

ESCAPEES

Sharing The RV Lifestyle



FINDING A CAMPSITE

Boondocker's Digest Part VII

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IT'S TIME TO VOTE AGAIN

Voting and Domicile for full-time RVers

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SOLAR-POWERED FULL-TIME LIVING

Is It More Sustainable?

PAGE 44



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Happiness isn't having a fairy godmother wave a magic wand to grant your particular goal. Yet, how often we play that game: "I'll be so happy when I get married, when I have my first child, when my last child leaves home or when the house sells and I can go RVing full-time." Or "I'll be so happy when I win the lottery!"

Achieving a particular goal is no guarantee of perpetual happiness. Happiness is enjoying what we are doing today, as well as planning what we are going to do tomorrow. Happiness is not a person. It is not an event. It is not a "thing" you acquire.

Happiness is an attitude you carry with you wherever you go and with whatever you do. It is accepting the realities of life no matter how unfair or painful those realities may be. It is enjoying where we are now, enjoying life moment-by-moment as we move ever closer to tomorrow's goals. The only truly happy person is the one who doesn't let the enjoyment of today get lost in tomorrow's dreams. 🐾

EXCERPT FROM KAY PETERSON'S EDITORIAL PREVIOUSLY
PUBLISHED IN ESCAPEES MAGAZINE, MAY/JUNE 1986

Kay Peterson
Co-founder **ESCAPEESRVClub**®



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On the Cover

PHOTO BY EMILY FAGAN #99408

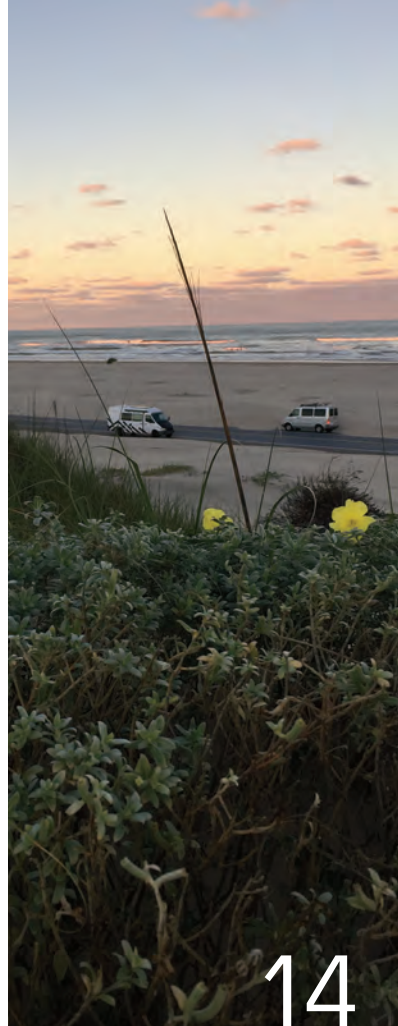
This beautiful photo was contributed by Emily Fagan. She says, "The unique sunrise with layers of pink and blue in the desert sky around our camper caught my eye one morning during our stay in Quartzsite, Arizona."

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TAMMY JOHNSON #39557
Editor, *Escapees* Magazine

Happy 44th birthday Escapees RV Club. Another birthday has rolled around for the club, and like many of its members, it just keeps getting better and better and, it even seems to be getting younger. Or, perhaps better at inspiring a younger generation, I should say. Nowadays, instead of the club being predominately a retirement plan option, it is truly being recognized as an option for anyone who dreams of taking off on a path of adventure and rediscovery, whether they're still working or not. In the past 27 years I've been with the club, it seems that there has never been more opportunity than right now for Escapees to work and play.

Not only is the club all-inclusive in regard to age groups, it is also open to all types of RVers. Whether you are a seasoned traveler or someone who has barely gotten those tires dirty, the club has something for you. And, most of you have a supportive story to share, and what better outlet is there to share your knowledge than with *Escapees* magazine. We've been sharing your stories since 1978, when the publication was in it's infancy as a five-page newsletter.

We appreciate all of our contributor's support, no matter how small the content. As you flip through the pages of this issue, maybe you'll find something of value or inspiration that will help you along your travels. Then, think about paying it forward with something you can share that will help another Escapee. Caring and sharing has always been the Escapees motto and, due to the integrity of both the club and it's members, it truly delivers on a promise.

Take a look at our "Events Calendar" in the member section of this issue to find fun Escapees gatherings near you. No matter where you are or where you plan to be this summer, there is sure to be something happening nearby. From chapter rallies, to HOPs, to Hangouts and Convergence get-togethers, there's something for everyone.

I hope you find joy on your journey this summer, and get ready for a hug or handshake from your fellow Escapees along the way. 🚐

ESCAPEES

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Your RV Questions

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

Vaseline for Batteries

Q. In a past issue of *Escapees* magazine, there is a recommendation to use Vaseline to help avoid battery corrosion. Do you apply a light coating on the battery terminals before or after attaching the positive and negative cables? Would a coating of Vaseline interfere with making a good connection?

Roy



A. The Vaseline should be applied after the connection is made and secured. Just rub a small amount over the terminal and connector. You can also use a purpose-designed battery terminal grease (See below for online examples). However, I have found that Vaseline does the job just as well.

- www.amazon.com/NOCO-CB104S-Battery-Corrosion-Preventative/dp/B004AWO4N
- www.amazon.com/CRC-Battery-Terminal-Protector-Aerosol/dp/B0013J7RAI



Portable Pump

Q. I have a SHURflo2088/2093 series portable pump that has not been used for over a year. Now, when I turn it on, it runs constantly and with very little pressure from tap? Any suggestion for how to fix this problem?

Janet

A. Be sure that the pipe from the freshwater tank is tightly connected to the pump inlet and that there's water in the pipe and no air bubbles. Open a faucet and run the pump for a minute to let it purge and prime. If it doesn't start to flow water properly, shut it off and remove it from the plumbing system so you can disassemble it. This may require draining the freshwater tank and the RV's plumbing system before removing the pipes from the pump. Once you have the pump in hand, it's easy to disassemble the pump head and clean the valves. They come apart easily with the removal of a few screws. Usually, you'll find something in one of the valves that's keeping it from seating. Simply clean the valve assembly with soapy water, then rinse and reassemble. This will usually fix it. If not, you can buy the pump head as a replacement part, or buy a complete new pump.

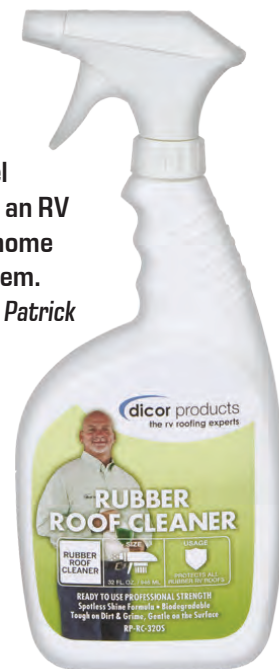
Roof Stains

What is the best way to remove leaf stains on a fifth-wheel EPDM roof? We had a recent storm come through while in an RV campground, and it was several days before we returned home and discovered the stains. We have not tried to remove them.

Patrick

A. The way I deal with roof stains is to "pretend not to see them." This has been working fine for me for years, and, let's face it, the roof isn't visible to others unless they're in a helicopter.

If you simply must clean the roof, you can use Dicor's rubber roof cleaner (RP-RC160C), but many folks use either Simple Green or Spic n Span. A stiff scrub brush and a bucket of warm water with some Dawn dish soap and some bleach works pretty well, too. Always wet down the sides of the rig before washing and rinsing the roof, or you're likely to get streaks down the sides. Be extremely careful, because that rubber gets really slippery when wet and soapy, and a fall from the RV roof can seriously injure you! Never use any cleaner that contains petroleum distillates, abrasives or citrus oil on the rubber membrane. Mineral spirits can be used sparingly by moistening a rag with it and rubbing a stain or gob of sap, but use as little as possible, then wash the spot with soap and water. If these methods and products don't remove the stain, you're better off leaving it there than trying to remove it with a solvent or abrasive!



Summer Storage

Q. I have a 34-foot Airstream that I am planning to leave at my RV site in Casa Grande, Arizona, for the summer. Do you have any suggestions for summer storage in the desert heat? We have tinted windows and were told not to use aluminum insulation as it will get too hot and break the windows.

Bob

A. You won't have trouble with mildew or pipes freezing with storing an RV in the summer heat. The big problem is heat buildup inside the RV. You need to remove all items that may be damaged by heat, including laptops or sensitive electronics, food or liquids of any kind, toiletries and cleaning products and photographs. Basically, anything that can melt or is sensitive to the heat will need to be removed.

Clean and vacuum the interior. Drain all tanks and leave the dump valves closed. Check tire pressures and cover the tires. Check electrolyte levels and disconnect the batteries. If power is available, put a trickle charger on them.

I'm not a fan of foil on windows, but you might consider covering all windows on the inside with silver bubble-wrap-type insulation. This will prevent sun damage to drapes and blinds and also add a small amount of insulation. An alternative might be a white breathable RV cover over the entire rig.

It is necessary to provide for some air flow. I suggest leaving a roof vent open about an inch and opening a window on the opposite end of the RV.

Some folks leave several five-gallon buckets of water inside to help provide a little humidity.

Air Conditioner

Q. We have a 2001 Sunnybrook 27FKS that is stored inside and is in like-new condition. Last summer, when arriving at campsites with the temperature above 80 degrees, I would turn the thermostat down to 73 degrees and turn on the A/C. The fan came on immediately, but the compressor took five to 15 minutes to come on. After running about five minutes, the compressor turned off. Then it took another five to 15 minutes before the compressor came on again. Sometimes it takes hours to cool down the trailer. When the compressor is working, the air flow is cool. Where do I start looking for the problem?

Norman

A. There are a number of things that can cause this problem. If the air filters or the evaporator coil are clogged, the reduced airflow can cause the compressor to only run for a short period before it cycles off. It is easy to check. If the airflow is fine, then something in the controls is causing the short cycle-time.

Some air conditioners have an interior brain board that controls the compressor and fan. I have seen them located in a small metal box in the air passage, usually accessible if you remove the interior shroud. This board may be defective. It could also be a problem either with the compressor itself, or the entire refrigeration system, like a restricted passage or orifice, or from the compressor protection circuit not working properly. It could also be a bad start capacitor. If visual inspection of the unit for air flow restrictions doesn't turn up anything, you'll most likely need to have the unit serviced by a HVAC technician, as most of the other problems are not something the average owner is equipped to diagnose or repair.

Dust in Trailer Interior

Q. When we go camping in the Utah desert, we often drive on dirt roads. When we get to camp and put out our slide, the trailer floor is full of fine dirt, and dust is on the counters, cabinets, etc. Is there something on the slide that may not be sealing correctly, or is this an inherent problem with slides? I'm frustrated that we have this problem when the RV is so new.

Daina

A. Most slides don't make an airtight seal, but they should be a lot better than what you are describing. Are you, by chance, leaving a roof vent or a window open when you travel? If you do, that can actually create a low pressure (slight vacuum) inside the RV and suck dust and road vapors into the coach. If you have no open vents, it may be worthwhile to have the slide seals inspected, especially if the unit is still under warranty.

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.

Portable Generator Umbrella

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

This gadget is a do-it-yourself solution to keep the rain off your portable generator.

A portable generator is a great option for RVers, as it lets you produce your own electricity at a reasonable cost. It's great for trailers, as it doesn't require expensive generator prep or the addition of a fuel tank. It's great for motorhomes, even if you already have an installed generator. A small portable generator will run for hours on very little fuel and is easy to transport and maintain. I have a Honda EU1000, and I love it, but I have always worried about running it in the rain. Sure, you can place the generator underneath the RV, but I dislike the noise and always worry about exhaust fumes. I prefer to place the Genset away from the RV, but that leaves it exposed to weather. It turns out, that I simply needed an umbrella!

- First, buy a compact umbrella. It doesn't have to be an expensive one.
- Next, you will need some kind of spike on the bottom of the handle to keep it secure. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways: You can simply drill a small hole in the removable cap at the bottom of the handle and glue a three-inch wood screw in the hole. If the handle doesn't come apart, just use a hose clamp to attach the spike.
- Pick up a standard cup hook
- Screw it into the side of the plastic case on the generator. Be careful not to block any controls or drill into anything important.
- To use the umbrella, simply open it, shove the spike into the ground next to the generator, and slip the stem of the umbrella into the cup hook. The spike makes it surprisingly wind-proof and it will keep your generator dry without affecting air flow or exhaust. 🚚



PARTS LIST:

- 1 Cup Hook
- 1 Cheap small (compact) umbrella
- 1 3" deck or wood screw
- Glue or hose clamp as needed.

TOTAL COST: under \$10



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Due to a family emergency, Escapees needs to replace the Weighmaster at our permanent site at North Ranch, in Congress, Arizona. This is a great opportunity to help your fellow RVers while enjoying the nearby attractions in picturesque Arizona and Nevada. This position is open to all Escapees and Xscapers. Training can be tailored to your schedule or completed during Escapade 61 in Lebanon, Tennessee.

The position offers monetary compensation and a flexible schedule.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, E-MAIL
SMARTWEIGH@ESCAPEES.COM



Lug Nuts

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

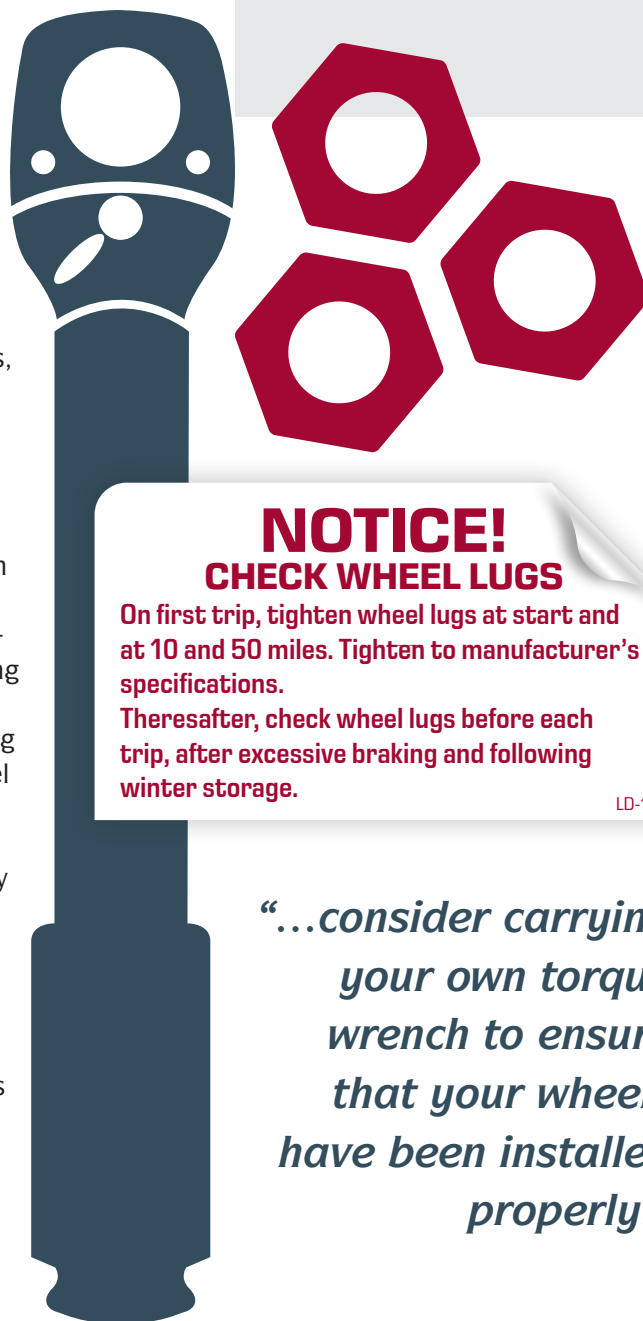
An important item that is commonly overlooked is the lug nuts on the wheels of our vehicles. Lug nuts are essentially fasteners that secure the wheel to a vehicle. In order for the lug nuts to do their job properly, they must be torqued to the recommended specifications for your vehicle. These specifications are usually found in the owner's manual or from the dealer. In some cases, the torque specifications would be on a sticker on the side of the RV.

In order to properly install new wheels or to reinstall wheels, due to a flat, or for general tire or wheel maintenance, this calls for the stud to have clean threads that are free from grease or dirt. Lug nuts are started by hand until they are snug against the rim. The next step would be to use a lug wrench or impact wrench in a crisscross pattern. To finish the tightening, it is recommended that an accurate torque wrench be used to set the proper torque on the lug nuts.

If a lug nut is over torqued then there is the chance of stripping it, stretching or breaking the stud or bolt or even distorting the rim, the brake drum or rotor. Lug nuts should be torqued only when they are cool and never when they are hot. If the lug nuts are under tightened then there is the chance of the wheel coming off the vehicle.

After wheels have been installed and have traveled 50 to 100 miles, the lug nuts should be retorqued. This is necessary due to the metal compression or thermal stress that can affect the wheels as they roll down the road.

A problem that I have encountered with the installation of wheels is the nonuse of the torque wrench. We see that the standard impact wrench is used to remove and install the wheel. I have seen the impact wrench overtighten the lug nuts and strip or break the stud. As an educated consumer, we should insist that a torque wrench be used for the final part of the installation process. If not, then consider carrying your own torque wrench to ensure that your wheels have been installed properly. 🚚



NOTICE! CHECK WHEEL LUGS

On first trip, tighten wheel lugs at start and at 10 and 50 miles. Tighten to manufacturer's specifications.

Therafter, check wheel lugs before each trip, after excessive braking and following winter storage.

LD-101

"...consider carrying your own torque wrench to ensure that your wheels have been installed properly."



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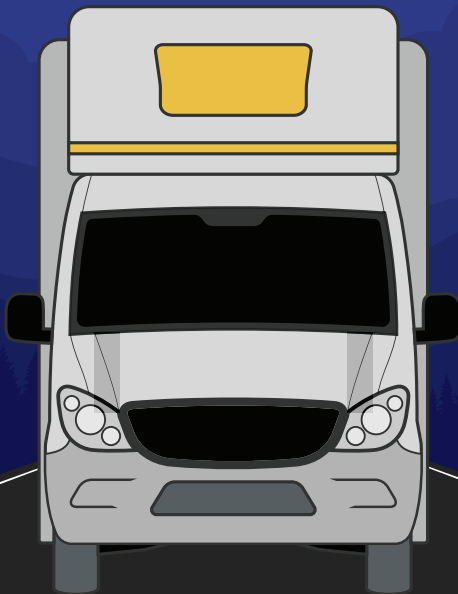




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By The Sea



In 2005-06 we bought a camper in New Zealand and traveled for six months. While hiking on Mangawhai Cliffs Walkway above the South Pacific Ocean in New Zealand, we were surprised to see sheep on the trail. (Although I don't know why we were surprised. We saw sheep everywhere we went!)

BY JOYCE SPACE #61818



My husband, Larry, holding a crab in White's Bay, on the north shore of the South Island, on Cook Strait, in New Zealand.

BY JOYCE SPACE #61818



In summer of 2010 we traveled in Newfoundland, one of our favorite RVing places. On a trail in Gros Morne National Park I (Joyce) had fun posing on this sea stack which rose above the Gulf of St. Lawrence. BY LARRY SPACE #61818



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

SO22 (DUE MAY 10) RVING IN AUTUMN
JF23 (DUE SEPT 10) REFLECTIONS
MJ23 (DUE JAN 10) ROADSIDE RELICS

ND22 (DUE JULY 10) WINTER WONDERLAND
MA23 (DUE NOV 10) FLORAL UTOPIA
JA23 (MARCH 10) LOOK WHAT I FOUND!

