

ESCAPEES

Sharing The RV Lifestyle



BUDDY—A JOURNEY IN SPIRIT

*A Cautionary Tale of
Accidental Poisoning*
PAGE 44

INDIAN CAVE STATE PARK

*An Unspoiled Paradise
Near Shubert, Nebraska*
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ORGANIZED VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

*Volunteer Opportunities at State
Parks and Nonprofits*
PAGE 58




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"We all have our own cherished garden.
Mine is the knowledge of the help,
happiness and friendships Escapees has
brought to so many people.
If we do not share its cuttings,
who will care and who will help
when the floods of life try to destroy us?"

We shall keep on pollinating new services
and selling memberships.
Who knows—perhaps the greatest help,
the most happiness and best friendships
are yet to come."

AN EXCERPT FROM ESCAPEES MAGAZINE JULY/AUGUST 1998
ESCAPEES.COM/ABOUTUS

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

Cedar Key, Florida
BY JAN GORMAN #125640
(SEE MORE FLORAL PHOTOS IN THIS
ISSUE'S "VIEWFINDER" COLUMN ON
PAGES 28-29)



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On the Cover

PHOTO BY MARK FAGAN #99408

Mark and Emily Fagan were boondocking on one of their favorite remote spots in Bighorn National Forest, in Wyoming. While they were camped, Mark took this amazing photo of their fifth-wheel trailer and dog Buddy, against a breathtakingly beautiful sunrise on the horizon. Read Emily's article, "Buddy: A Journey in Spirit," a cautionary tale for pet owners, on page 44.

features

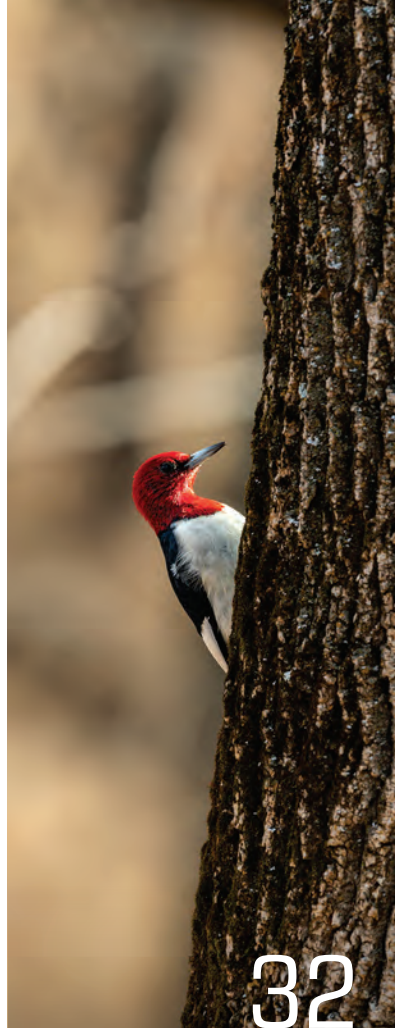
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TAMMY JOHNSON #39557
Editor, *Escapees* Magazine

“As you head out on the road this season, be safe and let us hear from you.”


Spring has sprung and with the beautiful floral displays beginning to peek out along the roadside throughout the country, it makes this a glorious time for RV travel.

During this time of year, traveling in the Northern regions of the country becomes more accessible. Those who have been hibernating in the south for the winter can now begin to pull up stakes and head to those cooler climates. Many of you may want to hang around the southern regions for those must see destinations that can be visited in a more pleasant temperature.

In this issue of *Escapees* magazine, you will find not only unique destinations to visit, but also safety information and ways to enhance your RVing lifestyle. I hope this issue will be a valuable asset on your journeys this season.

Did you know *Escapees* has eight Rainbow Parks and 11 SKP Co-Op parks in locations throughout the United States. If you haven't visited these parks, I'd like to encourage you to stop by and check them out during your travels. Turn to pages 80–81 to see the locations and detailed information about these lovely parks.

If you're looking to meet other RVers and learn more about the RV lifestyle, consider attending the 62nd Escapade in Tucson, Arizona, March 19–24 (See page 12 in this issue.) There is still time to attend *Escapees'* largest gathering of the year! If you haven't been to an Escapade before, you are missing out on a fun time, and the chance to learn just about everything there is to know about RVing. There will be plenty of like-minded folks there to greet you and give you a hug or handshake.

As you head out on the road this season, be safe and let us hear from you. We would like to know what you want to see more or less of in the magazine. Tell us which topics interest you most. As always, we love to hear from you! 

ESCAPEES

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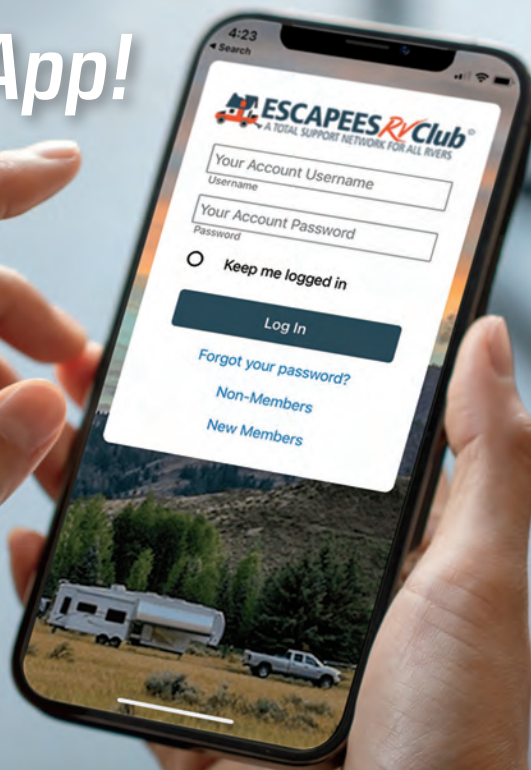
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Your RV Questions

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

Outlet Diagram Correction

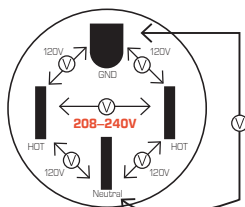
In the Mark, My Words column in the November/December 2022 *Escapees* Magazine, you included a diagram showing RV Power Outlets. The RV 50A outlet (NEMA14-50R) should have also showed 208V in addition to 240V across the two hot legs as a possible voltage. Some RV parks have commercial 3 phase 208Y/120 volt transformers serving the park's pedestals. These transformers still provide 120 volt circuits to the pedestals but you will read 208 volts across the two hot legs at the pedestal rather than 240.

Bob Rohrmann # 111598

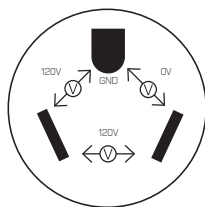
Right you are, Bob! Here's an updated outlet diagram.

Mark Nemeth

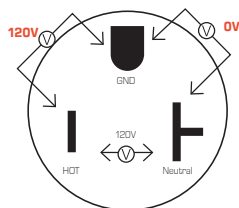
RV Power Outlets



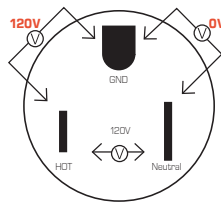
NEMA 14-50R | 50A | 250V



NEMA TT-30R | 30A | 125V



NEMA 5-20R | 20A | 125V



NEMA 5-15R | 15A | 125V

Charging System

Q. I live in Taos, New Mexico, and have a problem with the charging system in my Ford 350 Econo Van Camper Conversion. I have three ways to charge the "house" batteries: 1) 110-volt shore power, 2) solar panel on roof, 3) diesel engine. Methods 1 & 2 work fine, but the engine does not seem to be charging the house batteries now. A couple of years ago, the problem surfaced and I solved it by buying two new engine batteries. Seems they were old, and it was all the charging system could do to charge them with nothing left over for the two house batteries. But, these batteries are still in good shape, so the problem lies elsewhere. Any thoughts appreciated.

Terry

A. Most RVs utilize either a diode block battery isolator or a solenoid switch to isolate the engine-starting batteries from the house batteries. The way this is supposed to work is the isolator allows charge current from the vehicle's alternator to charge the house batteries but prevents the house battery circuit from drawing power from the starting batteries when the engine is off and the RV is parked. The diode-style unit is usually a small metal box with three terminals on it. The center terminal is connected to the alternator output, and the other terminals are connected to the positive post of 1) the starter battery and, 2) the house batteries. You'll usually find it in the engine compartment close to the alternator. The internal diodes only allow current to flow "to" the batteries, and will block current from flowing "out of" the batteries. The relay, or solenoid, style can be mounted just about anywhere. It essentially

ties the positive posts of the starter battery and the house batteries together whenever the ignition switch is on. This effectively parallels the two batteries for charging. Once you determine which setup you have, it's fairly easy to test with a meter. There may also be a fuse or circuit breaker in the charge circuit, and the problem may be as simple as a blown fuse or failed breaker. This website has some good, basic wiring diagrams of the different types of isolators: www.custombatteryables.com/battery_isolators.htm

Winterizing Water Pump

Q. I bought a new Komfort 2027RL travel trailer, and I can't seem to find where the water pump is located for the purpose of winterizing the trailer. Do you have any suggestions?

Nian

A. If you have an owner's manual for the trailer, it may show the pump location. Calling a dealer may also help you find it, but I have an easier solution: The pump will normally be located in a compartment or cabinet where it can be accessed fairly easily. My advice is to turn the pump on and find it by ear. They make a fair amount of noise when operating, so you should be able to locate it. Good luck in your search.

Towing Tips

Q. We just bought a 33' class A and now want to tow our RAV4. We have checked with Camping World, and they can make our SUV suitable for towing. Can you give us any helpful hints on towing, such as blind spots when changing lanes, how far ahead do we need before braking and how wide do we make the turn? Any information you can provide would be helpful.

Joe and Nancy

A. Most tow-bar systems allow you to easily tow your car behind your motorhome. Because the towed car's front steering is unlocked, the car will follow the motorhome very nicely, generally staying within the motorhome's tire track width even on fairly sharp turns. You do need to allow some extra distance when passing, and watch what the towed car is doing when you are turning tightly, but for the most part, you'll hardly know it's back there!

As far as helpful hints go, there are a few pretty universal rules to help you tow safely.

FIRST, never attempt to back up with your towed vehicle attached on a tow bar. Not even for a few feet. Serious damage to the tow bar and/or the towed vehicle can result.

SECOND, always visually inspect the integrity of the tow bar and its connections anytime you pull off the road for a rest break or park the RV for a short period of time.

THIRD, create a checklist for prepping the towed car for towing to ensure that you don't forget anything. Most vehicles require a sequence of steps to properly prepare them for towing and may involve selecting key and shifter positions, etc. You don't want to take off down the road with the emergency brake still on!

FINALLY, I strongly recommend that you purchase a supplemental braking system for your towed car. These systems apply the towed car brakes in response to braking effort by the motorhome and will shorten your stopping distance appreciably. There are a number of different systems available. You should consult with the folks who sold you the tow-bar system for their recommendations, and ask some other RVers about their braking systems to get a feel for what will work the best for you.

Motel or RV?

Q. I don't own or have ever used an RV, but I keep looking at them. I thought I would try renting to see if I would like to purchase. But I do the numbers and find I can motel a lot cheaper than renting an RV. My wife thinks I'm nuts for even looking. I see the gas prices climbing and wonder how can people afford to do this? Do they have some unlimited funds from some overseas bank account to support them? What am I missing in the formula? There doesn't seem to be a savings in RVs. I'm retired and would like to travel this great country, and the thought of an RV is exciting. But the thought of the costs is scary. Any thoughts?

Bob

A. While it may be cheaper to stay in a motel, it's nowhere near as comfy! When you look at how an RV can provide you with all the comforts of home even though you are camped way out in the boonies, the motel room looks pretty shabby by comparison. Also, there aren't many motels within a few steps of a trout stream or a national forest. When I was traveling, I always thought of it like this:

When you travel in an RV, it's just like being at home, except the front yard changes every couple of days! I sleep in my own bed, cook my own food, have a comfortable chair and all of my "stuff" is with me. You just can't get that in a motel.

I can't tell you that RVing is a way to save money when traveling, but I believe it's a way to get MORE for your money. You might want to go rent that RV and give it a try.

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.

VOLISUN Solar Driveway Lights

By **MARK NEMETH** #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor



“They are normally attached to decks and such with screws, but their weight makes them stay put, even in areas with a lot of traffic.”

Here's a great way to light your campsite when you're out in the boonies. There are a number of manufacturers making solar driveway and boat dock lights. They are all similar in design and are used to light paths and walkways. They recharge each day from available sunlight and automatically turn on at dusk.

I did some research and chose VOLISUN Solar Driveway Lights based (in part) on the many positive reviews on Amazon. They are made of aluminum, have an IP67 waterproof rating, and are tough enough to withstand being driven over. They are normally attached to decks and such with screws, but their weight makes them stay put, even in areas with a lot of traffic. In fact, they are heavy enough to hold down a rug or patio mat, and that's how I primarily use them. The subdued light that they produce won't bother your neighbors but will easily guide your footsteps. They can also be used to light a path between RVs or placed near obstacles, so you won't trip over them in the dark.



If you prefer to stake them down, you can use generic mat stakes or long nails. I prefer 4" #10 deck screws, which fit nicely in the provided mounting holes. They will penetrate even the hardest soil, and if you have a cordless drill and a driver bit, it quickly eliminates all the pounding and prying.

The link below will take you to the product I purchased, but there are many similar ones available, and they come in a wide choice of lighting colors. I like the VOLISUN lights because they have a tiny waterproof switch underneath so you can select either warm white or cool white light and turn them off for storage. Unlike some solar lights I've played with, they have large 300mA solar panels and 1200mAh batteries, so just a few hours of sun will charge them. Shaded site? Cloudy days? Your lights will still glow all night and light your site! 🚐

VOLISUN *Solar Driveway Lights*

www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08ZCCSBGR (8 pack) \$79.99

Available in packs of 4, 8 and 12.

They cost approximately \$10 each.

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Spring is for Cleaning

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

Spring is right around the corner. This is an excellent time to begin cleaning out our RV.

Through the year we tend to bring in more stuff without removing other stuff. All this stuff adds up and, before you know it, the RV is overweight. As your RV accumulates more things, it's important to make a conscious effort to eliminate the things you no longer need.

While weighing rigs for SmartWeigh, I have found RV's that have weighed over their Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). When questioned about the overage, the owners admitted to buying and stowing t-shirts, books and other knickknacks. Those RVs needed to go on a diet to lose the extra weight to get under the GVWR.

What better time to check and re-check your RV for the extra weight that has accumulated than during "spring cleaning" time? Typically this is thoroughly cleaning an RV (house) in the first warm days of spring. Start this simple task by going through your cabinets and storage bins to see what you can off-load. Afterwards, make an appointment with SmartWeigh to have your RV weighed to see how you have done in your "spring cleaning." A properly balanced RV makes traveling the road safer. SmartWeigh will also measure the height of your RV so you'll feel safe going under overpasses. 

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62nd Escapade

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March 19-24, 2023

There's still time!

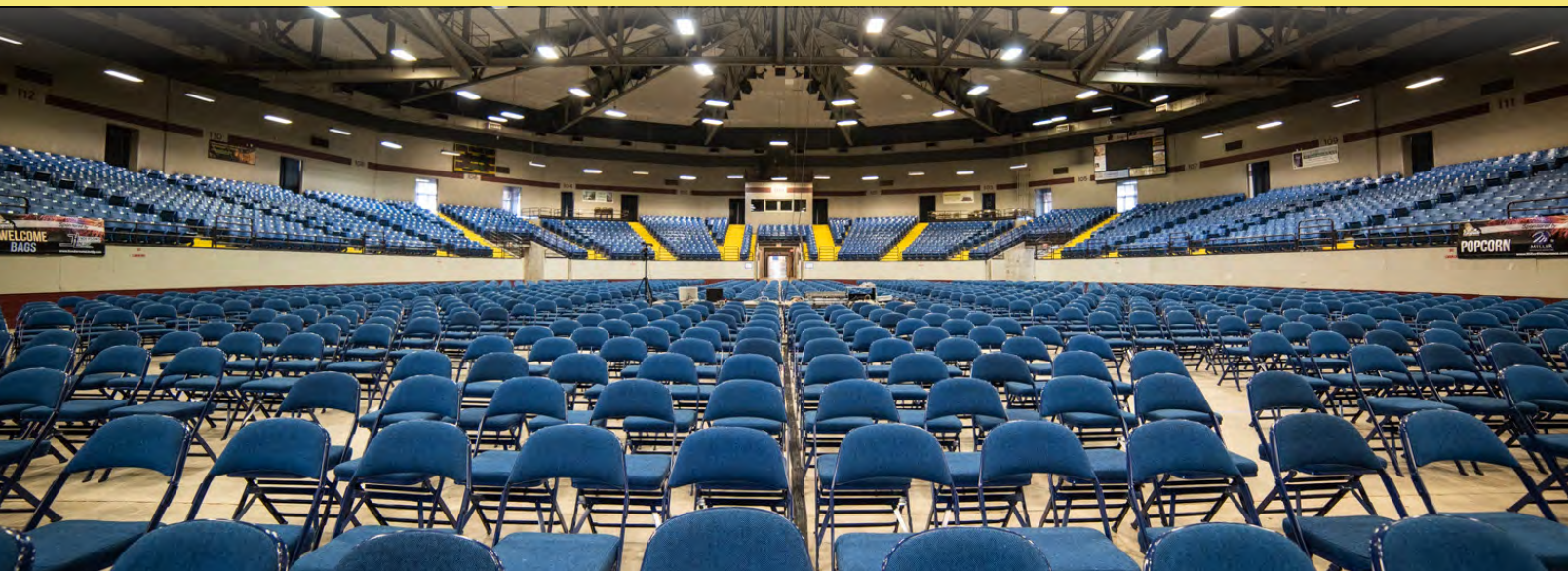
The fun is about to begin!
There's still time to participate in the 62nd Escapade and celebration of Escapees 45th anniversary. We still have plenty of boondocking (dry camping) sites available and daily/weekly walk-ins are always an option. Escapade offers education and activities for all ages. Join fellow Escapees friends for this exciting annual event!

Duane and Jean Mathes #115955
Escapade Directors



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

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

Arizona

CHANDLER: Lone Butte Casino/Hotel, lg pkg area for trucks and RVs. Free. Call ahead for permission. I-10 x161, go E on SR 202 fwy, take x53 for Kyrene Rd, TR, casino is on L, use E pkg lot. 1077 S. Kyrene Rd. N33.28952 W111.91097.

Dennis Rosenblitt #91444

CORDES JUNCTION: Agua Fria NM (BLM), lg pkg area. Free. 14-day limit. I-17 x256, go E on Badger Springs Rd. 34.23695 -112.10959. More camping spots down gravel rd, leading to and beyond pit toilet. Hiking trails, petroglyphs and some ruins.

MESA: Camping World. 12 sites in lot behind bldg. E. Free. Turn off of E Main St on 22nd Pl, between Camping World and Lazy Daze, pull-thru gate (usually open) to lg lot. 33.41769 -111.7843

Paul Coder #151338

SONOITA: Lakeview CG, Parker Canyon Lake (NF). 18 RV BD sites, tables, fire rings. Potable W, vault toilet, trash cans. \$20, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit. Open all yr. From Tucson, go E to I-10 x281, go 25 mi S on SR 83 to Sonoita, continue 25 mi S on SR 83 to Parker Canyon Lake. From Sierra Vista, travel thru Fort Huachuca's W gate to SR 83, turn S, go 10 mi to Parker Canyon Lake. 31.4285 -110.451. Some pull-thru sites OK for lg RVs. 5500' elev. Boat launch and marina with boat rentals, sm store at lake.

Tim Johnson #37844

California

CALISTOGA: Pkg lot. Public rest rooms. Free. No adverse signage. Go S from Washington St. on Gerard St, on R, behind fire sta. N38.57764 W122.57844. Sm-med rigs. Walking distance of river. Very close to sm town ctr.

Richard and Kathy Howe #74769

LINCOLN: Thunder Valley Casino, huge pkg lot for trucks/RVs. NB, I-80 x106 go N on SR 65 towards Lincoln, exit to L (W) on Sunset Blvd, TR on Foothills Blvd, TR on Athens Ave. 1200 Athens Ave. 38.83611 -121.31068. SB, SR 65 x313 to R (W) on Twelve Bridges Dr, TL on Industrial Ave, TR on Athens Ave. Long distance from Casino, but can phone them for shuttle pickup. Nearby RR horn is loud, but not too often. 916-408-7777.

