

# ESCAPEES

## VISITING THE OUTER BANKS

COASTAL NORTH CAROLINA  
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YOUR RV  
REFRIGERATOR  
WINTER OPERATION AND  
FAILURE PREVENTION  
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LESSONS LEARNED  
REFLECTIONS ON 11 YEARS  
OF FULL-TIME RVING  
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With over 160,000 New & Used RVs for sale, RV Trader can help you find the perfect recreational vehicle. Even if you're not looking to buy right now, it never hurts to explore what's out there and plan for your next adventure.

“Those of us who choose the RV lifestyle feel a house is a gilded cage surrounded by a fence and filled with as much stuff as we can afford. For some of us, the size of the home doesn’t matter as long as it is on wheels. It provides the security we need, plus an ability to see new places, make new friends and discover how people live in different places.

*Because we don’t all enjoy the same things, it is difficult to understand loved ones whose choices are different. But, that shouldn’t keep us from applauding each other’s accomplishments. We must care about and support people for who they are—not who we wish they were.*

*No amount of either security or freedom will cure the ache in your heart if you live your life the way someone else thinks you should.”*

AN EXCERPT FROM ESCAPEES MAGAZINE  
MAY/JUNE 2012

*Kay Peterson*  
Co-founder **ESCAPEESRVClub**®



**TAMMY JOHNSON** #39557  
Editor, *Escapees* magazine

“RVs are on the move for summer fun in the sun.”

The summer season is the best time to join the ranks of those who love to travel. With bountiful pleasant weather, now is the time to hitch up and “head for the hills!”

This issue of *Escapees* magazine is all about learning. Before taking on a new challenge, it’s human nature to want to learn everything we need to know immediately and before we begin. However, as we eventually find out, this isn’t the way it works. Like a child learning to walk, we must stumble, trip and sometimes, fall before becoming proficient.

RVing isn’t any different. No matter how much you prepare yourself for it, there will be days when mistakes happen. Hopefully, they will be minor mistakes and, although it may be frustrating in the moment, these incidents will later be the platform for the most humorous campfire stories.

It’s not only the daily tasks that are learning experiences, the emotional and psychological side of RVing takes trial and error as well. The time it takes to adjust to a completely different lifestyle varies for everyone, and the beginner phase must be endured before you will know exactly what style of RVing works for you.

The goal of *Escapees* magazine is to make the RV lifestyle as simple and worry-free as possible. I hope the stories from our seasoned travelers will help you transition to RVing easily, gain the knowledge you need to become more confident in daily tasks and to enhance the enjoyment that only the freedom of the RV lifestyle can provide. 🚐



### On the Cover

Sally Fuller #122855 submitted this photo taken at Capitol Reef National Park in Utah. Sally says, “I was returning from a hike and was taken aback by the gorgeous rock formation towering over my RV.”



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PHOTO BY EMILY FAGAN #99408

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## Your RV Questions

By **MARK NEMETH** #45776, Escapes Technical Advisor

Send your questions via e-mail to [techquestions@escapes.com](mailto:techquestions@escapes.com)



## IS YOUR REFRIGERATOR RUNNING?

**Q.** I am a full-time RVer, and I have always been told it is not safe to travel with the refrigerator on. What is your advice?

John

**A.** Running your refrigerator on propane while you are traveling down the road is a safety hazard, and I don't run my refrigerator that way. I run it on the inverter (AC) with the propane system shut off at the tank. This is a safer way to travel. If you have a motorhome, the engine alternator is usually able to keep up with the additional load on the batteries caused by the inverter. However, this doesn't work as well for trailers.

## Long Bed vs. Short Bed

**Q.** My wife and I would like to trade in our travel trailer for a fifth-wheel. Before we do, we need to buy a truck. I don't know anything about towing a fifth-wheel, but I've heard it is best to use a truck with a long wheel base. We'd like to have a crew cab so four adults can travel comfortably, but coupling that with a long bed makes the vehicle too long. Is it possible to tow a fifth-wheel trailer with a short bed? If so, what are the drawbacks?

Jeff

**A.** It is true that you can tow a fifth-wheel with a short-bed truck. However, it may not be the best option for a couple of reasons. First, towing stability has a lot to do with wheelbase, and longer is better. Second, you must use either a kingpin extension or a sliding hitch to keep the center of the hitch over the rear axle while still preventing the trailer from hitting the cab of the truck in tight turns. The slider hitch, or pin extension, adds additional cost. With the hitch, there is additional complexity as well as cost. These issues can be avoided if you tow with a long-bed truck. So, if you pull it with a short bed, be aware of the trade-offs.

*"It is hard to have 'too much truck' and distressingly easy to have 'too little.'"*

Also, most fifth-wheels will put 20 to 25 percent of their rolling weight on the pin (hitch). With toy haulers, it can be much higher. You must have enough carrying capacity available in the truck to accommodate that weight, regardless of what the tow ratings tell you the truck can tow. The difference between the curb weight of the truck (no trailer, but normal passenger and gear load, plus full fuel) and the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) is the remaining carrying capacity you have available. The pin weight of the trailer must be less. Also, since most of the trailer pin weight will wind up on the rear axle, you must have a high enough rear axle rating (GAWR) and a high enough tire and wheel rating to handle that pin weight. The best answer is to choose the fifth-wheel first, then estimate the pin weight at 20 to 25 percent of the trailer's GVWR. Take that number and find a truck that can carry that weight without exceeding GAWR or GVWR. It is helpful to weigh the truck to determine the actual curb weight. This allows you to calculate the remaining carrying capacity of both the truck and the rear axle. A truck-stop scale or municipal scale can be used to obtain this weight information. It is hard to have "too much truck" and distressingly easy to have "too little."





PHOTO COURTESY OF  
RVREPAIRCLUB.COM

## REFRIGERATOR FREEZE-UP

**Q.** I own a 1996 Golden Falcon fifth-wheel. My refrigerator is freezing up, and solid ice is building up on the fins and back wall of the freezer. Could this be caused by a problem with the thermostat, or should I replace the unit?

**A.** Many brands of refrigerators have a thermistor (small sensor) on the fins to monitor the cooling system temperature. Inside the refrigerator compartment, inspect the fins to see if this small sensor has fallen off. This will cause the cooling system to run continuously, freezing all your food. Clipping the sensor back onto the fin should easily fix the problem.

If you don't have a wayward fin sensor, then, most likely, the culprit will be the refrigerator control board or temperature sensor. If your refrigerator is original equipment (20 years old), I wouldn't bother with costly repairs, as it has already lasted longer than average. In my experience, 12 to 15 years is about how long an RV refrigerator will last. Given that reality, a replacement unit may be the better choice.

*“In my experience, 12 to 15 years is about how long an RV refrigerator will last. Given that reality, a replacement unit may be the better choice.”*



## Shaky Fifth-wheel and Carpet Cleaning

**Q.** I would like to know how to reduce the shaking and bouncing of our fifth-wheel when we walk across the floor. We placed four jacks under the trailer, and even moved them to different locations to reduce the shaking; however, it didn't work well. Should we add a tripod under the front end where the bedroom is located? We are living full-time in our 33-foot travel trailer, and it is parked on a concrete pad.

Also, is it okay to steam clean RV carpet? I worry about damaging the underlying floor.

Peg

**A.** I had similar issues with my 30-foot fifth-wheel, and I found the tripod stabilizer that attaches to the hitch makes a huge difference. Mine was a bipod, but it worked well and stowed easily. The tripods are known to be even more effective. Adding one and chocking the wheels securely will make a difference.

It will never feel like a house on a foundation; however, in my opinion, the improvement is worth the money.

I always used a basic carpet-cleaning machine in my fifth-wheel since it had a layer of vinyl flooring under the carpet. To determine if your RV has the same floor design, look inside a cabinet that is attached to the floor.

Generally, manufacturers add a floor on the frame, then lay the flooring and carpet. Afterwards, all the interior cabinets are installed over the top. Try to peek under a piece of hidden carpet to see what is underneath.

Brad

**DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR MARK?** Submissions must not contain commercial advertising or consumer advocacy issues. Due to the large volume of material and correspondence submitted, we may be unable to reply or acknowledge receipt of your material. Material will be edited. Questions and answers with the highest general interest may be repeated in subsequent issues. Questions can be sent by mail to “Mark, My Words” Column, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351-9300 or to techquestions@escapees.com.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO TECHQUESTIONS@ESCAPEES.COM



## THERE'S STILL TIME!

The celebration is about to begin! There's still time to join Escapees friends at the 58th Escapade and Escapees RV Club's 40th anniversary. This event will be held May 27 through June 1, 2018, at the Missouri State Fair, in Sedalia, Missouri. Escapade offers education and activities for all ages. Join fellow Escapees friends for this exciting annual event!

Duane and Jean Mathes #115955  
Escapade Directors

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# Free and Low-cost Parking Finds

Compiled by **GUY GIPSON** #84383, [www.daysenddirectory.com](http://www.daysenddirectory.com)

## BENICIA STATE REC AREA

3 back-in sites with W. Trash service. \$12, age 62 and+ \$10. One-nite limit. No reservations. I-780 x3B. Camping only for self-contained RVs; no tents. Gate closed at sunset. 2.5 mi of hike/bike rd and paths. Bird watching; fishing. Quiet. Excellent Verizon and AT&T. [tinyurl.com/q3a3mhr](http://tinyurl.com/q3a3mhr)

**Joni Zander #138612**

The San Francisco Bay Trail along the Carquinez Strait in the Benicia State Recreation Area. Solano County, California

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT



The *Day's End Directory* is a useful tool to help you save money and find safe overnight parking recommendations from fellow Escapees members. These parking selections highlight seasonal boondocking options for your RV travels. Download the entire directory online at [www.daysenddirectory.com](http://www.daysenddirectory.com).

## ARIZONA

**Glendale:** Desert Diamond Casino, lg pkg lot. Free. If staying more than one night, check in at casino. From I-10, go N on SR 101, exit at Northern Ave. Go E; short distance to casino entry on R. Follow signs to truck/RV pkg lot. N33.55134 W112.25954. 9431 W. Northern Ave. Lots of level spaces; slideouts OK. **Patricia Kerns #119457**

**Saint Johns:** Moon Meadows RV Park. Over 100 lg 20-, 30- or 50-A E/W/S sites. Laundry, D. No rest rooms/showers. \$20, \$100/wk, \$300/mo or \$200 and pay own E. D if not camping there, \$5. From SR 61/US 180 (Cleveland St) at W end of town, go S on 24th St West, go 0.6

mi to 7th South, TL, park is on L 2135 W 7th South. No signs except at park entrance. N34.497 W109.397. Paved rds. Some sites shaded. Good Verizon and AT&T. Free WiFi, get login from office. 5800' elev. [www.moonmeadowsrv.com](http://www.moonmeadowsrv.com). 928-337-3726. **Daniel Welch #123837**

**Winslow:** Lg out-of-business box store pkg lot. No facilities or signs. I-40 MM 253, go 1 blk S, TL to paved and unpaved areas behind McDonald's. Observed many RVs and trucks. Good Verizon. **Greg and Cathy Taylor #52926**

## CALIFORNIA

**Big Pine:** Tinnemaha CG (Inyo County). 55 spacious BD sites, any size RV. Tables, grills, fire rings. Vault toilets. No W. Fees. Inyo County CGs, below. 30-day limit. 7 mi S of town on US 395, TR (W) on Fish Springs Rd, go 1/2 mi to Tinnemaha Rd, go 2 mi W to CG on R. 37.05211 -118.26864. Paved up to CG. (coming S on US 395, do not turn on "N Fish Springs Rd".) Great view of High Sierras. Stream fishing. Poor Verizon. **John and Connie Parker #96350**

**Weed:** Living Memorial Sculpture Garden, dedicated to all veterans, pkg areas. Pit toilets. Free. No signs restrict pkg O/N. 13 mi N of Weed on US 97. Lg pkg area around Memorial, also some pkg along hwy. Room for 15-20 lg rigs. Some hwy noise. Nice walk thru garden. Beautiful view of Mt. Shasta. **Bill South #107161**

## DINGMANS FERRY

Dingmans CG (Delaware Water Gap NRA, NPS). 133 sites, some 50- or 30-A E/W, some 20-A E/W, some BD, tables, fire rings. Flush toilets, showers, D on site. \$44 for 50-A, \$42 for 20-A and \$40 BD. S/A Pass 1/2. 1006 Route 209. Old CG with narrow rds between trees. Heavily shaded. No Verizon; limited WiFi. 570/828-1551. www.dingmanscampground.com/camping.aspx

**Jim and Gail McManus #106499**

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION



## MARYLAND

**Taneytown:** Thunderhead Bowl and Grill, lg pkg lot. Ask manager for permission. From SR 194 in town, go 1.8 mi E on SR 140, just past the roundabout TR past the Pizza Hut. 39.64669 -77.15403. Park behind bldg. Room for lg rigs. Private; level.

**David and Linda Hatcher #96035**

## OREGON

**Astoria:** Barbey Maritime Ct. Lg, flat, level, paved and gravel pkg lots. No facilities. Free. No stay limit US 30/Marine Dr/Leif Erikson Dr/Columbia Riv Dr., in town at 20th St., go N (toward Columbia Riv) at entrance to Maritime Museum pkg lot and lg Pilot Boat on a pedestal. TR at Barbey Maritime Ctr (red brick bldg), travel alongside the bldg to lg, paved area behind it. Gravel lot further back 46.19017 -123.81811. Huge pkg lot for nearby Maritime Museum is posted "No O/N Pkg." Easy access to paved Riverwalk. Great view of Riv.

**Mary Lane and Elaine Cannell #37449**

**Burns:** Eddie's Truck Stop. Lg, gravel pkg lot, N side of pumps. Ask permission for O/N pkg. US 20, 3 mi S of Burns, S end of Hines, W side. 740 Hwy 20 S, Hines, OR. Fuel, C-Store. **Dana and Nu Young #111687**

**Condon:** Pull-out. No facilities. Free. No signs prohibit O/N pkg. 17 mi NW on SR 206, N side (23 mi SE of Wasco, OR). Room for 3 RVs parallel with hwy. Compass rose points to five major mtn peaks in WA/OR. Great views. **Al and Sharon Florida #86865**

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Delaware Water Gap:** Welcome/visitor ctr, pkg lot 24/7 rest rooms, trash barrels. I-80 x310, at exit, from Broad St., go 1/2 blk E on SR 2028/River Rd., on R. N40.99038 W75.14172. I-80 goes along NE boundary of pkg lot. Any size rig. Quiet O/N. **Graeme and Jennifer Chaston #107845**

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Faulkton:** CP. 6 gravel sites with 30-A E. Rest rooms. Potable W. D. Tables, chairs and grills in picnic area. 4 nites free (donation box), contact city at 605-598-6515 for longer stay. From US 212 go 2 blks N on 9th Ave, at corner of Elm St N45 2.214 W99 7.605. Some parking under trees. Playground. Good Verizon. **Randy and Jan Mickel #100023**

**Herreid:** Camp 83 (commercial RV park). 27 F-HU sites. Flush toilets, showers, laundry. \$20. N side of town on US 83, E side of hwy. Back-to-back sites, possible drive-thru. Gravel interior rds and sites. 605-437-2384. **Ron and Jan Chisman #76257**

**Pollock:** State land next to Lake Oahe/Missouri Riv. No facilities. Free. From US 83 MM 238.7 go 11 mi W on SR 10 to Pollock. At far end of town TL on SR 1804, follow signs 1.2 mi to West Pollock Rec Area. Slightly before Rec Area entrance sign, TR on dirt track, go 0.2 mi to bluff overlooking riv/reservoir (fee area begins 0.7 mi past entrance sign at boat ramp). **Brian and Kitty Benzar #108579**

## UTAH

**Brigham City:** Box Elder CG (NF). 26 sites, tables, fire rings. Rest rooms. \$19, S/A Pass 1/2. Some sites reservable. May-Oct Go 4.7 mi E from town on US 89/91, take Mantua Exit (W 100 South), go 0.5 mi to S Park Dr., TR, follow signs. 41.49546 -111.95188. Mostly pull-thru sites along loop rds. Elev 5200'. Good Verizon/AT&T. Convenient to Golden Spike Natl Historic Site. **Ken Tarkin #46102**

**Delta:** Oasis CG, Little Sahara Rec Area (BLM). 115 sites, tables, fire rings. Potable W, flush toilets (vault in winter), trash bins, D. \$18, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit. Open all yr. 32 mi NE of town on US 6, TL (W) on CR 182 (paved), go 4 mi. Fits most RVs. Paved rds and pads. OHV in sand dunes. Quiet during the wk. Cell service. **Tom and Maxine Harsch #77285**

**Manila:** BD (NF), dispersed sites. Free. 16-day limit. From Manila, go 22 mi S on SR 44 (some 8% grades), turn W on FR 218 (paved, is S end of Sheep Creek Loop), go 5 mi to Deep Creek Rd (FR 539). N40.87747 W109.75969. Lg, level, open, good, graded gravel interior rds (open to ATVs), lg rigs OK, elev 8270'. No Verizon. **Jim and Deb Christensen #120024**

**Panguitch:** Gravel storage lot (BLM). No facilities. Free. No prohibitive signs. 14-day limit. 4 mi S of town on SR 143, MM 47.8, 37.774 -112.444, go E through open fence on dirt/gravel rd (signed after fence BLM 802), 400x600 lot immed ahead. 7321ft elevation. **Gail Kapusnick #113306**

The *Day's End Directory* is a useful tool for helping you save money and find safe overnight parking recommended by fellow Escapees members. "Day's End" listings are submitted by traveling members. Please be aware that these listings are not verified by *Escapees* magazine, and the information is subject to change without notice. Want more? Order online or write Guy Gipson, 107 Rainbow Dr., #755, Livingston, TX 77399-1007. Online Search and Download: \$15/year. CD (Mac and PC-compatible): \$20. Include your complete name and Escapees membership number.

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# TINY LIVING WITH TINY HUMANS

By **MELANIE CARR #8**, Escapees RV Club Vice President



Brothers, Gabe and Decklin Carr, enjoying RV time with Mom and Dad.  
PHOTO BY MELANIE CARR #8

Xscapers is partnering with Fulltime Families for Kidscapade at the 58th Escapade, in Sedalia, Missouri. Bring the kids and join us! See [escapees.com/escapade](http://escapees.com/escapade) for more information.



**Living in a small space with your children can be rewarding, but it can also be challenging. Transitioning from thousands of square feet to 400 (usually much less) in an RV translates to a substantial change. Ultimately, you'll find the adjustments you must make are small sacrifices compared to what you'll gain by sharing the RV lifestyle with them. When I think back on the adventures my family has experienced in our six years of RVing, it fills me with unexplainable joy. I'm grateful for the time we've spent together and how it has helped us to grow as a family. Here are a few areas of RV living where we've had to make special adjustments while traveling with our tiny humans.**

### Noise

Most children are naturally loud, and our two little guys are no exception. While we recognize the need for children to be allowed to be children, we also both work full-time and try to be as respectful as possible to our RV neighbors. To eliminate the worry of being too noisy for our neighbors, we try to avoid staying in campgrounds.

Generally, we choose to boondock where there is plenty of space to spread out and be secluded. This allows us to relax and not worry about our children being too loud, and they have more space to play outside.

When it comes to keeping the noise down while we are working, we find ways to keep them entertained. There are times when my husband, Travis, and I are expected to join in on virtual meetings and phone calls together. In these situations, we resort to allowing the boys to play with iPads or turn on a movie while we're busy. However, we take a mid-day break for play time, or simply take the boys for a walk and then reserve our evenings for exploring.

### Space

Even in our 40-foot motorhome, we find it challenging to make the most of our space, and we run out of places to store the kids' belongings. Limited space may seem like a disadvantage, but it can help to keep you organized and to see how much stuff you don't need. This forces us to limit what we bring into the RV, and we must continually clean out our cabinets and storage bays to rid ourselves of items we haven't used in a while.

In addition to trying to find space for belongings, it can be equally as difficult to find personal space. Our boys do their fair share of bickering, so sometimes we separate them by letting one watch a movie alone in the back of the RV, or sending our oldest outside to play with his toys.

### Alone Time

RVers are used to being with their family 24/7. This is a beautiful benefit to RVing because it allows us to experience every aspect of our lives together. However, it doesn't hurt to steal away a few hours by yourself to recharge your batteries. I've found that it's the little things I do for myself that make a real difference for my mental sanity. You need more than just going to the grocery store by yourself, because it still isn't something you are doing only

for you. Wherever you're parked, take time to find and participate in an activity that makes you happy. For me, it's finding a hiking trail or researching a location to find an activity that piques my interest. Usually, my favorite "me moments" are finding local coffee shops or strolling to unique downtown shops. I've even found myself sitting at a slot machine and sipping a cocktail at a nearby casino.

### Date Nights

Unless you are parked near family or friends, date nights can be few and far between. But, it isn't entirely impossible; it's only a matter of being creative and finding what works best for you. For example, we like to feed our boys and put them to bed early in the back room of our RV. Then, we'll cook a nice dinner and share cold beverages together. At other times, we'll start a campfire and sit outside together and enjoy each other's company.

If you park near relatives or potential babysitters, I recommend that you take advantage of the opportunity to have alone time with your spouse. There are child care resources you can utilize, such as [www.care.com](http://www.care.com); however, it's not something we've tried since we prefer to select people we know personally. Still, it is nice to know this option is available, especially for those who have older children.

If you have helpful tips or advice on RVing with children, send them to me at [melaniecarr@escapees.com](mailto:melaniecarr@escapees.com). I may include your submission in a future "Camping Kids" column. 



Your tips for RVing with children could appear in a future "Camping Kids" column. Send your tips for organization, storage, safety, socialization or other aspects of traveling with children to

[MELANIECARR@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:MELANIECARR@ESCAPEES.COM).



## TIRE DATE CODES

By **JIM KOCA** #86367, Escapes RVers' Boot Camp Instructor

A tire is one of the most important parts on your RV, and it's critical that all your tires stay in proper condition and at proper inflation. If your tires are outdated, you could be at risk for tire failure. So, how do you know if your tires are outdated and need to be replaced?

If you look at the sidewall of your tire, you will find a series of letters and numbers beginning with DOT. The last set of numbers you see contains the date code. This date code will provide you with the calendar week and the year that the tire was manufactured.

Generally, RV tires will last five to seven years. When tires reach the seven-year mark, it's time to consider buying a new set. When purchasing new tires, always check the date code before the tires are mounted. If they were made more than six months prior to the current date, ask for newer tires. For best performance, keep your tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended air pressure. (For more information, visit [www.escapees.com/smartweigh](http://www.escapees.com/smartweigh)).

When the time comes to purchase new tires, remember that Escapes members receive a 15-percent discount through The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Visit [www.escapees.com/discounts](http://www.escapees.com/discounts) for information.

Your tires carry the entire weight of your RV, which contains precious cargo, so take care of them and they'll take care of you. 

## WEIGH IN!

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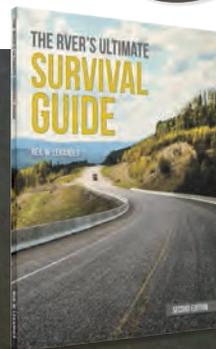
SmartWeigh weighing is available at Escapade! [www.escapees.com/smartweigh](http://www.escapees.com/smartweigh)



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PHOTO BY JIM KOCA #86367

To purchase *The RVer's Ultimate Survival Guide*, call 888-757-2582, or visit [www.escapees.com/store](http://www.escapees.com/store). It is available in book and CD format.



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**Cuba–Key West Cruise HOP** (Feb. 12–17, 2019)  
**Mardi Gras HOP** (March 1–6, 2019)  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
**Oshkosh Air Show HOP** (July 21–28, 2019)  
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*\*Event prices are based on one to two RV occupants only. Call 888-757-2582 for specific pricing information.*

**HOPinfo@escapees.com | WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/HOPS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

## Helpful Hints, Ideas and Solutions for Today's RVer

Read these and other tips online at [WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/ARTICLES-AND-BLOGS](http://WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/ARTICLES-AND-BLOGS).

E-mailed submissions can be sent to [DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM).



### ESCAPEES SMARTWEIGH NEEDS YOU!

Over the past several years, the Escapees Smartweigh program has evolved into a valuable aid for RVers. Currently, this program offers permanent weigh sites in various locations throughout the United States. In addition to permanent weigh sites, the program is also provided at Escapees RVers' Boot Camp, Escapade and at rallies.

Escapees is seeking a dedicated group of trained personnel to weigh RVs and to help educate RVers about their RV weight and load-management options. Training can be tailored to your unique circumstances. Individuals with a background or experience in the tire industry, or weight and load management, are encouraged to consider joining our Escapees Smartweigh team. In addition to a rewarding experience, the positions offer monetary compensation and flexible schedules.

For more information, e-mail [smartweigh@escapees.com](mailto:smartweigh@escapees.com).

**Gaylord Coston #106778**  
SmartWeigh Director

## The Importance of Planning Ahead

**I want to inform Escapees of how important the club was to my father, Gary Goerz. Rarely does a company so perfectly perform its service to its customers that, over a period of 13 years, there have been no complaints.**

I was tasked with informing my father's friends and family about his recent passing. No organizations qualified to be informed other than Escapees RV Club. He had planned to roam this great country for another decade, then unhitch at the Escapees CARE Center until the end of his days. Unfortunately, he passed sooner than expected.

