



S★M★A★R★T

E-NEWS

“Seeing the Country We Defend”



SMART HEADQUARTERS

SMART BI-MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

JUNE 2025

Join us for our 42nd National Muster

“Two Step to TEXAS”



Mineola, TEXAS Civic Center RV Park

September 11th—19th, 2025

Come and join in all the

**FOOD! FRIENDS! FUN! &
EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT!**

*We also have great Tours lined up, with
transportation provided so you won't have to drive.*

Come receive your commentative Pin

Sign up for National & Tours online

*(If you already signed up for national and have not signed up for
tours, just go back to your registration and add your Tours)*

SmartRVing.org

See website for Tour info!



A Message from your

SMART President, Melody Thomas

I attended the Central Region muster last month. In reflecting on our 11 years in SMART, we realized this was the first regional muster we have ever been to. And it was wonderful! The stars shined down on us and we won all kinds of prizes – the 50/50 raffle, a beautiful basket donated by the Ohio Valley SMARTS, the brown bag raffle, and I placed second in the Hand & Foot Tournament. Not bad for someone who just learned how to play. We shared meals, enjoyed games, and made great plans for the 2026 National Muster. We met folks from the Rocky Tops, the Arkansas Hogs, Ohio Valley SMARTs, and Cajuns. There were new friendships and re-newed friendships made. All in all, it was a wonderful experience and left us looking forward to the next muster. And that is the magic of SMART – that wonderful feeling you are left with when the muster is over.

And I got an opportunity to speak with the group. I reminded everyone of the importance of our three-point strategy: RECRUIT, RETAIN, and LEAD. We must recruit if we hope to grow. We can do that by wearing veteran paraphernalia, putting up posters, handing out flyers, marching in parades, and always carrying an application in your pocket. We must work on retaining the people we recruit if we hope to remain viable as a group. We can do that by making membership fun through campfires, potlucks, outdoor barbecues, and games. We played beanbag baseball and drew in onlookers as well as a young girl who joined the game. And lastly, we must be willing to step up and fill leadership positions. Become an officer in your chapters and regions. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Muster Master are all positions you can choose from. SMART needs leaders. Won't you be one?

Melody Thomas, SMART National President

In Memory of:

We have lost a Friend, Great Mentor, and Past President of SMART this week. Jeff Stephens of Tampa, Florida passed away. Jeff has been an advisor for SMART since he was in Office back in 2008 as the President of SMART. We will truly miss our dear friend. Our love and Prayers go out to Nancy and his Family.





2nd VP message: Hello SMART members. We are getting close to our National Muster in Mineola, TX, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone. I hope this message finds everyone healthy and ready for an enjoyable time in Mineola.

We have planned a variety of tours, seminars, games, and the meals will be outstanding. The Chef in Mineola at the Civic Center has proposed a variety of meals for us and I think everyone will enjoy the food. I tasted the food prepared by the chef and it was delicious. Be prepared to enjoy the festivities and the Mineola area.

The membership of SMART has shown an increase in new members in the last couple of months. I want to thank everyone for your recruiting efforts. Please continue to broadcast what SMART is all about and invite prospective members to our events all over the country. We are always ready to welcome new members and allow them to get to know each other and what we do. I am sure veterans, and their families will want to join our SMART family. One of the best ways to advertise is to visit FAM CAMPS throughout the country. Leave brochures, bulletins, membership applications, and a point of contact with a telephone number for prospective members. Again, thank you for what you do to increase our membership. The Muster Schedule and Mineola Messenger are available on the SMART website for further information for the Muster in Mineola. I hope to see everyone as you two step to Texas.
Joe Noonan 2nd VP



**Attention Everyone, this year we are sponsoring Watkins
Logan Veterans Home for Christmas presents,
in Tyler , TX**

they are looking for ...

Gift Cards from Amazon, Visa, & Walmart cards only,

Brown Garden Gloves in size Large & X-Large,

Military T-Shirts and Hats all branches in sizes

Large, XL, XXL, XXXL

**Please bring these items to the National Muster sign in desk
to donate to the Veterans.**

***Please contact Donna Springer Spouse Advisor
dcspring@comcast.net***

For any questions....





EAST REGION MUSTER 2026

Rockin' the 50's

Join us for the 2026 East Region Muster at Coastal GA RV Resort in beautiful Brunswick, Georgia.

April 15th – 20th, 2026

Travel back to the 50's for the entire week. Pull out those saddle oxfords, poodle skirts, and don't forget those bobby socks for our Sock Hop. In fact, YOU CAN DRESS 1950's ALL WEEK if you like. There will be a costume contest at the sock hop.

Come early and enjoy our pre-muster themed activities.

See the next page for some of our activities.

Just some of our planned activities

Click [here](#) for our newsletter and information about early arrival activities.

Click [here](#) for the East Region website to register.

FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT

**BRAXTON
SYKES**
TRIBUTE ARTIST
AS
ELVIS



SOCK HOP & DANCE MARATHON



Join us for this costumed event !
(Costumes are not required)
Break out those bobby socks and
prepare to bust a move.
Be There or Be Square

COMPETITIVE GAMES



- Golf Tournament
- Pool Tournament
- Bean Bag Baseball
- Hand and Foot

There will be a classes to learn
Hand and Foot and other games



Hula Hoop
101



Bike Rodeo



Participate in our regular
raffles and fundraisers

- 50/50
- Brown Bag Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Prize Giveaway

WATCH FOR
INFORMATIVE
CLASSES AND
SEMINARS



Radio Show
Music Trivia

2026 SMART CARAVANS

2026 SMART Western Caribbean Cruise Rally at Sea

Feb 22nd—March 1, 2026.

7 Nights on the Regal Princess,
Leaving Galveston, TX click on link below to register

<https://1b59a9-6042.icpage.net/smartrv2026galvestoncruise>

All participants must pay the \$125 admin fee to SMART.

2026 SPRINGTIME IN THE SMOKIES

May 1-12th, 2026

Have you ever seen the mountain Laurel Bloom? Seen Bears with their cubs, Elk with there young, beautiful creek waterfalls, well this is a trip for you! Jeep ride thru Cades Cove, Moonshine & Wine Tour, Bush Beans Factory Tour, Bus tour to Cherokee to see “Unto these Hills Drama”, & Dinner Shows

Est. cost couple \$3800, Single \$2500,

Guest \$1500.

2026 Yellowstone Plus

June 22 - August 06, 2026

Prepare to experience an epic trip to some of the most iconic destinations in North America! Beginning in Wyoming, the caravan will travel through Montana, North Dakota and end in South Dakota.

Costs - Couple \$7,700
Single \$5800 Guest \$2,000

2026 OHIO, the Heart of it All

July 15, - August 14, 2026

The history of aviation and the largest collection of Presidential Airplanes! The national Museum of the Great Lakes, Rock in Roll Hall of Fame, USS COD Submarine, Cuyahoga National Park, Scenic Railway Ride, Fabulous Food, Amish country and a Reenactment of D Day.

Est Costs - Couple \$4,999
Single : \$3,999 Guest \$1,599

2026 FALL COLORS CARAVAN

October 1-26, 2026

Join us on this beautiful scenic drive from Niagara Falls thru the Adirondack's, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, Massachusetts. Seeing beautiful fall maple leaves and covered bridges, see how maple syrup is made, take a Scenic Train ride thru the mountain side, watch cranberries being harvested, whale watching tour, Lobster Dinner and more...

Est cost : \$5650couple,
\$3925 single Guest \$1950

Join us on these Great
Caravans!
Go to our website for more
information and to sign up
for your favorite
Caravans

SmartRVing.org



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)

RECRUIT 5 NEW MEMBERS and GET A YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP

Attention all Chapters,
please check out the
campground page on our
website for

specials at any Blue
Water Property/
Sun Outdoors
Campgrounds

**Groups Get a 20%
discount,**

**Use code 25SMART when
making your reservations**

**call Lisa Mannon
443-664-3375**

**To set up your group
Musters!**

Unlock EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS
ON YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE WITH BLUE WATER!

MILITARY DISCOUNTS
Active and retired military save **10-20%** at over 55 Blue Water campgrounds.
Use promo code **25SMART** to book your next adventure today!

Plan Unforgettable Group Events

- ✓ 20% group discounts
- ✓ Dedicated group coordinator
- ✓ Waived site lock fees
- ✓ Conveniently grouped RV sites & rentals

Contact Eva Winther: ewinther@bwdc.com or call (443) 856-4811 to reserve your group getaway!

Seasonal Sites for 2025
Enjoy hassle-free RV fun all season long at one of our amazing campgrounds.
Contact Lisa Mannon: lmannon@bwdc.com or call (443) 664-3375 to reserve your spot today!

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.



FAMCAMP Updates May 2025

This is an active list of Famcamps that are outside security check point zones and available to anyone with a VA ID card as well as Retired Military DOD cards. At check-in, the card holder must present their VA ID to either the host or staff. It's highly recommended that reservations and payment confirmation are provided on arrival.

