

SHARING THE RV LIFESTYLE 

# ESCAPEES

**GAS OR DIESEL ENGINE?**

*THE MOTORHOME MOTOR*

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**WHERE IS HOME?**

*10 IMPORTANT STEPS TO DOMICILE*

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**NATIONAL PARKS**

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Life seems to be made up of things we wish we'd done, people we wish we'd spent more time with, things we wish we had said.

Is it any wonder we are afraid to "take chances"? We could be doing something wrong! And we are carefully taught from the cradle to always do and say the "right" things. We learn that it's okay to cry when you are wet and hungry or get your arm caught between the bars of the crib. It's not right to cry if all you want is to be picked up and held close in someone's arms.

My statement of independence was to start full-time RVing when we were 43 instead of waiting until we retired, which is, of course, the "right" time. Some of our friends were appalled at our lack of propriety. Some thought we were crazy. And some looked the other way, pretending we were still "normal."

*Must we wait until we are "old" to do the things we really want to do? I'm tired of always coloring between the lines. And sometimes I want to be hugged when there is nothing wrong.*

And why not? I've discovered that some of the things I was so carefully taught are not *right*. I have seen a purple sky! (And an orange one, too.)

*Kay Peterson*  
Co-founder **ESCAPEESRVClub®**



**TAMMY JOHNSON** #39557  
Editor, *Escapees Magazine*

*“We’ll help you find the answers you need.”*

Happy 41st birthday to Escapees and to the members who have made this organization what it is today. As a 24-year member and employee, it has been fascinating to watch the continuing growth and progress of the club.

**A**lthough Escapees RV Club has always been about education and support, one of the best aspects of the club is the importance of simply having fun. At the end of the day, getting together to enjoy activities and camaraderie is high on the priority list for RVers. Escapees has always provided a broad selection of events and rallies, and now, with Convergences and the new Hangouts, even more options are available! Check out Escapees event listings and calendars throughout this issue to find the events that are the best fit for you.

Also in this issue, you will find technical tips and helpful hints. From choosing the right type of RV to choosing the best products to take along, you can find it here.

If you are looking for a new destination location, you can find ideas for unique and less-crowded places that you have not considered before. Many are beautiful and scenic, and some are even a little strange!

There are always questions about RVing that need to be answered. Domicile issues can be confusing, and everyone wants to learn more about those who are already working from the road. We’ll help you find the answers you need and advice to assist you on your personal journey.

I hope that you will not only learn new information from this issue, but also consider teaching others what you have learned. Keep in mind that having fun and sharing your time with fellow RVers will help you make the most of this wonderful lifestyle. 🚐



### On the Cover

This photo of Saddle Mountain BLM in Tonopah, Arizona, was taken by Travis and Traci LeBlanc #148047.

The photo was entered into the 2019 Escapade photo contest and won first place in the RV Community category. Boondocking is one of the LeBlancs' favorite ways to experience their RV journey.



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Chiricahua National Monument  
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## Your RV Questions

By **MARK NEMETH** #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor  
Send your questions via e-mail to [techquestions@escapees.com](mailto:techquestions@escapees.com)



## RV BLACK TANK AND TOILET

**Q.** We are traveling on the Oregon coast and have a problem with a black-water line clog and a broken toilet. Can we plunge the line to unclog it? When trying to empty the tank, nothing comes out. I'm not sure what to do.

*John*

**A.** Plunging won't work as the toilet connects to a tank that is vented. If the line to the dump valve is clogged, it usually requires someone who can flush it out using a special sewer fitting. All Pro Water Flow has franchises all over the country, and they offer mobile service. You may want to check with them. ([allprowaterflow.com](http://allprowaterflow.com)) Most RV service facilities are equipped to deal with those sorts of problems as well.

You may be able to unclog it yourself with a special fitting: the Camco Dual Flush Pro Holding Tank Rinser with Gate Valve: [www.escapees.com/url/rinser](http://www.escapees.com/url/rinser) or [www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8kgCvk68c0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8kgCvk68c0). This device attaches to your dump fitting and allows you to force water back up into the tank to help remove clogs. You can find these products at many RV parts dealers or Camping World stores.

## Slide-out Lights

**Q.** I have a 2016 Jayflight 28-foot tow-behind. The overhead lights on the living room slide-out quit working. I found the fuse box and replaced the bad fuse, but still no lights. Could there be another blown fuse? I haven't found any connections unplugged. Any ideas would be helpful.

*Rod*

**A.** Normally, when a fuse blows, it indicates a short in the circuit or damage to the wiring the fuse protects. Since the lights are in a slide-out, I would inspect the flexible cable that supplies power to it. The cable can get cut or damaged by the movement of the slide if it's not properly routed, or if something got in the way while the slide was moving. You may be able to see the wiring underneath the slide, or perhaps in a cabinet or drawer that's inside the slide. If you can't locate it, I suggest you have the slide inspected by a service technician, because the failure of the lights may be an indication of a bigger problem with the routing of electrical wiring or other utilities that go to the slide.



*"This device attaches to your dump fitting and allows you to force water back up into the tank..."*

## A/C TRIPPING BREAKER

**Q.** I have a 2005 Cougar 290 fifth-wheel. The air conditioner seems to work fine, but the 20-A breaker will trip many times in hot weather. I installed an amp meter on it with the access door removed, and it pulls between 11 and 15 amps at different times while running. I left the access door off for about two weeks while checking amps, and it never tripped while the door was removed. The day I replaced the access door, the breaker tripped twice. The fan is running inside the switch box, but apparently it is not cooling sufficiently. What else should I check?

Terry

**A.** It's possible that the circuit breaker for the A/C is going bad; they do fail, and since breakers operate on temperature, being in a warm area doesn't help. Since the fan for that box is running, try replacing the breaker with a new one with the same rating, and if that doesn't help, the A/C unit may need some work. In cases like yours, I'd suggest replacing the compressor start capacitor first: they are inexpensive and easy to replace. Sometimes the capacitor will go bad over time, and it can cause the compressor to draw more start-up current than normal. If all that doesn't cure it, it's time to have the A/C unit inspected and serviced.

**DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR MARK?** Submissions must not contain commercial advertising or consumer advocacy issues. Due to the large volume of material and correspondence submitted, we may be unable to reply or acknowledge receipt of your material. 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 77351-9300 or to [techquestions@escapees.com](mailto:techquestions@escapees.com).

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO  
[TECHQUESTIONS@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:TECHQUESTIONS@ESCAPEES.COM)

## Getting Mail

**Q.** We are selling our house and plan to be on the road for one year. How do you get mail? We'll travel across the country, and our longest stay in one place will be two to three months.

Jack

**A.** Do you have a friend or family member who can collect your mail and send it to you periodically? If so, all you need to do is put in a forwarding request at your local post office and have your mail sent to that person. When you land somewhere for a week or so, you can have your friend send your collected mail to the nearest post office that offers General Delivery (most do). Your mail will be held in General Delivery up to 30 days. All you need to do is go to the post office counter and show a picture ID to get your mail. This works best with post offices in towns and small cities. Simply address the package to Your name, General Delivery, City, State, Zip

To find the post office that handles General Delivery in any area, call 1-800-ASK-USPS (800-275-8777) and request "Customer Service." You can also obtain the proper General Delivery address information at any post office or by selecting the "Look Up a ZIP Code" button on the [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) home page.

If you don't have a friend willing to collect and send your mail, there are a number of mail-forwarding services that specialize in helping RVers get their mail while on the road. Most services collect your mail and hold it until you contact them and ask for it to be sent, and General Delivery is the most popular option. Many services can also send your mail via FedEx or UPS. Curious about how exactly all of this works? Take a look at our guide at [www.escapees.com/how-rvers-get-their-mail-guide](http://www.escapees.com/how-rvers-get-their-mail-guide).

The major RV clubs also offer mail-forwarding services. Escapees RV Club provides a mail service that has been in operation since 1985. Their service is a commercial mail-receiving agent licensed by the U.S. Postal Service. They are super flexible and offer a number of special services, including mail scanning, customized sorting and online account access. For more information, visit [www.escapees.com/mail-service](http://www.escapees.com/mail-service).



## GFI or GFCI CIRCUITS

By **JIM KOCA** #86367  
Escapes RVers Boot Camp Instructor

The GFI (ground fault interrupter) or GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) electrical plugs are found in all RVs. They are commonly located around water sources such as the bathroom, kitchen or outside outlets. When teaching at Escapes RVers Boot Camp, I've found that these plugs are a mystery to many RVers, and their function is often misunderstood.

In some RVs, the GFI/GFCI device can be one circuit breaker that, when tripped, can interrupt all power to several outlets on that breaker. In other RVs, the individual outlets may be the GFI/GFCI device. These GFI/GFCI outlets are extremely sensitive, as they should be because their function is to protect you from being shocked or electrocuted.

Conditions that may cause the GFI/GFCI outlets to trip include:

- 1) an improperly grounded electrical appliance,
- 2) water in the outlet,
- 3) a malfunctioning appliance,
- 4) the ground and hot wire touching before the neutral wire makes contact when plugging into shore power on the pedestal
- 5) you accidentally act as a conductor, or
- 6) you trip the test button when unplugging an appliance.

These outlets should be checked every month and need to be on your monthly maintenance list. This test is conducted by pushing the test button or using a GFI tester that plugs into the outlet. When the button is pushed on the tester, it simulates a ground fault and will trip the device. To restore the GFI/GFCI outlet, simply push the reset button.

If the GFI/GFCI outlet activates and fails to reset when you push the reset button or reset the breaker, it is time to have the electrical system checked. There is a reason why the GFI/GFCI outlet activated, so don't take a chance. If you feel a tingle in the kitchen or bathroom where water is present and the GFI/GFCI outlet clicks, the system has done its job and prevented you from being electrocuted. 🚚



A GFI tester plugged into a GFI outlet.



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# Monitor Your REFRIGERATOR TEMPERATURE

Compiled by **MARK NEMETH** #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor

An easy way to keep tabs on your refrigerator is to use an inexpensive indoor/outdoor thermometer. To make sure your food stays fresh, simply place the outdoor sensor inside the refrigerator compartment and you can monitor the temperature. A safe temperature range is 35F to 45F, and I prefer to keep my refrigerator at 35F.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Monitor the internal temperature of your RV fridge with an indoor/outdoor thermometer.

PHOTO BY MARK NEMETH #45776

There are a lot of these little thermometers out there, and I've tried several different brands over the years. I finally found one that I really like, and it's the Taylor Wired Digital Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer, Model Number 1710. The display is quite large, so it's easy to read, and it also keeps track of the highest and lowest temperatures sensed during the last 24 hours. With its wide range between optimal temperatures, it will let you know your refrigerator isn't holding temperature well. This handy gadget can indicate a possible problem, or simply let you know that it's time to defrost.

The outdoor sensor is wired to the unit with a six-foot wire and is small and unobtrusive. It's easy to route the wire into the refrigerator, and a small piece of clear packing tape can be used to secure it in place.

I prefer a wired sensor over wireless. This is because the wired thermometers are less expensive, and there's only a single battery to replace. Also, if you use one to monitor a chest-style or upright freezer, as I do at home, placing a battery-powered remote sensor in extremely low temperatures can cause issues with the batteries.

The unit runs on a single CR2025 button cell battery. I have seen the display do strange things when the battery runs low, but replacing it with a new one always fixes the problem. There are some negative reviews on Amazon, but the two I own have been working great for more than two years, so I feel comfortable recommending it. 🚐



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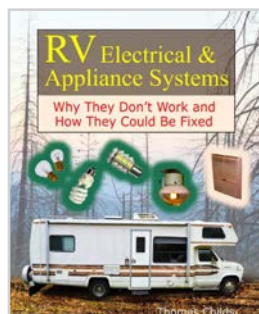
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## VAN LIFE, RV REPAIR AND KNIFE TIPS

By MARCELLA GAUTHIER #12371



### RV ELECTRICAL & APPLIANCE SYSTEMS: WHY THEY DON'T WORK AND HOW THEY COULD BE FIXED

THOMAS CHILDS • R.VINGOFFTHEGRID.COM 2019

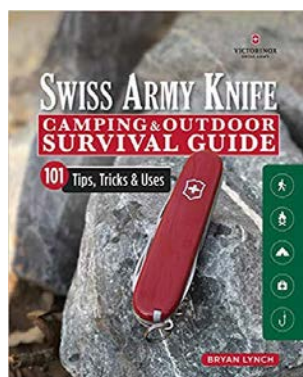
ISBN: 978-0-692-12657-8 • \$48

The most problematic areas in an RV are the electrical and appliance systems, and these crucial systems are prone to failure. Boondocking veteran Thomas Childs has seen all these problems and more. In his

extensive travels, while camping exclusively off-the-grid, he has found that often these systems do not work dependably, and he finds this unacceptable. In his travels, he has also learned a great deal from fellow creative RVers.

Since he does not stay in fully equipped RV parks where technical help is readily available, he's had to depend on his own skills to diagnose and fix problems. His extensive knowledge of problems caused by design flaws has allowed him to create this comprehensive guide, providing descriptions of the various systems, as well as problems and solutions. With the knowledge that Thomas is sharing, an RVer can redesign potentially failing systems before a crisis.

This is a highly technical book of over 400 pages, but it is extremely helpful in creating a fail-safe RV that is fully functional in boondocking situations. To read more about Thomas and his book and to download a sample of his work, visit [www.rvingoffthegrid.com](http://www.rvingoffthegrid.com).



### SWISS ARMY KNIFE CAMPING & OUTDOOR SURVIVAL GUIDE: 101 TIPS, TRICKS AND USES

BRYAN LYNCH • FOX CHAPEL PUBLISHING 2019 • ISBN: 978-1565239951 • \$12.99

Bryan Lynch has been a lover of the Swiss Army knife since his father gave him his first knife as a boy. This book features the history of the knife, dating back to 1894 when Karl Elsner wanted to create a compact knife of high-quality steel with a variety of functions. His first model, sold to the Swiss Army, was called the soldier's knife. This was a simple knife designed for the field soldier. A later model with more features was called the officer's knife, which is still in production today.

A comprehensive photographic guide of the various specialized models of the knife helps you determine the one that will fit your requirements. The most amazing knife is the Swiss Champ XLT with over 50 tools and functions! Bryan includes a section on maintaining your knife, followed by a section on tips and how to use it. Learn survival tactics, how to use your knife in the wild, and how it can be used in urban emergencies such as finding yourself locked in a public rest room.

With hundreds of photos and illustrations, this manual is a delightfully easy read and would make a wonderful gift for the gadget lover, outdoorsman or survivalist. Lynch has a lightly humorous and entertaining writing style; however, it is still a serious book that offers many new uses for the Swiss Army knife. And, it might save the day when an emergency arises.




### VANLIFE DIARIES: FINDING FREEDOM ON THE OPEN ROAD

KATHLEEN MORTON, JONNY DUSTOW AND JARED MELROSE • TEN SPEED PRESS 2019

ISBN: 9780399581144 • \$25

This lovely book, with 150 color photographs, celebrates the lives of vanlife participants.

They travel throughout the world, savoring the joy of creating a nomadic lifestyle in converted and individually designed small rolling homes. This blog-rich community shares their travels and unique lifestyles through stories of beautiful, remote locations and interior photos of their living spaces. There are many interviews about the adventures of traveling with partners, pets and hobbies in small spaces. Their creative workarounds to solve tight-space problems make this an interesting read for any RVer. It sometimes helps to resolve a lack-of-space problem with fresh eyes and new solutions. 

## Helpful Hints, Ideas and Solutions for Today's RVer

Read these and other tips online at [WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/BLOG-FEED](http://WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/BLOG-FEED).

E-mailed submissions can be sent to [DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM).



### PET WASTE BAGS

I'd like to recommend reasonably-priced, biodegradable dog waste bags that are made from cornstarch. The product is sold by the folks at [doggydoggood.com](http://doggydoggood.com).

First, you order the pack with the dispenser; then, subsequent refill boxes contain 60 bags, 10 bags each per six rolls. A roll fits neatly in the dispenser. I love that they are a large size and biodegradable. Also, I can clip the dispenser to a little waist pack I got from a dog training facility. I purchase the bags through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and wouldn't be without them.

Patricia Seaton #150785

## Overnight Parking App



To find places to park overnight, the iOverlander app was our "bible" while traveling with our camper in South America. It also offers a lot of other information that is important to travelers. The app is growing in popularity in the U.S. and can be used all over the world. It is free, but the

developers appreciate donations from users to keep it going. People need to go online to update information, but it can be used on a cell phone without being connected to the Internet. Visit [ioverlander.com](http://ioverlander.com) or download the app from the app store.

Joyce Space #61818



### The RVer's Ultimate Survival Guide

This essential book on RV safety was written by an RVer, for RVers, to enhance your RV lifestyle by making it safer, more secure and more economical. It may even save your life! This book will give you the understanding and tools required to live and travel safely in your RV.

Nine chapters cover virtually all the issues and challenges that can cause serious problems, needless expense and personal injury. A few hours of reading can result in enhanced safety and a lifetime of peace of mind.

Call 936-327-8873, or visit [www.escapees.com/store](http://www.escapees.com/store) to order. Available in book (\$19.95) or CD (\$9.95).

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E-MAILED SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT TO [DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM).

# STRANGE PLACES

Larry Space stands on the border between the U.S. and Canada which runs down the middle of the Haskell Free Library and Opera House in Derby Line, Vermont.



Sculptures at the S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden in Lucas, Kansas. Read more about this unusual place on page 27.

PHOTO BY BUDDY OVERBY #90710



The bathroom is in the U.S. The stage of the opera house is in Canada, and the audience seating is in the U.S.

PHOTOS 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.

**ND19 (Due July 10) Reading Escapees Magazine:** Show us a photo of you or your fellow Escapees reading *Escapees* magazine.

**JF20 (Due Sept. 10) RV Office View:** Does your RV office view change often? Show us one of the fabulous perks of working from the road.

**MA20 (Due Nov. 10) Cultural Experience**

**MJ20 (Due Jan. 10) Sacred Ground**

**JA20 (Due March 10) RV Life in a Photo**

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## RVer's Opinions and Advice from the Road

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# Three Adults, Three Cats and a Collie

Carol Weischampel, her son, Nick, and daughter-in-law, Monique.

The article, "Traveling with Mom," in the March/April issue, could be our story, but with a twist. To celebrate my 70th birthday and my seventh year as a volunteer at a church camp in Alaska, I encouraged my kids to accompany me in my 26-foot motorhome. My six-foot, two-inch tall son, Nick, his wife, Monique, three cats and my collie, crammed in for a six-month, 10,000-mile trip. We left Beaumont, Texas, in April and spent the first three weeks boondocking and primitive camping while we explored Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico; Grand Canyon, Arizona; Kings Canyon and Yosemite in California and Yellowstone National Park.

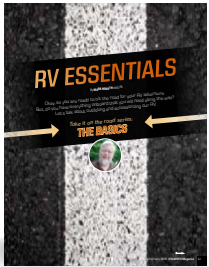
**M**y kids took over the double bed, and I had the cab-over with a couple of cats. It was a tight squeeze in my tiny bathroom and "one person" kitchen. I drove while Monique followed the maps. Nick preferred to play on his Gameboy.

We met up with old-time friends and camp managers, Lynne and Dale, in Great Falls, Montana. With a two way radio, we caravanned through Canada, stopping for photo opportunities at Liard Hot Springs, Sign Post Forest and for sightings of bears, bison, moose, Dall's sheep and eagles.

The summer with almost 22 hours of daylight for kids to enjoy camp activities was physically challenging, with cooking and maintenance balanced with trips to Denali National Park and Homer, Alaska. All too soon the fireweed had gone to cotton, sandhill cranes were flying south and termination dust (snow) frosted the distant mountain range. The night air was now clear and cold enough for an aurora.

Our return trip in September took us on the Cassiar Highway to Bellingham, Washington, where we said good-bye to our teammates before heading southeast to Texas with memories to last a lifetime.

*Carol V. Weishampel #80679*



# READERS RESPONSES TO: RV Essentials:

## 50-AMP CORD



In Mark Nemeth's article about RV essentials in the January/February issue, I want to mention that I took the 50-amp cord another step. To use a short 10-foot, 50-amp cord, which is all I need for most RV parks, I purchased a 50-amp electric dryer cord. It's about three-feet long, had a standard 50-amp male plug on one end and four bare wires on the other. I then purchased and wired a standard RV 50-amp screw female fitting on the other end. Now I can hook the 10-foot extension directly to the RV without dragging out the 50-foot cord. If I need the additional length, I simply remove my "adapter" and use the extension on the end of the 50-foot heavy monster.

Kirk Singer #68140

## LIGHTWEIGHT WATER HOSE



I read Mark Nemeth's article about RV essentials in the January/February issue, and I'd like to add two thoughts to the article.

I have used several brands of water hoses and finally found one that is much better. The Zero-G hose is lightweight, easy to roll or fold up, even in the coldest weather. It has the added bonus of taking up minimal space. You won't believe the difference! We carry both a 25-foot and 50-foot hose.

The water regulator is essential to protect the plumbing, and an EMS-Surge Protector is just as important to protect your electrical system. We have a Progressive Industries EMS HW50C Surge Protector hardwired in. If you choose to go with a portable model, you need to be sure to lock it to the power pedestal. They are expensive, but worth every penny.

Gary Blair #140012



## "Hidden gem— Unique SKP stop Destination"

When RVers first set out on the road traveling, famous landmarks and popular destinations are on the itinerary as a must-see. However, sometimes it's the unexpected find that turns out to be a hidden gem. Have you found a wonderful spot that was unexpected? Tell us about it and we may publish your submission. (See "SKP Stops" on pages 26–27 for guideline information.)

Send submissions to editor@escapees.com, or mailed to *Escapees* magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351. Accompanying photos must be unedited and high-resolution. Compensation will be determined on individual merit.

Editor

# The Long, Long Journey

**The images of Lucy and Desi in “The Long, Long Trailer” will forever be embedded in the American psyche as the epitome of bumbling neophyte RVers. Personally, I didn’t find that movie funny. Apparently, some people think that I even physically resemble Lucille Ball, and I have always disliked the comparison.**

When I announced to my family that my husband, Ed, and I were purchasing our first RV and that our inaugural trip would be the 2,000-mile trip to Arizona, they relentlessly compared us to those two inept icons. I argued that Ed and I were far more educated, prepared and just plain smarter than Lucy and Desi. Even more importantly, my husband and I have been in therapy for years and have learned how to communicate in a calm and caring manner.

We brazenly headed out to Phoenix in early March in our brand-new 24-foot RV. We were overjoyed that we had successfully “mastered” the skills necessary to operate this beautiful trailer.

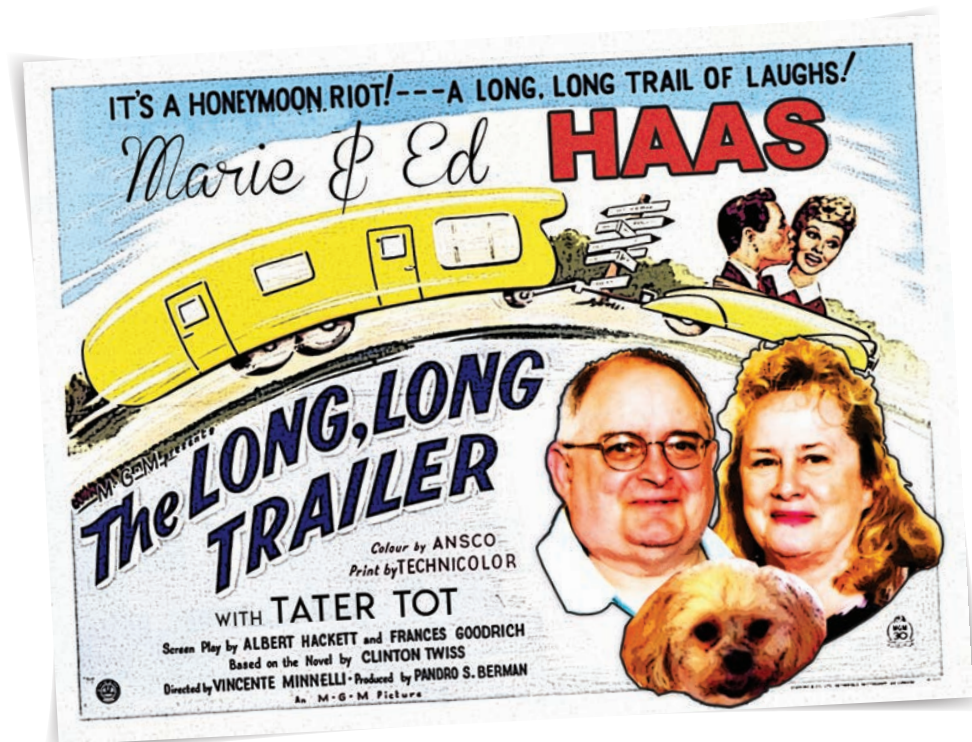
Unfortunately, before we even left our home state of Wisconsin, I pulled into a gas station and failed to notice that it was not RV friendly. In other words, I did a Lucy move. Sadly, I managed to lose one whole side panel after failing to make a wide turn around the pump. A good Samaritan and I made an attempt to reattach the damaged panel without success. By the time we hit the road again, we were four hours behind schedule. As a result, my husband was livid and frustrated. He was channeling Desi perfectly when he went on an extended tirade about how perhaps I shouldn’t drive for a while, and maybe we should just go home. I responded by laughing uncontrollably. My husband grew angrier. I laughed so much that I had to pull over. Eventually, we resumed our journey. We agreed that the worst thing that could happen was over and it was smooth sailing from now on.