My father planned for the possibility that he might pass in a random city at a random time. In the event of this happening, he took these important measures:

- He stayed in contact with me at least every three days and provided me with his itinerary.
- He set up a joint bank account with me to make sure there was enough money for me to fly to his location.
- He set up a safe deposit box with his will, passwords, lists of organizations, instructions and keys.

Although I am now 4,500 miles away from my home and family, it is okay because he and I planned ahead. I am sad but not overwhelmed.

My father did it right. He lived a wonderful life and enjoyed a wonderful retirement because he made many smart decisions, including joining the Escapees RV Club. I look forward to becoming a member one day, too. (See Gary's "Final Journey" listing on page 87.)

Daniel Goerz



## STAYING HEALTHY WHILE RVING

As many of us RVers head out for the summer months, we will have outdoor activities on our lists. The ability to enjoy the outdoors is part of what makes RVing so wonderful. However, those who have experienced a decline in health may no longer be able to take part in activities they've always enjoyed.

Staying healthy should be all RVers' top priority. Even though we will all be chronologically older this year, the good news is we can be biologically younger. This can be achieved by our diet.

As we travel, my husband, Ed, and I love to visit local farmer's markets. During the summer months, they are bursting with fruits, vegetables, local honey, grass-fed beef and local foods. Here are the top items you will want to focus on to be younger this year.

- **Blueberries:** Blueberries, and other fruits or vegetables that are black, purple, blue or red, are loaded with an antioxidant called anthocyanins. This makes them anti-viral, anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory.
- **Nuts:** Nuts are full of heart-healthy, unsaturated fatty acids and omega-3 fats. Brazil nuts provide selenium that helps produce glutathione, a super antioxidant and liver detoxifier. However, eat no more than two of these nuts per day. Selenium can build up to toxic levels in the body.
- **Tomatoes:** Tomatoes, red bell peppers, peaches and spinach are full of an antioxidant called carotenoids. Think yellow, red, orange and green. They are heart and eye protective, increase immune function and lower inflammation, making them cancer protective.
- **Oranges, red grapefruits, lemons, grapes, green tea and red wine:** These are full of an antioxidant family called flavonoids. This family is heart protective and cancer protective. It also lowers inflammation and helps with detoxification of the liver.

- **Grass-fed beef, free-range eggs and free-range chickens:** Make sure they are antibiotic- and hormone-free and are fed natural grasses so you have a higher level of omega-3 fats and lower saturated fats. Eating seasonally gives you the highest nutrient content with foods that are full of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, healthy fats as well as being locally produced foods. These foods are the secrets to feeling younger, so we can all continue to live the RV lifestyle we love.

Try this super-food salad packed full of anti-aging goodies!

### Super-food Salad

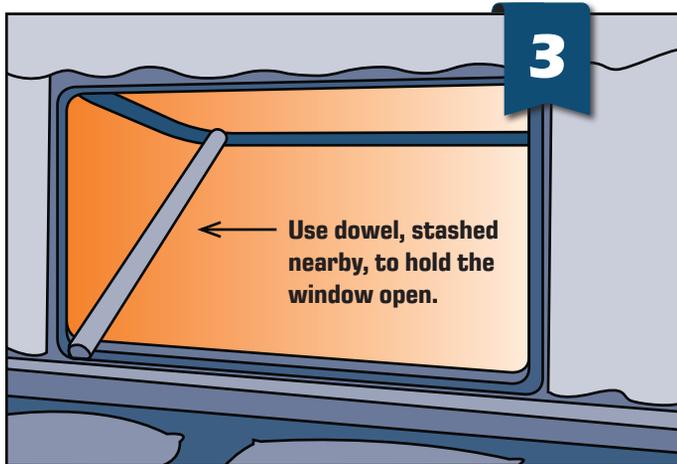
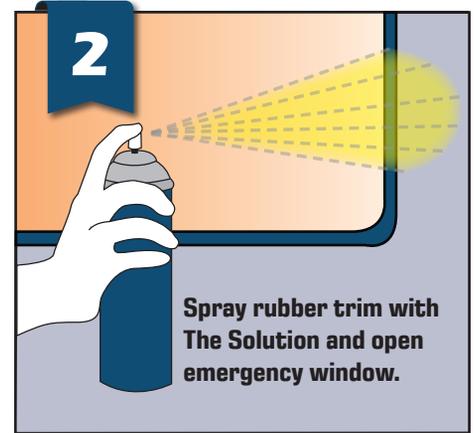
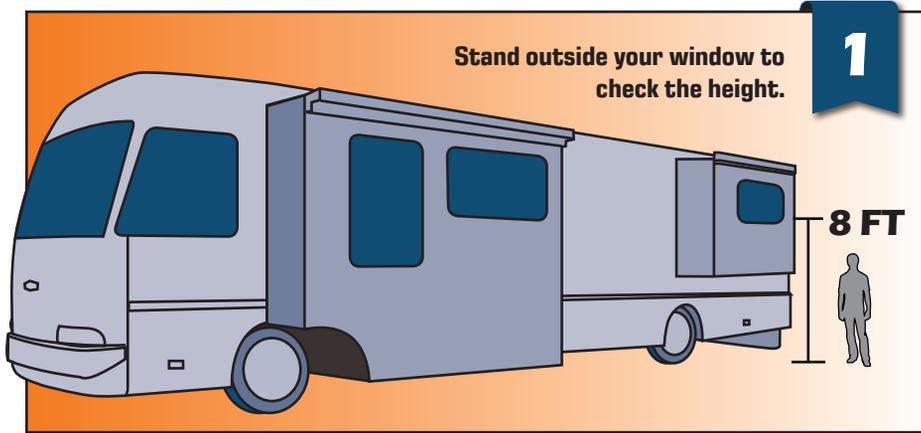
Best if made 2 to 3 hours ahead or overnight.

- 1 bunch curly kale, stems removed and leaves chopped
- 1/4 red onion, sliced thin
- 1 cup shredded carrot
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup raw sunflower seeds
- 1 cup steamed or microwaved, cooled Edamame (frozen, shelled soy beans)

### Dressing

- 1/4 cup white sugar (or honey)
  - 1/2 cup vinegar
  - 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- Mix dressing ingredients together and toss with salad. This salad will last for days.

*Chris McKee #124180, Nutritionist  
(Look for Chris McKee's seminar at Escapade in Sedalia, Missouri! See page 8 for more information.)* →



## ESCAPING AN RV FIRE

By **MAC MCCOY** #48271 CM#310 • [www.macthefireguy.com](http://www.macthefireguy.com)

[WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/URL/015](http://WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/URL/015)

Visit and view a video showing you how to get out of your coach using the emergency window.



In 2012, an RV fire took the lives of John and Sue Thomas, long-time American Coach owners. The fire started from a front right tire blowout, and they were forced to the rear of their coach. We will never know why they couldn't escape the fire. Therefore, it's important that you practice your escape in case of an emergency.

As many Escapees know, I am a fire safety instructor. After the tragedy, I joined forces with Jane and Jerry Lihou #106840 and made a video showing how to get out of your coach, using the emergency window. You can view this video at [www.escapees.com/url/015](http://www.escapees.com/url/015).

It is important that everyone traveling in your coach, including children, know how to get out in case of a fire.

The first thing you need to do is stand outside your window to check the height. How far can you expect to drop? For the purpose of practicing, you might push the RV park's picnic table under the window.

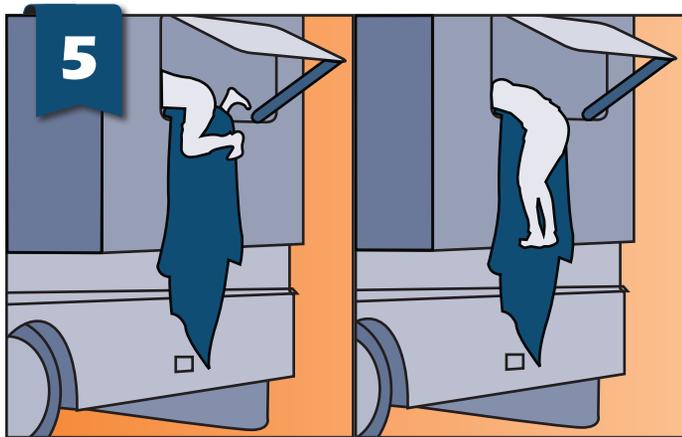
Next, open your emergency window. This was difficult for Jane and Jerry as they had never opened the fire escape window, and it was stuck shut. After pushing and prodding, it finally came open. They sprayed the rubber

trim with The Solution, a simple dry wash containing polymer wax, detergent and UV protectant. You can also use a product called 303 Lubricant. These products will help to make the window open easily, and you should repeat this task a couple times a year.

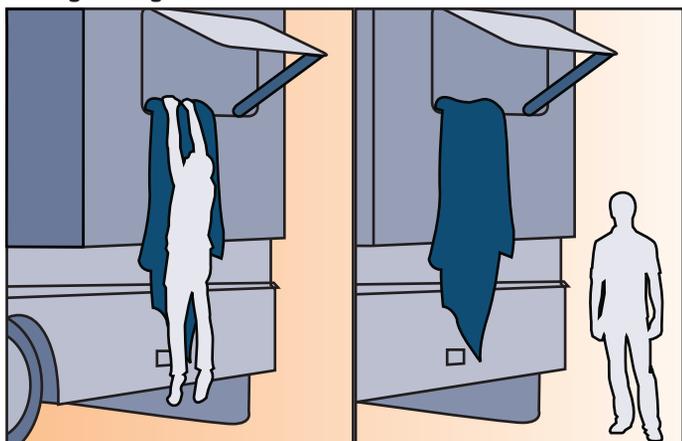
The emergency window in their American Coach is large and heavy, so you will want to have a dowel stored nearby to hold it open. It would be quite difficult to slide through the window space with the weight of a heavy window on you.

Since the window sills are metal, throw a blanket over the edge of it, corner to corner, to use as padding on the way out. The stronger person can hold one end of the blanket, letting the other use it to slide down. This blanket will come in handy for covering up in inclement weather or in case you are under-dressed.

Getting out through the window can be difficult for those who have weak upper body strength. As Jane said, "Once my butt was past the sill, the rest of my body just went with it." She looked at the bruises on her arms as being the cost of knowing she would be able to get out when the time comes.



**Exiting through the RV window.**



During an actual emergency, if you are parked along the highway, throw a flare out the window a few feet away from the coach so cars and trucks will drive around you and you won't get run over while escaping. These flares are small and won't take up much room next to the bed.

How much preparation you can execute will depend on your emergency situation. You may not have time to throw out a flare or a blanket, but having a solid fire escape plan may help you replace panic with logical, life-saving actions if a fire occurs. 🚒

**MAC MCCOY** served 33 years in the fire service. He holds a BS degree in fire science and a master's degree in fire administration. Mac has served as a firefighter, paramedic, captain, assistant chief of training, deputy sheriff and 12 years as the fire training coordinator of Oregon's Fire Marshall's Office and Public Safety Academy. During his tenure with the Oregon Fire Marshall's Office, Mac helped pioneer the state's HAZMAT program. In the U.S. and abroad, he has taught fire-fighting skills and techniques to civilians, military, firefighters and law enforcement.

## EYE FLOATER TREATMENT

**I've suffered for years with annoying floaters in my left eye that interfered with my normal vision. Eye doctors referred me to specialists who gave the general advice of "Live with it. It's part of getting old."**

My wife, Anne, and I began a research journey and found that help is available for this problem at the Florida Eye Foundation, in Ft. Myers, Florida. I set up an appointment with Dr. Scott Geller, who specializes in eye floater laser surgery. We chose the off-season for our appointment and made reservations at the Siesta Bay RV Resort (888-886-2477), which is not too far from the clinic. The RV resort was calm, quiet and economical.

With a special lens on my eye, Dr. Geller could see the floaters that are generally not visible during a basic eye examination. (Ask your eye doctor if he has a specialty lens to view floaters.) After my examination, it was decided that I was a candidate for a specific laser treatment. Although not all floaters can be treated successfully, I was fortunate to have immediate results. The procedure does not resolve every person's problem; however, individual tests will help to provide options.

My treatment required three laser treatments. It was totally pain-free, I had no discomfort or side effects and I was pleased with the results. It is a relief to be free again of these dancing interferences.

The cost of the initial examination is no more than the visit to your eye doctor. The cost of the treatment varies per individual and is based on the type of floaters and how many laser treatments are required to achieve results. My insurance company would not cover the cost of the treatment, but I feel it is affordable.

One year has passed since my treatment, and I've remained floater-free. If you suffer from floaters and would like more information, contact Dr. Geller's office at 239-275-8222 or visit [www.vitreousfloaters.com](http://www.vitreousfloaters.com).

*Arthur White #61611*

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*Glenda Gay Alexander #92538*

Opinions, advice and information contained in "Tips" are offered solely to inform members about matters that may be of interest or helpful to them. Material is compiled from submissions by Escapees members who do their own research. Escapees RV Club accepts no responsibility for what is expressed here by any person, group or company. 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.

E-MAILED SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT TO [DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM).

# RV HITCHHIKER



"This roadrunner likes to sit on the bike cover that is on the back of our trailer."

PHOTO BY MARK FAGAN #99408



"This spider attempted to hitch a ride on our hubcap out of Torreya State Park near Bristol, Florida."

PHOTO BY JAN GORMAN #125640

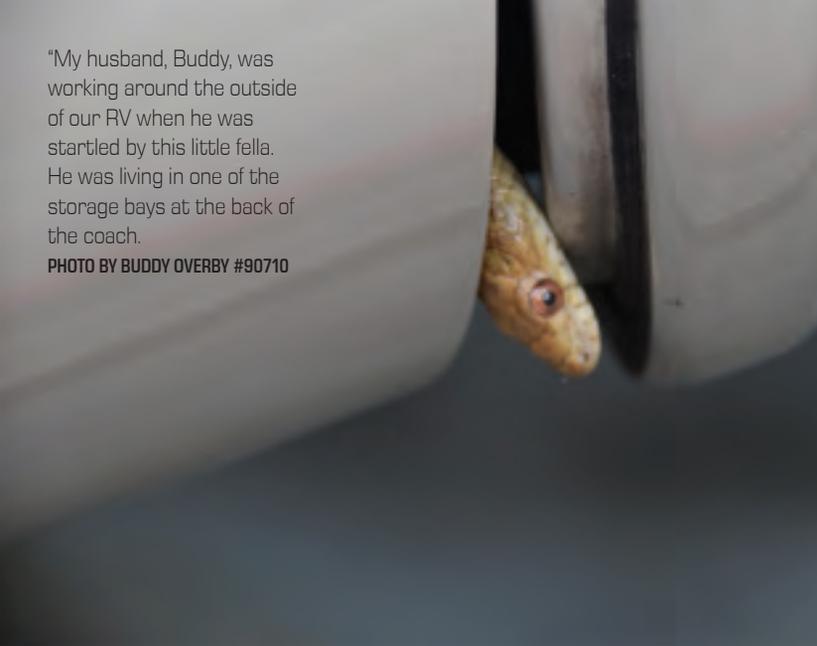


"A grasshopper hung out on our wheel well for quite a while one day."

PHOTO BY CATHY BENTON #64041

"My husband, Buddy, was working around the outside of our RV when he was startled by this little fella. He was living in one of the storage bays at the back of the coach.

PHOTO BY BUDDY OVERBY #90710



## Viewfinder

"When we arrived at a campground and opened the tailgate of our truck, we found this frog hitchhiking. It had survived the ride."

PHOTO BY ART SAUERSTROM #87272



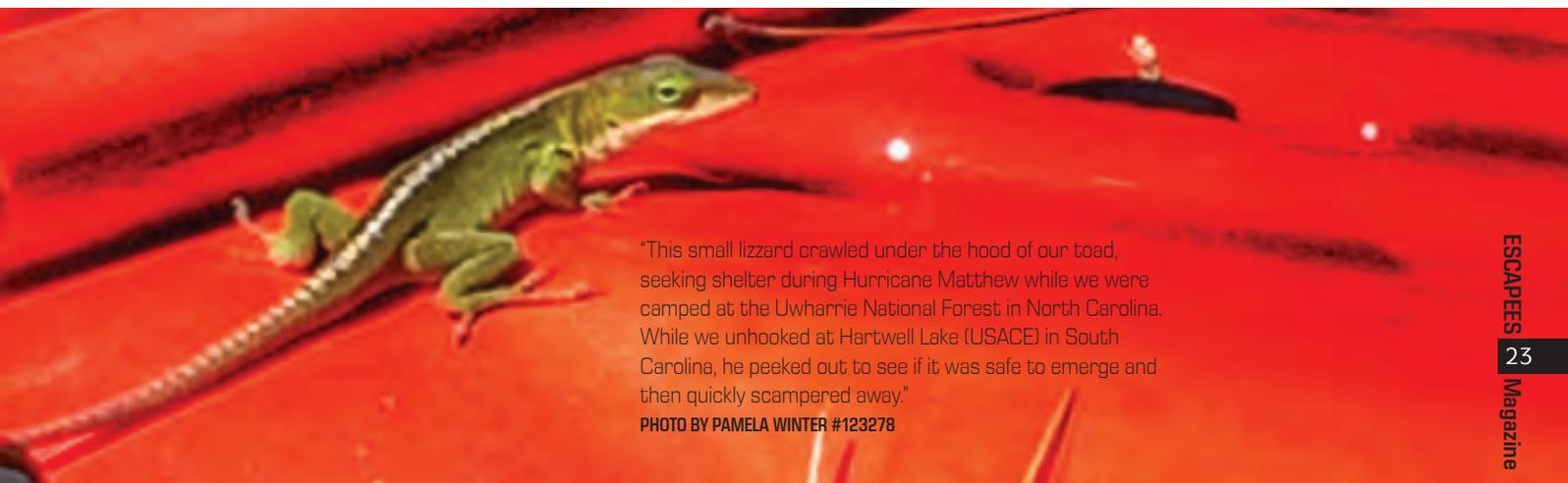
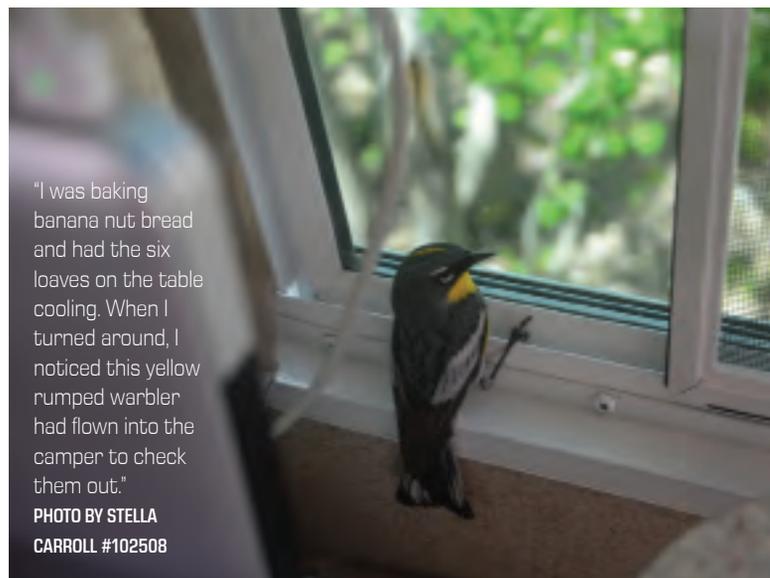
"This little lady built her nest on the ladder hanging on the back of another rig in the campground."

PHOTO BY SHARON HANCOCK #89940



"I was baking banana nut bread and had the six loaves on the table cooling. When I turned around, I noticed this yellow rumped warbler had flown into the camper to check them out."

PHOTO BY STELLA CARROLL #102508



"This small lizzard crawled under the hood of our toad, seeking shelter during Hurricane Matthew while we were camped at the Uwharrie National Forest in North Carolina. While we unhooked at Hartwell Lake (USACE) in South Carolina, he peeked out to see if it was safe to emerge and then quickly scampered away."

PHOTO BY PAMELA WINTER #123278

### SHARE YOUR VIEW—A NEW THEME EVERY ISSUE

With each submission, include your name, Escapees membership number, a description of the photo and the name of the photographer, even if you took the photo. Only a few photos will be selected for each issue. Submissions do not qualify for payment.

**SO18 (Due May 10) In the Distance:** Adventure awaits over the hill or around the bend. Show us what you've happened upon during your travels.

**ND18 (Due July 10) Retro Camping:** Do you like to travel old-school? Show us a photo of your vintage traveling home.

**JF19 (Due Sept 10) Nature's Hearts**

**MA19 (Due Nov 10) Campfire Friends**

**MJ19 (Due Jan 10) RV Custom Paint**

TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR "VIEWFINDER," SEND UNALTERED DIGITAL PHOTOS AS E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS TO VIEWFINDER@ESCAPEES.COM.



# Hitch Accessories

Compiled by **MARK NEMETH** #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor

There are many useful cargo accessories available that fit into a standard two-inch receiver hitch. There are bicycle carriers, storage boxes, scooter carriers and cargo platforms, to name a few. Unfortunately, most travel trailers don't come with a hitch receiver on the back, so you can't use them. Or, can you?

If you have a standard four-inch square RV bumper on your trailer, Tulga Fifth-wheel has you covered. They make a nifty adapter that bolts onto your bumper and provides a regulation-size, two-inch receiver.

Now, it isn't designed for towing, so don't get any crazy ideas, but the adapter will allow you to use just about any of those neat racks and boxes on the back of your trailer. The Bumper Hitch Receiver Adapter installs easily with a pair of hefty U-bolts, and no cutting or drilling is required.

Tulga also makes a small hitch tightener that will keep your new accessory from wobbling around.

This simple clamp mounts on the hitch and stabilizes the connection between the receiver and the hitch accessory. It works great for bike racks, and it will take the slack and wobble out of almost any kind of two-inch receiver hitch.

Tulga Fifth-wheel specializes in hitches and accessories for the commercial trucking industry. They recently entered the RV marketplace with these two extremely useful accessories, and both have a lifetime warranty. You can check them out on Amazon:



▲ **ANTI RATTLE HITCH TIGHTENER—\$12.99**

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (search: Tulga Fifth-wheel Anti Rattle Hitch)

◀ **BUMPER HITCH RECEIVER ADAPTER—\$18.95**

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (search: Tulga Fifth-wheel RV Bumper Hitch)

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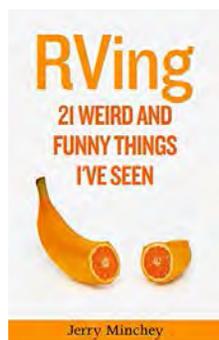


# Blue Highways and RV Humor

By **MARCELLA GAUTHIER** #12371

Interstate highways may be the fastest way to travel to a destination; however, easy and quick can be boring. Traveling what are often called the “blue highways” can provide us with the most interesting sights.

Small towns, rural landscapes and rugged terrains wait to be discovered and shared with the intrepid traveler. Many books have been written about these routes, beginning with Steinbeck’s *Travels with Charley*, which was more of a personal odyssey, in 1961, than a true travel book. One of the first road-trip books that I read, was William Least Heat Moon’s book, *Blue Highways*, published in 1981. Now many authors are uncovering interesting routes to travel. One such selection is the amusing book, by Jerry Minchey, about the weird things and people he has met on the road.

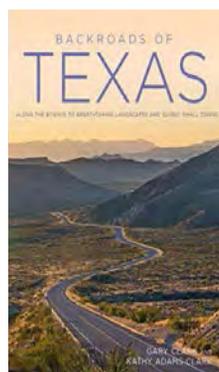


## **RVING—21 WEIRD AND FUNNY THINGS I'VE SEEN**

**JERRY MINCHEY, STONY RIVER MEDIA 2017, WWW.STONYRIVERMEDIA.COM**  
**ISBN: 9781947020016 • PAPERBACK: \$12.95 • KINDLE: \$2.99**

Jerry Minchey has written many excellent books about RVing, and this light-hearted and humorous book is one of his latest. With self-deprecating humor, he shares his thoughts about being one of the weird RVers who make interesting observations about other RVers’ weird adventures. The RV navigator will want to share this inexpensive, laugh-filled collection of stories with the RV driver, but please don’t read it while driving! In

addition to the amusing stories, Jerry provides links to videos and a chapter of valuable resources. He features Shirley Walker, a retired psychotherapist who is 73 and travels solo in her RV. A video interview of her is available at [www.RVWheelLife.com](http://www.RVWheelLife.com) (search “Shirley Walker”). Shirley’s enthusiasm is contagious as is Jerry’s enthusiasm for the RV life.

