

# CHARLESTON RAGTIMES

August 2024 (issue #8)

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



**LESS THAN ONE MONTH TO THE START  
OF THE NATIONAL MUSTER!!**



**DANCING TO  
CHARLESTON**

**2024 S\*M\*A\*R\*T  
National Muster**

**Ladson, South Carolina  
September 16-21, 2024**



**THE EXCHANGE PARK**  
**2850 Hwy 78, LADSON, SC 29456**  
*(main entrance is on US-78)*



***KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE LATEST INFO BY READING THE CHARLESTON RAGTIMES NEWSLETTER WHICH IS SENT TO ALL MEMBERS AND THE MUSTER INFO SHEET WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON THE SMART WEBSITE AND HERE***

***Muster Information Sheet***



# 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 and need to be long enough to reach **10 feet behind your camper**. 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.



**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..

# GOLF CART RENTALS



Daniella Morgan 843-809-1001 at TruCarts is managing the rentals for our group. After much discussion, TruCarts owners have made a major concession for us. They have agreed to bring the final contract to the campground for signature when they deliver the carts. The procedure they are insisting on is a little complicated but manageable.

Contact Daniella by phone or email with your requirements and she will work up the contract with pricing, and email it to you. Once you receive the contract, Call her with your credit or debit card to complete the reservation.

When the cart is delivered, you must be present to sign the contract and present your credit card and driver's license (for identification). The final contract must have an original signature for insurance and liability purposes.

If you pay by credit card, there is a 3% surcharge. Payment by debit card or check does not have a surcharge. Each contract has a \$20 charge for cleaning the cart upon return.

You will not have to go to their office unless there is a problem, such as an accident or cart damage.

*Vendors will be set up in the  
Blue Room and Pavilion*



**SkyMed Seminar & Vendor -**  
Emergency Medical Travel Services



Tom Mordaunt will be the **Keen Tank** representative. You can get your holding tanks cleaned. Services include cleaning holding tanks and sensors, water heater tank, fresh water tank, and waste/plumbing systems. Also teaches you what you need to know in order to keep the systems clean.

Jeff Gaston of **My RV School** will perform weighing of RVs; selling TMPS, TireMinder Air Compressors, Foam Fire Extinguishers, Escape Ladders

**Jamieson Family Auto Care** of Summerville, specializing in auto & RV wash /wax /detailing.

**BE SURE TO BRING YOUR NAME BADGE! YOU WILL NEED TO WEAR IT TO ALL SMART ACTIVITIES. YOU ALSO WANT TO WEAR IT WHEN YOU GO INTO TOWN SO FOLKS IN THE AREA KNOW THAT WE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.**

**Don't forget to bring your donations when you check in:**

- ⇒ Door Prizes/gift cards
- ⇒ Gift Baskets from your chapter
- ⇒ Food items
- ⇒ School items
- ⇒ Veterans home items
- ⇒ Books/CDs/DVDs/Cassette Tapes
- ⇒ Yard Sale items
- ⇒ Silent Auction items
- ⇒ Brown Bag—1 per rig, value no less than \$20
- ⇒ Photograph for contest + \$1 for each photo submitted

**Also, your Site Location Form**





A first-aid station will be staffed during the National Muster.

Each morning, from 0900-1100, individuals can have their blood pressure checked, wounds cared for, first-aid for minor injuries, cardiac monitoring, and other screenings will be available.

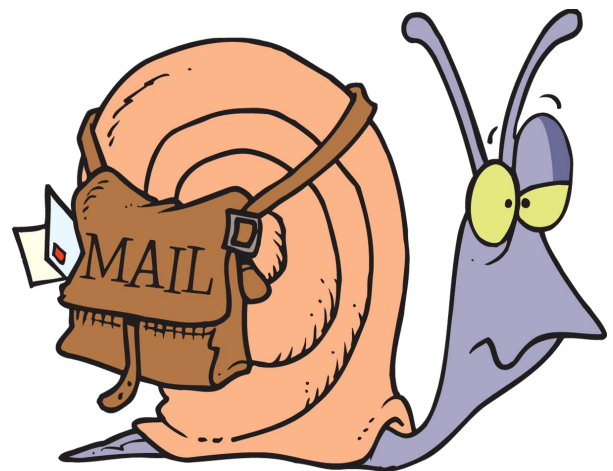
Coordination with urgent care or a hospital can be coordinated.



