

SMART TRAVELER

Published Bi-Monthly for SPECIAL MMILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS CLUB

September 2023



Fall is on its way! Cooler weather and time to get out and enjoy our beautiful country. We hope you all can meet up with us in Amana Colonies, Iowa this month For our 40th Anniversary Celebration!

SMART is a not-for-profit 501(c)19 Veterans Organization



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(757) 620-7044
genebennett101@gmail.com
EXCOM



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leroyarmacost@bellsouth.net



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richpal1@swbell.net
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pesoweis@hotmail.com or
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(270) 929-2994
Linda_wayne@roadrunner.com

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Go to our website for more info www.SmartRVing.org



*From the desk of our
SMART President:*

This will be my last entry for the Traveler as President.

I would like to thank all the members that supported SMART and me during my turn as President. Without member support, the SMART camping Club could not continue to survive. Recruiting and Retention are always ongoing programs that everyone can support. The caravans are a way to see **"The Country We Defend"** and at a reduced cost and a good opportunity to make new life-long friends.

The Wagon Masters and Tail Gunners make the trip memorable, and are knowledgeable, with safety being the ultimate goal. Check them out! May your continued support assist the upcoming EXCOM Staff. Thanks for all you've done, and will continue to do. Gene-O



SMART 1st Vice President

Well we've all been waiting for spring to arrive so that we can get the rigs out and on the road. Well spring in Texas arrived for a short time then summer pushed her out of the way and summer is here in south Texas cooking up a storm. Now it's too hot to travel. Roads are too hot in the south for the tires to take long trips. And it's now too hot to climb up on the roof of the rig to fix the A/C that was hit by a tree limb in the neighborhood while departing for a short cool trip. So I've taken this time enjoying the home A/C to do recruiting on the internet. Hooked up with an acquaintance we met in Weatherford, TX and sent him SMART materiel for him to pass out. Fishing by proxy, I call it. Never pass up a chance to recruit.

As y'all have probably heard, we will be Honoring Lee Greenwood with an Honorary Membership plaque at the National. His appearance is still pending his 3rd quarter event schedule planning. His Soldier Valley Spirit, an all-veteran owned group 5th wheel has also been invited to attend. So get your reservations in and come be part of the presentation.



Greetings from the Immediate Past President

There is a quote that reads "Time flies and drags us with it. The moment I speak is already gone". How the quote rings true because the 40th Year SMART National will be the end of my tenure as an officer. However, it will not be the end of my quest to recruit more members of all races that served honorably. To the officers coming in and beyond you can always count on me. The upcoming 40th Anniversary will be filled with history for the books during the swearing in ceremony. You don't want to miss it. My hats off to the outgoing President, Gene Bennett, for all he accomplished during his tenure, and I am pledging my support to the incoming staff wherever it's needed or required. Accolades to Melissa Wade and Phyllis Enfinger that continue to keep the motors running in this SMART engine. We have a wealth of knowledge within the organization that's setting idle. We need you to step up to the plate and become involved, run for office. We need you more than you will never know. Unless, however, you step up to the plate. Think future Second Vice. *Willie Pollard Imt Past President*



Richard D. Palmer
SMART 1st Vice President

The difference between Ordinary and Extraordinary is a little Extra.



Message from your 2nd VP We are finished with the North to Alaska 2023 Caravan. Circumstances couldn't have been more perfect – the weather, the wildfires, the campgrounds, the venues, the restaurants, the participants, everything! It was 74 days of abundant wildlife, calm seas, glaciers everywhere, few breakdowns, and incredible scenery. There was food, fun and camaradery. It was gratifying to see so many lifetime friendships formed during our time together. This

will certainly go down as one of the best caravans we have ever been on. Now we move on to the National Muster in Amana, Iowa. That promises to be one of the best musters we've ever had. We are so looking forward to reconnecting with old friends as well as making new friendships.

Wow! As I look over the events posted on the SMART website, I am excited to see so many activities planned by our chapters. The summer is over and chapters are back in full swing. Look over the following list of musters planned across the U.S. If you are in the area, include one or more of these in your planned travels. If something interests you, go online and register for it. You will have a great time. And don't forget about the National Muster in Amana, Iowa September 18 to 22. In less than a month, we will be celebrating 40 years of SMART travel and camaraderie. Lee Greenwood, singer and songwriter, will be inducted into SMART as an honorary partner. What a great celebration it will be.

9/14 The White Sands Panhandlers will have a Chow Call at Mugshots Grill & Bar in Pace, FL.

9/15-17 The Nomads will hold their pre-muster meeting and lunch in Amana, Iowa,

9/18-23 The Nomads will hold their annual meeting during the National Muster

9/23-25 The Nomads will hold their post-muster meeting following the end of the National Muster in Mount Pleasant, Iowa

10/2-5 The White Sands Panhandlers will get together at Twin Lakes Camp Resort in Defuniak Springs, FL

10/11-15 Florida Sunshiners and Drifters will hold an October Muster at Jenny Ridge RV Park in Folkston, Georgia.

10/12-15 The Alamo SMARTS are having a fish fry at Oakwood RV Resort in Fredericksburg, Texas.

10/15-20 The Mississippi Magnolias are having a Halloween Muster at Parker's Landing RV Camp in Biloxi, Mississippi.

11/1 The Arkansas Hogs will meet for lunch – date and time TBD

11/2-5 Texans Annual Meeting will be held at the Bedrock RV Park in Grand Saline, TX.

11/3-8 The Goldcoasters will camp out at the Great Outdoors Golf & RV Resort in Titusville, CO.

11/8-12 Florida Roadrunners muster will be held at Paradise Oaks RV Park in Bushnell, FL.