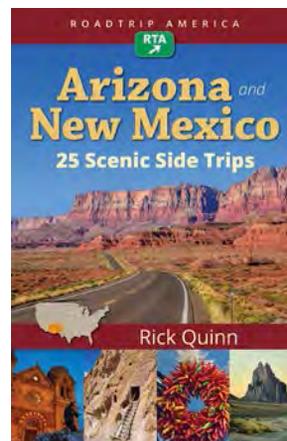


## **BACKROADS OF TEXAS—ALONG THE BYWAYS TO BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPES AND QUIRKY SMALL TOWNS**

**GARY CLARK (AUTHOR) AND KATHY ADAMS CLARK (PHOTOGRAPHER),**  
**VOYAGEUR PRESS 2016, WWW.QUARTOKNOWS.COM**  
**ISBN: 978-0-7603-5053-9 • PAPERBACK: \$24.99 • KINDLE: \$11.99**

Texas provides many exciting and breathtaking vistas. The photos in this book show sights to see on the backroads. While the maps are easy to use, taking side trips of your own will introduce you to the native Texas personality. This personality is large and friendly, and the locals are quick to help a stranger find interesting sights. Texas is the home of many cultures, producing German sausages

of New Braunfels, authentic Tex-Mex meals along the Mexican border and the Louisiana-inspired Cajun food of East Texas. Studying this book and making your way through each region of Texas will help you appreciate the history, variety and beauty of this vast and wonderful state.



## **ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO 25 SCENIC SIDE TRIPS**

**RICK QUINN, INBRIFEX BOOKS 2018**  
**WWW.ROADTRIPAMERICA.COM**  
**ISBN: 978-1-945501-05-0**  
**PAPERBACK: \$24.95 • KINDLE: \$17.04**

A native of Arizona, Rick Quinn’s wanderlust has led him from Paris to Peru and to multiple locations in the United States. He has a degree in anthropology and is a travel blogger, landscape photographer and contributing writer for *Road Trip America*, where samples of his skillful writings can be enjoyed.

Rick’s newest book is beautifully illustrated with over 300 photos, and it is full of history, maps and interesting facts about places to visit in these two states. In this part of the country, when you venture out away from the cities, it feels as if history has stood still. The smell of gunpowder seems to still hang in the air in Tombstone when you visit Boot Hill, and you can almost hear sounds of native village life in the pueblos. In some pueblos, you can smell and enjoy the Navaho bread being fried by the residents as you walk among the adobe homes.

The Land of Enchantment still exists. The website, [www.RoadTripAmerica.com](http://www.RoadTripAmerica.com), is a fabulous addition to your collection of websites. Trip planning mileage, fuel consumption calculators, articles about special road trips, active forum discussions by knowledgeable RVers and an amazing amount of information is available. Put this one on your favorites or bookmarks list. 



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Beverly and Ken Schultz #73702  
at one of their destination stops.

PHOTO BY LARRY WILSON

## Choosing to Hang up the Keys

**My husband, Ken, and I became Escapees members in 2002 and had our mail forwarded to wherever we parked during our 16 years of RVing. We loved parking at Escapees parks and at boondocking spots. We visited every state except Hawaii in our motorhome, and were especially fond of national parks. Being wanderers, we traveled with no firm destination or deadline.**

Escapees gave us roots. At Saguaro SKP Co-Op park in Benson, Arizona, we met a group headed for Quartzsite, and we decided to tag along. Years later, when we stopped at the park again, someone came out and said, "We remember you! You play bridge. Come to our trailer tonight for dinner and cards." At The Ranch SKP Co-Op in Lakewood, New Mexico, folks there remembered we hiked, and we'd head for the trails.

Of course, our motorhome was perfect to park in our kids' yards. We were never a burden to relatives. We could bring dinner from our RV, and we had our own place to sleep. We stopped for the company.

At year 15 of RVing, and in our 70s, we woke up one day while on an adventure and something was different. We realized we should no longer push ourselves on the road until a doctor grounds us and takes away our keys. It was time to find an alternative to driving ourselves

*"At year 15 of RVing, and in our 70s, we woke up one day while on an adventure and something was different. We realized we should no longer push ourselves..."*

around the country and cease to RV on our own terms.

We traveled for one more year; then, put our RV up for sale. We loved that we chose when to stop driving, and we did it while still enjoying the RV lifestyle.

We miss having a motorhome, but we still take short trips in our car to exciting places. And, we can fly to exotic destinations and take those relaxing cruises that we didn't have time for while RVing. We've molded our lives into what we can do without pushing our bodies beyond their limits.

So, RVing friends, enjoy each moment and satisfy your craving for adventure and new experiences. Wear out those RVs. And, when the day comes to hang up the keys, make the decision on your own, while you still have the power to decide how, when and where to travel.

**Beverly Schultz #73702**

## THAT'S HOW WE ROLL!

### Escapees Park Supports CARE

**On the move with a sharing heart: That's been our park's lifestyle since the inception of Escapees RV Club, and that's still how we roll.**

Tucked into the northwest corner of the U.S. is Evergreen Coho Escapees Co-Op park. Sharing is one of the primary principles of Escapees, and the founding fathers of Evergreen Coho took that to heart from the first time an RV rolled onto the acreage over 27 years ago. Every year, at the annual meeting of leaseholders, members participate in auctions, games, meals and fun activities that contribute to local charities chosen by that year's annual "Coho Days" event committee.

Throughout the year, other events continue in an effort to share talents and resources with others. For instance, this last year one of our members, Linda Durkee #105418, spearheaded a food drive for our local food bank, resulting in 686 pounds of canned and packaged food in one delivery.

When the Park Information and Marketing Committee discussed creating items to promote awareness of our park, we asked ourselves, "What should we do with the proceeds?" One committee member suggested we donate 100 percent of the proceeds to the Escapees CARE facility in Livingston, Texas.

Yes! was the instant consensus, and all hands were raised in agreement. But, what should we sell?

Last year, Escapees member Janet Erle #115490, a commercial artist, created a new logo for our park. So, combining our park logo alongside the Escapees logo, we created designs for shirts, hats, bags, totes and more.

Our webmaster, Jim Clason #110041, set up a webpage for the merchandise so that all the profits from items sold are sent directly to support the Escapees CARE facility. To view the merchandise we have available, visit [www.cafepress.com/evergreencohoskp](http://www.cafepress.com/evergreencohoskp).

We hope other parks in our Escapees family follow suit in finding ways to donate to this mission. What better way to share and care than supporting other Escapees members who need our help? At Evergreen Coho Escapees Park, "That's How We Roll: We laugh; We travel; We care; We support [escapeescare.org](http://escapeescare.org)." For more information about Escapees CARE, see page 31.

*Sandra Haven #103699*

**SANDRA HAVEN** is a developmental editor for a New York publisher as well as acting as a private writing coach and editor. She offers tips and suggestions for writers at her blog: [www.haven4writers.com](http://www.haven4writers.com).



Crafters display their handmade blankets and pillow cases.

L to R: Connie Wood, Lee Trueland, Janet Pagato, Linda Thomas, Donna Clark, Jean Forney, Betty Holland, Michele Vernotzy and Shirley Landis.

PHOTO BY AL PETERSON #73334

## CARING AND SHARING at Sumter Oaks RV Park

**Last winter, the crafters at Sumter Oaks RV Park, an Escapees park in Bushnell, Florida, contributed 144 blankets to Project Linus and 53 pillowcases to Ryan's Case for Smiles. These activities were initiated by Connie Wood #121043, in conjunction with the park's activity host, Nancy Moore #120616.**

Project Linus is an organization dedicated to providing a sense of warmth, love, comfort and security via a handmade blanket, for children who are seriously ill or traumatized. Ryan's Case for Smiles is an organization dedicated to providing comfort and support to young patients and their families in hospitals around the globe.

When Connie proposed the idea to the crafters, in October 2017, she hoped to be able to give at least 20 blankets to the Tampa Project Linus collection point in mid-December. However, the crafters, along with other residents, were so enthusiastic about the concept that she was able to deliver 43 blankets on December 2!

At the start of this year, Connie also suggested to the seamstresses to make pillowcases for Ryan's Case for Smiles. By March 9, Connie delivered an additional 101 blankets, for Project Linus, and 53 pillowcases, for Ryan's Case for Smiles, to the Tampa collection center. Nancy Moore also sold luminaries for a Luminary Night at the park and contributed the profit of \$177 to Project Linus.

A huge thank-you goes to all those who share their skills for a worthy cause. For information about these charities, visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org) or [caseforsmiles.org](http://caseforsmiles.org). Crafters meet at the activity center each weekday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you would like to contribute to these projects while staying at Sumter Oaks next winter season, call the park at 352-793-1333.

Al Peterson #73334 →





Committed and determined, North Ranch residents, Donna Holcomb, age 81, and Joann Rockey, age 84, complete the difficult round-trip memorial trail hike in six hours.

PHOTO BY CATHY BENTON #64041

# Granite Mountain

## Hotshots Memorial Park

North Ranch Rainbow Park • Congress, Arizona • 928-427-3657

**On June 30, 2013, the Yarnell Hill Fire took the lives of 19 Hotshot Firefighters, in Yarnell, Arizona. The fire, caused by a lightning strike on June 28, could be seen from Escapees North Ranch Rainbow Park. It appeared as though it might come down the Weaver Mountains towards the park, but, fortunately, a dramatic wind shift changed its course. Although the Hotshots were close to their safety zone, they were unable to escape the fast-moving fire. In November of 2016, the Memorial Trail was dedicated in their memory.**

The hike to the overlook is slightly over two miles, and there is an additional three-quarter-mile hike down to the fatality site. The total round-trip is approximately seven miles long. Along the way, there are memorial plaques for each of the 19 men, as well as interpretive signs explaining the job requirements of Hotshot firefighters.

Many hikers turn around at the observation area, where there is a bench, shade, Tribute Wall (with a small plaque from North Ranch) and more interpretive signs. It is not an easy hike. There are about 200 steps and a 1,142-foot elevation gain to the overlook. Sturdy shoes, a liter of water (at the very least), two hiking poles and a snack are strongly recommended. There are only 15 parking spaces, so it's best to arrive early in the morning. When the lot is full, there's a shuttle bus from Yarnell that runs from Thursday through Sunday.

There is a comprehensive website at [azstateparks.com/hotshots](http://azstateparks.com/hotshots). The movie about the Hotshots and the tragedy, titled *Only the Brave*, has been well-received and is worth viewing: [www.onlythebrave-movie.com/site/](http://www.onlythebrave-movie.com/site/).

Several residents at North Ranch have hiked the trail many times and, when you visit the park, you can likely find someone to join you on the hike. Our memorial plaque (inset photo above), is now on the Tribute Wall, and will eventually be put into the not-yet-finished memorial building in Yarnell.

Cathy Benton #64041

## ARE YOU A PART-TIME RVER?

*Tell us about your lifestyle*

**We want to know: Is it work or family that drives you? Do you and your partner have different viewpoints on time spent in an RV? How do you decide on a destination? Is full-time RVing ahead or in the rear-view mirror?**

Escapees RV Club is a club for all RVers. Send us your story (approximately 200 words) along with photos. Your submission may be included in a future issue of *Escapees* magazine. Submissions can be e-mailed to [editor@escapees.com](mailto:editor@escapees.com), or mailed to *Escapees* magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351. Payment for submissions will be determined on individual merit.

Editor

Opinions contained in "Different Viewpoints" are not necessarily those of the Escapees RV Club, its officers or the membership in general. Escapees RV Club accepts no responsibility for what is expressed here by any person, group or company. Because of the large volume of material, we may not acknowledge receipt. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting.

SUBMISSIONS THAT ARE SENT BY E-MAIL CAN BE DIRECTED TO [DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM).

# Give YOURSELF The Gift of CARE

Continuing Assistance for Retired Escapees



PHOTO BY LORRAINE EDWARDS #65249

- to rest
- to recover
- to recuperate

## Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to work she goes...

With a joy rivaling that of Disney's seven dwarfs, Linda Stewart loves working for, and being part of, the "family" at Escapes CARE. With a background in accounting and business management, she easily handles the financial and human resource end of the facility while thoroughly enjoying the daily interaction with "all sorts of people."

In taking care of business, Linda does billing and receives payments for CARE residents and those in adult day care. She conducts personnel interviews and background checks and schedules meetings between existing department heads and those seeking to work for them. She also oversees housekeeping and laundry. Making sure things run smoothly are her three direct reports—Rhonda Folsom, assistant business manager, Molly Banks, who handles laundry, and Amy Lampart, who handles housekeeping. "I don't enjoy bookkeeping," Linda says. "But I do enjoy the people associated with it, especially the CARE residents. That's what got me to stay here—the feeling of family."

Linda came to CARE seven years ago, after the Houston-based company where she was employed closed down. As a long-time owner of several lots near Lake Livingston, she moved her RV to the lake. And, having a ramp to the lake, she can easily launch her tiny jon-boat whenever she pleases.

"I've been into, and out of, RVs most of my adult life," she says. "I've traveled in them, stayed put in them and can't imagine life without them. My RV is only 16 miles from CARE, and it's an easy drive both ways." You might say Linda is a "happy camper," but she's much more.

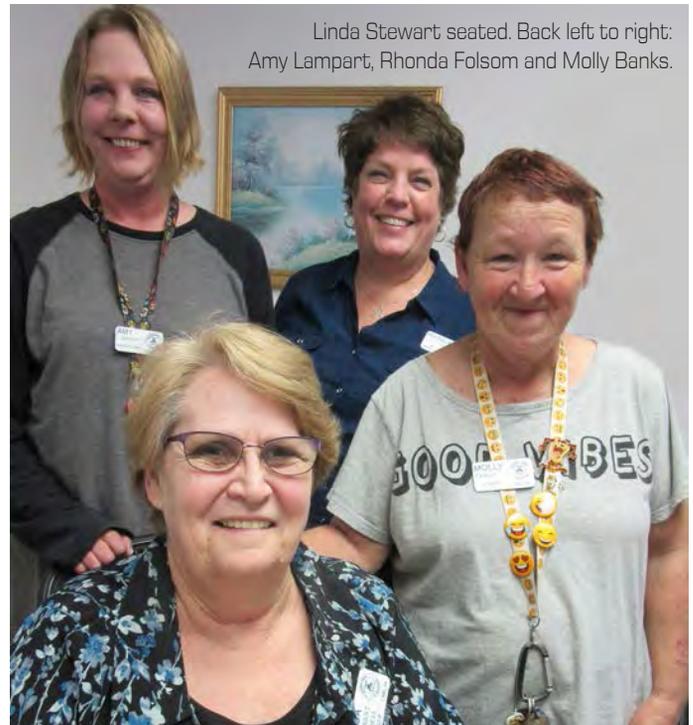
"I'd been working at the CARE front desk for two years," she recalls, "but when Russ (Johnson) took over as facility director, he moved me back to my current office, which has less traffic and offers more privacy.

"I've enjoyed getting to know each of the residents and am happy to help them with their personal business. I also like finding out more about them—where they came from, what they did before becoming RVers and where they've been on their travels. It all contributes to the feeling of family and has given me a new perspective

on CARE. Before Russ took over, most people thought you came here if you were too old or too ill to travel any more. Now people realize that you come here when you want to 'slow down a little and get spoiled a lot!'"

Yes, Linda is indeed much more than a happy camper. She's an RV lover who also loves her job and all the other RVers she gets to talk to and help. She's the one with a perpetual smile on her face as she capably handles a never-ending stream of people coming into and out of her office every workday, Monday through Friday.

Article and photo by Anita Mandot Hickman #41291



Linda Stewart seated. Back left to right: Amy Lampart, Rhonda Folsom and Molly Banks.

## Escapes CARE Needs Your Donation!

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[www.escapescore.org](http://www.escapescore.org)



## MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

### Hot Creek Geologic Site

Hot Creek Hatchery Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 • [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov) • 760-873-2400

**On the outskirts of Mammoth Lakes, California, the Hot Creek Geologic Site sits within the Hot Creek Gorge and is an active geothermal wonder. The gorge is geologically unique, formed by a rhyolitic lava flow that scientist believe was formed 300,000 years ago. It lies within the Long Valley Caldera, that runs from Mono Lake to the beginning of the Owens River Valley, in the high desert of the Eastern Sierras. The site falls within the jurisdiction of the Inyo National Forest and U.S. Forest Service. It is open year-round from sunrise to sunset, but in winter, it's accessible only by cross-country skis, snowshoes or snowmobile.**

To get there, follow Hwy 395 south, from Mammoth, and turn right on Hot Creek Hatchery Road. You'll travel about five miles, some of which is an improved gravel road to the geothermal site. Before reaching the hot springs, as you drive along Hot Creek Fish Hatchery Road, there are several access points to Hot Creek, a

popular catch-and-release fly-fishing location.

We stopped at one of these small parking lots on our way to the actual hot springs site and hiked down to the creek. Danger signs along the path warn of scalding water and unstable ground in the canyon. We did not encounter any problems, but it's wise to heed warning signs and be alert. At the bottom of the canyon, we discovered a beautiful, level trail meandering along the south side of the creek. The creek trail offered amazing views of the Sierras and the rock formations in the canyon. After exploring the trail for about one mile, we backtracked to our truck and drove on to the larger parking area adjacent to the geothermal site.

At the large parking area, there are rest rooms, picnic tables and a paved trail with interpretive signs leading down to the geothermal site. When you go, be sure to take time to read the fascinating information about the geology and history of the area.



Hot Creek Trail west of hot springs.

The hot springs sit atop an ancient volcano, and they are subject to change with ongoing seismic activity that can potentially cause fluctuations in water temperature. There are over a dozen steam vents and pools and, if you're lucky, you may even be entertained by rare geyser eruptions.

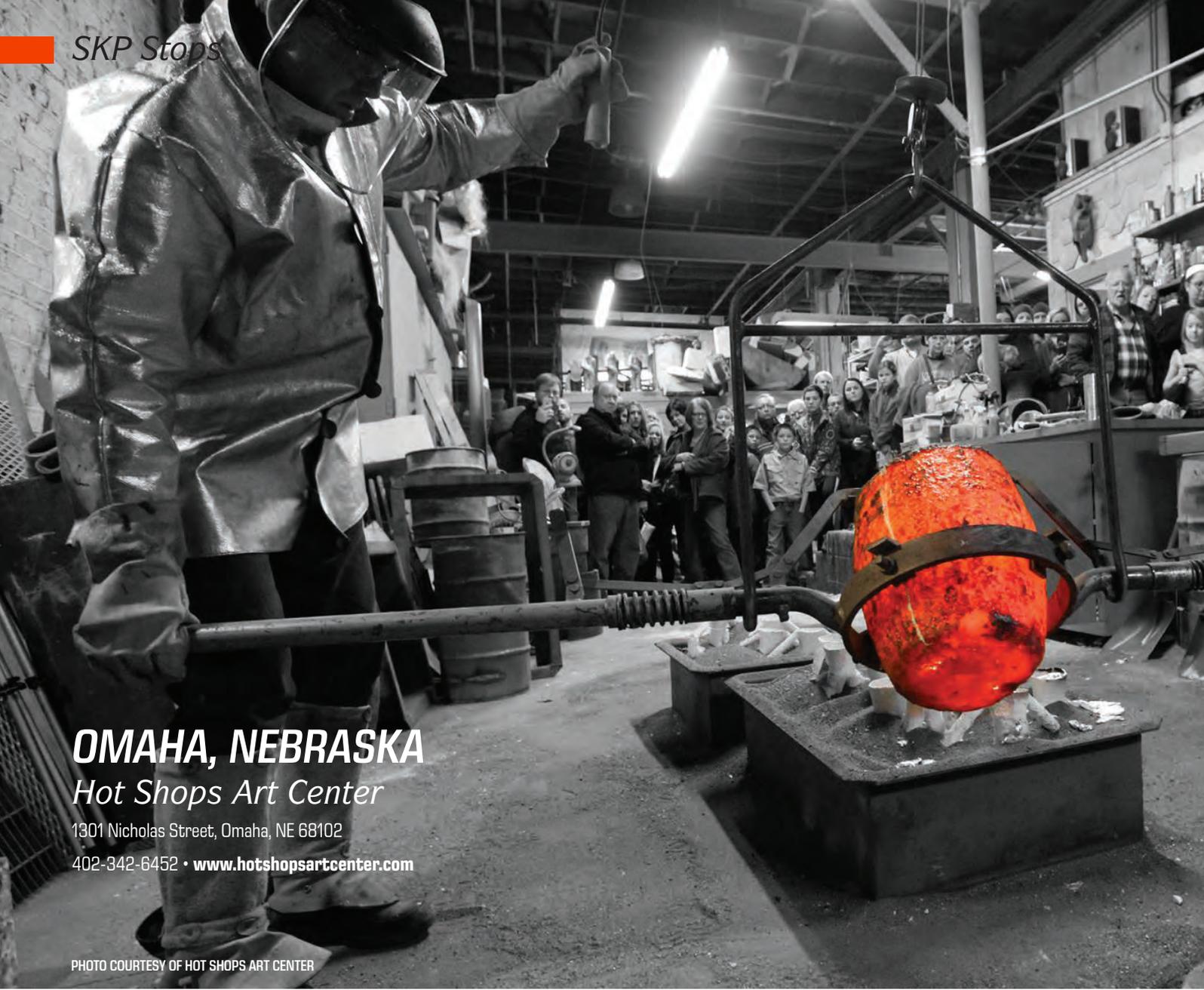
While the hot springs are now fenced and swimming is prohibited, I highly recommend taking time to walk along the creek, in unrestricted areas, to soak up the austere landscape of the steaming pools and fumaroles. I found its beauty to be serene and enchanting. The thrill of discovering a small pool of bubbling water, or a tiny fumarole emitting curling ribbons of steam, is infectious.

The day we visited, there were threats of rain and thunderstorms. The storm clouds, interspersed with the sun, created a dramatically beautiful landscape and a photographer's paradise.

Article and photo by Lynn Amber #128636

*“At the bottom of the canyon, we discovered a beautiful, level trail meandering along the south side of the creek. The creek trail offered amazing views of the Sierras and the rock formations in the canyon.”*





## OMAHA, NEBRASKA

### Hot Shops Art Center

1301 Nicholas Street, Omaha, NE 68102

402-342-6452 • [www.hotshopsartcenter.com](http://www.hotshopsartcenter.com)

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOT SHOPS ART CENTER

**Omaha's Hot Shops Art Center is a pleasant stroll north from Old Market, in Omaha, Nebraska. The center is named "hot shops" for the working studios, where artists blow glass, fire pottery, cast bronze and weld sculpture. Located on the corner of 13th and Izard, the massive warehouses house the studios of over 80 creative artists. Visitors are welcome to walk into studios, view exhibits and shop, while chatting with artists as they create.**

I entered through a glittering gallery of blown glass. Vibrantly colored sun catchers and huge, glowing transparent flowers made a prism of the sun's rays. Massive bowls, delicate goblets, in vivid colors, surrounded striking jewelry, pendants and even glass snails.

During my visit, a gray-haired gentleman entertained me with his journey in becoming an artist. On a whim, he had taken an ongoing glass-blowing class that soon became a three-to-four-nights-a-week obsession. Now retired, he has a new career as a glass blower. Other

"senior" artists in residence shared stories of becoming late bloomers in the art world, too.

One artist left her lunch to show me around her stained-glass studio. Shifting patterns of colored light sifted through the hanging glass panels, creating rainbows on the floor. On a design table, cut pieces of glass were being arranged on a paper pattern. She explained how the glass pieces would be soldered onto lead strips to create a finished window.

Drawn by large paintings, I drifted into the studio of a pastel painter. She showed me her current landscape and other paintings that she was preparing for a show in Santa Fe, New Mexico. We discussed the difference between colored chalk and the soft pastels that she uses with a technique resembling oil painting.

From giant pottery jars, to delicate pen-shell dragonflies, to photography, paintings, graphic design, fiber art and sculpture, Hot Shops was a treasured experience.

While in the area, consider visiting the Joslyn Art



### Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

The beauties and beasts in natural habitats amazed me at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, in Omaha, Nebraska. Within 130 acres, the zoo tops the “World’s Best Zoo” list.

In the butterfly pavilion and in the aviary, butterflies flutter around your head, and 90 species of animals can be found in America’s largest indoor rainforest. From the forest floor, trails lead to great views of the canopy. The many arid-region species, and a 28-acre outdoor African grassland, teeming with wildlife in the world’s largest indoor desert, encourages visitors to explore the world of animals and plants for hours.

During my visit, I joined children in the aquarium, beneath a 70-foot shark tunnel, laughed at the antics of 85 penguins and was mesmerized by iridescent jellyfish. The interaction of children with bronze gorilla sculptures was as entertaining as watching the gorillas themselves. The impact of the zoo is far-reaching.

A young man conducted an in-progress live broadcast of a virtual field trip in the jungle habitat surrounded by screeching gibbons and children.

If you go, be sure to wear walking shoes. There are many food courts and delightful park benches for rest stops. A train and trams are also available.

*Carol Weishampel #80679*

*Carol Weishampel #80679*

Museum, the Bernis Center for Contemporary Arts, the KANEKO building and the many public art displays of sculpture and wall murals. And, be sure to check out this fun video about the bridge with its own name, Bob the Bridge ([www.visitomaha.com/bob](http://www.visitomaha.com/bob)), where you can stand on two states at the same time!

You can learn more about art in Omaha, by visiting [www.PublicArtOmaha.org](http://www.PublicArtOmaha.org).

### 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 included on a space-available basis. Include the name of anyone in the photo and name of the photographer.

