

SMART TRAVELER

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

MAY 2024

Join us in September for our
National Muster in
Charleston/Ladson, South Carolina
Sept 16-20



Patriots Point & Naval -Maritime Museum a short drive from our campground in Ladson, SC will bring those interested in military history to Patriots Point, a sizable maritime museum complex located in Charleston's harbor. **The centerpiece of Patriots Point is the U.S.S. Yorktown**, an aircraft carrier that was commissioned and built in 1943 as a replacement for its predecessor that was sunk at the Battle of Midway during World War II. The ship also served as the vessel that retrieved the Apollo 8 space capsule and its crew after its mission. Patriots Point is also home to a large exhibit of aircraft used by (Con't on page 7)

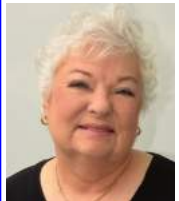
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jonandnancy2@comcast.net

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



Message from your SMART President

Spring is here. The rigs are ready go. Muster schedules are planned and posted. Caravans are off to a good start. So, Mary and I decided to join up with the Cajuns Rolling Eclipse Muster in Fredericksburg TX. The muster started rolling from Louisiana to Canton TX, to view the eclipse, on to Waco TX, then to Fredericksburg TX which turned out to be a 'Presidential' event with current President, past President Willie Pollard and his wife Joyce, past President John Steinbauer and his wife Kathy, and future President Melody Thomas and her husband Paul for a good potluck dinner and gab. It's always good times when SMART members can just stop in, in route, to say hi. We couldn't make the muster, so they just rolled on to Texas to see us .

The 2024 National muster is in the full planning stage. Great tours and events planned. Get your registrations in now. Don't miss out. While you're planning for this years, set your calendar to Stamped to Texas for the 2025 National in Mineola, TX.

While you're looking for travel plans for 2025, check out the Traveler for the 2024 and 2025 Caravans. Make sure that you take your recruiting material with you so you can sign up that new member you met at the RV park.

Safe travels, **Richard D. Palmer, SMART National President**

"The difference between Ordinary and Extraordinary is a little Extra".



From the Desk of the 1st Vice President Melody Thomas

*Well, spring is here. How wonderful it is to see all the budding flowers and trees. Eggs are starting to hatch and critters are coming out of hibernation. It's like the world is coming alive. I love this time of year! It is also the time of year when folks start camping. There are so many new campers out there. People who bought their RVs during the pandemic are getting their backordered rigs and finally beginning to enjoy long awaited adventures. Unfortunately, many of the new campers have never been taught campground etiquette. I see it all too often. As seasoned travelers, it is incumbent on all of us to teach the new guys the "rules." Let's all be observant of the rules and set the example for all the newcomers out there. By doing this, we will all be happier campers. That includes not walking through another person's campsite, picking up after your pet when they do their business, not putting garbage in the fire ring, and observing quiet hours. While you're at it, be sure to share the good news about SMART membership. All the chapter, regional and national musters are so much fun. And don't forget those great caravans! This and next year's line-up look so inviting. The Great Atlantic Canada Maritime Experience is about to take off next month. The Branson caravan in Missouri will honor our veterans in interesting and exciting ways. A cruise on the high seas promises to be quite an adventure. A fascinating history lesson will take place with the John Wilkes Booth caravan. A tour of Louisiana will explore the state's food and music venues, and Alaska takes off in June 2025. Other caravans are **always** in the works. Be sure to check out the SMART website for all the great caravans on the docket! Melody Thomas, SMART National 1st VP*

EXCERPT FROM ESCAPEES MAGAZINE:

Dear Fellow RVers, The Good Neighbor Policy was created in the early 90s by Escapees RV Club. Since then, it has become the industry standard code of conduct for overnight parking. We hope that the Good Neighbor Policy serves as a reminder that RVers must be respectful of the communities they visit. Some of the most respected RV consumer clubs have joined Escapees to support your privilege to park on private businesses' property overnight under the following code of conduct: Industry-sanctioned Code of Conduct (RVers Good Neighbor Policy)

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

As I write this article for this Traveler I am presently on the Grand Canyon and beyond Caravan and thought this is the perfect time to talk about SMART Caravans. We presently have a few Caravans for 2024 that still have limited availability and in 2025 we have a few that are posted and some still in the planning phase. Smart caravans are a wonderful way to meet fellow SMART members, make lasting friendships while exploring the many exciting venues of the Caravan. I encourage you to check them out, it's a lot of fun and the comradery is second to none. As I traveled to various Smart Chapter's recently and viewing the Traveler and website I can't help but notice the Chapter Officers remain the same for years, please consider stepping up to take a Chapter position and become part of the team. Travel safe and hope to see you in September at our National Muster.

