

SMART TRAVELER

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September 2024



See You There!

Sept 16th –20th, 2024

Exchange Club Fair of Charleston 9850 Hwy 78 Ladson, SC

SMART is a not-for-profit 501(c)19 Veterans Organization



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Go to our website for more info www.SmartRVing.org



Message from your SMART President

As this will be my last Traveler article as SMART National President for this year, I'd like to express my gratitude for the support you have shown my wife Mary and me. We all know that it truly takes an entire team, and SMART has the best. I will continue to be involved in this organization that has become such a part of my life and serve wherever needed.

I want to reiterate the points I worked to improve and sustain in hopes that each member can find their area to offer their help to:

Recruiting and Retention: critical in the sustaining of SMART as an organization.

Participation: expand your travels to attend musters out of your own region.

Membership: if you are no longer able to drive a rig, please retain a social membership.

Sharing your talents: there are so many areas where SMART could use your help. Just Ask.

Stay in touch: keep the camaraderie going. Richard Palmer SMART National President



From the Desk of the

1st Vice President Melody Thomas

We spent August exploring Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin in preparation for next year's caravan: *Planes, Trains, Automobiles & Ships*. What fabulous places exist in these states! We can't wait to share the adventure with our SMART friends.

The Gilmore Car Museum is the largest car museum in North America. The automobiles on display are both nostalgic and eye-popping. Then there is the Henry Ford Museum of Innovation and Greenfield Village. This is an amazing story of genius and invention. Further up, in Soo Locks, we watched freighters as long as four football fields move into Lake Superior. Mackinaw Island is a delightful, sleepy little island with no motorized traffic. A perfect place to take a bike ride! Across the Upper Peninsula where the residents are referred to as Yoopers, we discovered lots of waterfalls and painted rocks. Then we traveled down into Wisconsin and admired Lambeau Field where the Green Bay Packers hail. The EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh promises to be a most excellent display of unique aircraft. All in all, this has been such an interesting trip and we can't wait to bring the caravan here.

During our scouting trip, we met lots of wonderful people. Many wanted to know about SMART and we were glad to regale them with stories of comradery, travel, and fellowship. Be sure to share the story of our great club with everyone you meet. SMART is, indeed, the best military travel club around. Hands down.

Melody Thomas 1st VP



Imt Past President: Gene Bennett

This will most likely be my last post as an EXCOM member. It has been a very rewarding trip and I am thankful for all the stuff I learned, especially from Melissa and Phyllis.

I think it is time to step down and let a new generation take its place, to bring the Club along to the future.

I want to wish Leroy the very best of luck and that I will be available if he wants to talk. Good luck in the future.

Gene E Bennett (aka) Gene-O

Calendar of Camping Events for Sept & Oct

9/05 White Sands Panhandlers Chow Call 11:00am Pace, FL

9/12 Nomads Chapter Pre Muster Ladson, SC

9/16 Presidents Cup Natl Golf Tournament Charleston, SC

9/16-9/21 SMART National Muster Ladson, SC

9/21 Nomads Chapter Post Muster Myrtle Beach, SC

9/30 -10/04 White Sands Chapter muster Theodore, AL

9/30-10/4 Rocky Tops Fall Muster Crossville, TN

10/2-10/6 FL Sunshine October Muster Summerfield, FL

10/07-10/10 Arkansas Hogs Chapter Camp Out Greenbrier, AR

10/10-10/14 Alamo Chapter Fish Fry Muster Johnson City, TX

10/13-10/18 AZ Roadrunners & Tumbleweeds Muster McNeal, AZ

10/20-10/25 MS Magnolias Anniversary Muster Biloxi, MS

10/24-10/27 Texans Chapter Annual Meeting Mineola, TX

10/30-11/02 Capital Campers Urbanna Oyster Festival Muster Urbanna, VA

For More info please go to our website at

SmartRVing.org/core/event.php All SMART Events





IM PP Gene Bennett, has stepped down from running for 2nd Vice President. Leroy Armacost will step into the 2nd VP position, in September at our 2024 National Muster. Assistant Region Director Lonnie Alley will step up to be the new East Region Director replacing Leroy. Congratulations to both of you!



