



SMART E-NEWS

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



PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

SMART BY -MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

APRIL 2018

From Your 1st VP

Why do veterans join SMART? What keeps us involved in SMART activities? At one time SMART had more than 3500 members. The National muster in Myrtle Beach, SC in April 2002 had a record 674 rigs in attendance... 1998 405 rigs, 1999 543 rigs, 2000 571 rigs attended in Rayne. We were fortunate to get just over 200 at the superb National Muster in Rayne, LA last year. On average 18-20% of members attend the National muster. In other words, approximately 80% of members miss the highlight of the year.



There are more than 23 Million veterans in the USA today, a record number and the RV industry is selling a record high of 500,000 RV's each year, many to veterans well below retirement ages. Why is that our SMART membership numbers aren't growing at a record pace? We are constantly told that folks today just don't join organizations like they used to. But is that really true? Most of us belong to multiple organizations...local, national, military, RV manufacturer, environmental, political, book clubs, church, hunting/fishing, social media, big box stores. Is the generation following us really a bunch of non-joiners, non-participants? I don't think so. They are just joining more organizations that don't get them out of the house. Most of our involvement in other organizations is connected with monthly or annual fees and contributions. Few get us out of the house and on the road. It has been said "SMART is a well-kept secret among veterans". Most veterans have never heard of SMART. We need to change that! (con't next page)

I believe what brings us to SMART and keeps us involved is what we have in common...our military experiences. Rigid training, discipline, leadership, patriotism, dangerous assignments, family separation, one member of the family being both father and mother while the other is deployed. It's that common bond we call comradery... traveling together, eating together and sharing old and new experiences together. It's one thing to stand on the top of a mountain and view a beautiful panorama by yourself, but even better to see it along with friends and share it together. It gets even better talking about it later around a campfire.

We need more caravans every year. Many new members join to participate in one of our caravans. My wife and I joined 14 years ago to caravan to Alaska. It's a great way to make new friends. Caravans encourage veterans to join SMART. They are something we can advertise and promote. It's hard to describe and sell camaraderie, it has to be experienced. I encourage all members to consider serving as a Wagon master or assistant. We need your enthusiasm and experience to lead groups of your veteran compatriots on new SMART adventures. That's what keeps members involved and enjoying the camaraderie of SMART. It's not surprising that many caravan participants sign up for the National muster. They want the fun to continue. Don't be part of the 80% that miss the Highlight of the year. Stampede to Texas!

Doug Blaha USF



Everyone knows one of the best things about attending our National Musters is the opportunity to hear from experts from a variety of manufacturers and other camping experts on a wide range of subjects. It also provides a great opportunity to purchase items you may not find elsewhere. Every effort is being made to invite these individuals to make sure we have what members want. In support of this effort, you are invited to let me know if there is a special subject you want covered or manufacturer you would like to have attend and we will work to make it happen. Even better, if you have a personal contact with someone, please let me know that too. Contact me at jfs9840@gmail.com or 210.386.9018. John Steinbauer, Seminar/Vendor Coordinator.



RESUME FOR SMART NATIONAL

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Carl V. Hopper

#13239

1. I do hereby apply for the position of SMART National 2nd Vice President. If approved by the Election Committee I agree to accept the nomination and responsibility and certify that I possess the capability and willingness to carry out the duties of the position as outlined in the SMART Standing Rules, Section 6-12. I am also aware of the provisions in Section 6.11 of the National Bylaws regarding compensation.
2. I have been a member of SMART since 2011. I currently serve on the SMART Board of Directors and Travel Committee. My wife, Gwen, and I were the Wagon Masters for the Canadian Maritimes Caravan in 2016 and Assistant Wagon Masters for the Calgary Stampede Caravan in 2017. I am also the Operations Officer for the 2018 SMART National Muster in Mineola, TX.
3. In my hometown of Carson City, Nevada I am a member of the Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion, and Elks. I am currently working with fellow Veterans, the Nevada Legislature, and community leaders to provide housing and other support services to homeless Veterans.
4. Currently I am the At Large Region Director and President of the Nevada Battle Born Chapter which I organized in late 2016. I am also the Past President of the SMART Duffers Chapter.
5. I am a candidate for the position of 2nd Vice President because of my strong desire to ensure that SMART remains an active, fun and viable club. During my 34 year military career I served in both command and staff positions from Company to Division level. I believe this uniquely qualifies me to fulfil the requirements of this position.



