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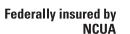
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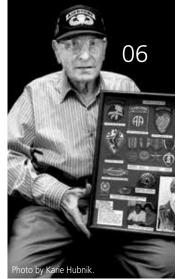


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ESCAPEES RV CLUB COMMON ACRONYMS

- BoF Birds of a Feather (Escapees special-interest groups) CARE Continuing Assistance for **Retired Escapees** СМ **Commercial Membership** ERPU **Escapees Rainbow Parks** Unlimited HOP Head Out Program LCLA Limited copyright license agreement **MYSKP** Members-only Website access RV Recreational vehicle SKP # Escapees membership
- number
- **TBA** To be announced
- WiFi Wireless for networking and Internet access

If there are other acronyms, abbreviations or terms that you have questions about, please let us know by calling 888-757-2582 or e-mail **editor@escapees.com**.

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CONTACT US

Address changes (mail service) mailservice@escapees.com • 888-757-2582

Address changes (permanent) clubbusiness@escapees.com • 888-757-2582

Advertising sales department advertising@escapees.com

BoF (Birds of a Feather) groups bof@escapees.com

Chapters chapterdirectors@escapees.com

Commercial Membership commercialmembership@escapees.com

Departments material departmentseditor@escapees.com

Discount parks discountparks@escapees.com

Escapees RVers' Boot Camp bootcamp@escapees.com

Escapees CARE Center careinc@escapees.com • 936-327-4256

Escapees magazine editor@escapees.com

Escapees SmartWeigh smartweigh@escapees.com

On the Cover: Brock Brinkerhoff #131442 captured the essence of RVing in this photo of Escapees sitting around a cozy campfire under the stars at the Southern Colorado Xscapers Convergence. The Milky Way Galaxy is visible in the starlit night sky. Seated clockwise from left: Gary Quimby #128094, Becky Schade #123751, Christie Scott #123872, Melanie Carr #8, Travis Carr #8 and (back to camera) Janine Vance #131442.

Escapees Travel Agency eta@escapees.com

Event registration registration@escapees.com

General club business clubbusiness@escapees.com

Graphic arts department graphics@escapees.com

Head Out Program (HOP) hopinfo@escapees.com

Mail-forwarding service mailservice@escapees.com

Mark, My Words column techquestions@escapees.com

Rainbow Parks parks@escapees.com • 888-580-8444

Viewfinder viewfinder@escapees.com





FOUNDERS: Joe and Kay Peterson

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| Copy Editor Su | sie Gearing |
| Editorial Assistant Kell | y Evans-Hill |
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| Graphic Artist | Cole Carter |
| Advertising Director Kell | y Evans-Hill |

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Escapees Corporate Office

100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300 888-757-2582 • 936-327-8873 Fax: 936-327-4388 • **www.escapees.com**

Escapees Mail Service Office

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EDITOR'S DESK By Tammy Johnson #39557, Editor, Escapees Magazine

Anytime is a great time to be an RVer, but, in my opinion, the holiday season must top the fist as the best time to be traveling.

Many choose to head "home for the holidays" to spend time with relatives or friends. With an RV, however, you can choose to also spend time with other RVers, attending a multitude of holiday events, such as Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas tree lightings, holiday parades, parties and much more. Since your celebrations don't have to be limited to a specific community or town, you can celebrate around the country for days and weeks on end!

One beautiful aspect of the RV lifestyle is diversity. Traveling the highway and stopping at campgrounds can provide a great advantage in meeting people from all walks of life. This offers up many opportunities to learn about, and take part in, a wide range of cultural activities. If you feel like breaking tradition and opting for a different holiday meal or gathering, ask others at your next campground stop, or check local message boards, to find what types of activities are available in the surrounding areas and try something new.

Community plays an important role in being an RVer and, even if you're an introvert like me, this lifestyle makes it easy to meet new people and make new friends. You never know whom you will meet, and you can often find people who are both fascinating and inspiring.

As an example, in this issue, Rene Agredano shares her story of a chance meeting with Mel Trenary, a highly decorated WWII veteran, at Escapees' national headquarters. Her conversation with this Escap-

ees member made such an impact on her, she interviewed him for the article featured on page six. It was especially nice to be able to include this story in time for Veterans

Day, November 11.

A special hug to all our Escapees veterans, and to all our readers; the *Escapees* magazine editorial department wishes you safe journeys and a happy and healthy holiday season.



"It was something he had wanted so much, for so many years. Yet now that he finally owned it, he was too old to enjoy it."

THOUGHTS

By Kay Peterson #1, Escapees RV Club Co-founder and Director

Christmas—that magical and wondrous time when even the impossible can, and sometimes does, happen.

think of the Christmas when I was nine years old. Oh, how I wanted a pair of ice skates! I knew exactly what they'd look like: white leather boot top on a shiny steel blade. But it was the worst of times. Mamma was in the hospital having cancer surgery-again, and Daddy had lost his part-time job and was only working one job as a grocery-store delivery man. It hardly paid enough to put food on the table. My sister said there was no sense asking for ice skates this year. "Maybe," I answered.

My aunt took us shopping with her. I saw the long line of kids waiting to tell Santa Claus their secret desires. When I suggested we get in the line, my sister looked at me and said, "What for?" My aunt looked surprised, too. "Look how long the line is and it's moving slow. We've still got shopping to do." Somehow I convinced them to go ahead, promising I'd stay right there and wait for them. I was small for my age. Nobody seemed to notice that I was older than all the other kids in the line.

Christmas morning came and there were only a few presents under the tree-two for each of us. I remember the heart-fluttering anticipation as I held a gift, a little too heavy, and not shaped quite right to be clothes. Slowly, I took off the ribbon and carefully unwrapped the paper.

There they were. Boot tops as white as the new Christmas snow; blades shining in the glitter of the Christmas tree lights. Somehow, I wasn't surprised. "I think Aunt Isabelle bought them," my sister confided later. "Maybe," I answered. But I knew better.

It was another three years before I accepted that Santa Claus could not be a white-bearded, red-suited man riding in a sleigh pulled by reindeer and climbing up and down chimneys. That was a way to explain the impossible. but the idea that Santa Claus is a myth? I knew better.

Joey lived in New Mexico two thousand miles away. His Christmas wish had begun during the summer when his family went to Texas to visit relatives. Howard led Joey to his room. There were so many toys that it overwhelmed the nine-year-old whose family lived in a shack.

Scattered on the floor were shiny steel rods, red and blue flat pieces and dozens of screws and nuts. "What is that?" Joey asked. "It's an erector set. You make things like bridges and buildings. Let's play with my train set."

"I'd rather play with this," Joey said. Dropping to his knees, he began the fascinating discovery of creating something out of nothing.

On the way home he told his parents about the erector set. They weren't impressed. Each time they went to town, Joey looked in the stores, but there were no erector sets. Then, as Christmas items began to appear, he saw an erector set in the department store.

Joey had learned there was no Santa Claus, so he told his parents what he wanted for Christmas. When your pants have been patched until even the patches have patches, parents don't buy an erector set. They buy you a new pair of pants. If only he had believed in Santa Claus.

Every year, Joey asked his parents for an erector set, but he didn't get one. When he was 13, he began delivering papers after school. By age 14, he had saved enough money to buy his own erector set, and he bought the biggest set with an electric motor. It was something he had wanted so much, for so many years. Yet now that he finally owned it, he was too old to enjoy it. He never played with it.

Real life is like that. I remember the advice we got when we told friends we were going full-time RVing at age 43. "Wait until your kids have finished school. Wait till you have enough money to buy a new RV and can go in real style. Wait until you retire. Wait for the right time."

I maintain that the "right time" is any time you really, truly want something. But then, what do I know? I still believe in Santa Claus. 📠

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The elderly man with a gentle smile and easygoing stride walked into the Rainbow's End office at the same time I did. While we both waited for assistance, I felt chatty and decided to strike up a conversation. Anywhere else in the world we wouldn't have had much to talk about, but at Escapees headquarters things are different.

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Meet Mel Trenary—A personal profile of

By Rene Agredano #103274

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Active military personnel receive two nights free at each of the Escapees parks. For information, visit

Photo by Karie Hubnik. www.keeping-history-alive.com He wore a trucker cap that spelled "VETERAN." I studied him for a second, then kicked things off by asking "Are you a World War II veteran?" His eyes lit up and he beamed with pride. "Yes, I am," he replied. Assuming that he was probably around 90 years old, I didn't want to let the encounter go by without learning something about our past from a soldier of "The Greatest Generation." Mel Trenary #10371 agreed to meet with me later that week to talk about his life as a World War II paratrooper.

Jumping Out Into World War II

Like many of his contemporaries, Mel grew up in poverty during the Great Depression. Raised in Southern California by a single mom, he was only 18 when bombs fell on Pearl Harbor. Ripe for the draft but not quite finished with his senior year of high school, he wanted to graduate before he enlisted. The feds, however, didn't care if Mel got his diploma.

In his autobiography about the war, Mel says, "I tried to get exempt so I could graduate. No dice! They wanted young men for military service," he recalls. And although Uncle Sam didn't give him a choice about the draft, when Mel was getting processed for service, he was at least allowed to choose a military branch.

"Someone gave us a lecture about the paratroopers over a loudspeaker. It sounded interesting. Since I had been a puny kid and had colds, flu and pneumonia a few times, this was a way to get into good shape. Besides, it was something the average person wouldn't want to get into. This made it a special branch of service. When they asked for volunteers, out of about 22 guys, two stepped forward."

At that moment in time, Mel's life became anything but average. He says, "When I got home, I told my mom what branch I had joined. I think I saw her gasp a little when I said paratroops. We both weren't sure what I was getting into," he recalls.

In the 13-page autobiography about his time as a paratrooper in the 517th

Parachute Infantry, Mel candidly describes his life in the war. He describes everything from learning how to jump out of airplanes at Fort Benning to brutal moments that happened while fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. This expert marksman vividly recounts the mayhem while fighting the Germans, and tells his thoughts about surviving battle injuries when his buddies did not. Mel's fascinating manuscript can be read online at http://tinyurl.com/MelTrenaryBio.

"After retiring from his long career as a draftsman for the refinery industry, Mel and Jay got bit hard by the RVing bug."

"All I could do was yell like hell and run with them carrying a machine gun. No way could I use it. Everyone was in front of me. Many Germans would be dead, steam coming up from ing France from the Nazis. The award is on par with the United States Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom. Mel had officially earned

their bodies, being cold as it was.

We did this several times."

Many Germans ran or surrendered.

For his service, Mel received a

distinctions. Then, nearly 70 years

Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and other

later, in 2014, another distinction was

given to him when the French Legion

of Honor granted him Knight status.

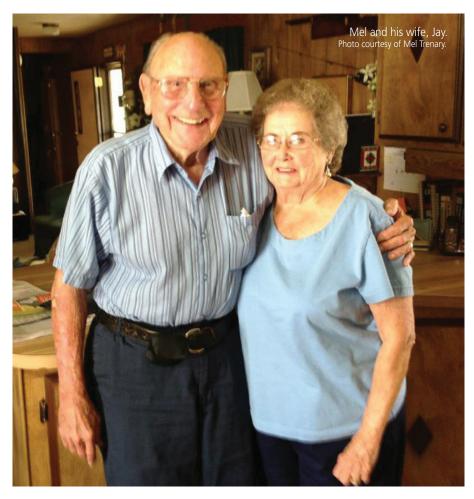
He and 30 other American soldiers

were bestowed with France's "Che-

valier" (Knight) award to officially

recognize their critical role in liberat-

Continued >>>



"One of the most hidden rewards of being an Escapee is the collective wisdom found within the club's senior members." Mel at his home at Rainbow's End in Livingston, Texas. Photo by Rene Agredano #103274.

the highest honor granted by the French government.

"They were all in my thoughts when I received the medal," Mel wrote. "I'm proud to wear it and wish to dedicate it to all my buddies who fell in battle or have passed away over the years."

After the war, Mel went on to do what most men of his era did: He raised two boys in his first marriage and three girls in his second one to Jay, the love of his life. After retiring from his long career as a draftsman for the refinery industry, Mel and Jay got bit hard by the RVing bug. "We wanted to travel because we had a little RV and got a taste for it," he recalls.

The couple sold everything, joined Escapees in 1988 and hit the road in a 36-foot Pace Arrow motorhome. As they traveled around the country, Mel applied his designing and woodworking talents to create a variety of designs for Escapees memorabilia. One of the most memorable was the East Texas Rainbow Chapter 10 logo that's still in use today.

SKP Wisdom in the Real World

Mel's wife passed away in 2014, and although he now lives on his own at



Rainbow's End, he's never alone. His children and family are nearby and he occasionally meets with fellow veterans who reside in the area. Mel has been through a lot, but his wits are sharp and he looks great for a man in his 90s who has survived two bouts with cancer. When I asked, "Why do you think you're so healthy?" he just smiled and said, "Being in the Paratroopers helped a lot." When asked if he could share his best advice with younger, full-time RVing Escapees like me, he said, "Do it while you can because there's gonna be a time in your life when you're going to have to quit. Do it while you're young."

Getting to know Mel was such a rewarding experience. I'm 44 years vounger than he is and his firsthand account of the war was a rare opportunity to learn about it from someplace other than Hollywood. Our conversation also helped me realize that Escapees Club benefits go far beyond what gets advertised in brochures. One of the most hidden rewards of being an Escapee is the collective wisdom found within the club's senior members. All it takes to reap this benefit is starting that first conversation with someone around the campfire, in a lobby or wherever your RVing paths may cross.

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"...the whole process of getting a root canal, from walking across the border into San Luis, Mexico, to walking back across the border into San Luis, Arizona, took only one hour and 15 minutes, plus a return visit a few days later. Better yet, it cost \$287!"

1.1.1.1

The Affordable Alternative of

Article by Emily Fagan #99408, Photos by Emily and Mark Fagan

FAMILY DENTAL

Last winter I had a terrible toothache. Fortunately, I had been enjoying a winter season of RV travel in Arizona with my husband, Mark, in our 36-foot, fifth-wheel trailer. I say "fortunately," because access to high-quality, inexpensive dental care lay right across the border in Mexico.

A few days later, I had a root canal procedure done in San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico, a short walk over the border from San Luis, Arizona, about 23 miles south of Yuma. It was a more complex root canal than most because it was in a tooth that already had a crown on it. However, the whole process, from walking across the border into San Luis, Mexico, to walking back across the border into San Luis. Arizona, took only one hour and 15 minutes, plus a return visit a few days later. Better yet, it cost \$287! This included diagnosis, x-rays, root canal procedure, antibiotics, pain medication, cab fares in Mexico and parking fees in Arizona.

This was the most recent of many excellent dental procedures we have had done in Mexico. Beginning with a \$130 porcelain crown Mark got in San Luis back in 2008, we have received outstanding dental care all over Mexico during our travels there by sailboat. From Ensenada, just south of San Diego, to Loreto on the Baja peninsula, to both Zihuatanejo and the Bays of Huatulco on the far southern Pacific coast, we have always found good dentists. And each time, we have paid about 10 to 20 percent of what we would have paid for the same procedures in the United States.

What It Is like to Visit a Dentist in Mexico?

When we first went to a Mexican dentist, we were shocked to find out that a trip to a dentist in Mexico is much like a trip to the barber back home. You walk in, talk with the dentist in person, hop in his or her chair, get the work done, pay in cash and leave. There are no advance appointments, no forms to fill out, the dentist does all the work himself, including cleanings, and the dentist works on one patient chair at a time. Even more shocking was to find that their level of personal caring is extraordinarily high.

When my tooth was aching last winter, I went to Dr. Sergio Bernal in San Luis, Mexico. He quickly

"...because the economy and cost of living differ so much between Mexico and the US...the exact same procedures are much cheaper south of the border."

determined I needed a root canal, and without charging me a dime, he masterminded the whole proceedings. First, he called endodontist Dr. Horacio Avila across town and made sure he was available to do the work right away. Then he walked me and Mark out into the street, hailed a cab, gave the cabbie Dr. Avila's business card with instructions and sent us on our way. The cab fare was \$2 US.

Once Dr. Avila completed the root canal procedure 45 minutes later, he charged me \$230 US. Then, he asked his assistant to drive us to the pharorder." for the root canal. Again, no charge. A few days later, he put the filling in the crown and charged us \$40 for every-

macy in her own personal car to make

sure we got the right antibiotics and

pain medications, which came to \$10

US. We tipped her \$5 after she drove us back to Dr. Bernal's office so he

could double-check on the work Dr.

Avila had done. After a quick peek,

he told us to come back in a few days

so he could put a filling in the crown

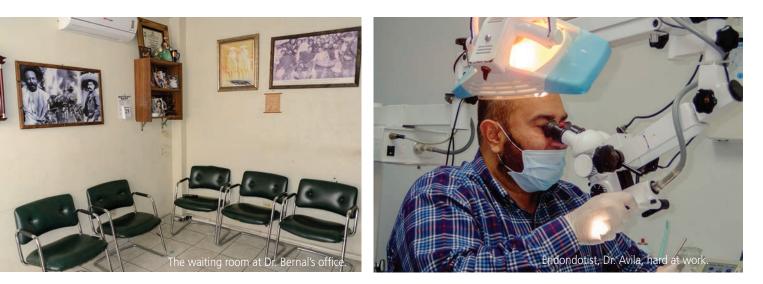
where Dr. Avila had drilled the hole

thing he had done for us. We have found over and over that this kind of personal concern is standard throughout Mexico.

Why Is Mexican Dentistry So Inexpensive?

Mexico is a big country with a population of 122 million people, nearly 40 percent of the size of the United States. With so many citizens to care for, there are numerous dentists *Continued w*





and doctors in every town and city, the same as in America. However, because the economy and cost of living differ so much between Mexico and the US, and because the actual business of dentistry and the way that dentists earn a living is so radically different in the two countries, the exact same procedures are much cheaper south of the border.

Mexican dentists work in a far different business climate from Ameri-

than being solely concerned with providing a good value to the patient, American dentists must satisfy the insurance companies as well.

In Mexico, the dentist is concerned only with the patient because that is the person who pays the bills and makes their dental business succeed or fail. Therefore, many business practices that are standard between clients and vendors in other personal service industries, like occasionally waiving

"In Mexico, the dentist is concerned only with the patient because that is the person who pays the bills and makes their dental business succeed or fail."

can dentists. For starters, the wage scale in Mexico is much lower than in America. The standard daily wage for unskilled laborers is \$5 per day. Therefore, if the dentist has an assistant, he or she comes cheaply. Next, the office space rental is inexpensive. Friends of ours who own a bike shop in the tourist district of Zihuatanejo pay a mere \$30 per month to rent their space. Dental office space may be more, but is still negligible by American standards. Furthermore, Mexican dentists do not have to pay as much to insure their practice.

But the biggest difference is the business model itself. In America, much or most of a dentist's revenue comes from insurance companies. This introduces a third party into the doctor/patient relationship. Rather certain fees to promote good relations, are also part of the doctor and patient relationship in Mexico.

How Cheap Is "Cheap?"

Perhaps the biggest challenge with Mexican dentistry, as well as with American dentistry, is finding a great dentist. As with any profession, there are good dentists and there are terrible ones, both in the U.S. and in Mexico.

Mexican dentists and doctors are well aware that many Americans seek them out because they are cheaper than their counterparts north of the border. So, there is a booming dental and medical business along the American/Mexican border in all the border towns. Mexican dental school graduates can choose to work in a town serving predominantly Mexican patients or they can work in a border town or tourist town or ex-pat town serving predominantly American patients. Obviously, Americans are a lot more affluent than Mexican citizens, and dentists can charge American patients a lot more for their services and still beat the prices up north.

With that in mind, when choosing a Mexican dentist, it's worthwhile to consider whether their dental practice serves mostly American visitors or mostly Mexican citizens.

In our travels, we have always chosen dentists whose practices served the local community, as much as, if not more than, visiting Americans. These dentists have always charged us about 10 to 20 percent of the equivalent cost of care in the U.S. However. there are many dental offices in Mexico that are set up specifically to serve the American market. In those locations, the dental care is more commonly about 40 to 50 percent of the cost of American dental care. Ironically, just because the care is more expensive doesn't always mean it is anv better.

When we went to San Luis, Mexico, for Mark's crown eight years ago and then again this past year for my root canal, we were the only gringos in town. However, on our visit to nearby Los Algodones, we found ourselves walking the streets in a sea of American retirees. Many dentists in Los Algodones are wonderful, as are the dentists we've been to all over Mexico; however, they can also be much more expensive, too. This is no big surprise, however. Going to a dentist in Hollywood that is favored by A-list celebrities is going to be much more costly than going to a small-town dentist in a working-class community, even though their skills may be identical.

How Do You Find a Good Dentist?

We have always relied on recommendations by others. RVers in RV parks on the American side of the border often have favorite dentists in Mexico and can give excellent references. We went to Dr. Bernal in San Luis on the recommendation of fellow RVers staying at the Escapees KOFA KO-OP RV Park.

Elsewhere in Mexico, many expat communities have online forums that discuss the local dentists, which is how we found our dentists in Zihuatanejo and Huatulco on the southern Pacific coast. In Loreto, on the Baja, we poked our heads in the door of a dental office and liked the way it looked, and ended up having an excellent experience. Most dentists hang their diplomas on the wall. Ours have been educated at the Universities of Baja California, Guadalajara and Mexico City.

Unless you have a dental emergency, there is no need to go with the first dentist you talk to for a big project like implants, bridge work or veneers. Get assessments from several dentists, and mull over whether you like them and their office and feel confident they will do the kind of job you want done. If you are charged for the consultations, it will be a bare minimum.

How Do You Get Around Town?

In San Luis, Arizona, there is a parking lot a block from the border crossing that charges \$4 per 24 hours. During the course of my root canal and follow-up visit, we parked our truck there. On our first trip, we walked into Mexico, found Dr. Bernal's office one block in, and took cabs and got chauffered around town as needed under our dentists' care. After that, we rode our bikes over the border four more times.

San Luis is a really fun town and being on bicycles made it super easy to get around. We found a fabulous restaurant called El Parianchi where we ate several delicious lunches, complete with a few beers, that only cost us \$17.50 or less for two. Offering fantastic service and a flamboyant spirit, the restaurant had live mariachi music and was really hopping one Saturday afternoon because of both a wedding party and a baptism

party at nearby tables. What a

70

\$179.10

Minimum issue \$50,000

wonderful change of pace after getting a root canal!

It was also far easier to cross the border going back into the US with our bikes because cyclists use the Sentri gate, which is reserved for people with a special pass who cross the border frequently. There is never a line at the Sentri gate.

For us, getting dental work done in Mexico has been a great adventure each time. In every case, we have felt that the care provided was equal, or superior, to the care we've received in the U.S. and a special bonus was that it cost a fraction of what we would have paid at home.



Emily Fagan and her husband, Mark, have been traveling full-time by RV and sailboat for over nine years. For more information about Mexican dentistry and contact info and directions for the dentists they have been to, visit **roadslesstraveled.us/mexican-dentists-finding-affordable-dental-care-in-mexico/**. They also have a lot of other tips about the RV lifestyle, including a photo-filled travelogue, on their home page: **roadslesstraveled.us**.

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E-mail Melanie Carr at melaniecarr@escapees.com

with your tips for organization, storage, safety, socialization or other aspects of traveling with children. Your submissions may appear in a future "Camping Kids" column.

Camping

Campfire photo courtesy of www.gorving.com.

