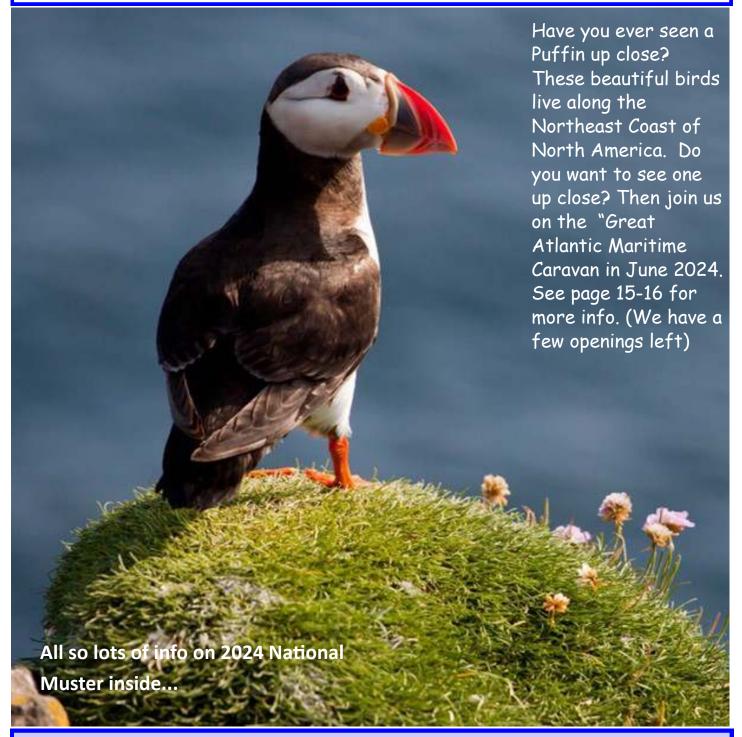
SMART-TRAVELER

Published Bi-Monthly for **SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS CLUB**

MARCH 2024



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



Your New 2023-2024 BOARD of DIRECTORS



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

Message from your SMART President

Mary and I had a great February with the Alamos Super Bowl Muster, my team lost 🙁, Valentine's Day and a birthday. Now as we head into the beginning of Spring, it's time to wake up the rigs and head out. Check the SMART calendar for this year's musters and make an attend-

ance. The Regionals are posted so try to attend those also. The National Muster Committee is hard at it. The National Muster site is updated regularly. So, keep checking. As you are traveling, please take the new recruiting pamphlet with you to hand out or drop off for individuals to read. If you don't have any, there are plenty available by just asking HQ to send you a couple hundred. That's right, there

Richard D. Palmer

SMART National President

The difference between Ordinary and Extraordinary is a little Extra.

are hundreds waiting for you to just ask. I hope to see y'all on the road. Safe travels

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President Melody Thomas

Things sure seem depressing these days, don't they? The talking heads on TV, the analysts, and the researchers, all seem to report doom and gloom. They have to fill the airwaves 24/7 so they report the same things over and over again. Instead of hearing about an incident once or twice, we get a full dose of it for a week, hour after hour. Ugh. Is it no wonder that there are a record number of people seeking psychiatric help these days? We should all stop and think about how well off we are these days. Americans are wealthier today than they ever were. Less than one hundred years ago, society was dealing with the aftermath of the worst depression in history. The Great Market Crash of 1929 left over a third of the country unemployed. That was followed by the Dirty Thirties – a severe drought that hit the Great Plains and Midwest. Severe dust storms stripped the land and caused farm after farm to fail. People fled the "black blizzards" to the cities, looking for opportunities to feed and house their families only to wind up in shantytowns living in extreme poverty. Then came World War II and Americans spent years rationing supplies, particularly sugar, gas, and rubber. Folks were encouraged to build victory gardens where they could grow their own food. Then the war was over. The country began to reset and prosperity slowly returned. We had one TV in the living room that the entire family watched together. There was one car in the family where Mom stuffed the kids in the car and drove Dad to work if she needed the car for the day. You had one pair of shoes for work and one pair of shoes for Sunday church. Diseases were killers. There were no cancer survivors. If you got cancer, you died. Think about what we have today. A TV in every room. Every driver in the house has a car. How many pairs of shoes do you have? We went on a cruise where one of our friends brought three suitcases; one was filled with just her shoes. How many of you have a Roomba? Alexa? SMART phones and TVs? Every man in the American Legion Post back home has had some kind of heart surgery – a pace maker, stents, defibrillator, bypass, etc. Medicine has improved to the point where many people are living longer lives in good health. So, watch an hour of news to get caught up with what's going on in the world. Then put down the remote and get out to explore this great country we live in. Join a muster. Share in a potluck. Invite your neighbor to join you around the campfire. Tell them about this wonderful travel club you belong to. Challenge yourself to see how many people you can recruit to SMART. That's so much more fun than sitting in front of the TV and worrying about things you can not change.

As 2nd Vice President of SMART, I am the Chairperson of the Membership & Publicity Committee along with other members of the committee. In an effort to increase our membership and retention goals I would like to hear your ideas and suggestions, this is "Our Club" and working together we can achieve great things and move us well into the future. So I now ask for your ideas and suggestions on how best to increase our membership numbers while retaining our experienced members, please let me hear from you at dweis74@hotmail.com



The 2024 National Muster preparations are coming together, and registration is in full swing, now is the time to make your travel plans to Ladson, South Carolina to join in all the fun, tours and activities. Travel safe and please let me hear from you. See you in September at National. David Weis

2024 National Muster in Ladson, SC

16-20 September

There are great tours of Charleston scheduled with plenty of time allotted to tour and enjoy the area. This will be a great National Muster that you won't want to miss.

