

SMART TRAVELER

Published Bi-Monthly for **S**PECIAL **M**ILITARY **A**CTIVE **R**ECREATIONAL **T**RAVELERS CLUB

November 2023



**SMART NATIONAL
1st Annual Photo
Contest
Winner
1st Place Winner
Over All**

**Rainbow over Lake Powell, AZ
at Glen Canyon
National Recreation Area
Wahweap Campground
Photographer
Paul Thomas**



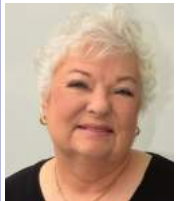
SMART is a not-for-profit 501(c)19 Veterans Organization



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Go to our website for more info www.SmartRVing.org



Message from your SMART President

What a great time, my wife Mary and I had at the 40th Anniversary National Muster in Amana, IA. Arriving early only to find out that our National President, Gene Bennett would not be attending the muster due to a medical emergency, so I moved up to President 3 days early. Then the fun began, as we had several Brown Bag auctions, raffle prizes, and all I had to do was follow what the Master of Ceremonies had written down for me to say. We had a great showing of First Timers. A decision to align the regions into 5, West, Mid-West, Central, Eastern, and At Large. The region breakdown can be seen on the SMART website under Chapter Quick Links. A new chapter was re-formed in Tenn, called the Rock Tops. I still have the other hat Recruiting & Retention Coordinator. I know this is the slow time of the year but there are still those individuals out there that do not know about SMART and are waiting for you to tell them.

HQ has made a new recruiting pamphlet so just ask for a few and pass them out. After I was allowed to close the muster, we headed back to San Antonio to get ready for the Alamo SMART chapter annual Fish Fry muster in Fredericksburg, TX and for the once in a life time viewing of the eclipse and the spectacular 'Ring of Fire' that was clearly viewed from our RV park. As usual great times had by all. Last but not least, the 2024 National Muster Committee has been working hard to bring y'all a great National Muster in Ladson, SC. Check the website for more details.

Richard D. Palmer

SMART National President The difference between Ordinary and Extraordinary is a little Extra.



From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

As of this writing, we are on the Autumn in the Appalachians caravan. Sitting here in North Carolina looking out over the changing colors of the trees fills me with a sense of awe. We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful country, to be able to travel with such a great group of people, and to belong to such a great organization. SMART is the best military travel club around. It provides the opportunity to share experiences with fellow veterans during musters and caravans. We have made so many friends around the country since joining SMART. This is a great club filled with great people. We all served in the military. We learned to be self-sufficient; to step forward to take command when necessary. SMART needs you now. We need you to invite others to join the club, and we need you to step forward and fill in leadership positions. You can do it. You are a service member who has been taught to lead. You have valuable skills to share. Step up and accept appointment as Chapter President, Region Director, or even 2nd Vice President. We have so many talented people in this organization. Don't be afraid. Yes, leadership can be challenging but, at the same time, it can be so rewarding. There are many people standing by, ready to help and support you. Let's see who is willing to accept the challenge to step up and lead SMART to excellence in everything we do. It is the combined efforts of everyone that will make this the best military travel club around. Will you help do that? *Melody C. Thomas, 1st VP*

2024 National Muster, Ladson, SC



Our 2024 National Muster will be in Ladson, South Carolina (Charleston Area)

with the Eastern Region chapters serving as hosts. Camping with full hook-ups in Exchange Park with big rigs sites. Early arrivals for members starting on Wednesday September 11th at 12:00 for tours beginning on Thursday. "Early Bird Registration" For those registering by 1 June there will be a drawing for a refund of registration fee.

Location: The Exchange Park, 9850 Hwy. 78, Ladson, SC 29456.

<https://www.exchangepark.org/>.

Earliest allowable arrival date: Wednesday, September 11 th , before 11:00 for muster parking staff, and after 12:00 noon for all others. Tours will begin on Thurs, then continue on Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon until 1200 noon. Wed the 18 th will be a free day. You will want to plan for early arrival to take advantage of all that the Charleston area has to offer. Charleston and the surrounding area provide unique opportunities to sightsee and dine, plus more. Tour registrations will be online by a tour management company and will be available when 2024 tour fees are determined. This will be an easy way for members to be able to schedule their time and tours in one online location to be able to take advantage of every moment during the National. In addition to the online tour registrations, members will be free to schedule sightseeing and tours on their own, if preferred. Check the online registration and schedule for National activities for additional details. Opening Ceremonies will be on Monday, September 16th , Closing Ceremonies on Friday, September 20th, and departure on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

Our 2024 National Muster will be a great experience.

You don't want to miss a minute of it.



Prayer and how God answers our prayers

Since there was just a handful of people that showed up to the chapel service in Amana, Iowa in September. I decided to write this month's article on the outline of that message.

