

Below are the notes from the Fall Escapade Officer's Meeting – we hope you will review them and share needed information with the members of your chapter. Should you have questions, suggestions or ideas to share – please let us know. Thank You for CARING enough to VOLUNTEER as an Officer and for SHARING your talents and love of Escapees RV Club.
SKP Hugs Susie & Denny Orr

FALL ESCAPADE OFFICER'S MEETING NOTES **September 2007 – Goshen, IN**

Chapters/Certified Birds of a Feather rallies are a places to make friends
Escapades are a place to visit these friends
Come meet old and new friends at chapter/certified BOF rallies

Thank you all for attending the Officer's Meeting. Chapter/C-BOF communications have greatly improved; however, new officers need to be "trained" too, so please forgive duplicate information. We are mailing the Officer Meeting notes to the President and officers who do not have email. We are emailing these meeting notes to all other current officers.

Remember **All Escapees welcome at ALL events**. You do not need to belong to a chapter/C-BOF to visit, however, for courtesy, do let them know you are coming. Look for rally dates in each Escapees Magazine – Events and Rally Calendar and SKP Get Togethers for luncheons.

Visitors are welcome to attend up to three Escapees events. By then they should know if they want to join Escapees. This is explained in the Officer's Manuals. An updated Escapees Handbook is also available on the website at <http://www.escapees.com/edocs/MemberHandbook.pdf>. Page 4-6 covers membership.

Members with lapsed membership do need to renew membership to continue coming to Escapees rallies and events.
Let's go rallying!!

RALLY HOSTS: To have successful rallies, you need rally hosts. Rally Hosts need to know what is expected of them. To make their job easier, please have several copies of the "**Rally Planning**" folders to pass on to each Rally Host. This information is also on the website – Officer Manuals – as a separate Rally Host file to download – everything from A to Z. Perhaps pair a NEW Host with someone with experience. Great Rallies keep members coming back and draw new members.

Membership: Many chapters struggle with gaining new members – others continue to grow yearly. What makes the difference?

- Ask Members to bring a friend
- Use the mailing labels from Escapees
 - New Members since last Escapade
 - All Area Members
- NEW – labels include phone and email address as permitted. Do contact these members – inviting them to your next rally or luncheon or activity.
- Share your rally information with neighboring chapters newsletters and websites
- Daisy Chain Phone Calls to remind members of Luncheons, Rallies
- Email all members about Luncheons & Rallies – start a yahoo.groups to easily email your membership reminders.
- Continue to send a group roster annually – by newsletter, email, or separate copy
- **Asking for your IDEAS – please share them with us.**

The Escapees Website continues to add new information for Escapees. Many areas are now for Member's Only (including the Escapees Magazine) and you will need an **ID & Password for access**. Please request your ID & Password now by calling Escapees 888-757-2582, so that you will have it when you need it. Like any ID & Password combination, it is yours, for your use. Please keep this information in a safe place.

We hope that all officers have reviewed **First Task of New Officers** – especially after elections. This clarifies job descriptions and expectations. Remember do not do all tasks yourself. Sharing the load makes all tasks so much easier and enjoyable.

NEW IDEA: Post the minutes of the previous meeting near your registration table. Announce to the members to read the minutes before the meeting, then at the meeting, just ask for correction and approval at the business meeting without having to read the minutes.

New updates for the officer manuals are announced at Escapade Officer Meetings. These updates will also be added to the Escapees website: www.escapees.com > groups & events > chapters > officer manuals or <http://www.escapees.com/chapters/OfficerManuals.asp>. Below the list of manuals are three current Escapade Officer Meeting Notes for your review as well. Please take time to update your officer manuals – and to thin out the added “stuff” that accumulates.

Officer Manuals are often large files; however by saving them to your personal computer you will have the latest updated files easily available. To find particular areas of the handbook, click on the “bookmarks” tab on the left side of the screen. To update your Acrobat Adobe Reader file on your computer, go to:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html> . Manuals were recently updated on the website – save these new files to compare to your present manual copy.

Magazine Report Form (11-04) – (available on Escapees website as above) - Send one copy for magazine (information in grey at the bottom of the form) – the departments editor will forward copies to Chapter Directors; or if emailed please include: departmentseditor@escapees.com, densu@escapees.com. If you have all current officers, rally and luncheon information for the year, you need only send the form one time for the year. Send changes of officers, rally and luncheon information as changes occur. Remember the magazine staff is working ahead of time – in May they are working on July/Aug magazine. Please send your information by the **10th of the Odd numbered months. As for rally dates please include the first day of the rally and hitch up breakfast date as well.**

Treasurer: Annual Audit before Election: use **new form dated 9-05 available on the website as above**, include EIN number, may attach Income/Expense printout from computer bookkeeping programs, include membership total Mail to Club Business and to Chapter Directors, or email works well also. If you do not have an EIN Number (tax exemption #), please contact Chapter Directors for more information. Reminder: with new Treasurer – sign new bank cards.