Past President David Weis is the **Master of Ceremonies**Go to the <u>SMARTRVING.org</u> Website to register for this event.



We are looking for volunteers to fill vital staffing positions.

Attention Chapters please don't forget to bring your

Gift Baskets from your region, and Gift Cards to National Muster in Ladson, South Carolina. Don't forget the School Supplies and the Can Goods Donations. If you can't make it to national send your gift cards to HQ we will deliver for you.







VENDORS WANTED...Looking for venders, members or nonmembers wishing to sell at the National Muster. Space is still available. Member tables are \$25, and nonmembers are \$75 per table. Interested?

Please contact Phil Milonzi, vendor coordinator, at kar154@aol.com or 843.446.5648.

2024 National Muster Tour/Sightseeing Options

Your National Muster Staff has been working diligently to identify the best tour and sightseeing options for the Charleston area for over six months. After negotiations with multiple companies, we believe you will find these options will meet your sightseeing and tour desires.

We are providing three options for your convenience. However, since Charleston provides such a wide range of tour and sightseeing options, you may decide there are other tour operators that may meet your personal situation both from an interest and financial standpoint.

First, for those who prefer transportation from Exchange Park for a tour and return, we have partnered with Charleston Convention and Group Services, Inc. (CCGS). They have been providing tours since 1986 and specialize in supporting military reunions. CCGS has developed tours and a schedule to match the times specifically designated for tours during the National Muster schedule. Thursday, 12 Sep, to Sunday 15 Sep, and Wednesday 18 Sep. To see the tours, prices, and terms and register go to: Charleston Convention Group Services

For those who rather drive on your own, carpool, or go by a taxi service like Uber, Lift, or a traditional taxi company, we suggest two options: Viator or Information, Tickets, and Travel (ITT).

Second, Viator is a worldwide tour company who offers a wide selection, excellent prices, and terms at: <u>Viator Charleston Tour Options</u> All you have to do is go to their website and make your reservations.

Third, is one military members are familiar with, ITT through military bases. While this option may be the most cost effective, the process only works if you purchase the voucher (s) in person and is somewhat complicated. ITT caters to military members who are in the local area since tickets must be purchased in person, and are non-refundable. In order to purchase the vouchers from ITT these are the recommended steps.

- **1.** Review the tour options on the ITT website at <u>ITT Tour Options</u> Note: The ITT website does not provide any detailed info about the specific tours; therefore you have to check each tour operator's website by searching the internet or viewing tours listed on Viator or another tour sales operator.
- 2. Once you decide which tour(s) you want, plan your arrival date for the muster so you have time to go to the ITT office at Jt Base Charleston to purchase the Voucher (s). It will then be your responsibility to contact the tour company and make the reservation (s). The benefit of completing your part sooner than later is to have a better chance of getting the tour you desire. ITT assures vouchers will be available for each tour option, however, only the tour operator can provide info on the availability of specific tours and dates.

IMPORTANT: Please know if you purchase a ITT voucher and then decide not to go there are no refunds or exceptions. SMART only serves as a facilitator for purchasing tours via all options and does not receive any financial benefit. Each tour option (CCSG, Viator, and ITT) have their own tour purchase and refund terms and conditions and it is your responsibility to read and understand them. SMART staff will not attempt to negotiate or intervene if a dispute occurs either on your behalf or theirs. Members are free to arrange tours on their own without using these options.

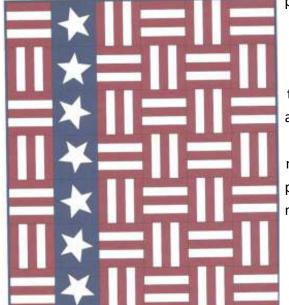
NOTE: If you have already registered for the National and decide to change your arrival dates to facilitate tours and need to revise, no problem. Just go the SMART website, sign in and go to your reservation and make the change which will generate a new reservation with any payment due or refunds for site payments.

If you have any questions regarding these options, you can contact John Steinbauer, Muster Master/Tour Coordinator at ifs9840@gmail.com.

2024 SMART National Quilt Project

SMART has a history of small groups of members or a chapter doing a quilt for our

national rally. This year is different. Linda Mosley, our National Quilt Coordinator, wanted the broadest



ing not just experienced quilters but anyone with a sewing machine to participate. There has already been significant participation from Linda's home chapter, the Alamos, as well as the Tri-State Travelers, Gold Coasters, Buccaneers, Roadrunners, and Eastern Region. We already have enough blocks for the original quilt size but are hoping to expand to queen or larger and maybe add a lap quilt. The blue blocks are already made. Participants are making the red and white striped blocks. The more the merrier, please join in! The deadline to get your blocks to Linda is

Easter. Contact Linda for pattern or assistance:

Cell: (830) 708-1685

E-mail: ewenique@gvtc.com

Mail:1988 Rolling Creek Spring Branch, Texas, 78070



2024 SMART National Crafts

As with the 2023 SMART National in Amana, Linda Mosley will be holding craft projects. There will be two crafts offered this year. Both will be Christmas ornaments.

The first class will be made with clothes pins to form a rustic Mary and Joseph and baby. A choice of stars will be available. Cost \$5

The second is a Christmas tree made with fabric strips tied onto a cinnamon stick. Again, a choice of stars will let you customize your tree. Cost \$5 Be prepared to sign up for both at Registration!