The message was on the power of prayer and how GOD answers our prayers. One day I was out walking with our dog Nick, and I met a woman and we started to talk about our dogs. She asked me if I believed it was OK to pray for her sick dog? I told her yes because God was interested in what concerned us. We are His children. He listens to our request. Our prayers do not have to be about just spiritual things always but about our needs.

A few years back I rode a motorcycle everywhere I went by myself. If I went to church, work, or shopping. The Navy sent me to another city to be an adviser to a contractor on installing fuel cells in an H-3 helicopter. I was there for several days. After work on the last day, I decided to stop by and visit a friend before heading back home. Back in those days most gas stations did not stay open all night. As I turned into my friend's housing area, I saw a gas station and said to myself I will top off my tank there when I leave. Well, I stayed longer than I had planned, and the station was closed when I left his place. I rode by several stations, and all were closed. So, as I was going west on I-10 I prayed that The Lord would make my bike get better fuel economy than it had ever gotten before. As I rode on the bike started to miss fire, so I switched to my reserved tank, and prayed more and said you didn't make it get better fuel mileage, so I am leaving it in your hands to take care of this problem and I rode on. Soon the engine became silent, the only sound I could hear was my tires rolling on the pavement and the chain rotating on the sprockets. Up ahead I saw two trucks sitting beside the road. A pickup and a flatbed. I coasted between them and told them my problem. One of the men said they had problems of their own. The flatbed, which had a strand transmission, had a good battery but the starter was broken, and the pickup, which had an automatic transmission, had a good starter but the battery was dead, but they had no tools to change out the batteries. Riding a motorcycle, I always had tools, so we changed out the batteries and got both trucks running. Then loaded my bike onto the pickup and rode off down the road. A few miles down the road there was a truck stop that was open. Much farther than I would have wanted to push my bike.

Even though God did not answer my prayer the way I asked him to He did answer the way it needed to be answered. And He answered it exactly at the right time. If I had run out of fuel sooner, I would've had to push my bike. If I had run out of fuel later, I would have run past the two trucks. But instead, I ran out exactly at the right place.

Next month I plan to continue with Prayer and How GOD answers us.

SMART Chaplain Lamar Enfinger

New items in SMART Store

40th Anniversary Coffee Mugs \$5.

40th Anniversary Mens Caps \$10.

Thermal Mugs w/SMART logo \$8.

SMART Logo Canvas Tote Bag 12.

SMART NATIONAL 2024 BUDGET Approved

Total Operating Income:	\$99,688
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$96,757</u>
Net Income	\$2931



SMART COOKBOOKS ON SALE

A collection of SMART members recipes for Camping. Appetizers, Beverages Deserts, Hors d' oeuvres, Potlucks, and more....

On Sale \$7.50 (Great Christmas Gifts)

Call or email HQ today and get yours for your next muster!

800-354-7681 or email

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Recipes from the SMART Cookbook

Happy Hour Snacks

BACON CRACKERS

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 pkg butter crackers
(Townhouse or Club, either rectangular or oval) | 8-10 slices bacon |
| 1 pinch cayenne pepper | 1 c. brown sugar |
| | 1 pinch ground black pepper |

Heat oven to 350 Degrees F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil. Align crackers on a wire rack. Slice the bacon to the size and shape of your crackers. Place a piece of bacon on each cracker. Sprinkle a generous amount of brown sugar (about a heaping teaspoon) on each bacon covered cracker. Lightly sprinkle with black pepper and cayenne pepper. Bake 15-20 minutes or until the brown sugar melts and bacon become crisp. Allow to cool on wire rack before serving.

CAJUN CRACKERS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 lb. unsalted crackers | 1 ¼ tsp cayenne pepper |
| 2 oz. dry ranch dressing mix
(equals 5 ½ T) | 1 ½ tsp red pepper flakes |
| 1 each 2-gallon Ziplock freezer bag | 1 ½ c canola oil |

Combine ranch dressing, cayenne pepper, red pepper flakes, and canola oil in Ziplock bag and thoroughly mix. Add crackers and seal bag. Toss or turn bag to coat crackers. Continue every 15 minutes for 2 hours. Ensure each cracker is coated. Serve and enjoy.

RANCH OYSTER CRACKERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 jar butter flavored oil | 16 oz oyster crackers |
| 1 pkg ranch dressing | |

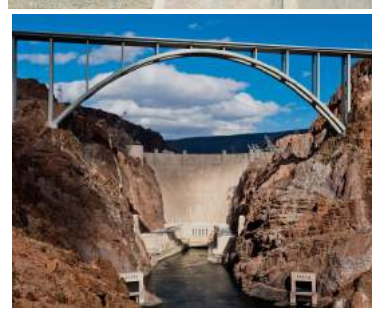
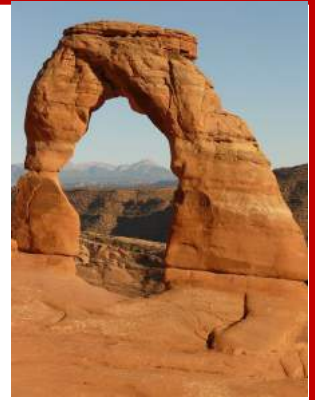
Mix oil and ranch dressing. Place crackers in Ziplock bag. Pour oil mixture over crackers and seal bag. Turn occasionally. When oil is totally absorbed, serve and enjoy.