Books for RVers

By MARCELLA GAUTHIER #12371

Rene Agredano and Jim Nelson #103274, frequent contributors to *Escapees* magazine, have created some wonderful books. *Be More Dog*, first reviewed in the May/June 2020 issue of *Escapees* magazine, is the story of Jerry, their German Shepherd dog who, after being diagnosed with terminal cancer, had to have his leg amputated. His illness motivated Rene and Jim to quit their workaholic lifestyle, sell their business and possessions, and set off to travel as a pack in their RV. Jerry demonstrated to them how to live in the present and enjoy all life's adventures. This awareness started them down their current life's journey 15 years ago. They created a blog and support group for three-pawed pack members at www.tripawds.com. From that came another book, *Three Legs and a Spare: Essentials of the Canine Amputation Recovery and Care Handbook from Tripawds*. Most recently, they have created an instrumental book about living and working on the road, utilizing the knowledge and their website www.liveworkdream.com. This is an excellent book from these two intrepid RVers and is this month's feature book.

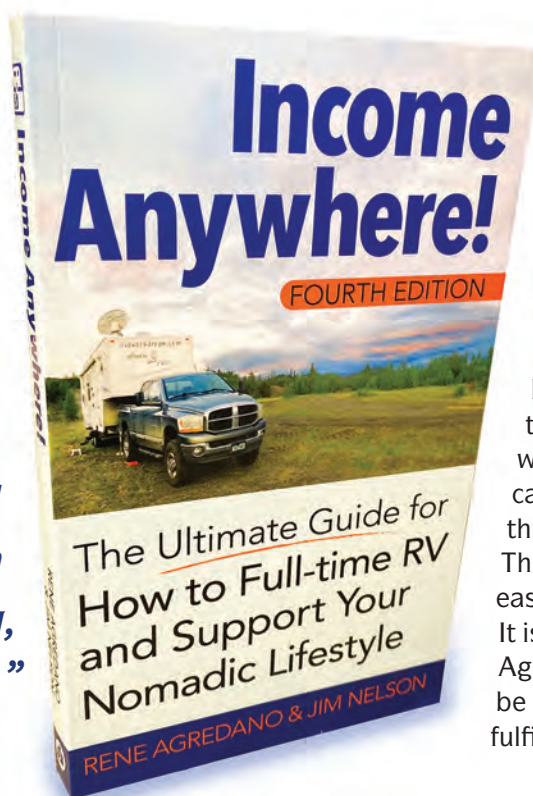
"...with the Agredano's guidance, you could be on your way to an enriching, fulfilling, nomadic life."

Income Anywhere! The Ultimate Guide for How to Full-time RV and Support Your Nomadic Lifestyle

RENE AGREDANO AND JIM NELSON #103274 • AGREDANO COMMUNICATIONS 2019
ISBN: 978-1-7334689-3-0 • PAPERBACK \$13.50 • E-BOOK: \$7.50

Rene and Jim have over 15 years of working on the road. Their newly revised fourth edition book is currently number one in RV and Travel on Amazon, with many rave reviews. It is up-to-date with the latest information, including numerous employers offering opportunities and side hustles for working from your rig, work-camping resources and many other income-producing tips. When the covid-19 pandemic hit, they and others found themselves in situations that required thinking of inventive ways to create an income stream. Many people have decided that they like the work-from-home freedom to create a self-sufficiency lifestyle and are unwilling to go back to stuffy office jobs. Although this book is set up for RV living, many of the things that Rene and Jim have discovered can also work

in stable environments with some adjustments. Entire chapters on home-based businesses, gig economies, self-employment opportunities, blog creation and e-commerce suggestions are included in this book. This is one of those books that will provide you with many things to consider and dream about. Rene and Jim share the tools they used to discover what would work for them, and you can use their examples to work through your decision process. This is a marvelous book and an easy, thought-provoking read. It is inspirational and, with the Agredano's guidance, you could be on your way to an enriching, fulfilling, nomadic life. 🚐



Free and Low-Cost Parking Finds

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

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

Colorado

COLORADO CITY: Diamond Shamrock gas sta, lg fairly level gravel lot in rear. O/N OK. Free. I-25 x74. Trucks, quiet at rear of lot. RV lanes for gas or diesel. Great restaurant across the hwy.

Circ and Cindy Toepel # 141223

FRUITA: Welcome Ctr/RA. Free D and flush W, separate fresh W (but very close to flush W), flush toilets (24 hrs), trash barrels. 10-hr O/N limit, 1 time only. I-70 x19 either direction, go S. Room for several lg rigs. Can leave rig unattended no more than 4 hrs. Showers at pool area of Community Ctr 1 mi away, \$4. Free WiFi from Library in pkg area. Trucks also use, so it can be noisy. Ctr has good, free maps of BLM areas near Fruita and Grand Junction. 970-858-9335.

Dennis Rosenblitt #91444

GRAND JUNCTION: Whitewater Trailhead, gravel pkg lot (BLM). Free. No posted stay limit. Nine mi SE of town on US 50 at Whitewater, TR on 1st St, go 0.2 mi, bear R onto Coffman Rd, go 1.0 mi. 38.99172 -108.4728. Can be busy during the day, esp on weekends. Good Verizon.

Greg and Kim Ketcher #140941

HARTSEL: Antero Reservoir (Denver Water). 32 gravel RV sites, tables, fire pits, pit toilets, trash service. Free. 14-day limit, out 7 days. US 24 between US 285 and SR 9, between MM 232 and 233, go 1 mi N on gravel rd signed "Antero Reservoir" and "South Shore Antero Reservoir," to CG. Quiet hrs 10p-6a. Pets on leash. No unattended units for more than 24 hours. Boat launch. CG near lake shore, no trees. Mtns in distance. Elev 8942'. Poor cell service. Closest D and W in Fairplay at Middlefork RV Park.

Steve and Gail Ault #41031

MAYBELL: CP. Five, 30-A E sites, 5 BD sites. Central W, D (at N side of park near RV sites), showers, toilets, trash barrels. BD \$15, E \$20, + shower \$3, D \$5, day-use free. US 40, N side, ctr of town. Any size RV. AT&T OK, No Verizon. 970-272-3080, 866-332-8436.

Jim Nelson and Rene Agredano #103274

Idaho

BONNERS FERRY: Meadow Creek CG (NF). 21 BD sites, tables, grills. Central potable W, vault toilets. \$15, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit. Go 3 mi N from town on US 95/US 2, TR (E) on US 2, go 2 mi, TL (N) on Meadow Creek Rd (Meadow Creek CG brown sign, narrow but paved), go 10 mi to just past RR crossing, TR (S) on OK gravel rd, follow signs 1/2 mi to CG. From the N take Moyie River Rd S (paved) 10

mi to jct. with Meadow Creek Rd and gravel road to CG (do not take Eileen Rd suggested by GPS app or device). 48.81928 -116.14806. Lower loop has sites along Moyie Riv/some solar. Weak AT&T, better near pipeline easement. Weak Verizon. Turnaround in upper loop is tight.

Wayne and Carol Thomas #119083

BUHL: Balanced Rock County Park. Gravel sites, tables, grills. Toilet, trash service. Free. 7-day limit within 30. From jct US 30 and US 93 2 mi E of Filer, go 2 mi S on US 93. TR (W) on 3700N at MM 39.5 (N42.53471 W114.57411). Go 19.2 mi (paved entire distance, getting close when rd starts to get winding). N42.5433 W114.94965. Could also go S to 3700N on 1000E or 1400E, closer to Buhl. In narrow canyon next to slow moving stream. Good gravel interior rd/sites. Check ahead, limited lg-rig turnaround space. No Verizon in canyon, but good coverage out of canyon. Quiet. 1 mi further is Balanced Rock viewpoint.

Mark and Sue Bryer #86611

IDAHO CITY: Granite Creek Rec Area (NF). Several BD sites, stone fire rings. Free. 14-day limit. 3 mi N of town on SR 21, MM 41, E side, TR on FR 327 (43.83133 -115.79415). Many dirt BD spots on R (43.83057 -115.7926), OK for many lg rigs. Paved lot on L signed "No O/N Pkg."

David Jones #93117

OROFINO: Level gravel lot (ID Fish & Game). Pit toilet. Free. 10-day limit within 30. From jct. US 12 and SR 7 go 0.2 mi NE on SR 7 across bridge over Clearwater Riv, then TL (NW) on SR 7 to follow riv to Ahsahka. 3.3 mi on L. 5 RVs any size. N46.49968 W116.30897.

Paul Codyer #151338

Montana

FAIRFIELD: Freezeout Lake WMA (MT Fish & Wildlife). BD area, 5 tables. Pit toilet. Free. 14-day limit within 30. N of town on US 89 between MM 28 and 29, go W into gravel area, continue W 1/4 mi, turn N into camping area. Fits 5-6 lg rigs. Camping allowed by all pit toilets and in mowed pkg areas. Some rds are narrow. tinyurl.com/2e48fuw9

Al and Sharon Florida #86865

SACO: Nelson SRA CG (BOR). 10 undesignated BD sites, some with tables & firerings. Vault toilets. Pavilions. No W. Free. 14-day limit. 2 mi N of US 2 on Hwy 243. Gravel access rd. N48.49214 W107.5334. Along Nelson Reservoir. Most sites have both trees and open areas for satellite. Quiet. Boat launch nearby.

Mike Myers #64252





THREE FORKS: RA/David DeLaitre Memorial Park, gravel lot. Tables at storage bldg. Privately owned, but no prohibitive signs, owner gave permission to park O/N. I-90 x278, go S on Main St, bear R at sign “to 287,” go 1.7 mi on David DeLaitre Memorial Hwy, watch for patrol car on a platform on L, lot is behind storage bldg. Sm-med rigs. Boulders make maneuvering hard for lg rigs. Good Verizon.

WEST GLACIER: Apgar CG (NPS). 194 BD sites, tables, fire pits. Flush toilets, hot showers, bear boxes. \$20, S/A Pass 1/2. No reservations. Full by 9 am (must get thru entrance gate before 6 am if you don't have a 'Going to the Sun Hwy' ticket). 2.5 mi N of US 2 on Going to the Sun Hwy. Spotty Verizon, free WiFi at Visitor Ctr, amphitheater on lakefront has evening programs, nearby Lake McDonald has swim, fish, kayak. Bike trail to Visitor Ctr, Apgar Village and town.

Jack and Dottie Barry #65881

Oregon

AUSTIN: Bates SP. 28+ BD sites, tables, fire rings. Potable W. Vault toilet. No D. \$11 May 1—Sep 30, \$7 off-season. Open May 1—Oct 31. From John Day go 28.3 mi E on US 26, TL (N) on SR 7, go 1.1 mi, TL on CR 20, go 0.5 mi. Or, from Unity, go 21 mi W on US 26, TR (N) on SR 7, follow above. 44.59249 -118.50984. Sites for tents or self-contained RVs, all 50' long. Firewood (\$). 5.2 mi of hiking trails. Near Middle Fork John Day Riv, Bridge Creek, Clear Creek and Bates Reservoir. Fishing.

Bob McCullough #110158

DAYVILLE: Phillip W Schneider Wilderness Area. BD site. No facilities. Permit required, \$10/day, \$30/yr, purchasable at stores or odfw.huntfishoregon.com (printer required). No known stay limit. From US 26 in town, go 5 mi S on

Southfork Rd (1st 1.5 mi paved, rest is washboarded dirt). Site is on R immed before OR Fish & Game-maintained alfalfa field (planted for the grazing animals, maint twice a day by friendly local rancher). 44.41099 -119.5418. On bank of South Fork of John Day Riv. Room for 6+ sm-med rigs. tinyurl.com/3w472ur5

Paul Codyer #151338

GOLD BEACH: Huge gravel bar along Rogue Riv. BD. No facilities. Free. From US 101 MM 328 (S side of Rogue Riv bridge), set trip meter to 0, go 9.1 mi E on Jerry's Flat Rd to Lobster Creek CG on L, 42.50158 -124.29606. Drive thru CG onto gravel bar, drive 1/2 mi back down riv outside NF land (where camping is not allowed). 42.5032 -124.29499.

Clyde W Sisler #109916

SISTERS: Rodeo grounds, lg dispersed dirt area behind. 3.5 mi SE of town on US 20, between Harrington Loop and Peterson Ridge Rds, just SE of Bend/Sisters Garden RV Resort. Tall trees, some shade, some easy access for lg rigs. Room for many rigs.

Glenn and Denise Nawa'a #130500

Washington

AIRWAY HEIGHTS: Northern Quest Resort & Casino, paved pkg lot. Free. 7-day limit with player card. Someone drops off an info packet incl a sign-in form, leave it with valet at main entrance. WB I-90 x277, go W on US 2 4 mi to Hayford Rd, TR (N) (EB I-90 x272 go N on Hayford Rd), TL S of Casino to designated RV spaces behind movie/dinner theater. Shuttle. D and fresh W at Chevron just S of casino, \$5, free with fuel purchase. Good Verizon.

Mike and Donna Kuper #116641

DAYTON: Caboose Park, a gravel pkg lot behind Main St. businesses. Free. No posted stay limit. From US 12/E Main St, go NW on N 1st St. Lot is on L across from the RR caboose, immed before RR tracks. 46.32013 -117.98181. Quiet, well lit, shaded, grassy.

Paul Codyer #151338

GLACIER: Sno-Park, lg level gravel area. Free, permit required 11/1—4/30. 14-day limit. Go E from town on SR 542 (Mt Baker Hwy, paved) to entrance on L past MP 46, no sign but across rd from sign for Silver Fir CG. Spacious pkg. No cell service. Great info incl rd/trail conditions/closures, at Glacier Pub Svc Ctr open 7-days in summer, MP 34. 360-599-2714. Nearest gas at Maple Falls 8 mi W of Glacier. Nearest D \$15 at priv RV Pk just E of Pub Svc Ctr.

Dennis Rosenblitt #91444

THE DAY'S END DIRECTORY is a useful tool for helping you save money and find safe overnight parking recommended by fellow Escapees members. “Day's End” listings are submitted by traveling members. Please be aware that these listings are not verified by *Escapees* magazine, and the information is subject to change without notice. Want more? Order online or write Guy Gipson, 107 Rainbow Dr., #755, Livingston, TX 77399-1007. Online Search and Download: \$15/year. Include your complete name and Escapees membership number. Order the Day's End, Good Guys and Boondockers Journal Directory by visiting www.daysenddirectory.com

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RVer's Sharing Tips, Opinions and Advice from the Road

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

Rally Preparation Tips

I love rallies! For so many reasons. Picking out the things I want to do, learn and experience while I'm there. The anticipation. And even as an introvert, I look forward to connecting with people who share interests, hobbies and enthusiasm. Once you get past the initial excitement and before you can start looking forward to the rally, there are things you should put in place. Things that help you stay focused on the excitement and not things that will stress you out later.

Hopefully, you were able to register or plan ahead for your upcoming rally. If not, no worries, but you may want to combine some of the checklists into shorter ones so you can still arrive refreshed and ready to go.

Three Month Checklist

- Make your RV departure checklist in advance. This way, you have time to order parts or know if something is not working before the rally.
- Make your RV arrival checklist. Now you'll know that when you go to set up, everything is packed and ready to go.
- Plan your route and ensure you have all the tools to get you there, such as maps, GPS, reservation numbers, etc. Know how many hours you can drive per day and how much time you need for stops and breaks. Plan enough travel days, so you aren't rushed. Allow an extra day or two for bad weather or mishaps.
- Will you be boondocking or have full or partial hookups? Be sure to prep your RV for this scenario.
- Create a packing list of items you don't have that you think you may need. This way, you can take your time finding the best items for the best value and check them off your list as you find them. Create a central area where you can begin storing rally items with your checklist.

Two Month Checklist

- Review your travel itinerary. You can't review it too many times. One time I had an extra day between stops because I had the check-out date wrong. If you review, you can catch these issues and still have time to correct them or compensate for them.
- Research the area where you will be attending the rally. Are there other things you might be able to see while you are there? Do you have other hobbies or interests you can bring to the rally or do on-site?
- Will the rally have special events that will require special items? What about coffee talks in the morning—do you need to bring a chair? Are there specialty nights where you might want to wear something you don't usually pack? Add this to your packing list.
- See yourself physically going through complicated events. Is there seating and do you need to bring your own drinks (what cups do you need?), how will you carry everything? Again, add these items to your packing list. How will you get from one rally activity to the next?

One Month Checklist

- Review your travel plans. You can't review them too many times. One time I had us coming into a location a day later on our schedule and departing a day earlier. If you review, you can catch these issues and still have time to correct them.
- Reach out to groups where other rally attendees will post their travels and plans. Exchange ideas, make connections for meetups and smooth the way for meeting people before the rally or along the way.
- Print out any parking tags, reservation numbers or anything you need a physical copy of and start a travel document folder.
- Do a thorough cleaning of your rig inside and out. Or, better yet, will they offer rig washes on-site that you want to take advantage of?
- Check the weather for your departure. Do you need to delay or adjust hours or days due to high wind, flooding or other issues?

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

Ant Infestation

I enjoyed Mark Nemeth's answer to the question about ants in the March/April issue. It reminded me of a similar problem when I was a full-time RVer a few years ago.

I had a container of fresh herbs that I would put outside our door whenever we stopped for a few days so the plants could get some sunshine. One day I noticed I had an ant infestation inside the rig. I did my best to eliminate the little buggers. All was okay for a few days and, then, the ants were back. It took me a long time to make the connection. We stopped for lunch unexpectedly one day and when I went inside the fifth-wheel there they were, all around my herb garden. Problem solved. I laughed as I thought how mischievous they had been. They never came out of the container while we were stopped, but ran amok while we were in motion. So, the one time we stopped unexpectedly they were caught. I took the herb container outside, dumped it and threw it in the trash. Oh my, the number of ants in that container was unbelievable! That was the end of my garden, and my ant problem.

Mary Halley #48381



More on Ants

I, too, have used the product (Terro Ant Killer) to eliminate some tiny ants living in our coach. It works well. However, use caution when buying the product.

Open the package and check the liquid to be sure that it is clear and colorless. If it has a yellow tinge, it is beyond its useful life and will not work. Ants living in the ground are more difficult to control. The product placed next to ant trails will work to reduce their activity but the bait needs to be covered so that animals do not come by and lick it up as it can be harmful to them. For ants living in the ground I have many times used an Ant and roach spray. Locate the entrance to the ant nest and spray the area (about 6" diameter) heavily until the area is quite wet. Next slowly pour water (about 1/2 to 3/4 quart) on the spray to carry it down into the nest. I have eliminated enough nests around our coach to keep the ants out. Rest assured, there are more out there.

Brandon Granger #79881

- Do you like to display things outside of your rig, or will you be encouraged to do so at the rally? Make sure you have all the items you need to tie things down, anchor or display when you arrive.
- Go through everything you have packed or that is on your packing list. Does any item have a dual purpose? Is there something you can leave behind or not purchase for your trip? The last thing you want to do is bring so much that you make your trip complicated!
- Plan out a meal menu, so you don't have to think about that when you arrive. Will there be potlucks at the rally? Plan for that, including the disposable eating utensils you need. Create your grocery list.
- Does the rally have an app or an online program schedule? Download it and get familiar with it to know potential plans and what to do when you arrive.
- Do you have pets? Will they come with you? What will you do with them while you are attending rally activities?

Two Week Checklist

- Purchase food, snacks, and groceries you will need during the rally. Avoid fresh items that may not make the trip.
- Confirm your dates, times and locations if you have planned to meet up with anyone.
- If you are a business owner, have business cards to hand out (digital versions for those prepared to use them). If you aren't a business owner, you might want to hand out calling cards to stay in touch with your new connections?

One Week Checklist

- Prep any meals you can ahead of time so you don't waste any rally time.
- Check to see the weather while you are at the rally. Do you need to plan for bringing last-minute items like umbrellas, extra blankets, coats, rain gear, etc.?
- If you aren't full-time, pack up your RV with all your food, clothing and essentials, and don't forget medications, licenses and other important documents.
- Fuel your rig or know where you can stop for the best fuel rates.

At the Rally checklist

- Have fun!

