



S·M·A·R·T

E-NEWS



“Seeing the Country We Defend”

SMART HEADQUARTERS

SMART BI-MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

August 2024



It's not too Late to
sign up for the 41st
National Muster
in Ladson,
South Carolina

*We have a Great Band lined up so you can
dance the night away!*

[Just got to www.SmartRVing.org](http://www.SmartRVing.org)

**Go to the National Muster Page and fill out the
form and you're all set to have a great time!**

See you there!



A note from our President...

Here we are 2 months from another great National. Our route to South Carolina is now a go. Recruiting seems to be slowing down. Remember, when you want to catch fish, you must go where the fish are. Take your pole, Recruiting material, find the water, RV park, cast your rod, contact a prospect, start moving the bait, explain what SMART is, set the hook, have the registration form filled out, land the fish, have the prospect sign and mail the fee in. You're done. Now go out and find that stream while you are on your way to the 2024 National. Advertising & Publicity need your 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. Over 100 registered. 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

We need for all SMART members to
Please go online at www.SmartRVing.org

and Vote for your next

2nd Vice President

Vote!



Leroy Armacost

OR



Gene Bennett

From the desk of 1st VP—Melody Thomas



We came back to New York for a round of medical appointments. Each year that passes seems to see another “-ologist” added to the contacts list: cardiologist, gastroenterologist, ophthalmologist, neurologist, etc. It is with a big sigh that I accept referral to another one of them. I guess it’s a sign of modern times—a specialist for every bodily function, and beyond. It’s amusing to me to hear a doctor listen to our story of full-time RVing then enthusiastically declare it is something they want to do when they retire. I advise them not to wait.

We are camped in the driveway of our sticks and bricks house. It’s always fun to come home; to visit friends and family; to see how things have changed since we’ve been away. There is always some new building here, a house torn down there, change everywhere. We have been full-timing for 11 years now and it never ceases to amaze me at how much things can change yet still seem the same.

The itch to travel has returned. I am anxious to be done with all the doctors and back on the road. We are currently in the process of finalizing plans for the Planes, Trains, Automobiles & Ships caravan that we will be leading next year. Getting up to Michigan and Wisconsin before summer is over is important to us. Hopefully, we can be back on the road in the next week or two. It always feels good to pull out with Willie Nelson wailing *Back on the Road Again* as we move on down the road. I hope you are able to get out and enjoy this great country we live in. And while you’re out there, share the good news with fellow campers. Tell them about this great military travel club we belong to. And don’t wait to take that trip you’ve always wanted to take. Time is flying by.



David Weis 2nd VP

If you have not signed up for National in Ladson/Charleston, SC. What are you waiting for? Please go to our website and get registered. We are going to have a great time this year! Lots of FUN things to do and places to see! So come on along and join us at the 41st National Muster in Ladson/Charleston, SC area.

Sept 16th—Sept 20th 2024

www.SmartRVing.org



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?

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



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

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

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.

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

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

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

We have room for one more Rig! Come on and Join up Now!

Couple \$ 10,750 Single\$ 7,700 Guest \$ 3,600

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 Danali 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.





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 (This caravan is Full -
get on the wait list)**

Touring Thru TEXAS Together

Sept 20th—Oct 15th, 2025

We are going to start in Grapevine, TX. We will take a train ride to the Ft Worth Stockyards where we will watch a Cattle Drive and a Shootout on Main Street. Check out the Winefest. Take a VIP Tour of the Dallas Cowboy Stadium and have lunch there. Then we are taking a Tour of the Engraving and Printing Bureau in Ft. Worth. Possibility of having a BBQ at South Fork Ranch and tour the home of the show DALLAS.



Then we will move on to Waco. There we will take a Tour of the Texas Ranger Museum & Dr Pepper Museum. You can tour Chip & Joann's Silos, see Jimmy Dons Iron works and Clint Harpers Woodworking Shop. You will have the opportunity to take a home tour of Magnolia's homes and see the Wooly Mammoth they dug up in Waco at the museum.



Then on to Austin, where we will Tour the Capital Building & LBJ Presidential Library. Tour the Governor's Mansion, Watch the famous Bats fly out from the Congress Ave. Bridge. Eat at the County Line on the Hill Restaurant. Then on to Fredericksburg to tour the LBJ Ranch, Pioneer Museum and you could take a Ghost Hunting Tour, Go the Pacific War Museum, Enchanted Rock, and Wildflower Seed Farm.



Then we will move onto San Antonio. We will have dinner in and tour the Tower of America, ride a boat down the river, tour the Alamo, and maybe go to the Zoo. Then we move to Corpus Christi where we have lunch at the first Whataburger, Tour the Lexington Aircraft Carrier, have a great seafood dinner on the gulf, Tour one of the largest Aquariums in the US. Then on to Galveston where we will camp on the beach and tour the NASA Space Center, tour the Pyramids and Moody Gardens, then finish up with a Baywatch dolphin cruise and a great seafood dinner on the Gulf.



So put on your Boots and let's do some "Touring thru Texas"

Pricing Couple \$5,250. Single \$3,650.

Guest \$1,850.

Wagonmasters: David & Jackie Weis



What do you do when your carefully planned design for the SMART Maritimes caravan doesn't come out of production as you projected? We contacted the 4 Imprint and they remade the jackets to our specification. Now we have two sets of jackets. The company asked if we had anyone that could use the first set. After mulling the idea around for a few days, we felt it would be wonderful if we could donate them to a Veteran's home that could make good use of these jackets.

We located a Veterans Home in Bangor, Maine contacted, Editha Young their Activity Director told us they would be grateful for the donation. Editha is also involved in Fund Raising and she organizes and Recruits Volunteers. We arranged to drop off these jackets on our way to the start of our Canadian Maritimes Caravan. Editha graciously treated us to a tour of this GOLD award-winning facility and also met a few of their residents. They have maintained a 5-star rating for four consecutive years! This facility was beautiful and amazing. It has 150 beds, provides long-term care, short-term skilled nursing care, residential care, memory care, and rehabilitation therapy services. Maine Veterans' Home (MVH)- Bangor is the only organization in the state of Maine to receive the AHCA/NCAL National Gold Quality Award 5 years in a row. MVH-Bangor has had the same DNS (Director of Nursing Services) and Administrator for the last 17 years. Their achievement reflects MVH-Bangor's commitment to excellence, leadership, and outstanding care for veterans and their families.

Their residents were excited to learn about SMART and our caravans and look forward to the cooler weather and their donated new jackets. We gave them the link to our non-profit organization WWW.SMARTRVING.ORG and shared our latest traveler brochure with their residents.

Gina Mason & Pam Faubion Wagon Masters



SMART Maritimes
Canada Caravan



AUGUST SMART E-NEWS 2024

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

114 Duxbury Ave. Molino, Florida 32577

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www.SmartRVing.org