2024 CARAVAN

Grand Canyon and Beyond...

April 11– May 5th of 2024

David & Jackie Weis will be your Wagonmasters
dweis74@hotmail.com for this wonderful trip.
Assistant Wagonmasters: Melissa Wade
and Phyllis Enfinger smart@smartrving.org



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 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. We'll take a Jeep tour to Arches National Parks. 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 like "O" and dinners show 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.

Sign up online at
www.SmartRVing.org

Prices: Couple \$6495 Single \$4500
Guest \$3495

*We have 2 spaces
available*



2024 Whiskey and Water Caravan

Start: May 13, 2024, End: June 12, 2024

Wagon Masters: Joe Padberg & Diane Pepperell

Tail Gunners: Melody & Paul Thomas

Cost \$5200 per Couple, \$3600 per single, Guest \$1700



IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT GOING ON THE WHISKEY & WATER CARAVAN, YOU MUST SIGN UP NOW. THE CARAVAN WILL BE CANCELLED AS OF NOVEMBER 13 IF THERE ARE NOT AT LEAST 15 RIGS SIGNED UP TO GO. YOU MAY BE HESITATING TO SEE WHAT THE NEW YEAR LOOKS LIKE, BUT IF YOU WAIT UNTIL THEN, YOU WILL HAVE LOST YOUR CHANCE TO GO. SIGN UP NOW.

This caravan will explore the science of making whiskey in Tennessee and Kentucky and the natural beauty of waterfalls across this same area. We will also visit several museums and attractions in the immediate area, We start just south of Nashville, TN where we will visit the grand-dad of all distilleries, Jack Daniels, followed by lunch at Miss Mary Bobos. You will have a chance to explore Lynchburg, TN on your own. At this stop, we will also travel into Nashville, tour the Ryman Auditorium, and take in a show at the new Grand Ole Opry. Additionally, we will visit one of the craft distillers of Tennessee, Leipers Fork, in Franklin, TN and Belle Meade, a historic family estate, winery, one time distillery and enjoy lunch on the veranda. Moving to the Bowling Green, KY area, we will visit the National Corvette Museum and the Corvette manufacturing plant. We will also take in the Bowling Green Aviation Museum, where docents provide a history of each of the fixed wing or rotating wing aircraft on display. There will also be free time to explore Mammoth Cave or the Lost Mine underground river, on your own. Also, we will visit Dueling Grounds craft distillery and learn the history of duels in the Franklin, KY area. Our next stop is Bardstown, KY, near Louisville. Here we will visit several distilleries and the Oscar Getz Whiskey Museum. One morning we will have breakfast at Churchill Downs racetrack and tour their operations behind the scenes. On Memorial Day we will travel to Ft. Knox and attend their Memorial Day activities. The Louisville Belle riverboat will host us for a lunch cruise on the Ohio river and we will visit Louisville Slugger baseball bat plant. The General George Patton Museum and Boundary Oak Distillery is also on our list of visits as well as Bernheim Forest, Jim Beam and The Old Kentucky Dinner Train. Free time will be provided to tour the local town and visit other distilleries of your choice. Our fourth stop will be in Frankfort, KY where we will visit several more distilleries and waterfalls in the local area, including Four Roses, Woodford Reserve, Buffalo Trace, and Castle & Key. A day will be spent in Lexington on the Thoroughbred Horse Tour. This includes several horse industry stops including a farm for retired race horses, and maybe a breeding farm, along with the significant history of the area and the thoroughbred industry. We will also visit Liberty Hall and the Rebecca Ruth Chocolate factory. Access permitting, we will visit the Kentucky State Capitol. The Capitol may still be under renovation still. Our final stop will be in the Daniel Boone National Forest, near Corbin, KY. There are several waterfalls in this area and depending upon your individual hiking abilities, you can visit several. We will have one day to visit the Cumberland Falls, which is called Niagara Falls of the south. We will take another lunch cruise on the Tennessee river and close out the caravan with dinner at a local restaurant.