You did all this planning and preparation for a reason: so you would free up all your time at the rally. Now, it's reward time. Take away those meaningful friendships, learning experiences and memories you might have otherwise missed because you were making lunch in your RV, or tracking down a black tank hose.

Lucinda Belden #159950

camping chair chat

Doggone Karma

Many of us frequent campgrounds either as a destination or a stop along the way. So there we were, in Flagstaff, Arizona, home of the Snowbowl. Any ounce of research would have told us to keep driving south. But we did not, and we had given away our trusty-dusty mini propane heater to a person who needed it, so, when the temperature dipped below freezing, our only options for heat were a campfire or an electric heater. We ended up booking a few nights at the local campground, plugged our heater in, and slept in the warmth.

But, being in such a populated area, my guard was down, and I left a few things outside that we would normally pack up at night such as our love-seat camping chair and a milkcrate with a bag of dog food. Potentially dangerous wildlife could have been drawn to our campsite or our property could have been stolen.

What actually happened: I heard a noise outside and peeked out to see a small dog trying to get into the bag of dog food. My natural reaction was to gasp audibly in the same manner I do when my own pups are up to no good. This little dog looked at me and put its entire mouth around the folded-up end of the 13-pound bag, picked it up and ran off down the trail.

Since I had no money for more dog food and the brand was expensive, I took to running behind this dog

though it eventually weaved through campsites and lost me. I told the campground manager about the situation, hoping they could direct me to the pup's human companion who might have possibly discovered a bag of food that was not theirs. However, the manager was not sure which camper brought the dog I described.

As an extra unnecessary gesture, the campground paid for a new bag of dog food, and I was sincerely appreciative. I took that as a lesson on many levels. The obvious was that I should always use precaution with food items. Even further, it was instilled that our most valuable possessions should always be put away. I also learned that I am not the runner I was in prior years and was very disappointed to see the distance across the campground compared to how much running I felt like I had done. My favorite lesson of the entire story though is that we find nice people along our travels who will be understanding.

One week after the thievery, I saw the dog outside a gas station waiting for the owner. When the owner came out, he was very clearly a traveler like myself and I decided that bag of dog food magically showing up at his campsite in the night might have been something he really needed.

In the end, we all won because I recommend that campground any chance I get!

Meghan Maloof, Guest Contributor

Rainbow at Rainbow's End

Judy captured this photo of her RV parked under a full rainbow at Rainbow's End in Livingston, Texas!

JUDY RINEHIMER #89390



Washer/Dryer Combo

Almost 10 years ago, on our first date, I told my future wife that I dreamt of one day traveling throughout North America in an RV.

With much blessing, planning and the alignment of most of the planets, we are now full-time RVers. We researched redundant Internet systems (my wife works full-time from a cubicle I built in the rig), read up on boondocking, joined Escapees and prepared to hit the road. One question remained, though: what would we do about laundry?

This was important. Adding a full work cubicle inside our rig meant that I would not have room to install a micro-laundromat, and I really wanted independence. And let's face it, I like clean sheets. So, as a design engineer, I set about finding a solution.

What I came up with is a little unusual: I mounted an all-in-one washer dryer combo unit into the back of our toad, a Jeep Wrangler. With some trial and error, here is how it was done.

We needed a combo unit that would fit under the roll-cage in the Jeep with some design wiggle room. The unit I chose was from LG. Not only did it fit, but it is WiFi capable when connected to my phone, so I receive a notification when a load is done.

The unit needed to be leveled, so it sits on three layers of plywood with perpendicular piano hinges between each of the layers. Each layer can be adjusted using hand-pumped air bags, which are similar in design to blood pressure cuffs. The double-bag design I chose is usually used to pry open doors when keys are locked in vehicles.

We had plans to do some light off-roading in Moab, so the washer/dryer had to be secured. I used adjustable ratchet straps, attached in front to the child-safety connection points and two cargo connections in the back.

For added safety and support, we keep the 60/40 split rear seat up in front of the unit, and a 1" thick foam stadium seat on the rear gate (and in case you are curious, the stadium seat is attached with Velcro so that it can be used as intended).

A hose extension was added to the water drain line so that it could reach a collection tank, which is nothing more than a water jug with a hole drilled through it. The jug top was adapted to fit a garden hose, which gravity feeds to the RV sewer line.

The outside shower was removed and replaced with quick-connect couplings so that we could wash with hot



or cold. An empty water bottle was perfect to use as a support, as it is flexible and compressible.

Quick-connect couplings were used to connect to the hot and cold lines, with a tee used on the hot side so that I could bleed it before each wash until hot.

Finally, a 10-gauge electric cord connects to the 30A side of the campsite pole. The unit would pull too many amps and would overheat if a smaller cord was used.

So, there you have it. Although the wash capacity is much smaller than we are used to, it works well. The only problem we have encountered is that the combo unit does not remove lint with a screen; since it is washed out through the drain hose, I periodically have to check the valve at the sewer two-way splitter for plugging.

I tried to keep it simple by using existing components, like stadium seats and empty water bottles. No need to reinvent the wheel. And, of course, we used color coordinated hoses for hot, cold and drainage. A little OCD never hurt anyone.

I hope this inspires you to think of your own creative solution. Follow my Dad's advice: if you want it, go build it.

Paul Antle #172819



Motorcycle Towed on the Front of RV

With a small class-C, it's possible to simply drive the RV anywhere, but I wanted the option of sightseeing or running to the store without breaking camp. Towing a car defeats the best aspect of a small RV, making it harder to maneuver and park, and it adds complexity. My answer is to carry a small street-legal motorcycle, a Yamaha TW200. Since most class-C RVs are already heavy on the rear axle, carrying the bike on the front helps with weight distribution. The bike and custom carrier weighs around 350 lbs, so the load is well within the 600 lbs of capacity I have available on the front axle. I built the mount myself and added DOT-legal snowplow headlights to the package since the bike blocks the stock headlights. I've carried the bike for more than 50K miles, including two trips to Alaska, and never had a problem, other than having to clean the bugs off it.

Mark Nemeth #45776

Telescopic Tool

Hi there! I have an unconventional tip! Actually I have to give credit to my now 12 year old. Adam's task on travel day is to remove the blocks from under the leveling jacks and bring them to the storage compartment. But he hated having to climb under the RV because we often park on gravel, and sometimes there is mud. So, he took the telescopic window cleaning tool and used it to pull the blocks out.

I'm 47, and I also hate getting down on the ground to get them out, so I use it, too.

We've also discovered it's great for pushing up small tree branches that can't be avoided while putting out the slides.

We've used it to push or pull objects out from under our RV.

We even use it to hold up one of our compartment doors that probably needs a new shock.

And, if that wasn't enough, it also removes the snow from our tow vehicle after an unexpected snow fall. Keep in mind that in some states it's illegal to drive with snow on your vehicle and you can face steep fines.

Frankly, it's used more for the unconventional uses than it is for its intended purpose.

Who knew it could be so useful?

By Holly, Joshua, and Adam Blake #153276



Opinions contained in "Unconventional Solutions" are not necessarily those of the Escapees RV Club, its officers or the membership in general. This column is for *Escapees* magazine readers to share helpful hacks, RV modifications or any type of clever design that may resolve a problem, or make a task easier. Escapees RV Club accepts no responsibility for what is expressed here by any person, group or company. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting. Submissions that are sent by e-mail can be directed to editor@escapees.com.

Eighty Years of Learning, Loving and Leaving

By **RUSS JOHNSON** #96114, CARE Director

After 11 years as Director of Escapees CARE, it is time to retire! My Life began in Cleveland, Ohio, learning about Catholicism and becoming an altar server in grade school. Volunteering to serve refreshments at high school meetings followed. Thus, began a career of serving others and learning early to be open to everything; closed to nothing! On weekends in my senior year, the US Army taught me to cook, preparing me for active service after graduation. Two years of active duty, during the '61 Berlin Crisis, provided night school benefits toward an accounting degree and CPA certification. Added studies in data processing and computers provided a foundation for opportunities with eight major companies and four small service firms. The largest included Caterpillar, Terex, Daewoo, PNC, Standard Products, Work Wear Corp., Elwell-Parker, and the largest architecture firm in Ohio.

My learning curve was steep due to many different products, procedures, computer languages, markets, people skills and time management. My titles of president and vice president did not stop me from doing whatever was necessary for people to succeed. I loved finding people who could be helped to achieve greater success by recognizing their worth to companies. Caterpillar, in the 70s, was very male-oriented, but there were many capable women who deserved promotions, and an intelligent, but timid, clerk, with my encouragement, became a manager and tripled her income.

In the early 80's recession, I created a no-cost outplacement firm to help folks find work. After patiently training an unemployed bartender, he became a super phone salesperson, giving him confidence to reunite with his family. A city needed help in their finances, and a farm magazine needed assistance in publications.

Sometimes, we are confronted with terrible heart-ache. One of my sons, Chad, suffered a broken neck during a fraternity hazing at Kent State University, leaving him a quadriplegic. To help him, the hospital trained me to nurse him in all functions to which he was no longer capable. The impact on his mother was more than she could bear, and she left the family. For my son and I, it was a new learning experience. A local college was doing research work in computer-assisted hand and arm movement. He volunteered to undergo surgery, putting wires in his arm to activate movement in his hand for grasping bottles or glasses. We researched Chris Reeve's foundation to find help in power wheelchairs, adapted cars and other devices to help move him



Russ and resident, Barb Myers, enjoying a beautiful day, in the garden, at CARE.
PHOTO BY CRYSTAL SAULTERS #149374

out of bed or chairs. Although, we did our very best to live life anew; the strain on his heart took his life after seven years in and out of hospitals. All the other kids had married and left. I sold the house, bought an RV and traveled for five years with the Escapees Solos.

All this led me to volunteer at Escapees CARE, in 2012, when a new director was needed. With 35 sites, there were only 12 to 15 residents. After working as the maintenance manager, I gave my resume to Kay Peterson and several board members. I felt I could greatly improve CARE. They hired me in 2013. In 2012, our health fair earned \$8,000, and in 2014 it earned \$58,000. All areas increased or improved: 55 Residents, 62 sites, two new paved roads, five new generators for all sites/buildings, new walk-in freezer/cooler, convection ovens and commercial dishwasher, plus cash flow to carry the operations forward based on current donations. If your heart and mind are open to everyone and everything, nothing is impossible! 🚗

Escapees CARE Needs Volunteers and Donations!

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



There's a lot to see and do in Greene County, Ohio

The Historic Clifton Mill is one of the largest water-powered grist mills still in existence.

The theme for Greene County, Ohio, could be “Friendly people and natural beauty.” A welcoming and fun destination is waiting with winding country roads complete with covered bridges, hiking and biking trails, waterfalls, the famous Clifton Mill, great shopping, art and excellent dining opportunities.

There are several areas to hike, bike, canoe, kayak and golf. Clifton Gorge, for example, is a 268-acre National Natural Landmark and encompasses an outstanding example of interglacial and post-glacial canyon cutting. Water rushes through the natural canyon funneling through a deep, narrow channel.

The walkway is easy and scenic as you overlook the water and listen to its roar. There are lovely wildflowers, including the rare snow trillium during spring and summer.

Indian Mound Reserve, a county park, is home to Cedar Cliff Falls, wildlife and unique geological structures along more than eight miles of hiking trails. The 169-acre park features historical and natural features. A dam created to power two historic mills now attracts visitors to the park for its scenic falls. Native Americans including the Adena and Hopewell constructed an earthen mound and an earthen wall on the property a millennium ago.

Several other parks for hiking are scattered throughout the county. The hub for the nation's largest network of paved trails is also located in Xenia. There are 340 miles of trails throughout Southwestern Ohio, including paths leading to Dayton, Cincinnati, Piqua, Urbana and London.

Historic Attractions

Historic Clifton Mill, built in 1802, is one of the largest water-powered grist mills still in existence. The mill was built to take advantage of the natural power of the concentrated water funneled from the Little Miami River



skp stops



Natural beauty abounds at Indian Mound Reserve. Top Right: This covered bridge is new. Citizens decided to replace an existing bridge with this charming replacement. Bottom Right: Locally-owned shops in Yellow Springs line the streets.

into the Clifton Gorge. Today, you can still see the mill operate, converting water power into energy. Tour the facility to see early machinery and see how stones are still used to grind grain into flour.

The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (NAAMCC), located in Wilberforce, has one of the nation's largest collections of African American materials, including artwork, historical artifacts, manuscripts and thousands of photographs. The museum's collections are used by researchers and museums from around the world, including the Smithsonian.

The county also has an abundance of historic communities offering fantastic shopping and dining opportunities. Yellow Springs, established in the early 1800s, is a great example. This community has a lot to offer for its small population, including many artists selling their creations.

Village Artisans, an artist coop is a great place to pick up beautiful locally-made crafts and art, including works made of glass, wood and ceramics, and jewelry, paintings, photography, sculptures and fabrics.

White Dove Originals feature custom-made hardwood furnishing, plaques and signs. Another excellent place to shop for art is Yellow Springs Pottery. The cooperative has ten members producing a large selection of hand-made pieces.

Little Fairy Garden is a good example of the distinctive shopping opportunities here. It offers tiny plants, gnomes, terrariums and fairies. Other locally-owned shops line downtown streets making for an excellent shopping experience.

While in Yellow Springs, make sure and stop for lunch, ice cream and family-style fun at Young's Jersey Dairy. The working dairy farm also features a petting zoo, miniature golf and batting cages. Another great restaurant is Peach's Grill featuring American food and live music.

In nearby Dayton is the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force; another great reason to visit this slice of Ohio.

Each community, park, shop and restaurant are filled with friendly and welcoming people. There is so much to see here and a great destination for a weekend or longer.

Go, have fun and enjoy the natural surroundings. You'll be glad you did.

For more information: www.greenecountyohio.org or call (937) 429-9100.

By Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor





A Great Jersey Shore Destination

Seaside Heights, New Jersey

If you've ever watched an episode of MTV's Jersey Shore, then you have glimpsed the sights and sounds of fun-loving Seaside Heights.

For more than 100 years, tourists have flocked to this barrier island that separates Barnegat Bay from the Atlantic Ocean, for sun, sea and sandy beaches.

Permanent residents account for less than 3,000. However, the "population" swells to as many as 65,000 during the summer months.

Seaside Heights was incorporated as a borough in 1913, and named for its location on the Atlantic Ocean. In 1915, the "amusement" idea began to take shape when the Senate Amusement Company of Philadelphia planned to build a covered pier to house a carousel.

However, budget issues stalled the project in 1916, so it sold to another businessman who made the ride a success.

The completion of a bridge connecting the island to the mainland and Toms River in 1914, plus the carousel and boardwalk, led to population growth between 1920 and 1930. Entrepreneurs built more attractions and the boardwalk was extended.

But, Seaside Heights has had its share of disasters. Because of a malfunctioning neon sign, there was a significant fire in 1955. The fire, driven by 50-mile-per-hour winds, blew the fire south, engulfing the entire pier. A total of 85 buildings were destroyed, with an estimated four million dollars in damage.

Beginning on October 29, 2012, substantial portions of the boardwalk were damaged, and much of the borough flooded due to Hurricane Sandy. In addition, both the Funtown Pier and Casino Pier suffered



damage, with sections of both piers torn apart by powerful storm surges and waves, causing many rides to collapse into the ocean. Eight months later, with the boardwalk completed, tourists again came to the resort town.

In less than a year, a 10-alarm fire swept from the Funtown Pier northward. The fire, believed to have originated from under the boardwalk, was stopped when fire crews tore out the newly replaced boardwalk at Lincoln Avenue.

Visiting Seaside Heights today, you would never guess there had ever been such devastation. Often thought of as a place for young adults to party in the clubs and bars, the town is also an excellent family destination.

Casino Pier is an amusement park situated on a pier extending approximately 300 feet into the Atlantic Ocean. The boardwalk stretches for two miles and offers many family-friendly attractions ranging from arcades and games of chance, to restaurants and shopping opportunities. And of course, there is the beach.

I lived in Seaside Heights for five years and enjoyed my time there. My apartment was replaced with a condominium complex, but most of the community looks the same.



Rebuilt twice since I last visited, even the boardwalk looks the same because many of my old haunts are in the same places.

Seaside Heights is a fun destination for anyone wanting to leave their troubles behind, enjoy the sea air, take a swim and try their luck at a game of chance. I can highly recommend this destination.

Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor



The Seaside Heights beach runs the length of the boardwalk. Above: Casino Pier is filled with kiddy rides, a roller coaster, and Ferris wheel to name a few.





Fort Davis National Historic Site *Fort Davis, Texas*

Fort Davis National Historic Site, named after Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, is one of the best remaining examples of a frontier military post. Our visit started out with a 15-minute video about the history of the park. We then toured the informative museum at the visitor center.

There were two Fort Davises. In 1854, the first Fort Davis was established to protect travelers, mail and goods going west between San Antonio and El Paso. At that time, many travelers were also heading to the Gold Rush in California. The U.S. Army abandoned the first Fort Davis in 1861, but during the Civil War, Confederate troops occupied the fort from 1861 to 1862. In the summer of 1862, Union troops again took possession, but soon abandoned it. The buildings were shabbily built and quickly deteriorated as it lay deserted for the next five years.

Between 1867 and 1881, the Buffalo Soldiers (all-black troops) were the only troops stationed at Fort Davis. That's when the building of the new Fort Davis began with well-built buildings that have lasted over the years. By the 1880s Fort Davis had become a major installation with more than 100 structures and quarters for over 400 soldiers.

Many of the duties were related to protection from the Indigenous Americans, who were forced into Mexico during the last campaign in 1880. In 1891, the military consolidated its frontier garrisons and declared that Fort Davis had outlived its usefulness, and the fort was once again abandoned.

In 1892, a contractor moved 100 bodies from the Fort Cemetery to San Antonio National Cemetery. Over the years the buildings and land had various uses and passed ownership a few times. Eventually, local citizens began campaigns to preserve the buildings. In 1961, the Fort was designated as a national historic site. Buildings were preserved and a few were restored. Visitors can go inside or look through windows of the restored buildings, some of which are furnished to the time period.

There is so much more to this wonderfully restored site. Go and learn for yourself about the illnesses that plagued the residents of the fort and the treatments for them; about Henry Ossian Flipper, born a slave and then became the first African-American to graduate from West Point and the controversial accusation of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" and his sentencing for dismissal from the U.S. Army; the history of the Comanches and Apaches and their relationship to the Fort; the history of the Buffalo Soldiers who built the second Fort Davis; what day-to-day life was like at the fort and the problems encountered



Former Enlisted Men's Barracks 1869-1891



The Squad Room-1884 Soldiers' Barracks



Entrance to one of the many hiking trails from the site

with procuring and storing fresh food to feed over 400 people. You can even hike the many trails that lead to the scenic overlooks.

Plan on at least two hours to walk around the site and go into the buildings that have been restored. If you want to read every information board, plus hike the trails, plan on even more time.

There are six spaces for the longer RVs to parallel park. At busy times, it may be better to use your tow vehicle, if possible. There is no food or lodging at the fort but it is located next to the town of Fort Davis, which looked like an interesting place to explore also.

The park hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. It is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Day.

For further information visit <https://www.nps.gov/foda/index.htm> online or call 432-426-3224.

Joyce Space #61818





Texas School Disaster Museum

New London, Texas

Her eyes haunt me. It's a photo of 13-year-old Hazel Pierson. She died at 3:17 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 1937, in the New London, Texas, Junior and Senior High School. Hazel, and all her schoolmates were scheduled to be off school the next day. I imagine they were all excited about having a three-day weekend. But it was not to be. Eight minutes before the end of the school day, an explosion leveled much of the two-story brick and steel building. The blast was so

powerful that it sent a 4,000-pound piece of the concrete floor 200 feet in the air crushing a nearby car.