### Guidelines and Helpful Hints

- Share unique and off-the-beaten-path RV travel destinations.
- Keep submissions brief and include only pertinent information.
- Photos must be high resolution.
- Include the best season to visit the destination.

Send submissions to *Escapees* Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351, or to [editor@escapees.com](mailto:editor@escapees.com).

Lost Dutchman State Park  
by the Superstition  
Mountains in Arizona  
PHOTO BY EMILY FAGAN #99408

WHAT I DISCOVERED BY

# RENTING AN RV

By CECIL J. DALE #129364



## *Should I rent an RV? That was the question I faced in the summer of 2007.*

My sister and brother-in-law, who lived in England for a couple of years, had recently returned to the States and moved into their new home in a town called Buckeye, near Phoenix, Arizona. She was desperate for my mother and me to come visit her. But, how would we get there?

**W**e lived in the northeast corner of Nebraska. My mother could not fly, and traveling by car with a dog and cat would be difficult. Finding a hotel along the way that would accept both pets seemed far-fetched. Traveling by bus did not sound appealing either, so I found myself in a dilemma.

Then, someone suggested that we travel by RV. I knew nothing about RVs at the time, and so I began to do my research.

A quick online search produced an overwhelming amount of information about various types of RVs and the RVing lifestyle in general. I found Craigslist ads for used RVs for sale, websites for RV dealerships near me and RV forums that included special sections for beginners.

### **Expense**

From my research, I quickly discovered that purchasing a used RV could be expensive. I was filled with anxiety at the thought of spending a lot of money to purchase an RV and then discovering I don't like it. Then I came across a piece of advice that showed up repeatedly on the "newbie" section of the RV forums—rent one!

My search for a rental for the trip quickly ran into a snag when I discovered the nearest RV dealership that rented RVs was two hours away from my home. It wasn't an ideal situation, but it was doable. Then I had to decide what model of RV to rent.

Although I liked the class-C motorhomes, in addition to the rental cost, there was also a fee per mile driven. My trip would total 2,800 miles round trip, so the mileage fee became a deal breaker. Since I already owned a truck, a towable RV became my most practical choice, so I reserved a 30-foot travel trailer. The excitement began to build.

### **Orientation Process**

One nice benefit of renting for a first-time RVer is the required orientation process one must complete before taking the RV off

the lot. As part of the rental agreement, my tow vehicle had to be inspected for proper equipment and safety and I had to attend a one-hour orientation of the travel trailer I would be renting. I quickly learned that my half-ton truck could easily handle the travel trailer I chose, but I needed to have a trailer brake controller installed.

After the trailer brake installation, I completed the orientation. I learned how to hitch and unhitch the trailer, including how to use and set up the weight-distributing hitch. I also learned how to safely level and set up the trailer at a campsite and hook up the trailer to power, water and sewer. I was also provided with an explanation of the 120V, 12V, propane, city water and fresh-water systems. I was shown the proper way to dump the holding tanks and how to deploy and store the main awning. I was shown every feature and function of the unit and given instruction on how to use everything, right down to the carbon monoxide detector and the fire extinguisher. The dealership was patient and unwilling to let me drive off until I was comfortable with everything on the RV. This training was priceless.

### **The Best RV for You**

Other benefits of renting an RV is not only are you able to discover if you like RVing before taking the financial risk of purchasing a unit, but you'll also discover what type of RV and which floor plan works best for you.

On our trip, I discovered that a 30-foot travel trailer with no slide-out was not the best RV for me. I found that I prefer a table and chairs over a booth dinette. I like to sit up in bed and read, so I don't like having the bed up against the sloping wall at the front of the trailer. I also discovered that I want a bathroom large enough to turn around, dry off and change clothes in without having to be a contortionist. I discovered that I want ample counter space for food preparation and large outside storage areas. Given the choice between the convenience of a second



**Above:** Mother Shirley and Prince at El Cuarteletejo Pueblo at Scott Lake State Park in Kansas.

**Right:** New RV at our campsite in Cedar Bluff State Park in Kansas.

PHOTOS BY  
CECIL DALE #129364



“An unexpected bonus from this first RV outing in a rented travel trailer was the experimenting in numerous forms of RV camping.”

bed in a bunkhouse floorplan, or having a larger living area where I would need to make the sofa into a bed each night, I would prefer the larger living area floorplan. It was a blessing to make all these discoveries with a rented RV.

### Camping Options

An unexpected bonus from this first RV outing in a rented travel trailer was the experimenting in numerous forms of RV camping. Our trip to Arizona took us three days. The first night we stayed at a truck stop. The second night was at a Walmart parking lot. Because there were no hookups, these two stops are commonly called boondocking. The third day, we arrived in Mesa, Arizona, and set up camp in an “RV resort.” We hadn’t slept much in the truck stop.

This lack of sleep wasn’t only because of the constant noise of diesel engines, it was because we were too excited to sleep as we watched the trucks come and go throughout the night. The Walmart parking experience, sometimes known as “wallydocking,” was fun. It was also expensive because we ended up making quite a few purchases from the store. (Always ask permission from the store manager and be considerate. See the “RVer’s Good Neighbor Policy” overnight parking etiquette on page 88.)

The week we spent at the Mesa, Arizona, RV resort was mediocre. It was nice to have water, sewer and power with full hookups. The resort was convenient for visiting our family and exploring the local attractions, and it offered an added sense of security over the truck stop and Walmart. The downside was that it seemed to be just a large parking lot for RVs. From this experience, we had unwittingly discovered our camping preferences. When visiting family or cities, an RV park with full hookups works well. However, whenever possible, we like staying at RV campgrounds in the city, county, COE (United States Army Corps of Engineers) and national and state parks. Often these campgrounds provide electrical and water hookups with a dump station nearby. Full hookups are sometimes available at the site. Instead of feeling like we are in a parking lot for RVs, these park campgrounds are surrounded by beautiful scenery, wildlife and the best that nature has to offer. The park campground becomes our destination rather than only a private campground near our destination.

Despite numerous bumps along the way, our trip to Arizona was a success. During the trip, I not only received an education on RVs, but I also got bit by the RV bug. I have since traveled in a travel trailer, a class-A motorhome and two different fifth-wheel trailers. I’ve traveled by RV to 11 states. I’ve visited family, traveled for business and medical appointments, as well as for recreation. I dream of the day I can retire and possibly go full-time RVing. I may even end my days at the CARE facility in Livingston, Texas. And it all started with a question, “Should I buy an RV or not?” I’m glad I said, “Yes!” 🚐



**CECIL DALE** lives and works in central Kansas. He has been RVing since 2007, and is often accompanied by his mother, Shirley, chihuahua-pug mix, Prince, and Manx cat, Treasure.



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**“Almost all RV refrigerator failures can be attributed to either defective manufacture of the unit or damage suffered due to the overheating of the cooling unit boiler.”**



# YOUR RV Refrigerator

## *Winter Operation and Failure Prevention*

By **PAUL UNMACK**, PE-CSE, ME #116483, [www.arprv.com](http://www.arprv.com)

After living at a ski area for most of my adult life, I decided to split my time between Jackson Hole, Wyoming, skiing in the early winter, and the remainder of the winter RVing and fishing in Baja, California. While in Jackson, I rented an apartment and didn't use my RV during cold weather.

**I**n 1998, I moved to Bozeman, Montana, and supported my skiing lifestyle by volunteering to teach paraplegic sit-skiing. I made this decision to enable others to enjoy the outdoors, and it has been one of my most fulfilling experiences. I lived in my RV parked behind the local hostel, and I was provided with free lift tickets for my volunteer service.

### **First Sign of Problems**

My wife, Mao, and I used a cube heater to keep the temperature above freezing in our RV. Although the temperature ranged from 45 to -20F outside, because the RV was heated, the inside of the refrigerator began to warm up. Even though the outside temperature was below 20F, it was obvious the refrigerator was no longer working. Luckily, I discovered the problem early on,

before the cooling unit failed. I turned off the refrigerator and began freezing water outside and putting the ice into the inside of the refrigerator, making it an icebox.

### **Knowledge Is Power**

While in the cold climate, I chose not to run my refrigerator when it began to show problems. This ultimately saved the cooling unit. I didn't know why it wasn't working and decided to repair it later. However, when it warmed up in the spring, I turned on the refrigerator and it worked great.

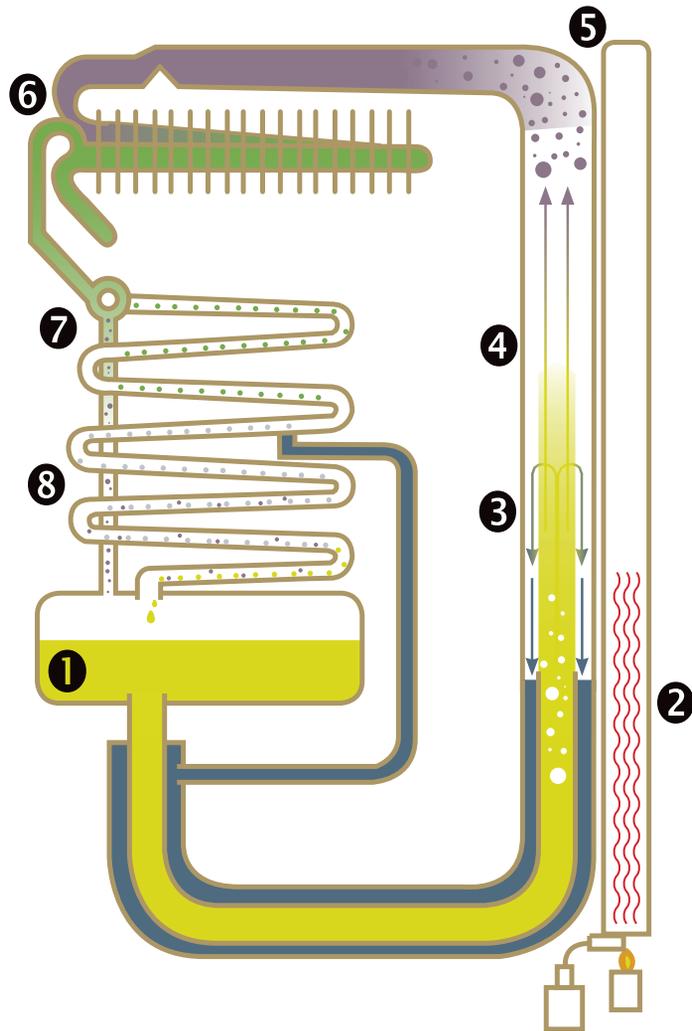
Later, while engineering a solution for the off-level issue, I learned how the cooling cycle for an absorption refrigerator worked.

This work led to my development of the patented ARP Control. (See ad on page 43. Visit [www.arprv.com](http://www.arprv.com) for more information.)

## Cooling Unit Operation Review

RVers need to understand how the cooling unit works in order to understand the winter operation failure modes. The following description will only point out the features of the cooling-unit cycle that result in winter failure. (For a complete cooling-cycle description, see the article “Your RV Refrigerator,” in the September/October 2015 issue of *Escapees* magazine.)

- 1 This is the cooling unit holding tank that contains the working fluids; the yellow represents a mixture of ammonia, water and corrosion inhibitor.
- 2 At the boiler, the working fluid is separated into its components by a distillation process, driven by heat from either an electric heater or LP gas. The boiler is the crux of the refrigerator as it drives the entire process; the boiler is the only component that causes failure in an otherwise healthy cooling unit.
- 3 The water and a rust inhibitor descend in order to return to the absorber coil (8) as a liquid. The trade name for this fluid is the “weak solution.” By design, the weak solution must never freeze nor become a gas (boil). The weak solution must always remain a liquid.
- 4 The ammonia is changed from a liquid to a vapor in the boiler (2); the pure ammonia gas rises and the pure ammonia is the refrigerant.
- 5 The temperature between the boiler (2) and the condenser (6) is critical. This part of the cooling unit is called the water separator; the temperature of this section of tubing must be low enough so that any water vapor cools and condenses to its liquid form, then returns to the weak solution line (3), but the water separator line must remain hot enough so that the ammonia remains in its vapor state; more on this below.
- 6 In the condenser, the ammonia gas is cooled to its liquid state.
- 7 The liquid ammonia goes into the evaporator, which is the part of the cooling unit within the refrigerator that pulls the heat out of the refrigerated space by the evaporation of the ammonia (returning it to a vapor state again).
- 8 In the absorber coil, the ammonia gas from the evaporator (7) and the water (3) from the separation process in the boiler (2) meet; and the water reabsorbs the ammonia gas, completing the refrigeration cycle by returning the reconstituted working fluid to the holding tank (1).



## Cold Weather Calamity

There are two areas of concern that prevent the refrigerator from operating properly in cold weather. The first is not a big issue, and it will not destroy the cooling unit. As mentioned above, if the water separator is too cold, the ammonia gas will condense in the water separator (5) and drop back down into the weak solution (3) line. This is not critical because the heater in the boiler (2) simply re-vaporizes the ammonia. The result is that the ammonia is in a cycle where it is still cooling the boiler but not getting to the evaporator (7) to cool the refrigerator. This is the most common issue when temperatures drop below 50F and the unit's performance begins to diminish. (To use our fan controller as a solution to this problem, contact us for more information.)

The next area of concern is a big deal because it will cause the boiler to overheat, which can ruin the cooling unit, or worse—result in a cooling-unit rupture. (Dangers of a ruptured cooling unit were covered in previous *Escapees* magazine articles.) The ammonia mixed with water acts like anti-freeze; thus the working fluid (1) is protected

“It turns out that simply monitoring the refrigerator’s boiler temperature can solve cold-weather problems.”



### Seven-Part Series

You can find Paul's seven-part series of *Escapees* magazine articles, "Your RV Refrigerator," online at [escapees.com](http://escapees.com). Or, request copies by e-mailing [editor@escapees.com](mailto:editor@escapees.com).

from cold weather. But, when the ammonia is separated from the water, as in the weak solution line (3), the water can freeze. The frozen water results in blockage so that the weak solution cannot return to the absorber coil (8). This causes the ammonia to be unable to complete its cycle and return to the boiler (2) via the holding tank (1). When the weak solution line (3) freezes, the boiler temperature (2) rises and the boiler overheats. It is the run-away boiler temperature that ruins the cooling unit by destroying the corrosion inhibitor. Corrosion begins to develop immediately due to the caustic effect of the ammonia. Additionally, overheating will cause the corrosion inhibitor, dissolved in the working fluid, to solidify. The newly-created solids can result in a blockage and immediate cooling-system failure.

### Cold-weather Solutions

Again, the simplest solution is to turn off your refrigerator, and use nature to freeze water for cooling your food. Another solution is to purchase Norcold's cold-weather kit. This kit has a heating element similar to the heating element on the icemaker water line. The Norcold solution heats the weak solution line to prevent freezing. However, this solution only addresses one of the many causes of boiler overheating. Prevention of boiler overheating, regardless of the root cause, is a better strategy. This is what the ARP Control is designed to do.

### The Good News

Despite the claims made by some members of the manufacturers' sales teams, the ARP Control is the only solution that prevents failures caused by boiler overheating, no matter what the cause. This includes boiler overheat situations caused by cold-weather operation. The ARP Control's monitoring and protection technology is patented and has not been licensed to any manufacturer.

### Holistic Refrigerator Solution

It turns out that simply monitoring the refrigerator's boiler temperature can solve cold-weather problems. The heat from the cooling unit can thaw the frozen weak-solution line if the heat is cycled. This is where

the ARP Control comes in. When the boiler reaches temperatures that can result in failure of the refrigerator, the ARP turns off the boiler heater. Then, after the boiler has cooled, the ARP Control attempts a restart of the heater. In our experience, the cycling of the heater appears to solve the problem.

During the oil boom in the year of 2015, we sold many ARP Controls to folks living in their RVs in the Williston Basin of North Dakota. All users reported to us that they no longer experienced freeze-ups after installing the unit. Additionally, none of the users have reported that their cooling unit has failed, even when living full-time in their RV, in as low as -20F.

Once I understood the cold-weather failure mode, I consulted with a professional cooling unit re-manufacturer and confirmed my findings. He stated that after every cold winter, like the winter of 2018, his sales go up during the following summer and fall. Cold winters are his friend because when cooling units freeze up and fail, his job is to sell folks a new one.

### Conclusion

Our job at ARP is to understand failure modes and to prevent failures that result in unnecessary hassle and expense. Almost all RV refrigerator failures can be attributed to either defective manufacture of the unit or damage suffered due to the overheating of the cooling unit boiler. We must control what we can, so why not control boiler temperature with the the ARP Control, the only system that can reliably prevent failure. 



**PAUL AND MAO UNMACK** are mechanical engineers. Paul ran an automotive repair business in Red Lodge, Montana, for 20 years before receiving his engineering degree. He has practiced nuclear, fire suppression and industrial process control systems design.

Mao designed pressure vessels for ammonia plants, in China, for 12 years, then came to the U.S. to get a master's of welding engineering. She designed biodiesel plants and worked for a government-funded research and development organization. Paul and Mao run the entire ARP control business while taking on engineering consulting gigs.

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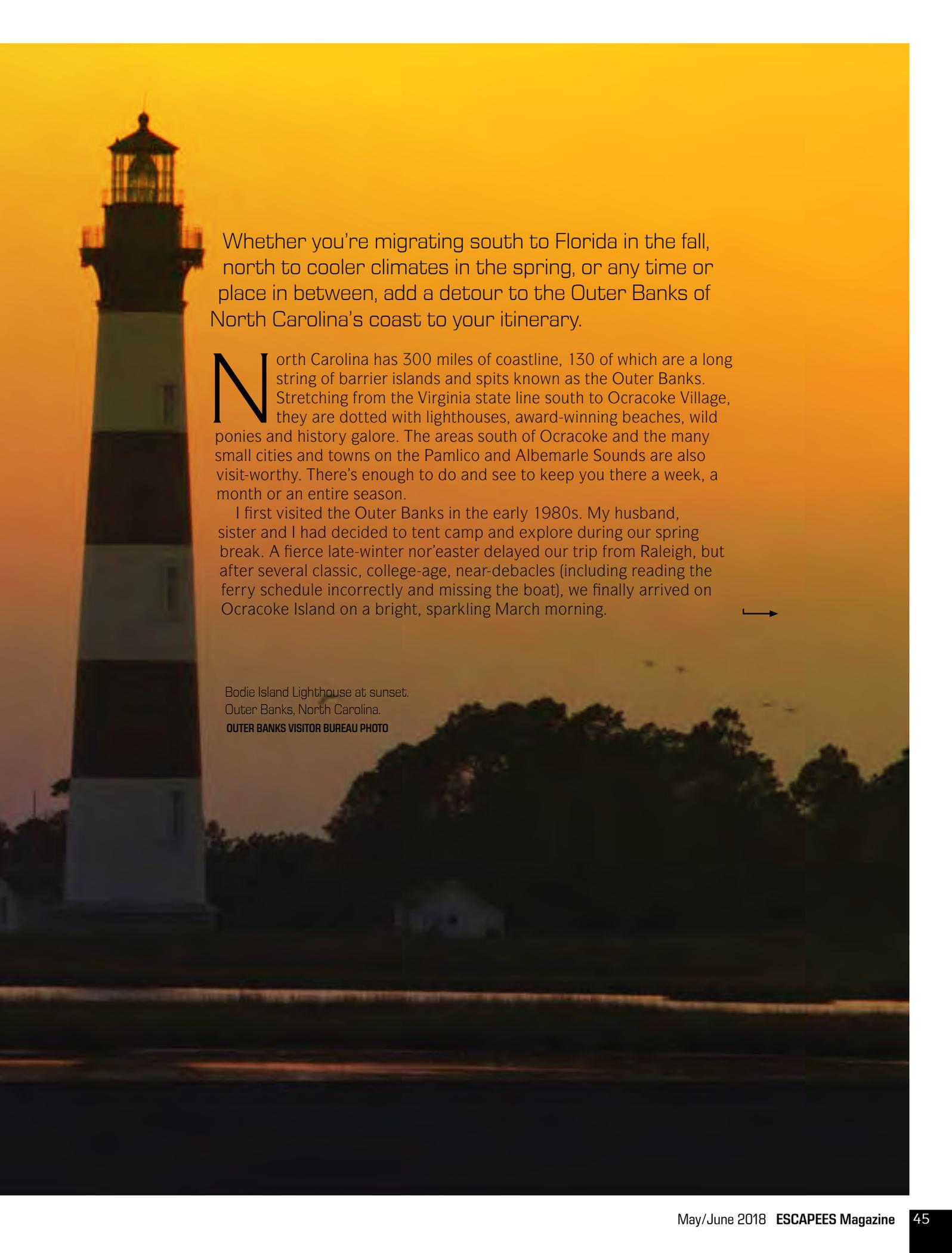
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*Coastal North Carolina*

# **VISITING THE OUTER BANKS**

By **DIANA GRAHAM** #126095





Whether you're migrating south to Florida in the fall, north to cooler climates in the spring, or any time or place in between, add a detour to the Outer Banks of North Carolina's coast to your itinerary.

**N**orth Carolina has 300 miles of coastline, 130 of which are a long string of barrier islands and spits known as the Outer Banks. Stretching from the Virginia state line south to Ocracoke Village, they are dotted with lighthouses, award-winning beaches, wild ponies and history galore. The areas south of Ocracoke and the many small cities and towns on the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds are also visit-worthy. There's enough to do and see to keep you there a week, a month or an entire season.

I first visited the Outer Banks in the early 1980s. My husband, sister and I had decided to tent camp and explore during our spring break. A fierce late-winter nor'easter delayed our trip from Raleigh, but after several classic, college-age, near-debacles (including reading the ferry schedule incorrectly and missing the boat), we finally arrived on Ocracoke Island on a bright, sparkling March morning.



Bodie Island Lighthouse at sunset.  
Outer Banks, North Carolina.

**OUTER BANKS VISITOR BUREAU PHOTO**

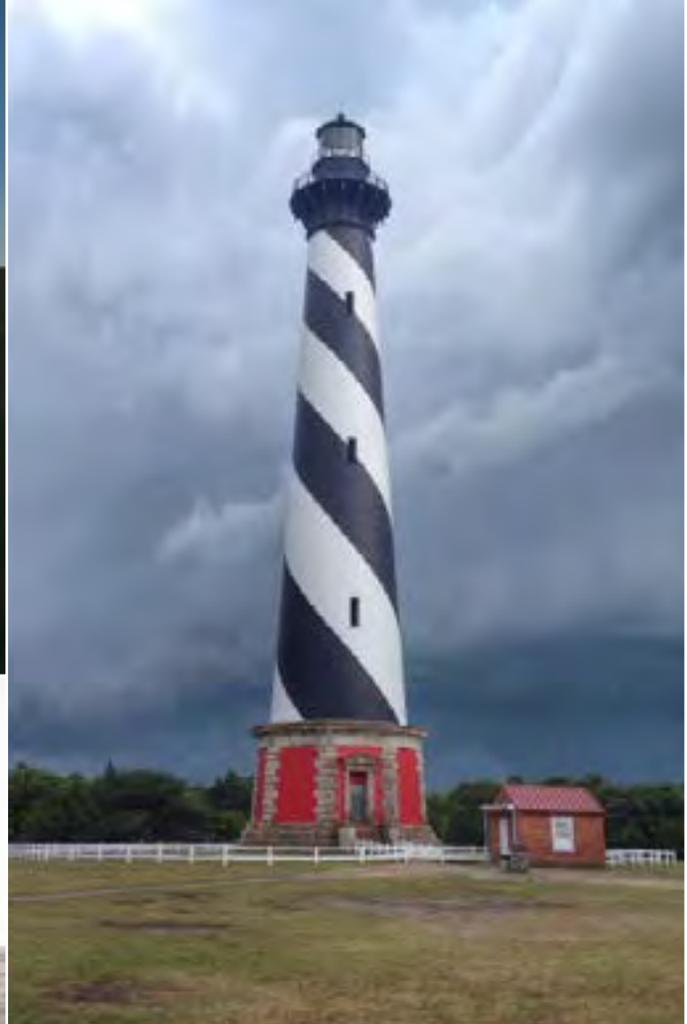


Jockey's Ridge State Park, home to the tallest active sand dune system in the eastern U.S., offers hang gliding and sand boarding. It is the most visited park within the NC park system.

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OUTER BANKS VISITOR BUREAU**

Hatteras Lighthouse.

**PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS.**



“...we spent Memorial Day week on Ocracoke Island at the southern tip of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The weather cooperated with pleasant temperatures and gentle ocean breezes. Miles of secluded beach were right outside our door.”

It was cold, and overwash from the storm had haphazardly tossed large chunks of Highway 12 into the dunes, reducing the road to a single lane in several spots. But the solitude and scenery were glorious. We discovered the remains of a shipwreck protruding from a dune that was scoured away by the storm. We entered the unlocked and unmanned Hatteras Light House, climbing one flight of the rusted, dangling iron stairs before deciding it was too dangerous to go farther. We spent a night on Harkers Island, where the locals' brogue took us back hundreds of years to Elizabethan English.

In the ensuing 40 years, I have returned to the Outer Banks time and again, never tiring of its beauty and allure.