Come along and join us on this activity filled caravan. Fun is our keyword and that we plan to have in abundance. For additional information check out this YouTube video https://youtu.be/Pd_yq8kUXIA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHs2Em8risU>

The Great Atlantic Canada Maritime Experience 2024

Start: June 15, 2024 End: August 27, 2024



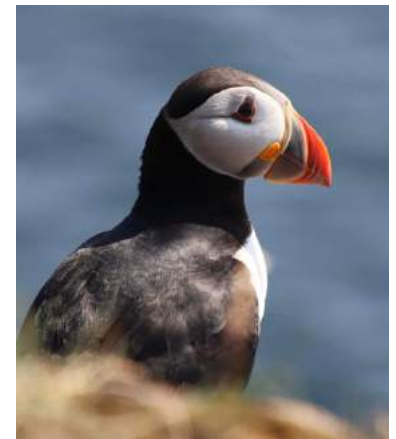
This caravan promises to provide memories that will last a lifetime! Spend 74 days traveling throughout the four Canadian maritime provinces. Some of the activities scheduled:

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 (con't)



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>

Follow this link to register for this caravan: <https://smartrving.org/Caravans/carApplication.php?carID=19&action=onlineApplication>

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

Payments: \$280 upon application; 50% by December 15, 2023; and full payment by March 15, 2024.* 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. **We have 4 openings available**



2024 Branson

Nov 6 th –15 th 2024

Veterans Week & Christmas In Branson, MO

November 6th to November 15th 2024 we will start the Veterans Unite in Branson Caravan at America's Best RV Park in Branson Missouri. We'll get things started with our Welcome catered dinner on site. Throughout the week we will enjoy various shows, ride the Showboat Branson Belle (paddle wheel) with a dinner and show, attend Branson Murder Mystery dinner and show, a few museums, March in the Veterans Day Parade and enjoy a few country buffets. Sign up now with your application and deposit of \$280.00

Couple cost \$2,040
 Single cost \$1,405
 Guest cost \$805

Get on the wait list....



2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan



SMART Caribbean
Cruise
Feb 8-17, 2025
9 nights

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 include 4 FREE Perks: FREE Wi-Fi, FREE Gratuities and FREE Classic Beverage Package PLUS \$200 Per Cabin On Board Credit for Balcony and Above and \$100 Per Cabin for Inside Cabins. Prices range from \$1384 – \$2929 pp dbl occ

\$450 per person deposit is 100% refundable until Final Payment on 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 4 cabins left to choose from, we have 46 booked already

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

2025 Caravan Adventures

Civil War Chasing John Wilkes Booth Posting soon to the 2025 caravan list –

We have an interesting historical twist for this Civil War focused caravan. While the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter, the war began much earlier for John Wilkes Booth. Through guided tours and experienced docents, we will explore how Booth and his network of conspirators attempted to decapitate the Union government and throw it into a state of panic and confusion.



Our caravan will begin at Fort Sumter and end in Washington, DC, where five days after the Civil War ended, the assassin murdered President Lincoln.

We will visit some of the most significant sites where over three million men fought in America's brother-against-brother conflict that claimed more than 600,000 lives. While the war settled the question of Union versus States' Rights and ended slavery, not everyone accepted the outcome.

Sites we plan to visit include Ft Sumter National Monument; Manassas National Battlefield Park;

Richmond, VA; Antietam National Battlefield; Gettysburg DC, where five days after the Civil War ended, the assassin murdered President Lincoln. We will visit some of the most significant sites where over three million men fought in America's brother-against-brother conflict that claimed more than 600,000 lives. While the war settled the question of Union versus States' Rights and ended slavery, not everyone accepted the outcome.



Sites we plan to visit include Ft Sumter National Monument; Manassas National Battlefield Park; Richmond, VA; Antietam National Battlefield; Gettysburg National Military Park; Appomattox Court House National Historical Park; Battle of Bentonville; and Historic Oakwood Cemetery.

In addition to battlefield sites, we have chartered a private John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tour! Our guide is a Lincoln Assassination historian and expert on all of Booth and Herold's haunts along their flight path. Our journey will begin at Ford's Theatre and continue as we visit Surratt's Tavern and discover where Booth hid his weapons. We will also visit Dr. Mudd's

Home for a guided tour of the farmhouse. This experiential tour is a must for Lincoln assassination buffs or those with an interest in Civil War history.

We will also include a variety of local activities and entertainment opportunities unique to the locations we will be visiting. We will end our caravan with an evening dinner cruise. We will enjoy delicious cuisine and live entertainment on a dinner cruise along the Potomac River and view the famous sites of the nation's capital – like the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.



Join us and experience the full story! Dates: TBD
Price:TBD Safe Travels, Joe Faubion