By the time we drove through the Ozarks, the sun was setting. Ed and I were chatting about the beauty of the mountains when I innocuously asked why it seemed so dark out. Ed/Desi launched into another tirade about how the headlights weren’t on and that I was trying to kill us. I started to wonder, “Was I acting like Lucille Ball?” Had she hijacked my mind? I looked over at Desi, I mean Ed, and thought perhaps we were in a parallel universe and we were becoming the iconic couple.

My husband loves history, so I cited examples of the hardships that our ancestors endured while traveling west in covered wagons. Certainly, we could deal with a few mishaps. I reminded him of the myriad of difficulties we had overcome during our 40-year marriage. Yes, one side panel of our new RV was now in our pickup, but that is only minor damage.

Tater Tot, our dog (the stable one in our group), and I safely drove through Oklahoma and Texas. And then—we hit New Mexico. Denial is such an amazing coping mechanism. The Creator gave us the ability to deny reality in order to survive. I denied that the high wind gusts

*“Unfortunately, before we even left our home state of Wisconsin, I pulled into a gas station and failed to notice that it was not RV friendly. In other words, I did a Lucy move.”*



### Wintering in Nine Escapees Parks

**As a change from usually wintering in Florida, I headed West last winter from my home in Albany, New York. Out of the four months and over 10,000 miles I was gone, one of the most fun parts of my trip was staying at the Escapees Parks.**

in the Rocky Mountains would be problematic. After all, we are hardened Wisconsinites who don't let hurricane-force wind velocities interfere with their outdoor plans. I watch the Weather Channel like a groupie, so I know how to deal with rough weather.

By the time we hit Gallup, New Mexico, our RV was being rocked back and forth like a ship in a hurricane. Our RV was so severely buffeted by the winds that it spent more time in the wrong lane. Now I was praying that we would survive our first trip. After white-knuckling it through the storm, we jubilantly reached our RV park. I happened to look in the rearview mirror and noticed a serpentine-like object hanging from the side of the RV. Dear God, now what! We discovered that the other side panel of our vehicle had been ripped apart by the monstrous New Mexico winds. We had become numb to adversity and casually stacked the other side panel into our truck.

The skies were clear the next morning as we headed to Arizona. I was refreshed and happy to drive the last leg—until I realized that I would be navigating through the hairpin, terrifying mountain roads! Desperately, I tried to avoid reading the makeshift memorials that marked where some poor soul had crashed. These “memorials” were more elaborate than some grave markers and provided gory details about their loved ones’ demise.

When we passed through the gates of our Arizona RV park, I felt like Caesar triumphantly marching into a conquered city. Perhaps we did (slightly) resemble Lucy and Desi, but we (and our marriage) survived our long, long journey.

*Marie Haas, Guest Contributor*

In the summer of 2009, I trained as an Escapees Rainbow Park host at Turkey Creek, near Branson, Missouri. I subsequently worked at North Ranch, in Congress, Arizona; Dream Catcher, in Deming, New Mexico; Sumter Oaks, in Bushnell, Florida; and twice at Raccoon Valley, near Knoxville, Tennessee. I was anxious to revisit these parks all these years later. Not only did I get to revisit these parks, I also was able to spend time at the Arizona parks, Saguaro Co-Op and Rovers Roost.

I managed to visit every park where I previously worked, with the exception of Sumter Oaks. I was also able to spend time at two SKP Co-Op parks in California, Jojoba Hills and Park Sierra, that I had not seen before. Every park was welcoming, and I was accepted into mahjongg and hand-and-foot games whenever I wanted to play. Being an Escapees’ member makes you feel right at home in any of the parks you visit.

*Pam Bristol #100256*



Pam at Joshua Tree National Park, California, near Jojoba Hills SKP Co-Op park.

**Laurie Krusinski #103725**

Opinions contained in “Different Viewpoints” are not necessarily those of the Escapees RV Club, its officers or the membership in general. Escapees RV Club accepts no responsibility for what is expressed here by any person, group or company. Because of the large volume of material, we may not acknowledge receipt. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting.

SUBMISSIONS THAT ARE SENT BY E-MAIL CAN BE DIRECTED TO DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM.

# Give YOURSELF The *Gift* of CARE



Sean Tebby enjoying a game of cards at Escapees CARE.

## Sean's Story

Marine Lance Corporal Sean Tebby did not anticipate the dramatic life change that resulted from an accident that occurred as he headed back to Camp Pendleton from Phoenix in 2004. His mother, Vida Tebby, did not anticipate the phone call telling her that Sean, her 20-year-old son, was in the hospital with an acute brain injury.

That was 15 years ago. Since then, Sean has been a patient in several hospitals and treatment centers, had prolonged physical, mental and verbal therapy and has undergone acute-care rehab. Through it all, he's received assistance, encouragement and untold hours of motherly love from Vida. While vastly improved, Sean will never be the same person he was before his accident.

Hailing from Ishpeming, Michigan, mother and son now winter at Rainbow's End in a house they lease yearround. "It's very important for Sean to have structure, and he participates three days a week in the Escapees CARE Adult Day Care Program," says Vida. He enjoys the social interaction and variety of activities, but his favorite pastime is playing bingo with other Escapees in the multi-purpose room at CARE and with folks from the community at the local Livingston VFW, through which he recently became a VFW life member.

Through the Wounded Warrior Project, Sean has a life skills coach who helps him with communication and interpersonal skills. And Sean loves telling jokes, some of which he passes along from others and some he makes up. He also enjoys books, magazines, television comedies and the Game Show Network. In addition, he has a penchant for higher mathematics, the advanced portions of mathematics customarily beyond ordinary arithmetic, geometry, algebra and trigonometry.

In the beginning, Vida says, the medical community didn't give her much hope for Sean, but she never gave up and he continues to make progress. "I believe God has heard our prayers and will continue to heal him," she says. As for Sean, he usually has a big smile on his face and a joke ready to share!



CARE's Adult Day Care Program includes a secure day room and trained staff members who

- monitor blood pressure, weight, general health.
- assist with medications, including injections.
- assist with bathing and personal grooming.
- assist with eating, up to three meals included.
- assist with toileting and toilet hygiene.

In addition, staff members assist with walking, provide monitoring and offer games, exercise and more for the adult day care clients. The Licensed Adult Day-Care Program (which accepts Alzheimer's patients) is \$40 per day. The program is open to everyone and operates Monday through Friday, from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., with the exception of holidays. For information, call Escapees CARE Center at 936-327-4256 or e-mail [careinc@escapees.com](mailto:careinc@escapees.com).

*Article and photo by Anita Mandot Hickman #41291*

## Escapees 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 a week for four weeks, driving residents and taking phone calls. Donations (via [www.paypal.com/givingfund](http://www.paypal.com/givingfund), [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com), [www.escapees.com/store](http://www.escapees.com/store), or through a bequest in your will) all help support Escapees CARE. For further details, call 936-327-4256, e-mail [carefd@escapees.com](mailto:carefd@escapees.com) or visit

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# Free and Low-cost Parking Finds

Compiled by **GUY GIPSON #84383**  
Download the entire online directory  
at [www.daysenddirectory.com](http://www.daysenddirectory.com).

McClellan Park in  
Milbridge, Maine.  
PHOTO BY RODD  
JEFFERIES #139025

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. These parking selections highlight seasonal boondocking options for your RV travels.

## MAINE

**Kokadjo:** Spencer Bay CG, Moosehead Lake. 40 BD sites, tables and fire rings. Pit toilet. Free. Posted 2-wk limit. Summer only. Good graded logging rds 10 mi to CG. From SR 6/SR 15 at Greenville, go N on Lily Bay Rd to Kokadjo. Pavement ends 0.2 mi past Kokadjo at N45 40.3427 W69 26.4034 rd forks, take L fork onto gravel, go 1.2 mi to where rd forks again, there is a Spencer Bay CG sign. Bear L, continue another 7.4 mi to another Spencer Bay CG sign. TL, road narrows here, go a full 1.4 mi (do not turn earlier) to N45 42.9291 W69 33.4555. Here the rd splits: Go straight 500' for 5 sites or L 0.4 mi for 34 sites. Many sites OK for lg rigs. Easy canoe, kayak or boat launch both areas. **Tom McIlwain #60817**

**Milbridge:** McClellan CP. 12 sites, tables. Potable W, flush toilets. \$10, very friendly caretaker sometimes comes to collect Memorial Day—Columbus Day. From US 1 in S end of town, go 4 mi SE on Wyman Rd. 44.48415 -67.85418. Sm-med rigs, except site #1 up to 40'. Firewood, \$5 per milk crate, incl kindling and paper. Easy walking path to beautiful rocky Maine shoreline. Boat launch nearby. 207-546-2688. **Rodd Jefferies #139025**

**Van Buren:** Paved pkg lot. No facilities. Free. No posted stay limit. 8.5 mi SE of town on US 1A, at Hamlin. N47.07004 W67.805. 2-ended lot, level concrete pad. Slightly elevated above hwy. OK for lg rigs. **Michael Wright #129526**

## MINNESOTA

**Duluth:** Thompson Hill Visitor Info Ctr, lg paved pkg lots. No restrictive signs. 8525 W Skyline Pkwy. Quiet after 10 pm

**Grygla:** CG (city). 6 F-HU sites and 8 BD. FHU, \$25; BD, \$15. 2 blk S of SR 89/State St on 6th Ave, corner of E Park Dr. N48.29969 W95.62351.

**Loman:** Loman CP. Paved area with shelter, sign says for picnicking and camping. Gravel loop with 4 sites, tables, fire rings. N side of Scenic Byway, SR 11. Directly across hwy from Loman Fire Hall. N48.5132 W93.80058. **Jim and Linda Work #78663**

**Silver Bay:** Scenic overlook, 6 paved spaces 50' long. O/N OK Free. No restrictive signs. From SR 61 go W on CR 5 (Outer Dr) then L on City Shop Rd. Follow signs for scenic overlook 47.29106 -91.26663. **Al Lehmann #106247**

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Dickey:** Dickey Park CG. BD and 12 grass sites with 20- and 30-A E. W and D. BD \$5, \$25/wk E sites \$15, \$60/wk SR 63/Chan SanSan Scenic Backway, gravel. In town, from S, go N on 4th Ave, TR on 2nd St, go 0.2 mi to park entrance on L before bridge. From N, go 0.4 mi E on 2nd St to park entrance on L before bridge. Primitive, rustic and secluded. **Al Lehmann #106247**

**Hettinger:** Mirror Lake Park. 2 sites with 50-A E/W and 12 with 20-30-A E/W. Rest rooms, showers. Dumpster. E/W/S \$20, E/W \$15. No HU \$10. Pay envelopes in rest rooms (deposit box on N side). S of town on SR 8, go E on Mirror Rd. CG is 0.3 mi on R. Adjacent park has playground, tables, boat ramp. D at 3rd St S and 2nd Ave S.

**Mott:** Mott Watershed Dam. Dispersed sites in 2 pullout loops plus pkg area. Pit toilets, dumpster. Free. Open all yr. SR 8 N from town, 0.5 mi N of Cenex sta, TL on 71st SW. Dam rd (numerous med-size jagged rocks in rd) is 0.4 mi on L and signed. Good wildlife viewing.

**Wishek:** City of Wishek RV Park 15 sites, 20- 30- 50-A E/W. D, Dumpster. \$15. SR 13, go 1 blk N on 3rd St to 1st Ave. E and W are normally off, call 701-452-2469 to have turned on. **Al Lehmann #106247**

## NEW YORK

**Lake Placid:** Pullout Free. No prohibitive signs. 3 mi S of town, W side of SR 73, just S of jct with River Rd. 5359 Cascade Rd. N44.25298 W73.96418. Paved and unpaved areas. Beside riv. Busy during day, quiet at night. **Graeme and Jennifer Chaston #107845**

**Saratoga Springs:** Saratoga Gaming and Raceway (casino and harness race track), huge gravel pkg lot. Free. O/N OK SR 29 EB into town, TL (S) on US 9, go 1.5 mi, TL (E) on Crescent Ave, go 1 mi, TL (N) on Nelson Ave, go 0.5 mi to rear gate on L Or, I-87 x13, go 2.6 mi N on US 9, TR (E) on Crescent Ave, follow above. 43.06035 -73.77035. Park in lg gravel lot near trees, not blocking any entrance. Short walk to casino and track **Herb and Ginger Conly #110297**

**Vermontville:** Long, lg paved pkg area. Free. No prohibitive signs. Just N of town, E side of SR 3, 12.2 mi NE of Saranac Lake. 8394 SR 3. N44.46576 W74.05287. Quiet at night. **Graeme and Jennifer Chaston #107845**

## VERMONT

**Fair Haven:** Mobil truck/fuel stop, pkg lot. No facilities. Free. O/N OK US 4x2, go 600' S on Washington St, on L (E). Park in rear with trucks. Open 24 hrs. Hot bar inside sta. Next to a McDonald's. RV dealer close by.

**Glover:** Runaway Pond Historic Site, long narrow 2-ended flat level paved pullout. No facilities. Free. No stay limit S of town on SR 16, 3/4 mi S of Museum of Everyday Life and Clark's Pond. Historic info on Runaway Pond. 44 37 57 -72 12 41

**Lyndonville:** Lyndon Town School Rec Field, very lg, flat, gravel pkg lot. No facilities. Free. No stay limit 0.8 mi E from US 5 on SR 114, TR (SE) on Lily Pond Rd, go 1/4 mi. 44 32 53 -71 59 07. Room for many RVs if no sports events occurring. Close to Burke Mtn and Kingdom Trails.

**Wolcott:** Flat, fairly level gravel pullout. No facilities. Free. No stay limit. SR 15, 2.75 mi E of Mtn View CG, 1.6 mi W Wolcott Store. Any size RV. 44 33.568 -72 29.275. Next to Lamaille Riv. **Herb and Ginger Conly #110297**

## WASHINGTON

**Enumclaw:** Ranger Creek Airstrip (NF), lg pkg area in open field. No facilities. Free. 14-day limit Go 29 mi SE from town on SR 410 to FR 7160, 47.0233 -121.5353. TR (W) on dirt/gravel FR 7160 to airstrip. 47.0144 -121.5325. 20-50 rigs. **Al and Sharon Florida #86865**

**Grand Coulee:** Spring Canyon CG, Lake Roosevelt NRA (NPS). 78 sites (some reservable). Central W, toilets (flush and pit), D, trash service. \$18, S/A Pass 1/2, May 1-Sep 30. \$9 (no W) Oct 1-Apr 30. 3.7 mi E of SR 155 on SR 174, between mm 24 and 25 (47.92461 -118.9556), TL (N), go 2 mi. Only a few sites over 34'. Shelters over many sites. All rds paved. Trees, lawn, boat launch, nature trail. **Lila Jordan and Ann Blodgett #51768**

**Stevenson:** Skamania County FG, gravel pkg lot with Lions Club, County Transit and storage bldgs. D and W (\$2). 501 SW Rock Creek Dr. 45.69333 -121.88991. **Mark and Vicki Shorter #129845**

## CANADA ALBERTA

**Balzac:** CrossIron Mills Mall, pkg lot. Free. No official stay limit. 10 mi N of Calgary. PH 2 (QEII) x275, go 1/2 mi E on PR 566, TR on CrossIron Dr. Mall is on R 51.20542N 113.98922W. Park along perimeter of mall. E side quietest. Special fenced gravel area for RVs to park O/N on side of mall beside Bass Pro Shop, near Costco. Slides OK but no chairs or BBQs. 200 stores, 100 outlets, cinema. Free WiFi in mall. Satellite and cell coverage good. 403-984-6800. crossiron-mills.com **Bob and Melanie Ashton #113199**

**Jasper:** Snaring River CG Overflow, Jasper NP. BD pkg/camping. Vault toilet, trash bins. \$15.70. TCH 16, 11.6 mi (19 KM) N of town (toward Edmonton), TL (W) on paved Snaring Rd, go 5.5 KM. Snaring CG is on L just before a bridge. Cross bridge, TR into Overflow. Lg rock lot, room for 200 rigs of all sizes. Easy to level, some shade. Fabulous mtn views, near Snaring Riv. Wildlife seen on drive: black bear, elk, bighorn sheep, bald eagle, golden eagle. **Ron and Linda Jose #111293**

**Morley:** Stoney Nakoda Casino, lg pkg lot. No facilities. Free. Marquee states O/N pkg is allowed. No stay limit. Website says "Basecamp of the Rockies". From TCH 1, 43 mi W of Calgary (35 mi E of Banff, 20 mi E of

Canmore) go S on PH 40, turn immed L to Casino. 51.10058 -115.0185. Quiet Buffet, restaurant. stoneynakodaresort.com 888-862-5632. **Bob and Melanie Ashton #113199**

**Vulcan:** Virginia Mitchell Memorial Park and CG. 16 sites. good 30-A E/W/S. \$25. No stay limit. From Hwy 23 go S on Centre St to 3 Ave, TR, go to end into park 50.40614 -113.26946. Gravel pkg, grassy beside and behind the sites. Walking path around town; outside exercise equipment. Playground. Ball diamonds, rodeo grounds. 18-hole golf course adjoins park. Shopping in walking distance. Star Trek town, Vulcan days in Jun, Spock days in Jul. **Dale and Susan Prichard #109540**

## NOVA SCOTIA

**Amherst:** Nova Scotia Visitor Ctr, pkg lot. Free. No stay limit. TCH 2 x1, go S, on R E of New Brunswick border. 90 Cumberland Loop. Great views. Occasional bagpipe music. **Bob and Melanie Ashton #113199**

**Antigonish:** Shopping ctr pkg lot. BD. Free. No stay limit. TCH 104 x33 go N on Beech Hill Rd to stop light at PH 4. TL, continue to stop light on Church St, TR (N), continue to stop light to shopping ctr. Park in N end by Canadian Tire. WiFi from Canadian Tire reaches into pkg lot.

**Enfield:** Irving Big Stop, pkg lot. No stay limit. TCH 102 x7 at PH 2, NE quad. WiFi to pkg lot. **Ron and Jan Chisman #76257**

**Louisbourg:** (Cape Breton Is) Lg gravel area at the docks. No restrictive signs. SE from Main St in town on Mitchell St or Harbour Front. 45.92036 -59.96922. Sm-med rigs. **Bob and Melanie Ashton #113199**

## ONTARIO

**Cochrane:** Cochrane Northland Train Sta, pkg lots. 48 hrs max for sm rigs, lg rigs over tracks at RV pkg lot, 7 days max. 200 Railway St. N49 3.633 W81 1.428.

**Parry Sound:** Island Queen Cruise, lg paved waterfront pkg lot. Rest rooms during office hrs. \$10. Obtain tag for O/N stay. 9 Bay St.

**Sudbury:** Snowplow turn-around area. Free. No restrictive signs. Do not use when snowing. 31.4 KM W of town, S side of TCH 17, at W end of the 4-lane. Turn on Elden Ave and directly L to pullout 46 22.369N 81 21.92W. Any size RV. **Joyce Findlay #112256**

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, 107 Rainbow Dr., #755, Livingston, TX 77399-1007. Online Search and Download: \$15/year. Include your complete name and Escapees membership number.

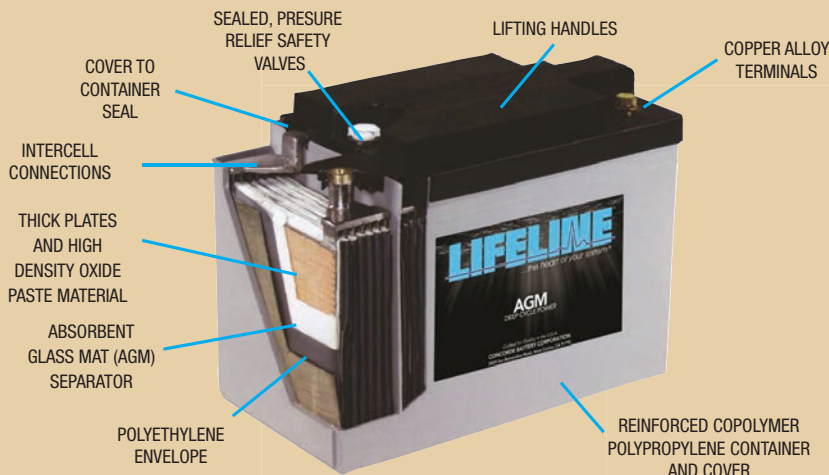
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*Palm Springs, California*

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**Though it has been on my wife's bucket list for years, I hadn't thought much about taking the tramway up the mountainside overlooking Palm Springs and Palm Desert. Although I knew it was there, it didn't pique my interest. While camping with our fifth-wheel in the Palm Desert area, my wife, Nadyne, insisted we go, and I agreed. Surprisingly, I was impressed.**

**W**e purchased tickets for \$25.95 per person online (there's \$2 off for 65+) and paid an additional \$8 for parking once we arrived. We chose the 3:00 p.m. ride so that we'd see both daytime and night views as well as take photos. Our climb to the main entrance, from parking lot A, was difficult; however, shuttles are available, and visitors with mobility issues can be dropped off at the entrance. There are elevators in both the base and observation buildings. Pets are not allowed.

Once checked in, we sat in a waiting room until the next tram arrived. The capacity of the gondola is 24 passengers, plus the "pilot," and trams come and go in 15-minute intervals. The daily schedule runs from 10:00 a.m. (8:00 a.m. in the summer) to 8:00 p.m. with the last tram down at 9:45 p.m. Don't miss that one or you'll be spending the night.

As advertised, the incline is as steep with the Mountain Station sitting at a cool 8,516 feet, compared

to Palm Springs below at 479 feet. The ride was smooth but as we passed each tower there was a bit of sway, making a few stomachs queasy. Once at the station, which is built in three levels, visitors can choose to sit in two small theaters to watch short films about the San Jacinto National Forest or the construction of the Tramway. You may enjoy a drink, meal or snack in the café, bar or restaurant, or shop in the gift boutique. Many venture outside to take in the spectacular views of the mountain range behind the station or of the Coachella Valley below. As a photographer, naturally, I wanted shots of all I could see.

After taking a few photos on both sides of the multi-level platform, we decided to enjoy a snack at the café to wait until sunset. Pricing will remind you of movie theater cuisine. You may bring food and drinks with you up the Tramway, but you can't picnic in the café seating area. My craft beer was around \$10, and our order of fries was \$8.50.

Sunset wasn't exactly breathtaking since the sun was still high in the sky when it went behind the mountain ridge to the south, but it was still enjoyable. However, once the light from all the small towns in the valley began to shine from 8,500 feet, the sight was amazing! Fall and early winter are the best times of year to ride, but it is open all year round, including holidays. For more information, visit [www.pstramway.com](http://www.pstramway.com).

*Jack Huber, Guest Contributor*

Elaine Overby stands beneath the many sculptures at the Garden of Eden museum.

PHOTO BY BUDDY OVERBY #90710



## S.P. DINSMOOR'S GARDEN OF EDEN

Lucas, Kansas

305 East Second Street • 785-525-6395 • [www.gardenofedenlucas.org](http://www.gardenofedenlucas.org)

**One of the great things about RVing is finding that special quirky place you never knew existed before you started on a new travel adventure.**

**A**n unplanned but necessary stop in Russell, Kansas, landed us in such a place. While we were there for work on our tow vehicle, we saw a little red square on the atlas representing “The Garden of Eden.” Curious, we decided to check it out in our loaner car. Located 16 miles north of I-70 is the tiny town of Lucas, Kansas, which is home to one of the most unusual museums we have ever seen.

Samuel Perry Dinsmoor, a retired schoolteacher, Civil War veteran, farmer and Populist politician, began building the Garden of Eden and Cabin Home in 1907, when he was 64 years old.

Over the next 22 years, he fashioned 113 tons (2,273 sacks) of cement and many tons of limestone into his unique “log” cabin with its surrounding sculptures. He opened his home to guests, conducting tours on the first floor and through the yard from 1907 until a few years before his death in 1932. Now owned and operated by a group formed to preserve it, the site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. We were two of the 10,000-plus annual visitors.

Mr. Dinsmoor was born in Coolville, Ohio, in 1843, and died in Lucas in 1932. At 27, he married his first wife, a widow named Frances A. Journey, while on

horseback. She died in 1917. According to our tour guide, Samuel wanted to bury Frances on his property in a mausoleum that he had erected. The town fathers said, “No. She must be buried in the town cemetery.” He abided, but during the night after her burial, he and a friend exhumed the body and took her back to his property. There, he placed her in his mausoleum and encased her in cement, so she could not be moved again!

In 1924, at the age of 81, he married 20-year-old Emilie Brozek. They had two children, who were the youngest children of a Civil War veteran. Upon his death, he was buried in the mausoleum with his remains placed above Frances. He made his own concrete coffin with a glass top so that future visitors could view his remains lying in repose. To this day, your last few moments of the tour are spent in the mausoleum, peering down at the long-dead Samuel Perry Dinsmoor!

To visit, use Exit 206 off I-70. There is a lot to see in and around Lucas, such as the “The World’s Largest Collection of the World’s Smallest Versions of the World’s Largest Things Traveling Roadside Attraction and Museum.” Plus, the Post Rock Scenic Byway and Wilson Lake are two of the prettiest areas in Kansas.

For information, visit [www.gardenofedenlucas.org](http://www.gardenofedenlucas.org); World’s Largest Collection, [www.worldslargestthings.com](http://www.worldslargestthings.com); Post Rock Scenic Byway on Facebook; and Travel Kansas, [www.travelks.com/ksbyways/post-rock](http://www.travelks.com/ksbyways/post-rock).