Chapters and Members please remember to bring your School Supplies and Can Goods for our National Food/School Drive. Also remember to bring you Chapter Baskets. For Door Prizes.



Members remember to bring your BROWN BAG for the **Great Brown Bag Auction** at National (The Bag must have something worth at least \$20. Please no gag gifts. **(Do not staple top just tape it closed)** then join in on all the Fun! *Remember if you decorate your bag it becomes a Designer Bag! \$\$*



Please only donate 1 bag per Rig...

SILENT AUCTION

YARD SALE

It's getting closer, Members don't forget to bring your Silent Auction items and your Yard Sale Items. *Please make sure everything is in good working condition.*
And
Looks Good!



The Chaplains Desk: *Lamar Enfinger National Chaplain*

A Soldier's Pledge

In his first speech as President, Ronald Reagan gave tribute to all the heroes who have paid freedom's price. He highlighted one here in particular by recounting the story of Martin Treptow, a young American who fought in World War 1. Treptow never made it home from that awful conflict, but before he died, he made and lived a solemn pledge--- a pledge to do everything within his power to serve our country. We feel his pledge speaks for every man and woman who has ever worn a uniform. For every Hero who never came home.

It's worth taking a minute to read both Reagan and Treptow's words. It's worth a few minutes more to quietly ponder their meaning. Below is an excerpt from Reagan's speech in which he quotes Treptow's pledge. I hope you find it as moving as I do.

"If we look to the answer as to why, for so many years, we achieved so much, prospered as no other people on Earth, it was because here, in this land, we unleashed the energy and individual genius of man to a greater extent than has ever been done before. Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on Earth. The price for this freedom at times has been high, but we have never been unwilling to pay that price.

Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look. Directly in front of me, (stands) the monument to a monumental man: George Washington, father of our country. A man of humility who came to greatness reluctantly. He led America out of revolutionary victory into infant nationhood. Off to one side, the stately memorial to Thomas Jefferson. The Declaration of Independence flames with its eloquence.

And then beyond the Reflecting Pool the dignified columns of the Lincoln Memorial. Whoever would understand in his heart the meaning of America will find it in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Beyond those monuments to heroism is the Potomac River, and on the far shore the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery with its row on row of simple white markers bearing crosses or Stars of David. They add up to only a tiny fraction of the price that has been paid for our freedom.

Each one of those markers is a monument to the kinds of hero I spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, The Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno and half-way around the world on Guadal Canal, Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles of a place called Vietnam.

Under one such marker lies a young man--Martin Treptow--who left his job in a small-town barbershop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the

western front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.

We were told that on his body was found a diary, On the flyleaf under the heading, "My Pledge" he had written these words:

"America must win this war. Therefore, I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, and I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone"

The crisis we are facing today is not required of us the kind of sacrifice that Martin Treptow and so many thousands of others were called upon to make. It does require however, our best effort, and our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds: to believe that together, with God's help we care and will resolve the problems which now confront us. And after all, why shouldn't we believe that? We are Americans."

John 15:13 reads, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Lamas Enfinger SMART Chaplain

From Your Webmaster Jack Fritz

I've been maintaining our website for a little more than ten years and plan to continue as long as I am able. However, I have completed 78 trips around the Sun. So, it's time for a younger SMART member to step up, learn the process, and help me.

If you have any programming (coding) experience with any programming language, you can easily learn HTML, PHP, and JavaScript. Past experience with databases would be a bonus but you can learn that too.

Please contact me at Jack.Fritz99@gmail.com for more information.

Chapter Website Management

There is a link on the Chapter Members Only page to Chapter Website Management. All chapter officers and especially the Website Delegate should read and understand this document in order to help our members with the website.

