

CHARLESTON RAGTIMES

June 2024 (issue #6)

Voice of the 41st S*M*A*R*T National Muster in Ladson, SC



**JUST 3 MONTHS TO GO UNTIL OUR
NATIONAL MUSTER!!**



**DANCING TO
CHARLESTON**

**2024 S*M*A*R*T
National Muster
Ladson, South Carolina
September 16-21, 2024**



A NOTE FROM YOUR MUSTER MASTER

I am pleased to announce that we already have 100 registrations with 193 individuals attending, and new registrations are being submitted daily. This National is going to be the best attended one in recent years. We also have 46 “First Timers” registered who will have a lasting impression of their first National being exciting and fun.

Now is the time to look at all the sightseeing and touring options and plan to arrive no earlier than noon Wednesday, September 11. We have an outstanding special guest speaker during opening ceremonies; General Walter Eugene “Walt” Boomer who is a retired four-star general and prior Assistant Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and business executive. Boomer led all Marines in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the Gulf War. We have excellent catered meals, great vendors, and seminars planned.

Our golf tournament, the President’s Cup National Golf Tournament, will be held at Joint Base Charleston’s championship Wrenwood Golf Course.

Weigh stations for your camper, trucks and tows will be available. Our National Quilt Project is going well and we will have “three” quilts to auction because of chapter support across SMART, so get ready for a high bidding auction.

If you’ve been a SMART member for awhile, you will get to see old friends and make new ones. If you are a new SMART member, this National will be an excellent opportunity to make lifelong friends.

Our motto, “*Dancing to Charleston*” will be continued during the muster with varied music genres, so don’t forget your dancing shoes.

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 to the SMART website, sign in, go to your reservation and make the change which will generate a new reservation with any payment due or refunds for site payments.

There are so many other activities scheduled, you won’t want to miss out.

Our team has worked really hard putting together a great muster but we need every SMART member who plans to attend, register NOW!

See you in Charleston,

John Steinbauer, Muster Master



For those interested, here is a link to the golf cart vendor. Some of the campsites are some distance from the meeting hall and vehicle parking will be limited to the campground and the parking lot in front of the meeting hall. Shuttle service will be available, with a schedule posted. Arrangements have been made for discounts to members desiring to rent a cart for personal use.

Please contact:

Danielle Morgan, rental coordinator

by email at

Daniellem@trucarts.com

(NOTE THE CHANGE)

and be sure to mention you are with SMART. He is the sales manager and manages the SMART sales himself. The carts will be delivered to, and picked up from, the campground every day

except Sunday.

Message to all Chapters & Individuals

The Prize & Raffle Committee would be happy to accept donations for our National Muster from Chapters and individuals. Baskets that include items from your local area are fantastic. If you would prefer not to give a basket, gift cards are always appreciated.



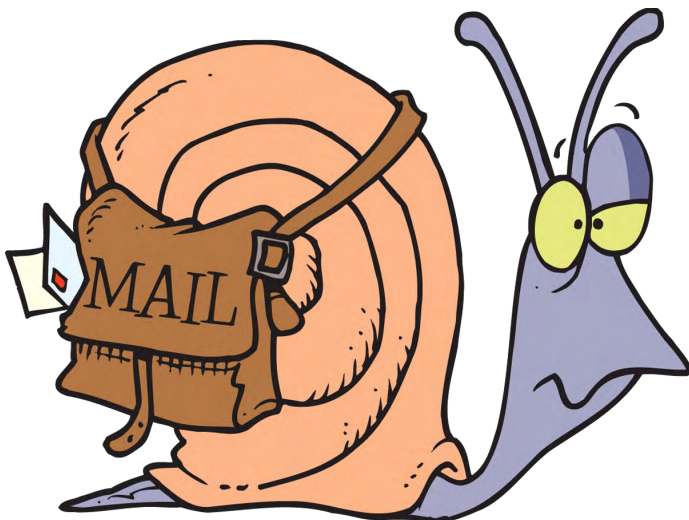
The Chapter Fair will take place on Tuesday, September 17. Plan to have a table there and information to hand out to prospective members.

MAIL FORWARDING

If you need to have mail sent to you at Exchange Park, you can use the following address. Make sure it has your name and SMART Muster on the envelope. They do not accept deliveries over the weekend.

YOUR NAME

**The Exchange Park/
SMART Muster
9850 Hwy 78
Ladson, SC 29456**



VENDORS PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL MUSTER

John of Southern Pioneer RV will be the **Aqua Hot** and **RV repair** service technician

Tom Mordaunt will be the **Keen Tank** representative
You can get your holding tanks cleaned at the Muster.