1. Avon Park, FL – This is an Air Force Outdoor Recreation facility that DOES NOT have a Famcamp. They have primitive boondocking camp sites used mostly during Florida Hunting and Fishing Season in the winter months. Stays are limited to 10 days and registration is required online **<https://avon.isportsman.net>** There are no security check points, no exchange, no commissary, no bathhouses, no utilities. For \$10 a day, you can camp in natural areas and use all the equipment you brought with your RV like holding tanks, lithium batteries, generator, and solar!! Firearms are welcomed with permits.
2. Key West, FL – This famcamp has temporarily closed their access gate on Sigsby Island to anyone **without** an ID card (VA or DOD/military Retired). Due to recent media events, the Navy increased security.
3. Pacific Beach, WA – This Navy Recreation area is directly on the Pacific Ocean. It has RV sites with full hook ups and cabins for rent. Beautiful but windy area.
4. Oxnard, CA – US Coast Station Channel Island is a small 20 site RV Park with only water and electric but has a dump station. Used mostly by active duty but sites do open for short stays. Located in a residential area with waterfront across the street. Adjacent to Port Hueneme Navy Support Base which does have checkpoints.
5. Coronado, CA – Naval Air Station, also known as Fiddlers Cove Marina and RV Famcamp. Home to TopGun, expensive but great views and full hookups.
6. Flagstaff, AZ – Fort Tuthill at Luke AFB Recreation area. All rv sites with hookups. Tent areas and cabins are available too.
7. El Paso, TX – Fort Bliss Famcamp is adjacent to family housing areas and the BX Mini Mart gas station. Full hookups but sites near the road are noisy. Full commissary and post exchange on base.
8. Great Falls, MT – Malstrom AFB has 2 famcamps, Gateway Campground is

off base near the main gate with a laundry room and bathhouse. RV sites have water and power and a central dump station. The Annex Famcamp is on base with full hookups at all sites. Mostly AD staying there so sites fill up fast. Both are convenient to I-15.

9. Louisville, KY – Ft. Knox, 2 famcamps with Camp Carlson off base. Full hookups and nice campsites and new cabins are available. On base rv park is new and across from the Post Exchange.
10. Concord, MA – Hanscom AFB Famcamp is near the runway off base and entered from a residential area. Full hookups. Some boondock areas.
11. Cartersville, GA – Navy Recreation Lake Allatoona. Located off I-75, 30mins north of Atlanta. All sites with water/electric and a central dump station.
12. Hinesville, GA – Ft Stewart also known as Holbroke Pond and Recreation Famcamp is in a remote area of the base with public access. Across the street from Base Equestrian Center. Full hookups.
13. Wilmington (Kure Beach), NC – Blakeslee AF Recreation Park is operated by Seymour Johnson AFB. Nice cabins and full hookup at all RV sites. Walking distance to the beach.

Access to these locations is subject to change based on security conditions at each facility. Always call ahead and have reservation information handy when you arrive. Don't forget to fill out a review and vote for Famcamp of the Year.

Mike Caldwell #9178

Up Coming Musters for JUNE

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|---------|---|
| 6/8/25 | Golden Gate Summer Muster: Gold Ranch Casino & RV Park, Verdi, NV |
| 6/16/25 | Florida Sunshine June Muster: Manatee Hammock Campground, Titusville, FL |
| 6/19/25 | Arkansas Hoggs Luncheon : The Rib Crib & BBQ Grill, Searcy, AR |
| 6/29/25 | Gold Coasters & Buc's Mini Muster: WP Franklin Corps of Engineer Park, Alva, FL |

From the Desk of the Chaplain

Here we are already in the month of June we celebrated two great's last month. First are our mothers; I hope you are like me with great memories of your mother, or she is still with you and you honored her on her day. Mothers have great responsibility. Military mothers have a lot of time raising children and keeping a home all by herself, while her partner serves our country somewhere far away. He doesn't come home everyday to play with the children while mother cooks dinner. Thank you Mothers out there and hope you had a wonderful Mother's Day. The other holiday this last month was Memorial Day. We have seen war in our lifetime and we must remember to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to keep America safe. We have had pain reach our shores when civilians have had to save or help those hurt by enemies from other countries, who have gotten to our land and hurt our people and buildings. Make sure you thank the service members who gave their lives for this great country. My mother lost her 19 year old brother in WWII when his ship was destroyed in Manila Bay by the Japanese. My husband's father lost his brother in Africa fighting at a young age. We must take the time to recognize the great Americans who protect our great country. God bless America and pray for one another.

Shelene Armacost , National Chaplain



2020 Fleetwood Discovery 38K. 26,600 miles. All-electric coach (no propane), 360 hp Cummins diesel. 3 slides (1 full wall slide) bath and a half, king bed and over cab bed, 3 A/C units, washer and dryer, residential refrigerator, fireplace, dishwasher, 4 TVs, side/rear cameras, satellite antenna (automatic) with 'Wally' receiver, WiFi ranger in coach, auto hydraulic levelers. External macerator for waste water –2”

hose can pump waste up to 40 ft; Tryon tire-safety bands and other extras. Must sell due to age and health. **\$169,000** Contact: **J. Stephens 813.731.0101**, Located in Tampa. jstephens6124@gmail.com

JUNE SMART E-NEWS

A Bi -monthly addition to the **TRAVELER**

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