**Welcome and Congratulations to the following New Members
and their Recruiters
(Sept & Oct 2023)**

		(Recruiter)
15684 Kevin Bennett (Shannon)	The Villages, FL	
15685 Shannon Bennett (Kevin)	The Villages, FL	
15686 Harry Singley (Kate)	Southport, NC	B Redden
15687 Kate Singley (Harry)	Southport, NC	B Redden
15688 Jerry Melcher (Marge)	Bartlett, TN	
15689 Gene Brown (Sherryl)	Sanford, NC	G Mason
15690 Ray Collard (Iris)	Dauphin, PA	J Padberg
15691 Iris Collard (Ray)	Dauphin, PA	J Padberg
15694 Jeff Ledoux (Pam)	Benton, LA	
15695 Pam Ledoux (Jeff)	Benton, LA	
15696 Bryan Zorawowicz (Dina)	Manchester, NH	
15697 John Waugh (Kathy Rodolph)	Litchfield Park, AZ	J Murphy
15698 Kathy Rodolph (John Waugh)	Litchfield Park, AZ	J Murphy
15699 Janis Murphy (Robin)	Folsom, CA	
15700 Robin Murphy (Janis)	Folsom, CA	
15701 Rick Begeal (Marta Illing)	Parksville, NY	
15702 Gene Prock (Chandra)	Centennial, CO	J Padberg
15703 Chandra Prock (Gene)	Centennial, CO	J Padberg
15704 Joe Brickner	San Antonio, TX	G Mace
15705 Michael Holcomb	Pensacola, FL	M Schmitz
15706 Norm Pryor (Marcia)	Orlando, FL	
15707 Marcia Pryor (Norm)	Orlando, FL	
15708 Robert Fitzsimmons	Jacksonville, FL	M Thomas
15709 Doug Coleman (Dolores)	Van Alstyne, TX	H DiGiovanni
15710 Dolores Coleman (Doug)	Van Alstyne, TX	H DiGiovanni
15711 Neil Kenneson	Wichita, KS	R McHenry

I want to personally welcome all our new members to SMART. If you have any questions or problems please feel free to call us at HQ.

Monday - Thursday 8am to 4pm central time

CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS

EAST REGION: Leroy Armacost Region Director, Assistant: Lonnie Alley
Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, , New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, DC, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida



As the Director for the East Region, I want to welcome the northern chapters and let you know that I do intend to visit each chapter in the East Region. Chapter Presidents please let me know the best time to schedule a visit to your chapter. Our focus has to be on recruiting and retention of members, I am asking the Presidents to contact delinquent members and be eager to welcome new members to your chapters.

Also the East Region will be hosting the 2024 National Muster in Ladson (Charleston) SC. Thank you to Muster Master John Steinbauer for successfully negotiating the contract with Ladson, Assistant Muster Master is Lonnie Alley. Be advised that we will be calling on all chapters in the region to fill important positions. You all know that one chapter cannot do it all, so we are counting on teamwork to make this the best muster ever. As your Regional Director, I look forward to working with each of you. If I can be of any assistance please let me know.

Safe travels, **LeRoy Armacost East Region Director**



Tri-State Travelers:

Our July muster at Palmetto Cove in Cleveland SC was attended by many members. We got to tour a winery and had a very delicious lunch there. Although the weather was abnormal, as it was unusually hot, we all had a nice time in the mountains.

Some of our members attended the National Muster in Amana Iowa. For those of us who could attend, we had a great time and enjoyed delicious catered food, along with our usual fellowship. There were several venues to visit while there and we toured around the area, to include the Field of Dreams. During the giveaways & events (50/50, auction and drawing of names for door prizes) our chapter took home several of the prizes. The weather was good, although chilly, and we were surrounded by cornfields.

We got to renew friendships with members we haven't seen in a while and meet new friends who were first time National muster attendees. The entertainment of the Dogs on Skis band was fabulous. Many old songs that brought back many memories. Just watching the dancers was fun. Celebrating the 40th anniversary culminated in a beautiful picture of all of us in the shape of a "40". It was announced that next year the National will be held at the Exchange Park Expo Center in Ladson, near Charleston SC.

We're looking forward to our November muster at Myrtle Beach SC (13-17). It's our best muster where we have auctions, a holiday potluck and lots of fun. We will also be having elections for 2024. Any member or prospective member of SMART is always welcome to attend any of our musters. We look forward to seeing new faces there.

Please sign up on the WEB to attend. Hope to see you all in November.

Gail Alley, Editor



Florida Buccaneers: Greetings! We had a wonderful time at the SMART National 40th Anniversary Celebration in Amana, IA, with a few other Buccaneers – Jeff and Nancy Stephens, Tony and Gina Mason, George and SueYoung, and John and Kathy Steinbauer. Pam and I always enjoy visiting this part of the country – the food is fantastic. On this trip we made a point to visit the baseball field for the 1989 Field of Dreams movie. It is maintained much as it was filmed and is a must- see site if you enjoyed the movie.



During the muster the Buccaneers held a business meeting during which several matters were attended to. In accordance with Article 8.02 of the Bylaws, Bill Hastings, appointed me as acting vice president to assist him in managing the duties and affairs of the chapter. During the meeting I was voted as Vice-President and am honored to serve with our other officers to support our members and chapter.



Additionally, the Buccaneers were again recognized as a 2023 Outstanding Chapter! While we all know it to be an outstanding chapter, it is nice to be formally recognized as such. Currently SMART receives about 50% of its revenue from caravans – if you are able and interested, please consider joining one. There are currently 4 openings on the 2024 Maritime Caravan led by Tony and Gina Mason – follow this link for a YouTube video with highlights of this caravan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGZRFgx6-Q>.