Jeff Gaston of **My RV School** will perform weighing of RVs

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TO BE A CHAPTER PRESIDENT OR REGION DIRECTOR BUT WERE AFRAID TO BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS INVOLVED?



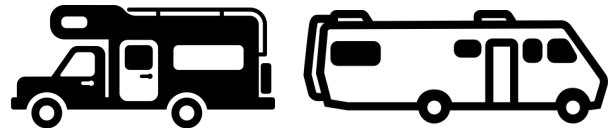
Here is your chance to learn about the leadership roles in SMART. Come to the seminar at National where there will be a class on Chapter President and Region Director responsibilities. You will find it is easier than you think.



SMART needs fresh blood. Are you up to the task? Find out at National.

MUSTER SUMMARY

Our 2024 National Muster will be held in Ladson, South Carolina, with Opening Ceremonies on Monday, September 16th, and Closing Ceremonies on Friday, September 20th.



Place: Exchange Park, 9850 Highway 78, Ladson, SC 29456. Ph: 843-572-3161

Registration Fee: Muster fee is \$100 per person for catered meals, entertainment, and other muster activities. A \$30 non-refundable administrative fee is included in each registration. Tour fees to be paid to the tour company.

Camping: Camping fees are \$50 per night. Sites will be assigned by registration staff with NO involvement by Exchange Park staff. All sites are back-in with full hookups (our parking crew will guide you to your site and will be glad to assist backing into your site). Big rig sites available. Long sewer and water hoses will be needed as connections are in the rear. Restrooms in the Exchange Hall will be available 24/7.

Earliest Allowable Arrival Date: Noon on September 11th. Muster departure date is no later than noon on September 21st.

[Click](#) here to register

BRING A PHOTO TO ENTER IN THE ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Bring your photo with you when you check in at the Welcome Station.

Entry Fee is \$1 per photograph.

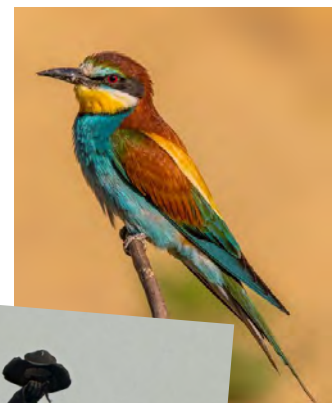
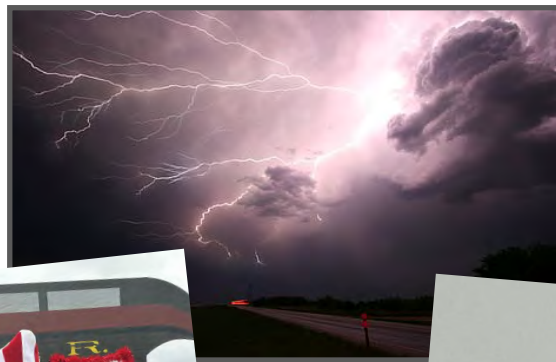
Photo requirements are as follows:

8 x 10 matte finish photograph taken by you
(no glossy photos)

Photo may be from anywhere in the world that you have traveled

The 5 categories are:

- ◆ Landscapes
- ◆ Pets
- ◆ Wildlife
- ◆ Your grandchild
- ◆ SMART members having fun at a SMART activity



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Don't miss the Chapter Fair on September 17 @ 1300!!

Chapters will have tables with folks available to answer any questions you might have about the chapter. If you don't belong to a chapter, or want to belong to more than one, this will be your chance to find out about those in your area or elsewhere. Don't want to be tied to a geographic location? Sign up for one of the At-Large chapters. They are formed on interests rather than geography. Many members join several chapters and attend musters as they travel around the U.S.

Planned Chapter Activities During National Muster:

NOMADS—Pre Muster 9/12-15, Potluck 9/13, Meeting 9/15
Post Muster 9/21-25

DUFFERS—Annual Meeting on 9/15 @ 1900,
President's Cup Golf Tournament on 9/16 @ 0800-1400

STAR—Luncheon and Annual Meeting on 9/15 @ 11:00 a.m.