If your family is like our family, sitting around the campfire often leads to "S'mores night."

fter a while, we decided it was time to try something Anew and mixed things up a bit by experimenting with a variety of ingredients. Now there's nothing wrong with a good, old-fashioned s'more, but if you're in an adventurous mood, give these fun alternatives a try.

Start with your cracker:

- Chocolate Graham Crackers
- Chocolate Chip Cookie
- Keebler Fudge Stripes
- Brownie
- Toast your marshmallow to a golden brown, then add to cracker along with:
 - Crunch Bar
- Reese's Peanut Butter Cups • Hershey Cookies & Cream
- Caramel Filled Chocolate

• Snickers

• Twix

Actually, you can pretty much fill them with anything! Mix and match as you please and enjoy!

Smokey Bear's Kids' Campfire Rules

In the United States, nearly nine out of 10 wildfires are caused by people not being careful. Help Smokey prevent these types of fires by learning to be careful and helping others do the same. Make sure that the grownups building your next campfire follow all the rules below, and tell them to check out "Campfire Safety" to learn even more.

- Make sure you are at a site that allows campfires.
- Make sure there are no burn bans and it's not too windy.
- Dig a pit away from overhanging branches.
- Circle the pit with rocks.

Mix Up Your S'mores

By Melanie Carr #8

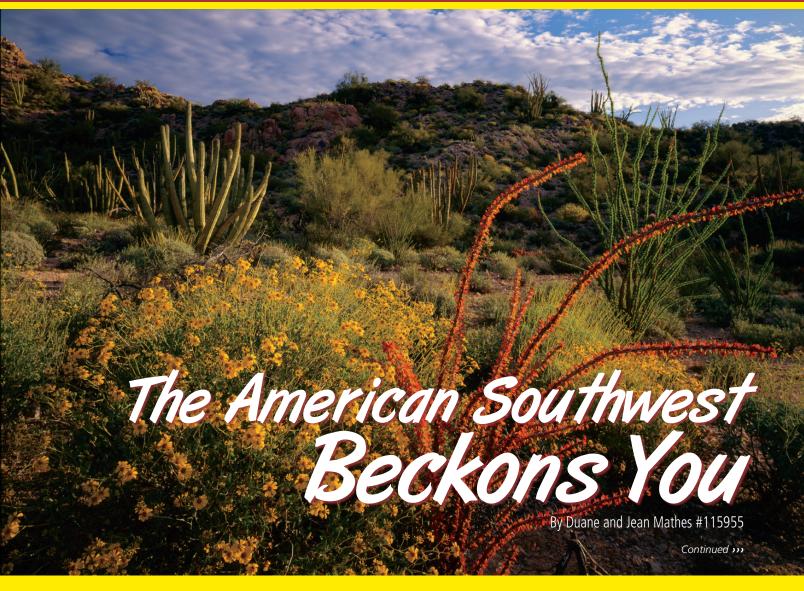
- Clear a 10-foot area around the pit down to the dirt, removing anything that could catch on fire.
- Stack extra wood upwind and away from fire.
- After lighting, throw the match into the fire.
- Never leave a campfire unattended; an adult should supervise the campfire at all times.
- Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby.
- Never put anything but wood into the fire.
- Do not pull sticks out of the fire.
- Do not sit on the fire ring or rocks around the campfire. They will heat up quickly and stay hot for a long time.
- When it's time to put the fire out, dump lots of water on it, stir it with a shovel, then dump more water on it. Make sure it is cold before leaving the campsite. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!

Remember, Smokey's friends never play with matches, lighters, lighter fluid or other flammable liquids. If you find any of these items, tell a grown-up where they are. If you see younger children playing with them, tell them to stop, and then tell a grown-up. Kids who help prevent wildfires deserve a Smokey Bear hug.

Excerpt from www.smokeybear.com



Pima County Fairgrounds, Tucson, Arizona, March 19-24, 2017



Register today! Visit WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/ESCAPADE or call 888-757-2582

America's Winter Playground

While summer's heat begins to wane and the sun sets lower on the horizon across much of the U.S. and Canada, the American Southwest beckons many RVers to forego their winter hibernation in exchange for fun in the desert sun. With a warm climate, sunny days, a variety of exciting places to visit and activities to fill their days, it's no wonder full-time RVers and snowbirds make their winter migration to the desert Southwest. From hikers to history buffs, cyclists to geocache enthusiasts, they all find a common interest under the warmth of the spectacular desert sky. Before they know it, cactus and desert wildflowers awaken in bloom, announcing the arrival of spring.

Join Your Escapees Friends In Tucson

This spring, we invite you to add Tucson, Arizona, to your travel plans as Tucson and the Pima County Fairgrounds extends a warm welcome for the 57th Escapade. Tucson, Arizona's second largest city, still exudes a hometown feel. With its fascinating history, 19th-century architectural treasures, as well as a vibrant, modern downtown, Tucson blends the old west with the new world and offers something for everyone in the way of adventure and exploration.

Escapade is sometimes described as "RV education, disguised as a week of camaraderie and fun." Combine all that enjoyment with such a desirable location and you've got a recipe for an unforgettable time! Whether you're brand new to the lifestyle, a veteran RVer, a recreational camper or you're living full-time on the road, there's something for everyone at Escapade. It's a time to meet up with old friends and make new ones as well.

Make Your Reservation

Pima County Fairgrounds has made significant upgrades and additions to their parking sites since Escapade's last visit. Many full-hookup sites have been added (50/30-amp electric, water and sewer), and 30-amp electric/water and pump-out sites are available. Reserve early as these options will sell out quickly.

Dry-camping sites with an abundance of sunshine are almost limitless. Tucson is the perfect place to boondock, and we're offering two boondocking options to make your experience more enjoyable. There'll be a "solar only" option for those equipped to be powered by the sun, and a "generator okay" option. Register early to ensure your choice of amenities are available.

Escapade RV Education and More

Escapade offers a schedule to capture your interest from morning 'til night. Gain knowledge and confidence in your RV lifestyle by taking in as many educational seminars as you choose throughout each day. A variety of topics will be featured. Whether your interest is caravanning, how to find free campsites, genealogy studies, working on the road, sharpening your computer skills, getting and staying healthy or learning to keep your RV looking and running great, we've got you covered. Sharing knowledge amongst members is invaluable, and Escapade makes it all happen.

57th Escapade Event Shirts

Order event shirts and hats for pickup upon arrival at Escapade. Sunflower is the official event shirt color and the hat is black. Visit **www.escapees.com/store/category/39-escapade-products** to pre-order. Shirts will also be available for purchase at Escapade in limited quantities and sizes.





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Pre-Event Workshop—Camp Reboot

Does your smartphone sometimes make you feel a little less smart? Camp Reboot may be the class for you. Escapees RV Club and the Geeks on Tour have partnered together to offer Camp Reboot, Smartphone Photography and Google Photos, prior to the 57th Escapade.

Designed especially with RVers in mind, Chris and Jim Guld will give two presentations of their pre-event workshop, designed to help you master the "smart camera" features of your phone, and teach you how to manage those incredible photos. Morning and afternoon options will be offered for this two-part, six-hour class. Class size is limited, so don't delay. Call Kim at 888-757-2582 to register. (Early-arrival parking is available for participants.)

Exploration Awaits

Tucson sits in a basin surrounded by four mountain ranges: the Rincon Mountains to the east, Santa Rita Mountains to the south, the Santa Catalinas to the northeast and the Tucson mountain range lies west. Not only do the surrounding mountains provide Tucson a spectacular backdrop, they hold a treasure trove of roads and trails begging to be explored and enjoyed. One cannot truly appreciate the peaceful beauty of the Sonoran Desert mountains until they immerse themselves in those surroundings. Take a hike or enjoy a leisurely drive. You'll come away with a new appreciation of the land you can't see from afar.

Allow time to explore everything the Tucson area has to offer. Come early, stay a couple of extra days and explore. If history is your passion, Old Tucson and the nearby boomtown of Tombstone provide hours of enjoyment. Watch a re-enactment of the gunfight at the OK Corral, walk the streets that Wyatt Earp, John "Doc" Holiday and many of history's "larger than life" characters called home. Retrace the steps that shaped our country's history during the days of the Wild West.

Escapade Marketplace

Shop 'til you drop, or until your wish list's complete. At the Escapade marketplace, our outstanding vendors provide options for all your RVing wants and needs with a wide array of products and services. Start preparing your RV shopping list now. For information about vendor space availability, sponsorships or exhibiting RV-related items, contact duane@escapees.com.



Escapees RVers' Boot Camp

Escapees RVers' Boot Camp will take place March 16–18, 2017, prior to Escapade. It's a wonderful way to increase your RV confidence to a whole new level and add three days of fun and education to Escapade. For details and registration information, visit **www.escapees.com/bootcamp**.



Escapees SmartWeigh

The SmartWeigh team will be on hand with the Escapees SmartWeigh program. Have your RV professionally weighed to make sure that you are operating safely and within legal limits. Visit **www.escapees.com/smartweigh** for more information. Visit the SmartWeigh booth near the market area to schedule your personal weighing session.

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Socials and Gatherings

After registering for Escapade, join our Facebook group at **www.facebook.com/groups/57thescapade**. Here, you'll be able to connect with fellow attendees, quickly access updates to the schedule and learn about informal events happening around the fairground.

Do you identify as an Xscaper? Connect with fellow working-RVers and full-time RV families at **www.facebook.com/geroups/57thescapadexscapers**. This is an easy way to organize informal gatherings with like-minded Xscapers and enhance your Escapade experience.

The Row invites you to stop by, say hello and learn what your Escapees chapters and BoF (Birds of a Feather) groups have to offer. You'll find folks of similar interest from across the country excited to welcome you. Attending chapter and BoF evening socials and gatherings is a great way to make new friends or reconnect with old ones.



56th Escapade HOP Winner

Congratulations to Jody Johnson #128922, winner of the Escapees HOP give-away at the 56th Escapade in Essex Junction, Vermont. Lisa Koca, Escapees HOP director, and her husband, Jim, present Jody with a trip to the 2017 Rose Parade HOP in Pasadena, California. At the 57th Escapade in Tucson, Arizona, a lucky attendee will win an amazing trip to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta with The Balloon Fiesta HOP. Make sure to attend this event for your chance to win. Photo by Bruce Fay #102397.



56th Escapade Grand Prize Winner

Ted and Linda Jones of Adventure Caravans present the grand prize Mega-Rally to Bill Mikiewicz #97088 at the 56th Escapade. You could be the next grand prize winner at the 57th Escapade in 2017. Photo by Bruce Fay #102397.



Post Escapade HOPs

After Escapade, relax and let someone else plan your sightseeing agenda by registering for a HOP or two! Escapees HOPs are fun and exciting, especially when shared with your fellow Escapees friends.

The Best of Tucson HOP

This HOP event includes tours to these locations.

Old Tucson Film Studios: These studios are a re-creation of an old 1880s Western town built by Columbia Studios. Stroll through the movie museum and a native village. Ride on the Old Tucson train, enjoy a narrated walking tour and learn the fascinating history of the Old American West. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum: The museum includes a 98-acre zoo that helps promote conservation. It houses are over 200 native mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects and birds. It also has an aquarium, botanical garden, natural history museum and art gallery. Mission San Xavier del Bac: known as "The White Dove of the Desert." Built in the 1700s, it was founded as a Catholic mission and is a national historic landmark. The mission is considered to be one of the finest examples of the Spanish Colonial architecture.

The Guns and Ammo HOP

This HOP will give you the opportunity to participate in safe gun-handling skills in a competitive, yet friendly, environment. There will be two classes of competitions: revolver and semi-auto. Please provide your own ammo, revolver and/or semi-auto, plus eye and ear protection. You may choose revolver, semi-auto or both. A prize will be presented to the best shooter in each of these two competitions. Please, no first-time shooters. You must already know how to shoot and operate a weapon safely.

To register for these HOP events, call Kim at 888-757-2582 or 936-327-8873.



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One last thing, your success is 100% Guaranteed, so there's no risk. I wouldn't have it any other way." – Steve Anderson, Workamper News President



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WHERE AMERICA PENTS THEIR RECREATIO

Blue skies and rolling green hills greeted us as we pulled into Essex Junction, Vermont, last July. Our family of six was excited to participate in our first Escapade!

EXAMPLE 1 A CONTROL OF CONTROL

HUP

Boys seated: Julian and Vincent Salvietti, grandchildren of Susan Salvietti #128247. On scooter: Dominick Travaglino and Gage Arnold, mother Bunny Arnold #113091. Photos by Kimberly Travaglino #123940



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As a full-time RVing family since 2010, I had known about Escapees RV Club and their well-attended annual event. I knew there were many intriguing educational opportunities and social events that allowed fellow RVers the chance to connect and enjoy nightly top-notch entertainment. What I didn't know was what the experience would look like with children in tow. If I came with my children, would I be left out of some of the fun? Was it all "family friendly"? Would my kids be welcome to be in attendance at the seminars I wanted to attend? Or would my husband and I have to take turns staying with the kids and not be able to participate in things as a couple?

hose questions remained unanswered in my mind for several years while I browsed yearly Escapade photo albums, looking for clues and children in each group picture.

I kept Escapade on my radar and went about my travels, that is until Travis and Melanie Carr #8 attended an event I was hosting for full-time traveling families in Branson, Missouri, in 2015.

While we were together, I was able to ask them all of the questions, and they were candid with me.

Yes, families were most certainly welcome to attend Escapade, but there was no formal schedule of activities in which children could participate. Together, the Carrs and my husband, Chris, and I came up with a plan. What if our family's company, Fulltime Families (www.fulltimefamilies.com), brought a three-day kids' program to Escapade with the goal to provide families a safe, educational and entertaining drop-off program, while providing their parents the opportunity to attend the seminars together? And so, on a fall day in balmy Branson, Kidscapade was born and scheduled to make its debut at the 56th annual Escapade.

The inaugural Kidscapade event, affectionately called "Camp Colorful," featured:

- 16 hours of scheduled learning and playtime for children of all ages
- Themed activities that centered on character qualities such as respect, integrity and boldness
- Arts and crafts, including coloring souvenir camp shirts
- The opportunity to perform an original song in the the Ham-o-Rama, an Escapade talent show tradition.

Twenty-seven children from ages four to 16 attended the first Kidscapade. These campers were a mix of full-time RVing children and attendees' grandchildren.

Although my family attended our first Escapade as staff, we immediately recognized the warm and welcoming attitude extended to us from all the Escapees members with which we interacted.

Nightly, we set up cones in the area where families were predominantly parked, and the children had a blast expelling their extra energy at the corner of "Bike Boulevard" and "Scooter

that an Escapade provides, while knowing their children were enjoying their own "Escapade Experience."

On more than one occasion, veteran Escapees members commented on how wonderful it was to see so many kids in attendance. Many of them regaled us with stories of Escapades many years ago that were heavily attended by families and how, as the group matured, kids in attendance became "few and far between." So many people remarked how refreshing and energizing it was to have this youthful element at the rally.

It was a great success and provided so much value to the families in attendance that the Escapees Board has approved the program for the 2017 Escapade in Tucson, Arizona.

So, in a few months, our family will be pulling into the home of majestic saguaros and speedy road runners for the second Kidscapade and to reconnect with our extended Escapees RV Club family.

"So many people remarked how refreshing and energizing it was to have this youthful element at the rally."

Street" while their parents mingled with fellow rally attendees at informal socials hosted by the Xscapers group.

The families served by the Kidscapade program all commented on how much they appreciated the opportunity to be able to soak in all the education

If you're asking the question, "Should we go to Escapade with children", then I encourage you with a resounding "yes" to join us this spring at the 57th annual Escapade! "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Full-time Family Upcoming Events

- Colonial Times Rally—September 2016
- Halloween Hang Out—October 2016
- Annual Family Reunion—Florida, February 2017





Kimberly Travaglino is the author of the best seller, How to Hit the Road; Making Your Family's Full-Time RV Dreams a Reality, co-founder of Fulltime Families RV membership club and one-half of the dynamic podcasting duo at Roadschool Moms. Her family of six has been traveling the country via RV since 2010. They have been to 39 states to date and have no end to their journey in sight. For more information about adventuring across America as a family, visit www.fulltimefamilies.com.

or more information, dates and locations, visit **www.escapees.com/smartweigh** or e-mail **smartweigh@escapees.com**.



"The best way to find the speed limit for your tires is to use the tire manufacturer's load inflation charts."

Weight and Safety Tip

Tire Speed Limits

By Jim Koca #86367, Escapees RVers' Boot Camp Instructor

Who would think that tires have a speed limit?

For most tires on motorhomes, the maximum speed limit is 75 mph. For fifth-wheels and travel trailers, the speed rating could be as low as 60 to 65 mph. If you exceed the speed rating of a tire, it will not explode; however, maintaining a higher speed for a long distance can cause heat buildup. This can damage the tire.

Factors that can affect a tire's speed rating include tire inflation, vehicle alignment, duration that the tire is driven in excess of the rated speed and driving conditions. If a tire has been damaged or run while under-inflated, overloaded or has been repaired, the manufacturer speed ratings will not apply and the speed rating will be lower. The best way to find the speed limit for your tires is to use the tire manufacturer's load inflation charts. Not only will these charts tell you the speed rating for the tire, it will also show you the inflation pressure for the load that the tires are carrying.

| Size | Load Range | Catalog Number | Tread Depth 32nds | Max Speed (-) mph |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 225/70R19.5 ⁽¹⁾ | F | 58916 | 13 | 75 |
| 245/70R19.5 ⁽¹⁾ | F | 67140 | 14 | 75 |
| 235/80R22.5 ⁽¹⁾ | G | 87511 | 16 | 75 |
| 255/80R22.5 ⁽¹⁾ | G | 59634 | 17 | 75 |
| 305/70R22.5 ⁽¹⁾ | L | 93499 | 16 | 75 |

If you are unsure of how much weight your tires are carrying, make an appointment and visit an Escapees SmartWeigh weighing location (see ad below).

Remember, an RV is not a race car and shouldn't be driven like one. Driving at a slower pace will save wear and tear on your tires, allow you to be safer and to better enjoy the scenic beauty of your RV travels.

Weigh In Weighing appointments are available Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Other times may be available. Call for information. **Congress**, Arizona Is Your RV North Ranch • 509-999-4429 Overweigh **Bushnell, Florida** Complete weight analysis Sumter Oaks • 518-231-8606 There's only one way to know for sure: starting Livingston, Texas at just Our program provides accurate individual wheel Rainbow's End • 888-757-2582 weights for your RV, toad and tow vehicle, and will help you trim the pounds if you need to.

From the Booksheff Joys and Secrets of RV Living By Marcella Gauthier #12371

In this issue, I am featuring two more books by Jerry Minchey #117566. In the September/October issue, I reviewed two of Jerry Minchey's books: *Motorhome and RV Retirement Living* and *Young RVers*. Jerry is a prolific writer and is a leader in RV living and retirement books.

His two latest books are Secrets of RVing on Social Security and Home No longer Has to Be a Place. His book, Motorhome and RV Retirement Living: The most Enjoyable and Least Expensive Way to Retire, is a #1 best seller in its category (Senior Travel and Solo Travel) on Amazon. In addition, I'll review Jerry's website that includes additional information for RVers.

Secrets of RVing on Social Security

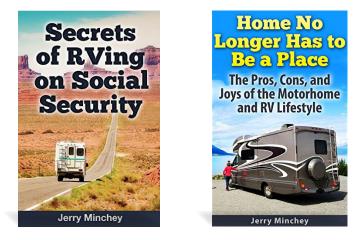
Jerry Minchey • StonyRiverMedia.com 2016 ISBN: 9780984496860 • Paperback \$12.95

) From the Bookshelf

Many RVers have successfully begun their journeys with hopes and dreams and not much more than social security income to tide them over. In his book, Jerry Minchey shows you how you can lower your cost of living and have an enjoyable life of travel and adventure. His step-by-step guide through the various aspects of the RV lifestyle is quite informative.

From managing to live strictly on social security to finding supplemental income, Jerry's amusing, light-hearted writing style definitely covers all the aspects of living in your RV on social security, including all the pros and cons.

This book should be required reading for seniors preparing to retire, or who are already retired, and considering the RV lifestyle. It will enable them to enjoy their retirement and keep control of their budgets. This book has an almost overwhelming amount of information, including a comprehensive appendix with many links to websites, ranging from RV remodeling to websites that allow you to keep contact with friends you meet on the road.



Home No Longer Has to Be a Place: the Pros, Cons, and Joys of the Motorhome and RV Lifestyle

Jerry Minchey • StoneyRiverMedia.com 2016 ISBN: 978-0-9844968-7-7 • Paperback: \$12.95 • Kindle: \$2.99 This book helps a reader decide if RV living is a desirable and viable lifestyle for them. Although Jerry points out that RV life may not be the right choice for everyone, he is a fan of the lifestyle; that he has lived for three years on the road and wouldn't consider any other way to live. Traveling mostly on the East Coast of the U.S., the majority of Jerry's travels have been in that part of the country.

As in the previous book about living on social security income, Jerry points out the financial aspects of life on the road. But this book is not only for retirees. He also covers how one can manage with earned income while traveling.

"This book should be required reading for seniors preparing to retire, or who are already retired, and considering the RV lifestyle."

From the Bookshelf (

Τ

To order books by Kay Peterson, visit www.escapees.com/store

"Although the information is especially useful for someone contemplating hitting the road in an RV, this book could be enjoyed by those of us who are already on the road."

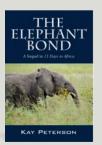
This is a simpler book than the social security book, and it contains a lot of the same information, but it is provided in a more user-friendly way. Jerry's observations and information are presented with his knowledge and experience of someone living the life. He certainly knows his stuff. Any questions you might have, and some you might not have thought about, are answered by Jerry with good, solid expertise. Although the information is especially useful for someone contemplating hitting the road in an RV, this book could be enjoyed by those of us who are already on the road for all the additional web links. The Internet is certainly a valuable tool for RVers.

Jerry's informative website, **www.LifeRV.com**, has a lot of articles about the various aspects of the RV life and a forum covering many topics that would be of interest to RVers. These forum topics are available to members who

have registered for the free membership status. This membership allows participation in forum topics and prevents nasty Internet trolls from interfering with serious discussions, as well as keeping the information provided by other forum members on a professional level. However, most of the articles on the website are available to nonmembers as guest visitors. A free membership allows total access to everything.

Marcella has a lifelong love of reading. She says she can't remember anything before she could read, and writing is her second love. Her first long story, about a girl and her hero horse, was written when she was only 12 years old. She has worked as a technical writer for over 40 years and, when she can, she escapes on a road trip in her 1978 classic Airstream trailer.

Books from Escapees RV Club Founder and Author Kay Peterson



The Elephant Bond

\$16.95 • www.escapees.com/store Kay's latest book is a novel about loyalty, loss and love. The sequel to 13 Days in Africa, the survivors of a kidnapping form a unique bond that resembles that of an endangered elephant's life in the wild savanna.

Chasing Rainbows

\$15.95 • **www.escapees.com/store** A collection of Kay's favorite

"Thoughts for the Road" *Escapees* magazine columns, as well as new stories about her adventures.