Elaine Overby #90710





## HAMILTON GRANGE

New York, New York

414 W 141st St., New York, NY 10031 • 646-548-2310 • [www.nps.gov/hagr/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hagr/index.htm)

PHOTO BY JOYCE SPACE #61818

**While wandering streets in Harlem Heights Manhattan, my husband, Larry, and I happened upon a national memorial, Hamilton Grange, Alexander Hamilton's summer home. This visit is no substitute for the acclaimed musical, *Hamilton*, but it's free and informative.**

Alexander Hamilton was born in 1775, in St. Croix, and was orphaned at the age of 13. Supporters paid his way to America so he could further his education. After college, at what is now Columbia University, Hamilton married, became a published author, military leader and friend of George Washington, as well as his Secretary of the Treasury. After leaving federal service in 1795, Hamilton resumed his law practice in New York.

When Alexander Hamilton and his wife, Elizabeth, lived in lower Manhattan, it was common for people to move north in the summer for the cooler breezes and to avoid yellow fever. At that time, northern Manhattan was woods and fields. In 1802, they moved into their new

home, and Hamilton commuted 90 minutes by carriage to his downtown law office. Sadly, Hamilton's enjoyment of his new home was cut short in 1804 when he was killed in a duel by Vice President Aaron Burr.

After Hamilton died, Elizabeth and their children continued to live in Grange. In 1889, a new street would have gone through the corner of the house, so it was moved two blocks away using horses and wheels. St. Luke's Episcopal Church purchased it for services while their church was being built. After being the pastor's house, it became a school. In 1962, it became a national memorial. In 2008, the Park Service moved it one more block. This time it was moved using remote controlled equipment and vehicles.

At the house, you can view a 15-minute movie on the life of Alexander Hamilton and take a 45-minute ranger-led tour of the house. In that tour, you will see a video of how the house was moved and restored in 2008.

Hamilton Grange is open Wednesday through Sunday year-round, except on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Joyce Space #61818

### Guidelines for SKP Stops Submissions

- **Deadline:** Material for each issue will be selected based on location and the migration of seasonal travel.
- **Words:** Submissions of 300 to 500 words are ideal. Due to limited space, submissions will be edited.
- **Photos:** High-resolution photos are included on a space-available basis. Include the name of the photographer and anyone in the photo.

### Helpful Hints

- Share unique and off-the-beaten-path RV travel destinations.
- Keep submissions brief and include only pertinent information.
- Include the best season to visit the destination.
- Include information on RV parking and accessibility.

Send submissions to *Escapees* Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351, or to [editor@escapees.com](mailto:editor@escapees.com).

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Our new hill-climbing diesel.  
PHOTO BY SHARON PEARSON



*The Motorhome Motor*

# CHOOSING A *gas or diesel ENGINE*

By RICHARD AND SHARON PEARSON #81995

Two years ago, we decided to upgrade from our gas-powered, class-C motorhome to a larger class-A unit. When we began shopping around, we noticed something that surprised us. Most of the advertising contained little data about the “motor” part of motorhomes. Information on the layout of the living area, the built-in appliances, the cabinetry and even fabrics used on the furniture were all much easier to find. Data on the automotive part of the motorhomes were available, but we had to dig to find it.

**W**e shouldn't have been surprised. RVers spend the majority of their time in motorhomes parked in a campsite, sleeping, eating and going about their daily activities. Even travel-mad, full-time RVers spend only a small fraction of their time driving in their RV. However, even if the amount of time spent behind the wheel is relatively small, the ability to drive your RV from place to place is key to the RV lifestyle.

In the size range we sought, class-A units came equipped with either gas or diesel engines. The diesel-engine units were more expensive but received better reviews. Before we decided which type of engine would power our new motorhome, we had to determine if the performance of a diesel engine justified the higher cost.

### **Performance**

One of the first things I noticed in my research was how few different engines, gas or diesel, were available in the class-A models we were considering. Regardless of their length or weight, all of the gas-powered units we looked at used the same 305 horsepower V-10 engine we had in our old class-C. Some of these class-A models were almost twice as heavy and 30 percent longer than our old unit. While we found the V-10 to be a good, reliable motor, we felt that using it to power some of these larger units was probably asking too much of it.

The diesel-powered units used only a slightly larger variety of engines. Almost all

of the class-A motorhomes we considered used diesel engines from the same series. These types of engines in the series are said to share the same basic mechanical designs, but use different software to produce versions that generate either 300 or 340 maximum horsepower. The available diesel engines then generated either slightly less or a little bit more maximum horsepower than the less expensive gas engines.

### **The Advantage**

The advantage diesel engines have over the gas engines is in generating engine torque. The maximum torque of our old V-10 engine was about 450 foot-pounds. The new diesel engines can generate 600 to 700 foot-pounds of torque. They can also generate maximum horsepower and torque at lower engine revolutions per minute (RPM) than the gas engine. This means a diesel can push you down the road at high speed or up a hill without having to operate at high, engine-stressing RPMs.

To maintain your speed on a flat road, the engine must supply the power needed to overcome both rolling friction and air friction, both of which are trying to slow your vehicle. To climb a hill, the engine must also

“In the units we looked at, the diesel motorhome weighed more than the gas units, so the diesel units had to work a bit harder to maintain speed.”

supply the additional power needed to lift the motorhome against the pull of gravity. The weight of the motorhome is a factor in maintaining speed. Rolling friction increases with weight, as does the power needed to force the unit uphill. In the units we looked at, the diesel motorhome weighed more than the gas units, so the diesel units had to work a bit harder to maintain speed.

To climb hills at reasonable speed in my old class-C unit, we had to shift the transmission to a lower gear and stomp down on the accelerator. The engine's RPMs soared, and its horsepower output jumped up. Unfortunately, the motor's scream of pain in the cab of the class-C was so unnerving that we were unwilling to keep climbing this way for long. We knew that running at high RPMs would cause the engine to wear quickly. →



Our old reliable, but vertically challenged, but gas powered Class-C.

PHOTO BY SHARON PEARSON

Because they used the same engines, we expected that gas-powered class-A units would have the same hill-climbing problems.

Diesel engines generate about the same maximum horsepower as gas engines, but at much lower RPMs. When running uphill, diesel engines don't produce the same high-pitched cry of agony that gas engines do. In addition, most of the diesel units we looked at had rear-mounted engines. In those units, whatever noise the motor makes is generated far behind the driver rather than in his lap.

Increasing your motorhome's speed requires engine torque, and this is where diesel engines shine. Engine torque is transferred to a motorhome's drive wheels by its transmission. The drive wheels push against the road and supply the force needed to increase the speed of the vehicle. How rapidly a motorhome accelerates depends on the torque your engine supplies and the weight of your vehicle. Diesel units weigh more than the gas-powered units, but their much greater torque at low RPM results in better low-speed acceleration.

### Acceleration

Low-speed acceleration is particularly important when hill climbing in traffic. In our old class C, we often found ourselves stuck in the slow lane, plodding along uphill behind an overloaded truck with our four-way flashers on. We seldom had enough engine torque to accelerate around these

rolling roadblocks. Likely the gas-powered class-A units we looked at would have similar problems. Because diesel engines generate much more low-speed torque, RVs equipped with this type of engine have an easier time accelerating around slow-moving vehicles. Low-speed torque also gives diesel engines higher initial acceleration, enabling them to hit the end of an entry ramp closer to highway speed. Low-speed engine torque makes a lot of difference in how an RV handles, but data on it can be hard to find.

### In Conclusion

After doing a lot of research, we concluded the greater low-speed acceleration and the hill-climbing ability of a class-A diesel was worth the extra money. We purchased a 36-foot diesel class-A motorhome with a 340-horsepower engine. We've had the new RV for about a year and have driven it across the country twice. So far, we're happy with our choice.

One additional benefit we found in our diesel class-A unit was a much greater range. It has almost twice the fuel capacity of our old gas unit, as well as slightly better mileage. We are now able to travel twice as far between fuel stops, and those stops are less stressful. Because we tow a car, we are unable to back up without disconnecting. Planning our maneuvers in the traffic around gas pumps in our old unit was always nerve-wracking. All the diesel fuel pumps we've encountered so far have been large, pull-through setups. To get diesel, we generally have to walk over to the office to pay and wait for a few semis to finish fueling. While filling with diesel takes a bit longer, it is still far less stressful than playing "no backup, dodgem around the gas pumps" the way we did in our old class-C. 🚚



**RICHARD AND SHARON PEARSON** have had an RV as part of the lives for 34 years. They have owned a small campervan, mid-sized class C and a diesel-pusher class A. Before retirement, Sharon worked as a software engineer. Richard spent 39 years as a Department of Defense civilian physicist and has degrees in physics, aeronautical engineering and computer science. In shopping for their latest motorhome, the Pearsons did extensive Internet research. Richard also did "back of the envelope" analysis on the automotive performance of RV under consideration. This article is based on the Pearsons' research and their experience operating gas- and diesel-powered motorhomes.

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We've covered most of the must-have RV accessories in previous articles, so now we'll move on and talk about some of the optional, but handy, things you may want to bring along. Let's talk about lubricants, solvents and special-purpose liquids.

**WD-40** is a good all-purpose lubricant for squeaky door hinges, sticking latches and rusty key holes. It's also an effective solvent for cleaning tar, bugs and tree sap off your rig, and it can remove things like gum and silly putty from upholstery and leather.

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# RV ESSENTIALS

By **MARK NEMETH** #45776

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Also in the liquids category are oils for our vehicles and power equipment. I like to carry a quart of engine oil for whatever engines I have with me: RV engine, generator, tow car, motorcycle—you get the idea. If you have room, it's a good idea to carry a small container of brake fluid, some transmission fluid and any other hydraulic fluid that your RV may need. Having spare oils and fluids along, especially if you like to camp far away from civilization, can be a time saver, or maybe even a life saver! You need to balance weight and storage space to decide what to bring along, but I have been in a situation where a couple quarts of transmission fluid made the difference between driving out or calling for road service!

If I forgot to mention your favorite liquid problem solver, drop me a line at [techquestions@escapees.com](mailto:techquestions@escapees.com) and let me know. We'll publish reader comments and suggestions with each new article. Next time, we'll talk about safety. 



In 1997, **MARK NEMETH** quit his job, sold his house, bought an RV and joined Escapees. He has contributed to *Escapees* magazine and served as a technical advisor for 19 years. He still maintains an RVer's resource website with technical articles, tips and information at [www.marxrv.com](http://www.marxrv.com).



*The lite 'n lively Honda EU2200i*

# *Portable GENERATOR Review*

Article by **EMILY FAGAN** #99408

Photos by **EMILY AND MARK FAGAN** #99408



Mark Fagan pull-starting the generator.

Our Honda EU2200i portable gas generator is a new and improved version of the Honda 2000i generator that powered the lives of RVers for many years. We've been using it in our full-time, off-grid RV life for a year now, and after about 200 hours of service, we are very pleased with its performance.

**A**lthough solar power provides 98 percent of our day-to-day electrical needs, sometimes storm clouds roll in and stick around awhile and we need to give our batteries a boost. In the past, we relied on a bigger and heavier portable generator, but it was unwieldy to store, maneuver and set up.

The Honda EU2200i weighs only 46.5 lbs., holds slightly under a gallon of gas and delivers 2,200 watts of peak surge power and 1,800 watts of continuous power. This little generator has proven to be so darn easy to grab and set up that we often end up running it in circumstances where we wouldn't have before.

For the moment, it is living in the back of our truck, right next to our older and larger generator. Either one of us can pick up the Honda with one hand and lift it out of the truck, even while carefully stepping around the fifth-wheel hitch and the rest of the obstacle course in the bed of our truck.

## *Starting the Generator*

**To start the Honda EU2200i generator takes four easy steps:**

1. Open the gas cap vent.
2. Close the choke (move switch to the right).
3. Set the generator switch to "ON".
4. Pull the start cable and away you go.

**Shortly after the generator roars to life, slowly open the choke (move the switch to the left).**

We like to start the Honda EU2200i generator without it being plugged into the RV so it can get warmed up before we put any loads on it. The shore power cord is plugged into the trailer, but we don't plug the other end into the generator until it is humming along.



This little generator has proven to be so darn easy to grab and set up that we often end up running it in circumstances where we wouldn't have before.

Since our fifth-wheel is a 50-amp trailer and the generator outlets are 15 amps, we use two adapters along with our shore power cord to get between the 15-amp female connector on the generator and the 50-amp male connector on the trailer:  
15-amp male to 30-amp female adapter  
30-amp male to 50-amp female adapter  
50-amp male to 50-amp female (locking) 25' shore power cord

We keep these adapters on hand because they give us the flexibility to connect the RV's shore power outlet to either a 15-amp power source or a 30-amp power source. However, you can also go directly from the 50-amp outlet on the RV to the 15-amp outlet on the generator and skip dragging out the heavy shore power cord by using a 15-amp male to 50-amp female adapter.

### **Running the Generator**

We like to position the generator so the exhaust goes away from the trailer. If there are other people camped nearby, we also like to find a place in our campsite that it is as far from their campsite as possible so we don't annoy them with noise and fumes. If it is raining, we put it under one of the slide-outs to keep it dry. Fortunately, this little generator is so light we can easily carry it where we want, even while it is running.

### **Eco-Throttle: Efficiency and Less Noise**

One of the best features on the Honda EU2200i generator is the Eco-Throttle. This is located on the "business end" of the generator in the upper left corner. Turning it on lowers the RPMs of the generator so it doesn't use as much gas and runs quietly.

If we are going to run the generator to charge the batteries and do other things that put a small load on it (using our laptops, keeping the lights on at night or watching a movie on TV, we keep the Eco-Throttle turned on.

We did a test to see how long the generator would run in Eco mode on one tank of gas (the tank holds 0.95 gallons). Using it for

basic household activities, it ran continually for 9.5 hours!

Eco-Throttle is our default mode, both to save gas and so we hear only the generator's quiet purr instead of its louder growl. We usually run the generator for only two or three hours at most. In our experience, the best time for solar-powered RVs to run a generator is in the morning hours. This helps get the batteries sufficiently charged so they can easily reach their charging (Absorb) voltage under solar power alone (even on a cloudy day) once the generator is turned off, giving them more daylight hours to complete the Absorb stage.

If we suddenly place a big load on the generator while it is in Eco mode, it will temporarily rev to higher RPMs to provide the required power. So, when we turn on our 800-watt toaster while in Eco mode, we can hear the generator rev up while the toaster is making toast. As soon as the toast is done, the generator idles back down. In contrast, if we make toast in non-Eco mode, the generator is already humming along at a fast pace and it doesn't need much of a surge to operate the toaster.

Our 1,100-watt microwave oven puts a much bigger load on the generator, and if it is in Eco mode, there is a slight lag time between when it first senses the heavy load and when it revs up to provide the required power. There is an audible drop in tone for a second or two before the generator roars to meet the challenge. We're not sure this momentary dip in power is good for the microwave, so if we plan to use it, we prefer to have the generator running in non-Eco mode first.

### **Honda EU2200i and RV A/C**

The Honda EU2200i has a max power output of 2200 watts. Unfortunately, our 15,000 btu air conditioner requires more than 2,200 watts to start the compressor, so it can't run our a/c unit.

However, Honda makes a parallel cable kit that allows two Honda EU2200i generators to sync together and generate 4,400 watts of peak power as well as 3,600 watts of continuous power. This is more than enough to run a 15,000 btu air conditioner and is likely enough to even run the microwave and the air conditioner at the same time! The wonderful thing about this setup is that the two generators and the cable kit are a lot smaller and easier to store than one big 4.4kw generator.



Left: Draining the oil  
Right: Removing the front panel of the generator  
Bottom right: Oil dipstick

### Putting Gas in the Generator

The gas cap is on top of the generator, so the tank is easy to fill. However, we find the hardest part of putting gas in any generator is fiddling with the childproof, spill-proof, idiot-proof, government-approved gas can spout. Probably a lot more gas has been spilled because of these spouts than was ever spilled with the simpler older spouts.

## Honda EU2200i Generator MAINTENANCE TIPS

### Changing the Oil

Changing the oil on the Honda EU2200i is a snap and requires the following:

- A flat-head screwdriver
- A sealable container for the old oil
- A quart of SAE 10W-30 oil
- Rags to clean drips and wipe your hands
- Optional: rubber gloves

First, unscrew the single screw that holds the front panel on the generator and remove it to gain full access to the heart of the machine.

To check the oil, simply unscrew the dipstick in the lower left corner, wipe it off, insert it back in and then inspect the oil on the dipstick.

To change the oil, the old oil must be drained out before the new oil is poured in. It is ideal to run the generator before you change the oil, or you can change the oil at the end of an operating session. Hot oil flows better and carries suspended particles along with it. If you let the generator run out of gas, you can tip it over far enough to get every last drop of old oil out. Also note that this generator uses SAE 10W-30 oil.

Place a container of some kind below the dipstick so it can catch the old oil as it drips out. Then unscrew the dipstick all together and let the oil drain out into the container. Any container that can hold 14 ounces of liquid is fine. We like to use an old plastic peanut jar with a screw-top lid. Or, drain the oil into an oil drain pan, and then, after the new oil has been put into the generator, pour the old oil into the container that held the new oil. To get the last drops of oil out, tip the generator slightly towards you.





Top left: Air filter

Top right: Removing the spark plug (bottom left)



Once the old oil is completely drained out, pour the new oil in. The oil reserve is properly filled when the oil comes right to the edge (with the generator sitting level). Once it's full, screw the dipstick back in and tidy up any drips with the rags.

### Check, Clean or Change the Air Filter

Since the front panel of the generator is off, now is a good time to inspect the air filters. To access the air filters, unscrew the screw holding the access panel in place.

There are two air filters inside. Each one is a small piece of foam. If they are dusty and dirty, clean and re-oil them. If they are brittle and have started to fall apart, replace them with Honda's air filter replacement kit.


### Check the Spark Plug

Once the generator's front panel is buttoned up again, check the spark plug. The Honda EU2200i uses a NGK CR5HSB spark plug which is located in a small compartment on

top next to the handle. The cover slides off easily. Inside, the spark plug is covered by a spark plug cap. Simply pull the cap off to reveal the spark plug.

To remove the spark plug, use a 5/8-inch spark plug socket and ratchet plus 3/8-inch drive extension. The spark plug is quite close to the generator handle, so a 5/8-inch spark plug socket with an integral 3/8-inch drive on a swivel extension is handy.

Inspect the spark plug with a spark plug gap tool (or "feeler gauge"). The gap should be 0.24 to 0.28 inches, which is equivalent to 0.6 to 0.7 mm. If the gap is a little wider, you can tap it closed to get it within spec.

Before placing the spark plug back in the generator, spread a thin layer of high-temperature, anti-seize lubricant on the spark plug threads. 



**EMILY AND MARK FAGAN** have traveled full-time since 2007, crisscrossing North America in a 36-foot Hitchhiker fifth-wheel trailer. For nearly four of those years, they also cruised the Pacific coast of Mexico in a 44-foot sailboat. They've published hundreds of articles full of RVing tech tips and travel tips on their website, [RoadsLessTraveled.us](http://RoadsLessTraveled.us).

### Honda EU 2200i Generator Specs:

<https://powerequipment.honda.com/generators/models/EU2200i>

# 10

## IMPORTANT STEPS TO DOMICILE

# *Where Is Home?*

By **K. SUSIE ADAMS** #134068

In March, Escapees RV Club hosted the club's annual Escapade, in Tucson, Arizona. This event provides a chance for RVers to gather and listen to speakers talk about RV-related subjects.

As a lawyer with the law firm Loring & Associates, I had the pleasure of attending this event.

I spoke to attendees about all-things-domicile so they could obtain legal advice about their RVing lifestyle.

**D**uring Escapade, I had the chance to speak to many long-time and new Escapees members about domicile. I discovered that I have been at this long enough to have forgotten how mysterious the world of domicile is to most people. This realization was brought home to me even more so while in Memphis, Tennessee.

My husband took a job in Memphis, Tennessee, two years ago, so now I travel between Memphis and Livingston, Texas, but still claim my domicile in Texas. Recently, I went to the Memphis post office to mail my renewal passport application. When the postal worker saw that I had a Texas address on the envelope, she was alarmed.

"Why do you have this going to a Texas address?" she asked.

I wanted to launch into my speech and explain to her everything I knew about domicile. I wanted her to understand that because we “intend to call Texas home,” and still have a house in Livingston, Texas, it was our domicile, even though I was sending the Passport Renewal Application from Tennessee. But, I didn’t. I simply explained that my official home was Texas.

So, if it is so easy for most folks to know their domicile, why is it such an issue for full-time RVers? The answer is somewhat simple, yet profound. **“DOMICILE” IS DEFINED AS THE PLACE YOU “INTEND TO CALL HOME.”**

“During Escapade, it was concerning to hear from RVers who told me that for years they have had their vehicles registered in one state, driver license in another state and their voter registration in yet a third state. **This approach is risky.”**

So many RVers have told me, “But we want to be free and not call any place home!” Unfortunately, no matter what you desire, you can’t escape the reality that you must always have a domicile.

At Escapade, I asked one person who had been a full-time RVer for 20 years, “What is your domicile?” She answered, “I have no idea.” I realized then that even for long-time, full-time RVers, domicile is complicated.

To determine your domicile, the first thing to do is look at your driver license. The address on your driver license is usually your domicile. So, let’s say your driver license says your address is the Escapees address in Livingston, Texas, but you haven’t set foot in Texas for years? That can be a problem. Or, let’s say your driver license has an address from a house you sold several years ago. That could also be a problem. So, how can you rectify these?

### The “Easy Steps”

**1 Obtain Your New Address**  
You decide that your new “home” is going to be an address in Livingston, Texas, with Escapees. Obtain that new address by mail or in person. That begins the process.

**2 Register Your Vehicles in Texas**  
Once you have the address, you will need to register your vehicles in Texas, either online or by bringing your vehicle(s) to Texas. I strongly urge you to visit Livingston, Texas, for this purpose because Escapees national headquarters has been established there for 40 years. Staff in the vehicle registration office, in Livingston, are friendly and familiar with the full-time RV lifestyle and prepared to answer your questions. The office can be reached by phone at 936-327-6806. If you travel to nearby towns to register your vehicles and explain that you are a “full-time RVer,” they may look at you like you have two heads!

**3 Obtain a Texas Driver License**  
After you register your vehicles, the next step is to turn in your driver license from the state from which you are moving and to obtain a Texas driver license. This is also easy to do in Livingston, Texas. The DPS office for driver licenses is just down the road from where you have registered your vehicles. This is not an easy place to call since their calls are routed to the extremely busy Austin dispatch. However, the staff who work in the Livingston office are also familiar with full-time RVers. Bring an official government document with your social security number and several other documents, along with your current out-of-state driver license. This restriction changes often, so check the DPS website beforehand. The website is online at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense).

**4 Register to Vote**  
As you probably know, voting rights in the United States have received much attention in the last few years. Your domicile determines that right to vote. So, once you have your new Livingston, Texas, address, you are able to vote in Livingston, Texas. Once again, because Escapees has had its headquarters in Livingston for 40 years, the county clerk is quite familiar with the lifestyle. Absentee voting is common. For more information, visit the county clerk’s office at [www.co.polk.tx.us/page/polk.county.clerk](http://www.co.polk.tx.us/page/polk.county.clerk).

**5 File an Affidavit of Domicile**  
To “seal the deal,” our law firm, Loring & Associates, offers an affidavit that can be filed with the court. In this document, you swear that Livingston is your home. This document will

be notarized and filed with the court and it shows that you are willing to claim to the world in a public document that Livingston, Texas, is your home.

### **The Additional Steps**

These points cover what we call the “easy steps.” Some folks have accomplished these steps in one or two days. Although this will “establish” your domicile, in many instances, it will not be sufficient to prove that you have genuinely left the state from which you have moved. In order to prove you have really moved, you need to also take these steps.

## **6 Create Community Relations in Texas**

The next step is to join local organizations. If you were a member of, say, Rotary Club, in your old state, quit that membership and join the local Rotary Club. Visit the local library and obtain a new library card. If you have a church affiliation, find a local church and make it your church home.

## **7 Change Business and Professional Relationships to Livingston, Texas**

Next, change your bank accounts and other business papers to your new address. If your bank is a national bank, find a Texas branch as your new bank. Of course, when everything is online, this process is simply an address change, but it still needs to be changed. You also need to change your professionals to Texas. Your health insurance will now be under Texas law, so you will need to find local doctors, dentists and even veterinarians. You will also need to have Texas accountants.

## **8 Have Your Estate Plans Written or Re-written Under Texas Law**

One of the strongest indicators of where you “intend to call home” is where your estate planning documents are created. Your wills and powers-of-attorney are usually written in your state of domicile. Once you change your state of domicile, change these documents to reflect this new home. If the state from which you have moved sues you, claiming you are still domiciled in that state, using your estate plan can help prove you have really moved to Texas because you are showing you even “intend to die” in Texas.

## **9 Sell or Lease Your Real Estate in the State You Are Leaving and Buy Real Estate in Texas**

If you still have real property (a home, vacant land or some other physical tie) in the state you are leaving, it is best to sell it or rent it out to non-family members at a competitive rate. If, in fact, you have a home back in the state that you no longer want to call home and to which you return every summer, it will be difficult to prove you no longer call that state your home. However, you can always have rent property in a state where you are not domiciled. Don’t “pretend” it is rent property and rent it to your children each year for a nominal rent and then return to live in the back half for so many months each year where your furniture is still in place.

## **10 Move Your Storage Unit to Texas**

One question I ask potential Texans is, “Where are you storing the stuff that didn’t fit in your RV?” Usually the answer is “back home in Kansas.” Because you need to show that you actually left Kansas and genuinely moved to Texas, you need to consider moving the storage to Texas. In doing this, it won’t appear that you are still domiciled elsewhere.