If you want fun in the summer sun, make your plans early and secure a full hookup at one of the many RV parks. If you decide on a fall trip, keep a close eye on the weather in the tropics. An approaching hurricane may have you beating a hasty retreat via the aforementioned Highway 12, the only way on or off the northern stretch of Outer Banks or, as the locals affectionately refer to the area, OBX. Ocracoke Island is only accessible by NCDOT ferries, which stop running when seas are high.

In spring of 2017, we spent Memorial Day week on Ocracoke Island at the southern tip of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The weather cooperated with pleasant temperatures and gentle ocean breezes. Miles of secluded beach were right outside our door. Our one-week stay was not long enough.

Tourism is big business on the North Carolina coast, and there is no shortage of websites detailing the many things to do and see on the Outer Banks. The Outer Banks Visitor Bureau, [www.outerbanks.org](http://www.outerbanks.org), is a good place to start. With the Atlantic Ocean to the east and Pamlico and Albemarle



Sounds, the second largest estuary in the United States, to the west, water activities figure prominently. The attractions listed below, all places I have visited, are my personal highlights and by no means a comprehensive list.

NC Highway 12 is the thin ribbon of beleaguered highway, frequently at the mercy of ocean storms, connecting the islands of the northern section of the Outer Banks. The unique culture of the area, along with its history and beauty, is recognized by its designation on the state and national level as a Scenic Byway. The Bonner Bridge is the most common and convenient point of entry to the Outer Banks at the intersection of Highways 64 and 12. Whether you're coming or going, taking one of the NCDOT ferries that serve Ocracoke Island gives you a greater appreciation for how isolated these barrier islands were before Bonner Bridge was completed in 1963.

Manteo is a tiny town on Highway 64 before you cross Bonner Bridge, and it packs a lot into its delightful waterfront. Walk through the Elizabeth II, a replica of the small ship that brought the first English settlers to the new world. Or see the Lost Colony, the story of the settlement and its

mysterious disappearance. Visit the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island and the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and shop and dine in the picturesque downtown.

### **Heading North from Bonner Bridge:**

Nags Head, Kill Devil Hills, and Kitty Hawk are the first of several small communities you encounter. Originally individual small towns, they now form the commercial hub of the Outer Banks. A fun stop is Jockey's Ridge State Park, the largest sand dune on the east coast where you can frequently see hang gliders. Grab your bug spray and take one of the lovely walking trails in Nags Head Woods Preserve, a National Natural Landmark. It's a shady respite from the sun, with views of the sound and small coastal ponds and marsh. Be sure to set aside a few hours to visit the Wright Brothers National Monument, where brothers Wilbur and Orville had the first successful manned airplane flight. (Note: the visitor center is closed for renovations until the fall of 2018.)

Corolla is home to North Carolina's northernmost lighthouse, Currituck Beach Lighthouse, and one of the three NC lighthouses open to the public. The light station, so-called because there are several

NC 12 is the only north-south roadway along North Carolina's Outer Banks.

**OUTER BANKS VISITOR BUREAU  
PHOTO**





Ocracoke Lighthouse, the oldest and smallest lighthouse on the Outer Banks, has stood watch over Silver Lake Harbor since 1823. Parking is limited, but there is ample space for bicycles.

PHOTO BY DIANA GRAHAM

buildings, including a lighthouse and a keepers' dwelling that is quaint and picturesque.

Carova is not quite a town but rather a collection of neighborhoods that can only be accessed by driving a four-wheel drive vehicle on the beach at low tide. If you have the time and the vehicle, it's a fun drive, and you will likely be accompanied by small herds of wild ponies.

### Heading South

Cape Hatteras National Seashore begins as soon as you turn right on Highway 12 from Bonner Bridge, running south to include Ocracoke Island. There are four no-hookup campgrounds within the park, all of which have tent, trailer and motorhome sites. The northern section of CHNS, which largely consists of unpopulated wildlife preserves, is home to Oregon Inlet Campground and the campground closest to Nags Head. Climb up the Bodie Island Lighthouse and tour the Chicamacomico Life Saving Station, a precursor to the U.S. Coast Guard. The small museum tells the fascinating story of the local bankers who risked their lives to rescue those in peril from the thousands of shipwrecks on the

treacherous shoals off Cape Hatteras, known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic.

### The Cape

The "cape" includes the small communities of Frisco, Hatteras and Buxton and the Cape Point and Frisco campgrounds. The first place we camped in our new RV was Frisco Woods Campground in Frisco on Hatteras Island, backed up to Pamlico Sound. The sunsets we saw there are still some of the most beautiful I've seen anywhere, ever. We bicycled to the beach and climbed the candy-cane-striped Hatteras Lighthouse. With its unique black and white candy-cane stripes, Hatteras Lighthouse has warned ships away from the treacherous off-shore shoals since 1871. It is the tallest brick lighthouse in the U.S. and the most popular attraction on the Outer Banks.

Ocracoke Island is not an accidental destination, but getting to the Pearl of Outer Banks is half the fun. The island is a short hop on a free ferry from Hatteras Island or a longer ferry from either Swan Quarter or Cedar Island, all of which can accommodate any size RV. Charming Ocracoke Village, at the southern end of the island, is one of my most favorite places, and we made the Ocracoke campground, five miles north of the village, our home base during our visit in May 2017.

Bicycles are the perfect transportation to tour the village and waterfront. Restaurants in Ocracoke Village range from casual waterfront dining on Silver Lake Harbor to tiny screened porches tucked away in a maritime forest, to food trucks, all of them offering fresh locally caught seafood.

While it's not open to the public, the Ocracoke Lighthouse, the oldest and smallest of the North Carolina lighthouses, is lovely. We hopped on our adventure bike to take the free ferry to visit Hatteras Island and explore the remainder of the 13-mile-long island.

I suggest hiring one of the small passenger ferries authorized by the National Park Service who take visitors to Portsmouth Village, a trip back in time to an abandoned fishing village that is protected by them.

You'll be glad you did. 



**DIANA GRAHAM** retired from her position as a technical writer for GE to travel with her husband, Lon Hyers. They hit the road full-time in their fifth-wheel trailer in 2015.

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*Reflections on 11 years of full-time RVing*

Article and photos by **EMILY FAGAN** #99408

# Lessons Learned

LESSONS LEARNED



My husband, Mark, and I are celebrating our 11th year of traveling full-time. Back in the spring of 2007, we ran away from home with open minds and hearts, but no plans, in a lightweight 27-foot travel trailer and Toyota Tundra. Since then, our dreams and homes have evolved as we've journeyed down the many twists and turns of our life on the road. Our souls and knowledge of the world around us have expanded far beyond our wildest imaginations, and our lives have been enriched immeasurably.

Looking back, it is startling to realize how much we have learned and grown. We were 47 and 53 when we drove out of our driveway for the last time. With almost all our possessions piled into the back of our pickup, we were on our way to an RV dealership 1,000 miles away, where our new rolling home awaited us. We hadn't yet developed a travel style, and we were still emotionally immersed in our old workaday world.

In our first few years on the road, we would talk about our old jobs and old lives all the time as we made peace with the fact that we had been lucky enough to break away from the conventional world and begin having the time of our lives. We joked with each other: "When are the grown-ups going to come in and tell us to do something?" Now, 11 years later, our old conventional lives are a distant memory that has faded into a lifetime ago.

### Learning How to Travel

At first, we traveled too fast, always rushing to the next destination. We enthusiastically tried to see it all, and see it all *now*, until we exhausted ourselves. Then we began to realize we weren't on a vacation with a time limit. We were living a life, as we had before, but with new parameters. That's when we began to settle in and think about our real dreams and figure out how we wanted to live this unusual, nomadic lifestyle.

One of the greatest joys of living on the road is the infinite variety of things to do

right outside the RV door. Over the years, we have learned to paint our overall plans with broad brush strokes. We now approach our travels in "seasons," with each season encompassing a year of travel based out of the winter hotspots of Arizona or Florida. We choose one or two distant destinations for the year and let the rest of the details work themselves out as we go.

Our immediate needs may change from day to day, and we've learned to let those impulses dictate where we go and what we do. After a few weeks in a remote spot surrounded by nature, we sometimes feel an urge to find a town where we can meet the locals and become part of a community for a while. After spending time surrounded by desert, we often begin to have a hankering to go to the mountains. When we grow weary of tall pines and craggy peaks, we often find ourselves seeking out red rocks.

We also vary our length of stay in each place. If our destination for the season is thousands of miles from where we start, we stay in each place for a short time and keep ourselves on the move for months on end. But a season or two of this kind of travel makes us yearn to stay put, regroup and relax. The next season, instead of crossing the country, we'll spend a year seeing only

"One of the **greatest joys of living on the road** is the infinite variety of things to do right outside the RV door."

a few states in depth. During a time in our past lives, we were both known to do crazy 1,000-mile weekend road trips with friends. However, we now find that 150 miles is a full travel day and warrants a day of rest afterwards, if possible.

We've learned to trust our instincts and trust each other. One of us might throw out an idea: "Hey, let's go to the Black Hills!" However, we both know it's only a thought that can be overruled, even up until our arrival. Our travel plans don't acquire wings until we're driving, and even then, we've been known to start the day driving in one direction and then do a one-eighty and go the opposite way. This kind of flexibility is one of the aspects of our traveling lifestyle we love most. Many full-time RVers prefer

### Photo at left:

A pond in New Hampshire's White Mountains National Forest catches the reflection of the Fagan's fifth wheel trailer in the morning light.



“There is no right way or wrong way. **RVing full-time is about personal fulfillment** and uncovering what it means for you.”

more structured travel strategies, and that is okay. There is no right way or wrong way. RVing full-time is about personal fulfillment and uncovering what it means for you.

One of the biggest lessons we've learned is that we can never “see it all,” no matter where we go. There is always something we are unable to see or do. In the early years, this bothered me a lot, and I left many places with a sense of regret that we hadn't actually “been there and done that” completely. But, after a few years, we began to retrace our steps, revisiting many places we'd glimpsed before. It was then that I realized our travels are about peeling back the layers. When we go to a place for the first time, it is only an overview. We see it with virgin eyes and do all the obvious “must do” things that fill the brochures. A second or third trip allows us to go a little deeper. We return to the place knowing a lot about it already, and we take time to explore its hidden treasures.

### **Learning from Our Travels**

This business of peeling back the layers has given us one of the most valuable travel lessons we have learned. As human beings, we all make assumptions about people we have never met and places we have never been. After hearing about a destination from friends or seeing it in the news or studying it in history books, we develop an image in our minds about what it is like. However, it is only when we are actually standing there listening to the locals tell their story that the image begins to reflect reality.

More often than not, we arrive in a new place and, after a few days, we say to each other, “I had no idea it was like this.” No matter where we are, we frequently discover that we've had preconceived notions born from naiveté. In addition to stripping ourselves of convenient assumptions, each new place we visit finds a place in our hearts and we cherish aspects of it as our own. Now, we're often surprised when towns we've visited wind up in the news, and we feel the event on a personal level.

No longer is it just a place “somewhere out there.” We can now recollect the streets and buildings of the area, where we stayed and the locals we met.

We also find ourselves recognizing places in photographs and in the movies. Studying a beautiful landscape photo, we'll suddenly realize where it was taken. Watching an old John Wayne movie, we'll recognize where it was filmed. At times, we even notice how the landscape has changed since a movie was filmed. “We parked our truck in a parking lot right there!” we once said with shock as we watched a scene unfold in Sedona, Arizona. It depicted a raw landscape that is now full of homes and shopping plazas.

People have asked us if we're frightened when we travel, or if we've felt threatened. Our travels have restored our faith in humanity. We've found that people across the continent are much kinder and more generous than we ever imagined.

### **The Journey Within**

Perhaps the most profound aspect of our travels has been the journey we've each taken inside of ourselves. Our full-time traveling years now make up most of the time we have been together and a big chunk of our lives as well. “Living the Dream” seems like such fluffy stuff on the surface, but it has made us evaluate the deeper nature of our dreams and refine them as the years have gone by.

Early on, after zipping around the country for a few years in our trailer, we thought we wanted more thrilling adventures than the RV life seemed able to provide. So, we bought a sailboat and cruised Mexico for almost four years. Glorious as it was to sail and live in the tropics and in a foreign country, we soon discovered that the grittiness and hard work of the cruising life and the frequency of unanticipated raw and sometimes terrifying adventures wasn't quite the dream we had in mind. We realized that, although it was exciting to read about other people being scared out of their wits on a frightening sail at night, it wasn't so fun to experience it ourselves.

We stepped back and gave a lot of thought to which aspects of our lives made us happiest, something we had never had the time or freedom to do in our old conventional workaday lifestyle. We decided that we wanted to spend as many hours a day as possible doing things that made us happy and minimize the time spent doing things



**“Our travels have restored our faith in humanity.**  
We’ve found that people across the continent are much kinder and more generous than we ever imagined.”

that didn’t. Ever since that bit of soul searching, we have regularly taken time to examine our lives and make sure we are on the path to personal fulfillment.

I doubt we ever would have understood the deeper nature of our dreams if we hadn’t set off in our travel trailer years ago and followed our hearts and yearnings down the road. It is so easy to let fear, peer pressure and the dreams other people hold for us define our aspirations. For us, simply stepping out of convention and into an RV helped us face our fears and our dreams head on. And for this we are ever so grateful.

When we returned to RVing exclusively, after moving off our boat over four years ago, we decided to pursue our passions: photography and writing. We have worked to hone these skills for the bulk of every day since, and the process has been extremely rewarding. Our dreams continue to evolve

with each year that passes, and our bucket list of places to visit grows longer.

A few months ago, we unexpectedly became the owners of a young puppy named Buddy. He has brought a new focus and immeasurable joy into our lives on the road. Once again, this has confirmed for us that becoming full-time travelers wasn’t the final chapter in our lives. Instead, it was a door we opened to live our lives to the fullest potential and experience the world in luscious colors. 🚐

**Photo above:**

Mark and Emily with their new traveling pup, Buddy.

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**EMILY AND MARK FAGAN** have traveled full-time since 2007, criss-crossing North America in a 36-foot Hitchhiker fifth-wheel trailer. For nearly four of those years, they also cruised the Pacific coast of Mexico in a 44-foot sailboat. You’ll find over 800 pages of RVing and travel tips and adventure stories on their website, [RoadsLessTraveled.us](http://RoadsLessTraveled.us).

# IS IT A SCAM?

By K. SUSIE ADAMS #134068





Our law firm, Loring & Associates, is located at Escapees Headquarters in Livingston, Texas, along with Multigenerational Wealth Strategies (MGenWealth), a financial advisory firm. We are in the same building that houses the mail service for Escapees. As a result, we have members come in and ask us to help them determine if mail they've received is genuine or a scam.

For example, we recently had someone ask us about a letter that he received, saying he was entitled to \$800,000 if he sent \$3,000 for a handling charge. Heather Brown, financial advisor for MGenWealth, quickly deciphered that this was a scam. So, even if you are safely RVing on the road, you might still be subject to an occasional scam.

### **Vehicle Accident Scam**

In fact, an RVer friend, Mary, told me about the time she received a frantic phone call from her elderly father. He stated that her nephew, David, had been in a car accident in Canada, and needed their help. He said David was injured in the accident, lost his cell phone and wallet and needed her to wire him \$3,500 immediately.

In a panic, Mary raced to the nearest Walmart customer service, filled out the paperwork and wired the money. Although she was worried about David, she felt relieved that she had been able to help her nephew avert a crisis. Back at her RV, she took time to catch her breath and to process what had happened.

Once she calmed down, she began to wonder why David had gone to Canada, and why he hadn't contacted his parents. She thought it was odd that he would lose both his wallet and his cell phone. So, she decided to call David's phone. To her surprise, he answered. The fear that she and her dad had been scammed was confirmed when David told her he hadn't been in an accident, and he was in Houston, Texas, not Canada!

Racing back to Walmart, Mary explained the situation to the same cashier that had helped her earlier. Luckily, the money transfer hadn't gone through, and her money was returned.

Although local law enforcement in Canada was notified, the scammer got away—but, thankfully, not with Mary's money.

### **Unpaid Debt Scam**

In my law practice, I came across another type of swindler. It began approximately 17 years ago in 2001. At that time, my client, whom I will call Richard, had a balance due on a credit card of \$285. He was unaware of the debt and failed to pay it.

In 2008, a third party filed a lawsuit against Richard, alleging that the \$285 had grown to over \$13,000. The court granted a judgment against him. Poor and unable to afford a lawyer when Richard was notified about the debt, he agreed to the judgment

and to pay installments of \$100 per month. He had been scared into an arrangement he could not afford and, yet again, failed to pay.

Then, another debt collection agency bought the judgment from the previous owner. They filed another lawsuit against Richard, claiming he now owed over \$170,000 for this unpaid \$285 credit card bill from 18 years ago. Surprisingly, this lawsuit is legal.

However, instead of suing Richard, the debtor, the new claimant, sued the bank where Richard had an account, containing his only income from social security. He then received notice that his checking account had been garnished.

## “So, the moral to this story:

First and foremost, if you receive anything in the mail that sounds too good to be true, it probably is...”

Garnishing someone’s checking account for an unpaid loan is legal in Texas. However, garnishing the checking account of a person who relies solely on social security as their only income is not legal. But, there’s an exception. If any money in the account has been commingled with the money from social security (such as \$25 he was given as a gift), then the debtor/assignee’s/assignee can take those funds and continue to sue for the rest of the \$170,000 they are “owed.”

Historically, lenders used the argument that when someone failed to pay their debt, the lender didn’t have “use” of their money and, therefore, should be reimbursed the delinquent amount, plus interest they would have received if they’d had use of the money. In an affidavit accompanying this garnishment notice, the debt collection agency stated that the interest rate allowed is 32.24 per cent per annum.

However, if the lender had \$285 from Richard, back in 2001, it would be hard to prove that they could have invested it in anything that yielded \$170,000 in 2018. Another way to think of it is in the value it represented. The value of a dollar in 2001 is \$1.42 today. So, at most, \$285 in 2001 should be worth \$405 today. Certainly not \$170,000! In fact, this tactic reeks of usury. Usury is “lending money at unreasonably high interest rates.”

And, it also reeks of fraud. Supposedly, the attorney on the garnishment pleading was working for the debt collector, but when he was contacted, the voice message assured the caller that the number called was the debt collector, not an attorney representing the debt collector.

Of course, the obvious argument is that Richard should have paid his credit card bill, and it’s fair to say he should be reprimanded for not paying it. However, if the \$170,000 bill goes unpaid, what should be the next punishment—debtor’s prison?

Apparently, this is the latest racket, enriching lawyers at the expense of the elderly, scared and vulnerable: find an old debt, buy it from some previous debt collector who bought it from some earlier debt collector, max it out by waiting until the statute of limitations has almost run (there’s a 10-year statute of limitations on unpaid judgments) and then garnish the checking account and take what you can.

This is obviously an unfair practice, and our law firm plans to fight the issue.

## Conclusion

The moral to this story: First and foremost, if you receive anything in the mail that sounds too good to be true, it probably is a scam. Do your research or have someone you trust research it for you. Second, even if you love your nephew dearly, if he calls in the middle of the night and asks for a large sum of money, stay calm and investigate the situation thoroughly before wiring that money. And, third, if you receive notice of an unpaid debt and judgment from years ago that has increased 600 percent, do not accept it as an amount you owe. Seek out the advice of an attorney before agreeing to and signing any documents.

If you are wondering what happened to Richard’s case, well, he finally obtained legal counsel and the case against him was found to be nonsuited. This means the lawsuit to garnish his checking account was dropped. However, the judgment still stands and the case is ongoing. 



**K. SUSIE ADAMS** has been a lawyer for over 30 years, spending 15 of those years working as a trial lawyer. She also taught legal writing at the University of Houston Law School. From 2011–2016, she was executive director of Childrenz Haven, the Child Advocacy Center of Polk County, Texas. Susie and her husband, James Frost, reside in Livingston, Texas.

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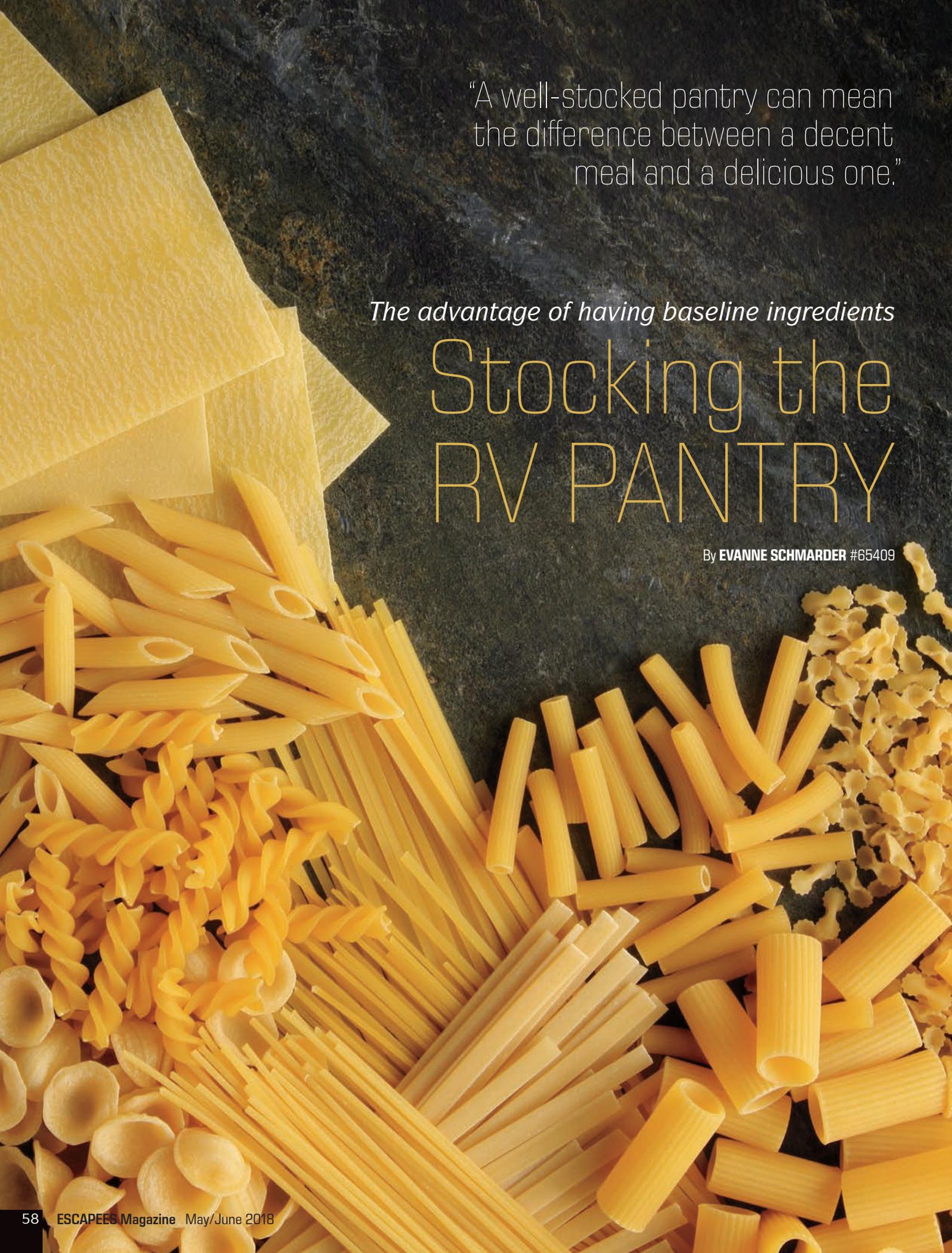
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“A well-stocked pantry can mean the difference between a decent meal and a delicious one.”

*The advantage of having baseline ingredients*

# Stocking the RV PANTRY

By **EVANNE SCHMARDER** #65409

True confession: I married a man that refers to bags, bottles, boxes and cans as the four food groups. While that's an entertaining stretch of the imagination, without those four essentials, meal preparation would be quite challenging.

**A** universal example is pasta—anyway you like it. In my RV kitchen, a perennial favorite is a simple spicy tuna pasta. I gather up a small bag of fennel pollen, red pepper flakes, bottles of high-quality olive oil, hot sauce and capers, a box of dried pasta, and a can of excellent tuna. Combined with sautéed red peppers, onions and garlic, a generous sprinkling of Parmesan cheese and a green salad, dinner is on the table.

### The Four Essentials

The advantages of having a baseline of these four essentials, or 4-Es as I call them, on hand can't be understated. Planning and procuring a well-stocked pantry makes all the difference at mealtimes.

There's no right or wrong way to stock a pantry. In addition to a few basics, it's all about how and what you like to cook. If you've gone gluten-free, you'll likely want quinoa and a few varieties of rice. If you love Asian food, don't forget coconut milk, curry paste and rice noodles. And, if you're heavily into baking, make room for a variety of flours, sweeteners and extracts, along with baking pans.