11/8-12 Florida Buccaneers will be at Palm View Gardens RV Resort in Zephyrillus, FL.

11/9 White Sands Panhandlers will enjoy a luncheon at Hideaway Pizza in Crestview, FL.

11/9-14 Cajuns Veterans Week Muster will take place at Rivertown Rose Campground in Vicksburg, MS.

11/13-17 Tri-State Travelers muster will be at Ocean Lakes Family Campground in Myrtle Beach, SC.

I challenged the membership to help with recruiting and retention efforts by setting up information tables at club events and RV shows around the country. Gather your members, solicit volunteers to staff an information table for 2 or 3 hours each, hang up a SMART banner, get ready to hand out brochures, and answer questions. Even just one person can make a difference. You don't have to be at a show the entire time it is open. Be there for just part of the show if that's all you can do. That's OK, too. Just get out and tell people about the benefits of belonging to SMART. We've been around for 40 years and more people should know about us! There are several upcoming shows that we can participate in.

Their schedules are as follows:

9/8-10 Fall Outdoor Showcase, Midwest Gateway RV Dealers Association, St. Louis, MO

9/13-17 America's Largest RV Show, Giant Center, Hershey, PA. Note: this is an incredible show with thousands of attendees over a 5-day period.

9/22-24 Washington State Evergreen Fall RV Show, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe, WA

11/10-13 Portland Metro RV Show, Expo Center, Portland, OR

1/17-21/2024 Florida RV Supershow in Tampa, Florida. Note: this is also an incredible show with loads of attendees and RVs on display **Melody C. Thomas, 2nd VP**

2023 SMART NATIONAL MUSTER

COME CELEBRATE OUR 40th
(RUBY) ANNIVERSARY

With us in

AMANA COLONIES, IOWA

Sept 18-22, 2023



(get your FREE 40th Anniversary Commemorative Pin)

Sign up online at SmartRVing.org



Everyone, don't forget to bring non perishable Food items for the Food Drive. Also remember the kids and bring school supplies for the Elementary school.

Chapters and Members don't forget to bring your Chapter Baskets and Gift Cards for door prizes.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL ATTENDEES



Don't forget to bring your CRAFTS to sell at our Craft Show - Friday Sept 22nd
from 10:00-11:30

If you want your mail to be delivered at Amana Campground the address is:

Amana Colonies RV Park

SMART RV RALLY

ATTEN: (your Name)

3850 C Street

Amana, IA 52203



Bring your old Flags to have them retired at the Flag Ceremony
3:30 on the 20th of Sept

National Muster PHOTO CONTEST

Submit your 8x10 matte pictures for judging.

There will be five categories:

- 1) *Landscapes*
- 2) *Sunrises & Sunsets*
- 3) *Pets*
- 4) *Folks having fun at SMART musters (local, regional and national)*
- 5) *Folks having fun on SMART caravans*

Write the category, location, your name, and phone number on the back of the picture. Do not put any identifying information on the front of the picture. You may submit one picture in each category. Drop your picture off at the Information Center when you arrive (must be present to win). . . Best overall photo will be featured on the cover of The Traveler.



Crafts at 2023 National Muster

CORN DOLLY

A Corn Dolly is a traditional English craft (and across Europe), made using wheat, oats, rye or barley, and is associated with a celebration of the harvest. They were thought to give the Spirit of the Corn a home to live in over the winter, as the corn in the fields was harvested, and are used as decorations in harvest festivals.



It also is sometimes called a Wheat Weaving and there are many different traditional designs. Starting with stems of wheat, then braiding them together, you will finish with a 5" ornament. **Cost is \$5 per ornament.. Bring scissors and a towel.** Supplies will be provided.

PATRIOTIC FABRIC CLOTH WREATH

A favorite place to hang banners and garlands is in the window. It really dresses up those patriotic holidays like Flag Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day. It's an easy DIY and always adds charm to your home. Join us in creating a 5 ft. patriotic garland. All materials will be provided. **Cost is \$10 per garland. All you need to bring is scissors and a towel.**



Linda Mosley is the craft project director. As a Navy spouse, she has had a LOT of alone time! Not one to sit still, she tried all of the crafts available to her. She would sew all of her family's clothes, and to take the fiber thing further, led her to spin wool into yarn, and weaving the cloth, which led to raising her own sheep. Now, Linda is focusing on quilting. After 24 moves, she and husband, Mike, are happily settled in the Hill Country of Texas.

Sign up at 2023 National Muster registration desk.....



Don't forget to bring your Books, Cd's, Cassettes, VHS, Records etc. to sell at the book sale at National Muster in Amana



Bring your garage sale stuff to donate to the garage sale!
Please bring things that are still useful to someone else!
Remember one man's junk is another man's treasure!



A Message from our National Chaplain

Here are the answers to last months Chaplain puzzle.
30 books of the Bible in this paragraph did you find them?

This is **a most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john** boat. Another friend studied it while playing his **banjo**. **Elanie** Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. **Some** people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**. **Especially** since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. **Truthfully**, **from answers** we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them **at the worst**. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new record. The local paper, The **Chronicle**, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel** Humana **humbly** puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." **Those** able to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** those who have to be shown. One **revelation** at may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. **A chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**; there really are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

1-Amos, 2-Mark, 3-Luke, 4-John, 5-Joel, 6-Judges, 7-Job, 8-Hebrews, 9-Esther, 10-Acts, 11-James, 12-Ruth, 13-Romans, 14-Titus, 15- Matthew, 16-Genesis, 17-Philemon, 18-Chronicles, 19-Daniel, 20- Nahum, 21-Hosea, 22-Lamentations, 23-Revelation, 24-Timothy, 25- Samuel, 26-Numbers, 27-Malachi, 28-Peter, 29-Exodus, 30-Kings.

