

# SMART TRAVELER

Published Bi-Monthly for SPECIAL MMILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS CLUB

July 2024

## 2024 SMART NATIONAL MUSTER LADSON/CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA

Sept 16th—20th

Sign Up now! [www.SmartRVing.org](http://www.SmartRVing.org)

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Bus will pick up at campground. Sign up online.



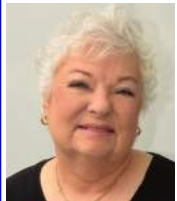
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Go to our website for more info [www.SmartRVing.org](http://www.SmartRVing.org)



### Message from your SMART President

Boy did summer come in with a heat wave. Here in south Texas it's brutal with several days over 100 deg. So we are willing to share it with the Eastern folks. As you travel these hot roads, make sure that your rigs are prepped for the heat. Keep those tires properly aired up. Clean your A/C filters, cover those windows to keep the traveling heat from getting in.

This time of the year is election time for 2nd VP. So go to the website and log in and you will notice a green icon Annual Elections. Just click on it and you will be taken to the candidates' area. Click on your choice.

We are 3 months from the National Muster in Ladson, South Carolina. Make sure you get your reservation in. Great times are planned. Over 100 rigs have already signed up. Are you one of them?

Remember, when you travel, keep a registration tri-fold in your pocket so when you get to where the fish are, see the flags, cast your line (talk to them), wait for tug (they are interested), set the hook (get them to sign the registration form), mail the form or if you have an iPad, fill out the form online and send it in that way.

Safe travels and Good Fishing! *Richard D. Palmer* SMART National President



### **From the Desk of the 1st Vice President Melody Thomas**

*I read an interesting article this morning. It said you could thank the military for the drive-thru window. Reading on, I discovered that, in 1976, a McDonalds restaurant located near an Army base was frustrated by the fact that soldiers were not allowed to wear their fatigues in public when they went off base. Consequently, they could not get out of their cars to go in the restaurant when they were out and about. It was a dangerous time to wear your uniform in public as the general population were very anti-military. I remember orders that prohibited me from wearing a uniform whenever I traveled. The very innovative owner of that McDonalds cut a hole in the side wall of the restaurant. Now, military members could stay in their cars while placing their order. They obeyed the rules and got their burger and fries, too! The word spread about the "hole in the wall," and soon, the drive-thru window at fast food establishments became common place. The idea expanded to include other places as well – coffee shops, banks, liquor stores, ice cream shops, and even wedding services in Las Vegas. Who doesn't love being able to drive out, get something from your favorite store, and stay in your car while wearing your pajamas?*

*The story inspired me to think about inventions and how folks who think out of the box solve difficult problems. Recruiting and retention is a problem we talk about all the time. We have had some great folks in SMART who reached out past traditional outlets to find new members. The use of Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram has opened a virtual universe for the club. Publications like The Traveler, eNews, and chapter newsletters bring stories of fun activities to our membership. Outstanding recruiting materials, banners, decals, and flags advertise the camaraderie we share. Campaigns are constantly being developed to bring in new folks and encourage current members to stay with us.*

*Like word of the drive-thru window, word of the successful things we do must be shared with each other. Tell people what you are doing in your chapter that has worked well for you. (con't on next page.....*

*What makes your musters fun? Why do people want to belong to your chapter? How do you resolve issues that other chapters face? Publish your stories on the SMART Facebook page. Share your methods in the monthly E-News & TRAVELER. Come to the National Muster with a tale of your best experiences.*

*We will succeed best when we all work together to build solutions to our common problems. I am calling on all you innovators to come forward and let us know what you are doing that has worked well for your chapter.*

*Melody Thomas 1st VP .*



**Resume for 2nd Vice President**

**Gene Bennett #12635**

I Gene Bennett, SMART Member in good standing.

Do hereby apply for and accept the nomination for the office of 2nd Vice President of SMART. I hereby agree to meet all required responsibilities when elected. By affixing my name below, I certify that I understand the responsibilities, capabilities, and the willingness to serve within the provisions outlined in Section 6.11 of the National By-Laws. I understand there is no compensation for this honor. Thank you for your consideration.