Here's the link:

<https://www.smartrving.org/chapterCore/ChapterWebsiteManagement.pdf>

Welcome!

and Congratulations to the following New Members and their Recruiters

(July—August)

New Members	City, State	Recruiter
15830 John Herr (Carol)	Ruskin, FL	
15831 Carol Herr (John)	Ruskin, FL	
15832 Terry McClure (Janice)	Milledgeville, GA	L McClure
15833 Floyd Swanger (Paula Johnson)	Friant, CA	M Scott
15834 Paula Johnson (Floyd Swanger)	Friant, CA	M Scott
15835 Barney Sullivan (Claudine)	Tullahoma, TN	
15836 Jim Ellinger (Gina)	St. Petersburg, FL	
15837 Gina Ellinger (Jim)	St. Petersburg, FL	
15840 Barbara Christian (Chris)	Aurora, CO	C Christian
15841 Ronald Kirkland	Berry, AL	J Ingianni
15842 Dennis Musil (Susan)	Layton, UT	D Weis
15843 Kenneth Lavigne (Teresa)	Westland, MI	
15844 Teresa Lavigne (Kenneth)	Westland, MI	

TAPS



Jim Collier #13959

spouse of Theda
#14159

San Antonio, TX



Ferris Reid #0299C

Montgomery, IL

Rest in Peace Dear Friends

SMART Merchandise

40th Anniversary Coffee Mugs \$5

40th Anniversary Mens WHT Caps \$10

Thermal Wine Mugs w/SMART logo \$12

SMART Decals 9" \$4, 6" \$2, 3" \$1

Navy Blue SMART Mens Cap \$12

Car Tags \$5



SMART COOKBOOKS ON SALE

A collection of SMART members recipes for Camping. Appetizers, Beverages Deserts, Hors d' oeuvres, Potlucks, and more....

On Sale \$5.00

Call or email HQ today and get yours for your next muster!

800-354-7681 or email

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2025 SMART Caravan Adventures



Venice of America Caravan

May 23– 29 2025

7 Day In Place Caravan

Arriving 23 and departing 30 May 2025,



Wagon Masters: Kathy and John Steinbauer jfs9840@gmail.com will lead this “In Place” caravan in famous Ft Lauderdale. With over 3000 miles of canals, and rivers, you will learn the history and see the modern wonders of this historic and famous city. The city was founded in 1838 as a Seminole Indian trading post on the banks of the New River which is now the center of tourism.

You will see the homes of the rich and famous and their mega yachts when you cruise the new river to the Atlantic Ocean on the Carrie B paddle wheeler. Sightseeing will include Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale where Squadron 19 was launched and lost over the Bermuda Triangle, now a WW II Museum. On the New River water taxi you will visit the river walk and dine and tour several attractions.

For adventure, you will take an airboat ride at Hollywood Park in the Everglades seeing wildlife and watching the Gator Boys wrestle alligators.

A day trip will go to Key Largo and the Everglades National Park to tour the only remaining cold war Nike 9 missile base.

There will be time to visit the world famous Seminole Hard Rock Casino, Margaritaville Beach Resort, National Dive Museum, and the famous Elbo Room on Ft Lauderdale Beach.

If interested, go deep sea fishing, snorkeling, scuba diving, and many more interesting and fun activities on your own. We will be camping at beautiful CB Smith County Park near Ft Lauderdale.

This caravan will be packed full of included tours and meals with time to venture on your own and will be limited to 15 registrants with cost to be determined.



Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, and Ships! Caravan

June 16th thru July 31st Price TBA
Couple \$5950 Single \$4450 Guest \$1700

Come explore the impact of various transportation modes on American culture. We'll see how the RV industry started, explore the early inventions of the automobile, marvel at incredible ships that ply the Great Lakes, tour railroad and glider plane museums, and thrill to an exciting airshow. The caravan starts in Indiana, moves through Michigan, and ends in Wisconsin.