Calendar of Events FEB – MAY 9

FEB 25	Mississippi Magnolias February Muster Picayune, MS
MAR 4	White Sands Panhandlers Chapter Anniversary Muster, Pensacola, FL
MAR 4	Florida Roadrunner Muster, Folkston, GA
<u>MAR 11</u>	Midwest Regional Muster Durant, OK
MAR 16	Arkansas Hogs St. Patrick's Day Lunch
MAR 18	Tri State Travelers Muster Perry, GA
MAR 20	SMART FMCA Fiesta Del Sol, Tucson, AZ
MAR 25	Western Regional Muster Casa Grande, AZ
APR 7	Cajun Solar Eclipse Rolling Muster
APR 8	MS Magnolia Spring Muster Bay St Louis, MS
APR 8	Arkansas Hogs ECLIPSE at the Duckworths Lonoke, AR
APR 11	White Sands Panhandlers CHOW CALL Milton, FL
APR 17	FL Sunshine Spring Muster Summerfield, FL
APR 22	CAJUN YALL COME Muster Breaux Bridge, LA
APR 22	FL Buccaneers Murder Mystery Muster Reddick, FL
APR 24	Ohio Vally & Rocky Tops Spring Muster Muldraugh, KY
MAY 2	TEXANS Spring Muster Athens, TX
MAY 6	MS Magnolias & White Sands Panhandlers Joint Muster Foley, AL
MAY 9	REBIRTH of the Rocky Tops Chapter Muster Smyrna, TN
	For More info please go to our website at
	SmartRVing.org and click Our Musters then All SMART Events



God never told us that being believers in Him we wouldn't have problems in our life; but He did tell us that He would never leave us nor forsake us. "In God" is mentioned sixty-two times in the Bible in both the Old and New Testament. In Joshua 1:5 "No one will be able to stand against you all the days

of your life, As I was with Moses, so will I be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you". And in the New Testament the Bible tells us to Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

God demonstrated these verses to my wife, Dian, and I on a trip we took to Iowa in September. We had just bought a 28-foot C class RV. The tires looked good, had outstanding good tread on all the tires, so we thought we were in good shape. On September the 12th we started to leave Pensacola. But I wanted to get propane before we left. The first place we stopped had no propane. They were out. We went to the next place to get propane. They had it, the guy came out turned off the valve that supplied the RV with propane as he serviced the system. Then we were on our way. But from the second place our GPS routed us a different way than I intended to go. But this was God looking out for us. We got on I-65 north and was heading up the road. When we heard a pow and felt a rough ride, one of the rear tires blew out. The next exit was a Loves truck stop, so we pulled in and asked about a tire to fit our rig. They didn't have any but knew a guy that had a used one, so we waited for him to bring one and changed it. We started up the road again, but before long we heard a pow then another pow. Our dog Nick usually rides on the couch behind Dian's seat that way he can look over her shoulder out the front windshield or out the side window; but there was too much popping going on to suit him, so he moved on the floor between Dian and me. Once again God took care of us the blowouts were on opposite sides. The Lord worked it out that we got to the next exit. He directed us to turn left. We went a short distance and there was a Discount Tire Store. As we pulled in there were four workers in the parking lot kicking a socker ball around. I talked to the manager, and he had all six tires that would fit our rig. He put the workers that were kicking the ball around, to work and the tires were installed and balanced in no time. God did his part in never leaving us. He allowed things to happen to us to show us how He takes care of us.

We went on up the road and saw a new RV park called Yellow Hammer, it was getting late, the manger did not feel like doing the paperwork, so he allowed us to stay without charge. Another blessing from the Lord. The next day we traveled on. We were traveling close to St Louis, Missouri looking for a place to stop for the night. We found ourselves in rush hour traffic and our GPS stopped working, so I took the next exit and drove about a block and there was the biggest Walgreen drug parking lot I have ever seen, it would make three of the Walgreen parking lots in Pensacola. So I pulled in and had plenty of room to spend the night. There was a "Taco 4 Ever" nearby. We bought two tacos a piece, but we could only eat one of them. The next morning at about 0400 we woke up; the traffic was gone, and the battery was built up on the GPS. We hit the road again. We arrived at our destination without any more trouble. God took care of us throughout the whole trip. And He takes care of us daily without us realizing it.

Lamar Enfinger National Chaplain



and Congratulations to the following New Members and their Recruiters (November & December 2023 and January & February 2024)

(Recruiter)

		(Recruiter)
New Members	City, State	Recruiter
15712 Ray McCauley (Ann)	Los Banos, CA	G Mason
15713 Anna McCauley (Ray)	Los Banos, CA	G Mason
15714 Jim Hoyle (Salena)	Raleigh, NC	J Ego
15715 Salena Hoyle (Jim)	Raleigh, NC	J Ego
15716 Kevin Rice (Johnna)	Westfield, PA	T Mason
15717 Johnna Rice (Kevin)	Westfield, PA	T Mason
15718 Don Gable (Nancy)	Cudjoe Key, FL	
15719 Nancy Gable (Don)	Cudjoe Key, FL	
15720 Joe Bruce (Wendy)	Fenton, MI	J Gaston
15721 Greg Blue (Judy)	San Antonio, TX	R Palmer
15722 Rosalie Thompson (Melvin)	Bakersfield, CA	M Thompson
15723 Tom Bennett	Huntsville, AL	G Bennett
15724 Mary Palmer (Richard)	San Antonio, TX	R Palmer
15725 Claudia Deanne Esterly (Alan)	Gonzales, LA	A Esterly
15726 Kathleen Bruhn (Julio Frutos)	Picayune, MS	F Coates
15727 Michael Van Brunt (Maryime)	Concord, CA	J Bench
15728 Mark Van Zandt (Cindee)	Yorktown, VA	
15729 Cindee Van Zandt (Mark)	Yorktown, VA	
15730 Paul Massicotte (Scotty Webb)	Casa Grande, AZ	
15731 Scotty Webb (Paul Massicotte)	Casa Grande, AZ	
15732 Terry Nygaard (Diane)	Mission Hills, KS	
15733 Diane Nygaard (Terry)	Mission Hills, KS	
15734 Don Magee (Susan)	Branson, MS	F Coates
15735 Susan Magee (Don)	Brandon, MS	J Van Devender
15736 Gene Ienuso (Debby)	Chandler, AZ	G Otto
15737 Debby Ienuso (Gene)	Chandler, AZ	G Otto
15738 John Stevenson (Karen)	Pearl River, LA	J Steinbauer
15739 Karen Stevenson (Rick)	Pearl River, LA	J Steinbauer
15740 Rene Steinhauer	Suisun City, CA	
15741 Randall Burdette (Linda)	Fredericksburg, VA	B Harris
15742 Linda Burdette (Randall)	Fredericksburg, VA	B Harris
15743 Mike Scott (Deanna)	Fowler, CA	
15744 Deanna Scott (Mike)	Fowler, CA	
15745 Ron Carter (Peggy)	Punta Gorda, FL	
15746 Peggy Carter (Ron)	Punta Gorda, FL	
15747 Donald Morrow (Robin)	Lodi, CA	R Murphy
15748 Robin Morrow (Donald)	Lodi, CA	R Murphy