Gene Bennett

(see full resume online at our website)



**Resume for 2nd Vice President**

**LeRoy Armacost #14046**

I LeRoy Armacost, SMART Member, Do hereby apply for and accept the nomination for the office of 2nd Vice President. I hereby agree to meet all required responsibilities if elected. By affixing my name below, I certify that I accept responsibility for the position if elected and possess the capability and willingness to serve in that position, and that I am aware of the provisions of section 6.11 of the Bylaws concerning compensation.

LeRoy Armacost

(see full resume online at our website)



**Please go to**  
**[www.SmartRVing.org](http://www.SmartRVing.org)**  
and sign in and **VOTE** for  
your next  
**2nd Vice President**  
of **SMART**

**Gene Bennett or Leroy Armacost**

# Calendar of Camping Events for JULY & AUGUST

July 15th

## Tri State Travelers Galax Muster

Contact: Larry White (707) 331-0683 [sgtrock57@protonmail.com](mailto:sgtrock57@protonmail.com)

August 5th White Sands Panhandlers Fall Kick-Off Muster Foley, AL

Magnolia Springs Golf & RV Hideaway Resort

Contact: Paul Moniz (850) 723-0241 [monizp@bellsouth.net](mailto:monizp@bellsouth.net)

August 17th Arkansas Hogs 3rd Annual GAME DAY Potluck

at the Engel's Jacksonville, AR

Contact: Richard Engel (501) 772-0131 [liepsh@aol.com](mailto:liepsh@aol.com)

For More info please go to our website at

[SmartRVing.org/core/event.php](http://SmartRVing.org/core/event.php)

All SMART Events



## 2024 SMART National Crafts

As with the 2023 SMART National in Amana, Linda Mosley will be holding craft projects. There will be **two crafts** offered this year. Both will be Christmas ornaments.

**The first class** will be made with clothes pins to form a rustic **Mary and Joseph and baby**. A choice of stars will be available. Cost \$5

**The second** is a **Christmas tree** made with fabric strips tied onto a cinnamon stick. Again, a choice of stars will let you customize your tree. Cost \$5 Be prepared to sign up for both at Registration!





## **The Chaplains Desk: *Lamar Enfinger National Chaplain***

### **Phrases To Live By**

If at first, you don't succeed try reading the instructions. Proverbs 4:13 Take fast hold of instructions; let her not go; keep her, for she is thy life.

The first step to wisdom is silence; The second step listening. Proverbs 1: 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgement, and equity.

Our children are like mirrors-They reflect our attitudes in life. Proverbs 20: 7 The just man walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.

Being at peace with yourself is a direct result of finding peace with God. Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say rejoice.

Faith is daring the soul to go beyond what the eyes can see. For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

A minute of thought is worth more than an hour of talk .

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3

The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example. John 15:25

The measure of a man is not how great his faith is but how great his love is. 1 Corinthians 3:13 NIV

Their work will be shown for what it is, because the day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.1 Corinthians 4:13

Humor is to life what shock absorbers are to Automobiles.

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones.Proverbs 17:22

People may doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do.

Then he said to the man, (Reach out your hand) The man reached out and then it was restored, as normal and healthy as the other men. Matthew 12:13 AMP

Life can only be understood by looking backwards, but it must be lived looking forward.

And Jesus said unto him, no man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God. Luke 9:62

What a big difference there is between giving advice and lending a hand.

Little children, let us not love with words or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 1 John 3:18

Take care of your character and your reputation will take care of itself.

A good name is to be more desired than greater wealth, favor is better than silver and gold. Proverbs 22:1

Your Companions are like a button on an Elevator, they will either take you up or take you down.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20

Life is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be enjoyed.

This is the day that the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

The best way to forget one's problems is to help solve them.

Do not merely look out for your own personal interest but also for the interest of others. Philippians 2:4

## Hello SMART RV Nation!

My name is Brian Bolger and I am the new **SMART Recruiting and Retention Point of Contact**. My wife Ruth and I have only been members of SMART for a couple of years, but we have been on two caravans and have been to several musters of different organizations as well as our home chapter Capitol Campers.



We both enjoy this organization immensely and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible traveling.

As many of you know, a rising concern of the organization at large is our dwindling membership. RVing is a hobby that resonates with all of us, whether day trippers, weekend warriors, monthly vagabonds or full timers. At some point, however, tastes change, and members move on to other adventures or chapters in their lives. While we wish our friends well in their new adventures, it is important for all of us to realize that bringing in new members isn't just a good idea, it is necessary for the survival and continuity of our organization.