It's not too late to join the Buccaneers in Zephyrhills, Florida, November 8th through the 12th for our Veterans Day muster. We're trying a new campground, Palm View Gardens. They are offering us a very nice rate! Along with our normal muster activities, we will be attending the World War II reenactment and those interested can participate in the annual Veterans Day parade. We'll have a float, SMART banner, and Bill Hastings will be bringing service flags. Also, we'll be collecting new toys for Toys for Tots benefiting Pasco County families. Go to the Buccaneer website for more information.



For those that like to plan ahead - mark your calendars and set your sails. The Florida Buccaneers are sharpening their swords for their fifth annual murder mystery muster, *Murder*

Among the Maties - April 22 – 26, 2024.

Safe Travels – *Chapter President Joe Faubion*



The FL Roadrunners will be gathering at Clay County Fair RV. There will be a lot of eating out and maybe a pot luck meal. The dates are November 8-12. Check with claycountyfair.org RV Park 2493 SR 16W Green Cove Springs, FL for a reservation if you are in our neighborhood. Evelyn Stewart, President FL Roadrunners.

Bonnie Gorman jbgorman@me.com

CENTRAL REGION: Nita Taylor Region Director,

Assistant: Terry Johnson

**Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri,
Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, NW
Florida Panhandle**



Tennessee is coming! Tennessee is coming!

That's right folks the Tennessee Chapter is been revived. As of October 24,2023 we have been approved by the Smart RV board as a chapter. Rocky Tops lives just in time to haunt all other chapters during Halloween. We have been in the process of filling out the application, writing up By-Laws and Standing Rules. Tennessee has over 20 couples that are members of Smart Rv and they deserve to have their own chapter. Pro-Temp officers have volunteered to take required position to get started. They are:

President - Reese Burke
Vice-President- Alan (Ski) Drobrowski
Secretary - Wulf Corrington
Treasurer - Stephanie Corrington
Muster Master - Reese Burke.

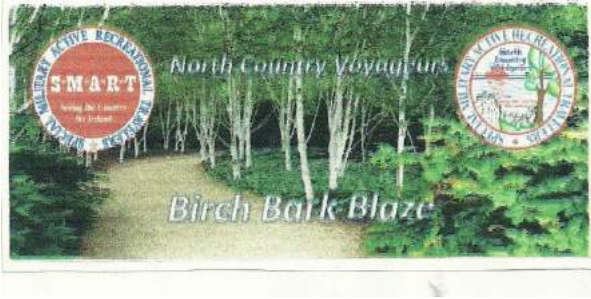
Hopefully we will be able to setup our first muster in the near future to vote on the Officer positions, look over the By-laws, Standing Rules and discuss where we want to go as a chapter. I hope we can all work together as a team to make the Rocky Tops Chapter a force to be reckoned within the Smart organization.

I am very excited to get our chapter off to a great beginning. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions on where a good place for a muster please feel free to send them to me at rburke8@gmail.com. Reese F Burke Jr.

After careful consideration the Board of Directors have decided to move Missouri back to the Central Region from the Midwest Region. Your New Central Region Director is Nita Taylor.

The Board of Directors also have changed our regions to 5 Regions across the USA. You will notice we have a Eastern, Central, Mid-West, Western and the At Large Regions.

This was due to no one running for Region Director in the northern regions.



The North Country Voyageurs are

**In Search of Vistas Unseen on
Roads Not Traveled**

as we are

“Seeing the Country We Defend”

Hello from the North Country [North St. Paul, MN] where the foliage is currently at its peak.

First, an update from SMART’s 40th National Muster (September 2023) held in Amana, IA.

Your president represented the NC Region as Asst. RD as the NCRD Wayne Ballard was unable to attend due to Health issues. This was true for our National President Gene-O Bennett (NCV member) also who suffered a heart attack the day before heading out for National. The Good Lord blessed him and he is now on the mend.

At the BOD (September 16, 2023) meeting, it was recommended that the National Travel Coordinator be made a voting member of the BOD as a director. Our next years budget was recommended for approval. It was also recommended that the North/South wording be eliminated and only have East, Central, Midwest, West and AtLarge regions. This change will necessitate rewriting our documents to also include realignment of some regions.

Lastly, the BOD recommended John Steinbauer be awarded Life Membership for all the efforts and years of hard work he has unselfishly given to SMART.

These items were approved at the general membership meeting. Membership was again at the top of list of objectives to be handled by all members.

Remember that without volunteers there

would be no **SMART!**

Our SMART website has pictures and a description of the fun and all that went with the event

Finance Report:

Beginning Bal. \$ 386.19

YTD Credits \$ 50.22

YTD Debits \$ 100.00 *

Ending Bal. \$ 336.41

\$100.00 debit was for door prize that was given out at National. Door prize was won by a Frist Time couple from NJ, and chapter is in receipt of their thank you.