David Weis. 2nd V P



Resume for 2nd Vice President

LeRoy Armacost #14046

I LeRoy Armacost, SMART Member #14046, do hereby apply for and accept the nomination for the office of 2nd Vice President. I hereby agree to meet all required responsibilities if elected.

By affixing my name below, I certify that I accept responsibility for the position if elected and possess the capability and willingness to serve in that position, and that I am aware of the provisions of section 6.11 of the Bylaws concerning compensation.

Address: 1178 Summer Springs Drive, Middleburg, FL 32068 Phone: (904)254-0898

Summary of positions held in SMART: Member of SMART for 10 years; served on the National Board of Directors for two years as Southeast and now East Region Director; serving on Recruitment and Retention as well as Bylaws and Standing Rules Committees. I served two terms as President of Florida Sunshine Chapter, as well as various committees at the local chapter level. I am a member of four chapters including STAR Chapter. As region Director I visited each chapter within the region set and met regional goals for Recruitment. Served as Muster Chair for 2023 SER Muster in Cedar Key, FL; and Muster Chair for the 2024 National Muster in Ladson, SC. I have traveled on the SMART Fall Colors Caravan in 2019, and the Michigan Bound Caravan in 2023.

Community affiliations; I serve as a volunteer Ambassador for Community Hospice and Palliative Care and other duties as required. I have served as Branch President for Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), and a Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). I have served as Deacon and Usher of local church.

Other positions providing beneficial experience; 27 years active duty U.S. Navy, two tours as command Senior Enlisted Advisor. Civilian experience as Management Analyst for Naval Hospitals Naples, Italy and Jacksonville, FL. I counseled juveniles with Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) and worked as a Director with United Cerebral Palsy of Pensacola. I have a Master of Science degree in business and counseling.

Why I am a candidate for this office, and what I hope to accomplish if elected: I will promote communication between chapter members and the BOD; enhance recruitment efforts encouraging members to enjoy their SMART membership experience as I travel this great country. If elected I will serve to the best of my abilities to promote SMART and enhance communication between leadership and chapter members.

LeRoy Armacost



Resume for 2nd Vice President

Gene Bennett #12635

I submit my resume for nomination to the position of 2nd Vice President of SMART, 2024.

I understand the responsibilities, capabilities, and the willingness to serve within the provisions outlined in Section 6.11 of the National By-Laws. I understand there is no compensation for selection to this honor.

I joined the US Army on 6 November 1968. Oversea tours included South Viet Nam, Korea, and Alaska. State-side, I was stationed in Ft. Lewis, WA; Ft. Sill, OK; Ft Ord, CA; Ft. Rucker, AL; and Ft. Eustis, VA. I retired at Ft. Eustis, VA on 30 November 1988. After retirement from the Army, I worked at U-Haul as an assistant store manager; AAA as a wrecker driver; and City of Portsmouth as a mechanic for the police cars.

I joined SMART on 6 February 2005. I have served in the positions of SMART National President 2022, 1st Vice President 2021, 2nd Vice President 2020, North East Region Director, and Chapter President for the CATS. I am a member of the following SMART chapters: CATS, NOMADS, STAR, Voyageurs, AR Hogs.

I currently sit as Chair, Military RV Parks Committee; Chair, Past Presidents Advisory Committee; and a member of the Recruiting & Retention Committee. I am a current member of the VFW and American Legion.

This request is not in contravention of any By-Laws or Standing Rules known to date.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gene E Bennett, Member #12635, (aka Gene-O)



Please go to
www.SmartRVing.org and
sign in and **VOTE** for your
next **2nd VP of SMART**

Gene Bennett or Leroy Armacost

Calendar of Camping Events for MAY

- MAY 2** **TEXANS** Spring Muster Athens, TX
Contact Paul Rider (903) 574-1217 afchap@gmail.com
- MAY 6** **MS Magnolias & White Sands Panhandlers** Joint Muster Foley, AL
Contact Charley Le Blanc (504) 616-6959 chasndianne@bellsouth.net
- MAY 9** **REBIRTH of the Rocky Tops** Chapter Muster Smyrna, TN
Contact Reese Burke (607) 423-3757 Rburke8@gmail.com
- May 15** **Camping in Arkansas**, AR Hogs North Little Rock, AR
Contact Richard Ingel (501) 772-0131 liepsh@aol.com
- May 15** **FL RoadRunner Muster**, Cedar Keys, FL
Contact Evelyn Stewart (229) 569-0280 Waltone705@gmail.com
- May 20** **Tri State Travelers Muster**, Lexington, SC
Contact Lonnie Alley (910) 709-9477 lonniealley@earthlink.net

For More info please go to our website at

SmartRVing.org/core/event.php All SMART Events





the U.S. Navy, and two more former vessels the destroyer U.S.S. Laffey and the submarine U.S.S. Clagamore. Patriots Point does also offer the chance to spend the night on the Yorktown.