I was presently surprised to find that we had active-duty members on our rosters! Awesome job to those Chapters who have them, and I look forward to hearing how you were able to recruit them! Obviously, all members are appreciated but younger members who have the potential for long membership time is even better!

So how else do we get new members in? I would like to introduce a concept called "**Guerilla Marketing**". Introduced by Jay Conrad Levinson in the 80's is a concept to have unconventional interactions to support a product or concept. While many of us are happy talking up the organization in campgrounds where military emblems flourish, many more do not feel comfortable talking to complete strangers. However, many members actually practice guerilla marketing and may not realize it. I have heard wonderful examples of this to include leaving **SMART printed material** in laundry room while traveling. Other great examples are in the SMART Membership Action Plan 15 C (look on your "Membership page at the bottom for reference). In addition, our Feb 2024 SMART E Newspaper had a classic example of guerilla marketing by Melody Thomas during the Tampa RV Show in January 2024. Others may feel more comfortable with a banner (small or large is personal choice) advertising SMART with a QR code in the corner leading to the SMART web site (A QR code is a type of code in the shape of a square that contains a series of dots. One takes their phone out and the camera will open the **SMART RV website**). For those that DO feel comfortable chatting with strangers, do you have **SMART trifolds** (or other SMART printed material) to provide potential members? There are many ways to get the word out, so SMART doesn't remain the best kept secret out there. The critical factor is to try, as our survival as an organization depends on new members. Do you have an example of guerilla marketing? I would love to hear about it!! See you all at Nationals!! *Brian Bolger Aka "B2"*



**and Congratulations to the following New Members and their Recruiters**

**(May & June)**

<b>New Members</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Recruiter</b>
15802 Alice Pearson (David)	San Marcos, TX	D Pearson
15803 Michael Perez (Teresita)	Roanoke, TX	R Collins
15804 Chuck Dugan (Carol)	East Wakefield, NH	
15805 Carol Dugan (Chuck)	East Wakefield, NH	
15806 Mario Pavesi (Mona)	Hockessin, DE	J Ego
15807 Mona Pavesi (Mario)	Hockessin, DE	J Ego
15808 Diego Gonzalez (Gladys)	Oak Harbor, WA	
15809 Donna Devere (Robert)	Winder, GA	R Devere
15810 Jeffrey Cooksley (Nancy)	Livingston, TX	D Pepperell
15811 Rodger McAlister (Marilyn)	Louisville, KY	D Foster
15814 Thomas Roelke (Christy)	Alexandria, VA	
15815 Christy Roelke (Thomas)	Alexandria, VA	
15816 Ginger Mason	Ruskin, FL	T Mason
15817 John Thompson (Tresia)	Greenwood, IN	
15818 Tresia Thompson (John)	Greenwood, IN	
15819 Liz Possiel (Gregg)	Roosevelt, NJ	G Possiel
15820 Cheryl Honeycutt Cape	Carteret, NC	M Thomas
15821 Jeff MacLeod (Linda)	Rome, GA	J Katin
15822 Steven Hellie (Yvonne)	Rockport, ME	
15823 Yvonne Hellie (Steve)	Rockport, ME	
15824 Donna Murdoch	Ramona, CA	
15825 Randy Rose (Cherie)	Metairie, LA	W Hadaway
15826 Cherie Rose (Randy)	Metairie, LA	W Hadaway
15827 Rich Newton (Donna)	Harlingen, TX	
15858 Donna Newton (Rich)	Harlingen, TX	
15829 Carl Turner (Martha)	Pensacola, FL	Rick McHenry