Carl and Patti Williams #118698

MOJAVE: Lg open area. Many areas to park O/N. No facilities. Free. No posted stay limit. 3 mi E of town on

Mojave-Barstow Hwy, TR (E) on SR 58, go 3 mi (N35.0236 W118.05168), TR on unsigned rd (unpaved, starts bumpy, but smooths out). WB, TL (E) at crossover (N35.0236 W118.05168), continue straight onto unsigned rd. Miles of spots to park, good one at N35.01266 W118.04237. Light sand. Joshua trees.

Richard and Kathy Howe #74769

YREKA: Rain Rock Casino. No facilities. Free. Check in with Security. two-night limit. I-5 x773, E side, follow signs to end of Sharps Rd. 41.70942 -122.63076. Lot is sloped, may ask to stay in what is currently a gravel area 50 yds S of the pkg lot, not as sloped.

Bruce Ratcliff #48001 and Maxine Vert #49242

Indiana

EDINBURGH: Irwin Park (CP). 12 30-A E/W sites, tables, fire rings. Porta-johns. D. \$20. 14-day limit. 4/1-10/31. I-65 x80, go W on Shelbyville Rd (curves L (S), becomes N Grant St), TR (W) on E Center Cross St, TR (N) on N Main St into Park. Sites are one side of a berm with riv and bank on other side. Lg shade trees around Park. Blacktop rd and pads, 37-40' max. Playground, two soccer fields. Relatively quiet. One bar Verizon, 4-5 bars T-Mobile. Office 812-526-3535. tinyurl.com/mryjkh22

Al and Greta Boldt #137250

FRANKLIN: Johnson County Park. 60 sites with 30-50-A E/W, tables. Rest rooms/showers, trash cans, D. W is turned off Nov 1-Apr 1. \$25. Reserve 812-526-6809. I-65 x90, go 2.6 mi W on King St/SR 144 to Franklin, TL (S) on US 31, go 6 mi to SR 252, TR (W), go 2.4 mi to Schoolhouse Rd, TL (S), go 2 mi to Park. 39.37865 -86.04759. Hoosier Horse Park has 70 E sites for those with horses, same price. Playground, community campfire. jocoparks.com/campgrounds

Dave Ed #62492

Missouri

HERMITAGE: Damsite Park CG, Pomme de Terre Lake (COE). 102 gravel E/W sites, tables, fire rings. Showers, toilets, D. \$22, S/A Pass 1/2. E-only season Mar 25-Apr 15, Oct 1-Nov 30, \$10, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit. Reserve 417-745-2244. 3 mi S from town on SR 254/64 to Carson's Corner, TR (W) on SR 254 toward the dam, go 0.3 mi, TL (S) into entrance. 37.90472 -93.30778. 45' max. 16 pull-thru sites (not all have W). Mostly level. All sites have lake view. Roomy, some sites shaded. Playground.

Steve and Pam Ritchie #48345

day's end

SAINT JOSEPH: Heritage Park Softball Complex (city), paved near-level pkg lot. No facilities. Free. No posted restrictions. From I-29 x56 go S on I-229 to x7 (Highland Ave). (From US 36 go N on I-229.) TL on Highland. TR on McArthur, go over bridge, after Stop, continue R (N) 1 blk past casino. 39.78981 -94.87569. Long paved walk/hike/bike trail along riv from above Softball Complex to past Nature Ctr.

Alex and Carol Patterson #109349

WALNUT SHADE: Misty Mountain RV Park. 10 pull-thru sites with 30-A E/W/S. \$20, \$350 and up/mo. Self check-in, drop box, no reservations. Open all yr. 11.5 mi N of Branson, MO, on US 65, W side. Watch for signs. On top of a hill, visible from hwy. 36.8108 -93.2261. Pets on leash OK. Part-time attendant in Park, 417-443-3357.

Eve Schindler #126989

New Mexico

GRANTS: 'Junkyard on 66' Brewery, lg-rig pkg lot. Free. One-night limit. Offered on their website tinyurl.com/ykne3a3h. I-40 x85, go 0.3 mi E on SR 117/McBride Rd/Rt 66, on L. 35.1377 -107.82421. 1436 E Hwy 66. Most RVs using are Harvest Host members, but it is not required. Decent selection of tap beers. Some food items. Lg rigs may have trouble with the turn, thru the street gate and then the immed L thru another gate into pkg area. Check in with bartender as to where they want you to park and they'll also give you info on the gate.

Gail Kapusnick #113306

LAS CRUCES: Monte Viste Trail, gravel pkg lot. Trash bins. Free. No stay limit posted. I-25 x1, go 3.3 mi E on University Ave (becomes Dripping Springs Rd) to gravel lot, S side. 32.2962 -106.69241. Leveler than Sierra Vista trail lot. Hiking trail, nearby Dripping Springs Natural Area.

Paul Codyer #151338

RATON: Out-of-business DQ, pkg lot. Free. No signs. I-25 x451, go W, immed TR (N) on S Cedar. On L, just past Microtel. 36.8863N 104.4322W. Flat, paved, level, fairly quiet. Room for several rigs.

Ron Walter #73417

Nevada

HAWTHORNE: Chevron sta, lg gravel lot. Free. No known stay limit. US 95, just N of split of US 95 Bypass and US 95 Bus, W side. 38.53443 -118.62839. Trucks use. Broaster Chicken. Plaza next door with Safeway and a few restaurants.

Paul Codyer #151338

OVERTON: BD, Valley of Fire Hwy. I-15 x75, go E. Free. Various spots along/near Hwy, 1 at 36.44445 -114.67558. Near Valley of Fire SP.

OVERTON: Mormon Mesa, very lg open area for BD. Several fire rings. Free. From SR 169 in town, go 1.2 mi N on Cooper Ave, TR on Mormon Mesa Rd, go 2.5 mi (dirt, but in good shape until rather steep climb to top), on R. N36.58482 W114.40624. Room for many rigs. W at park in town (no camping). High enough for good breezes, but unshaded. Awesome views.

Richard and Kathy Howe #74769

PIOCHE: RA. Tables. Trash cans. No W. US 93 MM 147. 35 mi N of Pioche, E side. N and S entries. Level dirt pkg for multiple lg rigs by tables at N end. Addl pkg area near S end but drive is steep going N. Lots of trees. Fair Verizon.

Bill and Priscilla Scott #87327

Texas

BALMORHEA: Saddleback Mountain RV Park. Lg pull-thru sites with 20-30-50-A E/W/S, \$20, self-pay at drop box across from space 18 at RV shed/office, cash or check. I-10 x212, behind Uncle's/Valero sta, right at the exit. Easy on/off. Valero employees do not take reservations or pmts. Behind store and café, slight hwy noise, 432-448-1550.

John and Bonnie Archer #113438

FORT DAVIS: Point of Rocks roadside park. Covered tables, trash cans. Free. 2 mi S of town on SR 17, go 9 mi W on SR 166, on R. 30.53458 -104.06416.

Gary Haynes #116021

LAKE DALLAS: Willow Grove RV Park (COE, managed by city). E/W sites \$25, primitive sites along lakeshore \$15, S/A Pass 25% off. WiFi, D. 14-day limit. E/W sites reservable: www.lakedallas.com/195/Camping-Reservations 940-497-2226 option #3. I-35E x457, go 1.2 mi E on Hundley Dr. 800 E Hundley Dr. D is in CP 0.6 mi W of RV Park on Hundley Dr, for campers only. Showers and rest rooms near entrance.

Andy and Diane Hitzel #95726

NEW BRAUNFELS: Potters Creek Park, Canyon Lake (COE). 114 paved RV sites, tables, fire ring/grills. Flush toilets, showers, D. \$30, S/A Pass 1/2. Check in 3p, no early arrivals to CG. 14-day limit within 30. Open all yr. Oct 1-Mar 31, only loops 1 and 4 are open. I-35 x191, go 26 mi NW on FM 306, TL (S) on Potter's Creek Rd, go 2 mi to entrance. 29.90472 -98.27306. From US 281, go 10 mi E on FM 306, TR (S) on Potter's Creek Rd. fishing, beach.

John and Bonnie Archer #113438

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RVers' Sharing Tips, Opinions and Advice from the Road

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

More Traveling Cats

I read the article on Cruising with Cats, in the September/October issue of Escapees. My husband, Allen, and I began our full-time lifestyle with two cats, Shy Anne and Apatchy, a Dodge truck and a 36-ft fifth wheel. We didn't have a rear seat in the truck, so there was no room for boxes or carriers for them. We learned quickly that driving with them loose in the cab was not a very good idea when one of them decided to crawl around Allen's feet while he was driving. The only choice left was to leave them alone in the fifth wheel so they could find their comfortable traveling spot.

This did work for us as each one quickly chose her favorite nesting area. However, I am writing to warn you of one spot that did not work out. Apatchy decided to ride behind the bedroom slide-out. It wasn't until we heard a loud squeal as Allen pushed the button to extend the slide out that we learned where she was. We quickly learned to locate both cats before trying to extend the slide-outs.

We continued our traveling for another nine years or so before settling down. Shy Anne and Apatchy did well. There were a few more unexpected adventures. The scariest one occurred when we could not find Apatchy in the trailer and had everyone in the campground looking for this lost kitty. Allen finally went inside to start lunch and said, "I hear her inside!" She had gotten between the drawers under the sink and couldn't get out. I hope those traveling with pets enjoy them as much as we enjoyed our two girls.

By Allen and Lois Maywald #29191

Mice and Rats

I have to take exception to one thing Mark Nemeth mentions in his "Boondocking Digest" article, in the November/December 2022 issue, where he says, "I think we can all agree that those little plug-in devices that are supposed to repel mice with sound or magnetism are snake oil."



I certainly do not agree, and I have found them to work very effectively. The first one my wife and I put inside our trailer worked so good that I bought two for under the hoods of our car and truck.

Soon after we got our new trailer in 2019 we had a rodent infestation. I quickly caught three mice (or small rats) with mouse traps in the kitchen drawers. We could still hear rodents inside the walls, and I was perplexed in how I was going to get traps in there. I tried most everything else you mentioned to no

avail. In desperation I decided to try one of the plug-in devices. It took a couple of days before we noticed we did not hear the rodents any more. There have not been any rodents or ants inside our trailer since then.

I used lights underneath my vehicles, but I was still finding signs of rodents under the hoods. I did a search for 12-volt pest repellents and found some on Amazon. The first one worked so good I got another for the car. The plug-in pest repeller I use (TBI Pro Ultrasonic Pest Repeller Wall Plug-in - Electromagnetic and Ionic Indoor Repellent Anti Mouse, Rats, Roach, Ants, Mosquito, Cockroach Control) is no longer available on Amazon; however, you can find it elsewhere on the Internet. Amazon has many other pests repellents.

The under-the-hood pests repellents are still available on Amazon: Loraffe 2 Pack Under Hood Animal Repeller Car Rat Repeller Rodent Repellent Ultrasonic Mouse Deterrent for 12V 24V Vehicle Automobile)

Lately, my biggest worry has been if I have to put the trailer in storage, without being able to plug into electric, the rodents are going to be back.

Jim Fyffe #115568





RV Wash Day Hack

Do you find it takes forever to wash and dry clothes in your RV's efficiency combo washer/dryer unit? We found a neat RV hack to speed up the wash day tasks.

If your RV has slide-outs, which most of them do today, and they have some sort of wood trim on the top front of the slide out, this tip should work. We bought small 3M sticky hooks (the small white plastic ones with a metal pivoting hook) and we placed them on top of the edge of the slide out trim, spaced roughly the distance of a clothes hanger plus one or two inches extra spacing between each. This allows us to remove damp clothes after the final spin cycle and hang them on the hooks to air dry, and then another load can be immediately started in our Splendide combo washer/dryer. We find this speeds up the wash day tasks immensely! (Obviously, if you're in south Florida in the summer humidity, it'll take longer to hang dry the clothes than in Quartzsite, Arizona, but they all eventually get nicely dried).

In our 38' Alfa SeeYa Class A Motorhome we can hang seven garments in our living room and five in our bedroom on our two slides. When clothes are not being dried, the metal hooks flip back up and out of the way so they're practically invisible.

A secondary benefit is being able to "Hang our Christmas Stockings on the Slide-out with care" during the holidays. Extra bonus tip: drill a tiny pilot hole in the plastic hook after affixing it on the wood and then screw a short screw in to provide extra support if you should hang heavy stockings for Christmas! It'll prevent the sticky hook from pulling off the wood. We know this from first hand experience!

Tom and Sue Rogers #144897

An RV Pet Story

My interest in RVing began in the summer of 2007. My sister and her husband, who had lived in England for a couple of years, had just returned and had moved into their new home in Buckeye, Arizona, near Phoenix. She was desperate for my mother and I to come and visit her. But, how would we get there? We lived in the northeast corner of Nebraska. Traveling by car would be difficult because we had a dog and a cat that would have to travel with us. Finding a hotel that would accept both pets seemed far-fetched. Going by bus did not sound appealing, and flying was also not an option. I found myself in a dilemma. Then someone suggested that I go by RV. I rented a 30-foot travel trailer, and the four of us made our first RV trip together.

Inaugural Trip

It was August when we hitched up the rented trailer and loaded up the truck for Arizona. In the truck was my mother, a Manx cat named Treasure, a chihuahua-terrier mix named Mr. Pumpkin, plus myself. For the first 500 miles of the 1,300-mile-long trip Treasure the cat never stopped expressing her displeasure of being in the truck. The only reprieve we received from the constant wailing in the back seat came when we stopped for fuel. The wailing would start up again as soon as I fired up the engine and we started to move!

The second day of the trip went much better. Treasure only wailed for the first 100-miles. After that the complaints from the cranky backseat driver occurred for around the first 20 minutes after each stop. Mr. Pumpkin, the dog, was doing just fine. He was enjoying the ride while either sleeping or taking in the ever-changing scenery as we drove across half of America. It was becoming enjoyable and exciting for all of us.

The pets adapted quickly to life in the RV. We had filled some jugs with water from home so that they drank water with which they were already familiar. We also carried the food they were used to, as well as some of their toys. Each night we would all settle in early to get some sleep as we were tired from the day's trip. We quickly got into a rhythm. The visit with family in Arizona went great, and by the time we had returned to Nebraska, we were hooked on RVing. This was something we might never have done if we hadn't had pets.

Transitions

The following summer, Mr. Pumpkin's health began to decline. At the ripe old age of 20-ish, his quality of life had deteriorated to the point that we made the difficult choice to put him down. All we had left of him were some photos and all the memories, and some of the best of those memories we had was of that RV trip to Arizona with him. The house was like a tomb after his passing. It didn't take long before we felt compelled to fill the void by rescuing another little dog. In 2008, during a trip to the Humane Society, in Omaha, Prince chose us. Prince was a seven or eight-year-old chihuahua-pug mix. On the two-hour trip back home, he fell asleep in my mother's arms like a baby and melted both of our hearts. He became the perfect RVing partner.

In 2009, I purchased my first RV. It was a 36-foot 1995 Jayco fifth wheel which had been poorly maintained and needed some work. Throwing caution to the wind, once again, we hitched up the RV and loaded up the truck to head to Arizona to spend Christmas with my sister. This became one of the most memorable RV trips we would ever make, and it because of the pets.

Jumping Cacti

Instead of staying in an RV Resort in the Phoenix area, we went to the Usery Mountain Regional Park Campground in Mesa. We decorated the RV for Christmas, and even had a little tree. We would put Prince on a leash and multiple times a day explore the local area. This is when we discovered the Jumping Cactus. While walking along the established paths, we were attacked. My mother ended up with a needle in her shoe, which punctured all the way through the sole and into her foot. It was while pulling out that cactus needle that I looked over at Prince and saw that he had an entire segment of Jumping Cactus on his head, with the needles dangerously close to one eye. He didn't even notice it. I reached down and removed the Cactus segment with my bare hand in order to save the dog. He gave out a mighty yelp as I pulled it free. Then we walked back to the RV so that I could get a tool and remove the cactus segment from my hand. Needless to say, we didn't take any more nature walks there.

Years later Prince would become diabetic. Twice a day for four years I would use a different kind of needle to administer his insulin. Insulin must be kept refrigerated. One of the neat things about traveling by RV is that you can take your refrigerator with you. Diabetes never slowed him down a bit, nor did it end our RVing adventures together.

Memories

I am on my second RV now, a 2002 Hitchhiker II fifth wheel. Prince and Treasure have traveled with us to

Arizona, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Missouri and Mississippi. We have discovered that the greatest part of RVing is having our pets with us. The memories we've made together are priceless.

In 2019, we lost Treasure. She was close to 20-years old when we had to put her down. We had a few more years RVing with Prince. On the day before Thanksgiving, in 2022, we made that last trip to the vet. Prince, at the ripe old age of 21, was suffering from congestive heart failure. That very day we said, "Goodbye," to my best friend.

Our pets have been a huge part of our lives, and have enriched our lives in indescribable ways. It was because of them that we discovered RVing. The house is quiet now. The RV sits in the driveway, unused since the loss of Prince. All we have left is the occasional dog toy lying on the floor where Prince had last played with it. We haven't had the heart to collect them and put them away. But, we do have all those memories, and what great memories they are!

Cecil Dale #129364



Battery Maintainer

Last year, I published a Gadget Box article on the LSL TriK-L-Start, a battery maintainer. Late in 2022, the owner of LSL Products passed away, and it appears that the company may be closing. As a result, the TriK L Start is currently unavailable from LSL and is out of stock just about everywhere. Only time will tell if the product line will be discontinued or if someone will pick up the rights to the product and continue producing it. For now, the Xantrex 82-0123-01 Echo Charge is an equivalent type charger, but it sports a hefty price tag (around \$150).

Mark Nemeth #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor



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Celebrating Dutch Heritage In

Pella, Iowa

Pella Historical Society Office in the Vermeer Windmill, 507 Franklin St., Pella, Iowa 50219, 641-620-9463, www.pellahistorical.org

You can see the charm of the Dutch community in Pella, Iowa, anytime between March and December but if you want to experience it fully, you need to go during the Tulip Festival, May 4–6, 2023.

Thousands of people participate in the celebration of their Dutch Heritage, wearing their traditional Dutch clothing, during the festival. All ages participate, from babies in the baby parade, to elementary school kids who march in the parade, to the teens who march in the bands and demonstrate Dutch dancing, to the future Queens and the mothers and grandmothers who were past Tulip Time Queens, to the adults who drive the floats.”

Over 300,000 early, mid-season and late tulips are planted along the streets, in the Scholte Garden and the Sunken Gardens to ensure tulips are at the peak of their glory during the festival.

You can go to the Tulip Toren (a Dutch word for tower) that is located between Washington and Franklin Streets in Central Park, and even sit in the bleachers to be introduced to the new Queen and her court. You can hear the clop-clop of the wooden shoes as the Dutch Dancers dance in a style that is similar to clogging. Thousands of people, in Dutch attire, scrub the streets before the parade.

The parade begins at 2:30 and a lighted volks (folk) parade begins at 8:30 for the three nights. You will see bands, floats and meet dignitaries such as the mayor, the new Queen and her court and even Sinter Klaus (The Dutch Santa Claus).

From March to December you can visit the Dutch Historical Village, the founder's home at the Scholte House, or take a tour of the Vermeer Windmill and see the architecture of many old-world houses. You'll hear the Klokkenspel 147 carillon bells which also depicts eight mechanical figures.

You can taste the ethnic food such as the bread made from grain that is ground by the 125 foot Vermeer windmill. The bakeries feature Dutch pastries such as cookies made with almond filling. From Wednesday to Saturday, you can visit Maria's Tea Room for high tea and stories about the Scholte family.

Only a 10-minute drive from Pella are three Army Corp of Engineer Parks where you can park your RV. Howell Station has 161 sites, North Overlook has 71 and Ivan has 20.

Approximately 20 miles away you will find Robert's Creek Campground West with 65 sites and Roberts Creek East with 55. These campgrounds were formed from the area when the dam was built for the Des Moines River to make Red Rock Lake. (Price in 2022: \$14–\$22.)

More photos and true stories can be found in my book, "Callie and Natalie's Dutch Family History," (youtu.be/eQpIJ8P-4dtA) available at the Vermeer Windmill, Pella Books, Amazon and at <https://publicationconsultants.com/product/callie-and-natalies-dutch-family-history/>.

Article and photo by Darlene Miller #50781



The World's Largest Truck Stop

Iowa 80 Trucking Museum

505 Sterling Drive, Walcott IA 52773, 563-468-5500 • iowa80truckingmuseum.com • GPS coordinates are (41.619326 -90.780072)



While driving east on I-80 through Iowa, it was time to stop for the night. I checked iOverlander, an app for finding RV-related information, and there was a post indicating that at exit 284, adjacent to the small town of Walcott, there was the “World’s Largest Truck Stop,” and that it was a “cool” place to visit—perfect!

