



SMART E-NEWS



“Seeing the Country We Defend”

SMART HEADQUARTERS

SMART BI -MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

APRIL 2024



Beautiful and Historical downtown Charleston, South Carolina

**Let's Get Ready to go! It's time for the
2024 National Muster
in the Ladson/Charleston, SC area.**

16-20 September

Don't miss out on this great National Muster, SIGN UP TODAY !

Go to the [SMARTRVING.org](https://www.SMARTRVING.org) website to register for this National.

Watch for the **Charleston Ragtimes** News Letter in your email box for more info!



A note from our President...

Easter is the Christian holiday celebrating the Resurrection, or bringing back to life, of Jesus Christ three days after his crucifixion. In Christian tradition, the Resurrection represents Christ's victory over death and the promise of eternal life for those who follow him. Some Christians refer to Easter as Resurrection Day or Resurrection Sunday.

We are six months away from what is leading to another great National. There are seven great tours planned. You can go to the website and check them out and even sign up for them. If you haven't already registered, please do. Your recruiting has been on the up swing. You've been averaging 15/month. Remember, all the recruiting material you want is available by just asking HQ to send you some. Please request the new pamphlet which is a great recruiting tool with all the information about SMART.

Hope everyone had a Happy Easter.

Richard D. Palmer

SMART National President

From the desk of 1st VP—Melody Thomas



Have you ever heard the word Schadenfreude? What about Epicavicy? Badauds? How about Lookey Loo? All these words refer to people looking at something that interests them. Staring at an accident on the side of the road evokes different kinds of emotions. There's a feeling of sadness for the person who had the accident and the hope that they didn't get seriously hurt. There is a feeling of relief that it didn't happen to you and reaffirms your personal safety. There is concern for the damage to property and the vehicles involved in the accident. Whatever the incident, it's basically about people looking at what other people are doing.

Have you ever gone by a group of people talking loudly, perhaps partying, and wondered what was going on? Your curiosity was piqued, and you wanted to know what was happening. What are they celebrating? Why are they laughing? What's so funny? What is making them so loud and boisterous?

A successful muster of SMART folks gathered around a potluck meal or seated around a campfire will cause people to turn your way. Is this something they want to get involved with? It sure looks like fun. Chapter activities out in public will attract others. Instigate the schadenfreude. Encourage epicavicy. Get badauds excited. Attract the rubberneckers and lookey loos. Be loud. Be happy. Be alert to share information about SMART. Generate activity that will draw in other people. Have some brochures and applications ready for the folks walking by in the campground. Encourage them to join the fun.

Look for ways to bring others into the greatest military travel club around. They'll be happy you did.

David Weis 2nd VP 2025 ALASKA CARVAN



Looking for something to do that's exciting and adventurous in 2025? Consider joining us on the Alaska Caravan, we're still in the early stages of planning but now is the time to contact SMART Headquarters to put your name on the attendees list. We're limited to 17 total rigs, 62 total days in July & August 2025. Wagonmasters David & Jackie Weis, Assistant Wagonmasters Greg & Angela Vassallo.

As the itinerary comes together more information will be available. Travel safe. David

ALL Resumes: All members wishing to be considered for an elected national office shall submit a resume (2nd VP or Region Director). Resumes for all offices shall be submitted in writing by midnight April 30th of this year and mailed or emailed to National Headquarters. All applicants shall agree in writing to accept nomination and responsibility, that they possess the capability and willingness to serve, and be aware of the provisions regarding compensation (see Section 6.11 of the National Bylaws) before becoming a candidate and placed on the ballot.

TAPS: *In Loving Memory:*

Lee Fontenot #7766
spouse of Irene, Denham Springs, LA

Ray Posey #11421
spouse of Susan Enterprise, AL (former member)

Irene Lyddon #15214
spouse of Gerald #3899, Richmond, TX



**Golf Carts
for Rent at
SC National
Muster:**



If you would like to RENT a Golf

Cart for the National Muster in South Carolina please contact:

Garrett Wilson (843) 870-8085

Or email: garrettw@trucarts.com

He will be taking orders for the SMART National Muster and deliver the carts to the Exchange Park.

MISREADING SENSORS? ODORS? NOT SURE WHAT'S IN THERE?

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NATIONAL VENDORS

*These are just a few of the
Vendors we have booked*

for our

2024 NATIONAL

MUSTER :

*Stay tuned for more coming
soon!*

National Staff is working hard on getting vendors to come to our national this year. It's up to you to sign up so we will have a good turn out for them. The more people we have at national the more vendors we can sign up.

Let's make it worth their time to come out and see us! So sign up and join in all the FUN at the

**2024 National Muster in
Ladson/Charleston, Area.**

Come and visit with all your friends and meet new ones!

MY RV SCHOOL

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Up Coming Musters for APRIL

4-7-24 2024 Solar Eclipse Rolling Muster starting in Canton, TX

Contact Kathy Letsinger for more info: (318) 366-8816 jkletsinger@gmail.com

4-8-24 2024 ECLIPSE at the Duckworth's Lonoke, AR

Contact Lisa Duckworth for more info: (501) 772-4991 ducktwin@gmail.com

4-8-24 2024 MS Magnolia SPRING Muster Bay St. Louis, MS

Contact Jan Lemaire (985) 290-6140 janislemaire@hotmail.com

4-11-24 April Chow Call Milton, FL

Contact Chuck Kuzma (850) 803-8761 ckuzma116@cox.net

4-7-24 2024 FL Sunshine SPRING Muster Summerfield, FL

Contact Tony Korvas (321) 750-4992 korvasa@yahoo.com

4-22-24 2024 Ya'LL COME! Muster Breaux Bridge, LA

Contact Kathy Padgett (337) 281-8123 wpadgett649@charter.net

4-22-24 Murder Mystery Muster Reddick, FL

Contact jack Fritz (813) 508-5680 jack.Fritz99@gmail.com

4-24-24 2024 Ohio SPRING Muster Muldraugh, KY

Contact Ed Pate (270) 307-9617 callitik@hotmail.com

FACTS ABOUT POPCORN

Popcorn is over 5000 years old.

The first commercial popcorn was invented by Charles Cretors in 1885.

Nebraska produces the most popcorn in America, around 250 million pounds per year.

Popcorn is a healthy GMO-free and gluten-free snack.

In 1800, popcorn was often eaten as a cereal with milk and sugar.

In 1949, popcorn was temporarily banned from movie theaters for being too loud of a snack.

During the World War II sugar shortage, Americans ate 3x more popcorn.

Microwaveable popcorn was invented by Pillsbury in 1982.

Popcorn kernels are 4 percent water, and the water causes popcorn to pop when heated up.

Popcorn can reach up to 3 feet in distance when popping.

When popcorn pops in a round shape it is called mushroom popcorn, and popcorn which pops in unpredictable shapes is called butterfly popcorn.

Gene-O

Central Regional Muster – November 10-15, 2024

The Cajuns are hosting the Central Regional Muster at Sundowners
New Orleans in Robert, LA.

Karen & Bo deBlieux will be cooking a jambalaya and Wayne Lam will be doing a shrimp boil. There is possibility of a pontoon boat ride down the Tangipahoa River.



Ms Kitty's Place

My farm is located in West Milton, Ohio about 10 miles from I70/I75. I have hookups for electric & water.

Cost is free except generally RVers are required to take a dozen eggs. The property is fenced for pets but chickens & ducks free range. Folks who would like to stay need to text Kitty at 952-250-9772. Please try to give 24 hour notice.





Greetings from the Midwest Region

I am happy to report the Midwest Region had their first Regional Muster under the New SMART Region Realignment on March 11-15 at Choctaw Casino RV Park, Durant, OK. I received many compliments from participants on the midweek timing of the Muster. The location was selected to allow maximum participation from the entire region. We had one rig from Kansas and several rigs from south Texas. A total of nineteen rigs were registered and seventeen were present. The planning committee included Muster Master Hank DiGiovanni and his wife Linda and my wife Margaret Noonan with input from Paul Riter and Jim Collier to select the dates. Two benefits realized were a very reasonable daily rate at the RV park, and no charge for the hall. The facilities at the park and the hall were outstanding.

The Alamo Chapter was responsible for this Muster. Activities during the Muster included tours to the Choctaw Cultural Center, Fort Washita Historical Site, meals, games and socializing in the hall, and a dinner out to a local restaurant. A canned food drive took place resulting in 247 pounds of canned food being collected and donated to Hands of Hope in Durant. We received a thank you letter from the Director, Sue Stanfield, from Hands of Hope in Durant. A meeting to discuss planning of the 2025 National SMART Muster took place.

Thank you to Melissa and Phyllis for designing the swinger and magnet with Midwest Region map presented to participants. Thank you to Hank DiGiovanni and his son for procuring and designing a wooden coaster with the SMART Emblem and the Midwest Region Muster 2024 burned into the wood presented to all participants.

I want to thank everyone for their hard work and participation at the Muster. I want to especially thank Hank and Linda DiGiovanni and Margaret Noonan for their hard work on the committee and for the preparation of the meals. As Always, we had more than enough food and members were able to take leftovers. *Joe Noonan Midwest Region Director*





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 4 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

[Get on the standby list](#)

2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan



SMART Caribbean Cruise
Feb 8-17, 2025 9 Nights

Join Tony & Gina Mason on this FUN adventure
On Board the Celebrity Eclipse
Save \$200 per person when you book by 5/2/23

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 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 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 2 cabins to choose from, we have 48 booked already**

2025 Caravan



Civil War Chasing



John Wilkes Booth

We have been asked how we came up with the caravan “Civil War Chasing John Wilkes Booth”? We’re always looking for the less traveled road, trying to find something new and different. Years ago, we visited several popular Civil War battlegrounds and after a few, they all began to look alike. It was exhausting walking what seemed like miles of open fields that looked exactly like the last open field. What we have tried to do is add our unique mix of inquisitive quirkiness to our love for travel and interest in American history and *VIOLA*, a caravan was born!

Anyone looking for something unique and different as well as any Civil War or Lincolnite enthusiast could find the itinerary of interest. Anyone can go to Gettysburg, travel the battlefields and everyone has heard of the Lincoln assassination at Ford’s Theatre. But fewer know that the infamous assassin was part of a vast conspiracy that extended beyond his individual actions. Initially, Booth and his small group of conspirators planned to kidnap Lincoln. Their intention was to snatch the president, take him to Richmond, and exchange him for Confederate prisoners of war.

Our caravan is focused on sites that were significant to these events. We begin our 500 mile caravan in Richmond and end in Washington DC where we will board a private bus with a Lincoln assassination historian to provide our group a private, full day tour that takes us from Ford’s Theatre through the stops that John Wilkes Booth traveled in his attempt to escape. Anyone can visit Gettysburg or any of the many civil war battlegrounds but how many can say they took a deep dive into one of the most significant events of American history?

The caravan includes a variety of local activities and entertainment opportunities unique to the locations we will be visiting. We will end our caravan with a moonlight 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 during September’s full moon.



Dates: 17 August – 8 September, 2025

Wagon Master(s): Joe & Pam Faubion Email: painthrse@hotmail.com

Tail Gunner(s): Tony & Gina Mason Email: fresno63@hotmail.com

Now is the time to get your application and deposit of \$280 into SMART Headquarters as we are limited to 20 RV participants.

\$4700 for 2 PP \$3300 1 PP \$1400 Guest



Everyone, please remember we have **Recruiting Material** at HQ to give out to help in your recruiting potential new members.
 (1) Printed TRAVELER Magazine (free),

(2) New SMART Booklet with lots of info about SMART (free),

(3) Tri Fold with your member# printed on them (free)

(4) SMART Banners (\$20)

(5) Uncle Sam Posters (free)

We just ask you help with the postage.

If you would like some Travelers and/or pamphlets to give out to let others know about SMART, contact HQs. 850-478-1986

ATTENTION:

Since postage keeps going up, we have started emailing your SMART membership card to you when you renew your membership. Also, instead of mailing post card reminders when your dues are due, we will be emailing reminders to you.

Please make sure your contact information (email address, mailing address, & phone number) on your profile on the website are all correct.

APRIL SMART E-NEWS 2024

S*M*A*R*T - SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS RV CLUB

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