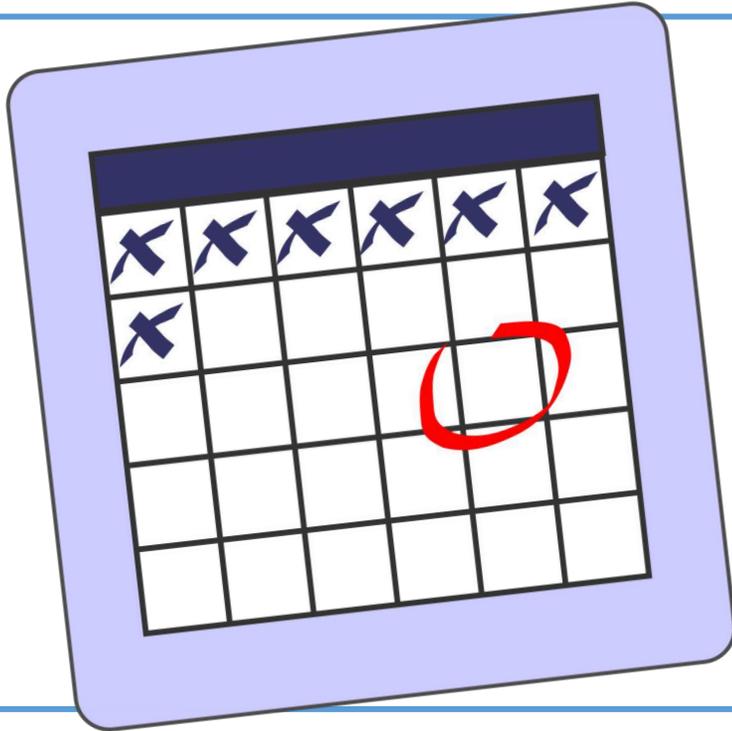


# CHARLESTON RAGTIMES

July 2024 (issue #7)

Voice of the 41st S\*M\*A\*R\*T National Muster in Ladson, SC



**LESS THAN  
TWO  
MONTHS TO  
THE START  
OF THE  
NATIONAL  
MUSTER!!**

## **DANCING TO CHARLESTON**

**2024 S\*M\*A\*R\*T  
National Muster**

**Ladson, South Carolina  
September 16-21, 2024**



# A WORD FROM THE ASST. MUSTER MASTER

LONNIE ALLEY

## Arrival and Departure 2024 National Muster

**Arrival:** Exchange Park 9850 Highway 78, Ladson SC 29456 (**NOT EARLIER THAN 11 September 2024 at 1200 Noon**). Parking on Thursday, 12 September and later 0900 -1600. Unavoidable late arrivals please call 910.709.9477 or 910.308.2882 for site assignment and parking assistance. All site assignments are “*first come, first serve*” with no pre-assignments.

Exit 203 Interstate 26 either east or west bound. Follow signs on Highway 78 to Exchange Park. The Exchange Park entrance is on your left if coming from I26 under the Exchange Park sign. Look for signs for SMART at the turnoff. From the entry road, turn left and go through the handicap parking lot, then follow the road through the gate at the end of the parking lot around to the right to the campground gate. Parking assignments will be made upon arrival at the campground gate and a SMART parking team member will guide you to your site and assist in parking. NOTE: all spaces are back in only and are the same size—approximately 50 feet long and 20 feet wide. The parking lot will also be used for vehicle parking at the Blue Room. Handicap rules are not enforced in this parking lot during our Muster.

Please stop at the gate to get your site assignment and welcome package. This is also the ideal time to disconnect towed vehicles. Due to limited maneuver room, please leave towed vehicles outside the camping or in the area to the rear of the camping spaces area until you have parked your camper.

There are no designated handicap spaces in the campground. There are approximately 15 spaces on pavement near the meeting room building that I am setting aside for handicap, plus I will set aside several spaces in the campground as close to the building as possible if necessary. Recommend those with limited mobility issues **mark your online registration Handicap box and note if you need close in parking**. If you have already registered and failed to mark the box, go back to the registration form and mark the Handicap box. In addition, if you use any of the help devices, mark accordingly or reregister to enter the appropriate devices.

Groups and individuals wishing to park together **must arrive together** and place an 8X10” paper in the left front of each member’s windshield with your group name/number in large letters/numerals, i.e. 1 of 5, 2 of 5 etc. Please have the group leader email Lonnie Alley, Parking Coordinator as soon as you plan to arrive in a group with the group name, number, and arrival date at [lonniealley@earthlink.net](mailto:lonniealley@earthlink.net) or 910.709.9477.