When we arrived, there was a sign indicating where RVs should go, and there was ample parking. The truck stop serves 5,000 customers per day and has parking for 900 tractor trailers. The store resembled a tri-level department store with a mall-like food court and 300-seat restaurant. The isles were spacious and all the merchandise was displayed in an eye-pleasing style. Upstairs was a barber shop, chiropractor, dentist and a laundromat, all drop-in and open to the public. To add to the ambiance, there was a real semi-truck and several smaller trucks throughout the store. If you want a custom designed shirt, jacket, hat, etc. bring in a photo and they can embroidery it for you. If your dog needs a washing, go outside to the 24-hour Dogomat. I didn’t need to purchase anything, but walking around was fun.

In 1964, Standard Oil opened the Iowa 80 Truck Stop, at exit 284. A year later, Bill Moon became manager. In 1984, when Standard Oil (now Amoco) wanted to sell, Bill and his wife, Carolyn, jumped at the chance to buy the place. Over the years they added on and expanded services. Bill Moon died in 1992, but the second generation now runs Iowa 80. The latest remodeling was completed over two years ago, adding another 23,000 square feet to the 100,000 square foot main building as part of a \$10 million expansion to other services.

Bill loved everything about trucks and trucking. He collected trucks and dreamed of a truck museum. In 2008, his family made his dream a reality when they opened the Iowa 80 Trucking Museum at the truck stop. We have seen many antique and old cars over the years but we don’t recall seeing many antique and old trucks recently. We were amazed at what we saw in this museum. Currently there are 107 trucks, with no two alike. Most have been restored to pristine condition. The oldest is a 1903 Eldridge, believed to be the first truck manufactured in the U.S. There are two electric trucks, a 1911 Walker Electric Model 43 and a 1918 Walker Electric. In front of each truck is fairly detailed information. The museum is free but they do appreciate donations. We highly recommend a visit to this place.

Article and photo by Joyce Space #61818

An All-Around Great Destination

Wisconsin Dells

Wisconsin Dells Visitors & Convention Bureau

701 Superior Street, PO Box 390, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965-0390

800-223-3557 • www.wisdells.com



The Wisconsin Dells, grew to be a popular tourist destination in the 1800s, drawing people to its natural beauty, water parks, and other attractions for over a century.

The indoor waterpark was pioneered in Wisconsin Dells. The city offers the largest concentration of outdoor and indoor waterparks, more than any place on the planet, and is known as "The Waterpark Capital of the World!"

However; it was H. H. Bennett's photography that first brought tourists to the area. Sightseers were eager to leave behind the city's bustle and experience this Wisconsin river's beauty. Bennett capitalized on this, building a photography studio in 1875.

He sold postcards and souvenir portraits to travelers. In the meantime, he continued to be innovative in photography by inventing a stop-action shutter, allowing him to take photographs of instantaneous events. Previously, it took several minutes for a camera to take a picture, and any movement caused it to become blurry.

After Bennett created the new shutter, he could take clear pictures of moving subjects. The best-known photograph taken by Bennett with this device was an 1886 image of his son Ashley jumping between two rock formations in the Dells.

You can visit his studio. This historic space showcases Bennett's original photographs, glass plate negative equipment, photography inventions, cameras and equipment. The studio is the oldest operating business in the Wisconsin Dells. Many believe it is the oldest continuously operating photography studio in the country.

The Dells

The first thing you should do is take a Dells tour. There are several ways to experience the Dells, including a boat tour, amphibious vehicles, called DUCKs, jet boats or horse-drawn wagons to explore narrow canyons.

I took the Dells Boat Tours' popular Upper Dells excursion. This section of the river is above the dam in Wisconsin Dells. All along the river are beautiful formations. There are also two shore landings. The first is Witches Gulch. Between narrow, towering rock formations, through a narrow canyon carved by wind and water, a path led us past waterfalls, the gorge and into the woods. The second landing was at Stand Rock, where H. H. Bennett proved his stop-action photography when his son jumped between two high-up sandstone pillars.

Back in Wisconsin Dells, there are fun attractions, including Ripley's Believe It or Not, miniature golf courses, amusement parks, horseback riding, Timber Falls Adventure Park, Wisconsin Deer Park and Circus World in nearby Baraboo, to name a few.

Crane Foundation

The International Crane Foundation is another attraction you should visit that is 10 minutes south of the city. I could hear the calls of the cranes as I walked toward the welcome center and gift shop.

I already knew that cranes are among the most endangered families of birds in the world, with 10 of the 15 species threatened, and I was eager to learn what the foundation was doing to help them.

After paying an admission fee, I first watched an excellent film about the history and focus of the foundation. It was founded in 1973 by two ornithology students at Cornell University, Ron Sauey and George W. Archibald. They envisioned an organization combining research, captive breeding and reintroduction, landscape restoration and education to safeguard the world's crane species.

The foundation works worldwide to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds and flyways on which they depend. Global priorities span Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia and North America.

The foundation also provides a center for conservation leadership and training.

With this base understanding, I began my tour. Tall grasses and non-intrusive fences surround enclosures. I passed each crane with awe, knowing of the work the foundation is doing and the beauty of each crane pair.

I walked past Black Crowned Cranes, and Grey Crowned Cranes, with their decorative headdresses, Whooping Cranes with their delightful call, and Wattles Cranes, with feathered flaps of skin or "wattles" hanging from their chins. All 15 species are at the foundation, and each is so different from the next.

I stayed at the center for an hour and a half, slowly walking along the enclosures, watching and listening. The foundation also offers much longer hiking paths through its 300 acres.

Wisconsin Dells Antique & Craft Mall is near the crane foundation, a fantastic shopping destination. Unlike many of these malls, this craft mall offers unusual and reasonably priced offerings.

Cindy's Café & Coffee House is between the Craft Mall and Antique Mall and is an excellent place for a quick lunch during your shopping trip.

More than 300 vendors and 200-plus dealers make this the largest craft and antique mall in the state of Wisconsin. From vintage, shabby chic, garden and hand-crafted items, to clothing, specialty food items, D.I.Y. materials and antiques, this is an excellent destination for anyone who appreciates fine craftsmanship and loves to shop.

Article and photos by Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor



Parks and Recreation

Minneapolis Style

Minneapolis: www.minneapolis.org or call 1-888- 676-MPLS, Minnesota: www.exploreminnesota.com or call 1-888-VISITMN, Minneapolis Parks: minneapolis-parks.org 612-230-6400, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum: arb.umn.edu or call 612-624-2200

Boom Island Park, Gold Medal Park, Father Hennepin Bluff Park, First Bridge Park, Mississippi Gorge Regional Park and on the list goes. There is one park after another along the Mississippi River like a chain of green jewels framing its shoreline.

Like the former mayor, R.T. Rybak is quoted as saying, "Minneapolis is like a city within a park." The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) oversees the park system spanning 6,809 acres, 180 parks and 22 lakes. This includes 55 miles of parkways, 102 miles of Grand Rounds biking and walking paths, 12 formal gardens, seven golf courses, and 49 recreation centers.

Visiting Minneapolis is something I did every year growing up. My maternal grandmother and other family members lived there. So, seeing some of the parks on this trip brought back many memories and helped create new ones.

Sculpture Gardens

My first stop is the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, which displays the Walker Art Center sculptures in a 19-acre urban green space. It has changed since my last visit, but I always appreciate Claes Oldenburg's famous "Spoonbridge and Cherry."

In 2017, a total redesign of the grounds was completed. They removed the secluded, almost hedge-maze design, favoring a more sprawling, open concept filled with green space and pollinator gardens.





After wandering through part of the sculpture garden, I walk across the Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge, named for a lifelong arts patron. It spans 17 lanes of a busy street and interstate highway to connect the sculpture garden with Loring Park. The bridge, designed by Minneapolis-based artist, Siah Armajani, is artwork along with a functional bridge.

Loring Park, named to honor Charles Loring, known since the 1880s as the “Father of Minneapolis Parks,” has many features. For example, the Garden of the

Seasons displays three circle gardens: Woodlands Circle, Wheel of Color and Tapestry of Green. The effect is gorgeous. Other features include a playground, pond, fishing pier, dog park, walking trails and biking trails.

Back across the bridge, I continue to explore the sculpture gardens with its new art pieces. If you want to see some of the former artworks, they are now on display at Gold Medal Park.

Minnehaha Park

As a child, my favorite park was Minnehaha. I remember arriving and running to the overlook to watch the rushing waters tumble 53-feet and continue on to the Mississippi River.

Minnehaha Creek extends from Lake Minnetonka and flows east for 22 miles through several suburbs and continuing through South Minneapolis.

The falls are less than a mile from the river. I used to walk the trail with my father to get to a close-up view.

The word Minnehaha comes from the Dakota language and means waterfall. It was established as a state park, in 1889, having more than 160 acres.

Although he never visited the park, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow helped spread the waterfall's fame when he



wrote his celebrated poem, “The Song of Hiawatha.” The epic relates the fictional adventures of an Ojibwe warrior named Hiawatha and the tragedy of his love for Minnehaha, a Dakota woman.

A life-size bronze sculpture of Hiawatha and Minnehaha by Jakob Fjelde depicts the characters from the poem. The inscription says: “Over wide and rushing rivers, in his arms he bore the maiden.”

The sculpture was on exhibit at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893 and purchased with pennies donated by Minnesota school children. The statue, on a small island in the creek, and can be seen from the water’s edge.

This park is one of the oldest and most popular parks in the city, with more than 800,000 residents and tourists visiting each year. Other fun things to do at the park are eating at Sea Salt Eatery, enjoying a live show at the Minnehaha Bandstand and strolling through Longfellow Gardens.

Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary

This park is new to me. I read that it is the oldest public wildflower garden in the nation. Located on 15 acres within Theodore Wirth Regional Park, its legacy dates back to 1907. A Minneapolis botanist, Eloise Butler, and botany teachers, successfully petitioned the MPRB to create a natural botanic garden to preserve native flora as the city grew.

I am impressed with what it promises me. It’s unseasonably hot, so I am grateful for the tree-shaded trails that greet me. Winding along a well-maintained route through the woods, I don’t immediately see many flowers, only chipmunks and squirrels scurrying through the thick brush at the base of the trees.

Then I arrive at the boardwalk over a marshy pond and spy Lady Slippers, the Minnesota State Flower. They are larger than I expect and, as it turns out, only the first of thousands of flowers I will see on the rest of the mile-long trail. Forget-Me-Nots, Large-Leaved Lupine, Queen Anne’s Lace and so many more line the walkway in a rainbow of color.

I am at the park for slightly over an hour and relish every moment of the peace and beauty it offers.

Chain of Lakes

Sailboats skim the waters of Bde Maka Ska, one of the five lakes making up the Chain of Lakes. The others are Brownie Lake, Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles and Lake Harriet. An excellent series of walkways, including the trails connecting the lakes and Lyndale Park, stretch along the shorelines providing a 14-mile pedestrian walkway and a 15-mile bike trail. Fortunately, you can also enjoy the lakes by driving around them.

Within the area are small gardens perfect for admiring meticulously kept spaces filled with flowers and

beautiful landscaping. I visit the Rose Garden and Peace Garden.

Beautiful beaches, boating, canoeing, a dog park, playground and picnic facilities are other amenities. The entire area is 1,555 acres.

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Though not in Minneapolis, another location you may want to add to your itinerary is the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

The 1,200-acre arboretum, founded in 1958, is professionally maintained and features rare plant collections and accessible trails. It is part of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

I am immediately impressed as I walk in the specialty gardens. There are 48 plant collections and more than 5,000 plant species and varieties. Every plant species is labeled, making it easy for visitors to replicate this beauty in their own gardens.

From the Peony Walk with its pink, rose-colored, white and yellow specimens, to MacMillan Hosta Glade with more than 300 varieties of hosta displayed, the gardens are a joy to the senses. Every year 25,000 to 30,000 annuals are also planted.

Along Three-Mile Drive, varying trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses are featured along with a sculpture garden and other separate gardens. There are plenty of parking areas allowing visitors access to any collection that interests them.

In addition to the gardens are art exhibits in the Oswald Visitor Center and the library, where visitors are free to look at any of the hundreds of periodicals and books available.

As they say, I only saw the “tip of the iceberg.” From an early age, I fell in love with Minneapolis and its natural beauty. Its twin St. Paul also offers beautiful parks and outdoor activities.

So, if you are looking for the amenities of a city with plenty of great outdoor opportunities and a glorious array of gardens, you may want to consider this Midwest gem.

Article and photos by Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor

GUIDELINES FOR SKP STOPS SUBMISSIONS Material for each issue will be selected based on location and the migration of seasonal travel. Submissions of 300 to 500 words are ideal. Due to limited space, submissions will be edited. 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.

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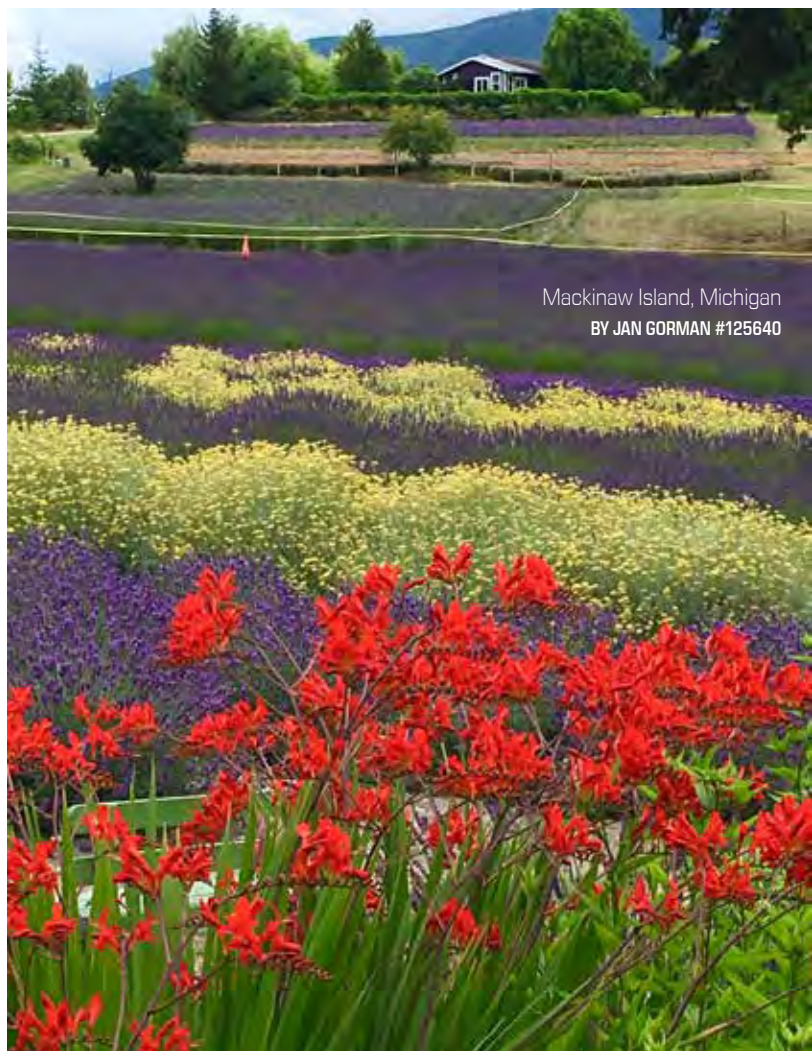
Floral Utopia

We have traveled in Baja California, Mexico, many times. One of my greatest joys is seeing the bougainvillea in all their magnificent colors. This one was in the courtyard of a hotel in Mulegé made my heart sing.

BY JOYCE SPACE #61818



Gold River Hwy, British Columbia
BY JAN GORMAN #12564



Mackinaw Island, Michigan
BY JAN GORMAN #125640

Fireweed with Green-veined
White butterfly.

BY JOEL THOMSON #152969



Bluebonnets, the Texas state flower, are prevalent
in the state, as seen here in Central Texas. They
are often accompanied by these striking orange
Indian Paintbrushes (photo at left).

BY MELANIE GOOD #143803



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

MJ23 (DUE JAN 10) ROADSIDE RELICS
SO23 (DUE JULY 10) CITY LIGHTS
JF24 (DUE SEPT 10) PAINTED SKY

JA23 (DUE MARCH 10) LOOK WHAT I FOUND
ND23 (DUE JULY 10) CAMPFIRE FUN
MA24 (DUE NOV 10) UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE

Books for RVers

By MARCELLA GAUTHIER #12371

Declutter Your Photo Life

Curating, Preserving, Organizing and Sharing

ADAM PRATT • ROCKY NOOK INC 2022 • ISBN: 978-1-68198-875-7

PAPERBACK: \$24.99 • KINDLE: \$11.99

At this time of the year, after taking a lot of photos of recent family events, and staring at the disorganized mess, you may certainly become overwhelmed. Starting when you were young with your first Brownie box camera photos and later inheriting previous generations' collection of old photos is a task you might rather ignore. However, that leaves you with the anxiety of knowing that you should be doing something about it. Why not give your family a well-organized family photographic history? At the next family event you can present this wonderful gift which allows everyone to share and to enjoy safe, accessible family photos.

Photographers and family historians know how powerfully photos can provide meaning, emotion and memory for viewers. But, where to start? Begin with this well-organized and comprehensive book by professional photo organizer, photographer and author, Adam Pratt. Adam provides a step-by-step workflow. In addition to simple organizational procedures, he introduces image-organizing software such as Adobe Lightroom Classic. These new software and hardware tools and skills are easy to learn and use. Going from recent digital photos to gathering

and preserving old photos, the collection will become one that is easy to maintain and share in the future.

Adam Pratt is a wonderful teacher of photo organization, useful software and a dedicated lifetime photographer. From his first camera where he would shoot one roll of film in a week to his next camera and on to shooting one roll of film in a day to recent days where he took up to 50,000 shots his first year as a new father, Adam had a lot of photos to manage! However, he introduces a new word, "deduplication" which allows you to eliminate duplicate digital format information which would be very helpful in dealing with those 50,000 shots! Adam provides brands of deduplication software. After working for 22 years at Adobe on the Creative Cloud team, he founded Chaos to Memories where he helps people enjoy their collection by turning their photo chaos into precious memories they can enjoy

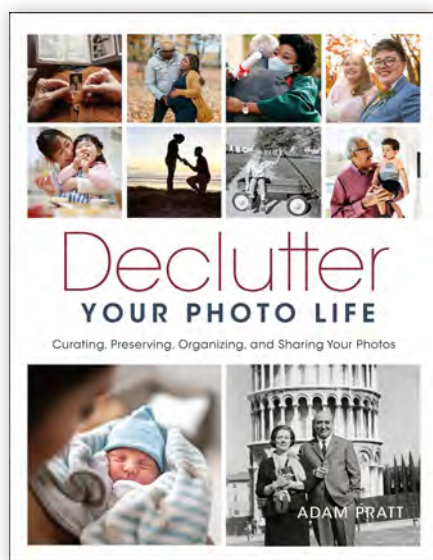
and share. Don't waste any more time without this helpful book, it will be an adventure to wander through your family history and to enjoy putting together a photo-filled history.

Even if you have already begun the process of organizing your collection, you will probably find new information, hints and ways to do things better, especially with the use of new equipment and software. There is even software that allows metadata, such as keywords, to be embedded into videos. You will soon be skimming along like a professional video editor.

In one of the chapters, Adam offers a lot of suggestions on preserving and restoring old photos

from family albums and the assortment of loose photos stored in shoeboxes in the attic. Many old albums and storage methods can damage photos. So even if you are scanning old photos for the collection, you need to place the original photos in a new, safe environment. Finding old photos without names listed on the reverse or having no one left in the family to help you date the photos, he suggests looking for clues on dating them.

This is a wonderful book to get you started. This book is easy to read and provides guidance to creating a family treasure. Get started now, you won't regret it and your family will be overjoyed with the results of your efforts. 🚚



RVers Boondocking Policy

Dear Fellow RVers,

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

Public Lands Parking Etiquette

RVers Boondocking Policy

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

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

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

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

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

Always leave the area cleaner than you found it!

Take only memories, leave only footprints.

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

We wish you safe and happy travels,

ESCAPEES RV Club®

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



INDIAN CAVE *State Park*

By **DOROTHY RIEKE** Guest Contributor

Years ago, the Missouri River was a highway for steamboats carrying supplies, settlers, trappers, traders and explorers. Along its banks were forts for army personnel and trading posts. People and events of that time created a vast wonderful history so intriguing to us today. In fact, southeastern Nebraska has become a repository for the lives and adventures of those who lived long ago. For example, Indian Cave State Park is an unspoiled paradise with

three thousand acres of grassy meadows, steep timber-covered slopes, and narrow valleys which presents history in a beautiful unrivaled setting.