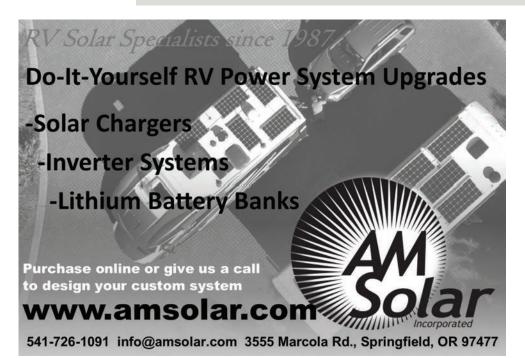
Beating the Odds

\$19.95 • www.amazon.com The story behind Joe and Kay Peterson's life journey and the founding of the Escapees RV Club.

13 DAYS IN AFRICA A Safari Adventure

\$15.00 • www.escapees.com/store When tourists on an African safari are kidnapped by bandits, their lives are forever changed.





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RV Safety Section

www.escapees.com/rvsafety

Under the "My Benefits" on the Escapees Website, you will find exclusive RV safety-related information and articles with topics such as driving, weight and load management, RV tires, personal safety, maintenance, RV recalls and gadgets and tools. Also included are a selection of the best technical article reprints from *Escapees* magazine, video training seminars and demonstrations on many aspects of RV safety and links to RV safety Websites and additional training opportunities.

RVers' Boot Camp

www.escapees.com/bootcamp

Fundamental training in road safety, technical proficiency and confidence for all RVers. An intense and highly efficient training program designed to teach you what you NEED to know without a lot of fluff.

SmartWeigh

www.escapees.com/smartweigh

SmartWeigh provides you with accurate individual wheel weights for your RV, toad and tow vehicle, along with simple instructions for how to correct any weight issues your rig may have. Simply put, SmartWeigh allows you to "escape with peace of mind."

Escapades

www.escapees.com/escapade

Whether you're just getting started in weekend RVing or you're a seasoned veteran of the road, the classes and workshops offered during these five-day educational events will help you get the most value, fun and adventure out of your RV investment.

Escapees Discussion Forums

www.rvnetwork.com

Join our friendly and active online RVing community on the Escapees Discussion Forum. With topics ranging from Beginning RVing, to Technical Tips and Tricks and Sharing the Full-time Lifestyle, there's always something useful being discussed.

Whether you are returning to a well-loved park for a season of merrymaking with established friends, or you're just pulling into town to celebrate the holidays in a new place, chances are you're going to enjoy some terrific food-inspired gatherings.

By Evanne Schmarder #65409

This is especially true during Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Most likely, there will be meal events planned by the park, an evening or two out at a favorite restaurant or even a ladies' luncheon. But would you throw robust dinner parties for eight to 10 of your most beloved neighbors at your home on wheels? You might be tempted to say, "no can do," but what I have to share sounds mighty fun and makes "yes, let's do it" so much more attractive.

I'm talking about progressive dinner parties.

The concept is simple and the possibilities are endless. So, how does this work? Four to five couples agree to participate, each one hosting a single course at their site. The party roams from one rig to the next, with

Photo courtesy of www.gorving.com

partygoers enjoying a multicourse meal, one RV at a time. The benefits are many. It's an active and memorable gathering and an opportunity to share a new experience with your friends. It is also fun and easy on the host.

Party Planning

nner Da

Perfect all year 'round, progressive parties take on a special shine over the holidays. The best of these events are themed, and there's so much to choose from in November and December. The group may choose to have a Thanksgiving dinner progressive-style, an "everybody's Christmas tradition" meal, a traveling gourmet New Year's Eve feast, a winter wonderland theme, or even holidays "local-style" focusing on local holiday culture.

HE SEASON TO

Once a theme is agreed upon, it's a good idea to have one or two

Continued >>>

individuals take the reins for planning the party. The first detail is who will be responsible for which course. Depending on the number of rigs participating, you might have an appetizer, soup or salad, a main course, a cheese course and finish the evening off with coffee and dessert or maybe even include nightcaps.

Theme? Check. Courses and hosts? Check. Next up—beverages. There are a number of options for consideration. Each participating couple can arrive at the first course stop with a traveling bottle of wine to share. The host can provide cocktail mixers, and Because our "wheel estate" is typically not designed to host a dinner party of this size, wise progressives will set up their party central outside. It's standard RV practice to ask each partygoer to bring a folding chair. As for the plates and place settings, it's simply more elegant (and more practical) for each host to provide the tableware for their course as opposed to asking guests to "bring your own."

Gaming the System

If your group loves games, set up a traveling game and figure out a special little prize for the winner.

each stop or as a finale to the evening. Since it's the holidays, you might even consider a white elephant gift exchange. That's very merry indeed!

The Meal Deal

One of the most important tips I can give you in regards to hosting a progressive dinner course is to make it easy and make it ahead. This will alleviate a majority of the setup and kitchen stress you may have, as well as allow you time to enjoy your guests. Lay out the tableware, glasses, ice bucket, napkins and table linens, serving utensils and any other



guests can bring the spirits. Nonalcoholic beverages can be provided by each host, and personal libations, if desired, can be brought by each guest. It all works. It just depends on the partier preference.

The last big detail that needs to be attended to is the schedule. The progressive party planner should set a schedule allowing somewhere between 45 minutes and one hour for each course. They must also estimate how long it will take to mosey from one site to the next. Once determined, a fun way to communicate this to the group is via a printed invitation noting each course, corresponding host, site number and expected time of arrival. A "poker run" is always fun. Leave a full deck of playing cards at each RV. Guests draw a card at each stop and reveal their "hands" at the final stop of the evening, best poker hand wins. There's also an interesting neighbor-bingo game I found on a blog called "My Insanity." They suggest handing out bingo-type cards like the one found at http://bit.ly/2ctqryc at the first course stop. Throughout the evening, everyone asks each other questions, and when they find someone that meets the criteria in the box. that person initials their "card" in that square. Here we're looking for a bingo. Another idea is to hand out raffle tickets for door prizes given at

items that can be pre-set. If you'll have candles, put the matches nearby. Remember, unless you're hosting the appetizer course, you'll be out on the town (so to speak) until your course time arrives. Get everything ready before you and your guests arrive.

When developing your course, choose something within the theme that lends itself well to being made in advance. If you have a crockpot, think about how you can put that to use.

Appetizers

Think dips, shrimp cocktail, crockpot meatballs, a cold meat and cheese platter, prosciutto-wrapped asparagus or melon or crostini with bruschetta.

Soup/Salad

Crockpots are perfect for hot soups, or you might consider a chilled gazpacho if you're in a warm evening climate. Salad ingredients can be prepared separately, kept in Ziploc bags in the fridge and tossed immediately before serving. A good crusty loaf of bread is an ideal (and easy) accompaniment.

Main Course

Traditionally, a main course is a meat, starch and vegetable, but that's a little much in this situation. Instead, call the trusty crockpot into service. A whole chicken or pot roast stewed with vegetables and new potatoes sounds great as does barbecued pork with pre-made slaw and pickles. You might also consider a prebaked casserole or lasagna that can be quickly reheated or served at room temperature.

Cheese Course

Choose three complementary cheeses approximately .5 to 1 ounce per guest

per cheese. Lay them out on a beautiful serving platter with knives and allow them to come to room temperature—perfect for a progressive dinner. If the cheese is to be the final course, add something sweet like dried and fresh fruit and honey. If it's served as a savory course before dessert, add a little arugula with a light vinaigrette and some warm Kalamata olives or other artisan bread as a side.

Dessert

Match the party theme with something ooey-gooey and decadent, a holiday pie and ice cream, clas-

Evanne is sure she got the wanderlust bug from her grandparents who traveled the U.S. in their city bus conversion in the 1940s, as

what we now call "work-campers." In 2000, she and her husband, Ray, set off on their own adventure, affectionately called Operation Sunshine, from hip-but-rainy Portland, Oregon, in search of a sunny place to settle down. Sixteen-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**.

sic strawberry cheesecake and/or perhaps a selection of after-dinner drinks. It's all good. Make it easy.

Progress Has Been Made

Try this type of dinner party once and I'll bet it'll become a staple in your traveling neighborhood. Invite guests who are new to the park, mix up the courses you are hosting, play music, play games and laugh a lot. Vary your themes by ethnic styles, party or sporting themes or even other classic holidays. Let loose, have fun and feast with friends. Share your celebration across the landscape.

RVCooking Show





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Different Viewpoints

RVers' Dpinions and Advice from the Road

- Opinions contained in "Different Viewpoints" are not necessarily those of the Escapees RV Club, its officers or the membership in general. Escapees RV Club accepts no responsibility for what is expressed here by any person, group or company.
- Because of the large volume of material, we may not acknowledge receipt of material. Submissions that are sent by e-mail can be directed to departmentseditor@escapees.com. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting.

The Spirit of Giving Makes the Season Bright

Since retiring from computer programming in 2004, Jim and Betty Lenneman #86168 have been full-time RVing for 12 years. During summer, they are leaders for caravans, and in the winter, they are campground hosts. In 2015, they found a winter homebase at Saguaro SKP Co-Op Park in Benson, Arizona, and it is here that their love of giving is shared by others.

Excitement of the children has inspired this couple to be Santa and Mrs. Claus for the past 30 years, and they shared their talents at the park during Christmas 2015.

Jim is a member of the Cabaret Singers, and the group sponsored a caroling event, which was followed by a potluck supper and the Christmas tree lighting. This past year, while Jim was singing bass in the chorus, Betty dressed as a chipmunk and frolicked on stage with Alvin and Simon during the "Chipmunk Song."

Jim and Betty auctioned off several Skype sessions with Santa, where Jim (aka Santa) Skyped their grandchildren. The funds raised by the auction go to pay for entertainment in the park, which is free for all campers.

After being in the park for only a year, Jim and Betty concluded that they have chosen the best place for them to "land" when they are not on the road. Their experiences at Saguaro SKP Co-Op reminded them of the saying, "To receive a gift is surely a pleasure, but it is the giving that is the treasure."

Saguaro SKP Co-Op is inviting RVers who have never been to the park before to come and stay a week with full hookups for \$50 (plus electric). We hope this will help you get a taste of what it is like to stay here and get to know the



Carol Bezdeka #57848, seated, is greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Jim and Betty Lenneman #86168) while wrapping gifts. Crafters at Saguaro SKP Co-Op work year-round to provide homemade gifts for foster children and disabled adults. Photo by Linda Quistad-Berg #109447.

friendly folks who are leaseholders. Visit **www.skpsaguaro.org** and click on special offer. Also, visit **www.youtube. com** and search "SKP Saguaro."

Linda Quistad-Berg #109447

Escapees Is Like Family

I'm an army brat and always lived on a military base growing up. Even now, with three grandsons in the military, every time I come onto a military base I feel like I'm home. After my husband, Richard, and I retired and started traveling full-time as Escapees, I soon felt the same feeling every time we pulled into an Escapees park. Even on the road, we found Escapees from Alaska to Florida and from California to Maine. Due to medical reasons, I'm now alone and can no longer travel.

Different Viewpoints 💽

Send your story to editor@escapees.com.

Have you had a humorous RV blooper or blunder, or a funny incident that occurred on the road?

Pronunciation Phunny

After driving around all the border states one summer, we came down the coast on Highway 101. I had been corrected so many times on the pronunciation of place names that when we came to "Yachats," I didn't even try. It was about noon so we stopped for lunch. I asked the girl who took our order to tell us where we were and to say it slow so I could catch it. She said, "It's called Brr- Grr- King"!

We eventually found that it's pronounced "Yah Hots." Jerry Hatch #28970

Hookup Hoax

We heard a funny story about Escapees founders, Joe and Kay Peterson. (Joe was known for practical jokes!) They were camped in the desert in Arizona among several other RVs. All were boondocked except for Joe and Kay, who had a full hookup. When they were preparing to move on, they noticed other rigs eyeing them and getting ready to rush over to claim the spot. After disconnecting all the utilities, Joe moved ahead a few feet and stopped. He got out and pulled up the water pipe, electrical box and sewer connection, put them in the rig and they vamoosed! *Jerry Hatch #28970*

While in a park, I needed to replace the inner workings of my toilet. I tried and tried and couldn't get a nut loose. In desperation, I drove my golf cart around the park looking for help. I asked a fellow RVer if he could help a widow in distress. After 30 minutes of sweat and strength, he was able to use a hack saw to get the old part out. I offered to take him and his wife out to lunch, but he said, "No, thank you. We take care of our own."

He left and I finished putting in the new part, then realized I didn't even get his name. They were leaving for Hondo, hoping to buy a lot in that park.

Escapees is more than an organization—it is a family. Wherever we go, we find family to have fun with, talk to or even help or be helped.

Ginger Chapman #45708

Safe Alternatives for Rodent Protection

In "Rodent Protection," in the September/October "Mark, My Words" column, an industrial-grade poison is one of the suggestions for the elimination of rodents.

We strongly disagree with any rodenticide use. Secondary rodenticide poisoning (animal eating a poisoned rodent) is a serious problem. It is causing death of predatory birds like hawks and owls that naturally control the rodent population and to family pets. We have friends who lost a beloved dog to secondary poisoning.

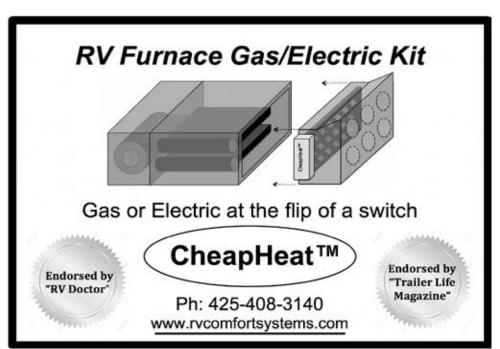
The safest methods to deal with a rodent problem are mechanical barriers and deterrents. We've had good luck with a natural product called FreshCab as a deterrent, and friends of ours have had success with peppermint oilsoaked cotton balls.

Michelle and Steve Cook #82766

Looking Back

In the fall of 1993, while on a consulting contract, I found a copy of Full-Time RVing. I found it interesting, so I sent a copy to my wife, Darleen. When I got home, she had already started getting rid of our stuff and said we should try RVing for two years. We put the house up for sale, but had a hard time getting a buyer. There was an RV show in Pomona, California, that fall, and since we had not sold our house. we were only looking at used rigs. I was talking to a dealer about our plan to try full-time RVing when this little lady took my hand and said, "Come with me." She led us to the Escapees RV Club booth where we met her husband. It was Kay and Joe Peterson #1, and we signed up as Escapees 28970.

Jerry Hatch #28970



Give YOURSELF

Continuing Assistance for Retired Escapees

to rest to recover

Are You Interested in Escapees **CARE's Future?**

CARE's mission is to help Escapees CARE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to be sure that CARE will be ready for them when they need it. Last year, four sites were added to our original 35. We currently have 39 sites for Escapees independent living, plus four sites for volunteers. All 39 sites are occupied, and there are five couples on the waiting list.

Recently, an Escapee required an operation and temporary rehabilitation. With Rainbow's End RV Park's help, a volunteer was moved to the park, opening a CARE site to accommodate this member. The temporary resident pays slightly more to share the cost with us for the park site.

National Trends

Currently there is an upturn in the sales of motorhomes and trailers while traditional home sales have hit an all-time low. We speculate that this growth of the RV community will result in more Escapees members. This causes the Escapees CARE Inc. Board (separate from the Escapees RV

Club) to wonder if, and where, future growth should occur for CARE.

Input Needed

Kay Peterson conceived the idea of Escapees CARE, Inc. as a non-profit facility, without using government subsidies. The Escapees membership held major fund raisers and made monthly donations to create the facility and to support its ongoing costs. By filling all the sites and increasing rents, CARE has somewhat lessened the dependency on donations. However, CARE still depends on volunteers and donations to make up the exorbitant cost of dementia/ Alzheimer's care. Nursing care is expensive, but it is required for the nonprofit status. Now, CARE needs your input for the future. Our board would not consider expansion without a clear expression of need.

Help us by sending an e-mail or letter with your expectation of ever using CARE as a resident. Would you need temporary residency for an operation? It's hard to guess; however, if you are a full-time RVer and have sold your home, you should consider CARE in this type of situation. One visitor on our tour said

he stayed with his daughter for a knee operation. After seeing our program, he plans to stay at CARE as a temporary resident for his next knee surgery.

o recuperate

Also, specify if our Texas facility is convenient, or if you have a preference for a different location. If there is a significant demand, especially in a different location, it would, of course, require a large fund-raising effort.

If you aren't certain what CARE does, visit www.escapeescare.org or search "Escapees CARE" on Facebook. Help us grow to meet your needs. E-mail carefd@escapees.com or mail a note to Escapees CARE, Inc. Board, 155 Care Center Drive, Livingston, TX 77351. Include all of your thoughts, including questions. Please provide your Escapees membership number, e-mail and mailing address, and we will respond to you personally.

Please continue to assist us with donations and by volunteering your time. Your contributions are used carefully to improve Kay's Dream.

> Russ Johnson #96114 **Escapees CARE Director**

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You may provide your support through PayPal Giving Fund, www.iGive.com, www.escapees.com/store/CARE, or through a bequest to CARE in your will. You can set up automatic donations, starting at \$10 per month, directly from your bank account or credit card by calling us at 936-327-4256.

WWW.ESCAPEESCARE.ORG



in need to rest, recover, recuperate or retire. Many Escapees donate to

CARE needs volunteers!

Volunteers receive a free site and three meals/day for one month in exchange for 24/32 hours/week (a \$760 value). For summer months (June—September), electric costs are reduced by \$100. Please call 936-327-4256 for more information. You will enjoy volunteering at Escapees CARE!

Day & End Free and Low-cost Parking Finds Compiled by Guy Gipson #84383



The Day's End Directory is a useful tool helping you save money and find safe overnight parking your fellow Escapees members recommend.

Want more Day's End listings?

Order the Day's End, Good Guys and Boondockers Journal Directory by visiting www.daysenddirectory.com or write Guy Gipson, 107 Rainbow Dr., #755, Livingston, TX 77399-1007. Online Search and Download: \$15/year. CD (Mac and PC-compatible): \$20. Please include your complete name and Escapees membership number with all inquiries.

"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.

This sampling of parking selections highlights southern boondocking options for your RV travels.

ALABAMA

Cullman: Cullman Shopping Ctr, Ig level paved pkg lot. Next to Walmart's lot on US 31: 4–5 lg rigs. High-traffic area, movie theater at end. Was not noisy during weeknight. Lots of fast food within walking distance.

Christine Trochesset #118167

Day's End

Double Springs: Brushy Lake CG (NF). 13 BD sites, tables, firepit/grills, lantern poles. Central W except in winter. Toilet, trash cans. \$5, S/A Pass 1/2. Go N from town on SR 33/Wilderness Hwy. Just N of MM 17, TR (E) on CR 70, Brushy Creek sign. Stay on paved rd 5 mi, then TR on Mt. Olive Rd at sign for Brushy Lake Rec Area, go 2.5 mi. 1/2 of sites Ig-rig OK. Map avail at NF ranger station at 1070 SR 33. No cell service.

Margie Wilson #102666

Montgomery: Prairie Creek CG, Alabama Riv Lakes (COE). 55 sites with 50-A E/W, tables, fire rings. Rest rooms, showers, laundry, D. \$20-24, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit. Open all year. I-65 x167, go 25 mi W on US 80, TR on CR 23, go 5 mi, TL on CR 40, go 3 mi. Playground, boat ramp, very good fishing. tinyurl.com/hhnnxzj

Bruce Maggs #88250

Robertsdale: Oasis Travel Ctr, very Ig, level pkg lot. O/N OK, permission not required. Free. I-10 x53, NW guad. 27801 CR 64. Park on N side of lot. Any size rig. Fuel, restaurant, Subway.

Dick and Susan Nevala #49439

CALIFORNIA

Alpine: Vista point, pkg area. Free. No signs prohibit O/N pkg. I-8 MM 37, EB only (just E of x36). Beautiful vista.

Sherman Lanz #118589

Barstow: Lg gravel pkg area. 7 mi SW of town at I-15 x178, S of outlet/ Factory stores complex, go E to Lenwood Rd, then S to Merchantile Way, then E to end of pavement. 34.84812 -117.07589. Multiple fuel stations at this exit. Lenwood Rd to S becomes Outlet Center Dr and connects to I-15 x175.

David McQuoid #90501

Junction City: Junction City CG (BLM). 23 BD sites. Tables, steel fire rings. Threaded with spigots. Vault toilets, trash bins. 14-day limit. \$10, S/A Pass Continued >>>



1/2. \$5 extra vehicle more than two. Mid–May–Nov 30. 2.2 mi W of town on SR 299 MM 32.3, E side. 40.7461 -123.06363. S side open-sky, N side heavily shaded. Some pull-thru and pull-along sites. Turn around loop both sides. Any size rig. tinyurl.com/lenznpw

Clyde W. Sisler #109916

Oceanside: Home Depot pkg lot. Allows O/N pkg (mgr gave permission), local Walmart does not. Free. 24-hr limit. SR 78 x4A, go W on N frontage Rd 3838 W Vista Way. Park at edge of lot. Level, good lighting, good Verizon, 760-941-5990.

Barbara Dewell #109116

GEORGIA

Acworth: McKinney CG, Allatoona Lake (COE). 139 sites with 50-A E/W, tables, grills, fire rings, lantern posts. Flush toilets, showers, coin laundry, D. \$26 non-waterfront, \$30 waterfront, S/A Pass 1/2. Open all yr, some sites closed in winter. Two-night stay weekends and three on holiday weekends may be required. 14-day limit within 30 at Allatoona Lake. I-75 x278, go 3 mi N on Glade Rd past Clark Creek CG/Use Area, to 2nd 4-way stop, TL W, go 1 mi on Kings Camp Rd, TL at fork. 6659 McKinney Campground Rd. Max 40' RV. Playground, fishing, boating, beach, swimming.

Villa Rica: Sweetwater Valley Park. 36 sites with 50- 30- or 20-A E/W. Rest room, shower, coin-op washer and dryer, D. \$20, \$100/wk up to 4 people, \$2/addtl person/night. Possible 14-day limit when busy. Text 678-787-4487 for reservations and info or e-mail sweetwatervalleypark@ hotmail.com. No check-in on Sundays. Cash or checks only. From US 78 in town, go N on SR 61, cross RR tracks to Main St, go 4.3 mi N on SR 61, TR E on Sweetwater Bend. 356 Sweetwater Bend. Gated entry is 0.3 mi on R. Obtain code before arriving or call office from call box. Bear L to CG. Rd in for 1/4 mi is rough. Sites are level gravel/dirt, some pull-thru, some OK for lg rigs. Walking trails, playground, goats, chickens, bunnies. Good Verizon.

Margie Wilson #102666

Waycross: Flash Foods/gas sta. O/N pkg OK. Free D, W and air. 1 mi W of town on SR 84/23. N31 12.624 W82 22.964. 1736 S. Georgia Pkwy W. Room for many lg rigs. RV fuel island. Propane. McDonald's.

John and Bonnie Archer #113438

LOUISIANA

Charenton: Cypress Bayou Casino and RV Park, pkg lot. O/N in far E lot OK per security. F-HU RV park Sa-Thu, \$15; Fri-Sun \$22. D near SW corner from RV park. From US 90, go E on SR 83. MM 148, TR (E) on SR 182, go 0.5 mi, TR on Ralph Darden Memorial Pkwy, go 2 mi to casino.

Bruce and Bunny Ratcliff #48001

SLIDELL: Boat launch, lg gravel, fairly level pkg lot. No restrictive signs. 9 mi E of town on US 90, at the MS state line. 30.23865 -89.61616. Any size rig. Popular with locals, park so you don't get blocked in early AM. Along the Pearl River.