Hazel did not die alone in that explosion. The town lost 270 children from the 5th–11th grades, 16 teachers, four post grads and four visitors for a total of 294 people in an event known as “The Day a Generation Died.” Twenty-five families lost two children. Six families lost three. Rescuers, many from nearby oil fields worked far into the next day, removing the dead and wounded from under tons of debris. A 22-year-old named Walter Cronkite was one of the first reporters on the scene.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LONDON MUSUEM.



New London is in the northeast part of Texas, about 30 minutes east of Tyler. It's primarily a farming community, and about 1,000 call it home. There is a granite monument on New London's main street. Around the inside of the base are the individual names of those who died that March day. There is also a small museum across the street from the monument. The museum is filled with photos, and visitors can view several informative videos, but what makes a visit especially moving, are the artifacts one sees, many that belonged to the children and teachers who died that day: A pocketknife, a purse, clothes and books. There's a photo of a girl's baseball team taken earlier that day. Everyone is smiling. The coach and four of the girls died. Several others were seriously injured.

An investigation determined that a gas leak had built in the crawl space under the school. When the shop teacher turned on a sander, a spark triggered the powerful explosion. A new school was built on the site, and it opened in 1939. It is still being used today.

Some good did come out of the tragedy. As a result, a malodorant is now added to all-natural gas in the U.S. Before 1937, none was added to what is a naturally odorless, colorless gas. That's why no one in the school was aware of the gas build-up in the crawl space. So, because of the added odor, the fact that you sometimes smell rotten eggs is a good thing.



I knew nothing about this event until I read about it in a Texas guidebook. As a parent and former substitute teacher, I felt a need to visit the site. I also visited a nearby cemetery where 87 of the children, including Hazel with the haunting eyes, is laid to rest.

Here's a link to the museum. There is also a video on the site you can watch: <http://nlsd.net/Museum.htm>

Marty Johnson #149331



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.

In this issue, we'll talk about how to find great boondocking campsites.

Boondocker's Digest

Part Seven

Article and photos by **MARK NEMETH** #45776

Finding a Campsite



Let's talk a little bit about how to find great boondocking campsites, and how to evaluate a campsite when you get to it.

There are a lot of different sources for free camping and boondocking information. Rather than trying to list them all, these are the ones that I personally use on a regular basis. First, and possibly one of the oldest, is **FREECAMPSITES.NET**. It's a website rather than a phone app, so you have to use a browser to get to it. This site has a lot of good and useful information, cell phone coverage, weather and GPS coordinates for each camping spot, as well as site management and elevation information. The descriptions are quite good, and the reviews are often very helpful. I've probably found about half of my favorite spots using this database. →



“Regardless which app or method you use to discover campsites, I strongly suggest that you use Google Earth to look at those campsites before you drive there.”



Another favorite of mine is FreeRoam, Available as a phone app, and a web-based tool at **FREEROAM.APP** it lists a lot of free camping opportunities. I have also used **IOVERLANDER.COM**.



Available as a website and app, it lists a lot of seriously out-in-the-boonies places, and is a global database, so it's very useful in other countries.

I have found that it's more targeted to people with high clearance vehicles or car campers. Although it's workable for RVs you really have to be careful what you get yourself into.



Campendium is probably the granddaddy of them all and is very well developed. Available as a phone app, and a web-based tool at **WWW.CAMPENDIUM.COM**.

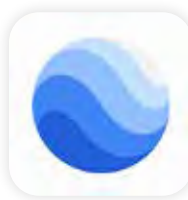
Besides listing all kinds of camping, including paid private and State and National Park campgrounds, there are a lot of additional features, including a premium paid account called RoadPass. Many RVers find it to be the only resource they need.

All of these tools are crowdsourced, meaning that the information is provided by traveling campers. Some sites are not updated as often as I'd like them to be, and, occasionally, I will travel to a camping spot that no longer exists, but overall, they are great tools for any Boondocker.

If you have an RV GPS, either the Rand McNally or the Garmin, the built-in camping databases are pretty impressive. I have the Garmin RV890, and often I will just ask it to show me all available camping within a certain area. It pops up a lot of really interesting free and low-cost camping. My 890 even has the ioverlander database built into it!



Finally, one of the best sources of information about local boondock spots are local people. Talk to folks in laundromats, visit the local ranger's office or talk to the rangers, if you see them roving about the lands. I have also gotten some great tips from local law enforcement. If I see a sheriff cruising through the place where I'm staying, I always wave them down and have a friendly conversation. Often, they will tell me about some choice spots to camp. Other RVers are also a great source for parking spot info.



View Before You Go

Regardless which app or method you use to discover campsites, I strongly suggest that you use Google Earth to look

at those campsites before you drive there. Although Google Earth will not give you complete details, it will show you enough to let you know what you're getting yourself into. It's also quite helpful to look for other RVs in the satellite imagery. Often, this will give you some idea of where people who go there regularly like to park.



If you're accessing a boondocking area that is down a dirt road, and your RV is not a high clearance vehicle, I suggest that you stop at a safe location and either walk or ride a bicycle and scope the road out before you take the RV down it. This is especially important if you're towing something. If you're running with a small RV or a truck camper or whatever it's a lot easier to turn around than if you have 20 or 30 feet of trailer behind you. I have a little motorcycle on my RV, and I regularly unload it and ride the road before I take the RV down it.

Once you reach the area where you intend to camp, look around and see if there are any signs of places where people typically park. Often, you'll find fire rings and there may be tire tracks or other signs that fellow campers have been there. There are usually a lot of possible choices, so now's the time to consider some things.

Consider the Weather

When you look at a potential parking spot, evaluate it in terms of getting out in case of bad weather. Unless you're in some part of the country where no bad weather ever

occurs (which is nowhere), it's important to think about your departure before you park. Be aware of water flow areas, desert washes, or low areas that may fill with water and become ponds or lakes in case of a large thunderstorm passage. If there are vicious ruts in the road, even if it's dry now, it means that it does get wet and people either get stuck or get buried in those areas.

It's also important to pay attention to the weather forecast for the area you are camping in. There have been a number of times where I have chosen to depart ahead of bad weather, and I have never regretted it. Besides, there's always another campsite a little further down the road.

Be Sure to Look Up!

So many times we pay more attention to what the road or ground surface is like and we fail to notice overhanging branches and low clearances. This is especially important for people who are guiding someone who is backing up. If we're going to be camping out in the boonies, especially in forests, be aware that there is nobody trimming these



trees. It's up to you to watch out for low clearances. Speaking of trees, regardless of where you decide to park, if you are parked so close to a tree or bush that the tree or bush touches your rig, I strongly recommend that you correct that problem. A single tree branch touching the side of your rig creates a highway for ants to enter your living space. It can also keep you awake at night if the wind is blowing by smacking or scraping on the side of your RV.

Solar Exposure

If you have solar panels on the roof, it's important to know the direction of east and west and where the sun is going to travel during the day. I hate getting settled into a perfect parking spot and then discovering that I have poor solar exposure. A handy pocket compass will help a lot with this, or you can use a compass or GPS app on your phone. Check out the many "Sun Path" phone apps available. These will show the path the sun takes overhead!

Elbow Room

Look around and see where any other campers are located in the area you're preparing to camp in. Most people who boondock like their elbow room, so even though there may be a great site really close to some other folks, you might want to look for one a little further away. It's not that people aren't friendly; it's just they may prefer some peace and quiet. Also, try not to park immediately adjacent to a road that provides access to parts beyond. You know what I mean; a lot of traffic equals a lot of dust and noise. I always try to get at least 100 ft. off any main road, and it's a good idea to pay attention to the prevailing wind direction if you're in a dusty environment. It sure is nice to be upwind of dust-producing vehicles as opposed to the alternative.

Never park on or block an access road. Rangers, firefighters and other folks use those roads to get around and if you're parked in the middle of their path they are going to interact with you in an unfriendly manner.

Know the Rules

If you're camping on public lands, it's best to know the rules. Different parts of


the BLM Network have different stay limits, so if you aren't sure about the rules, check with the local ranger's station or BLM office. Camping stays are usually limited to two or three weeks in one spot. The rules will vary: sometimes the permitted stay is shorter, and there are varying rules about how far you must move before you can set up camp again and be legal. Most park rangers are polite and easy going about this, but be aware that if you look like you're living there on a permanent basis, they will be along to give you a hard time. Always keep your campsite neat and avoid creating the look of "I'm here forever." Public lands do not allow you to live on them: you may only visit, and the time period that you can stay is limited and usually enforced.

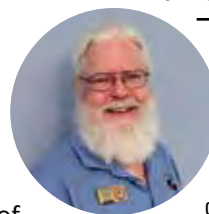
When camping in the boonies, I always tend to follow some simple rules.

- I observe generator hours, and do not run my generator after 10:00 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m. I also limit noise and activity in my campsite from midnight to daybreak.
- I collect any trash laying around and pack it out when I leave.
- I keep a clean and neat campsite and make sure all foodstuffs and garbage are secured so that animals can't get into it.
- I avoid trimming trees, digging holes and making alterations to the site whenever possible.
- I never use a fire ring or pit as a trash can or ashtray.
- I always observe fire bans and I'm careful with fire when it's allowed.

To Sum It Up

There is an amazing selection of tools and information sources to help you find campsites. Once you get to a spot, it's a good idea to carefully choose your campsite, considering weather, traffic patterns, solar and your neighbors before setting up camp.

Next time, we'll talk about escaping the summer heat with some high-altitude camping. See you then! 



MARK travels in a small class-C and has made numerous modifications to his RV to enable him to boondock more easily. He's not saying he's an expert, or the primary source for boondocking information, but he's done it for a number of years and is happy to share some things that he's learned the hard way.

DID I MISS SOMETHING?

If you have boondocking tips or comments to share, send them to me at TECHQUESTIONS@ESCAPEES.COM and I will publish them in a future column.

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



Voting and Domicile for full-time RVers

It's Time to Vote Again

By **K. SUSIE ADAMS** #134068

On a recent trip to Costa Rica, I met a couple that I will call Bill and Dawn. We spent a day together hiking and birdwatching. At the beginning of this hiking tour, as we boarded the tour bus, we had all been asked to tell our names and from where we had come. There were only 10 of us in the group, four of which included my husband, my son and his wife and myself.

"I'm Susie, from Texas," I announced when it was my turn to shout out my credentials.

Bill and Dawn introduced themselves and then said they were from California.

After hiking and sightseeing all day, we stopped at this family-owned restaurant for a late lunch. My husband and I sat at one end of the long table watching birds. My son and his wife sat at the other end, across from Bill and Dawn. We hardly sat down before my son exclaimed, "Mom, Bill and Dawn are Escapees!"

I must admit, the four other guests, sitting between us, turned to look suspiciously at Bill and Dawn, and then at me, just as Bill exclaimed, "Wait, you are THE Susie Adams?"

For the rest of our time together, Bill wanted to ask me a number of domicile questions. His poor wife, Dawn, kept trying to drag him away, but he had a lot of domicile questions and opinions he wanted to share with me. He also let me know that he has read the articles I write and has had a lot of questions over the many years he has been an Escapee.

So, I then asked the rather obvious, but uncomfortable, "legal" question, "Bill, where do you call home?"

Without a pause, he said, "Livingston, Texas!"

"OK," I responded, "then why did you tell everyone you're from California?"

He nudged my arm with his elbow, winked, smiled and was then led away from me by Dawn.

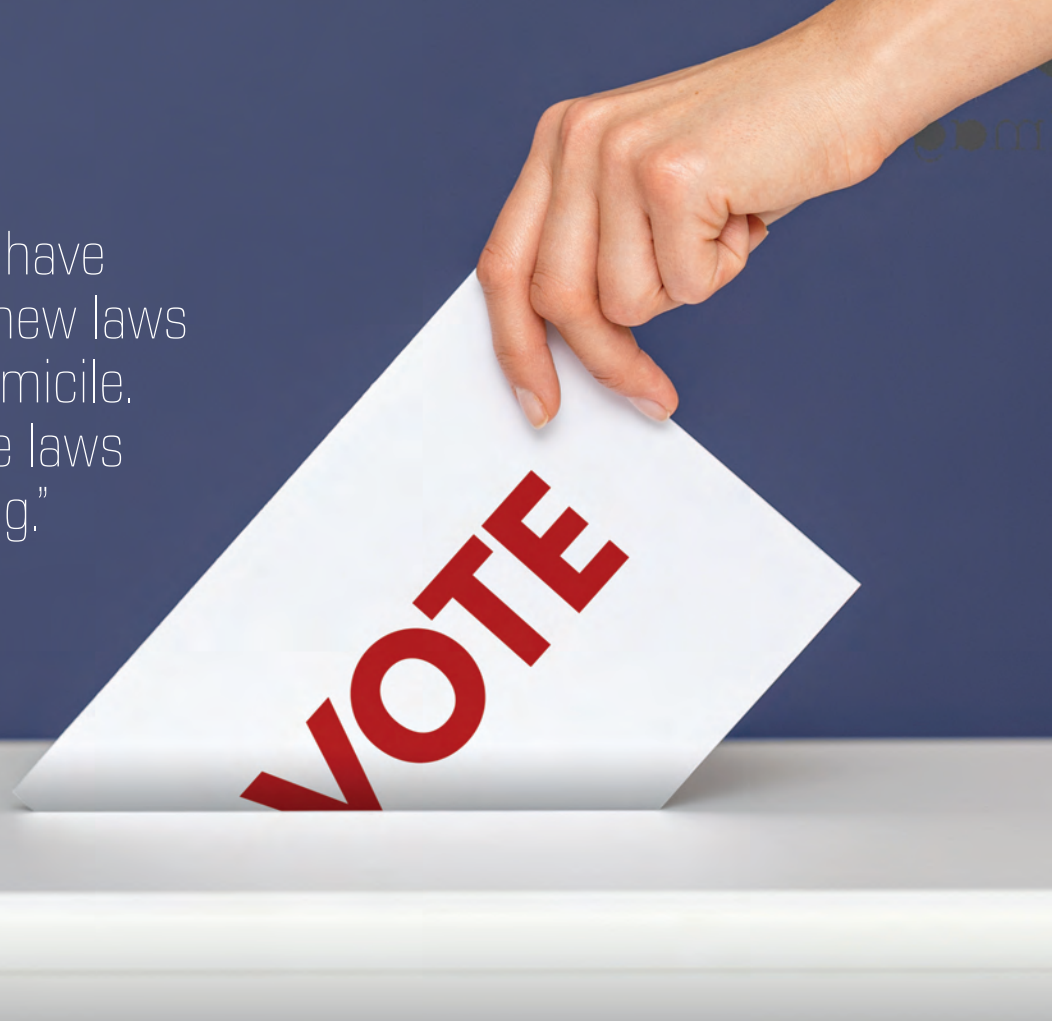
Where you Intend to Call Home

Domicile, as I have written time and again, is "where you intend to call home." The problem with this legal definition is the word "intent." As lawyers, proving "intent" is certainly not an easy task. Usually to prove intent, we must show a person's actions, as "actions speak louder than words." Now for Bill, I wanted to lecture him on these actions. Even though he was only with nine other people on a bus in Costa Rica, calling California "home" undermines his claim that Texas is his home.

Laws Affecting Domicile

Lately, states have also created new laws that affect domicile. Many of those laws

“Lately, states have also created new laws that affect domicile. Many of those laws concern voting.”



concern voting. In fact, in Texas, the new voter qualification laws are more strict than previous laws. Among the new restrictions, the laws require a voter to show that the voter did not just move to Texas to vote. That implies an intent. Escapees has been vigilant at protecting the right of its members to vote in Livingston, Texas, if you have chosen this location as your domicile.

Here is where it gets a bit more tricky. Let's say Bill receives a jury summons to appear in Livingston, Texas, on a certain date, so that he can serve on a jury. At the time, Bill and Dawn are happily cruising in the Mediterranean (I must admit, both did seem to know how to enjoy life). The new voter registration eligibility requirements include this: "I am a resident of Polk County, Texas". Let's say that Bill thinks that if he checks that box "no," then he will no longer receive those jury summons. And he is right. If he checks that box "no," he will no longer receive jury summons.

However, that's not the end of what happens with the jury summons answers. The jury summons are administered by the Polk County District Clerk, Bobby

Christopher. Ms. Christopher's office receives the response to the jury summons that says, "no longer a resident" and she must send that information on to the Secretary of State's office in Austin.

Once the Secretary of State's office receives notice that a particular person is claiming that they should not receive a jury summons because they are not a resident of the county, that person is removed from the voter registration files. That information is then sent to Polk County Tax Assessor/Collector, Leslie Jones-Burks. Ms. Burks' office is also responsible for vehicle registration, which is step one in creating your Livingston, Texas domicile. When she receives notice from the Secretary of State that a person is claiming that they are no longer a resident of the county, they are automatically removed from the voter registration.

Let's say Bill and Dawn return from their trip to the Mediterranean just in time to vote in the 2022 November elections. They have voted absentee in Livingston, Texas, for many years. This time, though, they check online first (because they have →

read this article) and learn that they are no longer registered to vote in this county. Now they have a choice to make. Should they notify the district clerk that they checked the wrong box and that they are residents of the county? On the books, at least, if not in practice, lying on the jury summons form can actually cause one to be fined between \$100 and \$500.

If, however, Bill decides to just forego voting, then he is arguably no longer considered domiciled in Livingston, Texas. If he is spending most of his time in California and no longer has anything but a driver license and vehicle registration connecting him to Texas, then he should probably go ahead and change his domicile to the place he intends to call home, in this case, California.

Now, hopefully, I have cautioned you into being consistent. If you are domiciled in Livingston, Texas, and receive a jury summons, do not check the box stating that you are not a resident of this county. Instead, contact Bobbye Christopher's office. Her staff works well with Escapees. They also suggest that you respond to the jury summons online. Online there is a place for you to check "I am an Escapee." If you check that box, then you will be taken off the active jury summons roster. However, they ask that when you are in Livingston, please let the district clerk's office know so that they can assign you to a jury panel.

Why Vote on the Local Level?

Now, on the issue of voting. As a full-time RVer, why should you cast your vote on the local level? Let's say you call Livingston, Texas, "home" as so many of you do. You have your driver license with a Rainbow Drive address here in Livingston. Your vehicles are registered in this county. As we have just discussed, you may be called to jury duty in the county. Upon your death, your estate will be probated in this county. In short, the elected officials of Polk County, Texas may actually have a profound effect on your life.

Local elections determine who will be the county judges. They preside over probate court, among other duties. The county clerk is responsible for voting rules and regulations, among other duties. The county commissioners determine what money will be spent on road improvement, leash laws for stray animals, where traffic lights will be placed. The county tax assessor/collector is in the office where you also get your vehicles registered and is responsible for vehicle registration as well. That's where you go when you register your RVs every year.

In short, all politics is local. Even though you may not feel that you spend enough time in the place you call "home," which is your domicile, and might not get to choose who runs the county, but you, in fact, will still be affected by decisions made by the local leaders.

Speights v. Willis

In 2002, Escapees, Inc. was involved in a lawsuit in Polk County, Texas, *Speights v. Willis*, No.09-02-192 CV (App. Ct. – Beaumont, Oct. 24, 2002). The court determined in that lawsuit that members of Escapees who had created a domicile in Polk County, Texas, could vote in Polk County, Texas. That is one of the many reasons "establishing a domicile" is so important, especially for full-time RVers.

If you are concerned about whether you have an established domicile, this case is quite helpful. There are also many articles on this subject in past issues of *Escapees Magazine*.

Our law firm, Loring & Assoc., specializes in domicile-related questions. If you would like more information on domicile, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Hopefully, this article will be one of many reminders you receive proclaiming that voting and jury duty are rights and privileges that are based on the location of your domicile and which I hope all will appreciate and exercise. 🚐



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

Vital Details On The 2022 Election Cycle

Here are the vital details on the 2022 election cycle (the primaries have already occurred as Texas chose to be the earliest primary voting state in the nation, so for all intents and purposes, that is over):

The November 8, 2022 Election dates are as follows:

- **OCTOBER 11, 2022**—Last day to register to vote;
- **OCTOBER 24, 2022**—First day of early voting by personal appearance;
- **OCTOBER 28, 2022**—Last day to apply for a ballot by mail (received not postmarked);
- **NOVEMBER 4, 2022** – last day for early voting by personal appearance;
- **NOVEMBER 8, 2022**—Last Day to receive a ballot by mail at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked;
- **NOVEMBER 8, 2020**—General election;
- **NOVEMBER 9, 2022**—Last day to receive ballot by mail at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election site on election day (unless overseas or military deadlines apply)

If you need to vote by mail:

The first step in voting by mail is to apply. The county clerk, Ms. Hock, can send you the application if you e-mail her a request at shock@co.polk.tx.us.