SMART Cajun word for the day –

Leadership

The Cajuns have big plans. We have five musters scheduled from now to next Veteran’s Day. They include this year’s Veteran’s Day muster in Vicksburg, our Christmas muster in Natchitoches, our Total Eclipse of the Sun muster in Canton, TX (which is a rolling muster), our signature Y’all Come muster at Poche’s Fish Camp, and a Central Region Muster next Veteran’s Day in New Orleans. We are also making plans for a Caravan through Louisiana in 2025.

I know everyone is excited and looking forward to these events. But these events cannot happen without planning. Planning cannot take place without leadership. Each event requires meetings, phone calls, preparation of agendas, and communication with membership. Someone must do some work before everyone can have a good time. We welcome your input and your help. All the above musters are in some stage of planning. In the beginning a steering committee will meet with the Muster Master, make initial plans and select a host. Then volunteers will complete the tasks of planning and organizing the muster. You are invited to participate at any level.

The Cajuns Chapter also has openings for a vice president and newsletter publisher. Other officer positions will become available as terms expire. If you would like to become a leader at any level, host a muster, become an officer, participate on planning committees, or if you have any ideas

(con't) for musters or other events please contact any Cajun officer. The above events are on the website or will be whenever sufficient information is available. If you would like more information that is not yet on the website, please contact me or any other Cajun officer. **Johnny Leggett Chapter President**

MIDWEST REGION: Joe Noonan Region Director,
Assistant Paul Rider

**Montana, North Dakato, Wyoming, South Dakato, Nebraska,
Coloardo, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklohoma, Texas**



Alamo SMART's We're still talking about how great the 2023 National Muster was; so many activities to attend, and a charming village to keep us busy shopping and exploring the history of Amana Colonies, Iowa. Thank you to everyone who had a part in planning and



leading. The Alamo's just returned from our Fish Fry Muster, where our club was honored at the Stonewall VFD fundraiser that we have been supporting for over 20 years. We stayed in historic Fredericksburg, TX...one of our favorite towns. We all gathered in a wide-open space to view the Eclipse, apparently in one of the ideal areas to see the awesome "ring of fire" amid the clear blue sky. That night at Karaoke, we all sang the Johnny Cash hit song in honor of what we had witnessed. We stayed

busy with fun activities, including a night on the town, our Cornhole Tournament, Pizza Party, and games in the Rally Hall. Our Christmas muster will be the next time we gather, and we are expecting a nice turnout to celebrate in Bandera, TX, the Cowboy Capital of the World. Our Muster Master already has locations booked for the following year. Come join us, y'all...it's still warm in south Texas!

Mary Palmer, Alamo Chapter secretary/newsletter editor



After careful consideration the Board of Directors has decided to move Montana and New Mexico to the Mid-West Region from the Western region. Your new Region Director will be Midwest Region Director Joe Noonan.



WESTERN REGION : Mike Foley, Region Director,
Assistant: Carl Hopper
 Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho,
 California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona,



Greetings to all from **California**. Hope this message finds everyone in great health and on the road and enjoying life. RV parks and campgrounds are starting to be a lot easier getting into as the other RVer's are back home and have kids in school. This is a great time to get out and explore the greatness of our Country. We finally got our rig out on the road to Merced CA. I was stationed down that way at Castle AFB in Atwater CA some 30 odd years ago. Wow both cities have really grown! We stayed at the Merced Elks RV Park, a beautiful park in the middle of an almond orchard and it was very peaceful. We had a great time. This was our first outing since we got our Rig back in June. Our Rig was in the shop from March to June. We lost a lot of time to be on the road. Just a few things went wrong, including a water leak from a seal on my city water intake was bad. So, we changed that and that took care of the problem. We also had a bank of lights not working. A good friend of mine said to monitor it and as time goes, we'll check it out. This rig is not going back to a shop and sit for months on end. Our Golden Gate Muster is being held at Angel's Camp starting the Sunday after Thanksgiving and will end that week on Friday. If you're in the area, please stop by and say hello. If you want to join us, please look at the SMART website under our Chapter's name and get all the info. Finally, before rolling out with your RV check those lug nuts make sure, they're secured. Don't want your tires coming off and rolling past you as you say oh look someone lost a tire! then have cars honking their horns at you and pointing and then you realize oh dang thats my tire. Be good all and above all be safe. Kick those tires and light the fires and get rolling down the highway. **Mike Foley President Golden Gate Chapter**

AT-LARGE REGION (Jackie Weis Region Director)
Duffers, Nomads, SMART FMCA,
STAR, WIMS



SMART Duffers: Good News: David Weis and Charley LeBlanc have stepped up to be our President and Vice President respectively. I have volunteered to take the Muster Master position and host the 2024 National Golf Tournament.

President's Message: *It's an honor and pleasure to become the Chapter President of the Duffers. This is a fun group of folks who enjoy the game and whether you're just learning or a seasoned golfer, you'll enjoy the comradery and the fellowship of the Duffers. David Weis*

Update: The 2024 National Muster staff is working hard to make next year's National Muster the best ever. We will be having a golf tournament and we have given our national muster golf tournament a new name, "The President's Cup."