How long do you keep records?

- Treasurers receipts – one to two years, actual accounting books on going
- Minutes, Newsletters, Scrapbooks – on going
- Thin the extra non-office stuff that accumulates

Please **send Chapter/C-BOF communications**, minutes, newsletters, etc to the addresses below. Email also is very acceptable for all group communications.

- **Club Business**, 100 Rainbow Dr, Livingston, TX 77351-9300. clubbusiness@escapees.com
- **Chapter Directors** (Denny & Susie Orr) 202 Rainbow Dr #10263, Livingston, TX 77399-2002, densu@escapees.com
- **Please Remove:** Dan Clifton.
- **Insurance Requests as needed:** Kellie Rossow - kellierossow@escapees.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: We salute the Newsletter Editors! They publish several newsletters per year using their time, talents and creativity to share chapter/C-BOF information. Do take time to give them a special hug and a great big THANK YOU! We are also asking them to share the chapter rally information with neighboring chapter newsletter editors. Perhaps neighboring members will also participate in some of your rallies.

WEBMASTERS: We also salute and thank the many volunteers who do the chapter/c-BOF websites. This is another avenue of advertising for your events, luncheons and special activities. Should your group have a new webmaster, please have them access the Officer Manual area of the website to download the Webmaster Instruction File - <http://www.escapees.com/chapters/OfficerManuals.asp>. We will gladly assist and answer questions and give them the special ID & Password needed. **Including your group roster and/or by-laws on the website covers annual publication.**

Please email **us the name, email address and SKP#** of those new members who present your chapter with the **“Free Membership”** coupon. We do follow up with them.

NEW: Not everyone is yet aware of this new waiver. Please include the following statement on your registration forms for each rally. The statement can also be included in your newsletter and website. There will be no need to save these forms. This replaces the old "Waiver". **No Signatures necessary. Please share this with your chapter.**

By your attendance at this event you are agreeing to the following:

As an attendee, you assume all risk and danger relating to your personal property, RV, and attendance at this Chapter/C-BOF Event, whether occurring prior to, during, or after the event. In the event of loss or theft, no claim will be made upon Escapees, its volunteers, employees, or agents. Volunteers may be directing and assisting you in your parking areas. It is, however, the driver of the RV or other vehicle who is ultimately responsible for avoiding obstacles or dangerous situations and is solely responsible for any damages to their property or the property of others. As an attendee at this event, you are granting your permission to be filmed, videotaped, audiotaped, or photographed, and granting full use without compensation

Escapees Communications tools: These are free. They do not clog your email folders, but are very informative. Please share with your membership. All new Escapees are automatically enrolled. Other members need to enroll.

- e-news@escapees.com
 - To receive critical advocacy alerts
 - Subscribe: send email with subject e-news
- subscribeclubnews@escapees.com
 - Upcoming activities, special events, general club news

Nancy Brinton is willing and sometimes able to advertise your Special Events and Group Rallies. Please send her your rally information, perhaps a photo or two and the special details for Club News. Her email: NBrinton@escapees.com.

The magazine also has occasional room for chapter photos. **Please send only your best photos.** And hopefully one will be chosen for the magazine.

The 2nd **Quartzsite Escapees Happy Hour** Jan 16-17, 2008 -- 1-3 pm. Location east of Q on the frontage road south of I-10. We'll be promoting all of the many Escapees chapter and c-bof rallies in the Q area. Come meet old and new friends – bring a chair, a drink and a snack to share. Look for more information in the Escapees Magazine.

VCRs are **Volunteer Club Representatives**. Please welcome them, introduce them at your rallies and luncheons, and give them some time to share information. We consider the VCRs our right arm and our in person representatives at your event. Some chapters enjoy having the VCRs install their new officers, so do ask them.

Check the Escapees Magazine and Website for **FUN and EXCITING HOP events** scheduled throughout the year. Bruce & Louise are always working on new adventures.

Happy 20th Anniversary Rallies in 2007 - #20
Happy 10th Anniversary Rallies in 2007 - #47

Future Escapades: SUMMER 2008 – June 29-July 4 - Gillette, WY, 2009 Sedalia, MO – dates to be announced.

Chapter Directors – Susie & Denny Orr – 202 Rainbow Dr #10263 – Livingston, TX 77399 – densu@escapees.com – 219-670-3007.