



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



Smoke Signal

January 2024



NOMADS

Nomads: 1. a member of a tribe that has no fixed abode, but moves from place to place according to food supply. 2. Any wanderer

Nomads Chapter of Special Military Active Recreational Travelers (S*M*A*R*T)

President:	David Weis	dweis74@hotmail.com
Vice President:	Willie Pollard	willie.wpollard@gmail.com
Secretary:	Joe Padberg	padberg4smart@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Greg Vasallo	greg_ange@hotmail.com
Muster Master:	Diane Pepperell	Diane.Pepperell@yahoo.com
Smoke Signal Editor:	Beth Sands	bdsands1@yahoo.com

From Your NOMADS President

Nomad's President David Weis

Hope all Nomad Chapter Members are enjoying the Christmas season and ready for a New Year. At our last Chapter (Post National) meeting we discussed the possibility of Chapter shirts, we put this on hold to discuss at our next meeting where we will have a majority of our members, so we'll revisit that issue at that time. Another issue is the election of Chapter Officers, I have asked Joe Padberg to head the nomination committee and he has graciously accepted (Thank you Joe) so now I asked you to consider taking on a Chapter Officer position, so please contact Joe with your desire to step up and help keep the Chapter moving forward. I would like to personally thank our present Chapter Officers for their services and support these last few years, Willie Pollard (Chapter Vice President) Joe Padberg (Secretary & Smoke Signal Editor) Diane Pepperell (Muster Master) and Greg Vassallo (Treasurer) and for Beth Sands for taking over as our editor for the Smoke signal. These folks have kept the Chapter functioning and operational and deserve a THANK YOU. Now is the time to start planning for the 2024 Smart National Muster being held in Ladson South Carolina (Charleston area) it's going to be a fun time and I look forward to seeing you all there. Additionally, we still have openings on some of our exciting Smart Caravans and it's a perfect way to enjoy the sites along with your fellow Smart members. Travel safe, stay SMART and see you in Ladson South Carolina in 2024.

David

Secretary/ Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

Balance in Accounts as of Dec. 21, 2023:

- Checking \$1,226.58
- Savings \$0

TOTAL ASSETS: \$1226.58

After almost three months of trying to get Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) to work with us to get me added on to the account, it was decided to open a new account at Oregon Community Credit Union (OCCU).

Got the new NOMAD account opened at OCCU. Current dues checks received were deposited including a check from the NFCU account for \$1371.58. When the NFCU check clears, David will be closing that account.

Opening checking account balance at OCCU is \$1526.58.

Per the annual meeting, checks were sent to Mutts with a Mission, Fisher House, and SMART National in the amount of \$100 each.

Current account balance is \$1226.58. Additional dues checks will be deposited electronically as I receive them.

End of the Year Report being prepared for National.

2024 Dues are due by the end of 2023. .

Remember to mail your dues of \$5 per year to Greg Vassallo 37234 Immigrant Road Pleasant Hill, OR 97455 . **Make your check out to SMART Nomads.**

From your NOMADS Secretary

Greetings NOMADS,

At the 2023 National gathering, the NOMADS Chapter received another Outstanding Chapter award. And with all your activities and involvement, we can repeat this rating in 2024. The other key activity that will occur this year is the election of officers. This happens every two years during our Chapter Meeting at the SMART National event. While several of our current officers will be remaining in their office, we have openings for two individuals. If you are available and willing to take on a chapter leadership position, please email me at Padberg4Smart@gmail.com. I am the chair of our Nomination Committee and ready to answer any questions you have about being a Chapter officer.

This is your opportunity to become more involved with SMART and provide your ideas and suggestions for improvement of our chapter.

Joe Padberg
NOMADS Secretary
Nominating Committee Chair

SMOKE SIGNAL

Please send any articles or information that you want to post in the next quarter's newsletter to Beth's email noted above.

Recruitment and Retention

The traditional one is to meet veterans at RV parks as we travel and hand them information on SMART. These welcome packages are available through HQ. They include a small bag, a copy of the latest SMART Traveler, a trifold/application with your name and member information, some SMART business cards and a SMART pen.

If you track the names of those you contact, then you could follow up to continue to keep their interest in SMART fresh.

There is also an online method. If the interested individual provides you their name and email, you can invite them to join SMART right from our website. Follow these simple steps and it will send you a copy for your records.

- 1) Log into the SMART website - SMARTRVing.org
- 2) Go to Chapter quick links
- 3) Click on your Region
- 4) Click on your chapter
- 5) Click on the 'Members Only' button
- 6) Login to the website
- 7) Scroll down to the 'Email an Invitation to Join SMART'
- 8) Fill out the prospect's name, email and a brief description of what is being sent
- 9) Hit the send button and the website will do the work.

SMART COOKBOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!!!

In a quandary on what to make for that happy hour or potluck? Get some of the delicious recipes in this cookbook. You'll be the hit of the party! Get yours before they're all gone. Just \$10.00 each. Contact HQ to order your cookbook now.