Hope you enjoyed trying to find them all.

Lamar Enfinger SMART National Chaplain

2024 National Muster

will be in Ladson, South Carolina September 16-21, 2024

2025 National Muster

will be in Mineola, TX September 15—19, 2025

SMART Cajun word for the day – *Lagniappe*

Lagniappe (pronounced lan-yap) is **Cajun for something extra**. If you order a dozen donuts and get thirteen, that thirteenth donut is *Lagniappe*. SMART gives a lot of *Lagniappe*.

Our caravans offer the best value for the dollar, but there is much more. Take the Alaskan 2023 Caravan for example. We have seen all the advertised sights in Canada and Alaska. We rode the boats, trains, airplanes, buses, etc. We saw the shows, ate the meals, and were entertained. **The Wagon Masters and Tail Gunners** did their job to manage the caravan functions and the moves. But there is more!

Each rig is welcomed to the campground by the travel committee. They first see a large **SMART sign** and a SMART member pointing the way into the campground. Other members direct them right into their campsite. This takes all the stress out of parking your rig.

Each **travel meeting** begins with a laugh from the Jokester. The weather person then forecasts the weather at the campground (and the people moan). Next comes the Fuel Report, complete with addresses, prices, and rig compatibility. And there is a report from the **Mile-Post** expert giving us points of interest and possible travel breaks. The gamester updates the animal sighting game and announces which games will be played that night. **No other commercial caravan offers these extras.**

The members provide organized Potluck meals under the direction of the tail gunner and her team leaders. These meals- and the happy hours are times to make lifelong friends. These friends cooperate with each other and the leaders to provide all these extras.

The SMART members volunteer to provide this *Lagniappe*. The SMART members and their volunteered services are the *Lagniappe* that sets SMART above all the rest. *Johnny Leggett*



2023 SMART CARAVANS

Autumn in the Appalachians Caravan

28 Sep – 30 Oct 2023

Wagon Masters: Kathy and John Steinbauer, 210-386-9018 (John Cell) 210-386-9024 (Kathy Cell) Assistant Wagon Masters Gina and Tony Mason, 813-480-9170 (Tony Cell) 813-480-9185 (Gina Cell) Cost for Double: \$4200, Single \$2950, Guess \$1300; Full Payment: Due Now. We will be leading the 33 day, 575 mile adventure in seven RV parks which will run right after the SMART National in Amana, IA with a departure date of 28 SEPT which is about 850 miles to our first campground. Traveling along routes close to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail, we will be viewing the beautiful scenery and highlights of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Smoky Mountains, Appalachian Trail, Skyline Parkway, and the Shenandoah National Park.



Along the way, we will experience the grandeur of mountain vistas, waterfalls, and valleys. We will also visit fall festivals, wineries, and travel the “The Crooked Road, Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail” which winds through the mountains of Southwest Virginia where Bluegrass, Old Time, and Traditional Country music.



Number of Days: 33 days; Caravan Limit: 20 member RVs plus the WM and TG; 575 mile caravan in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. We will start the caravan in Helen, GA; then to Cherokee, NC; Asheville, NC; Bristol, TN; Galax, VA; Waynesboro VA near Staunton, VA; and end in Luray, VA. We will be sight-seeing at several locations where there will be considerable walking to enjoy the venue. The first will be in Asheville, NC at the Biltmore.

This link provides info on the tour of the Biltmore for individuals with mobility issues <https://www.biltmore.com/help-center/accessibility/> The next will be in the Staunton, VA area where we will go to Charlottesville, VA where we will visit Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello.

This link provides info on the tour of Monticello <https://www.monticello.org/visit/tips-for-visiting/accessibility-2/> The last place is at our last stop in Luray at Luray Caverns <https://luraycaverns.com/news/luray-caverns-is-step-free-at-last/>

Additional Info: All participants will receive an Autumn in the Appalachians Caravan jacket, tote bag, and binder with trip itinerary and activities. For more details on the caravan contact John at jfs09840@gmail.com or call 210-386-9018 or go to the SMART website <https://www.smartring.org/Caravans/>

2024 CARAVAN

Grand Canyon and Beyond...

April 11– May 5th of 2024

David & Jackie Weis will be your Wagonmasters
dweis74@hotmail.com for this wonderful trip.

Assistant Wagonmasters: Melissa Wade
and Phyllis Enfinger smart@smartrving.org

*Prices: Couple EST \$6495 Single \$4500
Guest \$3495*

April 11th of 2024, we'll kick off the Grand Canyon and Beyond Caravan in Williams Arizona. We'll tour the bottom of the Grand Canyon by 4 wd Vans, ride a Tram to view the Canyon Rim, enjoy a calm water float trip to Horseshoe Bend, We'll take a Jeep Safari tour of Monument Valley with a real Navajo code talker as our tour guide. We'll take a Jet Boat Cruise and enjoy a light show and Dinner in Moab Utah. We'll take a Bus tour to Arches and Canyonland National Parks. We'll take a tour of Capital Reef by Jeep, tour Bryce Canyon National Park by shuttle, and Zion National Park before we head to Las Vegas, Nevada. In Las Vegas we'll enjoy a few shows and dinners and take a bus trip to tour the Hoover Dam. This and so much more is what you'll be enjoying from April 11th to May 5th 2024.

Now is the time to get your application and deposit of \$280.00 into SMART Headquarters as we are limited to 20 RV participants.

Sign up online at
www.SmartRVing.org





2024 Whiskey and Water Caravan

Start: May 13, 2024, End: June 12, 2024

This caravan will visit several select distilleries and hike to select water falls along this 31-day 365-mile trip across middle America. Additionally, we will visit key museums, sites and activities along the way. Hiking to see waterfalls is also included as well as time to visit Ft. Knox for their Memorial Day activities and the General George Patton Leadership Museum.