**New  
Decals at  
SMART HQ  
Call today  
to get  
yours!**



**TAPS:**

**John Bradberry #12799**  
spouse of Dorothy #13078  
Woodstock, GA

**Jane Edstrom,**  
spouse of Joseph #11718  
Mesa, AZ

**Lonnie Simmons #10561**  
(former member)  
Satsuma, FL



*In Loving Memory*

## SMART Merchandise

40th Anniversary Coffee Mugs \$5

40th Anniversary Mens WHT Caps \$10

Thermal Wine Mugs w/SMART logo \$12

SMART Decals 9" \$4, 6" \$2, 3" \$1

Navy Blue Mens Cap \$12

Car Tags \$5



### **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

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

800-354-7681 or email

## Barbecue Is My Truth, And A Paper Plate My Witness

I believe in BBQ – as soul food and comfort food and health food, as a cuisine of both solace and celebration. When I'm feeling good, I want BBQ. When I'm feeling bad, I just want BBQ more. I believe in BBQ in all its regional derivations and ethnic translations, in forms that range from white-tablecloth presentations of cunningly sauced costillas to Chinese take-out spareribs that stain your fingers red to the most authentic product of the tar-paper rib shacks of the Deep South. I believe that as with sunshine and great sex, no day is bad that has BBQ in it.

I believe in the artistic genius of generations of pit men who worked in relative obscurity to keep alive the craft of slow smoking as it's been practiced for as long as there's been fire. A cook must have an intimate understanding of his work: the physics of fire and convection, the hard science of meat and heat and smoke – and then forget it all to achieve a gut-level, Zen instinct.

I believe that BBQ drives culture, not the other way around. Some of the first blows for equality and civil rights in the Deep South were not made in courtrooms or in schools or on buses but in BBQ shacks. Certain dining rooms, backyards, and road house juke joints in the South were integrated long before any other public places were.

I believe that good BBQ requires no décor. Paper plates are OK. And paper napkins. And plastic utensils. And I believe any place with a menu longer than a single page (or better yet, just a chalkboard) is coming dangerously close to putting on airs.

I believe that good BBQ need sides the way good blues needs rhythm and there is only one rule: serve whatever you like, but whatever you serve, make it fresh. Have someone's mama in the back doing the "taters" and hushpuppies and sweet tea because Mama will know what she's doing – at least know better than some assembly line worker bagging up powdered mashed potatoes by the ton.

I believe that proper BBQ ought to come in significant portions. Skinny people can eat BBQ and do, but the kitchen should cook for a fat man who hasn't eaten since breakfast. My leftovers should last for days.

I believe that if you don't get sauce under your nails when you're eating, you're doing it wrong. I believe that if you don't ruin your shirt, you're not trying hard enough.

I believe – I know – there is no such thing as too much BBQ. Good, bad, or in between, old fashioned pit BBQ or high-tech and modern – it doesn't matter. Existing without gimmickry, BBQ is truth; it is history and home, and the only thing I don't believe is that I'll ever get enough.



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## **Watermelon is one of summer's most popular fruits,**

### **But is it healthy?**



As summer approaches, plans for backyard barbecues, pool parties and extended family time begin to crowd our calendars. And summer's most popular and highly-ranked fruit is about to be consumed in abundance – to the tune of more than 40 million pounds. That's watermelon, of course, the fruit known for its striking colors, juicy crunch and water-laden slices.

But watermelon offers a lot more than just being a delicious summertime staple. Made up of more than 90% water, the fruit is also incredibly hydrating and is loaded with electrolytes to help one recharge after a morning workout or afternoon of play. It's chock full of nutrients and can even be a healthy companion snack for anyone looking to drop a few pounds.

Watermelon has a host of health benefits including protecting one's joints from inflammation, improving digestive conditions, and being richer in lycopene than any other fruit. Lycopene is an important antioxidant that has been linked to a decreased risk of cancer and heart disease.

The fruit is also a great source of beta-carotene, which works to protect one's body from damaging molecules called free radicals. Watermelon is high in fiber, vitamins A & C, minerals, and phytochemicals. Phytochemicals strengthen one's immune system, helps prevent DNA damage, and helps boost potassium consumption- minerals that contribute to healthy blood pressure.

### **Does watermelon have a lot of sugar?**

While watermelon satisfies the sweet tooth, it has less sugar than many other popular fruits. Mangos, grapes, cherries, and pears all have more grams of sugar per serving than watermelon. But watermelon still has about 17 grams per slice, so it's best not to load up too much of it all at once.

While it's often eaten by the slice, the fruit's natural sweetness also makes it a good option to mix with other fruits and vegetables and can keep salads both healthful and far from hum-drum.