Garth Bacon #44463

MISSISSIPPI

Starkville: John W Starr Memorial RV Park. 30- or 50-A HU, \$20. Primitive camping, \$5. At Mississippi State Univ John W Starr Memorial Forest. Go 2 mi W of town on SR 12, TL on SR 25, go 6 mi. Next to Charles E Burkhardt Pavilion and Site, home of the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show. Call 662-325-4720 for availability and reservations. tinyurl.com/jc4v23c

Guy Gipson #84383

Vicksburg: Riverwalk Casino, pkg lot. O/N OK, free. I-20 x1A, go 1 mi S on Warrenton Rd. 1046 Warrenton Rd.

Dennis Rosenblitt #91444



>>>> Let's talk boondock!

Visit www.rvnetwork.com and read the boondocking discussion forum thread. Hear what fellow SKPs have to say, and join in on the conversation.

NEW MEXICO

Des Moines: Sierra Grand Restaurant/Sinclair, pkg lot. Owner said O/N OK. Free. Go 0.8 mi SE of town on US 64/87, on R W. N36 45.267 W103 49.283. N entrance, wide gravel rd circles grassy area, room for 5+ RVs. S entrance, sm concrete pkg area S of fuel pumps, W side, room for 2+ RVs. Sometimes trucks use. 24-hr fuel, good restaurant 6a–9p, sm C-store. Elev 6600'.

John D. Kayartz #99700

Dulce: Deep pull-outs, W of town US 64 MM 99 and 115. Traffic, but comfortable for a night.

Steve and Song Judson #12180

Portales: Oasis SP. Several BD sites, \$10, and several E/W sites, \$14. D. 14-day limit. US 70 NE of town near Walmart, go 4 mi N on SR 467, TL W, go 1.5 mi to SP. Good lake fishing. NM license avail at local Walmart.

Howard and Fran Smith #83749

Tularosa: Lg flat/gravel pkg area. No facilities. Free. O/N OK. N end of town where US 70 and US 54 diverge. Heading WB on US 70, enter on N side of exit to NB US 54. Lot is W of Dollar Store. N33.0793 W106.02087. Sub shop across hwy.

John D. Kayartz #99700

TEXAS

Bay City: Chamber Park CP at Sargent Beach. Very Ig asphalt pkg lot with 3 covered tables. Potable W, flush toilets. Free. Posted 24-hr limit. Go 27.8 mi SE on FM 457 from jct. with SR 35 in town, TL after canal bridge, park is immed on R. 28.7708 -95.6144. Lot empty in winter. Beach access. Tug boats push barges in canal; no horn, just engine noise. Lots of mosquitoes.

Larrv Malcom #122042

Hamilton: Picnic area. 2 covered tables. Trash cans. 9.3 mi NE of town on SR 22, NW side. 31.74062 -97.97728. Circular driveway well off of hwy. Little noise at nite.

Al and Sharon Florida #86865

San Marcos: Tanger Outlet Mall, paved pkg lot. No facilities. Free. Up to 24 hrs OK. Provide vehicle and driver license info to Shopper Services office for permission. I-35N x200, SE side, NE of CR 234. 4015 I-35 S. 29.83 -97.98. Make sure you are parked on the Tanger side, not the Premium Outlet side. Any size rig.

Ray and Fran Grodek #97924

Shelbyville: Boles Field CG (NF). 20 grass sites with 30-A E/W, tables, grills. Flush toilets, showers. \$6, S/A Pass 1/2. 14–day limit. No reservations. From SR 87, go 0.9 mi E on FM 417, TR (E) at Y on FM 2694, go 8 mi to CG. CG is on both sides of rd. 31.77 -93.97333. Rd noise. ATT "out of network" 3 bars. Path NW from shelter goes to a natural spring. Boles Field is home of the National Fox Hound Cemetery. Toledo Bend Reservoir is 6 mi away with access at Huxley Marina. tinyurl.com/qysmbjq

Larry Malcom #122042

Sonora: Gravel pkg area. No facilities. Free. No signs. 29 mi E of town, I-10 x429, go N to RM 3130, TL W, go 300' to area on L. Room 6 lg RVs. Also a spot under the I-10 bridge at the exit that would get one out of the rain.

Chas Wilder #88717

Trent: Out-of-business gas sta. No facilities. Free. I-20 x261, N side.

Howard Krakower #101117

Industry-sanctioned Code of Conduct 😪

Overnight Parking Etiquette RVer's Good Neighbor Policy

Dear Fellow RVers,

Some of the most respected RV consumer clubs have joined together to support your right to park on private businesses' parking lots overnight under the following code of conduct:

Industry-sanctioned Code of Conduct

(RVers' Good Neighbor Policy)

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

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

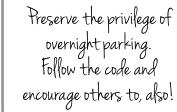
Most of the complaints lodged regarding RV parking on business parking lots have to do with aesthetics and perceived abuse of the privilege. There are a variety of competing interests that were balanced to arrive at this industry-sanctioned code of conduct. As you can see, the code of conduct is nothing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

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

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

We wish you safe and happy travels,





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Call 888-757-2582 for specific pricing information.

HOP Cancellation Policy: A 10 percent cancellation fee of the full registration amount will be deducted from any refunds 61 days or more prior to the event, unless stated otherwise. There are no refunds 60 days or less prior to the event. For events booked through a travel agent, for rental of equipment or for events not booked through Escapees RV Club, the cancellation policy of that entity supersedes the HOP cancellation policy.

Wine & Beer Tasting and Sightseeing, too! HOP. Photo courtsey of San Diego Beer and Wine To

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Pay 1/2 down and 1/2 later for your HOP event. This option is available at registration.



la Roca Castle and tour the castle. The Best of Tucson HOP

March 24, 2017

Price range: \$89 per person

• Tour the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Tour Old Tucson Film Studios

Ride the Old Tucson train.

historic landmark.

 Enjoy gunfights, live shows, movie museum Visit the Grand Palace, native village

Tour Mission San Xavier del Bac, a national

Tucson, Arizona

- produced by the local craftsmen. • Enjoy breathtaking views from San Pedro de
- Visit an Artisans' Market, the Almacenes de San Visit San Juan Hill. José-Havana's, and be amazed at the treasures
- ture in Cuba.
- Tour an organic farm, learn about the agricul-
- Enjoy performances by Cuba's best rumba
- The Old Man and the Sea. UNESCO World Heritage site, built to protect
- family-owned paladares. Hemingway's former home. Visit fishing village Cojimar, retreat/setting for
- \$2,982-\$4,332 per person Authentic, home-cooked meal, at a Cuban
- Cuba! Culture-immersion Cruise January 8–15, 2017

- New Year's Eve dinner
- Entrance into the Bandfest Entrance into the Showcase of Floats

- Float decorating, tour and history

Price range: \$927-\$1,641 VIP seating and entrance to Equestfest VIP seating at the Rose Parade

Pasadena, California

Rose Parade HOP Dec. 28, 2016–Jan. 4, 2017

JOIN THE FUN!

- Dutch oven dinner.

- May 22-27, 2017

- Lunch at a brewery; wine and dinner at winery
- Beer and wine appreciation presentations Tour behind the scenes of the beer and wine

San Diego, California Craft beers and wine tastings on private Price range: \$1,100-\$1,478

- Wine & Beer Tasting and Sightseeing, too! HOP April 10-15, 2017

- Semi-auto warm-up and competition Prize to the best shooter in each competition
- Revolver warm-up and competition Safety briefing
- of competitions: revolver and semi-auto
- competitive, yet friendly, environment Bring your own guns and ammo. Two classes

Price range: Revolver: \$45 pp Semi-auto: \$45 pp Tucson, Arizona Both revolver and semi-auto: \$60 pp • Participate in safe gun-handling skills, in a

March 25, 2017

Guns and Ammo HOP

www.escapees.com | November/December 2016 | ESCAPEES . 37

- Aquarium, botanical gardens, natural history See native mammals, reptiles, amphibians,
 - entertainment and a farewell, cowboy-style
- Entrance on a leisurely cruise, live Western
- Leisure Rivers. Six named rapids included.
- guides; nice lunch on the banks of the river.

- All-day river rafting. Includes professional tour
- Explore the area on guided 4x4 runs
- Area information session by Master Naturalist Price range: \$585-\$965
- Moab, Utah
- Two days of narrated tours of San Diego Moab Outdoor Adventure HOP
- Souvenir brewery and wine gifts Ample tastings at both the brewery and winery

No one wants to spend time on administrative accounting tasks.

The reality, though, is a small business entrepreneur is the CEO, CFO, COO and all other kinds of Xs and Os.



4.567

325

By Adam Nubern #131230

Here is a list of five efficiency hacks to get you creating and exploring, and spending less time paper pushing.

Use a mobile phone application like MilelQ to automatically record miles driven. Set aside time on Wednesdays and Saturdays to categorize trips as business or personal. | www.mileiq.com

Use a cloud storage solution such as Google Drive to house all of your business receipts. Get away from that shoe box full of receipts! When you have a business expense, snap a picture and upload it to Google Drive. Create a folder labeled "Business Receipts." Categorize that folder by month. Name the file with your business purpose, such as "Lunch With Sam To Discuss Pinewood."

"When you have accounting and tax-related questions, the IRS and your state of domicile have sources that you can consult."

Stop doing your books on Excel spreadsheets. If your business margins do not justify spending money for accounting software, try out Wave. This is a free accounting software solution. It will save you loads of time building your accounting books. | www.waveapps.com

I get a lot of questions about what is a legitimate business deduction. Consistently analyzing what is and is not a business deduction takes up a lot of your creative time. At the simplest terms, the IRS expects that any business deduction be "ordinary" and "necessary" in the carrying on of your business. The IRS has a fairly well presented description of what they mean by ordinary and necessary. Section 162(a) of the Internal Revenue Code is where all of this magic is happening. | www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/deducting-business-expenses

Looking for work or looking to hire? Visit the Escapees online Job Board at www.escapees.com/job-board!

Go straight to the source. When you have accounting and tax-related questions, the IRS and your state of domicile have sources that you can consult. The IRS has great resources for small business owners at *www.irs.gov/businesses/ small-businesses-self-employed*.

Most state-specific answers can be found at your Secretary of State's Website. Too often we waste time getting bogged down in blogs, forums and Google searches. It's always best to go straight to the source when you have a question.



Adam Nubern travels around the country in a Casita travel trailer with his wife, Lindsey. They are on a mission to live a life of nuventures by pursuing curiosities that pop up while out on the road. But, they have to eat, so Adam runs a mobile accounting firm, Nuventure CPA. You can follow the Nuventures at **www.nuventurecpa.com**.

Special credit to Tim Ewing #120381 for assistance in article research.

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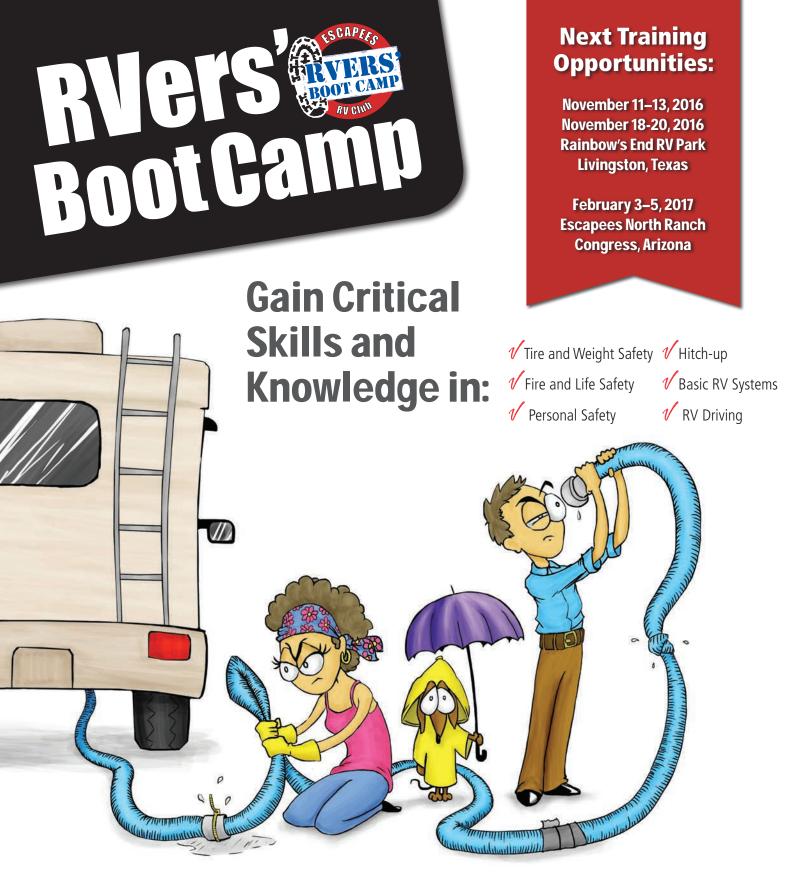
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- RV Vehicle return
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"RV furnaces are not real smart, so if they fail to light the first time, they enter lockout mode."

Mark, My Words By Mark Nemeth #45776

Faulty Furnace

Q. My furnace heats nicely for an hour or so; then I wake up with it blowing cold air. I can turn it off for a few minutes, then turn it back on and the cycle repeats. What are the possible problems? I have ordered a high-temp cutout switch, but I'm not sure that will fix it. Someone said it could be a "sail switch" inside the duct getting dirty and refusing to move as it should.

Richard

A. Several possibilities come to mind. First, is the 12V power connection to the furnace in good shape? Low power could cause this problem.

Secondly, if the electrodes for the igniter in the furnace are not clean and about 1/8 inch apart, the furnace may fail to light reliably.

The sail switch is also a possibility. Check to make sure there isn't something blocking the air intake or exhaust, like a wasp nest for example, as restrictions to the air flow can also cause problems like you have described.

Finally, it may be that the furnace control board is faulty. If so, I recommend purchasing a replacement igniter board made by Dinosaur Electronics (**www.dinosaurelectronics.com**). It is a much better board than the OEM board and you can buy them at most places that carry RV parts.

Finicky Furnace

Q. I have a 2010 Arctic Fox 9'10" camper. When I turn up the thermostat, the furnace fan comes on, but it doesn't always produce heat. Sometimes it will only blow cold air. No amount of off/on with the thermostat seems to correct the situation. It might come on and work fine. If it doesn't, a quick off/on with the thermostat and out comes the heat. I don't know if it's a problem with the furnace or if the propane just hasn't gotten to the burner area. It seems that when the camper isn't used for long periods, air must accumulate in the lines since there is a bit of "hissing" from the stove before it will light as well.

Perhaps you could explain the procedure on the newer RV furnaces, as I understand there are several checks it does before it will fire.

Dale

A. RV furnaces are not real smart, so if they fail to light the first time, they enter lockout mode. This means the blower will continue to run with no heat being produced. Turn the furnace off at the thermostat, wait a moment, then try it again. In a rig where you haven't used the propane system in a while, you may have to go through that cycle several times before the furnace will actually light and produce heat. That's because it can take a while to purge out the propane line. Now, if the furnace fails to light intermittently, even when the gas supply has been on and in use for a day

or more, then there may be a problem developing with the furnace itself. Let's review the sequence that the furnace goes through when starting.

When we turn the furnace on, usually by setting the thermostat to ask for heat, the first thing that happens is the furnace receives a 12V signal from the thermostat, and then the fan blower relay closes and the blower will start running. Normal airflow will cause a sail switch inside the furnace to close, sending power to the circuit board. The board will open the gas valve after about a 15- to 30-sec-

Continued >>>



ond delay, and the electronic igniter will begin to spark. If the flame lights, the board senses "flame lit," and the furnace will run and produce heat until the thermostat is satisfied. Furnace shutdown starts by the loss of the 12V signal from the thermostat. This removes power from the circuit board, closing the gas valve and extinguishing the flame. The blower relay (time delay) stays closed for approximatley one minute before it opens, shutting the blower down.

The circuit board in the furnace monitors several things to ensure that everything is working properly. If anything happens to make the circuit board unhappy, the furnace enters lockout mode, which means the gas to the burner is shut off and the fan will run forever, or until you shut it

off at the thermostat. If this intermittent failure to light continues to happen, and it's not obviously related to the propane system being shut off, then it is probably best to have the furnace checked out by a technician. If you are comfortable working on the furnace yourself, then here's a good furnace troubleshooting guide: www.rvforum.net/miscfiles/ Furnace_Trouble-2.pdf



Water Heater

Q. The gas water heater in my 2013 Big Country will not work. I tried using a metal hanger in the small and large gas tube, but it didn't remedy the problem. I get the clicking noise but no luck. I changed out the tanks to full tanks to see if that would correct the problem and still no luck. I don't smell propane. What else can I do?

Gus

A. There are several things to check. First, verify that you are getting propane to the appliances. Test a stove burner or the refrigerator to make sure gas is flowing from the tank. If propane is reaching the other appliances, then either the water heater is not flowing propane to the burner, or the gas is flowing, but the heater is not successfully lighting it. You mentioned that you hear clicking when it tries to light, so this would usually mean that the igniter circuit is making a spark.

Since you smell no propane, it is probably a gas flow problem. The gas valve in your water heater operates on 12V DC and is opened and closed by the circuit board in the water heater. The valve might be defective or simply stuck closed or the orifice may be plugged. It may also be a problem with the control board. If you have a meter, test for 12V on the wires to the gas valve. If 12V is appearing on those wires but the valve is not opening, the problem is in the gas valve itself. Cleaning the burner tube and the orifice may get it going. Tapping on the body of a stuck valve may free it.

If none of that helps, you will probably need to replace that valve. If there is no 12V going to the valve, it may be a problem with the circuit board or the wiring. Visually inspect all the wires and connectors. To test the circuit board, most RV shops simply swap in a new board to see if it helps, but you probably don't have a spare on hand. Once you reach this point, it may be time to have a repair shop look at it if you can't find an obvious problem. Ordering a new board is also an option, but there are no guarantees that it will fix the problem.

Low Water Pressure

Q. The water pressure in the lines on the passenger side of my RV is significantly lower than the lines on the driver's side. What can I do to equalize the water flow?

Ben

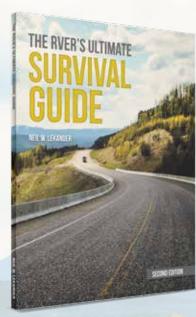
A. There almost has to be some kind of restriction that is causing the problem. A visual inspection of all the piping that you can access would be a good place to start. If a flexible pipe is bent too tight around a curve, it can kink, and that may be what's affecting the pressure on the low side. It could also be foreign material clogging a faucet aerator or valve. Sometimes, when the plumbing is installed, plastic shards left in the lines can build up and cause a partial blockage at any valve or screen in the system. Remove any faucet aerators first to see if they are clogged. You may have to disconnect the pipes at the fixtures and have a look there as well.

跡 Do You Have a Question for Mark?

Send your questions via e-mail to **techquestions@escapees.com**, or mail your questions to "Mark, My Words" Column 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300

Please do not submit consumer advocacy or commercial advertising issues. Be aware that material will be edited. Because of the large volume of material and correspondence submitted, individual replies may not be possible. Moreover, we cannot acknowledge receipt of your material. Some questions and answers that are of the highest general interest may be repeated from time to time.

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







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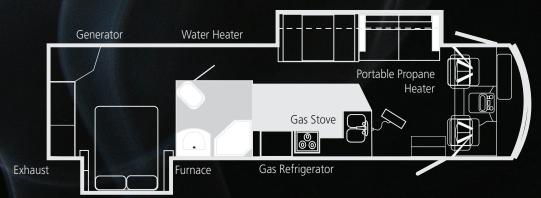
Topics covered include

- RV Weight Safety & Load Management: Understand your RV's weight limits and why managing your weight is a critical first step.
- RV Tire Safety: Learn about tire construction, proper maintenance and safe operation.
- **RV Motor Fuel Safety:** Understanding, storing and handling motor fuels while protecting yourself and the environment.
- **RV Propane Safety:** The life blood of our RV, propane is often a mystery and of great concern by many RVers.
- RV Electrical Safety: RV electrical systems can be baffling until you learn how they work and interact.
- **RV Safe Driving:** Driving an RV often intimidates RV newcomers as well as experienced drivers. Learn confidence behind the wheel.
- **RV Towing Safety:** Virtually all RVs tow something. This chapter covers equipment, costs, laws, issues and hidden towing dangers.
- **RV Fire and Life Safety:** Protect yourself and your loved ones in case of fire, the most terrifying potential challenge facing any RVer.
- **RV Personal Safety:** Addresses the proper balance of concern and safety precautions appropriate to the RV lifestyle.

CARBON MONOXIDE AN ODERLESS, TASTELESS AND TOXIC DANGER

By Mark Nemeth #45776, Escapees Magazine Technical Advisor





Carbon monoxide (CO) is one of the leading causes of unintentional poisoning deaths in the United States. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) states: "More than 400 persons in the United States die every year from accidental nonfire-related CO poisoning. Products that can produce deadly CO levels include generators and faulty, improperly used or incorrectly vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces."

It is a tragedy to have lives lost when a small amount of prevention could have saved them. That prevention is a functional carbon monoxide (CO) detector, also called a CO alarm, installed in your RV. If you don't Because of their smaller living spaces, RVs can be even more dangerous if CO is present because a smaller space increases the concentration of carbon monoxide. For instance, operation of a defective, unvented gas

"The fact that CO is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating poison compounds the problem. Without a CO detector, you'll never be aware that CO is present until it begins to affect you."

currently have a CO detector in your rig, I'm going to try to convince you that you need one. In fact, by the end of this article, I hope to convince you that CO can pose a real threat to your health and, indeed, your life.

You've Got Gas

Carbon monoxide is a highly toxic gas that can kill at small concentrations of 300 parts per million (ppm) or less. Carbon monoxide gas is produced when fossil fuel burns incompletely because of insufficient oxygen. Properly installed and maintained fuel-burning appliances produce only small amounts of carbon monoxide, but malfunctioning appliances can be deadly. Anything that disrupts the burning process or results in a shortage of oxygen can increase carbon monoxide production. Wood, coal and charcoal fires always produce carbon monoxide, as do gasoline engines.

Potential sources of CO in or around your RV can include a malfunctioning propane furnace or ventless heater, exhaust from a generator or gasoline engine or a wood or charcoal-fired barbecue or stove. (See RV CO source diagrams, at left.) heater in a 1,680-square foot home might raise CO levels to 30 ppm. In a 200-square foot RV, the same heater could quickly raise the CO concentrations to a dangerous 200 ppm or more.

Colorless, Odorless, Tasteless

The fact that CO is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating poison compounds the problem. Without a CO detector, you'll never be aware that CO is present until it begins to affect you. When exposed to high concentrations, a person will become dizzy, unable to stand or move to fresh air and often collapse. The brain does not receive sufficient oxygen during a CO exposure, resulting in confusion.

Because it takes several hours for the body to remove carbon monoxide, it is a cumulative poison. The amount of CO in the body continues to increase while unknowingly breathing it from surrounding air. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) places the maximum allowable concentration for continuous exposure for healthy adults in an eight-hour period at only 50 ppm!

Not convinced yet? Well, consider this: Gas kitchen ranges release unvented combustion products into the interior of your RV. The amount of CO in combustion products varies widely, from a few ppm from a properly operating gas burner, to 20,000 to 30,000 ppm from an improperly operating gas burner.