Wagon Master(s): Joe Padberg & Diane Pepperell email: Padberg4Smart@gmail.com

Tail Gunner(s): Melody & Paul Thomas email: Thomas4Smart@gmail.com

Cost: Single cost: \$3600 Couple cost: \$5200 Guest cost: \$1700

Payments: \$280 upon application, 50% by November 13, 2023, and full payment by February 13, 2024



Sign up today, We have several spots available!

The caravan starts just south of Nashville, where we will visit the oldest registered distillery in the US, Jack Daniels. Here we will also visit the home of country music, the Grand Ole Opry, along with Ryman Auditorium. Other visits include George Dickel distillery and Belle Meade Estate & Winery. The next stop is near Bowling Green, Kentucky where we will visit the National Corvette Museum, their Aviation Park and their Historic Rail Park, along with Dueling Grounds Distillery. Time will be allowed to visit Mammoth Cave on your own.



We next move to Bardstown, KY, a major hub in the Bourbon industry. From this base we will have breakfast and tour at Churchill Downs in Louisville, the Louisville Slugger facility, and a trip on the Belle of Louisville, steamboat. Back in Bardstown we will visit the Oscar Getz Whiskey Museum, and Jim Beam distillery and Forest Giants trail. Also, day trips to Ft. Knox for their Memorial Day ceremonies and a visit to the Gen.

George Patton Museum. Free days will be provided for participants to visit distilleries of their choice and other sites. Take a hike to Tio-ga Falls, if you are up for a steep trail.



Our next stop will be near Frankfort and Lexington, KY. Here we will visit the KY State Capitol building, Four Roses and Buffalo Trace distilleries and take the Thoroughbred Heritage Tour. Time is allowed for personal visits to sites of your choice.

The last stop will be inside the Daniel Boone National Forest. Here we will have time to hike and visit several waterfalls within the forest, including Yahoo falls, Dog Slaughter falls and Cumberland falls, the 'Niagara' of the south. Free time is allowed to explore the area on your own, including the original Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The Great Atlantic Canada Maritime Experience

Start: June 15, 2024 End: August 27, 2024

This caravan promises to provide memories that will last a lifetime! Spend 74 days traveling throughout the four Canadian maritime provinces. Some of the activities scheduled:



In **New Brunswick** you will see majestic brown-sugar beaches, culturally rich Acadian villages, quaint coastal islands and vast tracks of forests brimming with wildlife. It is also home to the world's highest tides at Hopewell

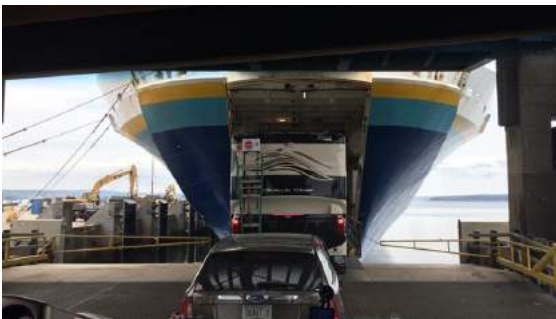


Rocks. During low tide we'll walk among the "flowerpot" formations. We'll visit the beautiful Kingsbrae Gardens – a multi-award winning, horticultural masterpiece. Those brave of heart will have the opportunity to traverse the ocean bed to Ministers Island during low tide.

Newfoundland, which is impossible to adequately describe briefly, is where you will have 33 days to explore some of the most unique geology, breathtaking vistas, wildlife galore, icebergs, whales, and puffins. You will



immerse yourself in the region's extraordinary history while touring the ancient Viking settlement of L'Anse aux Meadows. And shhh ... we'll visit a Secret World War II Officers Club and a World War II Bunker.



In **Nova Scotia** we'll attend a variety of unique offerings to include; attendance at the Royal International Tattoo, enjoy a Ghost Tour of Annapolis Royal National Historical Park, and, whether you are a believer or not, Oak Island. We'll take a memorable underground mine tour and attend the Men of the Deeps Concert.



You'll have time to explore Cape Breton, rated one of the world's most beautiful road trips with 22 stops for unique crafts or sightseeing. There will be whale watching tours, city bus tours, and a harbor cruise on a tall ship. We'll attend the 159th Antigonish Highland Games to watch competitions of traditional Scottish Heavy Events plus Pipe and Drum, and Highland dance. (con't)



Prince Edward Island is the home of Anne of Green Gables. We will attend the Musical and tour the places that inspired the legend. Spend an afternoon at the stunning Cavandish National Park. You can enjoy their Lighthouses, museums and some of the finest seafood in the Maritime.

We will conclude our trip back in Trenton where Tina's Great Maine Lumberjack Show has extended their season for us. On our last night we will enjoy a lobster dinner and distribute your memory book to share with friends and family back home. Join us on this caravan and make memories that will last a lifetime!

Follow this link for a video preview of the caravan:

https://youtu.be/_hGZRFgx6-Q

Wagon Master(s): Tony & Gina Mason Email: fresno63@hotmail.com
Tail Gunner(s): Joe & Pam Faubion Email: painthrse@hotmail.com

Costs - Single Cost: \$7,100 Couple Cost: \$10,550 Guest Cost: \$3,484

Payments: \$280 upon application; 50% by December 15, 2023; and full payment by March 15, 24.
 * NOTE: For the long ferry there will be a few rooms available that will allow pets or separate kennels for pets only – as the date draws near, we will advise on availability and pricing.

We have a few spots left!