There is ample space available to gather in the fair parking lots prior to entering the campground. The only stipulation is that due to lease restrictions, all campers must be in the campground overnight. No campers may dry camp or remain in the parking lot overnight. There are several campgrounds, both military and commercial, in the area where you can stay overnight prior to arrival at the National to await your group.

**Park and Power:** The main camping spaces are three long rows. Rows 2 and 3 will be back-to-back and have both 30-amp and 50-amp connections, all other spaces are 50-amp only. Recommend 30-amp campers arrive with a 50/30 adapter as you may be in a 50-amp spot. All hookups (power, sewer and water) are in back of the camper. Be prepared with sufficient hoses and power cable **to reach approximately 10 feet behind your camper**. Water is city water—recommend pressure regulators. All campers must be self-contained. This is not a “campground” in the traditional sense. There is no campground office. **DO NOT** call Exchange Park for any reason. Contact Lonnie Alley, Parking and Facility Coordinator 910.709.9477 for all questions/issues. All reservations and normal campground operations and parking are handled through SMART National Muster Staff. **THERE ARE NO DUMP STATIONS, SHOWERS or BATHROOMS in the camping area.** The restrooms are in the main facility (Blue Room Atrium) open 24 hours a day.

### **While in the campground:**

- Limited WIFI is available (may not support streaming)
- Broadcast TV only, no cable
- No open fires including no fire rings.
- Quiet hours 10PM to 6 AM (This is a residential neighborhood)
- No garbage collection, take your garbage to the dumpster located near the gate



**Departure:** Due to heavy traffic on highway 78, for your safety and to ensure smooth traffic flow, all departures will be right turn only when exiting Exchange Park. This will lead you directly back to I26 interchange 203 where you can go west (left turn) or east (right turn). Interstate 95 is west. Please leave the campground clean and orderly. Do not leave garbage on your site for others to cleanup.

**Questions/concerns** please contact Lonnie Alley, Parking Team Coordinator 910.709.9477 or [lonniealley@earthlink.net](mailto:lonniealley@earthlink.net).



# MUSTER SUMMARY

Our 2024 National Muster will be held in Ladson, South Carolina, with Opening Ceremonies on Monday, September 16th, and Closing Ceremonies on Friday, September 20th.



**Place:** Exchange Park, 9850 Highway 78, Ladson, SC 29456. Ph: 843-572-3161

**Registration Fee:** Muster fee is \$100 per person for catered meals, entertainment, and other muster activities. A \$30 non-refundable administrative fee is included in each registration. Tour fees to be paid to the tour company.

**Camping:** Camping fees are \$50 per night. Sites will be assigned by registration staff with NO involvement by Exchange Park staff. All sites are back-in with full hookups (our parking crew will guide you to your site and will be glad to assist backing into your site). Big rig sites available. Long sewer and water hoses will be needed as connections are in the rear and need to be long enough to reach **10 feet behind your camper**. Restrooms in the Exchange Hall will be available 24/7.

**Earliest Allowable Arrival Date:** Noon on September 11th. Muster departure date is no later than noon on September 21st.

# FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY



The Flag Retirement Ceremony, for the 2024 National, in Ladson, South Carolina, will be held Friday **Sept 20<sup>th</sup> at 1600**. Site to be determined.

The flag retirement ceremony is a dignified and respectful event specifically designed to retire an American flag that is no longer fit for display due to wear, damage, or other conditions that compromise its appearance. ***So if you have a flag that meets these requirements, please bring it to National when you come so it can be properly retired.***



10 26 2017 20

*Vendors will be set up in the  
Blue Room and Pavilion*



**SkyMed Seminar & Vendor -**  
Emergency Medical Travel Services



John of **Southern Pioneer RV** will be  
the **Aqua Hot** and **RV repair** service  
technician

Tom Mordaunt will be the **Keen Tank**  
representative. You can get your holding  
tanks cleaned. Services include clean-  
ing holding tanks and sensors, water  
heater tank, fresh water tank, and waste/  
plumbing systems. Also teaches you  
what you need to know in order to keep  
the systems clean.

Jeff Gaston of **My RV School** will per-  
form weighing of RVs; selling TMPS,  
TireMinder Air Compressors, Foam  
Fire Extinguishers, Escape Ladders

Jamieson Family **Auto Care of Sum-  
merville, SC**, specializing in auto &  
RV wash /wax /detailing.



**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT  
ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TO  
BE A CHAPTER PRESIDENT  
OR REGION DIRECTOR BUT  
WERE AFRAID TO BECAUSE  
YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT  
WAS INVOLVED?**

Here is your chance to learn about the  
leadership roles in SMART. Come to  
the seminar at National where there  
will be a class on Chapter President  
and Region Director responsibilities.  
You will find it is easier than you  
think.



SMART needs fresh blood. Are you  
up to the task? Find out at National.



A first-aid station will be staffed during the National Muster.

Each morning, from 0800-1000, individuals can have their blood pressure checked, wounds cared for, first-aid for minor injuries, cardiac monitoring, and other screenings will be available.

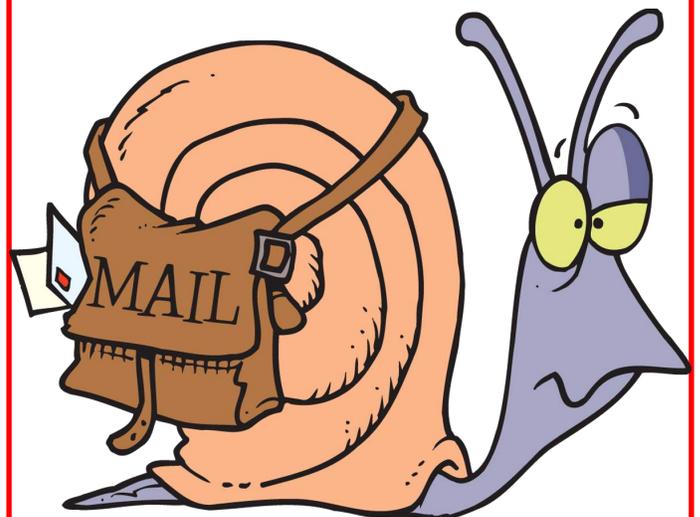
Coordination with urgent care or a hospital can be coordinated.



## MAIL FORWARDING

If you need to have mail sent to you at Exchange Park, you can use the following address. Make sure it has your name and SMART Muster on the envelope. They do not accept deliveries over the weekend.

**YOUR NAME**  
**The Exchange Park/  
SMART Muster**  
**9850 Hwy 78**  
**Ladson, SC 29456**



# IS YOUR HOSE LONG ENOUGH?



*The main camping spaces are three long rows. Rows 2 and 3 will be back-to-back and have both 30-amp and 50-amp connections, all other spaces are 50 amp only. Recommend 30-amp campers arrive with a 50/30 adapter as you may be in a 50-amp spot. All hookups (power, sewer and water) are behind the camper. Be prepared with sufficient hoses and power cable to reach approximately **10 feet behind your camper**. Water is city water, recommend pressure regulators. All campers must be self-contained.*



For those interested, here is a link to the golf cart vendor. Some of the campsites are some distance from the meeting hall and vehicle parking will be limited to the campground and the parking lot in front of the meeting hall. Shuttle service will be available, with a schedule posted. Arrangements have been made for discounts to members desiring to rent a cart for personal use.

Please contact:

Danielle Morgan, rental coordinator  
by email at

[Daniellem@trucarts.com](mailto:Daniellem@trucarts.com)

**(NOTE THE CHANGE)**

and be sure to mention you are with SMART. He is the sales manager and manages the SMART sales himself. The carts will be delivered to, and picked up from, the campground every day

**except Sunday.**

## BRING A PHOTO TO ENTER IN THE ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Bring your photo with you when you check in at the Welcome Station.

***Entry Fee is \$1 per photograph.***

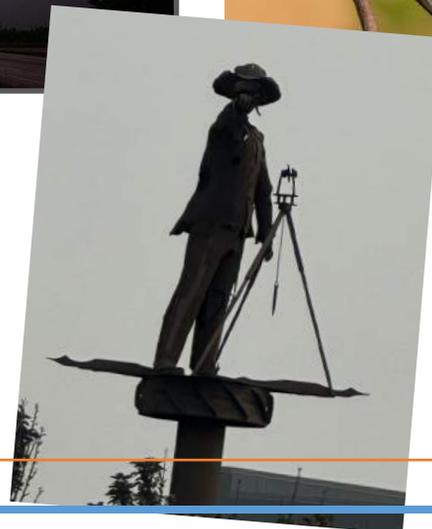
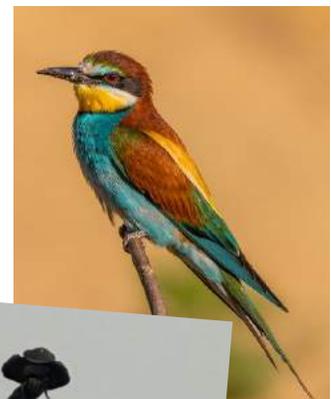
Photo requirements are as follows:

8 x 10 matte finish photograph taken by you  
(no glossy photos)

Photo may be from anywhere in the world that you have traveled

The 5 categories are:

- ◆ Landscapes
- ◆ Pets
- ◆ Wildlife
- ◆ Your grandchild
- ◆ SMART members having fun at a SMART activity



# CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**Don't miss the Chapter Fair on September 17 @ 1300!!**

Chapters will have tables with folks available to answer any questions you might have about the chapter. If you don't belong to a chapter, or want to belong to more than one, this will be your chance to find out about those in your area or elsewhere. Don't want to be tied to a geographic location? Sign up for one of the At-Large chapters. They are formed on interests rather than geography. Many members join several chapters and attend musters as they travel around the U.S.