This park's diversity of 870 feet to 1,254 feet in elevation advances the growth of 478 species of trees, shrubs, herbs and other plant life. Wildflowers such as Dutchman's breeches, jack-in-the-pulpits and red and orange columbines grow abundantly. Those who search diligently may locate rare flowers such as a few showy orchids and lady's slippers.



“This park’s varied landscape continues to retain its wild flavor and diversity. Here, guests can climb wind-swept forested bluffs, fish for a hard-fighting catfish, boat down the muddy Missouri...”

Because this area is within the Central Flyway of migratory birds, bald eagles and ducks are seen in this park often. There are also many varieties of song birds that reside here, including whippoorwills.

In addition, because of the abundant food and shelter, wild turkeys, hawks, bald eagles, turkey vultures, great blue herons as well as red foxes, coyotes, beavers, flying squirrels, deer, mink, and other woodland creatures are in residence.

The spacious cave created by silt and fine-grained sand deposits, on the side of a bluff in a Pennsylvania rock channel thousands of years ago, is what gives this park its name. At one time, Native Americans inhabited this cave and left petroglyphs or ancient picture writing chiseled into stone, rather

than painted there, depicting nature scenes. Unfortunately, many of these drawings have been destroyed.

There is a wealth of history stored in this region. As early as 1804, shortly after Lewis and Clark were traveling up the Missouri River on their trek westward, a riverside settlement was founded here. In the early 1840s, Joseph Deroir with his Omaha Native American wife and daughter moved to this area from the Platte Valley. Because a ferry boat with passengers and supplies regularly crossed the river at this point, Deroir selected this location for his trading post.

Deroir had rights to this land through the circumstances of his birth. The Treaty of Prairie du Chein, passed on July 15,

Page 32: A boardwalk and deck give visitors an up-close look at the iconic cave at Indian Cave State Park in Richardson County. Visitors can reach the deck at the base of the cave via a stair tower or a ramp.

An aerial photo shows Indian Cave State Park, located in the forested bluffs above the Missouri River in Nemaha and Richardson counties.

Visitors take in the view of fall colors in the forested bluffs above the Missouri River from the scenic overlook at Indian Cave State Park.

A red-headed woodpecker perches in a tree in the woodlands at Indian Cave State Park.

PHOTOS BY ERIC FOWLER
© NEBRASKALAND MAGAZINE/NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

1830, provided 125,000 acres for homeless offspring left behind by traders and trappers who lived with Native American women. Deroi's French father and his Otoe Native American mother made him eligible for land here.

After his trading post was built in 1853, Deroi laid out Deroi village. One source explained that St. was added in hopes of attracting more settlers. At its peak, St. Deroi had 300 residents, of mixed heritage.

Undoubtedly, Deroi's personality had a direct influence on the happenings in that village. He was described as being overbearing and tyrannical, traits that may have caused his marriage to fail. While married to Mek-Ka-Ahu-M, he married two French Native American sisters, Julie and Soula Baskette. Deroi's multiple marriages brought him eight children, but he lost his first wife when she returned to the Omaha Reservation.

The Missouri River, responsible for the growth of St. Deroi, gradually changed course away from the village which depended on supplies brought up the river. In the beginning, children, standing on the roof of the schoolhouse could throw their apple cores into the waters of the Missouri. Today, no one, even one of the best pitchers in the league, could manage that feat.

Another factor in the demise of this village was a cholera outbreak responsible for many deaths, especially children. The existing St. Deroi Cemetery bears evidence of the deaths caused by that dreaded disease.

Visitors to this park can also see Joseph Deroi's grave located in this graveyard. In truth, he died an untimely death in 1858. It seems in an argument over a six dollar payment for a pig he'd sold, he stubbornly stepped over a fence after being warned off. James Beddow shot and killed him. His grave is rather unique in that history reports he was buried mounted on his horse.

Several legends revolve around this burial ground. A fellow named A.J. Ritter thought he invented a new sensation, fishing with dynamite. In doing so, he lost an arm. Later, he was buried in St. Deroi Cemetery. Some who believe in ghosts report that his ghost strides about on certain nights searching for his "lost arm" which was buried elsewhere.

Those interested in settlement history will enjoy the recreated schoolhouse, general store, and the interpretive log cabin near the old Deroi townsite.


This park's historical center houses maps, arrowheads, photos and other artifacts. A listing of 1880 trading post prices include one harness set \$12.50; horse halter, 75 cents; 1 pound bacon, 7 cents; 1 pound of coffee, 15 cents; double-barrel shotgun, \$9; and a prairie plow \$25.

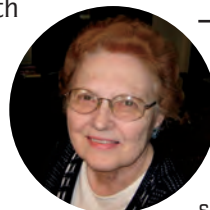
Activities such as hiking, camping, horseback riding, fishing and listening to living history presentations keep visitors busy and interested.

As many as 22 miles of trails that wind up and down hills and valleys require a special stamina because of steep uphill climbing. Cross country skiing, sledding, winter camping, and Adirondack shelters interest winter visitors.

Because this park's east side is bordered by the Missouri River, water sports are popular. Anglers fish from the Missouri River banks for bass, catfish, bullheads, carp and sturgeon or launch their fishing boats from the boat dock.

On summer weekends, a Heritage Program illustrates old-time crafts, such as making lye soap, candle-dipping and broom making. Also, certain weekends are reserved for Black Powder demonstrations including muzzle loading.

This park's varied landscape continues to retain its wild flavor and diversity. Here, guests can climb wind-swept forested bluffs, fish for a hard-fighting catfish, boat down the muddy Missouri, ski across snow-covered terrain, experience a stunning rainbow of fall colors and explore life during settlement days. Here is a park dedicated to those who prefer the scenic beauty of changing skies above a diverse landscape, the special joys of outdoor adventures, and the time for reflection and dreaming dreams. This is indeed a very special place, Nebraska's Indian Cave State Park. 



DOROTHY RIEKE began teaching at the age of 16 and continued to teach for over 40 years. After retirement, she has spent most of her spare time writing for magazines. She lives on a farm with her husband in southeastern Nebraska.



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THE PERILS AND PITFALLS OF **FULL-TIME RVING**

By **MARK NEMETH** #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor

If you thought fitting everything into your new rolling home was a challenge, just wait till you get out on the road!

Presented here in a humorous way are some of the little known “benefits” that are included as part of the full-time lifestyle. I’m sure that some of you fellow travelers will relate to some of these. For you wanna-be full-timers, don’t let these scare you off!

Bugs

Let me tell you...You are going to discover insects in a totally new and personal way! I have seen bugs that not even the most adventuresome bug-ologist has ever attempted to identify. And they’re not just on the windshield! You find them in the most amazing places...in pockets of your clothing (surprise!!), swimming in your drink (doing the backstroke, usually) and in every conceivable nook and cranny in your RV. There are bugs out there that can shrink themselves down small enough to pass through any screening you can devise and then return to their normal size

once they’re inside. Most of these bugs consider insect repellants to be a big joke! I can hear them all laughing every time I get out my can of “Off.” I have found that, when in heavily insect-populated areas, it’s

best to just ignore them as much as possible and try to breathe through your nose a lot, while also ignoring the fact that your scrambled eggs are “crunchy.” (ICK!)

Ants

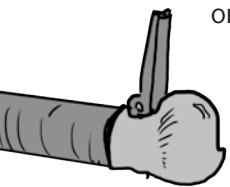
I can hear you all saying that ants should have been covered under “bugs” but you’re wrong! Ants are way too smart to be considered mere bugs. Try to deal with them as insects and they’ll walk all over you! Ants are busy organizing a raiding party minutes after you back into your campsite, and I am convinced that they can simply jump onto your rig directly from the ground. Or maybe they can levitate—I’m not sure. I am still providing free transportation and

room-and-board for ants that I picked up in Florida last winter! My attempts to get them with bug spray have been more life threatening for me than for them, and they sneer at ant baits and poisons. They are those little “sweet-eating” ants, and ohh, there’s one of ‘em right now... AAAHHAAA! (squish) GOTCHA, you little #@%&%\$!. I can’t seem to beat them, and the war has occupied a lot of my “quality time.” Probably the only way to win this war is to detonate a small nuclear explosive device inside the RV and then buy a new RV.

“I found that while several gallons of deep woods OFF was effective, a bottle of Jim Beam and a baseball bat was more satisfying.”

Mosquitos

I know, more bugs. Maybe I have a bug fixation, but when I started full-time RVing, I came from a state where the bugs are thoroughly domesticated: California. Not only were their few bugs domesticated, they were all protected as endangered species. Imagine my horror, if you will, when I found myself in the wilderness known as “the rest of the country!” I quickly learned some hard lessons about man-eating insects. I learned that if mosquitoes find you tasty, and I’m apparently classified as mosquito “candy,” they may become your number one form of entertainment in the evening. I found that while several gallons of deep woods OFF was effective, a bottle of Jim Beam and a baseball bat was more satisfying. That’s the one where you drink the bottle of Jim Beam. Then when the mosquitos draining your blood get drunk enough, they’ll crash land on the floor, and you can smack ‘em with the bat. I’ve been in parts of the country where it’s best to bring along a good sturdy chain to anchor yourself to your rig. That way it’ll take at least four of them to carry



you off—three for the rig and one for you (unless you run into a really big one, then it'll just bite through the chain and you're history). Smaller ones have also been known to puncture your RV tires and then wait until you get out to have a look. Don't fall for it. Stay inside and use your cell phone to call for the police.

Laundromats

Okay, I admit that I'm not real fond of doing the wash, but what choice do you have? If you don't wash your clothes, the neighbors tend to avoid you. Even when everything goes well, it's no fun, but nothing compares to the joy of a washer that won't drain or a dryer that won't dry. I stand there with my hand full of quarters and I feel like I'm in a casino: OK, lets see...that one doesn't look lucky, lets try this one...cachunk...dang, nothing! And even if I find one that doesn't steal my money, it's just my luck to pick the washer that someone else just used to wash their horse's saddle blanket or their collection of oily rags. Time spent in a laundromat seems to go by slower than just about any other kind of time, and no matter how good a job you do, you're just gonna have to do it again in a week or so.

“As a full-time RVer, traveling through Terra Incognita all the time, you will be required to meet a lot of strangers.”

Stores

Every time I go to the grocery store, it's a different store. I spend a lot of time wandering around looking lost, and seeking a thing that should be easy to find, but isn't. There's no rhyme or reason to the layouts of most stores, and sometimes they put stuff in the strangest contexts: (“Hey, excuse me, where can I find the Cheeze Whiz? It's in the Pet Food aisle??? Well, Okay”) Where's the darn soap? Shouldn't it be here with the rest of the bathroom supplies? Toothpaste, floss, lotions, but no soap. What is this, the Dewey decimal system? And why are all these religious candles next to the salsa? Why

aren't they next to the regular candles? I'm so confused!

Names

As a full-time RVer, traveling through Terra Incognita all the time, you will be required to meet a lot of strangers. This causes me a great deal of anxiety, as I have Athazanomatophobia. That's the fear of forgetting someone's name. It's pretty amazing that I'm able to remember that word, but have trouble with “Joe!” I don't know how I do it, but I have the amazing ability to instantly forget the name of someone to which I've just been introduced. This is a real liability when you meet a lot of new friends all the time. I'll walk over to someone and introduce myself: “Hi, I'm Mark”, they'll say “Hi Mark, I'm John” and an instant later, their name will make a whooshing sound as it departs my brain, most often permanently. I don't know what to do. If it were up to me, everyone would be required to wear name badges at all times! Hey, that's probably why I joined Escapees! Problem is, it's even worse when you get introduced to an entire group. They only have to remember *one* new name, while I am required to forget a whole bunch of names all at once! It just doesn't seem fair.

Mail

We take so many things for granted when we live in a house that doesn't roll. Getting your mail usually means a short walk to the mailbox. For a full-time RVer, getting the mail can be a source of much amusement... or angst! Most full-timers use either a forwarding service of some sort, or a friend or relative to deal with their mail. This means that you will either have a professional or a friend/relative sending your mail to the wrong place. There's nothing like calling the forwarding service and telling them to send your mail to general delivery in Gargantua, Illinois, and then discovering that the post office there is only staffed from 11 to 11:15 on alternate Thursdays. Or that the old post office burned down last month and your mail “should be” at the main post office 175 miles away. Another fun thing to do is to get your package successfully, only to discover that you just paid express postage on a phone book and

three Sears catalogs that you neither want nor need. Actually, mail forwarding works just fine 99% of the time, it's that remaining 1% that gets you.

Campgrounds

Hey, I like campgrounds! I spend a lot of my time at them. It's just that sometimes I wonder about the folks that lay them out. Most of the time, it's no problem, but once in a while...! Like the campground that has a vicious "S" turn that you have to negotiate to get in or out. Are they trying to test our driving ability? Or, the place with no signs and no obvious way to choose between the dirt road I'm supposed to drive down and the one that dead-ends at the ravine. Or, my personal favorite: the place that has gravel roads with tight turns and 50-percent grades conveniently hidden way in the back. Once, I stayed in a site at the bottom of one of those steep gravel turns and it was exciting (terrifying?) to watch big class-A motorhomes slide down that hill directly towards me. I'm also fairly fond of the places with really low-hanging trees or trees strategically placed to make my pull-through a pull-in-back-out. I guess it's all part of the adventure. Then, there are those parks that have huge signs saying "We welcome the big rigs" then, after several miles of roads you wouldn't take a scooter on, there it is! With nowhere to turn the "big rig" around when all the spots are full and the road ends at a river! You get the joy of unhooking in the rain, driving the toad back to main road, backing the coach about two miles to a farmer's lane, turning around, re-hooking and trying it again at the next place that welcomes the "big rigs." Or, the one where you're looking for a campground and there is the state-placed sign on the highway showing a campground at this exit. You drive several miles through a housing development only to discover the campground was "developed" four years ago and the state never took the sign down!

Maintenance

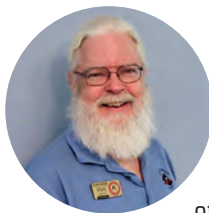
This is a tough one for me. I would rather walk up to a stranger on the street, hand them a scalpel and say "Go ahead, take out my appendix!" than allow someone else

to work on my vehicles. It's not that I don't trust other mechanics—well, actually I guess it is that I don't trust other mechanics. I do most of my own maintenance while on the road. This can sometimes lead to angry confrontations with campground managers, so I try to be as discrete as possible when working on things. The problem is that without a garage of my own, I wind up working in less than ideal conditions. Laying in the mud, on sharp rocks, or on top of an anthill tends to remove some of the joys of doing it yourself! And nothing hurts me more than to have to go out and buy a special tool to do a particular job when I know that I already own one—only it's in Texas and I'm in Tennessee.

Road/Construction

Surely the bane of any traveler's existence: road work. It can offer you some impressive challenges! Such as: the uneven pavement zone that empties the contents of the fridge onto the floor, or the freshly graveled road where oncoming 75 mph semi's are throwing up rooster tails of gravel, or the detour that takes you and 20 semi's onto some farmers tractor path for 15 miles, or my personal favorite, the squeeze play. That's where they set up big concrete barrier walls on both sides of a single lane and you are expected to drive in this narrow corridor for several miles. Then, as you are driving down this narrow path, the barriers slowly get closer together. Ahhhhhh!!!

Even with all these challenges, full-time RVing is a pretty neat way to live. Just remember your bottle of Jim Beam, your baseball bat, your name tag and your jar of quarters. Besides, they say "suffering builds character," and, if that's true, then I'm full of it! What I mean is, I'm full of character—why are you laughing? 🚐



In 1997, **MARK NEMETH** #45776 quit his job, sold his house, bought an RV and joined Escapees. He has been the club's technical advisor for 22 years, and served as director of both the SmartWeigh and Boot Camp programs. He is a regular contributor to *Escapees* magazine and other RV industry publications. Mark maintains an RVer's resource website with technical articles, tips and information at www.marxrv.com.

Severe Weather and Springtime RVing

STAYING WEATHER AWARE

By **JOSH ROBERTS**, Guest Contributor





Whether you're camping at Palo Duro State Park, the second largest canyon in the country, or relaxing in the thermal spring waters at Hot Springs National Park or visiting any number of magical places the southern states have to offer...the spring season is an enchanting time of year to experience these natural wonders. However, there is other more dangerous natural phenomena to behold during this time of year:

severe weather.

Severe weather can occur any time of the year in any part of the country, though springtime in the south is known for its violent weather events. Damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail and flash flooding can threaten your safety, but by following these important tips below, you can manage your risks while exploring the beauty that springtime brings.

Know Before You Go

The National Weather Service provides tons of forecast products that help to limit weather surprises. “Know before you go” and understand the weather forecast for your travel destination before setting out. Add [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) to your list of favorite websites and check it regularly. Read the local forecasts for the particular city that’s on your upcoming travel plans; you can even drill down to an hour-by-hour forecast for a specific location. Then craft your travel plans accordingly. Avoid areas of significant risk, and time your arrival so you don’t have to set up camp in the pouring rain.

But remember, forecasts are just that—forecasts. It’s an attempt at using meteorological science to predict the future. Use it to inform your plans, but always be prepared in case those plans go “south.”

Have Multiple Ways to Receive Warning

There’s an old saying about springtime weather in the south: “If you don’t like the weather now, just wait an hour.” Believe



it or not, the forecasts don't lock in the actual weather conditions you'll experience, despite what your favorite weatherman (or weatherwoman) guarantees! Always be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions. A few minutes advance notice might literally make the life-or-death difference.

Once you arrive at your destination, take a few minutes to set up alerts for your new location. Download an app that offers weather alerts via push notifications to your mobile device and change your alert settings to include your new location. Personally, I use myradar™ as my go-to weather app.

“Chances are there are other campers at your new location who aren't paying attention...Share your knowledge of approaching dangerous weather...”

Never rely on one warning tool for emergency notifications! There is no single warning tool that works for every person, in every situation, every time. For example, your fancy new weather app may be useless in an area with no cell service. Spend a few bucks on an all-hazards weather radio and set up alerts for your new location. Trust me, the alert tones this little machine provides will make sure you'll know when bad weather threatens—it'll wake you up at night (which is another useful feature when dangerous weather strikes overnight). Make sure you regularly replace the batteries in your all-hazards weather radio so any storm-related power outage won't affect its ability to provide you with warning.

Always Have a Plan of Action

“Hunkering down” in an RV isn't the best idea during dangerous winds, in fact, an RV is probably one of the worst places you can be. When you first arrive at your new location, recon the area to identify a sturdy structure as a shelter of last resort. Avoid structures not fully enclosed and those with long span roofs (such as a gym). And, despite what you may have seen on the

movies, the underside of an overpass is not an ideal place to escape the danger. During the really bad storms, like those capable of producing an EF-3 or stronger tornado, there are few places that are completely safe; however, there are always “safer” places than your RV. The lowest-level and most interior part of a sturdy structure can provide you a shelter of last resort if you ever have to evacuate your campsite due to damaging winds.

Determine how long it would take for you to get to a safer place if you have to evacuate your campsite. Make sure you leave yourself enough time to get there and hunker down before the dangerous weather arrives. Depending on the level of risk you're comfortable with, yes, this might even mean hitching up and driving 20 minutes out of harm's way completely. It's better to be safe than sorry!

As the dangerous weather approaches, fire up your weather radar. Turn on the local news if you can. Monitor official sources on social media. Keep a weather eye to the sky. Pop some popcorn if you want. It'll make for a thrilling adventure and a good story to tell later around the campfire, but take comfort in the fact that you've done your pre-planning and you know what to do if you must do it. Chances are there are other campers at your new location who aren't paying attention and aren't as prepared as you. Share your knowledge of approaching dangerous weather, give them the information they need to protect themselves, and their friends and families.

RVs are some of our most prized possessions, but always remember things and stuff can be replaced—people can't. Safe travels, and stay weather aware! 🚐



JOSH ROBERTS, a Certified Emergency Manager®, has more than a decade of experience in responding to major disasters and providing emergency management leadership in the most disaster-prone areas of the country. Floods, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes and more—Josh has spent a career helping communities and individuals prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. When he isn't prepping for the next disaster you can find Josh with his family on their RV adventures, looking for the next campsite and hiking trail.



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*Finding a mouse in your
RV is no fun. Even worse is
mice destroying your truck
engine's wiring harness!*

We've always eliminated mice in our rig easily with baited traps. However, mice and pack-rats are a huge problem in our neighborhood, and despite using the most popular deterrents, our truck engine's main wiring harness was chewed through twice in one month. Fortunately, my husband, Mark, was able to solder and shrink-wrap the severed wires despite their awkward location under the fuse box.

Both of us were frustrated beyond belief. In a fit of pique, Mark bought some Tomcat rat poison and put it under the truck. We knew nothing about rat poison. We just wanted the rodents *gone*!