2024 Branson

Nov 6 th –15 th 2024

Veterans Week & Christmas In Branson, MO

November 6th to November 15th 2024



We will start the Veterans Unite Caravan at America's Best RV Park in Branson Missouri. We'll get things started with our Welcome catered dinner on site. Throughout the week we will enjoy various shows, ride the Showboat Branson Belle (paddle wheel) with a dinner and show, attend Branson Murder Mystery dinner and show, a few museums, March in the Veterans Day Parade and enjoy a few country buffets. Sign up now with your application and deposit of \$280.00

**Couple cost: \$2,040
 Single cost \$1,405
 Guest cost :\$805**

We have a few openings left!



2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan



SMART Caribbean
Cruise
Feb 8-17, 2025
9 nights

Join your fellow SMART members and step on board the beautiful Celebrity Eclipse. Celebrity is known for its fine dining, service, and spacious public areas. There are also nightly shows and entertainment throughout the ship.

Prices include 4 FREE Perks: FREE Wi-Fi, FREE Gratuities and FREE Classic Beverage Package PLUS \$200 Per Cabin On Board Credit for Balcony and Above and \$100 Per Cabin for Inside Cabins. Prices range from \$1384 – \$2929 pp dbl occ

\$450 per person deposit is 100% refundable until Final Payment on November 10th, 2024.

SMART Rally Fee is \$125.00 Per Cabin and must be paid directly to [SMART](#) separately. More information may be found at <https://1b59a9-6042.icpage.net/smart-caribbean-cruise-feb-2025>

We have 10 cabins left to choose from, we have 30 booked already

AC-19 GUNSHIP REUNION:

We are looking for former members associated with the **AC-19 gunships** used from 1967-1972 in Southeast Asia. We'd like to find aircrew, ground crew, support personnel, Friends & Families and anyone whose bacon we saved. Shadows & Stingers, Air Crew, Ground Crew Support Crew, 71st, 17th, 18th SOS, Also AC-47 Puff the Magic Dragon folks.

Location: Hilton Crystal City, Washington, DC

Wednesday, November 8 to November 12, 2023

54 Years Remembrance of AC-119 Gunships

Reunion coordinator Armed Forces Reunions

Contact: Kelly Bridgeman, kelly@afri.com 757-625-6401

Additional details are on our Association's website:

<https://www.ac119gunships.com/reunion/upcoming-reunion/>

GO to <https://ac119gunships.com/membership-contactinformation/alpha-roaster>

and add any missing names or contacts you have – we can still reach many IF we know who you are! Jim

Dunn AC-119 Association Life Member

SMART Member # 7308

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Welcome and Congratulations to the following New Members and their Recruiters
(July & August 2023)

			(Recruiter)
15660	Eric Drenckhahn	Williston, FL	
15661	Cory Smith (Brittney)	Vail, AZ	
15662	Brittney (Cory)	Vail, AZ	
15663	Jackie Waggoner (Linda)	Labelle, FL	
15664	Linda Waggoner (Jackie)	Labelle, FL	
15665	Robin Babcock	Farmers Branch, TX	
15666	Allan Olitsky	Laguna Woods, CA	B Centrone
15668	Randy Haley (Renee)	Kalispell, MT	
15669	Renee Haley (Randy)	Kalispell, MT	
15670	David Hamm (Stephanie)	Box Elder, SD	R Palmer
15671	Stephanie Hamm (David)	Box Elder, SD	R Palmer
15673	Kevin Myers (Pamela)	Pierceton, IN	D Wiesehan
15674	Pamela Myers (Kevin)	Pierceton, IN	D Wiesehan
15675	Bob Krauss (Jane)	Pensacola, FL	P Moniz
15676	Bill Barley (LeRae)	Murray, KY	
15677	LeRae Barley (Bill)	Murray, KY	
15678	David Huskey (Mae Bryant)	Bethlehem, GA	W Peterson
15679	Bernard Hoppe (Jennifer)	Galeton, PA	
15680	Jennifer Hoppe (Bernard)	Galeton, PA	
15682	Jimmy Niles	Fayetteville, NC	
15683	Lisa Lyons	Milton, FL	P Moniz

TAPS: (Call or email HQ for mailing address to send a condolence card.)



Sharon Nieves #14407, spouse of Julio Nieves #12985, Phoenix, AZ

Glen Foust #13576, Warba, MN

Magdalene Martin, spouse of Jim Martin #12987, Lake Charles, LA

Richard Davis #11106 (former member), spouse of Erma Davis, Orange Park, FL

Tom DePaolo #10101 (former member), spouse of Eileen DePaolo, Lady Lake, FL

Gaston Bergeron "Hoss" #8690 (former member), Norco, LA

Frank Vilimek #12745 (former member), spouse of Mariko Vilimek, Milpitas, CA

CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS



SOUTH EAST REGION (Leroy Armacost Region Director)
North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida



Chapter President's Message, Tony Mason President



Margie Haire is our new Gold Coasters Muster Master. She has planned an exciting fall Muster **November 3rd-8th** at the Great Outdoors RV Resort in Titusville, Florida, a new and wonderful place for us to explore! This location will be great for those returning from the "Autumn in the Appalachians" Caravan. The Great Outdoors has a dedicated Rally Lot with 30amp, water and a nearby dump station. We can take advantage of their 2 pools with spas, sauna and workout gym, laundry facilities on site restaurant, tennis courts, pickleball courts, shuffleboard, bocce ball and "Doggy World" where your dog can run off leash. TGO has an 18-hole golf course ranked #1 in Brevard County.