Contrary to popular belief, carbon monoxide can, and often is, produced *Continued*

Simonths into ownership of our rig we had a height
related accident. At a fuel stop, we cleared the
stations overhead going into the fuel island, but
there was a road grade change that altered the
clearance height. We hit the overhead as we pulled
out ... we brought the damaged rig to our dealership.With the overhead source height. We hit the overhead as we pulled
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from a blue-burning flame. Using the range hood to exhaust the combustion products, along with cooking odors, grease and moisture produced during cooking, is a great idea, but, the vent may not be enough to protect you from carbon monoxide exposure. And you should never use the range burners to heat the RV.

Many RVers who dry-camp have installed unvented propane space heaters. These units are terrific for saving propane and battery power, but they can be a source of indoor air pollution, and that includes CO.

Oxygen Depletion Sensors

When properly maintained and adjusted, gas heaters produce low amounts of CO. One cause of carbon monoxide poisoning from unvented heaters—incomplete combustion caused by lack of air—has been virtually eliminated in newer heaters by use of oxygen depletion sensors (ODS). Unfortunately, the ODS does not respond to incomplete combustion caused by improper gas pressure, dust, dirt or rust on the burner or disruption of the burner by air currents. Even a properly maintained and adjusted vent-free heater can cause dangerous levels of CO inside an RV if adequate ventilation is not provided.

Standard RV forced-air furnaces are safe, as all combustion gases are vented outside the RV by a forced-air blower system. However, as these units age, the furnace combustion chamber can corrode or split, causing combustion byproducts to enter the RV and build up. In the case of such a malfunction, without a functional CO detector installed in your rig, your only early warning signal will be the onset of flu-like symptoms, nausea or dizziness as the levels of CO rise. You may fail to recognize these symptoms as warnings of CO poisoning until it is too late.

"Detectors are easy to install, operate and will give you peace of mind along with serious protection."

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY RESOURCES

Informational sites on CO and safety for RVers.

- www.fmca.com/motorhome/basics/78-avoiding-carbon-monoxide-poisoning.html
- rvingwithmarkpolk.com/2012/05/22/rv-101-carbon-monoxide-safety-awareness/
- roadtreking.com/rvers-biggest-danger-carbon-monoxide-poisoning/

For more information, you might want to check out these agencies:

- EPA: www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/carbon-monoxides-impact-indoor-air-quality
- OSHA: www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/carbonmonoxide-factsheet.pdf
- Wayne State University CO information: www.coheadquarters.com/CO1.htm
- Iowa State University CO information: www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/communications/CO

Online links to CO detector sources and manufacturers:

- Atwood Mobile Products: www.atwoodmobile.com/lp-co-detectors.asp
- · First Alert: www.firstalert.com/products/detectors/carbon-monoxide
- Kidde: www.kidde.com/home-safety/en/us/products/fire-safety/co-alarms/
- Marine Technologies, Inc.: www.mtiindustries.com
- Pro-Tech: www.protechsafety.com/catalog.html
- Quantum Group, Inc.: http://qginc.com/content/rv-carbon-monoxide-co-alarms

Still not convinced that you need a detector? If you have a generator installed in your rig or use a portable unit, you need a detector even more.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) ran a 5.5-horsepower gasoline-powered pressure washer in a double garage with both doors open, the window open and a vent open. In only 12 minutes, CO concentrations in the garage rose to 658 ppm. The rate of emission from a typical gasoline engine is so large (30,000 to 100,000 ppm) that it is difficult to provide sufficient ventilation.

NIOSH warns, "Do not use equipment and tools powered by gasoline engines inside buildings."

Even with a properly installed exhaust system, carbon monoxide from your running generator, or even your neighbor's, can still enter your RV through small cracks or waft into your rig through an open window.

As the above NIOSH test proves, just because the windows in your rig are open doesn't necessarily protect you from potentially dangerous concentrations of carbon monoxide.

I hope all the above has convinced you to protect yourself by installing a CO detector. They are not terribly expensive, and even the best ones will set you back less than a tank of fuel.

Easy Installation

Detectors are easy to install, operate and will give you peace of mind along with serious protection.

I believe the best detector to purchase is one with a digital display. That lets you monitor even lower levels of CO that may be too low to cause an alarm but high enough to be dangerous with long-term exposure. Most detectors with digital readouts also capture and hold the peak CO reading since the last reset. This is worth keeping an eye on, too.

There has been a recent move by some manufacturers to combine a CO detector with an LP gas detector in the same unit. I was of the opinion that

"A single detector placed centrally in your rig will provide reasonable protection, but you may want to place one in your sleeping area as well."

this was a bad idea, because I thought CO was lighter than air. Well, it is, but only slightly (three percent at room temperature). Studies show that CO tends to diffuse equally throughout an enclosed space, so a combination detector mounted near the floor is as effective as a CO detector mounted higher on the wall. **www.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/pubmed/21536403**

The National Safety Council (NSC) states: "You should not choose a CO detector solely on the basis of cost; do some research on the different features available. Carbon monoxide detectors should meet Underwriters Laboratories Inc.



standards, have a long-term warranty and be easily self-tested and reset to ensure proper functioning."

The RV environment is hard on CO detectors, due to exposure to heat, humidity and exhaust gases while rolling down the road. While any detector is better than no detector, your best bet is to purchase one that is UL-listed for RV use.

Are you back from the store? Do you have your new detector in hand? Let's install it. • Read the manual and install the batteries.

- Locate and mount the detector as recommended in the manual. Make sure the detector is not behind curtains or furnishings.
- CO must be able to reach the detector for the unit to work. Avoid installing the detector close to the kitchen stove or propane heater, and keep it out of moist bathroom areas.

A single detector placed centrally in your rig will provide reasonable protection, but you may want to place one in your sleeping area as well.

Follow the instructions in the user manual that came with your unit. Test it regularly and keep it free of dust and dirt, and it will continue to provide you with peace of mind for years.

Mark is the Escapees technical advisor and RV safety education director. His writings are published in numerous RV-industry publications, and he has been assisting RVers with their technical questions for over 20 years. He's been an Escapees member for 19 years and has been on staff at Escapees headquarters in Livingston for over 15. During this time period, he spent five years full-time RVing, which he would love to do again.

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"As domiciliaries of another country, foreign nationals may face some unique challenges when taking up the RVer lifestyle here in the U.S."

Challenges Df International Domicile FOREIGN RVEXPLORES By Miri Kim Wakuta #126136, Loring & Associates, PLLC

California Licensed Attorney

Howdy to our brothers and sisters from abroad. Many of you may already know that the Escapees community is beautifully diverse. What you may not know is that we have members from around the world. These members come from overseas to discover a piece of Americana in a fifth-wheel. The Escapees also has a small but strong membership from Canada—howdy, eh!

As domiciliaries of another country, foreign nationals may face some unique challenges when taking up the RVer lifestyle here in the U.S. Let's explore some issues that our foreign explorers face.

First and foremost, foreign explorers will need to understand the constraints of their specific visa. For example, someone who has entered the country on a B-1 or B-2 visitor's visa needs to understand that their visit is allowed for a definite period of time and for the specific purpose of travel. A foreign explorer must always maintain residence abroad and have no intention of abandoning it. In other words, foreign explorers, you must always maintain your domicile in your home country.

The immigration problem rarely occurs during your stay here. The issue is more likely to arise upon an attempt to re-enter the U.S. If a customs and border agent suspects that you have intent to reside in the country, the agent can deny your entry to the U.S. Certain patterns of entry may trigger suspicion that you are attempting to enter the country with the intent to immigrate. In order to avoid any confusion, carry plenty of documentation showing that you do not intend to immigrate to the U.S. During entry, you should have available documents showing 1) that you have the funds to sufficiently support yourself throughout your travels; 2) you have a lot of connections in your home country; 3) documents proving that you are maintaining a residence in your home country; and, 4) of course, proof that you plan to return home, such as a return flight itinerary. Also, always keep handy the contact information for an immigration attorney you trust.

I highly recommend foreign explorers to contact and confer with an immigration attorney before committing to the big financial expense of renting or purchasing an RV.

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Driving and Vehicle Registration

The legal system in the United States can become cumbersome to navigate because we have 50 wonderful states with 50 different sets of legislation and countless counties and municipalities. Generally, the Department of Motor Vehicles or Department of Transportation is governed under state law. Some states, if not most, will not issue driver licenses to non-residents. Driving with a foreign driver license or an international driver license is generally permitted under state laws; however, be sure to check the laws of the states you plan to visit.

While renting is an option, most foreign explorers I talk to desire to purchase their own RV. In that situation, work closely with the vehicle manufacturer or dealership to help navigate the local transportation laws. Prior to purchase, speak directly with

"Exploring a new country is such an exciting and rewarding undertaking, especially with the right planning."

the local county Department of Motor Vehicles to ensure smooth registration of your vehicle. Also, note that you may need to pay sales or use tax on your vehicle. Tax rates vary by state and county; check rates and any refund opportunities with that particular state's taxation authority.

Insurance

The best practice is for travelers' to have health insurance. If you plan to stay in the U.S. for long stretches of time, it only makes sense. Make sure you understand your coverage. Does it cover emergency visits? Will it cover urgent care or other non-emergency visits? Should the worst happen, to what extent is repatriation covered? What does the reimbursement process entail? Make sure to leave a copy of the policy with a trusted friend before your journey.

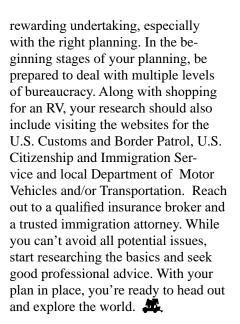
Vehicle insurance is another important expense. It's expensive, but foreign drivers can get vehicle insurance. Check with a broker to help find the best rates. In the U.S., there is also something called umbrella insurance, which will cover expenses that your underlying insurance does not cover. Umbrella insurance is especially recommended for RVers because the cost of replacing your vehicle could eat up your whole policy. As always, read the fine print for all policies. You'd be surprised at how much can be excluded.

An Exit Strategy

When returning home, many foreign explorers park their purchased RVs somewhere in the U.S. to use during the next season. If you as a foreign explorer are suddenly denied entry to the U.S., you must have a plan to sell your vehicle or to export it back to your home country. This is where granting a limited power-of-attorney to a U.S. resident may be an option to consider. With a limited power-of-attorney, you can authorize someone in the U.S. to conduct business on your behalf for a limited purpose. A family member residing in the United States or a trusted friend may be a good person to designate as your limited

attorney-in-fact.

Exploring a new country is such an exciting and



Miri Kim Wakuta is a California-licensed attorney. She is counsel to Loring & Associates. Through her time as a litigator, she gained extensive trial experience. Her experience ranges from immigration, bankruptcy, civil, estate planning and child dependency law. She discovered her fascination with domicile issues arguing jurisdiction and venue issues in court. Photo by Angelo Narvaez.

Have a Question?

I write about legal and financial topics derived from my experiences in my practices; however, I welcome your suggestions for topics. If you have a specific legal or financial RV-related question, or if you have a suggestion for an article topic, e-mail me at **info@mgenwealth.com**. Please write "*Escapees* magazine topic" in the subject line. Or call me at 800-260-1615.

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SKPStops

SKP Stops Information

- Deadline: Material for each issue will be selected based on location and the migration of seasonal travel.
- Words: Short stories of 300 to 500 words are ideal. Submissions that are illegible, inappropriate or considered advertisements may be excluded. Due to limited space, submissions will be edited.
- Photos: Photos are accepted and included on a space-available basis. Include the name of anyone in the photo and also the name of the photographer.
- Acknowledgement: The editorial department may not acknowledge receipt of submissions. Submissions may not qualify for payment.

United States Smallest Post Office 38000 Tamiami Trail, Ochopee, FL 34141-9998 239-695-4131

When we started RVing in 2002, we had our mail forwarded to the Ochopee Post Office on the Tamiami Trail (route 41) in Florida. We knew nothing about this post office. We picked out a spot on the map where we thought we'd be in a few days. We were quite surprised to see it when we finally found it. It happened to be the smallest post office in the United States.

The sign next to it tells its history. It was originally an irrigation pipe shed belonging to a tomato farm. In 1953 when a fire destroyed the Ochopee general store and post office, the postmaster hurriedly turned this little shed into a post office. Ever since, it has been the post office and ticket office for the Trailways bus line, as well as serving residents in three counties. People come from all over the world to request an Ochopee postmark.

It is located about three miles east of the intersection of US 41 and State Road 29 at milepost 72 on the south side. The hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. (call to verify.) There is plenty of room for a large rig to pull in and park.



Joyce Space #61818

Guidelines and Helpful Hints

- Keep your submissions positive, upbeat and short.
- Include fun or interesting photos with a brief description.
- Share your favorite RV travel destinations, restaurants, museums, off-the-beaten-path locations or unique places to visit.
- Keep in mind that the next magazine issue will mail two months from the time of your writing. Identify time-sensitive material.

Send submissions to Escapees Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351, or to editor@escapees.com. Article submission guidelines are available for downloading online at: www.escapees.com/knowledge/ escapees-magazine/tips-submissions.

Grapevine—Christmas Capital of Texas

Grapevine Visitor Information Center 636 S. Main Street, Grapevine, TX 76501 817-410-3185 • www.grapevinetexasusa.com/christmas What better place to get into the holiday spirit than historic Grapevine, the Christmas capital of Texas. Located between Dallas and Fort Worth, Grapevine is the perfect destination for creating Christmas memories.

The downtown area, anchored by Main Street, offers a step back in time with one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants, art galleries and wine-tasting rooms decked out in ribbons, wreaths and twinkling lights. More than 80 locally owned boutiques, art galleries and wine-tasting rooms are housed in some of the original Victorian-style buildings. Visitors can choose a variety of cuisine, from Tex-Mex to Asian, at the many restaurants.

Grapevine's Parade of Lights is the largest lighted Christmas parade in North Texas and features more than 100 lighted floats and marching bands and, of course, Santa Claus. This year, the parade will be held December 1.

The restored Palace Theatre, a gathering place for adults, teens and kids since the 1940s, runs classic Christmas movies. Tractor-drawn wagon rides depart during select hours with the proceeds going to local preservation projects. Throughout the holiday season there are numerous special events, live entertainment venues and tours aboard the Grapevine Vintage Railroad.

Grapevine's history dates back to 1843, when General Sam Houston and representatives of the Republic of Texas met with members of 10 American Indian nations. The peace treaty they signed opened up North Texas to homesteaders. The area got its name from the abundance of wild mustang grapes growing on the surrounding prairie. Texas is now the fifth largest wine-producing state in the country, and its wine industry headquarters is located in Grapevine.

A favorite grown-up seasonal event is the Vintage Railroad's Christmas Wine Train. A different urban winery





is featured on each train; local winery representatives are on-board and wine and hor d'oeuvres are served.

A ride on the magical North Pole Express is an adventure-filled Christmas experience for kids of all ages. The railroad is served by two locomotives—the 1896 "Puffy," the oldest continuously operating steam locomotive in the South, and "Vinny," a 1953 GP-7 diesel locomotive. As riders board the Victorian coaches at the Cotton Belt Depot, they are welcomed by elves. Mrs. Claus appears with "We Believe" silver bells for the kids as the train nears its destination. Upon arrival at the North Pole, guests walk through the Snowy Christmas Tree Trail where Santa Claus shares his frosty chocolate snow milk and gives a special memory mug to each child. Advance purchase tickets are recommended. The annual train schedule is posted on their Website.

To make the most of your visit, stop by the visitor information Center and pick up a map and a current schedule of holiday events.

Judy Kallestad #108999

Grapevine Christmas bulb sign. Photo by Judy Kallestad #108999.

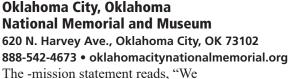
dead, more than 680 injured and a city and an entire nation in mourning.

Soon after the carnage, a makeshift memorial began. Flowers, teddy bears, messages and other items were placed around the perimeter of the building by Oklahomans. Soon after, a chain link fence was constructed around the bombing site and tokens of sorrow and sympathy were attached to the fence by those visiting the site. More than 800,000 items were placed there. From these kind acts, the idea of a permanent memorial began.

Today, Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, dedicated to the men, women and children who died or were injured and to the first responders, transports visitors back to the day of the bombing and its aftermath, a sobering, reflective and emotionally charged experience.

After an orientation video, "A Day Like Any Other," guests begin to understand what unfolded that day. One of the first exhibits features the recording of an Oklahoma Water Resources Board meeting. The meeting took place just across the street from the Murrah Building and started at 9:00 a.m. Two minutes later, visitors heard the bomb and the reactions of those in the meeting. Then visitors watch helicopter news footage of the building taken at 9:13 a.m.

Continued >>>



come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever. May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope and serenity."

Oklahoma City was forever changed April 19, 1995, when a bomb exploded in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The cowardly domestic terrorist act left 168 people





Each chair represents a man, woman or child who lost their life in the bombing. Photo by Marilyn Jones.

As the three-dimensional retelling of the bombing continues, survivors tell of their experiences, rescues and the heroics of first responders and others who worked to free trapped and injured victims.

In the Gallery of Honor, those who lost their lives are memorialized. Their families display personal photographs and artifacts of their loved ones. Interactive computers provide their personal stories.

One of the final museum areas retells the story of bombers Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, their trial and the evidence used to convict them, including crimescene photos, the getaway car, parts of the rental truck and evidence boards.

At the end of the tour is a panoramic view of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial and the city's skyline, symbols of the past and hope for the future.

The memorial encompasses the grounds where the Murrah Building once stood, as well as the surrounding area devastated during the attack. The memorial, part of the National Park Service, was dedicated by President Clinton on April 19, 2000, exactly five years after the bombing.

The memorial includes a reflecting pool flanked by two large gates, one inscribed with the time 9:01; the other with 9:03. The pool represents the moment of the blast. On the south end of the memorial is a field of bronze and stone chairs, one for each person who was lost. The smaller seats represent children.

On the opposite side is the "survivor tree," part of the building's original landscaping that survived the blast and fires that followed it. The memorial also includes part of the building's foundation, allowing visitors to understand the scale of the destruction.

And, appropriately, a small section of the chain link fence, from the first memorial, still stands.

Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor

Montezuma Castle National Monument The Southwest's Ancient Past Montezuma Castle National Monument PO Box 219, Camp Verde, AZ 86322

928-567-3322 • www.nps.gov/moca/index.htm

I have always loved history, so how could I resist a place with both "Montezuma" and "castle" in its name? My enthusiasm was only slightly dimmed when Montezuma's Castle turned out to be a misnomer. There is no stone castle of the European type. Nor is there any real connection to the last Aztec emperor, Montezuma, whose realm was destroyed by the Spanish Conquistador Cortez. However, the monument does contain a magnificent example of a pre-Columbian pueblo ruin. Seen from a paved walkway along Beaver Creek, the view of the five-story structure is stunning. The pueblo is located within a large alcove on the face of a limestone cliff. Protected in its rocky niche, the ruin is one the best preserved pre-Columbian sites in the Southwest.

The pueblo is believed to have been built by the people of the Sinague culture around the start of the 12th century and was occupied until about the beginning of the 15th century. There are also tracks of similar contemporary structures scattered along the Beaver Creek. Archeological evidence indicates that the Sinague culture in the Verde Valley started much earlier, around the middle of the first millennium AD (CE). Before the 12th century, the Sinague people lived in pit houses, partially buried structures that were well adapted to the heat of desert summer and cold winter mornings.

Over the decades, I have visited Montezuma's Castle monument several times but never bothered to take the short drive up the road to its detached unit, Montezuma's Well—that was a mistake. I didn't go because the name was, again, misleading. I thought the "well" would be a small, human-dug water source. Instead the "well" turned out to be a large and impressive natural limestone sinkhole or cenote.



The walk from the parking lot to the rim of the cenote, is a bit steep, but the view is well worth the effort. The cenoteor sinkhole, is almost 400 feet in diameter and about 55 feet deep. Over a million gallons of water flow through the sinkhole every day. The water entering the sinkhole contains high levels of dissolved minerals and carbon dioxide. The water quality affects the ecosystem in the well, which is made up entirely of crustaceans, insects and leeches. You probably won't want to drink or swim in this natural wonder, but it has another important use.

As a drought-proof water source, Montezuma's well was probably invaluable to the Sinagua people for irrigation. Their presence is indicated by a small Sinagua pueblo built into a niche in the cenote wall. The foundations of other ancient structures line the rim of the sinkhole. Even today, the output of the sinkhole flows past ancient Sinagua irrigation channels that once carried Montezuma Castle. Photo by Sharon Pearson #81995.

Montezuma Castle National Monument and its detached unit, Montezuma Well, are about a two-hour drive from the Escapees parks, North Ranch Rainbow Park, Escapees Rainbow park in Congress, Arizona, and two-and-a-half hours from the RoVers Roost SKP Co-Op in Casa Grande, Arizona. From either park, it's worth the trip.

Rick and Sharon Pearson #81995

Recently retired, Richard and Sharon Pearson are spending their second winter in Saguaro SKP Co-Op in Benson, Arizona. Fascinated with the rich history of their winter home, they have been visiting historical sites, reading books and conducting Internet research on the area. Before retirement, Richard worked as a physicist for the US Army, and Sharon worked a as programmer analyst in IT.

the water to nearby fields.

Even a drought-resistant water source wasn't enough to maintain the Sinagua culture indefinitely. About a hundred years before Columbus, a cataclysmic event caused the collapse of centuries-old cultures in the desert Southwest. The Sinagua, like other nearby cultures, abandoned their above-ground structures and disappeared from the archeological record. The ruins and artifacts they left behind show how they lived and thrived there for centuries. It's worth a short drive to Montezuma Castle National Monument to see how people, living long ago without modern technology, adapted and flourished in a harsh desert landscape.

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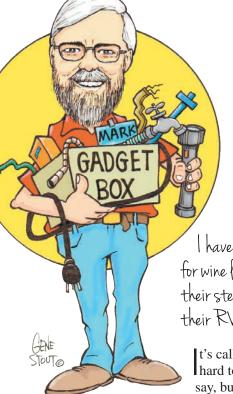
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Gadget Box Wine Glass Holders Compiled by Mark Nemeth #45776



t's called a Wine Yoebi, which is hard to spell and even harder to say, but it's a neat little holder that will protect your favorite stemmed

wineglasses from damage as you travel down the road. The Yoebi folks have been making these

holders for boats and recently decided to expand into the RV market. The RV holder attaches to any drillable surface with three screws and is perfect for inside cabinets. Or, if you prefer, they also offer a self-adhesive version that makes a great holder for your glass on your wobbly, chair-side table.

You can check out all their holders at www.voebi.com. Best of all, the holders are affordable at under \$7 each.



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"The RV holder attaches to any drillable surface with three screws and is perfect for inside cabinets."

跡 Share your favorite RV gadget!

E-mail Mark at techquestions@escapees.com and tell him about your gadget. If he likes it, he may purchase one and review it in the "RV Gadget Box" column and credit you with discovering it. Gadget makers and vendors: Visit www.escapees.com/rvgadgetbox for terms, conditions and rules for product submissions.



MEMBER SECTION Benefits · Services · Events

SOMETHING THIS GOOD Should be shared...

Photo on page 55: Employees for Paul Evert's RV Country, Mike Tyndall and Josie Lafferty, take time out for a photo opportunity with Santa Claus (Bill Shattuck #93119) at Escapade in Essex

Junction, Vermont.

