

ESCAPEES

Sharing the RV Lifestyle

www.escapees.com | May/June 2015

**Southern Vancouver Island
EXPERIENCE
THE BEAUTY**

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**Off-the-Grid
Freedom With
RV Solar
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- Reservations available
- Rallies welcome



A New Generation of RVers



Xscapers is an RV lifestyle group of Escapes RV Club.
See page 10 for more information.

ESCAPEESRVClub[®]
A TOTAL SUPPORT NETWORK FOR *All* RVERS

Sharing the RV Lifestyle



ESCAPEES MAGAZINE Submissions

There are no deadlines for submitting articles. Only completed material is accepted for review. No queries, please. Material is compiled many issues in advance, so please note if your material is time-sensitive. If you would like to become a contributor and obtain a copy of *Escapees* magazine writer's and photographic guidelines, visit www.escapees.com/magazine, call 888-757-2582 or e-mail editor@escapees.com or graphics@escapees.com.

Department Deadlines

Nov 10 • Jan/Feb Jan 10 • March/April March 10 • May/June
May 10 • July/August July 10 • Sept/Oct Sept 10 • Nov/Dec

Department information includes "Tips," "Different Viewpoints," "SKP Stops" and all chapter- and BoF-related material. Submissions will be condensed, used on a space-available basis and may even be held for a future issue. Department material generally does not qualify for payment. Send submissions by e-mail to departmentseditor@escapees.com.

CONTACT US

Address changes (mail service)

mailservice@escapees.com • 888-757-2582

Address changes (permanent)

clubbusiness@escapees.com • 888-757-2582

Advertising sales department

advertising@escapees.com

BoF (Birds of a Feather) groups

bof@escapees.com

Commercial membership

commercialmembership@escapees.com

Departments material

departmentseditor@escapees.com

Discount parks

discountparks@escapees.com

Escapees RVer's' Boot Camp

bootcamp@escapees.com

Escapees CARE Center

careinc@escapees.com • 936-327-4256

Escapees magazine

editor@escapees.com

Escapees SmartWeigh

smartweigh@escapees.com

Escapees Travel Agency

eta@escapees.com

Event registration

registration@escapees.com

General club business

clubbusiness@escapees.com

Graphic arts department

graphics@escapees.com

Head Out Program (HOP)

hopinfo@escapees.com

Mail-forwarding service

mailservice@escapees.com

Mark, My Words column

techquestions@escapees.com

Rainbow Parks

parks@escapees.com • 888-580-8444

Viewfinder

viewfinder@escapees.com

ACRONYMS

- BoF** Birds of a Feather (Escapees special-interest groups)
- CARE** Continuing Assistance for Retired Escapees
- CM** Commercial membership
- ERPU** Escapees Rainbow Parks Unlimited
- HOP** Head Out Program
- LCLA** Limited copyright license agreement
- MYSKP** Members-only Website access
- RV** Recreational vehicle
- SKP** Support, knowledge and parking or special kind of people (or Escapees)
- SKP #** Escapees membership number
- TBA** To be announced
- VCR** Volunteer club representative
- WiFi** Wireless for networking and Internet access

If there are other terms that you have questions about, please let us know by calling 888-757-2582 or e-mail editor@escapees.com.

Be in Control of Your Membership Information

The MYSKP section of www.escapees.com allows you to change your personal club information, access the online membership directory, sign up for *Club News* and more! E-mail clubbusiness@escapees.com or call 888-757-2582 to sign up today.

Information requests can also be made online at www.escapees.com or sent by e-mail to clubbusiness@escapees.com.

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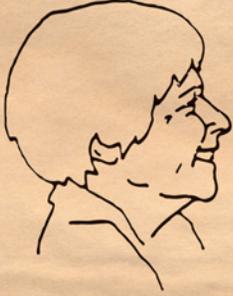
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* With the exception of the veterans' discount, this special rate cannot be combined with other offers.



“When one perfect thing disappears, something unique, and beautiful in its own way, takes its place.”

Thoughts for the Road

By Kay Peterson #1, Escapees RV Club Co-founder and Director

Looking back: May/June 1990

It happened 10 years ago—on May 18, 1980, to be exact. There had been plenty of warning. People even made jokes about it. Yet, when the massive explosion came, the magnitude of the destruction caught everyone offguard, and people were no longer laughing.

Huge billowing clouds of ash blocked out the sun, turning that peaceful Sunday morning into an eerie darkness that sent everyone scurrying to turn on TVs and radios. Until the ash started raining down over Washington, Idaho and Montana, most people did not know that the long-talked-about eruption had blown 1,300 feet off the top of Mount St. Helens. Only a few actually saw the awesome mile-wide wall of mud as it came crashing down at 50 miles an hour, down the mountain, down the North Fork of the Toutle River, sweeping away cabins and cars, uprooting giant fir trees, and knocking down steel and concrete bridges as if they were made with tinker toys.

Life came to a standstill. Trains, buses and motorists were blocked by the wall of mud. Airplanes were grounded by ash that covered everything with a gritty, gray grimness.

The motels and hotels were jammed with stranded tourists. Restaurants and grocery stores ran out of food. People on the streets wore masks over their faces to keep out the smell of sulfur and to keep from breathing the choking ash.

Rescue planes brought back nightmarish tales of the devastation. The beautiful lake was gone. Flattened trees covered the land as if someone had spilled a million boxes of toothpicks. There was no sign of life. It was like seeing a different planet—a weird, forbidding no-man’s land.

The cleanup was a mammoth chore. While snowplows cleared the highways, rescue teams searched for survivors. Four days later, nature joined in the act of healing: A pouring rain washed away the volcanic dust. Life began to return to normal. Stranded tourists went home.

The doomsayers were having a ball. “It will never be the same,” they said. Spirit Lake was gone. With the river polluted, fishing was at an end. Mudslides had ruined Washington’s most popular recreation area, turning it into an ugly, useless wasteland, bereft of trees or animals. Some put their homes on the market, fearing the cleanup would bankrupt the state.

Time proved them wrong. True, Spirit Lake is gone, but there is a new lake there. People are again catching salmon and steelhead in the Toutle River. The recreation area abounds with new vegetation and wildlife.

And there is the mountain itself. People used to compare its beauty to Mt. Fuji. Now that symmetrical beauty has been replaced by a dome in the center, and the north wall wears a different face. People don’t use the word “beautiful” as much as they did. They have replaced it with the word “awesome.”

If Mount St. Helens is awesome, the lesson it teaches is one we must also respect: When one perfect thing disappears, something unique, and beautiful in its own way, takes its place. Yet we constantly get ourselves upset over changes. We shake our heads and tell each other, “It just isn’t the same now.”

We hear a similar rumble of discontent about Escapees. Those members with numbers under 500 say it isn’t like it was when they joined. Those with numbers under 5,000 and 10,000 have the same complaint. Nothing is the same in maturity as it was in infancy. Do we really want it to be?

The change most members fear is “too many people.” Some mistakenly think that the terms “more people” and the “wrong kind of people” are synonymous. But “more people” really means more friends and more help in times of crisis. And it also means more places to park and more SKP Co-Ops and more retreats.

Yesterday’s perfect rose may be wilted today, but the rose bush lives on. Tomorrow there will be a beautiful new bud. The Mount St. Helens story is a symbol of our belief in the future. 🌹



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Photo by Carol Ann Quibell.



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Photo courtesy of www.rvia.org.

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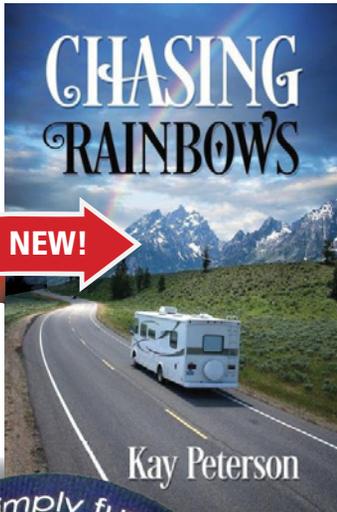


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New Release from
Escapes Founder Kay Peterson!

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Are you a
Hopper?

On the Cover: Mark and Sue Bryer #86611 took this photo in Big Pine, California, with the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains in the background. Sue says, "We spent a month along the Highway 395 corridor between Big Pine and Lee Vining. We hiked in the John Muir Wilderness area, a gorgeous area with endless views. We also walked among the 3,000-year-old ancient bristlecone pines, the oldest trees in the world. Once Tioga Pass opened in early June, we moved on to enjoy the western side of the Sierra Mountains."

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Managing Editor	Tammy Johnson
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Graphic Artist	Krystina Evans
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- Submissions of features on all phases of RV living are welcome. Writers' guidelines and payment schedule are available from the editor upon request. editor@escapes.com
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Escapes Corporate Office

100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300
888-757-2582 • 936-327-8873
Fax: 936-327-4388 • www.escapes.com

Escapes Mail Service Office

101 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77399-9330
888-757-2582 • 936-327-8873
Fax: 936-327-4388
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Exercise Your Mind
Find me in
this issue.



March/April
icon was on
page 73.



“You’ll want to keep this issue close at hand for information that will help you on your journeys this summer.”

The Editor’s Desk

By Tammy Johnson #39557, Editor, *Escapees Magazine*

Summertime, and the livin' is easy! The lyrics in this reknown song by Ella Fitzgerald most certainly hold true for RVers. Summer is the time of year when most of the country is accessible and your travel plans can include the Northern regions once again.

This issue we highlight a few destinations as far north as Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. On page 26, you will find an article on the breathtaking Southern Vancouver Island. Author Carol Ann Quibell takes you on an adventure, sharing the magic of this beautiful island.

If your travel plans include the Olympic Peninsula, Pete Granger brings you up to speed on the endless things to do and places to see in his article on page 72. Then turn to page 77 to continue reading “Treasures of Western Washington,” by Sandra Haven, for even more information about this region.

Are you heading to Idaho this summer? In the “SKP Stops” column, Arline Chandler shares one of her favorite locations, Harriman State Park and Railroad Ranch, located in Island Park, Idaho. Learn the history of the area that was once a summer retreat for shareholders of the Oregon Shortline Railroad.

As a special treat for those of you who are fond of traveling off-the-grid, or like to be prepared for those impromptu off-the-beaten trail overnights, Emily Fagan shares her expertise on how to set up your rig with solar

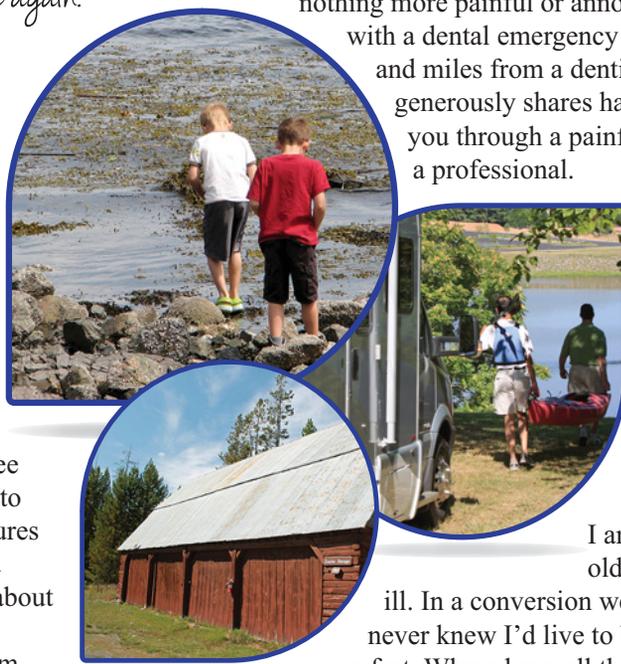
power. Solar power can give you freedom to travel in a way you’ve never thought of before, and Emily breaks down the system setup so even novice RVers will find it easy to understand.

Another article that I am excited about in this issue is Ronald Dingee’s article, “Dental Emergencies.” There is nothing more painful or annoying than finding yourself with a dental emergency in the middle of the boonies and miles from a dentist. So, Ron, a retired dentist, generously shares handy tips and tricks to get you through a painful ordeal until you can reach a professional.

If you’re planning to buy an RV, need a day-trip check list or just need ideas for good books to read, it’s all here, too. You’ll want to keep this issue close at hand for information that will help you on your journeys this summer.

At the time of this writing, I am tending to my 92-year-old mother who is seriously ill. In a conversation we had, she said to me, “I never knew I’d live to be this old. Time has passed so fast. Where have all the years gone?” Ninety-two years seems like a long time, but to her it came and went so quickly. Time does have a way of slipping through our fingers, making it so important to use our time wisely and do everything we can to live out our dreams while we have the ability to do so.

I hope you are able to live your RV dreams to the fullest, and I wish you a safe and fantastic summer on the road. May you check off many entries to your bucket list along the way. 🏠



Photos courtesy of, Carol Ann Quibell, Arline Chandler and RVIA.org.

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A Message from the Board

By Cathie Carr #3, Escapees RV Club President, and the Escapees Board of Directors

Getting the word out is no longer the problem—but getting it straight is!

Do you remember the eve of 2000, when we stood trembling as the clock struck midnight, fearing the mayhem that Y2K would inflict on the world? Who could have known that it would not be a programming error, but rather our own airplanes that would knock the country off balance.

With the turn of the 21st century, *Leave it to Beaver* lifestyles became as uncommon as the black-and-white screens on which those episodes appeared. Today, we have TV screens no thicker than a slice of bread and computers we can strap to our wrists.

Times have certainly changed, and keeping pace with those changes is an ongoing challenge. I still remember when a PBX system at an RV park was cutting edge, and now WiFi services have a hard time keeping up with bandwidth demands.

Technology is sometimes a love-and-hate relationship, but it certainly is the golden gate to communication. It allows us to instantly connect and communicate. It's the monorail that drops us at the doorstep of education.

“...education is still the engine that drives the Escapees Club forward. Having an educational support center that members can access quickly, and that is reliable, remains a number-one goal.”

And education is still the engine that drives the Escapees Club forward. Having an educational support center that members can access quickly, and that is reliable, remains a number-one goal.

Escapees magazine, *Escapade*, Escapees RVers' Boot Camp and other club-related sources are critically important, but the Escapees Website is the most convenient tool we have for sharing education and knowledge, along with the many other benefits we offer. Because our network is both complex and comprehensive, finding information quickly and easily has been an ongoing challenge.

For many months, a group of selected Escapees staff have been working hand-in-hand with expert industry developers to completely redesign our Website. We are delighted to now unveil the first phase. We told you that we thought you'd be blown away, but even as you venture onto the site, we can honestly say, “You ain't seen nothin' yet.” More new and cool elements will be added in the months ahead. Travis Carr #7, the senior manager in charge of this project, has more to tell you, so read on.



© Stephen Milano

Escapees Website Enters a New Era

By Travis Carr, Escapees Board Member

Technology has changed, and so has the world we live in.

Nearly everyone now owns not only one, but usually more than one device that can connect to the Web wherever we go. Computers, tablets and phones are now a part of our daily lives and are at our fingertips more often than a newspaper or magazine, so this makes the Escapees Website more important than ever.

We believe that Escapees offers the best in the industry when it comes to services, benefits, information and education, but were we bringing all of this information to the online community? The answer is not until now.

After taking a critical look at our previous Website, we realized how difficult it was to find specific information. It clearly lacked in areas beyond general club information and membership details, so we took drastic measures and decided to start from scratch.

A Complete Resource Center

You may ask, what is the goal of the club's Website? The answer is to provide a complete resource center for the RV community and Escapees members. We wanted to make the Website a "tool" that members would want to visit on a regular basis, rather than only a place where members go to check postage amounts or find the date for an event.

So how did we accomplish this goal? We reorganized the content to be more user-friendly and concise and added additional information and tools to help you. It was also important that the Website be viewable on any platform. That dream became a reality. It is completely responsive and will automatically adjust to any size screen, making it easy to access information at any time, and on whatever device you are using.

But, the best is yet to come. One of the newest, exciting additions is the "Articles & Blogs" center that will be available in the near future. This interactive section will be composed of *Escapees* magazine articles and featured bloggers and contributors to give you instant access to an abundance of information that fits your lifestyle. You will also have the ability to create your own personal blog to journal your travels or share your experiences with others.

While the current "Park Locator" is a great benefit to the member's tool kit, it doesn't meet our ultimate expectations. Our goal is to bring you not only a discount park

locator, but to also allow members to easily locate boondocking locations, things to do, commercial members and more. And, you will have the ability to submit your own trusted and cherished locations to share with your Escapees family. While the new tool will still locate points of interest around you, it will also let you search at a destination and along your route while providing turn by turn navigation on how to get there.

Another project near completion is an online "Job Board" that will connect those seeking employment with those prepared to hire. What makes this job board different is that it is created for all types of job categories beyond just work-camping, to include part-time, full-time and contract work. So, whether you are looking for a non-intrusive house-sitter, someone with carpentry skills, technical expertise or someone with nursing skills to assist an elderly parent, the Job Board will provide diversely talented people in the mobile workforce.

Because this is an entirely new site that was built from the ground up, there are some aches and pains involved in launching such a large project. One issue that you may have already noticed is that we could not import accounts from the old Website due to multiple security concerns. All users will need to register a new account with the new Website if you have not already done so. Once your account verification is completed, you will gain access to your membership information and the members-only section of the Website.



Visit www.escapees.com to register.

Continued >>>

A quick overview on how the process works.

- Click “Register” in the top right of the Website.
- Fill out the registration form.
- Click “Register” at the bottom of the page.
- You will then be sent an e-mail verification to the e-mail address used.
- Open the e-mail and verify your account by clicking the link provided.
- Log into your account.
- Enter your SKP # and the e-mail address on file associated with your Escapees account.
- Your account will then be synced and you will gain access to the member-only menus.

Utilizing the e-mail address associated with your Escapees account is the best way for us to ensure accounts are properly and securely linked to the correct users. If you have problems with the process, or you need to change your e-mail address on file, contact Escapees headquarters at 888-757-2582, so we can verify your membership information and update your e-mail address. We apologize for the inconvenience; however, security and the protection of your information is our number-one priority.

This has been a tremendous task, and we thank all of those involved with making this a success, from the IT department who spent countless hours re-programming complicated tasks, to our awesome graphics department who always bring a fabulous design to the table. We also thank the beta testers who combed the site looking for bugs and compiled their recommendations to make improvements to the site. This was truly a team effort across the entire spectrum, and we thank everyone involved for making this possible and for creating an online resource that truly represents what Escapees is all about.



A Total Support Network for ALL RVers

My wife, Melanie, and I began working part-time at Escapees in 2010 while attending college. We quickly found ourselves in full-time roles and purchasing a motorhome before we knew it. Entrusted with the job of installing computer systems in all the Rainbow Parks, as well as

assisting with upgrades, we began traveling around the country with our son, Gabriel. It didn't take long for us to fall in love with RVing. We learned quickly that we had to find a balance between working on the road and traveling with our son, but the adventure (and occasional chaos) is something we didn't want to live without.

As we began to travel more and stay away from our home longer, we met extraordinary RVers who work from the road, travel with their families and live a nomadic lifestyle. When we asked them, “Have you heard of Escapees?,” the response was too often the same: “Escapees doesn't provide the kinds of resources I would use; it's a club for retired full-time RVers.”

There are two problems with this answer. First, we are not meeting the needs of this segment of RVers, and second, we are perceived as a club for retired, full-time RVers. It dawned on us that we were no longer living up to our mission statement, which specifically states that we are “A support network for *all* RVers.” Something had to be done, and the concept of Xscapers was born.

Xscapers

Xscapers is an RV lifestyle group of the Escapees RV Club that is inspired by its original roots. Our founders, Joe and Kay Peterson #1, were only 43 years old and working on the road when they started full-time RVing. When they formed Escapees

RV Club in 1978, 40 percent of the members were under age 50, the majority were still working at least part-time, and nine of the first 100 member-families were traveling full-time with their kids. Xscapers is an extension of the club's original roots and is aimed at providing services for working-age RVers.

We were faced with a major dilemma when deciding how to best fit the needs of this demographic into the current membership. To keep information and resources more specific to each RV lifestyle, we realized a one-style-fits-all format simply wouldn't work. It would be best to have a separate Website for Escapees and Xscapers in order to better fit the specific demographic needs for those retired and those working on the road.

Even though there are two Websites, www.escapees.com and www.xscapers.com, it is important to remember that Xscapers are Escapees and vice versa. There is no separation in membership. In fact, your account is interchangeable between the Websites giving you the ability to use whichever site best suits your needs and interests.

We are excited to bring this new RV lifestyle group into the Escapees RV Club circle and to truly make Escapees a total support network for *all* RVers. So extend your campfire circle and welcome in a new generation of RVers named Xscapers. 🏕️

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GLOSSARY

AC power

Household 110-volt power (for common appliances like the TV).

DC power

RV 12-volt power (comes from house batteries).

Amp

A measure of electrical current flow.

Amp-hour

One amp of current flowing for one hour.

Converter

A device that converts shore-power AC electricity to DC power and that also charges the RV batteries from an AC power source.

Inverter

A device that converts DC power from the batteries into AC power for use by household items like TVs and laptop chargers inside the RV.

Inverter/charger

A device that converts battery DC power to AC power for use inside the rig and that also charges the RV batteries from an AC power source.



The installation of solar power on our RV was the best upgrade we ever did on our rig.

It has given us a freedom in our travels that would not be possible if we always had to rely on electrical hookups. Our solar power system gives us all the electricity we need, no matter where we are or what we are doing. Best of all, there is no smell, no noise, no fuel expense and no maintenance needed.

Continued >>>

[SYSTEM COMPONENTS AND DESIGN]

RV SOLAR POWER

Article and Photos by Emily and Mark Fagan #99408



Solar power may sound a little mysterious, but it isn't complicated to understand. It all boils down to two basic systems: one to charge the batteries from the sun, and another to convert the battery power so household appliances like the TV can use it. This article describes the components that make up a solar power system and discusses a few elements of system design.

Batteries—the Heart of an RV's Stand-alone Electrical System

The difference between a house and an RV is that a house runs on 110-volt AC electricity, while an RV is designed to run (in part) on 12-volt DC electricity. The heart of this 12-volt DC power system is the “house bank” of batteries. These batteries supply power to “the house” when the shore-power cord isn't plugged in.

What Can Your RV Do Now Without Hookups?

Before diving into a big solar power upgrade, it is worthwhile to get a baseline understanding of how your rig functions without electrical hookups right now.

Begin by unplugging your rig's shore-power cord. If your RV has a house battery bank switch, turn it on (most trailers don't, so you can skip that part). Then go inside the RV and see which electrical switches work. If a light or fan comes on, it's a DC light or fan. If it doesn't, then it requires AC power. If the refrigerator can run on propane, then it will be functioning, and when you open the fridge door, the DC light inside will come on. The microwave, TV and AC wall outlets won't work.

Getting AC Power out of DC Batteries—Inverters

Getting AC power into an RV does not involve solar power. One way is to use a generator, either a built-in or a portable one. Generators create AC power using fuel. However, you can also get AC power from the batteries using an inverter. This is an electrical device that converts the DC power from the batteries into AC power.

Inverters come in all sizes and prices. The smallest ones (around \$20) plug into a cigarette lighter-style DC outlet and have one or two of the familiar three-prong A/C outlets that you can plug a small appliance into. Plug the inverter into a DC outlet in your RV (or toad), plug the phone into the inverter, turn the inverter on and the phone will begin charging. Inverters can be found at auto parts stores, Walmart and truck stops.

Many motorhomes come with a big factory-installed inverter (most trailers don't). If your RV has one already, turn it on while your RV is unplugged from shore power, and see what goes “live” in the rig. Plug a cell phone charger or other small device into all the wall outlets to find out which ones your inverter powers. For those outlets, you don't need shore power, just

the inverter. Check the entertainment system, microwave and other appliances to see which ones turn on. If the RV has a residential fridge, the inverter may be dedicated to the refrigerator and nothing else.

If your rig doesn't have a factory-installed inverter, you will need to use either a portable inverter (for small appliances) and/or you will need to install a big inverter for things like the microwave, hair dryer and toaster. Inverters over 350 watts must be wired directly to the batteries and can't use a cigarette lighter-style DC outlet.

Inverters can be either modified sine wave, meaning that they generate an adequate electrical signal that may or may not work for the most sensitive appliances. Or they can be pure sine wave, meaning that they generate an electrical signal that mimics household electricity very well and can be used by all appliances.

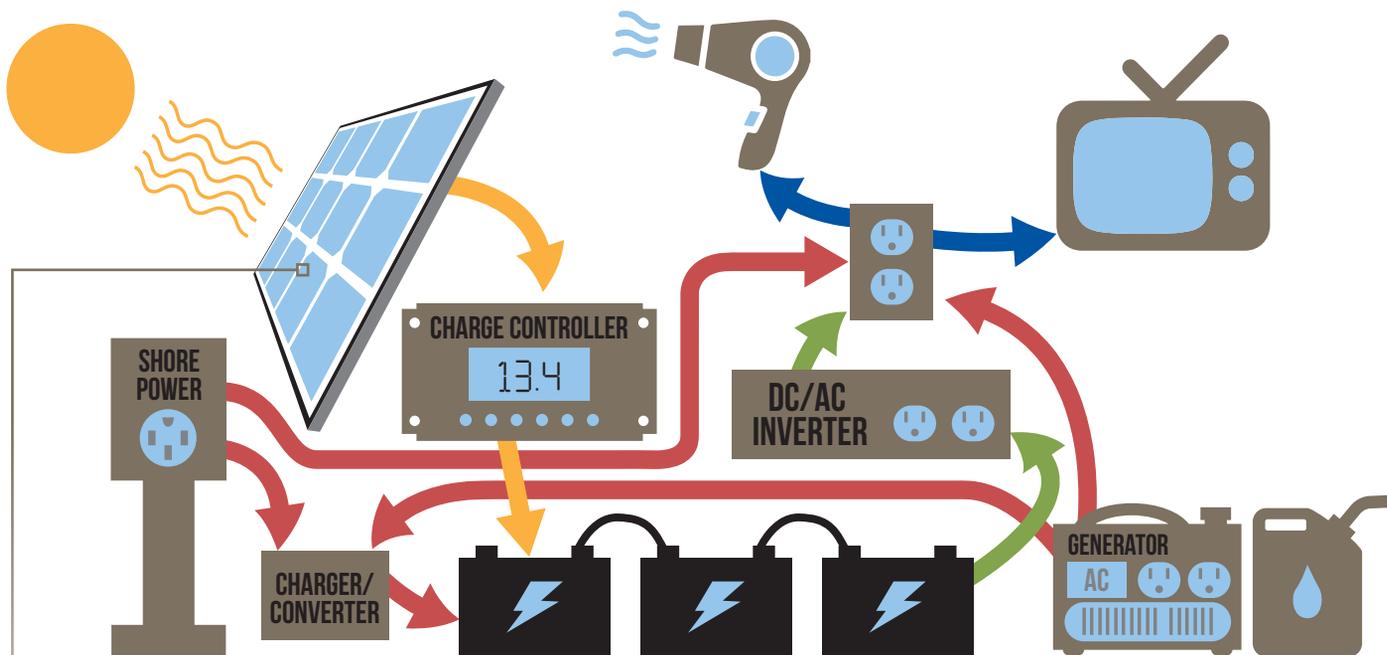
Beefing Up the Battery Bank

Batteries are just a storage place for electricity. Think of the batteries as a big tub, and think of electricity as water flowing in and out of the tub. When you charge the batteries, water is flowing into the tub. When you turn on the lights and watch TV, water is flowing out, draining the tub. The bigger the tub, the longer it takes to drain it. Turning on the faucet full blast (like having lots of current flowing into the batteries) will fill the tub quicker.

To live without electrical hookups

“Inverters come in all sizes and prices. The smallest ones (around \$20) plug into a cigarette lighter-style DC outlet and have one or two of the familiar three-prong A/C outlets that you can plug a small appliance into.”





“Solar panels make it possible to charge the batteries without shore-power electrical hookups.”

for extended periods of time, the bigger the battery bank, the better. The limiting factor is the weight of the batteries and the space they require, so you don't want too big a battery bank. On the other hand, almost all RVs are shipped with house batteries that are too small for extended living off the grid.

The flow of electricity, or current, is measured in amps, and an amp-hour is one amp of current flowing for one hour. Battery ratings are given in amp-hours, and more amp-hours means the battery can store more electricity.

A good size for a battery bank on an RV used for weekends and vacations is 220 amp-hours or more. A good size for a full-time RV home off the grid is 440 amp-hours or more. A general rule of thumb is for the battery bank to store three to four times your maximum daily requirement. So, if you will generally be using 100 to 150 amp-hours of stored power every 24 hours (fairly typical for full-time RVers), the house battery bank should be roughly 450 amp-hours or more.

