



SMART

E-NEWS

“Seeing the Country We Defend”



SMART HEADQUARTERS

SMART BI-MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

October 2023

If you were not at the 40th Anniversary National you missed a GREAT TIME!



Our Chaplain Won lots of Money!



SMARTY Bears

took 1st Place in the Bean-Bag Baseball Tournament



Great Food!



Dance all night with “Dogs with Skis” Band



We won prizes!



We made Crafts!



And more Prizes!



A message from your new SMART President:

What a great time had by all at the 40th Anniversary National Muster in Amana, IA. A special thanks goes out to David and Jackie Weis and their team for putting together a successful event. It was an eye opener for me as we arrived to find out that President Gene Bennett was not going to attend the muster due to a medical emergency. As the 1st VP, I was moved to the Presidents position 4 days early. With the new BOD in place, decisions had to be made at the event. We no longer have RD's for the NW, NMW, NC, or NE due to terms running out and no replacements. The decision was made to form 4 Regions, West, Mid-West, Central, and Eastern Regions along with the At Large region to make up 5 Regions. A map of the regions is on the website under Chapter Quick Links. The Travel Coordinator, Jon Katin, was re-assigned as the Travel Director and placed on the board. Over 25 First Timers attended the muster. A great experience for them all to go out and recruit new members.

John Steinbauer and the 2024 National Muster Committee landed our next National Muster to be at Ladson, South Carolina. Event information and tour dates are being formulated to be placed on the website. Stay tuned for further information. As your new National President, along with the new BOD, I'm going to do my best to continue to make SMART the best travel club for all Vets.

Richard Palmer SMART National President and
Recruiting & Retention Coordinator



From the desk of our new 1st VP:

The National Muster was phenomenal! The brown bag auction was held for two nights and brought us lots of surprises and laughter. There were classes on using the washer/dryer in an RV, how to cook on an induction cooktop, use of a microwave/convection oven, RV maintenance, and the role of Region Directors and Chapter Presidents. A rep from Kleen Tank held a seminar and a panel discussion was held on RV full-timing. SkyMed gave a presentation on their program. Tournaments were held for golfers and card players. Coffee and pastries greeted us every morning, courtesy of the Muster Master. A first class caterer served outstanding meals. First timers received an orientation from the STAR Chapter, and we all enjoyed opening and closing ceremonies. Chapters held meetings and new members of boards stepped forward to be sworn in.

John Steinbauer was awarded a lifetime membership for all his contributions to SMART over the years. We kept Gene Bennett, SMART outgoing president, in our prayers as he was unable to join us in Amana due to a heart attack.

Richard Palmer stepped up to become SMART president for 2023-24, I accepted the 1st VP position, and David Weis became the 2nd VP. Anyone thinking about joining the leadership of SMART is encouraged to submit their application in the next few months. It is a very rewarding feeling to be a part of the leadership team of this great organization: the BEST military travel club around!

Don't forget about recruiting and retention efforts. Bring your family and friends to musters. Let them see the good times we have together.

Melody C. Thomas, 1st VP



A message from our new 2nd VP: David Weis,

Now that the 2023 SMART National Muster is over, Jackie and I want to Thank you all for your help and participation in making the 40th SMART Muster the success it was. As your National 2nd Vice President I am Chairman of the Membership & Publicity Committee and I seek your ideas on how we can attract new members and just as importantly retain our present valued members. Please send me your ideas so our Membership Team can get started on this important issue. dweis74@hotmail.com Travel safe. Stay SMART and see you all in 2024 at SMARTS 41st National Muster in Ladson South Carolina. Take care. David Weis



Our 2nd VP Melody Thomas spoke at our Ladies Luncheon.



Past President Paul Rider spoke at our men's Luncheon



Kleen Tank

The Seminars were a big hit!



Microwave Convection Cooking Class



RV Maintenance



SkyMed Luncheon



Congratulations to John Steinbauer for SMART "Lifetime Member" Award for his Outstanding contributions to SMART.



The Duffers played a round of Golf



Opening Ceremonies with our guys and gals



And lots of Good Food!



We had over 36 First Timers to the National Muster,

Hope you all had a great time!

