



# S\*M\*A\*R\*T Special Military Active Recreational Travelers



## S\*M\*A\*R\*T Cajuns Christmas Muster

Grand Ecore RV Park, Natchitoches, LA

December 7 - 12, 2023

Hosts: Doug and Kathy Letsinger



### The Campground



Grand Ecore RV Park is located six miles north of downtown Natchitoches, the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase established in 1714. There was a beautiful hall with a kitchen where we could visit, play cards, eat our meals, and have our business meeting.



Our campers sat among pecan trees that were at the end of the season but still dropping pecans which we all picked up. In fact, on Saturday night, a weather system came through with 15 minutes of 40 mph winds. The next morning, there were 1000's of pecans on the ground.



### The Activities



In addition to picking up pecans like Brennan did with his thrift shop pecan-picker-upper, we toured downtown Natchitoches and visited Kaffie-Frederick General Store, Louisiana's Oldest General Store. We also played lots of Hand & Foot card game teaching Linda Leggett and Sally Lam how to play the game.



The main attraction of Natchitoches at Christmas time is the light display on the Cane River. We had planned to picnic on the riverbanks and watch the boat parade, but it was canceled because of weather. However, the lights and fireworks went on.





## The Food



As usual, the food at Cajun Musters is always phenomenal. On Thursday night, we did not have the meeting room available for a pot luck, so Brennan grilled hotdogs, and we all visited by the campfire.



For Friday night, Doug Letsinger smoked brisket and baked potatoes on the huge smoker that he brought from his Monroe home. Saturday night was supposed to be the picnic on the riverbank. When the parade was cancelled, we didn't starve. We enjoyed brisket sandwiches.

We ended the Muster Monday night eating Kathy Letsinger's Chicken Tetrazzini, Fan's Succotash, and Sally Lam's pies.



On Sunday, Doug smoked ribs and made camp beans. Of course we all contributed appetizers and desserts all week like meatballs, various dips and roasted pecans and pecan crusted cheese ball (of course made with fresh pecans!)



For Friday lunch we heard a SkyMed presentation by Shelly Steinmetz who brought us meat pies, dirty rice, green beans and bread pudding.  
Just a light lunch!!!!



## Future Musters



**Cajuns Rolling Muster:** The Rolling Muster to see the solar eclipse in Canton, TX, is April 7 - 17, 2024. Kathy Letsinger, Doug Barksdale and Johnny Leggett have been finalizing plans.

**Cajuns Y'all Come Muster:** Our signature Muster featuring a crawfish boil and fish fry will be April 21 - 26, 2024, and will again be hosted by Kathy Padgett at Poche's RV Park in Breaux Bridge, LA.

**Central Regional Muster:** The Cajuns are hosting the Central Regional Muster at Sundowners New Orleans in Robert, LA, on November 10 - 15, 2024. At the General Business Meeting, Johnny asked for volunteers for the various events. Karen and Bo deBlieux will be cooking a jambalaya, and Wayne Lam is in charge of the shrimp boil. Brennan Disher will explore the possibility of a pontoon boat ride down the Tangipahoa River.

**Cajuns Lagniappe Muster:** Johnny discussed the possibility of meeting three days before the Regional Muster for a Cajun Muster from November 8 - 10, 2024. All agreed that it would be a great idea.

**Possible September Musters:** Johnny discussed trying to have a Muster in September, 2024. Brennan Disher suggested Beyonder Resort Cajun Moon in Sulfur, LA. It has a wonderful facility with concrete sites, meeting rooms, and hotel rooms. Johnny asked Brennan to look into available activities and a possible fishing excursion. Karen and Bo deBlieux suggested finding a campground close to Cruisin' the Coast along the Gulf coast and will research that possibility.



Fan Disher, Kathy Letsinger, and Karen deBlieux in the holiday spirit.



A big thank you goes out to  
Kathy and Doug Letsinger  
for hosting this Christmas Muster  
and cooking some fantastic food.