Member Activities

Melody & Paul Thomas

What an exciting year this was! We led a caravan to Alaska, attended the 40th Anniversary celebration of SMART in Iowa, and enjoyed the Autumn in the Appalachians caravan led by the Steinbauers and Masons. We are now deep in the planning and preparing stage for the Whiskey & Water Caravan taking place this year in May. It promises to be an exciting adventure that will bring the Bourbon Trail close to home. There will be visits to distilleries, wonderful attractions to see, meals to share, and comradery to enjoy. We are honored to be tail gunners for wagon masters, Joe Padberg & Diane Pepperell. It will 30 days of delightful travel with fellow veterans around Tennessee and Kentucky.

Melody & Paul Thomas

Joe Padberg & Diane Pepperell

What a year we have had. We scouted out some great places for our Whiskey & Water Caravan coming up in May 2024. We then moved on to the Michigan Bound Caravan, and in June we ventured North to Alaska on a 74 day Caravan with an amazing group of SMART members. We stopped at Nationals in Iowa and then finished with Autumn in the Appalachians. 18,500 miles on the RV and an additional 9K on the toad.

The past 3 months have seen us move southwest toward our winter quarters just outside Phoenix, AZ. We did stop in Tuscaloosa, AL to meet friends and then on to Vicksburg, MS for the Cajuns Veterans Weekend muster. Finally, a stop in Maurice, LA to get our slide drive replaced and working well. We are now in Apache Junction, AZ for a couple month respite and catching up on work on the rig.

Planning on joining the Tumbleweeds, and Roadrunners for gatherings as we are available. Best to all as you travel, stay safe, stay healthy!

Jim & Sandi Anderson

The decision was made for us to discontinue our RV travel. We had an incident with the 5th wheel and the unit was totaled. No one was hurt and there was no property damage other than the RV. We will stay members of SMART for a while and attend rallies with RVSHARE units or hotel stays. We have a home in Tombstone, AZ and would love to see you all as your travels take you on I 10 in Southern Az. We are only 30 miles south of Benson. Pls call us at 602-568-8796 or 623-826-8332 and leave a message or text or email. Would love to stay in contact!!!!

Jim and Sandi Anderson

Chuck & Diana Tamborino

Chuck & Diana Tamborino are no longer traveling by RV. However, we would love to meet other Nomads for Coffee or a meal when they are on Birmingham AL or passing through on I 59-20, I 65, or I 22.

Gene-O & Sharon Bennett

I have spent the most of 2023 in the hospital/rehab:

On the Saturday before Easter, as I was preparing to go the Regionals, I missed a step getting out of the camper and fractured my left hip socket. Resulting in hospital/rehab.

On September 15th, I wasn't feeling well, went to my PCP who immediately sent me to the ER and on the 21st I went into surgery for a Triple By-pass. After spending eight days in the ICU, I finally got my pacemaker/defibrillator. My heart muscle is so damaged, the doctors decided I needed

all the help I could get.
Thanks for all the prayers and good wishes. It worked!
This is why I was not at the National Muster.
Right now I am scheduled to attend the 2024 National
Muster in South Carolina and signed up for the Veterans
Unite in 2024 in Branson, MO.
Hopefully I will be able to stay out of the hospital.
Wish me luck!
Gene-O

Things that make you go ...hmmm!

There are approximately 14,750 interchanges in total on US highways.

- The most expensive interstate route is I-95 that cost \$8 billion. It goes through 16 states as well.
 - The interstate route numbers of East-west end in an even number while the North-south's interstate route numbers end in an odd number.
 - There are 4.09 million miles of roads in the United States. This includes roads in Hawaii and Alaska. About 72 percent of these roadways are in rural areas. Over a third of all roadways in the United States are not paved.
-



"You were right. Maybe I should've checked to see if the GPS was working before we left, because this doesn't look like the Florida Keys."



S*M*A*R*T NOMADS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YOUR S*M*A*R*T Number: _____ SPONSOR'S NAME _____

YOUR NAME: _____

SPOUSE/COMPANION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ Newsletter
via email Yes No

THE NEWSLETTER VIA SNAIL MAIL IS CURRENTLY \$5 PER YEAR; PAID WITH ANNUAL DUES, but not included in annual dues

ALTERNATE MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EFFECTIVE DATES FOR USE OF ALTERNATE ADDRESS: _____

PHONE &/OR MESSAGE SERVICE: _____

ACCESS CODE &/OR OTHER INFO RE PHONE: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ STATUS: Active Retired Veteran

RANK/RATE (optional): _____ TYPE of RIG: M/H 5W TT Trk Camper

Other _____

OPTIONAL:

1. How many months each year do you travel in your RV? _____

2. Do you have a home base anywhere? If so, which season are you there & how long?

3. Do you try to attend the National Muster each year no matter where held? Yes No

DUES: \$5 per year due and payable each Jan 1st. No prorating, discounts, or refunds on dues is offered. Dues year is from January 1st to December 31st. **MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NOMADS.**

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Send Check to Our Treasurer: Greg Vassallo 37234 Immigrant Road Pleasant Hill, OR 97455

Current year dues \$5 _____ **Next Year Dues \$5** _____ **Total Submitted \$** _____

FOR NOMADS TREASURER USE ONLY

Date Ck Rec'd: _____ Nomads Membership Number: _____

S * M * A * R * T
Special Military Active Recreational Travelers
114 Duxbury Avenue
Molino, FL 32577

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

Special Military Active Recreational Traveler (S*M*A*R*T)
114 Duxbury Ave
Molino, FL 32577
US



[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.