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We all make choices, some insignificant and some very important ones, every day of our lives. One of the hardest choices we make is deciding how we are going to respond to those “happenings” over which we have no control.

For instance, let’s say you spent the afternoon creating a special cake to take to an Escapees potluck; on the way to the clubhouse, your partner drops it upside down into the mud. Do you go on to the potluck and let yourself enjoy the food other folks brought? Or do you vent your rage at this clumsiness, at the unfairness of it, and refuse to attend the potluck?

Life isn’t always fair. Was it “fair” for all those Armenians to lose all their possessions, their homes and their loved ones? Was it “fair” to the students, the servicemen and those others on that 747 who were going home for the holidays to have their lives exploded in mid-air? We wonder why it is that God lets innocent children suffer and die while rapists and terrorists roam the world unpunished.

Being “unfair” doesn’t change the reality. It is as if you dropped a treasured china cup and it lies shattered at your feet. You can angrily throw the pieces in the trash; you can spend the rest of your life crying about it, or you can glue the pieces together, using the now imperfect cup to drink once more from the fountain of life.

You can play your disappointments and heartaches over and over again in your mind like a needle stuck on a record player, or you can change the record to play the kind of music that makes your heart sing.

“You can play your disappointments and heartaches over and over again in your mind like a needle stuck on a record player, or you can change the record to play the kind of music that makes your heart sing.”
“Photographers, remember to send in your photos to be considered for the cover image.”

A New Year is upon us once again. This should be an exciting time for everyone as each new year is a welcoming clean slate to start anew. It’s a time to say goodbye to old ruts that drag us down and say hello to new opportunities that lie around the corner.

Now is a perfect time to begin fulfilling that bucket list with exciting new experiences while eradicating those nagging bad habits. This year is also a leap year, so we’ll have that additional day. The RV lifestyle is the perfect place to be for contemplating your New Year’s resolutions. You’ve already met a few of the “fresh start” goals: to travel more, have new experiences and to connect with new people.

No matter what your resolutions may be, Escapees RV Club has a community full of support to help you meet your goals. If you find a must-see location or come up with a handy tip that helps you along your way this year, remember to share it with Escapees magazine. Photographers, remember to send in your photos to be considered for the cover image. You can make some extra cash if your photo is selected. Our various “Viewfinder” topics also give you a chance to share your cool road photos with the Escapees membership. The editorial department always looks forward to hearing from our readers. We encourage members to contribute, and we appreciate your support.

I wish each and every one of you a happy New Year that is full of exciting adventures and safe travels. 🎄
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“The innovations we plan to announce throughout 2020 are the result of a lot of hard work from our talented and dedicated staff.”
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MEMBER SECTION

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Your RV Questions
By MARK NEMETH #45776, Escapees Technical Advisor
Send your questions via e-mail to techquestions@escapees.com

BLACK-WATER COUPLER

Q. Other than having to drain the black-water tank first, what else must be done to replace the rubber coupler between the black-water tank and the drain? The coupler is only three years old, and it has already begun to rot and is leaking.

Chuck

A. First, drain and rinse the heck out of the black-water tank. If you don’t have tank flushers installed, just pour water from a bucket down the toilet to rinse out the tank. Try to get it as clean as possible. It’ll make the job less annoying. Undo the clamps on the rubber piece, and you’ll probably need to remove the four bolts that hold the dump valve in place as well. You should be able to pull the valve and the rubber piece out. Go to Lowe’s or Home Depot and, in the plumbing section, they’ll have flexible rubber couplers similar to the one you removed. Purchase one that is for the same pipe diameter (three-inch) and use it as the replacement part.

You can trim the new coupler if you need to. It might not be a bad idea to go ahead and replace the dump valve while you’re at it. They wear out, and as long as you’re in there already, you might as well replace it, too.

I like to also spread a thin film of clear silicone caulk on the inside of the new rubber coupler, just to help slide it in place. It acts like a lubricant initially, then when it sets up, it helps prevent leaks. (Don’t get any silicone on the dump valve innards.)

Once it’s all back together, put the new clamps in place and tighten. That should take care of it.

WEATHERED PAINT

Q. I have a 2005, 42-ft. Monaco Dynasty with three slides that have cracking or checking paint, and I’m sure you know exactly what I’m talking about. The unit looks nice from afar, but far from nice when you are up close and see all the hairline cracking. Can the clear coat be sanded and the unit re-sprayed, or what is usually necessary to fix this problem? I used to own a 1997 Beaver Marquis, so I was kind of used to a mirror-glass perfect finish, but that doesn’t seem to exist anymore since Beaver shut down.

Grant

A. I’m assuming that your coach is painted, and it’s not fiberglass or gelcoat. The good news is, if it’s a full paint job on there now, it can indeed be repainted. The bad news is a typical full-body paint job on a big coach often costs in the $10K to $15K range. If the deterioration is only surface, it may be possible to re-spray the clear coat, but that kind of job is usually questionable, because if the clear coat is in bad shape, the color coat underneath is also affected. Your best bet is to take it to a paint and body shop that is able to handle a big coach and have them take a look. Be prepared for sticker shock.

Outside of a repaint, there’s not a lot you can do to restore the weathered/checked surface.
Suburban 10gal Water Heater

Q. I have a 2001 fifth-wheel trailer and my water heater, model number SW10DE, is not getting up to temp. I did the maintenance and replaced the thermostats and electric heating element. Now it lights up and burns on gas but seems to be shutting down before getting good and hot. It’s the same with the electric side.

Rick

A. I’m thinking it might be the ECO thermostat that’s failing. That’s the one that protects the heater from overtemp in case the main thermostat fails “closed.” If that goes bad, it can cause the symptoms you’re seeing. The circuit board on your water heater controls the shutoff for both gas and electric operation, so the problem has to either be one of the two thermostat switches or (less likely) the circuit board. I’m betting it’s the high-limit switch, circled on the diagram above. Could also be the fixed thermostat switch; they are in series, so if either opens too soon, the heater stops heating. The fixed-temp switch is available in different temps, like 110 to 130 degrees. The cut-off is usually set to about 140 or 150. That one varies a bit.

Run the heater until it gets up to whatever temp it shuts off at, then disconnect the connector from the circuit board and use an ohm meter to see which of the two thermostat switches has opened. That should find the culprit. It may be useful to use a thermometer to measure the actual water temp; it may be working correctly, but you have a lower temp fixed thermostat switch.

“The circuit board on your water heater controls the shutoff for both gas and electric operation...”

Water Pump and Battery Tender

Q. I am new to RVing, and I have two questions. I have a 2013 Thor Palazzo 33.3.

1. My RV pump is not working. One of the water lines had a leak in the water connection bay, so I had the leak fixed. Now the water pump does not appear to be working. Why might this happen, and what can I do to correct the problem?

2. I usually hook an electrical cord from my house to the RV. Should I have a battery tender/charger instead of this electrical cord from the house? If I have a battery tender/charger, do I need to buy one for each of my four batteries?

Mike

A. Does the water pump run at all? If not, make sure you disconnect from any fresh-water hookup and then open a faucet to bleed off any water pressure in the system. Turn on the pump switch. If it doesn’t run, the first thing I’d look at is the wiring to the pump and the connections at the pressure switch on the end of the pump housing. Recent repair work may have dislodged a wire.

When you have your RV hooked up to AC power, the onboard converter or battery charger will keep your house batteries charged. If you want to use a maintainer, disconnect the RV from AC power or disable the onboard charge system before you hook up the maintainer. You can usually hook a single maintainer up to the battery bank as all of the batteries are tied together. Larger battery banks may require a maintainer that can deliver at least an amp if needed.

I really like the Schumacher SEM-1562A-CA 1.5 Amp Speed Charge Battery Maintainer. I’ve been using them for years, and they will keep your batteries healthy over long storage periods. (www.amazon.com/Schumacher-SC1319-Automatic-Battery-Maintainer/dp/B0756Q88J5)
Make plans to come along with us as we circle the wagons at the 60th Escapade, June 21–26, 2020, at the Sweetwater Events Complex, in Rock Springs, Wyoming. This year’s Escapade promises something for everyone, including an exceptional seminar line-up, exciting entertainment, afternoon happy hours and socials, our annual farewell festival and much more! This is the largest, yearly gathering of Escapees, and you don’t want to miss out.

Escapade gives you the opportunity to come together with all your Escapees friends for five fun-filled days of support, networking, education, community, entertainment and most of all—fun! Learn from your peers and discover tips, trick and options you can apply to your RVing lifestyle. Though you may arrive feeling like a stranger, at the end of Escapade you’ll most likely have more friends, and know more like-minded travelers than you ever knew existed out there on the road!

The amazing staff at the Sweetwater Events Complex are so excited that we’re coming! They’ll be “rolling out the red carpet” and creating an oasis in the middle of the Wyoming plains. Expect to see an abundance of beautiful flowers all around to help make your stay even more welcoming and enjoyable.

**Escapade Welcomes Everyone!**

Anyone interested in the RV lifestyle is welcome! Escapade is open to Escapees members and non-members alike. If you know someone who is newly starting out on their RVing journey, encourage them to attend so they can experience the sense of community that Escapees RV Club is all about. Tell them that Escapees RVers Boot Camp takes place prior to Escapade and remind them how valuable the information will be. Many folks attend Escapade before they ever purchase an RV. If you are interested in learning about the lifestyle before you jump into it, consider staying in one of Rock Springs’ many hotels and attending as a walk-in. Several hotels are located close to the Sweetwater Events Complex. Our registration team can give you a hotel recommendation when you call to register.
**First-class Education**

Gain knowledge and confidence in your RV lifestyle by taking in as many educational seminars as you choose throughout each day. A variety of topics will be featured. Whether your interest lies with staying safe on the road, caravanning, finding free campsites, boondocking, working on the road, domicile and insurance choices, getting and staying healthy or learning to keep your RV looking and running great, we’ve got you covered. Sharing knowledge among members is invaluable, and Escapade makes it happen.

**Geeks on Tour are back!** Chris and Jim Guld will be presenting a variety of technical seminars in a lively way that only Geeks on Tour can. Their topics, “Google Photos,” “Technology for Travelers” and “What Does This Button Do?” always fill the classroom. They'll also offer their popular Camp Reboot, a pre-Escapade workshop. If you want to learn how to get the most out of your smartphone’s camera features and what to do with the photos you’ve taken, this workshop is for you. Classes cost only $59. You may reserve your seat when you call to register for Escapade.

---

**“Early Bird” Registration**

Call now to take advantage of the “Early Bird” rates and reserve today! Full-hookup, 50-amp RV sites are available, as well as a limited number of boondocking (dry-camping) sites. Early arrival and extended stays are also available, allowing you an opportunity to explore the area.

**What You Can Expect**

You certainly won’t lack activities to keep you busy each day at Escapade. Seminars begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and run continuously until 4:00 p.m. During this time, the Escapade market is also in full swing. Socials and happy hours take place in the late afternoons. Be sure you’ve saved some energy for nightly door-prize drawings and great entertainment.

**The ROW, Afternoon Socials and Happy Hours**

The ROW is the place where you can visit with folks representing local chapters from across the U.S. and Canada. You’ll also discover BoFs (birds of a feather special-interest groups). Chapters and BoFs host afternoon socials, in which all attendees are welcomed and encouraged to attend. After a busy day of seminars, our socials and happy hours are a great way to unwind and connect with like-minded Escapees. RV Country puts on themed happy hours each afternoon near their RV display. Informal happy hours often spring up in the campground. Don’t be surprised if you’re asked to attend.
Family-friendly Entertainment

Prepare to be in awe as Nino Reyos and Two Shields Production take to the stage Sunday night in a spectacular display of color and sound. Nino will bring his incredible flute playing, dance skills and storytelling to the Escapade stage, along with dancers in full regalia representing different Native American tribes. You’ll see fancy dance, men’s grass dance, women’s jingle dance and traditional dances by both men and women, as well as the ever-popular hoop dance. You don’t want to miss this night of exciting entertainment while celebrating rich Native American culture!

Get ready for some toe-tapping fun on Monday night, with Few Miles South. You may not have heard of this up-and-coming group yet. However, they were awarded best international music video for their single, “On Down the Road.” Few Miles South is bringing back that classic country-music sound with some honky-tonk flair. They’ll be performing a lot of classic favorites you haven’t heard in a long time as well as some of their originals. You may find yourself singing along.
Fun facts about Wyoming

The state of Wyoming is shaped in an exact square.

The Wyoming territory was first in the nation to grant women the right to vote, in 1869.

Wyoming is the 50th most populous state, yet is the 10th largest in area.

There are only two escalators in Wyoming. They are both located in Casper.

Even though Wyoming comes last in the alphabet, it was the first state in the country to elect a female governor.

The bison is Wyoming’s official state mammal.

The 60th Escapade will take place in Rock Springs, Wyoming, June 21–26, 2020.

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Escapade Market
Are you in the market to outfit your rig with the most up-to-date products and services? Our vendors are there to help you do just that. Many of them are RVers, too, so they can educate you from experience. If you’re in the market for a new or gently used RV, RV Country, the exclusive RV dealer for Escapade, will have you covered with a great variety to choose from.

Kidscapade
Kids matter at Escapade and, once again, we’re proud to offer Kidscapade, our popular children’s program. Drop your children off while you attend daily seminars, knowing they’ll enjoy themselves as much as you will and make memories with their new friends. Families attending Escapade will have the opportunity to gather at several events hosted by Nomadic Families BoF. This will be a great chance to network with other families on the road.

Escapade’s Got Talent!
Muster up your best song, skit, dance or whatever talent you have, and strut your stuff in our annual talent show. This is an evening of fun the whole family can enjoy. Every year the acts get better and better, proving that Escapade really does have talent!

Dancing in the Street
Just as you’re winding down from the busy week, you’ll want to take part in the fun at our Farewell Festival on Thursday evening. Classic street food, local Wyoming wines and craft brews will all be available to purchase. Listen to some live music and mingle with your friends while you enjoy our last evening together at Escapade.

Xscapers
Each year Escapade is excited to welcome more and more Xscapers to the event. Last year, a reported 200 Xscapers attended! Let’s see that number grow. Along with all the events Escapade provides, there are also nightly Xscaper gatherings.

Hitch-up Bites
Friday morning, there’ll still be a chance for one last goodbye. You’re invited to grab a breakfast bite and a cup of coffee before hitting the road.

You must agree that there’s a lot going on at Escapade. Take part in the fun this year! Start making your 2020 summer plans now, and spend some time in “the Square State.” Haul your home to where the buffalo roam and the deer and the antelope play. Let’s have some fun on the range in Rock Springs, Wyoming! 🏌️‍♀️
Since 1983, Transfer Flow has been engineering excellence and crafting premier fuel tank systems from the highest quality American materials. Transfer Flow fuel tanks are made with ReliaSteel®, U.S. aluminized steel, to withstand strong weather elements and heavy use.

Plastic aftermarket tanks are made using rotational molding, which results in varied thickness and may require additional parts, including expensive underbody plates for protection.

Transfer Flow fuel tanks ship complete with everything needed for installation. Rest easy knowing that your Transfer Flow fuel tank is safe, legal, reliable, and backed by our 6-year, unlimited mileage warranty to keep your adventure going mile after mile.
Looks like the last filter system you’ll ever need to buy! Clearsource also offers a wide range of filter cartridges and accessories.

If you travel long enough, you’re going to encounter icky water. Occasionally, it will be a campground with unsavory tasting well-water and, frequently, a city water source that has more chlorine in it than a public pool. A good water filter can make a massive difference in the taste of your drinking water, and many RVers carry some type of filter along on the road.

The folks at Clearsource recently sent a couple of their filter systems for me to review. They offer systems that are designed to be installed permanently in an RV, and portable units that go in line with your freshwater hose. I was impressed with the build-quality of these systems! The filter housings are stout with leak-proof buttress-style threading, with all stainless steel components throughout, and everything is mounted in a powder-coated metal chassis.

Here is the manufacturer’s product information:

“Engineered from the ground up for the RVer. Rugged, industry-exclusive free-standing chassis. Premium filter elements. Oversize, high-flow filter housings. All stainless steel fittings. First-stage 5.0 micron sediment filter removes silt, sediment and other particulates. In the second stage, the .5 micron coconut shell carbon block filter dramatically improves taste and smell. It also removes contaminants like pesticides, petrochemicals, cryptosporidium, giardia cysts, chlorine, chloramines and more. Industry-leading canister size gives maximum water flow for consistent pressure even with multiple fixtures in use.”

Clearsource RV Water Filter Systems
MSRP $275, www.clearsourcerv.com
949-860-1561, info@clearsourcerv.com
Meet the cast & see musical performances by Wicked Truth featuring show creator Anthony Nalli at the Xscapers Annual Bash (Lake Havasu, AZ) Jan. 11-19 & the RVillage Rally (Live Oak, FL) Feb. 12-16
Chapter 33

BC Okanagan SKPs Fall Rally

The fall rally for BC Okanagan Escapees Chapter #33 was held at Christina Lake BC, Canada, last September. We had 26 rigs with 50 people attending the rally. Joining us were members from the Alberta Chapter 44 group, with other attendees from as far away as Calgary AB. We even had a gentleman from Dallas, Texas, join us.

Some members golfed or played frisbee golf, and then, we joined together for a Greek luncheon at the Christina Lake par-three golf course. We continued on and went to the visitor centre, in Christina Lake for pictures of their three-dimensional railway bridge. We all shared laughs and a great time. The visitor centre is full of information about British Columbia and the West Kootenay area.

The gentlemen of our group put on their delicious traditional pancake-and-sausage breakfast.

Members and nonmembers closed out the rally with a pig roast. Thanks to all for a great rally!

Connie Hanson #107237, Chapter 33

WHAT I DO WHEN I CAMP

During lunch on Easter Sunday, my sisters, Michele and Andrea, both asked me, “So, what do you do when you go camping?” To them, camping is a foreign concept. As a whole, we had not grown up in a camping family. My only exposure to camping was during a few Girl Scout camping trips, one of which was rained out. And later, once I married, Bobby and I camped a half dozen times with both pop-up camper and tent.

I quickly realized that his idea of camping and mine were different. He was all about the camp cooking. His definition included huge camping breakfasts with the works with me as cook and cleaning crew for it, and my view differed. Initially, my desire was to camp as a means to an end. A “park and go” kind of philosophy.

From that viewpoint, my camping dream included traveling to places across this beautiful country as witness to the changes in landscape, the changes in color from lush green to golden sands. Ever-present in that dream is the pressure of time passing quickly. I feel a need to hurry so I can see all these things while I can.

That was my initial plan anyway. And, with that in mind, as I planned out my solo summer RV trips,

Different Viewpoints
**Full-Time RVing at Last**

The idea of full-time RVing began when my husband and I had our first three-week RV trip in a rented 24-foot class-C motorhome. We went to the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Bryce Canyon and Death Valley in California. We liked the comfortable style of RV travel and thought it would be an excellent way to see the country when we retire.

One year before my husband's retirement, we began our full-time RVing research. We googled RV sites and visited RV dealers to get a feel of the types and models of RVs available in the market and, of course, the price range. We also talked to Rvers we met while traveling.

Considering many factors, we decided on a specific used fifth-wheel, which meant we also needed a truck. We were fortunate to find a used “dually” with an installed tow package at a local dealer.

A few months before hubby's retirement, we were looking online for used RVs and found one that piqued our interest in Florida. We made plans to go there and meet the owner. He was accommodating enough to give my husband two half-day crash courses on towing. This was our first time towing a fifth-wheel rig.