Batteries are designed either to give a big punch of power to start an en-

gine or to provide a long, steady flow of power to keep systems running. RV manufacturers often use Group 24 12-volt start batteries as house batteries, so it is common for RVers to upgrade to at least two six-volt golf cart deep-cycle batteries. Golf cart batteries have the same footprint as Group 24 batteries but are one to two inches taller.

There are many other sizes and types of batteries. Wet cell batteries contain liquid that must be topped off periodically with distilled water and metal plates that must be cleaned periodically through a process called equalizing. More expensive AGM, gel, and lithium ion batteries don't have those requirements, and they don't have to be installed upright either since there is no liquid that might spill out.

Charging the Batteries—Solar Panels

So far, we have discussed making your RV's batteries capable of running your AC and DC household appliances. This is all on the “drain” side of

the tub that is using up the electricity that the batteries have stored in them. That is only one-half of the “solar” equation, even though there is nothing solar about it.

Now let's look at how to replenish the electricity stored in the batteries.

RVs are built to charge the batteries whenever they are plugged into shore power. Most trailers have an inexpensive converter to do this job. Higher-end motorhomes have a more complex inverter/charger that acts as both an inverter when the RV is not plugged into hookups and as a charging system for the batteries when the RV is plugged in.

Solar panels make it possible to charge the batteries without shore-power electrical hookups. Solar panels are rated in terms of “watts.” More total watts from all the panels equates to faster battery charging (filling the tub more quickly).

A good size for a weekend/vacation RV used mostly in the non-winter months, when the sun is high in the sky and the days are long, is 100 watts

Continued >>>



“...hair dryers, toasters, small pancake compressors and power tools, vacuums and microwaves can all be powered with an appropriately sized inverter, battery bank and solar panel installation.”

don't get overcharged. Similar to turning the knob on the tub's water faucet to make the water flow either at full blast or at a slow trickle, the charge controller controls the flow of current into the batteries.

Charge controllers are rated in terms of the maximum amount of current they can control and the maximum amount of watts in the solar panel array, and they must be installed as close to the batteries as possible.

For small weekend/vacation RVs, a 10-amp or 20-amp charge controller will do the trick. For full-time RVs camping off the grid long term, a 60-amp or larger charge controller is needed. Buying a larger one allows for the addition of more solar panels down the road.

Larger charge controllers use a multi-stage charging system for the batteries. First thing in the morning, when the batteries are most depleted (perhaps around 12.3 volts), they put the batteries in a *bulk* charge state, letting the current flow from the panels at full blast. Of course, until the sun is high in the sky around noon, full blast may not be that much.

or more. A good size for a full-time RV used for many continuous months of living off the grid, even in winter, is 500 watts or more.

Solar panels come in many sizes, and the limiting factor on RV roofs is physical space. It is vital not to let any shade fall on the panels from rooftop appliances like the air conditioning unit or trees or buildings. A few square inches of shade on a panel can shut the entire panel down.

A typical full-time RVer choice is four 140-watt 12-volt panels. An alternative is to use fewer, but bigger, 24-volt panels, for instance, two or three 255-watt panels. Smaller 12-volt panels fit into smaller spaces on the

roof. Bigger 24-volt panels can be installed using thinner gauge wire, which is cheaper and easier to cut and bend.

A general rule of thumb is to “match” (roughly) the number of amp-hours in the battery bank to the number of “watts” in the solar panel array. For instance, 600 watts of solar power would be matched with 600 amp-hours of battery storage.

Charging the Batteries— Charge Controller

The solar panels will send as much current to the batteries as the sun allows, but sometimes this is more than the batteries need. A charge controller protects the batteries and ensures they

As the batteries charge, their voltage rises. When they reach a particular level, for instance 14.4 volts, the charge controller reduces the amount of current flowing into them from the panels and holds the batteries at that voltage for a specified amount of time (usually three hours or so). This is called the *absorption* stage.

Once the absorption time period passes, the charge controller reduces the current flowing to the batteries even more (like shutting down the tub's faucet to a mere trickle) and holds the batteries at a final *float* stage voltage of 13.4 volts or so until dark. The voltages and time periods are all programmable on more sophisticated charge controllers.

Limitations of Solar Power

Solar and battery power is phenomenal, but it can't do everything. It is not possible to power up an air conditioning unit or to run a standard residential

fridge off the grid in an RV for more than an overnight or two, because the weight of the batteries and size of the panels required would be excessive in an RV. However, hair dryers, toasters, small pancake compressors and power tools, vacuums and microwaves can all be powered with an appropriately sized inverter, battery bank and solar panel installation.

Summary

In essence, a solar power system for living off the grid in an RV is made up of two sub-systems: first: a power system that consists of a battery bank and inverter(s) that provides AC and DC power to the RV's house-

hold appliances. Second: a charging system that consists of solar panels and a charge controller that converts sunshine into electricity that gets stored in the batteries for future use.

For weekenders and vacationers that want a solar power solution for their RV without jumping into a big rooftop installation project, there are portable folding solar panel kits on the market that include all of the necessary components in a handy suitcase system.

For RVers looking for a system they can live on for a few weeks or years at a time, I'm planning a second part to this article that will cover various installation techniques. Look for this article in an upcoming 2015 issue. 🚐



Emily and Mark Fagan have been living exclusively on solar power in their RV and sailboat for eight years, and they offer many pages of tips and tutorials about solar power on their Website at www.roadslesstraveled.us. A summary of their two RV solar power installations can be found at www.roadslesstraveled.us/rv-solar/.

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Keep warm without using battery power. Easy hookup kits available.

INVERTER-CHARGER

Use virtually any appliance day or night without a generator. A remote control panel offers essential system read out and convenience of control from inside the RV.

Personal and Financial Considerations When **BUYING AN RV**



By Shawn R Loring, Esq #76442; CM #13

The decision to acquire an RV is a weighty one, as the RV, for some, is a replacement for a brick-and-mortar home. The purchase requires significant thought, as it not only requires economic considerations but also personal notions of comfort.

The best way to not only know the ins and outs of the RV lifestyle, but to also understand what kind of an RV works for that potential lifestyle, is to do extensive research on purchasing an RV before ever stepping foot on a dealer's lot. Salespeople are motivated by moving their inventory, not necessarily by moving their customers into RVs that are best suited to their

Depreciation

Beyond deciding on the ideal RV, consider how to finance the purchase of it. An RV, which may play the role of a full-time home, is, with few exceptions, a depreciating asset—it loses considerable value almost immediately after it is driven off a dealer's lot. For financial planning purposes, an RVer might engage in a straight-line

“...whether an RV is financed or purchased outright, contemplate buying an extended warranty protection plan which could aid in reducing the costs of RV repairs.”

lifestyle. So, before the excitement of living on the road overtakes the reason needed to secure the right RV, spend some time in an RV. Go on an RV road trip with a friend, or rent an RV before purchasing it. The experience of living for a short time on the road in a smaller space will provide data needed to choose the ideal RV. If spending days in an RV is not an option, visit an RV tradeshow, peruse RV manufacturers' Websites and read RV-centric magazines where specs and photos are available.

depreciation of the RV, which would allow for the depreciation of an RV in equal amounts over 10 years. Other options include taking a more significant rate of depreciation early on in the lifespan of the RV or shortening the number of years over which the depreciation occurs. Factors that would help determine the appropriate rate of depreciation include where the RVer is domiciled and whether the RV is used as a residence or for business. The advice of a financial planner and an accountant could be invaluable

when deciding whether and how to purchase an RV.

Finance or Pay-in-Full

Deciding to finance or pay for the RV outright requires research. Paying for the RV outright has its appeal, particularly for those who derive a sense of fulfillment from living debt free; and, if paying for the RV does not strain the budget, perhaps that is the more prudent option.

On the other hand, financing an RV has some benefits, as the RV could be paid in smaller amounts over the course of years. When making a down payment, it's important to calculate how much capital should be invested in an illiquid, depreciating asset. It's possible that the down payment may not be recouped.

Interest Rate

It should also be contemplated whether the terms of the financing provide for a level, or fixed, interest rate, or whether that interest rate is variable. There is current speculation to suggest that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in the future. An increase in interest rates has the potential to cause the interest rates charged on RV loans to increase. This could cause the total cost of the RV purchase to increase substantially.

Moreover, when the terms of the RV loan are variable, meaning they can increase or decrease, it may

be almost impossible to calculate the true cost of the purchase. This complicates the ability to budget for the total cost of the RV. However, with some diligence and the ability to number-crunch, a fairly accurate approximation may be achieved.

Early-Payoff Clause

Beyond deciding to finance or not to finance, it's important to consider whether the loan has an early-payoff clause. An early-payoff clause allows for additional payments each period, or allows for the total early payoff of the loan, without penalty. Mathematically, early payoffs cause less interest to accrue, if little or no penalties are assessed, making the RV less expensive to purchase.

Another method to reduce the effects of compounding interest is to pay the required monthly amount in two payments instead of one payment. By making a partial payment at the midpoint in the month and the second payment on the scheduled date, less interest accrues on the total loan, which can lead to substantial savings over time.

Extended Warranty

Regardless of whether an RV is financed or purchased outright, contemplate buying an extended warranty protection plan, which could aid in reducing



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Have a Question?

I write about legal and financial topics derived from my experiences in my practices; however, I welcome your suggestions for topics. If you have a specific legal or financial RV-related question, or if you have a suggestion for an article topic, e-mail me at info@mgenwealth.com. Please write "Escapees magazine topic" in the subject line. Or call me at 800-260-1615.

the costs of RV repairs. The wear-and-tear of the road can leave many RVs with maintenance problems, and RV maintenance can be one of the highest annual household expenses. An extended warranty protection would be deemed an appropriate expenditure after factoring its cost into the total cost of the RV and while creating a household budget.

In addition to the extended warranty protection plan, evaluate the cost of the vehicle insurance on the purchase of a future RV. Although the consultation with an insurance professional is vital in making this determination, it is generally known that the newer the vehicle, the more expensive the insurance costs.

Tax Tip

For some, RVs serve as traveling homes. Because they have the traditional features of a home (bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, etc.), the IRS might define some RVs as a home. If so, the tax on a loan could be considered tax deductible as a home mortgage. As always, consult with a tax preparer to make this determination for yourself.

In order to make a trip to an RV dealer's lot quick and enjoyable, do your research. Also, consider how to most economically finance and maintain that new home on the road. A little research will make the time spent RVing all the more enjoyable. 🚐

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Photo courtesy of Jim Koca #86367.

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Photo courtesy of Jim Koca #86367.



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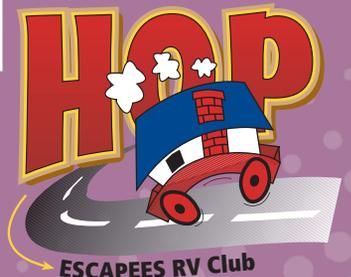
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 Call 888-757-2582 for specific pricing information.*



TOW VEHICLE AND SHOP COMBO SPRINTER VAN CONVERSION

By Gary Dinsmore #87184



When my wife, Judy, and I started planning for retirement in 2004, an impasse developed right away. Judy wanted to sell the house and go on the road full-time. I was anticipating the wonderful freedom of working full-time in my garage, building things like bicycles and grandfather clocks. I had accumulated some really nice tools and the skills to use them. We developed a compromise plan. We would sell the house alright, but I was to move my shop into a Haulmark cargo trailer. We would buy a diesel pusher to tow it, and we would use our home-built tandem bicycle to get around at our destinations. That is a story in itself. I won't go into it here, but only say that over 10 years we put over 22,000 miles on three different tandem bicycles.

For the first seven years, we got along fine using the tandem bicycle to get around. We were traveling most of the time, and we often stopped for groceries before the end of our travel

the weight of the tools to go in the van would exceed the load limit for the 2500 model, so we bought a 170-inch wheelbase, 3500 series cargo van with no windows.

“Building the shop benches and cabinets was the fun part. I actually inventoried everything that was going into the van.”

day. Even then we did a lot of trips into town for laundry and groceries using the tandem and a bicycle trailer. The one thing that changed the whole picture was my diagnosis with Parkinson's disease in April of 2011. Now there was the need to drive quickly into the heart of the big cities to visit doctors. Worse was the specter of eventually having to hang up the keys. The answer was to combine the shop vehicle and the towed vehicle. After much searching and a couple of test drives, we settled on a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van.

Van Conversion

We did look at some used Sprinters. They come with Dodge, Freightliner and Mercedes-Benz emblems on the hoods, but they are all made by Mercedes. They are popular delivery vans you see everywhere. Our problem was that nothing turned up with low mileage. It appears that the industry spits them out at about 300,000 miles. I had calculated that we would need to spend nearly \$10,000 to convert the van for towing, so we finally dug into our children's inheritance and bought a new 2013. In our case, I knew that

bar. I was easy to convince—I didn't want anything coming adrift back there. The drawbar is rather heavy and, therefore, awkward to hook up. This van needs a driveline disconnect to be towable. No one in the greater Portland, Oregon, area would touch this installation with a 10-foot pole. I finally found Southwest Driveline Service in Mesa, Arizona. They had done several Sprinters over the last few years. Of course, I had to get the Sprinter to Mesa, so we chose to drive both vehicles in tandem. We could have disconnected the drive line, tied it up and towed the van.

Building Benches

Building the shop benches and cabinets was the fun part. I actually inventoried everything that was going into the van. I weighed each tool and storage bin. I divided the space into quadrants and whenever I settled on a location for a tool or bin, I listed it with its weight on a chart. I was able to pretty well balance left and right sides and fore and aft distribution. Each item had to be locked in an enclosed shelf or drawer so as to be able to withstand the magnitude 6.9 earthquake we create as we go down the road.

Continued >>>

Setting Up for Towing

The next task was setting the van up for towing. Total cost for this was a little over \$7,000. I chose the SMI Stay-in Play Duo brake unit. It came highly recommended and it was a permanent installation. The tow plate and tow bar were by Blue Ox. After a discussion with my installer, Specialty RV, in Aurora, Oregon, we settled on a 20,000-pound pintle-style draw

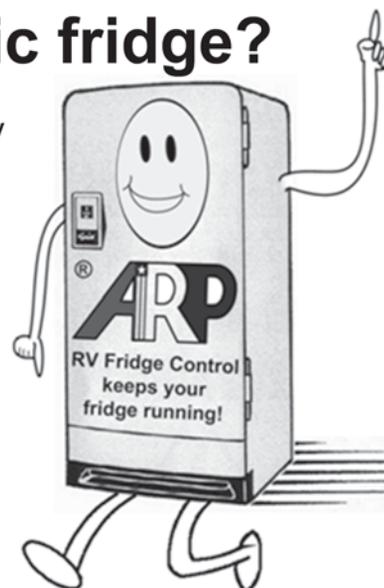
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Early in the project, my mate, Judy, threw me a curve. “Wouldn’t it be nice if we could use it as an overnighter? All you would have to do is make a space for a queen-size air mattress.” Actually it is the kind of challenge I enjoy. I made the two benches on opposite sides of the aisle with flip tops. They are hinged with full-length piano hinges and meet in the middle. As it turned out, I only had enough space for a standard-size air mattress.

Saw Mount

The most interesting feature is the mount for the Shopsmith saw. It is mounted on a 60-inch long Kwik-kie storage bay tray mounted crossways at the front of the van. What you buy from Kwik-kie is a kit to build a tray. You supply the plywood bottom to fit your storage bay and bolt the rails onto the plywood. My plywood is only 20 inches wide. I removed the Shopsmith’s legs and built two 4.5-inch tall legs that are bolted directly to the tray. With the tray fully extended from the side door, I can cut 13-inch slices off of full-length plywood sheets. It would be better, of course, if I could cut a bit over 24 inches. I could



probably create an added slide function to get that width of cut. We will wait and see how important this issue becomes. As it is, I get along with the skillsaw for those cuts.

Weight Check

With everything settled into its permanent position, the van tips the scales at 9,500 pounds. This leaves us 500

“...we have towed the Sprinter 5,300 miles. We have only gotten into a pickle once.”

pounds of unused capacity before it becomes overloaded. The only issue while towing is the inability to back up. With the Haulmark trailer, I could, and did, back up frequently, once for nearly a mile when the road we were on turned into a cow-path. On the other hand, it is nice to pull in and disconnect and then only have to back the coach into that tight-fitting campsite.

Driving and Parking

At this time, we have towed the Sprinter 6,500 miles. We have only gotten into a pickle once. We parked across several park-

ing stalls in a parking lot between curbed islands with trees. Extracting ourselves from these tight quarters required disconnecting and jockeying each vehicle independently.

Everything has worked out wonderfully. The Sprinter is easy to drive, gets about 18 miles to the gallon and we can find a parking spot almost anywhere. It is about 2,000 pounds

heavier than the trailer, but yet the impact on our fuel mileage on the Alpine motorhome has been minimal.

I will add that, as a camper, it is a bit Spartan. First of all, it is not self-contained. There is no water and no potty, unless you count the paint bucket chamber pot. It is about equivalent to camping with a tent. You blow up the mattress and make the bed every night and take it all down every morning. It is wired for 30-amp service, so there are lights, and you can bring your coffee pot—so life is good. All I need is a sign to mount over the door that says, “Gary’s Man Cave.” 🚐

Gary retired from the paper industry and Judy closed her window treatments work room in May 2004. In June 2004 they went on the road full-time in a Honda Civic and a tent. They purchased a 2001 Alpine motorhome in September 2004 and joined Escapees that fall. Gary says, “It has been a great journey.”



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Sunset over Lake Champlain along Burlington's Waterfront Park.
Photo courtesy of VermontVacation.com





SOUTHERN VAN

EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF

Article and photos by Carol Ann Quibell #38554

An adventure awaits you across the water on Southern Vancouver Island, a year-round destination for those seeking a mild, temperate climate, majestic views, unparalleled beauty, unlimited outdoor adventure, lush old-growth forests, a diversified and rich history and friendly people. Let the journey begin as you board a ferry at Tsawwassen (pronounced Ta-was-en or Sa-wa-sen depending on whom you ask) on the west coast of British Columbia's mainland, or by ferry from Port Angeles, Washington.

Victoria

Immerse yourself in the magic of Victoria, British Columbia's beautiful capital city. The inviting pulse of the city can be felt the moment you arrive, and the excitement increases as you find yourself surrounded by the old English charm of the Fairmont Empress Hotel, the legislative buildings,

congestion of double-decker buses, horse-drawn carriages and fascinated pedestrians who stroll the streets and walkways in the main area of the city, you won't want to be driving a motorhome. Explore the city on foot, by bicycle or let one of the eager pedicab drivers show you some of the

"The spectacular views of the Saanich Peninsula and the Gulf Islands seen from the viewpoints along the way create some memorable photo opportunities."

preserved historic homes, inviting pubs, beautiful shops and a vibrant Inner Harbor, all well blended with modern influences.

The best advice is to get settled at a campground or resort before heading into the busy downtown area. With the

highlights. They can also direct you to where the best restaurants are for an appetizing meal.

Victoria is a bicyclist's dream, and by riding along the Seaside Cycling Route you will see why. It gives riders an immense appreciation for the Inner

Harbor, Fisherman's Wharf, Cordova Bay, Mount Douglas Park and the neighborhoods of Oak Bay and Uplands. Follow the Galloping Goose Trail from downtown towards the BC Ferries terminal at Swartz Bay, and enjoy the scenery of the parks, farms and communities along the way.

There's more to see here than just the fabulous downtown area, so make sure you visit the visitor information center for directions and information on the Craigdarroch Castle, Butchart Gardens and the many museums and art galleries. Sign up for an exciting whale-watching tour or get to know the local marine life by diving at Ogden Point Breakwater or the Race Rocks Underwater Marine Park.

Cycling is extremely popular in Victoria, but so is golfing. The mild climate makes it possible for avid golfers to swing their clubs year-round on some of the most picturesque courses on the island.

After the hustle and bustle of Victoria, it will be nice to relax and enjoy the scenery of the tree-lined Malahat Drive leading you north on Highway 1 towards even more adventures. The spectacular views of the Saanich Peninsula and the Gulf Islands seen from



Searching for crab on the Vancouver Island coastline.



Ferries from Horseshoe Bay Park.

COUVER ISLAND

the viewpoints along the way create some memorable photo opportunities.

The fresh local produce found in the farmers' markets, glass-blowing artisans and the perfect greens on the golf courses along the way will definitely entice you off the highway.

Sample the latest vintage from one of the many wineries found on the Saanich Peninsula and along the wine route towards the Cowichan area. Tour one of the farm wineries and learn more about the growing of grapes and winemaking before you reach the home of the murals, Chemainus.

Chemainus (Sha-main-us)

Chemainus is north of Victoria along the Trans Canada Highway (Highway 1), and the drive takes approximately one-and-a-half hours. Walking is the best way to see everything in the friendly seaside village of Chemainus. Get out of your vehicle and let the painted footsteps guide you on a journey through time as you tour the historical murals covering many of the downtown buildings. Or hop on a horse-drawn trolley or carriage and watch as the stories of the village's history and heritage of forestry, fishing and mining unfold in front of you.

Nanaimo (Nan-i-mo)

Further north, about a half-hour from Chemainus, is Nanaimo, where its scenic harbor is a continuous bustle of activity. Pedestrians enjoy strolling along the waterfront promenade overlooking the harbor where commercial fishing boats, kayakers and canoeists share the waters with the float planes landing and departing regularly. Walk along the wooden docks and read the

far-away destinations painted on the sides of the visiting luxury yachts and sailboats tied up here. Riding the little passenger ferry across the harbor for a tasty feast of fresh seafood at the Dingy Dock Pub on Protection Island is a treat.

It's all about the outdoors on Vancouver Island, and Nanaimo's walking and cycling trails throughout the city

Continued >>>

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Victoria

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Malahat Mountain Meadows Resort: Located north of Victoria, it's located amongst the giant cedars with spacious and full-service RV sites, and it's big rig-friendly. Open year-round. 888-478-5452. www.victoriacamprounds.com

Oceanside RV Park: Bordered by the ocean, this park is only 20 minutes from Victoria and all of the attractions. Open year-round and it is big rig-friendly. 250-544-0508. www.oceansideresortrv.com

Westbay Marine Village and RV Park: Located in Victoria's harbor with views of the city center and is on the waterfront. Open all year and only a five-minute drive from downtown. 866-937-8229. www.westbay.bc.ca

Chemainus

Chemainus Garden Holiday RV Resort: RV and camping resort in a beautiful setting and within walking distance of the shops and activities in Chemainus. It's big rig-friendly and is open year-round. 250-246-3569. www.chemainusgarden.com

Chemainus River Campgrounds: Located south of Chemainus and along the Chemainus River, there are large sunny and wooded sites. Full facilities, big rig-friendly and is open year-round. 877-440-1010.

Country Maples RV Resort: A fisherman's paradise, it is situated near both the Chemainus River and the ocean. Open year-round, it is big rig-friendly and offers both serviced and non-serviced sites. 250-246-2078. www.htr.ca

Nanaimo

Brannen Lake RV Park and Campsite: Family-oriented campground with wooded and sunny sites. Fully serviced sites are available; weekend hayrides and is big rig-friendly. 866-756-0404.

Living Forest Oceanside Campground and RV: Waterfront campground/RV park with 300 spacious and groomed sites on forested and park-like property. Open year-round, big rig-friendly, all services are available and a perfect place to stay when exploring the island. 250-755-1755. livingforest.com

Jinglepot RV and Campground: Surrounded by rock gardens, fountains and beautiful flowers, this park has full facilities, is big rig-friendly and open year-round. 250-758-1614. www.jinglepotrv.ca

Tofino

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve: Has 94 vehicle drive-in sites, is big rig-friendly, but has no services. There is trail access to the beach and fills up every night during high season. Reservations are recommended. 250-726-3500. www.pccamping.ca, pc.gc.ca/pacrim

and surrounding wilderness parks are amazing with awe-inspiring views and well-marked paths. The many golf courses offer great course conditions, and there's one for every level of play. For the more adventuresome, bungee jumping 150 feet off of a trestle bridge with the waters of a river rushing past below can be a lot of fun.

It's the home of the famous Nanaimo Bar. Follow "The Nanaimo Bar Trail" starting at the Nanaimo Museum, where a map is available of the local eateries that have created their own version of this special treat.

Study the prehistoric First Nations rock carvings at Petroglyph Park south of town or kayak over to historic Newcastle Island, a marine provincial park minutes away from the waterfront promenade. Meet Nanaimo's ghosts in some of the historic buildings, where strange and unexplainable things take place; take a cemetery tour and learn more about the hardy early pioneers who helped make Nanaimo what it is today, a vibrant, productive and interesting city.

A Diver's Paradise

The three naval ships sunk in the local waters provide international divers with an extraordinary opportunity to dive in one of the best cold-water dive destinations in the world.

There is much more to see and do if you choose to go further north on Vancouver Island towards Campbell River, considered to be the salmon capital of the world, or even further north to Port Hardy, the gateway to Cape Scott Provincial Park. Before returning to the mainland, take the opportunity for an interesting side trip to Tofino on the west coast of the island with a stop along the way to see the old-growth forests at Cathedral Grove.

Side trips

Stroll through Cathedral Grove. The giant Douglas firs, some of Canada's treasures, still thrive today at Cathedral Grove near Parksville. The sight of these towering ancient old-

growth timbers will take your breath away as you meander your way along the well-marked and fenced trails. Spread your arms across one of the irregular tree trunks, feeling its magnificent strength and gigantic width it has taken 800 years to develop.

Tofino

Located in the region of Clayoquot Sound, Tofino is at the end of the road and one of the most dramatic and unspoiled areas on the island. Although there are only 2,000 easygoing residents living here, there's something here for absolutely everyone. Fishing, hiking, camping, kayaking and even bear-watching, as well as bird-watching, are all possible. The surfing here is some of the best in North America, and the storm-watching and whale-watching is something never to be forgotten.



Carol Ann Quibell is an RVer currently living in beautiful British Columbia. She is a freelance writer and columnist and enjoys sharing her travel tips and information with her friends. You can view her Websites online at www.writefortravel.com or roamingrv.com.

Capilano Canyon

After leaving Vancouver Island and docking at Horseshoe Bay, it would be a shame if you missed seeing one of the top attractions in Vancouver—Capilano Suspension Bridge. Crossing the bridge swinging over the deep Capilano Canyon below will bring you into a lush West Coast rainforest and to another popular attraction—the Treetop Adventure with a bird's-eye view of the 1,300-year-old, old-growth Douglas firs. 🌲

If your travel plans include Canada this summer, consider attending Escapees Canadian chapter rallies and gatherings. See page 38–46 in this issue, or visit www.escapees.com/Chapters for a complete listing of Escapees chapters.



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- E-mailed submissions can be sent to departmenteditor@escapees.com. Because of the large volume of material, we may not acknowledge receipt of material. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting.

Mountain Bend Shutdown

You're driving up a winding, two-lane mountain grade and your engine, though struggling, performs as advertised. Although there's no traffic immediately behind you, there could be at any time. Then suddenly the engine quits without warning and your vehicle comes to a complete stop. Now you're halted on an up-grade at a sharp bend, and a vehicle coming up behind you could easily plow into the rear of your RV.

The sudden engine stop could be due to any number of things, such as running out of gas, water or other contaminants in the fuel or fuel pump failure. It could also be a simple vapor lock. Whatever the reason for the failure, the situation is dire and requires immediate action.

The obvious first option would be to try and restart the engine. Even if you're out of gas, maybe there's just enough left to get you forward out of the danger zone. But, if lady luck isn't with you on this occasion, it's time to move to plan B. After setting the brake and engaging the emergency flashers, you and all passengers need to exit the vehicle immediately.

