E. Primrose Place. Vernon Eide: 417-209-8650

NEVADA

Pahrump: 2nd Mon, 11:30 a.m., Email or call for the location of the current month's luncheon. Julie Klein: juliecklein@gmail.com or 210-268-4031, Sept-May

Reno: 1st Wed, 1 p.m., *Gold 'N Silver Inn Restaurant*, 790 W 4th St. Adrian Jones: adrianandrebecca@att.net

NEW MEXICO

Lakewood: Ladies coffee every Fri, 10 a.m. Mens coffee every Tues, 8:30 a.m. For more information, 575-457-2303 or skpranch22@pvtn.net

OREGON

Medford: 2nd Tues, 11 a.m., *E Imer's Restaurant*, 2000 Biddle Rd. Ken Webber: 541-944-2354 ken2354@aol.com

Gladstone: 4th Mon, 11 a.m., *High Rocks Restaurant*, 915 Arlington St. Nancy Steward: 360-513-8724 dcstew3@gmail.com

TENNESSEE

Crossville: 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Vegas Steakhouse*, 3152 North Main St., Marcia Espander: 505-975-0387 mystuff4sale@att.net

TEXAS

Livingston: 2nd Fri, 1:30 p.m. every month unless there's a rally, *Location varies*. Contact Ann Heureax: 865-556-2253, raheureuxoo@gmail.com

WASHINGTON

Maple valley: 1st Thurs, 11:00 a.m., *Stockton's Restaurant*, 23220 Maple Valley Black Diamond Rd SE. Larry: 206-849-0205 larrybaumgart@comcast.net

Mount Vernon: 1st Wed, 11:00 a.m., *Royal Star Buffet*, 2300 Freeway Dr. (across from Walmart) I 5 College St. Exit, W to Freeway, Drive N to restaurant. Ron/Bonnie: 425-218-2839 bonniehough2@gmail.com

CANADA

AB (location TBA): 2nd Wed, 12 p.m. Check Chapter 44 website to verify locations and times. Fay VandenBerg: fayjohn@shaw.ca, 403 380-0141

BC, Nanaimo: 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Smitty's*, in the Southgate Mall, 117-50 Tenth Street. Linda Henton: lfhenton@gmail.com, April-Oct, except June and Sept

ON, Talbotville: 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., *Wayside Restaurant*, 10680 Sunset Rd. Sharon Sandau: 519-862-2152 sdsandau@teksavvy.com. May-Nov

ON, Barrie: 1st Thurs, 12:30 p.m., *Mandarin Restaurant*, 28 Fairview Rd. Peta: 705-728-5639, petaarends@gmail.com

Join fellow Escapees for any one of these regional dine-outs. Please confirm the time and location of luncheons before making plans to attend.

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60+ YEARS



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Chapter Map—Let's Get Together!



E-mail chapterdirectors@escapees.com to start a chapter in your area.



A Word from Our Group Director

By **WENDY STANWOOD** #170314, Chapter/BoF Director

What an exciting year starting off with a large turnout in Quartzsite for Party on Plomosa, to Escapade in Tucson. If you have not checked out the many Escapees Chapters and BoF groups, I encourage you to see if any are of interest and join in the fun. There have been a lot of ideas and interest in the formation of new groups, and we hope to hear from others who may wish to form chapters in their area or BoFs of special interest to you and then, join in the fun. If you would like more information, please contact us at chapterdirectors@escapees.com for assistance. I can't wait to see what 2026 brings us. If you plan to be in Quartzsite, Arizona, on January 21, 2026, we'd like to invite you to join us at the Escapees Quartzsite Happy Hour

(Party on Plomosa) from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. MST for an afternoon of food, fun and friends! There will be live music by the Status Crowes, along with a few of our Chapters, BoFs and SKP Co-Ops set up to visit. Grab a friend, bring a chair and your favorite beverage and come join us, approximately three miles out on Plomosa Rd. You'll see the big Escapees trailer and signs. Everyone is welcome, both members and non-members.

Wishing you all happy holidays and a wonderful new year! 🚐

Always remember: "We Travel Not to Escape Life, But for Life Not to Escape Us!"

—AUTHOR NWEKE PASCAL

Calling All Chapters—Escapees Regional Groups

See the map for a chapter near you.

