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Smoke Signal

April 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

Hello Nomads, Hope everyone is traveling safely and getting ready for the warmer weather. First off I wish you all a Happy Easter. At our 1st Nomad Chapter Meeting in Ladson S.C. we will have our installation of new Chapter Officers, I hope many of you consider stepping up to take a Chapter position as this is the only way our Chapter continues to move forward. I hope to see many of the Nomads at the upcoming National Muster in Ladson South Carolina in September, the muster staff has really put together an exciting and informative event you won't want to miss. Travel safe and see you soon.

David

Secretary/ Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

We received dues from five members in January. The only expense this quarter was purchasing checks for the new bank account at OCCU.

Last quarter balance: \$1226.58
Receipts: \$85.00 (dues)
Expenses: \$30.76 (checks)
This quarter balance: \$1280.82

Respectfully,

Greg Vassallo
Nomads Treasuresr

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

Fellow NOMADS, per our Muster Master, Diane Pepperell, we want to remind everyone about the upcoming NOMADS Musters and the National SMART Muster.

The Pre-National Muster is scheduled to occur the 4 days prior to the National Muster Sept 12, 2024, at the same location in Ladson, SC. Contact SMART HQ to schedule your arrival and camping fees.

The Annual NOMADS Chapter meeting will occur during the National SMART gathering. Place and Time will be posted in the National Muster Agenda..

The Post-National Muster will take place at Lakewood Camping Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Jaylen at 843 238 5161 to make your reservations. Be sure to let her know you are part of the SMART NOMADS group. This Muster is scheduled for Sept 21-24, depart on the 25th or sooner at your discretion.

CALL FOR OFFICERS:

As noted in previous messages, NOMADS officers are up for election this year during our National Muster meeting. We need a candidate for either Secretary or President. Please contact Joe Padberg at Padberg4SMART@gmail.com or 480 825 3550 to establish your interest in either of these positions

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.

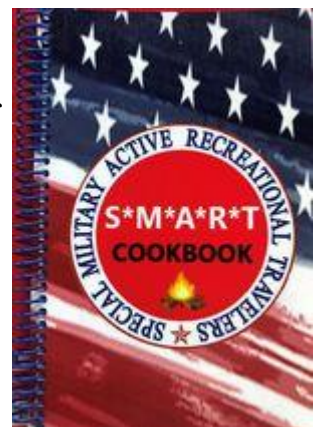
If you track the names of those you contact, then you could follow up to continue to keep their interest in SMART fresh.

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 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.



Type Title Here

Member Activities

Melody & Paul Thomas

Melody & Paul Thomas have been spending the winter months traveling around Florida visiting family and friends. Winter is everywhere and Florida has been pretty cold. We even pulled out the electric blanket! Plans for the National Muster are going full bore. There is such an exciting array of classes, seminars, and activities planned that we won't be able to get a breath in before it will all be over. We are so looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. If you haven't registered yet, do it now! You don't want to miss all the fun coming your way. Following National, we will be traveling to Texas for the solar eclipse and then to Y'all Come for another exciting muster. If you've never been to a Y'all Come muster with the Cajuns, you have missed a great time filled with great comradery and good food. I believe there are still a few spaces left. Sign up now for both the National Muster and the Y'all Come Muster. You won't be sorry! This is what SMART is all about.

Joe Padberg & Diane Pepperell

Padberg's Travels:

Joe and Diane have been in winter quarters for the past 3.5 months. They have completed a complete repainting of the interior of their RV and now feel like they are living in a new rig. They left mid-March to head to the Cajuns rolling muster for the 2024 eclipse, the Cajons Yall Come muster and the Rocky Tops initial muster in Smyrna, TN. Following those events, they will be meandering north and eastward meeting friends and family in this great country until we meet up with y'all in Ladson, SC.

The Riders

Hello from the Riders! We traveled to Durant OK in mid March for the Midwest Region Muster, which included group visits to the new and very impressive Choctaw Cultural Center and to historic Fort Washita. Our next planned journeys include the Texans May muster at Lake Athens RV Park & Marina, followed by traveling to our property near Wetumpka AL for our grandson's college graduation. When we are not traveling, we have an extra 50a connection available just South of Tyler for anyone passing through the East Texas area. See ya somewhere on the road!