## 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**



**IF YOU CAN'T FIND  
YOUR NAME BADGE,  
THERE IS STILL TIME TO  
ORDER ONE FROM HQ**

# IS YOUR HOSE LONG ENOUGH?



*The main camping spaces are three long rows. Rows 2 and 3 will be back-to-back and have both 30-amp and 50-amp connections, all other spaces are 50 amp only. Recommend 30-amp campers arrive with a 50/30 adapter as you may be in a 50-amp spot. All hookups (power, sewer and water) are behind the camper. Be prepared with sufficient hoses and power cable to reach approximately 10 feet behind your camper. Water is city water, recommend pressure regulators. All campers must be self-contained.*



## ***Join the Nomads for a Carriage Ride Through Charleston.***

The NOMADS have reserved three (3) - 16 passenger carriages for a tour of Charleston. The tour is set for Saturday September 14th at 11 AM. we will carpool from the campground at 10 AM and will need to park in the adjoining parking lot.

The 3 carriages will hold a total of 48 people. Currently, we have 36 people signed up at a current cost of \$50 per person, including a 20% gratuity for the drivers. As we increase the people count, the per person cost will reduce.

Contact Joe Padberg, Secretary, at Paberg4SMART@gmail.com or at 480-825-3550 to add your name to the list.



# 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.***

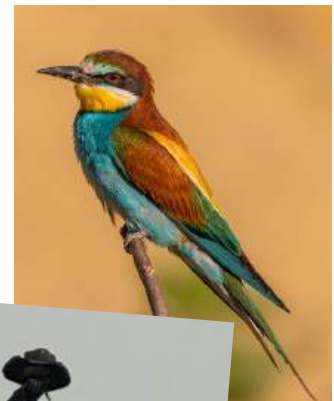
Photo requirements are as follows:

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 @ 1600,  
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)



# NOMADS MUSTER ITINERARY



Hello All NOMADS:

Here is the agenda for our Pre-National Muster. Still have room on the Carriage Ride if anyone (Nomads and others) is interested, Currently, we have 36 people signed up for the Carriage Ride. We can handle up to 48 so, if you are interested, contact Joe at

[Padberg4SMART@gmail.com](mailto:Padberg4SMART@gmail.com)

## NOMADS Pre National Muster Activity Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wednesday Sept 11	All Day	Early Arrivals	campground
Thursday Sept 12	All Day	Arrivals	campground
	4:00 PM	Social Gathering	TBD
Friday Sept 13	Arrivals		
	4:00 PM	Social gathering	TBD
	5:00 PM	Potluck Dinner for Nomads	TBD
Saturday Sept 14	10:00 AM	Leave for carriage Ride Tour	
	11:00 AM	Carriage Ride of Charleston	
	4:00 PM	Social Gathering	TBD
Sunday Sept 15	1:00 PM	Nomads General Meeting	Blue Room

AND Don't forget about our Post-National Muster in Lakewood Camping Resort in Myrtle Beach.



## *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](http://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](http://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~~

The Charleston Convention and Group Services, Inc. (CCGS). notified us yesterday all the tours, except the Sunday Dinner Cruise, **have been cancelled due to insufficient sign-ups**. All those who have signed up will be notified and a full refund will be issued. While this is unfortunate, the **minimum for a tour to go was 30 and the advertised cutoff date was 12 Aug**. The Dinner Cruise still has room for more, so if you want to go on it, sign-up on their website at

<https://www.wetravel.com/users/charleston-convention-group-services-inc>

**Other Tour Options:** For those who want to drive on their own, carpool, or go by a taxi service like Uber, Lift, or a traditional taxi company, we suggest two options:

1., Viator is a worldwide tour company who offers a wide selection, excellent prices, and terms at: Charleston's Old South Carriage Ride and Guided History Tour 2024

All you have to do is go to the Viator website and make your reservations.

2 Information, Tickets, and Travel (ITT) at Jt Base Charleston. While the ITT 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.

a. Review the tour options on the ITT website at [https \[http://www.jbcharlestonorc.com/tickets\]](https://www.jbcharlestonorc.com/tickets) [www.jbcharlestonorc.com/tickets](http://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.

b. 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..

Questions? Contact John Steinbauer, Tour Coordinator at [jfs9840@gmail.com](mailto:jfs9840@gmail.com)