The next day I saw a green object like a dog treat on our dog's mat in the back yard. It was a brick of rat poison and about a quarter of it had been eaten! Panic stricken, Mark scoured the yard and found only seven of the eight poison bricks that came in the box. I called Tomcat's poison hotline, and they told me a brick and a quarter was a lethal dose for a 25 lb. dog, the size of our beloved pup, Buddy.

My world keeled over and crashed as I heard these words.

Sweet little Buddy was happily prancing around the yard, oblivious. I called his veterinarian and was told to spray hydrogen peroxide in his mouth to induce vomiting and get to the emergency animal hospital, an hour away, immediately. After coughing up pale green phlegm (proving he had eaten at least some of the poison), we drove like wildfire to the hospital. Buddy was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and looked at us pleadingly as the vet techs took him away. The veterinarian, Dr. Frost, explained that Tomcat's poison chemical, bromethalin, causes brain swelling and seizures and has no antidote. There is zero chance of survival once a dog has a seizure. →



A Cautionary Tale of an Accidental Poisoning

BUDDY

A Journey in Spirit

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

The Dreaded Grand Mal Seizure

Not knowing exactly how much poison Buddy had ingested, he was discharged after receiving activated charcoal, and we began our drive home. Suddenly, he became an entirely different animal, straining in my arms. We pulled over and set him on the ground and he collapsed. As we raced back to the hospital, his eyes were wide with

“The vet techs whisked him to the triage room, and his howls, barks and wails alarmed everyone in the waiting room...”



Rat Poison

Bromethalin is the active ingredient Tomcat's rat poison and it has no antidote. Veterinarians nationwide agree that it should never have been approved by the FDA. Pets, wild birds and mammals suffer horrifying deaths from it. The poison bricks are bait, so they smell good and taste

great. When Buddy returned from the hospital, he went straight to his mat and sniffed around for the yummy green treats he'd left there. It is not biodegradable, so bricks long forgotten outside are still lethal for even as long as 10 years later!

After the fact, our veterinary team learned that activated charcoal is ineffective for rat poison. Previous types of rat poison were anti-coagulants that caused the animal to bleed to death, and they had a simple antidote: high dose vitamin K.

Popular rodent repellents that didn't work: Leaving the truck hood open, operating a strobe light in the engine compartment 24/7, dryer sheets or Ivory soap.

An effective rodent repellent we now use: Balsam fir oil infused pads placed in the truck cab and engine compartment (we use Fresh Cab brand).

terror. He pinned his ears back and panted rapidly, his mouth agape, teeth showing. His muzzle shook uncontrollably.

The vet techs whisked him to the triage room, and his howls, barks and wails alarmed everyone in the waiting room. Dr. Frost came out, her face ashen. "Buddy just had a grand mal seizure."

I gasped and couldn't breathe.

Expensive Intensive Veterinary Care

The veterinarian said he needed their highest level of ICU care, which cost \$5,000 per day, and he could be there for several days. The numbers didn't even register in my mind. All that mattered was getting Buddy and our happy lives back to how they had been five hours before. We didn't hesitate to make a preliminary credit card payment of \$7,800 that would cover Buddy's care until 6:00 p.m. the next day. We could sell things once we got home, if necessary.

Images of Buddy flitted through my mind: our happy-go-lucky little friend trotting around with his tail high; our dear pup playing under the blankets in bed. He was our gentle kindred spirit who loved life and adventure as much as we did.

Mark sat on a bench with his head in his hands. The receptionist touched his shoulder and said quietly, "We can bring in a grief counselor for you..." He looked up and shook his head, his face in agony. I couldn't stop pacing up and down the halls.

Treatment and the Possibility of a Difficult Recovery

Dr. Frost took us into an exam room and explained that the top priority was to reduce Buddy's brain swelling. But first, to stop the seizures, they put him in a medically induced coma. Once the seizures ceased, they would give him the anti-brain swelling medication. Eventually, if he survived, they would bring him out of the coma. However, he might have brain damage, be unable to walk, see, hear or smell, or he might even have a changed personality, and it could take days or a week before they could bring him out of the coma safely.

Keeping the Faith

She sighed and looked at me intently. "There's not much you can do right now."

She said. "But, you can pray." And pray we did, like never before, with raw and ragged emotion. We envisioned Buddy's miraculous recovery, going hiking with him, playing tug and watching him run. We prayed aloud for the doctor and her staff to have healing hands. Mark's daughter put out a request for prayers on Facebook. The response was overwhelming.

With nothing to do but wait, we drove home and got our truck camper so we could stay overnight in the hospital parking lot. We parked right around the corner from the front door and went inside. "Buddy is still alive!" The receptionist said excitedly. But we weren't allowed to see him until nightfall when the emergency room was quiet.

I'd never been in an ICU before and it was shocking to see our beloved boy lying prone and intubated on an operating table, wired up to a bank of monitors. His long tongue lay limp on the table. He had an IV inserted into one leg, an automated blood pressure cuff on one paw, a urine catheter, and something inserted into his abdomen. Tubes went to an IV bag on a hook and a urine bag on the floor. A blindfold covered his eyes and ear buds were inserted deep in his ears to block out all the lights and noise of this busy room.

But his adorable ears were still visible amid all that technology. I leaned over the back of his neck, nuzzled my face into his warm fur and told him how much we loved him and how God was bringing him a miracle. He let out a familiar sigh of contentment. Mark buried his face in his fur, too, and talked with him about hiking, going on RZR rides and chomping on his bully stick. Buddy began breathing faster and gagged on the tube! He knew we were there!

Gradual Improvement

We were allowed to see him twice more during the night, and we were astonished that he gradually improved. A vet tech was permanently stationed by his head, clipboard in hand. She monitored his vitals, changed the contents of the IV bag and kept his tongue moist. By mid-morning the veterinarian began to reduce his coma inducing medication, and he opened his eyes. Although groggy, he responded to sounds and

movements in the room. By evening he'd been moved from the operating table to a kennel on the floor. Later that night we cheered as he stood up, hesitantly wagged his tail and took his first steps.

By the following afternoon, although his liver readings were still far from healthy and his urine was one shade lighter than black coffee, the veterinarian felt he was far enough on his way to recovery to be discharged into our care. The final bill was \$12,634. We stayed with him in our camper in the parking lot for an extra 24 hours to make sure he didn't have a relapse and then returned home, exuberant.

On the Road to Recovery

Initially, he was on 10 different medications, some taken with food and some without. Every hour, from 5:00 a.m. until 11 p.m., we gave him a pill or fed him a meal. After a few weeks, he returned to our favorite hiking trails, managing only short distances at first but eventually resuming his puppy prance for miles. He remembered all of his tricks—come, stay, sit, shake, down and crawl—and he remembered our game of hide and seek where we hide treats around the house and he finds them by smell. No brain damage whatsoever! After a month he no longer needed medication, and a checkup with his regular veterinarian revealed his liver was recovering nicely. As his doctor studied the thick stack of documents he'd received from the hospital, he agreed we had witnessed a miracle.

Buddy's recovery profoundly changed our lives. We'd been touched by a divine hand. Lying in the dark late at night, we shared our feelings of rebirth, renewal and refocused priorities. Today, almost 18 months later, our Buddy is as healthy and happy as we ever could have imagined. 🚐



EMILY AND MARK FAGAN #99408 traveled full-time by RV and sailboat for 13 years and now RV part-time. Emily has written over 200 articles for RV and sailing magazines, and the Fagans' photography has appeared on magazine covers, commercial wall calendars, museums and in National Parks! Their blog is roadslesstraveled.us. A longer version of this story with many more photos appears at roadslesstraveled.us/buddy-a-journey-in-sprit/.

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*The Importance
Of Estate Planning*

Where There Is A Will, There Is A Way

By **SAMUEL BURK** #177443

Where there is a will, there is a way better chance that your estate (assets) will be distributed how you would want.

As most of our New Year's resolutions have already faded, a quick pause during your travels to evaluate some lasting decisions in 2023 may be a worthwhile endeavor. There are two certainties in life: death and taxes and, in both cases, an ounce of preparation may save you and your family years of frustration. Thankfully, it is not the topic of taxes that this article confronts but rather the former. And it may be the only topic in which you are advised to consult with a

Pastor, Priest or Rabbi as well as an attorney. As we all look for new ways to provide security and certainty for our families, one item that seems to always be saved for "tomorrow" is putting an estate plan in place. In this article, I will address a few of the basic questions that arise in the estate planning process.

Am I required to have a will?

No, there is no requirement that a person have a will. And having a will does not actually affect your daily life because it only springs into force once you have passed. Nevertheless, someone will be left to manage the belongings you leave behind, however few or many there may be. As the saying goes: "You don't see a hearse with



a trailer hitch.” Even though you may not be required to have a will, this leads to the better question: Should I have a will?

Should I have a will?

Likely so. However, if you (1) are single (meaning you have never married and never intend to be married), (2) have no children, (3) have no family drama of any kind, and (4) do not mind the government determining the distribution of your assets, then maybe, just maybe, you will not want to concern yourself with a will. Otherwise, you may want to at least consider the benefits and peace of mind that a will can provide you and your family.

If you do not have a will, then you are not alone. It is estimated that 60 to 70 percent

of Americans do not have any estate planning documents in place. This means that when you die, you will die intestate (without a will). Each state has its own set of laws dictating how an estate will be distributed when someone dies intestate. Although it varies by state, the law will generally attempt to divide and distribute the estate to those family members that are closest of kin. This is done without taking into account your actual relationship with the individuals and many times may not correspond to what you would want to happen. For instance in Texas, if you have a blended family and, if either of the parents die intestate, the estate likely will not fully pass to the surviving spouse. In fact, the



“There is an added benefit for full-time RVers: the execution of a new will in your state of domicile provides further compelling evidence to illustrate your intent to permanently reside in that state.”

surviving spouse may only be entitled to as little as one-third of the sole property of the estate and one-half of the community property depending on the circumstances. The choice of estate planning is a personal choice for everyone, but be sure that you are making an informed decision, no matter what you decide.

Advantages of Planning and Preparation

As with many aspects of your life, having a plan provides several benefits, and it is no different in the estate planning process. First, an estate plan will likely help minimize the administrative expenses associated with the probate process. In a will, one selects the executor of the estate and should be able to forgo the process of having to identify and prove kinship for all potential heirs of the estate. Second, an estate plan allows you to dispose of your assets in the manner that you wish. The legal right to distribute your assets and your property when you die, and to do so however you want, is foundational to the fabric of our society. Third, a comprehensive estate plan will also predetermine certain healthcare choices and select those individuals who you wish to make financial and healthcare decisions on your behalf if you ever become incapacitated. It can also provide for the appointment of a guardian if you have minor children. Finally, and possibly most important, an estate plan will provide peace of mind to your family and loved ones. They will know that your

wishes were clearly delineated regarding your estate and healthcare decisions.

There is an added benefit for full-time RVers: the execution of a new will in your state of domicile provides further compelling evidence to illustrate your intent to permanently reside in that state. If you are declaring that you want the distribution of your assets to be governed by that state's law when you die, this is a strong record of intent in analyzing domicile.

But, do I have to hire a lawyer?

No. Almost every state has promulgated a set of laws that set forth the strict formalities that must be adhered to for a will to be valid, and most states allow a person to draft a handwritten will. Just as you may not “need” to hire an accountant to help file your taxes, you do not have to hire an attorney for your estate planning. But unlike a tax return that you can amend after filing, once a will is filed for probate, you are no longer around to make any necessary corrections.

As all full-time RVers have proven, when you have the will to pursue a lifestyle of freedom, you will always find a way. While you are mapping out your next adventure across the country this year, maybe pause for a few moments and evaluate how you could provide additional security and peace of mind for your family in 2023. 🚐



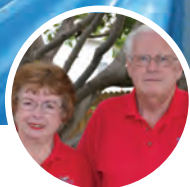
SAMUEL L. BURK is an attorney licensed in Texas and a partner of East Texas Legal, P.L.L.C. Samuel helps clients with their estate planning needs and questions about domicile. He attended Rice University and graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in economics. He received his law degree from Duke University School of Law graduating with honors. www.easttexlegal.com

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East Texas Legal gives free initial consultation sessions for Escapees members on estate planning, domicile, and other full-time RVer issues as well as a 10% discount on their Standard Will Package.

Samuel L. Burk is an attorney licensed in Texas and a partner of East Texas Legal, P.L.L.C.

The information contained in this article is for educational purposes and is not intended as legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship. You are advised to seek legal advice and counsel from a licensed attorney or certified professional in your state regarding any specific legal questions or matters.



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*The Power
of Playlists:*

How Music Can Enhance Your RV Experience

By **EVANNE SCHMARDER**, #65409

Music. It sets a mood, makes memories and can bring your entire posse together. Whether you are a couple or a rig full of friends and family, music helps pass the time and creates a convivial atmosphere, a sense of connection and camaraderie. Singing along to your favorite songs or sharing music recommendations with your traveling companions is a fun and bonding experience.

That's the appeal of popping in a playlist as you roll your RV down the road. (Today you're most likely to listen to Spotify or carefully curated playlists on your device, which we'll talk about later, but let me ask, who remembers making cassette mix tapes?)

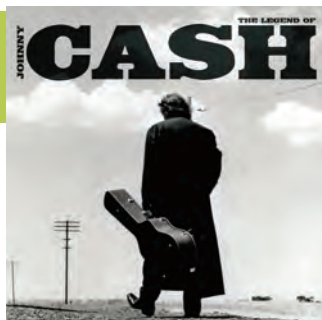
Well-worth mentioning, listening to music on a road trip also helps break up the monotony of driving. When traveling long distances, the repetitive nature of the road may start to feel tedious. Music provides a welcome distraction. Whether you're into upbeat pop tunes, classic rock, or more laid-back folk music, having a diverse selection of songs will help keep you entertained and engaged.

You know 'em, you love 'em

There are so many great songs to keep you rolling. Start your driving day with a classic, setting the tone and making the mood.

I've Been Everywhere JOHNNY CASH

A classic American road trip anthem, I've Been Everywhere, was written by Aussie Geoff Mack in 1959 and originally listed Australian towns. In 1962, Mack's music publisher offered it to North American artist Hank Snow who agreed to cover the song if Mack adapted the toponyms (place names) to reflect the American continents. Other versions include New Zealand, Canada,



"There are dozens of other songs, some road-related, some not, to get your motor running."

Finland, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, and our very own Texas, recorded by country singer Brian Burns in 2002, aptly named I've Been Everywhere (In Texas).

Johnny Cash's signature 1996 version is the one most Americans know and love. After all, what Escapee hasn't mentally checked off the many toponyms they've rolled through while bobbing their heads to this bopping version.

The song has been covered by numerous artists, heard in several movies, TV shows, and even a commercial for the USPS. In 2022, traveler and pilot Mark Schmidt completed an 18-year quest to visit all 92 places in Cash's version (including the six in South America) and posted a terrific video, I Visited Every Location in the "I've Been Everywhere Man" song by Johnny Cash, on YouTube.

(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66 NAT KING COLE

America's iconic Mother Road, Route 66, was almost a tune about US 40 until songwriter Bobby Troup's wife suggested he write about a 10-day cross-country journey along America's Main

Street. Originally recorded in 1946 by Nat King Cole, the song has been covered by many other artists, including the Rolling Stones' rock version and the Grammy-winning jazz version by Manhattan Transfer.

Interestingly, the theme song for the early 1960s TV show, Route 66, was not the Troup composition. Instead, it was a Grammy-nominated instrumental by composer and arranger Nelson Riddle. This move assured CBS would not have to shell out royalties for the popular (Get Your Kicks on) Route 66-version.



“Properly planned playlists can make your days on the road zip by.”



On the Road Again WILLIE NELSON

Who among us isn't (always) thrilled to be on the road again? I'll bet every single SKP reading this relates to one of Willie Nelson's signature songs, the Grammy-winning *On the Road Again*. The song was written for the film *Honeysuckle Rose*, his first leading movie role, depicting an aging musician, his career, and his relationships.

It came about during a flight when one of the film's producers and its director approached Nelson asking if he could pen a tune, something about being on the road. For lack of a notebook or other piece of proper paper, Nelson scribbled the lyrics on the back of a sick sack. He didn't write the melody until the day before he was to record it. An easy feat for such a gifted songwriter and a gift to road-trippers everywhere.

Equally Entertaining

There are dozens of other songs, some road-related, some not, to get your motor running. We can enjoy road-inspired titles, such as *Highway Star*/Deep Purple (yes you are!), *Thunder Road*/Bruce Springsteen (we've all made a run for it, right?), *Take Me Home, Country Road*/John Denver (such imagery), and *Where the Streets Have No Name*/U2 (ugh, been there).

Then there are songs that merrily move us forward: *Summer of '69*/Bryan Adams, *Footloose*/Kenny Loggins, and *Happy*/Pharell Williams. You can go *Walking on Sunshine*/Katrina & the Waves or *Dancing in the Moonlight*/Toploader. But whatever you do, *Don't Stop Me Now*/Queen.

The Camping Trip by Ray Stevens and George Strait's *All My Ex's Live in Texas*, are just good fun. One that'll thrill your kidlets, *RV Road Trip Boogie* by Blippi.

Your Personal Playlist

Properly planned playlists can make your days on the road zip by. You'll want songs that'll make you sing out loud and those that'll slow your roll. Get into the local spirit by choosing at least some that reflect the area you'll be driving through. Think about how the songs flow. Too many fast selections might wear you out while too many ballads may not keep the inspiration cranking. Create a variety of playlists to suit different moods, driving conditions, and durations. If you're traveling with a group, get everyone involved in choosing their favorite tunes.

It's always a good idea to download your music for offline listening. This is especially true if your data plan is limited or you'll be traveling in places that may have spotty Internet service. If you have an extensive music library on your computer or subscribe to streaming services like Apple Music, Amazon Music, or YouTube Music, download the songs you'd like to have on your device before hitting the road and arrange them into playlists.

If Spotify is more to your liking, subscribers can curate playlists, search for current playlists, or ask Spotify to put something together based on listening history. You can download the playlists and rock on when you're ready.

Listen Up

No matter how you choose to enjoy music on your drives, it can be a great way to enhance the journey and create lasting memories. Listening to these songs, even years after the trip, can instantly bring you back to those good times. So, don't forget to plan ahead and pack your favorite tunes. *Life is a Highway* (Rascal Flatts), enjoy the ride! 🚚



EVANNE SCHMARDER #65409 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.

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Don't Just RV. #RVolunteer!



We Volunteered With www.ayeartovolunteer.com

Organized Volunteer Projects

By **CLIFF HATCHER AND LAURA BURTON** #124846

It all started at the 2022 Escapade in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Cliff and I have been RVing since 2011, attended three Escapades, and always learned something new. Our first Escapade was in Vermont in 2016, as we had just started our full-time journey. We also attended the Escapade in Rock Springs, Wyoming, in 2021. But the 61st Escapade in Tennessee was special. Tennessee is our home state, so it was really nice to be able to attend this rally. It was also special because we got to meet "A Year to Volunteer."

The seminar they hosted was titled “Don’t Just RV. #RVolunteer!” This sounded very interesting, so we both went. Usually, Escapade has so many good seminars that we usually have to split up, but this time we both decided it would be best if we went together.

We learned that A Year to Volunteer, or Y2V is a nonprofit founded and operated by Phil and Shar Roos. Phil and Shar are full-time RVers who organize volunteer projects all over the country for other RVers, primarily at state parks and nonprofits. Since they started in February 2020, they have completed 26 projects in 18 states for over 32,000 volunteer hours. During their presentation, they mentioned that not all RVers want to work camp or camp host, but many love to help with shorter volunteer opportunities, which has made Y2V successful.

What’s in a Name?

But why the name A Year to Volunteer? Their goal is to visit and volunteer in every state and inspire others to volunteer for a total of 365 days during their lifetime.

During their presentation, they mentioned that they had a project coming up in, August 2022, in Gainesville, Florida, and because we currently live in Leesburg (only 2 hours from there), we signed up right then. How the process works is that you go to their website at www.ayeartovolunteer.com, look over the list of their upcoming projects (we also recommend you sign up for their newsletter so you’ll get first alerts), and when you find one you like, fill out their application. Then, if there is availability, they put you on the list. Even if the project is full when you sign up, Phil and Shar recommend signing up on the backup list because they always have cancellations. Luckily, we got right in. Over the last year, some of their projects included Pioneer Village Museum, in Nebraska, Grand Haven State Park, in Michigan, Sam Houston Jones State Park, in Louisiana, Picacho Peak State Park, in Arizona, and Raptor Education Group, in Wisconsin, to name a few. —>

Photo top right: Scottie enjoying the new run.
Photo center: Our 5th wheel at Jungle Friends.
Photo bottom right: Putting the finishing touches on the new habitats. PHOTOS BY LAURA BURTON



“The work was hot and hard, but Jungle Friends was appreciative, and the experience made it all worth it. We made new lifelong friends during this project, and we’ve already signed up for another one...We can’t wait!”