Paul Rider

Things that make you go ...hmmm!

CRAZY RV FACTS

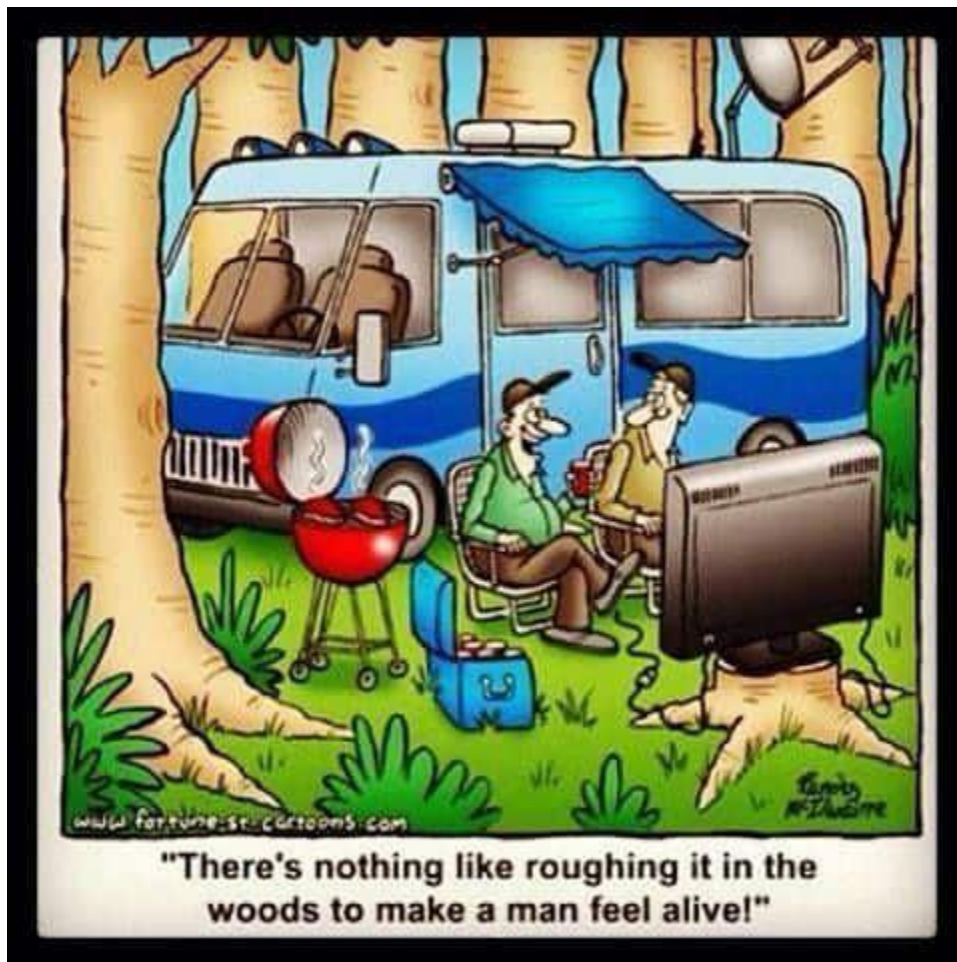


3 Million Dollar RV by Marchi Mobile

- 1) The very first RV was built from a car in 1904.
- 2) There are 11 million households in the US that currently own an RV.
- 3) In 2021, RVing was a 140 billion dollar industry.
- 4) The most expensive RV was sold in Dubai for \$3 million in 2017
- 5) The average RV vacation is 60% less expensive than a traditional hotel/airplane vacation.

6. 6) Airstream began in the garage of Wally Byam. He finally opened a factory in 1931 because neighbors complained about the garage noise.
7. 7) Canada receives 90% of American RV exports.
8. 8) As of 2021, there are 1,664,861 campsites in the US.
9. 9) Full time RVers make up only 1.5% of all RVers.
10. 10) The average RVer travels 190 miles to their campsite.

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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

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