For site seeing Tours
Go to patriotspoint.org
for more info



Standard.mp4



The Chaplains Desk:

Bring Them In

Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

The weary shepherd counted his sheep carefully. Most of them were safely in the fold, settled for the night, but some were still missing.

Although it was late and the weather gloomy and threatening, the shepherd left for the rocky hills to look for his missing sheep. Cupping his hands, he lifted them to his mouth. In a loud voice he called out to the wanderers. How strange that the sheep should want to slip away from the fold. True, some were only young and inexperienced lambs. But others, who were older and supposedly more mature, also went astray. The shepherd could not spend his time wondering why the sheep had drifted. His duty was to locate them and bring them back to the fold.

There is a Song entitled “Bring Them In”. It goes like this.

(1) Hark! Tis the Shepard’s voice I hear. Out in the desert dark and drear, Calling the sheep who’ve gone a-stray Far from the Shephard’s fold a-way.

**Bring them in, bring them in, Bring them from the fields of sin;
Bring them in, bring them in, Bring the wand’ring ones to Jesus.**

(2) Who’ll go and help this Shepard kind, Help Him the wand’ ring ones to find?

Who’ll bring the lost ones to the fold, Where they’ll be sheltered from the cold?

**(3) Out in the desert hear their cry, Out on the mountains wild and high;
Hark! ‘tis the Master speaks to thee, “Go find my sheep where they be.
Bring them in, bring them in, Bring them from the fields of sin:
Bring them in, bring them in, Bring the wand’ring to Jesus**

Lamar Enfinger National Chaplain

2024 National Muster Info

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.

2nd VP David Weis is the **Master of Ceremonies**

Go to the SMARTRVING.org Website to register for this event.

So, What are you waiting for... Sign Up Today ! Can't wait to see everyone!



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



Thanks HQ

Golf Carts for Rent at National:

Contact Garrett Wilson (843) 870-8085

garrettw@trucarts.com

He will be taking care of the SMART National and will deliver carts and pick them up from the campground. Everyday except Sunday.



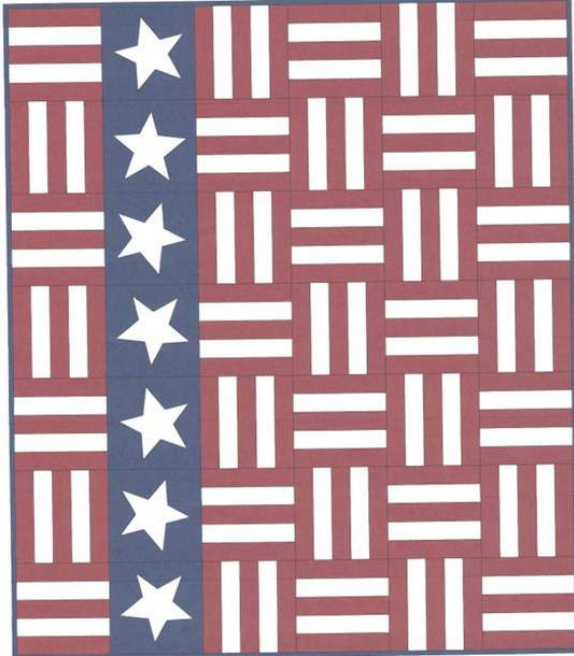
CRAFTERS WANTED... Looking for Crafters! Members or nonmembers wishing to sell at the National Muster Craft Show. Space is still available. Member tables are \$25,

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

We are looking for volunteers to work 12th—14th September. There is a lot of work to be done setting up the tables and chairs and arranging the facilities for our National Muster.

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 participation. She picked a patriotic but easy to piece quilt, allowing 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!



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: [Viator Charleston Tour Options](#) 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 [ITT Tour Options](#) 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 jfs9840@gmail.com.

