



# MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Arizona Tumbleweed 2024 Muster Schedule:

Arizona Tumbleweeds Officers and Committee  
Chairpersons for 2024-2025 term:

President, Rich Caruso  
Vice President/Membership, Bill Barr  
Secretary, Peggy Merchant  
Treasurer, Joe Edstrom  
Wagon Master, VACANT  
Newsletter, Sally Kavanaugh  
Quartermaster, vacant  
Sunshine, Rhoda Barr  
SFAP, vacant

Mar 25-28 (3 nights)	Western Region Muster @ Encore Fiesta Grande RV Resort, 1511 E. Florence Blvd, Casa Grande, AZ
Sep 16 - Sep 21	2024 National Muster Ladson, SC

Western Region Director, Mike Foley  
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## Words from our President, Rich Caruso

Dear S\*M\*A\*R\*T Arizona Tumbleweeds  
Members:

We just finished our February combined  
muster with the Arizona Roadrunners at  
Casino Del Sol RV Park in Tucson. This is a  
relatively new RV park and needless to say it  
was completely full the first night. We had a  
huge turnout between our two chapters with 11  
rigs attending.

From the Tumbleweeds were Holly and I, Bill  
and Rhoda Barr, Jim and Peggy Merchant,  
Julio Nieves, Joe Padberg and Diane  
Pepperell, Tom Wentz and Barbara Byler.  
Jerry and Katy White came all the way from  
Utah for this muster. From the Roadrunners  
were Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Greg and  
Yoon Mace, Don and Shari Minton. Also, John

and Diane Ingianni were there; they finally joined both chapters.

The first night was our happy hour/heavy appetizers night. There was plenty of food and deserts for everybody. We had a great time just sitting around the two fire rings and talking about our camping adventures and where we were going for summer. I also met Norm Benton, a Marine vet at the campground and he came over to see what we were about. Maybe he will join SMART after checking us out.

The next morning, we had our chapter meetings and Sally and Pat Kavanaugh joined us from the hotel. There were discussions on our upcoming Western Regional in Casa Grande for next month and the surveys that Erwin and I sent out and the responses we got back. We found out that everyone is tired of going to Wickenburg.

Sally and Pat joined us for lunch and our potluck dinner. For lunch we went to Moby's Restaurant inside the casino for burgers and fries. Our potluck dinner was that night and again lots of food and desserts. Afterwards we had two 50/50 drawings and the big winners were Joe Padberg, who won \$60. and Yoon Mace won \$40.. Then we just sat around the two fire rings at night and just enjoyed talking to each other.

Tuesday was a whole day of exploring the Tucson area. Erwin and I took a drive up to the Fiesta Grande RV Resort in Casa Grande to check out our sites and the facilities for our Western Regional Muster that will be in March. Later that night was dinner out at the super seafood buffet in the casino. We all had plenty of crab legs, oysters Rockefeller, prime rib, salmon, coconut shrimp, sushi, pizza and all kinds of desserts.

I hope to see everyone at our Western Regional, March 25-28 at the Fiesta Grande RV Resort, 1511 E. Florence Blvd Casa Grande, AZ 85122. Reservations can be made by calling the resort at 520-426-7000 and say your part of SMART. FYI, there are only 15

pull-thru sites. Please go to the SMART website and register at [smarterving.org](http://smarterving.org). If you have trouble doing this, please contact me, I can help you.

Safe travels, everyone.  
Rich Caruso - President

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## **Western Regional Muster**

MARCH 25-28 (3 NIGHTS)

Encore Fiesta Grande RV Resort  
1511 East Florence Blvd  
Casa Grande, AZ

Phone 520-426-7000. Let the campground know that you are with the SMART Group. The military rate is \$168.90 for Full Hookups. The muster fee of \$30 will be collected at the Regional.

The following was extracted from the March 2024 Roadrunner Newsletter:

Erwin Greven, Roadrunner President, has set up an optional event. So that the people coming out of Mexico on the 25<sup>th</sup> do not have to look for a grocery store for the usual 30 heavy appetizers, the RV Resort has a music concert with a lasagna soup meal for \$30 per person. The concert is a Everly Brothers tribute band. The meal is at 5:45 pm; the concert starts at 7:00pm. If you do not want the meal and just want to go to the music, the fee is \$25 per person, we can have a 5:00pm happy hour if everyone is set up. There will be a \$30 muster fee.

The last evening, the 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a BBQ instead of a potluck using the grill on the patio. The host chapters will supply the burgers and a few hotdogs and buns. For

those attending, just bring a side for the BBQ. When you sign up on the SMART website, please let us know if you plan to attend BBQ, so we know how much food to purchase.

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TENTATIVE 2024 WESTERN REGIONAL MUSTER SCHEDULE

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MARCH 25 Check In  
Happy Hour 5pm  
Lasagna Soup & bread 5:45

MARCH 26 MEETING 10am  
Afternoon on your own  
Happy Hour 4pm  
Eat out at the Hideout  
Steakhouse 5pm

MARCH 27 Explore on your own  
Happy Hour 4pm  
BBQ 5pm

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**CELEBRATIONS:**

**Birthdays**

**Joe Edstrom, 3/19**

**Julio Nieves, 3/30**

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Happy Hour at Casino del Sol



Dining out...



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**SIGN UP FOR ALL MUSTERS ON THE SMART WEBSITE: [smartrving.org](http://smartrving.org)**  
SMART CARAVANS 2024

Grand Canyon  
April 11 - May 5, 2024

The Great Atlantic Canada Maritime  
June 15 - Aug 27, 2024

Veterans Unite in Branson  
Nov 6-15, 2024

SMART Caribbean Cruise  
Feb 8 - 17, 2025

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**HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY**