

SMART TRAVELER

Published Bi-Monthly for SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS CLUB

November 2024



2024 National Photo Contest "Best of Show"

Winner

Ginny Louis

*Winning Photo of her
Granddaughter
Kaydence Smith and her
daddy Kevin Smith*

(Navy-Sea Duty, San Deigo)

Join us on a Caravan ,
We are trying to fill up
the :

**TOURING THRU TEXAS
CARAVAN**

and

THE

**VEINCE OF AMERICA
CARAVAN,**

these are two great
caravans to join now.

Sign up Today!

Watch for the 2025 Photo Contest next year at the National Muster in Mineola, TX. Bring your 8x10 photos that you have taken of Flowers, Grand children, Landscapes, Pets, Wildlife., and Folks having Fun at a SMART Activity (Caravans, Musters), You can Enter one photo in each category. Good Luck!

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



Your 2024-2025 BOARD of DIRECTORS



SMART NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Melody Thomas (Paul)
(631) 258-6087
thomas4smart@gmail.com
EXCOM



1ST VICE PRESIDENT
David Weis (Jackie)
(912) 674-9347
dweis74@hotmail.com
EXCOM



2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Leroy Armacost (Shelene)
(904) 254-0898
leroyarmacost@bellsouth.net
EXCOM



IMT PAST PRESIDENT
Richard Palmer (Mary)
(201) 218-6838
richpal1@swbell.net
EXCOM



EXECUTIVE MANAGER
Melissa Wade
(800) 354-7681
melissa@smartrving.org
EXCOM



AT-LARGE REGION DIRECTOR
Jackie Weis (David)
(912) 674-4142
pesoweis@hotmail.com or
jlweis31548@gmail.com



EASTERN REGION DIRECTOR
Lonnie Alley (Gail)
(910) 709-9477
lonniealley@earthlink.net



CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR
Nita Taylor (Phil)
(501)250-6585
Phinita.taylor@gmail.com



MIDWEST REGION DIRECTOR
Joe Noonan (Margaret)
(210) 313-7364
joe.noonan@sbcglobal.net
2025 MUSTER MASTER



WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR
Mike Foley (Roxanne)
(707) 365-4826
mfoley8701@yahoo.com



National Travel Director
Jon Katin (Nancy)
(541) 220-9375
jonandnancy2@comcast.net



Message from your SMART President

Melody Thomas

We had an opportunity to experience the magic of SMART this past month. First, we joined the Arkansas Hogs for their muster at the Woolly Hollow State Park in Greenbrier, Arkansas. Jo Huddleston, an 83-year-old woman, served as the muster master and did such a great job! She cooked the dinner meal for 3 nights and provided home-made banana bread for breakfast every morning. An incredible lady! We had a pumpkin carving contest. When we finished, our creative products were left to decorate the drive into the campground. The next day, efforts were made to teach me Hand & Foot. They were patient but I didn't think I was ready for a tournament yet. The nightly campfires and camaraderie were especially enjoyable.

Ten days later, we are currently attending the Mississippi Magnolias muster at Parker's Landing RV Park in Biloxi, Mississippi. Again, there are good foods, games, and camaraderie. I installed two new officers: Bob Theriot Treasure & Nancy Arce Muster Master. We will be taking part in a Halloween costume contest. Paul is sure to win the scariest costume. He has the creepiest getup I've ever seen. While I thought I wasn't ready for participation in a Hand & Foot Tournament, I did join in and managed to hold my own. Yay! When this muster is over, I am confident we will go on our way with pleasant memories and new friends. Everyone will leave waving and smiling and looking forward to the next muster. That is what makes SMART so special. Take advantage of all the musters in your area as well as on your travels around America. These events are truly magical.

Melody Thomas, SMART National President



Spouses: "We need your help" As you may be aware our membership numbers are not where we need to be. We are asking that if you are not a current SMART member that you consider joining "THE TEAM" as a SMART member you will have your own member number, be able to Vote in National Elections, be able to hold office up to the Regional Director level and be able to win door prizes at National and Regional Musters. Please contact SMART Headquarters to join "The Team" **David**

Weis 1st Vice President



The weather is cooler, it's a great time to take the RV on the road. Check the Traveler and SMART website for upcoming musters. Shelene and I are looking forward to the Branson Caravan; this is a great time to visit. Branson is especially nice to Veterans with free shows and special military displays, lunches and vendors at the ballpark. SMART will participate and be represented in the Veterans Day Parade. Get out and visit other chapters and make new friends. Be safe and Happy Fall

y'all! Safe travels, **LeRoy Armacost 2nd Vice President**



SMART is a Not-for-Profit 501(c)(19) Veterans' Organization, and gifts are tax deductible. Consider a lifetime gift for a tax deduction. Donate the RMD from your annuity to SMART and you won't have to pay any tax on it. 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 estate.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The SMART National Board of Directors met on Saturday, September 14, in Ladson, SC, during the 2024 National Muster. This is a report of their meeting.

The LOGO for SMART was discussed. There is a decal designed by David Weis that says “ARE YOU A VET? DO YOU OWN AN RV?” We will encourage folks to put the decal on their rigs and cars. It will get the people around them to come ask about SMART.

The membership requirements of the club were discussed. Our 501(c)19 status requires that our membership be at least 75% veterans. We have veterans and family members which makes that percentage a threshold we struggle with. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to look at our IRS rating and membership requirements.

We will continue to give a Certificate to the Military Campground of the Year. An effort will be made to personally deliver it to the campground. If that is not possible, we will mail the certificate, signed by the National President, in a presentable frame for ready hanging.

The Membership Committee met to discuss Recruiting and Retention. As you might guess, this is a concern for all organizations and clubs today, not just SMART. Some of the suggestions made were:

If you do not have your own SMART member number, sign up for one. This gives you the right to vote on SMART issues, the opportunity to serve in leadership positions throughout the club, and it makes you eligible to win prizes in all the raffles and drawings when they pull up member numbers.

Put a banner on your RV. Mike Schmitz is selling them. They are great attractors.

Put on the decals SMART has: ARE YOU A VETERAN? DO YOU OWN AN RV?

Take some brochures and trifold that SMART has produced and leave them in the laundromats and community rooms at the campgrounds where you stay.

Our membership is slowly dwindling due to aging. We need to bring in new members. We are reactivating the I GOT ONE campaign. If you recruit one new member, you will get an I GOT ONE pin. It is awarded at the National Muster. So you have a reason to come to National next year.

The issue of a dues increase was discussed. Our member dues have not been increased in more than 10 years. As you know, costs have gone up over that time, especially in these last 3 years. The cost of doing business is high. Our insurance company, alone, raised the premium to \$6,000 for the year. We can keep our dues where they are only if we get active with recruiting new members. Let's all make it a priority to **GET ONE** and we won't have to raise the dues.

Report of the Budget – Melissa Wade gave a report on the proposed budget for 2025.

Leroy Armacost has been accepted as the new 2nd VP. Lonnie Alley has stepped up to become the Eastern Region Director.

Outstanding Chapters of the Year (in accordance with SOP 16): *Con't next page*

At-Large Region – FMCA and Nomads

Central Region – SMART Cajuns, Mississippi Magnolias, Arkansas Hogs, White Sands Panhandlers, Rocky Tops

Eastern Region – FL Buccaneers, FL Roadrunners, Tri-State Travelers, South FL Gold Coasters

Midwest Region – Alamo SMARTS

Western Region – Arizona Tumbleweeds

Military RV Parks of the Year – awards will be given to campgrounds awarded in the categories of small, medium and large. (small) JB Charleston Low Country FamCamp, Airforce base, SC. (medium) Eagle Hammock RV park, Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, GA. (large) Desert Eagle RV park Nellis Air Force Base, NV.

STAR Chapter Awardees:

Tony Mason & Gina Mason – Bronze STAR

Recruiter of the Year – Gina Mason

Photo Contest Awardees: There were five categories in the photo contest (Grandchildren, Pets, Wildlife, Landscapes, Folks Having Fun at SMART Events). A total of 64 photos were submitted for judging. There was one winner in each category. Virginia Louis won the Best Overall Award. (photo on front page)

The Region Directors spoke about up coming Regional and National Musters:

Nita Taylor – May 2025 The **Central Regional Muster**

Joe Noonan – **2025 National Muster** will be held in **September 2025 in Mineola, Texas**

Nita Taylor - **2026 National Muster** will be held in **August in Elkhart, Indiana**

Lonnie Alley – **Eastern Regional Muster** is undecided at this time; probably in the spring

Greg Vassallo – **Western Regional Muster** will be held in April 2025





THANKSGIVING IDEAS

Beefy French Onion Potpie

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 can condensed French onion soup
- 1 ½ cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1 tube refrigerated butter milk biscuits

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat, breaking the meat into crumbles, until beef is no longer pink, 6-8 minutes; drain. Stir in the soup. Bring mixture to a boil. Transfer to an ungreased 9 in, deep-dished pie plate, sprinkle with mozzarella cheese. Bake until cheese is melted, about 5 minutes. Top with the buttermilk biscuits. Bake potpie until the biscuits are golden brown, 15-20 minutes longer.

Ginger Pumpkin Pie with Streusel

- 1 sheet refrigerated pie crust
- 1 can (15 oz) pumpkin
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 2 large eggs (slightly beaten)
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tsp grated gingerroot
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- ¼ tsp salt
- GINGERSNAP STREUSEL
- ½ cup crushed gingersnap cookies
- ¼ cup chopped pecans
- 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp butter, softened



Unroll crust into a 9 in pie plate. Trim crust to 1 in beyond rim of plate; flute edge. Place plate on a baking sheet.

In large bowl, combine the pumpkin, milk, eggs, brown sugar, pie spice and salt. Pour into crust. Cover edge loosely with foil. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees; bake 15 minutes longer.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine the cookie crumbs, pecans, flour and brown sugar. Cut butter until coarse crumbs form. Sprinkle over pie. Bake 35-45 minutes longer or until knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely on a wire rack. Store in refrigerator.



The Quilters worked hard on this beautiful Quilt this year. It was auctioned off for \$500. The lucky recipient was *Rita Bourque*.

From left to right: Linda DiGiovanni, Bonnie Thiele, Ricky McHenry, Lisa Lyons, Margie Moniz, Linda Mosley, Ginny Louis, Rita Bourque (recipient) Joanne Hastings, and Gail Alley.



Bean Bag Baseball Champs

From Left back to Front:

Butch Nollman, Barbara Wentz, Steve Bourque, Brenda Landry, Ed Fickles, Linda Leggett, Nancy Arce, Diane Thompson, Barbara St Bernard



Join the I-GOT-ONE campaign! Anyone who recruits one new person to SMART membership will receive this special pin. These are awarded during the ceremonies at **SMART National Musters**.

Let's see a long line of awardees in Mineola, Texas!

2024 Central Regional 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?

Calendar of Camping Events for NOV & Dec

- 11-08-10 *Cajuns Tail Gate Muster - Ponchatoula, LA*
- 11-08-12 *FL Buccaneers Veterans Day Muster - Zephyrhills, FL*
- 11-10-15 *Golden Gate Fall Muster – Bakersfield, CA*
- 11-11-15 *2024 Central Regional Muster – Ponchatoula, LA*
- 11-13-16 *AZ Tumbleweeds/Roadrunners Picacho Peak Muster – Picacho, AZ*
- 11-14 *White Sands Panhandlers CHOW CALL– Crestview, FL*
- 11-18-22 *Tri-State Travelers Myrtle Beach Muster - Myrtle Beach, SC*
- 11-20-24 *FL Roadrunners Muster – Folkston, GA*
- 11-30 12-7 *Gold Coasters Pre Holiday Muster - Pembroke, Pines FL*
- 12-02-06 *White Sands Holiday Muster - Foley, AL*
- 12-05-09 *Alamo's Christmas Muster - Bandera, TX*
- 12-08-12 *MS Magnolias Christmas Muster - Picayune, MS*
- 12-09-13 *FL Sunshine Christmas Muster - Folkston, GA*
- 12-12 *AR Hogs Christmas Party - Lisa & Bobby Duckworths Home*

For More info please go to our website at

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



STATE PARKS that give Veterans Discounts:

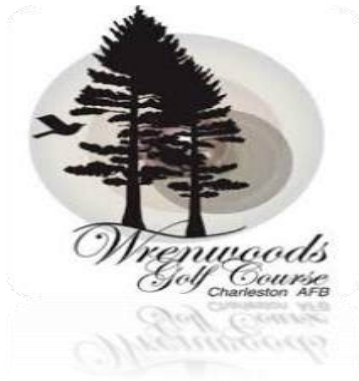
Key:	R=Resident NR=Non-Resident	
State	Website/Info	DAV Pass
Alabama		Resident
Alaska	https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/vetpass.htm	Yes
Arizona	https://azstateparks.com/passes-and-gift-cards/	Day Use
Arkansas	https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/about/faq	Yes
California	https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30958	Resident
Colorado	https://cpw.state.co.us/park-specialty-passes	Resident
Connecticut	https://portal.ct.gov/deep/state-parks/special-passes-ct-state-parks-and-forests#DisabledVet	Resident
Delaware	https://destateparks.com/PassesTagsFees	Resident
Florida	https://www.floridastateparks.org/learn/florida-state-parks-appreciate-veterans	25% off
Georgia	https://gastateparks.org/ParkPass	25% off
Hawaii	Hawaii State Parks do not offer military discounts or annual passes.	NO PASS
Idaho	Idhao Resident only. 100% rated	Resident
Illinois	See attached sheet. DAV only pays utility fees.	\$10 Fee
Indiana	Can purchase a pass, these are good for 1 year ONLY. See attached.	Resident
Iowa	Per an email with them, they Do Not offer veteran discounts.	NONE
Kansas	Per an email with them, they Do Not offer veteran discounts.	NONE
Kentucky	https://parks.ky.gov/parks/park-listings/deals	Resident
Louisiana	https://www.lastateparks.com/special-ratesdiscounts	Discounts
Maine	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/park_passes_fees_rules/veterans_pass.shtml	Resident
Maryland	https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/Military-One-stop-Shop.aspx	
Massachusetts	https://www.mass.gov/how-to/purchase-an-annual-parking-pass-for-massachusetts-state-parks	
Michigan	No Current pass. Proposal in for Residents only.	
Minnesota	https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/permit.html#:~:text=there%20military%20discounts%3F-,Yes!,state%20parks%20and%20recreation%20areas.	All
Mississippi		
Missouri	https://mostateparks.com/page/83631/missouri-state-parks-honors-veterans	Discount
Montana		Resident
Nebraska	https://outdoornebraska.gov/permits/veterans-and-military-permits/	Resident
Nevada	https://parks.nv.gov/fees/annual-permits	Resident
New Hampshire	https://www.nh.gov/nhveterans/benefits/parks.htm	Resident
New Jersey	https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/relatedfees.html	Discounts
New Mexico	https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/fees-permits/disabled-veterans-program-2/	Resident
New York	https://parks.ny.gov/admission/lifetime-liberty-pass.aspx	Resident
North Carolina	North Carolina does not have a state parks access pass, due to most are free.	
North Dakota		
Ohio	https://dvs.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/e115264c-b33c-48c2-86f2-1b3ffba5c54d/benefitsguide-2024vsn.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=oXIyjUs	Any 100%
Oregon	https://stateparks.oregon.gov/?do=v.page&id=19	Any %
Pennsylvania	None	
Rhode Island	In person any Veteran 100%	100%
South Carolina	https://southcarolinaparks.com/park-passports	R 100%
South Dakota	https://gfp.sd.gov/vet-pow/	R 100%
Tennessee	https://tnstateparks.com/about/veterans	R
Texas	https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/passes/texas-parklands-passports/#Disabled%20Veterans	Any 60%
Utah	https://stateparks.utah.gov/resources/military/veterans-with-disabilities-honor-pass/	R
Vermont	https://www.vtstateparks.com/fees.html	R
Virginia	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/passes#veteran-disability-passport	Any 100%
Washington	https://parks.wa.gov/passes-permits/get-park-pass/lifetime-disabled-veteran-pass	R 30%
West Virginia	https://wvstateparks.com/deals/	Discount
Wisconsin	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/veterans.html	R
Wyoming	https://wyoparks.wyo.gov/index.php/permits-reservations/permits-fees	R 50%

The 2024 SMART National President's Cup Golf Tournament

Sponsored by the Duffers Chapter

Organized by Jack Fritz and David Weis, President Duffers Chapter

Wrenwood Golf Course, Base Charleston 16 Sep 2024



The Winning Team



1st Place with a score of 72 Left to Right David Weis, John Steinbauer, Lorrie McKee, and Robert McKee

2nd Place with a score of 76; Wayne Church, Brenda Hitt, Bill Barr, and Bob Theriot

3rd Place with a score of 77; Karl Eichhorn, Greg Vassallo, and Reese Burke

4th Place with a score of 79 Ed Fickes, William St Bernard, Jill Young, and Jim Fuhrman

Longest Drive Ed Fickes'

Closest to the Pin Karl Eichhorn

We beat the rain and everyone had a great time. We' looking forward to the 2025 Mineola

National President's Tournament and growing the Duffers. Go to

<https://www.smartrving.org/duffers/> to join or contact David Weis, President at

dweis74@hotmail.com

2024 National Muster *John Steinbauer, Muster Master*

The evaluations have been reviewed, and I'm glad to report this year's National was a huge success! Members came to see their old friends, make new ones, have fun, and learn.

Mission accomplished! While it's hard to say what members liked best, but the ceremonies, camaraderie, games, crafts, prizes, auctions, photo contest, and attending seminars were the favorites. These pictures of the smiling faces tell the story better than I can. If you could not make the 2024, make your plans now to attend the 2025 in Mineola, Texas, you won't be disappointed.



Boat Dinner Cruise





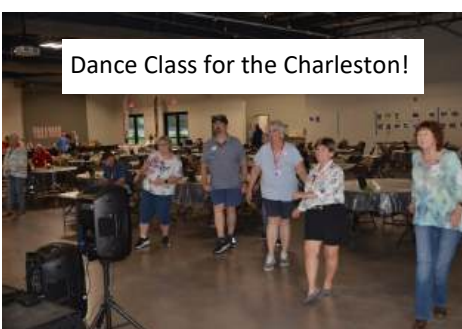
Some of our Vendors getting set up...



First Timers Meeting!



Dance Class for the Charleston!





Guess Speaker Retired General
Walter Eugene Boomer & his
wife.—>



Opening Ceremony





**Brown Bag
Winners!**



Hamburgers / Hotdogs



Ice Cream!





More Winners!



New Officers



Chapters represented at this years 2024 National Muster

Must have been RED Shirt Friday



Tri-State Travelers



Alamo Chapter



Florida Buccaneers



The Nomads



Women in the Military



White Sands Panhandlers



Florida Sunshine



Mississippi Magnolias



Western Region

Welcome!

and Congratulations to the following New Members and their Recruiters

(Sept/Oct)

New Members

	City, State	Recruiter
15845 Stella Michaud	Newnan, GA	
15846 Larry Howard (Mary)	Caldwell, ID	T Martin
15847 Mary Howard (Larry)	Caldwell, ID	T Martin
15848 Marc Sherman (Susan)	Woodbridge, VA	B Harris
15849 Susan Sherman (Marc)	Woodbridge, VA	B Harris
15850 Steven Harrison	Goose Creek, SC	
15851 Rich Lewis (Tammy)	Portales, NM	J Katin
15852 Tammy Lewis (Rich)	Portales, NM	J Katin
15853 Daniel McCoy (Claudia)	Palatine, IL	
15854 Kay Schultz	Gainesville, FL	A Haynes
15855 Rob Novella (Cindy)	Edna, TX	B Thiele
15856 Cindy Novella (Rob)	Edna, TX	B Thiele
15857 Larry Ellis (Kay)	Murfreesboro, TN	R Burke
15858 Kay Ellis (Larry)	Murfreesboro, TN	R Burke
15859 Connie Bohte (Mike)	Lacombe, LA	F Coates
15860 Mike Bohte (Connie)	Lacombe, LA	F Coates



TAPS



James (Buzzy) Duckworth #11173
spouse of Jeanette,
North Little Rock, AR

Rest in Peace Dear Friend

2025 SMART Caravan Adventures



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 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 16 registrants with cost to be determined.

Early arrival and departure may be available, contact Wagon Master John 210.386.9018 or email, if interested, ASAP since sites are limited.



Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, and Ships! Caravan

June 16th thru July 31st Price
Single \$4450 Couple \$5950 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 Airventure 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

Tail Gunners Johnny & Linda Leggett johnny_leggett@hotmail.com

Caravan is full get on the standby list!

2025 ALASKAN ADVENTURE

Wagon Masters David & Jackie Weis dweis74@hotmail.com

Assistant Wagon Masters Greg & Angela Vassallo

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...www.SmartRVing.org](http://www.SmartRVing.org)

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

(Caravan is full get on Standby 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@gmail.com

Couple \$4,600 Single \$3,500 Guest \$1,500

Caravan is Full, Get on the Stanby List!

2025 "TOURING THROUGH TEXAS TOGETHER! "

Sept 20th, 2025 to October 15th, 2025

David & Jackie Weis Wagonmasters dweis74@hotmail.com

This caravan will start right after 2025 Mineola, TX National Muster.

We 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 Galveston.

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

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

(Hurry and Sign up Today!)



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-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 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> Cruise is FULL.

CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS



AT-LARGE REGION Jackie Weis Region Director
Duffers, Nomads,
SMART FMCA , STAR, WIMS



Attention **Duffers & Golfers**, I am updating the current roster for the **Duffers Chapter** and need your help. If you are currently a Duffer Chapter member or interested in joining this fun and exciting Chapter I ask that you please send me your name so I can update and keep our roster current. Please e mail your response to dweis74@hotmail.com Also I will be setting up the 2025 National Golf Tournament in Mineola Texas in the near future and will keep everyone informed as to our Chapter meeting and golf tournament dates. Travel safe. **David Weis - Chapter President**



SMART NOMADS

September 2024 saw the NOMADS hold their Pre-National Muster at the Exchange Park in Ladson, SC. Members arrived starting on Wednesday. A potluck was held on Friday evening with a large response from the chapter members. Everyone had their fill of excellent food provided by the NOMADS members.

The next morning the NOMADS sponsored a Carriage Ride through the town of Charleston, SC. Hosted by the Carolina Polo & Carriage Company. Three carriages of 16 people each completed a one-hour tour of Charleston. Each carriage followed a different route, directed by the city of Charleston to minimize traffic congestion and still provide a wonderful overview of their hometown. A chapter meeting was held on Sunday. Business included the installation of new officers for the next two years. They are: Joe Padberg – President, Vacant – Vice President, Brian Bolger – Secretary, Greg Vassallo – Treasurer, Diane Pepperell – Muster Master, Beth Sands – Newsletter Editor .

Additional business included the suggestion that all new SMART members be given a one year free membership in the NOMADS. Discussion followed and this idea was dropped due to the fact that this would remove names from the opportunities with other chapters. The members agreed to donate \$150 each to

Mutts with a Mission, Fisher House and SMART HQ.

During the SMART National Muster, the NOMADS held their annual chapter meeting. Attendance was a bit smaller since all chapters in attendance had their meetings at the same time. Necessary business was conducted quickly, and members were released to attend their other chapter sessions.

Following the SMART National Muster, the NOMADS traveled to Lakewood Camping Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. 9 rigs attended this muster. Our chapter meeting was held on Saturday evening with necessary chapter business was discussed.

Each morning a group of us, would rise to greet the sun on the beach as it showed itself from behind the horizon. The group shared another potluck meal on Sunday for dinner. Diane Pepperell led a craft session to create wind chimes using driftwood, shells and rocks gathered from beach visits earlier in the year.

The members held a group meal at Carolina Roadhouse and Phil and Karen Millonzi, who live in Myrtle Beach, joined us. The next morning the same group met at the Veterans Café & Grill for breakfast, and a self-guided tour of their military memorabilia. Unfortunately, this café is closing its doors after 15 years of operation.

2025 is looking to be another great year for the NOMADS. We will rally local NOMADS to attend the Regional Musters throughout the year and meet in Mineola, TX on September 10th for the NOMADS Pre-National Muster. Plans for the Post National Muster have not been defined yet but stay tuned and in touch. I am sure they will provide another great gathering of friends. **Joe Padberg - Chapter President**

EAST REGION: Lonnie Alley Region Director, Assistant RD: Bill Hastings



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



First, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve as East Regional Director for the next two years. William (Bill) Hastings, whla45@gmail.com, has graciously volunteered to be the Assistant East Region Director. Next, an update on the 2025 East Region Muster. Capital Campers are evaluating campgrounds in the DC, Maryland, or Virginia area. Hopefully we will have a location soon. We urgently need volunteers to serve on the planning staff as coordinators and especially a Muster Master. The guidelines are in National SOP1 on the website. If interested, please contact me at 910.709.9477 or EMAIL lonniealley@earthlink.net. Time is growing short. Ideally the Muster will be held in April or May of 2025. Support our Region and SMART. ***Lonnie Alley East Region RD.***



Florida Sunshine Chapter

The Florida Sunshine Chapter is alive and well. The recent National Muster held in Ladson, SC was a resounding success. A lot of **Sunshiner/Drifters** were there enjoying the muster. We have an upcoming Christmas muster in December at the Pastimes camping and RV resort in Folkston Ga. It is hosted by Pete and Karen Kerner and it should be a good one. Please hurry and signup and make your reservations. Hope to see you there!

Steve Colt President by proxy Florida Sunshine Chapter President



Hello fellow veterans from **The SMART Florida Gold Coasters Chapter!** Recently, Gina & I supported one of SMART's primary benefits, Caravans. We wagon-mastered "The Great Canadian Maritimes Caravan" this summer. Also on this trip, fellow Gold Coasters Joe and Pam Faubion supported us as our Assistant Wagon Masters. Together, we made this great SMART benefit a huge success. Following the Caravan, we attended another great SMART event, the SMART National in Ladson South Carolina where our Chapter's founder, John



Steinbauer was the Muster Master. John was instrumental in organizing an outstanding National Muster. At this muster, the Gold Coasters earned another "Outstanding Chapter Award" and our own secretary, Gina Mason, was named the 2024 SMART Recruiter of the Year! Additionally, our chapters members Margie Haire, Kathy Steinbauer, Pam Faubion, and Gina Mason participated in the National quilt project at one of our musters in the spring. These ladies were honored at Nationals for their participation and given a hand-turned wood seam ripper that Bill Hastings created.



Our chapter has chosen the South Florida Honor Flight program as our charity to support. John Steinbauer, the Gold Coasters founder, has been chosen to travel on the next Honor Flight! We are honored to have him

represent us as an attendee!

Locally, we will continue to find adventures for our enthusiastic fun-loving group of members. Our next local chapter event, A Pre-Holidays FUN muster, is being held in Pembroke Pines Florida at CB Smith Park starting November 30th and ending December 7th. We still have room for two more RV's to join us. Visit here ASAP to register: <https://www.smartrving.org/fgc/>. At our muster we will enjoy local area sites, bike rides, pickleball, beanbag baseball, card games, board games and some great meals together. Furthermore, we will we seek out and invite Veterans who may have their RV in our park and invite them to join us during the muster. This lets them see what a great group of SMART people they could join! Please look for veterans traveling where ever you travel and give them a tri-fold, click here [https://www.smartrving.org/leadership/ClubDocs/03 Trifold Brochure.pdf?v=1729475366](https://www.smartrving.org/leadership/ClubDocs/03%20Trifold%20Brochure.pdf?v=1729475366) with your contact information. This allows the Veteran to have a link to look into the great organization to which we belong. Our own secretary, Gina Mason, was named the 2024 SMART Recruiter of the Year! Looking forward to seeing you at a SMART event in the near future! Tony Mason, President



Hello Autumn! We in the southeast part of the country are glad for the fall-ish weather. Summer was hot, as usual.

Several of our members attended the National Muster in Ladson SC in September. There were just under 200 attendees overall. Our chapter numbered 19 members! A great accomplishment for a National. Many activities were planned and executed during the muster week. We ate catered meals and had varied vendors presenting their wares.

We're anticipating a good turnout for our Regional Muster next spring, now that we are 14 states strong.

Please remember all of the victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, for they hit most of our SE states. NC and FL were hit the hardest, and will be recovering for many months to come, if not years.

For our last muster of the year we are anticipating our November muster at Myrtle Beach SC (13-17 November) to be our best muster, where we are located minutes from the ocean. There will be auctions, a holiday potluck, a mini golf tournament and lots of fun. Any member or prospective member of SMART is always welcome to attend any of our musters. We look forward to seeing new faces.

The Tri-State Travelers wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, Kwanza and Hanukkah, along with a safe New Year. See you next year. **Gail Alley, Editor**



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**



Don't forget the **Central Regional Muster** to be held Veterans Day week.

The Muster starts on November 11, 2024 and we depart on November 15th.

Lots of good Cajun cooking to be offered! If you are a football fan, join the Cajun chapter the weekend before the Regional for a tailgate party to cheer on LSU!

The tailgate party and Regional Muster are to be held at Sun Outdoors

New Orleans North, 43234 LA-445, Ponchatoula, LA.

The number is 985-520-6600. [See website for more details! SmartRVing.ORG](http://SmartRVing.ORG)



SWAMP POP!

Louisiana is known for its contribution to music. We have blues, country western, traditional French, and Zydeco music. These have been combined into Swamp Pop. This South Louisiana rock and roll is performed by Cajun and Creole musicians all around Louisiana. AND there will be Swamp Pop at the upcoming Tailgate muster! Yes, we will tailgate in style on Saturday and watch LSU beat Alabama while we cook, eat, and let the good times roll. Later that same day, the campground will have a band that plays Swamp Pop. I can't imagine a better venue to have a great time.

This muster will be held November 8th-10th . The Regional Muster will follow beginning Monday the 11th . It will feature lots of good food, tours, and more.

If you missed this muster you can still visit us in Louisiana! Louisiana is home to many State Parks with economical camping available. They offer a 50% discount to seniors! And it is not too soon to reserve your spot for the 25th annual Y'all Come Muster. There will be several other festivals and events taking place next April when this event is being held. Make your plans to attend NOW.