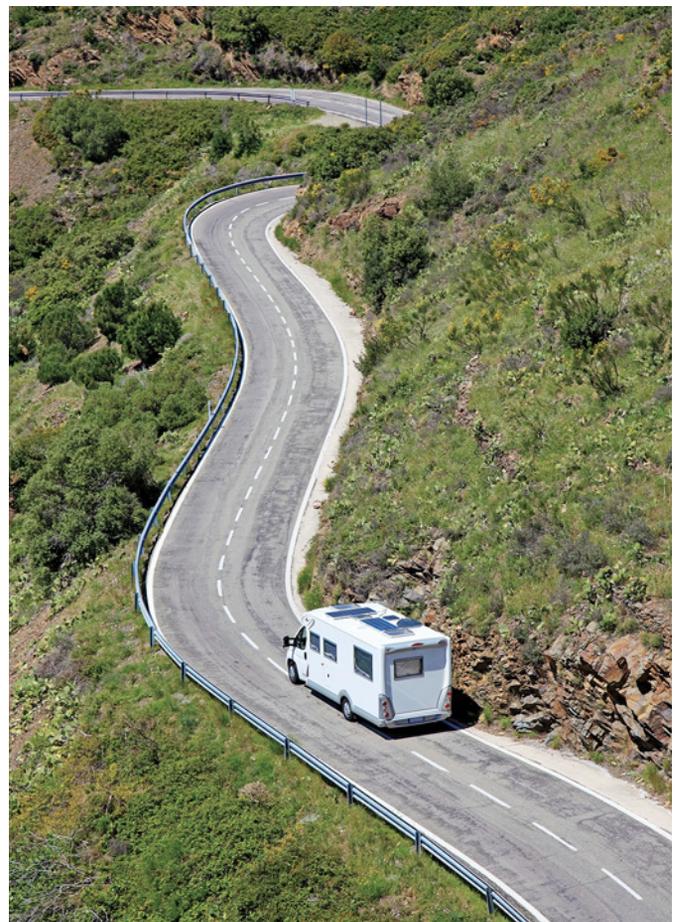
If you're a good "what if" planner, you'll have distress flares and/or emergency beacons handy (under the driver's seat, for example), ready to grab on your way out the door. Other passengers may trek around the bend for about 100 yards, ready to flag down an approaching vehicle as you set out your emergency illuminations. These devices will be needed, especially at night.

With these immediate measures taken, you can then think about coasting the vehicle back around to the nearest turnout, on your side of the road or the other. If you decide to try backing up, keep in mind that backing around a steep mountain curve can be tricky. Also, your power brakes will probably not function without the motor working. If it's night time, you may not be able to see where you're going. It may be a tough call, deciding whether to stay in your hazardous situation, or try to back your way out of danger. If you have a trailer or tow vehicle, the backing option

becomes even more dicey. If possible, roll onto a wide spot in the road on the opposite side, in which case you would need to put out caution lights and a passenger flagger ahead of the vehicle as well as behind.

Only after you have stabilized the situation and eliminated immediate danger to you, your passengers and approaching vehicles, should you start seeking emergency help from others.

Ron Swartley, Guest Contributor



“Electrical issues hit every RVer, so get an electrical multimeter. These devices measure both DC (battery) and AC (shore power) voltage and are invaluable for tracking down issues.”



Must-have Items for RV Repair

If you’ve been on the road at all, you’ve experienced it: Something on your rig broke. You can’t always get help with the fixing, and you need to do it yourself. Being prepared with a few tools and some of the essential emergency supplies can go a long way to making it easier. So, what should you have on hand?

Absolute essentials are screwdrivers of both the slotted and Phillips variety, in various sizes. Look around your rig, too, and see if the manufacturer has used specialized fittings that “normal” screwdrivers won’t fit. Clutch screws (which look like little bow-ties) and Torx (star-shaped) aren’t uncommon. Wrenches are necessary, too, for tightening bolts.

While you can maybe get by with a couple of adjustable crescent wrenches, having combination wrenches that won’t slip off the nut and bang up your knuckles is a help. A hammer is a versatile tool, even though you’ll find few nails in most RVs. A sharp utility knife is invaluable. And don’t forget the lowly tape measure.

Some specialty items: a good tire gauge (not a cheap, two-dollar stick type). A dial gauge is probably best. If you have dual tires, you’ll need the crow-foot tire gauge to be able to access all tire stems. You can find these at truck stop convenience stores. A bottle of soapy-water solution is handy to check for LP leaks. Use a 50/50 liquid dish detergent and water solution, either in a spray bottle, or

use a little paint brush to dab the solution on any suspect joints or cracks.

Electrical issues hit every RVer, so get an electrical multimeter. These devices measure both DC (battery) and AC (shore power) voltage and are invaluable for tracking down issues. If you’re willing to learn more about running down problems, look for one that measures current (amps), as well. While you’re dealing with electrics, get yourself a good wire cutter/stripper. And we highly recommend an electrical crimping tool along with an assortment of crimp fittings. While not critical, a pair of needle-nose pliers makes electrical work much easier. Don’t forget a couple of rolls of electrical tape. Find out what sorts of fuses your RV (and tow vehicle) use, and carry spares. The same holds true for extra light bulbs or fluorescent tubes.

Continued >>>

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“Get a short roll of Eternabond tape, too. This stuff will fix a tear on almost any type of RV roof, siding and other stuff.”

Image courtesy of EternaBond
www.eter nabond.com

Also helpful to have on hand: duct tape. Buy the best you can afford. “Gorilla tape” is great. It sticks well and wears well. Get a short roll of Eternabond tape, too. This stuff will fix a tear on almost any type of RV roof, siding and other stuff. It’s pricier than duct tape, but duct tape won’t fix a roof leak. A short roll of “mending wire” or a coil of baling wire will help you jury-rig a variety of fixes. Teflon tape from the plumbing supply area will help you fix leaky pipe joints, and maybe even a roll of the yellow pipe tape for gas joints.

A rechargeable, cordless electric drill is at the top of our list for non-hand tools. We can drill holes, drive screws, even stir paint with the right attachment. And we even keep a corded 3/8-inch electric drill on hand. With the right socket fitting, we use it to jack up and down our travel trailer stabilizer jacks. Works a whole lot faster than bending over and hand-cranking them, and then it’s always available when a big drill job comes along that’s too much for the cordless unit.

Where to keep it? Keeping screwdrivers, a utility knife and a tape measure in the junk drawer in the kitchen makes it easier for both of us to get what we often need in a hurry. For the regular repair guy, I find having two different tool bags useful. One keeps the heavy-duty repair tools like wrenches and assorted drivers together. The other is strictly electrical, with the voltmeter, specific electrical repair tools and supplies, and is nice for just grabbing and going to the “scene of the crime.”

Set a budget, hit the stores and don’t forget pawn shops. They’re often a great place to pick up bargains that can help you make fixes on the road.

Russ and Tiña De Maris, Guest Contributors

Long-time RV writers, Russ and Tiña De Maris also produce a weekly Internet radio show at YourRVPodcast.com. Or look for *Your RV Podcast* on the iTunes store.

Safety Tips for RV Parking at Casinos

RVers looking for a place to “blacktop boondock” (dry-camping, parking lot-style overnight) soon discover there aren’t too many places that allow free overnight parking. Most states discourage overnight parking at interstate rest areas; shopping centers ask RVs to leave at the end of the business day, and even some 24-hour supercenters have posted “No Overnight Parking” signs. You can usually stay overnight at a truck stop, but their parking areas tend to be crowded and noisy.

Casino parking lots, on the other hand, are hospitable. Casinos throughout the country welcome adult campers because they know they might receive additional business. And the travelers get a quiet, safe spot to rest for the night without being hassled. Since most casinos are open 24/7, security personnel are on duty all night.

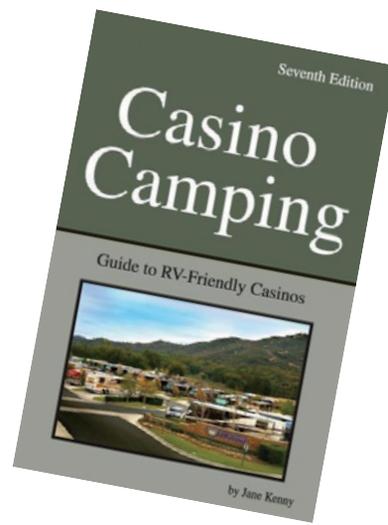
Here are a few safety tips for free overnight parking (blacktop boondocking) at casinos:

- 1) After pulling in, check with security to verify whether you can stay overnight in the parking lot and ask where they want you to park.
- 2) If the casino has a fee-pay campground as part of the facility, it is essential to check with security to ask about your options for staying overnight. Some casinos will allow you to stay in the parking lot anyway. But there are a number of casinos that require you to pull into their campground if you want to stay for the night.
- 3) Blacktop boondockers: limit your free overnight stay to a single 24-hour period.
- 4) If there is no designated area for large vehicles, park on the perimeter of the lot. Don’t take up spaces intended for

“Boondocking at a casino is convenient. Casinos are located all over the country; many within a mile or two of an interstate exit.”



“RV-friendly casinos are listed in the popular guide, *Casino Camping* from Roundabout Publications.”



cars. (Casinos in crowded, urban areas do not have space to accommodate RVs. Get permission before you park.)

5) Don't abuse the property owner's hospitality. A parking lot is not a campground. If there's enough space, it's okay to open a slideout, but restrict your activity to the inside of your vehicle.

6) Do not leave your RV unattended overnight or for any extended period of time. This may seem like simple, common sense advice, but you'd be surprised at how many folks park their expensive units in a parking lot and then go off to visit friends for a few days. If you are foolish enough to do this, don't be surprised upon your return to find your unattended vehicle has been towed away.

Boondocking at a casino is convenient. Casinos are located all over the country, many within a mile or two of an inter-

state exit. RV-friendly casinos are listed in the popular guide, *Casino Camping* from Roundabout Publications.

Blacktop boondocking at a casino is comfortable. You have your home with you, so you can either walk or take the shuttle bus to and from the casino. You can play shorter, more relaxing gaming sessions with breaks in between. For couples, when one wants to play cards or slots and the other doesn't, there's no problem. And then there's the obvious benefit: Blacktop boondocking at RV-friendly casinos is free.

Jane Kenny #66929

Jane Kenny is the author of *Casino Camping, A Guide to RV-Friendly Casinos*. The 2015 7th edition is now available from TravelBooksUSA.com (800-455-2207), Amazon.com, CampingWorld.com and Camping World stores throughout the U.S.

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Overnight Parking Etiquette RVer's Good Neighbor Policy

Dear Fellow RVers,

Some of the most respected RV consumer clubs have joined together to support your right to park on private businesses' parking lots overnight under the following code of conduct:

Industry-sanctioned Code of Conduct (RVers' Good Neighbor Policy)

1. Stay one night only!
2. Obtain permission from a qualified individual.
3. Obey posted regulations.
4. No awnings, chairs or barbecue grills.
5. Do not use hydraulic jacks on soft surfaces (including asphalt).
6. Always leave an area cleaner than you found it.
7. Purchase gas, food or supplies as a form of thank you, when feasible.
8. Be safe! Always be aware of your surroundings and leave if you feel unsafe.

If your plans include touring the area, staying for more than one night or necessitate conduct not within the code, please relocate to a local campground. It's the right thing to do!

Preserve the privilege of
overnight parking.
Follow the code and
encourage others to, also!

Most of the complaints lodged regarding RV parking on business parking lots have to do with aesthetics and perceived abuse of the privilege. There are a variety of competing interests that were balanced to arrive at this industry-sanctioned code of conduct. As you can see, the code of conduct is nothing more than an RVers' "Good Neighbor" policy.

Not following the code has serious consequences and is detrimental to the rights of all RVers. Already, some municipalities have passed ordinances to prohibit parking on private business property overnight.

Please do not take offense to this letter; it is only provided as a reminder that RVers must be perceived as good neighbors or there will be more pressure to institute state, county and local ordinances to prohibit parking on private business property.

We wish you safe and happy travels,



Download a copy of the RVers' Good Neighbor Policy at www.escapees.com/8-member-benefits/194-formsanddocuments.





Day's End

Free and Low-cost Parking Finds

Compiled by Guy Gipson #84383



Garden of the Gods in Shawnee National Forrest, Illinois.

Photo by Daniel Schwen.

This sampling of parking selections highlights areas complementary for early summer.

IOWA

Clear Lake: Gravel pkg area. I-35 x194, go W to traffic light near Pilot fuel ctr, TL, then immed R (W), go past Pilot to pkg area, which is in 2 sections divided by lg stones, use the section next to the stream/drainage-ditch. **43.14484 -93.36155**

David McQuoid #90501

Polk City: Acorn Valley CG, Saylorville Lake (COE). 18 gravel, mostly level 30-A E sites. Central W, shower, D. \$18, S/A Pass 1/2. Mem Day-Labor Day, non-reservable. From I-35/80 x127 in Des Moines, go 6 mi N on SR 141, TR on SR 415, go 0.5 mi, TR on NW Beaver Dr., go 2 mi, TL at sign. From Polk City, go 2 mi W on SR 415, TL on NW Beaver Dr., to sign. Verizon OK, some sites OK for satellite. **N41 44.28 W93 43.405**

Ron Walter #73417

Winterset: Madison County FG. E/W/S, D. Rest rooms with showers. E only \$15, E/W or E/W/S \$17. No stay limit. From jct SR 169/SR 92/local Rd., P71, go E on P71 (Summit St) 0.7 mi to FG on R. Grass/gravel sites. Some sites not level. Caution if recent rains.

Dale and Arlene Wellnitz #75624

ILLINOIS

Cave-In-Rock: CG (CP). Approx 15 sites with 20/30/50-A E/W. Some tables, fire rings. \$15-\$18. City Hall says to park and someone will come by. Go S thru town on SR 1/Canal St. to ferry landing. Some sites paved, some gravel or grass. Along Ohio Riv. Nearby hiking in Shawnee NF. D at SP 1/2 mi down rd. **N37.46728 W88.16625**

Judy Patton #71571

Ellis Grove: Great River Road roadside area. Tables, trash cans, info board. Free. No signs re: pkg. 1.4 mi S of town on SR 3, W side of hwy. Pkg area is lg, level and well away from hwy. OK for several any size RVs. Park along curb, put slide-out over grass. 1-way entry/exit roads. **37.99229 -89.89074**

Miller City: Horseshoe Lake East Side CG (S/W/A). Grassy E sites, tables, grills. W faucets, toilets, D. \$18. Just N of Cairo, I-57 x1, go 8.4 mi NW on SR 3, TL on Promised Land Rd., **(37.13202 -89.28949)**, go 2.6 mi, TR at sign to East Side CG **(37.10888 -89.32535)**, go 2.1 mi to entrance on L. **37.13726 -89.31638**. Boating, fishing, hunting. Scenic bald cypress, tupelo gum, swamp cottonwood trees in lake. A few sites with lake view.

Guy Gipson #84383

The Day's End Directory is a useful tool helping you save money and find safe overnight parking your fellow Escapees members recommend.

Want more Day's End listings?

Order the *Day's End*, *Good Guys* and *Boondockers Journal Directory* by visiting www.daysenddirectory.com or write Guy Gipson, 107 Rainbow Dr., #755, Livingston, TX 77399-1007. Download: \$10. CD (Mac and PC-compatible): \$15. Please include your complete name and Escapees membership number with all inquiries.

"Day's End" listings are submitted by traveling members. Please be aware that these listings are not verified by *Escapees* magazine, and information is subject to change without notice.

KENTUCKY

Fort Campbell: Fletchers Fork RV Park (US Army). 27 paved 20/50-A E/W sites, tables. Laundry. D. \$20, S/A Pass \$18. \$520/mo. 30-day limit in summer, 60-day limit in winter and both 48 hrs out. No reservations. Park is outside base gates and open to anyone. Open all yr. I-24 x86, go 8.3 mi S on US 41A, passing all gate signs, into TN. TR on TN SR 374, go 2.5 mi, TR on Lafayette Rd., At traffic light, TR, go 1 mi, TL on Jordan Springs Rd. (paint ball sign), go 1.4 mi, TL, go 0.4 mi to CG on L. After picking site, return to traffic light. Bldg on corner is Army MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) office for payment. Most sites pull-thru. If 30A, bring 30-50-A adapter. More info: Outdoor Recreation, 270-798-2175. tinyurl.com/n3us6o4

Bob and Sami Flechtner #102683

Grand Rivers: Pisgah Point CG, Land Between the Lakes (LBL) NRA (NF). Gravel open sites, vault toilet, tables, dumpster. Backcountry Area, permits required for age 18 and up (\$7/3-day, \$30/yr). From I-24 x31, go S on SR 453, approx 13 mi past town of Grand Rivers, past North Welcome Sta, TR (W) on FR 111, 2-mi good gravel road to lake. Any size rig. Boat ramp. Good Verizon. D at Golden Pond Visitor Ctr. **N36 56.213 W88 10.112**

Marion: Riverside County Park. 7 paved F-HU sites, tables, fire rings. Also BD sites. BD free, FHU \$20. Call number on self service board to get unlock codes for E/W. 14 mi NW of town on SR 91, go E on SR 387. **N37.46592 W88.09297**. BD sites not suitable for lg rigs. In Amish country; along Ohio Riv. Boat launch, fishing, walking trail.

Judy Patton #71571

MISSOURI

Forsyth: River Run CG, Bull Shoals Lake (COE). 35 sites with 30/50-A E, sheltered tables, fire rings. Potable W, showers, D. \$19-20, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit. Apr 1-Sep 15. No pull-thrus. All sites OK for lg rig and towed. 1 mi E of town on US 160, go S on SR 76, cross Bull Shoals Lake bridge, go approx 500', TR to CG. Boat ramp, fishing. Area subject to flooding. tinyurl.com/mtl2754 tinyurl.com/mmored2b

Jim and Barb Winlund #114754

Hunnewell: Hunnewell Lake Conservation Area. Approx 20 BD sites. Metal firepits. Vault toilet. Free. 14 consecutive day limit within 30. 3 mi N on SR Z from US 36, on L. Hwy Z. Paved rd, grass sites. Some pull-thru. Any size rig. Sites unshaded. Verizon good. Lg lake for boating or fishing. 573-983-2201. **39.71335 -91.85995. 6503**

Macon: FG CG. 30 F-HU and 70 E/W sites. 50-A E. Rest rooms/showers. Trash cans. \$15. Approx 2.3 mi S of US 36 on US 63, across from YMCA, E side of hwy, turn in at FG. Stay on paved rd toward rear to camping on R. Attendant collects nightly or use metal drop box. Unshaded sites. Any size RV. Good Verizon. Playgrounds. Quiet. **N39 43.258 W92 27.607**

Steve and Pam Ritchie #48345

NEVADA

Elko: Thomas Canyon CG (NF). 40 paved sites, tables, grills, firepits. W faucets, vault toilets, trash service. \$17, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit. Some sites reservable. From I-80 x301, go approx 1 mi S on SR 225 (Mountain City Hwy), TL on Idaho St, go approx 3/4 mi to S 5th St. (SR 227, Lamoille Hwy), TR, go approx 18 mi to Lamoille Hwy, TR following SR 227, continue approx 8 mi to CG on R. Hiking trails. No cell service. Lamoille Canyon is called the Alps of Nevada, surrounded by 10,000'-11,000' snow-capped peaks.

John and Fran Razmus #64070

Gerlach: Dry lakebed, pkg (BLM). 14-day limit. Closed during Burning Man festival in summer. Just N of Gerlach on SR 447, turn N onto CR 34,

drive to sign "12 mile access to playa" at MM 11. Camp anywhere on dry lake bottom. Best place is to R along shore. Test it first. Don't drive on it if wet or you could get stuck. Use reflectors if you park overnight away from shoreline. Verizon Extended 1-3 bars. **40.77217 -119.26267**

John Parker #96350

Orovada: RA. Paved; spaces not lined out. Covered tables. Pit toilets, dumpster, trash barrels. Free. No prohibitive signs. 18-hr limit within 2 wks. Just S of town on US 95, E side, MM HU42. Sm; close to hwy. OK for a few rigs. **41.54261 -117.78661**

Emily Fagan #99408

NEW YORK

Java Center: Paved, level state pkg area. SR 77, 2 mi N of Java Center (jct. SR 77 and SR 78), or 6.3 mi S of jct US 20A and SR 77, E side of hwy, signed "Parking Area." Room for 3-4 lg rigs. Lovely and peaceful area along low usage hwy. Beaver Meadow Audubon site near.

John D. Kayartz #99700

Niagara Falls: Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel pkg lot. Free. Enter lg fenced, ungated gravel lot from John B Daly Blvd., between Niagara St. and Rainbow Blvd., on the hotel side of the complex. 2 addl sm unfenced lots off Niagara St. Warning: NB on I-190 x21 has bridge with 12' 0" clearance. Walking distance to Niagara Falls SP, the falls, Canada and downtown restaurants. 716-299-1100. **N43.08529 W79.05428**

Joyce Findlay #112256

Rosendale: Binnewater Kiln, very lg and level hard-packed, gravel pkg lot. No facilities. Free. No signs prohibit O/N pkg. From Rosendale, go W on SR 213/Main St. Immed after going under the trestle, TR (N) on Binnewater Rd., go 1/4 mi to lot on L. Room for lg rig to turn around. Lot probably busy on weekends, as an access point for the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail is directly across the rd. **41.8481N 74.0882W**

Curtiss and Barbara Bryant #111006

PENNSYLVANIA

Greencastle: Sheetz truck stop/fuel sta, 5 long, marked, paved flat/level back-in RV/truck spaces. O/N pkg free for customers. I-81 x3, W side of I-81. Park in NW corner behind truck pumps. Well lighted. C-store, fast food. Quieter than most truck stops. **N39 45.631 W77 43.732**

John D. Kayartz #99700

PA, Kane: Kiasutha CG (NF). 92 sites, 33 with E (some FHU) and 59 BD sites, tables, fire rings. W faucets. Flush toilets, showers, D. \$24 with E, S/A Pass \$14.50. 14-day limit. Reserve: recreation.gov. From SR 59 go approx 10 mi S on SR 321, TR on Longhouse Scenic Dr/SR 262, go approx 1.5 mi. OR, approx 10 mi N of US 6 at Kane on SR 321, TL. Less than 40 ft. RV size. **N41.785 W78.9025**

Gene Ladd and Mary Dixon #109821

SOUTH DAKOTA

Dupree: Old weigh scale pkg area. 2 mi E of town on US 212, just W of jct with SR 65. Level, room for several rigs.

Dick Scheit #83125

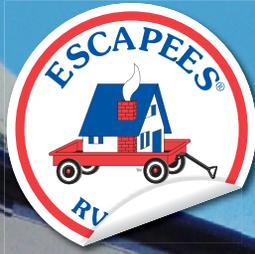
Fort Thompson: Tailrace left CG, Lake Sharpe (COE). 81 pull-thru and back-in sites with 50/30/20-A E. Central W. Flush toilets; showers. D. \$18, S/A Pass 1/2. I-90 x248, go 17 mi N on SR 47, CG is on R at sign. On S shore of Missouri Riv Big Bend Dam Project. Paved roads and pads.

David and Linda Hatcher #96035

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Listed by state, each chapter will update rally and event information and directions for their activities and rallies on their individual voice mail box. The toll-free number is 888-757-7701 plus the personalized extension listed after each chapter name. These extensions also appear on the "Events and Rally Calendar" and the "Chapter Map." When you call, be prepared to write down specific rally information. This is a message/information retrieval service; you will not be able to leave messages. Listed on these pages is where to send chapter dues.

- For details about a chapter, visit www.escapees.com/fun/chapters.
- Chapter officers can visit www.escapees.com/Chapters/ReportingForms.aspx to find report forms on the Web.
- Changes for the **July/August** issue are due by **May 10**.

ALABAMA

#26 Gulf Posse: 8026, President Cushman Phillips, 770-312-8871. Dues (\$5) to Donald White, 16113 W. Indigo Loop, Summerdale, AL 36580. 251-988-8779.

ARKANSAS

(Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma)

#17 Ozark Chapter: 8017, President Dennis Horstman, 785-691-5990. dhorstman17@gmail.com. Dues (\$10) to Phil Mackey, 805 S. Powell, Wagoner, OK 74467. pmackey46@live.com

ARIZONA

#7 Roadrunners: 8007, President Jan Kilwien, 360-580-2487, kilwien@techline.com. Dues (\$5) to David Arndorfer, c/o Kofa 3750 E Co. 17th St., #10, Yuma, AZ 85365. davidarndorfer@gmail.com

#21 Arizona Saguaros: 8021, President Don Del Rosario, 817-266-8806. Don80444@gmail.com. Dues (\$5) to Ann Meilicke, PO Box 1817, Benson, AZ 85602. ann@meilicke.org

#32 Verde Valley: 8032, President Donna Francis, 503-871-1030, for donfra@yahoo.com. Dues (\$5 per person) to Chuck Van Winkle, PO Box 722, Congress, AZ 85332. 928-685-3835. ckvanwinkle@msn.com

#45 Valley of the Sun: 8045, President Joe Knox, 480-751-8116, joe-knox007@yahoo.com. Dues (\$5 per person) to Bill Griswold, 112 Rainbow Dr. #1264, Livingston, TX 77399-1012. algriswold@peoplepc.com

CALIFORNIA (CENTRAL)

#31 Central Coast-ers: 8031, President Chuck Burton, chbvta@pacbell.net. Dues (\$5) to Dennis McDonald, 102 Rainbow Dr., #159, Livingston, TX 77399. damcdonald@live.com.

www.skp31.com

CALIFORNIA (NORTHERN)

#1 Golden Gate: 8001, President Janice Edwards, 209-217-6233. Dues (\$5) to Edna Mayberry, 6575 Thames Dr., Gilroy, CA 95020. 408-842-6159.

#24 Gold Nugget: 8024, Angela Pettit, 559-240-1301. Dues (\$10) to Marilyn Johnston, 13380 Bitney Springs Road, Nevada City, CA 95959. boatgrma@ncwebsurfer.com

See Oregon Chapter 37: 8037

#38 Mother Lode: 8038, President Rob Cannon, kcannon56@att.net. Dues (\$5) to Norene Bailey, 18225 Berry Ln., Sonora, CA 95370. 209-743-2293. bailey-ny@sbcglobal.net

#47 Nor-Cal Gypsies: 8047, President Don Porter, rwithchapter47@msn.com. 530-725-3013. Dues (\$7/couple) to Ardie Porter (checks written to Escapees, Chapter #47, per instructions from the bank.) 19433 Le Claire Lane, Redding, CA 96003. 530-275-3013.

rwithchapter47@msn.com

CALIFORNIA (SOUTHERN)

#13 El Camino: 8013, President Eddie Dupras, 562-673-3846. ewdupras@aol.com. Dues (\$5) to Nancy Madigan, 374 Walnut Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627. Checks to be made out to El Camino Chapter 13. npickl@aol.com

#25 Shanty Shakers (San Diego): 8025, Garth and Judy Carle, 760-745-8574. garthjudy@juno.com. Send dues (\$10/yr) to Sue Pace, 5157 Don Mata, Carlsbad, CA 92010. 760-445-8196. suepace1943@yahoo.com

#50 So Cal High Desert SKPs: 8050, This chapter is no longer active, but Escapees in this area meet for lunch in Lancaster, California. For more information, check the "SKP Get-Togethers" pages, or call Joe Struth at 661-946-2517.

COLORADO

#2 Rocky Mnt. High: 8002, President Linda Gilmore, robertg1456@comcast.net. Dues (\$5 per person) to Steve Gullette, 334 McShane Pl., Monument, CO 80132. dodge2500ctd@gmail.com

FLORIDA

#57 Florida Sun Gators: 8057, President Marty McCauley, marty@mc-cauley.ws. Dues (\$5) to Larry Forbes, 143 Rainbow Dr., #4394 Livingston, TX 77399. mlforbes164@gmail.com

(Note: Chapter 57 was formed from a merger with Chapters 15 and 27.)

GEORGIA

#16 Georgia Tara Travelers: 8016, Check the chapter voice mail or Website for updated information.

IDAHO/MONTANA/WYOMING

#28 Big Sky: 8028, President Roger Grant, rbgrant711@gmail.com. Dues (\$5) to Becky Hazen, 1876 Riverwood Rd., Twin Falls, ID 83301, 208-404-9039. bhazen@bluelakesport.com

IDAHO/WASHINGTON

See Washington Chapter 39: 8039

ILLINOIS

#46 Lincolnland SKPs: 8046, John Liggett, 217-257-4880. Dues (\$6/yr, \$20/4yr) to Sheila Hanson, 2650 N State Route 178, Oglesby, IL 61348. gshanson@sbcglobal.net

INDIANA

#51 Hoosier Neighbor: 8051, President David McCreary, 574-596-0596, logcabin@maplenet.net. Dues (\$8) to Dave Wheelock, 1739 S. CR 450 East, Avon, IN 46123. 317-718-5598. dwheelock@indy.rr.com

IOWA

#48 Iowa Wild Roses: 8048, President Hope Brattmiller, hjbratt@gmail.com. Dues (\$10 first year/\$8 thereafter) to Kay Olson, 2804 O Avenue, Denison, IA 51442-7511. okoaks2@yahoo.com

KANSAS

See Arkansas Chapter 17: 8017

KENTUCKY

See Tennessee Chapter 42: 8042

LOUISIANA

See Texas Chapter 10: 8010

MICHIGAN (GREAT LAKES REGION)

#6 Great Lakes: 8006, President Mike Foley, 616-862-8893. Dues (\$5/yr, \$20/5yr) to Anna Crawl, 190 Rainbow Dr., #9053, Livingston, TX 77399-1090. crawl@juno.com

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

(Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia)

#20 Mid-Atlantic: 8020, President Frank Simon, pinoakfrank@yahoo.com. Dues (\$5) payable to Mid-Atlantic Chapter 20, to Phil Devonshire, 3381 South Hill Rd., Wyaluisng, PA 18853. phdevon@gmail.com

MINNESOTA

(Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota)

#12 North Central: 8012, President Ron Nelson, 507-259-7528. Dues (\$5) to John Peyton, 331 N Central Ave., Duluth, MN 55807. 218-591-0036. john.peyton2@gmail.com

MISSOURI

See Arkansas Chapter 17: 8017

MONTANA

See Idaho Chapter 28: 8028

NEVADA

#14 Lucky Rollers: 8014, President Max Schmitt. Dues (\$7) to Mo Botts, 5150 Oakridge Ave., Unit 141, Pahrump, NV 89048. rayandmo@yahoo.com

NEW MEXICO

#23 Chili Chapter: 8023, This chapter is no longer active. To reactivate this chapter, please contact the chapter directors.

