



SMART E-NEWS

from S*M*A*R*T* HQ



PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

SMART BY -MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

FEBRUARY 2018

We're headed to **TEXAS** for the **35th Anniversary** of **SMART**.

Join us for all the fun and excitement as we take tours of the big town of Dallas, and the



Yellow Rose of Texas Rose Garden of Tyler. If you're into

Flea Markets join us at one of

TEXAS BIGGEST FLEA MARKETS,

FIRST MONDAY TRADE DAYS

in Canton, TX.

(Registration on page 5)



From the Presidents Rig

Why do we RV?

Most of us that RV do it to see the country. We share pictures of our journeys, then post them on social media, those photos are amazing and some of the experiences are life-changing. That's why people RV, right? To see the country and get away from your daily pressures, ringing telephones and over-booked schedules. We like to Hit the road without the hassles of hotel bookings, flight delays, lost luggage, car rentals, crowded restaurants. Want to extend your travel an extra day or two? Not a problem with the flexibility of an RV. Connect with Nature and experience first-hand the many facets of nature's beauty. Dine by the shore of a crystal-clear lake, stroll in the shadows of a mountain range, fall asleep enjoying the aroma of dying embers of a campfire and awaken to the melodies of chirping birds. Your RV is your magic carpet bringing you to places where life is simpler, slower and peaceful. Discover all of America, it's a big country out there. In a recreation vehicle you can see and do it all because RV travel is as big as all outdoors. Visit national parks, hike a forest trail, RVing allows you to experience America on your own terms. RVing is pure freedom as far as the road will take you. For these reasons and coupled with the comradery of other SMART members allows us to travel and enjoy this wonderful country with people who have had similar life experience.



I was not content to rock the golden years away while musing about the past. RVing and SMART have been incredible. They have changed my life socially, emotionally, and provided life experiences others only dream about.

Larry Shields

From Your 1st Vice President

Your SMART leadership has been busy during the first quarter of our term in office. My email inbox had more than 600 SMART-related emails in the first 2.5 months since the National Muster in October. Wish I could say they were as exciting as the College Football Championship game but they are dealing with complex issues... cash flow, membership and not-for-profit status.



SMART continues to be alive and well and our head is above the water. Last year's National Muster was a tremendous success and for the first time in a long time we put funds back into our reserves. Recently our first active duty member in many years joined SMART along with his wife also a veteran.

But we are still losing too many members, 25 in December alone. Retention is still one of our biggest problems. While some of us might be getting older, some are moving on for other reasons. We need to know why any member fails to re-new and correct any specific issues.

The RV industry is going great-guns. Dealers are selling 500,000 new RV's every year including 50,000 motor homes. With more than 20 million veterans in the US, many of these new RV's must be going to veterans. They are the ones we need to reach. Most have never heard of SMART. Keep posting your adventures on social media. Photos are the best way to display your enjoyment and camaraderie. There are three SMART video you can forward in your postings and emails.

<https://www.youtube/watch?v=FN0bSegCF10&authuser=0>

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=BdCwUpy30TM>

<https://youtu.be/tmCsCsRLvac>



Displaying SMART banners in every campground is a great way to attract potential new members. Design your own or ask HQ for assistance. Provide a supply of our Recruiting Brochures and Tri-Fold applications for those that admire your banner. Some have cleverly made brochure containers from PVC pipe etc. I located a couple of Brochure Holders (Amazon) (used by Real Estate folks) that will be in front of our rig soon. They claim to be water-proof. There are even models with solar lights. If you need Brochures, contact HQ. On your

banners and posters be sure to add our QR code which leads to SMARTRVING.ORG.



And most of all, get ready to have a great fun-filled year with SMART. Attend as many Musters as you can and be sure to attend National in Mineola, TX in September. Travel safe! Enjoy our many blessings and continue the camaraderie at every event.

Doug Blaha

PS: I'm looking for a couple of volunteers to assist in the Newsletter and Publicity for the 2018 National Muster in Mineola, TX. Short hours, no pay, no experience necessary.

dlblaha@cox.net



From the 2nd Vice President

I have been sitting in front of blank screen, (think white sheet of paper) for awhile now, trying to figure out what to write to you for this E-News. Finally, it occurs to me that the blank screen is something like a New Year. There are lots of possibilities, lots of things to say, things to do, ways to be, ways to act, (or NOT to say, do or act!!).

There are endless possibilities for the time we have been given, but there is not endless time for the possibilities we have been given! Even though there are individual histories that have brought each one of us to this point in time, we all have a full range of choices in front of us for how we live our lives from this point. Each of us can choose to either keep on living and learning and growing in new directions while making the most of life to the best of our own unique gifts and abilities, or we can decide to sit where we are and do nothing but stagnate and shrivel up into nothing.