WIMS—Luncheon and Annual Meeting on 9/20 @ 12 noon

FMCA—Annual Meeting September 16 @ 2:15 PM

BROWN BAG AUCTION

September 17 & 19 @ 2000 hours



Bring your Brown Bag for the **AUCTION** to the Welcome Center on Sunday or Monday. You will receive a ticket for your donation for the drawing to be held at the end of the Auction. Contents of the Brown Bag must be **WORTH** no less than \$20 in the bag. Only **ONE** bag will be accepted from each rig. Tape the bags closed. **DO NOT** staple. Do not put any identifying information on the outside of the bag.

NOTE: Each bag will be assigned a number and the name of the person donating the bag will be annotated on a roster. In this manner, we will know who to thank. Winner and donor will be recognized

GAMES

The Game Coordinator is planning to hold several tournaments during our upcoming gathering. Sharpen your skills and be prepared to compete with your friends for the prizes.



This includes the following:

- **President's Cup**, National Golf Tournament (there is a planning session for the tournament on Sunday evening)
- **Pegs & Jokers** (there will be a training session to learn this game if interested)
- **Hand and Foot** (there will be a training session to sharpen your skills)
- **Card Bingo** (no training needed, just bring 5 quarters and one dollar)
- **Bean Bag Baseball** (come try your luck and cheer on your team)

ATTENTION NOMADS!!!!



We continue to plan activities for the Pre and Post Musters. As previously noted, we are coordinating a carriage ride through Charleston to be held Saturday, September 14th at 11 AM. We would carpool from the campground at 10 AM. Ride is one hour long so you would be back no later than 1 PM unless you want to do other sightseeing.

At this time, we have 18 people who have mentioned an interest in this ride. Each carriage can handle up to 16 people. At \$50/person, we would require a minimum of 22 people to cover the cost of 2 carriages. If we get more than 22 people, then the per person cost could be reduced.

Current reservations are: Thomas (1), Padberg (2), Dunkle (2), Shore (3), Vassallo (2), Fisher (2), T Johnson (2), Steinbauer (2) and Barr (2)

Anyone interested in joining in, please notify Joe Padberg at

Padberg4Smart@gmail.com or 480-825-3550.

Game Players at National

There is a need for some additional game supplies. If you have any, please bring with you to the scheduled game.

Card Bingo - bring a full deck of playing cards along with your 5 quarters and one dollar.

Hand & Foot - bring any additional sets of H&F playing cards, card holders, and shufflers.

Bean Bag Baseball - bring any cheering items that you carry. Favorite team paraphernalia, Pom Poms, signs of encouragement, etc.

The schedule for Nationals is very busy with Wednesday open for tours of Charleston. Wednesday may become our extra game day. Might fit in a game of Bean Bag Baseball or other games if possible.

Attention National Attendees:

Once again, there will be a live auction of a special bottle of Whiskey dedicated to our military personnel.

FREEDOM & WHISKEY

Gang Together

Freedom & Whiskey honors the men and women at the tip of our military spear that safeguard the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. For us, these operators anonymously and continuously lay their lives on the line in the most hostile environments on earth. The spirit encased in this bottle pays tribute to the sacrifices these individuals make on our behalf. It's our salute to these brave souls which, as a nation, we owe an unpayable debt. God bless and keep them safe. Slainte. Leiper's Fork Distillery

Proceeds from the purchase of this bottle are donated to assist special forces personnel return to normal life.

Activities in the Charleston area during National Muster

September 13, 2024—Dancing on the Cooper, Mt. Pleasant Pier

Local bands perform a variety of live music

Tickets: \$10 pp at www.CharlestonCountyParks.com



January 20-September 15—Quilt Exhibit from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



“*The Art of Abstraction: Modernism in Quilting*”

The Charleston Museum, 360 Museum Street

843-722-2996

September 21, 2024—Cars & Coffee, Fairfield's Village,

165 Village Green Dr, Kiawah Island, SC

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Unique antiques & other cool cars



September 14, 2024—Cha-Cha Charleston! 2 shows: 5 p.m. & 8 pm (90 min)



Jazz Orchestra & Gino Castillo—\$10 to \$64 pp

Charleston Music Hall, 37 John Street

222.charlestonjazz.com 843-853-2252

September 8-18, 2024—Restaurant week is an annual event where different restaurants participate while offering special *Prix Fixé* lunch and dinner menus. Experience Lowcountry cuisine like never before.



TOURS

Your National Muster Staff has been working diligently to identify the best tour and sightseeing options for the Charleston area for many 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, 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, 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 <https://www.jbcharlestonorc.com/tickets>
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 to 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, you can contact John Steinbauer, Muster Master/Tour Coordinator at jfs9840@gmail.com.