The Louisiana Food and Music Caravan will take place next March-April and has one opening as I write this article. This will be a caravan that makes one-of-a-kind memories, so you do not want to miss this opportunity to tour the state, eat the food, and listen to the music! This may be your only chance to see Louisiana through the eyes of a life time resident.

But the truth is, we have food and music at all or our events, so Y'all Come see us!

Laissez Bon Temps Rouler!



Rocky Tops SMART chapter
in Tennessee was well represented at the 2024 National Muster in Ladson, South Carolina.



We were all delighted to have achieved 2024 Outstanding Chapter as this chapter was reconstituted in May, 2024!

A huge thank you to Ed Pate of Ohio Valley, Reese and Diane Burke, Wulf and Stephanie Corrington, Ski Drobinski, National SMART President Melody Thomas, and the SMART headquarters staff for all of the work and for all the members who were present.



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



Hello everyone. Once again, the annual Special Military Active Recreational Travelers Muster is in the history books. We had more than one hundred rigs and approximately two hundred attendees. Thank you to the Southeast Region for a job well done.



The ALAMO chapter in San Antonio just completed their annual fish fry Muster in Johnson City, TX. We had eighteen rigs and two of our members were residing in a Bed and Breakfast in Johnson City. We had a total of thirty-six attendees. The highlight of our Muster was the Fish Fry in Stonewall, TX. Funds are raised for the volunteer fire department and emergency medical services. This is their largest fund raiser of the year. This is the twenty-third year the Alamos have attended their fish fry. The fish was fabulous and desserts very plentiful, and there had to be more than one thousand people who attended. They have items donated from their community and tickets can be purchased and names are drawn for the lucky winners. Our other Muster activities included plenty of food and many games to participant in, and hopefully win money and or door prizes. We had two 50/50 drawings and there were as always lucky winners. Games included card bingo; left, center, right; and ladder ball. Everyone had a good time.

Our next Muster is December 5 - 9 in Bandera, TX. We had to conduct a special election because our president, James Collier, passed away. The vice president, Roger Bruce, conducted our meeting and election. The Muster Master, Secretary, and Treasurer agreed to continue in their current positions until our next election in February, 2026. Joe Noonan volunteered for president and David Weis agreed to be the vice president, and both were elected by acclamation. Thank you to the ALAMO members for placing their trust in our newly elected officers.



The TEXANS have a Muster this week and the location is the Mineola Civic Center. Most people know by now the SMART National Muster in **2025 is in Mineola, TX**. The TEXANS will also hold their biannual elections at this Muster. We need members to step up and volunteer for all positions in the TEXANS Chapter.

The next National Muster will be sponsored by the Midwest Region from September 10 - 20, 2025. Early arrival begins on September 10 and the dates of the Muster are September 15 - 19, with departure on September 20.

We appreciate all the volunteers from the Midwest Region and those who have volunteered from other regions. We can always use more volunteers, please contact Richard or me, we need your help and expertise. Thank you to everyone. I'm sure we will have the best National Muster ever. I am the Regional Chair and Richard Palmer is the Muster Master. We are here for everyone and please let us know if we can assist any and all volunteers and members with their questions. We will solve issues jointly. Please register for the National Muster. We look forward to seeing you when you "Two Step to Texas". See you next year if not before that time. **Joe Noonan, Midwest Regional Director and ALAMOS Chapter President**



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



Greetings - Our weather has finally changed and we have fallen into fall. Nice cool temps are on tap for the evening with low 70's to 80's during the day. I'm still recovering from pneumonia and I didn't realize it would take this long to recoup. Guess it's an age factor. **Golden Gate, Arizona Roadrunner and Arizona Tumble Weeds Chapter's** all have upcoming Muster's so check the SMART web site for more info and, if you're in the area in either state stop on by to say hello or better yet stay and while and get to know the people and I'm sure you'll have a great time. Lots of good things happening in SMART so once again check the SMART website for upcoming events and chapter's musters. Safe travels to everyone who is on the road. Happy traveling. **Mike Foley Western Region Director**



Greetings from Golden Gate - Fall is finally here and the weather has changed course from hot to nice and cool. Golden Gate has a muster coming up Nov 10th and departing Nov 15th at Orange Grove in Bakersfield, CA more info is on the SMART Website. If you're in the area stop on by and say howdy or better yet come and stay with us and we'll have a great time. Good things are going on in SMART just check out the web site for more info. Not a whole lot going on right now so be safe and happy travels.

Mike Foley Golden Gate Chapter President

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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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