CHAPTER NUMBER	CHAPTER NAME	CHAPTER PRESIDENT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
2	Rocky Mtn. High	Maggi Parris	404-428-3063	president@skpschapter2.org
5	Evergreen	Sharon Eberly	360-204-1185	foreverrebs@hotmail.com
6	Great Lakes	Bill Daines	269-806-3043	bd1770@aol.com
8	Mexican Connection	Cynthia Ponder	515-991-9049	cynacat@gmail.com
9	Oregon Trails	TBD		
10	Rainbow Chapter	David Horton	563-529-6181	dhorton2@aol.com
11	Alamo Area SKPs	Ken Dixon	210-218-7656	kennethdixon1@ATT.net
14	Lucky Rollers	Charlene Darling	603-686-6184	wheel4home218@yahoo.com
17	Ozark Chapter	Alvin Baker	918-378-7117	bakerskp17@gmail.com
18	Maple Leaf	Howard Krakower	613-829-3587	howardkrakower@yahoo.com
21	Arizona Saguaros	Michael T. Burger	989-930-9919	mikeburger.skp@gmail.com
24	Gold Nugget	Brian Tisdale	916-671-2236	badraddad@icloud.com
25	Shanty Shakers	Larry La Brack	619-972-0486	larrylabrack@cox.net
29	Carolina Rovers	Craig Rickenbach	803-372-2998	carickenbach@gmail.com
32	Yavapai	Charles Carter	316-651-7710	cecarter39@yahoo.com
34	Columbia River SKPs	Nancy Steward	360-513-8724	dcstew3@gmail.com
37	Rogue Valley Rovers	Ken Webber	541-944-2354	ken2354@aol.com
42	KEN/TENN	Penny Rudicil	615-947-1706	escapeeschap42kytn@gmail.com
44	Alberta Roamers	John VandenBerg	403-380 0141	fayjohn@shaw.ca
46	Lincolnland	Michael Huffine	618-559-3107	huffinemichael@yahoo.com
51	Hoosier Neighbor	Vernon Berg	219-608-1148	berg3025@comcast.net
57	Florida Sun Gators	Russell Sens	941-730-3755	rsens2672per@yahoo.com
58	Rocky Mountain Country Coachers	Jamie Erickson	505-330-1380	larryerickson9935@comcast.net
59	The Desert Roadrunners	Jack Mayberry		emayberry@comcast.net

For more details about a chapter, visit www.escapees.com/chapters.

SKP Co-Ops

Parks owned and operated by individual member groups of Escapees. And available only to Escapees Members.

		 Daily Member	 Daily Nonmember	 Weekly Member	 Weekly Nonmember	 Monthly Member	 Monthly Nonmember
ARIZONA	SAGUARO CO-OP 600 E. Saguaro Dr., #245, Benson, AZ 85602 520-586-7343, Fax: 520-586-4683, skpsaguaro@gmail.com, www.skpsaguaro.org	\$32 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$166 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$465 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax
	ROVERS ROOST 3241 S. Montgomery Rd., Casa Grande, AZ 85193 For current rates visit RoVersRoost.com or call the office at 520-426-3589 Fax: 520-421-0105, rovers_roost@yahoo.com, www.roversroost.com	\$30	-	-	-	-	-
	KOFA KO-OP 3750 E. County 17th St., Yuma, AZ 85365 928-344-0645, 928-344-0900, office@kofako-op.com, www.kofako-op.com	\$30	Incl Elec	\$140	+ Elec & tax	\$465	+ Elec & tax
CALIFORNIA	JOJOBA HILLS RESORT 45120 Hwy. 79 S., Aguanga, CA 92536 951-767-9130, office@jojobahills.com, www.jojobahills.com	\$45 limited	+ Elec	\$270	+ Elec	-	-
	PARK SIERRA 45323 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-206-9907, parksierra@skppos.com, https://parkofthesierras.org/	\$42	Incl Elec, WiFi & CTV	\$260	Incl Elec Incl WiFi & CTV	\$695	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV
FLORIDA	FL SKP RESORT 2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873 For seasonal rates and long term discounts, see website https://fl-skp-resort.org/rental-rates/		+ Elec	-	-	-	-
NEVADA	PAIR-A-DICE 5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048 775-727-7221, Fax: 775-727-3966, spairadice@gmail.com	\$30	Incl Elec	\$150	Incl Elec	\$450	+ Elec
NEW MEXICO	THE RANCH PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254 575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, skpranch22@pvt.net, www.skpranch.com	\$23	+ Tax Incl Elec	\$161	+ Tax Incl Elec	\$450	+ Elec & Tax
OREGON	TIMBER VALLEY 800 S. State St., Sutherlin, OR 97479 541-459-4465, skptimbr@rosenet.net, www.timbervalleyskp.com	\$40	Incl Elec	\$240	Incl Elec	\$500	+ Elec
TEXAS	LONE STAR CORRAL 131 Private Rd. 5240, Hondo, TX 78861 830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, info@lonestarcoral.com, www.lonestarcoral.com	\$22	+ Elec	\$120	+ Elec	\$350	+ Elec
WASHINGTON	EVERGREEN COHO 2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chimacum, WA 98325 360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, evergreen.coho@gmail.com, www.cohoskp.com	\$33-41 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$198- 248 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$595- 619	+ Elec



Accepts Online Bookings!