### **Can watermelon help with weight loss?**

Another one of the health benefits is that that is low in calories while still being filling, making it a popular food some turn to when trying to drop a few pounds. It is one weight management tool because it is high in water, high in fiber, and low in calories. Water and fiber are two components in satiety – the feeling of being full. A cup of diced watermelon has less than 50 calories and offers about .6 grams of fiber and .9 grams of protein. Watermelon pieces in a pitcher of water are often used to create fruit water, which can help cut down on the temptation to choose sugar-sweetened drinks. You can nibble on watermelon chunks from a bowl or platter without unintentionally over doing it on calories.

### **Is watermelon healthy to eat every day?**

Because of its many health benefits, the standard serving size set by the USDA is twice as big for watermelon as for other fruit, and is OK to eat in moderation every day the fruit is in season.

# 2024 SMART CARAVANS ADVENTURES



## 2024 Branson Caravan

### 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 standby list



# 2025 SMART Caravan Adventures

## Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, and Ships! Caravan

**June 16th thru July 31st Price TBA**

Come explore the impact of various transportation modes on American culture. We'll see how the RV industry started, explore the early inventions of the automobile, marvel at incredible ships that ply the Great Lakes, tour railroad and glider plane museums, and thrill to an exciting airshow. The caravan starts in Indiana, moves through Michigan, and ends in Wisconsin.

The caravan will touch on transportation modes as they have grown and developed throughout American history. Participants will have a chance to tour the factory where their RV was manufactured and be immersed in the Amish culture through tours and meals. Moving from Indiana to Michigan, the group will tour the largest automobile museum in North America.

Other sights will include Henry Ford's beginnings, the giant freighters moving through the Sault Ste. Marie Locks, Mackinaw Island where the primary mode of transportation is still horse and carriage, a WWII glider museum, and numerous stops around the Mitten state. Continuing into Wisconsin, the caravan will stop at Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers, for a tour and lunch.

We will enjoy the EAA Air venture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This annual event brings together aviation enthusiasts of all ages as they show off experimental and innovative aircraft. The air venture will have day and night air shows, rides in aircraft, and a mass hot air balloon launch. Ending in Spring Green, Wisconsin, the group will explore the most exotic and eclectic retreat built on a chimney rock. And of course, there will be potlucks, happy hours, and campfires.



**Wagonmasters Melody & Paul Thomas [thomas4smart@gmail.com](mailto:thomas4smart@gmail.com)**

**Johnny & Linda Leggett Tail Gunners [johnny\\_leggett@hotmail.com](mailto:johnny_leggett@hotmail.com)**



## **2025 Louisiana Caravan Laissez Le Bon Temps Rouler!**

*(Pronounced LAY ZAY LE BONE TUM RULE EH)*

**Dates March 25th to April 25, 2025**

**(Let the good times roll!) Louisiana Food and Music Caravan**

If you are looking for fun and unique things to do then you should join us on this Louisiana Caravan. Louisiana is a melting pot of cultures including French, African, Canadian, and American peoples. The Pelican State is not short on amazing sites, awesome culture and epic fun.

This caravan begins in Natchitoches, the oldest town in the Louisiana Purchase. You will tour plantations, see where Steel Magnolias and other movies were filmed, and eat the famous Natchitoches Meat pies. We then travel to the I-20 corridor starting at Shreveport and continuing to Ruston, Monroe, and Vicksburg seeing all the sites along the way including a WORLD HERITAGE CENTER at Poverty Point and tour one of the three vineyards and wineries in Louisiana. We will visit the birthplace of Delta Air Lines and first bottled Coca Cola. We will visit a civil war battleground and then make our way down the Mississippi to New Orleans stopping at several interesting places on the way. There will be a Cajun Cooking class in Vidalia where you will learn to make Jambalaya.

Everyone knows that New Orleans is a fun place. We will sample beignets at the French market and tour the WW II museum. We will then head into the heart of Cajun Country. We will tour Avery Island and learn how Tabasco Sauce is made. The Caravan will end at Poche's Fish Camp with a big crawfish boil.