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

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Honored to be provider of logoed jackets
& totes for 4 **S * M * A * R * T** caravans

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

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

"Stampede to Texas—35th Anniversary"

Start September 25 – Depart 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: Larry Sockwell, lbstrains@aol.com 337-290-0803

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 (Sponsor SMART # _____)

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, TBD cost (25 Sept)

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

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

Registration fee postmarked no later than 20 August, 2018: \$200 for 2-person rig; \$100 for 1-person rig; \$100 for each additional person, *plus cost of tours you signed up for (see page 2).*

Registration fee postmarked after 20 August, 2018: \$220 for 2-person rig; \$110 for 1-person rig; \$110 for each additional person, *plus cost of tours you signed up for.* Please contact HQ SMART or Treasurer if decision to attend is after 15 September.

(Meals provided: 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 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.smartving.org.

**Travel directions: Please enter the civic center grounds from the south off of Ivey St. (GPS:599 Ivey St, Mineola, TX)
Muster Start: 25 September, Depart 1 October, 2018 Mineola Civic Center, South Gate, 599 Ivey St, Mineola, TX 75773**

Traveling east/west on I-20, Exit 556, north on US Highway 69 for 13.5 miles, right exit onto E Loop 564 for 4 miles, Left on TX FM 1254 continue into Ivey St, right at gate (@ 599 Ivey St) into Mineola Civic Center. Follow SMART signs. Traveling south or west on I-30, Exit 124, right onto exit ramp, left/south on TX 154E to Quitman, TX, right on TX 37S 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. Ensure you have extra sewer & electric lines. Recommend arriving 24 Sept. or earlier. Opening Ceremonies, some seminars, Tour 2 and golf are on 25 Sept. Earliest parking team arrival date is 18 Sept.—you may arrive earlier but may have to enter via the west entrance to the Mineola Civic Center and RV Park from 1199 N. Newsom St (From Ivey St gate continue west to Newsom, then right.)

No registration fee will be refunded after 24 August, 2018 unless a verifiable emergency.

Tour Information –Tours are planned on Monday 24 Sept and Tuesday, 25 Sept.

[]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 24 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. **Canon**—First Monday Trade Days 27-30 Sept., “World's Largest Flea Market”

Contacts: National Muster Master: Craig Christen ctchristen@earthlink.net 931-224-8261
Assistant National Muster Master: Larry Sockwell, lbstrains@aol.com 337-290-0803
National Muster Treasurer: Sally Kavanaugh, ladyallyk@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!**

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

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

**Whether You've Signed Up for the
National Muster Yet or Not**

**Join your SMART friends or make some new
ones to travel to the National from
Pensacola, FL**

Two-Step to Texas Caravan

27 Aug - 20 Sep 2018

**NOW is the Time to Sign-up If You Plan to Go
SMART Members Can Invite Family or Friends
to Go Too!**

Let Us Know!

Wagon Masters: Kathy and John Steinbauer, jfs9840@gmail.com
210-386-9018 (John Cell) 210-386-9024 (Kathy Cell)

Assistant Wagon Masters: Jean and Paul Rider,
afchap@gmail.com 903-574-1217 (Paul cell) and
903-574-0824 (Jean cell)

Cost: \$2600 double; \$1900 single; \$800 each additional person.

Check out the SMART caravan page or the Texas-Two Step Facebook
Group below



2018 Caravans



2018 Northern Adventure Caravan begins in Rochester, Minnesota on 3 July 2018 and ends in the twin cities area on 30 July 2018... 28 days in the land of Sky Blue Waters. All positions in the caravan are currently filled, but you can get on standby list. Medical and family issues routinely create cancellations. If you are interested in joining call HQ and get on the list.

You may get a call.

2018 SMART Albuquerque International

Balloon Fiesta Caravan

Wagon Master: Craig & Terilu Christen ctchristen@erthlink.net

(931) 224-8261 Dates: 4 – 17 October 2018

Cost: \$1,670 for 2-person rig, \$1,230

for 1-person rig and \$450 for additional guest (2 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. (9 spaces left)

2018 SMART Maritime Caravan

Wagon Masters: Phil & Nita Taylor

philnita.taylor@gmail.com

Cost: 2 person rig \$6800, 1 person rig \$5250

Add' Guest \$1600 (get on waiting list)

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

2019 Caravans Have been announced , sign up today!

2019 FALL COLORS CARAVAN

with David & Jackie Weis as your Wagonmasters dweis74@hotmail.com

and Steve and Sarah Colt as your Tailgunners

2019 UTAH CARAVAN

with Tom and Sandy Pearcy as your Wagonmasters tspearcy@gmail.com

And Paul and Melody Thomas as your Tailgunners

2019 ALASKA CARAVAN

with Phil & Nita Taylor as your Wagonmasters philnita.taylor@gmail.com

And Denny & Ann Olvany as your Tailgunners

These caravans are going to fill up fast get your reservations
and deposit in now.

See [website](#) for more information on all
2018 and 2019 caravans .

APRIL SMART E -NEWS 2018

S.M.A.R.T. INC.

“SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS” CLUB

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Office Hours Monday –Thursday 8-4 Central Time