These are simply suggestions for a way that a full-time RVer can create and defend their new domicile in Texas. Texas is happy to call you Texans, but the state from which you have moved might not be so happy to let you go.

During Escapade, it was concerning to hear from RVers who told me that for years they have had their vehicles registered in one state, driver license in another state and their voter registration in yet a third state. This approach is risky. By following my proposed outline in this article, your RVing lifestyle will be a less risky adventure.

If you would like more information, contact our office at 800-260-1615, [www.loringlaw.com](http://www.loringlaw.com) or watch the domicile lecture as a part of Escapees RVers Online University (See page 59). 🚐



**K. SUSIE ADAMS** has been a lawyer for over 30 years, spending 15 of those years as a trial lawyer. She also taught legal writing at the University of Houston Law School. From 2011–2016, she was executive director of Childrenz Haven, the Child Advocacy Center of Polk County, Texas. Susie and her husband, James Frost, reside in Livingston, Texas.



# Seemingly

Europe may have the lion's share of stone castles and Gothic cathedrals, but America, with the wisdom and foresight of our early leaders, has her stunning national parks. When we think of the genesis of national lands preservation and the establishment of the national park system, we often recognize a few key presidents as responsible for "America's best idea."

**W**hile Ulysses S. Grant gets the credit for creating the country's first official national park, Yellowstone, in 1872, and Roosevelt greatly expanded the idea in the early 1900s, it was in 1864 that Lincoln safeguarded a wide swath of territory from privatization. Today, we call that tract of protected land Yosemite National Park.

Wilson created the National Park Service in 1916, to organize the management of the diverse public lands under government protection. That year welcomed 326,000 visitors to the service's 12 units. Today the park system hosts more than 318 million annual visitors to a whopping 419 units across our great land.



# 17 Secret NATIONAL PARKS

By **EVANNE SCHMARDER** #65409

## Know Before You Go

Like most Americans, the parks you’ve heard about all your life are on your must-see list. Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Zion, Rocky Mountains, Great Smoky Mountains and Acadia are not to be missed. You have to see them. But it’s a sure thing that you won’t be alone, especially in the summer. While I’m delighted that these national treasures are in demand, I’m not as excited about the throngs.

Yellowstone, home of Old Faithful, welcomed 4.1 million visitors in 2018, and Yosemite, with its marvelous Half Dome, had four million visitors. Luckily, the Escapees lifestyle allows us flexibility in choosing our travel timetables, and we can, for instance, visit these during shoulder seasons, spring or fall. It’s then you’ll find room to breathe,

less traffic, greater site availability and often lower associated costs.

## Smarter Summer Visits

As busy as some parks are in the summer, you don’t have to deny yourself an outdoor adventure. In fact, to the contrary. With an abundance of gorgeous, unique and culturally valuable sites in the park system, there are endless options available for you to experience the great outdoors—minus the crush of the crowds.

The top-visited parks offer spectacular scenery, but so do the seemingly secret parks. Whether you want to hike amongst rock spires, examine glaciers, explore a lake-shore or take in wildlife, you’ve got options.

Consider a few of my favorite hidden summer-visit gems with these “if you like this, try that” suggestions.

Chiricahua National Monument. Monsoon Sunset at Massai Point. Summer monsoons often bring isolated thunderstorms to the mountains.

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
NPS R. STEWART



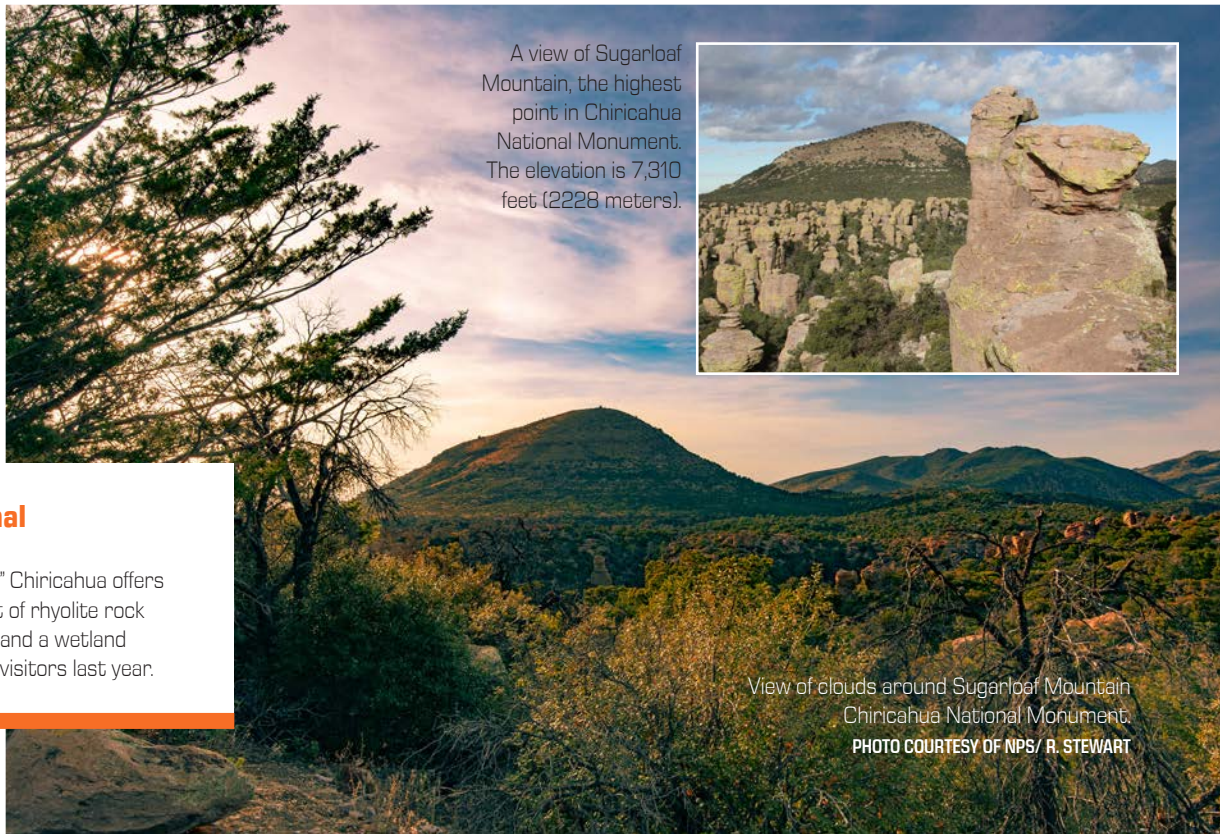
## Like Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah?

With its alluring hoodoos and miles of trails through colorful rock formations, Bryce Canyon National Park, welcoming 2.7 million visitors in 2018, is on everyone's go-to list.

## Try Chiricahua National Monument, Arizona.

Dubbed a "wonderland of rocks," Chiricahua offers fabulous hiking through a forest of rhyolite rock pinnacles, a desert, grasslands and a wetland marsh, hosting a mere 60,577 visitors last year.

A view of Sugarloaf Mountain, the highest point in Chiricahua National Monument. The elevation is 7,310 feet (2,228 meters).



View of clouds around Sugarloaf Mountain, Chiricahua National Monument.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS/ R. STEWART

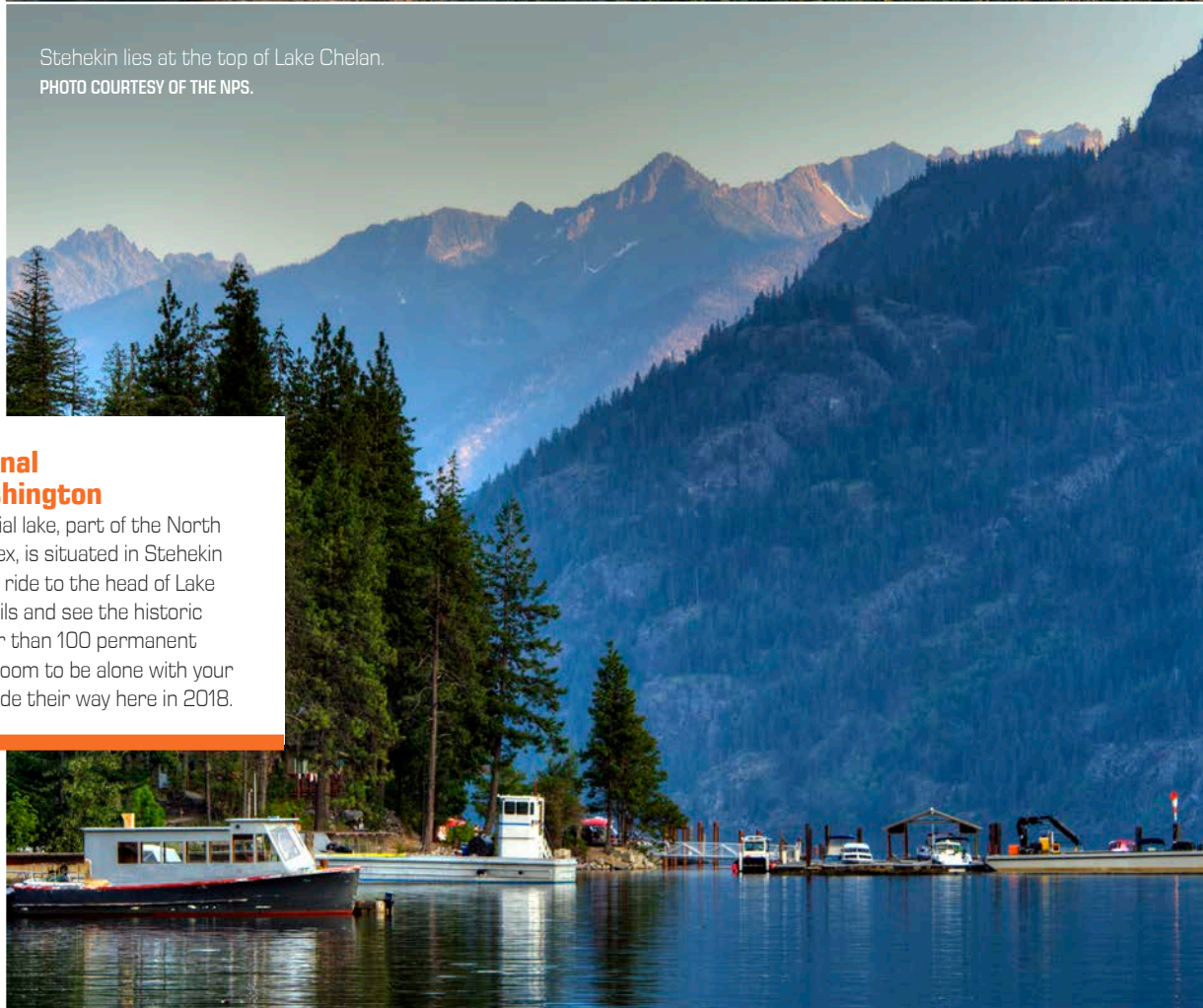
## Like Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada?

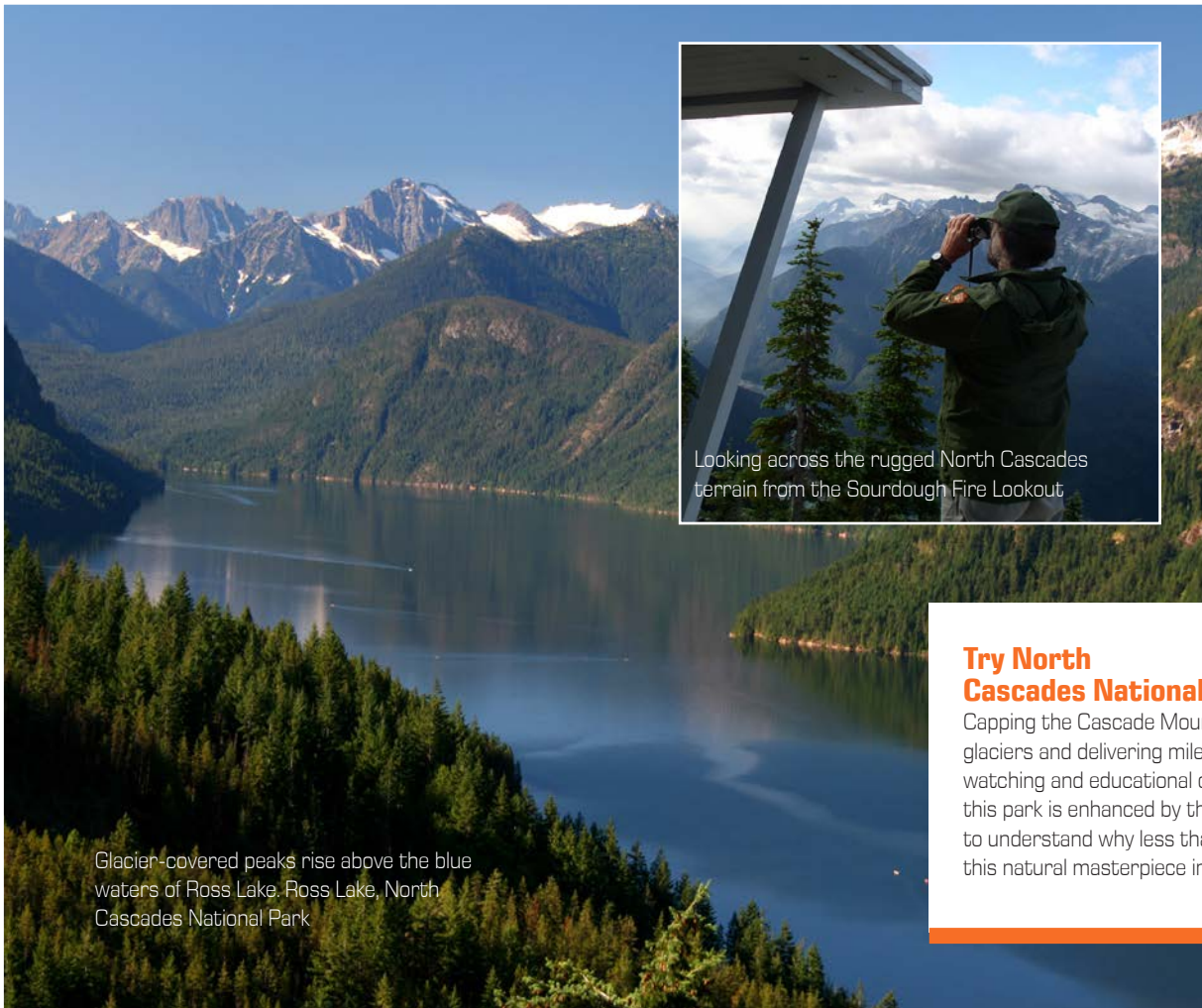
With its dramatic desert-to-shore landscape, brilliant blue water, finger-like coves and proximity to Las Vegas, over 7.5 million watersport and outdoor enthusiasts made this a vacation stop in 2018.

Stehekin lies at the top of Lake Chelan.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NPS.

## Try Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, Washington

This breathtaking fjord-like glacial lake, part of the North Cascades National Park Complex, is situated in Stehekin Valley. Enjoy a spectacular ferry ride to the head of Lake Chelan, hike the remarkable trails and see the historic structures in this town of fewer than 100 permanent residents. You'll have plenty of room to be alone with your thoughts. Only 38,839 folks made their way here in 2018.





Glacier-covered peaks rise above the blue waters of Ross Lake. Ross Lake, North Cascades National Park



Looking across the rugged North Cascades terrain from the Sourdough Fire Lookout

### **Like Glacier National Park, Montana?**

With its mountain lakes and waterfalls, fabled Going-to-the-Sun Road and the remaining 26 rapidly melting glaciers, it is no wonder 2.9 million people flocked to this summer-season park last year.

### **Try North Cascades National Park, Washington**

Capping the Cascade Mountain range with over 300 glaciers and delivering miles of hiking and biking, wildlife watching and educational opportunities, spending time in this park is enhanced by the absence of crowds. It's hard to understand why less than 30,000 nature lovers visited this natural masterpiece in 2018.



Wild horses in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

### **Like Badlands National Park, South Dakota?**

With its ever-changing landscape, abundant wildlife, driving loop and dark-sky program, this national park entertained a little over one million visitors in 2018.

### **Try Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota**

Bison, badlands, historic structures, scenic drives and a painted canyon are among the assorted reasons why 749,389 people visited this remarkable national park last year. At first glance, visitation numbers to this park look similar to the Badlands, but it's important to note that the park is divided into two distinct units, North and South. The North Unit, less visited and more remote, is off the beaten path and offers incredible hiking and wildlife watching. The South Unit, equally amazing yet a bit busier, is where you can enjoy short hikes and visit Roosevelt's Maltese Cross Cabin.

### Since You're Here

Oftentimes, in-the-know national-lands-lovers will plan a visit to a popular spot but reserve time to seek out nearly unknown parks nearby. Here is a sample of places to whet your whistle.

### While you are in the Grand Canyon area, Arizona

There's no disputing the grandeur of the Grand Canyon. Yet, rubbing elbows with the 6.4 million annual visitors can take some of the shine off. Wisely choose the best time to visit the more popular South Rim and give yourself a little more freedom to see the North Rim. And, while you're in the area, don't miss Wupatki National Monument, Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument and Walnut Canyon National Monument.

***“There's a standing rule in my RV: if at all possible, no passing by a park.***

*Sometimes that means pulling in and finding the “big rig” parking area. Other times it requires plenty of planning and a multi-night stay in a neighboring town or the park's campground.”*

Venture outside of Flagstaff and you'll be rewarded with ancient pueblos, a dormant volcano and gravity-defying cliff dwellings.

Wupatki National Monument sports deep-red pueblo ruins in remarkable condition, thanks in part to early preservation work by the Civilian Conservation Corps. With a little over 200,000 visitors in 2018, echoes of the past can still be heard in the wind.

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, the youngest of the Colorado Plateau volcanoes, last erupted somewhere around 1100, changing the landscape and the lives of many. Now it's a hiker's paradise, welcoming a mere 104,583 adventurous souls last year.

Walnut Canyon National Monument, a bit more popular with a little over 167,000 visitors in 2018, offers a glimpse into the homes of the ancient cliff dwellers. With two easy hiking trails and an interpretive center, you'll be glad you visited.


### One More Not to Miss

Having no equivalent that I've found, South Carolina's only national park, Congaree, is part of the UNESCO internationally recognized Biosphere Reserve. You can explore this unique bottomland swamp-like wilderness by foot or by water. The ranger-led canoe program is especially interesting. Even with the modest visitor count of 145,929 last year, the program's space is limited, and reservations are required.

### Make It Happen

There's a standing rule in my RV: if at all possible, no passing by a park. Sometimes that means pulling in and finding the “big rig” parking area. Other times it requires plenty of planning and a multi-night stay in a neighboring town or the park's campground.

Some parks are free to enter, but most have a small-to-significant fee. If you think you'll take a cue from my “roadabode” and stop at every opportunity, consider getting an annual National Parks Pass. Fees differ for the general public and seniors and are free for current members of the military, the disabled, volunteers and fourth graders.

Thanks to the RV lifestyle, we can choose when and where to visit our national lands. After countless stops, hikes, ranger programs, campsite setups, scenic drives and vistas, the magnificence of our vast park system still astonishes me. Knowing that there are so many under-the-radar national treasures reminds me that we choose our own paths. I'm taking the one less traveled. I hope you do, too. 



**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 in search of a sunny place to settle down. 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](http://RVCookingShow.com).



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Balancing life and work  
ON THE ROAD

# TWO SOLO TECHS

By RENE AGREDANO #103274

With age and experience comes an understanding that the only certainty in life, besides death and taxes, is change. Embracing the disruption isn't easy, but solo RVers Marshall Wendler #115061 and Tyler Williams #146012 figured out how to make it work for them. At a relatively young age, these two solo Xscapers found a way through personal and professional turmoil, and today they're living the dream life they wanted as digital nomads.



**Tyler Williams**  
Finding Balance in the  
High Tech Wild West

The life of a tech worker can be as unpredictable as life itself. Two years ago, Tyler's career and home life were turned upside down—twice in less than a week. He remembers the details vividly: On a Monday, his employer asked him to make a semi-permanent move to Amsterdam to oversee a major cloud computing contract. Excited about the career move, he immediately stored his possessions and terminated the lease on his home/office by Tuesday night. But by Thursday afternoon, the company announced that his project was on hiatus, only two days before Tyler's flight departure. He literally had nowhere to sleep when the bomb fell, but instead of panicking, he leaped into his new RV life.

"I've camped my whole life, from family camping in pop-up campers, to a school bus conversion my dad did in the 80s, to Boy Scouts, I've been around it," he explains. Even under pressure for a place to live, finding his first rig came relatively easy. Within days Tyler was the owner of a used 1992



motorhome and the envy of his father, who had always wanted to RV full-time. Tyler's new rig would be a place to continue his work-from-home job, and maybe even allow him to travel for fun instead of just work. The move was a no-brainer, but he decided to keep his nomadic metamorphosis from his employer.

"I wouldn't tell work; I'd just keep working from 'home' until the Amsterdam trip happened," said Tyler. "Two years later, a new RV and 15 states later, that trip isn't a reality, but there is a potential it will still happen 'sometime soon,'" he says with a laugh.

He didn't know it then, but there was no need to conceal his new lifestyle from management. "I'm really good friends with my boss, and a few months later he found out about it. He was stoked, and super excited!" Other colleagues are equally as supportive and even envious about Tyler's lifestyle choice.

"Going into full-time RVing, I didn't have many expectations, just to wait out the trip overseas! Since then, it's evolved ever so much," he explains. "Having the luxury to move my house, and have flexible plans has considerably opened my eyes to places I never imagined I'd go. Finding the right balance of free things and fun things helps

to justify every morning waking up saying, 'Where am I living today?'"

In the last year, Tyler has logged over 180,000 air miles for work. But being an Xscaper has still given his life the social boost that he wanted. From airport to campground and back again, somehow he finds a way to balance the two different worlds. "My biggest challenge is that I still travel a lot for work internationally and domestically. And most often times there's ample notice, but not always. It's those times when you are in an unfamiliar place on the opposite side of the country that you have to figure out things like, Where do I store my RV? How long can I leave it unattended? How much am I going to waste in groceries in the fridge/freezer, etc.?"

As the lucky recipient of a lifetime membership with Thousand Trails, which his parents purchased in the 1980s, Tyler finds that the continuity between parks eases some of the uncertainties that accompany last-minute work travel. "They have been great. You know the people, the rules, the expectations; it's remote enough and they always have storage when you need it."

But whether he's lounging by the pool after work at some swanky Hawaii hotel

Left: Tyler Williams at work in his RV.

Right: Marshall Wendler hiking at Forest Gump Point, in Mexican Hat, Utah.

PHOTO BY KELLY BEASLEY #120701



or checking out a hipster hotspot in Amsterdam, the 34-year-old solo nomad always misses his home on wheels. “I absolutely get homesick from not being around my RV! I really like to think it misses me as much as I miss it when I’m traveling.”



## **Marshall Wendler** **A Camp Addict with an Entrepreneurial Heart**

Thirteen years ago at age 34, Marshall Wendler bid farewell to traditional employment.

Entrepreneurship was calling, and it was time for a change. With his wife fully supportive of the switch, the North Carolina website developer took a leap of faith, got what he wanted and more. But not all of it was good.

“My wife and I decided to try our hand at making money online since that seemed to be what all the cool kids were doing,” he recalls. From selling on eBay.com to affiliate marketing, the couple’s online businesses were a hit for a few years. Then, a major change in Google search engine policies had a negative impact on their income stream. After taking a temporary customer service job in the IT field to pay the bills, his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. Soon afterward, she died from it.

“To make a long story short, my world got turned upside down,” he recalls. When the darkest days of his mourning subsided six months later, Marshall embraced the wanderlust in his soul. Two months later, he was on the road. “I’ve wanted to lead a nomadic lifestyle since I was in my early 20s. After I was widowed, I decided that if I didn’t become a nomad at this point in life, I might never do it.”


Even after becoming a full-time RVer, he stayed at his “temporary” IT support job for another two unfulfilling years. Marshall ignored his entrepreneurial instinct until he met Xscaper Kelly Beasley #120701, a kindred spirit and solo RVer also searching for a sustainable income stream.

Almost immediately they formed a business partnership and combined their talents. After working on it for eight months, Kelly and Marshall’s first Internet venture wasn’t taking off as they had hoped. They regrouped to pinpoint a business that would,

and five months later they launched CampAddict.com, an Internet resource for all things camping and RVing. Their hard work paid off, and today the website is going strong as their only source of income. Whether they’re traveling together or apart, Kelly and Marshall continue to work hard and play harder, living by example to share the RV lifestyle with others.

Of course, every business has daily challenges, and for a digital nomad, that often means finding reliable Internet service. “Connectivity is obviously a huge consideration and sometimes a point of pain,” says Marshall. “Running a website means that you always need access to the Internet. If I’m not creating content, I’m answering comments or updating the website. Connectivity is one of the biggest factors (if not the biggest) when it comes to deciding where to head next. No connectivity? I won’t be showing up there!”

Despite the occasional constraints of running a business from the road, Marshall manages to set up his home/office in killer destinations that cost little to no money. “I’m boondocking pretty darn close to 100 percent of the time and avoid commercial RV parks like the plague,” he explains. His meticulous expenses spreadsheet shows that in 2018 he paid on average a whopping \$1.31 per night in camping fees, up from \$.11 in 2017.