The caravan will touch on transportation modes as they have grown and developed throughout American history. Participants will have a chance to tour the factory where their RV was manufactured and be immersed in the Amish culture through tours and meals. Moving from Indiana to Michigan, the group will tour the largest automobile museum in North America.

Other sights will include Henry Ford's beginnings, the giant freighters moving through the Sault Ste. Marie Locks, Mackinaw Island where the primary mode of transportation is still horse and carriage, a WWII glider museum, and numerous stops around the Mitten state. Continuing into Wisconsin, the caravan will stop at Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers, for a tour and lunch.

We will enjoy the EAA Air venture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This annual event brings together aviation enthusiasts of all ages as they show off experimental and innovative aircraft. The air venture will have day and night air shows, rides in aircraft, and a mass hot air balloon launch. Ending in Spring Green, Wisconsin, the group will explore the most exotic and eclectic retreat built on a chimney rock. And of course, there will be potlucks, happy hours, and campfires.



Wagonmasters Melody & Paul Thomas thomas4smart@gmail.com
Johnny & Linda Leggett Tail Gunners johnny_leggett@hotmail.com

We have a couple of spots left!

2025 ALASKAN ADVENTURE

with Wagon Masters
David & Jackie Weis

Were going to visit, the Walter Wright Pioneer Village, Ft Nelson heritage Museum, the Northern Lights Center, Yukon Transportation Museum, Train Ride, Boat Ride, Factory Tour, Musk OK Farm, and much more.



Go sign up online and get on the wait list...

\$10,750 Couple \$7700 single Guest \$ 3600



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

Caravan is Full. Get on the wait list!

2025 "TOURING THROUGH TEXAS TOGETHER!"

Sept 20th, 2025 to October 15th, 2025

David & Jackie Weis Wagonmasters

This caravan will start right after 2025 Mineola, TX National Muster. You will start in Grapevine, TX...then head to Ft Worth, Dallas, Waco, Austin, Frederickburg, San Antonio, Corpus Christy, then end up on the coast in Galvaston.

Double \$ 5250. Single \$3650. Guest \$1850.

So put on your Boots and let's Tour across TEXAS Together!



2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan



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 night-ly 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 In-side Cabins. Prices range from \$1384 — \$2929 pp dbl occ

\$450 per person deposit is 100% refundable until Final Payment on 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 to choose from, we have 50 booked already

CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS



AT-LARGE REGION Jackie Weis

Region Director

Duffers, Nomads, SMART FMCA , STAR, WIMS



SMART FMCA Chapter

2024's Last International Convention was held in Redmond Oregon during August. I have not received feedback from the convention as of the time of this posting. The 2025 schedule is not yet available.

I am getting excited about our upcoming SMART National Muster that is less than two weeks away. We, SMART FMCA Chapter, will have a table at the Chapter Fair. Please let me know if you can make time to help. We will also be getting together for our annual chapter meeting, and I look forward to seeing you there.

EAST REGION: Leroy Armacost Region Director,

Assistant: Lonnie Alley

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, , New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, DC, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida



FLORIDA ROADRUNNERS

We will have a muster in Folkston, GA at the Okefenokee Pastimes RV Park on November 20-24. We have planned a potluck, host provided, and eating out. For Entertainment we play cards or board games. Some times we have live entertainment. Our musters are held in South GA. and North Florida. The National Muster is approaching and it looks like it will be a Fun Filled Time. Evelyn Stewart