Our theme will be "Back to Nature" as TGO is built on a Nature Preserve with a 2.5-mile nature trail. There are ten miles of road perfect for bike riding. The Annual Artisan Fair where local Artisans sell their creations is Saturday from 9-12. There will be Kayaking, a visit to the Valiant Air Command, an airboat ride, a visit to the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, dinner at Valentino's offering both seafood and Italian fare. You can enjoy a simple craft class during happy hour, a Nacho Night with all you can eat Nacho's and a choice of made from scratch desserts.



We look forward to seeing you at this new and exciting location. Please let us know if you are interested in attending. **We need a minimum of 10 rigs** to attend to keep our cost down during the high season. With Titusville being the home of Kennedy Space Center, there is a definite possibility of viewing a space launch! We look forward to seeing everyone here!

Remember, if you are going to be in our area during our muster, you are always welcome to join us.
Tony Mason, President & Margie Haire, Muster Master



Florida Buccaneers Heading to Central Florida this winter? The Florida Buccaneers invite you to our Veterans Day muster at Zephyrhills, FL – Arriving 8 Nov and departing 12 Nov 2023. Highlights of this muster include: **2023 ZEPHYRHILLS BATTLE FOR VETERANS**

We invite you to mark your calendars for the highly anticipated Battle for Veterans event at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History, taking place from November 10th to 12th. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of World War II with captivating live battle reenactments, authentic living history displays, and a variety of vendors offering military items. Indulge in delicious food options while paying tribute to our brave veterans. This event is free to attend and promises an unforgettable experience for all. Join us in honoring our heroes and preserving the legacy of their sacrifices. The event is free to attend and a memorable experience for all.



DRIVE A TANK RAFFLE!

Experience the ultimate adrenaline rush and support a worthy cause with the Battle for Veterans Drive a TANK Raffle at Zephyrhills Museum of Military History! For just a \$10 donation per ticket, you could win a remarkable prize package donated by Tank America; in Orlando. Enjoy the thrill of commanding a tank during basic training with one driver and additional passengers, navigating a scrap car obstacle. Purchase your tickets at the museum, Online, or during the BATTLE for VETERANS Show on November 10-12. The drawing will take place on

November 12 at 4:00 PM. The winner need not be present. Don't miss this incredible opportunity! Only redeemable at Tank America in Orlando.

WHO DOESN'T LOVE A PARADE On Veterans Day, those able and willing are invited to join us for the Zephyrhills Veterans Day Parade on Main Street, Zephyrhills. If interested, please register for this muster to receive more information. We will also have our traditional Bike ride, Happy hours, pot lucks and more. For more information and to register please visit the Buccaneer website: <https://smartrving.org/bucs/> For those that like to plan ahead - mark your calendars and set your sails - the Florida Buccaneers are sharpening their swords for their fifth annual murder mystery muster - *Murder among the*



Maties - Apr 22 – 26, 2024. After a voyage filled with pillaging and plundering, the *Jaded Jewel* - a pirate ship captained by Red Beard, an old, but dangerous pirate - is docked in a cove near Port Royal. Life is never dull in this quaint seaside town and when a ship full of pirates with pockets full of gold arrive to celebrate their homecoming, a night of turmoil and trouble is sure to transpire.

One guest will meet a tragic demise and end up in Davy Jones' Locker, leaving the rest of the party goes to bring the guilty to the gallows. Is the culprit a profiteering pirate organizing a mutiny, or, a saucy sea mistress, who wanted more than a casual commitment, or, a treasure seeker unwilling to share the bounty? Join us to help solve the mystery.

This year's pirate themed event is sure to be one you won't want to miss! All are welcome, so join us for a celebration at The Salty Sea Dog, **arriving Apr 22 and departing Apr 26, 2024**. Follow this link for more information and to sign up for – Murder Among the Mateys.

<https://www.smartrving.org/core/moreinfo.php?id=24>

Not sure what to expect at one of our murder mysteries? You can go to <https://youtu.be/pxhZGnl2LI0> for a compilation of photos from our most recent – Murder at the Deadwood Saloon. **Safe Travels**



Chattahoochee Drifters Our chapter will be shadowing the Sunshine chapter until the end of December. All the information is on the chapter page so check it out and sign up. Don't forget, National is right around the corner.



National Muster is always a fun time with all the activities, tours, entertainment, and food. September 18-23 in Amana, IA. go on the web and fill out the online registration form.

We want to wish Al Hayes a Happy 90th Birthday. He is a Life time member of SMART and still continues to support SMART in anyway he can.



(Still the TOP Recruiter for SMART) "Happy 90th Birthday Al!"



Welcome autumn! It's still a little early, but by publishing time, it will be. We are looking forward to attending the 40th anniversary of SMART in Amana Iowa the middle of September. Several of our members are making the trek out west to, hopefully, enjoy some cooler weather. We are anticipating all the wonderful venues available to visit there.

We had a good time at our July muster at Palmetto Cove campground in Cleveland, SC. While it usually is a decent temperature there, it was extremely hot and we had multiple thunderstorms. We visited a winery with tastings and enjoyed a lovely lunch, while it rained. Instead of a potluck that month, we brought our own protein for the grill and the hosts provided sides and desserts. A wonderful change that was enjoyed by all.

Our November muster gathers most of our members together for a brown bag auction, sometimes a silent auction (bring your good stuff!), a Thanksgiving/Christmas potluck, many chances to win cash prizes, and good food and fellowship. Our hosts serve breakfast and dinner. In the evenings we play Mexican train dominoes, card games and sometimes an all-member card game. On Thursdays we all go to a local restaurant for a meal out.

Over the past year we welcomed several new members and look forward to seeing more as the year progresses. We muster March, May, July, September and November on the third week, Monday through Friday. Since we are "Tri-State", we travel around North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Occasionally in Virginia and Florida. Our musters are a great time to catch up with friends, relax, or tour around the area. In cooler weather, we sometimes have a fire going where we sit and talk about life happenings, tell jokes and just enjoy the camaraderie.