Most pantry items keep a long time. The exceptions to this are flour, oil (including products with oil such as nuts and nut butters) and spices. Depending on the type of flour, it can stay fresh for approximately one year in an airtight bag or container. Oils vary, depending on how they are processed, packaged and handled. Dark bottles, kept in a cool location, are best, so, for longevity, no clear bottles stored near the stovetop. Both flour and oil go rancid easily, making them unhealthy to consume. A quick sniff test will let you know if they are still good to use. Most spices will last about one year before they lose their flavor punch, even if they are still fragrant. If you are unsure, give them a taste before adding to your dish.

### Shopping List

Why recreate the wheel? Develop a standardized pantry-shopping list and replenish your inventory at every grocery stop. I keep my list on my smartphone, but you might want to carry a paper list. Whatever works best for you is the key. If a staple item is on sale, stock up if it will keep within a reasonable amount of time before you can use it. Since everyone's taste and recipe selections are different, I'll share with you what I keep in my cupboards, and you can modify it to fit your needs.

### Liquids

- **Oils:** extra virgin olive oil, expeller-pressed canola oil, virgin coconut oil, dark roasted sesame oil (refrigerate; turns rancid quickly). I've taken to using a refillable oil sprayer (a Misto, in my case) in lieu of nonstick cooking spray. It's also ideal for lightly coating toast, veggies, salads, etc.
- **Vinegar:** red wine, white wine, sherry, apple cider, balsamic, seasoned (sweetened) rice
- **Broth:** organic chicken broth in aseptic boxes, bouillon, cream of mushroom
- **Sauces/Condiments:** marinades, barbecue sauce, salsas (green and red), hot sauce, tamari or soy sauce, fish sauce, coconut milk, curry paste
- **Sweeteners/Flavorings:** maple syrup (keep in the refrigerator after opening), honey, real vanilla extract, vanilla beans

### Canned Goods

- **Beans/Legumes:** a variety including black, white, kidney, pinto, garbanzo, refried, green lentils, yellow lentils. As I travel, I challenge myself to try varieties that are new to me.
- **Other Can/Jar Goods:** tuna, clams, artichoke hearts, roasted red peppers, capers, jalapeno stuffed green olives, black olives, chipotle chiles, tapenade, peaches, mango pulp
- **Tomato Products:** diced tomatoes, tomato paste, spaghetti sauce

### Dry Goods

- **Grains:** oats, quinoa, brown rice, long grain basmati rice, whole-wheat couscous, Annie's Mac and Cheese, popcorn kernels, breakfast cereal
- **Pasta:** high-quality durum wheat pasta (Italian, if possible) in a variety of shapes, brown rice pasta, rice noodles, udon noodles, soba noodles



### Tamari Almonds

2 cups raw almonds  
1 tbsp (approx) tamari

**Directions:** Set oven to 350 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread almonds into a single layer and roast for 8 to 12 minutes, until fragrant and dark brown. Remove from oven and, while still hot, pour almonds into a large mixing bowl, saving the parchment. Quickly add the tamari and stir to coat the almonds. It will sizzle and smoke. Move the parchment to the countertop (or a cool baking sheet) and spread the almonds in a single layer to dry. Great for snacking!



“Make it a point to keep your essentials, the 4-E food groups, handy and you’ll always be ready...”

### Organize Your RV Pantry

Are your pantry items trying to make the great escape? Read Kelly Beasley’s article on pages 62–64 for handy tips on organizing your RV kitchen.

- **Baking/Mixes:** cornbread mix, falafel mix, flour, coconut palm sugar, baking powder, cornstarch, whole flax seed to grind (kept refrigerated), cacao powder
- **Dried Fruits/Nuts:** non-crystallized ginger, dates, raisins, prunes, apricots, nuts of all varieties (kept in the freezer)
- **Snacks:** crackers/chips, energy bars, dark chocolate, trail mix (homemade)
- **Bevos:** a variety of caffeinated and decaffeinated teas, both loose and in bags, coffee beans, Dandy Blend instant coffee alternative (great for late night chats over a steaming cup of “coffee”), espresso powder

### Spices

**Dried spices:** salt/pepper grinders, garlic powder, thyme, rosemary, oregano, red pepper flakes, fennel pollen, curry powder, mustard seeds, cumin, chili powder, dill, paprika, cinnamon, blackening powder.

**Spice mixes:** The following spice mixes make delicious marinades and are excellent to simply sprinkle over food. Caribbean Jerk, Montreal Chicken/Steak, Old Bay Seasoning. The varieties at the store are endless. (Remember to carry/copy your favorite recipes in your RV.)

A well-stocked pantry can mean the difference between a decent meal and a delicious one. It offers options and ideas, an opportunity to eat well after a long day on the road, entertain newfound friends, satisfy a craving or create a culinary sensation. Make it a point to keep your essentials, the 4-E food groups, handy and you’ll always be ready to rock your RV kitchen. 🚐



**EVANNE SCHMARDER** is sure she got the wanderlust bug from her grandparents. In 2000, she and her husband, Ray, set off on their own adventure, in search of a sunny place to settle down. Eighteen-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](http://RVCookingShow.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

### Spicy Tuna Pasta

Serves 2

- ½ pound penne or other shaped pasta
- 1 med. red pepper, chopped
- 1 sm. sweet onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- olive oil
- 1 can high-quality tuna in olive oil
- 1 tablespoon capers, rinsed
- hot sauce (Louisiana or Frank’s) to taste
- red pepper flakes to taste
- salt/pepper to taste
- fennel pollen (or finely ground fennel seeds/powder if pollen is unavailable) to taste
- Parmesan cheese to sprinkle on top

### Directions:

While water comes to a boil for the pasta, saute peppers and onion in a medium-sized saute pan on medium low until soft. Add garlic and sauté for a minute. Add ½ to 1 tablespoon more oil and allow to sizzle.

By now, you should have the pasta in the water. Add approximately half a cup of boiling pasta water to the sizzling veggies in the sauté pan and allow it to bubble and begin to evaporate. Continue to add pasta water when the liquid gets low, reducing the heat so you have a rapid simmer, not a boil. You’ll repeat this two to four times while the pasta cooks. This will create a silky sauce to stick to your pasta. You should end up with approximately half a cup of cooked-down liquid. If you have too much liquid, turn it up to a boil for a minute to reduce it further.

Drain the pasta and return to the warm pan. Add the veg/liquid sauté and stir. Add the hot sauce, red pepper flakes and capers, stir. Add the tuna and its oil and stir gently. Taste and adjust seasonings.

Plate and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Dust with fennel pollen (it has a strong anise flavor) or fennel powder to taste.

Often requested, simple and delicious!

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When dishes fly and spaghetti runs free!

# Moving Day Mishaps

By KELLY BEASLEY #120701



If you are not a careful person, RV moving days can be quite challenging. To me, being “careful” means doing as little as possible and then hoping for the best. Most of the time, that doesn’t work out so well.

My moving days are quite eventful. Most often, it’s the mess I’ll walk into when I enter my travel trailer after driving it down the road. Usually, I find a mess that I have to clean up. Why? The answer is easy.

The reason is that, in my two-and-a-half years of full-time RVing, I’ve been too lazy to organize my RV. The result is that my stuff takes advantage of moving days, and it tends to wander into inappropriate places.

“Every time I move, my booth table goes for a walk, pots and pans spread their wings and come flying out of cabinets, and curtain rods jump off their hooks.”



### Runaway Spaghetti

For instance, during my last move, I stopped midway to grab something to eat out of my travel trailer. As I opened the pantry door, I immediately knew something was amiss.

I heard an unusual sound coming from the bottom of the door. I stopped mid-open, looked down and there it was—spaghetti scattered everywhere. Of course, a box had been left open, and the contents fell out during transit. Spaghetti pieces had run for their lives!

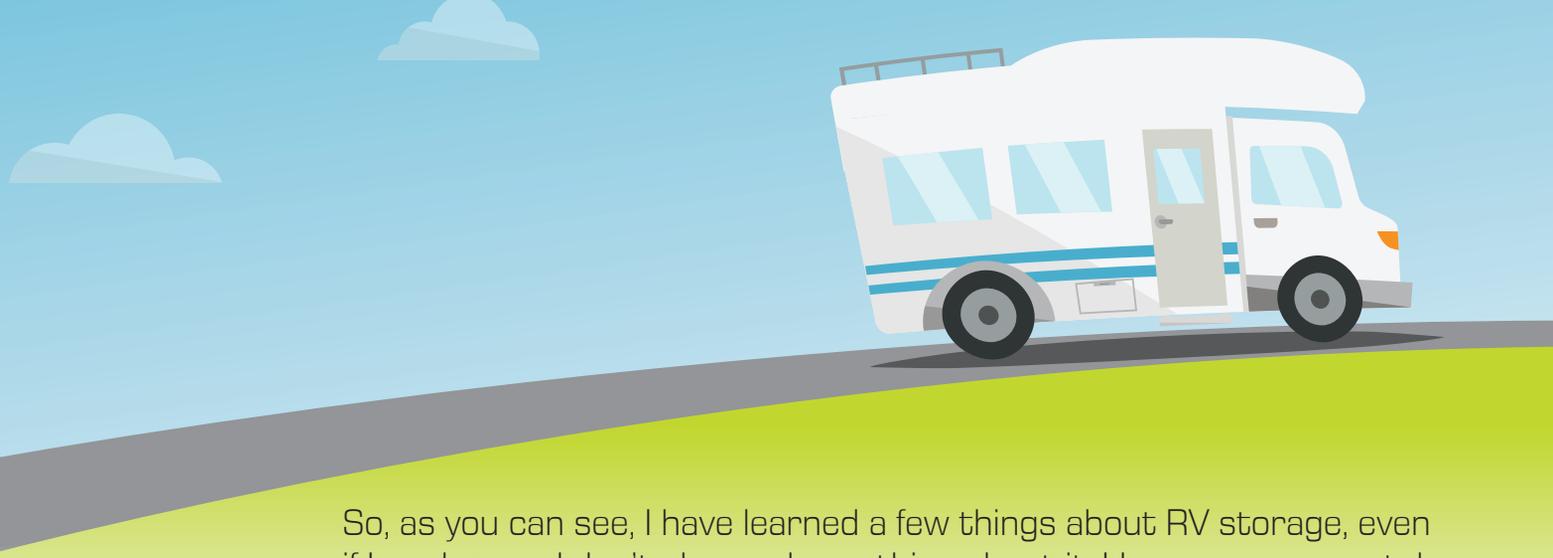
Laughing at myself, and maybe cursing a tad, I tried to gather the remaining runaway spaghetti as I opened the door all the way. I mostly failed, and there's a good chance I will find dry spaghetti bits for up to a year following this one particular incident. I have finally learned to open cabinets slowly.

### Dishes Demise

Another casualty of my carelessness is the demise of glass dishes. A few of mine have fallen to the floor trying to find their wings. So far, I have only had three deaths: one soup bowl, one plate and an ice cream dish. The dish was nice enough to leave its own grave marker, a crack on my counter.

Every time I move, my booth table goes for a walk, pots and pans spread their wings and come flying out of cabinets, and curtain rods jump off their hooks. Cans of food, which could literally break one of my toes, have come barreling down as I open the pantry. Refrigerated leftovers have made their way to the top of my refrigerator and to other hard-to-get-to places.





So, as you can see, I have learned a few things about RV storage, even if I am lazy and don't always do anything about it. However, you can take action and benefit from lessons I've learned about my mistakes. Here are 11 ways to avoid camping like I do.

• **RV refrigerator/cabinet braces:**

Refrigerator shelf and door-rack supports are a must. Also, inexpensive, expandable curtain rods are essential, especially if you don't have locking cabinets. Even if your cabinets lock, installing rods horizontally at the outer edge of each cabinet will keep items from falling out when opening the door.

• **Stocking the refrigerator:** Keep items that might burst in a snap-on lid container, and store liquids closer to the bottom. Pack everything tight. When using the tension rods, place them snug against the contents. Air blown into Ziploc® baggies and sealed can be used as weightless buffers between refrigerator items.

• **Nonslip shelf liners:** I found that nonslip shelf liners will eventually slip. I glue the liners to the bottom of my cabinets with clear silicone.

• **A place for everything:** Plan for prevention, and build a better cabinetry system so that each item has a place. You can easily build your own, or buy pre-built shelves and containers.

• **Keep breakables to a minimum:** Glass dishes may be nice, but they break and add to the overall weight of your RV. Consider using fun, colored plastic dishes that are made for picnics. Or, use paper plates that you can burn after use.

• **Earthquake tape:** This tape is good for keeping small items from falling or moving around. It won't hold larger items, so if you have a lot of decor that will easily fall over, consider adhering it permanently so you don't have to store it every time you move.

• **Containers:** Keeping small items secured in containers will keep them from moving around in transit. Even if you have a place for everything, having items in containers helps to keep them organized.

• **Drawers:** Lock your drawers. If your cabinet drawers don't lock, child safety locks work well. Flying drawers are sure to spill contents and can potentially break the brackets they are sliding on.

• **Secure your stuff:** Use creativity with bungee cords, nets and straps to hold belongings, such as a buddy heater or a printer, in place.

• **Command Strips:** These strips are excellent for hanging items on the walls, especially the type with velcro. However, the weight of heavier items, such as frames, can pull the wall laminate off of its backing. For these items, use a double method like a wall anchor combined with a command strip.

• **The Bed:** The bed is a great place to store items that you don't want to get damaged while in transit. I put my laptop on my bed, as well as other items that aren't secured. Be sure to put it all in the middle of the bed.

Finding ways to secure items in your RV can seem like a lot of work, and I suppose this is why I haven't done much of it in my two-plus years of full-time RVing. But, hey, you don't have to suffer like I have. I probably need to hire a handyman for about a week, because I'd like to organize and secure my RV for maximum fun time and less work while camping. If I can learn to do it, so can you. 🚐



**KELLY BEASLEY** has been full-time RVing since 2015. She blogs her boondocking adventures and minimalist lifestyle on [Rvchickadee.com](http://Rvchickadee.com). Kelly is also co-founder of [CampAddict.com](http://CampAddict.com), an educational website. You can see more about Kelly as she will be featured in an upcoming documentary film, *RV Nomads*, in October 2018.

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## The growing pains of RV Trial and Error

By **BARB JAQUITH** #141426

Purchasing a new RV is one of the most exciting events in the lives of RVers. It is fun getting to know a new home on wheels, but all models of RVs have their idiosyncrasies, and it takes time to familiarize yourself with how the mechanics work in a new unit. When we purchased our current RV, it came with two slides and many more bells and whistles than our previous little camper, so there was a lot to be learned.

**O**rientation at the dealership exposed us to a myriad of details to remember. Things that seem obvious are not always so. On our first few trips, I followed my patient husband, Arnie, around with a checklist to make sure we didn't miss any details. Did we remember to plug in the voltage meter? Is the pressure regulator hooked up? Is the refrigerator switched over to gas? Is there even any gas in the tanks? Is everything out of the way of the slides? Are the steps retracted? And the list went on and on.

Through trial and error, we gradually became accustomed to our new rolling home. Unfortunately for us, the emphasis happened to be on "error."

### **Slide Surprise**

For instance, one morning, I meant to flip the switch to extend the awning and unexpectedly flipped the switch for the dining room slide instead. You should have seen the look on Arnie's face as he, the table and his fresh cup of coffee began to slide inward. He looked stunned as I turned to him to say, "Something is wrong with the awning, I can hear the motor, but it's not moving out." I was so surprised to turn and see that he had moved in about three feet closer to me!

Then there is the matter of the toilet. To give you a visual of this incident, remember that most RV bathrooms are quite tight quarters, often with overhead cabinets and nooks and crannies for storage. Ours is a handy-dandy foot pedal model.



“Through trial and error, we gradually became accustomed to our new rolling home. Unfortunately for us, the emphasis happened to be on ‘error.’”

On this particular day, we had pulled into camp and were setting up. I usually take care of the inside tasks, while Arnie tends to unhitching, leveling and hooking up to water, electric and sewer inlets. One of the new bells and whistles on our new RV is an inlet to pressure clean the black-water tank. For camping novices, the black-water tank is the tank that holds the nasty stuff. We empty it as we depart each campground so it is fresh when we arrive at the next one. But fresh is a relative word. There is always a bit of residue, and that is why the pressure cleaning function is provided. You simply hook up a hose, open the outside valve to the black-water tank and flush until it runs clear. With the correct equipment, it's a smooth, sanitary procedure, despite what you might imagine.

### **Black-tank Blunder**

So, tired, hungry and road-weary, I set up everything inside and started dinner while Arnie hooked up the utilities. After a while, I heard a strange noise, so I went to the rear of the camper to investigate. It sounded almost like a motor with running water. What could it be? I called to Arnie and asked him. He went to check on the mystery noise and soon I heard him banging about the rear of the camper. The mystery noise stopped. He didn't come in with any explanation, so I assumed that all was well and the problem was solved because the noise ceased. Lesson one: never assume.

After washing dishes, I decided to pour the dishwater into the black-water tank. I carried it to the bathroom and, with my foot, →



“All of us RVers have had our share of learning experiences, and it’s comforting to know that mistakes often add up to valuable knowledge.”

depressed the pedal. To my astonishment, a fully pressurized volcanic jet burst forth from the open toilet, shooting straight into the air, hit the bottom of the overhead cabinets and then dripped down the walls. I only had the valve open for the split second it took to react and remove my foot from the pedal, but it was time enough for the toilet, now known as Vesuvius, to send a shocking shower all over the bathroom.

It seems that Arnie had hooked the water up to the wrong inlet, pressurizing the closed black-water tank. When I opened it, the pressure had to release somewhere, and up and out was the only direction. That would be why there is a sticker on that connection that says, “Make sure that the black-water tank is open before making this connection.” But who reads these stickers? Clearly, not us. I didn’t even know we had the connection until this fortunate discovery.

I’m eternally grateful that I was standing up erect while dumping that dishpan into the toilet rather than in a seated position at the time of explosion. As it was, the fountain miraculously missed me completely. Not a drop landed on the white blouse I was wearing. Our bathroom was not so lucky, and it was an exercise in patience to clean it up. As with most of our camping escapades, it’s funny now, and we are grateful no one got hurt.

### Not a Good Time

And I know we are not the only RVers to experience these types of mishaps. Recently, we were sitting outside the camper, watching a man and his wife set up their fifth-wheel at a neighboring campsite. We heard a sudden crash. The front of their fifth-wheel trailer had descended onto the tailgate of their pickup truck. It was bone-jarring and, while we felt bad for them, we were perversely comforted by the fact that we were not the only RVers making careless errors. We related to the husband’s terse comment to his wife as he held up his hand and said quietly, “Linda, just don’t talk to me right now!”

All of us RVers have had our share of learning experiences, and it’s comforting to know that mistakes often add up to valuable knowledge. However, when these mistakes happen to our travel companions, it’s hard not to complain or even laugh. But, sometimes it’s better to give them some space and remember that camper’s frustrated advice and “just don’t talk to (them) right now!”



**BARBARA JAQUITH** and her husband, Arnold, are life-long RVers. They claim to keep a light heart and a sense of humor about their escapades, most of which make great stories around the RV campfire.



# MEMBER SECTION



Xscapers Annual Bash 2018  
Imperial Sand Dunes,  
Winterhaven, California

PHOTO BY WILLIAM TRINKLE #127874



# A Message From The Board

## Coming Up Through the Ranks

By **SHAWN LORING** #76442, Escapees CEO, and the Escapees Board of Directors

About 20 years ago, I remember watching a talk show, where a hardcore gang member was being interviewed about gang life in Los Angeles. His commentary was particularly noteworthy because, having been the victim of a drive-by shooting, he was permanently confined to a wheelchair. The host asked him what advice he had for someone coming up through the ranks. His answer was, “A smart man learns from others what the fool figures out for himself.”

**T**his prompted me to think about advice in general. What is the best advice you’ve ever received? I recall asking my father what purpose our lives should hold. The advice he gave me was that we need to leave the world better than we found it. What advice would you give to someone coming up through the ranks? A penny saved is a penny earned? Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you? Or, perhaps, remember to stretch?

### Expert Advice

As Escapees, we have a rich tradition of sharing advice with one another so that we can maximize our enjoyment of the RVing lifestyle. This tradition of sharing advice forms the basis of one of the pillars of Escapees—education!

Entering the RV lifestyle seems intuitively simple: purchase an RV, fill it with gas, turn the key and point it in the right direction. Presto; you’re RVing. However, seasoned RVers know there is quite a bit more to it.

Over the course of many generations, people have studied every aspect of RVing, from lifestyle to the safe operation and maintenance of RVs. There is no shortage of expert advice. There are many informative resources, such as websites, blogs, forums, social media and YouTube, that are filled with suggestions and tips

designed to make you a more efficient RVer. All this sharing of information is one of the greatest ways in which we collectively create a community.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation and, more commonly, incomplete information, usually from well-meaning people. Much of the information is based solely on the singular experience of the person providing the advice. And, while that alone does not make the information bad or inappropriate, it does beg the question of whether the circumstance that gives rise to the advice is something you are likely to face.

### Quality Education

The quality and quantity of information about RVing creates a two-fold conundrum: questioning the source and knowing when to apply what advice. To solve this essential problem, in 2005, Escapees created RVers Boot Camp, a live, classroom-style course focused on proper operation, maintenance and safety of RVs. In RVers Boot Camp, industry-leading experts teach material based on years of research and case studies. Moreover, during RVers Boot Camp, students are given the opportunity to interact with each of their instructors as well as with one another, maintaining and fostering an overall sense of community. In 2017, we brought RVers Boot Camp online, in a program called RVers Online University. Further, we expanded the available courses to include more lifestyle-oriented education, since successfully RVing, especially for long periods of time, requires knowledge and skills beyond merely operating and maintaining an RV.

### Welcome Instructors

To expand RVers Online University into lifestyle courses, we initially partnered with Susie Adams, an attorney with Loring & Associates, who is renowned for her domicile lectures.

We are now proud to welcome Camille Attell to the slate of our instructors. She is a full-time RVer who teaches classes on how to transition to the full-time RV lifestyle. In detail, Camille has documented the necessary steps for ridding ourselves of superfluous possessions in order to make the transition easier.

## ESCAPEES NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS NEW HOLIDAY HOURS FOR 2018

The Escapees RV Club National Headquarters will begin observing additional national holidays this year to coincide with post office closures. For your convenience, the dates for 2018 are

listed below. Please remember that Escapees mail service and the club business office will be closed on these dates, so be sure to call ahead for your mail.

- **January 1**—New Year's Day
- **January 15**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- **February 19**—President's Day
- **March 30**—Good Friday (Easter)
- **May 28**—Memorial Day
- **July 4**—Independence Day
- **September 3**—Labor Day
- **October 8**—Columbus Day
- **November 11**—Veteran's Day (2018/Sunday)
- **November 22 & 23**—Thanksgiving Day (2 days)
- **December 24**—Christmas Eve
- **December 25**—Christmas Day
- **December 31**—New Year's Eve



### Safe-driver Discount

We are proud of RVer's Boot Camp and RVer's Online University. While we always look for ways to update and improve the information we deliver and the methods by which we deliver it, we are naturally biased in thinking the programs are highly beneficial to our students. Therefore, it is a great honor when others believe so strongly in the quality of our education, they offer a discount to our students. That is why we are proud to announce that RV Advantage now offers a safe-driver discount on auto insurance to graduates of RVer's Boot Camp and RVer's Online University. And those discounts add up, paying for the program over time.

### Sharing and Caring

Education is of paramount importance to successful RVing, especially if you plan on RVing for extended periods of time. We hope you'll come to Escapees for that education. However, regardless of how and from whom you get your advice, we urge you to learn what advice to apply to your current situation and always consider the source. Most importantly, we encourage you to pass along your wisdom. Remember that "sharing and caring" is the simple Escapees mantra. As a community, we are all made better when we help educate each other to be better RVers. 🚐

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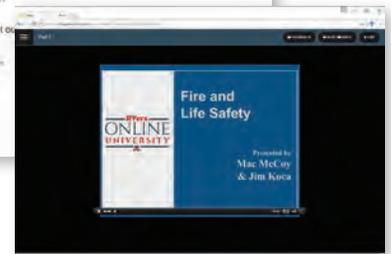
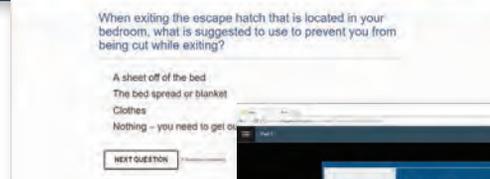
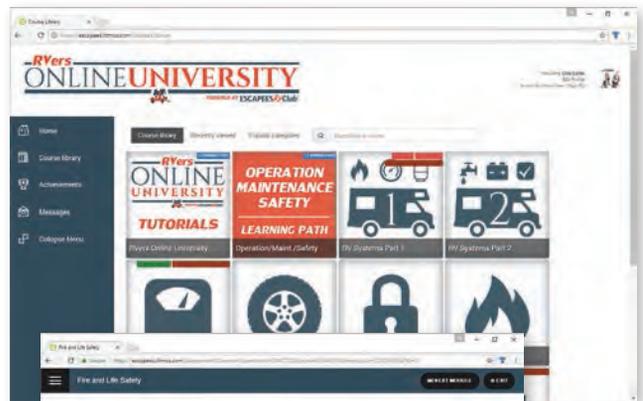


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## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

### Escapees Special Interest Groups

Escapees Birds of a Feather (BoF) groups share lifestyle interests. Expand your talents and share your knowledge. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, you are welcome.