Nervously, we towed the 43-foot rig to our home base in Texas. On our way back, we spent two nights at Sumter Oaks Escapees park in Bushnell, Florida, learning a lot while talking to people there.

We had our first five-day trip to Garner State Park in Texas, and another fantastic seven-week trip to Alberta, Canada, a few months later, covering over 5,000 miles round trip.

Earlier this year, we pulled the trigger. To be clear and free, we sold our house and stayed in a nearby RV park for one month to tie up loose ends before embarking on our new adventure. We set up mail-forwarding service with Escapees, changed our domicile, updated our driver licenses and headed to Rainbow's End, at Escapees National Headquarters in Livingston. We stayed a week, and during that time, my husband obtained his class-A driver license at the Texas DPS office in Livingston. We also had our truck and rig weighed by Smart Weigh at Rainbow's End.

From there, we slowly cruised our way to the Escapees Raccoon Valley RV Park, in Heiskell, Tennessee. We are taking our time enjoying the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains National Park and other state parks, museums and dams, hiking and biking, in lovely eastern Tennessee.

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**Crested Butte, Colorado, Town Park photo**

I was enjoying reading the November/December 2019 Escapees magazine and noticed that the picture on the Xscapers Events pages (page 68–69) had an issue. I was amazed to see a picture of the local town of Crested Butte, Colorado, but saw that the caption was “Rhythms on the Rio in South Park, Colorado.” Crested Butte is an amazing place to RV. This picture is of our weekly Monday evening free concerts in Town Park.

I just wanted to let everyone know the actual location of where the photo was taken. I love being part of Escapes RV Club.

---

*Donna J. Goldinger #150126*
Seven Myths About Towing Your RV with a Heavy-duty Truck

Myth #1—It’s too big! Maneuvering those beasts in tight quarters must be extremely difficult. Only professional drivers should attempt this.
Answer: Many H-DTs have roughly the same footprint as a dually pickup. Some are even used as daily drivers. Also, a class 7/8 H-DT has a far tighter turning radius than a pickup truck. This is due to the greater wheel cut on the big rig. In many respects, this makes the H-DT easier to drive than a pickup.

Myth #2—An H-DT is a work horse and, therefore, must have a harsh ride.
Answer: An H-DT has three levels of air suspension, offering a very smooth ride. An H-DT uses air suspension at the wheels; the cab is isolated from the frame by another air suspension, and, finally, the driver and passenger seats are also air-ride seats.

Myth #3—Servicing and maintenance on H-DTs must be expensive, and shops that can do the work must be hard to find.
Answer: Since H-DTs are used to transport the majority of all freight in the country, there are H-DT repair facilities located literally all over the country. It is, therefore, usually easier to find a repair facility for an H-DT than for a pickup. And, in many cases, shop rates tend to be lower at H-DT repair facilities than for the local mechanic or dealership working on a pickup.

Myth #4—One must have a commercial driver license (CDL) in order to drive an H-DT.
Answer: Once the H-DT is converted from being a commercial freight hauler to being an RV hauler, many states classify them as RVs. In these states, a CDL is not required. However, be sure to examine your state’s laws and regulations.

Myth #5—Only professional drivers can drive an H-DT because of double-clutching, etc.
Answer: Most modern H-DTs have either a fully automatic transmission with no clutch pedal (I-Shift), or are automated manuals where the only time you need to use the clutch is when starting and stopping (Auto-Shift). They automatically shift gears, just like your automatic transmission car, once you are rolling.

Myth #6—An H-DT truck is too expensive.
Answer: H-DT trucks are built to run hard and run constantly for hundreds of thousands of miles without major overhauls and repairs. Compared with the high cost of a new diesel, crew cab, dually pickup, the lower cost of a used H-DT with lots of life left in it becomes very competitive.

Myth #7—Modern pickup trucks have much higher tow ratings now. An H-DT is, therefore, overkill.
Answer: Each year Chevy, Ford and Dodge seem to upgrade their towing capacities, but this does not mean that your pickup can safely and comfortably tow your RV. At the same time, fifth-wheels and their pin weights seem to be getting heavier and heavier. Exceeding the GVWR, RAWR, and/or the cargo capacity of a pickup is not uncommon. This is where the H-DT excels. You will never have to worry about having too much RV for an H-DT to handle. Plus, the much larger engines of an H-DT will ensure you will not have to worry about crawling up that mountain pass while impatient motorists attempt to pass you.
And finally, you will never have to worry about being able to stop your truck and RV with an H-DT. An H-DT’s brakes are large and designed to bring 80,000 pounds of combined weight to a quick and safe stop. Think of that the next time you are heading down a mountain pass, or are in stop-and-go traffic in the city. When it comes to safety (driving, stopping, and God-forbid, crashing), simple physics dictates that the H-DT will always outperform a pickup that is towing an RV. You can find more information about towing your RV with an H-DT at www.rvnetwork.com/topic/108618-h-DT-faq-document-frequent-questions.

Cecil J. Dale #129364
NATIONAL HEAVY-DUTY TRUCK RALLY

They came from all over North America and converged in the center of the continent at the Kansas State Fairground, in Hutchinson, Kansas. They also represent one of the smallest segments of the RVing community, but they do so in a very big way. They are RVers who tow their fifth-wheel and travel trailers with big class 7 and 8 heavy-duty trucks, and every October they meet for one week at the National H-DT rally.

According to their website, the mission of the HDT rally is “to share information about the issues of obtaining, owning and using an H-DT (heavy-duty truck) as a 5th-wheel RV toter and related products.” But the rally isn’t only for those who already tow their RV with a big-rig truck. In fact, you don’t even need to own an RV to attend, nor be a member of Escapees. Some attending the rally this year stayed in nearby hotels. If you’ve ever been curious about the practicability of using a big rig truck to tow your RV, or simply want to learn more about these behemoths of the road, then this is the rally for you.

Every day of the rally was filled with numerous seminars concerning all things heavy-duty truck, covering everything from air brakes to weight and balance. I quickly learned that there are three general types of trucks for towing RVs. There are H-DTs (class 7/8 heavy duty trucks/semis) M-DTs (class 5-6 medium-duty trucks) and L-GTs (little-girly trucks), which are light-duty trucks such as half-ton, three-quarter ton and one-ton pickups. Never before had I ever thought of my crew-cab, long-bed, 4x4, 2,500HD Silverado as a “little-girly truck.” From that point on, I knew this rally was going to be a blast.

The event had something for nearly everyone. Not all of the seminars were about H-DTs. Many covered general RVing topics such as “Traveling With Pets,” “Lithium Battery Systems,” and “Connecting to the Internet While Traveling.” There were also some general interest seminars on things such as “Ham Radio” and “CPR.” They even had daily events for folks whose eyes may glaze over from the technical jargon.

Two custom-build RV manufacturers attended and helped sponsor the rally. SpaceCraft Manufacturing, from Concordia, Missouri, sent a representative from their company who not only led in a seminar, but also brought a model RV. New Horizons, from Junction City, Kansas, also sent a representative and a model RV. New Horizons builds fifth-wheels. SpaceCraft builds fifth-wheels, travel-trailers and semi-trailer RVs. All rally attendees were encouraged to tour these two model RVs, and many of the attendees opened up their own RVs for the rest of us to tour.

The best thing about this rally, as I believe is most likely true for all RV rallies, is the people you meet. Every day, social activities were scheduled, including happy hours, meals and even line dancing. Every day there was free time to go out and explore the many rigs and meet their owners. All one had to do to draw a crowd was to lift the hood on one of these big trucks. The people were all friendly; some were characters, and all were extremely helpful. One even offered to not only let me go for a ride in his big-rig tractor, he even instructed me and allowed me to drive it. No commercial driver license (CDL) required. I’ve never done that before. Thanks, Bill! You’re a brave man.

It was a sad day when the rally ended and it was time to go home. The good news is that I made many new friends, and I have connected with some of them on the Escapees Forum. I am still contemplating whether or not an H-DT is in my future. Either way, the rally was time well spent.

You can find information about RVing with heavy-duty trucks and the national H-DT rally at hdtrally.com and www.rvnetwork.com/forum/32-hdt.

By Cecil J. Dale #129364

The best thing about this rally, as I believe is most likely true for all RV rallies, is the people you meet.
Where am I and what do I want from life are questions that often arise at this time of year. Or there might be a resolution to exercise more, to eat better, to learn something new and interesting, or you might even instigate a blossoming of your inner life. The following selection of books may help inspire you to learn about some ancient survival skills and experience other lifestyles through your travels, or simply help enrich your creative mind and spirit.

**PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY**  
*A SURVIVALIST’S GUIDE TO BUILDING TOOLS, SHELTERS & MORE IN THE WILD*  
JOHN PLANT • CLARKSON POTTER 2019 • ISBN: 978-1984823670  
HARDCOVER: $19.99 • KINDLE: $9.99

John Plant grew up in the rural areas of Australia’s Far North Queensland. Lacking access to modern technology, he studied the systems and techniques of his ancestors to obtain their basic amenities such as food, clothing and shelter. As the technology became available, he has created a popular YouTube.com channel, Primitive Technology, demonstrating what he has learned. This book is a well-illustrated photo and line-drawing series of 50 projects from his YouTube channel. Although in our RVing world we may not need these skills, often an ancient skill may solve a modern problem. John’s projects are a fascinating glimpse into the lives and necessary skills of our ancestors. Visit the YouTube channel to view some of his projects. You will certainly gain an appreciation for modern day tools and systems.

**WHEREVER YOU GO: A GUIDE TO MINDFUL, SUSTAINABLE AND LIFE-CHANGING TRAVEL**  
DANIEL HOUGHTON • TILLER PRESS 2019 • ISBN: 978-1982131586  
HARDCOVER: $26.99 • KINDLE: $12.99

Daniel Houghton, the former CEO of *Lonely Planet*, a renowned travel guide publisher, guides us through the transformational experiences of travel. As the son of a Delta Airlines pilot and a flight attendant, he traveled extensively as a child, but it wasn’t until becoming a *Lonely Planet* traveler that he discovered the wonders of travel. These travels enabled him to write and share a broad view of the whole world. His observations and interviews of famous travelers gave him his world view, and this book shows the breadth and depth of his travels. However, travel does not always mean getting on a plane and flying to the far reaches of planet Earth; it may be as simple as a visit to blue highways America. Travel to the vast farmlands of the Great Plains states to experience the small towns peppering the vast expanses of the Midwest. Then contrast those experiences and the people you meet with small towns in the Deep South, or maybe New England towns with histories going back before the Revolutionary War, or the Southwest with its rich history predating even that of New England. All these are mind-expanding experiences allowing you to see things differently as you travel, learning from the daily lives of your fellow Americans. We live in a vast country full of fascinating people. Get to know them, and share their thoughts and feelings as they reveal their daily lives.

**KEEP GOING: 10 WAYS TO STAY CREATIVE IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD**  
AUSTIN KLEON • WORKMAN PUBLISHING 2019  
ISBN: 978-1523506644 • PAPERBACK: $12.95 • KINDLE: $7.21

After publishing a number of *New York Times* bestsellers, the author, Austin Kleon, an artist as well as a writer, shares secrets to encourage your creative side. It might be something as simple as a quiet walk in the woods while you let nature wash over you or simply enjoy your thoughts, seeing inspiration in the world around you. This book is filled with brilliant ideas, quirky cartoons, poems and artistic drawings to open your mind to the possibilities in your life. Try fostering a daily habit of reading a few pages of this book to nurture creative thoughts. Who knows where it will lead? Certainly, a creative and enriched life is possible.
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Do you love Walt Disney World but hate the crowds? Me, too. That’s why I travel to the land of Mickey and Minnie during the least crowded times of the year. In addition to a calmer atmosphere, ride and attraction lines are shorter, so you get to experience more in a shorter amount of time.

Admission costs also change according to the day and time of year you visit: Value, Regular and Peak. This attendance rating system also carries over into the price of staying at an on-property resort, including the campsites at Disney’s Fort Wilderness Resort. Generally, this rating system coordinates with the time of year when school is in session and there is no major holiday.

Highest attendance is New Year’s Day, Marathon Weekend (January 8–12, 2020), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend in January, Presidents’ week in February, then mid-March through late April (spring break), Easter, Memorial Day weekend, mid-June through Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Day and its weekend and Christmas week through New Year’s Day.

Moderate attendance is after Presidents week in February through early March, then late April through early June (except Memorial Day weekend) and the first part of Thanksgiving week.

Lowest attendance is in January (except dates noted above) until just before Presidents week in February, the week following Labor Day until just before Thanksgiving week and, last of all, the week following Thanksgiving until the week before Christmas.

My favorite time to visit is following Thanksgiving weekend until right before Christmas. Not only are there fewer people in the parks, but the parks and resorts are decorated for the holidays. Flower beds are filled with poinsettias; giant Christmas trees are featured in all the parks, and special events are held. For example, Disney’s Hollywood Studios is decorated in 1930s style along Hollywood Boulevard, Sunset Boulevard and around Echo Lake. Santa Claus is also on hand to greet children of all ages.

In the Magic Kingdom, Main Street is all decked out, including amazing window displays. On certain nights, Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party is held (special event admission is required). Parades, fireworks, classic characters are dressed in their holiday best, and special entertainment is staged.

Disney Springs is another great holiday destination. There is no admission charge but lots of special entertainment, Christmas Tree Trail and Santa’s Chalet, plus wonderful dining and shopping opportunities.

Walt Disney World is a great destination anytime of year, but if you have the opportunity to visit when the parks aren’t as busy, you’ll find your experience even more magical.

Visit www.disneyworld.disney.go.com for information.

Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor
If you can travel to a cruise port, you can travel the world. Dozens of cruise lines offer hundreds of itineraries from single islands to cruises to Europe and beyond.

In the United States, there are 21 coastal departure ports. In California, there are ports in Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. In Florida, there are ports in Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Miami, Port Canaveral and Tampa. In Louisiana, there’s New Orleans and there’s Mobile in Alabama. Other ports can be found in Baltimore, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts; Brooklyn and Manhattan, New York. Others are located in Portland, Oregon; Charleston, South Carolina; Galveston, Texas; Norfolk, Virginia; Bayonne, New Jersey; and Seattle, Washington.

Cruising
Gramping is a new term for grandparents traveling with their grandchildren, but camping has long been a wonderful choice for multi-generational travel. Cruising is also gaining popularity, especially since you can combine the two. A good example might be a few days of camping in Texas before heading to Galveston, parking the RV and taking a cruise.

From Galveston, Carnival Cruise Line offers 26 itineraries, ranging from four days to 14 days. A cruise is an excellent way to travel with children. Many cruise lines offer complimentary programs for children of all ages. Disney Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean also sail from Galveston.

Carnival Cruise Line features complimentary Camp Ocean geared toward children from age two to 11; Circle “C” is designed for ages 12 to 14, and Club 02 for ages 15 to 17. Each age group has its own space, from play areas to high-tech teen lounges. Dr. Suess’ Cat in the Hat, Sam I Am and Thing 1 and Thing 2 are also on board for fun with younger children.

Add to this the many and varying choices for shore excursions: a day at the beach, snorkeling, ATV adventures, scuba diving, glass-bottom boat tours, kayaking and historic tours.

In Cozumel, for example, Save a Sea Turtle Experience offers guests the opportunity to help biologists save endangered sea turtles. Participants dig deep into the nests to rescue baby turtles not strong enough to make it out on their own.

When ready, the turtles hatch and make their way to the sea. This is a natural process, but in the frenzy of the nest, only about 80 percent of the hatched turtles actually have the stamina and energy to climb out.

On this shore excursion, participants help rescue the 20 percent that were not ready for the dash to the sea by digging them out. Hatched eggs are also counted so the biologists can gauge how many baby turtles made it to the sea the night before.
Arriving a day or two early to the embarkation port is like extending the cruise. Not only is it a safeguard against delayed flights or vehicle problems, but many hotels offer park and cruise packages where you can leave your vehicle parked at the hotel during the cruise. Hotel Galvez & Spa and The Tremont House are two hotels in Galveston that offer this package.

The city’s European history dates to 1528, shifting from France to Spain to pirate Jean Lafitte, who established a colony on Galveston Island in 1817. Incorporated in 1839, Galveston quickly became the most active port west of New Orleans and the largest city in the state. On September 8, 1900, however, Galveston became a victim of what stands as the most deadly natural disaster to strike the United States, when a hurricane came ashore. One-third of the city was completely destroyed, and more than 6,000 people were killed. Tragedy struck once again in 2008, as Hurricane Ike made landfall on the east end of Galveston Island, leaving behind damage from 100-mph winds and a storm surge estimated between 17 and 20 feet.

Fortunately, it’s easy to retrace some of the island’s colorful history by visiting its museum houses and neighborhoods. Galveston has one of the largest and historically significant collections of 19th-century buildings in the United States.

Moody Gardens is another popular attraction. Its Rainforest Pyramid is home to scarlet ibis, colorful parrots, monkeys and giant Amazon River otters. The Aquarium Pyramid features fish from around the world and playful penguins.

Galveston Children’s Museum is a delightful imagination destination. Here children pretend to be fishermen, bakers, pizza makers, artists, veterinarians and builders.

Another interesting attraction is the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig Museum and Education Center. If you’ve ever wondered what it would be like to live on a drilling rig, here’s your chance to explore a retired jackup drilling rig. The museum’s three floors help explain not only what life is like living in the middle of the ocean, but offers the history of the offshore oil and gas industry, its major players and the technology behind fuel exploration and production.

Galveston also features a beautiful beach, an amusement pier and other attractions geared for children of all ages, depending on their interests.

Before you go, plan the trip together. If you have decided on a cruise, discuss shore excursions; if you’re planning a road trip, contact local convention and visitor bureaus for maps and brochures. Discuss time factors like how long you’ll be driving. When your itinerary is set, seek out discount tickets and book your campgrounds or hotels. A child’s buy-in will go a long way in making a trip a successful one.

After all the plans are set, reservations made and tickets in hand, make sure you have the child’s proper identification—photocopies of birth certificates should be fine if traveling in the United States, plus medical histories and health insurance cards (including prescription, dental and secondary insurance cards). Carry contact information, recent photos and notarized authorization from the parents, in case the child needs medical attention.

Some countries bar the entry of minors if they are not accompanied by both parents, unless the children have written, notarized permission from the absent parents. The rules vary from country to country, so it’s best to be prepared.

Passports, and in some cases passport cards, are essential for international travel. Knowing when your grandchild is ready to travel without their parents, making sure the child is involved in the planning and having all the paperwork in order will help make any journey a fun and memorable “gramping” experience.


**Article and photos by Marilyn Jones, Guest Contributor**

Marilyn’s four-year-old granddaughter, Ainsley Moore, keeping rescued baby turtles in a bucket until it’s time to release them into the Caribbean Sea.
Capitol Reef, formerly known as Wayne Wonderland, is an under-appreciated national park about that few seem to know. Even though a few thousand come to visit, compared to Zion, that is a drop in the bucket. Little advertisement is produced for this park. It is beautiful and has a “look” all of its own.

Capitol Reef encompasses the Waterpocket Fold, a warp in the earth’s crust that is 65 million years old. It is the largest exposed monocline in North America. In this fold, newer and older layers of earth folded over each other in an S-shape. This warp, probably caused by the same colliding continental plates that created the Rocky Mountains, has weathered and eroded over millennia to expose layers of rock and fossils. The park is filled with brilliantly colored sandstone cliffs, gleaming white domes and contrasting layers of stone and earth.

The area was named for a line of white domes and cliffs of Navajo sandstone, each of which looks somewhat like the United States Capitol building, that run from the Fremont River to Pleasant Creek on the Waterpocket Fold.

The Fold forms a north-to-south barrier that has barely been breached by roads. Early settlers referred to parallel impassable ridges as “reefs” from which the park gets the second half of its name. The first paved road was constructed through the area in 1962. State Route 24 cuts through the park, traveling east and west between Canyonlands National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park, but few other paved roads invade the rugged landscape.

Following the American Civil War, officials of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City sought to establish missions in the remotest niches of the Intermountain West. In 1866, a quasi-military expedition of Mormons, in pursuit of natives, penetrated the high valleys to the west. In the 1870s, settlers moved into these valleys, eventually establishing Loa, Fremont, Lyman, Bicknell and Torrey.

Mormons settled the Fremont River Valley in the 1880s and established Junction (later renamed Fruita), and it prospered. By 1920, no more than 10 families at one time were sustained by the fertile flood plain of the Fremont River, and the land changed ownership over the years. The area remained isolated. The community was later abandoned, and eventually some buildings were restored by the National Park Service. Kilns once used to produce lime are still in Sulphur Creek, near the campgrounds on Scenic Drive.

Visitation climbed dramatically after the paved, all-weather State Route 24 was built in 1962, through the Fremont River canyon, near Fruita. State Route 24 replaced the narrow Capitol Gorge wagon road about 10 miles to the south that frequently washed out. The old road has since been open only to foot traffic. In 1967, 146,598 persons visited the park.
SKP Stops

Guidelines for SKP Stops Submissions

• **Deadline:** Material for each issue will be selected based on location and the migration of seasonal travel.
• **Words:** Submissions of 300 to 500 words are ideal. Due to limited space, submissions will be edited.
• **Photos:** High-resolution photos are included on a space-available basis. Include the name of the photographer and anyone in the photo.

Roosevelt signed a proclamation creating Capitol Reef National Monument on August 2, 1937. In Proclamation 2246, President Roosevelt set aside 37,711 acres (15,261 ha) of the Capitol Reef area. This comprised an area extending about two miles (3.2 km) north of present State Route 24 and about 10 miles south, just past Capitol Gorge. The Great Depression years were lean ones for the National Park Service (NPS), the new administering agency. Funds for the administration of Capitol Reef were nonexistent; it would be a long time before the first rangers arrived.

During the 1950s, Charles Kelly, appointed “custodian-without-pay” at Capitol Reef National Monument, was deeply troubled by NPS management acceding to demands of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission that Capitol Reef National Monument be opened to uranium prospecting. He felt that the decision had been a mistake and would be destructive of the long-term national interest. It turned out that there was not enough ore in the monument to be worth mining.

In 1958, Kelly got additional permanent help in protecting the monument and enforcing regulations; Park Ranger Grant Clark transferred from Zion. The year Clark arrived, 56,000 visitors came to the park, and Charlie Kelly retired for the last time.

During the 1960s (under the program name Mission 66), NPS areas nationwide received new facilities to meet the demand of mushrooming park visitation. At Capitol Reef, a 53-site campground at Fruita, staff rental housing and a new visitor center were built, the latter opening in 1966.

Preservationists convinced President Lyndon B. Johnson to set aside an enormous area of public lands in 1968, just before he left office. In Presidential Proclamation 3888, an additional 215,056 acres (87,030 ha) were placed under NPS control. By 1970, Capitol Reef National Monument comprised 254,251 acres. “An Act to Establish The Capitol Reef National Park in the State of Utah” became Public Law 92-207, when it was signed by President Richard Nixon on December 18, 1971.

In the 1950s, uranium was promised. People flocked there, but very little was found.

Utah’s Cassidy Arch is quite famous, and we thought it was great until we hiked to Hickman. It was way better, though not as famous.

It was a wonderful hike, and the landscape was simply amazing!

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Fruita was interesting. They had groves of apricots, and you can go in and pick. The sign says eat all you want while picking. Weigh what you pick and put your money in the box. A scale is available for you to use.

There is also a house called Milford House where pies of all flavors are made available for purchase.

On up the road is the Fruita Schoolhouse. You can also find pictographs on the walls of the monoline from the Hopi and Zuni native tribes. It’s not certain what the interpretations are; however, it’s assumed some are a form of communication, and some are warnings.

In 1933, Ephraim Portman Pectol was a Mormon Bishop in Torrey, Utah, until 1928 when he was elected to the Utah State Legislature and almost immediately contacted President Franklin D. Roosevelt and asked for the creation of Wayne Wonderland National Monument out of the federal lands comprising the bulk of the Capitol Reef area. Federal agencies began a feasibility study and boundary assessment. Meanwhile, Pectol guided the government investigators on numerous trips and escorted an increasing number of visitors.

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Helpful Hints

• Share unique and off-the-beaten-path RV travel destinations.
• Keep submissions brief and include only pertinent information.
• Include the best season to visit the destination.
• Include information on RV parking and accessibility.
Send submissions to Escapees Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351, or to editor@escapees.com.
“We have so much more freedom camping off grid.”

Freedom is what’s most important to Olivia and Kyle Brady. That’s why they left their jobs, sold everything, and became open road nomads. Now, they’re embarking on a new journey, the renovation of a ’79 Airstream Argosy, and they know exactly where their power is coming from.

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If you're full-time RVing and need a rest or recovery while on the road, such as during or after an operation with follow-up rehab and multiple medical appointments, come to the CARE facility! If you're tired of cooking, laundry and housekeeping, take a break for a few months or years. Revitalize yourself by coming to CARE. Many folks use CARE as a base as they enjoy short trips or cruises. CARE provides the essentials: good food, laundry service, housekeeping and transportation.

This year, the 26th Annual CARE Health Fair is scheduled to be held March 22–27. Come and take advantage of low-cost health testing that includes lab work, stroke scans, mammograms, for the uninsured and insured. Our health week testing has saved many Escapees’ lives. Also, our health seminars, led by specialists, have educated folks on new discoveries. This event is the largest health fair in southeast Texas. As with any Escapees function, food is always included. There will be soup contests with tastings, lunches, a dessert auction and a special dinner with entertainment.

Our previous health fair events have raised funds for the purchase of a 14-passenger bus for activities, a backup generator to allow CARE participants to shelter-in-place during a power outage and to build new sites.

In October, CARE hosted the Escapees Octoberfest, which included a morning artisan market, Bavarian pretzels, brats and sauerkraut, and an evening beer garden. The highlight of the event was the bake auction, which raised almost $10,000 for the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department. Shawn Loring, RV Club CEO, played a key role as auctioneer, cajoling monetary donations from elected officials, CARE residents and campground attendees. The bake auction has been an Escapees event for 35 years. It began the year SKP volunteers cleared the land for the Rainbow’s End clubhouse.

Escapees members have generously helped support CARE over many years. Some have donated by holding rallies, conducting auctions and or bequeathing portions of their estates to support the vision of our founder, Kay Peterson. Others have donated because they could see a possible need to live at CARE for themselves at some point. Still others have donated on behalf of Escapees friends that they made while traveling. However, of the 1.5 million charitable causes in this country, CARE is close to our hearts for its value to our fellow Escapees. Why not “Give yourself the Gift of CARE” and live a longer life with love!

Russ Johnson #96114, Escapees CARE Executive Director

Escapes CARE Needs Volunteers and Donations!
Volunteers receive a free site, three meals per day, free WiFi in our center and more. Volunteers give 24/32 hours a week for four weeks, driving residents and taking phone calls. Donations via www.paypal.com/givingfund, www.iGive.com, www.escapees.com/store, or through a bequest in your will all help support Escapees CARE. For further details, call 936-327-4258, e-mail carefd@escapees.com or visit www.escapeescare.org
ESCAPEES NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
HOLIDAY CLOSURES FOR 2020

The Escapees RV Club National Headquarters observes national holidays to coincide with post office closures. For your convenience, the dates for 2020 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 20 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 17 — President’s Day
- April 10 — Good Friday (Easter)
- May 25 — Memorial Day
- July 3 — Independence Day
- September 7 — Labor Day
- October 12 — Columbus Day
- November 11 — Veteran’s Day
- November 26 & 27 — Thanksgiving Day (2 days)
- December 24 — Christmas Eve
- December 25 — Christmas Day
- December 31 — New Year’s Eve
New York City and The Hudson River Valley HOP (Head Out Program)
JULY 12–17, 2020

Experience the best of both worlds with incredible, action-packed excursions to the “Big Apple” and to the historic Hudson River Valley! Board a luxury motorcoach and we’ll do the driving. Enjoy a leisurely ride into the city with a fun and knowledgeable local tour guide. Learn the history of our nation while visiting historical buildings and landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Times Square, Grand Central Station, Fifth Avenue, Wall Street, the Legendary Thayer Hotel and a ride up to the observation deck of the Empire State Building. Enjoy visiting the 911 Museum and Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Home and Museum. Then, we’ll round out the city tour with a famous Broadway play!

If you have a passion for all things food, then this HOP is for you! We’ll tour and dine at the world’s best culinary college, the famous Culinary Institute of America, overlooking the beautiful Hudson River in historic Hyde Park. Also located on the Hudson River is the historic West Point Military Academy with its adjoining cemetery and museum. At the end of the tour, enjoy lunch right there on the academy grounds while overlooking the Hudson River.
Join fellow Escapees for HOP events: theme-related venues and activities at unique and scenic locations!

FOR EVENT DETAILS AND A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL HOP EVENTS, VISIT OR CALL

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NEW YORK CITY AND THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY HOP
JULY 12–17, 2020
New York/Hudson River Valley
Price Range: $965–$1,580

BALLOON FIESTA HOP
OCTOBER 2–11, 2020
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Option #1: October 02–07, 2020
Prices: $1110 - $999
Option #2: October 07–11, 2020
Prices: $1,095–$989
Option #3: October 02–11, 2020
Prices: $1,355 - $1,245

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN HOP
JANUARY 3–9, 2021
Port Canaveral, Florida
Price PP: $868–$1,138

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Option available at registration. Not available with cruise HOPS.
**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.

**MA20 (Due Nov. 10) Cultural Experience:** Diversity makes each one of us special. Show us one of your amazing RVing cultural experiences.

**MJ20 (Due Jan. 10) Sacred Ground:** Have you visited an area that is considered sacred or holy? Show us your photo of this special place.

**JA20 (Due March 10) RV Life in a Photo**

**SO20 (Due May 10) RV Garden**

**ND20 (Due July 10) RVing Patriots**

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To submit photos for “Viewfinder,” send unaltered digital photos as e-mail attachments to Viewfinder@Escapees.com.
FREE AND LOW-COST PARKING FINDS
Compiled by GUY GIPSON #84383, Download the entire online directory at www.daysenddirectory.com.

ALABAMA
Cullman: Gov Guy Hunt RA Tables, rest rooms, trash bins, usual pkg, D. 9 mi S of town, I-65 MM 301, both sides. Howard and Fran Smith #83749

Florence: McFarland Park CG. 60 sites with 50-A E/W/S, tables, rest room, showers, washer/dryer, D $25, seniors (62+) $20, 21-day limit. From US 43/72 in S end of town, just N of Tennessee Riv, go 0.5 mi W on SR 20/Coffee Rd. Turn S into park and follow signs for CG. N34 47 2.022 W87 41 2.399. 256-740-8817. Along Tennessee Riv, some shaded sites. Fishing pier, boat launch. Rick and Ellen Yarker #87386

Pickensville: Pickensville CG, Aliceville Lake, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (COE). 29 FHU and 147 E/W sites with 15- 30- 50-A E. Flush toilets, showers, laundries, D $20–$24, S/A Pass 1/2. 14-day limit, extend with approval (except holidays). Open all year. From SR 17 in town, go 2.9 mi W on SR 86, TR (N) on paved rd signed to Pickensville CG, immed TR (E) on W Lock and Dam Rd, go 0.5 mi to CG on L 33.23545 -88.30341. 30 waterway/waterfront sites. 9 pull-thru sites. Lg-rig friendly. Boat ramp. 5 mi to WWII German POW Camp in Aliceville (fee). Rich and Carolyn Wellborn #102930

ARIZONA

Benson: Peace in the Valley Lutheran Church. Free RV hookups, advertised in newspaper, anyone can use. Call 520-586-5171 for availability. 7 mi W of town at Mescal, I-10 x297, go 0.5 mi S on J-Six Ranch Rd. 551 S J-Six Ranch Rd. Terry and Barb Brown #105261

Marana: CAP Tangerine Rd Park, lg level dirt pkg area 1/2 mi long. No facilities. Free. No prohibitive signs for O/N. No stay limit. I-10 x240, go 0.2 mi E on Tangerine Rd. Lots of room for turning and lg rigs. 32.42634 -111.16056. Next to CAP Trail (no vehicles allowed), a 336-mi Natl Recreation Trail along the CAP Canal. Karen Cotton #114131

Parker: McDonald’s, pkg lot. No facilities. Free. SR 95 across from Walmart, behind restaurant. Sm rigs (less than 30’) use S entrance to park on blacktop in long nose-in spots. Lg rigs use N entrance to lg lot behind other lot. Free WiFi and several outlets to charge phones/ laptops. Share with truckers. John and Bonnie Archer #113438

Scottsdale: Lg gravel pkg area. No facilities. Free. No restrictions posted. SR 101 x34, go S on Scottsdale Rd, TL at 1st light on E Mayo Blvd, go to dead end, an open pkg area in the desert. We parked off to the R near trees. Room for several lg RVs. Near Mayo Clinic. Shirley Fritz Nurre #78030

Yuma: Dirt/rock lot. No facilities. Free. No signs. I-8 x14, go N, immed TR on frontage rd, go 1.0 mi. On L at NE corner of Ave 14E, across from Mina de Fortuna Self-Storage. Room for several rigs, any size. A little rough, take it slow. Vacant areas on S side of x14 all signed against O/N pkg.
CALIFORNIA

Pine Valley: Sunrise Hwy (S1) BD (NF). No restrictive signs. All sites have room for several RVs. Views. 1.8 x47, go N on Sunrise Hwy (S1). LG paved area 1 mi in at MM 14.5, E side of hwy. Larger paved site 1/2 mi further N on S1, E side (S2.85253N 116.69618W), and rough dirt area across rd from it with table. Elev 4426’. Chas Wilder #88717

San Marcos: Home Depot pkg lot. Allows O/N pkg (mgr gave permission), local Walmarts do not. Free. 24-hr limit.SR 78 x12, go short distance NE on San Marcos Blvd, across st. from Camping World and next to McDonald’s. 550 San Marcos Blvd. Level, good lighting, good Verizon. Many nearby stores and restaurants. 760-510-2623.

Susan Burgess #138823

Trabuco Canyon: O’Neill Regional Park (county). 80 BD sites, some with W spigots, some for RVs only. W, rest rooms/showers. D, $20 ($15 age 60 + or disabled) + $5 addl vehicle fee if towing a motorized vehicle (but not for a trailer). 14-day limit. I-5 x91, go 8 mi NE on El Toro Rd, TR on Live Oak Canyon Rd, go 3.3 mi to entrance on R. In beautiful Trabucoo and Live Oak Canyons. Heavily wooded, coast live oak and sycamore trees. Walk to xint country steak house. oc.parks.com/parks/oneill. Diane and Dennis Nawa’s #130800

Winterhaven: BD (BLM). No facilities. Free. 14-day limit. W of town. I-8 x164, go 1.5 mi N on Sidewinder Rd to end of pavement BD areas on R. room for many rigs, no size limit. S2.77479 -114.5417. S 32.78111 -114.75402. Good AT&T. Sidewinder Rd continues W to link up with Ogilby Rd, more BD spots 2-3 mi further N on L. Peter and Joan Williams #118734

LOUISIANA

Pineville: Jena Choctaw Pines Casino, O/N pkg in lot. No facilities. From jct US 165 and US 167 N of town, go 7 mi N on US 167. Casino is signed on L. There is a heavily sloped truck lot to the R as you enter, but we stayed in the main lot to the L. Rick and Ellen Yarker #87386

MISSISSIPPI:

Natchez to Tennessee, Nashville: Many pull-outs along Natchez Trace. A 444-mi scenic rd that runs from Natchez to Nashville. OK for O/N BD. Mark and Sue McGartland #44088

TEXAS


Michael Goodwin #138996

Coleman: Lakeside Park, Hords Creek Lake (COE). 39 paved sites with 30-A E/W, 10 with 50-A E/W. 4 FHU, covered tables, fire pits. Flush toilets, showers, D 30-A $16, 50-A $20, FHU $22, S/Pass 1/2. Open all yr. 14-day limit. 8 mi W of town on SR 153, 0.5 mi S on Lakeside Rd. 65’ pads. 9 pull-thru. May fill wtrks. Beach, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, horses. Rebecca Crofton #56466

Johnson City: Out-of-business gas sta/store, paved lot. US 281/290 at NW corner of Scofield Ave (across US 281/290 from RM 2766), across hwy from Hometown Donuts. Mark and Sue McGartland #44088

San Saba: Picnic area/historical marker. 2 covered tables, trash cans. Free. No stay limit posted. No signs prohibit O/N pkg. 4 mi E of town on US 190, N side. Ed and Jill Iteen #54918

Sierra Blanca: CP, pkg lot I-10 x107, go 0.6 mi N on FM 1111/Archie Ave, on L. LG pkg area between st. and park. Quiet except for train whistles. Mark and Sue McGartland #44088

Van Horn: Exxon fuel/truck stop, truck pkg lot. Free. 15 mi E of town, I-10 x159, N side. Slight slope, pot holes, many trucks O/N. Great views, restaurant, mechanic on duty and tires sold. Park far from the restaurant and truck noise isn’t as loud. Cynthia Lynne Johnson #82149

The Day’s End Directory is a useful tool for helping you save money and find safe overnight parking recommended by fellow Escapées members. “Day’s End” listings are submitted by traveling members. Please be aware that these listings are not verified by Escapées magazine, and the information is subject to change without notice. Want more? Order online or write Guy Gibson, 107 Rainbow Dr., #755, Livingston, TX 77359-1007. Online Search and Download: $15/year. Include your complete name and Escapées membership number.

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Helpful Hints, Ideas and Solutions for Today’s RVer

Read these and other tips online at WWW.ESCAPEES.COM/BLOG.
E-mailed submissions can be sent to DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM.

Voltage on an RV Frame

Mark Nemeth frequently posts questions from readers about voltage showing up on the frame of a rig. I ran across one a while back that might be a pretty common cause of such trouble. Multiple pedestals showed voltage on the neutral or ground. It had not been the case when I had set up a few days earlier. Systematically unplugging trailers from their pedestals revealed the problem disappeared when one rig was disconnected. Watching the voltage on his frame, he tripped his breakers one at a time, finally seeing normal readings when he shut off the water heater. The cause was a water heater element burned completely in half and shorted to frame. It occurred to me this might be a common problem, especially on older rigs, with an easy fix.

That does happen, and the worst part is that such a fault can affect other RVs plugged into the same electrical circuit. Refrigerator heating elements can do the same thing. Usually, the refrigerator will trip a GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) if there is one on the circuit.

Mark Nemeth #45776

Pepper Spray vs. Bear Spray in Canada

Pepper spray is not permitted in Canada, but bear spray is permitted. I have crossed the border many times with bear spray. Just be careful what you call it and how it is labeled.