NEW YORK

#41 NYSKPS: 8041, President Marilyn Woodside, 315-538-8410, lynhw15@aol.com. Dues \$10 (\$5 for singles) to Shirley Gates, PO Box 422, Cincinnatus, NY 13040. 607-863-3292. smgates@ix.netcom.com

NORTH/SOUTH CAROLINA

#29 Carolina Rovers: 8029, President Steve Masterson, 518-526-0054, masterson100@gmail.com. Dues (\$5) to Terri Wirtz, 1244 Woodland Church Rd., Wake Forest, NC 27587. terriwirtz@gmail.com

NORTH/SOUTH DAKOTA

See Minnesota Chapter 12: 8012

NORTHEAST

(Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Isl., Vermont)

#3 Northeast: 8003, President Joan Hurd. Dues (\$5). Make checks payable to Northeast Chapter 3. Send to Maureen DeRoy, 88 Atwood Road, Wilmot, NH 03287. micaledge@hotmail.com

OHIO

#36 Erie Shores: 8036, President John Hopkins, 814-777-4448. Dues (\$5) to Barbara McKenzie, 8825 Stetson Dr., Warren, OH 44484. temp1203@aol.com

OKLAHOMA

See Arkansas Chapter 17: 8017

See Texas Chapter 30: 8030

OREGON

#9 Oregon Trails: 8009, President Jerry Sypkens, 206-799-9740. jsypk@myway.com. Dues (\$5) to Gwen Prohaska, 800 S State St., #93, Sutherlin, OR 97479. dusterbin@gmail.com

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Michelin Tire Recall

I had a tire blowout, and the Michelin tire looked as if it had come apart at a seam. When I took it to a tire shop, I asked if there was a recall on the tire. Although I was assured there was no recall, I checked the Internet and found there is, indeed, a recall for the exact tire due to the problem I experienced. I read nothing in the news nor was I notified by the RV dealer, Ford or Michelin. Luckily, it was a rear tire. If it had been a front tire, I may have rolled my RV.

The recall is: NHTSA Recall Number 13T-012, issued January 2014. For a tire to qualify for the recall, it must be a Michelin LTX M/S LT225/75R16 LRE and must be identified on the sidewall as MSPN: 25516, DOT Sequence: B3JHAKEX, DOT production periods (inclusive): 0210 to 2512. If you find that you have any of these tires in service, contact your nearest Michelin dealer right away.

Ron Zunk #85153

#34 Columbia River SKPs: 8034, President LeRoy Vick, 503-784-7738. lavick1952@yahoo.com. Dues (\$5) to Teri Van Wagner, 319 Eastview Lane NE, Silverton, OR 97381. terivanw@gmail.com

#37 Rogue Valley Rovers (Southern Oregon): 8037, President Chris Oman, 541-474-0161. coman@budget.net. Dues (\$8 per person or \$10 per couple) to Donna Betteridge, 1171 White Chapel Dr., Central Point, OR 97502. 541-664-2130. dbetteridge3@aol.com

TENNESSEE

#42 KEN/TENN: 8042, President Paul Reed, 731-574-1045. Dues (\$5) to Joanne Reed, 15 Seay Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. paulreedjr1960@gmail.com

TEXAS

#10 Rainbow Chapter: 8010, President Bob Olsen, yeen-shi@hotmail.com. Dues (\$5) to Bruce Horton, 150 Rainbow Dr., #5064, Livingston, TX 77399-1050. 936-327-2587.

#11 Alamo Area SKPs: 8011, President Ken Dixon 830-964-2442, kr Dixon@trane.com. Dues (\$5) to Bill Burns, 4305 Golden Oak, Schertz, TX 78154. 210-277-0751. billandhelgab@gmail.com

#19 Rio Grande Valley: 8019, This chapter is inactive. Check the chapter voice mail or website for updated information.

#30 Red River Rovers: 8030, President Don Allen, 214-793-4247, dvalen2@yahoo.com. Dues (\$10/rig) to Steve Condit, 3708 Staghorn Cir South, Ft. Worth, TX 76137. 817-800-0249.

UTAH

#40 Beehivers: 8040, President Jim James, donnajames@gmail.com. 801-550-8099. Dues (\$5) to Donetta Pay, 4109 Bannock Drive, West Valley City, UT 84120. 801-599-3518. Inpay@msn.com

WASHINGTON

#5 Evergreen: 8005, President Ray Hoyt, escapeeschapter5@aol.com. Dues (\$10) to Dave Andersen, 1046 Courtney Lane, Burlington, WA 98233-1457. 206-849-1578. arlene1046@gmail.com

WASHINGTON/IDAHO

(Eastern Washington/Idaho Panhandle)

#39 Wash-Pan: 8039, President Everett Headrick, 208-772-7643. Dues (\$5) to Jim Gibbons, 12711 North Mill Rd, Spokane, WA 99208. jimnkathy@escapees.com

WISCONSIN

#49 Badger SKPs: 8049, President Ken Cerling, 608-219-6890. cerlingconstruction@gmail.com. Dues (\$5) to Bette Learned, 238 Rainbow Dr., #13864, Livingston, TX 77399-2038. 608-213-7758. sambette1965@yahoo.com

WYOMING

See Idaho Chapter 28: 8028



Marcia Scott and husband Mike Nervos #116654 were the lucky winners of the drawing for the Rose Parade HOP at the 55th Escapade in Tucson, Arizona. The Rose Parade HOP will be held December 27 to January 3, 2016, in Pasadena, California. See page 20 for more information on how to attend this event.

Photo by Jim Koca #86367.

CANADA

ALBERTA

#44 Alberta Roamers: 8044, President John VandenBerg, 403-328-0147. Dues (\$10 Can.) to Carol Davis, K626, 3223-40 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB, Canada T3E 6W1. gypsyncarol.davis@gmail.com

BRITISH COLUMBIA

#22 Van Islanders: 8022, President Pat Blackstock, pat.blackstock@shaw.ca. Dues (\$10 Can.) to Sue Ellison, 6124 Evans Rd., Duncan, BC, Canada V9L 6K5. 250-746-7919

#33 BC Okanagan SKPs: 8033, President Robert Ritchie, kn.ritchie@yahoo.ca. Dues (\$10 Can.) to Lorie Mailer, #20-4303-27th Ave., Vernon, BC, Canada V1T 6L2. loried9@shaw.ca

#35 Dogwood SKPs: 8035—Inactive

This chapter is no longer active. If you are interested in reactivating this chapter, please contact the chapter directors.

ONTARIO

#18 Maple Leaf: 8018, President Rudy Sandau. rsandau@ebtech.net. Dues (\$10 Can. for 2-yr. membership) to Sharon Sandau, PO Box 2145, Corunna, ON, Canada N0N 1G0. 519-862-2152

QUÉBEC

#43 Québec French Connexion: 8043, This chapter is no longer active. To reactivate this chapter, please contact the chapter directors.

MEXICO

#8 Mexican Connection: 8008, Co-presidents Lin and Maryke Hines, linhines@earthlink.net. Dues (\$6 new members and renewals) to Steve Bufty, 169 Rainbow Dr., #6913, Livingston, TX 77399-1069. Add "Attn: Chap. 8" in the subject line of e-mails. maryke2@earthlink.net

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SKP Get-togethers

It's time to eat! Join your fellow SKPs for any one of these regional line-outs.

ALABAMA

Gulf Shores: 2nd Mon., 10:30 a.m., Original Oyster House. Hwy. 59. (In March: 2nd Mon., corned-beef dinner at Marlow Church.) Cushman Phillips, cushman@cbpei.com or 770-312-8871. October-April (except March)

ARIZONA

Apache Junction: 1st and 3rd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Mickey D's Café, 1408 W. Apache Trail. From Hwy. 60, take Ironwood exit 195, go N two miles. Across the trail from Food City. Joe and Alice Knox: 480-751-8116. joe-knox007@yahoo.com. November-March

Benson: 2nd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Ironwood Grill, San Pedro Golf Course. From I-10, take exit 303, go north on Ocotillo, turn right on Darby, turn left on N. Madison and follow signs. Chuck Dupuis, 520-360-5695. November-April

Casa Grande: 2nd Tues., 1 p.m., Golden Corral. 2082 E. Florence Blvd. Jan Tilton: jtilton7@yahoo.com. October-April

Quartzsite: Every Wed., 8 a.m., Times Three Family Restaurant. 1265 West Main. Green building next to McDonald's. November-February. This group needs a representative.

Tucson: Group forming. For information please contact Cliff Haycock at 919-412-4029 or email to: hayvirginia@yahoo.com

Wickenburg: Visit the Chapter 32 Website or voice mail for date and location. Dave Gilbert: 928-427-3765. rplace@q.com.

Yuma: 2nd Wed., 11 a.m., Foothill's Eatery and Spirit, I-8 and Foothill Blvd. Ed/Elaine Brandt: 928-342-0443. November-April

CALIFORNIA

Chico: 2nd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Hometown Buffet, 2021 Whitman Ave. Bob/Naomi Tweedie: 530-872-7802.

Citrus Heights: 2nd Wed., 1 p.m., Hometown Buffet, 7028 Sunrise Blvd. David and Shirley Sturdivant: 916-967-3862.

Clovis: 1st Thurs., 11:15 a.m., Denny's Restaurant, 710 W. Shaw. Corner of Shaw and Willow. 936-612-3216. Wayne Zimmerman: 559-638-1631.

Huntington Beach: 3rd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Coco's Restaurant, 6886 Bolsa Ave. 405 Freeway, get off at Goldenwest, go south. Located just behind the Westminster Mall. Nancy Madigan: 949-646-8513.

Modesto: 1st Thurs., noon, Modesto Elks Lodge, Hwy. 99 (at Salida), east on Kiernan to Pentecost, north to the end of the street. Ray and Norene Bailey: 209-532-0444. bailey-r@sbcglobal.net. January-November

Redding: 1st Tues., 11:30 a.m., Country Waffle, I-5 to Cypress exit 677, west on Cypress, right on Athens (2 blocks on left). 2300 Athens (near Orchard Supply Hardware). Jerry Gromacki, 530-241-8338. gromacki@prodigy.net. (No meetings Jan. or Feb.) March-December

San Diego area: 4th Sat., 10:00 a.m., Marie Callender's, 6950 Alvarado Rd. I-8 to Lake Murray BL/70th St., turn onto Alvarado Rd. Judy Carle 760-745-8574. garthjudy@juno.com.

Santa Maria: 2nd Thurs. (every month), 11:30 a.m., Coco's Restaurant, 1635 S. Broadway, exit 101 Freeway at Betteravia. Go W to Broadway, R a few blocks to Coco's on left. Erv Hartman: 805-937-1856.

Ventura: 1st Tues. (every month), 11 a.m. Main Restaurant Steakhouse, 3159 E. Main St. Chuck Burton: 805 647-7382.

Visalia: Last Fri. (Jan.-Oct.), 3rd Fri. (Nov.-Dec.) 9:30 a.m. Ryan's Place restaurant, 3103 S. Mooney Blvd.; west side of Mooney and south of

Sunnyside and Pep Boys. Bring a friend; wear badge. Schatzi Lovett: 559-732-6973.

Yucca Valley: 3rd Wed., noon, Sizzler Restaurant, Hwy 62. Ron Grigg: 760-365-2813.

COLORADO

Buena Vista: 3rd Tues., 1 p.m., Jan's Restaurant. 304 US Hwy. 24. Don Anderson: draoda@aol.com. May-September

Englewood: 2nd Tues., 1 p.m. Englewood Country Buffet. Located at 301 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, CO 80110. S. Cherokee St. (East) at the roundabout take the 3rd exit onto Englewood Pky. Chuck Derington: 303-986-6192. chuckderington@comcast.net

FLORIDA

Clermont: 1st Thurs., 11:00 a.m., Golden Corral. 1555 Grand Hwy. Just east of US 27 on SR 50, on the right. Note: This is a new location. Larry Jarvis: 716-949-1686. jarvislr@aol.com. November-April

MISSOURI

Springfield: 1st Fri., 1 p.m., Golden Corral, 2734 N. Kansas Expway. (Just South of I-44 on the East side) Vernon Eide: 417-766-2191. All RVers welcome. (Casual campouts held 3rd Tues. of each month, April-October. Gary and Jan Richardson: 913-530-2491 or gmjarichardson@gmail.com.)

NEVADA

Pahrump: 2nd Mon., 11:30 a.m., Lakeside Cafe and Buffet, 5870 S Homestead Road, Rte 160 N to 1st signal, L on Homestead Rd. app. 5 miles to Lakeside Casino & RV Park on right, restaurant is inside casino. Max Schmitt: suncatchers55@aol.com. Mo Botts: 775-537-7783. September-May

Reno: 3rd. Wed., 1:00 p.m., Carrow's Restaurant, 880 E. Plumb Lane. 395 S to Plumb Lane off-ramp, head W, Plumb Lane off Kietzke Lane. Across from Little Flower Church. This luncheon is for all the northern Nevada-area Escapees to meet and visit. Gary Grant: k7vy@netzero.net

NEW MEXICO

Lakewood: 2nd Wed. Luncheons alternate between Artesia and Carlsbad. Call Mary Ann Obst, 575-513-0637, for time and place.

OREGON

Medford: 2nd Tues., 11:00 a.m., Elmer's Restaurant, 2000 Biddle Road. I-5 exit 30, toward Crater Lake/Biddle Road (to the right), follow Biddle Road, exit left at signal to restaurant. Chris Oman, 541-474-0161. coman@budget.net. April-November

Sutherlin: 2nd Wed., 9:00 a.m. (breakfast), Abby's Legendary Pizza. From I-5, exit 136 and turn E/B on Central Ave. for .6 of a mile. Restaurant on north side of road. Bud Covington, 541-229-0491. January-December

Portland: 4th Mon., 1:00 p.m., Heidi's Restaurant, 1230 N.E. Cleveland, Gresham, OR 97030. Everyone welcome! Contact LeRoy Vick: 503-784-7738. lavick1952@yahoo.com

TENNESSEE

Crossville: 2nd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Shoney's Restaurant. Restaurant is north of exit 317, I-40 on Hwy 127 north. Ralph Wiggers: 931-707-5334. Apr-Nov

TEXAS

Livingston: 2nd Fri., 1:00 p.m., Please check Rainbow Chapter 10 voice mail for location. 888-757-7701 x8010. Wayne Roberts: 936-329-3955. jwrmbr@aol.com

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UTAH

St. George: 2nd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Golden Corral, 42 S. River Road Street. (We are looking for a new luncheon host.) Chuck Persing: 702-571-1710. cnaper44@yahoo.com. Odd months.

West Valley City: 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Golden Corral, 3399 West, 3500 South. Myrtle Allen: 801-571-1710. myrtleallen@aol.com

WASHINGTON

Lynnwood: 1st Sat. 9:30 a.m., Old Country Buffet, Lynnwood Square, 4601 200th St. SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036. Ray and Sandy Hoyt: 425-750-6139. escapeeschapter5@aol.com. May-December

Mount Vernon: 1st Tues., 11:00 a.m., Royal Star Buffet, (formerly Royal Fork), 2300 Freeway Drive, Mt. Vernon, WA (across from Walmart). Dave Andersen: 206-849-1578. arlene1046@gmail.com. May-September

Tacoma: 2nd Tues., 11:00 a.m., AAA Buffet, 10310 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA. I-5 Exit 127, west side of freeway. Chappy Chapman: 253-279-6685. Lachappy1@aol.com

CANADA

AB (location TBA): 2nd Wed., noon, check the Chapter 44 Website and voice mail for information. 888-757-7701 x8044. Merle and Judy Jones: 403-783-4168. September and October

BC, Kelowna: 2nd Tues., 11:30 a.m. For lunch locations, please call Joyce Roesch, 250-860-7923. jroesch@shaw.ca

BC, Ladysmith: 3rd Wed., 11:30 a.m., Ricky's All Day Grill, Coronation Mall, North Davis Rd. and Trans-Canada Hwy 1: From Nanaimo, S to Ladysmith on Hwy 1. From Victoria, N on Hwy. 1 to Ladysmith. Linda Henton: lfhenton@gmail.com. skpch22@hotmail.com. www.escapees.com/chapter22. May-October

BC, Vernon: Last Tues., 11:30. For lunch locations, please call Lori Mailer: 250-549-4152.

ON, London: 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., Manchuria Gardens Restaurant, 1130 Dearness Drive. From 401, go north on Wellington St., then right turn on to Dearness Dr., (across from the Canadian Tire Store in White Oaks Mall), then very soon

turn right under the Manchuria Garden arch. Pat Nelson: 519-657-9537, nelsonr00@rogers.com. May-November

ON, Barrie: 1st Thurs., 12:30 p.m., Mandarin Restaurant, corner of Little Rd. and Bayview Rd. From Hwy 400 North, take the Essa Road exit and turn right onto Bayview. Peta Arends: 705-728-5639. petaarends@gmail.com. May and October

ON, Hamilton: 3rd Thurs., noon, Mandarin Restaurant, 1508 Upper James St. Hamilton. From Lincoln Alexander Pkwy, exit Upper James South, restaurant on right about 1 km from hwy. Gerald Arends: 905-295-9731, arendsgl@gmail.com. May and October



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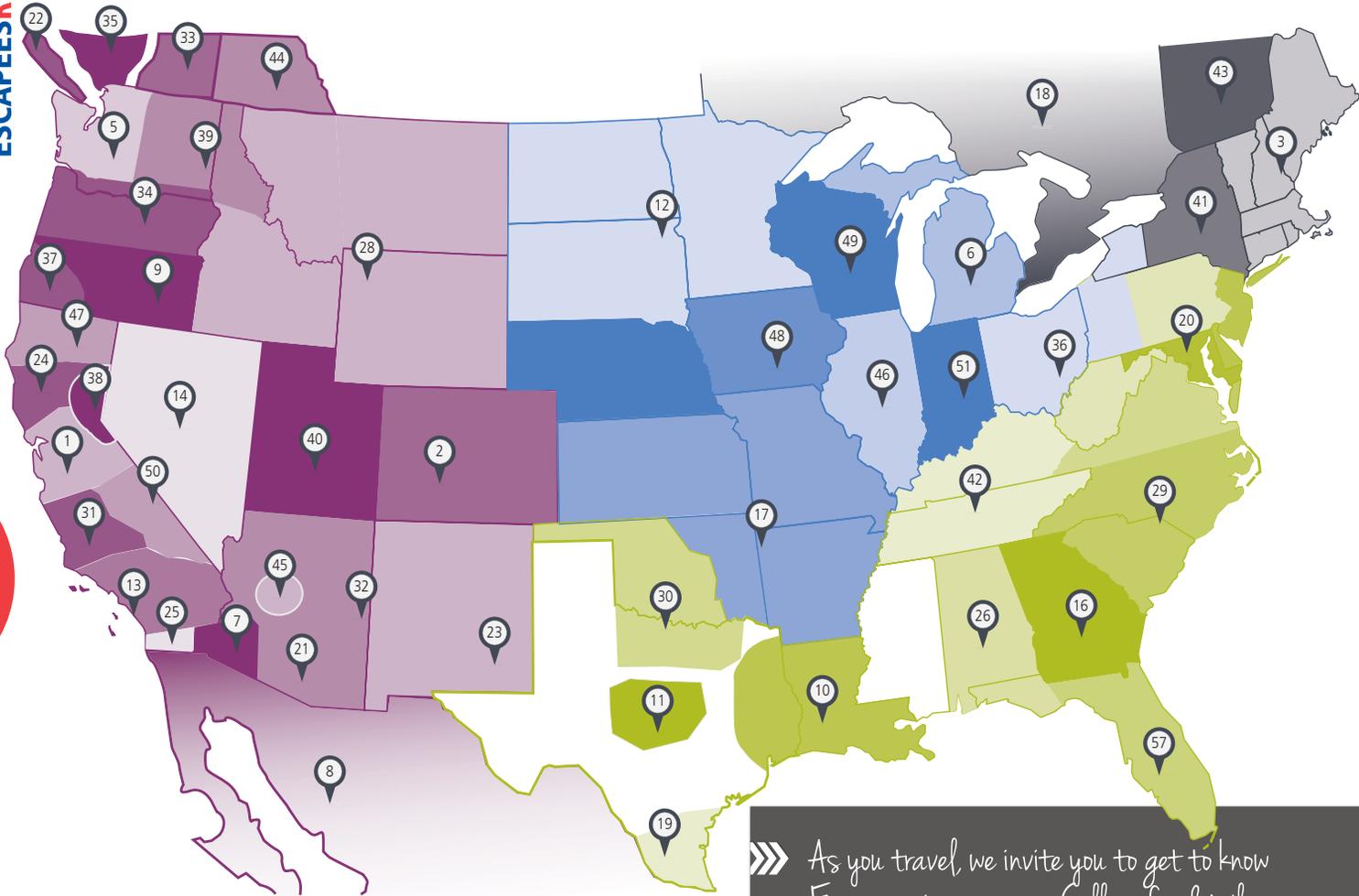
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Chapter Map

Let's Get Together!

ESCAPEESRVClub



As you travel, we invite you to get to know Escapees in your area. Call us for details and let's get together.

Contact chapters' voice mail, **888-757-7701** plus extension, for rally and luncheon information.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 80 01 Golden Gate | 80 14 Lucky Rollers | 80 28 Big Sky | 80 40 Beehivers |
| 80 02 Rocky Mnt. High | 80 16 Georgia Tara Travelers* | 80 29 Carolina Rovers | 80 41 NYSKPS |
| 80 03 Northeast | 80 17 Ozark Chapter | 80 30 Red River Rovers | 80 42 KEN/TENN |
| 80 05 Evergreen | 80 18 Maple Leaf | 80 31 Central Coast-ers | 80 43 Québec French Connexion* |
| 80 06 Great Lakes | 80 19 Rio Grande Valley* | 80 32 Verde Valley | 80 44 Alberta Roamers |
| 80 07 Roadrunners | 80 20 Mid-Atlantic | 80 33 BC Okanagan SKPs | 80 45 Valley of the Sun |
| 80 08 Mexican Connection | 80 21 Arizona Saguaros | 80 34 Columbia River SKPs | 80 46 Lincolnland Chapter |
| 80 09 Oregon Trails | 80 22 Van Islanders | 80 35 Dogwood SKPs* | 80 47 Nor-Cal Gypsies |
| 80 10 Rainbow Chapter | 80 23 Chili Chapter* | 80 36 Erie Shores | 80 48 Iowa Wild Roses |
| 80 11 Alamo Area SKPs | 80 24 Gold Nugget | 80 37 Rogue Valley Rovers | 80 49 Badger SKPs |
| 80 12 North Central | 80 25 Shanty Shakers | 80 38 Mother Lode | 80 50 So Cal High Desert SKPs* |
| 80 13 El Camino | 80 26 Gulf Posse | 80 39 Wash-Pan | 80 51 Hoosier Neighbor |
| | | | 80 57 Florida Sun Gators |

* E-mail chapterdirectors@escapees.com to revive an inactive chapter in your area.

For more details about a chapter, visit www.escapees.com/chapters.

Events and Rally Calendar

We want to spend time with you! Join us at one of these rallies or National events.

- Call voice mail phone number (888-757-7701) + extension for specific directions to events.
- An asterisk (*) indicates a volunteer club representative (VCR) will be in attendance.
- **July/August deadline: May 10.** The "Events and Rally Calendar" is reserved for chapter, certified BOF group and national events. All submissions must be in writing.
- E-mail submissions to editor@escapees.com, or mail submissions to *Escapees Magazine*, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351.

Dates	Location	* = VCRs In Attendance	Host Chapter	888-757-7701 + extension #
MAY 2015				
01-03	TX Sherman, Lazy "L" RV Park	*	30	8030
03-06	IL Mt. Sterling, Brown County Fairground		46	8046
04-08	MO Branson, ABC Campground		02	8002
05-08	IN Greentown, Howard County Fairground		51	8051
08-09	AL Huntsville, Rocket City Brew Fest		SOLOs C-BoF	8080
10-16	OH Wooster, Wayne County Fairground		36	8036
10-17	NC Charlotte Motor Speedway, NASCAR HOP		HOP/National	888-757-2582
11-15	CA Plymouth, 49er Village RV Park		24	8024
12-17	CA Los Banos, Los Banos Spring Fairground		01	8001
12-17	CA Los Banos, Merced County Fairground		38	8038
13-16	MD Cumberland, Cumberland Fairground		20	8020
14-19	OR O'Brien, Lone Mountain RV Resort		37	8037
18-21	CA Banning, Stagecoach KOA		13	8013
JUNE 2015				
01-03	OR Gold Beach, Indian Creek RV Park		09	8009
02-05	BC Canada, Nakusp, Nakusp Municipal Campground		33	8033
08-12	UT Marysvale, Big Rock Candy Mountain RV Park	*	40	8040
08-14	NY Byron, Southwoods RV Park		41	8041
08-14	NY Byron, Southwoods RV Park		18	8018
09-12	NH Bridgewater, Newfound RV Park		03	8003
14-18	OR Rickreall, Rickreall Fairground		34	8034
15-19	BC Canada, Chemainus, Chemainus Gardens RV Park		22	8022
15-19	WA Lynden, NW Washington Events Center	*	05	8005
15-19	AB Lamont, Canada, Lamont Exhibition Grounds		44	8044
15-19	CA Corning, Heritage RV Park		24	8024
15-19	WI Kieler, Rustic Barn Campground		49	8049
17-21	WA Toppenish, Yakima Indian Nation RV Park		39	8039
18-21	MI Coldwater, Branch County Fairground, Tri-rally	*	06, 36, 51	8051
18-22	CA Yreka, Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds		37,47	8037
JULY 2015				
01-05	MT Yaak, The Dirty Shame	*	28	8028
03-05	TX, Hillsboro, North Texas Airstream Community	*	30	8030
06-08	PA Centre Hall, Remington Ryde Festival		20	8020
08-13	AB Canada, Calgary Stampede HOP		HOP/National	888-757-2582
12-16	WA Kalama, Camp Kalama RV Park		34	8034
13-17	CA Bethel Island, Sugar Barge RV Resort		24	8024

Continued >>>



Dates	Location	* = VCRs In Attendance	Host Chapter	888-757-7701 + extension #
16-19	MI Alma, Gratiot County Fairground		06	8006
20-24	WA Bremerton, Bremerton Elks Lodge	*	05	8005
20-24	WA Electric City, Coulee Playland Resort		39	8039
23-26	OR Dayton, Willamette Wine Country RV Park		37	8037
24-26	TN Heiskell, Escapees RVers' Boot Camp		National	888-757-2582
26-27	OR North Bend, The Mill Casino		37	8037
27-31	OR Brookings, Driftwood RV Park		37	8037
28-31	MN Two Harbors, Burlington Bay Campground		12	8012

AUGUST 2015

12-16	ME Hermon, Pumpkin Patch RV Resort, LobsterFest	*	03	8003
16-20	OR Tillamook, Tillamook County Fairground		34	8034
17-21	WA Centralia, Midway RV Park		05	8005
17-21	CA Quincy, Pioneer RV Park		24	8024
17-24	OH Wooster, Wayne County Fairground		36	8036
26-30	ID Dalton Gardens, Joe Saffeel's home		39	8039
27-30	WA Newport, Newport Music Festival Park	*	39	8039

SEPTEMBER 2015

09-13	CO Gunnison, Blue Mesa Ranch		02	8002
09-14	PA Troy, Alparon Park		20	8020
10-13	MI Hart, John Gurney Park	*	06	8006
11-13	NY Poland, West Canada Creek Campsites		41	8041
11-13	TX Weatherford, Oak Creek RV Resort	*	30	8030
13-17	OR Florence, Odd Fellows RV Park	*	34	8034
14-18	CA Yreka, Yreka RV Park		24	8024
21-25	WA Bonney Lake, Swiss Sportsman Club		05	8005
21-25	CA Bethel Island, Sugar Barge RV Resort		38	8038
21-24	WI Elkhorn, Walworth County Fairgrounds		46, 49	8046
24-27	CA Montague, Montague Balloon Rally Grounds		37	8037

OCTOBER 2015

02-11	NM Albuquerque, International Balloon Fiesta		HOP/National	888-757-2582
04-08	OR Astoria, Astoria County Fairground		34	8034
12-16	CA Red Bluff, Durango RV Resort		24	8024
15-18	TX Ingram, Johnson Creek RV Park		11	8011
15-19	OR Gold Hill, Valley of the Rouge Rally		37/34	8037
18-20	TX Livingston, Octoberfest		Rainbow's End	888-757-2582
22-25	CA Lodi, Lodi Grape Festival		01	8001
26-29	CA Newport Beach, Newport Dunes Resort		13	8013
26-30	FL Milton, Gulf Pines KOA		26	8026
27-30	AZ Camp Verde, Distant Drums RV		45	8045
27-31	AZ Parker, La Paz County Park		32	8032

NOVEMBER 2015

09-13	FL Bushnell, Blueberry Hill RV Park	*	57	8057
13-15	OK Durant, Choctaw KOA	*	30	8030
13-15	TX Livingston, Escapees RVers' Bootcamp		National	888-757-2582
24-29	CA Los Banos, Los Banos Spring Fairground		01	8001
30-Dec. 04	CA Oroville, Feather Falls Casino		24	8024
30-Dec. 04	CA Plymouth, Far Horizons 49er RV Village		38	8038



“Hollister is the only town that touches all three major lakes in the region.”