**Alternative Medicine:** Newsletter about, but not limited to, herbs, vitamins, dietary ideas, natural healing, attaining and maintaining health. I also send BoF Extras and Bits&Pieces. Free e-newsletter. Send SKP# and e-mail address to CLTORNS@aol.com. Please include BoF or Escapees in the subject line. Carol Torns #21855. 2216 Leisure Ln, Wauchula FL 33873.

**Amateur Radio:** Newsletter is \$5 for three issues. Published January, May and September. Include name, amateur radio call sign if licensed, SKP #, spouse's name, address, check and e-mail address, to Forrest Clark, KC9YMH, SKP #110995, 411 Walnut ST., PMB #10903, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

**Bikes, Boots 'n Paddles:** Casual group (no dues/no newsletter) for those who like to read about or participate in cycling, walking and hiking and/or paddling activities. Meet at Escapades and informal gatherings or simply share experiences online. Share routes, trails, locations, equipment and photos. Facebook: "SKP Bikes, Boots 'N Paddles BoF." Nancy Cullinan: nancullinan@gmail.com

**Boomers:** Casual group (no rules/no officers/no cost) for those who have a youthful mindset. Members enjoy hiking, beading, biking, reading, 4-wheel drives or just sitting around the campfire. Monthly e-newsletter, Facebook and Yahoo! groups provide opportunities to share the RVing experience. Impromptu gatherings pop up several times a year. Send your name and SKP# to boomerBoF@gmail.com.

**Boondockers:** Casual group (no dues) enjoying the dry-camping lifestyle. Bimonthly newsletter lists rendezvous. (Dry-camp spots not listed.) Stan/Mikki Vincent, subscription coordinators; Darryl and Judy Wilson, editors. Judy Wilson, wilsonjudwil@aol.com to join.

**Bufs:** Bufs like to think of themselves as the Birds withOut Feathers BoF. This group is for SKP members who enjoy wholesome social nudism. On our Yahoo! groups website, read reviews of nudist campgrounds, receive answers to questions, read our newsletter, locate nudist campgrounds who offer discounts to Bufs, see who might be camping near you and get involved in discussions. No cost to join. E-mail pamelapelc@yahoo.com. Include SKP# and reason for wanting to join.

**Christian Fellowship:** The Christian Fellowship BoF is a gathering of Escapees believers drawing together to form a mobile church-without-walls for fellowship, fun, worship, spiritual growth and serving communities. We pray for and encourage one another, while not focusing on denominationalism. Meet at Escapades and Christian Fellowship BoF rallies. Visit [www.cfbf.com](http://www.cfbf.com). Membership is free. For rally information, contact Allen Ferguson at [fergizmo@thefergs.com](mailto:fergizmo@thefergs.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](mailto:ComputerBoF-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Contact Tom McIlwain, 6003 Main St, Center Valley, PA 18034. To subscribe to the Linux sub-newsgroup: [ComputerBoF-Linux-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ComputerBoF-Linux-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**DOVE (the Doves) • C-BoF:** Hurricanes, tornados, floods, fires, disasters rarely give us notice when they will happen. The 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 train and pair you with the right disaster response activity to satisfy your desire to help others and to provide life-sustaining assistance. For info, visit [www.dovebof.org](http://www.dovebof.org) or contact Brian Houser at [president@doveBoF.org](mailto:president@doveBoF.org) (210-268-3931) or Jodi Scales at [membership@doveBoF.org](mailto:membership@doveBoF.org). Yearly dues: \$10

**Escapees Elk • C-BoF:** You must be a member of a BPO Elks Lodge to join. Meet at Escapades. (The BoF isn't a lodge.) To join, send \$6 per year (checks payable to Escapees Elk BoF). To be directed to an Elks lodge, send SASE to Membership Chairman, 230 Rainbow Dr., #13071, Livingston, TX 77399-2030. Visit [www.escapees.com/escapees-elk-bof](http://www.escapees.com/escapees-elk-bof)

**First Responders:** This group is for law enforcement, fire, EMT and other first responders who want to camp as a group for fun and fellowship. Donald Fredericks: [sq320ret@yahoo.com](mailto:sq320ret@yahoo.com) or 707-953-4346.

**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 Noble or Cyd, 238 Rainbow Dr., #13852, Livingston, TX 77399-2038. 404-578-0864. [noblecyd@reagan.com](mailto:noblecyd@reagan.com). To join this group, you will need a Facebook account. Search for Cyd Wise (Livingston, TX) and send a friend request to be added to the group.

**Full-time Graduating Class:** For those who have graduated from part-time to full-time RVing. Informal group/no newsletter or officers. Correspondence is via the Escapees Discussion Forum. Join your class by visiting the forum at [www.rvnetwork.com](http://www.rvnetwork.com), select "Graduating to Full-Time" and 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](mailto:skpgenies@gmail.com) or SKP Genealogy BoF, 142 Rainbow Dr., #4228, Livingston, TX 77399-1042.



SKP Geocachers on a night geocach adventure.

PHOTO BY JOHN SCHROEDER #127572  
JUSTFINDING.BLOGSPOT.COM

**Geocache:** The Geocachers BoF provides a link enabling members to be in touch with other SKP geocachers, share geocaching information, learn from others and discover if other SKP geocachers are nearby. The BoF hosts an annual multi-day rally in the Quartzsite, Arizona, area in late January, featuring morning seminars and afternoon caching outings. Communication is via Facebook or e-mail. No dues or fees. To join, contact Sue Pace, at [skpgeocacheBoF@gmail.com](mailto:skpgeocacheBoF@gmail.com). Include your e-mail address, name(s), SKP #, phone # and, if you have one, your geocaching handle.

**Heavy Hauler • C-BoF:** Exchange info on the 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: John Roberts, roberjw49@gmail.com. Web: www.escapees.com/heavy-haulers-bof

**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 locations wherever it is convenient. Contact Dave Schroeder: oldfolkjammer@gmail.com

**Line Dancers Unite:** Join for free to find line dancing classes, rallies and special events while you travel. Members can contribute information on a city-by-city basis. Also available are websites that feature line dance class locations and special events. No dues or newsletters. To sign up, visit RVillage.com, click on "Groups" or "Search," and enter "Line Dancers Unite." In the left column on the Group homepage, click "Join." To read posts, click "Group Forum" at the top of page. Contact Margo Armstrong: Margo@TheMaxwellGroup.net

**NOMADS:** Mission volunteers and individuals who travel with a purpose. A ministry of the United Methodist Church, specific to RVers who wish 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. Parking (including water, electric, dump) is furnished. A 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.

**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. Send your Escapees membership number to Joanne Alexakis (joalexakis@earthlink.net) to add your name to the e-mail newsletter list. Contact Penwheels editor at margo@themaxwellgroup.net

**Pet Lovers:** For people who love animals. All pets welcome. Our bimonthly (even months) electronic newsletter contains pet-related information and stories submitted by our members. Informative bulletin alerts; pet questions welcome. To subscribe, send name/contact info to Julie at dogs@tailsfromtheroad.com, or call 970-729-2946.

**Prospecting and Metal Detecting:** Share tips and information. To join our Yahoo! group SKP-PandMD, contact Ken Parsons by e-mail rws606@gmail.com. Roster and yearly newsletter. By e-mail, \$5; mailed, \$15 a year. We get together yearly for a week of prospecting and fun. Make checks payable to Peggy Devine, Treasurer, 2121 E Kennan Way, Pahrump, NV 89048. kokopeggi@gmail.com

**Quilt Lovers:** Newsletters, sent out twice a year, provide quilt-related information and BoF news. Subscriptions: April to March, \$5 year for newsletter mailing and to replenish materials needed for quilts made at each Escapade to donate to local charity. To subscribe, contact Mary Costigan, 900 Bradford court, San Jacinto, CA 92583-6530, 951-452-2999, or mary.costigan@yahoo.com. To help make charity quilts at Escapade, bring your sewing machine and quilting supplies. Donations of UFOs welcome.

**SKP Freethinkers:** The focus of this BoF is information, support and community for atheists, agnostics, skeptics and all those who reject supernatural belief. This BoF serves as a virtual meeting place and forum for like-minded SKPs. We have a Website with a forum, newsletter and private Facebook page. Media in electronic/membership is free. Visit www.skpfreethinkers.com or contact Howard Replogle at howardreplogle@SKPfreethinkers.com

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

**NEW SKP Wheels of Progress:** Politically engaged moderates/progressives committed to constructively addressing public policy at every level of government. By establishing relationships with like-minded SKPs, we facilitate personal meetings. We strive to broaden our understanding of issues, policies and candidates for public office. We seek ways to strengthen our communities, nation and world by using our influence to bring about positive change. We use a closed Facebook group to connect and meet when we can. No charge for membership. To join, send SKP# to Larry Butler at techco@yahoo.com

**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, 1970 N. Leslie St. #556, Pahrump, NV. 89060. SOLOs@escapees.com. www.escapees.com/solos-bof

**SOWERs (Servants on Wheels: Ever Ready)** A nondenominational ministry of born-again believers. We 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 Chuck and Ruth Osborn, 281 Southline Rd., Galway, NY 12074. Call 518-859-0734 or e-mail RUSmiling2003@yahoo.com

**Stonewall:** Welcomes all gays, lesbians, bis, trans and their friends. An informal group, we gather at Escapades, at Pride events and at Quartzsite, Arizona, in January. Communication is online, so we can meet each other as travels allow. Free to join/no newsletters, just good times with great people! Contact Paul Wood at braver-adventures@yahoo.com

**The SKP UTV/ATV BoF:** A group of like-minded people who like to ride their UTV/ATV. If you have an UTV/ATV and like to ride responsibly while discovering different places to camp and ride, we are the group for you. Open to all Escapees members in good standing. No dues. Contact: Carl Holttum: carlholttum@gmail.com or carlholttum@yahoo.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 John Ely, 3213 W. Main #279 Rapid City, SD 57702. Newsletter sent three times a year. Contact woodcarversonwheels@gmail.com

**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 Travelers' BoF group, send your name, SKP# and e-mail address to Kathy Howe at wwtnews@gmail.com



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# CHAPTER MAP

Let's Get Together!



 Indicates that an Escapees Head Out Program event is taking place at this general location during 2018. See pages 16–17 for more information.

Visit [www.escapees.com/chapters](http://www.escapees.com/chapters) and click on the chapter of your interest. You can view details about a chapter, join a chapter and pay chapter dues, if applicable. Yes! It is that easy.

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



## A WORD FROM OUR GROUP DIRECTOR

**LOCKIE SAILER** #130519, Chapter Director

The beautiful days of May and June have arrived, and with them come a plethora of Escapees gatherings to attend. The largest get-together of the year, the 58th Escapade, will take place in Sedalia, Missouri, May 27 through June 1. At this event, you can meet Escapees chapters, BoF groups and SKP Co-Op and park representatives on "The Row." Learn about fun activities that are planned for the coming year and attend the seminars and demonstrations that are offered. I will see you there!

E-MAIL [CHAPTERDIRECTORS@ESCAPEES.COM](mailto:CHAPTERDIRECTORS@ESCAPEES.COM) TO START A CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.

# CALLING ALL CHAPTERS

## Escapees Regional Groups

Contact chapters' voice mail, 888-757-7701 plus extension, for rally and luncheon information. See the map for a chapter near you.

CHAPTER NUMBER	CHAPTER NAME	CHAPTER PRESIDENT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS + EXTENSION #	888-757-7701
1	Golden Gate	Kathy Guerrera	408-314-1858	kathyguerrera@yahoo.com	8001
2	Rocky Mtn. High	Linda Gilmore	303-349-8845	president@rockymtnhiskps.org	8002
3	Northeast	Mike Keliher	207-446-7536	mikekeliher5090@gmail.com	8003
5	Evergreen	Ron Hough	425-218-2839	escapeeschapter5@gmail.com	8005
6	Great Lakes	Judy Woodham	989-233-3073	knjwoody@yahoo.com	8006
8	Mexican Connection	Cynthia Ponder	919-606-1156	cynacat@gmail.com	8008
9	Oregon Trails	Rick De Young	541-580-3790	rrdeyoung@gmail.com	8009
10	Rainbow Chapter	Gene Jensen	936-355-1785	genejensen88@gmail.com	8010
11	Alamo Area SKPs	George Wilkes	210-722-6523	gwilkes43@gmail.com	8011
12	North Central	Ron Nelson	507-259-7528	ron.nelson@q.com	8012
13	El Camino	Joe Costigan	951-452-2998	granpajoe37@gmail.com	8013
14	Lucky Rollers	Phil Darling	603-686-6185	wheel4home@yahoo.com	8014
17	Ozark Chapter	Alvin Baker	918-740-4263	bakerskp17@gmail.com	8017
18	Maple Leaf	Howard Krakower	613-829-3587	hk@zed.net	8018
20	Mid Atlantic	Frank Simon	304-947-7689	pinoakfrank@yahoo.com	8020
21	Arizona Saguaros	Stuart Dutcher	520-403-1062	dutch1062@msn.com	8021
22	Van Islanders	Jeremy Knapman	250-248-9492	jbnknapman@telus.net	8022
24	Gold Nugget	Jackie Friday	209-304-2483	fridaymj@att.net	8024
25	Shanty Shakers	Wayne and Lynn Selden	619-890-5383	shantyshakers25@gmail.com	8025
26	Gulf Posse	Cushman Phillips	770-312-8871	cushman@cbphei.com	8026
29	Carolina Rovers	Steve Masterson	518-526-0054	masterson100@gmail.com	8029
32	Verde Valley	Denny Orr	219-670-3007	dennsuu@gmail.com	8032
33	BC Okanagan SKPs	Kim Gurry	250-320-0630	gurry@telus.net	8033
34	Columbia River SKPs	Michael Surratt	503-667-0819	mrat1945@frontier.com	8034
36	Erie Shores	Merle Cockayne	440-823-6214	gulleyjumper0208@yahoo.com	8036
37	Rogue Valley Rovers	Kathryn Perry	541-659-7208	perrykathryn4@gmail.com	8037
38	Mother Lode	Rob Cannon	209-605-4716	rcannon55@me.com	8038
39	Wash-Pan	Bev Allenbaugh	509-925-3297	photogal@fairpoint.net	8039
41	NYSKPS	Marilyn Woodside	908-377-7765	lynhw15@gmail.com	8041
42	KEN/TENN	Paul Reed	731-574-1045	paulreedjr1960@gmail.com	8042
44	Alberta Roamers	John VandenBerg	403-328-0147	chapter44rvclub@gmail.com	8044
45	Valley of the Sun	Ed Allard	480-213-8096	edrdnalice@gmail.com	8045
46	Lincolnland	John Liggett	217-257-4880	jrliggett@gmail.com	8046
47	Nor-Cal Gypsies	Nancy Voyles	530-357-4762	tsnran@aol.com	8047
49	Badger SKPs	Ken Cerling	608-219-6239	cerlingconstruction@gmail.com	8049
51	Hoosier Neighbor	John Kereszturi	574-360-8226	kereszturi@sbcglobal.net	8051
52	Arkansas Diamonds	Don Tannehill	501-410-8950	tannehilld@sbcglobal.net	8052
57	Florida Sun Gators	John McKean	941-627-9823	57jmf@gmail.com	8057

For more details about a chapter, visit [www.escapees.com/chapters](http://www.escapees.com/chapters).

# EVENTS CALENDAR

Join us at one of these rallies or National events!

- Call voicemail phone number (888-757-7701) + extension for specific directions to events.
- **July/August deadline: May 10.** The "Events Calendar" is reserved for chapter, certified BoF groups and National events. All submissions must be in writing.
- E-mail submissions to [editor@escapees.com](mailto:editor@escapees.com), or mail submissions to Escapees Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351.

DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	888-757-7701 EXTENSION #
<b>MAY 2018</b>			
03-06	KY Louisville, Destination Derby	HOP/National	888-757-2582
07-10	CA Temecula, Pechanga RV Resort	25	8025
10-14	CA Grass Valley, Grass Valley Fairground	47	8047
11-15	TN Tiptonville, Reelfoot Lake State Park	42	8042
13-20	OH Wooster, Wayne County Fairground	36	8036
14-16	CA Cilo, Rivers Edge RV Park	24	8024
17-21	CA Los Banos, Spring Fairground	01	8001
20-24	IL Montrose, Spring Creek Campground	51	8051
21-27	KS Oswego, Oswego Fairground, SOLOs C-BoF Pre-Escapade Rally	SOLOs C-BoF	8080
24-26	MO Sedalia, Missouri State Fairground, RVers Boot Camp	National	888-757-2582
24-27	MO Kansas City, Blue Spring Lake Cpgd, Xscapers Convergence	Xscapers	xscapers.com
27-June 1	MO Sedalia, Missouri State Fairground, Escapees 58th Escapade	Escapade/National	888-757-2582
29-June 1	BC Canada, Christina Lake, Christina Pines	33	8033
29-June 1	OR Chiloquin, Train Mountain	37	8037
<b>JUNE 2018</b>			
01	MO Sedalia, Nat'l WWI Museum/Treasures of the Steamboat Arabia	HOP/National	888-757-2582
01-05	CA Tulelake, Butte Valley Fairground	37	8037
02	MO Budweiser Clydesdales and Antebellum Dixie Region	HOP/National	888-757-2582
03-07	AR Eureka Springs, Kettle Campground	02	8002
03-07	WA Stevenson, Skamania County Fairground	34	8034
04-08	MO Stockton, Stockton Elks Lodge #2858	Escapees Elk • C-BoF	8082
04-08	BC Canada, Courtenay, Seal Bay RV Park	22	8022
07-09	NY Marathon, Country Hill Campground	41	8041
07-10	NY Marathon, Country Hills Campground	20	8020
11-15	ON Canada, Peterborough, Beavermead Campground	18	8018
13-19	IRL Dublin, The Best of Ireland HOP	HOP/National	888-757-2582
14-17	MI Coldwater, Branch County Fairground	6/36/51	8006/8036/8051
14-18	CA Yreka, Siskiyou Golden Fairground	47	8047
14-18	CA Yreka, Yreka Fairground	37	8037
17-24	SD Deadwood, Wild Bill's Camp, Xscapers Convergence	Xscapers	xscapers.com
18-21	NH Bridgewater, Newfound RV Park	03	8003
18-21	OR Elkton, Elkton RV Park	09	8009
18-22	AB Canada, Blackie, Blackie Arena	44	8044
18-22	CA Bonita, Sweetwater Regional Park	25	8025
18-22	WA Lynden, NW Washington Events Center	05	8005
18-22	WI Kieler, Rustic Barn Campground	49	8049
<b>JULY 2018</b>			
02-06	OR Medford, Southern Oregon RV Park	37	8037

<b>DATES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HOST CHAPTER</b>	<b>888-757-7701 EXTENSION #</b>
03-06	OR Sutherlin, Timber Valley SKP Co-Op	09	8009
08-12	OR Astoria, Clatsop County Fairground	34	8034
08-13	NY New York City and the Hudson River Valley HOP	HOP/National	888-757-2582
09-13	MN Two Harbors, Burlington Bay Campground	12	8012
12-15	TX Elmendorf, Brauning Lake RV Resort	11	8011
12-16	CA Fortuna, Riverwalk RV Park	47	8047
16-20	CA McCloud, McCloud RV Park	24	8024
16-20	WA Elma, Elma RV Park	05	8005
31-Aug 05	OR Bandon, Bandon by the Sea	37	8037
<b>AUGUST 2018</b>			
09-13	OR Prospect, Crater Lake	47	8047
11-16	MN Howling with the Wolves! Outdoor Adventure HOP	HOP/National	888-757-2582
12-16	OR Odell, Hood River Fairground	34	8034
13-17	AB Canada, Delburne, Great Bend School	44	8044
13-19	OH Wooster, Wayne County Fairground	36	8036
15-19	ME Hermon, Pumpkin Patch RV Resort	03	8003
20-24	WA Grayland, Kenanna RV Park	05	8005
<b>SEPTEMBER 2018</b>			
02-08	CO Colorado Outdoor Adventure HOP	HOP/National	888-757-2582
05-08	OR Florence, Odd Fellows Campground	09	8009
06-09	NY Alexandria, Swan Bay Resort	41	8041
07-09	BC Canada, Sicamous, Dale and Lyn Wood's acreage	33	8033
09-13	OR Florence, Oddfellows RV Park	34	8034
12-16	CA Hat Creek, Hereford Ranch	47	8047
12-16	CA Hat Creek, Hereford Ranch RV Park and Campground	37	8037
16-23	MA Fall Foliage Cruise HOP—Canada/New England	HOP/National	855-757-8881
17-21	CA Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa County Fairground	01	8001
17-21	WA Cle Elum, Whispering Pines RV Park	05	8005
19-22	MI Escanaba, County Fairground	06/49	8049
24-27	CA Rio Vista, Duck Island RV Park	38	8038
<b>OCTOBER 2018</b>			
04-07	SC Cleveland, Palmetto Cove	29	8029
05-14	NM Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta HOP	HOP/National	888-757-2582
07-11	OR Tygh Valley, Wasco County Fairground and Hunt RV Park	34	8034
10-15	OR Florence, Judd Huntington Elks	37	8037
16-19	AZ Cottonwood, Verde Valley Fairground	32	8032
18-21	TX Center Point, Old River Road RV	11	8011
22-26	LA Vidalia, River View RV Park	26	8026
22-26	CA Merced, Elks Lodge RV Park	38	8038
25-29	CA Corning, Heritage RV Park	47	8047
<b>NOVEMBER 2018</b>			
09-11	TX Livingston, Rainbow's End, RVers Boot Camp	National	888-757-2582
20-25	CA Los Banos, Spring Fairground	01	8001
26-30	CA Los Banos, Spring Fairground	38	8038

DATES	LOCATION	HOST CHAPTER	888-757-7701 EXTENSION #
<b>DECEMBER 2018</b>			
27-January 3	CA Pasadena, Rose Parade HOP	HOP/National	888-757-2582
<b>JANUARY 2019</b>			
15	AZ Quartzsite, Plomosa Road MM3, Escapees Happy Hour	National	888-757-2582
12-18	AZ Quartzsite, Plomosa Road, MM3	Escapees Elk • C-BoF	8082
16-20	FL Tampa, Florida State Fairground, Florida RV SuperShow	Escapees Booth/Koca	888-757-2582
19-27	AZ Quartzsite, Big Tent Show	Escapees Booth/Koca	888-757-2582
27-31	AZ Quartzsite, MM99	Geocache BoF	760-445-8196
<b>FEBRUARY 2019</b>			
12-17	FL Key West, Cuba-Key West Cruise HOP	HOP/National/Cruise	855-757-8881
<b>MARCH 2019</b>			
04-06	LA New Orleans, Mardi Gras HOP	HOP/National	888-757-2582
14-16	AZ Tucson, Pima County Fairground, RVers Boot Camp	National	888-757-2582

## 2018 CONVERGENCES

### PRE-ESCAPADE CONVERGENCE

MAY 24-27, 2018, 12:00 P.M. • LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI

Escapade begins Sunday, May 27, but if you're arriving early, meet us at Blue Spring Lake Campground, Thursday, May 24. Let's get to know each other before rolling into the Big Show on Sunday. If you are interested in coming to the pre-game, register at [www.escapees.com/xregistration](http://www.escapees.com/xregistration).

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CONVERGENCE

JULY 17-JUNE 15-29, 2018 • DURANGO, COLORADO (BOONDOCKING)

Xscapers gives back. Join us for a two-week, home-building session in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity's Care-A-Vanner program. No experience is required. We will be boondocking outside of town and commuting approximately 30 minutes to the build site where we'll work Tuesday through Saturday. This will be a small convergence with about 15 people who commit to work daily.

### CENTRAL OREGON CONVERGENCE

AUGUST 19-26, 2018 • REDMOND, OREGON

Only a few miles north of Bend, Oregon, Xscapers will meet for a week to visit the local sites, and explore the food, beer and wine of Oregon. We will boondock in the parking lot of the fairground. For more information, e-mail [jp@escapees.com](mailto:jp@escapees.com).

### BLACK HILLS CONVERGENCE

JUNE 17-JUNE 24, 2018 • WILD BILLS CAMP, DEADWOOD, SD 57732

Join us in the Black Hills near the historic mining town of Deadwood. In the shadow of Mt. Rushmore, and surrounded by beautiful scenery, days will fill with hiking, exploring and scenic drives.



For more information on Xscapers events, visit [www.xscapers.com](http://www.xscapers.com) or find us on Facebook.



## SKP DINE-OUTS

### It's time to eat!

Join fellow Escapees for any one of these regional dine-outs.