New Member	City, State	Recruiter
15749 Anna Lee Polk (Ken)	Greenville, TX	K Polk
15750 Angela Avila (Abraham)	Livingston, TX	G Mason
15751 Abraham Avila (Angela)	Livingston, TX	G Mason
15752 Lonnie Louviere	Slidell, LA	B deBlieux
15753 Jerry Peterson (Debra)	Moncks Corner, SC	
15755 Ron Hunter (Teresa)	Summerville, SC	
15756 Ray Kinnaird (Carol)	Box Elder, SD	D Weis
15757 Carol Kinnaird (Ray)	Box Elder, SD	D Weis
15758 Joe Karwatka (Nancy)	Ocala, FL	J Steinbauer
15759 Nancy Karwatka (Joe)	Ocala, FL	J Steinbauer
15760 Greg Miller (Nancy)	The Villages, FL	T Mason
15761 Craig Houk (Brenda)	Maricopa, AZ	J Laforcarde
15762 Brenda Houk (Craig)	Maricopa, AZ	J Laforcarde
15763 Bill Kinsel (Misti)	New Braunfels, TX	
15764 Misti Kinsel (Bill)	New Braunfels, TX	
15765 Jim Allender (Laurie)	Swansea, IL	
15766 Laurie Allender (Jim)	Swansea, IL	
15767 Donn Lund (Darlene)	Orlando, FL	G Mason
15768 Darlene Lund (Donn)	Orlando, FL	G Mason

TAPS:

#1242 Nancy Watts,

Crystal River, FL



We are now accepting Resumes for

2nd Vice President of SMART

your resumes must be into HQ by April 30th, 2024.

New items in SMART Store

40th Anniversary Coffee Mugs \$5

40th Anniversary Mens WHT Caps \$10

Thermal Wine Mugs w/SMART logo \$12

SMART Logo Canvas Tote Bag \$12

SMART Decals 9" \$4, 6" \$2, 3" \$1

Navy Blue Mens Cap \$12

Car Tags \$5

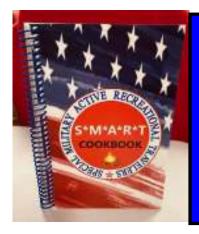












SMART COOKBOOKS ON SALE

A collection of SMART members recipes for Camping. Appetizers, Beverages Deserts, Hors d' oeuvres, Potlucks, and more....

On Sale \$7.50

Call or email HQ today and get yours for your next muster! 800-354-7681 or email



NATIVE AMERICAN RECIPES

Indian Tacos with Indian Fry Bread (Oklahoma State Fair)

For Fry Bread: Toppings:

2 cups all-purpose flour 1 lb ground beef

1 T. baking powder 1 tsp taco seasoning

1 tsp salt 1 - 15 oz can beans (drained)

1 cup milk 1 cup shredded cheese

4 cups oil for frying (or as needed) 2 cups shredded lettuce

¼ cup chopped onions

In a large skillet cook beef w/taco seasoning until browned, reduce heat and add beans. Cover and keep warm. In medium bowl combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Add milk and mix. You may need more flour to knead the dough until smooth. Let rest for 5 minutes. Heat oil in a heavy skillet, to 365 degrees. Oil should be at least 1½ inches deep. Cut dough into 4 equal parts. Flatten each part into a thin tortilla sized circle. Fry breads until golden on both sides. Turn only once. Drain on paper towels. Serve each frybread with the toppings of your choice. Enjoy!

Lakota (Sioux) Fry Bread

¼ cup sugar 3 tsp baking powder

2 cups flour 1 tsp salt

1 cup water (to make soft dough) 2-3 cups oil for frying

Mix dry ingredients together. Add water mixing carefully. Divide dough into 4 pieces. Pat into a round, flat shape.

Heat oil and fry until crisp and brown on both sides. Serve with topping of your choice. Enjoy!

Fruit Pudding

2 cups chokecherries or any type fresh/frozen berries

½ cup water

¾ cup sugar

3 T. cornstarch

In saucepan mix berries, sugar and ¼ cup water. Bring to a boil. Stir cornstarch into ¼ cup cold water until it has no lumps. While berry mixture is boiling, slowly add cornstarch water, stirring gently until combined. Simmer for two minutes on low heat. Let cool for 5 minutes and enjoy by itself, on crackers, or with Lakota fry bread.

The 2024 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.

888

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.

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! We have a few spots left!

Follow this link for a video preview of the caravan: https://youtu.be/hGZRFgx6-Q

Follow this link to register for this caravan: https://smartrving.org/Caravans/carApplication.php? carID=19&action=onlineApplication

Wagon Master(s): <u>Tony & Gina Mason</u> Email: <u>fresno63@hotmail.com</u>

Tail Gunner(s): <u>Joe & Pam Faubion</u> Email: <u>painthrse@hotmail.com</u>

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, 2024.