**Wagon Masters: Johnny and Linda Leggett (318) 243-4084 johnny\_leggett@hotmail.com**

**Assistant Wagonmasters: Paul and Melody Thomas (631) 258-6087 thomas4smart@gamil.com**

**Couple \$4,600 Single \$3,500 Guest \$1,500**

## **2025 ALASKAN ADVENTURE**

**with Wagon Masters David & Jackie Weis**

**We are in the planning stages of a Great Alaskan Caravan. We are looking at about a 60 day tour.**

**Go ahead and register online and we will get more details to your soon!**

**(Full get on standby List)**

## **Fall of 2025 Join us in "TOURING THROUGH TEXAS TOGETHER!"**

**Caravan right after our 2025 National in Mineola, TX. We will be highlighting all the great places in TEXAS. Join us as we Visit Dallas , Waco, The LBJ Ranch. Float down the river in San Antonio. We'll take a ride on a real chuck wagon for dinner, visit an aircraft carrier on the coast, eat shrimp and visit a Mansion and a Real Working Ranch, And So Much More! So put on your traveling boots and let's travel together and see what all we can find. More info coming soon! Watch for details. Wagonmaster David & Jackie Weis**

## 2025 SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan



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 1 cabins left to choose from, we have 49 booked already**

## CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS



**AT-LARGE REGION Jackie Weis**

**Region Director**

**Duffers, Nomads, SMART FMCA , STAR, WIMS**



**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**



The May Muster for the **FL Roadrunners** was a big hit with all that attended. We had a fishing trip planned but the weather put a damper on that, it rained. The host provided breakfast and dinner. On Friday we had a low country boil that everyone enjoyed. Our next Muster will be in Nov. 20 – Nov 24 2024 at Okfenokee Pastimes in Folkston GA. Come join us for a really good time. President Evelyn Stewart

We want to challenge all Chapters & Regions to see who will have the most members at this years National in Ladson/Charleston SC....

**GOOD LUCK!**





## The Florida Sunshine Chapter

Enjoyed a successful June muster held at the Gainesville-Starke KOA in Starke, Florida. It was hosted by the East Regional Director, LeRoy Armacost and his wife Shele- ne, and they did a superb job of feeding and entertaining us. All 20 of us had a very nice time talking with new and old friends about our life's experiences. We enjoyed meeting our guest, Kay Schultz as well as the Smyly's son, Doug Smyly and the Whitaker's grand- daughter, Kaetlenn Stencil. During the day some folks played Michigan Rummy, and many pennies changed hands. Thanks to Barbara Martin and Karen Kerner who brought the Michigan Rummy boards which were made by Barbara. In the evenings, poker and hand & foot prevailed. One even- ing Peter Kerner staged a rousing card bingo game, and one evening we dined out at Cedar River Seafood.

Our next muster will be at Southern Oaks RV Park in Summerfield, Florida with Tony and Cathy Korvas as hosts. The dates are October 2-6, and we'd love to have you join us there. We also hope to see you at the National Muster in Ladson, SC, September 16-20.

Steve Colt, President



**The Tri-State Travelers'** May muster at the Barnyard RV Park in Lexington SC was attend- ed by many members, including one new couple (Donald Huskey and Mae Bryant) and a sin- gle man (Jerry Barson) who moved from Florida to SC. Welcome. We had a challenge, as the meeting room kitchen had no stove/oven. We cooked in roasting pans and crock pots, plus our small griddles. No one went hungry, so it turned out well. We had fun playing Mexican train and several card games and being in warmer weather.

This year our National Muster will be held at the Exchange Park Expo Center in Ladson, near Charleston SC. Things are going well and vendors are being lined up. Wednesday, 11 September at noon is the first arrival time. Tours are scheduled that week (sign up on the website) and the muster opening ceremonies are Mon- day evening. Please try to attend. It will be a fun filled week with many seminars and games scheduled. All information is available on the first page of the website.

The July muster is in Galax VA, 15-19 July at Cool Breeze Campground, just off I-77. It's a little north of our usual states, so should be somewhat cooler for the middle of summer. If it stays warm, there's a firepit for nighttime gathering. Please register.

Come November, we're looking forward to our muster at Myrtle Beach SC (13-17). It's our best muster where we have auctions, a brown bag fund raiser, a holiday potluck and lots of fun, to include mini golf, crafts and walks on the beach (we're parked about two minutes from the ocean). We will also be having elec- tions for 2025. Any member or prospective member of SMART is always welcome to attend any of our mus- ters.

We look forward to seeing new faces and some we already know. Please sign up on the WEB to attend.

Hope to see you in September for the National and in November for our last muster of the year.