As long as the description on the product verifies that it is for use against animals, it should not be a problem. The Canadian regulation can be found online (Memorandum D19-13-2: Importing and Exporting Firearms, Weapons and Devices) at: www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/dm-md/d19/d19-13-2-eng.pdf (See paragraph 20.)

Frank Mengel #121007

NINE SMALL ITEMS THAT CAN ENHANCE RV LIFE

We’ve been full-time RVing for almost two years and have tried many products to solve problems during that time. Some have had successful outcomes; others, not so much. In addition to several significant inconveniences, your home can become a rolling earthquake on travel days, meaning belongings and essential equipment can shift, bounce, tumble, slip and topple while on the road. This requires special preparation before each trek, and some of that might be for naught. Here are a few inexpensive solutions that have actually worked well for us. Each of these items costs less than $50.

9. ENTRY MAT—We found that our dog often tracked in the outside environment with ordinary doormats, and, even when we used them to wipe our own shoes, it didn’t take long to use up what little protection they offered. The solution turned out to be a microfiber doormat. Ultra-absorbent, this doormat soaks up five times more dirt and water than normal mats to protect your furniture and floors from even the friskiest pup.

8. WALL-MOUNTED SOAP DISPENSERS—With counter space at a premium in both the kitchen and the bathroom, we found that commercial wall-mounted soap dispensers took a vital item off the counter and made it even more convenient to use.

7. ULTRA-SLIM VELVET CLOTHES HANGERS—Another spot of valuable real estate in an RV is the clothes closet. Regular hangers are bulky, and most closets are not tall enough for tiered hanging racks or stackable hanger devices. We found we can hang almost twice the number of shirts and pants using those ultra-slim hangers that are lightweight and covered in non-slip velvet.

6. REMOTE BINS—No, the bins aren’t remote. Each room that has a television or entertainment center normally sports multiple remote-control devices that are frequently lost and often damaged on travel days. Simple stick-on bins, installed next to the couch or bed, easily solve both problems, in addition to never having to look for the remote.

5. FOAM MATTRESS CORNERS—It might sound silly, but with RV mattresses typically smaller than their full-size home counterparts, bed linens often bunch up or loosen in use on a bed. This can make sleep uncomfortable and the bed look sloppy even after it’s made. We found foam pieces that were made to use on the corners of the mattress beneath the fitted sheet that helps the linen cling and stay in place.

4. CLEAR VINYL SCREEN-DOOR COVERING—Most RVs don’t have storm doors and having to keep the outside door closed whenever the screen door isn’t sufficient to keep
KEYLESS REMOTE ENTRY SYSTEM

On the Northern Lite Truck Camper Facebook page, someone posted about having a new truck that uses a keyless remote entry system. He realized that it may be possible for someone to get into their truck while he and his travel companion were sleeping if the keys were on their table. Sure enough, he was able to get into his truck by putting his hand in front of the sensor. Now they store their keys in the back closet on a hook that is far enough away that the truck does not sense them and, therefore, allow someone to open the doors.

This could also be an issue for tow vehicles and trucks that pull trailers if parked too close to the living area.

Besides placing the keys far enough away, other solutions to this problem could be to put the keys in a metalized bag, such as a Faraday key fob bag, or a metal tin such as a cookie tin or Altoid tin. Storing the keys in the microwave should also work. It’s probably not a good idea to put your keys in the freezer or refrigerator. Batteries don’t like to be frozen or cold, and there are batteries in the key fob. It may be possible to disable the remote. Check your owner’s manual for instructions.

Joyce Space #61818, rvingspaces@gmail.com

hot or cold out can cause claustrophobia. Our solution was to cut a piece of clear vinyl to the exact shape of the top and bottom halves of the screen door and apply it with Velcro strips. When we want to open the air flow, we simply pull the vinyl cover off the Velcro.

3. NONSLIP MATTING—Smaller appliances or kitchen accoutrements that sit on the counter, such as an ice maker or a silverware holder, must typically be stowed before travel can begin and replaced when the rig is parked. This can be time-consuming and inconvenient. However, using a nonslip mat can eliminate this necessity, simplifying both the breakdown and setup processes. Our ice maker has been safely sitting on our kitchen counter for over 20,000 miles.

2. MUSEUM GEL AND PUTTY—Nonslip mats are not always applicable for securing an item, especially for trinkets and souvenirs on shelving or wall hangings that you’d want to fasten more safely than with a single nail or screw. A small glob of museum gel for horizontal surfaces or museum putty for vertical positioning not only can secure the item over the long term, but allows the item to be moved whenever necessary, using a twisting motion.

1. MAGNETIC DOOR CLASPS—Like many RVs, our cabinet doors did not manage well to hold back their contents on the road. Like many RV owners, we strapped them with bungee cords and tension bars, but even those did not always hold. We came across a unique solution at an RV show that completely resolved our issue—magnetic cabinet clasps. The particular magnets this product used had a 40-pound pull strength, meaning that once engaged, it took 40 pounds of pressure to directly pull it apart. Since almost nothing the cabinets are storing weighs anything close to 40 lbs., we no longer use any bungees or rods to secure a door using the magnetic clasp. Pulling the door open takes a bit more strength than the usual clasp, but it’s not excessive, nor as inconvenient as marine-type push-button hardware.

We purchased these items either from Amazon.com or Walmart. Some of the items can be found at both stores, as well as Home Depot and Lowe’s. Obviously, this is not a complete list of everything we have purchased that has been beneficial, but it is a nice set of less-expensive solutions to typical RV difficulties or inconveniences.

Jack Huber #135651

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 DEPARTMENTEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM.
2019 RVBusiness Top 50 Dealers

RVBusiness magazine annually recognizes 50 top U.S. and Canadian RV retailers for their commitment to professionalism and customer care. We congratulate each of these dealers, nominated by manufacturers and selected by an independent panel of industry experts, and trust that they will continue to raise the bar for the entire industry in 2020.

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Some of us remember when seat belts were not required to be worn, while other travelers have always had to wear one. It doesn’t matter in which era you were born, there is no excuse what so ever for not wearing a seat belt. It is the best protection you can have in a collision.

The seat belt was invented in the late 1800s for use by pilots in airplane gliders. It wasn’t until 1885 that seat belts were used in New York City taxis to keep tourists safe while riding in the taxis. The three-point seat belt came into use in 1958. This system was better than the two-point system previously used in cars. Before 1966, seat belts were an option that could be added to a vehicle. After this, the manufacturers were required to install seat belts in all new vehicles sold in the United States. Mandatory use of this safety feature began in 1975, and now all states require the use of seat belts.

But what about RVs? Depending upon which state you are traveling through, the requirement for wearing seat belts in RVs varies. Some states do not require the drivers of RVs to wear their seat belts. While other states only require the front passengers to be buckled up. Why take the chance? Even though RVs are large, the structural soundness of it will not withstand the forces in a collision. Seat belts will protect the passengers in the event of a crash.

Children need to be buckled in seat belts while riding in an RV. There may be a false sense of security because passengers can roam around inside the RV. However, in a collision, injuries can be more severe when passengers are not buckled in a seat belt. Our youngest RV riders must be in an approved car seat, facing forward. To avoid the chance of injury in any scenario, all passengers in an RV need to be buckled into the seat belts.
Who doesn’t love a good game night? We certainly do in our household, which means I’m always on the hunt for fun, unique and entertaining games to play with our boys. The great thing about board or card games is that they bring you all together, and most of the time there is an educational aspect tied to them. They’re also the perfect way to stay entertained on rainy days or at times when you simply want to spend the night in.
Here are a few great options for games if you are looking to add some new ones to your current rotation or start making game night a part of your family tradition. You can find all of the games available for purchase on Amazon.com.

**Ticket to Ride**
This award-winning game is highly entertaining and a great way to kill some time, as you can expect to be playing for 30-60 minutes. You’ll be taken on a cross-country train adventure to collect and play matching train cars to claim railway routes through North America. The longer your route, the more points you will earn, and you can also earn additional points for things such as building the longest railway. There is also a simpler version of this game, called “Ticket to Ride First Journey” for younger children. This game is recommended for ages 8+.

**Monopoly Gamer**
This game is such a fun twist on the classic Monopoly game. If your kids are anything like our son, Gabriel, who plays video games, they will love the incorporation of the Nintendo theme. This particular edition features characters from Super Mario, and they have special powers that can be used throughout the game. Paper money is also replaced with coins to coincide with the video game. The ultimate goal is to defeat boss challenges against Bowser, and, in the end, the player with the most points wins. This game is recommended for ages 8+.

**Scholastic Race Across the USA**
This is a great game for school-aged children, and your experience can be catered towards your child’s own grade level. It’s an excellent way to teach your kiddos about US states and learn interesting facts about each one along the way. Each player will start out on one specific state and must visit six different states by answering geography questions correctly. The first player to return to their home state will win the game! This game is recommended for ages 8+.

**Sequence**
I love a good game of strategy, and this fits the bill perfectly. It’s easy enough for kids to learn and challenging enough that adults have a great time, too. During this game, you will draw cards from your hand and place a chip on the corresponding space on the board. The goal is to have five objects in a row to make a sequence, but there is plenty of strategy involved where you can block your opponents and move their chips to put yourself at an advantage. This game is recommended for ages 7+.
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On the Road and Growing a CRAFT BUSINESS
Travel inspires creativity in nomadic artists of all mediums.

By RENE AGREDANO #103274
Some paint, some write, others craft wearable art. The most entrepreneurial ones find ways to support their travel habit by marketing and selling their creations, but how they manage to do it is as unique as each artist’s talents. Two of the best examples of the diversity in growing craft businesses from the road are found within the Escapees and Xscapers communities.

**Georgia Dale Designs Win Fans From All Over**

“I never did anything artistic until this,” says the prolific jewelry designer and Delaware Valley native. But when her deep appreciation for nature’s beauty blended with skill and artistry she honed as a metalsmith student, Georgia discovered a way of life that carried her through one of life’s most devastating moments.

Much like jewelry making, full-time RVing was always in Georgia’s heart. She roamed the US and Mexico with her husband, Rich, from 2001 to 2005, and discovered a love for jewelry design in full-time-RVer destinations like the Quartzite Gem and Mineral Club. She and Rich eventually settled down in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where she further developed her skills in the Albemarle Professional Crafts’ Jewelry Program.

As her proficiency grew, she established her art in local galleries and explored the business of art show exhibitions and farmers’ markets. Her fan base grew, and when she unexpectedly became a widow in 2014, Georgia found solace in her grief by reigniting the full-time RVing bug that lingered in her soul. Five years and three rigs later, this solo RVer has become well-versed in the art of running a jewelry business from anywhere.

When she isn’t creating with precious metals and stones from her RV homebase, at Escapees Jojoba Hills SKP Co-Op park in Southern California, Georgia and her two dogs, Thelma and Louise, are exploring their favorite places in the West in a 28-foot travel trailer. Inspiration can strike from anywhere, and one thing she loves most about her craft is that each piece only requires a small workspace to bring it to life. In her early days as a traveling metalsmith, she struggled to find the ideal RV jewelry studio arrangement, but now has it down to a compact science. “I learned this summer that I could create at a picnic bench with very few tools,” she says. Today she travels in a truck-and-trailer combo that carries her supplies while nature’s beauty plays muse to her hands in the great outdoors.
outdoors. “I was pleasantly surprised at how much I could do with so few tools, working at the campground picnic bench,” she explains.

She once sold the majority of her pieces in galleries, on her website and as an Etsy.com artisan, but discovered that RV travel enables her to build a more intimate face-to-face fan base all over the country. Her exquisite work speaks for itself, and finding a place to sell in person hasn’t been much of a problem as a nomad. “With my full-time lifestyle of plans written in Jello, I have found that farmers’ markets work best for me. I don’t have to apply months in advance. I can contact them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/georgiadaledesigns), complete an app and send a few photos, and I’m in!”

Georgia balances her travel itch with seasonal business growth by focusing on the narrow list of farmers’ markets that allow non-local artisans to exhibit. “I never want to go to the same place every year,” she says and alternates her annual farmers’ markets commitments. The Tillamook and Pacific City Oregon Farmers’ Markets are two of her favorites. “I have access to locals, tourists and Portland residents,” she explains.

Traveling aspiring nomadic artisans who want to sell their work from the road can benefit from Georgia’s experience. Her favorite three pieces of advice are:

“Unless you want to do it full-time, realize it will only be supplemental income.

“Marketing takes as much or more time than making your product. Etsy.com is not an easy answer. I just searched earrings on Etsy and there were 3,547,438 listed! The problem is getting noticed. It takes a lot of research and marketing.

“Think about how and where you will sell. Fortunately, jewelry is not heavy, so that makes it easy to transport. I have to travel in a truck and travel trailer. I need the truck with a truck cap to carry my booth setup: tent, tables, weights, etc.”

You can look for Georgia’s handcrafted designs and fun new official Xscapers logo jewelry on her Facebook page at Georgia Dale Designs.

**Tiffany and Paul Shetka #134834**

Create Fancy Dog Bling on the Move

Dog lovers know that there’s always one “heart dog” who stands out from all the rest. If you’re lucky enough to have one who’s stolen your heart, spoiling comes naturally. That’s when Tiffany and Paul Shetka’s fancy
leather dog collars and Swarovski crystal embedded tags are a natural fit.

Three years ago, when Tiffany and Paul #134834 tagged along on an RV shopping excursion with her newly retired parents, they had no idea that within six months they, too, would become nomads. “We are originally from Minnesota and were tired of the cold. Paul always wanted to move somewhere warmer, but I wasn’t quite ready to go. We were shopping with my parents for an RV for them and kept saying to each other that ‘I could live in this.’”

As a CT technologist in the health care field, Tiffany knew her in-demand skills could be their ticket out of the cold Midwest. Paul didn’t need much convincing to pack up with their two dogs, Joe and LC. “Three weeks later, our house was on the market and sold in two days. We were officially full-time RVers as of May 2017.”

Heart Dogs Creations is currently only sold online. She and Paul do not yet showcase the creations at fairs and galleries, but eventually plan on doing so. “I love to show my dogs when we can, so I would like to expand our inventory to be able to have a booth at dog shows.”

For now, she is focused on filling current orders and managing the challenges of running an Internet-based business. Keeping inventory stocked is one of the biggest hurdles, since chasing down packages from town to town is fraught with all sorts of complications. “We are constantly planning our travels around where we can receive supplies,” Tiffany says. And between their dependency on Internet access to manage orders and the impact of travel days on workflow, they are constantly juggling the demands of a growing craft business with following their hearts’ desire to roam. It takes patience to do it, but they’re up to the task.

From destination to destination, taking time to meet up with fellow Xscapers not only enhances their lifestyle choice, but also helps the business grow. “One thing so amazing in this community is there is someone out there who has the knowledge to help you grow,” says Tiffany. “The community out here is beyond amazing. They are here for you when you need help and support you in your adventures.”

For anyone thinking about combining a passion for creativity with a nomadic lifestyle, Tiffany and Paul wholeheartedly say, ‘Do it!’ Years ago, if anyone had told her that she would set aside a well-paying health care career to craft sparkling dog collars and tags, she would have laughed. But not anymore. “I never thought that selling dog collars and tags would be able to become my full-time career, but it shows how there is something out there for everyone.”

Her career choice paved the way to short-term assignments that enabled them to travel in between jobs. But there was never enough time to explore as much as they wanted before the next assignment came along or to explore her newfound interest in crafting dazzling metal dog tags and sparkly leather collars. The more she made, the more her dog-loving Facebook friends asked about where to get the bling. Soon the connection was obvious. “That’s when I realized there was a market for my product. I thought it could be something to keep me busy and allow us to travel a little longer in between work assignments.”

Heart Dogs Creations was launched in November 2018, and, by the time she and Paul attended the next Xscapers Annual Bash, her orders list was too long to shove aside as a side-gig. “With orders coming in daily, Paul and I decided to take a leap and postpone my taking this next assignment.” The decision paid off and, one year later, she is busier than ever creating one-of-a-kind dog bling from a workbench in their 40-foot fifth-wheel.

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Running gear refers to all the components from the trailer frame to the ground.

I composed this article because of an unfortunate incident that happened to a friend. The spring hanger broke on their trailer, and they got an unexpected hotel vacation while their home-on-wheels was in the shop.

By GLYN CARSON #103499, Twolanedrivingsips@hotmail.com
The spring hanger is the flat metal piece that is welded to the frame to which the spring shackle is bolted. The only way I know how to check the weld is to spray water on it before you travel. The water will cause rust streaks if there is a crack in the weld. Whenever you turn, these welds and brackets are stressed. The best way to lower the stress is to avoid tight turns, especially when backing up.

The springs are attached to this hanger and the axle. The hanger bolt has a plastic bushing around it. When I broke a spring at around 30,000 miles, I found the bushings were worn out and needed to be replaced and realized it is vital to inspect all the components of the running gear regularly.

First, look at the springs, watching for anything that looks wrong. There will usually be rust streaks if one is broken. It is helpful to take pictures of all this in the beginning, before it is damaged. Then you will have a visual to refer back to.

On the two- or three-axle trailer, the equalizer between the axles needs to be checked. I like the concept of the wider space between the two axles of the two-axle trailer, but there is more stress on the equalizer. A real close watch of them is necessary. If you are overloaded, the stress is even greater.

The next thing on the list is the U-bolts. They go over and around the axle and are attached to a plate on the opposite side of the spring. These bolts keep the axle and the spring together and aligned. Check for rust or missing nuts. The salty air along the coast and the winter salt on the roads can cause rust that weakens the bolts.

Now look at the electric wires to the brakes. Are the wires from the front of the trailer properly connected to the brake? They are connected close to the wheel so it is easier to change the brakes when needed. Make sure these wires are not hanging down where they could catch onto something.

Lastly, but not least, is the tires. The outside is easy to see, but we need to check the inside, too. From one side of the trailer, look at the inside of the tires on the other side of the trailer. A bright flashlight is helpful here. You are looking for scrapes, bulges, cuts or anything that doesn’t look right.

With a mirror, look between the treads of the tire. Occasionally, the rubber on the rolling surface of the tire will split between the treads, and metal will be exposed. Any split or crack here says it’s time to replace the tire before it blows out. If you cannot see between the middle treads, use the mirror every time you stop. Look at all the tire you can see. In three or four stops, you will have seen all the tire.

Try not to park on concrete for a long time. We have all have seen the imprint from a tire left on concrete for too long. The imprint is caused by chemicals leaching from the tire. This weakens the tire, so try parking on wood or plastic blocks, or put cheap plastic placemats under each tire.

A little extra effort will go a long way in preserving the running gear of your RV.
Tips for Finding FREE ADVENTURES

By DEBBIE LAFLEICHE #138307
RV Travel allows you to see and do things you might not otherwise get to see and do. However, after paying for gas and campground fees, you might find you don’t have a lot of extra money to spend on fun.

Don’t fret, because if you know where to look, you can find no-cost adventures everywhere you travel. Here are tips to get you started.

Tip #1  
LOOK FOR “FREE HOURS” OR “FREE DAYS” AT MUSEUMS AND PARKS.

Some museums are simply free. All the time. But, those can be few and far between. However, many fee-based museums stay open late one day a week and open their doors free of charge during those extra hours. Other museums might offer free admission on one weekend day per month.

The Palm Springs Art Museum, in Palm Springs, California, for example, is free every Thursday, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., as well as the second Sunday of every month. As an added bonus, Thursday’s free admission complements VillageFest, only a block away, which runs from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. When stores stay open late, the street is closed to vehicular traffic while vendors and entertainment line the street. All free.