Highlighting Rainbow Parks

Turkey Creek

By Travis Carr #8, Rainbow Parks, Vice President



Branson Landing, Branson, Missouri.
© Missouri Division of Tourism

Located in the quaint town of Hollister, Turkey Creek Rainbow Park is only a hop, skip and a jump away from the famous small-town shows, attractions and much more of the Branson, Missouri, area.

Nestled in the heart of the Ozark Mountains, Turkey Creek is both a beautiful and peaceful park with water access to Lake Taneycomo. It is one of those places that have something for everyone, making it a perfect location to vacation, or to get some rest-and-relaxation time along your way.

Branson is known worldwide for its ample offerings of family entertainment and wide variety of shows, ranging from swinging acrobats to magicians. You'll also find every kind of music, from opera to rock and roll. Whether you are looking for concerts, museums or outlet shopping malls, your days will be filled with fun and excitement. And, even though Branson has so much going on, the town has managed to keep that wonderful small-town charm that we all love.

Don't miss the *free* spectacular \$7.5 million water fountain show, synchronized to light, sound, music and fire at the Branson Landing, located only one mile from the park. Enjoy dinner with a beautiful view of the water and

a unique shopping atmosphere. You can even catch a land and water adventure with “Ride the Ducks,” which has been a favorite of mine since I was a child.

For the more adventurous or young-hearted, the area is brimming with amusement centers that include miniature golf courses, extravagant multi-story go-cart racing tracks, to all-out theme parks like Silver Dollar City, that even has its own natural cavern.

Hollister is the only town that touches all three major lakes in the region. So, if you are tired of shows, or amusement parks are not your cup of tea, grab a Missouri fishing license and test your skills, or just take a stroll along the beautiful banks. And be sure to save a day to drive to Dogwood Canyon Nature Park for hiking, or to ride the tram and enjoy the gorgeous history-laden landscape.

The Branson area offers an abundance of attractions to meet nearly everyone's interests, and Turkey Creek RV Village provides the perfect hub for your explorations. With rates among the lowest in the area, 30- and 50-amp sites and pull-through sites, the park can accommodate your needs—so what are you waiting for? Oh, and don't forget to ask for discounted tickets and coupons at the office.

You can find more information about the park at www.escapees.com/turkeycreek or give us a call at 417-335-8004. You can also check the Rainbow Parks chart on page 48 for rates and park accommodations. 🐾

Daily Member	Daily Nonmember	Weekly Member	Weekly Nonmember	Monthly Member	Monthly Nonmember
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Rainbow Parks *Escapees RV Club owned and operated.*

Alabama	RAINBOW PLANTATION 14301 County Rd. 28, Summerdale, AL 36580 251-988-8132, Fax: 251-988-8142, plantation@escapees.com	\$20	\$27.50	\$122	\$165	\$325+	\$395+
Arizona	NORTH RANCH 30625 Hwy. 89, Congress, AZ 85332 928-427-3657, Fax: 928-685-3695, northranch@escapees.com	\$19	\$26.50	\$116	\$159	\$325+	\$395+
Florida	SUMTER OAKS RV PARK 4602 Country Rd. 673, Bushnell, FL 33513 352-793-1333, Fax: 352-793-5216	\$21	\$28.50	\$127	\$171	\$325+	\$395+
Missouri	TURKEY CREEK RV VILLAGE 1376 US 65 Business S., Hollister, MO 65672 417-335-8004, Fax: 417-335-4644, turkeycreek@escapees.com	\$17.50	\$24	\$101	\$144	\$325	\$395
New Mexico	DREAM CATCHER RV PARK 4400 E. Pine St., Deming, NM 88030 575-544-4004, Fax: 575-544-0944, dreamcatcher@escapees.com	\$18	\$21	\$108	\$127	\$225+	\$235+
Tennessee	RACCOON VALLEY 908 E. Raccoon Valley Rd., Heiskell, TN 37754 865-947-9776, Fax: 865-947-9778, raccoonvalley@escapees.com	\$17.50	\$25	\$101	\$150	\$325	\$395
Texas	RAINBOW'S END 140 Escapees Dr., Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, rainbowsend@escapees.com	\$20-21	\$27.50 \$28.50	\$122- \$127	\$165- \$171	\$325- \$345+	\$395- \$415+
	TRA-PARK 3100 Moore St., Pecos, TX 79772 432-447-2137, Fax: 432-447-3287, trapark@escapees.com	\$20.50 \$19	\$28 \$25	\$120	\$150	\$430	\$430

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Arizona	SAGUARO CO-OP 600 E. Saguaro Dr., #245, Benson, AZ 85602 520-586-7343, Fax: 520-586-4683, skpsaguaro@gmail.com, www.skpsaguaro.org	\$20 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$110 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax	\$330 Incl CTV	+ Elec & tax
	ROVERS ROOST 3241 S. Montgomery Rd., Casa Grande, AZ 85193 520-426-3589, Fax: 520-421-0105, rovers_roost@yahoo.com, www.roversroost.com	\$16 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$90	+ Elec & tax	\$265	+ Elec
	KOFA KO-OP 3750 E. County 17th St., Yuma, AZ 85365 928-344-0645, 928-344-0900, office@kofako-op.com, www.kofako-op.com	\$20	+ Elec & tax	\$100	+ Elec & tax	-	-
California	JOJOBA HILLS RESORT 45120 Hwy. 79 S, Aguanga, CA 92536 951-767-9130, office@jojobahills.com, jojobahills.com	\$20 limited	+ Elec	-	-	-	-
	PARK SIERRA 45323 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-658-8696, Fax: 559-683-2179, parkoffice@parksierra.net, www.parksierra.net	\$21	Incl Elec & WiFi	-	-	\$480	+ Elec & WiFi
Florida	THE RESORT 2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873 863-735-1499, Fax: 863-735-1994, skpresortwauchula@gmail.com, flskpresort.org	\$18	+ Elec & tax	\$115	+ Elec	\$450	+ Elec
Nevada	PAIR-A-DICE 5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048 775-727-7221, Fax: 775-727-3966, spairadice@gmail.com	\$15 Incl Elec	-	\$90 Incl Elec	-	\$250 + Elec	-
New Mexico	THE RANCH PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254 575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, skpranch@pvtnetworks.net, skpranch.com	\$14	+ Elec & tax	\$80	+ Elec & tax	\$260	+ Elec
Oregon	TIMBER VALLEY 800 S. State St., Sutherlin, OR 97479 541-459-4465, skptimbr@rosenet.net, www.timbervalleyskp.com	\$19 + tax	Incl Elec	\$114 + tax	Incl Elec	\$325	+ Elec
Texas	LONE STAR CORRAL 131 Private Rd. 5240, Hondo, TX 78861 830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, info@lonestarcorral.com, lonestarcorral.com	\$17	+ Elec	\$100	+ Elec	\$300	+ Elec
Washington	EVERGREEN COHO 2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chimacum, WA 98325 360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, ecrskp@escapees.com, www.evergreencohoskprvpark.com	\$20 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$120 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$350	+ Elec

- The plus symbol (+) is used to indicate "plus electric." Additional charges may apply for 50-amp electric, pull-thru and additional occupants.
- Prices are subject to change without notice. Contact parks for hours of operation and to verify rental fees before arrival.
- Receiving mail at Escapees Parks: Route your mail to General Delivery, City, State and Zip Code. Verify zip code by calling 800-275-8777.
- Availability of rental spaces at SKP Co-Ops depends on members putting their lots into a rental pool while they travel. During the popular season, there may be few spaces for rent. Call in advance to check the availability of rental sites.

 Events



30 AMP	50 AMP	Stay and Play	# of Sites	ERPU Sites	Lease Lots	Pull-thru	Dry-camping	Storage	WiFi 	Reservations	Activity Center	Clubhouse	Laundry	Dog Run	Pet Friendly	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3/31-12/31 specific sites	87	22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3/31-12/31 specific sites	107	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3/01-12/31 specific sites	99	25	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11/1-8/31 specific sites	68	0	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Year Round specific sites	93	22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11/1-8/31 specific sites	68	0	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12/1-9/30 specific sites	130	24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Year Round specific sites	40	0	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	N	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	297	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	118	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	152	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	283	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	254	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	127	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	182	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	118	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	206	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	130	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	n/a	175	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Lease Lots at SKP Co-Ops

Only Escapees members may purchase an SKP Co-Op membership (when one is available), and that membership entitles them to use a specified lot until they are deceased or sell the membership back to the corporation. Each SKP Co-Op sets its own rules and is self-governing with a board of directors elected by the members. Members share in the financial responsibilities of the SKP Co-Op. Operating expenses are shared equally among the membership by way of an annual maintenance fee. Most SKP Co-Op sites have buildings and other improvements that may add several thousand dollars to the buy-in price. Most also have a waiting list. Call individual parks for more information.

- Saguaro SKP Co-Op: Benson, AZ**
 520-586-7343 • www.SKPSaguaro.org
 First-time visitors receive a week for \$50, plus elect/tax. Visit www.SKPSaguaro.org and click the link in "Special Offer." Click the "Special Offer" tag for details.
- Jojoba Hills SKP Co-Op: Aguanga, CA**
 951-767-9130 • www.jojobahills.com
office@jojobahills.com. Schedule an extended visit to Jojoba Hills where you'll find amusement parks, wildflowers, fishing, museums and SKP hugs. Enjoy swimming, pickleball, tennis, hiking, games and happy hour. Win One Night Free! Love to play pickleball? Find out how to play to win one free night's stay!
- Raccoon Valley: Heiskell, TN**
 Local songwriters meet every Wednesday night. On Thursday nights, local jammers perform.
- The Ranch SKP Co-Op: Lakewood, NM**
 575-457-2303 • www.skpranch.com
 See our parking discount coupon link on home page. \$50 for first week + elec & tax for first-time guests; 20% off first week for returning visitors. Cash or check only. Visit our Website for lot availability.
- Park Sierra SKP Co-Op: Coarsegold, CA**
 559-658-8696 • parksierra.net
 Visit www.parksierra.net for information about 2015 special promotion for visitors. We have a new Facebook page. "Like" us!
- RoVer's Roost SKP Co-Op: Casa Grande, AZ**
 520-426-3589 • www.roversroost.com
 First-time Escapees visitors will receive three days free when they pay for one week (\$90 plus tax/elec). The extended stay will allow time to explore the many activities available from this central location. Attend daily social hours for an update on current activities.
- Evergreen COHO: Chimacum, WA**
 360-385-6538
www.evergreencohoskprvpark.com
 Silver Anniversary "Paradise Found" Luau Celebration: June 26-28, 2015. Join our celebration of fun, food and festivities. Call to make reservations and plan to meet old, and new, friends as we toast 25 years and a park that is now stronger than ever.

Birds of a Feather

Escapees Special Interest Groups

- BOF correspondence, questions and magazine listing updates should be sent to BoF Coordinator, Kelly Burns, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300, faxed to 936-327-4388 or e-mailed to bof@escapees.com.
- All updates must be in writing (type, fax or e-mail) and received by the 10th of odd-numbered months. Include your SKP number.
-  C-BoF (Certified BoFs): Check the "Events and Rally Calendar" for listing of certified BoF group activities. For additional details of individual activities or gatherings, call their voice mail (888-757-7701 plus extension).
- Look for the **NEW!** notice. It signifies a new BoF has formed, and it just may be the interest group for you.
- **Certified BoFs (C-BoFs):** Christian Fellowship x8084, DOVE x8083, Escapees Elk x8082, Heavy Hauler x8081, SOLOs x8080, For additional details of individual activities or gatherings, call 888-757-7701 plus the extension number.

Alternative Medicine: Newsletter is not limited to only herbs, vitamins, dietary ideas, natural healing and attaining and maintaining health. All sorts of interesting things pop up. Take what you want, leave what you want, but always become better educated and try to be aware of what the other side is thinking. Free e-newsletter. Special arrangements could be made for printed copies. Please send your email addresses to me at rotorns@aol.com. Please include BoF or Escapees in the subject line. Carol Torn #21855, 120 E. Hampton Rd., Lindenhurst, NY 11757. rotorns@escapees.com. (Include BoF or Escapees in the subject line).

Amateur Radio: Newsletter, SKP Wave, \$5 for three issues (published January, May and September). Include name, amateur radio call sign if licensed, spouse name, address, SKP#, check and e-mail address to Cliff Haycock, KD4ZBP, PO Box 18958, Tucson, AZ 85731. KD4ZBP@arrl.net. Membership list: Send \$1 and long SASE to Larry Francis, KW7I, 1315 Joplin St. S, Salem, OR 97302-2315.

Bikes, Boots 'n Paddles: This is a casual group (no dues, no newsletter) open to any Escapee who either likes to read about or participate in bicycling, walking and hiking and/or paddling activities. Meet at Escapades and informal gatherings or simply share online one of your biking, hiking or paddling experiences. Tell us about biking/hiking routes, trails, paddling locations, equipment and share photos. You'll find us on Facebook at "SKP Bikes, Boots 'N Paddles BoF." Nancy Cullinan: nancy@rvlifestyle.net

Boomers: Casual group (no rules/no officers) for those who have a youthful mindset. Members enjoy hiking, beading, biking, reading, 4-wheel drives or just sitting around the campfire talking about solar panels, satellite internet or the latest techno gizmo. Monthly electronic newsletter, Facebook and Yahoo groups provide multiple opportunities to share the RVing experience. Impromptu gatherings pop up several times a year. There's no cost to join. Send your name and SKP number to boomerBoF@gmail.com.

Boondockers: Casual group enjoying the dry-camping lifestyle. Bi-monthly newsletter lists dates/places of Rendezvous. (Dry-camp spots not listed.) Stan and Mikki Vincent, subscription coordinators; Darryl and Judy Wilson, editors. If you would like to join, e-mail Judy Wilson at wilsonjudwil@aol.com.

Buff: Buffs like to think of themselves as Birds withOut Feathers. This group is for SKP members who enjoy wholesome social nudism. We offer discounts to nudist resorts with RV facilities. On our Yahoo! Groups forum, you can read reviews of nudist campgrounds, get answers to questions, read our newsletter, discover planned get-togethers, see who might be camping the same place you are and get involved in discussions. There's no cost to join. E-mail your SKP membership number to Pam Pelc: pamelapel@yahoo.com

 **Christian Fellowship • C-BoF:** The Christian Fellowship BoF is a gathering of Escapees believers drawing together members of the Body of Christ to form a mobile church without walls. We enjoy fellowship, fun, worship and spiritual growth and serving local communities. We pray for and encourage one another in the way of the Lord while not focusing on denominationalism. We meet at Escapades and Christian Fellowship BoF rallies. Visit www.escapees.com/christianfellowship or www.christianBoF.com. Contact Nancy O'Bosky at christianBoF@gmail.com for rally information. Membership: \$5. Make checks to Christian Fellowship BoF, your address and SKP# to Janet Hersh #81250, 202 Rainbow Dr., #10258, Livingston, TX, 77399-2002. jwhersh@yahoo.com

Computers: For all computer users—PC, Mac, Linux. Info is exchanged by e-mail. To subscribe to the general or the PC newsgroup, e-mail ComputerBoF-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. For more info, contact Tom McIlwain #60817, 6003 Main St., Center Valley, PA 18034. To subscribe to the Linux sub-newsgroup: ComputerBoF-Linux-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Disney Lovers Friends of the Mouse: This group shares tips and experiences related to all things Disney. We get together occasionally between October and April somewhere in Walt Disney World (usually outside of the theme parks). If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, send your name and SKP# to art.disney@earthlink.net

 **DOVE (the Doves) • C-BoF:** Hurricanes, tornados, floods, fires, disasters all have their seasons, and they rarely give us notice when they will happen. Time volunteers give is crucial. When finances are at crisis levels in many organizations, the American Red Cross needs all the volunteer time (and money) we can give. Join the DOVEs and partner with the Red Cross to fill real needs. We'll help you get trained and paired with just the right disaster response activity to satisfy your desire to help others and to provide life-sustaining assistance for those who have been devastated by disasters. To find out more, visit www.doveBoF.org. Yearly dues: \$7.50 or \$17.50 for three years or general info: [Mahlon Stacy, president@doveBoF.org](mailto:MahlonStacy@gmail.com) or mahlonstacy@gmail.com.

DOWs (Diabetics on Wheels): For diabetics and for those living and traveling with diabetes. Meets at Escapades. A support group for controlling your diabetes rather than its controlling you. (Like how to handle SKP potlucks!) Not intended as medical advice. Contact David and Marilyn Anderson, 243 Rainbow Dr., #14341, Livingston, TX 77399-2043. 619-851-3282. dma50579@yahoo.com. Subscribe to Yahoo! group by e-mailing SKPBoFDOWs-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You must put BoF DOWs in the subject line and include your SKP number. No attachments, please.

 **Escapees Elk • C-BoF:** Must be member of a BPO Elks Lodge to join. Meet at Escapades. Learn how to join this BoF or how to be directed to a lodge. (The BoF isn't a lodge.) To join, send \$6 per year (checks payable

DOVEs are members of the American Red Cross and are trained to serve during natural or man-made disasters.

to Escapees Elk BoF), or send SASE for how to be directed to an Elks lodge, to Membership Coordinators, 230 Rainbow Dr., #13071, Livingston, TX 77399-2030. merriedv@eserv.net. www.escapees.com/elk

Four-wheelers: Casual group for those interested in the fun and excitement of taking their SUVs off pavement. The group will meet at rallies throughout the year. All communication will be through posting on a Yahoo! bulletin board; no fees will be collected. Contact Suzy Johnson. crazysuzy2003@gmail.com

SKP Freethinkers: The focus of this BoF is information, support and community for secular humanists, rationalists, atheists, agnostics, skeptics and all who reject supernatural belief. This BoF serves as a virtual meeting place and forum for like-minded SKPs. Website/e-mail newsgroup available. Media is all electronic, so membership is free. Browse skpfreethinkers.com for info and registration or write to howardreplogle@skpfreethinkers.com.

Friends of Bill W: This group meets at Escapades and other Escapees gatherings. There are no dues or fees. Find a meeting or stay in contact with each other while traveling. Contact David and Marilyn, 243 Rainbow Dr., #14341, Livingston, TX 77399-2043. 619-851-3282. DMA50579@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the Yahoo! group by e-mailing SKPBoFfriendsofbillw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You must include your SKP number.

Full-time Graduating Class: This is an informal group with no newsletter or officers. All correspondence for this group is via the Escapees Discussion Forum. You can join your graduating class simply by going online to the forum, www.rvnetwork.com, select the topic "Graduating to Full-Time" and select the year of your class.

Genealogy: AKA SKP Genies. This group is all about friendship and family history. Our quarterly newsletter has BoF news and educational articles on researching techniques and sources. SKP Genies Magic (a rally and research trip hybrid) is held annually. Time-sensitive information and advice are shared via a Yahoo! group. Contact Albert Taylor at skpgenies@gmail.com or SKP Genealogy BoF, 142 Rainbow Dr., #4228, Livingston, TX 77399-1042.

Geocache: The Geocache BoF provides a communication link enabling members to be in touch with other SKP geocachers. It provides an opportunity to share geocaching information, learn from others and discover if other SKP geocachers are nearby. All communications are via e-mail through a Yahoo! group. There are no dues or fees. To join, contact Sue Pace at skpgeocacheBoF@gmail.com. Please include your name(s), SKP #, phone # and, if you have one, a geocaching handle.

 **Heavy Hauler • C-BoF:** Exchange info on purchase and use of medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks, including parts, supplies, dealers, repair facilities, etc. Quarterly e-mailed newsletter. \$15 first yr includes logo decal. (\$10 per yr/renewal; add'l \$10/yr for snail-mail newsletter.) Check payable to Heavy Haulers C-BoF, 159 Rainbow Dr., #5990, Livingston, TX 77399-1059. Send questions to: heavyhaulersBoF@gmail.com. Website: escapees.com/HeavyHaulers

Jammers: Our goal is to enable members to share interests in music by jamming (playing music together, where members take turns selecting songs). The jammers will include musicians at all levels, singers and listeners. The types of music will include, but are not limited to, old-time, gospel, Celtic, '60s and '70s folk and contra dance music. Members will keep in touch by e-mail and social networks such as the Escapees forum. Meetings will occur at Escapades, music festivals, Escapees parks and other situations wherever it is convenient. Contact Dave Schroeder: oldfolkjammer@gmail.com.



DOVE BoF Provides Disaster Relief

DOVEs are members of the American Red Cross and are trained to serve during natural or man-made disasters and to bring relief and assistance to those who have been affected. Some members keep busy during the downtime by training members and recruits in various disciplines and assisting in organizing and stocking needed supplies, keeping themselves and others ready to respond to disasters whenever and where-ever they strike.

DOVEs respond to local disasters, such as house fires and floods, either in their hometowns or regions. They help set up housing, safety shelters, provide food, emergency clothing and referrals to local social services. They also work with local organizations such as the Salvation Army, churches and the National Guard, which sometimes may provide food or shelter.

The DOVE BoF group has recently developed the concept of nationwide "mobile volunteering" to help Red Cross chapters by Internet and cell phones while traveling when there are no disasters. Of the approximate 20 services provided, some will consist of calling to welcome new volunteers, reviewing financial records and even teaching disaster classes as webinars.

This group has also begun advocating for the Red Cross to make accommodations for volunteers who have physical limitations such as hearing loss, vision loss, sleep apnea that requires a C-PAP machine, loss of mobility and other limitations, so those volunteers can be empowered to go on deployment and provide emergency services.

For more information and to find out how you can join the DOVE BoF group, visit www.dovebof.org or contact Mahlon Stacy at president@dovebof.org.

Jane Foraker-Thompson #112143

Continued >>>

NEW! Motorcyclists on the Road: Welcomes all motorcyclists with any size motorcycle. We enjoy the scenic roads and activities with riding both the short and long trips. For information on joining this BoF, contact Dennis Hill at dennisrving@gmail.com.

NOMADS: NOMADS are Mission Volunteers and individuals who travel with a purpose. A ministry of the United Methodist Church, specific to RVers wishing to be involved in Christian service. Membership not dependent on church affiliation. Regular projects are three weeks, nationwide. Disaster rebuild projects may be one week or more as openings exist. Parking (including water, electric, dump) is furnished. Current projects list is posted on the NOMADS Website and is visible to members of NOMADS only, but with nationwide sites. To join NOMADS: 866-466-6237 or visit www.nomadsumc.org. For information contact Virginia Wiggers at 931-200-4742 or mww351@gmail.com. There are no dues for NOMADS BoF.

Penwheels: Quarterly newsletter inspires, encourages and assists writers in all styles of writing, published or not. Join our new group forum at RVillage.com. Sign up for free. Then, click search or groups, and enter Penwheels in the search field. Click join group to post. Please send your Escapees membership number to: Joanne Alexakis (joalexakis@earthlink.net) so your name can be added to the e-mail list for the newsletter. You can also contact Penwheels editor, margo@themaxwellgroup.net.

Pet Lovers: For people who love all pets. Bimonthly (even months) electronic newsletter (\$7/year or \$13 for 2 yrs) includes pet info on health, vets, pet-friendly campgrounds, groomers, new pet items, good places to walk pets, seasonal info, humor and stories submitted by you. To subscribe, send check to Chris Davis, 405 East Bluff, Madison, WI 53704. It is important to include name, address, e-mail and phone number. When I can attend Escapade, we'll provide educational programs with Q&As, socials and a pet parade with fun prizes. cfndld@merr.com

Prospecting and Metal Detecting: Share tips and information. Roster and quarterly newsletter. By e-mail, \$5; mailed, \$15 a year. We get-together yearly for a week of prospecting and fun. Make checks payable to Janis Lanphear, Treasurer, 21748 Old Alturas Rd, Redding, CA 96003. wedig4gold@gmail.com

Quilt Lovers: Quarterly newsletter provides quilt-related information and BoF news. Subscriptions: April to March. \$5/year for newsletter and for CARE/Share service projects. Send letters, photos, articles and check/money order made out to Quilt Lovers BoF for your subscription to Membership/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor Mary Costigan, Mary Costigan, 900 Bradford Court, San Jacinto, CA 92583-6530 (call 951-452-2999 or e-mail mary.costigan@yahoo.com). Be sure to bring your sewing machine, sewing kit, thread, cutting board, quilt ruler and rotary cutter for quilt classes.

Silver Bullet SKPs: Open to all Airstream RV owners, including Argosy, Airstream trailers and motorhomes. Meet at Escapades and other Escapees events and rallies. Watch for announcements on Escapade message board for happy-hour get-togethers, for discussions on troubleshooting and innovations on our rigs and especially for new and renewing friendships. All communication is done by e-mail. Join us at Escapade. Lin/Maryke Hines: linhines@earthlink.net

SKP Photographers: For all photographers, from casual to serious. Our goal is to help members have fun with photography and improve their skills through our free online newsletter, meetings at Escapades/rallies and in-the-field photo outings at interesting locations. Join online at www.skpphotographers.com, e-mail loupet@gmail.com or call Lou Petkus at 630-750-7291.

SOLOs • C-BoF: A group for single Escapees. Must be a current member. Membership, \$10/year. Three newsletters per year, member-hosted gatherings and pre-Escapade rallies. Send check, payable to Escapees SOLOS, with SKP#, mailing address, interests/hobbies, e-mail and phone number to Escapees SOLOS, 188 Rainbow Dr., #8822, Livingston, TX 77399-1088. SOLOS@escapees.com. www.escapees.com/solos

SOWERs (Servants on Wheels: Ever Ready) A non-denominational ministry of born-again believers who combine our love of RVing and service to our Lord as we volunteer to work with other Christian ministries throughout the U.S. and Canada. From our listing of approved ministries, we choose the projects and months we work. www.sowerministry.org

Square Dancing: For information on this group, contact Bill and Dee Wheeler, 1612 2nd St., N, Cordele, GA 31015. E-mail wwdj66@yahoo.com or call 419-890-7254 (Verizon).

Stonewall: Welcomes all gays, lesbians, bi's, trans and their friends. An informal group, we gather at Escapades, Pride events and Quartzsite, Arizona, in January. Communication is online so we can meet each other as travels allow. No dues, no newsletters, just good times with great people! Donna Ellis at andellis@cox.net or Bill Marx at billmarx@pobox.com.

Woodcarvers on wheels: This group meets annually at North Ranch in Congress, Arizona, for a week-long workshop of carving, pyrography and more. We enjoy gathering at Escapade and anywhere else our paths may cross. Sharing ideas, patterns, hints and articles related to anything wood. To join, send your name, address, SKP# and \$5/year to Sandra Boroff Kruty, 110 Rainbow Dr., #1002, Livingston, TX 77399-1010. Newsletter is sent out three times a year. woodcarversonwheels@gmail.com

Workers: For any Escapees member who has an interest in the work-camping lifestyle, paid or volunteer. Both full- and part-time travelers are welcome. We are not a job location service but a means to exchange information among members who share this common interest and a means for social contacts. All communication is through a "members only" Yahoo! group, so Internet access is needed. For information, or to join, e-mail Kirk Wood at woody@1tree.net.