And the same is true for SMART ... SMART can either stay right where it is, or SMART can do all it can to live and learn and grow in new directions to be the most vibrant and exciting RV organization possible.

Growing and changing and growing and changing is an endless cycle, and exciting as it is, it can be at times both frightening and painful! But we either continue growing and changing and growing and changing, or we die ... that is how life works both for us as individuals and for organizations like SMART.

Your national committees are busy exploring ways to help SMART to change and to grow and to continue our proud tradition of "Seeing the Country We Defend" through 2018 and the years beyond. We ... YOU and I together ... are SMART. And SMART needs the best ideas and efforts of all of us to move into the future. Think about how SMART can become even better, share your ideas and discuss possibilities with other members at musters and other gatherings, email your Board of Director members with your thoughts and ideas, and let's continue working to improve our great organization.

And a big kudos to Richard Palmer, the newest member of the STAR chapter (Richard is loving the 1 year free dues that he received for recruiting a total of 5 new members!!). Richard has developed a great way to recruit new members via social media, and I expect his total to continue to increase. Each of us has our own way of sharing the blessings of SMART with potential members. What works best for you? *Paul Rider*



So appreciated
Veterans,
thank you for keeping
our country safe!

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Watch for the

"Mineola Messenger"

to be emailed to you
starting in February.

For updates on the
35th Anniversary

National in Mineola, TX

Red White Blue 2018 SMART National Quilt Square



Request two squares per SMART chapter

Finished square measures 14 1/2" All seams are sewed 1/4"

Need:

1/2 yd dark blue, navy, with white stars

1/8 yd red (plain or red print that "reads" as red solid) or use red scraps

1/8 yd WHITE, not off white, not cream

Hint: cut a 15 1/2" square from paper or newsprint. Will help in placing stripes.

Cut 15 1/2" from blue star fabric

Cut blue sq in half on the DIAGONAL. You will have 2 triangles. Note: length of diagonal

Cut red fabric the length of fabric into long strips 2" wide. Will need two lengths.

Cut white fabric, the length of the fabric into long strips 2" wide. Will need two lengths.

SEW

Sew 1 red strip across diagonal of blue star triangle. Hint: pin this strip well because it is on diagonal & will stretch

Sew 1 white strip across on red stripe

Continue alternating red & white 2" wide strips across triangle to form square

There will be 4 red stripes & 4 white stripes

Press , press seams towards red fabric --- SQUARE up piece to 14 1/2"

Please send completed squares to Terilu Christen to arrive by 30 March 2018

Terilu Christen, 39 Kingsley Ct, Crossville, TN 38558 Questions: 931-607-8632

The registration form for the

S. E. Regional Muster

being held May 18th
at Wikiva Falls is now on the SMART website.

We were only allotted 51 RV sites
so please send in your registration soon.

Any questions please contact
muster master David Weis.

dweis74@hotmail.com

Great SMART Exposure:

Alliance Coach News Letter

January 2018, page 14,

has an article about the Drifters
placing Wreaths Across America.

<http://www.alliancecoach.com/newsletters/g>

Al Haynes never misses a chance to advertise for
SMART. He sent in an article to Alliance and
they placed it in their newsletter.

2018 S*M*A*R*T NATIONAL MUSTER REGISTRATION FORM

"Stampede to Texas—35th Anniversary"

September 26 – October 1, 2018 Mineola Civic Center, 1150 N. Newsom St, Mineola, TX 75773

Contacts: National Muster Master: Craig Christen, ctchristen@earthlink.net 931-224-8261

Assistant National Muster Master: Roy Allen, royhallen805@outlook.com

National Muster Treasurer: Sally Kavanaugh, ladysallyk@msn.com 623-910-1276

Please PRINT the following information clearly

SMART # _____ CO-PILOT SMART # _____ 1st National Muster yes no

SMART Chapter(s) _____

Last Name _____ First _____ Co-Pilot _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ # of nights _____ Handicap parking yes no

Vehicle : Motor Home 5th Wheel Travel Trailer length _____ slides _____

30 or 50 amps _____ Towing yes no Pets _____ Food allergy _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

Past National President Medal of Honor Recipient Purple Heart Recipient POW

Member: Canadian armed forces NATO SEATO Guest

Please check any of the following activities you may wish to participate in: Books, VHS/DVD/CD's movies for book sale Crafts for sale Donation for silent auction Donation of door prizes Indoor games Outdoor games Will volunteer to help at the Muster (Gofer, tram driver, prize runner, food server, etc.) Ladies' luncheon Men's lunch Craft sessions

Enter # attending: TOUR #1-Dallas TX \$85 (24 Sept) TOUR #2-Tyler TX \$35 (25 Sept) Golf Tournament (25 Sept)

Mail this REGISTRATION form WITH CHECK payable to SMART to cover your REGISTRATION.