MISSOURI 	TURKEY CREEK RV VILLAGE 1376 US 65 Business S., Hollister, MO 65672 417-335-8004, Fax: 417-335-4644, turkeycreek@escapees.com, www.turkeycreek.escapeesrvparks.com	\$26	\$32	\$156	\$192	\$395- \$515	\$430- \$550
TEXAS 	RAINBOW'S END 140 Escapees Dr., Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, rainbowsend@escapees.com, www.rainbowsend.escapeesrvparks.com	\$25 \$27	\$31- \$33	\$150 \$162	\$186 \$198	\$375+ \$395+	\$410+ \$430+

- The plus symbol (+) is used to indicate "plus electric." Additional charges may apply for 50-amp electric, pull-thru and/or additional occupants.
- Prices are subject to change without notice. Contact parks for hours of operation and to verify rental fees before arrival.
- Receiving mail at Escapees Parks: Route your mail to General Delivery, City, State and Zip Code. Verify zip code by calling: 800-275-8777.
- Availability of rental spaces at SKP Co-Ops depends on members putting their lots into a rental pool while they travel. During the popular season, there may be few spaces left to rent. Call in advance to check the availability of rental sites.

EVENTS AND EXTRAS

Jojoba Hills SKP Co-Op: Aguanga, CA

Join in the fun of many social activities. Enjoy pickleball, tennis, swimming, hiking, nightly games and Friday happy hour. Deserts and beaches are only one hour away. *Sunset* magazine calls nearby Temecula, "Disneyland for adults."

Pair-A-Dice SKP Co-Op: Pahrump, NV

Come check us out between Las Vegas and Death Valley. There are several state parks nearby and lots of off-road opportunities. First-time visitors are charged a rate of \$100 + electric for the first week.

Park Sierra SKP Co-Op: Coarsegold, CA

Park Sierra is 25 miles from the southern entrance to Yosemite. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are only a day trip away! Winter months are mild, and the spring wildflowers are glorious. Guests can enjoy our pickleball court. Solar is coming to our Park soon. Visitors can enjoy \$50 off a week's stay! Visit our website or call for reservations.

RoVers Roost SKP Co-Op: Casa Grande, AZ

Max RV length is 40'. First-time visitors will receive three days free when they pay for one week (\$150, plus tax/elec). May to Sept. Office hours are limited. Please call ahead. Explore many activities from this central location. Activities update provided at Mon.-Wed.-Fri. social hours. Visit the website or call for details.

Saguaro SKP Co-Op: Benson, AZ

Located 45 miles east of Tucson in Benson, AZ, Saguaro Co-Op is bustling with activities. We are also the gateway to Kartchner Caverns State Park, Chiricahua National Monument, and the historic towns of Tombstone and Bisbee. First-time visitors can stay for one week at 50% off (plus elec/tax).

The Ranch SKP Co-Op: Lakewood, NM

Are you planning a trip to Carlsbad Caverns or the Guadalupe Mountains National Park? Then, we're your place to stay: large sites, reverse osmosis water. First-timers one-week special: \$75 + elec and tax. Visit the website for details.

The Florida SKP Resort Co-Op: Wauchula, FL

Compare our seasonal rates with other resorts in the area. While exploring, ask how to become a full-time lot holder. The Website has more information. Visit <http://fl-skp-resort.org> or call 863-735-1499.

Lone Star Corral Co-Op: Hondo, TX

First-time Escapees visitors will receive 50% off one week's stay, plus electric. Offer not valid for December or the last full week in February. Your extended stay will allow you to explore the San Antonio area and Texas Hill Country. In addition, the park is only a two- to three-hour drive from the Gulf Coast and Mexico.

Timber Valley Co-Op: Sutherlin, OR

Join us in Oregon's banana belt. Large lots; more privacy. Costco has five chain grocery outlets within 12 miles. Walk to restaurants, churches and other amenities. Award-winning wineries, fishing, forest trails and wildlife. Waterfalls, 50 miles; the ocean, 70 miles. Stay six nights and get a seventh night free!

Evergreen CoHo: Chimacum, WA

Explore Washington's Olympic Peninsula from Seattle to Victoria, B.C. You can enjoy art, biking, birding, breweries, casinos, cideries, concerts, distilleries, festivals, fresh local foods, hiking, kayaking, live music, wineries/wine routes and whale watching. Stay up to six months beginning October 1 (depart by May 31). Reserve now at Evergreen Coho SKP Park. Call 360-385-6538.

55+ Park	30 AMP	50 AMP	# of Sites	ERPU Sites	Lease Lots	Pull-thru	Dry-camping	Storage	WiFi	Reservations	Activity Center	Clubhouse	Laundry	Dog Run	Pet Friendly
-	✓	✓	297	n/a	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	118	n/a	✓	N	✓	-	✓	N	N	✓	✓	N	✓
✓	✓	✓	152	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	283	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	254	n/a	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	140	n/a	✓	N	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	182	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	118	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	206	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	130	n/a	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	175	n/a	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	68	0	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	130	24	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Only Escapees members may purchase an SKP Co-Op membership (when one is available), and that membership entitles them to use a specified lot until they are deceased or sell the membership back to the corporation. Each SKP Co-Op sets its own rules and is self-governing with a board of directors elected by the members. Members share in the financial responsibilities of the SKP Co-Op. Operating expenses are shared equally among the membership by way of an annual maintenance fee. Most SKP Co-Op sites have buildings and other improvements that may add several thousand dollars to the buy-in price. Most also have a waiting list. Call individual parks for more information.