Welcome!

and Congratulations to the following New Members and their Recruiters

(March & April)

New Members	City, State	Recruiter
15769 Rod Legrand (Mary)	Bakersfield, CA	T Mason
15770 Mary Legrand (Rod)	Bakersfield, CA	T Mason
15771 Michael Kennedy (Rose)	Broussard, LA	C LeBlanc
15772 Rose Kennedy (Michael)	Broussard, LA	C LeBlanc
15773 Dina Zorawowicz (Bryan)	Manchester, NH	B Zorawowicz
15774 Bill Hemphill (Ruth)	Tampa, FL	
15775 Ruth Hemphill (Bill)	Tampa, FL	
15776 Dave Rilling (Carolyn)	Land O Lakes, FL	
15777 Carolyn Rilling (Dave)	Land O Lakes, FL	
15778 Gretchen Sholar (Robert)	The Villages, FL	R Sholar
15779 Dennis Steed (Lynn)	Mendenhall, MS	J Van Devender/F Coates
15780 Renee Marshall	Buckeye, AZ	G Mason
15781 Don Buol (Janice)	Puyallup, WA	
15782 Leroy Wilkes (Julie Pickel)	San Antonio, TX	J Adams
15783 Ted Giltz (Connie)	West Richland, WA	
15784 Candace Donnell	Brandon, FL	G Mason
15785 Roy Hancock (Donna)	Forsyth, GA	
15786 Donna Hancock (Roy)	Forsyth, GA	
15787 Jim Bellaire (Maryanne)	Crestview, FL	
15788 Maryanne Bellaire (Jim)	Crestview, FL	
15789 Eddie Millager (Kyle)	San Dimas, CA	
15790 Kyle Millager (Eddie)	San Dimas, CA	
15791 Joseph Soberick	Davenport, FL	
15792 Chuck Wood (Sherry)	Tempe, AZ	D Weis
15793 Sherry Wood (Chuck)	Tempe, AZ	D Weis
15794 Shelley Bates	Willow spring, NC	
15795 Mark Mitchell (Maleah)	Cookeville, TN	
15796 Maleah Mitchell (Mark)	Cookeville, TN	
15797 Jay Rutherford (Sheri)	Livingston, TX	J Adams
15798 Sheri Rutherford (Jay)	Livingston, TX	J Adams
15799 Glenn Hebert (Tina)	Lafayette, LA	L Louviere
15800 Tinal Hebert (Glenn)	Lafayette, LA	L Louviere
15801 Larry Espinosa (Livinia)	Pueblo, CO	R Palmer

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.

TAPS:

[Lee Fontenot #7766](#)

spouse of Irene
Denham Springs, LA

[Ray Posey #11421](#)

spouse of Susan
Enterprise, AL

[Irene Lyddon #15214](#)

spouse of Gerald #3899
Richmond, TX

[Sachiko Mueller #14262](#)

Spouse of Jerry #14261
Vacaville, CA



In Loving Memory



Be Decisive.
Right or
Wrong make a
decision.

The Road of
Life is paved with flat squir-
rels who could not make a
decision.

Author unknown



SMART Merchandise

40th Anniversary Coffee Mugs \$5

40th Anniversary Mens WHT Caps \$10

Thermal Wine Mugs w/SMART logo \$12

SMART Large 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

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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.

Additional costs for two Ferry crossings are based on the combined length of your individual rig and toad connected together. Estimated US costs: 40-50' is \$1250, 50-60' is \$1420, 60+' is \$1600. Cabins are available at an additional cost for the overnight ferry - some are dog friendly. Come join us and make memories that will last a lifetime! **We have a few spots left**



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

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

2024 SMART CARAVANS ADVENTURES



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

2025 SMART Caravan Adventures



2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan

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](https://1b59a9-6042.icpage.net/smart-caribbean-cruise-feb-2025) separately. More information may be found at <https://1b59a9-6042.icpage.net/smart-caribbean-cruise-feb-2025>

We have 1 cabins left to choose from, we have 49 booked already

2025 Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, and Ships! Caravan... 2025

June 16th thru July 31st Price TBA

Come explore the impact of various transportation modes on American culture. We'll see how the RV industry started, explore the early inventions of the automobile, marvel at incredible ships that ply the Great Lakes, tour railroad and glider plane museums, and thrill to an exciting airshow. The caravan starts in Indiana, moves through Michigan, and ends in Wisconsin.

The caravan will touch on transportation modes as they have grown and developed throughout American history. Participants will have a chance to tour the factory where their RV was manufactured and be immersed in the Amish culture through tours and meals. Moving from Indiana to Michigan, the group will tour the largest automobile museum in North America.

Other sights will include Henry Ford's beginnings, the giant freighters moving through the Sault Ste. Marie Locks, Mackinac Island where the primary mode of transportation is still horse and carriage, a WWII glider museum, and numerous stops around the Mitten state. Continuing into Wisconsin, the caravan will stop at Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers, for a tour and lunch.