Since joining Xscapers, he’s connected with more people like Tyler, those who appreciate the lifestyle and understand what it’s like to work remotely. “The Xscapers community makes it very easy to find your tribe and travel with people you enjoy spending time with, sometimes for weeks at a time.” Group get-togethers offer plenty of “shiny objects,” as he calls them, that compel him to get out more and socialize. “It’s all about the work-life balance that everyone loves to talk about. Having people around greatly helps with this. They ‘make’ me get off my butt and do stuff, whereas if I was by myself I’d be more apt to sit in front of the computer. So having a healthy network of people I enjoy spending time with is key to making sure I lead a balanced life.” 



**RENE AGREDANO**, Jim Nelson and their dog, Wyatt, are enjoying their 12th year as full-time RVers and location-independent entrepreneurs. Their adventures are chronicled at LiveWorkDream.com.



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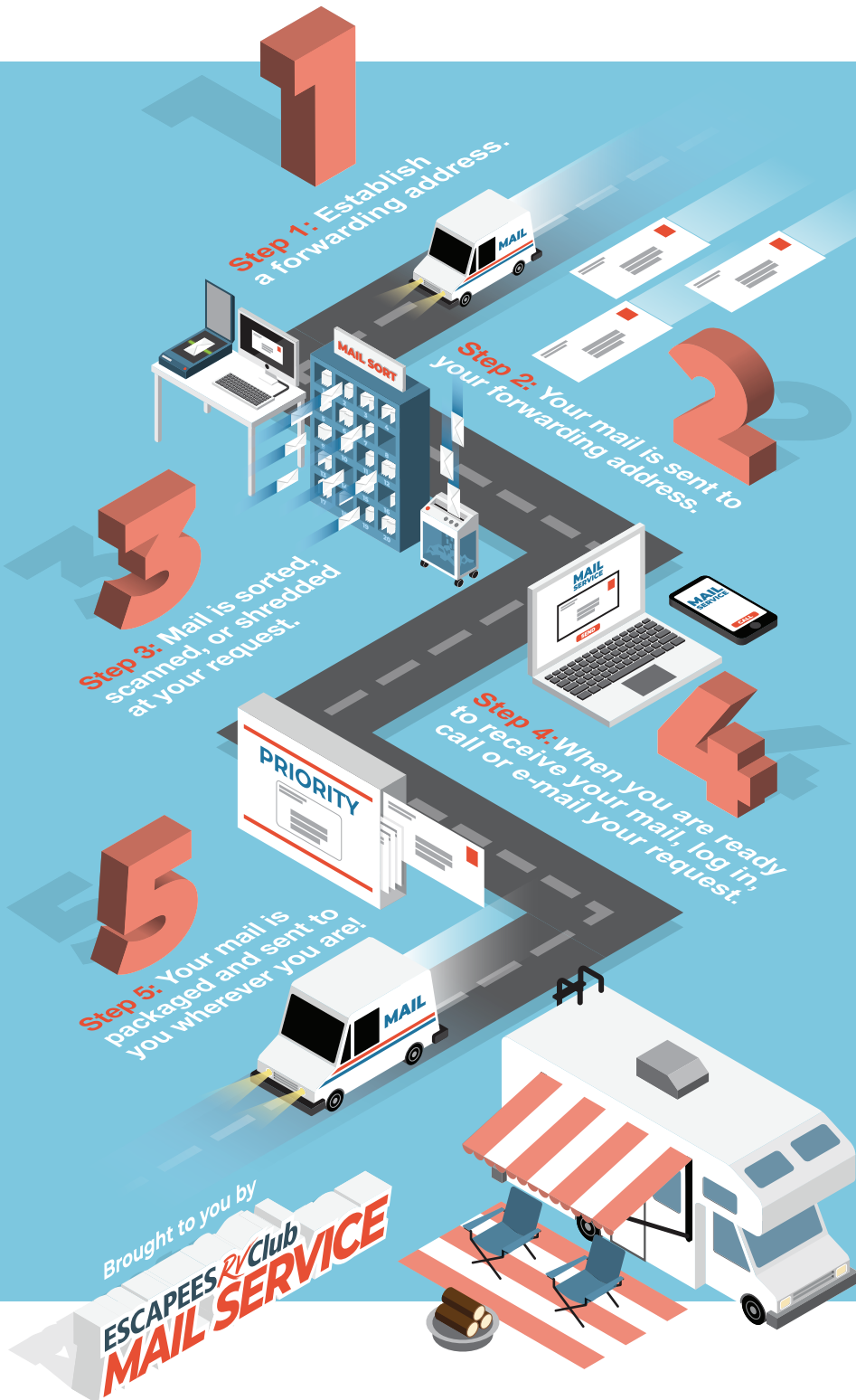
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# RV Rally

*Guidelines to help you arrive and thrive*

## PREPARATION

By **GEORGIANNE AUSTIN** #131681

Whether you are a new RVer, or a seasoned RVer who has never attended a rally, you may wonder, “What exactly is an RV rally, and what should I know before I go?”

**A**n RV rally is an organized event where fellow RVers come together at a designated time and place to share information, food, drinks and to enjoy the RV lifestyle. Usually, attendees arrive in rigs; however, many rallies welcome those who haven’t purchased their first RV but are interested in learning about the lifestyle. Escapees RV Club’s annual rally, Escapade, is a perfect example. Camping arrangements are available for those who want to park their RV onsite for

the week-long event, but walk-ins are also present daily. These walk-ins either live in the area or are staying nearby.

A well-organized rally often will include learning opportunities, happy hours, group meals and entertainment, and it can be overwhelming. So, whether you are heading to a two-day rally, or one that stretches over a week or more, to get most out of your experience, here are a few guidelines to help you arrive prepared and avoid burnout:



## Meal Planning

We all must eat, right? When you're busy having fun, it can be inconvenient to have to return to your RV to prepare a meal and spend time away from your new friends. To make life easier, plan and prepare your meals for the event in the weeks leading up to the rally.

Ahead of events such as the Xscapers Annual Bash, it is common to bump into fellow RVers at the local Costco or Sam's Club. This week-long event requires off-grid camping and includes several potlucks and cook-offs in addition to the late-night dance parties and gatherings around the campfire. Stock up so you have enough to share.

If you will have electricity in your camping spot, soups and chili are easy meals to have on hand. Make a batch in advance, portion and freeze it. Then, you can reheat one serving at a time in your microwave or on the stovetop for a quick and filling meal. If you're not into soups, pull out the slow cooker or Instant Pot and make a batch of barbecue pulled pork or shredded chicken. You can use it for quick sliders, add some protein to a salad or do a bit of both by wrapping fresh veggies and shredded protein in a tortilla for an on-the-go meal. Don't forget grilling is a

boondock-friendly way to cook. You can grill ahead of time as part of your meal prep, or invite your neighbors over and have a cookout onsite!

It can also be handy to have portable snacks on hand to toss in your bag before heading out for the day. Trail mix, jerky, homemade protein bars and even some nut butter and jelly will help you satisfy hunger while you're having fun. And remember to bring along your water bottle. Not all fairgrounds and campgrounds have water fountains available, so make sure you carry water with you everywhere. Recovering from dehydration is not how you want to spend your time.

You can find recipes for the ideas included here, and many more RV-friendly dishes, on our Pinterest board online at [pinterest.com/escapeesrvclub](https://pinterest.com/escapeesrvclub) for RV cooking.

## Divide and Conquer

In addition to planning your meals, you can make a tentative schedule for the rally. When you receive the program for an event, review each available opportunity for the day. At small events such as Escapees Hangouts, HOPs or Xscapers Convergences, most activities are scheduled so they don't overlap





“Instead, plan for one or two nights of staying up late, and try to stick to your normal sleep routine for all other nights.”

each other. However, at larger rallies, like Escapade, overlap of activities is inevitable. Can't decide between two seminars that share a time slot? If you are traveling with your spouse or friend, divide and conquer. Check with a friend and each take a different seminar so you can share notes later.

Build downtime into your day. Even the most extroverted RVer can get burned out after several days of one activity after another. Keep in mind that downtime can look different for everyone. Whether it is a nap, an afternoon walk or a getaway to a local café or restaurant, do whatever works best for you. It's important to include “you time” in your daily plans. At events such as Hangouts, you'll find there are active excursions scheduled during the day in addition to evening and weekend activities. If you don't take the time to prioritize your day and week, you may find yourself craving the solace of your rig while your new friends are out having fun. FOMO (fear of missing out) isn't a fun feeling.

### **Set Boundaries**

RVers are great at challenging boundaries and limitations and learning a lot about themselves in the process. It's one of the best things about RVing. However, those aren't the

kinds of boundaries we're talking about here.

In your day-to-day life, do you try to be in bed by 10:00 p.m. each night? Although flexibility is necessary, you probably don't want to completely disregard this part of your routine for too long. The occasional after-midnight bedtime can be fun when you spend those late hours sharing laughter with friends, but too much of a good thing will catch up with you. Staying up late and getting up early can wear you out quickly. Add that to all the walking you do each day as you move throughout each event, and you're going to exhaust yourself. Instead, plan for one or two nights of staying up late, and try to stick to your normal sleep routine for all other nights.

Do you typically stick to a particular diet? Don't stray too far from these habits. The temptation for quick and easy food, or dining out often with new friends, can wreak havoc on your digestion and energy. Remember the meal prep we talked about earlier? That will go a long way to helping you maintain a similar way of eating while you're busy soaking in all the rally fun. You can even invite your new friends over and share your prepped meals.

If there are potlucks on the rally schedule, use that opportunity to share your favorite



foods while ensuring there are options at the potluck that suit your dietary needs. Remember to include potluck supplies when planning your groceries and meals.

Also, be sure you have plenty of pet food available and that your medicine cabinet is well-stocked. You never know if you'll need something for a headache, blistered heels, allergies or achy feet and legs. You will also want to ensure you have plenty of your prescription medications on hand, so you don't have to leave the campground to hunt down refills.

“Once you have decided to attend a rally, reach out to other attendees through social media...”

### **Establish Realistic Expectations**

At most rallies, you will be parked closer together than you would otherwise prefer. Space for parking is limited, so RVs are parked close together to allow for the maximum number of attendees within the parameters of the rally area or campground. This means you may have added light and noise from your neighbors and maybe from a few of their excited pets.


If you're a light sleeper, have comfortable ear plugs and a sleep mask on hand, so you have a better chance for a sound night's sleep. For some events such as Convergences, there are designated areas for different needs. Those who turn in early and prefer quiet can opt to park together, while those who enjoy nightlife can camp closer to the action. Ask about these options when registering for an event.

You should also be prepared for generator noise in boondocking areas. Most events have established “generator hours” to avoid keeping attendees awake all night. Though there is an understood etiquette that comes with generator use, not all RVers are aware of the expectations. There may be an extenuating circumstance that requires someone to run their generator for most of the approved hours. Before you get upset with the noise, reach out to your neighbor to see if you can help. You never know if it's a simple misunderstanding or if a neighbor is in an urgent situation. If you are the one with the generator, please ensure your exhaust is directed away from your neighbors. They'll appreciate the consideration.

Even if you get to enjoy full hookups, there are often restrictions for electricity usage at rallies. Make sure you are using the correct amperage for your spot to avoid tripping breakers for everyone. You don't want to be the one who causes everyone's air conditioning to quit.

Often you will make new friends, but probably not with every person you meet. As in your sticks-and-bricks life, you are surrounded by people from all backgrounds, political preferences and religious affiliations. Although we can find something in common with almost anyone, there isn't a guarantee that you will become lifelong friends with everyone you encounter at a rally. And that's okay! Instead, use the opportunity to learn about people who are different from you, and take time to find deeper connections with the right people. For example, many friendships are seeded at an Xscapers Convergence but grow into meaningful relationships as people stay in touch during the rest of their travels.

If this sounds like a lot to think about, take a deep breath and you'll be fine. Once you have decided to attend a rally, reach out to other attendees through social media and discussion forums to learn about their previous experiences with that particular gathering. Many Escapees events have Facebook groups dedicated to bringing together attendees for events. A short Internet search will likely yield at least a handful of blog or video recaps that you can view to see what others have experienced at previous rallies. The organization may even have resources of their own to help you prepare for their rally. As an example, Escapees members can reach out to the various chapters and Birds of a Feather (BoF) groups for a way to meet fellow members in a more casual way before heading to a larger Escapees event together.

Attending an RV rally can be an enjoyable part of your RV adventure. With a little preparation and planning, you can pace yourself and make it a fun and engaging experience. Most importantly, be yourself, keep an open mind and get ready to plunge headfirst into the RVing community. 



**GEORGIANNE AUSTIN**, Communications Director for Escapees RV Club, interacts with many RVers and professionals in related industries, soaking up information in order to understand the RV lifestyle from all perspectives.

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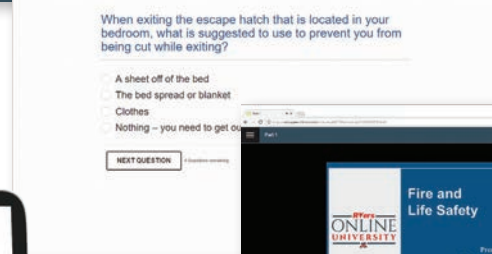
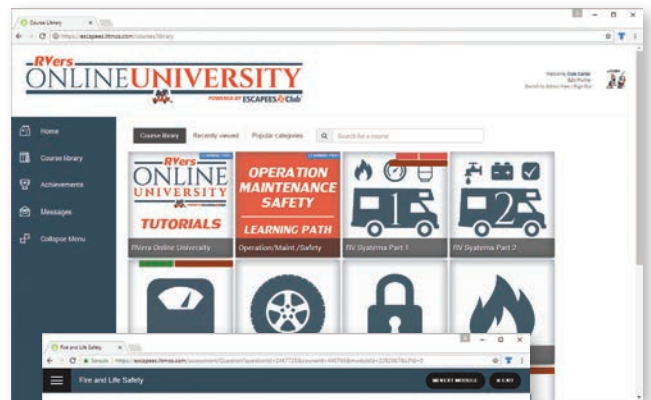


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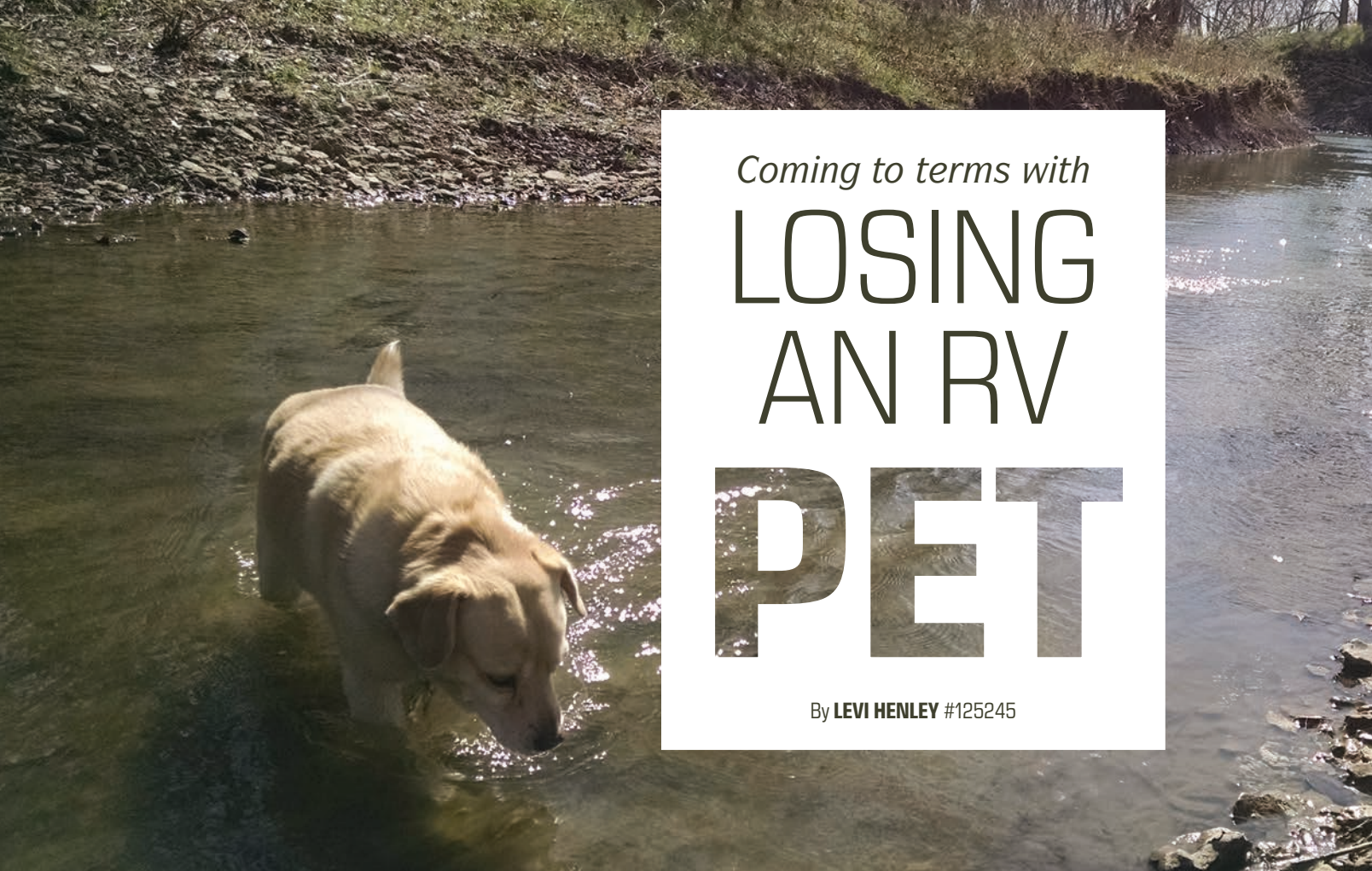
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*Coming to terms with*  
**LOSING  
AN RV**

**PET**

By **LEVI HENLEY** #125245

Pets are family to many people. For some, they are children, and to others, a best friend. There is something about the fact that your pets love you unconditionally, never judging or holding a grudge, that makes many humans care for their pets as much, if not more, than other humans. Unfortunately most pets have a much shorter lifespan than we do, unless you get a pet tortoise in your mid-20s. We know they have a shorter lifespan from the moment we get them. The comedian George Carlin once said, "You're supposed to know it in the pet shop. It's going to end badly. You are purchasing a small tragedy." RVers have a somewhat unique living situation with their pets.

**W**e lost our dog, Brewy, in March of this year. She had cancer attached to her blood vessels, which ruptured and she started bleeding internally. After discussing the possibilities at the veterinary emergency hospital, it was determined that there really wasn't a chance for a positive outcome. She was dying and in pain. We made one of life's impossible choices. We gave her the gift of ending her pain and giving her peace. Anyone who has made that choice knows that the gift comes with the great personal cost of your own pain in return.

Losing a pet is always sad and tragic, but what does this have to do with RVing? After losing a pet, there are things that remind you of what you lost. It may be a food bowl or a bed still lying in its preferred spot. Your routine of getting up early to let your pet outside may no longer be necessary. It was shortly after arriving back to our rig from the vet that we realized just how much Brewy was literally in every single aspect of our lives, especially living full-time in an RV.

We slowly walked up to our door and unlocked it after that night. We instinctively stepped to the side to allow Brewy to walk down her ramp to greet us. After our brains



realized that wasn't going to happen, we walked in to be greeted by her bed underneath the dining room table; she wasn't there. Later that day, I used the bathroom. Brewy would push the door closed with her snout if we left it open. The door didn't move. As the days went on, we realized that Brewy had literally been a part of every movement and every action we'd made in the RV.

I have lost pets before, but the constant reminder every second we were in our RV was agonizing. All of our travels and outings involved her, whether it was stopping for quick rest room breaks or exploring pet-friendly tourist attractions. Unless you live in a small space, I don't think that kind of care and planning is required for a pet. We talked with fellow RVers who had also lost pets while living in their RV and realized what we were feeling was not unique to us. Other RVers informed us that living in close proximity had allowed them to acquire a particularly close bond with their pets. This resulted in a much more difficult grieving process than they'd otherwise experienced in their life.

How did we cope? I'm writing this just a little over a month since Brewy went to rest.

The memory is still fresh. Only yesterday I was making a sandwich and almost held a piece of turkey down so Brewy could take it from my hand. She didn't. I cried again for the thousandth time since March. We all process grief differently and at different paces. I can't tell you how long it will take. I can share with you some things we did and continue to do to help us cope with our loss. Perhaps something in that list will bring others comfort as well.

### **Know It Will Be Difficult At First**

Psychologists agree that losing a companion animal can be as difficult as losing a best friend or significant other. It is for this reason that you must give yourself the time and the permission to grieve. You may not realize the impact of how close you grow to your companion animal in those close quarters. It will be hard to do a lot of things in your rig at first because of their absence. The good news is that everyday routines will get easier with time. It may take weeks or months, but it will get easier.

It may be tempting to get rid of all the things that remind you of your lost loved one. Instead, collect and store these items somewhere out of sight. In your current

Brewy cooling off and resting with Natalie on a hike in Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas.

**PHOTOS BY LEVI AND NATALIE HENLEY #125245**





### Precious Memories

If you found a way to bring comfort through the difficult time of losing a pet, share your advice with *Escapees* magazine. You may help another RVer with this challenging time on the road.

state, it isn't a good idea to start getting rid of things that you may wish you'd kept. At a later time, when you are ready, go through these items to decide what to keep.

### You Are Not Alone

Grief is one of the loneliest experiences you can go through. It is important to realize that, while no one can experience your pain with you, they can listen to what you have to say. Talk to them. If you don't have anyone close to you that you can confide in, there are groups out there. For pets specifically, there is [www.rainbowsbridge.com](http://www.rainbowsbridge.com), among others. Many grieving sites have forums that allow people to share their own stories and help each other through the process.

### Make a Memorial

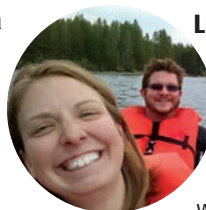
One of the fears I think many people have after losing a pet is the fear of forgetting. Making a memorial to your companion animal is a way to preserve their memory. A memorial can be a personalized stepping stone or a photo in a particular spot of the RV that was special to the both of you.

We have a photo of Brewy and an LED candle next to the box containing her ashes. We change the batteries often so that the candle never goes out.

It may sound strange, but it has given us a place to pause and take a moment to pay our respects to her on a daily basis. It has turned out to be rather healing.

### My Condolences

Losing a companion animal is a difficult, unfair, sad and heartbreaking experience. If you are going through that process, I want to stress one final thought. Our furry travel companions become more than pets when they are on the road with us. When they are gone, they leave a devastating wound, but they also leave behind that part of them that made it into our hearts and our lives. It's important to hold on to and remember this joy, happiness and love. In time, perhaps longer than you would like, you may realize that all this pain you feel right now was worth it for the beautiful time you had together. You will realize that, given the chance, you would do it all over again. 🐾



**LEVI HENLEY** and his wife, Natalie, are a full-time RVing couple. Together with their two cats, they travel around the country in their 2011 Sunstar Itasca seeking work-camping gigs. They share their adventures, seasonal job experiences and travel tips on their website, [henleysthappylife.com](http://henleysthappylife.com).

# MEMBER SECTION

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PHOTO BY BROCK BRINKERHOFF #131442



*“Every life is in many days, day after day. We walk through ourselves, meeting robbers, ghosts, giants, old men, young men, wives, widows, brothers-in-love, but always meeting ourselves.”*

—James Joyce, *Ulysses*

Photo taken at the 2018 Happy Hour in Quartzsite, Arizona.

# A Message From The Board

## Meeting Ourselves

**We are now celebrating the start of our 41st year as a club. Sitting in the present, looking back on the past 41 years and excited about the future, it is hard not to feel the weight of time and be aware that we hold a place in history. At the Escapees home office, we have a treasure trove of photos spanning all the way back to the beginning of the club. Countless faces are memorialized. RV families, some working; some retired, like you, traveling and living a dream. And, also like you, they all chose to be Escapees.**

**B**ut, to be an Escapee, to truly be one of us, is to accept a responsibility. We frame the duty we owe one another in our core values of “caring and sharing.” In this club, we have opted to look out for each other.

When Escapees began many years ago, all of the members knew each other personally. It is easy to maintain these values when everyone is close friends. Now that the club has grown to record numbers, it would be impossible for you to know (and be personal friends with) every member. Now more than ever, when you cannot know every Escapee, our values matter and create an implicit trust. It is the tie that binds.

In the spirit of “caring and sharing,” we are calling upon our long-term members to help our new members understand our values and our history, so that our values, the heart and soul of this club, remain our guiding light.



It is important to note that caring and sharing should not be a burden. Ideally, we all should willingly accept the mantle of these values. And, where and when you are able, continue to lead by example. All the hugs and handshakes matter and all the hours spent volunteering to help one another, the club and our community, matter.

Recently, we announced the launch of the Peterson Spirit Award to publicly recognize Escapees members for actions that exemplify the club's values. We were overjoyed to receive many responses stating variations of; "It is hard to recommend my friend based on one action because they live the values every day." There are two inspirational aspects to a statement like that: someone lived our values, and someone else noticed!

As we start our 41st year and our fifth decade, where we go as a club depends on you. It is the sum total of the small gestures that determine our fate. You entered this lifestyle with passion and curiosity. You travel to see new places and to have grand adventures. But the journey is made richer when you can share it with people who care about you. 🚐

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The Escapees RV Club National Headquarters observes national holidays to coincide with post office closures. For your convenience, the dates for 2019 are listed below. Please remember that Escapees mail service and the club business office will be closed on these dates, so be sure to call ahead for your mail.