Gail Alley, Editor



## Florida Buccaneers

For those of you that like to plan ahead, we invite you to mark your calendars and join us for the following: September 2024 - Put on your boogie shoes and join us as we dance our way to Charleston for the 2024 SMART National Muster.

If you are planning to arrive early (~11 Sept) and can dry camp for one night, please consider the following: We have arranged with a Harvest Host location in Charleston (a distillery 15 miles from the National muster) to block their parking spots (dry camping) for us on 10 Sept. We plan to arrive at the distillery early afternoon on 10 Sept, enjoy a tour, tasting (\$10/PP), hors d'oeuvres, and comradery, then spend the night in their parking lot (generators are welcome). The next morning, 11 Sept, we will roll towards National so that we may be parked together at the National muster.

We stayed at this small family distillery on our way to the 2024 maritime caravan and really enjoyed their unique spirits. They are always coming up with new recipes and we look forward to visiting them again in September.

If you are interested in joining us, please email me ([painthrse@hotmail.com](mailto:painthrse@hotmail.com)) – max is ~ 15 RV's. Include in your email your RV type/length and if towing (i.e., Class A + car), and number of occupants. Normally being a Harvest Host member is a requirement to stay – we have received an exemption for this event and will be managing the sign-up for the distillery so, Harvest Host membership is not required.

Also, please note this is a DRY CAMPING opportunity – no connections for water, electric (generators are welcome), or sewer. If you cannot dry camp, there are campgrounds in the area. If you are interested in arriving at National with us and cannot dry camp, perhaps you can find a nearby campground and join up with us before we depart the distillery. Let me know if you are planning to do this and we can coordinate further.



**November 2024 - Zephyrhills Battle For Veterans** *The highly anticipated Battle for Veterans event at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History, taking place from November 8th to 10th. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of World War II with captivating live battle reenactments, authentic living history displays, and a variety of vendors offering military items. Indulge in delicious food options while paying tribute to our brave veterans. This event is free to attend and promises an unforgettable experience for all.*

**WHO DOESN'T LOVE A PARADE** - *On Saturday, 9 Nov 2024, those able and willing are invited to join us for the Zephyrhills Veterans Day Parade on Main Street, Zephyrhills. If interested, please register for this muster to receive more information.*

*We will also have our traditional Bike Ride, Happy Hours, Potlucks and more. For more information and to register please visit the Buccaneer website: <https://smartrving.org/bucs/> Safe Travels, Joe Faubion*



**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**



## The MS Magnolias

did a joint muster with the White Sands Panhandlers in Foley, AL, May 2024 where we had a combined attendance of 48 chapter members.

We cooked and ate together, shopped, ate at restaurants, played many games together, tracked down dinosaurs in the woods, rode a dolphin cruise boat in Orange Beach, threw way too many beanbags for a baseball game, celebrated Juanita Glazier's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, listened to a survivor spouse seminar by Mike, and so many other fun things that were scheduled at this muster. Anchors Aweigh RV Resort in Foley is a nice campground in Foley, but some of our non RVer members were able to stay at local lodging to enjoy the comradery of this joint muster. We highly recommend having more joint musters for the future.



Our next muster is Oct 20-25 2024 at Parker's Landing in Biloxi, MS, where we will be celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the chartering of the MS Magnolias chapter. Come and join us by registering on the website. The hosts are working hard to have some special events during this muster. Before that occurs, the Magnolias are meeting for a luncheon the first Tuesday of each summer month at Sedra's Bistro in Slidell, LA, Info is on the website about the time and place. We have already met in June and had a good visit and food for almost 2 ½ hrs.



At the time of this article being written, the MS Magnolias has at least sixteen (16) rigs registered to attend the National Smart Muster in September. Some of the rigs plan to travel together for several days so that they can arrive and camp together.

*Glory Brady.*



## Greetings from the Cajuns!

Louisiana is the home base for the Cajuns. Some may say that's the State We Are In. That is actually a TV program here on PBS. It's hot here now, but not too hot to be planning future adventures on your own or with other SMART members.

Louisiana is a great destination! There is much to do here. One of our most underutilized attractions are our Louisiana State Parks, especially the campgrounds. There are about 20 state parks with campgrounds located in all parts of the state. Some are older, some are new, but they are all clean and beautifully maintained and have many of the amenities of upscale RV resorts. They are located on lakes, rivers, and the Gulf of Mexico.