RVers Good Neighbor Policy

Overnight Parking Etiquette

Dear Fellow RVers,

The Good Neighbor Policy was created in the early 90s by Escapees RV Club. Since then, it has become the industry standard code of conduct for overnight parking. We hope that the Good Neighbor Policy serves as a reminder that RVers must be respectful of the communities they visit.

Some of the most respected RV consumer clubs have joined Escapees to support your privilege to park on private businesses' property overnight under the following code of conduct:

Industry-sanctioned Code of Conduct (RVers Good Neighbor Policy)

1. Stay one night only!
2. Obtain permission from a qualified individual.
3. Obey posted regulations.
4. No awnings, chairs or barbecue grills.
5. Do not use hydraulic jacks on soft surfaces (including asphalt).
6. Always leave an area cleaner than you found it.
7. Purchase gas, food or supplies as a form of thank you, when feasible.
8. Be safe! Always be aware of your surroundings and leave if you feel unsafe.

**Preserve the privilege of overnight parking.
Follow the code and encourage others to follow it, too!**

If your plans include touring the area, staying for more than one night, or necessitate conduct not within the code, please relocate to a local campground. It's the right thing to do!

Most of the complaints lodged regarding RV parking on business parking lots have to do with aesthetics and perceived abuse of the privilege. There are a variety of competing interests that were balanced to arrive at this industry-sanctioned code of conduct. As you can see, the code of conduct is nothing more than an RVers "Good Neighbor" policy.

Not following the code has serious consequences and is detrimental to the rights of all RVers. Already, some municipalities have passed ordinances to prohibit parking on private business property overnight.

Please do not take offense to this letter; it is only provided as a reminder that RVers must be perceived as good neighbors or there will be more pressure to institute state, county and local ordinances to prohibit parking on private business property.

We wish you safe and happy travels,

 **ESCAPEES RV Club®**

Download a copy of the RVers Good Neighbor Policy at www.escapees.com/benefits/rv-advocacy



Birds of a Feather (BoFs)

Escapees Special Interest Groups

Escapees Birds of a Feather (BoF) groups share lifestyle interests. Expand your talents and share your knowledge. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, you are welcome.

BOONDOCKERS BOF

Alternative Medicine: Our newsletter is about, but not limited to, herbs, vitamins, dietary ideas, natural healing and attaining and maintaining health. I also send BoF Extras and Bits&Pieces. Free e-newsletter. Send SKP# and e-mail address to thrivebydesignonline@outlook.com. Please include BoF or Escapees in the subject line. Joyce Langley #147115. 164 CR 2127, PO Box 302, Burkeville, TX 75932

Amateur Radio: SKPradio is for Escapees members who are licensed or are interested in becoming amateur radio operators. To join the amateur radio BoF, submit a subscription request at our BoF site, <http://skpradio.org>. There are no dues to belong to this group.

AVA America's Walking Club: AVA is a nationwide network of walking clubs. Its members arrange walks to local points of interest. We host walks throughout the year, and you're welcome to join America's Walking Club's events. The cost per person, per walk, is \$3. Membership in America's Walking Club is encouraged but not required. Members can earn pins and patches. To join BoF, send your name, SKP# and address to Susan Alton: avabof@aol.com

Bikes, Boots 'n Paddles: Casual group (no dues/no newsletter) for those who like to read about or participate in cycling, walking and hiking and/or paddling activities. Meet at Escapades and informal gatherings or share experiences online. Share routes, trails, locations, equipment and photos. Facebook: "SKP Bikes, Boots 'N Paddles BoF." Contact Lee Harris: lee@battleboardstudios.com

Balloon Crew RVers: This informal group (no dues or officers) publicizes and encourages volunteer crewing for pilots at hot air balloon events around the country. The main Escapees BoF gathering will be crewing at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta every October. Members will also be connected with balloon pilots and festivals needing volunteer crew at other events and receive ongoing safety training through the BoF. History: For at least 20 years, Escapees members have attended the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta through various groups -- Boomers BoF, HOP, Xscapers, Solos, etc. This new BoF would expand the geographic areas for those interested in crewing for hot air balloon pilots at a variety of festivals in addition to AIBF. Please contact: Tina Caparella at ballooncrewrvs@gmail.com