- **July 4**—Independence Day
- **September 2**—Labor Day
- **October 14**—Columbus Day
- **November 11**—Veteran's Day
- **November 28 & 29**—Thanksgiving Day (2 days)
- **December 24**—Christmas Eve
- **December 25**—Christmas Day
- **December 31**—New Year's Eve





# A MESSAGE FROM XSCAPERS FOUNDERS

By **TRAVIS CARR** #8, Escapees President, and **MELANIE CARR** #8, Escapees Vice President



Xscapers volunteers clean up trash in Moab, Utah.

PHOTO BY JP SMITH #115625

## Xscapers Carry the Torch Forward

There's no doubt that the caring-and-sharing philosophy that Escapees RV Club was founded upon 41 years ago by Joe and Kay Peterson, is still alive and well today. The Xscapers group continues to embrace and adopt those ideals in everything they do. We are proud to see all the good works by Xscapers as they give back to local communities everywhere our Convergence director, JP Smith, takes them. Not only does the group give back to local communities, but we continue to see acts of kindness and selflessness take place from member to member on what seems like a daily basis. Whether it's lending a hand on a repair, or a full-on solar installation while parked together, there is no shortage of people ready to chip in. We often joke at events that, if you need help with something, just stand outside and look confused and somebody will be right over!

Thinking back to our roots, many of these things we are seeing within the community today have happened because of those who paved the way before us. *The*

*History of Escapees Club*, written by Kay Peterson and Todd Paddock, talks about the early days of Escapees and some of the ways the community has given back. In 1987, 24 Escapees volunteers walked a two-mile stretch in Livingston, Texas, cleaning up trash for the "Adopt a Highway" program. In April this year, a group of Xscapers at the Moab Convergence walked a large piece of land to conduct a trash clean-up. Each year at the annual Escapade, there is a fundraiser called "Donuts for CARE," where the proceeds for donut sales is donated to the Escapees CARE Center. At the Xscapers Annual Bash, we have adopted a new tradition of "Beer for CARE," which mirrors the same concept.

In realizing the efforts that you, the members, make to contribute to the organization and help those around you, the Escapees board of directors sought out ways to honor and recognize your efforts. Over the past several months, almost all of our departments have worked hard to bring together the Peterson Spirit Award that was



Xscapers Andrew Pullen #140318 and Daniel Heming #140945 pitch in to help fellow RVers, Marni Pearlman and Julie Axelson #140250, with solar panel installation.

PHOTO BY DANIEL HEMING #140945

announced on May 1. This is a wonderful opportunity open to all Escapees members to recognize their peers for acts of kindness.

Before we were able to publicly announce the program, ironically, there was a perfectly timed post made to the Xscapers Facebook group page. A member wanted to give kudos and recognize those she had seen continuously giving back to others during, and outside, Convergence events. The post and the comments that were made reinforced our need to create something special for those who exemplify the Escapees core values.

Jeff Bohrer #141435, who was tagged in the post as someone who should be nominated for the award, commented back and said, "It's funny because I actually have to walk away from some people's projects because there are already too many others helping. This is an outstanding community and all the Xscapers mentioned are wonderful people. But, it's not just turning wrenches and pulling wires. Several others have been there for us

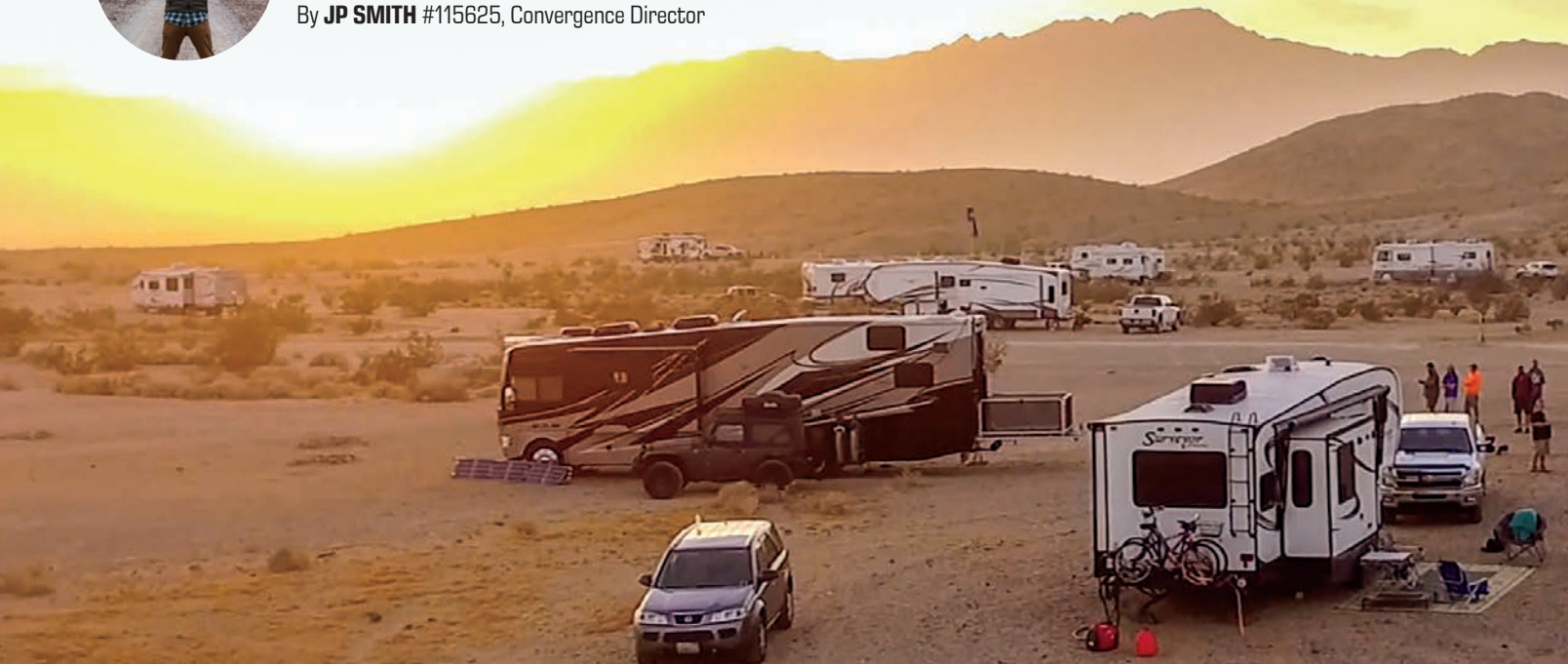
when we just needed to talk, get some advice or get out for a quick adventure. You all make this journey fantastic, and I enjoy having you in our lives." That quote filled our hearts and brought a smile to our faces. People like Jeff prove how important it is to find your community on the road and surround yourself with others who are helpful and positive.

Sure, Xscapers may like to stay up late and enjoy an adult beverage around the campfire after a long work day, but those are far from the characteristics of these incredible RVers. The group is full of kind, caring and selfless individuals who would give the shirts off their backs to help a friend in need. We feel it is important to highlight and embrace each and every trait that makes the group unique. We should also remember that we are all in this together. While the "how" of some RVers' journey may look a lot different than it did in the past, the "why" remains the same. It is to explore and create a life lived on their own terms. 🚐



# XSCAPERS EVENTS

By **JP SMITH** #115625, Convergence Director



A lot of people ask me the question, “Who are Xscapers?” The quick answer I give is: It’s a group within Escapees RV Club, geared to the working-age RVer. However, I don’t think that answer entirely sums up Xscapers.

Sometimes we are labeled with the image that we are party-ers, and, yes, that is true. Like our friends from stick-and-brick homes who work nine-to-five and go out on weekends to cut loose, we like to have fun, too. We have to work to afford the RV lifestyle, and most of us live and work full time in our RVs. Spending weeks on end in parks or on BLM land can get lonely. Our weekends are collected and accrued, so, when we get together about once a month for a convergence, we have limited time to socialize and cut loose. Yes, sometimes at a convergence there are late-night parties, but there is also socializing around the campfire. We support each other by trading ideas, such as how to set up our RVs to work remotely, and we share tips on Internet and connectivity issues. We chip in and offer extra hands to complete projects. Our children ride their bikes and play “capture the flag” until dark. At our gatherings, there is everything you would find in a neighborhood, except our neighborhood changes locations.

## Networking

There is also networking at convergences. Businesses and partnerships are formed at these events. Recently, an Xscaper who, for several months, had helped with solar installations, saw a need and launched his own install business (Pullen Solar).

A few years ago, two active Xscapers formed a website where they review camping gear. It has now become their main source of income (CampAddict.com).

Myself included, I met an app developer at a convergence, and I showed him my idea for an RV checklist that would meet the needs of new and full-time RVers. We worked on the idea remotely over e-mail and text. One year later, The Ultimate RV Checklist app was launched on the Apple App Store. So, there is partying, but there is also networking.

## Romance

There is also romance at convergences. The number of solo Xscapers ebbs and flows over time, and many in the club have found partners for a committed relationship. For instance, I met my wonderful girlfriend at a convergence over a year ago. Several relationships have blossomed from the convergences, and some of them even bloomed and died in the course of a week-long convergence. We have even hosted a dating game, albeit with limited success, to bring solo RVers together. We call it the “Hitch-up Game.”

Xscapers gather in the desert to ring in the New Year outside of Borrego Springs, California.

PHOTO BY SCOTT SICHLER #123112



## Giving Back

At most convergence events, we give back. In Mexico, we spent a morning cleaning up the city beach. Not because we were asked to, but because we asked how we could help. We also donated clothing, dogfood and toys to help the residents of San Felipe.

At Escapade, there is a good chance you were driven around on a golf cart by an Xscaper taking the day off to donate a few hours to help others.

At our Moab, Utah, convergence, we cleaned up litter on a huge parcel of land owned by the state. At this year's Annual Bash, we raised thousands of dollars by simply doing what many people would be doing anyway—trying local craft beer. The brewery gave us a discounted price on a few kegs, so we sold pints at a reasonable price and donated the proceeds to the Escapees CARE Center.


## Community

But, maybe more importantly, Xscapers is a community. The convergences have become extremely popular over the last couple of years that I have been working for Escapees. The first one I organized had 33 RVs. Nowadays, a normal convergence can have 150 RVs, and we expect over 400 to come to this year's Annual Bash. What hasn't changed is that people show up, perhaps not knowing anyone, and leave with life-long friends. At a recent convergence, 80 percent of our attendees made

plans with someone to travel together or meet up down the road.

The Xscapers community is amazing. Whether it's climbing onto the roof of someone's trailer who is not physically capable of doing it themselves, and spending the day repairing a new tear in the rubber (Dan Heming, Pam Muetzel, Malachai Scranton, Steve Robitzsch), spending three days installing a new inverter for someone who has no idea how to work with electricity (thank you, Kevin Ridley) or driving someone's RV across four states, then flying back to their own RV without asking for a dime for the flight (Don Gabler), the community that is found in Xscapers is totally there for each other.

So, who are Xscapers? That's hard to determine. And I think that's a good thing. The club is evolving every day. What started as a way for working-age RVers to get together has evolved to 18 percent of the Escapees membership having families and only 30 percent who are not working. It has led to adaptation, making our events more family- and kid-friendly. It has even helped to give birth to the new Escapees Hangouts, an event-focused group with activities during the day catering to nonworking, active escapees.

Where will we go next? There is no way to tell. But, rest assured, whatever happens, I know there will be an amazing group of community members supporting each other in the process. 

# 2019 CONVERGENCES

## ALASKA CONVERGENCE

JULY 18-22, 2019

ISABEL PASS/DELTA JUNCTION, AK 99737 • FREE

Join longtime members and emissaries Gary and Stacey Quimby to meet up with your fellow Xscapers in the last great frontier! View this video of Gary and Stacey in the area in 2017: <https://youtu.be/3OuloWaEP9s>. This is an old pipeline construction camp on BLM land. Every April, over 10,000 RVs park in this valley for a combined snowmachine/skiing event called Arctic Man. Any size rig can park, and there will be plenty of room to spread out.

## RHYTHMS ON THE RIO CONVERGENCE

AUGUST 2-4, 2019

SOUTH FORK, COLORADO • \$60

Join Xscapers for a small-town music festival high in the Rocky Mountains. The Rhythms on the Rio music festival will celebrate its 14th anniversary of providing music lessons to kids in town. We'll have a reserved camping area with the stage a short walk away. Three days of music covering all genres!

## CAMPGROUND CONVERGENCE

SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 6, 2019

ESCAPEES DREAM CATCHER RV PARK, DEMING, NM

Xscapers take over an Escapees park! Do you want to slow down your travels or just need a place to sit still and work on that big project? Xscapers

will converge in Deming, New Mexico, for a month of relaxing, working and sight-seeing with affordable full hookups. Days will be left free for work and activities will take place in the evenings and on weekends.

## JEKYLL ISLAND CONVERGENCE

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 4, 2019

JEKYLL ISLAND CAMPGROUND, 1197 RIVERVIEW DR

JEKYLL ISLAND, GA 31527 • \$30-\$375

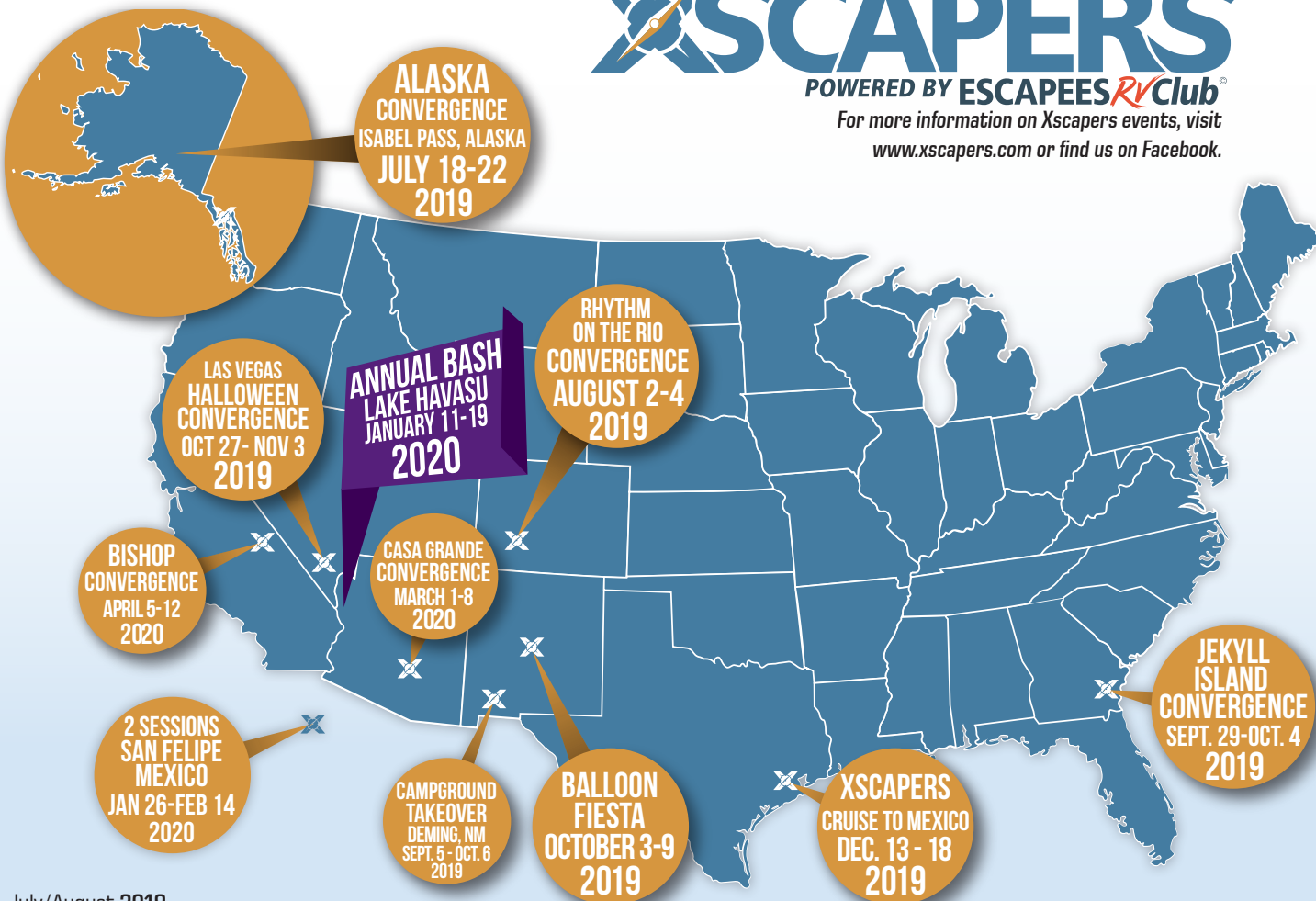
Join fellow Xscapers in the Golden Isles of Georgia on beautiful Jekyll Island for a week mixed with relaxation, excitement and fun. This outdoor wonderland is filled with hiking and biking trails, abundant sea life and many activities for all. Our home base will be Jekyll Island Campground, a large scenic campground nestled on the north end of the island surrounded by old growth timber and great beaches.

## XSCAPERS CRUISE

DECEMBER 13-18, 2019

ROYAL CARIBBEAN WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE • GALVESTON, TEXAS

Xscapers takes to the seas for a cruise to Mexico. Join fellow Xscapers for a five-night cruise to sunny Mexico on Royal Caribbean's luxury ship Enchantment Of The Seas. Most of the week, you will be free to do as you please with scheduled Xscapers meetups while at sea.



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## Camping Kids

My husband, Travis, and I have been RVing for almost eight years, and it seems that within those years we've gone through so many different phases. We've transitioned from a class-C motorhome to a travel trailer, and now we love the comforts of traveling in our 40-foot, class-A motorhome. In between all of the rig changes, we grew our family from three people to four when we welcomed our youngest son, Decklin, to the world in 2016. I would say that, by far, this was the biggest adjustment we had to make as he travels completely different from what we were used to with our first son, Gabriel.

Having small children seems to add an extra layer of stress on almost any situation where you need to get things done, and travel days are no exception. You have to pack up your RV, inside and out, pull in your slides (if you have them), put items away, situate the kids and then keep them

*Tips for planning your family's*

# RV Travel DAYS

By **MELANIE CARR** #8, Escapees RV Club Vice President





properly entertained throughout the day. They will be hungry. They will be bored. And they will need to go to the bathroom—a lot. Being prepared and setting expectations will go a long way for your mental sanity, so I've put together some tips we use on travel days that make life a little easier for us. Whether you're driving in a vehicle or a motorhome, I hope they will help you, too

### **Don't Push the Miles!**

We've found that traveling no more than 250 to 300 miles in one day is our sweet spot. We generally leave our camping area around 9:00 a.m. Then, after all of the stops and unexpected slowdowns, we generally arrive to our final destination by 3:00 p.m. If for any reason we find ourselves traveling further, we arrive exhausted, and the kids tend to go a little crazy from being in their car seats all day.

### **Plan Your Travel Day Ahead of Time**

We usually plan our travel day one day in advance. We check Google maps for the best route to our next destination and how many miles we anticipate traveling, along with estimated hours to arrival (we always add an hour to what Google tells us, because #rvlife). If you're planning to stay in a campground, it helps to make a reservation, or research your options so you can make a quick decision the next day. The same applies for boondocking. I highly recommend scouting options online using reliable resources such as Campendium.com.

### **Packing**

Kids always want to lend a helping hand, and, of course, they usually want to be doing what you're doing. I think we can all agree that, while it's adorable that they want to help, most of the time they're not really helping. Think through your routine

and pick out a few things they can help with and do those first. In our case, I will keep the boys inside with me while Travis packs the outside. I let them help with cleaning up their sleeping area, rolling up our rugs and pushing the buttons to bring in the slides. Once we finish with those duties, they know to buckle up in their car seats, and I'll finish putting everything else in its place. This allows you to foster their helping spirit while still getting tasks done.

### **Snacks**

Having healthy snack options prepared ahead of time is always a lifesaver while we're going down the road. In our case, we have a bin filled with a variety of snack options in a storage area above where the boys sit. If they get hungry, they'll have options from which to choose. I recommend high-protein snacks if you want to avoid their constantly snacking throughout the day.

### **Entertainment**

Another lifesaver is having games and movies preloaded onto iPads for them to enjoy during the trip and, of course, headphones. We find that, if they are both watching a different movie, it can get loud if they're not wearing them. If you want to avoid technology overload, there are travel trays you can buy online that attach to their car seat for other activities such as coloring.

### **Don't sweat the small stuff!**

My last piece of advice is to stay positive. Try not to sweat the small stuff if things go wrong during your travel day. From time to time, unexpected mishaps may cause you to run into delays. When this happens, try to step back and remember why you started RVing in the first place. Once you're soaking in the adventure with your family at your next destination, it will all seem like a distant memory. 🚐



Your advice for RVing with children could appear in a future "Camping Kids" column! Send tips for organization, storage, safety, socialization or other aspects of traveling with children to [melaniecarr@escapees.com](mailto:melaniecarr@escapees.com).

# BIRDS OF A FEATHER

## 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.

**Alternative Medicine:** Newsletter about, but not limited to, herbs, vitamins, dietary ideas, natural healing, 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 #1471115. 164 CR 2127, PO Box 302, Burkeville, TX 75932.

**Amateur Radio:** Newsletter is \$5 for three issues. Published January, May and September. Include name, amateur radio call sign, if licensed, SKP #, spouse's name, address, check and e-mail address, to Forrest Clark, KC9YMH, SKP #110995, 411 Walnut St, PMB #10903, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

**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 simply share experiences online. Share routes, trails, locations, equipment and photos. Facebook: "SKP Bikes, Boots 'N Paddles BoF." Nancy Cullinan: nancullinan@gmail.com

**Boomers:** Casual group (no rules/no officers/no cost) for those who have a youthful mindset. Members enjoy hiking, beading, biking, reading, 4-wheel drives or just sitting around the campfire. Monthly e-newsletter, Facebook and Yahoo! groups provide opportunities to share the RVing experience. Impromptu gatherings 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. Judy Wilson, wilsonjudwil2@gmail.com to join. The e-mail address for the boondockers BoF has been changed. If anyone has previously requested to join and did not receive a response, contact Judy wilson at wilsonjudwil2@gmail.com.

**Bufs:** Bufs like to think of themselves as the Birds withOut Feathers BoF. This group is for SKP members who enjoy wholesome social nudism. On our Yahoo! groups website, read reviews of nudist campgrounds, receive answers to questions, read our newsletter, locate nudist campgrounds who offer discounts to Bufs, see who might be camping near you and get involved in discussions. No cost to join. E-mail pamelapelc@yahoo.com. Include SKP# and reason for wanting to join.

**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, while not focusing on denominationalism. Meet at Escapades and Christian Fellowship BoF rallies. Visit www.cfbof.com. Membership is free. For rally information, contact Allen Ferguson at fergizmo@thefergs.com.

**Computers:** For all computer users—PC, Mac, Linux Info is exchanged by e-mail. To subscribe to the general or the PC newsgroup, e-mail ComputerBoF-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Contact Tom McIlwain, 6003 Main St, Center Valley, PA 18034. To subscribe to the Linux sub-newsgroup: ComputerBoF-Linux-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

**DOVE (the Doves) • C-BoF:** Hurricanes, tornados, floods, fires, disasters rarely give us notice when they will happen. 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 train and pair you with the right

disaster response activity, to satisfy your desire to help others and to provide life-sustaining assistance. For info, visit www.dovebof.org or contact Brian Houser at president@dovebof.org or Don Klein at membership@dovebof.org (210-268-3931). Yearly dues: \$10

**Escapees Elk • C-BoF:** You must be a member of a BPO Elks Lodge to join. Meet at Escapades. (The BoF isn't a lodge.) To join, send \$6 per year (checks payable to Escapees Elk BoF). To be directed to an Elks lodge, send SASE to Membership Chairman, 230 Rainbow Dr., #1 3071, Livingston, TX 77399-2030. Visit www.escapees.com/escapees-elk-bof

**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 Noble or Cyd, 238 Rainbow Dr., #1 3852, Livingston, TX 77399-2038. 404-578-0864. noblecyd@reagan.com. To join this group, you will need a Facebook account. Search for Cyd Wise (Livingston, TX) and send a friend request to be added to the group.

**Full-time Graduating Class:** For those who have graduated from part-time to full-time RVing. Informal group/no newsletter or officers. Correspondence is via the Escapees Discussion Forum. Join your class by visiting the forum at www.rvnetwork.com, select "Graduating to Full-Time" and year of your class.

**Genealogy:** AKA SKP Genies. This group is all about friendship and family history. Our quarterly newsletter has BoF news and educational articles on research techniques and sources. SKP Genies Magic (a rally and research trip hybrid) is held annually. Time-sensitive information and advice are shared via a Yahoo! group. Contact Albert Taylor at skpgenies@gmail.com or SKP Genealogy BoF, 142 Rainbow Dr., #4228, Livingston, TX 77399-1042.

**Geocache:** The Geocachers BoF provides a link enabling members to be in touch with other SKP geocachers, share geocaching information, learn from others and discover if other SKP geocachers are nearby. The BoF hosts an annual multi-day rally in the Quartzsite, Arizona, area in late January, featuring morning seminars and afternoon caching outings. Communication is via Facebook or e-mail. No dues or fees. To join, contact Wendy Hall, at skpgeocacheBoF@gmail.com. Include your e-mail address, name(s), SKP #, phone # and, if you have one, your geocaching handle.