They are in the country and they are near towns and cities. There is a modernization program underway to enlarge and improve many of the parks. The Cypremort Point Park has 80 foot concrete pull throughs with full hook ups right on the Gulf of Mexico. The Poverty Point Campground, located near the World Heritage Site, may be the prettiest campground I have encountered in my travels.

The parks are very economical. Seniors (62 and older) receive a 50% discount on their already low fees. I stayed at North Toledo Bend State Park last weekend and the cost was \$14/night plus tax and a \$4.50 booking fee. You can stay at the French Quarter RV Resort in New Orleans for \$113/night or the nearby Fontainebleau State Park for a fraction of that cost. These parks are certainly a good alternative to the high-priced parks many snowbirds flock to each winter. For a complete list and locations go to the Louisiana State Park website. So now is a great time to plan your trip to Louisiana. And do not forget to make plans for the Central Regional Muster and the Tailgate muster to be held in November! It's a great time to Geaux Louisiana! Johnny Leggett



**We hope Everyone has a Safe and HAPPY 4th of JULY**





**WESTERN REGION : Mike Foley, Region Director,  
Assistant: Greg Vassalo  
Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho,  
California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona,**



Hi all - Not a lot happening so this will be a short article. Summer is here along with the heat along the West Coast. Make sure you have plenty of shade and water. Golden Gate had their June Muster at Gold Ranch RV park in Verdi NV. 14 rigs were in attendance and a wonderful Mexican dinner at Maria's Mexican Restaurant in Verdi. Recruit Recruit and Recruit more! We need more new members. Check out the

SMART website for the upcoming National. They have been extremely busy putting this together for you. We're getting more members in the Pacific Northwest so hopefully we can get a Chapter going. At the Golden Gate muster Sky Med came and gave a great presentation. We also had a member from Utah come and they stated that FMCA/SMART is coming their way on a rolling muster 30 June and they are providing a BBQ for them. Most of the members coming are from Utah so hopefully they can recruit some members to start a Chapter there. Take care everyone and please be safe on the highways and bi ways..lots of crazy drivers out there. Mike Foley , Director Western Region

**Greetings from the Golden Gate Chapter**

June is about over but Golden Gate held its muster at Gold Ranch in Verdi NV. 14 Rigs were there, and we had a great time. Great food and great companionship. We also signed up a new member and talked with a couple who are full timers about joining our group. We had a rep from Sky Med who talked at length with us about Medical Insurance and other things. It was a great presentation. All our lakes are full, and it looks like we're in for a hot summer. Had a great Mexican dinner at Maria's Mexican food in Verdi. The weather was nice, and it was on occasion quite windy. There is a lot of construction happening on I-80 which we thought was road construction but in fact they were cutting trees down along the roadside. Looks a lot better, lots of dead trees are gone. Had a problem with our bedroom slide...it wouldn't slide in, so a couple of guys came over and pushed it in. Once home I tried it again as we weren't level at Verdi but to no avail, so I got a call in to a mobile repairman. Don't want to take it back to Camping World because who knows how long our rig will be there. Speaking of leveling... I took it for granted that the pull thru's were mostly level. Boy did I think wrong. I left my leveling boards at home but never again they will always be with us when we travel. Going to be a very warm summer all so take plenty of water with you. Stay safe and Happy RVing.



Mike Foley, President Golden Gate Chapter

**Golf Carts for Rent at National:**

Contact Garrett Wilson (843) 870-8085

[garrettw@trucarts.com](mailto:garrettw@trucarts.com)

He will be taking care of the SMART National and will deliver carts and pick them up from the campground. Everyday except Sunday.





# 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

<b>Member</b>	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)			<b>\$80.00</b>

### 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
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	<b>118.50</b>

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

Applicant signature:	Date:
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----- Cut here: Retain for your records -----



<b>Fees Payable to: SMART</b> Phone: 800-354-7681		<b>Mail to: SMART, 114 Duxbury Ave, Molino, FL 32577</b> Email: smart@smartvring.org    Web: www.smartvring.org	
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Contact phone #: (    ) —	Contact email:		
Approved: 4 APR 2016: Previous versions are obsolete and should be discarded			

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

## **S.M.A.R.T. is a Military Veterans RV Club**

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