We will enjoy the EAA Airventure in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This annual event brings together aviation enthusiasts of all ages as they show off experimental and innovative aircraft. The airventure will have day and night air shows, rides in aircraft, and a mass hot air balloon launch. Ending in Spring Green, Wisconsin, the group will explore the most exotic and eclectic retreat built on a chimney rock. And of course, there will be potlucks, happy hours, and campfires.

Wagonmasters Melody & Paul Thomas
Johnny & Linda Leggett Tail Gunners





2025 Louisiana Caravan Laissez Le Bon Temps Rouler!

(Pronounced LAY ZAY LE BONE TUM RULE EH)

Dates March 25th to April 25, 2025

(Let the good times roll!) Louisiana Food and Music Caravan

If you are looking for fun and unique things to do then you should join us on this Louisiana Caravan. Louisiana is a melting pot of cultures including French, African, Canadian, and American peoples. The Pelican State is not short on amazing sites, awesome culture and epic fun.

This caravan begins in Natchitoches, the oldest town in the Louisiana Purchase. You will tour plantations, see where Steel Magnolias and other movies were filmed, and eat the famous Natchitoches Meat pies. We then travel to the I-20 corridor starting at Shreveport and continuing to Ruston, Monroe, and Vicksburg seeing all the sites along the way including a WORLD HERITAGE CENTER at Poverty Point and tour one of the three vineyards and wineries in Louisiana. We will visit the birthplace of Delta Air Lines and first bottled Coca Cola. We will visit a civil war battleground and then make our way down the Mississippi to New Orleans stopping at several interesting places on the way. There will be a Cajun Cooking class in Vidalia where you will learn to make Jambalaya.

Everyone knows that New Orleans is a fun place. We will sample beignets at the French market and tour the WW II museum. We will then head into the heart of Cajun Country. We will tour Avery Island and learn how Tabasco Sauce is made. The Caravan will end at Poche's Fish Camp with a big crawfish boil.

Wagon Masters: Johnny and Linda Leggett (318) 243-4084 johnny_leggett@hotmail.com

Assistant Wagonmasters: Paul and Melody Thomas (631) 258-6087 thomas4smart@gamil.com

Couple \$4,600 Single \$3,500 Guest \$\$1,500

2025 ALASKAN ADVENTURE

with WagonMasters David & Jackie Weis

We are in the planning stages of a Great Alaskan Caravan. We are looking at about a 60 day tour.

Go ahead and register online and we will get more details to your soon!

Fall of 2025 Join us in TOURING THROUGH TEXAS TOGETHER!

Caravan right after our 2025 National in Mineola, TX. We will be highlighting all the great places in TEXAS. Join us as we Visit Dallas where Kennedy was shot, Waco, Magnolia Silos, Dr Pepper Museum, The Ranger Museum, The LBJ Ranch. Float down the river in San Antonio. We'll take a ride on a real chuck wagon for dinner, visit an aircraft carrier on the coast, eat shrimp and visit a Mansion and a Real Working Ranch, And So Much More! So put on your traveling boots and let's travel together and see what all we can find. More info coming soon! Watch for details. Wagonmaster David & Jackie Weis

