



S★M★A★R★T

E-NEWS



“Seeing the Country We Defend”

SMART HEADQUARTERS

SMART BI -MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

June 2024

Please go online at www.smartrving.org

and Vote for your next

2nd Vice President

Leroy Armacost

or

Gene Bennett



A note from our President...

Here we are 4 months from another great National. Just finished scheduling our route to South Carolina and reservations for our four stops. Now y'all know the roads are going to be hot. They are very hot here in south Texas. Watch those tire temps.



Recruiting seems to be going well. Keep it up. Advertising & Publicity need help. Please send me your input on how we can better get the word out about SMART.

This is still early yet, 18 months but if you're willing to help at the 2025 National in Mineola, TX, we can use it. Just email me where you think you can help. More info to be presented at the 2024 National. As usual, get your registration in for the 2024 National. The committees are planning for a great time. Wouldn't want you to miss it.

Richard D. Palmer

SMART National President

The difference between Ordinary and Extraordinary is a little Extra

From the desk of 1st VP—Melody Thomas

We were fortunate to attend the first muster of the re-activated Rocky Tops Chapter in Tennessee. It was heart warming to see everyone excited about getting things going. Folks stepped forward to help wherever they could – filling Board positions, volunteering to help with activities, bringing delicious food to the potluck table, being supportive to one another. And the muster was well planned, well organized, and well executed.

Kudos to the officers and members of the Rocky Tops! Interestingly, when the muster activities were posted on Facebook, it motivated other folks to call for a chapter in their area. I hope they will be motivated enough to follow through on that thought. I, as well as the officers of SMART, stand ready to help you form a chapter whenever you are ready. Musters are the heart of our organization. It's where all the fun takes place. Get out and enjoy this beautiful country. Tell others about it. Share the excitement of camping with fellow veterans. Perhaps it will motivate new chapters to form.



Melody Thomas, 1st VP

Up Coming Musters for JUNE

June 5th Florida Sunshine June Muster

Contact: Leroy Armacost (904) 254-0898 leroyarmacost@bellsouth.net

June 10th Golden Gate Verdi Summer Muster

Contact: Dennis Utt (661) 203-1965 utterosa@gmail.com

June 13th Arkansas Hogs Luncheon

Contact: Buzzy Duckworth (501) 681-1157 jeanetteduckworth@att.net

June 14th Capital Campers Muster Chesapeake Bay

Contact: B2 Bolger (202) 744-5879 b2bolger@gmail.com





2024 Central Region Muster

Monday Nov 11 – Thursday Nov 14th

Registration Deadline is Friday October 25, 2024

Sun Outdoors New Orleans North Shore

43234 LA-445, Ponchatoula, Louisiana 70454

833-999-3423 (Group Deposit Hotline)

www.sunoutdoors.com/louisiana/sun-outdoors-new-orleans-north-shore?

2024 Central Region Muster Host

Johnny Leggett : SMART Cajun Chapter President

318-243-4084

Johnny_leggett@hotmail.com

Muster registration fees should be paid by check to:

SMART Cajuns

Mail the registration form and your check to:

Bo deBlieux , 113 Ironwood Cove, Pass Christian, Mississippi 39571

318-557-2737

Central Region Muster Master

Douglas Barksdale 225-235-8149 matt7879@aol.com

Central Region Muster Chairman

Region Director Nita Taylor 501-250-6585 philnita.taylor@gmail.com



2024 Veterans in Branson

Nov 6th –15th 2024

Branson's Veterans Homecoming week is America's largest Veteran's Day celebration and we'll be there to participate from November 6th until November 15th. Throughout the entire week of celebration we'll enjoy various shows to include; Branson Murder Mystery/ dinner show, Christmas Story dinner show, Miracle of Christmas Show, Yakov and Dolly Parton's Stampede and dinner show. Additionally we'll visit the Veteran's Museum, Aquarium, Christmas Trail of lights (tram ride), Ralph Foster Museum and the Showboat Branson Belle (paddle wheel) where we'll not only enjoy a scrumptious meal and lively show but a beautiful view of Table Rock Lake. You won't want to miss this fun and exciting Caravan, now is the time to send in your application and deposit of \$280.00 to SMART Headquarters . David & Jackie Weis wagonmasters.