Our First Project

The project in Gainesville was at Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, located just north of town. This sanctuary is a nonprofit that provides monkeys that were recovered or surrendered from private homes or are former lab test subjects with a safe, forever haven that is as natural as possible.

The project was to assist them in building 12–15 habitats for their older monkeys. This included two-story metal habitats, roofs, indoor enclosures with toys installed, outdoor swings, ramps, runs, monkey bars and log rope ladders. It also included exotic and tropical plants.

Since space was limited at Jungle Friends, only six total RVs could attend, down from Y2V’s normal 15 for a project. We all had access to electricity and water and used a blue boy tote to discharge our black water into a septic system on site. The length of the project was a total of two weeks, with a two-day break in the middle.

You are probably thinking, why in the heck would anyone volunteer to work outdoors in August in Florida? The sanctuary couldn’t wait because September and October are their high-risk months for severe weather, including hurricanes, so they needed their “Geriatric Jungle” completed as soon as possible. So, despite the hot and humid climate (routinely in the 90s with 95% humidity), 14 volunteers from Alabama, South Carolina, Florida, Arizona, and Connecticut answered the call. Unfortunately, one couple could only stay for one week, but another arrived to fill in for them.

Saved \$20,000 in Labor Costs

Before we got there, Jungle Friends had been trying to get these habitats built for

more than two years, and August is when it worked out for both Y2V and Jungle Friends to get it done. And get it done, we did! We completed twelve habitats, dedicating 680 hours and saving Jungle Friends over \$20,000 in labor costs. We also cleared an area for another RV site which greatly helped Jungle Friends because they welcome RVers to stop and spend time volunteering during their travels. If you are interested in paying a visit (visit www.junglefriends.org to learn more). Volunteers help with things like cleaning and clearing out existing habitats, replanting tropical plants and preparing daily meals for the 250 monkeys that live there. You will agree; it’s a labor of love.

Rewarding Experience

During our time at the 61st Escapade, we weren’t sure what the summer would hold for us, especially with the high fuel cost. But, because we attended Y2V’s seminar and joined them on a project, we ended our summer on a great note! The work was hot and hard, but Jungle Friends was appreciative, and the experience made it all worth it. We made new lifelong friends during this project, and we’ve already signed up for another one next February. We can’t wait!

Y2V is an excellent organization to volunteer with, so definitely check them out via their website, www.ayeartovolunteer.com, on Facebook, Instagram, or on YouTube. Volunteering with them is easy since they do all the coordinating and scheduling. You show up with whatever skills you have or don’t have, and they will find something you can do to contribute. So, if this is something you’d like to try, please consider joining and volunteering on one of their projects. We had so much fun, and you will too! 🚐



CLIFF HATCHER AND LAURA BURTON

Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, Cliff and Laura decided to go full-time RVing in December 2015 with their first main goal to attend the 2016 Escapees Escapade in Vermont. They attained this goal and are still friends with RVers they met there. They travel with a fifth-wheel trailer and go camping about once a month, while also attending large rallies. Their latest volunteer project with A Year to Volunteer began in February of this year, located in Southern Florida.



ROSE PARADE HOP 2022

Above: Parade crew

Above: Rudy and Darlene Millan cutting petals.

PHOTOS BY WENDY STANDWOOD AND DARLENE MILLAN



MEMBER SECTION



Message From The Board

Anticipating an Exceptional Year!

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

This year is already off to an exceptional start, and we are excitedly looking forward to the treasures it may hold. The RV industry saw record high sales during the peak of the pandemic and, recently, RV Industry Association President & CEO Craig Kirby, said, "As expected, we saw shipment numbers normalize off of those record highs in the second half of the year, as the industry returned to production numbers seen pre-COVID." Through it all, Escapees has remained tried and true to its mission of being the number one club for RV enthusiasts. We remain committed to strengthening our member experiences through the services, benefits and events that we offer.

At the time of writing this column, we have just wrapped up another successful Xscapers Annual Bash, and it proved to be among one of the biggest yet. We welcomed 347 RVs, which equated to around 570 adults and over 50 children. And now, things are moving full speed ahead as we get ready for the 62nd Escapade in Tucson, Arizona. Escapade is also on track to reach record high attendance numbers, and we are looking forward to the good times waiting for us in the southwest.

Over the past few months, we have welcomed many new staff members to the Escapees family who will be taking over key roles for the organization. We recently welcomed Wendy Stanwood #170314 to the team as the new chapter director. Jimmy and Lockie Sailer #130519 served in that position for six years and under their direction, we watched the Chapters and BoF groups grow, with plenty of new ideas implemented along the way. While they will be sorely missed, we are excited to see what the future holds with Wendy at the helm.

We have also welcomed Therese Julo #139199 on board, and she is currently training to fully take over

the hangouts director position in April. Some could say she was unknowingly in training already by hosting past Hangouts, and she jumped right in to learn the behind-the-scenes details of the job. But, with this transition, it means David and Cheryl Goldstein #126793 are retiring from their roles with Escapees. To say we will miss them is an understatement, and it must be noted that without them, the Hangouts program would not be what it is today. A few years back, the club saw a need to create events for the active and adventurous crowd that did not necessarily want to attend Xscapers events and weren't looking for something quite as robust as a HOP. They accepted the mission to build something that would fit this need and brought to life something special that we know will be a lasting piece of Escapees. We are forever grateful to the Goldsteins for their dedication to the program and all the other roles they jumped in to help with along the way.

Other areas of Escapees have continued to grow as well. The marketing department has expanded by adding two more people and our Convergence program has welcomed an assistant to the director. We strongly believe that growing our teams will strengthen our support network to create more and better experiences for members.

We've always said that when there is something we cannot take on ourselves, we will do our best to partner with industry leaders who we know share the same values as Escapees so that they can provide with you with the best experiences and products possible. Passport America is the newest commercial partner to join the lineup and we are excited about having one of the best ongoing discounts to their membership available. Escapees members can save 20% off new or renewing memberships and, even better, the discount also extends to multi-year purchases as well. We are also continuing to expand the variety of discounts. TravlFi is now offering some great discounts to members offering \$40 off any hotspot device and your first 10 GB of data is free. Their plans have the unique ability to connect to the strongest signal out of any of the major carriers to ensure you're getting the best signal possible. 🚐

Employees of the Year



Jill Collins



David Goldstein

The Escapees staff works around the clock to ensure we have support and resources to help you succeed on the road. Without them, your mail wouldn't find its way to you on your travels, there wouldn't be any events to build your community on the road and you wouldn't be reading this magazine that we have all come to know and love. It is with great honor that we announce the recipients of the 2022 Employee Awards and Service Awards. These employees were selected through nominations by their fellow peers for going above and beyond for members and their coworkers.

Shining Stars



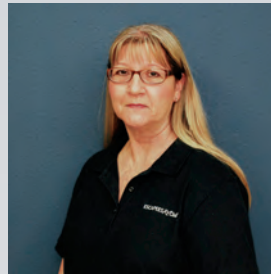
Tabitha Green



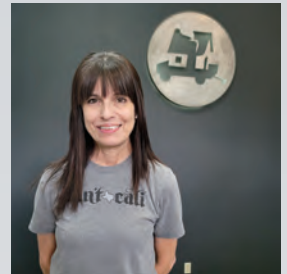
Jessica Renfro



James Pierce



Ramona Ojeda



Christine Harris



Tamika Randolph



Robyn and Larry Schultz



Rob and Laura Kernodle



Cheryl Goldstein

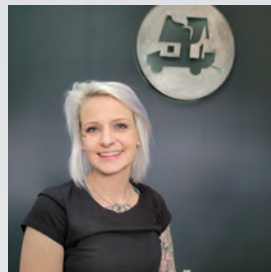
Service Awards



Kerensa Durr • 5 Years



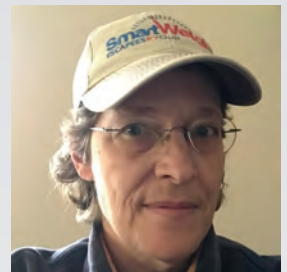
Brandon Hatcher • 5 Years



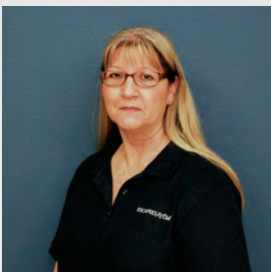
Samantha Tucker • 5 Years



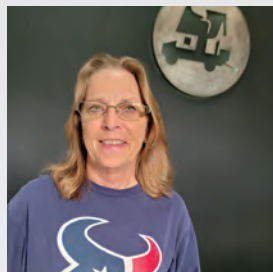
Karla Cox • 10 Years



Kris Friedrichs • 10 Years



Ramona Ojeda • 25 Years



Shirley Martinez • 25 Years



Teresa Moore • 25 Years



ESCAPEES *Hangouts!*

By **THERESÉ JULO** #139199, Hangouts Director

A Time of New Beginnings

Spring is a time of new beginnings. Flowers are blooming and leaves are budding as a result of a long winter's nap.

Seeds sowed in the fall toil sight unseen underground through the winter. The fragile plant breaks through the surface in spring and grows toward the shining sun.

I feel much the same way and let me explain why.

As the incoming Hangouts director, this has been my journey as well. David and Cheryl Goldstein planted the seeds last fall as they began planning to retire as Hangout directors. Retirement would not come easy for them. There was a lot of work in preparing someone to take over the program.

Planting the seed

The Goldsteins have cared for the Hangouts program since its origin in 2019. A replacement director would need to be hired and trained. Like planting fall seeds, work would be done underground or behind the scenes.

Both eager and nervous, I stepped into the incoming Hangout director position on 12/18/22. I had two sets of big shoes to fill.

I started as a conscious incompetent. I knew how much there was to learn since I had hosted a few Hangouts. But hosting is only one side of the Hangouts equation.

Growing Into the Role

Now, I'm the seedling popping out of the soil and looking up at the sun. I'm growing into the role. I wish I had a name badge that said "Trainee."

Many of you know me as The Tripping Yogi. I'm a traveling yoga teacher. I had a job, a business. Why did I want to take on another role? That's a great question with a simple answer. I love Escapees.

Peter (my better half) and I had been campers for

a long time. We started tent camping as poor college students and eventually bought a travel trailer. In 2006 we took a giant leap and sold most of everything we owned in New Jersey, intending to move to North Carolina in 2007. We traveled for a year cruising the perimeter of the US, traveling 26,000 miles. It's hard to believe all those miles were made with maps, no GPS.

Ten years later, we joined Escapees for the education that the club offered. As seasoned road warriors, we longed for education and more. In 2017, we planned on leaving our professional careers and hitting the road as full-time RVers. All of you know what a big deal that is and how long it takes to prepare. Between 2007 and 2017, A LOT changed in the RV world. Technology and YouTube were the most significant changes.

Lessening Our Learning Curve

We needed to lessen our learning curve. *Escapees* magazine became our bible. We hit the road full time in 2019, with our first stop being the Tucson Escapade.

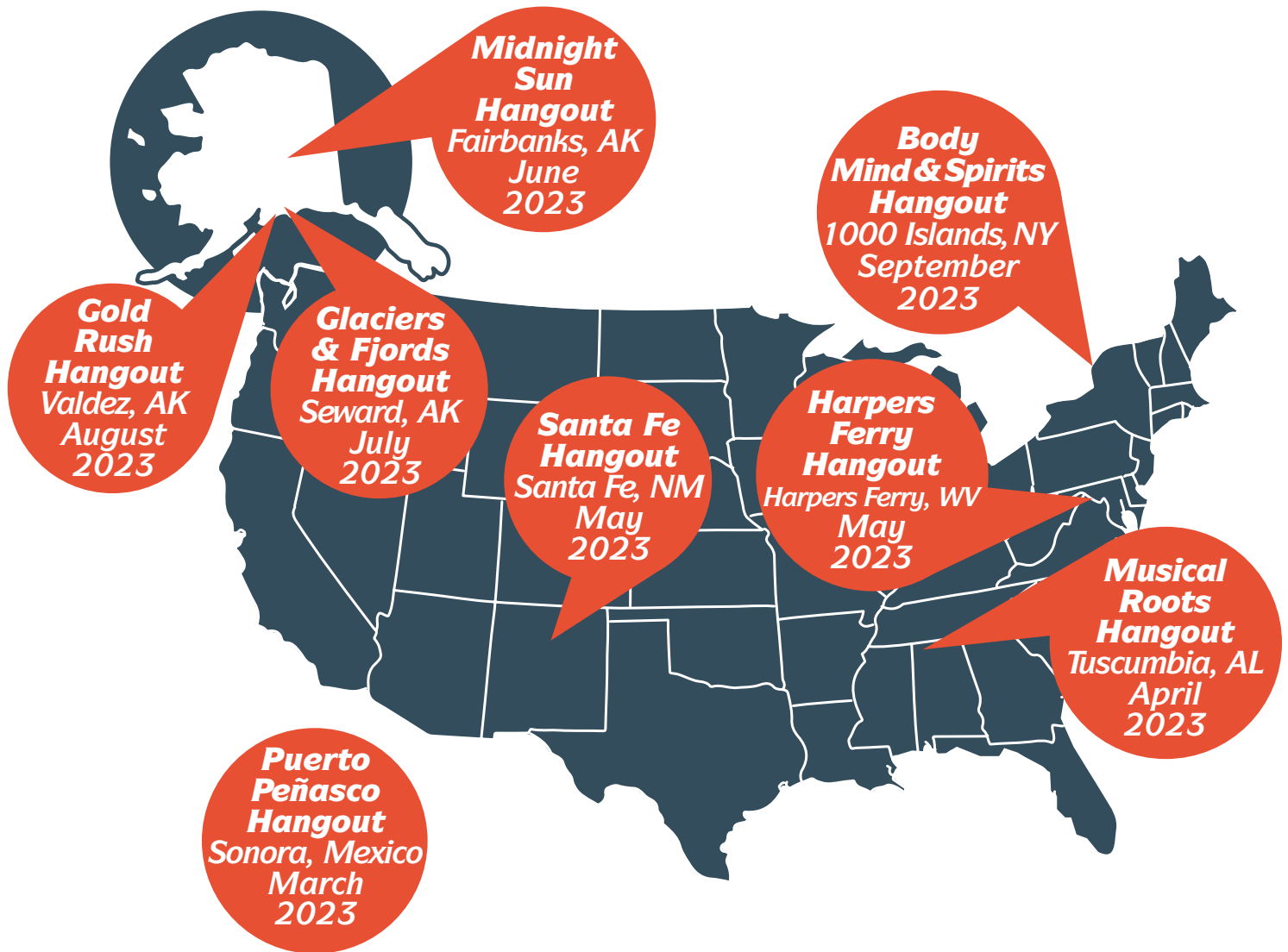
I can't even begin to describe the excitement and fear we felt. We had a brand-new behemoth fifth-wheel trailer and dually truck. We were 53-feet long—the same size as the box on a tractor-trailer. When we arrived at the Escapade gates, I started to cry. I'm not kidding. I was so happy we made the 2,400-mile journey in one piece. We were so excited to make new RV friends. And, we did.

Since 2017, I have been falling in love with all Escapees events, programs and people again and again. I bet you feel the same way! Escapees members have become our family on and off the road.

When I saw the job posting for the Hangouts director position, I had to apply. I wanted to be part of carrying the Hangouts torch forward. But there's more.

Body, Mind & Spirits Hangout

Last April, in Sedona, Arizona, I co-hosted a different type of Hangout. It was called Body, Mind & Spirits (B, M & S) and themed around health, wellness and exploring.



The intention of the B, M & S Hangout was to give RVers the opportunity to take a retreat-style vacation without worrying about where to store the rig, and have it in an amazing location where people could relax and recharge. Attendees would leave feeling transformed and having learned self-care techniques to aid them for life on and off the road.

The B, M & S Hangout was so successful that mid-week attendees wanted to know when the next one would be. So, I'm thrilled to announce the Body, Mind & Spirits 1000 Islands Hangout, September 19–26, 2023, in the 1,000 Islands area of upper New York state. This picturesque area of 1,800 islands is on the St. Lawrence Seaway dividing the US and Canada. Since the Gilded Age, this area has been a retreat haven known for its clear waters, spectacular scenery, miles of shoreline, beautiful and mysterious castles, quaint historic towns and vacation tranquility.

Coupled with the area's beauty, this Hangout will support your overall well-being and nurture your soul.

Your mornings will begin with finding balance in

yoga and meditation classes. Classes for both beginner and advanced students will focus on breathing and deep stretching to replenish and energize your being. Afternoons will encourage active movement with hiking, kayaking, boating, fishing and sightseeing, as well as quiet time for massage and other bodywork therapies. Evenings will focus on restorative yoga practices, bonfires, healthy foods, and holistic rituals that deepen our community connections. The Hangout is curated to be a complete system of self-care techniques you can continue to use in your nomadic lifestyle.

Registration for the Body, Mind & Spirits 1000 Islands Hangout will open on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 10:00 am Central time. Look for more detailed information about this Hangout, along with many other wonderful Hangouts, on the Escapees website at escapees.com/hangouts and on social media.

Thank you to David and Cheryl for the countless hours of training and mentoring. I am grateful to you.

I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at an event soon. 🚐



Xscapers Convergences

By **HOLLIE PARKS** #138407, Convergence Director

The Annual Bash 2023 has come and gone, and what a crazy event it was! For the fourth year running, Xscapers from all over the country, and even a few from around the world, descended on the SARA Park Rodeo Grounds in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, for another epic Bash!

The first Saturday was arrival day. Over 500 people, which included 317 RVs, vans, truck campers and schoolies, filed into the grounds in preparation for a jam-packed week of activities and entertainment. Even though the evening hours brought some rain, it didn't stop our group of Xscapers from enjoying a great kickoff party. Dressed in their hula-billy best, the attendees danced the night away to the rocking sounds of The Crown City Bombers, a rock-a-billy band out of Los Angeles.

Sunday morning brought dryer weather and the return of a Bash classic, the Bloody-Mary bar. This year, we also added a mimosa bar to the mix! While attendees enjoyed their catered breakfast burritos and well-garnished beverages, they were treated to the soothing sounds of Xscapers own Larry K as he played for the crowd. In the afternoon, folks gathered under the tent for the Xscapers Marketplace. This event gave attendees the opportunity to browse and purchase handmade crafts, services and other goods offered by their fellow attendees. On Sunday night, Bashers headed off to their respective parking sections for a good old-fashioned block party. These block parties allowed Xscapers to meet their neighbors and spend time with other members parked in their sections.

Monday morning came with more rain but, by the early evening, the skies cleared in time for an Xscapers favorite: Lot Crawl! This ever-popular event had attendees moving between parking sections, sampling snacks and beverages, touring rigs and chatting with their



PHOTOS BY TRAVIS WILD #182688, @TRAVYWILD

fellow members. Xscapers brought their A-game this year and many went all out with their offerings, making the Lot Crawl, once again, one of the most popular events of the week.

Tuesday was 90's Night and the return of a Bash staple, the Margarita Throwdown. After a day of educational and informative seminars, Xscapers began strolling into center camp wearing their 90s garb, ready to sample the many offerings of their fellow attendees who were competing for the title of best margarita! As they enjoyed their samples and debated on their favorite drink, they got to enjoy the awesome sounds of The Border Hookups, another great musical duo plucked right from the Xscapers own member list. Later in the evening, 90's Rockshow, a cover band out of southern California, rocked our socks off with a show many are still talking about. This group relived the grunge decade while keeping the dance floor packed all night long.

The Xscapers Olympics returned to the grounds on Wednesday night. Attendees formed teams with new and old friends alike and competed in a series of games including, human foosball, a 50-foot-long inflatable obstacle course, and a hilarious, human-sized version of hungry hippos, just to name a few. Excitement and laughter filled the air as teams worked together to get their hands on the bronze, silver, and gold dongles up

for grabs. At the conclusion of the games, Xscapers own DJ Seanboy rolled into center camp on the Boom Bandits Rave Rover (imagine the bat mobile was turned into a rolling DJ booth, that is the Rave Rover). The booming bass lead Xscapers to the bon fire. DJ Seanboy spun tunes that had us all dancing like animals in a mix of glowing flames and pulsing lights from the stage.

Thursday came with the return of Mac & Cheese Madness—and madness it was! Competing Xscapers offered up their best mac and cheese recipes to be voted on by their fellow attendees. By the end of the event, there wasn't a single drop of cheese left in the building. As the night advanced on, the Xscapers took part in a new Bash event, Lip Sync Battles. Hilarity ensued as members dressed up, danced and performed for the other attendees. Even club president and Xscapers Co-Founder, Travis Carr could be found swinging around on stage during an unforgettable rendition of "Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus. The night ended with an open mic, allowing folks to continue putting on a great show for their new friends.