Photo by Bruce Fay #102397.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Adventure, Education and Support Services

- Escapees Mail Service (provides three domicile addresses: Texas, Florida and South Dakota!)
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- Escapees magazine (digital versions and archives online, too!)
- Chapters (US, Canada, Mexico)
- BoFs (groups sharing common interests)
- Escapade (educational events)
- HOPs (unique land, sea and air adventures)
- Website (active discussion forum packed with RV resources)
- Escapees Club News (stay informed!)
- Strong RV advocacy coalition (protecting RVers' rights)
- RVers' Boot Camp (critical RV training)
- Escapees SmartWeigh (let us weigh your RV)
- Exclusive RV safety information (travel with peace of mind)
- Escapees Job Board

Payment information not required.

ESCAPEES Maps (plan your trip online)

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A MESSAGE **FROM THE BOARD** By Shawn Loring #76442, Escapees CEO, and the Escapees Board of Directors

Freedom Driven

We at Escapees began an exploration into the nature of this club and you, our members. We realized that this club is home to people from every generation-from the Greatest Generation to Generation Z (the generation being born now). We concluded that there are some commonalities among us that transcend generational lines. We share a common set of values. We commonly thank each other for good deeds with the phrase: Caring and Sharing. Collectively, we donate a tremendous amount of time and money to various charities and projects because we want to leave the world better than we found it. But we also want to be free to choose to live life on our terms. Our sense of adventure compels us to travel. And, when we hang up our keys, we tend to maintain our sense of adventure and our drive for freedom. With this in mind, Escapees built a marketing campaign around living "Freedom Driven."

You may notice thematic elements of the Freedom Driven campaign permeate the marketing materials we produce. Landscapes at dawn feature prominently in this campaign. We chose the dawn because, in a poetic sense, everything is possible at the beginning of the day.

By the time this article goes to print, Escapees will have launched a photo contest. Through this photo contest, we invite you to tell us, or show us, what "Freedom Driven" means to you. Share your photos of the dawn with you, your RV or just an inspirational view by using the hashtag: #livefreedomdriven on Instagram. For more details about the contest, visit **www.escapees.com/freedomdriven**.

To demonstrate how Escapees offers services and benefits that make the RV lifestyle more accessible, we incorporated a curtain pulled aside revealing our logo, relevant benefits and/or our slogan: A Total Support Network

"Wherever your adventures take you, Escapees is there, supporting you—facilitating your ability to live FREEDOM DRIVEN."



for *ALL* RVers. This symbolically illustrates our function as a club and how utilizing the benefits of your Escapees membership opens opportunities to make your RVing desires a reality. Wherever your adventures take you, Escapees is there, supporting you—facilitating your ability to live "Freedom Driven."

Using the testimonies of members like you and our senior leadership, we compiled a series of videos which capture a trend we have known for some time—people join Escapees for the benefits; they stay for the community.

We have redesigned our information kits by updating pertinent information and proclaiming the benefits of membership in Escapees RV Club using a derivation of our time-honored SKP moniker: Support, Knowledge and People. (Get it? SKP.) Maintaining the "Freedom Driven" theme, our revised information kits explore our "Support" system (job board, RV park and vendor company discounts and mail service), our compilation of "Knowledge" (Escapees RVers' Boot Camp, Escapade and *Escapees* magazine) and our community of "People" (chapters/BoF groups, Head Out Program/HOP and Xscapers community).

We retained our slogan: A Total Support Network for ALL RVers. Because...we felt it says it all.

Marketing campaigns are necessary to the growth of Escapees. We need to inform prospective members that they are not alone and that we have resources available that will help them be more successful in the RVing lifestyle. We also need to remind existing members of our values. As stated above, people tend to join for the discounts, but they stay for the community. Our challenge (and the challenge of marketers everywhere) is to convey a message, the value proposition of the organization, without seeming insincere or "salesy." For that reason, we are asking for your help. Please participate in this campaign. Let us know what "Freedom Driven" means to you. When you tell your peers that we, collectively, are great, it becomes self-evident that this club is more than a bundle of discounts—it is a values-driven community of adventurers.





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For event updates, member-created content and more, follow Escapees RV Club on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



XSCAPERS

Xscapers can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest, sharing information about working remotely, ideas for customizing your RV and content from other working RVers. To network with fellow Xscapers, follow us on LinkedIn, too!

Birds of a Feather

Escapees Special Interest Groups

- BoF correspondence, questions and magazine listing updates should be sent to BoF Coordinator, Dortha Hall, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300, faxed to 936-327-4388 or e-mailed to BoF@escapees.com.
- All updates must be in writing (type, fax or e-mail) and received by the 10th of odd-numbered months. Include your SKP number.
- C-BoF (Certified BoFs): Check the "Events and Rally Calendar" for listing of certified BoF group activities. For additional details of individual activities or gatherings, call their voice mail (888-757-7701 plus extension).
- Look for the NEW! notice. It signifies a new BoF has formed and it just may be the interest group for you.
- Certified BoFs (C-BoFs): Christian Fellowship x8084, DOVE x8083, Escapees Elk x8082, Heavy Hauler x8081, SOLOs x8080. For additional details of individual activities or gatherings, call 888-757-7701 and the extension number.

Alternative Medicine: Newsletter on, but not limited to, herbs, vitamins, dietary ideas, natural healing and attaining and maintaining health. I also send BoF Extras and Bits&Pieces. Free e-newsletter. Send SKP# and e-mail address to CLTORNS@aol.com. Please include BoF or Escapees in the subject line. Carol Torns #21855. 120 E. Hampton Rd, Lindenhurst, NY 11757.

Amateur Radio: Newsletter is \$5 for three issues. Published Jan., May and Sept. Include name, amateur radio call sign if licensed, SKP #, spouse's name, address, check and e-mail address, to Mike Schrody, KD7TKQ, SKP# 115976, PO Box 563, Tonopah, AZ 85354.

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: nancy@rvlifestyle.net.

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 electronic newsletter, Facebook and Yahoo! groups provide opportunities to share the RVing experience. Impromptu gatherings pop up several times a year. Send your name and SKP number to boomerBoF@gmail.com.

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

Buffs: Buffs like to think of themselves as the Birds withOut Feathers BoF. This group is for SKP members who enjoy wholesome social nudism. On our

Yahoo! Groups Website, you can read reviews of nudist campgrounds, get answers to questions, read our newsletter, find nudist campground reviews, locate nudist campgrounds who offer discounts to Buffs, see who might be camping near you and get involved in discussions. No cost to join. E-mail pamelapelc@yahoo.com. Include SKP # and reason for wanting to join.

Christian Fellowship: The Christian Fellowship BoF is a gathering of Escapees believers drawing together to form a mobile church without walls for fellowship, fun, worship, spiritual growth and serving communities. We pray for and encourage one another while not focusing on denominationalism. Meet at Escapades and Christian Fellowship BoF rallies. Visit **www.escapees.com/christianfellowship** or **www.cfbof. com**. Membership is free. Contact Allen Ferguson at fergizmo@thefergs. com for rally information.

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

DOVE (the Doves) • **C-BoF:** Hurricanes, tornados, floods, fires, disasters rarely give us notice when they will happen. The time that 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 you train and pair you with the right disaster response activity to satisfy your desire to help others and to provide life-sustaining assistance. For info, visit **www.doveBoF.org**. Yearly dues: \$7.50 or \$17.50 for three years. Mahlon Stacy, president@doveBoF.org.

Continued >>>



DOVE C-BoF Assists Louisiana Flood Victims

Thank you to the DOVE BoF members who provided service to Louisiana in many different capacities during flooding in August 2016. The group provided shelter, food delivery, mental health, health services, virtual call centers, Disaster Services Technology (DST), disaster assessment and case work. In shelters alone, over 10,000 people were assisted with Red Cross services.

Don and Julie Klein #112009

Escapees Elk • C-BoF: You must be a member of a BPO Elks Lodge to join. Meet at Escapades. Learn how to join this BoF or how to be directed to a lodge. (The BoF isn't a lodge.) To join, send \$6 per year (checks payable to Escapees Elk BoF), or send SASE, for how to be directed to an Elks lodge, to Membership Coordinators, 230 Rainbow Dr., #13071, Livingston, TX 77399-2030. merriedv@eserv.net. www.escapees.com/elk

First Responders: This group is for law enforcement, fire, EMT and other first responders who want to camp as a group for fun and fellowship. Contact Donald Fredericks at sq320ret@yahoo.com or 707-953-4346.

Friends of Bill W: This group meets at Escapades and other Escapees gatherings. There are no dues or fees. Find a meeting or stay in contact with each other while traveling. Contact Noble or Cyd, 238 Rainbow Dr., #13852, Livingston, TX 77399-2038. 404-578-0864. noblecyd@reagan. com Subscribe to the Yahoo! group by e-mailing SKPBoFfriendsofbillw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You must include your SKP number.

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 simply by visiting the forum at **www.rvnetwork.com**, select "Graduating to Full-Time" and year of your class.

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

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

Heavy Hauler • C-BoF: Exchange info on the purchase and use of medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks, including parts, supplies, dealers, repair facilities, etc. Quarterly e-mailed newsletter. \$15 first yr includes logo decal. (\$10 per yr/renewal; addt'l \$10/yr for snail-mail newsletter.) Check payable to Heavy Haulers C-BoF, 159 Rainbow Dr., #5990, Livingston, TX 77399-1059. Send questions to: heavyhaulersBoF@gmail. com. Website: escapees.com/Heavy-Haulers.

Jammers: Our goal is to enable members to share interests in music by jamming (playing music together, where members take turns selecting songs). The jammers will include musicians at all levels, singers and listeners. The types of music will include, but are not limited to, old-time, gospel, Celtic, '60s and '70s folk and contra dance music. Members will keep in touch by e-mail and social networks such as the Escapees Forum. Meetings will occur at Escapades, music festivals, Escapees parks and other situations wherever it is convenient. Contact Dave Schroeder: oldfolkjammer@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 not dependent on church affiliation. Regular projects are three weeks, nationwide. Disaster rebuild projects may be one week or more. Parking (including water, electric, dump) is furnished. A current projects list is posted on the NOMADS Website, and is visible to members of NOMADS only, but with nationwide sites. To join NOMADS: 866-466-6237 or visit **www.nomadsumc.org**. Virginia Wiggers, at 931-200-4742 or mvw351@gmail.com. There are no dues.

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. Please send your Escapees membership number to Joanne Alexakis (joalexakis@earthlink. net) so your name can be added to the e-mail list for the newsletter. You can also contact Penwheels editor at margo@themaxwellgroup.net.

Pet Lovers: For people who love animals. All pets welcome. Our bimonthly (even months) electronic newsletter contains pet-related information and stories submitted by our members. Informative bulletin alerts; pet questions welcome. To subscribe, send name/contact info to Chris at cfdnld@merr. com, or call 608-347-4719.

Prospecting and Metal Detecting: Share tips and information. To join our Yahoo! group SKP-PandMD, contact Ken Parsons by e-mail rwsp606@ gmail.com. Roster and yearly newsletter. By e-mail, \$5; mailed, \$15 a year. We get together yearly for a week of prospecting and fun. Make checks payable to Peggy Devine, Treasurer, 2121 E Kennan Way, Pahrump, NV 89048. kokopeggi@gmail.com.

Quilt Lovers: Newsletters, sent out twice a year, provide quilt-related information and BoF news. Subscriptions: April to March, \$5 year for newsletter mailing and to replenish materials needed for quilts made at each Escapade to donate to local charity. To subscribe, contact Mary Costigan, 900 Bradford court, San Jacinto, CA 92583-6530, 951-452-2999, or e-mail mary.costigan@yahoo.com. To help make charity quilts at Escapade, bring your sewing machine and quilting supplies. Donations of UFOs welcome.

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 is electronic/membership is free. Visit **www.skpfreethinkers. com** or contact Howard Replogle at howardreplogle@SKPfreethinkers.com.

SKP Photographers: For all photographers, from casual to serious. Our goal is to help members have fun with photography and improve their skills through our free online newsletter, meetings at Escapades/rallies and in-the-field photo outings at interesting locations. Join at **www.skp-photographers.com**. Lou Petkus: loupet@gmail.com or 630-750-7291.

SOLOS • **C-BoF:** A group for single Escapees. Must be a current member. Membership, \$10/year. Three newsletters per year, member-hosted gatherings and pre-Escapade rallies. Send check, payable to Escapees SOLOs, with SKP#, mailing address, interests/hobbies, e-mail and phone number to Escapees SOLOs, 188 Rainbow Dr., #8822, Livingston, TX 77399-1088. SOLOs@escapees.com. www.escapees.com/solos

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

Square Dancing: For information on this group, contact Chuck and Ruth Osborn, 281 Southline Rd., Galway, NY 12074. E-mail: RUSmiling2003@ yahoo.com or call 518-859-0734.



Calling All Square Dancing Escapees!

The Square Dance BoF is being reformed and we are looking for new members. You don't have to be a square dancer to join. For information, contact Chuck and Ruth Osborn 518-859-0734 or e-mail RUSmiling2003@yahoo.com. We would like to get together to dance with the local clubs while at SKP ACRE and Escapade events. This is modern Western square dancing and friendship set to music.

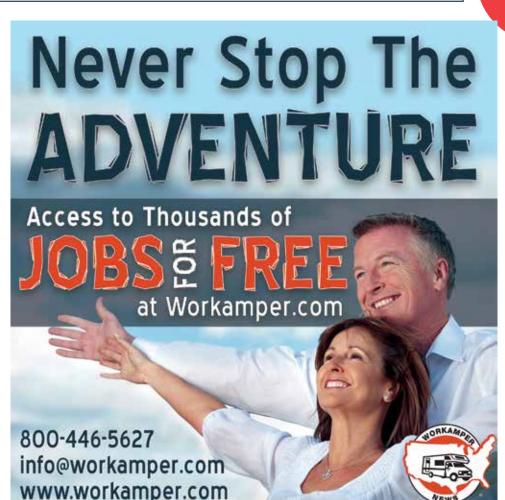
Sam Daggett #107865

Stonewall: Welcomes all gays, lesbians, bis, trans and their friends. An informal group, we gather at Escapades, at Pride events and at Quartzsite, Arizona, in January. Communication is online, so we can meet each other as travels allow. No dues/no newsletters, just good times with great people! Contact: Eric Hays-Strom at elstrom99@yahoo.com.

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

Woodcarvers on wheels: This group meets annually at North Ranch, in Congress, Arizona, for a week-long workshop of carving, pyrography and more. We enjoy gathering at Escapade and anywhere else our paths may cross. Sharing ideas, patterns, hints and articles related to anything wood. To join, send your name, address, SKP# and \$5/year to Sandra Boroff Kruty, 110 Rainbow Dr., #1002, Livingston, TX 77399-1010. Newsletter is sent out three times a year. Contact: woodcarversonwheels@gmail.com.

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





Learn more about Escapees Parks at www.escapees.com/parking.

Rainbow Parks Escapees RV Club owned and operated.

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|------------|--|---------------------|--|---|---|--------------------|--|
| Alabama | RAINBOW PLANTATION14301 County Rd. 28, Summerdale, AL 36580251-988-8132, Fax: 251-988-8142, plantation@escapees.com | ^s 21 | ^{\$} 27.50 | ^{\$} 126 | ^{\$} 165 | ^{\$} 340+ | ^{\$} 395+ |
| Arizona | NORTH RANCH 30625 Hwy. 89, Congress, AZ 85332 928-427-3657, Fax: 928-685-3695, northranch@escapees.com | ^{\$} 19 | \$26.50 | ^{\$} 116 | ^{\$} 159 | ^{\$} 325+ | \$395+ |
| Florida | SUMTER OAKS RV PARK 4602 County Rd. 673, Bushnell, FL 33513 352-793-1333, Fax: 352-793-5216, sumteroaks@escapees.com | \$22 | \$28.50 | ^{\$} 132 | ^{\$} 171 | \$340+ | \$395+ |
| Missouri | TURKEY CREEK RV VILLAGE 1376 US 65 Business S., Hollister, MO 65672 417-335-8004, Fax: 417-335-4644, turkeycreek@escapees.com | ^s 17.50 | ^{\$} 24 | ^s 101 | ^{\$} 144 | ^{\$} 325 | \$395 |
| New Mexico | DREAM CATCHER RV PARK 4400 E. Pine St., Deming, NM 88030 575-544-4004, Fax: 575-544-0944, dreamcatcher@escapees.com | ^s 18 | ^{\$} 21 | ^s 108 | ^{\$} 127 | ^{\$} 225+ | ^{\$} 235+ |
| Tennessee | RACCOON VALLEY 908 E. Raccoon Valley Rd., Heiskell, TN 37754 865-947-9776, Fax: 865-947-9778, raccoonvalley@escapees.com | ^{\$} 17.50 | ^{\$} 25 | ^s 101 | ^{\$} 150 | ^{\$} 325 | \$395 |
| Texas | RAINBOW'S END 140 Escapees Dr., Livingston, TX 77351936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, rainbowsend@escapees.com | ^{\$} 21-22 | ^{\$} 27.50 ^{\$} 28.50 | ^{\$} 126- ^{\$} 132 | ^{\$} 165- ^{\$} 171 | \$340- \$360+ | ^{\$} 395- ^{\$} 415+ |

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SKP Co-Ops (Escapees Members Only) Dwned and operated by individual member groups of Escapees.

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|---|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Arizona SAGUARO CO-OP 600 E. Saguaro Dr., #245, Benson, AZ 85602 520-586-7343, Fax: 520-586-4683, skpsaguaro@gmail.com, www.skp | osaguaro.org | ^{\$} 20 Incl CTV | + Elec & tax | ^{\$} 110 Incl CTV | + Elec & tax | \$330 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.rd | | ^{\$} 16 Incl Elec | + tax | ^{\$} 90 | + Elec & tax | ^{\$} 265 | + Elec |
| KOFA KO-OP 3750 E. County 17th St., Yuma, AZ 85365 928-344-0645, 928-344-0900, office@kofako-op.com, www.kofako-o | op.com | \$20 | + Elec & tax | ^{\$} 100 | + Elec & tax | - | - |
| California JOJOBA HILLS RESORT 45120 Hwy. 79 S, Aguanga, CA 92536 951-767-9130, office@jojobahills.com, jojobahills.com | | \$20 limited | + Elec | - | - | - | - |
| PARK SIERRA 45323 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-658-8696, Fax: 559-683-2179, parkoffice@parksierra.net, www.p | arksierra.net | ⁵ 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 863-735-1499, Fax: 863-735-1994, skpresortwauchula@gmail.com, fls | skpresort.org | ^{\$} 18 | + Elec & tax | ^{\$} 115 | + Elec | ^{\$} 450 | + Elec |
| Nevada PAIR-A-DICE 5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048 775-727-7221, Fax: 775-727-3966, spairadice@gmail.com | | ^{\$} 20 Incl Elec | - | ^{\$} 96 Incl Elec | - | \$300 + Elec | - |
| New Mexico THE RANCH PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254 575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, skpranch@pvtnetworks.net, skpranch@pvtnetworkskpvtnetworks.net, skpranch@pvtnetworks.net, skpranch | nch.com | ^{\$} 14 | + Elec & tax | \$80 | + Elec & tax | \$300 +Elec & Tax | + Elec |
| Oregon TIMBER VALLEY 800 S. State St., Sutherlin, OR 97479 541-459-4465, skptimbr@rosenet.net, www.timbervalleyskp.com | | \$19 + tax | Incl Elec | ^{\$}114 + tax | Incl Elec | \$325 | + Elec |
| Texas LONE STAR CORRAL 131 Private Rd. 5240, Hondo, TX 78861 830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, info@lonestarcorral.com, lonestarcorral.com | corral.com | ^{\$} 17 | + Elec | ^{\$} 100 | + Elec | \$300 | + Elec |
| Washington EVERGREEN COHO 2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chimacum, WA 9832 360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, ecrskp@escapees.com, www.evergreetersteps.com | | ^{\$} 20 Incl Elec | + tax | ^{\$} 120 Incl Elec | + tax | \$350 | + Elec |

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

• Prices are subject to change without notice. Contact parks for hours of operation and to verify rental fees before arrival.

• Receiving mail at Escapees Parks: Route your mail to General Delivery, City, State and Zip Code. Verify zip code by calling 800-275-8777.

• Availability of rental spaces at SKP Co-Ops depends on members putting their lots into a rental pool while they travel. During the popular season, there may be few spaces for rent. Call in advance to check the availability of rental sites.

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| Pull-thru | Dry-camping | Storage | WiFi wifi | Reservations | Activity Center | Clubhouse | Laundry | Dog Run | Pet Friendly | Raccoon Valle 865-947-9776 • Local songwriters |
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| - | | 152 | n/a | - | | N | - | | | * |
| - | | 283 | n/a | | | N | | | | ¥ |
| - | | 254 | n/a | | - | | | | | ¥ |
| - | V | 127 | n/a | - | - | N | N | | N | ¥ |
| - | | 182 | n/a | | | N | N | | | ¥ |
| - | | 118 | n/a | - | | N | | | | ¥ |
| - | | 206 | n/a | - | | N | N | | | * |
| - | | 130 | n/a | N | | N | N | | | ¥ |
| | | 175 | n/a | - | N | | N | | | * |

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ey: Heiskell, TN
raccoonvalley@escapees.com
s meet every Tuesday night.
local jammers perform.
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KP Co-Op: Aguanga, CA www.jojobahills.com

nany social activities at Jojoba Hills. You ball, tennis, swimming, hiking, nightly games and Friday happy hour. Beaches and desert are only an hour away. Sunset magazine calls nearby Temecula "Disneyland for adults." office@jojobahills.com

Park Events (P

Pair-A-Dice SKP Co-Op: Pahrump, NV 775-727-7221 • www.skp-nv.org First-time visitors receive a week stay for \$50 when requested at check-in. Please call ahead for availability. GPS: N36° 8.700'-W115° 58.000'

Park Sierra SKP Co-Op: Coarsegold, CA 559-658-8696 • parksierra.net

Spend the holidays with us. First-time visitors receive \$50 off their first week's stay. Yosemite, Seguoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are day-trips away. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SKPParkoftheSierras

RoVers Roost SKP Co-Op: Casa Grande, AZ 520-426-3589 • www.roversroost.com Max site length is 40'. First-time Escapees visitors will receive three days free when they pay for one week (\$90 plus tax/elec). The extended stay will allow time to explore the many activities available from this central location. Attend daily social hours for updates on current activities.

Saguaro SKP Co-Op: Benson, AZ 520-586-7343 • www.SKPSaguaro.org First-time visitors receive a week for \$50, plus elect/tax. Visit www.SKPSaguaro.org and click "Special Offers" for details.

The Ranch SKP Co-Op: Lakewood, NM 575-457-2303 • www.skpranch.com

See our parking discount coupon link on home page. \$50 for first week + elec and tax for first-time guests; 20% off first week for returning visitors. Cash or check only. Visit the website for lot availability.

The Resort SKP Co-Op: Wauchula, FL 863-735-1499 • www.flskpresort.org Welcome to our friendly park! Enjoy our heated pool, library, social hour, dinner dances, exercise classes, movies, crafts and educational seminars. Medical, church, grocery, restaurants, kayaking, golf, bowling and unique local attractions are nearby.

Lease Lots at SKP Co-Ops

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



"Join us for a season of fun...at Escapees' adventurous Rainbow Park."