We welcome all SMART members and prospective new members to visit our musters and get to know our travelers. Please give us a try. We look forward to meeting new and prospective members. The musters coming up for 2024 are Fair Harbor in Perry GA, The Barnyard in Lexington, SC, Cool Breeze in Galax, VA, the National Muster in Ladson SC (just outside of Charleston) and Twin Oaks in Hoboken, GA. We welcome you to join us. See you soon!!! *Gail Alley - Secretary/Treasurer*



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (Nita Taylor Region Director)

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida Panhandle, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee



WHITE SANDS PANHANDLERS CHAPTER

With the approaching end of the summer season, the White Sands Panhandlers Chapter is beginning a new travel and activity year. Beginning in September we hold Musters and Chow Calls (luncheon social gatherings), with these in alternating months from September through May. June through August is our chapter down-time, to rest, recuperate and catch-up on all that were left undone

during the busy travel season. We invite all SMART members and guests to join us for any of these scheduled events which are listed on our Chapter Website. All are welcomed to any of these events. For additional information, contact our Chapter President, Paul Moniz, monzip1@bellsouth.net, 850 723-0241.

Chuck Kuzma



It's hot in Louisiana and everyone is busy staying cool either indoors or travelling in their RVs so there aren't many activities to report. We have had a couple of small luncheons, but most of our activities will happen when cooler weather comes. There are two musters planned. The annual Veteran's Day muster will be held November 9-11 in Vicksburg, MS and the Natchitoches Christmas Lights and Boat Parade will be held December 7-13. Both musters have openings. Go to the SMART website for details and to sign up. *Johnny Leggett Also see his article on Lagniappe pg # 9*



The MS Magnolias who have been meeting once a month during these hot summer months had 17 members who traveled to Slidell, LA to have lunch together. This was our third year of summer lunches, and our third lunch this summer. We have met on the second Tuesday of June, July and August. Our final luncheon together will be September 12 at 11 AM at Sedra Restaurant on Robert Blvd in Slidell., before we start mustering again October 15-20th at Parkers's Landing in Biloxi. Info is on chapter website. That muster will continue our tradition of Halloween festivities and costume party and is always a fun time for us as we get back into the swing of camping season.

Janis Lemaire



SOUTH MID WEST REGION (Joe Noonan Region Director) Texas, Oklahoma



ALAMO CHAPTER South Texas experienced an extra-hot summer this year, and we chose not to muster in June, as was previously planned. Our chapter president, Jim Collier has spent much of the summer with his wife Theda in the beautiful state of Colorado. He reports milder temperatures, and enjoyable adventures. It's important that members find ways to stay in touch with each other, whether it be through our Facebook page, or with phone calls and social visits. Do your part to keep friendships alive; it's the glue that holds our chapters together and makes us stronger as a National club. As you're traveling on your own in-between musters, be sure to display your SMART banner, and carry SMART pamphlets to hand out to prospective members where you are staying. Order a free box of SMART Traveler magazines from the National Office; these are great recruiting tools that display information about all our chapters and the activities we provide. We are looking forward to this years' National Muster in Amana Colonies, Iowa, especially seeing old friends and making new ones. The National committee has been working hard all year to ensure a fun time for all. There will be many first timers and new members attending, so let's show them the wonderful camaraderie we provide. Wishing our SMART family health and safe travels. *Mary Palmer, Alamo Chapter secretary/newsletter editor*



NORTH CENTRAL REGION (Wayne Ballard Region Director)
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin



Northern Voyagers: Our chapter has weathered another year. With no new members, our membership is at 6 couples (3 no longer RV). You may have seen me presenting the 3rd consecutive small campground award to Camp Ripley on the SMART website. Promoting SMART is a large part of what the chapter is all about.

This past May, Mary and I represented your chapter by participating in the Michigan Bound caravan. The weather was challenging at times, but it turned out to be a huge success! Prior to the caravan, we stayed at Camp Atterbury in Indiana nominating them for the small campground award.

It is the little things that make SMART a great organization. I have been asked to represent the North Central Region (Wayne Ballard NCRD will not be attending) at SMART's National Muster in Amana, IA in September. If you have any observations, suggestions or gripes you can email me at terrancerjohnson64@gmail.com. Respectively submitted, *Terrence R. Johnson – NCV Chapter President*



WESTERN REGION (Carl Hopper (Region Director)
Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington



Greetings from Golden Gate Chapter - Summer is quickly fading into fall. Once again kids are back in school and please remember to watch those cross walks and stop when the safety guard puts up a stop sign. Also remember when school buses come to a complete stop when their stop sign is out.

With kids back in school and fall approaching hopefully some RV parks and other camping spots will start to open up. Some of you have probably not ventured out for a while due to full parks and such so please check your rigs out. Ensure all tires on your rig are up to the right PSI and don't forget to include the spare. Make sure no rips or tears are underneath your rig as well. I know it adds extra weight but I always fill my fresh water up to the brim as you never know what's going to happen on the road during your trip. I broke down a couple of times and wish I had filled my water to the brim. I used to fill it only 1/4th of the way. I rather travel with the weight than be sorry.

Golden Gate recently had a Muster held at Verdi NV. Everyone had a great time with great company and food. Our next Muster will be our Christmas Muster at Angles Camp in CA. More info on what activities will be forthcoming.

If you happen to be in the area please stop by and say hello or better yet RSVP and join us. It has been kind of hot lately and I sure am looking forward to fall and cooler weather. Don't forget to recruit we still need new members. Get out with your RV's and enjoy life. I'm saddened to say Frank Vilimek who was the past President of Golden Gate passed away. Please keep his family in your prayers. (Frank was a Marine he was a great man).