Free days are not exclusive to museums. On a recent trip to Washington State, I learned a Discovery Pass (basically, a parking pass) is needed to enter any park or recreation land managed by Washington State’s Park and Recreation, Fish and Wildlife or Department of Natural Resources. It’s $10 for a one-day pass (or $30 for an annual pass). But, 12 days each year, the fee is waived. If your trip falls on one of the free days, you can visit a lighthouse, have a picnic, spend the day on a lake or any number of other fun things at no charge.
Tip #2

LOOK FOR SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS AND THE FREE GUIDED WALKING TOURS.

You’ll find them in museums, nature centers, associated with outside art walks, downtown areas, nature preserves, interpretive hikes and more.

A self-guided walk is ideal for a family, for a person who likes to linger and, if it’s outside, for someone who prefers to walk with their dog. Instruction for your self-guided walk can be found online as an app for your phone, but don’t forget the good old-fashioned paper maps.

In Walla Walla, Washington, I found a self-guided walk called the Historical Homes Trail Guide. The two-mile route started on the edge of downtown, then it took me (and my dog) through a neighborhood where I could read the stories of various houses from the brochure. Following the brochure’s instructions felt like a treasure hunt as I searched for the next point of interest on the tour. “Turn right and note the 1894 house with wraparound porch.”

An interpretive hike is likely to have you stop and notice particular trees, flowers and rocks, as well as animals, bugs and birds. At the Lady Bird Johnson interpretive trail in Fredericksburg, Texas, they created a bird blind on their interpretive trail, complete with a bird feeding station maintained by volunteers to ensure visitors see many birds.

Nature preserves, botanical gardens, historical downtowns and many others offer free guided walks. These are generally scheduled tours so you’ll have to plan ahead and expect to go with a group. Guides, often volunteers, offer a wealth of knowledge and can provide a lot of education on your walk.

On a guided walk in historic downtown Auburn, California, for example, our guide showed us where a particular scene of the movie Phenomenon, with John Travolta, was filmed. In the middle of the road, secured into the blacktop, is a tiny plaque indicating where he fell in the street in the movie. Because it’s in the middle of the road where cars drive, without the guide none of us would’ve even known it was there. At a nature preserve, in California’s Coachella Valley, called Thousand Palms, the volunteer naturalist told us about the history and geology of the area and explained the flora and fauna.
DEBBIE LAFLEICHE is a full-time RVer, traveling in her 2017 Oliver Travel Trailer. She blogs about RV tips, tricks, how-tos, hacks, life on the road, as well as her adventures online at SupersizeLIFE.com.

**Tip #3** LOOK FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN EXCHANGE FOR ADMISSION. Volunteering assignments can range from physical labor to the staffing of an event, from stuffing envelopes to restocking shelves. Many places have one-time volunteer opportunities. You don’t need to be a local resident or a long-term volunteer to make a difference or to reap a reward for your work.

During a four-week trip to Franklin, Tennessee, I wanted to visit two different historic houses that played a significant role in the Civil War’s Battle of Franklin. But I struggled to justify paying an entry fee two times over when the houses were less than two miles apart from each other, knowing the tours would tell a similar, if not the exact same, battle story.

While looking at the Carter House’s website, I discovered they needed volunteers to help clear brush between the main house and the visitors’ center. In exchange for participating in their annual volunteer Park Day, they offered a ticket to visit the Carter House for a tour at any time in the future with no restrictions. It’s a win-win situation. They got free labor, and I got a free ticket, plus the opportunity to interact with others from the community. And the bonus was I felt good about donating my time to a worthy nonprofit.

How to Find No-Cost Adventures

A company’s website is a great place to start your search for no-cost adventures. But the trick is to dig deeper than just the home page. Always look at both the calendar of events and events pages because sometimes the good stuff gets buried. Be sure to get on their mailing list before your trip to learn about deals, special happenings and events. You can always unsubscribe when you leave the area.

When you get to your destination, no matter how much research you’ve done ahead of time, stop in at the visitors’ center if they have one. Stock up on brochures and promotional publications about the area. Visitors’ centers are staffed by local residents who are a wealth of information, especially on things not in the brochures including how and where to find freebies. If you are in a location that doesn’t have a visitors’ center, ask your campground host. Campgrounds with an office will often have an area for brochures.

The reason for collecting brochures and talking to locals is that not every fun place to visit has a website. I know it can be hard to believe but it’s true. In fact, the self-guided historical walk in Walla Walla I learned about from a brochure at the RV park office. I’d done a lot of online research before arriving and didn’t see it mentioned anywhere.

Whether you are in an area for a quick visit or staying long enough to get to know it well, you can find plenty of free fun things to do. The biggest tip to finding no-cost adventures is to do your homework. There are some real gems out there for those who are looking.

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When you receive your mail from Escapees, you could be in Alaska about to travel deep into the wilderness. Then you see it. The black-on-white folded jury summons postcard. In red small print, you’ll see the words: This is a court order to appear in court at the date and time specified.

If you are domiciled in Livingston, Texas, the order will say that your jury coordinator is Bobbye J. Richards, Polk County’s district clerk. Her phone number is 936-327-6814.

Unfolding the postcard, you read that there are exemptions from jury duty. For example: if you are over 70, have legal custody of a child under 12 and service on a jury would cause you to have to leave the child without supervision, you are a student in high school or higher education, you are a legislative officer, primary caretaker of someone unable to take care of themselves, or you are a member of the military and are on active duty.

In fact, you are not any of these, but instead you are an Escapee currently about to enter the Alaskan Wilderness and not planning to return to Texas for quite some time, what can you do?

The easy answer in Livingston, Texas, and Box Elder, South Dakota, or Bushnell, Florida, the three domicile locations for Escapees members, is to call and let them know ahead of time that you are currently unavailable to serve. In Livingston, Texas, you may immediately be asked if you are with Escapees. If so, you will be asked to let the court know when you will be back in the area so that you can then serve on a jury panel. In Bushnell, Florida, you may be told that next time you are summoned, you must appear, that you are allowed one such absence. In Box Elder, South Dakota, I believe they also require you to serve the second time you are summoned after receiving a pass that first time.

Although this may seem burdensome, serving on a jury panel is one of the obligations of citizenship and, I might add, helps you prove your domicile, your intent to call that address your home.
History of Jury Service in the United States
The right to a jury trial in the United States was established by the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Amendments to the United States Constitution for all criminal matters and most civil matters. In contrast, England, Scotland, Wales and Canada, have a much less liberal standard for trials by jury. A trial by jury, in England was considered a “privilege” not a “right.” In fact, outside the United States, the civil jury “has all but disappeared.” Estimates are that 80 percent of all jury trials worldwide take place in the United States.” (The Evolution of the American Jury,” by Hans and Vidmar, excerpt from Judging the Jury).

The Seminal Case –
The Trial of John Peter Zenger
Why is this considered such a fundamental right in the United States? Those who settled in the United States from England experienced the abuse of power by those in power. In particular, on August 5, 1735, a jury of 12 men delivered a verdict for John Peter Zenger, against the then-ruling Governor of New York, William Cosby. William Cosby arrived in New York on August 7, 1731, having been appointed by the King of England to assume his post as governor for New York Province. Historians have labeled Cosby a “rogue governor” who was described as “spiteful, greedy, jealous, quick-tempered, dull and haughty.” (See, e.g. Famous Trials, The Trial of John Peter Zenger.)

Trouble began when Governor Cosby chose to fight with the highly respected senior member of the New York Provincial Council, Rip Van Dam, demanding that this man turn over half his salary to Cosby. The two ended up in a dispute about the amount owed, with Governor Cosby filing suit against Van Dam. Governor Cosby knew he would not win in court before a jury, so he designated the Supreme Court to sit without a jury to hear his case. Van Dam challenged the end-run that the governor was attempting. However, the Supreme Court at which the decision would be decided, was filled with appointees of the governor. Two of the three supreme court justices on the panel voted to allow a non-jury decision. The third justice voted against the governor. Governor Cosby demanded that this justice explain in writing why he ruled against the governor. The justice wrote a response, but published it in a pamphlet printed by John Peter Zenger. Governor Cosby removed the justice and replaced him with a person more loyal to the governor.

When Governor Cosby removed a popular jurist, this caused the more powerful men in the colony to rebel. They organized the Popular Party that was determined to seriously challenge Governor Cosby’s ability to govern. Governor Cosby hired Francis Harison, later called Cosby’s “flatterer-in-chief” and “hatchetman,” to become censor and effective editor of the only established newspaper in New York, the New York Gazette. Harison used the paper to defend the actions of the governor.

In response, the leaders of the opposition created an independent political newspaper, the New York Weekly Journal. Its goal was “chiefly to expose Cosby and those ridiculous flatteries with which Mr. Harison loads our newspaper, which our governor claims and has the privilege of suffering nothing to be in but what he and Mr. Harison approve of.” Zenger was the publisher as he was only one of two printers in the area. On November 5, 1733, Zenger published the first issue of Weekly Journal that included political news from the colony unfavorable to Cosby. Other issues also concerned the dubious actions of the governor as well as the right to freely publish.

Governor Cosby put up with the attacks for two months before deciding the paper and its publisher must be silenced. In January 1734, the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who had been appointed by Governor Cosby, attempted to bring a claim of “seditious libel” against the paper and its publisher, Zenger, but a grand jury refused to indict Zenger. Then Governor Cosby insisted that the newspapers be “publicly burned.” The grand jury still refused to indict. So, on an “information” instead of an indictment, John Peter Zenger was arrested and held in jail for the next nine months awaiting trial. However, the men behind the journal kept on publishing the paper. Bail was set so high that Zenger could not pay it. He stayed in jail and wrote “Letters from Prison,” all published in the Weekly Journal, thus enhancing his position in the matter.

Finally, a jury trial began in July 1735. Governor Cosby attempted to influence the outcome by having his “flatterer-in-chief” produce a list of potential jurors, all men presumed to be loyal to the governor,
including those working for the governor. However, that was too much even for those so chosen. Finally, 12 jurors were selected. On the basis of the “information,” trial began. Although Zenger’s lawyers were dismissed by yet another action of the governor, Zenger ended up being represented by Andrew Hamilton, a leading lawyer of the time. Attorney Hamilton persuaded the jury that it needed to decide whether his client had violated any libel laws and argued that the libel laws of England should not be the libel laws of the United States. Although he had no law to support his arguments, Attorney Hamilton’s main argument was on every man’s right to a trial by a jury, especially against the tyranny of those in power. Zenger won.

Because of the publicity of the case, as well as the abuse of power by Governor Cosby, the idea of a free and impartial jury for civil and criminal cases was deeply embedded in the United States.

**Polk County, Texas, Jury Summons.**

Today, in most cases, you have the right to a jury trial. In Polk County, Texas, for example, there are two district courts and one county court. There are also Justice-of-the-Peace courts. On the federal level, there is the federal district court for the Eastern District of Texas, Lufkin Division. There is also potential service on a grand jury. You may be called to appear on the panel for any of these juries. If called, you will be expected to appear in court on the date and time indicated on the court summons. You will be paid $6 for the first day served and then $40 each day if you are chosen to sit on a jury.

Since Polk County is a relatively small county of only 50,000 or so citizens, you may be called more often than in other counties for the state district courts. Because you have a driver license from this county, or you are registered to vote in the county, you will be on the list. Each year, the clerk receives a new list of potential jurors from the State of Texas. This is called the Master Jury Wheel, and names are then chosen at random from the wheel. The grand jury is a larger jury panel chosen to serve a six-month period. Criminal cases are presented to the grand jury to determine if there is sufficient evidence to indict, thus bringing a potential defendant to trial. This selection process is also now random, so you may be called for the grand jury as well.

**Box Elder, South Dakota, Jury Summons**

In Box Elder, South Dakota, you may be similarly called to serve if Box Elder is your domicile. The list of potential jurors is also taken from a combination of voter registrations and driver licenses. Being on the jury panel in South Dakota, you will be paid $40 per day, plus mileage if you live further than 50 miles from the courthouse. Since Box Elder is 15 miles from the Rapid City courthouse, you will not be able to claim the mileage. Since the population of the county is 110,000 and the number of lawsuits going to trial is less than Polk County, Texas, chances are slimmer that you will be called. If you are called, please serve.

**Sumter County, Florida, Jury Summons**

In Sumter County, Florida, the location of Escapes in Bushnell, Florida, the population is 125,000. If you receive a summons, you will be expected to report for jury duty. Although you can call and ask that your service be postponed, I am told that you must report the next time you are called. One full-time RVer told me that he received his second summons to appear while he was in Boston. He attempted to postpone the service but was not allowed to do so. In the end, he flew from Boston to Florida to serve on a jury panel. He was not chosen to serve, but spent $1,000 flying there to appear.

**Conclusion**

Serving on a jury panel and perhaps being selected to serve on a jury is one of the obligations of calling any given county, in any given state, in the United States, your home. If, on the other hand, you needed to bring a case in the county or had a case brought against you, the right to a trial by jury is your right. From before the time when our United States declared its independence from England and fought hard for that independence, jury trials have been one of the stalwarts of this nation. And, if that’s not reason enough, returning to your place of domicile to serve on a jury panel helps show the world that this is, in fact, the place you intend to call home.

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**K. SUSIE ADAMS** has been a lawyer for over 30 years, spending 15 of those years 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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Welcome to a bold new decade. What’s on your agenda for 2020? Traveling to that national park you’ve always wanted to visit? Changing your rig setup to something a little more interesting or appropriate? Visiting that craft brewery to taste the bottled beer you love, straight from the tap?

If you’re like me, there’s always an adventure on the horizon. However, I also know that to take advantage of the unlimited opportunities in my path, I have to feel good. Whether it’s hiking the stunning Santa Elena Canyon Trail in Big Bend National Park, playing pickleball (casually or competitively) or working in the RV kitchen to prepare for a dinner party, our body’s abilities affect everything.

Many of us, recognizing that health equals freedom, set New Year’s intentions to move our bodies more or pay closer attention to what we eat as part of our campaign to be the best that we can be. These goals can be noble on paper but challenging to execute.

For example, when you think of “eating healthy” (or eating clean), you might picture an endless stream of beige and bland-looking chicken breasts, piles of limp gray-green broccoli or bowls and bowls of cardboard-tasting brown rice. How does that inspire?

**Market Smart**

I’m here to tell you it doesn’t have to be that way. Sure, the foundation of clean eating remains consistent—lean protein, fresh fruit and veggies, whole grains—but the flavors should and, more importantly, can have you eagerly anticipating your next lip-smacking meal.

No matter where you choose to spend your winters, chances are there’s a weekly
fresh market. Look around town, and you’ll typically find great butchers and fishmongers as well. Between these meal-making markets, you’ll have a bountiful source of inspiration.

Head out in search of the freshest seasonal herbs and vegetables, fill your basket with the sweetest of fruit, pick up some boneless chicken breast, peeled and deveined shrimp or fresh fish fillets, and add your favorite whole grain such as quinoa, brown rice, whole-wheat couscous, etc., and you’ll be on your way to a flavor fest.

The Secret’s in the Sauce

Whether you call it a drizzle, dressing or dip, there’s a critical step to making mealtime magic: the sauce. The alchemy of a few simple ingredients will turn your everyday dinner into a mind-blowing meal. Unlike their restaurant or grocery store counterparts, homemade sauces can be not only delicious and inexpensive to make but wholesome and nutritious as well. Preparing and keeping jars of your favorites in the fridge is a genius RV kitchen hack.

Elevate a plain plate of steamed vegetables, a side of whole grains, and your protein of choice (meat, fish or beans) into a hip and healthy California grain bowl by adding a generous dollop of delicious and good-for-you tahini sauce. What does this dish look like? Fill an individual bowl halfway with your whole grains. Artfully arrange a selection of steamed or sautéed veggies from your market, a quality protein and sliced avocado. Top with puckery, umami-rich tahini sauce. Serve the remaining sauce in a pitcher to add as you eat down the bowl. This sauce is equally excellent to dress up a green salad or use it as a springroll dipping sauce.

Grilled chicken breast, shrimp or fish, seasoned properly, can be tasty enough, but add a drizzle of bold and beautiful chimichurri sauce, and your taste buds will sing. This South American staple, loaded with fresh herbs, garlic, olive oil and spiciness to your liking, is quick and simple to make. Take my advice, make a big batch. It gets better as the flavors meld, and it can be used in several other ways, including on a tuna salad or atop a big bowl of hummus.

Skip the canned fruit cocktail with its sweet syrup, and pick up a nice selection of fresh fruit at the market for a fruit salad. Chop and mix the fruit as usual, but after serving it up in individual bowls, spoon some fabulously flavorful honey-lime sauce over
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.

**Eating Well**

Being open to new experiences, exploring different flavors in your RV kitchen and having fun with our food changes mealtime from a chore to “I want more.” The emerging science of food as medicine, expertly explained by doctors, such as Michael Greger, MD, in the book, *How Not To Die*, and William Li, MD, *Eat To Beat Disease*, tell us that food does far more than simply filling our bellies. It’s an influential player in our body’s ability to power our dreams.

Coupled with a little know-how and wise decision-making, you’ll reap the benefits of eating well. The secret’s out; we really are what we eat. Can I interest you in something a little saucy?

---

**RECIPES**

**Tahini Sauce**

Versatile, delicious and healthy, tahini sauce is easy to whip up and well worth seeking out the ingredients that may not already be on your shelf.

- 5 T tahini
- 2 T apple cider vinegar
- 2 T seasoned rice vinegar
- 3 T soy sauce
- ½ T red miso*  
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1" ginger, grated
- 1-2 T water for desired consistency

Using a stick blender, small blender container or a glass jar with a lid, add and blend (or shake) all ingredients except the water. The sauce will thicken, almost seize. That’s normal. Add water by the tablespoon, blending or shaking, then testing the consistency. You’re aiming for pourable but not runny. If it gets too runny, add a little more tahini to thicken.

* If you don’t know miso, please let me introduce you. Miso, a Japanese staple made from fermented soybeans, is rich with gut bacteria and adds marvelous umami to dishes.

**Chimichurri Sauce**

Fresh, bold and full of flavor, chimichurri sauce adds a fabulous boost to any dish it touches.

- 1 c fresh Italian flat-leaf parsley (leaves only)
- ½ c fresh cilantro (or mix cilantro with other fresh herbs to equal a ½ cup)
- ⅓ c roughly chopped red onion or shallots
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- ½ hot pepper with seeds (serrano, jalapeno, etc.)
- ½ c extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ c red wine vinegar
- 3 T fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- kosher salt
- few shakes of black pepper

Using a stick blender, small blender container or food processor, add the herbs, onion or shallot, garlic and hot pepper. Pulse to mince. Add the olive oil, vinegar, and lemon juice and pulse a few times to mix, keeping the sauce slightly chunky.

Season to taste with kosher salt (start with 1/8 t) and pepper.

This recipe makes almost a cup of chimichurri, and if you don’t use it in one sitting, jar it up and put it in the fridge. It only gets better with time, but try to use it up in a week. I’m guessing that won’t be a problem.

**Honey-Lime Sauce**

This yogurt-based sauce is good enough to eat from the spoon, and I often do. It uses a 2:1:1 ratio (2 parts plain yogurt, 1 part honey, 1 part fresh-squeezed lime juice), allowing you to easily adjust the amount to prepare.