SEND TO: SMART 600 University Office Blvd., #1A, Pensacola, FL 32504

Registration fee postmarked no later than September 1, 2018: \$200 for 2-person rig: \$100 for 1-person rig: \$100 for each additional person

Registration fee postmarked after September 1, 2018: \$220 for 2-person rig: \$110 for 1-person rig: \$110 for each additional person. Please contact HQ SMART or Treasurer if decision to attend is after 15 September.

(Meals provided: 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners)

Parking fee will be \$30 per night payable on arrival by check or cash only

If guests are in a separate RV, separate registration must be submitted.

ALL ATTENDEES AND GUESTS 18 YEARS OR OLDER MUST SIGN BELOW IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE:

For services rendered to/received by those signed below, in their participation of any SMART activity named above, the undersigned hereby releases and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless 2018 National Muster staff and SMART Inc, all officers, directors, employees, agents and their successors and assigns from all liabilities, injuries, obligations, claims, demands, losses, damages, judgments, penalties, expenses and disbursements, including reasonable attorney's fees of and kind and nature arising out of or in any way related to the activity listed above. SMART is NOT responsible for the actions of any participating company or agent with regards to their role in organizing, planning, or for any other service they provide for the benefit of the persons or activity named herein. All children under 18 must be accompanied by a SMART member and that member is responsible for the action/activities of which the minor participates.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please keep this page for your reference. Mail only the first page with your check.

Upon receipt of your registration, SMART National HQ will send verification of registration along with a copy of the refund policy. Additional information by email or regular mail will be sent by the National Muster committee. Updates will be by e-mail, through the SMART Traveler, Smart E-News, and/or the SMART website, www.smartrving.org.

Travel directions: We want you to enter the civic center grounds from the south off of Ivey St.

Muster Start: 26 September, Depart 1 October, 2018 Mineola Civic Center, 1150 N. Newsom St, Mineola, TX 75773

Traveling east/west on I-20, Exit 556, off the exit ramp, north on US Highway 69 for 16 miles, right at Cage St, Left on N Newsome St, right on Ivey ST (TX FM 1254), left (@ 599 Ivey St) into Mineola Civic Center-- Follow SMART signs.

Traveling south west on I-30, Exit 124, right onto exit ramp, left/south on TX 154E to Quitman, TX, right on TX 375 to Mineola, left exit onto E Loop 564 (just past Walmart), right on TX FM 1254 (1st exit) continue into Ivey St, right (@ 599 Ivey St) into Mineola Civic Center. Follow SMART signs.

Follow the SMART signs and you will be directed to your site.

Recommend arriving 25 Sept. Some seminars, registration, and Opening Ceremonies are on 26 Sept. Earliest parking team arrival date is 20 Sept.—you may arrive earlier but will have to enter the west entrance to the Civic Center from 1199 N. Newsom St from the west.

No registration fee will be refunded after 25 August, 2018 unless a verifiable emergency.

Tour Information –Tours planned prior to actual muster start on Wednesday 2 September 2018

Tour # 1 DALLAS—Monday, 24 Sept. Participants should arrive at the Civic Center Main Building by 0800. The bus departs at 0830 and returns at approximately 1700. The tour visits the DALLAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN & LUNCH, and GEORGE W. BUSH MUSEUM (#1 & #3 Trip Advisor things to do in Dallas). Cost of the tour is \$85.00 per person and includes lunch. Maximum of 56 people.

Tour # 2 TYLER AREA—Tuesday, 25 Sept. Participants should arrive at the Civic Center Main Building by 0800. The bus departs at 0830 and returns at approximately 1700. The tour visits the TYLER ROSE MUSEUM AND GARDENS, LUNCH AT LUBY’S CAFETERIA (ON YOUR OWN), THE AMERICAN FREEDOM MUSEUM, and the GOODMAN-LEGRAND HOUSE & MUSEUM. Cost of the tour is \$35.00 per person with lunch cost not included. Maximum of 56 people.

Possibility of a “POKER RUN” Tour visiting designated sites around area, picking up playing cards at each site to make the best poker hand, and having dinner and social time in the evening. TBD on 25 September.

Other sites: **Mineola**--Depot & Train Museum, Waldo Way Dairy Farm, and the Nature Preserve; **Gladewater**--“the antique capital of East Texas”; **Lindale**--Miranda Lambert home and “Pink Pistol” store, Parrot Park & Agriculture Museum in Lindale, and the Tiger Creek Big Cat Refuge 10 miles East of Lindale; **Tyler**-- Caldwell Zoo, Tyler Rose Museum & Gardens, Tyler Museum of Art, Whitaker-McClendon House, Brookshire’s World of Wildlife Museum, Center for Earth and Space Science Education, Goodman-LeGrand House, Camp Ford Historic Park, Chamblee Rose Nursery, The Children’s Park, Discovery Science Place, Tyler Historic Aviation Memorial Museum, Kiepersol Estates Winery and Museum.