Bird Watchers and Lovers: Casual group for those who enjoy all things birds and birding. Whether it's watching your feeding station or traveling the globe to birding festivals and hot spots, or anything in between, this group is for you. No dues/no newsletter. Through our Facebook Group we share information about where we like to see birds as well as interesting sightings and experiences. We also share information about festivals and events. Meet at Escapades or at birding festivals or just enjoy online camaraderie. Facebook: BoF Bird Watchers and Lovers. Joyce Casey, linkbeak@gmail.com

Boomers: Casual group (no rules/no officers/no cost) for those who have a youthful mindset. Members enjoy hiking, bead-ing, biking, reading, 4-wheel driving or just sitting around the campfire. Monthly e-newsletter and Facebook group provide opportunities to share the RVing experience. Impromptu gatherings will pop up several times a year. Send your name and SKP# to: boomerBoF@gmail.com

Boondockers: Casual group (no dues) enjoying the dry-camping lifestyle. Bimonthly newsletter lists rendezvous. (Dry-camp spots not listed.) Stan/Mikki Vincent, subscription coordinators; Darryl and Judy Wilson, editors. To join, go to Facebook: SKP Boondockers BOF

Boot Camp Graduates: For SKPs who have graduated from Escapees RVers Boot Camp or Beyond RVers Boot Camp and want to maintain a connection with other graduates. The goal is to promote safety and education for graduates of the programs. A monthly maintenance tip will be sent out to each member of the BoF. Gatherings will be held during the Escapade Boot Camp. To join, send your name and e-mail address, year and location of the Boot Camp you attended to Jim Koca: bootcampbof@harvesthosts.com

Christian Fellowship: The Christian Fellowship BoF is a gathering of Escapees believers drawing together to form a mobile church-without-walls for fellowship, fun, worship, spiritual growth and serving communities. We pray for and encourage one another without focusing on denominationalism. We meet at Christian Fellowship BoF rallies. Membership is free. Visit cfbof.com, or our Facebook Group (SKP Christian Fellowship BOF). For more information, contact Linda Heath at SKP.CFBOF@gmail.com

Content Creators: A group for anyone who publishes their RV adventures to any social media platform. We discuss content and growth strategies, techniques, monetization and the ability to generate income. We coordinate meetups and collaboration videos throughout the year. Stuart Takehara: stuart@claimthevision.com

● **DOVE (the Doves) • C-BoF:** Natural disasters rarely give us notice. The time volunteers give is crucial. When finances are at crisis levels in many organizations, the American Red Cross needs all the volunteer time (and money) we can give. Join the DOVES and partner with the Red Cross to fill real needs. We'll help to train and pair you with the right disaster response activity to provide life-sustaining assistance. For info, visit: www.dovebof.org or contact John Vicenti, at president@dovebof.org, or Don, at membership@dovebof.org 210-268-3931. Yearly dues: \$10


BALLOON CREW RVERS BOF

***NEW* Follow Me to Mexico:** For experienced RV travelers in Mexico who enjoy the fun, adventure and safety of travel with other Escapees in a spontaneous and unstructured way. Any member can post their idea and preferred dates for a trip on the private Facebook page "SKP Follow me to Mexico BOF" and connect with other members who want to come along. These groups should be small, so reservations will not generally be required, and camping will often be without hookups. Nightly happy hours will give travelers a chance to connect and plan the next day. There are no dues and no officers. Simply Escapees connecting with other Escapees who love RVing in Mexico. To join, search us on Facebook, and be sure to answer all membership questions. For info, text Dory at 469-463-9581.

Foodies & Tipplers: A community of people who share a passion for exploring and enjoying the culinary world through food and food pairings. This is a special interest group for those who are interested in food, in general, and/or upscale food and food pairings (with wine, beer, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages). Looking to share tips on cooking restaurant-quality meals while on the road in an RV. What did you pair with it and why it worked and/or why it did not. Looking to also share recommendations for places to try: to include farm-to-table venues, up-and-coming new chefs/restaurants in places folks have visited, etc. This could be places like restaurants, breweries, wineries, distilleries, Harvest Host, etc. (no chain restaurants, please!). Join our Facebook page SKP_Foodies & Tipplers BOF. Please e-mail Katie and Mike Burke at SKF_FanT_BOF@googlegroups.com

Freethinkers: The focus of this BoF is information, support and community for atheists, agnostics, skeptics and all those who reject supernatural belief. This BoF serves as a virtual meeting place and forum for like-minded SKPs. We have a website with a forum, newsletter and private Facebook page. Media in electronic/membership is free. Visit www.skpfreethinkers.com or contact Howard Replogle, at: howardreplogle@SKPfreethinkers.com

Friends of Bill W: This group meets at Escapades and other Escapees gatherings. There are no dues or fees. Find a meeting or stay in contact with each other while traveling. Contact Rachel King, Rachel3223@yahoo.com or 229-834-4776. Search for our Facebook group, at "SKP BOF FOB" and follow questions to request joining.