Carl Hooper Hosted the Newly Wed Game with 4 of our Brave Couples! <-



Our Photo Contest Winners ->



Recipes from SMART Cookbook

APPETIZERS

Bacon Jalapeno Deviled Eggs

- 12 hard boiled large eggs 7 slices crisp bacon (cut into small pieces)
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise Salt to taste (optional)
- 1 1/2 tsp rice vinegar Pepper to taste (optional)
- 3/4 tsp ground mustard Paprika
- 1/2 tsp sugar 3 jalapenos (seeded & chopped)



Slice the hard-boiled eggs and remove yolks. Mash the yolks in a bowl, add the mayonnaise, rice vinegar, ground mustard, sugar, salt, and pepper. Stir until well combined. Stir chopped jalapenos and bacon pieces into the mix. Spoon mixture into egg halves and sprinkle with paprika.

Chill until ready to serve.

Deviled Eggs with Bacon

- 12 hard cooked eggs 3 T sweet pickle relish
- 1 c. mayonnaise or Miracle Whip 1/4 tsp smoked paprika
- 3 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled chives for topping (optional)
- 3 T finely chopped red onion (optional) crumbled bacon to garnish eggs (optional)

Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove egg yolks. Set whites aside. In a bowl, mash yolks. Add mayonnaise, bacon, onion, and sweet relish. Mix well. Pipe or spoon into egg white halves and sprinkle with paprika. Refrigerate until serving.

Guacamole Deviled Eggs

- 6 hard-boiled eggs 1/4 c light mayonnaise
- 2 Haas avocados 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 large garlic clove, very finely chopped 1/8 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 T fresh lime juice 6 pimento stuffed green olives, halved
- 1/2 tsp salt

Peel hard boiled eggs and cut in half lengthwise. Place on tray. Scoop out yolks. Cut avocados, remove flesh and place in bowl with yolks. Blend together. Add mayonnaise, lime juice, garlic, salt, cayenne and paprika. Blend thoroughly. Place mixture into egg whites. Garnish with green olive slices. Refrigerate before serving.

SMART COOKBOOKS ON SALE NOW!

\$9.95 each plus shipping

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2024 SMART CARVANS



Grand Canyon and Beyond....April 11th of 2024,

We'll kick off the Grand Canyon and Beyond Caravan in Williams Arizona. We'll tour the bottom of the Grand Canyon by 4 wd Vans, ride a Tram to view the Canyon Rim, enjoy a calm



water float trip to Horseshoe Bend, We'll take a Jeep Safari tour of Monument Valley National Park with a real Navajo code talker as our tour guide.

We'll take a Jet Boat Cruise and enjoy a light show and Dinner in Moab Utah. Take a tour with a real code Talker at Monument Valley. We'll take a Jeep tour to Arches NP. We will go on a boat ride at Canyonland NP. We'll take a tour of Capital Reef by Jeep, tour Bryce Canyon National Park by shuttle, and Zion National Park before we head to Las Vegas, Nevada.

In Las Vegas we'll enjoy a few shows and dinners and take a bus trip to tour the Hoover Dam. This and so much more is what you'll be enjoying from April 11th to May 5th 2024.

Now is the time to get your application and deposit of \$280.00 into SMART Headquarters as we are limited to 20 RV participants. *David & Jackie Weis will be your Wagonmasters* dweis74@hotmail.com Prices: Couple \$6495 Single \$4500 Guest \$3495 *We have a few spots left!*



2024 Whiskey and Water Falls

May 13, 2024 to June 12, 2024

This caravan will visit several select distilleries and hike to select water falls along this 31-day 365-mile trip across middle America. Additionally, we will visit key museums, sites and activities along the way.



Hiking to see waterfalls is also included as well as time to visit Ft. Knox for their Memorial Day activities and the General George Patton Leadership Museum.

Wagon Master(s): Joe Padberg & Diane Pepperell email: Padberg4Smart@gmail.com

Tail Gunner(s): Melody & Paul Thomas email: Thomas4Smart@gmail.com

COST: Single cost: \$3600 Couple cost: \$5200 Guest cost: \$1700

Payments: \$280 upon application, 50% by November 13, 2023, and full payment by February 13, 2024

Sign up today, We have a few spots left!



The Great Atlantic Canada Maritime Experience

June 15, 2024 to August 27, 2024



This caravan promises to provide memories that will last a lifetime!

Spend 74 days traveling throughout the four Canadian maritime provinces. Some of the activities scheduled:

In **New Brunswick** you will see majestic brown-sugar beaches, culturally rich Acadian villages, quaint coastal islands and vast tracks of forests brimming with wildlife. It is also home to the world's highest tides at Hopewell Rocks. During low tide we'll walk among the "flowerpot" formations. We'll visit the beautiful Kingsbrae Gardens – a multi-award winning, horticultural masterpiece. Those brave of heart will have the opportunity to traverse the ocean bed to Ministers Island during low tide.