### NEW! Military, Veterans and Gold Star Families:

Military, Veterans and Gold Star Families provides opportunities for fellowship, food and fun to those still serving, have served or the families of service members in the United States and Canadian Armed Forces. No dues and anyone wishing to join may contact Richard Strait at EscapeesBOFMilitaryandVeterans@gmail.com

**Line Dancers Unite:** Join for free to find line-dancing classes, rallies and special events while you travel. Members contribute information on a city-by-city basis. Also available are websites that feature line-dance class locations and special events. No dues or newsletters. To sign up, visit RVillage.com, click on “Groups” or “Search” and enter “Line Dancers Unite.” In the left column on the Group homepage, click “Join.” To read posts, click “Group Forum” at the top of the page. Contact Margo Armstrong: Margo@TheMaxwellGroup.net

**NOMADS:** Mission volunteers and individuals who travel with a purpose. A ministry of the United Methodist Church, specific to RVers who wish to be involved in Christian service. Membership is not dependent on church affiliation. Regular projects are three weeks, nationwide. Disaster rebuild projects may be one week or more. Parking (including water, electric, dump) is furnished. A current projects list is posted on the NOMADS Website, and is visible to members of NOMADS only, but with nationwide sites. To join NOMADS: 866-466-6237 or visit www.nomadsumc.org.

**Penwheels:** Quarterly newsletter inspires, encourages and assists writers in all styles of writing, published or not. Join our new group forum at RVillage.com. Sign up for free. Then, click search or groups, and enter “Penwheels” in the search field. Click “join group” to post. Send your Escapees membership number to Joanne Alexakis (joalexakis@earthlink.net) to add your name to the e-mail newsletter list. Contact Penwheels editor at margo@themaxwellgroup.net

**Pet Lovers:** For people who love animals. All pets welcome. Please join our Facebook Group and stay connected with animal loving Escapees and get notices of occasional rallies and socials at Escapade. Juliet Whitfield 970-729-2946 dogs@tailsfromtheroad.com www.facebook.com/groups/EscapeesPetLovers

**Prospecting and Metal Detecting:** Share tips and information. To join our Yahoo! group SKP-PandMD, contact Ken Parsons by e-mail rws606@gmail.com. Roster and yearly newsletter. By e-mail, \$5; mailed, \$15 a year. We get together yearly for a week of prospecting and fun. Make checks payable to Peggy Devine, Treasurer, 2121 E Keenan Way, Pahrump, NV 89048. kokopeggi@gmail.com

**SKP 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

**SKP 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 at interesting locations. To join, visit www.skpphotographers.com. Lou Petkus: loupet@gmail.com or 630-750-7291.

● **C-BoF (Certified BoFs):** Check the “Events Calendar” for a listing of group activities. For additional details, call their voice mail: 888-757-7701 plus extension— (DOVE x8083, *Escapees Elk* x8082, *SOLOs* x8080). Look for the *NEW!* notice that signifies a new BoF has formed! BoF correspondence, questions and magazine listing updates should be sent to BoF Coordinator, Lockie Sailer, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300, faxed to 936-327-4388 or e-mailed to BoF@escapees.com.

**SKP 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. We use a closed Facebook group to connect and meet when we can. No charge for membership. To join, send SKP# to Larry Butler at techcfo@yahoo.com

● **SOLOs • C-BoF:** A group for single Escapees. Must be a current member. Membership, \$10/year. Three newsletters per year, member-hosted gatherings and pre-Escapade rallies. Send check, payable to Escapees SOLOs, with SKP#, mailing address, interests/hobbies, e-mail and phone number to Escapees SOLOs, 1970 N. Leslie St #556, Pahrump, NV. 89060. Roy Kannada: royk1072@gmail.com

**SOWERs (Servants on Wheels: Ever Ready)** 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 the projects and months we work. www.sowerministry.org.

**Stonewall:** Welcomes all gays, lesbians, bis, trans and their friends. An informal group, we gather at Escapades, at Pride events and at Quartzsite, Arizona, in January. Communication is online, so we can meet each other as travels allow. Free to join/no newsletters, just good times with great people! Contact Paul Wood at braveradventures@yahoo.com

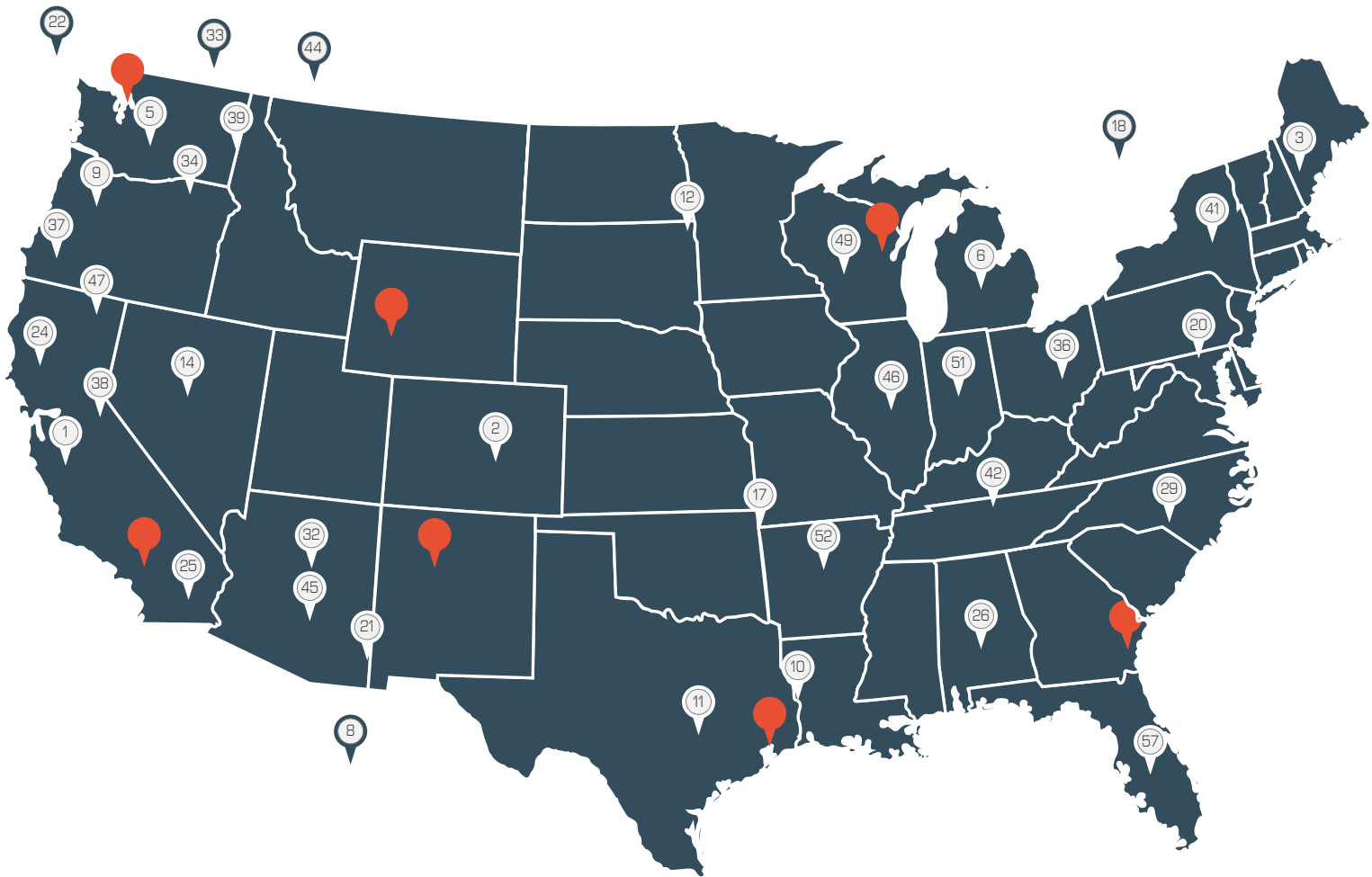
**The SKP UTV/ATV BoF:** A group of like-minded people who like to ride their UTV/ATV. If you have a UTV/ATV and like to ride responsibly while discovering different places to camp and ride, we are the group for you. Open to all Escapees members in good standing. No dues. Contact Carl Holttum: carlholttum@gmail.com or carlholttum@yahoo.com

**Woodcarvers on Wheels:** This group meets annually at North Ranch, in Congress, Arizona, for a week-long workshop of carving, pyrography and more. We enjoy gathering at Escapade and anywhere else our paths may cross. Sharing ideas, patterns, hints and articles related to anything wood. To join, send your name, address, SKP# and \$5/year to John Ely, 3213 W. Main #279 Rapid City, SD 57702. Newsletter sent three times a year. Contact woodcarver-sonwheels@gmail.com

**Worldwide Travelers:** We offer information about independent or RV travel in countries around the world other than North America. Information is shared through tips and travel reports. Free monthly e-newsletter. To join, send your name, SKP# and e-mail address to Kathy Howe at wwtnews@gmail.com

# CHAPTER MAP

Let's Get Together!




## A WORD FROM OUR GROUP DIRECTOR

**JIMMY AND LOCKIE SAILER** #130519, Chapter Directors

### HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY TO THOSE OF YOU CELEBRATING IN THE STATES!

I hope you are enjoying all the festivities that come with this warm-weather season. Please take time to check out the "Events Calendar" to see all the amazing events that are planned for the coming year. While you're at it, go to pages 74 and 75 and peek at the Escapees BoF group listings. Our new group is Military, Veterans and Gold Star Families BoF. Soak in the heat with all the cool activities and have a fantastic summer. We'll see you down the road.

 Indicates that an Escapees Head Out Program event is taking place at this general location during 2019. See pages 10–11 for more information.

Visit [www.escapees.com/chapters](http://www.escapees.com/chapters) and click on the chapter of your interest. You can view details about a chapter, join a chapter and pay chapter dues, if applicable. Yes! It is that easy. As you travel, we invite you to get to know Escapees in your area. Call us for details and let's get together.

E-MAIL [CHAPTERDIRECTORS@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:CHAPTERDIRECTORS@ESCAPEES.COM) TO START A CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.

# CALLING ALL CHAPTERS

## Escapees Regional Groups

Contact the chapters' voicemail, 888-757-7701 plus extension, for rally and luncheon information. See the map for a chapter near you.

CHAPTER NUMBER	CHAPTER NAME	CHAPTER PRESIDENT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS + EXTENSION #	888-757-7701
1	Golden Gate	Carolyn Cleaves	831-277-6007	ggchapter1@gmail.com	8001
2	Rocky Mtn. High	Linda Gilmore	303-349-8845	president@rockymtnhiskps.org	8002
3	Northeast	Cheryl Pease	413-628-4794	cupcake65@verizon.net	8003
5	Evergreen	Ron Hough	425-218-2839	escapeeschapter5@gmail.com	8005
6	Great Lakes	Mike Foley	616-862-8893	mfoley1505@sbcglobal.net	8006
8	Mexican Connection	Ed Dennis	408-603-0600	ed@ekdennis.com	8008
9	Oregon Trails	Rick De Young	541-315-2830	rrdeyoung@gmail.com	8009
10	Rainbow Chapter	David Horton	563-529-6181	dhorton2@aol.com	8010
11	Alamo Area SKPs	Ken Dixon	210-218-7656	kennethdixon01@att.net	8011
12	North Central	Ron Nelson	507-259-7528	ron.nelson98@gmail.com	8012
14	Lucky Rollers	George Leese	888-757-7701	bigbg62@yahoo.com	8014
17	Ozark Chapter	Alvin Baker	918-740-4263	bakerskp17@gmail.com	8017
18	Maple Leaf	Howard Krakower	613-829-3587	howardkrakower@yahoo.com	8018
20	Mid Atlantic	Frank Simon	304-947-7689	pinoakfrank@yahoo.com	8020
21	Arizona Saguaros	Stuart Dutcher	520-403-1062	dutch1062@msn.com	8021
22	Van Islanders	Jeremy Knapman	250-248-9492	jbknapman@telus.net	8022
24	Gold Nugget	Jackie Friday	209-304-2483	fridaymj@att.net	8024
25	Shanty Shakers	Mike Formico	619 884-9069	mformico@cs.com	8025
26	Gulf Posse	Cushman Phillips	770-312-8871	cushman@cbphei.com	8026
29	Carolina Rovers	Craig Rickenbach	803-372-2998	carickenbach@gmail.com	8029
32	Verde Valley	Jeanne Nielsen	253-514-3680	beadyrags@yahoo.com	8032
33	BC Okanagan SKPs	Al Wejr	250-545-1359	alweege@gmail.com	8033
34	Columbia River SKPs	Michael Surratt	503-667-0819	mratt1945@frontier.com	8034
36	Erie Shores	Merle Cockayne	440-823-6214	gullyjumper0208@yahoo.com	8036
37	Rogue Valley Rovers	Kathryn Perry	541-659-7208	perrykathryn4@gmail.com	8037
38	Mother Lode	Sandy Thomason	209-984-5017	sandytom71@yahoo.com	8038
39	Wash-Pan	Bev Allenbaugh	509 925-3297	photogal@fairpoint.net	8039
41	NYSKPS	Marilyn Woodside	908-377-4254	lynhw15@gmail.com	8041
42	KEN/TENN	Ray Rountree	502-664-1080	rayretired44@aol.com	8042
44	Alberta Roamers	Gary Long	888-757-7701	chapter44rvclub@gmail.com	8044
45	Valley of the Sun	Dale Geary	602-799-5860	azdesertbum5@gmail.com	8045
46	Lincolnland	Marti Aanerud	708-534-1537	martijeen@hotmail.com	8046
47	Nor-Cal Gypsies	Nancy Voyles	530-357-4762	tsnran@aol.com	8047
49	Badger SKPs	Ken Cerling	608-219-6239	cerlingconstruction@gmail.com	8049
51	Hoosier Neighbor	John Kereszturi	574-360-8226	kereszturi@sbcglobal.net	8051
52	Arkansas Diamonds	Don Tannehill	501-410-8950	tannehilld@sbcglobal.net	8052
57	Florida Sun Gators	Lynn Lunde	352-217-5168	lbunde@aol.com	8057

For more details about a chapter, visit [www.escapees.com/chapters](http://www.escapees.com/chapters).

# EVENTS CALENDAR

Join us at one of these rallies or National events!

- Call the voicemail phone number (888-757-7701) + extension for specific directions to events.
- **September/October** deadline: **July 10**. The "Events Calendar" is reserved for chapter, certified BoF groups and National events. All submissions must be in writing.
- E-mail submissions to editor@escapees.com, or mail submissions to *Escapees* Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351.

DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	888-757-7701 EXTENSION #
<b>JULY 2019</b>			
01-05	OR Sutherlin, Timber Valley SKP Co-Op	09	8009
03-07	CA Hollister, Casa de Fruta-Creekside	01	8001
08-12	MN St. Cloud, St. Cloud RV Park	12	8012
11-14	TX Johnson City, Miller Creek Resort	11	8011
14-18	WA Raymond, Swiss Hall	34	8034
15-19	CA McCloud, McCloud RV Park	24	8024
15-19	WA Hoquiam, Hoquiam River RV Park	05	8005
21-25	OR Bandon, Bandon by the Sea RV Park	37	8037
21-25	PA Gettysburg, Granite Hill Campground	20	8020
21-28	WI Oshkosh, Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh Air Show HOP	HOP/National	936-327-8873
25-28	OR Gold Beach, Honey Bear by the Sea RV Rst and Cmpgd	47	8047
<b>AUGUST 2019</b>			
04-11	WA Seattle, Alaska Cruise HOP	HOP/National/Cruise	855-757-8881
08-10	OR Florence, Judd Huntington Elks RV Park	37	8037
08-11	MI Gladwin, Gladwin County Fairground	06	8006
11-14	OR Tillamook, Tillamook Elks RV Park	37	8037
11-15	OR Lincoln City, Wapati Campground	34	8034
12-16	AB Canada, Lamont, Lamont Exhibition Grounds	44	8044
12-19	ME Sullivan, Acadia Seashore Campground, Hangouts	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
14-18	ME Hermon, Pumpkin Patch RV Resort	03	8003
15-16	OR Bandon, Bullard's Beach State Campground	37	8037
15-18	OR Prospect, Crater Lake	47	8047
19-23	CA Quincy, Pioneer RV Park	24	8024
19-23	WA Port Townsend, Jefferson County Fairground	05	8005
20-22	OR North Bend, The Mill Casino & RV Park, RVers Boot Cp	National	936-327-8873
<b>SEPTEMBER 2019</b>			
02-07	BC Canada, Courtenay, Seal Bay RV Park	22	8022
04-07	OR Florence, Odd Fellows RV Park	09	8009
04-08	CA Vacaville, Vineyard RV Park	47	8047
04-09	NM Angel Fire, Angel Fire RV Resort	02	8002
05-08	BC Canada, Christina Lake, Christina Pines RV Park	33	8033
05-08	MI Hastings, Michawana Campground, 35th anniversary	06	8006
08-12	OR Florence, Jesse T Jones Odd Fellows RV Park	34	8034
10-15	IN Lebanon, Boone County Fairgrounds, fall rally	51	8051
16-20	WA Winthrop, Pine Near RV Park	05	8005
16-18	CA Yreka, Waiiaka RV Park	37	8037
23-27	CA Manteca, French Camp RV Park	24	8024

<b>DATES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HOST CHAPTER</b>	<b>888-757-7701 EXTENSION #</b>
23-27	GA Jekyll Island, Jekyll Island Campground, Jekyll Island Outdoor HOP	HOP/National	936-327-8873
24-28	KY Bardstown, Whites Campground, Camp-out Rally	42	8042
<b>OCTOBER 2019</b>			
03-06	CA Lodi, Lodi Grape Festival Grounds	38	8038
03-06	NC Asheville, Bear Creek RV Park	29	8029
04-13	NM Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta HOP	HOP/National	936-327-8873
06-10	OR Odell, Hood River Fairground	34	8034
09-12	OR Charleston, Oceanside RV Park	37	8037
14-18	CA Red Bluff, Durango RV Park	24	8024
15-17	AZ Wilcox, Elks Lodge	21	8021
17-20	TX Center Point/Kerrville, Old River Road RV Resort	11	8011
20-27	TX Galveston, The Caribbean Cruise HOP	HOP/National/Cruise	855-757-8881
21-25	MS Picayune, Sun Roamers RV Resort	26	8026
25-Nov 3	CA Death Valley, Furnace Creek, 49ers Encampment	SOLOs BoF	8080
28-Nov 4	TN Pigeon Forge, King's Holly Haven RV Park	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
<b>NOVEMBER 2019</b>			
04-08	FL Kissimmee, Sherwood Forest	57	8057
08-10	TX Livingston, Rainbow's End, RVers Boot Camp	National	936-327-8873
<b>DECEMBER 2019</b>			
01-05	CA Rio Vista, Duck Island RV Park	38	8038
27-Jan 3	CA Pasadena, Rose Parade HOP	HOP/National	936-327-8873
<b>JANUARY 2020</b>			
14	AZ Quartzsite, Plomosa Road MMB, Escapees Happy Hour	National	936-327-8873
15-22	AZ Quartzsite, Plomosa Road MMB	SOLOs BoF	8080
16-19	TX Burnet, Big Chief RV Park	11	8011
27-30	AZ Quartzsite, La Paz Valley Road	Geocache BoF	skpgeocache-BoF@gmail.com
<b>MARCH 2020</b>			
29-April 03	AZ North Ranch, Bead, Polymer Clay & Mixed-Media	North Ranch Rainbow Park	928-427-3657
<b>APRIL 2020</b>			
16-19	SC Myrtle Beach, Cypress Camping Resort	29	8029
20-24	FL Kissimmee, Cypress Campground	57	8057
<b>MAY 2020</b>			
17-29	AK Anchorage, Alaska by Land, Sea and Train HOP	HOP/National/Cruise	855-757-8881

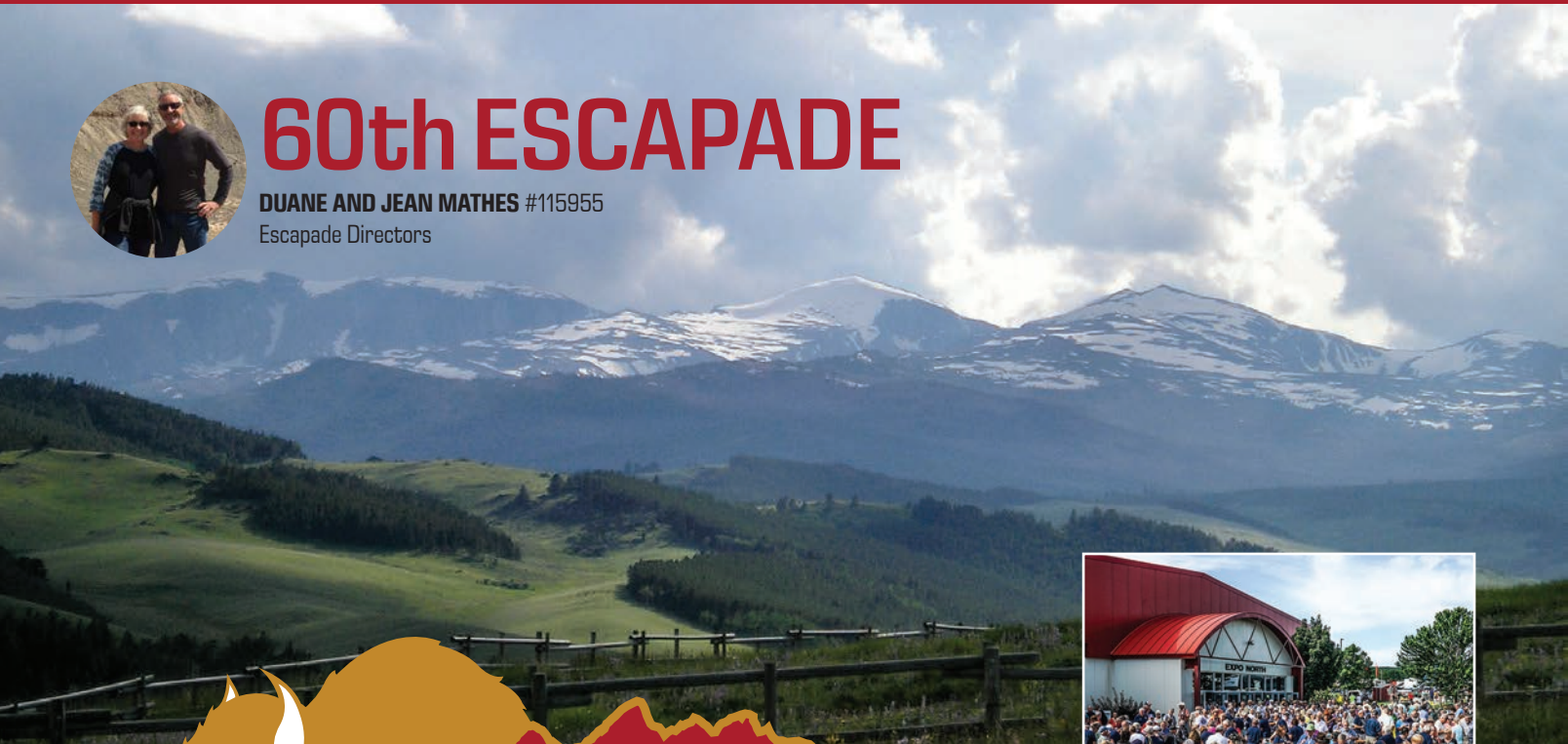
**FOR XSCAPERS EVENTS, SEE PAGE 70.**

**XSCAPERS**



# 60th ESCAPADE

DUANE AND JEAN MATHES #115955  
Escapade Directors



# 60<sup>th</sup> Escapade

Rock Springs, WY ESCAPEES RV Club®

## ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING

June 21-26, 2020

*Sweetwater Events Complex*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND FURTHER DETAILS  
AVAILABLE SOON IN ESCAPEES MAGAZINE AND ONLINE!



## SKP DINE-OUTS

### It's time to eat!

Join fellow Escapees for any one of these regional dine-outs.

#### ALABAMA

**Gulf Shores:** 2nd Mon, 10 a.m., *Original Oyster House*, 701 Gulf Shores Pkwy. Cushman Phillips: 770-312-8871, [cushman@cbphei.com](mailto:cushman@cbphei.com) Oct-April

#### ARIZONA

**Apache Junction:** 1st and 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Mickey D's Café*, 1408 W. Apache Trail. Please RSVP Norm and Ritchie Eriksen: 480-671-0610, [twocanyondwellers@msn.com](mailto:twocanyondwellers@msn.com) Nov-March

**Benson:** 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., San Pedro Golf Course, *Ironwood Grill*, 926 N Madison Ave. Chuck Dupuis: 520-360-5695, [cddupuis@gmail.com](mailto:cddupuis@gmail.com) Nov-April

**Tonopah:** Taco Tuesday 6:30 p.m., *Tonopah Family Restaurant*, 41101 West Indian School Rd. Call or text to confirm, Mike: 602-325-3171, Ajo: 207-743-3378, [ajo@thecatdragdinn.org](mailto:ajo@thecatdragdinn.org)

**Wickenburg:** Visit the Chapter 32 website or voice mail for date and location. Dawn Ewell: 303-988-4597, [imslide@gmail.com](mailto:imslide@gmail.com) Nov 2017-April 2018

**Yuma:** 2nd Wed, 10 a.m., *Foothill's Eatery and Spirit*, 12871 S Interstate 8 Frontage Rd. Diane Sears: 936-215-9632 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.