* 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.



2024 Branson Caravan

Veterans Week & Christmas In Branson, MO

November 6th to November 15th 2024 we will start the Veterans Unite in Branson 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



Get on standby list

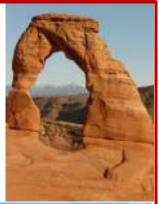


2024 CARAVAN

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















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, and 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 Jeep tour to Arches 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 like "O" Show and a Murder Mystery Dinner Show. 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

19 RV participants. Sign up online at www.SmartRVing.org

Prices: Couple \$6495 Single \$4500 Guest \$3495 Full get on the standby list





Civil War Chasing John Wilkes Booth Caravan

Dates: 17 August – 8 September, 2025

We have been asked how we came up with the caravan "Civil War Chasing John Wilkes Booth"? We're always looking for the less traveled road, trying to find something new and different. Years ago, we visited several popular Civil War battlegrounds and after a few, they all began to look alike. It was exhausting walking what seemed like miles of open fields that looked exactly like the last open field. What we have tried to do is add our unique mix of inquisitive quirkiness to our love for travel and interest in American history and VIOLA, a caravan was born!

Anyone looking for something unique and different as well as any Civil War or Lincolnite enthusiast could find the itinerary of interest. Anyone can go to Gettysburg, travel the battlefields and everyone has heard of the Lincoln assassination at Ford's Theatre. But fewer know that the infamous assassin was part of a vast conspiracy that extended beyond his individual actions. Initially, Booth and his small group of conspirators planned to kidnap Lincoln. Their intention was to snatch the president, take him to Richmond, and exchange him for Confederate prisoners of war.

Our caravan is focused on sites that were significant to these events. We begin our 500 mile caravan in Richmond and end in Washington DC where we will board a private bus with a Lincoln assassination historian to provide our group a private, full day tour that takes us from Ford's Theatre through the stops that John Wilkes Booth traveled in his attempt to escape. Anyone can visit Gettysburg or any of the many civil war battlegrounds but how many can say they took a deep dive into one of the most significant events of American history?

The caravan includes a variety of local activities and entertainment opportunities unique to the locations we will be visiting. We will end our caravan with a moonlight dinner cruise. We will enjoy delicious cuisine and live entertainment on a dinner cruise along the Potomac River and view the famous sites of the nation's capital during September's full moon.

Now is the time to get your application and deposit of \$280 into SMART Headquarters as we are limited to 20 RV participants.

Wagon Masters: Joe & Pam Faubion

Assistant Wagon Masters: Tony & Gina Mason

\$4700 for 2 pp \$3300 1 per \$\$1400 guest



2025 Caravan Adventures

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 Pric-

es 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 2 cabins left to choose from, we have 48 booked already

ATTENTION:

Since postage keeps going up, we have started emailing your SMART membership card to you when you renew your membership. Also, instead of mailing post card reminders when your dues are due, we will be emailing reminders to you.

> Please make sure your contact information (email address, mailing address, & phone number) on your profile on the website is all correct.

> You should have received your January printed Traveler by now. If you did not receive yours, please email or call HQs and we can mail one to you.

If you would like some Travelers and/or pamphlets to give out to let others know about SMART, contact HQs.

Can anyone speak aloud for 60 seconds without saying any word without an "a" in it ?? For the answer, contact genebennett101@gmail.com.

CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS



EAST REGION: Leroy Armacost Region Director, Assistant: Lonnie Alley

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, , New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, DC, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

Correction to article in January Traveler; the Drifters merged with Florida Sunshine in December and are now Florida Sunshine/Drifters. The Spring travel season is in full swing and all of the Florida chapters have a full list of upcoming musters. Last week Shelene and I mustered with the Sunshine/Drifters in Okefonokee/Folkston, GA; next month we will muster with FL Roadrunners and later in the month with the TriState Travelers. **The National Muster** in September is going to be great with some real good tours in Charleston. I encourage you to get your registration in early. **LeRoy Armacost East Region Director**

Florida Sunshine-Drifters Chapter

Greetings everyone! Since last month we have seen our former President, Jerry Barson, move on to his new home in South Carolina. The Sunshine Chapter gained a new Vice President, Shelene Armacost, and now all is well in the Sunshine-Drifter camp. We had our February muster in Folkston, GA at Okefenokee Pastimes Campground and Cabins at the entrance to the Okefenokee Park. It was hosted by the Gormans who proved that a muster could be hosted without having an RV. With their co-hosts the Smylys, they put on a great muster. We had a ukulele serenade/sing-a-long by Jim Gorman, card bingo run by the "talkative" Pete Kerner, and a lot of hand-and-foot and Poker games. We also had a catered meal by the great folks who run this campground. Our April muster will be at Southern Oaks RV Park in Summerfield, FL April 17-21. Hope to see you there! Steve Colt Sunshine Chapter President



Gold Coasters From our President, Tony Mason

Hopefully, everyone who's had an opportunity to travel this Winter, whether to see family, attend a muster, or even just do a solo trip, had an enjoyable time was able to accomplish it safely. RVing across the country we've defended, whether hand in hand, with your partner, solo, or with family is a true blessing for those that have the opportunity. The

Gold Coasters Chapter just completed a successful Valentines Muster in South Florida at John Prince Park. What could be better to spice things up than taking a romantic road trip? We were very thankful to have great weather as well as finding a location while competing with the "Snowbirds" escaping the cold to Sunny Florida. (con't)

Those in attendance shared their Valentine Love stories, how they came to meet their spouse, where they got married and honeymooned, wedding photos, played Valentines games and enjoyed some great meals and libations together. Our sincere thanks to our mix master as she outdid herself as usual! TO top off our Valentines Day, we delighted in a scrumptious triple chocolate cake made from scratch by our resident baker Miriam



Metz! Of course our muster was not simply Valentines related. We enjoyed cards games, bean bag baseball, a timed target accuracy shooting activity (its called an active shooter drill) with an air soft pellet gun, bike rides, and a class on using all SMART offers on the website. Jack Fritz is one of our resident astronomers. He had a newfangled telescope that fits in a small box that he demonstrated! He is the leader of a dark sky



astronomy group and always willing to teach others. We are blessed to have Miriam in another capacity in our club as well as our baker. She is the oldest practicing Registered Certified Emergency Nurse in the nation! The classes she offers us are invaluable. She may be offering classes at Nationals! This is a perfect reason to be in attendance! Sign up today!