Full Time RVers: This group shares the highs and lows of full-time life on the road. Whether it's tips for great stays, managing work/play or simply questions or advice, this BoF is designed for RVers who live full-time in their RV. We communicate via a private Facebook group, and members are free to meet at Escapades or plan their own get togethers. To join, search FB for "SKP Full Time RVers" (Note no hyphen!) and answer the questions. For more info, reach out to Eileen at leen_brown@hotmail.com

Genealogy: SKP Genies. This group is all about friendship and family history. All communication is shared through a private Facebook group: SKP Genealogy BoF. There are no dues, and the only membership requirement is to be a current member of Escapees. Contact Albert, at: skpgenies@gmail.com or SKP Genealogy BoF, 142 Rainbow Dr., #4228, Livingston, TX 77399-1042.

Geocache: We provide a link enabling members to connect with other SKP geocachers, share information, learn from others and discover if other SKP geocachers are nearby. The BoF hosts an annual multi-day rally, in Quartzsite, AZ, in late January, featuring morning seminars and afternoon caching outings. Communication is via Facebook or e-mail. No dues/fees. To join, contact Wendy: skpgeocacheBoF@gmail.com. Include address, names, SKP#, phone# and geocaching handle.

Handicapped Travel Club: HTC is a national organization encouraging people with disabilities and their families to travel, meet and share information on making RVs accessible for the disabled. "Fun and Fellowship" is our motto. Learn more, at www.handicappedtravelclub.com. As an Escapees BoF, we meet at Escapades to learn from each other, to promote accessible activities, excursions and vendors making RVing accessible. Membership in the national organization is encouraged but not required. To join, send your SKP# to Brad Bartz: bradbartz@hotmail.com

Hitches and Stitches: No muss, no fuss (no dues), chat in our private Facebook group, BoF Hitches and Stitches. Projects include working with fabrics by hand or machine, clothes, quilts, embroidery or crafts. We love them all. Share your successes and ask for help with the oops projects. Contact Karla, at: karlakmika@gmail.com

Jeepers: Casual group that enjoys off-roading. No rules. No officers. No cost. We meet at Escapades, Xscapers events and on Jeep trails. Join us on Facebook: Off Road Jeepers BoF. Be sure to enter your SKP #. Email: JeepersBoF@gmail.com for assistance

Low-Carb Lifestyle: If you're eating low-carb, join us! We're here to support and encourage each other online as well as during Convergences or at our meetups. Recipes and tips are welcome. We meet online in our Facebook group. Send your name and SKP# to Jacqueline, at hudsonjacqueline88@gmail.com, contact Lauren, at: desertlemon@gmail.com or Melissa, at: melissakadorian@gmail.com

Maple Valley 55 + RVers: A community-based Escapees group organized to socialize and share a common interest in RVing. The group is comprised of local Maple Valley, Washington, resident RV owners who are retired, about to or wannabe retired. We will endeavor to conform to the 333 rule of RVing, that is about at least three-night stays, around 300 miles in travel and be in by 3:00 p.m. We anticipate scheduling annual rallies in 2025. We'll meet once a month at Stocktons, a local restaurant. Contact: larrybaumgart@comcast.net

Nomadic Families: Brings RV families together to share info about our lifestyle and promote exploration and freedom while still maintaining a sense of community. It's a place for traveling kids/teens to make lasting connections with others, where they are treated as equals and encouraged to explore their surroundings, unhindered by societal standards. Our goals are to have many events each year, support Escapees/Xscaper family events and encourage our members to form their own gatherings. Contact: bofnomadicfamilies@gmail.com

NOMADS: Mission volunteers who travel with a purpose. A ministry dedicated to rebuilding lives, homes and facilities with God's love and our hands. We do new construction, remodeling and repairs for churches, children's homes, camps, colleges, outreach missions and

disaster rebuilding. We provide volunteer labor for historically Methodist organizations. Regular projects are for three weeks. Disaster rebuilding projects may be for one week or more. Parking (W/E/S incl.) is furnished. For a project list or to join, visit: www.methodistnomads.org. Suzanne: k5uuu@arll.net

NudeScapers: Do you enjoy escaping the world of textiles? This group was created as a community for all active members of Escapees who enjoy wholesome nude recreation, specifically while RVing. Whether you already consider yourself a nudist or a naturist or if you are interested in exploring the beautiful aspects of this lifestyle, we are here for you! We aim to be your resource for all things nudist, answering questions and helping you build relationships with others in our BoF community. Join this free BoF by e-mailing befree@nudesappers.com