- ½ c plain Greek yogurt*
- ¼ c honey
- ¼ c fresh-squeezed lime juice
- zest** of one lime (don’t skip this; it magically transforms the flavor)
- fresh ginger knob (optional – to grate and garnish)

In a bowl, mix the Greek yogurt, honey and lime juice. Taste and adjust to your liking (sweeter, more tart). Add most of the zest, reserve a small bit for garnishing each dish or the pitcher of sauce. If using ginger, grate a small amount on top.

* For the best consistency, use a thick Greek yogurt to balance out the juice.

**Zest the lime before cutting and squeezing; it’s easier that way.
Smoky Mountains Hangout participants sample local moonshines at the Tennessee Legends Distillery in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

PHOTO BY ALEX GEMMELL #151511
We stand at the vestige of a new year—2020—and it promises to be an exciting year for the club! Many of the plans we put into motion, in 2019, will manifest this year. It is hard to think of the number 2020 without associating it with clarity of vision. And we, your board, have a clear vision for the growth of this club, to continue bringing innovation to our core services: partnerships/discounts, mail forwarding, education, events and campgrounds.

The innovations we plan to announce throughout 2020 are the result of a lot of hard work from our talented and dedicated staff. In each of the areas listed above, we have projects in motion. We are actively seeking new partnerships to expand your access to products and services that will keep you successfully moving down the road. Our club is at record high numbers. Four years ago, the Xscapers community did not exist, and yet today it constitutes approximately 17.5 percent of the overall Escapees population. All this growth enables us to arrange discounts and bring products and services you would not otherwise be able to access on your own.

Escapees RV Club runs the largest private mail-forwarding service in the county. This service, in addition to facilitating life on the road, provides the address of domicile for approximately one third of all Escapees.

As you may know, this all began as a humble newsletter connecting a few RVing families whenever they...
were apart. (That newsletter was the forebearer of the magazine you are reading today.) The origin of this club is steeped in the tradition of RVers educating one another—Sharing and Caring. Education is our oldest service and the foundation of our club. It is no mere coincidence that we are looking for ways to improve our educational endeavors. In 2019, we were fortunate to acquire RV to Freedom. RV to Freedom is one of the RVing community’s premier education resources, providing a road map for anyone longing to enter the full-time RV lifestyle. And, we will integrate RV to Freedom into our other educational experiences, with our goal of providing everything needed to get on the road and stay on the road. And, most importantly, our education is sourced from, and provided by, RVers who are experts in their fields.

If education was our first service, then events must be a close second. Since our earliest days, we have hosted events. Events enable us to come together as a community, to share this lifestyle with one another. In 2019, we launched Escapees Hangouts for active, non-working-age RVers, in order to augment our Head Out Program and our Xscapers Convergences. In 2020, we are expanding these programs, to bring even more diverse adventures.

Another way in which we help Escapees members to connect is through our network of RV parks. In 2019, we undertook projects to improve the infrastructure of our existing park system, an initiative that will continue in 2020. However, we have more in store for our parks system this year. We will expand the footprint of Escapees parks.

Our vision for the future of this club is clear, and our staff is diligently at work. We are set on a path of innovation, informed by the wants and needs of RVers, like you.”

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Our vision for the future of this club is clear, and our staff is diligently at work. We are set on a path of innovation, informed by the wants and needs of RVers, like you. We hope you are as excited for 2020 as we are. We know it is going to be a great year. And, we wish you safe and wonderful travels.

We’ll see you on down the trail!
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By the time you read this column, we will have completed our fourth Hangout for 2019, the program’s inaugural year. During the New Hampshire, Downeast Maine, Smoky Mountains and Texas New Year’s Hangouts, almost 200 Escapees members will have enjoyed spending a week making new friends and re-connecting with old ones while sharing a variety of activities unique to each locale.

That’s a great start...and yet, 200 people is just a tiny fraction of the Escapees RV Club’s almost 70,000 individual members. With new Hangouts selling out within days (or sometimes mere hours!) after the tickets go on sale, it’s tempting for us as Hangouts directors to increase the size of the events so that more members can benefit from the club’s hottest new national program.

However, we know that would be a mistake. One of the things that makes a Hangout special is its relatively small size—generally about 30 RVs, or roughly 60 people—which affords each participant the opportunity to meet and form connections with everyone else attending the Hangout. So far, our attendees have been unanimous in their post-event surveys in hoping that the club will keep future events similarly intimate.

So, instead of larger Hangouts, we simply need more Hangouts and to have them in more areas of the country. But because we can’t be everywhere at once, we will have several Hangouts during 2020 that will be hosted by other members. Each of these member hosts will have attended at least one Hangout that we have hosted, so that we can get to know them and they can see first-hand what the Hangout experience should be like. We will train them and provide them with all the resources and know-how that they will need for leading a successful event. And we will work closely with them to choose a great venue, plan exciting activities and organize all the other details that will ensure a fun and memorable week for everyone attending. Our goal is to do everything possible to ensure that all Hangout participants enjoy a consistently excellent and professionally run experience—whether the actual event is hosted by us or by someone else.

So far, we have two outstanding member couples who will be helping us with this next phase of the Hangout program’s evolution. Laura and Rob Kernodl #131897, will be hosting both the Tucson Hangout in February, and a reprise of this year’s immensely popular Downeast Maine Hangout in August. Also, Terri and Mike McIlraith #131020 are in the early stages of planning a Hangout on Florida’s Forgotten Coast in November. Of course, in addition to working with our member hosts, we will continue to host many events ourselves, too. We hope to have a total of 10 to 12 Hangouts during 2020, and even more in the following year.

We are excited about this new expansion of the Hangouts program. If you haven’t yet experienced a Hangout yourself, we hope you’ll be able to participate in one soon. (Be sure to sign up for the Hangouts e-mail list at escapees.com/hangouts to be among the first to know when we announce a new event.) And if you’ve already attended a Hangout and think you might be interested in hosting one yourself in the future, shoot us an e-mail at hangouts@escapees.com and let’s talk!

David and Cheryl Goldstein have been full-time RVers since 2016, exploring the country in their 40’ fifth-wheel trailer. They are Escapees lifetime members and joined the club’s national staff as Hangouts directors in early 2019.
As the founders, it is safe to say that we have an obvious connection to Xscapers. When this idea of creating a community for working-aged RVers was developed and approved to move forward almost five years ago, we were not yet president or vice president of Escapees. It was our first big break. This concept would not only impact the future of the Escapees organization but, more importantly, its community. It was a daunting but exhilarating project that quickly became our personal obsession.

Xscapers was so much more than just a company agenda that we were responsible for making successful; it became a bond and our pride. We poured countless hours around the clock into ideas, planning and development as part of our daily lives. It was all we could think or talk about. “Hey, what about this?” Or “Wouldn’t this be fun to do?” We were in high gear with ideas flowing as fast as our imaginations could create them. While some ideas never saw the light of day following conversations over a couple of drinks, other ideas become part of the official company project lists and were quickly acted upon.

Much like a child, though, it continued to grow with each passing year, needing more guidance and attention. We were no longer able to host every Convergence or attend every event as our lives changed with the addition of another child and our new roles as president and vice president. Our responsibilities to Escapees as a whole grew drastically, and the days of focusing almost 100 percent of our attention on Xscapers was no longer a viable option. So, while Xscapers certainly still held a special place in our hearts, we knew we had to bring on some extra help. Not only to expand its community, but as an effort to simply keep up with the demand.

As luck would have it, we met an awesome member named JP Smith #115625 in Quartzsite, Arizona. While he offered his services as a volunteer co-host at first, we quickly realized he was something special, and he truly cared about the community. We continually bugged him about having a larger role until, eventually, he just gave in and became Xscapers full-time Convergence director. JP has taken the heart and soul of Xscapers, its Convergences, to a whole new level over the past couple of years that thousands of attendees have had the pleasure of experiencing firsthand. In addition, community members Brandon Hatcher and Kerensa Durr #1115527 also joined the team as directors in the marketing department. While their work may go unnoticed by the masses, they have created the communication outlets that connect us all together. This includes streamlined processes to make your member experience more personal and simpler to use. They also volunteer their time to help with countless other tasks to better the community and organization. We’ve also welcomed Xscaper, Carrie Fay #151026 on board to help manage the blog content and the under-appreciated job of overseeing the social media pages.

So, while it has taken some time to adjust to stepping back from some of the hands-on responsibilities we once held with Xscapers, we have all grown for it. Xscapers now not only holds a special bond to us, but our family has grown. Now JP, Brandon, Kerensa and many others within the Escapees staff have created a personal attachment to this amazing community, just like Escapees. Not a day goes by that Xscapers isn’t a part of a conversation here amongst the staff not only regarding improvements or ideas, but the personal impact it and the community continues to make on so many lives.

Simply put, at 12,000 strong, Xscapers is a sizable force within the Escapees dynamics, and we are still as invested as ever! Over the years, we have accumulated several awesome ideas and goals to be added into our yearly project lists. While we can’t share all the details or divulge when they will be fully implemented, we can tell you about the general direction we are headed and some things to come.

As outlined in the last year’s “What the Future Holds for Xscapers” article, resources, industry voice, community, and an Xscapers-focused campground/home base are still...
very much the underlying tone as we continue into 2020 and beyond. While progress has continued to be made in these areas, there is more work to be done over the coming years. The reality is, we have purposefully selected core areas within the Escapees organization that we feel Xscapers needs to continue to focus and improve on as a long-term plan, with community still topping the list.

We continuously look for additional ways to expand our Convergences and diversify the locations where they are held. It is no secret that most Convergences have been held in the West over the past couple of years due to having more accessible locations and heavy RVer usage. However, in 2019 there were a couple of other events held on the East Coast, such as Carole and Scott Pleasants #129260, David and Cheryl Goldstein #126793 and Brandon and Kerensa. Not only are we working locations into our official plans over the next couple of years, we are also expanding our help to provide community members with the necessary support to make more Convergences a reality. As much as we all wish we could clone JP, he simply can’t be everywhere in the country throughout the year.

In addition, Escapees has recently debuted a completely self-sufficient trailer that will benefit all of the company event programs. While the trailer itself is an amazing and fun piece of equipment, its real benefit is what we can do with it. It opens new opportunities for us to comfortably host up to 300 people in locations that were once not practical. It is a great addition to our toolbox and one example of our long-term dedication of focusing, not only on maintaining the best RVing community out there, but on improving our ability to make additional connections.

Another example is our search for finding property for an Xscapers-focused campground/home base. While it was our full intention to have secured a location for this project by the end of 2019, the truth is we have faced many hurdles to make this a reality thus far. Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado were all among the top states in our search; however, it didn’t take long to shift most of our attention to the banana belt of beautiful Colorado. Several trips, phone calls and meetings took place for multiple properties that met nearly every check-box on our wish list. However, we ran into a reoccurring problem that would drastically delay our ability to purchase—zoning. This hurdle has several dynamics that are drastically impacted by local politics and community culture, ultimately making them nearly impossible endeavors for a multitude of reasons. That issue, combined with our ambition to build from the ground up on a minimum 40 acres, simply makes it a delicate and time-consuming process. We haven’t given up, though, and it is still very much a part of our short-term goals.

Even with all of these exciting additions, projects and goals on the table for the future of Xscapers, we are always open to taking on new projects as they come up throughout the year. Some of the best ideas come on spontaneously, and we are always listening to the feedback from members on ways we can improve. After all, this community was built for you, and without your voices and participation in activities, the group would not be what it has become today. If you aren’t doing so already, we welcome you to follow along online to stay up to date on what’s coming down the pipe. In addition to our member news, we are active on Facebook, Instagram and the blog.

Each year brings a new level of excitement and we look forward to seeing where it will take us. Just like we mentioned earlier, it feels as though we are watching a child grow and continue to form its own personality. And, just like a parent, Escapees continues to set forth the values and guides Xscapers through its hurdles and accomplishments.

Xscapers is most certainly a milestone in our lives, and like many important life moments, there are unexpected impacts. For us personally, Xscapers created a closer relationship to the Escapees organization. Not simply because Xscapers is a part of it, but because the unforeseen correlation we gained of Escapees history and Joe and Kay’s story. This created a much stronger understanding and appreciation of what has been built over the past 41 years not only from a business standpoint but, more importantly, our family. It’s why we couldn’t be prouder to be a part of helping to maintain their legacy and the endless endeavor of making Escapees the best it can be.
This year promises to be an exciting year for Xscapers. Now in our fifth year, Xscapers was created to help bring Escapees back to the roots of our founders, Joe and Kay Peterson, two RVers trying to balance life and work on the road. Over the past few years, we’ve grown like wildfire, dedicating ourselves to the working-age RVer and giving them a way to connect with others like themselves on the road. One of the key ways we do this is through in-person events called Convergences. Around once a month, we rally together, keeping the days free to concentrate on work and earning a living. It’s in the evening and on the weekends that the Convergences really come to life with activities ranging from hikes to happy hours to dance parties. With the growing numbers of Xscapers, the need for these events grows and we’re ready to oblige.

This year, we already have 12 Convergences on the books and are still working on more. To kick off the year, we had our New Year’s Eve Blow Out in Quartzsite, Arizona. Here, we unveiled the newest addition to the Escapees arsenal, the awesome events trailer! This 40-ft custom-designed, custom-built, solar-powered, dual-stage trailer will be available for all Escapees events. Whether a Hangout, HOP, Convergence, or special event at an Escapees park, the trailer will be towed around to locations throughout the country. It travels complete with seating and tables for 300 people, a tent to protect us from the weather and off-grid power to keep bands and presenters going for hours. It’s basically a rally in a box!

The trailer will travel to the Xscapers Annual Bash this month in Lake Havasu, Arizona, where it will serve as a second stage and gathering place. This year’s Bash promises to be the best ever with presentations from well-known RV personalities like Cortni Armstrong of The Flipping Nomad, or John and Peter from The RVers TV show. Bands, including Wicked Truth and Pop Gun Rerun, will be headlining. Other musicians come from within Xscapers own ranks like Rod and Tanya and the always popular The Status Crowes. We will compete in everything from the best margarita to mac and cheese to kickball. As always, there will be a whole lot of simply hanging out with old friends and new ones alike.
February promises to keep the Xscapers busy with two trips to San Felipe, Mexico, on the Baja Peninsula. This will be our third annual trip to San Felipe, and it has become a highlight of the winter season in the Southwest. At the end of the month, we will gather in Casa Grande, Arizona. With highlights like a casino night and a performance of the Rocky Horror Picture Show with a shadow cast performing alongside the movie, it promises to be a good time for all. In April, we head to Bishop, California, where we will tuck ourselves between the Sierra Nevada mountains and Death Valley. We will spend the week with scavenger hunts, brewery parties, a murder mystery dinner and late-night sing-alongs.

Xscapers is stepping up its presence at Escapade this June! After the Escapade entertainment ends, join in the fun at the Xscapers area for late-night shenanigans and hanging out with other like-minded working-age RVers. Just after Escapade, we are excited to head back to our new home in the Rocky Mountains of Salida, Colorado. Whether it’s hiking, river-rafting or marching in the town parade, there is something for everyone at the Fourth of July convergence in Colorado!

August takes us to the Pacific Northwest with a seven-day cruise to Alaska departing from Seattle, directly followed by a Convergence in nearby Bend, Oregon. At the last convergence in Bend two years ago, participants floated down the Deschutes River, hiked some challenging trails, sampled food and drink from the local shops, and lounged by the river enjoying the late summer sun. This year promises to be just as fun.

In September, Xscapers is headed to Reno, Nevada, to participate in the Battle Born Boondocking Festival. Battle Born has been a long-time supporter of all things Xscapers and Escapers, and we are excited to be a part of their first festival. Mixing great speakers with world-class music, this promises to be an awesome weekend, and Xscapers will have its own area at the festival.

October will take us back to Las Vegas, where we will boondock on Fremont street for the second time and celebrate Halloween in downtown Las Vegas. Then we will take a small break before we do it all again. We hope to see you at one of the upcoming convergences!

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UPCOMING CONVERGENCES

XSCAPERS ANNUAL BASH 2020
JANUARY 11-19, 2020
LAKE HAVASU RODEO GROUNDS, DUB CAMPBELL PKWY
LAKE HAVASU, AZ 86406 • $250-300
The Xscapers Annual Bash is back at our rodeo grounds home in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Come join us for the social event of the RVers’ year. Over 600 working-age RVers from all walks of life will descend on the edge of the Colorado River for a week of excitement, entertainment, education, games, fun, romance and new and old friendships!

XSCAPERS BAJA CONVERGENCE
JANUARY 26—FEBRUARY 5, 2020 (PARTY PEEPS)
FEBRUARY 4–14, 2020 (CHILL PEEPS)
VICTOR’S RV PARK • SAN FELIPE, B.C., MEXICO
Join us as Xscapers heads south of the border for the third year! Good times, beautiful views, camping only feet from the ocean, tiny dolphins swimming by, amazing food, epic sunsets, ocean kayaking, margaritas, craft beer, local wines, artisanal cheeses and all your Xscapers friends. What more could you possibly need?

XSCAPERS CASA GRANDE CONVERGENCE
FEBRUARY 29—MARCH 8, 2020 • PINAL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • CASA GRANDE, AZ
Join Xscapers for a week of fun, adventure, excitement and some late-night laughs at the Casa Grande Convergence in Arizona. Halfway between Phoenix and Tucson, this desert playground has a lot to offer, and our social calendar will keep your evenings full with a variety of activities and your days free to work, like at most Xscapers Convergences. Of course, we’ll have all the things you love about Convergences like dance parties, DJ’s, potlucks, and dog walks, but at Casa Grande we’ve got some special plans for you.

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 4–11, 2020 • TRI-COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Nestled between the desert and the mountains, Bishop, CA, is an amazing place to be in the spring. Join your Xscapers friends for an exciting time at the local fairground a few blocks from Bishop’s vibrant downtown. As with most Convergences, the weekdays will be free to facilitate those who are working. Events will take place on the weekends and in the evenings.

XSCAPERS ALASKA CRUISE
AUGUST 14, 2020—AUGUST 21, 2020
Want to head “North to Alaska” but don’t want to drive the hundreds of miles in your rig? Why not cruise to Alaska on one of the newest and most advanced ships in the region? Join the Xscapers on our second cruise August 14th to 21st on Royal Caribbean’s “Ovation of the Seas” for 7 days of beautiful scenery, fun excursions and awesome nightlife options.

For more information on Xscapers events, visit 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 a.m., Original Oyster House, 701 Gulf Shores Pkwy. Ruth E. Snashall: 408-206-2831, ruth@ruthsnashall.com, Oct-April

### ARIZONA
**Apache Junction:** 1st and 3rd Wed, 11:00 a.m., Mickey D’s Café, 1408 W. Apache Trail. Please RSVP Norm and Ritchie Eriksen: 480-671-0610, twocanyondwellers@msn.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

**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: 207-743-3378, ajo@thecatdragdinn.org

**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 am, Foothill’s Eatery and Spirit, 12871 S Interstate 8 Frontage Rd. David Sears: 936-215-1035 Nov-April

### ARKANSAS
**Conway:** 3rd Mon, 1 p.m., Golden Corral, 814 E. Oak St Don Tannhill: 501-410-8950 April-Oct

### CALIFORNIA
**Clovis:** 1st Thurs, 11:15 a.m., Denny’s Restaurant, 710 W Shaw Ave. 956-612-3166. Wayne Zimmerman: 559-638-1651.