Newfoundland, which is impossible to adequately describe briefly, is where you will have 33 days to explore some of the most unique geology, breathtaking vistas, wildlife galore, icebergs, whales, and puffins. You will immerse yourself in the region's extraordinary history while touring the ancient Viking settlement of L'Anse aux Meadows. And shhh ... we'll visit a Secret World War II Officers Club and a World War II Bunker.

In **Nova Scotia** we'll attend a variety of unique offerings to include; attendance at the Royal International Tattoo, enjoy a Ghost Tour of Annapolis Royal National Historical Park, and, whether you are a believer or not, Oak Island. We'll take a memorable underground mine tour and attend the Men of the Deeps Concert.

You'll have time to explore Cape Breton, rated one of the world's most beautiful road trips with 22 stops for unique crafts or sightseeing. There will be whale watching tours, city bus tours, and a harbor cruise on a tall ship. We'll attend the 159th Antigonish Highland Games to watch competitions of traditional Scottish Heavy Events plus Pipe and Drum, and Highland dance. **Prince Edward Island** is the home of Anne of Green Gables. We will attend the Musical and tour the places that inspired the legend. Spend an afternoon at the stunning Cavandish National Park. You can enjoy their Lighthouses, museums and some of the finest seafood in the Maritime.

We will conclude our trip back in Trenton where Tina's Great Maine Lumberjack Show has extended their season for us. On our last night we will enjoy a lobster dinner and distribute your memory book to share with friends and family back home. Join us on this caravan and make memories that will last a lifetime! Follow this link for a video preview of the caravan: https://youtu.be/_hGZRFgx6-Q

Wagon Master(s): Tony & Gina Mason Email: fresno63@hotmail.com
Costs - Single Cost: \$7,100 Couple Cost: \$10,550 Guest Cost: \$3,484

We have a few spots left!

- ◇ NOTE: For the long ferry there will be a few rooms available that will allow pets or separate kennels for pets only – as the date draws near, we will advise on availability and pricing.

2024 Veterans in Branson

Nov 6th –15th 2024

Branson's Veterans Homecoming week is America's largest Veteran's Day celebration and we'll be there to participate from November 6th until November 15th. Throughout the entire week of celebration we'll enjoy various shows to include; Branson Murder Mystery/ dinner show, Christmas Story dinner show, Miracle of Christmas Show, Yakov and Dolly Parton's Stampede and dinner show. Additionally we'll visit the Veteran's Museum, Aquarium, Christmas Trail of lights (tram ride), Ralph Foster Museum and the Showboat Branson Belle (paddle wheel) where we'll not only enjoy a scrumptious meal and lively show but a beautiful view of Table Rock Lake. You won't want to miss this fun and exciting Caravan, now is the time to send in your application and deposit of \$280.00 to SMART Headquarters . David & Jackie Weis wagonmasters.



Couple cost: \$2040, Single cost: \$1405,

Guest cost: \$805

There are two cabins left with bathrooms if anyone wants to travel to Branson without their Rig, for more info call HQ. Get on the Stanby List!

2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan



SMART Caribbean Cruise

Feb 8-17, 2025

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 nightly shows and entertainment throughout the ship.

Prices range from \$1384 – \$2929 pp dbl occ \$450 per person deposit is 100% refundable until Final Payment of 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> We have 9 cabins left to choose from, we have 41 booked already.

More Photos from our 40th Anniversary Celebration!



AC-19 GUNSHIP REUNION:

We are looking for former members associated with the **AC-19 gunships** used from 1967-1972 in Southeast Asia. We'd like to find aircrew, ground crew, support personnel, Friends & Families and anyone whose bacon we saved. Shadows & Stingers, Air Crew, Ground Crew Support Crew, 71st, 17th, 18th SOS, Also AC-47 Puff the Magic Dragon folks.

Location: Hilton Crystal City, Washington, DC

Wednesday, November 8 to November 12, 2023

54 Years Remembrance of AC-119 Gunships

Reunion coordinator Armed Forces Reunions

Contact: Kelly Bridgeman, kelly@afri.com 757-625-6401

Additional details are on our Association's website:

<https://www.ac119gunships.com/reunion/upcoming-reunion/>

GO to <https://ac119gunships.com/membership-contactinformation/alpha-roaster>

and add any missing names or contacts you have – we can still reach many IF we know who you are! Jim Dunn AC-119 Association Life Member

SMART Member # 7308

Don't Miss our 41st National

in Ladson, SC Sept 16-21

***At the Exchange Club and Fairground of
Charleston, SC***

See ya there!

OCTOBER SMART E-NEWS 2023

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