TRI STATE TRAVELERS: The July muster at Cool Breeze Campground in Galax, VA had a good turnout. There was plenty of food, camaraderie, and games. Always nice to be in the mountains with cooler weather. Several of our members will be attending the National Muster in Ladson SC this month. We already have well over 100 rigs signed up for the 5 day muster. Tours of the Charleston area are scheduled for the week before and many activities are planned during the muster week. Several catered meals and lots of vendors await members. For the last muster of the year (after the National) we are anticipating our November muster at Myrtle Beach SC (13-17) to be our best muster where we have auctions, a holiday potluck, a mini golf tournament and lots of fun. We will also be having elections for 2024. Any member or prospective member of SMART is always welcome to attend any of our musters. We look forward to seeing new faces there. Please sign up on the WEBSITE to attend. Hope to see you all in September and November. Gail Alley, Editor



Florida Buccaneers

It's hard to believe that it's less than two weeks to the 2024 SMART National Muster in Charleston SC. The current count is over 200 participants for the festivities. Yes, there are a few concerns with the track of Debbie going up the eastern seaboard, but I'm sure the Muster Committee will have it all under control.

The week looks like time a good time for all. Tours are planned, standard games, and music and food. After all September 8-18, 2024, is restaurant week, an annual event where different restaurants participate while offering special *Prix Fixé* lunch and dinner menus. If you have not signed up for "National" you need to do so as soon as possible.

Of course, National is not the only muster on our agenda. Joe and Pam Faubion are working hard on the plans for our annual Veterans Day Muster. A complete run down of the plans is below. And do not be surprised if you see an aircraft carrier on the streets of Zephyrhills. We are looking forward to seeing each of you soon. *Bill Hastings*, President Florida Buccaneers

WHO DOESN'T LOVE A PARADE



The Florida Buccaneers would love to have you join us for our Veterans Day Muster 8 – 12 November 2024 at Palm View Gardens RV Resort, Zephyrhills, FL.

Our scheduled activities include:

1. Zephyrhills Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, 9 November. We will have service flags, a towed float, and NEW THIS YEAR - two, 8' x 10' mobility scooter jets! If able, please consider arriving a day early to help decorate and assemble the float and the jets.
2. WWII reenactment - Battle for Veterans at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History, taking place from November 8th to 10th. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of World War II with captivating live battle reenactments, authentic living history displays, and a variety of vendors offering military items. The reenactment is free to attend and promises an unforgettable experience for all.

We will include Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony during our potluck on Veterans Day. Bike ride, happy hours, and more. For more information and to register please visit the Buccaneer website: <https://smartrving.org/bucs/>.





CENTRAL REGION: Nita Taylor Region Director,

Assistant: Terry Johnson

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, NW Florida Panhandle



CAJUNS CHAPTER:

Oh, but it is hot here in Louisiana. It is August as I write this article.

The Cajuns are ready to get away from the heat. We will all be travelling to cooler places or simply waiting for September.

Linda and I will be travelling through New England and headed to

Nationals. If you haven't yet finalized your plans for National, it is time to do so now. There will be many activities and seminars. I will be speaking on "Health and Fitness for Seniors" for one of the presentations.

There is much information about health and fitness for healthy, young people, but

not so much for us. I will focus on our age group and how to continue to travel and live the good life.

And football season is coming!

What better way to have fun than tailgate with friends and enjoy an exciting game. We will be tailgating the LSU/Alabama game just prior to the Central Regional muster in November. All are welcome to join us and are encouraged to wear your purple and gold, and even the red if you must. See details on the Cajun pages of the SMART website.

The Central Region Muster will be held on Veteran's Day. It will feature pontoon boat rides, a tour of the WWII Museum in New Orleans, and lots and lots of good food.

You are encouraged to visit Louisiana and find out Why Louisiana ain't Mississippi or any other state. We are like no other state. The Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons are mild, there's lots to see and do, and the prices are cheap compared to the surrounding area. We even have a World Heritage Site. There are many state parks with campgrounds and seniors get 50% off their already low rates.

Come see us!



Cajuns:

If you bleed Purple and Gold or Crimson, you may want to attend the Cajuns Tailgate Muster the weekend of the Alabama / LSU football game. This three-day muster will be at "Sun Outdoors New Orleans North Shore RV Resort" prior to the 2024 Central Region Muster which is being held at this same campground. Dates for this muster are: Arrive on Friday November 8, 2024, and terminating with the start of the Regional Muster Monday November 11, 2024.