Couple cost: \$2040, Single cost: \$1405,
Guest cost: \$805

[Get on the standby list](#)

2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan



SMART Caribbean Cruise
Feb 8-17, 2025 9 Nights

Join Tony & Gina Mason on this FUN adventure
On Board the Celebrity Eclipse
Save \$200 per person when you book by 5/2/23

SMART Caribbean Cruise

Feb 8-17, 2025

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 of November 10th, 2024.**

SMART Rally Fee is \$125.00 Per Cabin and must be paid directly to [SMART](#) separately. More information may be found at <https://1b59a9-6042.icpage.net/smart-caribbean-cruise-feb-2025>
We have 2 cabins left, we have 48 booked already

PLANES, TRAINS, AUTOMOBILES & SHIPS

Dates: 16 June – 31 July 2025 (appx. 48 days)

Wagon Masters: Melody & Paul Thomas

Tail Gunners: Johnny & Linda Leggett

Cost: TBD



This caravan will start in Elkhart, Indiana, with a visit to the RV/MH Hall of Fame and tours of RV factories. Learn how your rig was manufactured. We then move into Michigan for many exciting activities. Tours will include a WWII Glider Museum, Henry Ford historical sites in Detroit and Dearborn, the Steam Railroad Institute, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, the National Railroad Museum, and the Sault Ste. Marie Locks where almost 86 million tons of cargo move through every day. Mammoth freighters transport supplies from Lake Superior to the lower lakes and international markets. Train rides and boat cruises will provide additional adventure. The caravan will bring us to four of the five great lakes. The Gilmore Car Museum exhibits the largest automobile collection in North America with more than 400 vehicles. You'll have a chance to ride in a vintage automobile, drive a Ford Model T "Tin Lizzie," and dine in a 1941 authentic diner. No trip to Michigan would be complete without a stop at Mackinaw Island where the only form of transportation permitted are bicycles and horse drawn carriages. Other stops will include a dark sky park for viewing the northern lights, a Dutch village, largest Amish flea market in the U.S., two state capitol buildings, visit to a parade float factory, and tour of a logging museum. The caravan 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. Green Bay will provide a tour of Lambeau Field where the Green Bay Packers play. We will end in Spring Green, Wisconsin, where the group will explore the most exotic and eclectic retreat built on a chimney rock. The House on the Rock is filled with a sprawling collection of the most unusual things including the world's largest carousel, a 200' sea creature, a variety of automated music machines, and so much more. And, of course, there will be happy hours, potlucks, campfires and meals shared in local restaurants. Come explore the Mitten and Badger states with us. This caravan is currently in the planning stages and will be finalized no later than August 2024.



2025 Alaska Bound Caravan

Start: [July 01, 2025](#) End: [September 02, 2025](#)

This adventure is a once in a lifetime guided fully planned RV caravan tour to Alaska with fun filled, interesting, and entertaining activities. The caravan will begin in St. Mary, Montana and end in the state of Washington. You will be immersed in the scenery, wildlife, history and culture of Alaska, the Yukon, and British Columbia. You will remember this trip forever.

It is not just the scenery and wildlife that makes this trip so special. You will find colorful towns and villages both large and small, populated by warm welcoming locals. A few of our planned activities will include visiting Denali National Park (number 1 attraction in Alaska), visiting the Alaskan Pipeline, panning for gold, dog sled viewing and tour, potluck dinners and restaurants, along with a narrated scenic train ride through the White Pass and Beyond, 22.7 miles between Skagway, Alaska and Freaser British Columbia.

There will be ample time for personal excursions, tours, fishing, and relaxation. Our planning phase continues and will be updated in the near future. Now is the time to sign up and send in your application and \$280 deposit.

Wagon Master(s): [David & Jackie Weis](#) Email: dweis74@hotmail.com

Tail Gunner(s): [Greg & Angela Vassallo](#) Email: greg_ange@hotmail.com

Costs - Single Cost: [TBD](#) Couple Cost: [TBD](#) Guest Cost: [TBD](#)

Payments: \$280 upon application; 50% by January 01, 2025;
and full payment by April 01, 2025.

This Caravan is FULL. (Get on the wait list)





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 (Full -get on the wait list)

JUNE SMART E-NEWS 2024

S*M*A*R*T - SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS RV CLUB

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(850) 478-1986 • (800) 354-7681

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