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

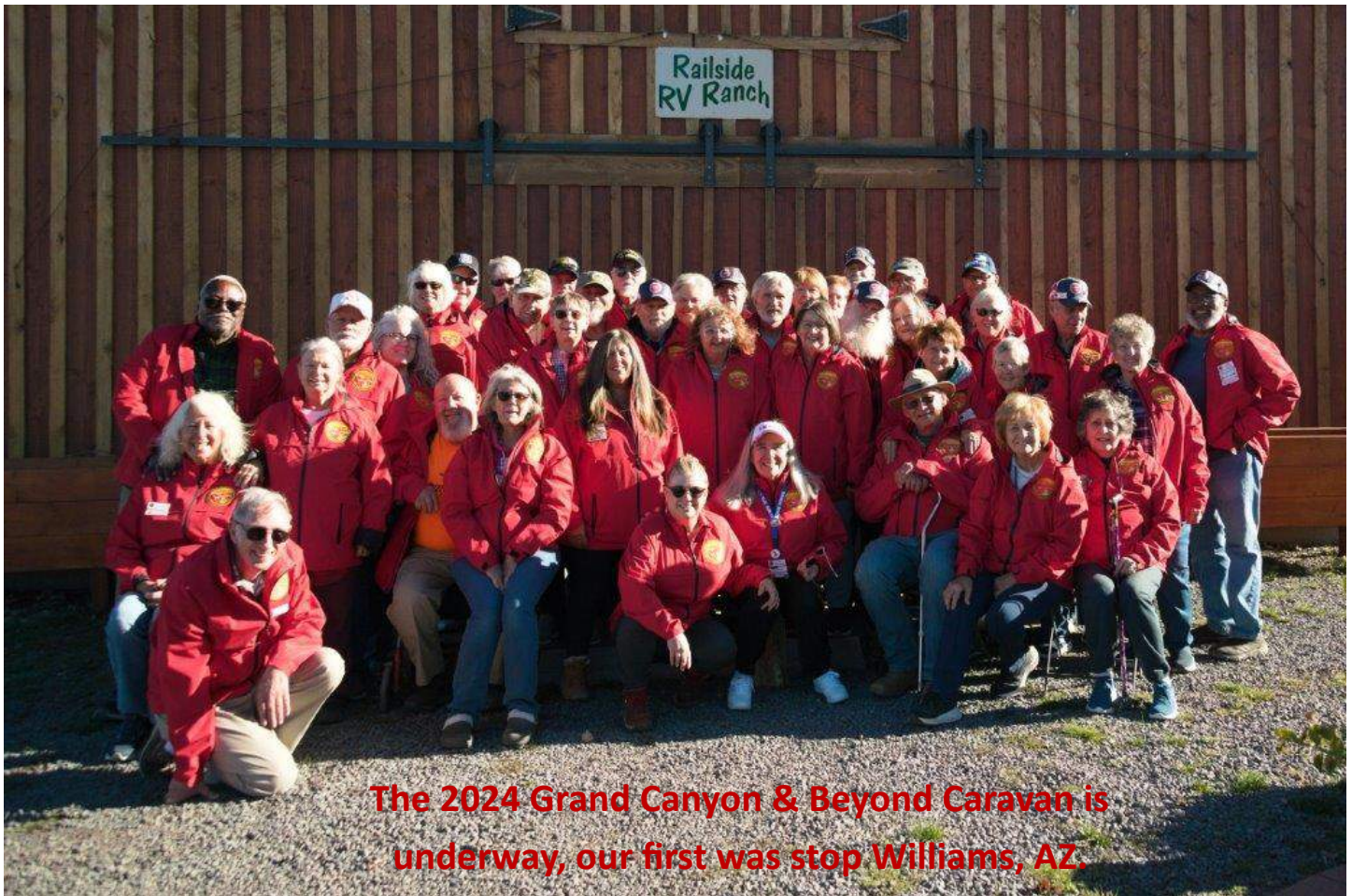
Step #7 – Complete the Form, making especially sure that you answer Yes or No in line Four. If you do not, your evaluation cannot be used in voting for the Mil-Park-of-the-Year. (NOTE: You do not have to stay at the Mil-Park to evaluate it. Ask to see the park and do a drive-through. Write your evaluation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



Campfire Meals

BACON & ONION FOIL PACKET POTATOES

3 sheets heavy duty tin foil	1 packet onion soup mix
10-12 potatoes, thinly sliced	1 c. cheese (optional)
12 slices cooked and crumbled bacon	3 T. butter
1 small onion, thinly sliced and diced	sour cream for serving (optional)

Spray each sheet of foil with cooking spray. Top each piece with equal portions of potatoes, bacon, onion soup mix, and cheese. Salt & pepper to taste. Add 1 tablespoon butter to each serving. Wrap securely. Grill for 20-30 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Serve in foil topped with sour cream, if desired. Makes three servings.

CORN FRITTERS

2 eggs, beaten	1 ¼ c. biscuit baking mix
½ c. milk	1 15oz whole kernel corn, drained
2 tsp dried minced onion	1tsp celery seed
¼ tsp pepper	¼ tsp salt (optional)
vegetable oil for frying	maple syrup or honey

In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, onion, celery seed, pepper, and salt. Stir in baking mix and corn until blended. Place skillet over hot coals. Heat 3 T. oil until a drop of batter sizzles. Drop batter by the spoonful into hot oil. Brown fritters on one side, 6-8 minutes, then flip and brown other side; adding additional oil as necessary. Serve warm with syrup or honey. Serves 4-6.