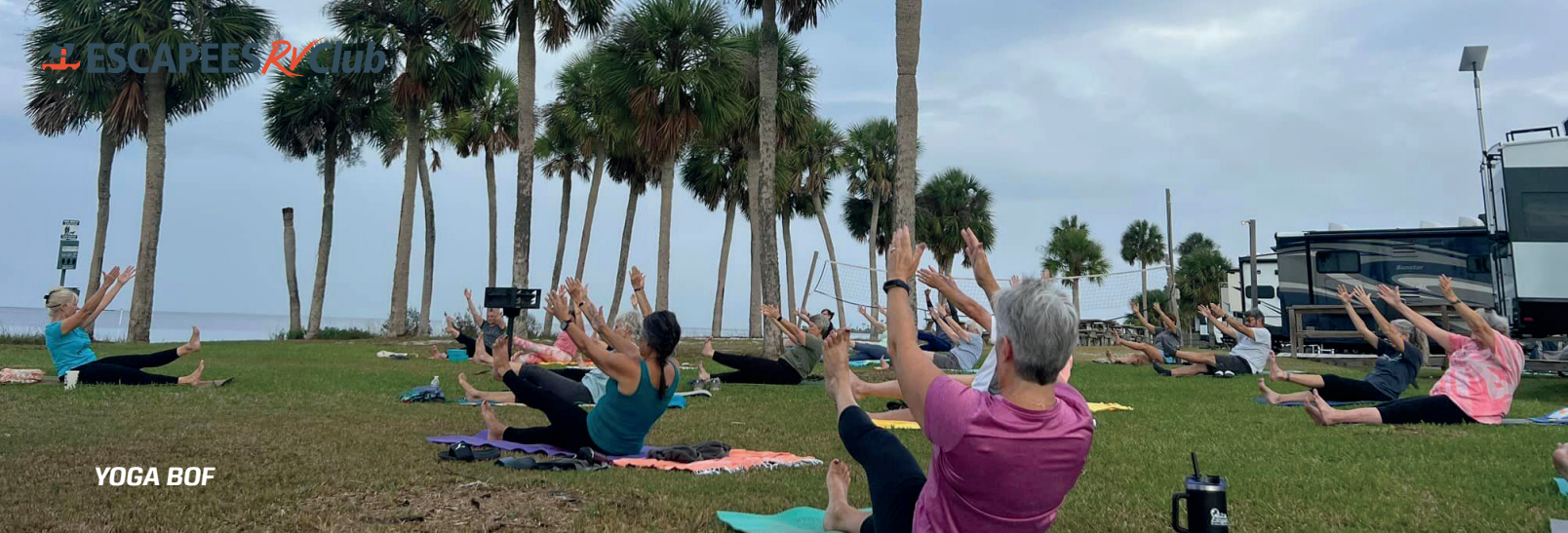
Penwheels: Quarterly e-letter inspires writers in all styles of writing, published or not. We have a Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/591028212965105>, or search for Penwheels BoF. (Answer 3 questions to join) Send your name and SKP# to Joanne Alexakis, at joalexakis@earthlink.net, to receive newsletter or contact the editor, Ellen Behrens, at penwheels@yahoo.com

Pet Lovers: For people who love animals. All pets welcome. Join our Facebook group. Stay connected with animal-loving Escapees; receive notices of rallies and socials at Escapade. Melissa (Missy) Scott, melissa.scott237@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/groups/EscapadesPetLovers

Photographers: For all photographers, casual to serious. Our goal is to help members have fun with photography and to improve their skills through our free online newsletter, meetings at Escapades/rallies and in-the-field photo outings. To contact fellow photographers, go to: www.facebook.com/groups/skpphotobof



PROSPECTING AND METAL DETECTING BOF



YOGA BOF

Prospecting and Metal Detecting: Teach and share tips and information. To join our Yahoo! group SKP-PandMD, contact Ken Parsons by e-mail: rwsp606@gmail.com, to get roster and newsletters. By e-mail, \$10/person; mailed, \$15 a year. We get together yearly for a week of prospecting and fun. Paid members have access to claims all year. Make checks payable to Peggy Devine, treasurer, 2121 E Keenan Way, Pahrump, NV 89048. kokopeggi@gmail.com

Red State Ramblers: A community of RV enthusiasts, full-time, part-time and recreational, who connect over a shared appreciation for traditional values, personal freedoms and a deep love for America. We're a group of folks who value respectful conversation, faith, patriotism and supporting those who serve our country, including Veterans and first responders. While we're not a political group, many of us share an outlook rooted in traditional beliefs. We welcome those who are looking for a like-minded RVing community that celebrates our country, faith and friendship on the open road. If that sounds like you, we'd love to have you roll with us! Contact: Keith Brown, RedStateRamblers2025@gmail.com or 260-438-9848.

RVICS (Roving Volunteers in Christ's Service): Are you looking for a retirement plan like no other? RVICS is a Christian ministry for retirees seeking service, adventure and fellowship. Our non-denominational, RV-based, volunteer ministry works in teams across the US assisting non-profit Christian camps, churches and schools with maintenance work such as light carpentry, electric, plumbing, landscaping, painting, sewing, cooking and much more. Go to rvics.org for more info or call RVICS Headquarters: 512-237-1289.