**Huntington Beach:** 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., Sonny’s Restaurant, 7148 Edinger Ave. Rick Comaroto: 714-889-8549, rnhcomar@aol.com

**Modesto:** 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., The Golden Corral Buffet and Grill, 3757 McHenry Ave. Ray Bailey: 209-552-0444, bailey-r@sbcglobal.net. Feb-Nov

**Redding:** 1st Tues, 11:30 a.m., Country Waffle, 2500 Athens Ave. Nancy Voyles: 530-357-4762, tsrnan@aol.com March-Dec

**Sacramento:** 2nd Wed, 11:30 a.m., Denny’s, 3520 Auburn Blvd. David Studivant: 916-481-1357, oldgrizfo@comcast.net

**San Diego area:** 4th Sat, 9 a.m., breakfast, Marie Callender’s, 6950 Alvarado Rd. Meeting follows at 10 a.m, Mike Formico: 619 884-9069, mformico@cs.com

**Santa Maria:** 2nd Thurs (every month), 11 a.m., IHop, 202 Nicholson Ave. Anna Hartman: 805-937-1856

**Ventura:** 1st Tues (every month), 11 a.m., Main Restaurant Steakhouse, 5159 E. Main St. Chuck Burton: 805 647-7382

### COLORADO
**Englewood:** 2nd Tues, 12 p.m., Golden Corral, 4000 River Point Pkwy. (To find us with your GPS use alt address 3677 S Santa Fe Dr.) 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:** 2nd Fri, 1 p.m., Golden Corral, 2020 E. Primrose Place (off Glenstone). Vernon Eide: 417-209-8650. (Mention Escapees and proceed to the room in the back of the restaurant)

### NEVADA
**Pahrump:** 2nd Mon, 11:30 a.m., Mountain Falls Grill, 5001 Clubhouse Dr. George Leese: biggie62@yahoo.com, Sept-May

### NEW MEXICO
**Lakewood:** Ladies’ breakfast every Tues. Men’s breakfast every Thurs. Call 575-457-2503, 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. Valerie: 541-774-4349, valrasmussonclub37@gmail.com

**Newberg:** 2nd Fri, 11 a.m., breakfast, Abby’s Legendary Pizza, 1011 W Central Ave. Rick De Young: 541-315-2850. Jan-Dec

**Gresham:** 4th Mon, 1 p.m., Heidi’s Restaurant, 1230 N. E. Cleveland. Michael Surratt: 503-667-0819, mrs1945@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, 11 a.m., La Casita Mexican Restaurant, 215 S Washington Ave. (Washington Ave is Business 59) We meet in the back room. David Horton: 563-529-6181, dhorton2@aol.com

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

### WASHINGTON
**Marysville:** 1st Sat, 9:30 a.m., Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, 1065 State Ave. Ray/Sandy Hoyt: 425-750-6139, razerroof@aol.com May-Sept

**Mount Vernon:** 1st Tues, 11 a.m., Royal Star Buffet, 2,300 Freeway Drive. Bud/Lori: 206-953-6433, budkauffman@me.com May-Sept

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

### WISCONSIN
**Portage:** 1st Wed, 12 p.m., Dino’s Restaurant, 12900 New Pinery Rd. Helen Hoege: 608-254-2055, khhoege@gmail.com, Oct-April

### CANADA
**AB (location TBA):** 2nd Wed, 12 p.m. Check Chapter 44 website locations and times/888-757-7701 x8044. Carol Davis.

**BC, Kelowna:** 2nd Tues, 12 p.m., 88 Grand Buffet, 2329 Hwy. 97 N. Sharon Rajotte: 250-707-0602, rsrajotte@telus.net

**BC, Nanaimo:** 3rd Wed, 11:30 a.m., Smitty’s, In the Southgate Mall, 117-50 Tenth Street. Linda Henton: hhentonaln@gmail.com, April-Oct. Except June and Sept

**BC, Salmon Arm:** 3rd Fri, 11:30 a.m., PJ’s Family Restaurant, 202 360 Trans-Canada Hwy SW. (in the Centenoka Park Mall). Please call Maisie Beattie 250-803-9969 to let her know you are coming. mlynneb146@gmail.com

**BC, Vernon:** Last Tues, 12 p.m., Army, Navy and Airforce Club—Spitfire Grill, 2500 46th Ave. Kathleen Bone: 250-265-1192, kathyskp@telus.net

**ON, Talbotville:** 1st Tues, 11 a.m., Wayside Restaurant, 10680 Sunset Rd. Sharon Sandau: 519-862-2152, sdsandau@telkaw.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
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 thrivebydesignonline@outlook.com. Please include BoF or Escapees in the subject line. Joyce Langley #147115, 164 CR 2127, PO Box 302, Burkesville, TX 75932.

Amateur Radio: Newsletter is $5 for three issues. Published January, May and September. Include name, amateur radio call sign, if licensed, SKP#, spouse’s name, address, check or e-mail address, to: RC$ 9MH, SKP #110095, 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 ride 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, wilsonjudwil2@gmail.com to join. The e-mail address for the Boondockers BoF has been changed. If anyone has previously requested to join and did not receive a response, contact Judy Wilson, at: wilsonjudwil2@gmail.com.

Buffs: Buffs like to think of themselves as the Birds with Out 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 Buffs, see who might be camping near you and get involved in discussions. No cost to join. E-mail buffsbof@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.cfbof.com Membership is free. For rally information, contact Allen Ferguson, at: fergzmo@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@yahooogroups.com To contact Tom McIlwain, 6003 Main St., Center Valley, PA 18034. To subscribe to the Linux sub-newsgroup: ComputerBoF-Linux-subscribe@yahooogroups.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 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 or contact Brian Houser at president@dovebof.org or Don Klein, at: membership@dovebof.org (210-268-3931). Yearly dues: $10

Escapees Elk • C-BoF: You must be a member of a BPO Elks Lodge to join. (The BoF isn’t a lodge.) Membership, $6 per year. For membership application or to be directed to an Elks lodge, please email: elkbef@msn.com. Visit www.escapees.com/escapees-elk-bof

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 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, 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 research techniques and sources. SKP Genies Magic (a rally and research trip hybrid) is held annually. Time-sensitive information and advice are shared via a Yahoo group. Contact Albert Taylor, at: skpgenies@gmail.com or SKP Genealogy BoF, 142 Rainbow Dr., #4228, Livingston, TX 77399-1042.

Geocache: The 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 Wendy Hall, at: skpgcacheBoF@gmail.com Include your e-mail address, name(s), SKP#, phone # and, if you have one, your geocaching handle.

NEW! Hitches and Stitches: No muss, no fuss (no dues), chat about in our private Facebook group, BoF Stitches and Hitches. Projects include working with fabrics by hand or machine, clothes, quilts, embroidery or crafts. We love them all. Share your successes and ask for help for the oops projects. Contact Charlotte Grady at: Charlotte.Grady@outlook.com

Inward Bound: For the curious and the committed, from all religions to no religion, this group explores the various metaphysical pathways of the spiritual life. Dedicated to civil discourse, this is a shared leadership gathering where each is both teacher and student, respecting each person in the spirit of Namaste. Inward Bound, as a BFO, is a spontaneous session at an Escapee event, and is probably never the purpose for which Escapees gather. One person motivated to initiate this experience may announce a time and place for gathering. Each session is unique. Some structural considerations are available upon request to help you get started. Contact Bob Barnes, at: barnesnwheels@gmail.com
Line Dancers Unite: Join for free to find line-dancing classes, rallies and special events while you travel. Members 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 the page. Contact Margo Armstrong: Margo@TheMaxwellGroup.net

Military, Veterans and Gold Star Families: Provides opportunities for fellowship, food and fun to those still serving, have served or the families of service members in the United States and Canadian Armed Forces. No dues, and anyone wishing to join may contact Richard Strait, at: EscapeesBOMilitaryandVeterans@gmail.com

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 is 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 Penwheels membership number to Joanne Alexakis (Joal-exakis@earthlink.net) to add your name to the e-mail newsletter list. Contact Penwheels editor at margo@themaxwellgroup.net.


Prospecting and Metal Detecting: Share tips and information. To join our Yahoo! group SKP-PandMD, contact Ken Parsons by e-mail: rnspl60@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. Keenan Way, Pahrump, NV 89048. kokopegg@gmail.com

NEW! RVers With Telescopes: Casual Group (No Dues/No Rules/No Newsletter) Are you an Escapee? Do you RV with a telescope? Would you like to meet up and boondock with other RVers with telescopes and enjoy some fellowship at dark sky locations? Tucson and the Southwest area are a mecca for astronomy geeks. Many RVers with telescopes find their way to this area during the winter months. “RVers With Telescopes BoF” plan to meet during the winter months, at dark-sky locations, for three to four nights of boondocking to share the love of their hobby with each other. To sign up, visit RVillage.com, click on “Groups” or “Search” and enter “RVers With Telescopes BoF.” In the left column on the Group homepage, click “Join.” To read posts, click “Group Forum” at the top of the page. Contact John and Brenda Nejedlo: JohnandBrenda@GeoAstroRV.com

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.skpphotographers.com. Brock Brinkenhoff/Janine Vance, skpphotographers@gmail.com. Thank you, Lou Petkus, for all your hard work getting the SKP Photographers BoF started. You will be missed.

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. Roy Kannada: roy1072@gmail.com

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.

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 others allow. Free to join/no newsletters, just good times with great people! Contact Paul Wood, at: braveradventures@yahoo.com

The SKP UTV/ATV: A group of like-minded people who like to ride their UTV/ATV. If you have a 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, send your name, SKP# and e-mail address to Kathy Howe, at: wwtnews@gmail.com.
A WORD FROM
OUR GROUP DIRECTOR

JIMMY AND LOCKIE SAILER #130519, Chapter Directors

Happy 2020 to each of you!

Last year was a great year of growth for Escapees chapters and Birds of a Feather (BoF) groups. Not only were new members seen joining current groups, but many new groups were also formed, providing even more choices and fun events to the vast array available. Chapter 16, the Georgia Azaleas, saw a rebirth of the chapter and joyously celebrated their new first rally last October. Five new BoFs were created. They include: Military, Veterans & Gold Star Families, Nomadic Families, RVers with Telescopes, Inward Bound, and Hitches and Stitches. And we’re expecting more to join our RVing family in the months to come.

As 2020 stretches out before us, there are so many events where you will be welcomed with open arms and Escapees hugs. To keep up-to-date with all of the events, check the calendar of events (pages 78–80) and check in with any group that is of interest.

We wish you the best year yet, and we hope your travels are filled with happy memories and glorious experiences.

Visit 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.
CALLING ALL CHAPTERS
Escapees Regional Groups

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER NUMBER</th>
<th>CHAPTER NAME</th>
<th>CHAPTER PRESIDENT</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
<th>E-MAIL ADDRESS + EXTENSION #</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golden Gate</td>
<td>Carolyn Cleaves</td>
<td>831-277-6007</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ggchapter1@gmail.com">ggchapter1@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Rocky Mt. High</td>
<td>Linda Gilmore</td>
<td>303-349-8845</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@rockymtnhskps.org">president@rockymtnhskps.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Cheryl Pease</td>
<td>413-628-4794</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cupcake65@verizon.net">cupcake65@verizon.net</a></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Steve Alligre</td>
<td>206-949-0186</td>
<td><a href="mailto:6papasteve@gmail.com">6papasteve@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Great Lakes</td>
<td>Mike Foley</td>
<td>616-862-8893</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mfoley1505@sbcglobal.net">mfoley1505@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mexican Connection</td>
<td>Kassandra Dennis</td>
<td>408-603-0600</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kassandra@ekdennis.com">kassandra@ekdennis.com</a></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oregon Trails</td>
<td>Betty Bush</td>
<td>503-705-9872</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bettybush01@yahoo.com">bettybush01@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Rainbow Chapter</td>
<td>David Horton</td>
<td>563-529-6181</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dhorton2@aol.com">dhorton2@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Alamo Area SKPs</td>
<td>Ken Dixon</td>
<td>210-218-7556</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kennethdixon01@att.net">kennethdixon01@att.net</a></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Ron Nelson</td>
<td>507-259-7528</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ron.nelson88@gmail.com">ron.nelson88@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Lucky Rollers</td>
<td>George Leese</td>
<td>888-757-7701</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bigbg62@yahoo.com">bigbg62@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Georgia Azaleas</td>
<td>Joe Maltze</td>
<td>708-594-9374</td>
<td><a href="mailto:2jmaltze@att.net">2jmaltze@att.net</a></td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Ozark Chapter</td>
<td>Alvin Baker</td>
<td>918-740-4263</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bakerskp17@gmail.com">bakerskp17@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Maple Leaf</td>
<td>Howard Krakower</td>
<td>613-829-3587</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howardkrakower@yahoo.com">howardkrakower@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Mid Atlantic</td>
<td>Frank Simon</td>
<td>304-947-7689</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pinoakfrank@yahoo.com">pinoakfrank@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Arizona Sagueros</td>
<td>Stuart Dutcher</td>
<td>520-403-1062</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dutch102@msn.com">dutch102@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Van Islanders</td>
<td>Keith Ellison</td>
<td>250-746-7919</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keithandsue@shaw.ca">keithandsue@shaw.ca</a></td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Gold Nugget</td>
<td>Jackie Friday</td>
<td>209-304-2483</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fridaymj@att.net">fridaymj@att.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Shanty Shakers</td>
<td>Mike Formico</td>
<td>619 884-9069</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mformico@cs.com">mformico@cs.com</a></td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Gulf Posse</td>
<td>Cushman Phillips</td>
<td>770-312-8671</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cushman@cbsphei.com">cushman@cbsphei.com</a></td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Carolina Rovers</td>
<td>Craig Rickenbach</td>
<td>803-372-2998</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carickenbach@gmail.com">carickenbach@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Yavapai, formerly known as Verde Valley</td>
<td>Jeanne Nielsen</td>
<td>253-514-3580</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beadyrags@yahoo.com">beadyrags@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>BC Okanagan SKPs</td>
<td>Al Wejr</td>
<td>250-545-1359</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alweege@gmail.com">alweege@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Columbia River SKPs</td>
<td>Michael Surratt</td>
<td>503-667-0319</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mrat1945@frontier.com">mrat1945@frontier.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Erie Shores</td>
<td>Merle Cockayne</td>
<td>440-823-6214</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gyleyjumper0208@yahoo.com">gyleyjumper0208@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Rogue Valley Rovers</td>
<td>Valerie Rasmussen</td>
<td>541-951-1972</td>
<td><a href="mailto:valrasmussenrvclub37@gmail.com">valrasmussenrvclub37@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Mother Lode</td>
<td>Sandy Thomason</td>
<td>208-984-5017</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandymom71@yahoo.com">sandymom71@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Wash-Pan</td>
<td>Bev Allenbaugh</td>
<td>509 925-3297</td>
<td><a href="mailto:photogal@fairpoint.net">photogal@fairpoint.net</a></td>
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<td>NYSKPS</td>
<td>Marilyn Woodside</td>
<td>908-377-7765</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lynhwf15@gmail.com">lynhwf15@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>KEN/TENN</td>
<td>Ray Rountree</td>
<td>502-664-1080</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rayretired44@gmail.com">rayretired44@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Alberta Roamers</td>
<td>Gary Long</td>
<td>888-757-7701</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chapter44rvclub@gmail.com">chapter44rvclub@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Valley of the Sun</td>
<td>Dale Geary</td>
<td>602-799-5860</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Lincolnland</td>
<td>Marti Aanerud</td>
<td>708-642-0706</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martjieen@hotmail.com">martjieen@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Nor-Cal Gypsies</td>
<td>Nancy Voyles</td>
<td>530-357-4762</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tsman@aol.com">tsman@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>Badger SKPs</td>
<td>Ken Cerling</td>
<td>608-219-6239</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cerlingconstruction@gmail.com">cerlingconstruction@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>Hoosier Neighbor</td>
<td>Vernon Bergi</td>
<td>219-603-1148</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bergv52@gmail.com">bergv52@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Arkansas Diamonds</td>
<td>Don Tannehill</td>
<td>501-410-9550</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tannehild@sbcglobal.net">tannehild@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<td>Florida Sun Gators</td>
<td>Lynn Lunde</td>
<td>352-217-5188</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lbrende@aol.com">lbrende@aol.com</a></td>
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</table>

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

Join us at one of these rallies or National events!

- Call the voicemail phone number (888-757-7701) + extension for specific directions to events.
- March/April deadline: January 10. The “Events Calendar” is reserved for chapter, certified BoF groups, and National events. All submissions must be in writing.
- E-mail submissions should be sent to editor@escapees.com, or mail submissions to Escapees Magazine, 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351.

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<td>TX San Antonio, Freeman Coliseum, 2020 South Texas RV SuperSale</td>
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<td>AR Hot Springs, Lake Catherine RV Park</td>
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<td>855-757-8881</td>
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<td>25-31</td>
<td>OH Mansfield, Richland Co Fairground</td>
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<td>BC Canada, Burton, Burton Historical Park Campground</td>
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<td>CA Columbia, 49er RV Park</td>
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**JUNE 2020**

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<td>OR John Day, Grant County Fairground</td>
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<td>IN LaGrange, County Fairground/Tri-Chapter Rally</td>
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<td>WY Flaming Gorge, BLM location TBD see <a href="http://www.skpsolos.org">www.skpsolos.org</a></td>
<td>SOLDs C-BoF</td>
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<td>MO Lampe, Mill Creek C.O.E, casual campout</td>
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<td>18-20</td>
<td>WY Rocksprings, 60th Escapade, RVers Boot Camp</td>
<td>National</td>
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<td>21-26</td>
<td>WY Rock Springs, Sweetwater Evnt Cmplx, Escapes 60th Escapade</td>
<td>Escapade/National</td>
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**JULY 2020**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>01-05</td>
<td>CA Hollister, Casa Da Fruta, Creekside</td>
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<tr>
<td>07-11</td>
<td>OR Lakeview, Juniper Reservoir</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-16</td>
<td>OR Rickreall, Polk County Fairground</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>TX Ingram, Johnson Creek RV Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>WA Lacey, WA Land Yacht Harbor RV Park</td>
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<td>21-23</td>
<td>MO Osceola, Arrowhead Point Campground, casual campout</td>
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**AUGUST 2020**

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<td>02-06</td>
<td>DR Lakeside, Osprey Point RV Resort, Rolling rally part one</td>
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<td>06-10</td>
<td>DR Lincoln City, Wapiti RV Park, Rolling rally part two</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-16</td>
<td>ME Hermon, Pumpkin Patch RV</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>AB Canada, Nevis, Nevis Community Hall</td>
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<td>17-21</td>
<td>WA Cle Elum, Whispering Pines RV Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>ME Sullivan, Downeast Maine Hangout</td>
<td>Hangouts/National</td>
<td>936-327-8873</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>MO Branson, Treasure Lake, casual campout</td>
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<td>31-September 04</td>
<td>BC Canada, Merritt, Claybanks RV Park</td>
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**SEPTEMBER 2020**

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<td>14-16</td>
<td>AR Morrilton, Petit Jean State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-25</td>
<td>WA Chimacum, Evergreen Coho SKP Park</td>
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**OCTOBER 2020**

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<td>01-05</td>
<td>TX Canton, I-20 RV Park</td>
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<td>02-11</td>
<td>NM Albuquerque, International Balloon Fiesta HOP</td>
<td>HOP/National</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>OR Westfir, Casey’s RV Park</td>
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<td>20-23</td>
<td>MD Carthage, Coachlight RV Park, casual campout</td>
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Chapter 8

BAJA ADVENTURE RALLY TO MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO—THREE EXCITING VENUES • FEBRUARY 12–26, 2020
(15-DAY ROLLING RALLY PLUS OPTIONAL ADD-ON EXTENSIONS)

REGION: BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO
BORDER CROSSING: TECATE, B.C., MEXICO

This year we will invite all Escapees to join us for our 2020 Baja Adventure Rally that will include three distinct venues plus optional add-on extensions to the Sea of Cortez (San Felipe or Mulege).