Highlighting Rainbow Parks North Ranch By Travis Carr #8, Rainbow Parks, Vice President

Escapees North Ranch Rainbow Park is not only a beautiful park, it is also an oasis for outdoor adventure.

The Escapees' 57th Escapade is taking place in Tucson, Arizona, March 19–24, 2017, so this is a perfect opportunity to include Escapees North Ranch in your travel plans. We are sure you will be enchanted with its beauty and friendly atmosphere.

While visiting North Ranch, you can spend your evenings exploring with your 4x4 on endless acres of BLM land attached to the park, or, for some quiet time, take a tranquil walk through the beautiful cactus garden. You'll soon be amazed by some of the most splendid sunsets on the planet from your lounge chair. It's all right there in the North Ranch back yard.



Photo by Cathie Carr #3.

If you want to venture out, there is an abundance of local attractions such as museums, historic locations and scenic views. After your day of exploring, the historic town of Wickenburg (about 15 minutes away) offers many fine restaurants for your dining pleasure, as well as two large grocery stores and many unique gift shops. Visit **http:// business.wickenburgchamber.com/events** to check out the local events.

If you would rather stay put and be entertained, that's not a problem. The park is booming with activities and social gatherings for you to enjoy.

March 4, 2017: Have a fun-filled day with North Ranch's La Fiesta, activities including a parade, baseball, pickle ball, dancing and bonfire. You are sure to share some laughs and have a great time.

March 18–25, 2017: While you're at North Ranch, check out the Woodcarvers Rally. Whether you have mastered the skill, are interested in getting started or are simply in awe of the way a raw piece of wood can be transformed into an artistic masterpiece, you'll want to attend this event. Everyone is welcome.

March 26–31, 2017: If you have an interest in beading, be sure to make plans to take part in Bead Week. This event has gained a huge following over the years, so you'll want to book your reservations early.

Even though the campground sites are all 30-amp electric, this is a park where you will enjoy the outdoors so much, you probably won't mind that at all. So, come and enjoy a campfire or cookout with your friends in this quaint, social environment.

Join us for a season of fun and friendship at one of Escapees' most adventurous Rainbow Parks. More information about North Ranch is available at **www.escapees. com/northranch** or call 928-427-3657.

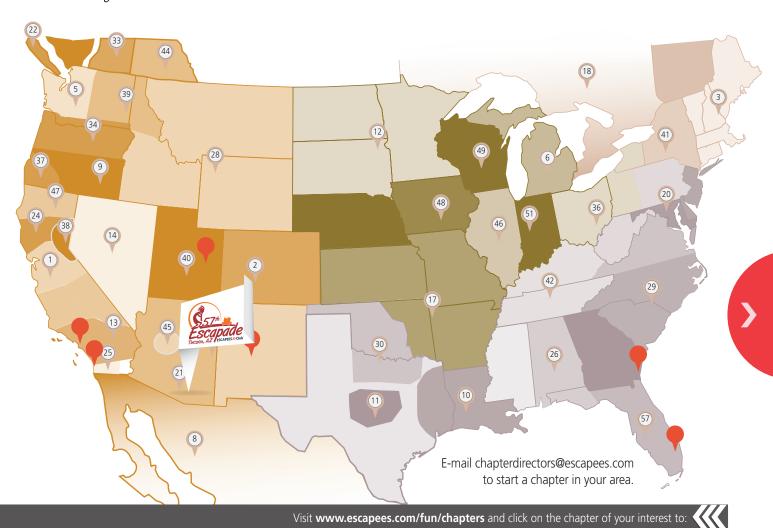
Read more about this Rainbow Park on pages 62-63. Editor

Calling All Chapters 민

Chapter Map Let's Get Together!

Indicates that an Escapees Head Out Program event is taking place at this general location during 2016–2017. See the HOP events on pages 36–37 for more information.





View details about a chapter • Join a chapter • Pay chapter dues • Yes! It is that easy.

Quartzsite Happy Hour—New Location! January 18, 2017 • Plomosa Road, MM3

We invite you to join us for Happy Hour, January 18, 2017, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This year, the event will be held on Plomosa Road at MM3. Enjoy beautiful desert sunsets and campfires with friends. Bring a chair and a snack to share. We hope to see you there.

Mark and Dortha Hall #102095, Escapees Chapter Directors



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

🕽 Crapter Map

Contact chapters' voice mail. **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 | 888-757-7701 + extension # |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Golden Gate | Kathy Guerrera | 408-314-1858 | kathyguerrera@yahoo.com | 8001 |
| 2 | Rocky Mtn. High | Linda Gilmore | 303-349-8845 | president@rockymtnhiskps.org | 8002 |
| 3 | Northeast | Tim Hanson | 772-882-5609 | billbobhanson@aol.com | 8003 |
| 5 | Evergreen | Ron Hough | 425-218-2839 | escapeeschapter5@gmail.com | 8005 |
| 6 | Great Lakes | Judy Woodham | 989-233-3073 | knjwoody@yahoo.com | 8006 |
| 8 | Mexican Connection | Orene Brown | 520-280-2610 | orenebrown1@gmail.com | 8008 |
| 9 | Oregon Trails | Kimm Cady | 541-554-7933 | mrclause46@gmail.com | 8009 |
| 10 | Rainbow Chapter | Gene Jensen | 936-355-1785 | genejensen 88@gmail.com | 8010 |
| 11 | Alamo Area SKPs | George Wilkes | 210-722-6523 | gwilkes43@gmail.com | 8011 |
| 12 | North Central | Ron Nelson | 507-259-7528 | ron.nelson@q.com | 8012 |
| 13 | El Camino | Joe Costigan | 951-452-2998 | mary.costigan2@gmail.com | 8013 |
| 14 | Lucky Rollers | Phil Darling | 603-686-6185 | wheel4home@yahoo.com | 8014 |
| 17 | Ozark Chapter | Alvin Baker | 918-740-4263 | bakerskp17@gmail.com | 8017 |
| 18 | Maple Leaf | (Vacant) | 519-862-2152 | sdsandau@teksavvy.com | 8018 |
| 20 | Mid Atlantic | Frank Simon | 304-947-7689 | pinoakfrank@yahoo.com | 8020 |
| 21 | Arizona Saguaros | Don Del Rosario | 817-266-8806 | don80444@gmail.com | 8021 |
| 22 | Van Islanders | Glen Tooke | 250-923-1061 | gtrightknee@hotmail.com | 8022 |
| 24 | Gold Nugget | Lynne Ganas | 916-331-7301 | lganas@msn.com | 8024 |
| 25 | Shanty Shakers | Wayne and Lynn Selden | 619-890-5383 | dlorean81@gmail.com | 8025 |
| 26 | Gulf Posse | Cushman Phillips | 770-312-8871 | cushman@phillipsandcompany.com | n 8026 |
| 28 | Big Sky | Gary Wisecup | 307-630-9714 | wisecups2006@aol.com | 8028 |
| 29 | Carolina Rovers | Steve Masterson | 518-526-0054 | masterson100@gmail.com | 8029 |
| 30 | Red River Rovers | Don Allen | 214-793-4247 | dvallen2@yahoo.com | 8030 |
| 32 | Verde Valley | Denny Orr | 219-670-3007 | dennsuu@gmail.com | 8032 |
| 33 | BC Okanagan SKPs | Gordon Wakelyn | 250-546-8055 | gandewakelyn@telus.net | 8033 |
| 34 | Columbia River SKPs | LeRoy Vick | 503-367-6087 | lavick1952@yahoo.com | 8034 |
| 36 | Erie Shores | John Hopkins | 814-777-4448 | ltapman@aol.com | 8036 |
| 37 | Rogue Valley Rovers | Chris Oman | 541-474-0161 | coman@budget.net | 8037 |
| 38 | Mother Lode | Rob Cannon | 209-605-4716 | rcannon55@me.com | 8038 |
| 39 | Wash-Pan | Bev Allenbaugh | 208-772-7643 | photogal@fairpoint.net | 8039 |
| 41 | NYSKPS | Marilyn Woodside | 315-538-8410 | lynhw15@gmail.com | 8041 |
| 42 | KEN/TENN | Paul Reed | 731-574-1045 | paulreedjr1960@gmail.com | 8042 |
| 44 | Alberta Roamers | John VandenBurg | 403-328-0147 | chapter44rvclub@gmail.com | 8044 |
| 45 | Valley of the Sun | Ed Allard | 480-213-8096 | edrdnalice@gmail.com | 8045 |
| 46 | Lincolnland | John Liggett | 217-257-4880 | jrliggett@gmail.com | 8046 |
| 47 | Nor-Cal Gypsies | Nancy Voyley | 530-357-4762 | tsrnan@aol.com | 8047 |
| 48 | Iowa Wild Roses | Robin Hand | 404-386-8253 | handjunedr@aol.com | 8048 |
| 49 | Badger SKPs | Ken Cerling | 608-219-6239 | cerlingconstruction@gmail.com | 8049 |
| 51 | Hoosier Neighbor | Harold Howell | 586-805-4339 | haroldmhowell@gmail.com | 8051 |
| 57 | Florida Sun Gators | Carol Kenderdine | 267-718-1983 | cm_kindy@yahoo.com | 8057 |

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

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

Events and Rally Calendar We want to spend time with you! Join us at one of these rallies or National events.

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

| Dates | Locat | ion | Host Chapter | 888-757-7701 + extension # |
|----------|------------|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| NOVEMBE | R 2016 | | | |
| 05-13 | CA | Death Valley, Sunset Campground | SOLOs C-BoF | 8080 |
| 09-13 | FL | Bushnell, Blueberry Hill RV Park | 57 | 8057 |
| 10-13 | ΤХ | Arlington, Dallas KOA | 30 | 8030 |
| 11-13 | AZ | Yuma, Riverfront RV Park | 25 | 8025 |
| 11-13 | ТΧ | Livingston, Rainbow's End, Escapees RVers' Boot Camp | National | 888-757-2582 |
| 13-27 | AZ | Quartzsite, Xscaper Convergence | Xscapers | xscapers.com |
| 18-20 | ΤХ | Livingston, Rainbow's End, Escapees RVers' Boot Camp | National | 888-757-2582 |
| 18-20 | AZ | Yuma, Riverfront RV Park | 25 | 8025 |
| 22-28 | CA | Los Banos, Merced Spring Fairground | 01 | 8001 |
| 28-Dec 2 | CA | Oroville, Feather Falls Casino | 24 | 8024 |
| 28-Dec 2 | CA | Los Banos, Merced Spring Fairground | 38 | 8038 |
| DECEMBE | 2 2016 | | | |
| 01-14 | AZ | Yuma, Lake Martinez | SOLOs C-BoF | 8080 |
| 13-16 | AZ | Mesa, Usery Park, Chapter 45's 20th Anniversary | 45 | 8045 |
| 28-Jan 4 | CA | Pasadena, Rose Parade HOP | HOP/National | 888-757-2582 |
| | 2047 | | | |
| JANUARY | 2017 AZ | Quartzsite, Plomosa Road | 34 | 8034 |
| 14-22 | AZ | Quartzsite, Plomosa Road | UTV/ATV BoF | 406-241-9052 |
| 17-29 | AZ | Quartzsite, Plomosa Road | 28/39 | 8028/8039 |
| 17-25 | AZ | Quartzsite, Plomosa Road MM3, Escapees Happy Hour | National | 888-757-2582 |
| 18-25 | AZ | Quartzsite, Plomosa Road | SOLOs C-BoF | 8080 |
| 19-22 | TX | Bandera, Skyline Ranch RV | 11 | 8080 |
| 21-29 | AZ | Quartzsite, Big Tent Show | Escapees Booth/Koca | 888-757-2582 |
| 21-29 | AZ | Quartzsite, Greasewood dry-camp | 25 | 8025 |
| 21-29 | AZ | Quartzsite, Plomosa Road, SOLOs C-BoF Annual Meeting | SOLOs C-BoF | 8025 |
| 23-28 | AZ | Quartzsite, Plomosa Road MM3 | 6/21 | 8006/8021 |
| 25-20 | FL | Wauchula, The Resort SKP Co-Op, Cracker Capers | SKP Co-Op | 863-735-1499 |
| 25-25 | | wadchula, me resolt SKr Co-op, Clacker Capers | экг со-ор | 005-755-1455 |
| FEBRUARY | | | | |
| 03-05 | AZ | Congress, North Ranch, Escapees RVers' Boot Camp | National | 888-757-2582 |
| 06-20 | MX | San Felipe, rolling rally beginning in Yuma, AZ | 08 | 8008 |
| MARCH 20 | 17 | | | |
| 08-12 | FL | Bushnell, Paradise Oaks RV Resort | 57 | 8057 |
| 13-17 | CA | Indio, Coachella Valley Music/Arts Festival, Xscaper Convergence | Xscapers | xscapers.com |
| 16-18 | AZ | Tucson, Pima County Fairground, Escapees RVers' Boot Camp | National | 888-757-2582 |
| 19-24 | AZ | Tucson, Pima County Fairground, Escapees 57th Escapade | Escapade/National | 888-757-2582 |
| 24 | AZ | Tucson, The Best of Tucson HOP, Post 57th Escapade | HOP/National | 888-757-2582 |

Continued >>>

| Dates | Locat | ion | Host Chapter | 888-757-7701 + extension # |
|------------------|-------|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 27-31 | MS | Picayune, Sun Roamers RV Resort | 26 | 8026 |
| APRIL 2017 | , | | | |
| 20-23 | NC | Asheboro, Zooland Family Campground | 29 | 8029 |
| 23-26 | TN | Sieverville, River Plantation RV Resort | 42 | 8042 |
| 23-27 | CA | Yuba City, Yuba-Sutter Fairground, WARE Rally | 01/38 | warerally.com |
| 23-27 | CA | Yuba City, Yuba-Sutter Fairground, WARE Rally | WARE | warerally.com |
| 23-30 | ТΧ | Port Aransas, Pioneer RV Beach Resort | 11 | 8011 |
| 26-May 2 | ТΧ | Sevierville, River Plantation RV Resort, SKP ACRE rally | Steve Masterson | skpacre@gmail.com |
| MAY 2017 | | | | |
| 16-19 | IL | Johnston City, Arrowhead Lake Campground | 46 | 8046 |
| JUNE 2017 | | | | |
| 04-08 | OR | Madras, Jefferson County Fairground | 34 | 8034 |
| 19-22 | NH | Bridgewater, Newfound RV Park | 03 | 8003 |
| JULY 2017 | | | | |
| 10-13 | OR | Rickreal, Polk County Fairground | 34 | 8034 |
| 19-22 | MI | Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz Church Grove | 06 | 8006 |
| AUGUST 20 |)17 | | | |
| 15-19 | ME | Hermon, Pumpkin Patch RV Resort | 03 | 8003 |
| SEPTEMBE | R 201 | 7 | | |
| 07-10 | MI | Ionia, Ionia County Fairground | 06 | 8006 |
| 07-10 | NY | Austerlitz, Woodland Hills Campground | 41 | 8041 |
| 12-16 | TN | Savannah, Green Acres RV Resort | 42 | 8042 |



Xscapers is a lifestyle group of Escapees RV Club. Focused on RVers who work and travel, convergences are designed to accommodate their unique scheduling needs. Activities are scheduled for afternoons, evenings and weekends to best include those who work or homeschool children during the day.

2017 Upcoming Convergences

Quartzite, Arizona January 13–27, 2017

Come, join the fun in the desert in Quartzsite, Arizona. This is the perfect opportunity to meet fellow Xscapers and working-age RVers.

Coachella 2017

Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival Indio, California • March 13–17, 2017 This will be a unique opportunity for those who want to see what the festival is all about or for those who have been before and want to experience it again alongside activities with fellow Xscapers.

For more information, visit www.xscapers.com/events/convergences.

Events and Rally Calendar 🕕



WARE Rally—Western Area Rally for Escapees April 23–27, 2017 • Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds 442 Franklin Ave, Yuba City, California 95991

This year's WARE rally will be jointly hosted by Chapter 38 and Chapter 1 at the beautiful Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds in Yuba City, California. Our seventh annual rally will host approximately 200 rigs, with WARE members from Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho and New Mexico. We hope you can join us for four great days of seminars, classes, social hours and fun!

Visit **www.warerally.com** for online registration and t-shirt order forms. Complete, print and mail the forms with your check payable to Western Area Rally for Escapees to Sandy Bush, 500 N. Almond St., Dixon, CA 95620. For more information, contact Sandy by calling 707-635-6717 or e-mail **skpwarerally@gmail. com**. Search "warerally2017" to "friend," like and share our Facebook page.

Jana Corrington #130327



Mexican Connection Chapter 8 Yuma, Arizona • February 6–20, 2017 Rolling Rally to San Felipe, Mexico

Mexican Connection Chapter 8 is going to San Felipe, Mexico! The pre-rally begins at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in Yuma, Arizona, February 6, 2017. February 9, we'll drive to Pete's Camp in San Felipe, Baja California.

Chapter 8 provides important contributions to local charities in the host town and to Escapees CARE. We ask that folks donate items for auction that they would be willing to bid on.

Online rally registration is available online through PayPal®. Spaces are limited. All sites are boondocking with no hookups. For more information, visit **www.mexicanconnection08.com**. *Jim and Cynthia Ponder* **#70507**

Wagon Masters, wagonmasters2017@gmail.com



Chapter 1 Thanksgiving Rally November 22–27, 2016 • Los Banos, California

Golden Gate chapter 1 invites all Escapees to join us at our annual Thanksgiving rally at the Spring Festival Grounds in Los Banos, California. We serve a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, followed by leftovers and turkey soup. If you are traveling away from family, join your Escapees family during this holiday season.

For information, contact Jon Bush at jonbushsr@yahoo.com or visit **www.escapees.com/chapters**

Kathy Guerrera #13286



SKP ACRE—All Chapters Rally East April 26 to May 2, 2017 • River Plantation RV Resort 1004 Parkway, Sevierville, Tennessee 37862

Make your reservations today for the SKP ACRE 2017 rally by calling the River Plantation RV Resort at 800-758-5267. Online reservation with SKP ACRE begins January 1, 2017.

For more information, visit **www.skpacre.com** or e-mail skpacre@gmail.com.

Steve Masterson #95338 President, SKP ACRE

SKP Get-togethers It's time to eat! Join your fellow SKPs for any one of these regional dine-outs.

ALABAMA

Gulf Shores: 2nd Mon., 10:30 a.m., Original Oyster House. 701 Gulf Shores Pkwy. (In March: 2nd Mon., corned-beef dinner at Marlow Church.) Cushman Phillips: cushman@cbphei.com or 770-312-8871. October-April (except March)

ARIZONA

Apache Junction: 1st and 3rd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Mickey D's Café, 1408 W. Apache Trail. Please RSVP Ed Allard: 480-213-8096, edrdnalice@gmail. com. November-March

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

Casa Grande: 2nd Tuesday, 1 p.m., Golden Corral. 2082 E. Florence Blvd. Jan Tilton: jtilton7@yahoo.com. October-April

Quartzsite: Every Wed., 8 a.m., Times Three Family Restaurant. 1265 West Main. November-February. This group needs a representative.

Tonopah: Taco Tuesday 6:30 p.m., Tonopah Family Restaurant, 41101 West Indian School Rd. Call or text to confirm, Mike 602-325-3171 or Ajo 575-694-2692. ajo@thecatdragdinn.org

Tucson: 2nd Tuesday, 3 p.m. Golden Corral, 6385 S. Midvale Park Road. Please confirm: Cliff and Virginia Haycock #13748, 919-412-4029. hayvirginia@yahoo.com

Wickenburg: Visit the Chapter 32 Website or voice mail for date and location. Dave Gilbert: 928-427-3765, rplace@q.com.

Yuma: 2nd Wed., 11 a.m., Foothill's Eatery and Spirit, 12871 S Interstate 8 Frontage Rd. November-April

CALIFORNIA

Citrus Heights: 2nd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Golden Corral, 4940 Watt Avenue, North Highlands. David and Shirley Sturdivant: 916-967-3862.

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

Huntington Beach: 3rd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Sunny's Restaurant, 7148 Edinger Ave. Nancy Madigan: 949-646-8513. npickl@aol.com

Modesto: 1st Tues., 11:30 a.m., The Golden Corral Buffet and Grill, 3737 McHenry Ave. Ray Bailey: 209-532-0444, bailey-r@sbcglobal.net. February-November

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

San Diego area: 4th Sat., 9:00 a.m., Marie Callender's, 6950 Alvarado Rd. Wayne and Lynn Selden: 619-890-5383, dlorean81@gmail.com

Santa Maria: 2nd Thurs. (every month), 11:30 a.m., Coco's Restaurant, 1635 S. Broadway. Erv Hartman: 805-937-1856.

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

Visalia: Last Fri. (Jan.-Oct.), 3rd Fri. (Nov.-Dec.) 9:30 a.m. Ryan's Place Restaurant, 3103 S. Mooney Blvd. Bring a friend; wear badge. Schatzi Lovett: 559-732-6973.

COLORADO

Buena Vista: 3rd Tues., 1 p.m., Jan's Restaurant. 304 US Hwy. 24. Don Anderson: draoda@aol.com. May-September

Englewood: 2nd Tues., 12 p.m. Golden Corral. 4000 River Point Pkwy. Chuck Derington: 303-986-6192, chuckderington@comcast.net

FLORIDA

Clermont: 1st Thurs., 11:00 a.m., Golden Corral. 1555 Grand Hwy. Larry Jarvis: 716-949-1686, jarvissr@aol.com. November-April

MISSOURI

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

NEVADA

Pahrump: 2nd Mon., 11:30 a.m., Lakeside Café and Buffet, 5870 S Homestead Road. Lakeside Casino & RV Park, restaurant is inside casino. Phil Darling: wheel4home@yahoo.com. September-May

Reno: 3rd. Wed., 1:00 p.m., Gold 'N Silver Inn Restaurant, 790 W 4th St. This luncheon is for all northern Nevada-area Escapees to meet and visit. Adrian Jones: adrianandrebecca@att.net

NEW MEXICO

Lakewood: 2nd Wed. Luncheons alternate between Artesia and Carlsbad. Call Mary Ann Obst: 575-513-0637, for time and place.

OREGON

Medford: 2nd Tues., 11:00 a.m., Elmer's Restaurant, 2000 Biddle Road. Chris Oman: 541-474-0161, coman@budget.net. April-November

Sutherlin: 2nd Wed., 9:00 a.m. (breakfast), Abby's Legendary Pizza, 1011 W Central Ave. Bud Covington: 541-229-0491. January-December

Portland: 4th Mon., 1:00 p.m., Heidi's Restaurant, 1230 N.E. Cleveland, Gresham, OR 97030. LeRoy Vick: 503-784-7738, lavick1952@yahoo.com

TENNESSEE

Crossville: 2nd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Shoney's Restaurant. 4148 US-127. Ralph Wiggers: 931-787-4157. Apr-Nov

TEXAS

Livingston: 2nd Fri., 1:00 p.m., Please check Rainbow Chapter 10 voicemail for location. 888-757-7701 x8010. Varies but usually in Livingston. Gina Jensen: 936-355-1785, vintagelady2222@gmail.com

UTAH

St. George: 2nd Wed., 1:00 p.m., Village Inn, 29 N River Rd. (We are looking for a new luncheon host.) Chuck Persing: 702-236-0417, cngpers44@ yahoo.com. Odd months

West Valley City: 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Golden Corral, 3399 West, 3500 South. Lawrence Pay: 801-599-3518, Inpay@msn.com.

