



S·M·A·R·T

E-NEWS



“Seeing the Country We Defend”

SMART HEADQUARTERS

SMART BI-MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

OCTOBER 2024



A Message from your new

SMART President, Melody Thomas

The 2024 SMART National Muster is over and everyone has dispersed. The event was a great success, and we are all looking forward to the next SMART National Muster in Mineola, Texas.

The gavel has passed from Richard Palmer to me. I am honored to serve as your National President. I promise to lead this great organization to the very best of my ability. In return, in the spirit of “Ask not what your club can do for you; ask what you can do for your club,” I ask three things from the membership.

First, I want every one of you to go out and have a great time. Go to the chapter and region musters. Hoot and holler and enjoy yourselves. This is where the magic of SMART takes place – at the campgrounds, the potlucks, the games, and the campfires. Make noise and let everyone else in the campground know that you belong to a great club. Hang the banners on your RV. Put out the SMART flags. Post the SMART flyers and brochures in the laundry and community rooms. Carry an application on you to give out whenever you talk to a prospective member. Tell the world you have a great thing going on.

Second, I want you to look out for each other. If you see someone sitting alone at an event, go sit with them. Make them feel welcome at your muster. Get to know all the people in your chapter. Take new members under your wing and make sure they know when musters are scheduled. Celebrate life with one another. Share the good times.

And third, I want you to take part in the leadership of this great club. It takes a lot to put on a muster – chapter, region and national. When everyone chips in, the workload is lightened, and no one is overburdened. Step up and volunteer to become a chapter officer. Move up to become a region director. Accept nomination to be the 2nd VP of SMART. Before you know it, you will be the president of the club. Afraid that you don't know what's required? Come to national and take the Chapter President & Region Director class. Ask questions. Talk to any member of the Board of Directors. Everyone is rooting for your success.

Each and every one of you is a special, unique person. You are a member of a special, unique club. There is no other club like ours. Be proud of it. Enjoy it. Share it.

Melody Thomas SMART National President



I would like to Thank the East Region for the wonderful National they so graciously hosted. There was so much to do, and we were certainly entertain the entire time. Looking forward to next years National in Mineola Texas.

Thank you!

Travel safe, stay SMART and see you all down the road. David Weis. 1st V P



A great time was had by all at our National Muster in Ladson, SC hosted by the East Region. It is an honor and privilege to serve as 2nd Vice President, I love SMART and look forward to serving. Recruitment and Retention continues to be an important factor in growing SMART Travel Club. I support the "I got One" campaign, if we each got one we double in our membership. Safe travels, 2nd VP LeRoy Armacost

Up Coming Musters for OCTOBER

- Oct 02-06 FL Sunshine Muster** Southern Oaks RV Resort
Contact Tony Korvas 321-750-4992 korvasa@yahoo.com
- OCT 07-10 Arkansas Hogs Muster** Wolly Holly State Park Contact Jo Huddleston
501-940-5414 joellahud@yahoo.com
- Oct 10-14 Alamo SMART's Fish Fry Muster**
Contact Rickey Hasley 214-616-3154 rickeyhasley@att.net
- Oct 10 White Sands Panhandlers Chow Call Sonnys BBQ**
Contact Paul Moniz 850-723-0241 monizp1@bellsouth.net
- Oct 13-18 AZ Roadrunners & Tumbleweeds Double Adobe RV Park**
Contact Erwin Greven 505-280-0152 egreven123@msn.com
- Oct 20-25 Magnolias Anniversary Muster Parkers's Landing RV & Camp**
Contact Jan Lemaire 985-290-6140 janislemaire@hotmail.com
- Oct 24-27 Texans Annual Meeting Mineola Civic Center RV Park**
Contact Paul Rider 903-574-1217 afchap@gmail.com
- Oct 30-Nov 2 Capital Campers Urbanna Oyster Festival Beth Page Resort**
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?

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





*Join the **I-GOT-ONE** campaign!
Anyone who recruits one new person to SMART membership will receive this special pin. These will be awarded during the ceremonies at SMART National Muster. Let's see a long line of awardees at Mineola, Texas!*

(new members under the test program do not count until they pay their \$65)

Join us on one of our Great Caravans!

2024 & 2025 Caravans

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.

Final Payment Due 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>



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)



Venice of America Caravan

May 23– 29 2025

7 Day In Place Caravan

Arriving 23 and departing 30 May 2025,
Single \$825. Couple \$1250. Guest \$430.

Wagon Masters: Kathy and John Steinbauer jfs9840@gmail.com 210-386-9018 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, AUTOMOBILES & SHIPS

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

Wagon Masters: Melody & Paul Thomas Tail Gunners: Johnny & Linda Leggett

Single \$ 4450. Couple \$5950. Guest \$1700

Cost: 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.



SMART is a Not-for-Profit 501(c)(19) Veterans' Organization,

and gifts are tax deductible. Consider a lifetime gift for a tax deduction or make a gift directly from your IRA to SMART without having to pay tax on that portion of your IRA distributed to SMART. You can also consider an after-death gift to SMART in your will or trust, or name SMART as a beneficiary of part of your IRA.



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 Woolly 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.

Wagon Masters: David & Jackie Weis dweis74@hotmail.com

Assistant Wagon Masters Melissa Wade & Phyllis Enfinger



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.

Get on the standby list!

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

NCS VEHICLE DONATIONS FOR NON PROFIT ORANGAIZATIONS

**Do you, your friends, or relatives have a vehicle (Car Truck, RV, Boat, Motorcycle, Trailer etc.) that's no longer needed? Or just sitting around in your yard collecting weeds! If so, you don't have to deal with selling it!
You can receive a 100% tax deduction as a Bonus!**

The SMART BOD approved an agreement with the National NCS Vehicle Donations for Non-Profits for us to receive a percentage of the vehicle donated.

The easiest way to donate is from the SMART website www.SmartRVing.org and click the blue logo on the front page of website.



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