To begin, rally attendees will gather together in Potrero County Park, located in the town of Potrero, San Diego County, California. From Potrero, attendees will explore the quaint border town of Tecate, Mexico.

Our next camp will be at the Zoologico Parque del Nino Jersey, in the heart of the Valle de Guadalupe, where 90 percent of Mexican wine is produced. The zoo-logico park is an outstanding zoo, and Chapter 8 is the first group to have used it as a base to enjoy Mexico’s answer to Napa Valley (in California). RV camping in an animal rescue zoo is a unique experience.

Our third venue is at La Jolla Beach Camp on the Pacific Ocean…” (we have additional optional venues). with views of the busy port of Ensenada, where three gigantic cruise ships a week come to enjoy Mexico. Our beach camp has a thermal underground spring beneath the sand, so digging a quick foxhole produces a natural oceanside hot tub!

From La Jolla, we have a broad range of Mexican culture to enjoy. The facilities at La Jolla Beach include ample ocean beachfront camping, a theater with stage plays in English, WiFi, plus a fully equipped community center for our dinners, charity and social events.

While a quality experience, a penchant for charity and an educational opportunity define our event, it is also the most economical way you can experience the warm-hearted Mexican people and broad range of events and entertainment.

Kassandra Dennis #119665, Chapter 8 Wagonmaster

All Escapees are invited to join us. Make your reservation today! For more information, visit:

www.MexicanConnection08.com

Zoologico Parque del Nino Jersey.
Photo inset: Chapter 8 President/Wagonmaster
Kassandra Dennis and Zoo Director Perla Jimenez
Keep Your RVing Knowledge in Shape

GAIN CRITICAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN:

- Hitch-up
- Basic RV Systems
- RV Driving
- Tire and Weight Safety
- Fire and Life Safety
- Personal Safety

NEXT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 2, 2020**
  North Ranch Congress, Arizona

- **MAY 1-3, 2020**
  Golden Village Palms RV Resort Hemet, California

- **APRIL 17-19, 2020**
  Arizona’s Charles Boulder RV Park Las Vegas, Nevada

- **JUNE 18-20, 2020**
  60th Escapade Rock Springs, Wyoming

Did you know students who completed RVers Boot Camp may qualify for a discount on their RV insurance?*

*Disclaimer: Discount may only be applied if account has not already reached maximum discounts allowed.

For more information, call 936-327-8873 or to register for an event, visit www.escapees.com/education
# Member Section

## Rainbow Parks

Rainbow Parks RV Club owned and operated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alabama</strong></td>
<td>RAINBOW PLANTATION</td>
<td>14301 County Rd. 2B, Summendum, AL 36580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>251-986-8132, Fax: 251-986-8142, <a href="mailto:plantation@escapees.com">plantation@escapees.com</a>, <a href="http://www.escapees.com/rainbowplantation">www.escapees.com/rainbowplantation</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Arizona</strong></td>
<td>NORTH RANCH</td>
<td>30625 Hwy. 89, Congress, AZ 85332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>928-427-3657, Fax: 928-885-3695, <a href="mailto:northranch@escapees.com">northranch@escapees.com</a>, <a href="http://www.escapees.com/northranch">www.escapees.com/northranch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Florida</strong></td>
<td>SUMTER OAKS RV PARK</td>
<td>4602 County Rd. 873, Bushnell, FL 33513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>352-793-1333, Fax: 352-793-5216, <a href="mailto:sumteroaks@escapees.com">sumteroaks@escapees.com</a>, <a href="http://www.escapees.com/sumteroaks">www.escapees.com/sumteroaks</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Missouri</strong></td>
<td>TURKEY CREEK RV VILLAGE</td>
<td>1376 US 65 Business S., Holister, MO 65672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>417-335-8004, Fax: 417-335-4644, <a href="mailto:turkeycreek@escapees.com">turkeycreek@escapees.com</a>, <a href="http://www.escapees.com/turkeycreek">www.escapees.com/turkeycreek</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Mexico</strong></td>
<td>DREAM CATCHER RV PARK</td>
<td>4400 E. Pine St., Deming, NM 88030</td>
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<td></td>
<td>575-544-4004, Fax: 575-544-0944, <a href="mailto:dreamcatcher@escapees.com">dreamcatcher@escapees.com</a>, <a href="http://www.escapees.com/dreamcatcher">www.escapees.com/dreamcatcher</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tennessee</strong></td>
<td>Raccoon Valley</td>
<td>908 E. Raccoon Valley Rd., Hondo, TX 78861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, <a href="mailto:info@lonestarcorral.com">info@lonestarcorral.com</a>, lonestarcorral.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Texas</strong></td>
<td>RAINBOW’S END</td>
<td>140 Escapees Dr., Livingston, TX 77351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>936-327-1279, Fax: 936-328-8168, <a href="mailto:rainbowsend@escapees.com">rainbowsend@escapees.com</a>, <a href="http://www.escapees.com/rainbowsend">www.escapees.com/rainbowsend</a></td>
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## SKP Co-ops (Escapees Members Only)

Owned and operated by individual member groups of Escapees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arizona</strong></td>
<td>Saguaro Co-op</td>
<td>600 E. Saguarco Dr., #245, Benson, AZ 85602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>520-586-7343, Fax: 520-586-4683, <a href="mailto:skpsaguaro@gmail.com">skpsaguaro@gmail.com</a>, <a href="http://www.skpsaguaro.org">www.skpsaguaro.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>Rovers Roost</td>
<td>3241 S. Montgomery Rd., Casa Grande, AZ 85193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>520-426-3589, Fax: 520-421-0105, <a href="mailto:rovers_roost@yahoo.com">rovers_roost@yahoo.com</a>, <a href="http://www.roversroost.com">www.roversroost.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Florida</strong></td>
<td>Kofa Ko-op</td>
<td>3750 E. County 17th St., Yuma, AZ 85365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>928-344-0645, Fax: 928-344-0900, <a href="mailto:office@kofa-co-op.com">office@kofa-co-op.com</a>, <a href="http://www.kofa-co-op.com">www.kofa-co-op.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>Jojoba Hills Resort</td>
<td>4520 Hwy. 79 S., Aguanga, CA 92538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>951-767-9130, <a href="mailto:office@jojobahills.com">office@jojobahills.com</a>, jojobahills.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>Park Sierra</td>
<td>45232 Park Sierra Dr., Coarsegold, CA 93614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>559-658-6896, Fax: 559-683-2179, <a href="mailto:parkoffice@parksierra.com">parkoffice@parksierra.com</a>, <a href="http://www.parksierra.com">www.parksierra.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Florida</strong></td>
<td>The Resort</td>
<td>2219 SKP Way, Wauchula, FL 33873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>863-735-1493, Fax: 863-735-1994, <a href="mailto:skparesortwauchula@gmail.com">skparesortwauchula@gmail.com</a>, fl-skip-resort.org/localsites.aspx</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nevada</strong></td>
<td>Pair-A-Dice</td>
<td>5150 Oakridge, Unit 2, Pahrump, NV 89048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>775-727-7599, Fax: 775-727-3966, <a href="mailto:skpairadice@gmail.com">skpairadice@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Mexico</strong></td>
<td>The Ranch</td>
<td>PO Box 109, Lakewood, NM 88254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>575-457-2303, Fax: 575-457-2100, <a href="mailto:skpranch@pvtnetworks.net">skpranch@pvtnetworks.net</a>, skpranch.com</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oregon</strong></td>
<td>Timber Valley</td>
<td>800 S. State St., Sutherlin, OR 97479</td>
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<td>541-459-4485, <a href="mailto:skptimbr@rosenet.net">skptimbr@rosenet.net</a>, <a href="http://www.timbervalleyskp.com">www.timbervalleyskp.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Texas</strong></td>
<td>Lone Star Corral</td>
<td>131 Private Rd. 5240, Hondo, TX 78861</td>
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<td>830-363-7623, Fax: 830-363-5110, <a href="mailto:info@lonestarcorral.com">info@lonestarcorral.com</a>, lonestarcorral.com</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Washington</strong></td>
<td>Evergreen CoHo</td>
<td>2481 Anderson Lake Rd., Chiumacum, WA 98325</td>
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<tr>
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<td>360-385-6538, Fax: 360-379-5669, <a href="mailto:eco@escapees.com">eco@escapees.com</a>, <a href="http://www.enchantedrvparks.com">www.enchantedrvparks.com</a></td>
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### Pricing

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<td><strong>Washington</strong></td>
<td>$2775 + tax</td>
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- The plus symbol (+) is used to indicate “plus electric.”
- Additional charges may apply for 50-amp electric, pull-thru and/or additional occupants.
- Prices are subject to change without notice. Contact parks for hours of operation and to verify rental fees before arrival.
- Receiving mail at Escapees Parks: Route your mail to General Delivery, City, State and Zip Code. Verify zip code by calling: 800-275-8777.
- Availability of rental spaces at SKP Co-ops depends on members putting their lots into a rental pool while they travel. During the popular season, there may be few spaces left to rent. Call in advance to check the availability of rental sites.

January/February 2020
## EVENTS

- **Raccoon Valley: Heiskell, TN**
  Local songwriters meet every Tuesday night. Thursday night, local jammers perform.

- **Jojoba Hills SKP Co-Op: Aguanga, CA**
  Join the fun of many social activities. Enjoy pickleball, tennis, swimming, hiking, nightly games and Friday happy hour. Beaches and desert are only an hour away. Sunset magazine calls nearby Temecula, “Disneyland for adults.”

- **Pair-A-Dice SKP Co-Op: Pahrump, NV**
  First-time visitors receive their one-week stay for $75; Make request at check-in. Call ahead for availability. No reservations. GPS: N36°8.700’-W115°58.000’

- **Park Sierra SKP Co-Op: Coarsegold, CA**
  Is Yosemite on your bucket list? Stay with us! Park Sierra is 25 miles from the southern entrance to Yosemite. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are only a day-trip away! The winter months are mild and the spring wildflowers are glorious. First-time visitors can enjoy $50 off their first week’s stay! Visit our website or call for reservations.

- **RoVers Roost SKP Co-Op: Casa Grande, AZ**
  Max site length is 40’. First-time Escapees visitors will receive three days free when they pay for one week ($110, plus tax/elec). Explore many activities from this central location. Activities update provided at daily social hours. Visit the website or call for details.

- **Saguaro SKP Co-Op: Benson, AZ**
  First-time visitors receive their week at a 50% discount, plus elec./tax. Visit www.SKPSaguaro.org and click “Special Offers” for details.

- **The Ranch SKP Co-Op: Lakewood, NM**
  Planning a trip to Carlsbad Caverns or the Guadalupe Mountains National Park? We’re your place to stay: large sites, reverse Osmosis water. First-timers: $50 wk + elec and tax, 20% off for returning visitors. Visit website for details and $50 coupon.

- **The Resort SKP Co-Op: Wauchula, FL**
  Where shorts are always in season and lifelong friendships blossom. See our website for our many activities and amenities. Then visit our active park in quiet south-central Florida.

- **Lone Star Corral SKP Co-Op: Hondo, TX**
  First-time Escapees visitors will receive 50% off one week stay plus electric. Offer not valid for December or last full week in February. Your extended stay will allow you to explore the San Antonio area and Texas Hill Country. The park is only a two- to three-hour drive from the Gulf Coast and Mexico.

- **Timber Valley Co-Op: Sutherlin, OR**
  Join us in Oregon’s banana belt. Large lots; more privacy. Costco, five chain grocery outlets within 12 miles. Walk to restaurants, churches; other amenities. Award-winning wineries, fishing, forest trails and wildlife. Waterfalls, 50 miles; ocean, 70 miles. Stay six nights, get a seventh night free!

- **Evergreen CoHo: Chimacum, WA**
  Explore Washington's Olympic Peninsula from Seattle to Victoria B.C. Art, biking, birding, breweries, casinos, ciders, concerts, distilleries, festivals, fresh local foods, hiking, kayaking, live music, wineries/wine routes, whale watching. Stay up to 6 months beginning October 1 (depart by May 31). Reserve now at Evergreen CoHo SKP Park, call 360-385-6538.

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<th>Reservations</th>
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**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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- DFW RV Roof
- Fantasy RV Tours
- First National Bank
- First State Bank
- Giraffe G4
- J Wright Concepts
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- Passport America Club
- PPL Motor Homes
- RV Business Top 50
- RVillage
- RV Comfort Systems, LLC
- RV Driving School
- RV Roofing Solutions
- RV Solar Electric
- RVshare
- RV Trader
- RVTravel.com
- RVVer’s Ultimate Survival Guide book
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- The RVers TV Show
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ESCAPEES RV Club® Advertising

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- Escapes CARE, Inc.
- Escapes Commercial Members
- Escapes Discount Parks
- Escapes Mail Service
- Escapes Membership Application
- Escapes Roadside Assistance
- Escapes RVers Boot Camp
- Escapes RVers Good Neighbor Policy
- Escapes RVOU
- Escapes SmartWeigh Program
- Escapes Tire Discount
- Escapes Veterans Discount Program
- Xscapers

Have you found an RV park that would be a candidate for the Discount Parks program?

Provide the park name and address by e-mail to the advertising department at advertising@escapees.com, or call 936-327-8873. Remember to always contact a park prior to arrival to ensure availability.
**SELL IT OR BUY IT!**

- Noncommercial classified ads: $20 minimum/base rate: up to 6 lines includes special title. Lines 7–12: $4 per line plus base rate. Over 13 lines: $20 per line plus 7–12 and base rate. Six lines including photo: $50 ($4 per additional line. Over 12 lines: Additional fees apply.)
- 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.
- 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**

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**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.

**Zepher Hills, Florida:** Located in Emerald Point RV resort, lot #264, 3536 Tourlaine Dr. Lot can accommodate a 44’ motorhome. Includes a covered outside living space with a sitting/utility room, full shower, toilet, sink, washer and dryer. Easy access to Tampa, VA hospital, Tampa General Hospital and Tampa International Airport. $55,000. For more information call 863-229-9323 or 352-363-0766.

**HELP WANTED**

Experience the summer in small town America: Camp host needed next season for small (10 space) RV park in Junction, Utah May to October 2020. Camp host and landscaping duties (no janitorial). 20 hrs per week. FHU, propane, wifi, phone and bonus. Be your own boss, flexible hours (enjoy national parks nearby). Contact Randy at 800-576-9980 or rfarrar@1horizon.net. More info at www.1horizon.net/camphost.

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**“IQ” Portable LED Battery-Operated Motion Detectors:** With three sizes; 280 lumen(2 head), 700 lumen(2 head), and 1,000 lumen (3 head). These motion detectors come with a removable back plate that can be mounted on any surface—literally! Attach on the side of an RV, clamped to a tongue, or mounted on a tree. The 4 batteries (not included) will keep your motion light running for over a year. The LEDs will light up your path, around your space AND DETER the creeps that might be inclined to visit while you are gone. $29.99 www.fliproducts.com

Mineral Laundry Egg: Uses ceramic pellets to weaken the bonds between dirt and fabric, while mineral pellets ionize the oxygen in the water to lift grime without damaging fibers. Starting at $17.95 www.thegrommet.com

PowerFold: The myCharge PowerFold is a three paneled solar charger with a removable 8,000 mAh powerbank that can provide up to three times the extra battery life for most phones and one time extra battery for tablets. The PowerFold can be recharged via the solar panels while you enjoy your recreation or Micro-USB at home. The convenient powerbank features two USB ports allowing outdoor enthusiasts to recharge multiple devices at once and it also has a built-in flashlight that is perfect for camping or adventures that last long after the sun goes down. $59.99 www.amazon.com

**LUNATEC®:** A three paneled solar charger with a removable 8,000 mAh powerbank that can provide up to three times the extra battery life for most phones and one time extra battery for tablets. The PowerFold can be recharged via the solar panels while you enjoy your recreation or Micro-USB at home. The convenient powerbank features two USB ports allowing outdoor enthusiasts to recharge multiple devices at once and it also has a built-in flashlight that is perfect for camping or adventures that last long after the sun goes down. $59.99 www.amazon.com
Final Journeys
Farewell to our Escapees Friends
The Escapees RV Club expresses sincere condolences to the families and friends of deceased members.

Barkley, Patricia Ruth #67518-October 20, 2019: (Arthur, 17 Wild Rose Ct., Lodi, CA 95242) Patricia will be placed with her first husband, RB Reno, in a columbarium at Faith Lutheran Church in Chico, California. I hope to be traveling again.

Culp Berlin, Leah #221-October 9, 2019: Leah died from a stroke she suffered on October 8. She was surrounded by family. She loved living at Escapes. During her life, Leah was a lawyer, a judge, a teacher, an avid sportswoman, a person who loved playing cards, cooking and she was a beautiful and published writer. She was quick-witted, determined and spunky. Leah told me about Escapees. I was her legal secretary in the early ‘80s. She was a kind boss who told me I could get a better job, which I did. Not many bosses are that caring, but I was a single mom with a son at Rice University, and she cared about mentoring me. (Reported by friend Teresa Smith #146503.)

Holmes, John Philip #29367-September 5, 2019: (Ellie, 216 Second Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854) John died at age 93. We enjoyed a wonderful life together for 42 years, but the highlight was the 20 years we traveled and stayed in all 50 states, Mexico and Canada. Being an Escapee for over 25 years was the icing on the cake.

Linman, Keith R. #148875 - July 20, 2019: Keith died after a short but intense battle with cancer. Keith and Ginny enjoyed tent camping for more than 20 years before getting their first RV in 2018. They were new Escapees members, joining Chapter 29 Carolina Rovers in early 2019. Ginny plans to continue RVing with the group. (Reported by friend Dianne Wood #113382)

Rose, Bryan #15115-September 6, 2019: (Jane, 4901 Daffodil Ave., Unit 136, Mc Allen, TX 78501) We both enjoyed our 28 years on the road as full-time RVers and having joined Escapees in our first year out. We have been to the 49 states we could drive to and have been quite active in the Escapees organization. Bryan was past president of Florida Chapter 15 and founder and first director of SKP ACRE. We spent a number of years on the Escapade staff. The best thing about this lifestyle is that you can meet more friends than any computer could ever calculate.
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 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)
- Member News (biweekly updates on events, benefits, and articles)
- 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)
- Hangouts (meet up with other Escapees for fun, active experiences)

Association Specials
- Escapees Roadside Assistance
- Product discounts on tires, batteries, and more
- RV insurance (full-time RV specialists)
- Financial and legal services
- Service discounts
- Opportunities for additional savings through partnerships with other RV clubs and organizations
- CARE (rest, recover and recuperate)

A Comprehensive RV Park System
- An extensive network of parks across North America, offering Escapees members 15-50% off overnight rates
- Overnight parking options offered by Escapees members
- Home-base options, plus short- and long-term parking/leases

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I’m simply requesting an information kit and FREE copy of Escapees magazine.
Payment information not required.

New Members
I am enclosing my annual membership fee of $39.95 (Canada and Mexico, add $10). All payments in U.S. currency.

Name: _____________________________________________________________________________ (Your address will not be sold.)
Last
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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

I would like to go paperless and receive my new member kit via email: ☐ 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 _______/_______

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