The application might be rejected for any of the following reasons:

- The application was received more than 60 days before the election “held in January or February of the year following the year the ABBM (i.e. Absentee Ballot) was received.”
- Your application was not properly delivered.
- Your application was received after the deadline to apply for a ballot by mail.
- You indicate you are voting due to expected absence from the county and yet the address you have asked to send the application is in the county. Since this may have the biggest impact on Escapees members, please contact Escapees call center for an appropriate, out-of-county, address—936-327-8873.
- If in jail, the address to which your ballot is mailed must be the jail address or a relative’s address.
- Your application was not signed.
- If you had a witness sign, the witness failed to (1) indicate their relationship to you or (2) failed to indicate that you were unable to make your mark in lieu of signature or (3) failed to provide his/her printed name or residence address.
- Your application did not indicate the reason you are entitled to vote by mail.
- For a primary election, you must indicate your party of preference (unless you are 65 or older and have submitted an annual ABBM), you will receive ballots for all but the primary if you failed to put party preference.
- Your residence address of registration was not provided on your application.
- Your application was received after the deadline for receiving the application for a ballot by mail.
- According to the voter registrar’s records, you are not currently registered to vote.
- I could not determine the election for which you are applying for a ballot.
- Your application was submitted via fax or e-mail but you failed to send a hard copy original within four business days.

Other

In Polk County, Texas, County Clerk Schelana Hock has asked that you please send e-mail or cell phone contact information along with your application so that if any of these problems exist and can be readily cured, her office can give you a call. Also, unless you are 65 or older, you must file a separate application for each election, the primary, any runoff and the general election.

*Is it more
Sustainable?*

SOLAR

By **DAVID HUTCHISON AND SHARI GALIARDI** #161101



POWERED BY

Full-time RV Living



“Living simply is not about living in poverty or self-inflicted deprivation.

It’s about living an examined life where one has determined what is truly important and enough...and then just let go of all the rest.”

Duane Elgin, Author and Speaker

Simply is, as simply does. Living life in an RV, van or converted school bus can be simpler and more sustainable; but, in our nearly 10 years on the road we’ve seen folks really struggle to leave their complicated lives behind. We’ve even struggled with this a bit ourselves.

A former colleague told us that living sustainably involves a deep examination of wants vs. needs. That’s worth repeating at a cocktail party, but what does it mean exactly? My wants and my needs aren’t going to work for everyone else. These are deeply personal concepts that take a lot of hard work to sort out.

In our former sticks-and-bricks home, we gave up the New Year’s Resolution nonsense and made a “green” goal for each year. By focusing on one thing, like composting all our food scraps, it became a habit by the next new year. We reduced our energy usage, downsized our needs, recycled, reused and repaired every chance we could. Unfortunately, it just never quite seemed like enough.

The traditional lifestyle we worked so hard to create was not sustainable. The more stuff we owned, the more it owned us. We paid the price in lost sleep, stress, recurring sickness and the unmistakable feeling that we were slipping away from each other. We needed a radical departure. We believed in a life that required less money, less work, more time outside, more time with friends and more time with each other.

Our escape plan involved bringing new life to a worn-out, vintage trailer that had



been retired from “deer camp” service. For \$900 on eBay we snagged this 1957 Sportcraft, canned-ham travel trailer we named “Hamlet,” and spent six months and around \$2,000 bringing him back to life. What we saved in supplies, we more than made up for in labor—a labor of love, blood, sweat and a few tears.

Seizing the opportunity to explore all 50 states, as well as much of Canada and nearly all of America’s national parks, we’ve come close to truly feeling like we’ve got it all. All that we need, that is. But we’ve also realized that “living sustainably” goes beyond a carbon footprint; it includes having time to do the things we love and spend time with the people we love. It means living a more healthy and curious life, pursuing interests for their own sake rather than monetary gain or career advancement.

Environmental Sustainability

How does a lifestyle which involves driving your house everywhere help lessen your carbon footprint? That’s a fair question, and one that we’ve frequently gotten from our



seminar attendees. When you compare our current lifestyle to the average, American household, the picture becomes more clear.

Gasoline

Even with all the traveling we do, all the times we've crossed the Mississippi, we still drive about half the number of miles of the average American couple. Most individual drivers put about 14K miles on their vehicle annually, 28K per couple. Together (the two of us in one vehicle), we average about 16K. When we stay somewhere for a season, we try to walk, bike or take public transportation as often as possible. Are you amazed that the daily commute and soccer practices can rack up more miles than cross-country travel? We sure were.

Electricity

We use the power of the sun to run our lives. For the past 10 years, we have lived, worked and traveled with a very small portable solar powered system. The total cost of our first system was less than \$1,000, which is significantly less than what the average American spends annually for electricity.

Most households spend about \$1,400 per year for electricity for their home (much of which is still coal powered), using nearly 11,000 kWh.

We now have 200 watts of panels on Hamlet's roof, an MPPT charge controller, a 100Ah Lithium Iron Phosphate battery and a 700W inverter. We have a portable panel in case we are parked under a forest canopy. This will allow us to camp in the shade with our panel in the sun. Admittedly, by most RVers standards, our system is still pretty tiny, though it meets our needs for ourselves and our growing mobile business.

Cooking & Heating

As vegetarian foodies, we love to cook with a propane stove and over a campfire. We don't care for electric stoves, microwaves, electric coffee makers or even a toaster. Instead, we save energy and a great deal of money by using a flat top griddle, French press and the amazing Banks Fry-Bake, which serves as both a skillet and oven. We use about 25–30 gallons of propane for cooking and heating, costing around \$150



per year. Compare this to the \$4,500 most Americans spend using about 1,500 gallons!

Water

American homes use around 300 gallons of water per day. Shocked by that statistic? Because we choose to shower two to three times per week, wash dishes in our small tubs, wash clothing only when needed and rarely use flush toilets, we estimate our water usage at about five to six gallons per day.

Financial Sustainability

Getting out of debt is a major factor in living sustainably. We worked hard to pay off debt early in our lives. We have investments for the future, and continue to contribute to our retirement accounts. Getting free from debt wasn't easy to do, but the payoff has been huge, especially while living on the road.

By reducing our "life overhead," we don't need to work 12 months out of the year. We thrive on about \$26K per year (for the two of us)! Between seasonal and online work, we can make this in about four to five months. The rest of the time can be spent volunteering, traveling and visiting friends.

Overall, we estimate that we've spent about \$1,050 per year for our rolling tiny home. This includes the initial cost of the camper, maintenance, annual registration, the solar-powered system and annual camping fees. A traditional home in the U.S. is about \$344K, and living expenses (mortgage/rent, utilities, taxes, furnishings, maintenance) are around \$25.5K annually.

Keeping our costs low isn't rocket science, we simply go back to where we started—we examine our wants against our needs. If we don't need it, we simply don't buy it, and when you live in 72 sq. ft., not much fits.

We use the outdoors as our playground and human powered adventure as much as possible when we are exploring the natural world. Having such a small space encourages us to spend most of our time outside. Since we run completely on solar, we camp in national forests and on BLM land, instead of the more expensive options.

We also do work-trade on farms, volunteer with a variety of organizations, as well as help out friends along our journey.

Personal Relationships

Overall, this traveling lifestyle has given us the gift of time. And it's time we can spend more freely with those we love. With this time, we can better take care of ourselves, sleep more, pursue activities which give us energy, be outside more and give back to projects we believe in. Even during the height of covid-19 in the U.S., we were able to stay safe and still stay connected, although at a distance.

We've also had extended visits with our aging parents. These visits help us have a closer and more real relationship, more so than only spending time with them during holidays and extended summer weekends. Also, we've been able to give back to them by helping with house projects and checking in on how they're getting along. We've actually spent more meaningful time with our parents than when we lived in the same town.

Our growing network of family and friends across the continent is helpful because we can drop in on their lives and get to know their kids, make them dinner, help them with a house project or two and maybe get a shower in the trade. It keeps the relationships strong, and the connections and positive love in our lives powerful!

What Sustains You?

We feel like we've gotten really close to having it all, by our own standards, of course. We're not sure if we have we made it there but time will tell. We know that we feel more in love with this big blue planet and more in love with each other than when we first hit the road in 2012. Though there are very few regions of the country we haven't explored, each time we turn a corner and discover something new, some place beautiful about which we knew absolutely nothing, we feel that same thrill that spurred us to first pull out of our driveway. 🚐



DAVID HUTCHISON AND SHARI GALIARDI

Shari Galiardi and David "Hutch" Hutchison, together with their 1957 canned ham camper named Hamlet, are Freedom in a Can (freedominacan.com). For nearly a decade, they have enjoyed full-time roadlife, explored North America, and parlayed their higher education backgrounds into a mobile business of writing, inspirational speaking, photography, and video production. freedominacan1957@gmail.com



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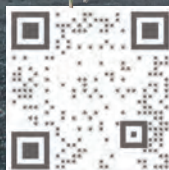
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**TORKLIFT CAMPER ANCHOR
REPAIR/RELOCATION KIT**





OPTIONAL LOCK

FASTGUN TURNBUCKLE

We recently made the switch from full-time RVing in a 36' Hitchhiker fifth-wheel trailer, to part-time travels in a 2005 Arctic Fox truck camper. Putting a camper in our truck bed required that we remove the truck's tailgate so the camper could slide in and out. However, the camper could now slide out of the bed while driving! To avoid this scary scenario, the camper had to be attached to the truck using some kind of camper tie down system. We have always camped away from civilization down the rough dirt roads of public lands, and we realized that our new-to-us truck camper had to have as secure a connection to our truck as possible.

There are many different types of camper tie-down systems. These systems typically consist of turnbuckles that are hooked to anchor points on both the camper and the truck in all four corners. Sometimes the system also includes chain links and/or steel carabiner quick oval screwlock links. The turnbuckles are tensioned so the connection between the truck and camper is tight.

Create a Secure Connection With The

TORKLIFT CAMPER TIE DOWN SYSTEM

Text and Photos By **EMILY FAGAN** #99408



TALON TIE DOWNS

We decided to go with the most rugged yet easy to operate suite of products we could find, and those were the FastGun Turnbuckles and Talon Tie Downs from Torklift. Unlike traditional turnbuckles which must be tensioned or loosened with an adjustable wrench each time the camper is installed on or removed from the truck, the FastGun Turnbuckles are spring-loaded and have a large clamp handle that tensions or releases the turnbuckle when it is opened or closed. Also, whereas many camper tie-down anchor points are installed on the bumper →

Tie Downs

When buying the Talon Tie Downs, it is important to get the correct kit for your truck year, make and model as well as its feature set, such as optional running boards. This is because each truck has a slightly different layout underneath, so the bolt hole alignment and length of the steel sleeves will vary.

Torklift FastGun turnbuckles:
WWW.TORKLIFT.COM/RV/ORIGINAL-FASTGUNS

Torklift Talon Tie Downs for the truck:
WWW.TORKLIFT.COM/RV/TALON-CAMPER-TIE-DOWNS

Camper Anchor Repair/Relocation Kit:
WWW.TORKLIFT.COM/RV/CAMPER-ANCHOR-RELOCATION-REPAIR-KIT

and/or truck bed (not the most sturdy connection point), the Talon Tie Downs are bolted onto the frame of the truck. In addition to these turnbuckles and camper tie down products, we also installed Torklift's Camper Anchor Relocation/Repair kit which gave us beefier anchor points on the camper than the ones that came with it and also positioned them further aft to accommodate the wider fenders of our dually truck.

Talon Tie Downs

Our first job was to install the Talon Tie Downs which are the truck's turnbuckle anchor points. There are two parts to each tie down: the mounting bracket and the anchor point. The mounting bracket consists of a steel square channel sleeve and flange with holes in it for bolting the bracket to the truck frame. The tie down, or anchor point, is also a square channel tube that slides into the larger mounting bracket sleeve and a flange with two holes providing two choices for the placement of the hook on the bottom of each turnbuckle. The mounting brackets stay on the truck at all times but the anchor points can be slid out of the sleeves of the mounting brackets and removed when the camper isn't loaded on the truck.

It required some scrambling under the truck to bolt the mounting brackets onto the truck frame. Each of the four short steel sleeves pointed outward towards the sides of the truck. Two of the mounting brackets were installed on the frame near the back of the truck bed and two were installed near the back of the truck cab. Once installed, we slid the four anchor points into the four mounting brackets and secured them with the round locking pins that came with the kit. The truck was now ready for the turnbuckles. We tested the placement of each FastGun Turnbuckle between the truck anchor points and the camper's factory installed anchor points, and as we expected, the wide hips of the dually truck were in the way of the two aft turnbuckles.

Camper Anchor Relocation Kit

So, to accommodate the wide fenders of the dually, we installed the Torklift Camper Anchor Relocation/Repair kit on the camper. This kit is a long piece of L-channel steel with several open hole

anchor points welded onto it, one at each end and one in the middle. This provides several options for places to hook the turnbuckles once the kit is bolted onto the camper. We were impressed that these anchor points were much thicker steel and were far more securely attached to the camper than the small original anchor points.

FastGun Turnbuckles

Now that we had solid anchor points that were well positioned on both the truck and the camper, we hooked the top of each FastGun Turnbuckle onto camper and hooked the bottom onto the truck. We rotated the large clamp handle on each FastGun Turnbuckle to tension the spring inside, and then closed the clamp to secure it. With the turnbuckle tension set, all we needed to do to detach the camper from the truck was to open each turnbuckle handle and unhook it. To reattach the camper to the truck, we simply hooked each turnbuckle onto its camper and truck anchor points and clamped the handle closed.

Since each FastGun Turnbuckle is uniquely tensioned, there is a label on each one for notating which corner it is set for. We have noticed that each time we load our camper onto our truck, it lands in a slightly different spot in the truck bed, so the FastGun Turnbuckles usually need some slight tweaking to get the correct tension. However that is easily achieved by holding the clamp handle open and turning it.

Lastly, because the FastGun Turnbuckles and Talon Tie Downs are so easy to remove, Torklift sells optional locks to keep the thieves at bay.

For us, having this robust camper tie down system holding our camper onto our truck has given us confidence as we shake, rattle and roll down various dirt roads in our travels. It also sets our minds at ease when we climb steep grades in the mountains. 🚚



EMILY AND MARK FAGAN traveled full-time by RV and sailboat for 13 years and now enjoy RVing part-time. Emily has written over 200 articles for various RV and sailing magazines, and the Fagans' photography has appeared on magazine covers, in commercial wall calendars and even in museums! Follow their blog at roadslesstraveled.us.



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Cold Food

POTLUCK DISHES



By EVANNE SCHMARDER #65409

Stay Cool as a Cucumber This Summer

If it's not already here, it's coming. You can count on it. The dog days of summer. You know what I'm talking about, days that are made for ice-cold, top-shelf gin and tonics, a swimming pool and a good book. The last thing you want to do is cook. I completely understand.

But, just because it's sweltering doesn't mean you don't want to enjoy your site and your friends. After all, our Escapees lifestyle is made for convivial gatherings, preferably around food, drink and good old-fashioned chit-chat. This is one of my favorite ways to

spend a long, lazy afternoon. In my world on the road, every summer day is an opportunity for a late-afternoon-cold-food-happy-hour-potluck, brimming with friends and neighbors and boasting an abundant spread of fresh summer flavors.

Science and Style

A beautiful setting, a posse of pals and a delicious communal dinner are the social part of this summer happening, but there's science involved, too. Did you know that certain foods can have a cooling effect on the body?

Since hydration is especially important on hot days, foods that contain a lot of water such as cucumbers, tomatoes, radishes, leafy greens and cilantro are ideal. Mints, thanks to their menthol, are natural coolers.

Spicy foods like onions and peppers also play their part in regulating body temperature. They do this by triggering nerve receptors in your tongue, telling your body to take measures to cool itself, often in the form of sweating.

Fruits, especially melons, grapes, limes (you added a slice to your gin and tonic, right?) and other citrus, even nutritious coconut milk, are water-rich. Certain grains such as oats, barley, quinoa and various legumes including black-eyed peas, pintos and soy are also considered cooling foods.

Many, if not most, of the cooling foods help your body control inflammation, may help regulate blood sugar and support digestion. Plus, they are delicious and often inexpensive, especially in season.

Easy up

Keep the potluck preparations summer simple: an outdoor speaker with an upbeat playlist, a tablecloth-covered picnic table and a chest full of ice to keep the drinks cold. Ask guests to bring light and easy cold dishes, something they can make ahead of time, say in the cool of the morning or the night before. Use disposable dishes and drinkware or ask everyone to bring their own. If you are game lovers, set up a table in the shade with a deck of cards, your favorite board game or an in-process puzzle. That's it, minimal work, maximum memories.

Even so, a little bit of panache goes a long way. Using cooling foods, we can create something good for us and a pleasure to share. Instead of a tomato salad, how about a classic gazpacho? Yes, there's a reason it's a go-to during Spanish summers. A tuna or chicken black-eyed pea salad can be fancy (and full of cooling foods) and is always satisfying. For pure indulgence, nothing much is cool about this dish, my money's on my husband's killer clam dip. Go ahead, let the music play and the party begin! It's time to chill. 🍷

What's (not) cooking in my kitchen

My personal preference is to prepare dishes the night before so they are chilled, the flavors have mingled and they are ready to enjoy the next day. It's what's for dinner... tomorrow.



Classic Gazpacho

Super simple, refreshing, and tasty!

- **2 lbs ripe red Roma tomatoes, cored and chunked**
- **1 mild, long pepper (Anaheim, etc.)**
- **1 medium cucumber, peeled and chunked**
- **1 small sweet onion, peeled and chunked**
- **3 cloves garlic**
- **2 tbsp sherry (preferred) or red wine (in a pinch) vinegar, plus more for serving**
- **1 tsp sea salt**
- **½ c olive oil, plus some more for serving**

In a large blender (or use a immersion (stick) blender if that's what you have handy), blend the tomatoes, pepper, cucumber, onion and garlic until smooth.

With the motor running, add the vinegar and sea salt. Slowly add the olive oil and blend until the mixture thickens to the consistency of heavy cream. If too thin, add more olive oil and blend until the proper consistency.

If using an immersion blender, strain the mixture to remove any solids.

Transfer to a pitcher, cover, and chill overnight. If it's too thick, add drops of cold water before serving until the gazpacho is the consistency you like. Taste and adjust seasoning before serving. Serve in glasses, drizzled with olive oil and vinegar.





Killer Clam Dip

While this recipe isn't considered a cool-down superstar. In my humble opinion, it's food for the soul.

- 1 8-oz block Philadelphia Neufchatel cheese, softened
- 6 to 8 shakes Lea & Perrins Worcestershire sauce
- 1 6.5-oz can chopped clams (I like Snow's but any brand will do)
- ¼ lemon

Add Neufchatel cheese and Worcestershire sauce to a medium bowl and, using a fork, mash together to combine. Add the clams, including the broth, and mix well. Squeeze the lemon into the cheese/clam mixture and stir. Taste and add more Worcestershire sauce and/or lemon to your liking. The dip will be loose but will firm up when chilled. Transfer to a serving bowl, cover and refrigerate overnight. Serve with the best potato chips you can find (I won't fault you for using a spoon).



Black-eyed Pea Salad With Your Choice of Tuna or Chicken

As versatile as it is elegant, add or omit vegetables to your liking.