Contacts: National Muster Master: Craig Christen ctchristen@earthlink.net 931-224-8261

Assistant National Muster Master: Roy Allen, royhallen805@outlook.com

National Muster Treasurer: Sally Kavanaugh, ladysallyk@msn.com 623-910-1276

**Registrations received prior to June 1, 2018 will be eligible for a drawing to receive
5 nights FREE muster parking
SO REGISTER AND COMPLETE YOUR MUSTER RESERVATION AND PARKING TODAY!**

SMART Web News



This month's subject is *Scheduling Musters and Events*. The National Muster Staff manage national musters. National and Chapter home pages display the next National Muster along with links to the National Muster Website and registration form.

Region Directors and their staff manage region musters. They can select up to two chapters within their region as cosponsors. Region musters will be displayed only after they post the information sheet giving the details of the muster. Region Directors should post the information sheet, registration form and schedule as soon as they are available.

Chapter administrators manage chapter musters. Selecting a cosponsor for a joint muster will allow both chapters to edit and update the information for that muster. Only future musters and events are displayed to the public, but chapter administrators see both past and future events. You should edit a past event to use as a template for a future event. Please include an inviting paragraph in the Additional Comments field to make the reader feel they will want to attend.

The Website Committee is actively engaged in improving the website and welcomes your input and suggestions to make it better for all. Please contact any one of our Webmasters shown below if you need assistance:

Jack Fritz	(813) 508-5680	jack.fritz99@gmail.com
Jeff Stephens	(813) 731-0101	jstephens6124@gmail.com
Paul Rider	(903) 574-1217	afchap@gmail.com
Keith Hardman	(770) 490-6269	hardman.keith@gmail.com

On Thursday, December 28th, the SMART Duffers presented a check for \$500 to The Fisher House.

This was the money raised during the golf tournament at the 2017 SMART National Muster.

Included in the picture are Duffers Treasurer, Charley LeBlanc, Fisher House Manager, Larry Vetter, Duffers Past President and golfer, Don Vardel.



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Will be presenting a \$5000 check to Fisher House at Kessler Air Force Base in Gulf Port, MS. on the 6th of February. Way to go South Central!

2018 Regional Musters

SOUTHWEST Regional, April 9-13, 2018

Oasis RV Resort, Las Vegas NV

Contact: Steve Crowder (951)318-5644 crowderfam@aol.com

SOUTH CENTRAL Regional, April 10-16, 2018

James E Ward Agri-Center, Lebanon, TN

Contact: Wayne Ballard (270) 929-2994

linda_wayne@roadrunner.com

Deadline for signup March 1, 2018

SOUTH MID WEST Regional, May 3-7, 2018

Choctaw Casino, Durant, OK

Contact: Gerald Lacy (580)471-6771 gerald.lacy@yahoo.com

SOUTHEAST Regional, May 18-22, 2018

Wekiva Falls, Sorrento, FL

Contact: David Weis (912)674-9347 dweis74@hotmail.com

Check out our website for more details on each regional and other chapter musters

www.smartrving.org

2018 Caravans

2018 “Northern Adventure”

Wagon Master: Doug and Lila Blaha dlblaha@cox.net (804) 815-0945
July 3-31 Cost: \$3200 for 2 person Rig, \$2300 for a 1 person rig, \$1000 for
an additional guest. (get on waiting list)

2018 SMART Albuquerque International

Balloon Fiesta Caravan

Wagon Master: Craig & Terilu Christen ctchristen@erthlink.net
(931) 224-8261 Dates: 4 – 17 October 2018
Est Cost: \$1,700 for 2-person rig, \$1,300
for 1-person rig and \$430 for additional guest (4 spaces left)

2018 Two-Step to Texas Caravan

Wagon Masters: Kathy and John Steinbauer, jfs9840@gmail.com 210-386-
9018 27 Aug -21 Sep 2018 Cost \$2600 2 person rig, \$1900 for 1 person rig,
\$800 for each additional person.(13 spaces left)

2018 SMART Maritime Caravan

Wagon Masters: Phil & Nita Taylor
philnita.taylor@gmail.com
Cost: 2 person rig \$6800, 1 person rig \$5250
Addl' Guest \$1600 (get on waiting list)

(go to our website www.smartving.org for more info on these caravans)

FEBRUARY SMART E -NEWS 2018

S.M.A.R.T. “SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS” CLUB

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