#### ALABAMA

**Gulf Shores:** 2nd Mon, 10:30 a.m., *Original Oyster House*. 701 Gulf Shores Pkwy. Cushman Phillips: 770-312-8871, cushman@cbphei.com. Oct-April (except March)

#### ARIZONA

**Apache Junction:** 1st and 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Mickey D's Café*, 1408 W. Apache Trail. Please RSVP Ed Allard: 480-213-8096, edrdnalice@gmail.com. Nov-March

**Benson:** 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., San Pedro Golf Course, *Ironwood Grill*, 926 N Madison Ave. Chuck Dupuis: 520-360-5695, cddupuis@gmail.com. Nov-April

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

**Tonopah:** Taco Tuesday 6:30 p.m., *Tonopah Family Restaurant*, 41101 West Indian School Rd. Call or text to confirm, Mike: 602-325-3171, Ajo: 575-694-2692. ajo@thecatdragdinn.org

**Tucson:** 2nd Tues, 3 p.m. *Golden Corral*, 6385 S. Midvale Park Road. Please confirm: Cliff/Virginia Haycock: 919-412-4029. hayvirginia@yahoo.com

**Wickenburg:** Visit the Chapter 32 website or voice mail for date and location. Dawn Ewell: 303-988-4597, imslide@gmail.com. Nov 2017-April 2018

**Yuma:** 2nd Wed, 10 a.m., *Foothill's Eatery and Spirit*, 12871 S Interstate 8 Frontage Rd. Diane Sears: 936-215-9632. Nov-April

#### CALIFORNIA

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

**Huntington Beach:** 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Sonny's Restaurant*, 7148 Edinger Ave. Nancy Madigan: 949-646-8513. npickl@aol.com

**Modesto:** 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., *The Golden Corral Buffet and Grill*, 3737 McHenry Ave. Ray Bailey: 209-532-0444, bailey-r@sbcglobal.net. Feb-Nov

**North Highlands:** 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Golden Corral*, 4940 Watt Avenue. David/Shirley Sturdivant: 916-967-3862.

**Redding:** 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., *Country Waffle*, 2300 Athens Ave. Nancy Voyles: 530-357-4762, tsnan@aol.com. March-Dec

**San Diego area:** 4th Sat, 9 a.m. breakfast, *Marie Callender's*, 6950 Alvarado Rd. Meeting follows at 10 a.m. Wayne/Lynn Selden: 619-890-5383, shantyshakers25@gmail.com

**Santa Maria:** 2nd Thurs (every month), 11:30 a.m., *IHop*, 202 Nickolson Ave. Anna 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. Bring a friend; wear badge.

#### COLORADO

**Englewood:** 2nd Tues, 12 p.m. *Golden Corral*. 4000 River Point Pkwy. Chuck Derington: 303-842-1519, chuckderington@comcast.net

#### FLORIDA

**Clermont:** 1st Thurs, 11 a.m., *Golden Corral*. 1555 Grand Hwy. Glenna Watson: 352-502-3748, glennaw2@gmail.com. Nov-April

#### MISSOURI

**Springfield:** 1st Fri, 1 p.m., *Golden Corral*, 2734 N. Kansas Exp-way. Vernon Eide: 417-766-2191. (Casual campouts held 3rd Tues of each month, April-Oct. Vernon Eide, eidevernon@yahoo.com)

#### NEVADA

**Pahrump:** 2nd Mon, 11:30 a.m., *China Wok*, 580 Route 160. Phil Darling: wheel4home@yahoo.com. Sept-May

**Reno:** 1st Wed, 1 p.m., *Gold 'N Silver Inn Restaurant*, 790 W 4th St. Adrian Jones: adrianandrebecca@att.net

#### NEW MEXICO

**Lakewood:** Ladies breakfast every Tues. Men's breakfast every Thurs. Call 575-457-2303 for more information.

#### NEW YORK

**Rochester:** 3rd Tues, 11:30 a.m., *Golden Corral*, 450 Jefferson Rd. Marilyn Woodside: 908-377-7765, lynhw15@gmail.com. July-Nov

#### OREGON

**Medford:** 2nd Tues, 11 a.m., *Elmer's Restaurant*, 2000 Biddle Road. Kathryn Perry: 541-659-7208, perrykathryn4@gmail.com

**Sutherlin:** 2nd Wed, 9 a.m. (breakfast), *Abby's Legendary Pizza*, 1011 W Central Ave. Rick De Young: 541-580-3790. Jan-Dec

**Gresham:** 4th Mon, 1 p.m., *Heidi's Restaurant*, 1230 N.E. Cleveland. Michael Surratt: 503-667-0819, mrat1945@frontier.com

#### TENNESSEE

**Crossville:** 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Vegas Steakhouse*. 3152 North Main St. Ralph Wiggers: 931-787-4157. April-Nov

#### TEXAS

**Livingston:** 2nd Fri, 1 p.m., For location, call 888-757-7701 x8010. Gina Jensen: 936-355-1785. vintagelady2222@gmail.com

#### UTAH

**West Valley City:** 3rd Thurs, 1 p.m., *Golden Corral*, 3399 West, 3500 South Lawrence Pay: 801-599-3518, lnpay@msn.com

#### WASHINGTON

**Mountlake Terrace:** 1st Sat, 11 a.m. *Azteca Mexican Restaurant*, 22003 66th Ave W F. Ray/Sandy Hoyt: 425-750-6139. May-Sept

**Mount Vernon:** 1st Tues, 11 a.m., *Royal Star Buffet*, 2300 Freeway Drive. Dave: 206-849-1579, arlene1046@gmail.com. May-Sept

**Tacoma:** 2nd Tues, 11 a.m., *Old Country Buffet*, 5815 Lakewood Towne Center. Barb Johnson: 360-908-0699, barbj1752@msn.com

#### WISCONSIN

**DeForest:** 3rd Wed, 2 p.m. *Norske Nook*, 100 E. Holm Street. Ken Cerling: 608-219-6890. May-Oct

#### CANADA

**AB (location TBA):** 2nd Wed, noon. Check Chapter 44 website locations and times/888-757-7701 x8044. Carol Davis.

**BC, Kelowna:** 2nd Tues, 11:30 a.m. *Packing House Pub*, 663 Finns Road. Lorie Hamlin: 250-540-1725, loried9@shaw.ca

**BC, Nanaimo:** 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Ricky's All Day Grill*, Inside Days Inn, 809 Island Hwy S. Bernardien Knol: bernardienknol@msn.com, April-Oct. Except June and Sept

**BC, Vernon:** Last Tues, noon. *Army, Navy and Airforce Club—Spitfire Grill*, 2500 46th Ave. Lorie Hamlin: 250-540-1725, loried9@shaw.ca

**ON, Talbotville:** 1st Wed, 11:30 a.m., *Wayside Restaurant*, 10680 Sunset Rd. Sharon Sandau: 519-862-2152, sdsandau@teksavvy.com. May-Nov

**ON, Barrie:** 1st Thurs, 12:30 p.m., *Mandarin Restaurant*, 28 Fairview Rd. Peta: 705-728-5639, petaarends@gmail.com. May and Oct



# RAINBOW PARKS

Escapes RV Club owned and operated.

		Daily Member	Daily Nonmember	Weekly Member	Weekly Nonmember	Monthly Member	Monthly Nonmember
<b>ALABAMA</b>	<b>RAINBOW PLANTATION</b>   14301 County Rd. 28, Summerdale, AL 36580 251-988-8132, Fax: 251-988-8142, plantation@escapes.com	\$21	\$27.50	\$126	\$165	\$340+	\$395+
<b>ARIZONA</b>	<b>NORTH RANCH</b>   30625 Hwy. 89, Congress, AZ 85332 928-427-3657, Fax: 928-685-3695, northranch@escapes.com	\$19	\$26.50	\$116	\$159	\$325+	\$395+
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>SUMTER OAKS RV PARK</b>   4602 County Rd. 673, Bushnell, FL 33513 352-793-1333, Fax: 352-793-5216, sumteroaks@escapes.com	\$22	\$28.50	\$132	\$171	\$340+	\$395+
<b>MISSOURI</b>	<b>TURKEY CREEK RV VILLAGE</b>   1376 US 65 Business S., Hollister, MO 65672 417-335-8004, Fax: 417-335-4644, turkeycreek@escapes.com	\$17.50	\$24	\$101	\$144	\$325	\$395
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>DREAM CATCHER RV PARK</b>   4400 E. Pine St., Deming, NM 88030 575-544-4004, Fax: 575-544-0944, dreamcatcher@escapes.com	\$18	\$21	\$108	\$127	\$225+	\$235+
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	<b>RACCOON VALLEY</b>   908 E. Raccoon Valley Rd., Heiskell, TN 37754 865-947-9776, Fax: 865-947-9778, raccoonvalley@escapes.com	\$17.50	\$25	\$101	\$150	\$325	\$395
<b>TEXAS</b>	<b>RAINBOW'S END</b>   140 Escapes Dr., Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, rainbowsend@escapes.com	\$21-22	\$27.50 \$28.50	\$126- \$132	\$165- \$171	\$340- \$360+	\$395- \$415+

# SKP CO-OPS (ESCAPEES MEMBERS ONLY)

Owned and operated by individual member groups of Escapes.

<b>ARIZONA</b>	<b>SAGUARO CO-OP</b>   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
	<b>ROVERS ROOST</b>   3241 S. Montgomery Rd., Casa Grande, AZ 85193 520-426-3589, Fax: 520-421-0105, rovers_roost@yahoo.com, www.roversroost.com	\$20 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$110	+ Elec & tax	\$325	+ Elec
	<b>KOFA KO-OP</b>   3750 E. County 17th St., Yuma, AZ 85365 928-344-0645, 928-344-0900, office@kofako-op.com, www.kofako-op.com	\$23	Incl Elec	\$100	+ Elec & tax	-	-
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	<b>JOJOBA HILLS RESORT</b>   45120 Hwy. 79 S, Aguanga, CA 92536 951-767-9130, office@jojobahills.com, jojobahills.com	\$35 limited	+ Elec	-	-	-	-
	<b>PARK SIERRA</b>   45323 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614 559-658-8696, Fax: 559-683-2179, parkoffice@parksierra.net, www.parksierra.net	\$21-26	Incl Elec, WiFi & CTV	\$112	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV	\$420	+ Elec Incl WiFi & CTV
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>THE RESORT</b>   2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873 863-735-1499, Fax: 863-735-1994, skpresortwauchula@gmail.com, flskpresort.org	\$20	+ Elec & tax	\$126	+ Elec	\$495	+ Elec
<b>NEVADA</b>	<b>PAIR-A-DICE</b>   5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048 775-727-7221, Fax: 775-727-3966, skppairdice@gmail.com	\$20 Incl Elec	-	\$96 Incl Elec	-	\$300 + Elec	-
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>THE RANCH</b>   PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254 575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, skpranch@pvtnetworks.net, skpranch.com	\$20	Incl Elec	\$125	Incl Elec	\$350	+Elec & Tax
<b>OREGON</b>	<b>TIMBER VALLEY</b>   800 S. State St., Sutherlin, OR 97479 541-459-4465, skptimbr@rosenet.net, www.timbervalleyskp.com	\$19.25 + tax	Incl Elec	\$115.50 + tax	Incl Elec	\$340	+ Elec
<b>TEXAS</b>	<b>LONE STAR CORRAL</b>   131 Private Rd. 5240, Hondo, TX 78861 830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, info@lonestarcorral.com, lonestarcorral.com	\$20	+ Elec	\$110	+ Elec	\$325	+ Elec
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	<b>EVERGREEN COHO</b>   2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chimacum, WA 98325 360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, eorskp@escapes.com, www.evergreencohoskprvpark.com	\$27.75 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$166.50 Incl Elec	+ tax	\$450	+ 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 Escapes 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 left to rent. Call in advance to check the availability of rental sites.

## EVENTS

55+ Park	30 AMP	50 AMP	# of Sites	ERPU Sites	Lease Lots	Pull-thru	Dry-camping	Storage	WiFi	Reservations	Activity Center	Clubhouse	Laundry	Dog Run	Pet Friendly
-	✓	✓	87	22	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓		107	0	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	99	25	N	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	68	0	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-		✓	93	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	68	0	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	130	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

-	✓	✓	297	n/a	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	118	n/a	✓	N	✓	-	✓	N	N	✓	✓	N	✓
✓	✓	✓	152	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	283	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	254	n/a	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	128	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	182	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	118	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	✓	✓	206	n/a	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	130	n/a	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	N	N	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	175	n/a	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	✓

### Raccoon Valley: Heiskell, TN

865-947-9776 • raccoonvalley@escapees.com  
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### Jobba Hills SKP Co-Op: Aguanga, CA

951-767-9130 • www.jobbahills.com  
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### Park Sierra SKP Co-Op: Coarsegold, CA

559-658-8696 • parksierra.net  
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### RoVers Roost SKP Co-Op: Casa Grande, AZ

520-426-3589 • www.roversroost.com  
Max site length is 40'. First-time Escapees visitors will receive three days free when they pay for one week (\$110 plus tax/elec). The extended stay will allow time to explore the many activities available from this central location. Attend daily social hours for updates on current activities. Park office closed Sundays. (Sunday arrivals must boondock.) Park will be closed to all traffic May 1-15 for road repair. Office and park will remain closed to renters until September 15. Visit website or call for details.

### Saguaro SKP Co-Op: Benson, AZ

520-586-7343 • www.SKPSaguaro.org  
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### The Ranch SKP Co-Op: Lakewood, NM

575-457-2303 • www.skpranch.com  
Enjoy a warm winter and an 84-degree heated pool in orange groves and cattle country, the "Real Florida." Seasonally, join us for golf, pickleball, shuffleboard, dinner dances, crafts, happy hour and bowling. Local attractions: state parks, kayaking, fishing and beach day-trips. Escapees: 25% discount (May-Oct) + elec.

### The Resort SKP Co-Op: Wauchula, FL

863-735-1499 • www.flskpresort.org  
Taking reservations. First-time Escapees receive 25% discount (Apr 15-Nov 15) plus E. Pool and library year-round. Winter calendar includes social hour, dinner dances, exercise, Pickleball, craft classes and educational seminars. Locally enjoy kayaking, fishing, golfing, state parks, unique attractions and day trips to gulf/Atlantic beaches.

## 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.

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Have you found an RV park that would be a candidate for the Discount Parks program? E-mail the park name and address to the advertising department at advertising@escapees.com, or call 888-757-2582. Remember to always contact a park prior to arrival to ensure availability.

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**MOBILEINTERNETSATELLITE.COM CM #873**  
760-219-0926

**ANNETTE ROBERTS RODAN & FIELDS CM #874**  
928-671-0312

**SUNNY VALLEY RV PARK AND CAMPGROUND CM #875**  
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936-329-0839

**DOMETIC CORP CM #877**  
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## OUR ADVERTISERS PROVIDE RV-related services that you can use!

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- Commercial classifieds: \$20 per line, 5-line minimum, 5 percent discount for 6 issues or more. (To estimate length of ad lines, 35 characters and spaces equal one line.)
- To send ad copy: Mail your 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](mailto: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—REALTOR-C21 AzWest North Ranch • [LindasellsAz@msn.com](mailto:LindasellsAz@msn.com)**

### Small Lots:

L-376 Prk AzRm GreatRm \$89K

### Large Lots:

LgL-33 Lg Lot Sm House \$95K

LgL-34 Vacant Lot \$57,500 offer

LgL-41 Shed + HU \$59,900

LgL-112 2Extra Office/Dens 2Bath SantaFe + Gar/Shop Crnr \$192K

LgL-118 Custom2007 2Extra Office/Dens 3 Bath w/Gar/Shop \$199K

LgL-177 Vacant Lot \$57K offer

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**SKP 30347 • [www.CongressMoves.com](http://www.CongressMoves.com)**

**ARIZONA RV HOMES.COM:** New, smaller custom homes from \$190K with F-HU RV parking inside a 22'x52' garage, with additional F-HU, outside guest pad. Boating, off-roading and casinos nearby. Only 2 hours from Las Vegas. Great home base or snowbird retreat. 928-768-2900 or [arizonarvhomes.com](http://arizonarvhomes.com) Ron Bernstein, Broker/Developer.

**San Matias, Baja, CA—Norte, Mexico:** \$65K, financing avail. Located between San Felipe and Ensenada. The c/g includes a house; 2BD/1BA, 25'x25' shop with a 3/4 BA, 2 encl/secure garages, RV ramada, hot tub, fruit trees. House has dual-pane windows, new heat pump, A/C and heat. Running water and a cistern. TV/elec. Great area to live a simple, affordable life. Prop taxes: \$75/yr., water: \$150/yr, TV: \$17/mo. San Felipe is 65 miles E. Ensenada is 75 mi W. Jim: 425-214-4079.

**TX—Hill Country:** Riverfront home and shop. 2,048 sq. ft. Palm Harbor home on .36 acres; lg deck and easy access to the Medina River. This 2/2 has a lg master suite with custom shower, bonus room, WBFP, lg kitchen and LR \$245K. Across the road is a 1,000 sq. ft., insulated metal bldg. on .33 acres with an RV pad, well, septic and 200 amp E. This 25x40 bldg. has a 12' roll-up door, 1/2 BA and loft. \$150K. Sold separately or together. Gail Stone Realty: 830-796-4640.

**TX—Sargent:** Two full-hookup RV lots for rent. Each lot is 50'x100'. One mile from the gulf and one-half mile from marina and boat launch. Daily, weekly or monthly rates. 979-429-1759.

## FOR SALE



**2013 38 ft. Montana 3402:** Hickory/Polar pkg, 4 slides, auto-level loaded, Q bed, Q sofa/bed, able storage, full-time ready, new G tires, mor-ride pkg. 2011 Ram3500 diesel lghorn \$86K, 4D ext crew, both excelent condition. 540-292-9100.



**1995 Isuzu FRR:** Diesel medium-duty truck with 8x8x6-1/2' storage box and Reese 30K hitch suitable for towing large 5-W. 33,000 lb GCWR. Manual trans, propane boost. 276K miles. Well-maintained, good to go. CDL not required. \$9K (Western WA) 360-301-9413.

## HELP WANTED

**Mission Builders of the ELCA:** is an outreach ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Seeking RVers to construct buildings for camps and churches while traveling. Work can be physically demanding. Paid employment and short-term volunteer opportunities. Work less than one month; no pay, but receive F-HU. Typically work 40 hrs. per week, Tues.—Sat. Possible minimum-wage employment and worker's comp after a 14-day trial period. For more information, visit: [www.elcamissionbuilders.org](http://www.elcamissionbuilders.org).

**Volunteer in 40+ state parks:** Duties and schedules vary by park. Pets allowed in most locations. Work 30 hrs/week for campsite and many other benefits. Preference given to season-long commitment (mid-May—Labor Day or mid-October). For more info or to apply: [www.vtstateparks.com/volunteering.html#campgroundVolunteers](http://www.vtstateparks.com/volunteering.html#campgroundVolunteers)

**Wanted volunteers:** In good health; non-drug users. Duties: help with removing invasive plants and assist with property maintenance. In exchange for 2-3 hours per day, per couple. Free FHU RV parking provided. Includes laundry/shower. Time allowed to explore the area. Your choice of two days free. Beautiful location in foothills of the Cascades. 40 miles east of Eugene/Springfield, Oregon. Gail: 541-520-9560 or [gail\\_haws@aol.com](mailto:gail_haws@aol.com).

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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.

**Bear, Betty E. #42-March 11, 2018:** Betty died at her home. She and her husband, Bob, were the Escapees #42 charter members of the club. They were also charter members of Escapees Mid-Atlantic Chapter 20. They traveled to every state in the U.S., including Hawaii in 2009. She was initiated into Milnes Chapter No. 3 Order of the Eastern Star, Shenandoah, in 1962, served as Worthy Matron from 1971 to 1972 and held several other offices. She was an active member of the Bethel United Church of Christ for over 60 years. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

**Goerz, Gary #91834-February 22, 2018:** Gary died peacefully at home from hypertensive cardiovascular disease. He embraced a life of exploration and adventure and enjoyed capturing life either through the lens of a camera or on the end of a fishing pole. He served six years in the National Guard and Army Reserve and later became a practicing attorney. He and his wife, Nancy, became full-time RVers in 2006, and together they visited over 400 RV parks and joined Escapees. After losing Nancy to pancreatic cancer, in 2013, Gary continued full-time solo RVing. He will never be forgotten and will be dearly missed by family and friends. (Reported by son, Daniel Goerz. See additional submission on page 18.)

*“My father did it right. He lived a wonderful life and enjoyed a wonderful retirement because he made many smart decisions, including joining the Escapees RV Club.”*

Daniel Goerz

**Johnson, Maxine #21673-January 2, 2018:** (Kenneth, 125 Oneal Dr., Dothan, AL 36303) Maxine died after a 10-year battle with heart and lung problems. Our last long trip was in 2013, and the last short trip was back to our home, in Michigan, in 2017. At age 85, I don't know what my future holds. What I do know is that I've lost my best friend and love of my life for the past 62 years. I also know that a lot of people have lost a great cobbler maker and an even better biscuit maker. We have appreciated and loved all the wonderful friends we made along the highways and parks for the past 27 years. We also appreciated the kind thoughts and actions of our North Ranch community during our dark days and challenging times. Special thanks for the ride. I shall never forget it.

**Tenpenny, Joseph #276-February 19, 2017:** (Jan, PO Box 720, Congress, AZ 85332) Joe died at Abrazo Heart Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. He was a retired Chief Petty Officer from the U.S. Navy. We spent 18 years as full-time RVers until Joe's health forced us off the road. He was most proud of his low Escapees membership number, his friendship with Joe and Kay Peterson #1 and other original members of Escapees. (Yes, Lynn Rogers #2, even you!) Joe was the first paid employee of the Escapees Club who was not a family member. I love my North Ranch friends and neighbors and will continue to live here, taking advantage of their caring and sharing. See you down the road.



Front, L to R: Betty and Bob Bear #42 and Kay Peterson #1.  
Back Row, L to R: Joe and Jan Tenpenny #276 and Joe Peterson #1.

### Fare-thee-Well Charter Members

It is always difficult to see the names of our fellow members listed on the “Final Journeys” page. This issue, as we mourn the loss of all those who have passed before us, we feel compelled to say a few extra words about two special individuals who passed recently.

Betty Bear #42 (predeceased by her husband, Bob) was a charter member at the club's inception, in 1978. Joe Tenpenny #276 (and his wife, Jan, who is doing well and is currently surrounded by many friends, at Escapees North Ranch) also joined the club within the first years, when we had less than 500 members! Both the Bear and Tenpenny families took on extremely active roles in the club and served in a multitude of capacities. They truly exemplified the core principle that Escapees RV Club is founded upon, which is sharing and caring. Both families received an Escapees “President's Award,” the most distinguished award presented to a member from the Board of Directors. It is difficult to say “goodbye” to these two amazing individuals and, perhaps, “fare-thee-well” is more appropriate. They will never be forgotten.

*Cathie Carr #3, on behalf of the Escapees Board of Directors*

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 notices to: *Escapees Magazine*, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, Texas 77351

OR E-MAIL DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM.



*Preserve the privilege of overnight parking. Follow the code and encourage others to follow it, too!*

## Overnight Parking Etiquette

# RVER'S GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

### Dear Fellow RVers,

The Good Neighbor Policy was created in the early 90s by Escapees RV Club. Since then, it has become the industry standard code of conduct for overnight parking. We hope that the Good Neighbor Policy serves as a reminder that RVers must be respectful of the communities they visit.

Some of the most respected RV consumer clubs have joined Escapees to support your privilege to park on private businesses' property 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!

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,

# ESCAPEES RV Club®



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION | INFORMATION REQUEST

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Your address will not be sold.)  
Last First Partner

Permanent mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

My e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer the digital Escapees magazine and would like to opt out of the printed copy.  Yes  No

Include my address in the members-only membership directory:  Yes  No

Please contact me about my local chapter:  Yes  No

Subscribe me to Club News e-mails:  Yes  No

How did you hear about Escapees? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of RV:  Motorhome  Fifth-wheel  Travel trailer  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit:  Visa  M/C  Discover Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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



# SOMETHING THIS GOOD SHOULD BE SHARED...

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

### Adventure, Education and Support Services

- Mail Forwarding Service with scanning option (domicile-compliant addresses in Texas, Florida and South Dakota)
- Strong RV advocacy coalition (protecting RVers' rights)
- Escapees Maps (plan your trip online)
- Escapees Job Board (looking for work or looking for hire)
- *Escapees* magazine (digital versions and archives online, too!)
- Escapade (annual Escapees club rally with education and social opportunities)
- RVers' Boot Camp (fundamental RV training)
- SmartWeigh (accurate and detailed RV-weighing service)
- Club News (weekly updates on events and member benefits)
- RVers Online University (reliable, online RV education)
- RVNetwork.com (discussion forum for all RV-related topics)
- HOPs (unique land, sea and air adventures with Escapees)
- Chapters and BoF groups (fun ways to meet other RVers)
- Online "Articles and Blogs" section (2000-plus articles)

### Association Specials

- Escapees Healthcare Solutions
- Escapees Roadside Assistance
- Tire Discount
- RV insurance (full-time RV specialists)
- Financial and legal services
- Product and service discounts
- CARE (rest, recover and recuperate)

### A Comprehensive RV Park System

- Rainbow Parks—friendly, clean and fun. Reservations available.
- An extensive network of parks across North America, offering Escapees members 15-50% off overnight rates
- Opportunities for additional savings through partnerships with other RV clubs and organizations
- Overnight parking options offered by Escapees members
- Home-base options, plus short- and long-term parking/leases

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