Mike Foley President Golden Gate Chapter



AT-LARGE REGION (Jackie Weis Region Director)
Duffers, Nomads, SMART FMCA, STAR, WIMS

The At-Large Region will be Hosting the 40th Anniversary of SMART In Amana Colonies!



You can register online NOW! www.SmartRVing.org



SMART FMCA Chapter Presidents Message Tony Mason

SMART – The Veteran RVers final frontier: These are voyages of SMART FMCA. Its life-time mission - your mission – should you choose to accept it – is to seek out new RV Veterans, to explore strange new RV locations, to boldly go where FMCA veterans are and encourage their participation in SMART and SMART FMCA.

Earlier this year SMART FMCA had a great pre-rally and attended the FMCA Lucky 13 Convention in Perry, Georgia. If you attended, you know how many veterans stopped by the SMART FMCA chapter fair table held in the Colosseum. The numbers were HUGE! SMART FMCA members shared what our SMART FMCA Organization offers its members. We spoke with close to 100 veterans who had never heard of SMART. With 10 of us manning the booth, we were able to talk personally with veterans that showed interest in learning about this opportunity for Veterans. We provided literature for them to read and learn more. On Page 61 of the FMCA FAMILY RVing magazine, the SMART FMCA Chapter is shown sponsoring an organized BLOCK PARTY for Veterans. You can see a picture of Tony Mason, Jack Fritz, John Steinbauer and Kathy Steinbauer manning the Hors d'oeuvres table. We shared information about SMART/SMART FMCA to several Veterans passing by. SMART FMCA members, do all of you know you have exclusive access to RV discount club savings, a monthly RV living magazine, RV lifestyle resources and the opportunity to attend RV rallies and much more - FMCA Tire Savings Program, Roadside Rescue, FMCA Assist?

Did you know that the FMCA website has links under the RV Marketplace to assist you in finding reliable repair/supply facilities across the USA? Check out the other tabs! Do you need a concrete pad when you camp? A resource is there for you!

The SMART FMCA chapter has earned the Outstanding Chapter Award for two years in a row, and we are on course to receive this award for the third year in a row! Kudos and shout outs to all of the members of our chapter who make this happen. It truly shows everyone's dedication to growing SMART FMCA. We appreciate the fact that the activities of our chapters across the country are open to all veterans visiting their locale. This welcoming feeling you provide folks encourages their consideration of membership with SMART FMCA.

Our military background is all about making new friends and enjoying traveling and camping.
Chapter Presidents Message Tony Mason

[Check out all our chapters at www.SmartRVing.org](http://www.SmartRVing.org)



S M A R T

Application for Membership



Applicant Information

LAST name:	First:	Initial:	Spouse/Companion:
Mailing address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Home phone: () —	Cell phone: () —	Email address:	

SMART is a 501(c)(19) Not- for-profit Veterans Organization and required to have the following information on each member

Branch of service:	Year entered service:	Year service ended:
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Name Badge Info

Instructions: On the first line, enter your preferred first & last name. The second line is optional and may contain what you want others to know about you, e.g., city, state or branch of service or chapter names you belong too.

Note: A member badge comes with the New Member Packet, and your co-member's badge may be purchased for \$8.50.

Member first & last:	Spouse/Companion first & last:
Member second line:	Spouse/Companion second line:

Membership Fees

Member	Who referred you?	His/her name:	His/her SMART #:
Veteran: Active, retired, or honorably discharged from US Military Service, or as a commissioned officer of NOAA or USPHS; or military service of Canada, NATO/SEATO member nation.			
Circle all that apply to the member: Active Retired Reserve/Guard Honorably Discharged Veteran Recipient of Medal of Honor Canadian Veteran NOAA USPHS NATO/SEATO			
Annual dues: \$65 (plus one time \$15 new member packet)			\$80.00

Spouse/Companion

With privileges of membership for spouse \$30: (Spouse/Companion)

If Spouse is also a Veteran, please fill in information about Spouse below:
(Must include required 501(c)(19) not-for-profit information below)

Branch of Service: Year entered service: Year service ended:

Your Spouse or Companion will want to join with you to have National voting rights, the ability to hold the position up to Regional director, and became eligible to win door prize drawings.	Spouse/Comp \$30	30.00
	His/her badge \$8.50	8.50
	Total Enclosed	118.50

"I certify with honor that the information I have provided is true and correct."

Applicant signature:	Date:
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----- Cut here: Retain for your records -----



Fees Payable to: SMART		Mail to: SMART, 114 Duxbury Ave, Molino, FL 32577	
Phone: 800-354-7681		Email: smart@smartrving.org Web: www.smartrving.org	
Application mailed on:	Check #:	Amount:	
My SMART contact:		From:	
Contact phone #: () —	Contact email:		
Approved: 4 APR 2016: Previous versions are obsolete and should be discarded			

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Joan Scheet, Rob & Jane Krauss, Michael & Tri Northrup, Lamar Enfinger, Cheryl Schmitz, & Paul & Margie Moniz

Video



website



"Thank you all for your Service"

*******Thank you for reading our TRAVELER, please pass it on to a Veteran you know.*******

S.M.A.R.T. is a Veteran RV Social & Travel Club Incorporated in 1983. We have chapters throughout the 48 contiguous states of the U.S. We are a not-for-profit RV Social Club for Veterans. We have Caravans to great places in the US, Canada, & Mexico. We are open to all Active Duty, Retired, Honorably Discharged Veterans. If you own a Camper and enjoy the Camaraderie and traveling with others, then the SMART RV Travel Club is for you! Join us online at www.SmartRVing.org

"Seeing the Country We Defend"

SMART

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