- 1 28 oz can black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed
- 1 small sweet onion, chopped
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- large handful of fresh cilantro, parsley, or both, chopped
- 1 can of high-quality tuna or shredded rotisserie chicken, your choice
- white wine vinegar
- olive oil
- freshly-ground pepper

Add the black-eyed peas, onion, pepper and herbs to a large bowl and mix. Season with white wine vinegar, olive oil and freshly-ground pepper. Add the protein and combine. Taste and adjust the vinegar and olive oil to your liking. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Before serving, taste again. The beans will have absorbed some of the liquid. Add more vinegar and olive oil to taste.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPES.



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

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A 10-year-old Child's Perspective on

LIFE *in an* **RV**

By **GABRIEL CARR** #8

Hello! My name is Gabriel Carr, and I am the proud son of Melanie and Travis Carr #8. I just want to talk a little about the amazing Escapees and Xscapers, but mostly about my life. I feel like I am extremely lucky because RVing has made it possible for me to see many things and places even though I'm only 10 years old.

One of my favorite memories was when we were traveling to an Xscapers event, and we got to go to a place called Meow Wolf. It was a surprise to find how great that place was! There's more than one, so if you search Meow Wolf, you will find all of the different locations with different themes. I highly recommend it! Some other awesome places we went while on RV trips were the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore and Las Vegas, to name a few. The point is: I love my life, and I'm really grateful that I have this wonderful life where I get to travel.

When I'm in our RV, you might think I just take a nap or play on a device but that isn't true, well, maybe a little, but most of the time I'm looking out the window at nature, and can you blame me? You have to admit, you really don't know all of what nature has to offer. For example, the Grand Canyon. If you've seen the Disney movie *Encanto*, (warning, spoiler alert) at the end of the movie, Mirabel is upset that she ruined the magic, and that colorful pond is based on a real place!

I have this memory of when my parents were driving to their event, and we had to go to the bathroom. On the back of an RV, parked at the rest stop, was one of our logos, and I pointed it out because I thought it was so cool to randomly run across one of these on our travels. My mom always tells me this story about when I was around five years old, and an RV parked next to us with an Xscapers sticker on it. I was like, "Look mom, it's our family!"

Just one more story, I promise. For our second RV, we had an Airstream trailer and, for some reason, I was

really attached to it. When we were getting a new RV, I cried as they took it away, and I told them, "Don't take my metal home." For a long time after that, whenever we saw an Airstream on the road, I asked my parents when we were going to get our metal home back. I just couldn't accept that we got rid of it, and that RV still holds a piece of my life.

So, I'm going to be honest with you, I've been telling the good part but that's not the full story. RVs have problems, too, and sometimes you even have a bad day and get stuck on the side of the road. If you ever see

"You will be surprised that sometimes when you go from a small RV to a big RV, that the small one will hold a bigger part of your heart."

my dad, you should ask him about the time we got stuck in sand. The hardest thing, in my opinion, is that once you do have to get rid of your RV, all those fun, bad and regular memories are all you have left of it. You might think I'm exaggerating, but I'm really not. You will be surprised that sometimes when you go from a small RV to a big RV, that the small one will hold a bigger part of your heart. But this may not be your experience, remember I'm not a 37-year-old, I'm a 10-year-old. This is from my perspective, and this is my first time writing about my RV experiences, so if you're still reading and actually paying attention, thank you! I really mean it.

And since you are reading this, it means you are probably already a member of Escapees. I want to thank you for being a part of our family, it really means a lot. It is amazing to see so many people support something that means so much to me and my family. 🚐

Photos on page 58: During his RV travels, Gabriel enjoys family time with his parents and younger brother, Decklin.



GABRIEL CARR is the son of President and Vice President, Travis and Melanie Carr #8. Although only 10-years old, he has already experienced many years of RVing. Through sharing his perspective of the full-time RV lifestyle, he carries on the caring and sharing legacy of his family and Escapees RV Club.



MEMBER SECTION

Message From The Board

Making Memories Since 1978

By **MELANIE CARR #8**, Escapees RV Club Vice President and Co-Chief Executive Officer

The anniversary of Escapees always sparks a mix of emotions. Happiness, gratitude and a longing for more exciting times ahead are a few that come to mind. As we turn the corner and enter our 44th year of supporting RVers on their adventures, we can't help but ruminate on just how meaningful the past 43 years have been.

While my memories with the club may not be lifelong like Travis', I will never forget my own personal journey of learning what Escapees was and how it's helped the lives of so many through its support network of benefits and community. I started working for the club over 11 years ago, and from the moment I first ingrained myself into the organization, I felt like I was at home. The fellowship of the staff and members surrounding me was unmatched by anything else I've experienced.

Since then, the bond I've felt with the club has only become stronger and it brings me great joy to see that it's already passing down to the next generation. I was pregnant with our first son, Gabe, when I began my employment, and soon, we'll be celebrating his 11th birthday. In his 10 short years, he has experienced a life of which most can only dream. Countless miles on the road and visiting places as a family are memories that I hope he'll cherish into his old age. But, most importantly, his story line is following that of Travis', where he's grown up surrounded by the most amazing people and already feels an understanding of the power the Escapees community has provided. I have no doubt that he (and Decklin as he grows older) will feel that same sense of belonging I felt when I jumped with both feet into Escapees.

In the spirit of sharing, I've invited fellow board members to take a moment and share some thoughts and/or memories in honor of the anniversary.

Travis Carr #8

As the third generation, it is without question that my life, and who I am, has been molded by this great club. And with that, the Escapees anniversary always brings a whirlwind of memories.

Like the time when Lynn Rogers #2 handed me a water gun during a happy hour gathering, certainly not missing the opportunity to also provide some words of encouragement, a cherished moment of laughter, and maybe a couple of disgruntled faces, that still makes me giggle. And throughout the years, these remembrances also include the not so happy times when countless Escapees members provided their love and support during the passings of our founders, my grandparents, Joe and Kay Peterson #1.

And as we celebrate 44 years, I can't help but feel proud, thankful and at awe as to Escapees accomplishments and those who made it all happen. While there were certainly times when I had wished my parents would have talked a little less "Escapees" growing up, I grew to appreciate why. Escapees to my family is our life, our passion and our drive. A shared belief in values and determination to continue to make Escapees the best it can be. For Escapees is our family, one we love and support with all our might.

Cathie Carr #3

As I reflect on Escapees 44-year history, what comes to mind is the beginning. When Kay and Joe created the Escapees RV Club in 1978, I had already been living full-time in my 24-foot Silver Streak and working from remote locations. You might think that RVing in the early years without Internet, cell phones and credit cards would be the worst part, but for me, it was trying to find people my age. Too often the first question I was asked was if I had borrowed my parents RV for vacation. So, when someone under 60 stepped out of an RV, I was after them like a moth to a flame!

As the Club grew, it became easier to meet people who were living the same lifestyle, though younger



THE PETERSON SPIRIT AWARD

Winners May and June 2022



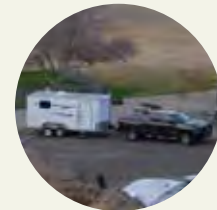
Paul & Tiffany Shetka #134834

Anyone who has attended an Xscapers event probably knows Paul and Tiffany. They are proud lifetime members of Escapes and are often at Annual Bash. They will be some of the first faces to greet you with a warm smile, welcoming you home. Both have extensive track records of meaningful volunteerism and service to other members since the early years of Xscapers. Going above and beyond traditional club volunteering service, they help run the daily operations of events and go out of their way to welcome new members by hosting impromptu group gatherings. They represent the power of our group to act selflessly and to sustain the club as a strong and compassionate community of RVers. This creates a foundation and a pattern for how we all act as Escapes and Xscapers.



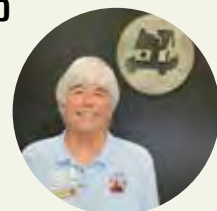
Jacques and Jackie LaCasse #158325

Many RVers often experience a situation of frustration over a critical system issue or failure that is beyond our ability to fix. That was the case for an Xscaper attending the last Annual Bash suffering from a solar and battery system issues. Not only did Jacques and Jackie go above and beyond by consoling, reassuring and educating their fellow attendee, they also allowed him to connect to their battery system while they tirelessly searched for the fault in the system to determine a solution. As the nominator stated in their submission, their commitment to help kept them from quitting the RV lifestyle. While the situation at the time was undoubtedly frustrating and disheartening, Jacques and Jackie exemplify the standards of fellowship, support and friendship we have all come to appreciate as club members.



Deborah Phillips #45708

An Escapes member and Rainbow's End neighbor had a medical accident during a major winter storm in West Texas, ending up in the hospital and unable to drive. After putting out a request for help, Deborah answered the call to assist without hesitation. Upon volunteering to fly to Midland, Texas, she then drove her fellow member and trailer back to Livingston, Texas, where she could receive additional medical attention near her home. Deborah's willingness to care for others and volunteering her time to go above and beyond in this selfless act, is a great example of Escapes philosophies and community.



Judy Rinehimer, SKP# 89390

As one nominator noted, "the Caring and Sharing attitude of this prestigious award is epitomized by Judy's 'can do, will do' attitude." Judy and her late husband, Luke, were key leaders and organizers for the Boomers Balloon Fiesta Rally from 2006 to 2017 and other club rallies, such as SKP Geocaching. Once again, in 2021, Judy stepped up to save the Boomer Balloon Fiesta by volunteering to host the rally even though she was off the road and no longer had an RV. In addition, Judy has volunteered to share her knowledge with fellow SKPs at Escapades, BoF rallies and other gatherings across the USA over the years, and she continues to be well known by the Boomers, Geocachers and many fellow members. Judy is certainly a one-of-a-kind person, always being there when called and stepping up when she sees a need, rightfully earning the nickname "Cool Judy."



Joe and Kay Peterson,
ESCAPEES RV Club Founders

As we celebrate four decades of serving RVers, we want to observe and uphold the spirit of our founders,

Joe and Kay Peterson,

and the feelings of community fostered through caring and sharing. To do this, we have created the

Peterson Spirit Award,

a prestigious honor to be granted to Escapees members who demonstrate our core value by going over and above the expectations of others in order to support a fellow RVer in need.

NOMINATE SOMEONE!

You will need their name and member number (also referred to as SKP #), plus your name, your contact information, a description of the action or behavior for which you are nominating them and an explanation of why you feel this action is worthy of the award. Recipients will be selected from the submitted nominations on a monthly basis by the Escapees RV Club's Board of Directors.

VISIT MEMBER.ESCAPEES.COM/PETERSONAWARD


RVers were still just a tiny segment. Most of the friends I met were in the construction field, but nurses, journalists, photographers, among others, began to discover that they could travel and work, too. Over the decades, the number of younger people in the club gradually began to grow, but it wasn't until this past decade that the circle expanded so incredibly. I can't help thinking how wonderful it would have been to be surrounded by so many of my peers in those early years of RVing!

I know now that my small circle of fellow RVers who sought this lifestyle at a young age, were not so brave and unique after all. We were just fortunate! We were fortunate to have pioneers like Kay and Joe to light our way. Today the same adventuresome spirits have found the gumption to follow the same untraditional path. I can almost hear Joe and Kay whispering, "Way to go!" And I say, "Way to go, Travis and Melanie, for driving the wagons forward with your torches shining bright."

Bud Carr #3

Cathie and I have been in the organization so long that I can barely remember anything else. I was talking to a member once and their assessment of what the Escapee family means said it all. "You know, I belong to a lot of other organizations and clubs, but I am an Escapee." That statement to me says everything about what this organization is and always has been. It made me proud to have a small part in making the club into the family it is. Now, to see Travis and Melanie take the reins and continue the original dream Joe and Kay envisioned makes me unbelievably proud and, hopefully, my grandsons will follow suit.

As we look ahead to our 44th year and what's to come, we promise you we will not be running idle. In addition to our main project list, we have been, and will remain, hard at work checking things off our 2022 resolutions. Park projects are being completed, new partners and resources are being added, new staff members are being welcomed to the family and, best of all, our event calendar is running strong so you can gather with your community!

No matter how long you have been a part of the Escapees family, we hope you will join us in celebration as we enter another year of carrying forward the legacy that Joe and Kay Peterson created in 1978. And with that, I'll leave you with a Chorus from the Escapees Traveling Song: "We've given up our fixed address for something better yet. And we travel with the finest people that we've ever met. So, keep your home fires burning friend as long as we're alive, our home is where we park it—send our mail to Rainbow Dr." 



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Escapees Hangouts: A Sneak Peek at the 2023 Hangouts

By **DAVID AND CHERYL GOLDSTEIN** #126793, Hangouts Directors

Even though we're only halfway through 2022, with four Hangouts still coming up in the back half of the year—the Downeast Maine and Finger Lakes Hangouts in September, and the Carlsbad Caverns Restoration and Texas Bourbon and Wine Hangouts in October—we're already well into planning for 2023! Here is a sneak peek at just a few of the Hangouts already scheduled for next year (the activities listed are subject to change).

WINTER BLAST HANGOUT, FEBRUARY 14–20, 2023 IN LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA:

We return to the Rodeo grounds at SARA Park for four nights of incredible fireworks displays as part of the Western Pyrotechnic Association's annual Winter Blast. Fireworks manufacturers, show producers and other enthusiasts display their latest and most creative pyrotechnics. During the daytime, you'll explore beautiful Lake Havasu, home of the original London Bridge, hike a scenic slot canyon and enjoy live music and other in-camp activities.

PUERTO PEÑASCO HANGOUT, MARCH 24–APRIL 4, 2023 IN PUERTO PEÑASCO, SONORA, MEXICO

After two great Hangouts in San Felipe, Baja California, next year we're changing things up by traveling to the eastern side of the Sea of Cortez. This Hangout will begin immediately after the 62nd Escapade in Tucson, with an overnight stop in Ajo, Arizona, a brief caravan across the border, and then 10 nights of ocean-view camping in Puerto Peñasco. Our activities will include a welcome buffet dinner, sunset cruise, tequila tastings, a paint & sip session at a local tapas bar, a day of fun at Manny's Beach Club, optional deep-sea fishing and ATV tours, an optional eco-tour to the volcanic craters of the El Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve and, of course, plenty of time for soaking up the sun on the beach!

MUSICAL ROOTS HANGOUT, APRIL 16–23, 2023 IN TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA:

In the 1960s, the area in and around Muscle Shoals, Alabama, became known as "The Hit Recording Capital of the World." Famous bands and singers including Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, Percy Sledge, the Osmonds, Mac Davis and Duane Allman came to Muscle Shoals to record hit songs at the Fame Recording Studio. During this Hangout, you'll tour Fame Studios, the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. Other activities will include visits to the Frank Lloyd Wright Rosenbaum House Museum, Helen Keller's home and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, in Huntsville, hiking in Dismals Canyon and lots of live music and great food and drink.

We're especially excited to offer not just one or two, but three Hangouts in the incredible State of Alaska next summer!

MIDNIGHT SUN HANGOUT, JUNE 20–27, 2023 IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA:

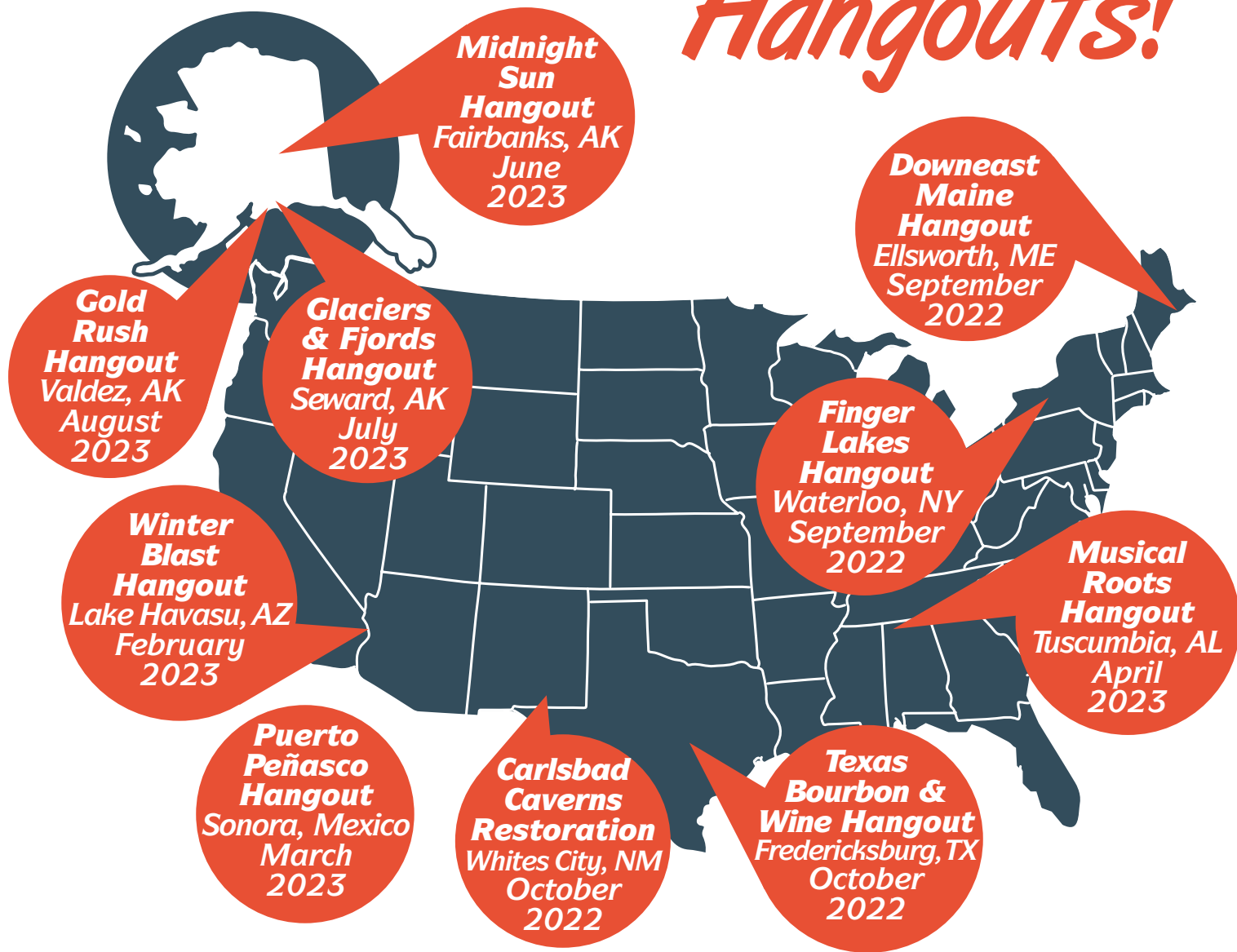
Less than 200 miles from the Arctic Circle, where the sun barely dips below the horizon in June, summer fun lasts late into the night. Experience the Summer Solstice, then join the annual Midnight Sun Fun Run, the northernmost 10K in the country, starting at 10:00 pm! You'll also visit the incredible Museum of the North, hike the Creamer's Field Trail, experience Alaskan heritage and culture aboard the Riverboat Discovery on the Chena River, have the option to visit the Chena Hot Springs and much more.

GLACIERS & FJORDS HANGOUT, JULY 10–17, 2023 IN SEWARD, ALASKA:

Located at the southern end of the Alaska Railroad and the Seward Highway, this scenic town is flanked by rugged mountains on one side and sparkling Resurrection Bay on the other. Wildlife abounds around Seward, including sea lions, bald eagles, sea otters, orcas and even the occasional whale. During this Hangout, you'll visit Exit Glacier, take a glacier and wildlife cruise in Kenai Fjords National Park, tour the Alaska SeaLife Center and enjoy incredible hiking trails and kayaking.



ESCAPEES *Hangouts!*



**GOLD RUSH HANGOUT, AUGUST 2–9, 2023
IN VALDEZ, ALASKA:**

The crashing glaciers and towering Chugach Mountains rising from the sea make the town of Valdez picturesque. This Hangout will take place during the 61st Annual Valdez Gold Rush Days, a five-day festival celebrating the town’s gold rush history and heritage that features live music, an open-air market, a community barbecue, a comedy theater performance, a parade and more. You’ll also get to experience a glacier cruise, kayaking, sport fishing, scenic bike paths and beautiful hiking trails.