**Huntington Beach:** 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Sonny's Restaurant*, 7148 Edinger Ave. Rick Comaroto: 714-889-8549, [rncomar@aol.com](mailto:rncomar@aol.com)

**Modesto:** 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., *The Golden Corral Buffet and Grill*, 3737 McHenry Ave. Ray Bailey: 209-532-0444, [bailey-r@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bailey-r@sbcglobal.net) Feb-Nov

**Redding:** 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., *Country Waffle*, 2300 Athens Ave. Nancy Voyles: 530-357-4762, [tsnan@aol.com](mailto:tsnan@aol.com) March-Dec

**Sacramento:** 2nd Wed, 11:30 p.m., *Denny's*, 3520 Auburn Blvd. David Studivant: 916-481-1357, [oldgrizfo@comcast.net](mailto:oldgrizfo@comcast.net)

**San Diego area:** 4th Sat, 9 a.m. breakfast, *Marie Callender's*, 6950 Alvarado Rd. Meeting follows at 10 a.m. Mike Formico: 619 884-9069, [mformico@cs.com](mailto:mformico@cs.com)

**Santa Maria:** 2nd Thurs (every month), 11:30 a.m., *IHop*, 202 Nickolson Ave. Anna Hartman: 805-937-1856.

**Ventura:** 1st Tues (every month), 11 a.m. *Main Restaurant Steakhouse*, 3159 E. Main St. Chuck Burton: 805 647-7382.

**Visalia:** Last Fri (Jan-Oct), 3rd Fri (Nov-Dec) 9:30 a.m. *Ryan's Place Restaurant*, 3103 S. Mooney Blvd. Bring a friend; wear a badge.

#### COLORADO

**Englewood:** 2nd Tues, 12 p.m. *Golden Corral*. 4000 River Point Pkwy. (To find us with your GPS use alt address 3677 S Santa Fe Dr.) Chuck Derington: 303-842-1519, [chuckderington@comcast.net](mailto:chuckderington@comcast.net)

#### FLORIDA

**Clermont:** 1st Thurs, 11 a.m., *Golden Corral*. 1555 Grand Hwy. Glenna Watson: 352-502-3748, [glennaw2@gmail.com](mailto:glennaw2@gmail.com) Nov-April

#### MISSOURI

**Springfield:** 1st Fri, 1 p.m., *Golden Corral*, 2734 N. Kansas Exp-way. Vernon Eide: 417-766-2191. (Casual campouts held 3rd Tues of each month, April-Oct. Vernon Eide, [eidevernon@yahoo.com](mailto:eidevernon@yahoo.com))

#### NEVADA

**Pahrump:** 2nd Mon, 11:30 a.m., *Mountain Falls Grill*, 5001 Clubhouse Dr. George Leese: [bigbg62@yahoo.com](mailto:bigbg62@yahoo.com). Sept-May

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

#### NEW MEXICO

**Lakewood:** Ladies breakfast every Tues. Men's breakfast every Thurs. Call 575-457-2303 for more information.

#### NEW YORK

**Rochester:** 3rd Tues, 11:30 a.m., *Golden Corral*, 450 Jefferson Rd. Marilyn Woodside: 908-377-7765, [lynhw15@gmail.com](mailto:lynhw15@gmail.com) July-Nov

#### OREGON

**Medford:** 2nd Tues, 11 a.m., *Elmer's Restaurant*, 2000 Biddle Road. Kathryn Perry: 541-659-7208, [perrykathryn4@gmail.com](mailto:perrykathryn4@gmail.com)

**Sutherlin:** 2nd Wed, 9 a.m. (breakfast), *Abby's Legendary Pizza*, 1011 W Central Ave. Rick De Young: 541-315-2830. Jan-Dec

**Gresham:** 4th Mon, 1 p.m., *Heidi's Restaurant*, 1230 N.E. Cleveland. Michael Surratt: 503-667-0819, [mratt1945@frontier.com](mailto:mratt1945@frontier.com)

#### TENNESSEE

**Crossville:** 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Vegas Steakhouse*. 3152 North Main St. Ralph Wiggers: 931-787-4157. April-Nov

#### TEXAS

**Livingston:** 2nd Fri, 1 p.m., For location, call 888-757-7701 x8010. David Horton: 563-529-6181, [dhortodhdhorton2@aol.com](mailto:dhortodhdhorton2@aol.com)

#### UTAH

**West Valley City:** 3rd Thurs, 1 p.m., *Golden Corral*, 3399 West, 3500 South Lawrence Pay: 801-599-3518, [lnpay@msn.com](mailto:lnpay@msn.com)

#### WASHINGTON

**Marysville:** 1st Sat, 9:30 a.m. *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*, 1065 State Ave. Ray/Sandy Hoyt: 425-750-6139, [razerroof@aol.com](mailto:razerroof@aol.com) May-Sept

**Mount Vernon:** 1st Tues, 11 a.m., *Royal Star Buffet*, 2300 Freeway Drive. Bud/Lori Kauffman: 206-953-6433, [budkauffman@me.com](mailto:budkauffman@me.com) May-Sept

**Tacoma:** 2nd Tues, 11 a.m., *Old Country Buffet*, 5815 Lakewood Towne Center. Barb Johnson: 360-908-0699, [barbj1752@msn.com](mailto:barbj1752@msn.com)

#### WISCONSIN

**DeForest:** 1st Wed, 1 p.m. *Norske Nook*, 100 E. Holum Street. Ken Cerling: 608-219-6239, [cerlingconstruction@gmail.com](mailto:cerlingconstruction@gmail.com) May-Sept

#### CANADA

**AB (location TBA):** 2nd Wed, noon. Check Chapter 44 website locations and times/888-757-7701 x8044. Carol Davis.

**BC, Kelowna:** 2nd Tues, 12 p.m. *88 Grand Buffet*, 2339 Hwy. 97 N. Sharon Rajotte: 250-707-0602, [rsrajotte@telus.net](mailto:rsrajotte@telus.net)

**BC, Nanaimo:** 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Ricky's All Day Grill*, Inside Days Inn, 809 Island Hwy S. Bernardien Knol: [bernardienknol@msn.com](mailto:bernardienknol@msn.com), April-Oct. Except June and Sept

**BC, Vernon:** Last Tues, noon. *Army, Navy and Airforce Club—Spitfire Grill*, 2500 46th Ave. Kathleen Bone: 250-265-1192, [kathyskp@telus.net](mailto:kathyskp@telus.net)

**ON, Talbotville:** 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., *Wayside Restaurant*, 10680 Sunset Rd. Sharon Sandau: 519-862-2152, [sdsandau@teksavvy.com](mailto: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](mailto:petaarends@gmail.com) May and Oct

# RAINBOW PARKS

Escapees RV Club owned and operated.

		Daily Member	Daily Nonmember	Weekly Member	Weekly Nonmember	Monthly Member	Monthly Nonmember
<b>ALABAMA</b>	<b>RAINBOW PLANTATION</b>   14301 County Rd. 28, Summerdale, AL 36580 251-988-8132, Fax: 251-988-8142, plantation@escapees.com, www.escapees.com/rainbowplantation	\$24	\$29	\$144	\$174	\$360+	\$395+
<b>ARIZONA</b>	<b>NORTH RANCH</b>   30625 Hwy. 89, Congress, AZ 85332 928-427-3657, Fax: 928-685-3695, northranch@escapees.com, www.escapees.com/northranch	\$22	\$26.50	\$132+	\$159	\$340+	\$395+
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>SUMTER OAKS RV PARK</b>   4602 County Rd. 673, Bushnell, FL 33513 352-793-1333, Fax: 352-793-5216, sumteroaks@escapees.com, www.escapees.com/sumteroaks	\$24	\$28.50	\$144	\$171	\$360+	\$395+
<b>MISSOURI</b>	<b>TURKEY CREEK RV VILLAGE</b>   1376 US 65 Business S., Hollister, MO 65672 417-335-8004, Fax: 417-335-4644, turkeycreek@escapees.com, www.escapees.com/turkeycreek	\$20	\$24	\$120	\$144	\$360	\$395
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>DREAM CATCHER RV PARK</b>   4400 E. Pine St., Deming, NM 88030 575-544-4004, Fax: 575-544-0944, dreamcatcher@escapees.com, www.escapees.com/dreamcatcher	\$20	\$25	\$120	\$150	\$225+	\$235+
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	<b>RACCOON VALLEY</b>   908 E. Raccoon Valley Rd., Heiskell, TN 37754 865-947-9776, Fax: 865-947-9778, raccoonvalley@escapees.com, www.escapees.com/raccoonvalley	\$17.50	\$25	\$101	\$150	\$350	\$395
<b>TEXAS</b>	<b>RAINBOW'S END</b>   140 Escapees Dr., Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, rainbowsend@escapees.com, www.escapees.com/rainbowsend	\$22 \$24	\$27.50 \$28.50	\$132 \$144	\$165 \$171	\$340+ \$360+	\$395+ \$415+

## SKP CO-OPS (ESCAPEES MEMBERS ONLY)

Owned and operated by individual member groups of Escapees.

<b>ARIZONA</b>	<b>SAGUARO CO-OP</b>   600 E. Saguaro Dr., #245, Benson, AZ 85602 520-586-7343, Fax: 520-586-4683, skpsaguaro@gmail.com, www.skpsaguaro.org	\$25 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$130 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$365 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax
	<b>ROVERS ROOST</b>   3241 S. Montgomery Rd., Casa Grande, AZ 85193 520-426-3589, Fax: 520-421-0105, rovers_roost@yahoo.com, www.roversroost.com	\$20	+ tax	\$110	+ Elec & tax	\$325	+ Elec
	<b>KOFA KO-OP</b>   3750 E. County 17th St., Yuma, AZ 85365 928-344-0645, 928-344-0900, office@kofako-op.com, www.kofako-op.com	\$23	Incl Elec	\$100	+ Elec & tax	-	-
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	<b>JOJOBAMA HILLS RESORT</b>   45120 Hwy. 79 S, Aguanga, CA 92536 951-767-9130, office@jojobahills.com, jojobahills.com	\$35 limited	+ Elec	-	-	-	-
	<b>PARK SIERRA</b>   45323 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-658-8696, Fax: 559-683-2179, parkoffice@parksierra.net, www.parksierra.net	\$21-26	Incl Elec, WiFi & CTV	\$112	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV	\$420	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>THE RESORT</b>   2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873 863-735-1499, Fax: 863-735-1994, skpresortwauchula@gmail.com, fl-skp-resort.org	\$20-23	+ Elec	\$140- 161	+ Elec	\$495- 575	+ Elec
<b>NEVADA</b>	<b>PAIR-A-DICE</b>   5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048 775-727-7221, Fax: 775-727-3966, skppairadice@gmail.com	\$20 Incl Elec	-	\$125 Incl Elec	-	\$330 + Elec	-
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>THE RANCH</b>   PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254 575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, skpranch@pvtnetworks.net, skpranch.com	\$20	Incl Elec	\$125	Incl Elec	\$350	+Elec & Tax
<b>OREGON</b>	<b>TIMBER VALLEY</b>   800 S. State St., Sutherlin, OR 97479 541-459-4465, skptimbr@rosenet.net, www.timbervalleyskp.com	\$22	Incl Elec	\$132	Incl Elec	\$345	+ Elec
<b>TEXAS</b>	<b>LONE STAR CORRAL</b>   131 Private Rd. 5240, Hondo, TX 78861 830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, info@lonestarcorral.com, lonestarcorral.com	\$20	+ Elec	\$110	+ Elec	\$325	+ Elec
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	<b>EVERGREEN COHO</b>   2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chimacum, WA 98325 360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, ecrrskp@escapees.com, www.evergreencohoskprvpark.com	\$27.75 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$166.50 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$450	+ Elec

- The plus symbol (+) is used to indicate "plus electric."
- Additional charges may apply for 50-amp electric, pull-thru and 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

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
-	✓	✓	87	22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓		107	0	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	99	25	N	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	68	0	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-		✓	93	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	68	0	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	130	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

-	✓	✓	297	n/a	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	118	n/a	✓	N	✓	-	✓	N	N	✓	✓	N	✓
✓	✓	✓	152	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	283	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	254	n/a	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	128	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	182	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	118	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	206	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	130	n/a	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	175	n/a	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Lease Lots at SKP Co-Ops

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.

- Raccoon Valley: Heiskell, TN**  
Local songwriters meet every Tuesday night. Thursday night, local jammers perform.
- Jobba Hills SKP Co-Op: Aguanga, CA**  
Join the fun of many social activities. Enjoy pickleball, tennis, swimming, hiking, nightly games and Friday happy hour. Beaches and desert are only an hour away. *Sunset* magazine calls nearby Temecula "Disneyland for adults."
- Pair-A-Dice SKP Co-Op: Pahrump, NV**  
First-time visitors receive a one-week stay for \$75: Request at check-in. Call ahead for availability. No reservations. GPS: N36° 8.700'-W115° 58.000'
- Park Sierra SKP Co-Op: Coarsegold, CA**  
Is Yosemite on your bucket list? Stay with us! Park Sierra is 25 miles from the southern entrance to Yosemite. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are only a day-trip away! The winter months are mild and the spring wildflowers are glorious. First-time visitors can enjoy \$50 off their first week's stay! Visit our website or call for reservations.
- RoVers Roost SKP Co-Op: Casa Grande, AZ**  
Max site length is 40'. First-time Escapees visitors will receive three days free when they pay for one week (\$110 plus tax/elec). Explore many activities from this central location. Activities update provided at daily social hours. Visit the website or call for details.
- Saguaro SKP Co-Op: Benson, AZ**  
First-time visitors receive a week with a 50% discount, plus elec./tax. Visit [www.SKPSaguaro.org](http://www.SKPSaguaro.org) and click "Special Offers" for details.
- The Ranch SKP Co-Op: Lakewood, NM**  
Planning a trip to Carlsbad Caverns or the Guadalupe Mountains national park? We're your place to stay. Large sites, Reverse Osmosis water. First timers: \$50 wk + elec and tax, 20% off for returning visitors. Visit website for details and \$50 coupon.
- The Resort SKP Co-Op: Wauchula, FL**  
Where shorts are always in season and lifelong friendships blossom. See our website for our many activities and amenities. Then visit our active park in quiet south-central Florida.
- Lone Star Corral Co-Op: Hondo, TX**  
First time Escapee visitors will receive 50% off one week stay plus electric. Offer not valid for December or last full week in February. Your extended stay will allow you to explore the San Antonio area and Texas Hill Country. The park is only a 2- to 3-hour drive from the Gulf Coast and Mexico.
- Timber Valley Co-Op: Sutherlin, OR**  
541-459-4465 • [www.timbervalleyskp.com](http://www.timbervalleyskp.com)  
Join us in Oregon's banana belt. Large lots; more privacy. Costco, 5 chain grocery outlets within 12 miles. Walk to restaurants, churches; other amenities. Award-winning wineries, fishing, forest trails and wildlife. Waterfalls, 50 miles; ocean, 70 miles. Coupon on our website! Stay two nights, get a third night free.
- Evergreen CoHo: Chimacum, WA**  
Make your reservations now and explore Washington's Olympic Peninsula: art, biking, birding, breweries, casinos, cideries, distilleries, farm tours, ferries to Victoria B.C. and Seattle, unique festivals from accordion to wooden boat, hiking, kayaking, music and concerts, wineries/wine routes, whale watching.

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928-524-2972

**INDIGENOUS ROOTS LLC CM #919**  
720-598-2828

**GUARD 1 SERVICES CM #920**  
713-400-5649

**BON WORTH CM #921**  
623-537-9319

**ARIZONA RV SPECIALIST, LLC CPR RV CM #922**  
RVSEAL.COM CM #923

**RODAN + FIELDS CM #924**  
919-608-8890

**AMERICA'S RV WARRANTY CM #925**  
770-796-5290

**RV INSURANCE BENEFITS CM #926**  
817-487-2111

**RODAN & FIELDS CM #927**  
919-608-8890

**AGS GUEST GUIDES CM #928**  
817-426-9395



### Advertising Opportunities with Escapees RV Club

Join the unique advertising opportunities provided by Escapees RV Club. Place your product/service before a large, dynamic and well-established RV community with regular advertising. Visit [www.escapees.com/advertise](http://www.escapees.com/advertise), call 936-327-8873 or e-mail [commercialmembership@escapees.com](mailto:commercialmembership@escapees.com) for information.

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**50%  
DISCOUNT**

### Have you found an RV park that would be a candidate for the Discount Parks program?

Provide the park name and address by e-mail to the advertising department at [advertising@escapees.com](mailto:advertising@escapees.com), or call 936-327-8873. Remember to always contact a park prior to arrival to ensure availability.

## OUR ADVERTISERS PROVIDE RV-related services that you can use!

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## SELL IT OR BUY IT!

- Noncommercial classified ads: \$20 minimum/base rate: up to 6 lines includes special title. Lines 7-12: \$4 per line plus base rate. Over 13 lines: \$20 per line plus 7-12 and base rate. Six lines including photo: \$50 (\$4 per additional line. Over 12 lines: Additional fees apply.)
- Commercial classifieds: \$20 per line, 5-line minimum, 5 percent discount for 6 issues or more. (To estimate length of ad lines, 35 characters and spaces equal one line.)
- To send ad copy: Mail your typed submission and payment to *Escapees* Magazine, Attn: Classified Ads, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300, or send it, with a credit card number, to 936-327-4388 (fax) or e-mail [advertising@escapees.com](mailto:advertising@escapees.com).
- Copy deadlines: (Subject to space availability) J/F-Nov. 10 • M/A-Jan. 10 • M/J-March 10 • J/A-May 10 • S/O-July 10 • N/D-Sept. 10

### HOME BASE

**Linda Stevens—REALTOR-C21 AzWest North Ranch • [LindasellsAz@msn.com](mailto:LindasellsAz@msn.com)**

#### Small Lots:

- L-348 Landscaped Vacant Lot \$53K
- L-349 Prk AZ Great Rm \$84,200 New Low Price
- L-434 Landscaped RV HU W/D HU + WH + shower in shed Borders "BigSandyLake" \$57K

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**TX—Sargent:** Two full-hookup RV lots for rent. Each lot is 50'x100'. One mile from the gulf and one-half mile from marina and boat launch. Daily, weekly or monthly rates. 979-429-1759.

**Dubina, Texas:** \$549,000 13.00-acre tract with modern farmhouse has much to offer the permanent resident or weekender. 2,250 sq ft, move-in-ready home, 3BD/2BA, 30-yr composition roof, shiplap walls and hardwood floors. Master BD is downstairs with a walk-in closet and a spacious BA with walk-in tile shower, garden tub and dble vanity. The other two BRs are located upstairs. Covered front porch, fenced yard and beautiful countryside views. Attached, oversized garage concrete driveway. Automatic gate for convenience and security. The property is perimeter fenced and features improved pastureland for hay production and stocked pond with mature live oak nearby. 20'x60' insulated metal building constructed in 2014 with two 14' automatic garage doors, F HUs for your RV, a separate 30'x40' metal building includes approx. 600 sq ft of finished space, ideal for an office or "man-cave," 2 other sheds for storing equipment, a small greenhouse for your plants, a smokehouse and an FFA/4-H project pen. The mineral estate is negotiable with an acceptable offer. Elevation ranges from 330'-360'. Call 979-725-6006 Tri-County Realty, LLC

### RIGS FOR SALE

**2012 Tiffin Allegro RED 38QBA:** Freightliner chassis, Cummins 340 diesel, Allison trans, Onan 8KW diesel gen, Hadley air horns, sleeps 6 adults, 2000W inverter, 4-dr fridge with ice mkr, 2-15000A/C with heat pump, 3-burner cooktop,

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### MISCELLANEOUS



**Fiona Animal Refuge:** Join our fight to save Mexican street dogs. Founded and managed by *Escapees* member Dottie Cross #86243 since 2011. In April 2013, our dream became a reality. Fiona Animal Refuge opened its doors with 19 kennels, office and surgery. FAR is a 501(c)(3) public charity, which means all donations are tax-deductible. [www.potreropups.org](http://www.potreropups.org) or on Facebook: Fiona Animal Refuge. Checks made payable to: Fiona Animal Refuge can be sent to 208 Rainbow Dr., #10808, Livingston, TX 77399-2008.

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## FINAL JOURNEYS

### Farewell to our Escapees Friends

The Escapees RV Club expresses sincere condolences to the families and friends of deceased members.

**Cotter, Carol L. #19313-May 5, 2019:** (Frank, 119 Rainbow Dr., #1918, Livingston, TX 77399-1019) Carol died at age 81 after many years with dementia, cancer and strokes. Her last stroke was in 2012, and that is when she lost her memory completely and no longer spoke. Carol was my co-pilot for about 30 years in three different motorhomes. I will continue roaming.

**Epperson, Alberta #27661-May 13, 2019:** Alberta lived at the Park Sierra SKP Co-Op in Coarsegold, California, for 20 years. She was 100 years old and loved to travel. Reported by Park Sierra SKP Co-Op.

**Gifford, Paul B. #17370-January 31, 2019:** (Peg, 270 B Old Post Road, Apt B, Ballston Spa, NY 12020) Paul died peacefully with his wife by his side at home. Paul served in World War II and the Korean conflict as a corpsman in the Navy and Marines. He was an avid RVer for many years. Paul was an active member of Chapters 15, 27 and then the combined Chapter 57 in Florida. He was also on staff at several Escapades. He joined Joe and Kay Peterson on an RV trip to Europe. Paul loved Escapees. Reported by cousin Marilyn Forbes #37796.

**Jordan, Clarence #50298-March 6, 2019:** (Elaine, 1110 S. Hwy 80, #62, Benson, Arizona 85602) We enjoyed 15 years of full-time RVing and meeting many people. RVers are the nicest kind. I will continue to live in Benson.

**Liefeld, Judy #40405-April 17, 2018:** (Walter, 1904 Saginaw Drive, Coatesville, PA 19320) Judy had Parkinson's disease and died from complications of hip surgery after falling. We joined Escapees in 1996 and became lifetime members at our first Escapade. In 1998, and for the next 17 years, we lived and traveled full-time in our Winnebago Adventurers, visiting all the Escapees parks and every state except Hawaii. We spent winters on our lot in Southern Alabama and, during spring and summer, we volunteered at the U.S. Forest Service's Cradle of Forestry in Pisgah N.F. in North Carolina or at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Oregon Coast N.W.R. in Newport, Oregon. In 2014, when Judy's health began to fail, we sold the motorhome and moved into an apartment in Pennsylvania to be near our family.

**Snyder, Tom #107035-September 10, 2018-** (Jo-Ann, 2 Big Creek Water Park, Soso, MS 39480) Tom died at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. We were full-timers for over 12 years. Tom enjoyed people, nature and traveling.

We appreciate notification of the deceased by caring friends; however, please obtain permission from a spouse or family member before submitting a notice for publication. Send notices to: *Escapees Magazine*, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, Texas 77351

OR E-MAIL DEPARTMENTSEditor@ESCAPEES.COM.

**JumpSmart:** 4-Mode, 1100 Lumen LED Flashlight with 150m reach. Jumper cables with 10 built-in safety features, safety check lights and sounds. 10000 mAh/ 37000 mWh Lithium-Polymer battery. 5V/ 2.4A USB Port utilizing Smart Speed Technology. JumpSmart Includes: Jumper cables, heavy-duty case, car and wall charging adapters, protective sleeve. MSRP \$119.99. <https://limitlessinnovations.com/jumpsmart>. Available at [www.limitlessinnovations.com](http://www.limitlessinnovations.com).



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

## Overnight Parking Etiquette

# RVERS GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

**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.

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®



# SOMETHING THIS GOOD SHOULD BE SHARED...

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

### Adventure, Education and Support Services

- Mail Forwarding Service with scanning option (domicile-compliant addresses in Texas, Florida and South Dakota)
- Strong RV advocacy coalition (protecting RVers' rights)
- Escapees Maps (plan your trip online)
- Escapees Job Board (looking for work or looking for hire)
- *Escapees* magazine (digital versions and archives online, too!)
- Escapade (annual Escapees club rally with education and social opportunities)
- RVers Boot Camp (fundamental RV training)
- SmartWeigh (accurate and detailed RV-weighing service)
- Club News (weekly updates on events and member benefits)
- RVers Online University (reliable, online RV education)
- RVNetwork.com (discussion forum for all RV-related topics)
- HOPs (unique land, sea and air adventures with Escapees)
- Chapters and BoF groups (fun ways to meet other RVers)
- Online "Articles and Blogs" section (2000-plus articles)
- Hangouts (meet up with other Escapees for fun, active experiences)

### Association Specials

- Escapees Roadside Assistance
- Tire Discount
- RV insurance (full-time RV specialists)
- Financial and legal services
- Product and service discounts
- CARE (rest, recover and recuperate)

### A Comprehensive RV Park System

- Rainbow Parks—friendly, clean and fun. Reservations available.
- An extensive network of parks across North America, offering Escapees members 15-50% off overnight rates
- Opportunities for additional savings through partnerships with other RV clubs and organizations
- Overnight parking options offered by Escapees members
- Home-base options, plus short- and long-term parking/leases

www.escapees.com



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION | INFORMATION REQUEST

Mail this form to Escapees RV Club • 100 Rainbow Drive • Livingston, TX 77351 • 936-327-8873 • or visit [www.escapees.com](http://www.escapees.com)

I'm simply requesting an information kit and FREE copy of Escapees magazine.  
Payment information not required.

New Members  
I am enclosing my annual membership fee of \$39.95 (Canada and Mexico, add \$10). All payments in U.S. currency.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Your address will not be sold.)  
Last First Partner

Permanent mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

My e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer the digital Escapees magazine and would like to opt out of the printed copy.  Yes  No

Include my address in the members-only membership directory:  Yes  No

Please contact me about my local chapter:  Yes  No

Subscribe me to Club News e-mails:  Yes  No

How did you hear about Escapees? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of RV:  Motorhome  Fifth-wheel  Travel trailer  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit:  Visa  M/C  Discover Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\* With the exception of the veterans' discount, this special rate cannot be combined with other offers.

July/August 2019  
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