This summer Gina and I, along with Pam and Joe Faubion will be Wagon Masters of the 2024 Great Atlantic Maritime Experience Caravan. This will be a 74-day experience crossing four Canadian Provinces. Every day will be an experience packed adventure! If you can attend, you'll never forget this trip. Check and see if there are still a couple of spots open if you have an interest in joining us this summer. If you've never been, now is the time. This trip is offering some activities different than those offered in the past. You may want to come again!



A last note from your president. If you are reading this, I'd like to ask, are your expectations being met as members of the Gold Coaster Chapter as well as our SMART organi-

zation? Anyone reading this please send me a private note to fresno63@hotmail.com, or call me at 813-480-9170. If there's anything we can do better or improve what we're already doing well, please respond. We want this organization to be tailored to our members.

And finally, if you haven't signed up for the 2024 National in beautiful South Carolina, please strongly consider doing so ASAP. Click here to sign-up, https://www.smartrving.org/core/moreinfo.php?id=122. A lot of



hard work is going into this event for you. Our ladies offered a labor of love as they created squares for the National Quilt Project under the superb leadership of expert seamstress Margie Haire! To my staff, I sincerely thank you all for your help with running this chapter as well as supporting SMART. We couldn't do all that we do without you. I hope to see you all on the road soon! Safe travels the rest of this year! **Tony Mason, Gold Coasters President**









Florida Buccaneers



Greetings, <u>If your travel plans include Central Florida this Spring, you're welcome to</u> join the Buccaneers for our Mystery Muster - the Florida Buccaneers are sharpening their swords for their fifth annual murder mystery muster - *Murder among the Maties* - Apr 22

- 26, 2024, Ocala North RV Resort, Reddick, FL.



After a voyage filled with pillaging and plundering, the *Jaded Jewel* - a pirate ship captained by Red Beard, an old, but dangerous pirate - docked in a cove near Port Royal. Life is never dull in this quaint seaside town and when a ship full of pirates arrives with their pockets full of gold, 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 goers to bring the murderer 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. Click on this link for a preview of the mystery: https://voutu.be/1rIE070sykE

This year's pirate themed event is sure to be one you will not 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**. Copy and paste this link in your browser for more information and to sign up for Murder

Among the Mateys - https://smartrving.org/bucs/. Safe Travels, Joe Faubion Vice President, Florida Buccaneers



Tri State Travelers: Welcome Spring Everyone! Hopefully by the time this magazine prints, we will have fairly nice weather for our musters. No more cold days and nights for these southern states (or anyone else). It looks like we have a good number of members for our March 2024 muster (18-22) at Fair Harbor RV Park in Perry GA to start off the year. We had a big group at our November muster in Myrtle Beach SC and everyone had a great time touring the area,

trying out new restaurants (and they were plentiful) and meeting some new members.

We are looking ahead to some new campgrounds this year and new areas to explore. This year we have SIX new pilots and co-pilots and a couple of prospective members who will join us this spring. We will get to know them and introduce them to our chapter and SMART.

The 2024 National Muster will be held at the Exchange Park Expo Center in Ladson, near Charleston SC, in September (11-21). The Eastern Region is hosting with the muster masters and committees working diligently to plan many fun things and seminars, along with tours of the Charleston area attractions. The tours will take place the week prior to the muster, which starts on Monday, 16 September. You can register on the SMART home page. It's a great time to meet new people and make new friends. Y'all come!

Because the Eastern Region is hosting the National, there will be no Regional muster this year. It also means that our chapter will not hold a September event. We would like to welcome any SMART member or prospective member to attend any of our musters, which are listed on the SMART website under Tri-State Travelers. Our chapter encompasses NC, SC and GA and occasionally we travel to VA and FL. Weather permitting, we have games and/or sightseeing during the day and a firepit during cooler times, where we sit around the fire and enjoy the company of friends. We also play indoor games in the evening, dominoes, hand and foot cards, card bingo and occasionally poker. One night we have a potluck dinner with great recipes, and more food than we can handle. We also eat out one night. Please sign up on the SMART web to attend. We look forward to seeing new faces.

Hope to see you all in March! Gail Alley, Secretary/Treasurer



<u>CENTRAL REGION: Nita Taylor Region Director,</u> <u>Assistant: Terry Johnson</u>

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, NW Florida Panhandle



Rocky Tops Muster

Our muster, scheduled for 9-13 May, is coming together quite nicely. We have 2 speakers scheduled, one on Friday, Melody Thomas, and one on Saturday morning, a state ranger to talk about the

Stones River National Battlefield. We are looking at a tour of the Sam Davis home for Saturday afternoon. The menu that has been put together looks to be very appetizing. We will have games for all and, of course, the necessary Happy Hour around 4:00 PM every day for camaraderie, laughs and fun. We will be sending out the final agenda and menu to all participants in early April. If anyone is interested in playing golf please let me know so I can setup tee times. Come all Tennesseans and all Smart RV members sign up for a great time!