Because we know that many members traveling to Alaska will want to attend all three of these Hangouts (they’re scheduled so that you will have enough time

to travel between them), we will initially offer them together as a package. Shortly thereafter, any remaining spots will be sold for each Hangout individually.

On-sale dates for all these Hangouts will be announced soon. And this is just the start...we have still more Hangouts in the early planning stages throughout 2023! Remember that because we keep Hangouts to a small size—usually about 30 rigs—they often sell out quickly. So be sure you stay “in the know” by joining our Hangouts Announcements email list at escapees.com/hangouts, then watch your inbox for the details on these and other Hangouts! 🚐



Xscapers Convergences

Rolling Through Summer

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

COTA Bike Night from the Observation Tower.

PHOTO BY KIRSTY HALLIDAY #115499



It's hard to believe that summer could sneak up on us so quickly, but I am sure we are all eager for the warmer temps and summertime fun. Xscapers had a busy winter and there are no signs of slowing down in the summer months.

Our latest convergence, in Austin, Texas, was a hit! During the last week of April, over 60 RVs and around 100 attendees took over the RV park at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA) racetrack. From the park, we had a beautiful view of the Austin skyline, in the distance, and front-row seats to all the action on the racetrack.





The Status Crowes
PHOTO BY HOLLIE PARKS #138407



That 70's Night
PHOTO BY MICHAEL CRUZ #160938



Xscapers at COTA Bike Night.
PHOTO BY KIRSTY HALLIDAY #115499

We kicked off the event with live music by The Western Express, an Austin-based, honkey-tonk band that kept the energy high and Xscapers on the dance floor. On Sunday morning, the community came together for a potluck brunch and lawn games. We hosted a cornhole tournament which saw partners Paul Shetka #134834 and John Lecik #155820 take the win. Throughout the week, the Convergence attendees participated in many activities not usually found at a typical convergence. For example, 30 of our attendees took advantage of the opportunity to ride laps on their bicycles around the Formula 1 track. We caught a shuttle to the 22-story viewing tower that overlooked the grounds and offered breathtaking views of Austin. Some of us even jumped at the opportunity to ride a few of the attractions at the COTA amusement park on site. We even spent an evening on the COTA Karting track where we raced each other at speeds of up to 55 miles an hour.

Throughout the week, we had a blast at activities like “That 70’s Night” where Chad Reid #135820, with his impressive bell bottoms and his epic mustache (which he grew just for the occasion), earned the prize of best 70’s outfit. On the same night, Jason Boone #166469 took the top prize in our “Best Dang Cocktail in Texas” competition. Mid-week, attendees sang and danced along to The Status Crowes, who are an Xscapers staple at many events. On the final Friday, we held the ever-popular lot crawl followed by a rowdy game of party bingo where a first time Convergence attendee, Howie Porter #155601, won a free dry-camping site at the Xscapers 4th of July Convergence in Salida, Colorado. We continued the night with a couple of good ol’ fashioned piñatas. The kids’ piñata was bursting with candy, while the adults Xscaper piñata was stuffed with donations of mini bottles and party beads. Adult attendees donated \$1 per hit with all proceeds going to



Xscapers floating at Zilker Park.
PHOTO BY VIKTORIA K. O'NEAL #126917

CARE. Our night was rounded out with a newer event we like to call Xscapers Got Talent, which evolved into a rambunctious night of karaoke.

On the last morning of the event, we carpooled to beautiful Zilker Park just outside of downtown Austin. Many folks floated the river on their kayaks and paddle boards while others just found a nice spot to hang out in the water. It was a one-of-a-kind event with something for everyone, and I imagine that Xscapers can expect another Convergence at COTA in the future.

As we roll through summer, Xscapers have a lot to look forward to. With Escapade wrapped up, we are heading right into the 4th of July Convergence. The week promises to be another fun-filled experience in Salida, Colorado, where attendees can expect a town-wide scavenger hunt, live music and local brewery tours. At the end of August, the Xscapers will see their first community-hosted Convergence under the new host program.

Nicole Sampson #172604 will be putting on a family-centered event at the Southwest Washington Fairground where attendees will find activities such as art and craft classes, group bike rides, guided nature hikes and even a mobile video game truck. Tickets to that event will also include a three-day pass to the local Garlic Festival and discounted entry into the Garlic Fest 5K run/walk.

In October, the Xscapers return to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, hosted by Scott and Carole Pleasants #129260, which means that you know it's going to be a great event. At the end of October, we are headed to the one and only New Orleans, Louisiana, for the Xscapers Halloween Convergence! Some of the spooky festivities will including a full-fledged, second-line parade down Bourbon Street and a swamp and alligator tour in the bayou. Tickets for all these upcoming events are on sale now.

I can't wait to see you at a future convergence! 🚐



4th of July Convergence

Salida, Colorado • Chaffee County Fairgrounds

July 2–7, 2022: Spend the Fourth of July high in the Rocky Mountains with your Xscaper friends!

Xscapers returns to the cooler temps of the mountains for a small town big on fun. We will gather at the fairgrounds in Salida, just minutes from downtown.

Previous highlights have included marching in the town's 4th of July parade, live music, food trucks, and river rafting.



Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Albuquerque, New Mexico • Box View Sites - South RV Lot

SESSION ONE: Sep 30 - Oct 5 • SESSION TWO: Oct 5 - Oct 10

We are excited to take two lucky groups of Xscapers to the 2022 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta!

There is nothing quite as beautiful as waking up in the morning and seeing hundreds of hot air balloons fly above your RV or get up and take the walk to the launch field surrounded by balloons as they begin their ascent. There is usually the opportunity to help crew for the balloon pilots and many Xscapers have gotten a ride in the past as a thank you for helping out.

In an effort to include as many Xscapers as possible in this very popular event we have divided the 10 day Balloon Fiesta into two groups: **Session One** and **Session Two**. If there is space available, we will open it up to staying for the entire event. For now we are limiting it to one session per Xscaper or Family.

Family Convergence
Centralia, WA
August 2022

4th of July Convergence
Salida, CO
July 2022

Halloween Convergence
New Orleans, LA
October 2022

Balloon Fiesta Convergence
Albuquerque, NM
October 2022

Winter Blast Convergence
Lake Havasu City, AZ
February 2023

Annual Bash
Lake Havasu City, AZ
January 2023

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Upcoming HOP Events

Northern Lights HOP

North to Alaska—Aurora Borealis aka Fairbanks, Alaska, February 12–18, 2023

Big, bold, and breathtaking! No journey stays with you like Alaska!

Alaska is truly America’s last frontier—wild and untamed! You will experience all the magic of winter in Alaska on this HOP. The Northern Lights, better known as the Aurora Borealis, are on everyone’s bucket list, and the best way to see these magical dancing lights is in person.

Flying into Fairbanks and staying in a beautiful snow-covered country setting, miles from town, makes viewing the lights a must! Sip an appletini in an ice-carved glass in an ice bar, sitting on ice-carved seats.*

Enjoy a dog sledding excursion through the snow-covered forest. Learn about raising reindeer and see the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Experience and learn about the sport of curling, try your skills at snowshoeing, soak in hot springs while surrounded by snow, learn about Native American art, music and dance and so much more!

Do not worry about falling asleep and missing the Aurora Borealis; your Aurora Borealis tour guide will stay up all night and wake you up when the lights start dancing!

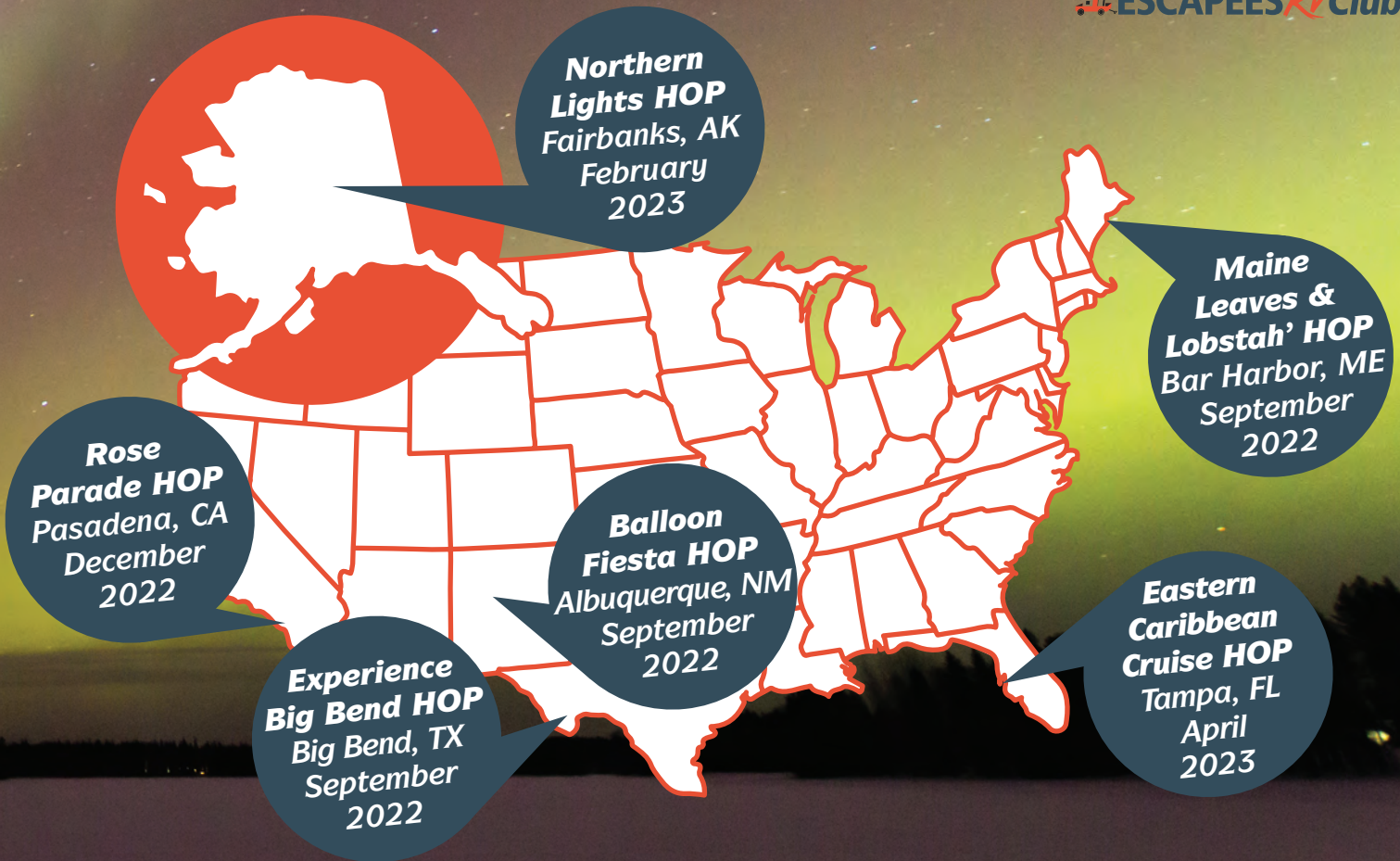
Return home with fond memories of unique and exciting activities during your Northern Lights experience!

Lisa Koca #86367, HOP Director

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



*ALCOHOL IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE.



Experience the Big Bend HOP

September 18–25, 2022, Big Bend, Texas

Two-Person Rig: \$1,160

Additional Person: \$290

One-Person Rig: \$880

*Online registration is available.

Maine Leaves & Lobstah' HOP

September 25–29, 2022

Two-Person Rig: \$1,295

Additional Person: \$425

One-Person Rig: \$895

*Online registration is available.

Balloon Fiesta HOP

September 30–October 09, 2022, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Prices for Option #1: September 30–October 5, 2022

Two-person rig: \$1,540

Each additional person in RV: \$950

One-person rig: \$1,240

Prices for Option #2: October 5–9, 2022

Two-person rig: \$1,500

Each additional person in RV: \$950

One-person rig: \$1,200

Prices for Option #3: September 30–October 9, 2022

Two-person rig: \$2,200

Each additional person in RV: \$995

One-person rig: \$1,600

Rose Parade HOP

Pasadena Tournament of Roses

December 28, 2022–January 04, 2023

Pasadena, California

Two-Person Rig: \$2,400

Additional Person: \$989

One-Person Rig: \$1,200

Northern Lights HOP

North to Alaska—Aurora Borealis

February 12–18, 2023

Fairbanks, Alaska

Pricing only for land, lodge and tour bookings.

Per person—double occupancy: \$3,300 per person

Single person in room: \$4,000

Eastern Caribbean Cruise HOP

10 Nights round trip April 7–17, 2023

Tampa, Florida

Prices: \$1,738–\$2,748 per person

Events Calendar

Join us at one of these rallies or National events!

DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	888-757-7701 EXTENSION #
JULY 2022			
07-10	TX Johnson City, Miller Creek RV	11	8011
10-14	CA Hollister, Casa De Fruta	38	8038
17-22	OR John Day, Grant County Fairground	34	8034
18-22	NV Verdi, Gold Ranch RV	24	8024
18-22	OR Lincoln City, Wapiti RV Park	37	8037
21-23	MI Centerville, St. Joseph County Fairground	06	8006
25-30	WA Anacortes, Fidalgo Bay Resort	05	8005
AUGUST 2022			
14-18	OR Lincoln City, Wapiti RV Park	34	8034
15-19	AB Canada, Castor, Castor Community Hall	44	8044
15-19	OR Terrebonne, Crooked River Ranch RV	37	8037
21-26	WA Pacific Beach, U.S. Navy Rec. Area	05	8005
25-28	AL Gadsden, River Rocks Landing	16	8016
29-Sept 02	CO Granby, Riverrun RV Resort	02	8002
SEPTEMBER 2022			
05-10	BC Canada, Courtenay, Seal Bay	22	8022
07-11	ME Hermon, Pumpkin Patch RV	03	8003
08-15	ME Elsworth, Downeast Maine Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
11-15	OR Odell, Hood River Fairground	34	8034
12-16	CA Oroville, Feather Falls KOA	24	8024
15-17	MI Coldwater, Branch County Fairground	06	8006
16-20	OR Westfir, Casey's Riverside RV Park	37	8037
18-23	WA Chimacum, Evergreen Coho SKP Park	05	8005
18-25	TX Big Bend, Experience the Big Bend HOP	HOP/National	936-755-1060
22-25	TX Bandera, Bandera Crossing RV Park	Twist Your Throttle BoF	lucinda@dwo.net
25-29	ME Bar Harbor, Maine Leaves & Lobstah' HOP	HOP/National	936-755-1060
26-29	IL Whittington, Whittington Woods Campground	46	8046
26-30	CA Bethel Island, Sugar Barge RV Resort	38	8038
27-Oct 04	NY Waterloo, Finger Lakes Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
30-Oct 09	NM Albuquerque, Balloon Fiesta HOP	HOP/National	936-755-1060
OCTOBER 2022			
02-06	OR Florence, Jesse T Jones Odd Fellows Park	34	8034
06-09	SC Myrtle Beach, Hideaway RV Resort	29	8029
10-15	AZ Parker, La Paz County Park	32	8032
15-22	NM Whites City, Carlsbad Caverns Restoration Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
16-20	OR Merlin, Indian Mary RV Park	37	8037
19-24	CA Borrego Springs, Holiday Holmes	25	8025
20-23	TX Bandera, Skyline Ranch RV	11	8011
27-30	SC Cleveland, Palmetto Cove RV Park	16	8016

DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	888-757-7701 EXTENSION #
28–Nov 05	CA Furnace Creek, Sunset Campground	SOLOs Bof	8080
31–Nov 07	TX Fredericksburg, Texas Bourbon & Wine Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
NOVEMBER 2022			
30–Dec 02	CA Patterson, Kit Fox RV Park	38	8038
DECEMBER 2022			
28–Jan 04, 2023	CA Pasadena, Rose Parade HOP	HOP/National	936-755-1060
JANUARY 2023			
19–23	TX Elmendorf, Braunig Lake RV	11	8011
FEBRUARY 2023			
12–18	AK Fairbanks, North to Alaska Adventure HOP	HOP/National	855-757-8881
14–20	AZ Lake Havasu City, Winter Blast Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
14–Mar 08	CA Baja Cal, Vamos a Baja rolling rally	08	8008
MARCH 2023			
24–Apr 04	MX Puerto Peñasco, SON, Puerto Peñasco Hangout	Hangouts/National	936-327-8873
APRIL 2023			
07–17	FL Tampa, Eastern Caribbean Cruise HOP	HOP/National	855-757-8881
14–20	GA Brunswick, SKP ACRE, RVers Boot Camp	National	936-327-8873
15–20	GA Brunswick, Coastal Georgia RV Resort, SKP ACRE rally	Steve Masterson	skpacre@gmail.com
21–23	GA Brunswick, SKP ACRE, RVers Boot Camp	National	936-327-8873

For Xscapers events, see page 70.

Chapter 8 Mexican Connection Rally—2023

**2023 Vamos A BAJA – Three Exciting Venues
February 14—March 8, 2023
23 Day Rolling Rally, PLUS Optional Add-On Extensions**

We are excited to announce our 2023 Vamos a Baja rolling rally! If you have wanted to visit Mexico, but were skeptical about traveling there alone, this is your opportunity to not only travel to Mexico in your RV, but to travel with a group that has 38 years of experience leading groups into Mexico. We will teach you how to get the most out of your visit. Last year’s trip sold out in 10 days, so we recommend that you monitor our website and our Facebook page for additional information as we get closer to September 1, and we hope to see you on our next adventure. Registration for our February 2023 caravan opens on September 1, 2022 and will be limited to the first 50 RVs that sign up.

Gary Hatt #141228, CH8wagonmaster@gmail.com

SKP ACRE and Boot Camp —2023

**Coastal Georgia RV Resort
Brunswick, Georgia
April 14–20, 2023**

The 2023 SKP ACRE and Boot Camp will be held at Coastal Georgia RV Resort in Brunswick, GA beginning with registration on Friday morning, April 14, 2023 and departing on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Boot Camp will be a separate function administered by Jim Koca from SKP, Inc. Boot Camp will begin Friday April 21, 2023 and end on Sunday April 23, 2023. Campsite fees will be \$49.09 and the ACRE rally fee will be determined approximately six months before the event. 50 sites have been reserved for ACRE and 30 for Boot Camp. You can call today to book your site.

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

THE EVENTS CALENDAR is reserved for chapter, certified BoF groups and National events. All submissions must be in writing. Deadline for submissions for the September/October issue is July 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.

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

Greetings and happy summertime to each of you! The temperatures have us longing for cool drinks and shade trees, but it's also the time of year for water sports and outdoor barbecues.

No matter what your preference on spending the long days of summer, there is likely some type of Escapees community event taking place near you. Please check out the “Events Calendar” in this magazine and online to find out the latest happenings.

Also, if you have an idea for a new special interest group (Bird of a Feather-BoF), please contact us, and we'll work with you to make the dream a reality. We are happy to assist you with everything you'll need to “lead and succeed,” whether it is starting up a new BoF or branching out with a new chapter in your area.