We will conduct the tournament at **Joint Base Charleston's championship Wrenwood Golf Course**. We will be using a handicap scramble format so players of all skill levels can compete. The green fees are very reasonable, and the entry fee will be \$10 to cover prizes. Note: Let's work together to make the **SMART Duffers** one of the best chapters in SMART and earn the coveted "**Chapter of the Year Award**" next year. Check with your friends at each muster or rally you attend to see if they are a golfer/duffer and ask them to join the SMART Duffers. It's all about fun with the Duffers. Anyone, of any ability, can join in with us. (con't)

SMART members just need to go to <https://www.smartrving.org/chapterCore/join.php?cha=duffers> to join. **HELP!** We need one member to step up and take on the **Secretary/Treasurer** position. SMART HQ is holding funds that we have remaining and will transfer those funds when we get someone to fill the position. Please consider taking on this role. You may reply to Jack.Fritz99@gmail.com and/or dweis74@hotmail.com.

Do you own a Grand Design Trailer or 5 th wheel?

Some of us met up at the 40th Anniversary of SMART in the Amana Colonies, IA. We are exploring the possibility of a chapter similar to the SMART chapter in FMCA. Feel free to email Jan Schnoor at jschnoor2@tampabay.rr.com to express your interest. (Pictured: Jim & Lida Cook, Art & Jan Schnoor, Marian & Edgar Groom (not pictured Wulf & Stephanie Corrington))



TAPS:



Michael Oszman (Oz) #7691,
spouse of Margaret Oszman,
Benbrook, TX

Hank Lavertue #13221,
spouse of Vangie,
Fleming Island, FL

Marsha Hill #15626,
Brenda Hitt's sister,
St. Petersburg, FL

Military Parks of the Year Awards

Small Park:

**Whitaker Place Campground
Edinburg, IN**

Medium Park:

**Desert Breeze Travel Camp
Yuma, AZ**

Large Park:

**Farish Recreation Area
Colorado Springs, CO**

www.SmartRVing.org



S M A R T

Application for Membership



Applicant Information

LAST name:	First:	Initial:	Spouse/Companion:
Mailing address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Home phone: () —	Cell phone: () —	Email address:	

SMART is a 501(c)(19) Not- for-profit Veterans Organization and required to have the following information on each member

Branch of service:	Year entered service:	Year service ended:
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Name Badge Info

Instructions: On the first line, enter your preferred first & last name. The second line is optional and may contain what you want others to know about you, e.g., city, state or branch of service or chapter names you belong too.

Note: A member badge comes with the New Member Packet, and your co-member's badge may be purchased for \$8.50.

Member first & last:	Spouse/Companion first & last:
Member second line:	Spouse/Companion second line:

Membership Fees

Member	Who referred you?	His/her name:	His/her SMART #:
Veteran: Active, retired, or honorably discharged from US Military Service, or as a commissioned officer of NOAA or USPHS; or military service of Canada, NATO/SEATO member nation.			
Circle all that apply to the member: Active Retired Reserve/Guard Honorably Discharged Veteran Recipient of Medal of Honor Canadian Veteran NOAA USPHS NATO/SEATO			
Annual dues: \$65 (plus one time \$15 new member packet)			\$80.00

Spouse/Companion

With privileges of membership for spouse \$30: (Spouse/Companion)

If Spouse is also a Veteran, please fill in information about Spouse below:

(Must include required 501(c)(19) not-for-profit information below)

Branch of Service: Year entered service: Year service ended:

Your Spouse or Companion will want to join with you to have National voting rights, the ability to hold the position up to Regional director, and became eligible to win door prize drawings.

Spouse/Comp \$30	30.00
His/her badge \$8.50	8.50
Total Enclosed	118.50

"I certify with honor that the information I have provided is true and correct."

Applicant signature:	Date:
----------------------	-------

----- Cut here: Retain for your records -----



Fees Payable to: SMART		Mail to: SMART, 114 Duxbury Ave, Molino, FL 32577	
Phone: 800-354-7681		Email: smart@smartvring.org Web: www.smartvring.org	
Application mailed on:	Check #:	Amount:	
My SMART contact:		From:	
Contact phone #: () —	Contact email:		
Approved: 4 APR 2016: Previous versions are obsolete and should be discarded			

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Video



website



"Thank you all for your Service"

*******Thank you for reading our TRAVELER, please pass it on to a Veteran you know.*******

S.M.A.R.T. is a Veteran RV Social & Travel Club Incorporated in 1983. We have chapters throughout the 48 contiguous states of the U.S. We are a not-for-profit RV Social Club for Veterans. We have Caravans to great places in the US, Canada, & Mexico. We are open to all Active Duty, Retired, Honorably Discharged Veterans. If you own a Camper and enjoy the Camaraderie and traveling with others, then the SMART RV Travel Club is for you! Join us online at www.SmartRVing.org

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SMART

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November 2023 www.SmartRVing.org