As the work week came to a close, the Xscapers kicked off the weekend on Friday afternoon, with a fun and engaging game of Trivia. As the evening progressed, attendees slipped on their dancing shoes and headed to the event tent for the ever-popular



sounds of Xscapers house band, The Status Crowes. Chuck and Michelle had the group singing and dancing to songs we all know and love!

The sun shined brightly over the attendees on Saturday morning as we all gathered for a potluck brunch. As people enjoyed their meals, they were graced with the chill sounds of Arbour Season. This extremely talented musical duo are new additions to the Xscapers ranks and were an instant hit with the crowd. Saturday also brought a unique opportunity for Bash attendees, the premiere of season 2 of Gutted. Gutted is a reality competition show in which three teams compete to build out a unique RV, van and bus. Many of the Gutted cast were present for the event and participated in a Q&A session after the premiere.

Carrying on in Bash tradition, the last Saturday night means Neon Night. The Xscapers did not disappoint with their showing this year. The entirety of center camp was illuminated, not by the streetlights but by the glow coming off the costumes of those in attendance. The Lyte Brytes took the stage for the second year in a row and rocked us all with their light up garb and high energy music! As the bands time on stage ended, the Boom Bandits took over with an explosive DJ performance on the Rave Rocket. Xscapers could be found dancing late into the night and even took the party

to the bonfire to keep the good times rolling into the morning hours.

Overall, it was another super successful Bash. Between morning yoga, pickleball, kickball games, team competitions, chill spaces, educational seminars, rig parties, daily board games, kids camp, mountain bike rides, community outreach opportunities (you get the picture)... there was truly something for everyone. During all this craziness, attendees also had numerous opportunities to help raise money and give back. Between the mail room, bar tips, morning coffee contributions and the silent auction, this year's Bashers raised \$7,685 for CARE!

If you missed Bash this year, no worries (other than that overwhelming sense of FOMO you may be experiencing), the Bash will be returning to Lake Havasu City in 2024. In the meantime, be sure to check out the Convergence calendar and join us at one of the many upcoming events in 2023. See you down the road! 🚚

UPCOMING CONVERGENCES

**Bishop
Convergence**
Bishop, CA
September
2023

**Las Vegas
Halloween
Convergence**
Las Vegas, NV
October
2023

**4th of July
Convergence**
Salida, CO
July
2023

**Balloon
Fiesta
Convergence**
Albuquerque, NM
October
2023

**Wine
Country
Convergence**
Sonoita, AZ
April
2023


XSCAPERS
Annual Bash
Lake Havasu City, AZ
January
2024

 **XSCAPERS**
POWERED BY ESCAPEES *RV* Club

Xscapers Arizona Wine Country Convergence

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Sonoita, AZ • April 15th, 2023–April 22, 2023

Join your hosts Dave and Jacqueline Hudson for a laid-back Convergence in beautiful Sonoita, Arizona. This is a small event with plenty of opportunities to connect with your fellow Xscapers. The week will be filled with winery hops, multiple live music performances, a local brewery take over and plenty of other fun activities.

ESCAPEES **HOPs** HEAD OUT PROGRAM



**Moab
4x4
Off Road HOP**
Moab, UT
May
2023

**Tombstone
Western
Heritage HOP**
Tucson, AZ
March
2023

**Guns &
Ammo HOP**
Tucson, AZ
March
2023

**History,
Mystery & the
Universe HOP**
Fort Davis, TX
September
2023

**Canada
New England
Fall Foliage
Cruise HOP**
Cape Liberty, NJ
October
2023

**Eastern
Caribbean
Cruise HOP**
Tampa, FL
April
2023

**Maine
Leaves and
Lobster HOP**
Bar Harbor, ME
September
2023

*Online registration is now available for land HOPs, at: www.escapees.com/hop. To register for cruise HOPs, call 855-757-8881.



For event details and a complete list of all HOP events, visit or call www.escapees.com/hops, registration@escapees.com
Land HOPs: 936-329-6499, Cruises: 855-757-8881

Upcoming HOP Events

Canada—New England Fall Foliage Cruise HOP

Cape Liberty, New Jersey, October 5–14, 2023

Smell the clean, crisp morning air and see Mother Nature's abundant beauty in the vibrant colors of the fall leaves on this fabulous nine-night round trip on the Canada and New England Cruise HOP.

You will have the luxury of seeing the spectacular fall colors aboard the Royal Caribbean's ship, Liberty of the Seas, sailing from Cape Liberty, New Jersey (Metro).

These scenic ports-of-call are Boston, Massachusetts; Portland, Maine; Bar Harbor, Maine; Saint John, New Brunswick (Bay of Fundy) and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Once you are on board, the ship will provide activities, entertainment and incredible food. The ship offers a wide array of shore excursions in each port-of-call, so there will be something to fit your lifestyle. Excursions are the best way to enjoy the magnificent sights and culture at each port-of-call and the warm embrace of the native people.

Final payment date is July 7, 2023.

Don't forget to bring your camera and be prepared for the trip of a lifetime!

Lisa Koca #86367, HOP Director

Guns and Ammo HOP

March 24, 2023, Tucson, Arizona

Revolver: \$50 per person

Semi-auto: \$50 per person

Both revolver and semi-auto:

\$75 per person

Tombstone Western Heritage HOP

March 24, 2023, Tucson, Arizona

Per Person: \$90

Eastern Caribbean Cruise HOP

April 7–17, 2023, Tampa, Florida

10 Nights round trip

Prices: \$1,738–\$2,748 per person
double occupancy

Moab 4x4 Off Road HOP

May 2–7, 2023, Moab, Utah

Two-Person Rig: \$1,300

One-Person Rig: \$876

Additional Person: \$495

History, Mystery & the Universe HOP

September 18–22, 2023

Fort Davis, Texas

Two-Person Rig: \$1,375

One-Person Rig: \$875

Additional Person: \$695

Maine Leaves and Lobster HOP

September 25–30, 2023

Bar Harbor, Maine

Two-Person Rig: \$1,445

One-Person Rig: \$985

Additional Person: \$495

Canada—New England Fall Foliage Cruise HOP

October 5–14, 2023

Cape Liberty, New Jersey

Prices: \$1,481–\$1,921 per person
double occupancy

Events Calendar

Join us at one of these rallies or National events!

DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	888-757-7701 EXTENSION #
MARCH 2023			
16-18	AZ Tucson, Escapade, RVers Boot Camp	National	936-329-6499
19-24	AZ Tucson, Pima County Fairground, 62nd Escapade	Escapade/National	936-329-6499
19-24	AZ Tucson, 62nd Escapade	25	8025
20-24	CA Chico, Almond Tree RV PK	24	8024
24-Apr 04	MX Puerto Peñasco, SON, Puerto Peñasco Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-329-6499
24	AZ Tucson, Guns and Ammo HOP	HOP/National	936-329-6499
24	AZ Tucson, Tombstone Western Heritage HOP	HOP/National	936-329-6499
APRIL 2023			
07-17	FL Tampa, Eastern Caribbean Cruise HOP	HOP/National	855-757-8881
10-14	FL Winter Haven, Cypress Campground	57	8057
13-16	TX Burton, Corps of Engineers Rocky Creek Campground	10	8010
14-20	GA Brunswick, SKP ACRE, RVers Boot Camp	National	936-329-6499
15-20	GA Brunswick, Coastal Georgia RV Resort, SKP ACRE rally	Steve Masterson	skpacre@gmail.com
16-19	CA Riverside, Rancho Jurupa	25	8025
16-21	CA Tuolumne, Black Oak Casino RV Park	24	8024
16-23	AL Muscle Shoals, Musical Roots Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-329-6499
21-23	GA Brunswick, SKP ACRE, RVers Boot Camp	National	936-329-6499
23-30	TX Bellville, Coushatta Recreation Ranch	11	8011
27-30	NC Linwood, Crosswinds Campground	29	8029
30-May 04	CA Temecula, Pechanga RV Resort	25	8025
MAY 2023			
01-05	IL Quincy, Driftwood RV Park	46	8046
02-07	UT Moab, Moab 4X4 Off Road HOP	HOP/National	936-329-6499
04-11	WV Harpers Ferry, Harpers Ferry Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-329-6499
15-20	KY Georgetown, Whispering Hills RV Park	42	8042
16-23	CA Quincy, Pioneer RV Park	24	8024
16-23	NM Santa Fe, Santa Fe Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-329-6499
21-26	CO La Veta, We RV Champions of LaVeta	02	8002

For Xscapers events, see page 68.

Xscapers BASH 2023. PHOTO BY TRAVIS WILD PHOTOS



DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	888-757-7701 EXTENSION #
JUNE 2023			
11-15	WA Stevenson, Skamania County Fairground	34	8034
15-18	CA Yreka, Siskiyou Golden Fairground	37	8037
19-22	IN La Grange, TRI-Rally	06	8006
19-23	AB CANADA, Rimbey, Last West Community Hall	44	8044
19-23	WA Lynden, West. Washington Fairground	05	8005
20-27	AK Fairbanks, Midnight Sun Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-329-6499
JULY 2023			
06-09	OR Bandon, Bandon by the Sea RV Park	37	8037
06-09	TX Johnson City, Miller Creek RV Park	11	8011
09-13	OR Tillamook, Tillamook County Fairground	34	8034
10-17	AK Seward, Glaciers & Fjords Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-329-6499
17-21	CA Bodega Bay, Bodega Bay RV Park	24	8024
17-21	WA Centralia Midway RV Park	05	8005
20-23	MI Ludington, Mason County Fairground	06	8006
AUGUST 2023			
02-09	AK Valdez, Gold Rush Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-329-6499
13-17	OR Lincoln City, Wapiti RV Park	34	8034
21-24	OR Prospect, Crater Lake RV Park	37	8037
26-31	CO Buena Vista, Snowypeaks RV Park	02	8002
SEPTEMBER 2023			
07-10	MI Bad Axe, Bad Axe Fairground	06	8006
10-14	OR Hood River, Hood River County Fairground	34	8034
10-15	CA McCloud, McCloud RV Park	24	8024
14-17	OR Westfir, Casey's Riverside RV Park	37	8037
18-22	TX Fort Davis, History, Mystery & the Universe HOP	HOP/National	936-329-6499
18-22	WA Winthrop, Pine Near RV Park	05	8005
19-26	NY Alexandria Bay, Body, Mind & Spirits Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-329-6499
22-24	ME Trenton, Wilde Acadia Camping Resort, RVers Boot Camp	National	936-329-6499
25-30	ME Bar Harbor, Maine Leaves and Lobster HOP	HOP/National	936-329-6499
OCTOBER 2023			
05-14	NJ Cape Liberty, Canada-New England Fall Foliage Cruise HOP	HOP/National	855-757-8881

THE EVENTS CALENDAR is reserved for chapter, certified BoF groups and National events. All submissions must be in writing. Deadline for submissions for the May/June issue is March 10. E-mail submissions should be sent to departmentseditor@escapees.com, or mail submissions to *Escapees* Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351. Call the voicemail phone number (888-757-7701) + extension number for specific directions to events.





SKP ACRE and Boot Camp 2023



Coastal Georgia RV Resort
Brunswick, Georgia, April 15–23, 2023

“The steering committee’s goal is to provide a quality rally at the lowest possible cost.”

The SKP ACRE planning committee, steering committee and rally team have selected Coastal Georgia RV Resort, Brunswick, Georgia, as the rally location for 2023. The steering committee’s goal is to provide a quality rally at the lowest possible cost. Entertainment and other optional venues outside the RV resort are in the planning stages. There will be six catered meals and, as always, a potluck dinner. The Escapees SmartWeigh team will be available to weigh your RV, and we have added Boot Camp, following the SKP ACRE, on April 21–23, 2023. Seminars will be provided, including, for example, one on tire pressure. Rally fee and camping fee to be determined.

SKP ACRE: Registration process will begin on-line January 2023 at <https://skpacre.weebly.com>.

We are in the process of revising the website for our 2023 rally. Therefore, we invite you to visit often, as we will be posting updates for the 2023 SKP ACRE.

Escapees RVers Boot Camp: <https://www.escapees.com/community-calendar/category/rvers-bootcamp/>

SmartWeigh: <https://escapees.com/education/smartweigh/>

We invite you to contact us at skpacre@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Steve Masterson #95338, SKP ACRE President
Dianne Wood #113382, Director of Communications & Webmaster

Chapter 8

Mexican Connection Rally

RVING INTO MEXICO?

Escapees Chapter 8, “Mexican Connection” is a club that has been leading interested Escapees members on rallies to Mexico for over 35 years.

Chapter 8 holds one major rally each winter, usually in February/March, led by experienced club members lasting two to three weeks. We gather somewhere near the US border in Arizona or California and spend several days learning the “ropes” of RV travel south of the border. We explain how to convert US dollars to Pesos, the road conditions, what type of insurance to buy and much more. Knowing Spanish isn’t necessary.

The other, and more interesting, part of our rallies is our interaction with the local Mexican people. A major part of our club’s mission is charity, and each rally includes raising funds and finding needy organizations with which we can assist, often with hands-on labor (painting, cleaning, rebuilding, etc.). Other charity activities include distributing food, clothing, blankets, personal health care items, used medical equipment (canes, wheelchairs) to those who are in need.

If you are interested, visit our Facebook page, at: <https://www.facebook/groups/Escapees-MexicanConnection> or contact us by e-mail at CH8Wagonmaster@gmail.com.

Jay Hoult, Escapees Chapter 8 President, Mexican Connection



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Questions? Call 888-757-2582
or visit www.escapees.com/lamplighter

LAMPLIGHTER REWARD LEVELS

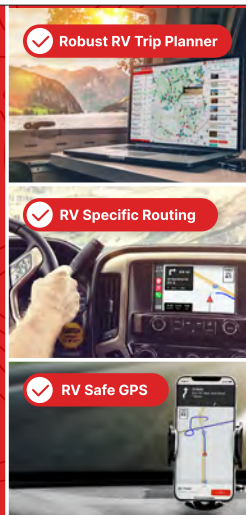
MEMBER REFERRALS	REWARD	MEMBER REFERRALS	REWARD
1 Lamplighter pin		7 Lamplighter flame	
3 Lamplighter flame		9 Lamplighter flame	
5 Lamplighter flame		11 Lamplighter flame	
6 \$60 in Escapees gift certificates		12 \$150 in Escapees gift certificates	

Escapees gift certificates are redeemable throughout the Escapees and Rainbow Parks system. Use them for dues, Escapade admission, products, and park stays.

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Chapter Map—Let's Get Together!



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



A Word from Our Group Director

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



I am so excited to be your new Chapter/BOF director. I hope everyone so far has had a great New Year! Escapee is right around the corner. It is our biggest rally of all where everyone comes together for gatherings, seminars and our exciting ROW. The ROW is where all our Chapters and BoFs get to recruit new members. We have many new members that have joined Escapees and Xscapers so let's show them all of our exciting groups to which they can join and get involved. If you are interested in joining or starting a new Chapter or BoF, please feel free to e-mail me at chapterdirectors@escapees.com. I look forward to meeting you all. See you soon, and always safe travels! 🚚

Visit 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.

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
2	Rocky Mtn. High	Linda Gilmore	303-349-8845	president@skpschapter2.org	8002
5	Evergreen	Ray Hoyt	425-750-6139	chapter5president@gmail.com	8005
6	Great Lakes	Bill Daines	269-806-3043	bd1770@aol.com	8006
8	Mexican Connection	Jay Hoult	616-299-4408	hoult2@yahoo.com	8008
9	Oregon Trails	Jackie Deal	503-507-3600	jackie_deal@yahoo.com	8009
10	Rainbow Chapter	David Horton	563-529-6181	dhorton2@aol.com	8010
11	Alamo Area SKPs	Brenda Russell	512-626-9668	brendarussell04@gmail.com	8011
14	Lucky Rollers	Charlene Darling	603-686-6184	wheel4home218@yahoo.com	8014
17	Ozark Chapter	Linda Baker	918-485-5879	40lwbaker@gmail.com	8017
18	Maple Leaf	Howard Krakower	613-829-3587	howardkrakower@yahoo.com	8018
21	Arizona Saguaro	Michael T. Burger	989-930-9919	mikeburger.skp@gmail.com	8021
24	Gold Nugget	Tom McCarthy	916-334-2339	lmccarthy51@hotmail.com	8024
25	Shanty Shakers	Larry Rice	619-368-5295	larrydrice@aol.com	8025
29	Carolina Rovers	Craig Rickenbach	803-372-2998	carickenbach@gmail.com	8029
32	Yavapai	Jim Kimmins	928-231-7452	jwkimm68@gmail.com	8032
33	BC Okanagan SKPs	Al Wejr	250-545-1359	alweege@gmail.com	8033
34	Columbia River SKPs	Nacy Steward	360-521-7683	dcstew3@gmail.com	8034
36	Erie Shores	Merle Cockayne	440-823-6214	gulleyjumper0208@yahoo.com	8036
37	Rogue Valley Rovers	Valerie Rasmusson	541-951-1972	valrasmussonrvclub37@gmail.com	8037
38	Mother Lode	Ray Bailey	209-532-0444	bailey-r@sbcglobal.net	8038
42	KEN/TENN	Linda Merryman	937-725-9183	escapeeschap42kytn@gmail.com	8042
44	Alberta Roamers	John VandenBerg	403-380 0141	fayjohn@shaw.ca	8044
46	Lincolnland	Ray Powell	217-433-2859	raysharon58@gmail.com	8046
47	Nor-Cal Gypsies	Nancy Voyles	530-357-4762	tsrnan@aol.com	8047
51	Hoosier Neighbor	Vernon Berg	219-608-1148	berg3025@comcast.net	8051
52	Arkansas Diamonds	Don Tannehill	501-914-0113	tannehilld@sbcglobal.net	8052
54	Wild West Escapees	Neal Haerich	785-735-4969	nhaerich@gmail.com	8054
57	Florida Sun Gators	Nathan Colter	757-207-1533	c.nathan21@yahoo.com	8057

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

SKP Dine-outs

ARIZONA

Benson: 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., San Pedro Golf Course, *Benson City Grille*, 926 N Madison St. Chuck Dupuis: 520-360-5695, Nov-April

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

Wickenburg: Visit the Chapter 32 website or voice mail for date and location. Charles Carter: 316-651-7710, cecarter39@yahoo.com

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

ARKANSAS

Jacksonville: 3rd Tues, 12:30 p.m., *Barnhill's Steak And Buffet*, 500 Gregory St, Don Tannehill: 501-914-0113

CALIFORNIA

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

Modesto: Canceled until further notice. Ray Bailey: 209-532-0444

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

Sacramento: 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Brookfield's Restaurant*, 4343 Madison Ave. Kathy Honig: 916-366-1436, pkhonig@sbcglobal.net or www.goldnugget24.org

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

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

COLORADO

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

FLORIDA

Zephyrhills: 1st Thurs, 11 a.m., *Golden Corral*, 6855 Gall Blvd. Rose Irons: 239-896-3799, ggshirkey@yahoo.com, Nov-April

MISSOURI

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

NEVADA

Pahrump: 2nd Mon, 11:30 a.m., *El Jefe's Restaurant*, 1560 E Calvada Rd. Nancy Schmitt #84076: suncatchers55@aol.com or 775-990-3491, Sept-May

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

NEW MEXICO

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

OREGON

Medford: 2nd Tues, 11 a.m., *Elmer's Restaurant*, 2000 Biddle Rd. Valerie: 541-951-1972, valrasmussonrvclub37@gmail.com

Sutherlin: 2nd Wed, 8:30 a.m., breakfast, *Abby's Legendary Pizza*, 1011 W Central Ave. Terry Hilty: 760-522-4534

Gladstone: 4th Mon, 11 a.m., *High Rocks Resturant*, 915 Arlington St. Joann Rissberger: 503-655-7728, grammyriss@gmail.com

TENNESSEE

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

TEXAS

Livingston: 2nd Fri, 1 p.m., *Location varies*. Contact David Horton: 563-529-6181, dhorton2@aol.com

UTAH

West Valley City: Canceled until further notice. Lawrence Pay: 801-599-3518, lnpay@msn.com

WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon: 1st Wed, 11:00a.m., *Royal Star Buffet*, 2300 Freeway Dr. Ron/Bonnie: 425-218-2839, bonniehough2@gmail.com

Silverdale: 2nd Tues, 11:00a.m., *Applebee's Grill*, 3138 NW Randall Way. Call first Barb Johnson: 360-908-0699, barbj1752@msn.com

Tacoma: Canceled until further notice. Barb Johnson: 360-908-0699, barbj1752@msn.com

CANADA

AB (location TBA): 2nd Wed, 12 p.m. Check Chapter 44 website for locations and times. Eva Retzlaff: 888-757-7701 x8044