● **SOLOs • C-BoF:** A group for single Escapees. Must be a current member. Four online newsletters per year. Member-hosted gatherings and pre-Escapade rallies. Dues: \$11 per year. To join and renew online, go to: skpsolos.org or join and renew in person at the annual meeting, in January, at Quartzsite, Arizona.

SOWERs (Servants on Wheels): A nondenominational ministry of born-again believers, we combine our love of RVing and service to our Lord, as we volunteer to work with other Christian ministries throughout the U.S. and Canada. From our listing of approved ministries, we choose projects and months to work; www.sowerministry.org

Stonewall: Welcomes all gays, lesbians, bis, trans and their friends. As an informal group, we gather at Escapades, Pride events and at Quartzsite, AZ, in January. We also gather on an "impromptu" basis at other events, like Xscapers or Hangouts events. Communication is online, so we can meet each other as travel allows. Free to join/no newsletters, just good times with great people! Contact Sean Miller, at seansmiller1@gmail.com or Sky Renfro, tatmoof@yahoo.com

Tiffin RV Owners: A casual group open to Escapees who own any type of Tiffin RV and are interested in sharing their Tiffin stories, updates, experiences and attending an annual event in

Red Bay, Alabama. The annual event may include local excursions, fellowship and on-site and off-site services. There's no cost to join. All costs for events and services will be the responsibility of the individual BoF member. Whether it's tips for service, discussing challenges or simply asking questions, this BoF is designed for Tiffin RV owners. We will communicate via e-mail and/or a private Facebook group and members are free to meet or plan their own get togethers. To join, e-mail tiffinbof@gmail.com for an application.

Veterans: Our mission is to reach out to all past and future Escapees and Xscapers veterans to provide camaraderie, support, help, and communicate veteran-specific information as you travel. We are a social group of Military Veterans. We intend to spread camaraderie throughout the country as we move from camp to camp and encourage other veterans to attend get-togethers that will be set up. Our primary goal is camaraderie and to inform each other of benefits, facilities, and issues that pertain to veterans. We are apolitical and non-secular. To join, contact Ed Allshouse, edward.allshouse710@aol.com or Paul Jarosz, hoyhunter63@gmail.com

Vintage and Classic RVs: A casual group (no dues) geared towards any Escapees member who owns any type of RV 25 years or older. The BoF serves as a support network for vintage and/or classic RV owners to share renovation/restoration tips, resources and provide camaraderie and support at Escapees events, during travel and through the BoF newsletter. Members are encouraged to camp together at Escapade for camaraderie and optimization of available electrical service and similarity of size/height of RVs. Email: VintageClassicBoF@gmail.com

Wheels of Progress: Politically engaged moderates/progressives committed to constructively addressing public policy at every level of government. By establishing relationships with like-minded SKPs, we facilitate personal meetings. We strive to broaden our understanding of issues, policies and candidates for public office. We seek ways to strengthen our communities, nation and world by using our influence to bring about positive change. A closed Facebook group is used to connect. Membership is free. To join, send SKP# to Mike Hancock at: mikehancock1968@gmail.com

Whole-Food, Plant-Based (WFPB): This WFPB BoF group is for those interested in learning about and sharing information, Science and recipes for the WFPB way of eating. This group focuses on science-based health reasons for eating a mostly plant-based diet. No fees or dues. We'll share information on a Facebook page, Whole-food, Plant-based BOF SKP. To join, contact Ray Hatch: ray_h1941@yahoo.com or Lodema Hatch: LO1942@hotmail.com

Yoga: All welcome, from dedicated yogis to those curious about learning yoga. We practice yoga at Escapades, Convergences and other meetups; share recommendations for yoga teachers, studios, retreats and amazing places to practice. We support each other in progressing our practices/healthy lifestyles while we travel. We help those new to yoga. No dues. Join us on Facebook. Send name, SKP# and interest to Theresé: tbjulo@yahoo.com. Namaste

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order under the corresponding categories.

ABBREVIATIONS:

JF—January/February, MA—March/April, MJ—May/June, JA—July/August, SO—September/October, ND—November/December

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TECHNICAL QUESTIONS:

A variety of technical questions and answers are in "Mark, My Words," by Mark Nemeth #45776, Escapees technical advisor; in each issue of *Escapees* magazine. Issue and page number: JF 06 | MA 06 | MJ 06 | JA 06 | SO 06 | ND 06



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Wyoming



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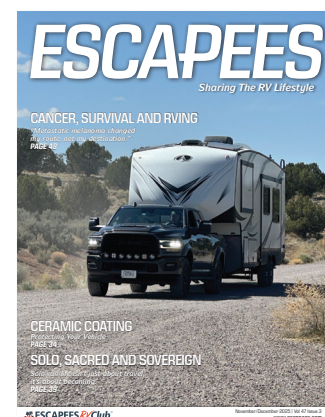
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Baja, California/Mexico



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Black Hills Back Country Byway
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Final Journeys

Farewell to our Escapees Friends

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