Cajun Word for the Day Participation

The Cajuns just completed their Christmas Muster in Natchitoches, LA, the oldest town in the Louisiana Purchase (settled 1714) and the home of their Christmas Festival. Natchitoches has too many attractions to be listed in this article, but include three plantation tours, Steel Magnolias tour, tours of homes and downtown, Louisiana Sports Hall of fame Museum, and more Christmas lights than anywhere else. There are carriage rides, boat rides, meat pies, dirty rice, and more.

We stayed at a beautiful RV park covered with pecan trees. There are many, many pecan trees and only two other trees that are not pecan. A big wind came through the park for about 15 minutes and pecans were everywhere. We all picked up all the pecans we wanted with each of us filling several bags each.

The food and companionship were beyond compare. Brisket and ribs were smoked overnight and done to perfection. We enjoyed the sights of the town as well as each other's companionship. The Cajuns hold several quality events like this each year. We will have a Total Eclipse of the Sun rolling muster in Canton, Waco, and Fredericksburg, TX and our Y'all Come muster in Breaux Bridge, all in April. We will host a regional muster during Veteran's Day week. The remaining plans for the regional muster will be completed during the April musters. Volunteers are needed to help with the planning and execution of the Regional muster. More details of these activities are on the SMART website.

All these events have the potential for great enjoyment. They are well planned and include many various activities such as tours, games, and food. There is room for you! All you must do is **PARTICIPATE!** You are the reason that these activities exist. They are there for you to enjoy. If you are looking for friends to enjoy RVing with then you should visit the SMART website to see the list of activities available to you. We hope you will **PARTICIPATE** in our next event!



The MS Magnolias are finalizing the muster plans for our February 25-March 1, 2024 muster at the Sun Roamers RV Resort in Picayune, MS. We have almost 35 members and guests registered as of now who are coming to visit, socialize, golf, do a craft, play Card Bingo, Hand and Foot, Skipbo, Bean Bag Baseball, Corn Hole Bean Bag Toss, etc. The ladies have planned a shopping and luncheon day. We are going to do a Salad Luncheon Pot luck and have a Chicken and

Sausage Gumbo dinner cooked by Francis and Lynette Arceneaux. All this besides cooking together for four breakfasts and several dinners.

We have scheduled an entertaining talk by Warren Kelly about the naval sea chants and a historical presentation about the history of Picayune, MS by no other than the Picayune, MS Mayor Luke who has authored several books. We might even learn some new games to play during this muster. Who knows!! What we do know is that there will be fun at this muster just like we always do. If you would like to join us, just register on the website and contact the hosts as listed. Hope to see many of you!

Gloria Brady, Secretary of MS Magnolias



WESTERN REGION: Mike Foley, Region Director, Assistant: Greg Vassalo Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona,



Hope all is well with all of you. Winter is about over and it's time to hit the roads with the RVs. We are currently trying to establish a SMART Chapter for the Oregon/ Washington area. If you are interested please email me and I will get you in touch with the individual who is spearheading this. Hello Alaska! I just found out that Alaska is a part of the Western Region. I was stationed in Alaska in Anchorage in the 80's so I know most of you have your rigs stored under cover at home or at the Palmer

Fairgrounds. We would love to have you join our SMART Western Region. Our Motto up there was we were "God's frozen Chosen" nice name for a group. If interested please contact me and we'll get you started. Be prepared from what winter can throw at you in these coming weeks. If you have a rig at home get it prepared in case of power loses. The AZ Roadrunners and AZ Tumble Weeds are having a Western Regional gathering in Casa Grande AZ starting March 25th so check their website and it'll give you more info. Be safe everyone and get those RVs on the road and have fun. *Mike Foley Western Region Director*

Greetings everyone,

We are reaching out to all the SMART members without a chapter affiliation in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. We are trying to establish a chapter to encourage participation. We want to have musters, meet & greets, get to know each other, have fun, and enjoy your camaraderie.

We hope you get involved with creating the chapter and meeting everyone. Any suggestions for a chapter name, logo, etc. are welcome, We look forward to being a fun-loving group that gets together! If you have a place in mind to meet for a kickoff muster, please let us know.

Check out the SMART webpage for a list of upcoming SMART caravans. They are a great way to see "The Country We Defend" and at a reduced cost and a good opportunity to make new life-long friends. While there look over the list of musters planned by the other chapters 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.

We hope to hear from y'all soon! Greg Vassallo, West Region Assistant Director



Greetings from the Golden Gate Chapter Not a lot going on this month other than we were slammed by two back to back very strong weather systems. We had winds gusting around 50 mph and lots of rain. We lost power for about 15 hours. Thank goodness for generators. During this storm as I was running around securing loose items before the rains hit and I

completely forgot I HAVE A TRAILER! I was so concerned about things blowing around I forgot all about our 5th wheel. After the storm passed, I immediately went out and turned the propane on and then the fridge.

I have about 30 gallons of water in the belly of the rig (it holds 40 gallons) loaded up some food and its ready to go in case we lose power again which might happen with our latest storm about to hit us. We have a generator that runs off propane and the on switch is inside the rig. Got flashlights there and warm clothing and blankets so it's ready. So, if you have a rig at home make sure it's loaded up with water and that the propane tanks are full and you have food and plenty of warm gear.

We are about to experience two very powerful storms heading our way dumping loads of water and feet, yes feet, of snow up in the Sierra also have two generators but if things get a little dicey, we still have our rig. Golden Gates next Muster will be held at Gold Ranch in Verdi, NV from Jun 9th and depart Jun 14th. If you're in the area stop by and say hello. better yet RSVP and join us for a week of fun. Be prepared for anything that winter can throw at you. Kick those tires and light the fire and get on the road.