## **Planned Chapter Activities During National Muster:**

**NOMADS**—Pre Muster 9/12-15, Potluck 9/13, Meeting 9/15  
Post Muster 9/21-25

**DUFFERS**—Annual Meeting on 9/15 @ 1900,  
President's Cup Golf Tournament on 9/16 @ 0800-1400

**STAR**—Luncheon and Annual Meeting on 9/15 @ 11:00 a.m.

**WIMS**—Luncheon and Annual Meeting on 9/20 @ 12 noon

**FMCA**—Annual Meeting September 16 @ 2:15 PM

# BROWN BAG AUCTION

**September 17 & 19 @ 2000 hours**



Bring your Brown Bag for the **AUCTION** to the Welcome Center on Sunday or Monday. You will receive a ticket for your donation for the drawing to be held at the end of the Auction. Contents of the Brown Bag must be **WORTH** no less than \$20 in the bag. Only **ONE** bag will be accepted from each rig. Tape the bags closed. **DO NOT** staple. Do not put any identifying information on the outside of the bag.

***NOTE: Each bag will be assigned a number and the name of the person donating the bag will be annotated on a roster. In this manner, we will know who to thank. Winner and donor will be recognized***

## GAMES

The Game Coordinator is planning to hold several tournaments during our upcoming gathering. Sharpen your skills and be prepared to compete with your friends for the prizes.



This includes the following:

- **President's Cup**, National Golf Tournament (there is a planning session for the tournament on Sunday evening)
- **Pegs & Jokers** (there will be a training session to learn this game if interested)
- **Hand and Foot** (there will be a training session to sharpen your skills)
- **Card Bingo** (no training needed, just bring 5 quarters and one dollar)
- **Bean Bag Baseball** (come try your luck and cheer on your team)



# NOMADS UPDATE



Our Pre National muster is only a few weeks away. Hope to see all of our NOMADS in attendance. On Sept 11th. Be sure to let HQ know you will arrive early for the NOMADS muster.

## *Post National Muster:*

During the Post National Muster, Diane Pepperell is planning a craft session for us. She is collecting driftwood, shells, rocks, etc. and will guide us through the creation of either a wind chime or driftwood tree. The exact details of this craft session are as yet unknown but likely will occur either Sunday or Monday mid-morning of the muster. If you have any specific tools or ideas for such items, please let Diane Pepperell know at [Diane.Pepperell@yahoo.com](mailto:Diane.Pepperell@yahoo.com)

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Pre National Muster, the Nationals and then the Post National Muster. Safe Travels to all.



At this time, we have 24 people who have mentioned an interest in the carriage ride. Each carriage can handle up to 16 people. At \$50/person, we would require a minimum of 22 people to cover the cost of 2 carriages. If we get more than 22 people, then the per person cost could be reduced.

Current reservations are: Thomas (1), Padberg (2), Dunkle (2), Shore (3), Vassallo (2), Fisher (2), T Johnson (2), Steinbauer (2), Barr (2), Springer (2), Groom (2), and Young (2)

Anyone interested in joining in, please notify Joe Padberg at

[Padberg4Smart@gmail.com](mailto:Padberg4Smart@gmail.com) or 480-825-3550.

## ***Game Players at National***

There is a need for some additional game supplies. If you have any, please bring with you to the scheduled game.

***Card Bingo*** - bring a full deck of playing cards along with your 5 quarters and one dollar.

***Hand & Foot*** - bring any additional sets of H&F playing cards, card holders, and shufflers.

***Bean Bag Baseball*** - bring any cheering items that you carry. Favorite team paraphernalia, Pom Poms, signs of encouragement, etc.

The schedule for Nationals is very busy with Wednesday open for tours of Charleston. Wednesday may become our extra game day. Might fit in a game of Bean Bag Baseball or other games if possible.

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### ***Attention National Attendees:***

Once again, there will be a live auction of a special bottle of Whiskey dedicated to our military personnel.