This will be an outdoor muster, weather permitting, as all tailgate parties are. We plan on parking two motorhomes on adjacent sites, in opposite directions, so there will be a common area between the two and their two eternal TV's will face the common area and provide maximum game viewing. This muster is in the early planning stages, details will be posted and forwarded as they are finalized.

Douglas



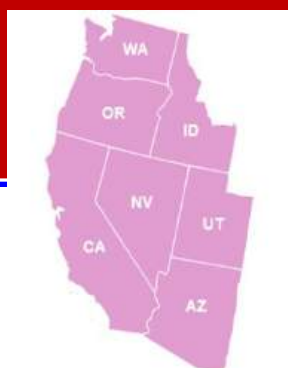
**MIDWEST REGION: Joe Noonan Region Director,
Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska,
Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas**



The Alamo Chapter is mourning the loss of our Chapter President and good friend, Jim Collier, who passed away after brief illness on August 5th. Jim was a proud Navy and Air Force Veteran and held many positions on our Alamo board over the years. He and his wife, Theda, had a reputation for hosting some of the best musters every year. To say we will miss him is an understatement, not just because he was a major part of the glue that held our chapter together, but because he was absolutely one of the nicest guys you could have the pleasure of knowing. Many of you knew Jim and Theda from the Caravans, where they were often tail gunners, so you too are grieving. We will gather this weekend to formally celebrate Jim's life and to express our

gratitude that we had the opportunity to know him...to serve beside him in SMART, and to experience a personal friendship that will never be forgotten. Mary Palmer, Alamo Smart Secretary/Newsletter editor

**WESTERN REGION : Mike Foley, Region Director,
Assistant: Greg Vassalo
Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho,
California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona,**



Greetings from the Western Region - All is quiet on the Western Region Front. Not a lot has happened since last month except the extreme heat wave we had in July. And it was Hot! Starting to cool of somewhat very soon we will have that famous Delta Breeze blowing our way. That occurs when a big oh fog bank hangs around our area. Sunny everywhere except where the fog bank is. Got a couple of Muster's coming up.

The first is a combined muster with the AZ Roadrunners and the AZ Tumble weeds. Their Muster is going to be in McNeal AZ at the Double Adobe RV Park rates are \$43 a Nite and a nonrefundable deposit of \$25 is required. Check the AZ Roadrunners and AZ Tumbleweeds web site on SMART for more info including contact info. The Muster will be from October 13th and departing on Oct 18th. All aboard!! The Golden Gate Chapter will be having a fall Muster at Orange Grove in Bakersfield 1452 S Edison Road (just off Hwy 58) It's \$50 a Nite with a deposit of \$50 due. More info is on the SMART web page along with contact information. We will be going to the Vets parade in downtown Bakersfield followed by a trip to the Vietnam Museum. There will be dinner at the Woolgrowers Basque Restaurant which has great food. Golfing will also be available, and did I mention the RV park is smack dab in the middle of an orange orchard where you can pick up the oranges that are on the ground. Not sure if you can pick them from the trees or not. We picked up a couple of new members who reside in Utah to welcome. That's all folks have a great month of September and be safe on the road. Mike Foley Western Region Director



We are the **Arizona Tumbleweeds** Chapter of S*M*A*R*T. Our Chapter was awarded the Outstanding Chapter for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Most of our chapter members are based in and around Central Arizona and always do combined musters with the Southern Arizona chapter, called the Arizona Roadrunners, which are based in the Tucson area. That way we get to see most of Arizona during our muster season, which is mid-October to mid-April. As many of us are sunbirds who escape the Arizona summers, as opposed to snowbirds who escape northern winters for sunny and warmer Arizona. Most of our musters are three to four days in length.