Be safe all. Mike Foley President Golden Gate Chapter



MIDWEST REGION: Joe Noonan Region Director,
Montana, North Dakato, Wyoming, South Dakato, Nebraska,
Coloardo, Kansas, New Mexico,
Oklohoma, Texas



2024 Midwest Region Muster

Start Date: 2024-03-11 Departure Date: 2024-03-15

Choctaw RV Park

Address: 3650 Enterprise Blvd, Durant, OK 74701

Phone: (580) 920-0160

Email: trollins@choctawnation.com
Website: https://www.choctawcasinos.com/durant/stay/rv-park/

For Camping Reservations Contact: Campground

Sponsor(s): Alamo SMARTs and Texans

Host: Joe Noonan Phone: (210) 313-7364 Email: joe.noonan@sbcglobal.net

Muster Costs:

Single Cost: \$45.00 Couple Cost: \$90.00 Couple + Guest Cost: \$115.00



AT-LARGE REGION Jackie Weis

Region Director

Duffers, Nomads, SMART FMCA, STAR, WIMS





SMART FMCA CHAPTER - In February 2024, SMART FMCA attended its first FMCA Southeast regional in Lakeland, Florida. Bob Zeller, Diane Adamson, Pam & Joe Faubion and Gina and

I attended the rally. Together, we were able to put together a Pirate Themed Chapter Fair display, where first timer attendees at an FMCA event walk around and talk to the various chapters to see which one(s) they would like to join.



The six of us explained what our chapters are about, what SMART is as an organization, and what SMART offers its members. Additionally, later during the FMCA SEA Rally, we had a Block Party at our campsite. All veterans were invited to come by and have drinks and snacks. We were lucky that the head golf cart driver was a veteran and rounded up veterans and brought them to our Block Party. In this relaxed atmosphere, we were able to socialize with Veterans, answer questions for them, provide information about the Florida Chapters, and share the caravans that SMART offers our veterans.

Gina and I, along with Pam & Joe Faubion are also travelling to FMCA's 108th International Convention in

Tucson, Arizona to represent the SMART FMCA Chapter. We will do a Chapter Fair and have another campsite Block Party. We may have some of the Arizona Tumbleweeds joining us to assist in introducing more veterans to join SMART FMCA and SMART! If you plan on attending, please consider stopping by our table and joining us.

Check out our newsletter on the SMART FMCA chapter site for additional information and go to FMCA website for a more inclusive list of FMCA rallies.

Safe Travels! Tony Mason, President SMART FMCA



How to use the Mil RV Parks Evaluation Program

Step #1 - Log in to the SMART website

Step #2 – Sign in under Members Only

Step #3 – On the Members Only page there are three rows of blue ovals – the first row is light blue, the second and third rows are dark blue. The third dark blue oval in the third row is labeled "Military RV Parks." By clicking on that oval, it takes you to the **US Military RV Parks**/RV Park of the Year Awards page.

Step #4 - Go to "Submit an RV Park Evaluation Form"

Step #5 - Select the State

Step #6 - Select the Military RV Park

Step #7 – Complete the Form, making especially sure that you answer Yes or No in line **Four**. If you do not, your evaluation cannot be used in voting for the Mil-Park-of-the-Year. (NOTE: You do not have to stay at the Mil-Park to evaluate it. Ask to see the park and do a drive-through. Write your evaluation from what you observe.)

NOTE: The **best** place to leave the Travelers and poster is in the laundry. More members go to the laundry than to the registration office.

Step #8 – Submit form.

Done! Please submit the Evaluation even if you are not impressed by the Mil Park. This information gives me an opportunity to contact the Mil Park to see if there is a way we can help them to improve.

Thank you. Gene-O Chairman Mil RV Parks Committee





S*M*A*R*T Application for Membership

		Applicant	Information			
LAST name:		First:		Initial:	Spouse/Companion	1:
Mailing address:		City:		State:		Zip:
Home phone: () —	Cell phone: ()		Email address:			
SMART is a 501(c)(19) Not- f	or-profit Vetera	ns Organization	and required to	have th	e following infor	mation on each member
Branch of service:				Year enter service:	red	Year service ended:
		Name B	adge Info	A.		
Instructions: On the first line, e want others to know about you, Note: A member badge comes	e.g., city, state	or branch of serv	vice or chapter	names ; ember's b	you belong too.	55
first & last:			first & last:			
Member second line:			Spouse/Companior second line:	Ÿ.		
		Members	ship Fees			
Member	V	Vho referred you?	His/her name:			His/her SMART #:
Veteran: Active, retired, or ho or military service o				or as a c	ommissioned of	ficer of NOAA or USPHS;
Circle all that apply to the mem Recipient of Medal of Honor		The state of the s	Rese OAA USF	rve/Guar PHS	d Honorat NATO/SEAT	oly Discharged Veteran O
	An	nual dues: \$65 (p	lus one time \$	15 new r	nember packet)	\$80.00
Spouse/Companion						
With privileges of membersh	ip for spouse \$	30: (Spouse/C	ompanion)			
If Spouse is also a Veteran, p (Must include required 501(c) Branch of Service:	(19) not-for-pro			rice ende	ed:	
Your Spouse or Compan	ion will want to	join with you to h	ave National	Sp	ouse/Comp \$30	30.00
voting rights, the ability and became e		ition up to Regior oor prize drawing		His/h	ner badge \$8.50	8.50
	to the order of the second sections of	************	55-10		Total Enclosed	118.50
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Applicant signature:					Date:	
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"Thank you all for your Service"

website



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

S.M.A.R.T. is a Military Veterans RV Club

RV with Fellow Military Veterans, we are a not-forprofit veteran social club. We have chapters across the US. Active, Retired & Honorably discharged veterans & spouses can join. We have caravans to awesome places in the US, Mexico, Canada and even Cruises. Join today and join in on our FUN!



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