Worldwide Travelers: We offer information about independent or RV travel in countries around the world other than North America. Information is shared through tips and travel reports. Free monthly e-newsletter. To join the Worldwide Traveler's BoF group, send your name, SKP# and e-mail address to wwwtnews@gmail.com.



RVers' Boot Camp

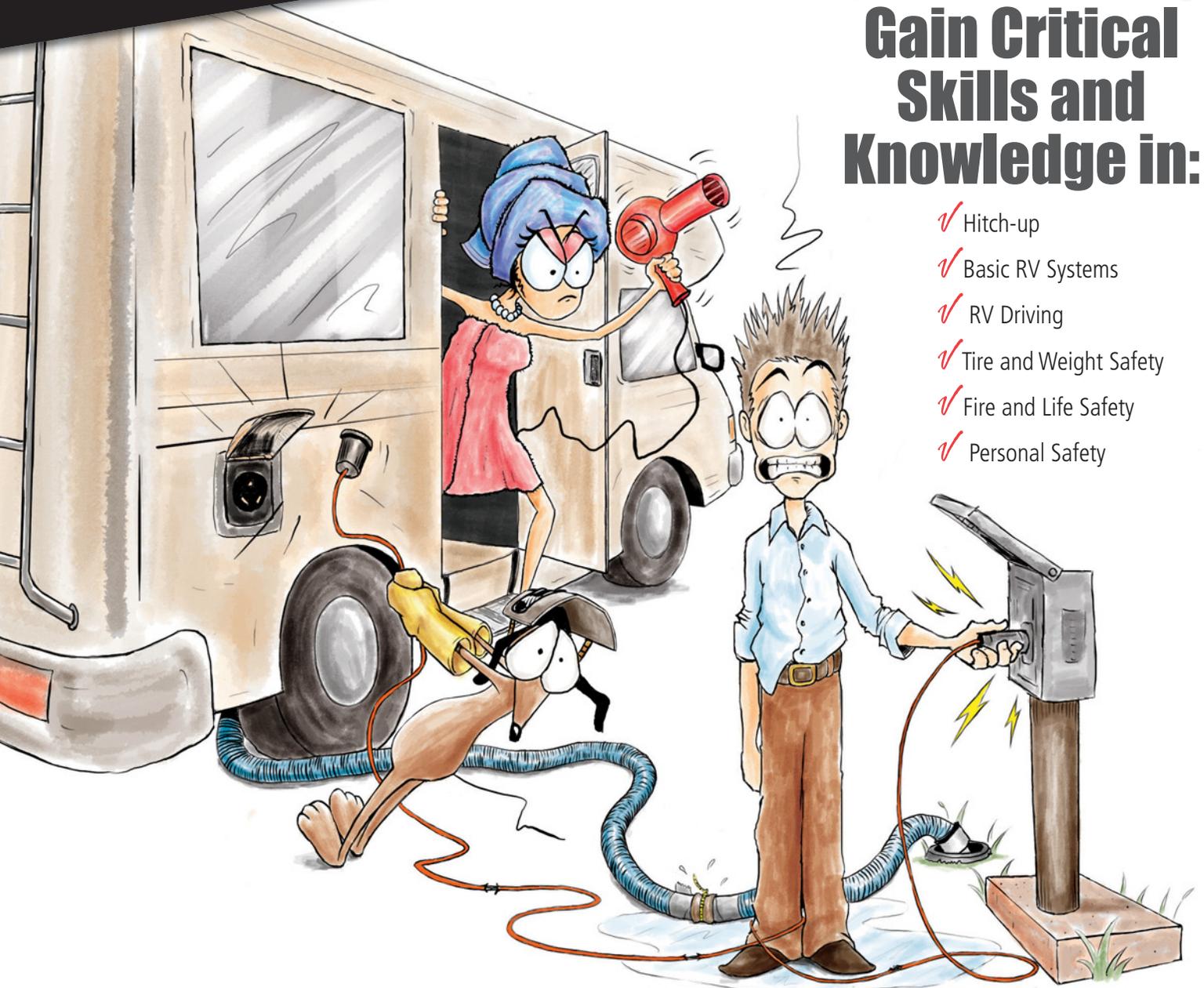


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“I am one of those folks who really prefers to do it myself whenever possible, but I am not sure I would tackle a slide-out myself.”

Mark, My Words

By Mark Nemeth #45776

Tire Wear

Q. At Escapees RVers' Boot Camp, it was said that tires should be replaced after five to seven years even though the tread is not worn, because the sidewalls deteriorate due to age and sun.

We've been full-time RVing in our fifth-wheel for a year, typically staying a week in a park, then moving on. We put about 20,000 miles on the truck in the first year, and about 12,000 miles on the trailer. Our trailer tires are wearing along the outside edges of the tread, especially those on the rear (two axles). By observing the wheels while backing into a space, we can see that the rear tires slide sideways during the turn, and we think this is causing the excessive wear. It seems worse on paved surfaces and when the spaces are 90 degrees to the street. And we often leave some rubber on the street while trying to park more so on narrow streets and spaces, as the truck has a wide turning radius and there is a lot of backing and filling. The front truck tires are showing the same sort of wear, though much less.

1. Is this sort of wear normal for the way we use the RV?
2. Is the five- to seven-year recommendation based on using the trailer for only two to three weeks a year, and we should expect to wear them out in two to four years, depending on mileage?

John and Vicki

A. There are several possibilities. Wear on the outside of the tread can be caused by the scuffing of the tires during sharp turns, but that wear is usually fairly light. If you are seeing significant wear on the outer edges, it could be caused by operating the RV over its designed weight limitations or by alignment issues on the trailer axles.

If you are sure you are not overweight and you are seeing significant wear patterns forming, it may be a problem with the axles/suspension. It is easy to bend axles or suspension components with a curb strike, or even by backing into a tight spot and jackknifing the trailer tightly. That

misalignment can cause odd wear patterns. Try to avoid really tight turns when backing by lining up on the site as straight as possible before backing. It is better to work back and forth several times to get into a better position rather than to try a sharp backing turn in one shot.

As for tire life, your RV tires should be watched for signs of deterioration, especially when they reach and pass the five-year-old mark. All RV tires should be replaced at seven years of age, regardless of how they look or how much tread is left on them. Trailer tires have a tough life and tend to wear faster than other RV tires. If the tread reaches the minimum safe depth (generally 3/32 inch), the tire should be replaced. RVs typically run at, close to or even over their maximum load ratings 100 percent of the time. That is a demanding tire application, and tires degrade as they age. If you have a tire failure or a tread separation, it usually does costly damage to the RV. If your tires are old, worn out or show any sign of deterioration or damage, replace them.

Slide-out Adjustment

Q. I have a Carriage Compass 2005 SLQ. How do you adjust the bedroom slide-out? It has a solid bottom, and I have looked inside the bed compartment, and I'm not sure how to adjust it. I have an almost one-inch gap on the upper left-hand side as you are looking at the slide-out from the outside. On the inside of the slide-out on the same side, it is rubbing against the carpet and making a pretty good canal. The other side of the slide-out seems to open and close with no evidence of any problem.

Dennis

A. In my opinion, if the slide goes in and out reliably, is not actually damaging anything and does not leak, it probably does not need adjustment or repair. It's also my opinion that slide-out adjustments are probably beyond the capabilities of the average RV owner. An experienced RV tech will probably be the best choice when your slide gets

Water Leak in Vintage Trailer

Q. We have a 1964 Silver Streak Sabre 22 travel trailer. We use one of those standard inline pressure regulators without a gauge when connecting to a campsite water source. Most of the time, we're okay with no leaks. Then, at other times, our plumbing leaks. I have a suspicion the pressure regulator only steps the pressure down by a specific amount and not to a specific pressure. For example, if the hose bib pressure is 120, the pressure regulator steps it down by, say, 40 pounds, leaving 80 pounds of pressure. It would be great if the pressure regulator would take whatever input pressure and step it down to, say, 45 pounds. Is there such a device? Or should I insert two in line to reduce the pressure further? On the trailer side, is this a sign that I should be considering a complete replumbing of our trailer? It does leak when the pressure is too high, and this is a bit unnerving. We really want to enjoy our trailer far into the future.

Rick

A. Congrats on your neat vintage Silver Streak. Those are exceptional units, and I always love to see one that is still in use. Most RV water pressure regulators are supposed to maintain a set output pressure regardless of how high the incoming water pressure. However, they can fail and allow higher pressure than it is designed for in the water system. If you are using a simple brass non-adjustable regulator, and you've had it for a while, I would be suspicious of its accuracy and functionality. I suggest you either use a simple pressure gauge, like this one www.escapees.com/url/026, to determine whether or not your existing regulator is doing its job properly, or purchase a new regulator that has a pressure gauge on it. Most higher-quality regulators not only come with a gauge, but are also adjustable. Check out www.rvwaterfilterstore.com/PressureRegulators.htm for some examples of these higher-quality regulators. Even if a new regulator appears to stop the leak, I suggest that you take the time to identify what part of the plumbing is leaking and make the necessary repairs. Long-standing plumbing leaks can do significant damage to the structure of the RV, and chances are that the weak spot in the plumbing system will start to leak again down the road, even with a properly functioning pressure regulator.

Watts New Lead Free
Adjustable 263A-LF Regulator.

Photo courtesy of www.rvwaterfilterstore.com.



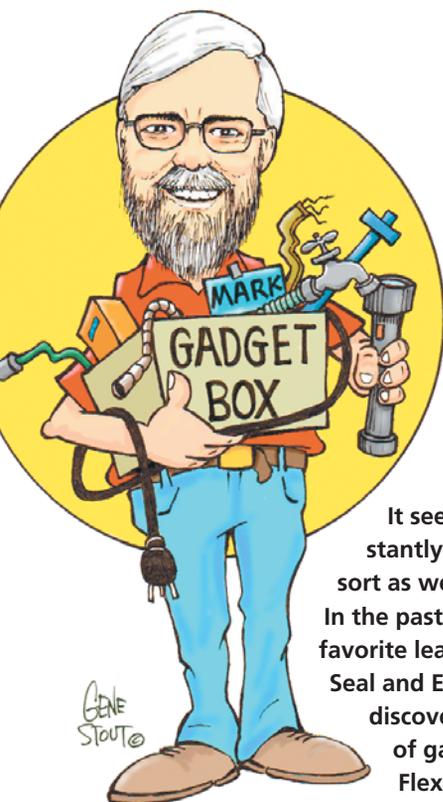
out of alignment. I am one of those folks who really prefers to do it myself whenever possible, but I am not sure I would tackle a slide-out myself. However, it is possible for you to adjust your slide mechanism, and I'm sure other RV owners have done it successfully. Slide-outs are tricky, so be aware of the weights and forces involved, and be careful if you choose to work on yours. The first thing you need to do is identify the manufacturer of your slide mechanism, and get the appropriate manual to guide you. A lot of RVs utilize Lippert slide mechanisms, and they have a wide range of manuals available in the customer service area of their Website www.lci1.com. Other manufacturers include HWH and AccuSlide by Norco. Once you have the correct manual in hand, you will be able to determine whether it is a job you can do or something you'd rather take to a service facility. 

»»» Do You Have a Question for Mark?

Send your questions via e-mail to techquestions@escapees.com,

or mail your questions to
"Mark, My Words" Column
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Please, no consumer advocacy or commercial advertising issues. Remember, material will be edited. Because of the large volume of material and correspondence submitted, individual replies may not be possible, nor can we acknowledge receipt of your material. Some questions and answers that are of the highest general interest may be repeated from time to time.



Gadget Box

Home Armor Flexible Sealer

Compiled by Mark Nemeth #45776

It seems like we RVers are constantly dealing with leaks of some sort as we travel around the country. In the past, I have shared a couple of my favorite leak repair products: Wound-Seal and EternaBond. Well, I have just discovered another sealer worthy of gadget status: Home Armor Flexible Sealer.

This is a rubber sealant in a pressurized can that can be sprayed onto a surface to seal it. Being fairly low-viscosity (somewhat thin and runny), it excels at penetrating small cracks and holes. It dries into a firm rubber membrane that should last for years, even if exposed to the weather. I have used it several times on my RV, and I'm impressed with how well it works. I have found that multiple coats work the best, and you can build up a nice thick patch that way. Because of its tendency to flow, it works best on relatively flat surfaces.

The manufacturer's product overview says:

- Liquid rubber in a can—the fast, easy way to repair leaks around your home
- Sprays on to form a flexible seal that's airtight, waterproof and lasts for years
- Unaffected by blazing heat while maintaining more flexibility in extreme cold than the leading competitor
- Won't drip, sag, chip, crack or peel
- Bonds to all types of metal, wood, plastic, brick, concrete, PVC and more
- Paint over to make a beautiful, virtually invisible seal

Best of all, you can find it at Walmart, Lowe's, Home Depot, Ace hardware stores and even on **Amazon.com**. It comes in clear and black and retails for around \$10. It has a long shelf life, so add a can to your gadget box. You never know when you'll need it. The Home Armor brand also includes a range of home and patio cleaning products, including some mold/mildew removal and prevention sprays. I may have to check some of those out as well.

"I have used it several times on my RV, and I'm impressed with how well it works."



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W.M. Barr, PO Box 1879,
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Share your favorite RV gadget!

E-mail Mark at techquestions@escapes.com, and tell him about your gadget. If he likes it, he may purchase one and review it in the "RV Gadget Box" column and credit you with discovering it. Gadget maker and vendors: Visit www.escapes.com/rvgadgetbox for terms, conditions and rules for product submissions.



Photo courtesy of
www.rvia.org

Avoid RV Mishaps With a **DAY-TRIP GO-LIST**

By Evanne Schmarder #65409

I can still picture it; neophytes only three weeks into our full-time RV adventure, we found ourselves at Canyon de Chelly, northeast Arizona's Navajo country. Still inhabited by Native Americans, the spectacular Canyon de Chelly, considered a mini-Grand Canyon, offers amazing colored cliffs, rock formations, cliff dwellings and, of course, canyons.

We arrived at the campground on a warm and sunny summer afternoon to find it rather busy. Feeling fortunate to have secured one of the last available sites, without shade, we settled in for a couple of days of dry-camping. Eagerly scouring the park brochure, a decision was made to hike to Whitehouse Ruins, one of the only canyons that can be entered without a Navajo guide, the next day. That morning the sun was shining bright and the air was still; it was a going to be a beauty of a day. We packed

water bottles and snacks as good day-trippers would, slathered on the sunscreen, grabbed our hats, locked the door and opened the awning to shade the fridge side from the hot sun.

The hike was fabulous, down the canyon, through a canopied grove to look up into ancient and well-preserved cliff dwellings. Flush with excitement and the climb out of the canyon, we returned home, cooing and admiring our new-to-us RV from a distance. However, as we got closer we noticed something wasn't quite

right. It didn't take long to realize that the awning had succumbed to what must have been a strong gust of wind and was bent up and backward, wrapped over the roof of our RV in a gut-wrenching pose. Oh. My. Gosh.

Ask any long-time RVer, and chances are they'll have a similar story to share, either through personal experience or as an unwilling witness. Since that time so long ago, my husband, Ray, and I have developed an unspoken "go-list" when we take day-trips. In addition to, you guessed it, never leaving with the awning open (unless it's well secured with little or no chance of strong winds, and even then I still worry), I have some other tried-and-true tips for your consideration.

Continued >>>

“While these tips may not ensure against all woes, they will eliminate many unforeseen circumstances that could really put a crimp in your RVing adventure.”

1 Turn the water off at the outside water connection because while you are gone:

- your hose might fail—leaking, spraying and wasting water.
- a faucet drip or leak may overflow a tank if the valve is closed.
- the black-water tank could fill and spill (and possibly burst) if your toilet is leaky or not properly closed.
- on a hot day, water line pressure in your hose, and in turn your RV plumbing, will increase.
- if a pipe connection leaks or bursts and the water is left on, you will return to a flooded RV.

2 Turn your water heater off while you are gone to:

- save propane or electricity.
- preserve the electric heating element – less use = longer life.
- decrease tank mineral deposits; they increase with heat.
- keep water line pressure down and reduce the risk of interior lines leaking at connections.
- save your heating element in case of water-heater tank leaks or failure.
- practice safety by turning off heat-related appliances.

3 Be aware of weather in the area you are visiting and:

- adjust vents for possible rain or wind (if you do not have Maxx Air vent covers or a Fantastic Fan).
- crack windows, if applicable, to foster air circulation and adjust blinds to avoid blazing mid-day sun.
- set A/C five to 10 degrees cooler

than expected temps so it will cycle on and off during warmer days.

- open cupboard doors that share an outside wall if you expect it to get extremely hot.
- turn off both propane and electric heat for safety.
- unplug electronic devices in case of unexpected lightning.
- my number one “weather” tip: Close your awning, no matter what the expected weather, unless it is extremely secured. (Note: Always close your awning, secured or not, during strong windstorms. The arms may not bend, but the fabric will shred. I’ve seen it happen in a split second before my eyes, and believe me, it’s not a pretty picture.)

4 Check to make sure you have all your technical gadgets with you, including:

- a fully charged cell phone so you’ll be able to communicate in case of an emergency.
- a fully charged digital camera (if you don’t use a smartphone) to take ample photographs and videos.
- your phone’s car charger and charging plug in case you’re out longer than anticipated.
- all parts for a fully functioning GPS, including plugs, batteries, etc.

5 Develop a last-minute multi-point check for the last person out the door.

- Turn the outside light on if you’ll be returning to the rig after dark.
- The coffeepot and teapot should be turned off and unplugged from the wall to avoid any electrical appliance mishaps.
- The water heater, both propane and electric, should be turned off to avoid issues discussed previously in section two.
- All stove-top burner and oven controls should be in the off position.
- The refrigerator and freezer doors should be completely closed to avoid automatic shut-off and spoilage of contents.
- The heat should be turned off or the A/C set at the appropriate setting.
- The stereo should be turned off to avoid overheating.

In our rig, these checklist items flow in a counter-clockwise direction, one after another, so we can always have a quick circle check before closing the front door.

While these tips may not ensure against all woes, they will eliminate many unforeseen circumstances that could really put a crimp in your RVing adventure. Now, get out there and explore this big, beautiful world. 🚐

Evanne is sure she got the wanderlust bug from her grandparents who traveled the U.S. in their city bus conversion in the 1940s as what we now call “work-campers.” In 2000 she and her husband, Ray, set off on their own adventure, affectionately called Operation Sunshine, from hip but rainy Portland, Oregon, in search of a sunny place to settle down. Thirteen-plus years later, they’re still roaming the country, sharing interesting destinations and cooking up delicious RV kitchen recipes in their popular RV TV series, **RVCookingShow.com**.



From the Bookshelf

Reading for the Road

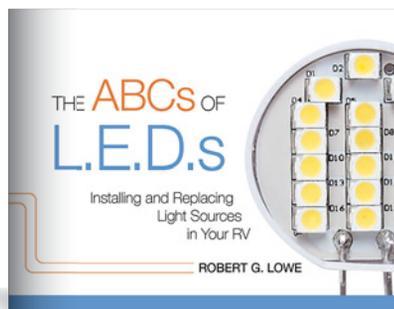
By Marcella Gauthier #12371

This issue's assortment of books includes a technical guide about new lighting systems for your RV, and two books about travel trips, the first about an RV trip to Alaska, the other the story about a family's road trip around America. In conclusion, I feature a book of interviews with older Americans on the lessons they've learned on their journey through life.

The ABCs of L E Ds: Installing and Replacing Light Sources in Your RV

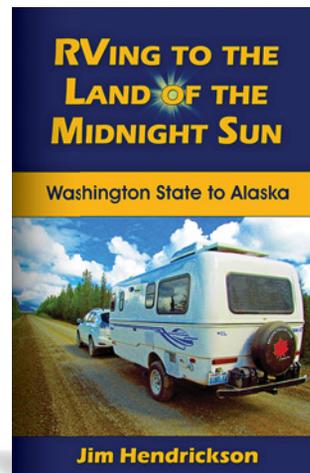
Robert G. Lowe • Publisher: www.RV-PartsPlus.com 2015
• 877-266-5398 • ISBN: 978-0-9939561-0-2 • E-book: \$3.99

Rob Lowe has a wonderful Website (www.RV-PartsPlus.com) with valuable information and products specifically designed for the RV market. Especially interesting is his blog discussing the interactions of chassis/starting and coach/house batteries. This e-book, at an incredibly low price of \$3.99, is an absolutely invaluable source of information to assist you in installing LED lights in your RV. With great illustrations explaining the benefits of LEDs, Rob shows, and explains, what lighting systems you may already have in your rig and how to replace them with efficient, long-life LEDs. LEDs use 10 percent of the power consumption of ordinary lights. With the price of LEDs dropping, the savings in initial costs and energy consumption is quite significant. The book has easy-to-follow instructions that make installing the lights quick and reasonably effortless.



RVing to the Land of the Midnight Sun: Washington State to Alaska

Jim Hendrickson #112617 • Publisher: Smashwords.com
2015 • ISBN: 978-1311626035 • Download: \$3.99



This is another travel book by Jim Hendrickson, whose travel books I reviewed about a year ago. Jim is an adventurer to the max. This time he is traveling from his home in the Pacific Northwest as far north into Alaska as he can go with only a car and a small travel trailer. His final destination of Prudhoe Bay is accomplished in the company of three other travelers, a Chinese programmer for Google from San Francisco, a lady from Philadelphia and

her friend, Doreen, from Wales, both ladies in their 80s and friends since childhood. Traveling with an experienced guide in a van, at the Arctic Circle they held a brief ceremony of stepping over the line complete with celebratory slices of chocolate cake. Jim's descriptions of places visited and people met along the way are in his usual fashion, very well-described. You feel as though you are along for the ride. This book could also serve as a guide in planning future trips to Alaska.

Continued >>>

Marcella has a lifelong love of reading. She says she can't remember anything before she could read, and writing is her second love. Her first long story, about a girl and her hero horse, was written when she was only 12 years old. She has worked as a technical writer for over 40 years, and, when she can, she escapes on a road trip in her 1978 classic Airstream trailer.

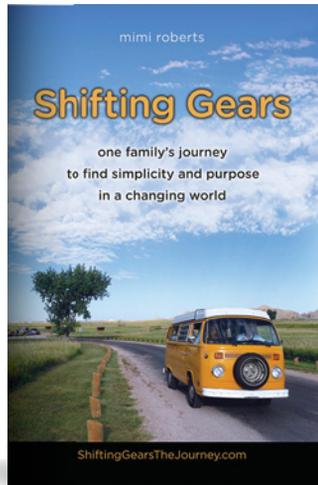
“This book contains the stories of older Americans who have forged their unique paths in business, sports, education and, most importantly, life. They include business owners, teachers, soldiers, musicians, writers, laborers, artists and barbers.”

Marcella Gauthier #12371, From Working to Wisdom: The Adventures and Dreams of Older Americans

Shifting Gears: One Family’s Journey to Find Simplicity and Purpose in a Changing World

Mimi Roberts • Publisher: Black Rose Writing 2015 • ISBN: 978-1612964690 • Paperback: \$18.95 • Kindle: \$6.99

Mimi Roberts is a fabulous writer who is funny, insightful and inspiring in spite of the sometimes difficult hand life has dealt her. She and her husband, Paul, were caught in the collapse of the real estate bubble in Florida. They had bought an old neighbor’s house to remodel and to sell. But then the bottom fell out of the market. This bad luck was followed by a near-fatal medical emergency for Paul that devastated them both

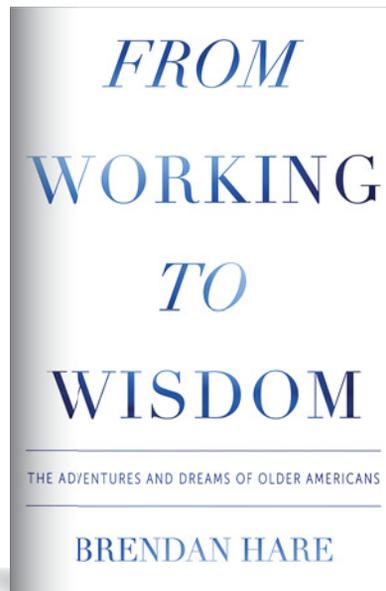


emotionally and financially. Owning a 1977 banana-yellow VW camper bus named Daisy, they decided to travel to find the meaning of life and its purpose. Taking their two children, Ana, in the second grade, and Max, in late elementary school, they set off on a three-month odyssey around the United States. Mimi talks about traveling on the cheap, sleeping at restaurants and stores. She ponders the fallacy of true home ownership. Her children blossom as they travel seeing various parts of the country, and she offers insights and experiences in family-building opportunities. One of her final comments was, “As for me, well, if I had to sum it up, I’d have to say that it’s easy to know what’s important in your life—it’s a lot harder to figure out what’s not. And that has made the world of difference in my life.” This book chronicles a wonderful adventure for the Roberts family. Sharing their experiences, joys and tribulations is a reading pleasure well worth the effort.

From Working to Wisdom: The Adventures and Dreams of Older Americans

Brendan Hare • Publisher: Joppa Flats Publishing 2015 • ISBN: 978-0996003407 • Paperback: \$16.95 Kindle: \$6.99

Unlike some societies, in this country the wisdom of elders is a valuable asset that is often unappreciated. Society’s young can profit from the life’s lessons learned if they will only listen. This book contains the stories of older Americans who have forged their unique paths in business, sports, education and, most importantly, life. They include business owners, teachers, soldiers, musicians, writers, laborers, artists and barbers. These



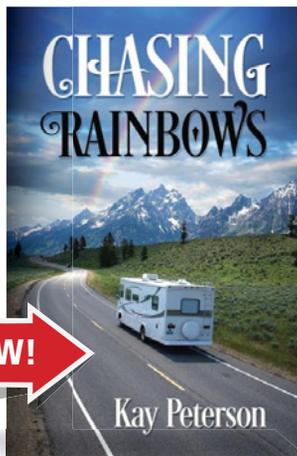
These first-person narratives describe the hopes and dreams of 46 men and women. Their stories are inspiring and often heart-warming. They describe the richness of life in later years, confirming the idea we are in charge of our own lives and attitudes. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, whose death occurred 150 years ago this April 15, “Most people are as happy as they make up their minds to be,” and “In the

end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” If anything, this book is about the experience of growing older and the joys and wisdom that come with the lessons of life. It’s a fascinating glimpse into the lives of these older Americans. 🐾



Escapeses RV Club Founder and Author

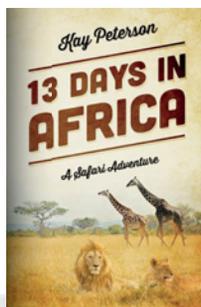
Kay Peterson



NEW!

Kay Peterson's latest book, *Chasing Rainbows*, is an uplifting collection of her favorite "Thoughts for the Road" *Escapeses* magazine columns, as well as new stories about the adventures that make life a precious gift. Each new experience, and each new person we meet, enriches our lives. These heartwarming stories will have you reflecting on your own experiences and your own quest for self-growth and understanding. You can purchase *Chasing Rainbows*, as well as other books and products, online at www.escapeses.com/store, or by calling 888-757-2582, for the special price of \$15.95, plus shipping and handling.

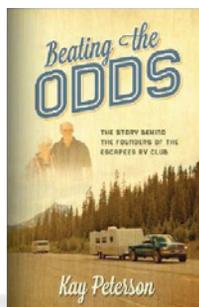
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“This radio not only warns us about weather events, it is also used for Amber alerts...”

Weight and Safety Tip

All-hazards Weather Radio

By Jim Koca #86367, Escapes RVers' Boot Camp Instructor

Perhaps you have heard Paul, Tom, Donna or Javier on the weather radio.

These are the voices that provide us with weather conditions, watches and, most importantly, warnings for the areas that we travel.

A weather radio should be as common in the RV as the factory-installed smoke detector. This service is provided 24 hours, seven days a week by the National Weather Service, and, as of January 2014, this service covered approximately 97 percent of the United States.

There are over 960 transmitters across the 50 states. They provide routine forecasts, hourly observations and the hazardous weather outlook for the coverage area. Before



a watch or a warning is issued, a tone will be transmitted to wake up the radio and alert you of an important message.