Generally, we share heavy hors d'oeuvres our first night and have a potluck dinner or go to a local restaurant one night. Potluck breakfast is on the morning of our chapter meeting. Members will research the state to find something of interest in the local area for us to explore. Right now, we only have one muster set up for October at The Double Adobe RV Park in Bisbee, AZ starting the 13th and departing on the 18th. If anyone is planning on being in that area at this date, stop by and join us. Our November muster is TBD right now and we do our Chapter Christmas Party at a restaurant, date and time to be determined. We only have 3 chapters in the Western Region, one in California and two in Arizona. Please click on the S*M*A*R*T website, smartrving.org and look for the Arizona Tumbleweeds Chapter Muster calendar. We'd love to see you at our next camping adventure. Wishing you safe travels on the road.

Rich Caruso, President of Arizona Tumbleweeds Chapter



GOLDEN GATE: Greetings RVer's - As I sit here writing this the weather has cooled down somewhat. We had an extremely hot July here in California. Our electrical bill was thru the roof. I would usually have us in our rig with the generator running which runs off propane and have the A/C going (as propane is a lot cheaper than electric) but, once again my Keystone Laredo 5th wheel is in the shop, This time due to a broken bedroom slide. It also had lots of water damage due to a tiny hole on the roof that the factory somehow missed. It was sealed last year but still the damage was already done. We are seriously thinking of selling our truck and trailer and buying a small class C. I've been to Camping World, just looking around at Class C's. Saw one I kind of liked until I went around and checked the outside. Everything looked good except the exhaust pipe which was about 6 inches off the ground and I said "nope". Seems lot of people are having problems with their RV's these days.

I was hospitalized July 1st as I was struggling to breathe. I had pneumonia and was released 3 days later. I was filled with meds that helped kill it off. Watch your health all. Kids are back in school so campgrounds and RV parks are slowly starting to empty out. Time to hit the road (those with RVs lol) So be safe and Happy Trails all.

Mike Foley President Golden Gate Chapter

**Check out the new merchandise at the
2024 National Muster HQ Booth**



S M A R T

Application for Membership



Applicant Information

LAST name:	First:	Initial:	Spouse/Companion:
Mailing address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Home phone: () —	Cell phone: () —	Email address:	

SMART is a 501(c)(19) Not- for-profit Veterans Organization and required to have the following information on each member

Branch of service:	Year entered service:	Year service ended:
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Name Badge Info

Instructions: On the first line, enter your preferred first & last name. The second line is optional and may contain what you want others to know about you, e.g., city, state or branch of service or chapter names you belong too.

Note: A member badge comes with the New Member Packet, and your co-member's badge may be purchased for \$8.50.

Member first & last:	Spouse/Companion first & last:
Member second line:	Spouse/Companion second line:

Membership Fees

Member	Who referred you?	His/her name:	His/her SMART #:
Veteran: Active, retired, or honorably discharged from US Military Service, or as a commissioned officer of NOAA or USPHS; or military service of Canada, NATO/SEATO member nation.			
Circle all that apply to the member: Active Retired Reserve/Guard Honorably Discharged Veteran Recipient of Medal of Honor Canadian Veteran NOAA USPHS NATO/SEATO			
Annual dues: \$65 (plus one time \$15 new member packet)			\$80.00

Spouse/Companion

With privileges of membership for spouse \$30: (Spouse/Companion)

If Spouse is also a Veteran, please fill in information about Spouse below:

(Must include required 501(c)(19) not-for-profit information below)

Branch of Service: Year entered service: Year service ended:

Your Spouse or Companion will want to join with you to have National voting rights, the ability to hold the position up to Regional director, and became eligible to win door prize drawings.	Spouse/Comp \$30	30.00
	His/her badge \$8.50	8.50
	Total Enclosed	118.50

"I certify with honor that the information I have provided is true and correct."

Applicant signature:	Date:
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