BC, Kelowna: Canceled until further notice. Sharon Rajotte: 250-707-0602, rsrajotte@telus.net

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

BC, Salmon Arm: Canceled until further notice. Maisie Beattie: 250-803-9969, mlynneb146@gmail.com

BC, Vernon: Canceled until further notice. Kathleen Bone: 250-265-1192, kathyskp@telus.net

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

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

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



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ARIZONA 	NORTH RANCH 30625 Hwy. 89, Congress, AZ 85332 928-427-3657, Fax: 928-685-3695, northranch@escapees.com , northranch.escapeesrvparks.com	\$22	\$26.50	\$132+	\$159	\$360+	\$415+
FLORIDA 	SUMTER OAKS RV PARK 4602 County Rd. 673, Bushnell, FL 33513 352-793-1333, Fax: 352-793-5216, sumteroaks@escapees.com , sumteroaks.escapeesrvparks.com	\$24	\$28.50	\$144	\$171	\$360+	\$395+
MISSOURI 	TURKEY CREEK RV VILLAGE 1376 US 65 Business S., Hollister, MO 65672 417-335-8004, Fax: 417-335-4644, turkeycreek@escapees.com , turkeycreek.escapeesrvparks.com	\$20	\$24	\$120	\$144	\$360	\$395
NEW MEXICO 	DREAM CATCHER RV PARK 4400 E. Pine St., Deming, NM 88030, 575-544-4004, Fax: 575-544-0944, dreamcatcher@escapees.com , dreamcatcher.escapeesrvparks.com	\$21	\$26	\$126	\$156	\$240+	\$250+
TENNESSEE 	RACCOON VALLEY 908 E. Raccoon Valley Rd., Heiskell, TN 37754 865-947-9776, Fax: 865-947-9778, raccoonvalley@escapees.com , raccoonvalley.escapeesrvparks.com	\$23	\$30	\$138	\$180	\$400- \$525	\$445- \$570
TEXAS 	RAINBOW'S END 140 Escapees Dr., Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, rainbowsend@escapees.com , rainbowsend.escapeesrvparks.com	\$22 \$24	\$27.50 \$28.50	\$132 \$144	\$165 \$171	\$340+ \$360+	\$395+ \$415+
TEXAS 	TRA PARK 3100 Moore St., Pecos, TX 79772 432-447-2137, Fax: 432-447-3287, trapark@escapees.com , trapark.escapeesrvparks.com	\$23	\$30.00	\$150	\$180	\$475- \$535	\$475- \$535

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ARIZONA	SAGUARO CO-OP 600 E. Saguaro Dr., #245, Benson, AZ 85602 520-586-7343, Fax: 520-586-4683, skpsaguaro@gmail.com , www.skpsaguaro.org	\$30 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$156 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$438 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax
	ROVERS ROOST 3241 S. Montgomery Rd., Casa Grande, AZ 85193 520-426-3589, Fax: 520-421-0105, rovers_roost@yahoo.com , www.roversroost.com	\$30	+ tax	\$125	+ Elec & tax	\$425	+ Elec & tax
	KOFA KO-OP 3750 E. County 17th St., Yuma, AZ 85365 928-344-0645, 928-344-0900, office@kofako-op.com , www.kofako-op.com	\$30	Incl Elec	\$140	+ Elec & tax	\$465	+ Elec & tax
CALIFORNIA	JOJOBA HILLS RESORT 45120 Hwy. 79 S., Aguanga, CA 92536 951-767-9130, office@jojobahills.com , jojobahills.com	\$45 limited	Incl Elec	\$270	Incl Elec	-	-
	PARK SIERRA 45323 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-206-9907, Fax: 559-671-0084, parksierra@gmail.com , www.parksierra.net	\$30-36	Incl Elec, WiFi & CTV	\$190- 220	Incl Elec Incl WiFi & CTV	\$600	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV
FLORIDA	FL SKP RESORT 2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873 863-735-1499, skpresortwauchula@gmail.com , fl-skp-resort.org	\$25	+ Elec	-	-	\$595	+ Elec
	<i>Summer rates 5/1 - 10/31</i>						
NEVADA	PAIR-A-DICE 5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048 775-727-7221, Fax: 775-727-3966, skppairadice@gmail.com	\$30	Incl Elec	\$190	Incl Elec	\$375	+ Elec
NEW MEXICO	THE RANCH PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254 575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, skpranch22@pvt.net , skpranch.com	\$23	+ Tax Incl Elec	\$150	+ Tax Incl Elec	\$450	+Elec & Tax
OREGON	TIMBER VALLEY 800 S. State St., Sutherlin, OR 97479 541-459-4465, skptimbr@rosenet.net , www.timbervalleysskp.com	\$27	Incl Elec	\$162	Incl Elec	\$410	+ Elec
TEXAS	LONE STAR CORRAL 131 Private Rd. 5240, Hondo, TX 78861 830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, info@lonestarcorral.com , lonestarcorral.com	\$22	+ Elec	\$120	+ Elec	\$350	+ Elec
WASHINGTON	EVERGREEN COHO 2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chimacum, WA 98325 360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, ecrskp@escapees.com , www.cohoskp.com	\$33-41 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$198- 248 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$595- 619	+ Elec

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

EVENTS AND EXTRAS

Raccoon Valley: Heiskell, TN

Local songwriters meet every Tuesday night. Thursday night, local jammers perform.

Jojoba Hills SKP Co-Op: Aguanga, CA

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

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

First-time visitors receive their one-week stay for \$75; Make 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. Visitors can enjoy \$50 off a week's stay! Visit our website or call for reservations.

RoVers Roost SKP Co-Op: Casa Grande, AZ

Max site length is 40'. First-time Escapees visitors will receive three days free when they pay for one week (\$125, 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

Come for the Sun...Stay for the Fun! First-time visitors receive their week at a 50% discount, plus elec./tax. Details at www.skpsaguaro.org.

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 one-week special: \$75 + elec and tax. Visit website for details.

The Florida SKP Resort 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 Escapees 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 two- to three-hour drive from the Gulf Coast and Mexico.

Timber Valley Co-Op: Sutherlin, OR

Join us in Oregon's banana belt. Large lots; more privacy. Costco, five 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. Stay six nights, get a seventh night free!

Evergreen CoHo: Chimacum, WA

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

55+ Park	30 AMP	50 AMP	# of Sites	ERPU Sites	Lease Lots	Pull-thru	Dry-camping	Storage	WiFi	Reservations	Activity Center	Clubhouse	Laundry	Dog Run	Pet Friendly
-	✓	✓	87	22	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓		107	0	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	99	25	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	68	0	N	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	93	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	68	0	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	130	24	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	175	0	N	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓

-	✓	✓	297	n/a	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	118	n/a	✓	N	✓	-	✓	N	N	✓	✓	N	✓
✓	✓	✓	152	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	283	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	254	n/a	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	140	n/a	✓	N	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	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	✓	✓	✓	✓

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.

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 #147115. 164 CR 2127, PO Box 302, Burkeville, TX 75932

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

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

Aviation History and Museums BoF: Group to discuss and share aviation history, "Aircraft of the Month," museums visited and recommended (especially the small and obscure), aviation related photos and serve as a source for information. No dues. Contact Les Jones, at lescjones1@gmail.com or 713-201-5391. Also visit our Facebook: SKP Aviation History and Museums BoF

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." Contact 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 and Facebook group provide opportunities to share the RVing experience. Impromptu gatherings will pop up several times a year. Send your name and SKP# to: boomerBoF@gmail.com

Boondockers: Casual group (no dues) enjoying the dry-camping lifestyle. Bimonthly newsletter lists rendezvous. (Dry-camp spots not listed.) Stan/Mikki Vincent, subscription coordinators; Darryl and Judy Wilson, editors. To join, contact Judy Wilson, at: wilsonjudwil2@gmail.com

Christian Fellowship: The Christian Fellowship BoF is a gathering of Escapees believers drawing together to form a mobile church-without-walls for fellowship, fun, worship, spiritual growth and serving communities. We pray for and encourage one another without focusing on denominationalism. Meet at Escapades and Christian Fellowship BoF rallies. Visit www.cfbf.com. Membership is free. For rally information, contact Allen Ferguson, at: fergizmo@thefergs.com

Computers: For all computer users; info is exchanged by e-mail. To subscribe to the newsgroup, e-mail: skp-computer-bof+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Contact: Andrew Richardson, 204 Rainbow Drive #10474, Livingston TX 77399-2004; spun69@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jeeppers: Casual group (no rules/no officers/no cost) for those who enjoy automobile off-roading. Meet at Escapades, informal gatherings or share experiences online. Share routes, trails, locations, equipment and photos. Facebook: Off Road Jeeppers BoF. To join, send your name and SKP# to: JeeppersBOF@gmail.com

Line Dancers Unite: Join for free to find classes, rallies and special events. Members contribute info on a city-by-city basis. Available websites 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, at: Margo@TheMaxwellGroup.net

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

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

NOMADS: Mission volunteers 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 (W/E/S incl.) is furnished. A current projects list is on NOMADS Website and visible to its members, but with nationwide sites. To join, visit: www.methodistnomads.org or contact Doris, at 318-613-6599/jakdori@gmail.com

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 or contact Penwheels editor, at ellenbehr@aol.com

Pet Lovers: For people who love animals. All pets welcome. Join our Facebook group. Stay connected with animal-loving Escapees; receive notices of rallies and socials at Escapade. 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, to get 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

RVICS (Roving Volunteers in Christ's Service): We are a volunteer non-denominational Christian ministry with a heart to serve the Lord during the years leading up to retirement and beyond. Our missionary teams provide a wide variety of maintenance, service and construction assistance to needy non-profit Christian organizations. Teams typically consist of four—six couples serving together for three week assignments (US and Canada). www.RVICS.org, 800-727-8914

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. To contact fellow photographers, go to: www.facebook.com/groups/skpphotobof

SKP UTV/ATV: Casual group of people who like to ride off road responsibly, discovering new places to camp and ride their UTV/ATV. Open to Escapees members. No dues. To join send your name and SKP# to: utvatv.bof@yahoo.com. Any questions, call Dick Hicks at 816-716-4776 or Tom Hardy at 619-905-4707

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. A closed Facebook group is used to connect. Membership is free. To join, send SKP# to Larry Butler, at techcfo@yahoo.com

● **SOLOs • C-BoF:** A group for single Escapees. Must be a current member. Four online newsletters per year. Member hosted gatherings and pre-Escapade rallies. Dues: \$11.00 per year. To join and renew online, go to: skpsolos.org or join and renew in person at the annual meeting in January at Quartzite. An application form may be requested via email: Roy Kannada: royk1072@gmail.com

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

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

Twist Your Throttle: An informal Escapees group who share common interests in everything motorcycle. This group is open to all types of Escapees motorcycle riders, passengers and bikes. Our goal is to provide regular connections for motorcycle safety, repairs, rides and awareness through online presentations for Escapees who are on the move in an RV. No charge to join. Lucinda Belden: lucinda@dwo.net, www.twistyourthrottle.com or www.facebook.com/twistyourthrottle

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

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

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 name, address, SKP# and \$5/year to John Ely, 3213 W. Main, #279, Rapid City, SD 57702. Newsletter sent 3x a year. woodcarversonwheels@gmail.com

Worldwide Travelers: Members share information about independent RV and non-RV travel in countries around the world other than North America through their monthly e-newsletter. There is no charge for joining the group. For more information contact: Chari Maier, Newsletter Editor, at editorwwtnews@gmail.com. She will be delighted to get you signed up for the group and send you a sample e-newsletter

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National Headquarters Holiday Closures for 2023

The Escapees RV Club National Headquarters observes national holidays to coincide with post office closures. 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.

- Monday, January 2—New Year's Day
- Monday, January 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, February 20—President's Day
- Friday, April 7—Good Friday (Easter)
- Monday, May 29—Memorial Day
- Monday, June 19—Juneteenth
- Tuesday, July 4—Independence Day
- Monday, September 4—Labor Day
- Monday, October 9—Columbus Day
- Friday, November 10—Veteran's Day
- Thursday, November 23 and 24—Thanksgiving Day
- Monday, December 25—Christmas Day

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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

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. Call me to purchase or call me to list. Linda Stevens: 928-232-9060, SKP30347. www.CongressMoves.com

ARIZONA RV HOMES.COM: New custom homes, from \$350K with F-HU, RV parking inside a 22'x52' garage and additional F-HU outside guest pad. Boating, off-roading and casinos nearby. Only two hours from Las Vegas. Great home base or snowbird retreat. Phase 3 is open! 928-768-2900 or arizonarvhomes.com. Ron Bernstein, Broker/Developer.

TX SARGENT: Full-hookup RV lot for rent. Lot is 50'x100.' Fisherman? Hunter? Come on down. Close to a commercial boat ramp, with access to the gulf. Daily, weekly or monthly rates. 979-943-7260.

LOT FOR SALE: Livingston, Texas. Lot 214, Section 14 in Lake Livingston Village, Polk County, Livingston, Texas. County value is \$3,040. Monthly dues of \$24 give you access to Lake Livingston and other amenities. See lake-livingstonvillagepoa.com. I am a motivated seller, asking \$900 OBO. Call Alan Jones 509 953 3322.

PRODUCTS

LUNATEC® ODOR-FREE DISHCLOTHS: are loved by 10,000+ RVers because they stay odor-free and dry fast. Try them today and find out for yourself. www.lunategear.com

LUNATEC® HYDRATION SPRAY BOTTLES: are a must for campers. Cools, cleans and hydrates with mist, stream and shower patterns. Hundreds of uses. www.lunategear.com



Reviewed Products

Blithe Cosmetics:

- Luxury skincare brand at an affordable price
 - Every product is multi-functional
 - Products include cleansers, sunscreen, primers, serums, and overnight care
 - Experience skin health improvement with consistent use
 - Cruelty-free, environmentally friendly
 - For all skin types
 - Recommend for all skin types
- blithecosmetic.com

Cloud Haven: This fashion and lifestyle jewelry brand has a passion for animal welfare and nature. Artisan styles with childlike charm boasting elevated accents. From 14k-gold-filled beads to the prettiest freshwater pearls, every bead is hand-selected. Portions of all sales proceeds are donated to animal welfare issues. thecloudhaven.com

FLEXI SPORT: A brand new patent-pending design

- All day non-slip hold
 - Easy slide release won't damage hair
 - Dual pin flip to hold more or less hair
 - Fits all hair types
 - Up to three sizes in one!
 - 100% water proof
- shops.lilliarose.biz



Furdozer: Pet hair everywhere? Plow it away with the FurDozer X6 6-in-1 pet hair remover. The FurDozer combines revolutionary design with hi-tech materials to work on all surfaces including carpets, cars, couches and more! neaterpets.com

Manta Sleep Mask: Manta Sleep thinks most sleep companies focus on the wrong things. To them, sleep itself isn't that important—it's what you do with the energy great sleep gives you. On the surface, they feel they make the world's best sleep masks and functional sleep accessories. But there's more to Manta than that. Their focus is giving you the energy to create your best life. mantasleep.com



Redemption Road Coffee:

- Crafted with single origin specialty grade beans
 - Unique beans from four different regions
 - Each bag supports a special cause
 - Choose from light, medium or dark roasts
 - Available as beans or pods
- www.redemptionroadcoffee.com



Souper Cubes: A product that is more than just a kitchen gadget, it's a freezer meal-prep revolution with thousands of passionate community group members! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or join our Facebook group for exclusive access to Souper Cubes freezing tips and photos of delicious meals made and frozen with our products across the world! www.soupercubes.com



TNT Pro Series' Tropical Sweat Cream:

For women and men, a thermogenic sweat cream that burns the calories for you. Traveling means leaving your local gym behind. The Mini Hemp Sweat Stick is TSA Friendly (2.7 oz), includes hemp oil, opens skin pores for improved circulation, accelerates warm-up and recovery time and may help fight muscle fatigue and painful injuries by delivering therapeutic effects to ailing muscles! Plus, the roll-on feature is nice for easier clean up. \$14.99. tntproseries.com



TableTopics®: These sets are fun conversation starters for any and every occasion. Our thought-provoking questions have helped millions of people spark engaging, meaningful conversations. Each themed set is full of questions you would have never thought to ask, and you'll get to know your friends and family even better. tabletopics.com

Trixent Forever Young Collection: A range of comprehensive skincare created to combat the signs of aging. Each product is uniquely designed with highly combative antioxidants to penetrate the skin and repair imperfections. Here is a complete range of skincare products that are simple to use and will definitely bring out that youthful glow! www.trixsent.ca

YES Cacao's Bliss Out Botanical Chocolate:

To quiet your mind and get your nervous system back on track when you're feeling overwhelmed and too stressed to sleep. This pioneering brand uses only organic, raw cacao grown in soil that's rich in minerals, watered by rain and wild harvested from old growth trees in the Ecuadorian jungle. Paired with the right adaptogens, superherbs and botanicals, you're privy to a chocolate experience that's pure, potent and tailored to your goal. www.yescacao.com



Final Journeys

Farewell to our Escapees Friends

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

We appreciate notification of the deceased by caring friends; however, if possible, 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.

HAND, ROY KENNETH #102821–OCTOBER 30, 2022: (LouAnn, 45323 Park Sierra Dr. #508, Coarsegold, CA 93614) Roy died peacefully after four weeks of complications in his heart, lungs and kidneys. Roy chose to stop all treatments. He did not want to travel the road ahead; he said, "We can't live forever. It is time for me to go see Jesus." The Lord was gracious and took him quickly. We were married for 64 years and were partners in life where we worked and played together. We have been members of SKP Co-Op Park of the Sierra in Coarsegold, California, for 12 years, where Roy worked in maintenance. We also hosted in Indian Waters Park, in Indio and Pismo Creek RV Resort, in Pismo Beach. I will continue to live and work at SKP Co-Op Park of the Sierra as long as I can.

HILL, J. LAWRENCE (LARRY) #4226–OCTOBER 16, 2022: (Gayle Longwell 38 Private Road 5246, Hondo, TX 78861) Larry, age 91, died from an unexpected and sudden illness, but not before all of his immediate family gathered with him one last time. He was married to Barbara Hill for 62 years before she passed from Alzheimer's in 2015. They joined Escapees in 1985, began full-time RVing in 1986 and became life members in 1991. They were original members of Lone Star Corral and he was past president of the Board of Directors and served the co-op on many committees. Larry enjoyed working at Escapade in his "younger" years. In 2017, Larry and Gayle found companionship at the co-op and began to share the RVing and traveling lifestyle together, as well as all the co-op had to offer. Larry's RV travels took him to all 50 states and throughout Mexico and Canada. (Reported by son, Michael Hill #62839.)

HOROVITCH, ARTHUR #55814–DECEMBER 29, 2022: (Suzan, C407-1451 Brookdale Ave., Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. K6J 5B5) Art died from cancer only one day after his 80th birthday, with his children and grand-children at his side. He had been talking about getting back on the road.

STAHLER, LORA #72866–JANUARY 6, 2023: (Earl, Desert Paradise #36, 1090 Highway 70 W., Alamogordo, NM 88310) Lora died from cancer. She loved living in RVs and traveling with our dogs.

RVers Good Neighbor Policy

Overnight Parking Etiquette

Dear Fellow RVers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We wish you safe and happy travels,

 **ESCAPEES RV Club®**

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



March/April 2023
www.escapees.com



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Top-Rated RV Protection | Personalized Service | 5-Star Customer Support

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY
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)
- RVer Job Exchange (looking for work or to hire)
- *Escapees* magazine (digital versions and archives online, too!)
- Escapade (annual rally with education and social opportunities)
- RVers Boot Camp (fundamental RV training)
- SmartWeigh (accurate and detailed RV-weighing service)
- Member News (biweekly updates on events, benefits, and articles)
- 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)
- Xscapers (working-age lifestyle group with events)
- Mobile App (access membership and mail on the go)

Association Specials

- Escapees Roadside Assistance
- Product discounts on tires, batteries, and more
- RV insurance (full-time RV specialists)
- Financial and legal services
- Opportunities for additional savings through partnerships with other RV clubs and organizations
- CARE (rest, recover and recuperate)

A Comprehensive RV Park System

- Escapees Parking System—friendly, clean and fun. Reservations available.
- An extensive network of parks across North America, offering Escapees members 15-50% off overnight rates
- Home-base options, plus short- and long-term parking/leases

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR INFORMATION REQUEST

Mail to: Escapees RV Club, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351
Call: 936-327-8873 or Visit: 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 **\$49.95***
(Canada and Mexico, add \$10). All payments in U.S. currency.
(Your address will not be sold.)

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

Last Name

First Name

Partner

Street

City

State

Zip

My e-mail address

Contact phone number

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 ____/____