This radio not only warns us about weather events, it is also used for Amber alerts and post-event

information on natural or environmental hazards. These weather radios can be powered by batteries or 120VAC and are available through **Amazon.com** or most hardware stores throughout the country. With today's technology, CB radios, as well as some AM/FM radios, come equipped with weather radios. If you don't have an all-hazards weather radio in your RV, as a safety precaution, purchase one today. 🚚

First Alert AM/FM Weather Band Radio with Weather Alert. Photo courtesy of www.campingworld.com.

»» Weigh In!

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Different Viewpoints

RVers' Opinions and Advice from the Road

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- Because of the large volume of material, we may not acknowledge receipt of material. Submissions that are sent by e-mail can be directed to departmentseditor@escapees.com. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting.

Plowing Up Memories

Some would say that remembering is the same thing as memories. Well, at least I still remember that I have memories—memories of things distant and not so distant in the past. You know those things that plow up memories? Things like a smell, a word, a laugh or an expression? Do you write things down so you will be able to remember them? I do.

I used to be able to write my grocery list and even if I forgot it and left it on the table at home, I would remember almost everything on the list, everything except the one thing I needed to make that special dish for dinner. Then you make the decision to cook something else and make the first dish the next night. Except the next day you can't remember that you were going to stop at the grocery and pick up that one thing you needed, let alone the fact you were going to make that dish tonight. And so the remembering thing is a moot point. I find it is better to have the ingredients of several items on hand so I don't find myself in that situation.

Back to those plowed-up things I mentioned earlier. See, I remembered to remember them.

- **Smells.** A smell can sometimes smack you in the nasal passages of time. I remember the smell of rice with raisins cooking as I came down the stairs in the morning before school. It is a “comfort” smell today. Then there is the smell of the lilacs that bloomed every spring in the yard on the farm where I grew up. Oh, and now when I mention the farm—you know those smells that waft through the windows as you drive through the country? Well, some of those memories are not so good. But I can tell you the difference between cow smell and pig smell. That is a talent I can sure be proud of remembering.

- **The word “please.”** It was called the magic word. Please could get you a lot of things; just ask my kids. Or maybe you shouldn't, since I may have been a little too hard on them sometimes. But when I do hear that word coming from a child, I am reminded of those requests that were followed by a “peeze.” And I am reminded of those beautiful days when my children were young.
- **Laughter.** Oh, how I remember and love laughter. My dad had a wonderful smile and laugh. I see that smile and hear that laugh in my children. My husband has a ringtone for our grandson, Ryan, set on his phone that is a young child's laughter. It sounds like Ryan's baby laughter. I wish he would call more often so we could hear it.
- **An expression.** I remember the expression my father had when someone, probably me, did something bad. The expression was worse than punishment. Disappointment registered immediately and you wished you could crawl under a rock and hide. I don't remember any punishment I ever received, but I do remember that “look.”
If this little story has piqued your memory in any way, you'll find that memories are great to have, and remembering them is even better.

Carol Hopkins #89703

Continued >>>



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8. The best show you’ve seen in the past year was an RV show.
9. When your RV is in storage for the winter, you visit a different RV dealer every week to get your fix.
10. You had to repair 37 things on your new RV the first month you had it, and you still love it.
11. Your home-sweet-home has a steering wheel and gets really bad fuel mileage.
12. Your first cross-country trip with your new RV is a tour of RV repair shops.
13. You’re in your 60s and still living in the first home you purchased when you were 24, but you’re on your ninth RV.
14. Your RV is less than a year old, and you’re dreaming about the next one you’ll buy.
15. When some people you meet hear that you are an Escapee, they think you broke out of prison.

Terry Hager #48315

Terry Hager has been an avid RVer for 40 years and a full-time RVer for 18 years. Besides his passion for travel, he also has a passion for writing and has published numerous articles, many in *Escapees* magazine, and three books with Amazon, including one of RV humor.



Photo courtesy of www.rvta.org

RVing with Children: Safety First

Traveling with children can be both fun and challenging. It is fun to watch them experience first-time adventures, but challenging if you can’t keep them occupied while enroute or during an excursion fit for a 40-year-old.

Another factor when traveling with kids in an RV is their seat location. If the child is under 40 pounds, or if you are in, or traveling to, California, under the age of six or 80 pounds, your child must be in an approved car or booster seat. RVs may limit the location of that seat since you can’t place a seat in a side-facing or swivel seat. That means the safest place for the child may actually be in the front passenger seat if no other seats within the RV are fixed forward. Check the manufacturer’s recommendations if this situation applies. If your children are older, don’t fall into a false sense of safety from being in a recreation vehicle to think it is okay for the children (or adults) to run free and not be seat-belted in while the vehicle is in motion.

I think every parent has a story about distractions when traveling from sibling squabbles or sudden loud unexplained screams or other bodily functions that take us by surprise. Remember that driving your RV is not the same as your compact car, and sudden swerves or stops can be more dangerous to your family than the impending doom that you will administer to get the children to settle down.

If you are a grandparent and it has been a while since traveling with under-age tikes, take a few minutes before leaving to ensure you have child-proofed your cabin. You don’t need a three-year-old to find that a spray bottle of glass cleaner or another eye-stinging substance can be “fun” for a time to kill the road boredom. Take some precautions so you don’t have to locate an out-of-town medical provider.

Along these lines, stow away in a safe location your children’s current shot records and medical information with your health insurance card and a list of any allergies or other conditions that would be helpful if medical attention is required. The same is true for your pets. A small



functional first-aid kit is appropriate. You don't need most items in a commercial kit. Some large Band-aids, anti-itch cream, eye wash, scissors, bandage tape and a handful of triangular bandages will address most situations.

RV sites are usually safe, but the adventurous types may wander off or decide to experience the cliff diving techniques into the quarry next door if left to their own reasoning. Don't leave children unattended or unsupervised, and have some ground rules established before letting them leave the nest at camp such as how to communicate with you (does the cell phone work?) or reporting in periodically or what to do or where to go if they get lost or directionally challenged.

A few preplanned decisions will keep everyone safe.

Randy DeVaul, Guest Contributor

Randy DeVaul is a published writer and author with more than 35 years in safety and emergency response services. He has authored three performance-based safety books and is now writing *Safe At Home: Protecting You and Yours In and From Your Home*. His books are available on Amazon. Comments welcome at safetypro@roadrunner.com.

Viewfinder Corrections



Water Towers

In the March/April "Viewfinder" column, the "teapot" water tower located in Lindstrom, Minnesota, is actually a coffeepot. Lindstrom is a town with a Swedish/Scandinavian heritage of people who really like their coffee.

Steve Erickson #117489



No Parking

I got a kick out of the sign allowing "overnight parking, but no sleeping," in the January/February "Viewfinder" column. However, being a Lake Havasu City, Arizona, resident, the sign is not from Lake Havasu City since there is no casino within the city. The sign cites a Clark County ordinance, and Clark County is in Nevada. There is also a Riverside Casino (note the trash can) in Laughlin, Nevada.

Michael Slovek #118110

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Robert and Tina Davis—Native Texans from Two Tiny Towns

Robert began life in the two-square-mile town of Agua Dulce, which means sweet (or fresh) water. There, 60 Mexicans defeated 27 men from the Republic of Texas in the 1836 Battle of Agua Dulce during the Texas Revolution. When Robert was 18, he left home to fight in World War II and afterwards “had a Beaumont, Texas, address for 50 years.”

“Most of my working life was spent in the oil field,” says Robert. “I was with Baker Oil Tools for more than 20 years until they made me a manager. But, since I didn’t want to be boss, I moved to TIW (Texas Iron Works) where I ran tools in wells and supervised tool operations.”

Tina is from Merkel, Texas (founded in 1880 and originally named Windmill Town), where the first school was held in a box car, which also served as a post office, church, telegraph station and railway station while the Texas and Pacific Railway was being constructed.

“I became a nurse,” says Tina, “working in post-and pre-op surgery in the days before kidney or heart machines, dialysis or chemo. We had to figure it out ourselves by looking at

film.” In 1995 she quit and moved to Austin for a while before coming to Livingston and buying a house.

Robert and Tina met at the Livingston Walmart. He was looking for a woman with a house. She was looking for a chauffeur. They were married in November 2007. “I had to wait ’til I was old to finally have a church wedding,” says Tina.



“After the wedding, we lived in Tina’s house,” says Robert. “Then we got an ERPU (Escapees Rainbow Parks Unlimited) lot and a fifth-wheel, traveled to all 50 states, cruised to Alaska and took a trip to Mexico. A couple of years ago, we switched to trips by car, and last year were headed to the Midwest until we got

to Kentucky and realized we were tired.” They drove back to Rainbow’s End, gave up the ERPU lot, sold the fifth-wheel, bought a pull trailer, had it delivered to CARE and moved in.

“I like CARE,” says Tina with a big smile. “We eat all our meals in the CARE dining room and someone else cleans the rig, changes the bed and takes care of the sheets and towels.” Robert likes having others take care of dumping, switching propane tanks and site maintenance. “If something goes wrong with anything, there’s someone to help,” he says. “One morning, after we overslept and missed breakfast, someone called to make sure we were okay.” They both like the ease with which they can get to the Texas Medical Center in Houston, where they go regularly for Tina’s checkups following surgery for glaucoma at Methodist Hospital.

“We’re here for the duration,” says Tina. “These people are friendlier and more helpful than anyplace else in the world!”

Article and photo by
Anita Hickman #41291

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Temporary Solutions for

DENTAL EMERGENCIES

By Ronald Dingee DMD, MPH #59338

When I plan for a long trip, I spend several days getting ready. I have the oil changed, check the air pressure in the tires, check fluid levels, stock up on food and water, make certain I have my favorite tools and restock spare parts. I even go so far as to make certain that my insurance policies are up-to-date and call my credit card company to let them know that I will be on the road. The last thing I want is to be out in the middle of nowhere with an unexpected emergency that could have been prevented with a little pre-planning. But, in spite of all of the pre-planning, medical emergencies can arise. One such medical emergency rarely written about is a dental emergency.

“...in spite of all of the pre-planning, medical emergencies can arise. One...rarely written about is a dental emergency.”

Last spring, my wife and I were on our way from Southern California to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We were in Flagstaff, Arizona, when at 1:30 in the morning I woke up with a nagging toothache. At first it was just an ache, but it got worse. I took a couple of Advil and applied a cold compress that helped, but only a little.

Being a retired dentist, I had a good idea what was causing the problem. We discussed the options: we could go back home, wait out the night and hope to find a dentist open on Saturday morning in Flagstaff, or drive to a larger city where the chances would be better that I would find a dentist. We decided to drive the rest of the night to the first big city we could find.

Continued >>>

We arrived about mid-morning, and using my smartphone, called a few medical clinics, but none were open. I then went to a Walmart pharmacy and begged for a few antibiotics, but although the pharmacist was sympathetic, she wouldn't give me anything. However, she did suggest that I go see her dentist, just around the corner, who she thought would be open. With thanks, I set out hoping that her dentist would be open and have the time to see me.

The dentist could not have been nicer. After a short wait, I was given a seat in the treatment room, where an x-ray was taken. A few minutes later, the dentist came back and told me that I had an abscessed lower molar, which I already had suspected. By then, however, the whole side of my face was on fire and I was unable to make heads or tails of what was causing my problem. She gave me a prescription for a good strong antibiotic, which I filled back at Walmart. A couple of hours later, I was feeling better and we continued our trip to Pittsburgh, where I had a root canal treatment and a cast crown made.

This experience got me to thinking about the folks who have unexpected dental emergencies on the road but don't have the background that I have to get relief. While some dental emergencies can be life threatening, many can be painful or only annoying inconveniences, like a lost filling or a denture sore spot.

“While I caution anyone from treating themselves, sometimes **extraordinary circumstances** require extraordinary actions.”



DENTURES

Lost Denture Tooth

This may only be an embarrassing situation if the lost tooth is a front one. If you've completely lost the tooth, you are out of luck, but if you have the tooth, you have a chance of putting it back in place. First, gently clean out any old glue, then re-insert the tooth in the denture. If it goes in nicely, try using some of the tips covered in the “Lost Crown or Bridge” portion of this article on page 70, to hold the tooth in place such as denture adhesive, chewing gum or a product at the pharmacy. You can use a tiny drop of glue to temporarily hold the tooth in place, but you don't want to make the permanent replacement by the dentist a bigger job than necessary.

Denture Sore Spots

A sore spot from an ill-fitting denture or partial can be painful. Often, it is difficult to find the offending area. Sore spots can develop unexpectedly when there is a change in the underlying bone or surrounding teeth. Again, I caution you if you are treating yourself, but if you can see the sore spot and the responsible area on the denture, use a nail file, emery board or sand paper to gently and slightly remove the offending area of the denture. Rinse your mouth regularly with warm salt water to help heal the ulcer that was formed.



If the sore area cannot be clearly seen, go to the pharmacy and buy a small bottle of gentian violet. Dip the tip of a toothpick into the gentian violet. Apply a small drop of the violet stain onto the sore spot, then insert your denture. The stain will leave a mark on the denture. Again, gently remove a small area from the denture.

If you have a history of getting sore spots, before you leave on your trip, go to your dentist and purchase a supply of Thompson's Sore Spot Indicator Sticks.



These look like wooden match sticks with gentian violet on the tips. As for the ulcer that has yet to heal, there are several medications at the pharmacy. Most contain 20 percent benzocaine in liquid or ointment form. Rinse with warm salt water to accelerate healing.

Broken Dentures

The lower denture is the most common denture break and the most difficult to self-repair. However, depending on where your denture is broken, there are products at the pharmacy to make a temporary repair. You will need to be careful. The most important thing is if you can put the two broken pieces together with confidence. If the pieces go together nice and square, you have half a chance, but if the two pieces flop all over, don't risk it.

TOOTH ABSCESS

One cause for a tooth abscess is an infection inside the tooth resulting in the death of the nerve. The inside of a tooth is hollow and filled with an artery, vein and a nerve. When this area becomes infected, the body responds by sending its healing resources to the area, but the area is a confined space, which then causes pressure. Ultimately, the tooth dies, pus forms and, if not treated, can become a cyst. While antibiotics can provide relief, the ultimate treatment is either an extraction or a root canal treatment. Dental abscesses can be life threatening and should not be ignored.

A root canal treatment, contrary to popular belief, is usually painless and gets a bad rap because it is the abscess that causes the pain, not the treatment. The root canal treatment involves making an opening into the canal, cleaning out the dead and infected material inside and filling the canal down

“If you have a dental abscess and are on the road far from home...search out any source where you can get a prescription for an antibiotic and pain medication.”

to the bottom of the root. Some teeth have only one large canal while others may have three or four small canals.

If you have a dental abscess and are on the road far from home and can't find a dentist, search out any source where you can get a prescription for an antibiotic and pain medication. This can be an emergency medical clinic, a clinic associated with a pharmacy, a physician's office or a hospital emergency room. Hopefully, you can get on your way again until you can find a dentist. With all due respect to the many dentists who do root canal treatments in their general practices, I suggest that you seek out a specialist called an endodontist. Their services

can be more expensive, but they have equipment and experience that most general dentists do not.

GUM ABSCESS

There's another kind of abscess, and that is a gum abscess. A gum abscess is different from a tooth abscess and is often caused by having something stuck between the gum and tooth or between the teeth. The result is a painful swelling. While I caution anyone from treating themselves, sometimes extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary actions. The first thing to do is try to remove whatever is

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stuck using floss, a small brush or the rubber tip found on the end of some toothbrushes. Take a length of floss and tie several knots in the middle. Insert the floss between the teeth and run the knots back and forth. If that doesn't work, there are many kinds of tiny brushes at most pharmacies that can do the job, all the while rinsing with warm, salt water. Sometimes pressing the swelling with your finger and "milking" the area can help. One thing I wouldn't do is to apply an aspirin directly on the gum area. Aspirin is an acid and can cause a nasty burn.

LOST FILLING OR BROKEN TOOTH

Sometimes a lost filling or a broken tooth is only an inconvenience, but at other times it can be an excruciating experience. Again, if possible, seek out a dentist. While it seems simple, self-treatment can cause a lot of trouble beyond just a lost filling.

"If you've lost a crown from a back tooth, you can live with it until the crown can be re-cemented by a dentist. If it is a front tooth, that's a different story."

Losing a whole filling, a piece of filling or chipping a piece of tooth can leave you with a toothache and/or a sharp edge. Sometimes balling up some warm, moist cotton and applying it into the hole can give relief. Or, applying gum or wax over the area will give temporary relief. If that doesn't work, try using a fingernail file to carefully and gently file off the sharp corner. Don't take off more than you have to, just enough to get by.

If you have a lot of pain, there are temporary filling materials at the pharmacy. The clove-flavored material comes in the form of a medicated putty that will harden. Using the small applicator, apply to the

area and gently bite down. Clean off any excess. At my local pharmacy, I found three different such products. Again, I caution you to be careful and to seek a dentist first, and only as a last resort treat yourself. Read the directions carefully.

LOST CROWN OR BRIDGE

Losing a crown (or cap) can result in pain or an inconvenience. If you've lost a crown from a back tooth, you can live with it until the crown can be re-cemented by a dentist. If it is a front tooth, that's a different story. Again, I caution you about self-treatment, but if you have pain and are in the middle of nowhere, you have few choices. Self-treatment can result in a more serious problem than the one you are starting with, so it is advisable to use good common sense. Here are suggestions for temporary relief, depending on the situation.

First, pick out as much old cement (dental glue) as you can from inside

the crown. Then, try to put the crown onto the tooth to make certain it will fit back in place. Bite down gently. Can you close all your teeth together like you used to? Remove the crown and try putting a dab of denture adhesive into the crown and re-insert. Another idea is to insert a small piece of soft chewing gum into the crown and inserting. The biggest problem is getting something in the crown that will not

permit the crown to go all the way down, making it impossible to close your teeth together. If these ideas don't work, there are some products in the pharmacy that can temporarily hold the crown in place until you can get to a dentist. One caution: If the crown cannot be securely re-inserted, there is a risk of swallowing the crown or, worse, aspirating it into the lung.

COLD SORES

Cold sores are a herpes virus infection, and there are several medications at the pharmacy to alleviate the pain and suffering. If you are one of those persons who often get cold sores, you might consider getting a chicken pox vaccination. Most of the time, the virus must run its course, and medications only help to alleviate the discomfort. Here's a tip: Don't laugh, at the beginning of the onset of a cold sore, when you feel the area getting hot or itchy, applying a dab of Preparation H cream. This may prevent the cold sore from becoming full blown.

MOUTH ULCERS

Mouth ulcers can occur for several reasons. Rinsing with warm salt water can help the healing process, and pharmacies have several remedies. Usually they, too, have to run their course.

Regardless of the dental issue, your first thought must be to find a dentist as soon as possible. But, being RVers, we sometimes find ourselves in situations where a dentist is not readily available, and we must fend for ourselves. Always remember that self-treatment can be more complicated and dangerous than the emergency, so attempt these suggestions only when absolutely necessary. 🐘



Ron Dingee, DMD, MPH, practiced dentistry in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, for almost 25 years. In 1991, he and his wife, Evelyn, moved to Bangkok, Thailand, to co-manage the Bangkok Christian Guest House for four years. Ron and Evelyn now divide their time between western Pennsylvania and the Jojoba Hills SKP Resort in Southern California. Visit rondingee.com for information on Ron's two books, *Missionary Memories* and *Nanna (or How to Eat an Elephant)*.

The Connection of General Health and

ORAL HYGIENE

By Karen Minard #64779

It is important to understand how the health of our mouth and teeth significantly affect our life and health, including our heart. Science has proven that poor oral hygiene can cause an inflammatory response in the body. This can contribute to heart attack and stroke, infection in the lungs (pneumonia), kidney infection (pyelonephritis), brain abscess and oral bone loss and infection, just to name a few potentially debilitating or deadly illnesses.

These problems can be prevented by doing what we were taught as children: brush our teeth, gums and tongue twice a day, floss and see a dentist at least once a year. Even if we have a bridge or dentures, it is still important to clean them as well as our mouth. This simple process can save us loss in comfort, health and wallet size.

There is way more to the tooth than what you see in the mirror. There are nine parts and three sections to each tooth. The gums, other connective tissue and the jawbones hold the teeth firmly in place. Oral problems with the teeth or gums can be treated early by a dentist to help prevent further problems and disease.

Adverse conditions of the teeth are that they can wear down, crack or break and decay. Gums may recede and become inflamed, causing gingivitis. This is due to unremoved plaque, a deposit of food particles, mucus and bacteria that are not removed adequately with brushing at the base of the tooth at and under the gum line. Untreated gingivitis can lead to periodontitis, which is an infection



of the connective tissue that supports the teeth to the gum and bone. These untreated conditions can lead to gum, tooth or bone abscess and tooth death, all of which cause throbbing pain, facial swelling, bad breath and purulent drainage. The infection can spread through the body, affecting our general health and other organs, including the heart.

Along with your personal oral care, your dentist will provide an examination, x-rays, plaque removal and cleaning and polishing to protect the health of the mouth. Not caring for our teeth and gums leads to extensive and expensive avoidable procedures.

Dentists recommend replacing your toothbrush every three months, and it should have soft bristles. Brushing should include teeth, gums, tongue and cheeks. Any mouthwash is basically useless within 15 minutes because oral bacteria are always present and growing.

Well, as for me, I'm off to buy a fresh toothbrush. I hope this article finds you all giving away a beautiful free gift: your happy smile. 🐾

Karen lives full-time in her motorhome. She has been in nursing since 1969, with eight years as a RN travel contract nurse. Her areas of specialty are emergency room and telemetry. Portions of Karen's articles may have been published in other newsletters and publications. Nothing written is meant to diagnose, prescribe or take the place of seeing a physician, and her articles are not meant to cover all available information or health care options.





Washington's Scenic Summer Discovery

THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

By Pete Granger #76529

Have you ever wished that you could spend your summers in a place where air conditioners are rarely needed, the range of activities is limited only by your energy and ability and pleasing scenery abounds? If so, you should discover the Olympic Peninsula, a land of mountains and rivers, trees and ferns and a lot of friendly people.



Tatoosh Island, just off Cape Flattery.
Photo by Pete Granger #76529.

The area has the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the north and the Hood Canal complex of waterways to the east. The rugged Olympic Mountain range forms the spine of this wonderful land. The mountains are so steep and complex that no highway has been built to cross them. US Highway 101 actually circles the entire peninsula.

Pacific Coast Side

Due to the prevailing westerlies, the Pacific Coast side of the peninsula measures its rainfall in hundreds of inches, but the mountains provide what we call a “rain shadow” for the area to the east of those peaks, so rain there is minimal, more on the order of 18 inches annually. Summers are mostly warm, dry and pleasant with cool evenings.

Drive up the Hoh River to the end of the road and walk into the rain forest, where you will discover old-growth forest festooned with mosses. Nurse logs, a downed tree that has trees growing out of its rotting trunk, are plentiful. You’ll want to visit Salt Creek County Park, where water-and-electric campsites look out over the Straits of Juan de Fuca with all of its shipping. Then, take a drive to the Cape Flattery trailhead, then do a short, easy hike to the farthest northwest corner of the country while enjoying fantastic scenery. View the Olympic Mountain Range from high up on Hurricane Ridge. Fishing and boating opportunities are almost everywhere, and you have a choice of fresh or salt water. Low-tide clam digging is possible (ask the locals for a hot location), but be sure you have the appropriate license. Hiking and bicycling trails are commonly available. Whale watching, R/C model flying, beach walking and tide pool exploring are all there for your pleasure.

Port Townsend

Port Townsend is a travel destination on its own. It likes to refer to itself as a Victorian seaport, and it truly is. There is a walking tour, conducted by Victorian-costumed members of the historical society, of “uptown” with its many Victorian homes, including

some that are now bed-and-breakfasts. However, it is the downtown waterfront area that has the juiciest history with most of the buildings dating back to the late 1800s.

The Belmont Hotel is a great place to dine during your exploration (try the hot crab sandwich). If the weather is right, you can eat on the waterfront deck. Touring downtown is not without its hazards with its numerous shops of both local goods as well as tourist bait. Be sure to wander through the Northwest Wooden Boat Center. See visitjeffersoncountywa/port-townsend.com for area information.

Fort Worden State Park

Fort Worden State Park is a 434-acre multi-use park with over two miles of saltwater shoreline, two campgrounds and a wide variety of services and facilities. Over 100 buildings from the early 1900s remain on the fort, which houses four museums (be sure to visit the Coast Artillery Museum), a gift shop, theater, various businesses and provides convention center facilities. The 80 campsites are generous in size, and most are level. The upper campground, in a forested area, includes water, electricity and a dump station nearby. It has easy access to over six-and-a-half miles of trails up to Artillery Hill where you can see the Straits of Juan de Fuca from the massive concrete gun emplacements built into the bluff. The beach campground is tucked between the bluffs and the beaches of Point Wilson and it

Continued >>>

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ranging from symphonic presentations to the Sequim Lavender Festival to the end-of-season craziness of the Kinetic Skulpture Race. The Wooden Boat Festival will dazzle you with craftsmanship that is a rare find these days. There are fishing derbies and logger contests, weekly farmers' markets, a jazz festival and much more.

Evergreen COHO SKP Co-Op

If you are looking for a place to call home while enjoying your summer, the Evergreen COHO SKP Co-Op park in Chimacum is the perfect fit. It is a beautiful park and the "rain shadow" is in effect for the park, so rain is rare, especially in the summer. The park location lends itself to exploration of the east and north parts of the peninsula, and you can now make reservations. See evergreencohoskprvpark.com for more information.

Major shopping is available about 40 minutes away across the Hood Canal floating bridge in Silverdale. Be sure to take advantage of the King's Wok Buffet while you are in Silverdale; you won't be sorry.

Explorations on the peninsula's west side can entail a long drive from Evergreen COHO, but there are ample camping venues available: Salt Creek County Park, La Push and Kalaloch are attractive choices as are the various Olympic National Park campgrounds. The Lodge at Kalaloch has an excellent restaurant as an added bonus. The summer season is a busy time for our area, so it is wise to call ahead for site availability.

Evergreen COHO SKP Co-Op Park is a friendly place, and we're eager to enhance your explorations. If our welcome team can't help you, we know someone who can. 🏠

Read more about this area on pages 77-79.

"If you are looking for a place to call home while enjoying your summer, the Evergreen COHO SKP Co-Op park in Chimacum is the perfect fit."

provides full-service hookup sites and new rest rooms with showers. I highly recommend making reservations.

Victoria, Canada

Pack an overnight bag and take the Black Ball Ferry from Port Angeles to Victoria, Canada, on Vancouver Island. Overnight parking is available for a reasonable price about a block from the Port Angeles ferry terminal. Enjoy high tea at the Empress Hotel right on the waterfront, catch a bus to Butchart Gardens and absorb the wonderful floral and plant presentations. Plan to spend the night at accommodations close to the ferry landing.

When you're ready for a good meal, the area can meet your every desire from an elegant dinner in Manressa Castle (Port Townsend) to a mondo burger at the Valley Tavern in Port Hadlock. High quality seafood is commonly

available, and the local Elks Club provides excellent seafood on Thursday nights with enthusiastic Escapees participation.

If you like Mexican food, Pedro's produces delicious Mexican-style seafood dishes.

You can monitor local air traffic from the deck of the Spruce Goose Café (Jefferson County Airport), or watch the ferries and waterfront action while dining at the Bayview in Port Townsend.

Seasonal Events

May through October provides almost continuous special events



Pete Granger is a retired engineering manager, and he and his wife, Marg, are full-time RVers in their 38-foot Monaco. They are leaseholders at the Evergreen COHO SKP Co-Op Park. For many years Pete has edited and e-published the *TALE SPINNER*, a newsletter for his RC model club, that is distributed monthly to about 100 people across the U.S. and Canada.

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In this section, you will find exclusive RV safety-related information and articles with topics such as driving, weight and load management, RV tires, personal safety, maintenance, RV recalls and gadgets and tools. Also included is a selection of the best technical article reprints from *Escapees* magazine, video training seminars, demonstrations on many aspects of RV safety and links to RV safety Websites and additional training opportunities.

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SKP Stops

Sharing News from the Road

SKP Stops Information

- **Deadline:** Material for each issue will be selected based on location and the migration of seasonal travel.
- **Words:** Short stories of 300 to 500 words are ideal. Submissions that are illegible, inappropriate or considered advertisements may be excluded. Due to limited space, submissions will be edited.
- **Photos:** Photos are accepted and included on a space-available basis. Include the name of anyone who may appear in a photo and also the name of the photographer.
- **Acknowledgement:** The editorial department may not acknowledge receipt of submissions. Submissions may not qualify for payment.