CORN-ON-THE-COB

Sweet corn on the cob, unpeeled	Butter, melted with salt & pepper to taste
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Prepare grill. Place ears of corn on grill surface. Do not remove husks. Turn each ear ¼ turn about every 30 seconds. Continue turning corn until the outer layer of husk is burned away. Remove from grill surface. Use caution when opening the husks as the steam can burn you. Roll corn in melted butter. Enjoy! (Bobby Flay method)

CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS



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



In March 2024, the following **SMART FMCA Chapter** members attended FMCA's 108th International Convention in Tucson, Arizona. Tony and Gina Mason, Joe and Pam Faubion, Joseph and Carol Adams, Erwin and Genie Greven, Barry and Donna Wynott, and auxiliary members Monty and Peggy Ledet. I want to thank these attendees for helping during our Chapter Fair and Block Party. During each event, we promoted SMART to the numerous veterans in attendance, and we were able to pick up a few new members. We handed out SMART Travelers, Trifolds, and Caravan fliers to at least 50 veterans, maybe more, who attended this FMCA event. We collected as many names as possible and their contact information so we could follow up with them. For SMART to grow and survive, attending FMCA events around the country is a great opportunity to find RV'ing veterans and tell them about our wonderful travel organization. I strongly encourage all SMART members who are not FMCA members to join FMCA! Their benefits are numerous. Follow this link to see what you can gain by being an FMCA Member.

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



Florida RoadRunners Our musters are held in North Florida and Southern Georgia, they include host cooked meals, restaurant meals as a group, and potluck. Our next muster will be in Cedar Key Florida in May. We play card games, dominoes, and do some sight seeing. This year The National Muster will be held in Ladson South Carolina. The theme will be Charleston Ragtimes, for more information about the Roadrunners muster or the National Muster check out the SMART.org website. Evelyn Stewart

FLORIDA SUNSHINE

The Florida Sunshiners had another successful muster at Okefenokee Pastimes Cabins and RV Park in February, hosted by the Gormans. We had ukulele playing by Jim Gorman, card bingo led by Peter Kerner, and many, many card games. Our hosts, assisted by the Smylys, proved that you can host a successful muster even without having an RV! A fun time was had by all.

The April muster was held at Southern Oaks RV Resort in Summerfield, Florida. The Pinettes did a wonderful job of hosting the event. There were numerous games of poker and Hand and Foot and a delicious dinner out at Pasta Faire. We also enjoyed pizza from Pasta Faire a few days later and it was exquisite! We really enjoyed welcoming our visitors from Tampa, the Hemphills and the Rillings, and hope we see them again in the near future. Our June muster will be held at the KOA in Starke, FL. We'd love to have you join us there.

Sarah Colt, svc32073@gmail.com



CENTRAL REGION: Nita Taylor Region Director,

Assistant: Terry Johnson

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



A Muster to “Eclipse” All Others!

The Cajuns are on the move through Texas! The Texas Hill Country is beautiful in April with Bluebonnets and other wild-flowers decorating the roadsides. We met up in Canton, TX at the Canton First Monday Trade Days Park to view a total eclipse of the sun. The clouds flirted with us a bit but parted at just the right time for the perfect view of the eclipse in this once in a generation opportunity. The sky got dark enough to make the streetlights come on as we watched a perfect ring of fire. As with all things in life, the moment was even better because we were able to share it with friends.



We continued this rolling muster to Waco and Fredericksburg. I’ve stood on the corner in Winslow, Arizona and walked the streets of Bakersfield. Now I can say I got back to Luckenbach, TX where we listened to live country music. There are way too many activities to mention but the Museum of the Pacific, hundreds of wineries, and Street Dreams



Band in Luckenbach, TX

stand out as exceptional things to do. Of course we had food, games, and camaraderie.

By the time you read this article we will have moved on to Poche’s Fish Camp for the big Y’all Come muster.



Current President, Future President, and two past Presidents attended the Cajun Muster.

Tours will include a visit to the Tony Chachere Factory. We will eat well (crawfish, fried fish, jambalaya), but Cajuns always do. It’s time for you to make plans to join us at the Central Regional Muster in November in Ponchatoula, LA. We will have Cajun food nightly, Cajun music, swamp tours, and other fun activities.

The Central region has expanded northward to the Canadian border. This is an excellent opportunity for our Northern friends to become “Snowbirds” (and Cajuns) and head south away from the cold. Louisiana has many state parks with rv parks that make an attractive alternative to cold northern temperatures and expensive Florida prices. Please contact me for questions about opportunities for camping in Louisiana and/or

opportunities to participate in the Regional Muster.

Johnny Leggett, Cajun President



The MS Magnolias

On April 3 the Mississippi Magnolias Chapter presented a check for \$1200 to Fisher House at Keesler AFB, Mississippi. Jesse and Anita James and Jan and Dave Lemaire toured Fisher House with Manager Ron Gribble and learned the history of the effort started by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher to provide lodging to patients, caregivers and families of patients undergoing medical treatment. The MS Magnolias raise money at each muster throughout the year with silent auctions, 50/50 drawings and sale of handmade items, besides individual member donations. Fisher House does not charge guests for their services.