Have a great summer, and we hope to see you down the road! 🚐

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
3	Northeast	Peggy Shafer	941-744-7656	peggy.shafer.wood@gmail.com	8003
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	Kassandra Dennis	408-603-0600	kassandra@ekdennis.com	8008
9	Oregon Trails	Betty Bush	503-705-9872	bettybush01@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	Nancy Schmitt	775-990-3491	suncatchers55@aol.com	8014
16	Georgia Azaleas	Larry McClure	478-251-4058	gsusoccer@windstream.net	8016
17	Ozark Chapter	Dean Peine	620-423-9648	cpeine9@gmail.com	8017
18	Maple Leaf	Howard Krakower	613-829-3587	howardkrakower@yahoo.com	8018
21	Arizona Saguaros	Michael T. Burger	989-930-9919	mikeburger.skp@gmail.com	8021
24	Gold Nugget	Tom Moulton	530-370-6662	tkm5239@aol.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	Karen Grady	503-260-5764	kgrady606@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	linda.m.merryman@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	219-575-4788	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, *Ironwood Grill*, 926 N Madison Ave. 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@thecatdragdinn.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., *Foothill's Eatery and Spirit*, 12871 S Interstate 8 Frontage Rd. David Sears: 936-215-1035 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 Calender's*, 6950 Alvarado Rd. San Diego. Meeting follows at 10 a.m., also available on Zoom. Larry Rice: 619-368-5295, larryrice@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. Chuck Derington: 303-842-1519 chuckderington@comcast.net

FLORIDA

Zephyrhills: 1st Thurs, 11 a.m., *Golden Corral*, 6855 Gail 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., *Mountain Falls Grill*, 5001 Clubhouse. 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' breakfast every Tues. Men's breakfast every Thurs. Call 575-457-2303, for more information.

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

Gresham: 4th Mon, 1 p.m., *Heidi's Restaurant*, 1230 N.E. Cleveland. Michael Surratt: 503-667-0819, mrat1945@frontier.com

TENNESSEE

Crossville: 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Vegas Steakhouse*, 3152 North Main St. Marcia Expander: 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, 11:00am, *Royal Star Buffet*, 2300 Freeway Dr. Bud/Lori: 206-953-6433, budkauffman@me.com

Silverdale: 2nd Tues, 11:00am, *Applebee's Grill*, 3138 NW Randall Way. 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. 888-757-7701 x8044. Carol Davis

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

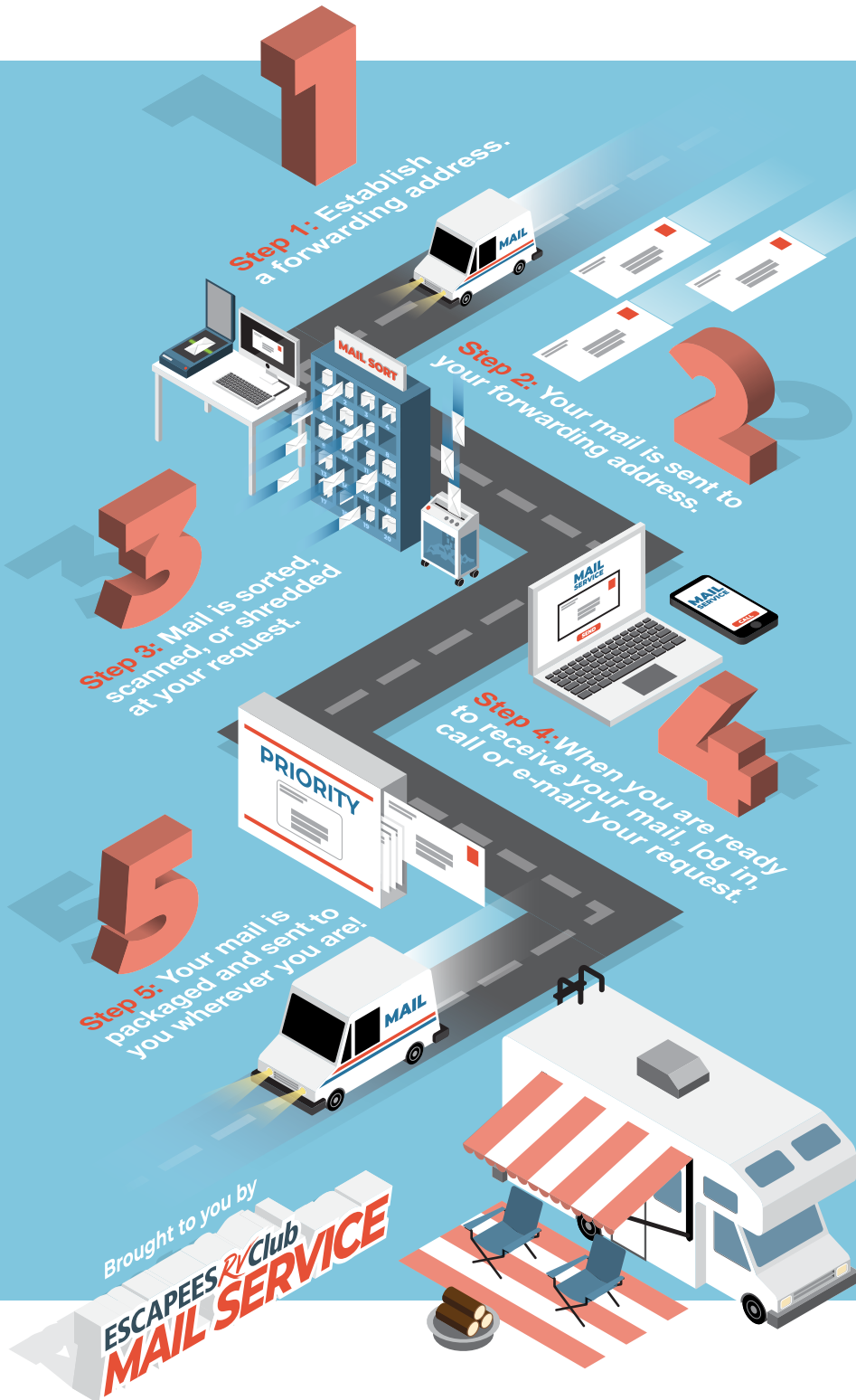
ON, Talbotville: 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., *Wayside Restaurant*, 10680 Sunset Rd. Sharon Sandau: 519-862-2152, sdsandau@teksavvy.com. May-Nov

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.

HOW DO RVERS GET THEIR MAIL?

Whether you are a full-time RVer, or simply on an extended RV vacation, using an RV mail service makes it easy to get your mail on the road.



WHERE CAN YOU RECEIVE MAIL ON THE ROAD?

- Post office via General Delivery
- Friend's or Family's house
- Campground Office
- Mail Box Store

Always check before having mail sent to a PO Box or RV park.

ESCAPEES RV CLUB MAIL SERVICE IS THE LARGEST MAIL SERVICE THAT CATERS SPECIFICALLY TO RVERS.

Give us a call and we can help you set up the right mail-forwarding solution for your needs today!

936-327-8873



ESCAPEES *Escapes RV Club*
RV Parks *owned and operated.*

Now Accepts Online Bookings!

Daily Member	Daily Nonmember	Weekly Member	Weekly Nonmember	Monthly Member	Monthly Nonmember

ALABAMA 	RAINBOW PLANTATION 14301 County Rd. 28, Summerdale, AL 36580 251-988-8132, Fax: 251-988-8142, plantation@escapes.com, rainbowplantation.escapesrvparks.com	\$25	\$30	\$150	\$180	\$380+	\$415+
ARIZONA 	NORTH RANCH 30625 Hwy. 89, Congress, AZ 85332 928-427-3657, Fax: 928-685-3695, northranch@escapes.com, northranch.escapesrvparks.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@escapes.com, sumteroaks.escapesrvparks.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@escapes.com, turkeycreek.escapesrvparks.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@escapes.com, dreamcatcher.escapesrvparks.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@escapes.com, raccoonvalley.escapesrvparks.com	\$23	\$30	\$138	\$180	\$400- \$525	\$445- \$570
TEXAS 	RAINBOW'S END 140 Escapes Dr., Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, rainbowsend@escapes.com, rainbowsend.escapesrvparks.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@escapes.com, trapark.escapesrvparks.com	\$23	\$30.00	\$150	\$180	\$475- \$535	\$475- \$535

SKP Co-Ops (Escapes Members Only)

Owned and operated by individual member groups of Escapes.

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	\$25 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$130 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$365 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	\$20	+ tax	\$110	+ Elec & tax	\$375	+ Elec
	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	\$23	Incl Elec	\$100	+ Elec & tax	-	-
CALIFORNIA	JOJOBA HILLS RESORT 45120 Hwy. 79 S., Aguanga, CA 92536 951-767-9130, office@jojobahills.com, jojobahills.com	\$35 limited	Incl Elec	\$199	Incl Elec	-	-
	PARK SIERRA 45323 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-206-9907, Fax: 559-671-0084, parksierra@gmail.com, www.parksierra.net	\$21-26	Incl Elec, WiFi & CTV	\$112	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV	\$420	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV
FLORIDA	THE RESORT 2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873 <i>Discounted rates 5/1 - 10/31</i> 863-735-1499, Fax: 863-735-1994, skpresortwauchula@gmail.com, fl-skp-resort.org	\$20-23	+ Elec	\$140- 161	+ Elec	\$495- 575	+ Elec
NEVADA	PAIR-A-DICE 5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048 775-727-7221, Fax: 775-727-3966, skppairadice@gmail.com	\$20	Incl Elec	\$125	Incl Elec	\$330	+ Elec
NEW MEXICO	THE RANCH PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254 575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, skpranch@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.timbervalleyskp.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	\$20	+ Elec	\$110	+ Elec	\$325	+ Elec
WASHINGTON	EVERGREEN COHO 2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chimacum, WA 98325 360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, ecrskp@escapes.com, www.cohoskp.com	\$33 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$198 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$495	+ 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 Escapes 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

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	✓	N	✓

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

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

Raccoon Valley: Heiskell, TN

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

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 (\$110, plus tax/elec). Explore many activities from this central location. Activities update provided at daily social hours. Visit the website or call for details.

Saguaro SKP Co-Op: Benson, AZ

First-time visitors receive their week at a 50% discount, plus elec./tax. Visit www.SKPSaguaro.org and click "Special Offers" for details.

The Ranch SKP Co-Op: Lakewood, NM

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

The Resort SKP Co-Op: Wauchula, FL

Where shorts are always in season and lifelong friendships blossom. See our website for our many activities and amenities. Then visit our active park in quiet south-central Florida.

Lone Star Corral Co-Op: Hondo, TX

First-time 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.

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

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

***NEW* 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." 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.cfbof.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

***NEW* Content Creators:** The Content Creators BoF is a group for anyone who publishes their RV adventures to YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, or 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: Hurricanes, tornados, floods, fires and disasters rarely give us notice when they will happen. The time volunteers give is crucial. When finances are at crisis levels in many organizations, the American Red Cross needs all the volunteer time (and money) we can give. Join the DOVES, and partner with the Red Cross to fill real needs. We'll help train and pair you with the right disaster response activity to 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 geocaching 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

***NEW* Jeepers:** 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 Jeepers BoF. To join, send your name and SKP# to: JeepersBOF@gmail.com

Line Dancers Unite: Join for free and 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. Our mission is to 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.nomadsumc.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. Please 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/EscapadesPetLovers

Prospecting and Metal Detecting: Share tips and information. To join our Yahoo! group SKP-PandMD, contact Ken Parsons by e-mail: rwsop606@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

***NEW* 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 join: www.skpphotographers.com Brock Brinkerhoff/Janine Vance, skpphotographers@gmail.com

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 619-904-4707.

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. Free membership. To join, send SKP# to Larry Butler, at techcfo@yahoo.com

● SOLOs • C-BoF: A group for single Escapees. Must be a current member. Membership, \$11/year. Three newsletters per year, member-hosted gatherings and pre-Escapade rallies. Download member form: skpsolos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-03-Membership-Form.pdf. Print form, complete and send with check, payable to Escapees SOLOs. Send to: Escapees SOLOs, 1970 N. Leslie St #556, Pahrump, NV. 89060. 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 Quartzsite, AZ, in January. We also gather on an "impromptu" basis at other events like Xscapers or Hangouts events. Communication is online, so we can meet each other as 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

***NEW* Twist Your Throttle:** An informal Escapees group who share common interests in everything motorcycle. 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@dwonet, www.twistyourthrottle.com or www.facebook.com/twistyourthrottle.

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 2022

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.

- Friday, **December 31**—New Year's Eve
- Monday, **January 17**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, **February 21**—President's Day
- Friday, **April 15**—Good Friday (Easter)
- Monday, **May 30**—Memorial Day
- Monday, **July 4**—Independence Day
- Monday, **September 5**—Labor Day
- Monday, **October 10**—Columbus Day
- Friday, **November 11**—Veteran's Day
- Thursday, **November 24 and 25**—Thanksgiving
- Monday, **December 26**—Christmas

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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

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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.

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LARGE CAMPSITE FOR RENT: 5,000 sq. ft. site. W/E/S and cable are available. Site is gravel. Many amenities. 100 miles from NYC in the Pocono Mountains. Seasonal: April 1st thru October 1st \$4,800 or \$900 monthly. Pets okay. Quiet and supervised. Call Rick Sagar, 570-466-0510 or e-mail Bigyanqi@gmail.com

For Sale

LOT 214: Section 14 in Lake Livingston Village. Polk County, Texas. \$2,500 OBO. The monthly dues of \$24 give you access to Lake Livingston and many other amenities. See www.lakelivingstonvillagepoa.com and/or call Alan Jones, 509-953-3322.

Miscellaneous

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Reviewed Products

CANVASPEOPLE: Gorgeous, high-quality canvases that take your space from bland to beautiful. CanvasPeople brings your most cherished memories to life using environmentally friendly inks and pine wood from renewable forests. \$15+, canvaspeople.com

JAZZMINTON SPORT: is a creatively competitive paddle ball game that offers the same fun and excitement as tennis, badminton, pickle ball and even ping-pong all at once, but with a “hole” new spin on it. The difference? No boundary or court is needed, just a small space. It can be played anywhere, indoors or outdoors. No other paddle or racket sport removes those boundary restrictions. www.funsparks.com

MINGUA BEEF JERKY: Family-owned, Mingua beef jerky, holds one of the highest protein contents at 14g, is all-natural and comes in several flavors. www.mingua-beefjerky.com/beefjerky

MYBEVI (TUMBLERS): A brand made for those who don't settle for undistinguished, off-the-shelf products. We craft exceptionally made products. MyBevi has a product companion to help you enjoy your favorite beverage in style, and at the perfect temperature. mybevi.com

OLITA PRODUCTS: Laurie O'Hara discovered a need for a sunscreen that could hold up to her family's active outdoor lifestyle, without the chemical ingredients known to be harmful to our skin and our planet. olitashop.com

ROSHAMBO EYEWEAR: A family-owned business that provides affordable Italian-made polarized sunglasses, prescription glasses and screen time glasses for the entire family. Our unbreakable frames are durable enough for kids, but stylish enough for adults. www.roshambo.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.

ALDEN, DELORES #28377—FEBRUARY 8, 2022: Del attended nursing school through the US Cadet Nurse Corps. She first did private duty, and then signed up to be a nurse on the US Presidents' line. She traveled the world and recalled being on the last boat to go to the Korean Peninsula before the Korean War began. Afterwards, she returned to San Francisco, married and had two children. She loved nature and camping and helped to start the Sierra Club's ICO organization which takes inner city children and introduces them to the wilderness. After retirement, she began an 18-year RV travel journey. She loved RVing and her enthusiasm inspired many. She appreciated Escapees and the support it gave her for boondocking. Her smile was bright and infectious even in her last difficult days in hospice. She lived her 96 years well. (Submitted by friend, MaryEm Wallace.)

LONGSHORE, GLEN #82695—JANUARY 29, 2022: (Cheryl Longshore, PO Box 654, Congress, AZ 85332) Glen died after a short battle with congestive heart failure. He loved to travel the country, visiting historical sites and researching genealogy. We've had a wonderful time as Escapees after joining Life on Wheels, in 2003. I will continue to stay at North Ranch for now.

MARIETTA, DORA #2823—NOVEMBER 12, 2021: Traveling was the happiest time of Dora's life. She enjoyed being an Escapees member and had the greatest memories with the people she met along the way. (Reported by daughter, Deborah Marietta-Martinez)

STEPHENS, WYNDOLL #36782—SEPTEMBER 24, 2020: (Ann, 25302 Cinco Manor Lane, Katy, TX 77494) We've been Escapees lifetime members in 1995. Wyndoll had pancreatic cancer. We loved traveling in our RV and were full-time RVers for eight years. We had a lot at Rover's Roost. I have wonderful memories!

WILSON, NANCY A. #67039—APRIL 7, 2022: Nancy lost her battle to cancer at home. In 2002, she and Ron met many great people and friends in the Escapees. Nancy was the "life of the party" but also a caring and loving mother and a true friend to many! She enjoyed sitting on her deck enjoying the peaceful scenery of Walker Lake. Nancy was a lifetime member of the VFW Auxiliary in Hawthorne NV (Post #2313), lifetime Escapees, Elks USA

SMILEDIRECTCLUB: To ensure your smile stays bright, SmileDirectClub, an oral care leader and telehealth pioneer, revolutionizing access to affordable, premium oral care, has everything you need to keep your smile bright! For more information: smiledirectclub.com

SOCKSHH SOCKS: Are you tired of the slip down, peek out, bunch up struggle of your typical "no-show" socks? Put a secret spring in your step with the help of sockshh! These premium no-show socks are made to hero the wearer from their fit to their vibe to their breakthrough mood-boosting scents. \$11.99. www.sockshh.com

SWIFF: Keep your pet's bedding clean and smelling fresh with swiff! This deodorant alternative also works on blankets, furniture, clothing, and more. Eco-friendly, hypoallergenic, easy-to-use. \$29.99, swiffspray.com

THATBLANKET: Ready to get personal when it's time to get cozy? Take your favorite photo of a moment to cherish, pet or loved one and create it into an uber soft fleece blanket with ThatBlanket! Simply upload a photo and enjoy the utmost quality in printing and optimization of your picture as you create a keepsake. www.thatblanket.com

TOWERBALL: is the next classic backyard game similar to cornhole, only more challenging, weather proof and packable! Great for road trips, backyard BBQs, or days at the park. Great for all ages and group sizes, the four-sided, 360 degree toss game is great for casual group competition. Includes collapsible tower, eight soft hackey balls and backpack carry case. \$189.99 calibergames.com

ZOHA FRAGRANCES: An alcohol-free perfume that adjusts to your body! Zoha makes a unique fragrance that evolves with your skin chemistry. There are 18 versatile scents! zohafragrances.com and Amazon

ROTO BRAIN: A twist on the modern Rubik's cube! This challenging brain-stimulating puzzle designed to challenge minds from 8 to 100 years old. By enticing users to unlock the code to one of its thousands of color combinations, Roto Brain enhances memory, critical thinking skills and will test IQ. \$19.99. www.roto-brain.com

LECTROFAN MICRO2: A portable Bluetooth speaker with 11 built-in sounds to help you get better sleep. Pair it with your smart phone for streaming audio and making calls, or select sleep sound mode and enjoy your choice of five digital fan sounds. \$34.95 www.soundofsleep.com

EZQUEST GAN FAST CHARGER: Packing a charger to recharge electronic devices is a given while traveling, but instead of trying to cram six different chargers and cables in your bag you can pack the EZQuest GaN Fast Charger. The chargers, available in 20W, 30W, 65W, 90W and 120W, have industry-leading safety features including over-current, over-voltage, over-temperature and short-circuit protection. www.ezq.com/wall-chargers.html

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





SOMETHING THIS GOOD SHOULD BE SHARED...

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Adventure, Education and Support Services

- Mail Forwarding Service with scanning option (domicile-compliant addresses in Texas, Florida and South Dakota)
- Strong RV advocacy coalition (protecting RVers' rights)
- Escapees Maps (plan your trip online)
- Escapees Job Board (looking for work or looking for hire)
- *Escapees* magazine (digital versions and archives online, too!)
- Escapade (annual Escapees club rally with education and social opportunities)
- RVers Boot Camp (fundamental RV training)
- SmartWeigh (accurate and detailed RV-weighing service)
- 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)

Association Specials

- Escapees Roadside Assistance
- Product discounts on tires, batteries, and more
- RV insurance (full-time RV specialists)
- Financial and legal services
- Service discounts
- 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 ____/____



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