Guidelines and Helpful Hints

- Keep your submissions positive, upbeat and short.
- Include fun or interesting photos with a brief description.
- Share your favorite RV travel destinations, restaurants, museums, off-the-beaten-path locations or unique places to visit.
- Keep in mind that the next magazine issue will mail two months from the time of your writing. Identify time-sensitive material.

Send submissions to *Escapees* Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351, or to editor@escapees.com. Article submission guidelines are available for downloading online at: www.escapees.com/knowledge/escapees-magazine/tips-submissions.

Harriman State Park and Railroad Ranch

3489 Green Canyon Rd, Island Park, ID 83429

208-558-7368 • parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

A sunny day enhances a visit to Idaho's Harriman State Park, close to Island Park on U.S. Highway 20. The Railroad Ranch, which makes up the 15,000-acre park, was once a summer retreat for shareholders and their families and friends associated with the Oregon Short Line Railroad. This railroad was the first to carry passengers from Ashton, Idaho, to West Yellowstone, Montana. In fact, West Yellowstone became a destination about 1907 when the train began depositing visitors at the west gate to Yellowstone National Park. Many of the old houses, cabins and ranch buildings are standing and open for tours during the summer months. Yet, the ambiance of the historic ranch in any month creates the peace and serenity that summer visitors must have enjoyed back in the 1920s.

The Railroad Ranch began in 1902 with the formation of the Island Park Land and Cattle Company, and the ranch spanned 75 years of operations until its official transfer to public ownership. An impressive piece of land, its natural history dates back over 600,000 years. The ranch lies on the floor of Idaho's ancient Island Park caldera that formed when a massive volcano collapsed, leaving a wide crater-like surface. Over the years, the Henry's Fork of the Snake River carved its course across the caldera floor, creating a rich riparian habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. Today, horses grazing in deep grass can be viewed from the lawns and sidewalks of historic cabins and buildings.

For hundreds of years, Native Americans used the area as seasonal hunting, fishing and gathering grounds. In the early 1800s, white explorers and trappers entered the region and exploited beaver and other fur-bearing animals. Homesteading started in the late 1800s, but few could withstand the harsh winters. Swiss homesteaders collectively sold their lands and ranch buildings to wealthy eastern investors. These properties eventually became Railroad Ranch, a decades-old landmark in Island Park. Edward

Harriman, chairman of the Union Pacific Railroad, was not an original investor. In 1908, he purchased one of the five shares and one cabin in an arrangement with a business owner. Mr. Harriman died the following year, never setting foot on the ranch. Two years later, his wife, Mary, traveled with their three youngest children, Carol, Averell and Roland, for a visit that turned into an annual summer holiday.

The Harriman family and their friends spent weeks on the land each summer. As adults, Roland Harriman and his wife, Gladys, continued the tradition and spent at least six weeks of every summer at the peaceful ranch. Friends who traveled with them, called "dudes," were housed in rustic houses overlooking the Henry's Fork. Their horses and carriages were kept in the "dude barn," separate from the barns used for ranch operations. The name carries over to lodgings today available to the public. The Harrimans eventually bought all shares to the property.

A working ranch in the days of Eastern visitors, summers were busy with fence mending, building repairs, tending of livestock and hay and irrigation work. The fall cattle roundup and drive was an annual social event for the area, with volunteer riders traveling a distance to participate. After summer guests departed, the number of ranch hands diminished. Their primary winter jobs were snow removal from the roofs, feeding the remaining stock and cutting blocks



The Harriman Wildlife Refuge.
Photo by Arline Chandler.



Rail Road Ranch, Harriman State Park.
Photo by Arline Chandler.

of ice from Silver Lake to store for summer use. Winters in Island Park were, and still are, severe with six to 10 feet of snow accumulating and staying over a seven-month period.

Making a profit was not the major concern in managing the Railroad Ranch. Managers spent time preserving the prime wildlife habitat and well-built ranch cabins and barns. Consideration for wildlife was the primary reason for the Harriman family's decision to donate the ranch to the State of Idaho. Roland Harriman set the transfer process in motion in 1955, and in 1961, Idaho's governor signed the historic agreement which led to public ownership and responsibility for the Railroad Ranch and its natural resources. Originally, the transfer was to take place after all the Harriman shareholders were deceased. However, as the three children grew older, they decided to transfer the 15,000 acres of ranch property to the state prior to their deaths. On April 1, 1977, the Railroad Ranch became Harriman State Park of Idaho.

Beyond the stillness of the historic neighborhood, a trail past the old barns leads through the woods to Silver Lake. The Harriman Wildlife Refuge, a part of the park, provides a safe haven for Idaho wildlife, including moose, elk, deer and numerous species of birds. Squirring squirrels racing in circles around tree trunks and a flock of pelicans floating on the lake provide typical photo opportunities. Along a narrow trail through the wildlife refuge, wind in the aspens rustles like tissue paper.

Although Harriman State Park offers no camping facilities, the historic park is a perfect day trip for RVers who travel through the area. Overnight accommodations for large and small groups are available in the restored historic buildings and in trailside yurts. Rest rooms, picnic tables in a natural forest setting and 20 miles of trails wind through both forest and meadows. The trails are available for mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking and Nordic skiing. Guided horseback tours are available during the summer and fall months.

Arline Chandler, Guest Contributor

Treasures of Western Washington

Sometimes heading to the "far corners" can provide unique views unseen anywhere else, and Western Washington state proves that concept. This area has a unique variety of micro climates that create some amazing natural wonders, a rich history and exciting activities.

Both my husband, Dennis, and I were born and raised in Washington's Puget Sound area and spent our vacations enjoying Pacific Northwest parks in trailers, campers and vans. But we had itchy feet to see the country, so when we retired, we headed out in our 34-foot Winnebago. Yet after traveling across the U.S. and enjoying numerous sights, we realized that, for the highest variation of natural and cultural wonders packed in a single tight geographic area, it's hard to beat our own backyard.

• Cruising Puget Sound

Washington State's ferries are an integral part of our Western state's transportation system. But it is also a fun picture-taking way to see the Puget Sound islands, Seattle's skyline and waterfront and the only way to get to the San Juan Islands. (Note: The fares for taking large rigs can be costly and may not be the best choice if you are just getting from here to there.) Use your tow vehicle for any of several day-trip routes, with cameras in hand. Or, one of our favorite methods is to park your vehicle at either the Winslow or Bremerton ferry dock, walk on the ferry to Seattle, explore the recently updated waterfront on foot and ride the ferry back. If you come back just before sunset, you'll get some great pictures. www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/visitorscenter

• Deception Pass State Park

This is Washington State's most used park and for good reason. It offers spectacular views, a marvelous beach and an inner lagoon for swimming. It is a waypoint for migratory birds as well. It is on Whidbey Island, with a ferry on one end and Deception Pass Bridge on the other, which flanks one of the state's most treacherous waterways for

Continued >>>



boaters. You'll need reservations to camp there, but it is worth planning ahead to stay at this outstanding natural setting. www.stateparks.com/deception_pass.html

• **Mt. Rainier**

Practically the state's logo, you must see Mt. Rainier up close instead of in the distance on picture postcards. It includes five areas developed for visitors, including campgrounds, so check out the National Park Service's information and plan to visit this volcanic peak yourself.

www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/index.htm

• **Mt. St. Helens**

Who doesn't want to see the mountain that blew its top off 35 years ago? From I-5, head for the Mt. St. Helens Forest Learning Center (a few miles from the mountain) for great information, and then head for the Johnston Ridge Visitor Center. There're views all along the way of the changes caused by this cataclysmic event, and, at the center, have a look into the heart of the resulting crater.

www.mountsthelens.com/visitorcenters.html

• **Forks Timber Museum**

The logging town of Forks (the town used for Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* sagas) has a Timber Museum built by the town's high school carpentry students in 1990. The museum has displays of equipment and artifacts dating back to

the 1870s. However, we suggest you call and sign up for a timber tour (summers only). You'll have a great tour of the surrounding forest, see logging activities in progress and view old-growth trees you won't see any other way. The address is 1421 S. Forks Ave. Phone: 360-374-9663.

• **Mora Campground and Rialto Beach**

Great beach towns and campgrounds await RVers along Washington's entire Pacific Ocean coastline, but our favorite is Mora Campground surrounded by towering trees, lush undergrowth and the music of the Pacific Ocean surf. This national park has 94 campsites and is about three miles from Rialto Beach where rocky beaches, giant drift logs, pounding waves and views of offshore islands known as "seastacks" are photographic wonders. It has the most amazing surf-flattened rocks of all sizes. (Warning: you'll come back with a pocket full!) www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/visiting-mora-and-rialto.htm

• **Lake Ozette and Cape Flattery**

Lake Ozette is another birder's paradise, and it's great for easy canoeing. From there you'll find both short and long trails, like the hike to Cape Flattery, which sits high above the Pacific Surf. It offers a stunning view at the farthest northwest tip in the contiguous U.S. states.

www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/visiting-ozette.htm



Rialto Beach.
Photo by Sandra Haven #103699.



Deception Pass.
Photo by Sandra Haven #103699.

• **Rain Forests**

The Hoh Rain Forest in the heart of the Olympic National Park is home to Sitka spruce and Western hemlock up to 300 feet tall, while moss-laden fallen logs create “nurse logs” for young saplings. The Quinault Rain Forest, a bit farther south, is equally impressive, and both have interpretive trails. Be sure to bring a jacket with a hood! Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center: 360-374-6925.

www.nps.gov/olymp/planyourvisit/visiting-the-hoh.htm, **Quinault Rain Forest:** www.quinaulttrainforest.com

• **Evergreen COHO SKP Park**

Twenty-five years ago, the founding members of the Evergreen COHO SKP Park also recognized this area’s special features when they created a co-op park in Chimacum, Washington. Some members already lived in Washington, and many of them were frequent travelers to this Northwest state, escaping the hot and humid Southern parks in the summer for our breathable and temperate marine climate.

So chart your course for a destination trip to the country’s northwest corner, and plan to visit Evergreen COHO SKP Park. My husband, Dennis, and I look forward to greeting you and providing you with any additional information you need to make this area the perfect destination spot for your RV trip.

Other resources for more specific information on these travel treasures:

• **Washington State Parks**

There is an annual \$30 Discover Pass required for all state parks in Washington, a real bargain.

www.discoverpass.wa.gov

• The National Park Service operates 16 campgrounds in the Olympic National Forest, with over 900 campsites. Check length restrictions as you make your plans.

www.nps.gov/olymp/index.htm

• For information on Evergreen COHO SKP Park, visit www.evergreencohoskprvpark.com.

Sandra Haven #103699



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Question: One of my dear friends and I had a falling out a few years ago and are no longer close. We are members of the same camping club, so we have contact regularly, but it is now cordial rather than close. What can I do to heal this relationship so that I can enjoy our friendship again?

Lost

The art to making amends and **REPAIRING A FRIENDSHIP**

By Diane Berry #102219

Dear Lost,

You are not alone in allowing a disagreement to come between you and a close friend. Many people find themselves in that situation without realizing until much later the damage it has done to their relationship. The good news is that there are ways to reverse this effect, if you are willing to do them.

Here is the plan:

Reach Out

Let her know you are interested in her company and your relationship. You can initially do this informally as you have regular contact through your camping group. Make it a point to seek her out for a brief conversation by the campfire at night. In the beginning, make polite small talk; ask about the weather, grandchildren, her

next destination, etc. You are basically renewing your contact with her. Then move on.

The Next Level

Once you feel comfortable speaking casually with her, it is time to move to the next level. Ask her to take a walk with you when you are both camping in the same location. Walk in a place you are unlikely to encounter others that you both know. During your walk,

bring up the disagreement. Do not get into the points you disagreed about, but rather simply reference the falling out. Tell her the friendship means more to you than your difference of opinion and that you would like to see more of her. Ask if she is willing to renew your friendship.

If She Refuses

In the event she refuses your request for a walk, either directly or by making an excuse (I don't have time this week, etc.), you may need to lay more groundwork before she is ready for the next step. Be patient. Continue reaching out to her casually and wait until

she gives you some sign she is willing to proceed further. She may do this by seeking you out at the campfire or asking you over for coffee or to go for a walk. She may need a little more time to get over her hurt feelings and/or to trust your good intentions.

If She is Not Interested

If she accompanies you for a walk but is not interested in continuing your friendship, you may need to take a step back and revisit the original conflict. Ask her if the disagreement means you cannot be friends. You may need to agree to disagree about the issue you argued about. Once you have decided that is an acceptable solution, she may be able to see that your friendship is important to her as well. It is important in these conversations to be patient and kind; remember that each of you moves through life at your own pace and you may have simply reached this stage ahead of her. She may catch up if you can respect her process as well.

Make Amends

If there is something you did in the previous conflict for which you owe her an apology, such as name calling or criticizing her or a loved one, for example, apologize and make amends to your friend. It is important to take responsibility for our actions in relationships. Only when this is done can you move beyond the conflict and renew your closeness.

Take Care of You

Repairing a relationship is hard work. While it is usually worth the effort in the end, while you are in the process of this work, it can be discouraging at times. Your self-esteem can take a hit. Be sure to take care of yourself by seeking support from others you know you can count on (other friends, your partner) for positive support. Be sure, also, to give yourself a pat on the back for the good work you are doing. You will likely be rewarded by a return to your previous close friendship.

If It Doesn't Work

If you've been patient and she has responded by walking and talking politely with you, but you can't seem to get back the closeness you once had with your friend, you may need to let it go. Some people have a hard time letting go of past hurts and you are probably not the first friend she has lost because of this issue. At this point, you can rest assured that you have done everything you can to try to keep her as a friend, but you may be better off putting your efforts into new relationships.

It is a good idea to try to repair a friendship after a falling out. You were drawn together for a reason; you

likely share a number of interests, including camping, and developed a closeness because of the time you spent together enjoying each other's company. If your friend is receptive to renewing the relationship, your efforts are rewarded.

If she is not, you can at least know you have done all that you can to preserve and maintain the relationship. The ability to take responsibility for our actions in a relationship, to make amends and to work to improve a friendship are qualities that make us an even better friend. No matter what happens, you can take pride in your efforts. You are a true friend. 🚐

Have a Question?

If you have a question about this article, or if you have a mental health issue you would like to see Diane cover in *Escapees* magazine, you can contact her by e-mail at diane@bluewaterspublications.com.



Diane is a therapist in private practice who works extensively with clients on stress management and relationship issues. She and her family are also avid RVers. Her articles are meant to provide information of a general nature and are not intended as specific psychological advice or to take the place of consulting with a health care professional.

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Viewfinder | Odd RV Mods

Trinket Traveler

Mark and Emily Fagan #9908 found this class C motorhome parked on Shelter Island in San Diego, California. Emily says, "The owner, named Salvador, told me he has been collecting these trinkets and gluing them to the side of his rig for years. It has to be one of the oddest RVs I have ever come across."

Photo by Mark Fagan #99408.



Shuttle Top

Carol Haines #60451 ran across this unusual RV in Hyder, Alaska, while at a bear viewing platform. She says, "The license plate was from Florida, perhaps the reason for the 'shuttle' on top."

Photo by Carol Haines #60451.



Double Decker

Carol V. Weishampel #80679 photographed this bus conversion with a second story and a back porch. She says, "The owners were enjoying the beach on the Homer Spit in Alaska."

Photo by Carol V. Weishampel #80679.



Cozy Beach Camper

Rheta Johnson #25294 sent us the photo of this cool little camper. She says, "The fellow who owns this trailer camps at the beach every summer."

Photo by Rheta Johnson #25294.



Volks-camper Combo

Paul Mayer #47799 found this Volkswagon and camper combo in Gallup, New Mexico.

Photo by Paul Mayer #47799.



"Wood" you look at that! This warm, cottage-like RV has been spotted by an Escapees member while visiting Bar Harbor, Maine, and Homer, Alaska.

Photo by Paul Mayer #47799.



Cat Condo

Jerry Laughridge #95654 shares this photo of his neighbor's RV modification. He says, "Their cat goes in and out at will through the window and into the cage that's mounted on the side."

Photo by Jerry Laughridge #95654.

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To submit photos for "Viewfinder," send unaltered digital photos as e-mail attachments to viewfinder@escapees.com. Include your name, Escapees membership number, a brief description of the photo and the name of the photographer, even if it is you who took the photo, with each submission. Only a few photos will be selected for each issue.

Ghost Town Decay (SO15)..... Due May 10
The eerie decaying remnants of the past can be beauty in the eye of the photographer. Share your picture of the past.

Snowman Sighting (ND15)..... Due July 10
The snowman comes in all shapes and sizes, and they are always a welcomed sight. Show a whimsical snowman you've made or run across.

Vintage Trailer (JF16) Due Sept. 10
RV in Bloom (MA16) Due Nov. 10
Roadside Nostalgia (MJ16)..... Due Jan. 10

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ESCAPEES Travel Guide

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Walnut Creek RV Park
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If you find a park that is not in the program and you think they would be a good candidate, please use the form in the back of the travel guide and help us sign them up! You may request additional forms from National, or simply drop us their business card and we will contact them directly.

Don't forget to keep your *Escapees Travel Guide* at hand as you travel. You will find map overviews and listings by state, but a quick phone call is always recommended to ensure availability. We think this is a great program, and you will, too, if you take advantage of the many discount opportunities offered in this book.

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- **Commercial classifieds:** \$20 per line, 5-line minimum, 5% discount for 6 issues or more.
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- **To send ad copy:** Mail typed submission and payment to *Escapees Magazine*, Attn: Classified Ads, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300, or send it with a credit card number to 936-327-4388 (fax) or e-mail advertising@escapees.com.
- **Copy deadlines:** (Subject to space availability)
J/F-Nov. 10 M/A-Jan. 10 M/J-March 10 J/A-May 10 S/O-July 10 N/D-Sept. 10

HOME BASE

Linda Stevens—Agent C21 AzWest North Ranch LindasellsAz@msn.com

- L-269** Lot w/RVHU +shed \$49,70
 - L-341** Ldskpd +Pavd+shed \$54,9
 - L-265** Prk+DeckViews \$67K
 - L-267** Prk+Furn \$63K
 - L-271** Prk+AZrm+\$85K
 - L-311** Ldscp+Shade \$48K
 - L-328** Prk+AzBeauty \$89K
 - L-295** Prk+BigDeckLdskp \$74,9
 - L-351** LgSmLot+Prk \$74,5
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 - LGL-6** Furn/1+2Dens \$142K
 - LgL-15** Shed+2RVHU \$80K
 - LgL-31** Perfect Hse+2Gar \$139,9
 - LgL-43** Mfg w/3car+Gar \$169K
 - LgL-20** GmeRm+Dn+2BA+RVHU \$234,7
 - LgL-40** 2+Car Gar+2HUs \$79,9
 - LgL-69** Casita 2HUs 1Br \$95K
 - LgL-84** Site Blt Hse+Gst Csta \$150K
 - LgL-85** SiteHome+3 RVHUs \$129,9
 - LgL-145** CasitaGar2HUs \$125K
 - LgL-165** Dbl+RVHU \$125K
 - LgL-185** SiteBlt/Shop/Gar/\$188K
 - LgL-188** Casita Ldskpd \$125K
- Linda Stevens, 928-232-9060, SKP30347**
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Alabama—Summerdale, Rainbow Plantation: Charming home for sale in the heart of the Gulf Coast. 2BR/2BA, open high ceiling in living room, sun room, laundry room, large storage shed with AC. Full RV hookup. Enjoy the friendly Escapees clubhouse and swimming pool. \$139K Call 917-922-2295, or lhall@cooganhall.com.

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Minneapolis Area RV Park: By the Mississippi River in private RV park with full HUs, pool, views. (1 mo min) www.mrarvpark.com

Texas—Livingston, Rainbow's End: 208 Peterson Loop. Neat and clean, 1BR/2BA home in nice, quiet and peaceful subdivision. Home has five ceiling fans. WD, refrigerator, stove, microwave, dining table and Sony TV included. Storage building and RV carport. Price dropped to \$85K to reflect outside work and landscaping. 828-676-4838, wildpines@aol.com.



Texas—Livingston, Rainbow's End: Two 1/3-acre joined parcels of wooded land with 1BR/1BA, 750-sq.-ft. house. One 10'x16' insulated outbuilding with A/C and workbench, one 8'x7'6" outbuilding with built-in shelves. Semi-circular drive with 2 full RV HUs. All furnishings, including new LR furniture, convey with house. Price reduced to \$69,750. For photos or more info, call 936-329-2448. alwayszelda@gmail.com

Washington—Pend Oreile River RV Lot Near Newport, WA at Skookum Rendezvous RV Resort: Double lot, 100'x110'. Clubhouse with indoor pool. 2-room utility shed, 24' x 30' garage, secondary river, nature pond in back yard. Price includes 2008 37' Montana 5th-wheel with 4 slides. Will sell lot separately. Asking \$135K. 951-663-8996, dfreeland37@yahoo.com.

RIGS FOR SALE

2001 Dutchstar: model 3852, 38 ft., 2 slides, 30,720 miles. New refrigerator in summer of 2014, new carpet in living room. Located in Iowa \$57k. 641-895-0806.

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Camp Host and/or Grounds Maintenance person needed: April to October. Mowing, watering and weeding. No janitorial. Location is Junction RV Park, Junction, UT. FHU (30/50 amp) and WiFi. Flexible hours with plenty of time off. Contact 800-576-9980 or rfarrar@pacbell.net. Park Web page: www.1horizon.net/rv

Caretakers Needed: We need caretakers in the fall and winter at Tynda's Nature Reserve, where caretakers are needed all year-round. Rural, but not isolated. 40 miles east of Eugene, Oregon, in the foothills of the Cascades. All summer and winter activities. Looking especially for those who want to spend the year. gailhaws@hotmail.com

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MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted: Dodge diesel Cummins 2000 to 2007 Ram 2500, extended cab, long bed, 6-speed manual preferred, open to automatic options, 4x4, exhaust brake, A/C, mileage computer and other bells and whistles. Paul Bates SKP 96665. 808-294-4012.

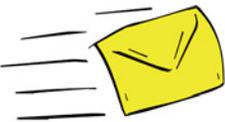
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4

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5

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Final Journeys

Farewell to our Escapees Friends

- The Escapees RV Club expresses sincere condolences to the families and friends of deceased members.
- We appreciate notification of the deceased by caring friends; however, please obtain permission from a spouse or family member before submitting a notice for publication.
- Send your Final Journeys notice to: **departmentseeditor@escapees.com** or mail to: *Escapees* magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, Texas 77351

Anderson, Larry V. #35966-March 7, 2015: (Carolyn, 3916 N Potsdam Ave., PMB #2794, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-7048) Larry loved to roll down the road and meet new friends, and his desire to travel never lessened. His health slowed us down this last year. His heart muscle was weakened due to a blood infection, and it just got to weak too function. I plan to continue to travel on a smaller scale. Roll on!

Duncan, Bettye S. #280-December 28, 2014: Bettye died unexpectedly while she was recuperating from a broken leg. She will be remembered for her gracious, quiet Southern charm. She and Jack (deceased seven months earlier) were charter members of The Resort SKP Co-Op in Florida, and they gave much of their time and labor in building and supporting it. They loved full-time RVing and also the Corps of Engineers lakes and parks. Jack was a Korean War veteran. They will be buried at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia. (Reported by Margie Bird #3692.)

George, Don #18486-January 25, 2015: Don and his wife, Ethel, who died several years ago, were Escapees for many years. They volunteered at Escapade and at the Escapees CARE center and were members of Chapter 25. They also traveled to many states, volunteered at state parks, traveled by RV in Europe and worked for an RV tour company for years. (Reported by Allen and Cathy Deyo #36749.)

Hill, Robert A. #57402-January 3, 2015: "Alaska Bob Hill" died on January 3, 2015, in Houston, Texas, with his family and loved ones by his side. He had suffered several years with COPD and its complications. Bob had been a full-time RVer since retiring in Alaska in 1998, and he enjoyed his lifestyle to the fullest. He was active in the single RV groups and enjoyed the many friends he had made while traveling on the road. (Reported by Bobbie Shiplett #82269.)

Huber (Gini), Virginia L. #2167-March 18, 2015: Gini was a former Escapees member and an original member of Park Sierra SKP Co-Op in Coarsegold, California. I was a neighbor and good friend of Gini. She has been in Valley Rehab Center for the past eight years, and I am one of the only people she recognized for the past six years. (Reported by James A. Adams #11350.)

Luedke, Audrey (Jim) #630-January 9, 2015: My mom asked that we pass her written message to you in the event of her death. She and my dad loved everything about the RV lifestyle, especially all the friends they made during their travels. She wrote, "I'm off to a new adventure, this time in heaven with my God and savior. This is my goodbye with a thank-you for the love from my family and friends. I will be greeting loved ones and dear old friends. I'll meet you at the gate when you arrive. Hug me in you heart, wish me Godspeed and happy journey and know that I take your love with me as I leave mine with you. I always did like to have the last word!" (Reported by daughter Marlene Gruehn.)

Maybee, Bob #63354-December 23, 2014: (Jan, 440 Entrance Drive, Apt #5, New Haven, IN 46774) Bob went home to be with the Lord after a quiet and heroic battle with bladder cancer. He died at home with his loving wife of 55 years and three daughters at his side. We lived full-time in our '98 Winnebago Adventurer for 13 years. It truly was an adventurous time, enjoying the advantages of Escapees membership. Volunteering at Escapees CARE was a highlight for Bob. He told many non-SKPs about CARE. The last three years of his life were in a senior apartment in Indiana. He loved his Lord and his family. He was especially proud of his nine great-grandchildren.

Medina, Thomas #16932-September 1, 2014: (Mickey, 1753 Cypress PT Glen, Escondido, CA 92026) Thomas enjoyed 25 years of traveling and meeting new people through Escapees RV Club.

Millen, Clive #32810-February 2015: (Jennifer, Ulladulla, N.S.W. Australia) Clive died from an auto accident. They were Escapees who traveled extensively in the US. They enjoyed their many adventures associated with Escapees. (Reported by Bill and Maxine Wiggins #20541.)

Mondike, Roy #38954-December 12, 2014: (Patricia, 800 S State St. #25, Sutherlin, OR 97479) Roy was a World War II veteran, serving on the USS Arkansas during the invasion of Normandy. He was also an assistant for the Attorney General for the state of Illinois. We married and relocated to San Diego, where Roy practiced law and started a sailing business. He wrote a book titled, *Memoirs of Big Game Hunting in North America*. We were married 43 years. Roy was buried with a military service in Roseburg, Oregon. I was his biggest fan.

Occhiuto, Marion #37675-February 19, 2015: (Frank, 70 21st Ave., Apt. 205, Longmont, CO 80501) Marion and her husband, Frank, left Timber Valley SKP Co-Op, in Sutherlin, Oregon, in August 2014 to make their home in Colorado near family. For those of us in the park, Marion left behind many fond memories. She is dearly remembered. Special blessings are felt for Frank and their family.

Powell, Elsie M. #39939- December 1, 2014: (Ralph, 5366 Barnard St., Simi Valley, CA 93063) Elsie suffered from Parkinson's disease and died at the age of 82. Ralph and Elsie were full-time RVers for 20 years, and they had a lot at Pair-A-Dice SKP Co-Op in Pahrum, Nevada. It was 62 years with a wonderful lady and many years as a member of Escapees.

Rowell, Irene #256-January 13, 2015: (Ned, 4868 Tabernacle Rd, Lancaster, SC 29720) We were married 58 years. Irene went to Heaven after a long period of health problems. She enjoyed traveling, especially to Escapees parks. I plan to keep my place available to other Escapees for parking as long as I am able. Many hugs and prayers to all. 803-286-4703.

Smoot, Marv #28942-February 22, 2015: (Jeanne Smoot, 11741 Mt. Vernon Road, Auburn CA 95603) As Escapees members, Marv and Jeanne owned lots in Park Sierra SKP Co-Op, KOFA Ko-Op and Saguaro SKP Co-Op. They moved to Green Valley in 2005, and in 2013 they moved back to California to be near family. Jeanne will remain in California. Marv was a dear friend who was gracious, knowledgeable, interesting and a joy to be around. Marv is survived by his wife, Jeanne, three children and numerous grandchildren. (Reported by Steve and Gail Ault #41031.)

Young, Jane #47612-Dec. 22, 2015: It is with great sadness that we share the news of Jane Young's passing in Stuart, Florida. Jane, a long-time Escapees member, was also a wonderful, fun-loving and witty sister, sister-in-law and aunt. We are aware of, and appreciate, the many friends she made through the Escapees organization—especially you "Bs." You know who you are. Ride on! (Reported by brother and sister-in-law, Chappy and Bev Young, 6832 SW Lasso Ln, Palm City, FL 34990, 800-780-1980.)

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