WASHINGTON

Lynnwood: 1st Sat., 9:30 a.m., Old Country Buffet, Lynnwood Square, 4601 200th St. SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036. Ray and Sandy Hoyt: 425-750-6139, escapeeschapter5@aol.com. May-September

Mount Vernon: 1st Tues., 11:00 a.m., Royal Star Buffet, (formerly Royal Fork), 2300 Freeway Drive. Dave Andersen: 206-849-1578, arlene1046@ gmail.com. May-September

Tacoma: 2nd Tues., 11:00 a.m., AAA Buffet, 10310 South Tacoma Way. Ron Hough, 425-218-2839, ronwhough@gmail.com. May-September

ΔΝΔΠΔ

AB (location TBA): 2nd Wed., noon, check the Chapter 44 Website and voice mail for information. 888-757-7701 x8044. Dorothy Bruner. September and October

BC, Kelowna: 2nd Tues., 11:30 a.m. For lunch locations, please call Joyce Roesch: 250-860-7923, jroesch@shaw.ca

BC, Ladysmith: 3rd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Ricky's All Day Grill, Coronation Mall. Linda Henton: lfhenton@gmail.com, skpch22@hotmail.com. www.escapees.com/chapter22. May-October

BC, Vernon: Last Mon., noon. The Pantry, 3908 32nd St. Lori Mailer: 250-549-4152, loried9@shaw.ca.

ON, London: 1st Wed., 11:30 a.m., Wayside Restaurant, 10680 Sunset Rd, Talbotville. Rudy Sandau: 519-862-2152, rsandau@teksavvy.com. April-November

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

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Unusual RV Destinations By De Laing, Guest Contributor

Those of us who have been traveling by RV for a while may have made the national park circuit, visited state parks across the country and spent a fair amount of time at our favorite campgrounds close to home. But, how many of us have thought outside the lines when it comes to planning our next RV camping adventure? Here's a collection of destinations you'll want to consider when you're ready for something unusual.

Adventure Camping

One way to experience camping in wild and exotic places is to take advantage of roadside attractions that offer space for camping. For example, you can stop for the night at the **SAFARI WILDLIFE PARK** in Winston, Oregon, for inexpensive camping and the chance to see dozens of exotic animals. **LION COUNTRY SAFARI** in Loxahatchee, Florida, also has a campground on site, as does the **CHEHAW ANIMAL PARK** in Albany, Georgia.

Another way RV travelers are combining camping with adventure is by finding gemstone mines with on-site campgrounds. **MISTY MOUNTAIN MINING COMPANY** in Virginia, **ROYAL PEACOCK OPAL MINE** in Denio, Nevada, and the campground in **CATHEDRAL CAVERNS STATE PARK** in Alabama all offer the chance to sluice mining rough for gems while camping.



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Camping Off the Grid

Have you ever considered leaving the campground behind and spending time "off the grid" in your RV? If you long to go forth into the wilderness, there's a place in America to do it. The **NORTH MAINE WOODS**, for instance, is a three-and-a-half-million-acre expanse of dense forest, lakes and streams bordered on two sides by Canada.

RVers with smaller motorhomes or travel trailers can find uncrowded spots to camp, hike and fish in the heart of the forest. Access is controlled through a collection of gateways manned by "receptionists" who keep track of all North Maine Woods visitors.

For the adventurous RV traveler looking for an authentic off-the-grid experience, dispersed camping on **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** (**BLM**) land is another option. There are more than two hundred million acres of public land managed by the BLM across America. Dispersed campsites can be used for free, or for the price of an activity permit, if you're up for camping outside the developed campgrounds. The payoff is spending time in the peace and serenity of nature, minus the crowds.

Think of taking a trip to **RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST** in southcentral Colorado. The BLM dispersed campsites there are surrounded by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, near hiking trails, pristine mountain lakes and priceless views.

Camp on the shores of **EAGLE LAKE** on the eastern border of **LAS-SEN NATIONAL FOREST** in California for excellent trout fishing and spectacular views of the Cascade Range, all for the price of a donation.

If taking things off the grid sounds like the kind of unique camping experience you desire, do a search at **BLM.gov** to find public lands with dispersed camping.

Visit Eagle Lake, California, for Winter Solitude and Eagle Sightings. Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management.

Camping on the Islands

If you've never left the mainland on your U.S. RV camping trips, it's time to experience life on the islands. From Gulf Coast island RV parks to camping off Long Island, there's always something memorable about setting up camp in a place surrounded by water.

You could, for example, choose to camp at Smith Point County Park on the east end of New York's Fire Island. Located across Great South Bay from Long Island, this island campground gives easy access to the wonders of Fire Island National Seashore. Campers here can spend their days hiking the dunes, swimming, photographing wildlife or just soaking up the windswept splendor that makes this barrier island so popular.

If, on the other hand, you've wondered what it would be like to camp on an island in the Gulf of Mexico, turn your RV toward Dauphin Island off the Alabama coast. With unspoiled beaches, an Audubon bird sanctuary and miles of hiking trails to explore, nature lovers won't want to leave this island paradise.

One more idea for out-of-the-ordinary island RV camping—take a trip to the western shore of Canada's Vancouver Island. The RV



campgrounds there, tucked between rainforest and rugged beaches, will have you wondering why you haven't visited before. From hiking the trails through Pacific Rim National Park Reserve to fishing, kayaking and cold-water surfing the rocky bays and inlets, this untamed space is perfect for campers in search of the unusual.

Finding unbelievable camping adventures doesn't have to be difficult. Consider what you've always wanted to do and then start looking for the wild places that offer those possibilities. As your sense of adventure grows, you may find that discovering unusual RV camping locations becomes your favorite pastime.

> Joe Laing is the marketing director for El Monte RV, a nationwide RV rental company. Joe has been on the road working within the travel industry for over 20 years and greatly enjoys exploring the outdoors. Joe has been camping across the U.S. from coast to coast and makes a point to stop at national landmarks along the way. He is also actively involved in numerous campground associations, including RVIA's Go RVing committee, as well as travel industry associations. https://www.elmonterv.com/ Photo courtesy of El Monte RV

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QUESTION:

This year will be the first time our family will spend the holidays full-time RVing. Do you have any suggestions for unique ways to celebrate by paying it forward to others? *Giving Back*

Celebrate the Holidays by PAYING IT FORWARD

By Diane Berry #102219

Dear Giving Back,

What a wonderful request! Spending the holidays on the road will certainly necessitate some changes in your usual holiday rituals and celebrations. Looking to make that change by spreading cheer wherever you go will make a lasting impression on your children and your temporary, adopted community. While there are many options, here are a few ideas to get you started.

Volunteer at a Food Bank or Homeless Shelter

One of the easiest ways to become involved in helping others is by volunteering at a food bank or homeless shelter. Nearly every city has one, or both, so they should be easy to locate no matter where you set up camp during the holidays.

Food banks tend to provide free meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas and this requires many extra hands to help with distribution and to accommodate guests. In the event you find yourself in a community without a food bank, many churches or organizations take on the task of providing a holiday meal for anyone who shows up, and they are likely to welcome you with open arms.

This contribution to others is a wonderful way for your children to learn a lesson in generosity.

Send Packages to Troops

Men and women serving in the armed forces would love to receive an extra (or quite possibly their only) package over the holidays.

Contacting a city's chamber of commerce or other local organization can most likely put you in touch with folks who can provide you with names and addresses of soldiers. You may also be able to participate in a community group effort of assembling packages for shipping.

The preparation involved in buying, wrapping and mailing useful gifts, such as warm socks, a nice pair of gloves, toiletries and baked goods, can be a wonderful task in which to involve your children. As an added bonus from the experience, they will learn about the wonderful people who are serving our country.

Visit a Hospital or Nursing Home

With our increasingly mobile society, many residents of nursing homes have no family nearby to visit with them during the holidays. This can also hold true for people who are spending the holidays in the hospital. Visiting one of these facilities can make a world of difference in the lives of the sick and the elderly. Bringing home- (or RV-) made cookies (with permission of the staff, of course) or starting a round of Christmas carols, can quickly spread cheer to residents and staff. Witnessing the joy and appreciation on the faces of all those who are present will do wonders for your holiday spirit, too!

Toys for Tots

If you plan to spend an extended period of time in a community during the holidays, you could participate in or start a toy drive to provide gifts for children who are less fortunate. others in their home communities. On this day, folks offer their time to rake leaves, do home repairs, run errands or provide special services to those who are unable to do these things for themselves.



You and your family could create your own Make A Difference Day in a temporarily adopted community. Simply contact a city or county helping agency or a local church to obtain the names of individuals who could use assistance. These people will be

"There are many ways to 'pay it forward' while RVing, and the individuals you help are likely to reach out in their own ways to help others. Sharing the gift of your time and energy sends a positive message to your children..."

A quick contact with the Children and Family Services division or a homeless or domestic violence shelter can provide you with ages of children in need of gifts and a little cheer.

You will be surprised at how much your children will enjoy being involved in the selection of toys and games for other children. Then, once they are purchased, they can help wrap and deliver them to the appropriate agency.

Make A Difference

Each year near the end of October, there is a national Make A Difference

Day on which caring strangers reach out to



thrilled to hear from you! Your family can even make this an annual event by doing the same favor the following year in a different community.

There are many ways to "pay it forward" while RVing, and the individuals you help are likely to reach out in their own ways to help others. Sharing the gift of your time and energy sends a positive message to your children that they will always remember. Perhaps you can start a new family tradition that will continue for many generations. If you do, I commend you for your interest and your efforts in giving back.

Wishing you happy holidays and happy travels.

Diane is a therapist in private practice who works extensively with clients on stress management and relationship issues. She and her family are also avid RVers. Her articles are meant to provide information of a general nature and are not intended as specific psychological advice or to take the place of consulting with a health care professional.

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

- Opinions, advice and information contained in "Tips" are offered solely to inform members about matters that may be of assistance or interest to them. Material is compiled from submissions by Escapees members who do their own research. Escapees RV Club accepts no responsibility for what is expressed here by any person, group or company.
- E-mailed submissions can be sent to **departmentseditor@escapees.com**. Because of the large volume of material, we may not acknowledge receipt of material. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting.



9 Tips for Driving Your RV on Steep Grades

Be Patient—Accept that you're going to be driving slowly. Other drivers will expect you to driving slow.

Use Hazard Lights— As a good safety precaution, anytime you are driving 20 to 30 mph below the posted speed limit, turn on your hazard lights to alert other drivers.

Downshift Before Ascending—Before you start up the hill, downshift to a lower gear for extra power.

Use Tow Haul Mode—Put your transmission in "Tow Haul Mode," which uses different gear shifting to keep the engine in a more optimal range.

Descend Slowly—When preparing to go down the mountain pass, bring your speed way down (even as low as 30 mph, depending on the length and steepness of grade) before you begin your descent, and stay in "Tow Haul Mode." This allows you to use more engine braking and gives you room to increase your speed safely. (If you start driving down the hill at a high speed and try to come down to a lower speed, it's going to be a lot harder on your brakes.)

Downshift Before Descending—If the RV doesn't automatically downshift itself when going downhill, firmly press the brake to force the transmission to downshift or manually select a lower gear. This will increase your engine speed (and rpm), so the engine will be doing some of the braking for you, minimizing the amount of time you need to use your brakes.

Minimize Braking—When braking, aim to press the pedal for only 15 to 20 seconds each time and allow time in between so you don't cook your brakes. The last thing you want is hot, mushy brakes when you need them.

Don't Overwork It—There's no sense in working your RV too hard with a screaming engine or overheating brakes. Take it nice and slow and you'll get better longevity on your vehicle. **Enjoy the Drive**—There's nothing better than the expansive views from the top of a tall hill or mountain, so take your time, relax, enjoy the drive and beautiful scenery.

Remember, RVs are heavy vehicles and you have a lot riding in them. Use caution, be patient and stay safe and slow. If you're "white knuckling it," you're probably not being safe.

You can view more of our tips on our online blog at **rvlove.com/start-here/tips-checklists**.

Marc and Julie Bennett #111265 www.rvlove.com

Read more of Mark and Emily's tips and tricks for RVing at roadslesstraveled.us/tips-tricks/.

Romantic Mood Lighting

There's nothing like candles to set the mood for romantic lighting, but having an open flame in an RV can be risky. Instead, we use pillar-shaped LED candles made of real wax. They are wonderful for dim lighting and cast a pretty glow around the RV. The best part is that they look, feel and even flicker a little like real candles! They don't use electricity, which is a big bonus for dry-camping. We've had our LED pillar candles for six years now, and have only had to change the batteries once. They use the standard disc-shaped batteries used in watches.

Emily and Mark Fagan #99408

How to "Convert" to Powered Stabilizer Jacks

We don't have electric stabilizer jacks on our fifth-wheel trailer; however, we are able to raise and lower the jacks with power by using an 18-volt cordless drill.

Using a 1/4-inch hex to 3/8-inch socket adapter in the drill motor chuck, we attach an 8-inch long, 3/8-inch drive extension to a 3/4-inch socket. The 3/4-inch socket fits the

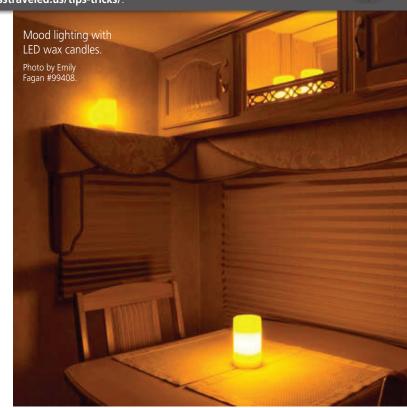
stabilizer jacks, and the 8-inch extension makes it easy to reach the stab jacks without having to crouch down too low.

We keep the 1/4-inch hex to 3/8inch socket adapter in the drill, since raising and lowering the jacks is our most common use for the drill, and we glued the 8-inch extension and 3/4inch socket together with JB Weld so it is one unit that is easily inserted in the drill when needed.

We keep the drill in a handy spot right inside a basement hatch door. *Emily and Mark Fagan #99408*



Raise and lower your jacks with ease!





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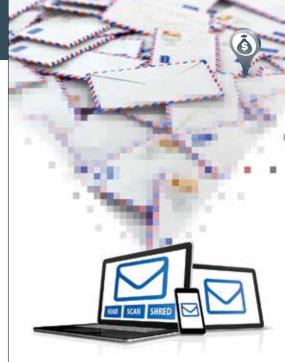
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Rock On!

We visited a restaurant in Phoenix, Arizona, named "Cooperstown," which happens to be owned by Alice Cooper. We were watching a local band perform onstage and, as I turned around, there he was in person! I asked if he wouldn't mind posing for a photograph with my wife, Emily. He was polite and graciously agreed. Mark Fagan #99408

Photo by Mark Fagan #99408.



Viewfinder Celebrity

It's My Party

My wife, Sally, and I were saddened by Leslie Gore's death in 2015. We had met her at the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies in California in 2011, where she performed her iconic 1963 hit, "It's My Party and I'll Cry if I Want To." A passerby took this photo of us (Leslie at left).

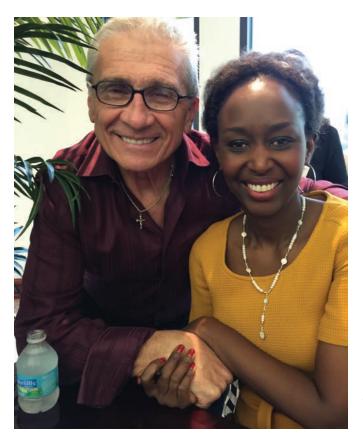
Gregg Schindel #97217



Photo by Terese Zilke.

In the News

My friend, Ranger Terese Zilke, took this photo last summer at Refugio State Beach. There was an oil spill and the campground was closed for two months. News crews came in to report on it and that's Ben Tracy with CBS Evening News on the right. We were discussing the spill and how it was affecting all of us. I'm the visitor host at left in yellow jacket.



Holocaust Survivor

Howard Smith #83749 with Immaculee Ilibagiza, author of *Left to Tell*— *Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*. She is a survivor of the Rwandan Holocaust of 1994 who lost most of her family and lived in a tiny bathroom with seven other starving women for 91 days. Photo by Fran Smith #83749.

Running Mate

In July 2007, my husband, Larry, and I were in Seward, Alaska, during the huge Fourth of July race. I did not know who the governor of Alaska was until her introduction at the start of the race. When we were both at the finish line, I asked her if I could take her photo. She asked if I wanted to have it taken with me in it and handed my camera to her friend. This was long before Sarah Palin became famous as John McCain's running mate.

Joyce Space #61818

» Share Your View A New Theme Every Issue

To submit photos for "Viewfinder," send unaltered digital photos as e-mail attachments to **viewfinder@escapees.com**. With each submission, include your name, Escapees membership number, a brief 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.

Viewfinder

RVing R&R (MA17).....Due Nov 10 RVers find creative ways to enjoy rest and relaxation. Show us your photo of a humorous or ingenious way RVers can kick back and chill out.

A Drones View (MJ17).....Due Jan 10 Drone's are a hot new gadget RVers find useful in seeking out the perfect camping spot and as a handy tool to access cool perspectives for photography. Share your drone's view with our readers.

| Vineyard View (JA17) | Due March 10 |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Scenic Selfie (SO17) | Due May 10 |
| Trail's Treasure (ND17) | Due July 10 |

Past President

Jim and Nancy Tidball#97596 with President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, at the Manaratha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia. Photographer unknown.



Beat the Heat—Schmarder

JA18

Article Maex Reference Compilation of Material that Appeared in *Escapees* Magazine in 2016

Articles are listed in alphabetical order under the corresponding categories. Back issues and article copies are available upon request by calling the club business office at 888-757-2582, or you can e-mail the office staff at clubbusiness@escapees.com.
 Back issues of *Escapees* magazine may require a fee for shipping and handling.

FEATURES

| Book Reviews Alaska, Parks/Small-town America—Gauthier Full-time RVing/Oregon Trail—Gauthier Joys/Secrets of RV Living—Gauthier Living Off the Grid—Gauthier Quality Endures—Gauthier War, Peace and Pleasantry—Gauthier | Issue/Page MA82 MJ72 ND24 SO40 JA82 JF72 | Creativity on the Move—Haven Five Fabulous Fruit Festivals—Schmarder Kidscapade—Travaglino Leasing Your House—Fagan Mexican Dentristry—Fagan Mobile Internet—Dunphy/Ve Ard Paying It Forward—Berry Plan an RV Dinner Party—Schmarder | SO76 MJ26 ND20 MJ23 ND10 MA12 ND76 ND27 |
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| App-y Travels—Schmarder | MA79 | JA—July/August, SO—September/October, ND- | -November/December |
| http://www.bonnulder | | | |

Technical Questions: A variety of technical questions and answers are in "Mark, My Words," by Mark Nemeth #45776, RV safety education director, in each issue of *Escapees* magazine. JF19 | MA77 | MJ54 | JA15 | SO25 | ND41

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Dual Tires—Koca F.M.V.S.S. Sticker—Koca Tire and Weight Limits—Koca Tire Blowouts—Koca Tire Contact Patch—Koca Tire Speed Limits—Koca

Thoughts for the Road

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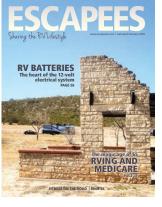
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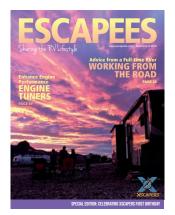
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January/February Robert Rajotte #99622 Las Cruces, New Mexico



March/April Christie Scott #123872 Quartzsite, Arizona



May/June Vincent Rybicki #113203 Lubec, Maine



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September/October Betty Prange #22195 Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



November/December Brock Brinkerhoff #131442 Ellensburg, Washington

Please send cover photo submissions to graphics@escapees.com. To learn more about our cover photo requirements, download *Escapees* Magazine photographic guidlines here:

www.escapees.com/knowledge/escapees-magazine



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, please obtain permission from a spouse or family member before submitting a notice for publication.
- Send your Final Journeys notice to: **departmentseditor@escapees.com** or mail to: *Escapees* magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, Texas 77351

Adolphe, Cindy #118205-August 21, 2016: (Deen, 12820 NW 39th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98685) Cindy fought an unknown health problem for four years. In June 2016, she was diagnosed with liver cancer and put on the national transplant list. In July, she received a transplant. She did well, but after a short time, she was back in the hospital. After extensive testing, they found she had a rare disease called GVHD (Graft vs Host Disease). In approximately 1,500 transplants, Oregon Health Sciences University had only seen four cases in 21 years. Once in the bone marrow, it is not treatable. Due to her poor health, we never made it to an Escapees event.

Klier, Mike #51929-August 18, 2016: (Lynna, 13432 S. Drucilla Lane, Yuma, AZ 85367) Mike was in the National Guard and was an aerospace engineer. He loved traveling in our motorhome.

McGarry, Edward #67444-April 11, 2016: (Madonna, 3916 N Potsdam Ave., #799, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6344) Ed was retired navy. We were married 57 years and enjoyed 13 years of full-time RVing. Our home base is at Rainbow Plantation.

Murphy, Elizabeth Ellen #79319-July 22,2016: (Roy, 195 Rainbow Dr., #9517, Livingston, Tx 77399-1095) Elizabeth died at the age of 86. We were both raised in Springfield, Missouri, and we were married in 1949. I worked for Southwestern Bell and she worked for Kansas Milling Company in Wichita, Kansas. When we retired from our jobs, we became scuba divers. We enjoyed the sport so much we opened a scuba training business in Wichita. As time went by, our interest turned to scuba travel. Traveling and helping people enjoy the world-wide sport of scuba diving was her dream. Ellen was also a skilled woodcarver, and she received many awards for fine chip carvings. We thoroughly enjoyed our life and travel, and I will continue to travel on a less-limited schedule while attending woodcarving events.

Rezac, Ron #18071-August 20, 2016: (Rebecca, 3454 Don Ortega Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92010) Ron died after a two-and-a-half-year battle with pancreatic cancer. We enjoyed Escapees actively for 20 years before Ron's knee gave out and we had to sell our motorhome. I am planning to buy a used, class B and reunite with the Woodcarvers on Wheels BoF soon.

Totten, Shirilene #3432-July 29, 2016: (R. D. Totten, 34 Private Road 5246, Hondo, TX. 78861-5440) Shirilene was 76 years old and we were married 59 years. She was active in the club serving on many committees. We have been Escapees members for over 31 years and were the founders of Chapter 11 and Lone Star Corral SKP Co-Op. Shirilene and I began our last RV trip together in August, and later in the year, I will put her urn in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery where I will join her when my time comes.

Wanke, Ray #19619-July 8, 2016: (Nancy, 1003 Pine Ave., St Cloud, FL 34769) Ray died of a heart problem. We both retired from teaching at age 50 and moved to Florida where we lived for 10 years before buying a fifth-wheel and a truck and heading out. We soon met Escapees and were convinced that we needed the Escapees services (mail service and new friends). We traveled for 20 years, visiting every U.S. state, each Canadian Province and even a few days in Mexico. We loved every minute of our nomadic lifestyle. We enjoyed Escapades and Chapter 15, where Ray served as president and editor of the monthly newsletter. I miss him more than words can express but I have wonderful memories and photos. Thank you, Escapees, for the opportunity of a lifetime and memories that will live on forever.





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