MIDWEST REGION: Joe Noonan Region Director,
Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska,
Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico,
Oklahoma, Texas



The Alamo Chapter recently hosted our annual Regional Muster in Durant, OK. There were 17 rigs in attendance for an interesting and fun-filled muster. We were able to start forming the committees for the 2025 National Muster, to be hosted by our region. We stayed at the Choctaw Casino RV Resort, where the amenities are plentiful, the accommodations 1st rate, and access to the casino by shuttle at any time of the day or night. We toured the amazing Choctaw Cultural Center, and nearby Fort Washita; gaining much more knowledge than we ever learned in our school years. Our region



made a generous donation of 247 pounds of food to the local community food bank.

As the summer heat approaches, Alamo Chapter get-togethers will be mostly local area socials. However, we have a full muster schedule planned for the fall & winter months.



President Richard Palmer, his wife Mary, past President Willie Pollard, his wife Joyce joined the Smart Cajuns on part of their rolling muster while they were in Fredericksburg, Tx. We enjoyed a wonderful meal together, met some new friends, and reconnected with some old ones. What a great chapter they have!



Hoping that everyone reading this has registered for this years' National in Ladson, S.C, and that you are encouraging your chapter members to participate. It promises to be an outstanding muster held in a beautiful part of our country. As always, we wish you



safe travels, good health, and the enjoyment of Smart friendships.

Mary Palmer, Alamo Chapter secretary & newsletter editor



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



Hello All - Hoping this letter finds you all in great health and great spirits. Summer is almost upon us and it's time to dust the cob webs off your rig and hit the road if you haven't done so yet. Some of our folks ventured down to Rocky Point Mexico and all had a good time. The Western Regional put on by the Arizona Roadrunners and Arizona Tumble weeds turned out to be pretty good. They had 16 rigs that showed up and that's a pretty good showing. Next years Western Regional will be held in Bakersfield CA at Orange Grove RV park. More on that to come later on. We've had several new members who joined that are from Washington State. Our man Greg is on a caravan right now and is going to be in the process of contacting them and trying to get a chapter going with Washington and Oregon. Haven't heard from those in Alaska please email me and let me know if you're interested in starting a chapter. We can help you get started and that goes for Idaho and Utah as well. The more chapters we can established the merrier it will be. Ok so summer is about here...time to check your rigs out...simple stuff like tire pressure to include your spare. Calling ahead to RSVP at RV parks or campgrounds...summer is when kids are out of school and lots of people will be traveling and filling those places up. If you have a diesel rig or truck make sure you take a spare gallon of DEF with you..no telling where or when that detail will show up on your screen saying you need DEF you got so many miles to go. Going to the Northern Tier..bring along warm clothes as well as it can get rather chilly at night. Going to hot states or the desert pack accordingly and make sure you have plenty of water and food in case you break down. For me it's a 50 50 gamble when we hit the road. I'm always thinking what's next! as our rig has been in the shop more than it's been on the road. We've had some good rain and snow this month. Our reservoirs are just about full to the brim. Check the SMART web sit for updated information on the National coming up in September. The folks putting this on have been hard at work to make this National a great National. Also check the web sites out for the Golden Gate Chapter, the Arizona Tumbleweeds Chapter and the Arizona Roadrunners for info on their musters coming up. If you're in the area of any one please drop by and say hello. So get those rigs ready to roll and head on down the highways and biways. Be safe all and have wonderful journeys.



Greetings from Golden Gate

Well spring has finally sprung and it's time to get the old RV's up and running unless you have already done so. Believe it or not we have had some significant amount of rain. This past weekend it really brought more water and snow to our mountains. Some of our members went to Mexico and had a good time. Nice weather and good fellowship. Our Western Regional was held in Casa Grande AZ and they had 16 rigs show up. They wanted 20 but 16 is a good showing. Golden Gate's next muster is going to be Jun 9th and departing on Jun 14th. It's going to be held at the Gold Ranch RV park which is in Verdi NV. Depending on which way you are coming if you come up east on I-80 after you cross the border it is on the left. Coming West on I=80 it's the last gas station on the right. If you happen to be in the area please stop by and say Howdy we would be glad to welcome you and offer great food and fellowship. Check the updates on the SMART web page for the National coming up in September. They have a lot planned and are hard at work getting everything ready for you. Summer is right around the corner so check your rigs out before hitting the road. Have a safe and wonderful month of May. **Michael Foley, Western Region Director**



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@smartvring.org Web: www.smartvring.org	
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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, Melody & Paul Thomas, Jesse & Anita James

Video



"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-for-profit 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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