## **FREEDOM & WHISKEY**

### **Gang Together**

Freedom & Whiskey honors the men and women at the tip of our military spear that safeguard the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. For us, these operators anonymously and continuously lay their lives on the line in the most hostile environments on earth. The spirit encased in this bottle pays tribute to the sacrifices these individuals make on our behalf. It's our salute to these brave souls which, as a nation, we owe an unpayable debt. God bless and keep them safe. Slainte. Leiper's Fork Distillery

Proceeds from the purchase of this bottle are donated to assist special forces personnel return to normal life.

## Activities in the Charleston area during National Muster

**September 13, 2024**—Dancing on the Cooper, Mt. Pleasant Pier

Local bands perform a variety of live music

Tickets: \$10 pp at [www.CharlestonCountyParks.com](http://www.CharlestonCountyParks.com)



**January 20-September 15**—Quilt Exhibit from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



“*The Art of Abstraction: Modernism in Quilting*”

The Charleston Museum, 360 Museum Street

843-722-2996

**September 21, 2024**—Cars & Coffee, Fairfields Village,

165 Village Green Dr, Kiawah Island, SC

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Unique antiques & other cool cars



**September 14, 2024**—Cha-Cha Charleston! 2 shows: 5 p.m. & 8 pm (90 min)



Jazz Orchestra & Gino Castillo—\$10 to \$64 pp

Charleston Music Hall, 37 John Street

[222.charlestonjazz.com](http://222.charlestonjazz.com) 843-853-2252

**September 8-18, 2024**—Restaurant week is an annual event where different restaurants participate while offering special *Prix Fixé* lunch and dinner menus. Experience Lowcountry cuisine like never before.



# TOURS

Your National Muster Staff has been working diligently to identify the best tour and sightseeing options for the Charleston area for many months. After negotiations with multiple companies, we believe you will find these options will meet your sightseeing and tour desires.

We are providing three options for your convenience. However, since Charleston provides such a wide range of tour and sightseeing options, you may decide there are other tour operators that may meet your personal situation both from an interest and financial standpoint.

**First**, for those who prefer transportation from Exchange Park for a tour and return, we have partnered with Charleston Convention and Group Services, Inc. (CCGS). They have been providing tours since 1986 and specialize in supporting military reunions. CCGS has developed tours and a schedule to match the times specifically designated for tours during the National Muster schedule. Thursday, 12 Sep, to Sunday 15 Sep, and Wednesday 18 Sep. To see the tours, prices, terms and register go to: [Charleston Convention Group Services](#)

For those who rather drive on your own, carpool, or go by a taxi service like Uber, Lift, or a traditional taxi company, we suggest two options: Viator, or Information, Tickets, and Travel (ITT).

**Second**, Viator is a worldwide tour company who offers a wide selection, excellent prices, and terms at: [Viator Charleston Tour Options](#)

All you have to do is go to their website and make your reservations.

**Third** is one military members are familiar, ITT through military bases. While this option may be the most cost effective, the process only works if you purchase the voucher(s) in person and is somewhat complicated. ITT caters to military members who are in the local area since tickets must be purchased in person, and are non-refundable. In order to purchase the vouchers from ITT these are the recommended steps.

1. Review the tour options on the ITT website at <https://www.jbcharlestonorc.com/tickets>  
Note: The ITT website does not provide any detailed info about the specific tours; therefore you have to check each tour operator's website by searching the internet or viewing tours listed on Viator or another tour sales operator.

2. Once you decide which tour(s) you want, plan your arrival date for the muster so you have time to go to the ITT office at Jt Base Charleston to purchase the voucher(s). It will then be your responsibility to contact the tour company and make the reservation(s). The benefit of completing your part sooner than later is to have a better chance of getting the tour you desire. ITT assures vouchers will be available for each tour option, however, only the tour operator can provide info on the availability of specific tours and dates.

**IMPORTANT:** Please know if you purchase a ITT voucher and then decide not to go, there are no refunds or exceptions. SMART only serves as a facilitator for purchasing tours via all options and does not receive any financial benefit. Each tour option (CCSG, Viator, and ITT) have their own tour purchase and refund terms and conditions and it is your responsibility to read and understand them. SMART staff will not attempt to negotiate or intervene if a dispute occurs either on your behalf or theirs. Members are free to arrange tours on their own without using these options.

**Note:** If you have already registered for the National and decide to change your arrival dates to facilitate tours and need to revise, no problem. Just go to the SMART website, sign in and go to your reservation and make the change which will generate a new reservation with any payment due or refunds for site payments.

If you have any questions, you can contact John Steinbauer, Muster Master/Tour Coordinator at [jfs9840@gmail.com](mailto:jfs9840@gmail.com).

